

SUCCESS STORY- KISAN MELA

West and South West Khasi Hills districts in Meghalaya state are dominated by tribal population having agriculture as their main livelihood. The main food grain crops grown in the districts are Paddy, Maize and Millets and commercial crops grown are Potato, Ginger, Turmeric, Oilseed, Black Pepper, Arecanut and Betel Leaves with various varieties of vegetables crops. Among the horticultural crops, orange, banana and pineapple are grown in the districts with some temperate fruits like Plum, Pear and Peach.

The farmers of the districts are classified under small and marginal farmers and fragmentation of land on both cultivated and non-cultivated land is common in the area. The farmers are hard-working, dedicated to work and sustain their agricultural livelihood with input assistance from different state line departments, with time changes in terms of market demand and existing local farm technologies; the need for advanced and improved farm technologies is utmost importance for the farming community of the districts.

Intervention of KVK , WKH

The KVK was started in the year 2009 with State Agriculture Department as the host institute imparting research in the farmers' field and training on demand and need based by the farmers. Seeing the dedication of the farmers towards different agricultural livelihood activities and witnessing the interests of the farmers on different new technology, the KVK with the financial support of Central Potato Research Station, Shimla together organized the Kisan Mela at KVK office, Nongshillong on the 27th and 28th March, 2014 to strengthen their livelihood activities and encourage for both the small and marginal farmers on the importance of agriculture for food production as well as for livelihood security. The theme of the Kisan Mela is ***“Livelihood security of small and marginal farmers through technology diversification in West and South West Khasi Hills Districts”***. With the mobilization of different state line departments, society, self help groups, village headman, the mela was participated with a handsome number of 4016 farmers consisting of individual farmers, farmers' groups, association, society, including the line departments, schools children from both the districts and the programme was witnessed with varieties of agricultural exhibits displaying ranges of items from field crops, vegetables, fruits, flowers, livestock, handicraft items. Besides showcasing of different crop technologies, film shows the programme was included with training imparted by

the resource person from Central Potato Research station, Shillong on the topic **“Package of practice of Potato cultivation in Meghalaya”**. The training stressed on the true potato seed and its availability, disease and insect pest management based on the needs and problems faced by the farmers of the districts.

The farmers participated with great enthusiasm in the Kisan Mela and witnessed the importance of the programme on how agriculture activities brings a sustained livelihood to the family members of the farming community. The participants felt that such programme should be continued and organize every year in the districts to realize the value of farming as the main occupation to meet the needs of deficit food production, to achieve the food security as well as the livelihood security of the farming community.









