

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Organic Farming is the life saving Agriculture –Chief Minister**

New Delhi, November 8, 2017: Organic farming is a non-violent and a life saving agriculture, the Chief Minister Shri Pawan Chamling said while addressing mediapersons here at the Indian Women's Press Corp in New Delhi. The global umbrella of organic association, IFOAM-Organics International, the OWA family and Navdanya jointly hosted a Press Conference to honour the OWA winner Shri Pawan Chamling as Ambassador of Organic India & World before an impressive gathering of media persons

The Chief Minister further said that Sikkim is the only organic state of India and in the world and this has been our great contribution to our Nation and is the message to the world. Although it was a very hard journey, but with our commitment and hard work we succeeded in our journey after formally passing Resolution in the Sikkim Assembly on 24th February 2003. The Chief Minister also referred to the pleasant experience and honour of hosting the Prime Minister of India , Shri Narendra Modi who declared Sikkim as organic in January 2016 in Gangtok. The Prime Minister, Shri Narendar Modi has applauded Sikkim in the forum too.

The Chief Minister further said that the State Government initiated this step as he himself was born and brought up in a village as a humble man belonging to a family of nature worshippers. This is how he initially learnt about nature and its importance in human life and how important is organic farming. The world must realize this and go for organic farming, he opined. The Chief Minister prescribed to consider these many facts for a safer and prosperous world. This, the Chief Minister said, was his message to the world and mankind.

Referring to the epithet to Delhi as the most polluted city in the world, he said that people are themselves to blame for the same. There should not be any blame game and all the people must find solution to this problem collectively as a common responsibility, he said. This year has been one of the hottest year and so we have to see the warning sign and take up eco-friendly initiative like organic farming right away.

Dr. Vandana Shiva, Mr. Joseph Wilhelm, Mr. Markus Arbenz and Mr. Bernward Geier and OWA winner Ms. Shamiso Mungwashu from Zimbabwe also addressed the media persons.

Later on, the Chief Minister inaugurated the Navdanya Cafe at Hauz Khas market and visited Sikkim Tourism restaurant at Dilli Haat market. During his visit to the Sikkim Tourism outlet, the Chief Minister directed the authority to procure and sell only the organic produce at the outlet and also all other Sikkim outlets including the one at Greater Kailash.

