

**ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT OF MAHILA  
SHAKTI KENDRA (M A S K)**



**FOR THE PERIOD**

**01 APRIL 2024 TO 31 MARCH 2025**

**MOLAN PUKHURI, BALIPARA,**

**DISTRICT SONITPUR, 784 101 ASSAM – INDIA**

## Table of Contents

1. Livelihood Infrastructure Development.....	6
1.1 Dong Construction at Santipur Village – 20 July 2024.....	6
1.2 Bamboo Resource Creation in Morisuti – 2024–25.....	6
1.3 Bamboo Plantation in Karbi Anglong – 2024–25.....	6
1.4 Construction of 45 Livestock Sheds.....	7
2. Environmental Initiatives.....	7
2.1 Tree Plantation at Baligaon Miri –.....	7
2.2 Soil Erosion Control at Baligaon Miri.....	8
2.3 Community-Based Conservation and Compensation – 24 June 2024.....	8
2.4 NRM Committee Formation – 11–12 June 2024, Sonai Nameri Village.....	9
3. Livelihood Enhancement Initiatives.....	9
3.1 Agriculture.....	9
A. Ginger Cultivation Training –.....	9
B. Model Farming on Small Landholdings – Demonstration.....	9
C. Seed Support –.....	10
D. Organic Farming Trainings.....	11
3.2 Livestock Development –.....	12
A. Livestock Management.....	12
B. Basic Animal Veterinary Care.....	13
C. pig shade and goat shade.....	13
3.3 Weavers’ Skill Development.....	13
A. Exposure Visit to Alai Aron Farmer Producer Company (FPC):.....	13
B. Weavers’ Training Program – 22 March 2025:.....	13
C. Eri Spinning Training – 18–19 May 2024:.....	13
3.4 Other Skills Development.....	14
A. Food Processing and Soap Making – 26 March 2025 (Garogaon):.....	14
B. Food Processing and Soap Making – 27 March 2025 (Dharikathi):.....	14
3.5 Capacity Building - Livelihoods Activities – MASK Programs.....	14
A. Rural Agri & Livelihoods Trainings.....	14
B. Sustainable Livelihoods through Guiding Skills.....	15
4. Education.....	16
A. Eco-Club Formation – 29–30 June 2024:.....	16
B. School Renovation – 18 July & 18 December 2024:.....	16

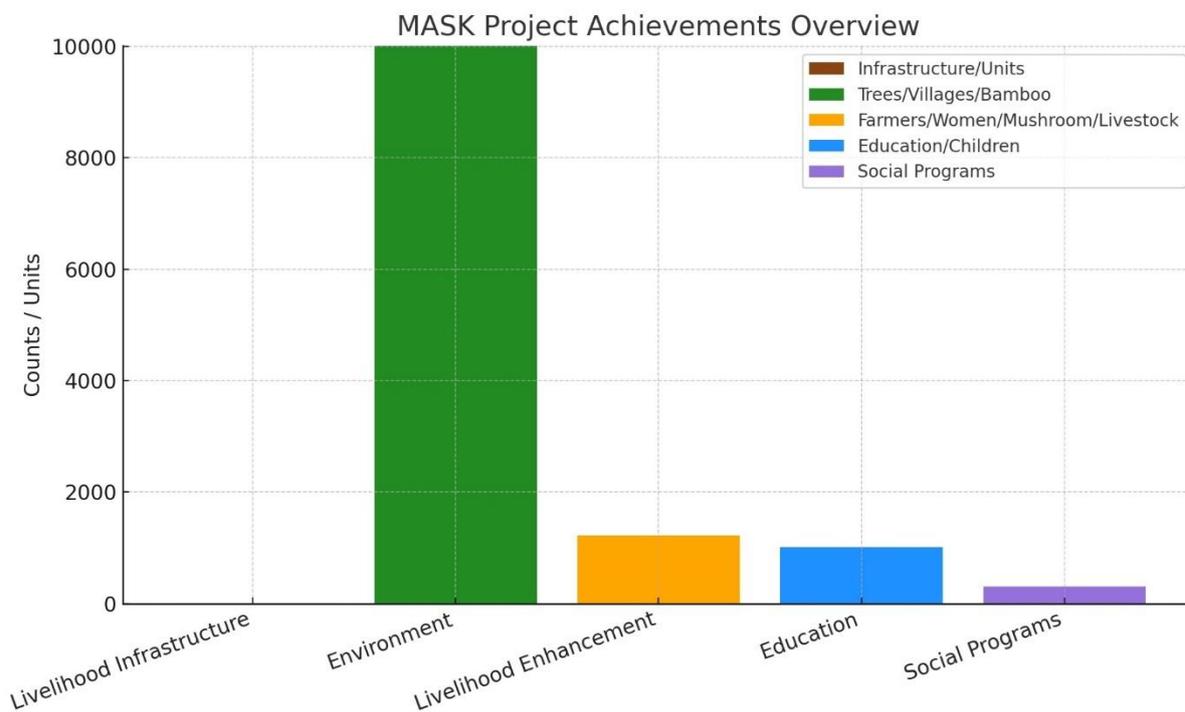
C. Children’s Lives Project Introduction – 28 October 2024:.....	16
D. Child Development Committee Formation – February–March 2025: .....	16
E. Library Workshop – 22–26 March 2025:.....	16
5. Social Programs.....	17
A. Drug Abuse Awareness – 25 May 2024 (Torajan Village):.....	17
B. Drug Abuse Awareness – 15 Dec 2024 (Baligaon, Bhalukpong):.....	17
F. Community Meetings – Oct 2024 to Mar 2025 (Various Villages).....	17
6. Visitors .....	17
A. NERIWALM Team – 9 May 2024 (Santipur Village): .....	17
B. Prayatn Sanstha Team – 23 Nov 2024 (Garo Gaon & Balipara):.....	17
C. NABARD Officials – 2024–25:.....	18
7. Capacity Building Support to Others.....	18
A. Support to Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) – Apr to Jun 2024:.....	18
B. Leadership Training for SHGs & Village Leaders – May 2024 : .....	18
C. Village Organizations – 27 Nov 2024 (Capacity on Atal Pension Yojana): .....	18
D.Exposure and Networking – Apr 2024 to Mar 2025:.....	18
8. Capacity Building of Staff .....	18
A. Staff Review & Planning Meetings – Apr 2024 to Mar 2025: .....	18
B. Leadership Training – May 2024 (Project Villages):.....	19
C. Monitoring & Evaluation Workshop – 21–25 Oct 2024 (Guwahati):.....	19
D. Participatory Learning Appraisal (PLA) Training – 4–5 Nov 2024 : .....	19
E. Facilitation Workshop – 6–10 Nov 2024 (Borjhar, Guwahati): .....	19
F. Exposure Visit – 26 Mar 2024 (Pabhoi Green, Biswanath): .....	19
9. Special Days & Celebrations.....	19
A. World Environment Day – 5 Jun 2024: .....	19
B. World Day – 27 Sep 2024 (Garogaon, Nishigaon & Dharikathi): .....	19
C. Butterfly Festival – 8–10 Nov 2024 (Doimara, Arunachal Pradesh): .....	20
D. Children’s Day – 14 Nov 2024 (Garo Gaon):.....	20
E. Pre-Republic Day – 25 Jan 2025 (Samloga LP School):.....	20
F. Bir Chilarai Divas – 12 Feb 2025 (Amloga & Garo Gaon Villages): .....	20
G. International Women’s Day – 8 Mar 2025 (Morisuti Village): .....	20
H. Citrus Field Day – 5 Oct 2025 (Biswanath Chariali): .....	20
Youth Climate & Conservation Fellowship – 16–20 April 2024: .....	20
11. Networking and Collaboration.....	20

