

Attracting and Retaining of Youth in Agriculture (ARYA)

In order to create interest and confidence among rural youth in agriculture, there is need to make agriculture more profitable. Retaining youth in agriculture and making agriculture more profitable are thus, big challenges. There is a continuous increase in migration of rural youth to urban areas. On the other hand, small holdings are on the rise which possess challenge to food security for increasing population. Thus, it was felt to bring a comprehensive model for the development of rural youth in general and agricultural youth in particular. Thus, realising the importance of rural youth in agricultural development especially from the point of view of food security of the country, ICAR has initiated a programme on "Attracting and Retaining of Youth in Agriculture (ARYA)".

Objective of ARYA Project:

1. To attract and empower the Youth in Rural Areas to take up various Agriculture, allied and service sector enterprises for sustainable income and gainful employment in selected districts.
2. To enable the Farm Youth to establish network groups to take up resource and capital intensive activities like processing, value addition and marketing.
3. To demonstrate functional linkage with different institutions and stakeholders for convergence of opportunities available under various schemes/program for sustainable development of youth.

Achievements during 2016-20

Under ICAR-ATARI, Umam 6 KVKs namely; Senapati in Manipur, Lunglei in Mizoram, Wokha in Nagaland, Jaintia Hills in Meghalaya, Tuensang in Nagaland, and Dhalai in Tripura are implementing the ARYA project for the benefit of rural youth in their respective districts. A brief achievement made by the implementing KVKs during 2016-2020 is given in the following Table

Table 1: Achievement of ARYA project during 2016-20

KVK	Year of establishment	Name of enterprise/ activity undertaken	Rural Youth benefitted(No.)
Lunglei	2016-17	1. Mushroom cultivation	380
		2. Poultry	470
		3. Piggery	490
		4. Bee keeping	405
Senapati	2016-17	1. Mushroom cultivation	162
		2. Poultry	146
		3. Piggery	120
		4. Fisheries	180
		5. Large cardamom	144

Wokha	2016-17	1. Mushroom cultivation	85
		2. Poultry	105
		3. Piggery	120
		4. Cut Flowers	60
Tuensang	2019-20	1. Mushroom cultivation	24
		2. Poultry	27
		3. Large cardamom	39
Jaintia Hills	2019-20	1. Mushroom cultivation	25
		2. Vermi composting	25
		3. Poultry	25
		4. Walk In Tunnel for Off Season Vegetable Production	25
Dhalai	2019-20	1. Mushroom cultivation	30
		2. Vermi composting	30
		3. Development of small nursery of fruit crops	20