

SUCCESS STORY OF LOW-COST NURSERY ENTREPRENEURS UNDER FOCUS-SERCHHIP

(In Convergence with Agriculture Department, Serchhip)

PROFILE

Activity : Establishment of Nursery (under Community Conservation Area)

Project : FOCUS, District Management Unit- Serchhip

Funding: International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

District : Serchhip

Amount : Rs 50,000 per unit

Establishment of nursery as stated in the Project Implementation Manual (PIM) is one of the project activities under Community Conservation and is essential and highly required in order to support its policy of entrepreneurship development and promote generation of income by the farmers. It will also ensure availability of quality planting materials while promoting agroforestry.



FARMERS' PROFILE

Farmers, interested in establishing a small scale nursery, with profound interest in crop production and propagation, were identified from the district. It is worth mentioning that few of them had even invested previously in raising of fruit crops on private investment. These farmers exhibited keen interest in agri-startups as agriculture is their main source of income. The farmers identified were;

Sl. No	Name of Farmer	Village	Area (acre)	Location of nursery	GPS coordinates	Phone no
1	Lalpianthara	Chekawn	1	Dairam	23.186081 93.018196	9436595217
2	Lalramhlua	Sailulak	2.5	Dap zar	23.120366 93.146597	8414006602
3	PC. Lalnunmawia	Vanlaiphai	1.5	Tlinga Lui	23.129593 93.055115	9615002385

4	T. Lalnguhluna	Lungkawlh	1	Chalkawn	23.080679 93.084546	7085142601
5	Lalrinenga	Lungchhuan	2	Saisih	23.15889 92.99898	9436700171
6	C. Lalhawnghiana	Bawktlang	2	Hriangkham	23.144933 93.069515	7630088938
7	TBC. Zodinpuia	Mualcheng	0.5	Bunghuairam	23.184653 93.053863	8974968414
8	C. Lalhranga	E. Lungdar	3	Sazukmual	23.12053 93.06560	9612731590
9	C. Zorampara	N. Serchhip	1	Lungrual Ram	23.545633 92.852399	9436965018
10	HL. Muanthanga	Serchhip AOC	3	Thuhruk Zau	23.287423 92.829727	9862726249
11	PC. Siamliana	Serchhip Chhim Veng	0.5	Zawlpui	23.26189 92.85949	9862127172
12	Lalchhanhimi	Chhiahtlang	1	Chhiahtlang	23.378044 92.848677	9612798306
13	C. Lallawmkima	Khawbel	1.5	Sakei No neih Zawl	23.471288 92.949841	9862850502
14	F. Zothansanga	Khumtung	1	Pawngi Puk	23.562593 92.846562	8837284689
15	Lalnunmawia	Hmunzawl	1.5	Pipu Zawl	23.287735 92.989500	6009003462
16	Lalthanmawia	Hmuntha	1.5	Hlumpui	23.456784 92.902036	9862442151
17	Vanlalruala	Thentlang	1	Khankawn	23.426990 92.907399	8787854893
18	Lalchhuanmawia	Rullam	1	Tuihla ruam	23.427032 92.995077	9862810925
19	Hmasawnzela	Baktawng	1.5	Hmuntha	23.538269 92.847427	9862063240

ACTIVITY IMPLEMETATION

Skill Training/Capacity building

Capacity building is the first step in entrepreneurship development. Before establishing the nurseries, technical and entrepreneurship skill development was provided through training on establishment and management of nursery. The training was conducted by DMU-Serchhip on 1st August, 2020 at Farmers Training Hall. and technical staffs briefed the farmers on the basics including the purpose and criteria of the activity. Farmers were also shared their experienced in the training, which was found very resourceful in instituting confidence and interest of the farmers.



Fig: Training on nursery establishment

Nursery set-up

The cost and estimates of the nursery was drafted by the technical concerned staff, as a guide for the farmers. Every step of the establishment was constantly monitored.





Latitude: 23.261711
 Longitude: 92.859371
 Elevation: 462.21m
 Accuracy: 3.8m
 Time: 16-11-2020 15:54
 Note: Serchhip 2&3 Pu. Star

Selection of species

Tree and fruit species, as required by the CCA farmers were selected for raising in the nurseries. As a part to promote local, underutilized species which were locally consumed were also considered. Thus the selected species serves multipurpose functions from consumption, medicines, wood products, in addition to the agricultural produce, for climate resilience and as an additional source of income to the farmers.

