



**Climate Smart  
Solutions** for our  
Livelihoods &  
Healthcare

# Mizoram Trade Facilitation Fair 2023

For Sustainable Energy &  
Livelihoods Technologies





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Solutions** for our  
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## **Mizoram Trade Facilitation Fair 2023 For Sustainable Energy and Livelihoods Technologies**

Organized by SELCO Foundation in partnership with Planning and Programme Implementation Department, GoM; Mizoram Science, Technology and Innovation Council (MISTIC); North East Initiative Development Agency (NEIDA) and Atal Incubation Centre-SELCO Foundation (AIC)

at

**Millennium Centre, Aizawl, Mizoram**

**16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2023**

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## Event Snapshots

- Over 500+ participants from across the state attended the event
- Participants ranged from farmers, FPOs, SHGs, JLGs, producer groups, entrepreneurs, local innovators, financial institutions, NGO partners, technology manufacturers, government officials, sector experts, to students from across the state of Mizoram
- More than 25+ DRE based technologies were demonstrated in the event
- 20+ Speakers ranging from sectoral experts, to farmers and Innovators shared their experience & knowledge on local livelihoods & the scope of DRE

## Key Highlights

- The trade fair was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister Dr. R Lalthangliana, (Health & Family Welfare, Higher & Technical Education, Commerce & Industries Dept.), Govt. of Mizoram, by running the Eri Spinning machine innovated by Saraswati Hasta Tat Silpa, an enterprise incubated under AIC- SELCO Foundation.
- The trade fair created a platform for all the ecosystems players across local livelihoods value chain such as farmers, SHGs, FPOs, government officials, researchers, research institutes, technology providers, CEEs, sectoral-experts, etc. from the North-East region to engage on the necessity of integrating sustainable energy for livelihood enhancement.
- Through sector specific panel sessions the event facilitated discussions, deliberations and creation of a course of action for adoption, replication and scale of DRE- based livelihood solutions that are equally climate resilient for the state of Mizoram and the rest of North-East India.

*"There is a lot of scope to support micro and small livelihoods in Aizawl city as well. Solar energy is not just for rural areas, but can be seen as a way to promote sustainable livelihoods in cities as well."*

- Mayor Lalrinenga Sailo, Aizawl Municipal Council  
*"The success in achieving farmers' prosperity lies in affordable, friendly technology. That is possible only when key stakeholders including banks, governments, and manufacturers work together. I am happy to see this happening at MTFF and I hope this is just the beginning".*

- Prof. Lalnilawma, Rural Dev. Department, MZU

*"We need to upgrade our infrastructure and improve technology adoption in the State. We regard SELCO Foundation and this initiative as a core partner in this initiative. Together, we can multiply our forces and support the people of Mizoram."*

- Mr Lalmalsawma Pachuau, Secretary of Planning and Program Implementation Dept, Govt. of Mizoram

# Background

## Need for Clean Technology Integration in Mizoram and Objective of the Trade Fair

Mizoram is a land of rugged mountains and coupled with the scanty rainfall only 5.5 percent of the state is arable, yet agriculture forms one of the primary occupations of the state. The tough terrain and traditional modes of livelihood practices present unique challenges for the state that are bound to get severe with the global phenomenon of climate change. The need of the hour is to support Mizoram to transition into sustainable pathways in livelihoods to enable long term social, economic and ecological transformation. Such transitions can be made possible through the integration of technology and innovations that are DRE-driven and clean energy fueled so as to imagine a livelihood secure and climate resilient state of Mizoram. SELCO Foundation was able to identify critical opportunities in building decentralized productive assets and public health institutions as ways to bring in long term sustainability and well-being for the underserved communities of Mizoram.



