STATE ORGANIC POLICY

1. RATIONALE

1.1. Organic farming is a system of agricultural practices that seeks to work in harmony with nature rather than against it. It involves techniques to achieve good crop yields without harming the natural environment or the people who live and work in it. In the present day context it involves agricultural practices without the use of synthetic and plastic inputs.

1.2. Organic cultivation has beneficial impact on the ecology and environment of the areas where it is practiced that greatly adds to the quality of life of the people.

1.3. The world over, organic food products are recognised to have a positive impact on the health of the people without the adverse effects of chemicals and pollutants that are contained in food products that are not grown organically.

1.4. Organic agricultural produces has the beneficial effect of fetching better prices in the present day world which will add to the incomes of the farmers in the rural which will in the long term boost the State economy.

1.5. Nagaland has many natural advantages to promote organic farming as follows:
   I. Traditionally, the Nagas have practiced a system of agricultural practices without the use of external inputs. The nutrients requirement of crops, in the traditional agricultural system of the Nagas, depends only on the natural resources (biomass). The average cycle of jhum cultivation is between 8-10 years. The availability of plant nutrients in the soil due to re-generation of biomass during the jhum cycle is sufficient to sustain crop productions economically without the use of Chemical and synthetic inputs. Concentration of crops of the same species, in a particulars area, for a prolonged period is avoided which minimizes the insect or pest occurrence. This reduces the need for chemicals and pesticides.
   II. Over 70% of the total cultivate area in the State is under shifting cultivation where no chemical, synthetic or plastic inputs are utilized in the cultivation process.
   III. In Nagaland the use of synthetic inputs is assessed at only 1.5 kgs per hectare in terms of NPK. This is negligible by any standard.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN NAGALAND.

The policy to adopt Organic Cultivation in Nagaland shall have the following aims and objectives.

2.1. To produce healthy food materials of high nutritive value.

2.2. To preserve and maintain environment and eco-system.

2.3. To encourage and enhance biological system within the farming system involving micro organisms, Soil, flora and fauna, plants and animals.

2.4. To promote the healthy use and proper care of water and the water resources and life sustained therein.

2.5. To keep and build good soil structure and fertility and promote the conservation of soil and waste.
2.6. To minimize all forms of pollution that may result from non-organic agricultural practices, non-agricultural and industrial waste.

2.7. To maintain genetic diversity of the agricultural system and its surroundings, including protection of plants, livestock and wildlife habitats.

2.8. To improve the quality of human life through healthy food.

2.9. To enhance the incomes of the people and promote the economy of the State people through the increased value of goods organically cultivated.

2.10. To promote other ancillary economic activities such as production and manufacture of bio-fertilisers, manure, bio-agents and other inputs that will create industries and add to employment and livelihood of the people.

2.11. To promote and develop through research the immense potentials inherent in the biodiversity of Nagaland that will lead to improving the quality of Organic cultivation.

3. **STRATEGIES**

3.1. In the long term perspective it shall be the endeavor to make Nagaland a Total Organic State Where use of synthetic and chemical inputs in the farming areas will be prohibited in all parts of the State through appropriate legislation, enactments and regulatory measures that shall include procurements and of synthetic agricultural inputs as also seeds.

3.2. In the mid term perspective it shall be endeavour to limit the use of synthetic inputs in farming practices within certain declared regions/areas like, the foothills around Dimapur, Medziphema, Jalukie and southern Angami areas where farmers are already involved in intensive production programmes with the use of synthetic inputs. The State Departments shall closely monitor and supervise such usage of synthetic and chemicals in the identified areas. In such areas it shall be the efforts of the Government to wean the farmers away from chemical and agricultural inputs and promote the use of organic alternatives.

3.3. In the immediate context special agricultural crops in specified areas shall be identified for cultivation at commercial scale and Government assistances provided to certify them as organic produces.

3.4. The Government shall draw necessary special marketing programmes to market the organic products of the State be in the domestic and the international markets.

3.5. Production of organic manures and bio-fertilizers shall be promoted to augment the nutrient requirements of crops for organic farming at commercial scales.

3.6. To control insect and pest detrimental to Humans and agriculture,
it shall be the endeavour to find alternative to the chemical pesticides and insecticides presently used for the control of human and plant diseases.

