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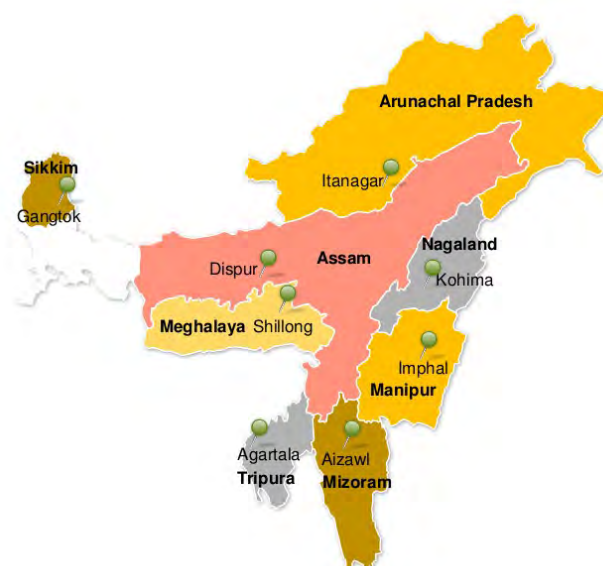
Ministry of Food Processing Industries



The North East

An Overview

The north eastern part of India is a unique and situated in significantly strategic position for a fast developing and resurging country like India. This region is a unique juxtaposition of eight states of the country with the “Land of Rising Sun (Arunachal Pradesh)” embracing the “Abode of the Cloud (Meghalaya)” before listening to the gentle giggles of the Brahmaputra flowing through the “Land of rivers and Valleys (Assam)”. While the state of Nagaland in the north east evokes a sense of mysticism and awe, intensified by the remoteness of its geographical location, the “The Land Adjoining the Water (Tripura)” showcases its rich ethnic cultural diversity, its bountiful natural purview, its temples, museums and palaces. While “Land of Jewels (Manipur)” elevates our inner self with its simplicity and serenity along with the piety of “Radha-Krishna”, “The



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Land of Mizos (Mizoram)" showcases the meandering river with a graceful gait and shimmering waterfalls making up the exorbitant atmosphere, Sikkim is a treat for any soul situated in the bosom of Eastern Himalayas. Its importance lies not only in the fact that the North East is a "Paradise Unexplored", it is also strategically placed in the map of the country. It is a true frontier region with more than 2000 kms of its stretch sharing common borders with neighbouring countries like Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar and China.

The entire Northeast India's population (all 8 states combined) is approximately 45 million (2011 census), which represents 3.7% of the total Indian population and constitutes about 8% of the total India's size. According to 2011 census, Mizoram's literacy level is over 91 per cent at a time when the national literacy rate was 74.04 per cent. In 2013, Tripura jumped to first position among the states of the country in literacy with 94.65 per cent, beating Kerala (93.91 per cent). The per capita income in several North-Eastern States has increased substantially with people of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Sikkim having average earnings more than the national figure of Rs. 33,731, though per capita income in other NE states like Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura etc. were less than the national average.

The North East - Opportunities and Challenges in Agribusiness

AGRICULTURE

Opportunities: Primarily an agrarian economy, the North East Region (NER) is dominated by small and marginal farmers. Rice-based cropping system is the principal cropping system in the region and considering the current average production level, there is immense opportunity to increase the yield manifold. The region offers opportunities for introducing non-rice crops like wheat, maize, pulses, oilseed crops, and cash crops like sugarcane, tobacco, chillies, jute etc.. Jhum cultivation or shifting cultivation, a practice widely prevalent in the region and criticized for its negative impact on the environment, has a special significance in the ethos of tribal society and social relationships, cultural values and mythical beliefs. So eradicating the practice completely may not be possible, but introducing elements like agro-forestry within the system of Jhum cultivation adds a touch of environmental sustainability to the current practice of Jhum cultivation. More than 59 per cent of the farmers practice farming in areas below 1 ha of land, and 80 per cent of them in areas below 2 ha. Further, the region contributes only 2.8 per cent to the total food grain production of the nation. The region hence holds immense prospects in expanding the area under new crops and improving the current productivity levels of crops by introduction of better inputs and technologies.

Challenges: Compared to the total geographical area, the land available for



agriculture in NER is limited. The region has a forest cover of more than 67 per cent- ranging from 24.6 per cent in Assam to 93.7 per cent in Arunachal Pradesh, against the national average of 2.8 per cent. The North-East accounts for about 8 per cent of the total geographical area of the country but has only 3.4 per cent of the total land put under agricultural purposes. Some of the major constraints for agriculture in the regions are rooted to the socio-economic features, fragmented and smaller land holdings as well as institutional, organizational, technological and developmental inadequacies spread across the region. The region is characterized by difficult terrain, wide variations in slopes and altitudes, land tenure systems and indigenous cultivation practices. Current cultivation practice in the region is bereaved of technology interventions like adequate use of fertiliser and manures, high yielding varieties etc. The region is also characterized lesser irrigated area. Gross irrigated area to gross cropped area under all crops generally ranges between 5.5 per cent in Assam to 30.2 per cent in Meghalaya, which is well below the national average. Investment in building irrigation capacity has been insufficient and ineffective, and the irrigation potential created has remained grossly underutilized down the years.

HORTICULTURE

Opportunities: The entire North Eastern region is a rich basin for growing of various horticultural crops and the region is also gifted with some of the rare and exotic breeds of orchids. Another promising feature of the region in terms of horticulture is the climatic variability, which provides opportunity for harvest of the crop over

an extended period. For example, some of the hills of North Eastern states produce potato during September, which is well ahead of the usual harvesting period. A large number of horticultural crops are grown in the north eastern region, many of them were originated in this region like banana, mango, a large number citrus species, flowers, etc. Among the states of the NER, in terms of fruit production and area, Assam occupies the prime position followed by Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura. North Eastern region is also an important producer of spices especially ginger, turmeric, chillies, garlic and coriander. High value crops like Cashewnut are successfully grown in states like Meghalaya, Tripura and Manipur. The region also provides abundant opportunities for growing medicinal and aromatic plants. Each State has got some unique farm produce to claim to its fame e.g. cardamom of Sikkim, ginger of Meghalaya, tea of Assam, Passion Fruit of Manipur and pineapple of Tripura to name just a few.

