



## Consolation Award

### Cardamom Pod Plucking and Pruning Tools

Selichum Sangtam  
Tuensang, Nagaland  
Scout: BLF, Tuensang

Selichum Sangtam (41) is an automobile mechanic, farmer, blacksmith, and innovator. Due to financial problems in his family, he had to discontinue school and take up odd jobs. The experience made him learn so many things and helped sharpen his creativity.

Cardamom is one of the region's most popular cultivation and most profitable farming. As a farmer, one has to be careful while plucking and pruning the plant to increase production. All the farmers employ traditional ways of harvesting and pruning using simple tools like knives, chisels, sickles, etc. Selichum developed the tools to make the process more convenient, faster and safer.

He made a hand tool for plucking the capsules or harvesting the plant. The head of the tool is curved so that the harvester can pluck the capsule easily without hurting the other plant or capsules. He used ordinary sickle and sharp

knives for pruning and cleaning, but during the process, the plants would get injured unintentionally. To overcome this, he improvised the sickle by sharpening both sides of the blade to use the tool in multiple ways. He also sharpened the tool's curved edge to help clean the weeds or plants without hurting the plant or the capsule. The tool can be used in cleaning and harvesting other plants.

Any farmer can use the tool, which is easy to use, more productive and multipurpose. It can also be used to harvest rice and vegetables, collect plants, etc. Selichum has sold over a dozen sets of plucking and pruning tools and given a few tools to his friends and neighbours. He is open to people modifying his tools to suit their requirements but with his consent.

