

Session
On
North East India-Bangladesh Agri-Horti & Food Processing
6th August 2023; Dhaka, Bangladesh

In a side line of
ICC Business Delegation to Dhaka, Bangladesh
6th, 7th, 8th August, 2023; Dhaka, Bangladesh



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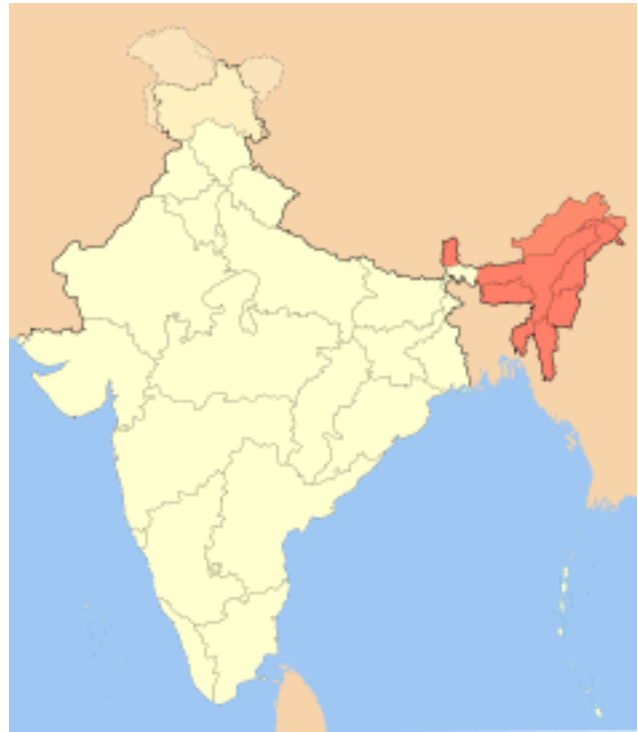
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HORTICULTURE IN NORTHEAST

Diverse agro-climatic conditions, varied soil types and abundant rainfall have endowed NER with promising horticulture and value added products that can be marketed within the country and abroad.

Agriculture provides livelihood support to 70 % of North East region's population. It produces only 1.5 % of country's food grain production and continues to be a net importer of food grains even for its own consumption.

Agricultural land including fallow is 22.20% [varying between 37.43% in Assam and 4.40% in Arunachal] as against 54.47% in India. Cultivators [41.61%] and agricultural labourers [13.07%] together constitute the majority of the workforce as against 31.65 % and 26.55% respectively in India. Land is held almost by all. Share of marginal and small farmers is 78.92 %. Land distribution is mostly egalitarian rooted in the principle of community way of living and sharing.



NER is endowed with 33% of country's water resources. It receives annual rainfall ranging from 2,480 mm to 6,350 mm. NER has local institutions, Research Center for North Eastern Hill Region at Umiam established in 1975 with six regional centres North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Ltd [NERAMAC], processing units, credit institutions Like NeDFI , among others, which need to be strengthened and optimally utilized.

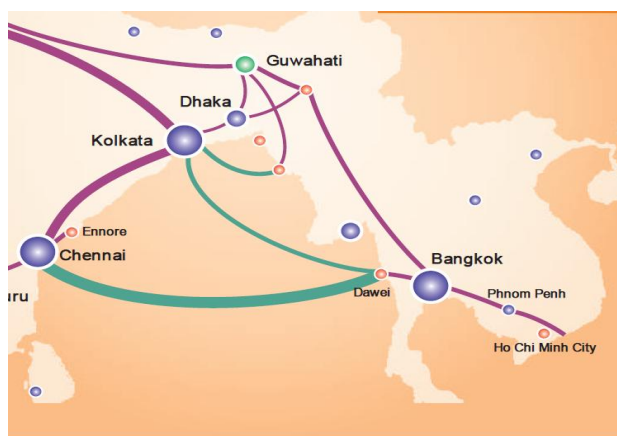
In order to have sustainable agriculture & horticulture, strategic planning and implementation is necessary to develop agriculture and make region marginally, if not significantly, surplus in food production by integrating research, extension and education duly supported by a time bound reforms in land tenure system in each State. Harnessing agricultural potential would generate surplus to support the secondary sector, create demand for goods in the rural areas, increase

disposable income that could enhance purchasing power of some 33 million people and bring socio-economic development.

