



**A Brief Report  
on  
Two-Day Workshop  
on  
Nature, Agriculture and Livelihood  
in North-East India**

*Organized By*



**Centre for Public Policy and Governance  
Tezpur University, Assam**

*In Collaboration With*



**RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
Institution of National Importance by the Act of Parliament No.35/12  
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports,  
Government of India, Sriperumbudur – 602 105.**





## **PREFACE**

The primary aim of this webinar is to diagnose the problems of regional agricultural economies in the changing scenario and to analyze future prospects, identify the sources of agricultural growth and the constraining factors, and suggest innovative people-centric policy interventions for agricultural development.

The North-East Region (NER) is a land of magnificent beauty, possessing undulating hills, rolling grasslands, cascading waterfalls, snaking rivers, terraced slopes and thrilling flora and fauna. It is a matter of concern that the abundant resources, gamut of crop production possibilities, and rich biodiversity remained an unexploited storehouse of natural resources. Moreover, the traditional agricultural practices, lack of proper technology interventions and ineffective state policies have inhibited the agricultural growth, resulting in a clear developmental divide between the NER and the rest of the country. This complexity needs to be understood in proper perspectives.

National Service Scheme Tezpur University, popularly known as NSS is an extension dimension to the higher education system to orient the student youth to community service while they are studying in educational institutions, under the aegis of Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt. of India. NSS is a voluntary scheme. In India, the idea of involving students in the task of national service dates back to the times of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation. The central theme which he tried to impress upon his student audience time and again, was that they should always keep before them, their social responsibility.

Every accomplishment becomes successful only by the proactive involvement and dedication of the team members and this program is of no difference. The efforts of NSS volunteers have been widely acclaimed by the community, universities, colleges and general public as the NSS volunteers have been rendering selfless service to the community.



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### *Annexure*



## 1.0 Details of the Event

### *A Two Days Workshop on Nature, Agriculture and Livelihood in North East India*

Organized by Centre for Public Policy and Governance, Tezpur University in collaboration with Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt. of India, Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu, India

