Despite their rich biodiversity and agricultural potential, Assam and the Northeast region of India continue to lag behind in the agricultural sector. This article aims to shed light on the factors that have contributed to the region's agricultural underdevelopment, focusing on key challenges and limitations faced by farmers and the government. Geographical constraints: The Northeast region's unique geographical features present both advantages and challenges. Its hilly terrain, rugged landscapes, and heavy rainfall make it susceptible to soil erosion and natural disasters such as floods and landslides. These factors severely impact agricultural productivity and hamper the implementation of modern farming techniques and infrastructure development. Lack of infrastructural facilities: Insufficient infrastructure remains a significant impediment to agricultural growth in Assam and the Northeast. Inadequate irrigation facilities, limited access to credit, and fragmented markets hinder farmers' ability to enhance productivity and reach a wider consumer base. The absence of proper roads and transportation networks also makes it challenging to transport agricultural produce to distant markets, further limiting income opportunities for farmers. Limited technological adoption: The adoption of modern farming technologies and practises has been relatively slow in Assam and the Northeast. Factors such as inadequate training and knowledge transfer, high costs associated with technology implementation, and limited availability of improved seeds and fertilisers contribute to the region's lag in agricultural advancements. The lack of awareness and access to information on innovative farming methods and best practises further hinders agricultural development. Fragmented landholdings: The region's agricultural landscape is characterised by small and fragmented landholdings. This fragmentation limits economies of scale and makes it challenging for farmers to invest in mechanisation and modernization. The absence of land consolidation policies and difficulties in accessing credit for land improvements further exacerbate the situation. As a result, farmers struggle to optimise their production potential and face limitations in adopting advanced agricultural techniques. Market linkages and value addition: Limited market linkages and value addition opportunities continue to impede the growth of

the agricultural sector in Assam and the Northeast. The absence of proper storage facilities, processing units, and value chains restricts farmers’ ability to add value to their produce and earn higher incomes. Inadequate market information and price fluctuations also undermine farmers’ bargaining power, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation by intermediaries. Government policies and initiatives: While the government has implemented several policies and initiatives to promote agricultural development in the region, challenges persist. Inconsistent implementation, bureaucratic hurdles, and the lack of targeted interventions have hindered the desired impact. Inadequate allocation of funds, limited research and development, and a dearth of extension services further impede agricultural progress. Assam and the Northeast region of India’s agricultural sector continue to face numerous challenges, resulting in their lagging position. Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive approach that includes infrastructure development, technology dissemination, access to credit, market linkages, and policy reforms. The government, in collaboration with farmers’ organisations, research institutions, and development agencies, must work towards providing the necessary support, training, and incentives to enhance agricultural productivity, promote sustainable practises, and uplift the rural economy. Only through concerted efforts can Assam and the Northeast unlock their agricultural potential and pave the way for a prosperous future.