

## **TRAINING CUM INPUT DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMME HELD ON POPULARIZATION OF *RABI* PULSES PRODUCTION IN MIZORAM**

A farmer training cum input distribution programme was organized on “Popularization of *Rabi* pulses in Mizoram for socio-economic and nutritional security” by ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Mizoram Centre, Kolasib in collaboration with All Mizoram Farmers Union (AMFU), Mizoram at Darlawn Village, Aizwal District on 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2016. The objective of the training programme was to introduce and popularize of improved pulse crops like pea, lentil and others *Rabi* vegetables under TSP Project “Promotion of pulse production for improving nutritional status, sustainability and socio-economic of tribal farmers of Mizoram”. The function was chaired by Pu Zion Lalremruata, (Gen. Sec. AMFU, Mizoram), local MLA Pu RL Pianmmawia, and Dr. S B Singh, Joint Director, ICAR, Mizoram Centre.

The function was started with the warm welcome and felicitation of dignitaries by Dr. S.B. Singh, the Joint Director. He briefed and visualized the role of ICAR in field of agriculture research and development in India and Mizoram. He points out the scope, demand and deficit scenario of pulses in Mizoram. In his address, he stated that Mizoram pulse production is almost negligible as compare to other states. Therefore, we should put momentum in pulses production with the cropping intensification either horizontally or vertically by using improved varieties. He appealed to the farmers to come forward and take up pulses cultivation to fetch more income and nutritional security. He ensured to provide the critical inputs like improved variety seeds, fertilizers, and water harvesting structures for successful farmers.

Pu Zion Lalremruata (General Secretary AMFU) emphasized on need of popularization and crop diversification with pulses in *jhum* and unutilized areas by using soil-water conservation technology. He briefed the importance of pulses in human health. He related active role of ICAR and the need of various critical inputs for improvement *Rabi* pulse production in hilly areas. He argued to farmers to grow improved variety of pulses and other *Rabi* crops like *tomato*, cauliflower, cabbage, broccoli and coriander after harvesting of WRC and *jhum* rice. He emphasized that farmers should be utilized of *jhum* land by growing pulses for livelihood improvement by maximizing net returns. Local MLA, Pu R.L. Pianmmawia welcomes all the farmers and encouraged them for showing keen interest in pulse production. He overwhelmed to the role of ICAR in livelihood improvement of farming communities and requested to organize often such activities.

During technical session programme, Dr. Lungmuana, Scientist (Soil Science), stated about the packages and practices of peas and *Rabi* vegetables cultivation. He emphasized the role of pulses in soil health management with respect to *jhum* soil improvement. Dr. T. Boopathi Scientist (SS) (Agril. Entomology) interacted with farmers on account of insect-pest management of *Rabi* pulses and vegetables. He advised to avoid late sowing the crop otherwise chances of insect-pest infestation are high. He recommended few safer insecticides for management of insect-pest of pulses. Dr. A. Ratankumar Singh, Scientist (Plant Pathology) highlighted the need of seed treatment for healthy and quality pulse production. All scientists responded to the queries raised by the farmers. 100 Seed Kit containing Pea (var. HUDP-15), coriander, cabbage, radish, carrot, tomato, were distributed to the farmers. Altogether 100 farmers from Darlawn, Sawleng, Pehlawn and Kepran villages of Aizwal districts were attended and benefitted from this training programme.



**Training cum input distribution programme organized at Darlawn, Aizawl District Mizoram**

***Sources: ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Mizoram Centre, Kolasib 796 081, Mizoram***

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