



Success story of farmers' innovation

(Shri. Bitri Basyrngaid Mairang, West Khasi Hills - Vegetables grower)

Terrace Cropping



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Shri Bitri Basyrngaid having the family of seven members was deriving livelihood from his farm of 2.2 ha located in village Pydengumiong Mairang, block Mairang (44 km from Shillong) in West Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya and had been in this profession for the last 30 years. He used to grow various crops like maize, potato, chow-chow, cabbage, cauliflower, tomato, lettuce, radish, mustard leaf, beet root, plum, peach, pear including flowers-gerbera and carnation and livestock-local breed of poultry and piggery. He used to sell all his produces to Mairang market and Shillong market and could fetch him a handsome profit from all the crops except chow-chow crop. The demand for chow-chow crop before the year 2007 was negligible and was grown only for uses as pig feed and home consumption.



It was in the year 2007-08 that the market demand and price for chow-chow crop was felt by the farmer and the need for cultivation of chow-chow crop in a large area also arises which brings a major constraint in area expansion of the existing farm area. This was the turning point for him when he finally realized why not growing **potato and chow-chow** on the same area.



Soon he started investing on this innovative idea by spending an amount of Rupees twenty thousand as cost of cultivation for various inputs including seed material, farm yard manure, construction and labour cost. An area of 130 x 130 sq ft was taken as the cultivable area for Terrace cropping of POTATO+CHOW-CHOW. Sowing of chow-chow was done in the month of December followed by potato in February where the chow-chow crop is above the ground level creeping on the wooden planks and potato crop on the ground level. Harvesting of potato was done in June at one time only, whereas chow chow is harvested starting from the last week of June till November second week every year. Thus the farmer could harvest chow chow every day and could enjoy selling the produces for an interval of five months. The gross profit from potato crop is Rs 45,000 and from chow-chow the gross profit is Rs 40,000 which brings him and his family a handsome profit from just only a single season. The produces is marketed in the local market, Shillong market, Patharkhmah market and at present, the demand for chow-chow crop is also found in the Border haat of Balat area.



Our KVK found him while conducted PRA in this adopted village, since then our friendship never end. Our intervention is that we advise him to i) maintained well these crops and the farm as a whole ii) to get more schemes from SDAO,DHO,DAO,ATMA West Khasi Hills, iii) to grow Kiwi fruits i.e 81 plants and our SMS Horticulture taught and help him to multiply his Kiwis by cutting to 50 number more this February,2013 which cover 1186m² of his land iv) give him seeds, conducted OFT, FLD and conducted DEMONSTRATIONS v) we bring other farmers to visit his farm as well as conducted trainings in his farm and give **incentive** to him and some of those farmers followed his examples. Now his whole family members involve in this farm and engaged some laborers to help them and earned handsome money from it.



OUR FARMERS' SUCCESS IS OUR SUCCESS, THEIR FAILURE IS OUR FAILURE.