

ICAR-CIARI organizes awareness programme on 'Woody pepper cultivation' under DBT, New Delhi funded project for Tribal farmers

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Port Blair, Aug 22: Spices have been the important cash crops grown in different parts of the islands. Apart from spices that are grown on a commercial scale, local woody pepper spice is popular among the island settler communities. In order to sensitize the benefits of cultivating this unique spice, an awareness programme on 'Woody pepper as a profitable spice for the islands' was conducted on 18th August 2022 under the Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi funded project being implemented at ICAR-CIARI, Port Blair.

During the programme, Dr. Ajit Arun Waman, Principal Investigator and organizer of the event informed the gathering about the significance of the cultivation of woody pepper in the islands. Farmers were informed about the package of practices to be followed for its cultivation. Various do's and don'ts were discussed to make the practices comprehensive to the farmers. Dr. Ajit also explained various means of marketing the product in tourist locations of the Andaman Islands.

To promote the cultivation of this spice in the backyards, planting material of woody pepper was distributed to tribal farmers from Harminder Bay, Little Andaman Island. The programme was attended by 25 farmers along with Mr. Andrew Moses, First Headman, Mr. Yoseph, Second Headman and Mr. Festus, Secretary, Tribal Council. The programme was organized under the guidance of Dr. E.B. Chakurkar, Director, ICAR-CIARI.