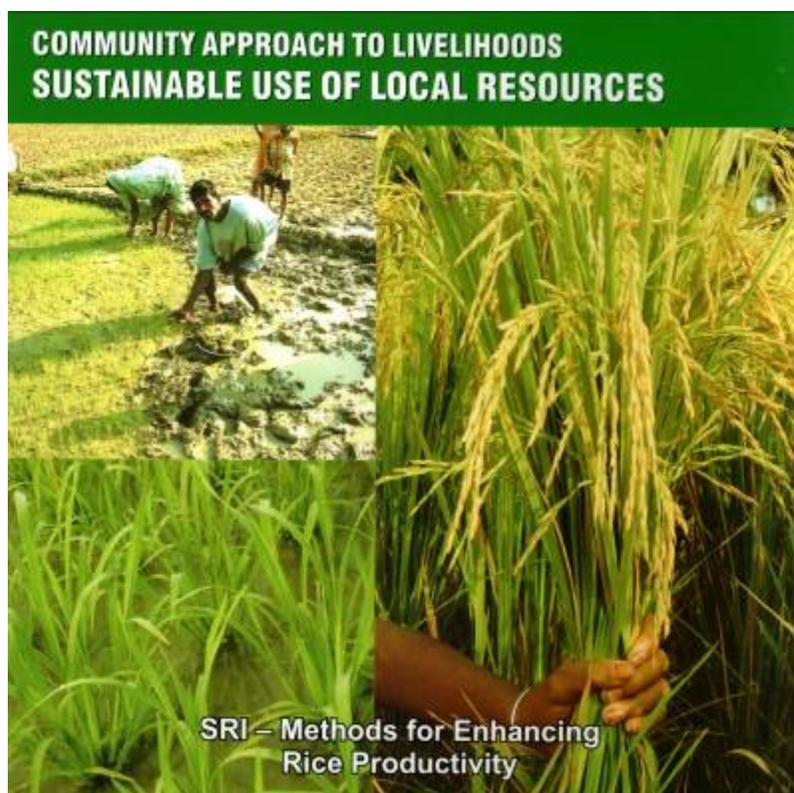


# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **(2010 – 2011)**



### **Paribesh Unnayan Parishad (PUPA)** **(COUNCIL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT)**

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#### **Rural Unit**

#### **AMARGRAM**

Village : Phulbari, P.O. : Sagar Phulbari,  
Dist.: South 24 Parganas, West Bengal, INDIA

## ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT ( 2010 – 2011)

**Paribesh Unnayan Parishad (PUPA)**  
(COUNCIL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT)

### Summary of Activities (2010 – 2011)

1. Improving the quality of life and livelihood of rural community through sustainable use of local resources (a project of UNDP/SGP, facilitated by Centre for Environment Education, New Delhi) — **continued up to May,2010**
2. Documentation of village level bio-resources for the benefit of local people at Sagar Island, S. 24 Parganas for proper conservation and sustainable use.(supported by West Bengal Biodiversity Board) — **continued up to May,2010**
3. National Environment Awareness Programme (**NEAC-2010-11**)
4. Promoting **SRI** (System of Rice Intensification) at Sagar Islands, South 24 Parganas (with support from NABARD)
5. Mass Awareness on adaptation to Climate Change at Sagar Island, South 24 Parganas involving school students (In association with West Bengal Pollution Control Board)
6. ‘Creating Young Green Champions to link with the Commonwealth Games 2010, New Delhi’ .
7. **Environmental Awareness programme** (during World Environment Day, World Earth Day, Forest Week, Wildlife Week etc.)
8. Capacity building programme (**with support from Jnan Chandra Ghosh Polytechnic**)
9. Service provider on organic farming ( **under National programme on Organic Farming**)

## REPORT

### 1. **“Improving the quality of life and livelihood of rural community through Sustainable use of local resources”** at Sagar Island, S. 24 Parganas

With support and guidance from Centre for Environment Education (CEE), we have implemented the project entitled. **“Improving the quality of life and livelihood of rural community through sustainable use of local resources”** in 16 villages of two Gram Panchayats of Sagar Island of South 24 Parganas district during 2007 to 2010 (May). Participatory methodologies eg., Participatory Rural Appraisals (PRAs) and Participatory Learning Appraisals (PLAs) were followed as tools. More emphasis in the project has been put on the **process of doing actions**, rather than **mere activity led approach of fund spending**. The locals have been seen as active members in the documentation of local resources and its utilizations including biodiversity assessment, valuable

traditional knowledge systems & culture at village level. The project strategy has a focus to develop mutual respect, trust, community ownerships and sustainable actions spreading over a three-phased approach — 1) Community mobilization; 2) Capacity Building and 3) Community participation. A cost-benefit sharing model developed in the project for most of the activities for the sake of sustainability.

