

SUCCESS STORY OF ABELSON MARBANIANG:

Shri. Abelson Marbaniang, popularly known as Bah Ion hails from a non-descript village in



Mawreng under Mawphlang Community and Rural Development Block. He started his farming as an ordinary vegetable grower but gradually diversified to floriculture.

Today, he is one of the most successful growers of flowers and fruit plants in the East Khasi Hills District.

This is his story.... Being a lover of flowers, he nursed an

ambition of transforming his acres of prime agricultural land into a floral garden. In spite of the idea being far fetched at that point in time, he embarked on this journey of raising a flower nursery in the year 1987. Later on, Marbaniang approached the Department of Agriculture for assistance and technical guidance. It was in the year 1998 that the Department gave him different types of flower seeds and he raised them successfully in his nursery. The income generated from the sale of flower seedlings enabled him to construct a small polyhouse where he intended to multiply his plants as per modern package of practices.

This initial venture was a runaway success and this boosted his confidence to start growing exotic flower seeds, which the people of Shillong have never seen before. This venture also became very successful, the demand for his produce increased and he could command a premium from the customers.

Through the Technology Mission Scheme on Horticulture, Marbaniang received assistance from the Department of Agriculture in the form of Polyhouses, Shade Nets and Planting materials. His

sincerity, dedication and hard work paid off when the Department assisted him with a modern pre-fabricated polyhouse for raising Carnations, Orchids, Gerberas and other flowers. He vigorously attended advanced level training programmes in Kolkata, Delhi, Sikkim and Darjeeling. These exposure trips broadened his outlook and his confidence level increased. He became more enterprising while his desire to acquire the latest know-how and technology also grew. He began to take part regularly in the Autumn Flower Show arranged by the Shillong Agri-Horticulture Society and his exquisite potted Chrysanthemum bagged many prizes.

In the year 2003-04, the Department assisted him in establishing a private nursery for temperate fruits. He was trained by departmental officials on various techniques of grafting and root stock multiplication. He managed to raise a large quantity of planting materials within a year. It was very interesting to note that he had also developed a good marketing network, where he market his produce such as flower seedlings, potted plants, cut flowers and fruit trees saplings to vendors from Shillong and adjoining areas

From his own resources, Marbaniang succeeded in erecting several polyhouses. He is not only also a person with creativity and innovation, but also a practitioner who does not mind sharing his skills with other fellow farmers desiring to erect such type of structures. He said *"After seeing the workers who came to construct my modern polyhouse, I realized that I can also try making such type of structures on my own, so that other farmers can benefit"*. Presently, his nursery is generating a net income of 1.5 lakh rupees per annum from the sale of planting materials. He has also managed to buy a new plot of land to expand his business enterprise.

The Department frequently invites him to share his experiences and success story during various training programmes. Abelshon credited his success to the untiring efforts of the departmental officials who have motivated him right from the beginning to start this venture. He hoped that someday the

State of Meghalaya will witness a revolution as far as development of horticulture is concerned. His dream is to make Mawreng a model floriculture village and to attract tourists similar to other flower growing States of India like Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim, Maharashtra, Karnataka etc.