On the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> December, 2020

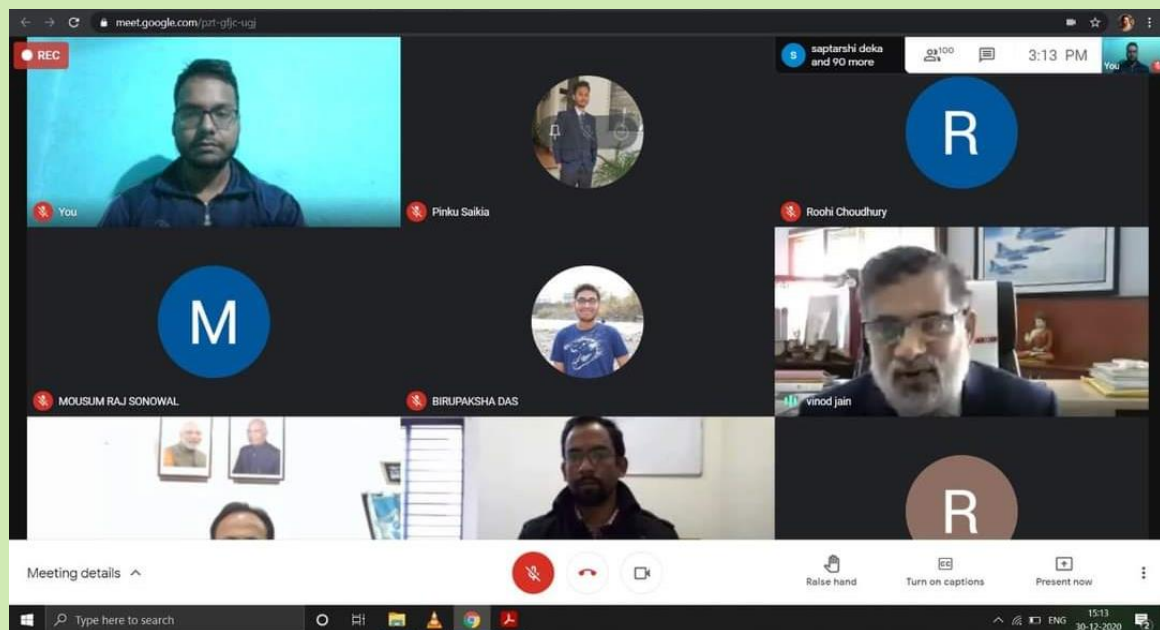
No. of Resource Persons : 09

No. of Participants : 126

Mode of Workshop : Online (via Google Meet and Facebook Live Streaming)

## 2.0 Target Group

The programme was exclusively conducted for the College and University Level students of the entire North Eastern Region, the Research Scholars and the NSS Volunteers. Over 250 Students registered for the online program. However, about 126 attended the entire program.

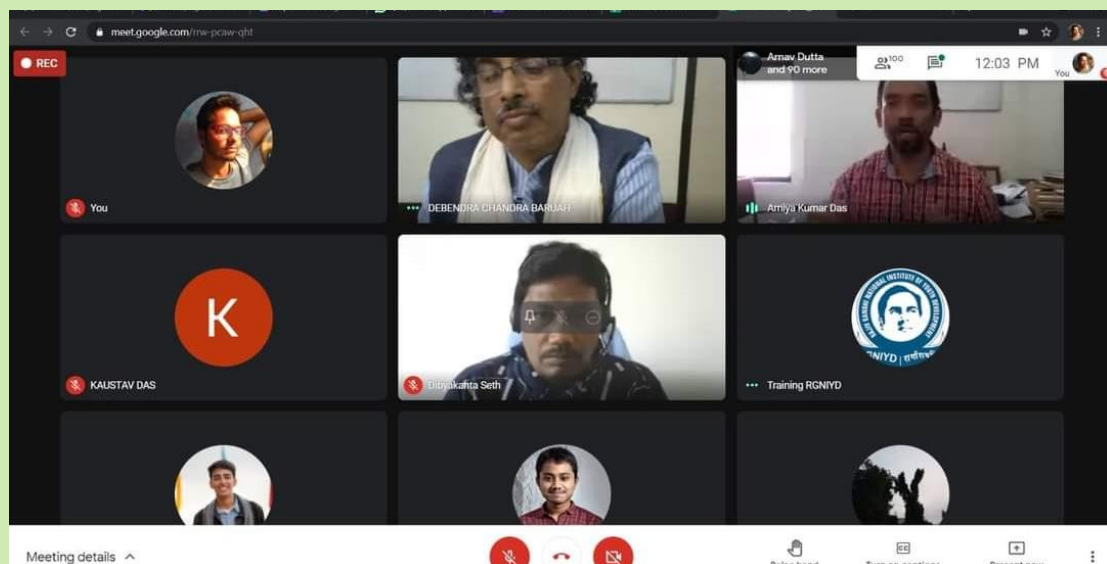


*Glimpses of the Event*

### 3.0 Objectives of the Program

- To assess the importance of rural livelihoods in national and global economies and communities.
- To examine the characteristics of rural livelihoods which distinguish them from other forms of livelihood and which need special attention from analysts, development practitioners, and policy-makers in the North Eastern Region.
- To explain sustainable livelihoods frameworks and to identify some of their strengths and weaknesses. Maintenance of sustainability in agriculture is a challenge.
- To understand the significant prospect of Organic Fertilizer in the North Eastern region.
- To encourage the farmers for introducing high yielding breed for higher productivity, to adopt “healthy practices” for healthy dairying and further improving quality both in terms input and output.
- To develop the Human Resource of this region takes place by encouraging concepts of entrepreneurship and train the people to drive a series of change in the coming years and make this region a prosperous one.

The issues mentioned above are to be broadly spoken upon by our esteemed Speakers covering all the Topics one by one in a series of Five Sessions over Two Day Period.



