

**BOSCO  
REACH OUT**



**ESTD : 1983**

# Focus



*October to December 2023*

*Vol. XII Issue : IV*



# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

*Dear Friends,*

First of all, I take this opportunity to wish each and every one a very Happy New Year, 2024. May this year bring abundant blessing to each one of us, to our organisations, to all those engaged in serving the people and our partners in the field.

As we come to the close of another quarter at Bosco Reach Out, I am pleased to share with you some highlights of our recent activities and achievements. Over the past three months, our team has been working diligently to advance our mission of empowering communities and fostering sustainable development.

One of our key initiatives has been implementing various training and demonstration programmes to enhance agricultural practices and promote livelihood opportunities among rural farmers. From farmers' training on beekeeping and propagation of Assam lemon to educational sessions on health and immunisation, we have been actively engaging with community members to impart essential knowledge and skills.

Furthermore, our collaboration with partners such as the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), Assam State AIDS Control Society (ASACS), and the Global Fund has enabled us to conduct targeted interventions to address pressing health issues, including HIV/AIDS prevention and control. Through health education sessions and free health check-up camps, we have reached out to vulnerable populations, providing essential healthcare services and promoting awareness of preventive measures. I am happy to let you know that we will be able to continue the Eye care programme as Don Bosco Mission, Bonn, Germany has given us a one-year project. We are grateful to them for helping us to continue our services to the people.

I am particularly proud of our successful implementation of the Integrated Tribal Development Programme in various blocks of Assam. Through this initiative, we have supported tribal communities in improving their livelihoods, enhancing agricultural productivity, and mitigating challenges such as elephant-human conflicts. The establishment of live fencing using Assam lemon and the provision of training on sustainable farming practices are just some of the impactful interventions we have undertaken to uplift these communities.

Looking ahead to the new year, we are excited about the possibilities and opportunities that lie ahead. In 2024, we plan to expand our outreach efforts, deepen our engagement with local communities, and further strengthen our partnerships with government agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders. Our focus will remain on addressing the evolving needs of the communities we serve and implementing solutions to promote inclusive and sustainable development.

Before I conclude, I would like to express my gratitude to all our supporters, donors, volunteers, and staff, both at the head office and those in the fields, who have contributed to our success. Your dedication and commitment have been instrumental in driving positive change and making a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals and families. Together, let us continue our journey towards building a brighter and more prosperous future for all.

Warm regards,

**Fr. Sebastian Ishorary**  
*Executive Director*  
*Bosco Reach Out*



# Launching cum Orientation Program – RACE Project



On November 15, Bosco Reach Out (BRO) launched the Right to Access Conceptual Education (RACE) project in Baithalangso, West Karbi Anglong of Assam. Present at the event were Fr. Joseph Teron SDB, Vice Provincial of Guwahati Province, Fr. Sebastian Ishorary SDB, Executive Director of BRO, Fr. Ignatius Gari SDB, Assistant Director of BRO, Mr. Champak Raj Chetry, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) Member, Mr. Theo Ebbers, Childaid Network (CAN) Coordinator India, Mr. Drakhya Ranjan Gogoi, CAN Coordinator Northeast India, Mr. Peter Rauckes, CAN Germany, RACE Project team, government teachers, School Management Committee (SMC) members, and students.



The programme commenced with the lighting of the lamp by the Vice Provincial of Guwahati Province, CAN Coordinator India, CAN Germany, SMC representatives, and Executive Director of BRO. Fr. Sebastian Ishorary expressed his gratitude to CAN for their support and motivated the RACE project team to work diligently for quality education. Fr. Ignatius Gari presented an overview of the RACE project, covering the challenges of the West Karbi Anglong community in providing quality education for children. Fr. Joseph Teron emphasised the role of language in understanding concepts for children and illustrated the importance of recreational learning through a short example. Mr. Theo Ebbers shared his personal experience, highlighting the effectiveness of holistic and recreational learning in understanding language and Mathematics, contributing to his success. Members of SMC and SSA shared their perspectives on the project's significance in the four zones, expressing gratitude to Bosco Reach Out and Childaid Network for their support in facilitating quality education. The event concluded with an informal introduction of the entire RACE project team, followed by lively dance performances by the children, adding a joyful touch to the concluding programme.

