



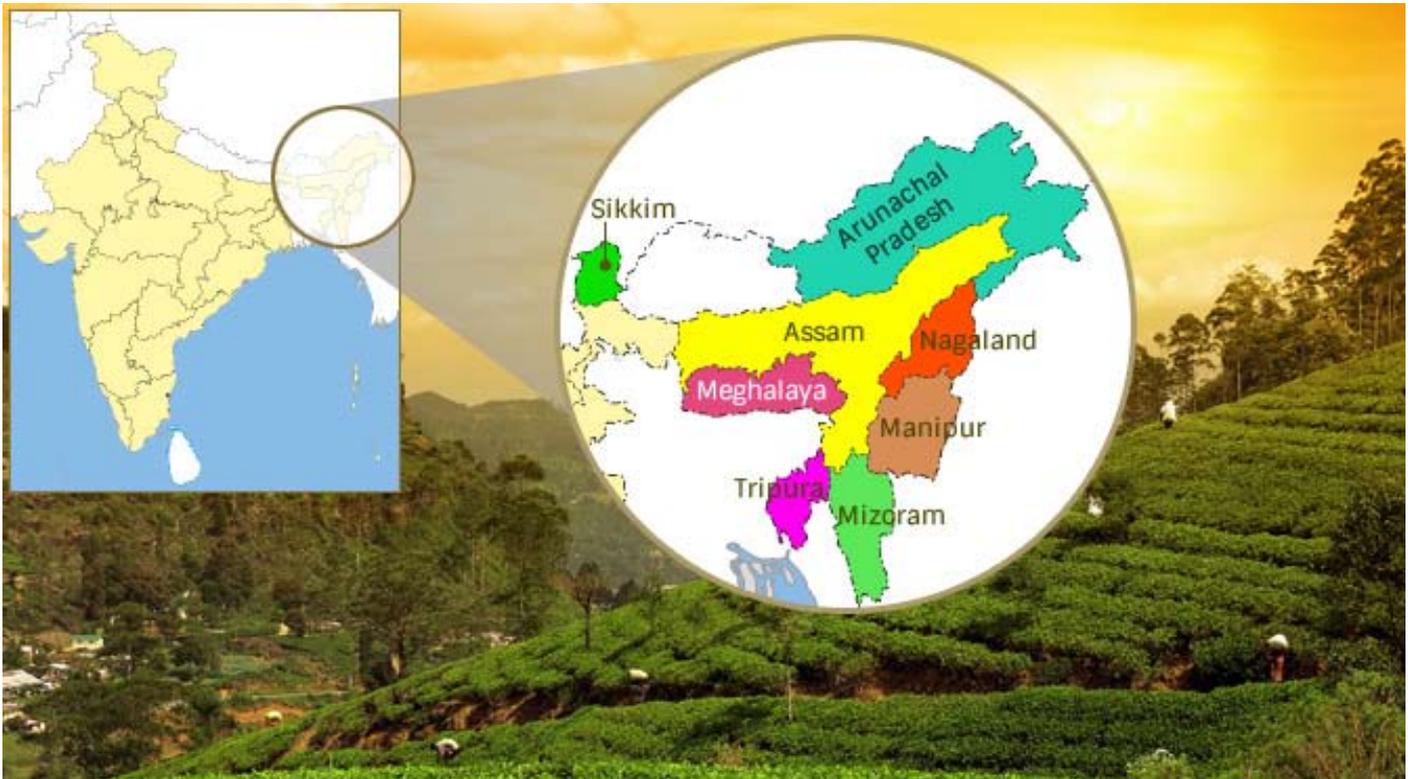
भारतीय कृषि एवं खाद्य परिषद्
INDIAN COUNCIL OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

UNTAPPED POTENTIAL OF NORTH EAST REGION NATIONAL ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE



15th MARCH 2017
INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, NEW DELHI

NORTH EAST REGION OVERVIEW



The seven states of North East India along with Sikkim, namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura cover 255.79 lakh hectares, constituting 7.92% of total land area of the country. The region has diverse hill ecosystems covering more than two-third of total geographical area. Agriculture is the major economic activity, followed by animal husbandry. The region has 3.73% of the total population of the country and contributes 2.6% to the Net Domestic Product with the total forest cover of more than 66.1% against the national average of 21.1%.

AGRICULTURE SECTOR SCENARIO

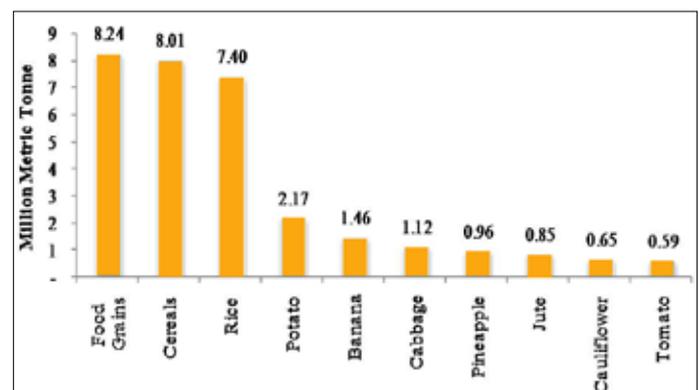
The major agricultural produce of the region includes food grains, cereals and rice as depicted in the following graph.

