



North East Network

A women's rights organisation from North East India

January-February-March 2021



Welcome to our April 2021 Newsletter!

The COVID-19 pandemic transformed the world's outlook on food cultivation. Even before the outbreak, the global food systems were already at a critical juncture, as highlighted in the 2020 Global Food Policy Report*. The communities which were self-sustaining in growing their own food, stayed resilient during the pandemic & lockdown periods. States like Nagaland where traditional farming practices exist in every community, people did not suffer from food shortage while other states like Assam felt it acutely. It is time to retrospect and deliberate on how indigenous seed storing and crop sharing practices need to be re-established across North-east India to properly utilise its rich natural resources that is amply endowed to ensure sustainable food security for all. During the months of January, February and March, NEN focussed on capacity building of farmers especially women, and reviving indigenous forms of organic farming across Assam, Meghalaya and Nagaland. Read more about all our activities in this issue.

(Click on Activity Headings to get directed to www.northeastnetwork.org)

We also celebrated our 26th FOUNDATION DAY on 22nd March!

Natural Resource Management & Livelihood



CSB training by NEN for women farmers of Nagaland

TRAINING ON COMMUNITY SEED BANKS

To assist women farmers of Nagaland establish and strengthen Community Seed Banks (CSB), NEN organised a 2 day Training on CSB at NEN resource center, VTC Hall, Chizami on 3rd & 4th February. This effort to strengthen women collectives was attended by 27 participants from 11 villages.



Farmers market by NEN in Nagaland

FARMER'S MARKET TO PROMOTE ORGANIC PRODUCE

To support local farmers and promote organic produces, NEN organised Farmers Market at 2 locations of Nagaland on 12th February, 2021. The market was successful in attracting a big number of buyers, and brought together farmers from Enhulumi, Sumi, Chizami New Town, Lower Khomi, Chiechama, Phekerkriema, Ziezou, Jotsoma and Rusoma.



FARMER'S TRAINING ON ORGANIC PRACTICES

Smallholder farmers are a crucial part of the food value chain and economy in Assam. The COVID-19 pandemic and nationwide lockdown created many hardships for our farmers. To mitigate this, we have extended our livelihood support through an agricultural programme to enable farmers with additional training on organic practices. NEN collaborated with Pabhoi Greens in Biswanath Chariali, Assam to train 101 farmers from 5 districts of Assam during the first phase in November-December 2020. [READ MORE](#)

NEN also organised a 3 day (16-18 March, 2021) intensive training and exposure of 12 women farmers from East Khasi Hills, West Khasi Hills and Ri-Bhoi Districts of Meghalaya to Pabhoi Greens-Assam. [READ MORE](#)



ANNUAL BIODIVERSITY FESTIVAL

The Annual Bio Diversity Festival by NEN in Nagaland started on 4th March, 2021 with 93 participants from Phor, New Phor, Shatuzha, Wuzu, Kuzatü, Hutsü, and Yisi! The Festival has brought together diverse stakeholders under one umbrella to celebrate the vast biodiversity found in the north east region.



TRAINING ON TRADITIONAL WEAVING

Over the past decade NEN has been working to revive indigenous weaving practices by encouraging the younger generation to inherit their tradition and keep it alive. With this aim, NEN organised a 5-day summer weaving training from 15th to 19th March 2021 at Mawryngkang village, Meghalaya. 12 young women from Plasha, Korstep and Mawryngkang villages received training.

Gender discrimination & violence against women



Women of the world want and deserve an equal future free from stigma, stereotypes and violence; a future that's sustainable, peaceful, with equal rights and opportunities for all. To get us there, the world needs women at every table where decisions are being made.

This year, the theme for International Women's Day (8 March), 'Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world' celebrated the tremendous efforts by women and girls around the world in shaping a more equal future and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and highlights the gaps that remain.



Felicitating of frontline health workers in Assam

North East Network celebrated International Women's Day 2021, across 6 districts of **Assam**. The theme was "Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world on the way to the Generation Equality Forum". NEN organised events that highlighted Women's leadership role within her family, community and the society at large. Lauding the tremendous contribution of **Frontline health workers**, NEN in Assam felicitated ASHA workers for their support to Gramin Mahila Kendra(GMK)s during Covid-19 epidemic and Lockdown period, at Kamrup on 5th March, and in Golaghat and Darrang on 8th March 2021.

