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VIBRANT NORTH EAST 2019

NER- A New Frontier of Change in Economy

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SOUVENIR





The North East

An Overview

Northeastern Region consists of eight states “Ashta Lakshmi” – Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura – with population (all 8 states combined) is approximately 45 million which represents 3.7% of the total Indian population and constitutes about 8% of the total India’s size. According to 2011 census, Mizoram’s literacy level is over 91 per cent at a time when the national literacy rate was 74.04 per cent. About 4500 km i.e. 98% of its border is with five different countries of South Asia–Nepal, Bhutan, China, Myanmar and Bangladesh.

A compact geographical unit, the Northeast is isolated from the rest of India except through the Siliguri Corridor, a slender corridor, flanked by foreign territories. Assam is the gateway through which the sister states are connected to the mainland. Tripura, a virtual enclave almost surrounded by Bangladesh, strongly depends on Assam. Nagaland, Meghalaya and Arunachal depend on Assam for their internal communications. Manipur and Mizoram’s contacts with the main body of India are through Assam’s Barak Valley. The region is prosperous in natural resources, covered with thick forests, has the highest rainfall in the country, with large and small river systems nesting the land and is a wealth house of flora and fauna. NE being distinct by diversity in customs, cultures, traditions and languages, it is home to multifarious social, ethnic and linguistic groups.

Distressed by history and geo-politics, the North East has remained one of the most backward regions of the country. The disturbance of partition in 1947 not only took the region backwards by at least a quarter of a century, but also placed hurdles on upcoming economic progress. It isolated the region, sealed both land and sea routes for commerce and trade, and severed access to traditional markets and the gateway to the East and South-East Asia – the Chittagong port in East Bengal (now Bangladesh). It distanced the approach to the rest of India by confining connectivity to a narrow 27-km-wide Siliguri corridor, making it a “isolated land” and constraining access for movement of goods and people. The uneasy relationship with most of the neighboring countries has not helped the cause of development of the region either: with 96 per cent of the boundary of the region forming international borders, private investment has shied away from the region. When India became independent from the United Kingdom in 1947, only three states covered the area. Manipur and Tripura were princely states, while a much larger Assam Province was under direct British rule. Its capital was Shillong (present day Meghalaya’s capital). Four new states were carved out of the original territory of Assam in the decades following independence, in line with the policy of the Indian government of reorganizing the states along ethnic and linguistic lines. Accordingly, Nagaland became a separate state in 1963, followed by Meghalaya in 1972. Mizoram became a Union Territory in 1972, and achieved statehood - along with Arunachal Pradesh - in 1987.

Arunachal Pradesh

The state's economy is largely agrarian, based on the terrace farming of rice and the cultivation of crops such as maize, millet, wheat, pulses, sugarcane, ginger, oilseeds, cereals, potato, and pineapple. Arunachal Pradesh is considered as one of the 12 mega diversity in the world. The state has 20% species of the country's fauna, 4500 species of flowering plants, 400 species of pteridophytes, 23 species of conifers, 35 species of bamboos, 20 species of



canes, 52 rhododendron species and more than 500 species of orchids. Some of the other key sectors of the state include livestock, art & crafts, weaving, cane & bamboo and etc. Milk governs the livestock sector of the state with the total production of 46.07 thousand metric tonne, while the egg production totaled to 417.26 lakh eggs during 2014-15. The state's location also provides opportunities for international trade with South Asian countries such as Myanmar, Bhutan and China.

Assam

Assam is the largest economy in the Northeast region. Assam has the single largest tea growing area in the world, constituting around one seventh of the global tea production. The state accounts for over 50% in the country's overall tea production. Assam, with its vast area under hills and forests, is home to a variety of medicinal herbs and plants. About 300 types of medicinal herbs and plants are found in abundance in the state with the Brahmaputra valley alone having 150 varieties of herbs and plants of commercial value. Livestock is the integral part of the mixed-farming system that characterizes agriculture in Assam. However, some of the potential sectors in the state include, wildlife tourism as state has various national parks and wildlife sanctuaries along with Bamboo, which is the fastest growing sector, holding the potential to replace wood on many grounds.

