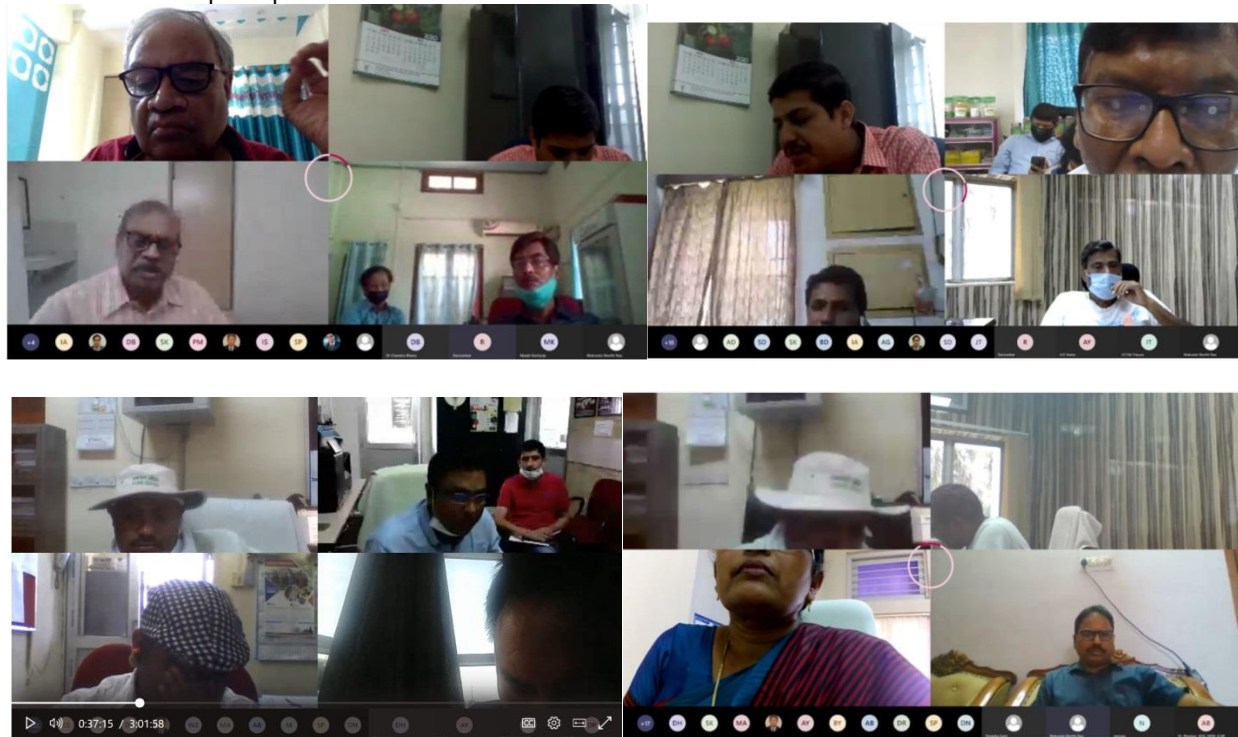


ICAR-IIFSR provides technological backstopping for Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCD-NER) scheme

Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region (MOVCD-NER) is one of the largest schemes in the region, driven by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. Around one lakh farmers having 70,000 ha area have been federated into 130 FPOs who are practicing organic cultivation. In the Executive Committee meeting of the scheme held on 28th April 2020, it was decided to facilitate Video Conference between States (represented by officials and FPOs) and experts of All India Network Programme on Organic Farming.

Accordingly, Video Conference was organized on 12 May 2020 for Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram and Meghalaya and on 14 May 2020 for Assam, Tripura, Nagaland and Sikkim jointly by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare and ICAR-Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research, Modipuram. Dr S. Bhaskar, ADG (AAFCC) in his opening and also in concluding remarks emphasized on promotion of scientific package of practices for improving the production under organic farming by North Eastern States. He also emphasized on utilizing the available manpower under AI-NPOF and ICAR-Research complex centres for capacity building of farmers, FPOs and extension officials. Dr A.S. Panwar, Director, ICAR-IIFSR highlighted the importance of organic farming systems and addressing the nutrient, pest and disease management issues in holistic manner.

Dr N. Ravisankar, National PI, All India Network Programme on Organic Farming highlighted the achievements of the scheme at National level and North eastern region in particular which includes package of practices, varietal identification and organic farming systems. The Principal Investigators of AI-NPOF centres, Chief Agronomist of AICRP-IFS centres and Scientists from ICAR-RC-NEH region have presented the state wise detailed scientific organic farming package of practices for Black Rice, Rice, Ginger, Turmeric, King Chilli/Bird's Eye Chilli, Pineapple, Ginger, Black Pepper, Kiwi, Mandarin, Vegetables, Citrus Cardamom, Buckwheat, Large Cardamom and other fruit crops covered under MOVCD-NER, integrated organic farming system models and also cluster demonstration promoted under AI-NPOF scheme as well as by ICAR institutes in the region. The queries related to input preparation, pest management, processing etc raised by FPOs; officials were answered by Scientists in detail. A total of around 130 participants attended the Video Conference.



The key points finalized through the Video conference with NEH States are as follows.

1. The scientific package of practices developed for North Eastern region under AI-NPOF /AICRP-IFS centres of ICAR-IIFSR and ICAR-RC-NEH centres needs to be promoted by States to enhance the production and bridge the yield gap. Proper crop rotation plan must be adopted to reduce the incidence of pests and diseases. (AI-NPOF would provide an IEC material for promoting crop rotation)

2. Integrated Organic Farming System (IOFS) models of Meghalaya and Sikkim can be up-scaled by States with emphasis of on-farm generation of solid and liquid inputs for nutrient, pest and disease management.
3. Ginger Rhizo Bacteria (GRB) 35 capsules developed for management of soft rot can be sourced from AI-NPOF centre at ICAR-IISR, Calicut.
4. AI-NPOF and ICAR-RC-NEH centres in NER could provide technical support for developing seed banks / planting materials to identified FPOs.
5. The demonstration clusters of organic farming developed by ICAR under AI-NPOF can be utilized by FPOs for capacity building and to stimulate behavioral change in farmers for on-farm input generation. New clusters could be developed in FPOs if funding is provided.
6. Trained manpower of Certified Farm Advisors on Organic Farming created jointly by ICAR-IIFSR and MANAGE (National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management) for NER can be leveraged by States, Service providers and FPOs for their benefit. There are 7 persons from Nagaland and 1 person Manipur who have been trained by MANAGE (Module-I) and ICAR-IIFSR (Module-II).
7. All India Network Programme on Organic Farming (AI-NPOF) of ICAR can leverage provisions under MOVCD-NER for R&D projects to find solutions to persisting issues of organic farming in NER including seed production and quality planting material supply.

Source: ICAR-IIFSR, Modipuram