

“International Millets Conference”

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, West Khasi Hills District conducted “International Millets Conference” on 18th March, 2023 at the office of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, West Khasi Hills, Nongshillong. A total of 80 farmers from 9 villages had participated for the training programme along with the staff of the office. The programme commences with a webcasting of the Honorable Prime Minister, Shri. Narendra Modi in which Honourable President of Ethiopia, Sahle-Work Zewde, and His Excellency, President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, Mohamed Irfaan Ali also addressed the programme. A short welcome speech was delivered by Smt. L. Warjri, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK, West Khasi Hills to the farmers present at the programme where she has encouraged for promotion of millet farming for production as well as for daily consumption. She stated that we are currently experiencing climate change that eventually affects farming activities. Millet is a hardy crop that has been reported to withstand adverse climatic conditions and combat food shortage in case of heavy losses from the conventionally grown crops. The main food crops commonly grown including rice, wheat and maize have a high cost of production and shifting patterns of occupation especially among the youth who are opting education and higher studies. In addition to these, the ever declining fertility of soils, loss genetic vigour of hybrid varieties in the succeeding generation of the crops is not promising for food production and security. Hence, she urged the youth to take up millet farming and enterprises as it is a feasible option and enable the consumption of good quality and healthy for a better quality of life.

Technical sessions were followed with two presentations on Millets by Smt. Mesaya R. Marak, SMS Agronomy and on Buckwheat by Dr. Ereneus K. Marbaniang SMS Extension about the various aspects of their farming and significance. Interaction with farmers was carried out for discussing their queries. The programme was concluded with a vote of thanks by Shri. Rudolf Pakyntein, SMS Fisheries.

