

## **JNV STUDENTS VISIT AT BIONEST FACILITY, NEHU, TURA CAMPUS AS A PART OF THE VIGYAN JYOTI PROGRAM**

**March 27, 2023:** North-Eastern Hill University, Tura Campus, Meghalaya being a knowledge partner in the Department of Science and Technology's (DST) unique and timely initiative 'Vigyan Jyoti' program, initiated to address the underrepresentation of women in different fields of Science, Technology,



Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in the country, organised a one-day sensitisation program for 31 visiting girl students and 04 teachers from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV), South Garo Hills, Meghalaya in collaboration with Department of Education, Department of Rural Development and Agricultural Production (RDAP), Department of Computer Applications and BIRAC's BioNEST Bio-Incubator (B3I) Facility of NEHU, Tura Campus on March 27, 2023.

Prof. S. C. Subudhi, Head of Department of Education welcomed the gathering and enlightened the students about the purpose of their visit. Dr Lolly S. Pereira, Associate Professor, Department of RDAP introduced the students to the various fields in Science and Technology, and briefly explained the scope of studies and career opportunities in the respective fields. Dr Pereira paid homage to the women achievers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and encouraged the students to explore their capability in these fields. This was followed by a short gratitude speech from Mr H. Joychandra Singh, PGT Maths from JNV, South Garo Hills.

After the inaugural program, the students visited the laboratories of the Department of RDAP and interacted with the research scholars. Mr Ngayaipam Zimik, Research Scholar, Department of RDAP demonstrated the utility of the instruments in the Agronomy Lab and explained their necessity in field crop production and soil management. In the Horticulture Lab, Dr B. Mathew, Dr Lolly S. Pereira and Mr Waikhom Arunkumar explained the usage of a refractometer, leaf area meter, and spectrophotometer to the students. Ms Barsha Saikia, Research Scholar, Department of RDAP discussed the usage of instruments in the Animal Science lab including the Rotary Shaker incubator, BOD incubator, pH meter etc. This was followed by a tour of the Laboratory facilities and Food Processing and Packaging unit of the BioNEST Facility and

subsequent explanation of the utility of equipment by BioNEST Technical Associates Ms Remi Dey and Mr Shanbor Sayoo. Later, the students gathered in the BioNEST Incubation Suit and interacted with Dr BK Mishra, Head, Department of RDAP; Dr Suman Kumar Nandy, CEO, B3I Facility; Ms Alva Margareth Kharkongor, Program Manager, B3I Facility along with the entire BioNEST Team and discussed various career openings in science & technology and the entrepreneurship opportunities. The interactors encouraged the students to follow their hearts and face the obstacles. The students then visited other lab facilities in the Department of Computer Applications followed by a career guidance session. The program ended with an assurance from the host institute to conduct more such programs on career development in the near future.