Manipur

Agriculture has a significant share in the state's domestic product and provides employment to about 52.2% of the total workers in the state. Natural forests cover about 77% of the total geographical area of Manipur. Major fruits grown in the state are pineapple, lime, lemon, banana, orange, papaya, plum and passion fruit. Some of the other major sectors operating in the state include handloom, handicraft and sericulture. However, the socio-economic development of Manipur will largely depend upon small and medium scale industries promoted by local entrepreneurs. Key potential sectors of the state include food processing industries as agro climatic conditions are most suited for food processing industry in the state along with integrated rice parboiling, hulling/dehusking/milling, bran stabilizing and captive power generation (based on rice husk biomass gasified dual fuel) unit and nonflavored potato chip projects.

Meghalaya

Meghalaya has diverse range of soil types, including redloamy and laterite, which supports various agricultural crops like rice, maize, pulses, oilseeds, cotton, jute and mesta. The major fruits grown in the state include, citrus fruits, pineapples, bananas, papayas, plums, peaches and apricots, while Turmeric, ginger, black pepper and bay leaves are the major spices cultivated in Meghalaya. Meghalaya accounts for 150 species of orchids. Thus, there is a large scope for commercial exploitation in a systematic and scientific manner through tissue culture. Meghalaya has also a good potential for cultivation of tea and rubber. Moreover, there exist a high potential for the setting up of select, bio-technology based industries in Meghalaya. This industry is essentially knowledge-based and can function with minimum resources and limited transportation infrastructure. Meghalaya has a high potential for development of dairy and allied products as well as for processing of animal hides and skins and for setting up leather industries.

Mizoram

Of the 21,087 sq. km geographical area of Mizoram, gross cropped area constitutes just 6.26%. The climatic conditions in the Mizoram are quite suitable for the production of fruits. Thus, the state accounts for approximately 13% of the total fruit production in the North East Region. Paddy is the principal food crop and the staple food of the state. With the implementation of the National Food Security Mission – Rice, the productivity of rice under wet rice cultivation increased tremendously. Factors such as good climatic conditions, fertility of the soil and rainfall help in the breeding of all kinds of silkworms in Mizoram. Thus, boosting the sericulture in the state. Also, ethnic handloom and crafts of Mizoram have a large market in India and abroad. Mizoram has 24,000 hectares of area that could be utilized for fish farming; of which, just 4,790 hectares have been developed as ponds and tanks until 2015- 16. The industry has great potential as only around 19% of the state's fishing potential has been utilized up till now.

Nagaland

The economy of Nagaland is largely agrarian in nature, employing around 72% of the population. Nagaland has a suitable climate for agricultural and horticultural produce. Jhum cultivation (or shifting cultivation) is widely practiced in Nagaland; however, crop yields are low under such cultivation. There is potential for increasing capacity utilization by adopting modern techniques. Favorable climatic and geographical conditions in the state offer tremendous scope for floriculture. Also, the state has immense potential to produce organic honey and pollen due to its rich biodiversity, traditional knowledge, practice of beekeeping and numerous honeybee species. Some of the other major potential areas in the state include horticulture, bamboo industries, sericulture, handicraft & handloom sector, tourism and agro-processing units. Setting up of private commercial and rural breeding farms on Private Public Partnership mode also has huge prospects.

Sikkim

Agriculture is vital to the progress of Sikkim as more than 64% of the population depends on it for their livelihoods. The state of Sikkim 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, which makes it one of the leading states of the region in production and supply of cut flowers to mainland consumer markets. Also, of the 6,000 medicinal plants in India, over 424 plants are grown in Sikkim. The state is considered as a large cardamom epicentre of the world and produces more cardamom than any other Indian state. Sikkim is the largest producer of cardamom in India, and accounts for more than 90% of total production in the country. There are large areas of fallow land available, having the potential to be converted into productive farms for cash crops. Also, the handloom and handicraft industry has a great potential to generate income and employment in the state. The demand for large cardamom in the export market is bound to increase steadily. Thus, there is huge export potential for large cardamom from Sikkim.

