

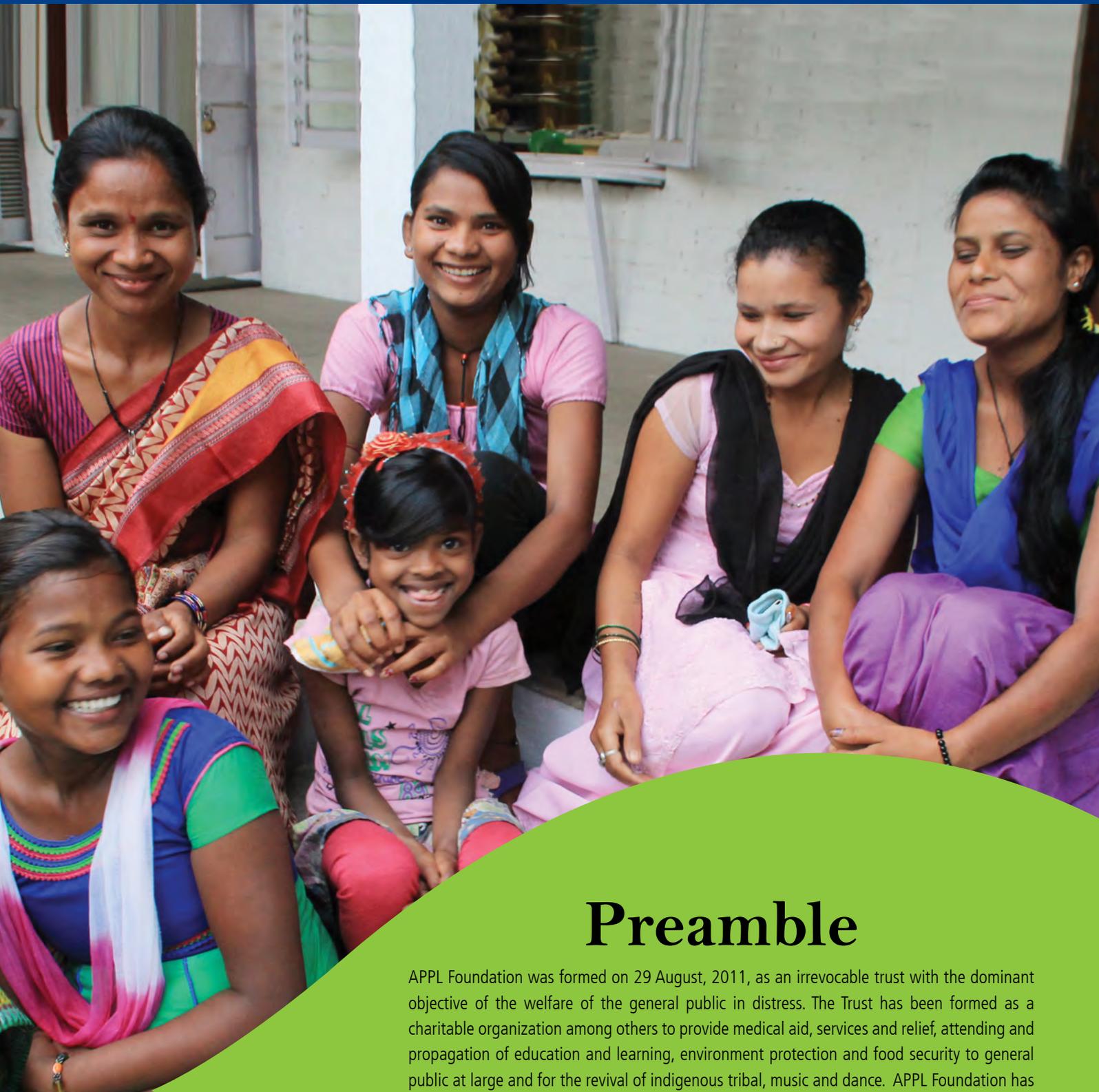


Our Achievements 2013-15



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Preamble

APPL Foundation was formed on 29 August, 2011, as an irrevocable trust with the dominant objective of the welfare of the general public in distress. The Trust has been formed as a charitable organization among others to provide medical aid, services and relief, attending and propagation of education and learning, environment protection and food security to general public at large and for the revival of indigenous tribal, music and dance. APPL Foundation has been granted registration u/s 12AA of the Income Tax Act, 1961, vide order dated 5 March, 2012, by the Director of Income Tax (Exemption), Kolkata.

APPL Foundation was formed to promote the social impact initiatives of Amalgamated Plantations Pvt Ltd. It catalyses the social transformation agenda of the Company. The Foundation acts as a facilitator to achieve the CSR objectives of Amalgamated Plantations, both independently and on a collaborative basis, with the Company.

Trustees' Update: 2013-2015

Recent trends in impact analysis have indicated that consumers are more likely to switch from one brand to another - price and quality remaining constant - if the other is perceived as a socially responsible enterprise. In other words, surpassing competitors is a very tangible reality when a brand engages in ethical business practices. It can turn customers into company ambassadors who engage in advocacy while also fostering loyalty and positive work environment within the company. A positive correlation between social initiatives and corporate financial performance (CFP) has been found to exist on various counts such as a greater ability to attract investors, easier government relations and bringing down business costs by reassessing company spending and promoting environmentally safe practices such as recycling and energy conservation. A stakeholder-driven perspective on the returns of such initiatives suggests that individuals react to a company's social activities in various positive ways; not only do they buy more products but are also more likely to invest in the company and/or seek employment with them, thereby, making social impact initiatives not only the 'right' thing to do but also from a business point of view, the wiser thing.

APPL Foundation is striving to deliver stakeholder engagement within Amalgamated Plantations and in its neighbouring communities. By integrating social impact programmes into the business model, corporate endeavours and policies flow as a natural extension of practices that are in the best interests of society. Working in close collaboration with Amalgamated Plantations Pvt. Ltd., to facilitate and monitor their social initiatives, we ensure that the Company also shares the same approach to commerce and sets the industry standard in good business practices.

**“In a free enterprise,
the community is
not just another
stakeholder in
business, but is in
fact the very purpose
of its existence.”**

- Jamsetji Tata

APPL Foundation, taking its cue from the shared ethos of the Tata Group, is committed to the betterment of society through sustainability and community-driven measures. From its inception in 2011, the Foundation has been watchfully nurtured and today, we can confidently assert that the Foundation is well on its way to maturity.

Since 2013, the Foundation has been striving in key social impact verticals, namely, Education & Skill Development, Healthcare, Environment and Culture to create interdependence of social impact initiatives. The result of this perseverance has been that during 2013-15, skills training was provided to 800 youth from Assam and North Bengal, over 75,000 local residents of the North East were beneficiaries of our healthcare programmes, 1200 beneficiary-farmers from 60 neighbouring villages were able to significantly raise their income through our income supplementary initiatives while contributing to the restoration of the frail ecological balance in the Kaziranga region by going organic at Hathikuli tea estate. The past year also saw the coming together of 1600 plantation residents to celebrate the traditional art forms and heritage of the local community.

In the upcoming pages of this report, we have archived our progress through new partnerships that have emanated side by side with our earlier collaborations; unique initiatives that have been launched while simultaneously monitoring ongoing projects; continuation of our organic approach as the way forward with the aim to inspire and become catalysts of change; and the coming to life of innumerable stories of human resilience and the will to seek out a better life. These are the stories that this report attempts to document, more than anything else.

For the coming years beginning FY 2015-16, we have raised the bar for ourselves, and by forging partnerships with government bodies, private agencies and non-profit organizations we will strive to achieve the following:

- ❖ **Skill Development: Become pioneers in Assam and the North East in providing skills training and enhancing employability.**
- ❖ **Education & Community Awareness: Ensure a safe and secure environment for women & children in the tea gardens by tirelessly promoting community awareness and basic literacy programmes.**
- ❖ **Healthcare: Emerge as the most trusted name in delivering medical care to marginalised sections of the community in the North East through the Referral Hospital located in Chubwa, medical camps and weekly outreach programmes.**

- ❖ **Environment: Set the industry standard for ecologically secure practices and sustainability in the North East aimed at preventing any further natural asset degradation.**
- ❖ **Culture: Organise and support events at the state, national and international level in order to showcase the diverse cultural heritage of the plantation and other local communities in the North East.**

The last two years have also been a time of introspection for us. While our presence in the community has grown, we have miles to go before we can achieve the internal goals that we have set for ourselves. In that respect, we have resolved to attain greater degrees of synergy in our performance through organised project delivery models; develop clearly structured operational and reporting formats; adhere to the strictest audit norms; firmly position ourselves in the sustainability network through meaningful engagement with the transnational community; and last but not the least, build alliances with the categorical objective of becoming a self-sustaining Trust. We have committed ourselves, individually and collectively, to overcome the challenges along the way to ensuring that the success of the Foundation is not only outward-looking but focussed inward as well.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to all those who have supported us in our endeavours so far. The generosity of our partners, namely, Amalgamated Plantations, Mahindra, Tata Motors, Hewlett Packard (HP), Solidaridad, Tata AIA, Mercy Corps India, Niswarth, Operation Smile India, Tata Medical Centre, Balipara Tract & Frontier Foundation, Wildlife Conservation Society, Rhino Foundation, Christian Baptist Hospital and IDRIS, has played a significant role in helping us achieve our targets in contributing towards a better future.

We at APPL Foundation believe that if individual and corporate philanthropy could be channelised through streamlined processes into social impact-oriented investing, the journey towards a more sustainable society would make for much easier travels. We are filled with an urgency to become worthy warriors for this relevant cause and are humbled by this opportunity to serve the community and make a positive impact on the world at large.

Ranjit Barthakur
Chairman
Board of Trustees





Our Vision

Significant improvement in the quality of life and livelihood sustenance of marginalised communities in the North East.



Our Approach

Launch social impact initiatives in the fields of education & skill development, healthcare, environment and culture & heritage in the North East.

Our Outreach

APPL Foundation has been working to bring about improvement in the quality of life and standard of living in the North East. As the Company's tea estates are located in Assam and North Bengal, we feel an ethical imperative to undertake social intervention activities aimed at the communities living in and around the tea estates.

