

*REPORT OF VISIT TO GUWAHATI, ASSAM
DURING 19-20 JANUARY, 2015*



*Department of Agriculture & Cooperation
Krishi Bhavan
New Delhi*

Report on visit Dr. Jose C. Samuel, Chief Consultant (MIDH) to Guwahati, Assam on 19-20 January, 2015 to review MIDH & VIUC

The visit was primarily made to:

Review the progress under HMNEH component of MIDH,
Review progress under VIUC,
Reconcile web posting of HMNEH progress.

A. Horticulture Mission for North East & Himalayan States (HMNEH)

During 2014-15, an outlay of Rs. 48.00 crore has been earmarked for Assam as per approved Annual Action Plan. A sum of Rs.18.63 crore has been released for taking up activities like area expansion, creation of water resources through construction of community tanks and individual tanks, protected cultivation, promotion of IPM/INM, horticulture mechanization, HRD. Summary details of approved Action Plan and progress achieved till December, 2014 are given below:

Details of Target and progress achieved under HMNEH in Assam

Rs. in lakh

S. No.	Activity	Unit	Total Outlay		Release		Progress till December, 2014	
			Phy Target	Fin. Outlay	Phy. Target	Fin. Outlay	Phy. Ach	Fin. Ach.
1	Research & Development	No.					110.00	11.00
2	Plantation Infrastructure and Development	No.	10	75.00	0	0.00		
3	Establishment of new gardens / Area Expansion +Mushrooms	Ha.	3682	750.26	2752	554.76	6222	1224.03
4	Maintenance 1 & 2 Year	Ha.	3751	450.46	3751	450.46		
5	Rejuvenation/ replanting	Ha.	300	60.00	0	0.00		
6	Promotion of IPM/INM	Ha.						
7	Organic Farming + Vermi compost unit	No.	4375	350.00	1000	80.00	7650	612.00
8	FLD+ PFDC+GAP	No.	180	180	0	0		
9	Post Harvest Management	No.	271	515.50	0	0.00		
10	Food Processing	No.	-	-				
11	Markets	No.	23	90.75	0	0.00		
12	Creation of Water resources	No.	500.00	375.00	500.00	375.00		
13	Protected cultivation	Ha.	530.68	868.60	64.00	173.90	365.00	235.10

14	Horticulture Mechanization	No.	70	52.50	0	0.00		
15	Beekeeping	No.	20000	240.00	4000	32.00	5880	67.20
16	Human Resource Development (HRD)	No.	6250	262.00	3200	103.40		
17	Centre of Excellence for Horticulture	No.						
18	Awareness, Survey etc.			290.00		0.00		
19	Mission Management/ TSG			239.94		93.12		
	G. Total			4800.00		1862.63		2149.33 *

* Actual expenditure is to the tune of Rs. 1237.72 after adjusting progress posted wrongly in the month of January, 2015.

The Action Plan includes activities on PHM and marketing, which needs to be taken up.

Dr. T.D. Hanse took over as Director of Horticulture & Mission Director, HMNEH on 19.01.2015. He was appraised about the need to expedite request for 2nd release of funds under HMNEH during 2014-15. He was also informed about the discrepancy in web posting of HMNEH progress during 2014-15, as cumulative figures were posted on the web site, that too for the month of January, 2015 instead of December, 2014. Progress for the years 2010-11 to 2012-13 were not posted.

DEO, Shri Amrendra Talukdar was trained to post the progress at State HQ level. Accordingly, progress for the years 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 were got uploaded on the web site. Posting of progress for 2014-15 was also got rectified partially.

It was noted that district level progress of HMNEH was being uploaded at the State HQ. It was impressed upon the need to ensure that the progress from each district should be uploaded from the respective district.

The year wise details of release and expenditure under HMNEH in Assam during the XI Plan, 2013-14 and 2014-15 are given below:

Year	Rs. in crore		Remarks
	Release	Expenditure (as per web posting)	
2007-08	26.80	23.68	
2008-09	36.75	31.65	

2009-10	35.99	30.13	
2010-11	29.95	0.00 29.72	Updated on 19.01.2015
2011-12	25.00	0.00 28.75	
2012-13	37.49	0.00 37.36	
2013-14	48.00	33.60	
2014-15	18.63	24.445 21.49*	Partially updated on 20.1.2015.

