

## Challenges for Natural Resource Management: Field Observation from Shirui Village and Shirui Kashong, Manipur, India

### Speaker:

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This study is an attempt to explore the preliminary understanding of Shirui village in Ukhrul district of Manipur and its importance in the region. The village is inhabited by Tangkhul tribe. The village is unique in terms of the existing Village Administration (two Headmen and two Village Court), private land ownership by villagers, origin of three rivers tributaries from Shirui Kashong hill (2703 MSL), and being home to endemic and endangered plant *Lilium mackliniae* (Shirui Lilly; the state flower of Manipur).



The preliminary observation was that the village had gone through three major structural changes. First the coming up of National Highway, which providing access to better transportation facilities and connectivity to market of Ukhrul and Imphal. Second is the implementation of MGNREGA, which changed the cropping pattern in village, rate of wage labor and labor availability for agriculture. The implementation of livelihood programme by North East Council and International Fund for Agriculture Development (NEC-IFAD) provided new avenues of livelihoods (like poultry, piggery etc.), and financial access to the marginal section of village. It is expected that proper banking facility and telecommunication based services will pave way for next level governance reform for village community. The changed agriculture practices and reduced rotation period of jhum cultivation had put pressure on forest resource. This may have implication for water availability in three rivers tributaries and access to water for Ukhrul district. For first-time the Manipur government organized the annual 'Shirui Lilly' festival (16 to 20 May 2017) which paved way for tourism based opportunities. However, it also raises concern about increasing biotic pressure on Shirui Kashong hill and the very existence of *Lilium mackliniae*.

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