**Climate Adaptive Community Resource Management**

**Summary**

The project aims at strengthening resources of the indigenous community in five villages in Churchandpur district in Manipur, India. The project plans to promote women climate defenders who will facilitate the fellow community members how to manage their resources in a durable manner. The project will bring women as custodian and nurture of natural resources.

**Challenge**

The community are mostly Kuki and they depend on forest for their livelihood. The livelihood system is integrated with forest and animal husbandry. They depend on forest for rice, vegetables, fodder for animals, water, firewood etc. Forest is the life of the community. There are deforestation and pressure on land. The community practices *jhum* cultivation (slash and burn). Every year village council allotted a particular plot of forest cover in hills to families for cultivation. This is a traditional practice and the allotted forest area does not come under the government control as it recognise the tradition. The families than clear the forest area and grow vegetables, paddy etc. It also provides them firewood for the community. The families are allotted again another forest area for cultivation. Earlier the cycle was more than 30 or 40 years which was a good time to regenerate the forest and soil. But the cycle has now reduced to 3 years which is too less to rejuvenate the forest cover.

The result of the reduce farming is

* gradual loss of forest cover and top soil.
* soil is loosing water holding capacity.
* drying up of water source like stream.
* soil erosion.

This is just one of the many examples of the day-to-day activities stimulating the environment degeneration that influence on the climate. Women’s engagement in household activities apart from their family economic obligations, make them interact daily with the environment, they are the most affected by this climate change and consequent degradation of environment. When water source dries up, women have to walk distance to fetch water. This is one visible example how climate change affects the lives specially women more.

**Goal:**

* Promote sustainable usages of community resources – forest, land and water.
* Promote women climate justice defender

**Solution**

We plan to do the following to fight the changing climate.

* Awareness generation among community about climate change
* Formation of women led community resource management groups
* Meeting on sustainable community resource management practices
* Prepare climate action plan for each village based on resources
* Community afforestation programme – planting of trees.
* Protection of water source
* Identify forest area where no farming, cutting of trees etc are allowed.
* Capacity building of women climate justice defenders.
* Promote no chemical pesticides and insecticides farming practices
* Motivate community to climate friendly farming practices mainly SALT

**Long-Term Impact**

* women led community resource management groups started to function
* community plants trees, protect forest and water source
* Forest cover where no farming is allowed is identified and demarcated.
* Women climate justice defenders started to help the community on climate adaptation.
* Slash and burn practices reduced due to the practice of SALT farming.