

**PUBLICATION NO .41**



**EVALUATION REPORT  
ON  
REGIONAL RABBIT BREEDING PRODUCTION  
FARM  
IN NAGALAND**

**DIRECTORATE OF EVALUATION  
GOVERNMENT OF NAGALAND  
KOHIMA.**

## **PREFACE**

This is the 37th Evaluation Report brought out by the Directorate of Evaluation, Kohima Nagaland. The Regional Rabbit Breeding production farm centre Jharnapani (Kukidolong) is introduced in Nagaland with an objective to bring fast production. Rabbit is one of the fastest growing animal giving 5-6 birth in a year. Nagas, by tradition, consumes very high percentage of meat, per capita, consumption of meat in Nagaland is one of the highest in the country. Thus the Evaluation Department is entrusted to undertake evaluation study on Regional Rabbit Breeding Farm.

The study confined with collection, information both from secondary and primary sources. The questionnaire was prepared for collection of data of the farm in detail information and other financial aspects are collected from the concerned department.

The Department gratefully acknowledged the co-operation received from the official and the staff of the concerned Department those who offered their energy, time and services to enable us to bring out this Report.

Shri. RB. Wati, Deputy Director of Evaluation, and his subordinate Officers and Staff of the Directorate those who associated from the beginning to the last stage of this Report are immensely appreciated.

Lastly but not the least, Shri Yevikhe Awomi, Assistant Director and his staff who have rendered their valuable service for collection of data and drafted this Study Report are also highly appreciated and obliged.

**Sd/-**

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## **THE EVALUATION STUDY REPORT**

### **The Headlines.**

1. State Nagaland
2. District Dimapur
3. Block Medziphema
4. Location Jharnapani (Kukidolong)
5. Area 17 acres = 68, 826. 2 m<sup>2</sup>
6. Establishment 1986-87
7. Department Veterinary & Animal Husbandry
8. Sponsorship (Central Scheme NEC) Govt, of India & Government of Nagaland. Moderate, temperature - 15° C
9. Climate
10. Water Supply Source
11. Electricity Nil
12. Staff 12 Field staff.

## **INTRODUCTION.**

Nagaland covering an area 16, 527 sq. km. with a population of 12,15,573 according to 1991 census. It is situated in the extreme North Eastern region of India bordering Burma in the East. The State consists of hilly mountain region with varying altitude and topography except some areas in the foothill. Road way is the only means of transport. The link with the State Capital of Kohima from all over the State is mostly by the Jeep able roads which is very inconvenient. The only National Highway in the State is the NH.39 running from Dimapur to Kohima and than goes to Manipur. Dimapur is the only railway head touching the State. Air link with the rest of the world is only Dimapur. Lack of transport and communication facilities, the people of the State are faced to have limited contacts with the rest of the world. The living standard of the people are also going up.

## **1. Objective of the farm**

Keeping in view, the Regional Rabbit Farm Development programme since last 1987 to set up a Regional Rabbit Breeding Centre in Nagaland with a base breeding population of 400 breedable female Rabbits and 50 Male. To produce at least 2000 Rabbits annually. From 1989-90 onwards for supply to the constituents state in N.E. region for onward supply to the private farmers for multiplication purpose and for research purpose at Biological product centres in N.E region. To induce farmers in N.E. region in general and Nagaland in particular to set up their private Rabbit farms.

(i) To upgrade the local indigenous regional Rabbit population of the State through cross-breeding them exotic breeds of Rabbit so as to enhance their production potentials.

(ii) To supply exotic male and female Rabbit kids to the farmers for up gradation of their local Rabbit to breed up Rabbit production in the State.

(iii) To meet the demand of breeding stock of Rabbit, the Department has established 1 (one) State Breeding Centre in the State at Jharnapani (Kukidolong).

(iv) To educate local farmers on modern scientific method of Rabbit farming in the State.

(v) To reduce or avoid import of Rabbit from outside the State so as to stabilise the economy.

1.5 During the 8th Five year Plan period, the Department has strengthened the Farm at Jharnapani.

1.6 The target of the State Rabbit Breeding farm during 1996 8th Five year Plan period was to maintain the breeding does from 400 numbers and the breeding bulks from 200 numbers. The target of annual production of the Rabbits from 2000 by the end of the 1998 plan period.

