

OIL PALM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN MIZORAM *(Why Oil Palm in Mizoram)*

The rapid increase of land degradation due to jhumming, deforestation, loss of biodiversity and productivity, increasing flood are leading to an ecological crisis affecting livelihood options for Jhumia families. This suggests inter-alia policy to encourage and support plantation of Oil Palm to overcome these constraints. Oil Palm stands as an ideal crop capable of achieving conservation of soil and moisture, repair of degraded land, provide ecological balance, food and security of rural and urban poor. The Government of Mizoram aims to implement and action Programme with an objective of placing Oil Palm as a key component in the plan to generate employment and mitigate environmental degradation and to strengthen the process of Oil Palm Development.

In the recent past, the cultivation of Oil Palm had been tried in Assam, Tripura and Mizoram with considerable success. In Mizoram 5,000 Nos. and 7,000 Nos. of seedlings of Oil Palm were planted at Rotlang area of Lunglei District and Thingdawl area of Kolasib District during 1999-2000, respectively, with promising results. The Government of Mizoram has decided to undertake Oil Palm cultivation. The total potential area identified in 7 (seven) Districts of Mizoram comes to 1,01,000 Hectares at low elevation with gentle slope (25-33%) having favorable Agroclimatic condition.

Identification of Oil Palm Potential Area in Mizoram:

Dr.R.M Reddy, Principal Scientist from National Research Centre for Oil Palm (NRC-OP), Andhra Pradesh, who study the suitability of agro climatic conditions and water availability required for Oil Palm cultivation in Mizoram during the month of March 2004 has recommended that, "Climate and Soil condition in southern Mizoram with low elevation and gentle slope are quite suitable for Oil Palm cultivation". The growth of the existing plants is quite promising. Government of Mizoram has decided to undertake large scale cultivation of Oil Palm from 2004-2005 to start with during Xth Plan Period.

A high level working group constituted by Government of India under the Chairmanship of Dr. K.L. Chadha have identified Oil Palm Potential areas of 61,000 Ha in Mizoram. In addition to this, the Government of India constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Dr.P.Rathinam to identify additional areas for Oil Palm plantation. The committee met on 10.10.2011 at NRCOP, Pedavegi (AP) and earmarked an additional area of 40,000 Ha for Mizoram state.

OIL PALM IN MIZORAM

Government of Mizoram is deeply committed to the economic development of farmers. The Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-Operation issued Administrative approval of Oil Palm cultivation under ISOPOM (Integrated Scheme of Oil Seeds, Pulses, Oil Palm & Maize) for the year 2004 – 2005 and the programme is implemented in Mizoram since 2004-2005 sharing of 75:25 between Central and State Government. The Department of Agriculture and Co-operation, Govt. of India launched special programme on ***Oil Palm Area Expansion (OPAE)*** under RKVY during 2011-12 and National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) from the year 2014-2015.

The Mizoram Oil Palm (Regulation of Production & Processing) Act, 2004 was passed in Mizoram Legislative Assembly on 2nd December, 2004. The Act contains 26 sections.

- The Government of Mizoram appointed Secretary, Agriculture Department as ***Oil Palm Officer*** to exercise the power and perform the function for implementation of Oil Palm Act.
- The Government of Mizoram appointed the concerned District Agriculture Officers as ***Oil Palm Inspector*** in their respective jurisdiction as required under Oil Palm Act, 2004.
- As required under Oil Palm Act, 2004, the following Committee is constituted for successful implementation of Oil Palm cultivation in Mizoram –
 1. *State Level Oil Palm Advisory Committee.*
 2. *State Level Standing Committee on National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP)*
 3. *Project Management Committee.*
 4. *Price fixation Committee on Oil Palm.*
 5. *District Level Oil Palm Zonal Committee.*
 6. *Village Level Oil Palm Growers Association.*

- The Government of Mizoram signed M.O.U with reliable Companies for Oil Palm Development. The implementing partner Companies with the areas allotted to the are:-

<u>Name of Companies</u>	<u>Areas allotted</u>	<u>MOU signed on (date)</u>
1. Godrej Agrovat Ltd.	Kolasib & Mamit District.	14 th Sept,2005
2. Ruchi Soya Industries Ltd.	Lunglei & Lawngtlai District.	3 rd October,2006
3. 3F Oil Palm Agrotech Pvt. Ltd.	Aizawl, Serchhip & Saiha District.	7 th March,2006

The implementing partner Companies have established their own Nurseries in the allotted District with the supervision of the Department. The companies purchased the FFBs produces by the farmers directly at the farmer's field. The companies are to establish Oil Palm Processing Mill of their own in their allotted Districts.

