



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

NEWSLETTER

Capacity Building

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01

Growing Income

Training on mushroom cultivation has yielded in second harvest cycle with substantial income provided to Self Help Groups maintain their own cultivation.

02

Digital Springshed mapping

ICIMOD successfully conducted fourth springshed training module providing hands-on QGIS training on digital mapping, enhancing capacities of 28 para-hydrogeologists.

03

Awareness and prevention

COSFOM-supported awareness and vaccination campaigns safeguard livestock and strengthen the foundations of thriving rural livelihoods.



Learning from locals

COSFOM organized exposure cum trainings for Self Help Groups, creating an opportunity to learn directly from successful local practitioners. They not only observed proven mushroom cultivation models but also received hands-on exercise, and starter materials needed to begin mushroom farming in their own villages.

Promoting peer learning from successful initiatives within the state is a key pillar of COSFOM's capacity-building strategy, ensuring that communities learn from real experiences and replicate sustainable practices closer to home.



Training is bearing fruits

The first training initiative on mushroom cultivation is already bearing fruit and has quickly transformed into a very promising income-generating activity. With improved skills and confidence, SHG members are now independently managing their own mushroom cultivation units, ensuring consistent production and market supply.

This initiative highlights how practical training and community participation can create lasting economic opportunities. As the mushrooms continue to grow, so does the confidence and prosperity of the women leading this effort.



02



Digital Springshed mapping

A four-day training on “Identification of Springshed Boundaries and Potential Recharge Areas” was held in Imphal, marking the conclusion of ICIMOD’s four-module training series on the six-step protocol for spring revival.

Through the series, a skilled pool of para-hydrogeologists has been equipped to guide and support community-led spring revival efforts. The training initiative concluded with a lecture at DM University, introducing the springshed approach to the next generation of academics in Manipur.

Prepared for the tasks ahead

The newly trained cadre of para-hydrogeologists comes at a crucial time as India prepares for a nationwide spring census to address growing water security challenges in a rapidly changing climate. Equipped with practical

skills, they are now ready to support government departments in identifying recharge zones of critical springs - particularly in Manipur, where the State is actively advancing spring revival efforts with its own institutional capacity.





03

Project investments are bearing fruit

Project investments are beginning to show positive results. Self Help Groups (SHGs) received technical and bookkeeping training and were supported with seed funding, enabling them to start and expand livelihood activities such as piggery, fishery, and cultivation of garlic, beans, and Job's tears. Pig rearing generated the highest profits, reaching up to ₹32,000 per SHG.



Awareness to Protection

Pre-vaccination awareness sessions are helping project beneficiaries learn how early prevention can secure their incomes and livestock health from the risks of swine flu, a major threat to sustainable piggery.

In close collaboration with the District Veterinary Department, COSFOM has facilitated a targeted vaccination drive for project beneficiaries and SHGs.

