



# Annual Progress Report 2012-2013

**People's Endeavour for Social Change (PESCH)**

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## **VISION**

Endeavour for **Freedom** of the people where **justice** and **respect** for human rights prevails, ensuring **sustainability** of life.

## **MISSION**

Promotion of present Natural Forest and bio-diversity for improving over-all environment and positive societal changes by empowering the people through participatory development processes.

## **FOCUS ISSUES**

- ❖ Sustainable Livelihood
- ❖ Food Security
- ❖ Rights

## **MAJOR ACTIVITIES**

- ❖ Proper NRM – Land, Water Resource and Development & A forestation
- ❖ Livelihood – SHG promotion, bio-diversity prospecting, Market Linkage
- ❖ Empowerment – Capacity building, training & awareness, Advocacy & Lobby

## **The Governing Body**

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Occupation
1	K. Aga	Chairman	Pastor
2	Dimgonglung Rongmei	Secretary	Social Worker
3	Rev. Poukham	Treasurer	Pastor
4	Isaac Gangmei	Member	V/A Chairman
5	Makurei	Member	V/A Chairman
6.	AG. Dinbui	Member	Retired Teacher
7	Lugaime	Member	Women Leader
8	Jianreiliu	Member	Women Leader
9	Miujinliu	Member	Women Leder

# Chair Person's Note

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Right vision, direction, guidance and good leadership has always been necessary for healthy Society of now and for the generation to come. Under this many circumstances PESCH development organization came to exist with inspiration to enable the rural poor to build their own capacity from their own resources. PESCH envision peaceful co-existence, just, prosperous and sustainable society.

As PESCH launch the project for 5<sup>th</sup> year, there has been remarkable changes observed through this intervention. We have built good rapport with the community. We could see the great changes and development in all project interventions.

Above all, I express my thanks and gratitude to RNBA/EED our core donors who has been rendering invaluable support in all development processes. Of course I must extend my in-depth gratitude to RNBA/JTT/SDTT and IGSSS for their noble support in our endeavor for positive societal change. I must also extend my heartfelt thanks to the Director and his colleagues for their sacrificial efforts towards accomplishment of the organization objectives and enabling the organization towards our set vision.

I hope and believe that, as we have been doing, we will continue to do it in better way for the development of the poor and marginalized of our target communities. Information is the power for the people. Therefore, as we provide them this information we shall enable communities to have informed choice for positive societal change.

Sincerely submitted,

K. Aga

Chairman, PESCH

# Executive Director's Note

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PESCH's endeavor for social change has been remarkable in its approach and process through participatory livelihood initiatives, natural resource management and empowerment towards food and livelihood security.

Mobilizing their assets including human and natural resources through community driven development approach is underway which will be more sustainable and create true sense of ownership of the community development activities. Developing demand-based product profile, value chain analysis, sector analysis, local economy analysis, marketing survey and creating marketing linkage & arrangement for better control & access by the people is our priority.

During the reporting period we could take up small interventions in three districts (two in Manipur and one in Assam) with five small projects. The "Environment Development and Management Program through RNBA/EED covers the same three districts in the small pocket of Jiribam and adjacent area focused on empowerment, Livelihood and Natural Resource Management.

Climate Change and Livelihood & Food Security is our major concern. The impact of climate change and globalization is seriously affecting the livelihood of the poor. We have implemented the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) through RNBA/SRD TT to two of our target villages which are directly contributing towards food security. The project "Promoting Tribal Livelihood and Food Security through Community-based and Biodiversity Management in North East India has been completed two years. The project is covering 5 villages at Tausem Sub-Division in Tamenglong District, Manipur.

We have awoken our communities to access their rights and entitlements by capacitating them through trainings, workshops and awareness campaigns under the project called People's Empowerment for Accessing Rights to Livelihood (PEARL) supported by IGSSS. The project covers 13 villages in Nungba Sub-Division, Tamenglong, Manpur. Right to Food, Right to Work, and Right to Credit and Right to NRM are the major four themes focus by the project.

Rural Micro Finance Outreach is another project promoting SHG for enhancing their livelihood. SHGs members are improving in handling their books of accounts and their other related registers. They are more decisive in selecting their livelihood options. Level of women's participation in developmental issues has remarkably increased.

Now the targeted communities are starting to manage their land, water and forest in a more productive and sustainable way. Farming systems have improved. They began to realize better livelihood options and started creating more options.

Dimgong Rongmei

Executive Director

## Introduction

Our partner communities mostly depend upon cultivation (jhum) for various household needs. There are handfuls of skilled labors, weavers (traditional), carpenters and few Govt. employees. Communities don't have food to eat round the year. Besides, there are other various requirements like health, education and other basic commodities. However, the present economy is no longer rural economy but market based economy even to that remotest areas. Therefore, a proper marketing linkage (back & forth) is ultimate concern of the people.

