

ACTION PLAN  
ON  
TECHNOLOGY MISSION  
FOR  
INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OF  
HORTICULTURE IN NORTH EASTERN  
STATES INCLUDING SIKKIM

( MINI MISSION - II )

FOR THE YEAR 2006 - 2007

Submitted by,

DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE,  
GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM

AIZAWL - 796001

**GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM  
DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE  
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# **1. SCHEME PROPOSAL FOR MIZORAM UNDER TECHNOLOGY MISSION FOR INTEGRATED HORTICULTURE DEVELOPMENT IN NORTH EAST STATES UNDER MINI-MISSION-II**

- 1) Name of the State : **Mizoram**
- 2) Implementing Agency : **Department of Horticulture**
- 3) Year of Implementation : **2006-2007**
- 4) Location : **In all the eight Horticulture Divisions**
- 5) Name of the Scheme : **MM-II**

## **1.1 SCOPE AND PRIORITY**

Mizoram with its geographical area of 21,081km. is predominantly a hilly state with varying altitudes, enjoys a splendid blend of climatic conditions of tropical, sub-tropical and temperate zones. This coupled with high mean annual precipitation of 2,500 mm, high relative humidity upto 90% has made the state conducive for the growth and production of crops under rainfed conditions. The soils are loamy to clay with high organic carbon content. With all these advantages the state has enormous scope for cultivation of a wide range of horticultural crops.

Scope of growing Horticulture crop: The land which cannot be used for cultivation of cereal crops can be profitably utilised for development of horticulture crops for generating economy to the growers and the state as a whole. Besides, it will offer avenues in creating employment opportunities to rural unemployed population. In fact many of the hill states of the like Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir etc. have developed their economy based on horticulture.

## **1.2 POTENTIAL HORTICULTURAL CROPS**

The State of Mizoram with its ideal agro-climatic conditions is suitable for cultivation of fruits, vegetables, spices, plantation crops, medicinal and aromatic plants and flowering plants. It goes without saying that, there exist tremendous scope and potentialities for growing of all these crops. In fact, few crops have already attained commercial importance in the State. Despite poor management, these are yielding some economic benefit to the growers. The fruit crops like mandarin orange, hatkora, banana, passionfruit, grape, some vegetable crops like beans, potato, cole crops, squash etc. spices like ginger, bird's eye chillies, turmeric etc. are highly popular and have good economic bearing.

## **1.3 EXISTING GROWTH OF HORTICULTURE CROPS**

The present area under various horticulture crops namely fruits, vegetables, spices and condiments including plantation crops has been reported to be 45.015 ha. This is only 7.13% of the estimated potential area of 6.31 lakh ha. available for the development of horticulture. This shows that the growth of horticulture crops in the State during the earlier plan period has been quite slow despite enormous scope.

The present Scheme for development of Horticulture in Mizoram under Technology Mission envisages multifaceted dimensions with the basic strategies for the exploitation of the conducive agro-climatic conditions by growing horticulture crops suitable under different conditions, expansion of area under various crops with appropriate growth rate for utilisation of maximum land resource, appropriate use of suitable production technologies, gainful utilisation of man power augmentation of productivity level, generation of higher income to growers and augmentation of marketable surplus to cater the need of the State and outside market etc. The scheme also aims at providing good quality planting materials to the farmers, popularizations of organic farming, Agri/ Horti. tools and implements, and strengthening of infrastructure. An amount of Rs. 3507.20 lakhs only is hereby proposed for Action Plan during 2006-2007 under Technology Mission of Mini-Mission -II.

## **2. SCHEME UNDER TECHNOLOGY MISSION FOR 2006-2007**

During 2006-2007 the Department proposes to take-up various schemes like Area Expansion, Creation of Water Sources, On-farm Water Management, Transfer of Technology etc. under technology Mission to cater to the needs of the poor farmers and development of Horticulture in the state as a whole which will not only uplift the farmers but also enhance the economy of the state. The total outlay proposed for implementation of different scheme during 2006-2007 is Rs. 3507.10 lakhs under MM-II. Detail Action Plan 2006-2007 is enclosed at Annexure - I. A brief description of the different schemes to be implemented during 2006-2007 is as below.