Tripura

Tripura is an agrarian state with more than half of the population dependent on agriculture and allied activities. Rice, the major crop of the state, is cultivated in 91% of the cropped area. Tripura is the second largest natural rubber producer in the country, after Kerala. Tripura's pineapples and oranges are known for their unique flavor and organic nature. The state acts as a gateway between Northeast India and Bangladesh. The state shares an 856-km international border with Bangladesh. This offers enormous potential for international trade. Also, the state has a huge potential in tourism, specially eco-tourism,



A large number of horticultural crops are grown in the north eastern region, many of them were originated in this region like banana, mango, a large number citrus species, flowers, etc

religious tourism, heritage tourism, hill tourism, rural tourism, archaeological tourism and water tourism. There is a vast potential for setting up of food processing units and meat processing sector in the State along with the ample scope for area expansion under organic spices cultivation.

Challenges faced by Northeast India farmers is not visible at first glimpse but are the most critical ones

- Fragmented land holding- overusing the same plot of land again and again without proper knowledge of crop rotation has severely diminished soil fertility. Another very serious side effect of fragmented land holdings is that farmers earn only enough to sustain their immediate needs.
- Lack of a stable market- One of the major causes of low income of the NER is the difficulty in marketing their crops. Due to the small size and scattered nature of agricultural holdings, the productivity per acre is low. Consequently, the collection of these surpluses for the purpose of marketing presents a serious problem.
- Lack of mechanization-Northeast lacks the support of proper technology and mechanization to foster agricultural growth. A farmer carrying out various farming steps such as ploughing, sowing, harvesting or winnowing manually is a common thing. Post harvest techniques such as cleaning, drying or slicing are done by the NE Indian farmers manually. Northeast India actually is the major impediments in the way of agricultural mechanization in the region. Due to poor mechanization and crude agricultural techniques the farmers are not able to ripe good value for their produce.
- Lack of proper transport- For transportation of the agricultural produce farmers generally uses bamboo baskets to transport their produce manually. Poor road conditions, poor connectivity and fragmented land holdings in They are compelled to sell off their produce at a much lower price and thus at loss.
- Agricultural infrastructure- Post-harvest losses due to unavailability of proper storage is said to be as much as 30%. With limited connectivity, hilly terrain, subsistence agriculture, and fragmented land holdings – the numbers for the Northeast region is bound to be much higher.

Lack of education creates gap between Northeast India farmers and prosperity- A government survey on India's adult literacy estimates that 32% of the country's rural population is illiterate, as compared to 15% of the urban population. Extrapolate that to the farmers in the rural areas, the figure must be significantly higher. There are several organizations helping farmers who work meticulously to assist in upgrading and adopting more productive and efficient farming technologies. But due to the lack of proper education, farmers more often than not, are unable to even capitalize on the various government schemes for farmers and the unemployed youth of the region.



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Vibrant North East 2019

North Eastern region of India is blessed with the bounty of nature. The region is unique in many respects. While abundance of natural resources signifies the potential, absence of any significant business and industrial activities mark the situation of lack of jobs and business activities and characterize continuance of its economic backwardness. While Government of India is committed to creating opportunities for youth and providing social and industrial infrastructure for its overall and rapid development, the growth so far has been less than desired, largely due to the low level of the business and industry engagement and poor focus on local competence building and partnerships among the development agencies, industry, institutions and the Governments.

Since the North Eastern region is largely rural, and horticultural production dominates the agri- landscape, any development planning has to largely focus on the farm and rural sector. Therefore there is need for partnerships for training and competence building, investments, marketing, processing, projects and infrastructure development to accelerate growth and economic activities, leading to more jobs, incomes and opportunities for the people of this region, which comprises of eight States, namely: Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.

CARD with the vision to provide exposure to farmers by sharing successful agribusiness models and sensitize them with policies, schemes, technologies and markets and evolving farmers as role models for fellow farmers has been organizing Vibrant North East since 2015. The Vibrant North East 2019 was fifth edition organized from 19-21st June 2019 jointly by the Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD)) with the support of Government of Manipur at College of Agriculture, CAU, Imphal. and comprised Agri and Rural Expo, industrial Expo and North East Development Meet to provide an opportunity for the region to showcase its potential and opportunities to offer what it has for partnering and engaging to explore the growth and development opportunities of the region in general and the State of Manipur in particular. The three day meet brought a large number of national and international stakeholders from the industry, institutions, Government and the development sectors to showcase the programs and schemes, products, technologies and services; and deliberated upon the issues and opportunities and come up with the way forward.