## **1.7 Need of study.**

The scheme of Rabbit breeding farm in Nagaland is operating from 1986-87, and the Department of Veterinary & Animal Husbandry has already spent a huge amount of money during their successive Plan period. The Government, therefore, felt it necessary to assess the achievement of the scheme and the Department of Evaluation was asked to undertake an Evaluation study on Regional Rabbit breeding Centre in Nagaland.

### **1.8 The following are the main objective of the study.**

1. To study the actual activities of the Farm.
2. To study the financial aspect of the Farm.
3. To study production of the Rabbit lets/sows and distributions year-wise.
4. Demonstration programme in the farm.
5. To suggest measure for improvement.

### **1.9 Accommodation: - There are 8 (eight) quarters in the farm.**

- (a) Rabbit shed
- (b) Store
- (c) Office
- (d) Isolation

### **METHODOLOGY**

Methodology of the study consists of collection, information both from secondary and primary sources. The questionnaire was prepared for collection of data in the Farm in the State level; detail informations of the background of the farm objective of the programme and other financial aspect are collected from the concerned department.

### **REFERENCE**

The study covered 3 (three) years period starting from the first of the Ninth Five year Plan, that is 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99.

## **EVALUATION STUDY ON REGIONAL RABBIT BREEDING FARM. JHARNAPANI. NAGALAND.**

### **BACKGROUND**

**(a) Location: -** The present site where the Regional Rabbit Breeding Farm, Jhamapani exists was earlier Dairy farm of the Veterinary & Animal Husbandry Department. During 1961, the veterinary & Animal Husbandry department procured about 17 acres of land from the villagers of Kukidoiong with Rs. 3,000/- to set up a Dairy farm. Later on, the Dairy farm was shifted to another location. In the meantime, with the NEC's one time Grant-in-aid offer, the Department had set up the Regional Rabbit Breeding Farm at the present location during 1989-90.

**(b) Funding:** - The Regional Rabbit Breeding farm, Jhamapani was established during the 7th Five year Plan with the assistance from the North Eastern Council, as one time grant during 1989-90. Till 1994-95, it was funded by the State. Again from 1995-96, the Government of India assisted the project by funding 50% of the expenditure on certain items such as: -

- (i) Renovation of buildings
- (ii) Purchase of livestock
- (Hi) Purchase of Machinery & Equipments
- (iv) Purchase of materials & Supplies, etc.
- (v) Providing water & irrigation facilities
- (vi) Fencing etc.

The following amount was granted by the Govt, of India:

- (i) 1995-96 : Rs. 5.00 lakhs.
- (ii) 1996-97 : Rs. 2.50 lakhs.
- (iii) 1997-98 : Rs. 5.57 lakhs.

The Government of India has again decided to fund this project in the above items during the 9th Five year Plan also. The State department could not make a good start due to lack of proper manpower, specialised in the line. The improper flow of fund: fund for the various items could not be made available in time. The items are all interrelated and in absence of one item, the other part could not be utilised. In this manner, the farm had a very slow start. However, now the various bottlenecks are in the process of being streamlining and if proper fund flow is made available, the farm can be promising.

**(c) Basic for setting up the farm.**

Nagaland consumes maximum meat, and Rabbit being prolific easy to rear and the State having abundant of natural forages, it has a vast potential for rearing of Rabbit for meat purpose. Besides, Rabbit meat contains more Potassium and less Cholesterol, both of which are considered to be good for Blood pressure patients. Nagas, due to heavy consumption of meat along with diets having high cholesterol contents are increasingly becoming prone to heart diseases. It is this context that Rabbit would provide the most suitable alternative to poultry both in terms of meat as well as rearing pattern.

The few potentialities for Rabbit in Nagaland are evergreen vegetation, people's high consumption of meat easy to rear and economic maintenance cost. With these potentialities any one can take up Rabbit farming to give good subsidiary income, It can come to the forefront of occupation.



Out of the two types of Rabbit, viz; (i) Wool type and (ii) Broiler (meat) type, the latter was selected on experimental basis, as the situation so demanded. As such. Broiler types of Rabbit are reared in this farm. The Farm is located in the foot hill region, beside the National Highway No.39. The temperature ranges from 5°C in winter to even up 35°C during summer, suitable for broiler type of Rabbit. Therefore, the farm was taken up in order to produce broiler type of rabbit with the following objectives: -

**(d) Objectives:**

The Farm was set up with an objective to evolve a strain of rabbit that would suit to the Agro-climatic condition of the State. For this purpose, it was aimed to rear the following breeds of Rabbits for crossing, cress-crossing and cross-breeding with the indigenous breeds such as; (i) New Zealand White (NZW) (ii) Grey Giant (G.G), (iii) Soviet Chinchilla (SC) and (iv) Indigenous.

