

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2011

Anjaw initiates organic certification process

HAYULIANG, Dec, 24: Anjaw - the first district in Arunachal Pradesh to begin the organic certification process after the adoption of the state organic policy in the year 2007 has begun the process of implementation of organic certification.

The department Horticulture, Anjaw under the initiative of S.K. Gogoi, DHO has tied up with the leading organic certifying agency - ECOCERT India Pvt. Ltd. based at Aurangabad, Maharashtra to undertake the organic certification process for the major horticulture crops such as large cardamom, orange, kiwi, apple and vegetables produced in the district. Initially the organic cultivation

and certification process will begin with the "large cardamom" - whose production in Anjaw as per APMC record till 30th Nov, 2011 was 150.80 MT with a turnover of Rs. 6.03 crores approx that too with the harvesting of the large cardamom still under process.

In this regard, training on organic cultivation and certification process was held from December 20 at Community Hall, Hayuliang. It ended yesterday with the field visit of the cardamom gardens in the Chaglagam Valley of the Anjaw district by the representatives of ECOCERT, DHO and his officials, representatives of Amik Matai society (NGO)

and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Chongkham.

The programme was organized by Horticulture Department, Anjaw to sensitize and train the progressive farmers of the district in organic cultivation and to become certified organic growers.

MLA, Kalikho Pul praised the organizing department officials for initiating the organic cultivation and certification process. Encouraged by the initiative of the Horticulture Department, Anjaw, Pul assured to earmark the organic cultivation of large cardamom under suitable schemes so that its cultivation acts an alternative source of income for the farmers of Anjaw. (Contd. P-3)

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(From P-1) The field visit highlighted the problems faced by the progressive farmers in cultivation of the large cardamom which is planned for immediate organic certification. The need for better cultivation methods, collection centres, trainings, pest management, post harvest methods such as traditional drying methods - sun drying and smoking process, segregation, polishing, packaging and establishment of market yard and better market linkages for good price were felt which needed immediate attention for the progressive farmers of the district.