

ISSUE-VII

JULY - SEPT, 2026



the ant

the action northeast trust

QUARTERLY Field Updates

This edition brings together programme updates, community stories, and key initiatives from July–September 2026.



MENTAL ILLNESS TREATMENT ALLIANCE



During July-September 2026, MITA’s activities included mental health and suicide prevention awareness, a session on constitutional rights and mental health, a camp for children with developmental disorders, and World Suicide Prevention Day activities.

AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

The programme engaged around 60 youths in discussions on mental well-being, physical health, digital violence and suicide prevention. Sessions explored emotional distress, recognising warning signs, responding with empathy and seeking appropriate support. Participants were also encouraged to speak openly about mental health and support peers who may be struggling.



ONE-DAY SESSION ON “THE CONSTITUTION AND MENTAL HEALTH”

Facilitated by psychiatrist Dr. Nilesh, the session brought together MITA DASP volunteers and CTR youth members. Discussions explored the relevance of constitutional principles to mental health, including dignity, equality, non-discrimination, privacy and access to healthcare. Participants also reflected on stigma and discrimination faced by people with mental health conditions and the role communities can play in creating supportive environments.



CAMP FOR CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS IN COLLABORATION WITH SHISHU SAROTHI

MITA, in collaboration with Shishu Sarothi, Guwahati, organised a two-day camp for children with developmental disorders. Resource persons assessed 12 children and counselled caregivers on their individual needs, providing practical guidance on care and developmental support at home.



WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY ACTIVITIES

9 September • Birjhora Kanya Mahavidyalaya

In collaboration with NESRC and the college’s Women Development Cell, MITA engaged around 60 female students. Discussions focused on mental health, emotional well-being and suicide prevention. Students were encouraged to speak openly, listen without judgment and seek support when needed.

10 September • Panbari, Kuklung and Patabari

Community-level conversations were held with youths and key community leaders. Discussions encouraged openness around mental health and suicide prevention. The sessions highlighted the role of local stakeholders in promoting emotional well-being and timely support.





Forest Learning Centre

SUMMER CAMPS: LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

4-15 SEPTEMBER 2026 • FIVE FLC LOCATIONS

Summer camps were held at Laopani Ashrabari, Sitonaguri, North Shimlaguri, Koraibari and Bhangapara. School Management Committees and teachers led planning and activities, with community support and guidance from the project team. Children took part in games, sports, art, poetry, role play, singing, dancing and quizzes. The camps aimed to build confidence, teamwork and self-expression while strengthening community participation and ownership. 147 community parents attended.



INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

Theme: “Different Contexts, Common Aspirations.”

12 AUGUST 2026 • HAKLA BAZAR, PATBARI

The ant brought together 61 young people from diverse communities for a youth-led programme. Activities included a cleanliness drive at the Hakla Bazar playground and CLF campus, inclusive Ultimate Frisbee, and sharing personal journeys through the sport. The programme created a common space to collaborate, share experiences and celebrate diversity.



Colouring the Rainbow

CONSTITUTION AND MENTAL HEALTH

24 AUGUST 2026 • MPTC HALL, the ant, CHIRANG



Approximately 50 young people, staff and Ultimate Frisbee coaches took part in an experiential workshop led by psychiatrist Dr. Nilesh Mohite. Through reflection, discussion and interactive activities, participants explored freedom, rights, dignity, belonging and youth agency.

Sus-FARM

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS FOR SMALLHOLDER FARMERS



During July–September 2026, Sus-FARM expanded its outreach in 11 new villages while continuing nutrition screening, women’s health initiatives and support for agricultural livelihoods.

INTRODUCING SUS-FARM TO NEW VILLAGES

Introductory meetings were held across all 11 new villages, bringing together community members from Bengali, Rajbongshi, Bodo, Gowala, Urang Muslim, Rabha and Adivasi communities. Discussions introduced the project, explored local livelihood needs and sought community consent and support for upcoming activities.



MALNUTRITION SURVEY

A malnutrition survey covered 389 children. Of these, 258 were categorised as Green, 95 as Yellow, 12 as Red and 24 as overweight. Nutrition Cadres also provided mothers with basic guidance on child nutrition and healthy eating.



WOMEN'S HEALTH AND NUTRITION

10 haemoglobin testing camps across eight villages covered 276 women. ASHA workers and project professionals shared information on nutrition and maintaining healthy haemoglobin levels, while Nutrition Cadres provided health guidance and counselling.