On Women's Day, NEN's youth collective from Udalguri, Assam performed a **Street Play** to raise awareness against witch hunting. The young and responsible members of the youth collective, declared their resolve to challenge gender based discrimination and stereotypes. A **public display of placards** with slogans on women empowerment, GBVAW and discrimination was held at Dhemaji. A special **sports event** for women was also held in Sonitpur.

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Street Play on witch hunting by Youth Collective, Udalguri

As a tribute to the tremendous contribution to the society and towards the development of their villages as well as the country, NEN in **Meghalaya** observed International Women's Day on 8th March at Mawryngkang village, Ri-Bhoi District.



Locals in traditional attire from Plasha and Mawryngkang celebrated IWD 2021

To celebrate the occasion, villagers from Plasha and Mawryngkang displayed their culture through dance, folk songs etc. They also performed a **short skit** portraying the role that gender played in unequal access to job opportunities especially in sectors like police forces, army, etc. IWD was also celebrated at Umsaw Village in Meghalaya. It saw the participation of enthusiastic women both young and old from six villages. Women in the rural areas are given less or no recognition for the contribution they have made towards the upliftment of the society. NEN **felicitated grassroots women leaders** who are warriors of their personal life and bold leaders who have challenged gender stereotypes about women being weak and incapable leaders.

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IWD 2021 celebration at Mawryngkang village, Ri-Bhoi District, Meghalaya

NEN in Nagaland, celebrated International Women's Day by bringing together rural women, village leaders and women collectives to celebrate women's leadership within their household and communities. The events highlighted women's agency and their capacity to bring about change in their own lives and communities, especially during the critical Covid-19 pandemic. IWD events were observed at three locations viz -Chizami, Meluri - Phek, Phekerkriema - Kohima and Shamator Town - Tuensang, simultaneously bringing together the community to a discourse and celebration of the success of grassroots women leaders and recognising their contribution to the welfare of the society.

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[TRAINING ON GENDER SENSITISATION FOR NURSES](#)

NEN, Meghalaya conducted the training for 17 staff nurses of Civil Hospital Nongpoh, Ri-Bhoi District on March 11, 2021. The aim was to cultivate understanding about the prominence of their role as health care providers, realising the immediate attention that is required in supplementing the health care workers with the required knowledge and skills to assist survivors of abuse.



Gender sensitisation training for staff nurses of Nongpoh Civil Hospital

[MUSIC FOR AWARENESS](#)

NEN in Nagaland brought together youths from Chizami for a 'Musical Night' at NEN Resource Centre, Chizami VTC Hall. Part of the global action of One Billion Rising (OBR), the event that took place on St. Valentine's Day, 14th February 2021, was brimming with youthful energy with various presentations from the young participants. [READ MORE](#)

In Meghalaya NEN organised an evening of musical performances both traditional and western with an aim to promote the blending of traditional art with modern art. The programme entailed a panel discussion by eminent persons in art, culture and gender; and various performances (traditional and western) by young artists on 26th March 2021 at Eldorado Guest House, Shillong. [READ MORE](#)



[COMIC STRIP WORKSHOP FOR YOUTHS](#)

We organised a "Two Days Engagement with Youth through Comic Strip Workshop" in Rohbah, Meghalaya on 28th-29th January 2021. The creations portrayed the problems faced by women on body shaming, some portrayed a story on their local hero; some shared their passions through comics, and more.



CERTIFICATE COURSE ON BAREFOOT COUNSELLING

In another step towards creating skilled grassroots counsellors for DV survivors, NEN in collaboration with MINDIndia has launched a "Certificate Course on Barefoot Counselling to address violence against women and girls", from 8th to 15th February 2021, in Guwahati, Assam.



Governance & State Accountability

২০২১ চনৰ অসম বিধান সভাৰ বাবে
লিংগ আৰু সামাজিক ন্যায়
সম্পৰ্কে মহিলাসকলৰ ইচ্ছাহাৰ

WOMEN'S MANIFESTO ON GENDER AND SOCIAL JUSTICE For Assam Legislative Assembly, 2021

NEN in collaboration with four Women rights groups of Assam presented a Manifesto with demands from political parties contesting the Assam Assembly Elections 2021. The demands include increased reservation for women in elected bodies, adequate livelihood, equitable economic participation, better health & education facilities.

[VIEW / DOWNLOAD MANIFESTO](#)




We truly thank all our donors, partners and well wishers for your staunch support towards our work.

To know more about each project please visit us at
www.northeastnetwork.org

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