



**UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN
ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), KOLKATA**

PROGRESS REPORT

January – March 2021

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Sl. No	ADOPTED VILLAGES	TALUKA (BLOCK)	DISTRICT
1.	Bakeswar	Bishnupur I	South 24 Parganas
2.	Magurkhali		
3.	Raghabpur		
4.	Shalpukur		
5.	Debipur		

List of Activities

Title of the Activity 1: IMPLEMENTATION OF VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN – TRAINING IN ORGANIC KITCHEN/NUTRITION GARDEN AT SHALPUKUR VILLAGE WITH SHG WOMEN MEMBERS.

Need of the Activity: Intervention to formulate alternative livelihood opportunities for women members of the adopted village.

Brief Description:

1. On 8th January 2021, a need assessment was conducted with around 35 SHG members in Shalpukur village to understand training needs of the members. Most of the members were keen on undertaking organic kitchen gardening. The meeting was held maintaining all SOPs of the pandemic.
2. On 21st January, a meeting was held with Mrs. Moumita Gazi, Secretary of Panakua Maitri Sangha to initiate various programmes for Self Help Groups under Panakua Gram Panchayat. Mrs. Moumita Gazi will help identify SHGs who will be trained to undertake organic kitchen gardening initiatives.
3. On 22nd January 2021, a tele-conference was held with Dr. Swain (IIT Kharagpur) wherein it was decided that Dr. Swain will visit Shalpukur village and conduct an orientation on organic farming for SHG members on 13th February 2021.

4. **Orientation on organic kitchen gardening**

As scheduled, on 13th February, an orientation session on organic farming was held for the SHG women of Shalpokur village and conducted by Dr. Dillip Kumar Swain of IIT Kharagpur. Around 75 women participated in the orientation. Dr. Swain emphasized the immediate need to take charge of one's own health by growing food organically in the home itself. He also shared some simple yet useful techniques of growing and nurturing kitchen garden and invited the women to visit IIT Kharagpur for cross learning as the participants expressed willingness to undergo extensive training. Therefore, it was decided that 25 women will be identified with the help of village contact person and local administrator to undergo in- depth training in organic kitchen/nutrition gardening to be organized in the following month.

5. **Training in organic kitchen/nutrition gardening in Shalpokur**

A Gift to Women on the occasion of Women's Day

About 25 women selected on the basis of interest expressed, underwent a three-days training conducted by Development Research Communication and Service Centre (DRCSC), an NGO specialized in training on organic farming on 6th, 8th and 9th March 2021. The three days training covered important aspects of kitchen gardening, ranging from identifying various types of soil, how to prepare organic compost with easily available natural resources, to designing and planning the soil bed. The women also got an overview on how to select seeds and how to preserve the same for the future. Besides the in-depth theoretical knowledge, women also got an opportunity to learn through practical experience.

6. On 8th March, after the training, **International Women's Day** was celebrated. The significance of Women's Day was shared with the women. The training on Organic Kitchen gardening was one of the best gifts which they received as they were empowered with a specific skill that would in future become an alternative livelihood option for them. They participated in games and fun activities and all of them received a goodie bag with essential food items.
7. On 22nd March, a **follow-up meeting** was undertaken in the Shalpokur. Out of the 6 Self Help Groups that attended the training, one group planned to initiate nutrition garden as a group initiative. The members even identified a plot where they want to grow vegetables. Some of them have already initiated organic kitchen garden in their backyard.



Need Assessment meeting at Shalpokur



Dr. Swain conducting the orientation



Training on organic kitchen gardening at Shalpokur



Follow-up meeting at Shalpokur village.



Organic nutrition garden bed created



Title of the Activity 2: NETWORKING AND COORDINATION WITH BAKESWAR VILLAGE.

Need of the Activity: To initiate Village Development Plan: Supplementary Education for Children of adopted village under Village Education Programme.

