

**BOSCO
REACH OUT**



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**All good
thoughts and
ideas mean
nothing without
action**



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

I am extremely happy to present this issue of the FOCUS for the third quarter of 2023. It is my first message after I have taken over as the new Executive Director. I would like to place on record our sense of gratitude to Rev. Fr. Jayaprakash Anthonimuthu SDB for guiding the organisation for the last six years. He has been in Bosco Reach Out for a total of 13 years, first as the Administrator and as the Executive Director. In his tenure as the Executive Director, he has worked hard and brought it up to be a great organisation. He has brought in many projects which many have benefitted and will continue to benefit. I congratulate him on his appointment as the Economer of the Province of Guwahati. It is a great honour as well as responsibility bestowed on him. I am sure he will do well with the vast experience he has already gained.

I am also grateful to all the staff of Bosco Reach Out for the warm welcome they extended to me. In my short period at the helm of affairs I have seen the work done by the organisation, this is the result of the hard work of so many staff at the main office, at the regional offices and in the fields.

Many programmes were held in the past months. The six low-cost homes in North Garo Hills, Meghalaya, was blessed by Rev. Fr. Januarius Sangma, the Provincial of the Salesian Province of Guwahati. A new project, Focusing Accessible and Conceptual Education, will collaborate with 12 Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan schools, covering 25 SSA teachers and 546 students in the Kokrajhar, Bodoland Territorial Region. Another new project is Integrated Tribal Development Programme (ITDP) in Kusdhowa block of Goalpara district was inaugurated. BRO is implementing five ITDP covering more than 1400 wadi farmers in the districts of Dibrugarh, Goalpara and Chirang in Assam and West Kameng in Arunachal Pradesh. BRO honoured and awarded 90 successful trainees of Chiang district who completed a 15-day training program on skill upgradation for weavers under the Livelihood and Enterprise Development Programs.

During the summer vacation, Children At Risk Education (CARE) project centres in Kokrajhar and Right to Access Conceptual Education (RACE) project centres in Karbi Anglong engaged the students with artistic activities along with the teachers. More than 1,690 villagers, including local leaders, teachers, youth, and women, were informed about safe migration. Approximately 1,430 households received sensitization on safe migration, and around 340 local leaders expressed their eagerness to assist their communities. Around 2000 emergency flood relief kits has been distributed in the five districts of Assam most severely affected by the flood. Also 24,000 pineapple suckers of the Kew variety and 3,000 black pepper saplings were provided to 168 farmers who were members of 23 Self-Help Groups in Umrangso, Dima Hasao district of Assam. Around 1430 farmers from six regions of Tezpur, Kumarikata, Goalpara, Mendal, Karbi Anglong, and Boko received various training on farming, crop management, organic farming, and soil and water management.

Social work demands hard work and dedication. As I conclude, I would like to urge everyone to work hard and be self-less in serving the people.

Sincerely,

Fr. Sebastian Ishorary

Executive Director



BRO Inaugurates a New Project – ITDP Kusdhowa



On the 9th of August 2023, the much-anticipated inaugural ceremony of the "Integrated Tribal Development Programme (ITDP) in Kusdhowa block of Goalpara" took place in the Community Hall in Rong Rong Para, Kusdhowa block, Goalpara district, Assam. The program commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by Shri. Khanindra Chowdhury, IAS, the DC of Goalpara, Shri. Naveen Dhingra, the CGM of NABARD and the distinguished guests in attendance. Fr. A. Jayaprakash, the Executive Director of Bosco Reach Out (BRO), welcomed and honoured the dignitaries with a traditional Bodo aronai.



In the keynote address, Ms. Minku Das, Project Coordinator (Agriculture) of BRO, provided an

overview of the project. It is a comprehensive tribal development initiative that aims to develop horticulture crop orchards with beekeeping as a livelihood component on 150 acres of land, benefiting 230 individuals. The event saw a substantial turnout, with over 280 attendees, including guests, beneficiaries, farmers, and local residents.

Shri. Kanchanmoni Gohain, District Development Manager (DDM) of NABARD, presented an overview of the project and its potential. Shri. Khanindra Chowdhury, IAS, the District Commissioner (DC) of Goalpara, expressed his enthusiasm for the new project being implemented in an economically disadvantaged block.



Shri. Naveen Dhingra, the Chief General Manager of NABARD, expressed his heartfelt gratitude for the warm welcome, hospitality, and the substantial gathering of beneficiaries, indicating their keen interest in the project. This enthusiastic response is a positive sign of the project's potential for success in the later stages.