3.7 In the event of out break of serous human epidemics and insect pest attacks that threaten human life or affect the production of crops, synthetic inputs shall be permitted under the supervision of technical Departments. Such areas shall be excluded from organic production programme.

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3.8. Use of chemicals and disposal of industries waste into the rivers systems and particularly in and around urban areas shall be strictly monitored and regulated under the supervision of the concerned Departments.

3.9. A system shall be adopted to regulate the import and sue of readymade packing materials as also to develop appropriate packaging industry in the State.

4. ACTION PLAN

4.1 Organic Farming requires the active participation of the people. The State shall undertake extensive programme to educate and create awareness campaigns among the people to acquaint the people with the forms and benefits of organic farming as also regarding the long term possibility of the regulatory measure to make the State a Total Organic States.

4.2 Organic farming at commercial scales will need capacity building of the people at various levels both such as within the Government amongst the NGOs and the farmers, The Government will undertake all such training programmes with the provision of necessary funding support.

4.3 Knowledge about the organic farming system shall be incorporated into the syllabi of the school education.

4.4 Production of organic manures and bio-fertilisers shall be promoted to augment the nutrient requirements of crops in the following manner with the provision of appropriate funding support:

i. Strengthen and upgrade the existing Bio-fertilizer Laboratories for Research and Development.

ii. Motivate farmers and agriculture through intensive training and awareness campaign to adopt the user and production of organic farming inputs.

iii. Promote production of organic manure and Bio-fertilisers in
the Private Sector through industrial activities in the Medium and small Industries or in cottage and home industries through appropriate incentives schemes including the State Industrial Policy-2000.

iv. Adopt dry land agricultural practices for conservation of soil moistures, soil nutrients etc. through mulching of leguminous crops along the main crops and various soil and water conservation measures be followed.

4.5. To control insect and pest detrimental to Humans and agriculture, the following measures shall be adopted to find alternatives to the chemical pesticides and insecticides presently used for the control of human and plant disease with the provision of appropriate funding support.

i. Integrated pest management technologies shall be adopted in the State

ii. Strengthen the existing laboratories for Research and Development of bio agents.

iii. Promote the production of Bio-agents by private entrepreneurs in the State with necessary assistance as provided under the State Industrial Policy-2000.

iv. Collaborate with firms and business House for development of such technologies in the State.

4.6. Appropriate regulating bodies shall be set up at the District level to supervise, enforce and implement the policies of the State. The District Agriculture and Allied Committees shall also be geared up to implement the policies of the State.

4.7. The State Government shall facilitate Marketing process of the surplus organic products through the APMC. 5MB. As also with the assistance further agencies such as APFDA. SFAC. NABARD. Involvement of private enterprises will be accorded the highest priority.

4.8. Appropriate regulatory bodies shall be set up at the District level to supervise, enforce and implements the policies of the State. The District Agriculture and Allied Committees shall also be geared up to implement the policies of the State.

5. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

To oversee and supervise the implementation of the State Organic Policy. The Nagaland State Organic Board will be constituted as follows:

i. Chief Minister, Nagaland - Chairman

ii. Minister Agriculture - Deputy Chairman

iii. Minister Horticulture

iv. Minister Health & Family Welfare

v. Minister Forest & Environment

vi. Minister Rural Development

vii. Minister Industries

viii. Chief Secretary

ix. Development Commissioner

x. Financial Commissioner

xi. Secretary Health & Family Welfare

xii. Secretary Law

xiii. Representative of APEDA

xiv. Representative of NABARD

xv. Agriculture Production Commissioner - Member

The Board shall be assisted in its function by a Working Group constituted comprising of the concerned technical Departments of the State.
There shall be an Organic Board Office to be manned by and consisting of offices drawn from the various Departments. In the long term a full fledged Organic Board office shall be set up.

6 FUNDING OF ORGANIC CULTIVATION

6.1 The organic Board will maintain such funds as to achieve the goals as set out in the policy for organic cultivation. This shall consists of the funds received from the Central Government and other agencies, allocation from the State plan and any other sources as the Board may so obtain. It may also raise loans from the State Government. The Central Government or from any other sources may be approved by the State Government of Nagaland for the development of organic cultivation in the State.

6.2 Funding support to implement the various policy initiatives enunciated shall be provided from the programme funds of the various related departments of the State which shall include subsidies of the State and institutional finance from financing agencies and private investors.