

# 200 years

The Agri Horticultural Society of India , founded by Rev, William Carey in 1820 is the oldest institution of its kind in India, for the promotion and development of agriculture and horticulture in totality. In absence of the central agriculture department prior to 1900, this premier Society used to cater to the needs of agricultural functions as the *de facto* agriculture department with Government support and financial aid. After the establishment of central agriculture department by Lord Curzon, the Society was entrusted to continue work on horticulture which is still being continued. Governor-General of India, The Marquis of Hastings, who also became the first Patron of the Society. ***In the 200<sup>th</sup> year of its celebrations our theme 'Horticulture for a sustainable world'.***

In initial years the Society maintained closed link with the Indian Botanic Garden, Shibpur and was responsible for the total plant introduction programme in India. During the period 1836 – 1866 , the Society was within the campus of the Botanic Garden.

The Society's 22 acre garden is the repository of many rare and interesting flowering plants , introduced from various parts of the world. With the changing circumstances and development of high tech horticulture , Society has modified its plan of work with broad based objectives such as :

- ❑ Conservation centre
- ❑ Richest repository of Ornamental & H & MP collection and propagation centre
- ❑ Hi tech Tissue culture laboratory
- ❑ Disseminating horticultural and environmental knowledge through training, education and research.
- ❑ Guiding and providing consultancy in appropriate areas related to High value plants.

Presently the AHSI is functioning with its self generated budget for maintaining this germ plasm conservation of quiet a few rare endangered endemic species

- Apart from conservation the AHSI throughout the year runs several awareness programmes through Workshops, Seminars and Short Training course on horticultural and environment related field of science and technology.
- The oldest centre for preparing first hand horticulture trained Malis and entrepreneurs approved by the Calcutta University is run by AHSI through Carey Institute of Horticulture – one year residential course.

The garden also has its own R &D facility for Micro propagation facility through Tissue culture laboratory and Mist Chambers.

**A jewel in the crown of city of Kolkata, AHSI was established with the sole aim to open the eyes of all to the vital connection between people and plants, to inspire us to become responsible caretakers of the Earth.**