

## GIST OF TOUR REPORT OF HORTICULTURE COMMISSIONER

Day – I  
(13.11.10)

Left Gangtok at 8.00 am.

1. Visited Cymbidium Development Centre, Rumtek, East Sikkim. Inspected the tissue culture laboratory, training facility centre, pre hardening unit, cymbidium greenhouses and large cardamom tissue cultured seedlings. Total cymbidium plants – 65,000 nos. in various stages which have been developed from mother plants imported from Kiwi Orchids (New Zealand), Floricultural nursery (Holland) and EzeeGro Orchids (Australia) in addition to the exiting clones in the State. About 300 plants in bloom and another 1000 will bloom in Dec – Feb period. Out of 25 varieties, 8 promising clones have been selected for further multiplication. Sikkim is heading towards self sufficiency in planting material production.
2. Visited the tropical orchid collection at Model Floriculture Centre, Namli, East Sikkim.



More than 1000 phalaenopsis, 200 oncidiums,, 500 cattleya and allied hybrids and about 100 dendrobiums, are in bloom.

Main purpose is to standardize technology suited to local conditions, demonstrate technology application and

multiply these planting material.

3. On the way visited the rose unit of Shri Ashis Rai at Chuba, East Sikkim. He has a greenhouse measuring 530 sqm with 4000 rose plants. Earn an average annual income of ` 1.00 lakh. In this cluster, there are nine units.



4. Headed for visit of orange plantations at West Pandam, East Sikkim. Saw new plantations which have been raised on contours. Visited another fruiting orchard where fruiting is quite vigorous and very dense. Advised to follow fruit thinning for increasing fruit size.

Interacted with orange farmers. Everyone seems to be fully satisfied with the Departmental incentives for inputs and technology.

5. Visited government horticulture farm at Mazitar, East Sikkim.

A very impressive farm. A high-tech greenhouse for production of disease free orange seedling has been set up where there are more than 40,000 seedlings at preset. This centre has most of the modern horticulture concepts applied for



demonstration to the farmers – like high density orcharding, canopy management, drip system of irrigation, various methods of plant propagation, intercropping in fruit orchard for additional income, orange rejuvenation, etc. On the farm is the upcoming integrated mushroom unit which is nearing completion.

6. The final leg of the tour was a visit to Sikkim Flora which is located adjacent to this farm. This is a joint venture company between the Horticulture Department and Florance Flora of Bangalore for production and export of anthurium cut flowers. The greenhouse area is one ha with 80000 plants, out of which 60% is in blooming stage. This is one of the first of its kind and is the largest single anthurium unit in Northeast.

**Day – II**  
**(14.11.10)**

Left Gangtok for visit to South and West Sikkim.

1. Visited Daramdin roses cluster, West Sikkim. A unique floriculture venture where more than 86 households have been involved. Each family has been provided with a high cost greenhouse (average size 500 sq mtrs), top grafted rose plants, chemicals and fertilizers and technology. The cluster has also been provided with a facility for precooling / storage and pack house with capacity to handle 50000 plants at a time. The growers are being regularly sent to various institutions for training and exposure visit in addition to the regular visit and training by the departmental officials. The rose growers association, Kanchenjunga Floratech perhaps is one of the most successful associations for floriculture venture.



Interacted with rose growers. The growers are extremely happy and they are thankful to government for helping to convert this village into Rose Village. As per the version of the President of the association who also now happens to be the Panchayat President of the area, the entire credit of economic upliftment goes to the Horticulture Department and Technology Mission



(HMNH). This is very much in tune with the vision and wish of the present government under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister.

2. After this visit, proceeded to visit a cymbidium cluster at Ramaram, South Sikkim. On the way saw many clusters of vegetables and low cost greenhouses which are used for vegetables and flowers.



3. At Ramaram, visited a unit of cymbidium orchid with 500 plants. The unit is very successful.

#### Suggestions / Recommendations

- i) Efforts on promotion of fruits specially Guava, Mango, Litchi should be intensified in the State.
- ii) HDP coupled with canopy management should be popularized in the newly established orchards in the State.
- iii) Rejuvenation of existing senile / unproductive orchards in order to increase its production and productivity.
- iv) Orchard Floor Management should be taken up as part of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP).
- v) Training of farmers /officials in the field of High Density Plantation / Canopy Management / Rejuvenation / Multiplication of Saplings is required to be provided in every district of the State.
- vi) CD on visual presentation of my lecture may be multiplied for onward distribution among the beneficiaries / Govt. Staff.