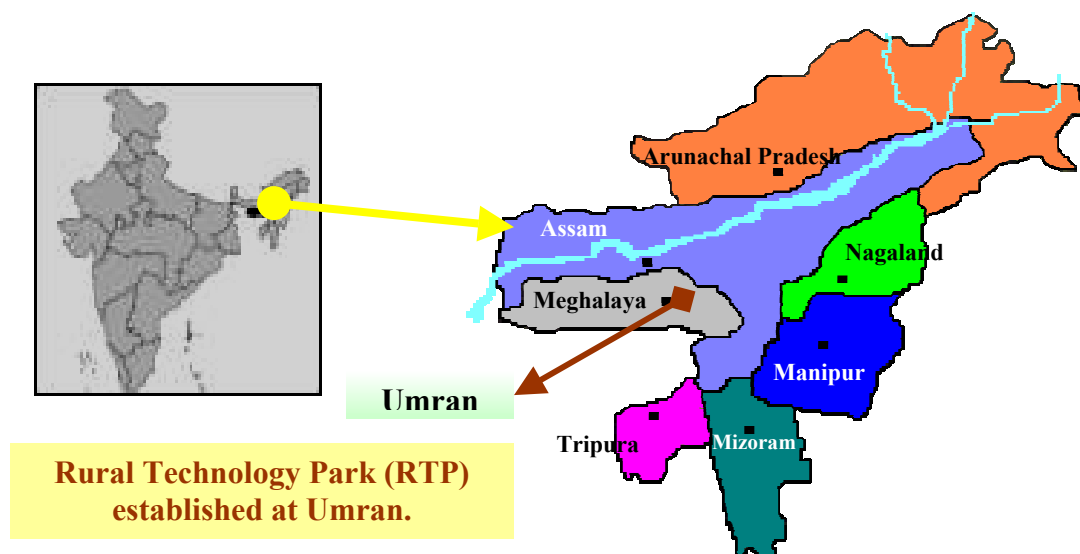
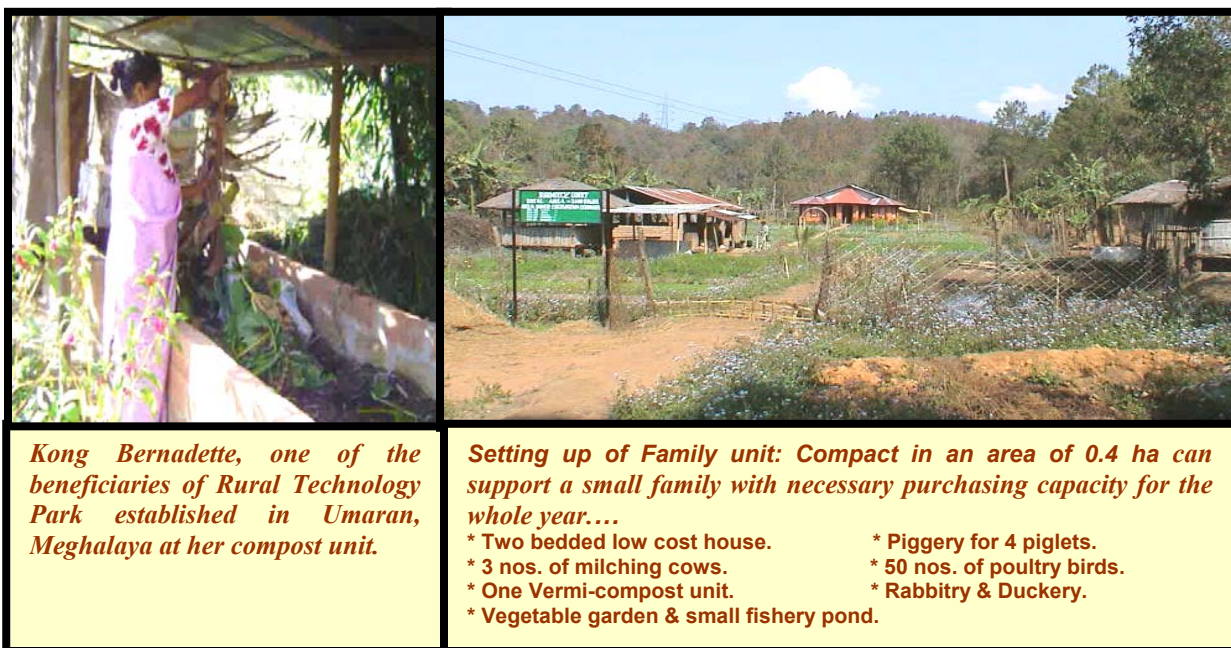


## Rural Technology Park

To make visible impact of developmental programme through technological interventions in North eastern region, initiatives have also been made to involve some science based field groups in establishment of **Rural Technology Parks (RTP) for integrated and multi-sectoral development** in both farm and non-farm sectors. In this model, efforts are being made for effective local resource management and human resource development through appropriate science and technological interventions. In this direction, as a model, Rural Technology Park (RTP) has been set-up in Umran, Meghalaya by S&T based field group, BOSCO Reach Out Society. This RTP project which was started in October, 2001 is providing demonstration and training - ensuring backward and forward linkages on need based selected technologies; developing location specific technologies and promoting rural entrepreneurship amongst mountain community in and around project areas.



The RTP is also serving as a nucleus of science and technology for technological empowerment of poor people in nearby areas in terms of appropriate technology back-up and management support/services in various sectors like information, organization and planning; watershed management; agro-forestry processing; sustainable agriculture; horticulture and bamboo farming; energy application and environment; and non-farm activities covering simultaneously the social engineering aspects with cost effective appropriate technology packages. Capacity building and skill training of people, convergence of income generating activities and creation of sustainable livelihood through the structure by people's institution are major and critical components of the RTP to address the location specific needs. Other support services like health, counseling, marketing and credit are being taken care of with the support and linkages of other financial/technical institutions to make proposed intervention sustainable. Under RTP an integrated technology package has been developed to set up family units as highlighted in Box.



Some major features of the RTP established at Umran, Meghalaya are as under:

- ✚ Common facilities created for food processing and construction related technologies;
- ✚ Training manuals developed in land based farm activities, livestock & agri-horti farm management, bee keeping & low cost construction technologies;
- ✚ Imparts training on agriculture, livestock, organic farming etc. for entrepreneurship development;
- ✚ People trained – 54 initiated small units for vermi-compost production; poultry and rabbit farming; production of Stabilized mud block as building material;
- ✚ Organic certificate for farm produce. 136 families have been adopted under organic cultivation;
- ✚ Setting up of Black pepper nursery through organic cultivation;
- ✚ 60 Glass Jar Fish Hatchery producing 20 lakh fish fingerlings annually
- ✚ Linkages with S & T institutions like spices board, APEDA, State S & T Council, KVIC and ICAR, NE region &
- ✚ Providing technical, managerial and constructive support to nearby NGOs

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