

INTEGRATED RURAL MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (IRMA)

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

Project: Enhancing Livelihood Security of Woman Farmers

Brief Project Descriptions: : Tribal women like in many other indigenous societies are responsible for ensuring food for the family and securing nutrition, post-harvest management to ensure continuity of the traditional seeds and food items. Women also nurture and transfer the knowledge and wisdom of farming practices to the future generation. The National policy for women 2016 envisages empowerment of women by further strengthening their policies for rural women farmers and addressing the emerging priorities of the changing society and ensures the rights of women over resources, services and social protection that also includes women's access to agriculture-based trainings and skill development for both farm and non-farm based entrepreneurship. The non-implementation of policy provisions concerning women and indigenous women in particular remains a challenge. The nutritional and livelihood situation of the communities and women farmers in particular needs to be addressed. IRMA with support from FST initiates revival of the kitchen/backyard gardening and organize women farmers in 5(five) villages by mapping the livelihood situations and conducting awareness on the livelihood and improved nutrition.

Goals of the project: Achieving food, nutrition and improved livelihood security of rural women farmers.

Objectives: Building awareness on the livelihood situations of the communities in the context of social, cultural and economic empowerment of women and recognition of women farmers

EXPOSURE VISIT FOR CROSS LEARNING:

On the 5th of February 2018 47 Women Farmers including IRMA Staffs visited Khangshim village where Ms.Toshang ,Block Resource Person MSRLM Chandel District shared about the importance and benefits of organic farming along with demonstration on vermi compost and Bokashi manures. Later, the women farmers were taken for sightseeing at Kakching Peak Garden, while spending quality time where the team had brief interaction with women farmers of Wangjing inThoubal district.Sharing of ideas and experiences has left everyone in a quite enthusiastic environment.

“To safeguard our Generation and the longevity of mankind” which basically refers to our physical Health and well being, Organic Farming is a necessity says Ms.Toshang who facilitated and demonstrates preparations of organic manure and its benefits.



Displayed vermi compost earthworm



Exposure Tour/ Cross Learning

Issues discussed includes Rights and Entitlements such as the labour card for women farmers, Widows Schemes, Gas connection through BPL Cards and Linkage of SHGs and women farmers groups with different Government Departments .Sharing of Success stories which was an eye opener to all the members present.

WOMEN FARMERS INDIGENOUS SEEDS EXPO/EXHIBITION 2018:

On 17th February 2018 the first ever indigenous seeds expo and exchange programme was held at Elim Resource centre, Gwaltabi with an objective



SEEDS EXPO/EXHIBITION/ SEED FESTIVAL of Women Farmers

- to acknowledge the role of woman who are also the guardians and the custodians of indigenous seeds and passing it to new generation.
 - to promote and enhance the value of indigenous seeds that are on the verge of extinction due to the use of fertilizers and High Yielding variety Seeds .
- Traditional seeds are to be preserved and encouraged as they are native to our mother soil and adapts to the local vegetation and needs no chemical treatment while they are

also pest resistant compared to the commercial seeds and are believed to contain better nutritional. She also urged the village chiefs and elected representatives present to support the cause of women in their effort in terms of linkage and access to schemes and services.

“I am very surprised to see the enthusiasm of the women farmers and the preparation of such event”. This need to be replicated in each village to promote the indigenous seeds. Mr. Khaipao one of the village chief stated.

Mrs. Deihat Haokip who won the 1st prize for her numbered collections of seeds extends her heartfelt gratitude for creating such a platform where she could display her collections of seeds to share and sell. It is also my hobby she said.

Miss Hoilhing a single woman from Urangpat village also won the 2nd prize and said that she learned the traditional seed preserving from her mother and she practices collecting and maintaining varieties of local seeds which make herself dependent without depending on market.

Mrs. Tinlam a woman farmer from Semol is also awarded for her seed preserving techniques. She preserved all her seeds in clothes and earthen container.

These were followed with a screening of Video” on Indigenous Farming Practices in different Parts of North East India Entitled “Seeds Guardian”. With an aim to impart the essence of preserving indigenous Seeds and to add to their understanding as to why it is a necessity. Moreover, visual retains more than that of verbal. This was shared by NEN Chizami who also promotes the same.

