

SUMMARY ON START-UP WORKSHOP

14-19 January, 2019

Venue: Hotel Saramati, Dimapur

**Organized by: FOCUS- Nagaland in
partnership with International fund for
Agricultural Development**

DAY-1 (14th January 2019)

1. **Welcome address:** Shri.T.Imkonglemba Ao, IAS, APC & MD, FOCUS IFAD Nagaland delivered the welcome address.
 - ✓ In his welcome address, APC & MD expressed salutations to Ms. Rasha Omar, Dr. V.P.Singh, SSPD, DPM, PMU, DMU staffs, and the participants.
 - ✓ He emphasized on the need for convergence from different agri and allied departments.
 - ✓ He gave an overview of the total project cost at 90.06 million USD (612.42 Cr INR) out of which IFAD has loaned 40.25 million USD (Rs. 273.70 Cr) and 0.55 million USD (Rs 3.74 Cr) as a grant. GoN would fund 17.42 million USD (Rs 118.47 Cr); parallel financing from CSS 13.26 million USD (Rs. 90.17 CR); GoN contribution to CSSs 1.55 million USD (Rs. 10.53 Cr); beneficiaries 3.90 million USD (Rs. 26.49 Cr) and convergence 13.13 million USD (Rs. 89.32 Cr).
 - ✓ Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region (MOVCD-NER) and Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services (AH&VS); Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) as means of convergence.
 - ✓ He said that “although we have come a long way, reaching this far, the real implementation will start from today”, he also cautioned that in the process, we will be facing lots of challenges and that FOCUS team had to be well equipped. He also highlighted about the importance of Procurement, Financial Management, Monitoring & Evaluation, knowledge dissimulation etc. Lastly, he encouraged the team members, officers from line departments to be focused and committed with the FOCUS project.
2. **Introduction to Start-up Workshop. Ms. Rasha Omar, IFAD India, Country Representative while giving an introduction to the Start-up Workshop she highlighted about the following aspects.**
 - ✓ Project objective which is related with investing in rural poor and indigenous people, of this region, has to be made well aware of what the project is all about, its objectives, their contributions to the project and what benefit they can avail from the project. So that we can have a productive and effective year on the ground in Nagaland.
 - ✓ Co-ordinated efforts will be required from all the stakeholders.
 - ✓ AWP&B which is the target of IFAD holds an important tool for flexibility.
 - ✓ She asked each and everyone to participate in the process of the session, as well as outside the session.
 - ✓ Ms. Omar said more productive and sustainable jhuming will be based on a judicious combination of modern scientific knowledge, agricultural technologies and practices in natural resource management as well as the traditional wisdom and adaptive practices of the upland communities.

- ✓ She said the project would intervene to improve the productivity across the farming system, adding that it should enable 137,000 households to double their income by the end of the project.
- ✓ She said the success of the project relies on excellent collaboration among line departments and convergence with the CSS of the agri and allied sector as well as with the schemes of the Rural Development department particularly MGNREGA.
- ✓ Further, she hoped that IFAD and government of Nagaland would continue to remain partners to build on achievements of the FOCUS project in the state and to promote the practices in the northeast region and in similar agro-ecologies where jhum is practiced in East Asia.

3. Detailed power point presentation of the Project was delivered by Smti. Angelina Tajen, SPD where she emphasized on the following aspects.

- ✓ Rationals & Details of the project.
- ✓ Project Objectives and its Coverage.
- ✓ Project Target Groups; who are the rural poor and Indigenous farmer's, dependent on Jhum.
- ✓ **Target approach**
 1. Geographical Approaches – Farmers agreeing to cultivate/Jhum for 3 years in a compact Jhum plot without resorting to new jhum plots.
 2. Social Target- mainstreaming of gender and Youth
 3. Village cluster approach- with certain selection criteria such as 75% of Village HH engaged in Jhum.
- ✓ **Project component**
 - 1) Better Jhum & Conservation
 - 2) Value Chain & Market access
 - 3) Project Management.
- ✓ **Highlighted various levels of Project Implementing Committees.**
- ✓ **Role of PMU & DMU in the project implementation.**
- ✓ Preparation of AWPB, facilitating & coordination, planning and implementation, financial management, Knowledge generation, M&E, Reporting & Auditing.
- ✓ Fund flow. GoN PMU to DMU to FIGs
- ✓ Reporting of Project activities. DMU to PMU to IFAD.
- ✓ **Expected outcome and output of the project.**
- ✓ **Project Closing.**

Discussion Hour.

