

**Community based potato cultivation at Haorang Sabal village, Imphal West, Manipur,
north eastern India**

**ICAR-KVK Imphal West
ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region
Manipur Centre, Lamphelpat, Imphal, Manipur**

Challenges:

Fragmentation of the land holdings is one of the main causes of our low agricultural productivity and backward state of our agriculture. Irrigation becomes difficult on such small and fragmented fields. Further, a lot of fertile agricultural land is wasted in providing boundaries. Seed is a critical and basic input for attaining higher crop yields and sustained growth in agricultural production. Distribution of assured quality seed is as critical as the production of such seeds. Unfortunately, good quality seeds are out of reach of the majority of farmers, especially small and marginal farmers mainly because of exorbitant prices of better seeds. The rainfall in Manipur is uncertain, unreliable and erratic which cannot achieve sustained progress in agriculture unless and until more than half of the cropped area is brought under assured irrigation.

Initiative:

Potato is one of the important cash crops in Manipur cultivated in around 600 hectares with total production of 6000 metric tonnes with productivity of 10 tonnes per hectare in Manipur state. The IARI NEH programme, a project initiated by IARI New Delhi for the development of north-eastern hill areas has started in Imphal West district Manipur in the recent year. Considering the potential of this crop to increase the income of farming communities, cultivation of potato is demonstrated under IARI NEH programme at Imphal West district, Manipur. Using expert's advices from the ICAR-KVK Imphal West, ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region and a group of farmers of Haorang Sabal started various agricultural and allied activities in their village. Generally, farmers of Haorang Sabal village cultivated rice during kharif and Toria during rabi season. Cultivation of potato was totally a new experience for these farmers to adopt potato in their cropping system. For the first time, the potato was planted in large scale in this village covering about 2 hectare areas of their paddy field. The technology provided to them is also proven to increase crop yields and drive incomes due to the proper management of the crops and potato has become important economic value crop in this village.

Interesting results:

The production of potato in this village is about 12.5 tonnes/ha and found to be higher of 25% of state's average production of 10 tonnes/ha.

Feedback:

Farmers are satisfied with the new initiation from IARI NEH programme and ICAR-KVK Imphal West.

Impact on farmers income/livelihood:

Income from potato cultivation has proven in this village by increasing their income by three folds from the existing annual income and also proves that doubling of farmers' income can be achieved by proper crop management and utilization of dormant paddy fields. Farmers now started owning smart phone and get the benefits of latest agricultural advisories and crop information through their smart phone.

Lesson learned:

Potato can be one of the important cash crop and good earning vegetable for this village in particular and Imphal district, Manipur in general.



Visiting of potato cultivation on 12th March 2021 at Haorang Sabal village, Imphal West, Manipur during COVID-19 pandemic