

FARMERS –SCIENTISTS INTERACTION MEETINGS ORGANIZED AT STAKMO AND NIMMU VILLAGES IN LEH

The Regional Research Station of Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI) at Leh, organized a Scientists - Farmer interaction meetings at Stakmo and Nimmu villages of Leh on 29 September 2013. The experts Dr. P.N. Mathur, Coordinator, South East Asia, International Bioversity, Dr. I.S. Bisht, Professor, Plant Genetic Resource, NBPGR New Delhi, Dr R.K. Bhatt Head & In-charge of the RRS and Dr. M.S. Raghuvanshi, Sr. Scientist (Agronomy) at Leh participated in this interaction meeting. It was a sensitization discussion with farmers about the importance of available crop biodiversity and its use and conservation in the Ladakh region.

Mr. Jigmet Dorje, the village Sarpanch and Mr Sonam Tundup, the Namberdar and farmers (including women famers) attended the meeting at Stakmo village. Mr Dorje welcomed and thanked CAZRI for arranging such an important meeting for the benefit the of the farmers. During the interaction major emphasis was given on the conservation of land races grown by the farmers over the generation to generation. Conserving the rich diversity of barley varieties is essential for providing farmers to improve and adapt crops to meet future challenges. Farmers informed that the area under necked barley production is decreasing



due to non-availability of the market. Therefore, there is need to link the necked barley production with market. It is also prioritized that proper package of practices should be followed for maximizing the yield. Popularization of the new technologies is required to be given top priority so that farmers' income is enhanced. Under Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP), the quality potato seeds will be made available by the CPRI

Shimla and will be distributed to the farmers. Some of the farmers requested to provide the best seedlings/saplings of apricot and apple. At Nimmu village, Mr. Tashi Tsepahel, Sarpanch of the village and other farmers requested for walnut saplings. Fodder requirement during the winter

season is the major concern of all the farmers in the region. In the end Sarpanch, Nambardar and all the farmers expressed thanked the centre for showing interest in the village. It was informed that in future CAZRI, RRS, Leh will be organizing trainings on various aspects for the benefit of farmers.

(Source: CAZRI, RRS, Leh)