* Actual expenditure during 2014-15 is to the tune of Rs.12.38 crore till December, 2014. An amount of Rs. 9.12 crore posted during January, 2015 need to be reconciled after deleting the data, which has been repeated. It was observed that despite modification of data at district level, it still continued to be displayed in State totals. This was taken up with NIC, New Delhi for rectifying the software.

Picture alongside shows a hi-tech green house under construction inside a Nursery at Ulbari, Guwahati, which was visited. The nursery is being established for producing vegetable seedlings.

The green house structure, being fabricated by Saveer Biotech, NOIDA, covering an area of 800 sq. m has facilities for fogging and nutrient application on mounted trays. The structure is expected to become functional in 2-3 months time.



Points needing attention of SHM

1. Proposal for release of 2nd installment need to be expedited.
2. Due care need to be taken while uploading monthly progress on HMNEH web site. District officials need to be trained to post the progress at the respective districts. Consolidated progress for the state only needs to be uploaded at State HQ level.
3. Very little progress has been achieved in creating infrastructure for post harvest management and markets. More attention needs to be given for promoting cold chain infrastructure.
4. During 2014-15, provision has been made for creating 271 No for PHM infrastructure with an outlay of Rs. 5.16 crore. Similarly, 23 markets are to be set up with an outlay of Rs. 8.91 crore. Steps need to be taken to utilize this amount for which projects need to be

submitted to DAC.

5. Infrastructure being created for production of planting material, like the one at Ulbari, need to be supported with technical manpower for running the same on sustainable basis. The nursery should be got accredited for ensuring supply of quality planting material.

B. Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters (VIUC)

VIUC scheme is being implemented in Assam since 2011-12 for addressing the vegetable supply chain issues in Guwahati, having a population of 9.68 lakh. Districts of Kamrup, Darrang, Nalbari and Morigaon are the identified catchment districts where the scheme is being implemented. Till 2013-14, an expenditure of Rs. 32.00 crore was incurred. During 2014-15, an outlay of Rs.6.00 crore has been earmarked for Assam against which an amount of Rs.3.00 crore has been released towards first installment. An expenditure of Rs. 2.75 crore has been incurred till December, 2014.

Activities taken up under VIUC include vegetable cultivation in open field, protected cover and roof top construction of vermi compost unit, distribution of mobile vans and capacity building, besides formation of FIG/FPO. One FPO, comprising of 20 FIGs have been formed. However, SFAC has not been involved in FPO formation. Summary details of the Action Plan for 2014-15 are as follows:

Sl. No.	Item	Physical	Financial (Rs. in lakh)
1.	Cultivation of hybrid vegetables	1600 ha	400.00
2.	Roof top gardening	4000 No	80.00
3.	HRD	1000 farms	15.00
4.	Organic farming	2000 No.	100.00
5.	Mission Management	20 group	5.00
	Total		600.00

Interactions were held with members of FIGs at a retail outlet constructed by the Horticulture Department. Shri Rabin Sharma, SDO (Hort.) and Shri Nawab Imdad Ali, DAO, Kamroop district were also present.



Shri Azgar Ahmed (L), Red & Green FIG and Dr Anuj Baruah (R), Krishi Jigyas FIG, Dhupguri, Khetri, Kamrup district are seen standing before the retail outlet at Guwahati. Red & Green FIG has 10 members whereas Krishi Jigyas FIG has seven members. The FIGs were formed during 2012-13. The retail outlet, comprising

of three rooms, is owned by the Horticulture Department, which has been leased out to the above mentioned FIGs, and one room to D & D Corporation.

Dr Anuj Baruah, Krishi Jigyas FIG, has taken up cultivation of a variety of vegetables organically, duly certified by SGS. The FIG is also doing roof top vegetable cultivation.

Seen in the pictures are some of the imported lettuce varieties from Thailand and France displayed for sale at the retail outlet. The varieties being cultivated by the FIG include Bokchoi (from Thailand), Ice Berg (from UK), Tomtham, Ice King (selections) and Dazzle (from France).



**Points needing attention with regard to VIUC**

1. Setting up of retail outlet at Guwahati by the State Horticulture Department is a welcome sign. This, however, need to provide vending carts to link the retail outlet with consumption points.
2. Activities on Post Harvest Management and Marketing are missing in the Action Plan of VIUC for 2014-15.
3. Proposal for release of 2nd installment need to be expedited.