

GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT

MEGHALAYA, SHILLONG

Press Communiqué

Shillong, November 17, 2025 : The Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya, Shri C.H. Vijayashankar, today inaugurated the Regional Agri Fair 2025-26 at the College of Agriculture, Kyrdemkulai, Ri-Bhoi District. The fair is being organised by the Central Agricultural University (CAU), Imphal, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Government of India.

The event was attended by Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Government of India, Shri Timothy D. Shira, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare; Shri H.C.Choudhary, IFS, Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Governor, Dr. Anupam Mishra, Vice-Chancellor of CAU; senior officials from the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare; scientists, researchers, representatives of FPOs and FBOs, students, entrepreneurs, and farmers from across the region.

In his address, the Hon'ble Governor expressed happiness at being part of an event that celebrates the spirit of Indian agriculture and the contribution of farmers, particularly in the North Eastern Region. Recalling his rural and agricultural background, he highlighted how traditional farming systems and rural industries once enabled villages to remain self-sufficient. He expressed concern that today rural economies have become dependent on urban centres, calling it an unhealthy trend for national development.

The Hon'ble Governor emphasized that with nearly 70 percent of India's population living in rural areas and dependent on agriculture, it is essential to safeguard both farmers' interests and agricultural land. He proposed categorizing agricultural land into irrigated land, horticulture land, fertile land, and dry land - stressing that any non-agricultural land acquisition should begin only from dry land, and that irrigated and horticulture land must be strictly protected.

He urged policymakers and experts to adopt a long-term approach that ensures agricultural land remains dedicated to farming and that technological advancements benefit even the remotest villages. The Hon'ble Governor praised CAU Imphal for its contribution to agricultural development across the seven Northeastern states through its 13 constituent colleges, KVKs, and research centres. He

welcomed the initiative to develop a Vision Document for Agricultural Transformation in Northeast India by 2047, calling it a step toward creating a modern, sustainable, and globally competitive agricultural sector.

He urged all stakeholders to work collectively toward building an agricultural ecosystem that is inclusive and innovation-driven, ensuring that every farmer - especially the smallest and most marginalized - benefits from schemes, research findings, and new technologies. He assured that any suggestions emerging from the Agri Fair that can benefit Meghalaya will be welcomed by the Raj Bhavan and the State Government.

The Hon'ble Governor congratulated the organisers and hoped that the fair would lead to meaningful outcomes that strengthen the agricultural framework of the entire Northeastern Region.