

NORTH EAST INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES & RESEARCH

Affiliated to Nagaland University & managed by Diocese of Kohima

NEISSR, Bishop's Dimapur, Nagaland, India, 797112



**NEISSR
OBSERVES
ONE-DAY SEMINAR**

DIALOGUE ON SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY IN NAGALAND

Date - 15th february, 2020

Venue - DBIDL Salesian Province of Dimapur

**JOIN US FOR AN INFORMATIVE DISCUSSION ON
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD
SECURITY IN NAGALAND**

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15 Feb, 2020

Concept note:

One-day Seminar Dialogue on sustainable agriculture and food security in Nagaland

Proposed date: 15th February, 2020

Venue: DBDIL, Dimapur

Nagaland is a hilly state located between 25°30'N and 93°44'E at an altitude of 1337 MSL with the Saramati as the highest peak at 12,600 ft. Dhansiri, Doyang, Dikhu and Jhanji are the rivers that flow drain the state. The state falls under the subtropical to tropical agro-climatic /ecological zone in the Eastern Himalayan region and shares international boundaries with Myanmar. The state is inhabited by 16 major tribes of varying populations and distinctive identities. The state has 16, 579 sq. kms. The hilly terrain is thickly wooded and cut by deep river valleys with varieties of plants and animals. Nagaland features a monsoon climate with usually high humidity, average rain fall 1800 to 2500 Millimetre a year.

The state was created in 1963 under a special Constitutional provision, Article 371A which provides maximum autonomy with *respect of religious or social practices of the Nagas: customary law and procedure, administration of civil and criminal justice involving decisions according to Naga customary law, ownership and transfer of land and its resources.* Regional autonomy as matter of right and part of local self-government is further re-enforced after India also signed in favour of United Nations Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP 2007)¹. In the light of change in legal environment at the international level Nagas struggle for independence which pre-dated Indian independence had to be resolved within the Indian Constitution. Cease-fire and peace processes were put in place since 1997. However, six decades of armed struggles led to armed political groups running parallel governments extracting huge human and development resources while legal and policy environments were changing very fast.

Decades of 2000 and 2010 witnessed swift changes in the legal, political and socio-economic policy environments at the international and national levels. The UN declared the first decade of 2000 as the international decade for culture of peace and nonviolence, winds of globalization swept over independent nation-states and economies to turn towards interdependent globalized economy; climate change negotiations arrived at action plans. And in response to the climate change international community also agreed to work together for sustainable development goals by 2015 to grapple with the growing threats of global warming and climate change. While in India's north eastern region the unresolved conflicts slowed down the change processes the changing external environment also facilitated ending

¹ India signed on UNDRIP 2007 on the condition that right of indigenous peoples is a pre-independence issues, therefore, right to self-determination is irrelevant in Indian context. www.indiatribalheritage.org accessed on 22nd Nov, 2019/Dimapur

all the conflicts to reap the fruits of the globalized economy. But how is the change processes at the state level being monitored and managed?

India as a prominent member state of the UN formulated National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC-2008) that envisaged embracing efficient and sustainable technologies to 'protect the poor and vulnerable sections of society through inclusive and climate sensitive sustainable development strategy'. The NAPCC identified eight missions to focus amongst which "sustainable agriculture resilient to climate change" is one. Climate change (SDG13) is also one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, 2030 which was dropped along with SDG12 (Responsible production and consumption), SDG14 (life below water) and SDG17 (Partnership for funding) while developing the SDG India Index in 2018. NITI directed each state also to formulate State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) and vision document 2030 in line with SDG 2030.

Look / Act East Policy, 1993 and North East Vision 2030 laid the frameworks for transforming the north eastern region as a 'Region of opportunities', 'Tourism destination', 'Power house of India' and 'Gateway to Southeast Asia'. Mega projects such as setting up special economic zones (SEZ), Hydro-electric, Mining, Oil exploration, Trans-Asian Highways and Railways began to take shape on the grounds without considering the social, economic and most importantly environment impacts of the six decades of armed conflicts and the mega project interventions in the most politically sensitive and delicate mountain ecosystems. Moreover, the state also developed vision 2030 and state action plan on climate change under the nationally determined frameworks for climate change action plans and sustainable development goals 2030 without any adequate consultations with the people who will be directly affected and also those who may have alternative perspectives complementing the government's vision and mission for change processes.