Q1. M&E unit staffing pattern.

All the technical team, PMU & the officers from the line dept will be involved in supervising M&E exercise in the district. MIS will be the most important tool to be involved for efficient M&E.

Q2. Query on the concept and distinction of Jhum & Settled agriculture.

Defining the concept of settled agriculture, which is permanent terrace agriculture and horticulture crops cultivation which is indigenous and conducive to our area and without the introduction of crops from outside.

Quantum of production in jhum is low so value chain support has to intervene from the project.

In regard to Jhum; relevance, pertinence and importance has to be noted.

Jhum has been the best system of cultivation and land holding system at one point of time, but is it relevant in today's context?

So the option that we have in this regard is to go for both jhum and settled agriculture with improvising the present system of Jhum practice.

The practice of Jhum in other parts may be adopted like in Jharkhand, where they practice improvised jhum. They slash trees without burning. Slashed leaves, twigs and barks are used for mulching purpose, and the stalks which are kept standing are used for growing Black pepper, beans and other creepers.

Q3. Where to approach for scientific testing of soil?

Nagaland Soils have been well documented by the government, and all relevant soil details of the district can be accessed from the book, "Soil Atlas/Map of Nagaland".

Q4. Query on the rationale behind the selection of only three crops under value chain.

Production support has been initially given to chilly, Ginger and cardamom, as there is a better potential for export of these crops, but the project has no limit to crops in terms of market support and the project will give all possible support for marketing of surplus crop produced from the village.

Q5. Why PD ATMA has been made the Member Secy. at the District level Committee?

To acquire or make use of the expertise of the ATMA Team members who are young, fresh and well qualified and also to utilize them as ToT.

Q6. Role of the line departments in the project particularly A.H & Vety Services.

Involvement of the line department will depend on how the departmental programmes/ schemes influence or fit into the project. As the project design includes a diverse parameter which require the involvement of various line departments for coordination, planning, and implementation of project components Citing the e.g. of Sericulture activities, where sericulture activities can intervene during the lean period i.e. from July to September when the farmers are more free, the abundance of Sericulture plants for silkworm, and Kheti hut can be utilized for rearing silkworm, fetching additional income from selling of silkworm for food in the local markets.

Q7. Problems of Cattle grazing causing damage to horticulture, agriculture and forest crops.

Social fencing is the most relevant approach that can be achieved by sensitizing the community.

Q8. Whether project supports for rubber and Coffee?

It was clarified that the project does not support for rubber and coffee but the project supports agroforestry species which have multipurpose-utility.

Q9. Whether PLUP will be at village?

The answer was clarified, Yes.

Highlight of the programme for the ensuing days of the Project by SPD, Angelina Tajen.

She was very hopeful that from day-1 discussion everyone was well familiarized with the Project content and its design and ready to get into practical of the project content.

DAY-2 (15th January 2019)

Day 2 session of FOCUS –IFAD work shop was started with Smti. Angelina Tajen State Project Director (SPD) pronouncing the welcome speech to the entire participant which was followed by self introduction.

Dr. Auto, PIT member FOCUS-IFAD presented in brief about summary of the previous day workshop sessions of Day 1.

1st session was presented by Shri Vengota Nakro, PSS FOCUS on **Participatory Land Use Planning (PLUP)**

For the preparation on the PLUP active participants of community is needed to gather information, the members includes

- ✓ Village Council Members
- ✓ The Village Development Board Members
- ✓ The Village Elders and GBs
- ✓ Jhum Resource Committee
- ✓ Land Owners
- ✓ Progressive farmers
- ✓ Youth representatives (Transfer of Knowledge is imparted to the future generation)
- ✓ Women representatives (VDB, Women orgs.)

