

Centre urged to support cold-chain development



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The Assam government has urged the Centre to support the cold-chain development project in Assam for the benefit of farmers and consumers. Agriculture Minister Nilamani Sen Deka said here on 13,12.13 that during the last decade, the State had witnessed significant growth in the horticultural sector but due to non-existence of cold-chain, the post-harvest loss in the State was to the tune of 40 per cent.

The productivity of total fruits in Assam was estimated to be 12.80 MT per hectare, which is higher than the national average of 11.70 MT/ha during 2010-11. During 2011-12, the State produced 17.75 lakh fruits and 45.14 lakh MT of vegetables but incurred loss due to lack of cold-chain in the State. Workshop.

A State-level workshop on cold-chain development was organised by the Assam Directorate of Horticulture and Food Processing in collaboration with the National Centre for Cold-Chain Development (NCCD) here. The workshop was attended among others by Additional Chief Secretary and Agricultural Production Commissioner V.K. Pipersenia who stressed the low-energy cold-chain in this region, NCCD Chief Adviser P. Kohli , Indian Council of Agricultural Research Zonal Project Director Dr. A.K. Gogoi and , Director of Horticulture and Food Processing , Assam , Timothy Das Hanse .

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BY MOWSAM HAZARIKA

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