The region also rich in terms of genetic diversity. For instance, in lemon alone, as many as 32 species are available. Maximum genetic variability of some of the banana species occurs in NE India.

Challenges: The The immediate problem in the context of horticultural produce in the region of North East is that of infrastructure vis-a-vis road and transport facilities, availability of power (required for promotion of processing facilities), input support systems like seeds, credit, etc. Moreover, commercial production of the horticultural crops are yet to gain popularity in the region, though the concept of cultivation of the horticultural crops is associated with the culture and system of living of the people of the region.



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ORGANIC AGRICULTURE AND ITS GLOBAL POSITIONING

Opportunities: Entire North Eastern region has potential to be the Organic Capital of the world. Keeping this potential in view, Government of India has launched a major Organic Program for North East region. This provides an opportunity for the State to formulate effective program to take advantage of the growing global market of over 62 billion USD through this scheme.

Challenges: Organic farmers in the region need much help in skill development. There are challenges of timely and cost-effective transportation to the major markets of the country due to remoteness of various areas in the region. In terms of export and taking a share in the profitable international market, the region needs timely market information and efficient market linkage support, which are currently major challenges.

POWER, ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Opportunity: In terms of hydro power, the North Eastern Region has the potential of about 58971 MW i.e.

almost 40% of the country's total hydroelectric potential. The Region also has abundant reserves of coal, oil and gas for thermal power generation. In



terms of infrastructure, East-West Corridor By NHAI is coming up covering a total length of 670 km starting from Assam/West Bengal Border (km 0 of NH-31C) at Srirampur and ending at Silchar (km 306.25 of NH-54). Rail and road connectivity through Bangladesh connecting Tripura presents a good opportunity in expanding trade.

Challenges: Though the entire NE region has a net potential of producing 40% of the country's hydro potential, only 2.1% (1242 MW) has so far been harnessed as on 31.05.2014 while another 2810 MW of hydro power is under various stages of development. In terms of railways, many of the states with the exception of some states like Assam and Tripura, still has no connectivity to the capital.

LIVESTOCK

Opportunities: North Eastern region of India is home to diverse animal genetic resources including cattle, buffalo, sheep, goat, pigs, equines, yaks, mithuns, etc. The total livestock population in the region is around 21 million, out of which cattle and buffaloes constitute about 11.5 million and about 1 million respectively. Among the small ruminants, about 4.37 million goats and 0.23 million sheep are found in this region. The natural topography and tradition of the north eastern regions make it ideal for maintaining mono gastric animals, carrying out back yard poultry practices and piggery. A vast majority of the population across the north eastern states are non-vegetarian, resulting in a huge demand for eggs and various types of meats like pork, chicken or beef. Most of this demand is currently being met from other states like Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal etc. Pig rearing is also very popular in most of the North Eastern states with a pig population of about 3.82 million. Apart from these traditional livestock species, NE region also home to bovines like mithuns and yaks in good numbers viz. 2, 54,000 and 16,000 head respectively.

Challenges: Currently, the production of Milk, Eggs and Meat is not sufficient to meet local consumption demands. There is a huge outflow of funds to procure the above from the other states of India. To overcome this deficiency, there is a need to implement a wide range of schemes, which will augment production in this sector along with creating employment opportunities.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT, HANDICRAFT & HANDLOOM, TOURISM AND CULTURE

Opportunities: North East India is blessed by nature and it lays at the centre of one of the world's richest bio-geographic areas. It is the treasure house of various economic resources. It has a rich cultural and ethnic heritage that can easily make it a tourist-spot. Tourism has the greatest potential for generating income and employment opportunities in North-East Indian states because NE India is exceptionally rich in bio-diversity. Moreover the wildlife sanctuaries across North-East India, tea tourism and golf tourism holds the potential



to attract tourists from all over the world. Handicrafts and handloom are major avenues for self-employment and income generation in the NE region. The region is also gifted with skills for making quality products from bamboo, forest products and other materials available.

It is pertinent to mention here that as a result of implementation of the above mentioned programs, the Regional Design & Technical Development Centre (RD&TDC), Guwahati comes up with various new designs and also lays its hand on useful data / feedback etc. which helps in assessing the need of the artisans in order to propose suitable plans subsequently. Also, the programs and activities of the centre needs wider publicity in order to enable the artisans, craftsperson's and NGO's etc. working for the development of handicrafts in the region to know about these programs to participate and work in tandem with the centre for achievement of the present goals.

Challenges: Despite a great deal of potential existing for the tourism sector in the region, the sector is yet to rise up to this prospect because of a number of factors like lack of infrastructure, communication bottlenecks, geographical isolation, ethnic clashes leading to political instability, growth of insurgent activities, lack of finance, absence of leadership and entrepreneurship ability, indifferent attitude of the government both at state and central level, defective socio-economic and political set up including lack of proper tourism development policy. Collaboration among producers, marketers, technology agencies and other stakeholders are absent. There is no strong platform to promote the products nationally and internationally. E-commerce is still not adopted.



VIBRANT NORTH-EAST 2016

Vibrant North-East 2016 was jointly organised by the Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development and the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India with the support of Ministry of Food Processing Industries and Ministry of DONER from 18th-20th February 2016 at Khanapara, Guwahati. The event comprising of Development Expo, Agri and Rural Expo and North-East Development meet, was organized to provide an opportunity for the region to showcase its potential and opportunities to the rest of the country and in instigating



the growth and development of the region. Along with 8 North-Eastern states, various National and International organizations took part in the event. The four day event brought a large number of the national and international stake-holders from the industry, institutions, Government and the development sectors to showcase the programs and schemes, products, technologies and services; and deliberate upon the issues and opportunities and the way forward. The event, comprised of the technical conferences, investment and business meets, partnership events, entrepreneurs' seminars, farmers' workshops and large exhibition a way the event helped in boosting efforts in creating better awareness of the investment and growth potential in the region.