Government Linkages: .....	21
SHG Support:.....	21
Academic & Research Collaboration:.....	21
Federation Meeting of Boatmen – 24 March 2025, Nameri National Park:.....	21
NGO Partnerships: .....	21
Community Participation: .....	21
12. Strategic Partners / Funding Bodies.....	21
<b>MAHILA SHAKTI KENDRA GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS.....</b>	<b>23</b>

## Executive Summary

During 2024–25, MASK worked with farmers, women, youth, and children in Sonitpur district, Assam. The organization focused on livelihood, environment, education, and social development. With support from NABARD, NECBDC, ENRICH, CASA, DASRA Foundation, APF, PHF, IDEA NE, Forest Department, and others, MASK implemented a wide range of projects.

- **Livelihood Infrastructure:** 1 irrigation dong constructed.
- **Environment:** 10,000+ saplings planted; 2 villages protected from erosion; 12.5 hectares of bamboo resource created.
- **Livelihood Enhancement:** 1,100+ farmers trained in agriculture, livestock, and organic farming; 46 women trained in weaving; 32 farmers in mushroom farming; 45 livestock sheds distributed.
- **Education:** Three schools renovated, two eco-clubs established, one community library network launched, more than 1,000 children engaged in events.
- **Social Programs:** 2 anti-drug awareness campaigns, International Women’s Day celebrations with 300+ women.
- **Networking:** Partnerships strengthened with government departments and NGOs.



## 1. Livelihood Infrastructure Development

MASK believes that strong rural infrastructure helps people improve their livelihoods. In 2024–25, MASK collaborated with villagers to create and repair physical assets that support farming and livestock. These efforts provided farmers with better access to water, protected their fields from erosion, and built resources for the future.

### 1.1 Dong Construction at Santipur Village – 20 July 2024

In Santipur village, farmers lacked irrigation for their fields. MASK supported the villagers in building a traditional dong (irrigation canal). The organization provided 15 culvert pipes. Villagers gave their time and labour to dig and lay the pipes. Now water flows from the stream to the fields. Farmers can grow paddy and vegetables even in dry months. Villagers said the dong will help them depend less on rainfall and improve their harvest.

Supported by: PHF, Community Contribution

### 1.2 Bamboo Resource Creation in Morisuti – 2024–25

A Bamboo sapling refilling activity was conducted at Morisuti village over 10 hectares of land between March and April 2024 to compensate for the loss of bamboo saplings. The initiative planted a total of 2,500 bamboo saplings. The bamboo species used for refilling included *Bambusa balcooa*, *Dendrocalamus asper*, and *Bambusa tulda*. The initiative strengthened the existing boundary fencing to protect the new saplings from cattle grazing, wild animals, and humans. The activity involved 28 households from the village, promoting community participation and ownership in the conservation and reforestation effort.

Supported by: NECBDC

### 1.3 Bamboo Plantation in Karbi Anglong – 2024–25

In the financial year 2024–25, this initiative planted 4,800 bamboo saplings over 10 hectares of land at Tikoklangshu village, Bokolia, Karbi Anglong district. The initiative, which involved 36 households, aims to promote sustainable bamboo cultivation, support environmental conservation, and create livelihood opportunities for the villagers.

Supported by: NECBDC



Bamboo plantation site in Karbi Anglong

## 1.4 Construction of 45 Livestock Sheds

Livestock is a source of income for rural families. Many households in Sonitpur keep pigs and goats, but they do not have proper sheds. People often keep their animals in the open or in weak structures. It makes them sick, increases mortality, and reduces productivity. It also created extra work for women, who are the caretakers of animals.