*Glimpses of the Event*

## 4.0 Inaugural Function

Nature and agriculture play a vital role in providing for the livelihood of many in the north eastern region of India. To highlight and discuss threadbare about this important agenda, a two-day workshop was conducted by NSS, Tezpur University, in association with the Centre for Public Policy and Governance, Tezpur University and Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt. of India, Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu.

The event, at the outset, was initiated by Dr Amiya Kumar Das, Coordinator, CPPG, TU. He cordially welcomed all the fellow dignitaries and professors taking part in the event. Further, the inaugural address was delivered by Prof. P.K. Das, Director, CPPG, TU and Dean, SH&SS.

The Guest of Honour, Dr Biren Das, Registrar, TU, graciously took the event forward with his enlightening and insightful words. After that our Chief Guest Prof. Sibnath Deb, Director, Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, TamilNadu addressed the hall.



*Glimpses of the Event*

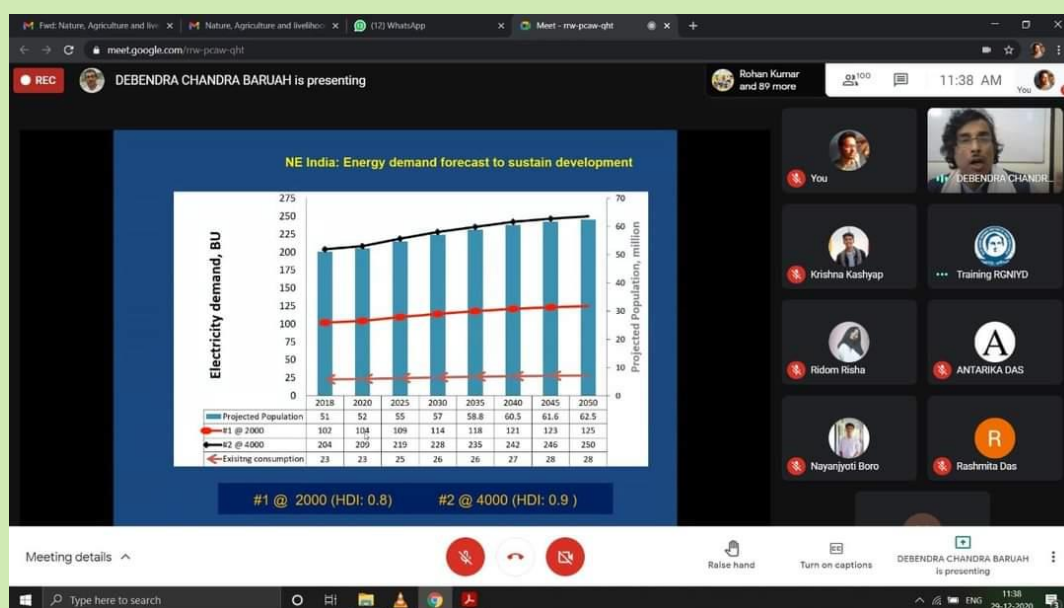


## 5.0 Topics Discussed by Resource Persons

- **Energy, Livelihood in Northeast India**

Energy is very important in all of our daily life activities. Moreover it is also a means of livelihood for numerous people. We all know that energy is life. Without energy no activity can take place in our dynamic world. Energy, in physics, is the capacity for doing work. It may exist in potential, kinetic, thermal, electrical, chemical, nuclear, or other various forms.

Prof. Debendra Chandra Baruah, Director, IQAC, TU started the first discussion session on the topic “Energy, Livelihood in Northeast India” where he discussed vast renewable energy potential of the North Eastern region which consists of eight states; Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur and Sikkim. yet the progress and performance is far from satisfactory due to various institutional, financial and technical factors. The discussion attempted to review the renewable energy programme in the region especially the solar, hydro and biomass technologies, and suggests measures for development of the sector.



