

**RGU-CPEB team held Students' Lecture Series on "*Biodiversity & Livelihood – Mountain Section*" held at Govt. Hr.Sec. School, Dirang**

The Biodiversity Conservation Lecture Series titled "Biodiversity & Livelihood – Students' Lecture Series of Mountain Section" was organised by Centre with Potential for Excellence in Biodiversity, Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills, Doimukh in collaboration with Principal of Govt. Higher Secondary School, Dirang on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at Students Auditorium, Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Dirang, West Kameng.

The students' lecture series – mountain section programme is an innovative brain child initiated by Dr Hui Tag, Deputy Coordinator of the CPEB-II and Assistant Professor, Department of Botany, RGU which aims to create curiosity among the younger generation about economic, cultural and ecological value of mountain biodiversity and its close link with human livelihood security issues. This time, Dr. Tag has come up with two innovative and captivating lecture series for the students, first, on Biodiversity & Livelihood, and second lecture which he has delivered was on Rural Botanical Garden for Health & Livelihood security which has enthused the jam packed auditorium with more than 400 hundred students including teaching staffs for nearly two hours. His lecture was mainly focused on bioresource potential of the mountain ecosystem of Eastern Himalaya, factual natural history and livelihood alternatives for the local communities of West Kameng & Tawang District of Arunachal Pradesh. Dr. Tag has shared his four years of biodiversity and mountain food security research conducted under the sponsorship of Defence Research Laboratory, Tezpur and UGC-CEPB-II RGU in the two districts of Arunachal Pradesh with students and public in a very unique and students friendly manner which really has made the students a real experience of time contraction while attending his captivating lecture.

The programme was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dirang, West Kameng, Scientists from Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Mineral Development officer, Forest Officials, Mr. Lobsang, Chairman Head Gao Bura, Dirang, teaching fraternity of Dirang Higher Secondary School. The programme was chaired by Principal of the school while Mr. Dorjee Khandu Thungon, local coordinator of the programme on behalf of teaching fraternity of school extended vote of thanks to the dignitaries and urge the students to conserve biodiversity for secured livelihood. ADC Dirang on his key note address has appreciated RGU exploration team for conducting such valuable students' lecture series on biodiversity and urged the young students to preserve local biodiversity, sacred land and mountain fragile ecosystem for environmental and livelihood security by adopting the holistic conservation knowledge of traditional parents. He further invited RGU team to explore more on local biodiversity of the two districts for future energy and food security while closely working with the grassroot community. This time as luck would have it, Dr. Tag's team lead by local escort Mr. D.K Thungon while conducting livelihood crop survey in two districts has also sighted the pair of Siberian Black Neck Crane roaming at Paddy field of Sangte Valley near Dirang and had nice photographic rendezvous with rare birds.

The botanical team has also did livelihood crop survey at Jang, Tawang, Nuranang, Lumla of Tawang District and visited Sangte, Khasso, Mandala Pudung and Morshing and Kalaktang area of West Kameng District of Arunachal Pradesh. Livelihood crop survey team has generated good number of mountain crop diversity of the two districts.