Brief Description:

1. On 15th January 2021, a preliminary meeting was held with the SHG representatives of Bakeswar, Magurkhali and Raghampur village as well as NGO Sampurna Nari Kalyan Samiti, to discuss how Village Education Programme can be initiated and implemented in the said villages. Therefore, in the meeting it was decided to identify children for educational session and prepare a list of same.
2. On 21st January, an interactive need assessment session with 14 children (Class-V-IX) of Bakeswar village was conducted maintaining all SOPs of the pandemic.
3. On 29th January, a follow-up meeting was undertaken with the parents of the children and other village community members along with panchayat members of the village. In the meeting a primary school was identified as a potential place to conduct Village Education Programme. However, it will begin only after pandemic situation normalizes and as per the guidelines of the college.



Need assessment with Bakeswar children



Follow up meeting with Bakeswar stakeholders

Title of the Activity 3: NETWORKING AND COORDINATION WITH MAGURKHALI VILLAGE.

Need of the Activity: To initiate Village Development Plan: Supplementary Education for Children of adopted village under Village Education Programme.

Brief Description:

1. On 19th February 2021, a preliminary meeting was held with around 25 mothers and Panchayat Sabhapati to discuss about initiating Village Education Programme in Magurkhali village. It was decided in the meeting that Ujjal Sangha, the local club, will be used as the venue for the classes. However, it will begin only after pandemic situation normalises and as per the guidelines of the collage.



UBA coordinator at Magurkhali village with the SHG members

Title of the Activity 4: PARTICIPATION IN WORKSHOP ON INNOVATIVE ORGANIC FARMING TECHNIQUES & MARKETING THROUGH FPO & FARM GATE. (organized by NITTR Chandigarh).

On 20th and 22nd January 2021, the PI attended a Webinar cum Workshop on Innovative Organic Farming Techniques & Marketing through FPO & Farm Gate.

Key learning from the webinar is as follows:

- ✓ Permaculture practices can be explored and similar models can be promoted at the adopted villages with the assistance of experts of the same based on its viability.
- ✓ Digital marketing and selling strategies of agricultural produce from the adopted villages can be developed and implemented.
- ✓ Students can be motivated to engaged themselves agricultural practices and contribute to its development at individual and local level.

Title of the Activity 5: PARTICIPATION IN WEBINAR CUM TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION SESSION FOR RURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP. (organized by UBA, CSIR & VIBHA)

On 19th March 2021, the PI attended Technology Demonstration session for Rural Entrepreneurship. The PI developed an understating about the four technologies demonstrated during the session namely:

- a. Improved Jaggery making –Gur Bhatti.
- b. Process for making biodegradable plates, cups and cutleries from agricultural residues/waste.
- c. Sericulture.
- d. Vitamin D2-enriched Shiitake mushroom production and processing

Title of the Activity 6: PARTICIPATION IN THE VIRTUAL CONFERENCE MEETING WITH RCI-IIT KHARAGPUR.

Need of the Activity: To share about the technology adoption for adopted villages from among the technologies demonstrated during the session held on 19th March.

Brief Description:

1. On 26th March 2021, the PI had participated in the virtual meeting conducted by RCI as a follow up of the technology demonstration session wherein all the PIs, who had attended the demonstration session shared about which technologies from among the demonstrated one, they would like to implement in their respective adopted villages. The PI chose two technologies for implementation in the adopted villages i.e. (1) Process for making biodegradable plates, cups and cutleries from agricultural residues/waste and (2) Vitamin D2-enriched Shiitake mushroom production and processing.

Next Action Plan

Sl. no.	Activity to be conducted
1.	Networking and follow-up with the stakeholders of the training programme on organic kitchen gardening conducted in Shalpurkur village to be continued.
2.	Networking with stakeholders for Bakeswar, Magurkhali & Raghampur village will be continued to initiate VDP on Village Education Programme. All activities will be implemented based on the COVID situation.
3.	Training in Pisciculture and Poultry farming will be initiated in the adopted villages once COVID situation improves.
