

SUCCESS STORY ON COMMUNITY RANCHING OF MITHUN UNDER FOCUS PROJECT
SERRCHHIP DISTRICT

a. Introduction.

The Mithun (*Bos Frontalis*) is a large Semi-domesticated bovine species of animals endemic to North East Indian Jungle and it used to be and still is culturally venerated by the people of Mizoram. The Mithun are regarded as a symbol of prestige and wealth and food for lavish tribal fest on a special day like marriage etc. The Mithun are reared on free range terrestrial system and are traditionally left in the Jungle to graze on natural fodder. Mithun rearing is a source of passive income for the farmers as they don't have to tend or feed them everyday like other livestock animals.

Due to its important and value of the animal the FOCUS Project with the help of AH & Vety Department working together are taking full initiative in promoting the Mithun farming. The main objective of the project is to:

1. To develop a commercially and economically viable Mithun Farms by promoting Mithun rearing through community ranching.
2. To make fattened Mithun available within the district.
3. To Promote Mithun Rearing and increased per capita available of animal protein and other meat product.
4. Social benefit and economic upliftment of rural livelihood.

b. FOCUS intervention

Under the Project 5 Mithun Society/Association from 5 villages were selected namely Leng, Sailulak, Lungkawlh, Khawbel and Hmawngkawn Villages within Serchhip District and within these villages the different activities taken are-

1. Construction of Mithun shelter: Construction of Mithun Shelter is to provide shelter for the animals specially for the pregnant animals and sick animals so that they can get special care under suitable environment and Mithun shelter is also used for keeping the calf and young animals during an attack by the predator specially the wild dogs.

Another small shelter (community Shelter) is also constructed for the farmers nearby the Mithun shelter which will assist the famers in taking care of the animals more easily as Mithun are reared in the forest.

2. Constructed of water supply facilities: Four Water Trough and Water intake is constructed in each villages and the purpose of constructing the water trough and intake is to provide fresh and easily accessible clean water for the animals.

Five numbers of 2000 liters syntax is also bought and are placed near the Mithun Shelter and community shelter for drinking and for cleaning the shelter.

3. Construction of Mithun Travis: Two numbers of Mithun Travis was constructed in each villages and the purpose is to restrain the animal while giving medication or vaccine etc.

4. Distribution of Barbed Wire: About 5km long barbed wire was distributed to each villages for fencing the grazing area of the Mithun animals to distinguish the grazing area from agriculture land so that the Mithun animals will not be able to enter the agriculture area and also preventing the people for using the grazing area for agriculture purpose.

5. Mineral Block Demonstration: Demonstration was done by Spero Agro Vet Pvt Ltd. and was assisted by Animal husbandry manager and Veterinary Field Assistant under Focus Project to each village. Under the Demonstration farmers were taught how to make a mineral block of different sized using different materials and they were also given to them 40 numbers of readymade 3.3 kg minerals blocks. The purpose of this is easily accessible of minerals required by the animals for better growth and health.

6. Fodder Development: COFS 31 (Sorghum) seeds which contain High Protein were distributed to each Mithun society and were planted for Mithun animal consumption. This will help in better growth and health of the animals.

C. Conclusion.

After FOCUS Project Intervention the population of Mithun animals has increase to a huge numbers in each village and many people are newly engaged in Mithun farming. The Population has increased from 294 to 869 numbers of Mithun animals within the last few years after FOCUS intervention.

Name of Village	Before FOCUS Project Intervention (2018)	After FOCUS Project Intervention (2019)
Hmawngkawn	101	145
Khawbel	43	80
Leng	22	155
Lungkawlh	42	122
Sailulak	86	367
Total	294	869

If not from the attack of Asiatic wild dog the population of Mithun could have been higher as more that 100 numbers of Mithun calves' died within the last 2 years within Serchhip District.



**MITHUN SHELTER FROM KHAWBEL, LUNGKAWLH, HMAWNGKAWN, LENG, SAILULAK VILLAGE,
 SERCHHIP DISTRICT**



TRAVIS INSTALLED NEAR MITHUN SHELTER



WATER TROUGH



WATER INTAKE



MITHUN COMMUNITY SHELTER