KUT - HARVESTING FESTIVAL

LADIES DANCING TO WELCOME THE AUTUMN
JHUMMING / SHIFTING CULTIVATION

"LOU CHAP KI PHOU" OR CUTTING DOWN AND SPREADING THE FOREST GROWTH FOR DRYING.
BURNING THE DRIED FOREST GROWTH INTO ASHES

"BU TU LAI" OR SOWING OF SEEDS BY BOTH MEN AND WOMEN IN THE JHUM FIELD

WOMEN COLLECTING FIREWOODS AFTER THE JHUM FIRE
WOMEN FOLK WORKING IN THE FIELD

'CHANG HAM LHO' OR WEEDING

'CHAANG MANG SEN LAI' OR RICE-PLANT IN THE EARLY STAGE
THE RICE PLANT READY TO BE HARVESTED

CHAAANG AT LAI' OR THE ACT OF HARVESTING

'CHAAANG DEN' OR THRESHING OF GRAINS
SOME OF THE INFORMANTS INTERVIEWED

MRS. KONKHOCHONG KIPGEN – CHIEF OF TUJANG VAICHONG VILLAGE

MRS. L. KAIKHOSEI – CHIEF OF MOTBUNG VILLAGE

MR. KAILAL LHOUVUM – CULTURAL SPECIALIST (MOTBUNG VILLAGE)

MR. THANGKAM MISAO, GENERAL SECRETARY OF SADR HILLS DISTRICT DEMAND COMMITTEE
MRS. S.H. NEITHEM – CHAIRPERSON, WOMEN SOCIETY OF MOTBUNG BAPTIST CHURCH

MR. TONGKHOLAM SINGSAN – CULTURAL SPECIALIST OF MOTBUNG VILLAGE

(LATE) PASTOR SATKHOLAL LHOUVUM – PIONEERING MISSIONARY AND CULTURAL SPECIALIST

TWO LADY INFORMANT FROM MOTBUNG VILLAGE
AN AGRICULTURAL LABOURER FROM TUJANG VAICHONG VILLAGE

A LADY INFORMANT OF TUJANG VAICHONG VILLAGE (BACK FROM THE JHUM FIELD)

MRS. NEMJACHIN – CHAIRPERSON OF THE WOMEN SOCIETY IN TUJANG VAICHONG VILLAGE

MRS. KONKHOCHONG KIPGEN – CHIEF OF TUJANG VAICHONG (ON BEHALF OF HER SON)

DR. SEIKHOHAO KIPGEN – SENIOR LECTURER, MANIPUR COLLEGE, IMPHAL

MR. HAOKHOLIEN GUITTE, CHAIRMAN OF KANGPOKPI URBAN TOWN COMMITTEE & PRESIDENT OF SADAR HILLS
TUJANG VAICHONG VILLAGE

VILLAGE LANDSCAPE OF TUJANG VAICHONG VILLAGE
THE CHIEF TAKING A STROLL IN THE VILLAGE
VILLAGE CHILDREN PLAYING

AN OLD LADY COMING BACK FROM THE FIELD

SEEDS PRESERVED OVER THE HEARTH BY WOMEN

KUKI BAPTIST CONVENTION –
THE FIRST KUKI CHURCH BUILT IN 1916

THE CHIEF WITH HER COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
MOTBUNG VILLAGE

S.L. Kaikhosei - Chief of Motbung Village and His Family

The Customary Court

The Motbung Baptist Church Built in 1944

The Village Authority Leaders
The Chairman of the Kangpokpi Urban Town Committee when I first interviewed him in 2008.

The Kangpokpi Mission Hospital built with the initiative of the early missionaries.

KANGPOKPI
T. KHOLIEN MOUL - A MOUNTAIN IN NEIGHBOURING NAGA VILLAGE LEASED OUT TO THE KANGPOKPI PEOPLE FOR JHUMMING

KANGPOKPI CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Part I
Household Profile
1. Name of the respondent............................................................................................................................................
2. Gender.............................................................................Age ....................................................................................Marital Status.................................................................
3. Tribe.........................................................................................Clan..................................................................................
4. Name of Village...........................................................................................................................
5. Period of Residence
   (a) 0-2 years (b) 3-5 years (c) 6-10 years (d) More than 10 years
6. Religion........................................................................................................................................
   a) Christian
   b) Hindu
   c) Muslims
   d) Others
7. Denomination and Church........................................................................................................
8. Nature of the family.........................................................................................................................
   a) Nuclear
   b) Joint
   c) Female-headed
   d) Others
9. Size of the family............................................................................................................................
10. Details of family members—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Family Members</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Educational Qualification</th>
<th>Occupation*</th>
<th>Marital Status</th>
<th>Member of Organization/Association</th>
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*Occupation:  (a) Government Employee (b) Private Employment (c) Land related employment (d) unemployed

