

“Collaboration and coordination between KVKs and NGOs – the essence of change at grass root level”: KVK-NGO interface at KVK, Kamrup, Kahikuchi

An interface meeting of KVK, Kamrup with NGOs of Assam was organized by the Zonal Project Directorate, Zone-III, Barapani in assistance of KVK, Kamrup at Kahikuchi, Guwahati, Assam on 24th of December, 2011. Dr. A. K. Gogoi, Zonal Project Director, ZPD, Zone-III was the hon’ble chairman of the interface meeting. Dr. S. P. Ghosh, former DDG (Horticulture), ICAR graced the occasion by his esteem presence and valuable remarks. Dr. H. C. Bhattacharyya, Director of Extension Education, AAU, Jorhat, Dr. K. Borkakoty, Director, Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Assam, Dr. S. Saikia, Chief Scientist, Horticultural Research Station, Kahikuchi, Dr. U. Baruah, Programme Coordinator, KVK, Dudhnoi, and Dr. D. N. Kalita, Programme Coordinator, KVK, Kamrup were the other dignitaries present on the Dias.

The meeting started with welcome address by Dr. D.N. Kalita. Dr. Saikia mentioned the North Eastern part of the country as a ‘sleeping giant’ in terms of it’s yet to exploit enormous production potential that can secure food, income, and livelihood of the farmers in the region. He emphasized the role of NGOs and KVKs in this regard. Dr. Borkakoty in his remarks highlighted the importance of a well conceived, logically structured, and clearly defined project proposal and work plan to be prepared by NGOs to attract funding. Dr. Baruah pointed out the intervention paradigm of NGOs in marketing channel to assist farmers in enjoying more producers’ share in consumers’ rupee. Dr. Bhattacharyya advised the NGOs to put thrust on six critical attributes, viz., credibility, sustainability, leadership, transparency, accountability, and flexibility in order to earn maximum confidence of the beneficiaries. Dr. Gogoi in his address expressed his happiness to organize such interface for the first time in the zone. He showed his concern for a safer environment asked for various activities to be undertaken by the KVKs and NGOs in coordination in this regard for sustainable development of the region.

The technical session proceeded with formal interaction between the scientists and NGO officials in which all the NGOs shared their domain of activities, problems and future plan of work in the field of agriculture, public health, education, information, livelihood, environment etc. They showed their enthusiasm in collaborating with the KVKs to work upon soil testing, soil reclamation, and providing ICT based services to the farming community in the region. Some of the most successful enterprises, usually taken up by the NGO promoted SHGs were - piggery, sericulture, vermicomposting, mushroom production, nursery raising, and bee-keeping as mentioned by the NGOs. Valuable suggestions and recommendations were forwarded by the Hon’ble chairman and other dignitaries during the session. Dr. S.P. Ghosh suggested the NGOs to try to earn more and more credibility by intervening in the marketing channel of perishable commodities. He also emphasized upon establishing effective bank linkage for mutual benefit and growth of the NGOs. Dr. Gogoi laid importance upon three aspects, viz., database management, district level interface, and details of SHG record to be maintained by all the NGOs.

The interface was a successful one in terms of reaching its objective. It came to an end with formal vote of thanks given by Dr. Kalita, Programme Coordinator, KVK, Kamrup.



Dr. A.K. Gogoi, Zonal Project Director, Zonal Project Directorate, Zone-III, Barapani addressing the house during the interface at KVK, Kamrup, Kahikuchi, Guwahati



Scientists from KVKs and ZPD, and Officials from NGOs attending the interface at KVK, Kamrup, Kahikuchi, Guwahati