

RFRI CONDUCTS MONTHLY SEMINAR

Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat (Assam) conducted Monthly Seminar on 30th June, 2020 on the topic ‘Biodiversity of Forage Resources in NE India and their Scope in Integrated Farming System’. The Guest Speaker was Dr. K. K. Sharma, Chief Agronomist, Integrated Farming System and Principal Scientist, AICRP on Forage Crops, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat (Assam). Around 24 officials including Scientists, Officers, Project Fellows attended the seminar. Participation was restricted following COVID-19 guidelines.

At the outset, Dr. R. S. C. Jayaraj, Director, RFRI welcomed the Guest Speaker and other officials present in the Seminar. Guest Speaker, Dr. Sharma delivered an illustrated presentation on diversity of Forage Crops in India with special mention about the North Eastern Region (NER), the importance of Integrated Farming System and the scope of Forage Crops in it. He started his presentation with basic statistics on livestock population with corresponding feeds and fodders of India. He discussed about dry fodder, green fodder and concentrate availability as well as their requirements in the country. He gave detailed account of biodiversity of Forage Crops in India and mentioned that NER is a major hotspot of these crops. He shared detailed list of Forage Crops including Tree Fodder species that are available in NER. He also dealt with the range of nutritive values of different forage species and gave a list of forage crop varieties and their productivity,

Dr. Sharma discussed about different dimensions of Integrated Farming System and role of livestock in it. He informed that dry matter requirement of livestock is 2% of their body weight.

Farm Planning is very important for a successful operation of integrated farming system that include a proper animal health plan, recycling of organic waste,

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adoption of LEISA (Low External Input for Sustainable Agriculture) system, year round income plan, short and long term plan for farm development etc.

He touched upon low cost preservation of forage crops such as silage making for its sustained supply during lean periods. This has another dimension of development of entrepreneurship on storage and supply of fodder/feedstock. He gave 10 point action areas for dairy sector development in North East India.

He discussed about the future strategies to be taken for forage production in NER. Those include creating better scope for quality fodder production amongst farmers, effective extension technology for fodder development (distribution of literature, fodder calendar, physical demonstration), training on fodder and fodder seed production, feeding and management and also conservation of forages, low cost management practices of fodder production for easy and comfortable adoption, development of data base of forage production and other details in the region, effective coordination among the link department/agencies, identification and development of package of practice (POP) for selected local grasses and fodder trees and popularize them for feeding the livestock and emphasis on Forage research.

The Seminar ended with customary vote of thanks by Dr. R. K. Borah, Group Coordinator (Research). Shri R. K. Kalita, Head, Extension Division of the Institute conducted the entire programme.

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