*Glimpses of the Event*

- **Dairy farming, Entrepreneurship in Northeast India**

In the Second Session, Dr. Dibya Kanta Seth, NIT, Rourkela started the discussion on the topic “Dairy farming, Entrepreneurship in Northeast India”. He discussed about the Future of processed milk and other products-based industries in the region appears bright in the light of the Act East Policy of government of India; Free Trade Agreement with ASEAN, Pan Asian Highway etc. These environmental changes will provide a plethora of opportunities for the North Eastern states to interact commercially with international neighbors with whom they share 98% of their borders.

Various Indian dairy companies are chalking out plans to widen their footprints in the North Eastern states, encouraged by the region’s wet climate which is considered favorable for setting up dairy farms and processing units. There is an urgent need to improve the milk production scenario within the region as lower milk availability is a major deterrent for investment in procurement and processing.

The screenshot shows a Google Meet interface. The main window displays a presentation titled "Dairy Development in North-East India". The presentation is divided into four sections: Production, Processing, Distribution, and Support facility. The Production section lists: Poor cattle population, Very high ratio of non-descript animals, Mostly indigenous stock-few cross breeds, Low productivity, Limited presence of organised milk production, and Inconsistent quality. The Processing section lists: Limited presence of organised milk processing activities and Lack of basic infrastructure. The Distribution section lists: Lack of organised milk distribution network, Absence of organised markets, Inadequate packaging and storage, and Poor transportation. The Support facility section lists: Lack of grazing pasture, Poor feeding, breeding and management, and Inadequate manpower and. The right side of the screen shows a grid of participants, including You, Dibyakanta Seth, Arniya Kumar Das, Training RGNVD, KAUSTAV DAS, satyajit borah, PRABAL TALUKDAR, and Ridom Raha. The bottom of the screen shows the meeting details and controls.

*Glimpses of the Event*



- **Gender, Agriculture and Livelihood in Northeast India**

Dr Sarmistha Das, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Tezpur University handled the third session titled “Gender, Agriculture, and Livelihood in North East India”. In her presentation she called attention on agriculture and forest dependent economy of the hilly terrains of North East Indian centring the plight of the rural women, the hapless ladies who are dwindled between rural household activities and their rigorous toils and contribution to upsurgeeconomic expansion. A pathos evoking scene with limited supply of crucial livelihood resources has further been highlighted in the presentation.

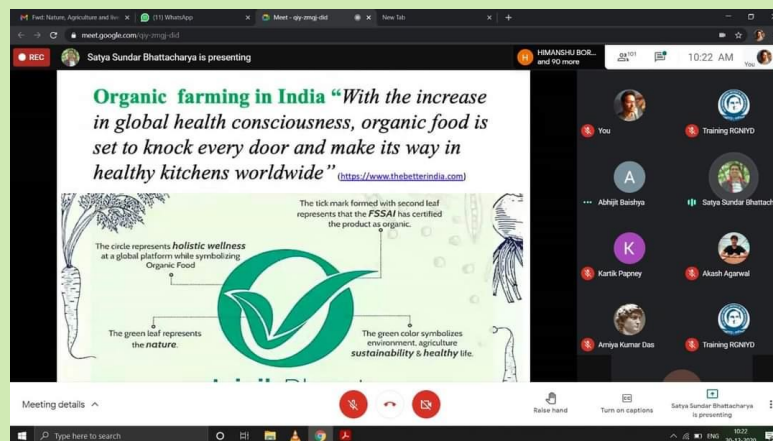
Considering the complexity and diversity in gender relation to those regions, madam has drove it to the spotlight as to how gender relations despite of being deeply embedded in the economy and the politics of control over resources is often neglected in the mainstream discussions on economic development and change.

To elucidate this episode of negligence, she goes on to present many micro level studies by authors and other which paints as to how the interdependencies between farming and forest related activities alters the intra-family distribution of work as well as opportunities for men and women. The presentation has been taken to an extent which drawn into the impact of deforestation and commercialization of forest products on women's work burden in the argo based rural livelihood of North East India.

