

PROGRESS  
& IMPACT  
2017-18





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# Trustees Update 2017-18

In the introduction to EH Schumacher's classic 'Small is Beautiful', Jonathan Porritt passionately argues that the cardinal error of our whole industrial way of life is that we continue to treat irreplaceable natural capital as income. This natural capital is represented by the geology, air, soil and all living things in it. The continuing absurdity of human societies pinning all their hopes on achieving exponential growth, of measuring success solely in terms of increased Gross National Product (GNP) and of ignoring the social and environmental 'externalities' of contemporary consumerism is clearly not sustainable. Across the board, there is a growing realization that 'people matter'. The edifice of APPL Foundation firmly stands on this ground.

APPL Foundation, a Charitable Trust promoted by Amalgamated Plantations Private Limited (APPL), has its catchment area in Assam valley/ Terai which is home to diverse ethnic and tribal communities. Our projects are spread across Assam and West Bengal and our interventions are rooted in four broad verticals: Skill and Education, Healthcare, Environment and Livelihood and Culture. Through our projects we

have bridged partnerships, to boost Human Capital formation and deliver psychological benefits such as security, fulfillment, status and solidarity which are in line with United Nation's Sustainable Developmental Goal 16 of 'Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions'.

The relationship between Education and Healthcare is critical not just for the level of growth, but also determines its quality. Our prime investments in education and healthcare envisage augmenting productivity, speeding technological advancements and increasing the probability of people leading a healthy life. Our project at Chhayagaon near Assam-Meghalaya border in turmeric and black pepper cultivation has made impressive strides in giving access to good quality work to women in homestead farms of the area.

APPL Foundation was privileged to conceive and host four editions of Sirish™, which is our tribute to the indigenous culture, art and literature of the Tea Community of Assam and West Bengal. "The initiative instils a sense of commitment and dedication, especially amongst the youngsters and it is highly essential to promote the value of life" said Hon'ble Chief Minister of

Assam, Shri Sarbanana Sonwal at SIRISH™ 2018.

Floods in Assam in 2017 were described as the worst such occurrence in the last 30 years. With the support of APPL, Tata Global Beverages, Tata Steel, Tata Chemicals, The Assam Investment Fund and Junbai Sanskritik Gusthi we pooled in a massive relief in terms of food, clothing and shelter to give 3750 households means to restart their lives in the districts of Lakhimpur, Majuli and Naogaon.

The overall impact of our projects on the number of people in 2017-18 is:

Vertical	Impact
Skill & Education	1,700
Healthcare	2,46,000
Environment & Livelihood	7,000
Culture	30,000
Natural Disaster Management	30,000

Looking ahead, we plan to undertake the following activities:

- ◆ Impart skills to more candidates and evolve training centres at Rowta, Chubwa in Assam and Dooars in West Bengal as regional hubs for skills based training
- ◆ Build child friendly communities at tea gardens by implementing programmes to ensure quality education for children

- ◆ Convert primary healthcare centres at the Tea Estates into community-friendly SMART Hospitals with holistic treatment approach, supported by innovative technology
- ◆ Empowering women at the tea gardens in the areas through initiatives dedicated to turn them into economic leaders and care for their WASH and wellness needs
- ◆ Cover larger area under sustainable agricultural practices and preserve the unique ecology around the tea gardens
- ◆ Demonstrating the cultural diversity of tea tribe at larger platforms

We are devoted to take this journey ahead through a stakeholder-driven business approach and partnership driven development model. APPL Foundation constantly seeks optimizing efficiencies of the key assets being Land, Water and People, while maintaining and enhancing the frail ecological balance of the region. In seeking sustainable solutions to challenges confronting us, we firmly believe that the work we do should not only benefit communities today but also build strong foundations for the future.

We thank all our partners and well-wishers for their guidance and support.

**Ranjit Barthakur**  
Chairman, Board of Trustees







# APPL FOUNDATION

*APPL Foundation committed towards catalyzing change in and around the tea plantations of North East India has now completed a journey of 6 years. We have travelled the distance holding hands of our community, as partners, in their challenges and accomplishments. Realizing their need, we have improvised our focus towards sustainable community development.*

*The Foundation is actively engaged in empowering communities with education, skill development, healthcare, environment conservation, livelihood generation and preservation of culture. We are successfully connecting communities with the State and development experts to create a circle of trust and progress.*

*The circle so formed is small, but holds immense potential to encompass larger parts of the society, which APPL Foundation is striving to achieve in days to come. The progress of the journey in 2017-2018 is captured in this report.*





# Our Vision

*Catalysing Change*

# Our Mission

*To enhance the lives of our own communities in the Tea Plantations of Assam Valley/Terai*



# Our Approach

*Launch social impact initiatives in the fields of skills and education development, healthcare, environment and livelihood and culture in the North East*



A host of communities across North East India face deprivation in the spheres of education, livelihood, primary healthcare, nutrition, environment conservation and culture preservation. It is the nature of inter-relatedness among each of these aspects that has been our motivation to initiate an array of activities under the four verticals.

