

Gangtok, April 29: (IPR) Minister for Agriculture, Horticulture & Cash Crops Development Department Shri Somnath Poudyal inaugurated the first Kisan bazaar in Gangtok on Sunday morning. The Kisan bazaar has been set up at a cost of Rs 22.75 Crore by the Urban Development and Housing Development Department (UD&HD) and will benefit the farmers of Sikkim. The first 7 storied Kisan Bazaar was formally inaugurated by the Minister Shri Poudyal in the presence of UD&HD Minister Shri N.K. Subba along with Gangtok Municipal Corporation (GMC) Mayor, Shri Shakti Singh Choudhary, Deputy Mayor Smt Lasey Doma Bhutia, GMC Chairman Shri Ashish Rai, UD&HD Secretary Shri L.B. Chettri, GMC Commissioner, Shri Tshewang Gyachho, SIMFED Chairman Shri Girish Chandra Rai and other officials from Agriculture, Horticulture & Cash Crops Development, UD&HD and farmers from different constituencies of all the four districts of Sikkim.

In his brief interaction, Minister Shri Poudyal said that the Kisan bazaar which was constructed by the government will benefit the farmers of Sikkim directly and will also encourage them. This bazaar is open for all farmers who want to sell organic vegetables and other organic products. Earlier our farmer sold their products in small areas of Lall Bazaar but from today they have got a very good place to sell the vegetables. This is a huge addition to our Organic Mission, he stated.

The Minister also highlighted how the Department under his charge was focusing on boosting and encouraging farmers to grow more and double their income by selling their organic vegetables and products directly in the market.

"I am sure that now farmers of Sikkim will get good and best price of their organic products through this direct marketing process. This will encourage them to increase the production of vegetables," he stated.

The Minister also thanked all the farmers who had come from various constituencies to sell their organic vegetables and products on inaugural day and for their support on government organic initiatives.

He informed that department is going to start another Kisan Bazaar in Singtam shortly.

UD&HD Minister, Shri N.K Subba said that the Kisan bazaar which was set up by the department, have facilities of 3 Cold Storage Unit, one of which is allotted to SIMFED and remaining two can be used by farmers, having a capacity of 250 metric ton each, Cafeteria, Canteen and other necessary facilities in the seven storied building.

Minister Shri Subba said "Department had provided 28 vehicles in 28 different constituencies for transportation purpose so that our farmers can use these vehicles to carry their vegetables from their place to Kisan bazaar here. Farmers can sell their organic vegetables anytime by just showing NOC from their respective panchayats".

Farmers from Ringhim, Dzongu, North Sikkim, Jarong, Yangyang and others places expressed their gratitude to state government and department for providing Kisan bazaar to farmers.

"As Kisan Bazaar is open and free for us and we are very much sure that we will get best price of our vegetables and it will encourage us to increase our production and double our income," shared one of the farmers.

