

**UGC SPONSORED
NATIONAL SEMINAR
ON**

HORTICULTURE FOR SUSTAINABLE FARM INCOME AND PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT WITH
SPECIAL REFERENCE TO NORTH EASTERN REGION



Date : 29th June, 2016

Organised by:

Department of Economics
Bikali College, Dhupdhara

In Collaboration with
Assam Science Society
Dhupdhara Branch

Invitation

Respected Sir/Madam,

It gives us immense pleasure to inform you that the Department of Economics, Bikali College, Dhupdhara in collaboration with Assam Science Society, Dhupdhara Branch is organizing a day-long UGC sponsored National Seminar on “Horticulture for Sustainable Farm Income and Protection of Environment with Special Reference to North Eastern Region” on 29th June (Wednesday), 2016 at the college premises.

On this occasion, the organizing committee of the seminar cordially invites you to attend the seminar either as a participant or as a paper presenter. Your kind co-operation and meaningful participation will encourage us to make the programme a grand success.

With Regards –

Dr. Malina Devi Rabha

Principal & Chairman

Seminar Organizing committee

Joint Co-ordinators

Dr. Abdul Haque Ahmed

HoD, Economics

Bhupati Das

Associate Professor, Education

Bikali College, Dhupdhara

BIKALI COLLEGE AT A GLANCE

Bikali College, an institution affiliated to the Gauhati University is a seat of higher learning situated at Dhupdhara in the easternmost part of Goalpara district of Assam bordered by the Kamrup (Rural) district in the east and the East Garo Hills district (Mehgalaya) in the south. The college established on 14th April in 1982, came under the provincialisation scheme of the Government of Assam from that of Grants-in-Aid system in 2005 and registered under UGC 2(f),12(B) with effect from the 10th plan of the UGC. It has been imparting higher education in Arts, Commerce and Science stream in +2 standard, UG and PG in Assamese with well equipped physical infrastructure and qualified faculties. It has an enrolment strength of about 2000 students and 60 faculty members. The college has been reaccredited by NAAC with 'B' grade in 2010 and now in the threshold of 3rd cycle of reaccreditation. Apart from normal academic activities, the college is rendering career oriented extension services through various agencies such as career counseling and guidance cell, population club, scouts & guides, NSS and other supporting bodies. Through all academic and career oriented extension activities the stakeholders of the college pursue a vibrant work culture and holistic approach to encourage higher learning in a rural based area.

Theme of the Seminar:

Over the years, the potential of horticulture in raising agricultural production, value addition, farm income and employment, and protection of environment has been recognised. Although, the Fourth Five Year Plan recognised the importance of horticulture, its real boost began in the early 1990s which coincided with liberalisation of the economy. Augmenting facilities for processing, marketing and storage, development of rainfed and irrigated horticulture have impacted on agricultural diversification in favour of horticultural crops. In 2005-06, horticultural crops contributed around 28 per cent of gross domestic product in agriculture from a mere 13 per cent share of national area under horticultural crops. Vegetables, fruits, plantation crops and spices contributed around 60, 31, 7 and 2 per cent of the total horticultural production respectively in 2006-07. The share of horticulture sector in value of agricultural exports during triennium 2003-05 was about 18 per cent which increased to 37 per cent in 2006-07 (Government of India, 2008). Evidences already have been established that growth in fruits and vegetables was higher than cereals and highest among all the sub-sectors in the year 2005-06 which has resulted from the impacts of government initiatives (Singha and Mathur, 2008).

The North Eastern Region (NER) of India is endowed with rich agro-climatic conditions pre-eminently suited for a variety of horticultural crops. Several initiatives along with increased budget allocations have been taken by the central and state governments to tap the potential of horticulture sector in this region. Among the initiatives- creation of research and development infrastructure, training of man power and marketing supports under mission mode strategies have been adopted since a couple of years. A Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern Region including Sikkim was launched by the central government in 2001-02. Presently, the development strategies for horticulture in these states are being initiated under National Horticulture Mission (NHM) since 2005-06.

In spite of significant achievements in many crops, the potential is still enormous as revealed by several studies. All the efforts have triggered development in area expansion, improvement in productivity and post harvest management of a number of horticultural crops suited for cultivation in different states of North Eastern Region. Despite the immense potentiality and a plethora of initiatives for development of horticulture sector in the North Eastern Region, the productivity level of most of the crops is below the national average. Horticulture sector in this region is still suffering from slow pace of growth associated with low productivity, slow growth of input use, unbalanced application of fertilisers, and inefficiency in transfer of technology, etc. Besides, policy of area expansion of horticulture has been found as dangerous in respect to depletion of forest resources. Therefore, it is necessary to assess the prospect and potentiality of horticulture in general and in particular to the states of North Eastern Region of India.

Objectives:

For tapping the opportunities of horticulture, assessment of existing policy perspectives, searching the lacunae for low productivity and marketing arrangements, and looking for suitable technology are to be addressed. In view of the above perspectives, the seminar selects the following specific objectives.

- * To assess the policy perspectives for horticulture
- * To assess the viability of horticulture
- * To look into the trends in area, production and productivity of horticultural crops
- * To focus on the horticultural diversity and environment in the North Eastern Region
- * To assess the existing marketing arrangements, and
- * To assess the export potentiality of horticultural crops.

Main Theme: Horticulture for Sustainable Farm Income and Protection of Environment with Special Reference to North Eastern Region.

Sub-themes:

1. Prospects and Challenges of Horticultural crops for Agricultural Development in NER
2. Retrospect and Prospects of Horticultural Crops during the Post Reform Period
3. Productive Efficiency in Horticulture
4. Status of Horticultural Crops, Fruits, Vegetables, Plantation Crops, Ornamental and Medicinal Plants in NER
5. Marketing and Institutional Arrangements for the Development of Horticulture in NER
6. Problems in Value Addition of Horticultural Crops
7. Processing Industries and Development of Horticulture
8. Export Potentiality of Horticultural Crops from NER
9. Soil and Pest Management in Horticulture
10. Post-harvest Management of Horticultural Crops

Important Information:

- * Last date of submission of abstract within 300 words: May 25, 2016
- * Last date of submission of full paper within 3000 words: June 15, 2016
- * Paper should be printed in A4 size with Times New Roman font
- * References should be written in APA style
- * Both soft & hard copies of abstract and full paper should be submitted on or before the stipulated dates.

Registration Fee:

- * College Teacher Participants with Paper Rs. 1000/-
- * College Teacher Participants without Paper Rs. 500/-
- * Research Scholar Participants with Paper Rs. 300/-
- * PG Student participants with paper Rs. 200/-
- * Other participants Rs. 200/-

Address for Communication:

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