

**Role of the *Dorbar*  
in the indigenous food system  
of the Khasis in Meghalaya,  
India**

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# Governance in the Khasi community

- Khasi – generic term which includes other sub tribes such as Khyntiam, Pnar, Bhoi, War & Lyngngam.
- Matrilineal society : Lineage & Inheritance is traced through the women
- Traditional inclusive division of responsibilities
  - Women : nurturing role at household and land
  - Men : breadwinner & protector
- These traditional institutions are recognised by the government and 'land' is largely managed by the *Dorbar* (94%)
- Wellbeing & Happiness is when land is with women, peace & harmony & traditional governance is effective

# Governance & IFS

Land is owned  
by community  
and private  
owners

In Nongtraw,  
50% of the  
land is owned  
by community

For community  
land, *Dorbar* is  
responsible for  
land & forests

# Changes in Governance System

~~Parallel~~ ~~governing~~ institutions such as the village development committee

**Development Agencies / Government Depts/ Non Government Depts.**

- Traditional governance must be continued but must evolve by including youth & women
- Traditional institutions must be rooted in the community's traditional wisdom but must also be alert of the influence of modern processes
- Engagement of traditional communities with international bodies will enable them to be heard and understood

**THANK YOU**

***KHUBLEI SHIBUN***