



**JANASANYOG, ASSAM
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CM attends virtual inauguration programme of IARI Gogamukh

IARI Assam Campus must take scientific knowledge to the farmers: CM

Dispur, Sept 25: Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar today virtually inaugurated the administrative building of the Assam Campus of Indian Agricultural Research Institute at Gogamukh in Dhemaji district in presence of Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister hailed the occasion as historic and a milestone achievement which would go a long way in giving a major boost to realizing the avowed goals of 'Integral Humanism' and "Antyodaya" as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure minimum standard of living for every individual. It was a remarkable that after merely three years of laying foundation stone by Prime Minister in 2017, this institute was ready to serve the region which shows goodwill and sincerity of the Prime Minister towards the people of this region, he said.

Referring to shrinking land resources against rising population and demand for food, the Chief Minister strongly pitched for a mix of scientific and traditional knowledge to improve soil fertility as the today's need is more crops in less time while increasing productivity and ensuring better incomes for farmers. Exuding confidence that IARI Assam Campus, covering an area of 585 acres, would be able to translate the vision of "Lab to Land" and "Seeds to Market" into reality, Sonowal thanked the Central Government for sanctioning 59 posts of scientists at the institute and starting classes in such a short time. He said, along with Assam, the entire region would benefit from the institute.

Urging the scientists of Assam campus of IARI to give adequate attention to provide scientific base to wisdom and foresight to the farmers through practical application of knowhow, Sonowal stressed on the need to make North East an organic hub with its inherent fertility so that the vision of Prime Minister to make NE an organic hub can be achieved. He hoped that IARI with its scientific interventions would make significant contribution in this regard.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the possibilities in agricultural sector, horticulture and floriculture in the region while pointing out low productivity of rice, low cropping intensity, very less irrigated area, soil acidity, land degradation etc. as some of the major concerns of Assam and urged IARI to make interventions in these areas to help farmers in the State.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has already set a target to double farmer's income through holistic intervention in the agriculture sector by 2022. Accordingly, several policies and programmes have been taken up for bringing about revolutionary reforms in agricultural sector in the form of two bills passed by Parliament only few days ago. This historic initiative

will not only double farmer's income but will ensure a complete transformation of the farm sector and empower crores of farmers in the country” Sonowal remarked.

The Chief Minister also threw light on the 5-year mega-mission of state government named Chief Minister Samagra Gramya Unnayan Yojana involving a financial outlay of Rs. 30,000 crore and massive farm mechanisation initiative taken under it to provide tractor to each of the 26,000 villages in the State. He also highlighted the state government’s step to distribute land patta to one lakh farm families during current financial year while already providing land patta to over 46 thousand landless farmers and asserted that the step would ensure government scheme benefits to farmers who were deprived of the same due to non possession of land rights.

Saying that annual production of food grain, fruits, vegetable, and fish etc. has significantly increased, Sonowal informed that farmers of Assam have now been able to export fruits and vegetables to markets like Dubai, London, Abu Dhabi and several others.

MP Lakhimpur Pradan Barua, Dhemaji MLA Dr Ranuj Pegu also gave speeches at the virtual programme which was attended by Union MoS of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare Kailash Choudhury, Media Adviser to the Chief Minister Hrishikesh Goswami, Secretary of Department of Agricultural Research and Education and Director General, ICAR, New Delhi Trilochan Mohapatra, Chairman of DNPL Rupam Goswami alongwith several other dignitaries.

BG/Swakkhyar/ September 25, 2020