



# KVK EAST KHASI HILLS NEWSLETTER



VOL:1

No. 2

JULY-DEC 2010

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### FROM THE PROGRAMME COORDINATOR'S DESK :

In a month or so, KVK East Khasi hills district will achieve a milestone of attaining two years old since its inception on February 18, 2009 though the ground activities commenced with the appointment of the Subject Matter Specialists and Farm Manager during 2010. The present issue of the Newsletter is intended to reflect the works being undertaken as per KVK mandates for the benefit of the farmers, rural youth and extension workers of the district. Awareness programmes during the period of reporting formed the core action point to synthesize the ultimate stakeholders the activities of the KVK. Though much is expected to be achieved yet the zeal and commitment instilled will go a long way towards fulfilling the specific objectives to demonstrate the latest proven technologies, to verify the technologies adaptable to local agro-climatic conditions, to impart appropriate trainings and sustainable coordination with other developmental agencies operating in the district in the field of agriculture, horticulture, fisheries, animal sciences and rural development.

The sponsored programmes particularly the Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) for unemployed rural youth and the Training programme on "Organic Farming" for field functionaries/extension officers conducted by the Centre have generated ample interest among the participants for diversification of their activities for gainful self-employment and skill development, respectively. The Centre had been able to convene the first meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee in which concrete suggestions were given by the SAC members. Among these, the



development of the KVK website and the publication of Farmers' list are in the KVK agenda to be taken up during the current financial year. The wholehearted support from time to time by Dr. A.K.Gogoi, Zonal Project Director, Zone III provided the much required encouragement to KVK East Khasi Hills district to progress steadily but surely towards fulfilling the mandates and objectives of the KVK.

It is hope that the current issue of the Newsletter will serve the purpose for a wider dissemination of related information to all stakeholders and as the year ends, all of us in KVK East Khasi hills district wish all our readers a very happy and prosperous New year 2011.

## ACTIVITIES OF THE KVK

In order to fulfill the mandates of the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) laid down by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the KVK, East Khasi Hills District selected fifteen villages, viz. Myllem, Baniun, Mawklot, Sanmer, Nongpiur & Sadew (Myllem C&RD Block); Wahlyngkien & Kyiem (Mawphlang C&RD Block); Tyrsad & Dangar (Mawsynram C&RD Block); Laitkynsew (Shella-Bholaganj C&RD Block); Diengpasoh (Mawryngkneng C&RD Block); Thangsning (Mawkynrew C&RD Block); Mawlynnong (Pynursla C&RD Block) and Mawbeh (Laitkroh-Khadarshnong C&RD Block) from each of the C & RD blocks in the district. The various activities were undertaken in these villages with provisions for expansion of the agricultural operations in due course of time. Technical demonstrations, field trials and trainings are being organized and conducted by the Centre for the benefit of the farmers as well as the youths of these selected villages.

## ON FARM TRIALS (OFT)

On Farm Trials were conducted on Pea crop with the introduction of an early variety - Azad P-1 to escape rust and powdery mildew and also with the use of botanicals for increasing yield. These trials were conducted in Mawphlang, Baniun, Myllem and Laitkynsew presently which will be replicated in the other selected villages. Another trial on Onion crop was conducted in Dangar in collaboration with District Agriculture Officer, Shillong



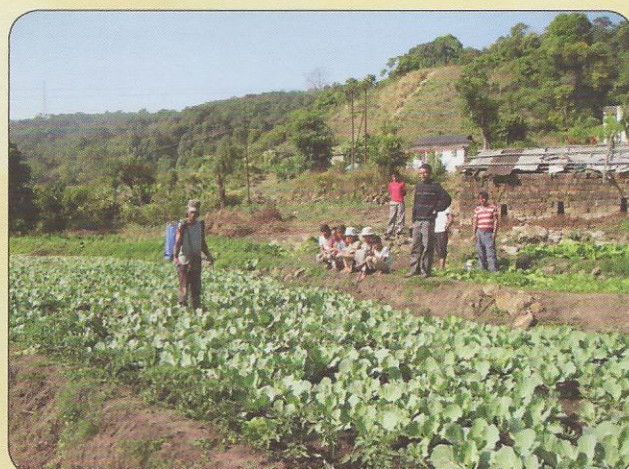
*Farmer spraying botanicals to Pea variety - Azad P-1*



for introduction and popularization of rabi onion variety - Pusa Red for increasing the cropping intensity. Lentil crop was also introduced for the first time in Dangar in collaboration with District Agriculture Officer, Shillong with the aim to increase the cropping intensity and diversify the ongoing farming in the area. Likewise, in tomato crop a trial was conducted in Laitkynsew and Diengpasoh villages to manage bacterial wilt with Biofor formulation which contains *Pseudomonas fluorescense* and *Trichoderma harzianum* as bioagents. In these same villages, another trial was conducted for management of pests of cabbage with bio-pesticide (*Azadirachtin*). All the above trials are ongoing and results are still awaited.