As the world shares a common objective of achieving the imperatives of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), we are integrating our efforts of development, centred on these global commitments. APPL Foundation is walking along with the world to create a sustainable future.





## We train

### Skill and Education

1,700 people trained and educated



## We treat

### Healthcare

2,46,600 lives touched



## We protect

### Environment and Livelihood

7,000 community people involved in building sustainable ecosystem



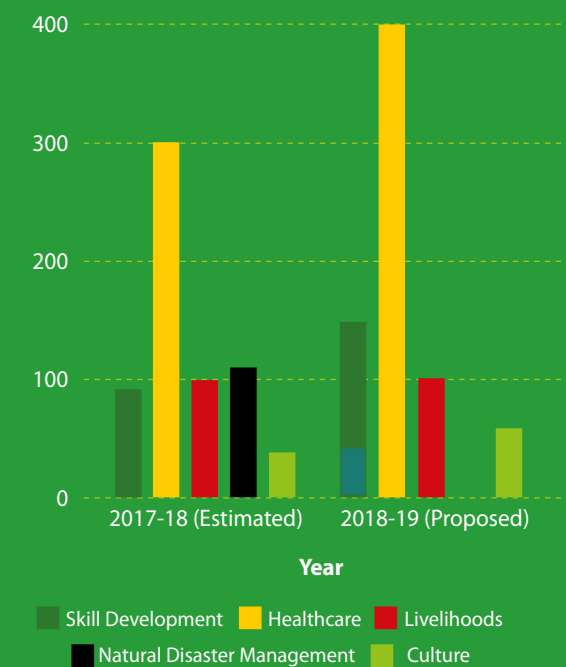
## We promote

### Culture

1,500 tribal artists nurtured

## We value partnership

In 2017-18, APPL Foundation fostered partnerships of approximately ₹ 7 crore. This is only a marginal value in comparison to the large human capital that our initiatives have created. In 2018-19, we hope to take our partnership valuation to well over ₹ 7 crore.





# Project Unnati

Amalgamated Plantation Private Ltd known as one of the oldest and second largest tea producing company in India thrives on the hard work of its tea garden employees. Thus, caring for our employees is a responsibility which we are committed to fulfill. Project Unnati is a flagship welfare initiative of APPL where we strive to provide better living for the garden employees.

The programme which covers improving the living and working conditions of the employees at the tea plantations encompasses concerns of workers colony, sanitation, health and education along with improvement in work management by means of capacity building and awareness has been actively perpetuated in 2017-18.

The project has forged a partnership which has been significant in the initiation of progressive initiatives at the gardens which has encouraged participation of our employees to work together in achieving a better community to live in.

“ *Repaired 1,750 houses and 4,338 toilets*

*Constructed 4,338 toilets and 4,210  
bathrooms*

*Installed 146 bio-toilets*

*Constructed 1,137 water points*

*Planted 63,340 trees ”*





# Skill and Education

Education is the single most important instrument for social and economic transformation. A well-educated population, adequately equipped with knowledge and skill is not only essential to support economic growth, but is also a precondition for growth to be inclusive, since it is the educated and skilled people who stand to benefit most from employment opportunities which growth provides.

India is one of the few countries in the world where the working age population will be far in excess of those dependent on them and as per the World Bank, this will continue for at least three decades

till 2040. This has increasingly been recognized as a potential source of significant strength for the national economy, provided we are able to equip and continuously upgrade the skills of the population in the working age group. As Assam moves progressively towards integrating with the 'knowledge economy' it becomes increasingly important for us to focus on advancement of skills that are relevant to this emerging economic environment.

Our activities in this vertical are an acknowledgement of this fact.





“5 projects at 6 locations in collaboration with 4 partner organisations”





# Amalgamated Plantations Private Industrial Training Institute (APPITI), Rowta

*APPITI is a state-of-the-art livelihood training facility at Rowta which is located near the border of Udalguri and Darrang districts of Assam.*



Udalguri and Darrang are also two of the 115 Aspirational Districts (most backward districts) identified by NITI Aayog where improvements need to be made in terms of economic development.

The need to provide economic opportunity to the youth was felt as far back as in 1997 when the Institute was set up by the erstwhile Tata Tea Limited. The Centre thus, has a long history of imparting training in various employable trades, and thereby acting as a strong agent to eliminate the sense of alienation.





