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IMPACT REPORT

Government of Nagaland Horticulture Knowledge & Exposure Programme

New Zealand | 22–30 October 2026



Government of Nagaland horticulture delegation during field exposure in New Zealand.

Prepared by Feelivacation Travel & Wellness Pvt. Ltd.

A programme situated within the evolving India–New Zealand horticulture partnership and the Kiwifruit Action Plan.

1. Executive Summary

Purpose. This report assesses the strategic, technical and operational impact of the Government of Nagaland Horticulture Knowledge & Exposure Programme in New Zealand, organised and coordinated by Feelivacation from 22 to 30 October 2026. The programme connected senior state officials and a progressive farmer with New Zealand's horticulture research, kiwifruit industry, farm systems, geothermal landscape management and high-value agritourism models.

6	9 days	2	5+
delegates	in New Zealand	core kiwi institutions	learning environments

> **Core impact: the programme translated an existing bilateral policy relationship into direct, field-level learning across research, breeding, orchards, industry systems, farm diversification and environmental resource management.**

The programme was particularly timely. India and New Zealand brought their Free Trade Agreement into force on 20 October 2026, with an Agriculture Productivity Partnership that includes dedicated action plans for kiwifruit, apples and honey. The Kiwifruit Action Plan identifies Phase-I Centres of Excellence at Pfutsero, Nagaland and Magra, Uttarakhand, explicitly linking market access with technology transfer, training, improved cultivation practices and productivity enhancement.

Accordingly, the delegation should be viewed not as a standalone overseas visit, but as one implementation-oriented step within a longer Nagaland–New Zealand cooperation pathway.

> **Emerging delegate feedback (2 of 6 responses received): Early responses point to five implementation priorities: stronger research orientation, improved pruning and vine management, organised grower groups, value-chain development, and targeted support for orchard infrastructure. These findings are preliminary and will be updated when the remaining delegate responses are received.**

2. Strategic Background: From Cooperation to Implementation

Milestone	Relevance to the 2026 Delegation
February 2025	A five-member Indian delegation, including two

	Nagaland horticulture representatives, visited New Zealand. Engagements included Plant & Food Research, the Kiwifruit Breeding Centre, Zespri, Māori growers, orchards, packhouses and nurseries.
December 2025	A New Zealand–Nagaland cooperation meeting in Kohima discussed a joint kiwifruit roadmap, a pilot Centre of Excellence, farmer exposure visits to New Zealand and regular review mechanisms. Zespri, BSI and New Zealand High Commission representatives participated.
April–October 2026	The India–New Zealand FTA and Agriculture Productivity Partnership formalised action plans for kiwifruit, apples and honey. Pfutsero, Nagaland was identified as a Phase-I kiwifruit Centre of Excellence location.
22–30 October 2026	The current six-member Nagaland delegation undertook a broader knowledge programme in New Zealand, combining institutional, orchard, farm, agritourism and geothermal exposure.

Source context: Government of Nagaland DIPR (19 February 2025); The Morung Express (15 December 2025); Press Information Bureau, Government of India (19 October 2026).

3. Delegation Composition

The delegation represented a useful mix of political leadership, senior administration, programme implementation and field-level farming experience.

Delegate	Role
Salhoutounuo Kruse	Minister for Horticulture, Government of Nagaland
Akumla Chuba, IAS	Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Nagaland, Horticulture Department
Razouvollie Dozo, NCS	Additional Secretary to the Government of Nagaland, Horticulture Department
S. Senka Jamir	Joint Director & Mission Director (MIDH)
Neisetounuo Debbie	Deputy Director of Horticulture

Thekrulhuonuo Kruse	Progressive Farmer

Names and roles are based on the Zespri programme itinerary for the 27 October 2026 government delegation visit.

4. Programme Architecture

The programme deliberately extended beyond kiwifruit alone. Its design exposed delegates to the wider ecosystem required for successful horticulture: research, breeding, industry coordination, farm management, post-harvest thinking, value addition, rural enterprise and environmental systems.

