

Assignment on

Environmental Science.

Topic: Agricultural Practices in ~~Kohima~~ Village
and its impact.

Submitted to:

Miss Madama Genevieve Thapo.

Assist. Professor, HOD

Dept of Environmental Science.

Checked


Submitted by:

Kevininus Fombia

Roll No : 25

Sec : B.

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Dept. of Environmental Science, for giving us this assignment and help, stimulating suggestions and encouragement on all time of writing this assignment.

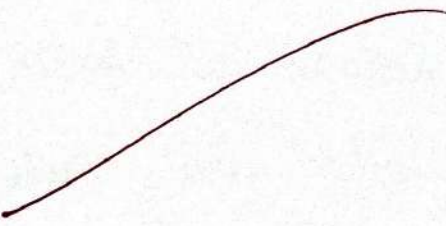
I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to my parents and especially Mrs Khonuo Belho for providing necessary information regarding this assignment within the limited time frame.

Through this assignment, I have achieved a good amount of knowledge and come to know so many new things I am really thankful for this.

Content

Terrace Cultivation in Kohima village.

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Agricultural practices and its impact on the environment

Introduction

Food is a basic requirement for every living being. We depend on plant and animal for food.

Ancient man began the cultivation of food in a small area and used certain procedures for their management and improvement. This art of cultivation of the crop is called Agriculture. The measures which are followed to raise crops are called agricultural practices.

Nagaland is basically a land of agriculture. About 70% of the population depends on agriculture. Rice is the staple food. It occupies about 70% of the total area under cultivation and constitutes about 75% of the total food production in the

states.

Agricultural practices like Jhum and terrace cultivation of paddy are widely practice by the people of Nagaland.

The Angami and Chakasang tribes of Nagaland have terrace cultivation of Paddy whenever water is available for

irrigation.

Wet terrace rice cultivation is recent intervention in hilly terrain

and now widely followed by Angami tribe in Kohima district, and Chakasang tribe in Phek district.

In terrace field, the outgrowth of weed along with paddy is a common phenomena and

Polygonum is a vigorous weed on terraces. The productivity of Paddy rice under wet terrace

cultivation was found to be more as compared to rice under

Phum cultivation.

* Terrace Cultivation in Kohima Village.

Kohima is the hilly capital of India's North eastern border state of Nagaland which shares its borders with Burma. It lies in Kohima district and is also one of the three Nagaland towns with Municipal council status along with Dimapur and Mokokchung.

Majority of the inhabitants in Kohima village practice Terrace cultivation as their main occupation.

First of all, Terrace farming is a method of farming whereby, "steps" known as terraces are built onto the slopes of hills and mountain to be used for crop cultivation.

On my recent study about a Particular Paddy field called 'Dzizie', located below High School, Kohima and Gase. These fields are owned and maintained by some people of Kohima village.

