

**BOSCO
REACH OUT**



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Focus

July to September 2021

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UPCOMING PROGRAMMES OF BRO

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- ↪ VHND programme at Udalguri district - ECBI
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- ↪ Closure programme of TDF BOLGRIM at Goalpara district
- ↪ Skill Development Training Programme on LMV - Driving at Chirang district
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Distribution of Pineapple suckers -intercrop



Editorial Board

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Director's Message



Dear Friends,

Greetings from Bosco Reach Out!

In the past months of pandemic crisis, tireless efforts were put in, to carry out the various project targeted activities. Programmes and relief works were conducted at the field levels. These, we present in the July - September issue of our FOCUS magazine.

The BAGAN project implemented at Chirang district involving 400 wadies beneficiaries, with the support of NABARD, conducted concepts sharing programme on Farmers Producer Organisation (FPO) promotion, distribution of piglets for low-cost piggery unit, need based training on FPOs formation and management, farmers training and demonstration - management practices for young horticulture plantation, free general health check-up programme, and COVID-19 vaccination camp. The low cost piggery unit model at Chirang saw a very good impact of income generation of the beneficiaries. Another NABARD's supported programme on improved method of pig farming under Micro Enterprise Development Programme at Rongjuli block, Goalpara district has been carried out, for the future aspiring entrepreneurs, to promote scientific - improved method of pig farming, increase production of pork, promote bank credit for pig farming and develop micro enterprise, and bridge the gap between the pig farmer and the global market.

The children sponsorship programme has created, a milestone in conducting a computer literacy programme simultaneously for its sponsored children and the neighbouring children at Amkachi Centre in Karbi Anglong district of Assam supported by Fondazione Fratelli Dimenticati Onlus, Italy. For the first time, Children Parliament, in CARE schools, has been formed and moving forward to bring new light in children's education through CARE project at Korkrajhar and Chirang district of Assam with the support of Child aid Network, Germany. Education alone is not enough, CARE project provided COVID -19 safety kits in all the CARE schools, caring for the well being and health of its vulnerable children. BRO continue to provide service and support to the most vulnerable section of the community during the second phase of COVID-19 pandemic.

Through Jal Jeevan Mission, we facilitate the communities in awareness creation, capacity building, planning and implementing the schemes in nine Public Health Engineering Divisions of Assam. We have started Job Placement Network, a national level umbrella project to extend free and adequate services to the job seekers across the country.

I thank our sponsors, donors, partners, collaborators, volunteers, and generous individuals for their constant support and help. I also thank the project coordinators and their teams for the successful implementation of our various projects and programmes.

"Technology Should be an important ingredient. It may be and should be a tool for Social Development." Aleksander Kwasniewski.

Fr. A. Jayaprakash, SDB
Executive Director, Bosco Reach Out



01. Village Planning Committee Meeting and Piglet Distribution

On 6th August and 20th September 2021, two VPC (Village planning Committee) meeting was conducted to share concepts on Farmers Producer Organisation (FPO) promotion under need base training - TDF Chirang project at BRO Site office, Tilapara, Malivita VCDC and Dalehal respectively. A total of 45 participants: presidents, secretaries, and members of 20 VPCs attended the meeting.

Mr. Jion Narzary (Project Field Coordinator of BRO) was the resource person. He explained the roles and responsibilities of VPC. He mentioned that VPCs play a very important role in shaping the FPOs formed at Malivita VCDC (Village Child Development Committee) and Janata VCDC in later stage. The regular meeting of VPC is the most important activity during which they will discuss the ongoing progress of wadi management and sustainability FPO in fulfilling the marketing needs.

On 8th September 2021, at BRO Site Office Tilapara, Malivita VCDC, 12 piglets (4 boars and 8 sows) were distributed to 4 wadi families with 0.5 acre wadi for low cost piggery unit. It was organised under the other livelihood components of Tribal Development Fund NABARD Chirang district project.





