NSSS, Brief Report on Awareness Programme on Biodiversity Fair cum Plant Genetic Resource
Date: 14th June 2024
Venue: Tengri Village

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on Earth, encompassing the diversity of species, genetic. Biodiversity and plant genetic resources are crucial components of global ecosystems and agriculture. Biodiversity encompasses the variety of life forms, from microorganisms to plants and animals, while plant genetic resources refer to the genetic material of plants that is vital for breeding new varieties and maintaining agricultural resilience. This report explores the importance of biodiversity and plant genetic resources, threats they face, and strategies for their conservation.

The Biodiversity Fair cum Plant Genetic Resource event held on the 14th June 2024 at Tengri Village aimed to raise awareness and promote conservation efforts related to biodiversity and plant genetic resources.

The program commenced with a significant inauguration ceremony overseen by esteemed dignitaries and officials, including Dr. S.K Malik, the Nodal Officer of NEH Scheme ICAR-NBPGR from New Delhi; Dr. Harish GD, Scientist & OIC of ICAR-NBPGR Regional Station Shillong; Dr. PK Singh, Head of the Division of Germplasm Exploration at ICAR-NBPGR New Delhi; and other notable figures. Also in attendance were Fr. James Anderson Syiemlieh, President of Nongstoin Social Service Society (NSSS), Fr. Ditendar Lyngkhoi, Director of NSSS, NSSS staff, and 250 farmers from Eastern West Khasi Hills District.

Fr. Ditendar Lyngkhoi, the Director of NSSS, welcomed everyone and honored them with traditional Khasi Souvenirs and shawls (Jain Ryndia). This was followed by a brief address from Dr. Harish GD on Meghalaya's current agricultural landscape and the program's objectives.

Dr. S.K Malik highlighted the critical importance of biodiversity and plant genetic resources, emphasizing conservation, protection, and sustainable utilization practices. He urged the younger generation to preserve the Khasi people's rich traditional systems, introduced the concept of Community Seed Centres, and underscored the pivotal role of women in the food system.

Fr. James Anderson Syiemlieh spoke about agricultural practices and expressed gratitude to all stakeholders and contributors whose efforts ensured the success of the event in promoting biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

The event featured the distribution of agricultural tools to 250 farmers from Eastern West Khasi Hills District, including tarpaulins, sprayer pumps, pipes, bags, and hats, amounting to a total value exceeding 14 lakhs.

The Biodiversity Fair cum Plant Genetic Resource event was highly successful, providing a platform for education, dialogue, and action on biodiversity conservation and sustainable agriculture. Moving forward, it is crucial to sustain the momentum generated by the event, fostering continued awareness and collaboration for the preservation of our natural heritage.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by NSSS staff member Smt. Jacquielyne Lyngdoh Marshilong, followed by an exhibition showcasing local germplasm diversity and the distribution of mementos by the Director of Nongstoin Social Service Society to participants.

Photo Gallery:





Speech from the Dignitaries





Exhibition showcasing local germplasm diversity





Distribution of Tools to Farmers