

**BOSCO
REACH OUT**



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Focus



July - December 2020

Vol. IX Issue : III

Laying Foundation of Green Skill Training Centre



Teachers Workshop on Inclusive Education



Skill Development Training of Reversed Migrants



UPCOMING PROGRAMMES OF BRO

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- Farmers' Training / Demonstration - TDF
- 3 Months Crash Course Coaching for 10th Standard Students - TDF
- Evening School for Elderly People in Project Target Village - TDF
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- Formation and Capacity Building of Village Level DPOs - CBR



Director's Message

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Bosco Reach Out!

First of all praying to God for His Mercy and Kindness!

The world is in grief of Covid-19 pandemic. It is alarming with the sudden demise of our loved ones, known and unknown persons. We are unable to understand what God tries to tell us. However, due to novel coronavirus pandemic lockdowns all over the world, there has been a dramatic improvement in the environment. There have been many reports claiming changes in the Earth's ecosystem. At the end, the Earth is healing from its losses that could have later affected life. The gravity of the present perils could be a sign of a beautiful that the Earth is preparing for us, while we fight to survive amidst the chaos. As we celebrate the Birth of Baby Jesus, we can be hopeful, optimistic, brave, share our valuable time and things with the poor and needy. We can be an instrument of Joy and Happiness to others.

We could conduct skill development training for reversed migrants. Livelihood activities for framers and migrant labourers were taken up. Various awareness programme on health and hygiene were held to help the people understand the COVID-19 guidelines. The migrant labourers and farmers were supplied with inputs to start their livelihood activities. Laying of the foundation stone of green skill training centre, Joropara was held successfully.

We are at the end of the year, I would like to thank God for all the blessings that He has showered upon us during 2020. Because of his blessings, we were able to reach out to big numbers of families during the lockdowns. I am also grateful to all the agencies and the individual Benefactors who had been a big support to Bosco Reach Out organization. Without your hand holding we would have not been able to reach out to so many thousands of families according to their needs. I am also very grateful to all the collaborators, co-operators and our staff for their guidance and support to take Bosco Reach Out forward according to the needs of the People in different regions. Finally, I am grateful to everyone who has been a part and parcel of Bosco Reach Out to make our dream and plan realized in the field.

Once again, I wish you a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New 2021. May the Blessings of the Baby Jesus be always with you and guide you in the coming year, 2021.

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

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Inauguration of Livelihood Activities for Farmers and Migrant Labourers

On August 10, 2020, Bosco Reach Out organised an inaugural programme for the project entitled 'Livelihood Activities for Farmers and Migrant Labourers of Tezpur Region, Assam' at Morisuti No.1 village, Naduar block in Sonitpur district of Assam. A total of 41 participants attended the programme. Mr. Ram Bahadur (Field Coordinator of BRO) delivered the welcome speech. He introduced Fr. A. Jayaprakash (Executive Director of BRO), Mr. Hingba Ezekiel (Programme Officer, BRO), and all the participants. The programme was intended to help the beneficiaries understand the concept of the project and its process of implementation as well as the benefit of sustainable Income Generating activities.

Fr. A. Jayaprakash, officially inaugurated the project. He mentioned that the project has been funded by Jugend Eine Welt (Germany), coordinated by Bosconet (Delhi), and implemented by Bosco Reach Out (Assam). He shared the concept of the project and its benefits during this unexpected situation of the Covid-19 pandemic. He encouraged the youth, especially the migrant workers take up sustainable Income Generating Activities through this project. He thanked God for His blessings and the agencies who came forward to help. He also thanks Mr. Hingba Ezekiel for coordinating the programme, Mr. Ram Bahadur for organising the programme, and all the participants for giving their time and their willingness to excel in their life. Mr. Hingba Ezekiel facilitated the discussion on the criteria in the selection of beneficiaries and the Project Implementation Activities (PIA) to the participants.

The participants showed keen interest in the discussion. They tried to understand the concept of the project. They were willing to participate in the implementation of the project. Some of the participants suggested rearing of Kuroiler chicks which grow fast and is easily marketable. They also requested that the winter vegetable seeds be supplied as early as possible as the cultivation season was approaching.



