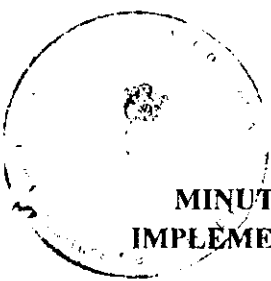


2nd Meeting of Project Monitoring and Implementation Committee (PMIC) for Assam under the Scheme for Promoting Usage of Agrotexiles in NER held at Guwahati on 10th March 2016

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Sr. No	NAME	Organization
1	Shri Amlan Baruah, IAS Commissioner & Secretary	Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Assam
2	Shri U K Gangopadhyay Executive Director,	SASMIRA, Mumbai
3	Vinay Kumar Gupta, Asst. Director	RoTXC, Kolkata
4	P K Hazarika, Director, Horticulture & FP	Directorate of Horticulture, Assam
5	Jaymal Burman, Joint Director	Directorate of Agriculture, Assam
6	Dayeswar Panging, DAO, Nagaon	Directorate of Agriculture, Assam
7	Khagendra Sarmah, Sr. AO	Directorate of Horticulture, Assam
8	Bakul Ch. Saikia, Sr. ADO, Horticulture	Directorate of Horticulture, Assam
9	Indra Mohan Talukdar, SDAO, Horticulture	Directorate of Horticulture, Assam
10	Bipul Das, In-charge, CoE Khetri	Directorate of Agriculture, Assam
11	P R Surwase, Scientist 'C'	COE-Agrotech, SASMIRA, Mumbai



**MINUTES OF THE 2nd MEETING OF THE PROJECT MONITORING AND
IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE (PMIC) FOR ASSAM UNDER SCHEME FOR
PROMOTING USAGE OF AGROTEXTILES IN NER
HELD AT GUWAHATI ON 10TH MARCH 2016**

The 2nd Meeting of the Project Monitoring and Implementation Committee (PMIC) for Assam state under the scheme for promoting usage of agrotexiles in north east region held at Office of The Commissioner & Secretary, (Agriculture), Assam, Guwahati on 10th March 2016 at 1200 hrs under the Chairmanship of Shri Amalan Baruah, Commissioner & Secretary, (Agriculture), Assam. The list of members present during the meeting is as given in **Annexure I**.

The Chairman welcomed the members and the meeting began with the following agenda:

Agenda 1: Review of the implementation of the Ministry of Textiles, GOI Scheme in Assam

The Chairman, enquired about the progress of scheme. The progress of the implementation of the scheme was briefed by Shri U. K. Gangopadhyay, Executive Director, COE-Agrotech, SASMIRA. He informed that, in total 44 demonstration centres are being established under the scheme out of which 4 Agrotexile Demonstration centres has been established in Assam under the scheme and all are operational. The protected cultivation practices using agrotexile products are being demonstrated at these demonstration centres, first crop cycle demonstration at these demonstration centres and harvesting has been completed for some produces. The yield of the crops demonstrated under the agrotexile structures has increased by 100- 200% as compared to the open field cultivation. Training of farmers/ beneficiaries at already established demonstration centres has been completed. The beneficiaries from different districts have participated in the training at the demonstration centres.

The Chairman, requested the Director, Horticulture for deputing Agriculture Development Officer / Horticulture development officer / Asst. Director level officer at each demonstration centres with complete responsibility to run demonstration centres and provide farmers training in coordination with COE-Agrotech for increasing the productivity as well as market for the produces. He also directed to nominate one officer from Directorate of Horticulture, who will coordinate for implementation of the scheme in the state and with Ministry of Textiles, COE-Agrotech, SASMIRA. The contact details of all these officials need to be circulated to each stakeholder.

The Chairman, directed, Director, Horticulture & FP to ensure the training to the farmers are provided in clusters after identifying and establishing backward and forward marketing linkages through the Centre of excellence for Horticulture established by Govt. of Assam and at the demonstration centres with the help of the COE-Horticulture.



Agenda 2. Finalization and Approval of farmers (beneficiaries) for distribution of Agrotextile-kit under the scheme for promoting usage of Agrotextiles in NER

The Committee deliberated on the distribution of agrotextiel-kits in the state. The committee deliberated on the combinations of the agrotextile kits to be distributed.

The Executive Director, COE-Agrotech, SASMIRA, briefed that Agrotextile-kits are the combinations of different Agrotextile products to be availed by farmers / beneficiaries with 90% subsidy from the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, with upper sealing of Rs. 5.00 Lakhs per beneficiary, remaining 10% shall be contributed by the beneficiary / state government.