## Orientation of RACE Team



On November 24, 2023, the Bosco Reach Out management team, led by Fr. Ignatius Gari SDB, Associate Director and Mr. Ghanashyam Pathak, Human Resource Manager convened an orientation session for the RACE project team at IB House, Donkamukam, Karbi Anglong district of Assam. The primary agenda included an in-depth discussion of the new project's objectives, deliverables, team roles, reporting protocols, and the distribution of appointment letters by HR Manager.

Fr. Ignatius elaborated on the project's significance in enhancing the quality of education for the children and the importance of grassroots-level involvement. Mr. Romeo, the Project Coordinator of BRO, presented the key aspects of project objectives and goals, and pilot survey results, highlighting the findings from a preliminary survey on children's education in the first six months of 2023, Annual Status of Educational Report (ASER) Test, detailed activities and team roles clarifying each team member's responsibilities. Mr. Ghanashyam provided insights into the organisation's structure, vision, mission, values, staff-related policies, leave provisions, working days, and disciplinary rules. The orientation day covered vital project aspects, encouraged team interaction, and emphasised upon the collaborative spirit which is essential for successful project implementation.



## Inauguration and Blessing of Green Skill Training Centre, Joropara



The Workshop, Cafeteria, and Girls Hostel buildings of the Green Skill Training Centre in Joropara, Bajengdoba, situated in the North Garo Hills district of Meghalaya, were blessed by Rev. Fr. Januarius S. Sangma SDB, the Provincial of the Guwahati Province. Mr. Christoph Wegener, the Project Manager of Public Cooperation Partners at Don Bosco Mondo, Germany, inaugurated the buildings on October 23, 2023. The centre received blessings from surrounding school principals, parish priests, and neighbouring communities who joined the event.

Following the ceremony, Mr. Christoph Wegener visited the project area and interacted with the beneficiaries. In the field, he was accompanied by Fr. Sebastian Ishorary, the Executive Director of BRO, Fr. Todik Jimmy T Sangma, the Deputy Director of BRO, Mr. Prakash Bora and Mr. Ezekiel Chawang, the BRO Personnel. The beneficiaries warmly welcomed them and expressed gratitude, detailing the positive impact of various activities on their families and the community.



## Emergency Flood Relief Kits



The vulnerable and marginalised households faced hardships coping with life after the heavy loss of their crops, livestock, and other household amenities in the devastating flood. Survival becomes challenging every year during and after the flood.

As a goodwill gesture, Bosco Reach Out reached out to 3,000 households affected by the flood's vulnerability in three districts: Darang (1,040 households), Karbi Anglong (829 households), and Morigaon (1,131 households). They provided an emergency flood relief kit consisting of rice (10 kgs), dal (2 kg), soybean (1 kg), sugar (1 kg), salt (1 kg), mustard oil (1 ltr), turmeric powder (100 gms), chili powder (100 gms), and garam masala (100 gms).

We acknowledge the noble support of Nestle through the Don Bosco Network (BoscoNet) South Asia, New Delhi. We appreciate the contribution of all the local volunteers who assisted in reaching out to the families with the emergency flood relief kits.



## Educational Tour for CARE Children



A one-day educational tour was organised for the children of Children at Risk Education (CARE) centres on October 30, 2023. The enthusiastic group of 40 children (20 boys and 20 girls) from various CARE centres was accompanied by three Cluster Coordinators of the CARE project. They visited the Guwahati Planetarium for a show about the planets presented in Assamese.

Later, they proceeded to Don Bosco School, Panbazar, Guwahati, where they enjoyed a tasty lunch organized for them at Don Bosco Hall, Panbazar. Following lunch, they visited the State Zoo, and the children were thrilled to see the animals for the first time.

The day proved to be a memorable experience for the children as it was their first exposure to a different environment. Everything appeared new to them, and they were exuberant to witness the colourful city lights in the evening. The sight of tall buildings, infrastructures, long flyovers, and numerous vehicles added to their excitement. Throughout the journey, they sang, danced, and laughed inside the bus. At the end of the day, they expressed a desire to return to Guwahati for their higher studies.



# Motivational Session for SMC and Parents

## – FACE Project



On 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023, Bosco Reach Out organised a motivational session for School Management Committees (SMCs) and parents of Doljhora SSA (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan) School in Kokrajhar district, Assam. Mr. Surender Pradhan, the Headmaster of Doljhora SSA School, introduced the session and commended the initiative of Bosco Reach Out (BRO). The film 'Madam Geeta Rani' was screened in the community hall of the school, utilizing the sound system and generator from the BRO Office in Guwahati.