Slno	Project and Supported Agencies	No. of village	Total population
1	Environment Development and Management Program supported by RNBA/EED	07	3406
2	Promoting Tribal Livelihood & Food Security through Community-based Land & Biodiversity Management in North Eastern India supported by RNBA/JTT	05	2890
3	People Empowerment for Accessing Rights to Livelihood supported by IGSSS	13	6500
4	System of Rice Intensification (SRI) supported by RNBA/SDTT	02	120
5	Rural Microfinance local initiative	15	3100
Total		42	16,016

Our humble efforts towards these issues have made deepening experience particularly during this reporting period. We are working in four Sub-Divisions (in three districts they are Imphal east district & Tamenglong district of Manipur and Cachar district of Assam). As shown in the table we have undertaken 5 projects with the noble of our partners and donors. The main focus of the organization is to promote our target communities towards Livelihood and Food Security through participatory planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The support of the people and our partners enable us to carry forward this endeavor in a meaningful way.

# Environment Development & Management Program

## Target area (Brief geographical features):

The target area consists of Jiribam, one of the sub-division of Imphal east district, Tausem Sub-Division of Tamenglong District and Lakhinagor GP of Cachar, Assam. The people enjoy sub-tropical climate (warm summer and cold winter). The monsoon period is about seven month. This is one of the boons for the farmers of the area that they can cultivate their land without irrigation/without much irrigation in summer. Trees and bamboos of many kinds are found in the forest. Continuous jhuming (shifting) cultivation and excessive exploitation of natural forest is threatening the sustainability of biodiversity of the region.

## Target community & Demography:

The target communities comprise of Rongmei and Hmar. About 80% of the populations are farmers.

### 2.1 Goal of the project:

*“To empower target communities to manage their own resources (human and natural) with proper local governance and access their right and entitlement to maintain a dignified livelihood”*

**Description:** Dignified livelihood can be achieved only through proper resources management (considering sustainability and maximum benefit through management) with proper local governance, and empowering the target communities to enable them to access their right and entitlements and enlarge their visions on various viable modern technologies with respect to sustainable development and environments promotion.

### Objectives of the project:

*“To enable secondary stakeholders to facilitate empowerment of primary stake holder”*

**Description:** *In order to facilitate the empowerment the primary stakeholder the secondary stakeholder need a clear concept of the project. Programs such as seminar, training and workshop has been conducted to give the directional guidelines of the project*

*“To enable secondary stakeholder to put together with the primary stakeholder a collaborative workable framework along with an enabling environment of their livelihood through sustainable resources management”*

**Description:** The project is owned by the communities. The communities operate activities. Project monitoring is done with the collaboration of PESCH staffs, VDC, and SHG. Training, seminars and workshop has been conducted at the community level orienting the project.

### Capacity Building:

Capacity building of village level institutions (SHG, VDC, UG, Village Authority and Church) and organization staff is key activity. PESCH believes that empowerment is to capacitate the concern groups. The said groups are capacitated to certain level, however need to continue in near future.

### Activities Implemented:

It is a broadening experience for PESCH during this particular reporting period in terms of personal, organizational and community development process. Implementing the activities under the three targeted thematic areas of the program has made some tangible achievement to our target communities. Under NRM 110 (one hundred and ten) beneficiaries are benefited on plantation of Rubber, Litchi, Betelnut, Orange, Agur, Betel leave, Banana, and Coconut. Decision making of the VDC and User groups while selecting



beneficiaries, monitoring and implementation of the activities were a broadening experience for both the staff and the VDC. Most of the beneficiaries have been extending their activities with their own efforts. Those farmers who opted for planted banana have already harvested. One of the major activities among the target village is the fishery. 25 (twenty five) household have been benefited for fishery pond repairing and extension. The numbers of fish fingerlings have increase for those beneficiaries and they will harvest at the end of this year. The farmers now looking forward to develop the fishery further with other Govt schemes too and will be the main income for the family.

With the introduced off-farm Livelihood activities like duckery, poultry, piggery, goatry and fish fingering poor farmers have the opportunity to generate more incomes to better support their livelihood.

Procuring of one Rice mill for Kaiphundai has reduced drudgery of women (before they are pounding the rice with traditional method). The VDC of the village purchased the rice mill, form a user group and hand over to one of the members to manage and operate the rice mill according to the decision of the group. The money receive from milling of rice is used for maintenance, honorarium for the operator and the left over is return to VDC which will be used as revolving fund for other livelihood activities. The byproducts of the mill such as rice husk are used for various agricultural purposes. The rice bran is used for feeding piggery and duckery. Therefore, this rice mill also supports other livelihood activities in the village.

Awareness Campaign is conducted on NREGS. People are more aware about the scheme. Two of the villages have applied for information under RTI Act, 2005. Follow up have taken up by the concern VDC.

