

## **Stakeholders' Meet on Climate Consultation for Agricultural Research and Development Successfully Conducted at SAS&T, Leh Stakna**

Leh, March 27, 2025: A one-day stakeholders' meet on "Climate Consultation on Agricultural Research and Development: Way Forward" was successfully conducted at SAS&T-Leh, Stakna, University of Ladakh.

The event was organized by the Task Force on Agriculture under the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE), supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST-GOI), under the guidance of Dr. Deldan Namgial, Principal Investigator, NMSHE.

The meet was graced by esteemed guests, including Prof. D. Namgyal, Associate Director, SAS&T-Leh, UoL; Dr. Dorjay Angchok, Scientist, DIHAR; Dr. Shakel Ahmed from Department of Animal Husbandry, Leh; Dr. Kunzang Lamo and Dr. Disket Dolker from KVK-Leh; Mr. Shakel Rehman, SDAO, Department of Agriculture, Leh; Mr. Jigmet Stanzin Sr. Technical Officer, CAZRI, Leh; Dr. Anwar Hussain, Coordinator, BSc Agriculture, SAS&T; along with faculty members and students.

The event commenced with a welcome speech by Dr. Dechen Angmo, Project Associate, NMSHE, Leh. Guests were welcomed with traditional khatags. Following this, Dr. Lobzang Stanzen, Assistant Professor (Agronomy), presented on the topic "Global and Local Weather Patterns," highlighting the alarming rise in climate change issues due to anthropogenic activities. He also discussed Ladakh's snowfall patterns and their impact on sustainable agriculture.

Prof. Deldan Namgial, PI, NMSHE, presented "Insights of NMSHE," focusing on climate-resilient agriculture and the key objectives of the project. He emphasized the need to adopt drought-resistant crops in Ladakh.

The event featured an open discussion on critical topics, including "From Fields to Forefront: The Battle of Agriculture and Horticulture Against Climate Change" and "Adapting to Change: Innovative Strategies for Livestock and Fodder Security Under Climate Stress."

Key discussion points included Strengthening the Churpon system for sustainable water management; Promoting the success of drip irrigation in water-scarce areas; Conducting vulnerability assessments and modeling specific to Ladakh; Studying the impact of the microbiome on sustainable agriculture; Implementing data loggers for crop monitoring; Promoting the cultivation and preservation of indigenous crops; Scaling up Integrated farming systems (IFS) in collaboration with all relevant departments; Developing a pasture land policy and Emphasizing the importance of backyard poultry farming.

In his remarks, Prof. Dorjay Namgyal highlighted the significance of climate-resilient crops such as, buckwheat, barley, alfalfa and millets. He noted the changing climate in Ladakh, which has facilitated the successful cultivation of warm-season crops like cucurbits and solanaceous vegetables. He also emphasized the scope of millets and sorghum, citing successful cultivation cases of millets and buckwheat in regions like Stok and Saboo.

Stressing the importance of adapting to new agricultural practices in response to climate change, he pointed out that over 70% of the population in Ladakh relies on agriculture and animal husbandry for their livelihood, making it imperative to adopt new practices and policies that align with the changing climate. He concluded by calling for collaboration among all line departments to ensure sustainable agricultural development in the region.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Padma Angmo, A.P (Soil Science), expressing gratitude to all participants for their valuable insights and contributions toward shaping the future of agricultural research and development in Ladakh.