Sl. No	Common Name	Mizo name	Botanical name
1	Avocado	Butter thei	<i>Persea americana</i>
2	Jackfruit	Lamkhuang	<i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i>
3	Amla	Sunhlu	<i>Emblica officinalis</i>
4	Carambola	Theiherawt	<i>Averrhoa carambola L.</i>
5	Burmese grape	Pangkai	<i>Baccaurea ramiflora</i>
6	Tree Bean	Zawngtah	<i>Parkia timoriana</i>
7	Lasuni	Thingthupui	<i>Dysoxylum procerum</i>
8	Mountain peanut/Inca nut	Sacha Inchi	<i>Plukenetia volubilis</i>
9	Chaplash	Tatkawng	<i>Artocarpus chaplasha</i>
10	Nepali hog plum	Theikhuangchawm	<i>Choerospondias axillaris</i>
11	Silverberry	Sarzuk	<i>Elaeagnus commutate</i>
12	Mango	Theihai	<i>Mangifera indica</i>
13	Tree pivet	Chawmzil	<i>Ligustrum robustum</i>
14	Bishop wood	Khuangthli	<i>Bischofia javanica</i>
15	Mandarin orange	Serthlum	<i>Citrus reticulata</i>
16	Tamarind	Tengtere	<i>Tamarindus indica</i>
17	Nuts	Thei pil sak	<i>Juglans regia, Castania sativa</i>
18	Lemon	Nimbu	<i>Citrus limon</i>
19	Crape myrtle	Chawnpui	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>
20	Sap tree	Vawmva	<i>Garcinia paniculata</i>
21	Cherry Blossom	Tleizawng	<i>Prunus serrulata</i>
22	Indian prickly ash	Chingit	<i>Zanthoxylum rhetsa</i>
23	Gamhar	Thlanvawng	<i>Gmelina arborea</i>



Monitoring

After the establishment of nurseries, monitoring and verification was taken up by the staffs. The species and number of saplings raised by each farmer was recorded accordingly.

OUTCOME

Marketing of seedlings/saplings

The seedlings/saplings raised by the farmers were procured by the Agriculture Department, Serchhip, under the scheme 'Sub-Mission on Agro-Forestry under NMSA (2017-2018)' or SMAF in short. This opportunity created an initial market for the farmers who could, from the revenue, expand their investment in the nursery and transform it into a medium scale business. It is not to be overlooked, however that besides the procurement by the department, farmers had sold their seedlings to local market and private personnel as well

Revenue generation.

Sl. No	Identified species	No of seedlings raised	Selling price (Rs)	Total amount (Rs)
1	Tree Bean	8442	30	253260
2	Avocado	491	50	24550

3	Jackfruit	1600	20	32000
4	Amla	1525	20	30500
5	Carambola	2314	50	115700
6	Burmese grape	1362	50	68100
7	Lasuni	355	70	24850
8	Inca nut	500	30	15000
9	Chaplash	17	20	340
10	Nepali hog plum	8	20	160
11	Silverberry	19	20	380
12	Mango	709	20	14180
13	Tree pivot	510	20	10200
14	Bishop wood	780	20	15600
15	Mandarin orange	730	40	29200
16	Tamarind	494	20	9880
17	Nuts	97	20	1940
18	Lemon	2940	30	88200
19	Crape myrtle	80	20	1600
20	Sap tree	15	20	300
21	Cherry Blossom	450	20	9000
22	Indian prickly ash	10	30	300
23	Gamhar	80	20	1600
	Total	23528		7,46,840

The total amount raised were 23528 seedlings worth Rs. 7,46,840. These were sold either locally or to the Agriculture department. According to the SMAF report, Agriculture department had procured most of the seedlings from these established nurseries.