## **Promoting Tribal Livelihood & Food Security through Community-based Land & Biodiversity Management in North Eastern India**

### **Background:**

The targeted project village is dominated by two prominent tribes i.e. Rongmei-Naga and Kuki. Rongmei-Naga inhabits three villages and Kuki tribes inhabit two villages. The people living in the project area are highly dependent on jhum cultivation and forest collection to make their living with much difficulty. With the growing population and the decrease in production, the livelihood of these people is threatened in spite of rich biodiversity and availability of land. The availability of staple food (paddy) last for few months and the excessive dependency on purchased and forest food, inefficient PDS and high reliance on jhum paddy adds to their vulnerability. Poor and low literacy are the seed of problems to access schemes and services from the govt. and insufficient food made them to exploit natural resources very severely and in a very fast rate. With the promotion of indigenous knowledge and skill building, land, water and forest development awareness and consciousness about small farm production system based on sustainable agriculture can augment and promote their livelihoods. The local advantage of indigenous knowledge and institution can be tapped to promote food production through appropriate community-based management of natural resources. While land and water resources development can ensure mid-term and long-term food security implications. Farmer groups and women groups created to look after land and water resources development and livelihood improvement will be working to meet the concerns of nutrition through the concept of backyard nutritional garden and through appropriate tapping of local biodiversity. The village level committees, sub-committees and women groups will be working with traditional village institutions like Village Authority, Church, Women organization, Youth Organization and others for higher efficiency, transparency, equity and sustainability and also to respect unique cultural identities. With respect to Govt. schemes and policies, the

awareness of the people of the project area is very low and need to promote their advocacy for effectiveness in implementing the project components to achieve better, equitable, and sustainable natural resources governance.

Some objectives taken up by the project are to organize, empower and build the capacity of the grass-root level development agent, tribal communities, women and their institutions to assess and manage local natural resources of land, water and biodiversity for livelihood and food security. *To initiate work towards mid-term and long-term food and livelihood security through CBNRM (specifically management of land and water resources and genetic improvement of local/ indigenous seeds); To organize and enable women SHGs to take up biomass and biodiversity based Income Generating Activities (IGA) especially cultivation/collection and aggregation / storage of strategic agro/forest products; To forge market linkages and to facilitate marketing of local bio-products through these groups.*

<u>Activities</u>	<u>Out comes</u>	<u>Impact</u>
<b>Empowerment (Rights &amp; entitlements, NREGS, RTI training).</b>	The target villages have better understanding on the conceptual context of the on-going project with special emphasis on empowerment, livelihood improvement, and improvements in natural resources management to foster individual well being, freedom and social commitment toward progressive change.	Increase in confidence and rapport building realizing the need to develop the community with convergence from govt. Under this two villages obtain Forest Settlement Rights under Assam Govt. And two villages file RTI on NREGS work. The BDO look into the matter by providing documents and other necessary information.
<b>Vocational training</b>	Establishment of tailoring training center	Create opportunity for rural women to learn tailoring skill to promote self employment/income generation. The first batch of vocational training have now started their shop in the market
<b>NRM (Terracing &amp; land development, Planation, Fishery pond, Water canal &amp; conservation of Forest)</b>	Three target villages improve their irrigated land through terracing& land development.	Increase the land area of cultivable land by labeling wasteland, cropping intensities of benefited target villages by expansion and up gradation of irrigation field.
<b>Community Asset Development (Public toilet construction, Ferry boat, Drinking Water structures, Community hall, Inter-village road &amp; River bank foot steps)</b>	Six public toilets constructed for six churches at two target village.	Sensitizing the peoples to maintain sanitation at home and community at large by construction of low cost toilet and latrine.
<b>VDC&amp;SHG meeting</b>	New VDC leader, animator Trained on social accountability and books of account..	Have better understanding on the concept of right, duty and responsibility. Foster accountability, transparency among members.
<b>Livelihood (Carpentry tools</b>	From three target villages 8 skilled carpenters got benefited from carpentry. tools procurement.	Used of technical machine reduce time consumption in making one product, it improved designing and increased productivity.



## **Project Goal:**

Ensuring tribal livelihood and food security in Tamenglong District through community based land and biodiversity management and strategic bio-prospecting

## **Project Objectives:**

To organize, empower and build the capacity of the grass-root development agents, tribal communities, women and their institutions to assess and manage local natural resources of land, water and biodiversity for livelihood and food security

To initiate work towards mid-term and long-term food and livelihood security through CBNRM (specially management of land and water resources and genetic improvement of local /indigenous seeds)

To organize and enable women SHGs to take up biomass and biodiversity based Income Generating Activities (IGA) especially cultivation/collection and aggregation/storage of strategic agro/forest products

To forge market linkages and to facilitate marketing of local bio-products through these groups

## **Programs findings:**

**Project output and dissemination:** In the first year no major activities were implemented. However activities like formation of groups such as VFLSC, CBNRM and SHGs were the main activities. Besides, trainings are given to the groups formed as part of capacity building. As second year follows supporting activities like long felt need, development of community biodiversity garden, water resource development, Small farmer integrated farming system, Vermi-composting, and land development (terracing, bunding & leveling) were implemented with VFLSC and CBNRM taking the main responsibility.

