

**GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO BECOME SELF RELIANT IN AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION.-AGRICULTURE MINISTER**

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Minister for Agriculture Shri Vijay Sardesai exhorted the student aspirants of the agriculture and horticulture course to pursue their studies with commitment and determination and complete the same successfully. He further mentioned that they should acquire conceptual knowledge of agriculture so as to guide our local farmers thus led their knowledge to boost agriculture in the state.

Shri Sardesai was speaking as Chief guest at a function organized by the Directorate of Agriculture at Secretariat today to distribute letters of admission to the students who are aspired to pursue their agriculture and horticulture course at Dr. Balasaheb Sawant Krishi Vidhyapith Dapoli of Ratnagiri district in Maharashtra.

The Government strived and succeeded in increasing the usual quota of the student from 9 to 17. at the aforesaid agricultural University. So hereafter 17 students from the state desirous to study agriculture would be admitted. The students who study there would be paid stipend of Rs.3000/- per month. The Minister handed over letters to eight students on this occasion.

Shri Sardesai further speaking said that agriculture is pampered profession in Goa. The Government has implemented various schemes to help to double the income of farmers. The Government he said intends to bring a legislation to promote contract farming so as to bring Commuidade lands under agriculture. He said apart from usual crops floriculture can be tried as it has vast demand whereas organic farming has brand value and glamour for which Government would provide support he added.

Shri Sardesai further also said that Government intends to become self reliant in agriculture production. Therefore he suggested the students to support the endeavor of the Government by starting their practice after completion of their course.

Shri Nelson Figueredo Asst Director, Students and their parents and staff of the Agriculture Department were among those who attended the function. .

Shri U.B.Pai Kakode, Director of the Department of Agriculture welcomed the guests. Shri Sandip Phaldesai Asst. Director compered the function.