



भारतीय कृषि एवं खाद्य परिषद्  
INDIAN COUNCIL OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

# INDIAN NORTH EAST REGION OVERVIEW



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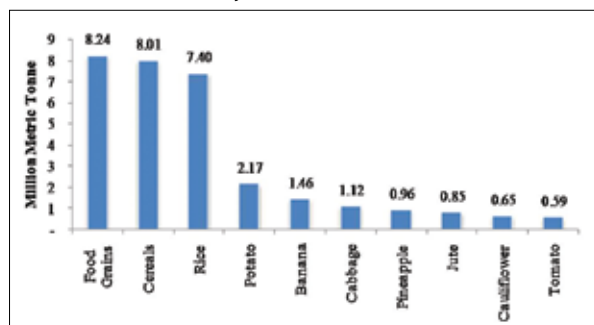
## Indian North East Region Overview

The seven states of Northeastern 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 dominant 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. It has a 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.

#### TOP 10 CROPS PRODUCED IN THE NORTH EAST REGION OF INDIA; 2014-15



Source: NEDFi Databank

The region's comparative advantages in producing fruits, vegetables and other horticulture products can be tapped by setting up small-scale processing units for the local market, which will also boost rural employment. The region produces a large amount of spices such as chillies, ginger, mustard seeds, turmeric etc. Also, rubber and bamboo are among the important agricultural 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. The NE states also produce a substantial percentage of bamboo, accounting for 65% of India's production value and 20% of the global production value.

### ANIMAL HUSBANDRY SECTOR SCENARIO

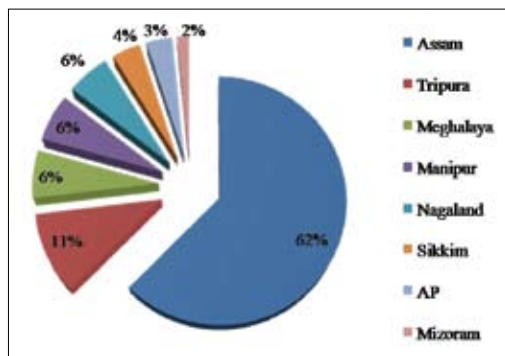
Livestock production in the North East is pre-dominantly the endeavor of small holders. Almost 90% of the rural households keep livestock of one species or the other. Though there is vast potential for growth in this sector, yet production of meat, milk and eggs has not achieved self-sufficiency level in this region.

#### 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,



### TOP 10 CROPS PRODUCED IN THE NORTH EAST REGION OF INDIA; 2014-15



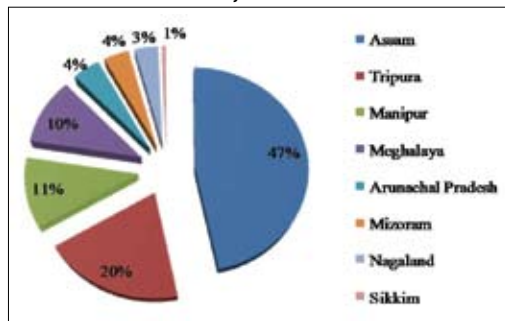
Source: Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries

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 are looking to forge alliances with local players for procuring milk and selling their branded products.

### Egg Production

Egg production in the North East Region is largely governed by the backyard poultry farming, which usually comprises of rearing indigenous birds with low production performances. The production potential 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 little minimum capital investment, simple operation

### EGG PRODUCTION IN THE NORTH EAST REGION OF INDIA; 2014-15



Source: Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries

and ensuring availability of eggs even in remote areas. Moreover, with this practice the egg production can be increased so the import of eggs from other states can be reduced and increased in the economy of the region.

### Meat Production

The main agricultural activity of farmers in North-east India is the mixed crop-livestock system with livestock as an important component due to preference of meat in the diets of people in the region. The area is known as meat consuming zone of India. There are no social taboos in taking any type of meat but the most preferred meat is pork, followed by beef, chicken and others. Assam, Nagaland and Meghalaya are the major

pig rearing states of NE region. Approximately, 28% of the total pig population of India is found in the region. Pig rearing is very promising in the region due to high demand for pig meat within the tribal people of the NE region. Thus, the pig sector is of major importance for rural livelihoods and poverty alleviation.

### STATE-WISE AGRICULTURAL SCENARIO

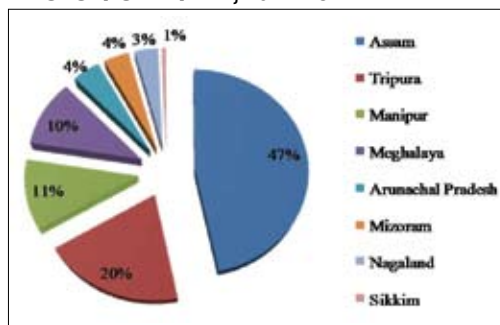
#### ARUNACHAL PRADESH

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. 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.

