

**PRESS RELEASE ON VISIT OF PROF. HARISH HIRANI & CSIR-CMERI TEAM TO  
MIZORAM FOR EXTENDING THE SCOPE OF SOCIETAL ACTIONS**

A team of Scientists led by Prof. Harish Hirani, Director, CSIR-CMERI visited Mizoram during July 10-12, 2016 to identify fresh prospects for provision of processes, technologies, machinery and other enabling means targeted specifically for enabling sustainable income generation for the underprivileged rural populace of the state. Yet another objective of the visit was to strengthen ties with the Mizoram State Government for proper convergence of efforts and interventions taken up under different welfare schemes of the central and state governments. Towards the latter, the team met Pu Lalthanhawla, Hon'ble Chief Minister of the state and his council of ministers on Monday, July 11, 2016. Prof. Hirani appraised the Chief Minister about the technologies CSIR-CMERI had provided during the last ten years for sustainable income generation of the farmers of Mizoram. Prof. Hirani referred to the future activities CSIR-CMERI would be concentrating on, which includes setting up of a plant for production of biodiesel from Tung fruit (*Vernicia fordii*) and the installation of a hospital waste management system in Aizawl, both of which employs home-grown technologies from CSIR-CMERI. Prof. Hirani further sought the support of the State Government for widening the ambit of activities of the Institute by technology dissemination and new technology development. The Chief Minister was impressed with the activities of CSIR-CMERI has been carrying out in Mizoram in collaboration with CDAR (Community Development, Action and Reflection) - a Mizoram based NGO - and promised to extend the support of the state in extension of the societal activities being conducted and proposed by CSIR-CMERI. The Chief Minister also requested the Director, CSIR-CMERI to prepare a concept note outlining the areas of possible collaboration and how the collaborative effort can be rendered more useful, which Prof. Hirani promised to furnish within a short time.

The above activity of The CSIR-CMERI team in the leadership of Prof Harish Hirani was covered by two Mizo News Papers, 'VANGLAINI" and "THE AIZAWL POST". Both the Newspapers highlighted the discussion of Prof Hirani with the Chief Minister on the ongoing research on Tung for biodiesel generation and their plan for setting up a hospital waste management unit. The Chief Minister requested them to work on the discussed project and to submit the proposal and promised to help them. The CMERI Scientists discussed about their work with Mizoram CDAR and informed that they would like to established ginger and turmeric processing units. The machinery used in these processing units are developed by CMERI and it is helping the farmers in value addition.