Information required for preparation of PLUP were

Land use type (Jhum area, TRC, CCA, Orchard, water sources, Homestead garden)

Ket notes :

- To include the enlighten group (educated person) and women in the village since it is a data base which will provide food security and commercial orientation.

-it was also pointed out that there is a need to have more capacity building for proper and correct information on PLUP

-Local trader can also be a participant member.

-the project will not have land use committee.

2nd Session was presented by NGIS & RSC expert on land use maps , village resource maps and land suitability maps

Geographic Information System (GIS)

Primary Sources of Information data was collected with the help

Topo sheets SOI

High Resolution Imageries from satellites, drones etc.

Data maps or major thematic layers available with NGIS were

Village Boundary

Jhum Land

Water resources mapping
Water bodies and Drainage
Watershed
Places of Interest
Communication Network
Public utility and services maps

Keynotes

Slope maps will determine types of cultivation (Jhum, converting to TRC, CCA) and drainage maps for water source and availability of water from catchment area so as to have better planning during PLUP.

Use of local name on the Jhum land will be very helpful since they have meaning explaining about that specific area plot.

3rd Session was presented by NGIS & RSC expert on use of satellite imagery in preparing **participatory plans for land management.**

A brief note on the Different Maps

Slope/Steepness (degree of sloping)

Aspect/Flow Direction (direction)

Relief/Altitude (elevation in M)

3D Model

Drainage (stream & river)

Watershed delineation was explained.

4th session was also presented by NGIS & RSC expert on **use of satellite maps.**

Usage of google earth which is user friendly and can be used during field work.

Discussion was elaborated on using these maps where we can adopt cutting of trees along the contours using contour maps superimposed on google maps.

They also gave a sample presentation on Longjang village with different mapping features which can be incorporated.

Keynotes :

-Preparation of composites maps was required for differentiating unsuitable and suitable areas for better planning for the project.

-Further discussion was required to streamline and fine tune the requirement for the project with NGIS.

5th session on Community mobilization and partners in project implementation was presented by Rokovisa Chase PIT, FOCUS.

The function of District management unit (DMU) is very important on community mobilization and also on supervising and monitoring on the selection of Lead farmers, CRPs and CAHWs (where criteria for selection, training and their role on the project) were highlighted.

Implementation partners

Village Councils

Village Development Board

Jhum Resource Management Committee (JRMC)

Farmers Interest Group (FIGs)

Self Help Groups/ Societies/ Associations

6th Session was presented by Dr. Along PIT FOCUS on **Improved Jhum Management**

Facilitate in improving soil fertility (Seeding with annual and perennial legume cover crops : perennial pigeon pea, wild sunflower and reduction of soil erosion with soil and water conservative measures, low cost contour bunding, log wood bunding, trenches, creating terraces using vegetative strips.

Keynotes: Non suitable land and water sources area can be proposed and converted to CCA (**Community Conservation Area**) .

7th Session was presented by Shri Lipokonen Jamir, PIT-FOCUS on **value chain and market access.**

In which the Linkages between the four Project sub-components

Better Jhum and conservation – settled agriculture promotion – value chain development-market access infrastructure has been explained.

For marketing support, the project will also establish a Market intelligence unit.

Apart from these three crops i.e cardamom, naga chill & ginger, there is also Provision for promotion of some unique local crops which can compete on the national market. (kolar, soya bean etc)

Key notes : innovative fund can also support goat rearing

8th Session was presented by Shri. Rampaukai, PIT-FOCUS on Settled Agriculture

1. Settled Agriculture can be of 2 types under the project: Terrace rice cultivation (TRC) and Upland Orchards.
2. There is scope of fertility improvement on TRC and land shaping on upland orchards and argumentation of water and irrigation.
3. Diversification intervention for promotion and supports double cropping: (crops + short duration rice and 2nd cropping with pulses/ginger + garlic after rice).
4. Integration of TRC with duckery, rice-fish cultivation and fish farming in ponds depending on feasibility.