Several new legislations facilitating national economic development visions appeared during the last two decades. Under these larger frameworks national mission and flagship programs such as food security mission, livelihood mission, national health mission, sustainable forest and agriculture mission, etc. are in place. However, most of these documents being works of the experts remain largely unaware to the people while government officials at different levels remain engaged at activities level losing sight of the larger picture. Moreover, insistence on prerogatives of government's programs with emphasis on financial inclusion, marketability and commercial viability of all socio-economic development activities may also create counter-currencies from grassroots level. Some studies indicate that cash crop based agricultural development programs have adverse impacts on farmers' food baskets and mono-cropping culture destroys the ecosystem's self regeneration capacities compared to Jhum cultivation practices². Such expert-centred and market oriented development approach may result in lack of ownership and participation in the government's development plans and processes.

²Shifting Cultivation and Climate Change. UNFCCC Intersessional Meeting, Bangkok, 2009

The proposed seminar aims to

- create a space for spreading awareness among the younger generation and a meeting ground for different perspectives from different stakeholders towards achieving sustainable development goals at all levels in the globalized economy.
- initiate a process where the official perspective weaves with that of the community in ensuring sustainable development at all levels.

To bring all these perspective together delegates will be drawn from diverse sections of society and field of works including State and Central Government agencies working for forest, environment, agriculture, Non-government, Community leaders, research and educational institutions, scholars and intellectuals.

- Statement of mutual appreciation of the efforts by the Government, CSOs/CBOs and Non-Government actors
- A mechanism or platform for regular meeting and cooperation between the three sectors
- Publication of the seminar report

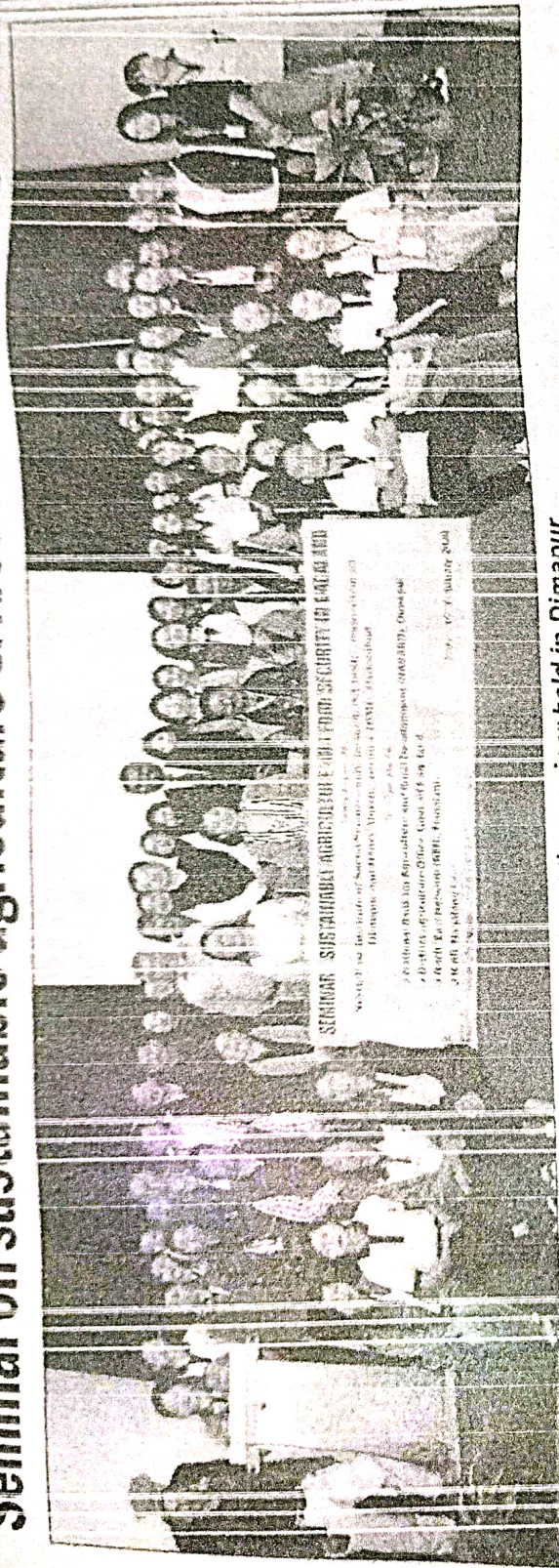
The seminar will invite papers and Powerpoint presentations from scholars, community development practitioners, social workers, researchers and government officials in the state to explore into different perspectives and aspects of agriculture, Jhum cultivation, food security, gender and sustainable development goals in response to demands from the globalized market systems and climate change scenario. Some of the thematic areas for deliberation include;

