



Meghalaya Governor V Shanmuganathan releasing a book titled 'Sohiong', published by ICAR, Umiam, on Thursday. — UB Photos

## Make agriculture attractive for youths as a career option: Guv

RAJU DAS

SHILLONG, Dec 15: Meghalaya Governor V Shanmuganathan said today agriculture should be made an attractive career option for the vast majority of youth looking for jobs.

Inaugurating the conference on "Linking Prospective Food Entrepreneurs with Government Schemes and Markets," at Indian Council for Agriculture Research (ICAR), Umiam, Shanmuganathan said the Government, industries and scientists should work closely and formulate policies to make the agriculture sector attractive for the youths. "Unem-

ployment is very high in Meghalaya and agriculture and food processing can play a vital role in developing the State."

Shanmuganathan said there is huge potential for the development of agro-based food processing industries in Meghalaya. Besides the major food crops like rice and maize, the State is also renowned for its horticultural crops like pineapple, orange and lemon, he said.

All these available resource provide huge avenues to develop the agriculture sector and draw more youth to this sector, the Governor said. The Governor also emphasised on the importance of linking the farmers

with the markets and appreciated the contribution of ICAR and other Central agencies and Ministries in this regard.

Om S Tyagi, Senior Director, Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industries of India (ASSOCHAM) said agro and horticulture processing, plantation crops processing, animal husbandry and meat processing industries have all been declared as potential areas for the promotion of industrial activities in Meghalaya. He also informed that the food processing industry has made some significant progress in the NE over the recent years.

SV Ngachan, Director,

ICAR in his address said that the present government is optimising farming system for doubling farmers' income.

During the conference discussions were also held on various financial schemes available to help farmers and rural youths to develop into successful agri-entrepreneurs.

The conference was organised by ASSOCHAM in collaboration with the Ministry of Food and Processing Industries, and ICAR to provide a platform to aspiring food entrepreneurs, small and medium enterprises, agriculture professionals and students, farmers and Self Help Groups.

## Meghalaya gov: Create agro-based job opportunities for youth

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Shillong:** Governor V Shanmuganathan, addressing a conference at Umiam on Thursday, called for the promotion of agriculture as a career prospect for the youth of the northeast.

The conference, organized by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industries of India (Assocham) in collaboration with the Union ministry of food and processing industries (MoFPI) and ICAR Research Centre for NEH region, was on 'Linking Prospective Food Entrepreneurs with Government Schemes and Markets'.



Meghalaya governor  
V Shanmuganathan

The governor asked the government, industries and scientists to formulate policies to attract the youth to agriculture.

"Unemployment rates are very high in Meghalaya. Agriculture and food processing can play a vital role in the development of the state," he said.

The potential for agro-based food processing industries in Meghalaya is very high, he said, adding that besides major food crops like rice and maize, the state is also known for its horticultural crops.

"Meghalaya has achieved great success in the cultivation of non-traditional crops like tea, cashew nuts, oilseeds, tomato, mushroom, wheat, among others," the governor pointed out.

"There is enough potential for setting up a starch-based processing unit in the state. Plantation crops like coffee, rubber, black pepper and areca nuts are also becoming important products. A major breakthrough has been made in tea cultivation and tea gardens have come up in various parts of the state," he said.

Om S Tyagi, senior director of Assocham, said the food processing industry has made significant progress in the northeastern region. "Sectors like agro and horticulture processing, processing of plantation crops, animal husbandry and meat processing industries have been declared as potential areas in the promotion of industrial activities in Meghalaya. Special emphasis is on non-traditional crops, such as oilseeds, groundnut, tea, coffee, medicinal plants and other crops," he said.

## Governor promotes farming

RINING LYNGDOH

Shillong, Dec. 15: Meghalaya governor V. Shanmuganathan today asked the government, industries and scientists to formulate policies to attract the youth towards agriculture and make a career in that field.

The governor highlighted this at a conference on Linking Prospective Food Entrepreneurs with Government Schemes and Markets, organised by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industries of India (Assocham) in collaboration with the ministry of food and processing industries and ICAR Research Centre for North Eastern Hill Region at Umiam, in Ri-Bhoi district.

Inaugurating the confer-



Governor V. Shanmuganathan speaks at the conference in Shillong on Thursday.

Picture by Rining Lyngdoh

ence, Shanmuganathan said unemployment was very high in Meghalaya and agriculture and food processing could play a vital role in the development of the state.

He urged the people to make better and efficient utilisation of natural resources.

"The potential for agro-based food processing industries in Meghalaya is very high," he said.

He highlighted the state's potential in horticultural crops like pineapple orange,

lemon, non-traditional crops like tea, cashewnut, oilseeds, tomato, mushroom, wheat and others.

Shanmuganathan said there was enough potential for setting up a starch-based processing unit in the state.

He lauded the association and the ministry of food processing industries, for addressing the issue of linking farmers with markets.

The senior director of the association, Om S. Tyagi, said the food processing industry

had made some significant progress in the northeastern region like agro and horticulture processing, processing of plantation crops and animal husbandry.

Meat processing industries have been declared as a potential area in the promotion of industrial activities in Meghalaya, he added.

ICAR director S.V. Ngachan said the government was optimising farming system for doubling farmer income. He added that ICAR, through its different programmes, encouraged entrepreneurship among farmers of the state.

Meghalaya Co-operative Apex Bank managing director Osmand E.J. Nongbri discussed various financial schemes funded by the bank to help farmers and rural youth to become successful agri entrepreneurs.

# Make farmers happy for agriculture growth: Guv

**GUARDIAN NEWS BUREAU**

SHILLONG, DEC 16: Governor V Shanmughanathan today underlined the need to keep the farmers "happy" in order to retain them in the agricultural sector and bring growth to the sector.

Addressing a conference on "Linking Prospective Food Entrepreneurs With Government Schemes & Markets" at ICAR, the governor said, "There are a lot of potentials in the agriculture sector... but the youth are not attracted (towards the sector).

He, however, appreciated the condition of farmers in the North-east compared to the rest of the country.

"During my one visit to



**Governor V Shanmughanathan releases a booklet along with others at a conference at ICAR on Thursday.** Guardian photo

Jowai, farmers, mostly women, told me they never think of committing suicide," he said while referring to the suicides of farmers elsewhere in the country.

Underlining the need to empower farmers, he also said, "Every farmer must own a Maruti Alto car... ride a bike."

The conference was organised (Contd. on P-3)

## 'Make farmers happy for... growth'

by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industries of India (ASSOCHAM) in collaboration with Ministry of Food and Processing Industries (MoFPI), and Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) NEH Region.

Its objective was to provide a platform to aspiring food entrepreneurs, existing SMEs in food, agriculture professionals & students, progressive farmers, Self Help Groups, etc. for sharing their views and learn about latest initiatives and opportunities available in the field of Agro Food Industries.

ASSOCHAM senior director Om S Tyagi, in his address, said food processing industry has made some significant progress in North Eastern region of India.

ICAR NEH director SV Ngachan said the present government is optimising farming system for doubling farmers' income.

Meghalaya Co-operative Apex Bank managing director Osmand EJ Nongbri, senior ICAR scientist AK Tripathi, APEDA consultant Inamul Hussain Saikia, Frontier Chamber of Commerce and Industry Meghalaya secretary Sajjan Kumar Tharad, Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDI-NER) project chief K Ahmed, Agri-Business professor KK Datta, ICAR scientists AK Jha and G Kadirvel also spoke on the occasion.

