

RFRI CONDUCTS MONTHLY SEMINAR

Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat (Assam) conducted Monthly Seminar on 5th July, 2019 in which Dr. Elizabeth Imti, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Fazl Ali College, under Nagaland University, Mukokchung, Nagaland delivered a presentation on '*The Intricate Relevance of Local Communities and Their Natural Environment*'.

At the outset, Dr. R. S. C. Jayaraj, Director welcomed to Dr. Elizabeth Imti with a traditional *Phulam Gamosa* and briefed about the monthly seminar series being organized by the Institute. Shri R. K. Kalita, Head, Extension Division introduced Dr. Elizabeth Imti with her academic credentials and contribution in the field of Sociology.

In her presentation, Dr. Elizabeth highlighted the role of indigenous communities in environmental conservation. About 5% of the world population of indigenous communities inhabit Asian subcontinent and 18 % of the global forests are managed by them through indigenous knowledge based practices. Local communities are the real custodian of the environment; they have high traditional indigenous knowledge and special code of conservation to maintain biodiversity. Ethnic groups play vital role in conservation and economic growth of the society. She also spoke pre independence struggle and survival of indigenous communities deep inside the natural forests.

Further, Dr. Elizabeth presented the Nagaland context of the traditional communities and indigenous practices where 18 tribes inhabit and are dependent upon 80 % natural resources. The Naga communities have developed diverse land management systems in the villages and largely dependent on agriculture and forest resources for their livelihood. Dr. Elizabeth mentioned that rapid commercialization of natural resources and modernization of traditional tribal institutions is the major threat to indigenous knowledge based systems. The locations and high risk environment in hill areas of Nagaland are more vulnerable to climate change impacts. In addition to this, she also discussed the unique traditional practices of Nagaland state viz. Alder based *jhum* cultivation, traditional terrace paddy cultivation system, traditional fire control measures during slash and burn operations, Amur Falcon conservation initiatives by the villagers of Wokha, complete ban on plastic by Longra village and paradigm shift of farmers from rampant *jhum* cultivation to horticulture plantations as well as other income generating activities.

The seminar ended with discussion among the scientists, technical officers and research scholars followed by a formal vote of thanks by Shri R.K. Kalita, Head, Extension Division.

GLIMPSES OF THE MONTHLY SEMINAR



Monthly Seminar at RFRI, Jorhat | 2019



Monthly Seminar at RFRI, Jorhat | 2019

