Eastern Regional Station, ICAR- IVRI, Kolkata, Organized NEH Programme at KVK-Gyaba, Geyzing, Sikkim

Eastern Regional Station (ERS), ICAR-IVRI, Kolkata under its North-Eastern and Hill (NEH) programme organized "**Training-cum-Awareness on Scientific Pig Farming**" in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)-Gyaba, Geyzing district on 27.10.2026. A total of 50 beneficiaries (M:21, F:29), mainly from Tashiding, Soreng and Chongrang GPUs of Geyzing and Soreng districts, Sikkim actively participated in the said programme. The programme was graced by Shri Manbhadur Darjee, Nayabusty Panchayat President as chief guest in the presence of other dignitaries, beneficiaries and staff of KVK-Gyaba, Geyzing Sikkim. At the outset, Mr Bhison Pradhan, Programme Coordinator, KVK-Gyaba, Gyalshing, Sikkim welcomed one and all and during his address, lauded the efforts of ICAR-IVRI, ERS, Kolkata for distributing inputs and organising NEH programme of ICAR-IVRI partnering with KVK.

In his address, Dr P. K. Nanda, PS, ERS, ICAR-IVRI, Kolkata briefed the gathering about objectives of the programme and role played by ICAR-IVRI, Kolkata in implementing various schemes and flagship programmes such as Developmental Action Plan for scheduled tribes (erstwhile TSP), Developmental Action Plan for scheduled castes (erstwhile SCSP) and North-Eastern Hill (NEH) for improving the socio-economic conditions of the beneficiaries. Dr Nanda also urged

the beneficiaries to implement biosecurity measures, biowaste management and adopt scientific management practices for better production and increased productivity of animals.

The inaugural programme was followed by organisation of a "**Training-cum-Awareness on Scientific Pig Farming**" in which the beneficiaries actively participated. During the training, Dr Samiran Bandyopadhyay, PS, ERS, ICAR-IVRI, Kolkata appraised the beneficiaries about various piglet diseases, including anaemia, African swine fever and piglet diarrhoea along with biosecurity measures and methods needed to safeguard the piglets from contracting various diseases. He also emphasized the importance of timely vaccination of piglets, particularly against classical swine fever (CSF) and porcine respiratory and reproductive syndrome (PRRS), to control the most devastating epizootic diseases. While briefing the participants, Dr Bandyopadhyay also highlighted the issue of prudent use of antibiotics resulting in development of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and the way forward to cope up with this. In his address, Dr. Arun K. Das, PS, ICAR-IVRI, Kolkata, spoke on skill development and value addition in pig farming, with special emphasis on processing and entrepreneurship opportunities for farmers. Further, Dr Das also gave an overview of the market potential and opportunities for commercialization of traditional meat and value-added products for better income. During the interaction, Dr (Ms) Lhaki Doma Bhutia, Subject Matter Specialist (Animal Sciences), KVK- Gyaba, Geyzing addressed the issues related to feeding, housing and management aspects of pig farming. During the

programme, the problems raised by the beneficiaries in connection with health, feeding, housing and management aspects of livestock were also duly addressed.

The training -cum-awareness programme was followed by distribution of piglets (n=100) and pig feed (2,500 kg) among beneficiaries (n=50) mainly from Tashiding, Soreng and Chongrang GPUs of Geyzing and Soreng districts of Sikkim. The entire programme was compered by Mrs Rohini Silwal, SMS (Plant protection) of KVK-Gyaba, Sikkim. The cooperation received from one and all, especially the subject matter specialists and staff of KVK-Gyaba, West Sikkim made the programme of ERS, Kolkata a grand success.