



From Fields to Fortune: Chawngneilien Infimate's Inspiring Journey

In the heart of Saidan village, amid the stirring landscape of Churachandpur, Manipur, Chawngneilien Infimate stands tall as a beacon of resilience and ambition. His passion for farming ginger and turmeric is not just a livelihood but a testament to overcoming adversity. With his wife, child, mother, and siblings by his side, Chawngneilien has weathered the challenges of ethnic conflicts that have marred his community's agriculture.



Undeterred, he saw an opportunity to not only sustain his family but also to uplift others through farming. In April 2023, he planted 250 kilograms of ginger. Despite the odds, by December, his harvest swelled to an impressive 800 kilograms, fetching 27,000 INR from 500 kilograms alone. Alongside ginger, his farm boasts turmeric, cabbage, and beans, bringing in an additional 22,000 INR monthly.

Chawngneilien attributes much of his success to the Indigenous Farmers Organic Spice Cluster, part of the Indian Micro Enterprises Development Foundation (IMEDF), a social enterprise development vehicle of. Before joining, he lacked formal farming training, especially in organic methods.



The cluster's hands-on training not only enhanced his techniques but also connected him to better markets, transforming his livelihood. Gone are the days of selling raw produce for minimal returns. Thanks to the cluster's processing facilities, Chawngneilien now eyes expanded market opportunities, dreaming of showcasing his produce beyond borders, free from market uncertainties.

Education is his legacy. His eldest child thrives at Bright Step School, supported by the PM Kisan Yojna social security scheme. Looking ahead, Chawngneilien aims to boost his farm's productivity through advanced techniques, eager to secure better market access and financial stability. Technology will play a crucial role in his vision, paving the way for increased efficiency and local job creation.

Chawngneilien Infimate's journey—from fields to fortune—is more than a story of perseverance; it's a testament to the transformative power of community support and the unwavering spirit of those who dare to dream big, inspiring hope and prosperity in his community and beyond.