



Fostering Climate Resilient Upland Farming System in the North East

- ◆ Improvement of Jhum Cultivation
- ◆ Value chain & Market Access
- ◆ Project Management

(Free circulation to members only)



FOCUS Newsletter

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MONTHLY MEETING WITH NODAL DEPARTMENT

Monthly Review Meeting with Nodal Department (Agriculture Department) was held on 8th December, 2023 (Friday) at the Office Chamber of the Director, Agriculture Department & Mission Director, FOCUS, Mizoram.

The meeting discussed various project activities along with certain issues relating to the implementation of FOCUS project:

1. Extension of FOCUS project for 4 (four) months and new phase.
2. Integrated Farming System (IFS-CADA) and the critical importance of the Nodal Department's involvement. The Nodal Department was urged to proactively enforce the existing IFS by integrating it with the various ongoing schemes within the Department. This integration was proposed as a crucial step to support the objectives of the FOCUS project effectively.
3. Presentation on the physical achievements of the project and future plan for the upcoming remaining months.



MEETING WITH DISTRICT PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT



Virtual meeting with the District Management Unit's was held on 29th November, 2023 (Wednesday), 1:00 PM to discussed the physical and financial achievements of FY 2023 - 24, financial status and action plan for the up - coming months.

The district team reported that activities will be implemented after the Model Code of Conduct and for the smooth functioning of the project and timely implementation of activities, they have already selected the beneficiaries/ FIGs etc.

During the meeting, the district teams were also informed to carefully validate/ cross check the data received from field level and to maintain the prescribed format which is circulated from PMU.

MIS - DATA BASE ENTRY TRAINING

30th November & 1st December, 2023:

2 (two) days MIS—data base entry training was conducted during 30th November and 1st December, 2024. The training was attended by Manager (M&E), Dy. Manager MIS, Assistant Managers (planning) and Computer Assistant (PMU)



7th December, 2023:

The MIS training for FOCUS software was conducted on 7th December, 2023 at MPSOA Conference Hall, CID Complex, Bungkawn, Aizawl. The training was facilitated by Monitoring & Evaluation team, PMU and training was given by Mr. Lallawmzuala Khawlhing, Project Manager, Lailen Consulting Pvt. Ltd.

SCHEDULED IRRIGATION BASED TRAINING

2 days training on Development of Crop Water Budget & Demonstration to Develop Scheduled Based Irrigation for IFS and Elevated Water Harvesting Structure was conducted during 18th & 20th October, 2024 at Zawlpui Zau and Sialsir Integrated Farming System (IFS), Serchhip District.



FAREWELL OF R.LALNUNZIRA, SPD, FOCUS and WELCOMING OF NEW SPD



On 22nd November, 2023 FOCUS, Mizoram bid farewell to the State Project Director, Mr. R. Lalnunzira and welcomed the new SPD, Mrs, Lalenzami Haolai, Joint Director, Agriculture Department.



Success Story
Boar Semen Station, Kolasib District

Reproductive assistance techniques, such as Artificial Insemination (AI) have significantly improved production rates on pig farms in recent years. According to the FAO (2016), pork is worldwide the most consumed type of red meat thanks to its excellent rate of food conversion, generating a significant demand for world food security. Consequently, implementing AI reproductive techniques allow optimizing production conditions, reducing their cost and increasing their efficiency. It must be recognized that the optimization and improvement in the reproductive processes of pig farms with the implementation of reproductive assistance services such as AI, can lead to greater productive performance and improve efficiency.

FOCUS Project recognized that Artificial Insemination is the key in pig reproduction and any effort to develop this activity will go in a long way in the breeding activities both in the rural and urban areas as well as up to village level. The project proposed to set up boar semen stations, with proper cold chain extending up to the village level at the farmer's door step.

Following this, Boar Semen Stations were constructed in four (4) districts viz. Kolasib, Serchhip, Mamit and Champhai district. Civil construction of all the buildings and biosecurity were completed by AH & Vety in convergence with National Livestock Mission (NLM) which account for 61.70% of the total project cost. Material equipments, propulsion cost, technical and non-technical staff salary and other operational cost were contributed by FOCUS which account for 38.30% of the total cost.

