

ORGANIC LARGE CARDAMOM PRODUCTION- AN INITIATIVE OF FARMERS PRODUCER COMPANY IN NAGALAND

In a nutshell: Producing and developing a value chain for organic large cardamom has reaped high economic benefits for the farmers in the State of Nagaland.

Nodal agency: Department of Horticulture, Nagaland and Phek Organic Large Cardamom Producer Company (Nagaland).

Cultivating commercial crops is known to generate higher revenue than conventional crops. However, the absence of a crop-specific value chain that caters to the processing, handling and marketing of these commercial crops has restricted the number of farmers cultivating them. In Nagaland, Phek Organic Large Cardamom Producer Company is a farmer's producer company (FPC) that is registered under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India. The company launched an initiative aimed at producing and developing a value chain for organic large cardamom in the State.

The objective is to develop commodity-specific organic value chain and address gaps in organic crop production, wild crop harvesting, organic livestock management and processing, handling and marketing of organic agricultural products with necessary infrastructural, technical and financial support. This will enable farmers to replace conventional and subsistence farming system with high value commercial organic enterprises.

The initiative has facilitated partnerships between farmers and organic businesses in domestic and export markets in the form of FPCs, while linking cultivators with growers. The FPCs support the development of entire value chains starting from inputs, seeds, certification, creation of facilities for collection, aggregation, processing, marketing and brand-building initiatives.

Impact

- The organic cultivation of large cardamom proved to be a highly profiting enterprise. The farming community achieved a very good harvest and earned an astonishing ₹ 54,60,000 from the sale of 12 MT of large cardamom capsules in Dimapur at ₹ 455/kg.
- The dried large cardamom capsules are harvested and available from October till May. The income generated from the sale of large cardamom during the last three years is mentioned below:

Year	Production (MT)	Turnover (₹ in lakh)
2018-19	20	100.00
2019-20	45	250.00
2020-21	65	320.00

- The company has also started to venture into the by-products of cardamom fibre.
- Womenfolk and unemployed youth have also been imparted training on large cardamom fibre craft in 2021.

Challenges

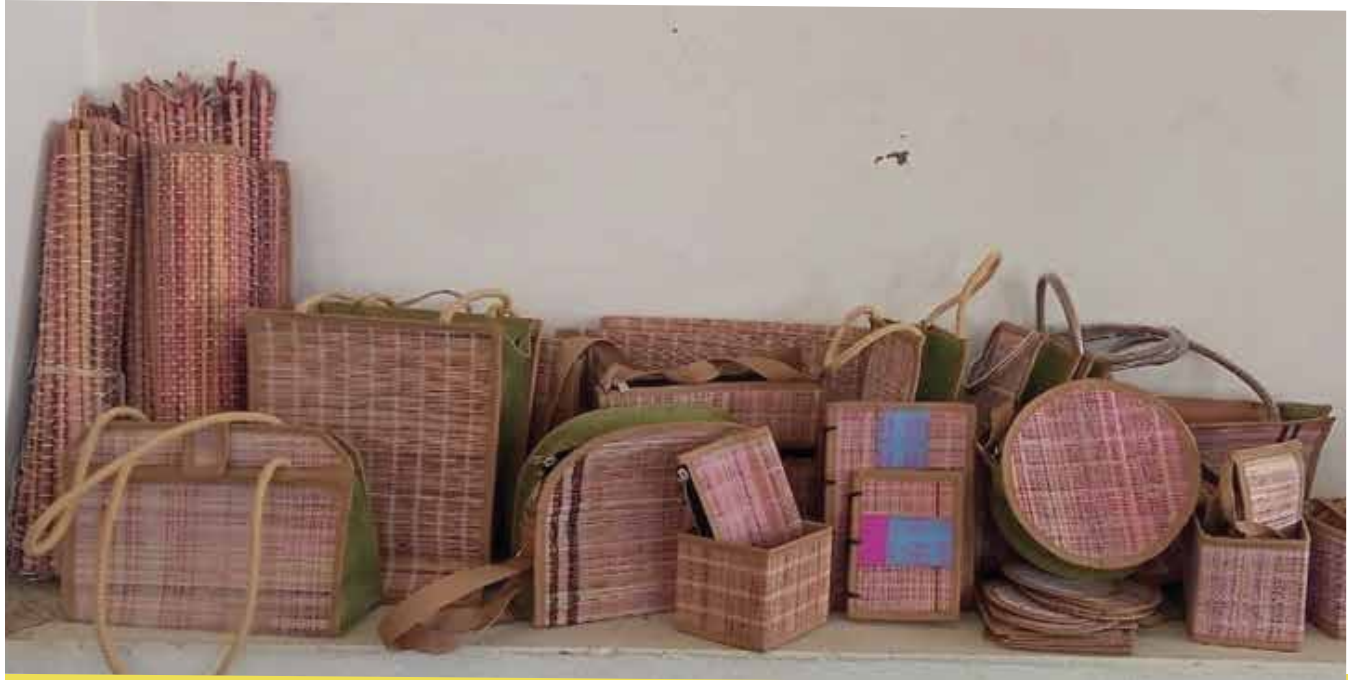
- Crop damage due to natural calamities like droughts and heavy rainfall.
- Disease and infection, resulting in lesser yield.
- Inadequate storage space for the large amount of dried cardamom capsules before their transportation to the market.
- Lack of drying machines, resulting in poorly dried capsules.
- High transportation costs.
- Lack of facilities for packaging, labelling and branding of the product.
- Lack of processing machineries and equipment.



Collection of Dried Large Cardamom Capsules



Packing of Dried Large Cardamom Capsules



Products made from Large Cardamom Fibre