DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

As it is known that the farmers in NEH region are mostly tribals. The land area in this region is either uneven or un-irrigated and hilly terrain. Most of the farmers are practicing traditional agriculture and it is very difficult to make them adopt the new farm technologies. To overcome such problems ICAR has established an agricultural research institute in 1975 at HQ shillong with six regional stations in each NEH states. The ICAR research complex, Barapani launched a number of agricultural development programmes to educate and demonstrate the significant benefits of the agricultural technologies found out through researches for the development of the NEH states. Some of these first line programmes are National Demonstration (ND), Operational research project (ORP) for shifting cultivation, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Lab to land Programme etc. It was however, not known the significant impact of these programmes on the adoption of the improved agricultural technologies. This study was therefore, planned to evaluate the impact of the first line extension programmes in all NEH region states. But due the problem of insurgency in Nagaland and Tripura, the study was conducted only in our states.

The goal of this study was four fold: 1) To examine the adoption behavior of the farmers of NEH region in relation of their socio-ethnic, economic, cultural and educational characteristics profile. 2) To analyze the level of awareness, knowledge and
adoption of the technologies advocated by the ICAR Research complex for NEH region among the farmers through the first line extension education. 3) To study the front line extension activities in detail including feedback mechanism. 4) To identify the constraints in implementing the first line extension activities at scientists and farmers level and seek suggestions for improvement.

This study was conducted in four NEH states namely; Arunachal pradesh, Sikkim, Meghalaya and Manipur. There were three sets of the respondents, farmers of the project area, farmers of the non-project area and KVK staff. The farmers of the project and non-project area were 120 each, which makes the total of 240 farmers and 30 members of KVK staff.

The instrument was developed with the help of the experts in this line. In order to select the dependent and independent variables for the study, a small questionnaire along with the list of variables was sent to 120 scientists working in ICAR research institutes or State Agricultural Universities with request to choose the important dependent and independent variables. Once, the questionnaires were received back, the dependent and independent variables were decided. The dependent variables were awareness, adoption and knowledge. The independent variables were age, education, occupation, caste, religion, farming experience, farm size, family income, farm power, material possession, social participation, extension contact, mass media exposure, risk