Learning and sharing workshop

One day woman farmer’s workshop on Learning and Sharing Workshop was held on 27th March, 2018 at Elim Resource Centre, Gwaltabi. The secretary, rendering the key note address narrates the essence of learning and sharing which can ensure exchange of ideas and experiences which is the main objective of this workshop. Cross learning of inter woman farmers groups may develop a sense of “Give and Take” and belongingness to the group.

SHARING FROM WOMAN FARMERS

1. Lenchonghoi/ Twinomjang woman farmers group:
Mrs Deihat the chairperson and one of the kitchen gardener from the group’s shares her experiences representing their group states that they have attended an Industrial Mela organized by ADC Kangpokpi District. The group won 1st prize for their unique products with household handicraft items made by Mrs Hahat who is gifted with handicrafts. Hoilhing Mate of Urangpat farmers group shares her experiences from attending Biodiversity festival at Chizami invited by NEN. She says that the program also gives a platform of exchanging seeds with women farmers from different communities. She also says that this idea of exchanging creates the sense of oneness and is inspired with the good

practices of others. She also shares the chizami weaves which benefit and sustain the local woman. This can also be implemented in our community she added.

2. The kitchen gardener from all woman farmers groups also shares their experiences in promoting kitchen garden. Mrs. Nengjakim from Twinomjang woman farmers group says that she was now able to consume vegetables from her own garden which decrease the family expenses. "I use cow dung, hen dung and ashes as manure. I am very happy because I can now consume foods which is also tastier and safer" says Mrs. Phavah from Semol woman farmers group.

Mrs. Nemneikim from N,Molhoiphai woman farmers group extend her happiness towards the support. Her aspiration to grow vegetable is made possible with little help from the organization. The provided materials is very helpful in protecting the garden from animals says Mrs. Nemneikim.

CASE STUDY

Mrs. Phavah Haokip a 60 years old women farmer lives in Semol village, Kangpokpi district. She has 7 children, 5 daughters and 2 sons. Mrs. Phavah said that her husband Mr.Seingam is an alcoholic and don't really care for the family.she bears all the responsibilities of the family both household and agricultural work .She developed her own kitchen garden and is a model in her village maintaining organic manures and local seeds.She said this not only provides fresh vegetables but also fetch a good amount that helps in managing their kitchen needs"Many families of the village envy my work and started practicing their own kitchen garden." Mrs. Phavah stated.

Gender and positive Fatherhood

The main objectives of this project is- Group of men and younger boys take initiative to reduce gender based violence/discrimination in their community and Group of women and younger girls take positive action to reduce instances of gender based violence/discrimination in their community.

FACILITATION OF SESSION WITH OLDER MEN AND YOUNGER BOYS GROUPS

Facilitation with older men and young boys groups was conducted in three villages on "**Patriarchy and masculinity for better parenting**"and before we delved into the topic, review of the concept of Gender roles and responsibility of men and women in household chores and sharing of their practices in a family.



Facilitation Of Session with Boys Group of Urangpat Village

Discussion on patriarchy and masculinity for better parenting. **Patriarchy** is the term used to identify a social system in which males hold primary power and predominate in roles of political leadership, moral authority, village authority, social

privilege and control of property. In the domain of the family, fathers are considered head of the household and thus holds authority over wives and children. Patriarchy breeds Masculinity that imposes a set of expected behaviors and personality traits along with several privileges on the male sex. The concept of masculinity differs from culture to culture and within region. Example- We believe that men should be the provider, he should be mentally and physically strong.

As a whole the concept of masculinity affects boys and men as much as women and girls because it enforces limitations that prevent healthy psycho-social development of both genders. Example- Men should be superior to women, men should not involve in household chores and child care. Men and boys are being expected to shoulder financial burdens of the family not allowing them to express their emotions in public even at times of pain or sorrow.

Discussion on parental perceptions, roles and responsibilities, in upbringing of the children and reduce gender difference in a family or among children etc were discussed, and also sharing of individuals' perspective towards gender differences and belief system of masculinity. Short video clips on masculinity, gender roles and responsibility related to existing customary laws and culture of men and women, violence and discrimination of women and girls are also used and discussed.