The rabbits so produced from this farm would be distributed to the farmers for rearing in the backyard or in a large scale production basis to generate subsidiary income to the down trodden as well as to meet the ever increasing demand for lean meat.

**(e) Target:**

As per the original project, it was proposed to rear 350 numbers of female and 50 numbers of male. However, due to shortage of fund, the farm capacity could not be fully utilised. During the current year, 1998-99, it is proposed to fully utilise the farm capacity and achieve the original target, if fund is provided.

It is suggested to rear 350 does and 50 bulks. Out of these, about 200 numbers will be taken from the present stock and the other 200 numbers will be replaced through purchase from other farms and from other states to avoid inbreeding. 85 Nos. of does each of Soviet Chinchilla and Grey Giant and 15 Nos. of bulks each of S.C. and G.G. will be procured. As these two breeds are found to be having more advantageous traits over others, as per the observations in the farm. It is expected to distribute about 6000 kids during the current year after giving provision for mortality and for replacement stock if the targeted herd strength can be maintained.


The production of these four breeds will be continued during the 9th Five Year Plan.

**(f) Past Achievements:**

Rabbit farming is comparatively a new concept in Animal Husbandry. Only a few decades back, rabbit farming was introduced to India. Although prior to farming, rabbits were reared in the laboratories for experimental purpose, rabbit for meat purpose, as broiler is only a recent phenomenon. Without proper experience and management techniques designed for our condition, the farm could not take off with a good start. However, after acquiring proper training and better experience the farm is ready to take off. This is the second year only, that successful rabbit production could be achieved.

Out of this little rabbit production from the farm and distributed to the local farmers in the past, the rabbit population has increased in Nagaland. As it is evident from the past, three quinquennial livestock census report that during 1987-1992 and prior to these there was no rabbit in Nagaland. However, during the latest census of 1997, there is 20,207 rabbit population in Nagaland. Correspondingly, population of other species has declined as compared to the previous year's census. This is indicative that people are taking up rabbit rearing as alternative to other species, particularly, Chicken, Duck, Goat etc.

**The past achievement are shown in the table below:**

Sl. No.	Year	Nos. of Reproduced	Nos. of Rabbit Distributed to farmers	Remarks
1.	1990-91	027	580	
2.	1991-92	882	720	
3.	1992-93	727	680	
4.	1993-94	RECORDS WERE NOT AVAILABLE.		
5.	1994-95			
6.	1995-96		6.97%	
7.	1996-97	1.38%	0.86%	
8.	1997-98	Already given in the previous reply.		
9.	1998-99	17.16%	2.66%	

**(g) Accommodations:**

Accommodations in respect of staffs and other buildings have been given earlier. As regards the accommodation of the Rabbit farm has an installed capacity to rear 2000 adult rabbits and 12000 kids at a time. There are 5 sheds for the animals each having a capacity to house at least 400 adult rabbits and 2400 kids.

The farm is apparently running far below expectation due to not utilising the farm to its full installed capacity. At present, it is using about 14% of the installed capacity. If sufficient fund can be provided for purchase of cages, feeding and water troughs, drinking water, medicines feeds, etc. we can increase the strength to its full capacity.

**(h) Subsidy;**

The animals are sold to the farmers in a subsidised rate in order to encourage the farmers to take up. This is required because rabbit rearing is a very new phenomenon. Not to speak of Nagaland, even in the World, rearing of rabbit is a new concept; otherwise, it is a wild animal. Actual Government purchase from outside per pair of rabbits is about Rs. 400/- whereas; it is being sold to the farmers at the rate of Rs. 200/- to Rs. 300/- per pair of rabbit. Thus it is subsidised, as well the farmers are encouraged.

**(i) Administrative arrangement:**

The farm is under the administrative control of the Director of Veterinary & Animal Husbandry, Nagaland. For the supervision of the daily farm chores, the following staffs are posted in the farm.

