

CS shares idea to expand agro based industries in Nagaland

Staff Reporter

DIMAPUR, AUG 10 (NPN): Nagaland chief secretary, Pankaj Kumar, said that in order to have a well directed funding towards expansion of agro based industries, which in the long run would yield results, the government should identify a particular crop at a time and build connection among the farmers growing that crop by organizing meetings and having discussions and help the group of farmers.

He was speaking at a conference on "Linking startups and SMEs in food processing with government schemes & markets" on Thursday at ICAR-NRC on Mithun, Medziphema, Dimapur as chief guest.

Pankaj said subsequently a company could be set up by associating with social entrepreneurs so as to create a market and move the produce and for facilitating all these, he said a small fund should be created by the respective departments.

He said this group approach would be most benefiting for the farmers and added that the process could be started by choosing a not easily perishable crop. On achieving experience, Pankaj said the government could choose other crops or even perishable crops.

The chief secretary also advocated amendments to Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act 2005 for the purpose of



Pankaj Kumar (NP)

enabling farmers to take on e-trading conveniently.

He said there are products in Nagaland which are waiting to be utilized to their full potentials and that there was a need to expand, organize and link farmers who are doing well and producing surplus.

Speaking about the agriculture scenario in Nagaland, director department of agriculture, Helie Rupreo, said that Nagaland was an agrarian state with a population of 19, 80, 602 (2011 census) with geographical area of 16,579 sq.km.

He informed that a cultivable area of 7, 21, 924 ha (43.5%) out of which gross cropped is 4, 37, 910 ha and net cropped area is 3, 38, 060 ha (20.39%), where about 75% of land falls under hill sector and 25% of land falls under foot hill sector. Rupreo said the entire farming system is rainfed where jhum system of cultivation was a way of life for state upland farmers since time immemorial.

In absence of proper marketing system and value addition facilities in place, Rupreo said the aim of farming was to meet family requirement oriented production but not on commercial scale production.

The director also said that rice has been the staple food in the state it occupies about 62% and 71% of food grain area and production respectively and added that the state was still deficit in rice production by about 25%.

Rupreo maintained that state has been blessed with conducive agro-climatic condition and vast bio-diversity having high potential for agro-based industries and entrepreneurship development through organic products being default organic or organic in nature.

He also said that state has high potential for organic production as agriculture and horticulture crops, medicinal plants fodders, milk etc. however lamented that farmers are yet to take up agriculture as business venture for wants of proper marketing, value addition facilities and entrepreneurs.

Rupreo called upon government of India and its agencies to come forward and promote Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SME) in Nagaland.

He appealed Nagaland stake holders and policy makers to bring out comprehensive and realistic action

oriented strategy which would take the state forward in development of value chain and promote SME in the sector of agricultural marketing, godown/cold storage and agro base processing in the state to uplift the economy and living standard of farming community in the state.

While delivering a keynote address, deputy director, department of horticulture, Meyasashi explained in detail about the scheme implemented by horticulture department in the state.

Earlier, welcome address was delivered by director, ICAR-NRC on Mithun, Medziphema, Dr. Abhijit Mitra, while summing up and vote of thanks was proposed by assistant director, ASSOCHAM, Chetan Vij.

The programme was followed by technical session with the topic "budding entrepreneurs-industry and financial linkages".

The conference was organised by The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) in association with Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), government of India in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, government of India, North Eastern Council, Ministry of DoNER, government of India, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).

Conference on 'Linking Startups & SMEs in food processing with Government schemes & markets'

MEDZIPHEMA, AUGUST 10 (MEXN): ASSOCHAM and Ministry of Food processing Industries, Government of India organized conference on 'Linking Startups & SMEs in food processing with Government schemes & markets' in partnership with ICAR-NRC on Mithun, Medziphema and Department of Industry, Government of Nagaland was inaugurated by Pankaj Kumar, Chief Secretary, Government of Nagaland on August 10.

The Chief Secretary said that in Nagaland there is significant business opportunity in processing of fresh fruits, vegetables, medicinal and aromatic plants, spices and herbs. Besides facilities have to be created for primary and secondary processing in the region by infusion of proper technology. Proper marketing

linkages between farmers and manufacturers have to be established, so also technological support. He highlighted that farmers and entrepreneurs must join hands to bring in more economic benefit to community at large.

E-trading is another area, which the secretary wanted to be looked in seriously and advised department of agriculture to bring in proposal of amendment of APMC Act. Besides horticulture, other agri-allied produce including livestock particularly pork and Mithun and fisheries sectors also need to be roped in for the profit.