Agricultural development strategy has to be evolved depending on resources, conditions and people's needs and priorities. Private sector participation can provide additional resources and create necessary environment to generate job opportunities, better utilization of resources and enhance credit flow impacting directly on farm sector development. With appropriately defined targets, clear outcomes, strategies and coordinated planning, the NER can become increasingly self-reliant in food output. Effective computer-based monitoring and management information system can facilitate timely implementation of programs with improved quality and service delivery that can avoid cost and time over runs and yield envisioned results.

Export Potential of Agriculture & Horticulture Food products from north East India:

The Northeastern Region of India shares its border to as many as five neighboring countries Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Myanmar and Nepal. North East India is in fact gateway to the South East Asia and with the development of Trilateral Highway connecting India to the South East Asia bilateral trade is expected to grow manifold. North East India is Organic by default and with the up gradation of processing and marketing linkages can tap this huge potential in South East Asian market. In this favorable atmosphere there are ample opportunities for the North East India to become an Agriculture & Horticulture Hub in Southeast Asia because of its strategic geographical location.



THE PROPOSAL:

Bangladesh is the largest trading partner and export destination of India in South Asia. As you know, India-Bangladesh bilateral trade has witnessed notable growth and India has maintained a favourable trade balance with Bangladesh even during critical times. ICC also has been working closely over past few decades with various Chambers and Govt. agencies of Bangladesh to promote bi-lateral co-operation.

Based on ICC's experience and success in organizing various seminars / Conferences / BSM at NER Region & National & International Level To further boost trade & commerce between the two countries, **ICC is planning to take an Agriculture-Horticulture and Food Processing Delegation to Dhaka, Bangladesh 6th, 7th, 8th August, 2023 for India Bangladesh Agriculture-Horticulture & Food Processing Sector Collaboration and organize a Session on NE India-Bangladesh Agri-Horti on 6th August 2023 at Dhaka, Bangladesh**, which would like to interact with the Agri-Horti, Food Processing, Beverages entrepreneurs and Government agencies etc.

OBJECTIVES & SCOPE:

- To make a roadmap for promoting Export of North East Agri products in Bangladesh.
- Organic product exports.
- Understand ways of Increasing productivity-Problems/constraints & Opportunity in Agriculture & horticulture-Learning from the Bangladesh Experience.
- Meeting with Bangladesh Government Officials & Sectoral Associations.
- Meeting with Bangladesh based buyers of Agriculture and Horticulture products..
- To understand the High Tech Farming Practices from Bangladesh.
- Irrigation practices, soil health & modern techniques in Agriculture & horticulture in Bangladesh
- B2B Meeting

SUGGESTED TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:

- **Agriculture Productivity & Innovation:** Agri Innovation, New Technology in Farm Mechanization, Horticulture Value Chain, Exploring Domestic & International Market for Floriculture
- **Horticulture Scopes & Prospects:** To enhance the productivity and output by formulating a State-specific program on selected fruits and vegetables (Pineapple, Banana, Citrus & Passion fruits) linking with, among others, supply of planting material, inputs, processing facilities and marketing network. Need for establishing Small Farmers Horticulture Estate (SFHE) Post-harvest handling, assembly, storage, transport packing, processing, credit and modern marketing system for horticulture products in public-private-partnership mode. Flori-culture potential available in Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim can be exploited on commercial scale through preparing a feasibility studies and action plan.

- **Soil Health , Irrigation Practices & Modern Techniques in Agriculture & Horticulture in NE:** Sharing of success stories in improving soil health, soil nutrient balancing & budgeting, exploring the options for utilization of river embankments for agri-horti purposes, framing State-wise water policy, promoting drip & Sprinkler irrigation system, bringing all degraded, rain-fed and wasteland under watershed project
- **Organic Farming:** Concept of Organic farming – Scopes in NE, Pest & Diseases management related to organic farming, Soil fertility Management related to organic farming
- **Post Harvest Management:** There is urgent need for post harvest management in North East and in the meet the latest post harvest management will be discussed.
- **Food Processing:** The suitable processes and technology required for primary and secondary food processing of the harvest brainstormed.
- **Geographical Indication Products:** North East has many geographical products like Black Rice from Manipur, King Chily from Nagaland, Naga Cucumber from Nagaland, Kachai Lemon from Manipur, Assam Lemon from Assam, Tezpur Litchi from Assam, Baby Potato from Nagaland, Large Cardamom from Sikkim and many more. These products have tremendous market potential not only for the domestic market but also for the International market.