Skill Development Training of Reversed Migrants

Bosco Reach Out with the support of NABARD launched the project on 'Skill Development Training of Reversed Migrants in Tribal Development Fund (TDF) Project Area, Rongjuli block, Goalpara district' on September 15, 2020 at Mariampur, in Goalpara district of Assam. The objective of the project was to encourage and promote skill development for the migrated youth who lost their job during COVID-19 pandemic, promote self-employment through bank credit linkage and create employment for others, and prevent migration towards big cities and urban areas.

The project launching programme was inaugurated by Mr. Rajkumar Y. Meitei (District Development Manager, NABARD, Goalpara district), and Fr. A. Jayaprakash (Executive Director of Bosco Reach Out) in the presence of 50 selected trainees, Gaon Burah, Farmers Producer Organisation (FPO) members, and prominent villagers of the Rongjuli block. Mr. Santosh Kumar (Lead Bank Manager, Goalpara district) and Mr. S. K. Karmakar (Branch Manager, Assam Gramin Vikash Bank, Dhupdhora) were also present. Fr. A. Jayaprakash welcomed the gathering and thanked the participants for their cooperation.

All the three training programmes on carpentry and pickle making were completed on October 17, 2020. The trainees were graded at the end of the training programme. On October 19, 2020 valedictory function was organised at St. Mary's School Auditorium, Rongjuli block in Goalpara district. The dignitaries present at the programme were Mr. Rajkumar Y Meitei (District Development Manager, NABARD), Fr. A. Jayaprakash (Executive Director, BRO, Guwahati), Fr. Vincent Muchahary (Principal, St. Mary's School, Dhupdhora), and Mr. Binay Baisya (Branch Manager, NESFB, Dhupdhora). Mr. J. K. Neog (C.O. Rongjuli Block) was the chief guest. The Chief Guest distributed the completion certificate to 90 reversed migrants. Three of them also received a sanction letter of Mudra Loan of Rs. 50,000.00 each from Assam Gramin Vikash Bank, Dupdhora branch.





Training on New Design Development and Procurement of Machineries

Bosco Reach Out, the project implementing agency (PIA) of Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) project, had conducted four New Design Development Training Programmes. The first two programmes were held at Kakuapara from October 06 to 15, 2020 and another from October 19 to 28, 2020. Ms. Rani Rabha (Master Trainer certify by IIE, Guwahati) was resource person where 48 participants attended the programme. The third programme was carried out from October 19 to 28, 2020 at Lengopara where 27 participants attended the training and Ms. Anila Rabha (Master Trainer certified by IIE, Guwahati) was the resource person. The fourth programme was held from October 29 until November 07, 2020 at Lengopara. There were 27 participants attended the programme and Ms. Nirmali Rabha (Master Trainer certified by IIE, Guwahati) was the resource person.



The artisans had been supplied with 52” fly shuttle frame loom set with Jacquard attachment 4 sets, 52” fly shuttle frame loom with attachment 58 sets, office accessories 1 set, eri spinning machine 3 sets, storage facility 4 sets, industrial sewing machine 5 nos, and manual sewing machine 14 nos.



Piggery as Livelihood Activity in Chirang District

During October to December, a total of 15 low cost piggery units were set up in 8 different project villages under the NABARD TDF Bagan project, Chirang district of Assam. It was carried out with two sows and one boar model. The pig sheds were made up of locally available bamboos, wood and cement posts. The floor was made with cement, bricks and sand. During construction of pig shed, it was emphasized that the site should be well-drained, elevated but fairly level, and had an adequate supply of drinking water. Regardless of the type or size of the housing system, the site was selected to provide adequate ventilation and withstand strong winds.

All the 45 piglets were vaccinated against foot and mouth disease (FMD) and swine flu. The iron supplement injection was given to the piglets. The 15 beneficiaries are maintaining their piggery with the healthy growth of the piglets.





