



REPORT

Research Consultation Women's Access and Control to Land in Manipur

Dates: 28-30 August, 2012

Venues: The Classic Hotel, Imphal, Manipur & Village Mekola

Organised By

Initiatives: Women in Development (IWID)
Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network (MWGSN)
And
Control Arms Foundation of India (CAFI)

Manipur is one of the eight states of the North East India. It is surrounded by hills and the centre is a small oval shaped valley. It covers an area of 22,327 sq km which forms 0.7 percent of the total land of India (Rahman and Sheereen, 2012). Manipur is divided into two regions: hills (90 percent of the region equivalent to 20,089 sq.km) and valleys. Hills are mostly spread out in Senapati, Tamenglong, Churachandpur, Chandel and Ukhrul while valleys constitute the districts of Imphal, Bishenpur and Thoubal. Hills are mostly occupied by Nagas (18.72%) and Kukis(6.64%%) while Meities (65.57%) including Muslims reside in the valley. In Manipur maximum people reside in rural areas about 74.89 percent of the total population. The major occupation of the state is Agriculture. 70 percent of the population depends upon agriculture. The Agriculture covers almost 11 percent of the total geographical area while rest is covered by forest. The State is rich in bio-diversity as most of the part is under forest cover.

Women farmers in Manipur are seen involved extensively in production, land preparation, selection, sowing, applying manure, fertilizers, weeding, transplanting, threshing, winnowing and harvesting. Not only this they perform multiple roles ranging from animal care, grazing, fodder collection and cleaning of animal sheds. These roles are apart from being a mother, a wife and a daughter in law. Yet this is the most vulnerable segment and most undernourished facing harassments ranging from physical to emotional. Their predominant role remains to be acknowledged as farmers and agricultural workers since they do not have independent access, ownership or control over land. The empowerment of the women in Manipur should include different policies for those residing in hills and those residing in valleys. In hills where land is a common property resource and village councils decide the fate of the land ownership and management, allowing women to actively participate in the important meetings and allowing them to take important decisions would go a long way in empowering them.

A two day workshop on “**Women’s Access and Control to Land in Manipur**” was held on 28 and 29 August 2012 from 9.30 a.m to 04.00 pm on both days at the Classic Hotel, Imphal, Manipur. The workshop was organized by Initiatives: Women in Development (IWID), Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network (MWGSN) and Control Arms Foundation (CAFI). And on 30th Aug 2012 a field work was conducted by the organizing team to check the ground work of Manipuri Women Farmers and their condition at that area as well to understand the pattern of cultivation, ownership and gender roles.

The Chairperson of Manipur State Women’s Commission **Dr.L.Ibetombi Devi** was the Chief Guest of the workshop. Prominent speakers of the workshop included **Dr Neelavali**, Director of Initiatives: Women in Development, IWID, **Mr.Yambem Laba**, former member, Manipur State Human Rights Commission, **Dr. N Ram Singh**, Head of Department of Agricultural Economics Department of Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur, **Mrs. Lourebam Ima Nganbi**, President, Apunba Nupi Lup (ANUL), **Ima Ramani**, Secretary of All Manipur Social Reformation and Development Samaj, **Ms Nandini Thokchom**, a Social Activist of Manipur, **Mr. James Vaiphei**, Project Manager at Ebenezer Children’s Home, under Outreach Mission Christian Rehabilitation Service (OMCRS), Imphal, Manipur, **Mrs. Mumtaz**, Women Survivor, Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network, **Ms Sumshot Khullar**, Fellow, Foundation for Social Transformation, **Ms Helam Haokip**, Secretary, Integrated Rural Management Association (IRMA) and **Ms Binalakshmi Nepram**, Founder, Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network.

Day 1: Tuesday, 28 Aug 2012

On the first day, **Ms Reena Mutum**, Coordinator, Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network gave the welcome address. **Dr Neelavali**, Director of Initiatives: Women in Development, IWID gave an introduction about the workshop. The Chairperson of Manipur State Women's Commission **Dr.L.Ibetombi Devi** who was the chief guest said that it is the right time to have a discussion on women's access and control to land in context with Manipur. After the inaugural session, there was a group discussion on the land rights for Manipur women- Historical, sociological and legal position.

Mr. Yambem Laba stated that though there was a legal right to women's access and control to land rights in India and people did not give much importance to it because of the reason that the mind operates more than the legal. And added that it was embedded in their mind to suppress the women and hence people did not care of the women's legal things. He said that no one cared of the rights of the women's accessibility and control over the land.

He also stated that Manipur was a land of different communities and that there were also some tribal communities in hill areas where women had less rights. He said that those women did not have rights to hold any respectable authority in their own communities. He said that tribal communities had their own land holding system based on their conventional and customary practices unlike the valley areas. He further mentions that in case of employment wages being paid to women, it was also less than the men's wages though the women were also working the same hours. And added that women were suppressed in every aspects of life.

Dr. Neelavali addressed that around 85% of women contribute in agriculture and only 35% men contribute in agriculture. And added that it was the women who actually worked both in the agricultural field and in their home but they did not have their own identity, their men got the recognition. He stated that it was such a 'social construct' that men enjoy all the benefits of agricultural production, recognition, accessibility and control over the land.

She further added that advocacy was required to destruct such social construct that was already embedded in our mind.

Mrs Lourembam Ima Nganbi addressed that it was high time for Manipuri women to raise their voice for their rights to get their accessibility and control over the land from their parents.

Mrs Helam Haokip differentiated the status of the tribal women in Manipur and Meghalaya. She said that in Manipur there were three villages of tribal communities whose head chief was a woman but the rest tribal villages or communities' chief was a man. And added that in tribal communities only the eldest son has the right to access and control over the land and hence he had to take care of his parents and his siblings. She further added that the women did not have any rights to access and control over the land. She added that on the contrary, in Meghalaya, only the youngest daughter had the right to access the land and take care of their parents.

Group discussion: A group discussion was on the basis of land rights for Manipur women- Historical, sociological and legal position. They discussed that in Manipur there was collective working but not collective farming. Farmers had some loan, compensation for their farming but woman never got that opportunity because they were not regarded as farmers. Also stated that Kisan Credit card was a card for the farmer's beneficiary but in Manipur most of the farmers did not have that card as they were not aware of that card. Again women in Manipur did not have the right to take land property of their parents.

Day 2: Wednesday, 29 Aug 2012

On the second day of the session, there was community wise presentation on cultural, political and economic arrangements of the society. The session initiated with the introduction to the meeting by **Dr. Neelavali**, Director of Initiatives: Women in Development, IWID

Dr N Ram narrated the brief history on land and agriculture in Manipur. He said that there were 7 'salais' of Manipur and land was occupied by their own community. He said that during that time land was not in any one's hand. He added that regarding agricultural practices in Manipur those days they were very weak but competition was very high and agriculture is in state's control. He said that during Burmese ruled in Manipur there were many varieties of rice.

He said that India 's government had to decide what type of crops were to be plant in Manipur as 90% of Manipur's land was flood prone while only 10% of farming area is in valley region. He said that irrigation was not successful in Manipur while cannels were there. He said that Manipur had no current sound policy in agriculture. And added that in Northeast India, Manipur and Assam valley are under 'patta' system.

He further added that forest was the mother of shifting cultivation. And said that shifting cultivation protect forest. He added that Manipur's woman needed collection of information and said that they needed to go back to their tradition for the protection of their forest. He mentions the right kind of cultivation i.e. shifting cultivation was needed to be carried out in Manipur. He added that such type of agricultural practices also helped to afforestation.

