

## **GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT**

### **MEGHALAYA, SHILLONG**

#### **Press Communiqué**

**Shillong, January 09, 2024:** The hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya Shri C H Vijayashankar graced the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the ICAR Research Complex for North Eastern Hill Region (NEH), Umiam, which was held today. The event witnessed the presence of Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Hon'ble Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Shri Conrad K Sangma with several other dignitaries. The event marked 50 years of ICAR NEH's dedicated service in transforming agriculture and allied sectors in the North-Eastern Region.

Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, graced the occasion virtually and delivered an inspiring address, commending the institute's vital contributions to sustainable agricultural development and the upliftment of tribal communities in the region.

The Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya, Shri C.H. Vijayashankar, in his address, appreciated the relentless efforts of ICAR NEH in developing innovative and sustainable agricultural practices tailored to the unique challenges of the North-Eastern Region. He highlighted the importance of numerous schemes run by the central government for the welfare of farmers. He emphasized the importance of integrating traditional farming practices with modern technologies to ensure sustainable growth. and to promote organic farming and horticultural development in the region.

Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, also addressed the gathering, highlighting the Government of India's commitment to transforming the agricultural landscape through flagship schemes and special focus to North-East region. He reiterated the government's focus on agro-based industries, horticulture, and organic farming during this Amrit Kaal.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Conrad K Sangma highlighted the urgent need for improved transportation and logistical facilities for agro-based products to connect the region's farmers to wider markets. He urged the government to prioritize infrastructure development to reduce transportation costs and

enhance market access for the agricultural produce of the North-East.

Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Director General of ICAR, and other senior officials, including Dr. S.K. Chaudhari, Deputy Director General (Natural Resource Management), and Dr. V.K. Mishra, Director of ICAR-NEH, presented an overview of the institute's achievements and its vision for the future.

The event concluded with a renewed commitment to fostering innovation, collaboration, and sustainable practices in the agricultural sector to ensure a prosperous future for the North-Eastern Region and the nation as a whole.