In 2024, MASK supported 45 families with improved livestock sheds under the APF-supported project. The sheds are built with durable materials and designed to keep animals clean, dry, and safe. Each shed has good ventilation, a sloped floor for drainage, and a separate space for feeding.

Supported by: APF



Farmer family with new livestock shed

## 2. Environmental Initiatives

MASK works to protect the natural environment while supporting rural agriculture-based livelihoods. In 2024–25, the organization conducted tree plantations and erosion control activities. These activities improved soil, restored greenery, and encouraged villagers to take responsibility for their environment.

### 2.1 Tree Plantation at Baligaon Miri –

From August 21, 2024, to September 16, 2024, MASK organized a plantation program in Baligaon Miri village, located in the Balipara block. The goal was to strengthen the green cover of the Baligaon Miri and improve local biodiversity.

The program was formally inaugurated on August 28, 2024, by Mr. Kheerud Kamal Hazarika, Circle Officer of Chariduar. Village leaders, including Mr. Commission Mili Dagonia, Mr. Kalishran Ngate, and Mr. Podeswar Mili of the Mising Migak Kebang (MMK). Villagers, youth, and children also joined hands with MASK staff.

During these ten days, the community planted over 3,000 indigenous tree saplings along the roadside and on 119 bighas of community land. The project team carefully selected the saplings to support the local ecosystem, provide shade, reduce soil erosion, and improve air quality. In the future, some of these trees will also provide fruit for families.

The event brought the whole community together. Villagers expressed happiness that their land will stay green and fertile for the next generation. This program also showed the success of combining government leadership, community participation, and NGO support.

Supported by: PHF



## **2.2 Soil Erosion Control at Baligaon Miri**

Baligaon Miri often loses farmland because of floods and soil erosion. In 2024–25, MASK worked with villagers to build soil bunds and barriers. Villagers provided bamboo and labour, while MASK arranged technical help and materials. The bunds protected several hectares of crop fields from floods. Farmers said they felt more secure to continue cultivation. The community also learned that simple, low-cost methods can save their land. Supported by: PHF, Community Contribution.

## **2.3 Community-Based Conservation and Compensation – 24 June 2024**

On 24 June 2024, Nonke Bakula village faced severe elephant–human conflict. A wild elephant entered Nonke Bakula at night and destroyed 20 houses. The elephant destroyed two of the houses, while the others suffered partial damage. The elephant also injured three pigs and killed one. He also dislodged several electric poles in the village, leaving families without power.

MASK, through the Airabot Committee, supported the affected households by facilitating compensation for members. A total of 13 families received financial compensation, which helped them rebuild their homes and recover part of their losses. The initiative reduced the immediate burden on families.

This activity also raised awareness in the community about the need for coexistence strategies and conservation measures to reduce conflict with wildlife. Villagers expressed relief that the compensation scheme gave them timely support during a crisis. Supported by: Airabot Committee, Community Contribution

## **2.4 NRM Committee Formation – 11–12 June 2024, Sonai Nameri Village**

MASK organized a two-day meeting at Sonai Nameri village to support the formation of a Natural Resource Management (NRM) Committee for biodiversity conservation. The purpose was to discuss the creation of a Biodiversity Register with participation from multiple villages.

Dr. Rajesh Kumar, from the Sociology Department of Tezpur University, attended along with his colleagues and facilitated the discussions. Villagers from Garogaon, Dharikati, Sopaloga, Gamani, Baligaon, Sonai Miri, Dighali Gaon, Torabari, Eragaon, and Paniputa Gaon also joined the session.

A total of 71 participants actively engaged in the discussions. They shared local knowledge, expressed concerns about biodiversity loss, and agreed on the importance of community-led management. The meeting laid the foundation for a structured committee that will guide future conservation efforts and maintain a community biodiversity register. Supported by: PHF, Tezpur University

## **3. Livelihood Enhancement Initiatives**

In 2024–25, MASK assisted farmers, women, and youth in acquiring new skills and improving their income sources. The organization worked on agriculture, livestock rearing, and traditional as well as modern livelihoods. These activities offered villagers both immediate and long-term opportunities to earn a living with dignity.

### **3.1 Agriculture**

#### **A. Ginger Cultivation Training –**

On April 29, 2024, Mahila Shakti Kendra organized a convergence program:- Technical Training on Ginger Cultivation and Best Management Practices at the Common Facility Center in Morisuti Village. MASK organized the training program in collaboration with APART and the Horticulture department. Mr. Durlov Borah, Horticulture Expert from APART, facilitated the training session and provided valuable insights on ginger cultivation techniques and best practices. A total of 22 male participants had also participated. Ginger rhizomes were distributed to 8 farmers for the cultivation of ginger as a demonstration plot, covering an area of 1 bigha. Under the Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART), the District Agriculture Office.

#### **B. Model Farming on Small Landholdings – Demonstration**

MASK conducted a demonstration program in 20 project villages. The objective was to demonstrate increased productivity with proper techniques.

A total of 160 farmers participated in the program. They received input support, including blue nets, agricultural lime, Trichoderma, and seeds of ridge gourd, white gourd, cucumber, pumpkin, chilli, long beans, tomato, and other vegetables. Field staff guided farmers on how to prepare their land, manage crops, and maximize harvests.

The initiative gave farmers confidence that limited land need not be a barrier to a good income. Many participants said they planned to adopt the model in the next cropping season. By combining inputs with knowledge, the program showed a path for smallholders to achieve both food security and income growth. Supported by: APF



### **C. Seed Support –**

In 2024, MASK distributed both vegetable seeds and paddy seeds to farming families under different projects. These activities helped farmers reduce costs, improve food security, and produce nutritious crops for both consumption and sale.