Other notable dignitaries in attendance included Shri. Sankar Das, AGM of NABARD Guwahati, Shri. Diganta Kakoti, AM of NABARD Guwahati, Dr. Biswajit Dey, Horticulture Scientist of KVK Dudhnoi, Dr. Utpal Bhattacharyya, Plant Pathologist Scientist of KVK Dudhnoi, Shri Chandan Haloi, Executive Officer of Honey Mission KVIC Guwahati, Shri. M Talukdar, Officer of Coconut Board Guwahati, Shri. Abhinash Patgiri, Agriculture Development Officer of Kusdhowa block, Shri. Abdul Halim, Officer Handloom and Textile Goalpara, and Shri. L. Sutradhar, GP President of Kusdhowa.

The CGM of NABARD and the DC of Goalpara symbolically presented planting materials, including mango (Amrapali), seedless litchi, and Assam lemon, to 20 beneficiaries. The dignitaries also awarded certificates to the trainees of the Micro Enterprise Development Programme (MEDP). The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Fr. Sebastian Ishorary, the newly appointed Executive Director of BRO. Following the program, the CGM of NABARD provided an overview of the project and its potential to the print and electronic media.



Summer Activities of the CARE Centres



During the summer vacation, an artistic activity for the children of CARE (Children at Risk Education) centres was organized from July 1st to July 15th, 2023. All the teachers from the CARE centres actively participated, offering encouragement and guidance to help the children unleash their inherent creativity through various crafting projects of their choice. Some of the children created clay objects such as vegetables, fruits, and animals, while others engaged in bamboo crafting, making hand fans, stools, winnowers, ploughs, yokes, levellers, and cylindrical traps for catching fish. Additionally, some children exhibited their paper crafting skills, producing flowers, decorative items, drawings, and paintings.

On July 12th and 13th, 2023, Fr. Ignatius Gari, the Associate Director of BRO, Ms. Grace Guria, the Project Coordinator of BRO, the Cluster Coordinators, and the Community Educators paid visits to the CARE centres. Their presence further boosted the children's enthusiasm. Despite adverse rainy weather, the children showcased their crafts with great determination.

"We extend our appreciation and gratitude to the teachers, Cluster Coordinators, and Community Educators for their unwavering support and assistance. The children in Saralpara amazed everyone with their various dances and songs. These activities underscore the tremendous potential within these children that needs to be channelled towards constructive purposes," remarked Ms. Grace Guria.



Health Awareness Camp – ITDP West Kameng



On August 11, 2023, BRO organized a health awareness program as part of the Wadi Plus activities in the villages of Gijiri and Tuluhi, which are project areas of the 'Integrated Tribal Development Programme for Thrizino Block of West Kameng district, Arunachal Pradesh.' The objective of this program was to promote holistic development within the tribal community.

Sister Nirmala, a Pharmacist and Nurse from St. Xavier School Medical Centre in Palizi, conducted health checkups for more than 57 patients and distributed medicines according to their specific requirements. She also raised awareness about maintaining good health. She advised them to adopt healthy practices, such as consuming hygienic food, drinking boiled water, maintaining personal hygiene with clean clothing, and keeping their surroundings clean. The common health issues observed among the patients included hypertension, diabetes, general body weakness, and gastritis. Additionally, a few patients were diagnosed with psychiatric conditions such as anxiety disorders, depression, and stress.

The villagers expressed their gratitude to BRO and NABARD Arunachal Pradesh for organizing the health awareness camp and providing medicines free of cost.



Teacher Effective Training for CARE and SSA Remedial Teachers



The Teacher Effective Training for Children at Risk Education (CARE) and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) remedial teachers, held at Amguri Technical Centre Kokrajhar from August 21 to August 23, 2023, had the primary goal of enhancing pedagogical skills, classroom management techniques, and the overall effectiveness of educators. This training utilized a combination of methods to engage participants, including interactive workshops with hands-on activities, group discussions for sharing experiences and insights, practical demonstrations of teaching techniques, and collaborative projects for applying the concepts learned.

The resource person, Mr. Abinash Dutta, covered various topics, including innovations for student-centred learning, inclusive teaching strategies to cater to diverse learning needs, effective use of tools to enhance instruction, and classroom management techniques to create a positive learning environment.

The participants overwhelmingly expressed their satisfaction with the training content and the interactive elements incorporated. Many participants shared success stories where they successfully applied the concepts learned during the training in their classrooms. Based on the feedback received from participants, future training sessions will include more practical sessions and may be extended by an additional day to allow for deeper discussions and more activities. This training program provided a valuable opportunity for educators to enhance their teaching skills and have a positive impact on student learning. The insights gained from this training are expected to improve teaching practices and enrich classroom experiences.



