

## **One Day Workshop on “Importance of Climate Resilient Millet Cultivation and their Contribution to National Security”**

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), West Khasi Hills District in collaboration with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), West Khasi Hills District, Nongstoin organized a **One Day Workshop on “Importance of Climate Resilient Millet Cultivation and their Contribution to National Security”** on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2023 at the office of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, West Khasi Hills, Nongshillong. Shri. W. Nongsiej, Deputy Commissioner, Eastern West Khasi Hills District graced the Inaugural session of the programme as the Chief Guest accompanied by Shri. L. Myrthong, BDO, Mawthadraishan C& RD Block, Eastern West Khasi Hills District as the Guest of Honour. Smt. P. Nongkynrih, DDM, NABARD, Smt. H. Syiemlieh, ADO, DAO, Nongstoin was also present at the programme along with members from Nongstoin Social Service Society (NSSS), Nongstoin. A total of 35 farmers had participated for the programme.

A presentation on the ‘Role of Millets in Human Health’ was delivered by Smt. M. R. Marak, SMS Agronomy, KVK, West Khasi Hills highlighting the salient features of millets. In his Address, Shri. L. Myrthong spoke about the need to shift to sustainable practices in farming. He urged farmers to take up millet farming simultaneously with rice farming and other commonly grown crops considering its several benefits. Also, taking into account the effects of climate change on crop production, changes based on global demands need to be considered. Expressing that farmer’s participation and action is the most valuable asset, hence the Government can also provide assistance through Block offices to farmers as they are the main focus. In the address by the Chief Guest he shared the narrative of how the name of Mawthadraishan Block was adopted. Through thorough investigation on the matter it was said that millet locally called as ‘Krai’ or ‘Rai’ in short, was widely grown in earlier years before the vast adoption of rice farming. The activity of drying of the harvested millets in this area lead to the development of the name Mawthadraishan meaning ‘place for drying millets’. Similarly, there is also a river and waterfall that derived its name from millets and several other references was made to describe the significance of millets in the above mentioned and adjoining areas. In addition, he informed about the health benefits of millets through personal experience from childhood and its adaptability in the region. Thus, encouraging the farmers to revive millet cultivation.

Technical session was delivered by members of NSSS, Nongstoin via two video presentation on the activities of the society and secondly, on a farm woman, Smt. Therisia Thyрниang from Sumsir Domtilliang village, Mawkyrwat C& RD Block, South West Khasi Hills District who is actively engaged in millet farming.

An expert presentation was also delivered by Dr. Jayanta Layek, Senior Scientist, ICAR RC NEH, Umiam on the topic ‘Creating Awareness about Millets’ where he highlighted the reports and finding of millet cultivation in the Northeastern Region. This was followed by Q & A session for interaction with farmers. The programme concluded with an open discussion participated by all participants present and closed by a vote of thanks by Shri. R. Pakyntein, SMS Fisheries, KVK, West Khasi Hills

