
FARMER FIRST PROGRAMME (FFP)

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF FFP

'Farmer FIRST Programme' aims at enhancing farmer-scientist interface for technology development and application. It will be achieved with focus on innovations, technology, feedback, multiple stakeholder's participation, multiple realities, multi method approaches, vulnerability, and livelihood interventions. The specific objectives are:

1. To enhance farmer-scientist interface, enrich knowledge and facilitate continued feedback.
2. To identify and integrate economically viable and socially compatible technological options as adoptable models for different agroecological situations.
3. To develop modules for farm women to address drudgery reduction, income enhancement and livelihood security.
4. To study performance of technologies and perception of the farmers about agriculture as a profession in the rural setting.
5. To build network of linkage or organizations around the farm households for improving access to information, technology, inputs, and market.
6. To institutionalize Farmer FIRST process.

Achievements under FFP during 2022-2023

Farmer FIRST Programme (FFP) has been in implementation by two institutes under ATARI Zone VII namely CAU, Imphal and ICAR RC for NEH, Meghalaya, since 2016. The programme was implemented in 12 Villages namely Maopungdong village in Senapati district and Sangshak Khullen Village in Ukhrul District under CAU Imphal and ten villages in the Ri Bhoi district under ICAR RC for NEH Region namely Borgang, Sarikhusi Lalumpam, Purangang, Umtham, Borkhatsari, Nalapara, Nangagang, Mawphrew, and Mawtnum during 2022-23. During the year 2022-23, 1241 farmers have been scientifically trained and benefitted from various modules under Farmer FIRST Programme as part of the activities of the programme.

1. CROP BASED MODULE

CAU Imphal initiated scientific Sweet Corn (Golden Cob F1) cultivation in Manipur's Ukhrul and Senapati districts, while ICAR RC in Umiam led the initiative for double cropping in

fallow rice fields. These collaborative efforts aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity and generating increased income and job prospects for local farmers. This joint endeavour resulted in the successful execution of 5 demonstrations, benefiting a total of 180 beneficiaries from the local farming communities.

2. HORTICULTURE BASED MODULE

To boost potato cultivation, the Kurfi Joyti variety was introduced in the adopted villages with a cultivation area of 0.25 hectares in Maopungdong and an additional 0.25 hectares in Shangshak Khullen, Ukhrul district. In addition to potatoes, fruit crops like lemon and pineapple were also introduced as alternative income sources. These efforts led to the successful execution of four demonstrations, benefiting a total of 47 farmers through these interventions.

3. LIVESTOCK BASED MODULE

Through the interventions 20 Yorkshire breed piglets and 1590 improved breed poultry was distributed to 91 farmers, aiming to boost income generation through pig farming and poultry production.

4. ENTERPRISE BASED MODULE

As part of Enterprise based module CGI sheets were distributed to set up a mushroom spawn production unit in the adopted village. Moreover, mushroom spawn was distributed to boost farmers' income. In addition, trial at a poultry hatchery was conducted using 200 fertile eggs, utilizing an automatic egg incubator situated at the custom hiring centre in the adopted village. Under this enterprise-based module, 7 demonstrations were organized benefited a total of 18 beneficiaries.

5. NRM BASED MODULE

In the NRM Based module, 5 demonstrations were conducted, benefiting 34 farmers. Jalkunds a cost-effective hilltop micro rainwater harvesting structures were constructed for rainwater collection and storage. These structures serve various purposes during dry seasons, including essential irrigation during critical crop growth stages, washing produce like ginger and turmeric, supporting animal husbandry and livestock, and meeting domestic water needs. Furthermore, azolla, a floating fern recognized for its value as a bio-fertilizer in wetland paddy fields, was introduced and recommended for use as fish feed due to its nutritional richness and cost effectiveness. To promote vermicomposting, vermicompost beds were distributed.

6. FISHERY BASED MODULE

Under Fishery Based module 3 Demos were conducted benefitted 30 beneficiaries. FFP Centre at ICAR RC Umiam distributed 1500 fingerlings of Rohu, Gania, and Guchi breeds to 10 farmers in the Marngar Cluster, promoting fishery as an alternative income source. Meanwhile 4500 fingerlings of Rohu, Mirgal, Grass carp, and silver carp were distributed to

20 farmers by CAU Imphal. A fishery training program was also conducted with the aim of encouraging farmers to adopt fishery as an alternate source of livelihood for doubling their income.

7. IFS BASED MODULE

Three demonstrations were conducted with the participation of 3 beneficiaries to showcase the development of Integrated Farming Systems in the project sites. Integrated farming systems offer the opportunity to increase economic yield per unit area and time through the intensification of crop and allied enterprises. The Integrated Farming System was established at the adopted villages with the aim of enhancing the annual income of local farmers.

8. FARM MECHANIZATION BASED MODULE

The beneficiaries received a set of farm mechanization tools and equipment, including Tulu pumps designed for irrigation to eliminate the manual water transport effort in hilly areas, Knapsack sprayers equipped with precision spray gun for precise application of chemicals, insecticides, and pesticides on individual plants. In addition, farmers also received 2 dewatering pumps with accompanying pipes, 2 grass cutters, 20 knapsack sprayers, and various essential farm implements such as 20 garden hoes, 20 shovels, 20 hand cultivators, and 20 sickles which will benefit around 514 farmers through custom hiring centres.

9. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Under extension activities A total no. of 17 trainings/demonstration/ programmes had been conducted during the year with 973 total numbers of participants.





Table 1: Achievement wise during the year 2022-23

Module Wise	CAU, Imphal		ICAR RC Complex Umiam		Total	
	No. of Demos	No. of Beneficiaries	No. of Demos	No. of Beneficiaries	No. of Demos	No. of Beneficiaries
Crop based module	2	20	3	160	5	180
Horticulture based module	2	20	2	27	4	47
Livestock based module	2	30	3	51	5	91
Enterprise based module	4	9	3	9	7	18
NRM based module	2	20	3	14	5	34
Fishery based module	2	20	1	10	3	30
IFS based module	2	2	1	1	3	3
Extension Activities	7	575	10	398	17	973
Farm Mechanization	2	500	2	14	4	514
Total	25	1206	28	684	53	1890

BUDGET PROVISION AND FUND UTILIZATION

The Farmer FIRST Programme are presently being implemented by Central Agricultural University, Imphal and ICAR RC for NEH Region, Umiam, Meghalaya with the total budget provision of Rs. 23.4 lakh and Rs. 21.6 lakh respectively. The Centre wise details of budget provision and its fund utilization are highlighted in Table below.

Sl No.	Centre	Total Budget Allocation	RE for 2022-23			Expenditure		
			Capital	General	Total	Capital	General	Total
1	ICAR RC for NEH Region, Umiam. Meghalaya	21.6	8.6	13	21.6	4.13864	13.15201	17.29065
2	Central Agricultural University, Imphal	20.9	6.9	16.5	23.4	6.83879	16.49072	23.32951
3	ICAR-ATARI Zone-VII, Umiam	9	1.5	5	6.5	1.4296	4.95446	6.38406
Total		51.5	17	34.5	51.5	12.40703	34.59719	47.00422