

Press Release From KVK, Namthang, Namchi District

Programme on Pulse Production and Input Distribution Organised by KVK, South Sikkim at NICRA village, Rabitar

Namchi, 16 September: A farmer-oriented awareness and input distribution programme on “Promotion of pulses in NEH region” was organised by Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Namthang at NICRA village, Rabitar, to promote pulse production, improve soil fertility and strengthen farm livelihoods.

The programme was attended by 25 farmers and coordinated by the Dr. Obadiya Rai, Senior Research Fellow (SRF), NICRA Project and Dr. Pravesh Shivakoty, Subject Matter Specialist (Plant Pathology), KVK, South Sikkim, served as the resource person.

During the programme, farmers were sensitised to the nutritional, economic and ecological significance of pulses. Pulses such as field pea and rajma are important sources of plant-based protein and contribute to nutritional security. Their cultivation also supports sustainable agriculture through biological nitrogen fixation, which helps enrich soil fertility, reduce dependence on external nitrogen inputs and improve the productivity of succeeding crops. Quality seeds and essential inputs of field pea (Pant Pea- 25) and rajma (VL-146) were distributed among the participating farmers to encourage their adoption and expand pulse cultivation.

The resource persons explained suitable production practices, including land preparation, seed treatment, sowing time, nutrient management, weed control and plant protection measures. Farmers were encouraged to integrate pulses into existing cropping systems for diversification, improved soil health and enhanced farm income.

The programme concluded with an interactive discussion addressing farmers’ queries and emphasising the need for collective efforts to boost pulse production in the region.