

# A Success Story of Tribal Rural Youth on Economic Upliftment Through Dairy Farming

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India has been the highest milk producing country in the world since 1997 and ranks first position in the world contributing 24.64% of global milk production in the year 2021-22. The milk production of India has registered 58% increase during the last nine years i.e., during the year 2014-15 and 2022-23 and increased to 230.58 million tonnes in the year 2022-23. The per capita availability of milk in India has increased from 175 gm/day in 1990-91 to 459 gm/day in 2022-23. It is more than the world average of 322 gm/day in 2022 (Food Outlook June' 2023).

In Meghalaya per capita availability of milk is only 75 gm/day (2020-21) which is far below the world average and also the minimum nutritional requirement of 300gm/day as recommended by the ICMR. The growth in dairy sector in Meghalaya is poor due to limited involvement of tribal population in milk production. But, slowly, with the increased demand for milk as a wholesome food item for all, dairy farming is also booming as an income generating activity for rural farmers and youths in tribal areas and many of them have adopted dairy farming as a source of their livelihood. Lack of knowledge about the scientific management of cows and shortage of feeds and fodder are the major problems faced by the dairy farmers here. The goal of the increased milk production can be achieved only through ensuring proper management of cows and availability of good quality feeds and fodder.

## KVK intervention

To address the problems faced by dairy farmers in West Garo Hills district, Krishi Vigyan

Kendra, West Garo Hills (WGH), organized awareness and vocational training programmes for the rural youths and farmers to provide them technical knowhow about dairy farming and introduced Hy. Napier (IGFRI 3), Guinea (Hamil), Congosignal and Stylosanthes fodder grasses in the district through its OFT programme. Training programmes were organized for the beneficiaries by using the method of learning by doing. KVK has conducted demonstration on fodder production in the different farmers' field in every year in the last ten years period (2013-23). Fodder planting materials and seeds are provided by KVK whenever required by the farmers. KVK expert visits those dairy farmers time to time for vaccination, disease diagnosis and treatment of their cows.

## Background information of the farmer

Name of the Farmer	Rikrak D. Sangma
Total land holding of the farmer in ha. (Where intervention is taken up)	3.3 ha (Jhum land)
Area (ha.) during the initial years	3.3 ha (1.0 ha land used for cultivation of horticultural crops)
Current status of land holding (include area expansion & reason of expansion)	3.3 ha (2 ha used for cultivation). He expanded his jhum land for fodder production
Problems Faced by Farmers before	High cost of concentrate feed

Rikrak D. Sangma, a young farmer from Rombagre village under Rongram block, West Garo Hills district, Meghalaya, 32km away from KVK office. Rombagre lies at a latitude of 25°27'27.4"N and a longitude of 90°07'58.4"E. Initially he was rearing two local cows for milk purpose for own consumption. In the year 2013, he attended vocational training programme on "Dairy farming" organized by KVK, WGH. After attending the training, motivated Rikrak D. Sangma purchased one Jersey cross bred cow. In the



beginning, he used grazing lands and locally available tree leaves like jack fruit and bauhinia for feeding of his cow. Then he planned to purchase more cows and started to collect fodder planting materials from KVK to produce fodder in his own field. Later he expanded his fodder production in one hectare land. He took Rs. 120000/- loan from APEX bank, Tura in 2014 and purchased two more Holstein Friesian cross bred cows.

#### Economic output

At present he has 6 milking cross bred cows and 4 calves with a daily milk production of 72 litre. He used to sale milk @ Rs54 per litre to State Dairy Plant, Ganol, West Garo Hills, Meghalaya. He is now able to reduce his cost of milk production by 40% due to availability of quality green fodder. Rikrak D. Sangma is a very hard-working person. He does all the

works in his dairy unit along with his wife without engaging any extra labour. His monthly gross income is Rs. 116640/- with net income of Rs. 72840/- before his earning was only Rs. 2200/- per month.

#### Recognition

Rikrak D. Sangma was honored by KVK, West Garo Hills and Assistant Dairy Director office, Govt of Meghalaya, West Garo Hills during different occasions as a successful dairy farmer and is frequently invited by KVK and State Vety Dept. as resource person for different trainings and meetings to deliver lectures on dairy farming. Many other rural youths in his village and nearby village were motivated by Rikrak Sangma and taken up dairy farming as income generating activity.



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