## **2. Documentation of village level bio-resources for the benefit of local people at Sagar Island, S. 24 Parganas for proper conservation and sustainable use**

This is biodiversity documentation and registration programme of West Bengal Biodiversity Board implemented at fifteen villages of Sagar Island, S. 24 Parganas, W.B by PUPA. The final report was submitted on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2010 after successfully forming the BMC under Sagar Panchayet Samity.



## **3. National Environment Awareness Programme (NEAC-2010-11)**

With the objective of mass awareness generation on **Biodiversity conservation**, various activities were undertaken at Sagar island from 1st January, 11 to 25 February, 11. Important activities include meeting, training workshop on biodiversity survey & documentation, **Biodiversity Register preparation (Bamankhali Village)**, Establishing garden of rare & medicinal plants and promoting nutritional garden in the target locality. In order to involve the children, a sit & draw contest followed by exhibition were also arranged at village Phulbari, Sagar Island.



## **4. Promoting SRI (System of Rice Intensification) at Sagar Islands, South 24 Parganas (with support from NABARD)**

Supported by NABARD, we organised we organised 7 awareness programme during Boro (2009-10) and 4 during Kharif (2010-11). In addition we organised 3 field-based hands-on training and established 4 DEMO-PLOTS during Boro and 3 DEMO PLOTS during kharif season.

The yield was satisfactory, particularly with local variety of paddy (Dudheswar).

## A SUCCESS STORY FROM SAGAR ISLAND

Farmer : Bikash Ranjan Maity  
Village : Mandirtala, Sagar Island

**Bikash** a farmer of village Mandirtala, Mooriganga No. 2 Gram Panchayet was not very much willing to adopt SRI because of risk associated with any new attempt. With assistance from NABARD, a farmers club in the name of Indian Farmer Club was formed. He became the Chief Coordinator. It was the turning point.

He was convinced by the discussion with an expert from Nimpith during 'Meet the expert programme' of his Farmer Club. In spite of the resistance from all corners, particularly from his family members, he attempted and took the risk of practicing SRI in the month of December, 2009.

In the locality, freshwater is a major constrain of paddy cultivation during winter and summer months, though the rainfall is high in Kharif season. Moreover, the cost of high yielding varieties of paddy seeds is going up rapidly (some seeds sold at the rate of Rs. 200/- per kilo).

He was then further exposed to an awareness programme on SRI, where a film on SRI was shown by PUPA. Being convinced with the information e along with another 20 farmers started practicing SRI

in the winter months of 2009. Bikas successfully cultivated paddy following the SRI technique which was appreciated by the local agricultural department. He applied 'sabita' a high yielding variety of paddy in 2008 in his traditional way. He got about 25-30 tiller per hill and harvested about 22 mons ( 22 x 40 = 880 kg.). Where as in 2009, after practicing SRI he was able to get



40 – 50 tillers per hill and harvested about 27 mons ( 27 x 40 = 1080 kg.). He planted 14 days old plants, whereas according to SRI 10 – 12 days old. He realized that he could have gained more if he has planted early.

**Impact:** Conservation of freshwater and less usage of inorganic chemical fertilizer (reduced to at least to 50%) is the major impact of this activity. Economic benefit is also substantially higher when compared to the normal system of cultivation. Soil biota is also conserved.

**General Comments:** SRI is not a myth now at Sagar Island. It is possible, but need some sort of experimentation, because of some local problems. Uncertain rainfall and weather conditions are

prevailing factors of the locality. Soil of some of the fields are with various degrees of salinity. All these need particular attention.