APPITI was upgraded in partnership with Tata Motors in 2012. In 2014, APPL Foundation and Gram Tarang Employability Training Services (GTETS) forged a partnership to offer short-term courses in driving, fitter and fabrication, fitter and mechanist, sewing machine operator and electrician. All of these are on the high employability scale.

The Centre runs CSR programmes as well as Central and State Government training programmes like PMKVY, DDU-GKY, Assam Skill Development Mission, Assam Skill Rural Livelihoods Mission among others. The trainings are all placement linked.

APPITI has hostel facilities for both boys and girls including subsidized fooding, library, computer lab and a counselling cell. The facility of a girls' hostel within the premises of the centre is sponsored by Assam Investment Board to ensure safety of women trainees. As students belong to Below Poverty Line (BPL) households, providing care and security is our utmost priority. The administrator and teachers make special effort to ensure students feel at home by organising excursions, fun activities and one-to-one interactions.

“ 89% of the trainees enrolled in the programme have completed the training.  
57% of trainees are placed in jobs, post-training, in 3 trades.  
More than 50% of trainees placed in jobs are women.  
Solar panels with capacity to provide 80 kw power installed  
Girls' hostel with capacity to accommodate 100 trainees built on the premises  
Mobilization of trainees from tea gardens extended to wider areas. ”





# TRADES OF TRAINING



SEWING MACHINE  
OPERATOR (SMO)



ELECTRICIAN



DRIVING



OIL FITTER



**447**

STUDENTS ENROLLED



**397**

SUCCESSFUL TRAINEES



**156**

STUDENTS PLACED



**DEDSUNG BARO**

Mr Dedsung Baro, was an aspirant who successfully completed his training in Motor Mechanic Vehicle (MMV) trade in the 2007-09 batch. Soon after he completed the training, he was placed at Mumbai CFS where he worked for 15 months. The urge for excellence drove him to look for better opportunities, which he found through the Bi-Weekly Employment Newspaper Assignment Abroad that ultimately got him placed at HIESCO, Kuwait. Very happily, he shares the experience that he gained during his tenure of employment, along with a monthly earning of Rs 65,000. He wishes to spread his wings and fly to greater heights and expand his work experience in other countries such as USA and Canada, in the near future.



**BHAGYASHREE DEKA**

Bhagyashree Deka had a difficult childhood as she lost her father at an early age. It was difficult for her deaf and dumb mother to foster two children without any permanent income. Her older brother took up the responsibility of being the bread-winner of the family by working on the farmland.

Bhagyashree visited our Rowta Center and got enrolled into our SMO programme under the EGM project. Post completion of training, Bhagyashree was placed at Royale Classic Garments at Tiruppur. After completion of 1 year in Tiruppur, she returned home and joined Women ITI in Rehabari as an assistant trainer. Till date, she continues to be there.



# Vocational Training Centre (VTC), Chubwa

Vocational Training Centre (VTC), Chubwa is located in the iconic tea district of Dibrugarh. It was inaugurated in 1986 by the then Chairman of Tata Tea Limited, Mr D S Seth. The Centre has generated a lot of goodwill in the town owing to its emphasis on service to the community.

APPL Foundation & Gram Tarang Employability and Training Services (GTETS) jointly provide quality skill training with assured jobs to the underprivileged youth of the region on free of cost basis. Amalgamated Plantations has provided necessary infrastructural support like adequate training space, a hostel for boys and required advisory support to build up a model skill training centre.

The centre offers training to Sewing Machine Operators (SMO) and Customer Care Executives (CCE). In 2018, we commenced training candidates for Café Coffee Day (CCD).

Most lack effective interpersonal skills, therefore, life skills curriculum to the trainees is imparted that enables them to develop confidence and helps them to navigate their work and personal spheres. Topics of discussion include communication skills; time and stress management; problem solving and wash and hygiene. Curriculum of the 4 modules is designed by GAP Foundation (International). The training leads to the learners' Personal Advancement and Career Enhancement (PACE).







“ The accommodation of female trainees in a hostel within the premises of the Centre has opened doors of opportunity for women from rural areas to be a part of the training.

Training in Café Coffee Day facility that has been initiated is creating employment opportunities in the facility management trade. So far it has recorded 100% placement.

75% of successful trainees placed, post completion of training. ”





# TRADES OF TRAINING



SEWING MACHINE  
OPERATOR (SMO)



CUSTOMER CARE  
EXECUTIVES (CCE)



**292**

STUDENTS ENROLLED



**260**

SUCCESSFUL TRAINEES



**195**

STUDENTS PLACED



**MRIDULA SONOWAL**

*Trainer, VTC, Chubwa*

Belonging to a poor socio-economic background from Chubwa area of Upper Assam, Mridula Sonowal was disturbed by her inability to help her parent run the family. In spite of an education, she could not get a job. It was through one of the mobilization camps that Mridula was informed about the Sewing Machine Operator Course at VTC, Chubwa. This beginning changed the course of her life. She completed her training successfully and post-completion of course, she was placed at the Royal Classic Mills, Tirupur, Tamil Nadu. Her commitment to work earned her a promotion as a supervisor. But she always wanted to contribute back to the society by helping many more girls like her. Her desire to be a change-maker drew her back to Assam. She is now a trainer at VTC, Chubwa, shaping the life of many trainees.



