

ICAR-CCRI Organized Citrus Field Day and Distribution of Planting Materials at RRCC, Assam

ICAR-Central Citrus Research Institute (ICAR-CCRI) organized a successful Citrus Field Day at its Regional Research Centre for Citrus (RRCC) in Biswanath Chariali, Assam on 5th October, 2024. The event, aimed at advancing citriculture in Northeast India, also featured the distribution of high-quality planting materials to citrus farmers.

Dr. Dilip Ghosh, Director of ICAR-CCRI, delivered the welcome address, highlighting the current status of citriculture in North-eastern region and the critical research initiatives underway at RRCC. He announced the identification of six promising sweet orange varieties viz. Tm-33, Valencia, Pera, Natal, Westin, and Cutter Valencia, suitable for cultivation in Assam and other North-eastern states. Dr. Ghosh emphasized that the adoption of these varieties could significantly enhance the citrus landscape in the region.

The Chief Guest of the event, Shri Munindra Nath Ngatey, Deputy Commissioner of Biswanath District, commended ICAR-CCRI's research and development efforts in the North-east India. He also discussed various initiatives taken by the district administration to support local farmers and stressed the importance of collaborative efforts between government agencies, research institutions, and the farming community for the growth of citriculture in the state.

Distinguished Guests of Honor, including Dr. R. N. Barman, Associate Dean at AAU-Biswanath College of Agriculture; Dr. H. C. Bhattacharyya, Former Director of Extension, Assam Agricultural University; and Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Principal Scientist at ICAR-ATARI, Guwahati also addressed the gathering. They reiterated the role of advanced research and quality planting material in improving the region's citrus production.

As part of the event, the dignitaries released two publications on sweet orange, written in Assamese to support local farmers with region-specific knowledge. In addition, two progressive citrus growers associated with ICAR-CCRI – Shri Bhaben Saikia from Assam and Shri Clement Nongmalieh from Meghalaya – were honored with Certificates of Recognition for their exemplary contributions to citriculture in the region. During the event, 60 citrus growers from Assam and Meghalaya received disease-free quality planting material of sweet orange. A hands-on training session on vegetative propagation techniques and an exposure visit to the RRCC citrus farm were key highlights of the day, providing farmers with practical knowledge and skills to boost their citrus cultivation.

The event was also attended by ICAR-CCRI scientists, academicians from AAU-BNCA, extension personnel from the Line Department, KVK and NGO. The collective participation and knowledge exchange at the Citrus Field Day underscored the growing efforts of ICAR-CCRI to improve citriculture in North-east India.

(Dilip Ghosh)
Director, ICAR-CCRI, Nagpur