Engagement	Primary Learning Lens
BSI / Mt Albert Research Centre, Auckland	Research, international development, kiwifruit cooperation project, pathology and postharvest laboratories
Zespri International, Bay of Plenty	Industry structure, orchard-to-market system, grower engagement, quality and international market architecture
Kiwifruit orchard exposure	Growing techniques, orchard best practices and grower interaction
Kiwifruit Breeding Centre, Te Puke	Breeding pipeline, new varieties, nutrition, sustainability and innovation
Agrodome, Rotorua	Mixed farming, livestock systems, demonstration-led farm education and agritourism
Wai-O-Tapu geothermal experience	Geothermal landscape, environmental systems, resource stewardship and regional diversification
Wanaka Lavender Farm	High-value crop diversification, value-added products, direct retail and agritourism
New Zealand regional movements	Observation of infrastructure, land use, destination management and rural connectivity across multiple regions

5. Institutional Impact: Bioeconomy Science Institute (BSI)



Structured discussion at BSI Mt Albert Research Centre.



Pathology/postharvest laboratory exposure.

BSI's confirmed programme provided a direct bridge between Nagaland's policy objectives and New Zealand's science capability. The visit included an overview of BSI, its international development and growth work, discussion of the Kiwifruit Cooperation Project, hosted lunch, and a tour through pathology and postharvest laboratories.

Impact on delegates. The interaction strengthened understanding of how horticultural competitiveness depends on research institutions, disease and pathology management, postharvest science, international cooperation and long-term technical capability — not merely orchard-level cultivation. This is directly relevant to the design philosophy of a Centre of Excellence, where demonstration plots must be supported by scientific diagnostics, extension capacity and postharvest systems.

BSI programme confirmation dated 16 October 2026 specified the 10:00–14:00 visit, including the kiwifruit cooperation discussion and pathology/postharvest laboratory tour.

6. Industry Impact: Zespri, Orchard and Kiwifruit Breeding Centre



Delegation and hosts during Zespri field programme.



Orchard exposure in the Bay of Plenty.

The Zespri programme was one of the strongest industry-facing components of the delegation. It moved from headquarters presentation to orchard exposure and then to the Kiwifruit Breeding Centre, creating a coherent "orchard-to-market-to-future-varieties" learning sequence.

Industry system: The headquarters session exposed delegates to the Zespri system from orchard to market, grower and industry engagement, and the institutional coordination required to sustain a globally recognised horticulture brand.

Grower practice: The orchard component enabled direct observation of growing techniques and best practices, grounding policy discussion in field-level realities.

Innovation pipeline: At the Kiwifruit Breeding Centre, delegates were exposed to the development of new premium varieties using technology and natural breeding techniques, with emphasis on taste, nutrition and sustainability.

Market orientation: The integrated programme highlighted that production growth must be matched by quality standards, traceability, postharvest consistency, branding and market access.

The Zespri itinerary records a 27 October 2026 programme covering Zespri HQ, orchard tour, Kiwifruit Breeding Centre and hosted dinner.

6.1 Zespri Host Inputs and Industry Perspective

On 4 November 2026, Zespri provided a factual summary for inclusion in this Impact Report. The input confirms that the headquarters discussion covered the structure of the New Zealand kiwifruit industry and Zespri's role as the link between global markets and the New Zealand growers who own the company.

The delegation met senior industry leaders including Tracy McCarthy, Executive Officer - Grower and Industry Engagement; Jason Te Brake, Chief Executive Officer of Zespri; and Colin Bond, Chief Executive of New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers Incorporated (NZKGI), the organisation representing New Zealand kiwifruit growers.

Zespri further confirmed that the orchard component involved lunch with growers and a visit to a high-performing green kiwifruit orchard, giving delegates first-hand exposure to orchard-management techniques and the Zespri growing system.

