

Aalok Shikha

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

July - September, 2024

Bandhan-Konnagar was registered under West Bengal Societies Registration Act and commenced its journey in 2001.



16 States



34,240 Villages



41,26,122 Beneficiaries



MoU Signed Between NABARD and Bandhan

On 12th August 2024, an MoU was signed between the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and Bandhan (Bandhan-Konnagar) on the Graduated Rural Income Generation Project (GRIP) at NABARD Head Office in Mumbai. It was signed in the presence of Dr. A.K. Sood, Deputy Managing Director; Ms. L. Leivang Mizoram, Chief General Manager; Micro Credit Innovations Department (MCID), Dr. Prabhudutta Sahu, General Manager; and Ms. Madhurima Sen, Deputy General Manager from NABARD. Mr. Arijit Dutta, Advisor and Mr. Biplab Ghosh, DVP represented Bandhan (Bandhan-Konnagar).



MoU Signed Between Bandhan and Meghalaya State Rural Livelihood Society

On 25th September 2024, an MoU was signed between Bandhan and Meghalaya State Rural Livelihood Society to uplift economically vulnerable women in the State by imparting them skills and resources needed to achieve financial independence, supported by GRIP project (Graduated Rural Income Generation Project) under NABARD. The event witnessed the presence of Mr. Ronald Kynta, Chief Operating Officer, Meghalaya State Rural Livelihood Society and Mr. Ronendra Chowdhury, Programme Director of Bandhan.



Graduation Ceremonies Held in Bareilly, Howrah, and Malda under the Targeting the Hardcore Poor (THP) Programme

On 12th July 2024, the Targeting the Hardcore Poor (THP) programme organized a graduation ceremony at Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh in the presence of Mr. Jag Pravesh (IAS); Chief Development Officer (CDO); Dr. Raghavendra Sharma, MLA; Mr. Om Prakash, Block Development Officer (BDO) of Bareilly Block. Mr. Ronendra Chowdhury, Programme Director and Mr. Biplab Ghosh DVP, represented Bandhan.

Another graduation ceremony was organized in Howrah, West Bengal on 19th July 2024 in the presence of members of Amta-2 Block Panchayat Samiti, Block SHG Sabhapati and GP Pradhans. Mr. Arijit Dutta, Advisor and Mr. Biplab Ghosh, DVP represented Bandhan.

Simultaneously, another graduation ceremony was held at Malda on the same day in the presence of Block Shabhapati, Block SHG head and Gram Panchayat Pradhans.

Many graduated beneficiaries who have come out of extreme poverty with the tireless support from Targeting the Hardcore Poor Programme attended these events and thanked Bandhan.

National Nutrition Week

Bandhan Health Programme organized National Nutrition Week from 1st to 7th September 2024 on the theme "Nutritious Diets for Everyone". The programme emphasized awareness regarding the prevention of mother and child malnourishment through focus group discussions, seminars, and rallies across all the branches of SMILE VII, HBWN IV & ENHANCE projects.

The Jaridih Block Development Office of Bokaro district, Jharkhand jointly organized a colourful event on this issue with Bandhan Health Programme under the Rashtriya Poshan Maah on 24th September.

Many district and block level govt. stakeholders attended these events and encouraged the teams for these initiatives.



World Breastfeeding Week



World Breastfeeding Week was observed from 1st to 7th of August 2024 under Bandhan Health Programme. The event was held with the objective of mass awareness generation with the theme of "Closing The Gap: Breastfeeding Support For All". Focus group discussions, seminars and rallies were organised across 34 branches of the SMILE VII project in Jharkhand, HBWN IV project in West Bengal and ENHANCE project in Rajasthan. Many local stakeholders attended the colourful event.

Inauguration of Bandhan Skill Development Center in Raniganj

The Bandhan Skill Development Center under Employing the Unemployed Programme was inaugurated in Raniganj on July 4, 2024. Mr. Soumen Mitra, Advisor and Mr. Ronendra Chowdhury, Programme Director of Bandhan, dignitaries from Bandhan Micro and General Banking, the Inspector in charge of Raniganj Police Station, and the school principal of Marwari Relief Society High School were present during the opening ceremony.



Career Counseling Seminar

A team from Bandhan Skill Development Center, Aligarh participated in a career counselling seminar at Dharma Samaj College on 4th September 2024. The seminar addressed around 150 candidates and has been covered in the press release.



Capacity-Building Training



A capacity-building training session were organised under the Bandhan Education Programme from 10th-12th July 2024 at BLC, Bolpur. The topics covered in the three-day programme were the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Acts 2012 and 2013, National Education Programme (NEP) 2020, and Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN). All the staff members of the Bandhan Education Programme (BEP) and Head Mistresses of Bandhan Academies participated in this capacity-building training.

Bandhan Education Programme Celebrates 77th Independence Day and Teachers' Day across 728 Centres and 10 Academies

Bandhan Education Programme celebrated the 77th Independence Day across 728 Bandhan Education Centres (BECs) and 10 Bandhan Academies. A total of 20,628 students, 726 teachers from BECs and 85 from Academies, and many local dignitaries also participated in the National Flag hoisting and other cultural programmes.

Besides, Teachers' Day was celebrated on 5th September 2024 across these 728 Bandhan Education Centres (BECs) and 10 Bandhan Academies. Mr. Soumen Mitra, Advisor and Mr. Rama Prasad Mohanta, Deputy Vice President visited Ghatakpur Academy and graced this occasion and witnessed the participation of students in different cultural events.



