

Workshop on cold weather practices held

Scientific knowhow for Small tea growers of Darjeeling

Mirik 14 December: A one day field workshop was organized for small tea growers of Laganshil Organic Ekta Sangh at Rangbang Busty, Darjeeling on winter cultural practices particularly on pruning and organic method of tea cultivation.

The workshop was sponsored by Tea Board of India where technical knowhow was provided through Darjeeling Tea Research & Development Centre (DTR&DC), Kurseong.

Secretary, Laganshil Organic Ekta Sangh Darjeeling stated that small tea growers have been deprived of technologies and new techniques. He also pointed out that due to paucity of funds small tea growers are facing a lot of hardships in arranging organic inputs and various agriculture implements. He appreciated the effort of Tea Board and DTR&DC for organizing such training programme for the small tea growers.

Importance of pruning and method of pruning was discussed by Mr. R. Kumar, Junior Scientific Officer (Farm Management). He stated that adoption of appropriate pruning cycle is essential for the health of bush and tea productivity. Dr. A. K. Singh, Senior Scientific Officer (Soil Science) highlighted the soil and nutrient management for organic tea cultivation. He emphasized on the advantage of organic farming, basic tools in organic farming, nutrient management planning and sources of organic manures.

The importance of vermin-composting in organic tea cultivation, suitable species of worms, method of preparation and precautions during vermin-composting in details were explained by Mr. M. Chaubey, Senior Scientific Officer (Farm Management). He said that it can be prepared successfully at farm level by wastes of kitchen, weeds available at farm and cow dung etc. at very low cost.

In his presentation Mr. M. Singh, Senior Scientific Officer (Plant Protection) described in details the time of incidence of various pests and diseases, symptoms and their bio control measures.

From Tea Board and DTR&DC, Dr. B. Bera, Director (Research), Tea Board; Dr. A. Basu Majumder, Research Officer, Tea Board; Dr. Mahipal Singh, Project Director, DTR&DC and Mr. A. Roychoudhury, Advisor (Research Management) were present at the workshop along with other scientific personnel.

Among the invitees, Dr. I. D. Singh, Ex Scientist, TRA; Mr. C. S. Majumdar, Ex Scientist, TRA and Dr. M. B. Tamang, Tea Consultant and former Tea Scientist were present and shared their knowhow with the small tea growers.

Around 56 small tea growers from Laganshil Organic Ekta Sangh participated in the programme.



Workshop on organic tea cultivation for small tea growers at Rangbang busty, Darjeeling



Participants at the Workshop for small tea growers at Rangbang busty, Darjeeling



Dr. I. D. Singh demonstrating on the pruning at the workshop (second from right)