



COMMUNITY BASED SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT FOR WATER RESOURCE CONSERVATION (COSFOM)

NEWSLETTER

Capacity Building

Issue no. 03, October 2025

01

Building on Wisdom

By embracing traditional regulations, villagers are trained as forest stewards, forging trustful partnerships with forest rangers to safeguard their village forests for generations to come.

02

Building Entrepreneurs

Self Help Groups now generate marketable surpluses. COSFOM plans to federate them at cluster level for collective marketing and to increase their bargaining power.

03

Building Excellence

Springshed rejuvenation entered DM university internship course syllabus opening new avenues for skill training and business opportunities for trainees.

01



Protecting Forests, Preserving Traditions

Villagers are stepping up as dedicated forest stewards. The project is strengthening local forest governance by promoting traditional regulations and establishing professional village forest patrol teams.

Through a community-led planning process, villagers identify seasonal threats, map out patrol routes, and create quarterly patrol schedules tailored to their forest closure areas.



Building Partnerships

This transparent, collaborative approach on forest protection is helping build trust between communities and forest rangers - laying the foundation for a strong partnership focused on restoring and safeguarding forest ecosystems for generations to come.

Increased awareness among many communities is visible, creating a strong foundation for long-lasting training impacts even for the time after the project closure.



02



Promoting inter-village entrepreneurship

With seed money and funding for income-generating activities (IGAs), Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under the Project are now producing marketable surpluses. This marks a significant step forward in strengthening rural livelihoods and promoting grassroots entrepreneurship.

To take this progress further, the Project is planning to federate SHGs at the cluster level, enabling them to aggregate their produce and create greater market volume. This will not only improve their bargaining power but also open up better opportunities for market linkage.

Value Chain Development

A comprehensive one-day training program on Value Chain Development was successfully conducted, covering key topics such as Value Chain Analysis and the identification of value-added products, with a focus on Food Processing and Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs).

The sessions were led by experts from MOMA and VDVK, Manipur Forest Department (MFD).

Faculty from Manipur University and Sana Foods delivered an insightful session on branding, packaging, and marketing strategies, equipping participants with practical tools for enterprise growth.

An inspiring interaction with Ms. Catherine, a successful entrepreneur, added depth to the training as she shared her journey, the challenges she overcame, and the strategies behind her success.





03

Building Excellence

Dhanamanjuri University has emerged as a key contributor to Manipur's Springshed Rejuvenation efforts through its collaboration with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD). This partnership reinforces sustainable Springshed Management by embedding it into the undergraduate and postgraduate curricula under the National Education Policy, including dedicated internship opportunities.

By institutionalizing this knowledge, the university not only strengthens its academic legacy but also empowers students to translate their skills into viable business ventures. This forward-looking approach aims to make Springshed rejuvenation a demand-driven movement, fostered in close cooperation with local communities.

Building Businesses

As part of COSFOM project, the springshed approach will evolve into a dynamic consulting and business hub, addressing the needs of the community while fostering economic growth and sustainability.