Capacity building and empowerment of the village level institutions is improving in each phase. Some villages started reorganizing themselves for better functioning of the committees such as Village Livelihood and Food Security committee and SHGs. Community herbal Gardens are improvised by construction of terrace and replanting during this sixth month and selected herbal medicine expert for each village.

In this regard, the frequent visits, meetings and accompany on project activities with villager are some of the important roles taken by the staffs. Training has been given to each committee on Accounting, Book-keeping and project concept of this committee. Three Awareness camps are conducted and One day Interface meeting has also been organized to enhance their skills and new method to improve the bio-product of horticulture and agriculture.

## **Capacity Building:**

### **a) Primary stakeholder (Village Level):**

The implementation of project is based on timeline with the action plan framed by the staffs and village level committee. One training has been given to SHGs for better management and functioning of the SHGs on **Accounting, Book-keeping and their development activities**. One training has been conducted for VLFSCs and CBNRM Sub-committee on **role and responsibility of the institutions** during this current sixth month. The focus of the trainings was group management and functioning, so that the groups take their own initiative towards better management of their natural resources and its biodiversity for more secure and sustainable development.

### **b) Secondary stakeholder (Organization Level):**

Capacity building of the staff is one of the main changes happen within the organization. Various trainings provided by RNBA/JTT is quite relevant and is a broadening experience for the staff (*details of the trainings*

*participated are covered in the earlier report as annexure*). Besides, experience gain during program implementation is worth mention. Building rapport with the villagers and knowing better about the realistic situation of the people is part of the capacity gain within this period.

During this 4th sixth month, workshop on **Market survey and demand based screen product** organized by RNBA has been an eye opening for the staff. Though we talk about the abundance of the resources but to really tap these resources were a dilemma. After conducting the market survey at the nearest market places and finding out the demands of the market people were really surprised. Knowing the clear demand of the market people are very enthusiastic to produce and meet the demand of the market.

PESCH has been started analyzing the value chain of the products and how to add value to the current products. At the same time we also do faced challenges like communication and transportation, capital investment for the SHG and cultivators and other infrastructure (processing, packaging and storage).

**c) Awareness Campaign:** Lack of awareness about Govt. services and provisions is one of the main factors affecting their livelihood. Clear and mass awareness about Govt. policies is very crucial and important in bringing changes in the society. We do understand that there are other various factors and reasons in which Govt. policies are not percolating down to the targeting people. However, we do believe that awareness of the people will be the key to bring about positive societal change.

We conducted awareness seminar on RTI, PDS and NREGS. 50% of the community members in the target villages are more aware about the schemes. They have started approaching concern authority about the schemes according to the guidelines of the schemes. As such activities began, we felt the need of strengthening village level institutions for more transparent and accountable.

However, Govt. officials, few leaders in the target villages and nonstakeholders are the challenge in this regard. Therefore, mass awareness and understanding the Govt. policies and its schemes is very crucial and important.

Community members show their keen interest and happiness as they realized and understand better about those schemes. They are very much cooperative and responsible. The village level institutions (VLFSC) have decided to develop concrete steps to ensure proper functioning of these schemes.

We also do discuss about climate change and its impact to the most vulnerable groups.

### **Project progress/achievement:**

**Land Development:** Earlier people cut terrace only for wetland paddy cultivation. However, by the support of this project and through awareness and capacity building of the program, terraced have been developed for vegetable production, cash crops and other horticultural products which is one of the major achievement of the land development activities. We felt and believe that jhum practice is to be encouraged. However, the practice should be improvised to a permanent field as the size of the land is not increasing when compared to increase of population. Now, people started realizing the importance of conservation of water and soil in the hilly cultivation. The permanent cultivation reduced land conflicts in the village, improved nutrition intakes, increase their income and it is also sustainable. Terrace have been developed under this program around 10 ha of land in the target villages during this reporting period.

### **Water resource development:**

Under this program, construction of check dams, retaining walls and small canals have been completed in the project villages.

## **Interface Meeting:**

A one day Interface meeting was organised for the target villagers on Public Distribution System (PDS) and National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS). During the meeting we have found that there is irregularities in getting essential commodities like rice, kerosene, edible oils, etc, under PDS. The facilitator, Abdul Helim, Extension Officer, Panchayat, mentioned the practical problems faced by the office and the need of the people support for smooth functioning of the said schemes. They are made aware of these schemes and policies of the Govt. and its benefits. As a follow up of the meeting, community level committees will develop a concrete steps as to how community have to approach and support the Govt. offices for better implementation of the schemes. Smooth functioning of these two schemes will help communities to a great extend.

## **Market Survey:**

Market survey on vegetables, fruits and forest products have been conducted in the local market i.e. Jiribam and two nearby markets. Marketable bioproducts are listed from each project villages and we also list out those in demand at the markets. Now they will sell their products better as they come to know the products whose demand is high in particular markets. Product profile will be develop for the communities for their reference. Sector analysis, value chain analysis and leaky bucket analysis will continue as part of the program. In the coming year triangulation will also be carry out in different market areas. This will help communities to produce based on the demand at the market and also add value to their products. At the same time, we are giving emphasis to make them aware the sustainable use of their resources.

