

Governor adopts Morigaon district for promotion of Agriculture and allied activities

Guwahati, November 05: With an aim to develop agriculture and to use it for the socio-economic development of the people of the state, Assam Governor Prof. Jagdish Mukhi has adopted Morigaon district for development of agriculture and allied activities. A series of meetings were held with the heads of agriculture and allied departments like irrigation, horticulture, sericulture, piggery, poultry and fishery for proper coordination, to decide on the modus operandi for implementing the scheme of things. Governor Prof. Mukhi also sought a detailed report from the respective departments to take the project off.

Prof. Mukhi opined that agriculture and the other departments collectively can be contributors to the socio-economic development and taken in right earnest, the sectors can create huge employment avenues besides ensuring food security, self-reliance and growth of economy.

It may be noted that the Governor has taken the inspiration from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream programme of doubling the income of farmers by 2022. He further said the agriculture department should act as a force multiplier and maintain constant monitoring to achieve agricultural growth. He also stressed on achieving targets set by different departments within the stipulated period. Worth mentioning that the Governor adopted Morigaon district with an intention to make it a model for the other districts to emulate.

The Governor said Morigaon is agriculturally potential district and most of the people are associated with agriculture so developing the district agriculturally will lead to capacity building of the people living in the district. Moreover, as practicing single cropping system amounts to inadequate use of land resources, the Governor also advised the farmers to adhere to multi-cropping system. He, therefore, asked Deputy Commissioner Morigaon Rituraj Borah to conduct monthly meetings and monitor the activities very closely and encourage the farmers to go for multi-cropping system. He also asked the DC to establish value chain and prospective markets so that the farmers get proper value for their produce. The Governor urged upon every farmer to engage in one or more farming practices at home which will boost their income.

Today during his visit to the district the Governor had undertaken a series of activities and visited at Golechepa Goatery farm. He also attended programme at Quzari and interacted with farmers and weavers on eri seed production. He visited Pobitora Hut and attended the training programme of Animal Husbandary and Veterinary sector for development of cattle and goat rearing. Further he attended fishery training centre at Kalabithika and witnessed programme on piggery and poultry farming in Veterinary campus.

The Governor also distributed power tillers, rickshaws (Dip Bahan) vans for carrying agricultural goods, electric water pumps, hand compression sprayers and mini seed kit to the beneficiaries at subsidized rates.

On visiting the Golechopa goatery farm, the Governor urged farmers to take up goat rearing as goats play an important role in the food and nutritional security of the rural poor especially in the rain-fed regions where crop production is uncertain, and rearing large ruminants is restricted by acute scarcity of feed and fodder. Goat rearing has distinct economic and managerial advantages over other livestock because of its less initial investment, low input requirement, higher prolificacy, early sexual maturity, and ease in marketing. In recent years, goat enterprise has also shown promise of its successful intensification and commercialization. Moreover, Goat milk is a powerhouse of protein, healthy fats, vitamins, iron, and other essential nutrients.

Governor also highlighted the importance of Cattle rearing and said that in economic front, Assam and North-East are lagging behind in terms of milk production compared to some other states of India. Morigaon district has 56 Milk production clusters, 52 nos. of Dairy Co-operative Societies and approximately 697 numbers of private dairy farms. Therefore, there is an urgent need to develop this sector by taking multi pronged strategies.

Attending a programme on Piggery farming, the Governor said that among the various livestock species, pig is one of the most potential source of meat production and more efficient feed converters after the broiler. Pig plays an important role in increasing meat production on account of its high prolificacy, faster growth, short generation interval, high dressing percentage and low maintenance cost. Pig farming also provides employment opportunities to seasonally employed rural farmers and supplementary income to improve their living standards. It can also be reared easily by the women who can play significant role in rural pig production at village level.

The Governor also laid importance to develop the Poultry farming as poultry not only provides income generation but also employment generation, women empowerment and nutritional security. He said that the backyard poultry plays a vital role in the livelihood of millions of poor people of Assam. Assam ranks 1st in duck population (7.3 million) and plays a vital role in the socio-economic development of rural people of the state. Duck eggs and meat are very popular and preferred by all sections of the people of Assam.

It may be mentioned that the Department of Fisheries, Assam has already initiated an effort under “MORIGAON SPECIAL INTERVENTION OF THE HONOURABLE GOVERNOR OF ASSAM PROJECT: 2019-2022” to develop supporting infrastructure development with an aim to achieve sustainable fisheries development, thereby contributing towards fish production basket of Morigaon and to generate livelihood opportunity for the rural youth in particular. Accordingly a number of schemes have been undertaken. Training cum capacity building Activities have been put into place and it is expected that 1200 individuals, 425 groups will be directly benefitted during 2019-20 in Morigaon district and about 800 individuals will be trained up on technical matters in College of Fisheries, Raha and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Morigaon and Nagaon under Assam Agricultural University.

Earlier the Governor also paid floral tributes to the portrait of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika on his death anniversary at Jagiroad Inspection Bungalow.

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05.11.2019.