The region's comparative advantages in producing fruits, vegetables and other horticulture products can be tapped by setting small-scale processing units for the local market, which will also create rural employment. The region produces a large amount of spices such as chillies, ginger, mustard seeds, turmeric and others with high potential to

increase the production and productivity.

Rubber and bamboo are among the important produces, offering investment opportunities in the region. Tripura is the chief production hub, while other rubber producing states in the region are Mizoram and Assam. Considering that globally India ranks third in the production and fourth in the consumption of rubber, it creates a huge market for investors. Further, a substantial percentage of country's total value of bamboo production comes from the region with 20% of the global production value.

Top 10 Crops Produced in the North East Region of India; 2014-15



Source: NEDFi Databank

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY SECTOR SCENARIO

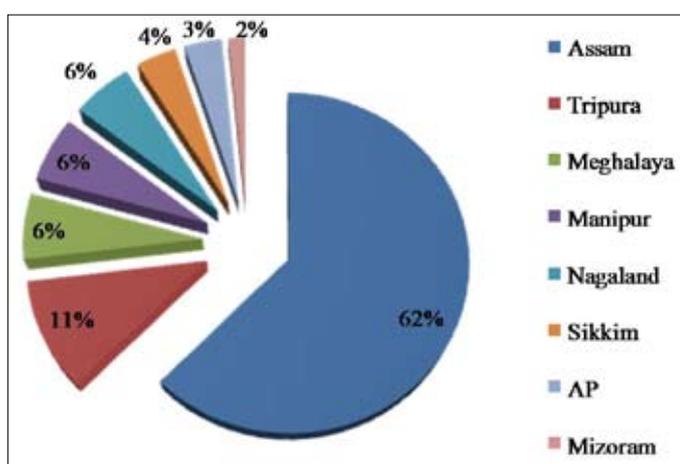
Livestock production in the North East is pre-dominantly the endeavor of small holders, as almost 90% of the rural household rear livestock of one species or the other. Though there is vast potential for growth in this sector, the region has not achieved self sufficiency level in its production.

Milk Production

Milk production is secondary to agricultural operations in the region. There are hardly any commercial livestock farms in the rural areas although in the periphery of cities and towns, a few commercial dairy farms exist. However, due to the favorable climatic conditions for setting up of dairy farms and processing units, many cooperatives and private players want to widen their presence in the region. As a step towards this, they need to shape alliances with local players for procuring milk and selling their branded products.

Egg Production

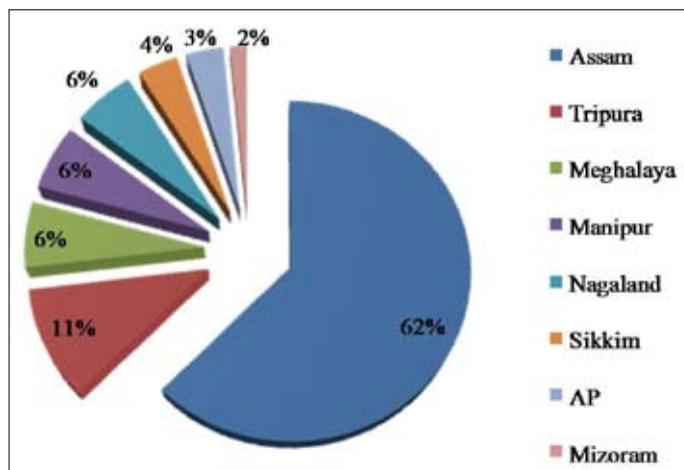
Egg production in the North East Region is largely



Source: Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries

governed by the backyard poultry farming, which usually comprises rearing indigenous birds with low production performances. The potentiality of indigenous bird in terms of egg production is only 70-80 per year. Backyard poultry is advantageous as it provides supplementary income in shortest possible time with minimum capital investment and simple operation, while ensuring availability of eggs even in remote areas. Moreover, with this practice the egg production can be increased so as to achieve self sufficiency in eggs for local demand.

Egg Production in the North East Region of India; 2014-15

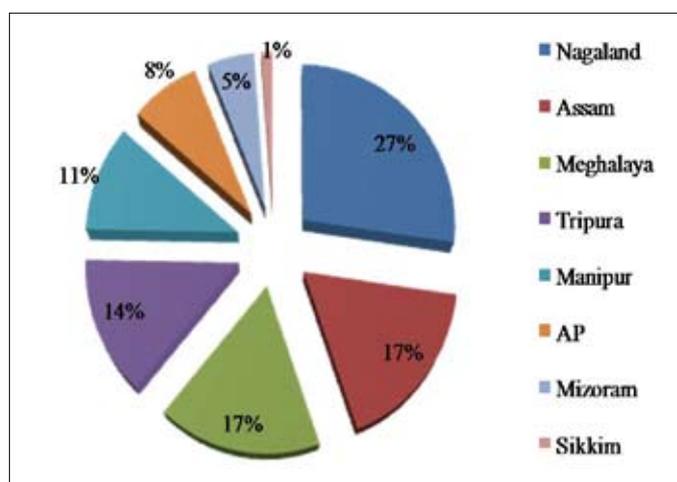


Source: Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries

Meat Production

The main agricultural activity of farmers in Northeast India is the mixed crop-livestock system with livestock as an important component, due to preference of meat in the diet of people in the region. The area is also subsequently known as meat consuming zone of India. There exist no social taboos in taking any type of meat but the most preferred one is pork, followed by beef, chicken and others. Assam, Nagaland and Meghalaya are the major pig rearing states. Approximately, 28% of the total pig population of India is found in the region. Piggery is a promising venture in the region due to high demand for pork among the tribal people of the region.

