

Farmer-Scientist Interaction and Awareness Meet on Information and Communication Tools for Farmers of district Lawngtlai, Mizoram

ICAR-National Research Centre for Integrated Pest Management, Pusa, New Delhi in active collaboration with the Krishi Vigyan Kendra Lawngtlai, Mizoram organized interactive Farmers-Scientists meet (online mode) on 31 March, 2022 under the project **“Impact of Access and Usage of Information and Communication Technology in IPM at North-Eastern Region of India”**.

Dr. C. Lalfakawma, Senior Scientist and Head of KVK, Lawngtlai, Mizoram welcomed all the participants and also apprised about the constraints in the usages Information Communication Tools (ICT) in North –Eastern Hill Region specially Mizoram.

Dr. Mukesh Sehgal Principal Scientist ICAR-NCIPM, Pusa New Delhi was the chief guest of this programme. In his inaugural address Dr. Mukesh Sehgal shared his views on Integrated Pest Management in major crops of Lawngtlai, Mizoram. He said that use of ICT helped the farmer to improve their socio-economic status and also advocated that indiscriminate use of chemical pesticides creates several problems such as the development of resistance in pests against pesticides, pest resurgence, toxic residue in food, water, air and soil, elimination of natural enemies, and disruption of the ecosystem. He also elaborated on the role of ICT in issuing the advisories to the farmer and to adopt the IPM.

Dr Meenakshi Malik, Scientist and Principal investigator of the project explained that the objective behind this meeting was to create awareness about the different ICT tools and how these tools can help in the wider spread of IPM technologies. She also interacted with farmers on the importance of ICT in IPM covering all the important tools that can help the farmers in getting the authentic information at right time and how the tools can be helpful in the management of pests, thereby increasing production and productivity. The efforts were made to explain the farmers about the Decision Support System and different types of DSS i.e. one of the important tool of communication. The related concepts were also covered and how DSS can help the farmers in the management of pests at right time was also communicated.

There were farmers who were unable to understand English and Hindi but with the help of videos/photographs the importance of ICT tools as demonstrated. Later the presentation was demonstrated to the farmers in the local language by KVK Lawngtlai.

Fifty-six farmers participated and interacted with the project team of ICAR-NCIPM, New Delhi, namely Dr. Malik, Dr. Sehgal, Dr. Singh, Dr. H. Vanlalmuliana (KVK Siaha), and Dr. Lalfwadma (KVK Langtawi), Dr Utpal Dey KVK Sepahijala, Tripura in this meet. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