#### ASSAM

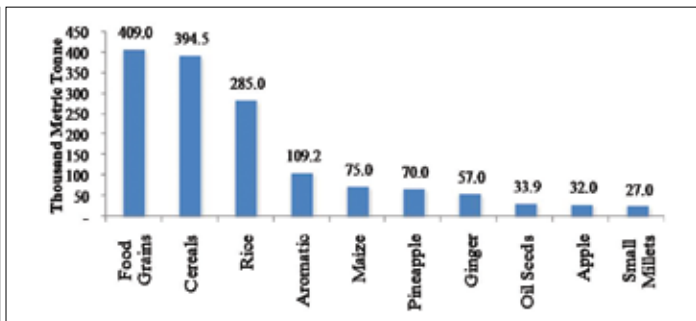
According to the survey of 2012-13, about 53 % of the population is dependent on agriculture in Assam. Major agricultural products of the state are rice, tea, jute, mustard,

### MEAT PRODUCTION IN THE NORTH EAST REGION OF INDIA; 2014-15



Source: Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries

### TOP 10 CROPS PRODUCED IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH; 2014-15

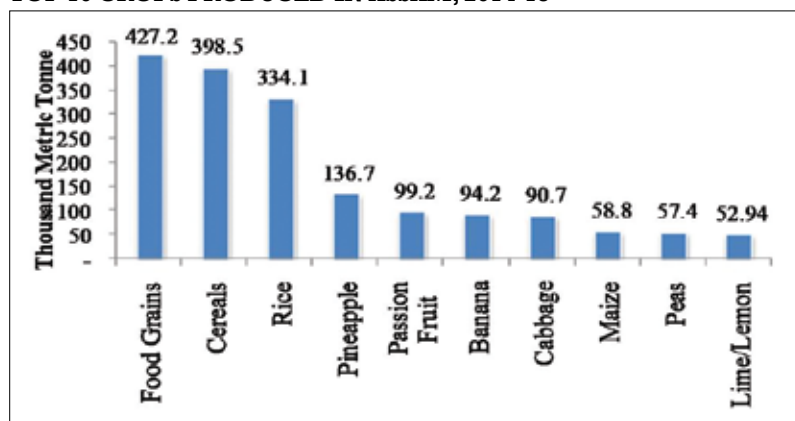


Source: NEDFi Databank

pulses, sugarcane, potatoes, oranges, pineapples, coconut, betel, black pepper, citrus fruits and bananas besides many types of vegetables. The total annual production of rice in the state was 5.22 million metric tonnes during

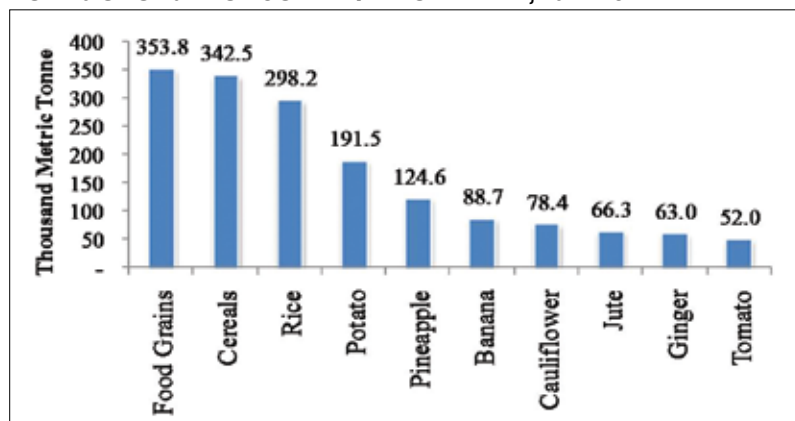
2014-15. Assam excels as number one tea producing state in the country contributing to over half of the total annual production of the country and the state earns about 11% of its revenue from the tea production.