At the Kiwifruit Breeding Centre, the delegation learned about the breeding programme with Dr Bart Challis. Dr Nick Gould, who has previously visited Nagaland twice, also discussed vine management - creating a direct continuity between earlier technical engagement in Nagaland and the delegation's field exposure in New Zealand.

The engagement continued over dinner with Zespri colleagues Glen Arrowsmith, Malkit Singh, Tracy McCarthy and Rachel Lynch, allowing an additional exchange on the respective horticulture industries and future areas of interest.

> **Strategic implication. The Zespri engagement exposed the delegation not only to production practice, but to the institutional architecture of a mature kiwifruit sector: grower representation, industry coordination, orchard management, breeding, market linkage and global brand discipline.**

Source: Rachel Lynch, Zespri, factual inputs supplied to Feelivacation on 4 November 2026 for this Impact Report.

7. Diversification Impact: Agrodome and Wanaka Lavender Farm



Farm interaction at Agrodome, Rotorua.



Demonstration-led farm tourism and visitor interpretation.

These visits broadened the delegation's perspective from crop production to rural enterprise design.

Agrodome. Exposure to mixed farming and livestock within a visitor-facing agricultural enterprise demonstrated how farms can combine production, education, interpretation and tourism. For Nagaland, where many farms are small and geographically distinctive, this model is relevant to farmer income diversification, experiential tourism, demonstration farms and public-facing extension.

Wanaka Lavender Farm. The lavender-farm visit provided a contrasting example of high-value crop diversification: a crop becomes more commercially resilient when linked with processing, value-added products, direct-to-consumer retail, branding and agritourism. The transferable lesson is not "grow lavender", but build value chains around niche crops and local identity.

8. Geothermal Systems Exposure: Why Wai-O-Tapu Added Strategic Value



Delegation during geothermal landscape exposure in the Rotorua region.

The Wai-O-Tapu experience was not a horticulture technical visit in the narrow sense. Its value was systems-level learning. Exposure to an active geothermal landscape expanded the delegation's understanding of how natural resources, environmental risk, land use, cultural interpretation and tourism can be managed together.

Land and environmental awareness: Geothermal terrain demonstrates that productive regional planning must begin with the physical characteristics and limits of land. This reinforces the importance of site-specific horticulture planning rather than transferring cultivation models without adaptation.

Resource stewardship: The experience showed how sensitive natural systems can be protected while still supporting controlled visitor access and economic activity — a useful principle for environmentally fragile hill states such as Nagaland.

Climate and resilience thinking: Seeing heat, mineral activity, water systems and geologically active landscapes encourages officials to think beyond crop yield alone and consider environmental monitoring, soil and water conditions, hazard awareness and long-term resilience.

Rural economic diversification: Rotorua demonstrates how a distinctive natural asset can support tourism, employment, interpretation and destination identity. The broader lesson for Nagaland is that horticulture, biodiversity, landscape and tourism can reinforce one another when planned as a regional ecosystem.

Knowledge transfer discipline: The visit also underlined that New Zealand solutions are context-specific. The most valuable transfer is therefore not replication, but the method: scientific observation, environmental safeguards, visitor management and locally adapted development.

> **Key takeaway: geothermal exposure strengthened the delegation's capacity to view horticulture as part of a wider land–water–environment–tourism system, rather than as an isolated production activity.**

9. Operational and Relationship Impact

The programme's effectiveness depended not only on institutional content but also on how the delegation was hosted and moved. Feelivacation's role covered programme coordination, international and domestic travel, ground mobility, stakeholder liaison, visit sequencing, guest support and on-tour problem solving.

- **Seamless hosting:** Hotels and ground partners were briefed in advance so that the delegation experienced a coordinated arrival and hospitality standard rather than fragmented bookings.
- **Protocol-conscious mobility:** Executive vehicles and a dedicated ground team supported punctual, comfortable movements across a demanding multi-city programme.
- Programme integration: Feelivacation coordinated the institutional engagements, technical visits, mobility, hospitality, scheduling and on-ground execution as one integrated delegation programme.
- **Visible service satisfaction:** Ground-team feedback indicated very high delegate satisfaction. The delegation also recognised the driver with a traditional Nagaland shawl — a spontaneous indicator of appreciation for on-ground service.

