#### RAIN FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE, JORHAT CONDUCTS TREE **GROWERS' MELA**

To increase the awareness among the farmers, foresters and other counterparts of the society about the needs of tree plantation for livelihood management and mitigation of climate change, a two-day Tree Growers' Mela was organized on 20th and 21st March, 2015 at Deovan Campus of Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat (Assam).

Dr. N. S. Bisht, Director, RFRI, Jorhat welcomed all the tree growers, farmers, JFMC Members, forest officials, students and other participants coming from various parts of N E region as well as outside the NE Region. In his welcome address, Dr. Bisht emphasised on the ongoing lab-to-land activities of the Institute to encourage the livelihood opportunities and capacity building of the farmers, tree growers and small industries holders of the region. He gave special emphasis on cultivation of bamboo and agar and their value added products.

Shri Rajib Kr. Kalita, Organizing Secretary of Tree Grower's Mela anchored the Inaugural Session wherein more than 350 progressive farmers of North Eastern States participated in the Mela apart from students from universities such as West Bengal State University, Kolkata and Assam Rajiv Gandhi University of Cooperative Management, Sivasagar, representatives from NGOs, SHGs, JFMCs, State Forest Departments, Soil Conservation Department, Horticulture Department, Sericulture Department, financial institution like NABARD took part in the Tree Growers' Mela, which was held for the first time in North East India.

Dr. D. Ramaiah, Director, North Eastern Institute of Science and Technology (NEIST), Jorhat emphasized on farmers' friendly technologies innovated in research institutions like NEIST, Jorhat. He requested the farmers to take benefits of these research findings by acquiring and applying them in their respective fields.

On this occasion, RFRI, Jorhat felicitated a renowned botanist, popular Science writer, retired Scientist of Tocklai Experimental Station, Jorhat Shri Ananda Chandra Dutta who is a recipient of honorary D. Sc. of Dibrugarh University for his outstanding towards the promotion of science. In his emotional address, Shri Dutta mentioned need of conservation of locally available medicinal and fuel-wood plant species to maintaining good health and to mitigate future fuel scarcity respectively. He urged the farmers to incorporate such trees in their plantations and homesteads to enhance livelihood options.

Dr. Rafiquz Zaman, Vice Chancellor, Assam Rajiv Gandhi University of Cooperative Management, Sivasagar and Chief Guest of the Inaugural Session described about the "Rastrya Krishi Bikash Yojna" and invited the farmers to take full advantage from this. He explained about the farmers friendly activities of Assam Rajiv Gandhi University of Cooperative Management, Sivasagar for helping the farmer and urged the farmers for a cooperative move and act united. He invited the beneficiary of RKBY to the University with the concept of Co-operative (Samabai) in Forestry, Agriculture, Pisciculture etc. He mentioned that in Assam there are a large number of tea growers which are cultivating individually but they are suffering as they do not have any processing plant of their own.

Another attraction of this Mela was inauguration of five extension brochures on Broom Grass Cultivation and Management; Manual of Boucherie Machine for Bamboo Preservation; Bamboo Charcoal Production; Noni Cultivation and Management and Melia dubia: Cultivation and Management.

In the Interactive Session, farmers interacted with a panel of experts from different background. Dr. Bipin Khangia, Professor, Horticulture, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat; Sri S K Thakuria, Divisional Forest Officer (Logging), Tinisukia; Sri Mayur Bora, Assistant General Manager, NABARD; Sri K. K. Saikia, Divisional Forest Officer (Social forestry), Sivasagar; Sri Samiran Bhatta, Subject Matter Specialist, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Jorhat and Dr. T. C. Bhuyan, Retired Scientist, RFRI, Jorhat participated in the interactions with participants.

There were eleven Exhibition Stalls which were installed in vicinity of the experimental plots of respective species. Each Stall was equipped with complete information on the concerned species. Live demonstration of various propagation techniques, nursery practices, plantation technology, disease-pests problem and their management, livelihood generation issues, market information etc were some of the highlights of the 'Knowledge Mining' sessions.

### GLIMPSES OF RFRI TREE GROWERS' MELA

















































































### Media Coverage



#### আনন্দ চন্দ্ৰ দত্তক সম্বৰ্ধনা, পাঁচখন পত্ৰিকা উন্মোচন



নিজ নিজ কবি ক্ষেত্ৰত কষক বঞ্চ ক্ষি আৰু মলা সংযোজিত প্ৰৱা

কুমকসকলক উদ্দেশ্যি সম্পর্কে লিখা পাঁচখন উদ্যোচন করা হয়। গ্রহণকারীৰ সৈতে ভংগোলন কৰা হয়। বংশ হংগোলনীৰ সৈতে সুখামুৰি অফুটানত সমস্য মাজি হিচাপে অংশ গ্ৰহণ কৰা কৃষি বিজ্ঞানী ড বিপিন গঙীয়া, কৃষি বিশেষজ্ঞা সমীৰণ ভট্টাচাৰ্য, নাবাৰ্জন সম্বাধন বনানিকৰণ বিষয়া কে শইকীয়াৰ সগতে বৰ্ষা গরেষণা প্রতিষ্ঠানৰ অবসরপ্রাপ্ত বিজ্ঞানী ড° তিলক চন্দ্র ভূঞাই অংশ এংশ করার উপরি বিভিন্নজনে

