

## **NICRA's effort for Nandok Farmers to be Self-reliant in Agriculture**

As a torch bearer in technology dissemination, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, ICAR Research Complex, Sikkim Centre, Ranipool, East Sikkim has brought an attitudinal change among the farming community in Nandok. Input support system is considered to be one of the key elements in this stride and as a part of this KVK, East Sikkim organized ***Potato Seed distribution –cum-training programme*** at Upper Nandok on 20th November, 2013 under the project '*National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA)*'. More than 80 farmers from Upper and Lower Nandok participated in the programme. Around 50 qtls of potato seeds (cv. Local Holland) along with 12 vermi beds and many low-cost agricultural implements were distributed.

Inaugurating the occasion, Dr. R. K. Avasthe, Joint Director, ICAR Sikkim Centre, Tadong, Gangtok the Chief Guest of the programme called upon the farmers to strive for bumper production of any crop that will help them to establish a market linkage. Expressing satisfaction over the overwhelming response of the farmers towards potato cultivation, he asked them to put in more effort in cultivation of various cash crops like ginger, potato and cole crops etc. that can fetch them better market price and bring a paradigm shift in agricultural growth of the region.

The Guest of Honour, Mrs. Meera Rai, Zilla Member, Saramsa in her address asked the people of Nandok to benefit from large-scale adoption of improved technologies for socio-economic upliftment of the region. Highlighting the importance of the programme Dr.A.K.Mohanty, Prog. Coordinator, KVK, East Sikkim said that NICRA has really made an exemplary impact in Nandok through intervention of various climate resilient technologies by KVK, East Sikkim since 2010. He urged the farmers to adopt improved and climate resilient technologies in agriculture to make farming

more sustainable and lucrative in the near future which may curb the urban migration and help in establishing agri-business centre at village.

The Panchayat President of Nandok GPU Shri Umakant Sharma in his address lauded the role of KVK, Ranipool in successful implementation of NICRA activities in Upper Nandok and Lower Nandok and pointed out that remarkable improvement has been made in the agricultural scenario of the villages through successful adoption of upland rice production, quality planting material production through vegetable nursery raising technique, potato cultivation, backyard poultry, improved piggery through Large white Yorkshire breed, life saving irrigation through *Jalkund* and so many other technologies that has increased the cropping intensity of the region to the extent of more than 200 %. Citing the positive change in the attitude of the farmers he assured to make this village self-reliant in agriculture.

Initially Mrs. Phurba Doma Lepcha, Panchayat, Lower Nandok warmly welcomed the gathering. Dr. Asish Yadav, Senior Scientist (Hort.), ICAR Sikkim Centre briefed about the “Scientific potato production technology” and Mr. B. Lepcha, Prog. Asst., KVK, East Sikkim discussed about the disease and pest management in potato and vermicompost production through vermibed. Mr. Mithlesh Kumar, SMS (Agro.) and Dr. Johnson Singh, SMS (Pl. Protn.), KVK, Ranipool assisted in organising the whole programme. The programme was brought to an end by vote of thanks by Mr. Tezoshi Khawas SRF- NICRA.



**Dr. R. K. Avasthe, Jt. Director, ICAR distributing the inputs to the beneficiaries**

