

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND HORTICULTURE SOWING SUCCESS

Inspired by the vision of Mamata Banerjee, Hon'ble Chief Minister, West Bengal, Department of Food Processing Industries and Horticulture is committed to ensure that the sector sows the seeds of success.

ROADMAP TO PROSPERITY HORTICULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

- Pack House in all districts (2018-19): 3 each
 - Setting up of at least 1 modern Pack House in 2019-20 in 3 Zones: South Bengal, Paschimanchal, North Bengal
 - Revival and upgradation of Borewell Pack House and upgradation of Maids Pack House
 - Setting up of VHT in Borewell Pack House
 - Operationalisation of the Irradiation Unit, Hooghly
 - Setting up of an Irradiation Centre in North Bengal
 - Revival of Tissue Culture Lab in Agartshapur, Nadia
 - Assessment of all multipurpose cold storages in the state
 - Ripening chambers: Assessment of requirement and development of such additional infrastructure
 - Development of Honey Hub in North 24 Parganas
 - Operationalisation of the Centre for Excellence, Hooghly (including training component)
 - Pilot project on orchards and kitchen gardens (20 schools in each district)
 - Review of all horticultural farms: To assess potential for future development
 - Project on development of spaces in 16 districts with focus on processing and packaging
 - Integrated development of Horticulture in eight districts with focus on exotic varieties of flowers
 - Holistic development of mushroom production to expand the livestock options
- ### FOOD PROCESSING
- Connecting horticultural producers with final markets
 - Setting up of Honey Hub in North 24 Parganas
 - Handholding support to food processing industries
- ### HORTICULTURE EXPORT
- Following FPO practices for exporting exports
 - Capacity building of Government Officials/Local Representatives/Exporters/FPOs
 - Mapping of export destinations for final price realisation

SUCCESS STORIES IN CINCHONA AND OTHER MEDICINAL PLANTS SECTOR

- Cultivation of Ipecac
- Expansion of Cinchona Plantations
- Extension of Herbal Production
- Production of Dry Ipecac Root
- Estimation of Colletia plantation
- Construction of Model about Diseases
- Flood-irrigation water in plantation
- Development of two extension of Theobroma cacao
- Application programme
- Collection of wild species enriched with high value medicinal properties and maintenance of the same in Research Lab & Nursery
- Cultivation of Coffee by 1252 farmers covering 306 acres as a first step towards Katerpanga Coffee, in consultation with Coffee Board
- Initiation of process of sale through e-Auction of Cinchona bark, dry Ipecac root, Rubber sheet and Rubber sap.

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FRUITS OF SUCCESS ACHIEVEMENTS IN FOOD PROCESSING AND HORTICULTURE

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SUCCESS STORIES IN HORTICULTURE SECTOR

DEVELOPMENT OF HORTICULTURE IN PASCHIMCHAL DISTRICTS

The Paschimanchal Development Plan, which was started as a pilot project in 2017-18 as a dedicated intervention towards establishment of perennial horticultural fruit orchards in the uplands of the drought prone areas in Paschimanchal, covering six (6) districts and creation of some permanent assets for additional income generation for farmers, was expanded to cover new areas. The horticultural areas expansion programme in 2018-19 has brought 2825 Ha area under perennial fruits and 675 Ha area under vegetable crops.



NORTH BENGAL HORTICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Considering the extent and positive impact of the Paschimanchal Development Programme, a pilot programme was initiated for the expansion of horticultural activities in the six (6) districts of North Bengal. The aim of the scheme is to provide livelihood support to the local people as well as improved and planned development of the region by extending horticultural activities like cultivation of fruits, vegetables, spices, flowers and plantation crops suitable to the area.



