Proceeding Report

of

North East Sustainability Conclave

On

Productivity and Green Growth

Organized by

National Productivity Council, DPIIT, MoC&I, GoI

And

ICAR – National Research Centre on Mithun, Nagaland
Date: 13th May 2023

Venue: Conference Hall, ICAR – National Research Centre on Mithun, Nagaland

Proceedings

North East Sustainability Conclave on "Productivity and Green Growth" to Advance Sustainable Development was jointly organized by National Productivity Council, DPIIT, MoC&I, GoI and ICAR – National Research Centre on Mithun, Medziphema, Nagaland on 13th April 2023. One of the key objectives of the conclave was to promote green growth in the Northeast region of India. The region is known for its rich natural resources, but there has been a growing concern over the adverse impact of economic activities on the environment. Therefore, the conclave aimed to explore ways to promote economic development while ensuring environmental sustainability. The event provided a forum to representatives from the government, private sector, academia, and progressive farmers to exchange ideas and develop strategies for promoting sustainability, which is crucial for the long-term growth and prosperity of the region.

Some of the dignitaries who were present in the Conclave were as follows:

- 1. Shri Sundeep Kumar Nayak, IAS, Director General, National Productivity Council
- 2. Dr. B N Tripathi, DDG (Animal Science), ICAR, New Delhi
- 3. Dr. D. N. Thakur, National President, Sahakar Bharati
- 4. Dr. K. M. Bujarbaruah, Former Director, ICAR NRC on Mithun, Former DDG (Animal Science) and Former Vice Chancellor, AAU, Jorhat
- 5. Sh K. D. Bhardwaj, Director, Env. and Climate Change, National Productivity Council
- 6. Mr. Rajashekara, DIG, IPS, Chumukedima
- 7. Dr. S. Venugopal, Director, NIT, Dimapur
- 8. Dr T. K. Dutta, Director, ICAR-CIRB, Hisar, Haryana
- 9. Dr. Girish Patil S., Director, ICAR-NRC on Mithun
- 10. Dr. I Shakuntala, Dean, Veterinary College, Jalukie
- 11. Dr V. K. Vidyarthi, Dean, School of Engineering and Technology, Dimapur
- 12. Dr H. Kalita, Joint Director, ICAR Nagaland Centre, Medziphema, Nagaland
- 13. Dr Arnob Sen, Joint Director, ICAR Manipur Centre, Imphal
- 14. Dr A. R. Sen, Principal Scientist, ICAR NMRI, Hyderabad
- 15. Dr. M. H. Khan, Principal Scientist, ICAR-NRC on Mithun
- 16. Dr. Nazrul Haque, Principal Scientist, ICAR-NRC on Mithun

In addition to the above, Scientists of ICAR – National Research Centre on Mithun and ICAR Nagaland Centre, Faculty from SASARD, Medziphema, Veterinary College, Jalukie, Patkai Christian College, Chumukdeima, School of Engineering and Technology, Dimapur and students from various colleges also participated in the event. About 120 participants participated in the Conclave.

Dr. Girish Patil S., Director of ICAR-NRCM, welcomed all the dignitaries and highlighted the crucial role that Mithun can play in promoting sustainability and mitigating the adverse impacts of climate change. He emphasized that rearing Mithun in the forest and using its manure can help enrich the biomass of the forest. Additionally, Mithun plays a pivotal role in enhancing the soil quality by exhibiting both direct and indirect influences on the nutrient availability. Dr. B N Tripathi, DDG (Animal Science), ICAR, New Delhi in his opening address stated that climate change is an important issue to be addressed and we have a goal of achieving net-zero

greenhouse gas emissions globally by the year 2070 and strategies need to be drawn to work towards this goal.

There were three Special addresses by the eminent experts:

- 1) "Green Manufacturing in North East India" by Dr. S. Venugopal, Director, National Institute of Technology, Dimapur, Nagaland
- 2) "Crop and livestock based natural farming with special reference to North East India" by Dr K. M. Bujarbaruah, Former DDG (AS), ICAR and Former Vice Chancellor, AAU, Jorhat
- 3) "Organic Agriculture in North East India: SWOT Analysis" by Dr Nazrul Haque, Principal Scientist, ICAR National Research Centre on Mithun, Nagaland

Sh. K. D. Bhardwaj, the Director of Environment and Climate Change at the National Productivity Council, delivered a thematic address that highlighted the activities undertaken by the organization to promote sustainability. He shared valuable insights into the initiatives undertaken by the National Productivity Council to encourage sustainable practices across various sectors of the economy. Dr. D. N. Thakur, National President, Sahakar Bharati, emphasized proper food storage for its availability during the lean season. He also stated that about 40% of the food is wasted before reaching consumers, so measures have to be taken to mitigate food waste.

Shri Sundeep Kumar Nayak, IAS, Director General of the National Productivity Council, delivered a keynote address as the esteemed Chief Guest. In his speech, he emphasized the critical role that the National Productivity Council plays in spearheading the green growth movement in the country. Shri Nayak highlighted that the National Productivity Council provides technical assistance to state governments and organizations to facilitate the adoption of sustainable practices. He further underscored the urgent need to create a net-zero state action plan for all North Eastern States, which includes both mitigation and adaptation measures aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting carbon-neutral activities. Sh K. D. Bhardwaj, Director, Env. and Climate Change, National Productivity Council coordinated the Question & Answer Session. Dr Meraj Haider Khan, Principal Scientist delivered Vote of Thanks.

