

Assam gets best performance award in rice production



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Under food grains (Category II), the Union Agriculture Ministry has given the best performance award for the year 2010-11 to Assam. This was informed by the ministry to Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi through a letter. The award will be given away by the Prime Minister at a function to be held in New Delhi on July 16. It carries Rs 2 crore. Gogoi and State Agriculture Minister Nilomani Sen Dekha will receive this award.

Last year, that is in 2010-11, Assam was able to produce 52.31 lakh metric tonne foodgrain as per third advance estimate. Likewise during the year, Assam produced a record all time high production of 50.86 lakh metric tonne of rice. The source said that this achievement has come to Assam due to proper implementation of different schemes like National Food Security Mission-Rice, Rashtriya Krishi Vikash Yojana, different irrigation and mechanization programme, newly introduced of hybrid variety of rice etc.

The reward amount for the highest food grain producing State is Rs 2 crore and Rs 1 crore will be given for individual crop category. According to an official source, Assam will utilize the reward amount to improve the working environment in the agriculture offices.

The States are divided into three categories based on the highest production level of food grain achieved by a State in the previous five years. Assam came under category II along with other States like Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Chhatishgarh, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir .

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