

# **Phek Farmer Honored with IARI Innovative Farmer Award 2025 for Low-Cost Solar Dryer Innovation**

In a significant recognition of sustainable agricultural innovation, Mr. Swuyievezo Dzudo, a progressive farmer from Porba village in Phek District, Nagaland, has been awarded the IARI Innovative Farmer Award 2025 for his ground breaking work in developing “Low-cost Solar Dryer”. The award ceremony took place at "Pusa Agri Fair 2025" one of India's largest agricultural events, held at ICAR-Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi.



Mr. Dzudo received the prestigious award from Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Honorable Director General and Secretary, ICAR, New Delhi, in the presence of Dr. D. K. Yadava, DDG (Crop Science), ICAR, New Delhi, and Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi. Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Singh, Head of ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Phek District, informed the news reporter that Mr. Swuyievezo Dzudo is 26 years old and a postgraduate in Botany. He is highly creative and has many innovative ideas. He is actively working in agriculture, horticulture, and other related fields under the guidance of KVK Phek.

The solar dryer innovation, developed using waste and recycled materials such as bamboo, wood, empty beer cans, UV sheets, solar plates, acrylic sheets, and thermometers, has proven to be a cost-effective and accessible solution for farmers in remote regions. A key feature of this innovation is its solar accumulator, made from beer cans, wood, and acrylic sheets, which enhances heat retention for efficient drying. By enabling better post-harvest management and value addition, this technology has significantly contributed to reducing crop wastage, improving produce quality, and increasing farmers' incomes. The successful adoption of this innovation in Phek District, Nagaland, highlights its potential for wider replication across other rural regions in India.

The recognition of Mr. Swuyievezzo Dzudo's innovation aligns with India's vision of "Viksit Bharat 2047," which aims to transform the nation into a self-reliant and technologically advanced economy. Innovations like the Low-Cost Solar Dryer contribute to the modernization of Indian agriculture, promoting sustainable and eco-friendly farming solutions, and empowering rural communities. By harnessing local resources and indigenous knowledge, such farmer-led initiatives play a pivotal role in enhancing agricultural productivity, increasing farmers' incomes, and strengthening food security. With continued support and awareness, such initiatives are expected to drive economic resilience and improve the livelihoods of farmers nationwide.

## Exposure Tour for Phek Farmers to IARI New Delhi

ICAR-KVK Phek Conducted exposure tour for Phek farmers to New Delhi to witness "Pusa Krishi Mela-2025" organised by ICAR- IARI, New Delhi from 22/02/2025 to 24/02/2025. The mela was inaugurated by the Honorable Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. During the tour, the farmers attended technical sessions on climate-resilient agriculture, crop diversification, agricultural marketing, and an innovative farmers' meet. They also visited exhibition stalls set up by various ICAR institutes, agripreneurs, and self-help groups (SHGs). Additionally, the team visited IARI's demonstration plots under the Division of Horticulture and Agronomy, including the Integrated Farming System. As part of the exposure visit, the farmers also visited ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi, gaining insights into plant genetic resources and advanced agricultural practices.