Meat Production in the North East Region of India; 2014-15



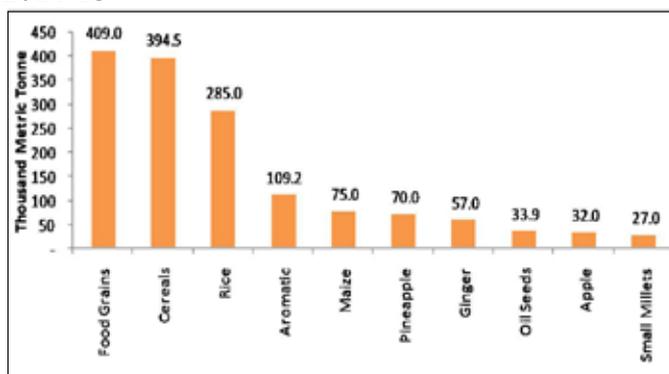
Source: Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries

STATE-WISE AGRICULTURAL SCENARIO

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

The state's economy is largely agrarian, based on the terraced farming of rice and the cultivation of crops such as maize, millet, wheat, pulses, sugarcane, ginger, oilseeds, cereals, potato, and pineapple. Due to its topography, the state has varied agro-climatic conditions suitable for horticulture crops, especially flowers and aromatic and medicinal plants. It is home to 601 species of orchids, i.e., 52% of the species of orchids known in India, indicating a huge potential for attracting tourists, especially foreigners.

Top 10 Crops Produced in Arunachal Pradesh; 2014-15

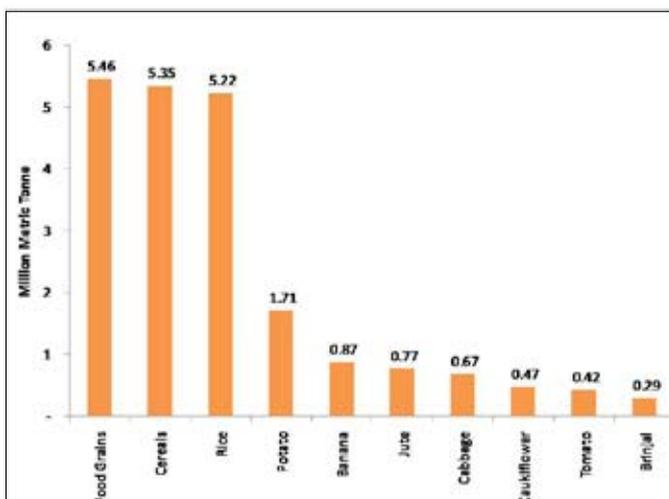


Source: NEDFi Databank

ASSAM

According to the survey of 2012-13, about 53 % of the population is dependent on agriculture in Assam. Major

Top 10 Crops Produced in Assam; 2014-15



Source: NEDFi Databank

agricultural products of the state are rice, tea, jute, mustard, pulses, sugarcane, potatoes, oranges, pineapples, coconut, betel, black pepper, citrus fruits and bananas besides many types of vegetables. Assam excels as number one tea producing state in the country contributing to over half of the total annual production of the country and the state earns about 11% of its revenue from the tea production.

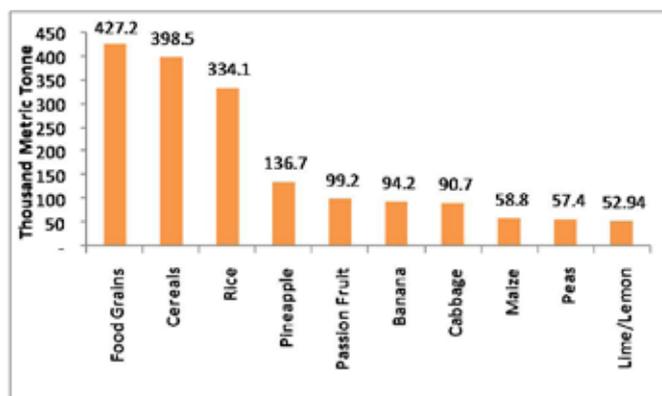
MANIPUR

Manipur is situated in the eastern-most corner of Northeast India. The state shares borders with the neighboring country of Myanmar. Manipur has the advantage of acting as India's 'Gateway to the East' through Moreh town, which is the only feasible land route for trade between India and Myanmar and other Southeast Asian countries. With about 3,268 square km of area covered by bamboo forests, Manipur is one of India's largest bamboo producing states and a major contributor to the country's bamboo industry. In 2015, the state accounted for 9,303 square km of bamboo bearing area. Some of the major crops produced in the state are as follows:

MEGHALAYA

Meghalaya has diverse range of soil types, including red-loamy and laterite, which supports various agricultural crops like rice, maize, pulses, oilseeds, cotton, jute and mesta. The state has a strong floriculture sector and is one

