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Sustainable Agricultural and Livestock Production in A & N Islands

"Lab-to Land Prog." aims to transform traditional farming & livestock rearing by equipping farmers with research-backed solutions: Secretary (Agri/AH)

Sri Vijaya Puram, Feb. 16

The Andaman and Nicobar Administration is committed to revive the Agricultural and Livestock sector in these Islands in the face of impending global warming and climate change. Under the guidance of Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, various initiatives are being envisaged to support sustainable growth towards technology intervention and exploring avenues for providing viable



economic opportunities. As a first step towards modernizing agriculture and animal husbandry in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the Departments of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, in collaboration with ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (CIARI), have launched the Lab-to-Land programme. The 1st phase of the Lab-to-Land Programme focuses on the knowledge transfer regarding dissemination of climate-resilient and high yielding crop varieties, organic
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farming practices, and advanced livestock management solutions. Special emphasis is being placed on integrated farming systems, disease-resistant livestock breed, feed and fodder management, and value addition of local agri-produce. This initiative aims to accelerate the adoption of cutting-edge technologies by local farmers and livestock owners, ensuring higher productivity and sustainability.

A meeting was organized between ICAR-CIARI, KVK, Department of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services in the mini-conference hall of the Secretariat of A&N Administration recently, which was chaired by Smti Pallavi Sarkar, IAS, Secretary (Agri/AH). Discussions during the meeting centered around scaling up successful interventions, addressing challenges faced in technology adoption, and enhancing farmer-scientist interactions through regular workshops and on-field demonstrations.

Addressing the participants, Secretary Agriculture stated that "The Lab-to Land Programme is aimed at transforming traditional farming and livestock rearing by equipping farmers with research-backed solutions. Our collaborations with CIARI ensures that innovation reaches to each of our farmers". The 2nd phase of the Lab to Land Project will focus on adoption of the said technologies in a time bound manner by the Department and implementation of the same through its schemes as per the suitability and need of the hour.

Dr. E. Chakurkar, Director, CIARI, who attended the meeting along with a team of scientists representing various disciplines gave a brief outline of the Islands specific technologies available for implementation under field conditions and the implications on the farming community. He asserted that the age old inter-dependance Agriculture and Livestock production is vital to face the challenges of impending climate change.

The meeting was attended by Director, Joint Director, Senior Veterinary Officers and Assistant Directors of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services and Department of Agriculture who actively participated in the deliberations and put forth the requirement at the field level, a press release from Deptt. of AH&VS said.