

# **Title of Abstract: Strengthening Value Chains of Cardamom Producer Cooperatives: A Study in India**

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## **Abstract**

The aim of the paper is to find out the critical points in value chain practices existing in Cardamom farming in the North Eastern State of Sikkim in India. The research paper tries to find out possible solutions so that these value chain practices can be linked to financial service providers for the betterment of the cardamom growers. It has been perceived that strengthening the value chains as well as promoting coordination between rural communities, public and private institutions results in betterment of the livelihoods in rural areas.

Cardamom is one of important cash crop in Sikkim and the quality of Cardamom produced in Sikkim is one of the best as per the international market demand. But the prevailing value chain practices among the Cardamom producer cooperatives are very weak in the local level. For instance, small and marginal farmers sell their produce to the middlemen or shopkeepers and most immediately after harvesting when the price is at the lowest in the local market. Access to rural finance and market acts as constrains for small producer cooperatives in rural areas in India.

The paper focuses on the design and facilitation role played by the government agencies, and on the role and contributions of private sector organizations in strengthening Cardamom producer cooperatives in India. The paper also sets out recommendations for strengthening and scaling up the value chains in Cardamom farming in India, while discussing strategies, activities, and achievements.

## **Key Words:**

*Rural Livelihoods, Value Chain, Microfinance, North East India*