



SELF HELP GROUP MAHADIVHESAN AT GAMERIMURA VILLAGE IN BOKO, ASSAM

The day long Self Help Group Mahadivhesan enthralled the stakeholders and the community at Gameraimura village of Bock block in Kamrup dist. of Assam on 6th of March. Around one thousand women from around one hundred Self Help Group's (SHG) participated in the day long program. The women displayed their diverse skill set through exhibiting their products and performing tribal dance and songs during the program. Products like plant saplings, handloom products, local sweets, and other handicraft items were displayed during the program.

“Women are the pillars of not just her family but also for the society, and this kind of events proves it all the more” said, Abdul Saleque, Chief Scientist, Goat Research Station, Barnihat. Along with Abdul Saleque, Pranjal Borah, Scientist, Goat Research Station, Barnihat, Rousy Baruah, State Program Manager, Assam State Rural Livelihood, Dinesh Rabha, UP, SSDC, Nilima Phukan, Social Worker among other dignitaries were



also present during the event. The dignitaries congratulated the women for organising such an event.

Women from fourteen villages organised the event with support from the project team under the project titled 'Intensifying livelihoods for tribal households of Boko block', which is being jointly funded by NABARD and Tata Trusts and being implemented by Centre for Microfinance & Livelihood, Guwahati.

The WADI programme which is the Orchard Development Programme, focuses on intensifying of 250 acres of areca-nut based homestead lands, of the 750 tribal households, through promotion of black pepper as a companion crops, pineapple and Assam lemon as intercrops in 14 villages of 2 Gram Panchayats of Boko Block in South Kamrup district of Assam. For sustenance, high value vegetable cultivation has been promoted and grown under rain shelter unit among the farmers. The project also aims at promoting goat rearing with 100 tribal households residing on the forest fringe areas as an alternative livelihood intervention for the rural households. Time to time health camps are being organised for the women farmers under the project.



LOW COST SCIENCE MODEL DEVELOPED BY TEACHER

“Our school doesn’t have any science lab. There are materials provided by the state government but no training. I am thankful for all the support from CML’s field team and specifically the training provided by Agastya was of great quality. I wish we get more training and classroom support from CML in coming years.” Mr. Swapan Deb, Science Teacher, Gutiatial High School.

Mr. Swapan Deb teaches science in Gutiatial High School, a school which is recorded as one of the lowest performing schools in the block. Mr. Swapan on a weekday during the month, approached CML’s branch office at Agartala with the request to help him build some low-cost models, which he has seen in the training, but didn’t have enough practice to build it.

“This was the time when there was not much activity going on in the schools due to change in academic year. Therefore, it was a pleasure to see a teacher taking the initiative “said unanimously by the education team of CML Agartala.

Thereafter with some guidance, he along with his students made few low cost models to exhibit in the local fair on behalf of his school and students.

THE STORY OF RENU KAMBA

A free spirited teenager, Renu kamba is a native of Khuchep Village, Changlang District, Arunachal Pradesh. She is the 9th child among the ten children of Lt. Kamthik Kamba and Wenot Kamba. She has five elder brothers, 3 elder sisters and a younger sister. She lost her father at a very young age. Her mother alone was managing the family. Having been faced a lot of struggles from her early age, she developed herself to be independent young lady. She discontinued her studies after class XI and was not sure what to do next. It was that day when she was dropping her friends to Dimapur, she came to know about Dorcas centre through one of her friend who was enrolled under the programme. Having been told about the facilities and the opportunities at the centre, she got interested to join the training centre. With strong determination, she enrolled herself after discussion with her mother and joined the training centre without further delay.

She took extra care to cope up with the program during her initial days of training which was little challenging for her as she expressed to the program team. Besides the learning she liked everything about the environment the centre offered. She has learned and perfected in making some of the products with her own hand. Till date she designed, cut and stiched quite a number of products like baby frocks, summer pants, kitchen cap, apron, etc.

