

Emergence of local market in Longchai village

Situation of the project village: Jhum cultivation is a traditional agriculture pattern practiced by the tribal community since time immemorial. Though farmers also have wetland field, home garden, etc they are more attach to jhum field cultivation. Jhum field is considered as the second home of the tribal community. But now it has witnessed a sea change. Our land (Natural Resources) unable to feed the ever growing population of our people, forest area and production are diminishing at the first rate, arable land are encroached upon in the name of development projects, horticulture productions which found growing luxuriant and plenty were at the verge of extinction, society were widely divided haves and have nots.

Tousem sub-division is the most backward sub-division in Manipur. People living in the area have no govt. officers, poor transport and communication, no medical facilities and even the sub-divisional officers and all departments were stationed at Tamenglong headquarter. Children from class I and above were schooling at Jiribam, Tamenglong, and Nungba and even at Silchar as there is no proper school in the project villages. People went to Jiribam which is 54 to 77 km away from the project villages for medical, schooling and marketing/shopping purposes as these facilities are not available in the area.

Things purchased at Jiribam and other market by the people for their daily needs

Sl.No	Name of market	Distance and mode	Things brought from the market
1	Jiribam nearest market	54 -77 km by vehicle and foot in rainy season.	Rice,Clothing,kerosene,Petroleum,Electronic goods,Medicine,Spices,salt, musery and oil, Kitchen Utensil, Hardware goods,Cosmetics,Soap & detergent, potato and other vegetables.
2	Kamachera,NC Hills, Assam.	37 km by foot	Dry fish, clothing, medicine etc.

Established of Local Market at Longchai. At these backdrop, “People’s Endeavour for Social Change” (PESCH) has been given awareness on natural resources management, linkage with market, bank since its project inception (Phase-II). We also conducted food Mela at Jiribam in 25 February 2013 bringing together 34 SHGs from Tousem, Nungba and Jiri area. In the Food Mela resource persons encouraged the SHGs and leaders to set up local market in their respective area for the convenient of the poor people. So, with the EED project intervention, people realized the need of local market in the area. So, in 2013, 13 village’s leaders come

together at Longchai village and resolved to approach to Govt.of Manipur for establishment of Local market at Longchai. In the meeting they selected market development board. Mr. Dikham Gonmei of Longchai as secretary, Mr. Namra pastor Aben as chairman and all village authority chairman as members of the board. So, the board submitted memorandum to the Local MLA Z. Kikhonbou 52/AC Tamei constituency. District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) Tamenglong sanction Rs. 50 lakh for the bazaar shed construction. It was completed and inaugurated by MLA Z. Kikhonbou and Shantikumar SDO, Tousem on 17th September 2014.

Change situation & Conclusion: With the establishment of local market in the project area, farmers from neighboring villages bring and sales their products, some traders from Jiribam come with their goods, this minimize travelling expenses, there is easy access to the market, reduced the grievance faced by the collection of taxes at the police check post when they brought goods from jiribam and local products to Jiribam market. The weekly market day is fixed on Thursday. It will be contributed to the project objectives of linkage market to the SHGs and community.

Photo documentation:



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