

**Paddy procurement begins for Rabi crop season**  
**Centre & State aim to strengthen economic**  
**base of farmers: Food Minister**

A crucial initiative like paddy procurement has ignited new hope and trust among farmers. The benefit of this initiative has already begun to show its impact. Farmers are now cultivating the fallow lands as well, stated the food, civil supplies and consumer affairs minister Sushanta Chowdhury on August 5 after inaugurating the paddy procurement programme at Madhabbari government food godown.

The food and civil supplies minister said, paddy procurement is one of the major welfare initiatives taken by the new government. He said, both the central and state government aim to strengthen the economic base of farmers. Paddy procurement will not only increase the farmers' income, but also consolidate the agri-based economy of the state.

Among others who spoke on the occasion included special secretary of the agriculture and farmers' welfare department Debapriya Bardhan and department's director Phanibhushan Jamatia. Welcome address was delivered by the Jirania SDM Animesh Dhar and vote of thanks was given by the chairperson of Nagar Panchayat Ratan Kumar Das. Sumit Lodh, director of the food department, Prabir Kumar Das, vice-chairperson of Ranirbazar Municipal Council, noted social activist Gouranga Bhowmik, Ranajit Roy Chowdhury, member of West Tripura Cultural Advisory Committee were also present there.

Similarly paddy procurement in Khowai subdivision also started yesterday through a formal programme at the Officetilla government food godown premises in presence of the Sabhadhipati of Khowai Zilla Parishad Aparna Singha Roy. Till August 13, paddy will be procured there at the rate of Rs. 2,300 per quintal with a target of procuring 1,000 MT paddy from the farmers of Khowai subdivision. Yesterday paddy procurement also started in Amarpur subdivision at the Amarpur HS School ground in presence of the Amarpur Nagar Panchayat chairperson Bikash Saha and other dignitaries. It will continue until August 14.