### **2.1. AREA EXPANSION :**

An area of 13,645 Ha. has been targetted for this particular Scheme during 2006-2007, and 1000Ha. for maintenance of senile orchard. The basic objective of the Scheme is to encourage the farmers by way of ensuing family and adequate supply of inputs and other technical assistance. Emphasis will be given on fruits like mandarin orange, passionfruit, Banana, Pineapple, Papaya and Kiwi.

The strategy to be adopted for development of horticulture under the expansion programme would be confined to compact area with communication facilities. This will ensure better supervision and extension services, easy transportation of inputs to production areas as well as marketing of the produce. In such areas, high value crops with longer shelf life will be grown to extend economic gain to the growers.

Adoption of "Integrated Approach" in various crops taken up under Technology Mission is an advanced and important solution in boosting up the productivity of different crops. Due to dry spell period during February-May in the state, well developed irrigation system is required. Installation of drip irrigation system in orchards would ensure optimum availability of water to crops throughout the year. Drip irrigation should also be supplemented with water tanks such as community water tank available near the orchard. For vegetable and floriculture crops, sprinkler irrigation is the best option for supplementing rain water especially during dry spell.

#### **2.1.1. FRUITS :**

Fruit crops such as oranges, banana, pineapple, passionfruit, etc. which have been growing satisfactorily in the State despite poor management practices have been given topmost priority in this proposed action plan. Although an area of 2,250 Ha. has been covered during 2005-2006 under Technology Mission, the scheme proposes to bring an additional area of 8,980 Ha. during 2006-2007 under fruits crops. In this Scheme, the land which cannot be used for cultivation of cereal crops can be profitably utilised for fruits thereby generating income to the growers and the state as a whole. The State with its ideal agro-climatic conditions is highly suitable for cultivation of all kinds of fruits ranging from tropical to temperate fruits. As such, it goes without saying that there exist tremendous scope and potentialities for growing of all these crops. Infact few crops already have attained commercial importance in the State despite poor management and these are yielding some economic benefit to the growers. The fruit crops like mandarin orange, banana, passionfruit, pineaplle etc. are highly popular and have good economic bearing. Details of Division wise break-up is given at Annexure - I.

The Department proposed to integrated various components under Technology Mission like Community Water Tank, Tube wells, Drip Irrigation, Training of Farmers etc. so that the farmers gets the maximum benefits to increase the production of crop as a whole. Details is given at Table - I.

#### 2.1.1.1 Mandarin Orange :

Although an area of 500 Ha. has been covered during 2005 - 2006 under Technology Mission, the scheme proposes to bring an additional 600 Ha. since satisfactory results are seen and also, the farmers are taking keen interest in taking up the scheme.

#### 2.1.1.2. Banana :

Since banana is performing very well in the state, better quality varieties like 'Grand Naine' and 'Tall cavendish' is being introduced for commercial cultivation. Since 'Grand Naine' is an export variety, it is being introduced for export purpose. It is therefore, proposed to cover an additional area of 1,700 Ha. during 2006- 2007.

#### 2.1.1.3 Passionfruit :

This particular fruit has short gestation period but gives good economic bearing. Therefore, many farmers prefer this crop. Fruit Juice Concentrate Plant at Chhingchhip has been established for processing Passionfruit. To meet the demand of this processing plant, additional area expansion of 5,600 Ha is targetted during 2006-2007.

#### 2.1.1.4 Papaya :

The agro-climatic condition of the state is suitable for production of Papaya. An export oriented variety of papaya i.e. 'Hawaiian Solo' is being introduced for commercial production. The target to be covered for this is 200 Ha. For marketing the papaya fruits, Memorandum of Understanding has already been signed with an exporter.

