

One day Awareness cum Training Programme on Fodder Production and Utilization

One day awareness cum training programme, in collaboration with Department of Agriculture (Govt. of J&K), was organized on 10th October, 2020 under MGMG programme by ICAR-Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Regional Research Station Srinagar at Aru, Pahalgam in Anantnag district. The surrounding area is mostly inhabited by farmers and tribal (*Gujjar*) population, which mostly own livestock and more than 80% of the total population of the village depends on sub-alpine and alpine grasslands for sustaining their livestock. Famous Lidderwat, Chandanwari, Tarsar and Zajibal pasturelands are situated very near to this beautiful village.

About hundred local farmers including several women participated in the programme. During the camp scientists from IGFRI - Regional Station Srinagar and technocrats from agriculture department (Shri Lateef Jawahari; Agrostologist and Shri Mujtaba Asstt. Agrostologist) interacted with the farmers regarding various aspects of fodder



production, utilization and conservation. Dr Suheel Ahmad, Officer In Charge, IGFRI- Regional Research Station highlighted the importance of using mineral mixtures and deworming for improved livestock health and productivity and using improved cultivars of grasses/legumes pasture improvement. Shri Khurshid Ahmad, research assistant, Aru fodder seed production farm provided a detailed scenario of agricultural and livestock practices of the village and problems being

faced by the farmers. 250 kilogram seed of improved cultivars of temperate perennial grasses and legumes was distributed by agriculture department among the farmers of the village to promote and popularize these high yielding grasses/legumes for higher enhanced fodder production. The village has been designated as Fodder Seed Village by the department of agriculture, Kashmir. In addition to this, 100 kg mineral mixture and de-worming medicines were also distributed among the tribal farmers. The farmers of the area hailed ICAR-IGFRI and agriculture department for organizing such an awareness cum training programme and for distribution of seed/mineral mixture/medicines.

In view of COVID-19 pandemic, the farmers were also sensitized about the precautions, like avoiding close contact with people who are sick. Maintaining at least three feet distance with anyone who is coughing or sneezing. Covering cough or sneeze with a tissue/hankerchief. Cleaning and disinfecting objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe or soap. Washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing ones nose, coughing, or sneezing. Seeking medical attention immediately in case of fever, cough and difficulty in breathing.



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