**RITA MUNDA**

*Café Coffee Day Hub, Guwahati*

Rita after completing her graduation was unable to find a suitable job at Udalguri where she lived. Rita came to know about the Café Coffee Day programme through the mobilization meeting that was conducted at the Vocational Training Centre. One of her very close friends was undergoing the Café Coffee Day training at another Centre. From the feedback received from her, she decided to attend the meeting. After the meeting she became quite interested in the course as well as the job role. She, appeared for a screening test followed by counselling and thus enrolled herself in the course at VTC, Chubwa. Rita has completed her 3 month classroom and on-the-job training. Post training at Café Coffee Day Hub, Guwahati, she is now a proud employee of the coffee shop chain.



# Adult Literacy Programme

Assam records a literacy rate of 81% effective literacy with 86.7% effectively literate male and 75% female. The rate of literacy declines drastically in the rural areas which includes the tea garden belt. The tea tribe community faces the grim challenge of high dropout rates among school-going children. Moreover, the push to earn for the family, leads to taking up jobs and thus giving up education. Particularly in the case of the female child, taking care of siblings and micromanaging the house as mothers work at the garden and early marriage robs them of educational opportunities.

APPLF has extensively driven the children of the tea community to avail education not only at the primary schools in the garden, but also to enroll in higher education as well as skill development. Though the younger generation is reaping the benefits of education, the adult tea garden workers,

especially women who have long lost their opportunity to educate themselves are an important factor in improving the quality of Human Capital Development. We know the important role of a mother in the upbringing of a child, and so with that aim we began the Adult Literacy Programme at Nahorani (Rangapara district) and Hattigor (Udalguri District) Estates of Assam.

The Adult Literacy Programmes have modest, but far-reaching targets. We combine basic reading, writing and numeracy classes with sessions on appreciation of education, trafficking, environmental awareness and finance. The enthusiasm of adult learners is encouraging as they attend these classes after long hours of work.

**80** *women attended the classes and 80 are under training at two centres of the Tea Estate at Nahorani and Hattigor*

**100%** *success rate of the trainees in assessment*







Having been a part of the programme since its inception, I have observed women learners at the beginning of each course when they could neither read nor write. After 4 months of teaching, the transformation that occurs in each woman is very tangible. Each of them can write their names and read, recognize numbers and perform calculations, use their mobile phones. They are more confident now when they make financial transactions. They are more conscious regarding MRP and expiry dates when buying a product. It feels wonderful to be an agent of change in the lives of these wonderful ladies from the tea garden.

## RAJIB MIRDHA

*Teacher, Hattigor Tea Estate*



## AGNI TANTI

*Worker at Nahorani Tea Estate*

Being a member of the Panchayat, it was difficult for me to function without literacy. After attending the adult literacy classes, I am now able to read and write and most importantly pen my signature on official documents. I want to continue this practice so that I might get better in reading and writing. I can now also contribute to imparting basic literacy skills to my granddaughter. All of this has been possible because of the Adult Literacy Programme at the Tea Estate.





# Digital Literacy Centre

Digital literacy has become the new buzzword in education. With this understanding, APPL Foundation, in partnership with Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) and IRDIS, set up the first Digital Learning Centre at Latakoojan Tea Estate in Golaghat. The objective of this initiative was to impart basic computer literacy to ensure students are well-equipped to take on the world that is increasingly going online

The Centre offers both basic and advanced digital lessons, and is open to children and adults. The

programme is very popular. We can safely say that most people in the vicinity are now computer literate.

A steady influx of students availing the opportunity as witnessed over the years has encouraged us to take the digital literacy initiative a step further. A second centre was set up in collaboration with HP at Chubwa Tea Estate under the aegis of Gram Tarang team.



## Basic Course

*33 trained, 64% students qualified*



## Advance Course

*31 trained, 90% students qualified*



## HP Classroom

*30 teenagers/adolescents from the tea garden community being trained at the facility*





Life has become simplified for Bikas Pandey and his family after he completed the Basic Digital Literacy Course at Latakoojan Tea Estate. When the world is accessing digital media for daily utilities, Bikas has been empowered to make online transactions, reservation for tickets and online shopping which has made life of his family more comfortable while residing at a remote location. "Now I can contribute to my families wellness. I can save all the money required to pay the agent for booking train tickets as I can get them online.