Keynotes : A farmer in a village can be an FIGs for both the Jhum and settle agriculture.

There is also provision for new TRC under the project.

DAY-3 (16th January 2019)

The day begins with **summarization** of the Day-2 discussion by Er. Pfutsulo.

Smti. Rasha Omar gave a brief introduction for group discussion and how to go about with the help of the resource persons and the rapporteurs for each group. The participants were divided into 5 Groups led by IFAD team and PMU members as the resource persons in each group. The Group discussed the following components:-

I. Better Jhum ii. Settled Agriculture iii. Value Chain iv. Market access & Infrastructure and v. PLUP.

During the discussion each group brought out certain issues and suggestions which may be relooked.

Gr.I : Better Jhum

Suggestions:

- The cost of construction was relooked for Low Cost Bunding @ Rs.2000/ha was found to be too less which needs to be relook for better coverage and implementation.
- Need Exposure trips for Capacity Building.

Gr. II: Settled Agriculture

Suggestions:

- Need more details on the package of practices
- Need Exposure trips for Capacity Building.

Gr. III. Value Chain

Suggestions:

- Need more market players/linkages for agriculture crops
- Selection of CRPs and CAHWs should be without bias.
- Construction of Slaughter Slab may be taken up under the convergence program by approaching RD Department.

Gr.IV. Market Access and Infrastructure

Suggestions:

- Based on crop production, market accessibility at village existing agri link road may be supported.

- Support for village agri link roads is mostly under convergence with MGNREGA which is uncertain.
- The project supports only improvement of existing agri-link roads.
- Community may be given responsibility for maintenance of the link road.
- Collection centres and Processing units have to be maintained by the farmers.

Gr. V : Participatory Land Use Planning (PLUP)

Suggestions :

- Need to consult with village councils to fix the date for PLUP exercise beforehand.
- Need to collect all the necessary general and resource information's of the village and other prominent landmarks and activities.
- Prepare village action plan.
- Required Assistance from PMU
- Need to provide Laptops for AFAs and other field officers.

Feedback from the IFAD team & Senior PMU members on various group presentations:

- Improvement of existing link road should be in the current jhum cycle area.
- Market infrastructure: The available infrastructure has to be located first such as village granaries/ church granaries and agriculture storage/go down.
- Surplus stock of Church granaries may be linked in Value chain.
- Innovation Fund: May support Mushroom cultivation, fishery, livestock and agriculture crops but not the off-farm activities like weaving & knitting.
- Link road convergence program with RD deptt. may need further discussion at a higher level by the M.D and SPD.

Review of the AWP&B by Ms. Rasha Omar.

She stressed on AWP&B as an important tool for planning, management and reporting. She highlighted the preparation of AWP&B where MD, SPD are also accountable and the officers in the PMU& DMU should know how to prepare and when to submit to IFAD Country office were briefed. It was also advised that before presenting AWP&B to State Project Steering Committee, the draft AWP&B may be sent to IFAD country office for necessary correction and suggestion to avoid complication in the later stages of approval.

Content of the AWPB such as **i. Narrative II. Budget Tables (Summary & detailed budget) iii. Procurement Plan** was discussed. The day ended up with a lengthy and fruitful logframe exercise on PLUP for each district where all the groups strived to learn at the initial stage and built up the confidence to carry out in the later stage. This exercise is more thought provoking and awaiting the comments and suggestions for improvement from the previous exercise done from IFAD team.

Day 4: (17th January 2019)

Group presentations and discussion for 30 min each was given to the entire four groups where Shri.T.Imkonglemba Ao, IAS, APC and V.P.Singh emphasized on the importance of seasonal calendar where different PLUP activities can be taken at different quarters. 1st quarter-April to June), 2nd Quarter: July-september, 3rd Quarter: October-December and 4th quarter: January-March.