## **Local Innovation:**

PESCH has identified and promoted **Gankhiang** (a vegetable looks like jute) as one of the innovative activity. Tribal in Manipur have been using **gankhiang** as one major crops in jhum cultivation particularly among Rongmei community. Every part of the plant can be used. The leaves can be used as vegetable and can also be dried and used in the off-season too, the seed are cooked and fermented and used as one favorite food item of the Rongmei community. The stem is used for firewood and the bark is used for rope and other traditional handicrafts. We would like to promote the bark to process and produce a better quality of rope to be able to commercialized. We are also looking forward to find out the nutrients content of the seed.

## **Project Impact:**

**A)Village Level Institutions:** The Village Livelihood and Food Security Committee, CBNRM sub-committee, Food Security sub-committee SHG are improving in book keeping, regular meeting and participation in decision making of the project implementation. Sharing their accounts to community members, open discussion for selecting beneficiaries among the community members are improving. The Village Authority are member of the VLFSC Therefore, transparency and accountability practice of the committee is influencing the Village Authority to great extend.

Realization of the resources they have is one major impact of the program. Community members start mobilizing their resources for better production, increase income, improve culture of plantation and initiate to control the prize of their products. This will enable them to carry forward even after the project ends.

**B)Food security:** Awareness program is really provoking people's thinking. Hunger in the midst of abundance resources and being citizen of such a great democratic country India. Community members start talking about the details of the TPDS and NREGS. Community members started mobilizing their assets (human and natural resources) in better way, adding value to it and also towards self reliance. This enhances food production and lowers the dependency on outside market. They also started having consciousness about the quality of the food, source of the food, quantity and taste of the food supplied in the Targeted Public Distribution System scheme. They also start considering whether the food is being accepted by the people culturally and nutritionally.

**C)Livelihood:** SHG is improving in group management, book keeping, regular meeting and saving. They started practicing inter loaning among themselves and investing their own small contribution in some crop's cultivation. The groups are also helping each other in their own field (jhum cultivation) by way of wages (in which they collect only 50% of the wages) and the amount they get is used as capital for inter loaning among themselves. Kaimai Naga has common Ginger farm for the village SHG. The coming year will be focussing on linking with financial institution, bank and other financial services. Federation of the SHG also will the activities of the coming year and they also will be focused on skill based training for promotion of their livelihood.

**Quotation:** “As we discuss often in the meeting, if really don’t realize our responsibility we tend to increase dependency with aid, not only that but leads to corruption and will not have any achievement” - Mr. K. Majapam, Oinamlong village, Age: 40

#### **Overall Assessment:**

The second is very important year for PESCH as we improvise the process with the experience of 1<sup>st</sup> year intervention and moving towards the final year. When the project ends, we are looking for the best withdrawal strategy. The year gives in-depth understanding and also a broadening experience for the staff and the organization.

Capacity building of the staff and community members is really impacting changes in the process. Some of the major components supported have also been impacting the people both in direct support and the process of implementing the program which ensure transparency and accountability.

We do faced challenges both at the village and organizational level. Though staff are capacitated to a great extend, they need to be further enhance their skill in various aspects of the program. At community level; the deep rooted clannishness, corrupt practices and mindset are the major challenges. Due to frequent strike and bandh, poor transportation facilities sometime the timeline cannot be implemented on time. Limited fund for supporting SHG is another challenge, because there is no any support and activity for the SHG is included in the project.

## **System of Rice Intensification (SRI)**

#### **PROJECT SUMMARY:**

Under Management of Natural Resources and Rural Livelihood, SDTT has identified Food Security for Small and Marginal Landholders as a focus area for 2007-2013. System of Rice Intensification (SRI), which was supported by the Trust since 2006 to 5 agencies in eastern India, was taken up as one of the programmatic themes. With support from SDTT, PESCH in association with RNBA a dedicated Program on SRI promotion was taken up from January 2009 as pilot project along with twenty dedicated farmers from two villages, Namdailong and New Alipur within a period of nine month starting from march till November.

#### **Strategy adopted by PESCH**

- Giving emphasis on reaching out to small and marginal farmers in mainly in rain fed areas.
- Policy advocacy in district level so as to facilitating mainstreaming SRI
- Engaging with policy making

- Facilitating interaction amongst different players
- Promoting innovation in SRI

#### Major achievement

- The project has demonstrated the technical feasibility and benefit of SRI for 30 neighboring villages.
- Difficulties/problem for further dissemination of SRI has been critically analyzed and identified
- SRI has been successfully demonstrated in plain as well as hill terraced field
- One master **trainer** and seventeen farmers have been capacitated to act as local cadre to spread SRI