This programme has not only changed my view about the world, but of many of my peers as well."

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**BIKASH PANDEY**

*15 year old student residing  
at Latakoojan Tea Estate*

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**NIKHIL BHUYAN**

*Worker, Latakoojan Tea Estate*

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Nikhil Bhuyan, son of a daily wage labourer at a tea garden, completed his graduation, yet could not manage to get a decent job. It was then that he joined the Basic Digital Literacy course at Latakoojan Centre. He was passionate enough to join the advance course post completion of the first course. The training in digital literacy opened a window of opportunity for Nikhil. Today, he is working as a support staff in Latakoojan Mega Factory where his responsibilities are excise and data entry. He is an inspiration for the trainees at the centre who dream of earning their living post completion of their training.







## Child-friendly Education at Tea Gardens

Children of the tea plantation workers have access to formal educational facilities but, unfortunately, the scenario is afflicted with several concerns such as absenteeism and dropout from schools and the lack of understanding of the value of education in the community. To change this perspective, Good Weaves International and Rainforest Alliance have joined hands to start a child-focused education project at Nahortoli Tea Estate of APPL in Upper Assam. The objective of the initiative is to improve learning at schools by engaging with children and teachers and awareness generation in the community regarding value of education.

The programme has initiated discussions at the ground level to identify means through which educational opportunities can be maximized. Focused group discussions involving stakeholders such as children, adolescents, parents have been conducted. In our way forward, we plan to train teachers and mentor children to focus on the quality of education being imparted at the primary schools in the garden.

Through this project, we hope to engage with community partners for long term-sustainability to impact education of the children.







# Healthcare

The health of a community is the manifestation of its well-being. Neglect in the healthcare apparatus thrusts the population of our country, especially the marginalized ones, into a vulnerable situation. North East India due to its difficult terrain has been affected by the absence of quality medical service. The appalling condition of health in the communities has compelled us and our partners to extend healthcare services in areas of need. Providing nutrition and ensuring health for all, especially women and children, have been priorities as per Sustainability Development Goals which we have enacted on ground.



“8 projects at 25 locations  
in collaboration with 6 partners”



**DR PURNANANDA KHAUND**  
CMO APPL & Sr. Administrator RHRC



APPL Foundation (APPLF) is known for its generosity in supporting the well-being of workers as well as other people residing in and around the Estates. APPLF delivers quality healthcare through a multispecialty hospital (Referral Hospital & Research Centre, RHRC) situated at Chubwa Tea Estate in Upper Assam. Approximately 0.71 lakh outdoor and 0.21 lakh indoor patients are cared for by RHRC

APPLF believes in continued growth in healthcare and, therefore, brings in new ideas and technologies. Telemedicine was introduced in 5 tea Estates, viz. Damdim, Kellyden, Hathikuli, Namroop & Powai from where tele-consultation through video-conference is done with medical specialists at RHRC. APPLF is also associated with WISH Foundation to bring in medical innovation to improve the healthcare system, through which lab equipment are placed in some of its Estates. We have associated with SAATHI to improve maternal & child healthcare. An agreement with WISH Foundation to convert 6 of its Estates, viz. Lamabari, Nahorani, Sagmootea, Hathikuli, Diffloo & Lattakoojan into Smart Clinics, where Electronic Medical Record (EMR), Electronic Health Record (EHR) of the entire Estate population and laboratory facilities will be available is in the inception stage. We are hopeful that we will continue to improve healthcare in Assam and Doars of West Bengal, through our active presence in the arena of healthcare.



# Referral Hospital and Research Centre (RHRC), Chubwa

North East India and a large part of its population have been deprived of basic healthcare facilities which have resulted in poor health record in Assam and its neighbouring states.

Since the time when primary healthcare facilities were deplorable in rural Assam, Referral Hospital and Research Centre (RHRC) at Chubwa Tea Estate has been at the service of the needy. Built by Tata Tea in 1994, as a secondary healthcare facility, RHRC today is an entity renowned for its quality healthcare service not only in Upper Assam, but in neighbouring states of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland as well.

This 70 bed hospital provides in patients and out patients care with facilities of specialist consultation, advance diagnostic and surgery under the same roof.

Today, RHRC has built its reputation for ethical medical services which it continues to uphold and expand to bring more patients under its umbrella of treatment and care.



## 45,205

patients treated at  
Out Patient and In Patient  
Departments

## 2,783

surgeries conducted

## 18,1,259

diagnostic tests performed



“ Specialist doctors at the disposal of patients make consultation available at low cost

Vision Spring Desk started has made quality spectacles available at affordable prices.

