



# IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS AND ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY IN MIZORAM, INDIA

Agriculture is the dominant source of employment in Mizoram, with more than 70 percent of the people depending on land-based activities for food, livelihoods and energy needs. But because of unsustainable traditional cultivation practices, the land on the steep slopes has been degraded. Additionally, Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) had spread throughout Mizoram. This project was implemented to strengthen the technical, policy and managerial capacities of the Government of Mizoram staff to better deliver services to farmers and to accelerate sustainable agriculture-based economic development and livelihood improvement of farming communities.



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## WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

Guidance, training and technical support were provided to prevent the spread of PRRS and to improve cultivation practices in Mizoram. In order to prevent PRRS from spreading, Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary officials and livestock communities were trained in managing and preventing the disease. Additionally, a disease reporting and response hotline and messenger system was established. Studies were undertaken to assess the performance of Mizoram Sloping Agriculture Land Technology (MiSALT), and it was found that it reduced soil run off and enhanced soil health. Model field school programmes (in pineapple, mandarin orange and poultry) were established in collaboration with Department of Agriculture (DOA) and Department of Horticulture (DOH) extension and community leaders. These programmes included training of trainers and farmer field school activities. At the end of the project a study on livelihoods and forests in Mizoram was conducted, and recommendations were made as a result of the findings.

## IMPACT

The capacity building activities of farmers and Government staff resulted in improved livelihoods of 6 269 households and can be assessed in terms of the increased engagement of policymakers and influence of the Government and other donors on programme decisions.

The management of sloping agricultural land through MiSALT practices has led to environmental sustainability. MiSALT technology is also economically sustainable as farmers can continue cultivation of the same plot of land without a decline in productivity of crops. Additionally, an outbreak of PRRS was controlled and regular surveillance was commissioned to prevent and control further outbreaks.

## KEY FACTS

### Contribution

USD 496 000

### Duration

June 2015 – December 2017

### Resource Partner

FAO

### Partners

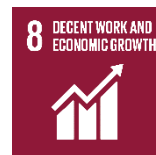
Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary; Department of Horticulture; Department of Agriculture; Government of Mizoram; Mizoram University

### Beneficiaries

Government of Mizoram department staff and their clients, including farmers and their communities

## ACTIVITIES

- Mizoram Sloping Agriculture Land Technology (MiSALT) multi-season action research programme, which is gender sensitive, was developed by key stakeholders and experts.
- MiSALT demonstration sites were successfully established at the Department of Horticulture's Centres of Excellence at Aizawl, Kolasib, Serchhip and Lunglei.
- The MiSALT guide, "Farmer's Companion in MiSALT Adaptation," was completed.
- The Department of Horticulture implemented 22 farmer field schools (FFSs) on mandarin orange and pineapple in eight districts from which 598 participants graduated.
- 84 participants graduated from four FFSs on field crops.
- 180 participants graduated from six FFSs on post-harvest management in mandarin orange and pineapple.
- 89 master trainers and 5 337 farmers were trained on preparedness, control and containment, reporting, surveillance and monitoring of trans-boundary diseases (TADs), particularly Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS).
- Community facilitators and department extension staff were trained in the use of smartphones to report an occurrence of animal diseases; smartphones were also distributed.
- A study on "Afforestation and Livelihood in Mizoram" was undertaken to assess the current situation of land and forest management and livelihoods in Mizoram.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



**Project Code**  
TCP/IND/3501

**Project Title**  
Development of Extension and Outreach Organizational and Managerial Capacities by State and Public Institutions in Mizoram (within context of UN Joint New Initiative/New Land Use Policy Board)

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