

ISSUE-VI

APRIL - JUNE, 2026



the ant

the action northeast trust

QUARTERLY Field Updates

This edition features programme highlights, community stories, and key initiatives from April-June 2026.



MENTAL ILLNESS TREATMENT ALLIANCE



During April - June 2026, MITA continued its outreach across four clusters, engaging students and community leaders through awareness programmes on mental health, suicide prevention, and substance abuse.



SCHOOL AWARENESS INITIATIVES

In April, awareness programmes on the prevention of suicide, mental health, and substance abuse were conducted in schools across four clusters to promote emotional well-being and encourage help-seeking behaviour among adolescents. The sessions covered stress management, recognising warning signs of emotional distress, the harmful effects of substance abuse, and the importance of peer and family support. A total of 170 students participated at Adarsha Vidyalaya, Kulkung Cluster; 23 students at Dadgari High School, Deosiri Cluster; 200 students at Panbari M.E. School, Panbari Cluster; and 49 students at Patabari High School, Patabari Cluster. The interactive sessions encouraged open discussions and helped reduce stigma around mental health issues.



COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

Cluster-level awareness programmes for key community leaders were organised in May across the Kulkung and Patabari Cluster. The programmes aimed to strengthen the capacity of community stakeholders to identify vulnerable individuals, promote positive mental health, and support timely referral and intervention.

A total of 26 key leaders from the Kulkung and Deosiri Cluster and 39 key leaders from the Patabari Cluster participated, highlights the importance of community engagement in creating a supportive environment for children and adolescents.

In June, similar awareness programmes were conducted with key leaders in the Deosiri and Panbari Clusters. The sessions focused on building awareness, reducing stigma, encouraging collaboration among stakeholders, and strengthening local support systems for adolescents and families. Twenty-five key leaders from Deosiri Cluster and 35 key leaders from Panbari Cluster participated, demonstrating their commitment to fostering safer and healthier communities.



Patabari Cluster



June: Deosiri and Panbari Clusters



442
STUDENTS
reached across
four clusters



125
COMMUNITY LEADERS
engaged through awareness
programmes

4

CLUSTERS
Kulkung, Patabari,
Deosiri and Panbari

FOCUS AREAS

Mental health, suicide
prevention, substance
abuse



FLC

Forest Learning Centre

World Environment Day celebrated Across 18 Forest Learning Centres

On 5 June 2026, World Environment Day was observed across all 18 Forest Learning Centres (FLCs) of the Deosiri Cluster with the objective of promoting environmental protection and sustainable living. More than 700 participants, including students, teachers, parents and community members, actively took part in the event.

The observance was led by teachers and community members from the 18 Forest Learning Centres, highlighting the importance of tree plantation, preserving natural resources, protecting forests, conserving biodiversity and maintaining a clean, healthy environment.



CTR

Colouring the Rainbow

Academic & Career Readiness Workshop

Under the Colouring the Rainbow (CTR) project, an Academic and Career Readiness Workshop was organised on 17 May 2026 at the MPTC Hall, the ant, Rowmari, Chirang. The programme brought together 69 students (42 female and 27 male) representing diverse communities, including Bodo, Santhali, Nepali, Assamese, Rajbongshi, Bengali Hindu, and Bengali Muslim.

Facilitated by Dr. Dwimalu Basumatary, Principal, Sijou Academy, Mushalpur, the sessions focused on effective study habits, time management, self-discipline, career awareness, and the importance of early preparation for higher education and competitive examinations. Participants were encouraged to set academic goals, make informed career choices, and develop greater confidence in planning their academic and professional journeys.



Sus-FARM

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS FOR SMALLHOLDER FARMERS



Promoting Child Nutrition through LANN Sessions

As part of the Sus-FARM project, Learning About Nutrition through Action (LANN) sessions were held on 16, 24, and 25 June 2026 in No. 1 Dhaladanda, No. 2 Dhaladanda, and No. 3 Dakhin Makra, engaging 123 participants, including 70 children and 53 mothers.

The sessions combined discussions on the importance of Go, Grow, and Glow foods with practical demonstrations of preparing nutritious complementary foods using locally available ingredients. Mothers actively participated in recipe preparation, while children were served the prepared meals, demonstrating how locally available ingredients can be used to prepare nutritious complementary foods and reinforcing the importance of balanced diets for children's healthy growth and development.