Capacity Building of the RACE Staff



Bosco Reach Out organized a capacity-building programme for the Right to Access Conceptual Education (RACE) teachers on three occasions: from July 25 to 27, 2023, from August 21 to 25, 2023, and from September 23 to 25, 2023. The programme took place at Don Bosco Baithalangso, Government Guest House in Dongka, and the BRO Head Office in Guwahati, respectively. The objective of these sessions was to enhance the skills, knowledge, and resources of the staff, enabling them to perform their roles more competently and achieve better outcomes. Thirteen RACE teachers participated in the programme.

Ms. Anna Richa, a Pedagogy Expert from BRO, served as the resource person for these sessions. She conducted interactive sessions covering various topics, including an understanding of the backgrounds of the children from different zones, addressing societal issues, creating effective lesson plans, facilitating the learning of body parts and numbers through action songs or rhymes, setting objectives for lesson plans, understanding the importance and requirements of a well-structured lesson plan, and practical guidance on preparing lesson plans based on the "The Wolf and the Lamb" story. Classroom management techniques were also discussed.

During the practical sessions, the participants created teaching aids, specifically flashcards, by selecting lessons from their textbooks. They also prepared demonstration classes based on their lesson plans.

Each teacher conducted their demo class with enthusiasm and success, demonstrating a strong commitment to their learning. They expressed eagerness to return to their respective centres and share the knowledge they had gained with the students.



Certification cum Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme - ITDP



On July 18, 2023, Bosco Reach Out organized a program to honor and award 90 successful trainees who completed a 15-day training program on skill upgradation for weavers under the Livelihood and Enterprise Development Programs (LEDP). The event took place at the Community Hall in Malivita, Sidli block, Chirang district of Assam. This skill upgradation training, supported by NABARD Assam, aimed to create sustainable livelihoods and enable participants to maximize the benefits of their skill enhancement.

During the event, Mr. Alaram Deury, the District Development Manager (DDM) of NABARD, presented certificates to the trainees and encouraged them to scale up their weaving efforts into enterprise units. Mr. Mapung Muchahary, a faculty member from the Rural Self Employment Training Institute Chirang, raised awareness about entrepreneurship. Also present at the occasion were SBI officials from Kajalgaon Chirang, Ms. Bhanuja Narzary and Shri. Maofung Narzary.

A demonstration unit has been established at Malivita, where the skill upgradation training took place. The trainees are now equipped with enhanced skills, motivating them to work diligently to increase their production and establish stronger market connections. They eagerly anticipate further training to become more competitive in the market.

On August 18, 2023, DDM NABARD and his team visited the LEDP trainees to provide additional information and insights on marketing handloom products.



A Dream to Fulfill

I am Andy Roger R. Marak, and I am filled with joy for achieving 85 percent with distinction and letter marks in English, Mathematics, Modern Indian Language (MIL), and Geography in my High School Leaving Certificate Examination in May 2023. This was a moment of immense happiness for my parents, teachers, and my school.

I was born on March 3, 2007, into a financially challenged yet deeply devout Christian family in Laskerpara village, located in the Goalpara district of Assam. My father, Mr. Augustine G. Momin, serves as an assistant teacher in a private missionary school, and my mother, Mrs. Strella R. Marak, takes care of our home. I also have a younger sister.

My educational journey began in Nursery, and I continued studying up to Class X at Don Bosco Colzani School in Damra. Throughout my school years, I consistently secured either first or second position in my class. In Class II, my Principal, Rev. Bro. Solomon Swer, took my photograph and sent it to Fratelli Dimenticati for sponsorship through Bosco Reach Out, which enabled me to complete my schooling.

While waiting for the results of my HSLC examination, I completed a two-month computer course at Don Bosco Institute (DBI), which is renowned as one of the premier institutes in North East India. I hold a dream close to my heart.

Currently, I am pursuing my studies in Class XI Science at Don Bosco Junior College in Tura, Meghalaya. I am immensely grateful to God Almighty for blessing me with wonderful parents. I extend my gratitude to my generous Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Augustine SDB of Damra Parish, my school teachers, and all those who have supported me. I owe a debt of gratitude to Fratelli Dimenticati for their love and sacrifices.

Autobiography: Mr. Andy Roger R. Marak



Career Guidance cum Awareness Programme - Job Placement Network (JPN)



Bosco Reach Out recently conducted a career guidance and awareness programme for students in Classes IX and X, aiming to help young teenagers identify their interests and talents in order to make informed career choices for their future. The program was led by Mr. Branzil Daimary, Project Coordinator of Don Bosco Job Placement Network India, BRO. This initiative aimed to increase awareness of the necessary factors involved in making the right career choices in today's competitive job market.

