

National Seminar on “Organic Tea” held

Scientific knowhow for Tea Planters of Darjeeling

Darjeeling 4 October: A one day national seminar on “Organic Tea” was organized by Tea Board of India through Darjeeling Tea Research and Development Centre (DTR&DC) here in Darjeeling on Wednesday, October 3, 2012. The seminar was aimed to discuss and interact on the issues related to Organic cultivation of tea in Darjeeling between the Scientists and planting community.

Dr. Mahipal Singh, Project Director, DTR&DC welcomed all the delegates and briefed about the importance of organic tea and the mandate of CFC-TBI project.

Dr. B. Bera, Director (Research) Tea Board in his inaugural address presented an overview of the scenario of organic tea. He discussed not only on the research carried out by the different tea research institutes and other institutes in organic tea, but also emphasized on the Lab to land transfer of the technology for the benefit of the tea industry of Darjeeling.

The seminar was divided into three technical sessions and a valedictory session.

In the first session, three presentations were made by the Scientists on different aspects of organic cultivation. Dr. P. Bhattacharya (Ex-Director, National Centre of Organic Farming) discussed on the scope of using bio-fertilizers in organic farming and their limitations. This was followed by the presentation of Dr. S. Kundu (General Manager, Business Development; Excel Crop care ltd.) on the role of microbes in organic farming. He briefed on the usage of bio-pesticides in organic farming. Prof. K. K. Krishnamurthy (President, Indian Society for Certification of Organic products) concluded the session with his presentation on the certification aspects of the organic products.

In the second session, three presentations were made on the findings of organic tea cultivation at the Model farms of UPASI-TRF, DTR&DC and TRA. These projects are currently been running under the CFC-TBI Organic Tea Development Project.

In the third session, Scientists from TRA, UPASI-TRF and DTR&DC presented their findings on the management of soil as well

as enrichment by organic means, weed management, nutrient management and pest control by organic way.

The importance of vermicomposting in organic tea cultivation, method of preparation and an approach to improve the vermicompost technology for Darjeeling areas were explained by Prof. B. C. Ghosh, IIT, Kharagpur.

The seminar gave a room to discuss and find out an effective way for sustainable organic tea production through development of different packages and their dissemination to planting community.

Among the invitees, Chairman, TRA, Mr. D. P. Maheswari; President, DTA, Mr. H. R. Chaudhury were present in the seminar along with the Directors of TRA, Dr. N. Muraleedharan and UPASI-TRF, Dr. P. Mohankumar. Senior Planters like Mr. V. S. Parmer, Mr. Raja Banerjee, Mr. A. K. Jha, Mr. J Pande were also present.

Around 130 Estate managers, Planters, Scientists participated in the programme.



Inaugural Session at the National Seminar on Organic tea



Dr. B. Bera addressing the delegates at the seminar



Presentation at the Seminar



Delegates at the Seminar