11. Occupation........................................................................................................................................
   a) Government jobs
   b) Private jobs (including NGOs)
   c) Primarily agricultural labourers or cultivators
   d) Landlord
   e) Both government job and agricultural labourer
   f) Others
12. Monthly Family Income (In Rs.):
   a) Below 3750
   b) 3750-7500
   c) 7501-10,000
   d) 10,001-15,000
   e) Above 15,000
13. Assets owned by the Family:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land</th>
<th>Vehicle</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Others</th>
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<tbody>
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14. Number of dependent.

15. Education/ Educational Qualification.


17. Types of transfer of land holdings (the mode in which the person has come to own the land).
   a) Land sales and purchase
   b) The process of inheritance and partition
   c) Gift
   d) Communal owned
   e) Allotted by the state
   f) Allotted by the chief

18. Categorisation of respondent based on the proportion of land owned.
   a) Marginal
   b) Small
   c) Semi medium
   d) Medium
   e) Large
   f) Others

**Part II**

(For respondent who are farmers or involved in agriculture related activities)

1. What type of farming do you practice?
   i. Joulei/ cultivation in the hills or Jhumming
   ii. Phailei/ cultivation in the plains
   iii. Others

2. Do you work on your own farm or as an agricultural labourer on other farms?

3. If you are working on others farm, what is the type of tenancy practice?
   i. Loushan
   ii. Tangkhai Chabi
   iii. Others

4. How do you made boundaries to mark out your land area?

5. What is the mode of leasing out of land?

6. Labour
   i. On what basis are the selection made when a landowner recruit labourers?
   ii. Who among the family member work in the agricultural field?
   iii. Is it a social arrangement?
   iv. Types of labourers
   v. Mode of payment

7. Land based conflict
   i. To whom do you go for settlement of dispute over land?
   ii. On what basis is the settlement of disputes over land made?
      i. Laws of the community Versus State Government
      ii. Communal Rights Versus State Laws

8. Is this property owned jointly or is in your name?

9. What is the proof of this ownership?

10. Who takes decision regarding land and under whose name is this land recorded?

11. Do you pay any land revenue?

12. Do you pay any form of tribute to the Chief?

13. What do you do on the land?
   i. Jhumming
   ii. Terrace cultivation
11. Horticulture
14. Do you feel that Jhumming is productive? Are you able to meet your basic needs from it?
15. What is the agricultural cycle or cropping patterns? Do you maintain/ have agricultural calendar of cropping? Yes/No
   i. If yes, what are they?
16. What technology do you use for farming? Is it traditional or scientific methods of farming?
   i. If traditional, since how long are the methods been used/practised?
   ii. If scientific, what modern inputs-tools, implements, fertilizers, pesticides, seeds do you use and how productive is it?
17. In a family land transmission, who is the potential or likely heir or inheritor?
18. What is the co-relation between changes from joint or extended families to nuclear and single unit families today to the changes in the structure of land and land rights?
19. Categorisation of respondent in terms of ownership of land--
   i. Landlord
   ii. Landless Labourers
   iii. Cultivating their own land and
   iv. Others
20. Comment on the Lom system in your village. How does it operate? How many forms are there? Name them. Are you a member of any one of them? Specify.
21. Which category of people may be categorised as landless labourers?
22. What are the types of land alienation found?
   a. Banda
   b. Contract basis of leasing out land
   c. Who lends out money?
      i. Landlord
      ii. Village chief
      iii. Money lender
23. Does patta land or patta system exist in the village?
24. Privatization of Land holdings
25. Forms and rate of taxes
   a. House tax
   b. Land tax
   c. Tax paid to Government and that paid to the Chief.
(Sample)
Interview Questions (Chief)

1. Name

2. Tribe and Clan

3. What is the approximate area size of Tujang Waichong/ Motbung? How much of it is under Forest and Homestead Settlement area?

