

PRESS RELEASE



Workshop on Skill Development on Sericulture & Livelihood Improvement held in North Garo Hills

Resubelpara, July 10, 2025: A workshop on Skill Development on Sericulture & Livelihood Improvement in Meghalaya was held in North Garo Hills at Conference Hall, DSO, Resubelpara on Monday. The workshop focused on enhancing productivity, market accessibility and value addition of Eri Silk production which is a crucial sector that supports rural livelihoods in the North Eastern region of India.



The programme was organised by Incubation Centre (MSME Incubator) NEHU Tura Campus in tandem with department of Textiles, North Garo Hills and ICAR National Institute of Biotic Stress Management (ICAR NIBSM) Raipur, Chhattisgarh. The program was held under the guidance of Prof. PS Shukla Vice Chancellor, NEHU Shillong and Prof. Fameline K Marak, Pro Vice Chancellor, NEHU Tura Campus.

Deputy Director of Sericulture & Weaving, Department of Textiles, Shillong, Sanre G Momin, Satish Ch Rabha i/c District Sericulture Officer, Resubelpara and Dr R Sasikumara, Nodal Officer Incubation Centre NEHU Tura attended the workshop as dignitaries and delivered lectures in scientific intervention, farmers training and technology oriented market expansion on Eri Silk production in Meghalaya.

The workshop covered Eri Silk production, boiling, draining, yarn reeling, bobbin rolling, weaving and dying. Around 50 and more farmers and Entrepreneurs benefitted from the programme while also receiving training and rearing equipments trays to support scientific eri silk rearing practices.

Sanre G Momin, DD Sericulture, Shillong in her address emphasised that Eri Silk which was also known as 'Peace Silk' or Ahimsa Silk which has its roots in Meghalaya and Assam border is extracted safely without harming the Eri Worm. "This wondrous process of extracting Silk from Eri worm echoes Meghalaya's deep rooted belief in Ahimsa", added Sanre Momin.

Dr R Sasikumar, in his speech said " In the past five years, we have trained over 500 rural beneficiaries and introduced them to scientific method of cocoon production and facilitated direct linkages. This has led to 40% increase in Eri Silk production in Meghalaya, ensuring better farmers earning and reduced reliance on middlemen". He also highlighted Meghalaya's target to boost Eri Silk production to 20 metric tonne annually, generating projected earnings of Ra 150 - 200 crores through value added products and global market expansion.

Farmers cooperatives were also being formed with the mission to upscale market accessibility and branding of Meghalaya Eri Silk.

The Incubation Centre, NEHU Tura Campus in their research revealed that eri Silk contributed over 90% of the Northeast's total Silk output with Meghalaya accounting 15.6%. The high participation of women and youth in eri silk farming makes it a major source of rural employment. However, there were also challenges such as low scale production, lack of R&D support and financial constraints that decelerated the growth target.

To further strengthen the sector, the Incubation Centre in tandem with ICAR NIBSM, Raipur under North East Hill program (NEH) has launched multiple initiatives to expand eri silk production, improve processing capabilities and link farmers directly to Textiles Industries. This effort was being monitored by Dr Pramod Kumar Rai, Director ICAR NIBSM and Dr P Mooventhan, Senior Scientist & Nodal Officer, ICAR NIBSM, Raipur.

It may also be mentioned that NEHU, Tura Campus has been actively engaged in capacity building programmes, hands on training and Agri Horti & Apiculture support for farmers' cluster.

The workshop culminated with discussion on future prospects, intercropping models, integrating Silk farming, digital market platform and large scale eri silk farming.

Through these initiatives, the organiser of the programme aims to position Meghalaya as a hub for high quality eri silk production, creating sustainable livelihoods and strengthening the region's economy.