## About MTF 2023

As per Global Sustainable Development Report 2022 India's ranking stood at 121 out of 163 countries which means that India is not placed well to achieve the United Nations-mandated Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). It also signifies that India's preparedness over the years has worsened in comparison to other countries. In similar light when we do a national comparison of Indian states in SDG achievement and preparedness, Niti Aayog's sustainable development goals (SDG) index revealed wide regional disparity, with eastern states struggling to meet the set targets. Talking singularly about the state of Mizoram, it is ranked 12th as per the SDG India Index & Dashboard 2020-21 report. Even though Mizoram has been one of the front-runner states yet there are districts which lag behind tremendously, for instance, out of 102 districts considered for evaluation under the North Eastern Region District SDG Index Report Lawngtlai district of Mizoram ranked at 79th, one of the lowest. The unique terrain of the state presents unique challenges in livelihoods and health with energy being the critical denominator. With only 7 years remaining to achieve the 2030 Agenda, SELCO Foundation strives to build a holistic and robust ecosystem around livelihoods and health in the state which can cater to the needs of the communities especially small, marginalized and vulnerable communities. The event was a combination of discussions, demonstrations, learning sessions, and created the much required platform to comprehensively look at traditional livelihoods and health needs across communities. It was an ardent effort to bring together ecosystem players and stakeholders (Champions, Innovators, CEEs, SHGs, FPOs, market channels, government departments and NGOs) to strategize and imagine livelihoods and healthcare that is clean energy driven, climate resilient and would support Mizoram to attain all its SDGs sustainably.





The main objectives of the event were to:

- Generate awareness about DRE driven solutions and its scope to significantly impact productivity and incomes of communities in Mizoram.
- Showcase demonstrations of DRE based solutions for various livelihood solutions and value-added products to enhance the livelihoods of the small and marginal farmers.
- Host discussions with experts from academic, NGOs, Livelihood providers (Entrepreneurs), FPOs and Govt departments working in the sector to share best practices and learnings.
- Provide a platform for DRE and livelihood enterprises to engage and build partnerships with various state departments.
- To lay the foundation for the larger vision of clean energy integration and its relevance in improving the local healthcare sector in Mizoram.

# Day 1

## Welcome and Inaugural Remarks:

The event opened with an official inauguration of Eri Spinning machine by the Hon'ble Minister Dr. R Lalthangliana, (Health & Family Welfare, Higher & Technical Education, Commerce & Industries Dept.), Govt. of Mizoram, who was also joined by Mayor Lalrinenga Sailo, Aizawl Municipal Council and Mr Lalmalsawma Pachuau, Secretary of Planning and Program Implementation Dept., Govt. of Mizoram.

It was followed with Welcome Address by Ms. Rachita Misra, Director of AIC SELCO Foundation who stated that the vision of this event is not just to showcase clean energy supply but the potential of clean energy and efficient appliances to drive entrepreneurship and deliver energy-based solutions to low-income communities in the North-Eastern region of the country. She stated that SELCO Foundation aims to catalyze the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals in Mizoram by building management expertise, intellectual capital and promoting entrepreneurship & innovation in the state.

***“Mizoram has unique opportunities to innovate on solutions. It starts with that one person whose daily activities like hulling, weaving, reeling, tailoring are hampered because of energy. With critical stakeholders in Mizoram, we want to showcase how those needs can be met through solar energy.”***

Rachita Misra,  
Associate Director, SELCO Foundation



This was followed by the Keynote Address delivered by Pu Lalmalsawma Pachuau, Secretary, Planning & Program Implementation Dept., Govt. of Mizoram. He acknowledged SELCO Foundation as one of the core partners in promoting renewable energy driven solutions and infrastructural upgradation in the state.



***“Balancing Diversity in Development is important, it enhances creativity and perspectives”***

Mr Lalmalsawma Pachuau, Secretary,  
Planning and Program Implementation  
Dept., Govt. of Mizoram





The Chief Guest, Dr. R Lalthangliana, Hon'ble Minister (Health & Family Welfare, Higher & Technical Education, Commerce & Industries Dept.), Govt. of Mizoram during his speech highlighted the importance of solar energy, terming it "God gifted resource" and emphasized how it can be utilized to benefit people, environment and economy, all at the same time. Stressing on reliability, the minister stated that through stored solar energy, electricity availability can be extended beyond 2-3 days also in scenarios when there is no sunlight and referred to the state of Meghalaya and how SELCO Foundation has over the years built electricity reliability there. He concluded by stating that the Government of Mizoram will also enact accordingly to promote solar energy.

