



HORTICULTURE MISSION FOR NORTH EAST AND HIMALAYAN STATES (HMNEH)

The Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture was launched in 2001-02 to address issues related to production and productivity, post harvest handling, marketing and processing of horticultural crops in the North Eastern states. The Mission was extended to three Himalayan states namely Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand in 2003-04. The Mission covers entire spectrum of horticulture right from production to consumption through backward and forward linkages. The Mission consists of four Mini Missions, namely:

MINI MISSION-I

Research – coordinated and implemented by Indian Council of Agricultural Research. This Mini Mission concentrates on technology generation appropriate to the region. Major components under MM-I are supply of basic seed and planting material, technology standardization, refinement, on farm demonstration and training.

MINI MISSION-II

Production and Productivity – coordinated by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation and implemented by State Departments of Horticulture/Agriculture. This mini mission aims at increasing production and productivity of Horticulture crops by adoption of improved production Technologies.

MINI MISSION-III

Post-harvest management and Marketing-coordinated by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, implemented by Directorate of Marketing & Inspection and National Horticulture Board. This Mini Mission aims for efficient post-harvest management, techniques, which include development of cold storage facilities, efficient transport and marketing facilities.

MINI MISSION-IV

Processing-coordinated and implemented by Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India. This Mini Mission aims at promoting processing industry for value addition to Horticultural produce by promoting new processing units and up gradation of existing units. Technology Mission Cell at Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Headquarter coordinates with Central Ministries/ Departments/ State Governments/ other agencies involved in implementation of the Mission. The T.M cell is responsible for budget formulation, release of fund to SFAC and other agencies, obtaining approval of proposals at appropriate level and preparation of consolidated reports. All these functions come under the overall supervision of Horticulture Commissioner.

Financial achievement

During the years 2001-02 to 2009-2010, an amount of `1863.83 crores has been released under the Mission, of which `1370.70 crores for NE states and `493.13 crores for Himalayan states.

During the year 2009-2010, an amount of `359 crore was earmarked and an amount of `325.72 crore was released under the mission, out of which `248.23 crore has been released to North Eastern states and `77.49 crore to Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttrakhand.

Physical achievement

The implementation of the mission since inception of the scheme upto 2009-10 has helped in bringing in an additional area of 528748 ha under various horticulture crops in the states. Of this fruits contributed 287516 ha, vegetables 104202 ha, spices including saffron 74485 ha, plantation crops (cashew) 14111 ha, medicinal 6464 ha, aromatic plants 10183 ha, flowers 30468 ha, root & tubers crops 1319 ha. In addition, 36968 ha of senile and unproductive orchards have been rejuvenated to increase productivity. Major infrastructure which has come up under the mission includes 1017 nurseries, 11177 community tanks and 14583 tube wells. Drip irrigation has been extended to 15751 ha. Twenty seven model floriculture centers and 57 herbal gardens have been established. Besides this, 27 tissue culture units and 22 disease forecasting unit have also been setup. Mission gave special thrust to high value crops like tomato capsicum, strawberry and flowers to ensure production of quality produce. More than 8.5million sq m of protected cultivation has been established in these regions. So far 5927 power tillers, 65775 manually operated machines, 12748 power operated implements and 13276 diesel engines have been distributed under the mission. For proper handling and marketing of horticulture produce, 47 whole-sale markets, 344 rural primary market/apni mandis, 35 cold storage, 65 processing units and 18 state grading laboratories have been established.

During the period under report, an additional area of 93757 ha has been brought under different horticultural crops. Of this, fruits contributed 44454 ha, vegetables 27270 ha,

spice including saffron 10683 ha, medicinal & aromatic plants 1928 ha, plantation crops 3368 ha, root & tubers 449 ha, flowers 5538 ha, etc. In addition, 7081 ha of senile and unproductive orchards have been rejuvenated for further higher production. Besides, infrastructure facilities such as 59 model nurseries, 1192 community tanks, 3631 tube wells, 764312 sq m of greenhouses, 6 model floriculture centers, 2 mushroom units, 32 rural primary markets/ apni mandis and 16 processing units have been established. Under Human Resource Development activity 37121 farmers/ officers including women farmers have been trained on various aspects of horticulture.