Livestock Health Awareness and Vaccination Drive



In collaboration with the Borobazar Veterinary Department, the Sus-FARM project organised a livestock vaccination and awareness programme on 25 June 2026 at Bhaoraguri, Daspara. The programme focused on protecting livestock against Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) through vaccination, while raising awareness among livestock owners about the importance of regular vaccination and disease prevention.

Alongside the vaccination drive, veterinary officials shared information on common livestock diseases, animal health management, timely treatment and preventive healthcare. Participants were also introduced to the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) loan scheme for livestock farmers. The programme engaged 15 participants, including local livestock owners, and was conducted with the support of the Sus-FARM and Veterinary Department teams.



DIVERSIFICATION WITH INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT FOR UPLIFTMENT OF PEOPLE'S LIVES



Natural Dyeing Training for Local Weavers

Under the DWIMU project, two Natural Dyeing Training Programmes were conducted at Haguma (29-30 May 2026) and Dogharmakha (4 and 6 June 2026) to strengthen the skills of local weavers and promote value addition in handloom products.

Each training engaged 20 participants and combined classroom sessions with practical demonstrations on natural dye extraction and application. Participants learned to prepare and use dyes from natural sources such as Sapan, Harda, Marigold, and Marddar, while exploring eco-friendly dyeing techniques that enhance the quality and value of handloom products.



Strengthening Technical Skills in Handloom Production

During April to June 2026, the DWIMU project conducted Jacquard Loom Installation Training at Haguma and Borigaon, alongside Warping Drum Training at Haguma and Kapurpura. The sessions combined practical demonstrations with hands-on practice, enabling weavers to develop technical skills in installing, operating and maintaining jacquard machines and warping drums used in handloom production.

Convergence Meeting with Govt. Department and CSOs

A convergence meeting was organised on 2 June 2026 at the ant's field office in Udalguri, bringing together representatives from the Handloom Department, ASRLM, SELCO Foundation, BRLF, and the ant. The meeting explored opportunities for collaboration in handloom, sericulture, agriculture, entrepreneurship, institutional strengthening, and market linkages to enhance sustainable livelihood initiatives.



World Environment Day Plantation Drive

On 5 June 2026, the DWIMU Project marked World Environment Day with plantation drives at Hatkata Village and Tila Garo Basti School, Garobasti, Udalguri. Community members, students, teachers and project staff took part in tree plantation activities following an awareness session on environmental conservation and the importance of trees in protecting natural resources. The project also provided tree saplings suited to the local environment to support the plantation drive.



DWIMU

DIVERSIFICATION WITH INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT FOR UPLIFTMENT OF PEOPLE'S LIVES



Weaving a Better Future

How the DWIMU Project supported Anjima Daimari in strengthening her weaving enterprise

Anjima Daimari, a 39-year-old weaver from Tamulbari village under Tamulbari VCDC in Udalguri district, Assam, has been engaged in traditional weaving since 2016. Using a traditional loom, she mainly produced plain Ogrong Dokona, Santali Chador and Gamusha for household use, with occasional local sales. Despite her dedication and hard work, weaving contributed only about ₹3,000 a year to her family's income.

Her growth as a weaver was constrained by limited knowledge of jacquard weaving, warping, design development, and other modern weaving techniques. The lack of improved equipment and access to wider markets further restricted her ability to increase production and earnings.

Through the DWIMU Project implemented by the ant, Anjima received a jacquard machine along with training in jacquard operation, warping drum usage, punching techniques and design development. Continuous handholding support in jacquard weaving, warping and product design, together with market linkage assistance, helped strengthen her skills and diversify her products.

Today, Anjima produces Eri shawls and intricately designed textiles, earning approximately ₹2.5 lakh a year from weaving while saving around ₹9,000 every month. Her daughter has also joined her weaving activities, making it a family enterprise. Encouraged by her progress, Anjima plans to expand her business by procuring six additional looms and increasing production.

