

Gangtok, April 25: (IPR) The Horticulture & Cash Crops Development Department organized a press conference in the Conference Hall of Krishi Bhawan, today.

The conference was organized in order to create mass awareness among all stakeholders on the organic initiative of the government and to generate collective response from all.

The conference was addressed by Shri D.K.Bhandari, Director Horticulture, Shri K.T.Bhutia, Director Horticulture (Vegetable), Shri Padam Subba, Addl. Director Horticulture, Shri Pawan Awasthy, Managing Director SIMFED and senior officials from the concerned Department.

Addressing the conference they informed that the Kisan Bazar in Gangtok will be functional with sufficient space from coming Sunday along with cold storage units too. Shri Bhandari appealed to the farmers to sell their own organic products directly or through SIMFED in Kisan Bazaar.

He further informed that no license or charges will be levied and for their convenience one Identification Card or recommendation by the concerned area Panchayat will be needed.

They also informed that the Kisan bazaar in Gangtok will be inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Horticulture & Cash Crops Development Department Shri Somnath Poudyal.

They briefed about the Kisan Bazaar which has two floors, accommodating 200 local farmers and one space for SIMFED. Various facilities like canteen, cold storage, etc will be provided to the farmers.

They also informed that the subsidy will be provided to the farmers in case of wastage of vegetables.

They also shared that the officers and field staff of the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments have been continuously making field visits, interacting with farmers and providing technical support wherever necessary. He reiterated that the Government is committed in its resolve to make Sikkim into a self-sustainable State in vegetable production.

They urged the farmers to provide support and encouragement at various stages of Organic Movement.

They informed that the priority has always been given to the local farmers more rather than consumers so in regard they clarified the rumor of SIMFED selling organic vegetables in higher rates.

They also talked about the role of SIMFED, how it works for the Government and said that they are willing to pay higher rates to the farmers to take this Organic Movement further, loss will be absorbed by the SIMFED itself, they added.

They also said that the mission and goal of SIMFED is not to de-motivate local farmers.

They also informed that there is a no shortage of organic products in any district, and added that all requirements have been fulfilled.