The career awareness program took place on September 9 and 12, 2023, at two schools: Don Bosco School in Amguri, Kokrajhar, and St. Francis Xavier Higher Secondary School in Dotma, Kokrajhar. Over 220 students from Classes IX and X actively participated in these sessions. Fr. Jojowar Naresh SDB, the Principal of St. Francis Xavier Higher Secondary School, encouraged the students and appreciated the program organized for his students. Fr. Ignatius Gari SDB, the Associate Director of Bosco Reach Out Guwahati, Ms. Grace Guria, the Project Coordinator for CARE, and Mr. Alben Kongadi, the Senior Project Manager of Bosco Reach Out Guwahati, imparted a career awareness programme at Don Bosco School in Amguri, Kokrajhar, alongside various other project initiatives.

“The students were very happy with the presentation as it was made engaging and lively with GIFs and memes which attracted their attention to the matter. Many of them approached me after the programme and thanked me. Schools like Don Bosco Amguri and St Francis Xavier Higher Secondary School, Dotma, which are located in a semi-urban or countryside setup need career guidance and awareness programmes much more than schools located in an urban setup,” mentioned Mr. Branzil Daimary, Project Coordinator BRO.



Care and Support for Safe Migration - Migrant Desk



The personnel from Don Bosco Bharosa Migrant Desk, BRO Guwahati, conducted 26 programs in various villages, with a particular focus on the tea gardens of Baksa district. These initiatives reached out to more than 1,690 villagers, including local leaders, teachers, youth, and women, helping them become more informed about safe migration. Additionally, participants gained valuable knowledge about financial literacy, record maintenance of migrant youth, and the significance of legal documents. Approximately 1,430 households received sensitization on safe migration, and around 340 local leaders expressed their eagerness to assist their communities. The leaders and youth expressed their contentment in acquiring knowledge about safe migration and pledged their support to aid migrant workers. Pamphlets in Hindi and Assamese were distributed, which raised awareness and provided vital information on safe migration to the community.

Eight potential migrants took advantage of free skill training at the State Bank of India's Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RESTI) in Kumarikata, Baksa district, Assam. Three of them successfully completed the skill training for Fast Food Stall Udyami from September 1 to 10, 2023, while two individuals attended Mushroom Cultivation training from September 11 to 20, 2023. Another three participants completed skill training for piggery from September 21 to 30, 2023. We extend our gratitude to the State Bank of India and the Ministry of Rural Development, GOI, for their support in these endeavors.

"On August 28, 2023, Ms. Sanjili Mardi, a migrant worker, and her eight-year-old daughter were separated at Rongia railway station while traveling from Dakhin Dobragaon village, Kokrajhar, to Kenducona, Rangia. The BRO field staff assisted them in reuniting and reaching their destination. They also made contact with their guardians and collected their details," stated Mr. Daniel Mardi, Project Coordinator of BRO.



Children Sponsorship Programme



Bosco Reach Out, with support from Fondazione Fratelli Dimenticati Onlus Italy, has been dedicated to helping the most vulnerable children in Assam and Meghalaya access education. Currently, we provide assistance to 738 sponsored children across 21 centres. These centres prioritize the children's education and personal development by engaging them in various academic activities. Notably, all our children celebrated Independence Day on August 15 by hoisting the National Flag and Teacher's Day on September 5.

The Snehalaya Centre, home to 131 children across five residences, embarked on an educational and captivating trip to the Science Museum and Rukminigaon Cathedral in Guwahati on July 15, 2023. On the other hand, the Powlakrai Centre organized a series of events, including an awareness program on mental health issues in school settings on July 27, 2023, a drawing competition on August 5, 2023, an extemporaneous speech competition on August 14, 2023, and a cleaning drive and preparations for Teacher's Day on September 4, 2023. These activities proved to be a resounding success, showcasing the participants' creativity and skills.

The Bellefonte Centre, in collaboration with the Neighbourhood Children's Parliament of the Bellefonte Unit, conducted a street campaign with the slogan "No Plastic Campaign" on July 15, 2023, across three villages. The children had a wonderful experience contributing to a cleaner environment.



Flood Relief in Five Districts



Bosco Reach Out extended a helping hand to the victims of the devastating flood that struck in July. Across various districts in Assam, numerous families suffered substantial losses, including their crops, livestock, and essential household items. They endured immense difficulties and hardships while trying to recover from the flood's aftermath.

In August, we distributed emergency flood relief kits in the five districts most severely affected by the flood. These kits included 10 kilograms of rice, 1 kilogram of sugar, 1 kilogram of salt, 1 kilogram of soybeans, 2 kilograms of masur dal, 100 grams of turmeric powder, 100 grams of chili powder, and 100 grams of garam masala to vulnerable and marginalized households. Nestle, through its support of the noble work by Don Bosco Network (BoscoNet) South Asia in New Delhi, played a vital role in making this relief effort possible. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the local volunteers who identified the flood victim households and provided assistance during the distribution of these essential emergency flood relief kits.

