

Horticulture Bytes

July/ 2023

Fifth Edition



APART: Adding Value to Increase Resilience, Production And Value Addition of Horticulture Value Chain

DoH & FP is the Operational Project Implementation Unit (OPIU) under APART supported by two international agencies



Major Project Interventions

- Development of 167 clusters in APART district
- Demonstration of Climate Resilient Technology and Market-Led Activities
- Demonstration of Post-Harvest Management (PHM) Techniques
- Application of IPM systems to reduce the use of pesticides and promote vermicomposting units
- Market linkage through
 - Value Chain Schools
 - Cold Chain Storage Facilities
 - Provision for specially designed 4 - wheeler transport vehicles
- Formation of FFS (Farmer Field Schools) and FPCs (Farmer Producer Companies)
- Intensification of Vegetable Nursery for Seed Production
- Awareness and Capacity Building



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ASSAM AGRIBUSINESS AND RURAL TRANSFORMATION PROJECT (APART)

Message From The Director's Table

The fifth issue of Quarterly Online e-newsletter "*Horticulture Bytes*" initiated by OPIU-Horticulture and Food Processing to disseminate information and impact of APART activities in field level in the districts has focussed on Vegetables production as Offseason Tomatoes , Pumpkin, Banana (G 9) , Pineapple. Emphasis has been on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants promotion along with setting up of Oil extraction units.

During the period Technical Trainings grafting technology of Cucurbits were conducted in collaboration with Technical partner, World Vegetables Center, Taiwan. For replication, the WVC has plans for conducting the programmes at different locations of the state. We are committed to setting up 100 Vegetables Nurseries under VNEDP. We continue our efforts to complete the same within stipulated period of time.

We also are continuing the support to development of Commercial cultivation of Flowers which are taken up under Assam Floriculture Mission which is under process of implementation.

I hope this issue will be useful for all.

**Shri Triranga Bharatiya Borah , Director
Horticulture and Food Processing, Assam**

In the quarter of April-June 2023 the emphasis has been on Vegetables Value Chain development. WorldVeg conducted ToT in collaboration with DoHFP for developing the Vegetables Nursery under VNEDP (Vegetables Nursery Entrepreneurship Development Programme) for strengthening the business aspects of the Nurseries.

OPIU-Horticulture has taken up demo plantation of Banana (var G9) and Pineapple production increase in selected clusters of Kamrup, Goalapara, Cachar district during the period. Good progress has been made in promotion of MAP (Medicinal and Aromatic Plants) in collaboration with CIMAP (Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants) , Lucknow. Two oil extraction plants were inaugurated in Rongjuli, Goalpara and in Kokrajhar district. During the period.

OPIU –Horticulture has continued to provide handholding support for FPC-CSC (Farmer Producer Companies/ Common Service Centre) programme through training programmes held at regular intervals. One batch training of BoDs of 5 FPCs has been completed during the period at EEI, AAU, Khanapara. OPIU-Horticulture is providing support to the programme focussing on 87 Agri Horti FPCs through advisory and monitoring services along with Service Providers (ICCOA, PwCL, GT LLP).

OPIU-Horticulture completed the pilot phase of Natural Farming and successfully handed over the programmes to the National Mission on Natural Farming to DoA PMU Cell for carrying forward the activities with active participation in the Natural Farming Conclave held on 19th may 2023.

We are presenting a brief glimpse of the progress in this fifth issue and we hope it will be helpful for all.

Shri Bipul Das

ADA (R/FT) cum

Nodal Officer, APART-OPIU (Horti.)

Manik Rabha: Cultivating Success Through Banana Farming



Manik Rabha's journey into the world of agriculture and his determination to try something new has led to a remarkable success story. After clearing his 12th examination, he decided to explore the potential of banana cultivation as a means to support his family financially. With the support of his father, who had been engaged in traditional farming practices, Manik Rabha embarked on a new path.

In 2005, armed with a borrowed sum of Rs. 12,000 from his father, Manik Rabha began his banana cultivation venture. He wisely utilized this initial investment and gradually expanded his operations. Today, he is the proud owner of an area spanning 7-8 bighas of land where he cultivates a variety of bananas, including Malbhog, Chenichampa, Jahail, Grand 9 (G9), and Saheb Kol.

Manik Rabha's dedication and willingness to embrace new technologies and farming techniques have set him apart as an example within the community. Through his success, he has not only improved his family's financial situation but also inspired and motivated those around him.

His story serves as a testament to the power of perseverance, innovation, and the potential of agriculture as a means to create a positive impact. Manik Rabha's journey from a traditional farming background to becoming a successful banana grower showcases the possibilities that lie within the agriculture sector and serves as an inspiration to aspiring farmers and entrepreneurs alike.