- **Prospect of Organic fertilizer in Northeast India**

**Dr. S.S. Bhattacharya**, Faculty, Department of Environmental Studies, Tezpur University, Assam handled the fourth session titled “Prospect of organic fertiliser in North East India”. In his presentation, he detailed how much of a bigger prospect the eight states of NE India viz., Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim can provide for cultivation using organic fertilizers. He showed how the region contributes only 2.8 percent of the total food grain production of the nation pointing to its low level of productivity.

His presentation centredaround the possibility that this region holds in Organic agriculture that has emerged as an important priority area globally in view of the growing consciousness for safe and healthy food, long term sustainability and environmental concerns despite being contentious in history. He dealt at length about the ways, options, advantages of using organic fertilizers and how it can expand the growth of agriculture and in turn the economy of northeast region of India. He further detailed about different government and non-government initiatives undertaken by organizations to help the farming processes using organic fertilisers.

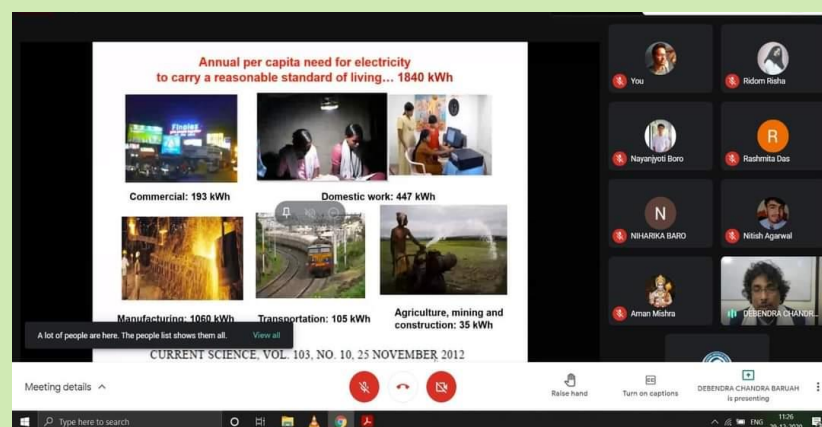


*Glimpses of the Event*

- **Agriculture Sustainability and Seeds Sovereignty in North East India**

The fifth session on “Agriculture sustainability and seeds sovereignty in North East India” was facilitated by **Mr. Neelam Dutta**, Managing Director and Founder of *Pabhoi Greens*. His presentation began with how the implications of the green revolution have changed cultivation in organic farming in Northeast India and unfortunately not for the good. He talked about how the farming traditions like seed preservation was impacted by subsidized seeds from the big seed companies to increase yields and profit.

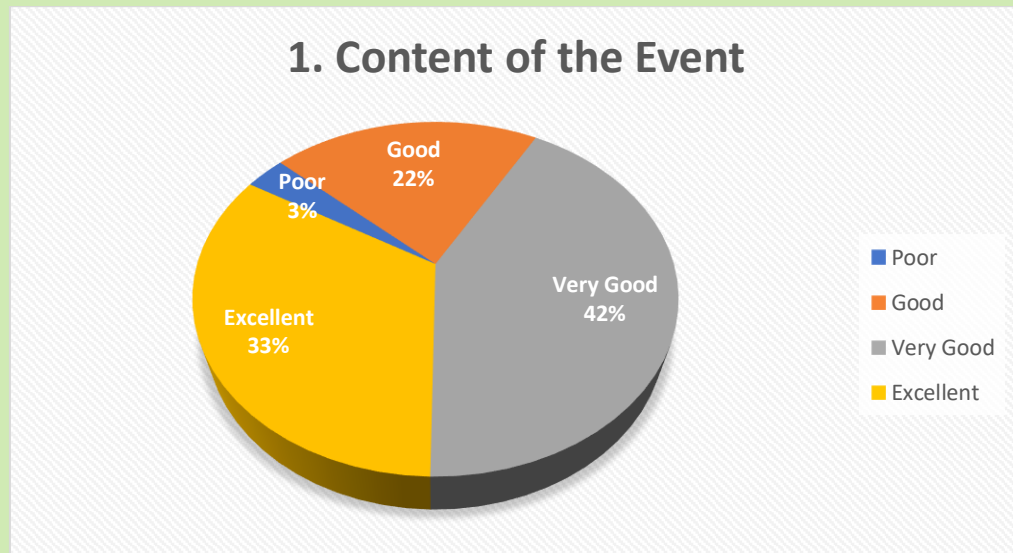
He opened about the trend of monoculture and how the multinational seed corporations continue selling non-reproducible hybrid seeds, chemical fertilizers, and pesticides to the farmers with high profit margins and have forced many farmers to either go out of business or take high interests. The monopoly of big seed companies has completely rendered the local Indian farmer of its independence. He then discussed about his initiative *Pabhoi Greens* that envisioned producing organic seeds and offering free trainings on organic seed production to local farmers so to give them a truly sustainable alternative and at the same time make them more independent again. He finally urged for ways to broaden the scope of his project.



