

Entrepreneurship only way out for Nagaland: Governor Acharya

Staff Reporter

DIMAPUR, JUL 23 (NPN): Governor PB Acharya has observed that despite growing best agricultural produce farmers in Nagaland did not get their due as these were mostly sold at throwaway prices to traders from Assam and other parts of the country. He made this observation while attending a conference on "Start-ups and MSMEs in Food Processing" at Indian Council of Agricultural Research, National Research Centre on Mithun (ICAR-NRCM) at Medziphema on Monday as a chief guest.

The conference was jointly organised by Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and Union Ministry of Food processing Industries in partnership with ICAR-NRC on Mithun, industries & commerce department, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

"Despite lack of good



PB Acharya

roads, proper facilities and power, farmers in Mon district grew cardamom of good quality and ginger the size of a fist," Acharya said, but lamented that cardamom that cost over a thousand rupees per kilo was sold for about 200 to 240 rupees.

Mincing no words, he categorically pointed out that there was "barely any cooperative movement in the State, the work culture is depressing and that everyone seems to be hungry for money."

With increasing number of educated and talented workforce entering the market every year, Acharya stressed entrepreneurship as the only way out for

Nagaland's progress. He called for a paradigm shift in mindset and appealed to youth of the State to think beyond seeking a job and impact society at the grassroots level.

The governor also pulled up universities for producing graduates who merely sought to earn a living and lacked an entrepreneurial bent of mind and nationalised banks for failing to penetrate into far flung areas of the State, citing Eastern Nagaland as an example. Nationalised banks and government agencies should focus on assisting and supporting an entrepreneur every month, he stressed.

He suggested educational institutions to dedicate at least last six months in any course to learning skills that would help them become independent. "The success of a university is not determined by how many students graduated each year or got gold medals, but if the graduates could become job-givers instead of being job-seekers," he added.

(Cont'd on p-11)

Entrepreneurship only way out for ...

(From p-1)

Acharya also talked about the need to conserve nature, adding that he no longer heard chirping of birds at Raj Bhavan in Kohima and that there were hardly any bees and butterflies today that could affect cross-pollination.

Industries & commerce department secretary Lithrongla G Chishi also addressed the gathering consisting of dignitaries and aspiring entrepreneurs and assured that the State government was ready to help entrepreneurs in the state.

She lamented that despite numerous schemes launched by the Central government, entrepreneurs in Nagaland had not been able to avail them.

Lithrongla informed the audience that by August 15 this year the State government would organise a workshop to address the challenges faced by entrepreneurs in the State.

She added that it had been learnt that lack of venture capitalist was a deterrent and therefore a need

to work out a modality to allow entrepreneurs to take advantage of the numerous schemes and packages had arisen.

Mentioning that Nagaland received 50% grant from the Centre as compared to around 30% by other States, the secretary advised entrepreneurs not to be subsidy-oriented and concentrate on sustainability and employment generation.

She further advised them not to be stuck on one item, but incorporate a cluster approach by studying and observing seasonal agricultural produce.

She informed them of a designated food park at Ganeshguri and urged them to register under Udyog Aadhar.

Some of the highlights of the first session were lighting of lamp, felicitation of chief guest and dignitaries, welcome address by ICAR-NRCM director Dr Abhijit Mitra, opening remarks by ASSOCHAM assistant general secretary Dr Om S Tyagi, highlighting

of NABARD's initiatives in food processing by NABARD AGM S Hrangkhoh, concluding remarks and vote of thanks by ICAR-NRCM principal scientist (animal nutrition) Dr Nazrul Haque.

Both the first and second sessions were chaired by ICAR-NRCM scientist Dr Lalchamliani.

The second session consisted of power point presentations of various schemes for start-ups and MSMEs in food processing by NABARD AGM S Hrangkhoh, MSME DI Dimapur deputy director Tali Longchar, NEDFi branch manager Vimeyiel Richa, CIH Dimpaur marketing specialist Prabin Das, SBI relationship manager Abhai Lakra, SIDBI branch manager Albert L Gangte, Nagaland University assistant professor Wunghsim Zimik and National Small Industries Corporation assistant manager S Premkumar Singh.