The proposal for Area Expansion under fruits is given at Annexure - I

## **2.1.2 VEGETABLES :**

The State is far from being self-sufficient in vegetable production even for local consumption especially during rabi season. As such the Scheme envisages growing of important vegetable crops like cole crops, cucurbits, root and tubers etc. which are the major vegetable crop in the State and targetted to cover an additional area of 1,465 Ha. during 2006 -2007. Major thrust on off-season vegetables has been given to reap better economic benefit besides catering the needs of the State. As such in order to boost up off-season vegetable production, the Department will emphasis on using low cost green house for the same which is also being proposed in this Scheme. Growing of Horticulture crops other than vegetables is long gestation programme where no return is gained in the initial year. Further, in the earlier years of plantation lots of interspaces are left out as such without any use by the plants. These interspaces can be gainfully utilised through cultivation of vegetable crops to generate additional income to the growers to sustain the cost of management practices of the long gestation fruit crops besides getting some additional income. This will also ensure optimum utilisation of land realising maximum productivity per unit area. Besides, the Department proposes to integrate various components under Technology Mission like Bee colonies, community water tank, drip/ sprinkler irrigation, incentive organic farming etc. so that the farmers get the maximum benefits is given at Annexure - I

### **2.1.2.1 Chow-Chow :**

Since Chow - Chow shows good potential and has high productivity under Mizoram conditions, the scheme proposes new expansion of the crops area with a target of 1,000 Ha. to be covered during 2006-2007.

### **2.1.2.2 Cabbage (off - season) :**

Since the state is far from being self sufficient in vegetables especially during rainy season, cultivation of off-season crops is a good option. The crop has given good economic return to the farmers, hence, another area of 100 Ha. is proposed to be covered.

### **2.1.2.3 Tomato :-**

Tomato cultivated under green house aids in production of better quality off-season crops. The green house grown tomato gives better and more yield. Therefore, it is proposed to cover a new area of 20Ha.

However, this has to be supplemented with sprinkler system for irrigation.

### **2.1.2.4 Capsicum :**

Cultivation of capsicum under Green House enables production of off-season crop. Off season crops yields better economic return, therefore, the scheme proposes new area expansion of 20 Ha.

### **2.1.3. SPICES :**

In the present Expansion Programme, emphasis will be given for spices crops of high cost low volume like bird's eye chillies, black pepper, etc. which will extend economic gain to the growers. This is due to inadequate road network in many of the potential areas. Besides, major thrust will be given on , turmeric, as this crops has already given proved performance under the existing level of management. It is proposed to cover new areas of 300 Ha. during 2006-2007 under this expansion programme. Besides, the department proposes to integrate the various components under Technology Mission like incentive organic farming, on farm handling etc. to give farmers, the maximum benefits to increase the production. Details is given at Annexure - I

#### **2.1.3.1 Turmeric :-**

This is one of the most widely used spice of the state. It grows very well even without proper management. Therefore, the area under this crop is to be extended in order to meet the local demand as well as for export. Hence new area of 200 Ha. is targetted during 2006 - 2007.

#### **2.1.3.2 Bird's eye chilli :**

Mostly, this crop is marketed in dried form. Hence, it is non-bulky and has long keeping quality making it easy to transport. The state has high productivity and since transportation problem does not arise for this crop, an area of 100 Ha. is proposed to be covered.

The spices crops will be grown in various parts of the State depending upon their suitability and physical and financial break-up at Annexure - I

### **2.1.4 FLOWERS**

The mild climate of the hills in Mizoram has the unique advantage of growing almost all types of flowers round the year. Flowers like rose, anthurium, B.O.P etc. can be grown successfully round the year. Regarding marketing of cut flowers, there may not be much hurdles in its disposal as the state is well connected by air with Kolkata etc. However, improved packaging and quality of flowers will be an important factor. It may be mentioned here that to compete with export market, the plants shall have to be raised under controlled condition so as to maintain the desired quality of the products.