- ***May 2024 – Paddy Distribution at Torajan and Dharikati***

MASK organized a paddy seed distribution program in Torajan and Dharikati villages to distribute 126 kgs of seedlings of the Ranjit Sub-1 paddy variety to 20 local farmers. The aim was to promote quality paddy cultivation and increase productivity. Supported by: CASA

- ***Vegetable Seed Distribution in Project Villages (20 Feb – 27 Mar 2024)***

MASK organized a vegetable seed distribution program in project villages. A total of 240 farmers received seeds of pumpkin, cucumber, French beans, long beans, bitter gourd, and lady's finger, to be grown over 6 to 12 decimals of land. This program encouraged kitchen gardening and family-level nutrition. Supported by: APF

- ***Paddy Seedling Distribution at Morisuti-31 May 2024***

MASK distributed 500 kg of paddy seedlings to 50 farmers in Morisuti village. Along with seeds, farmers were trained in seed treatment techniques and line sowing methods, ensuring better germination and yield. Supported by: APF

- ***Mandala Kitchen Garden Initiative-July – Dec 2024***

Under the input support program, MASK promoted Mandala Kitchen Gardens to strengthen home-based nutrition. Fifty-five (55) farmers received seeds of carrot, red amaranth, tomato, beetroot, beans, spinach, coriander, cabbage, cauliflower, and radish. Families reported that the initiative improved their diets and reduced vegetable expenses. Supported by: APF

- ***Mushroom Seed Support for Enterprise-03 Oct 2024***

MASK supported six beneficiaries with mushroom spawn to start small enterprises. Beneficiaries included Champa Daimary, Inues Basumatary, Budhiman Newar, Nalini Basumatary, Bhonita Musahary, and Ritumoni Marak. Supported by: APF

- ***Vegetable Seed Support for Nursery Enterprise-29 Oct 2024***

MASK provided nursery seeds to agri-entrepreneur Beronika Mech from Naghoria village. She received seeds for tomatoes, carrots, turnips, and cabbage. This support helped her expand her small agri-enterprise and supply seedlings to other farmers. Supported by: APF

### **Impact**

Through these programs, MASK reached 731+ farmers across multiple villages in 2024–25. Farmers received paddy, vegetable, mushroom, and nursery seeds, along with technical support. Families improved nutrition, saved on expenses, and created small enterprises. Many also reported confidence to continue these practices in the next season, using their own saved seeds.

### **D. Organic Farming Trainings**

In 2024–25, MASK promoted organic farming practices to reduce chemical use, restore soil health, and increase farmers' incomes. The organization conducted five training programs across project villages. The trainers taught the farmers composting, the use of bio-fertilizers, natural pest control, and sustainable soil management.

- ***27 Feb – 30 Jun 2024 -Project villages***

Topic: Production of organic produce and vermicompost (training program across villages).

Participants: 358 farmers (total).

Notes/Support: Training explained how to produce vermi compost and why it helps organic farming.

Project: Enhancing the Livelihood of people living near the forest.

- ***04 Apr – 14 Jun 2024 -Morisuti***

Topic: Six training sessions on organic production, bio-pesticides, and manure preparation.

Participants: 360 farmers (total).

Notes/Support: Facilitated by Mr. Durlov Borah (APART – Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project).

Project: Enhancing the Livelihood of people living near the forest.

- ***17 Sep 2024***

Topic: Vermicompost making – composting process, care of vermi beds, and the benefits of organic compost.

Participants: 31

Notes/Support: Session encouraged farmers to reduce chemical use and improve soil health.

Project: Enhancing the Livelihood of people living near the forest.

- **21 Jan 2025 - Majuli Amloga**

Activity: Village-level awareness + training on organic farming and fishery management.  
Participants: 21 (2 men, 19 women).  
Additional Support: 7 vermi beds provided to progressive farmers.  
Notes/Support: Community skill-building as recorded in the file.  
Project: Enhancing the Livelihood of people living near the forest.

- **30 Jan 2025 | Nagharia**

Topic: Training on organic produce and manure production (vermi composting).  
Participants: 25 (CRPs, local leaders, and farmers).  
Notes/Support: Practical session on how to prepare vermi compost and use it on farms.  
Project: Enhancing the Livelihood of people living near the forest.

- **20th September 2024- Morisuti village**

Topic: Training on Mushroom Cultivation  
Participants: 32 (23 women and 9 men)  
Notes/Support: Practical session on species selection, cultivation techniques, spawn production, harvesting, and marketing.  
Project: Promoting sustainable livelihoods through organic farming near Morisuti village.

- **23rd September 2024 - Dhekiajuli**

Topic: Exposure Visit on Commercial Mushroom Farming  
Participants: 19 (14 women and 05 men)  
Notes/Support: Participants visited the MRD Unit and learned about mushroom types, cultivation processes, spawn preparation, harvesting methods, and basic marketing strategies. The visit gave hands-on insights into starting home-based mushroom units, and many participants expressed interest in small-scale mushroom farming.  
Project: Promoting sustainable livelihoods through organic farming.

## **Impact**

In total, 404+ farmers were trained during the year. Women farmers made up nearly half of the participants, and their involvement strengthened household-level adoption of organic practices. In addition, three farmers were supported to start vermicompost enterprises, one farmer began a vegetable nursery. Farmers reduced their costs on chemicals, improved soil fertility, and gained confidence to expand organic farming. Linking training with enterprise support also opened new income opportunities.

