

Success Story

Tribal Sub Plan

(2013-2016)

**S. Hazarika, S. K. Das
and S. V. Ngachan**



ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region

Umroi road, Umiam, Barapani
Meghalaya- 793 103, India



Farmers in Sikkim improve productivity of major crops through management of insect pests and diseases

Sikkim was declared as organic state in 2003 and set the target to become fully organic by 2015. In Sikkim most of the tribal farmers of remote villages rely mostly on agriculture for livelihood. Organic management of insect pests and diseases is a matter of concern especially for major crops such as rice, maize, rice bean, tomato, ginger and large cardamom in order to reduce the yield losses which sometimes goes beyond 90%. Pest and disease management in organic farming requires adequate attention which is further complicated by

unavailability of biopesticides or other permitted pesticides particularly in remote areas. ICAR Sikkim centre took initiative to build confidence among the farmers and make them aware about the scientific management of insect pest and diseases in organic farming practices through use of biopesticide, botanicals and other permitted pesticide like copper oxychloride. A series of training (16 nos.), demonstration and input (biopesticides viz. 1500 ppm neem oil 290 l, Petroleum oil based agro-spray 80 litre and Copper oxychloride 290 kg, 420 nos. of sprayers etc.) distribution programme was organized in Sikkim covering all the districts (East, West, North and South Sikkim) under TSP during 2013 to 2016. Through these training programmes, more than 800 tribal farmers were trained and were equipped to save their crop from insect pests and diseases through organic means. Farmers were empowered technologically and through input support system. After exposure to such training programmes, the farmers became confident and could reduce yield loss of crops up to 60-70%.



Contributor:

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