JOURNEY AT A GLANCE



2016
Traditional Weaver
Began traditional weaving using a conventional loom.



Before DWIMU

- Produced Ogrong Dokona, Santali Chador, and Gamusha.
- Annual weaving income: ₹3,000



DWIMU Support

- Jacquard machine
- Jacquard operation training
- Warping drum training
- Punching techniques
- Design development
- Technical guidance
- Market linkage support



Today

- Produces Eri shawls and intricately designed handloom products.
- Approx. ₹2.5 lakh annual weaving income
- Approx. ₹9,000 monthly savings



Future Plan

- Procure six additional looms.
- Increase production.



Traditional Weaver
Practising traditional weaving since 2016.



New Products
Produces Eri shawls and intricately designed handloom products.



Future Plan
Plans to procure six additional looms to increase production.

Through her determination, and with the support of the DWIMU Project, Anjima has turned weaving into a sustainable source of income and secured a better future for her family.



ITDPS

From Tradition to Livelihood

Menoka Narzary's Journey Towards Financial Independence

At 33, Menoka Narzary from No. 1 Odalguri has been practising traditional weaving since completing her HSLC examination nearly 17 years ago. Although weaving has always been part of her life, her family primarily depended on paddy, ginger and sesame cultivation, alongside her husband's small business.

Through the Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDPS), supported by NABARD and implemented by the ant, Menoka received weaving materials that enabled her to begin producing Dokonas for sale. She has completed seven Dokonas, earning ₹2,000 for each piece.

In recognition of her experience and dedication, Menoka has also been selected as the quality control focal person for a newly formed 20-member weavers' committee, where she supports fellow weavers in maintaining product quality. Looking ahead, she hopes to earn an additional ₹8,000 per month through weaving while encouraging more women in her community to take it up as a source of income.



“The ITDPS project has given me the confidence to see weaving not only as a tradition but also as a livelihood opportunity. I want to continue weaving and encourage other women to join this journey.”

MENOKA NARZARY

PRAKRITIK

Bringing Technical Expertise to Farmers' Doorsteps

Under the Prakritik Project, regular field monitoring and technical support are provided to beneficiary beekeepers to promote healthy and productive bee colonies. Through regular visits, project staff assess colony conditions, identify emerging challenges, and offer practical guidance on hive management, colony strengthening, and seasonal care. This hands-on support is enhancing farmers' technical knowledge and confidence in managing their beekeeping enterprises. By building local capacity and ensuring timely technical interventions, the project is contributing to sustainable livelihood opportunities and strengthening the resilience of rural households.



Project staff conducting field visits and providing technical guidance to beneficiary beekeepers to promote sustainable beekeeping practices and improved livelihoods.



BARDWI



BOOSTING AGROBIODIVERSITY FOR RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE INITIATIVE

1 COMMUNITY EXCHANGE PROGRAMME



Three community exchange programmes were conducted between April and June 2026, with two held in Udalguri and one in Mazbat. The programmes brought together community members to share experiences of livelihood activities and identify local seed varieties based on their availability and cultivation patterns. Participants also discussed indigenous seed preservation techniques, encouraging the exchange of local knowledge and practical experience among communities.

2 COMMUNITY SEED BANKS



Between April and June 2026, the project established 10 community seed banks across Udalguri and Mazbat Blocks. Each seed bank was supported with 18 varieties of locally sourced seeds and a bamboo storage rack to support seed preservation and management.

The seed banks operate a revolving seed multiplication system, whereby beneficiaries return twice the quantity of seeds after harvest, helping to replenish seed stocks and extend access to locally adapted seeds within the community.

3 COMMUNITY FORESTS



Between April and June 2026, the project established four community forests across Udalguri and Mazbat Blocks, covering 24 bighas of previously fallow, underutilised land. One community forest was created in Udalguri Block and three in Mazbat Block. With project support, suitable tree saplings were planted through active community participation. The forests are collectively owned by the respective villages and managed by the Village Development Committees (VDCs) for their protection and maintenance. The initiative has transformed previously unused land into community-managed green spaces.

4 BIODIVERSITY WALKS



Between April and June 2026, three Biodiversity Walks were held at Chandana Bagan LP School, Kahibari LP School (Landangchuburi), and Nazaret School, Kapurpura. Guided by an elderly community knowledge holder, students explored nearby natural areas to identify medicinal plants, learn their local names and traditional uses, and understand their significance.

