

Grow organic tea with minimal chemicals, says Mein

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NAMSAI, Apr 29: Deputy Chief Minister, Chowna Mein has called upon small tea growers to grow organic tea and minimize use of chemicals.

Addressing a gathering at the inaugural function of MARKFED Tea Factory on Saturday, Mein informed that there is more demand of organic tea in the market and the Tea Board also recommends growing of organic tea.

Highlighting the vision of the state government to convert Arunachal Pradesh into an organic state under its Organic Mission, Mein said, "There are huge challenges before the tea industry in the state", but exhorted the tea growers to work with team spirit to overcome all the challenges.

Mein further said that the MARKFED has created history in Arunachal Pradesh as it is very rare to see Cooperative Societies creating such a big asset in the state.

Giving importance to the marketing of agriculture and horticulture produce through value addition, he said "there have been changes in the marketing pattern in the world and we must also adapt to such changes."

While exhorting the young generation to take up innovative schemes, he informed that the state government is providing loans to farmers up to Rs 10 lakhs on 30 percent subsidized rates of interest on agri and allied sectors and also offering crop loans at zero percent interest to the farmers. He appealed to the farmers and youths to avail such benefits.

Informing that an Adarsh Village in every constituency will be developed, he called upon the people to work together with positive mindset to convert Namsai into an ideal district.

Also speaking on the occasion, Parliamentary Secretary for Planning, Administrative Reform & Training, Chow Zignu Namchoom said that the MARKFED Tea Factory will largely benefit the small tea growers. He said that it will also provide employment to the educated and uneducated youths of the district.

Former Minister, Komoli Mossang, who is the Chairperson of the Arunachal Pradesh Co-operative Agricultural Marketing Federation Limited, informed that opening of the MARKFED Tea Factory has fulfilled the long felt needs and aspirations of the people of Namsai district. She said that it would help in improving the economy of the people.

She requested the Deputy CM to continually support the growth and functioning of the tea factory and further sought financial assistance from the government for second production line (Crush Tea Curl Line) for the tea factory.

S Laskar, Manager, MARKFED Tea Factory said that it is a dream project of Arunachal Pradesh Cooperative Agriculture Marketing Federation. It was sponsored by the Government of

Arunachal Pradesh and financed by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), a GoI enterprise to finance infrastructure in cooperative sector under the Ministry of Agriculture. The project was completed with a total cost of Rs 6 crore, of which Rs 3 crore has been taken as loan from NCDC, he informed. The tea factory has been leased out to an Assam-based tea production company, Stellar Tea Industries to liquidate the loan amount, Laskar informed.

Abhishek Keshan, team member of Stellar Tea Industries informed that the MARKFED Tea Factory will sponsor three students from Namsai district in higher studies after class XII, who would be selected by the board of officers under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner, Namsai. R D Thungon, Joint Registrar of Cooperative Society also spoke on the occasion.

Earlier, Mein inaugurated the tea factory in presence of locals and government officers, including Tape Bagra, Commissioner (retired), Vijay Talukdar, ADC Namsai, and Panchayat leaders.