



Tbëh Jingshai

kindling a light

Narratives from **NORTH EAST NETWORK**

December 2025 - March 2026

Dear Readers,

What does it take to build just, resilient, and safer communities?

North East Network has long worked alongside women, youth, and communities across Assam, Meghalaya, and Nagaland to build these realities. The past few months continue this ongoing journey—through action.

In this edition, we share glimpses of that work and the people at its heart.

Rooted in Community: NEN's 17th Biodiversity Festival



Over 300 farmers, youth, artisans, community leaders, and policymakers gathered at NEN Resource Centre, Chizami, Nagaland, for the 17th Biodiversity Festival on “Agroecology for Community Resilience.”

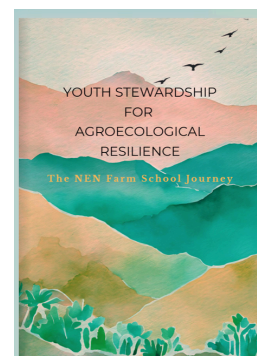
The two-day event featured a youth convening, seed exchange among five tribes, biodiversity and crafts exhibitions, farmers’ markets, cultural performances, and a community potluck—highlighting local knowledge, circular economies, and sustainable livelihoods.

Youth Convening - NEN Farm School



The Youth Convening on Agroecology brought together young people from across Nagaland at NEN Resource Centre, Chizami, as part of the 17th Biodiversity Festival.

The Convening marked the culmination of the NEN Farm School on Agroecology, which equips youth to strengthen food sovereignty, biodiversity conservation, and climate-responsive livelihoods through stewardship. Fellows presented their eco-friendly project ideas, sharing learning journeys and community-based initiatives. The convening created a platform for youth-led solutions and collective learning, while the launch of the NFS Story Book documented and amplified the Farm School’s journey.



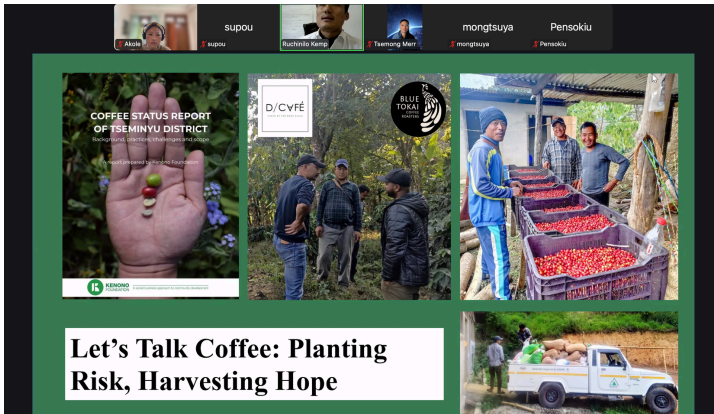
[Read the NFS Story book here!](#)

NEN Farm School Fellowship: Community Workshop Module and Entrepreneurship Module Bootcamp in Nagaland

A two-day online workshop on **Community Engagement** brought together 14 NFS Fellows, strengthening their ability to work at the grassroots through sessions on community mapping, stakeholder engagement, and scaling agroecological practices.

Through ‘Expert Fridays’, Fellows learned directly from practitioners and experts across fields, gaining real-world insights and practical knowledge. ‘Learning Tuesdays’ created a reflective space for Fellows to discuss challenges, share learnings, and strengthen peer exchange and collective problem-solving.

Building on this, an **Entrepreneurship Module** in Kohima engaged 12 Fellows in focused learning on building sustainable enterprises. Participants gained practical skills in business planning, financial management, and market strategies.



From Learning to Livelihoods

Youth Trained as Nature Tour Guides in Meghalaya

We organised a Nature Tour Guide workshop for NEN formed youth groups at Wahlielwlong and Khartein of Eastern West Khasi Hills district, facilitated by the Haikai Adventure Team. A total of 31 youth and 3 traditional heads from five villages of Eastern West and West Khasi Hills participated, gaining hands-on skills in eco-tourism, biodiversity, trail mapping, mobile documentation, and first aid.

Participants are now equipped to design local itineraries and promote responsible tourism—opening pathways for sustainable livelihoods while strengthening community-led environmental stewardship.



Building Voices, Strengthening Leadership

Peer Leaders' Workshop in Meghalaya



NEN organised a 2-day workshop with 20 peer leaders identified by NEN from East Khasi Hills, West Khasi Hills and Eastern West Khasi Hills districts of Meghalaya.

The workshop brought together women survivors and active women leaders in communities, creating a space to build understanding on gender, patriarchy and gender-based violence and how these intersect across socio-economic and cultural contexts. The sessions encouraged reflection, dialogue and strengthened the role of peer leaders in addressing violence within their communities.