District Number of Kits

Chirang	300
Baksa	265
Darrang	1000
Barpeta	300
Nalbari	135
Total	2000



Importance of Quality Education - CARE Mothers Group



On September 20 and 23, 2023, Bosco Reach Out conducted meetings for the mothers of the Children of Children at Risk Education (CARE) project centres. These meetings aimed to raise awareness of the importance of quality education among the mothers associated with the CARE centres. The active involvement of mothers in their children's learning process significantly contributes to the delivery of quality education.

Various topics were discussed during these meetings, including contributing to the hiring of an additional teacher in the CARE centres, strategies for earning and saving money, and issues related to mother and child health. To kickstart the meeting, a motivational game was organized for the mothers, where they shared two values of their neighbours that they admired. This exercise aimed to boost their motivation levels.

During the discussions, mothers reflected upon some pertinent questions: Do we really think before we do a task? How often do we sit down as parents and discuss on the family issues like earnings and savings? Do we have the habit of discussing and planning for better functioning of the family or we only follow instructions? These thoughtful reflections encouraged the mothers to gradually recognize the significance of quality education. Consequently, they made a collective decision to support the hiring of an additional teacher to ensure the well-being and education of their children in the CARE centres.



Improved Input Supply: Agricultural Development Programme



On July 23, 2023, a programme aimed at enhancing input supply, specifically the distribution of seeds and planting materials, was held at Karbi Hall in Umrangso, Dima Hasao district, Assam. This initiative was organized to uplift the socio-economic status of rural farmers by enhancing the production and productivity of agri-horticultural crops. Mr. Prakash Borah, an Agriculture Specialist and Consultant of BRO, provided valuable insights into various aspects, including land preparation, planting methods, irrigation, fertilization, planting seasons, and replantation.

Fr. Todik Jimmy T Sangma, the Deputy Director of BRO, along with other BRO personnel, including Mr. Branzil Daimary and Mr. Ezekiel Chawang, encouraged the farmers to adopt these improved methods to achieve better crop yields. As part of this effort, BRO distributed 24,000 pineapple suckers of the Kew variety and 3,000 black pepper saplings to 168 farmers who were members of 23 Self-Help Groups.

By the end of the quarter, all the farmers had successfully completed the plantation of pineapple suckers and black pepper saplings, witnessing healthy growth in their fields. The farmers are now anticipating a bountiful harvest and express their satisfaction and gratitude for the Agriculture Development Program that has the potential to elevate their income in the region.





Training and capacity building for farmers under the Integrated Tribal Development Programme have been successfully conducted in four districts across Assam (Chirang, Dibrugarh, and Goalpara districts) and Arunachal Pradesh (West Kameng district). In the Sidli block of Chirang district, the program was attended by Dr. C. K. Deka, Senior Scientist and Head of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Kajalgaon, Ms. Mandakini Bhagawati, Subject Matter Specialist (Horticulture) of KVK Kajalgaon, and Shri. A. R. Deury, DDM NABARD Chirang. This initiative provided a platform for orchard beneficiaries to voice their concerns related to orchard development and the cultivation of arecanut, oranges, and border plants.

In the Kusdhowa block of Goalpara district, Ms. Minku Das, Project Coordinator (Agriculture) at BRO, conducted a session on farmer training and demonstrated best practices for growing mangoes, litchis, and Assam lemons. She elaborated on setting up wadis, their components, and their utilization in the Barbaruah and Khowang blocks of Dibrugarh district. She also discussed raising perennial Eri food plants (Kesseru) for Eri culture, cultivating castor alongside Kesseru as an intercrop for the initial three years, ensuring a consistent supply of quality leaves for sustainable Eri rearing, and empowering women through Eri culture. Mr. Mridul Talukdar, Horticulture Assistant from the Coconut Development Board in Guwahati, Government of Assam, explained the coconut plantation methods. Mr. Pranjal Saikia, Project Coordinator at BRO, conducted field demonstrations for the farmers.

More than 500 farmers benefited from the training and have already implemented the knowledge they gained in their fields. They expressed their confidence and appreciation for the interactions with government department personnel, applauding their enthusiastic commitment to assisting farmers and rural communities.



Link Workers Scheme



Awareness cum health camps were conducted in the project implementing villages of Silchar, Cachar district in Assam. The primary objective was to address the alarming increase in STI and HIV infections within the high-risk communities, using a rights-based approach to foster an enabling environment in society. These camps attracted over 230 participants, including Anti Natal Care mothers, migrant labourers, female sex workers, and other vulnerable populations.

