



A success story on Vegetable Cultivation through Farmers Interest Group

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INTRODUCTION

Smt. Chasun Arang, W/o Late S. Arang is a 46-year-old lady from Village – Wasathong, Post office- Deomali, Tirap district, Arunachal Pradesh. After demise of her husband, she decided to come forward to her farming activities as well as caring of her children. She started vegetable farming, fruits farming and paddy farming on her farm. She is energetic lady and she wanted to adopt new agricultural technologies on her farm. In this regard she meets with staffs of Department of Horticulture, Department of Agriculture and Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK). After observing her curiosity as well as interest in farming; Dr. Abhimanyu Chaturvedi, SMS (Horticulture), KVK Tirap, Arunachal Pradesh has formed a Farmers Interest Group (FIG) of vegetable growers in village of Wasathong, Tirap district as Wasathong Farmers Interest Group during 2021. Mrs. Chasun was appointed as Secretary/head of the FIG.

In this FIG total 24 members are working for mutual benefit. 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 – Garden pea, Okra, French bean, chilli, pumpkin, etc.

In the role of Secretary of FIG; Smt. Chasun has got a keen interest in horticulture related activities and has developed good linkages with different public development departments like Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Department of Horticulture, Department of Agriculture, Department of Veterinary Science etc.

The story started with the introduction of improved Okra, variety – Kashi Pragati (VRO-6), released by IIVR, Varanasi. In last 3-4 years major diseases like leaf curl, yellow vein mosaic virus has emerged as devastating problems for Okra crop.

Subsequently cost of cultivation has also gone up and labour shortage has a major threat for farming community. Farmers are finding it difficult to cope up with the raised input costs and other related problems. Smt. Chasun is also not an exception from these predicaments. These problems motivated farmers to work in group.

The FIG group activity includes agriculture and horticulture planning, organic farming, animal husbandry and vermicomposting. FIG started growing vegetables like Okra, peas, chilli and green leafy

vegetables since 2021. Earlier they used to grow field crops like Paddy and foxtail millet.

Crops and varieties: Under the leadership of Smt. Chasun, the FIG is growing improved peas variety of IIVR - Kashi Samridhi and Kashi Nandini. These varieties were grown in 3 ha land during 2022- 23 and 5 ha during 2023-24 respectively. The FIG has grown Okra (variety – Kashi Pragati) in 4 ha area during the Kharif season of 2023-23 and 2023-24 respectively.

Table-1 Yield and Economics of improved varieties

Crop	Variety	Area (ha)	Yield (q/ha)	Total yield (q)	Net income (Rs. /ha)
Garden Pea	Kashi Samridhi	3	64	192	2,10,000
	Kashi Nandini	5	52	260	3,12,000
Okra	Kashi Pragati	4	118	472	2,28,000
Total Net Income (Rs.)					7,50,000

After demonstration of improved varieties of vegetables by KVK Tirap, the FIG members vigorously grown garden pea (Kashi samridhi and Kashi Nandini varieties) during the rabi season and Okra (Variety Kashi Pragati) of 2022-23 and 2023-24 respectively in the 8 ha and 4 ha land respectively; with full package of practices. As the weather during rabi season in Arunachal Pradesh is dry due to lack of winter, the varieties of garden pea could not yield as per their potential. The seeds of improved varieties were provided for demonstrations by the KVK Tirap. The time-to-time field visits and advisories services were also delivered by KVK to educate other farmers on improved vegetable cultivation.

Market Integration: The local vendors purchased the fresh vegetables in Deomali area of the district. After success of this FIG, the farmers of neighbouring villages are now growing improved varieties of vegetables.

Use of Vermicompost: After continuous training and method demonstration, the

members of FIG are producing vermicompost at their own farm and applying at their vegetable fields.

Use of Bio-fertilizer & Bio-pesticides: After demonstration on uses of biofertilizers; the FIG members are using different kinds of biofertilizers in their vegetable fields. viz. Phosphate Solubilizing Bacteria (PSB), Azospirillum & Azotobacter for enriching the farm yard manure. *Pseudomonas fluoresces*.

Innovativeness: Under the leadership of Smt. Chasun Arang, the group members of FIG are now getting good remunerations from improved varieties of vegetable cultivation at their own farm. With her intervention they have started to grow different vegetable crops in a season in the village and as a result they are realizing better price in the market. She is convinced about the group approach in popularizing technologies among the farmers of her village. And now this Farmers Interest Group is getting popularity in the district for vegetable cultivation in group approach.