Our initiatives in the field of education, skill development, healthcare, culture, income supplementation and environmental conservation have had far-reaching impact within the desired communities. Our tea garden workers, their immediate and extended families, residents of neighbouring villages as also residents from the other states of the North East have been beneficiaries of our varied programmes thus far.





Our Verticals

Education & Skill Development

Amalgamated Plantations
Private Industrial Training
Institute, ROWTA

Community Awareness
and Education Camps,
MAJULI and HATTIGOR

Vocational Training
Centre, CHUBWA

Vocational Training
Centre, DAMDIM

Healthcare

Free Cancer Treatment,
Tata Medical Centre,
KOLKATA

Medical Outreach Programme,
HATTIGOR

Regular Cleft Screening &
Surgery Camps
in the North East

Referral Hospital
and Research Centre,
CHUBWA

Environment

Lab To Land
Initiative

Social Forestry

Organic Growth
Magazine

Aquaculture

Culture

Sirish Festival,
HATHIKULI

Our People



Rina Mondal Inspired Success

Ms Rina Mondal, a permanent worker on the Chubwa tea estate, is in her early thirties. Her mother, a tea plucker, was also a permanent worker on the estate. As a young girl, Rina was taught to have fun with colours and design. Under the tutelage of the then Senior Manager, and his wife, Rina had learnt the art of making natural dyes from plants and vegetables to make coloured cloth. This had become her favourite way to pass time when she was not busy with school work.

Soon everything changed for Rina when she discovered that her brother was detected with a serious disease that needed expensive treatment, despite which chances of survival were very slim. Her world crumbled around her. She could not muster the courage to tell her parents that their only son would most likely not make it. It was then that she decided to quit school and join the Vocation Training Centre (VTC) at Chubwa tea estate. She thought that if she learnt basic tailoring skills she would be able to earn enough to pay for her brother's treatment. By now she had also given up her hobby of making natural dyes.

She put herself through the course at the VTC and began taking on small tailoring assignments on her own, in order to support her family and her brother. But just as things were beginning to settle down, tragedy struck once again and her ailing brother passed away. Shattered by the sense of loss and grief, nothing interested her anymore. Things only began to look up for her when she heard there was a requirement for a tailoring instructor at the VTC where she had herself once undergone training. She got the job and continues to teach there till date.

Rina is the only bread-winner in the family, shouldering her old parents' responsibilities entirely on her own. For this reason, she doesn't think she will ever be able to get married and have a family of her own but she isn't too bogged down by that. She finds a great outlet in her work and engaging with young girls for whom she is an immense source of inspiration. She is also the mentor for the estate's adolescent girls' club, Jonaki Kishori, which among other things spreads important messages about health and hygiene and gender rights in the workers community living on the estates.



Ranjit Tanti

Making a Real Difference

At the prospect of a better means of livelihood, and consequently, a better life, Ranjit's grandparents travelled from Orissa to the tea garden in Hatigarh, Assam. Here, they worked in the garden as pluckers, never returning to the place they once called home. His parents were born and raised here on the garden and followed in the same footsteps as the earlier generation. Soon after the children arrived, Ranjit's mother, Suborno Tanti, retired as a tea-plucker to take care of the family while his father, Bistu Tanti, moved between different jobs on the garden for years. The mother tells her son that there is no work his father has not done on the estate. This is Bistu's 25th year of service in the Company, having gradually climbed the ladder to become the Head Carpenter on the estate, a graded staff position. Ranjit's parents have never known a life outside the tea garden of Hattigor.

Growing up, Ranjit recalls, life was hard. Living in the worker's line, their family of five barely made ends meet. Nonetheless, his parents were never willing to compromise on the one thing they knew would be their saviour – their children's education. While no one can call either of Ranjit's parents educated, it was the couple's conviction that a good education, even if it meant sacrificing what little comfort they had, would be the answer to all their troubles. Therefore, Ranjit's

sister attended a local convent school while Ranjit and his brother were sent to Don Bosco's, Tangla, in the Udalgiri district of Assam. For this, Ranjit is eternally grateful to his parents.

Once Ranjit had acquired his Bachelors degree in Arts from Tangla College, he spent the next few years taking teaching assignments in schools in Itanagar, Ziro and Kalaigaon, finally returning to Hatigarh to a peculiar situation. The Bright Star, a school located just outside the periphery of Hattigor tea estate, once attended by him, was on the verge of permanent shut-down. This was terrible news for the garden workers and nearby residents. Being the only school in close proximity of the tea garden, if it shut down, it would mean that parents would have to send their children to schools 10—20 km away in Panneri or Tangla. Ranjit knows, when pressure of this kind was involved in simply commuting to school, both parents and their children would begin to lose interest and faith in the pursuit of education altogether. The entire community, especially Ranjit's relatives looked to him as the messiah, entrusting him with the Herculean task of saving their school.

Ranjit, all of 25 years, was apprehensive. After all, it would take much more experience and financial support than what was available to him to make this happen and this thought did not escape him. Finally



A felicitation ceremony was held on 24 June, 2015 at Hattigarh to recognise Ranjit's contribution to the community. The Foundation presented him with a cash award and equipment for his school.

caving in under parental pressure, he agreed to go ahead with the plan of taking over the management of the school. Ranjit had dreamt of running a school of his own one day, but not quite so soon. There was too much riding on him. Getting two of his close friends on board, the resultant three barely managed to raise Rs. 1,000 each with which they printed posters and procured whatever minimal material was required to conduct admissions to the school. They knew it would not be easy but what they had in abundance now, was the firm resolve to make this dream come true.

The school reopened in 2012 with 13 new students. Today, four years later, with the dream still "under construction", Bright Star boasts of 250 students and ten teachers. It has been an arduous journey so far and still is, for all those involved. Salaries for teachers are low with no room for a raise. While catering to the garden workers' children may be a noble cause, it also means that the parents are not always able to pay the school fees on time. On numerous occasions there has been a year's backlog in fees payment for some students. But in Ranjit's words, "the school is not like a godown where you stop supplying the goods just because someone cannot pay. We have never done this. But it is not easy to run a school with such limited funds".

While this in itself is no mean feat to accomplish, what makes Ranjit's tale extraordinary is the philosophy behind it. It is only on really talking to him that you realise that this is a man who is wise beyond his years. Someone who has gone through life absorbing every experience – thinking about it and learning from it; someone who takes the time to understand the world around him, the people and their problems. Someone whose passion is palpable in the way he describes what he wants to do in the future.

In his own words, "education has progressed and reached incredible heights but civilization has lagged behind. Education does not simply mean what we learn from books. It means good values with which we live our lives. I want to be able to give that to my students. I want to train them in sports, teach them the importance of discipline, talk to them about health and hygiene. This is the holistic education a good school gives to its students". He laments that his people, the adivasis or 'tea tribes', as they are commonly known, have lost their way over the course of time. Their progress has suffered, despite their immense contribution to the State. He fears his peoples' culture, their language, and their values are disappearing. He has a burning will, but by his own admission, not enough of a 'way'. That's why he wants to do his bit for the village, the garden he grew up in, no matter how small that contribution might be.

That Ranjit consciously practices the values his parents exposed him and his siblings to early on in life is obvious. Despite the tight budget and a lack of external funding, he and his teachers have pledged to take on the schooling of one student from the 'below poverty line' (BPL) category every year, for free. He believes that if he can do for one child, what his parents did for him, it would be an immense achievement on his part. That is not all. He wants to provide teacher-training programmes at the school for graduates from the region who do not find employment elsewhere, so that they may be able to take on teaching assignments at local schools. Ranjit has an ulterior motive which he reveals only after some probing. He says teaching automatically inclines one to have a "more social bent of mind", just like it happened with him, where he desperately wants to be part of the solution to whatever social problem he sees around him.



Dipak Kalindi

Palette of Life

Dipak Kalindi's family migrated from Purulia district in West Bengal four generations ago. Born and brought up on the gardens, he thinks of himself as a 'local' in Assam. While Dipak works as an office clerk in Hattigor estate, his passion lies elsewhere. From childhood, he was drawn towards more creative pursuits but with several mouths to feed at home and being an only son, he had to push aside all such desires. Whenever he could spare some time, he would find himself sketching or doodling on a piece of paper. It wasn't until much later that Dipak's talent caught the eye of Mr Mahmood Ashraf Ahmed, the then Senior Manager of the estate. It was his encouragement that rekindled the fervour that Dipak had once felt for painting.

Some years later, Mr Kaushik Barborah came to the estate as Assistant Manager, and it was under his guidance that Dipak's hobby of painting finally came of age with his introduction to oil paints and canvas. Till then, Dipak had no idea of a world beyond water colours and had to spend many hours by himself, learning the technique of working with a new medium. Eventually, having mastered the art of manoeuvring oil paints on canvas, he began supplying orders placed by the estate management for their personal and official requirements. His works also adorn the walls of the new canteen at Hattigor tea estate.

Today, Dipak has yet another reason to keep painting – his four year old son, who like him has demonstrated an early flair for art, and the father-son duo spend quality time bonding over each other's drawings. Dipak is currently busy compiling a portfolio in order to be able to showcase his work to the outside world. Dipak Kalindi has only two things he wishes for more than anything else – that he may be able to display his works at an exhibition some day and that his son's life turns out different from his own.



Joya Nag

Girl Power

UNICEF and ETP have come together to launch an initiative with the objective of increasing knowledge, skills and confidence of young people, particularly girls in tea communities; improving their 'life skills' and protection within their communities; thereby increasing the options open to them and enabling them to make informed decisions about their future. Namroop tea estate of Amalgamated Plantations was one such garden where this programme was conducted and an adolescent girls club, Muskaan Club, was formed.

Joya Nag, a resident of Namroop estate, is a member of Muskaan Club. When her mother was pregnant with her, her father was convinced that he was going to have a son. So when Joya was born he was disappointed and always made it known to her. She grew up feeling he did not love her. She thought her father did not care for her happiness or sadness. But then once she joined the club she started excelling in theatre, music, dance and academics. It was then that she felt her father softening up to her. She even goes as far as saying that today she knows her father not only loves her but is proud of her accomplishments. She believes that this has been possible to a large extent due to her involvement with Muskaan Club. The club has made her more self-confident to express her ideas and speak her mind. She goes with the other members of the club to the housing colonies in Namroop and other tea estates to raise awareness through the medium of theatre. Her father has witnessed this transformation in her. He had no option but to allow this vibrant young girl into his heart.



