

## Environment Sustainability: A Case study of Salulamang village in Mokokchung district of Nagaland

**Problem statement:** Salulamang is one of the few villages in Mokokchung district where public transportation is not available. The main occupation of the villagers was Jhum cultivation and Jhum cultivation was practised extensively before the intervention of PMKSY-WDC. Around 60 households were engaged in Jhum cultivation over a total area of around 90 Hectares in 2012.

**Intervention:** In the initial 2-3 years, mixed cropping was done in the rubber plantation area. About 27 units of piggery have been initiated under livelihood activities, rubber plantation has been encouraged on a large scale and setting up of micro-enterprise unit has provided a source of income for the villagers. Technical inputs on land use and construction of engineering structures, viz. water harvesting structures and gully plugs have made water available for use in fields and other plantation areas. The technical assistance provided through the programme for management of orange plantation has been beneficial to the farmers and contributed to the success of the activity, eventually increasing production and generating more income for the farmers.

**Impact:** However, after the intervention of WDC, Jhum cultivation has gradually decreased and the villagers have taken up rubber plantation. During the study and monitoring visits by the evaluating agency, it was noted by the agency that the Land Resources Department has been performing commendably in reaching out to villages through PMKSY-WDC. The average land under Jhum per household has exhibited a decreasing trend, i.e. 1.5 Hectare per household in 2012 to 0.75 Hectare per household in 2016, resulting in a reduction of the total area under Jhum to 22.5 Hectares (2016) from 90 Hectares (2012).

**Sustainability:** Green coverage created by plantation crops over abandoned Jhum land provides safe shelter for wildlife, birds, insects and microbes. Thereby, through watershed intervention and promotion of economic activities in the villages under PMKSY-WDC, there has been a significant reduction in Jhum practice in the state which has a favourable impact on the environment.

*(Reference: Various social impacts of PMKSY-WC with special focus on reduction of Jhum cultivation, 2016, MELD in Nagaland-NABARD Consultancy Services Pvt. Ltd.)*