Group Formation Awareness Building Programme

Four programmes on Group Formation (Self Help Group/Joint Liability Group) Awareness Building were organised at BRO Site Office, Malivita in Chirang district during August to December, 2020. The programmes were held under the NABARD Tribal Development Fund Bagan project, Chirang district. The resource person of the programme was Mr. Jion Narzary (Project Field Coordinator of BRO). A total of 80 participants were present at the awareness programme. The objective of the programme was to create awareness among the beneficiaries the concept of SHG and JLG, savings in group, credit linkage with the bank, and Income Generating Activities (IGAs).

He discussed the topics on the concept of SHG/JLG, goal setting, and aims; savings and loans; record keeping and loan management; basic business skills, group meeting; credit and bank linkage, and income generating activities through vegetable garden, livestock rearing, etc. A total of 36 SHGs submitted their details to take part in the Tribal Development Fund project. These SHGs were formed by NRLM, Chirang district. He also incorporated and discussed the role and responsibilities of Village Planning Committees (VPC). VPCs are very important during the initial formation of Farmers' Producer Organisations. In the later stage of the project two FPOs would be form from Malivita VCDC (Village Council Development Committee) and Janata VCDC.





Celebration of International Day of Persons with Disabilities

BRO organised International Day of People with Disabilities on 3rd December at Simila Tarabari village, Boko in Kamrup Metro of Assam. It aimed to increase public awareness, understanding and acceptance of people with disability and mobilize support for their dignity, rights, and well-being. Mr. Amir Toppo (CBR Field Coordinator), Mrs. Sandhya Boro (CBR Field Worker), and Mr. Richard G Momin (CBR Field Worker) facilitated the programme. There were 150 participants (men, women, children with disabilities, and parents/guardians of the children with disabilities) attended the celebration.

Mr. Hari Prasad Rabha (Village Headman of Mouman village), in his message appreciated the initiative of BRO for organising the important day for the persons with disabilities (PwDs). He said that it was a special occasion where PwDs could come together to celebrate as they belong to this world. They should encourage and bring changes in the society. They should enjoy the benefits all that government has allotted for them. Mr. Chandra Kumar Hazarika, representative of Person with Disabilities encouraged everyone and spoke of their ability to do something new. They should be treated fairly, with human dignity.

The celebration ended with great satisfaction among the person with disabilities, parents of PwDs, villagers, and BRO staff. There were smiles on the face of PwDs. There has been continuous awareness creation so that PwDs would avail and enjoy the government schemes allotted for them.





Awareness on Health and Hygiene for the Farmers

Bosco Reach Out organised three programmes on the 'Awareness on Health and Hygiene for the Farmers' at No.1 Morisuti, Sonitpur district of Assam. It was carried out from September 19 to 21, 2020. It was conducted under the project 'Livelihood Activities for Farmers and Migrant Labourers of Tezpur Region, Assam'. The objective was to provide better knowledge on hygiene behaviour and a healthy environment, thus improve the quality of life.

The resource persons were Ms. Renuka Sharma (Accredited Social Health Activities (ASHA) under NRHM), and Ms. Manjula Devi Upreti (Anganwadi Workers under Integrated Child Development Services). A Total of 169 participants attended the programme.

Ms. Renuka Sharma explained the preventive measures of COVID-19. She advised them to clean hands often, using soap and water, maintain a safe physical distance, wear a mask when physical distancing is not possible, avoid touching of eyes, nose or mouth, stay home if unwell, and seek medical attention if a fever, cough and difficulty in breathing. Ms. Manjula Devi Upreti spoke on: social hygiene, balanced and nutritious diet, and personal cleanliness like bathing everyday, washing hands to reduce the spread of disease, brushing teeth twice a day, cleaning and trimming nails, covering mouth when coughing or sneezing, and drinking clean or boiled-water.





Global Hand Washing Day 2020

Bosco Reach Out, during the month of October, conducted Global Hand Washing Day 2020 at Santipur, Louise gaon, and Nagaon near Majbath in Udalguri district under the project entitled 'Empowering Community-Based Institutions to Increase Vaccine Confidence and Routine Immunization Demand, and Prevention of COVID-19'. Present on the occasion were the local church leaders, Gaon burahs, Self Help Group members, Cluster Level Federation members, Anganwadi workers, ASHA, and NGO members. Mr. Mrinal Sarmah (District Coordinator of BRO) facilitated the programme. Through the Global Hand washing Day awareness on the importance of hand washing with soap was raised. Awareness on COVID-19 and immunization was also created during the Hand Washing Event.

