

# KURIEN MAHOTSAV

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# Snapshot of the state agricultural landscape

- **Area Under Cultivation** - 2,220 square km (9.87% of total area of the State) – an average of 6% of total area under cultivation is under jhum according to NITI Aayog report.
- **Major Crop - starchy staples** (rice, maize, millet, potato, sweet potato, tapioca), **fruits** (citrus – khasi mandari, pineapple, banana, papaya, jackfruits, sohiong) **nuts and oil seeds** (sesamum, chestnut), condiments (ginger, turmeric, chilies, garlic, black pepper, coriander), **pulses** (pea, cowpea, lentil, tur, gram), **green leafy vegetables** (cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce, mustard leaves), **other vegetables** (beet root, radish, tomato, cucumber, capsicum, brinjal, ladies finger, turnip, bottle gourd, ridge gourd) and **Vitamin-A vegetables** (carrot and pumpkin excluding papaya) – varieties and food from forest missing.
- **Fertilizer Consumption** - RBI report – 18 kg (04-05), 18 kg (05-06), 20 kg (06-07), 14 kg (07-08), 13 kg (08-09), 13 kg (09-10), 15 kg (10-11), 14 kg (11-12), 14 kg (12-13), 47 kg (13-14), NA (14-15), NA (15-16), 0 kg (16-17), 0 kg (17-18), 0 kg (18-19), 0 kg (19-20) (133 kg per ha avg National)
- **Area Under Natural/Organic Farming** - Majority of area can be categorized as being under organic/traditional farming.

# Policies and incentives

- **Policy To Help Organic Farming** - Meghalaya launched Mission Organic in 2015. As a precursor all agro-chemical subsidies were stopped in 2014; ODOP scheme in Meghalaya (Lakadong Turmeric from Jaintia Hills) - Lakadong Turmeric from Shillong, 1st April, 2021 flagging off 13,146 kgs; Trinity Saioo got 2021 Padma Shri.
- **Civil Society Interventions** - NESFAS “No One Shall be Left Behind Initiative: Biodiversity for Food, Nutrition and Energy Security, Meghalaya and Nagaland”; focus on agrobiodiversity, nutrition, livelihood and innovation; Indigenous People’s Food System.
- **Positive Trends** - Greater recognition - winner of the 2021 IFAD Indigenous Peoples Award for the category “best performing non-IFAD-funded project”; FAO-led publication on Indigenous Peoples' food systems won the 2021 Best in the World Sustainability Report Award; mention of IFS in Meghalaya Assembly in 2021 session.
- **Setbacks In Recent Times** - Covid-19; MP from Shillong Vincent Pala stated that he would raise issue of threats of Jhum in COP-26; National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) Scheme – threats of deforestation, loss of agrobiodiversity, land alienation, food insecurity,

# Photos from the sites where natural farming is practiced

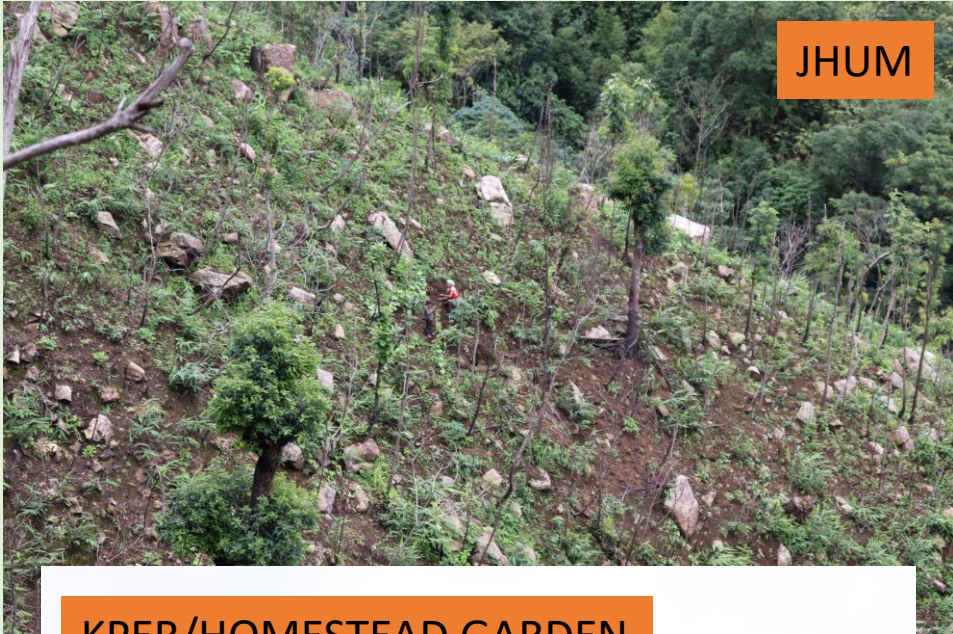
BUN



Foraging



JHUM



KPER/HOMESTEAD GARDEN



PYNTHOR/WET PADDY



WAH/River



# Reflections and questions

- Support in terms of marketing does not exist especially linked to agrobiodiversity;
- Support is still not forthcoming for conversion;
- Loss of agrobiodiversity by well-meaning interventions;
- Competition from food from outside grown through agro-chemicals is still very intense;
- Threat of imposition of monoculture policies from outside and extractive industries from inside very great;
- Climate Change.

**THANK YOU**