

# CDB organized State Level workshop in Assam

Coconut Development Board in association with the Directorate of Horticulture & Food Processing, Govt. of Assam organized a State Level workshop on 'Aspects and prospects of coconut production and post harvest technology and value addition in coconut' on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2019 at Panjabari, Guwahati.

Dr. P.K. Mahanta, Director of Horticulture and Food Processing, Govt. of Assam inaugurated the programme. Dr. Sarat Saikia, Chief Scientist, Horticultural Research Station, Assam Agricultural University, Kahikuchi; Dr. R. Bordaloi, Principal Scientist, ICAR-ATARI, Zone-VI, Guwahati; Dr. Alpana Das, Scientist in Charge, ICAR- CPCRI, Research Centre, Kahikuchi; Shri Lunghar Obed, Director, Coconut Development Board and other dignitaries and farmers were present during the occasion.

In his welcome speech, Shri Lunghar Obed informed the status of coconut cultivation in the northeastern states and Board's activities for the development of coconut in the region. He urged the farmers to give coconut, the status of a crop and to adopt scientific package of practices for better prospects in farming activities.

Dr. Sarat Saikia briefed the need for forming farmers' collectives and on the advantages of formation of FPOs in coconut sector. The management of coconut palms in Assam conditions for irrigation and application of manures & fertilizers was appraised to the farmers and he advised the farmers to take better care of the palms which are grown as homestead plants.

Dr. R. Bordaloi compared the coconut situation in Philippines, Indonesia and their advancements in coconut processing. He requested the farmers to cultivate coconut palms scientifically on large scale with a vision to venture into the production of various value added coconut products.

Dr. P.K. Mahanta, Director of Horticulture and Food Processing, Govt. of Assam appealed the participant farmers to go in for block plantations of coconut palms, as it can accommodate more perennial and seasonal crops as inter/ mixed crop in the interspaces. Mixed farming opportunities with livestock, poultry, fishery, etc. are also economically successful and if the land, water and human resources are utilized



judiciously.

Dr. Alpana Das, Scientist in Charge, CPCRI, briefed farmers about promising varieties, mixed and inter cropping and advised the farmers to avail the benefits of various schemes of the Board. Shri R. Jnanadevan, Deputy Director, CDB proposed vote of thanks.

In the technical Session, Dr. P. Mahanta, Principal Scientist, HRS, AAU, Kahikuchi spoke on 'Prospects of coconut cultivation in Assam & scientific cultivation of coconut' and Shri E. Aravazhi, Deputy Director, CDB spoke on 'Prospects of value addition in coconut & support of CDB'. Shri Kumaravel S, Development Officer, CDB briefed on Schemes of CDB for promotion of coconut cultivation & marketing'; and Smt. Tara Sarma, Director, Abad Agro Producers Co. Ltd spoke on 'Advantages & prospects of FPOs in coconut sector in Assam'. The farmers' queries on coconut cultivation, schemes, etc. were replied by the experts.

About 220 farmers from various parts of the state, officers from other State and Central Government establishments attended the workshop. An exhibition of various value added products of coconut was also arranged as part of the workshop for the benefit of the farmers.