BRO team conducted drawing competition on the global hand washing day at Louise gaon and Nagaon near Majbath. A total of 55 children participated in the competition.





Empowering Community-Based Institutions

On August 30, 2020, Bosco Reach Out, conducted 'Sensitization and Orientation of PRI, VHSNC Members, Anganwadi Workers, Tribal Leaders, and Other Influencers' at Nasansali in Udalguri district. It was organised under the project entitled 'Empowering Community-Based Institutions to Increase Vaccine Confidence and Routine Immunization Demand, and Prevention of COVID-19'. The meeting was based on immunization and COVID-19 awareness.

On August 16 and 19, 2020 'Community Consultations with Other Community Mobilizations' was held at Udalguri and Amguri in Udalguri district. The staff discussed issues on a less number of immunizations and how to overcome it at community level. Importance of COVID-19, vaccine confidence, and routine immunization was shared during the programme.

During the months of August and November, 2020 'Support on VHND and Immunization Days' programme was organised at Shillongkhuti, Khagrabil, Boscobari, and Jerusalem villages of Udalguri district. Awareness on COVID-19 was created among the young mothers and pregnant women.





Motivation Programme for Proper Implementation of the COVID-19 Guidelines

Bosco Reach Out conducted three motivational programme for the farmers for proper implementation for the Covid-19 guidelines from September 22 to 24, 2020 at No.1 Morisuti village in Sonitpur district. The objective of the training was to increase awareness among the farmers and migrant workers regarding COVID-19, and the Do's and Don'ts during Pandemic. The methodology of the programme was lecture and discussion. The resource persons were Mr. Hingba Ezekiel (Programme Officer of Bosco Reach Out) and Mr. Ram Bahadur Tamang (Field Coordinator of Bosco Reach Out). A total of 156 participants attended the programme. They discussed on topics: Who may be a suspected case? Mode of transmission, Symptoms, Do's and Don'ts during COVID - 19.

The participants felt the need of awareness, got more clarity and showed their keen interest in learning COVID-19. The participants thanked Bosco Reach Out for organizing the programme.





Health Education Session and Women Development

From July to December 2020, three awareness programmes on prevention against COVID 19, under Health Education Session (Women wing) were organised in Chirang district. The programme was conducted under NABARD supported project entitled 'TDF –Bagan project, Sidli block, Chirang district of Assam'. The objective of the programme was to create awareness among villagers on COVID 19 disease, eliminate mistrust, and fear among them. Mr. Jion Narzary (Project Field Coordinator of BRO), and Mr. Kanin Basumatary (Field Extension Worker) were the resource persons. A total of 56 participants attended the programmes. They discussed a brief history of COVID-19, its common symptoms and effective measures to protect against the new coronavirus, when to go for tests and treatment, and preparedness to face the virus. During the programme, to encourage the participants one cotton reusable mask each was distributed.

On July 9, 2020 another programme on Awareness Building Programme on Women Issues as a part of women's development with a theme on women's empowerment, women's rights, nutrition, and violence against women was organised at Gwjwnpuri in Malivita. A total of 20 women attended the programme. Mr. J. Narzary, the resource person discussed the following: women's identity and personality, rights of women, awareness on rape, molestation, domestic violence, dowry demand and trafficking, project of life - planning, money and time management, girls' education and nutrition, role and equality of women in the society.

The participants were grateful for imparting knowledge through awareness programme. They were encourage to stand up for their rights. They felt the need to help their community against injustice done to girls and women.





Workshop for Teachers on Inclusive Education

From 23rd to 27th of November, 2020, workshop for teachers on Inclusive Education was held at the BRO Office at Ulubari Guwahati. A total of 26 participants, including Headmasters, Headmistresses, and teachers from Don Bosco Schools of Boko, Sashipur, Damra, Sojong, and Umwai attended the workshop. The Programme was inaugurated on the 23rd of November, by Fr. Januarius Sangma the Provincial of the Salesian Province of Guwahati. The main resource person for the programme was Ms. K. Usha Rani from Association for Persons with Disability, Bangalore.

