



JANASANYOG, ASSAM
CHIEF MINISTER'S PUBLIC RELATIONS CELL, DISPUR

PRESS RELEASE

Press Release No. 543/2020

Sonowal attends workshop on Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana

On Vietnam model there should be synergy between scientists and farmers for increased agriculture production: CM

Urges fish farmers to be innovative for *Atmanirbhar* Assam

Dispur, August 12: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal urged upon the fish farmers of the state to be innovative for increasing fish rearing and fish production in the state. Attending a workshop on Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana for making *Atmanirbhar* Assam at the college of fisheries at Raha today, Chief Minister Sonowal said that considering the growing demand of fish in the state and demand-supply mismatch, innovativeness on the part of the fish farmers would go a long way in bringing about paradigm shift in fish production.

Speaking at the workshop, Chief Minister Sonowal also called upon the college of fisheries to prepare a roadmap to achieve self sufficiency and occupy the market of neighbouring countries in fish requirement. He also said that there should be intrinsic relationship between the scientists, zoologists and the fish farmers to take fish production to a great height. He also said that a balanced blend of conventional and modern methods should be pursued with regard to fish farming and stressed that besides consumption, efforts should be on to value addition to fish production.

Sonowal also said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi immediately after coming to power launched the programmes like Make in India and the COVID 19 pandemic and its consequent lockdown has reiterated the importance of the programme in the country. He also said that for the success of 'Make in India' everybody should take a resolute action. Close on the heels of Prime Minister Modi's Rs. 20 lakh crore *Atmanirbhar Bharat* programme, Government of Assam has taken several schemes to empower the state and its people to become self-reliant. Sonowal said that taking help of the modern science and Rs. 20 thousand crore for fishery sector, steps have been taken to empower the sector besides adding value to branding, marketing, strategy etc.

Referring to Vietnam which has enabled itself in earning 36 billion US Dollar annually, Sonowal said that the existing cordial relations between scientists and farmers in Vietnam need to be replicated in Assam as well. He also stressed on regular interaction with the fish farmers, understand their problems and take steps for their early disposal for the growth and development of fishery sector in the state. He also urged upon the concerned functionaries to take steps to reap benefits of the scheme namely Rs. 1 lakh crore Agriculture Infrastructure Fund announced by prime Minister Modi.

Speaking on the occasion, Fishery Minister Parimal Suklabaidya said that under the leadership of the Chief Minister, Fishery department has gained new momentum and as a result

the sector is contributing to the growth of the state. He also said that under the present government, since fishery sector has attained new importance, the farmers associated with the sector received new thrust and as a result during lockdown period Fishfed has sold fish worth Rs. 180 crore. He also said that at present the state produced 3.35 lakh metric tonne of fish as the state is fulfilling the demands of neighbouring states of the North East.

MLAs Dimbeswar Das, Rupak Sarma, Bimal Bora, MD A.R.I.S Loya Madduri, Director Fishery Department Nirmal Kanti Deb Nath and a host of dignitaries, faculty members, researchers and students were present on the occasion.

BB/SD/ August 12, 2020.