

## Press Note

### **CAU-Regional Agri Fair 2017-18 inaugurated at College of Fisheries, Agartala**

The three days long CAU-Regional Agri Fair 2017-18 gets off to a grand start today at the College of Fisheries, Agartala. The fair was inaugurated by Shri Sankar Prasad Datta, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, amidst the presence of Padma Bushan, Dr. R.B. Singh, Chancellor, CAU Imphal, Prof. M. Premjit Singh, Vice Chancellor, CAU, Imphal, Dr. Narendra Prakash, Director, ICAR RC for NEH Region, Umiam, Meghalaya, Dr. B.C. Deka, Director, ATARI, Umiam, Dr. A.K. Tripathi, Director, ATARI, Guwahati, Dr. P.K. Pandey, Dean, College of Fisheries, Agartala and Dr. R.K. Saha, Local Organizing Secretary.

The fair with the theme “Integrated Farming for Doubling of Farm Income” is likely to be attended by more than 5000 farmers across the Northeastern states excluding 150 officials from various related Agri & allied line departments, academic & research institutes, KVKs, banking sectors, private companies, NGOs/SHGs and agripreneuers. During the inaugural programme, various university publications viz., souvenir, booklets, CAU farm magazine, video documentary, leaflets etc. were released by the dignitaries. To commemorate the occasion, fish seed and feed were also distributed to selected farmers. Earlier, the chief guest inaugurated the PG Girls’ hostel of the college and also the exhibition stalls during the fair. Various organizations showcased farmer friendly technologies, success stories, innovative ideas and products in 50 exhibition stalls. Various eye attracting shows which include vegetable show, fruit show, dog show, healthy baby show, apart from technological showcase are exhibited during the fair.

Addressing the inaugural function as the Chief Guest, Shri Sankar Prasad Datta, emphasized the country’s potential in terms of its resources and pointed the need for mending the gap between indigenous knowledge with the modern technological tools. He further cited various examples of countries like France, China and Bangladesh, and appraised the scientific community to bring out technology that suits the farmers of the region. He also mentioned the issues related to minimum support price of the farm produce leading to suicide by the farmers in many states.

Padma Bushan, Shri R.B. Singh, Chancellor, CAU, Imphal congratulated the university in achieving a new height through its performance in academics and research as one of the best agricultural universities in the country. He said that the fair will surely provide a unique platform for the needy farmers to gain knowledge and learn and get inspired from the various case studies

of successful farmers. He appealed the participating farmers to take advantage of the various knowledge based publications released during the fair. He further urged the scientists from various institutes to take a note of the problems faced by the farmers, think upon and provide technological inputs to resolve the issues. He put forth the visionary idea of New India, which could only be achieved through doubling of farm income, as the country has large section of the population under the rural areas. He also pointed out that the country needs to wash out poverty in order to secure a good economy. He reminded the gathering of the pledge taken during Sanklap Se Siddhi, which will come to reality only through understanding and adopting every words of it. He also mentioned the recommendations made to the government on minimum price of agriculture produce and its adoption. He congratulated the effort of the College of Fisheries on its technological contribution towards artificial breeding of pabda (*Ompok bimaculatus*), Pengba (*Osteobrama belangeri*) and utilization of non-conventional feed resources like *Wolffia arrhiza* (a duckweed). Integrated farming system can only bestow food security in the country. He highlighted the various technological advances the country has made in the field of molecular biology, biotechnology etc. and pointed the need to apply these tools in agriculture. He urged the farmers to be aware of the several schemes the government has launched and take advantage of the same. He felt optimistic of the interlinked benefits that will come through doubling of farm income. He also pointed the need for establishing climate smart village and cluster with an aim of increased productivity, resilience and mitigation strategies without disturbing the biodiversity.

Earlier, Prof. M. Premjit Singh, Vice Chancellor of the university while addressing the welcome speech, briefed about the university and mentioned the milestone achievements the university has made in the national arena. He pointed that the northeast region with due acidic soil, irrigation problems and small land holding can rely much on integrated farming system to sustain the sector in long term and cited examples of the successful entrepreneurs. He also mentioned that improvised technology on rain water harvesting, efficient use of water through micro-irrigation, production of quality seeds, planting materials through participatory mode, establishing proper marketing channel etc., organic farming, post harvest value addition can bring a paradigm shift in improving farm income. He pointed his view that the second green revolution can come from the NE region if the technologies are wisely adopted by the farmers. Dr. Pramod K. Pandey, Dean, College of Fisheries, Agartala proposed the vote of thanks.