SUGGESTED PANELISTS

- Secretaries / Directors of Department of Agri-Horti of NE States
- Adviser (Horticulture & Allied), North Eastern Council, Ministry of DoNER, Govt. of India
- Official of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)
- Official of Spices Board
- Indian Sectoral Experts
- India sectoral Entrepreneurs / Exporters
- Bangladesh Sectoral Officials
- Bangladesh Sectoral Experts
- Bangladesh sectoral Entrepreneurs / Exporters

SUGGESTED PROGRAM
Session on
North East India-Bangladesh Agri-Horti & Food
Processing

6th August 2023; Dhaka, Bangladesh

Time	Topic
12.45 hrs – 14.00 hrs	Registration
Inaugural session: (14.00 hrs – 15.00 hrs)	
14.00 hrs – 14.45 hrs	Welcome Address by Indian Chamber of Commerce
	Address by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India
	Address by Spices Board, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India
	Address by Secretary of Department of Agri-Horti of NE India States
	Address by Secretary of Department of Agri-Horti of NE India States
	Special Address by Mr. Iboyama Meitei Adviser (Horticulture & Allied), North Eastern Council, Ministry of DoNER, Govt. of India
	Vote of Thanks by Indian Chamber of Commerce
Market Opportunities & Exports: 14.45 hrs - 15.30 hrs	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Directors / Sr. Officials of Department of Agri-Horti of NE India States ✓ Indian sectoral Entrepreneurs / Exporters ✓ Bangladesh Sectoral Officials ✓ Bangladesh Sectoral Experts ✓ Bangladesh sectoral Entrepreneurs / Exporters 	

INDIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PROFILE

Founded in 1925, Indian Chamber of Commerce is the leading and only National Chamber of Commerce having headquarter in Kolkata, and one of the most pro-active and forward-looking Chambers in the country today. Its membership spans some of the most prominent and major industrial groups in India. Indian Chamber of Commerce's forte is its ability to anticipate the needs of the future, respond to challenges, and prepare the stakeholders in the economy to benefit from these changes and opportunities. Set up by a group of pioneering industrialists led by Mr G D Birla, the Indian Chamber of Commerce was closely associated with the Indian Freedom Movement, as the first organised voice of indigenous Indian Industry. Several of the distinguished industry leaders in India, such as Mr B M Birla, Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Sir Badridas Goenka, Mr S P Jain, Lala Karam Chand Thapar, Mr Russi Mody, Mr Ashok Jain, Mr.Sanjiv Goenka, have led the Indian Chamber of Commerce as its President.

Indian Chamber of Commerce is the only Chamber from India to win the first prize in World Chambers Competition in Quebec, Canada.

Indian Chamber of Commerce's North-East Initiative has gained a new momentum and dynamism over the last two decades, and the Chamber has been hugely successful in spreading awareness about the great economic potential of the North-East at national and international levels. Trade & Investment shows on North-East in countries like Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam have created new vistas of economic co-operation between the North-East of India and South-East Asia. Indian Chamber of Commerce has a special focus upon India's trade & commerce relations with South & South-East Asian nations, in sync with India's 'Act East' Policy, and has played a key role in building synergies between India and her Asian neighbours like Singapore, Indonesia, Bangladesh, and Bhutan through Trade & Business Delegation Exchanges, and large Investment Summits. Indian Chamber of Commerce also has a very strong focus upon Economic Research & Policy issues – it regularly undertakes Macro-economic Surveys/Studies, prepares State Investment Climate Reports and Sector Reports, provides necessary Policy Inputs & Budget Recommendations to Governments at State & Central levels.

ICC is the leading and only National Chamber operating from Eastern India Headquartered in Kolkata, one of the most pro-active and forward-looking Chambers in the Country today. Its Membership spans some of the most prominent and major industrial groups in India. ICC's forte is its ability to anticipate the needs of the future, respond to challenges, and prepare the stakeholders in the economy to benefit from these changes and opportunities. ICC have full-fledged Regional Office at **Guwahati**; State Offices in **New Delhi, Mumbai, Siliguri, Agartala, Ranchi, Bhubaneshwar, Hyderabad, Chennai and Patna.**