# যোৰহাট বৰ্ষা অৰণ্য গৱেষণা প্ৰতিষ্ঠানত বৃহৎ কৃষক

## তিনিশতাধিক অগ্ৰণী কৃষক-আত্মসহায়ক গোটৰ যোগদান

টোকোলাইৰ অবসবহাও বিজ্ঞানী, তিবুলাড় বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ৰ জাৰা সম্মানীয় ছবি অব ভাষেল উপাধিবালয়ৰ জাৰা সম্মানীয় ছবি অব ভাষেল উপাধিবালক জনপ্ৰিয় বিজ্ঞান প্ৰেক্ষ আনশ চন্দ্ৰ পত্ত তেওঁৰ আজীৱন কৰ্মাজিব বাবে সম্বৰ্ধনা তথ্য সম্বৰ্ধনা হয় ৷ সম্বৰ্ধনা হয় ৷ কৰি দুৰাই কৃষকসকলক গছলাছনি বাজুখা কৰি কৰিবলৈ, জাৰাবাৰ সুৰিত্বৰ কৰি ৰক্ষাৰ লগতে নিজৰ বাবীনমূহত লাগনি গছ ব্যোগৰ কৰিবলৈকে নিজৰ আৰীনমূহত লাগনি গছ ব্যোগৰ কৰিবলৈকে নিজন আইনি মুক্তা কৰিবলৈকে সম্বৰ্ধনা কৰিবলৈক প্ৰায়ন ৰাজ্যাৰ সম্বায়ন কৰিবলৈকে সামান কৰিবলৈকে সামান কৰিবলৈকে সামান কৰিবলৈকে কৰিবলৈকে

#### 8 THE ASSAM TRIBUNE, GUWAHATI

# Need for tree plantat

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 24 - A twoday Tree Growers' mela (fair) was held on March 20 and 22, 2015 at the Rain Forest Research Institute (RFRI), Jorhat to increase awareness among the farmers, foresters and others members of the society about the needs of tree plantation for livelihood management and mitigation of climatic changes. This was stated in a press release here.

Rajib Kumar Kalita, a scientist of the institute informed that more than 300 progressive farmers of the north-eastern States participated in this mela. Apart from them, students from universities such as Kolkata State University and Assam Cooperative Management Univergar, representatives from NGOs, SHGs, JFMCs, industries,

State Forest Department, Soil Conservation Department, Horticulture Department, Sericulture Department and NABARD took part in the mela, which was held for the first time in North-east India.

Delivering the welcome address at the inaugural session of the mela, RFRI Director Dr NS Bisht spoke on the ongoing laboratory-to-field activities of the institute to enhance the scope of the farmers, tree growers, small industrial units in livelihood opportunities and capacity building efforts. He laid a special emphasis on cultivation of bamboo and agar and production of valueadded products based on these for-

Dr D Ramaiah, Director, North East Institute of Science and Technology (NEIST), Jorhat, spoke as the guest of honour at the inaugural function. He underlined the role of the farmers in this respect. He spoke about the farmer-friendly technologies developed by the NEIST, including the ones connected with the production of citronella, lemon, mushroom etc. He requested the audience to derive the benefits from these research outcomes of the NEIST by applying them in their respective fields.

On the occasion, RFRI, Jorhat felicitated renowned botanist, popular science writer and a retired scientist of Tocklai Experimental Station, Jorhat, Ananda Chandra Dutta, DSc, for his outstanding contributions and activities towards promotion of science.

In his acceptance lecture, Dutta. highlighted the need of conservation of locally-available medicinal and firewood plants for maintaining good health and to mitigate fuel scarcity in the days to come. He urged the farmers to plant such tree species in their plantations and homesteads to enhance livelihood

Dr Rafiquz Zaman, Vice-Chancel-lor, Rajiv Gandhi Co-operative Uni-versity and chief guest of the inaugural session, in his speech spoke on the Rashtriya Krishi Bikash Yojana (RKBY) and urged the farmers to avail its benefits. He also spoke on the farmer-friendly activities of the Rajiv Gandhi Co-operative University, Sivasagar and urged the farmers to act in unison through cooperative societies.

