

Entrepreneurship development in Sustainable Green Technology

Background & Context

Shri Helpme Laloo Moodymmmai Village, Thadlaskein Block West Jaintia hills District Meghalaya

Helpme Laloo is one of the Master trainers of Bio-Resources Development Centre (BRDC), Upper Shillong under the project “Skill Development of Communities in Compost Making and other Green Technologies” funded by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs under Article 275(1). With an average qualification of 12th standard, he was motivated to practice Organic farming due to the changing climatic scenario and excessive usage of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in crops. He attended several capacity building programs conducted by BRDC, Agriculture Department etc., and in turn he disseminated those technologies to the rural communities for improving their livelihood. As of today, he had trained around 3000 farmers belonging to different communities of Jaintia Hills region.

Best Practice

In an area of 3.9 acres, he managed to set up an integrated farm where he included several components viz., Piggery, Poultry, Beekeeping, Vegetable cultivation, Fish rearing, Mushroom cultivation and Production of Vermicompost, Lactic acid bacteria, Bamboo vinegar, Botanical pest repellent, etc.

Impact

Through his dedication and hard work, he managed to generate revenues through the sale of the following components in the local markets viz., Moodymmmai, Jowai, Khliehriat & Shillong

Sl. No.	Particulars	Revenue generated (in rupees)
01.	earthworms for Vermicomposting	2,10,000/-
02.	Oyster mushroom	60,000/-
03.	Piggery	2,00,000/-
04.	Vermicompost	30,000/-
05.	Organic Vegetables	30,000/-
Total Revenue (2021- till date)		5,30,000/-



Fig. Mushroom cultivation



Fig. Vegetable cultivation



Fig. Buckwheat cultivation

Key Takeaways

Skill development in compost making and using bio inputs can greatly benefit rural communities by increasing crop production. Here are some key learning and takeaways from this initiative:

1. **Sustainable Agriculture:** Teaching rural communities how to make compost and utilize bio inputs promotes sustainable agriculture practices. They learn to use organic materials to improve soil fertility and crop yields, reducing the dependency on chemical fertilizers.
2. **Cost-Effective Farming:** By learning how to create their own compost and bio inputs, rural farmers can reduce their production costs. This helps in making farming more financially sustainable in the long run.
3. **Environmental Benefits:** Composting organic waste materials helps in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and contributes to environmental conservation. It also promotes recycling and reduces

the amount of waste being sent to landfills.

4. **Increased Crop Yields:** Utilizing compost and bio inputs rich in nutrients enhances soil health, leading to increased crop productivity and better-quality produce. This, in turn, can improve food security and income for rural communities.
5. **Empowerment:** Providing skill development opportunities empowers rural communities to take charge of their agricultural practices. They become more self-reliant and can make informed decisions regarding their farming techniques.

Overall, skill development in compost making and bio inputs equips rural communities with the knowledge and tools necessary to improve their agricultural practices, leading to a more sustainable and productive farming system.

Implementation challenges faced

I. Challenges faced as a mushroom cultivator the challenges he faced are

- **Spawn Supply and Quality:** Non-availability and less supply of high-quality mushroom spawn is a challenge. Delayed or inadequate spawn availability affects yields and productivity
- **Market Volatility:** Fluctuations in demand and pricing impact profitability. Developing robust marketing strategies and exploring value-added processing can help mitigate this challenge.

II. Challenges faced as an Organic Farmers

- **Marketing and Trust:** Building consumer trust in organic products can be challenging.
- **Government Support:** Involvement of government policies and subsidies can facilitate organic farming growth

III. Challenges faced as a Vermicompost Producers

- **Marketing:** Lack of market information and no designated market structure for sale of vermicompost