The Scheme aims at bringing more area under cultivation of flowers like anthurium, Bird of Paradise(BOP), Rose etc. by way of distributing quality/planting materials to the growers. Besides integrating various components under Technology Mission like community water tank, tube-wells, shadenets, greenhouse, training etc. so that the farmers gets the maximum benefit to increase the production. Details break-up is given at Annexure - I

#### 2.1.4.1 Anthurium :

World class varieties of this flower was introduced in the state with a view to export it. It has shown excellent performance when grown under shadehouse. A new area of 1,000units. is proposed to be covered so as to increase surplus production for sale outside the state. Since it is a moisture loving crop, provision of sprinkler/drip irrigation system would enhance production and quality of flowers. Old plantation requires maintenance in order to maintain the quality and productivity.

#### 2.1.4.2 Bird of paradise :

Due to its long shelflife, this flower is encouraging for export. The crop has shown good performance and therefore, a new area of 400 units is proposed to be covered. This flower in combination with Anthurium flower will have advantage in packing, considering weight and volume.

#### 2.1.4.3 Rose :

There is always a demand for rose in the market. However, for year- round production, cultivation under greenhouse is recommended. An area of 500 units is proposed for 2006 - 2007with an intention to sell outside the state.

Detail break up is given in Annexure - I

### 2.2 BEEKEEPING

Bee keeping has been gaining popularity helping polination of the fruits & vegetable Crops and has become one of the major small scale industry by way of extracting honey, generating good income and economy to the state. With a view to this and in proper orchard management like pollination etc, the Department proposes to encourage the farmer in rearing bee's as subsidiary income generating employment by providing assistant in terms of bee box, beehive, etc. The detail break-up is given at Table - I.

Table I

Components	Sub - Component	Unit	Rate of Assistance per unit(Rs.)	Targets (2006 - 2007)		Area already covered since inception of T.M. (2001-05)
				Physical	Financial (Rs. in lakhs)	
Bee-Keeping	Bee colonies with hives	No.	800	1,475	11.80	4900 Nos.

### 2.3 CREATION OF WATER SOURCES

Water is the basic requirement for successful and productive cultivation. It is so important that cultivation of any crop is not possible without water. Although Mizoram being dependent on the rain water, storage of rain water for use during scarcity period is a must which further increase the vegetables production. Collection and storage of water during rainy season and provision of irrigation facility is very important as winter vegetable almost depend upon the irrigation and supply of water from other source. In order to meet the basic needs of the farmers and to increase production of vegetables, flowers and other short duration crops especially during dry season, the Department proposes community tanks and tube wells.

### 2.3.1 Community Water Tanks :

To meet the increasing demand of water for irrigation and drinking water supply, construction of community tanks have become a necessity. Though the State receives abundant of rainfall, sometimes early or late monsoon and failure of rain during the critical stages of the crop severely affect the rhythm of horticulture farming and fragile economy of the farmers. Under Technology Mission Scheme, Community tanks are proposed to be constructed in the compact areas of the identified potential areas to meet the irrigation needs during critical period of the crops. Though 245Ha has been covered during 2005-2006, which have a great effect on the farmers especially during the dry season, the department proposes to cover 787 Ha. during 2006-2007 detail of which is given at Table -II.

### 2.3.2 Tube Wells :

Tube wells will serve individual farmers for meeting the required water supply and irrigation needs mainly for horticulture crops especially vegetable. Setting up of tube wells will greatly help in boosting up the area and production of vegetable crops. Detail Physical and Financial target and achievement since inception of Technology Mission is given at Table -II.

Table - II.

Components	Sub - Component	Unit	Rate of Assistance per unit(Rs.)	T
				PH
Creation of Water Sources	i) CummunityTanks	Ha.	1,00,000	
	ii) Tube Well (Individual Tanks)	No.	12,500	
<b>TOTAL</b>				

## 2.4 ON FARM WATER MANAGEMENT

Plastic application are relevant in developing agriculture and in the fields of water management in particular through Drip Irrigation, Sprinkler Irrigation, Mulching etc. Of late, green house gain popularity which has also enhance production of off-season vegetable crops etc. The use of plastics in Agriculture which is also known as plasticulture is the latest technique for increasing yield with optimum utilisation of limited water resources. Plasticulture helps in stabilization of the yield by better management of available water resources and it also makes it possible to grow crops by judicious use of water. This technology has widely been accepted and implemented in many countries where water is limited and scarce. Besides, Green House are coming up and widely used for production of off-season crops which further generate higher income for the growers resulting into economic development of the country. The achievements already made and Physical & Financial target for 2006 - 2007 is given at Table - III.

