

ISSUE-I

# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



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# **INTEGRATED TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, SHANTIPUR(ITDPS)**

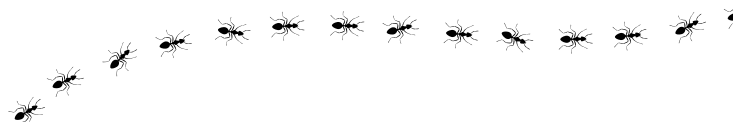


Two solar-powered irrigation systems were installed at No. 3 Udalguri and No. 2 Kusungdvisa in February 2025. This initiative harnesses solar energy to irrigate crops like mango and apple bear, neem, lemon promoting healthy plant growth and supporting local agricultural productivity. Additionally, the solar installation has also provided the community with access to clean drinking water and enabled other household activities, addressing a previously unmet need for a reliable water source.

## **Thengphakhri Model School Initiative (TMSI)**



Thengphakhri Model School Initiative (TMSI) is an educational project started in January 2025, aimed at transforming the learning landscape for rural students in Mongolian and Majrabari High School. This initiative focuses on establishing model schools that serve as benchmarks for quality education, upgrading infrastructure, adding extra curriculum like separate computer class, science lab innovative teaching methods, and holistic development. Currently the school constructions are completed but some installations works like a computer lap & smart class are ongoing.







## The 2nd Sifung Cultural Festival

The Sifung Harimu Afad organized the 2nd Sifung Cultural Festival on January 28-29, 2025, at the Sifung Campus in Thajouguri village, Chirang district with the objective of promoting and preserving Bodo culture and tradition and providing a platform for young talents to shine. The event was a resounding success, that drew approximately 450 attendees.



## Training cum exposure visit on Eri Rearing at Udalguri



The Sifung project has embarked on a new venture, "Increasing Livelihood Opportunities through Eri Rearing," aimed at enhancing the household income of Bodo families. To provide hands-on experience and training, a 2-day exposure visit was organized for beneficiaries and youths on February 24-25, 2025, in Udalguri District. Twenty participants, comprising both beneficiaries and youths, took part in the visit. The objective of the exposure visit was to enhance the skills and knowledge of beneficiaries, youths, and Eri rearers, while motivating them to take up Eri rearing as a sustainable livelihood option.



# Community Media Unit(CMU)



## Basic & Advanced mobile photography & Videography Training

The Community Media Unit (CMU) organized a comprehensive mobile photography and videography training program for youths in the Chirang district.

The initial training was held on March 10th and 11th, 2025, at the Bengtol VDC Hall, where 29 youths participated. The program aimed to equip participants with the skills to create impactful visual content addressing local challenges and highlighting inspiring community stories, while also exploring career options in the field. Following the basic training, 17 selected candidates participated in an advanced training session on March 27th and 28th, 2025.

## CMU's Latest Releases



The Community Media Unit (CMU) has released its first podcast on March 6, 2025, featuring Laxmi Chetri, a Sahas Shakti Award winner, who shared her 12-year journey working with the organization and various experiences. Additionally, two videos were released on March 25, 2025, one documentary featuring Naren Basumatary, one of the oldest ants, and another featuring SBI fellow Rahul Samrawat, sharing their working experiences with the organization.



**Podcast-** [https://youtu.be/c9wVxk\\_sq4I?si=2\\_laTc6Pu04eewte](https://youtu.be/c9wVxk_sq4I?si=2_laTc6Pu04eewte)

**Journey Videos-**

[https://youtu.be/qbYl5\\_HBnl4?si=BK2OQYUXBGzkB2NI](https://youtu.be/qbYl5_HBnl4?si=BK2OQYUXBGzkB2NI)

[https://youtube.com/shorts/SxIwKdP9ObU?si=svZVXI\\_N5J1LWvBZ](https://youtube.com/shorts/SxIwKdP9ObU?si=svZVXI_N5J1LWvBZ)



# COLORING THE RAINBOW(CTR)



## MRT TOURNAMENT

The Ultimate Frisbee Manoranjan Tournament(MRT) was organised in Udalguri, on 19th January 2025, engaged 277 participants (144 boys, 133 girls) of 7-14 age group from different communities. The event promoted physical activity, community interaction, and introduced the sport, fostering long-term interest and participation among local youth.

