

Wild crop harvesting boost



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Mowsam Hazarika 17 June 2017 7974 views

The Centre has [launched](#) a centrally sponsored Scheme named [as](#) Mission Organic Value Chain [Development](#) for the North Eastern states during to develop [crop](#) commodity specific organic value chain and address gaps in organic [crop](#) production. It further aims at wild [crop](#) harvesting, organic livestock management and processing handling and [marketing](#) of organic agricultural products through the developing [crop](#) specific organic production clusters with necessary infrastructural, technical and financial support by facilitating partnerships between farmers and organic businesses. This includes Local enterprises and / or [Farmer](#) Producer Companies based on back-to-back long-term [trade](#) relations with clients in domestic and export markets. This will help the farmers by providing enabling environment for project initiatives and development programs with necessary support for organic value chain development and create market access.

It will empower producers with program ownership by organizing them into FIGs with the final aim to federate into [farmer](#) producer organizations/ companies and replace conventional farming/subsistence farming system into local resource based, self sustainable, high value commercial organic enterprise. Developing commodity specific commercial organic value chain under integrated and concentrated approach with end-to-end facilities for production, processing, storage and [marketing](#) and develop organic parks/zones with facilities for collection, aggregation, value addition, processing, storage and market-linkages for specific commodities requiring capital intensive technology.

The scheme will provide the region products [as](#) brands/labels through brand building and facilitating stronger [marketing](#) access under the ownership of [growers](#)“ organizations/ companies.

Apart from it, this will focus on creating [state](#) specific [lead](#) agency (Organic Commodity Board or Organic Mission) for coordinating, monitoring, supporting and financing the development and operationalization of entire value chain.

Assam has identified the areas with feasibility of organic farming in [10](#) clusters in 9 different districts in Chirang, Cachar, Dhemaji, Majuli, Kamrup, Sonitpur, Kokrajhar and Nalbari and Golaghat with a target to attain a total of 5000 Ha of area and 5000 farmers in different clusters.

Dhemaji(Butikar areas), Majuli (Pokajora areas) and Golaghat([Kaziranga](#) areas) clusters are, selected for [Red](#) Rice and an area will also be covered in [Kaziranga crop](#) for Black Rice. Districts like Golaghat (Podumpather areas), Kamrup (Sonapur areas), Kokrajhar(Titagiri areas) and Chirang(Panbari areas) are specified in Ginger and Turmeric also Bokakhat and Sonipur followed by Turmeric and Ginger cultivation.

Bihaguri cluster of Sonitpur District specified in Okra and Ridge gourd, along with Ginger cultivation. Cachar in Lakhimpur cluster mainly focused on Pineapple [as](#) their major crops.

The farmers of the clusters will be organized to Self [Help](#) Groups and finally they will be registered under Society registration [Act as](#) Farmers Producers Companies. The Farmers [growers](#) will also be certified [as](#) Organic [growers](#) so that their produces may be marketed [as](#) certified organic. For better [marketing](#) of the organic produces Branding, labeling, Value addition and processing facilities will be created .

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BY MOWSAM HAZARIKA

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