

Success story of radish seed production

Shri Bitri Basaringaid, a farmer from Pyndengumiong village, Mairang Block (44 km from Shillong) in West Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya grows various crops and vegetables like maize, potato, chow-chow, cabbage, cauliflower, tomato, lettuce, radish, mustard leaf, beet root, plum, peach, pear including flowers-gerbera and carnation and livestock-local breed of poultry and piggery in his 2.2 ha farm area. He used to sell all the produces to the local market in their respective edible stage and for radish crop in a very special way both as tuber and seed. It was in the early 1990's that the demand for radish seed was felt among the farmers in the locality and he took the challenge why not he opt for seed production of radish. From his skilled experience in farming, he started seed production of radish since 1993-94 till date.

He practices local seed production of radish which includes of different activities. Sowing of radish seed *local variety* done in June-July and by September the plant is ready for seed production. At this stage, the crop bears leaves along with tuber. The tuber is cut half while the leaves is removed leaving only the apical shoot. The radish is then planted in the field with application of Farm Yard Manure and Vermicompost. After one month, earthing up is done while flowering stage starts in January-February and complete fruiting stage from March-April. Harvesting of seed is done in the month of May which produces a bumper harvest of 20 kg from 300 plants and used to sell at an average price of Rs 1000 per kg.

