

## **Beyond the campus environmental promotion and sustainability activities.**

### **Outreach workshop “Seeing the Unseen”of DBT Foldscope Project**

A day long outreach workshop on the DBT Foldscope was organised at Panbari High School, Nijpanbari Village on 27/11/2018 in association with the PI of the project Dr. Anjana Singha Naorem and her Research Assistants, Department of Zoology, Cotton University. The Workshop began with a talk on introduction of Foldscope and its various applications and its advantage over the conventional student microscope, which was followed by the screening of video on its assembly. The second session was hands-on training of the students on assembly of Foldscope and course related practical like recognizing structure variations of onion peel, pollen of flowers, different coloured salt

crystals, generating awareness on hygiene by showing the slides of dirt present in nails, finger print dirt, drinking water etc. The students were excited and enthusiastic as this was a new experience and learning for them.



### **Plastic free Campaign**

Cotton University is giving due priority to the Plastic free Campaign initiated by the Govt of India.

- (i) Teams of members visited Hajongbori and Satargaon villages on 27<sup>th</sup> September and Nijpanbari village on 30<sup>th</sup> September to spread awareness on hazards of plastic use and to request the villagers to strive to make their village plastic free. Power point presentations were made to show the children and the elders how single use plastics are harming us on a
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daily basis. The villagers have been allotted a place, in every village, where the collected plastics need to be dumped, for proper collection or recycling as may be possible.

- (ii) A team of members visited Kalitapara and Keotpara on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 to campaign similarly for a plastic free village. The Cotton University Campus is also being made plastic free with every department taking this mission extremely seriously. This would certainly be a continued process till the mission of a Plastic free India is achieved.
- (iii) Cloth bags were distributed among the villagers. In association with the members of the Cotton University Women's Forum, the women of Hajongbori village were given training to make cloth bags which we propose to buy from them thus providing them an extra means of earning. More cloth bags are also being made ready by the University authorities for subsequent distribution.

*Plastic free campaign at Hajongbori village*



*Plastic free campaign at Satargaon village*



*Plastic free campaign at Nij Panbari village:*



It is to be noted that a team of lady faculty of Cotton University had visited Hajongbori earlier in July, 2019 to motivate the villagers towards decreasing the use of plastic bags and to encourage the use of paper bags. Subsequently, 16 groups of ladies got together to form a group called the “Birangana Gramyo Sangathan” where they are presently making paper bags to replace the plastic ones.

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### Visit to Keotpara and Satargaon by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Cotton University

On 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2019, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Cotton University, along with a few senior faculty members and students visited the villages of Keotpara and Satargaon in a bid to enhance the Plastic free campaign which had already been flagged off earlier.

At Keotpara, a power point presentation on the hazards of plastic use was made in the school premises by Prof Mausumi Ganguly which was attended by students as well as the villagers. The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor also deliberated on the topic and then distributed cloth bags to a member of every household. He also interacted with the little children of the school. At Satargaon, know-how was shared on the importance of organic farming and the use and preparation of vermi compost. Here too, cloth bags were distributed to the villagers.

*Hon'ble VC interacting with the students at Keotpara Primary School*





*Prof Ganguli delivering a talk on plastic*

**Planting and distribution of saplings:** As a part of the World Environment Month being observed by Cotton University, Guwahati, a team of members of the University visited its adopted villages Chakardeo-Kalitapara and Satargaon on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 and Keotpara on 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 for planting and distribution of saplings of essential trees like neem, lemon, guava, mango, pomegranate, jamun etc. The team comprising Dr Sangeeta Barthakur, Dr Indrani Sarma and Dr Mausumi Ganguly planted a few saplings in every village and distributed around 200 saplings to the villagers to plant either in their homes or at strategic locations in and around the villages. The need to care for the plants till they grow up was stressed upon. This is an endeavour to strive for a greener world.



## Awareness Programme on Sanitation and Hygiene

In order to sensitize the local people about different aspects of Sanitation and Hygiene, street plays were performed in three of the adopted villages—Keotpara, Kalitapara and Satargaon on 26 March 2021. The plays were scripted and performed by the students of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Cotton University, under the guidance of faculty member Dr Muktikam Hazarika and Dr Sangeeta Barthakur.



Street play at Kalitapara



Street play at Keotpara



Street play at Satargaon



The team with villagers at Satargaon

### **Distribution of Lemon saplings and fruiting tree samplings for plantations.**

A project entitled, “Towards sustainable and green villages: Plantation of lemon and other fruit-bearing trees in villages located near Guwahati city, Assam, north-east India” was implemented by Dr Narayan Sharma, Cotton University during July - September 2021, in collaboration with Dusty Foot Foundation and Mahindra Logistics. In this project, over 9000 lemon saplings and 600 saplings of fruiting trees of more than 30 species were distributed to 1000 beneficiaries in the five adopted villages and also one non-adopted village, viz., Keotpara, Kalitapara, Satargaon, Nij Panbari, Hajongbori and Patgaon. The plantations would help yield revenue for the villagers. They would also provide protection from wild elephants in three of the villages Hajongbori, NijPanbari and Satargaon..

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Distribution of lemon saplings at Nij Panbari



At Chakardo-Kalitapara



At Keotpara



At Satargaon



## Energy awareness and audit

With an aim to spread awareness on energy, its sources and its conservation, a team of members comprising faculty members and students led by Dr Parijat Borgohain, visited the villages Satargaon and Kalitapara 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 and then Hajongbori and NijPanbari on 8<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. An audit on energy consumption was carried out in each of the villages through personal interviews in household surveys by the student groups with prepared questionnaires/schedules. Every household was gifted an LED bulb each. It was encouraging to see the active participation of the villagers in the awareness drive as well as during the survey.



Faculty member creating awareness on energy issues at Satargaon



The energy team at Hajongbori



Distributing LED bulbs