During the workshop, the participants got inputs on teaching skills. They also conducted an Access Audit for Bosco Reach Out and submitted the findings and suggestions to Fr. Jayaprakash, Executive Director BRO. The participants had online interaction with Ms. Rosa Wahlang the headmistress of Joyti Sroat School, an inclusive school in Shillong, and Ms. Bertha Dkhar a Padmashree Awardee and current coordinator of the disability unit at Bethany Society, Shillong. The participants all expressed their thanks for a good experience at BRO, full of learning and fun.





CARE Teachers' Training Programme

Bosco Reach Out organised two Teachers' Training Programme at its head office Guwahati in the months of September and December, 2020 under the CARE (Children at Risk Education) project, Kokrajhar. The project has been implemented in 36 CARE schools in Kokrajhar with the support of Childaid Network, Germany.

In view of the COVID-19, the first training was conducted for 50 teachers in two batches on September 14-16, 2020 and September 17-19, 2020 respectively. Mr. Romeo D'Monte (the Project Coordinator of BRO) facilitated the training. The training programme was inaugurated (by) Fr. A. Jayaprakash (Executive Director of BRO) in the presence of Fr. Raphael Cherukareth (Associate Director of BRO), and Bro. Micheal Kindo (Administrator of BRO). Ms. Anna Richa (TET Trainer, Freelancer) the resource person, took sessions on 'Maintenance of Class Room' and 'Teaching Method' on the first and second day. On the third day, Fr. Raphael Cherukareth delivered a session on 'The Education and Its Importance'. On the same day, Fr. Kairala SDB (DBI) spoke on 'The Human Brain' which include: different types of brain, the quantity of the human brain, the growth process of man (0 - 2 years, 2 - 6 years and 6 years and above), system of human brains, and how the human brain works. Every morning, before the session began, the teachers would have physical exercises.

Another three days training was also held from December 17 to 19, 2020, at Bosco Reach Out, Guwahati. The topics covered in the training programme were the development of child's mental capacity, preparation of lesson plans, and Teachers Learning Material (TLM) for Science, Maths and English. Importance was given on teacher and student bonding, sports and games. The training was through songs, story narration, group and individual activities, questioner, discussions. There was a review of the previous training session. There were 47 teachers and four Coordinators who attended the training.

It was training where everyone was made to feel the importance of being a teacher, their roles and responsibilities towards the welfare of the society by consistently educating the children. The teachers were motivated. They were thrilled to go back and start their classes.



Generating Self-Employment

Mr. Windar Marak is one of the successful trainees of carpentry course under project titled 'Skill Development Training of Reversed Migrants in TDF Project area, Rongjuli block, Goalpara District'. The project is supported by NABARD, Guwahati and implemented by Bosco Reach Out, Guwahati. He attended the carpentry course from September 15 to October 14, 2020 at Mariampur, Rongjuli block, Goalpara district of Assam.

He is 51 years old. He passed class VII. He belongs to Garo tribe, Scheduled Tribe community of Assam. He and his 12 family members live in Mariampur. He is the sole breadwinner of the family. He worked on contract at Williamnagar, Meghalaya for many years without any formal training. He earned on an average Rs. 17,000.00 per month and runs his family. He could not return to his workplace and earn due to the COVID-19 lockdown. By June, 2020 his saving was exhausted. It became difficult to meet the family expenses.

He was awarded with certificate of successful completion of the skill training on carpentry. He was linked with Assam Gramin Vikash Bank (AGVB), Dhupdhora branch for credit linkage. He received MUDRA loan sanction letter from AGVB, Dhupdhora branch amounting Rs.50, 000.00 for his carpentry unit. He will employ two of his sons. He is very happy and grateful to NABARD and BRO for their innovative action to generate self-employment and employment through the project.





