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

PRESS RELEASE

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<u>CM participates at National Agri-Horticultural Show 2021 through virtual mode</u> CM stresses value addition of Agri products

Dispur, January 21: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal participated in the inaugural function of National Agri-Horticultural Show 2021 held at Bokakhat stadium in Golaghat district today from the conference hall of his office at Janata Bhawan through virtual mode. The agri-horticultural show is organized by the department of Agriculture, Horticulture and Food Processing in association with Assam Agricultural University and Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Sonowal appreciated the initiative taken by the Agriculture department and said that the agri-horticultural show would help in introducing the youth with modern farm techniques. He observed that the young farmers would be able to acquire knowledge about technological innovations, marketing opportunities and value addition of agri products through this show. He informed that the Central and State governments have undertaken a number of schemes to boost rural economy. He also urged the farmers to work hard to increase their production and productivity and to realise Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of doubling farmer's income by 2022.

The Chief Minister while calling upon the farmers for value addition of the agricultural products, also asked them to put efforts to capture national and international markets. He informed that the central government has adopted schemes like Krishan Samman Nidhi, Krishi Sinchai Yoajana, Soil Health Card, KCC etc. to benefit the farmers besides announcing 1 lakh crore package to strengthen agricultural infrastructure.

Stating that the Assam government since its formation have been sincerely working to develop the Agriculture sector, the Chief Minister informed that steps like distribution of tractors under Chief Minister's Samagrya Gramya Unnayan Yojana, financial aid under Krishi Sa Sajuli Yojana etc. were taken to increase farmer's income. The Chief Minister also called upon the farmers to take advantage of the Act East Policy enunciated by the central government and to contribute in boosting the economy of the state.

Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar while speaking on the occasion through virtual mode said that Assam is fast emerging as a global hub in terms of agricultural production. Reiterating the central government's commitment for boosting the agricultural sector of Assam, the Union Minister said that Assam produces 50% tea and 28% bamboo of the country. He informed that the Union Food Processing Ministry has initiated move to set up mega food park which would help in increasing farmers income and GDP of the state. Highlighting the steps taken by Union Government for welfare of the farmers, Union Minister informed that around 13 lakh crore bank loans were sanctioned to farmers in the country.

Minister of Agriculture, Horticulture and Food Processing etc. of the Government of Assam Atul Bora said that the agri-horticulture show organized with an aim to provide a platform for farmers, agricultural scientists and common public for better interaction, farmers training, exhibition, seminar etc. would attract the farmers towards commercial farming. He also urged the farmers to work with competitive mentality to be economically self-sufficient.

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Minister of State (i/c) for P & R D Naba Kumar Doley, Chief Minister's Media Adviser Hrishkesh Goswami and Chief Minister's Legal Adviser Shantanu Bharali were present at Janata Bhawan while the Chief Minister addressed the participants through virtual mode today. On the other hand, Water Resources Minister Keshab Mahanta, MP Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, MLAs Bhaben Bharali and Mrinal Saikia, Principal Secretary of Agriculture Rajesh Prasad, Commissioner and Secretary of Agriculture Akash Deep, High Commissioners of Nigeria, Ghana, Mongolia, Fiji, Bhutan, Congo, Vice Chancellor of Assam Agricultural University Dr. Bidyut Chandra Deka, Director of Kaziranga National Park P Shivakumar, Secretary of Veterinary Department Ashok Barman, Secretary of Indonesia, Head of Political and Economic Session of Vietnam, DC Golaghat Bibash Modi, Director of Horticulture, Chairman of Assam Seeds Corporation etc. were present among others.

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