

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES TO RESPONSE COVID-19 IMPACTS ON AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY, AND LIVELIHOOD IN MIZORAM

With the spreading of COVID-19 in India massive consequences to health and livelihood are feared, and the government has imposed a 21 days national lockdown to break the chain of virus transmission. The complete shutdown of all economic activities except essential services will create an economic crisis, supply chain disruption and misery for the poor, with massive job losses and rising food insecurity. To address the consequences of COVID-19 impact on Agriculture and the supply chain disruptions some measures have to be adopted and special cropping calendar has to be advised.

IFAD-FOCUS PROGRAMME ON CASSAVA (*Manihot esculenta*) CULTIVATION TO MITIGATE THE EMERGENCY FOOD REQUIREMENT DURING SUPPLY CHAIN DISRUPTION DUE TO COVID-19.

WHY CASSAVA?

1. Cassava is a good solid food for human being.
2. The planting materials are easily available.
3. No complication in cultivation practices. It is a hardy crop that grows reasonably well in poor soil and in areas with low or unpredictable rainfall.
4. Requirement of water is minimal, and can be cultivated under rain fed successfully.
5. A good animal feed, if there is surplus production.
6. No major pest and diseases on Cassava. Cassava mosaic virus and Cassava mealy bugs are the only common disease and pest with mild incidence.
7. Cassava is a climate resilient crop, can sustain extreme climate and natural calamity.
8. Cassava can be harvested within 9-10 months of planting with good yield. (20-30t/Ha)
9. The leaves of cassava can be used for silkworm rearing.
10. The alternate staple food in times of crisis.

IMPLEMENTATION:

It is proposed that the implementation may be done under IFAD-FOCUS Project in four Project Districts under the component of Jhum Fallow management. It will be suitable to cultivate cassava in Jhum fallow land/the first year of abandoned jhum.

DISTRICT WISE TARGET

SL.NO.	DISTRICT	NO. OF VILLAGE	AREA (Ha.)	EXPECTED YIELD (MT)
1.	CHAMPHAI	85	212.5	2125
2.	KOLASIB	30	75	750
3.	SERCHHIP	30	75	750
4.	MAMIT	59	147.5	1475
	TOTAL	204	510	5100

Cont 2.

TABLE:1 Costing for cultivation of cassava/tapioca with legume cover crops annual & perennials in one (1) hectare area under fallow jhum lands during 2020-2021 FY

Sl. No	Items/Activity	Unit	Rate per unit (Rs)	Quantity	Amount (Rs)	COSTS-SHARING		
						IFAD Loan	GOM	Beneficiary
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
A	<u>COST OF CRUCIAL INPUTS:</u> i) Cassava Setts (20cms long with 8-10 nodes) at 1 m X 1 m Spacing.	Sett	1.50	10000 Setts	15,000	13,500	1500	NIL
	ii) Transportation of Planting materials from source to site.	Ha.	LS	LS	500	450	50	NIL
SUB-TOTAL OF 'A' COSTS					15,000	13,500	1,500	
B	<u>COST OF FIELD OPERATIONS:</u>							
	i) Land preparation: Clearance of Vegetation and weeds, layout planning, Pit Digging.	Ha.	3000	1	3000	2700	300	NIL
	ii) Planting of Sett: Placing the sett in position and pit filling	Ha.	1	1	2000	-	-	2000
	iii) Intercultural Operations : weeding, earthing up, thinning, etc.	Ha.	1	1	1500	-	-	1500
SUB-TOTAL OF 'B' COSTS					7,000	-	-	3,500
GRAND TOTAL (A + B + C)					22,000	16650	1850	3,500

TABLE2: The following normal interventions will be incorporated with the above activity from fallow management which is already reflected in the AWPB 2020-2021

Sl. No	Items/Activity	Unit	Total Quantity	Unit Costs	Amount (Rs)	COSTS-SHARING			Remarks
						IFAD Loan	GOM	Beneficiary	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
	i) Legume-Annuals Cowpea/Rice bean/Arhar/ Soyabean, etc.	per ha	510	1500	765000	688500	76500	NIL	
	ii) Legume-Perennials Tree bean/Subabul, etc. 9 m X 9 m Spacing.	Per ha	510	1500	765000	688500	76500	NIL	

CALENDAR OF WORKS:

MONTH	ITEMS OF WORKS	REMARKS
APRIL-15 th May, 2020	Identification of Growers/farmers, Land preparation, Collection of Planting materials from local sources, Procurement, distribution to farmers.	Action: PMU/DMUs/FIG
16-30 MAY,2020	Training on POP, Planting	Action: TOs, Farmers
JUNE, 2020	Field verification & Monitoring, reporting	Action: DMUs-TOs, SACs, VLWs
JULY-AUGUST, 2020	Cultural operations like weeding, earthing up, PP measures	Action: Farmers under the guidance of VLWs& Lead farmer
SEPT-OCT, 2020	Field verification	Action: SAC /VLWs
JANUARY, 2021 ONWARDS	Harvesting	Action: Farmers
March, 2020	Complete activity reports Compilation of Reports	DMUs/SACs PMU

STANDARD OPERATINGPROCEDURE:

- 1) Village level meeting should be organized by VLW and Lead Farmer in consultation with President of VC concerned. Village Level Crisis Response Committee should be formed, while members should be selected from CBO's viz.VC, YMA, MHIP and Jhum FIG. VLW and Lead farmer should be ex-officio member of the Committee. Minutes of the meeting along with the list of selected beneficiaries and land holding should be prepared; photocopy of meeting minute should be collected by Lead Farmer and submitted to VLW. Women headed household and poor families among FIG members may be given top priority while selecting beneficiaries.
 - 2) Fallow land should be temporarily allotted to the selected beneficiaries for cultivation of Cassava by the concerned VC.
 - 3) Fund should be credited in Jhum FIG account from the project while Treasurer of Crisis Response Committee should be appointed from Jhum FIG members; however, funds from the project may be managed by the Committee. All financial related matters should be reflected in book of accounts; however the same should be transparent and ready for auditing from the project any time.
 - 4) Procurement of Cassava sets should be done locally by the concerned Crisis Response Committee following the project Community Procurement Manual.
 - 5) Works Execution should be carried out as community works under the guidance of Crisis Response Committee.
 - 6) Farmers Training will be conducted by Technical Staff of PMU&DMUs.
 - 7) Lead Farmers and VLW concerned of the village should supervise every stage of activities.
 - 8) A Report format will be developed for Quarterly Reports.
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