

Signing of Memorandum of Understanding with FEEDS, Manipur

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat (Assam) and FEEDS, a Manipur based NGO for setting up Demonstration Village at Senapati District of Manipur. Scientists and Officials of RFRI and FEEDS were present in the signing ceremony. Dr. R. S. C. Jayaraj, Director, RFRI and Mr. K. S. Minlen, Secretary, FEEDS, Manipur put their signatures on the MoU on behalf of RFRI and FEEDS respectively.

Signing ceremony was followed by a 'Brain Storming Session' to discuss about the future activities to be performed at the Demo Village. Sri Paul, Senior Administrative Officer briefed about the activities of FEEDS and highlighted different issues which required future assistance from Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat (Assam).

Scientists and Officers present also expressed their ideas to work on various aspects for community development. Discussion also took place on already completed and on-going projects of the Institute in the state of Manipur such as on *Parkia* mortality, *Gmelina arborea* work etc. Some of the areas where works in the Demo Village may be initiated were also sorted out such as Data collection on Medicinal and Aromatic Plant of Manipur and subsequent sharing information with FEEDS, Project on fuel-wood and fodder plantations, Forest nursery management, Beekeeping, Collection, harvesting, processing and marketing of NTFPs, Project on *Michelia champaca* and Poplar, Cultivation and utilization of Noni, lac etc.

Three immediate works will be initiated/ completed within the current financial year such as Capacity building of selected people of Demo Village in bamboo value addition at RFRI, Jorhat, Capacity building of people of Demo Village in NTFPs at FEEDS, Manipur and Survey on Fuelwood and Fodder species in vicinity of Demo Village.

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