FRESH HORTICULTURAL EXPORT PROMOTION INITIATIVES

Registration of farmers in West Bengal for the export of fresh horticultural produce to the European Union (EU) countries as per the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Export Inspection and Phytosanitary Certification, as laid down by Government of India, has been started in the State to promote export of fresh horticultural produce of West Bengal to the European Union (EU) countries. In addition, exports to countries in the Middle East and South-east Asia were facilitated. A Reverse Buyers Sellers Meet was held in Kolkata in June 2018, where the mergers from various districts were showcased. Exports from countries such as Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Nepal, Israel and Singapore participated and had interactions with all export processing districts.



PROTECTED CULTIVATION

It has been found that protected cultivation provides promising scope for year round cultivation of high value flowers, bell peppers and vegetables, ensuring higher productivity and safety against adverse weather conditions. In 2018-19, a total of 352 Poly/Green/Shadow-Net houses of 200 sqm each, with a total area of 70,400 sq. m., were constructed in West Bengal for protected cultivation of high value flowers, vegetables and bellpeppers.



KHARIF ONION CULTIVATION AND ONION STORAGE STRUCTURES

Introduction of Kharif Onion (growing of onion in rainy/monsoon season in uplands) programme is a remarkable achievement showing a paradigm shift in the cultivation practices in wet/semi-wet and shallow (new and old) areas of the state. In 2018-19, around 1100 Ha cultivable area was brought under Kharif Onion cultivation and 113 low cost onion storage sheds with storage capacity of 25 MT each (total capacity of 2825 MT) were constructed. In 2017-18, total production of onion in West Bengal was around 6,33,600 MT.



GRAPES CULTIVATION

Cultivation of Commercial Seedless Varieties of Grapes (e.g. Thompson Seedless, Madira, Muscat, Marzemino, Portico Seedless varieties) has been taken up in Horticulture Research and Development Farm, Taldanga in Bankura district. In consultation with the NRC Grapes, Pune, to grow seedless varieties of grapes which can be processed for value addition. As per the reports of the NRC, the vines are thriving well under the agro-climatic conditions of Bankura district and the planting is expected around the month of June, 2019.



FARMER PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS

A total of thirty (30) Farmer Producer Organisations have been constituted and registered for building linkages of farmers with markets, with the objective to reduce the role of intermediaries and to ensure better price realisation by the farmers.



POST HARVEST MANAGEMENT

In 2018-19, two (2) Multipurpose Cold storages were extended financial support for cold storage capacity expansion and technology upgradation through induction of solar power as alternative energy source under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture. Recognising the importance of pack houses as an effective post-harvest management infrastructure to increase the shelf-life of storage and retail life of fruits and vegetables, fifteen (15) semi-automated pack houses were approved till October 2018 for extension of financial support for incubation of better post-harvest management, sorting and grading practices among horticultural growers.



IDENTITY CARDS FOR HONEY BEE KEEPERS

The Department of Food Processing Industries and Horticulture has provided recognition to the bands of honey bee keepers in West Bengal and issued the process of collecting honey with best boxes.



HONEY HUB

Beekeeping activities are being carried out by the farmers of the State in rural areas under integrated farming systems. Honey bees are one of the best pollinators which help in increasing the yield of various agricultural and horticultural crops through pollination support. Further, it provides income and employment to the rural people by way of increasing yield of various crops and providing honey and other beekeeping products, viz. royal jelly, propolis, bees wax, combi honey, bee venom, etc. An initiative for setting up of State level Honey Hub at Durgam, North 24 Parganas, has been undertaken to speed up the growth of beekeeping by promoting scientific methods and earn appropriate revenue from sale of honey and other beekeeping products for the farmers.



CULTIVATION OF NEW VARIETIES OF FRUITS

Commercial varieties of new fruits like dragon fruit, strawberry, etc. have been introduced in various parts of the State, and these have been found to be commercially promising.



NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT THROUGH ESTABLISHMENT OF KITCHEN GARDENS

The Department of Food Processing Industries and Horticulture, has taken up the initiative of providing nutritional support through establishment of kitchen gardens in six (6) Women/Children/Disabled/Vegetal Homes of the State in consultation with the Department of Women and Child Development.