02. Sponsorship Children Programme

On 5th August 2021 at Amkachi Digital Room Fr. Joseph Denis Solomon, the principal of Don Bosco Higher Secondary School organised 20 days of Computer Literacy Programme for the sponsored children of Bosco Reach Out. The children living in the surrounding locality also attended the programme. The course consisted of Microsoft Office (home tab), Clipboard, Font, Paragraph, Styles and Editing. It was taught in English. It was translated to local mother tongue for those who could not understand English. The children enjoyed the Monotony Brain Gym Exercises during the class break, and tea with biscuit for refreshment. As an encouragement, they were gifted with some personal hygiene and care items. A total of 30 children, 14 girls and 16 boys successfully completed the computer literacy programme. They were awarded with completion certificate on the last day of the programme.

Fr. J D Solomon mentioned that this is a wonderful way of uplifting the children in remote areas of Assam. The children are still lacking the basic facilities. The world has advanced with technology. Basic computer knowledge is very essential. The rural children need to be equipped to face the challenges.





03. Need based training on FPO Formation

Need based training on Farmers' Producer Organisation (FPO) formation and management was organized on 28th August 2021 and 27th September 2021 at villages of Sijwouguri and No.2 Balajhar respectively under Janata VCDC for mobilising farmers for active participation in the project. A total of 50 farmers attended the programme. Shri. Jion Narzary, Project Coordinator explained the objective of FPO which consists of building, promoting and nurturing it. It is formed by a group of primary producers, a registered body and a legal entity. The producers are the primary shareholders in the organisation. It deals with business activities related to the primary produce. It works for the benefit of the member producers. Profits from the activities are shared amongst the producers and the balance goes to the share capital. It has minimum shareholding members numbering 50 at the time of registration. However, the shareholding membership will have to be increased over a period of 3 years to a sustainable level. The initial stage of FPO is critical. It needs support in terms of awareness creation, capacity building, technical support, professional management, market access, regulatory requirements, and provide handholding support.

Two FPOs are formed, at Malivita VCDC and Janata VCDC, with wadi and non-wadi beneficiaries who are producing horticulture crops and rearing livestock-pig, and poultry.





04. Farmers Training and Demonstration - Management

On 18th September 2021 farmers training and demonstration - management practices for young horticulture plantation was organised at Malivita for 22 wadi beneficiaries under 'Integrated Tribal Development Programme - BAGAN Project' implemented at Chirang district with the support of NABARD (National Bank For Agriculture And Rural Development.) Assam. The objective of the programme was to build capacity of the farmers and improve their knowledge on scientific methods of horticulture plantation and management practices.

Mr. Jion Narzary, Project Field Coordinator of BRO was the resource person. He discussed the importance of recommended layout for the multiple horticulture crop orchard and package of practices of orange and Areca nut to improve the farmers' knowledge on scientific method of horticulture plantation and management practices, method of intercropping operation – weeding, mulching, plant protection for young plantation, to promote intercropping for optimum utilization and extra income, and to promote soil conservation methods and water resource development. He shared with them the land preparation, spacing, pit digging, manure application, secondary nursery bed and proper fencing specially use of green fencing. Planting method and layout of the wadi was demonstrated in details. Management practices, intercropping operations for young orchard and a method of pitcher drip irrigation were also covered. On field demonstration was conducted in a farmer's field on method of application of manure and fertilizer, pitcher drip irrigation and identification of pest and diseases and their remedies.





05. General Health Check-up Camp at Chirang

On 29th July 2021, free general health check-up was organised at Tilapara, Sidli block of Chirang district of Assam in collaboration with District Health Society, District Health Services under Department of Health and Family Welfare (F&W), Government of Assam, Kajalgaon, Chirang district. Patients from 30 surrounding villages: Malivita, Tilapara, Indrapur, Joypur, Konchaiguri, Sovapur, Styapur, Sochipur, Sonapur Lalai, Lalai Anthaibari, Banjutbari, Maldongpara, Belguri, Deolguri, Dwaimuguri, Gwnjaipur, Amlaiguri, Mandarguri, Laltari, Dallehal, Tintlanguri, Leoripara, Soujuguri, and Janata attended the camp. It was aimed to provide accessible medical services to the patients of the NABARD supported TDF project villages as the project is based on holistic development concept. The nearest PHC is situated at Amteka which is 20 km way from the project villages.