FACILITATION OF FUNCTIONAL LITERACY WOMEN AND GIRLS GROUPS

Women and girls groups from the project villages formed and sessions on promotion of menstrual hygiene as most of the adolescent girls feel ashamed of discussing periods and talk about genital parts in a group. There are social norms or unwritten rules and practices about managing menstruation and these cultural norms and religious taboos on menstruation are often compounded by traditional association with spirit, shame and embarrassment that leads to complications and serious affects on their sexual and reproductive health. Many women and girls have no access to clean and safe sanitary products and hygiene. In these sessions menstrual hygiene management and problems related to reproductive health problems are being discussed and shared. Apart from these, information with regards to existing Government schemes for women and girls, entitlements was shared like National Maternity Benefit Scheme, SSY Scheme, Girl Child education etc and role of service providers and their accesses.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (VAW) Campaign:

Fortnight observation on Elimination of Violence against Women on the theme of “**Leave No One Behind: end violence against women**” was held on 9th December 2017 with students of Mongneljang government UJB school. About 70 students participated in painting on their experiences of different forms of violence against women. The main objective of the observation is to sensitise young children and teachers on the discriminatory practices meted towards girls and women and make them aware of the inequalities that exist in the society.

Challenges faced and how these challenges have been addressed

It is very natural that villagers who struggle to live Hand-to-Mouth has only been expecting for Livelihood components and other Financial aids and assistance from NGOs and any other CSOs and Government agencies. Their concepts on NGOs is only limited to Livelihood components and any other assistance. This has been one of the major hardships we face in the current project. We had a hard time educating and bridging such misconceptions towards us.

When bringing up the issues of Gender in the tribal socio-cultural set up, the subject is rather presumed as something not good to be discussed about openly as some gets offended easily. Gender stereotypes and gender based inequalities has been deep rooted in such a way that, even church Pastors and other pious individuals who are looked up to for their social ethics and values still disapproves gender equality. Basically, it is on account of their ignorance which is where the need for intervention arises in order to bring about a meaningful deliberation and assertion. This is also one of the major hardships that are being faced in the attempt for Gender mainstreaming and positive parenting. Moreover, most of the men are also engaged in agriculture works and other economic activities which are other difficulties that is inevitable in the mobilisation of older Men groups, as such programmes/sessions with them were organised on weekends or at the time of their convenience/choice.

Some of the main constraints are as follow:

- The poor villagers who live Hand-to-Mouth have only been expecting Livelihood components and other aids and assistance.
- Gender and Masculinity is often misunderstood.
- Ignorance and negligence of responsibility by men in the society is another big challenge in the Gender-Equality.
- These innocent poor villagers have been exploited by few individuals for their personal gains, these victimised villagers are hard to be mobilised at the start.
- Most of the people in the village are engaged in economic and family activities which results to their negligence of social awareness programs.
- Frequent strikes, Bandhs and blockades in Manipur greatly impacts communication and shifts in scheduled programs.
- There have been difficulties in mobilising adolescent boys & girls since most of them stay out of village for their education as such weekends and restricted holidays are closely watched to carry out the session with them.

Workshop on Gender based violence

Workshop on Gender based violence was held on 6th May 2017 at Kuki Inn Saikul Town, Organized by Integrated Rural Management Association (IRMA), and District Women Committee (UNM-M) Kangpokpi & Kuki Women Union (KWU) Saikul. It was attended by 78 participants from different village of the Area.

An opening prayer by Mr. Lalseh Chongloi, Hill Town chairman followed by welcome speech and Key note address by Ms. Helam Secy, IRMA. Giving a brief note on the issue Gender based violence, she said it is any form of crime based on discrimination of gender such as rape, torture, harassment, teasing & kidnapping etc. and other forms of domestic violence. Beside she highlighted some of the Crime on Rape & Murder of women in different places and events such as mass rally organized by different CBO's & NGO's against the Phaknung Gang Rape Case. She appeals to everyone to stay alert and aware on what is happening around us through mass media information.