Ms Sumshot Khullar, Fellow, Foundation for Social Transformation which was from Lamkan community of Manipur said that in his community the Heir in the family should be the eldest son where the eldest son had to look after the younger siblings. She also added that in ritual ceremonies the eldest son should be responsible for the ritual ceremony in the families. And added that naming of the son child was held with a huge ceremony but when a daughter was born it was not held like the celebrations done She said that women in their community could earned their living by doing cultivation work as a farmer in community land but they were not allowed to own the land.

She added that according to ethnologue, Lamkan community had around 10000 poppulation which are scattered in Burma Border and very few in Senapati district.

Mr James Vaiphei who belongs to the Vaiphei community of Manipur said that in their community majority of inheritance was given to man only. He added that women were given less priority in terms of social decision making roles as well as inheritance rights. He said that during meeting for community development and other discussions, woman had to sit outside the house or in the kitchen and they were not allowed to participate and even to listen the meeting. And added that for women there was no a single law and after 40 yrs she could not participate in any woman association.

He said that regarding position of resources, woman never had family's share and were not allowed to participate in decision making. And added that elder men were giving space and special preferences were given to the eldest son.

He further added that in order to bring peace and development of their community educating the village chief was very important as most of the decision making and works related to their community was to be done by consulting and after agreed by him only. He said that if the village became corrupted or unable to take right decisions the community would not be able to prosper and progress.

Ms. Nandini Thokchom mentioned that a need was felt in Manipur regarding land rights and control as women headed households were increasing in number. She said that a woman was a responsible person when she became a mother. And added that she would be the only person who had to take care of her children. She said that woman did gain in agriculture while they were engaging in cultivation. And added that in America 80% subsidies were given to farmers but in India 80% of our people ie the farmers were made powerless by the government.

Mrs Mumtaz narrated her life story briefly as being grown up as a Muslim woman. She said that her husband was killed in a fake encounter leaving their five children. She showed her gratitude to Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network for helping her to stand alone in her conservative community as she also didn't got any sort of help from both her parents and in-laws.

Ms. Binalakshmi Nepram stated that they all women needed to struggle to get their rights as well as to bring peace to the state Manipur. She said, "According to the Geneva Convention, clashes should be between the arms groups but not with the civilian. There are Rules of War. The blockage of the National Highway is also against the Geneva Convention which affects the civil society. According to the UN, civil society is the supreme power."

Group Discussion: A group discussion discussed regarding the impact of gun violence in woman of Manipur as taking example of Mrs Mamtaz's, how her husband had been killed by some gun man and how she was now spending her life with her children without getting a help from her parents . The gun culture of Manipur and its impact in various sections of Manipuris especially to the woman of Manipur have been discussed.

The workshop was participated by women from different communities and ethnic groups of Manipur as well as many students and volunteers from different institutions of Manipur such as Central Agricultural University, CAU, Manipur, Manipur University , Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, IGNTU etc. The workshop was completed with meaningful notes and resolution. The workshop discussed the various social evils prevalent to women in Manipur. As a process to empower woman across various ethnic and tribal population in the society of Manipur, the organizers of the workshop would be implementing collective farming technique in Manipur as a next step. This would definitely help as a step for those women to access and control over land in Manipur.

Day 3: Wednesday, 30 Aug 2012

On 30 Aug 2012, the organizer team led by **Dr Neelavali**, Director of Initiatives: Women in Development, IWID and **Ms Binalakshmi Nepram**, Founder, Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network went at Leirenjam, Manipur to check on the ground work of Manipuri Women Farmers and their condition at that area as well as to understand the pattern of cultivation, ownership and gender roles of that area.

The team interacted with women farmers namely Kshetrimayum Devala, Kshetrimayum Naobi, Kshetrimayum Binasakhi and Heirangkhongjam Memcha of that area and visited the paddy fields in which they were working. The team came to know that as similar to collective farming techniques women farmers in that area formed group of 10-16 people and work together and do profit sharing among them where the land they work upon was the property one of them. And

the land was not in direct control by the woman as in official land documentation it was in the name of their husband.

Annexures:

(1) Background papers

(2) List of participants

(3) For photos of event, please log on to www.cafi-online.org and www.womensurvivorsnetwork.org

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Research Consultation Women's Access and Control to Land in Manipur

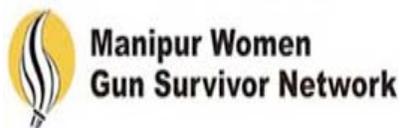
Date: 28-29 August, 2012

Time: 9.30am-4.00pm

Venue: The Classic Hotel, Imphal, Manipur

Organised By

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1. Profile of speakers

Dr Neelavalli

Dr. Neelavalli is the Director of Initiatives: Women In Development, IWID. She has been engaged in Women's movement at different levels for nearly two decades. Her doctoral thesis traces the philosophy behind international women's movement. She exhibits her skill in training, strategising campaigns, integrating media in campaigns and Lobbying. With a firm rooting in feminist perspective, she has authored papers on contemporary issues relating to Gender and Development and has facilitated a number of research studies on Gender and Development.

Dr L Ibetombi Devi

Dr. L Ibetombi Devi is the Chairperson of Manipur State Women's Commission, Imphal. She is graduated from Lady Hardinge Medical College New Delhi & Post graduated from G.S. Medical College & K.E.M. Hospital, Bombay. She has contributed research paper in the State-Level, National and International journals on rota virus diarrhoea, malnutrition, asthma, reproductive child health, HIV affected and afflicted Women & Children. She is also associated in the State organised development programme for women at border areas of Manipur and also took part in the formulation of Manipur State Aids Policy.

Dr N Ram Singh

Dr N Ram Singh is the Head of Department of Agricultural Economics Department of Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur.

Mrs Lourebam Nganbi

Mrs Lourebam Nganbi is the President, Apunba Nupi Lup (ANUL), Vice President Apunba Manipur Kanba Ima Lup (AMKIL), Secretary, External Affairs, United Committee Manipur.

Ima Ramani

Ima Ramani is the Secretary of All Manipur Social Reformation and Development Samaj.

Mr Joykumar Wahengbam

Mr Joykumar Wahengbam is the Executive Director of Human Rights Initiative, Manipur.

Ms Nonibala Narengbam

She is the Secretary of Integrated Rural Development Service Organisation, Wangjing, Thoubal District, Manipur.

Ms Helam Haokip

She is the Secretary of Integrated Rural Management Association (IRMA) CHASSAD Avenue, Near Brighter Academy Imphal, Imphal East Manipur. She is engaging in the field of social service in rural areas since 1998.

Dr Deepa Ahluwalia

Dr Deepa Ahluwalia is the Sr. Project Advisor (Vulnerable & Marginalised Groups), National Mission for Empowerment of Women.

Ms Radharani Mutum

Ms Radharani Mutum is the Joint Secretary, Tribal Welfare Department Government of Manipur.

Ms Shangnaidar Tontang

Ms Shangnaidar Tontang is the Secretary of Weaker Section's Development Council.

Ms Premlata

Ms Premlata is an advocate representing from Human Rights Law Network, Manipur.

Ms R.K. Nalini

Ms R.K. Nalini is an advocate.

Ms Nandini Thokchok

Ms Nandini Thokchom is a social activist from Manipur.

