Dear Readers,

I take this opportunity to send greetings from KVK Imphal West on the occasion of publishing the first issue of the Newsletter, July-December 2014.

This issue carries some of the achievements during the last half year, followed by some report and articles as information which I hope will benefit our esteemed readers. Many of us know our topics and often ignore others’ subjects, yet it is always beneficial to know about many things. We are bringing out small topics of every discipline that exists in our KVK which may be of interest to you and will serve as important information.

We will try our very best to bring out useful articles/information in the future for the benefit of everyone and the farmers in particular.

Sanyaola Kengoo Raman

Message from Joint Director, ICAR Manipur Centre

Transfer of technology is the prime way to share the new ideas among the farmers field. The released new technologies of agriculture delivered to the farmers are our prior mandate.

Extension education literature is being the basic source of dissemination of agricultural new technologies information to the farmers. This Newsletter is containing capacity building programme, seed production programme, production technologies and Nutritional gardening and allied fields are also compiled for the benefit of the farmers. I hope the Newsletter will be useful to all the concerned for the Agricultural, Horticultural, Fisheries and Livestock development of the Manipur. I congratulate Programme Coordinator Mrs. S. K. Raman and her colleagues who have put their efforts to bring out this Newsletter of the Imphal West KVK.

(N.Prakash)
Joint Director
ICAR Manipur Centre

Message form : Zonal Project Director, Zone III, ICAR Barapani, Umium, Meghalaya

It gives me immense pleasure to know that Krishi Vigyan Kendra Imphal West is bringing out the first Issue of their Half Yearly Newsletter. I extend my best wishes to all the Staff of the KVK for this endeavour.

I am sure that under the able leadership of Programme Coordinator, S.K Raman, KVK Imphal West will continue to march ahead in the coming days for the development of farming community in the field of Agriculture and allied sector.

I also convey my heartiest congratulation to the entire members of the KVK for their dedicated services rendered to the farming community till now and wish them to continue such efforts in the days to come.

(RM Bordoloi)
Zonal Project Director (i/c)
Zonal Project Directorate, Zone III, ICAR Complex, Barapani, Meghalaya
Farmers’ Field School on rice

This programme was taken up in an area of 15 ha consisting of 25 farmers in Ngairangbam village of Imphal West district which is one of the adopted villages of KVK Imphal West. In order to ensure good production, a Farmers’ Field School on rice was also organized in the village and farmers were trained and guided starting from land preparation till harvest of the rice crop.

Group discussions and field visits were made once a weekunder buy back policy of ICAR Manipur centre. 50 tons of paddy seed was procured from the farmers of Ngairangbam village after retaining the saved seed. On an average farmers could get an average net income of Rs. 59,000.00 per ha. Now many farmers have come forward to participate in seed production programme in the coming years and KVK is planning to convert Ngairangbam village as a Seed Village for rice from next season onwards.

Rice seed production programme

Seed production of rice is an impressive technology in North Eastern States because most of the farmers want to use good quality seeds but cannot afford the huge amount of money to buy seeds from the markets and related sellers. On the another hand, due to problems of transportation facility, bad law and order situation and frequent blockades on the highways, seeds from outside the state are not available in time to the farmers but if the seeds are stocked with the farmers they can sow at their convenient time since farming depends solely on rain.

Under the Participatory Seed production Project the Centre has taken up on High Yielding Varieties of rice developed by ICAR-RC NEH Manipur Centre. In order to help the farmers in accessing quality seeds and better income generation, two rice varieties, viz., RC Maniphou-7 and RC Maniphou-10 covering 20 hectares and involving 30 farmers were covered under the Participatory Seed production of rice during 2014-15. Under this programme, farmers were trained the use of modern technology viz., conoweeder, line transplanting with marked rope, insecticides and fungicides with Leaf Colour Chart for efficient Nitrogen application were demonstrated under the project.

In this training programme, the various stages in quality seed production and handling process were taught. About 140 tonnes of seeds was produced for the first time and certified by the State Seed Certification Cell.

Production of Trichoderma

Production of Trichoderma started in KVK Imphal West from 2013 under DBT funded project on Biotechnology Led Organic Farming in NER. The programme on Trichoderma production is in operation with the Vision - exploring production, productivity and adoptability of biopesticides and make it available to all sections of farming community in NE. Their main aim is to promote organic farming by providing bioinputs to the farming community. KVK had produced 400 kg of Trichoderma and generated revenue of Rs. 21,412.00. The production is continuing though the project has completed in the month of Sept, 2013.