***"We have solar energy in abundance, and the technologies showcased here are simple. I can illustrate so many benefits of solar on our people, environment and economy. Solar energy demonstrated here will improve people's livelihood, reduce our expenditure on the grid and also not destroy our environment. This kind of a trade facilitation fair is a very significant and remarkable initiative."***

- Hon'ble Minister Dr. R Lalthangliana, (Health & Family Welfare, Higher & Technical Education, Commerce & Industries Dept.), Govt. of Mizoram

## Day 1 Inauguration of Renewable Energy Solutions Exhibition



Inauguration of Renewable Energy Solutions Exhibition In the event, over 25 solar powered solutions with over 15+ technologies incubated under AIC-SELCO Foundation were exhibited and it was duly inaugurated by Chief Guest, Dr. R Lalthangliana, Hon'ble Minister (Health & Family Welfare, Higher & Technical Education, Commerce & Industries Dept.), Govt. of Mizoram. Live demonstrations were facilitated for most of the exhibitions to generate a working knowledge of these technologies. The exhibition largely contributed towards awareness of sustainable technologies.

### Panel Discussions

Five panelists from diverse sectors participated in the discussion on "Solution for Sustainable Livelihood in Mizoram." The panelists were Pu Lalhruaizela Fanai, Branch Manager, NEDFi; Pu Joel Lalbiakkima, Scientific Officer, MISTIC; Ms. Karabee Das, Program Manager - Technology Innovation, AIC-SELCO Foundation; Pi Angela Zothanpuii, MCS, Director of Labour, Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Dept; and Prof. Lalnuntluanga, General Secretary, Central YMA / COE, MZU. The session was moderated by Mr. Shahaab Javeri of SELCO Foundation. The discussions were basically oriented on expert opinion for scope and opportunities for integration of DRE driven solutions to alleviate poverty and mitigate environmental effect in Mizoram. The session discussed broadly on topics like Skills and entrepreneurial Programmes in Mizoram, Availability of Financial support and innovation-based enterprises in the state, Necessity of sustainable energy & role of renewable of energy and Capacity building of entrepreneurs and significance of such events



## Impact Story: Grassroot Champions (Innovators) of Mizoram

A session on sharing compelling ground stories by grassroots innovators of Mizoram was also organized. They narrated their journey and overall experience of being part of a transformational livelihood project and delivered end-user insights on designing improved innovations that are more holistic and futuristic. The session was intended to encourage ground innovators to focus on decentralized energy driven solutions at local levels that have more relevance towards attaining SDG 7 and SDG 13. The innovators who shared their story were Pu Lalbiakzuala Ralte, Founder, Bi-Sons Private Ltd; Pu H.A Sangzuala, Founder, Kan Engineer Works (KEW); Pu HVL Zuimawia, Founder, Laljui Research Foundation; Pu F Lalmangaiha Founder, Dartuah Enterprise. The session was moderated by Pu PC Lalngilneia, Senior Scientific Officer, MISTIC, & Officer In charge IFC. Some of the notable mentions are - machine for recycling of motor engine oil waste used for cooking, transformation of human excreta to agricultural fertilizers by Laljui Research Foundation and Machine to open betel nut & agarbatti manual lighter developed by Bi-sons Pvt. Ltd.



## Day 2

The second day of the trade fair opened with a Keynote Speech by Pu B. Lalrinkima, State Program Coordinator, NEIDA. He stressed the importance of technology in reducing rural poverty. He highlighted that the partnership between NEIDA and SELCO Foundation will continue to work towards innovation that delivers better returns for small scale farmers and improves livelihood in rural Mizoram.