• Single-point programme accountability: From departure planning through institutional engagements and on-ground execution in New Zealand, Feelivacation remained the single point of responsibility for the delegation. Every movement, interaction and experience was coordinated as part of one integrated Feelivacation-managed programme.

> **Delegate appreciation. In a post-tour message shared on behalf of Team Horticulture Nagaland, S. Senka Jamir thanked Feelivacation for the "excellent arrangement, wonderful guidance and exceptional support round the clock" and specifically acknowledged Anuj, Neha and the wider team for their patience, visa support and commitment. He described the programme as a "soul-stirring journey."**

This feedback provides direct evidence that the delegation experienced both the technical programme and the operational support as a coherent, well-managed journey under Feelivacation.



On-ground service recognition by the delegation.



Institutional visit executed with formal delegation protocol.

10. Delegate Reflections & Applied Learnings (Interim)

As of 4 November 2026, structured post-visit feedback has been received from two of the six delegates: S. Senka Jamir, Joint Director & Mission Director (MIDH), and Akumla Chuba, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary. In addition, S. Senka Jamir has shared a separate appreciation message on behalf of Team Horticulture Nagaland regarding the quality of arrangements and round-the-clock support. The technical analysis below remains interim until the remaining delegate responses are received.

> **Delegate voice: "Seeing is believing and learning by doing." — S. Senka Jamir. Akumla Chuba, IAS, separately highlighted the seriousness placed on research in New Zealand and the value of organised farmer, procurement and supply-chain systems.**

10.1 Emerging learning themes

Theme	Evidence from delegate feedback	Implication for Nagaland
Research as a strategic foundation	Akumla Chuba emphasised the seriousness and dedication placed on research in New Zealand; S. Senka Jamir described BSI as highly organised and at the cutting edge of kiwifruit research.	Strengthen the research-extension link around the Pfutsero CoE and ensure field decisions are connected to diagnostics, trials and evidence.
Pruning, vine training and fruiting management	Both respondents independently identified pruning and/or vine management as an area where Nagaland can improve. Jamir highlighted pruning, training and field management; Chuba additionally identified girdling as a practice worthy of assessment.	Prioritise practical pruning and vine-management training, demonstration plots and carefully evaluated technical protocols adapted to Nagaland conditions.
Grower organisation and information flow	Chuba recommended identifying growers and forming Department-recognised groups so that training, information, marketing and value-chain opportunities can be shared systematically.	Use recognised grower clusters/groups as the delivery channel for extension, training, market linkage and future quality systems.
Value-chain and market orientation	Jamir recommended proper value-chain development; Chuba noted Zespri's farmer/contractor interaction, procurement and supply-chain approach.	Move policy emphasis from production volume alone toward quality, aggregation, postharvest discipline, market access and farmer realisation.

Diversification, agritourism and rural enterprise	Jamir highlighted Agrodome as a model for horticulture/agriculture tourism, entrepreneurship and job creation, and also identified vineyard/winery exposure as a potential new avenue.	Test locally appropriate agritourism and value-added horticulture models that can create supplementary rural income and employment.

10.2 Individual delegate reflections

S. Senka Jamir — Joint Director & Mission Director (MIDH). His feedback centres on the maturity of New Zealand's kiwifruit research, marketing and field-management systems. He identified pruning, vine training, farm management and fruiting management as particularly relevant for Nagaland. His three priority actions are to develop a roadmap aligned with relevant New Zealand technologies, strengthen value-chain development, and build human-resource capability in kiwifruit.

Akumla Chuba, IAS — Commissioner & Secretary. Her feedback highlights research commitment, Zespri's professionalism, farmer and contractor engagement, procurement/supply-chain organisation, and Agrodome's combination of farming with enterprise. She identified girdling as a new practice observed during the programme and called for stronger pruning capability. Her priority actions are to organise recognised grower groups, increase pruning training, and expand support for trellis and T-bar infrastructure.

