

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT  
ARUNACHAL PRADESH  
ITANAGAR**

**PRESS RELEASE**

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Lt. Gen (Retd) Nirbhay Sharma inaugurated the National Conference on emerging technology trends in Agriculture Engineering at North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology, Nirjuli on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

In his inaugural address, the Governor said that the agriculture sector is one of the vital aspects of a dynamic and increasingly globalised world economy. It is the backbone of economic system of any given country. In addition to providing food and raw material, agriculture also provides employment opportunities to a large percentage of population. It is the main source of national income for most of the developing countries. A stable agricultural sector ensures a nation of food security. He called upon the agricultural scientists and engineers to explore ways and means to make Indian agriculture a sustainable, profitable and competitive enterprise through engineering interventions of farm mechanization, natural resource management, value addition and energy management in production and post-harvest operations. By incorporating automation, precision and smart technologies to new and existing farming equipments, we can optimize efficiency, sustainability and reliability of our produce and enhance our economy.

The Governor exhorted the participants to initiate and conceptualize innovative ideas, while underscoring that the wisdom of the conference should move to the field and be beneficial to the farmers. He stressed on food processing, requirement of developing entrepreneurship base in the region and strengthen research and development activities in the field of agriculture and allied subjects. It should be integrating technology with the local needs.

Citing local challenges like water scarcity in winter months, the Governor urged upon the scientific community to take the challenge and come up with a workable solution to the problem of the State Capital, which can then be applied to the rest of the State and region. He also asked them to find scientific technique for wastage management, which can be use in agricultural fields.

Stating the challenges provide opportunities, the Governor asked the scientists and engineers to find simple and workable solutions, fulfilling local needs while keeping the environment intact.

On the occasion, the President of NERIST Society exhorted the students, faculty and officials of NERIST to live up to the pledge made and make NERIST really 'Swachh'. I want to see NERIST not just pride of the State but of the country.

The Governor also released the souvenir of the conference.

The theme lecture of the conference was delivered by Prof. Gajendra Singh, Gajendra Singh, Adjunct Professor, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, who is specialized in Farm Power and Mechanization. Prof. Singh spoke on Challenges and Opportunities for Agricultural and Biosystems Engineers. He dwelled in length on population growth, climate change, pressure on the land, rapid urbanization, transformation of food systems and workforce development for food system transformation.

In his opening address, the Director NERIST Prof P.K. Das highlighted on the institute's achievements and its future projects.

Organised by the Department of Agricultural Engineering, NERIST, participants from Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology Bhubaneswar, CAET, Dapoli, Anand Agricultural University, Godhra, Vignan University, Andhra Pradesh, G B Pant Univ. of Agri. & Tech. Pantnagar, ANGRAU, IARI, New Delhi, National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, Dr.PanjabraoDeshmukh Agriculture University, Akola, College of Agricultural Engineering, University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, Tezpur University, Assam University, Silchar, CAEPHT (CAU), Sikkim, Central Agricultural University, Shillong, CAU, Imphal, Nagaland University Dimapur, Tea Research Association, Jorhat and NERIST, Nirjuli are participating in the three-day conference along with representative from State Governments of North East States and business houses. The conference aims to provide a suitable interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary platform for researchers, practitioners, and academicians to present and discuss the most recent innovations, trends, concerns, and challenges encountered to integrate agriculture and engineering under climate change scenarios and to suggest solutions for India in general and North East India in particular.

PRO to Governor  
Arunachal Pradesh  
ITANAGAR, November 7, 2014