

REPORT ON KRISHI VASANT 9TH TO 13TH FEBRUARY, 2014.

The biggest ever National Agriculture Exhibition '*KRISHI VASANT*' was organised at Central Institute for Cotton Research, Wardha Road, Nagpur from February 9 to 13, 2014.

Inaugurating the five day biggest-ever agriculture exposition, President Pranab Mukherjee said that the country has emerged as the world's top exporter of rice and second largest exporter of wheat, sugar and cotton. The country has achieved food security because of special security initiatives taken for increasing food grains production in the eastern part of the country, production of pulses and oilseeds and provision of credit to farmers. These measures have resulted in ushering in the second green revolution in the country. He said that this feat would not have been possible without the farmer's hard work. "From net importers of food grains five years ago, we are major exporters of rice, wheat, fruits, cotton and sugar today relieving the strain on economy". Union Minister Sharad Pawar said that a new record of 263.2 million tonnes (MT) in food grain production is expected this year. "This would be about 4 million tonnes more than the earlier record of 259 million tonnes achieved two years ago." Pawar noted.

This historic *Krishi Vasant*, a national level agriculture expo, has drawn nearly seven Lakhs of farmers from across the country and has created a new confidence among farmers in the country including 73 farmers from Meghalaya under the guidance of four officers of Agriculture Department and our farmers shines during farmers-scientist interaction which has been rated as **best session** and has been benefited tremendously. Six out of ten prizes were given to our farmers from Meghalaya for their best and constructive questions. Nearly all 750 stalls from all over the country participated, and our State's Departmental was one of them. All four officers, deputed for duty in State Pavilion and supervision, performed our duties well. The stall showcased the varieties of Crops grown all over our State which attracted lakhs of farmers who were curious to see and know about our products and exhibits as our stall was very different from other's and many dignitaries too visited our stall, went back with joy and satisfied as all deputed officers were present and explained thoroughly to queries raised. Some visitors such as Shri. Sanjay Bhoosreddy, Joint Secretary, DADG, New Delhi, wrote in our visitor's book "very good effort to demonstrate valuable Agricultural products of the great State of Meghalaya", Shri.Milan Mehra, Rym Exports Mumbai commented that our stalls were excellent stalls, display variety and explanation was clear, whereas Dr. Premjit Singh, Director of Extension Education, CAU, Imphal wrote "Excellent Exhibition stall which reflects hard working Meghalaya State", Dr. C.V Banker Dy. Chief Tech. Officer National Research Centre Citrus (NRCC), Nagpur too wrote 'this is very good stall, they have arrange and convey to the farmers, I am happy to see Meghalaya farmers'.

The five-day *Krishi vasant*, the biggest National Agriculture Fair concluded with felicitation of 51 successful and innovative farmers from across India who dared to experiment, take risk and venture into activities like fisheries, animal husbandry etc., as till now, the research was confined within four walls of laboratory but it is the farmers who made innovations in agriculture sector and this in return has brought prosperity to Nation. Each of these farmers with their unique ideas and relentless effort brought forth concepts which have not only helped improve their lifestyles but has majorly contributed in Agriculture Sector. The awardees felt that *Krishi Vasant* had helped them motivate and share their achievements with other farmers from across the country. The award ceremony was held in the presence of Prithviraj Chavan, Chief Minister, Maharashtra and other Ministers. Now, the farmers have a big challenge ahead of them to increase their production to ensure that the FOOD SECURITY SCHEME becomes successful. Similarly, farmers should lookout for value addition of their produce. A new chapter in partnership between farmers and industry has been initiated. Farmers and industry must work together and make India a global superpower, exhorted Maharashtra Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan .

On the grand success of *Krishi Vsant*, Sanjeev Gupta, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India declared that the award winning 51 farmers would help educate the Government Agricultural Departments and other farmers through their experiences at MANAGE, Hyderabad.



GLIMPS OF KRISHI VASANT