

BRIEF REPORT ON THE AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON JACKFRUIT PROCESSING WHICH WAS HELD AT KORHADEM, RIBHOI DISTRICT ON THE 28TH MAY, 2016.

The National Cooperative Union of India Education Field Project, Shillong organized the awareness Programme on Jackfruit Processing on 28th May 2016 at Korhadem Village. I was invited by NCUI to deliver lectures in the programme by the Project Officer, NCUI. There were more than 60 participants.

The Awareness Programme is on Jackfruit processing and preparation of Jackfruit value added products. I demonstrated on how to use Jackfruit as vegetable and pickle making. I informed them that unripe matured Jackfruit can be converted into chips and mixture and ripe Jackfruit can be processed into squash and juice. However, it was not possible to demonstrate the methods as there were no matured jackfruit. As the village is located very far from the town people can use these Jackfruit chips and mixtures and squash for selling in the local market which later it also can replace the products which are imported from outside. This can reduce the expenditure. There is very high potential for Jackfruit processing in these areas as Jackfruit grows easily and abundantly.

During the course of interaction with the participants, I observed that females were busy spinning Eri-yarn. So I took interest in conversing with the villagers and found that all females of every household are engaged in weaving cotton, Acrylic and Eri-waste. They rear their own worms for producing yarn, weave clothes and dyed the cotton and Eri with lac colour. This activity is being practiced by all the weavers, so lac cultivation is one of their occupation but it is only used for dyeing and the raisin is just a waste. Lac is cultivated in Ficus Species, pigeon pea and only few in bear trees as it produced less colour. Kusmi is also not that popular in these villages.

I would like to suggest inclusion of these areas from Sonidan towards Jaki Road under Lac activities and Eri - Silk weaving too. We can encourage these people to plant flevingia trees as land is available after Jhum cultivation is over and production of Lac from these areas seems to be higher than the other places.

In view of the above observation it may be suggested that we can cover these areas under Lac programme also.