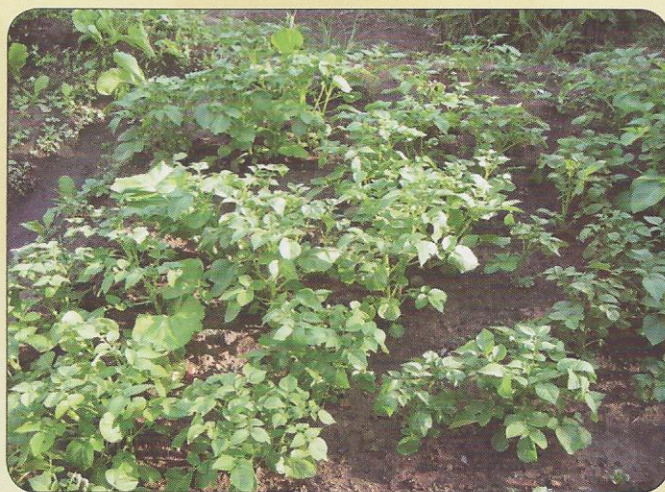
Demonstration on use of Biofor Pf to Farmers



Spraying of Biopesticide in cabbage crop

## FRONT LINE DEMONSTRATIONS (FLD)

Front line Demonstration was conducted in Laitkynsew village on Potato crop where popularization of HYV and disease resistant varieties viz., like Kufri Megha and Kufri Giriraj were introduced. In this same crop, pest management in storage was initiated with the use of biocontrol agents (*Trichogramma blackburnii*) in Mawphlang village. Another demonstration in Dangar village was conducted on cabbage crop where proper nursery management was lagging. These demonstrations would be followed in the other selected villages as well.



Kufri Giriraj introduced at Laitkynsew





*Release of Trichogramma blackburnii in storage*

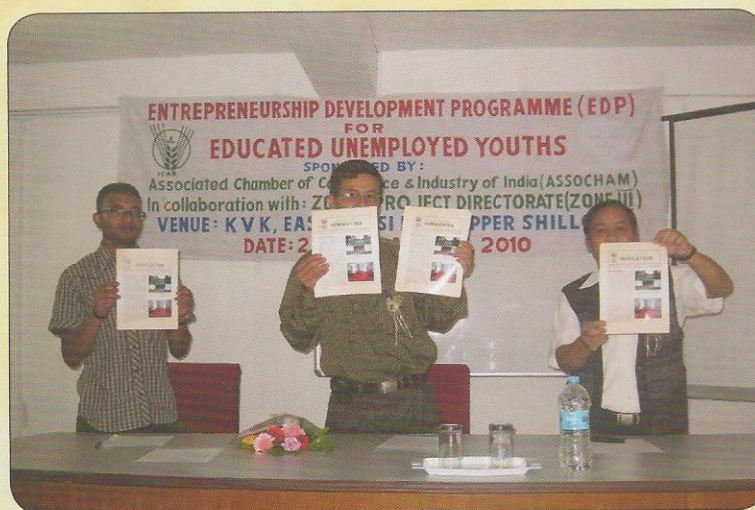


*Demonstration on Nursery Raising of Cabbage crop*

## TRAININGS & AWARENESS PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED (AUGUST – DECEMBER, 2010)

### (A) RURAL YOUTHS:

Unemployed rural youths from villages in the vicinity of the KVK were given need-based training through a 12-day Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) sponsored by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industries of India (ASSOCHAM) in collaboration with the Zonal Project Directorate (Zone-III), Indian Council of Agricultural Research conducted at the Centre from the 2nd to 14th August, 2010. The Programme was aimed to help in motivating rural unemployed youth to take up self employment through small and micro enterprises. It was the best way to encourage these youths to set up their goals and their enterprising units on the basis of the vocational knowledge they acquired from the training. A total of 40 participants attended the training.



*Newsletter released by Dr. A. K. Singha, Sr. Scientist, ZPD, ICAR Umiam during EDP programme*



## (B) EXTENSION FUNCTIONARIES:

An update on the latest and feasible technologies relevant in the present context is an utmost importance for all extension functionaries working for the welfare of the farmers. Our Centre organized a 5-day training programme on “Organic Farming” for the field functionaries and extension officers of the State Department of Agriculture, Meghalaya from 7th -11th December 2010 for 20 participants. The training programme was sponsored by the National Centre for Organic Farming, Ghaziabad, Department of Agriculture Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, New Delhi in collaboration with the District Horticulture Officer, East Khasi Hills district, Meghalaya.