Following the movie, the Cluster Coordinators and Community Educators initiated a discussion to inspire the SMCs and parents to actively participate in school activities for the well-being of the students, their school, and the overall development of the area. The Cluster Coordinator emphasised that parents should not solely rely on teachers for the welfare of their children but should instead take on a serious responsibility in the potential growth of their children. The cooperation and coordination of teachers, parents, and children would bring out the best in every child. The Community Coordinators encouraged members to recognize the importance of coming together to discuss the development of the school, teachers, and children.



## Project Partner Personnel visit CARE Centres



On October 9, 2023, Ms. Regina, a project partner personnel from Germany, visited the CARE centres, accompanied by Mr. Abhijeet Koch, the CAN Coordinator, Mr. Alben Kongadi, the CAN Programme Coordinator, Ms. Grace Guria, the Project Coordinator, and Cluster Coordinators. The CARE children warmly welcomed them with a welcome song, a dance performance, and read a welcome address at various CARE Centres.

Expressing her joy at meeting the children, Ms. Regina encouraged them to focus on their studies, emphasising that education is the key to overcoming difficult times. She also distributed game materials and sweets to the children.

Following the student-teacher interaction, the team met with village elders, community leaders, School Management Committees (SMCs), and the mother's group to discuss the progress of the CARE schools and the community's engagement roles. Mr. Abhijeet encouraged parents to stay united for the development of the school and the surrounding area. He also urged them to participate in regular meetings to address village issues and take necessary actions.





# Training on Fertiliser and Micronutrients for Young Plantation



On November 11 and 30, 2023, two farmers' training and demonstrations on fertiliser application methods involving Urea, Single Superphosphate (SSP), and Murate of Potash (MOP), along with cow dung compost, were conducted for 44 wadi beneficiaries participating in the project 'Sericulture Based Non-wadi Project in Barbaruah block of Dibrugarh district, Assam'. Mr. Pranjal Saikia, Project Coordinator of Bosco Reach Out, served as the resource person. The programme aimed to raise awareness about plant nutrition, specifically Integrated Plant Nutrient Management (IPNM), and to optimise soil conditions, encompassing its physical, chemical, biological, and hydrological properties. The goal was to enhance farm productivity while minimising land degradation.



During the training, Mr. Saikia demonstrated the fertiliser application method, advising the application of 5 kg Farm Yard Manure (FYM) per plant once a year in April and NPK (Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium) @ 125:75:25 kg/ha in two split doses annually in April and September. He also emphasized the importance of hoeing and weeding whenever necessary (3-4 times a year).

In another initiative, two farmers' training and demonstrations on fertiliser and micronutrient application for young plantations were conducted in two different villages, Dalehal and Tilapara, within the project area of 'Integrated Tribal Development Programme for Sidli Block of Chirang District, Assam' on December 4 and 13, 2023. Mrs. Minku Das, Project Coordinator (Agriculture) of BRO, skilfully led the training for the 46 wadi farmers.



## Water Resource Development at Dibrugarh

**W**ater Resource Development is pivotal for ensuring efficient water management, with the goal of conserving this vital resource, minimising wastage, and ensuring fair distribution. As part of this initiative, cast iron hand pumps have been strategically installed in each wadi, serving as a reliable water source for the young Eri food plantation in the Dibrugarh district of Assam.

Considering the area's groundwater level of 30-70 feet, the capacity of these Agricultural Hand Pumps, discharging 10-15 litres per hour, proves crucial for sustaining the Eri food plantation. In the recent quarter, 200 hand pumps, complete with accessories, were distributed among 200 beneficiaries and successfully installed within the Eri food plantation. This project was carried out in the area of the Sericulture Based Non-wadi Project in the Barbaruah block of the Dibrugarh district of Assam, with the support of NABARD Assam.



## Exhibition cum Sale of Farm Products at Assam Divas Event

**T**he beneficiaries of the Tribal Development Fund (TDF), Livelihood and Enterprise Development Programme (LEDP), and Micro-Entrepreneurship Development Programme (MEDP) participated in the Assam Divas Event, held at Tingkhong Higher Secondary School Field in the Dibrugarh district of Assam. Sponsored by NABARD, this event provided the beneficiaries with the invaluable opportunity to showcase and sell their products through dedicated stalls. The event facilitated interactions between beneficiaries and stakeholders, including weavers, government officials, and various agencies. These exchanges of ideas and experiences not only benefited the participating beneficiaries but also enriched the knowledge of the staff associated with Bosco Reach Out.