Dr Zaman also maintained that the small tea growers of the State are suffering due to lack of their own processing units.

Another attraction of the mela

was the release of five informatio brochures on topics such as Broon grass cultivation and Management Boucherie Machine for bamboo preservation, Bamboo charcoal pro duction, Nuni: cultivation and Man agement, and Melia dubia: Cultiva tion and Management as hands-or information for farmers.

In the interactive session of the mela, various queries came from the farmers and the students on different issues. Dr Bipin Khangia, sci entist and professor Assam Agricul tural University, Jorhat, S K Thaku-ria, DFO, Logging, Tinsukia, May-ur Bora, Assistant General Manager, NABARD, KK Saikia, DFO, So cial forestry, Sivasagar, Samiran Bhatta, Krishi Vigyan Kendra Jorhat and Dr TC Bhuyan, RFRI, Jorhat answered the queries of the participants as resource persons

#### The Telegraph

#### 20-03-2015

Jorhat, March 19: Save the trees and the planet. This is the message to be conveyed at the tree growers' mela beginning at Sotai tomorrow.

The fair, to be held at Rain Forest Research Institute, 17km from here, will witness a congregation of nearly 300 growers, foresters, wood-based industrialists and stakeholders who will chalk out issues relating to the cultivation of valuable wood and other trees and their uses.

"The mela is being held to sensitise tree growers on issues related to cultivation and management of tree species on farmland, the technologies and products developed, marketing of various non-timber forest products, livelihood options from forest-based industries and skills development," Rajib Kumar Kalita, a scientist at the institute, said.

Kalita said the importance of the tree growers' fair was the bringing together of a large number of farmers, self-help groups, NGOs, joint forest management committees, woodbased industries, state forest departments and forestry research organisations on one platform. This would help them understand the issues related to tree farming and exchange of ideas and sharing of experiences.

Farmers will be given an insight into how forest produce other than timber can be harvested in a sustainable manner and marketed.

One of the issues is using up of hillsides and other wasteland for the cultivation of tea by small tea growers.

"We will try to make them aware that they are growing tea, which is a mono-crop, on land where a large species of trees once grew. Growing tea on vast tracts is adversely affecting tree diversity and their preservation," Kalita said.

"Many have not seen the mulberry (noni gos) on which the silkworms feed and how they are cultivated. We will have a stall showing the details of the mulberry. We shall also demonstrate how to propagate bamboo through seed, cuttings or tissue culture," he added.

Moreover, as trees meant for firewood are no longer easily available, they will ask the people to grow this variety, the scientist said.

Financial institutions like NABARD, departments such as agriculture, soil conservation, horticulture, sericulture, scientists, foresters, social activist working in forest related issues, national and international awardees in forestry, persons with success stories in forestry, and the Territorial Army have also been invited. There will be 11 exhibition stalls showcasing the activities of the institute.



#### Focus on capacity building and livelihood opportunities for farmers, tree growers

From a Correspondent

JORHAT, March 21: To increase awareness among farmers, foresters and other counterparts of the society about the need tree plantation for livelihood management and mitigation of climate change, a two-day Tree Growers' Mela has been organi from March 20 to March 22 Rain Forest Research Institute (RFRI), Jorhat.

Organizing secretary and scientist of the institute, Rajib Kalita said that more than 300 progressive farmers of north-eastern States would take part in the Mela, apart from students of universities like Kolkata State University and Assam Cooperative management University, Sibsagar, representatives from NGOs, SHG, JFMCs, industries, State Departments like Forest, Sc Conservation, Horticulture, Sericulture and NABARD.

Delivering the welcome address in the inaugural session of the Mela, Director Dr NS Bisht described about the ongoing lab land activities of RFRI Jorhat to encourage livelihood opportunities and capacity building for farmers, tree growers and sma industries holders of the region. Dr. Bisht gave special emphasis on cultivation of bamboo and agar and their value added products.

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The guest of honour, Dr D. Ramaiah, Director North East Institute of Science and Technology (NEIST), Jorhat enlightened gathering through a lecture. In his lecture he emphasized the importance and responsibilities of the farmers. He described t farmers about friendly technologies innovated in NEIST, Jorhat including agro technologies like production of citronola, lem mushroom. He appealed to people to take advantage of these research findings by acquiring and applying them in their respective fields.

On this occasion, RFRI, Jorhat felicitated a renowned botanist, popular science writer and retired scientist of Tocklai Experi Station, Jorhat, Ananda Chandra Dutta for his outstanding contributions and activities towards promotion of science. In his I Dutta mentioned the need for conservation of locally available medicinal and firewood plants to mitigate future fuel scarcity. urged the farmers to incorporate such trees in their plantations to enhance livelihood options.

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Guwahati, Monday, March 23, 2015