

DOCUMENTATION ON STICKY RICE FROM JAINTIA HILLS

A. Introduction:

Sticky rice (Kho-Pnah in Jaintia) is one of the rice varieties which are used by the people of Meghalaya for making different types of food item particularly the slow food item which is taken along with tea. In Jaintia Hills, sticky rice was very close to the tribal living in different parts of the district as diverse types of food item can be produced out of it such as *Ja-chulia*, *Tpu-pnah*, *Tpu-sein*, *Tpu-langdong*, *Tpu-nai*, *Tpu-sawe*, *Tpu-sla*, etc. For making these different varieties of food product, sticky rice is mixed



Fig. 53(b): Mixed cropping between Soybean and sticky Rice



Fig. 53(a): Kho-pnah produced from Sung valley

with other scented rice such as Manipur rice.

Sticky rice is a cultivated variety which is being grown in different parts of Jaintia Hills such as Saipung, Saitsama, Nangbah, Shiliang Myntang, Sung Valley, Sahnsniang, Shangpung, Laskein, etc. On conversation with some of the people from Nangbah village (WJH), Moodymmai (WJH), and farmers from Sung Valley (WJH), they stated that sticky rice was cultivated in small quantity for self-consumption only and very few people cultivate it for marketing. Although it grows very well in this area, but the

market demand is very low and it is usually sold at a rate of Rs 80 per kg.

B. Method of cultivation practiced in Sung valley:

I. Nursery raising techniques	
a. Seed bed preparation	▪ Wet bed method
b. Varieties	▪ Local variety (Kho Pnah)
c. Seed rate	▪ 3-4Kg/100 sq ft
d. Seed treatment	▪ No seed treatment
e. Sowing time	▪ 2 nd week of June
f. Manuring	▪ No manuring
g. Irrigation	▪ The nursery area is submerge with water up to 3-4 inch depth
h. Days to transplanting	▪ 30 days after sowing (2 nd week of July)
i. Transplanting techniques	▪ 2-3 seedlings/ hill

II. Cultivation practices	
a. Soil & Field preparation	▪ The soil is ploughed using power tiller one week before transplantation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Azolla prevailing in the field were incorporated during field preparation and this method helps to retain the soil fertility
b. Time of transplanting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2nd week of July
c. Seedling Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No seedling treatment followed
d. Spacing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 20 cm x 20 cm
e. Cropping system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Border-cropping with soybean
f. Manuring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No manuring
g. Weeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Weeding is done once throughout the season (Last week of August)
h. Irrigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The field is maintained with standing water throughout the season
i. Pest infestation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swarming caterpillar which were observed once in 30 years
j. Diseases infestation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bacterial leaf Blight (mild infestation)
k. Harvesting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Harvesting is done during 1st week of November ▪ Harvesting is done at an appropriate time in order to avoid grain shattering. ▪ The paddy is harvested with a sickle and dries in the field for one week. ▪ The harvested paddies is thresh on a hard surface with a stick and the husk is separated from the grain by winnowing
l. Duration (sowing-harvesting)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 5 months
m. Yield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.3 tonnes/Hectare

III. Seed saving techniques:

Source of Seed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self seed saving (approx 60 years)
a. Seed saving techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection of seed from healthy mother plant • Threshing and winnowing of the harvested paddy • Sun drying till optimum moisture content is achieved
b. Storing techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The dried seeds are stored in storage chamber made of wood known as Tyllu in a moisture free environment
c. Viability of the seeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One year
d. Challenges in Seed storing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No challenges faced as such