Union Minister Food Processing Industries Smt. Harimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated the Vibrant North-East 2016 Summit and Exhibition. Speaking at the summit Smt. Badal stated that the North-Eastern states are rich in resources and the NDA Government is committed to addressing the issue of development of North East and therefore, the focus of Hon'ble Prime Minister is to ensure wholesome development of the North-East Region and to link farmers with modern technology driven agricultural practices and also to accelerate the pace of developmental projects in this region. The North Eastern Region holds lot of potential for food processing

as the weather and adequate availability of water are conducive to food cultivation and suitable for growing large variety of fruits and vegetables. Smt. Badal informed that the Ministry of Food Processing Industries is pursuing development of North East through its schemes of Mega Food Park, Cold Chain, Abattoir and development of Food Testing Laboratories. As a step in this direction, 3 Mega Food Parks have been sanctioned for this region, one each in Assam (which has been made operational), Mizoram and in Tripura. 5 Cold Chain projects have also been sanctioned by the Ministry in the States of Assam, Manipur, Mizoram which have a capacity of 11500 MT of cold storage, 0.75 MT/per Hr of IQF capacity and 68 Reefer Trucks, 8 Abattoirs projects have also been sanctioned in North East states of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim which are aimed at establishing modern Abattoirs and ensuring hygienic and scientific meat processing. The Minister also informed that the Ministry of Food Processing Industries has sanctioned 6 Food Testing Labs in the States of Assam, Manipur, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura for creating infrastructure for food safety and quality testing.

Mr. Naveen Verma, Secretary – Ministry of DONER who was also present during the inaugural day of the summit, highlighted the importance of North East region

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becoming self sufficient in food production, and informed the gathering about the various steps being undertaken by his ministry to achieve production, processing and marketing goals of agricultural products. The Guests of honour included Mr. Alok Sinha, Director General, Indian Council of Food and Agriculture; Dr. Shyam Khadka, FAO Representative for India and Sri Lanka; Mr. PL Thanga, Vice Chairman, Mizoram State Planning Board; Mr. JP Meena, Special Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries; Mr. Chris Elstoft, Deputy High Commissioner, Australian High Commission; Mr. Cao Haijun, First Secretary, Embassy of China and Shri K.K. Daimary, Dy. Secretary, Department of Commerce.

On the second day of Vibrant North East, the development meet was organized. The meet discussed about the development of agricultural sector. A cultural program was held after the discussion.

On the closing day, Justice M.H. Khan, the Chief Guest at the concluding program said, "When we shifted from agriculture economy to industrial economy, the most important thing was technology and manpower. Now that the gap between developed countries and our country is less in technological phase, we should think local and go global."

M.K. Seth, Chief General Manager, BSNL; Assam Circle while addressing the gathering said, "During the three-day program I saw a lot of potential in the people of this region. The only issue of this region is isolation. I appreciate the initiative taken by Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD) to bring the stakeholders, investors and various experts in one platform where people have the opportunity to learn." He further said, "Initiatives are being taken so that students can get job opportunities sitting even in remote areas. Whoever takes such initiatives, BSNL will always be ready to help". He suggested creation of an agency or a website for people who couldn't attend the event and so can learn everything about it through this medium.

The concluding day also had a cultural program. Folk dance and songs were performed by various tribes of North East and other parts of India. The event was adequately covered by media with various news paper and electronic media highlighting the important aspects of the summit.

Dr. MJ Khan, President of CARD while speaking at the occasion thanked the central and state government for the valuable support that was received while organizing an event of such a scale.



Deliberations of the Round Table Conference



A round table conference was organized on 18th February in Guwahati at Hotel Lily along the sidelines of the North East Development Summit 2016, for exchanging ideas, exploring opportunities and facilitating future policies towards a sustainable and profitable agriculture in the entire north eastern India.



Dr. M J Khan, President of CARD, while kicking off the presentations sessions highlighted the strengths and opportunities of the region. Dr. Khan said that in a region like North East, where high literacy is prevalent in many of the states of this region, and where the per capita income has been increasing substantially over the past few years, agriculture holds the promise in catapulting the region in the development map of the nation. He pointed out at the immense potential that the region holds in agribusiness segment because of its rich natural resources, biodiversity and high dependable rainfall. Dr. Khan also highlighted the gender equity prevalent in the region as evidenced by the active involvement of

women from NE society in various income generating activities including farming. He also drew attention to the immense potential of region in terms of tourism and agro-eco-tourism. He also drew attention to the major objectives of the summit and the need for exploring various opportunities in the areas of agribusiness, horticulture, livestock, organic farming etc. in the region through regular hosting of such summits.



Mr. Alok Sinha, Chairman of CARD while speaking at the Summit meeting stressed the need and importance of the entire North Eastern region to become an integral part in the second green revolution that India is trying to achieve. He observed that without the active contribution of North East in agriculture sector, achieving another green revolution would be difficult for India. While moderating various presentations during the meeting, he also highlighted the need for active participation of various research agencies in bringing in an all around development in the agriculture sector of the region.

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Mr. M K Seth CGM BSNL Assam Circle informed that BSNL has inked an agreement with Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company Ltd (BSCCL) to improve internet connectivity in India's northeast region. The central government has launched a Rs.5,000 crore ambitious project for the

development of telecommunications in the northeastern states. The project will make Northeast India would be at par with the rest of the country in internet connectivity, thereby boosting the region's economy, education, tourism, banking and other services. State-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has launched Next Generation Network (NGN), a new technology that offers various facilities similar to mobile technology, to improve the telecommunication system in the north-eastern region. The Internet Protocol (IP)-based technology NGN would provide additional facilities to customers on their landline. The new technology would improve the telecommunication network in Northeast India. The NGN have improved voice quality and offer broadband services, video calling, nationwide Centrex, seven party conferencing facilities besides increasing the reach, coverage and availability of BSNL's broadband services. BSNL has done significant job in NE States. They have implemented MPLS technology in Lease Line and Broad band to fast work in between Machine to Machine. They have covered optical fiber in all NE regions.



Dr. Ramesh Mittal, Dy. Director, National Inst. of Agricultural Marketing (NIAM) explained the activities done by NIAM on improving the use of alternative marketing in the NER and training programmes conducted to create awareness among the farmers of NER for improving the

marketing and supply chain activities in the region. NIAM is also working on warehouse accreditation, setting up processing unit of arecanut and setting up krishi business schools for farmers to make them aware about tools and techniques of modern way of farming.



Mr. Junaid Memon, President, Green TV Group, Mumbai came up with a new idea to make people aware about agriculture through a TV channel, Green TV in which they telecast various aspects of Indian agriculture and allied activities including fisheries, bee keeping, goatry, piggery

etc. The channel would create awareness among farmers about various schemes provided by GoI.