#### 1. PROGRAM FINDING

**Training of master trainers** PESCH has developed one of the staff of the organization, as SRI Master Trainer. He participated in the various workshops, trainings and exposure programs organize by RNBA/RRC. He has successfully facilitated, monitored and coordinated the project till the completion of the pilot phase. He, as an expert, has given his presentation on district level symposium on technical aspect of SRI method of cultivation

**Orientation Workshops:** Orientation workshops were conducted separately for three village, New Alipur, (Manipur) New Kaiphundai (Manipur) and Namdailong (Assam). At the end of every session of workshop, Video film was shown to visualize the techno-feasibility of SRI in the locality. After the video show the participants discuss and brainstorm on technical comparison of SRI and conventional method. Then we select the farmers who volunteered to be the cadre of SRI. With their strong determination the cadre gave unceasing diligent effort till the end of the project

**Training and Demonstration Program:** Selected pilot farmers were invited to attain the one day technical training on SRI at the vocational center of PESCH. Training were given with audio and visuals aids (using flip, chart and projector) some parts which can be practically demonstrated (like seed soaking) were undertaken during the training. Training were given in the following principle:

- Moist soil conditions but well drained and aerated
- Transplanting rice seedlings at a very young age (8-12 days old)
- Planting one seedling per hill
- Wider spacing of plants (25 cmx25 cm)
- Compost/FYM if available or nothing
- Frequent weeding usually 2-3 times during the growing season

#### Field Support activities

- Master trainer Conducted four meeting at an interval of 45 days with the farmers to discuss the progress and to get necessary assessment. Master trainer visited seven times for spot enquiry and to give technical guidance.
- 1 (one) Weeder each given to 1 SRI group (1 SRI group is consisting of 10 members/farmers)
- A sum of Rs. 1,000/- (Rupees one thousand only) was provided to each farmer as incentives.

#### District Level Experience Sharing Workshops

District level Symposium on system of rice intensification was successfully conducted. Mr. Maneswor singh, BDO of Jiribam subdivision and Khumanjao singh, President of all manipur louni lup, Jiribam attended the program as chief guest and guest of honour respectively. Beside the above mention dignitaries, farmers of the ares, media persons, workers of All Manipur louni lup attended the function.

## 2. FULFILLMENT OF THE OBJECTIVE

- SRI activity is experiment by 17 beneficiaries/farmers in 8.5 acres of paddy lands in Jiribam and its neighbouring area.
- PESCH promoted the evaluation of SRI program with data and any other comparative tools and duly submitted to RNBA/RRC in order to propagate SRI activity in Manipur.

PESCH has started and will continue to combat hunger and poverty by cooperating other NGOs and Gov't policy in the District.

## . PROJECT OUTPUT AND DISSEMINATION

- 1 Master of Trainers (MOT) developed and able to facilitate the farmers on SRI through workshops and exposure trip.
- 17 beneficiaries are well capacitated about SRI through field experiment, workshop and orientation.
- SRI activity was experimented by 17 beneficiaries/farmers in 8.5 acres of paddy lands in Jiribam and its surrounding area.
- PESCH conducted the evaluation of SRI program with data and any other comparative tools in order to propagate SRI activity in Jiribam and its surrounding area.
- 1 no. of District level workshops in conducted.

## 5. IMPACTS

- PESCH has the capacity to promote SRI method in the region
- Through SRI cadre we have witness the viability of SRI method in the region.
- Availability of data and information on SRI for future promotion and propagation
- Government officials and other local NGOs has given their assurance to support the promotion of SRI

## 6. OVERALL ASSESSMENT

With the investment of our time, resources and energy on SRI program, PESCH believes rural based development oriented NGOs are upholding and focusing more on small-scale appropriate agriculture. We also believe that together with NGOs and Government machineries instantiated different approaches to solving the stagnation in rice production, increasing productivity and involving more farmers in modernization of rice cultivation to increase income. Again this pilot phase SRI program will pave our ways in solving the critical issue of “hunger” we are encountering with here in some parts of Manipur.

## People Empowerment for Accessive Rights to Livelihood (PEARL)

**2.1 Right to food.** 13 meeting on PDS, ICDS and mid-day meal for targeted villages/village authority/community/CBOs have been conducted.

### 2.1.1. Description

Under the theme of right to food, Public Distribution System (PDS) workshop was conducted in each villages starting from 19<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013. The turnout of the village authority, youth leader and



community-based organization were encouraging and satisfactory. We were given to all the participants to express their experienced and the reality prevalence of their respective villages regarding the PDS.

The workshop was carrying out in participatory manner. We display the data collected from the Additional Director FCS Tamenglong through slide show and compare the list that we have. We also had shown the present status of PDS of Manipur in general and of Tamenglong district in particular. We table them the quantity and rate fixed by the concern department for different cards APL, BPL, AAY and Annapurna. We distributed different categories/ lists of beneficiaries approved by the FCS department to the members present in the meeting.

