



the ant

Quarterly Newsletter
 January - March 2024)



Empowering young minds: Winter Camp across FLC and MLC

Project LEAP conducted a Winter Camp on 9th and 10th February 2024. The event took place across 16 Forest Learning Centers and 2 Model Learning Centers. The primary objective of the camp was to foster decision-making skills, engage in competitive activities both physically and mentally, and cultivate self-reliance and confidence among the children. A total of 647 children participated the camp, including 312 girls and 335 boys, making it a successful and engaging experience for all involved.

Human-Elephant Conflict Management Orientation Program

On January 30, 2024, a one-day Orientation Program on Human-Elephant Conflict Management was held in collaboration with WWF at the MPTC Hall, ant Campus, Rowmari. 68 attendees participated in the program, including staff from Deosri and Kuklung clusters.

The session included insights from participants on issues like elephant attacks and existing protection measures. The discussion highlighted elephant ecology, emphasizing the need for behavioral adaptation due to challenges like habitat destruction. Deterrents like chilli smoke fences and trip alarms were explored for sustainable mitigation.

The program also covered Ex-gratia benefits and the Anti-Depredation Squad's role, stressing a collaborative approach. The event ended with a fun "Chinese Whisper" activity, highlighting the importance of clear communication in addressing human-elephant conflicts.



ONE BILLION RISING 2024: RISE FOR FREEDOM – BE THE NEW WORLD



One Billion Rising is a global campaign that emerged in 2012, aiming to end violence against women and girls. The global theme for this year's One Billion Rising Campaign 2024 was **"RISE FOR FREEDOM - BE THE NEW WORLD"**. Focusing on this year's global theme, on 14th February, 2024, the ant participated in the campaign, through flash mob performance by the 16 students from different communities and villages. The campaign covered 5 schools of Chirang districts: Bishnupur ME School, then Ulubari Higher Secondary School, Samaj Kalyan ME School, Agrong High School and Janata High School. Over 1400 individuals were reached through the campaign, including students, teachers, and parents, spreading awareness about gender inequality and violence.

During interactions, teachers and students emphasized the need for equal opportunities for all genders, denouncing practices like child marriage and unequal treatment. The students, witnessing gender inequalities firsthand, expressed concerns about restrictions on girls and their safety in society. The aim of engaging students in this campaign was to educate them about discrimination and empower them to combat gender-based violence, encouraging a culture of gender equality for the future.

Camp for Developmental Disorders



On the 28th and 29th of February, a camp for children with developmental disorders took place at the ant campus, Rowmari in a collaborative effort with Shishu Sarothi. Total of 22 Children registered at the camp. This event was made possible through the dedicated support of the Shishu Sarothi team.



Youth Ultimate Frisbee Yatra

From March 26th to 28th, the Laimuti Forest area welcomed youths for an exhilarating Ultimate Frisbee rally. Hosted across five villages, this event brought together 25 enthusiastic youths from Basugaon, Bengtol, Kuklung, and Deosri clusters. The rally showcased the spirit of teamwork, agility, and inclusivity, inviting participants of all levels to engage in this dynamic sport.



Workshop on Bodo Traditional Dance and Music

Workshop on Bodo Traditional Dance and Music, held from March 13th to March 17th, 2024, at the Derhasar Community Hall in Rowmari. This comprehensive workshop, organized by Sifung Harimu Afat, aimed to create trainers in the vibrant realm of Bodo traditional dance and music. Led by the skilled instructor Dhiren Ramsiyari, who hails from the esteemed DBHA (Dularai Boro Harimu Afat), the workshop saw the enthusiastic participation of 37 youths, including 14 males and 23 females.



With a focus on promoting Ultimate Frisbee in rural areas, the rally aimed to promote the spirit of ultimate Frisbee sport to Laimuti Forest villages under Khungring VCDC, Chirang district. It also highlighted the importance of inclusive play, emphasizing that girls are equally capable in sports. The event featured recreational games, Frisbee demonstrations, and training sessions for local schools, fostering community engagement and providing valuable exposure to youth and coaches.

With 25 youth participants, including 16 males and 9 females, and one SBI fellow, the event brought together a total of 34 individuals. The rally was a resounding success in promoting fitness, teamwork, and community engagement.



Reviving Tradition and Culture



A short film on Bodo traditional instrument making of Sifung Harimu Afad by the ant's Community Media Unit was released on YouTube. Sifung Harimu Afad (SHA) works on Preserving & Promoting Bodo Culture & Craft Traditions in Chirang District. Since 2014, Sifung Harimu Afad have trained 827 young individual and have participated in various state and national level cultural and dance programs. SHA is now embarking on a new journey by establishing the Sifung Cultural Academy, further setting their commitment to preserving and promoting Bodo heritage.

WEAVING TALK

Impact of warping machine on efficiency and quality of handloom industry

In the ever-evolving landscape of the handloom industry, innovations continuously reshape production processes. The introduction of warping machines has been a game-changer, significantly impacting efficiency and quality.