4. What is the size of the chief's own holding? ..............................................

5. How did Tujang Waichong/ Motbung derive its name?

6. How do you exercise your rights of authority? Do you do it in consultation with the village elders or members of the village authority?

7. Is the position of chieftainship preserve through the system of direct descent? Yes/No

8. If yes, how many generations in your lineage line have been bestowed this position? Who was the first in line and which year did he rule as chief?

9. What are the land laws in your village—both compulsory and optional ones? Are they unique to your village?

10. What are the core areas of land laws dealt with by the Chiefs and those dealt by the Village authority?

11. What is the law regarding the leasing or selling out of land to non-tribal or neighbouring villagers? Is it mandatory to get the permission of the chief? What are the main prohibitions and laws regarding the sale and purchase of land?

12. What types of land demarcation or division are there in Tujang Waichong/ Motbung?
   a. Village land
   b. Community land
   c. Chief's land
   d. Forest area
      i. Open reserved area
      ii. Protected area
   e. The village homestead—
      i. individual land with proper patta system
      ii. individual land allotted by the chief without patta system

13. What are the settlement laws regarding those who are residing in the homestead area?

14. Comment on the other villages (emerging towns) where chieftainship system has been replaced by the election based Chairmanship system.

15. What are the lands laws regarding the use of forestland by the villagers?

16. Are the villagers' allowed to access forestland? Do they have rights over NTFP and timber in these forests?

17. Was this forestland under community control in the past?

18. Who has the maximum rights over the forestland?
   a. The Government/Forest Officials
   b. The Village Chief
   c. The Community or Villagers

Comment

19. How has the government forest policies affected or the village? What are the changes brought about by the government policies on forest area?

20. How do you choose or allot land to the villager?

21. What are the common disputes regarding land in the villages?
22. Land based conflict
   a. Who presided over it and how they dealt with it? Is it the community leaders or the state officials?
   b. On what basis is the settlement of disputes made?
      i. Laws of the community Versus State Government
      ii. Communal Rights Versus State Laws
23. Do the villagers still pay tribute to you in any form like in the past?
24. In the past, how does the chief allot land? How is this different today?
25. Comment on the changing nature of the authority enjoyed by the chief as compared to the past.
27. Section 158 of the MLR and LR Act, 1960 state that there would be no transfer of land by a person who is a member of STs to a Non-Tribal, comment on the recent debate on this issue.
28. Comment on the concept of Land Alienation in the context of Tujang Waichong/Motbung village.
29. Does patta land or patta system exist in the village?
30. Comment on the emerging trend of privatization of Land holdings. How have it influenced the village structure or the villagers (on the question of the Chief’s hold over the land)?
31. Forms and rate of taxes
   a. House tax
   b. Land tax
   c. Tax paid to Government and that paid to the Chief.
32. Comment on the Lom system in your village. How does it operate? How many forms are there? Name them. Are you a member of any one of them? Specify.

(Sample)

Interview Questions (Village Authority)

1. Name
2. Tribe and Clan
3. Position/Post
4. What is the approximate area size of Tujang Waichong/Motbung? How much of it is under Forest and Homestead Settlement area?
5. What is the size of the chief’ own holding? ............
6. How did Tujang Waichong/Motbung derive its name?
7. How are the members of the Village Authority elected? What criterion or what qualification enables them to be elected for such a post? Is the membership voluntary? How often do they meet?
8. What kinds of issues does the committee deal with? What are the issues that are at the exclusive jurisdiction of the Village Authority? What are the core areas of land laws dealt with by the Chiefs and those dealt by the Village Authority?
9. Can you narrate an incident in which land based conflict was resolved by the council consisting of both the Chiefs and members of the village authority
10. How do you exercise your rights of authority as member of the village authority? Do you do it in consultation with the chief or village elders?
11. What are the land laws in your village—both compulsory and optional ones? Are they unique to your village?
12. What are the core areas of land laws dealt with by the Chiefs and those dealt by the Village authority?
13. What is the law regarding the leasing or selling out of land to non-tribal or neighbouring villagers? Is it mandatory to get the permission of the chief? What are the main prohibitions and laws regarding the sale and purchase of land?