The program included informative discussions covering the fundamentals of HIV, its transmission and prevention, the importance of HIV testing, available services for high-risk groups, and the factors contributing to the daily surge in new cases.

On August 4 and September 13, 2023, Village Level Meetings were organized in Silchar, Cachar district. These meetings provided an opportunity to share and discuss various information related to the LWS project and HIV/AIDS with migrant labourers, other vulnerable populations, and those engaged in needle and syringe programmes (NSP). More than 80 individuals from high-risk groups actively participated in these meetings.



Home for the Underprivileged



The Salesian Province of Guwahati, in celebration of 100 years of Salesian Charism in North East India in 2022, has undertaken a noble mission to uplift and enhance the living conditions of the underprivileged by constructing low-cost homes. Bosco Reach Out, in collaboration with this initiative, has played a crucial role in building six such homes for the neediest individuals within the Salesian Province of Guwahati, Assam, India.

On August 11, 2023, Rev. Fr. Januarius Sangma, the Provincial of the Salesian Province of Guwahati, presided over the blessing of these six homes. This auspicious event was attended by Fr. Jayaprakash Anthonimuthu, the outgoing Executive Director of BRO, Fr. Sebastian Ishorary, the incoming Executive Director of BRO, Fr. Ignatius Gari, the Associate Director of BRO, Fr. Tomey, Parish Priest of Mendal, Fr. Daniel Sangma, the Assistant Parish Priest of Mendal, the Local Catechist, and the Village Headman.

One of the beneficiaries of these homes is Mrs. Watmilla S Sangma, a widow who resides with her two sons and a daughter in Rongjal village, Mendal, Bajengdoba block, North Garo Hills district of Meghalaya. Mrs. Sangma is a dedicated and hardworking woman with a strong determination to provide her children with an education. All three of her children are currently attending school and excelling in their studies. She expressed her gratitude by saying, "We are filled with gratitude as we move into our new home. We have endured difficult times, and the dream of having a beautiful house has now become a reality. We remain thankful to the fathers for their love and care towards us. We thank God for His countless blessings."



Down Training of TI Staff Out Reach Workers (ORW)



Bosco Reach Out organized two Down Training sessions for Targeted Intervention (TI) Project Staff, specifically the Out Reach Workers (ORW). The first session took place from September 5 to 9, 2023, for participants from Meghalaya, and the second session was held from September 26 to 30, 2023, for participants from Assam. Both training sessions occurred at the Bosco Reach Out head office in Guwahati, Assam. The training included 57 participants representing 31 TI NGOs, with 20 NGOs from Assam and 11 from Meghalaya. This initiative is supported by the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), Assam State AIDS Control Society (ASACS), and The Global Fund.

The training was conducted by Master Trainers, Mr. Rehan Uddin Laskar and Mr. Nazim Ahmed, and covered a wide range of topics, including:

1. Introduction to the Health System
2. HIV/AIDS
3. TB and STI and RTI
4. Hepatitis B and C
5. Comprehensive EMTCT
6. Understanding Core Groups
7. Targeted Interventions under NACP
8. Continuing, Revamped Strategy, and Changing Patterns
9. Roles and Responsibilities of ORWs
10. Interpersonal Communication (IPC) and Skill Building
11. Gender, Sex, and Sexuality
12. Community-Based Screening
13. Crisis Intervention
14. The HIV and AIDS Prevention and Control Act 2017
15. Out Reach Activities
16. Harm Reduction
17. Newer Initiatives in HIV Prevention
18. Peer Educator Selection and Training
19. Exposure Visit
20. Referrals and Network
21. Record Maintenance and Reporting
22. Monitoring and Evaluation

These comprehensive training sessions aimed to enhance the knowledge and skills of the TI Project Staff, empowering them to effectively carry out their vital roles in HIV/AIDS prevention and control.



Orientation of the SMCs - FACE



“Focusing Accessible and Conceptual Education (FACE)” is a new project that collaborates with 12 Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) schools, three of which offer both Assamese and Bodo mediums of instruction. These schools serve a total of 25 SSA teachers and 546 students in the Kokrajhar Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR).

On September 9, 2023, BRO conducted an orientation program at the Amguri Technical Centre for the School Management Committees (SMCs) representing the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) schools within the Dholjhora cluster of the Kokrajhar district. More than 20 SMCs from the 12 schools attended the programme. Ms. Grace Guria, the Project Coordinator of BRO, extended a warm welcome to the SMCs and introduced Mr. Alben Kongadi, the new CAN Programme Manager. She emphasized the influential role of SMCs, the necessity of their efforts for the effective functioning of schools and the well-being of the students.