**5. Mass Awareness on adaptation to Climate Change at Sagar Island, South 24 Paraganas involving school students** (In association with West Bengal Pollution Control Board)

**AWARENESS ACTIVITIES:**

In connection with awareness generation on Climate change, activities undertaken at Sagar island during January,10 to June, 10 are: workshops (Teacher/students), Survey, plantation planning , Rain water harvesting planning , etc. involving 10 schools and 168 students directly.

**I. WORKSHOP:** Initially, one day-long workshop was organized at Sagar Recreational Service (Bamankhali) premises on 27.03.2010 (11 a.m. to 4 p.m.) with the idea of designing classroom and out of the class activities keeping the environmental conservation in mind. **Sri Durga Mookherjee** of DRCSK, Kolkata conducted the workshop. At the onset, the goal and the objectives of EF were discussed keeping the environmental curricula at school level in mind. DRCSK has published a book on environmental studies for class VI & VII, which was shown to the teachers. Two awareness leaflets (colourful) and several awareness posters on Climate change issues, prepared by PUPA, the implementing agency, were used during the workshop period. Students attending the workshop were asked to make a simple survey in their locality to have a basic knowledge on weather and climate with special reference to Sagar island.



**II. SURVEY :** Very simple survey format for documenting local knowledge and ideas with regard to weather & climate change was developed during workshop. Students were also trained on documentation process. Altogether 15 students participated in the survey work and the results are summarized below:

**CLIMATE OF SAGAR ISLAND:** Climatic condition is dominated by NE & SW monsoon. Seasonal climate in this region may be conveniently categorized into following seasons. Pre-monsoon (February to May): with little or no rainfall and prevalence of high temperature. Monsoon (June to September): when heavy atmospheric precipitation and comparatively low temperature are experienced Post-monsoon: when there is occasional rainfall and minimum temperature were recorded

□ Progressive increase in temperature from January to May followed by a decline with the onset of

south-west monsoon from June onwards and reaches minimum during the end of the year. The water temperature also followed the same trend in this region.

□ Wind pattern in the region is more or less in line with the general wind system of the Indian subcontinent. The coastal region is characterized by two dominant wind systems namely, South-West and North-East. SW winds prevail from May to October with occasional disturbances with cyclone.

□ Annual rainfall varied between 188 cm to 245 cm, 75 – 85 % of the total annual rainfall occurred during monsoon months, most of it flows towards river.

**Recent evidences of Climate change:** In the year 2008 & 2009, rain-less days persisted for a longer period during post-monsoon period causing agricultural crop loss during Boro season. Last year (2009), disappearance of cold after the beginning of winter season in October causes drying up of mango flowers just after appearance. However, when cold returns in the middle of November, mango flowers massively reappear in other branches. The similar type of flowering discrepancy had seen in other plants like Sajina

### III. Classroom & out-of Classroom interaction:

Regular class-room interactions after the completion of the workshop in March, 10 were arranged involving the students of class VIII. Posters prepared on climate change (copies attached) were used during the interactions. Students were particularly motivated to undertaken plantation (locally specific) activities in their own residential areas. A group of 15 to 20 students in class VIII in the schools visited was prepared for future programmes. Emphasis was also placed on the importance of biodiversity in our daily life, remembering the **International Year of Biodiversity (2010)**.



**IV: World Environment Day** was celebrated during 10-12 June, 2010 at Sagar Island.

With the idea of motivating and raising awareness amongst the people in general and the student community in particular at Sagar Island, an integrated awareness programme was organised at SAGAR ISLAND involving seven schools by **Paribesh Unnayan Parishad** and **Sagar Block Paribesh Mela Committee**.

6. **‘Creating Young Green Champions to link with the Commonwealth Games 2010, New Delhi’** .

The XIX Commonwealth Games was held in New Delhi from 3-14 October 2010. As the host of the Commonwealth Games (CWG), the Govt. of Delhi has committed to hosting “Green Games” by inducing behavioral change towards low carbon practices. Centre for Environment Education (CEE), **Global Environment Facility (GEF)/United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Small Grants Program (SGP)** partners join the Delhi Government in taking this endeavour forward. The project ‘*Creating Young Green Champions for a responsible Citizen’s Force to link with the Commonwealth Games*’ aims at:

- Creating awareness on low carbon practices by involving schools children, citizens at large, institutions and SGP partners in the cities along the Queen’s Baton Relay Route in India
- Ensuring plantations in schools, villages and common places along the Queen’s Baton Relay Route through SGP partners and CEE teams
- Preparing students from schools across states in India to act as young environment ambassadors with a special focus on the low carbon practices
- Sensitizing public at large at places about sustainable lifestyle practices in cities along the route of the Commonwealth Games Queens Baton Relay (QBR)

Paribesh Unnayan Parishad participated voluntarily in the awareness generation programme involving school students of Sagar Island during

June,10 to December,10. Altogether 20 schools, 5 clubs, 4 Farmers Club, 15 SHG/SGSY were involved during awareness generation programme. A total of 226 males and 283 females were involved directly during the programme. 17,950 saplings were distributed by Sundarban Development Board to school students. In addition, SHG/SGSY/Farmers Club members planted nearly one thousand sapling in their own house premises.

A GREEN CONCERT was arranged on 31.07.10 at Science City, Saltlake, where Saheba Khatun and Shirsendu Das was awarded with “**Young Green Champions Award**” by the Green Commonwealth Games organizing committee for their outstanding activities involving school students.



**7. Environmental Awareness programme** (during IYB, World Environment Day, World Earth Day, Forest Week, Wildlife Week etc.)

**(i) International Year of Biodiversity (IYB, 2010)**

W.B. Biodiversity Board organised a state-level awareness programme on BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION to commemorate the International Year of Biodiversity (2010). We got the opportunity of organising the programme in Kakdwip Sub-Division (four Blocks) under S. 24 Parganas district in association with **Lokmata Rani Rashmani Mission**, Nimpith. In this connection, 54 schools (Kakdwip-8, Patharpratima- 8, Namkhana- 6 and Sagar Is. – 32) were involved. But the response from the schools of Block Patharpratima was very poor.



In addition to classroom visits, a seminar was organised on 20<sup>th</sup> August,10 at Rudranagar Devendra Vidyapith, a contest for schools of Sagar island on 12<sup>th</sup>

September,10 and final contest on 14<sup>th</sup> November,10 at Sundarban Adarsha Vidyamandir, Kakdwip. Contest was arranged on Quiz, extempore lecture, essay writing and Biodiversity Mapping. A drama was played by the students of Dhablat Lakshman Parabesh High school on 14.11.10.

**(ii) World Environment Day** is celebrated every year on 5 June in more than 100 countries around the world. It was established in 1972 by the United Nations General Assembly. The purpose of World Environment Day is to focus worldwide attention on the importance of the environment and **stimulate public and political attention & action**. The aim is to motivate and empower people to become active agents of sustainable and equitable development; promote an understanding that communities are pivotal to changing attitudes towards environmental issues; and advocate partnership, which will ensure that all nations and peoples enjoy a safer and more prosperous future. Interest in World Environment Day is growing each year, as evidenced by the number of countries which lend their support to this important event.

With the idea of motivating and raising awareness amongst the people in general and the student community in particular at Sagar Island, an integrated awareness programme was organised at SAGAR ISLAND during **10-12 June, 2010** by **Paribesh Unnayan Parishad** in collaboration with **WWF-India, Eastern Region. CDTP, Jnan Chandra Ghosh Polytechnic and W.B. Pollution**

**Control Board.** Locally, we received active support from **Sagar Block Paribesh Mela Committee, Dhablat Lakshman Parabesh High School (H.S.) & Phulbari Sitala High School (H.S.)** in addition to more than ten other schools of Sagar Island.

The **first day (10.06.10) programme** was inaugurated by Sri Bhagyadhar Barik, Secretary, **Sagar Youth Welfare Committee**, Rudranagar. A team consisting of seven members, namely, Sri Dhirendranath Das, Ex-Headmaster, N.N.High School, Sri Bhagyadhar Barik, Secretary, Sagar Youth Welfare Committee, Dr.Asit Das, Secretary, Sagar Block Paribesh Mela Committee, Dr. Kushadwaj Santra, Secretary, Sagar Community Welfare Committee, Smt. Sumita Mandal, Amader Prerana, Sri Kritisundar Misra, PUPA, Sri Sukumar Mandal, local teacher and Dr.A. Misra, Secretary, PUPA, visited the schools for classroom interaction. We visited most of the classes for 15 to 20 minutes interaction centering on local environmental issues like drinking and irrigation water, soil degradation, sound pollution, etc. Emphasis was also given on village mapping for documenting local resources.



