

TUTTI FRUTTI

## Nadia takes on Malda to become leading producer of litchi in Bengal

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**KRISHNAGAR (NADIA):** Nadia, one of the litchi-growing districts in West Bengal, is striving to become the leading producer of the fruit in the state. At present, Malda tops the list of districts producing this juicy fruit.

The district administration has decided to increase the number of litchi gardens in Nadia in the 2016 planting season so as to become the largest litchi producer in Bengal under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme (MGNREGS) in association with the horticulture department.

The district administration has applied to the director of National Research Centre for Litchi in Bihar's Muzaffarpur to pro-

cure a large number of litchi saplings. The administration wants good quality saplings from this institute and the administration wants to cultivate them under the supervision of the centre.

Babulal Mahato, a top official of the Nadia MGNREGA cell, said, "We want to increase the litchi cultivation area with good quality litchi saplings like Shahi and China from Muzaffarpur. The saplings from the institution will fulfil our dream of

becoming the largest litchi producer of Bengal." "We have requisitioned good quality litchi saplings from the institute. If they can satisfy us with good quality litchi saplings, then we'll buy 50,000 Shahi and another 50,000 China saplings," Mahato added.

Sources said the district administration will consult Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya Prof SK Mitra. The district has got a positive response from the research centre. Mahato said the institute will supply the

saplings in three phases: July, August and September. It has grown 50,000 saplings. He said they have got the names of farmers interested in growing litchi.