## **3.2 Livestock Development –**

MASK supported livestock farmers with training and infrastructure to improve animal health, productivity, and income. The programs combined skill-building with input support to strengthen household-level livelihoods.

### **A.Livestock Management**

From 27th February to 22nd June 2024, Mahila Shakti Kendra (MASK) conducted 12 practical classes on Livestock Management aimed at educating local farmers on modern and sustainable livestock practices to improve productivity and profitability. The initiative provided farmers with a livestock management calendar as a guideline for year-round activities. Sumi Roy, Veterinary Officer,

Charduar Dispensary; Dr. Kakoli Basumatary, BVO, Balipara Block; and Mr. Madhab Basumatary, BTM, Balipara Block, facilitated the training for a total of 411 farmers participating.

Project: Enhancing the Livelihood of people living near the forest.

### **B. Basic Animal Veterinary Care**

MASK held a two-day training on Basic Animal Veterinary Care from 2nd to 3rd September in Morisuti village, covering animal healthcare, first aid, nutrition, vaccination, and disease management. The session, facilitated by Mr. Bikash Bhorali from Bokaghat, trained 15 participants (4 females and 11 males) to build local capacity for sustainable community-based livestock care.

Project: Enhancing the Livelihood of people living near the forest.

### **C. pig shade and goat shade**

Additionally, demonstrations of 10 pig shade and goat shade models were provided to beneficiaries from project villages between July and December 2024, helping farmers adopt improved housing for livestock and enhance animal health and productivity.

Project: Enhancing the Livelihood of people living near the forest.

### **Impact**

The livestock development initiatives reached 411 farmers with modern livestock management knowledge, improved veterinary care skills for 15 participants, and enhanced livestock infrastructure through 10 pig and goat shade demonstrations. These efforts contributed to better animal health, increased productivity, and strengthened community capacity for sustainable livestock management.

## **3.3 Weavers' Skill Development**

MASK organized activities to improve the skills, product quality, and market access of weavers from the area.

### **A. Exposure Visit to Alai Aron Farmer Producer Company (FPC):**

Weavers visited Alai Aron FPC to learn advanced techniques and explore new methods to improve product quality and variety. They interacted with experienced artisans and gained insights into current trends. MASK conducted the activity under the project "Natural Resource Management to Enhance the Livelihood of People Living Near Forests," supported by PHF.

### **B. Weavers' Training Program – 22 March 2025:**

MASK conducted a training at Morisuti CFC for 46 participants (26 from Garogaon and 20 from Dharikathi). The training focused on traditional weaving skills, modern techniques, sustainable dyeing, and improving product quality. Participants practiced design innovation and efficient production processes.

### **C. Eri Spinning Training – 18–19 May 2024:**

MASK conducted a 2-day Eri spinning training at Bakula Morisuti village for 20 weavers. The training aimed to enhance local skills and techniques in Eri spinning. Participants learned hands-on skills and

received expert guidance to improve their craft. It will help boost productivity and create more economic opportunities.

### **Impact**

The activities trained 46 weavers, improved their technical skills, introduced sustainable dyeing methods, and enhanced product quality. These initiatives expanded knowledge of market trends and created sustainable livelihood opportunities while preserving the region's textile heritage.

## **3.4 Other Skills Development**

MASK conducted hands-on training programs to equip local women with practical livelihood skills:

### **A. Food Processing and Soap Making – 26 March 2025 (Garogaon):**

MASK taught 27 women how to preserve food using techniques, such as pickling and drying, and to make natural soap. Resource persons Mr. Purneswar Boruah and Ms. Tuli Swargyari provided practical demonstrations and guidance on basic entrepreneurship, including product costing and branding. Participants learned skills to generate additional household income while using locally available resources.

### **B. Food Processing and Soap Making – 27 March 2025 (Dharikathi):**

MASK trained 30 women on food processing (pickling, drying, and packaging) and natural soap production (from material selection to curing). The training also covered product pricing, marketing strategies, and entrepreneurship basics. Participants acquired practical skills to create sustainable income and utilize local resources.

### **Impact**

MASK trained 57 women through these programs, enhancing practical skills in food processing and natural soap making. The initiative helped women gain entrepreneurship skills. This knowledge enabled them to earn income and create sustainable livelihoods.

## **3.5 Capacity Building - Livelihoods Activities – MASK Programs**

Impact: MASK trained 57 women in food processing and natural soap making. These initiatives enhanced practical entrepreneurship skills, enabling participants to generate income and create sustainable livelihoods.

### **A. Rural Agri & Livelihoods Trainings**

#### **21 Aug 2024**

Topic: Orchard development – modern orchard management techniques, soil health, pest control, and yield optimization.

Participants: 37 farmers from Garogaon, Phuluguri Nishi, and Dharikathi villages

Notes/Support: The Interactive session encouraged farmers to share experiences and adopt practical methods to improve orchard productivity.