Mr James Vaiphei

He is the Project Manager at Ebenezer Children's Home, under Outreach Mission Christian Rehabilitation Service (OMCRS), Imphal, Manipur. A post graduate in Management from London School of Management. He is also looking after a Village in Nongpok Sekmai, Manipur and

Mrs Mumtaz

Women Survivor, Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network. Mumtaz lost her husband, Mohammed Azad Khan Shekhar, a lecturer by profession in the hands of a combined team of Assam Rifles and the Manipur Police Commandos of Imphal East on 7 March 2009.

Ms Reena Mutum

She is the Coordinator of Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network.

Ms Binalakshmi Nepram

Ms Binalakshmi nepram is the Founder of Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network and Secretary General of Control Arms Foundation of India. Bina was awarded a Ploughshares Fellowship in 2004, and Ashoka Fellowship in 2011, WISCOMP Scholar of Peace in 2006, among others. She was also awarded the international Sean MacBride Peace Prize in 2010, CNN/IBN 2011 Real Heroes Award and her team Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network was given INDIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD 2011 for her work in the Northeastern Region.

2. Program Schedule

Research Consultation

Women's Access and Control to Land in Manipur

Date: 28-29 August, 2012

Time: 9.30am-4.00pm on both days

Venue: The Classic Hotel, Imphal, Manipur

Organised By

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Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network (MWGSN)

&

Control Arms Foundation of India (CAFI)

Day 1: Tuesday, 28 Aug 2012

Time	Day 1: Tuesday 28 Aug 2012: Inaugural Session
9.00am	Registration
9.30 am	Welcome by Ms Reena Mutum, Co-ordinator, Manipur Women Gun Survivor Network.
9.40 am	Introduction by Dr Neelavalli, Director, Initiatives: Women In Development
9.50am	Chief Guest address by Dr L Ibetombi Devi, Chairperson, Manipur State Women's Commission
10.00am	Inaugural address by Mr N Ram Singh, Head of Department of Agricultural Economics Department, Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur
10.10am	Address by Ms Radharani Mutum, Joint Secretary ,Tribal Welfare Department Government of Manipur
10.20am	Address by Mr Joykumar Wahengbam, Executive Director , Human Rights Initiative
10.30am	Address by Ms Deepa Ahluwalia, Sr. Project Advisor, National Mission for Empowerment of Women (tbc)
10.40am-11.20am	Tea Break

Workshop Starts Session

Time	Content	Methodology	Resource Person
11.20am-12.20pm	Introduction & Background Programme -	Workshop Starts Session Film viewing Brain storming	Dr Neelavalli, Director, Initiatives: Women In Development Ms Binalakshmi, Founder, Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network
12.20pm-1.00pm	Background information, Introducing the Research Methodology and	Ice breaking exercise Socio-gramming	Dr Neelavalli, Director, Initiatives: Women In Development

	questionnaire	Power point presentation Brain storming	
1.00pm- 2.00pm	Lunch break		
2.00pm 2.10pm	Land rights for Manipur women- Historical, sociological and legal position - Brief	Power point presentation/Statement	Statement by Ms Premlata, Advocate Statement by Ms R.K Nalini, Advocate
2.20pm	Identifying the socio-economic and cultural arrangements of Manipur communities	Group Discussion	Statement by Ms Nonibala Narengbam, Secretary, Integrated Rural Development Service Organisation.
2.30pm- 3.30pm	Filling the questionnaire - group or community wise		Lead by Dr. Neelavalli, Director, Initiatives: Women In Development
3.30pm- 4.00pm	Vote of Thanks and Tea		Ms Reena Co-ordinator, Manipur Women Gun Survivor Network.

Day 2: Wednesday, 29 Aug 2012

Time	Community wise presentation on cultural Political and economic arrangements
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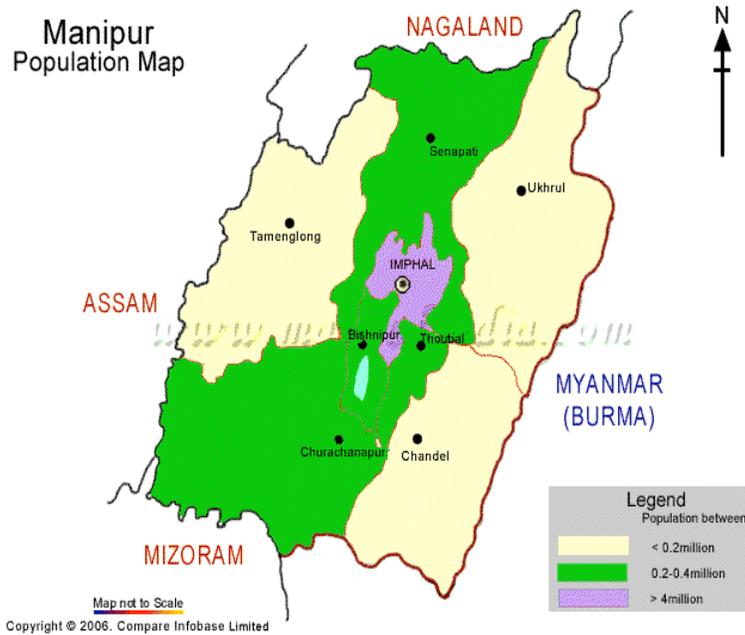
9.00am	Registration
9.30 am	Introduction to the Meeting by Dr Neelavalli, Director, Initiatives: Women In Development
9.40 am	Statement by Ms Nandini Thokchok, Social Activist
9.50am	Statement by Ms Shangnaidar Tontang, Secretary, Weaker Section's Development Council
10.00am	Statement by Ms Helam Haokip, Secretary, Integrated Rural Management Association (IRMA)
10.10am	
10.20am	Statement by Ms Mumtaz, Survivor
10.30am	Statement by Ms Nonibala Narengbam, Secretary, Integrated Rural Development Service Organisation
10.40am-11.20am	Statement by Mr James Vaiphei, Project Manager at Ebenezer Children's Home, under Outreach Mission Christian Rehabilitation Service (OMCRS), Imphal, Manipur.
	Tea Break

Time	Session: Wrap up of Manipur scenario of women's land rights
11.30 am	Starting of session statement by Dr Neelavalli, Director, Initiatives: Women In Development
11.40 am	Statement by Ima Ramani, Secretary, All Manipur Social Reformation and Development Samaj
11.50am	Statement by Ms Lourembam Nganbi, President, Apunba Nupi Lup (ANUL), Vice President Apunba Manipur Kanba Ima Lup (AMKIL), Secretary, External Affairs, United Committee Manipur.
12.10am-1.30pm	Lunch

Time	Content	Methodology	Resource Person
1.30pm-	Introducing the Questionnaire to study the	Power point	Dr Neelavalli, Director, Initiatives:

2.30pm	access and control over land by women of Manipur	presentation	Women In Development
2.30pm-3.30pm	Consolidation and Way Forward	Brain storming	Dr Neelavalli, Director, Initiatives: Women In Development Ms Binalakshmi, Founder, Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network
3.30pm-4.00pm	Vote of thanks and tea		Ms Reena Mutum, Co-ordinator, Manipur Women Gun Survivor Network.

