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Technology should not be confined to laboratories: Gen Singh



Governor Gen J J Singh and First Lady Anupama Singh are seen in a vegetable garden at Raj Bhavan Orchid House on 2nd July 2009. From left to right, Yashraj Singhania, Director of Agriculture, and Mrs. Anupama Singh are seen examining the plants. The Governor is seen examining the plants.

ITANAGAR, July 2: Apart from hosting state dignitaries, Raj Bhavan has created a unique environment. The official residence of Governor has not only been thrown open for visitors, it boasts of a flower and vegetable gardens apart from many other new environmentally friendly innovations.

The Governor Gen J J Singh and First Lady Anupama Singh have an orchid house too! under the initiative of the First Lady, two orchid houses has been set up at Raj Bhavan, adorned with five varieties of exotic orchids and thirty-one of indigenous ones. The Governor added four more! We should propagate new techniques in orchid farming to empower people financially, said Gen Singh, while introducing four new varieties of orchids in the Raj Bhavan Orchid House. The orchids were brought from Singapore.

Calling upon the forest officials to be proactive in their approach, Gen Singh asked them to impart training to the villagers on orchid and propagation and while adding that technologies should not be confined to the laboratories only.

Instead of traditional jhuming, people of Mizoram are going for cultivation of gerbera and other exotic plants with good returns, Gen Singh said.

Our objective will not be achieved, if people do not avail benefit from it. He asked the officials to distribute seedlings to the farmers.

Team of officials from State Forest Research Institute, Chimpu led by Orchidologist Dr. A.N. Rao along with Research Assistant Ratan Perme and Technical Assistant Kara Serbi Rab is helping the introduction of the exotic varieties. Dr. Rao pointed that the varieties are not available in the country and are of latest assortment.

As desired by the Governor, half of the new orchids, approximately 100 seedlings will be given to Orchid center, Tippi for propagation.

Arunachal's rich and colorful orchids find a place of pride. Out of about a thousand species of orchids in India, over 500 are to be found in Arunachal alone. Hence this state can rightly be called the 'Orchid Paradise' of our country. Many of these orchids are rare, endangered and highly ornamental with long-lasting flower qualities. Amongst the orchids as many as 150 species are ornamental and commercially important. Orchids form a dominant group of plants with their attractive and unique blooms. Orchids in Arunachal Pradesh can also be classified into 140 species of terrestrial orchids with 15 saprophytes and about 340 epiphytes found in the different forest types.

The Department of Environment and Forest, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh has established an Orchid Research and Development Station at Tippi in West Kameng district for propagation and conservation of these species. This centre has established a laboratory for orchid seeds and tissue culture for this purpose. In addition Orchidarium at Tippi, two orchid conservation sanctuaries have been established at Sessa and Dirang in West Kameng district (PRO to Gov)