Devika Bora talks about the Rungamuttee Ladies Craft Centre

Crafting Better Futures

The Ladies Craft Centre at Rungamuttee was started in 1989 when Mr. G. Dua was the Senior Manager of the estate. In fact, it was his wife, Ms Dua, whose personal initiative to teach Ms Neelam, wife of the bungalow's domestic help, basic embroidery skills that down the line, culminated in the establishing of a formal craft centre at the estate. Over the years, this simple idea of training local women to embroider household items picked up momentum and grew to become a centre that provides women with skills to supplement their income.

My husband and I moved to Rungamuttee in December 2013. Soon after arriving, I was attending a social gathering at Damdim when I first spotted some exquisite hand embroidered napkins and coasters that were laid out for the guests. On enquiring about these items, I was told they were made by the women of the Rungamuttee Ladies Craft Centre. I was surprised by the discovery but it was also at this moment that I developed a vision for the Craft Centre. I realized the wealth of latent talent and the need for it to be showcased to the wider community.

On returning to the estate, I was eager to gather information about the current status of the Centre and discussed my ideas at length with my husband. I then called for a meeting which was attended by all the senior management staff and their wives, welfare officers of the estate, Ms Neelam, the trainer at the centre, and her ten students. From our discussions, I learned about their work and the many problems they faced. For me to realize my vision of marketing these products to a larger audience, I knew that I would have to motivate the students to come forward with more vigour and make them recognise their own talent. I was convinced that we would be able to get much better returns if we were driven to achieve the new goals that we were setting for ourselves.

Wasting no time, we decided to revive the Centre. With an initial investment of Rs. 2,000 we procured the basic materials required for embroidery work like needles, cloth, thread and frames. It was heartening to see that within a short time, the attendance picked up and many more girls began coming to the Centre to collect needles, thread and other necessary items. This was a very encouraging development and it convinced me that we were heading in the right direction.

Products of the Rungamuttee Crafts Centre are now being displayed at the Company kiosks in Guwahati and Batabari. We are also receiving individual orders from the women of the planters community in Dooars and Assam. The demand is ever increasing and we find ourselves being flooded with orders, which poses a challenge while at the same time brings us an extremely gratifying feeling.

Most of the girls associated with the Centre are students. It means a little extra income for them, and they can earn while learning. Over the course of my involvement at the Craft Centre, a beautiful bond has formed between me and the girls. Our work has brought us together and we function almost like a family. As a token of my appreciation for their efforts, I had taken all the girls of the Centre for a picnic near Bagrakote. Their happiness knew no bounds that day!

I feel so happy now being associated with the Craft Centre, where talent is reaching new horizons. The girls from the workers community are directly benefitted with some extra income while gaining a sense of self-sufficiency and independence. The response so far has been extremely positive and I am sure we will be able to achieve even greater things in the days to come, with everyone's best wishes and support.



Devika Bora and the ladies of the Craft Centre at their picnic spot.





OUR WELFARE ACTIVITIES AT THE TEA ESTATES





Women's Day



Felicitation at Hathikuli Tea Estate

The Head Master of the Deering LP school Mr Jatin Ch. Bordoloi was felicitated by the Hathikuli Tea Estate team for his outstanding contribution towards the betterment of the school and academic achievements of his students.

Eye Check-up Camp



Financial Training



Baby Shows



'Hands Clean' Campaign



Awareness Campaign for New Mothers & Pregnant Women

ANC Programme is being conducted on a regular basis at the tea estate and nutritious food is being provided to pregnant mothers by the collaboration of Anganwadi workers.



Sports





**Swachh Bharat
Abhiyaan
at the
Tea Estates**



ORGANIC ORCHARD
HATHIKULI TEA ESTATE

WORLD EN

HATH





**World Environment Day
on the Tea Estates**



Welfare Data



Total ANC
• 1207 • 1254

New Pregnant Women
• 2136 • 2033

Total Women Examined
• 3343 • 3211

Still Births
• 3.35% • 3.04%
Indian average 10%

Maternal Mortality Rate
• 1.25/1000 LB • 1.07/1000 LB

India : 0-3/1000 Live Births
Assam : 3.01/1000 Live Births

Hospital Delivery
• 92.65% • 90.5%

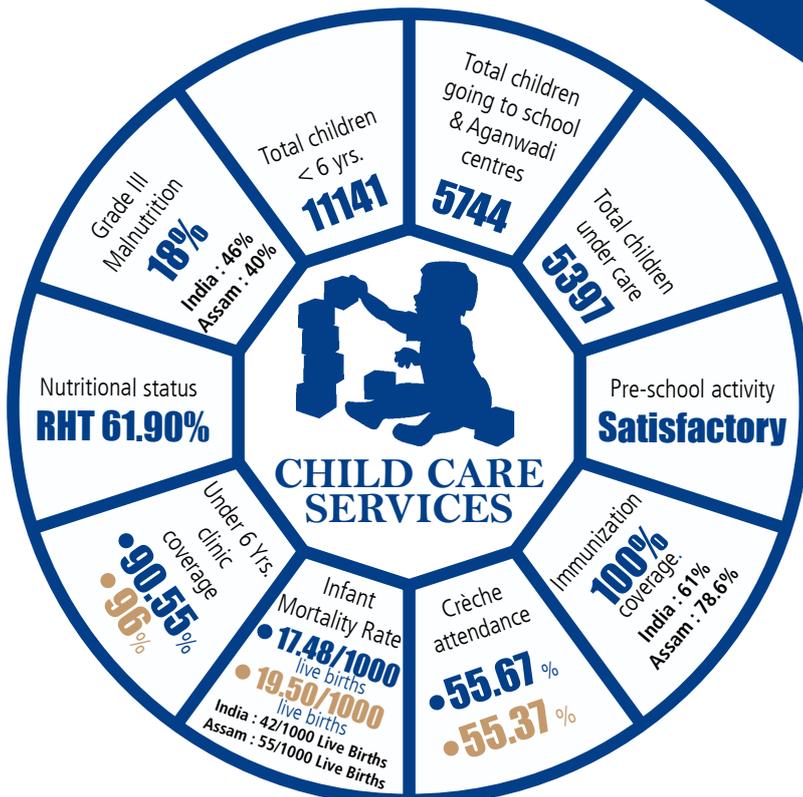
India : 72.9%
Assam : 64.4%

Line Supervised Delivery
• 9.89% • 9.17%

Immunization with T.Toxoid
100%

Birth Weight
below 2.5 kg
• 6.89% • 7.80%

● 2014-15
● 2013-14



● 2014-15
● 2013-14

Total Eligible Couples (EC)

19152 **18820**

Death Rate

7.97 / 1000

India : 7 /1000
Assam : 7.9/1000

Birth Rate

12.74 /1000

India : 19-25 /1000
Assam : 21.2/1000

Couple Protection Rate

67.08 %

India : 50-60 %

Oral Pill Users

13069

Couples Protected - 109

Total EC Sterilized

11233 **11023**

Total Sterilized

623 **490**

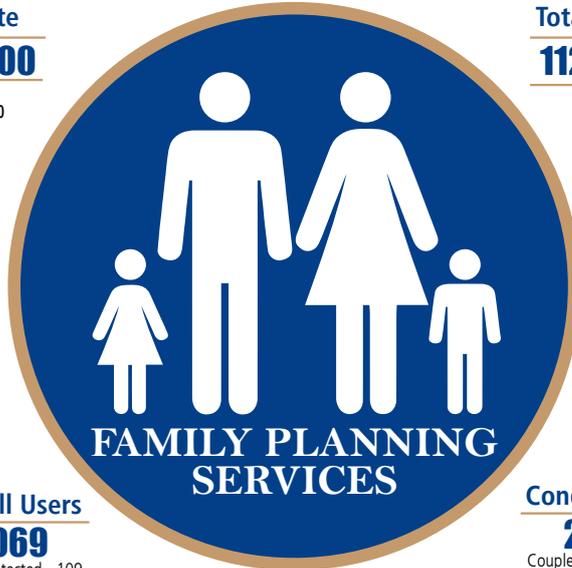
CU-T Users

284 **305**

Condom Users

24657

Couples Protected - 342



FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES

Total Couples Protected

11968 Couples

- 2014-15
- 2013-14

Mahila Mandal Meetings

583

Average Attendance

612

Arts & Crafts

Total Centres

22

Total Attendance

1300

Total Students Passed Out

427



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Adult Education

Total Centres

28

Total Attendance

1171

People Educated

559

Link Workers' Meeting

450

Average Attendance

604

Health Awareness

These programmes were organised in all the tea estates especially during the month of April. This month was also observed as "Health and Hygiene Month" to create awareness among the estate population regarding "Prevention against Water-borne Diseases".

Malaria Awareness

All gardens organised Malaria Awareness Rallies along with spraying of malathion & mass drug therapy to the entire population in the malaria-affected areas. Impregnation of mosquito nets were also undertaken in some of the estates.

