

# **SUCCESS STORY ON CULTIVATION OF BANANA UNDER JHUM**

## **PROFILE**

**Name of the activity:** Supply of planting materials to Jhum (Current jhum improvement)

**Name of Beneficiary:**

**Village:** Khumtung

**District:** Serchhip

**Source of Fund:** IFAD – 90%, GoM – 10%

**Amount:** Rs.81,000/-

## **BACKGROUND**

Khumtung village of Serchhip district has been taking up banana cultivation for many years now that the area is renowned for it in the entire state. Almost all the families residing in the area are engaged in banana cultivation and the produce is of such a quality that the demand is always high in the market. It was reported that the average banana trees owned by the banana planters are 600 to 700 with some families who own more than 2000 banana trees. This has become a household farming activity for the village and their main source of income.

The cultivation of banana as observed is a significant activity of the farming community of Khumtung village. However, the people do not always have the means to enable a continuous flow of production as at times, pest and disease management became a tedious task without some financial support. The farmers often do not have reliable source of good planting materials or even the financial aid to procure them.

Observing the importance of the crop for the village and the gaps in the cultivation faced by the farmers, FOCUS, DMU-Serchhip finds it a necessity to intervene and provide any assistance possible so the village could continue to uphold its reputation in banana production.

## ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION

The activity was taken up under ‘current jhum improvement’ as it was observed to be a potential activity to improve jhum cultivation and a way towards establishment of a settled farming system. The implementation of activity was initiated on April – May, 2021.

The implementation covers 4 (Four) Farmers Interest Groups (FIGs) covering 54 households in total. Farmers were assisted financially for procurement of banana suckers with an estimation of 150 suckers per beneficiary/household/. This is supposed to cover an area of 13.5 acre in total with the support valued for 0.25 acre per beneficiary/household. The intervention was implemented with continual guidance, assessment and physical support from the DMU staffs.





## OUTPUT/IMPACT

The increase in quality planting materials has led to an increased production and assured quality produce. Initially, farmers often use the easily available banana suckers which they could get free of cost irrespective of the quality. However, with the assistance, the cost for the banana suckers were covered thus farmers could get the quality planting materials of their choice. This has resulted in a potential increase in productivity and hence the income. Within a year, an increased income (gross) of Rs 1,50,000 was recorded per beneficiary/ household much to the delight of the DMU-Serchhip. The assessment on the production and increase income generated per village was recorded as below.

Name of FIG	Household	Gross Income Generated (Rs)
Belkhai Jhum and Fallow	16	24,00,000
Ngana bawk Jhum and Fallow	13	19,50,000
Darbial bawk Jhum and Fallow	15	22,50,000
Kawnpui Jhum and Fallow	11	16,50,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>82,50,000</b>

## **CONCLUSION**

The income generation observed for the activity is only the beginning of the farmer's benefit. With continuous intervention, it is projected that not only would there be an increase in the income generated but also improve the living condition of the farmers to a certain degree and ascertain production of quality produce to satisfy the market demand.