3 PRIMARY SECTOR

3.1 North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (NERAMAC) was set up to support farmers/producers of North Eastern Region of the country in getting remunerative prices for their produce and thereby bridge the gap between farmers and market. The Corporation endeavours to also enhance agricultural procurement, processing and marketing infrastructure in the North Eastern Region.

NERAMAC, a CPSE is under the administrative control of Ministry of DoNER. The Ministry has so far provided Rs. 14 crore working capital loan from 2006-07 @ Rs. 2 crore every year.

3.2 To fulfil its prime objectives, NERAMAC is offering helping hand in sourcing and procuring cash crops of producers by intervening in market and provide them remunerative prices. It also helps processing units by providing raw materials and arranging packaging materials. NERAMAC has a few retail outlets within North East region which directly sell various processed and value added products produced locally in the region.

3.3 Main objectives of NERAMAC are:

- To procure marketable surplus of fruits and vegetables from growers of North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation India.
- To make necessary arrangement for its processing and marketing.
• To support farmers and producers through input supplies for better productivity under the aegis of Central Sector Schemes.

• To enhance entrepreneurship skills in food preservation, processing and marketing by organizing capacity building programmes.

3.4 Over the years, NERAMAC has also been actively involved in marketing of cashew nut, maize, sesame and other oil seeds, spices like black pepper etc., and minor forest products like broom, hill grass etc. Corporation has also taken up sourcing and marketing of agro-horticultural inputs like fertilizers, pesticides, seeds, agricultural tools and equipment, keeping in view of overall agro-horticultural development.

3.5 Since inception NERAMAC is actively engaged in imparting knowledge to local entrepreneurs by way of organizing various Capacity Building Programs for skill development in all eight states of North Eastern Region with technical backup of reputed Institutes and Universities in the trade. In order to maintain momentum of activities of food processing, NERAMAC has taken various initiatives through Ministry of DoNER & Ministry of Food Processing Industries and also through North Eastern Council in conducting awareness programs like post harvest management, food processing, investors meets which are product specific such as pineapple & ginger etc. and direct marketing of fruits & vegetables, managing food business enterprises for better market access etc. in the North Eastern Region.

3.6 NERAMAC has taken the initiative to administer the National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) launched by Ministry of Food Processing Industries, GoI. The MOFPI has appointed NERAMAC as a project monitoring agency for the NMFP for the all the eight States of the North East.

3.7 Share Capital

Authorized Share Capital and Paid up Capital of the company as on 31/3/2013 remains same as in previous year and stood at Rs. 10.00 crore and Rs. 7.62 crore respectively.

3.8 Production, Procurement And Marketing Activities Of Neramac During 2013-14

3.8.1 The Cashew Processing Plant at Mankachar district Dhubri, Assam processes of raw cashew and extracts oil from cashew nut shells. The plant is now ready for commercial production. The total investment on civil construction and machinery is worth Rs. 2.50 crore. The plant will process raw cashew nut to be procured directly from the farmers in Dhubri district and bordering areas of Meghalaya.

3.8.2 Opening of kiosks in Guwahati city: As a mandate of NERAMAC to process and market Horticultural food products like Jam, Jelly, Squash of Kiwi, Passion Fruit, Oranges, Pineapple, Bamboo Shoots etc., two fabricated, portable kiosks have been opened in Guwahati city and at Guwahati Airport. These kiosks enable general public to buy processed food products of NERAMAC brand at reasonable rates.

3.8.3 Procurement of horticultural produce: NERAMAC is procuring horticultural produce directly from the farmers. Procurement of large cardamom from Heegaon from West Sikkim district, fresh ginger from Tinsukia district and
broom grass from Karbi Anglong has been started by NERAMAC, so as to help farmers to get remunerative prices for their produce.

3.8.4 **E-Auction of horticulture produce:** NERAMAC Ltd., with the financial and technical assistance from M/s CDAC, Kolkata, is going to initiate E-Auction of Cardamom from this year. Slowly all crops will be covered under E-Auction method.

3.9 **The North Eastern Council has been supporting agriculture & allied sector through the following ongoing projects:**

During 2013-14, the following ongoing projects have been supported by NEC:

- Regional Training Centre for Commercial Cash Crop Cultivation at Umsning, Meghalaya;
- Biotechnology Training & Development Centre at Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh;
- Integrated Horticulture Training Centre at Chite, Aizwal, Mizoram
- Infrastructure Development for strengthening of veterinary Institution at Boomtar, Namchi, Sikkim.
  - Support to Pig Breeding Farms in Nagaland and Duck Breeding Farms in Assam.
  - Regional Breeder Seed Potato Farm in Manipur.
  - Establishment / support to cold storage units

3.10 **Community based sustainable livelihood projects** have been supported by the NEC since 1999, when the first North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project (**NERCORMP**) Phase I was launched. This was in operation from 1999-2008 in two districts each of Assam, Manipur and Meghalaya. The success of this project resulted in NERCORMP Phase II (2010-2016) under implementation in neighbouring villages of NERCORMP I project districts covering 21212 households in 466 villages. NERCORMP III was launched in January, 2014 and will be in operation till 2019 in districts of Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur. The projects will cover 58,850 households in 1177 villages. Communities are facilitated to plan, implement and monitor the various development / livelihood activities. The self help groups and natural resource management groups formed under the projects are provided training and transferred funds through banks.