Project: Rural Agri Project (NABARD Tribal Development Fund)

### **2 Sep 2024**

Topic: Hospitality management – essential hospitality skills and practical training for local .  
Participants: 15 participants from Garogaon, Dharikathi, and Nyshi Phuloguri villages  
Notes/Support: Hands-on training aimed to enhance local opportunities and tribal livelihoods.  
Project: Rural Agro Project (NABARD ITDP)

### **7 Sep 2024**

Topic: Orchard diversification and Khasi Mandarin (orange) cultivation.  
Participants: 32 farmers from Garogaon and Dharikathi villages  
Notes/Support: Farmers trained on diversifying orchards and specialized citrus cultivation techniques.  
Project: NABARD Tribal Development Fund

### **17 Sep 2024**

Topic: Vermicompost making – composting process, care of vermi beds, and benefits of organic compost.  
Participants: 31 farmers  
Notes/Support: Session encouraged farmers to reduce chemical use and improve soil health.  
Project: Enhancing the Livelihood of People Living Near the Forest

### **30 Oct 2024**

Topic: Project Monitoring and Review Committee (PMRC) meeting – progress review, challenges, and next steps.  
Participants: NABARD DDM, Chariduar Agricultural Development Officer, project staff, and 18 VLC representatives from Dharikati, Garogaon, and Nyshi Phuluguri  
Notes/Support: Stakeholders aligned on project goals and future action plans.  
Project: Rural Agri Project (NABARD)

### **2 Nov 2024**

Topic: Kitchen/Nutrition garden training – crop selection, multi-cropping, and pond management.  
Participants: 33 beneficiaries from Garogaon, Dharikathi, and Nyshi Phuluguri villages  
Notes/Support: Training supported implementation with seeds, saplings, and vermicompost units for sustainable nutrition gardens.  
Project: NABARD TRIBES Project

### **3 Dec 2024**

Topic: Village Planning Committee meeting – fertilizer distribution for coconut saplings and indigenous seed bank establishment.  
Participants: 23 committee members from Garogaon village  
Notes/Support: Plans finalized with KVK technical guidance for implementation.  
Project: NABARD TRIBES Project

## **B. Sustainable Livelihoods through Guiding Skills**

### **17 Mar 2025**

Topic: Cultural Guide Training – storytelling, local farming, cultural integration, and professional guiding techniques.  
Participants: 23 participants at Morikhuti Common Facility Centre  
Notes/Support: Prof. Anjan Bhuyan and Mr. Tarun Jyoti Borah (Tezpur University) facilitated the training. Participants gained skills to generate income as cultural guides while preserving heritage.  
Project: NABARD Rural Agri Project

**20 Mar 2025**

Topic: Bird Guide Training – bird identification, field spotting, and ethical wildlife practices.

Participants: 25 youth from Dharikathi, Tarajan, and Garogaon villages

Notes/Support: Led by ornithologist Mashi Ahmed Khan (Eastern Himalaya Birding & Wildlife Tours), the program equipped participants to work as bird guides, promoting conservation awareness and creating new livelihood opportunities.

Project: NABARD TRIBES Project

## **4. Education**

MASK implemented multiple initiatives to improve learning environments, promote child development, and raise awareness about biodiversity among students:

### **A. Eco-Club Formation – 29–30 June 2024:**

MASK helped form Eco-Clubs at Morning Star School, Dalang Basti, and Bogijuli High School. This PHF-supported program aimed to raise awareness about biodiversity. Project staff distributed books on birds, butterflies, mammals, plants, and other subjects to inspire students and encourage active participation in conservation efforts.

### **B. School Renovation – 18 July & 18 December 2024:**

Renovation work at Gojun Pothar LP School and Bhalukpung LP School improved learning environments. Activities included repairing furniture, fixing windows and doors, painting classrooms, and cleaning school premises. Parents, teachers, and local volunteers actively participated.

### **C. Children’s Lives Project Introduction – 28 October 2024:**

Project staff met with Block Development Officer Mr. Chandra Shekar Acharya and Block Education Officer Mr. Udai Shankar Sharma. They presented the project’s goals, which focus on protecting and developing children.

### **D. Child Development Committee Formation – February–March 2025:**

Committees were formed in Morisuti, Nagharia, and Nonke Bakula villages to promote holistic child development. These committees, comprising dedicated local members, address child protection, education, and overall growth, ensuring children have access to essential resources and opportunities.

### **E. Library Workshop – 22–26 March 2025:**

MASK participated in a Children’s Library workshop in Majuli, organized by IDEA NE and facilitated by the Ayang Trust Team. The program built capacity in setting up child-friendly reading spaces, selecting age-appropriate books, and designing engaging library activities to promote literacy. It emphasized libraries as safe, inclusive spaces for children’s overall development.

## **Impact**

MASK’s education initiatives improved learning environments, promoted biodiversity awareness, supported holistic child development, and fostered community participation. Students gained opportunities to engage in creative, educational, and literacy-enhancing activities, strengthening their skills, confidence, and overall growth.

## **5. Social Programs**

MASK carried out several social programs during the year. These programs focused on drug awareness, women's empowerment, cultural celebrations, and community engagement. Each activity brought villagers, students, and youth together for learning and action.

### **A. Drug Abuse Awareness – 25 May 2024 (Torajan Village):**

MASK organized an awareness session at Torajan village in the Balipara Block. Youth and students learned about the harmful effects of drug abuse and ways to prevent it. Villagers discussed how families and schools can protect young people from addiction.

### **B. Drug Abuse Awareness – 15 Dec 2024 (Baligaon, Bhalukpong):**

MASK held an awareness program on drug addiction at Upendra Brahma ME School, Baligaon. Seventy students attended the event. Trainers spoke about the dangers of drugs and encouraged students to stay healthy and focused on education. Students also shared their ideas during the discussion. Supported by: PHF

### **F. Community Meetings – Oct 2024 to Mar 2025 (Various Villages)**

Between October 2024 and March 2025, MASK organized a series of community meetings in several villages. On 11 and 14 December 2024, project staff conducted meetings in Chengelimari and Dakhin Amloga, attended by 56 participants, including Anganwadi workers, village presidents, children, and youth. On 21 and 24 January 2025, meetings in Majuli Amloga and Samloga brought together 45 participants to discuss child protection, education, and social issues. In February 2025, additional meetings in Samloga and Majuli Amloga focused on children's rights and community cooperation. Finally, in March 2025, MASK conducted meetings in Nagharia, Nonke Bakula, and Majuli Amloga, where villagers discussed education, health, and safety, and pledged support for the newly formed Child Development Committees. Supported by: ENRICH

## **6. Visitors**

MASK welcomed several visitors during the year. Their visits gave valuable guidance, encouragement, and feedback to strengthen our work.

