

INDIGENOUS TECHNOLOGIES : INNOVATION OF SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN FARMING SYSTEM PRACTICES IN NAGALAND

SAPU CHANGKIJA*

The indigenous technologies of cultivation in uplands are complex farming system and are sustainable. The innovation of Naga traditional farming practices are ingeniously designed and are sustainable farming system. These farming systems have been evolved suitably in different agro-ecosystem spread around Indo-Malayan and Indo China geographical transit zone within the Barial and Patkai ranges of Nagaland. Natural topography coupled with age-old system the people have developed a skill culturally and ecologically suited to the cultivation systems which has conserved many indigenous lesser known, semi-wild and germplasm of various crops through various types of farming systems. These are Jhum, Alder based Shifting Cultivation, Zabu, Upland Wet Terrace farming, Agroforestry system of Soumne and Yookya. The most remarkable feature of Jhum cultivation is that more than 50 various crops of cereals, vegetables and fruits can be grown in one Jhum fallow field following the mixed and sequential cropping system. Mixed cropping and multi-layer structure are basic traditional features of shifting cultivation making it a 'biodiversity hot spots' in the village landscape. A total of 110 crops and about 349 rice genotype are listed from the jhum cultivation alone, and more than 40 lesser known fruits and vegetables are also recorded from the fallow land.
