

**BOSCO  
REACH OUT**



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# Focus



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# Director's Message



**Dear Friends,**

Greetings from Bosco Reach Out!

I would like to start with a quote:

“Be a reflection of what you'd like to receive. If you want love, give love. If you want truth, be truthful. If you want respect give respect. What you give out will return to you”. (Kristen Butler) I would like to see development happening especially in the North East and we are at work for the same.

We are enthused by the newly launched TDF projects in Dibrugarh District of Assam and the West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh. The farmers of the Dibrugarh District had an educational exposure visit under the Capacity Building for Adoption of Technology (CAT) programme. A feasibility study for new intervention on the TDF project in Kushduwa block, Goalpara district had been organised effectively. A job fair was conducted in BRO office premises. Many recruiters from different sectors and job seekers came together and benefited from the job fair.

We are privileged to extend our service through Right to Access Conceptual Education (RACE), a new project for schools in West Karbi Anglong District. We are happy for the youth for availing the facilities of computer course at Umrangso Centre, Dima Hasao.

The children of CARE Centres received textbooks, copybooks, class room benches and school bags. Meetings for parents, students, and the School Management Committees of Children At Risk Education was conducted to discuss their prevalent issues and step forward is looked into.

Solar lanterns were distributed to the needy families of our target areas where the power supply is always disrupted and the population is reduced to the usage of kerosene lamps. Many people took part in the programmes conducted on Climate Change, School Safety Preparedness Drills for Teachers and Staff, Crop Farming Management, System of Rice Intensification (SRI), and Organic Farming.

Charitable and generous partners and supporters extended their helping hand to us to reach out to the flood victims during the heavy floods in Assam.

We congratulate Nabajyoti Rural Mart for receiving the 'Third Best Performing Rural Mart 2021-22 in Assam' from NABARD, ARO Guwahati.

I thank the staff of BRO for all the tireless and hard work they put in reaching out the marginalised and the afflicted of this region. I also thank all the Agencies, Donors, different departments in the Govt and private sector and all the benefactors for your valuable support and help in reaching out the unreached. May the Almighty God continue to bless you and your family with His choicest blessings.

Thank you

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





## Computer Literacy at Umrangso Centre

Keeping in view the present-day scenario, computer literacy has become an essential skill in today's digital world. Hence, Umrangso Centre was initiated with an aim to provide a computer literacy programme to the youth of its region and now has a fully functioning computer lab set up for the students.

The first batch of 112 students completed the certificate course in computer application (MS Office) from the period 1 April 2022 to 30 June 2022. The second batch of 40 students have joined the six months courses on Diploma in Computer Application (DCA) and Diploma in Computer Programming (DCP) from 1 July 2022 and will be completed on 30 December 2022. The students have regularly attended their computer classes and are building their confidence through this programme. Most students in this course are now willing to move to other parts of India to look for job opportunities after completion of this course. The students have also suggested an advanced level computer course which will be even more useful for them.





## **Congratulations Nabajyoti Rural Mart – FPO**

On the occasion of the 41<sup>st</sup> NABARD Foundation Day, Bosco Reach Out's promoted Nabajyoti Rural Mart was awarded Third Best Performing Rural Mart 2021-22 in Assam, by NABARD Assam Regional Office, in recognition of the services rendered for furthering the cause of sustainable and equitable agriculture and rural development through participative financial and marketing interventions, micro-credit innovation, and ushering financial inclusion for securing rural prosperity.

Nabajyoti Rural Mart is a unit of marketing outrun by Nabajyoti Farmer Producers Organisation (FPO) at Kothakuthi village, Rongjuly block of Goalpara district with the support of NABARD Assam RO. 400 wadi beneficiaries of the Tribal Development Fund Programme at Goalpara districts are organised into two FPOs, namely Nabajyoti FPO and Twelve Village FPO. They sell rubber products and other Agri-Horticulture products through Nabajyoti Rural Mart inaugurated on 5 December 2021.





## Junior Parliamentarians Training - SSU

Training for Junior Parliamentarians at BRO head office was held on 25 July 2022 and 5 August 2022. The participants were children from different schools and communities of Ri-Bhoi district and are active members of the Children Parliament formed under the flagship of the Rashtriya Gramin Vikas Nidhi (RGVN) run project. The children were accompanied by Mrs. Aneeta Dutta the Deputy Director of RGVN and three other Project Coordinators.