(i) Farm Manager (Veterinary Asstt. Surgeon)	1 No.
(ii) Farm Supervision (Senior Vety. Field Asstt)	1 No.
(iii) Farm Assistant (Vety. Field Asstt.)	1 No.
(iv) Farm attendants (Regular staffs)	3 Nos.
(v) Farm attendants (Contingency paid staffs)	6 Nos.
(vi) Water lineman	2 Nos.
(vii) Chowkidar	1 No.
Total: -	15 Nos.

As stated earlier, in order to utilise the farm to its installed capacity during the previous plan periods, enough staffs were posted to this farm. And expecting to achieve the target every year the man power was made available. But due to fund constraints, it could not materialise till now.

**(j) Bottlenecks:**

It appears that the farm could not do very well in the past, which is largely due to lack of fund. Fund shortage had its affect on the feed supply timely, medicine, lack of good hygienic cages, etc. The building being old needs repair, renovation and remodeling to suit for rabbit rearing. Many kinds are eaten by the rats for want of proper housing and cages, etc. Despite these loopholes, the farm could still perform well during 1997-1998 and is expected to do better during v 1998-99.

**(k) Conclusion:**

Despite the fact that rabbit domestication being a recent phenomenon only the Nagas are fast taking up its rearing. This is evident from the livestock census report 1997. Rabbit rearing must be encouraged in the State at all cost. For this, if given bare minimum requirements/facilities for proper housing, cages, water feeding and - managements, the farm will be able to do well. Rabbit will be a suitable alternative to poultry meat once people are habituated to this meat. And in no time, Rabbit farming can easily overtake other livestock farming in Nagaland.

**Physical Target:**

Sl. No	Particular	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
<b>A) <u>Rabbit/Livestock</u></b>				
(1)	Foundation stock (total)	400	400	400
(a)	Male	50	50	50
(b)	Female	350	350	350
(2)	Kids production	2000	2000	2000
<b>B) <u>Building/infrastructure</u></b>				
(a)	Building			
(b)	Water supply	-	-	Rs. 1.95 lakhs.
(c)	Other Repair/Maintenance	-	-	Rs. 2.00 lakhs.
<b>C) <u>Staff Personnel</u></b>				
(a)	VAS			
(b)	VFA		Without post creation, posted in the farm by transferring from other establishment.	
(c)	Grade-IV contingency paid staffs.			
<b>D) <u>Machine equipments</u></b>				
		Rs. 1.00 lakhs	2.00 lakhs	2.00 lakhs.
<b>E) <u>Fodder production</u></b>				
(a)	Investments	Nil	Nil	0.20 lakhs.
(b)	Production of fodder	Nil	Nil	1000 Kgs.
(c)	Farm feeds	243 qtl.	243 qtl.	243 qtl.

**The yearly population of Rabbits are as follows:**

Sl. No.	Category	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1.	Doe	126	143	215
2.	Buck	51	87	128
3.	Kids	42	210	319
	Total:	219	440	662

**FINANCIAL:**

The financial input on farm from the inception of the farm till date is Rs. 45,45,993/- (Rupees forty five lakhs forty five thousand nine hundred ninety three) only on fixed assets. The land was acquired in the early sixties. The present value will be assessed and submitted in due course of time.

**SUBSIDY:**

The Government of India (NEC) provides 50% as grant-in-aid for meeting the expenditure on supplies and consumable other than pay and allowances of regular and Work charge and feeds.

**PHYSICAL & FINANCIAL ACHIEVEMENT.**

	Particulars	1996-67	1997-98	1998-99
A	Rabbits	Stock till 31.8.98		
(i)	Foundation			
(a)	Male	51	87	128
(b)	Female	126	143	215
(ii)	Kids production	42	404	120
(iii)	Sale proceeds	(Rs) N/A	(Rs)N/A	(Rs)22950

**ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENT OF THE PROJECT:**

(a) Director	Department of veterinary & Animal Husbandry
(b) Additional Director	
(c) Joint Director	
(d) Assistance Director	
(e) Farm Manager (Spot Officer)	

## **EXPENDITURE OF BENEFICIARIES 1996-97-98-99:**

There is no direct subsidy expenditure incurred for the beneficiaries. However, the farmers are benefited by way of availability of rabbits within the state.

## **ENCOURAGING:**

It is certainly encouraging to the beneficiaries and public in particular. The climate suitability practically seen that Rabbitary is very profitable to the farms.