Recommendations emerging out of the presentations and deliberations in the conclave were as follows:

- 1. Need for adopting green manufacturing: There is a pressing need to adopt sustainable manufacturing also referred to as green manufacturing or eco-friendly manufacturing, which is receiving more attention in the manufacturing world. The green manufacturing lowers resource and production costs, lowers regulatory compliance costs, improves sales and brand recognition, greater access to financing and capital, and easier employee hiring and retention. By implementing sustainable manufacturing practices, process plants can improve their reputation to expand their customer base, lower waste, and cut expenses to boost their profit margin and enhance their bottom line he added. Programs need to be organized to enhance the awareness on green manufacturing process to manufacturers.
- 2. Promoting organic agriculture in NER: North Eastern States are better placed to adopt organic agricultural practices as usage of the chemical inputs is much lower or nil in most of the locations. There is a need to promote post harvest processing and create marketing infrastructure to help farmers to sell their produce. The State Govt may take lead for subsidizing group certification and Setting up Community Based Organizations (CBO) for subsidy schemes. Establishment of Organic farming producer groups and Organic farmer markets can help in achieving direct marketing of produce to the consumers by the Producers.
- **3. Promotion of natural farming:** While the concept of Natural farming is being coined now, NER is following these practices since ages. There is a need to document them and showcase it before the world and leverage this feature for better marketing of the produce.
- **3.1 Mapping natural farming areas of NER:** Satellite/ Drone mapping of natural farming areas of NE and their quantification followed by generation of primary data right from carbon / ecological footprints to crops cultivated, productivity pattern, constraints and gap identification to intervention scheduling under the support of National Mission on NF needs to be given priority.
- **3.2 Natural Livestock Farming:** The NLF need to be promote by coordinating its activities in collaboration with GLOHMSIWA (Global One Health Mission through Siddayur Wellness Approach) with an aim of promoting Ethno-Veterinary Practices (EVP). NE Institutions can tie up with them and jointly work towards promoting natural farming.
- **3.3 Partnering with International organizations working in sustainability:** The Louis Bolk Institute (LBI) is an independent international knowledge institute to advance truly

- sustainable agriculture, nutrition and health with nature as the source of knowledge about life. Activities can be undertaken in collaboration with LBI. We can also Align with FAO's program on Crop and AnGR (Animal Genetic Resource) conservation and utilization for Food and Agriculture with the support from Govt. of India and local governments.
- **3.4 Working with Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC):** Develop joint initiative with the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) at district and *Taluk* level to prepare crop, animal and MAP biodiversity register of the area.
- **3.5 Establish animal health checkpoints:** Facilitate animal health checkpoints at every entry route of animals in the international boundaries to prevent cross boundary spread of diseases leading to outbreaks and which pose threat to livestock in the region and compromise natural farming practices.
- **3.6 Leverage one health concept in select niche area:** Link One Health program to few select sites in NE where animals and man live together. Living together of animals and humans is imperative for organic and natural farming practices.
- **3.7 Analyzing the nutrient availability to livestock:** Assess the nutrient bio-availability in the available flora of the area, evaluating their bio-fortification needs and biomass availability and plan local resource centric soil human and livestock feeding strategies.
 - **4. Utilizing farm based renewable energy resources:** Farmers need to focus more on the use of biogas to reduce the use of fossil fuels. This will ensure profitable use of the byproducts and waste generated from the farming activities apart from reducing dependence on renewable sources of energy.
 - **5. Tapping collective energy of cooperatives:** Cooperative movement and collective energy of cooperative unions must be harnessed for achieving green and inclusive growth.
 - **6. Develop net zero action plans for different states:** There is a need to develop net zero state action plan for all NE states by covering the mitigation and adoption measures aiming at reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and implementation of carbon neutral activities.
 - **7. Role of private sector:** There is a need to rope in private sector in achieving sustainability and also there is a need to green finance environmentally sustainable projects or business practices.

Deliberations in the Conclave helped bring about awareness on green growth among the stakeholders. It also provided crystallized recommendations which can pave the way for developing action plan for greener NER.





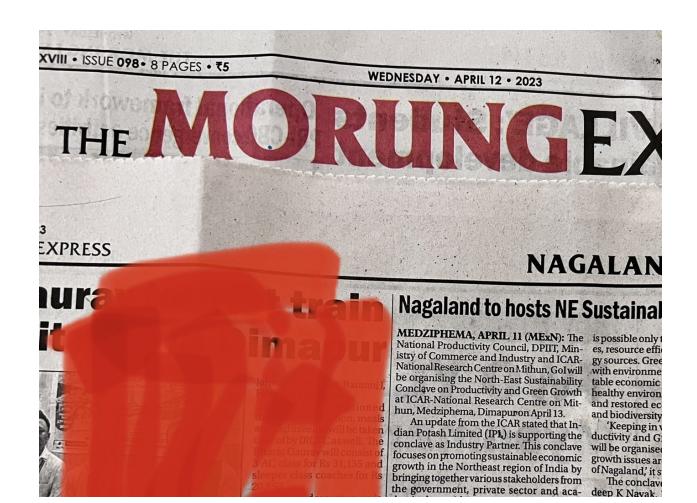












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Representatives share ideas to achieve susta

Dimapur, April 13 (EMN): Representatives from the government, private sector, academia, and progressive farmers have deliberated and shared insights on strategies and ideas to achieve sustainable economic development in the Northeast region of India.

Representatives shared their ideas during the Northeast sustainability conclave on productivity and green growth held at ICAR-National Research Centre on Mithun, Medziphema, on Thursday. The event was jointly organised by National Productivity Council (NPC), DPIIT, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industries, government of India, and



Sundeep Kumar Nayak speaking at the Northeast sustainability conclave on productivity and green growth at ICAR-NRC on Mithun in Medziphema on Thursday.

bon neutral activities. He has further emphaDr. Tripathi also stated that organic and natural