The Chairman, advised to develop an exhaustive crop cultivation plan through the demonstration centres and COE-Horticulture, in each cluster with market access to the farmers. The Agrotextile kits will be distributed in cluster and developed as Agrotextile demonstration cluster for protected cultivation. The Department of Horticulture will provide a plan for selected vegetables / fowlers / crops with forward and backward market linkage to address the post harvest management which will fetch higher benefit to the farmers and ultimately the technology will be adopted by the local farmers at large scale. The Directorate of Horticulture needs to develop tie-ups with the Hotels, corporate buyers for post harvest marketing from these clusters to increase the cost benefits of the farmers. Further, he directed to provide disease free seedlings, saplings, seeds etc to the beneficiaries from the state Govt. scheme for better utilization of the agrotextile structures and increasing the productivity by growing right kind of crops under these structures.

The demonstration centre in-charge is to monitor the implementation of these crops and practices in the cluster. The COE-Horticulture, Khetri will also develop a model cluster in its periphery where post harvest management would also be taken up first and will be demonstrated to the farmers from other clusters and train them.

The farmers/ beneficiaries has applied to avail Agrotextile-kits with 90% subsidy under the said scheme, 131 farmers has applied to avail the Agrotextile-kits in different combinations. The Committee discussed the farmers / beneficiaries preference and decided to provide the Agrotextile-kits as per the preference of the farmers / beneficiereies, the size of the structure may be adjusted as per the availability of the land in the farmers field, this adjustment in size may be done to bring down the farmers contribution of 10% to avail the Agrotextile-kit. The Committee deliberated on the number of beneficiaries and available fund for distribution of Agrotextile-kits in the state, as per the budget of scheme and recommended to distribute agrotextile-kits to 100 beneficiaries at first phase and remaining beneficiaries as per the availability of funds allocated under the scheme.

The Committee deliberated on the proof for land ownership, it is informed that Jamabandi and Certificate of land by Village authority/ Panchayat / Village Chief are considered as land document proof.



The Committee approved the list of 131 numbers of Farmers (beneficiaries) for distribution of the Agrotexile-kits in the state enclosed in the annexure-II.

The Chairman suggested to encourage the farmers to grow high value Flowers/ exotic Horticultural crops / Fruit crops during the scheduled training of farmers / beneficiaries at the demonstration centres.

The Committee deliberated on training of beneficiaries at the demonstration centres. The representative of COE-Agrotech, SASMIRA informed, that training of farmers / beneficiaries has been completed and around 246 farmers / beneficiaries has been trained at all the four demonstration centres against the current year target of 200 farmers/ beneficiaries. The training of for next year has been scheduled as follows

Year	1 st Quarter (April - June)	2 nd Quarter (July- Sept)	3 rd Quarter (Oct -Dec)	4 th Quarter (Jan- March)	Total
2015-16			100	100	200
206-17	100	100	100	100	400

The committee discussed the scheduling of training at 4 demonstration centres and approved with an estimated budget of Rs. 1.00 Lakh per demonstration centres per year.

The Chairman also suggested to organize a comprehensive training programme on Usage of Agrotexiles for concern officials from the Horticulture, Agriculture department of Assam with funding provision from the scheme.

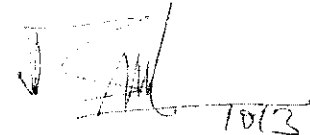
Agenda 3. Any other matter:

The Directorate of Horticulture, requested to establish four more Agrotexile demonstration centres in the state to cover other districts. The Committee deliberated on the proposal and asked the Directorate to submit four more proposals to cover entire state. The demonstration centres may be taken up as per the fund availability and approval of Apex Monitoring Committee.

Faculty members to be developed at COE-Horticulture for training as well as coordination for conducting the training, good accommodation facilities for the ADO level as well as dormitory accommodation are to be created. An annual training calendar for each centre should be prepared to carry-out the training in systematic manner. The COE-Horticulture through its training should motivate the farmers to involve organized farming in due course of time. Chairman also suggested to involve SASMIRA, OTXC and other agencies with defined roles in this comprehensive training programmes.

The Chairman also suggested to get part funding for training as well as loan subsidy from Employment Generation Mission (EGM). Chairman, PMIC will take up this matter with Chairman, EGM in this regard.

As there was no other matter, the meeting ended with a hearty vote of thanks from the Chair.


 10/13
 Joint Secy, Agri
 Chairman, PMIC, Assam

Comm. Secretary
 to the Govt. of Assam
 Agriculture Dept.
 Dispur, Guwahati-6