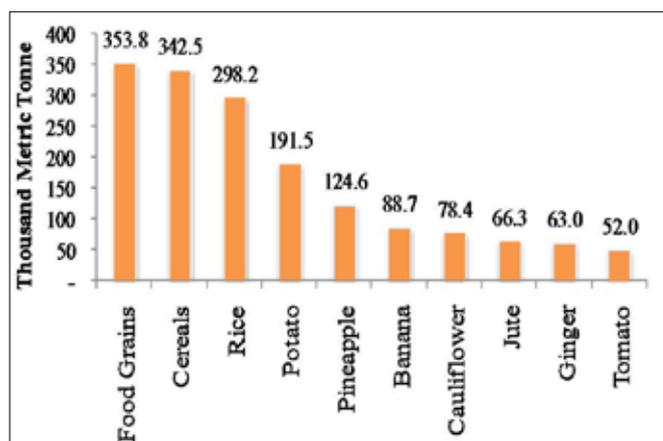
Top 10 Crops Produced in Manipur; 2014-15



Source: NEDFi Databank

of the leading states in the region in terms of production and supply of cut flowers to mainland consumer markets. Of the 6,000 medicinal plants in India, 834 plants, including the famous Himalayan Yew, are found in Meghalaya. Moreover, the state offers 8 of the top 20 medicinal plants that are traded in the country and are in high demand. Also, about 14% of Meghalaya is covered by bamboo forests, and is one of the leading bamboo producers in the

Top 10 Crops Produced in Meghalaya; 2014-15



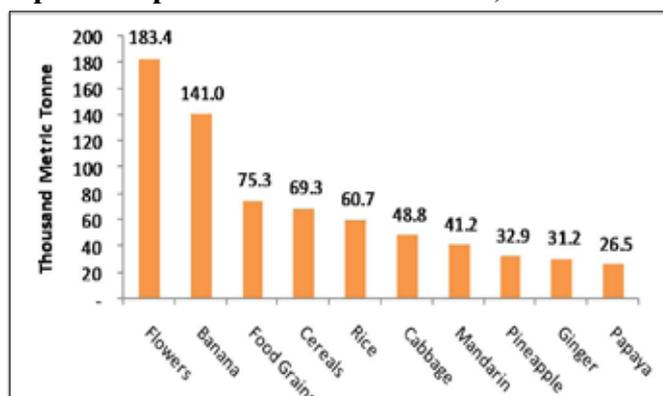
Source: NEDFi Databank

country.

MIZORAM

The climatic conditions in the Mizoram are quite suitable for the production of fruits. Thus, the state accounts for approximately 13% of the total fruit production in the North East Region. Paddy is the principal food crop and the staple food of the state. With the implementation of the National Food Security Mission – Rice, the productivity of rice under wet rice cultivation increased tremendously. The state has high export potential in horticulture and agro-processed products, of which, only bamboo cultivation is commercial.

Top 10 Crops Produced in Mizoram; 2014-15

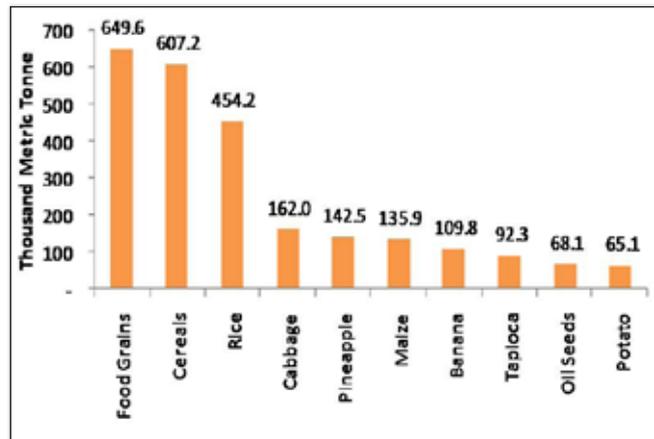


Source: NEDFi Databank

NAGALAND

The gross state domestic product (GSDP) of Nagaland was about US\$ 3.47 billion in 2015-16, of which agriculture and allied sector contribution stood at 20% and is expected to reach 28% by 2025. Approximately, 71% of the state's population is engaged in farming. The agro-climatic conditions in Nagaland provide commercial opportunities for floriculture and horticulture and also have 650 indigenous species of medicinal and aromatic

Top 10 Crops Produced in Nagaland; 2014-15



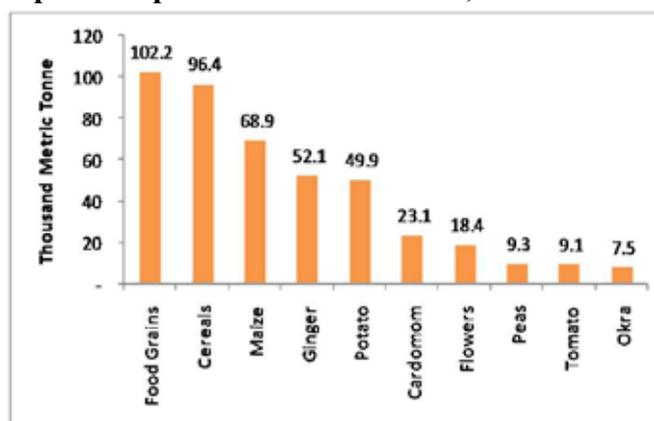
Source: NEDFi Databank

plants. The state is estimated to have the potential to produce 15,000 metric tonne of honey and 100 metric tonne of wax against the recorded production of 0.25 thousand tonne of honey in 2014-15.

SIKKIM

The state of Sikkim is abundantly endowed with rare and exotic flora and fauna, which includes 4,500 different flowering plants, 550 types of orchids, 36 varieties of rhododendrons, 28 bamboo species, over 144 mammals, 552 species of birds and 600 different butterflies, which makes it one of the leading states of the region in production and supply of cut flowers to mainland consumer markets.