On the first day, thirty children attended the training which was focused on Building Leadership Qualities in them. The important topics covered were mostly Leadership qualities, the Role of a Leader, and the Role of a Child Leader, with a major focus on Interpersonal Skills. The training session was animated through storytelling, songs, question-and-answer sessions, and a PowerPoint presentation.

On the second day, fifteen children were selected to attend the second session of the training programme. The session was focused on building and simplifying Communication Skills and their importance in our lives. Other topics discussed were Personality Development, Time Management, and Child Rights. A group discussion activity was also done with the children who were provided with handouts and materials to read, discuss, and share. The children have wished to come again for more such sessions and this is a testimony to a successful program held at Bosco Reach Out. Mr. Johnny Jacob Tudu, Ms. Jigyasha Kashyap, and Ms. Grace Guria from Bosco Reach Out, were the resource persons for the training programme.





## Job Fair 2022 - JPN

The career guidance and job placement network of Bosco Reach Out hosted a job fair in the office premises on the 18 and 26 August 2022, and another one on the 22 September 2022. Fr. Jayaprakash the Executive Director of Bosco Reach Out, Mr. Ghanashyam Pathak the Senior Project Manager of BRO, and Mr. Ranjon Changkakoty of National Career Service launched the three events respectively. Other people present at the event were Fr. Jimmy T. Sangma, the Administrator of BRO, Fr. Gabriel Karunaraj, the National Director of Job Placement Network (JPN), Mr. Nazibul Islam the Young Professional Centre Coordinator of National Career Service (NCS) Guwahati, Dr. Venkatesh Kurakula the Assistant Director Employment In-charge, Miss Runu Deka the Career Assistant, Mr. John Martin the Programme Coordinator of Don Bosco Job Placement Network (DBJPN) Central Team, Mr. Sebi Chacko the Regional Coordinator from Dimapur, Mr. Johnny Jacob the Regional Coordinator of JPN, Guwahati Province. Volunteers from Don Bosco Institute (DBI) Kharguli, interns from Mahapurush Shrimanta Sankardev Vishwavidyalaya, and Assam Don Bosco University had also joined in for volunteering purposes.

There was a total of 18 recruiters from different sectors who participated in the event. More than 317 candidates registered for the event and 159 young people were provided with job opportunities and the rest are in their process. All the job seekers expressed their gratitude for an opportunity as such as this is the need of the hour. They also expressed that it was a learning experience and requested the conduction of more such events in the future.





## Parents and Students of CARE Meeting

On 12 August 2022, a meeting was organised for the parents, students, and the SMCs of Joypur School, Kokrajhar district. The agenda of this meeting was to discuss the various ways to improve the performance of the Class X students through proper preparation and to do damage control of the school property. Before the commencement of the meeting a movie screening was done which was followed by a discussion of the moral lesson of the movie which was “Madam Geeta Rani”.

Ms. Grace Guria the Project Coordinator of BRO motivated the students to keep studying and aim for building their future. She also stated that the prevailing early marriages in the community need to be stopped as it breaks the fiber and makes the community weak. The parents as the caregivers also agreed to take a strong stand for this issue. Mr. Daniel Hasda the President of the SMCs promised to renovate the school infrastructure and look into the improvement of the student's overall performance. Mr. Sathya Tudu the Headmaster ensured making constructive changes in the school and expressed his gratitude towards Bosco Reach Out for its constant support to make the school better.

The students of the school expressed their willingness to study well and asked for special attention to be given to the subjects of Science, Maths, and English. Parents also expressed their concerns and that the community as a whole should ensure that the children reach school and take the classes seriously.





## Mothers' Groups Formation for CARE Centres

Awareness of mothers' group formation was organised at every CARE Centre during August and September 2022. Many mothers came to the designated centres to be a part of these groups and their presence was a joyful one. This initiative was aimed to give the mothers a platform to voice their opinions and share grievances. Which eventually will be a learning experience for all and will help everyone to collectively live a better life in the communities.

The CARE Community Educators Ms. Puspa Baskey and Ms. Paulina Mardi along with Ms. Grace Guria, met the mothers in separate groups and explained the different purposes of the formation of the Mothers Group, like focusing on the children's education, discussing relevant children's issues, and also about intervening in the health problems of the people in their villages. A total of 22 mothers' groups have been formed in the 22 CARE Centres. They have selected their respective group captains and vice-captains who are literate and can guide them through. The Community Educators supported by the Cluster Coordinators and the respective school teachers help in monitoring each mother's group in the CARE centres. More than 600 women are members of the group and each group maintains a register for proper documentation.