3. Introduction to Manipur



Pic: Map of Manipur (Source: Maps of India.com)

Manipur is one of the eight states of the North East India. In 1949, the King of Manipur, Maharaja Budhachandra was forced to sign an agreement of the kingdom into India. Once Manipur became a part of the Indian Union, the state's constitution assembly was dissolved and was made into a part C state. Later on, it was further degraded to a status of union territory. In 1972 Manipur was elevated to the State status. It is located in the slopes of the Sub-Himalayan Range.

Manipur is surrounded by hills and the centre is a small oval shaped valley. It shares the boundary with Nagaland in the North, Mizoram in the South and Assam in the West among the Indian states and shares the borders with Myanmar in the East as well as South. It covers an area of 22,327 sq km which forms 0.7 percent of the total land of India (Rahman and Sheereen, 2012). Manipur is divided into two region: shills (90 percent of the region equivalent to 20,089 sq.km) and valleys. Hills are mostly spread out in Senapati, Tamenglong, Churachandpur, Chandel and Ukhrul while valleys constitute the districts of Imphal, Bishenpur and Thoubal.

Hills are mostly occupied by Nagas (18.72%) and Kukis(6.64%) while Meities (65.57%) including Muslims reside in the valley. In Manipur maximum people reside in rural areas about 74.89 percent of the total population.

The major occupation of the state is Agriculture. 70 percent of the population depends upon agriculture. The Agriculture covers almost 11 percent of the total geographical area while rest is covered by forest. The State is rich in bio-diversity as most of the part is under forest cover.

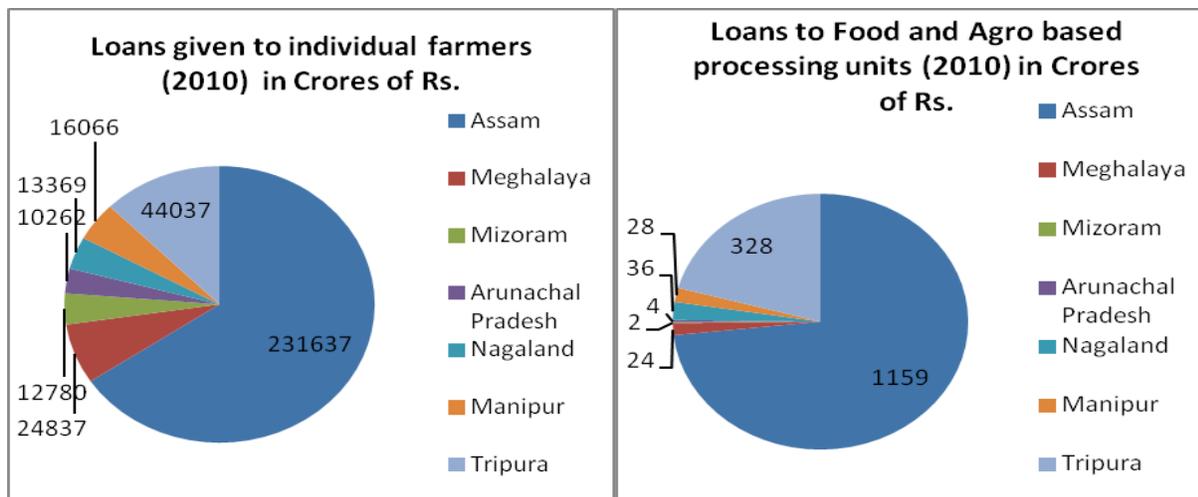
4. Land Ownership and Rights in Manipur

The individual rights over the land holdings in the valleys are transferable; and the buying and selling rights are unrestricted. Therefore, it can act as collateral for bank credit. The agriculture in this region is settled unlike hill region where they still follow shifting cultivation. Here, tribals claim absolute ownership over their land.

In Naga society, there exists at least two tier system of land ownership, the first being the founder or chief followed by the owner of the cultivating plot. In Kuki system of land ownership, the chief is the supreme authority in the village affairs and owns the entire land within his jurisdiction. The Kuki administration is autocratic. Therefore the tribals have their own land holding system based on traditional and customary base practices.

Since land ownership in Manipur is a combination of community (hill region) and private ownership (valley region) of land, the Manipur Land Revenue and Land Reforms Act, 1960 (henceforth LRA) was introduced with the primary objective to prevent concentration, end low productivity and promote investment and growth, develop market and encourage "individualization". This law was applied to the whole state of Manipur excluding the hill regions. But the MLR and LR Act was sought to amend through the Sixth Amendment Bill to include the hill regions also in the Act. This would lead to friction between the State Government and the Naga and Kuki tribes. Because now the land which they had owned for centuries would belong to the State. But the Sixth Amendment also included the provisions which allowed autonomous tribal councils to be formed and governed by their own self governing institutions. Areas under this schedule would have separate elections; follow their own customary patterns of land tenures. Here the transfer of land holding rights to a non tribal was prohibited to prevent the alienation of the land.

Thus, in the majority of the hill region there exists community ownership of land where shifting cultivation still exists. This type of land tenure is not only problematic for bank collateral but also creates disincentive to invest for land improvement. This has been one of the reasons for poor development of the hill region.



Source: RBI database

In the above figure it can be seen that among the loans given to individuals, Assam tops in the north eastern states while Nagaland, Manipur Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram are at lowest. Also amount of loans given to Food and Agro based processing unit, Assam again is at the highest while the same states are at the bottom including Meghalaya. Therefore the Sixth Schedule had prohibited huge investments to come to states mostly covered by hills. This has led to their underdevelopment. Similarly individuals cannot borrow loans because of the lack of valid collateral security.

5. Land and Conflict in Manipur:

Manipur has witnessed lot of ethnic clashes like Kuki-Naga clash in 1990's, Meiti - Pangal clash in 1993 and Kuki - Paite clash in 1997 over land conflict.

Kuki - Naga clash:

Nagas dominate four of the five hills of Manipur while majority of Kuki's reside in one of the hills. Nagas think that they are the rightful "original settlers" of the hills of Manipur.

Kuki-Naga conflict cropped up when Naga insurgents group who had been collecting taxes from all the houses residing in the hills since its inception, were refused by some of the Kukis living in Moreh, a small town near Indo-Myanmar border. They did not accept the Naga's propaganda of Nagalim.

Since Nagas had well established insurgent groups so they had an upper hand in this conflict.

Meiti - Pangal clash:

The clash between Meitei and Manipuri Muslims (Meiti - Pangal) was more of a shocking one than anyone had expected. This is because they used to stay peacefully together. Though the clash lasted for only two days but 97 Manipuri Muslims were killed.

Kuki – Paitei clash:

Paitei and Kuki are the kin tribes. The main reason for the clash was that Paitei did not agree to the Kuki's demand of Kuki land. Paiteis and other kin tribes thought that this would endanger their identity as Kuki were in majority. The clash lasted for one year and almost 10 villagers of Saikul village in Churachandpur by the Meiti militants.

6. Women's Access and Control to land in Manipur:

Women farmers in Manipur are seen involved extensively in production, land preparation, selection, sowing, applying manure, fertilizers, weeding, transplanting, threshing, winnowing and harvesting.



Pic: Manipuri women in the fields, Source: Dinodia.com

Not only this they perform multiple roles ranging from animal care, grazing, fodder collection and cleaning of animal sheds. These roles are apart from being a mother, a wife and a daughter in law. Yet this is the most vulnerable segment and most undernourished facing harassments ranging from physical to emotional. Their predominant role remains to be acknowledged as farmers and agricultural workers since they do not have independent access, ownership or control over land. This has been the case in not only within most households but also with government policies on food and livelihood which tend to be more male centric.