A significant outcome emerged from the engagement with officials of CSIR-NEIST Jorhat. They extended a generous offer to provide training to the beneficiaries in diverse intercropping methodologies involving Kesseru. Furthermore, they pledged comprehensive support to aid farmers in marketing the intercropped products. This collaboration is poised to commence in January 2024, with planned visits to the project site to conduct awareness programmes and training sessions, specifically focusing on various medicinal plants.



## Training of Out Reach Workers



A five-day training for Targeted Intervention (TI) Outreach Workers (ORWs) was initially held from October 3 to 7, 2023, for participants from Sikkim in Gangtok, Sikkim. Another training took place from October 26 to 30, 2023, for participants from Arunachal Pradesh in Naharlagun, Arunachal Pradesh. A total of 46 participants representing various TI NGOs from Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh attended the sessions. 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. The training was supported by the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), the Assam State AIDS Control Society (ASACS), and the Global Fund. The Master Trainers were Mr. Nazim Ahmed, Mr. Chowjet Gogoi, Mrs. Dhanmaya Chetri, and Mr. Samel Rai.

The Master Trainers conducted the five-day training for the ORWs with 22 sessions through presentations, group activities, and discussions. They also assigned role play to stimulate learning by doing. An exposure visit to an existing TI was arranged for the participants. Pre and post-tests were conducted for participants as an evaluation measure, reflecting the knowledge gained from the sessions. The participants expressed their satisfaction with the Master Trainers and the sessions through their session feedback tool.



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## Beekeeping Training for Beginners at Goalpara



On October 19, 2023, Bosco Reach Out organised a farmers' training and demonstration on beekeeping for beginners as part of the project 'Integrated Tribal Development Programme in Kusdhowa Development Block, Goalpara District, Assam' at Rong Rong Para village. The training aimed to promote beekeeping, covering areas such as managing beehives, production and sale of honey, and other hive by-products. The objective was to establish guidelines for diagnosing, preventing, and treating bee diseases. Additionally, the training aimed to create awareness of the profitability of beekeeping and its importance in enhancing crop productivity. The resource person, Mr. Barkat Ullah, Master Trainer from Honey Mission, KVIC, Guwahati, conducted the training for the 28 beekeepers.



The project 'Integrated Tribal Development Programme in Kusdhowa Development Block, Goalpara District, Assam' sought to prevent elephant-human conflicts by using tiny bees and generating additional income for tribal families through the establishment of apiaries. 'Beefences' would be created by setting up bee boxes in the passageways of elephants to block their entrance to the wadi plantation. This method proved to be cost-effective, and it was scientifically recorded that the collective buzz of the bees annoys the elephants, forcing them to retreat.



## Training on Propagation of Assam Lemon at Goalpara



On November 8, 2023, a farmers' training and demonstration on the propagation of Assam lemon using leaf bud cutting took place at Chechapani Part-III, an area within the project 'Integrated Tribal Development Programme in Kusdhowa Development Block, Goalpara District, Assam'. The programme aimed to raise awareness of the vegetative propagation of Assam lemon, enabling beneficiaries to propagate it themselves and cultivate more saplings. This, in turn, would allow for the establishment of live fencing with Assam lemon throughout the wadi plantation, helping to mitigate wild elephant attacks to some extent.

The resource person, Mr. Ramen Rabha, Associate Project Coordinator of BRO, conducted the demonstration on the propagation of Assam lemon through leaf bud cutting for 24 wadi farmers. He covered various topics, including leaf-bud cutting techniques, nursery bed preparation, cutting treatment with plant growth regulators, cutting spacing, and transplantation of sprouted cuttings. Additionally, he explained the advantages and disadvantages of using leaf bud cuttings.



## Three Months Crash Coaching for 10th Standard Students at Chirang



**B**osco Reach Out is currently conducting a three-month crash course coaching programme for Class 10<sup>th</sup> Standard students, with 30 enrollees from its project (Integrated Tribal Development Programme - BAGAN project for Sidli Block, district Chirang, Assam). The programme is being implemented in the Malivita Province High School, Chirang district, and commenced on November 30, 2023. The students attend classes for two hours a day, 3-4 days a week, covering subjects such as Bodo, Mathematics, Science, and English. They are preparing for the matriculation examination scheduled for February-March 2024.

