



Meghalaya Governor Ganga Prasad inaugurating the National Conference on linking Startups and SMEs in Food Processing with Government Schemes and Markets at Umiam in Meghalaya on Wednesday. – UB Photos

Prasad for development of food processing centres

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SHILLONG, Nov 15: Meghalaya Governor Ganga Prasad today dwelt on the potential of agro-based industries in Meghalaya, saying food processing unit have tremendous potential for further development.

Addressing the inaugural session of the day-long conference on "Linking Startups and SMEs in Food Processing with Government Schemes & Markets," at IACR, Umiam, Prasad highlighted the State's recent increase of agricultural produce.

Prasad highlighted Meghalaya's achievements in the agro sector and said that besides the major food crops of rice and maize, the State is also renowned for its horticultural produces.

He added that the State has achieved significant success in the cultivation of non-tradi-

tional crops like tea, cashew nut, oilseeds, tomato, mushroom and wheat.

Plantation crops like coffee, rubber, black pepper and areca-nut are also becoming important produces of the State, he said. He informed that a major breakthrough has been achieved in tea cultivation and that tea gardens have been developed in different parts of the State.

Touching on the food processing sector, the Governor said, the State has enough potential for setting up a starch based processing unit in the State. However, Prasad said, despite the increase in agriculture produce, a significant portion of the produce go waste.

To minimise such wastages, the Central Government has accorded priority to the development of the food processing sector and a number of schemes for infrastructure development, fiscal relief and other incentives have been initiated.

Immense potential of agro-based industries in the state: Guv

Staff Reporter

SHILLONG, Nov 15: The Governor of Meghalaya, Ganga Prasad has pointed out the immense potential of agro-based industries in Meghalaya while acknowledging the abundance of the natural resources and the recent increase in its agricultural produce in the state.

He was addressing the gathering at the inaugural session of the one-day conference on "Linking Startups and SMEs in Food Processing with Government Schemes & Markets", organized by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industries of India (ASSOCHAM) in collaboration with Ministry of Food & Processing Industries (MoFPI), Government of India and ICAR Research Centre for NEH Region, Umiam on



Wednesday.

While emphasizing the need for developing the food processing sector in the region, the Governor said that the food processing sector in India is one of the largest in terms of production, consumption, export and growth prospects.

Referring to the

significance of the food processing sector, the Governor said that a significant proportion of the agriculture produce get wasted during transition from place of production to consumption as well as during storage. He said that it is because of this that the Government of India has

accorded priority to the development of this sector with a number of schemes for infrastructure development, fiscal relief and incentives.

He added that through all these measures efforts have been made to encourage commercialization and value addition to agriculture produce, minimize post

harvest wastage, generate employment and boost exports of processed food.

Earlier in his speech the Governor, while enumerating the achievements of the state in various agricultural produce, said that besides the major food crops, the state is also renowned for its horticultural crops which is enough potential for setting up a starch based processing unit in the State.

He also said that a major breakthrough has been achieved in tea cultivation and that tea gardens have come up in various parts of the State. Referring on the Prime Minister's vision of doubling farmer's income, he said that modern technologies should reach far-flung districts of the state to increase the revenue generation, which subsequently will lead to the development of the nation.

Governor sees potential in State's agro-based industries

FROM A
CORRESPONDENT

SHILLONG, Nov 15: Governor Ganga Prasad on Wednesday said there is immense potential of agro-based industries in Meghalaya, while acknowledging the abundance of natural resources and the recent increase in agricultural produce of the State.

Prasad was addressing a gathering at the inaugural session of the one-day conference on "Linking Startups and SMEs in Food Processing with Government Schemes & Market", organised by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industries of India (ASSOCHAM), in collaboration with Ministry of Food & Processing Industries (MoFPI), Government of India, and ICAR Research Centre for NEH Region, Umiam.

Emphasising the need for developing food processing sector in the region, the Governor said the food processing sector in India is one of the largest in terms of production, consumption, export and growth prospects. Referring to its significance, he said a significant portion of the agricultural produce gets



*Meghalaya Governor
Ganga Prasad*

wasted during transition from place of production to consumption, as well as during storage.

Therefore, he said, "Government of India has accorded priority to the development of this sector with a number of schemes for infrastructure development, fiscal relief and incentives." He added that through all these measures, efforts have been made to encourage commercialisation and value addition to agriculture produce, minimise post harvest wastage, generate employment and boost exports of processed food.

While enumerating the achievements of Meghalaya in various agricultural produce, the Governor said besides the major food crops of rice and maize, the State

is also renowned for its horticultural crops like orange and lemon.

Prasad added that the State has achieved significant success in cultivation of non-traditional crops like tea, cashew nut, oilseeds, tomato, mushroom, wheat, etc, and that there is enough potential for setting up a starch-based processing unit in the State. "Plantation crops like coffee, rubber, black pepper and areca nut are also becoming important products of the State," he said. Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "doubling farmers' income", he said modern technologies should reach far-flung districts of the State to increase revenue generation, which subsequently will lead to development of the nation.

Prasad concluded his speech with the hope that such conferences, with presentations and deliberations of eminent speakers, will bring out innovative ideas and also prepare a platform for exposure to budding entrepreneurs, thereby help in providing linkages to the market. ASSOCHAM Senior Director Dr Om S Tyagi also shared his views on the occasion.

Harness NE farm potential for growth, jobs: Governor

By Our Reporter

SHILLONG: Meghalaya Governor Ganga Prasad on Wednesday said the potential of Northeast in the agriculture sector needs to be harnessed for development and creation of jobs.

Speaking at the conference on "Linking Startups and SMEs in Food Processing with Government Schemes & Markets" at ICAR in Umiam on Wednesday, Prasad affirmed that farm production of the region has increased and the potential of agro-based agriculture needed to utilised properly.

The conference was organised by Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industries of India (ASSOCHAM) in collaboration with the Union ministry of



Governor Ganga Prasad inaugurates the National Conference on Linking Startups and SMEs in Food Processing with Government Schemes & Markets by lighting the ceremonial lamp at ICAR complex, Umiam on Wednesday. (ST)

food and processing industries and ICAR Research Centre for NEH Region.

"Meghalaya is bestowed with abundant natural resources which need to be

tapped for its development which in return will create a lot of employment opportunities for the youths," he said.

Stating that the potential for agro-based food processing industries in Meghalaya is very high, Prasad said besides the major food crops of rice and maize, the state is also renowned for its horticultural crops like orange and lemon.

According to Governor, Meghalaya has also achieved success in the cultivation of non-traditional crops such a tea, cashew nuts, oilseeds, tomato, mushroom and wheat.

He also felt there was enough potential for setting up a starch-based processing unit in the state.

(Contd on P-10)

