



ANNUAL REPORT 2014

RURAL WOMEN UPLIFTMENT SOCIETY (RWUS)

Sielmat Box-3 P.O Churachandpur, Manipur-795128

Introduction: The year 2014 was indeed marvellous as RWUS march forward with local communities and touches the lives of many families. The nation's progress towards development is incomplete when rural communities failed to reap its benefit. The lack of accessibility to such progress and development is big hindrances to the people march towards wholesome development where sizable sections of the population are struggling to survive on a daily basis. Women form the major section that bears the brunt of negligence thereby limiting their

RWUS with its passion and commitment works ceaselessly to address these emerging challenges through diverse programs under different projects.

About the Organization:

Rural Women Upliftment Society (RWUS) is a Church Based, Not for Profit, Gender just indigenous philanthropic organization founded by the development department of the Independent Church of India (ICI) in the year 1990. With full autonomy in administration and functioning, RWUS seeks to address the issues and concerns of the people without compromising their unique cultural, social and religious practices encompassing gender, Local Capacity for Peace (LCP) and environment as cross cutting theme.

VISION AND MISSION

Vision: To empower the people for justice and development.

Mission: To empower grass root communities through capacity building, awareness raising, trainings, advocacy and lobby work, networking and alliance building and through support.



Thematic Area:

Anchored on a mission to empower grass root communities,

RWUS has the following core thematic issue-

- ✓ **The right to food and Food Security**
- ✓ **Gender and Women in governance**
- ✓ **Capacity Building and Training**
- ✓ **Environment and Natural Resources**



COALITION ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (CENRs)

Summary of activities: CENRs seek to protect, promote and manage natural resources in a just and sustainable way and advocate its uses entirely for the benefit of the people. To achieve this, CENRs conducted multiple activities like Church leaders consultation for involving the church in this initiatives, interface with Civil Society Organizations and political leaders for policy influence, trained women and youth on natural resources, relevant legislation and policies, rights & entitlements. Some of the training programs were organized at interior village like Parbung in Tipaimukh. Training were also conducted on alternative livelihood and policy advocacy for protection of land natural resources.



A regional consultation was also organized two times in Shillong and Guwahati during the same time for piloting North East initiatives which gradually extends the project coverage to 3 NE of Nagaland, Assam and Meghalaya. A round table conference was also organized at New Delhi which was attended by CSO's and Member of Parliament.



The Coalition also organized 2 capacity building program for its partners to improve their performance and work quality.

CHURCHANDPUR AREA INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (CAIDP)

Summary of activities: CAIDP project is implemented in 17 villages under 3 blocks in Churachandpur with the goal of alleviating the deep rooted food insecurity due to abject poverty, negligence and deprivation of rights. The project address the innumerable issues confronting the livelihood, food security and accessibility of citizens rights and entitlements through improved agricultural practice like SALT and SRI, FAITH gardening and advocacy to access public schemes.



To achieve its objectives, the following activities were conducted between April 2014 and March 2015:



- ✓ SRI Trainings conducted 4 times and attended by 163 farmers. Support is also given to 74 beneficiaries.
- ✓ Total of 3 trainings conducted on Sloping Agriculture Land Technology (SALT) with 90 farmers attending and 50 farmers provided with agriculture support.
- ✓ 75 Farmers were also trained on Green leaves manure and vermin composting and 2 model vermi pit set up.
- ✓ SHG management, leadership and IGP training organized 6 times and attended by 188 women. 20 SHG's were also provided matching grant and capacity building were also provided to SHG Federation.
- ✓ 25 landless farmers were trained on livestock management 3 times and provided piglet for income generation.
- ✓ Seeds support was also given to 129 beneficiaries.
- ✓ The project also set up demo SEED Bank, Horticulture Nursery and Community Food Bank which are managed by the community.



Case study: Mr. Raltawna (54yrs) is a sincere and hardworking farmer residing in Hmuntha village. He had been practicing lowland farming for more than 20 years through conventional method and his paddy field is the only source of food for the family. However decline in crop productivity year after year made him lose interest and made him a dejected man. He then lease out half of his field for share cropping.



He was somehow persuaded to attend SRI training which he did and began to understand the benefits and decided to experiment. His paddy field was adopted by RWUS as a demonstration site due to its proximity to the road. Passerby could easily notice the single seedlings transplanted. Initially Mr Raltawna felt hesitant due to the high risk involved in transplanting single seedlings.

Mr Raltawna observed the higher growth of tillers in the plants which made him very excited and his harvest is also much higher than the conventional. Through the SRI method, he could increase his product by 9 bags per sanggam. He was happy knowing that the extra production would meet the family food requirement and decided to practice the system in his entire field.

CAPACITY BUILDING ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

The project is implemented in 5 villages of Churachandpur district. Major activities are capacity building, advocacy and networking, gender and livelihood security. The project works towards strengthening Community Based Organization (CBOs) for self sustenance, economic development and effective right based advocacy and lobbying. To achieve this, the following programs were conducted during this period



- ✓ 3 days Training of Trainers (TOT) on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law was also organized and 49 communities participated.
- ✓ Two times awareness workshop on Climate Change was organized in which 44 communities participated.
- ✓ Three times awareness workshop on Self Help Group Formation and book keeping training was organized in which 159 communities participated.
- ✓ One day training on legal rights and entitlements for women organized at RWUS training hall where 25 women participated.
- ✓ Three days follow up program on Schemes for Rural Poor was organized at RWUS training hall where 48 youth participated.
- ✓ One day exposure cum exchange visit was organized where 15 youths and women visited United Tribal Development Project Office at Chandonpokpi, chandel District.