Mr. Sanjay Dave, International Trade Expert said that focus



should be made on marketing of organic products as the NER is potential source of Organic products. He also emphasized on the need of a certification body in Assam. He noted that the region is very rich in production of certain fruits and vegetables and spices, however due to absence of proper data base, lack of infrastructure and absence of effective agencies to facilitate sourcing from farmers, the region faces problems.



Dr. Shyam Khadka, FAO Representative for India and Sri Lanka spoke about soil nutrition to be taken care with respect to the farming. He was also very clear about the how the cash transfer takes place in NER, impact of agriculture intervention on both gender, and GoI should announce

MSP for basic cereals in NER.



Mr. R.K Agrawal & Mr. Ghosh, AGM (HR)/CSR, Airport Authority of India Future Plan informed the construction of 77500 Sqmt. New Integrated Terminal Building (2900 Domestic and 200 International PHP), expansion of Terminal Building including two PBB, Construction of Airport

Surveillance Radar /Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radar building, Installation of Solar Power Plant of 250 KWP, Construction of Common User Domestic Cargo Terminal and Setting up of Perishable Cargo Complex by Assam Industries Development Corporation.



Mr. Apurva Misra, Regional Chief, AMUL informed that AMUL was going to promote animal husbandry and dairying. Mr. Mishra recommended that there is a need to organize farmers in cooperative structure and upheld the need for selfless and dedicated leadership to replicate "Amul

pattern" of cooperative structure. He also suggested to make use of the 'Make in India' platform in dairying for rural youth to earn their livelihood at village level.



Maj. Gen. G S Chandela, Head Geomatics and **Mr. Rajendera Jena**, Dy. Director, NEC-TAR explained about the Geospatial Technology -Planning & Monitoring Developmental Activities, Agricultural Applications, Communication Technology i.e.-CCTV

Wireless Network for Law & order enforcement, Software Defined Radio for State Police, Mesh net for Telemedicine and Radio network for Disaster Mitiga-

tion. He briefed about the technological implementation in Monitoring of completed Roads Under PMGSY program, Identification of Villages not connected by Road&Planning of New Roads using Suitable Terrain conditions. He also explained how by using multispectral Satellite Image crop productivity and damage can be assessed.



Mr. S Natarajan, CGM, NABARD, Guwahati highlighted the opportunities in Assam and initiatives taken by NABARD in Assam especially in improving Agriculture Infrastructure. Under the NABARD initiatives, 2.0 lakh ha of land was additionally brought under irrigation, 1602 rural marketing centres were developed and 272 Veterinary hospitals were renovated. NABARD has also extended support to FPOs with financial assistance of Rs.261.53 lakh a, 14 FPOs Registered under Society and Cooperative Act. He has also explained about the credit projections for 2016-17 (i.e. in agriculture-Rs 6748.44cr, in priority sector -Rs 12143.03), critical infrastructure required, support required in NER and the development strategies like Covering all farmers under Rupay KCC, Focus on Capital formation & Investment credit to Farmers' Collectives/ Co-operatives viz., Farm Machinery, Irrigation structures, Processing facilities, etc., Promoting Seed Production on a Mission Mode, Thrust on Production of Planting material through Tissue Culture, Encouraging Area Based Schemes & Development of Clusters, Push to Off-season Vegetable Cultivation & Protected Farming, Exploring the Niche Market for Exotic Crops/ Organic Products.



Dr. Bijoy Krishna Handique, Scientist, North Eastern Space Applications Centre, Department of Space, Govt. of India explained about the support provided to the North Eastern region in using space science and technology for development and how centre has the mandate to develop high technology infrastructure support to enable NE states to adopt space technology inputs for their development. Dr. Sadique also explained about NE-SAC developmental support by undertaking specific projects by utilizing space technology inputs – remote sensing, satellite communication and space science and the soil quality monitoring device.



Mr. Luv Verma, former Secretary, Government of India spoke about the empowerment of the persons with disabilities, and that various institutions/organizations/NGO should come up for their help. He also mentioned that the GoI has implemented several schemes for them(details are on the website) so that they can lead productive, safe and dignified lives.



Dr. Anis Ansari, Chairman, Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development explained the challenges in the communication and isolation in NER. GoI has recently boosted infrastructure in Railways & roads etc. However the area has certain distinctions also like organic farming, fruits & vegetables, fisheries & meat etc. There is a need to increase investment in these areas of strength. CARD in collaboration with NEC can help the farming sector through agri processing & agri business, certification & e marketing etc



Prof. M. Moni, Chairman, ICFA Working Group on ICT & Former Director General (NIC) while presenting his views, about his writing to the Hon'ble MOS (I/C) for North East Region, General (Dr.) V.K. Singh suggested for a strong institutional cooperation between NE Space Applications Centre of the Department of Space and NE Centre for Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR) of the DST, Govt of India to avoid duplicative efforts, in operationalization of technology applications in the North East; and also M/s BSNL to take all necessary steps to lay Optical Fibre Networks from Yangon Port (Myanmar) and Chittagong Port (Bangladesh) to N.E States on a priority basis



Mr. Chris Elstoft, Deputy High Commissioner- Australia who has been the Deputy Head of Mission in New Delhi since June 2015 highlighted some points about the opportunities and the challenges in the NER and also described the sectors that needed to be developed and about the gender empowerment for the development activities.



Mr. P L Thanga, Vice Chairman, Mizoram State Planning Board who is presently working as Member Planning and Secretary in the government Of Mizoram state, India has formulated the State's Flagship program called "New Land Use Project", one of the most comprehensive development programs for upliftment of the poor, land reform and ecosystems management ever formulated in India. He pointed out about the soil erosion problems in NER and also came up with the thought with the other delegates presentations how the development in technology can be utilized to reduce the problem of people getting affected by soil erosion in NER. He also spoke about the MIZO food processing development and about the marketing requirement for horticultural products. He was very much interested about the soil quality detection part presented by ISRO.

Recommendations of the Development Meet on North Eastern Region

CARD organised a Development Meet on North East on 18th February, 2016, as part of the North East Summit 2016, to discuss the opportunities and make specific suggestions for integrated development of rural sector of the region. The main focus of the deliberations was to identify areas and work out action strategies for taking up commercial and backyard production of farm products and setting up agro growth centers, which could create employment, accelerate value addition and catalyze the process of development in the region. The meet had participation of senior officials of State Governments, development institutions, agri-industry, banks, ICAR experts and NGO representatives.