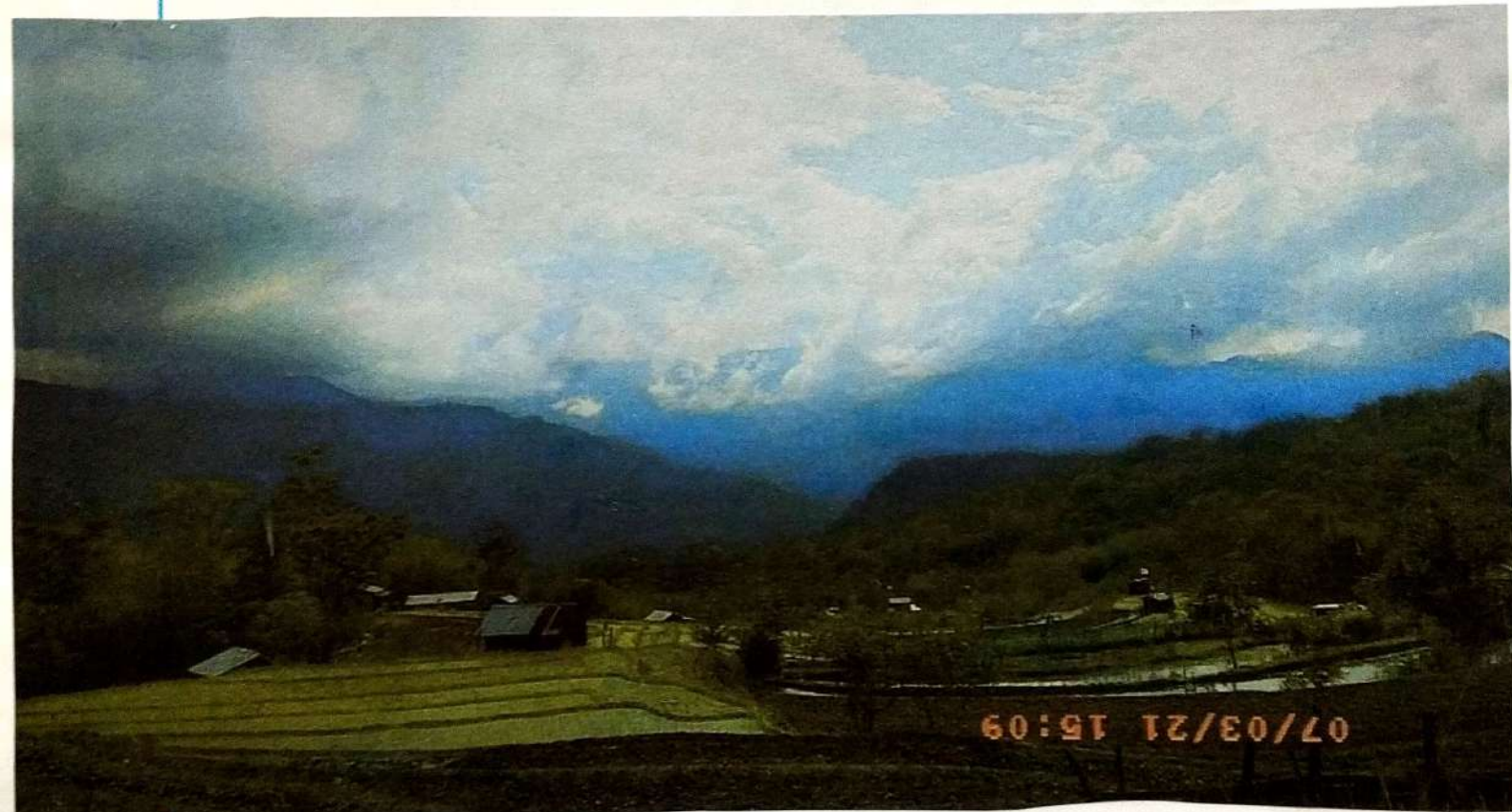


Photo: A view of 'Dzizie' field.

As we can see, they practice terrace cultivation and grows different variety of rice. The fields are irrigated by a network of water channels. The terraces are so graduated that water flows down conveniently from one

Terrace to the other below it or sometimes bamboo pipes are used to regulate the flow of water.

On Interviewing an elder woman, she has been working ~~at~~ on the field at ~~Chyzie~~ for almost 5 years now. She gets sufficient water for irrigation and the condition of the weather there is always good. She also said that terraced fields, once prepared well ~~and~~ maintain well, are much easier to maintain than the ~~them~~ plots. She further state that as a farmer, her goal is to produce good crops in order to make a living and feed her family.

She further state that there are certain measures that needs to be done ~~before~~ to raise a crops.

They are:

a) Preparation of the field:

Farmers used to get their fields ready before the rainy seasons. The weeds are cleared and the field is ploughed by buffaloes or tractors to a depth of few inches. Manures are added to the soil. The whole surface then remained covered with water. The field is then ready for receiving seedlings from the nursery.

b) Transplantation:

Paddy seedlings are first prepared in nursery and then transplanting is done in the field after about 40 days. The transplanted paddy grows fast because of regular spacing and matures within a shorter period.

c) Field Maintenance:

Paddy field also required regular maintenance such as

occasional weeding and thinning out the more crowded patches, level of water is to be maintained according to the growth.

d) Harvesting:

The traditional harvesting system is either through a curved knife or a sharp-edged knife.

Harvesting is done in dry season, when the weather is sunny.

e) Threshing, Winnowing and Milling:

After the paddy stalks have gathered, their threshing is usually done, by beating the sheaves against the bars, the grains are separated from the stalks.

Winnowing is a process of removing the unwanted particles from the paddy grains.

Milling means removal of the yellowish husks from the paddy so that white or polished rice is obtained.

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Photo: Paddy seedlings transplanted in the field.

* Impacts:

Terrace farming have its own positive and negative impact on our environment.

Its advantages are:

- i) It prevents the washing away of soil nutrients by the rains. This leads to the growth of healthy crops.
- ii) It prevents the carrying away of plants by the heavy flowing river of water. Sometimes rain water carries

away the crops leading to low crop yield.

iii) Terraces helps in reduction of soil erosion and water loss.

iv) Terraces traps rainwater allowing the people to engaged in cultivation of water-intensive crop such as rice.

* Its disadvantages are:-

i) It can lead to rainwater saturation. This is dangerous since it causes the overflow of water during rainy seasons.

ii) It may also result in mudslides if not well-managed.

iii) It also leads to the reduction in soil quality due to the leaching process.

References :

i. Interviewed Mrs Khonuo Belho. Aged; 53.
occupation : farmer.

ii) RocketSkills.in/blog/terrace cultivation.

iii) djournal.wordpress.com.

iv) <https://citeserver.ibt.fsu.edu>.