Lens2Lead: Empowering Youth Through Participatory Video

A three-day workshop with 12 participants from the Mirdan Youth Collective in Dhemaji, Assam was organised. Using a “each one, teach one” approach, participants learned by doing—handling cameras, practising shot types, engaging in dialogue exercises, and developing storyboards before filming and editing collectively.



Scroll down to watch 'Jatra (Journey)' and 'Puroni Dinor Madokota (The Allure of Forgotten Days)'

Regular group screenings enabled reflection and peer learning throughout the process.

Lens on Change

Participatory Video Workshops in Nagaland



We conducted two Participatory Video workshops in Chumoukedima and Kohima in collaboration with SEWA, engaging 10 women participants from Chumoukedima, Dimapur, and Kohima.

Focused on gender, climate, and indigenous issues, the workshop strengthened participants’ ability to document and amplify community voices, with ongoing mentorship to support film completion.

Building Gender Perspectives Through Photography and Dialogue in Meghalaya

NEN organised a two-day workshop engaging around 40 participants, including youth and Community Mobilisers from East Khasi Hills, West Khasi Hills, and Eastern West Khasi Hills districts. Participants gained skills to document grassroots realities through a gender lens, strengthening their ability to reflect on climate and social issues, and will continue this engagement through community-based photo series capturing local issues from a gender lens.



Building Sustainable Family Food Yards A 3-Day Residential Training in Meghalaya

NEN brought together 11 women farmers and 10 youths from West Khasi Hills and Eastern West Khasi Hills for a three-day residential training at SPREAD NE, Sonapur, Assam, to strengthen agroecological practices and household food security.

Equipped with practical skills, they are now better prepared to establish sustainable family food yards; advancing self-reliance, preserving local seeds, and building climate-resilient livelihoods within their communities.



Strengthening Grassroots Women's Leadership Capacity Building in Assam



A three-day workshop was organised for newly identified peer leaders. The workshop brought together 39 participants, including team members. It deepened understanding of diverse issues of gender and gender-based violence, patriarchy, and land rights, strengthening leadership capacities to address structural barriers and advance women's rights within their communities.

Strengthening Grassroots Women's Leadership Through Sustainable Farming in Assam

We organised a one-day training in Golaghat with 35 women farmers to strengthen grassroots leadership through collective learning. The session introduced flood-resilient practices such as zero tillage beds, container gardening, and lemon fencing.

Participants gained practical skills to adapt to climate challenges, enhancing their capacity to build sustainable livelihoods while strengthening collective action within their communities.



Strengthening Legal Awareness

Workshop on Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (SHWWP Act) and Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 for diverse stakeholders

In collaboration with SANKALP with support from the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Golaghat district, a one-day workshop on the prevention of sexual harassment and domestic violence against women brought together 65 participants from government and non-government departments.

Facilitated by NEN and WCD trainers, participants gained practical knowledge of legal provisions, and familiarity with redressal mechanisms, including the SHe-Box portal.



Building Safer Communities: A Public Safety Programme in Meghalaya



NEN partnered with the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Eastern West Khasi Hills district, to organise a Public Safety Programme for NEN-trained women's groups, youth groups and traditional bodies, across Khartein, Wahlielong, and nearby villages of Eastern West Khasi Hills district.

The programme fostered dialogue between community stakeholders and members and government representatives, strengthening community in ensuring safety of women, readiness to welcome tourists, and improved understanding of safety protocols.

Healing Together: A Shared Path Forward

Recreational activities with Gender Based Violence Survivors

We organised a series of sessions with survivors of gender-based violence from Udalguri, Kamrup, Golaghat, and Darrang, reaching around 84 participants. The sessions created safe spaces for sharing, reflection, and healing through storytelling and recreational activities.

Participants built collective resilience, strengthened peer support, and found renewed confidence and hope in navigating their journeys.



Spotlighting NEN's Campaigns

Advocating Safe Spaces for Women: NEN's 16 Days of Activism

1108 participants | 12 districts | 3 states



MEGHALAYA



ASSAM



NAGALAND

This year, NEN took up the theme "Ensure Every Space is Safe for Women"— and took it to the ground, across Assam, Meghalaya, and Nagaland.

We organised a series of awareness and interface programmes on the POSH Act, gender-based violence, cybercrime, human trafficking, and workplace safety, engaging women workers, youth collectives, frontline workers, media professionals, government officials, and informal sector workers. A candlelight vigil further amplified the message, strengthening community awareness, encouraging dialogue, and reinforcing collective responsibility to create safer spaces for women.

Rising Together for Change: NEN Observes One Billion Rising 2026

599 participants | 9 districts | 3 states

On 14 February, NEN joined the global One Billion Rising campaign across Assam, Meghalaya, and Nagaland under the theme "Rise for Our Bodies, Our Earth, Our Future."