Besides, this Consultation meeting on PDS was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2013, at Tamenglong headquarter. The meeting was attended from various civil organizations like Church leaders, women representative, student leader, village authority, rationing agents, FCS official, Ritupon Gogoi, Cluster officer, Guwahati, and all the Chief functionaries of PEARL partners, Manipur. During the meeting almost all the participants express their concerned to address the PDS issue.

### 2.1.2. Output

- *Based on their remarks from different persons, we learnt that the villagers including their leaders have poor knowledge/information about PDS. I quote, one person, Mr. Namsadai of Tajeikaiphun said, "We heard rice is given by the govt. but we don't know the different cards, its quantity, items, rate etc but today workshop is the first ever workshop on Public Distribution System (PDS) in our village. I, on behalf of the public extend our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the IGSSS in general and PEARL project staff in particular. It is an eye opener for all the villagers."*
- *After a month of PDS workshop, Mr. Guidiyang village authority secretary of Thingou village asked our staff to give Annapurna beneficiaries list of his village. He told us the staff "I am going to collect Annapurna rice from Tamenglong and shall try to give away to the right persons."*
- *After few weeks later on February 19, 2013, G. Languilung, Bwanruangh village authority chairman lodged written complaint to Sub-divisional officer (SDO) Nungba and Deputy Commissioner (D.C) Tamenglong for not receiving PDS items consecutively for the last three years i.e. 2011, 2012 and 2013.*
- *On first week of March 2013. A rationing agent, Mr. Bandai ferry rice and sold at Nungba, The woman, Mrs. Lily narrated thus, "We asked the agent to tell us, for which cards you are collecting this rice? Is this rice meant for which card APL, BPL and AAY? Some other questions like why the rate/price is so high?" There was a commotion, which was never seen before at Nungba while buying rice, she comments.*
- *As a result of the Consultation meeting another forum meeting will be held by the last week of May, to chalk out concrete steps to rectify PDS system in Tamenglong district in near future.*
- *It is the first time for Nungba area village authority to have direct meeting with the FCS official consulting on PDS issue*

### 2.1.3. Challenge

- *In spite of the FCS official proclaiming the supply of rice and sk-oil in the Tamenglong district the needy public hardly received their due shared. I quote, Sangrung village authority chairman and Mukтина village authority chairman said, "Our village have not received rice for the last 7 years*
- *The biggest challenge is that among the village leaders some are directly involved in the malpractices. The project staffs are desirous to carry out these similar workshop/meeting in regular intervene but time constraint and geographical isolation handicap the will.*
- *We need to meet the villages as far as possible but poor transport and communication hamper the process.*

## 2.2. Right to work

### 2.2.1. Process of Conducting Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) Exercises

PRA exercises were carried out in the villages by PESCH following a comprehensive training cum demonstration workshop using more than 15 tools. The exercise has been helpful in making the villagers while analyze their resources and living conditions in a comprehensive manner. The PRA exercise will definitely help the project implementing teams to appraise resources and resource management patterns in a participatory environment and overall improvement in food & Livelihood security.

#### i) An overview of the location needs assessment Resources

The management of the forest resources by the community is too evasive and could be exhausted in near future. The village practice shifting cultivation is common for all the families. There are some places, which could be converted into wet terrace field but these land has not been developed into terraced, as they cannot dig irrigation canals at the steep hill. Taking into consideration of the topography, climate and availability of lands, the village has a potentiality for establishing orchard, agro-forestry and livestock rearing. National Highway No 53 connecting Silchar and Imphal passes through the middle of the project villages, which is the amenity for transportation, trading and other commercial activities.

There is primary school, water supply system and the community hall but community members do not satisfy the service provided.

**Courtesy from the PRA tools:** Resource Mapping, Social Mapping, Mobility mapping

#### ii) Analysis of social relation

*Govt. employees are considering as the well off groups in the community. Other sections of the community are poor and marginal, the widow are the lowest status in the community. These two groups are more vulnerable in the villages. The poor group respects the rich better group but the later group cannot directly explode the former group because the traditional social Governance of the tribe prevent from doing so.*

*Women are mostly confined to household chores. Therefore, their participation to community affair in decision-making is negligible. Thus, made them inferior in the society and create gender imbalance in the society. Seasonal diseases such as malaria, typhoid, diarrhea, and dysentery are common in the village throughout the course of seasonal cycle, which affects the normal social life of the people.*

*The villagers do not have much awareness about public services, right, entitlement offered by the Govt. as some of the Govt. officials and politicians are depriving these rights.*

**Courtesy from PRA Tool:** Social Mapping, Wealth Ranking, Livelihood analysis

#### iii) Analysis of economic opportunities & support:

Following are brief deduction of livelihood option available in the village:

1. **Orchard establishment:** *The village has an opportunity for orchard establishment for fruit trees such as, orange, litchi, Mango, parkia (Monkey beans) and pineapple considering suitability of climate, soil and rainfall and land availability.*
2. **Livestock production:** *The village has an opportunity for rearing cattle if they have knowledge on pasture and silvi-pasture development. The villager could start modern, technical and small-scale intensive poultry and piggery farming taking into consideration with nearness to market for acquiring input and selling productions.*
3. **Land development for agricultures used:** *The villager gives assessment that there is good number of places where they could start terraced cultivation but do not have resources to invest on irrigation.*