## Panel Discussions

In continuation with the discussion on Day 1 of the trade fair, interactive sessions on Day 2 delved a little deeper to discuss Advent of new agriculture based technology in Mizoram, Scope of Financing, Requirement of skill development and capacity Building and Impact of import oriented economy through the session “Collaborative approach to holistic development of rural Mizoram.” The panel session was moderated by Mr. Biswanath Sinha, Director, AIC SELCO. The panelists included Shri V. Jaya Chandra, Chairman, MRB; Dr. James Lalthansanga, Project Officer, NEIDA; Dr. Samuel Lalliansanga, Deputy Director (Farm & Research), Agriculture Dept., Govt. of Mizoram; and Prof. Lalnilawma, Rural Dev. Department, MZU.



## Quotes by Panelists

***“Climate resilience technology is what we are here for. This is also being pushed by the Agri Department of Mizoram as one of the best approaches for developing rural Mizoram.”***

– Dr. Samuel Lalliansanga, Deputy Director (Farm & Research), Agriculture Dept., Govt. of Mizoram

***“The success in achieving farmers’ prosperity lies in affordable, friendly technology. That is possible only when key stakeholders including banks, governments, and manufacturers work together. I am happy to see this happening at MTFE and hope this is just the beginning.”***

– Prof. Lalnilawma, Rural Dev. Department, MZU

## Impact Story: Grassroot Champions (Entrepreneurs) of Mizoram

Day 2 of the Impact Story session by grassroot farmers and FPOs saw participants like Pi. F. Laltlandiki, Owner- Dairei Banana Chips, Khumtung, Serchhip District and Pu. C Lalhranga, an innovative Agriculture and fisheries farmer, East Lungdar, Serchhip District. They shared their individual stories and their experiences with sustainable innovations. The session was moderated by Jacob Lalthazuala, Senior Project Associate, NEIDA.



## Closing of the Trade Fair



The event concluded with the Closing Remarks of Pu H. Lalsawmliana, CSO & Member Secretary, MISTIC, who appreciated the efforts of all parties involved in organizing the trade fair. The vote of thanks for the event was delivered by Mr. Roshan Mascarenhas, Associate Director of SELCO Foundation who appreciated the efforts of all partners and volunteers in making the event a success.

The event also saw the participation of Mr. Gautam Barman, Deputy General Manager, NABARD, Mr. V. Jaya Chandra, Chairman of Mizoram Rural Bank (MRB), Pi Angela Zothanpuii, MCS, Director of Labour, Employment, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dept. and other dignitaries from Departments, Financial institutions and prominent sector experts. The discussions and panel sessions saw participation from the Department of Agriculture, Mizoram, MRB, NEDFI, Mizoram University, NEIDA and MISTIC.

# Glimpses from Mizoram Trade Facilitation Fair 2023



## Way Forward

- **Initiating efforts to catalyze potential collaborations:** To follow up and discuss potential collaborations with the various government departments and NGOs that expressed interest in partnering with SELCO Foundation.
- **Investigating prospective funding sources that can be leveraged:** To work with the government departments and NGOs to identify potential funding sources, such as government grants, loans, and subsidies.
- **Extending training and support to relevant stakeholders:** To work with the government departments and NGOs to set up training programs and provide ongoing support to end users to ensure they are using the machineries effectively.
- **Planning and organizing similar trade fairs for increased awareness on DRE:** Continue working to expand awareness about DRE-based livelihood and health solutions by organizing similar trade fairs in other parts of Mizoram or partnering with local organizations to reach more end users.
- **Streamlining mechanisms for impact evaluation and evidence generation:** Set up a monitoring and evaluation system to track the impact of the DRE based solutions on end user's incomes, productivity, and livelihoods and use this data to refine the program and make improvements as needed.

In conclusion, the trade fair provided the perfect opportunity to understand the needs and aspirations of the state of Mizoram. Going forward it is important to build on those aspirations and work with all stakeholders, partners and prospective end users to expand the reach of DRE driven solutions across Mizoram.



The Mizoram Trade Facilitation Fair, 2023 would not have been possible without the generous support of a range of organizations and individuals for whose encouragement we are enormously grateful.

# In Partnership, and With the Support of



**PLANNING & PROGRAMME  
IMPLEMENTATION DEPARTMENT**  
GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM



Mizoram Science, Technology &  
Innovation Council (MISTIC)





**To collaborate or for more  
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