

Sustainable livelihood opportunities for women; Case Study of Yeikha and Yow Mijaiim Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in Phek district of Nagaland

Problem statement: Providing sustainable livelihood opportunities to landless and women

Intervention: Land Resource Department of Phek District facilitated the formation of two SHGs, namely; Yeikha SHG & Yow Mijaiim SHG in the year 2017 with ten women members in each group. The primary purpose of collectivizing and forming the groups was to improve the socio-economic status of poor rural women, especially to enhance their income. Seed money amounting to Rs. 10,000 each was given to both the groups. Tree beans (Parkia), a very important multipurpose tree species, having many utilities such as rich nutritional value as it is abundant in minerals and vitamins, medicinal value, use as insecticides and pesticides, enriching the soil by fixing atmospheric nitrogen, etc. Besides, tree bean (Parkia) the SHG members are also engaged in weaving and kitchen gardening.

Impact: Each SHG has been earning Rs. 40,000-50,000 annually from the sale of Parkia. The Self-Help groups collect the entire produce of their village and transport it to the nearest market which is 114 km away from their village and sells it.

Sustainability: The group maintains cash book, savings book, meeting minutes register and all other relevant registers thereby facilitating their financial independence in the long run. The livelihood component of the programme has helped the women in the SHGs to earn a sustainable livelihood thereby contributing to equity.

(Reference: Success stories: Bringing visible changes in the economy of the rural community, Booklet provided by SLNA of Nagaland)