1. Sustainable agriculture and Jhum practices
 - a. Terrace v/s Jhum cultivation
 - b. Cash crop v/s indigenous food crop
 - c. Mono-cropping v/s biodiversity and the ecosystem
 - d. Inputs of High yielding seeds v/s conservation of indigenous seed technologies

- e. Modern technologies and farm mechanization v/s local needs and specificities
- f. Market based organic inputs and Indigenous organic farming technologies
- 2. Forest, Agriculture, Food security and sustainable livelihood
 - a. Control over indigenous seeds, soil technology and exchange v/s Effective and efficient PDS
 - b. Bio-diversity conservation v/s seeds and technology inputs for cash crop
 - c. Food sustenance v/s marketization and commercialization
 - d. Food security v/s food sovereignty
- 3. Women famers in agriculture and cultivation works:
 - a. Women as custodians of seeds and soils
 - b. Women farmers and technological inputs
 - c. Recognition: rights and dignity of women farmers
 - d. Financial inclusion and women farmers

Thanks

Seminar on sustainable agriculture & food security in Nagaland



Participants, resource persons and NEISSR faculty at the seminar held in Dimapur.

DIMAPUR: A seminar on "sustainable agriculture and food security in Nagaland" jointly organised by North East Institute of Social Sciences and Research (NEISSR), Peace Channel Dimapur and Henry Martin Institute (HMI) Hyderabad and sponsored by NABARD and district agriculture office Dimapur was held on February 15 at DBIDL, Dimapur.

A press release by the organisers stated that the seminar was designed to

bring out government and community perspectives on sustainable agriculture and food security in the state. It said the seminar was conducted with the aim of creating a space for spreading awareness among the younger generation on different perspectives of sustainable development goals at all levels in the globalised economy.

The seminar also aimed to initiate a process where the official and the community perspective on sustainable agriculture

and local security meet to ensure sustainable development at the state level.

The release informed that selectively identified resources persona and practitioners in the field of agriculture shared their knowledge and experiences in the field at the seminar.

The inauguration function was presided by principal NEISSR, Dr. Fr. C.P. Anto and general manager, NABARD, S.C. Sahoo, was special guest of the occasion.

In a short inaugural

food security in Nagaland". Dr. C.P. Suresh spoke on "Role of horticulture on nutritional security and sustainable development".

Akole Tsubah spoke on "Women farmers' perspective on sustainable agriculture and food security- Nagaland experiences"; Dr. Samhita Barooah spoke on "Peripheral ecology and women farmers' work in hill areas of Nagaland" and Dr. Pauline Aila spoke on "Horticultural contribution to sustainable agriculture and food security".

Dr Azeze Seyie spoke on "Agriculture for Sustainable development in Nagaland: ICAR perspective"; Amba Jamir spoke on "Sociological and anthropological aspects of sustainable agriculture and food security".

REGISTRATION LIST

Seminar on Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security in Nagaland

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Date: 15th February, 2020

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27 seminar. Registration list
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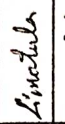
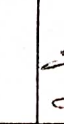
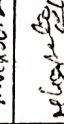
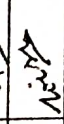
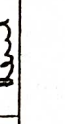
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Seminar on Sustainable Agriculture and food security in Nagaland
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Registration list

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REGISTRATION LIST
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Date: 15th February 2020
Venue- DBIDL, Dimapur, Nagaland

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