



Welcome to our

Quarterly Newsletter

APRIL-JUNE 2024



One Decade Celebration of SHA Cum Sifung Cultural Festival, 2024

The Sifung Harimu Afad (SHA) celebrated its 10th anniversary with a grand event on April 1st and 2nd, 2024. The festival also aimed to provide a platform for youths and children to perform and enhance their technical dance skills. The event saw a total of 255 participants, with a remarkable 193 of them being female participants.



The celebration featured various activities, including cultural competitions in instrument playing (Kham, Sifung, Serja), dance, a cultural rally, and a seminar on Bodo culture.

Reviving Bodo Heritage: Sifung Afad's Cultural Mission

Sifung Harimu Afad (SHA) is dedicated to preserving and reviving Bodo traditional dance and music, so that the Bodo cultural heritage remain a vibrant and living part of the community. SHA trains master trainers to teach others, fostering a sustainable model for cultural preservation. These workshops are designed to create a ripple effect, where each trained individual becomes a torchbearer of their culture, spreading knowledge & passion within their community. Currently, Sifung Harimu Afad operates four branches—three in Chirang and one in Kokrajhar.



<https://youtu.be/TWYly58bKCU?si=vfWZpNxq4Ijx7Jfy>

Village Key Leaders Orientation on Promoting Gender Equality



An orientation workshop was conducted from April-June for village key leaders to promote gender equality. A total of 344 key leaders, including village headmen, presidents, secretaries, VDP, and VCDC members from 151 villages in the 7 cluster of Rowmari, Amguri, Ulubari, Deosiri, Patabari, Kuklung, and Basugaon in Chirang district, Assam, participated. The orientation focused on understanding sex and gender, gender discrimination, ranking issues related to violence against women and girls, and the role of key leaders in addressing these issues in their villages.

Parents Visited Children Who Joined The Rohan Boppana Tennis Development Foundation in Bangalore, facilitated by the ant



PTDC Meeting Cum Financial Literacy Programme



On 14th June, 2024, the PTDC (Project Level Tribal Development Committee) meeting and financial literacy programme was held at the Shantipur Somobai Samittee Conference Hall. The event aimed to discuss updates on the ongoing ITDPS (Integrated Tribal Development Project Shantipur), supported by TDF, Nabard, and to provide financial literacy education to farmers. A total of 36 people, including farmers, participated in the programme.

ITDPS is a flagship programme of Nabard under TDF (tribal development fund) implemented by the ant for sustainable tribal livelihoods through 'wadi' model.

**ANTS CLEAN
MESS NOT JUST
COMPLAIN ABOUT
IT!**



Clothing Distribution Initiative At Forest Learning Centres



The Cloth Distribution initiative was undertaken on 5th June 2024 by “the ant” for the children in Forest Learning Centers. the ant staff distributed clothes to 188 children in 10 Forest Learning Centers, with 103 girls and 85 boys receiving clothes.

Mental Health Camp For Development Disorders



In a collaborative effort with Shishu Sarothi, a camp for children with developmental disorders took place on the 28th and 29th of May. This event was made possible through the dedicated support of the Shishu Sarothi team.

The Ant Community Advisory's Visit To Gram Vikas Organization, Odisha

The Ant Community Advisory members visited the Gram Vikas organization in Odisha with the objective of understanding Gram Vikas's work and learning best practices that can be implemented in the organization. The successful 7-day visit took place from June 24th to June 30th, 2024, and by 18 members, including 3 staffs. During the visit, the members also interacted with Village Development Committees, SHGs, youth groups, VDCs, and other local members.



Several Exposure Visits Of the ant's Senior Staffs



From June 24th to 28th, 2024 the Avahan Project Team visited different organizations like MASUM, Kagad Kach Patra Panchayat, and Initiatives of Change (IoFC).

Team Sifung visited AVANI, a community based organization creating Sustainable Livelihood & Disseminating Appropriate Technology in Uttarakhand Pithoragarh (Tripuradevi) from June 19th to 29th, 2024.



From 20th to 28th June, 2024, five staffs of the ant visited Development Research Community and Services Centre in Kolkata which focuses on food & Livelihood Security, Climate Change & Adaptation, Education in Schools, etc.

Activities under Sus-Farm Project From April-June

The Sus-Farm Project aimed to boost smallholder farmers' incomes through sustainable agricultural practices, improve local communities' food security by increasing access to nutritious food, and enhance the marketability of farmers' produce through value addition and better marketing strategies.

Empowering Rural Women Through Sustainable Agriculture: Roma Shrestha's Journey



Roma Shrestha, a 30-year-old housewife from No.1 Choto Ladnguri village, faced many challenges in farming due to limited knowledge and resources. After meeting the Sus-Farm project team, she received training in kitchen gardening, bio-pesticides, livestock care, and natural farming. Her participation in the project's training sessions on kitchen gardening, bio-pesticides, and natural farming at the Roilang Livelihood Academy in Shillong was pivotal. Roma also became a community trainer, promoting organic farming despite her busy schedule. She now manages a diversified kitchen garden and fruit orchard using sustainable practices. Additionally, she received a Rs 10,000 revolving fund to establish an Integrated Farming System unit.

ORIENTATION OF SOIL TESTING OF AGRICULTURE FARMLAND



DEMONSTRATION OF INTEGRATED FARMING SYSTEM (BEEKEEPING, SILK REARING, LIVESTOCK, HORTICULTURE & CROPS)



AWARENESS CUM NET HEALTH CAMP IN COLLABORATION WITH VET. DEPARTMENT





STORY OF CHANGE

UDAY SUTRADHAR,

a 21-year-old undergraduate student from No. 2 Aie Puali village, began his Ultimate Frisbee journey in 2014 at a tournament in Deosri Field. Introduced to the game in L.P. School, it quickly became his passion. Initially, he struggled with playing in a mixed-gender environment and felt ashamed of his skills. However, he embraced the challenge, dedicating himself to improvement. Over time, he overcame his shyness, enhancing his communication skills during the spirit circle and learning from senior players.

Today, Uday is the captain of the Ultimate Frisbee Morning Star team & gives credit to the sport for his physical and personal development. Ultimate Frisbee transformed him from a shy boy into a confident young man, who aims to educate his juniors about the game, promoting a better future through sustainability.



UPCOMING EVENTS

1

**Representatives of students
union residential workshop**

2

**Induction training for the
new members of the ant**

3

Teacher training of FLC on TLM Development

4

**Workshop on Bodo
traditional music & dance**

