

Orange trees perishing in Ukhrul border villages

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Ukhrul, **April 19 2014** : Oranges which are known for its juicy sweetness will no more charm your palate! An unexplained phenomenon has hit hard the orange growers in the border villages under Kamjong sub-division of Ukhrul as most of the citrus trees are drying up and has not yielded fruits since the past few years.

In a recent visit to the border villages, the farmers in Nampisha, Kangpat Khullen and Kangpat Khunou have the same story to tell about the orange trees getting dried up rapidly in the last three years.



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"The border villages, where intensive Orange farming is done, have been experiencing this phenomenon ◆the trees start drying from its tip and gradually go downward," said Raiyui Ningshen, headman of Kangpat Khunou. The unexplained phenomenon, according to the villagers, was first noticed in 1996 but termed it to be a negligible instance. However, it picks up rapidly in the last few years and affected roughly over 75,000 trees in the three villages. Ningshen informed that a report on the phenomenon was submitted to the relevant department in Ukhrul three years ago, but there was no response from the authority so far. As no scientific study was undertaken on the specific case, he said, the villagers are at their wits end and perplexed as to what causes the phenomenon.