

## SURVIVED FROM ARGULOUS ATTACK; FOLLOW UP AND HANDHOLDING SUPPORT HAS BROUGHT BACK SMILES TO THE FISHERS OF TRIPURA

Tripura State Initiative (TSI) has proved to be a guiding beacon to the fishers enrolled under the initiative. TSI, not just provides input and training support, but also provides continuous handholding and follow up support to its beneficiaries.

Kabir Hossain, resident of Kalmkhet village of Sepahijala district is an example out of 2760 fishers of Tripura. Kabir Hossain has received various training on pond management, fish stocking, feed and composting. He was learning by growing. He stocked 2500 yearling of



Indian Major Carp in a pond size of 14 Kani (1 kani=0.39 acre), in the month of June' 18.

Few months later he was deeply upset with the disease traced on the fish body. Not knowing what to do he informed the TSI team who tried to ease the problem with several measures. But all efforts went in vain.

Finally, before the matter could get worse, Dr. A.K Sahu, Former Head, APED, ICAR-CIFA was informed, who could quickly diagnose the disease as argulous attack. Argulus, or fish lice, represent a major threat to fish health; both as a result of direct tissue damage and secondary infections. Dr. Sahu, currently serving as Consultant of the initiative, prescribed few medicine and measures to treat the disease. Kabir followed his advice and could restore life in the fishes. He once again started his practice with full motivation and aspiration attached to the activity. On 31st July he further stocked 400 juvenile prawns in the same pond with the help of TSI staff.



*"I am happy to get enrolled under the initiative. I am trying my best to step into the fish market of Sepahijala district of Tripura."*

~ Kabir Hossain

## INTEGRATED FISH-HORTICULTURE FARMING, A NEW PRACTISE AMONG THE FARMERS OF ASSAM



Fishers from Dhemaji and Lakhimpur district of Assam, have started reaping additional income from the newly initiated integrated fish-horticulture farming, which was never done before.

"We never knew about the practise before", a farmer smiled. Fifty farmers from the districts have planted Assam lemon and papaya plants surrounding the embankment which otherwise remains fallow. The nutrient-rich soil surrounding the pond has proved ideal for growing crops, eliminating the cost of organic manures.

The fish-horticulture model which was started as a pilot, has reaped good results with the trust and support from the farmers in the district. With a minimum investment of Rs.1200 to Rs. 2000, a farmer could earn an income of minimum Rs. 25000 annually. With the acceptance and success of the model, the activity is intended to scale up in future under the CML-Tata Trusts-Mising Autonomous Council Project in Assam.

## MICRO-ENTERPRISE, A WAY TO CHECK UNEMPLOYMENT

Eleven youths from Assam and nine youths from Manipur have been selected out of twenty-six youths trained under Micro Enterprise Promotion and Development Program (MEPDP) in Northeast. The objective of the program is to provide input and handholding support towards establishing their dream enterprise.

The eligibility criterion to acquire the support under MEPDP, includes business project submission, market study of the service and proposed enterprise and undergoing an interview round which checked the confidence and intention of the willing candidates. A round of pre-assessment exercise was also undertaken by the CML team. Post fulfilment of the criterion, the twenty candidates were selected for availing the benefits of the program. Starting from application to assessment and selection, the whole process took about two months, said Lyntiborn Margnar, CML.



*“Zero then, five hundred now”. These are the number of successful black pepper sapling raised by Kamini Rabha of Tulsibari village of Kamrup Rural district of Assam. 10% of the plants have already started bearing the first fruit and she has a broad smile on her face, sharing the information to the field team. The project “Livelihood Enhancement through Backyard Cultivation of Black Pepper in the Schedule Tribe Forest Villages” is being implemented by Diya Foundation, a partner organisation of CML in 10 villages under 2 districts of Assam and Meghalaya state of the region.*



### **RAIN SHELTER: A PROVEN CULTIVATION TO COPE WITH THE EXTREME WEATHER CONDITION**

With the objective to enhance additional income, twenty-five rain shelter entrepreneurs have been selected and supported with the process of rain shelter cultivation, under the Tribal Development Fund- Wadi project at Boko, Assam.

