

A garden of plenty

ITANAGAR, Mar 13: In another instance of leading by example, Arunachal Pradesh Governor Gen (Retd) JJ Singh today stood beside the kitchen garden of Raj Bhawan here and spoke about self-sustenance through one's hobby.

I want to show the people that it is possible to take up kitchen garden as a hobby to counter the soaring vegetable prices and practice organic farming, he said - not without reason.

The 2088 sq mtrs kitchen garden has been developed to grow various varieties of seasonal

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A garden of ...



From P.1...vegetables. There are 19 beds, producing 44 varieties of vegetables, and the agriculture department has been trying to keep the garden as a model of providing fresh organic vegetables, reports PRO to Governor.

Agriculture development officer T Angu, who supervises the work in the garden, informed that besides strict organic methods being followed, crops are planted according to a crop calendar based on the season, need, demand and analysis of previous production.

Under the guidance of first lady Anupama Singh, new varieties of lettuce were tried in the Rabi season, and it has been found that the mild cold temperature of Itanagar is highly conducive to their growth. The lettuce varieties include iceberg, rapid grand popular, butter head, corn salad, celery, parsley etc.

Other winter vegetables like Zucchini green, Zucchini yellow, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, purple cabbage, capsicum bull nose and capsicum elephant-trunk have also been grown. Tomato of

many varieties like Rocky, Punjab Chuara and Ameya were grown. Carrot, fenugreek, leek, onion, spinach, cauliflower, cabbage (Blue Diamond), Knol Kohl (Priya), brinjal, pea, French bean, asparagus, radish, coriander, mint, chilies etc were also produced.

On the other hand, Kharif vegetables of the cucurbit family - long, ridge, sponged, round, snake, bitter and ass gourds, cucumber and pumpkin - were cultivated. Maize growth, too, was commendable.

The profuse production and adaptability of hybrid vegetables in the garden show that exotic varieties also grow suitably in Itanagar's agro-climatic zone, Angu added. Some foreign varieties brought from the USA by the first couple were tried and successfully grown.

It may be mentioned here that it is a regular practice that surplus produce from the Governor's kitchen garden is distributed to schools, hospitals and orphanage, the report adds.