Review of past performance

- ? After launching of the Technology Mission on Horticulture, additional area of 528748 ha have been brought under Horticulture crops, till 2009-10.
- ? The mission has brought about transformation in the production scenario while in the pre-mission period, horticulture production was largely of the nature of key chain cultivation or taking cash crops for supplementing farm income, these are now being commercially cultivated. The additional area brought under various horticulture crops is direct impact of this support and realize high productivity level. The overall impact of the mission is quite visible in terms of increased level of awareness about the role of agricultural sector in the economic of the region. The vegetable scenario has started giving quick seasonal economic returns to farmers. Commercial cultivation of flowers such as orchids, anthurium, liliun, roses etc has improved the economy of many farmers besides providing ample employment opportunities for many youth especially women.
- ? Large number of farmers from all the states have been given exposure of Horticulture Development programmes outside the state, so as to familiarize them with latest technologies being employed by other developed states. Farmers' training under the mission is a key programme for ushering in Horticulture Development in the region.
- ? There is wide appreciation of the manner in which the Technology Mission Programmes have been conceived and are being implemented. The overall impact of the Mission is also very much visible in terms of increased level of awareness about the role of horticulture sector in the economy of the region.
- ? Some states like Mizoram and Manipur have made an impressive progress in vegetables, cultivation of second crop in a year after paddy, adopting cluster approach, thus helping the growers to earn better returns from same unit area of land. Technology Mission has made a significant change in the cropping pattern and returns from the land.
- ? In ornamental crops, major success has been observed in promoting Anthorium in Mizoram using planting material imported from abroad through private company. The company provides planting material and also know-how for growing under protected cover. The farmers in the state are highly enthusiastic about this, which can be treated as a success story of the Mission.

- ? The infrastructure facilities created such as nurseries, tissue culture units, community water tanks, tube wells, drip irrigation, greenhouses, model floriculture centre, mushroom units, vermi-compost units etc. have helped in production and supply of quality planting material and also improving production and productivity of horticulture crops in the region.
- ? Infrastructure facilities were also created for improved post harvest management, marketing as well as processing of horticultural produce in these states. These activities have helped in improving the economy of a majority of the inhabitants of the region, mainly small and marginal farmers.

Outstanding Challenges

While HMNEH has chalked up some impressive achievements in terms of expansion of area and range of horticulture produce, three critical challenges remain to be effectively tackled:

1. Strong marketing linkages within and beyond the region to the national and export markets for the wide variety of horticulture produce.
2. Use of modern farm equipment to enhance the productivity of farmers
3. Solutions for community based, low cost organic/GAP certification to add value to the horticulture produce of the north eastern and hill states targeted by HMNEH

SFAC has been mandated by Dept. of Agriculture, Govt. of India to find solutions to the above three challenges. SFAC invites private and public sector companies, research institutions, original equipment manufacturers, civil society organisations and any other interested party, to offer pilot proposals for solutions to any or all the above issues. Even individual or groups of individuals are eligible to submit proposals. Proposals are invited in the form of pilots covering one or more districts in one or more states covered by HMNEH. Successful proposals vetted by a technical committee will be eligible for 100% funding support, based on specific deliverables. Based on performance, effective pilots will be upscaled with financial support by Govt. of India in the entire region.

Guidelines for submission of proposals

- Part I of the proposal should be a brief profile of the organization; full details of current and past work profile, list of major projects undertaken, expertise in the area for which proposal is being submitted, previous work in region/State (if any), list of technical personnel in organization, copy of last annual audited accounts available.
- Part II of the proposal will cover the technical part of the proposal: describe the problem which you want to address (i.e. either marketing, or mechanization or certification or a combination thereof); the area to be targeted by the pilot (it must be at least one district at the very minimum); the details of the intervention; the likely outputs and outcomes; the measurable deliverables and the timelines.

- Part III of the proposal should contain details of the financial outlay, with itemized budgeting for the various components of the pilot. A maximum of 8% will be allowed as administrative overhead.

Proposals complete in all respects must reach the undersigned at the postal address given in the form of one single packet by 5 p.m. on 21st June 2011. The packet should be superscribed in bold letters: **PROPOSAL FOR HMNEH.**

No proposal will be received through e-mail or in electronic form. No earnest money is required at this stage.

The decision of the undersigned to accept or reject any or all proposals will be final and no reasons for the same will be provided.

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