The Rising brought together communities through open mics, sports, performances, and awareness sessions. From powerful storytelling in Assam to sports-led solidarity in Nagaland and creative expressions in Meghalaya, the events amplified voices against gender-based violence and called on youth to lead change within their communities.



MEGHALAYA



ASSAM



NAGALAND

Breaking Barriers for All Women and Girls: NEN Celebrates International Women's Day 2026

718 participants | 13 districts | 3 states

Under the theme NEN marked International Women's Day across Assam, Meghalaya, and Nagaland –calling attention to the structural and social barriers that limit women's equality.

In Nagaland, sessions on IWD history, women's rights, and domestic violence awareness were held, in collaboration with SEWA and Nenterprise. In Shillong, Meghalaya, NEN and Stryde Run Club organised a 5-km Run for Justice, bringing together women, men, and youth. In Assam, feminist songs, skits, and games, brought communities together to talk about rights, demand representation, and reaffirm the ongoing fight for justice. NEN also partnered with Gauhati Artists' Guild to host 'From the Land of Chitralekha' in Guwahati, showcasing artworks by 31 women artists from across Assam, alongside documentary screenings, artist dialogues, and 'Burn the Witch' – a powerful performed conversation on gender and society.



Meet the Changemakers

Click on our Community Mobilisers to read their stories



Keneile Thopi,
Nagaland



Moon Bora,
Assam



Laitlin Lyngdoh Nonglait,
Meghalaya

Friday Forum: Weaving Together

At NEN, team building looks a little different. Our Friday Forum came alive with a hands-on keychain weaving workshop – bringing the loom right into the office!

Using cardboard loom replicas and spare threads from Saneki Weaves, we wove our own keychains. It was a reminder that the skills and traditions we champion in our communities are ones we love to experience ourselves – and that the best conversations happen when your hands are busy.



A Quick Glance: NEN Team in National Forums



Rashmi Rekha, State Coordinator, NEN Assam, was nominated by the Government of Assam to participate in the National Conference for Safety of Women at Workplace (SHe-Box), a national-level consultation on the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (PoSH) Act.



**In other news,
North East Network
turned 31!**



WATCH OUR LATEST **PARTICIPATORY VIDEOS**



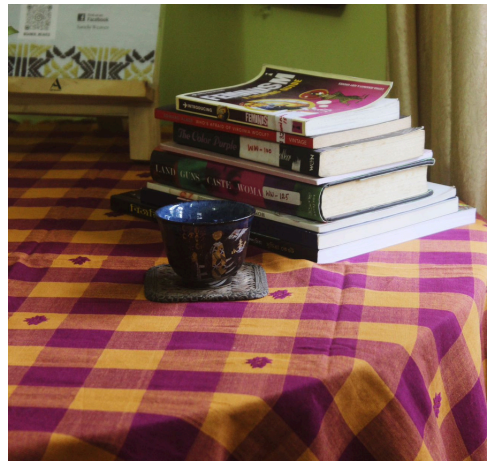
▷ Jatra (Journey)

A film reflecting the role of NEN Gramin Mahila Kendra, Dhemaji, as a safe and supportive space for women.



▷ Puroni Dinor Madokota (The Allure of Forgotten Days)

A video that looks back at the simple joys that once shaped everyday life of youth.



Through **Saneki Weaves** - a livelihood initiative of NEN, we strengthen rural livelihood of women in Assam while celebrating the richness of local resources and skills in every product we make. [Explore the initiative!](#) We invite you to support rural livelihoods of women. Check out our products on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

As this edition comes to a close, here are the answers to the feminist crossword from [Tbeh Jigshah Aug-Nov 2026 issue](#).

1. FEMINISM - A movement that ensures people of all genders have equal rights and opportunities.
 2. EQUALITY - A state of being that can shape a world where no one's less because of who they are.
 3. RESILIENCE - The ability of a person or a community to withstand, adapt to, and recover from difficulties.
 4. SOLIDARITY - Ever felt the strength of standing together? That's exactly this.
 5. GASSROOTS - About people, communities and movements emerging from the ground.
 6. RIGHTS - Something that can never be compromised.
 7. SISTERHOOD - Togetherness makes women of all identities unstoppable!
 8. INCLUSION - Making sure everyone's voice counts, especially the ones from the margins.
 9. DIVERSITY - Difference - not as a problem, but as a strength.
 10. JUSTICE - This ensures all people are treated equitably and fairly.
 11. FREEDOM - Being able to make your own choices—in how you act, speak, and think.
 12. LEADERSHIP - A process that inspires action!
-

To learn more about our projects, [click here](#).
[North East Network](#)

As we conclude this edition, we carry these reflections forward in our work.
May we collectively continue to keep working for a gender-just world.
Love, rage and resistance!



YouTube: [NEN Assam](#) | [NEN Meghalaya](#) | [NEN Nagaland](#)