ATM opened on the premises of the hospital for the ease of patients' family. ”



# Ehealthcare

Remoteness of tea gardens makes accessibility to healthcare facility a major challenge. Considering this difficulty, HP assisted APPL Foundation to set up telemedicine units at 5 Tea Estates of Kellyden, Namroop, Damdim, Powai and Hatikhuli with Chubwa Referral Hospital as the hub of reference. The video consulting facility at the 5 E-Health Centres (EHCs) with specialist at RHRC has resulted in speedy consultation and readily accessible diagnostic without mobilizing the patient to secondary or tertiary medical care units to become a reality.

We have been successful in developing an intense faith in the eHub medical care system which reflects in the patients registering and availing the eConsultation facilities. We have progressively reached more number of patients over the last three years. Technology, thus, has minimized the distance between patients and specialist which has resulted in development of a sustainable healthcare system.

**1,28,072**  
*registrations recorded*

**1,116**  
*consultations*

**8,519**  
*diagnostic tests performed*

I was suffering from excessive menstrual bleeding for the last few months. I feared that I will need special intervention at the city hospital. But when I consulted the eHealth Centre, I had a video consultation with a specialist for my condition. I felt better after completing the one month course of treatment. All this was possible without leaving my location of residence. I am very satisfied with the quality of intervention I could access through the Centre.



**SARIKA ORAON**

*Worker, Damdim Tea Estate  
Dooars, West Bengal*



**DR DEBASISH SENGUPTA**

*Group Medical Officer  
Damdim Tea Estate Hospital, Dooars, West Bengal*

The E-Health Centre has given a great opportunity to all the Dooars Medical Officers to update their knowledge about the recent advances in the field of Medical Science, which is helping us in better patient management & treatment. Fortnightly, Extension for Community Healthcare Outcome (ECHO) clinical sessions through Zoom video conferencing with Holy Family Hospital, Delhi is helping the Estate Medical Officers to enrich their clinical acumen & diagnosis. Also, the Tele ECHO Clinic sessions with RHRC, Chubwa with the help of SAATHII team are helping the Estate Medical Officers to update their knowledge in the field of maternal care & pregnancy related diseases/complications.

Moreover, consultation of the complicated cases with the specialist at RHRC, Chubwa and with the Chief Medical Officer are giving Damdim Tea Estate hospital the opportunity to provide better line of treatment to patients without referring them to the higher centres. At the same time, these video consultations are helping the medical department in building positive rapport with the patients, which will certainly help improve the doctor-patient relationship in the long run.





# Medical Outreach Programme

The rural corners of North Bank of Assam, reel under the deficit of quality primary healthcare system. Taking cognizance of the dearth in facility, APPL Foundation in partnership with APPL initiated a weekly medical outreach programme at four focal points of Borigaon, Khokha Busty, Bangurung and Jora Pokhri with the support of State Bank of India who donated a state of the art ambulance.

A medical team from Hattigor Tea Estate runs weekly mobile camps, through which we have been able to bring relief to hundreds of ailing villagers.

We have carried medical facilities to the doorstep of rural households which has turned this programme into one of the most cherished programmes of the APPL Foundation.

**2,954 kms**

*Travelled by state of the art ambulance*

**40**

*villages covered of Udalguri District*

**2232**

*children, men and women treated*



**ABUL KALAM AZAD**

*Pharmacist, Hattigor Tea Estate*

I have been associated with the Outreach programme for the last 10 years now. Along with my team, I visit these programme points every week and I it gives us pleasure to recollect how the Outreach programme has improved the health status of people in the villages of Upper Assam. Patients wait eagerly for us to come every week and give them medicines after a critical medical check-up. It is indeed very fulfilling to be a part of this Outreach programme.

# Project Sambhuya

Maternal and infant mortality is a major concern for India, particularly in rural India. Strengthening of the healthcare delivery system can positively impact the health of mothers and newborns.

Quality healthcare for women and children of the tea tribe community is one of the prime focus areas of APPL Foundation. To promote the well-being of mothers and children, APPL Foundation partnered with SAATHI and launched Project Sambhuya in April 2017.

Along with SAATHI, we have adopted a multi-pronged approach to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality in the Tea Gardens. Skill based training for healthcare personnel of the Primary Healthcare Units at the Tea Gardens have been organised. We have adopted best practices at the hospitals, which is being controlled by a Central Quality Control Committee and implemented by the Hospital Management Committees, at each garden. We also aspire to inculcate good practices of maternal and child care.