PROMOTION OF WOMEN SELF HELP GROUP SCHEME (WSHG)

WSHG scheme was started in 2012 under which 60 Women Self Help Group were formed at two blocks of Churachandpur District namely Samulamlan Block and Thanlon Block covering 20 villages. The main activities conducted are awareness workshop on WSHG scheme, WSHG formation, hand holding and book keeping training, opening of bank accounts for the WSHGs and credit linkage for the groups.



During this period, the following are the achievement of the year:

1. Book keeping training was organized 12 times at 10 villages where 215 women members participated.
2. 30 WSHGs were linked with the State Bank of India(SBI)
3. One day Finance Literacy awareness campaign was organized in collaboration with SBI Churachanpur branch at Sagang where 48 women participated.

BAROMETER: MONITORING WOMEN PEACE AND SECURITY

Summary of activities: Barometer project is implemented with the goal to increase the security of local women and their rights in all aspects of their life in conflict situation. It aims to monitor women peace and security through an instrument that reflects the daily realities of their lives. It was implemented by 7 women organization of Manipur. Monitoring is done through consultative meeting, Review meeting, experience sharing, Round table interface, Small meeting and Focus group discussion to address insecurity, reduce women's invisibility and breaks their isolation.

The project accomplished the following during the 12 intervening months.

- ✓ 1 Consultative meeting with CBO's and leaders attended by 65 women.
- ✓ Review meeting with interviewed women which was attended by 43 women.
- ✓ Consultative meeting with local women leaders participated by 24 women
- ✓ Experience sharing/Story telling attended by 58 women.
- ✓ 3 Monitoring amongst survivor group conducted which was participate by 85 women.
- ✓ Round table interface attended by 32 women participants.
- ✓ State level joint meeting organized 3 times which was attended by 61 women Participants
- ✓ State level stakeholder consultation organized attended by 32 women participants.

Women in Governance (WinG)

Summary of activities: Wing is a network of women across communities and ethnic lines having concern for women peace and security and women leadership in governance at all levels. The project is implemented by RWUS with 6 other women organizations in Manipur whose mission driven works and activities are positively functioning and striving towards Wing's mission. The objective of the project is to provide support and guidance for participation in decision making.

The project achieves the following during the period from April 2014 to March 2015 which may be highlighted;

- ✓ TOT on Gender and Governance for WinG promoter conducted which was attended by 27 women.
- ✓ 1 day Orientation on documentation and report writing program organized which was participated by 18 women.
- ✓ Personality development for Primary stakeholders organized at RWUS office
- ✓ Workshop on various social security schemes for widow, VAW victims and rights & entitlements organized.
- ✓ Training on governance for small women organization conducted and attended by 27 participants.
- ✓ Civil Society Consultation on women in governance at District level which was attended by 34 participants.

- ✓ 2 times Leadership building for primary stakeholders was organized which was attended by 62 women.
- ✓ Violence against Women (VAW) campaign organized at RWUS Hall through Panel Talk and discussion which was participated by 35 women participants.
- ✓ Organized District level consultation on the status of women related acts, laws and program which was attended by 38 women.
- ✓ Conducted a consultative meeting for tribe leaders, elders, academicians on customary laws which was participated by 87 women.
- ✓ International Women Day observation in 5 villages
- ✓ District level consultation on strengthening elected women PR's
- ✓ Organized WinG district level Annual Conference which was participated by 206 women.

SMILE PROJECT

SMILE is a project initiated by RWUS to help under privilege children in the district. The project was started in 2010 with the objective of rendering assistance to needy children who are deprived of reason to show SMILEs on their face. Ever since, RWUS continued these noble cause by providing assistance to children who are mostly orphans. During last December, 47 children were given a Christmas gift of Blanket to warm themselves and face the extreme cold comfortably. The gift is possible through help from donors and well wisher.



Executive Board members:

Mrs Hrilrohnem	: Chairperson
Miss Mary Beth Sanate	: Secretary
Mrs Lalthiengzo	: Treasurer
Mrs Zosangkim	: Members
Miss Darthangmawi	: Members
Ms Levis Singson	: Member
Ms Chinneinuam	: Member

RWUS Staff:

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Ms Lalnunneim	: Prog Coordinator
Ms Nissi Lalrochan	: Prog Coordinator
Ms Roselyn	: Prog Staff
Mr B.R. Sanglien	: Prog Staff
Ms Buongzakim	: Cashier
Mr Lalsiemthar	: Accountant
Mr Ramnghakhla	: Driver
Lalthangpui	: Caretaker

RWUS is registered under the Society Registration Act, 1860 with registration No. 234 on 3rd April, 1990. It is also registered under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 1976 with a registration No. of 19410018 on 4th January, 1993.

The society is also registered under the Income tax exemption under 12A of Income Tax Act, 1961 with no. as RA214/12A/CIT/JRT/03 on April, 2003, at Jorhat.