

**Government of Tripura**  
**Directorate of Information & Cultural Affairs**

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**S-3704**

**Agartala, 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2021**

**Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana in Noagang ADC village is transforming lives**

To boost the economy of the tribal communities in the state by harnessing minor forest produces, Van Dhan Vikas Karyakram and Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and development of value chain for MFP are being implemented by Tribal Welfare department, Government of Tripura in association with TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, As a part of the programme, Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) are being set up all over the state involving Self Help Groups (SHGs).

In 2020, Noagang VDVK cluster was established comprising of 300 members from 30 SHGs which is presently being mentored by an NGO named Evening Star. The cluster is being run at Noagang Community Hall in Noagang ADC village. The members of this cluster collect minor forest produces like bamboo, broom grass, wild banana stem, Areca nut sheath etc. after value addition of the products, Areca nut plate, bamboo crafts, eco-friendly broom etc are being produced.

Noagang VDVK cluster has become of the best clusters in the state during the pandemic, providing livelihood with health security. Areca nut sheath which used to be treated as a waste is now being converted to a source of income. Earlier the minor forest produces used to be brought individually to the local markets and the sales were low, however, with the help of Noagang VDVK cluster, the produces are now marketed in an organized manner. Also, earlier the MFP used to be sold in raw form, now the members are able to sell them as value-added products at better prices. The cluster members have learned to explore their creativity and talents to become a skilled labour. Till date, the total sale of the cluster is Rs 2.02 lakh which includes sale volume and finished product stock value.

Noagang VDVK cluster has also procured machineries, toolkits and has provided training to all the members for a period for 40 days on value addition of selected minor forest produce. Each member was given continuous support and guidance in the production process. There is reportedly a good response in production from most of the members due to proper coordination and teamwork. As a result, the cluster as a whole is able to see positive outcome in terms of gradual flow of significant income making and members as a result are becoming self-reliant through this scheme.

Improving the livelihoods of the tribal population and improving the lives of the unprivileged tribal people is the mission behind forming VDVK. It is hoped that in coming days more such success are achieved from this initiative which fosters the mission of Vocal for Local and Aatmanirbhar Bharat

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