## Feasible Study for New Intervention on TDF Project

On 26 August 2022, at Siva Mandir Community Hall, Chechapani village, Kushduwa block, Goalpara a programme was organised to discuss the feasibility study with strategy and planning of the new TDF project. The new project will be adopting the 'KVIC RE-HAB Technology' (Reducing Elephant-Human Attacks using Bees) and this was discussed in the meeting as well.

Shri Kanchanmoni Gohain, DDM NABARD Goalpara, Shri Dasanand Hajong, Ward Member of Chechapani Part I, Shri Binay Khakhlary, Ward Member of Chechapani Part III, Mrs. Minku Das, Project Coordinator of BRO, Mr. Raman Rabha, Field Extension Worker of BRO, Mr. Rajeshwar Hajong, Nabajyoti FPO Member at Mariampur of Rongjuli block, and more than 60 enthusiastic farmers of three villages were present.

Mrs. Minku Das commenced the programme with a welcome speech and explained Bosco Reach Out's TDF projects with a major focus on the TDF Goalpara district. Shri Kanchanmoni Gohain elaborated on the objective of the NABARD TDF Project and its achievements of the previous projects which were implemented at Goalpara. Mr. Rajeshwar Hajong mentioned his experience as one of the wadi beneficiaries, about planting rubber plants in his unutilised land as the main crop in 2013, practicing intercroops and IGA, attending various training, becoming a member of FPO, harvesting and marketing their produce through their FPO's owned rural mart and the benefits of the same. Mr. Raman Rabha thanked the dignitaries, guests, officers from government departments, and farmers for participating in the meeting. A field visit was also organised and 10 of the farmers showed their proposed wadi areas.





## WASH Programme – TDF Chirang

The Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) programme was organised under the Health Education Session for Women, on 11 and 18 August 2022 respectively in two different villages of Thajwoubari Janata and Malivita of Chirang district of Assam. The resource person of the program was Shri. Jion Narzary, Project Field Coordinator of Bosco Reach Out and 48 participants attended the programme.

The topics discussed during the WASH programme were mostly focused on water - water access, water safety, sustainability, and sanitation practices. It was also discussed that more than just clean toilets it's the behaviours, habits, facilities, and services altogether that provide a safe and hygienic environment for the children. It's about the practices that need to be altered to fight diseases and grow in a healthy environment. It is a well know known fact that better hygiene practices lead to better health, confidence, and overall growth of a healthy person and this was promoted throughout the programme.



## VPC Management – TDF Chirang

BRO organised a Village Planning Committee (VPC) Management programme under group formation and awareness building on 28 August 2022 in Sijwouguri, Janata, in the Chirang district of Assam. The programme was organised to create awareness of the active participation of VPCs in the implementation and sustainability of the project. The resource person was Mr. Jion Narzary, the Project Field Coordinator of BRO. The participants of the programme were 22 farmers from the community.

The purpose of VPC formation was to identify convergent solutions to address issues and problems faced by wadi beneficiaries during implementation projects and other issues such as accessing health and education services and economic opportunities. It also identifies and communicates the issues faced by wadi beneficiaries through community dialogue and monitoring of services and programmes of the project. This initiative will develop multi-sectoral convergent solutions and recommendations to address the issues in consultation and guidance of the project staff. Linking and networking with Government departments will also be done to avail various schemes.



## 7 Farmers Training and Demonstration – TDF Chirang

Farmer's Training and Demonstration - Management Practices for young horticulture plantation was organised on 26 July 2022 at Tilapara, Project Site Office, and 16 September 2022 at No.2. Jomnaguri, Janata, Chirang district of Assam. The objective was to improve the knowledge of the scientific method of horticulture plantation and other management practices. Mr. Jion Narzary, Project Field Coordinator, and Mrs. Minku Das, Agriculture Specialist were the resource persons of the programme. The importance of management practices such as fertilizer application, irrigation, mulching, identification of pests, diseases and their remedies, integrated pest management practices, and iterated nutrient management, importance in the present scenario were discussed by the resource persons. An on-field demonstration was also carried out on the fertilizer application method and identification of diseases and pests, some of the soil conservation measures - mulching, in-situ soil moisture conservation structures - contour, tranches, and growing green manuring-legume crops. A total of 45 farmers attended the training programme and it was a successful one.