### **A. NERIWALM Team – 9 May 2024 (Santipur Village):**

Officials from the North Eastern Regional Institute of Water and Land Management (NERIWALM), Tezpur, visited Santipur to review the traditional dong (irrigation canal). They interacted with villagers about renovation methods, canal diagrams, and water flow measurement. The visit encouraged farmers to value traditional irrigation while adopting modern techniques.

### **B. Prayatn Sanstha Team – 23 Nov 2024 (Garo Gaon & Balipara):**

A two-member team, Mr. Yogesh Jain (Director of Programmes) and Mr. James (Consultant, formerly with Karl Kubel Foundation, Germany), visited MASK for a friendly evaluation of the ENRICH project. They met staff, students, and community members. Their visit highlighted the project's progress and gave recommendations for future improvements.

### **C. NABARD Officials – 2024–25:**

The District Development Manager (DDM), Chief General Manager (CGM), and Agricultural Development Officers from NABARD visited project sites in Garogaon, Dharikathi, Nyshi Phuluguri, and Nameri. They reviewed orchard development, kitchen gardens, agri- initiatives, and skill training programs. Their interaction with farmers and SHG members boosted community confidence and ensured alignment with NABARD’s vision.

## **7. Capacity Building Support to Others**

MASK not only worked with villagers directly but also supported other organizations, committees, and groups in building their capacity. These efforts helped strengthen community networks and ensured knowledge-sharing beyond project villages.

### **A. Support to Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) – Apr to Jun 2024:**

MASK conducted follow-up visits and review meetings with 15 CBO villages, including Chengelimari, Garogaon, and Morisuti. The discussions focused on project achievements, challenges, and plans. Members learned how to document their work, manage resources, and sustain activities after project completion. Supported by: CASA

### **B. Leadership Training for SHGs & Village Leaders – May 2024 :**

MASK organized leadership training for SHG members and village leaders. The sessions covered communication, problem-solving, team building, and decision-making. The training empowered local leaders to guide their communities. Supported by: CASA

### **C. Village Organizations – 27 Nov 2024 (Capacity on Atal Pension Yojana):**

Thirty SHG members from Village Organizations attended an orientation on the Atal Pension Yojana (APY). They learned how to access government schemes and mobilize women members. Supported by: APF

### **D.Exposure and Networking – Apr 2024 to Mar 2025:**

MASK connected SHG members with government programs like Mukhyamantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan (MMUA), Swanirbhar Nari, and APY. Over 600 women enrolled in these schemes during the year. This support helped women gain financial security and new livelihood opportunities. Supported by: APF, Government Schemes

## **8. Capacity Building of Staff**

MASK focused on improving the skills of its staff to enhance project planning, implementation, and reporting. Team members attended several trainings and workshops this year. These opportunities enhanced their knowledge, confidence, and ability to serve communities better.

### **A. Staff Review & Planning Meetings – Apr 2024 to Mar 2025:**

MASK conducted regular staff review meetings at the Balipara Training Centre and project office. Staff discussed progress, challenges, and strategies for upcoming activities. These meetings built team coordination and accountability. Supported by: PHF

## **B. Leadership Training – May 2024 (Project Villages):**

Staff joined leadership training sessions alongside SHG members and village leaders. They learned about communication, problem-solving, and team building. This training improved their facilitation skills for field activities. Supported by: CASA.

## **C. Monitoring & Evaluation Workshop – 21–25 Oct 2024 (Guwahati):**

Staff participated in a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and Documentation workshop organized by IDEA NE. The sessions taught data collection, reporting formats, and impact assessment. Staff also practiced hands-on tools to improve project transparency. Supported by: ENRICH

## **D. Participatory Learning Appraisal (PLA) Training – 4–5 Nov 2024 :**

The ENRICH team received orientation on PLA methods, like resource mapping, Venn diagrams, and problem ranking. Staff then applied these tools in villages to assess children’s issues and community resources. Supported by: ENRICH

## **E. Facilitation Workshop – 6–10 Nov 2024 (Borjhar, Guwahati):**

Staff attended a workshop on child club facilitation, organized by IDEA NE. They learned how to establish and guide child clubs in villages. The training gave staff practical tools to encourage children’s participation and leadership. Supported by: ENRICH

## **F. Exposure Visit – 26 Mar 2024 (Pabhoi Green, Biswanath):**

Two staff members visited Pabhoi Green to learn about sustainable agriculture, integrated farming, and seed management techniques. They gained knowledge to guide farmers in organic farming and eco-friendly practices. Supported by: APF

## **9. Special Days & Celebrations**

MASK celebrated important days and festivals with communities, schools, and youth. These events raised awareness, promoted cultural appreciation, and encouraged community participation.