## **PROGRESS OF THE PROJECT:**

In spite of the fund constraints, the farm is doing well. No availability of fund for cages has made it impossible to achieve the livestock target of 5.7 Kits per rabbit per year.

## **TRAINING FACILITIES:**

Training facilities are provided by the Department for Rabbit's Farm's and Trysem training 'During' the period of 15 years there is no such training so far. It is reported from concern Department that due to lack of fund such training could not be provided.

## **PARTICULARS OF THE SELECTED FARM AND ITS STAFFS:**

Basic particulars of the selected farm, the Department of Veterinary & Animal Husbandry had established one Regional Rabbit Breeding Production Centre in Nagaland with the objective of Rabbit Production to demonstrate cum breeding in the State to uplift their economy by rearing this type of Rabbits.

**TABLE -I**

Sl. No.	Name of the farm	Year of established	Location	District	Under which Block	Area of the farm	Approved capacity.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Regional Rabbit Farm.	1986-87	Jharnapan i	Dimapur	Medziphema	17 acres 68826 =2mtr.	4000

Since the livestock were made available only from 1996 to the farm, the data of Farm production could be collected only for 3 (three) years in respect of the Farm. The Department has acquired more acres of land for the development work of the Farm. The total approved capacity of the Farm was 4000 Rabbits.



## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE:

(Rs. in lakhs)	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	DIFFERENCES
1996-97	NA	4.50	4.50
1997-98	0.71	6.72	6.01
1998-99	0.86	7.10	6.24

	Pay & Allowances	Feeds	M/S (could not draw)	Total
1996-97	3.37	1.13	Nil	4.50
1997-98	3.37	1.13	1.04	6.72
1998-99	3.67	3.43	Nil	7.10

## PAY AND ALLOWANCES:

1. Farm Manager - Rs. 8,251 x 12 = Rs. 99,012
2. S.V.F.A. - Rs. 5,026 x 12 = Rs. 60,312
3. V.F.A. - Rs. 3,410 x 12 = Rs. 40,920  
Rs. 1,99,244
4. Attendant (Regular) - Rs. 2,500 x 12 = Rs. 30,000 x 3 = 90,000/-
5. Fixed pay 9 nos. - Rs. 450 x 12 = Rs. 5,400 x 9 = 48,600/-  
Rs. 3,37,844 lakhs.

The farm is running at loss in respect of commercial term. However, the farm is non-commercial as it is like a research farm to produce the desired breed and distribute to the farmers in subsidised rate. Therefore, it is not expected to get good profit margin.

The expenditure is incurred more on pay and allowance which is worked out to be as follows, out of the total expenditure: -

1. 1996-97 =  $\frac{3.37}{4.50}$  % = 74.89%
2. 1997-98 =  $\frac{3.52}{6.72}$  % = 52.38%
3. 1998-99 =  $\frac{3.37}{7.10}$  % = 51.69%

As per the 8th Five Year Plan, it was proposed to utilize the full capacity of the farm; accordingly the man-power was posted to the farm. Whereas the fund could not be made available due to the peculiar financial crisis faced by the State for giving its matching share. The Department had been trying to achieve the target of full capacity utilization, and if fund can be made available by the end of the 9th Five Year Plan, the Department will be able to expect approximate profit as follows: -

Income	-	Rs.51.30 lakhs
Expenditure	-	<u>Rs.25.00 lakhs</u>
Profit	-	Rs.26.30 lakhs.



Further the full installed capacity of the farm are as follows: -

1. Adult does = 1800 nos.
  2. Adult Buck = 200 nos.
- Total : 2000 nos. of kids are expected per year.

= 1880 does x 6 kids per kidling x 5 times in a year =  
54,000 kids per year.

Mortality = 5 (death)  
2.700  
51,300 Kids per year.

Sale proceed expected per year if 100 utilisation of installed capacity  
= Rs.51, 30,000  
(Rupees Fifty one lakhs thirty thousand)

However, due to lack of fund, the present herd strength is as follows: -

1. Does = 221
- Buck = 75
- Total = 294 nos.
- Kids = 121 nos.

The figure shows that for adult  $\frac{294}{2000}$

= 14.7% of installed capacity is utilised which is the reason why the farm is apparently running at a loss.