SEED DISTRIBUTION FOR AGRICULTURAL LIVELIHOODS

Six women farmers and two staff members participated in a seed and planting material distribution programme organised by AAU at KVK, Chirang, in July. Through KVK, the project received 185 kg of black gram seeds and 20 kg of sesame seeds. Black gram seeds were distributed to 40 farmers covering 63.5 bighas, while sesame seeds reached 34 farmers covering 36.5 bighas.



DIVERSIFICATION WITH INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT FOR UPLIFTMENT OF PEOPLE'S LIVES



During July-September 2026, DWIMU supported women's collective enterprises and handloom livelihoods through an exposure visit, cooperative development, Eri spinning training and the distribution of handloom assets.

EXPOSURE VISIT TO RENGAM WOMEN COOPERATIVE SOCIETY, MAJULI, ASSAM

Representatives from BRLF, the ant, Gramya Vikash Mancha (GVM), Aronai Handloom Cluster and Jwnghthi Weaving Cooperative Society visited Rengam Women Cooperative Society to learn about cooperative governance, financial management, production planning, record keeping and marketing. The visit offered practical insights into transparent governance, member participation, production coordination and market development.



INAUGURATION OF JWNGTHI WEAVING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY OFFICE

With support from the ant, the office of Jwnghthi Weaving Co-operative Society was inaugurated at Langdang Chuburi. The cooperative has 53 women members and a 15-member Board of Directors. The initiative aims to strengthen women's livelihoods, preserve traditional weaving culture and promote handloom products made from natural fibres.



ERI SPINNING TRAINING AT MILAIPUR, MAZBAT

the ant, in collaboration with BDF (Bodoland Development Foundation), SELCO Foundation and ASRLM, Mazbat, organised a three-day Eri Spinning Machine Training Programme at Milaipur village under Mazbat Block, Udalguri district. The training combined theoretical and practical sessions on cocoon preparation, making cocoons into cakes, operating the Eri spinning machine and producing Eri yarn.

DISTRIBUTION OF HANDLOOM ASSETS TO 29 WEAVERS

Under the DWIMU Project, the ant distributed handloom assets to 29 weavers in Borigaon (Hatkata), Udalguri district. The distribution included 22 traditional looms and seven Jacquard looms to support weaving activities and production capacity. The report estimates that each beneficiary could earn ₹10,000 per month through handloom-based livelihood activities.



BARDWI

BOOSTING AGROBIODIVERSITY FOR RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE INITIATIVE



During July–September 2026, BARDWI engaged communities in Udalguri and Mazbat through activities focused on traditional knowledge and seed conservation, biodiversity, household wastewater management and natural farming.

COMMUNITY EXCHANGE PROGRAM UNDER UDALGURI AND MAZBAT BLOCK, UDALGURI

Two community exchange programmes were conducted - one each in Udalguri and Mazbat Blocks - with 160 community members. Discussions focused on indigenous knowledge of traditional food habits, farming practices and seed preservation. Participants shared challenges related to declining availability of traditional seeds, storage practices and seed conservation. A seed mapping activity identified varieties still available and those becoming difficult to find. The programme also promoted Community Seed Banks (Bidhan) to conserve local seeds and support sustainable farming.



BIODIVERSITY WALK IN UNDALGURI AND MAZBAT BLOCK, UDALGURI

Seven biodiversity walks - five in Udalguri Block and two in Mazbat Block - engaged 425 participants. Accompanied by local resource persons, participants explored nearby paddy fields and surrounding areas to identify wild vegetables, medicinal plants and other indigenous species. The walks helped document traditional plant knowledge and encouraged awareness of biodiversity conservation and the importance of preserving indigenous plants for future generations.



WATER CHANNELIZATION EVENT IN UDALGURI AND MAZBAT BLOCK UNDER BARDWI PROJECT

During July–September 2026, 15 water channelization and awareness programmes reached 615 participants across Udalguri and Mazbat Blocks. The sessions covered kitchen wastewater management and demonstrated low-cost channels made with locally available materials to direct household wastewater towards kitchen gardens and plants. The initiative promoted water conservation, improved household sanitation and awareness of the problems associated with stagnant wastewater.