Before the tournament, a three-day basic training session was also conducted on the 16th and 17th of January 2025 experienced coaches were brought in to train the children.



## APRAAVA SCHOLARSHIP



the ant initiated the Apraarva Scholarship Scheme in the intervention clusters of Chirang District, BTR, Assam. A total of 124 students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and female-headed households were given the scholarship. The applicants included high school students, secondary school students, and undergraduate students. The scholarship was utilized by the students for their tuition fees, travel allowance, and to buy study materials.



# AGAINST VIOLENCE AT HOME – ACT NOW (AVAHAN)



## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY CELEBRATION

On March 8–9, 2025, trained women, supported by the ant, organized IWD celebrations in five clusters –Rowmari, Basugaon, Patabari, Kuklung, and Ulubari. With 585 participants (539 women, 46 men), they led the event independently, mobilizing communities, inviting guests, and raising funds. The theme, “Celebrating Women’s Strength and Moving Together for Equality,” highlighted empowerment and collective action.



## TRAINING OF TRAINERS (TOT) OF THE STAFF FOR SCHOOL SESSION



From March 17–19, 2025, a 3-day ToT session was held at the ant Campus, Rowmari, facilitated by Pragati Kalita and Meghna Gogoi from Roots to Branches Foundation. Various sessions on gender, stereotypes, child rights, reproductive health, consent, safe & unsafe touch and menstrual hygiene were covered during this 3-day session with several activities, film screening & discussion.

## REFRESHER TRAINING OF VILLAGE KEY LEADERS ON FEMINIST COUNSELLING AND PWDV ACT

A refresher training at MPTC Hall, Rowmari. Sessions covered gender, feminist counselling, and the PWDV Act, facilitated by experts from March **24–27, 2025, which was attended by 162 participants from five clusters- Deosiri, Patabari, Kuklung, Basugaon & Ulubari.** Participants engaged in skits, discussions, and action planning for community awareness.





# FOREST LEARNING CENTRE(FLC)

On February 26-27, 2025, 14 teachers from 16 Forest Learning Centres and 2 Model Learning Centres visited Bosco Integrated Development Society (BIDS) in Shillong. The visit aimed to enhance educational quality by exploring library sessions, child-friendly classrooms, community engagement, and CCE implementation. Teachers gained valuable insights to improve student engagement and school development.



## WINTER CAMP 2025

Held on March 12-13, 2025, across 18 Forest Learning Centres, the Winter Camp engaged 679 students (355 boys, 324 girls) from 16 Forest Learning Centres and 2 Model Learning Centres. The camp focused on social skills, confidence building, leadership, teamwork, creativity, and physical activities, fostering holistic development and strengthening community learning among children.



## MONITORING, LEARNING & EVALUATION, TRAINING

A three-day MLE training, facilitated by Maitrayee Paul and Abhijit Ghosh from Roots to Branches, was conducted from February 4-6, 2025. The training covered data collection, analysis, and storytelling, with a focus on Logical Framework Approach and Management Information System. Participants engaged in interactive sessions, field visits, and presentations, and provided positive feedback on the training's practical approach.



# SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS FOR SMALLHOLDER FARMERS (SUS-FARM)



## Convergence Meeting Report: Promoting Child Well-being

A convergence meeting on promoting child well-being was held on March 11, 2025, at Ballamguri BPHC, Chirang, Assam, organized by "the ant" Sus FARM project with Health and Social Welfare Departments. 48 participants, including ASHA and Anganwadi workers, attended. Dr. Sunil Kaul, the co-founder of the ant and Dr. Sanjib Basumatary, Senior Medical and Health Officer, Ballamguri PHC was the resource persons of the program



## FPC(Farmer Producer Company) Training

A training session on Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO) was held on February 18, 2025, in Boitamari, Bongaigaon, Assam. 17 participants, including staff members and Community Resource Persons, learned about FPO formation, registration, and compliance, and interacted with Birangana PFC's Board of Directors, covering marketing strategies to enhance competitiveness.