Twenty-five low-cost bamboo structure with roof cladding has already been constructed during the month. Among which, few farmers have sown seeds of leafy vegetable and it is expected to be harvested within the first week of August. Following this, farmers have started preparing tomato and

chilli sapling for transplantation of the same in their respective rain shelters.

The activity of Rain shelter cultivation is being implemented in six villages namely Matiya, Gadhaputa, Nampathar, Bamunigaon & Hasi of Boko block in Kamrup Rural district of Assam.

The concept of Rain shelter cultivation gains importance in conditions where crops are to be protected from extreme climate (severe summer & heavy rains). Rain shelter is a low-cost structure with framework and roof cladding. The framework can be made with locally available materials such as Bamboo or areca nut poles. The roof cladding is done with transparent UV stabilized polyethylene film. The sides of the structure are kept open to ensure ample ventilation. It helps year-round cultivation of vegetables by protecting heavy rainfall and extreme solar radiation that affect plant growth adversely which bring additional income to farmers during the lean season.

## A WAY FORWARD TO THE ASSAM STATE INITIATIVE



A three-day visit to CML by Mr. Arun Pandhi, Dr. Malvika Chauhan and Mr. Karthik Ramesh from Tata Trusts, was made from 17th to 19th of the month. The team was accompanied by Mr. Partho S Patwari, Mr. Abdul Hamid and Mr. Kautillya Basumatary from CML, Guwahati.

The objective of the visit was to understand the position, strength and weakness of the ongoing projects of the partners and of CML's direct implementation in Assam. Further, the objective was also to make changes and modification if any in the proposed Assam State Initiative based on the observation made by the Tata Trusts Mumbai team during the visit.

During the three-day visit, the team made extensive visits to the several livelihood project sites in Nalbari, Baksa, Chaygaon and Boko block of Assam.

On the last day of the visit, the entire group from Mumbai and the Livelihoods team of CML including the Executive Director sat for a feedback and way forward session regarding the upcoming Assam State Initiative Project. The meeting was also attended by Mr. Dimbeswar Borah, NEIDA and Mr. Rajat Pati from TATA TRUSTS.

### COLLABORATION WITH GREEN HUB

The newly formed Communication vertical of CML has begun its initial talks with Green Hub, a youth & community-based fellowship and video production centre based in Tezpur, Assam.

A meeting and interactive session has been organised in the coming month with the Green Hub fellows for furthering the video production engagement with CML.

CML intends to engage with Green Hub in developing two films, one on CML's direct intervention and one on Weaving under the Skills & Enterprise Development vertical.

## INTERESTING FACTS ON

# Fish Farmers Days

'Blue Revolution' in India started with the development of seed production technology through induced breeding (Hypophysation) by Prof. Dr. Hiralal Chaudhuri under the guidance of Dr. K.H. Alikunhi as Head at the erstwhile 'Pond Culture Division' of CIFRI at Cuttack, Odisha (presently Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, CIFA, Bhubaneswar) during late fifties. It was on 10th July 1957, the first success in induced breeding was achieved at Angul in Odisha by Dr. Chaudhuri with the support from Dr. Alikunhi. The spawn that was produced out of this experiment was successfully raised into fry and later into fingerling. This pioneering work over years has led to aqua-explosion in the country principally through quality major carp seed production and supplies to fish farmers for culture from hundreds of hatcheries that sprang in the country based on induced breeding technology. At present, India is the second largest aquaculture producer of the world just next to China.

Extract from *Why Do We Celebrate Fish Farmers' Day on 10th July and Why Prof. (Dr.) Hiralal Choudhury is Remembered on This Day?* By Dr. Subendu Datta, Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIFE Kolkata Centre

## PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Photo by Jyoti Agarwal,  
Sr.Accounts Manager,CML,Guwahati

Image was captured during a field visit to Poultry Project in Dudhnoi, Assam implemented by National Small Poultry Development Trusts (NSPDT) with support from CML-Tata Trusts.



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