World AIDs Day & World TB Day

Were observed at all the estates of Amalgamated Plantations

Baby Shows

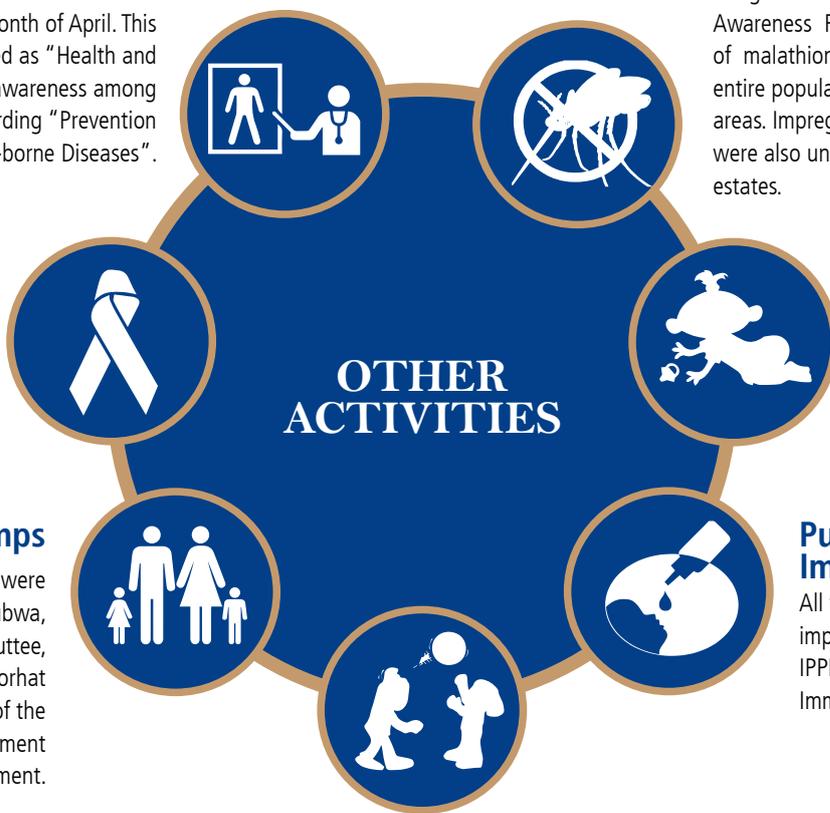
Organised in all Amalgamated Plantations' estates

Family Planning Camps

Laparoscopic sterilization camps were organised in Hattigor, Chubwa, Hathikuli, Kellyden, Rungamuttee, Powai, Nahortoli, Kakajan, Teok, Borhat and Nahorani with the help of the Health and Family Welfare Department of the Government.

Pulse Polio Immunization

All the estates successfully implemented the Government IPPI programme on National Immunization days.



Annual Sports & Children's Day

All the estates organised the above activities in the form of Inter-line Football, Volleyball, Cricket, Badminton matches and observed 14 November as Children's Day by conducting cultural functions.





EDUCATION & SKILL DEVELOPMENT



Amalgamated Plantations Private Industrial Training Institute (APPITI), Rowta



APPITI, a state-of-the-art livelihood training facility, trains youth from the region in various employable trades. The primary focus of the Institute is to create efficient technical manpower which is in great demand in the region. It intends to evolve into a hub of skills development-based education in the region. Established in 1997, APPITI presently occupies over 16 *bighas*, 2 *kathas* and 14 *lechas* of land and is affiliated to the National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT), Government of India, New Delhi. The Institute runs 2-year residential programmes for different trades namely, Motor Vehicle Mechanic (MMV), Electrician, and Fitter. In addition to the training that is provided to the students at the Institute, they are given free hostel accommodation. The Institute also operates 10 other short-term, NCVT-approved Modular Employment Skills (MES) courses alongside short-term, driving training modules.

Being the flagship programme of APPL Foundation, the vision for the Institute is to provide education and skills training geared towards enhancing employability of youth in the region. APPITI underwent a complete revamp in 2013 and was upgraded to become a state-of-the-art facility, as a stepping stone to being a model centre of excellence for technical training in Assam and the North East. In 2014, APPL Foundation entered into a partnership with Gram Tarang Employability Training Services Ltd, to take over the management of the Institute. Under this new agreement the Institute will introduce new trades of Sewing Machine Operators (SMO), Electrical Repairing and Plumbing while retaining most of the existing courses; increase student intake to 1200 trainees over the next three years; and ensure at least 85% placement for trainees graduating from the Institute.



Partnerships at APPITI, Rowta



"Shaping Lives, Empowering Communities!"

263 trained | 85% placed

CUTM partners with MSME Tool Room to launch the first vocational programme of 64 school dropouts as Machine Tools Operators

3,037 trained | 78% placed

Gram Tarang Incorporated

NSDC partnership forged with Rs.10 cr. loan sanctioned

MoRD project sanctioned for placement-linked training of 10,000 rural poor

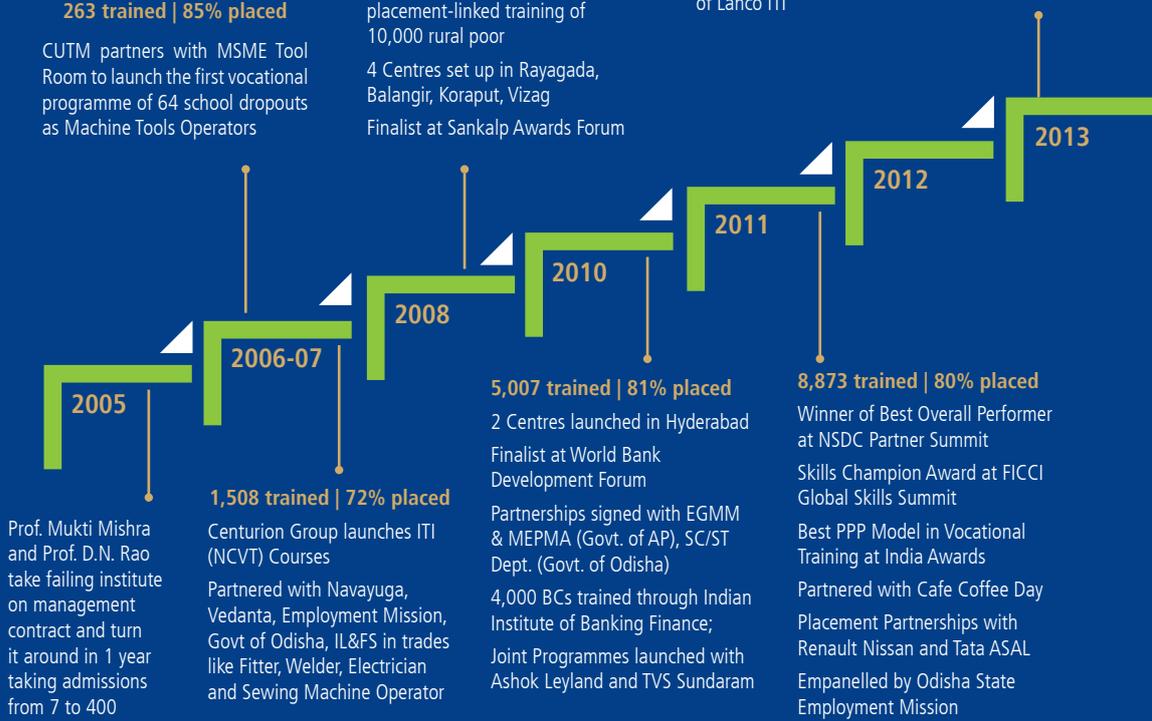
4 Centres set up in Rayagada, Balangir, Koraput, Vizag

Finalist at Sankalp Awards Forum

10,179 trained | 88% placed

Second Proposal approved by board & agreement with NSDC to train 2,50,000 youth over the next 10 years

Joint programmes launched with Godrej, Tata Motors, Jindal & Lanco & won contract for setup & management of Lanco ITI



T & I Global Ltd.

TATA MOTORS

Mahindra
Rise.

Krishna Rabha

Engineering Perfection

Krishna Rabha's closely knit family of four resides in a village 40 km away from APPITI, Rowta. His father is a daily wage earner while his mother takes care of the household. Living in a small house and within meagre means, their parents had ensured that both Krishna and his elder brother went to school. Their own life experiences had taught them that without proper education, the fate of their children would most likely resemble their own. They never wanted that for Krishna and his brother.

The boys have done their parents proud. While his brother is a primary school teacher, Krishna finished his higher secondary education from Tangla HS School. After spending some time wondering what his next move should be, Krishna applied to the Institute on the advice of some village friends. He is presently undergoing training to become a technician. He is driven and knows exactly what he wants to do on completing his training. He wants to be self-employed and start his own workshop. What started out as a passion is almost a realizable dream for him today. This drives him to work hard every day, taking him a step closer to his goal. Krishna is grateful to the Institute for giving him the opportunity to make his dream of having his own workshop, come true.





Sagar's mother brought up his younger sister and him with great difficulty. She is the only parent they have known. Depending on agriculture as a source of income, this family of three knows only too well what it means to have to struggle to survive. Sagar found out about the ITI in Rowta from some friends in the village. As a child, he was always interested in learning about machines and how they worked so it seemed a natural thing for him to do when he decided to appear for the entrance examination. His joy knew no bounds when he found out he was selected for MMV trade at APPITI.

He says the learning process at the Institute places equal emphasis on theory and practice. Every aspect is clearly explained step by step to every student. This helped him improve his understanding of the machines and made him more confident. He has big plans for the future. Once he graduates from the Institute, he plans to spend some time working with some 'big names' like the Tatas or Mahindra but he wants to eventually set up his own venture and in his words "Be my own master!"

The one thing that Sagar will truly miss once he leaves the Institute is the campus. Its scenic and serene quality has been a refuge for him for the last two years. He has spent many hours walking around the campus, quickly qualifying that he would only do so once classes were over, of course!

Sagar Rabha
Rewriting Destiny

Impact

Amalgamated Plantations Private Industrial Training Institute (APPITI), Rowta

FY 1997-2015

Sl.No.	Trade	Enrolment	Pass Out	Placement
1	MMV	168	92	80
2	ELECTRICIAN	85	22	20
3	FITTER	69	17	12
4	COPA (discontinued since 2009)	147	125	94
5	DRIVING	240	229	15
6	MES COURSE	300	167	22
	Total	1009	652	243



Vocational Training Centre (VTC), Chubwa

The VTC was inaugurated by Mr. D. S. Seth, the then Chairman of Tata Tea Limited in August 1986. The objective was to train tea garden youth in various skills and income-generating activities. The vision was to create a pool of self-employed workforce who would be catering to the local community's needs. To that effect, three trades were short-listed after conducting a brief survey. To give shape to this vision, Mercy Corps India, a non-profit company, were brought on board to take over the management of the VTC. Mercy Corps were in charge of the curriculum and pedagogy and introduced three new courses in (a) Basic Beauty and Hair Dressing (b) Plumbing and (c) Electrical Repairing while continuing the already existing Tailoring course. The partnership with Mercy Corps India came to a close at the end of FY 2014-15 and Gram Tarang is slated to take over operations at the VTC from the coming year, under whose mentorship it will be converted to an all women's training centre.