*Skills based training imparted to 97 participants including 26 doctors and 71 nurses*

*Mentoring (post-training skills assessment) for 27 healthcare personnel (9 doctors and 18 nurses) have been supported*

*69 doctors and 19 nurses participated in 6 Extension for Community Healthcare Outcome (ECHO) sessions*

*25 Hospital Management Committees formed at the gardens along with a Central Quality Management Committee spearheaded by Mr Deepak Atal, Vice Chairman APPLF*







The training covered aspects of maternal and child care which we can apply to our day to day practice at our Primary Care set up. Better quality service to the community can be ensued through the knowledge of the basic bedside practices and procedures to diagnose common conditions related to Maternal and Child Healthcare.

**DR TUSHAR KANTI GUPTA**

*Rungamattee Tea Estate Hospital  
Doors, West Bengal*



**DR LOPA DAS**

*Senior Medical Officer, Kakajan Tea Estate Hospital*

It was particularly effective in learning through the hands-on practice during the training programme. All the nitty gritty of maternal and child care, which we are not familiar with but are of immense importance was brought to our notice. Now I can care for pregnant women in labour and related complications, new born care and resuscitation with more confidence.

# Nutrition Support to Pregnant Women for Safe Motherhood

The health of a mother and child is of immense value to each family system as the present and future well-being depends on it. Lack of nutrition in mothers and infants in daily diet is the root cause of steep maternal and infant mortality in Assam. Interventions addressing the nutritional needs of young mothers not only benefits them but also saves the life of newborns.

APPL Foundation in partnership with WISH Foundation has launched a project at the 7 Tea Estates of Powai, Borhat, Namroop, Achabam, Nahorkutia, Chubwa and Nahortoli at Upper Assam. We provide pregnant mothers with the required nutritional supplement along with counselling on best practices for infant care.

“ Training provided to 42 service providers 7 garden hospitals in Upper Assam under the programme ”





# Point of Care Device Programme (POCD)

A mobile diagnostic kit can make or break the life of a patient as diagnostics today is one of the major pillars on which healthcare stands. The far-flung location of the tea estates from urban areas makes diagnostic a very vital and important component of healthcare system.

Catering to this need, WISH Foundation has donated diagnostic kits to 10 Tea Garden Hospitals

which has made efficient diagnosis at the hospitals a recurring activity. With the facilities of ready check of haemoglobin, sugar and urine, as provided by the kit, we have been able to implant readily accessible quality healthcare facility in the gardens itself. The patients are happy that they can get the diagnostic tests done in the garden, without travelling to the nearby urban facility.

“ Over 1,500 patients benefitted through diagnostic kits at 10 Garden Hospitals ”



# Project Prosper

Uncorrected presbyopia is an expensive problem for the world. Lost productivity among adults who need eyeglasses has been estimated to cost the global economy \$227 billion every year. An unpublished University of Michigan (USA) working paper found that correcting near-vision loss with glasses yields an increase in productivity of up to 34%. In Rwanda, Lifetime Consulting & Partners found that workers with poor vision and not wearing glasses were three times more likely to be asked by supervisors to repeat their work of sorting coffee beans than after receiving and wearing glasses. VisionSpring in partnership with Queen's University, Belfast conducted a study to establish, the impact of near correction on the productivity of

presbyopic agricultural workers in India, measured by weight and quality of tea picked which is known as "Prosper".

Under the "Productivity Study of Presbyopes Engaged in Rural Agriculture (PROSPER A)" Project, women pluckers from Kellyden, Sagmootea and Nonoi Tea Estates underwent refraction testing and eyeglasses were provided to workers who need them. The study involved the close monitoring of 750 women pluckers to deduct the impact of presbyopia vision correction through glasses on productivity. The findings of the study which we hope will positively impact the women pluckers and the tea industry will be published shortly.





# Vitamin Supplementation Programme

Dietary neglect leading to vitamin deficiencies in the prime stage of a woman and child's life risks their lifelong well-being. We realized the long term impact vitamin supplementation can have on the lives of children below 5 years and pregnant and lactating mothers. A partnership with Doctors For You was forged to launch a Vitamin Supplementation programme across all the APPL Tea Estates in Assam and Dooars.

We have provided children with Vitamin A supplement along with deworming tablets. Pregnant and lactating women were provided with multi-vitamin supplements which has compensated their deficiency of dietary intake of vitamins.

We were able to take a small but important step in assuring healthy life to over a thousand children and mothers at the tea gardens.

**2,807**  
children (6 month–5 year old) received Vitamin A and Albendazole (deworming) supplements

**1,225**  
pregnant and lactating women received multi-vitamin supplements



# Environment and Livelihood

Environmental degradation is the assertion of pressure on the environment which affect our livelihood because the environment is altered. The poorest, especially those in the remote regions obtain their daily bread from their immediate environment in many ways. Eventual degradation of the environment means they will venture into deeper exploitation and end up making their future livelihoods security vulnerable.