If the Govt, can give regular fund as per requirement, the installed capacity can be achieved in 5 years time as follows: -

1998-1999	= 500 adults	= 25% of installed capacity.
1999-2000	= 800 adults	= 40%
2000-2001	= 100 adults	= 50%
2001-2002	= 1500 adults	= 75%
2002-2003	= 2000 adults	= 100%

1.9 While evaluating the Rabbit production, emphases were mostly given on the following aspects.

## **(I) FARM ACTIVITIES:**

1. Year wise production of Rabbit kids/Does/Bucks.
2. Number of disposal of kids.
3. Mortality of Kids/Does/Bucks.
4. Demand received from Govt, agencies/ Public/Farmers/ Co-operative Societies and other agencies.
5. Fodder cultivation in the farm.
6. Diseases break out in the farm and control.
7. Training facilities provided in the farm.

## **(II) FINANCIAL ASPECT OF THE FARM:**

1. Plan and Non-plan outlay and year-wise actual expenditure.
2. Recurring and non-recurring expenditure.
3. Income in the farm.
  - (a) Income in the farm.
  - (b) Income through fodder cultivation in the farm.

### **1.10.SCOPE OF THE STUDY:**

The study covers only one Regional Rabbit breeding centre and will confine with the breeding farm activities only. Due to lack of both man-power and fund, the impact of Rabbitary development programme could not do well and was excluded from the purview of this study.

Varieties of Rabbits:       (1) New Zealand white (NZW)  
                                  (2) Grey Giant (G.G)  
                                  (3) Soviet Chinchilla (S.C)  
                                  (4) Indigenous.

Local Indigenous exotic - Pure line.

Local crossed with three breeds. These breeds were purchased from :-

1. Shillong ICAR
2. Calcutta Indigenous.

The ideal climate for rearing Rabbit is 5<sup>c</sup>to 30<sup>o</sup>

Ideal = 15<sup>o</sup>. The life span of a Rabbit is 10 years approximately.

### **Medical treatment:**

Rabbit needs regular medication at regular intervals as per the reason and health.

**Death:**

The average death rate of an adult is about 5% as the Does (female Rabbit) gives birth in intensive system 5-6 times, a year. The restoration period of Rabbit is 30+2 days.

**The total Rabbits for the last three years:**

Birth		Purchase	Sold	Death	Total	Total C/B.
1996-97	287	-	-	130	130	157
1997-98	167.509	148	65777	21	98	730
1998-99	730.134	-	134238	105	343	521

**The Total sale of Rabbit during last three years:**

1996-97 - Nil  
1997-98 - 77Nos.  
1998-99 - 238 Nos. till March.

**Income of the Farm:**

The Regional Rabbit Farm under study has got no other source of income except through sale of Rabbitlet.

**Farm Staff:**

Sl. No.	Designation	General Qualification	Technical Qualification.
1	Farm Manager	BVSE & AH	Graduate in Vety. Science
2	S.V.F.A.	Matriculate	V.F.A. certificate
3	Attendant	Under Matriculate	NIL
4	9 Fixed pay	NIL	NIL

# **CONCLUSION**

## **THE GENERAL QUALIFICATION AS WELL AS THE TECHNICAL QUALIFICATION OF THE STAFF POSTED IN THE FARM.**

The Technical qualification are VFA trained personnel only. It is felt that at least the Farm Manager post should be filled by degree holder in Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry, so that the Farm will not suffer due to lack of technical knowledge.

The help and co-operation received from the Directorate of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry development as well as Officers and the Staff of the Farms are gratefully acknowledged. The Evaluation Department is also appreciated to Dr. I. Photo Khala and Dr. Mero who devoted their full time in co-operating with us during the Evaluation study.

## **SUGGESTION:**

Nagas by tradition consumes very high percentage of meat per capita. Consumption of meat in Nagaland is one of the highest in the country. Presently, the domestic production of meat cannot meet the demand, and therefore, much of our requirements are procured from outside the State, some from as far as the western States of our Country.

Rabbit is one of the fastest growing animals giving 5-6 births in a year. Rearing Rabbit is economically very viable in the State as the feeds are locally available, and the Veterinary service is available throughout the State. Rabbit meat is very tasty and good for health unlike many other meat that we are traditionally used to. There is ample scope for marketing of the produce locally, if adequate support is extended by the Government, the potentiality of economic improvement of the people will greatly be benefited and mitigate the hardships to some extent by rearing Rabbit.