

**GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH  
DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS  
NAHARLAGUN**

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**Governor inaugurates the 1st Arunachal Krishi Expo cum Kisan Mela 2012**

**Itanagar, Dec.12:** The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh General (Retd) J.J. Singh inaugurated the 1<sup>st</sup> Arunachal Krishi Expo cum Kisan Mela 2012 at Indira Gandhi Park, Itanagar on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012. He also inaugurated the Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and veterinary, Agriculture pavilions on the occasion, **reports PRO to Governor.**

The Governor released a book, titled 'Unpretentious Endeavour' by Director (Marketing), Department of Agriculture Shri A.K. Purkayastha. It is second book by Purkayastha, who have a book titled 'Arunachal Agriculture, over the years' in 2008. The Governor also released the souvenir of the 1<sup>st</sup> Arunachal Krishi Expo and Kisan Mela 2012.

In his address, the Governor stated that Arunachal Pradesh is a gold mine. With little hard work people of the State will prosper. He called upon the people, especially the youth to take up organic tea cultivation, exotic vegetable, floriculture, bee keeping and poultry. He also suggested the farmers to go for second and third cropping.

In order to encourage people, especially the participants of the Expo cum Mela to take up floriculture, bee keeping, poultry farming, organic farming and exotic vegetables, the Governor invited them to Raj Bhavan, where under his and first lady Anupama Singh's initiative these activities have been taken up. He declared the Raj Bhavan open for the public for next two days, which is otherwise is open on Sundays throughout the year.

The Governor said that initiative and entrepreneurship is the need of the hour. He asked the concerned departments to help the farmers and youth in skill development.

Appreciating the Chief Minister for launching of the Chief Minister's Agri Mechanization programme, the Governor said that the farmers of the State are very hard working but the result is not in proportion to their sweat and toil. Here use of modern technology and mechanism can bring good result. With the launch of the programme, the farmers will get much needed financial help for purchase of farming machines. He appealed the agrarian community, especially youth to avail optimum benefit out of the programme.

Stating that farm mechanization needs to be prioritized as a basic requirement for agricultural operations, the Governor called upon concerned officials from the department of Agriculture and allied subjects to impart ideas amongst the farmers about use of modern machineries.

The Governor said that Arunachal Pradesh is blessed with abundant of horticultural wealth. Oranges, apples, pine apples, kiwi are produces in large quantity in interior places, but these produces do not reach the markets. Therefore, a food processing unit can bring revolution.

There are many places having huge horticultural production but large parts of the perishable products are destroyed due to lack of infrastructure and road communications. This can be contained by setting up of cold storages or food processing units and construction of roads.

Central Government can help the farming community of the State by helping them in diversifying their activities by setting up of food processing units. Financial assistance to them in setting up small scale food processing units will ensure socio-economic development in the rural areas of the State.

Calling upon the youth to contribute towards the development of the State, the Governor stated that peace is must for development and hospitality for tourism.

In his address Chief Minister Nabam Tuki said that state's economy largely depends on this sector because the primary occupation of more than 70% of the population is farming. Agriculture & allied activities being the primary occupation, this sector has accorded topmost priority the Government. Food and farm income security has been the main focused agenda and the Government is committed to redecorate this sector into a paying profession. Realizing the inadequacy of financial resources of the small & marginal farmers, the government has decided to enhance Govt. assistance to the farmers for purchase of costly farm machineries viz. Tractors, Power tillers, Water pumping sets for irrigation and Rice mills for processing of farm produce, Tuki announced while launching the Chief Minister's Agri Mechanization programme,

Chief Minister further said that the State is also encouraging cultivation of high value and low volume of Agriculture and Horticulture products like strawberry, kiwi, orange, apple, millet, maize, paddy, bajra, and promotes the production of organic crops, vegetables, chilli, tomato, onion ginger etc. We will facilitate the farmers to enhance their income through diversification of crops and commercialization. Special impetus is being put on floriculture, orchids, cane and bamboo and other market-sensitive forest produce.

Chief Minister stated that top priority is being accorded for setting up of fruit processing units, construction of laboratories for quality control and certification. The challenges for disposal of surplus product will be looked after by the State Agricultural Marketing Board, which has been strengthened and revamped. My government is laying emphasis on high altitude fish products specially trouts and other local fishes in the abundant natural lakes and streams of the state.

Tuki, who launched the Zero interest Kisan Credit Card (KCC) programme said that Zero KCC will facilitate the farmers to be credit worthy and help the deserving farmers to be able to access into bank loans enabling them to invest in seasonal farm operations for higher production.

Chief Minister urged upon the officers working in the interior areas to work hard and help the villagers, which he said will result in comparative development in the villages with urban areas. It will also stop migration of people from village to towns. Suggesting agriculture and allied sectors as avenues for entrepreneurship, Tuki called upon the youths work hard and refrain themselves from easy money.