Dr. Gondeswar Hajong, MO, MBBS, and Ms. Junmoni Baglary, Community health Officer (CHO) from District Health Society, State Health Department, Kajolgaon assisted by medical staff, and nurses conducted the general health check-up for the 107 patients where 65% of them were female and children. Every patient underwent Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) for detection of COVID-19 infection. Total 40 types of medicines: Metronidazole, Norfloxacin, Diclofenac, Trypsin, Levocetirizine, and Pantaprazole were distributed freely to the patients as per the doctor's prescription. Some of the patients were referred to the District Civil Hospital for further treatment. Two patients were detected with COVID-19. They were immediately admitted in Civil Hospital,





06. COVID-19 Vaccination Camp at Chirang

On 22nd August 2021 a COVID-19 vaccination camp was organised at Malivita, Sidli block, Chirang district of Assam. There was high COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy in the villages due to lack of trust in safety and efficacy of the newly developed vaccines, fear of side-effects, rumours about infertility, death after taking the vaccine, combined with the inconvenience of registration, low-risk perception from Covid-19, and the absence of incentives for rural and urban poor. The local influencers, religious leaders, traditional healers, local NGOs, local doctors, and panchayat heads helped in encouraging the people for vaccine uptake.

The BRO field staff conducted door to door mobilisation for COVID-19 vaccination with the help of local ASHA workers. As a result, BRO could organize a COVID-19 vaccination camp in TDF project area, Chirang district in collaboration with Assam Health Department. It was specially meant for the people of 18 plus age group. It was attended by Ms. Junmoni Baglary, Community Health Officer (CHO), Ms. Puja Rani Brahma Patgiri, Nurse, and Mr. D. Deka, Laboratory Technician. The medical officials were from District Health Society, Kajolgaon, and Mini PHC, State Health Department, Amteka, Sidli block of Chirang district. A total of 157 people attended the camp.





07. Children Parliament in CARE School

Every child between 6 to 18 ages is a part of the children parliament. The children's parliament is a group of children of a particular village who come together as a group for activities, learning and to represent their interests and opinion to the decision makers of the village. It consists of 15 to 30 members or more (Registration of Interested students) with 4 to 5 ministers, selected by the members. Prime Minister is the head among the minister. There is oath taking ceremony held after the election of the ministers. Date and time are fixed by the members and ministers.

The BRO CARE Cluster Coordinators formed 13 children parliaments, which consisted of 232 students, in different schools and CARE Centre in the districts of Kokrajhar and Chirang of Assam. Awareness on Children Parliament (CP) was created among the students which made them very happy, interested, and eager to be in CP. The students are willing to attend the CP meeting to be conducted every month.

The main objectives of the CP are to hold elaborate discussions on various issues like, education, health, shelter, sports, culture, vocational training, and child right as mandated by UNO (United Nations Organization) and accepted by the govt. of India. Other objectives includes: to safe guard child marriage, to protect and encourage children and focus on positive behaviour, to help develop children's confidence and a programme where children can value themselves and others through play, to provide opportunities for creative and imaginative play where children explore their own identity and help build their self-esteem, to promote literacy, educate in the field of anti-dowry, untouchable ability and other social evil, and to perform all such acts as may be necessary conductive or proper.

The Children Parliament formation have improved community involvement and parents participants, better discipline, holistic development of students, teachers and society, improved self-confidence, imbibing leadership, management and good communication skills, helped in learning in democratic values, improved learning ability, school management, improved admission rate, and helped in creating social awareness.



08. CARE Schools Receive 'Covid-19 First Aid Kits'

Children at Risk Education (CARE), along with the text book knowledge, believes in improving the health and hygiene of its students. It takes utmost extra care to enhance the good health of the students amidst COVID-19 pandemic. During the months of July to September 2021, all the 35 CARE schools were provided with COVID-19 First Aid Kits: Vitamin D and C, Paracetamol, Cough Syrup, oxy-meter (5 nos.), thermometers (5 nos.), face mask (100 nos.), and 5 litres of sanitizers. It was entrusted to each of the 35 CARE school's SMC (School Management Committee) members.

