

Hands-on training under Van Vigyan Kendra, Mizoram on Mushroom cultivation

Name of Event	Three days hands-on training under Van Vigyan Kendra, Mizoram on Mushroom cultivation.
Date (s)	14.02.2024 to 16.02.2024
Duration	Three days
Venue	ICFRE-BRC, Bethlehem Vengthlang, Aizawl.
Purpose/Agenda	Hands on training of local people on mushroom cultivation.
No. of Participants	24
Participating Agency (s)	Locals of Bethlehem Vengthlang and Armed Veng South.
Organizing Agency (s)	ICFRE-Bamboo & Rattan Centre, Bethlehem Vengthlang, Aizawl, Mizoram
Funding Agency (s)	Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE), Dehradun (under CAMPA Extension)

Concise Details of the Event:

ICFRE-Bamboo and Rattan Centre (ICFRE-BRC), Bethlehem Vengthlang, Aizawl, Mizoram organized a Three days hands-on training under Van Vigyan Kendra, Mizoram on mushroom cultivation, from 14th to 16th February, 2024. The target group of this training were the local people of Bethlehem Vengthlang and Armed Veng South.

Shri Malsawmzuala Ralte, Chairman, Mizoram Youth Commission graced the occasion as the Chief Guest for the inaugural session of the training programme. The guest of honour was **Shri Samuel Lalmalsawma**, Principal Scientific Officer of Mizoram Science, Technology & Innovation Council (MISTIC). The inaugural session began with the welcome address by **Shri Sandeep Yadav**, Scientist-D & Head, ICFRE-BRC followed by the felicitation of the Guests by Shri Sandeep Yadav. After this the participants introduced themselves. A brief Presentation on research and extension activities of ICFRE-BRC was delivered by Shri Sandeep Yadav. **Dr. Nitin Kulkarni**, Director, Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat, Assam in his speech emphasized the significance of utilising available resources for economic growth, citing the example of Bihar being the highest mushroom producing state in India as a successful model. He highlighted the importance of creating opportunities for skill development and entrepreneurship to address unemployment and

boost the economy.

This was followed by the address of the Chief Guest in which he emphasised the importance of promoting mushroom cultivation among Mizos to enhance self-sustainability, alleviate poverty, and empower individuals with skills for sustainable living.

The guest of honour highlighted the potential market demand and the opportunity to generate income through mushroom cultivation, not only locally but also across state borders. The vote of thanks was given by Miss Dorothy Lalrinpuii (TA), ICFRE-BRC. The inaugural session ended with a group photo followed by high tea.

The training began after the tea under the guidance of Shri Albana L. Chawngthu, master trainer. The training continued for three days in which the trainees were given Powerpoint presentations on different edible as well as poisonous mushroom species found across Mizoram, cultivation techniques of different mushroom species. The trainees were given hands on training of cultivation of grey oyster mushroom (*Pleurotus sajor-caju*).

The training programme concluded in the afternoon of 16th February with discussion and feedback from the participants followed by valedictory session and distribution of certificates.



Figure 1: A- B: Welcoming & Felicitations of the Guests; C & D: Speech by the Director; E & F: Address by the Guests; G: Vote of thanks; H: Group photo.



Figure 2: A-H: Glimpses of the training.



Figure 3: A-B: Discussion and feedback from the participants; C-H: Distribution of Certificates

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 Isaiah 65:17

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Aizawl February 15, Thursday 2024

NGOs to intensify protests against lifting of FMR, fencing of Indo-Myanmar border

Staff Reporter

Aizawl, Feb 14: Even as state Chief Minister Lalduhoma on Tuesday tried to reassure civil societies and the public by urging them to remain calm on the issues of lifting of Free Movement Regime (FMR) and Indo-Myanmar border fencing, Mizoram's NGO Coordination Committee continues to be on the war-path and announced the decision on Wednesday for further actions.

The NGOCC is a conglomerate of central committee of the Young Mizo Association (YMA), Mizo Hmeichhe Insuhkhawm Pawl (MHIP) or women's organization, Mizoram Upa Pawl (MUP) or elders' association, Mizo Zirlal Pawl (MZP) or students' federation and Mizo Students Union (MSU).

The NGOCC is organising a public gathering in Aizawl on February 21 in pro-

test against the scrapping of FMR and erection of fencing along the 404-km-long Mizoram-Myanmar international border.

