Press Release from Agriculture Department, Pakyong District

Khet Bachao Abhiyan Conducted at Dalapchand GPK, Regu Block, Pakyong District

Pakyong, November 23: Agriculture Department, Pakyong District, Government of Sikkim, successfully organised an awareness programme under the nationwide Khet Bachao Abhiyan 2026, themed "Swasth Dhara, Samriddh Kisan" (Healthy Earth, Prosperous Farmer), at Dalapchand Gram Panchayat Kendra (GPK), under Dalapchand Gram Panchayat Unit (GPU), Regu Block, Pakyong District, on 23rd November 2026.

The campaign, an initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, being observed from 22nd October to 30th November 2026, aims to create awareness among the farming community regarding the protection of agricultural fields and crops from wild animal damage, insect pests and diseases, while promoting soil health management, sustainable agricultural practices and scientific farming techniques.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from 108 farmers and local stakeholders, comprising 73 male and 35 female participants, including progressive farmers from across the GPU.

The programme was graced by Smt. Kamal Kumari Sharma, Panchayat Vice President, Dalapchand GPU, along with Panchayat Members Smt. Shova Gurung, Smt. Sita Gurung and Smt. Aita Rani Subba.

Among the departmental officials and resource persons present were Dr. Prakash Sharma, Head, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Ranipool; Smt. Pabitra Tamang, Plant Protection Officer, CIPMC; Shri Kausar Ahmed, Assistant Plant Protection Officer, CIPMC; Shri J.B. Gurung, Block Officer, Wildlife Department; Shri Ashok Gurung, Agriculture Development Officer (ADO), Regu Block; and Shri Saiman Manger, Assistant Technology Manager (ATM), ATMA, Regu Block.

The programme was also attended by the Circle In-charges of Lingtam-Phadamchen and Dalapchand, field functionaries of the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments, Krishi Sevaks and other local stakeholders, reflecting strong inter-departmental convergence towards farmers' welfare.

The technical sessions commenced with an overview of Khet Bachao Abhiyan and various ongoing schemes of the Agriculture Department, delivered by Shri Ashok Gurung, ADO, Regu Block. He highlighted the objectives of the campaign, departmental initiatives and various support mechanisms available to farmers for improving agricultural productivity, protecting cultivated land and strengthening sustainable farming practices.

Thereafter, Shri J.B. Gurung, Block Officer, Wildlife Department, sensitised the participants on the provisions of the Wild Animal Damage Cover, explaining the available support mechanisms for farmers affected by crop damage caused by wild animals. The session addressed one of the major challenges faced by farming communities in the region.

Smt. Pabitra Tamang, Plant Protection Officer, CIPMC, delivered a technical session on Integrated Pest Management (IPM), emphasising scientific and eco-friendly pest management techniques, preventive crop protection measures and the importance of minimising crop losses through sustainable agricultural practices.

Subsequently, Dr. Prakash Sharma, Head, KVK, Ranipool, highlighted the various activities and initiatives undertaken by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, particularly its role in providing technical guidance, capacity-building programmes, farmer training, field demonstrations and dissemination of improved agricultural technologies. He also emphasised the importance of soil health conservation, scientific crop management and the adoption of sustainable farming practices for enhancing agricultural productivity.

Addressing the gathering, Smt. Kamal Kumari Sharma, Panchayat Vice President, Dalapchand GPU, emphasised the importance of collective participation, community-level initiatives and close coordination between farmers, Panchayati Raj Institutions and line departments in safeguarding agricultural fields and strengthening the farming sector.

The programme also provided an interactive platform for farmers to exchange their experiences, discuss field-level challenges and seek technical guidance from departmental experts and resource persons.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Shri Johan Gurung, who expressed his gratitude to the dignitaries, resource persons, Panchayat representatives, departmental officials, field functionaries and participating farmers for their valuable contributions and active participation.

The programme reaffirmed the commitment of the Agriculture Department, Pakyong District, towards protecting agricultural resources, reducing crop losses, strengthening farmers' livelihoods and promoting a sustainable and resilient agricultural ecosystem through coordinated departmental efforts and active community participation.