## Awareness on Swanirbhar Naari Scheme for weaver – TDF Chirang

On 17 August 2022, at Malivita, Chirang district of Assam, under the promotion of Income Generating Activity (IGA) – weaving, an awareness programme was organised on 'Swanirbhar Naari'. One of the focuses was on the weavers' online registration among the wadi beneficiaries and the other weavers of the project's operational villages. Shri Dwjendra Kachari, the



Assistant Director of Handloom and Textile, GoA, Kajalgaon Chirang was present as the resource person. Shri Kristopher Basumatary, the Field Officer of Handloom and Textile, Kalajaon, Chirang, and Smt. Bina Goyary, the President of Women Justice Chirang were also present in the programme.

Under the Scheme, it was to be made sure that the traditional hand-woven items are to be procured directly from the indigenous weavers without involving any middlemen. Beneficiaries, which are the weavers will register through a specially developed web portal, called swanibharnaari.assam.gov.in. In the programme, the TDF project staff also helped about 86 weavers from Malivita and Janata VCDC to register in the swanibharnaari.assam.gov.in portal.



## Teeti Mary Rose Marak - Success Story (CSP)

Ms. Teeti

Mary Marak is 26 years old and is a resident of Tengasott village, Goalpara district of Assam. She is the youngest of eleven children and comes from an underprivileged background. She studied at Don Bosco High School, Damra. And to reach her school she needed to cross a river by boat every day which added to her struggle throughout. She finally completed her schooling from Class KG to Class X through the sponsorship programme of Fratelli Dimenticati and completed her Higher Secondary in 2016. Later she studied Diploma in Elementary Education from 2018 to 2019 and she passed the Teachers Eligibility Test (TET) in 2021.

In June 2022, she got her appointment as a Teacher at the Government LP School in Helapakri village, Goalpara district. She is a very dedicated teacher and does her work passionately. She is also a very active member of her community and on Sundays, she takes catechism classes for the Parish children at Damra.

We wish her a very bright future in the service of children and the community. Her success is our pride.



## Farmers' Training and Demonstration – TDF Dibrugarh

On 4 September 2022, BRO conducted the farmers' training and demonstration at the Project Site Office, Bolai Na Gaon, Dibrugarh district of Assam. Mrs. Minku Das, Project Coordinator (Agriculture) of BRO was the resource person of the programme. On 27 September 2022, the Farmers' Training Demonstration programme was again organised at the same venue and the resource persons were Shri. Jiban Saikia, Assistant Director and Shri. Dhruvajyoti Phukan, Sericulture Demonstrator, District Sericulture Office, Dibrugarh.

The training was organised mainly to introduce the different types of Silkworms - Eri Silkworm and Eri silk production, Eri food production-kesseru, castor plantation, and harvesting. Some other topics which were discussed on both days were the selection of leaves for feeding, the safety measures while feeding, different phases of rearing, the time schedules to provide feeding to the Eri worm, selection of seed cocoon, and measures to be taken during hatching, the different rearing techniques, safety measures on prevention of different types of diseases and treatment, precautions during the rearing house construction, post cocoon technologies, and weaving of Eri silk and its current demand in the market. A total of 51 beneficiaries took part in the training and demonstration programme and they were happy to get enlightened with the new technologies and ideas.



## Exposure Visit under CAT – TDF Dibrugarh

In September two exposure visits were organised under the Capacity Building for Adoption of Technology (CAT) programme. The programme was conducted for 50 Tribal Development Fund beneficiaries, Eri grower farmers from



Kutuha GP of Barbaruah block, Dibrugarh district. They were sent in two batches of 25 farmers (from 14 to 16 September 2022 and from 21 to 23 September 2022) to Central Muga Eri Research and Training Institute (CMER&TI), Central Silk Board, Lahdoigarh, Jorhat in Assam.

The farmers learned about Eri food like castor, kesseru plant production and maintenance, rearing of silkworms - rearing house, egg incubation, late-stage rearing, feeding, bed cleaning and ripe worm collection, processing of cocoons - drying, degumming and spinning, and Eri silk production and aftercare.