A series of presentations were made by important persons from the industry, institutions and Government. Following recommendations emerged out of the deliberations on the Meet:

1. Agri-clinic and Agribusiness Centres: For integrated development of farm sector and agro industries in the region, Agribusiness Centres can play a significant role and actually catalyse the growth in agri sector. CARD briefed that Ministry of Agriculture is running ACABC scheme through MANAGE for training the un-employed agriculture graduates all over the country for setting up Agri-clinic and Agri- business Centres, under financing provisions by GOI. CARD offered to involve MANAGE for more training centres in NER and facilitating the trained graduates to establish ACAB centres, which can be brought under a unified State wide platform for more synergy and delivering multiple services to the rural population. CARD with the experience of its Bhagidari Agribusiness Network model of Uttar Pradesh, will be submitting needful proposals to various State Governments for creating State wide Agribusiness Centres networks.

2 Improving technology intervention: Mr. M K Seth CGM BSNL Assam Circle emphasized on the need of better technology for the development of telecommunications in the northeastern states. Northeast India would be at par with the rest of the country in internet connectivity, thereby boosting the region's economy, education, tourism, banking and other services. A lot of steps have been taken and much more needs to be done to improve the telecommunication network in Northeast India for improved voice quality and broadband services, video calling, nationwide Centrex, seven party conferencing facilities besides increasing the

reach, coverage and availability of BSNL's broadband services.

3 Climate smart villages: Dr. MJ Khan, President of CARD proposed that a Climate smart villages project should be set up - 25 in Assam and 5 in each of other 7 states - to promote agriculture practices that will mitigate the effects of climate change on agriculture and help communities adapt to climate change to become resilient to extreme weather events such as droughts, floods, and delayed monsoons. The interventions range from index-based insurance, weather forecasting services, efficient irrigation and water management, conservation agriculture, inter-cropping and crop diversification, minimum tillage, laser land leveling and agro forestry. In addition to farm practices, farmers in climate-smart villages will also be accessing climate-smart services, such as tailored weather forecasts to plan planting, harvesting and other activities on the farm; advisories, and phones are also being used to enable farmers to buy index-based insurance that gives them a measure of protection in the event of extreme weather.

4. Women Empowerment: The status of women in NER is relatively better than in many other States. Despite women's active participation in economic activities, particularly in the hill areas their participation in decision-making process is less. Even in many tribal societies, social system and certain customary laws smack of gender discrimination. CARD suggested for focused attention on empowerment of women through formation of SHGs, Strengthening women NGOs to make their voice heard, launching program for woman literacy, training and motivation that helps in capacity building, SHGs as economic tool for women empowerment to improve their credit worthiness and bargaining strength as a group. Provision of micro-credit would help SHGs develop micro-enterprises for women that would give economic strength to even the poorer section among them.

5. Smart Villages concept was recommended by **Prof. M.Moni**, Chairman, ICFA Working Group on ICT & Former Director General (NIC) which is aimed to harness the benefits of information technology for the rural farmers. The initiative is a community effort to mobilize the collective strengths of people from various streams and integrate it with information technology to provide benefits to the rural community. Also to build a mass movement driven by communities by empowering them with knowledge and skills to take on the challenges in the information age. He has also

defined the concept of smart village

S- Social, Skilled and Simple - Zero Tolerance for Caste and Creed or better no caste & creed and no discrimination on Gender and Religion. Everyone is Literate and skilled Simple living and high thinking.

M- Moral, Methodical and Modern -Moral values of Gandhiji, Swami Vivekananda etc Methodical using Total Literacy and latest techniques Modern like cities.

A- Aware, Adaptive and Adjusting - Highest level of awareness on global social & economic issues Adaptive and adjusting to fast changing environments

R- Responsive and Ready - Responsive to collective wisdom, cooperative movement & larger social issues. Ready to generate own resources for self-sufficiency and self-reliance.

T- Techno-Savvy and Transparent - Techno-savvy for IT and Mobile usage transparent in harmonic relations and delivery of services.

6. Developing Poultry industry: A presentation was made by CARD about developing commercial poultry production in the region by setting up Poultry Park with one mother unit of about 25,000 birds and block level satellite units of about 2000 birds each, taking one district as model. CARD suggested for one group of 25 entrepreneurs from each State for one month long training on poultry business at VHL Training Centre, Pune and subsequently facilitating them to start poultry business ventures with the technical support by CARD and funding by NEC and State Governments.

7. NER as Organic Zone: Subsequent to the Union Government declaring NER as Organic Zone and several speakers pointing out to the opportunity in this sector, CARD offered to organize an international Organic Congress to bring all the stake-holders on one platform to accelerate the process of more coverage under organic farming, certification of produce by credible agencies and national and international branding.

8. Commercial fishery, Piggery and dairy production: A brief presentation was made by CARD on all the three areas for promoting commercial production on the lines of Poultry, with a mother and satellite units in a Hub and Spoke model, adopting one district to begin with. It was also discussed that the backyard production of the above should also be promoted to meet the gap in production and demand in the region as also a means to add to the incomes of farmers. CARD proposed to take up a study and make a SWOT analysis for the above projects and also to initiate with major industry players in fisheries and dairy for their involvement in setting up commercial ventures in the region.

9. Marketing and Processing of Agro products: Mr. Sanjay Dave, International Trade Expert made a presentation on the opportunities and constraints in horticulture and food products marketing and processing in the region. CARD proposed to prepare reports regularly by interacting with various agencies and State Governments and circulate the same to traders and exporters by starting a dedicated portal on the same under financial support by DONER/NEC.

10. Publication of schemes and Training Calendar: Some State Government representatives made suggestions for bringing out a guide on schemes about agri sector of all central and State departments, development institutions, Government organizations, autonomous bodies and other agencies as also the training schedules of various bodies for the benefits of all the stake-holders. The guide book may be circulated to all the State Government officials up to block levels, NGOs, extension workers, FOs, academic institutions and development organizations so that the information could reach all the needy and potential beneficiaries. CARD presented that the proposal on the above will be submitted to DONER / NEC for consideration and on approval the work shall be completed within 3 months time.