### **A. World Environment Day – 5 Jun 2024:**

Students, teachers, and youth marked the day with tree plantation and drawing competitions. The activities promoted awareness of environmental protection and conservation practices. Supported by: Forest Department, APF

### **B. World Day – 27 Sep 2024 (Garogaon, Nishigaon & Dharikathi):**

On World Day 2024, MASK and NABARD’s Tribal Development Fund launched an integrated rural development initiative. The inauguration took place across three villages, engaging 380 participants, including 200 tribal families. Chief guests Mr. Loken Das (CGM, NABARD) and Mr. Suman Chatterjee (DDM, Sonitpur) encouraged villagers to adopt sustainable and agro-based livelihoods. Supported by: NABARD – Tribal Development Fund

### **C. Butterfly Festival – 8–10 Nov 2024 (Doimara, Arunachal Pradesh):**

MASK partnered with the organization Nature Friendship, Rupa, to organize the Butterfly Festival. The three-day event celebrated biodiversity, promoted eco- , and educated participants about butterfly conservation. Villagers, students, and youth enjoyed field visits, cultural programs, and awareness sessions. Supported by: Forest Department, Community Contribution

### **D. Children’s Day – 14 Nov 2024 (Garo Gaon):**

MASK celebrated Children’s Day at Garo Gaon School with art, drama, and cultural performances. Students showcased their creativity. Teachers and parents also participated in the celebrations. Supported by: ENRICH

### **E. Pre-Republic Day – 25 Jan 2025 (Samloga LP School):**

MASK organized a pre-Republic Day program featuring art competitions. The event encouraged student creativity and highlighted the importance of Republic Day in India’s history. Supported by: ENRICH

### **F. Bir Chilarai Divas – 12 Feb 2025 (Amloga & Garo Gaon Villages):**

Villagers from nine villages came together to celebrate Bir Chilarai Divas. Students participated in poem recitation and quiz competitions. The program honored Bir Chilarai’s bravery and inspired cultural pride among youth. Supported by: ENRICH, Community Contribution

### **G. International Women’s Day – 8 Mar 2025 (Morisuti Village):**

MASK celebrated Women’s Day with cultural performances, speeches, and group discussions. Over 300 women participated under the theme “Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress.” The event encouraged women’s empowerment and equality. Supported by: Rebuild India Fund, Community Contribution

### **H. Citrus Field Day – 5 Oct 2025 (Biswanath Chariali):**

MASK participated in the Citrus Field Day organized by ICAR’s Central Citrus Research Institute at Biswanath Agricultural College. Fifty farmers from NABARD-supported Rural Agri Project villages attended. Agricultural scientists demonstrated orchard diversification and citrus management practices. The event provided farmers with practical knowledge to improve fruit production. Supported by: NABARD, ICAR

### **Youth Climate & Conservation Fellowship – 16–20 April 2024:**

MASK hosted a five-day fellowship at Garogaon village to educate and empower youth on climate action, conservation, and sustainability. A total of 43 students from schools and colleges, including participants from Bhalukpong LP and ME schools, attended the program. Sessions combined field visits, practical learning, and discussions to inspire young leaders for environmental action. Supported by: PHF, AIAS

## **11. Networking and Collaboration**

In 2024–25, MASK built strong partnerships with government departments, academic institutions, NGOs, and community groups.

### **Government Linkages:**

Regular meetings with Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, and KVKs helped farmers access training, inputs, and technical support.

### **SHG Support:**

Women participating in MMUA, Swanirbhar Nari, and Atal Pension Yojana are gaining financial security and opportunities for entrepreneurship.

### **Academic & Research Collaboration:**

MoUs with agricultural colleges and research bodies provided expert training and field demonstrations.

### **Federation Meeting of Boatmen – 24 March 2025, Nameri National Park:**

MASK facilitated a federation meeting of 28 local boatmen to discuss sustainable practices and safety protocols for river-based activities. The session focused on enhancing visitor experiences while ensuring environmental conservation and passenger safety. Key outcomes included standardized pricing agreements and improved emergency response plans. This collaborative effort strengthened professional standards among local boatmen and supported the park's sustainable development goals.

### **NGO Partnerships:**

Collaborations with ENRICH, CASA, IDEA NE, and others expanded education, livelihood, and child protection programs.

### **Community Participation:**

MASK worked with village committees and youth groups to identify priorities and strengthen local ownership.

### **Impact**

Over 500 families accessed schemes, and more than 1,000 farmers and women benefited from training and support through these collaborations.

## **12. Strategic Partners / Funding Bodies**

MASK thanks its strategic partners and funding bodies for their support in 2024–2025. Their collaboration made it possible to implement programs for livelihoods, education, the environment, and social development in Sonitpur and nearby areas. Each partner contributed resources, technical expertise, or funding that strengthened MASK's community initiatives.

- APART – Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project
- APF – Azim Premji Foundation
- CASA – Church's Auxiliary for Social Action
- DASRA Foundation
- IDEA NE – Institute of Development Action, North East
- NABARD – National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- NECBDC – North Eastern Cane and Bamboo Development Council

- PHF – Paul Hamlyn Foundation
- Rebuild India Fund
- Forest Department – Government of Assam and Arunachal
- NERIWALM – North Eastern Regional Institute of Water and Land Management
- Assam Investment Advisory Society
- Balipara Foundation

MASK acknowledges that without these partners, the achievements of 2024–25 would not have been possible. Together, they helped empower rural communities, promote sustainable livelihoods, and improve the lives of women, farmers, and children.

**MAHILA SHAKTI KENDRA**  
**GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS**



**Mrs. Akhai Marak,**  
**President**



**Mrs. Sushila Sangma,**  
**Vice-President**



**Mrs. Pherpin Momin,**  
**Treasurer**



**Mrs. Indu Basumatary,**  
**Trustee**



**Mrs. Mainu Marak,**  
**Trustee**



**Mrs. Anita Devi,**  
**Jt. Secretary**



**Mrs. Eliza Boro,**  
**Secretary**

+++++

Date -

Place- Balipara

Eliza Boro

Secretary

Mahila Shakti Kendra