

CASE STUDY ON CULTIVATION OF MIZO CHILLI UNDER FOCUS MAMIT DISTRICT

Introduction

Mizo Chilli also known as Bird's eye chilli is one of the main crops cultivated in the traditional jhum land along with paddy. Although it has high market demand for its unique pungency, most farmers do not consider to cultivate on a large scale but for their consumption and few for side income. Apparently, the reason for farmers not going on large scale cultivation is the fact that they are marginal farmers who cannot risk to rely on single crop to support the family.

FOCUS Intervention

The project aims to increase the family income of Mizo chilli growers by the following-

- 1) Cluster approach farming is followed as far as possible to increase the bargaining power of farmers at the time of selling.
- 2) With the unit cost allotted i.e Rs1500. **Extra seeds 3kg/hh (apart from the seeds they own)**, plant protection chemicals and financial assistance (for labour cost) is provided through community procurement.
- 3) Farmers training on the cultural practices and judicious use of plant protection chemicals and fertilisers is provided as well.
- 4) Currently, with the aim of sustainable improved production trials of monoculture has been undertaken in two villages consisting 50 households at Dampui and N.sabual village.



Production Table under FOCUS intervention

Year	No.of village	No.of HH	No.of FIG's	Production sold (Kgs)			Income generated (Rs)			Income generated/HH (Rs)
				Fresh	Dry	Total	Fresh @Rs200/kg	Dry @Rs350/kg	Total (Rs)	
2020	5	303	5	6025	9144	15169	12,05,000	32,00,400	44,05,400	14540
2021	4	114	6	2280	3534	5814	45,600	12,36,900	12,82,500	11250
2022	11	500	16	7075	21225	28300	14,15,000	74,28,750	88,43,750	14858

Comparison Table: Harvesting report from project uncovered villages (traditional) is used as control.

Year	Average production sold /hh						Average income generated/hh (Fresh@Rs200/kg, Dry@Rs350/kg)						Remarks
	Traditional method (Before)			FOCUS Intervention (After)			Traditional method (Before)			FOCUS Intervention (After)			
	Fresh (Kgs)	Dry (kgs)	Total	Fresh (Kgs)	Dry (kgs)	Total (Rs)	Fresh (Rs)	Dry (Rs)	Total (Rs)	Fresh (Rs)	Dry (Rs)	Total (Rs)	
2020-2022	7	15	22	17	37	54	1400	5250	6650	3400	12950	16350	About 41% increase in both production and income has been observed

Challenges

1. Convincing farmers to rely more on single crop is a big risk.
2. Selling at a bulk is difficult.
3. Lack of postharvest machinery (for drying) results in selling to whoever buyer is available.
4. Leaf curl disease (viral disease) is a big factor that reduces production.
5. Lack of proper buyer.

Recommendations

1. Hopefully with the increase in unit cost more actions (intercultural operation) can be taken.
2. Introduction of systematic farming is a must to improve jhum land.
3. Primary processing unit (Dryer) and storage facilities for bulk production.
4. Engagement with entrepreneur (buyer) is necessary. (at the moment negotiation is under process with Thintlangpa Foods LLP)