A Parallel session on Financial Management and Procurement was also conducted.

Wrap up discussion and key take away on AWPB was delivered by Ms Rasha Omar.

- On the other side a detailed presentation on financial management and audit was given by Bob Creswell where he spoke about
 - Financial management
 - Key financial elements
 - Organization and staffing
 - Budgeting
 - Reporting and monitoring
 - Internal and external auditing
 - Risk based disbursement
 - Financial administration, fund administration, disbursement process and procedures, designated account, preparation of statement of expenditure/ Interim Financial Reports, Withdrawal Application and other fiduciary matters.
 - o How the disbursement is routed
 - o Process and documents for submitting withdrawal applications and frequency
 - o Reconciling disbursements
 - Financing agreement and Letter to the borrower (LTB)
 - Accounts: review the readiness of the project and minimum accounting records and procedures to be maintained by the project parties.

Internal Controls including delegation of powers.

- Financial Reports
 - o Preparation of monthly, quarterly and annual reports
 - o Bank reconciliation
 - o AWPB comparison and variance
- Audit: auditing processes and timing, quality of auditing at all level of the programme, maintenance of audit log, etc.

Accounting Software – Chart of accounts, mapping of categories and components, customisation for reports, consolidation and reporting.

DAY-5 (18th January 2019)

1. The day started with Mr Rokovisa Chase PIT, giving the summary of the 4th Day of the workshop.
2. Mr. V. Rhetso, Accounts Officer, PMU also gave the summary on the training activities of the Accounts Team which was facilitated by Mr. Bob Creswell.
3. Ms Rasha Omar, IFAD, India representative gave the overview of the activities for day 5 and the trainees were split into two teams. The Finance team was lead by Mr. Bob Creswell and the rest participants remained in the main hall.
4. Ms Omar, while presenting the topic on Monitoring & Evaluation explained the Result Chain which includes the **Inputs** >> **Outputs** >> **Outcomes** >> **Impacts** and described how the Logical Framework in the PIM presents the Result Chain of FOCUS project. She said while the goals are the impact of the project, the development objectives is which the project is directly accountable. She said that Monitoring is not about policing but more for a managerial purpose and the outcomes indicate if the project is on the right track or not.

Monitoring and Evaluation has to be taken on a regular basis: the baseline survey which should be completed within 18 months from date of effectiveness –which means for FOCUS Nagaland it has to be completed within June 2019. In addition, FOCUS should submit regular quarterly report on the physical and financial against the Annual Work Plan and Budget, Annual report against the logframe indicators by February and Annual progress report by June.
5. She explained the Project Management Information System which includes – Planning data (eg. AWPB), Inputs (Financial), Outputs (like PLUP, Training), Immediate Outcomes (such as Adoption Rate, Returns), Decision Making, Data compilation which helps to manage the project better and Knowledge Management.
6. She informed that Knowledge Management should identify the best practices, prepare documents, videos, tutorials, guidelines to help the project move in the right direction. The project should have regular review meetings – Monthly, Quarterly, Annually - to generate information on the program, lessons, constraints in implementation and solutions for the constraints.
7. Dr. VP Singh stressed on need for the M&E unit to verify the reports before submitting it to SPD.
8. The second presentation of the day was on Poverty Targeting, Gender & Tribal People. She said that IFAD targeting policy was to reach out to the poorest group and IFAD was committed to gender mainstreaming. She presented the Three Pillars of IFAD's Gender Policy which comprises of three strategic objectives – 1. Economic Empowerment 2. Decision Making and Representation, and 3. Equitable Workload Balance. During the deliberation of Equitable Workload Balance the issue of women's drudgery in carrying fuelwood was brought up and options of LPG and fuel wood reserves were discussed.
9. On implementation of gender and targeting, the strategies include – 1. Preparing a gender responsive annual work plan & budget 2. Building the capacity on Gender and Targeting of the project staff and partners 3. Developing a Gender –sensitive M&E system.

