“Restoration of Forest and Landscapes Initiatives in Nagaland, India- An experience”

Chilaw, Sri Lanka 15-17th August, 2018
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basic Statistics of Nagaland - India</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Geographical area of Nagaland</td>
<td>16,579 Sq.km</td>
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<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>19,80,602</td>
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<tr>
<td>Literacy</td>
<td>80.11%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Terrace Rice Cultivation (TRC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total area under TRC</td>
<td>833.92 Sq.km</td>
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<td>Shifting Cultivation (SC)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total geographical area under SC</td>
<td>9170.80 Sq.km</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual area subjected to SC</td>
<td>936.88 Sq.km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of villages practicing SC</td>
<td>834 / 1108</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. of Household practicing SC</td>
<td>1,36,114 / 2,25,251 (60%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Area Operated</td>
<td>1770.80 Sq.km</td>
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<td>Above 45% slope- Jhum/Shifting Cultivation</td>
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Land Use Statistics

- Population: Urban, Rural
- Area: Non-Agri, Agri
- Agri workforce: Men, Women
- Cultivated area: Foothill
- Rice production: Traditional rice
- Forest: Village Council / Community Government
Village Council

- Highest representative body
- Custodian of community land
- Important component of modern governance
- Protect Environment & manage Natural Resources
- Decentralization – Local Self Governance

**Article 371 (A) of Indian Constitution** – a basis to policy making in the State

**Land Tenure System** – Individual / Clan / Community
Traditional Governance Institution

Village Council plays an effective role in addressing this challenge especially for *consensus planning* in the management of natural resources.

**Challenges**

- Management of the natural resources in a sustainable context-
  Traditional institution & Extension programmes are inclined towards economic development processes without much deliberation on the impact on the sustainability of ecosystem services.

- Resilience/adaptation/conservation/biodiversity working in silos

- Confused farmers with many concepts and programmes

  ‘*Farmers mind set are simple and think only for next production for self sustenance*’
How “Restoration of Forest and Landscapes” “Sustainable management of natural resources”

- Considering- Adapting land use and production system, balancing ecological sustainability, socio economic aspirations, traditional acceptance and cultural sensitivity.

Strengthen Existing Local Institution- Village Council

- Information & Rigorous method of Analysis and Planning
- Technical intervention into socially relevant context
- Empower communities- to contribute a balanced Ecological & Socio-Economic development
Experiences of Sustainable Land Ecosystem Management Project, UNDP Nagaland

- Participatory Land Use Planning

- Village Councils and Land Use Committees

‘partnering with local communities gains acceptance’
• Formulations of community Land-use action plans and incorporation of by-laws.

• Resolutions passed by Village Council

• Declaration of areas for conservation - forest, water, wildlife & buffer zones along major streams

• Action plans implemented by the community, Monitoring and Evaluation conducted by LUC and Village Council jointly
Important Jhum Land By-Laws passed by communities:

- Maintain Buffer zones- Plant/ retain trees along all rivers and streams

- Retain Vegetation on Hill top and Ridges

- Protect water bodies and gullies in jhum areas by not slashing or burning vegetation around them.

- Maintain fire line from top to bottom
• Keep or plant at least 20 to 25 trees per hectare before shifting to next jhum plot

• Plant indigenous tree species & Leguminous trees like alder before leaving fallow

• Prohibition of hunting during the breeding season
Rules and Regulations for Reserve Forest and Land Use by Village Council

1. Except private farms, cultivation of paddy before the Jhum cycle is not allowed. Sowing and harvesting will be decided by the village council.
2. Whosoever slash land for permanent farming should make proper fire break – line surrounding the field before its burning.
3. Cattle owners should tie and rear the cattles within their own premises. Offenders will be fined.
4. No one is allowed to collect crops, plantation etc from Luyalu reserve forest. Defaulters will be heavily imposed.
5. Collecting timber and other grass products between Osetlen and Menüngtüzün waterfall of Menüng river is not allowed for five (5) years w.e.f. 2013.
6. Fishing within the rivers of Sungratso jurisdiction using lime, battery, generators, etc is not allowed. Heavy fine will be imposed to the defaulters.
7. Cutting and selling of palli/post/trees is prohibited. Offenders will be heavily fined.
8. Every citizen of the village shall extend fullest co-operation in the process of village development.
9. Other villagers residing in Yisemyong are not allowed to farm in the village Jhum.
10. Daily wages for farm workers is fixed as - Male ₹ 200 and Female ₹ 130.
11. Every citizen of the village should maintain Buffer zones i.e. plant/retain trees along all rivers and streams 50ft on each sides for prevention of gully erosion and landslides and to sustain wildlife population.
12. Water source and gullies in Jhum areas should be protected by not slashing or burning vegetation around them.
13. Plant/keep atleast 30 to 40 standing trees per hectare before burning/shifting to next Jhum plot.
14. Hunting during the breeding season is strictly prohibited.
15. Rules and regulations relating to Reserve forest/land use shall be reviewed from time to time and incorporate new rules if necessary.

Chairman
Village Council Sungratso
Way Forward

Policy changes to support sustainable jhum agro forestry

Capacity building of stakeholders

Strengthening market linkages

More scientific and technical support from State to improve traditional knowledge based strategies and solutions
• Improved management of existing jhum cultivation
• Mapping of jhum area
  *Slope degree*
  *Soil nutrient content*
• Modernized slash of vegetation for jhum cultivation
Slope degree above 60 degree could be conserved

Conservation of area could be named after Land Resource Manager/ Land Owners

Farmers get their income

Land Resource Manager get Designated title for recognition for conservation
Protecting existing trees for protection of contours along the slopes
Jhum cultivation once in three years

Slash every 3 years

Reduce labor cost

Construct resting hut once in 3 years

Any species matured for 3 years will give growth rate up to roof level

It will increase the jhum cycle by 3 times from 10-30 years if not more