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CHIEF MINISTER'S PUBLIC RELATIONS CELL, DISPUR

PRESS RELEASE

Press Release No. 508/2020

Sonowal visits *Pabhoi Greens*

Agriculture has potential towards making *Atmanirbhar* Assam: CM

Dispur, July 28: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said that agriculture in the state holds the key in making an *Atmanirbhar* Assam and Pabhoi Greens in Biswanath, a hub of organic seed production and seed bank of the state needs to play the role of a catalyst in making Assam a self-reliant state.

Visiting Pabhoi Green in Biswanath district on Monday, Chief Minister Sonowal said that the sustainable agricultural practices and the possibility shown in the field of organic farming, Pabhoi Greens can be instrumental in transforming the state into an *Atmanirbhar* Assam in the post COVID 19 period. Sonowal taking stock of the farming practices adopted in Pabhoi Greens interacted with its founder and progressive farmer Neelam Dutta. He asked the District Agriculture Officer to have a constant liaison with the progressive farmers like Neelam Dutta and others to give a boost to sustainable agricultural practices and organic farming to popularize agriculture, horticulture and pisciculture in Assam.

Sonowal also asked the District Agriculture Officer to take steps so that newly joined officers in the Agriculture department, make a visit to Pabhoi Greens and get themselves abreast of the agricultural practices being followed here. He also said that in view of hundreds of youths returned to state after the COVID 19 induced lockdown, they must be motivated to take agriculture as their vocations and increase their skills in agriculture.

Later talking to reporters, Chief Minister Sonowal said that in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for *Atmanirbhar* Bharat, Assam government has vowed to make an *Atmanirbhar* Assam. He also said that for making an *Atmanirbhar* Assam, steps have to be taken to bolster the health of agriculture and its allied sectors. He also said that the ventures like Kanyaka Multipurpose farm and Pabhoi Greens etc have set example for agricultural success stories in the state. He also called upon the youths of the state to emulate the unique growth track of Kanyaka Multipurpose farm and Pabhoi Greens and take agriculture for strengthening the foundation of a self-reliant Assam.

Sonowal also reiterated that the lockdown necessitated by corona virus pandemic has pointed out immense inherent potential of state's agriculture and allied sectors and said that if utilized to its optimum potential, agriculture and its produce besides fulfilling the domestic demands, can meet the needs of South Asian nations. Sonowal also expressed his appreciation to Neelam Dutta and called upon the youths to emulate his vision and mission and take agriculture as a dignified venture of their life.

BB/SD/ July 28, 2020

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