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PRESS BRIEF

Annual Zonal Workshop of KVKs under ICAR-ATARI, Umiam outlines strategies for *Viksit Bharat @2047* in NEH region

ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Zone-VII, Umiam, Meghalaya in association with Central Agricultural University (CAU), Imphal organized the Annual Zonal Workshop of KVKs-2025 at College of Agriculture (CoA), CAU, Imphal during 8-10 September, 2025. The workshop was organized under the overarching theme **“Technology - Empowerment - Convergence: Transforming NEH Agriculture towards Vikshit Bharat @2047”** for bringing farmers’ prosperity and fetching agricultural transformation in Northeastern hill region.

The workshop featured various technical sessions over three days, envisaging technology backstopping in collaborations with research organizations for driving technology-led innovations in agriculture, safeguarding farmers’ rights through PPVFRA, empowering farmers through rural entrepreneurship with the active involvement of FPOs, strengthening agri-convergence through stakeholders’ interface to bridge the gap between technology generation, applications and implementation for sustainable agricultural growth and driving Northeastern agriculture with the vision of a self-reliant and developed India by 2047.

The three days Annual Zonal Workshop of KVKs-2025 was inaugurated by Padma Shri Th. Chaoba Singh, Former Union Minister, Govt. of India as the Chief Guest on 8th September, 2025 with gracious presence of Dr. Anupam Mishra, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, Central Agricultural University, Imphal and Dr. B. C. Deka, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, Assam along with participation of Directors of various ICAR research organizations namely, Dr Laxmikant, ICAR-VPKAS, Almora; Dr Rajesh Kumar, ICAR-IIVR, Varanasi; Dr. P. K. Sahoo, ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar; Dr. GAK Kumar, ICAR-CRRI, Cuttack; Dr. Girish C. Patil, ICAR-NRC on Mithun, Nagaland; Dr. Bikash Das, ICAR- NRC Litchi, Muzaffarpur and Dr. S. B. Singh, NO (KVKs), ICAR-RCNEH, Umiam in addition to DEE of AAU and CAU; Heads of different Regional Centres of ICAR-RCNEH, Heads of KVKs from five different states namely Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura under ICAR-ATARI, Zone VII, Umiam, scientists from various research organizations, extension professionals from different line departments and progressive farmers of the region.

The Chief Guest Padma Shri Th. Chaoba Singh, Former Union Minister, Govt. of India in his deliberation, lauded the role of KVKs in transforming the northeastern agriculture and fetching laurels for the NEH farmers at the national level and urged the KVK scientists to create successful farming models, highlight farmers’ innovations, promoting agri-startups, and strengthening farmer-producer organizations for a self-reliant hill agriculture.

The Guest of Honour Dr. Anupam Mishra, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, Central Agricultural University, Imphal accentuated that the Annual Zonal Workshop of KVKs paves the way for accelerating the growth of Northeastern agriculture through advanced scientific techniques, In this

context, he emphasized on eco-friendly natural farming practices for sustaining food security and strengthening the rural economy in NEH region, when the national agriculture stands on the cross road with a vision for Viksit Bharat @2047.

Dr. B. C. Deka, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, Assam as the Guest of Honour of the programme stressed upon establishment of germplasm hub at KVKs with barcoding facilities for highlighting the importance of traditional germplasms for sustainable agriculture in the region.

At the outset, Dr. A.K. Mohanty, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Umiam, Meghalaya gave a brief overview of impact of KVKs in transformation of Northeastern agriculture that resulted in increase in cropping intensity by 150 -165 % through intervention of RCT, crop diversification & quality seed production with a seed replacement of 40-45 % and breed replacement of 30-35 %, jhum area reduction by 38 % and area expansion under Natural farming by 18.5 %. He also highlighted that despite severe climatic aberrations during the VKSA Kharif Campaign (29 May-12 June, 2025) across all the states in the zone, the VKSA teams under the leadership of KVKs managed to cover a total of 4,997 villages (107.88 %) and reached out to 574,991 farmers (92.86 %) with significant female farmers participation that not only focused on creation of awareness on improved Kharif technologies, but also facilitated the collection of unique germplasms, documentation of farm innovations, and identification of critical scientific and policy issues relevant to Northeastern agriculture. It was a really a remarkable example of agri-institutional synergy for wholistic agricultural development.

Lastly, Prof. N. Brajendra Singh, Dean, College of Agriculture, CAU, Imphal offered vote of thanks. The workshop was also marked by the inauguration of the Exhibition stall showcasing different technologies and farmers' produce, launching of ATARI Website and release of several publications. The workshop could brought out several strategic recommendations emerging out of five technical sessions held during three days Annual Zonal Workshop, which may help in preparing roadmap for transforming jhum and fragile ecosystems of NER into sustainable production systems.



Fig: Inauguration of Annual Zonal Workshop 2025 by Padma Shri. Th Chaoba Singh, Former Union Minister, Govt. of India; Dr. Anupam Mishra, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, CAU, Imphal; Dr. B. C. Deka, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, AAU, Jorhat



Fig: Lighting of the Lamp during the Annual Zonal Workshop 2025 of KVKs



Fig: Address by Padma Shri. Th Chaoba Singh, Former Union Minister, Govt. of India at College of Agriculture, CAU, Iroisemba, Manipur



Fig: Release of Publications during the Annual Zonal Workshop 2025 of KVKs



Fig: Address by Dr. Anupam Mishra, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, CAU, Imphal at College of Agriculture, CAU, Iroisemba, Manipur



Fig: Agriculture Exhibition of KVK stalls during the Annual Zonal Workshop 2025



Fig: Technology Backstopping session under the theme “Technology led innovations for Viksit Bharat @2047”



Fig: State level Stakeholders' Interface for Manipur session under the theme “Synergizing Institutions, Policies and Partnerships”



Fig: State-wise review of KVK Achievements session under the theme “Technology led agriculture: Options, innovations and upscaling”