

Seed to Success: Improving Livelihoods through Rice Seed Production



Name of the Beneficiary: Mrs. DS Toreiphun

Address: Laiching Maipou Village, Chandel District, Manipur

Age: 47 Years

Enterprise/Activity: Participatory Seed Production of Rice
(RC Maniphou 16)

Background

Chandel District, located in the hilly region of Manipur, is largely dependent on agriculture, where rice is the primary staple crop cultivated by most farming households. Traditionally, rice cultivation has relied on the use of farm-saved seeds, particularly local landraces passed down through generations. While this practice is customary and cost-effective, it poses challenges related to declining seed vigour, non-uniformity, susceptibility to pests and diseases, and ultimately low productivity.

Mrs. DS Toreiphun, a 47-year-old farmer from Laiching Maipou village, has been cultivating rice on her 1.00 hectare land using these traditional methods. Her average yield from local varieties ranged between 43–45 quintals per hectare, providing minimal returns and barely meeting household food and economic needs.

Problem/Challenges

Despite being a committed and hardworking farmer, Mrs. Toreiphun faced several challenges:

- Non-availability of certified high-yielding rice seeds
- Dependence on low-quality farm-saved seeds leading to low yield
- Limited exposure to scientific cultivation and seed production techniques
- Lack of awareness about the economic benefits of certified seed production
- Poor market linkage and absence of buyback systems for seed surplus

These constraints not only limited productivity but also hindered the potential for income enhancement and food security.

Initiative and Intervention

In 2024, Mrs. Toreiphun enrolled in the Participatory Seed Production (PSP) Programme initiated by ICAR-KVK Chandel, aimed at improving seed quality and promoting scientific production practices. She actively participated in a series of training programmes organized by KVK, focusing on:



- Certified seed production techniques
- Selection of quality seeds
- Field preparation and management
- Pest and disease control
- Isolation distance, rouging, and harvesting protocols
- Post-harvest seed processing and storage

As part of the intervention, Mrs. Toreiphun was provided with RC Maniphou 16, a high-yielding rice variety. KVK scientists regularly monitored her crop during vegetative and flowering stages, providing technical support at each stage of cultivation.

Output

Through the adoption of certified seed production practices, Mrs. Toreiphun achieved significant improvements in crop yield and income:

Yield: Increased to 58.35 q/ha

Gross Income: Rs. 2, 33,400/-

Net Income: Rs. 1, 57,010/-

Benefit: Cost Ratio (B: C): 3.0:1

This marked a significant increase compared to her previous average yield and income from traditional farming methods.

Impact

The success of Mrs. Toreiphun's seed production efforts had a ripple effect within her village and nearby areas. The tangible improvements in yield and income demonstrated the direct benefits of using certified seeds and scientific practices. The broader impacts included:

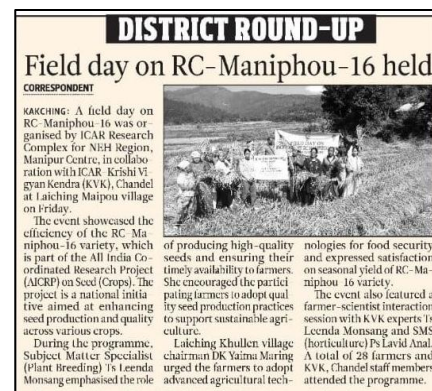
Awareness Creation: Other farmers became aware of the importance of quality seed and proper production techniques.

Adoption by Peers: Neighbouring farmers began expressing interest in certified seed production.

Seed Buyback Programme: The seeds produced under the PSP were included in a buyback programme facilitated by ICAR RC for NEH Region, Manipur Centre, ensuring market assurance and further income stability.

Improved Food Security: Higher productivity improved household food availability.

Empowerment: Mrs. Toreiphun became a local role model, especially for women farmers, encouraging active participation in extension programmes. In recognition of her success, a field day was also organised and participated by others neighbouring farmers.



Outcome and Way Forward

Mrs. DS Toreiphun's transformation from a traditional farmer to a certified seed producer highlights the value of scientific interventions, participatory approaches, and institutional support. Her success underlines how rural livelihoods can be significantly enhanced by ensuring access to:

- Quality inputs (especially certified seeds)
- Training and handholding support
- Structured marketing and buyback mechanisms

Following this success, ICAR-KVK Chandel plans to expand the PSP programme to other interested farmers and villages, leveraging Mrs. Toreiphun's farm as a demonstration site.

Conclusion

The journey of Mrs. DS Toreiphun is a testimony to the power of knowledge, innovation, and community-based participatory approaches. From low-yield traditional farming to becoming a successful seed entrepreneur, she now contributes to improving food security, seed self-sufficiency, and economic empowerment in her region. Her story encourages others to adopt similar approaches and proves that real change begins with one committed farmer and one good seed.