



North East Network

A women's organisation from North East India
October-November-December 2021



Welcome to our January 2022 Newsletter!

North East Network (NEN) wishes all its team members, partners, supporters, friends and well-wishers a wonderful and empowered New Year 2022. We begin the year with renewed hope and zeal to carry forward our mission of gender justice in Northeast India. This Newsletter will highlight work carried out during the last quarter of 2021.

Gender Discrimination & Violence Against Women



2021 marked the 30th anniversary of the Global 16 Days Campaign. Inspired by the original vision and history of the Campaign, NEN carried forward this global campaign across the states of Assam, Meghalaya and Nagaland.

The events focused on raising awareness about Violence Against Women (VAW), demonstrating that it is now time to move beyond a show of solidarity through words, but to acknowledge and act, to end extreme forms of Violence Against Women and girls that exist in our society.

Click below to know more about our events in each state

[ASSAM](#), [MEGHALAYA](#) & [NAGALAND](#)

Natural Resource Management & Livelihood

TRAINING ON ORGANIC FARMING

Farmers from 9 different communities of Nagaland participated in a training and exposure trip to Pabhoi Greens, an organic farm located in Pabhoi Village, Biswanath Chariali, Assam, between 26-30 September 2021. The focus of the training was to build second generation farmers by introducing more natural farming techniques and methodologies to boost their existing skills and help them continue organic farming in their respective communities. The visit was tailor-made to help rural communities cope with, and adapt to, changing climate and farming scenarios. It is hoped that such exposure will encourage and motivate more young people to take up farming professionally.

[Click here to know more](#)



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF RURAL WOMEN (IDRW)

The theme for IDRW 2021 was 'Rural women and girls building resilience in the wake of COVID-19'. To amplify the stories and voices of rural women, NEN Nagaland, observed the IDRW on 15th October 2021, which also coincided with the National Women Farmers' Day. The event included a Women Farmers' Market with participation of 120 farmers from 10 communities in Phek District, including government departments. The market not only provided a platform for income generation but also a space for farmers to exhibit the rich agrobiodiversity of the district.

[Click here to know more](#)





Celebrating IDRW on 15th October 2021, NEN Meghalaya also highlighted women farmers of the state by celebrating their contribution towards their families as well as the national economy. The event also acknowledged their role as guardians of nutrition and food security for the community as a whole. Additionally NEN organised a Women Farmers' Market with women farmers from several villages of the West Khasi Hills District.

[Click here to know more](#)

TRAINING ON FOOD PROCESSING

During field work, NEN team members in Meghalaya found many instances of rural women trying to gain a livelihood by joining SHGs but failing to do so due to a general lack of proper planning and implementation. In Nongshillong Village of West Khasi Hills district, NEN identified existing SHGs of women farmers who wanted to start livelihood initiatives using their local produce – such as fruits, vegetables and spices - to market them. However, they did not know how to go about the business. To address some aspects of this gap, NEN Meghalaya, organised Training on Food Processing (pickle-making) at

Nongshillong Village on 7th October 2021.

[Click here to know more](#)



INTERNATIONAL HOME BASED WORKERS' DAY (IHBWD)

In Nagaland, NEN and Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) came together to raise awareness on the need to recognise different trades of the unorganised sector, especially those executed by women, who contribute immensely to the economy and to their families, and yet, remain invisible and unrecognised.

IHBWD was observed across Nagaland on 20th October in 4 Districts - Kohima, Phek, Tuensang and Dimapur under the theme 'We are Workers, Too'. Around 125 Home-Based Workers came together in public spaces to exhibit and sell their products.

[Click here to know more](#)



NEN FARM SCHOOL

NEN Farm School was held on 28-31 October 2021 at Chizami, with 19 participants from 3 states (Nagaland, Meghalaya and Assam) with the theme Bridging the Farm-To-Plate Gap. The Farm School is designed to engage and reconnect young people to local food and farming systems and to food diversity, in their cultural, social, spiritual, health and political contexts, respectively.

