

# Orchids poised to boost farm income and create aesthetically pleasing environment in West Bengal

**3 August, 2023, Hooghly**

As a part of follow-up to MoU signed between ICAR- Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Kolkata and ICAR-National Research Centre on Orchids, Sikkim today, a team of Scientists from Sikkim is visiting West Bengal for appraisal of establishing 'Model orchid cultivation cum demonstration unit' in selected KVKs and promotion of 'Backyard Orchid' cultivation venture for the benefit of cactus growers of the region. A programme was organized in Hooghly KVK where Howrah and Nadia KVKs joined.

Dr. Pradip Dey, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata, in his inaugural address told that tropical orchids will not only boost farmers' incomes but also create a vibrant, aesthetically pleasing environment. He trusted that growing the right Dendrobium cultivar in peri-urban settings would enhance the quality of life for the local farming population because there was a guaranteed market in nearby metropolises. He recalled that as promised during the signing of MoU during the month of June, ATMA of Hooghly district has already funded a project on orchid at Hooghly KVK.

During current visit, the team will engage in technical deliberations and hands-on training on advanced orchids management practices. They will also interaction with the farmers engaged in orchids and take up the problemsfaced by them, especially with respect to disease management in orchids.

Dr. Samsul Haque Ansari, Head Hooghly KVK as well as Dr. Dipankar Saha and Dr. S.S. Biswas from NRC on Orchids also spoke on the occasion.Nadia.

A total 44 participants including personnel from State Department of Horticulture, KVK SMS of Hooghly, Nadia and North 24 Parganas (Ashoknagar), FPCs as well as NGOs and progressive farmers participated in the programme.