11. Rural E-Marketing for handicraft: The rural products and the handicrafts in the region are in great demand in the national and international market. However, for the want of proper information and the lack of communication between the buyers and the sellers, the artisans are not in a position to capitalize on the market opportunities. Considering the fact that there is no other means of employment in the region except agriculture, this handicap has severely hindered the process of employment generation and development in the region. In this regard, information technology can help overcome this gap by providing the vital platform and link for the interaction between the buyers, sellers, the developmental agencies and the Government. CARD proposed that a proposal should be sent for launching a website where the rural farmer can capitalize their products.

12. Farmers Study Tour Visits: CARD proposed that there should be study tour visit for NER farmers so that it will help them to identify location specific and economically viable different crops, exhibiting integrated farming systems such as mixed cropping and crop rotation practices, showing advanced practices in horticulture farming and use of improved varieties and farm resources, demonstrating the existing chain for market linkage and value addition, exploring possibility of replication of the methods, techniques and practices in production, extension, marketing and value chain.



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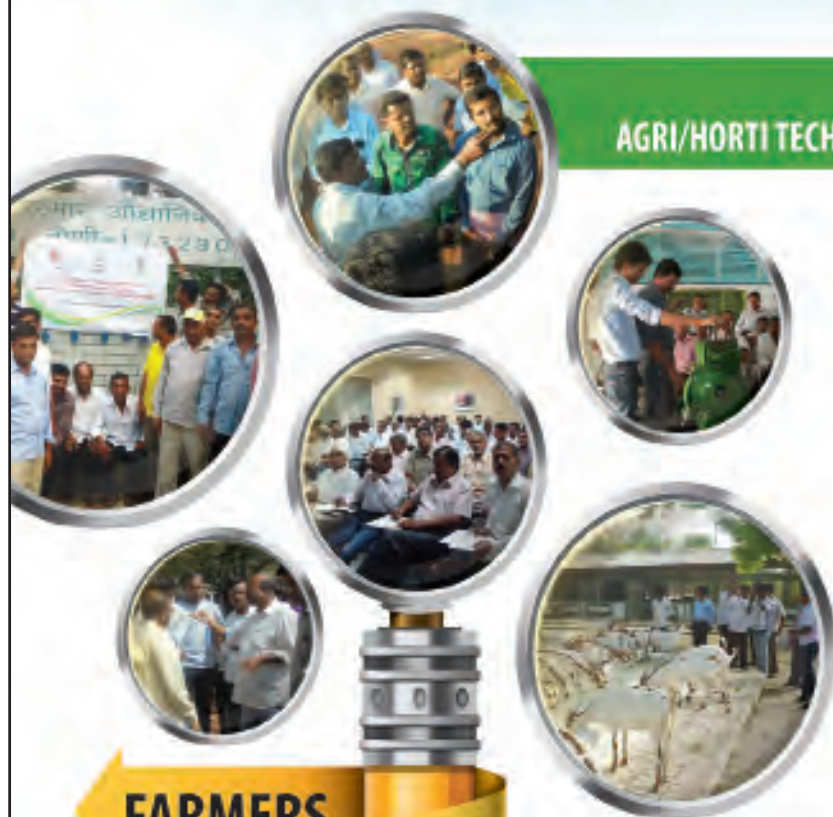


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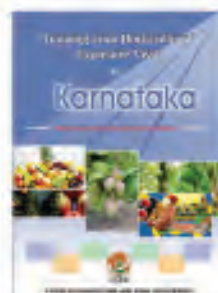


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राज्य सरकार की अनदेखी के चलते खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग का विकास ठप : कौर

गुवाहाटी, 18 फरवरी (खाद्य सप्ताह)। असम सरकार की अनदेखी के कारण राज्य में खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग का विकास ठप पड़ा है। केंद्रीय खाद्य प्रसंस्करण मंत्री हार्सिमरत कौर बादल ने कहा कि केंद्र सरकार पूर्वोत्तर के राज्यों में खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग को बढ़ावा देना चाहती है, मगर केंद्र के साथ-साथ राज्य सरकार को भी उद्योग लगाने के लिए प्रयाप्त सुविधा मुहैया करानी होगी। कौर ने कहा कि राज्य सरकार उद्योग लगाने के लिए बिजली, सड़क आदि सुविधा प्रदान करने में विफल रही है, जिसके कारण राज्य



में खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग नहीं आ रहे हैं। उन्होंने आगे कहा कि उनकी सरकार ने पूर्वोत्तर में खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग के विकास के लिए विशेष योजना बनायी है। इसी के तहत 2008 से संलग्न फूड मेगा पार्क को पिछले साल केंद्र सरकार ने हरी झंडी दी। नलबाड़ी में फूड मेगा पार्क निर्माण का कार्य संपन्न हो चुका है। उसी की तर्ज पर इस साल एक और अगले साल एक फूड मेगा पार्क का पूर्वोत्तर में निर्माण किया जाएगा।

कौर ने आगे कहा कि उद्योगपति असम में उद्योग लगाना चाहते हैं, लेकिन ये अगली

शेष पृष्ठ 11 पर

Harsimrat K Badal compares North-east with Koh-i-noor

CHRONICLE NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati: Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal today compared North-east (NE) region with one of the oldest and most famous diamonds in the world – Koh-i-noor.



Badal inaugurated the three-day expo 'Vibrant Northeast 2016' here on Thursday. Addressing the gathering, Badal said, "The North-east region can be compared with the Kohinoor diamond which needs to be polished to shine more brightly. There is a

fruits and vegetables are available in the region which are not easily available in other parts of the country. Hence, she emphasized on making the farmers market-savvy and also on improving road connectivity.

The Union Minister shared that

ing units, farmers fitted as it will renues and help scale industries. The recent ini-IE with regard to stries which in-rk Scheme, Cold air Scheme and

NEW BEGINNING



Union food processing minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated the Vibrant North East 2016 at Khamapara in Guwahati on Thursday. Badal said three mega food parks have been sanctioned for the region, one each in Assam, Mizoram and Tripura. Five cold chains of 11500 MT of storage have also been sanctioned in Assam, Manipur and Tripura. Text by our special correspondents

Food processing to get boost in NE region

GUWAHATI, FEB 18: Union Minister of Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal today inaugurated 'Vibrant North East 2016' at Assam Agricultural University (AAU) ground, Khamapara here, stated a press release. Later, she chaired a review of all the states food processing departments' progress with respect to central funding.