Distribution of Paddy Seeds for Cultivation

Bosco Reach Out has initiated to distribute good quality paddy seeds to the farmers and migrant labourers during COVID-19 pandemic. The objective was to enable them to start some livelihood activities and increase production through paddy cultivation during this pandemic. This has been carried out under the project entitled 'Livelihood Activities for Farmers and Migrant Labourers of Tezpur Region, Assam State, India'.

On September 25 & 26, 2020, BRO personnel Mr. Hingba Ezekiel (Programme Officer) and Mr. Ram Bahadur Tamang (Field Coordinator) organised the programme on distribution of paddy seeds for cultivation. A total number of 250 farmers and migrant labourers of Tezpur Region received 40kg each of paddy seeds. The beneficiaries were from 10 villages of Tezpur region, viz., Raigaon, No. 1 Bordikorai, No. 2 Bordikorai, No. 1 Morisuti, No. 2 Morisuti, Christian Basti, Balijuri, Garbil, Silenipam, and Azarguri.

The programme was successful. The farmers readily welcomed it as they had access to good extension services as per their needs. They enthusiastically took part and adopted the knowledge gained during the programme. They appreciated the quality input support and training in agriculture under the project. They expressed their gratitude for the services rendered to them. They requested BRO to continue its intervention in different livelihood aspects for the sustainable development of the people.





Input Supply–Kuroiler Chicks and Vegetable Seeds

Bosco Reach Out organised 'Programme on Distribution of Chicks' on October 2, 2020, at Morisuti village in Sonitpur district. It has been conducted under the project 'Livelihood activities for farmers and Migrant Labourers of Tezpur Region, Assam' supported by Jugend Eine Welt (Germany), Coordinated by Bosconet (Delhi), and implemented by Bosco Reach Out (Assam). They distributed 7500 Kuroiler chicks to 250 project beneficiaries (30 chicks to each beneficiary). On October 13, 2020, under the same project, a similar 'Programme on Distribution of Vegetable Seeds' was held at the Morisuti village in Sonitpur district. Varieties of vegetable seeds, viz., cabbage, cauliflower, knolkhol, brinjal, long beans, radish, carrot, and peas were provided to 250 project beneficiaries. Both the distribution programmes were done in the presence of Fr. A. Jayaprakash (Executive Director of Bosco Reach Out) and Mr. Hingba Ezekiel (Programme Officer of BRO).

The Executive Director of BRO, in his speech, encouraged the beneficiaries to work hard. He said that a simple beginning with dedication will lead to success. Rearing of chicks could be taken as income generating activities for their family. Vegetable cultivations would provide them nutrition and income on selling the surplus produced. He mentioned that they should utilise the project facilities properly and gain maximum benefit out of it. Their good results would enable BRO to approach more partners and reach out to more people who are in great need.

Mr. Ram Bahadur Tamang (Field Coordinator of BRO) has been constantly monitoring the project activities. The beneficiaries are contented with their chicks rearing and vegetable cultivation.





Formation of Farmers Producer Organisation in Sonitpur District

Bosco Reach Out under the project 'Livelihood activities for farmers and Migrant Labourers of Tezpur Region, Assam' initiated to form Farmers Producer Organisation (FPO) in the project area. It was intended to emerge the producers as one of the most effective pathways to address the many challenges of agriculture. Also enhance the productivity, improve access to investments, technology and inputs, and market strength.

The two programmes on the formation of the Farmer Producer Organisation were organised on October 21 and 22, 2020. The programmes were facilitated by Mr. Hingba Ezekiel (Programme Officer of Bosco Reach Out) and Mr. Ram Bahadur Tamang (Field Coordinator of Bosco Reach Out). A total of 120 farmers attended the programme. By the end of the programme two FPOs were formed, viz., Milijuli FPO and Ashirbad FPO.





TDF Farmers Training and Demonstration

On July 6, August 7, October 7 and 8, 2020, Farmers Training and Demonstration was held at villages of Lalai Anthabari (Malivita), No.2 Jamnaguri (Jonota), Malivita, and Amlaiguri respectively. It was organised under the NABARD TDF Bagan project, Chirang district of Assam. The topics were focussed on concept sharing on the layout of the multiple horticulture crop orchard and package of practices of orange and areca nut. It was intended that through the programme, farmers would improve their knowledge on scientific methods of horticulture plantation and management practices, soil conservation methods, water resource development, and aware of intercultural operation - weeding, mulching, and plant protection for young plantation. They would take up intercropping with optimum utilization of their land resources and earn extra income. Mr. Kanin Basumatary - Project Field Coordinator of BRO facilitated the programme.

