

REPORT ON ONE-DAY KISAN MELA AT FIELD RESEARCH STATION-CUM-VAN VIGYAN KENDRA (FRS -cum- VVK), LEH – 26.09.2017.

As a part of its outreach programme, Agroforestry & Extension Division of Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla (Himachal Pradesh), in collaboration with Jammu & Kashmir Forest Department, Leh organised one-day Kisan Mela at its recently established Field Research Station -cum- Van Vigyan Kendra (FRS -cum-VVK), Leh on 26.09.2017 with an aim to benefit the marginal farmers of Leh area by providing an appropriate forum to them for interacting with the forestry researchers and officers. A total of 120 farmers from different villages of Leh participated in the Mela.



At the outset, Sh. Satya Prakash Negi, Head, Agroforestry & Extension Division, HFRI, Shimla welcomed the chief guest, other dignitaries and the participants. He gave a brief overview of the research and extension activities of HFRI, Shimla and highlighted the objective of organizing Kisan Mela at Leh.



Special guest Sh. Gaylong Nyantakh, Hon'ble Councillor, Upper Leh Constituency, LAHDC, Leh, in his address stressed about the importance of trees for the very survival of mankind. He urged the farmers to raise more and more trees on their farmlands for sustainable living.



Guest of Honour, Sh. Tsering Sangdup, Hon'ble Executive Councillor (Forests), LAHDC, Leh while addressing the gathering hoped that HFRI's Field Research Station will carry out meaningful research to find out solutions for forestry issues related to Ladakh in the coming days. He stressed upon the need of research to control the menace of insects that has been destroying Poplars of the cold desert regions over the years. He also urged upon coordination amongst the various research organizations

working in the region. Sh. Sangdup stressed that agriculture and forestry, in the real sense are the primary means of achieving the aim of sustainable development, and not tourism which is the secondary source of livelihood.

Guest of Honour, Sh. Tsering Wangdus, Hon'ble Executive Councillor (Agriculture), LAHDC, Leh, in his speech stressed that farming and agriculture is incomplete without forestry and hoped that the HFRI research station will immensely benefit the farmers of the region. He said that there are various agricultural research centers working in the region providing guidance to the farmers and hoped that with the functioning of HFRI's research station at Leh, the farmers of the region would get valuable guidance in the field of forestry as well.



Chief Guest of the function, Dr. Sonam Dawa Lonpo, Hon'ble Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC, Leh in his inaugural address appreciated the efforts of HFRI, Shimla for making FRS-cum- VVK fully functional. The CEC urged HFRI, Shimla to focus on those forestry research issues of the region which have not been undertaken by other research organizations so far, and



the research should benefit the local populace. He stressed that the forestry research should be solution oriented with short-term as well as long-term objectives and hoped that the research station would immensely benefit the farmers of the region in future. Further, elaborating on the importance of forestry in general and agroforestry in particular, Dr. Lonpo said that the aim is to make cold desert green with organic farming. He assured full support from LAHDC to HFRI in

its research & extension endeavors. Dr. Lonpo hoped that this Kisan Mela will benefit the local farmer to discuss various forestry and agriculture related issues of the region, which will ultimately enhance their knowledge in solving the problems. He encouraged the local farmers to adopt organic farming by giving the example of Sh. Stanzin Thangjuk of the region, who has done pioneering work in the field of organic farming.

At the end of inaugural session, Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Senior Scientist, HFRI, Shimla proposed formal vote of thanks to Hon'ble Chief Guest, other dignitaries and all those who were present in the function.



During the technical session, Dr. Padma Gurmet, NRIS, Leh; Dr. Sanjeev K. Chauhan, Head, CAZRI, Leh; Sh. Mohamad Abbas, DFO, Leh and Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Sr. Scientist, HFRI, Shimla delivered talks and shared their experiences on various aspects of forestry including agro forestry and medicinal plants in the cold desert region of Leh. The participating farmers raised various queries during the interactive session which were duly addressed by resource persons.



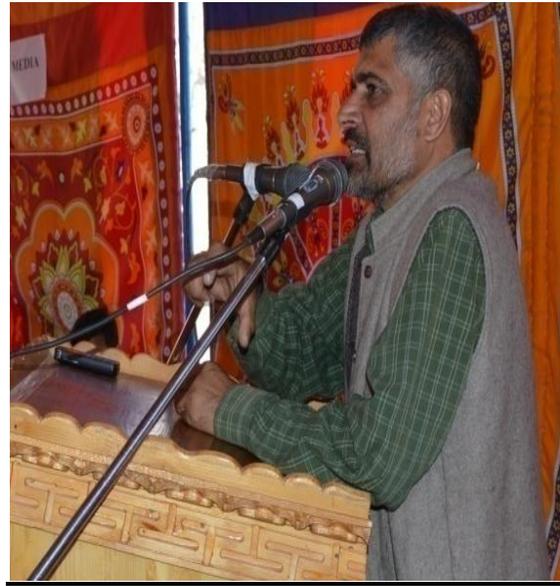
The Kisan Mela ended with vote of thanks to all by Sh. Pradeep Bhardwaj, DCF, HFRI, Shimla.

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Expert Speakers during the Technical Session



Dr. Padma Gurmet, NRIS, Leh



Dr. Sanjeev K. Chauhan, Head, CAZRI, Leh



Sh. Mohmd Abbas, DFO, Leh



Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Sr. Scientist, HFRI, Shimla

Glimpses of Kisan Mela













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Media Coverage

Our aim is to make Cold Desert green with organic farming: CEC

JIGMET JANSPAL SHEY

LEH, SEP 26: Chief Executive Councillor LAHDC Leh, Dr. Sonam Dawa has said, our aim is to turn the Cold Desert green through the medium of organic farming in the region and that LAHDC, Leh assures full support to the initiatives in this direction. He was addressing a gathering at a Kissan Mela here today.