## ASER Test Refresher Training - CARE

ASER (Annual Status of Education Report) test is an annual study that aims to provide reliable annual estimates of the different levels of learning of each child. It assesses the children's reading and arithmetic skills. The ASER reading tools consist of four levels - Letters Level,



Words Level, Short Paragraph Level, and Longer Story Level. ASER Maths tool consists of two parts of Number Recognition with three levels - Number Recognition (single digit 0-9), Number Recognition (two-digit 10-99), and Number Recognition (three-digit 100-999), and Operation parts with four levels - Addition Level, Subtraction Level, Multiplication Level, and Division Level.

On 29 July 2022, the refresher training was attended by 17 CARE Teachers at Bosco Reach Out Office, Amguri. There was brainstorming of ideas, thorough discussions, demonstrations, and practices on various levels of learning of children. The CARE teachers understood and learned about the concept and gained confidence.



## Flood Relief

The flood situation in Assam turned grim, with an enormous number of people being affected every day. In August 2022, with the support of the Give India Foundation through the Don Bosco Network, BRO distributed Emergency Flood Relief Kits to vulnerable and marginalised households affected by flood in Dima Hasao (270 beneficiaries), Marigaon (241 beneficiaries) and Karbi Anglong (230 beneficiaries) districts of Assam. In July 2022, with the support of Salesian Mission NY, another flood relief kits were distributed to 1076 families affected by the flood at Darrang (201 families), Chirang (118 families), Karbi Anglong (501 families) and Nagaon (256 families) districts. BRO with the support of Nestle via the Don Bosco Network distributed dry ration kits to 503 families of Karbi Anglong, Cachar, and Chirang districts. Also, Amazon helped 500 families in Darrang and Nalbari districts with emergency flood relief materials. Don Bosco Mission Bonn, Germany (201 families of Cachar district) and Manos Unidas, Madrid, Spain (504 families of Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao districts) contributed to helping the flood victims.

BRO and the flood victim families thanked all the organisations for providing emergency support for the nation's disaster.





## **Textbooks, Copybooks and School Bags for CARE Children**

BRO through the CARE schools provided basic and primary education for the most deprived and underprivileged children of different remote areas of the Kokrajhar district. At present, 1306 children are studying in 23 CARE schools and are being provided with teachers, uniforms, textbooks, copybooks, school bags, desks, and benches.

On 22 July 2022, the CARE Cluster Coordinators of BRO distributed 4604 copybooks to 1151 CARE students of 22 CARE schools through the representatives of each CARE school teacher. Each student will get 4 copybooks of English, Maths, Assamese, and Hand Writing. 305 textbooks for four subjects (English, Maths, Environmental Science, and Assamese) were provided to Class III to Class V students in 9 CARE schools. Some textbooks were given to students of Lungsung and Saralpara CARE Centres, as well as they, had no textbooks to read. On 27 August 2022, the CARE teachers of 21 CARE schools also received 986 school bags for their CARE children studying from KG to Class V. The CARE team, the parents, and the CARE children are very grateful to Bosco Reach Out and Childaid Network (Germany) for their constant support.







## Solar Lantern Distribution - Green Skill

Bosco Reach Out distributed 751 solar lanterns to the needy families of the target areas during this quarter under the project 'Contribution to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and sustainable improvement of living conditions of marginalised population groups in Joropara and surroundings of Northeast India'. The lanterns were distributed to 237 families of the Mendal region, 85 families of the Boko region, 113 families of the Kumarikata region, and 316 families of the Goalpara region. It was provided to the remotest areas of the project implementation regions, where the power supply is disrupted and irregular.

It envisages that solar lantern usage in place of kerosene lamps reduces carbon dioxide and other harmful gases. During the solar lantern distribution programs, the BRO Staff emphasised reducing kerosene lamps and using more solar lanterns at home. These lanterns will be of great help to the people, especially to the students in these areas.



## **Awareness Programme on Climate Change – Green Skill**

BRO conducted 12 awareness programmes on climate change and their impact on rural people for Cluster Level Federations (CLF) and Self-Help Group (SHG) leaders in six regions of Mendal, Karbi Anglong,



Boko, Kumarikata, Tezpur, and Lemakona. The objective was to create awareness of the causes and impact of climate change. A total of 800 farmers belonging to CLF and SHG leaders attended the programme. The programme emphasised mostly the agricultural sector, which is already threatened by the existing stresses due to Climate Change. The programme imparted the mitigations and adaptation measures the agriculture sector can undertake to cope with the changes in the future.

