Press Release from Agriculture Department

Kisan Gosthi-cum-Farmer–Scientist Interaction Programme at Phenzong Celebrates Women in Agriculture

Phenzong, Ranka Block, October 12, 2026:

A Kisan Gosthi-cum-Farmer–Scientist Interaction Programme was organised at Phenzong, Ranka Block, to recognise the vital contribution of women to agriculture and reaffirm institutional support for women farmers and Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

The programme was graced by Ms. Lily Rai, Chairman, Agriculture Department, and Mrs. Rachna Gurung, Director, SAMETI. Other dignitaries present included Shri Prakash Sharma, Project Coordinator, KVK; the Deputy Director-cum-Deputy Project Director, ATMA; the Deputy Directors of MOVCD and Horticulture; the Veterinary Officer, Animal Husbandry Department; and the Manager, SBI Ranka Branch. Officials from the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments, farmers, and SHG members, including a large number of women farmers, also participated.

The programme began with the dignitaries visiting stalls set up by the participating SHGs, showcasing the products and skills of local producers. Assistant Technology Manager L. Tshering Bhutia delivered the welcome address. Ms. Susmita Lama Tamang, Deputy Director-cum-Deputy Project Director, ATMA, then presented an overview of the programme. She highlighted the importance of women in agriculture and their central role in farm production, household livelihoods, and rural enterprises.

During the Farmer–Scientist Interaction, representatives of the line departments outlined the government schemes available to farmers and responded to their queries through an open discussion.

Mrs. Rachna Gurung highlighted the schemes and support opportunities available, including MOVCD, PM-KISAN, KCC, training programmes, and exposure visits. She urged farmers, particularly women farmers and SHG members, to make full use of these benefits.

Ms. Lily Rai encouraged farmers to adopt improved and scientific farming practices and avail themselves of departmental schemes. Recognising the role of women in farming, she assured progressive and active farmers, including women farmers, of her continued support. She also thanked all line departments for their assistance to the farming community.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Block Technology Manager Ms. Geeta Sharma.