The day long 'Kissan Mela' was organized by the Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI) Shimla in collaboration with Jammu & Kashmir Forest Department at its recently established Field Research Station-cum -Van Vigyan Kendra (FRS-cum-VVK) which was defunct for almost five years after its inauguration by the former CEC Chhering Dorjay. Dr. Sonam Dawa who was the Chief Guest on the occasion said, most of the people in the region get connected with agriculture after their retirement which is a great lesson for us. Through this institute local farmers can avail various benefits to enhance their knowledge in the field of Agriculture by discussing their issues with experts. Encouraging the local farmers he gives the example of 'Stanzin Thangjuk' who worked superbly in Agriculture sector and simultane-



Chief Executive Councillor LAHDC Leh, Dr. Sonam Dawa Lonpo addressing a gathering during a Kissan Mela in Leh on Tuesday.

ously works for the preservation of 'Rock Art' in Dhomkhar valley. Our aim is to turn the Cold Desert green through organic farming in the region and LAHDC, Leh assures full support to this initiative.

Executive Councillor, Tsering Sangrup informed that Forest is not only a large area of land covered with trees and plants but it also is an Agro-based industry where activity involved in cultivation under controlled conditions of agricultural and horticultural crops, including floriculture and cultivation of vegetables and post-harvest operation on all fruits and vegetables.

Talking about Tourism he said, some people are dependent on

Tourism as sustainable development but actually it is the Agricultural land which in the real sense is the means of achieving the aim of sustainable development. He said, we don't have to take Tourism sector as the primary source and instead it should follow only after Agriculture as an alternative source.

Speaking on the occasion Executive Agriculture, Tsering Angdus said, there are various research institutions in the region which provide guidance to local farmers in Agricultural practices and hoped that this HFRI will also help in providing guidance to farmers. Ladakh is an area of 45,000 Sq Km in which only 11,000 Sq Km land is

cultivated; he said further adding that Agriculture sector is incomplete without the cooperation from various departments especially the Sheep & Animal Husbandry, Forest and Soil Conservation etc.

Upper Leh Councillor, Ven Nyantak also spoke on the occasion. Earlier presenting the welcome speech Conservator Forest of HFRI Shimla, S.P. Negi highlighted the achievements of the Himalayan Forest Research Institute. He said, HFRI works under the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India and has been assigned the responsibility of taking up forestry research and related activities in its two mandated Himalayan states i.e. Himachal Pradesh (H.P) and Jammu & Kashmir (J&K). However due to some reason the research station in Leh remained defunct for many years and now with the support of the local govt this institute was recently revived for the benefit of local farmers, said Negi.

Vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Rajesh Sharma, member of HFRI Shimla. HODs, Guests, members of the organizing committee and locals were present on the occasion.

Greater Jammu, the daily newspaper

Kissan Mela by HFRI, Forest Deptt proved as bounty for marginal farmers



Executive Councillor Forest Tsering Sangdup addressing a gathering.

TSEWANG RIGZIN

LEH: Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI), Shimla, in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department Leh organised a Kissan Mela at its recently established Field Research Station - cum - Van Vigyan Kendra at Badami Bagh Leh with an aim to benefit the marginal farmers of Leh besides providing an appropriate forum to the farmers for interacting with forestry researchers, academicians and forest officers of the State.

CEC, LAHDC, Leh Dr Sonam Dawa inaugurated the event and appreciated HFRI for making the Field Research Station - cum - Van Vigyan Kendra functional. Dr Dawa, apparently indicating at the previous LAHDC, regretted that although the building of the Field Research Station was completed in 2010 at the initiative of the then

CEC Chhering Dorjay, it was not made functional all this while for unknown reason. The CEC appreciated Divisional Forest Officer, Mohd Abass for his dedication in the field of forestry in the region. To the farmers, he gave the example of Thangjuk Stanzin, a successful entrepreneur, who has been able to produce lots of organic products and made rock garden an example in Domkhar.

Conservator of Forests, HFRI, S.P Negi said the Field Research Station in Leh has been established to study issues related to the region and accept research proposals accordingly. He admitted that although HFRI is mandated to look after Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh, it has not been able to do anything in Ladakh as yet but hoped that with the establishment of the Field Research Station

at Leh, HFRI in collaboration with LAHDC will be able to contribute a lot in the field of forestry in the region. It is pertinent to mention here that HFRI has been assigned the responsibilities of taking up forestry research and related activities in two mandated Himalayan states, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. The Institute has been designated as an advance centre for taking up studies and Cold Desert Afforestation and Pasture Management by the Indian Council for Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE) Dehra Dun, an Autonomous Body of Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India.

Executive Councillor for Forest, Tsering Sandup said in the coming days the Field Research Station will be able to do research to find solutions to Ladakh related issues in forestry. He said menace of insects that has been destroying varieties of trees in Ladakh over the years need research. He also urged for coordination among different departments while executing any programmes to avoid wastage of energy and resources.

Executive Councillor for Agriculture said that farming and agriculture is incomplete without forestry and therefore, he hoped that the research centre will benefit farmers immensely in future. Upper Leh Councillor Gelong Lobzang Nyantak also spoke on the occasion.

Times of Ladakh

Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Forest Department organise Kisan Mela

■ TSEWANG RIGZIN

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Executive Councillor Forest, Tsering Sangdup speaking at the programme in Leh.

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NC to set up committee to take up

Priva inaugurates SP

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