## Annual Learning and Sharing Meeting Report

The SUS Farm Project's Annual Learning and Sharing Meeting was held on March 24, 2025. Stakeholders, including Community Resource Persons, farmers, ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, Village Head, and volunteers, shared experiences and challenges. Participants were divided into groups, focusing on areas like kitchen gardens, livestock, nutrition, and skill development initiatives.



# BOOSTING AGROBIODIVERSITY FOR RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE INITIATIVE (BARDWI)

## EXPLORING THE LOCAL BIODIVERSITY

A biodiversity walk was organized by project BARDWI in Jarabari village, Udalguri, with 90 female participants. The walk introduced local flora, fauna, and ecosystems, discussing medicinal plants, organic alternatives, soil quality, pollinators, and the benefits of trees, inspiring action to protect biodiversity.



## COMMUNITY EXCHANGE PROGRAM

A Community Exchange Program in Jarabari village, Udalguri, with 90 female participants was organised on March 1, 2025. The program discussed traditional food habits of the Rabha community, locally available vegetables and herbs, medicinal plants, and the changing food habits of the younger generation, promoting sustainability, cultural exchange, and community bonding.

## EMPOWERING STUDENTS THROUGH SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES



The Remedial Class was organised on February 13 and March 8, 2025, with 20 participants. The class taught students about agrobiodiversity, traditional food habits, health benefits of herbs and plants, and water conservation. Lessons included crop varieties, species diversity, and ecosystem diversity, promoting sustainable environment initiatives and practical knowledge on seed and plant identification.



# DIVERSIFICATION WITH INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT FOR UPLIFTMENT OF PEOPLE’S LIVES (DWIMU)



In March, 11 framed looms and 7 Jacquards were provided to local weavers, equipping them with the necessary tools with an aim to enhance their weaving process and improve production efficiency.



## WARPING DRUM & JACQUARD TRAINING

From January to March, 83 weavers received warping drum training, mastering advanced techniques that reduce warping time by 80% and costs by 60%. Additionally, 33 weavers were trained on Jacquard usage, enhancing their capacity to utilize the technology efficiently, despite being first-time users. Both trainings improved precision, quality, and productivity.



## EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH SPINNING TRAINING

From February 10th to 13th, a group of 10 women underwent a comprehensive spinning training program, gaining hands-on skills to produce high-quality yarn using solarized spinning machines. The training, organized in collaboration with BDF, equipped the participants with essential expertise to enhance their craft.





# CHANGE STORY

## Shantipur's Cultural Transformation

In the Northwestern part of Chirang district, near the borders of Bhutan, lies the region of Shantipur. Once unengaged in cultural participation and practices, this area has undergone a significant transformation. The establishment of Shantipur Sifung Harimu Afad in August 2024 by Central Sifung Harimu Afad marked the beginning of a new era.

Sifung brought with it a wealth of knowledge and opportunities for children and youths to learn about Bodo culture and tradition. As a result, the region witnessed a surge in enthusiasm among young people. Children and youths from approximately 12 villages began to participate actively in cultural training and practices.

They learned traditional dance forms like Mwsaglangnai, Bagurumba, and Daosri Delai, and even performed at various programs like Bathou Ashram ni Domasi Fwr bw, Conference of Bodo Students Union, Bodo Sahitya Sabha Conference, Public Meetings, Bodoland Riders Meet Program. The newly formed branch only required little aid in performing at the first event. The events following the first had been independently taken up by Shantipur Sifung Harimu Afad. The impact of Shantipur Sifung Harimu Afad has been profound. Youths who were once idle or in need of direction now spend their time learning and preserving their cultural traditions.



Thank you!