

Arunachal dev on Gol priority: Singh



ITANAGAR | Feb 09 | Development of the border state of Arunachal Pradesh is on the Centre's priority agenda, said Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh while reviewing the progress of various central Schemes (CSS) under the agri-allied sector here today.

Singh, who along with Union MoS for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju earlier arrived here on his maiden visit to the state, called for synergy among the functionaries and officers of agri-allied departments, KVKs, ICAR & ATMA scientists to boost extension activities.

"All stakeholders must play a pro-active role to reach out to the farming community through farms schools and by conducting regular exposure trips to train and acquaint the farmers with various know-how and latest technologies," he said and suggested to adopt nearby villages.

He stressed on timely submission of utilisation certificates and took note of inadequate infrastructure of state's krishi vigyan kendras (KVKs).

Advocating stepped up efforts for conservation and promotion of mithun and yak population, Singh sought project for support in all fronts including infrastructure.

On the fishery sector, he asked to avail the schemes under National Fishery Development Board and National Blue revolution for helping the farmers to take up sustainable income generation. Horticulture, dairy and fishery can go long way in economic empowerment of state's farmers, he reasoned.

He said that the Soil Health Card Scheme to be launched soon will benefit the farmers.

Chief Minister Nabam Tuki, in a memorandum, sought setting up of cold water fisheries unit of DCFR (ICAR) at Samteng in West Kameng district to encourage the inhabitants of the mountain region to adopt cold water fisheries by availing technical support from the unit.

He informed about the proposed Vision document aimed at policy framing for every sector in tune with NITI Ayog.

Tuki lauded the union minister for his keen interest in state's development, particularly growth of the agri-allied sector.

Pointing out the huge potential of the agri-allied sector earlier, Agriculture, Horticulture, AH, Vety & DD Minister Chowna Mein projected the state as the fruit bowl of India.

Arunachal has received Krishi Karman Award for three consecutive years, Mein said, before submitting a memorandum demanding establishment of horticulture university; college of veterinary science; hike in student enrolment of the state in College of Agriculture, Pasighat, CAU; special support for conversion of inter-farm foot tracks into gravel road, (Agricultural link road) and other supports to boost the agri-allied sector.

Horticulture Parliamentary Secretary Mutchu Mithi also addressed the meeting attended by MoS Rijiju, ICAR Director General Dr. S. Ayyappan, GoI agriculture joint secretary Rajni Sekhri Sibal, state senior officers including Chief Secretary Ramesh Negi, agriculture commissioner Hage Hhoda, horticulture secretary Sudhir Kumar, representatives of ICAR, KVKs, College of Horticulture and Agriculture Board attended the meeting. (PRO)