

# ASSAM

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MANASH RABHA, SEVEN SISTERS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (SESTA)

# SNAPSHOT OF THE STATE AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPE

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- Total area under cultivation (as on 29.10.2020)
  - Total geographic area of the state is 7.8 million ha
  - The total Cropped Area is 4.0 million ha (51% of total geographic area).
  - Net Cropped Area is 2.8 million ha (36% of total geographic area)
  - Area sown more than once 1.3 million ha (45% of the net cropped area).
  - 0.54 million ha is under horticulture cultivation.

# MAJOR CROPS GROWN IN ASSAM

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- Rice – throughout the state
- Tea – Upper Assam Locations
- Vegetables - throughout the state
  - Summer Seasonal Veggies: Lady Finger, Cucumber, Snake Gourd, Chayot or Squash, Long Beans, etc.
  - Winter Seasonal Veggies: Indian Mustard, Spinach, Coriander, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Onion, Capsicum, Mushroom, Cherry Tomato, Carrot, etc.
- Jute - Lower Assam locations like Nalbari, Nagaon, Goalpara, Barpeta, and Darang
- Sugarcane - Popular in Karbi Anglong, Nagaon, and Dima Hasao areas

# TREND IN FERTILIZER CONSUMPTION IN NE (NPK)

(In KG per Ha)

State	2004-05	2011-12	2018-19
Assam	41.3	66.0	73.7
Tripura	34.7	50.2	0.0
Manipur	86.0	21.9	68.3
Meghalaya	18.1	14.0	0.0
Nagaland	1.8	3.0	-
Arunachal Pradesh	3.0	2.4	-
Mizoram	15.9	12.3	55.9
Sikkim	5.0	-	-
ALL INDIA (Average)	94.5	142.3	133.1

Source: Agricultural Statistics At a Glance, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India.

# AREA UNDER ORGANIC CERTIFICATION FOR THE YEAR 2020-21

State Name	Area under Organic Certification (Ha)*	Conversion Area for Certification (Ha)	Total Area Under Organic Farming (Ha)
Arunachal Pradesh	265.4	12848.7	13114.1
<b>Assam</b>	<b>6719.3</b>	<b>11751.6</b>	<b>18470.8</b>
Manipur	4419.3	8305.7	12724.9
Meghalaya	34816.3	3560.1	38376.4
Mizoram	40.5	12998.4	13038.9
Nagaland	7385.0	7405.4	14790.4
Sikkim	74647.3	1082.3	75729.7
Tripura	203.6	6317.8	6521.3
NE Total	128496.5	64270.0	192766.5
India Total	1492611.0	1165278.3	2657889.3
PC of NE share			7.3%
PC of Assam Share			0.7%

**There are nearly 2.8 million ha of net cropped area in Assam, organic farming barely covers 1% net cropped area.**

**Source:** Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)



# POLICIES THAT HAVE HELPED IN MOVING TO ORGANIC FARMING

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- Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana(PKVY)
  - 220 clusters formed in 10 selected districts with a total area of 10,935 acres (4428.675 ha) – 2015-16
  - Criteria for selection of PKVY area:
    - Small and marginal farmers are to be encouraged.
    - Low fertilizer use area.
    - Rain fed area of the state.
    - Crops with low fertilizer demand are to be considered in the first year.
    - Areas of the state where farmers are practicing traditional agriculture.
- Mission Organic Value Chain Development - NER
  - Objective of this Mission is to overcome the specific organic value chain and gaps in the production of organic crops, harvesting of wild crops, management of organic livestock, and processing, handling, and marketing of organic agricultural products
  - 10 Clusters identified in 9 districts with 500 Acres in each cluster

# NATURE OF INTERVENTIONS BY CSOS

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- Collectivisation of women farmers, institution building, capacity building
- Promotion of organic manure inputs in the cultivation of paddy, vegetables, and horticulture crops at 23 districts of Assam and Tripura.
- Trained women community cadre as 'Krishi Sakhi' in organic methods of Insect and Pest management practices at village level organizations of women collectives.
- Developing various IEC materials in the native language, videos on Package of Practice, etc.
- Converging with other CSOs for leveraging schemes under MGNREGA

# SOME POSITIVE TRENDS

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- Adoption of organic practices by farmers is influenced by the quality of the harvest.
- Gradual acceptance by SRLMs which also now giving trial on Nutritional Garden
- Recognition by the agriculture and horticulture departments to promote and link with the market through the promotion of producer groups and GI tagging.
- Conversion of homestead wasteland into nutrition garden
- Implementation of IBS-NREGA through INRM approach



# SETBACKS IN THE RECENT TIMES

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- Mass level acceptance and practice to shift from chemical to organic methods in areas where the farmers grow crops for a commercial purpose is not observed.
- Market linkage for a better price has not been standardized and accessible in the remote tribal areas of Assam, where the farmers have been continuing to practice organic farming traditionally and the chemical fertilizer promoters have not reached out yet.
- A lot of local NGOs are interested in intervening organic practices among the farmers but due to lack of knowledge and skills and resource constraints, target beneficiaries are not benefitted much



# PHOTOS FROM THE SITES WHERE NATURAL FARMING IS PRACTICED



Mukuta Hojaisa, a resident of Kothalguri Village in Karbi Anglong District, Assam, planted Colocasia in 0.5 bigha plot of land and got 3 quintals. The total expenditure during the whole process was Rs. 2500/-. She earned Rs. 10,000/- from selling the Colocasia from which she gets a profit of Rs. 7500/-. Apart from Colocasia, she also cultivated Brinjal, Beans and Lady's finger in 0.5 plot of land. She invested 500 for the whole process and earned a profit of Rs. 5000/-. Mukuta has always been supportive towards her family as well as the society.



Randhya Baideu of Hiyamoni SHG from the village of Boitamari Block, Bajitpara started with vegetable cultivation in an organic manner in her backyard. She has been selling since the last 4-5 months, from leafy vegetables to other vegetables. During the months of December 2020 and January 2021, she had a total outcome of 50 Kgs approximately and made a total income of Rs. 3000 approx. from selling leafy vegetables, as spinach, coriander and radish leaves and other vegetables as radish, cabbage and beans.





# CHALLENGES

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- NGOs are working in Silos, sporadic interventions are not benefitting farmers
- Govt Policies and Incentives are not adequate for supporting natural farming
- Lack of adequate supply of organic inputs

# REFLECTIONS AND QUESTIONS

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- **Documentations of Best Practices** by cross-learning, exposures to other states, and Action Research
- **Stakeholders mapping** to contextualize and understand different stakeholders' capacities, strengths, challenges and explore the scope to foster their engagement for scaling up Natural Farming
- Strong coalition of NGOs, Civil Society Organizations in knowledge development and resource mobilization.
- A dedicated resource person for liaisoning with Govt Departments for leveraging the benefits of convergence.
- Simplification of Organic Certification process.
- Influencing agriculture departments, SRLMs for scaling up efforts of Nutrition Garden, Organic Farming in NE India.
- *Is Organic Farming Labor Intensive than Conventional Farming?*
- *Is the Food Produced by Organic Farming Superior in Quality?*
- *Is it Possible to Manage Pest and Disease in Organic Farming?*

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**THANK YOU**