



Agriculture in Meghalaya



AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN



At a glance

Meghalaya, the 'abode of clouds' with a population of approximately 2.97 million, faces significant challenges in its predominantly agrarian economy. Despite 80% of the population relying on agriculture, the state struggles with low productivity, unsustainable farming practices, and a high incidence of rural poverty. The state faces a food **grain deficit of 1.21 lakh tonnes** annually, making it dependent on **imports** from other states. Several factors contribute to these challenges, including the state's **undulating topography, population dispersal, inadequate credit support, poor marketing, and logistical issues.**

Stage	Activities	Stakeholders	Challenges
Input Supply	Procurement of seeds, fertilizers, tools, and machinery	Farmers, Input Suppliers	Limited access to high-quality inputs, credit issues
Production	Land preparation, planting, cultivation, and harvesting	Farmers	Low productivity, unsustainable practices, terrain
Processing	Sorting, grading, and packaging of produce	Farmers, Cooperatives, FPOs	Lack of processing facilities, high perishability
Storage	Warehousing of agricultural produce	Warehousing Providers, Farmers	Inadequate storage infrastructure, loss due to spoilage
Transportation	Moving produce from farms to markets	Transporters, Middlemen	Poor roads, exploitation by middlemen, high costs
Marketing	Selling of produce in local, regional, or national markets	Farmers, Cooperatives, Market Hubs	Poor marketing networks, low bargaining power
Consumption	Purchase and consumption of agricultural products by end consumers	Consumers, Retailers	High dependence on imports due to low local supply

Key metrics



2.9M
literacy rate of 75.5%



22,429 SQ.KM.
Only 11% Cultivable Land



17% OF
STATE GDP
80% Agrarian Population



1.21 LC. TONNES
ANNUAL DEFICIT
High Import Dependency

CHALLENGES



Undulating Topography: The hilly terrain of Meghalaya makes large-scale farming difficult and affects the productivity of the land.



Population Dispersal: Scattered settlements lead to difficulties in implementing large-scale agricultural practices, infrastructure development as centralized markets.



Inadequate Credit Support: Farmers often face challenges in accessing credit, limiting their ability to invest in better farming practices and technology.



Poor Marketing and Logistics: The perishable nature of produce, coupled with poor transportation and marketing infrastructure, results in exploitation by middlemen and low profitability for farmers.



Infrastructure Dependency: The lack of storage facilities, market hubs, and processing units hampers the value addition and preservation of agricultural produce.

FURTHER READING

megagriculture.gov.in

1917iteams.in

primemeghalaya.com

GLOSSARY

FPO (Farmer Producer Organization)

An FPO is a collective of farmers who pool their resources to achieve better bargaining power, access to markets, and financial services. FPOs help small farmers improve their income by providing a platform for collective purchasing, processing, and marketing.

FPC (Farmer Producer Company):

FPCs are a type of Farmer Producer Organization registered under the Companies Act. They operate on commercial principles while focusing on the welfare of their farmer members. FPCs provide a range of services including input supply, technical services, processing, and marketing.

Self-Help Group (SHG):

SHGs are small voluntary associations of people, often from the same socio-economic background, who come together for a common financial goal. In agriculture, SHGs help farmers pool resources, access credit, and improve their collective bargaining power.

Integrated Cooperative Society

These are village-level cooperative societies that offer a range of services, including input supply, marketing, and credit support, to enhance the economic well-being of their members, typically smallholder farmers.

Public-Private Partnership (PPP):

A cooperative arrangement between public and private sectors for funding, designing, implementing, and operating projects, typically infrastructure-related, that can benefit the agricultural sector.

OPPORTUNITIES AND SOLUTIONS



1

Technology Integration

Implementing technology for demand forecasting, soil testing, and precision farming can enhance productivity and reduce waste.

2

Sustainable Practices

Encouraging the use of organic fertilizers and sustainable farming methods can improve soil health and yield over time. It also includes modern age practices like **Hydroponics/Aquaponics**

3

Digital Platforms

Developing portals to connect buyers and sellers, share transportation resources, and provide agricultural advisory can help farmers access better markets and improve their profitability.

4

Strengthening Cooperative Societies

Promoting Integrated Village Cooperative Societies, multipurpose societies, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Village Organizations, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) can empower farmers by enhancing their bargaining power and ensuring better access to resources and markets.

5

Agro-Processing Units

Setting up small-scale agro-processing units for value addition (like converting raw produce into finished goods) can enhance the shelf life of products, reduce wastage, and increase the income of farmers.

6

Agri-Tourism

Promoting agri-tourism can provide farmers with an additional income stream, offering tourists a chance to experience farm life while also promoting local agricultural products.

SCHEMES



**Meghalaya
Agriculture
Warehouse
Scheme**



**Meghalaya
Common
Facility Center
Scheme**



**Meghalaya
Polyhouse
Scheme**



**PRIME
Agriculture
Response
Vehicle**