In course of time she wishes to continue with the skill she had acquired and become a successful entrepreneur where she can help other people besides earning for herself in her village.



MICRO ENTERPRISE CAN BE A CHECK TO UNEMPLOYMENT A CASE STUDY

"The financial support that I receive from Aide et Action-Tata Trusts was very helpful and I am able to start setting up my own enterprise only because of that financial assistance."

Shimtisuk Kharaswai from Meghalaya, was brought up by her mother along with two more siblings. During her schooling she was supported by World Vision (Orphanage organization). She is also a trained beautician from the ITI training centre in Meghalaya.

With her passion to get better in her acquired skills, she decided to join the training program of Aide et Action centre in 2010 after her friends introduced her to it. Post training, she explored and worked for several reputed institutes in the country.

Her decision to set up her own enterprise, pushed her to approach Aide et Action and several banks for investment of 3 lakhs. With a loan of 1 lakh from Union bank and 1 lakh from Aide et Action and her elder brother supporting the remaining amount, she started her new venture at the end of March, 2018. She currently has around 30 permanent clients.

Her professional skills and experience as a beautician has equipped her for bridal makeup charging Rs 5000 per makeup till date besides the regular clients.

The loan provided to her by Aide et Action and Tata Trust had set up the pillar to start her venture. Now, she not only stands as an entrepreneur but also as an employer to the unemployed youth, whom she pays on commission basis.



PARTICIPATION IN THE 4TH WOMEN'S DAY INTERNATIONAL POLO TOURNAMENT

Candidates from the grassroots polo programme participated in the 4th Women's Day International Polo Tournament in Manipur. Three of the players, Neelu Rajkumari, Thoudam Tanna Devi and Victoria Oinam represented Manipur in the tournament. Thoudam Tanna Devi's spectacular performance earned her the award for Best Player from the team. Besides the Women's Day International, the polo candidates have kept themselves busy. They played in the 2019 State Tournament and finished runners up while some of them took part in the Governor's Cup and Equestrian Cup. The athletes excelled in their performance in Tent Pegging where Victoria Oinam won gold medal in the event whereas Neelu Rajkumari bagged the silver. In Show jumping, Thoudam Tanna Devi clinched the top spot by winning the gold medal.

Soil

FACTS

- Soil is a living system.
- A single gram of healthy soil contains millions of organisms including earthworms, nematodes, mites, insects, fungi, bacteria and actinomycetes.
- Soil is a frontier for exploration: Only about 1 percent of soil micro-organisms have been identified.
- Soils process recycled nutrients, including carbon, so that living things can use them over and over again.
- Soil stores water: A one percent increase in organic matter in the top six inches of soil would hold approximately 27,000 gallons of additional water per acre.
- Soil stores vast quantities of carbon: Scientists say that more carbon resides in soil than in the atmosphere and all plant life combined; there

are 2,500 billion tons of carbon in soil, compared with 800 billion tons in the atmosphere and 560 billion tons in plant and animal life.

- Soil mismanagement has contributed to climate change: The world's soils have lost between 50-70% of their original carbon stock, much of which has been released into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide.
- Soil is in trouble: The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) estimated that 33% of soil is moderately to highly degraded through erosion, salinization, compaction, acidification, chemical pollution and nutrient depletion, hampering soils' function and affecting food production.
- Soil that is not covered with vegetative matter is vulnerable: Soil is being swept and washed away 10 to 40 times faster than it is being replenished.
- We can rebuild carbon stocks in the soil: A considerable part of the depleted soil organic carbon (SOC) pool can be restored through conversion of marginal lands into restorative land uses, adoption of conservation tillage with cover crops and crop residue mulch, nutrient cycling including the use of compost and manure, and other systems of sustainable management of soil and water resources.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Clicked by:
Pallabi Saikia
(Associate Program
Manager, WADI
project, BOKO)



Four SHG members took mushroom farming as an income generating activity after attending an exposure training program, conducted under the WADI project women empowerment activities.

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