10. The Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) was also briefly presented and informed that consultation on FPIC usually takes place during the Start of the project; during orientation of PLUP and During Implementation and Validation of PLUP. She emphasised on the need to include the minutes of the meeting for the PLUP endorsement.
11. For Group work the members were divided into three groups and each team was assign to develop Monitoring & Evaluation Strategy, Gender Strategy, and Knowledge Management Strategy.

12. Feedback on the presentation of Monitoring & Evaluation:

- a. JRMC may not be the best source to get information on the goal indicators.
- b. The cost of production and the return from production can be an indicator on net income.
- c. For the rate of adoption, the survey should be seasonally for the sub-components under Current Jhum, Settled Agriculture, Fallow land, and CCA.
- d. Responding to the reaction that initial exercise of M&E shall be difficult, Ms. Omar said that other agencies such as consultancy group or universities can also be engaged for some of the M&E work.
- e. The requirement of capacity building for the DyDAO/Managers was also expressed.

13. Feedback on the Gender Strategy:

- a. Responding to the issue of drudgery of carrying fuel wood, it was suggested that during PLUP the woodland reserves should also be included.
- b. Awareness creation and training on gender mainstream and gender sensitization should be done.
- c. On the issue of representation of women in the Lead Farmer/Community Animal Health Worker/Community Resource Persons, it was advised that more candidates including women should be screened and the best person be selected.

14. Feedback on the Knowledge Management Strategy:

- a. Video tutorials should be made.
- b. Collaborative studies with the University/Scholars can be undertaken to study the indigenous species of plants of Nagaland.
- c. Schematic studies can also be taken up.

15. The group exercise on Annual Work Plan & Budget for **component 1.2** was presented by the district teams and the following observations were made:

- a. The number of FIG for TRC/WRC in a district should correspond to the number of the villages in that district having TRC/WRC.
- b. The project was designed to give the trainings to the FIG members to be given three times – once every year for three years.
- c. The FIG formation and trainings should be at the same time or sequential.
- d. The specific topics of the trainings should be indicated.
- e. Similarly the specific activity for improving the soil fertility should also be indicated.
- f. The activity of soil fertility in TRC/WRC should be done prior to transplanting.
- g. The low cost bunds should be done along the contour lines.

- h. Every project village should have a nursery for species adaptable to the village and it should be managed by the lead farmer.
- i. The irrigation support can also be in the form of water harvesting structures however, the irrigation support and nursery should go together.
- j. Dr VP Singh cautioned not to be overambitious in setting the target and informed that it is better to set targets which are achievable.
- k. APC & Mission Director of FOCUS observed that leaving out some villages for certain activities may create hiccups and advised to be careful of it.

16. Lastly, APC and the FOCUS team members warmly welcomed Mr R.S. Sinha, Addl Commissioner from Dept of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, GOI and Mr Sriram S. Subramaniam, Assoc Country Programme Officer, IFAD to the workshop.

DAY-6 (19th January 2019)

Day 5 summary was delivered by Miss. Meriyani.

Introductory remarks was given by Ms. Rasha Omar, Country Representative, IFAD India

Session 1:

The first session was delivered by Shri. T. Imkonglemba Ao IAS, APC Nagaland and Mission Director FOCUS Nagaland on the topic Project Design with respect to Soil and Water conservation measures.

- Convergence of the traditional knowledge and scientific technologies for long term success of the project is the need of the hour.
- The life of every Nagas revolves around the jhum system and the whole jhum administration are controlled by the village council who regulate that all households gets their livelihood.
- The project of FOCUS was designed in such a way that all Agri & Allied departments can converge together for future synergy and co-ordinated approach to implementation.
- Overall goal of the project is to increase the GDP of the agri- sector of the state.
- Slash and burn in jhum also gives firewood to the farmers and if they do not do this then they will face firewood availability problem.
- It is important to know about the community forest conservation vis-a-vis watershed management for augmentation of drinking water in the village.
- Conservation of seeds is also equally important as conservation of biodiversity and local varieties has to be preserved.
- Full time service jhum has to be practiced by introducing technologies and improved seeds and practices, taking into cognizance the seasonality and crop resilience.
- Value addition to crops in the long run will greatly help the success of the project, labour cost, economics of feeds, infrastructure and other investments has to be considered.

