

# CAU, Manipur to develop a perspective plan for coconut in the North East Region



Dr. Raju Narayana Swamy, IAS, Chairman, Coconut Development Board visited Central Agricultural University (CAU), Imphal, Manipur on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2019 and had interaction with Dr. Premjit Singh, Vice Chancellor and scientists of The University. The team discussed on developing a perspective plan for coconut in the North Eastern Region.

The Chairman, CDB gave a brief introduction about the Board and on the value added products of coconut. He further briefed on the need for developing a perspective plan for the comprehensive development of coconut cultivation and value addition in the North Eastern Region. He requested CAU to develop a roadmap for the same. The Chairman highlighted the Board's intervention in the field of application of artificial intelligence in mitigation of crops loss due to stress and pest and disease, in developing climbing robots etc. Value addition is the key to income generation and hoped that North Eastern India need to become the hub of coconut cultivation. The Chairman further requested the scientists to develop a perspective plan for coconut in the model of a Coconut Park which can undertake all activities of coconut cultivation and value addition.

Dr. S. Basanta Singh, Director of Instruction informed that, there is good scope for Area Expansion Programme in Kolassip, Mamita and Lonklai – border of Basigad area of Mizoram. Around 2000 ha. can be mobilized in this area. Dr. Ratan Kumar Saha, Director of Extension Education informed that, Tripura is having great potential for coconut area expansion programme. Nearly six districts of Tripura are having huge potential to expand the area under coconut. Pasigar area in Arunachal Pradesh bordering with Assam can be focused on area expansion of coconut. Tura Hills in Arunachal Pradesh and Saro Hills in Meghalaya border are suitable for coconut cultivation. Manipur Plantation Crops Corporation can be approached for the



development of coconut in Manipur. Tengenoupal District in Manipur is also suitable for coconut cultivation. Nearly 10000 Ha. in the Tiger Hills near Myanmar border can be converted into coconut plantation which is an alternate crop for income generation for this belt. Project Tiger Hills can be started immediately. Similarly more project can be developed for coconut cultivation. Horticulture Department can be involved in this programme. In Nagaland, Dimapur and Zaloki areas are suitable for coconut cultivation. The Chairman intimated that, Project Tiger Hills and homestead planting of coconut can be thought of immediately.

Dr. S. Basanta Singh, Director of Instruction, Dr. C.A. Srinivasamurthy, Director of Research, Dr. Ratan Kumar Saha, Director of Extension Education, Dr. Y. Ranjana Devi, Deputy Director of Instruction, Dr. Th. Robindro Singh, Deputy Director of Research, Dr. Angad Prasad, Deputy Director of Extension Education, Dr. Y. Bedajit Singh, Deputy Director Instruction and Dr. A.K. Mishra, Deputy Director of Research of CAU, Shri Lungher Obed, Director, CDB, RO, Guwahati, Shri A. Jeyapandi, Deputy Director (Mktg.), CDB, RO, Chennai and Smt. Jayashree, Development Officer, CDB, Kochi attended the meeting.

CAU, Imphal occupies the 13<sup>th</sup> position in the National ranking of Agricultural Universities of India and is having 13 colleges spread over seven states of North Eastern Region.