 **MercyCorps** VISION FOR CHANGE



Partnership at VTC, Chubwa

Mercy Corps' mission is to alleviate suffering, poverty and oppression by helping people build secure, productive and just communities. Their vision for change framework is a graphic representation of the way in which key actors, operating principles and external conditions interact in the service of their mission: creating secure, productive and just communities. The vision for change represents a process informed by 35 years of work in the field, that allows for sustainable change to occur.

Mahmooda Khatoon

Standing tall

Fate dealt Mahmooda a cruel hand. Only 26 years old but she has seen how harsh the world can be. While still in school, her father married her off, as is the regular practice with so many young girls in this country. She stayed with her husband and in-laws for one and a half years, enduring their abuse and making peace with the fact that this was how her life was going to be from here on. Finally, her father decided to bring her out of that hell. She and her family are

now fighting a protracted legal battle to ensure that she receives the alimony that is due to her.

Upon return to her father's house at Nahortoli tea estate, she learned about the tailoring course at the VTC in Chubwa, where she has been training for the last year. She realised the importance of acquiring skills for self-sufficiency and believes that her training at the VTC is a step in the right direction. This is the one thing she is certain of. She knows that depending on another person does not always pan out the way one expects. She has no faith left in the institution of marriage after the betrayal she faced as a young bride. Her singular drive now is to finish her training at the Centre and start a small tailoring business. The fire in her to make it on her own lights up her face when she talks about the future but it also reveals the little specks of sadness that are locked in her eyes. This is not a story of a girl who fell victim to misfortune. Rather, it is an account of a brave survivor, determined not to concede defeat.



Graduation Ceremony for Trainees at VTC, Chubwa

Certificate Distribution Ceremony was organised and all the students who completed their training course during April 2013 to October 2014 in Beautician, Plumbing and Electronics were handed over their Course Completion Certificates. A total of 100 students were presented with certificates at the ceremony in which 67 Beauticians, 18 Plumbers, and 15 Electricians, received their certificates. A few students from each trade also shared their experiences at the event.



Bitupan Hazarika is a student of electronics trade and is presently under apprenticeship from the month of December 2014 in Tinsukia Voltas Service Center and earns Rs. 4,500 a month as his stipend. In his words "After completing my class ten examination, I was looking for job to earn money but due to my basic education, there was no job as such for me. But at present I am earning Rs. 4,500 per month and learning the work as well. A big thank you to VTC, Chubwa, and my trainers from Mercy Corps India for giving me this opportunity to work here."



Tailoring
20 Students



Electrician
36 Students



TRAINEES
at
VTC, Chubwa



Total Trainees
FY 2013-15 : 176



Plumbing
34 Students



Beautician
86 Students

Vocational Training Centre (VTC), Dam Dim

The Vocational Training Centre of Dam Dim in North Bengal was started in the year 1995 with the objective of providing skills training to physically challenged individuals on the estate and in its neighbouring areas. This initiative was launched with the intention

to ensure that all individuals have equal opportunity to have sustainable livelihoods. Till 2013-14, training was primarily provided at the Centre in stationery making. Since 2014-15, in partnership with Niswarth, an NGO dedicated to empowering the disabled and underprivileged in West Bengal, new courses have been initiated in cookery and tailoring.



NISWARTH

Partnership at VTC, Dam Dim

"Niswarth", established in 2007, is a registered Non-Governmental Organisation (in India and UK), based at Bagracote Tea Garden and Siliguri in North Bengal, India.

The focus area for this organisation is the empowerment of Challenged and Underprivileged persons irrespective of religion, gender, caste, creed or social status. Niswarth is committed to social justice, sustainable development and human rights. The right to communicate freely is a basic human right and a necessity for sustainable development. They are committed to the dissemination of information and promotion of sustainable development initiatives, in response to the needs of the under-represented and marginalised sections of society.

Kushal Limbo took admission in the cookery class at VTC, Dam Dim, because he was inspired by his father. His father is the cook at the estate Senior Manager's bungalow and everyone speaks very highly of his cooking. While Kushal has always looked up to his father, he also wanted to do something different with his passion for cooking. He knew he couldn't afford to go any hotel management institute as they charge Rs. 3-4 Lakhs as course fees. Kushal had to come up with a plan which would be feasible yet allow him the opportunity to explore new avenues.

Luckily for him, as he was completing his higher secondary studies, Niswarth took over operations at the VTC and introduced a cookery course. Here he learnt things about not just how to prepare food but what flavours and taste go together, how food needs to be presented to make it even more appealing and other important tips. Being a

food lover himself, he knew he had made the right choice in wanting to become a professional chef.

After attending classes for a year, he was selected for industrial training at Montana Vista Hotel in Siliguri. He is presently undergoing Six months of onsite training and is enjoying working there. He acknowledges that training at the hotel has opened up his mind to learning new things and has helped him gain valuable experience which will go a long way in preparing him for his choice of career. The best thing about all this for him is that once he completes his training he will not be unemployed! The Country Club owned by the Neotia Group in the region has a position waiting for him as they too recognize the immense potential of this young man. One of the brightest students to be trained at the VTC, his success has made the faculty at the VTC extremely proud. But without a doubt the person he has made the happiest is his own father!



Kushal Limbo

Cooking up a storm



Impact

Tailoring Course at Vocational Training Centre (VTC), Dam Dim

Batch no.	Starting date	Finishing date	Total number of students	Status
01	April 2014	April 2015	12	Course Completed
02	April 2014	April 2015	09	Course Completed
03	November 2014	November 2015	14	Running
04	August 2014	August 2015	07	Running
05	October 2014	October 2015	13	Running
06	August 2014	August 2015	14	Running
07	May 2015	May 2016	14	Running
			Total : 83 students	



Cookery Course at Vocational Training Centre (VTC), Dam Dim

Batch no	Starting date	Finishing date	Total numbers of students	Status
01	April 2014	April 2015	11	Course Completed
02	April 2014	April 2015	13	Course Completed
03	January 2015	January 2016	14	In Progress
			Total : 38 students	

Digital Learning Curriculum (DLC) Centre at Lattakoojan Tea Estate in Partnership with



Institute Of
Research & Documentation
Of Indigenous Studies

A DLC Centre was set up at Lattakoojan Tea Estate, Golaghat, in collaboration with IRDIS (The Institute of Research and Documentation of Indigenous Studies) a non-profit organisation, and Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) in May 2014, with the objective of disseminating basic computer knowledge within the tea

community. In current times computer literacy has the potential to empower and enhance employability of the population.

The Digital Literacy Curriculum provides baseline digital literacy skills such as the fundamental understanding of computers and use of the internet. Certificates provided by Microsoft and IRDIS are awarded to the participants on the successful completion of the training programme.

Four batches, each lasting for a duration of three months, have been trained over a period of one year at the DLC Centre.

Students from the tea community, within and in the vicinity of the Lattakoojan tea estate are immensely benefitted from the computer lessons being held at the DLC Centre. Over 250 students have been provided training so far of which 50% have been women candidates.



Resilient Community Project at Hattigor & Majuli Tea Estates in Partnership with

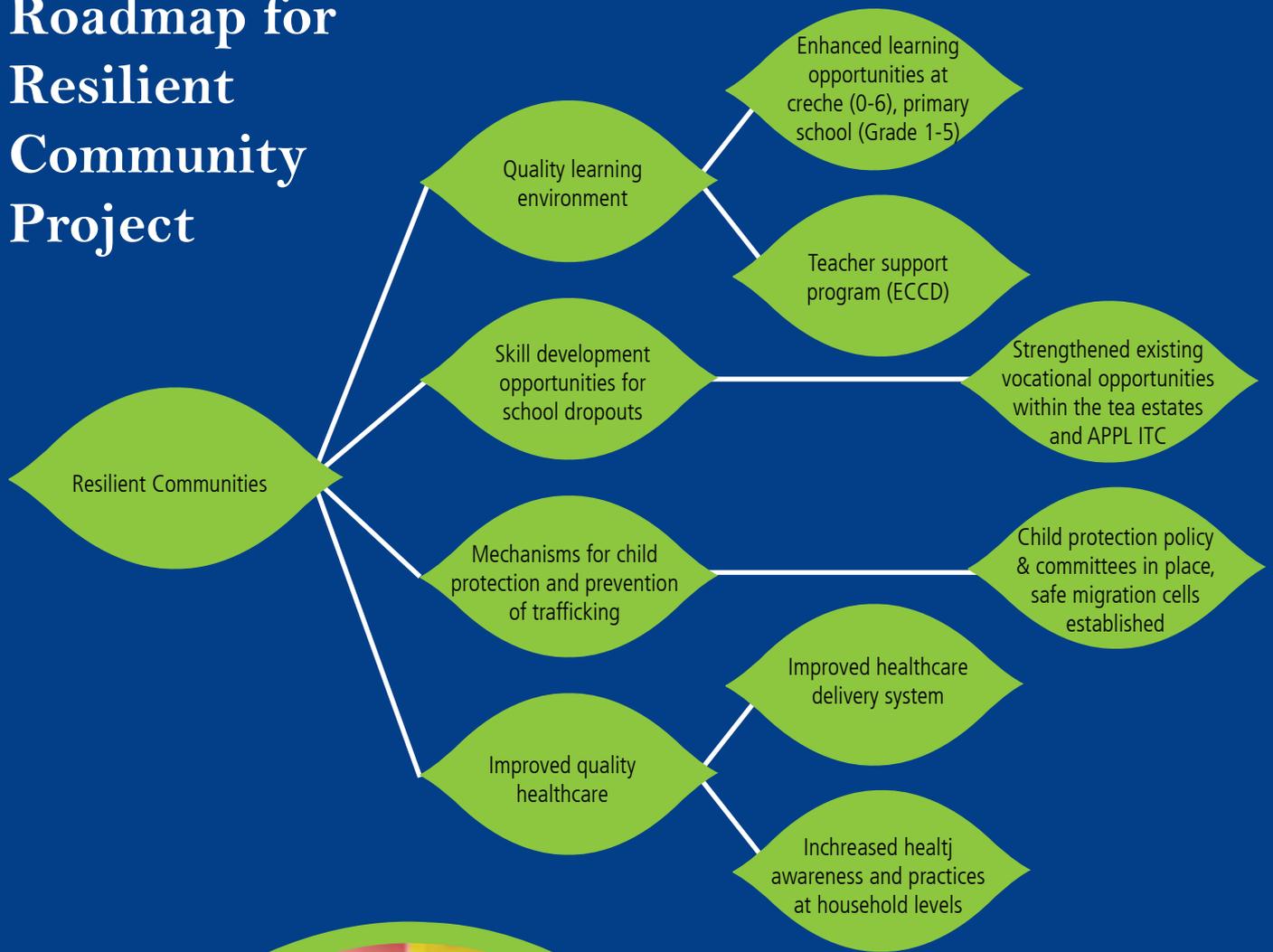
BAPTIST CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL

The Resilient Community Project is an initiative launched by APPL Foundation in collaboration with Baptist Christian Hospital, at Hattigor and Majuli tea estates in Darrang district of Assam. It was set up with the intention of creating a healthy, safe and protective society through community awareness campaigns on healthcare and sanitation, domestic violence against women, trafficking of women and children, the need for child protection and the import of child and adult education. Through this project, an Adult Literacy Programme (ALP) has also been launched at the two estates. The software for this programme has been donated to APPL Foundation by Tata Consultancy Services.