Responding to the proposal for a permanent site for Expo and Kisam by Agriculture Minister Setong Sena, Tuki readily agreed to provide more than the required land at the earliest.

Speaking on the occasion, Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture Likha Saaya said that the most important part of the Expo is the presence of large number of farmers, NGOs, Self help

groups, input manufacturers, dealers and corporate houses from the districts and different parts of the country which he felt will be beneficial for the all stakeholders. He urged upon the farming community to avail the best advantage of the presence of scientists, input manufacturers, dealers, traders and financial institutions.

Earlier in his welcome address, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and veterinary minister Setong Sena said that in Arunachal Pradesh the crop production in the Eleventh Plan (2007-12) has maintained an annual growth rate of 4.3% as compared to the national target of 4%. In Horticulture sector, there has been tremendous growth and there has been a regular escalation of export of fruits from the state. In Livestock & Fishery sector also there has been remarkable achievements although there is lot more to be achieved. It was earlier a misconception that the Farm sector has not grown significantly as compared to other parts of the country. But the reality is that, in spite of recurrent natural catastrophes like Flash flood, Drought like situations & other climatic adversities, there has been a steady growth particularly in Fruits, Off-season vegetables, Ginger, Potato, oilseeds & other cash crops. Growth in Food crops production has so far been below optimum level due to obvious reasons but it is matter of great pleasure that with constant persuasion of the state Chief Minister, National Food Security Mission (Rice) has been launched in the Arunachal Pradesh from 2012-13 and we are committed to move towards Food security with active support of the Govt. of India. He added that the state Government is committed and has initiated appropriate steps for renaissance of Agri-Marketing service. For effective market intervention, the Govt. has proposed to support State owned MARKFED and strengthen Arunachal Pradesh Agriculture Marketing Board (APAMB). Efforts shall be to assist in grading, Packaging & value addition of Fruits & Off-season vegetables besides other perishables so as to ensure remunerative return to the farmers. We are putting all efforts to enhance rural storage capacity besides creating Cool chain & other market logistics, he stressed. The minister made a fervent appeal to the Agro-Processors, Traders at regional & national level to extend their support in all forms to transform Arunachal into a HUB of Agri-business.

Parliamentary Secretaries Hunchung Ngandam, Gadan Ete, Padi Richo, T.Norbu Thongdok, Arunachal Pradesh Marketing Board Chairman Techhi Kaso, MLA Tapuk Taku, Director (Farm Information) Ministry of Agriculture Dr. M. Kazmi along with senior State officials, participants of the event and public attended the inaugural function.

As part of launching of 'Chief Minister's Agri-Mechanization Programme' Tuki handed over one cheque each of Rs. 1.2 lakhs to Registrar Cooperative Society cum Secretary Cooperation, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh and to Arunachal Rural Bank as government assistance for tractor subsidy. He also handed over the keys of the tractors to beneficiaries, Nabam Taka and Tamuk Yado. Smti Piel Anya from Kimin received a cheque of Rs. 60,000 (Sixty thousand) and keys of the power tiller from the chief minister on the occasion.

Launching the Zero Interest Kisan Credit Card (KCC), Managing Director, APCAB handed over nine Zero interest KCC worth of Rs.2,25,000 to chief minister, who in turn handed it over to Taba Konia, Secretary Jote Farmers' club.

Later the Governor and Chief Minister along with other dignitaries visited the stalls and interacted with the participants. They were very impressed by the orange and kiwi stalls and exhorted them to maintain the spirit.

Papum Pare KVK Programme Coordinator Dr. T. Heli informed that there are two hundred and twenty-three stalls which include 89 of agriculture, 49 of Horticulture, 36 of veterinary and animal husbandry, 17 of fisheries, 2 stalls of Industry and 30 in central pavilion. There is a conventional hall with a capacity of 800. Dr. Heli said that more than 1600 participants are participating in the Expo cum Mela.

Convener of the three-day event cum Director (Marketing), Department of Agriculture informed that one hundred farmers' groups, forty self help groups, thirty private companies and fifteen departments including Government of India are taking part in it.

The three-day programme include inter district farmers meet on the first day. Farm machinery demonstration, farmer-scientists interaction on agri-horti sector and farmers-scientists interaction on livestock and fishery sectors will be held on the second day. On the last day, there will be farmers-traders-processors interface on value addition & marketing, session on women entrepreneurship in value addition, packaging and branding and special session on entrepreneurship in farm sector for youths and financial institution. The valedictory function will be attended by Dr. Charan Das Mahant, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and food processing industry, **adds the report**

**Sd/- Ome Tayeng, Asst. PRO**