The empowerment of the women in Manipur should include different policies for those residing in hills and those residing in valleys. In hills where land is a common property resource and village councils decide the fate of the land ownership and management, allowing

women to actively participate in the important meetings and allowing them to take important decisions would go a long way in empowering them. This is because women depend a lot on common forest area and land for fuel-wood, fodder, rangelands for their livestock. In hill districts except Senapati, have a higher degree of population living under abject poverty in comparison to the valley (Thiyam Bharat Singh, 2007). Therefore risks of poverty (which had increased by 9.2 percent in 2009-10 as compared to 2004-05) and food insecurity could be reduced as women use common property resource as an alternative means for food, fuel. The common land could be used as a collateral security on the basis of which productive loans could be borrowed. These loans could be used to improve the productivity of the land. On the grounds of welfare and efficiency empowerment of the women in the decision making would be beneficial.



Pic: Women association taking out rally in Manipur (Source: Sinlung)

In the valleys there exist individual rights. Even though there are provisions for the share of land to daughters equally to that of the sons in the Hindu Succession Act, but because of the family and social pressures, the share is not given. In case of Muslim Personal Law Shariat Application Act, agricultural land is not allowed to be given to females. Therefore majority of women are faced with economic dependence and the threat of violence. The option of joint titles for women would give her full control of the property and strengthen her position both economically and socially both within the family and outside it. Also this would also improve her access to credit and technology which would help to increase the productivity.



Pic: Seminar on violence against women and children in Manipur. Source: Epao.net

Manipur has witnessed successful roles of collective women's power in the past and also in the present. They have been the pillars of socio-economic change in the State. The position of Manipuri women when compared to other states in India is comparatively high. But there are certain social restrictions which undermine their full potential. Starvation is averted in million households everyday by women managing their backyard poultry, goat rearing, growing vegetables on homestead lands, still they are not acknowledged. Manipur is one of the poorest States in India (47.4% in rural and 46.4% in urban are below poverty line), with hill region contributing most of it. Since most of the people in hill region depend upon agriculture and forestry, giving women the land and forestry rights would lead to efficient and sustainable use. This would go a long way in reducing poverty and income inequality between hill and valley. The government policies also need to be more gender sensitive and laws should be framed to abolish all restrictions against women claiming their rights on land.

7. Land rights of Indigenous Women in NE India

Article by Dr Ch Jamini Devi, Former Principal of DM College of Commerce, Former chairperson of the Manipur State Women Commission

Source: Epao.net, 19 Oct 2007

The beautiful States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Meghalaya and Sikkim constitute what is known as northeast India. It is home of various tribes, ethnic groups and indigenous people.

There are about 300 million indigenous men, women and children worldwide. More than 5000 different groups of indigenous people live in more than 70 countries. They make up one third of

the world's 800 million rural people. These indigenous people face the problem of access of land, water and other natural resources found on their traditional territories. Indigenous women experience many forms of discrimination not only from the surrounding societies but from within their own communities.

Although women play a crucial role as producers, and caretakers of their societies and cultures, and of the well being of the communities, the importance of their social role is not always recognized. To the indigenous people land is everything. It dictates their life and constitutes their past, present and future.

Indigenous people have a distinctive spiritual and material relationship with their lands, with the air and water, flora, fauna and other resources. So the promotion and protection of the rights over lands and resources of indigenous people are vital. For bringing empowerment of women, land rights of women are becoming an area of increasing urgency.

There arises the need for women to be able to secure land property because women's land rights intersects with other problems such as discriminatory inheritance patterns, gender based violence, privatization of community and indigenous land as well as gendered control over economic resources and the rights to work.

The inter-dependence of women's human rights emphasizes the importance of women being able to claim their rights to adequate housing and land in order to lessen the treat of discrimination, different forms of violence, denial of political participation etc this calls for strengthening the recognition of women's rights to land, which will help in lifting their adequate standard of living including the right to housing and freedom from forced eviction. In this context the present seminar is the need of the hour.



*Life In the Hills - A woman carries her child along with drinking
from the water source to meet her family's need*

Women's past and existing rights to lands in law and in customary practice in India are traced across communities and regions. It is found that Indian women have had virtually no customary land rights to land, save for matrilineal related practices in the ne India and southeast tribal customs and specific circumstances elsewhere.

Modern legislation, while a step forward, has yet to establish full gender equality in law to permeate practice. In this paper an attempt is made to highlight land rights of women of Manipur.

Women's traditional land rights and access to labour have been eroded through a number of changes caused by colonial rule and modern development. Women have been excluded from most political movements. Thus their voice is often actively repressed. Current strategies for 'sustainable developments' are ignoring women's historical role in the forest economy.

Further, these strategies do nothing to challenge the capitalist structures that caused massive forest depletion in the first place. Economic models of exchange rather than profit will have the primary goal of ensuring that community needs are met.

Land Rights for Women in Manipur

Manipur is a hilly state, which lies on the north-eastern border of India. It extends between 23 85' and 25 86' latitudes north and between 93 03' and 94 78' longitudes east. It covers an area of 23,327 sq kms and is bounded on the north by Nagaland, on the south by Mizoram and Chin state of Burma.

The territory which constitutes the present state of Manipur consists of a valley and a chain of hills which encircles the former on all sides. The hilly region covers about 92% of the total geographical area of Manipur. The valley as well as the hills has a slant towards the south. The valley is in reality a plateau which is at the level of 2567 ft above the sea level. The state is divided into nine districts viz Imphal west (capital), Imphal East, Thoubal, Bishnupur, Chandel, Churachandpur, Senapati, Tamenglong and Ukhrul.

The State of Manipur is inhabited by various ethnic communities having their own distinctive cultural affinity. According to 2001 census, there are over 30 tribes in Manipur.

They are

- Aimol

- Anal
- Angami
- Chiru
- Chote
- Gangte
- Hmar
- Kabui
- Poirao
- Koireng
- Kom
- Lamgang
- Mao
- Maram
- Maring
- Mizo
- Lushai
- Monsang
- Moyon
- Paite
- Purung
- Ralte
- Sema
- Serite
- Shonte
- Tangkhul
- Jhadow
- Waishei
- Zou Kwaram
- Tarao
- Paomei and
- Kuki

These ethnic groups can be broadly divided into Meiteis, Naga tribes and Kuki-Chin-Mizo tribes.

None of the tribes gives the inheritance of land rights to women. There are also sizeable Muslim populations who are called *Meitei Pangals*.

There are also the Scheduled Castes

- Dhupi (Dhobi)
- Lois
- Muchi (Ravidan)
- Namasudra
- Patni
- Sutradhar and
- Yathibi

The economy of the people of Manipur state is basically agrarian. About 70 percent of the people are engaged in agriculture for their livelihood. Both men and women have played an important role in the socio-economic activities of the state. Women also don an important role in the socio-economic activities of the state.

Women also work as important agents to promote socio economic and cultural developments of the state. In the field of political activities, the role of women was continued collectively resulting in the revision of some of the policy decisions of the ruling authorities which affected society negatively.

The position of women in Manipur when compared with women in other States in India is comparatively high. In this regard, SK Bhuyan observes 'Manipur women have been enjoying a freedom which their sisters in India fail to attain. They were not confined to the four walls of their domestic life, they go out freely for purposes of petty trades mainly in the scale of products of their own hand. They weave fine durable textures where colours are ensembles in the most attractive manner'.

