

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT  
ARUNACHAL PRADESH  
ITANAGAR**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Governor meets farmers' representatives**

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Shri JP Rajkhowa met the representatives of Bharatiya Kishan Sangh, Siang People's Forum and Siang Organic Initiative at Raj Bhavan, Itanagar on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2016. Commissioner (Agri & Horti), Shri Hage Khoda, Consultant (Agriculture) Shri A.K. Purkayastha, Joint Director (Agriculture) Shri Kesang Tsering and Joint Director (Horticulture) Shri Kamo Ado were also present in the meeting.

Interacting with the representatives, the Governor called for at least one food processing unit in each District, and then Sub Divisions followed by at block levels. He said that it should not be multi crore projects but small food preservation and caning centres and suggested that 'Self Help Groups' must be involved. It will facilitate the farmers to sell their produce at their doorsteps.

The Governor said that such units should not be run by the Department. Instead, Government departments must act as a catalyst, provide trainings and assistance to the entrepreneurs and Self Help Groups in processing project profiles. Departments must conduct promotional activities to encourage youth, farmers and SHGs to run such units.

The Governor also called for encouraging local entrepreneurs in setting up of modern rice mills, so that the rice produced by local farmers are procured, processed in those mills and mechanism may be explored so that Food Corporation of India procures it and supply it under Public Distribution System.

Giving a patient hearing to the problems of the farmers presented by Shri Thakali Tamuk, President, Bharatiya Kishan Sangh, Arunachal Pradesh unit and Secretary Shri Ngurang Tadap, Secretary, the Governor said that there must be absolute transparency in procurement of farm tools and machineries, invite national tender and farmers' must be given choice in selection of farm machineries.

While emphasising on organic farming, the Governor advised the State Government and its officials to promote organic farming and encourage NGOs to conduct campaigns and awareness programmes in big way. He also advised on seed production and procurement.

The Governor advised that intersectorial meeting must be conducted along with Agriculture and allied sector and Industries, especially Skill Development must be conducted for fruitful ventures.

Earlier, Commissioner (Agri & Horti) and the Departmental officers briefed the Governor on the various issues and challenges including decline in production of citrus fruits etc.

PRO to Governor  
Arunachal Pradesh  
ITANAGAR, April 30, 2016