*Glimpses of the Event*

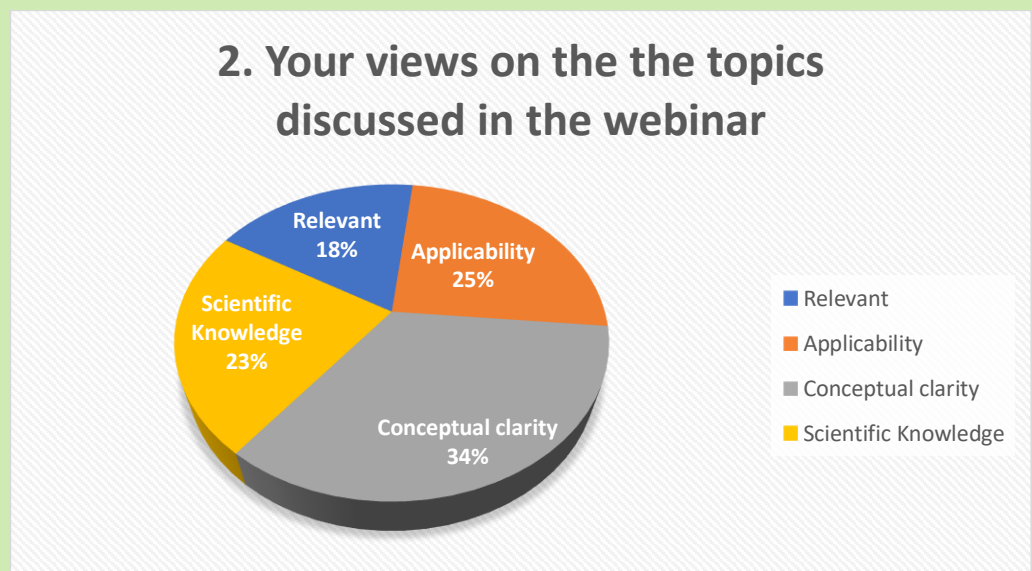
## 6.0 Feedback of the Participants

- Content quality of the Event



It was found in the feedback form that, out of the total *126 participants* who attended the event, upon the question asked on the *Content quality of the event*, *4* found it **Poor**, *27* found it **Good**, *53* participants found it **Very Good** and *42* participants found it **Excellent**.

- Your views on the topics discussed in the webinar

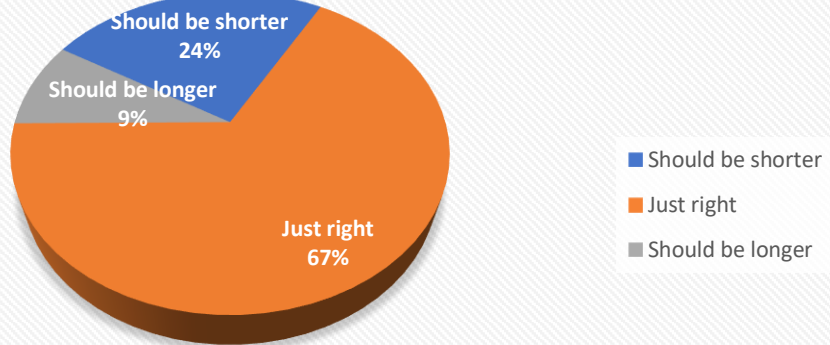


It was found in the feedback form that, out of the total *126 participants* who attended the event, upon the question asked on *Your views on the topics discussed in the webinar*, *23* found it **Relevant**, *31* found it **Applicable**, *43* participants found it **Conceptual clarity** and *29* participants found it **Scientific knowledge**.