The resource person, Mr. Jion Narzary (Project Field Coordinator of BRO) demonstrated the land preparation, spacing, pit digging, manure application, secondary nursery bed, and proper fencing specially the use of green fencing. He explained in detail the planting method and layout of wadi. He also covered management practices, intercultural operations for young orchard plants, and method of pitcher drip irrigation.

The farmers who participated the training and demonstration enhanced their knowledge. They were willing to implement it in their respective wadies.





Laying of the Foundation Stone: Green Skill Training Centre, Joropara

On December 28, 2020 a programme was organized for the laying of the foundation stone of the Green Skill Training Centre, Joropara. Present in the programme were Fr. Januarius S Sangma (Salesian Provincial, Guwahati Province), Fr. Joseph Teron (Salesian Vice Provincial, Guwahati Province), Fr. Jayaprakash Anthonimuthu (Executive Director, Bosco Reach Out), Fr. Raphael Cherukareth (Associate Director, Bosco Reach Out), Fr. Charles Ch. Sangma (Regional Councillor), Fathers, Sisters, and staff of BRO. A huge number of the surrounding villagers attended the programme.

Fr. Raphael Cherukareth (Associate Director, Bosco Reach Out) Welcomed and felicitated the dignitaries on the occasion, with Garo traditional attires. Fr. A. Jayaprakash (Executive Director, Bosco Reach Out) explained the significance of the day. He shared the courses of the skill training which includes Solar Technician; Biogas Systems Technician; Solar Technician (advanced) (Training of Trainers); Land, Water and Waste Management Technician; Forestry Technician; and Organic Agriculture. Project activities will also have rice growing (intensification), ecological agriculture, livestock farming/cattle breeding, mushroom growing, biogas, and beekeeping. The training centre would propagate tapping the solar energy. Fr. Charles Ch. Sangma (Regional Councillor) spoke on the need of such training centre in the region where a lot of unemployment exists. Fr. Joseph Teron (Salesian Vice Provincial, Guwahati Province) spoke on the importance of agriculture and solar energy. He advised the people to obtain optimum benefit from the project and enhance the development of their community. Fr. Januarius S Sangma (Salesian Provincial, Guwahati Province), in his message mentioned that the centre is meant to impart green skill trainings. He encouraged the people to engage themselves in skill trainings which will enable them to get or create a job. He wished the Executive Director of BRO and his team the very best in implementing the project successfully. Fr. Jayaprakash A. thanked the dignitaries, the invitees and the village communities who came to witness the function. He also thanked Don Bosco Mondo, German Government BMZ, and Save Foundation for their collaboration and support. Fr. Januarius S Sangma (Salesian Provincial, Guwahati Province) led the blessing of the foundation stone and unveiled the Plaque.

The programme on the laying of the foundation stone was witnessed with much anticipation. There has been a great hope that the surrounding villagers as well as neighbouring states would attend the skill trainings. They could get employed or self-employed.



Flood Relief in Four Districts of Assam

Bosco Reach Out has been providing assistance to the victims of flood across the state with necessities and helped them in rebuilding their lives. Millions of people were affected by the flood. They lost their shelter, the basic necessities and most of the movable assets along with livestock. In Karbi Anglong district, Fr. Lucas Marak - Parish Priest of Sojong, Local Catechist and Leaders of the area, surveyed the houses of the villages of Kollongamukh, Deramukh, New Bithung and Rengthama No.10 and selected the most disadvantaged and economically poor families. On August 20, 2020 Bosco Reach Out Guwahati personnel, Mr. Romeo Monte and Mr. Ezekiel Chawang, with the help of Fr. Lucas Marak, Local Volunteers and Leaders distributed flood relief material kits to the selected 200 families.