Dr. Abhijit Mitra, Director, ICAR on Mithun, Medziphema in his welcome address outlined the need for organizing this Conference. He said that the Indian government has also been sup-



Pankaj Kumar, Chief Secretary addressing the conference held on August 10.

porting budding entrepreneur through several incentives and schemes for the development of food processing industry in various parts of the country especially in North east region. Highlight-

ing the importance of mithun as a socio-cultural and economic symbol of North-east, Dr. Mitra emphasized to take full benefits of its potential.

Helle Ruppre, Director, Department of Agriculture, Government of Nagaland highlighted the importance of agriculture and challenges faced by the agri-community in the state, he said that today farming in Nagaland is mainly dependent on rain irrigation and alternate system and tools for farming in the state needs to be devised. Both forward and backward linkages is critical in the success of agricultural activity of any state and same is the case of Nagaland as well, in which the state is facing innumerable challenges. E-marketing is the future and needs to be taken seriously by all the

stakeholders.

Chetan Vij, Assistant Director, ASSOCHAM extended vote of thanks and also said that the event intended to bring mass awareness about agri-horticulture scopes which could turn into a game changer for the state.

Announcing that Nagaland has been on atop ASSOCHAM's radar, he announced that a three-day workshop-cum-exhibition involving the farmers would be conducted here in October-November next to give a special emphasis in the larger interest of the farmers to the thunderous applause of the gathering.

The Conference was attended by farmers, agri-startups, financial institutions and speakers of the conference were from various government and non-governmental institutions.

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11 August, 2017

CS advocates amendments in APMC Act 2005

DIMAPUR, AUGUST 10: Chief Secretary of Nagaland Pankaj Kumar today said that in order to have a well directed funding towards expansion of agro-based industries, which in the long run would yield results, the government should identify a particular crop at a time and build connection among the farmers growing that crop by organizing meetings and having discussions.

He also said the Government should help farmers subsequently to set up a company by associating with social entrepreneurs so as to create a market and move the produce and for facilitating all these, a small fund should be created by the

respective departments.

Speaking as one of the speakers in a conference on 'Linking Startups and SMEs in Food Processing with Government Schemes & Markets' here at ICAR-NRC on Mithun, Medziphema, he claimed that this group approach would be most benefiting for the farmers.

He said while the process can be started by choosing a not easily perishable crop, on achieving experience, other and even perishable crops can be ventured.

He also advocated amendments to Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act 2005 for the purpose of enabling farmers to take on e-trad-



ing conveniently, maintaining that there are products in Nagaland which are waiting to be utilized to their full potentials and there is a need to expand, organize and link farmers who are doing well and producing surplus.

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CS advocates amendments in APMC Act 2005

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Previously, Director of Department of Agriculture Helie Rupreo in his address said that the progress for agriculture in the state has several hindrances which include land, seed infrastructure, irrigation system, connectivity, banking facilities, post harvest management, power, taxation etc.

He said that though Nagaland is primarily an agricultural state, people but don't see agriculture as a business venture but crops are grown mainly for self consumption and while rice is the staple food of the state and covers the highest cultivation area, yet the state faces deficit of rice by 25%.

Talking about land and irrigation, he said that only 25% of the lands in the state are foothill and plain lands and instead of claiming irrigation facility availa-

ble, factually, most of the irrigation systems are rain-fed.

He, however, maintained that the state has a good climate for agriculture and the vast biodiversity makes the state a high potential area. "19 APMC established under NSAMB by Act of APMC Act-2005 and Rules & Regulation Act-2006 to address marketing/problem in the State. However, APMC could not bridge the gap as intermediaries between the producers and consumers. Taking into consideration, NSAMB and state government is in the process of amending APMC Act 2005 and to include e-NAM/e-trading in tune with Model APLM Act 2017 which will enable to streamline marketing system and promote Agricultural entrepreneurs & investment in Agricultural marketing sector," he further stretched, appealing the stakehold-

ers at the same time to come up with realistic strategies to take the state forward.

Meyasashi, District Horticulture Officer, Wokha in his keynote address made the attendants aware of the various schemes under the state and central governments for the agricultural and skill development sectors.

Dr. Abhijit Mitra, Director of ICAR-NRC in the welcome address said that there is a myth that mithuns can only be reared in the jungles and that should go away and talked about the various upsides of rearing of mithuns.

The conference was organized by ASSOCHAM and Ministry of Food Processing Industries, GoI and was attended by farmers, agri-startups, financial institutions besides others.

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