The objective of the crash course is to solidify the fundamentals of Mathematics, Science, and English for the upcoming HSLC examination. Its aim is to prevent high school children from dropping out of school or failing in their board examinations. The course also provides a platform for students to discuss and clear their doubts, effectively utilising their free time for study and creating awareness on the importance of education.

The enthusiastic students are putting in hard work, gaining confidence in their exam preparation, and eagerly looking forward to achieving good results.



# Farmers Training cum Exposure Visit



On December 17, 2023, as part of a farmers' training, 20 wadi beneficiaries, who are active members of the Malivita Farmer Producer Organisation in the project 'Integrated Tribal Development Programme - BAGAN project for Sidli Block, district Chirang, Assam', visited the 8th Assam International Agri-Horti Show 2023 held at the College of Veterinary Science Playground in Khanapara, Guwahati. The exhibition was organised by the state Department of Agriculture and Horticulture and featured approximately 393 stalls with participants from Malaysia, Serbia, Thailand, Bhutan, New Zealand, South Korea, Mongolia, Iran, Indonesia, Seychelles, and Bangladesh.

During the visit, they observed Agri-Horticultural produce exclusive to Assam, including specialty rice varieties such as black, red, purple, and joha rice, Assam lemon, Tezpur litchi, Karbi Anglong ginger, malbhog and bhimkal bananas, king chillies, and various orchids. These products of the State were showcased in extravagant exhibition stalls. The event also presented the latest research and development, technology from National and International Agencies, and the wadi beneficiaries learned the best Agri-Horticultural practices through technical sessions held during the exhibition.



## Community Health



On November 25, 2023, BRO organised a Health Education Session (Women) with ASHA workers in Indrapur village, Sidli block, Chirang district of Assam. The session aimed to raise awareness about the importance of immunisation for babies and women's health-related issues. It provided a platform for village women to discuss their health problems related to reproductive and child care. The focus areas included awareness on institutional deliveries, vaccination for pregnant women and newborn children, promoting a balanced diet for pregnant women to reduce anaemia, and providing information on early and safe abortion services. Ms. Bilaisri Islary, an ASHA worker, attended the programme as a resource person. She conducted a session on immunisation, cleanliness for newborn babies and infants, and care during pregnancy and vaccination.

Additionally, a Free Health Check-up Camp was conducted on December 8, 2023, in collaboration with Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), Sidli Unit at Malivita village, Sidli block, Chirang district of Assam. Doctors from Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), including Dr. Jimmy D. Upadhyya, JR Anatomy GMERS, GOTRI, VADODARA, Dr. Suran Suman, MBBS 2nd year student of DMCH, NMO, and Dr. Abhishek Kumar, MBBS 2nd year Student of JLNMC, NMO, attended the health check-up camp. Patients received free medicines according to the doctor's prescription. Common diseases diagnosed during the camp included fever, cold, body ache, stomach upset, acidity, anaemia, high blood sugar, and high blood pressure.







*Celebrating Diwali cum  
Birthday of Fr. Sebastian Ishorary*



**From left to right:**

- Fr. Joseph Teron sdb, Vice Provincial Ghy*
- Fr. Sebastian Ishorary sdb, ED, BRO*
- Mr. Naveen Dhingra, CGM, NABARD*
- Fr. Januarius Sangma sdb, Provincial Ghy*
- Mr. Himanshu, CA*
- Mr. Dev Krishan More, CA*
- Fr. A. Jayaprakash sdb, Economer Ghy*
- Fr. T. Jimmy Sangma sdb, DD, BRO*



*BRO Pre-Christmas get-together*

## Upcoming Programme

January – March 2024

- Capacity Building training for staff on Integrated Farming System - BRO
- 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
- Annual Sport's Day - CARE
- Health Camp – LWS
- Advocacy Activities – LWS
- HIV Screening – LWS
- Peer Educators Training-KK
- Program Manager Training-KK
- Training of TI and LWS Staff – KK
- Monitoring and Evaluation Training– KK
- Skill Training Course on Solar Technician – Green Skill
- Skill Training Course on Organic Farming– 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
- Skill Development Program – ADP
- Pest Management Program – ADP
- Input Supply Program – ADP
- Vaccination Camp – ADP
- Field Visit – CSP



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