

## International Women's Day celebrated

Under the theme, "Equal right & equal opportunities", the North East Institute of Science & Technology, Jorhat celebrated the International Women's Day on 8 March, 2010 at its auditorium. The day was organized with a well charted programme which comprised of day-long activities involving active participation of several women self-help groups coming from in and around Jorhat town which was first in its case this year. In the inaugural session held in morning hours, Dr Mina Borthakur, Scientist, NEIST & programme convener welcomed the gathering and spoke briefly about the significance of the day. Ms Chandra Probha Hazarika, Former Principal, PGT College & Principal KBM College of Teacher's Education, Jorhat graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Delivering speech as the Chief Guest, Ms Hazarika expressed her happiness to be in the midst of such an august gathering on this auspicious occasion. Moving on she spoke about the different dynamic roles women play in our society and commented that "Behind every successful man, there is contribution of a woman". She also lamented about the atrocities done on women particularly in several dowry cases and in their day-to-day domestic lives. She also mentioned that the struggle for women emancipation from the clutches of male chauvinistic society will prove futile unless women themselves do some self analysis and introspections. Because no one can deny the role played by some women in committing heinous crimes against women like bride burning, dowry death, flesh trade, etc. Women have a greater role in building a moral value-based society, she added. Concluding her speech she said that the mindset of the people has to be changed and this can only be achieved unless people change their notion about boy child and girl child.



Chief Guest delivering lecture



Section of participants

In his presidential remarks, Dr PG Rao, Director,

NEIST extended his felicitation to the women fraternity and expressed appreciation to the organizers for bringing such a meaningful theme to mark the day. He also threw some light about the different CSIR initiatives for uplifting the rural women for self employment through its rural technologies such as low cost technologies, drinking water facilities and in healthcare sector as well. He also strongly supported the point raised by the Chief Guest and said that there is a greater responsibility of the society to speed up the change in mindset of the people and for which initiation has to be taken from the grass-root level. The programme concluded with vote of thanks by Dr Puja Khare, Scientist, NEIST.

The programme comprised of 2 technical sessions covering 6 lectures on the following topics, 'Common diseases & its prevention' by Dr PK Baruah, MO, NEIST clinic, 'Water is life' by Mr AK Sarma, TO, NEIST, 'Mushroom cultivation technology' by Dr AK Bordoloi, Technical officer, NEIST, 'Vermicompost' by Mr B Bora, TO, NEIST, 'Utilization of agrowaste' by Dr T Goswami, Scientist, NEIST and 'Small scale technology, Biofertilizer' by Dr (Mrs) N Saikia, Scientist, NEIST. Apart from NEIST family, 60 participants from 9 self help groups around Jorhat town and a large number of other invited guests attended the programme.

## Seminar/Workshop/Meeting Attended

Dr Dipul Kalita, Scientist attended and presented a paper entitled "Biofuel: problems and prospects in India" in the Workshop on Natural resources and livelihoods in rural Asia—bridging the gap for global sustainability" organized by Integrated Research System for Sustainability Science (IR32), the University of Tokyo and Kerala Agricultural University at Cochin during 21-22 January, 2010

## Honours/Recognition

Dr Puja Khare, Scientist was nominated as reviewer for the journal Environmental Progress and Sustainable Energy published by Wiley publishers.

## Condolence

The Director and members of the staff of NEIST, Jorhat in a condolence meeting held in front of the Administrative Building on 8 March, 2010 deeply condoled the sad demise of Sri Upendra Nath Das, Ex-Tech Asstt.