



Livelihood Through Farming in Nagaland

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Abstract: Agriculture forms a core part of settlement life in Nagaland, and the great majority of its people depend on farming as their principal economic activity. Peasant farming remains the dominant livelihood in the state, its techniques rooted in indigenous practice and belief, while the region's geo-climatic conditions shape its main income-generating activities: crop farming, horticulture, and animal husbandry. Jhum cultivation, a form of shifting cultivation, remains widely practised despite concern over its environmental impact and long-term sustainability. Recent years have seen growing interest in approaches that revise established farming methods, including organic farming, agribusiness, and the application of new technique, with the improvement of farming revenue through sales, marketing, and food security a continuing priority in the design of agricultural cooperatives and government support schemes. A thin but important line runs between preserving conventional farming practice and embracing more sustainable alternatives. This chapter adopts a descriptive approach, with three objectives: first, to explain the rationale for jhum cultivation; second, to raise awareness of horticulture farming; and third, to explain the rationale for terrace farming.

Keywords: Jhum cultivation, horticulture, terrace farming, rural livelihood, livestock rearing.

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