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Sunrise | 4.24 am Sunset | 6.14 pm

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Gol planning more agri varsities in NE

Arunachal eyes fisheries college

ITANAGAR, Jun 30: Putting development in the Northeast region atop its priority agenda, the Centre has been assessing various ways to bring the much neglected region at par with the other developed parts of the nation.

While assuring his full support to the Arunachal Pradesh government during his meeting with Chief Minister Nabam Tuki on June 27 last, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had laid stress on horticulture development with special reference to the potential of harnessing herbal and medicinal plants.

Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh has recently directed the Indian Council for Agricultural Research to study the feasibility of opening agriculture and veterinary universities in the NE states.

Recently, the union agriculture minister has agreed to look into the possibility

|| By Pradeep Kumar ||

of setting up new agriculture universities and research centers in the NE.

"They had come to us with their demand for improving the infrastructure and strengthening the existing institutions and central universities in the region. Also, they have asked for the setting up of new centers - agriculture, fishery and other such colleges depending on the climatic condition and natural resources in the states. I have assured them that our ministry will complete this work in the next 1-1.5 years," Singh said.

A delegation led by



Happy anglers in Kameng river in Bhalukpong with their prized catches (golden maser) during the International Angling Festival

Union MoS for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju met the agriculture minister recently to push forward a proposal for setting up at least six agriculture universities in the NE along with a few research centers at an estimated cost of over Rs 700 crore.

The delegation submitted a memorandum highlighting the requirements of the NE region in the areas of agricultural education and research. Focus will also be given on upgrading the infrastructure of the existing institutions.

"We have also asked for the setting up of 6 new colleges - agriculture, horticulture or fishery - to cover the entire NE," Rijiju said.

Mumbai-based Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE) vice-chancellor Dr WS Lakra on Tuesday called for launching a 'blue revolution' in the Northeast, particularly Arunachal Pradesh, to end dependence on Andhra Pradesh for fishes.

Addressing the participants on a two-day training-cum-workshop on 'Aquaculture and fisheries management for food and nutritional securities in Arunachal Pradesh' being conducted

by CIFE here on June 14 last, Lakra said the CIFE would make an in-depth



Nokkai Wangjen of Dasathong village in Kanubari circle is engaged in scientific fish farming since 2005 after receiving training from the fisheries department and the Deomali VKV

analysis of the vast aquaculture resources of this Himalayan state and draw a map for increasing fish production in Arunachal to benefit the farmers. He laid stress on fisheries as a branch of study that has good job prospects in the state.

Chief Minister Nabam Tuki, who also holds the charge of Fisheries when contacted, said that

Arunachal Pradesh has huge aquaculture resources and Arunachalees are fishitarians. As the CIFE has proposed 'blue revolution' by conducting an in-depth analysis of the vast aquaculture resources in the state, we would move the Centre for a fisheries institute to tap the vast resources.

Chief Secretary Ramesh Negi also assured to explore the avenues for a central institute.

"Probability of selling our products, particularly preserved foods, preserved fruits, flowers and many other products of agriculture is high. They can be exported to South-East Asian countries because of the fact that we people, particularly the people of NE India have similar eating habits. So, we can earn a lot and this kind of colleges like the college of food sciences and technology will help the people in NE," feels Joykumar Meitei Laishram, Dean, College of Agriculture, Central Agriculture University.

The NE region is endowed with rich natural resources and the climate condition makes

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