### 2.5.1 Drip Irrigation / Sprinkler Irrigation:

Drip irrigation is the most effective and economic use of water for irrigation purpose. It is a technology for supplying filtered water directly to the root zone of the plants and capable of providing the right quantum of water for each plant without much wastage of water and also feed soluble fertilizer, pesticide and micro nutrients. This could help in increasing the productivity of fruits, plantation crops etc. and also conserve scarce water resources.

All types of surface and sub surface irrigation systems are covered under Drip irrigation technology. The term 'Drip Irrigation' also includes emitting water by sprinkler, fan-jets, micro-tubes etc. and similar other emitting pipes.

### 2.5.3 Green Houses :

The controlled environment/technique like Green House is essential to promote horticulture particularly in the prevailing varied ranges of agro-climatic condition in the country. Green house ensures quality and consistency which are so vital for export propositions. Greenhouse are also used to raise off-season crops, high quality planting materials and for hardening of plants and nurseries through tissue culture. There is a great potential in the country for increasing the yield and productivity of Horticulture crops, ornamental plants by controlling the environment through Green House.

### 2.5.4 Shade Nets :

Shade nets are required for hardening of seedlings and providing shade to the young plants. Moreover the State receive abundant rainfall and in order to safeguard the young plants due to heavy rainfall, winds etc shade nets are essential. The present proposal under on farm water management envisage on Drip/Sprinkler irrigation, construction of different types of green houses viz: normal, hitech etc. Detail of break-up is given at table - III.

Table - III

Components	Sub-Components	Unit	Rate of Assistance per unit(Rs.)
On Farm Water Management	i) Drip Irrigation	Ha.	28,500
	ii) Green House (Normal)	Sqm.	125
	iii) Green House (Hitech)	Sqm.	325
	iv) Shade nets	Sqm.	14
	v) Sprinkler Irrigation	Ha.	15,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			

## 2.5 TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY :

The scheme includes training programme, frontline demonstration and other extra facilities including publicity kits. The training of farmers through visits within the state and outside the state is also proposed. This also includes distributions of handouts, literature, leaflets etc. on various aspects of Horticulture Development. The scheme also aims at providing assistance for organising exhibition and generate awareness among the farmers through advertisement Radio, T.V.etc. and informat about the Government incentives for promoting Horticulture Development and other materials like package of practices for various crops. The front line demonstration will also be taken up as per the specific needs of the location.

The Department also proposed training of trainers who in turn will impart training to famers.

### 2.5.1 Supervisory Training Centre :

The department proposes to establish two supervisory training centre with an outlay of Rs.20.00 lakhs each at Tuidam and Lawngtlai District. This supervisory training centre will help in uplifting the farmers of the district where seminar, awareness campaign, training can be conducted.

Table - IV

Components	Sub - Component	Unit	Rate of Assistance per unit(Rs.)	T
				Phys
Transfer of Technology	i) Supervisory Training Centre	No.	20,00,000	
	ii) Training of Farmers (7 days)	No.	1,500	
	iii) Training outside state	No.	2,500	
	iv) Training of trainers	No.	50,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>				

## 2.6 POPULARISATION OF ORGANIC FARMING

When we mentioned about Organic farming, Organic manures automatically comes in our mind as organic farming indicates use of organic manures and bio-fertilizers. Manures are relatively bulky materials such as animal or green manures which are added materials to improve the physical condition of the soil, to replenish and keep up its humus status, to maintain optimum condition for the activities of soil micro-organism and make good a small part of the plant nutrients removed by crops or otherwise lost through leaching and soil erosion. The green manures add not only substantial amount of organic matter but also nitrogen.