Child safety enhancing activities

Roadmap for Resilient Community Project



Adult literacy programme for young mothers



Antenatal and postnatal awareness campaign



Parents seminar on early childhood education



HEALTHCARE



Referral Hospital & Research Centre, Chubwa



Referral Hospital and Research Centre (RHRC), a 75-bed, secondary care hospital, was conceptualised by Tata Tea Ltd in 1989 and was set up at Chubwa tea estate by Tata Tea in 1994. RHRC has been offering free treatment to all Tata Tea and now Amalgamated Plantations Pvt Ltd employees and at minimal cost, to the general public. The hospital works on a non-profit basis. Through its sustained and ethical medical practices, RHRC has earned a good reputation not only locally but even in the neighbouring states of

Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh from where patients come seeking better medical care. It is the only healthcare centre in the region with SA8000 certification and offers renowned departments of Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, ENT, Eye and Dental. Since 2007, RHRC has treated over 3,00,000 patients of which over 2,50,000 have been non-employee patients. The mission of the hospital is to provide the best primary and secondary medical care at affordable cost in the North East.



Mr Jitesh Khosla, Chief Secretary of the Government of Assam and his wife visited RHRC, Chubwa, in November 2014, and showered praises for the facilities available and work done by the doctors.

e-Healthcare Project in partnership with Hewlett Packard (HP)



The first of its kind telemedicine initiative to be implemented in the North East, the e-Healthcare project links an eHub situated on the premises of RHRC, Chubwa, to five estate hospitals spread across Assam and North Bengal. Equipment and resources, amounting to Rs. 7 crores has been donated by HP to the Foundation.

The intention behind this collaborative venture with HP has been that APPL Foundation is firm in its resolve to deliver quality medical care to the remotest interiors of the North East and

through this project, based on the hub and spoke model, will be striving towards that goal. Medical specialists from RHRC, Chubwa, will be able to connect digitally to consult with doctors treating patients at the different e-health centres (eHC). The main objective is not only to reach specialized medical attention to people in inaccessible parts of the region but also to expedite the process of starting treatment for ailing patients, who would no longer need to physically travel to the closest city/town hospital for a consultation with a specialist.



Hon'ble Shri Tarun Gogoi,
Chief Minister of Assam,
inaugurates the e-Healthcare
Project at Hathikuli Tea
Estate on 29 July, 2015

Spreading Smiles

Amalgamated Plantations Pvt Ltd has been a 100% cleft-free company since 2011. Since then consolidated efforts are being made to ensure that the communities around RHRC are also completely free of cleft defect.



Regular cleft surgery & screening camps in collaboration with Operation Smile India organized at RHRC, Chubwa



Impact

Total patients for 2013-14

35,442



Employee patients:
5,455



Non-employee patients:
29,987

Total Cleft Correction Surgeries 2013-15

129



Total patients for 2014-15

37,426

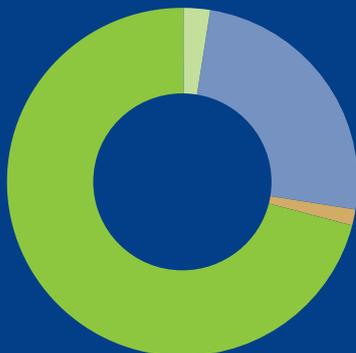


Employee patients:
6,191



Non-employee patients:
31,235

Patients at RHRC 2013-15



Diagnostics
1,86,883 patients

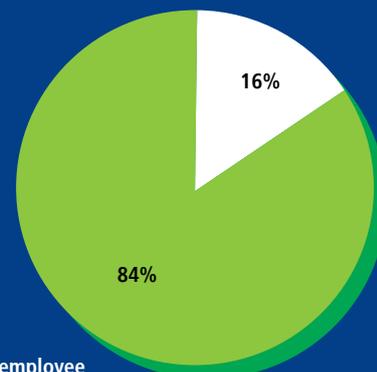
Out Patient Department (OPD): 66,393 patients

In-patient Department (IPD): 6,475 patients

Surgery 3,588 patients

Patients Treated at RHRC between 2008-2015

Total Patients: Over 2,91,405



Non-employee patients:
2,45,080

Employee patients:
46,325

Medical Camps at Closed Gardens in the Dooars in partnership with **Solidaridad**



Medical camps were organised with the support of Solidaridad, in the closed tea gardens of Dooars. The gardens have been closed for the last 13 years and this has led to the gross neglect and deplorable living conditions of the erstwhile plantation workers. Accordingly, a decision was taken to look at a long-term perspective of providing medical assistance and child care by conducting a series of medical camps at each of these gardens. This initiative focussed on addressing the immediate medical needs of the population, to augment the role played by the Government and the Tea Board of India. The medical camps were organized

in the Red Bank, Dharinpur and Surendra Nagar tea gardens in two phases and aimed to benefit the affected population of 6,000 people in the vicinity.

A total of 2,155 patients including children and pregnant ladies received medical attention at the camps. Apart from medication, children up to the age of six years were provided Nestogen, biscuits and chocolates. As per the feedback received from the closed garden committee members, the camp was a success and the workers appreciated the medical attention, treatment and medicines provided to them onsite.



Free Cancer Treatment at Tata Medical Centre, Kolkata

In partnership with Tata Medical Centre (TMC), Kolkata, regular referral of cancer patients takes place from all the estates through RHRC, Chubwa. Annually, 10 needy cancer patients from within the estate workforce of Amalgamated Plantations are provided with free cancer treatment at TMC. TMC's housing facility for patients travelling from out of town in search of treatment will also be extended to the plantation patients free of cost. The goal, in keeping with the mandate of TMC and the Foundation, is to make certain that poor patients are also provided with an opportunity to access the best medical treatment available and together ensure the facilitation of this process.

Rishab Kumar

The Boy Who Fought Cancer And Won!

Rishab Kumar, a 17-year old boy reported to the hospital in Namroop tea estate with complaints of back ache and pain in his right pelvis after playing a game of football. After a few visits and with the pain not subsiding, Rishab was referred from the estate hospital to RHRC in Chubwa. After many rounds of testing he was diagnosed with Bone Cancer (Ewing Sarcoma in the right pelvis). The Medical Director of RHRC referred him to Tata Medical Centre, Kolkata, knowing that he would have the chance to avail the best possible treatment there. Rishab left for Kolkata on 30 April, 2013. A number of well-wishers from the estate and outside went to see him off at the Namrup Railway Station, praying for his well-being and speedy return.

Since then, he has received more than 15 chemotherapy sessions at TMC. Rishab Kumar is the son of a daily-rated worker of Namroop estate. Despite his dismal predicament, Rishab did not lose hope. With his indomitable spirit, and of course the doctors, staff and excellent medical infrastructure at TMC, he fought the cancer tooth and nail and returned home a survivor. He has been recovering well and is presently in sound health. This young boy has become an example of hope and courage for the younger generations on the estate. His grit and determination speak volumes of how the human body and spirit can overcome the biggest of challenges in life, even an imminent threat of death.





ENVIRONMENT



Hathikuli

India's Largest Integrated Organic Farm

Hathikuli Tea Estate is situated between the World Heritage Site of Kaziranga National Park and the Karbi Anglong Hills. The fundamental objective of the conversion to organic was to maintain the ecological balance of a biodiversity hot spot and prevent any further environmental degradation in the areas adjoining the World Heritage Site. The organic conversion of Hathikuli TE started in 2007 and the process was completed by 2011. Conversion to Organic has precipitated a paradigm shift in the approach towards tea production, where natural solutions / remedies through human intervention are used across the cultivation value chain.





Restoration of Ecological Balance has been achieved by reducing artificial interventions through resurgence of:

- Indigenous plant and flower species providing life support sustenance for predators
- Significant improvements in water / air quality are being recorded - directly benefitting the people and planet.



Lab to Land Project



Project Description

This programme was an initiative started by Tata Tea Limited in 1990, with technical assistance from Assam Agriculture University, Jorhat, and Block Extension Officers of different districts. The intention behind launching this initiative was to aid villagers and local communities living adjacent to our tea estates with means of income supplementation.

All 25 estates of Amalgamated Plantations Pvt Ltd distribute seeds to beneficiaries belonging to the community at large, from villages surrounding our tea estates. They mostly fall in the Below Poverty Line (BPL) category and so far, we have reached out to 180 such villages. Since its inception, the Lab to Land initiative has reached out to over



3,500 beneficiaries, many of whom have been women selected either individually or through village level women's self-help groups.

High yielding variety of paddy, procured from the National Seed Corporation, has also been disbursed to the community in certain areas where the yield has the potential to go up from a meager 6-8 quintals to 20-30 quintals per bigha. Most beneficiaries were able to generate their entire year's income within three months through our programme.

Primarily dependent on agriculture, the farmers in these regions find it difficult to cultivate their fields during winter months. Through the Lab to Land programme seeds of winter vegetables have been distributed to the local communities bordering the estates, along with which they were also given high yielding variety (HYV) poultry. A regular supply of eggs and good yields of winter vegetables has provided them with an additional option for income generation during the winter season.



