

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister in a press conference

Plan to bring 7 thousand hectares of land under palm oil cultivation in the state

Under National Mission on Edible Oils - Oil Palm (NMEO-OP), a plan has been taken to bring at least 7,000 hectares of land under palm oil cultivation in Tripura by 2026-27. Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Ratanlal Nath announced this in a press conference at the Secretariat yesterday. The state government has given special importance to the cultivation of palm oil. Palm oil is a promising new crop in India. Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand and Cambodia produce more than 90 percent of the world's palm oil. The Agriculture Minister said that India produced about 133.52 lakh metric tons in 2020-21. Tons of edible oil has been imported which is worth about 80 thousand crore rupees. The share of palm oil in all imported edible oil is about 56 percent i.e. 75 lakh metric tons. In addition to self reliance on edible oil the Government of India has given importance to palm oil cultivation to reduce imports. Currently palm oil is grown in the north eastern region of India in 38,992 hectares of land. The climate, rainfall, soil etc. of North Eastern region including Tripura is favourable for palm oil cultivation. The Agriculture Minister informed that in 2020 the ICAR-IIOPR re-evaluation committee has identified 1,46,364 hectares of land for expansion of palm oil cultivable area in the state through digital mapping.

In the press conference, the Agriculture Minister informed that two agricultural producers of the country, Godrej Agrovet Limited and Patanjali Food Private Limited, have signed MoUs with the State Department of Agriculture for the implementation of National Mission on Edible Oils - Oil Palm (NMEO-OP). Already Godrej Agrovet Limited has set up a 6.5 hectare nursery in government garden at Nalkata in Dhalai district where 150,000 imported varieties and 6000 indigenous palm oil seedlings have been produced. Godrej Agrovet Ltd. has planted 52.01 hectares of palm oil in the state this year through farmers using palm oil seedlings brought from Andhra Pradesh. Patanjali Food Private Limited has also planted palm oil saplings on a total of 4.31 hectares this year. A total of 56.35 hectares of palm oil cultivation area has been expanded in the state. He also informed that 18 officers of the state Agriculture Department have already been sent to Andhra Pradesh for training on palm oil cultivation. Besides, till now 2,123 farmers of the state have been trained on palm oil cultivation.

At the press conference, Director of Horticulture Department, Dr. Phani Bhushan Jamatia said, for the convenience of farmers a mobile app is underway from the Horticulture Department. Interested farmers can register their names through this mobile app.