- How do you feel about the duration of the sessions?

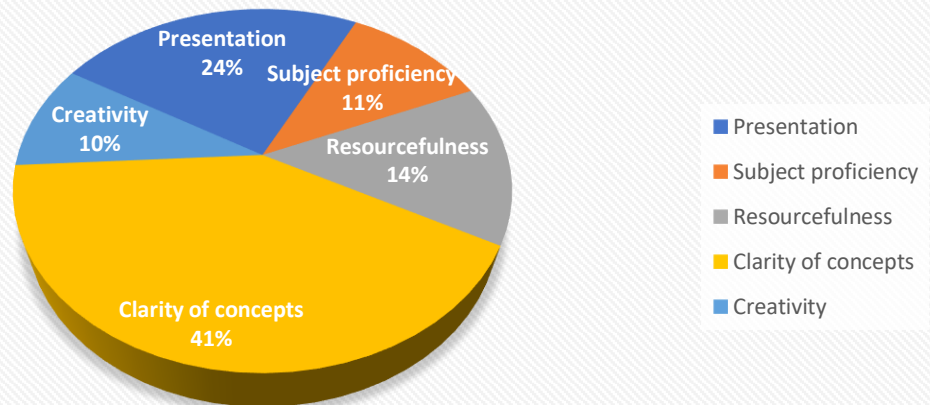
### 3. How do you feel about the duration of the sessions



It was found in the feedback form that, out of the total **126 participants** who attended the event, upon the question asked on *How do you feel about the duration of the sessions*, **31** participants found it **should be shorter**, **84** participants found it of **right length** and **11** participants found it **should be longer**.

- The best part of the session in your view

### 4. The best part of the session in your view



It was found in the feedback form that, out of the total **126 participants** who attended the event, upon the question asked on *The best part of the session in your view*, **30** participants selected **Presentation**, **14** participants selected **Subject of proficiency**, **18** selected **Resourcefulness**, **52** participants **Selected Clarity of concepts** and **12** participants selected **Creativity**.

## 7.0 Conclusion

A two days workshop on Nature, Agriculture & Livelihood in North eastern state was organized by the centre for public policy & governance, Tezpur university & Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India. The program was successfully concluded by Prof. Vinod Kumar Jain (Vice Chancellor of Tezpur University). The chief guest delivering the valedictory for the same & address by Guest of honor Prof. Vasanthi Rajendran – centre for training, orientation & capacity building Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development.

Prof. Vinod Kumar Jain said that “I am very to be the part of the workshop from the past 10 years, we have come face to face with unusual problems faced by the nature & we are progressively working on the solution for same on a long run basis. Agriculture – the main sector of India, is also becoming technologically advanced but at the same time the occupation of this sector was in little crisis. The livelihood of the North Eastern India indicates the diversified culture of India, the strong sign of diversity. To keep this existence of this glorious culture & tradition of North-Eastern Region, we need to imbibe this into our students by organizing various workshops, sessions & events.”

Lastly, Vasanthi Rajendran & Dr. Amiya Kumar Das ended the session with their encouraging, inspiring & aspiring talk. They promoted the real value of the session that brings passion to the students and concluded the session. Finally, the vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Amiya Kumar Das

The event organized by the Tezpur University NSS unit is of great importance to the future generations. It will help them to understand the resources better and also help them to utilize the resources in a sustainable way. The event was attended by the NSS volunteers of the University along with the faculty members and many other renowned personalities related to the area. This event can be considered to be very important for the future generations.



