

SUCCESS STORY ON COVID 19 VEGETABLES AND FRUITS SUPPLY CHAIN MIZORAM



**Department of Horticulture
Government of Mizoram**

2020

SUCCESS STORY ON COVID 19 VEGETABLES AND FRUITS SUPPLY CHAIN IN MIZORAM

Amidst the unprecedented pandemic crisis which calls for Global response, a nationwide total lock down was imposed in the Country from 24th March, 2020. Whereas, the state of Mizoram, in particular, imposed total lock down from 22nd March, 2020 shutting down all supply chains which severely hampered supply of essential commodities including fruits and vegetables. Restriction of inter-state and intra-state movement of persons and goods subsequently resulted to non-availability of daily requirement of food items especially vegetables and fruits.

In this juncture of break down due to crisis, the Government of Mizoram, under the initiative of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, in order to ensure supply of essential fruit and vegetables to the public and sale of crops produced by the rural farmers, formulated the ***COVID-19 Vegetables and Fruits Supply Chain*** which was accordingly constituted on 26.03.2020 vide Govt. of Mizoram Notification No. B.14015/50/2020-GAD of 26.03.2020 in which Horticulture Department is the Nodal Department, and Commerce & Industries Department and Mizoram State Cooperative Marketing & Consumers Federation Ltd. (MIZOFED) are Member Department/Agency at state level. Whereas, at District level, it was carried out under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner with Divisional Horticulture Officer as a Member Secretary.

Horticulture Department being the Nodal Department, played the main role in over-all coordination of all activities of the constituent department/agencies under COVID-19 Vegetables and Fruits Supply Chain such as Organizing meetings as and when required, Survey, assessment and preparation of report of fruit and vegetable availability, collection of fruits and vegetables from farms and disbursement according to availability and demand reports. Fixing of rate and supervision of market is done by Commerce & Industries Department, and Receipt and down payment for commodities upon arrival is done by MIZOFED. The good cooperation amongst the agencies resulted in efficient and systematic implementation of Covid 19 Vegetables and Fruit Supply Chain, and has truly benefited the producer farmers in sustaining their livelihood in such hard time.

Complying the SOP in force, disbursement of fruits and vegetables to different local level task force/localities from the disbursement centers is made in different time slots up to the furthest extent possible to maintain social distancing and to avoid over-crowding.

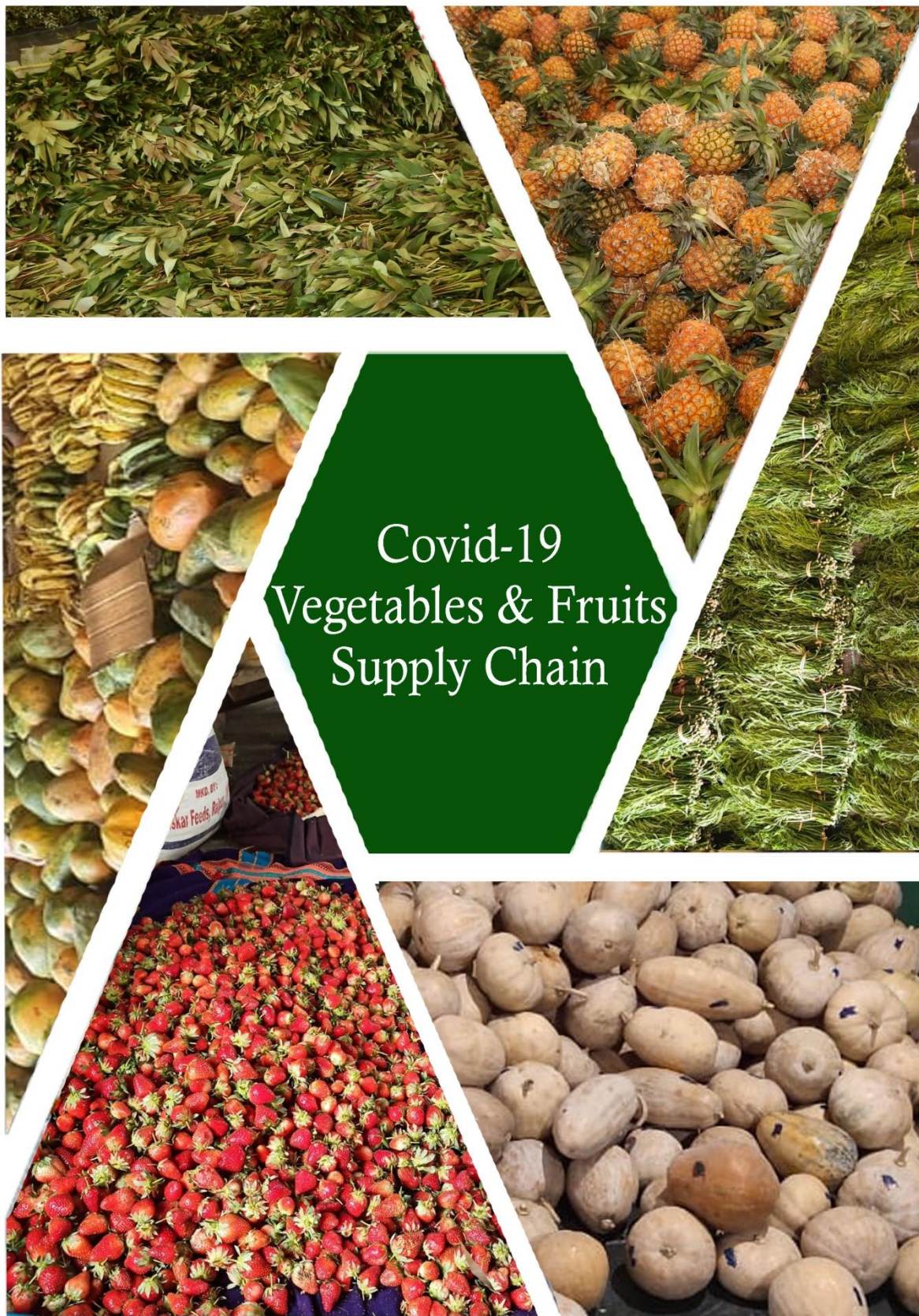
In order to avoid post-harvest damage and mitigate unnecessary wastage of perishable fruits /vegetables at this crucial time of crisis, the Cold Chain System developed by the Department under the ***Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)*** has been put to very good use for storage of fruits and vegetables in the implementation of Covid 19 Vegetables and Fruit Supply Chain. The Refrigerated Vans purchased by Horticulture Department under ***Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)*** also play a crucial role in movement of fruits and vegetables to and from different locations in the state with minimal loss and wastage as in the case of strawberry from Siaha District to Lunglei District.