Then, Mrs. Lamneichong Haokip Advocate speaks on Awareness of Laws, and steps to be taken if one doesn't abide by it. She said that rural areas are not aware of law as a result many cases within the society are bound to be solved by customary laws for any cases raised by an individual or Group apart from that she mentions some of the major court in which crimes can be Trial such as:

1. High Court (Constituted in every states)
2. Session Court (District Court)
3. CJM Court (Subordinate Court)

Taking recent incident of gang rape at Delhi (NIRBHAYA GANG RAPE CASE) as Example she mentions ACTS related to crime and violence:

- Section- 376-IPC:-Rape case 7 year's minimum (accused) and 10 years for govt. employee.
- Section-345-B-IPC: - Disposing women nakedly 3 years minimum and so on.
- Section-354-C-IPC: exposing others private acts 1year.
- Domestic Violence-2005-Act: Cases can be raise by Women against Man on violent act.

Then she talk on Human trafficking, According to her it is selling and buying of human in thirst of money/monetary value. Agents/Trafficker's keeps promises to adolescent boys & girls and betrayed to assure good job and earn pretty income within country and abroad like Singapore and Malaysia etc. with whom we believed to be the agent?, no one else but people whom we mostly trusted and closed to them, like our relatives, religious leaders, officers and doctors' etc. and in return they (agent) were paid ransom for their job. She gave some of the objective/target as given below:

Organ trading (kidney and heart etc.) and deployed with very low wages, common to boys Impose of young girls in bar/club dancer and also made as call-girl/street girl

- To use/sexual pleasure as private property and force her to work in family and used by the family male etc.

According to her it is the second highest ranking business in the world in which weapon business is the first/top, followed by human trafficking and then drugs business stood the third place. More over such type of problem can be fought through church, village and any organization & NGO levels because it needs collective effort and require mass awareness program.

In relation to POCSO ACTS (Protection of children from sexual offences) she spoke about JUVENILE ACTS 2012 according to her it is an ACT on a person below the age of 18 who are in conflict with law are trial. Beside she spoke about Maintenance, giving example of section-125-CRPC law which clearly mention about the share of the wife after she is divorced i.e right of wife or property and monetary value if Divorce

The session was continued by MS.HelamHaokip, She speaks about Domestic violence and its effect on gender equality. She said that violence is in people mindset, it is not only about Beating and heating (Physical assault) but also includes insulting world, abusing, and emotional attack verbally. During an interaction hour a question was raised..Is there any Legal law for a divorced women to adopt her child and if so, what would be the process? Respond from the Resource person was that, Yes, It is possible for a mother to adopt her child after divorced, there are certain conditions:

- It should be judge in the family court First.

The court will observed the situation of the welfare of the child, situation of the mother income), if she is capable she should be given chance for 5years. After 5 years the condition would be reveal.



Workshop on Dealing with the Past



Workshop on Dealing with the Past

Another question raised from the participate, was that , Why rape case is neglected/ignored so much in Manipur compare to other state in India? It would be a wrong answer to say yes, because it is a serious trial even in Manipur the only problem is that it takes a long process to solve the case, but today there is an ordered from the Supreme Court that rape and murdered case should be trial as fast as possible through fast track court that is specially a trial room for rape case.

At the end of the programme, Ms. Helam appeal to all participant not to keep silent but to spread around them and share with other as much as possible to broaden and aware the concept of gender based violence in society.The programme came to an end with a word of Thanks from Mrs. Kikim, Secy KWU and closing prayer by Mrs. Hoinu Vice-President KWU, Saikul.

A two days workshop on Dealing with the past was held at Elim Resource Centre with about 57 women from different villages in Saikul block.Dealing with the Past is all about revealing the past incidents/crimes that darken or chained our minds present & future life of individuals and society ,dealing with the past is important as people of the state had witnessed different types of conflicts such as communal conflict and different types of crimes that hampers our present life and future as well, the impact of such bitter experiences can be avoided and cured through sharing, understanding and find out ways collectively. The two days workshop on “Dealing with The Past” was organised to bring positive reflections to all the participants in connection with sufferings and hardship for the past undesirable memories for a better future.

The sessions were participatory with a lot of brainstorming exercises and thorough discussions.