The sessions also introduced students to herbarium preparation, in which plant specimens collected during the walks were pressed and mounted for documentation and educational purposes.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND AGROBIODIVERSITY



Between April and June 2026, 13 remedial classes were conducted across five schools in Mazbat Block using interactive, activity-based learning. The sessions introduced students to environmental conservation, agrobiodiversity, local herbs and indigenous plant species, helping them identify plants in their surroundings and understand their traditional importance.

The classes also encouraged students to explore the importance of conserving local biological resources through practical activities and discussions.

SIFUNG HARIMU AFAD

AN INITIATIVE FOCUSED ON SAFEGUARDING, PRESERVING, AND PROMOTING BODO CULTURAL TRADITIONS AND HERITAGE



Workshop on Bodo Folk Dance (Rwswndri)

Sifung Harimu Afad organised a six-day Workshop on Bodo Folk Dance (Rwswndri) from 18-23 June 2026, bringing together 17 participants (10 male and 7 female).

Led by renowned resource person Sri Binay Brahma, the workshop focused on the techniques, rhythm, coordination, and performance of the traditional dance form.

The workshop prepared a group of male and female dancers for future cultural performances, promoting collaborative participation within the same dance ensemble.

AVAHAN

Against Violence At Home – Act Now!



WORKSHOP WITH COMMUNITY RESOURCE PERSONS (CRPS) ON PATRIARCHAL SYSTEM AND POWER RELATIONS



Under the AVAHAN project, a two-batch workshop on Patriarchal System and Power Relations was organised for 82 Community Resource Persons (CRPs), Krishi Sakhis and Pashu Sakhis from Sidli and Borobazar Blocks on 12 and 15 May 2026 at the Block Resource Centre, Sidli. Through interactive discussions and activities, participants explored gender roles, power relations and equity while strengthening their understanding of the roles of the Social Action Committee (SAC) and Gender Point Persons (GPPs) in addressing social issues and facilitating equitable access to government schemes.

ADDRESSING GENDER INEQUALITY AND ITS IMPACT: A COLLABORATIVE WORKSHOP WITH MEN AGAINST VIOLENCE AND ABUSE (MAVA)



Under the AVAHAN project, a three-batch workshop was organised in collaboration with Men Against Violence and Abuse (MAVA), Mumbai, from 12 to 14 June 2026. It brought together 148 key stakeholders (119 men and 29 women), including Headmen, Faith Leaders, Student Union representatives, VDP and VCDC members, Response Group members, and project staff. Facilitated by Pravin Thote, the workshop used interactive discussions, practical demonstrations, group exercises, the Johari Window tool, and the screening of the short film Juice to promote discussion on gender norms, power relations, gender equality, and violence prevention.

82 Participants

Sidli & Borobazar Blocks

12th & 15th May 2026

148 Stakeholders Participated

119 Men 29 Women

3 Batches

Short Film "Juice" Screened



Community Media Unit

Media and Communication Outputs

During the reporting period, the Community Media Unit (CMU) developed and shared digital communication content to document organisational initiatives and mark important national and international observances through the organisation’s social media platforms. Key outputs included a podcast on Mental Health Matters, reels featuring the Executive Director’s World Environment Day message and the International Yoga Day session, and social media posts marking World Environment Day, Child Safety Month, and Spirit of the Game Day (Ultimate Frisbee).



OUR DIGITAL OUTPUTS

PODCAST

Mental Health Matters – But Do We Care?
Inviting reflection on mental well-being and the importance of caring for ourselves and others.

REELS

Executive Director's World Environment Day Message
Highlighting the importance of environmental conservation and collective responsibility.

REELS

International Yoga Day Session
A glimpse of the organisation’s observance of International Yoga Day.

AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS & OBSERVANCES

World Environment Day
Observing World Environment Day through environmental awareness messages.

Child Safety Month
A month-long digital campaign promoting child rights and child protection.

Spirit of the Game Day
Observing Spirit of the Game Day by promoting the values of respect, inclusion, and teamwork through Ultimate Frisbee.



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