NATURAL FARMING TECHNIQUES IN UDALGURI AND MAZBAT BLOCK

Sixteen natural farming sessions - seven in Udalguri and nine in Mazbat—reached 578 farmers and community members. The sessions covered sustainable farming, vermicompost preparation, organic inputs and natural pest control, with guidance on improving soil fertility, reducing chemical use and lowering production costs.



AVAHAN

AGAINST VIOLENCE AT HOME – ACT NOW!



During July–September 2026, AVAHAN focused on youth leadership, awareness of violence and its impact on women’s health, community consultations, and staff capacity building on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

EMPOWERING YOUNG LEADERS – A WORKSHOP WITH STUDENT UNION REPRESENTATIVES

IN COLLABORATION WITH INITIATIVE OF CHANGE (IOFC)

the ant, in collaboration with Initiative of Change (IoFC), conducted workshops for 168 student union representatives (126 men and 42 women) across four batches. Through interactive activities, discussions and film screenings, participants explored life values, gender and social norms, gender-based violence, cybercrime, communication, teamwork and responsible leadership. The workshops concluded with individual action plans for personal improvement and positive contributions to student unions and communities.



AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON VIOLENCE AND ITS IMPACT ON WOMEN’S HEALTH WITH ASHA WORKERS

the ant conducted a one-day awareness programme for 53 ASHA workers from Sidli and Boro Bazaar blocks, representing 15 health centres. The session explored different forms of violence and their impact on women’s physical, mental and reproductive health. Through discussions, practical examples and a toolkit, participants examined ways to support women, facilitate timely medical care, and connect them with available services, including the Police, One Stop Centre, Women Helpline 181 and community Response Groups.



CONSULTATION MEETING WITH RESPONSE GROUP (RG) AND THE YOUTHS

The consultation focused on the project's way forward, drawing on emerging community issues, current needs and priorities for future interventions. Discussions emphasised understanding changing community needs and identifying areas requiring continued attention and support.



SRHR (SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS) TRAINING OF TRAINERS (TOT) WITH STAFFS

Facilitated by Dr. Nilangi Sardeshpande, the three-day training covered gender and social norms, sexual and reproductive health, rights and consent, contraception, family planning, safe abortion, violence against women, and adolescent health and life skills. Through interactive activities, participants explored how gender norms and unequal power relations affect healthcare access and reproductive choices, strengthening their capacity to share accurate information and promote informed choices and access to appropriate support services.



ITDPS

INTEGRATED TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, SHANTIPUR

BUILDING GENDER EQUALITY AND LEADERSHIP THROUGH COLLECTIVE LEARNING

As part of the Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDPS), supported by NABARD’s Tribal Development Fund (TDF) and implemented by the ant, a one-day training on Sex, Gender and Leadership was held at VCDC Hall, Shantipur. The training brought together 131 participants—92 women and 39 men, including weavers, entrepreneurs and FPO members.

Facilitated by Passang Lama, Anil Muchahary and Rwmwi Rwmwi Basumatary, Project Manager, ITDPS, the training explored gender roles, decision-making and leadership, connecting these topics with enterprise management, marketing, financial decisions, FPO participation and community institutions.



PRAKRITIK

NURTURING BEES, STRENGTHENING NATURE-CENTRED LIVELIHOODS

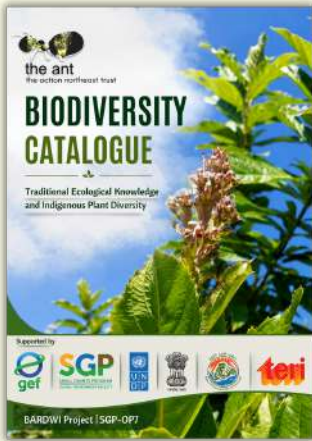
Implemented in Deosri Cluster, Chirang district, PRAKRITIK promotes sustainable, non-violent and nature-centred livelihoods. Farmers receive bee colonies, practical beekeeping training and support to develop bee-friendly nutrition gardens.

At Hatisar Aiepowali, a technical expert visits beneficiaries monthly to inspect bee colonies and provide hands-on guidance on colony health, hive management and care. This ongoing support helps farmers develop the skills needed to manage their colonies independently while supporting pollination and biodiversity.



Community Media Unit

During July-September 2026, CMU shared two case stories - Silence to Strength and Weaving Dreams into Reality, on social media, linking to the full stories on the ant’s website. It also shared programme updates, documented KGBV renovation work through video, submitted an article and photographs to The Philanthropist, and completed and shared the 70-page Biodiversity Catalogue.





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