The **second day (11.06.10) programme** was inaugurated by **Sri Apurba Ranjan Giri, honourable Sabhapati, Sagar Panchayet Samity**, Sagar Block. Sri Santanu Gayen, Headmaster, Lakshman Parabesh High School and Dr.Asit Das, Secretary, Sagar Block Paribesh Mela Committee were also graced the inaugural function arranged in the campus of Sagar Panchayet samity, Rudranagar on 11.06.10 during 8.30 to 9.30 a.m. Assembly talks were arranged with the students of selected schools (list appended below) on 10.06.10 and with the general public in selected places (Tableau programme) on the road from Kachuberia to Gangasagar (30 km.)



It is remarkable to note that local political and other leaders also spoke during our visit to respective places, particularly at Mandirtala and Bamankhali. **Sri Milan Payra, honourable Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA)**, Sagar Constituency, addressed the audience at 7.00 p.m. at Bamankhali with emphasis on local environmental problems, particularly, drinking water, soil degradation, plantation, etc.

The **third day (12.06.10) programme** was held at Phulbari Sital High School during 11.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. involving about 50 students of class VIII & IX. Sri Monoranjan Muniyan,

Headmaster, PSHS, inaugurated the programme. Sri K.S.Misra and Saheba Khatun discussed about the role of students in documenting local resources for rational utilization. At the end a group of 12 students were selected for undertaking future activities.

**Output & Expected benefit:** Environmental awareness raised amongst the students of the schools visited. Initiative taken to form small group of students in each school for future activities. The selected students attended a **Training Workshop on Biodiversity** on 17.06.10 at SD Marine Biological Research Institute, Bamankhali, organised by Prof. Amalesh Chawdhury.

### SUMMARY

Total Schools visited:	7
Total students interacted (classroom):	4000 (approx.)
Total teachers interacted:	35 (approx.)
Local leaders participated & interacted:	15
Local Clubs/NGOs participated	7
Total people addressed	5000 (approx.)
Total road covered during campaign	45 km

**Schools visited:** Natendrapur Natendranath High School (HS)

Khansaheb Abad High school

Krishnanagar High School

Companychar Maheswari High School (HS)

Dhablat lakshman parabesh High school (HS)

Phulbari Sitala High School (HS)

Prasadpur Atal Vidyaniketan

### (iii) World Earth Day (22 April, 2010)

The **Earth day** programme was organised involving selected students of Jadavpur Sammilita Balika Vidyalaya on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 10 in association with Happy Calcuttans. An interactive programme was arranged for raising environmental awareness amongst the students of the school.



**(iv) Forest Week (14 –20 July, 10) :**

**Forest Week** is being celebrated every year during 14 to 20 July in our country, with the primary objective of to focus our attention towards massive plantation and also to **stimulate public and political attention & action** in this regard..

With the idea of motivating and raising awareness amongst the public in general and the student community in particular, an awareness programme was organised in the month of July,10 as per schedule given below with collaborative support from **Happy Calcuttans** under their long-term programme entitled “**P. K. Ray Memorial Environment Leadership programme**”.

We started the week-long programme at Basanti (Joygopalpur Grambikash Kendra Basanti) and ended with the programme at Alipur Multipurpose Govt. Girls High School, Kolkata. The final day programme was graced by Dr. Dipali Ray, Happy Calcuttans, Dr.Rina Chakraborty, Deputy Director, ZSI, Dr. A. Chatterjee, Retd. Scientist, ZSI, Dr P. Ray, Retd. Sr. Scientist, Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhubaneswar, Orissa and Ms Urmimala Ghosh, HM of the school. Dr. A. Misra, Srecretary, PUPA coordinated the whole programme. All the dignitaries attended stressed on the importance of plants and wildlife in conserving our environment. **Green School Award** was delivered to Alipur Multipurpose Govt. Girls High School by Dr.Dipali Ray. In addition, five students of the aforesaid school, one from Ananda Ashram Balika Vidyalaya waw awarded with Green Girl Award.