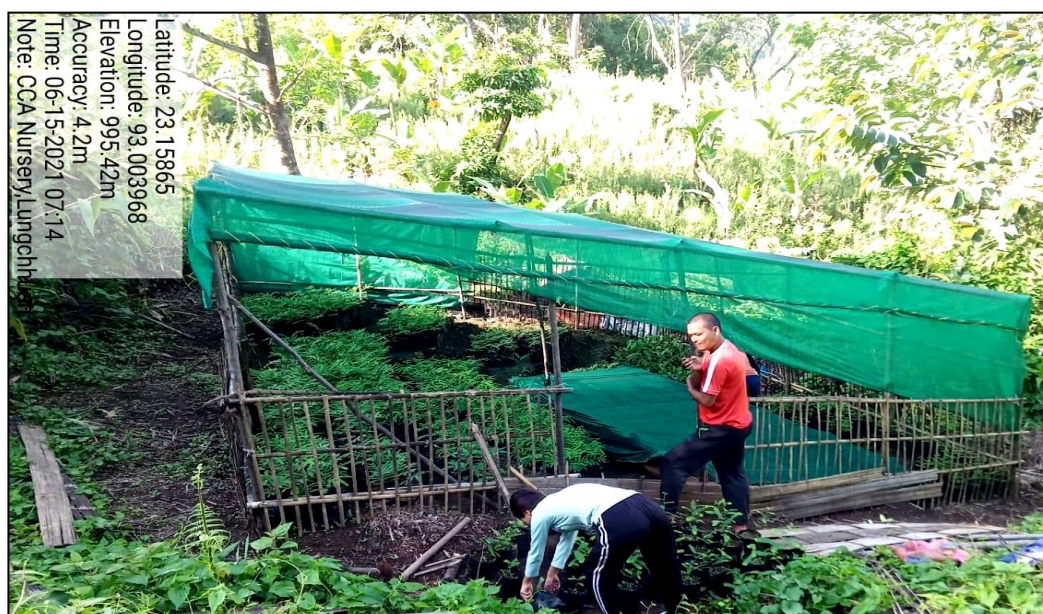
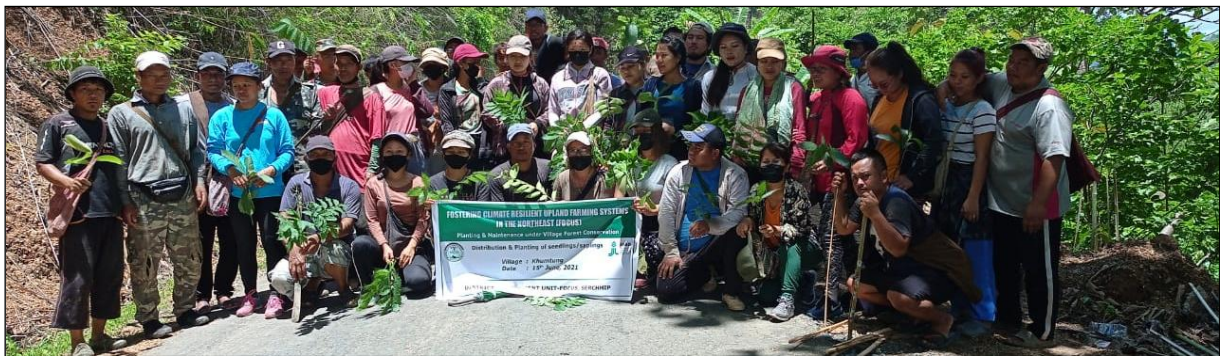


Fig: A farmer transferring seedlings for selling

Planting and maintenance of CCA

As a part of activity under Community Conservation Area under FOCUS, seedling/saplings from these nurseries were also planted by the community on the occasion of YMA day on 15th June, 2021 which is observed every year by planting of trees. This activity was possible only due to the availability of sufficient seedlings from the established nurseries, thus is considered a double benefit. DMU-Serchhip is also very pleased to acknowledged that such occasion could be initiated through the project.



IMPACT

- The nursery entrepreneurship provides additional income of the farmers improving their livelihood.
- Availability of locally preferred species which are of good quality for planting in the community and private areas.
- Knowledge, skills and experiences were gained from this project activity.
- They become an inspiration to other farmers in their locality to engage in nursery entrepreneurship and instill an interest to participate in the activity as an alternative of the age-old farming practices.
- A new engagement to farmers which is not only profitable but also environment friendly.
- Promotion of afforestation by raising tree species for certain agroforestry systems.

CONCLUSION

The impact evident from this activity proved that nursery establishment is a successful means of entrepreneurship which could further be advanced and invested as part of the project in the future.