

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE STATE PLANNING BOARD
HELD ON 19.12.2006 IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM MAIN SECRETARIAT
BUILDING WITH AGRICULTURE AND ALLIED DEPARTMENTS IN
CONNECTION WITH “YEAR OF THE FARMER 2007”.**

Members and Officers present at Annexure – ‘A’.

The meeting was presided over by Shri S.C. Marak, Chairman, State Planning Board who at the outset welcomed the Members and Officers to the meeting.

Initiating the discussion the Chairman informed that the State Planning Board has mooted the idea of having a “Year of the Farmer” with a view to focus on the development and improvement of the Primary Sector to improve the economy of the farmers. In an informal discussion with the Hon’ble Chief Minister on this matter the latter has agreed to make 2007 the Year of the Farmer. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss with concerned Departments the yearlong programmes proposed to be taken up for celebration of the Year of the Farmer 2007 which is proposed to be launched on Meghalaya Day 2007.

The Hon’ble Member, Shri A.H.Scott Lyngdoh while highlighting the plight of the farming community said that taking stock of the economic scenario of the state it is the agricultural sector which has not progressed far enough. He is of the view that resources should not be spread too thinly and it would be better to concentrate on a few things. It should be very clear on what is needed to be achieved. Expressing that the Departments are in the best position to know the needs of the farmers, he hoped that this time the Year of the Farmer will be celebrated properly. He pointed out that the Departments of Sericulture and Weaving, Community and Rural Development and Cooperation are also connected with the farmers and need to be initiated and involved with celebration of Year of the Farmer 2007.

The Chief Secretary, Shri S.K.Tiwari supported the idea of launching the Year of the Farmer 2007. He is of the view that the theme of the celebration should be to target on raising the income of the farmers and to increase the growth rate in agricultural sector. He suggested for more involvement of the farmers to obtain adequate feedback. More stress needed to be laid on important areas such as labour saving devices, Rainfed Agriculture, Rain Water Management with application of appropriate technology with focus on water deficit areas. Under Animal Husbandry & Veterinary and Fisheries in addition to proposed programmes it is needed to finalise the Breeding Policy in the State and to encourage ornamental fishery which is having a potential market.

The operative part of the celebration is discussed at length. The Board made the following recommendations for consideration of the Government.

1. Setting up of a State Level Coordination Committee to oversee the implementation of 'Year of the Farmer 2007'. The Committee may include the Chief Minister as Chairman, Chairman, State Planning Board as Co-Chairman and Agricultural Production Commissioner as Member-Convener. The Members of the Committee may include concerned Ministers and Senior State Government Officials of the rank of Principal Secretaries/Commissioner & Secretaries of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary, Soil and Water Conservation, Fisheries, Cooperation, Community and Rural Development and Sericulture and Weaving Departments.
2. Setting up of a Steering Committee with Shri A.H.Scott Lyngdoh as Chairman and the Members may include the Chief Secretary and all Principal Secretaries and Commissioner & Secretaries of all concerned Departments. The Commissioner & Secretary, Agriculture Department to act as the Member-Convener for the above Steering Committee.
3. The nodal Department for the entire programme will be the Agriculture Department.
4. The launching of the 'Year of the Farmer 2007' is scheduled for the 20th January,2007 (21st January, 2007 being Sunday) at Shillong and Tura while the closing ceremony is scheduled for the 21st January,2008.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks from the Chair.

Sd/-
(S.C. Marak)
Chairman,
State Planning Board.