Project Partners

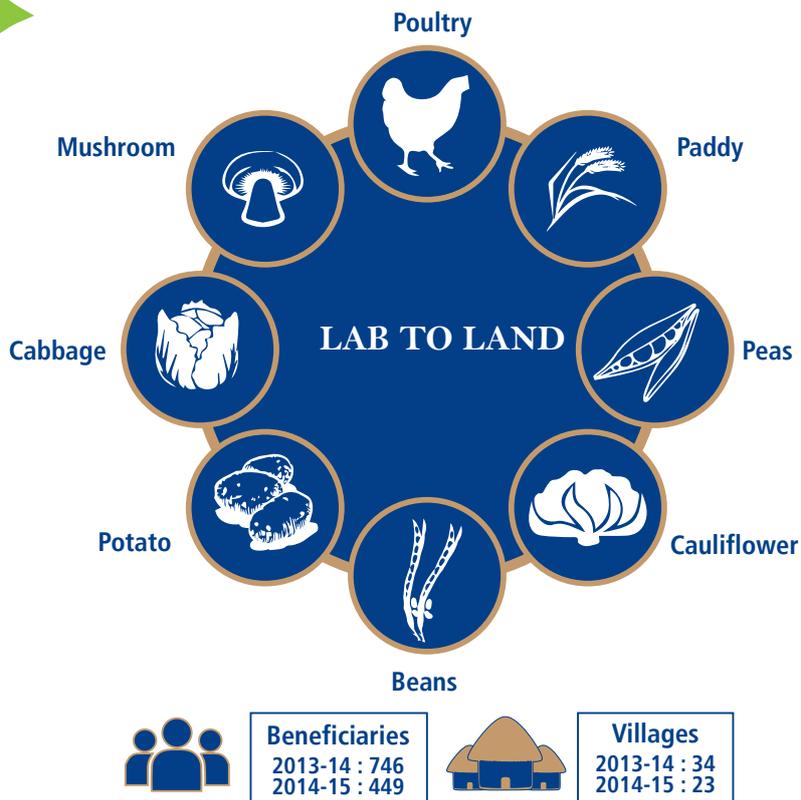


Assam Agricultural University is the first institution of its kind in the whole of the North-Eastern region of India. The main goal of this institution is to produce globally competitive human resources in the farm sector and to carry out research in both conventional and frontier areas for production optimization as well as to disseminate the generated technologies as public good to benefit the food growers / producers and traders involved in the sector while emphasizing on sustainability, equity and overall food security at household level.

In order to achieve the above, the University has the following support base to lead the overall agriculture and farming sector of the state towards more productivity with appropriate scientific approach. At present it has five Colleges, six Regional Agricultural Research Stations (RARS), six Commodity Research Centres and nineteen Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) throughout the state with its headquarters at Jorhat.



Impact



Elephant Corridor Project at Hattigor Tea Estate and Karbi Anglong, Assam

The Giant Fall

On the afternoon of 28 October 2014, at Khoirabari Division of Hattigor tea estate, a herd of approximately 100 wild elephants were spotted. This is their annual migratory route between Assam and the hills of Bhutan. Locals from the nearby Ghagra Bazar had gathered to watch them. The onlookers were asked to leave the site when it was reported that one elephant from the herd had fallen into a drain near the plantations. Promptly Mr. U. Basnet, Asst. Manager of the estate and Shri Biren Baishya, J.B. arrived at the spot to inspect the situation. The Forest Administration was notified immediately of the situation and their officials reached the spot at around 5.30pm in the evening with a trained elephant to help them in the rescue operation. The joint effort between the Forest Department and estate management that lasted for over three hours led to the elephant finally being removed from the drain safely by nightfall and walking away unharmed, to join its herd.

These stories of wandering elephants on the tea gardens are a common occurrence which do not always have a happy ending such as the case above. This makes the Elephant Corridor Project an absolute necessity in these parts.





The team at the field camp (bottom, left to right: Pragyan Sharma, Raju Devi, Prity Hait, Dr. Divya Vasudev, Dr. Varun Goswami, Bipul Kalita).

Project Partners



The Wildlife Conservation Society saves wildlife and wild places worldwide. It does so through science, conservation, education and the management of the world's largest system of urban wildlife parks, led by the flagship Bronx Zoo. Together these activities help change attitudes towards nature and help people imagine wildlife and humans living in harmony. WCS is committed to this mission because it is essential to the integrity of life on earth. Wildlife

Conservation Society has furthered its global mission in India since 1988 through activities of its staff and partners.

WCS – India Programme mission has combined cutting-edge research on tigers and other wildlife, with national capacity building and effective site-based conservation through constructive collaborations with governmental and non-governmental partners. Uncompromisingly committed to wildlife conservation, WCS – India Programme inspires and nurtures a positive attitude towards nature in people through its scientific and conservation endeavours.

BALIPARA FOUNDATION ASSAM • INDIA

Instituted on 4 July, 2007, the Balipara Foundation has been a leading advocate of the principles of Naturenomics™, both in theory and in practice. The Naturenomics™ model seeks to bring the objectives of economics in line with the imperatives of nature. Located in the state of Assam, North-Eastern region of India, and being part of the Indo-Myanmar Biodiversity Hotspot, the location has inspired its vision of creating a Biodiversity Knowledge Bank. The Foundation, firm in its belief that "interdependence is of greater value than independence", will strive to create interdependencies between all life forms and natural systems with the objectives of conserving and preserving our natural heritage.



Robin Eastment, Balipara Tract and Frontier Foundation, interacting with the field team and conducting surveys in tea gardens



Elephant observed in Diffloo Tea Estate, part of a larger herd. The field team recorded the location, and noted characteristics for individual identification

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

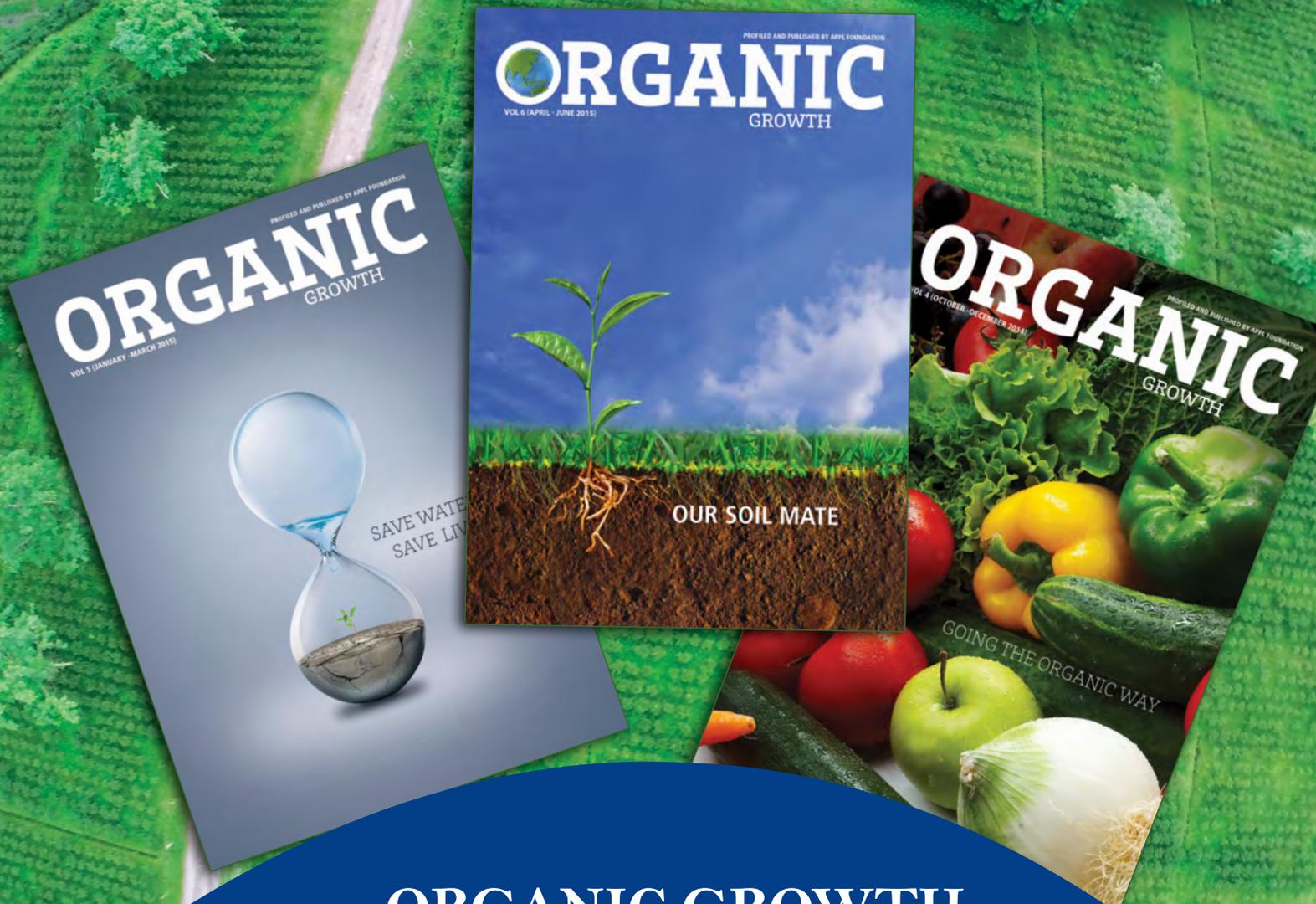
Human-elephant conflict poses a critical threat to the survival of the elephant population in the region. Movement of elephants through human settlements, agricultural fields and tea plantations concomitantly results in damage of crops and property. In partnership with WCS and BTFF, a project has been undertaken to mark and clear out migratory passages for elephants that move between Bhutan and Assam, create small water bodies to keep them on the designated path and minimize human-elephant conflict.

The primary objective of this joint project is to assess the migratory routes of elephants and identify appropriate conservation measures that can facilitate elephant movement. With the help of state-of-the-art scientific methods to identify areas intensively used by elephants

for movement during the flood season, we plan to contrast the use of space by elephants during the dry season. At this time, elephant movement between Kaziranga and Karbi Anglong is generally expected to be lower. Phase 1 of the Project – fieldwork in the dry season (February 2015) using grid-based data collection approach – has been completed. The grid network encompasses an area of 250 sq. km. between Kaziranga and Karbi Anglong, bounded by Sekoni tea estate in the west and Bokhakhhat in the east. So far, we have recorded the presence of leopard, muntjac deer, and hare in addition to elephants. This Project also includes surveys conducted in villages situated near the migratory paths of elephants to understand how people respond to elephant presence. In order to achieve a more sustainable impact, the facilitation of elephant movement must include the support and cooperation of local communities of the landscape.



