

Technological intervention changed the potato productivity in Mawpyrsong village- Meghalaya

In Meghalaya agricultural productivity is low due to the inherent low fertility of soil and this constrains increases due to improper management of soil also. The soils are acidic in nature and soil acidity is one of the major production constraints. Potato is one of the most important crops in Meghalaya and grown in most of this region, but productivity is low due to lack of scientific management of soil and lack of improved variety. To increase the productivity of potato in this region demonstrations were conducted in the Mawpyrsong village, East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya for consecutive two years (2011-12 & 2012-13) under Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP). Demonstrations showed that use of fertilizers, manure and lime have significant positive impact on potato yield. In the INM practices (50% RDF + Lime @ 400 kg / ha in furrow application + Vermicompost @ 2 t / ha) yield improvement is 166% over the farmers practices, however application of fertilizers (50% of RDF) and vermicompost (@ 2 t / ha) also increased the yield of potato by 66% as compared to the farmers' practice over the years. This difference in yield showed the importance of application of lime for management of acid soil. If we consider the residual effect of nutrient management, INM improves the yield by 38% over the previous year. The demonstration was conducted with the help of village headman under the technical guidance of Dr. S. Hazarika, Dr. B.C. Verma and Dr. Ramakrushna G.I. from ICAR Research Complex for NEH region, Umiam, Meghalaya