The declaration of human rights by the United Nations in 1948 has added another dimension by granting equal rights to both men and women. But in many parts of India the social reality is somewhat different. Majority of women specially in rural areas still remain traditional and continues to endure subordinate and inferior position in the patriarchal society.

Despite Manipur being a patriarchal society women still play a significant role and enjoy higher status than her counterparts in other parts of India. Nevertheless, there are certain social restrictions deforming her social jurisdiction. In the hilly areas of Manipur as per their custom women are not allowed to inherit parental property.

But they are given certain *almirah* and kitchen materials etc. at the time of their marriage. But in the valleys of the Manipur, parental property are distributed amongst their sons and daughters. However in Manipur sons are always given preference. This proves social condition of women

is in a subordinate position in Manipur society.

Inheritance and succession follow the male line and female have no right to property. In case the family has daughters only, the property of the father passes down to his nearest lineage of male relatives of the deceased clans while daughters receive none.

Property Rights

As per the customary laws of tribals in Manipur women are deprived of family right of inheritance which goes to either the eldest son or the youngest son in the family. Generally amongst the rural communities women do not enjoy property rights.

And no movement has been found so far. Women still have not claimed family property rights. However, well to do families in the towns and cities and a few educated and enlightened arrange an equal share of family properties by including daughters.

In the hills, rights of the women are primarily governed by customary laws. But in the valley as far as inheritance is concerned there is no such distinction as ancestral or self acquired property. The father is the absolute owner of all the property in his possession.

After his death, sons inherit the property left by him. The widow succeeds to the property of her husband as long as she is alive without any legal authority. Provision is made for the unmarried daughters. Dues and debts incurred by the deceased father is the first priority before any division amongst the successors.

A divorced daughter has a right of abode at her father's residence as long as she does not remarry. A sister also has the right to succeed to the property of a brother who has no wives and children.

Presently, there is no discrimination as to share of a validly married wife and that of the wife not validly married. They all share equally. An unmarried woman, or a widow or a *khainaba* (divorcee) is the full owner of the property which she earns by her own exertions.

In case a married woman receives a gift or a present from her father, mother or some other relatives or their friends, she becomes the full owner of that property.

A girl becomes full owner of the property and also of the articles given to her by her husband and relatives at the eve of her marriage. She can claim all such property at the time of her divorce. A divorced woman does not inherit any property of her husband by whom she has been divorced or whom she has divorced.

A son enjoys unfettered right to sell homestead as well as his house, but he is bound to accommodate his divorced sister, if any, at his new residence. Even though there is law for giving properties to daughters in practice, they do not get it.

The Manipur Land Revenue and Land Reforms act, 1960
(No. 33 1960) (13th September, 1960)

An act to consolidate and amend the law relating to land revenue in the state of Manipur and to provide for certain measures of land reforms are as follows:

1. Be it enacted by the Parliament in the eleventh year of the Republic of India as follows; this act may be called the Manipur Land revenue and the Land Reforms Act, 1960:v
2. It extends to the whole of the state of Manipur except the Hill areas thereof; provided that the state Government, by notification in the official gazette, extend the whole or any part of any section of this act to any of the hill areas of Manipur also as may be specified in such notification.
3. It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may be notified the official gazette, appoint; and different dates may be appointed for different areas and different provisions of the act.

Any custom or usage prevailing at the time any of the provision of this act are brought into force in any area in state of Manipur and having the force of law therein shall, if such custom or usage is repugnant to or inconsistent with such provision, cease to be operated to the extent of repugnancy or inconsistency.

It may be such that the collective right to land for women may be seen in the Ima market, a place which belongs to the women solely and passed on to the daughter in laws. It was installed in 1504 before the Kangla inauguration in 1522 and renamed Sana keithen in 1559.

It is suggested for further discussion in the seminar and recommended to the concerned departments for the implementation.

1. Women should have an equal access to training and education for managing trade and commerce.
2. Local Governments should be given autonomous power to administration in an effective manner and it should give both man and woman equal rights of participation.
3. The need for capacitating women in terms of access control and ownership of land besides training is strongly emphasized.
4. Government with indigenous people should establish fair procedures for reviewing situations and for taking corrective measures to avoid unfair and discriminatory practices.
5. Customary laws are to be amended to give women enjoy property rights including land rights.

(Extract from the writer's paper in the regional seminar on Land and Resource Rights of Indigenous Women in NE India held at Subansiri of Arunachal Pradesh on June 7 and 8, 2007)

8. Background paper by Initiatives Women In Development
(IWID)

The economic reality that Indian women possess less than 1% of agricultural land and few have control over own lands, led IWID to explore strategies to ensure agricultural land for rural women with 'access and control' over land. IWID identified more than individual ownership, collective farming by women will be an effective strategy towards 'access and control' of land by women and to build stronger 'women alliance/unity' which also will be a good strategy to build 'Women Farmers' body, an important political capacity of rural women. The details explained in our docu film 'Landing for change' and the guide book 'Shesha prachana' (Hindi, Panjabi, Tamil and Malayalam).

IWID has initiated a National level Campaign for Women Farmers and Collective Farming. Through this campaign, IWID has promoted a number of collective farms by women in a number of states. While promoting the collective farms by women, IWID is carrying out the study on the feasibility of collective farm by understanding the challenges faced by the women farmers.

The importance of Influencing Governance

Our experiment with collective farming and experience identified the following challenges by the women farmers to promote collective farming.

1. Availability of land
2. Exorbitant Lease money
3. Paying lease in cash
4. Untimely electricity supply
5. No access to govt scheme
6. Can't avail farmer benefits
7. Difficult to negotiate for common land/ or panchayat land
8. Need of incentives
9. Famine or flood relief
10. Difficult to avail farmer relief packages
11. Need of space to negotiate with Govt. Officials
12. Petitioning to govt departments
13. Need of training and knowledge management
14. Budget allocation and benefits to women farmers

Our govt has signed in CEDAW and pledged to eliminate discrimination against women through plans, schemes, policy and legislation. It is important to lobby with Govt. to negotiate for rural women. So, it is important to bring the educated women activists who can create space for rural women in governance system.

The National campaign for Women Farmers and Collective farming serves as a bridge between illiterate exploited rural women and educated sensitive urban women. This bridge will strengthen women alliance/unity to negotiate space in governance and bring equality to women

It is important to build a strong women forum/ group to negotiate and create space to lobby for land rights for women in the capital city of India.

This group can be informal and democratic. At the same time, one can become a member of National Campaign for Women Farmers and Collective farming to be part of a wider network that is individual membership based.

The suggested Action plan

1. We can organise regular meets to discuss the Governance space and possible lobbying space at that juncture.
2. We can organise consultations with Govt officials and other like minded people
3. We can organise joint programmes by pooling our capacity and resources
4. We can avail resource person for the trainings extended to rural women in different states
5. We can represent the cause at different national and international platforms.

A Few Government Schemes for Agriculture

1. India to set up 67 new Krishi Vigyan Kendras

They will come up in different states and Union territories during the 12th Five Year Plan

Submitted on 03/20/2012

New Delhi: The Government of India proposes to set up 67 new Krishi Vigyan Kendras in different States and Union Territories during the 12th five year Plan.

