

Meeting with Hon'ble Chief Minister Sikkim Shri Prem Singh Tamang

A meeting of **Hon'ble Chief Minister Sikkim Shri Prem Singh Tamang with Shri Sundeep Kumar Nayak, Managing Director, NCDC** was held on **30.01.2020 in the Sikkim House, New Delhi** to discuss the development of cooperatives in Sikkim through NCDC.

MD, NCDC welcomed the Hon'ble Chief Minister and Hon'ble CM released a document on "**NCDC IN SIKKIM**" on the occasion. Senior officials from Govt. of Sikkim and from NCDC participated in the meeting.

A presentation on the NCDC, its schemes, strategy to develop cooperatives with special focus on opportunities and possibilities to finance projects of Rs.3000 crores for Sikkim for cooperatives was made by MD, NCDC. The deliberations highlighted the mega projects by NCDC in the recent past for Dairy, Piggery and other Livestock projects in the North-Eastern states of Meghalaya and Nagaland with the support of the state governments.

MD, NCDC assured the full support for developing cooperatives in all tiers. He also added that Sikkim being a pioneer state for organic produce, issues related to marketing, branding and tie-up with ASEAN countries for high value realization could be made possible through cooperative model of business and value chains. NEDAC, an international platform for Asia and Pacific countries for strengthening agricultural cooperatives, can also help in this tie-up in case the state govt. takes up its membership.

Hon'ble Chief Minister highlighted that the areas of the tourism especially home stay, fisheries particularly trout fish, dairy, marketing of organic agriculture products like honey, ginger, cardamom are the immediate priorities and focus areas of the state govt. He showed interest in entering into a MoU with NCDC so that adequate provisions can be kept in the state budget to implement the identified activities in cooperatives through NCDC lending. Hon'ble CM suggested that both sides hold meetings to chalk out specific plan for assisting cooperatives in Sikkim. Hon'ble CM also suggested that a team of senior state government officials may be taken on study visit to good working cooperatives in Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh to replicate the same in Sikkim, as he quoted that only seeing is believing.