



Farmers prosperity through Farmer Interest Group in Tirap district of Arunachal Pradesh

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INTRODUCTION

Smt. Phehtao Wangsa, W/o D. Wangsa is a 38-year-old lady from Village – Naitong, Post office- Deomali, Tirap district, Arunachal Pradesh. She has keen interest in farming and allied activities. Due to her own effort, she started vegetable growing at their small farm holding. After observing her engagement in agriculture and allied activities, Krishi Vigyan Kendra Tirap, Arunachal Pradesh has decided to encourage her zeal for betterment of farming in whole village of Naitong. In this consequence, Senior Scientist & Head of KVK Tirap has ordered his staff - Abhimanyu Chaturvedi, SMS (Horticulture), to form a Farmers Interest Group (FIG) in this village. Following his order, Abhimanyu Chaturvedi form a FIG in the name of Naitang Farmer Interest Group during 2022. The total 32 farmers engaged in this group now. Smt. Phehtao Wangsa was appointed as Secretary/head of the FIG.

The FIG is assisted by different departments like- department of agriculture, department of Horticulture, department of Veterinary, department of fishery etc. The group members were trained by KVK Tirap. The FIG grows seasonal vegetable – French bean, chilli, pumpkin, etc. Toria, paddy. The total 10 vermi composting units are also under function by the guidance of KVK experts; in which the farm raw material is converting into compost which using for cultivation of crops.

In the role of Secretary of FIG; Smt. Phehtao Wangsa has established good linkages with different public development departments like Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Department of Horticulture, Department of Agriculture, Department of Veterinary Science etc.

In North east the huge are kept follow after harvesting of paddy crop due to lack of irrigation facilities. Keeping these things in minds, KVK motivated to farmers for growing short duration crops which requires minimum amount of water. In this context Toria and French bean crop selected based on the local conditions.

After establishment of FIG, they started cultivation of French bean and Toria during the winter season of 2022 under the guidance of KVK experts. During the first year of inception 2 ha French bean (Variety – VL Bean 2) were grown at community base with full package of practices. Similarly, Toria (TS 36) was cultivated during the same season in 04 ha land with full package of practices. The yield of French bean was recorded 108 q/ha which was better than farmers practises. And the Toria yield was 6.2 q/ha which was also higher under the guidance of KVK team. The net income of Rs. 1,12,000/ (Rs. 56,000/ha) and Rs. 72,000 (Rs. 18,000/ha) by French bean and Toria respectively. The total net income during 2022-23 was calculated Rs. 2,50,000/. After the positive results of first year's cropping, the members of Farmer Interest

Group encouraged and decided to expand the area of cropping. During the year of 2023, they sown French bean in 06 ha land and Toria in 11 ha of land respectively.

Subsequently, a subgroup of 04 farmers has started rearing of pig and another subgroup of 08 farmers were started poultry rearing during 2023. Under the pig unit total 04 females and 01 male piglets were provided by KVK. Under the piggery unit, piglets were reared under the combination of local plus balanced feed for fast growth and development with gaining maximum weight. Under the poultry the total 200 chicks were provided by the KVK to this FIG. The poultry units were reared well under better environment and feeding conditions. After 48 days, the chicks attained the average weight of 2.10 kg. The two batches of poultry were reared during the first year (2022) and three batches were reared during second's year (2023). The KVK experts were made regular field visits, group discussions, training as per the need of the crops. The total net income during 2023-24 was Rs. 7,13,600.

Table 1. Crops and enterprises with their production and income

Crop/enterprises	Variety/Bread	Area (ha)/Unit		Yield (q/ha) or unit		Total yield (q)		Total income (Rs. /ha) or per unit	
		2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
French bean	VL Bean 2	2	6	108	112	216	672	112000	348000
Toria	TS 36	4	11	6.2	6.8	24.8	74.8	72000	211200
Vermi composting	-	10		2	2.4	20	24	4000	4400
Piggery	Local	1		12		12		56000	
Poultry	Sonali	1	1	4.10	7.98	200 numbs	380 numbs	62000	94000
Total Net Income (Rs.)								2,50,000	7,13,600