Fr. Ignatius Gari, the Associate Director of BRO, sought the full cooperation of the SMCs, encouraging them to work hand in hand to ensure the quality education of the students. Between sessions, Community Educators Mrs. Paulina Mardi and Mrs. Puspa Baskey facilitated engaging games.

The SMCs expressed their satisfaction with the programme, stating that it had motivated them to work diligently for the betterment of the school and made them more aware of their influential role in the well-being of the school children.



Games to Motivate Students - FACE



On September 21, 2023, a presentation of game materials took place for students from five SSA (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan) Schools within the Doljhora Cluster in Kokrajhar. This initiative aimed to foster a positive learning environment where everyone can thrive and, in turn, absorb knowledge more effectively, ultimately increasing the children's interest in attending school.

Fr. Ignatius Gari, the Associate Director of BRO, along with the staff from the Focusing Accessible and Conceptual Education (FACE) project, visited the schools and personally distributed these game materials to the students. During his visit, he also had the opportunity to meet with the teachers and shared a positive message about collaborating closely to deliver high-quality education to the students. He encouraged the children to attend school regularly, prioritize their studies, enjoy playtime, and then return home. The students, filled with joy, expressed their excitement upon receiving the game materials and enthusiastically promised to both study and play. The teachers, too, conveyed their happiness at the provision of these game materials for their students.



Credit Linkage Programme - ITDP Chirang



On July 18, 2023, BRO organized a credit linkage programme in the Malivita Community Hall, located in the Sidli block of the Chirang district in Assam. The program featured resource persons, including Shri. A. R. Deury, DDM from NABARD Chirang, along with Ms. Bhanuja Narzary and Shri. Maofung Narzary, SBI Officials from Kajalgaon Chirang. They conducted a session on SBI Agriculture loans, specifically focusing on two types: Crop Loans and Farm Mechanization Loans.

On August 5, 2023, at the Project Site Office in Tilapara, Sidli block, Chirang district, Assam, Mr. Jion Narzary, the Project Coordinator of BRO, provided a briefing to the farmers about credit linkage through the formation of Joint Liability Groups (JLGs).

On September 6, 2023, in the Malivita Community Hall, Sidli block, Chirang district, Assam, the programme continued with the participation of resource persons, including Shri. Bikash Chandra Sil, LDM from UCO Bank in Kajalgaon Chirang, Shri. Chandan Ghose, a Counselor from SBI Kajalgaon, and Shri. Sumit Pal, Branch Manager of UCO Bank Kajalgaon, Chirang. They discussed the UCO Bank Kisan Credit Card and the features and benefits of the UCO Bank RuPay Kisan Credit Card.

In this credit linkage program, a total of 97 participants, comprising 15 males and 82 females from the 23 project-implementing villages in the Sidli block of the Chirang district in Assam, were present. The farmers gained valuable insights into the various credit linkage facilities available to them. The presence of bank personnel, who not only created awareness but also showed a genuine interest in the financial growth of the farmers, left the participants motivated and instilled a deep sense of confidence among them.



Crop Farming and Livestock Management - Green Skill



A five-day training on crop farming management, which is part of the 'training cum demonstration on mitigation measures to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions in Agriculture,' was conducted in six regions: Mendal, Karbi Anglong, Boko, Kumarikata, Tezpur, and Lemakona. Over 250 farmers from these regions participated in the training, acquiring knowledge of various improved agricultural practices.

Crop management encompasses a set of agricultural practices aimed at enhancing crop growth, development, and yield. The adoption of best crop management practices leads to increased crop productivity and improved quality. It commences with seedbed preparation, sowing of seeds, and crop maintenance, culminating in crop harvesting, storage, and marketing. The timing and sequence of these agricultural practices are contingent on several factors, including the season (winter or spring crops), the products harvested, sowing methods, plant age, soil quality, climate, and weather conditions. Employing a consistent crop and soil management system on a farm helps to establish resilient crop production system and yields sustainable crop production. Managing and reducing input costs is vital for profitability.

Additionally, approximately 260 farmers attended a three-day training session on livestock management, with a particular focus on pig farming, conducted in the six project-implementing regions. Mr. Ezekiel, the Project Coordinator of BRO, in collaboration with the Field Extension Staff of BRO in each respective region, discussed various topics related to livestock housing management, types of breeds, breeding methods, cross-breeding techniques, selection of breeding gilt and breeding boar, heat detection (recognizing common signs of heat and how to induce it), as well as disease and parasite control.

Following the training, the farmers gained confidence and committed to implementing the improved methods of crop management and livestock farming practices.