DAY 1

Inauguration

The mega event was inaugurated by Shri Anup wadhawan, Secretary Ministry of Commerce and Industry Government of India by lighting the lamp in the august presence of Shri MK Mero Principal Secretary Horticulture, Government of Nagaland, Ms. Lalthanpuii Vanchhong, joint Secretary Government of Manipur, Shri KN Raghavan, Chairman Rubber Board, Shri Arun Kumar Roy, Deputy Chairman, Tea Board of India, Shri PL Thanga Chairman ICFA council for North East Region, Dr Anis Anasri Chairman CARD, Dr AK Srivastva Project Director CARD. The ceremony was attended by various dignitaries from centre and state governments, high officials from industry and cross section of visitors and farmers across the North East. The dignitaries were presented with floral bouquets. Dr Anis Ansari Chairman CARD, presented welcome address and expressed his gratitude to all the guests for their gracious presence at the Vibrant North East 2019. Later, dignitaries and farmers explored the exhibition pavilions and interacted with the exhibitors. They showed great interest in the products, services and schemes exhibited by various ministries, developmental organizations and companies. Important information about the newer technologies and developmental activities being carried out by centre and state governments for the development of the region was shared.

Development Meet

Later in the day a Development Meet on 'Investment potential and business opportunities in North East' was convened to highlight the business, investment and export potential of North Eastern region. The development meet focused on identifying the industries and map out the details for investment in the various areas- opportunity for cross-border trade with neighboring countries, government initiatives for development of the region, abundant possibilities for taking up tourism activities in the region, opportunities for plantation & processing of aromatic/medicinal plants, and setting up of processing units based on locally available resources, prospects of SMEs. Stress was laid on maintaining quality and branding for realization of the potential of niche products of the region. The development meet was attended by more than 45 experts including 5 participants from Bangladesh.



DAY 2



On second day, the expo was presided over by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Central Agricultural University Prof. Premjit Singh. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor along with the other dignitaries and official visited the different stalls. Speaking on the occasion he highlighted that for North Eastern States to develop people should shift their focus to Agro based industries and acknowledged Vibrant North East 2019 of its vision to promote this approach in Manipur and the entire North East. The visitors remained busy collecting information on schemes and activities. Visitors participated in various promotional activities organized at different stalls and updated themselves with latest advancements in various sectors Time to time various government officials paid their visits to the exhibition.



DAY 3



The third and last day of the exhibition remained very eventful as first, school children, farmers and others visited the exhibition and enriched themselves with government and private sector initiatives in the region.

Valediction

The valedictory function was held post lunch in the University Auditorium. Mr. Suhail Akhtar Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Manipur graced the occasion and visited various stalls and appreciated the exhibitors... Later he addressed the audience comprised of progressive farmers, students and other visitors as well as exhibitors. He underlined that India is an agrarian country, though the GDP share of agriculture was declining but more than 60% of the population is dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. Indian agriculture had been revolutionized with latest technologies but its dissemination to farmers at ground level would take time. Government had also come up with various programmes and schemes to support farmers in the country. Events like VNE provide a platform to all the stakeholders to come together and share knowledge and experience while showcasing the latest advancements. Such events also play a significant role in bringing youth to agriculture, which was crucial for growth of agriculture in the region and country as a whole.

Shri Suhail Akhtar and other dignitaries presented exhibitors and participant's with certificates and mementos.

Dr AK Srivastava Director CARD proposed vote of thanks and expressed heartfelt gratitude to all the exhibitors for their efforts in making the event a success. He further thanked visitors for taking out time to visit and make meaningful contribution in the event. He further urged the visitors to act as a dissemination agent and share varied information with fellow farmers and stakeholder to facilitate the development of region. Last he appreciated the efforts of media which covered the every happening and would disseminate it amongst the masses.



List of Sponsors and Exhibitors at the Vibrant North East 2019

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32	Nagaland Beekeeping and Honey Mission
33	Dept. of Women Resource Development,(Govt. of Nagaland)
34	Nagaland Bamboo Development Agency, (Govt. of Nagaland)
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37	KVK Imphal East, Andro
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Glimpses of Vibrant North East 2019



Glimpses of Vibrant North East 2019



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