

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT  
ARUNACHAL PRADESH  
ITANAGAR**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Governor inaugurates Fruit Processing Centre**

**There must be food processing and Cold Storage Units in each districts and subdivisions: Governor**

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Shri JP Rajkhowa inaugurated a Fruit Processing Centre in the Raj Bhavan Complex, Itanagar on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2016. The Muskan Welfare Society, a voluntary ladies organisation, based in Raj Bhavan, Itanagar led by the First Lady of the State Smt Rita Rajkhowa has set up the Centre to facilitate the people, particularly housewives, self-help groups and youth in fruit processing and preservation.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor congratulated the Muskan Welfare Society for the initiative and expressed hope that the Centre will be an eye opener for the youth, entrepreneurs, Self Help Groups and at the same time for the Government Departments in taking up projects in horticulture sector. Noting that it has been set up in a record time of less than a month, the Governor said that State Government departments must take a lesson out of such project implementation process.

The Governor said that Arunachal Pradesh is a 'Land of fruits' as also it is a 'Land of Festivals'. He pointed out that no doubt festivals are observed with lots of fanfare but unfortunately no one, including civil societies, NGOs are taking care of the horticultural potential. This casual approach has deprived the hardworking farmers of their share of benefits. Their produces are damaged in want of food and fruit processing units and storage.

The Governor reiterated that there must be food processing and Cold Storage Units in each districts and subdivisions so that horticultural products produced by the farmers and progressive farmers do not go waste.

The Governor said that Arunachal Pradesh produces largest amount of Kiwi fruits, which are transported to other States for production of Kiwi wine. The farmers and State do not gain much, even though the quality of wine produced from Kiwis from Arunachal Pradesh is of a premier quality. He suggested that winery may be set up in the State where there is maximum production of Kiwi or apples, such as Ziro, Dirang, which will not only boost the economy of the State but the farmers, youth and entrepreneurs will benefit in terms of sale of their products, income generation, employment and opening up of other avenues for entrepreneurship. The Governor emphasised that it is high time the State Government must come forward and take up Fruit and Food Processing Units under Public Private Participation (PPP) Mode.

The Governor pointed that Horticulture is given priority on paper but it is not seen in action. Expressing concern on the disturbing trend of frequent change in Secretary and Commissioner level officers which is hampering projects, the Governor suggested that there must be minimum time period for them to ensure project implementation. He also suggested for stamping out of officers who are inactive and put them at other places to make sure that the important projects do not suffer.

Briefing on the Centre, the First Lady of the State, Smt Rajkhowa said that lots of fruits are produced in the State, but there is lack of food processing units in the State and therefore the horticultural products are sold outside the State in very cheap prices. As a result farmers don't get their due share. Therefore, to show the path, MWS has started the Centre.

The First Lady of the State wished that more fruit and food processing units are set up in every town with the help of the State Government.

Secretary to Governor Dr. Joram Beda, who is also Secretary Planning and Secretary Horticulture Shri Gamli Padu also spoke on the occasion. Secretary to Governor suggested that Muskan Welfare Society should spread its activities throughout the State, particularly in Swachh Bharat Abhiyan or Sanitation programme.

Advisor Agriculture, Govt. of Assam, Shri. Timothy Das Hanse informed that 40% of fruit produce is damaged under food harvest lost. He suggested for tie-up with Govt of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh to mitigate the challenges, while assuring all possible help from Govt of Assam. He informed that there are 17 Govt. Food Processing Centres in 17 Districts of Assam and 40 FPC are run by women Self Help Groups.

Additional Secretary to Governor, Shri BS Hada, Managing Director, Arunachal Pradesh Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Board Shri Tage Tatung, members of Muskan Welfare Society, invitees and trainees were present in the inaugural function.

As part of the inaugural function three-day training course on fruit processing is being imparted. Twenty-nine housewives, self-help groups and youth are availing the course. The technical session includes tomato sauce preparation, Litchi, pineapple Squash preparation, Mixed fruit jam, Guava, pear and plum jelly and pickle preparation. Expert trainer Shri Gajen Kalita along with Master Trainers Smt Taba Pinna and Shri Joseph Topno who were sent for training for the Centre are imparting the three-day course.

PRO to Governor  
Arunachal Pradesh  
ITANAGAR, June 25, 2016