10.3 From exposure to implementation: emerging action matrix

Emerging Action	Why it matters	Suggested first step
Pruning and vine-management capability programme	Both respondents independently identified this as a technical gap with direct productivity and quality implications.	Create a practical training calendar using demonstration orchards, lead growers and trained extension personnel.
Recognised kiwifruit grower groups	Provides a structured channel for technical information, training, aggregation, market access and future quality discipline.	Map active growers by district and establish Department-recognised clusters with nominated coordinators.
CoE-linked research and extension pathway	The delegation strongly valued New Zealand's research-led system.	Define how BSI/KBC learning can inform diagnostics, trials, planting systems and extension priorities at Pfutsero.
Value-chain development roadmap	Production gains will not translate into farmer income without postharvest, quality, aggregation and market systems.	Map the Nagaland kiwifruit value chain from orchard to buyer and identify the highest-leakage points.
Trellis/T-bar and orchard	Chuba identified infrastructure	Review current assistance norms

infrastructure support	support as a practical constraint for better vine management.	and target support to technically compliant orchards and grower clusters.

Interpretation note: The above themes reflect two delegate responses received to date. They should not yet be treated as a unanimous delegation position. The final report should consolidate all six responses and distinguish areas of consensus from individual recommendations.

11. Strategic Impact for Nagaland Horticulture

Impact Area	Observed / Expected Value
Centre of Excellence readiness	The delegation gained direct exposure to the institutional architecture required around a CoE: research, breeding, pathology, postharvest, growers, standards and extension.
Productivity orientation	New Zealand exposure provides a reference point for improving orchard management, planting systems, quality discipline and technical training while adapting methods to Nagaland's steep terrain, monsoon conditions and local farm structures.
Postharvest and market thinking	The programme shifted focus from production alone toward grading, handling, quality assurance, branding and market readiness.
Farmer-centred implementation	Inclusion of a progressive farmer alongside senior officials helps connect policy design with field-level usability and adoption.
Diversification and rural enterprise	Agrodome and Wanaka Lavender Farm illustrated ways to combine agriculture with processing, direct retail, visitor experiences and destination identity.
Environmental systems thinking	Wai-O-Tapu added a land-and-resource management dimension that supports more resilient regional planning.
Bilateral relationship capital	Direct interaction with BSI, Zespri, growers and New Zealand hosts deepened relationships that can support future training, technical missions, expert exchanges and CoE implementation.
Grower organisation	Preliminary delegate feedback identifies recognised grower groups as a practical mechanism for training,

	information exchange, aggregation, market linkage and future value-chain coordination.
Technical orchard capability	Pruning, vine training, fruiting management and assessment of practices such as girdling emerged as immediate technical learning priorities from the first two delegate responses.

12. Recommended Follow-through

The first two delegate responses sharpen the implementation agenda. In addition to the broader recommendations below, immediate attention should be given to grower organisation, pruning/vine-management training, orchard infrastructure (including trellis/T-bar systems), and a research-led extension mechanism linked to the Pfutsero Centre of Excellence.

1. Convert exposure into an implementation matrix — Within 30 days, map each learning area to a Nagaland action: orchard practice, planting material, pathology, postharvest, training, market linkage, agritourism and environmental management.

2. Define the Pfutsero CoE capability stack — Specify which functions should be local, which require New Zealand technical support, and which can be delivered through periodic expert missions or remote collaboration.

3. Create a farmer demonstration and trainer model — Use selected lead growers and extension officers as a "train-the-trainer" cohort, supported by demonstration plots and simple measurement protocols.

4. Develop postharvest and quality KPIs — Track yield, grade-out rates, fruit quality, storage losses, traceability and farmer realisation — not production volume alone.

5. Explore value-added horticulture and agritourism pilots — Apply lessons from Wanaka and Agrodome to niche crops, farm experiences, direct retail and rural destination development in selected Nagaland districts.

