

## Lentil: A Suitable Crop for Rice Fallow Management in Meghalaya

Lentil, a popular pulse in the daily diet on Indian population, is a highly potential crop in the rice fallow. In Meghalaya, where a large part of the rice area remains fallow after kharif rice, Lentil has a very good potential for increasing farm income as well as cropping intensity. Being a pulse crop, it also improves soil fertility and a very good option for crop rotation. Ideal sowing time for Meghalaya is 15 October to 15 November. In the wet land rice fallows where there is no standing water during first week of November, a yield of 9 – 10 q/ha can be achieved with very minimal management and no irrigation. In the uplands, the crop may require some irrigation during flowering stage if there is a very high moisture stress. The full season varieties can be harvested by mid March while the early season varieties become ready for harvest by mid February. Seed priming by overnight soaking in water, fungicide treatment (Bavistin 2g/kg of seed), Rhizobium application (20g/kg of seed) were found to help in crop establishment. Spraying of urea (2% solution in water) before flowering has been found to improve yield. Some of the varieties identified by ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, which are suitable for Meghalaya, are listed below:



*Harvested crop of variety Moitree*

Full season		Early	
Variety	Potential Yield (t/ha)	Variety	Yield (t/ha)
NDL 1	1.8	IPL-87	1.5
PL 8	1.8	Moitree	1.4
HUL-57	1.6	PL -6	1.5

Among the above varieties, PL -6 is a yellow seeded variety and preferred by the snacks industry. Seeds for all the above varieties are available through the national system.



*The crop can be threshed using a Paddy Thresher*



*Well filled pods of variety PL8 after threshing*