Session 2:

Second session was delivered by Dr. VP Singh on the topic **Soil and Water conservation measure- Land surface and Sub-surface management.**

- Jhum or slash and burn are usually whole or selective area.
- It is good to retain trees on contour and pollard it.
- Surface run off can be controlled to some extent by planting grasses and legumes and contour bunding with live species.
- Pegging of soil in strips on slopes will also help protect run off.
- Mulching with Sesbania, Glyricidia, can also be useful.
- Green manuring with sesbania grandiflora, marigold and other legumes like pigeon pea etc. are also good green manures.
- Planting of trees will help as soil cover and protect soil from runoff.
- Land preparation of crops varies; some crops require fine tilt and some crops require coarse soil.
- Rain water channeling prevents sheet erosion and rill erosion, placing of dry biomass can help prevent water velocity and increase percolation.
- Flood irrigation causes loss of water hence more economical to go for sprinkler type of irrigation.

- Vetiver grass and rice having adventitious roots can be grown in higher elevation and other rooted rhizomes like ginger and tubers can be grown in lower slopes to increase surface cover.
- It is important that the process of transition has to be from field crop based which is annual and harvested every year to tree crop based which is perennial and harvest for many years.
- Soil fertility management and water harvesting and conservation have to go side by side.
- Azolla and Sesbania are good nitrogen source and have no allelopathy effect between them. Sesbania rostrata is better than other species in N fixation in the field.

Discussions:

Query 1: CCA: Any area that belong to the community, maybe a fallow or forest area or even previously planted with trees or areas of forest used for livestock rearing can be considered as a CCA.

Query 2: Mithun introduction: Mithun rearing is covered under the project design for villages who are already rearing Mithun in the village, and as the project goes on, options shall be evolved to take up even in new villages.

Query 3: Salt application: It deteriorated the soil condition so the practice of salt (NaCl) introduction in the fields as weedicide has to be discouraged.

Query 4: Row planting: Row planting has to be encouraged in the village jhum fields as the practice is more economical, easy to work, less weed and more crop yield.

LAUNCHING PROGRAMME:

Launching programme of the FOCUS project was observed in the afternoon and inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Nagaland Shri. Neiphio Rio. He emphasized on the importance of convergence of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) meant for farmers/rural people so beneficiaries could avail maximum benefit. While speaking at the launching programme of International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) loan funded six-year (2018-2023) project – Fostering Climate Resilient Upland Farming Systems in Northeast (FOCUS-Nagaland) – at Hotel Saramati, Dimapur on 19th January 2019.

“There are many support and projects from central government but too many projects confuse the farmers, so convergence becomes essential,” said Rio.

The chief minister lamented that although there have been “many success stories of many projects”, the same had failed the people. He said that despite launching of “too many” schemes/programmer, the state economy remained the same.

Rio, who is also the chief patron, was optimistic that IFAD project FOCUS Nagaland would change the pitiable economic condition of the state — from being a consumer state to producing state.

Expressing gratitude to IFAD for focusing on Nagaland, Rio said, “IFAD coming to our state is Godsend. It is our dream to grow economically and with your expertise and knowledge you can rescue us from our economic condition.”

Describing Nagas as hardworking people, Rio said the farmers just need proper training, good guidance and handholding so they could produce sufficiently and market the excess.

He also called upon the government departments, agencies and civil society organizations working for the farmers to come together under the guidance of IFAD and work for the economic growth of the people living in rural areas. The chief minister assured full cooperation from the state government and timely release of funds.

In a keynote address, minister for agriculture, G Kaito Aye, pointed out that after the formation of statehood, agriculture sector has no externally aided project in Nagaland.