The CARE project personnel created awareness on the COVID-19 First Aid Kits for the children. They meet all the SMC members of the CARE schools. They also provided instruction on proper usage of the kits. They also imparted the importance of keeping first aid kits in each school for any emergency. At first, the SMC members of the schools were afraid to administer these medicines. They were convinced after interacting with the BRO CARE personnel.

BRO CARE personnel also conducted special training to all the CARE teachers on when and how to use the first aid kits. At present, the CARE teachers are administering the first aid as and when necessary. The SMC members are now supporting the CARE teachers fully taking care of the students. They are grateful to BRO CARE for taking care of them. They start showing great interest in attending the classes. The parents started giving importance in sending their children to school regularly.





09. Distribution of Students' Safety Kits in CARE Schools

The children are vulnerable. They need proper care and protection against any infection. The CARE schools have gradually allowed its students to attend classes following the COVID-19 safety protocols. The CARE Teachers initiated to take “Small Group Learning” classes in all the 35 CARE schools. They are taking all possible measures to protect and prevent the spread of the Covid-19. A total number of 2289 CARE students from all the 35 CARE schools received Students' Safety Kits: a sanitizer, bathing soap (2 nos.), a washing soap, face mask (2 nos.), a face shield, and a face wash lotion.

Now, the students are making use of these safety kits and keep themselves safe from the pandemic. They are utilising the face mask, sanitizer and face shield regularly in and outside the school. The CARE teachers created awareness on COVID-19 safety measure. They make sure that the children bring these three things whenever they come to the school.

The students are very conscious of their health. They practiced whatever their teachers instructed them. They also create awareness to their parents. They helped their parents to maintain proper hygiene. Now, it is observed that many of the parents are now using the face mask whenever they move out of their home in public places.



10. Job Placement Network

Job Placement Network (JPN) is a national level umbrella project started with some ambitious objectives to extend free and adequate services to the job seekers across the country. The platform is created to have free access of both recruiters and job seekers through digital way and help each other. The successful implementation of the project will mitigate the problems of one category of people of the society who cannot afford to have access of paid services of this sector. Therefore, even the talented candidates from the downtrodden community deprived off getting deserving jobs in many times.

Bosco Reach Out has started this project in the month of April 2021 by opening its office in the head office premises. But operation was not fully in action due to covid-19 pandemic for last few months. Even then we tried our best to help some affected people by referring to our known recruiters so that they can continue earning in this difficult time. The activities Offered under this project are: on-boarding the job seekers details in JPN system, career counseling and guidance of the job seekers, referring the fresh job seekers for training programme, linking the job seekers with recruiters, conducting campus interview/Job mela for mass recruitment, post placement tracking of the placed candidates, creating a digital platform where job seekers and recruiters come together and avail the services provided by JPN, and all the services JPN is providing is free.





11. Jal Jeevan Mission

Government of India has restructured and subsumed the ongoing National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) into Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) to provide Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to every rural household i.e., Har Ghar Nal Se Jal (HGNSJ) by 2024. JJM would ensure functional household tap connection to every rural household as there is a demand that exists and people aspire for household piped water supply. It will significantly improve quality of life, particularly of women and children and assist in ODF-sustainability as water is important to sustain Swachh Bharat Mission's gains. In the rural areas, for developing in-village water supply infrastructure, water resource management, source strengthening/ augmentation, distribution network, treatment plants, unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled human resource will be required. Further there will be procurement of various materials for water supply systems. This will generate employment and boost the economy.

Bosco Reach Out has been empanelled as a partner and Implementing Support Agency (ISA) to facilitate the communities in awareness creation, capacity building, planning and implementing the schemes in nine Public Health Engineering (PHE) Divisions of Assam. A total of 91, 532 Households are set to benefit and avail clean drinking water in sufficient quantity in these areas. BRO is successfully assisting to mobilize the local communities, firm up their aspirations and handhold them for resource mapping as participatory approach and is helping in the decentralized planning of the water supply schemes.





