

**Successful Steps toward Sustainable Farming by Farmers Interest Groups (FIGs)
Under Seppa HQ Circle in the East Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh
A-Success Story**

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INTRODUCTION

Farmers' Interest Groups (FIGs) are small, self-managed groups of 10-20 farmers with shared goals, forming a grassroots unit for agricultural development, risk management, and economic empowerment who pool resources and share knowledge to improve farming practices, market access, and profitability. These groups get government support for equipment, training, and meetings, empowering individual farmers and strengthening the agricultural sector through collective action. In view of the above facts KVK East Kameng has constituted the one Farmers Interest Group with name of Jayanti Farmers Interest Group in 2023 and thereafter by seeing the successful activities of group members and their socio-economic growth, 4 nos. of more F.I.Gs namely Lower Pampoli, Upper Pampoli, Fengche and Wessang has established by the KVK in the technical guidance of Dr V.K. Misra Subject Matter Specialist (Fisheries). Now the above the said FIGs are in proper function and conducting their credit management and execution of cropping programme with integration of fishery and animal husbandry practices along with awareness about the soil health and importance of soil testing among the farming community to popularize the organic/natural farming for safe nature and secured future.

Overview of the Programme and Selection of Village:

In the present scenario of India about 65-70% of the total population, depends on agriculture & allied sectors and lives in rural areas for their livelihood at subsistence or near subsistence level. These rural folk require not only a large supplement of nutritional food for their daily routine work but also needs new sources of gainful employment for their overall development. Agriculture and its allied sector plays a pivotal role in the economy of Arunachal Pradesh, being the main occupation of the majority of the people.

In the recent years, main emphasis is focused towards to enhance the farmer's income by all the possible means through the safest agriculture practices applying organic/ natural farming technology with integration of suitable allied component. With reference to the facts said above, Farmers Interest Groups (FIG) were constituted by the KVK East Kameng in the technical guidance of Dr V. K. Misra Subject matter Specialist (Fisheries) in the suitable areas as a model for the rest of district population living in far flung areas. The said villages from the various locations under Seppa HQ circle in the district has surveyed by using PRA and RRA techniques for the said purpose where there were sufficient available resource to implement the programme beside some constraints. After the survey a meeting has been conducted by the K.V.K with the district administration, line departments and other stockholders to select the one village i.e. Jayanti at 1st stage and thereafter it has decided by District Administration and all

the other stakeholders that we will work in 4 more village as discussed above.

Interventions made for improving income:

After the mass awareness as well as need based mass training programmes by the different experts of the K.V.K on related topics, the seed of improved varieties of different crops like Pulses, Oil-Seeds, Vegetables and also fish fingerlings along with feed were distributed to farmers. They were also facilitated with different commodity which may be beneficial in integrated farming system, like poultry birds, Ducklings and goat also for rearing to improve their livelihood and nutritional status. The farmers were also trained about allied activities like mushroom farming vermi-composting, Seasonal Vegetable production, Production of planting material for seasonal vegetable and fish seed raising etc. for income generation. These programmes have been started by the K.V.K East Kameng to uplift the socioeconomic status of famers in the district.



Training and awareness to the FIG members by the team KVK



Fish seed distribution to the FIG members and fish health monitoring



Income Generation activities by the FIG members through Integrated Fish farming system



Vegetable Production by the FIG members



Organic Production of large cardamom by FIGs

Outcome of the interventions made:

The recorded data revealed that the programme has a very good response in term of improved income and nutritional status of the farmers and their dependents besides the new source of employment. After the various interventions the suitable related sectors like vegetable production, nursery production of vegetable crops, large cardamom production and rearing of different varieties of fish in integrated mode, becomes a

very good means for the financial as well as nutritional security at the larger scale.

CONCLUSION

As a technical guide to the FIGs I personally feel that the interventions made by our Kendra along with help of line departments has very good impact and played a pivotal role to uplift the socio-economic status of the FIG members and now become a model for the farmers/villagers in the rest of the district.