Apart from all these activities, the Department takes several steps to impart sense of self sufficiency in vegetable and fruit by awareness and sensitization programme through advertisement, discussion and talks in Local TV Channel, DDK etc. which resulted in awakening and positive response with remarkable high demand of Vegetable seeds especially in urban areas.

Statistical records on the Covid 19 Vegetables and Fruits Supply Chain may be briefly highlighted as follows.

- The *Covid 19 Vegetables and Fruits Supply Chain* was in operation from 28.03.2020
- A total Nos. of 174 truck trips of vegetables and fruits was collected at Directorate of Horticulture , Aizawl.
- Out of 174 trips, 165 trips are procured from within the state, while the remaining 9 trips are imported from outside the state.
- The purchased value of the vegetables and fruits collected at Directorate of Horticulture , Aizawl till 09.05.2020 was Rs. 1.076 Crore which were all cashed down by MIZOFED.
- Out of which, the purchased value of items only from local sources is Rs. 97.75 lakhs.
- The approximate value of vegetables and fruit items sold/consumed/ distributed during Total Lockdown due to pandemic covid-19 through Horticulture Department / Task Force and direct distribution by farmers to the consumers was around Rs. 6.66 crore.

Covid 19 Vegetables and Fruits Supply Chain really helps the farmers in earning reasonable prices of their produces during such a hard time of Total Lock down period. As lockdown has been eased in a phase manner with normal life prevails, the vegetable and fruit supply chain was still carried out on limited scale to facilitate the farmers of the state to dispose of their produces such as Tomato, Cabbage, Pineapple, etc. with reasonable rates to sustain their livelihood by changing the system to reduce the involvement of middleman so as to enable farmers in getting higher prices from their produces.





Meeting on Fruits & Vegetable supply chain during Covid-19 Lockdown





Collection of Fruits & Vegetables from farmers field during Covid-19 Lockdown



Fruits & Vegetable for Zoram Medical College, Hospital Quarantine Centre



Vehicles waiting for unloading during Covid-19 Lockdown



Vehicles from villages for Aizawl City



Fruits collection from farmers for distribution during Covid-19 Lockdown





**Indegenous Vegetables collected from Villages
Covid-19 Lockdown**





**Greenhouse Tomato harvested from Serchhip
for Aizawl City**





Cabbages for storing at Cold Storage unit at Sairang



Strawberry of Siaha District carried by Refrigerated Van for Lunglei District



Cold Storage Unit (80 MT), Sairang





**Visit of Cold Storage unit, Sairang by
Pu Zoramthanga, Hon'ble Chief Minister**





Fruits & Vegetables distributed to various Home & Centres during Covid-19 Lockdown





Distribution of Vegetables seed Aizawl District during Covid-19 Lockdown



Distribution of Vegetables seed Kolasib District during Covid-19 Lockdown



Distribution of Vegetables seed Khawzawl Division during Covid-19 Lockdown



Distribution of Vegetables seed Hnahthial District during Covid-19 Lockdown