

Five-day training program on Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) Conservation Awareness and Mushroom Cultivation Entrepreneurship Development

ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) New Delhi & ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Phek, Nagaland jointly organized a five-day training program on Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) Conservation Awareness and Mushroom Cultivation Entrepreneurship Development from March 10 to 14, 2025. Sponsored by ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi, under the NEH sub-plan, the program focused on PGR conservation awareness, mushroom cultivation, value addition of mushroom products, and entrepreneurship development in mushroom farming for the farmers of Phek district. During the program, Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Singh, Senior Scientist and Head, ICAR-KVK Phek, emphasized the importance of conserving PGRs for sustainable agriculture and promoting entrepreneurship in mushroom farming. Dr. Jameel Akhtar, Principal Scientist, ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi, highlighted NBPGR's role in identifying, collecting, and conserving PGRs nationwide. He also delivered comprehensive lectures on mushroom cultivation, covering key aspects such as the importance and uses of mushrooms, techniques for cultivating button mushrooms, inspiring success stories from mushroom farming, and effective pest and disease management strategies.

Mr. Kelhouzakie Chielie, SDHO, Pfutsero, conducted a lecture on oyster mushroom cultivation, followed by a hands-on training session, enabling participants to gain practical experience in oyster mushroom farming. Dr. Sharanappa C. H. SMS (Plant Protection) delivered a lecture on production technology of Shiitake mushroom. Dr. Venkatesh, SMS Agriculture Engineering, delivered a lecture on value addition of mushroom products. Dr. T. Esther Longkumer, CTO-Soil Science, elucidated the composting process for mushroom substrate. Dr. Hannah K. Asangla, CTO-Agronomy, presented a lecture on income-generating activities.

The training program also featured a farmer-scientist interaction session, where participants shared innovative farming practices and discussed challenges. At the end of each session, valuable inputs were distributed under the NEH sub-plan, along with certificates for the participants. The program concluded with a valedictory function on the final day, marking the successful completion of the five-day training initiative. A total of 150 farmers from different

parts of the district participated in the program. This training program is expected to strengthen agricultural sustainability and entrepreneurship among farmers, fostering self-reliance in mushroom cultivation and plant genetic resource conservation in Nagaland.

