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## Promoting cultivation of Spices for better profit & health

### Demo on 'Scientific Spices Cultivation' for SHGs conducted by ICAR-CIARI

Port Blair, Sept. 20

A demonstration programme on 'Cultivation of Spices as Profitable Inter Crops' was organized under All India Coordinated Research Project on Palms Project on Sept. 18. Spices are amongst the most suitable crops for commercial scale cultivation in the islands. However, technological interventions are required to get the produce of desirable quality.

Inaugurating the programme, Dr. E.B. Chakurkar, Director, ICAR-CIARI, emphasized upon adoption of scientific practices for reaping maximum benefits from spices cultivation. He advised the participants to undertake value addition of produce for improving the profitability of the



sector. Considering the issues faced in marketing, he urged the youth to play pivotal role by utilizing the digital tools and platforms.

Dr. Ajit Arun Waman, Scientist in Charge of the Project, explained about potential of various herbal, rhizomatous and tree spices as intercrops and sole crops in the islands. During the programme, participants were educated about scientific practices for production and processing of cinnamon, lemon grass, long pepper, Indian bay leaf, woody pepper, black

pepper and bush pepper. Field visits in the experimental gardens of coconut and arecanut based cropping systems involving spices were also made for the benefit of the stakeholders.

Planting materials of various spices were distributed for encouraging participants to take up spices cultivation. The programme was attended by participants from three Self Help Groups from South Andaman along with youth of the Islands, a press release from CIARI said.