## 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 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 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 co-operative 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



যোৰহাট বৰ্ষা অৰণ্য গৱেষণা প্ৰতিষ্ঠানত বৃহৎ কৃষক

ইভিদিন বিশেষ সংবাদ, যোৰহাট, ২০ মাৰ্চ যোৰহাটৰ বৰ্যা অৰণ্য গৱেষণা প্ৰতিষ্ঠানত মজিৰে পৰা দুদিনীয়া বৃহৎ আয়োজনেৰে এক আছিলে পৰা সুন্দিনীয়া বৃহৎ আহো আতলে এক কৃষক কোনাৰ আমোজন কৰা হৈছে। এই কৃষক কোনাৰ আজি অধ্যনিক কাৰ্যসূঠ্যমুহুত উক্তন-পুৰ ভাৰতৰ ৰাজসমূহৰ হয় ৫০০ ৰো আইক আমী কৃষকৰ উপনি আহোকসাকে পোচ, কেচকৰাৰী নংহা, যৌখ কন পৰিচালনা সমিতিসমূহ, মেহিড উদ্বোধা, গাহ-গাছনি লোপকৰানী মহা, প্ৰতিখন ভাৰত ৰাজ্যিক কা বিভাগমনুহ, শৈকিক আৰু নায়কো ৰাজ্যিক কুৰবোপন কাৰ্য, প্ৰতিখন আৰু বাজ্যিক বিভাগমনুহ, শৈকিক আৰু নায়কো ৰাজ্যিক প্ৰতিনাদ সংগ্ৰ কিছাল, কোনা বিভাগ আৰিছ আইনিধিসকলৰ কাণ্যত বিধাৰিত আৰম্ভ কৰাঁ, উদ্যোগমন্মহৰ প্ৰতিনিধিসকলে ভাগ ভায়। মেলাৰ

# তিনিশতাধিক অগ্রণী কৃষক-আত্মসহায়ক গোটৰ যোগদান

উদ্বোধনী অনুষ্ঠানত বৰ্ষা অবন্য গৱেষণা প্ৰথিষ্ঠানৰ সম্ভাৱক উ' এন অৰ বিজে আৰক্ষী ভাষণ প্ৰদান কৰি প্ৰতিষ্ঠানটোত চালি বজা কৃষকৰ্মকাৰ সহায়ক হোৱা গৱেষণামূলক কৃষকৰম্বে নিয়াক নিজ নিজ কৃষিক ঘটন পানিৰ যুলি আশা প্ৰকাট কৰে। ভাষণ প্ৰসন্থাত গোঁৱৰী জনাশা প্ৰকাট কৰে। ভাষণ প্ৰসন্থাত হেওঁ ভাৱকৰ আন ৰাজ্যসমূহৰ শান্যজ্ঞেসমূহৰ কৰি তেনে মৃথি কানীকৰণৰ যোগেৰি অৰ্থনৈতিক তেটি সৃষ্য কানীকৰণৰ যোগেৰি অৰ্থনৈতিক তেটি সৃষ্য কানীকৰণৰ যোগেৰি আইনা

জনোবাৰ লগতে অঞ্চলটোৰ বাঁহে, বেড. জাক আনি ধন সম্পদৰ কৃষি আৰু মুল্য সংযোজিত যেণ্ড প্ৰিক্ত কৰি কৃষকসকলে নিজৰ অৰ্থনৈতিক ভেটি সকল কৰিবলৈ আহান জনাম । স্মানীয় অভিৰাগ্য কৰা প্ৰদান কৰিছে জনাম না স্মানীয় আইকিয়া গৱেৰণ প্ৰতিষ্ঠানে প্ৰস্তুত ক্ৰমন্ত কি পিছিম গৱেৰণা প্ৰতিষ্ঠানে প্ৰস্তুত কৰি উলিভন্ন কৃষক সন্ত প্ৰযুক্তিসমূহৰ কথলত কৰি উলিভন কৰি কৃষকসকলত উল্যুত হ'বলৈ আদ্ৰুদ জনাম কৰি কৃষকসকলত উল্যুত হ'বলৈ আদ্ৰুদ জনাম কৰি কৃষকসকলত উল্যুত হ'বলৈ আদ্ৰুদ জনাম

