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सत्यमेव जयते

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FOREWORD

The agro-climatic conditions of India permit the cultivation of a large variety of horticultural crops. Cultivation of horticultural crop enables diversification, increased returns per unit of land, better employment opportunities, and excellent prospects for export. Horticulture sector overall has proved to be an engine of growth for the rural economy, while simultaneously providing food and nutritional security. Conscious of these inherent advantages Department of Agriculture & Cooperation in the Ministry of Agriculture have been making concerted efforts to promote horticulture in the country through Plan Schemes, and Programmes.

Past interventions in horticulture have, mostly, been in a schematic mode except for the Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in the North Eastern States (TMNE), which was launched on 29th February, 2001. As a result of interventions in the last decade, India has made visible advances in horticulture. It has emerged as the second largest producer of fruit and vegetables in the world and is the largest producer of several horticultural crops as such as mango, banana, sapota, litchi, coconut, cashew nut and spices. While the total production of horticultural commodities is a matter of satisfaction, much needs to be achieved in terms of productivity quality, and market share.

In this background, the Government of India has decided to launch National Horticulture Mission (NHM) during the X Plan with effect from 2005-06, for holistic development of horticulture duly ensuring horizontal and vertical linkages, with the active participation of all the stake-holders. The thrust of the Mission will be on area based regionally differentiated cluster approach for development of horticultural crops, having comparative advantage. A number of activities are proposed to be taken up for improving production and



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productivity besides ensuring proper post harvest management of produce so that the farmer is able to harvest and sell his products at competitive rates. NHM will also involve the active participation of various agencies at the national level and those of the State Governments, Research Institutes & Organizations, farmer associations, Self Help Groups, Cooperative Societies in Horticulture, Marketing Boards, and many others.

We hope that the Operational Guidelines will facilitate formulation and implementation of the plans/projects relating to development of horticulture.

The Operational Guidelines to the extent possible attempts to provide details about the objectives, structure, proposed interventions, cost norms, pattern of assistance, and the role of various national level organizations and State implementing agencies for the operationalization of the program. The guidelines need to be disseminated as widely as possible for enabling the farmers and entrepreneurs to get maximum benefit through the Horticulture Mission.


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