The NGOCC on Tuesday had sent a memorandum to Union Home Minister Amit Shah through the state governor, urging him to reconsider the decision to remove the FMR and fencing of India and Myanmar border in Mizoram.

The memorandum urged India, being a signatory of UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) 2007, to assert the rights of indigenous people who are divided by international borders.

"The Free Movement Regime is vital mechanism in maintaining the ethnic and cultural linkages between the Mizo people living on both sides of the border," the memorandum said.

The NGOCC opined that

ending the FMR and fencing the border would have detrimental effect on "these vital ethnic and cultural connections, disrupting the harmonious coexistence and cultural exchange that has been integral to the lives of the Mizo people living in both sides of the two neighbouring countries.

Speaking at a press conference upon his return from a three-day official visit to the National Capital, Lalduhoma on Tuesday stated that he had extensively discussed the issue of the proposed removal of FMR and border fencing with Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

"While the Union Home Minister did not explicitly confirm the abandonment of the border fencing or the retention of FMR, based on our discussions, I am optimistic that the Indo-Myanmar border in Mizoram will not be fenced. I urge all stakeholders not to panic; there is no cause for alarm," he said, emphasizing his appeal for calm assurance.

Meanwhile, Mizo National Front (MNF), the largest opposition party in the state, said on Wednesday that the party vehemently opposed the termination of

FMR and fencing of Mizoram-Myanmar border.

The MNF expressed full support to the steps being taken by the NGOCC in opposing the proposed discarding of the FMR and border fencing accusing the Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) government of being not firm enough in opposing the centre's moves.

"The MNF had all along opposed these moves and the cabinet meeting chaired by then Chief Minister Zoramthanga in later part of 2023 had declined to undertake collection of biometric and biographic data of Myanmar refugees taking shelter in the state as ordered by the centre," the party said.

Scrapping of FMR and fencing of Mizoram-Myanmar border will amount to acceptance of the border demarcated by the colonial British government as the border is regarded as imposed on the Mizo people without being consulted or heard, a press release issued by the MNF said. It also said that the party has been looking forward to unification of all the ethnic Mizos living in India, Myanmar and Bangladesh under a single administration.

Pol parties gear up for organisational elections

Staff Reporter

Aizawl, Feb 14: After the election to 40-member Mizoram state legislative assembly held on November 7 last, it is time for major political parties in the state to hold organisational elections during February and March.

The ruling Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) which managed a landslide victory in the last assembly election will be holding party polls on Thursday.

With working president K. Sapdanga inducted as Home Minister as well as party Vice President Kenneth Chawngliana appointed as Vice Chairman of the state Planning Board, new set of leaders will be elected in the coming ZPM organisational polls.

V.L. Zaithanzama, two-time elected legislator who was denied a ministerial berth will contest the post of ZPM president while treasurer C. Latanzua and general secretary S.L. Ngursaliova Salio will be contesting the posts of vice president and treasurer respectively.

The incumbent president Lalliansawta, W. Chhuanawma MLA and Lalchhuanthanga MLA will also contest the posts of president, vice president

and treasurer respectively.

Mizoram Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) is heading for a leadership showdown as battle lines are already drawn for the coming organisational election scheduled to be held in February 20.

The present MPCC chief Lalsawta, who took over the reins of the party top job in 2021 from Lal Thanhawia, announced that he will not be contesting the post of the state PCC president.

Lal Thanhawia's younger brother and Senior Vice President of the MPCC Lal Thanzara is going to contest the post of the president and is most likely to be pitted against Zodintuanga Rate. Rate, then leader of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) resigned as Treasurer of the state PCC on April 21, 2023 in protest against what he termed as 'dictatorial actions' of Lalsawta.

Former state Chief Secretary Lalnunmawia Chuauungo, appointed by Lalsawta as Vice President of the party will be contesting the post again while the lone Congress legislator and veteran Congress leader, C. Ngunlanchnaga is to be contesting the same post.

Lalmalsawma Nghaka, treasurer of the PCC also appointed by Lalsawta is also likely to face tough contest from former legislator Lalindika Rate in the post.

The Congress suffered its hardest debacle ever when the party managed to bag only a single seat in the election to the 40-member state legislative assembly held on November 7 last year. The Zoram People's Movement (ZPM), formed in 2017 not only defeated the ruling Mizo National Front (MNF) which had 28 legislators but also decimated the Congress. The MNF managed to win only 10 seats.