An official Press release said that presently 610 Krishi Vigyan Kendras are functioning in the country to assess, refine and demonstrate agricultural technologies to provide training to farmers.

These Kendras make the farmers aware of the latest agricultural technologies through extension programmes.

2. \$109mn WB aid for Rajasthan agricultural project

Under the project agricultural output in 20 selected areas of the state will be enhanced through sustainable and efficient use of water resources

Submitted on 03/28/2012 - 09:29:24 AM

Washington: The World Bank has approved a US \$109 million funding for the Rajasthan Agricultural Competitiveness Project in India to enhance agricultural productivity through sustainable and efficient use of water resources.

The project is expected to increase agricultural productivity and farmer incomes through efficient water management, crop management, improved agricultural technology, farmer organizations and market innovations in some 20 selected areas in Rajasthan.

The initiative will benefit some 155,000 smallholder farmers, the Washington-based World Bank said in a statement on Tuesday, reports IANS.

"The agricultural sector needs an end-to-end approach ranging from water management to better agricultural practices and marketing," World Bank Country Director for India Roberto Zaghera, said.

The project will be financed by a credit from the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank's concessionary lending arm.

3. Farmers to get smart Kisan Credit Cards

The smart cards would be loaded with a pre-sanctioned credit limit for each farmer against which withdrawals can be made through ATMs

Submitted on 03/16/2012 - 09:42:20 AM

New Delhi: Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee on Friday announced that Kisan Credit Card will be modified to make it smart card to use it in ATMs.

Farmers, both big and small, will now get plastic smart cards from banks soon that could be swiped at automated teller machines, points of sale and hand-held machines to withdraw cash and pay for goods and services, the Minister said while presenting the Budget in Parliament on Friday.

Despite being called 'credit cards', kisan credit cards have actually been the traditional passbooks issued by public sector banks with loan details, using which credit and debit entries were periodically updated.

The smart cards would be loaded with a pre-sanctioned credit limit for each farmer against which withdrawals can be made through ATMs or payments made through swipe machines available at merchant outlets.

Bankers said the proposed move would be a win-win situation for both banks and farmers. While it would be easy for farmers to withdraw cash and pay for goods and services, smart cards would reduce congestion in bank branches, they said.

He said the interest subvention scheme for providing cheaper loan to farmers at 7 per cent interest will continue in the next year.

The Agriculture credit proposed to be increased to a whopping Rs 5,75,000 crore, an increase of Rs 1,00,000 crore. NABARD will get Rs 10,000 crore for short term crop loans to small and marginal farmers.

To bring green revolution to Eastern India, allocation for Rashriya Krishi Vikas Yojna will be increased to Rs 1,000 crore from Rs 400 crore.

4. UN aid to better Uttarakhand farm livelihoods

The \$90 million aid will be utilised to develop food production system in the state by improving technologies for traditional food crops and livestock

Submitted on 02/02/2012 - 09:50:16 AM

United Nations: India is receiving a loan of nearly US \$90 million from the United Nations to improve agricultural livelihoods in the small northwestern hill state of Uttarakhand, one of the poorest areas in the country.

The loan under an agreement with the UN International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) will go towards the Integrated Livelihoods Support Project, which aims to support and develop the food production system in Uttarakhand by improving technologies for traditional food crops and livestock.

"This project is a direct response from the Government of India to scale up successful rural development programmes in the state," IFAD stated in a news release, reports IANS.

The project will enable farmers to earn more by selling cash crops, according to the Rome-based agency. Production of off-season vegetables such as potatoes, tomatoes and peas will increase and better marketing arrangements will be put in place.

The project, which will cover 143,000 households, will also introduce new crops and products such as nuts, spices, medicinal and aromatic plants. Among those expected to benefit are small rural producers, women, scheduled caste households and young people. Although many households in Uttarakhand have land, the holdings are very small and the tiny terraced plots on steep hillsides make mechanisation extremely difficult, IFAD said.

5. Rs 332.87 Cr for green revolution in East

The fund will be used to increase crop productivity in seven eastern Indian states by intensive cultivation through a package of farming practices

Submitted on 01/31/2012 - 09:36:26 AM

New Delhi: The government has released Rs 332.87 crore to seven States for extending green revolution to east India in the current financial year.

According to government official sources, Rs 400 crore have been earmarked for this sub-scheme under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) for this fiscal, of which as on 20th January 2012, Rs 332.87 crore has been released.

“The agricultural productivity in this region is comparatively low in spite of the adequate availability of natural resources required for higher production,” the statement said.

The programme targets improvement in the rice based cropping system in the selected States.

Eastern India with 2-3 times more rainfall compared to the Northwest States, unexploited good quality ground water aquifers, and vast resources of social capital have relative advantage for sustainable production of rice, banana, sugarcane and aquaculture.

The scheme is aimed at increasing crop productivity of the region by intensive cultivation through promotion of recommended agricultural technologies and package of practices.

–iGovernment Bureau

6. Assam to take up Rs 70.50 Cr watershed project

The project is aimed at creating employment and providing livelihood source for hundreds of people living in the Panbari area of Guwahati

Submitted on 01/23/2012 - 10:27:11 AM

Guwahati: Assam government is taking up a Rs 70.50 crore project of watershed management, agriculture, eco-tourism and fishery-cum-vegetable cultivation at Panbari, situated on the outskirts of Guwahati.

The project is being taken up jointly by state Agriculture, Irrigation, Fishery and Soil Conservation Departments and the Assam Agricultural University (AAU) in Jorhat.

The project has been worked out by the AAU and would be supported by the four departments of the government.

The project aims at holistic approach towards reclamation and use of degraded land at Panbari through integrated farming based on watershed model.

Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi on Thursday held a meeting to work out methodology for taking forward the project on consortium model with participation of AAU, Agriculture, Irrigation, Fishery and Soil Conservation Departments.

The project is aimed at creating employment and providing livelihood source for hundreds of people living in the nearby areas.

–iGovernment Bureau

7. Rs 68 Cr relief package for Punjab farmer

The relief will be applicable for those defaulters of Punjab Agricultural Development Bank whose repayment time has been lapsed by June 30, 2011

Submitted on 12/22/2011 - 12:14:36 PM

By Hemant Singh

Chandigarh: In a respite to nearly 95,000 loan defaulters of the state cooperative institutions, the Punjab government has announced One Time Settlement Scheme (OTS) to the tune of Rs 68.55 crore.

A government spokesperson said Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal has approved the scheme thereby bailing out the defaulters. This scheme would give a benefit to the tune of Rs. 9.17 crore to nearly 72,000 farmers across the state.

The relief will be applicable for those defaulters of Punjab Agricultural Development Bank whose repayment time has been lapsed by June 30, 2011.

Defaulters would now have to make 20 per cent payment of the outstanding loan within a month and the remaining 80 per cent to be paid in two equal six monthly installments at 9 per cent interest rate. If any defaulter deposited the entire loan within two months, then he would be entitled for a rebate of 10 per cent.

According to the scheme introduced by the Housefed, 10,811 defaulters who have failed to repay the loan by March 31, 2011 would be given relief from the interest and penal interest worth Rs 57.25 crore.

This scheme would remain open till September 30, 2012 thereby facilitating as many as 168 defaulters who would get back their land and house property mortgaged with the banks as security against the loans advanced to them.

These defaulters would now have to repay their outstanding loans to the Housefed at a simple interest at 12 per cent without any penal interest.