## (C) FARMERS :

Sl. No.	Programmes	Date	Village	No. of farmers
1.	“Integrated Pest Management of Potato” and “Post Harvest Management of Potato” (Training)	17th August 2010	Wahlyngkien	30 farmers
2.	Awareness cum Interaction programme	9th September, 2010	Tyrsad	45 farmers
3.	Awareness cum Interaction programme	10th September, 2010	Diengpasoh	60 farmers
4.	Awareness cum Interaction programme	13th September 2010	Laitkynsew	35 farmers
5.	“Cultivation practices of Lentil and Onion” (Training)	15th September 2010	Dangar	16 farmers
6.	Awareness cum Interaction programme	16th September 2010	Thangsning	60 farmers
7.	Awareness cum Interaction programme	17th September 2010	Mawbeh	60 farmers
8.	“Integrated Pest Management of Rice and Tomato crop” and “Nursery Management and Off season Cultivation of Vegetables” (Training)	18th October 2010	Laitkynsew	45 farmers
9.	“Resource Conservation Technologies” (Training)	22nd October 2010	Laitkynsew	21 farmers
10.	Integrated Pest Management of Potato” (Training)	25th October 2010	Diengpasoh	15 farmers



## OTHER EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

- a) TV Programme: A 'live phone-in TV programme' organized by DDK, Shillong on 10th September 2010 was participated by SMS (Agronomy) and SMS (Horticulture).
- b) Radio Talk: One radio talk on the auspicious "World Food Day" (16th October 2010) was delivered through AIR, Shillong by the Programme Coordinator.
- c) Field Day: A 'Field day' with the theme "Improved Cultivation Practices of Paddy & Integrated Pest Management" was observed at Madan Iing Syiem, Myllem on 1st November, 2010 which was attended by 15 farmers.



*Field Day in progress at Myllem village*

- d) Diagnostic visit: SMSs of the Centre have always made a conservative effort to cater to the farmers' needs through field visits as and when required. In this venture, seven diagnostic visits have been carried out with an aim to aid the needy farmers.



*Visit to farmer's field*



## IMPORTANT EVENTS

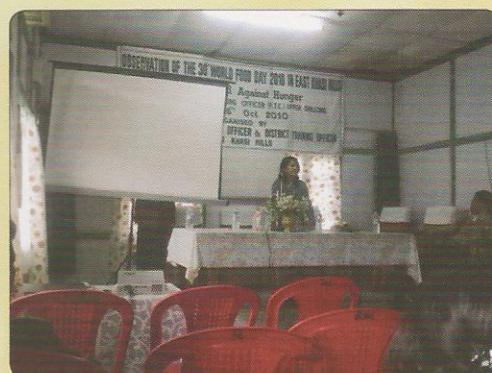
- SAC meeting: The First meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee was held on 24th September, 2010 which was attended by 14 members. During this meeting the activities undertaken by the Centre were highlighted and the “Action Plan” was presented to the SAC members. The meeting was chaired by Shri H.S.Lyngdoh, Director of Agriculture, Meghalaya and Shri A.K.Gogoi, ZPD Zone-III who made valuable suggestions for the improvement of the ‘Action Plan’.



*First SAC meeting of the KVK*

- KVK Annual Zonal Workshop: All the staff of the Centre attended the KVK Zonal workshop which was held at the Regional Resource Training Centre (RRTC) in Umran, Ri-Bhoi district from 27th to 29th September, 2010.

- World food day: The KVK celebrated the “WorldFoodDay” on 16th October, 2010 along with the offices of the District Agriculture Officer (DAO) and the District Training Officer (DTO). During the programme, the SMSs from the KVK delivered two lectures on the topic “Post Harvest Management of Cereals and Potato”.



*SMS delivering lecture on “World Food Day”*

- RTI training: In collaboration with Meghalaya Administrative Training Institute (MATI), our Centre aided in organizing the one day training on “Right To Information Act, 2005” for the farmers group of East Khasi Hills district which was held on 18th November, 2010 at Farmers Training Centre, 5th mile Upper Shillong. Altogether 60 farmers attended the programme.
- National Conference: The 5th National Conference of KVKs held in MPUA & T, Udaipur, Rajasthan from 22-24th December, 2010 on the theme “Farm innovation for Agripreneurs” was participated by Smt. Iadahunlang Kharkongor, Subject Matter Specialist (Horticulture) as representative of the KVK East Khasi Hills district.



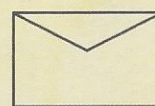
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