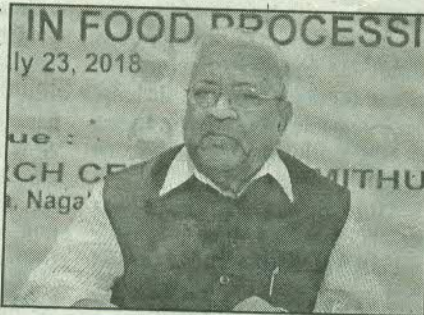
The conference ended with an open house session and lunch.

Entrepreneurship is the only way out to employ youths: Governor

DIMAPUR, JULY 23: Governor of Nagaland P B Acharya today said that Nagaland has a high number of educated people but still "we are a subsidy state." He said this tragedy has been created by our own people, adding, "Academically we are on top but in reality it is different."

Speaking at the conference on Startups and MSMEs in food processing, organized by ASSOCHAM, ICAR-National Research Centre on Mithun (NRCM) and Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) the Governor said the State Government cannot employ youths as Government jobs have reached a saturation point. He said entrepreneurship is the only way out to employ the youths of the State.

Lamenting that there is no cooperative system in the State though there is a Cooperation



Department, the Governor stressed that cooperative system must be established and strengthened by the State Government; so that farmers at the grass root level can participate and reap benefits of their hard work.

He also questioned the role of banks, which are not forthcoming in providing loans to budding entrepreneurs, when the Government of India has already created avenues for them to procure loans through MUDRA schemes. He asked

banks how many loans they have provided to entrepreneurs so far?

He was also critical of the young Naga mindset and said that no Naga wants to work but want to be a king.

Citing an example where the Government had initiated to train Naga youths in skill development and other avenues and invited applications, the Governor said a large number of applications were received for training, but a majority wanted "to train how to get a Government job."

Stating that those applications were rejected and only those who wanted to train in skill development were selected, he said around Rs 20 crores were spent on their training, but after the training those youths were never found.

(Cont'd on Page 12)

Entrepreneurship is the only way out

(Cont'd from Page, 1)

On Mithun farming in the State, the Governor stated that Mithun is comparatively less in number in Nagaland when compared with the number of Mithun in Arunachal Pradesh, but added that Nagaland is no way second to Arunachal in Mithun farming.

He said Mithun grows by itself and the conditions in Nagaland are most suitable for rearing mithun for various uses.

On a suggestion made during the conference to observe "Mithun Day", the Governor said people have no care for nature which was evident from the absence of birds. He said it is important to have a 'birds day or animals day' but lamented that if 'there are no bees or butterflies, how can there be pollination.

The Governor also said ASSOCHAM is the strongest pillar in democracy of the country and it is their duty to empower people of the country.

Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Lithrongla G Chishi stressed on the need for coordination with the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR). She lamented that the Government of India wants the people of Northeast to take up schemes, but no one is coming forward.

She also said that for any programme of the GoI, people

need term loan for which the banks need to come forward and make the entrepreneurs aware about the loans.

Calling for working together with the industries department, she asked the entrepreneurs to use the facilities available at Ganeshnagar and set up food processing units. She also said the department is ready to help anyone taking up entrepreneurship on Naga chilli and tree tomatoes.

Stating that vegetables and fruits are seasonal in nature, she asked the entrepreneurs not to stick to one item only, but think of alternatives to reap the benefits throughout the year.

"We should not be subsidy oriented. We should be sustainable and employment oriented," she said.

Dr Abhijit Mitra, Director, ICAR-NRC on Mithun, Medziphema in his welcome address outlined the need for organizing this conference. He shared various initiatives and achievements of ICAR-NRC on Mithun. He further informed about numerous benefits of mithun farming and how it can be helpful in achieving Prime Minister's goal of doubling farmer's income.

As Dr. Mitra highlighted the importance and showcased different products which their scientists have developed from mithun, he also highlighted Mithun as a socio-cultural and

economic symbol of North-east, and must be taken care of.

Dr. Om S Tyagi, Assistant Secretary General, ASSOCHAM in his opening remarks thanked all the partners and talked about the shape of food industry in India. He said that ASSOCHAM will handhold the entrepreneurs and provide them with all the marketing infrastructure, which is required by them for selling their processed product across the country and beyond.

He further added that food processing is one of the largest global sectors and the shape of the global food processing industry is constantly changing.

A plenary session was also held on schemes by Government and other financial institutions.

(Page News Service)