BRO also conducted 12 other awareness programmes on Climate Change for 347 teachers and staff of different schools from six project-implementing regions. The objective was to create awareness among teachers and other staff as well so that they can impart proper knowledge to the students on climate change with a sense of responsibility and develop a positive attitude in protecting the environment and advocating for it.

## **School Safety Preparedness Drill for Teacher and Staff - Green Skill**

School is a critical infrastructure where children are shaped for a better future. A safe and secure environment is essential for effective teaching and learning and it



is necessary to ensure the safety of children, teachers, and staff members during a disaster. Every school should improve their disaster preparedness through education, awareness, demonstration, and improved disaster management skills among school children, teachers and parents, and establish proper response systems.

BRO conducted 12 training on School Safety Preparedness Drill (SSPD) in six regions of Mendal, Karbi Anglong, Boko, Kumarikata, Tezpur, and Lemakona. About 330 teachers and staff of schools participated in the demonstration on earthquake, fire, and flood. Demonstrations of improvised methods of making stretchers with rope, bamboo and blanket, bamboo and rope, type of hand stretcher, self-rescue, rescuing others, the importance of triangle bandage, and types of knot binding were provided.



## Crop Farming Management - Green Skill

BRO organised 30 nos. of crop farming management trainings in six regions of Mendal, Karbi Anglong, Boko, Kumarikata, Tezpur, and Lemakona. This was organised under the programme 'training cum demonstration on mitigation measures to reduce GHG emission in Agriculture'. A total of 1093 farmers from the mentioned regions participated in the training and gained knowledge of the various improved agricultural practices.

Crop management is the set of agricultural practices performed to improve the growth, development, and yield of crops. Adoption of the best crop management practices improves greater crop productivity with improved quality. It begins with seedbed preparation, sowing of seeds, and crop maintenance; and ends with crop harvest, storage, and marketing. The timing and sequence of agricultural practices depend upon several factors, such as winter or spring crops, harvested products, sowing methods, plant age, soil, climate, and weather conditions. Adopting a consistent crop and soil management system on a farm develops a more resilient crop production system and provides more sustainable crop yields. Managing and reducing input costs is critical to profitability.





## **System of Rice Intensification (SRI) - Green Skill**

BRO conducted 12 training sessions on System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in six regions of Mendal, Karbi Anglong, Boko, Kumarikata, Tezpur and Lemakona and 664 farmers attended the training. After the training session the farmers were convinced to practice SRI in their field.

SRI is a different way of cultivating rice, which includes changes in nursery management, in the time of transplantation, and in water and weed management, which can also easily counter the side effects of the Green Revolution. It is a beneficial method for Rural households as more rice grains are grown for consumption and is sold from the same piece of land. It is a cost-effective manner, has higher income rates and lower costs and includes less usage of water, reduced dependency on purchased inputs, enhanced natural resource base, reduced risk and vulnerability and improved farm/family health. SRI enhanced ecosystem services involved in regulating water, soil, climate, reductions in Green House gases, especially methane, less loss of plant and animal biodiversity from soil and water pollution, reduced flashpoints for conflict over food, water, land and improved planetary health.





## Organic Farming - Green Skill

18 training programmes on organic farming were conducted in six regions of Mendal, Karbi Anglong, Boko, Kumarikata, Tezpur, and Lemakona. Around 1002 farmers who attended the training will be practicing organic farming.

Organic farming is an agricultural approach that advocates healthy products free from components that may harm humans and nature. Organic farming uses fewer pesticides, reduces soil erosion, decreases nitrate leaching into groundwater and surface water, and recycles animal wastes into the farm. Many changes observed in the environment are long-term, occurring slowly over time. It considers the medium and long-term effects of agricultural interventions on the agroecosystem. It aims to produce food while establishing an ecological balance to prevent soil fertility or pest problems.



## Promotion/Mobilisation-TDF West Kameng

Different methods of promotion like personal meetings and home visit, small group meetings, and community meetings were adopted for the awareness and mobilisation of the farmers and to disseminate the project concept. At the same time, the selection of beneficiaries, the re-verification of the proposed wadi areas, and the signing of consent letters were also done.

