

February 3, 2004

Press Release No. 091/04

### FIELD DAY OF NARM GROUPS, SHGS ORGANISED AT CHIBRAGRE

**Shillong February 3, 2004:** The Field Day of the Natural Resource Management (NaRM) groups and Self Help Groups of the Rongram cluster, under IFAD project, was organised at Chibragre Picnic spot on January 31, 2004. The day-long activities of the Field Day included prize distribution to the best groups, exhibition-cum-sale, besides reports of the year's activities by the cluster secretaries.

It may be mentioned that the area was taken under IFAD project in the year 1999 by the West Garo Hills Community Resource Management Society (WGHCRMS) and A-chik Welfare Society under which NaRM groups and SHGS were formed to improve the standard of living in the villages. At present, there are 20 NaRM groups and 32 SHGs in the area and 978 households are being benefited from the project.

Speaking on the occasion, local MLA and Minister of State for Stamps and Registration, Mr S R Marak informed the villagers that the State Government was contemplating on opening of border *haats*, which could greatly benefit the villagers to send their agricultural produce to international markets. For improvement of fund positions of these groups, the Minister suggested that they should take up activities like tailoring, knitting, manufacturing of traditional necklace Rikgitok, cultivation of broomsticks and medical plants, etc. On the villagers demand for PHC at Oragitok, he informed that he had already sent a proposal to the government but would depend on the Centre's approval. He, however, said that he had already received assurance for setting up two sub-centres in the area.

Also speaking on the occasion President of the Garo Baptist Convention, Mr Grover Marak said that it was a high time for the people to learn to stand on their own feet and look for ways and means to make better and profitable use of their rich natural resources. He then urged the self-help groups not only to strive for their own benefit but also to spread awareness to the young people of the many social evils and help them live righteous life.

Others who spoke on the occasion includes Executive Secretary of the A-chik Welfare Society, Mr J M Sangma, Project Manager, WGHCRMS(IFAD) Mr Daniel Ingty, Lead Bank Officer, Mr A M Marak and Block Development Officer, Rongram.

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### CLOSURE ON SALE OF IMFL

**Shillong, February 3, 2004:** The Deputy Commissioner, Ri Bhoi District, Nongpoh, Mr. W I Lyngdoh, IAS has ordered the closure of all IMFL retailshops/bars/hotels/country spirits shops/distills etc located in Ri Bhoi District on February 11, 12 and 14 on account of Polling and Counting of votes respectively.