Top 10 Crops Produced in Sikkim; 2014-15



Source: NEDFi Databank

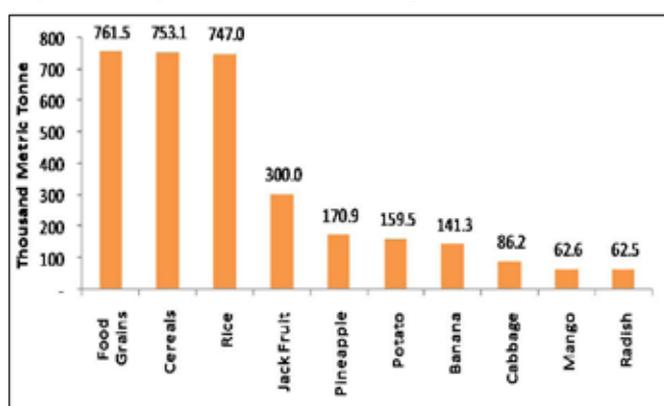
The favorable climate for agricultural and horticultural products enables it to support multiple crops; viz., rice, wheat, maize, millet, barley, urad, pea, soya bean, mustard and large cardamom. In fact, Sikkim is the top producer of large cardamom, contributing over 80% to India's total production.



TRIPURA

Tripura is endowed with rich and diverse bamboo resources and accounts for about 6% of bamboo sticks, used for making incense sticks in India. Around 21 of the 130 bamboo species known in India are grown here. Moreover, Tripura holds a strong tea plantation base, with cultivation area of over 6,400 hectares as of 2014-15 and is the second largest rubber producer in the country after Kerala.

Top 10 Crops Produced in Tripura; 2014-15



Source: NEDFi Databank

CONCLUSION

North East Region of India has plethora of investment opportunities to offer. The food and meat processing sector provides immense potential for investment, with huge scope for dairy & fishery processing and poultry in the region. Though processing is not capital intensive yet there exists demand for dried fish in the region. Private entrepreneurs have tremendous opportunities to set up

storage, distribution and marketing infrastructure, such as a cold storage chain along major arterial highways. Besides, across border trade from these states can be a major source of income as the region shares 4,500 kilometers of international border with four other countries.

STATE-WISE DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDE:

- Arunachal Pradesh has taken up the cultivation of horticulture produce especially of sub-tropical fruits on a large scale with assistance from the government.
- Mizoram, which accounts for 13% of the total fruits produced in the north east, a special purpose vehicle (SPV) has been formed with private sector companies to set up a plant for the processing of turmeric, ginger, chilly, fruits and other horticulture products.
- In Manipur, organic farming is the most sought-after practice in the hill areas. With proper processing, many of the agri-horticultural crops of the state have immense export promise. Another focus area for the agro based industry is the processing for extracts of spices, medicinal and herbal plants.
- Sikkim: Declared one of its types the organic state in the country.

In the above context of massive developmental and investment opportunities, state of various ongoing initiatives and interventions by multitude of stakeholders as well as the constraints and challenges, this National Round Table aimed to deliberate and delineate best possible ways and means to improvise, innovate, synergize and optimize the all-encompassing developmental push on the north eastern region.



DELIBERATIONS



North East region is one of the richest reservoir of genetic variability and diversity of different crops i.e., various kinds of fruits & vegetables, spices, ornamental plants and also medicinal & aromatic plants. The diversity for horticultural crops of this region has mainly been managed by local farmers, often women. In spite of the presence of diversified crops in the region, the potential of the region is still untapped. In order to discuss the untapped potential of the region, a national round table on “UNTAPPED POTENTIAL OF NORTH EAST REGION” was organized by Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) on March 15, 2017 at India International Centre, New Delhi. The main purpose was to provide a platform to private players, government officials and heads of research and academic institutions to interact face to face and talk over the issues, challenges and opportunities in the region and steps required in the same direction.

The conference was chaired by Hon’ble Secretary – Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region,

Sh. Naveen Verma with the presence of many eminent faces from various sectors active in North East Region. In all 45 plus persons from the Government, industry, institutions and research system participated in the brainstorming session.

Mr. Alok Sinha, Director General- ICFA, welcomed all the participants and expressed gratitude to the secretary, Ministry of DoNER, Sh. Naveen Verma for his benign presence in the event.

Sh. Naveen Verma, Secretary-Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, in his opening remarks underlined the importance of agriculture for development of the North East Region. He mentioned that the region is primarily organic in nature but needs certification and branding for enhanced product recognition. Also, the need for capacity building and technological advancements in the region was stressed upon. Further, he deliberated upon Indian investors looking for opportunities in international market and overlooking the potential within, especially in North East Region and brought to light the huge export



potential for medicinal plants that region holds. Hence, he invited industry to invest in the region, and revealed soon coming up with a venture fund to increase investments and encourage startups in North East Region. Moreover he made the house aware of improved logistics, especially flights, trains, road network and inland waterways.

