

Press Release from Agriculture Department, Pakyong District

Director SAMETI Evaluates Farm-Oriented Activities Under ATMA Pakyong; Applauds Farmers and Highlights Areas for Improvement

Pakyong, September 22: An intensive monitoring and evaluation visit was conducted by the Director, State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Smt. Rachana Gurung, along with her team from Gangtok, to assess the implementation of farmer-oriented extension activities under ATMA, Pakyong.

The day-long programme commenced at Pradhan Gaon, Rhenock Block, with an inspection of the Farm School on Integrated Organic Farming Systems (IOFS) established and managed by progressive farmers, the Hazarey Brothers—Shri Shiva Kumar Pradhan, Shri Dilip Kumar Pradhan and Shri H.B. Pradhan.

Following a traditional reception, the programme began with introductory remarks by Shri Krishna Kumar Dhakal, Agriculture Development Officer, followed by an overview of district-level extension interventions presented by Smt. Rebecca Gurung, Deputy Project Director, ATMA Pakyong.

Addressing the gathering, Director SAMETI Smt. Rachana Gurung appreciated the proactive efforts of the farming community and field functionaries in promoting sustainable and integrated farming practices. She offered valuable suggestions for further improvement, particularly emphasizing better crop-livestock integration, value addition, efficient utilization of farm resources and strengthening of farm-based income generation.

Director SAMETI also had a fruitful and interactive engagement with ATMA officials, field functionaries and farmers, during which various field-level achievements, challenges, operational bottlenecks and technical requirements were discussed. The interaction provided an opportunity to understand the practical experiences of farmers and extension personnel and to identify areas requiring further strengthening.

The visiting team subsequently undertook a detailed on-site inspection of the IOFS Farm School before proceeding to Mulukey to assess the Farm School on Gerbera Cultivation and Marketing, established by progressive grower Shri Bauz Lucksom. The officials inspected the protected floriculture units, reviewed ongoing commercial cultivation practices and interacted with participating farmers regarding post-harvest management, value addition and the need for stronger and sustainable market linkages.

The monitoring programme witnessed active participation from Shri Gagan Gurung, Agriculture Development Officer, Pakyong District, along with Block Technology Managers (BTMs) and Assistant Technology Managers (ATMs) from across the district.

The programme was coordinated by Assistant Technology Manager Shri Amit Chettri, while Smt. Keshori Devi Sharma, Horticulture Development Officer, delivered the formal vote of thanks.

The visit provided an important platform for reviewing field-level implementation, acknowledging the efforts of progressive farmers, and improving skills of extension functionaries, and identifying key areas for strengthening farmer-oriented activities under ATMA Pakyong.