12. Doubling Wadi Beneficiaries Income through Low-Cost Piggery Unit

“I am overwhelmed to see the prospect from single income source to double income source through low-cost piggery unit. One or two pig rearing is very common in village household in tribal area but farmers do not follow the proper low-cost piggery unit model. So, with my success within short span of time, the farmers of my village are encouraged to follow proper method and management practices for pig rearing and adopting low-cost piggery unit model.” Mr. Bristi Basumatary, Wadi beneficiary (farmer) under Integrated Tribal Development Programme for Sidli block, Chirang district, Assam supported by NABARD, Guwahati

Shri. Bristi Basumatary, 43 years old, Wadi beneficiary, is from Malivita village and Malivita VCDC, Sidli block, Chirang district. He has 5 family members comprising his wife, two sons and one daughter. In 2018, he developed a half acre wadi plantation comprising apple ber, orange and areca nut. Those beneficiaries with less land area are encouraged to take up low-cost piggery unit for income generation. He made pig shed in October 2020. On 22nd October 2020 he received 3 piglets (3 months old) - one boar and two sows for his low-cost piggery unit. He followed proper vaccination schedule, management practices, and feed for healthy growth of the piglets. In June 2021, the piglets are 11 months old and breeding started. One sow gave birth to 8 piglets and another sow 10 piglets. His annual income was Rs.20,000.00 to Rs. 25,000.00 from homestead garden and paddy but now is expecting around Rs.45,000.00. He feels very proud to be a beneficiary of NABARD/TDF-BAGAN Project. He is grateful to NABARD and Bosco Reach Out for enhancing his income and living standard.





13. COVID-19 Relief Support

In response to the 2nd wave of covid pandemic, where thousands of people and families are devastated directly or indirectly, Bosco Reach Out has been extending its helping hands just to minimize their sufferings in different ways. BRO tried its best to provide people at their disposal with cooked food, dry ration, medicines, and hygiene kits. Management and volunteers of BRO and many humanitarian organizations collaborated together with BRO to help the distress people. It has been rightly said, “We cannot help everyone but everyone can definitely help someone”.

BRO continue to provide service and support to the most vulnerable section of the community during the second phase of COVID-19 pandemic. It has collaborated with organisations, institutions and generous individual toward the cost of helping the families during the crisis. Volunteers, local leaders, health workers, and BRO staff conducted a survey. With the consent of the community the most-needy families were selected. COVID-19 Relief Support camps were organised in various areas and villages of Assam to distribute family essential kits. More than 1,000 families from Guwahati and from districts of Darrang, Karbi Anglong, and Udalguri received the COVID-19 relief support, family essential kits. More than 250 Health Workers: ASHAs, Nurse, and drivers, from Udalguri, Sipajhar, Orang, and Guwahati also received the same support. BRO and the beneficiaries are very grateful to all the organisations, institutions, and individuals for their handholding support.





14. Improved Method of Pig Farming

20th September 2021, BRO inaugurated the programme 'Improved Method of Pig Farming under MEDP (Micro Enterprise Development Programme) at Rongjuli block, Goalpara district' at Community Training Hall, Hirapara of Rongjuli block. Mr. Kanchanmoni Gohain, District Development Manager of NABARD Goalpara, Mr. Lakhi Das, Veterinary Assistant of State Veterinary Dispensary Kothakuthi, Mr. Hiteshwar Patwary, Branch Manager and Field Officer of NESFB Dhupdhora branch, Mr. Pranjal Baruah, Assistant Manager of Bandhan Bank Dhupdhora, Mr. Arup Rabha, Master Trainer and Progressive Pig Farmer of Kothakuthi, and Fr. Damian Basumatary, Associate Director of BRO were present at the occasion. The objective of the programme was to promote scientific and improved method of pig farming, to familiarise and train pig farmers on different stages of pig and need of care, to increase production of pork, to promote bank credit for pig farming and development of micro enterprise, and to bridge the gap between the pig farmer and the global market.

On the second day of the training, Dr. Anupam Rabha, State Veterinary Dispensary, Kothakuthi, Goalpara took session on importance of breeds, identification of diseases and symptoms, importance of timely vaccination, feed and nutrition, and proper pig shed. On 4 October 2021 they went farm for exposure visit to Mr. Arup Rabha's pig farm at Dhanubhanga, Rongjuli block. Under vaccination practical session, around 100 pigs of trainees and neighbouring villagers of the training centre were vaccinated against swan flu virus. The objective was to encourage the people to go for pig vaccination. On 6th October 2021, the 15 days of MEDP on improved method on pig farming will be concluded for 30 future aspiring entrepreneurs.



