

ORGANIC FARMING IN MIZORAM **UNDER DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (C.H)**

Introduction: The concept of Organic Farming and permanent and sustainable Agriculture, and its importance in our today degrading soil and environment is felt very alarming to the Politician and beurocrats of Mizoram since a decade ago. In 1996, the Department of Agriculture introduced Organic Farming Project and ran a trial at Lungmuat village. Here, Organic Farming coupled with contour trench farming was trialed with a very promising results. Vermi-culture was also started by importing good species of earthworm. A good number of villages were covered giving training on Bio-Composing methods.

The Mizoram Organic Farming Bill-2004 was unanimously passed by the Mizoram Legislative Assembly in July 2004.

Since the Organic Farming system solely depends on the use of crop residue, animal manures, green manures, off-farm organic wastes to supply organic manures like Neem cake, Celrich, etc. to the needy farmers to supplement their plant nutrient requirement, crop rotation incorporating legumes and Use of Bio-Fertilizers, Organic manures, biological pest control to maintain soil productivity, the Agriculture Department gradually reduce the import of chemical Agril. inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides, etc. and several awareness Campaign and Training on organic farming were conducted.

It is strongly felt that Mizoram state, by virtue of very less amount of chemical inputs imported and utilized, has a great scope for successful organic farming.

ACHIEVEMENTS:-

1. State level Committee on Organic Farming was formed during June 2007.
2. Organic Cell was formed at Directorate Ground Floor during Nov. 2006.
3. All the Departmental Farms have been converted into model Organic

Farms and various works have been done in these Model Organic Farms. The Dept. have 10(ten) Model Organic Farms..

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| 1. Thingdawl, Kolasib Dist. | 2. Neihbawi, Aizawl Dist. |
| 3. Serchhip, Serchhip Dist. | 4. Rotlang, Lunglei District |
| 5. Bualte, Lunglei Dist. | 6. Sihtlangpui, Lawngtlai Dist. |
| 7. Chemphai, Kolasib Dist. | 8. Bualpui, Kolasib Dist. |
| 9. Sairang, Aizawl Dist. | 10. Dialdawk, Mamit Dist. |

6 (Six) Nos. of Model Organic Farm have been proposed for Organic Certification. Organic Certificate have been received for MOF Thingdawl and Neihbawi.

4. Field demonstrations: Field Demonstrations on Organic inputs such as EM(Effective Micro Organism),BD(Bio-Dynamic),Vermicompost,Vikash and other Bio-Fertilizers have been conducted at various Model Organic Farms and individual Farmers' fields on crops like Sugarcane, Popcorn, Cowpea, Maize, Paddy, Turmeric and some vegetables.

5. Certifying Agency : SGS India Ltd. (Certifying Agency), Gurgoan, Haryana have been engaged for MOF Certification. Their Offices and Lab. at Kolkata were verified during Sept.2006. Six monthly audit of Farms certification was done by this certifying Agency every year.

6. The Dept. participated in India Organic 2006 organised by ICCOA at Bangalore during November, 2006 and at New Delhi during Nov. 2007.

7. Farmers Training cum Method Demonstration on BD/EM Composting were conducted at various Districts. In all over 4500 farmers have been covered. EM solution and BD sets were distributed to the trainee farmers free of cost so as to enable them to make Compost manure at their own farms. Besides, farmers training on Vermiculture technology, EM technology, Biofertilizers, Biopesticides, etc. also conducted at various Districts at Village level every year.

2 days trainers training on vermiculture technology training for Extension Officers and field functionaries, training of ICS and Quality production, Certification and Inspection agencies,Service Providers also conducted at various Districts during 2007 – 08,2008 -09 at Aizawl on 8th-9th September 2009.

Organic Kisan Mela conducted on 15th January, 2009 at Leithum Village where the farmers around the Villages gathered and gave them training cum demonstration which was very successful and benefited by the Organic Farmers.

8. SERVICE PROVIDERS : Eight (8) nos. of DAOs are engaged as Service Providers to look after Internal Control System (ICS) of various Organic Farmers Groups. All the Service Providers have formed Organic Farmers Groups having total member of 1500 under each Service Provider covering 750 Ha. Group Certification is being processed for which OneCert Asia Agri.Certification(P) Ltd. are being engaged for Group Certification Field Inspectors were also engaged under Internal Control System of various District.

9. VERMICULTURE : The Department have established 35 Nos. of Vermiculture Hatcheries with @ of Rs.1.50 lakh per unit funded by NCOF,Ghaziabad (GOI) in the previous year and another 2 Nos. have been completed with an amount of Rs 3.00 lakh during 2009-10 under MMA (CSS).Large number of the Organic farmers were assisted by distributing them Vermi-Mother Culture and Vermicompost harvested from these Vermiculture hatcheries.

Small Vermiculture Units have been set up at Farmers field in each District. In all 666 Units have been established by giving assistance @ Rs. 15,000/- per unit to each individual farmer in the previous year and another 120 units already distributed to the Farmers during 2010-11 under various District. This is under Macro-management (CSS).The interested organic farmers are now almost self sufficient in the Organic manure by using their own product in their field.

10. ORGANIC MARKET DEVELOPMENT : To motivate and encourage the organic farmers, and also to arouse awareness, 2 Nos. of Market Outlet have been established at Aizawl and Dartlang where various organic produces will be sold under Organic Mizoram Label, even though we are still under conversion period of certification.

11. FRUITS/VEGETABLES WASTES COMPOST UNITS : For Composting of Fruits and Vegetables Wastes, Composting Units have been established at MIFFCO's Food Park, Chhingchhip and at Thingdawl Model Organic Farm. Construction have been completed during the year 2008. From these compost units, large quantity of compost have already harvested which were distributed to the farmers free of cost.

12. INCENTIVE PURCHASE OF ORGANIC MANURES/VERMI-COMPOST FROM THE ASSISTED ORGANIC FARMERS : The Department had set up 37 Vermi-culture Hatcheries and extended assistance to 786 Nos. farmers for setting up of small Vermi-culture units. In order to encourage the local production of Vermicompost. the Department purchased 500 M.T of locally produced Vermi-Compost @Rs 12/Kg from the assisted farmers from various Districts under Macro-Management of Agriculture (CSS) and distributed to the deserving organic farmers.

Under the Mizoram Organic Commodities Board, the following works have been executed from MIP (State Plan) fund during 2008-09 :

(Rs in lakh)

Sl.No.	Particulars	Rate	Quantity	Amount (Rs)
1.	Publication of Organic Song Book	Rs.63/-	10,000Nos.	6.30
2.	Preparation of Documentary Film on Achievement of Organic Farming (Vermicompost) for a duration of 1 hr.	-	-	1.50
3.	Preparation of Vermiculture Leaflets for Training purpose	-	-	0.60
4.	Purchase of Vermi - Mother culture	Rs. 300/- per kg	17 Qtls.	5.10
5.	Up-gradation of Fruits/Vegetables Waste Compost Unit at Chhingchhip	-	-	12.00
6.	Promotion Of Small Vermi Culture Unit	Rs.15,000/-	70 Nos	10.50
7.	Extension of Organic Stall at Durtlang North	-	-	5.00
8.	Packaging of Organic Manure	-	-	2.00
TOTAL :				43.00

(Rupees forty three lakh) only