In the year 2021-22, Manik Rabha received assistance in his banana cultivation journey. He partnered with APART project (Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project), in collaboration with the District Agriculture Office, Goalpara, to cultivate the highly sought-after G9 variety of banana in 7 bigha of land as demonstration and in 2 bigha of land on his own. This collaboration brought significant benefits to Manik Rabha's farming operations.

With the support and guidance provided by APART and the District Agriculture Office, Manik Rabha successfully harvested a bountiful crop of G9 bananas. This particular variety is known for its high quality and demand in the market. Leveraging his expertise and the assistance received, Manik Rabha has been able to sell his G9 bananas to Tripura. He has been selling most of the produce to Guwahati market and at Darangiri and Dhupdhara local market, commanding an impressive price of Rs. 450-600 per bunch.

This remarkable achievement not only highlights Manik Rabha's ability to adapt to new cultivation techniques but also underscores the importance of partnerships and collaborations in the agricultural sector. By embracing modern farming practices and working in collaboration with relevant organizations, Manik Rabha has taken his banana cultivation to new heights and reaped the rewards in terms of both productivity and financial success. His journey serves as a shining example of how strategic alliances can propel farmers towards greater prosperity and market success.

His works has been replicated by about 10-20 youths who are now cultivating banana in the area in crop areas of about 0.3-1 bighas of land area. His future planning is to establish a ripening unit and also wishes to build a processing unit so that he can make by products like banana chips and powder like bhimvita.

Submitted by

Sanju Borgohain

District Horticulture Coordinator, APART
Goalpara District



G-Naine Banana Plantation, Rani under Pokhila FPC, Kamrup District



Banana Demo under Goalpara District

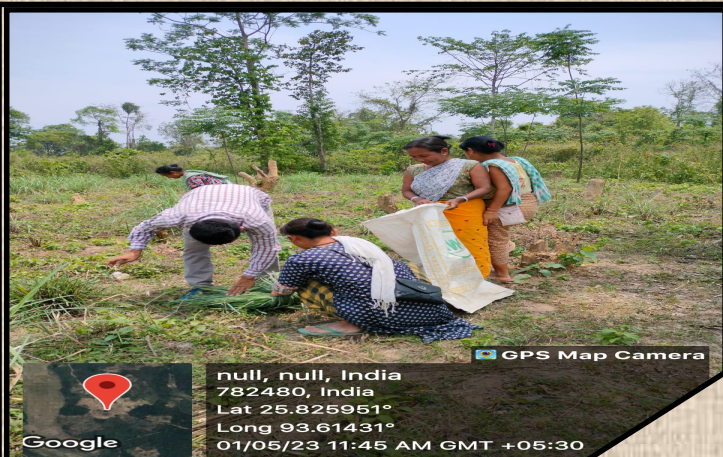


Technical training on Pineapple Plantation, Golaghat District



Market Linkage Pumpkin, Golaghat District.

43 metric tons to Kolkata & 125 metric tons to Odisha



Lemon Grass Harvesting and Purchased by local youth, a member of Haamajang farming cooperative society ltd, Karbianglong



Oil Extraction Unit under Medicinal and Aromatic Plant Project



**Lemongrass Plot &
Oil Extraction Unit,
Kokrajhar District**



**Late CRML tomato demo under
Ramdhenu FPC, Barpeta**



Harvesting and Field day, Pumpkin, Bongaigaon District



APART activity under Sivasagar, visited by Nodal Officer, APART OPIU Horticulture



Market linkage

55 MT Pumpkin under APART,
from Jeuti A Garaka FPC,
Sootea, Biswanath
@Rs- 9/kg from Farm gate
to Odisha.

OP Pumpkin (variety—AVPU 1391) at Dalgaon
Seed farm, Darrang



Pineapple demo plot at Torani napam, Golaghat District



**Ceremonial plantation of
lemon grass at sonapur,
Biswanath district in
presence of DAO Biswanath
and ADO Gohpur**



**Market Linkage of Pumpkin to
Arunachal Pradesh. Traders Arjun Ali purchased
Pumpkin @7.50/kg from Dal gharor FPC based
at Mohaijaan in Lakhimpur.**



Grafted Tomato (Brinjal+Tomato), Jorhat District



Sanapur No.6, Assam, India
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Lat 27.456793° Long 94.319802°
23/04/23 01:23 PM GMT +05:30



Sanapur No.6, Assam, India
F849+MV, Sanapur No.6, Assam 787034, India
Lat 27.456793° Long 94.319802°
23/04/23 02:06 PM GMT +05:30

Weeding in Vetiver Plot, Dhemaji District

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