

ICAR-CCRI Holds National Workshop on Revitalizing Citriculture in North-East India

ICAR-Central Citrus Research Institute, Nagpur organized a 2-day National Workshop on Revitalizing Citriculture in North-East India during 3rd-4th October, 2024 along with ICAR-ATARI, Guwahati and Meghalaya and ICAR-RC-NEHR, Meghalaya at the NEDFi Convention Center, Guwahati, Assam. The workshop aimed to address challenges in citriculture, explore technological solutions, and formulate strategies for enhancing citrus production in the region.

Dr. Dilip Ghosh, Director of ICAR-CCRI, Nagpur, in his keynote speech, pointed out that citrus farming in the North-East is not as productive as other parts of India. This is due to issues like low-quality planting materials, lack of farmer awareness, and limited processing facilities. Dr. Ghosh shared that ICAR-CCRI plans to distribute disease-free quality planting materials in the Biswanath Chariali district of Assam through its Regional Research Station for Citrus to help boost citrus production.

The Chief Guest, Dr K.M. Bujarbaruah, Former Vice-Chancellor, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, and Former DDG, ICAR New Delhi emphasized the importance of using modern technology in citrus farming, in line with India's vision for development by 2047. He also highlighted the region's rich biodiversity and its potential to improve the quality, yield, and sustainability of citrus crops in the North-East. The workshop also felicitated Dr. Anupam Mishra, Vice-Chancellor of Central Agricultural University, Imphal.

Other important guests at the event included Shri T. P. Bhusal, Secretary (Agriculture), Govt. of Assam, Dr. G. Kadirvel, Director of ICAR-ATARI, Guwahati, Shri Loken Das, Chief General Manager, NABARD, Guwahati and Directors (Horticulture) of different North-eastern states.

The workshop included technical presentations, brainstorming sessions, and panel discussions on important topics like citrus variety improvement, disease protection, rejuvenation of citrus trees, post-harvest management, processing, and agribusiness development. Strategies for policy support for the citrus sector in North-East India were also discussed. One of the key highlights of the event was the recommendations of six new sweet orange varieties specifically identified for cultivation in the North-East India by ICAR-CCRI, Nagpur.

During the closing ceremony, the Chief Guest, Dr. V. K. Mishra, Director of ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Meghalaya, spoke about the need to promote organic and natural farming practices to improve citrus farming in the region.

Over 180 participants attended the workshop, including scientists, academics, policymakers, extension workers, and officials from the horticulture departments of the North-Eastern states as well as scientists from ICAR-CCRI, Nagpur.

(Dilip Ghosh)
Director
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