The setting up of Boar Semen Station is very fortunate for both the Department of AH & Vety and the Piggery farmers. When there is no provision for Artificial Insemination, pig farmers used the breeding boar for reproduction which is time and money consuming and associated with risk of contracting diseases.

The fully equipped laboratory is beneficial in identifying the quality of semen for insemination, the reproduction capacity of boar and any presence of defect in the sperm. Availability of a good quality boar of known pedigree made it possible to improve the overall population of pig as the semen collected from a single animal can be used to inseminate large number of sows. The availability of hot and cold storage box for transportation and extender of semen made it possible to preserve the semen for a longer time to transport and disseminate the semen to a wider area. With the help of Boar Semen Station there is high hope that the district will soon be self sufficient in pig and pork production.

The Boar Semen Station in Kolasib has started functioning under the project since April, 2021 serving farmers from different villages within the district by providing timely Artificial Insemination with superior semen quality. During April, 2021 to March, 2022 AI service was delivered to 2573 animals in the Semen Station cover area. Through this service, 11404 numbers of piglets (5858 male and 5546 female) were born. With natural service the farmers had to pay Rs. 2000 inside Kolasib town area. AI with superior quality germplasm was done only at Rs. 500 per insemination. Farmers could save significant amount of money using AI service. With piglet born of 11404 numbers, after considering 5% mortality, farmers in Kolasib area generated an income of about Rs. 750 lakh through piglets alone. Apart from this the Semen Station could sustain itself for feed cost, cost of production of packed semen and other additional cost such as cost for deworming and medicine etc.

Unfortunately, Since April 2022, regular AI service could not be provided to the farmers as the

Station faced loss of its breeding boars due to African Swine Fever (ASF). However, during those times, limited AI service was provided to those farmers who requested the service by procuring the boar semen from Regional Semen Station, A.H & Vety, Dept. Selesih.

After following standard protocol for ASF, the Semen Station had kept replacement boars and trained them for AI service. As a result, the Semen Station had resumed its normal services since January, 2022 with an insemination of 106 animals during the month.



BSS Entrance with Changing Room



Laboratory Building



Sty for Breeding Boar



Semen Collection Area with Dummy



Semen Collection



VFA Performing AI

Exposure visit cum training of goat farmers (FOCUS)

3 days exposure visit cum training of goat farmers was conducted by FOCUS, Mizoram during 5th - 7th Oct, 2023 at The Goat Trust (TGT global Development Services Pvt Ltd), Rasoolpur Sadat, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

23 goat farmers from the project districts had attended the exposure visit cum training course, where they were officially guided by Dr. Vanlalhriatpuia, Manager, Boar Semen Station, Kolasib and Dr. David H Beihroly, Manager, Boar Semen Station, Serchhip.



The exposure cum training course was conducted



with the objective of strengthening the capacity and skills of the farmers in goatery related activities and to make them realize the scope of improvement in the current practices and to orient or sensitize them to the improved practices.

Farmers were selected based on their perfor-



mances on goatery. During the training, the facilitators gave the training lectures through powerpoint presentations, hands on trainings along with practical field visits on each sub-sector and was followed by interactions/discussions. The lecture on goatery covers housing, feeding, sanitation, health management, vaccination, kidding management, care of kids and pregnant does, record keeping, monsoon management and application of herbal medicines.

The farmers were grateful of having the opportunity to learn and explore the technical ways of goat farming where the productions can be enhanced, and were looking forward to replicate the lesson learned and experience in their own place of farming.

The farmers have also visited the Poultry Hatchery Unit at Rajuwapur, Mahmudabad, Uttar Pradesh, where they learned and experienced the process and management of the hatchery unit.

ACTION PHOTO



One Day Orientation Programe on Basic Functioning and Management of FPO under FOCUS, Mizoram



SPD Meeting with DMU, Mamit District



Vanapa FPC Participating in Winter Fest 2023



SPD Meeting with DMU, Serchhip District



Cow pea, Lungchhuan IFS



Soyabean, Rullam IFS



Commissioning of DAO, Saitual District



Commissioning of Modern Jaggery Unit, Khawlailung



Monitoring of Water Storage & Delivery System, Saitual District



Monitoring of Pig Breeding Unit, Saitual District



Supply of Quality Seeds (Rabi)



MIS Training