ICAR, Meghalaya scientists suggested contingency measures for mitigating moisture stress condition under NICRA

The recent climatic aberration in the form of scarce precipitation has posed a serious threat to agriculture production in north east region of the country. The intense drought like situation has an adverse impact on kharif crops that may lead to large scale yield loss in kharif paddy specially. In this connection a team of scientists of ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Umiam, Meghalaya comprising of Dr. D.J. Rajkhowa, Principal Scientist & PI, NICRA; Dr. A. K. Tripathi, Head, Social Science & Co- PI, NICRA-TDC and Dr. A. K. Mohanty, Principal Scientist, Social Science made a visit to NICRA village Nongthymmai and its surrounding villages namely Klew, Nongpyrdet, Mawnohsynrum and Mawkyrdep in Ribhoi district of Meghalaya on 19th July, 2014 to assess the field condition in kharif rice due to long dry spell of monsoon and suggested adaptation and mitigation strategies for overcoming the problems due to climate change.

During the visit, the team observed that due to scanty rainfall more than 85 percent of transplanted rice area has been affected and nearly 20 percent of area has not been transplanted till date. In fact the occurrence of drought –like situation in most of the cases speculates large scale yield loss in rice this year which has become a concern for the farmers. Hence the team suggested to explore the existing water sources from which water can be lifted through water-pump and the crop can be saved through life-saving irrigation. Dr. Rajkhowa, Principal Scientist (NRM) & PI, NICRA suggested to trigger some of the existing dug well, Jalkund and community pond in the villages for providing critical irrigation to the affected rice crop through low cost plastic pipes. He also recommended for top dressing of rice with 2% Urea against the yellowing of plants. Dr. A. K. Tripathi, Head, Social Science & Co-PI, NICRA suggested to adopt contingency measures recommended by ICAR in view of the prevailing moisture stress condition. While discussing with the affected farmers Dr. A. K. Mohanty, Principal Scientist (SS) suggested the Village Headman to make a survey to assess the need and priorities of the people for mitigating the loss due to climatic stress. Lastly, it was decided to organize some awareness programmes by ICAR RC NEH, Meghalaya in and around the NICRA village on climate resilient agriculture and to make large scale campaign for implementation of contingency plans for adaptation to climate change.


NATIONAL INITIATIVE ON
CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRICULTURE
NICRA!