

Workshop for Small Tea Growers held

Technical support given to Small tea growers on Organic cultivation

Darjeeling 16 June: A workshop on organic tea cultivation for small tea growers of Darjeeling was organized by the Santiniketan Small Tea Growers, a chapter of Darjeeling Organic Ekta Small Growers' Society on 15th June at village Seeyok Khasmal, Mirik. The programme was sponsored by the Tea Board of India with technical support from Darjeeling Tea Research and Development Centre (DTR&DC), Kurseong.

Mr. Anil Ghimirey, President, Darjeeling Organic Ekta Small Growers' Society addressed to the participants and thanked Tea Board's initiative to sponsor such programme. He expressed his concern over the unavailability of technical support to the small tea growers of Darjeeling and said that the scientific back up from DTR&DC will be helpful. Emphasizing the need of a model tea factory for the society, he urged Tea Board to look into the matter.

Dr. Mahipal Singh, Project Director, DTR&DC ensured to provide technical support to small growers of Darjeeling as and when required. He also requested the growers to visit DTR&DC. Emphasizing the need of registration with Tea Board for obtaining subsidies, Mr. N. Kumar, Senior Scientific Officer (Biochemistry), DTR&DC urged the growers to get registered with Tea Board.

Dr. A. Basu Majumder, Research Officer, Tea Board explained the need of such programme for Small Tea growers of Darjeeling and said that as per the approval of Tea Board authority, such workshops will held now onwards twice a year during May and December.

Mr. P. A. Hussain, Manager, Seeyok T. E. told that Small Tea Growers should participate more and more in such workshop to know the science of tea growing and input from DTR&DC in this regard is important.

The workshop consisted of four presentations followed by discussions on soil and nutrient management, pruning, plant protection and Physiology of tea plant. Mr. J. S. Bisen, Junior Scientific Officer (Farm Management), DTR&DC discussed on different types and methods of pruning.

Requirements of proper nutrient management for organic tea cultivation were elaborated by Dr. A. K. Singh, Senior Scientific Officer (Soil Science) while management of insect pests and diseases under organic cultivation was briefed by Mr. Manohar Singh, Senior Scientific Officer (Plant Protection). Finally, Mr. R. Kumar, Junior Scientific Officer (Farm Management) gave general description of tea plant and its behavior with respect to soil and climate.

Around 60 small tea growers from Darjeeling Organic Ekta Small Growers' Society participated in the programme.



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L-R: Mr. P. A. Hussain, manager, Seeyok T. E.; Mr. N. Kumar, SSO (BioChemistry), DTR&DC; Dr. Mahipal Singh, Project Director, DTR&DC; Dr. A. Basu Majumder, Research Officer, Tea Board and Mr. A. Ghimirey, President, Darjeeling Organic Ekta Society



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Inauguration of the programme



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Participants at the workshop