

Farmer Interest Group; a tested tool for Socio-economic upliftment; from Tirap district of Arunachal Pradesh

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INTRODUCTION

The Arunachal Pradesh is located in north eastern India and called as “Land of the Rising Sun”. It is largest states in north-east as per the area concern. The Tirap district is located in eastern part of Arunachal Pradesh with an area about 2,362 km² with 100 percent Tribal population. The population of the district is 1, 11,975 peoples. And the total seven community blocks namely- Namsang, Soha, Borduria, Khonsa, Dadam, Lazu and Kapu are prevailing. The agriculture and horticultural crops, poultry, piggy etc. are the major sources of rural economy in the district. Paddy, French bean, okra, brinjal, cucurbitaceous vegetables, leafy vegetables, potato etc. are the major crops grown by the farmers.

The paddy and seasonal vegetables are the major sources of income in the district. The Probable interventions in the field of agriculture are -Vegetable Cultivation, Backyard Poultry farming, Backyard Piggery Farming etc.

The Chomoithung village falls under Bari Basip block, district- Tirap. The village having good climatic conditions for cultivation of seasonal vegetables, paddy, millets fruit crops, spices etc. But the most of the farmers of this village was reluctant to adopt new technologies at their respective farms. After conducting several group meetings, field visits and trainings the staffs of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)- Tirap felt that a Farmer Interest Group (FIG) on Intergraded Farming Systems (IFS) can boost the activities of agricultural and allied activities in the village. In that scenario a FIG on IFS was formed by KVK Tirap during 2020. Shri Thunlan Tesia; a progressive farmer of this village was elected the secretary of FIG after consent of all 21 members.

After its inception; the FIG started to cultivate ginger, turmeric, seasonal vegetables, rearing of cow and pig. Shri Thunlan Tesia was established the good linkages between different departments- department of Horticulture, department of Agriculture, department of Veterinary, KVK etc. for the success and upliftment of their villager's livelihood ness. After his persuasion all departments provides the benefit of their respective programmes/schemes to the FIG members.

The group started cultivation of potato, chilli, garden pea, cucumber, okra during Rabi season, 2021. After guidance of KVK, group members started to apply different types of biofertilizers, neem based formulation as pest control, spray of micronutrient with appropriate dose, vermicomposting at their farms.

Though, pigs reared by every household in Arunachal Pradesh as a tradition but due to unscientific approaches; their productivity was too low. After KVK intervention, FIG also stated a piggery unit

with 6 female piglets and 1 male piglet during 2021. Now their piggery unit having 24 females and 4 male pigs.

Similarly, the cow rearing also is a tradition at personnel level but productivity was too low. After KVK guidance; FIG had also started a small dairy unit with 04 numbers of cows during 2022. Now the unit having 4 cows with 02 heifer and 1 calf.

The FIG members also have started a small unit of poultry with 50 chicks during October, 2022. The KVK experts demonstrated properly about chicks' management, maintenance of housing, management of feeds, their vaccination etc.

The FIG has impacted positively after its inception at village level. After intervention of different agricultural and allied technologies; their net income increases drastically (Table-1). After the positive economic results, the farmers of neighbouring villages are also showing keen interest to start agricultural and allied activities with scientific approaches.

Table 1. Financial improvement through FIG

Details		Vegetable farming	Piggery	Dairy	Poultry
Net income; Before Intervention		2,87,000	42,000	21,800	6,400
Net income; After intervention		4,12,000	78,000	38,600	19,600