টোকোলাইৰ অৱসৰহাগ্ৰ বিজ্ঞানী, ভিৱপড় বিশ্বনিযালয়ৰ ৰাগ স্বামানি ডাইৰ কৰ ছাত্ৰোজ উপাৰিশ্ৰাপক জনহিন বিজ্ঞান হেম্বৰু আনদ চল্ল গৰক তেওঁৰ আজীখন কৰ্মাজিৰ বাবে সম্বৰ্জা আনবা হয়। সম্বৰ্ধনা হয়ৰ কৰা দুবুই কৃষকসকৰাক গৰ-গাঁহন বিগ্ৰাপ কৰি কৰি কাৰ্বা মনুহৰ জানি গাঁহ বেগণ কৰি কৰিকে। বাবী মনুহৰ জানি গাঁহ বেগণ কৰি ভৈবিয়েৰে ইৰুনা উৎগালন বলিবলৈ জিহান জনাম। কুজ বাইনিমুহৰ জানি গাঁহ বেগণ কৰি ভৈবিয়েৰে বাইনিমুহৰ জানি গাঁহ বেগণ কৰি ভিয়েৰে আইনিমানহ কৰি কাৰ্য কৰি বিগ্ৰাজ্য, বিদ্যালৰ খাঁজী সময়া ব্যৱস্থাক। বিধিকালয়, বিদ্যালৰ উপাচাৰ্য ভা বিন্দিকু জানাৰে অসমত

কয়কসকলৰ মাজত এক সমনায় আমোলনৰ (পাৰকতা কৰে। ভাষণ প্ৰসংগত ডেওঁ কুৰকসকলক এক গোট হৈ সমবায়চিত্তিক কৃষি বা কৃষিকৰ্মৰ গগত জড়িত উৎপালমনুষ্ঠা শিল্ল উদোগেনে নিজৰ কৰ্মসংস্থাম গাঁ ভূলিসঁলৰ বিভিন্ন ডেনে সফলচাৰ উলহলসক আদ্রুল জনা। উৎযাকনী সকলিনে প্রতিষ্ঠানৰ বিজিয় বুকৰ ওপৰত প্রস্তুত কৰা চাল প্রতিষ্ঠা নিষ্ঠিয় বুকৰ প্রথন হয়। উজ নোলা মুখানুষ্ঠ দল্ডটনত সমল ব্যক্তি হিচাপে নৰেখ্য কৃষি বিজ্ঞানী অধ্যাপক ডা বিভিন্ন খাইয়া, কৃষি

বিশেষজ্ঞ সমীৰণ ভট্টাচাৰ্য, মন্থুৰ কৰা, সহ মহাপ্ৰবন্ধক নাবাৰ্ড, এছ কে ঠাকুৰীয়া, f কন বিষয়া, তিনিচুকীয়া আৰু কে কে শইব জিলা কন বিষয়া, সামাজিক বননীব ৰৰ লগতে বৰ্ষা অৰণ্য ভূঞাই অংশগ্ৰহণ কৰি কৃষক বিভিন্ন প্ৰশ্নৰ উত্তৰ দিয়ে। মেলাখন আছিল ইয়াৰ প্ৰদৰ্শনী স্থলসমূহ আৰু অংশগ্ৰহণকাৰীসকলৰ মাজত আৰু আন্দেগ্ৰহণকাৰাসকলৰ মাজত মত : মুকলি মঞ্চ, কৰ্মশালা আৰু ক্ষেত্ৰভিতিব আদি । কাইলৈ বিয়লি সামৰণি পৰি মেলাখনলৈ কাননী বিষয়ক যিকোনো অধ্যয়নৰ সৈতে জড়িত সকলোকে ৫ কৰিবৰ বানে উন্যোক্তাসকলৰ তৰ্মহাৰ পৰ

## 8 THE ASSAM TRIBUNE, GUWAHATI

## STATE = Need for tree plantat ion underlined 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 Depart-Department ment 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 forest resources.

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 Sta-tion, 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 options.

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, wood-based 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, 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.

# The Sentinel of this land, for its people

### 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 neec 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.

Dr Rafiquz Zaman, Vice Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi Co-operative University and chief guest of the inaugural session of the M his speech described about the Rastrya Krishi Bikash Yojna and invited the farmers to take advantage of it. He explained al the farmer-friendly activities of Rajib Gandhi Co-operative University, Sibsagar and urged the farmers for a cooperative movement. He invited the beneficiary of RKBY to Assam Rajiv Gandhi Cooperative University with the concept of Co-opera (Samabai) Society in forestry, agriculture, and pisciculture. He directed the farmers to do the work by forming a legal forum, making an enterprise with like-minded people to get more benefit.

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.

Another attraction of this Mela was inauguration of five information brochures on broom grass cultivation and management, Boucherie Machine for bamboo preservation, bamboo charcoal production, Noni and Melia Dubia cultivation and managem

Also present were Dr. Bipin Khangia, Scientist & Professor AAU, Jorhat, SK Thakuria, DFO Tinsukia, Mayur Bora, Assistan General Manager NABARD, KK Saikia, DFO Social Forestry, Sibsagar, Samiran Bhatta Krishi Vigyan Kendra Jorhat and D Bhuyan, RFRI, Jorhat.

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Guwahati, Monday, March 23, 2015