4. *The entry barriers for Optimizing untiring these potential resources are: Lacks of technical know-how, Lack of capitals, tribal mindset, other unproductive/unprofitable Traditional values and poor linkages to outside market.*
5. *Govt. Schemes: Less knowledge to assert their rights, under various anti- poverty schemes of the government also contribute food scarcity. It causes poor health due to improper and imbalance diet. Awareness on government food security schemes like PDS, ICDS and mid- day meal is very important for the villagers.*

**Courtesy from PRA tools:** Resource Mapping, Mobility Map, Transact walk, Matrix Ranking, Trade in trade out, I T K. Diagram, Livelihood analysis, Problem tree

#### **IV) Analysis of institutional environments**

*The two main institutions within the villages are church and village authority. Most of the organizations/institutions are closely related to one another. For example women society, Baptist youth fellowship and men society associated with the church and youth club, school and other secular organization associated with village Authority. And work for the welfare of the village, the former concern with religious welfare and the later is concern with the secular welfare. The administration system of the organization/institution within the village is not so sound and satisfied by the village people. There are some symptoms such as disunity, blaming leaders, difficulty in organizing and conducting meeting, cause by lack of accountability and transparency in the governance of the institution/organization. Government anti-poverty schemes like PDS, ICDS are not reaching in the villages since last two or three years. However, none of the village leaders did complaint to the concerned department of PDS, ICDS and mid- day meal. In the NREGA, no social audit has been conducted in the village level and even in the block level since 2005.*

**Courtesy from PRA tools:** Social Mapping, Venn diagram of institutions, Time line

#### **V) Synthesis and prioritization of key needs**

In the present situation the key needs of the village can be categories into three groups the categories are mention as below:

**Utilizations of resources for generating more income:** Viability and opportunities are envisaged during PRA session for introduction of modern, systematic, and sustainable method of orchard establishment, livestock management and production, land development (including minor irrigation), and vegetable production.

**Empowerment for better access to Govt. schemes/programs:** Seminar and workshop may be conducted to give awareness and motivated in accessing various Govt. schemes/programs and necessary follow up program to ensure smooth functioning of Government schemes/programs.

**Capacity building (on village governance):** Activities like training on Book keeping and administration /workshop on Natural resources management, micro-finance, peace building/awareness program to strengthen village institution to have democratic decentralize governance.

##### **2.2.2. Micro-planning**

Taking the information that was gathered from the PRA exercise, the staff of the implementing organization carried out the Village Micro Planning exercise. This exercise will help the villagers to develop Village perspective plans as well as activities to pursue and achieve these plans, bring about revolutionary changes in the village, and eventually make the village self-reliant. This micro planning will be a road map for village development. However, since we select our target village in a cluster of the same region, the people have similar and identical problems. Corresponding to it, problem analysis, objectives analysis, strategy and activities analysis are almost similar and identical.

### **2.2.3. Achievement:**

Each village that has conducted PRA/Micro planning has produced a document called “Village Perspective Plan”. The villages will use this document for various Govt. Schemes including NREGS. These PRA/Micro planning will be a mirror in their pursuance to their development. Looking into their developed plan and pushing the government schemes into related issues of the village. This will ensure participatory, fast development and surest way to bring social and economic changes in the village. This document will also highlight the need for strengthening village level institutions, leadership development and other aspects of development in the villages.

### **3. Participation of stakeholder**

Unlike the previous activities, the village authorities and beneficiaries were pro-active to their right and responsibilities. Inter village authority members are sharing the need to revive or reorganized the defunct Nungha area village authority council. And this apex body will spear head the pressure group to deliver their rights in each of the village. Therefore, micro planning is developed after in dept studies of the village situations (problems and shortages). They are planning to reflect their micro planning in NREGA especially in material components like construction of village road, water tank, a forestation and permanent cultivation etc., PDS and the food production and other awareness programs of the Govt.

### **4. Conclusion**

It has been broadening experience for PESCH in this PEARL project partnership for last few months both at the community level and office level. The organization itself is improving in the field of financial management and other systems in the organization through this partnership with IGSSS. This particular period is a turning point for PESCH at all levels of project implementation.

As we discuss at the review meeting at Shillong, this PEARL project as entry point if we can further look into different issues in the reason like SMILE for the youth with specific context. In Tamenglong, Manipur there are youths (underground surrendered) who have been involved in UG at the age of around 15 yrs being spent their life as UG for almost 15 – 18 yrs is now helpless and wondering about their future. Career guidance, counseling and supporting this group of people will have tremendous social impact in particular at Tamenglong and Manipur in general. Also other issues like better production & productivity and marketing linkages, research project, etc with intensive partnership for longer period of time might have tangible achievement for the communities with whom we are working with.

Sincerely submitted

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