

SPEECH OF SHRI P.B. ACHARYA, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF NAGALAND AT THE VALEDICTORY PROGRAMME OF THE NATIONAL SEMINAR ON "SUSTAINABLE HORTICULTURE VIS-A-VIS CHANGING ENVIRONMENT" AT SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES & RURAL DEVELOPMENT ON 28TH FEBRUARY 2015 AT MEDZIPHEMA.

Chairman, Dr. Kirti Singh, Chairman, Noni Foundation, Chennai,
President, HSNEI (Horticultural Society of North East India) Prof. V.B. Singh,
Pro Vice Chancellor SASRD (School of Agricultural Sciences and Rural Development) Prof. N.S. Jamir,
Co-Organizing Secretary Dr. C.S. Maiti,
Editor, HSNEI Dr. Pauline Alila,
Directors of Horticulture, Land Revenue, Central Institute of Horticulture,
Officials, Participants, Farmers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am indeed very happy to be here this afternoon to participate in your valedictory programme. Let me thank the Organizers for inviting me to address this programme.

Horticulture is one of the main agricultural practices in a nation. The Government, both at the Centre and the State level, is making all efforts to commercialize the horticultural activities in our country. It has become a best option for diversification to meet the need for food, nutrition, health care and also gives better opportunity for employment. India is the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the world after China. We can see an increase in demand for horticultural production due to greater health awareness, rising income, export demands. There is also an overall increase in the demand of fruits and vegetables for consumption both in fresh and the processed form. But with the ever changing environment there are growing concerns for the need of sustainability in all aspects of farming. Depending on the farm location, climate change could affect the horticultural industry. The issue of climate change and climate variability has thrown up greater uncertainties and risk which imposes constraints on its production systems. I hope and believe this Seminar is a platform to bring opportunity for developing sustainable horticulture in the context of our changing environment.

Horticulture is being encouraged with a view to provide complementary area for small and marginal farmers and weaker section of the society to augment their income. Most significant change in the last two decades have been that horticulture crop production has begun to move from rural confines to commercial ventures and has attracted young entrepreneurs since it has proved to be intellectually satisfying and economically rewarding. Majority of the population in the North-Eastern Region is dependent on agriculture, horticulture and allied land based activities. The climate condition of this region is also varied. There is a vast area in hilly region which can be used for horticulture crop production to make the North Eastern States self sufficient in horticultural produce. The States in the North Eastern Region of India offer immense scope for exploiting the export potential of their horticulture products. These States have been producing substantial quantities of fruits and vegetables, which have considerable potential for exports to the international markets. With the integration of Indian Economy with the global markets, the potential of horticulture exports from this region can provide a huge competitive advantage in international trade in the coming years.

Studies indicate that over the years environmental changes playing a significant role resulting in variation in the horticulture production. Climate change, a global phenomenon, has attracted scientists to contribute in anticipatory research to mitigate adverse impacts, which are more important for horticulture, considering that the scenario is in the midst of revolution. Global warming is amongst the most dreaded problems of the new millennium. Carbon emission is supposedly the strongest causal factor for global warming. So, increasing carbon emission is one of today's major concerns. The perennial trees act as carbon sinks by sequestering the atmosphere carbon. The horticultural waste could be composted totally instead of dumping in the landfills, which can reduce the release of global warming methane that is involved in global warming.

Our state like Nagaland should be able to continue implementing our plan to improve climate preparedness and resilience and reduce vulnerabilities through adaptation to climate change. We have to visualise the likely changes which can happen in the next 50-100 years. I believe this kind of Seminars and other Innovative Research programmes will definitely help to mitigate the problem to overcome the challenges of climate change. The majority of available research should focus on the adverse impacts of climate change and overlooks both the adaptation mechanisms adopted by the local people and the new opportunities presented. We should make the people aware about the identification of species tolerant to climate change

I believe participants from various sectors gathered here added their inputs and suggestions for the future strategy and pathways on the sustainable development and climate change. Our research institutions such as ICAR and Central Institute of Horticulture (CIH) will give efforts to develop and implement strategic plans and enable policies and work towards meeting the fresh challenges.

THANK YOU , BHARAT MATHA KEE JAI.