In this advanced technology people prefer to eat crops produced through use of organic manures and Bio-fertilisers, and the cost of manures being not only cheaper, even the farmers themselves can produce FYM, compost manures etc. in their own field, which further decrease the cost of production. The achievements made so far is shown in table - XI. In view of this, the Department propose to take up the scheme mentioned below under MM-II of technology mission at Table No. V

Table - V.

**2.7 PROMOTION AND POPULARISATION OF AGRICULTURE EQUIPMENTS:**

Cropping is mainly carried out by primitive method even though many advanced technology of using machine etc. has been introduced. Further, although a large area is being brought under Horticulture crops, there has been no concerted efforts to introduce mechanisation in Horticulture sector and application of improved agriculture equipments and machineries has not make impact to the farmers at large. Much of the time and energy could be saved if proper mechanisation is provided for different activities of fruit production. The activities under mechanisation covers equipments for land preparation, spraying of insecticide under this scheme, the Department propose to conduct training to the farmers of the Horticulture Divisions to popularise the equipments and machineries and make it available at subsidised rate. The details of the Physical and the Financial Target of the scheme are as below in Table No. VI.

Category	Sub-Category	Unit	Rate of Assistance per unit (Rs.)	Physical Target
Organic Agriculture	Hand operated	Ha.	1,500	95
	Power Tiller	No.	45,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>				
				9,000
<b>TOTAL</b>				

Table - VI.

## 2.8 PROMOTION OF INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

Integrated pest management is a broad ecological pest control aiming at best mix of all known pest control measures to keep the pest population below the economic threshold level (ETL). It is economically justified and sustainable system of crop protection that leads to maximum productivity with the least possible adverse impact on the total environment.

In crop production technology integrated pest management is a schedule of practices which starts from field selection till harvest of crop. The major components in this approach are to advocate cultural, mechanical, biological and chemical methods of insect pests, diseases, weeds and rodent control compatibly. Detail break-up is given at Table VII.

Table - VII

## 2.9 ON FARM HANDLING

Due to lack of proper storage facilities and handling facilities, bulk of the production are wasted or spoiled as horticulture produces are highly perishable. In order to overcome this, the Department proposes establishment of On-Farm Handling Units at various locations and equip with handling facilities with a financial outlay of Rs. 45 lakhs.

Table - VIII.

Components	Sub-Components	Unit	No.	Rate of Assistance per unit (Rs.)	Physical	Financial
On - Farm Handling Integrated Pest Management	1) Adoption of IPM	On Farm Handling Unit		50,000		
			<b>TOTAL</b>	1,000		
<b>TOTAL</b>						

## 2.10 WOMEN DEVELOPMENT

Women play very important role in Horticulture development and in the field of Horticulture and then Agriculture activities. The Scheme aim at motivation and mobilisation of women farmers in the state. As per the scheme guidelines the scheme will be implemented in all the District of the State to identify the amount and type of work contributed, and appropriate institutional supportive measures in the form of training etc. will be taken up. The detail proposal are given - IX

Table - IX

## 2.11 INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

The Department of Horticulture is headed by Director of Horticulture and there are various sections in the Directorate including planning and monitoring cell who formulate and prepare all the State Plan and CSS as well. The Department felt it is essential to strengthen the Department as a whole. In view of this the Department would like to take advantage of the provision provided in the Technology Mission for infrastructural support for Horticulture which could be of immense help in the formulation of plan etc.

Under this scheme, Technology Mission cell will be created in the Directorate with IT facilities, for further necessary monitoring, evaluation etc. Detail of which is given at Table X

Table - X

Components	Sub - Component	Unit	Rate of Assistance per unit (Rs.)	Rate of Assistance per unit (Rs.)
	i) Training of women (5 days)	No	1,000	
Infrastructure/development	Infrastructure/ Technical support	No	5,000	Proposal
<b>TOTAL</b>				

## 2.12 WORKSHOP / SEMINAR

To create awareness and to impart technical know-how, latest technologies developed in the field of Agriculture, to discuss and sort out the problems faced by the farmers; the department proposes a fund provision of Rs. 10.00 lakhs for conducting State Level Workshop - cum - Seminar.