On the occasion of International Women’s day 8thMarch 2018, we honoured some of the women leaders who have made significant contributions/break the barriers in their families and society but are least remembered and spoke about. Their stories are documented and shared in the larger groups.

Mrs.Lamkhoneng Haokip is one of them who is chief of Wakan village in Saikul block of Kangpokpi district. After the death of her husband and chief of the village, she took the charge of chieftainship which as per the customary is entitled to only eldest son or next of kin in case of minor sons. She endured all



Interview with Mrs.Lamkhoneng Haokip,Chief of Wakan village

the criticisms and hardships and proved herself an ideal leader and chief which till today she retains.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR FLOOD AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

IN NORTH EAST INDIA – MANIPUR CHAPTER ,2017.

Manipur had witnessed consecutive devastating flood (3-5 times) since June 2017 in Imphal East, Imphal West, Kakching, Senapati, Thoubal, and Bishnupur. The monsoon rain triggered landslide, mudslide, snapped road links, and severe flood in most part of Manipur. Due to landslide in the National Highway 2 (previously NH39) cutting off the lifeline hampering transportation of essential goods, medical, education and livelihood.



Distribution Of Relief Materials at Bishnupur

Field assessment of the flood affected areas was conducted in consultation with the concerned authorities /Deputy Commissioners of Imphal East,Thoubal and Bishnupur districts. This was followed by collection of household information/beneficiary selection, and verification thereof by IRMA staffs and volunteers with support from OXFAM team in their respective areas. Initially the target was 2539 households and later increased to 3000 households for the entire three districts that was worst hit by the flood.

IRMA worke two districts namely Thoubal and Imphal-East with the following activities ;

- **DISTRIBUTION**
- **WASH COMMITTEE FORMATION**
- **DEMONSTRATION**
- **PHP - CLEANING DRIVE**
- **KAP SURVEY**
- **MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT**

Distribution of Relief materials: A full set of relief materials containing tarpaulin, groundsheet, buckets, mug, NADCC tablet, mosquito nets, nail cutter, ORS packets, bathing soaps, washing soaps, savlon (liquid and bathing soap), hair combs, sanitary cloths was distributed to 2549 families in 18 villages of Imphal-East and Thoubal.

WASH COMMITTEE FORMATION

Altogether 14 WASH committees were formed comprising of men and women from wards and villages in Thoubal and Imphal-East. The committee members include atleast one ASHA worker or/and Meira-paibi (torch-bearer). Eight committees were formed in Imphal-East, and six committees in Thoubal district.

DEMONSTRATION and Cleaning Drive

Public Health Promotion includes providing information on health, hygiene, sanitation, which includes cleaning drive.

Demonstration for PHP program has been conducted at selected villages with help of IEC materials (Information Education and Communication) that includes preparation of ORS, six steps of hand-washing, uses of toilets, maintaining hygiene and sanitation. Most of the demonstration was conducted at schools, so that children can further share their experiences with their family members and peers. But it was also conducted at community hall for men and women participants. Women groups were made aware and sensitized on menstrual hygiene, dealing with their pain management and make them understand about the myths related to menstrual cycle of blood with the help of video.



Painting Competition as part of Hygiene Promotion Activities at Irong Chesaba

PHP demonstration were mostly carried out in government/public schools in the vicinity after the school authority has been appraised by the committee members and are done with the active participation of school children. The children together with their peers and parents are encouraged to adopt clean and hygienic habits and are rewarded with soap, pencil, eraser, sharpener, and candies for motivation.

Knowledge Aptitude and Practice(KAP) SURVEY

Baseline and Endline survey conducted with beneficiaries of Thoubal and Imphal East to understand the impact of the intervention.

The Flood Response from OXFAM has been a great deal of support in this time of dire need. IRMA staffs and volunteers worked intensely during this short period to collect information, and include as many needy families. Since government could not respond and cover all flood affected areas, the relief materials provided by OXFAM were really appreciated. In spite of their busy schedule as most families are daily-wage labours, IRMA volunteers build good rapport and were able to conduct the activities without much interruption. Mass campaign and demonstrations of hand washing, diarrhoea prevention, use of ORS and hygiene was conducted at selected wards and schools where the committee was formed involving village leaders and students.

