

Words from NEDFi CMD

I am happy to note that our R&D Centre at Khetri has taken the initiative in fulfilling another requirement in commercialization of medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs) in the state by bringing out the much needed package of practices for cultivation of these new yet high investment crops in the form of a Handbook. This is an outcome of a two-day workshop organized in collaboration with the Dept. of Agriculture, Assam, State Medicinal Plants Board (SMPB) and State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD) with the participation of all the related organizations like NABARD, Assam Agricultural University, Regional Research Laboratory, Jorhat, Gauhati University, Central Plantation Crop Research Institute, Regional Centre, Kahikuchi, leading NGOs, Exporters, Industrialists, Traders and Progressive farmers. The workshop was followed by three more technical meetings including one buyer-seller meet for the purpose. The importance of medicinal and aromatic plants as crops is now well recognized. There is great scope to increase the yield and quality by following the recommended practices as well as post harvest management, which is possible only by educating the rural masses for their adoption. This attempt to bring together research, extension, financial institutions and industries should prove to be rewarding, particularly in building confidence among farmers, processors, buyers, banks and insurance institutions in achieving success. We are seeking the support of every one to take us to the destiny.

I am also happy to note that a similar exercise on formulating package of practices of MAPs cultivation would be conducted for all the NE states in a phased manner. I am thankful to all the participants for their contribution to this noble cause. I express my gratitude to Dr. Tapan Dutta, Hony. Advisor for Agriculture to the Chief Minister of Assam and Dr. Ravi Kota IAS, Secretary, Agriculture and all the committee members, other participants and scientists of the region for their active involvement in the entire exercise.

I take this opportunity of wishing the joint effort a grand success.

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(K. N. Hazarika)
Chairman and Managing Director
NEDFi