

## Training Programme on Fruit Cultivation Organized for Nicobari Tribal Farmers

Denis Giles – 27 February 2025



**Hut Bay, Feb 26:** Nutrition is the key to good health; however, the lack of sufficient knowledge among the masses about sources of various nutrients poses threat to the aim of achieving nutritional security. Fruits are also known as protective foods due to their richness in various vitamins, minerals as well as bioactive substances. As our islands are largely dependent on mainland supplies for various fruits, the climate of our islands provides opportunities for cultivation of several tropical fruit species.

In order to promote cultivation of locally suited fruit crops among the Nicobari tribal families, a training programme on "Nutritional Security through Fruit Cultivation" was organized on February 22, 2025 at Harminder Bay, Little Andaman. The programme was organized by Dr. Pooja Bohra, Senior Scientist (Fruit Science), ICAR-CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram. She highlighted the nutritional importance of seasonal fruits being grown in the backyards of the island households. A total of 78 participants including 45 male and 33 female attended the programme.

To promote fruit species in kitchen gardening, quality planting material of acerola (the richest source of vitamin C), Surinam cherry, Andaman Kokum, Acid lime and passion fruit was distributed under the Schedule Tribe Component among the participants representing all the 15 tuhets. Further, planting material of guava was also provided to the tribal council for establishing a community fruit garden.

Mr. Festus, Secretary, Tribal Council and Mr. Andrew Moses, First Captain expressed gratitude also enthused the participants for taking care of the plants in their kitchen gardens for ensuring the nutritional security of their households. Tribal council also expressed their gratitude to ICAR-CIARI for the technical support and distribution of quality planting material- the most important input in farming.