

Outreach and extension activities in collaboration with CSIR-CIMAP Lucknow and Tezpur University

Tezpur University (TU), Assam and CSIR-CIMAP, Lucknow signed MoU on 24th September 2018 to explore and strengthen the academic as well as research collaboration in the frontier areas of biology. A farmer's cluster comprising of 15-30 farmer have been developed to promote large scale cultivation and processing of aromatic crops. TU and CIMAP have jointly conducted the basic soil test parameters of farmer's cluster such as pH, organic carbon (OC), electrical conductivity (EC), nitrogen (N), phosphorous (P) and potassium (K) and GPS data (latitude, longitude, and altitude). TU and CIMAP have conducted a successful multi-location field trials of high value-aromatic crops such as Rose, Lavender, Salvia, Geranium, Chamomile, Lemongrass, Wild marigold, etc among farmers living in border areas of Shi Yomi and West Kameng Districts of Arunachal Pradesh. A clevenger based analysis of oil recovery and yield of some essential oil extracted from the selected aromatic crops such as Salvia and Geranium have been successfully performed. TU in collaboration with the CSIR-CIMAP, CSIR-IHBT Palampur and CSIR-IIIM Jammu have conducted one-day seminar and three-day capacity building workshops to promote awareness on nursery development of aromatic crops and their cultivation. Under the capacity building workshop sponsored by the North-Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd (NEDFi) Guwahati we have taken some of the selected farmers to CSIR-IHBT and CSIR-IIIM to make them aware of cultivation practices and nursery development of high-altitude aromatic crops. University is mentoring some of the farmers to register a farmers producer organization (FPO) that would provide further linkage to marketing of aromatic produce and to avail the benefits and facilities of State as well as Central Government sponsored schemes. TU and CIMAP have installed stainless steel field distillation unit with cohobation column of 1000 litre capacity in the farmers cluster of Boha Village, Kalaktang, Arunachal Pradesh to enable farmers to extract essential oils of aromatic crops. Some of the photographs taken during the seminar and extension activities are provided below.



Salvia transplantation at Mechukha



Geranium



Salvia



Lemongrass



Field distillation unit



Field distillation unit