[Click here to know more](#)



INTERNATIONAL STREET VENDORS' DAY (ISVD)

ISVD is celebrated on 14th November among street vendors around the world to address their common needs and challenges. This is especially important as a large percentage of street and market vendors particularly women vendors continue to face harassment and violence in their work space on a daily basis. NEN Nagaland observed ISVD at two pre-events in 3 districts at Kohima, in Dimapur on 13th November and in Shamator on 12th November 2021, in collaboration with SEWA Nagaland.

108 women street vendors across the districts came together to observe the day, creating awareness and visibility to the work of Women Street Vendors and their contribution to society.

[Click here to know more](#)



TRAINING ON TOILET CONSTRUCTION

On the occasion of World Toilet Day 2021, NEN Nagaland organised a 3-day youth skills training programme on low-cost toilet construction from 16-18 November 2021 at Razeba village. The theme of the training was 'Valuing Toilets' and aimed at introducing alternative, low cost techniques utilising local resources (in this case, bamboo) to provide affordable sanitation. The programme also contributed to the larger mission of achieving safe, hygienic and dignified living for all.

[Click here to know more](#)



Governance & State Accountability

WORKSHOP ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF WOMEN AT WORKPLACE

A Workshop on Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 & Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, was held in Guwahati on 25th November 2021.

The workshop was a collaborative initiative by NEN and the Directorate of Social Welfare, Government of Assam as part of the Global 16 Days Campaign against Gender-based Violence Against Women and Girls (November 25-December 10).

[Click here to know more](#)





CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES
SEMINAR AND SYMPOSIUM SERIES
COTTON UNIVERSITY

PRESENTS

A PUBLIC LECTURE

ON

NE INDIA, WOMEN AND OUR BIODIVERSITY



TIME: 4-5:30 PM
DATE: 4 OCTOBER 2021



SPEAKER:

DR MONISHA BEHAL

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NORTH EAST
NETWORK (NEN)

CONVENOR:

Dr Rakhee Kalita Moral
Head, Centre for Women's Studies
Associate Professor of English
Cotton University

Lecture to be followed by a Q&A
session. All are cordially invited to
this virtual lecture.

Link: <https://meet.google.com/typ-jdry-mxf>



Dr. Monisha Behal, then Executive Director, NEN delivered a Public Lecture on 'N.E. India, women and our biodiversity' organised by Centre for Women's Studies, Seminar and Symposium Series, Cotton University on 4th October 2021.

SEMINAR ON WORKPLACE SAFETY

As part of NEN's advocacy on issues related to workplace safety, Anurita Pathak Hazarika, State Coordinator, NEN Assam, delivered a talk on 'Workplace Safety and Dignity - Vishakha Guidelines' the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 and its effectiveness', at the Assam Administrative Staff College, Khanapara on 28th September 2021.



NEN UPDATES!

Tamara Law Goswami, an Environmentalist with work experience spanning over 21 years, joined the team as Executive Director of North East Network from 1st December 2021. She was handed over the role formally by Founding Member Dr. Monisha Behal who has spearheaded NEN and the feminist movement in Northeast India for three decades and continues to be an inseparable part of all our work.



ACCOLADES FOR NEN

In a proud moment for the entire NEN family, Wekoweu (Akole) Tsuhah, State Coordinator NEN Nagaland was conferred with the "Sadin-Pratidin Achiever's Award 2021" for her contribution in the category of 'Social Service'.

Tsuhah received the prestigious award from the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma on 24th December 2021 at a ceremony held at Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra, in Guwahati.



EXPOSURE TRIP FOR CAPACITY BUILDING

As part of capacity building for six NEN-trained community women leaders, farmers and NEN core staff members, NEN Meghalaya organised an exposure visit to NEN Nagaland in Chizami from 25 October to 02 November 2021. The group also attended the NEN Farm School organised by NEN Chizami and a visit was made to Chizami Weaves, the NEN weaving-based livelihood initiative. At the Farm School, the NEN Meghalaya team developed an understanding of local, sustainable food systems, the importance of food sovereignty and the role of indigenous people in contributing to sustainable food systems.

[Click here to know more](#)



KNOW MORE ABOUT NEN'S WEAVING INITIATIVE

Nenterprise



***We truly thank all our donors, partners and well wishers for their
staunch support of our work.***

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

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