A similar survey was carried out in the districts of Udalguri and Kokrajhar. During the months of July to September 2020, the selected 200 underprivileged families were provided with flood relief material kits. The kit includes rice, dal, edible oil, salt, sugar, tea leaves, 'cheera'/'murry', nutrela nuggets, utensil, washing bar soap, bathing soap, detergent for washing cloth, phenyl, and sanitary napkin.

On August 25, 2020, BRO in partnership with Habitat For Humanity India, distributed humanitarian aid kit to 63 marooned families of Chirang district in Assam supported by CISCO. The distribution of the flood relief material kits was carried out by BRO Guwahati personnel, Mr. Ezekiel Chawang, and Ms. Catherine Kujur, with the help of Fr. Francis Basumatary (the local Parish Priest), Sisters, and school teachers. The objective of the relief work was to provide immediate relief to the marooned flood victims of Assam for survival.

The beneficiaries were really grateful to the agencies for providing the materials at the time of crisis. They mentioned that the materials in the kit were the right items for their family. "It gave me a deep sense of happiness to contribute a little help to the needy persons. Though it was very small they received it with great love and appreciation. I could see it from their smiles. I thanked DBNet on behalf of the beneficiaries and BRO for the timely help to the people in need," Mr. Ezekiel Chawang reported.



Diwali Celebration

It was a joyful moment for Bosco Reach Out to celebrate Diwali, the Festival of Lights every year. It brings us a sense of homeliness in the workplace. This year 2020, a short symbolic Diwali programme was organised. A beautiful traditional flower rangoli was lit up with earthen diyas.

Fr. A. Jayaprakash (Executive Director of BRO) warmly welcomed everyone. The programme began with a prayer hymn followed by a significant lighting of the lamp by Fr. A. Jayaprakash (Executive Director), Fr. Raphael Cherukareth (Associate Director), Bro. Michael Kindo (Administrator), Ms. Minku Das (Project Coordinator), Mr. Kayikho (DTP), Mr. Koren Sangma (Pilot), Ms. Karishma (Support Staff). Ms. Manashi Thakuria (Accountant) shared beautifully the meaning of Diwali followed by the Assamese song (Aha Probhu). Fr. Raphael Cherukareth in his speech mentioned how different parts of India celebrate Diwali. Another special song 'Give Me Oil' was presented by the staff. Ms. Grace Guria delivered vote of thanks. The programme ended with sharing of tea and Diwali sweets.



Pre-Christmas and Advance New Year 2021 Celebration

On the 19th of December BRO office celebrated both Pre-Christmas and New Year 2021 at its head office in Guwahati. Fr. Januarius S Sangma (Salesian Provincial of Guwahati Province) was the Chief Guest. Besides him were present Fr. Joseph Teron (Salesian Vice Provincial of Guwahati Province), Fr. Benny (Economer of Guwahati Province), Fr. A. Jayaprakash (Executive Director of BRO), Fr. C. Raphael (Associate Director of BRO), and Br. Michael Kindo (Administrator of BRO), and Staff of BRO.

Fr. C. Raphael welcomed all the guests and honoured them with traditional gamosha and BRO scarf. It was followed by a Christmas carol sung by Office Staff. CARE Teachers presented Nepali dance and sang Christmas songs in different local languages. The Chief Guest delivered a beautiful message on the birth of Jesus the Saviour. CARE teachers presented a skit to commemorate the Birth of Jesus. Fr. A. Jayaprakash the Executive Director of BRO distributed Christmas gifts to all the guests present and BRO staff to inculcate the spirit of sharing and caring. He thanked all the guests and praised the staff for their sincere hard work during the year 2020. He extended warm greetings of Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2021.

The boundless joy of celebrating the festival was visible on the face of all the people present. The Chief Guest cut the Christmas cake. Everyone enjoyed the delicious Christmas dinner. All hearts were filled with the spirit of Christmas and New Year 2021 celebration.





Field Monitoring Visit NABARD-TDF, Chirang



Piglet Distribution NABARD-TDF, Chirang



Exposure Visit Pickle Trainee at BRO

Distribution Of Loom under SFURTI project Micro Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME)