BRO conducted four promotions/mobilisations covering 42 farmers. Topics discussed included reducing financial risk for farmers, outlining the steps in the agricultural risk management process, strengthening farmer capacity, and ensuring access and usage of quality inputs and services, food crops, marketable products grown for annual turnouts. The beneficiaries also showed ownership of being with the project and for taking actions and measures to be in the field. They are also actively taking part with the maintenance and in its progress.



## **Skill Training Courses in Gardening (Horticultural, Floricultural and Medicinal Plants)**

Skill Training Courses in Gardening (Horticultural, Floricultural and Medicinal Plants) has successfully trained 126 rural youth, especially the school dropouts, of which 65 were female while 61 were male. The training is an in-house programme, so the trainees are accommodated in the existing hostel at the training centre Mendal, North Garo Hills district of Meghalaya. The fourth and fifth batches of the skill training courses in Gardening (Horticultural, Floricultural and Medicinal Plants) has completed in July and August 2022 respectively. The sixth batch of 27 trainees (12 female and 15 male) are completing the training in October 2022. The training program is running smoothly with both theory and practical sessions. All the Trainees received a certificate, tool kits, and some planting materials after completion of the training.

The training enables the youth in rural areas to enhance their income by undertaking nurseries, cultivating flower plants and orchids, marketing plants and flowers, and setting up gardens for private parties. Most of the past out trainees in gardening have initiated their farm-based activities to increase their income.





## First SMC Meeting under Donkamukam Cluster

Right to Access Conceptual Education (RACE) is a new project that has been initiated for the schools in the West Karbi Anglong district of Assam. BRO conducted the concept sharing of the new project in the presence of the school principal, the School Management Committee (SMC) president, and its members under the Donkamukam Cluster of the project. During the meeting the project activities to be done were shared with them, like - SMC meetings, organising and meeting with Mothers Group, teachers training, awareness program for parents and children, formation of Children Club, and conducting remedial classes.

All the school authorities were pleased with the project concept and assured their help in developing the school and every child's future. The SMC members also expressed their desire to cooperate in implementing the project. They showed interest in increasing the number of children in the remedial class and requested the inclusion of Classes I and II in the remedial classes as well. They also made requests for regular remedial classes instead of alternate days. It could be seen that there are a lot of positive responses, signs of cooperation, and willingness to help from the school authorities and SMC members. The vision is clear, to encourage more children to come to school and spread the message of Child's Right to Access Conceptual Education in West Karbi Anglong.





## Farmers Training and Demonstration- TDF West Kameng

In August 2022, BRO conducted five farmer's training and demonstration. Different ideas and topics were discussed like the use of manure and fertilizer - the major inputs which directly influences the yield of crops if applied in balanced and optimum dose, plant protection - identification of pests and their control measures, soil and water management - techniques of storage and proper use of rainwater, terrace farming - on slopes to decrease water flow and prevent soil erosion, weed control - cultural weed control practice-crop rotation, summer tillage, field preparation, etc, harvesting and storage - time and methods of harvesting and storage, and package and practices of plum, Mahogany, Malaysian Sal and pineapple.

Other intercrops that are being grown were also a part of the discussion for a better understanding of their crop patterns and plantation. Mr. Prabhat KS, the Project Coordinator and Technical Staff was the resource person of the programme.

## VPC Formation and Management - TDF West Kameng

In August and September 2022, BRO organised nine VPC Formation and Management programmes. Mr. Prabhat KS, the Project Coordinator and Technical Staff was the resource person. Community mobilisation or involvement of the community in the project implementation is the key to the success of any project. Keeping this in mind, as per NABARD guidelines, Bosco Reach Out has promoted Village Planning Committees



(VPCs) in all Project Villages. Also, for the formation of Farmer Interest Groups (FIGs), Participant Groups (PGs) have been promoted and farmers have been divided based on their area as Participant Groups. Combining all VPCs, a Project Level Tribal Development Committee (PLTDC) has also been formed. Proper training is being given to the members of both, VPC and PLTDC. BRO intends to convert all VPCs and PGs into Farmer Producers Organisations (FPOs) by the time the TDF project reaches between 2-3 years of project implementation. To form the VPC a team of six members has been organised for the Chief and Core Functions of the project at the village level. President, Secretary, Treasurer, Cashier, Marketing Head-1, and Marketing Head-2 will remain the chief functionaries of the VPC and the rest of the beneficiaries under the village will represent as a member of the VPC.