During this quarter, a total of 12 five-day training programmes on organic farming were conducted in six regions: Mendal, Karbi Anglong, Boko, Kumarikata, Tezpur, and Lemakona. Over 480 farmers actively engaged in these programmes to acquire knowledge about organic farming practices. The primary objective of this programme is to promote food production while establishing ecological balance to prevent issues related to soil fertility and pests. Organic farming, as an agricultural approach, prioritizes the production of healthy products devoid of harmful components that may impact human health and the environment.

Organic farming employs pesticides of biological origin, mitigates soil erosion, reduces nitrate leaching into groundwater and surface water, and incorporates the recycling of animal waste back into the farm. Many of the observed changes in the environment are gradual and have a long-term impact. This approach takes into consideration the medium and long-term effects of agricultural practices on the agroecosystem.

Farmers who attended organic farming training in earlier years are now successfully implementing these practices on their farms, affirming its superiority as an agricultural method. Consequently, an increasing number of farmers are expressing interest in adopting this sustainable agricultural approach.

Additionally, 12 one-day awareness programmes were conducted in the same regions, focusing on mitigation measures to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in agriculture. These programmes attracted over 610 farmers, leading to greater awareness and understanding of effective mitigation measures within the agricultural sector.





A three-day training programme on soil and water management was conducted in six locations: Tezpur, Kumarikata, Goalpara, Mendal, Karbi Anglong, and Boko. The training saw the participation of approximately 700 farmers. In many of these areas, traditional cultural practices employed in crop production have had adverse effects on soil structure and biological life. Conventional tillage, for example, disrupts soil structure, depletes soil biological activity, buries residue cover, and reduces soil moisture.

It's worth noting that nature itself does not engage in tillage, yet there is a prevalent belief that tillage is essential. Producers can enhance productivity and profitability by fostering a healthier soil system. Corrective crop management practices have traditionally focused on addressing visible aboveground symptoms and issues. However, researchers have uncovered the significance of subtle differences beneath the soil surface, which can have far-reaching effects on productivity and sustainability.

Producers must, therefore, manage their tillage systems, crops, and residues to promote the development of healthier soils. Improving soil structure and biological activity while maintaining adequate residue cover serves to reduce runoff, erosion, evaporative losses, and their associated environmental impacts. This approach leads to improved agricultural practices and greater sustainability.



Artisans Attend Exhibition



Two artisans, Ms. Soumni Rabha and Ms. Bonila Rabha, member of Balijana Dress Making and Handicraft Cluster, under SFURTI project, attended the Exhibition at Sankardev Kalakshetra, Guwahati organised by Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati on 1st, 2nd and 3rd September 2023. They could exhibit some of their finished handloom products. They became aware of the market demand and gained knowledge on improving their products to compete in the market.



Independence Day Celebration



On August 15, 2023, the BRO family joined the nation in celebrating Independence Day. The National Flag was proudly hoisted, accompanied by the National Anthem, at its head office as well as various project site offices. In Chirang district, the staff organized a rally to commemorate this special occasion, while in Dibrugarh, the staff extended invitations to school children to join them and actively participate in the celebration.



Upcoming Programme

October – December 2023

Credit Linkage Programme – ITDP
FPO Management Training (Group Formation) – ITDP
Farmers Training and Field Demonstration – ITDP
Distribution of Input Supply – ITDP
Exposure Visit – ITDP
Health Camp / Health Education Sessions – ITDP
Teaching Training – RACE
Mother Group and Children Club Formation – RACE
Capacity Building of the Staff – RACE
Launching of the RACE project – RACE
CRCC capacity Building – RACE
Orinetation of Headmasters and SMCs - RACE
Monitoring and Supervising visit - CARE
Mothers Meeting - CARE
SMC meetings - CARE & FACE
Orientation CRC, SMC and Parents - FACE
Parents and Remedial Teachers Meeting - FACE
Awareness Camp for the Village Leaders – Migrant Desk
Awareness Camp for the Migrant youth – Migrant Desk
Health Camp – LWS
Advocacy Activities – LWS
HIV Screening – LWS
State Level TOT for Master Trainers – KK
Training of TI and LWS Staff – KK
Monitoring and Evaluation of the TI and LWS NGOs – KK
Skill Training Course on Solar Technician – Green Skill
Training on Livestock Management – Green Skill
Training on Crop Farming Management – Green Skill
Training on Organic Practices – Green Skill
Training on Soil and Water Management – Green Skill
Training on Waste Management – Green Skill
Exposure Visit – SFURTI
Website Development and Maintenance – SFURTI
Development of Product Catalogue – SFURTI
Engagement of Designer – SFURTI
Field Demonstration Programme - ADP
Pest Management Programme - ADP
Input Supply Programme - ADP
Vaccination Camp - ADP

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