Traditionally, handloom weaving involved laborious tasks, particularly in the warping phase where yarn is wound onto a warp beam. The innovation of warping machines has transformed this process, offering a faster and more efficient alternative. Unlike manual methods, these machines automate much of the winding process, reducing labor-intensive tasks and minimizing errors.

Under the TLLB project, "the ant" has developed a warping machine which decreases the cost of the warping drum more than 50% than the drum available in the market. The ant has shifted the warping drum in the villages and trained more than 250 weavers in 6 villages of Udalguri district. There is huge enthusiasm among the weavers due to the benefits of the warping drum. "the ant" will support the weavers through technical knowledge transfer for warping drum and advocacy for mobilizing resources (warping drum) from the concerned authority.

One of the primary advantages of the drum/warping machine is its ability to expedite production timelines. By harnessing the drum technology, weavers can significantly reduce the time required to warp yarn by more than 80%. Decrease in time of warping led to the decrease in operational cost of production and increased profit margin. It allows the weavers to meet the rapid production cycles which are essential for meeting consumer demand and staying competitive.

- The drum technology also decreases the physical labour required for the traditional warping method where the weavers have to walk through the warping area for many hours. It also decreases the risk of deteriorating fabric during the rainy season. Moreover, the drum/warping machine enhances the consistency and uniformity of the final fabric. By ensuring precise tension and alignment of the yarn during the warping process, the machine helps eliminate variations that can occur with manual methods.
- Furthermore, the adoption of drum/warping machines aligns with broader trends towards automation in the handloom industry. It is allowing the weavers to enhance their capabilities and position themselves for long-term success in a competitive market landscape. By streamlining the warping process, this innovative machine accelerates production timelines, decreases physical labour, enhances fabric consistency, and minimizes cost for weavers.

STORY OF CHANGE

Empowering Women Through Livestock Farming: Journey of Kamita Narzray



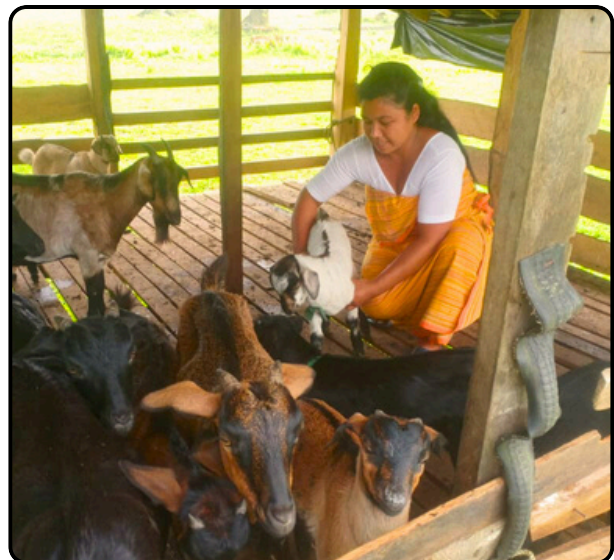
Kamita Narzray is a 29-year-old resident of South Dowaguri village under Hatisar VDC. Kamita, a mother of two, has embarked on a remarkable journey towards economic independence and empowerment through her dedication and hard work.

Kamita's husband, Mr. Daimalu Narzary, works as a laborer, and Kamita herself serves as the secretary of the Bitorai Self Help Group, which operates under the Aronai VO.

Before her involvement with the Mould project, Kamita had a small livestock setup with just two mother goats. Her dream, however, was much bigger. Kamita's interest was in livestock and agriculture activities, dreaming of establishing a substantial goat farm to generate more income and support her family's needs effectively.

In March 2023, Kamita had the opportunity to participate in the Mould project's goat farming training. This training proved to be a turning point in her journey. With new knowledge and skills, Kamita received a revolving fund of Rs. 10,000, which she used to build a proper goat shed and buy an additional mother goat.

Kamita's farm has now grown to accommodate 25 goats, marking a significant leap from her initial two goats. Her dream now is to expand her farm further and reach a herd size of 50 goats.



IDEATING FOR CHANGE

Mime for Community Engagement

In the month of February, IDeA hosted Chris Yerlig, a mime artist from the USA for an interactive session. Chris brought fresh perspectives on the power of mime as a tool for community engagement, showcasing its ability to bridge gaps and connect people across boundaries. The session was also attended by IDeA's CF Incubation partners: Eureka Samaj, North East Educational Trust and Injot Trust.



Leadership Retreat workshop

As part of the Caring Friends Grant, Incubation Training Series, IDeA organised a Leadership Retreat workshop from 14th to 17th February, 2024 at Manas National Park, Assam.

A total of 14 participants from 14 organizations (CF partners as well a few other organisations) from across the north-east actively participated. This retreat marked the conclusion of Incubation Training Series 2023-24.

THANK YOU FOR READING!



the action northeast trust

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