

Workshop on Preservation of Tribal Culture, Tradition & Heritage concludes

Gangtok, Mar 12: The workshop on "Preservation, Promotion and Further Enrichment of Tribal Culture, Tradition and Heritage of Sikkim", organised by Tribal Research Institute, Social Justice Empowerment and Welfare Department, GoS concluded today at the Conference Hall of SJE&WD, Gangtok.

The five days long workshop included aspects of protecting and promoting the cultural diaspora of Sikkim. The workshop was chaired by K.R. Rama Mohan, Head, Department of Anthropology, Sikkim University. Speaking on the occasion, Mohan briefed the gathering on the various mechanisms implemented by the Government of Sikkim and acknowledged Chief Minister Pawan Chamling's keen interest in safeguarding the State's cultural heritage, with the aim to make Sikkim a cultural hub. Resource



Gurukul. (IPR)

person Rinzino Lepcha spoke on the natural treasures of Sikkim whilst encouraging the audience to understand its value for the future generations. He also pointed out the various issues related to Sikkim which threatens the natural and cultural aspects of the Sikkimese populous and suggested ways to safeguard them.

The workshop was attended by students from Sikkim University, Palzong Nangyal Girls Senior Secondary School and Sai

NIA summons ex-Nagaland...

On January 18, 2017, the NIA had conducted searches in various government departments in Nagaland and seized receipts that showed payments to the tune of Rs 2 crore. The agency had said that these seizures prima facie indicate the connivance of these government organizations in funding various underground organisations operating in Nagaland.

According to sources, these departments include the Directorate of Information Technology, Directorate of Soil and Water Conservation, Directorate of Irrigation, Directorate of Rural Development, Directorate of Urban Development, PWD, Roads and Buildings, and Directorate of Information and Public Relations. S. Khetoshe Sumi, a senior cadre of NSCN(K), was apprehended by the Assam Rifles in Dimapur on July 31, 2016, according to the NIA. Sumi reportedly revealed that he was the organisation's "in-charge of finance" and his key responsibility was to collect funds through illegal taxation of various government departments, the NIA said. The NIA probe into government workers and underground funding is a sensitive subject in Nagaland.

49 dead in Nepal 49 dead in Nepal...

Offering his condolences to the bereaved, Nepal Prime Minister K. P. Sharma Oli said he was "extremely shocked" by news of the crash and promised an immediate government investigation.

At least 33 Nepali passengers were on board the plane, according to officials. The US-Bangla Airlines is a privately-owned Bangladeshi airline headquartered in Dhaka. This is the most severe air crash at Kathmandu's Tribhuvan International Airport after a Turkish Airlines flight crash-landed in March 2015.

Training on organic farming by Mevedir

Geyzing, Mar 12: A Gram Panchayat Unit (GPU) level training on organic farming for the farmers of Maneybung Sopakha GPU was organized by Mevedir at Simbolei Ward, West Sikkim today.

The program was graced by Kesarman Subba, Panchayat President representing Simbolei Ward and Tukamaya Subba from Lower Mukrum Ward.

The resource persons included Sukraj Subba and Arpita Chettri from Mevedir.

The first session of the training program included a

general introduction of the IFOAM principles of organic farming, how organic farming should be a win-win situation for humans, plants, animals and the components of the ecosystem.

Arpita Chettri emphasized on how locally available plants and microbial resources could be used in preparing formulations for fertilizers and fermented plant extracts for pesticide formulations.

Sukraj Subba explained the different techniques of seed sowing, key features and precautionary mea-

asures to be taken while sowing seed, right manure mix and the use of farm yard manure.

Kesarman Subba informed the farmers about the rewards and incentives instituted by the State Government and urged the farmers to indulge in organic farming. He highlighted some farmer friendly policies of the government and assured his full cooperation to ensure that the organic technologies would be adopted by the farming community.

The training concluded with an open Q&A session



between the farmers and the resource persons.