## ANNEXURES

- Poster of the Event
- Program Schedule



**ESTD. TEZPUR UNIVERSITY**  
विज्ञान यज्ञे तनुते 1994

**राष्ट्रीय सेवा योजना**  
NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME

**राजीव गांधी राष्ट्रीय युवा संस्थान**  
RGNIYD | उत्साहपूर्वक

# **A TWO DAY WORKSHOP**

On

## **Nature, Agriculture And Livelihood in Northeast India**

*Organised by*

**Centre for Public Policy and Governance, Tezpur University  
and  
Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development,  
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt. of India  
Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu India**

**29th & 30th  
December 2020**

**P.S**  
1. E-certificates will be provided to all participants who attend the program.  
The hard copy of the certificates will also be provided after university reopens.  
2. Charges for Data will be reimbursed for all the participants who completely  
attend the program.

**Programme Coordinator:**  
**Amiya Kumar Das**

**For any queries, contact:**  
**Ashit Singh**  
**9587871834**

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## DAY-1

SESSION	AGENDA	SPEAKERS
<b>Inaugural Session 10-11 am</b>	Welcome Address	Dr. Amiya Kumar Das, Coordinator, CPPG, TU
	Inaugural Address	Prof. P. K. Das, Director, CPPG, TU and Dean, SH&SS
	Address by Guest of Honour	Dr. Biren Das, Registrar, TU
	Address by Chief Guest	Prof. Sibnath Deb Director, Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Tamil Nadu
	Vote of Thanks	Amiya Kumar Das, TU

SESSION	AGENDA	SPEAKERS
<b>First Session 11-12 am</b>	Energy, Livelihood in Northeast India	Prof. Debendra Chandra Baruah, Director, IQAC, TU
<b>Second Session 12-1 pm</b>	Dairy farming, Entrepreneurship in Northeast India	Dr. Dibya Kanta Seth, NIT, Rourkela

## LUNCH 1-2:30 PM

SESSION	AGENDA	SPEAKERS
<b>Third Session 2:30-3:30 pm</b>	Gender, Agriculture and Livelihood in Northeast India	Dr. Sarmistha Das, Dept. of Sociology, TU

## DAY-2

SESSION	AGENDA	SPEAKERS
<b>Fourth Session 10-11 am</b>	Prospect of organic fertilizer in Northeast India.	Dr. S.S. Bhattacharya, Dept. of EVS, TU
<b>Fifth Session 11-12 pm</b>	Agriculture sustainability and seed sovereignty in Northeast India.	MR. NEELAM DUTTA Managing Director and Founder of Pabhoi Greens

## LUNCH & BREAK 12-3 PM

SESSION	AGENDA	SPEAKERS
	Valedictory Address By Chief Guest	Prof. Vinod Kumar Jain Vice Chancellor, Tezpur University
	Address by Guest of Honour	Prof. Vasanthi Rajendran Centre for Training ,Orientation and Capacity Building Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development
	Summing up and Vote of Thanks	Dr. Amiya Kumar Das, Coordinator, CPPG, TU

Profiles of the Resource Person



**PROF. VINOD KUMARJAIN**

**Vice-Chancellor, Tezpur University**

**DR. BIREN DAS**

**Registrar, Tezpur University**



**PROF. SIBNATH DEB, PHD, DSC**

**Director, Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of  
Youth Development, Ministry of Youth Affairs  
and Sports, Government of India  
Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu, India**

**PROF. DEBENDRA CHANDRA BARUAH**

**Head, Department of Energy, Tezpur  
University Director, IQAC, TU**





**DR. DIBYAKANTA SETH**

Assistant Professor, Department  
of Food process Engineering,  
NIT

**DR. SARMISTHA DAS**

Assistant Professor, Department of  
Sociology, Tezpur University



**Dr. Amiya Kumar Das**

Department of Sociology, Tezpur  
University

**K.S.S.**  
partn

Managing Director and Founder of  
Pabhoi Greens



**Mr. Neelam Dutta**