**(v) Wildlife Week (October, 2010)**

Awareness programmes were arranged in 6 schools with material support from Zoo Out Reach in the first week of October,10. Three hundred eighteen students directly took part in the classroom interaction. Adrama was arranged at Dhablat Lakshmanparabesh High school on 20 Oct., 10 using masks supplied by ZOO OUTREACH Organization.



**(vi) Environmental Awareness programme involving school students** (Supported by JCG Polytechnic)

With the objective of mass awareness generation on **Climate Change** and **Biodiversity conservation**, various activities were undertaken at Sagar Island from 21st January, 11 to 24 March, 11. Important activities include **Public meetings**, **Classroom talks** at 18 schools on climate change, **biodiversity survey** and a final **workshops**. In order to involve the school children in future activity oriented awareness & rejuvenation programme, eight students (four boys & four girls) were selected and awarded with mementoes as GREEN BOY & GREEN GIRL and certificates were distributed to the selected students (15) of different schools.



**vii) Environmental Awareness campaign programme** was arranged in association with Sundarban Gramin Bikash Kendra during Durga Puja at Sagar island. Volunteers distributed the PCB's awareness posters at different Puja Mandap.



**8. Capacity building programme** (with support from Jnan Chandra Ghosh Polytechnic)

**Jnan Chandra Ghosh Polytechnic** has selected our organisation for establishing their extension centre (SAGAR EXTENSION CENTRE) under their CDTP scheme at village Phulbari, Sagar Island, for extending training support to local youths, both boys & girls, on various vocational fields. Initially, three training programmes were approved, two of which were successfully completed. However, the Food processing (3months) course was not started due to parliamentary election.



- (i) **Tailoring:** Twenty eight members of local community including 5 members from local 3 SHGs were exposed to a six-month long training programme on tailoring. We got four Sewing Machine as donation from Dr. Saswati Sen, Director, WWF-India, W.B. Office.
- (ii) **Integrated Farming System:** Twenty young farmers of Sagar Island were trained on IFS with technical support from DRCSC (Service Centre), Kolkata and financial support from Jnan Chandra Ghosh Polytechnic (CDTP) and WWF-India. Sri Uttam Tripathy was selected as the trainers for this course. Dr. Subhash Santra was invited and attended a special training programme on 26-27 March, 10.
- (iii) **Food processing:** one Three-day training programme was organized at Bamankhali High School during 20-22 April, 10 involving nearly 25 members of local SHGs, Sri Sanjib Manna from Amtala was the trainer.

### 9. Service provider on organic farming (under National programme on Organic Farming)

We have been selected as one of the service providers for promoting organic farming involving 1500 farmers from six villages of Sagar Island by State Agriculture Department under National programme on organic Farming.

In this connection, a survey of 1500 household (farmer) was undertaken at five villages (Kashtala, Phulbari, Khirkultala, Sapkhali, Champatala and Bamankhali). Village coordinators were trained on organic farming, particularly on “**Zero budget farming**” promoted by Sri Subhash Palekar. **Jeebamrita**, liquid manure was prepared and tried successfully on beetle vine yard. Emphasis was put more on vermicomposting, considering its demand, popularity and effectiveness.



#### Miscellaneous Activities:

(i) **Rural Tourism at Sagar Island:** We have designed and initiated a ‘**Rural Eco-Tourism**’ for promoting village tourism at Sagar Island. So far, approximately, 42 people including 29 from Basirhat College visited the island with Eco-Guide support from us.

**ii) Study Centre:** Considering the fact that reading comprehension of children remains poor even in grades 3 and 4 at Sagar Island. And this affects their writing skills as well as the ability to comprehend other subjects. Improving the basic education along with relevant skills of life and livelihood in rural areas may be considered as the first step for rural development.



A study centre was established initially with 7 children (Class II - VI) in the month of October, 10. Now the students strength is 25 (from class II to VI) who are guided by two guide teaches. In addition to



**iii) Five farmers' Clubs** were formed with support from NABARD at Saar Island with the prime objective of improving the farming systems by diversified farming system trainings.

**iv) Village Development Planning:** a day-long programme was arranged on the basics of village resource mapping following PRA tools on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 11 at Phulbari Sitala High School with expertise assistance from Prof. S. Mitra, Vice-President, PUPA. The participants from IFS training attended the programme.



## Acknowledgements

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