

## **KRISHI MELA HELD IN PANAJI, FARMERS AWARDED**

**Panaji, February 12, 2018**

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"There is a need for Goa to become self-sufficient in food production. For that the farmers are willing to take the challenge and the Goa Government is ready to work with them," stated Minister for Agriculture, Shri Vijai Sardesai while speaking at the Krishi Mela organised by Goa State Horticultural Corporation Ltd. at Panaji, today.

Shri Sardesai spoke of how food was becoming a major subject of empowering people and economies.

Shri Sardesai further spoke of the multiple benefits of organic farming and growing local variety of vegetables in the State. To enable transparency, Shri Sardesai said that digitisation of payments would be an asset.

Shri Sardesai suggested a scheme whereby local vegetables from Goan farmers can be procured. The minister emphasized on how the Goa State Horticultural Corporation Ltd. was subsidizing coconuts.

The Chairperson of Goa State Horticultural Corporation Ltd., Shri Pravin Zantye highlighted the achievements of the Corporation.

An award distribution programme for the production during the year 2016-17 was held. Farmers from different talukas in Goa were felicitated. The Best Self Help Group Award 2016-17 was awarded to Shri Siddeshwar Farmer Club, Surla, Bicholim. The Best Polyhouse Award was given to Tatyasaheb K Shinde, Shigao, Collem. Canacona bagged the Best Zone/Taluka award.