The Government of Mizoram, Agriculture Department have selected Oil Palm as one of the crops to be cultivated under the *New Land use Policy (NLUP)* which is a Flagship Programme of the state Government. It is expected that the cultivation of Oil Palm will enhance the income of Farm families and will ultimately result in economic upliftment of the rural poor.

Status of Oil Palm cultivation in Mizoram

- Potential area for Oil Palm cultivation in Mizoram is identified as 1,01,000 Ha.(61,000 Ha. identified by Dr.K.L Chadha Committee + 40,000 Ha. identified by Dr.P.Rathinam Committee)
 - Total area covered under Oil Palm till 2013-14 is 17588 Ha.
 - Target area for 2014 – 2015 is 4000 Ha.
 - Farmers involved in Oil Palm programme: 10800 Nos.
 - Nos. of District covered under Oil Palm: 7(Seven) Districts (Champhai District is not yet covered).
 - Nos. of Village covered under Oil Palm: 225 nos.
 - At present rate of FFBs is Rs.5.50 per Kg fixed by Price Fixation Committee.
 - Rate per seedling: Rs.85/- for Exotic seedling & Rs.65/- for Indigenous seedling.
- Oil Palm in PPP Mode:**
 - Government
 - Company
 - Farmers.

**AREA COVERED UNDER OIL PALM IN MIZORAM
(YEAR WISE)**

Year	Name of District						Area (in Ha)
	Kolasib	Lunglei	Mamit	Serchhip	Lawngtlai	Aizawl	
2005 – 2006	82	28	-	-	-	-	110
2006 – 2007	24	-	-	-	-	-	24
2007 – 2008	543	15	267	-	-	-	825
2008 – 2009	964	218	476	42	-	-	1700
2009 – 2010	997	806	697	342	-	-	2842
2010 – 2011	489	500	474	310	105	-	1878
2011 – 2012	478	562	350	250	300	26	1966
2012 – 2013	1039	750	928	327	617	50	3711
2013 - 2014	711	852	1,300	381	957	331	4,532
TOTAL	5327	3731	4492	1652	1979	407	17,588

Target area for 2014 – 2015

Sl. No	Name of District	Name of Company	Area to be covered (in Ha.)
1.	Aizawl	3F Oil Palm Agrotech Pvt.Ltd.	300
2.	Serchhip		200
3.	Saiha		100
4.	Lunglei	Ruchi Soya Industries Limited	1000
5.	Lawngtlai		1000
6.	Mamit	Godrej Agrovet Limited.	800
7.	Kolasib		600
	GRAND TOTAL		4000 Ha.

ESTABLISHMENT OF OIL PALM SEED GARDEN IN MIZORAM.

The Department of Agriculture with the consent of Hon'ble Minister of the Agriculture, Government of Mizoram proposed establishment of Seed Garden in Mizoram and with the active participation of DOPR (Directorate of Oil Palm Research Pedavegi), Andhra Pradesh select Chuanchung Ram, West Serzawl, (Mamit District) 17 Km from Lengpui Airport covering more than 50 Ha of free land for seed garden.

Rising of Dura and Pisifera as mother and father palm respectively is started which is expected ready for transplanting in the main field for Hybridization programme in future. Dr. P. Murugesan, Principal Scientist, Hybrid Seed Production Farm Palode, Kerala came to Mizoram on 8th October, 2013 and brought germinated seeds for evaluation purpose and sown 2000 sprouts in the Primary Nursery.

The seed garden is meant to supply quality seed sprout of Oil Palm to various North East states, and also to earn good revenue to the Government of Mizoram by sale of harvested FFB from the plantation.