Mr. Vijay Sardana, Head – Food & Agribusiness, UPL Group, addressed various challenges and opportunities in the North East Region of India, from the viewpoint of an entrepreneur. He spoke of the capitalization issue that, entrepreneurs were not able to capitalize the opportunities in the region and a few major challenges faced in this regard were:

- **Logistics Challenge:** Products are being traded to North East Region from Andhra Pradesh but not vice-versa.
- **High Cost of Distribution:** Population of the North East Region is scattered, which results in high cost of distribution.
- **Low Average Productivity:** The average productivity for all the eight states in the North East Region individually was found to be lower than all India average for fruits as well as vegetables, while it was reverse for the spices. Thus, huge untapped potential for entrepreneurs lies in the spices segment further, it being high value and low volume product and could bear logistics challenge.
- **Packaging Issues:** Entrepreneurs need to travel to other states for packaging printing etc., which make product cost ineffective for producers as well as consumers.
- **Inadequate Infrastructure** i.e. warehouses & cold storages, unavailability of nutritious fodder for cattle and dearth of quality planting material, and illegal market routes for livestock and poultry in the region were some other major concerns.

According to him, despite the above mentioned challenges, region has opportunities which need to be identified and addressed in a systematic manner.

- He opined that Siliguri is the best trading center for traders in the North East Region as it connects the entire North East Region with the adjoining countries, such as, Nepal, Bhutan and Tibet.



- Some of the sectors that have great opportunities in the region were:
 - o **Piggery:** Pig meat has high demand in India and international market, which currently is being imported to meet the domestic demand. Further, it is convenient to set up slaughter houses in NER than anywhere else in the country.
 - o **Fisheries:** The availability of large water bodies in the region makes fisheries a lucrative option.
 - o Other opportunities in the region, such as sericulture, apiculture and minor forest products could be capitalized on.

Further, he identified the requirement of the strategic planning, feasibility study and SWOT analysis for the North East Region. At last, he stressed on the need to develop local entrepreneurs for local and neighboring markets and adding value to the products with a touch of glamour like souvenirs for tourists.

Mr. Harpal Singh Grewal, Promoter Director, Heavenly Farms, briefly talked about the organic farming versus chemical farming. He mentioned about various benefits of organic products and potential of North East Region of producing the same.

Ms. Monalisa Das, Joint Resident Commissioner, Sikkim, stated that in Sikkim, 84% of land is forest area and only 16% land is habitable and this limited land is to be efficiently utilized for residential and economic purposes. Hence, certain organic commodities, which could fetch high price and give better returns are focused.

Mr. R.P.S. Gandhi, Chairman, Green Valley Stevia,



brought to light that stevia is one of the five most profitable crops in the North East Region and a viable opportunity to increase farmers' incomes.

Mr. Gaurav Mehra, Managing Director, SMGK Agro Exports, expressed his interest in procuring pineapple and spices directly from farmers and sought guidance from the government and experts regarding the same.

Prof S.M. Ilyas, Former Director, NAARM, brought to the notice that there are inadequate storage facilities in the region. Thus, he opined that instead of focusing on high volume high yielding plants, which have more logistic requirement to aromatic & medicinal plants and spices, which have high potential due to the topography of the region and are low volume high value crops. Also, he recommended adopting the policy of one village one crop as in Malaysia and promoting local entrepreneurs in the area.

Mr. M.P.S. Rathi, Director, Tropical Agro Systems, talked of the pineapples in the region, but also drew attention towards perishable nature of the fruit. Thus, for better returns, he suggested setting up small plants for the extraction of the concentrated juice and trading it to other parts of the nation and world.

Mr. Arvind Aggarwal, Director, Arohan Foods Pvt. Ltd., brought to the notice that his company to a great extent has been successful in replacing the imported pig meat in Indian hotel industry. He also mentioned that they have collaborated with a research institute for research on development of better pig feed. He also expressed interest in exporting the pig meat to international markets but was facing few challenges. Thus, requested for guidance from the government for the same.

Dr. Anish Chatterjee, Principal Coordinator, AFPRO, briefly talked about his experience in piggery and goat rearing and recommended skill training for youth in the region, as it would open more avenues for employment and livelihood.

Dr. Gauri PVSM, Vice President – Organics, Round Glass Partners, underlined some of the initiatives taken by the government for the development of the region. She discussed the initiatives for promoting organic farming in the North East Region and suggested promoting young groups and helping them financially to increase the organic production in Sikkim and other states.

Mr. Tushar Pandey, Senior President – Horticulture,





Yes Bank, spoke of limited high altitude plants, adoption of cluster approach, and digital banking in the region and drawing economic value for North East Region. He identified horticulture products as substitutes for imported products and stated Assam as the hub for commercial business. Thus, he suggested further expansion of the state's potential.

Dr. V Sadamate, Adviser and Expert, Planning Commission, GoI, focused on strengthening of extension services as there are large number of agencies, such as KVKs, ATMA which could help in providing technological options to the farmers.

Dr. S Bhaskar, ADG (NRM), ICAR, stated that NER region is defacto organic, thus, there is a need for certification of the organic products. Along with this, he also mentioned about plants being affected by diseases, such as banana plant. Thus, he opined to address this challenge.

Dr. T Jankiram, ADG Horticulture (Vegs), ICAR, talked about the organic value chain development schemes, integrated organic farming system, carbon neutral farming and certification of products. He also briefed the house about cluster approach for the production of various crops in the region. He underlined the potential of dry flower exports from the North East Region and unexplored crops like jack fruit.

Dr. K.L. Chadda, President, HIS and Chairman, ICFA Working Group (WG) on Horticulture, mentioned that there is limited land available for farming in the region as most of the land is waste land. Thus, he voiced to identify the suitable crops with their requirement. He

suggested to analyze:

- Crops for local market
- Crops for domestic market.
- Crops, which could be exported to adjoining countries and developed countries
- Crops required by processing industries.

