

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5168
(ANSWERED ON 02.04.2025)**

AROMA MISSION IN THE NORTH EASTERN STATES

5168. Shri Baijayant Panda:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the key achievements of the Aroma Mission in the North Eastern States, particularly in terms of farmer benefits, employment generation and industrial linkages;

(b) whether the Government has any plans to expand the Aroma Mission and Floriculture Mission to additional districts in the region, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the specific role of CSIR-NEIST in supporting farmers and entrepreneurs under these initiatives including the number of essential oil distillation units established and future targets;

(d) whether the Government is considering incentives or subsidies to enhance private sector participation in the aromatic plants industry in the North East; and

(e) the steps being taken under the Act East Policy to integrate the North East's aromatic products with international markets thereby boosting exports and regional economic development?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR THE
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH
SCIENCES**

(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

- a) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is implementing "CSIR-Aroma Mission", in all the north Eastern States from very first**

phase started during 2017. The following are few key achievements under the project in North Eastern States:

- **More than 3,000 hectares of land has been brought under aromatic crop cultivation, ensuring optimal utilization of fallow, undulating, marginal, and unutilized lands.**
 - **Cultivation of high-yielding varieties and value addition through essential oil production has resulted in enhanced income levels for farmers (Rs. 40,000 - Rs. 60,000/ha/year), providing them with an economically viable alternative to the traditional crops like rice.**
 - **More than 140 awareness-cum-training programs have been conducted, directly benefiting over 10,000 farmers. These programs educated farmers on best practices for cultivation, harvesting, processing, and marketing of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs).**
 - **A total of 90 essential oil distillation units have been installed across Northeast India, bridging the gap between farm production and industry requirements. These units support value addition at the local level, making the region a key player in the essential oils market.**
 - **The expansion of aromatic crop cultivation and establishment of essential oil distillation units on a cluster basis has led to significant employment generation (10 lakh man-days), both in farming activities and in post-harvest processing sectors.**
 - **By providing planting material and infrastructure support, the mission has empowered about 25 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) to engage in entrepreneurship, processing, and marketing of aromatic products, fostering self-reliance and rural entrepreneurship.**
- b) CSIR is implementing Aroma Mission activities in all the north Eastern States. The expansion of area under the cultivation of aroma and floriculture crops is an inbuilt part of the mission project.**
- c) CSIR – North East Institute of Science and Technology (CSIR-NEIST), Jorhat has been actively involved in the CSIR-Aroma Mission since Phase-I, playing a pivotal role in promoting aromatic crops across Northeast India. The significant contribution of CSIR-NEIST in supporting farmers and entrepreneurs is as under:**
- **The institute has successfully provided 1.51 crore Quality Planting Material (QPM) of various targeted crops, including: Lemongrass,**

Java Citronella, Patchouli, *Kaempferia galanga*, Agarwood, Chamomile, Geranium, Rosemary, Lavender.

- **Under the CSIR-Aroma Mission, CSIR-NEIST has successfully developed, registered, and commercialized eight high-yielding varieties of targeted aromatic crops. These varieties are specifically designed to thrive in the agro-climatic conditions of Northeast India and have played a significant role in enhancing farmers' income, promoting sustainable agriculture, and strengthening the aromatic crop value chain in the region.**
 - **CSIR-NEIST has actively facilitated linkages between farmers and industries, ensuring better market access and creating a sustainable farm-to-industry ecosystem in the Northeast. So far, we have connected more than 10 different aromatic industries to procure the essential oils and other products of aroma mission directly from the farmers eliminating middleman in the chain. A total of 39 essential oil distillation units have been provided to farmers, SHGs, and FPCs on cluster basis to support value addition and improve livelihood opportunities.**
 - **To enhance the scientific foundation of aromatic crop research and development, CSIR-NEIST has published more than 65 high-quality SCI-rated research papers under this project. These publications contribute to advancing knowledge in the areas of crop improvement, essential oil extraction technologies, value addition, and sustainable farming practices.**
 - **CSIR-NEIST has undertaken region-specific standardization of agro-technologies for key aromatic crops such as *Kaempferia galanga*, *Homolomena aromatica*, and Chamomile to optimize their cultivation in Northeast India's agro-climatic conditions.**
- d) Under CSIR Aroma Mission, the quality planting material is provided to farmers at free of cost along with technical knowhow on cultivation, post-harvest, and on-the-farm processing. Regular industry meets are organized to assess the market demand and connecting buyers with the farmers. In January 2025, CSIR-NEIST successfully organized the NORTH EAST AROMA Conclave 2025, bringing together over 20 aromatic industries and about 180 aromatic farmers from across Northeast India. The conclave resulted in the finalization of an effective buyback mechanism, strengthening farmer-industry partnerships, ensuring stable market access for farmers as well as source of reliable raw materials for the industries. Industries like M/s.**

Ajmal Perfumers, Mumbai, M/s. Ashri Naturals, Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh, M/s. Aroma India, Guwahati, M/s. Yethawat Essential Oil, Agra and Aromatic and Allied Pvt. Ltd., Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh have signed MoU for direct procurement of essential oil produced by farmers of NER.

- e) CSIR is closely working with the Government of Manipur, Government of Meghalaya (Meghalaya Basin Development Authority), and Government of Nagaland (Nagaland Bioresources Mission) including different Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs) and agencies in the region under CSIR Aroma Mission.**

CSIR participated in the India-United Kingdom Virtual Buyer-Seller Meet on Natural Products under NPNP (National programme on Natural Products) scheme held on 4th August 2022, organized by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India. CSIR presented various technologies/products based on aroma and floriculture crops to explore the export potential of natural products produced under these Mission Programmes.