Nutrition garden

The Home Science discipline conducted 20 FLDs under Maintenance of a Nutrition Garden in 2 villages, viz. Lambal and Salam covering an area of 4000m². The Nutrition Garden is being maintained by all the inmates of the family as a hobby – weeding, watering, application of FYM and killing insects by hand from time to time.

Vegetable seeds comprising of garden pea, carrot and radish; seedlings of red cabbage, beetroot, broccoli, multiplier onion, papaya and lemon were provided to them at the onset of rabi season.

Red cabbage, beetroot and broccoli were introduced last rabi season where the farmers experienced introduction of new vegetables in their menu. They were also taught the method of cooking these vegetables for better taste and palatability.

Livestock animals

250 khaki campbell ducks, 200 vanaraja chicks were distributed to 20 farmers, and under Composite fish farming 3000 fish fingerlings of rohu, mirgal, grass carp and silver carp under FLD were provided to 2 farmers. 150 chicks of krishibro and 9 cross bred hampshire were given to 5 farmers at different location of the district under OFT.

All the farmers were trained providing new technologies, and farmers earn higher income from different low cost of feeding and housing techniques.
KVK Imphal West participated in the Regional Agriculture Fair-2015 held at Umiam, Meghalaya on 9th and 10th Jan 2015. Posters and other exhibits depicting various activities and achievements of KVK Imphal West were displayed in the exhibition. Three farmers from Imphal West District also participated in the fair.

Community based training programme on vermicomposting on 12 Sept. 2014, sponsored by Horticulture Mission (MM-I) & organised by KVK-IW

Seed production of ginger (Nadia) under FLD

Training and demonstration on value addition in fruits and vegetables

Participation in 3 days awareness cum training programme on “Protection, Management and conservation of Agro-Biodiversity in North East Region: Strategies and Issues” organized by the ICAR-Zonal Project Directorate, Zone-III, Meghalaya-793 103 during December 18-20,2014 at KVK, Kamrup, Kahikuchi, Assam.

Farmers’ Exposure visit to KVK, Langol farm

FLD of Ground

Field day on Groundnut variety ICGS-76 at Mapao Khullen village
Advantages of Direct paddy Seeder
1. Labour cost is reduced drastically
2. Uniformity in seed sowing and plant population.
3. Continuous drilling of seeds is eliminated.
4. Reduction in seed rate and thinning cost.
5. Crop matures 7-10 days earlier than the transplanted paddy.
6. Light in weight and easy to handle.
7. An area of 1 ha per day can be sown with pre-germinated seed using 8 rows direct paddy seeder.

Advantages of Conoweeder
1. Low cost of weed control in line seeded/transplanted rice
2. Gender friendly – women can operate very easily
3. Much easier to operate than other weeders due to ergonomic design
4. Buries the weed in soil itself making it natural manure
5. Facilitates good aeration for roots
6. Area of coverage upto 0.18 ha/day
7. Labour saving 40% more

Mushroom production
Front Line Demonstration on oyster mushroom production was conducted in two villages of the district for 20 farmers.

FLD was taken up on Pleurotusostreatus during the winter and P. sajor caju for summer in 400 bags each. Average production of fresh mushroom was 1 kg/bag of Pleurotusostreatus and in case of P. sajor caju 0.75 kg/bag and sold out at @ Rs. 100/Kg fresh mushroom. Farmers could get an income of Rs.3,100 per month/400 bags and neighbouring trained farmers also extend the method of cultivation.

Friday Swachh Bharat Abhiyan in progress

Proper method of rice cultivation
1. Transplanting of rice may be done up to the fortnight of July and planting with 2 seedlings per hill.
2. Late transplanting of rice reduces yield and increase incidence of pests and diseases so, timely transplanting should be practiced.
3. For late transplanting, seedlings of more than 30 days old with 3-4 seedlings per hill may be used.
4. Row to row and plant to plant spacing of 25cmx10cm should be maintained.
5. Transplanting in rows make easy operation in weeding, plant protection and water management.
6. Hand weeding is costly and requires more mandays. Hence, use conoweeder as it requires only 8 mandays per hectare, thereby reducing the cost of cultivation from Rs 44000/- to Rs 22400/-. 
7. Use of same variety in the same field for 2-3 years should be avoided to reduce insects, pests and diseases, and to maintain purity.
8. Maintain 5-8cm of water at tillering, panicle initiation and seed formation stage, 10 days before harvest of rice.
9. Excess depth of water should be avoided. Dry condition in the field increases gall midge and stem borer population.
10. Bad drainage system, water stagnation in the rice field increases sheath blight and stem rot. So, maintain proper drainage system to avoid being infected from these diseases.

Activities conducted within the period of Jul-Dec.2014

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Training conducted

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