

NEADS Inaugurates Farmers Field School and Indigenous Seed Bank in Jorhat, Assam



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The North East Affected Area Development Society (NEADS) took a significant step towards promoting sustainable agriculture and empowering local communities with the inauguration of a Farmers Field School and Indigenous Seed Bank in Jorhat, Assam.

The event, held at Chomoni Chapori, Jhanjimukh, was graced by Padmashri Jadav Payeng, the renowned environmentalist known as the "Forest Man of India." It brought together local farmers, community leaders, and stakeholders to celebrate these initiatives aimed at advancing agroecology and building community resilience.

Focus on Sustainable Practices and Seed Sovereignty

The Farmers Field School, established in collaboration with local communities, will be a resource hub for farmers. Through hands-on training and workshops, they will learn about innovative farming practices, climate-resilient techniques, and sustainable agriculture. This includes gaining valuable knowledge in natural farming, seed conservation, and ecosystem-friendly approaches.

Padmashri Payeng emphasized the importance of sustainable agriculture for preserving ecosystems and mitigating climate change. His presence highlighted the significance of community-led initiatives in environmental conservation.

Complementing the Field School, NEADS, in collaboration with Annapurna Seed Library, also launched an Indigenous Seed Bank. This initiative aims to preserve and promote traditional seeds adapted to the local environment. The seed bank will play a crucial role in:

- Conserving agricultural biodiversity
- Empowering farmers to control their seed supply
- Reducing dependence on external sources

Collaboration for a Sustainable Future

Dr. Sanjay Borthakur, Head of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Jorhat, spoke about the collaborative efforts to promote agroecology and community empowerment. Tirtha Prasad Saikia, Director of NEADS, emphasized the importance of agroecology for food security and environmental sustainability, especially in the face of climate change.

The event also saw participation from Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer, Agriculture Development Officer, and Agriculture Inspector. The launch of these initiatives underscores NEADS' commitment to empowering local communities, promoting sustainable agriculture, and building resilience in Assam.

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Assam Times Staff. editor@assamtimes.org

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