#### TOP 10 CROPS PRODUCED IN ASSAM; 2014-15



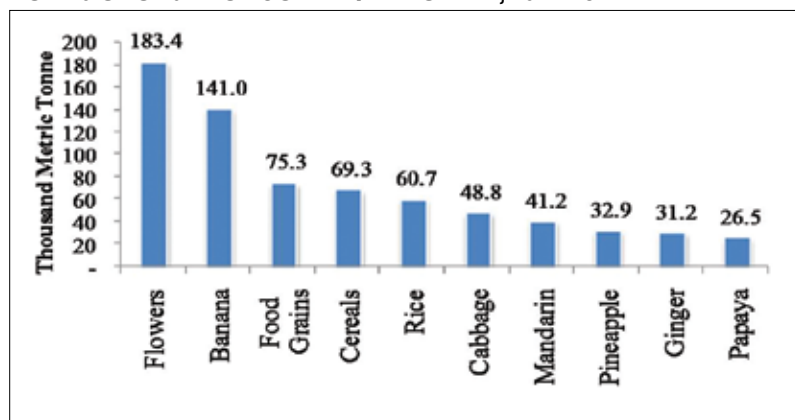
Source: NEDFi Databank

#### TOP 10 CROPS PRODUCED IN MEGHALAYA; 2014-15



Source: NEDFi Databank

#### TOP 10 CROPS PRODUCED IN MIZORAM; 2014-15



Source: NEDFi Databank

### 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.

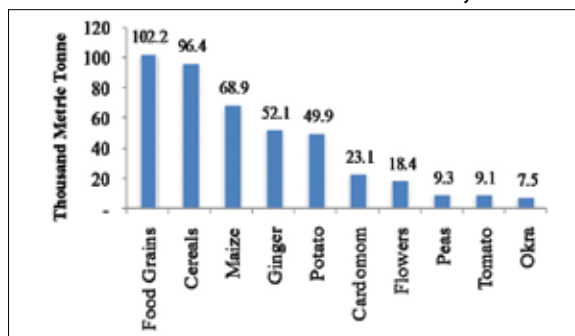
### MEGHALAYA

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 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 in Meghalaya. Moreover, the state has 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 country.

### MIZORAM

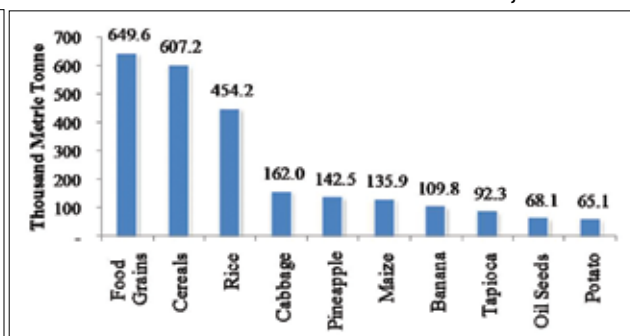
The climatic conditions in the Mizoram are quite suitable for the production of fruits. Thus, accounts for approximately 13% of the total fruits produced in the North East Region. Also, paddy is the principal food crop and is the staple food of the state. With the implementation of the National Food Security Mission – Rice, the productivity of rice under wet rice cul-

### TOP 10 CROPS PRODUCED IN SIKKIM; 2014-15



Source: NEDFi Databank

### TOP 10 CROPS PRODUCED IN NAGALAND; 2014-15



tivation increased tremendously. Horticulture, agro-processed and bamboo products have high export potential with bamboo cultivation being an area highly commercialized.

### 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 to the economic output stood at 20% and 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. The state has 650 indigenous species of medicinal and aromatic plants. The state is estimated to have the potential to produce 15,000 metric

tonnes of honey and 100 metric tonnes of wax. Moreover, the production of honey during 2014-15 was recorded to be 0.25 thousand tonnes.

### SIKKIM

The state 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. This makes it one of the leading states in the North East Region in terms of production and supply of cut flowers to mainland consumer markets.

Sikkim has a suitable climate for agricultural and horticultural products. It supports multiple crops; viz., rice, wheat, maize, millet, barley, urad, pea, soya bean, mustard and large carda-

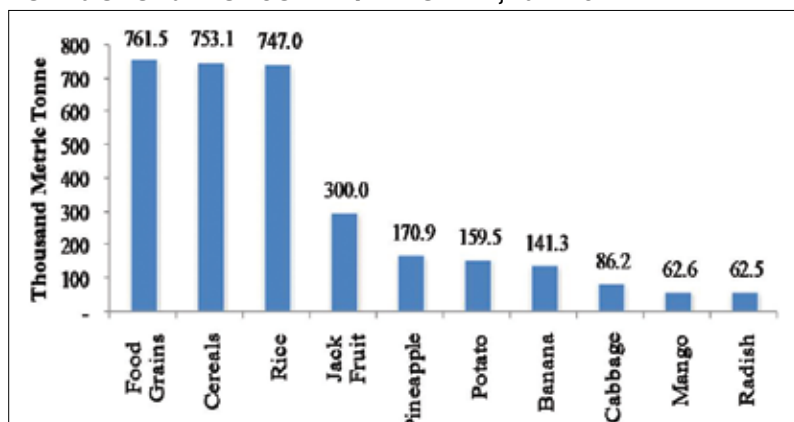
mom. In fact, Sikkim is the top producer of large cardamom, contributing over 80% to India's total production.

### TRIPURA

The state has favorable climatic conditions for cultivation of various fruits and horticultural crops. Tripura is endowed with rich and diverse bamboo resources. Tripura 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 in the state. It is also the second largest natural rubber producer in the country after Kerala. Moreover, Tripura holds a strong tea plantation base, with cultivation area of over 6,400 hectares as of 2014-15.

North East Region of India has lot of investment opportunities. The food and meat processing sector provides immense potential for investment, with huge scope for dairy processing and poultry, fishery processing in the region. There exists demand for dried fish in the region, though processing is not capital intensive. 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. ■

### TOP 10 CROPS PRODUCED IN MIZORAM; 2014-15



Source: NEDFi Databank



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