

Workshop on “Promotion of Scientific Maize Cultivation and FAW Management in Nagaland”

27th May, 2019

On the wake of recent threat of invasive pest, the fall armyworm (FAW), *Spodoptera frugiperda* (Lepidoptera, Noctuidae) in maize cultivation and need for promotion of scientific cultivation of maize in Nagaland, ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region Nagaland centre and ICAR-Indian Institute of Maize Research (IIMR), Ludhiana, Punjab jointly organized one day State



Level Workshop on “Promotion of Scientific Maize Cultivation and FAW Management in Nagaland” on 27th May, 2019. The programme was attended by 81 officials of state departments, ATMA, CIPMC and farmers. The workshop was a part of the collaborative programme of promotion of maize in NEH region.

Dr. Narendra Prakash, Director, ICAR-RC-NEH Region, Umiam highlighted on the scope of maize cultivation in *Jhum* land and the major



constraints faced by the farmers such as non-availability of quality seed materials and lack of awareness among the farmers about the scientific managements practices. He urged for working in convergence mode for proper monitoring and reporting of major

destructive pest in the state for timely management of the pest. He assured all technical support from ICAR for enhancing productivity of maize and pest management. Dr. Sujay Rakshit, Director, ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana addressed the stakeholders to jointly tackle the menace of fall armyworm at the state level. He emphasized the popularization of maize hybrids for improving the productivity of maize and the strategies to

increase availability of quality seed of maize for the farmers. He also emphasized the importance of value addition in maize for minimizing post harvest losses.

Dr. Sujay Rakshit, Director, ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana, Dr. Narendra Prakash, Director, ICAR-RC-NEH Region, Umiam; Dr. D. J. Rajkhowa, Joint Director, ICAR-RC-NEH Region, Nagaland centre, Dr. Neelam Chaudhury,

Deputy Director, Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage, Faridabad, Smt. Bendanglila, Joint Director, Department of Agriculture, Government of



Nagaland and Dr. S. L. Jat, Coordinator IIMR-NEH Maize programme, Dr. Suby S.B., Scientist, ICAR- IIMR also attended the programme.

During the technical sessions, Dr. D.J. Rajkhowa, Joint Director, ICAR-RC-NEH Region, Nagaland centre highlighted the status and strategies for promotion of scientific maize cultivation of maize in Nagaland. Dr. Suby S.B., Scientist, ICAR- IIMR presented on the Fall Army Worm identification and its managements strategies to control the invasive pest. Dr. S. L. Jat, Coordinator IIMR-NEH Maize programme, in his presentation briefed on the crop management practices and emphasized the importance of pest forewarning. Dr. L.K. Baishya, Senior Scientist, organizing secretary of the programme also highlighted the importance of maize cultivation for feed production for livestock.

Panel discussion was also held on the management strategies of FAW and promotion of scientific maize cultivation. It was highlighted that the need for designing effective strategies for promotion of scientific maize cultivation across the state. It was highlighted to incorporate location specific improved and hybrid maize varieties. The need for availability of quality seed materials and other inputs were given importance. The panel of different expertise advocated proper monitoring and management of devastating pest fall armyworm (FAW).

A field visit to ICAR research farm was conducted to show the scientific maize production technologies. In field visit, the officials were given training on identification, scouting and pheromone trap installation. An extension folder entitled "Maize production technologies" was also released during the workshop. Dr Sujay Rakshit, Director IIMR and his team also visited the farmers field on 26th May, 2019 and the NRC on Mithun ongoing collaborative programme on 27th May, 2019.