**FRESH FRUIT BUNCHES HARVESTED IN MIZORAM
(upto May, 2014)**

Sl. No	Name of District	Companies	Quantity Purchase (in MT)	Amount (in Rs.)
1.	Kolasib	Godrej Agrovvet Limited	65.592	3,11,562.00
2.	Mamit	Godrej Agrovvet Limited	67.905	3,22,548.75
3.	Lunglei	Ruchi Soya Industries Limited	6.6025	31,363.00
4.	Serchhip	3F Oil Palm Agrotech Pvt. Ltd	NIL	NIL
		TOTAL	140.0995	6,65,473.75

• **TOP 3(Three) OIL PALM HIGHEST PRODUCERS (January -December 2013)**

Sl. No	Name of Farmers	Contact No.	District	Village	Quantity (MT)	Amount (Rs)
1.	Ramtinchawma	9436144034	Mamit	Nalzawl	185.819	8,82,640.25
2.	Vanlalthawma	9862318465	Mamit	Phaizau	99.633	4,73,265.75
3.	Zomuansanga Tochwawng	986237777	Kolasib	Khamrang	49.086	2,33,158.50

Revision of rate of Fresh Fruit Bunch (FFB):

As per provision made under Section-13 of Mizoram Oil Palm (Regulation of Production and Processing) Act, 2004 and as decided in the 4th Meeting of Price Fixation Committee held on 27th May, 2014 at Agriculture Committee Room, Aizawl, the rate of Oil Palm FFB is fixed at Rs.5.50/- (Rupees five and fifty paise) per Kg at Collection Centres. This new rate will take effect from 1st June, 2014, till further order.

Progressive Oil Palm growers-

Mr. Ramtinchawma S/o Lalhuliana(L), Nalzawl, Mamit District is the leading Oil Palm growers in Mizoram. He started planting in 2007 covering the total area of 16 Ha. The plantation is of 7 years old now. Almost all the plant started bearing fruits. He has sold 185 tones of FFBS during 2013 earning Rs.8,82,640.00 which was purchased by the Company i.e Godrej Agrovet Ltd at Collection Centre @ Rs 5.50 per Kg. This is the highest production of FFBS recorded in the state of Mizoram in a year. The performance of Oil palm in this garden indicates the Oil Palm production potential is available in Mizoram.

- The highest recorded bunch weight of Oil Palm is 53 kg harvested by Mr.Lalrinliana, Kolasib District.
- Mr.R.Thansiama, Thingdawl, Kolasib District is amongst the first Oil Palm cultivator in Mizoram under the supervision of Agriculture Department on experimental basis since 2002. The plant started bearing fruits with an average weight of 30-35 Kg per bunch. Government of India's officials, Director & Scientists of DOPR, Pedavegi visited his land many times.
- Almost all the Oil Palm growers are small and marginal farmers having Oil Palm plantation in 1 to 2 Ha. of land.
- Mizoram Oil Palm growers begin to earn from their Oil Palm crop.

OIL PALM PROCESSING UNIT IN MIZORAM

The Government of India has provided support in the form of subsidy to the private entrepreneurs for setting up of Oil Palm processing unit @Rs.250.00 lakh per processing unit for 3 (three) Mills totaling Rs.750.00 lakhs under OPAE (RKVY) during 2011 – 2012. Which were allotted to each partner Company at the rate of Rs.2.5 crore per Mill. Operational Guidelines have been worked out and circulated to each partner company for setting up of Oil Palm Mill in their respective areas.

Proposed location of Oil Palm Mill:

Sl. No	Selected Location	District	Responsible Partner Company
1.	Bukvannei Village	Kolasib	Godrej Agrovet Ltd.
2.	Mat Valley	Serchhip	3F Oil Palm Agrotech Pvt. Ltd.
3.	Rotlang Agril. farm	Lunglei	Ruchi Soya Industries Ltd.

- 1. Godrej Agrovet Limited** has completed establishment of Oil Palm Mill at Bukvannei, Kolasib District and started processing FFB at the plant since 14th April, 2014.