

Impact Story

Yalem Konyak, Longching Village, Mon, Nagaland

Yalem Konyak is an active and gritty Self-Help group (SHG) leader in Longching village, in Mon district. She was nominated by the State Rural Livelihoods Mission (SRLM), Mon for a training on agri-processing organised by Hamara Grid. The training was jointly organised by SRLM and Hamara Grid and was held on 18th & 19th June 26 at the Totokchingnyu Training Center, Mon. This training brought out the importance of local agriprocessing of paddy, millets and corn with help of simple electric machines. The benefits were explained in terms of adding value to farm produce, reducing post-harvest losses, reducing drudgery for women as well as increasing local income by encouraging rural enterprises. The training highlighted the functioning of the electric agri-processing machines like electric rice mills, electric pulverisers and electric millet de husking machines. During the training the SHG women had a hands-on experience in operating the each of the electric machines under the supervision of Hamara Grid Project officers. Yalem was an enthusiastic participant in this training and was very impressed with the idea of local agri-processing with the help of simple, single-phase electric machines. She quickly planned to start an agri-processing based enterprise in Longching. It is worthy of mention here that there is a solar mini grid plant of Hamara Grid is operating in Longching from September 2023 and powering a customer base of 2258 people.

Post Training, Yalem Konyak reached out to the local Hamara Grid team based out of Longching village to support her in setting up the micro-enterprise. She procured a 2 HP electric pulveriser machine in July 2026 with the help of Hamara Grid team. The pulveriser machine was set up in her household premises. In addition to all the installation works, Hamara Grid Team trained her and her family members on the machine operations as well as on the repair and maintenance functions. Since then Yalem and her family members are successfully operating the electric pulveriser machine with the help of the mini grid solar electricity. The local SHG members from Longching village come to her for pulverising their corn seeds for livestock feed. She is charging Rs.50/- for pulverising one tin of corn seeds (which contains around 11 kgs



of corn seeds). She also pulverises sticky rice with her machine to convert it into sticky rice flour. This rice flour is used to prepare 'pooris' (deep fried puffed bread) which the locals enjoy with a cup of black tea (Khalapka). The rice flour is also used for preparing local bread and other bakery items in Longching. She charges Rs. 50/- for pulverising one kg of sticky rice. Hence, Yalem's agri-processing enterprise has taken off very well.

Yalem is a happy entrepreneur and presently she is bringing home an additional income of Rs.7000/- to Rs.8000/- per month. She anticipates that during Christmas and festive seasons, her income will grow upto Rs. 10,000.- Rs. 15,000 per month. When she is busy with farming in the fields, her husband and son also run the pulveriser machine for the customers. She has truly building this as a family enterprise. As Yalem Konyak aptly sums up – " This is a dream come true for me. I plan to grow and expand my agri-processing business very soon by starting a millet- dehusking business, very soon. I want other SHG leaders to come forward ". Yalem truly inspires and leads by example.