Skill building programme on Vanaraja chicken farming by ICAR-NOFRI

Gangtok, Mar 12: A three-day capacity building programme on "Livelihood Security through Vanaraja Backyard Poultry Farming" was conducted at ICAR-NOFRI, Tadong, Gangtok from March 7-9.

The programme was attended by unemployed educated youths from three districts of the state viz. East, South and West.

Coordinating the programme, Dr. Rafiqul Islam, Principal Scientist (Animal Reproduction) cum In-charge Poultry Seed Project welcomed the chairman of the meeting Dr. R. K. Avasthe, Joint Director, ICAR-NOFRI; chief guest Dr. R. K. Tamang, Director (Animal Husbandry), AHF&VS, Govt of Sikkim; scientists and officials from ICAR-NOFRI and KVK, East Sikkim, Ranipool and participants.

A total of 19 youths participated in the training programme. The programme covered 12 lectures and two hands on training on housing, feeding, lighting, preventive and therapeutic management of Vanaraja birds, both at the intensive and backyard rearing systems, including organic vegetable and crop production in integration with poultry farming.

Dr. Ravikiran Avasthe addressed the participants and encouraged them to undertake Vanaraja chicken farming as an enterprise for being self employed. He high-

lighted the role of Vanaraja chicken in meeting the nutrition requirements of the rural family with production of high quality eggs and meat. He also highlighted the role of poultry manure in enriching soil with more micronutrient and essential organic matter for increased production of crops and vegetables.

Dr. R. K. Tamang appreciated ICAR-NOFRI for its significant contribution in developing the poultry sector in the state by supplying quality Vanaraja germplasm to farmers. Tamang reiterated the farmers to undertake Vanaraja chicken farming as an enterprise for self employment and economic development of the rural area.

He expressed that backyard poultry farming is similar to organic farming, where most of the guidelines are followed. He invited the participants to utilize the knowledge gained during the training programme for increasing production through Vanaraja poultry farming in their respective areas.

Dr. Rafiqul Islam detailed and practically demonstrated the floor preparation in deep litter housing system, feeding and therapeutic management of Vanaraja chicks at various age groups. He also educated the participants on restricted feeding schedule of Vanaraja layers for optimised egg production.

Dr. Islam also showed the methods for maintenance of

hygienic and bio-security measures in the farms premises for protecting the birds from various diseases.

Dr. Ashish Yadav highlighted the integration of backyard poultry with organic vegetable and fruit production. He also demonstrated the technologies for year round organic vegetable production under low cost plastic tunnel.

Dr. Raghavendra Singh deliberated on organic crop production to support Vanaraja backyard poultry farming through supply of organic feed ingredients. He also demonstrated the technologies on organic conservation agriculture practices for major field crop production in Sikkim.

Dr. P. K. Pathak SMS (Animal Science), KVK, Ranipool briefed on the nutritional and housing management of Vanaraja birds at backyard condition and feeding management of the birds for better growth and production with locally available feed ingredients in rural villages.

Dr. N. Johnson Singh, SMS (Plant Protection), KVK, Ranipool explained the methods of disease and pest management in major vegetable and fruit crops, with the use of organically permitted formulations.

Pallabi Phukan SMS (Agricultural Extension), KVK, Ranipool explained the procedure for formation of self help groups (SHGs) for avail-

ing various government schemes. Further, she explained the role of SHGs in strengthening the rural economy through Vanaraja poultry farming.

Later, each participant was provided with 50 chicks, water trough and essential vitamin supplements along with handouts about the rearing practices. Dr. Priya Chettri, Dr. Padam Lal Luibei, Mr. K. B. Basnett, S.M. Kandwal, Pusal Sharma and Phurba Tamang rendered their active help and cooperation for the smooth conduct of the program. Dr. Raghavendra Singh, Senior Scientist (Agronomy), ICAR-NOFRI proposed the vote of thanks. (PIB)

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