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Sonowal calls for strengthening the market chain and commercial viability of agri and allied sectors

Emphasises the need for special care for elderly people

Dispur, April 23: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal asked Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil), Sadiya to draw a blueprint and strengthen the framework for marketing the produce of the farmers engaged in agriculture, horticulture, pisciculture and animal husbandry for optimum utilization of the commercial viability of these sectors.

Holding a review meeting at the conference hall of SDO(C), Sadiya today to take stock of the COVID 19 preparedness of the administration, Chief Minister Sonowal said that the sudden outbreak of novel coronavirus has had its regressive impact on the agri-economy of the state. He also said that in spite of lockdown, though the farmers of the state have started their agricultural activities, there should be optimum utilization of the commercial feasibility of their products and therefore, asked the SDO (C), Sadiya to strengthen the sub-division's framework to market the produce of the agriculturists. He also said that sandwiched between Arunachal Pradesh and Tinsukia district the agricultural produce of Sadiya Sub-Division has good market potentials and therefore, asked the SDO(C) to make a survey of the farmers associated with agriculture and other allied sectors and market the produce vigorously. He at the same time asked the administration to ensure that no vehicle passes through the sub-Division without valid permit in view of the lockdown.

Considering the distance of the Sub-Division from the main land of the state, Chief Minister Sonowal asked the SDO (C) to ensure that no residents in Sadiya is deprived of emergency and essential services during lockdown period. Since COVID 19 outbreak has generated an extra-ordinary situation in the state, the rural economy should be revitalised to compensate the sluggish rate of urban economy.

Since the older people are at higher risk of coronavirus infections, Sonowal asked the SDO (C) to use its administrative machinery for special care of the elderly people. He also said that during the second of phase of lockdown, though some relaxations were given for some sectors to resume their activities, Sonowal maintained that the individuals engaged in these sectors should maintain social distancing norms.

MP Pradan Baruah, MLAs Bolin Chetia, Suren Phukan, Bimal Bora, DC Tinsukia Bhaskar Pegu, DIG (NE Division) Jitmol Doley, SP Tinsukia Shiladitya Chetia, SDO (C), Sadiya Shyamlal Gogoi and some other senior officers were present at the meeting.

Later talking to the media, Chief Minister Sonowal said that during lockdown period, Government of Assam is taking all possible measures to reach out to the people by making all emergency and essential services available to the people. Moreover, all steps have been taken

to render medical services to the people. He also reiterated that because of the timely and qualitative intervention of the government, patients suffering from COVID 19 in the state, recovered in a record time. He also said that during lockdown period, the State government has reached out to 58 lakh families and gave them rice along with financial aid to the people. He also thanked the people of Sadiya for adhering to the lockdown protocol and helped the Sub-Division's fight against COVID 19.

SD/PD/ April 23, 2020.