According to him, technology has not perpetuated despite several efforts being made. There is a need to review critical technology for each crop. Like for citrus crops – micro propagated in vitro plants, for bananas – micro propagated plants. Thus, units can be established for the same in the region. He emphasized on introducing the technology to North East Region selectively. Also, he suggested following high density planting approach and cluster approach. He affirmed to explore the crops like passion fruit, mushroom etc.

Dr. A.K. Yadav, Advisor – NAB, APEDA, focused on the problem of availability of produce. He talked about the Mission Organic Value Chain Development Scheme, under which, concentrated cluster models and integrated cold chains were developed to produce quality and quantity of limited products. According to him, there is a need to explore the local markets of the region so as to reduce transportation cost and promote products to tourists. He also opined that every state had its own area of expertise and must promote it. He concluded with saying that piggery has high potential in the region.

Ms. Niteeka Walia Chabra, Fellow, TERI, pointed out that it is difficult to find disease free ginger, not only in North East Region but also in rest of India along with Bananas. Thus, there is a need for tissue



culture for producing disease free planting material. She also identified the high potential of banana fiber as it is used for making Japanese Currency. Along with this, she suggested to opt for inter cropping approach, in which farmers could choose spices and vegetables for the purpose.

Mr. Kunal Tiwari, Executive Director, CARD, enquired about adopted methods to address farmers' needs of technological developments or technical know-how. To which, it was realised that there is a need for farmers call center in NER.



Mr. Sunil Kumar, General Manager, Amira Foods, shared his experiences of sourcing turmeric from Sikkim and found that it was not suitable for FMCG sector and was rich for medicinal uses. Based on his experience he advocated positioning and branding of products from region on quality basis. He also quoted the high price of the organic products from Sikkim as compared to those from Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.

Mr. Kamal Somani, Managing Director, Somani Kanak Seedz, focused on the production of yellow capsicum, hybrid cucumber and small cardamom.

According to him, yellow capsicum can be produced in the North East Region as the cost of production would be low, although climatic conditions were not suitable for seed production.

Dr. A.K. Shrivastav, Director Projects, CARD, stressed on tourism study for the region and suggested to promote agri-tourism along with carrying out a successful experiment, inclusive of all aspects i.e., pre-production – production – post-production along with long term projects, which be scaled in the logical way i.e., area – product – stakeholders.

Mr. Sohrab, Managing Director, Quality Care Services, talked of value addition to trade if the products are certified. He stressed on the importance of certification to ensure quality products in the market.

Mr. Harish Mehta, Senior General Manager, DhanukaAgritech Limited, briefly stated about the growth in income from tea plantations, especially for small farms.

Dr. M.J. Khan, Chairman, ICFA, proposed to have a Joint Business Council with ASEAN focusing on North East Region to facilitate and promote international trade and MoU for food processing with NERMCA. He also discussed about coming up with the model for e-commerce website, with in-built customer feedback and satisfaction feature which would help artisans work in the required direction to promote North East Region Craft.

Sh. Naveen Verma at last remarked the enlightening discussion and suggested ICFA to organize Round Table Conferences relating to specific sector, such as, Agri-Tourism, Animal Husbandry, Rural Craft, Packaging and more in specification to North East Region.

Finally, the formal vote of thanks was presented by Director – Corporate Affairs, ICFA, Ms. Mamta Jain. She expressed gratitude to Sh. Naveen Verma for sparing his valuable time and gracing the conference. She also thanked all other dignitaries for active participation making the discussion worthy.



MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- NER covers a total area of 255.79 lakh hectares, of which forest cover is 66.1%, thus leaving only 34 % of land for residential as well as economic purposes. Resultantly it is to be efficiently utilized for better livelihood. As NER has vast diversity to offer under varied agro climatic conditions, the high potential crops and produce need to be tapped.
- Therefore, it is recommended to constitute a committee of experts from all relevant aspects to analyse the crops for firstly local as well as domestic consumption, secondly for exports to neighbouring countries and rest of the world and lastly for food processing industry. Further, the competitive advantage for the identified crops need to be worked out for better advisory to the states. Productivity improvement in key spices crops and area expansion is as much critical as is market linkages and branding for maximum gains to accrue to the farmers.
- Piggery could be a great opportunity for NER considering huge domestic as well as export demand and limited availability for the same. As the piggery is low input high output venture in less time period and NER has natural resources in sufficient to undertake the rearing. In accordance it is hereby submitted that government should fund the breeding and extension services and provide the peasants with necessary subsidy to undertake the piggery. A tripartite arrangement between an NGO – ICAR – Banker, supported by the Government can go well in promoting profitable piggeries in NER.
- As new avenues in agriculture and allied sectors are coming up, skills development of the communities and technical exposure of farmers is necessary. Therefore government should earmark funds for training and exposure visits to successful farming and agro ventures, outside NER so that people of the region could learn most advances techniques and practices and practice the same. Preparing training modules on new emerging areas is a prerequisite for promoting alternative crops for income generation. Specialised extension services for horticulture, spices, fisheries, piggeries, livestock sector and other focused sectors need to be created by a Government created SPV or a reputed NGO to be funded to execute services.
- NER has products like bamboo, jackfruit, dry flower which largely remain unexplored and have opportunities in global market. Thus, to tap the potential of such unexplored products, Government should earmark funds to promote research regarding their feasibility and cost benefit analysis in the region. It is also suggested that government through existing extension institutions should demonstrate the scientific cultivation to harvest high quality and quantity of yield.
- To promote and establish the processing industry in the region, quality needs to be ascertained, in this regard the region should have incubation centers for developing and testing of technologies and testing labs to ensure the food and produce quality. It is hereby recommended to establish at least one quality testing lab in Guwahati initially and later one in each state and four incubation centers for the region. Public private partnership model for the same may also be considered.
- Rather than fetching raw material for processing industry from NER to distant places, setting up value addition and processing industry with support from government is a feasible option. It will not only reduce cost of transportation, yet generate employment opportunities in the region. However the critical element for the success of the food processing unit in NER is 1) multi-purpose plant 2) chain of specialized marketing outlets and 3) national branding of NorthEast food / juices
- Further crops with hardy nature and long shelf life should be promoted against perishable nature commodities to sustain distant transportation. Disease free horticulture Quality planting material, produced under in-vitro conditions, is critical to improving yields and profitability on sustainable basis. Such technologies are available with ICAR. A modern tissue culture lab and nursery need to be set up for key crops of the region.
- Incubation centers to develop and test technologies before dissemination to communities are required in the region. A food testing lab is the critical requirement for facilitating the growth of organic as well as non organic food from the region. The Ministry of DONER may consider funding a lab.
- Under the Act East Policy of the current Government and imminent opening of the trade route with East Asian countries, Indo-ASEAN Joint Business Council, as proposed by ICFA will be very useful to facilitate trade across borders.



LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. Sh. Naveen Verma, Hon'ble Secretary-Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
2. Mr. Vijay Sardana, Head – Food & Agribusiness, UPL Group
3. Mr. Harpal Singh Grewal, Promoter Director, Heavenly Farms
4. Ms. Monalisa Das, Joint Resident Commissioner, Sikkim
5. Mr. R.P.S. Gandhi, Chairman, Green Valley Stevia
6. Mr. Gaurav Mehra, Managing Director, SMGK Agro Exports
7. Prof. S.M. Ilyas, Former Director, NAARM
8. Mr. Arvind Aggarwal, Director, Arohan Foods Pvt. Ltd.
9. Dr. Anish Chatterjee, Principal Coordinator, AFPRO
10. Dr. Gauri PVSM, Vice President – Organics, RoundGlass Partners
11. Mr. Tushar Pandey, Senior President – Horticulture, Yes Bank
12. Dr. V Sadamate, Adviser and Expert, Planning Commission, GoI
13. Dr. S Bhaskar, ADG (NRM), ICAR
14. Dr. T Jankiram, ADG Horticulture (Vegs), ICAR
15. Dr. K.L. Chadda, President, HIS and Chairman, ICFA WG on Horticulture
16. Dr. A.K. Yadav, Advisor – NAB, APEDA
17. Ms. Niteeka Walia Chabra, Fellow, TERI
18. Mr. Sunil Kumar, General Manager, Amira Foods
19. Mr. Kamal Somani, Managing Director, Somani Kanak Seedz
20. Mr. Abhishek Somani, Director, Somani Kanak Seedz
21. Dr. P.P.S. Pangli, Chairman, UFEI
22. Dr. H.S. Ghanaur, Vice President, UFEI
23. Dr. Kalyan Goswami, Executive Director, NSAI
24. Mr. Mohammad Yusuf, Executive Director, HARYALI CARD
25. Mr. Pradeep Kumar, Head – Business Development, ISAP
26. Ms. Geetanjali Gupta, Commissioner, Arunachal Pradesh
27. Ms. Rwitticka Kalita, Commissioner, Assam
28. Mr. Saurabh Garg, CEO, Aryan International
29. Mr. Parth Joshi, Vice President – North East Region Initiatives, Yes Bank
30. Mr. Sohrab, Managing Director, Quality Care Services
31. Mr. Harish Mehta, Senior General Manager, Dhanuka Agritech Limited
32. Mr. M.P.S. Rathi, Director, Tropical Agro Systems
33. Mr. R.K. Mor, OSD, Government of Manipur
34. Mr. Pankaj Sinha, Director, Bio Produxio
35. Mr. Nirmesh Singh, Editor, Agri Nation
36. Mr. Ram Aggarwal, Roots Organics, Mumbai
37. Dr. Ranvir Singh, Senior General Manager – Organics, International Panaacea Ltd.
38. Mr. Ashok Joshi, Owner, Himalayan Organic (Jaivik Food)
39. Mr. Shashank Dev Giri, Farmer, India Best 24
40. Mr. Ram Swaroop Das, CEO, Annamrit Foundation
41. Ms. Monika Khanna, Skill Expert – India, Edukans
42. Mr. Kunal Tiwari, Executive Director, CARD
43. Dr. A.K. Shrivastav, Director Projects, CARD
44. Dr. M.J. Khan, Chairman, ICFA
45. Mr. Alok Sinha, Director General, ICFA
46. Mr. N.S. Randhawa, Executive Director, ICFA
47. Ms. Mamta Jain, Director – Policy and Corporate Affairs, ICFA
48. Dr. Sucheta Arora, Director –Knowledge Management, ICFA
49. Dr. Priyanka Sarkar, Vice President – Programs & Policy Affairs, ICFA
50. Mr. Shivam Sharma, DGM, Office of Chairman, ICFA