6. Institutionalise NZ–Nagaland review mechanisms — Maintain structured follow-up with Zespri, BSI and other relevant partners around CoE milestones, technical assistance, training and future delegations.

7. Capture outcomes annually — Use an annual impact report to document farmer adoption, productivity, quality, market access and institutional capacity arising from the bilateral cooperation.

13. Suggested Impact Indicators for the Next 12–24 Months

Dimension	Indicator Examples
Technical capacity	Number of officers/growers trained; modules completed; trainers certified; technical advisories issued
Orchard productivity	Yield per hectare; fruit size distribution; quality grade; rejected fruit percentage
Plant health	Disease incidence; diagnostic turnaround time; adoption of recommended orchard practices
Postharvest	Pack-out rate; storage loss; handling damage; traceability coverage
Market development	Premium channels accessed; farm-gate realisation; buyer linkages; branded/graded volumes
CoE delivery	Infrastructure milestones; demonstration plots; nursery/planting material systems; research/extension activities
Rural diversification	Number of farms piloting agritourism/value-add models; visitor income; processed product lines
International cooperation	Expert missions, joint reviews, farmer exchanges, technical projects and institutional MoUs progressed

14. Conclusion

The 22-30 October 2026 New Zealand programme represents a meaningful progression in Nagaland's engagement with New Zealand on horticulture. It connected the state's evolving kiwifruit ambitions with research, industry, growers, breeding, postharvest systems, rural diversification and environmental learning. Delegate feedback received to date, together with factual inputs subsequently provided by Zespri, reinforces that the programme delivered substantive technical exposure as well as a strong operational experience.

Its most important outcome is therefore not the number of sites visited, but the breadth of the operating model observed: research institutions support industry; growers are integrated with standards and markets; breeding feeds future competitiveness; farms can diversify through value addition and tourism; and natural resources are managed as part of wider regional development.

For Feelivacation, the programme also demonstrates the ability to translate an institutional objective into a complex international knowledge journey while maintaining a single point of accountability across travel, stakeholders, protocol and on-ground experience.

> **The next phase should focus on conversion: turning exposure into measurable adoption, capacity and farmer-level outcomes in Nagaland.**

15. Evidence Base and References

Government of Nagaland, Department of Information & Public Relations: "India Delegation Visits New Zealand to Strengthen Cooperation in Kiwifruit Development", 19 February 2025. Source

The Morung Express: "New Zealand explores Kiwi fruit partnership with Nagaland", 15 December 2025. Source

Press Information Bureau, Government of India: India–New Zealand FTA entry into force and Agriculture Productivity Partnership, 19 October 2026. Source

New Zealand Government / Beehive: "India FTA now open for business", 20 October 2026. Source

New Zealand Institute for Bioeconomy Science: Confirmed BSI Mt Albert Research Centre visit plan, 23 October 2026 (email confirmation supplied to Feelivacation).

Zespri International: Government of Nagaland Minister for Horticulture programme itinerary, 27 October 2026 (programme document supplied to Feelivacation).

Zespri International: Factual inputs for Impact Report supplied by Rachel Lynch on 4 November 2026, covering the industry structure discussion, senior leadership engagement, high-performing green kiwifruit orchard visit, Kiwifruit Breeding Centre engagement and hosted dinner.

Government of Nagaland delegation: Post-tour appreciation message from S. Senka Jamir on behalf of Team Horticulture Nagaland, acknowledging Feelivacation's arrangements, guidance, visa support and round-the-clock assistance.

Government of Nagaland delegation: New Zealand Horticulture Study Visit 2026 post-visit feedback form responses received from S. Senka Jamir (29 October 2026) and Akumla Chuba, IAS (31 October 2026).

Photo evidence: programme photographs supplied by the delegation / Feelivacation ground operation, including BSI, Zespri/orchard, Agrodome, Wai-O-Tapu and on-ground service moments.

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