Under the Flood Debt Agreement Relief Scheme 2011, only 25 per cent of the outstanding amount of loan would be recovered from 11,359 defaulters, who had taken loan in 1988 to cope up with the situation in the wake of floods.

As per records the total outstanding amount to the tune of Rs.23.18 crore was to be repaid by these defaulters as on March 31, 2011. This scheme would be open till September 30, 2012 to bail out these defaulters, he said.

8. Bihar earmarks Rs 90,000 Cr for agriculture sector

The amount will be spent in the next five years to implement the agriculture road map comprising loan, storage and marketing

Submitted on 12/21/2011 - 08:26:55 AM

By M Shabnam

Patna: The Bihar Government will spend more than Rs 90,000 crore to implement its five- year agriculture roadmap comprising loan, storage and marketing from April, 2012.

A decision to this effect was taken by the Cabinet Committee on Agriculture which met here on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

Agriculture Production Commissioner A K Sinha said major share of the estimated amount would be spent on distribution of loan, storage and marketing.

The meeting decided to increase the storage capacity from 9 lakh metric tonne to 65 lakh metric tonne during the next five years and 85 lakh metric tonne in the next ten years

9. Haryana to boost polly-house farming

It has announced incentives for farmers who adopt this technology to raise any vegetable crop during any part of the year

Submitted on 10/18/2011 - 09:22:26 AM

By Hemant Singh

Chandigarh: Haryana Horticulture Department is all set to implement various lucrative schemes and to provide subsidies, ranging from 50 to 100 per cent, in the field of polly-house farming to encourage the farmers to adopt this technology.

“Polly-house farming has emerged as far more remunerative than traditional cultivation of crops, for the farmers. Green house technology is a fast emerging area for the cultivation of vegetables,” Haryana’s Horticulture Department Director Satyavir said.

“We have decided to give 50 to 100 per cent subsidies to farmers, who are inclined towards using this technology. A special cell has been constituted for this purpose. Several incentives and subsidies will be provided to the farmers under national horticulture mission for this purpose,” he added.

Satyavir said that the farmers could earn more profit by adopting this technology and improved quality of vegetables could be obtained through this technology with less utilisation of resources.

The off seasonal vegetables such as tomatoes, brinjal, capsicum, cucumber, sweet gourd, watermelon and bitter gourd could also be cultivated in the poly house.

“We would provide subsidy up to 65 per cent on these crops. Besides, 100 per cent subsidy will be provided on tanks needed for drip irrigation system,” Satyavir said

10. No GM crop trials without states' consent: MoEF

The decision was taken after Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar opposed field trials of genetically modified (GM) crop Bt maize in his state

Submitted on 03/10/2011 - 09:38:06 AM

New Delhi: No field trials of genetically modified (GM) crop will be allowed without the consent of the states, Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh said.

The decision was taken after Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar opposed field trials of genetically modified (GM) crop Bt maize in his state.

The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC), under the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), had allowed US-based firm Monsanto to conduct field trials of Bt maize in Bihar.

"I have asked the GEAC to immediately withdraw the orders. I have asked them to write to all the states asking if they recommend field trials of GM crops and they will be given a month's time to reply. No field trials will be allowed without written permission of states," Jairam Ramesh told reporters here.

Bt brinjal was the first, and maize is the second food crop for which the GEAC has given permission for field trials in India, reports IANS.

The Ministry last year had put a moratorium on introduction of Bt brinjal in the country following protests from farmers and environmentalists, who say that GM crops are harmful for health and damage the eco-system.

11. India gearing up for Green Revolution 2.0

India and the US have decided to intensify bilateral strategic cooperation in agriculture and food security to spur a second Green Revolution in India

Submitted on 09/17/2010 - 11:42:12 AM

New Delhi: Ahead of US President Barack Obama's maiden visit here, the US has decided to intensify bilateral strategic cooperation in agriculture and food security to spur a second Green Revolution in India.

The two sides held their inaugural two-day agriculture dialogue here that ended on Tuesday. Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao co-chaired the dialogue with Robert Hormats, Under Secretary (Energy, Economic and Agricultural Affairs) in the US State Department.

"The working groups discussed proposals for cooperation and will finalise the specific initiatives and modalities for cooperation through mutual consultation," the External Affairs Ministry said here.

The two sides have set up three working groups for strategic cooperation in agriculture and food security, food-processing, agriculture extension, farm-to-market linkages and weather and crop-forecasting, reports IANS.

The two sides will discuss steps to accelerate agricultural cooperation during delegation-level talks when Obama comes on his maiden visit to India early November.

The US sees India as key to solving global agricultural challenges. "India will play a vitally important role in solving these kinds of challenges, not only for India, but for the region and the world," State Department spokesperson PJ Crowley said in Washington early this week.

He underlined that that the US would certainly want to see how they might be able to work collaboratively on a Green Revolution 2.0.

12. NABARD to promote organic farming in Kerala

The project will be implemented in seven districts initially in association with the Kerala Social Services Forum

Submitted on 07/01/2010 - 10:27:26 AM

Thiruvananthapuram: The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) will promote organic farming in Kerala.

According to NABARD Chief General Manager K C Shashidhar, the initiative will be implemented in association with banks and non-governmental organisations who will introduce over 10,000 farmers to organic farming in the first phase.

"Organic farming practices need to be encouraged using local knowledge of farmers and also they need to be integrated with the tested practices of research scientists and academia. To accomplish this, we will associate with Kerala Agricultural University," Shashidhar said.

The project will be implemented in seven districts initially in association with the Kerala Social Services Forum, an umbrella organisation of NGOs.

As a prelude to its formal launch, NABARD will conduct a two-week training programme aimed at creating the right awareness about organic agricultural techniques, organic manures, production of bio-control agents such as organic pesticides and organic fungicides, reports IANS.

It will also inform the farmers about pesticide-free food production methods, post-harvest management means, food security through organic farming, and seed conservation, Shashidhar said.

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Annexure 2

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

List of participants of the workshop

1. Dr Neelavali, Director of Initiatives: Women in Development, IWID
2. Dr.L.Ibetombi Devi , Chairperson of Manipur State Women’s Commission
3. Mr.Yambem Laba, former member, Manipur State Human Rights Commission
4. Dr. N Ram Singh, Head of Department of Agricultural Economics Department of Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur
5. Mrs. Lourembam Ima Nganbi, President, Apunba Nupi Lup (ANUL)
6. Ima Ramani, Secretary of All Manipur Social Reformation and Development Samaj
7. Ms Nandini Thokchom, a Social Activist of Manipur
8. Mr. James Vaiphei, Project Manager at Ebenezer Children’s Home, under Outreach Mission Christian Rehabilitation Service (OMCRS), Imphal, Manipur
9. Mrs. Mumtaz, Women Survivor, Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network,
10. Ms Sumshot Khullar, Fellow, Foundation for Social Transformation
11. Ms Helam Haokip, Secretary, Integrated Rural Management Association (IRMA)
12. Ms Binalakshmi Nepam, Founder, Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network.
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18. R.K. Rebita Devi, Student, Manipur University
19. Lukhuanliu R. Panmei, MSW Student , IGNTU
20. W. Menon, Forum for Indeginous Perspective and Action
21. P. Meenaka, Tata Institute of Social Sciences
22. Lamabam Geetabala Chanu

23. Lukram Binaka Devi

24. Mr Lanchenba, Student

25. Ms Reena Mutum, Co-ordinator, Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network

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