

SFRI INFORMATION BULLETIN No .15

# ORCHID RESEARCH CENTRE

# T I P I



STATE FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH  
ITANAGAR

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## **ORCHID RESEARCH CENTRE, TIPI ARUNACHAL PRADESH**

Arunachal Pradesh is known for its rich occurrence of orchids with more than 600 species abounding the state. The ideal climate and diversity of habitat have favoured the growth of orchids in abundance, making the state an '**orchid paradise**' of our country . Realizing the importance of orchids in floricultural development government of Arunachal Pradesh under the department of



Environment and Forests established an Orchid Station at Tipi in West Kameng district, with the objectives of conservation , research and development of orchids as a supplemental crop to the local people .



Over the last 3 decades the orchid station has grown into a premier institution of excellence in orchid research and development, under the State Forest Research Institute of the department

of Environment and Forests , Arunachal Pradesh. This centre has also become a popular spot for the visiting tourists .

### **LOCATION**

The centre is located at Tipi in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh, about 65 km away from Tezpur (Assam) towards Bomdila ( the district head quarter of West Kameng ). It is situated on the west bank of Kameng river ( also known as Zia-bharoli in Assam)

Surrounded by high hills covered with semi-ever green tropical rain forest vegetation. It stretches over an area of 10 hectares of flat land comprising of office buildings, orchidaria, tissue culture lab, museum, herbarium and garden.

## ORCHID GLASS HOUSE



One of the main attractions of the centre is the orchid glass house. This is made of fiber glass roof, display gallery around and a central pond with fountain. It was inaugurated by Sri B. K. Nehru

on 26th December 1972. The house accommodates about 1000 exotic orchids displayed in pots, hanging baskets etc. Curious and attractive blooms of the species and hybrids of *Paphiopedilum*, *Dendrobium*, *Cattleya* and *Vanda* groups are a feast to the eyes of visiting tourists.

## SPECIES HOUSE

There are four species houses provided with netlon shade and ever green climber shade within the campus. About 10,000 orchid plants belonging to various genera and species are under cultivation in these houses ensuring *ex-situ* conservation. These orchids include new species like *Biermannia jainiana*, *Cheirostylis gunnarii*, *Eria connata*, *Cleisostoma tricallosum*,

*Sarcoglyphis arunachalensis*, *Oberonia kamlangensis* etc.; in addition to rare and endangered orchids like *Vanda coerulea*, *Renanthera imschootiana*,



*Dendrobium densiflorum*, *Vanda bicolor*, *Paphiopedilum fairieanum*, *Acanthophippium sylhetense* etc. ; new distributional record like *Oberonia anthrapophora*, *Collabium chinensis*, *Miscobulbon wryanum*, *Eria tomentosa*, etc .

## **NATURAL ORCHIDARIA**

There are two natural orchidaria created within the orchid centre under the shade of *Erythrina* and Teak plantations . Large number of native orchid species which are being wasted in the timber coupes and landslide areas have been rescued and rehabilitated in this orchidaria as a part of *ex-situ* conservation. All these orchids are introduced in Genera-wise sections to facilitate the student visitors from various schools and universities in the country .



## **TISSUE CULTURE LABORATORY**

The orchid centre has very well equipped laboratory for micro propagation of orchid species through seeds and tissue

culture . About 20,000 to 40,000 number of orchid seedlings of various rare, endangered and ornamental species and hybrids are produced annually from this laboratory to distribute to farmers, commercial people and also rehabilitation in natural habitat.



### **ORCHID HERBARIUM TIPI ( OHT)**



The herbarium specializes on orchids and about 2770 specimen of orchids representing about 380 species of 100 genera of orchids distributed in Arunachal Pradesh have been preserved in it . All the type specimen of new species of orchids (about 30) discovered from orchid centre Tipi are deposited in this Herbarium. Besides native orchids, there are also the herbarium specimen representing the orchids of our country .

### **ORCHID MUSEUM**

The museum at Tipi depicts the orchid wealth of Arunachal Pradesh in maps, colour and black & white photographs, blow-ups , charts and specimen preserved in jars and achievements of the centre have also been displayed in the museum .

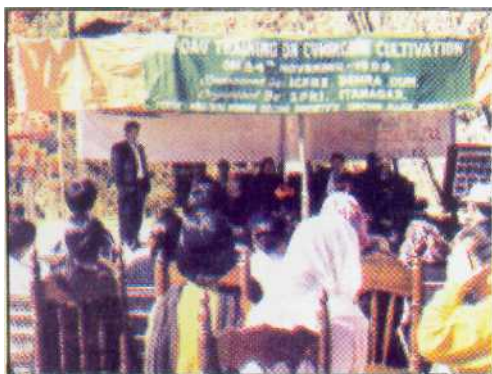
## *HARDENING UNIT*



The hardening unit is provided with controlled light, temperature, relative humidity and periodic water spray system to harden ( acclimatize ) the orchid plantlets deflasked in the laboratory are kept in this hardening unit for 3-6 months for hardening before their release to the field for cultivation.

## **COURSE UNDER EXTENSION PROGRAMME**

The centre has a facility of conducting six-day capsule course on orchid propagation and commercial farming to the interested persons from various states of the country in batches . The course includes orchid identification,



vegetative multiplication, seed and tissue culture, cultivation techniques, pest and disease control measures , post-harvest technology ,CITES rules and regulations etc . including practical demonstrations.

## **SESSA ORCHID SANCTUARY AND NURSERY**

The orchid sanctuary cum nursery is located at Sessa , about 24 kilometers away from Tipi on way to Bomdila . The sanctuary stretches over an area of 100 square kilometers at

an altitude ranging from 1100-1800 meter MSL . The sanctuary harbours about 200 species of orchids of sub-tropical types comprising the genera like *Dendrobium* , *Bulbophyllum* ,

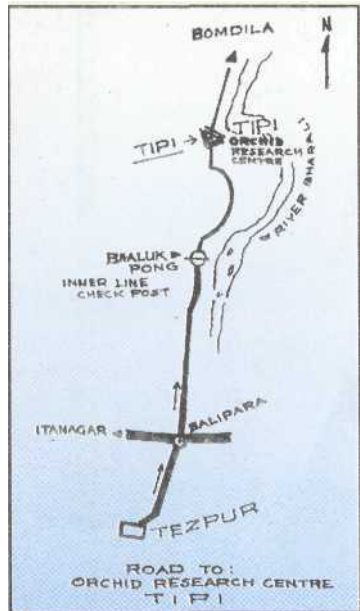


*Coelogyne*, *Eria*, *Phaius* , *Liparis* etc. The sanctuary is unique in the country in having six new species of orchids and seven species of saprophytic orchids. The nursery comprises representative specimen of various

orchid species of the sanctuary and a demonstration farm of *Cymbidium* hybrids for cut-flower production.

## ACCESS

The orchid centre is located about 250 km. away from Guwahati ( Assam ) towards Tezpur (Assam) and Bomdila ( Arunachal Pradesh ). The nearest airport & railway station are at Tezpur.



## ACCOMMODATION

There is a Forest Rest House with four room accommodation at Tipi under the control of DFO Bhalukpong. There is also one circuit house cum I.B at Bhalukpong under the control of EAC Bhalukpong and one Assam tourist lodge in Bhalukpong.



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