15. Farewell Programme of Bro. Michael Kindo

On 31st September 2021, the family of BRO gathered to bade farewell to Bro. Michael Kindo, outgoing Administrator of BRO, who has been on transfer to Don Bosco Bhutiachang, Tangla. He has been working with great zeal in BRO since 2018. Fr. Damian Basumatary, Administrator of BRO welcomed everyone to the memorable gathering. He exalted Bro. Michael of his service rendered for the growth and development of the marginalised people. BRO Staff expressed their heart felt adieu with 'Aadmi Musafir Hai' song. Ms. Angela Nungchim, Documentation Coordinator delivered thanksgiving address. BRO staff presented their token of love to him. Ms. Manashi Thakuria, Accountant of BRO enthralled everyone with her sweet song.

Fr. A. Jayaprakash, Executive Director of BRO praised and thanked Bro. Michael for his cooperation and dedication to the community and BRO during his tenure of service. Bro. Michael Kindo expressed his gratitude to everyone for making his life a memorable one. He also narrated a few of his responsibilities and activities.





16. Welcoming Fr. Damian and Releasing Book

On 6th August 2021 a special programme was organised to welcome Fr. Damian Basumatary and released a book 'Including Children with Disabilities in Education'. The staff of BRO welcomed Fr. Damian with their beautiful song. Fr. A. Jayaprakash, Executive Director of BRO welcomed and felicitated all the special invitees: Fr. Januarius Sangma, Provincial of Salesian Province of Guwahati, Fr. Joseph Teron, Vice Provincial, and Fr. Maria Arul Anthuvan Tharsis, Provincial Secretary. Then, Fr. Maria spoke briefly the history of Fr. Damian and mentioned him as a big asset to BRO. Fr. Damian in his thanks giving message, he expressed his desire to learn and work for the people in need.

Fr. Januarius Sangma, Provincial of Salesian Province of Guwahati applauded courageous relief activities of BRO carried out during the COVID crisis. He thanked Fr. Damian for accepting his proposal and welcomed him to BRO family for social work. He said, 'Our ship is going on well and we still have many more neglected people and poor who desired justice'. He released the most awaited book 'Including Children with Disabilities in Education' and presented a copy of it to all the invitees. He said that through the inclusive education, the differently abled will be happy and bring changes in the society.

Fr. A. Jayaprakash explained in brief the content of the book and thanked everyone involved in the process of publishing it. Mr. Probal SG, Coordinator highlighted the importance and purpose of the book which will be a good source of information for headmaster and teacher. It is a first inhouse publication of BRO with a serious article. He thanked everyone involved in making the release of book successful.



17. CGM NABARD visits BAGAN Project, Chirang District

On 7th August 2021, Shri. Baiju Kurup, CGM, Assam Regional Office, NABARD visited Shantipur, Chirang district where he interacted with TDF Chirang Field staff, VPC members, and wadi beneficiaries. Shri. A. R. Deury, DDM, NABARD Chirang was present in the meeting. TDF Chirang project personnel namely Bro. Michael Kundo, Administrator of BRO, Ms. Minku Das, Project Coordinator (Agriculture) of BRO, Mr. Jion Narzary, Field Coordinator of BRO, and Mr. Kanin Basumatary, Field Staff of BRO, and VPC members: Mr. Parenaswar Narzary and Mr. Hiddo Basumatary attended the meeting.

18. Hard Work with Confident

Mr. Dipangkar Rabha from Kachubari, Mariampur, Goalpara district of Assam is one of the 400 NABARD Tribal Development Fund Wadi beneficiaries. He is also a board member of Nabajyoti Farmers' Producer Organisation. He maintained the FPO documentation. His rubber plants have matured. He started getting income from selling the rubber sheets. He also gets extra income from his banana cultivation. He made a saving from the incomes. In the month of September 2021, he started a poultry farm 1100 chicks and 7 beds. He tried to manage his rubber plantation, banana cultivation and the newly initiated poultry farm. He is confident to excel in life.



**Convergence-POSHON Abhiyaan in collaboration
with Anganbadi workers,GOI**



Distribution of fertilizer