Vibrant North East 2016 is set to serve as a powerful platform for the developmental projects and initiatives. The development meet on the North East was attended by senior officials of industry and institutions from across the country, representing technologies and projects. This will facilitate

partnerships, investments and market connect. Senior officials from the embassies of Australia, Netherlands and Chinese embassies, from Government of India, Secretary - Ministry of DONER Naveen Verma, Special Secretary from Ministry of Food Processing JP Meena, FAO Chief for In-

Moni, CEO of Adani Agri-fresh Limited, Atul Chaturvedi and International agri-food trade expert, S Dave were among the dignitaries participating in the programme. Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development has prepared agribusiness projects for the region, including District

the audience at 10 am. He will also review the progress in NER under the Ministry's programmes. On the closing day, Union Minister of State for Minority Affairs, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi will be Chief Guest. N-E states have large minority population and the union ministry schemes for mi-

অসম চৰকাৰৰ পৰা উল্লেখ কৰা হৈছে যে অসম চৰকাৰে অসম চৰকাৰৰ অধীনত থকা বিভিন্ন ক্ষেত্ৰত উন্নতি আনিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিছে।

খানাপাৰাত ভাইব্ৰেণ্ট নৰ্থ-ইষ্ট

গুৱাহাটী, ১৮ ফেব্ৰুৱাৰী: উত্তৰ-পূবৰ বিভিন্ন ক্ষেত্ৰত থকা গুৰুত্বপূৰ্ণ অঞ্চলক কেন্দ্ৰ কৰি অসম চৰকাৰে বিভিন্ন উন্নয়নমূলক প্ৰকল্পৰ বাবে উদ্বুদ্ধ হৈছে। অসম চৰকাৰে অসম চৰকাৰৰ অধীনত থকা বিভিন্ন ক্ষেত্ৰত উন্নতি আনিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিছে।



খানাপাৰাত আয়োজিত ভাইব্ৰেণ্ট নৰ্থ-ইষ্ট উদ্বোধন অনুষ্ঠানত অসম চৰকাৰৰ মন্ত্রী হৰসিম্ৰত কৌৰৰ বক্তব্য।



অসম চৰকাৰৰ মন্ত্রী হৰসিম্ৰত কৌৰৰ বক্তব্য।

वायब्रेंट नॉर्थ ईस्ट में एएआई ने लिया हिस्सा



गुवाहाटी। संघ फार एधिकल्चरल एंड रुरल डेवलपमेंट (सिएआरडी) के तत्वावधान में तथा चैंबर ऑफ कॉमर्स के सौजन्य से नगर में 18 से 20 फरवरी तक आयोजित वायब्रेंट नॉर्थ ईस्ट में भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण (एएआई) ने सक्रिय रूप से भाग लिया। इस परिप्रेक्ष्य में एएआई के पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र के क्षेत्रीय कार्यकारी निदेशक आरके अग्रवाल ने चोते दिनों नगर के एक होटल में पूर्वोत्तर राज्यों में आधारभूत संरचना के विकास के लिए एएआई की पहल को एक प्रस्तुति पेश की। दूसरी ओर

एएआई की सौएसआर गतिविधियों के संबंध में वायब्रेंट नॉर्थ ईस्ट, 2016 में एएआई ने एक स्टॉल भी लगाई। इसके तहत एएआई की ओरसे असम, त्रिपुरा, मेघालय में स्वच्छ विद्यालय मिशन के तहत निर्माण किए गए 190 शौचालयों व डिग्रूड जिले के एक सरकारी प्राथमिक विद्यालय के भवनों के नवनीकृत करने के बारे में जानकारी प्रदान की गई थी। (प्रसं)

■ Workshop on Vibrant North East 2016, a conference-cum-expo on agriculture products, organised by the Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development and Assam at Veterinary College ground from 10am.

দুদিনীয়া কার্যসূচীৰে গুৱাহাটীত ভাইব্ৰেণ্ট নৰ্থ-ইষ্ট সন্নি

অনুষ্ঠান উদ্বোধন কৰি উত্তৰ-পূবৰ উন্নয়নৰ প্ৰতিশ্ৰুতি কেন্দ্ৰীয় মন্ত্ৰী হৰছিমবৎ কৌৰৰ

গুৱাহাটী, ১৮ ফেব্ৰুৱাৰী: উত্তৰ-পূবৰ বিভিন্ন ক্ষেত্ৰত থকা গুৰুত্বপূৰ্ণ অঞ্চলক কেন্দ্ৰ কৰি অসম চৰকাৰে বিভিন্ন উন্নয়নমূলক প্ৰকল্পৰ বাবে উদ্বুদ্ধ হৈছে। অসম চৰকাৰে অসম চৰকাৰৰ অধীনত থকা বিভিন্ন ক্ষেত্ৰত উন্নতি আনিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিছে।

Harsimrat Badal opens Vibrant North East 2016 Summit in Guwahati

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Union Minister Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated the Vibrant North-East 2016 Summit and Exhibition in Guwahati today.

Addressing the participants at the summit, Badal said North Eastern states are rich in resources and the NDA Government is committed to addressing the issue of development of the region.

She said wholesome development of the North East would include linking farmers with modern technology driven agricultural practices and also to accelerate the pace of developmental projects.

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Badal said the north eastern region holds lot of potential for food processing as the weather and adequate availability of water are conducive to food cultivation and suitable for growing large variety of fruits and vegetables.

Badal informed that the Ministry of Food Processing Industries is pursuing various development-related schemes such as establishing three mega food parks, five cold chain projects, eight abattoirs and development of six food testing laboratories.



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Assam: Harsimrat Badal says Northeast holds potential for food processing

Feb 18, 2016 17:30 Guwahati Staff Reporter



Union Minister Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated the Vibrant North-East 2016 Summit and Exhibition in Guwahati on Thursday.

Addressing the participants at the summit, Badal said North Eastern states are rich in resources and the NDA Government is committed to addressing the issue of development of the region. She said wholesome development of the North East would include linking farmers with modern technology driven agricultural practices and also to accelerate the pace of developmental projects.

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'Vibrant North East' event concludes

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In Assam, the three-day long Vibrant North East event has come to an end this evening in Guwahati.