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23. What are the common disputes regarding land in the villages?

24. Land based conflict
   a. Who presided over it and how they dealt with it? Is it the community leaders or the state officials?
   b. On what basis is the settlement of disputes made?
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25. Comment on the changing nature of the authority enjoyed by the chief as compared to the past.


27. Section 158 of the MLR and LR Act, 1960 state that there would be no transfer of land by a person who is a member of STs to a Non-Tribal, comment on the recent debate on this issue.

28. Comment on the concept of Land Alienation in the context of Tujang Waichong/Motbung village.

29. Does patta land or patta system exist in the village?

30. Comment on the emerging trend of privatization of Land holdings. How have it influenced the village structure or the villagers (on the question of the Chief's hold over the land)?

31. Form of or rate of taxes
   a. House tax
   b. Land tax
   c. Tax paid to Government and that paid to the Chief.

32. Comment on the Lom system in your village. How does it operate? How many forms are there? Name them. Are you a member of any one of them? Specify.
Women Organisation

1. How many types of women organisations are there in Kangpokpi/ Motbung/ Tujang Vaichong in both secular and religious settings?
2. Name the women leaders (Church or Society).
3. On what basis were they elected? How long is the duration of their leadership? What are the objectives of the organisation?
4. Do they have any influence in the authority structure of the Customary Law Court of Motbung and Tujang Vaichong or in the Kangpokpi Urban Town Committee? Does the village council invite women to participate in its proceedings?
5. Comment on the issue of inheritance (esp. ancestral land) rights for women of the family.
   a. Are lands recorded in women’s name?
   b. Can women inherit parental land? Are women allowed to participate and receive their share in the domestic distribution of land?
   c. Are there provisions for single child girls to inherit ancestral land?
6. Comment on women’s contribution to the economy of the family.
   a. What is women’s role and contribution in agriculture?
   b. What is their main role in the process of Jhumming and wet-rice cultivation?
   c. Does the white collared jobs and education changes the status of women? Do women have a voice in land related issues?

Cultural Specialists or the Aged-group

Unstructured interview was conducted on the cultural specialists and the aged population. The respondents were made to narrate on the following subjects--

1. Traditional Land System of the Thadou-Kuki Society
2. The various land related rites and rituals and their significance
3. Changes brought about by various external agencies like the entry of the Colonial administrator and Missionaries or the various land reforms of Independent India, narratives on land based conflicts in the past
4. Changes in agriculture pattern or practices--Land tenure, labour arrangement, choosing a site, Jhumming to settled agriculture, and building or choosing of site for location, land distribution, settlement, land use etc.
5. The Chieftainship System
6. Man-land relationship
7. Communal ownership of land
8. Festival celebrated in relation to land and agriculture like the KUT or harvesting festival
9. Formation of new villages – rites and rituals, one address to the chief of the old village and the other to the gods

Question for leaders of Kangpokpi Urban Town Committee

1. With the increasing population in Kangpokpi over the years, Can Kangpokpi be categorised as a town? What would be the appropriate term for Kangpokpi?
2. How many members are there in the Kangpokpi Urban Town Committee? How long is the term of office?
3. How are the members of the KUTC elected? What criterion or what qualification enables them to be elected for such a post. Is the membership voluntary? How often do they meet?
4. What kinds of issues does the committee deal with? What are the issues that are at the exclusive jurisdiction of the KUTC?
5. Does the Chieftainship still exist in name? What is the status of the Chief? When was the Chieftainship System replaced by the KUTC?
6. What are the land laws in Kangpokpi—both compulsory and optional ones? (include the business related to taking soil, stones from the river beds and collecting woods and timbers from forest)

7. What are the laws regarding the leasing or selling out of land to non-tribals or neighbouring villagers? Is it mandatory to get the permission of the customary court of the KUTC? Which authority can issue or prohibit such transaction? What are the main prohibitions and laws regarding the sale and purchase of land?

8. Comment on the payment of Hill House Tax. Who collect it? What are the forms of fund collected by the Kangpokpi Urban Town Committee?

9. Which one is a better system of village administration: hereditary Chieftainship System or the elected system of the Kangpokpi Urban Town Committee?

10. Comment on the Lorn system in your area. How does it operate? How many forms are there? Name them. Are you a member of any one of them? Specify.