

KOHIMA COLLEGE KOHIMA

ASSIGNMENT

ON  
EVS (601)

Topic:- Agricultural Practices (Jhum/Terrace Cultivation)  
and its impacts on the environment in  
Nerhema Village.

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## INTRODUCTION

Jhum Cultivation is also called as shifting cultivation and is practiced by tribal groups in north eastern states on a small patch of land. In this cultivation the area is first cleared of trees and vegetation and then burnt after that the ash that remained after burning acts as fertilizer for the soil. Shifting cultivation is an agricultural system in which plots of land are cultivated temporarily then abandoned while Post-disturbance fallow vegetation is allowed to freely grow while the cultivator moves on to another plot.

Whereas in particular, terrace agriculture increases farmability and land productivity of sloped fields. contributes to water conservation slows down and reduces water runoff, improves rainwater harvesting prevents soil erosion by decreasing formations.



## BODY

In Nerkuma and its neighbouring Villages, it is a combination of Thum and Terrace Cultivations, which farmers practise. This helps to sustain the food and nutritional needs of the people. However the forests provides the necessary rains, flora and fauna to maintain the perfect ecological balance. The People of this Nerkuma Village do both Thum and Terrace. They have their own individual fields. But, they also work collectively in each others fields. They form groups of six or eight and take an entire mountain side to clean the needs on it. Each group eats together once their work for the day is over.



### JHUM OR SHIFTING CULTIVATION

Jhum ~~cultivation~~ is also called as shifting cultivation. It is an agricultural system in which plots of land are cultivated temporarily then abandoned while Post-disturbance follow vegetation moves on to another plot.

It is also popularly known as cultivation of slash and burn, is the most prevalent form of cultivation in the hilly areas of tropical areas. It involves cutting of patches forest on the month of ~~Feb~~ February to March burning of the slashed.

dried vegetation after one month and then sowing of crop seeds in April in small holes made throughout sloppy fields.

Harvesting of the crops is done in succession as they ripe between July to December.

Usually rice, Maize, Millets, Sesame, Ginger, Cucumber, Pumpkin and Melon etc are grown.

It is carried out on different plots by shifting the place of cultivation after 1-2 years after which the land is abandoned and allowed to regenerate. The following quickly recovers into secondary forest from coppies, underground rhizome, root suckers and seed bank. The Crop mix of perennial and seasonal crops in Jhum cultivation allows phased harvesting ensuring food security throughout the year and also provides needed diversity for nutrition and food preferences the people of the village.



### TERRACE FARMING OR STEP FARMING

Terrace farming is a method of farming whereby 'steps' known as terraces are built onto the slopes of hills and mountains. When it rains, instead of rain carrying away the soil nutrients and plants down the slope, they flow to the next terrace. Every step has an outlet which channels water to the next step.

This helps in keeping some areas dry and others wet. On very high altitudes, other crops apart from rice can be grown. This is because rice does not do well at high altitudes. There are two types of terracing practised by the people of Nepal.

In Kohima district, the southern region usually begins planting by May, whereas in Northern region like Nerkuma Village starts in the month of July.

While harvesting is done in the month of October and November, unlike Thum mo other crops are grown along with paddy on the terrace.

The major crops in Nagaland are rice, corn, millets, pulses, olbees, Sugarcane, Potato, Banana, Cucumber and arecanuts.

Rice is the dominant crop and also the staple diet of the people.

## AGRICULTURAL IMPACTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The environmental impact of agriculture is the effect that different farming practice have on the ecosystems around them, and how these effects can be traced back to those practices.

The environmental impact of agriculture varies widely based on practices employed by farmers and by the scale of practice.

And also Agriculture contributes to a number larger of environmental issues that causes environmental degradation including.

Climate change, Deforestation, Biodiversity loss, Dead zones, Genetic engineering, Irrigation problems, Pollutions, Soil Degradation, and Waste etc.

\* The Advantages / Pros / Benefits of Technology in Agriculture are :-

- Modern machines can control the efforts of farmers
- They reduces the time.
- Used supply water to the crops.

- While Machines are useful in tilling the beds.
- They are used in the transportation.
- Irrigational technology.
- Controllable food supply. You might have droughts or floods, but if you're growing the crops and breeding them to be hardier, you have better chance of not starving.

Disadvantage: In order to keep feeding people as the population grows you have to radically change the environment of the planet.

- Farming is hard. So hard, in fact, that one is tempted to claim ownership over other humans and then have them till the land on your behalf, which is the kind of non-ideal social order that ~~one~~ tends to be associated with agricultural communities.

## SOURCES OF DATA

- Primary Data
  - Observation... Experiments... Personal Interviews.

- Secondary Data
  - Internet... Journals Published Sources and Newspapers.

I had an interview with Mr. Kennethauli  
Punji Age 43 on 29 of Feb 2022

Secondly an interview with Mrs. Neithomus Solo

Age 66 on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022