BANANA in ASSAM
The uniqueness of banana sector in Assam, a natural home of this crop, is its diverse characteristics – i.e. varietal strength – numbering 15 to 20 which are either cultivated or partially domesticated or still in wild form. Some of the excellent traits of these varieties may be lucrative for the breeders – but these crops are for us awaiting commercialization and value addition. They are being cultivated mostly as home-stead crop in an area of 42,104 ha. which annually produces 5,80,995 MT of raw banana - more than 60 to 70 percent as marketable surplus.
The North-Eastern region has diverse forms of indigenous banana clones; most common indigenous cultivated banana are under the genomic group AAA, AAB and ABB. The region is endowed with wild *balbisiana* diploid (BB). Some of the important cultivars grown in this region and their characters are given in next slides.
JAHAJI (AAA)

Plant dwarf statured;
Duration around 340 days;
Average bunch weight 20 kg;
TSS 20%.
BAR JAHAJI (AAA)

Plant medium tall;

Duration more than a year;

Fruits retain greenish colour even after ripening;

Average bunch weight around 25 kg;

TSS 21%.
CHENICHAMPA (AAB)

Plant is medium tall;
Duration around 370 days;
Average bunch weight 15 kg;
TSS 18 - 20%.
MALBHGOG (AAB)

Plant is medium tall;

Duration around 380 days;

Grown mainly in sandy loam soil and in foothills;

Bunch weight 15 kg;

TSS 22%.
PURAKAL (ABB)

Extensively grown for culinary purposes;

Plant is medium tall;

Duration around 380 days;

Bunch weight around 15 kg;

‘Kach Kal’ (ABB) almost similar to ‘Pura Kal’.
BHIMKAL (BB)

The plant very tall and robust, seeded, resistant to all pests and diseases;

Average bunch weight 30 kg;

TSS 25%.
HONDA (AAB)

Grown in the plain region;
Medium in height;
Duration around 420 days;
Fruits are short and large;
Average bunch weight 16.5 kg;
TSS 18.5%.
HONDA
BHARATMANI (AAA)

The peel turns attractive yellow at ripening with green patches at the tip of the fruit;

Plant is medium tall;

Duration 420 days;

Average bunch weight 13.5 kg.;

Fruit angular, short and large, pulp yellowish;

TSS 19.5%.
KANAIBANSI (AA)

Plant height medium;
Duration around 405 days;
Long fruits;
Average bunch weight more than 20 kg.
SAAPKAL (AAB)

Grown in the foot-hills;
Plant height medium;
Crop duration around 400 days;
Average bunch weight 18 kg;
TSS 20.17%.
GARO MOINA (AAA)

Grown in hills;

Plant medium dwarf;

Average bunch weight 17.65 kg;

TSS 15.33%.
HATIDAT (AAA)

Medium in height;
Attractive fruit colour;
Average duration 396 days;
Bunch weight 16.5 kg.
Status of Disease & Pest of Banana

**Major Diseases**
- Bunchy Top
- Leaf Spot

**Major Pests**
- Fruit scarring beetle
- Pseudo-stem borer
Uses of banana in Assam

- an integral part of typical Assamese dishes used as vegetables;
- *Khaar* (Ash) made from banana is a bio-antacid;
- as dish, wrapping, packing material etc;
- as rescue boat by tying 3 to 4 pseudo-stems by marooned people;
- as baby food by mixing with rice flour;
- media for preparing vermi-compost;
- as inter-crop along with other plantation;
- as ingredient for beer making.
Banana as thrust crop under Horticulture Technology Mission

✔ already covered more than one thousand hectare under modern cultivation practices.
Where lies the strength?

- The crop is bound to be happy when there is rich soil and abundant rainfall.
- Wide range of varietal options - each having its own beauty.
- Existence of biggest banana market at Darrangiri in Goalpara district. Already a hot spot for middle man / external traders.
- It is one hundred percent organic.
- Existence of strong R&D infrastructure.
Where lies the strength? (Contd....)

- Existence of Tissue culture laboratory for large-scale propagation.
- Domestic market is lucrative but can be spring-board for export.
- Excellent atmosphere for investment in processing sector - supported by central and state incentives.
- Cheap labour.
Thank You