- The second edition of the event was jointly organized by the Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development and ASSOCHAM in association with DoNER and Food Processing Ministry.

- M H Khan, Member of Central Administrative Tribunal, Alok Sinha, Adviser of the Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development and M K Seth, Chief General Manager of BSNL were present in the valedictory function.

- Mr. Khan hoped that Information Technology would bring sea change in North East region. Various events including orientation course for young farmers have been organized during the event

currentaffairs.gktoday.in/vibrant-north-east-event-concludes-guwahati-02201630702.html

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Vibrant North East event concludes in Guwahati

February 20, 2016 No comments

The three-day long Vibrant North East event concluded in Guwahati, Assam.

It was inaugurated on 18 February 2016 by Union Minister Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur.

It was the second edition of the event jointly organized by the Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD) and ASSOCHAM.

Key facts

Vibrant North East was organised in association with Union Ministry for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) and Union Food Processing Ministry.

Rural banking, Make in North East and Horticulture and food processing etc. were the key areas of Vibrant North East.

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Business Standard

Harsimrat Badal opens Vibrant North East 2016 Summit in Guwahati

Badal said Northeastern states are rich in resources and the NDA government is committed to addressing the issue of development of the region.

ANI | Guwahati February 18, 2016 Last Updated at 19:48 IST



Union Minister Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated the Vibrant North-East 2016 Summit and Exhibition in Guwahati on Thursday.

Addressing the participants at the summit, Badal said Northeastern states are rich in resources and the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government is committed to addressing the issue of development of the region.

She said wholesome development of the Northeast would include linking farmers with modern technology driven agricultural practices and also to accelerate the pace of developmental projects.

examrace.com/Current-Affairs/Current-Affairs-2016/NEWS-Vibrant-North-East-Event-is-Arranged-in-Guwahati-This-Year.htm

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Vibrant North East Event is Arranged in Guwahati This Year

(Published on 21/02/2016)

The Vibrant North East a three-day event is arranged in Guwahati, Assam this year. Union Minister Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur has inaugurated this event on 18th February 2016. The Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD) and ASSOCHAM has jointly organized this event for second time.

Key facts

Vibrant North East was organized in association with Union Ministry for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) and Union Food Processing Ministry.

The key areas of Vibrant North East are:

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'Vibrant North East' expo kicks off in Guwahati today

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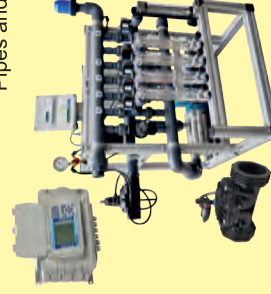
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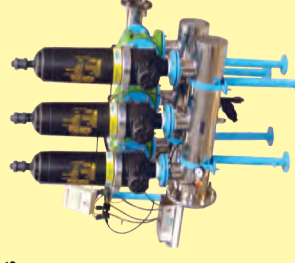
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Our vision is to be a leading provider of Indian regional expertise in food and agriculture and to outstand as key advisory partners on food security concerns, policy planning and strategy framework for sustainable development through agriculture.

Mission

Our mission is to initiate and support micro and macro level changes in agriculture by providing Indian expertise and solutions for research, extension, education, training, institutional frame, policy planning, agribusiness and project consulting so as to address their major agricultural concerns relating to farm production, food security, environment sustainability, rural employment, economic growth and human resource development.



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1. Provide Indian expertise to deliver solutions to agricultural issues and concerns through formulation of agro and rural development projects, farming solutions, micro and macro level national agriculture planning, policy support, organized research, extension infrastructure and institutional set-ups, value addition and market linkage services.
2. Manage short term management programs, training and entrepreneurship course for farmers, research & extension personnel, officials and professionals of various countries while recognizing and understanding ecological, technological, social and economic concerns related to their food and agriculture sector.
3. Facilitating students from different countries in enrolling in food and agricultural degree programs; management and entrepreneurship courses offered by various institutes and recognized universities of India, so as to help various countries in developing human resource for creative and productive change at ground level.
4. Organizing delegation level visits from India to various countries and of different countries to India for participation in agri and business summits, learning and exposure at technology institutions, agri universities, model farms etc., and discussing possibilities for joint ventures, collaborations and promoting better understanding in agriculture and agribusiness.
5. Facilitating Governments, Corporates or Institutions to venture globally and act as total solutions providers in implementation of foreign agriculture projects by providing research structure, technical assistance and investment planning in food, farming, agribusiness or agriculture development programs.



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| 2. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) | 32. DC Handicraft |
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| 4. NECTAR | 34. CPRI |
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| 7. WAPCOS | 37. NEHHDC |
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| 9. Ministry of Earth Science | 39. Manipur State |
| 10. Nivshakti Bioenergy | 40. Mizoram State |
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| 12. United India Insurance Co. Ltd | 42. Meghalaya State |
| 13. DAVP | 43. Sikkim State |
| 14. Safexpress | 44. NRHM Manipur |
| 15. Bhartiya Mahila Bank | 45. NRC- Pig |
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| 17. NTPC Limited | 47. Airport Authority of India |
| 18. MEGHALAYA NON-CONVENTIONAL AND RURAL ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY | 48. National Textile Corporation |
| 19. BSNL | 49. Geological Survey of India |
| 20. National Cooperative Development | 50. Jain irrigation |
| 21. Corporation. | 51. AMUL |
| 22. Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium | 52. Department of Bio Technology |
| 23. Tea Board | 53. Gram Tarang Employability Training Services (NSDC) |
| 24. Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology | 54. Team Lease (NSDC) |
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| 26. TERI | 56. EduBridge Learning Pvt. Ltd (NSDC) |
| 27. HUDCO | 57. Coir Board |
| 28. Central Institute of Fisheries Technology | 58. ECGC |
| 29. ESIC | 59. Ministry of Disability Affair |
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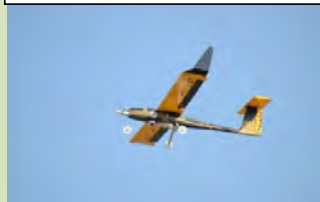
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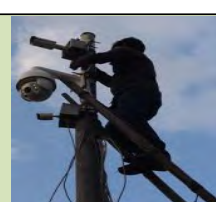
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