He was optimistic that IFAD funded project would boost the agriculture economy of the state especially when the project was focusing on improving jhum, the occupation of 70% of the rural population. “I hope that the farmers will have a paradigm shift from subsistence agriculture to market economy and will increase their purchasing power and double their income,” said Kaito.

Kaito also hoped that Nagaland agricultural economy would achieve agricultural revolution and that IFAD’s FOCUS Nagaland project would be a major contributor towards this end.

Speaking on IFAD partnership with government of Nagaland, IFAD India representative, Rasha Omar, informed that the initial activities to ground the project have been completed. She said that IFAD was looking forward to 2019-2020 for effective implementation of the project.

“FOCUS is a very special project in IFAD’s portfolio in India and globally, as it is the first project that IFAD finances where jhum management is addressed in a holistic manner,” said Omar.

She said the project in Nagaland would intervene in 650 villages in eight districts – Mon, Longleng, Zunheboto, Wokha, Kiphire, Phek, Mokokchung and Kohima – and plans to reach 137, 000 households.

Accepting jhum system of cultivation as part of Naga culture, Omar said the aim of the project was to manage jhum sustainably, both in the cultivation and fallow stages, and that the project does not aim to replace or eliminate jhum.

“More productive and sustainable jhumming will be based on a judicious combination of modern scientific knowledge, agricultural technologies and practices in natural resource management as well as the traditional wisdom and adaptive practices of the upland communities,” said Omar.

She said the project would intervene to improve the productivity across the farming system, adding that it should enable 137,000 farmers to double their incomes by the end of the project.

Omar said IFAD loan of 40.25 million USD and a grant of 0.55 million USD contributes only 46% of the total project cost estimated at 89 million USD. In this regard, she said the success of the project relies on excellent collaboration among line departments and convergence with the CSS of the agri and allied sector as well as with the schemes of the rural development

department particularly MGNREGA. She also said timely release of funds to the project as per its annual work plan and budget was one of the factors for the project's success.

She expressed gratitude to the government of Nagaland for choosing IFAD as its partner for its first externally aided funded project in agriculture.

Further, Ms. Rasha Omar hoped that IFAD and government of Nagaland would continue to remain partners to build on achievements of the FOCUS project in the state and to promote the practices in northeast region and in similar agro-ecologies where jhum is practiced in Society East Asia.

Highlighting the gathering on the scope of convergence with agri allied sectors, APC & mission director, FOCUS, T Imkonglemba Ao, said the total project cost 90.06 million USD (612.42 Cr INR) out of which IFAD has loaned 40.25 million USD (Rs. 273.70 Cr) and 0.55 million USD (Rs 3.74 Cr) as grant.

He said government of Nagaland would fund 17.42 million USD (Rs 118.47 Cr); parallel financing from CSS 13.26 million USD (Rs. 90.17 CR); government of Nagaland contribution to CSSs 1.55 million USD (Rs. 10.53 Cr); beneficiaries 3.90 million USD (Rs. 26.49 Cr) and convergence 13.13 million USD (Rs. 89.32 Cr).

Shri. T. Imkonglemba Ao said government of Nagaland was expected to mobilize a total sum of 45.36 million USD (Rs 308.45 Cr) from its counterpart funds, parallel finance (CSSs), contribution to CSSs and convergence.

He also deliberated on Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region (MOVCD-NER) and Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services (AH&VS); Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) as means of convergence.

At the programme, SPD, FOCUS Nagaland, Angelina Tajen, gave highlights of the project FOCUS; a farmer spoke on behalf of farmers in Nagaland and Rev. Miazielie Sakhrie Pastor, KUDA village prayed for the programme.



Interaction from APC and SPD with the FOCUS team.



Ms. Rasha Omar, IFAD-India Representative presenting power point.



FOCUS team in group discussion.



Dr. V.P. Singh, Scientist ICRA presentation.



Angelina Tajen, SPD, FOCUS Nagaland detailing about the project.



Launching programme photo session.