Field teams also obtained signs and sightings of animals other than elephants, including barking deer, leopard, bear and rhinoceros. Here is a barking deer moving through a tea plantation.



ORGANIC GROWTH

Designed to be an up-to-date, ready reference into the organic world, this e-journal keeps its audience posted about all the latest technological advances and breakthroughs in organic farming, current happenings and forthcoming events. From time to time, it also presents features penned by experts in the field of organic research as well as stories and vignettes for a glimpse into the lives of pioneers who have successfully adopted organic methods for a far more inclusive and enriched lifestyle. The intention is to create a community of like-minded individuals who appreciate the gifts that nature has bestowed on us and are proactively exploring avenues to help conserve animal and plant life in their parts of the world.

Organic Growth, while providing readers with a broad perspective on topics and activities from around the world, highlights and sustains focus on efforts that are underway in the North-Eastern region of India, offering an in-depth analysis of organic projects in the area and a perspective into the efforts of the local community to safeguard endemic plant and animal species and preserve the delicate ecological balance of the region.

Social Forestry

Amalgamated Plantations Pvt Ltd has a current inventory of over ten indigenous varieties of trees.

High Value Trees

Teta Chapa	Teak	Hollock	Red Chandan	Sissoo	Agar	Gomari	Sal	Mahagony	Ajar	Total
8,736	11,482	2,448	3,179	1,738	2,039	5,913	1,785	931	1,183	39,433

Fruit Trees

	Amlakhi	Hilika	Dal Chini	Bel	Star fruit	Olive	Tej Patta	Tamarind
TOTAL	25	47	2	19	7	16	6	3



Aquaculture

Aquaculture was started in 2006, with the objective of land value optimisation by creating water bodies for fresh water fish cultivation on lands in the estates where tea plantations cannot thrive. The Aquaculture project – under the supervision of the Agri-Division of Amalgamated Plantations Pvt Ltd and in partnership with the

Central Institute of Fresh Water Aquaculture (CIFA) – has converted 150 hectares of fallow land spread across 15 locations in Assam into water bodies for fresh water fish cultivation. The project has six hatcheries which are the only authorised multiplier units in the North East for a new breed of carp called the 'Jayanti Rohu'.

Aquaculture positively impacts the micro-climatic conditions to enhance the biodiversity range in the areas surrounding the water bodies. Additionally, the project has been a source of employment generation for the dependants of plantation workers. Over the last eight years, the aquaculture project has provided 4,00,000 man-days, of which in the last two years (FY 2013-15) alone, 1,08,000 man-days and Rs. 85 lakh in employment revenues have been generated by the project.



Kashmir Flood Relief

In response to the devastating floods that affected Jammu & Kashmir in September 2014, the Tata Group, under the auspices of the Tata Relief Committee, had set up a Relief Unit in the state to provide urgently needed humanitarian assistance to the displaced families. Several Tata employees from various group companies had also volunteered to join the relief efforts. The volunteers were involved with activities ranging from running medical camps and setting up community kitchens, to providing safe drinking water, distributing relief kits, conducting village sanitation drives and helping with the safe disposal of animal carcasses. A total of 50 employees of seven Tata companies had volunteered for relief work in three batches in Jammu & Kashmir. One of the volunteers tells us about the unique experience..

As first time volunteers for disaster management, en route to Kashmir, a politically volatile but exquisitely beautiful region, we were experiencing a mix of excitement and nervousness. On reaching Kashmir we immediately got to work and met with the Tata Relief Committee, who guided us through the functional segregation of the relief programme, namely Exploration, Distribution and Warehousing. This was done in order to expedite and make efficient the process of delivering aid to the local community.

While distributing relief kits and coupons, we had the opportunity to

Volunteering Activities under the aegis of Tata Strive

visit Kashmiri households and speak to them about their problems. During our stay in Kashmir, we were touched by the warmth of the people. Despite their miserable living conditions at the time, they continued to exude hope for the future. It seemed as though the recent calamity had no bearing on their hospitality towards their guests. We were always offered meals and refreshments, wherever we went. Everybody shared whatever little they possessed with each other. Through this experience we were able to gain valuable insights into humanity and learnt the importance of camaraderie even under strained circumstances.

We left Kashmir with the certainty that the 'Paradise of India' would be restored to its earlier glory very soon.



Distributed
3,000 Kits.



1,800
Beneficiary Families



Assam Flood Relief

The Amalgamated Plantations Pvt. Ltd. team made their way to Jaikur, located 45 km away from Guwahati, to provide relief to the flood-affected victims of the area. The inhabitants had taken shelter on a highland and a concrete PWD bridge in the village. The relief team with ten quintals of food grain had to take two country boats, to reach the area as the two bridges leading to the village were under renovation.

On reaching the site, the team witnessed the plight of the families who were forced to live under a single sheet of polythene with whatever belongings they could save before disaster struck. The highland area and the bridge where the victims had taken shelter, had turned filthy

as their domestic cows, pigs or goats were also living in the same space.

The gaoburha (village headman), who had prior intimation of the Amalgamated Plantations team's visit, had meticulously listed the family names, ensuring a seamless distribution of relief to the villagers, who had gathered since morning with patient expectations. It would have not been possible to carry out this programme without the commitment and support that the team received from the volunteers of Rhino Club, Kukurmara.





CULTURE





SIRISH

FESTIVAL 2015

APPL Foundation's initiative for the promotion of indigenous art and culture has prompted an innovative approach that focuses on the unique cultural heritage of the tribal communities of the tea gardens. These communities collectively came to be known as the Tea Tribes. They emerged with the tea plantation in Assam and have since then, immensely contributed not only to the growth of the tea industry but also to the State Exchequer. The Assam tea community constitutes 24% of Assam's total population. As these tribes were initially inducted from different parts of the country, the tea estates became a melting pot of diverse cultural practices. The Sirish Festival is an attempt to promote, exhibit and preserve these distinct cultural and art forms and facilitate their integration into mainstream Assamese society.

We, at the Foundation, believe that for coexistence and mutual progress of the diverse communities to be realisable on the tea estates, there needs to be meaningful cultural exchanges between them. The Festival also aims to provide recognition to the personalities who have contributed significantly to the field of art and culture from within the tea community. Awards were presented to two icons from within the tea community for their contribution in the fields of literature and culture.



Cultural Events

Icon Awards

The high point of the Festival was the honouring of two 'icons' from the tea community, one each from the fields of Literature and Culture. Ms Padumi Gazloo, a renowned writer was chosen by the APPL Foundation as the Literary Icon for Sirish 2015 while Mr Sajan Nayak, a popular singer and music composer from the community was chosen as the Cultural Icon for Sirish 2015. At the felicitation programme, a cheque of Rs. 1 Lakh and mementoes were presented by dignitaries from the Government of Assam, including the Hon'ble Minister of Forests and Environment, Mr Etuwa Munda, Mr Preetam Saikia, IAS, Commissioner, Cultural Affairs, Mr Paban Singh Ghatowar, President, Assam Chah Mazdoor Sangh, and other eminent personalities from the State.



Railgadi Jhumur

'Railgadi Jhumur' was the theme song of the first Sirish Festival. It is a modern rendition of a traditional jhumur song which has been composed and sung by Mumbai-based, blues / rock / folk band, EQ. The song is dedicated to the members of the tea community who have continued to be the backbone of the tea industry for over 150 years.

The song and music video, sponsored by APPL Foundation, was launched at the Sirish Festival.



Folk Dance

A jhumur folk dance competition held at the cultural venue of the Festival saw the participation of teams from all estates of Amalgamated Plantations. The competition was judged by an eminent jury panel selected from within the tea community. A colourful and vibrant event, the Sirish Festival showcased the unique cultural heritage of the tea tribes. The competition concluded with the Hathikuli team receiving the Best Performance award, followed close by the Nahorkutia team as first runners-up. The Prize Distribution Ceremony was attended by various dignitaries and a large local audience at the cultural venue.

Sporting Events

Pole-climbing & Archery

Pole-climbing and Archery competitions were held at the sports venue of the Festival. The competitions, using standard equipment, were conducted by officials from the Sports Authority of India (SAI). In pole-climbing, the first position was secured by Mr Anod Karmakar and the first runner-up



was Mr Ashok Lohar, both from the Hathikuli tea estate. Mr Arjun Singh Bhumij of Hathikuli estate and Mr Mangal Karmakar from Kakajan tea estate were ranked first and second in the archery, respectively. The winners were awarded with certificates and mementoes in the presence of several dignitaries from the State.



Sirish, the first ever cultural festival celebrating the traditional art forms and heritage of the tea tribes, has been very well-received by all those who were present there, including our workers, management and Assam State Government officials. It provided a platform to individuals from different gardens to display their talents before an audience, whether in the category of sports or culture. On interacting with the different teams that went to Hathikuli, their excitement about the event becomes palpable, even months after the Festival concluded. The youngsters, brimming with enthusiasm, said that they were eagerly awaiting next year's Festival so that they could outdo other contestants and bring home all the awards for their estates!

Impact



Jhumur dance team from Chubwa tea estate for Sirish Festival, 2015



MAGDALI PURTY
MJ/6/27

PROJECT UNNATI

FACILITATING SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION AND
SUSTAINABILITY ON THE TEA ESTATES THROUGH A
PHASED UPGRADATION PROGRAMME.



Estate Hospitals

Hospitals on a number of estates have been upgraded under the first phase of Project Unnati.



Estate Schools & Crèches

Lower Primary (LP) Schools and Crèches have been revamped at select estates in the first phase of Project Unnati





Ration Godown

Weekly rations to all workers are now being issued in biodegradable bags at a number of tea estates. Ration godowns have been upgraded and the weighing and dispensing of grains is done in keeping with world class hygiene standards.

Recreation Centre

A new Recreation Centre for workers, staff and management, the first of its kind in Assam, has been set up at Hathikuli tea estate.



Smokeless Chulhas & Water Filters

1,655 households have been provided with one smokeless chulha and a Tata Swach water filter each.



Our Partners



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