

**KHATARSHNONG SOCIO-ORGANISATION (KSO)  
CHERRAPUNJEE.**

**IN COLLABORATION WITH**

**“PEOPLE’S RIGHTS FORUM-MEGHALAYA”**

*SPONSORED BY*

**INTERNATIONAL FOOD SECURITY NETWORK (IFSN) AND ACTION AID  
INDIA (AAI)**

**DATE::2<sup>nd</sup> August 2011**

**VENUE::LAITMAWSIANG COMMUNITY HALL,  
LAITMAWSIANG12SHNONG, SOHRA.**

**NO. OF PARTICIPANTS: 62Nos.**

**(M: 23, F: 39)**

**NO. OF KSO STAFFS PRESENT: 4 Nos.**

**SHRI LHAISING KHONGSHEI (PROJECT CO-  
ORDINATOR, KSO, SOHRA)**

**SMT.AIKMENLANG DOHLING (FIELD WORKER, KSO. SOHRA)**

**SHRI.LAMPHRANG DIENGDOH (FIELD OFFICER, KSO, SOHRA)**

**PRF REPRESENTATIVE(S): 1. SMT. WANPYNHYUN KHARSYNTIEW (STATE CO-ORDINATOR, PRF-  
MEGHALAYA)**

**PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES**

- ✓ The aim and objective of this programme is to make native people aware of ‘Right to Food’ or ‘Right to Eat’-a basic need of human beings being conferred by the Government of India under which various programmes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Mid-day Meal (MDM), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), etc. were launched to free Indian citizens from hunger, poverty and illiteracy.
- ✓ To ensure the smooth functioning of all Government Programmes made available to the common mass.

- ✓ To impress upon the people the need to access to this particular Right to Food/ to understand the importance of knowing the opportunities being denied.

**METHODOLOGY:**

- ✓ Welcome speech from the village Sordar.
- ✓ Introduction (Opening session)
- ✓ Taking of photos and Registration.
- ✓ Clarification.
- ✓ Questions, answers and suggestions.

**FORUM’S PROFILE:** People’s Rights Forum-Meghalaya, slightly and normally come into existence in the year 2007. It is a platform of twelve partners NGOs working on the issue of Right to Food Campaign and Food security across the state of Meghalaya, having partnership with other NGOs, CBOs in the Northeast and funded by Action Aid India (AAI) & International Food Security Network (IFSN).

**BRIEF NOTE:** As usual, the meeting began at 10:00am in the morning with a very warm welcome speech from one of the village leaders, Mr. Ryntihlang Renee, to all the participants and the resource persons attended the session without fail. Before we proceed, the session was firstly introduced by Mr. L.Khongshei , KSO Project Co-coordinator which then taken over by Smt.Wanpynhun Kharsyntiew- state co-coordinator, PRF-Meghalaya to disseminate and circulate information (s) and share the experience on the implementation of RTF programmes in the State. The main components under RTF discussed are as follows;

TPDS-Targeted public Distribution System: The resource person started emphasizing the importance of BPL card stating that, this is a family identification that people need to be carefully alert. Question arises on how PDS is implemented in the village and the table below shows how people of Laitmawsiang access to PDS:

CATEGORIES	ESSENTIAL COMODITIES EVER RECEIVED.			RATE			AMC
	Rice	S.K.Oil	Sugar	Rice	S.K.Oil	Sugar	Rs
BPL	27kgs out of 35kgs	3litres per month In rural villages.	½ kg per head as per the guideline/ the supreme	@Rs.8/kg	@Rs.11- Rs.17/litre	@Rs13.50 p/kg	216

		In the month of August 200litres only@320 Which is not an actual quantity.	court order. But people received only twice or thrice a year. Besides, its quality is also bad.				
AAY	35kgs/card holder	Do	Do	@Rs.3/kg	Do		105
APL	16kg/card holder			@Rs.10/kg	Do		160
ANAPURNA	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL		NIL

In spite of all the above mentioned commodities to be given to people, other commodities include ATTA, (Flour), wheat, edible oil; Dal etc. are not given to people at all. This is a whole state matter to be looked sharp in ensuring the program free from corruption. The resource also, cited some examples on how family conflicts come off between the wife and the husband affecting the dignity of the individuals and the society. In between there is an interaction where the dealer of Laitmawsiang FPS centre share his experience stating that he can say nothing on the less quantity provided but he has to accept whatever the whole seller does. No time limit for collection of essential commodities and this is unsatisfied, the dealer said. This year, for three months they have been receiving rice with good quality, others months of the year with bad quality. The dealer also requested the Forum to give its helping hands in fulfilling this basic right of human beings.

MGNREGA: While talking to this particular scheme there is actually no such fair implementation right from the higher authority. Specifically in Laitmasiang village, this program is working well. It gives tremendous opportunities to the vulnerable and marginalized people especially people living from hand to mouth. Like other villages, Laitmawsiang too got 20 to 75 days of work out of 100days from MGREGA annually.

ICDS: In this connection, children attended the centre daily. This seems that it is functioning well.

MDM: It has been clarified by the Resource that this programe meant for all children below 14 years of age which means for school going children and that the teachers must give to children with hot cooked meal. This is also a Supreme Court order. But,

unfortunately teachers revealed that they know nothing about the Provisions or directions conferred by the state or by the central Government. They simply accept whatever the government directs or gives. The reason is that teachers attended the meeting are new to the School.

OTHERS: In spite of the above briefly discussed issues, the facilitator highlighted some other important schemes to be given to different sections of people viz. National Family benefit scheme-a financial assistance @10000/-, old age pension@200per month (NOAPS) etc. Sub-key issues interacted: (I) PDS -Missing Cards (II) Up-coming Socio-Economic Survey commencing from 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2011.

SUGGESTIONS: On the conversation, it was suggested that the Government must either take action or completely eliminate the whole sellers and that the dealers by themselves shall lift up essential commodities directly from the FCI go downs.

COCLUSION: Lastly the meeting was concluded by the village leader with a vote of thanks to all the participants and the KSO staffs as well as the Resource person for making the programme a successful event.



