



INDO-GERMAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PROJECT

A New horizon

Sustainable use of patta land towards enhanced livelihood

(a story of Sri Ratharam Reang)



Sri Ratharam Reang and his three member family were practicing *Jhum* cultivation since generations. Their family life was not stable as to sustain their lives from *Jhum* cultivation, they had to move from one place to another in search of fertile land. *Jhum* cultivation was the only option they had inherited and learnt for their livelihood though the yield received from *Jhum* cultivation was not sufficient to fulfil the basic needs of living.

During 2009-10, Sri Reang was allotted 24 acre of land for use under Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. Out of which, about 12.5 acre of the patta land were used for *Jhum* cultivation in order to meet the basic family consumption. Though the Patta land received by them is a highly fertile land, but due to the poor financial condition, they could not plant any commercially viable species other than *Jhum* crops.

During 2012-13, he was selected as plantation beneficiary by the Sikaribari VDPIC under Ambassa RD Block. That was the first time when Sri Reang was able to decide the species for himself. He wished to cultivate different commercially viable crops / species namely Banana, Agar, Lemon, Mango (hybrid), Ginger and Turmeric. Accordingly, desired seedlings and rhizomes were provided to him by the VDPIC, the cost of which comes around Rs. 12,912/-. Under the close guidance of project personnel (TOs, BLCs, agri-horti Task Team Members and VCs) and the supervision of the VDPIC, he planted these seedlings and



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rhizomes covering 1.5 ha of his patta land, the location of which was N 23°53.848 and E 091°54.841. He was also assisted by the project for Rs. 9,250/- (in three instalments) for land preparation, Staking, pit digging, re-filling, planting, maintenance includes timely weeding, mulching, and SMC measures and protection, application of FYM (Farm Yard Manure) and Insecticides.

After 1st harvesting season of Ginger, besides self consumption and storing of rhizomes for next year cultivation, they have got a yield of Rs. 28,000/- by selling these crops. Now, he is expecting a handful earning from the top and middle canopy species. He and his family members now dream for a stable life with sufficient yield to spend in order to meet their basic needs without any compromises.