MNF is also holding party polls on March 15. It is difficult to guess who will come up as top leaders of the 60-year-old party as former Chief Minister Zoramthanga and former Deputy Chief Minister Tawnlua have announced their intention not to contest the party elections. Zoramthanga and Tawnlua are holding the posts of President and Senior Vice President respectively.

Vice President of the MNF and former Lok Sabha member Vanlalzawma also recently announced his intention not to contest the coming party elections.

Training on Mushroom Cultivation



Staff Reporter

Aizawl, Feb 14: The office of ICFRE-Bamboo and Rattan Centre (ICFRE-BRC) Bethlehem Vengthiang Aizawl, is organising a three days hands-on training under Van Vigyan Kendra, Mizoram on Mushroom Cultivation from February 14th-16th, 2024.

The Chairman of Mizoram Youth Commission, Malsawmzuala Rate, and Samuel Lalmalsawma, Principal Scientific Officer of MISTIC, are scheduled to grace the occasion.

In his speech, the chief Guest Malsawmzuala Rate emphasised the importance of promoting mushroom cultivation among Mizos to enhance self-sustainability, alleviate poverty, and empower individuals with skills for sustainable living.

Samuel Lalmalsawma highlighted the potential market demand and the opportunity to generate income

through mushroom cultivation, not only locally but also across state borders.

Dr. Ntin Kulkarni, Director of ICFRE-Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat (Assam), also delivered a speech emphasizing the significance of utilising available resources for economic growth, citing the example of Bihar as a successful model in India.

He highlighted the importance of creating opportunities for skill development and entrepreneurship to address unemployment and boost the economy.

The training aims to provide participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to engage in mushroom cultivation and entrepreneurship effectively. A total of 22 participants from Bethlehem Vengthiang and Armed Veng South Local Council areas will be trained under the guidance of master trainer Albana L. Chawngthi.

Red Roses, and Blood on Valentine's Day

Staff Reporter

Aizawl, Feb 14: In the enchanting streets of Aizawl, on this Valentine's Day, striking couples flocked to the Dawrpu Multipurpose Centre. Their destination? A mass Valentine's Day blood donation camp, a testament to the profound spirit of compassion pulsating through the city.

In other district headquarters, reminiscent scenes echoed as mass donation camps were orchestrated, serving as poignant expressions of love not only towards romantic partners but also towards humanity at large, symbolised by the act of donating blood.

In Mizoram, Valentine's Day transcends mere exchanges of red roses. Here, youths pledge not just their affection but their very life force, offering their own blood as a profound expression of love for their fellow beings.

This beautiful tradition took root in 2010 when then popular TV personality Chuazkpui, alongside a few kindred spirits, initiated the gesture by donating blood on Valentine's



Day. Subsequently, in 2011, the torch was carried forward by the Association for Voluntary Blood Donation, igniting a movement that continues to flourish with each passing year, spreading love and hope throughout the state.

The Association for Voluntary Blood Donation (AVBD) announced that since 2011, a commendable total of 9853 units of blood have been generously donated on Valentine's Day in Mizoram.

This year's contributions amount to 1031 units of blood, given at seven district civil hospitals, Zoram Medical College, and Synod Hospital, Durliang.

Under the resonant

theme of "Show Love Give Blood," this Valentine's Day serves as a poignant reminder of the profound impact of selfless giving, said Mizoram's Sports and Youth Affairs Minister, Lalnginglova Hmar, who graced the event as chief guest in Aizawl.

He praised the tradition of extending love beyond mere gestures of red roses, emphasising the life-saving significance of blood donation.

"Exhibiting love towards strangers is a noble example of Valentine's Day compassion. Let us uphold this tradition and keep its spirit alive," remarked Hmar, as he himself took part in the blood donation.

Rs 10,000 an chhunglut.

Pa khawi zir

Van Vigyan Kendra (VVK) hnuaia ni thum aw h tur pa khawi training chu nimni khan Bethlehem Vengthlanga ICFRE-BRC conference hall-ah Mizoram Youth Commission chairman Malsawmzuala Ralte-in a hawng. Malsawmzuala chuan training tura Armed Veng South leh Bethlehem Vengthlang atanga kalkhawmte chu sum lakluhna hnara hmang thei tura zir turin a chah a, "Taimakna, thawhrimna leh tei rei peihna nen in hlawhtlin hma chu engmah in kawng daltu a awm phal, suh u," a ti.

avangin Cyber
te puihnain ch
chhungkaw di
chawitir a ni.

Valentin