Collaboration with Horticulture Department, Government of West Bengal

The Horticulture Department of Government of W.B. Purulia extended support for collaboration with Bandhan. In an occasion on 9th September 2024 they distributed 860 saplings to farmers in the presence of Block Development Officer (BDO) and Panchayat Savapati of Kashipur Block, and Agriculture Horticulture Extension Officer (AHEO) of Raghunathpur Sub-Division.



Internship Certificate Distribution Programme for Interns from Adamas University

On 23rd September 2024, Bandhan hosted the Internship Certificate Distribution Programme at its Head Office, Kolkata in the presence of Mr. Ronendra Chowdhury, Programme director; Mr. Soumen Mitra, Advisor; Mr. Arijit Dutta, Advisor; Prof. Jayanta Biswas, Head-Education; Mr. Sibasish Mitra, Chief Financial Officer along with Mr. Mohinuddin Mollah, In-Charge Bandhan Climate Action Programme (BCAP); Dr. Sabyasachi Karak, Manager of BCAP and Dr. Meenakshi Bose, Manager of RIC team. Dr. Dhritiman Das, Assistant Professor from Adamas University also present in the event. This event celebrated the successful completion of the two-month internship programme by seven interns from Adamas University at Bandhan Agricultural Research Initiative (BARI), Langalberia under district 24 Parganas (South). The internship programme was designed to provide hands-on experience in environmental sustainability and climate action under the Bandhan Climate Programme.



Staff Training Session on Climate-Friendly Approaches

Bandhan organized an orientation session on 21st August 2024, to build up the capacity of employees involved in the Bandhan Climate Action Programme. This session was facilitated by Dr. Chowdhury Nazmul Haque and Dr. Prasun Sanyal from EILCS at Shantiniketan BLC. The discussion was versatile focusing on climate-friendly approaches such as carbon emission including the use of biogas plants and other strategies.



Aranya Saptaho

Bandhan Climate Action Programme celebrated 'Aranya Saptaho' from 15th - 18th July 24 in the villages of Pabra, Lajna and Ranardhi villages of Kashipur block in Purulia district. Throughout this week Bandhan conducted certain activities with farmers such as tree plantation, group discussion to save local forests and awareness generation. This initiative fosters community engagement and raises awareness of forest conservation and sustainable practices. The celebration served as a platform for fostering environmental stewardship among residents and promoting a harmonious relationship between communities and their natural surroundings. Bandhan encouraged local participation and advocacy for preserving biodiversity and mitigating environmental threats through awareness generation.



The Bandhan School, Taldi Shines at Telegraph Education Foundation's Event bags Multiple Awards.

The Bandhan School, Taldi participated in a competition on 10th August 2024 organised by Telegraph Education Foundation and stroked momentous success by winning multiple awards among 400 schools from various locations of West Bengal. The Bandhan School, Taldi stood out as a shining example of excellence among the distinguished participants. The school received awards in three different categories: "The Award for Courage," "The Award for Excellence in Co-Curricular Activities," and "The Award for Eco-Friendly Initiatives."



Staff capacity-building training sessions

The Bandhan Health Programme, Bandhan Financial Literacy Programme, and Bandhan Safe Water Programme organised a three-day capacity-building training for staffs from August 21-23, 2024, at Banhan Learning Centre, Shantiniketan, Bolpur.

This initiative empowered frontline teams with the skills and knowledge required to enhance program effectiveness, ensuring greater community impact through targeted health, financial literacy, and water safety projects



Visitors

On 3rd September 2024, Mr. Giresh Mohan, CSR Head; Mr. Manjunath Lakshmikanthan, Regional Manager and Mr. K Binoy Regional Manager from ITC Ltd, visited the Targeting the Hardcore Poor Programme in Mysuru-Karnataka and interacted with the beneficiaries.



Payom Venkateshwarlu, MLA and Changal Rao, General Manager ITC factory visited Bhadradi Kothagudem and interacted with existing THP beneficiaries on 21st September, 2024.



On 23rd September 2024, Shri Chaitanya Gokhale, District Development Manager, from NABARD Regional Office in Oshmanabad, Maharastra and Shri Samarak Kumar Mohanty, Development Manager and Ms. Sujata Shaw, Manager from Balasore, Odisha visited the project implementation areas of Tageting the Hardcore Poor Programme in their concerned districts and interacted with few existing and graduated beneficiaries to understand the programme impact and their overall development.



A team from Govt. of Rwanda made an exposure visit to Rajgir and Harnaut block in Nalanda district-Bihar under SJY-ILE Programme from 23rd-26th September, 2024.



On 30th August 2024, Mr. Sanjoy Sharma, Defence Rural Development Officer from Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Uttarakhand Govt. and ITC State-CSR Team paid a joint visit to Salempur project areas under Targeting the Hardcore Poor Prograame in Uttarakhand and interacted with project beneficiaries to comprehend the programme impact.



On 20th August 2024, Smt. Hemanthini, Area Project Manager-Gorasa, Dumugudem from State Rural Livelihoods Mission visited the Targeting the Hardcore Poor Programme in Laxminagaram branch, Telangana and interacted with a few project beneficiaries attending CB&ED training.



Visitors

On 21st August 2024, senior officials from the Lighthouse Communities Foundation visited the Bandhan Skill Development Centre at Bhubaneswar under Employing the Unemployed Programme. They have expressed a particular interest in offering trade training in banking, financial services, and insurance to 100 applicants for a 12-month initiative.



The HDFC Life CSR team visited Bandhan's (Bandhan-Konnagar) Head Office and observed the HBWN IV project activities under Bandhan Health Programme at the field in the Jhargram district from 25th-27th September 2024. They also met beneficiaries during focus group discussions and health forum sessions.



News Clippings