APPL Foundation understands the challenges of maintaining the fragile ecological balance of the region to sustain livelihood and promote inclusive economic growth, whilst sustaining key environmental systems functionality under variable climatic regimes.

*1 project across 3 locations in collaboration with 2 partner organizations*



**6,443**  
FARMERS INVOLVED



**11**  
HECTARE LAND UNDER SUSTAINABLE



**21,000**  
SAPLINGS PLANTED



**500**  
PEOPLE SENSITIZED ON ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION



# Small Farm Integration and Sustainable Agriculture Project



Being strongly committed to improve the livelihood of people, at the same time, balancing the ecology and believing in the notion on environmental justice – the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, colour, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

As a nascent organisation, we have undertaken a small farm integration project in 5 clusters in Chhayagaon, a highly marginalized region in Assam-Meghalaya border. This project is supported by Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT) and is implemented with the help of Grameen Sahara (GS). Apart from that, the project has raised community contributions, thus, ensuring full dedication and ownership of the beneficiaries.

The larger goal of the project is to increase the livelihood of 3,275 households over the period of three years through participation in turmeric and black pepper value chain.

Linking the farm to markets has been a challenge. Our achievement in this realm has been creation of 'Organic Bhumi', a Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) made up of Farmer Producer Groups (FPGs). These are long-lasting institutions and have ensured our project penetrates to the deepest roots of the villages.

*Alongwith Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT) we have transformed the spice cultivation scenario in Assam-Meghalaya border region*



“ 28 villages included in the programme in 2017-18 along with 960 households  
89 new Farmer Producer Group (FPG) formed  
5,347 women and 1,096 male farmers are part of the FPG  
Over 21,000 black pepper saplings planted  
2 nurseries set up near Rapid Multiplication Block (RMB)  
80 Ha area under turmeric cultivation and 31 Ha under pepper cultivation ”

**ALAKA RABHA**  
Villager, Bogaline



Alaka Rabha is a resident of Bogaline village at the Assam-Meghalaya border. Like other villagers, she was earlier involved in cultivating rice in this fragmented piece of land with her son, Sanjay. Alaka recalls how prices have gone up exponentially within her lifetime even in this periphery and fully understands the challenges of surviving in the world of creeping inflation.

Alaka is, however, a very progressive farmer. When approached for inclusion in 'Small Farm Integration and Improved Access to Market', she readily agreed. Both turmeric and black pepper are high-value crops and require minimal attention. She has a good repository of 'tamul' (betel nut) trees which can be easily used for propagation of pepper vines.

Having been trained in cultivation, she is now fully oriented with the working of 'Organic Bhumi', the Farmers' Producer Group created out of this project. She believes Organic Bhumi would help greatly in augmenting her income and create sufficient savings for her old age.



# Organic Bhumi

The border regions of Assam-Meghalaya are characterized by low and fragmented landholdings. To help these small and marginal farmers with improved access to investments, technology and inputs and markets, collectivization into producer organizations was seen as one of the most efficient pathways. Our project has successfully registered 'Organic Bhumi' as Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) to deal with the multiple challenges of rural economy.

Organic Bhumi has Farmers' Producer Groups (FPG) of turmeric and black pepper and a General Body at the apex level with all the FPG members as general members. At the initial stage, the Governing Board took the initiative to set up appropriate objectives and norms for the Farmers' Producer Institution

such as roles of General Body in the preparation of action plan, modalities for forward and backward linkages, regular scheduled meetings, participation, decision-making, and mechanism for book-keeping for FPGs and General Body, etc. The primary producers are all women.

FPG members sell turmeric to Organic Bhumi as per the market price. All the activities of the programme are interlinked and benefits thousands of poor women. Organic Bhumi also facilitates by supplying them with turmeric and black pepper on credit and developing marketing skills. In the financial year 2017-18, Organic Bhumi generated sales of close to Rs 20 lakh and this has greatly helped in increasing household incomes.



# Natural Disaster Management

Every year, floods ravage Assam. Right from the first showers in April, the rain gradually picks up intensity and by the end of July, floods the Brahmaputra valley. 2017 floods, however, have reportedly been the worst in the last 3 decades. Looking at the enormity of the situation, it was

evident that large scale multi-dimensional support from diverse quarters would be required for a prolonged period to undo the damage. Amidst the larger scheme of things, the initiative aimed to provide rapid response to emerging issues as water recedes and people start moving back







to their homes. APPL Foundation, with support from various Tata companies and the District Administration initiated a flood relief programme in the worst affected districts of Lakhimpur, Majuli and

Nagaon. We have formed a special fund to support relief work during floods in the future. The initiative has brought relief to people in distress and ushered them towards starting their life again.

“ 3,000 people provided medical care  
 3,850 families comprising approximately 21,300 members provided relief  
 Approximately 24,300 beneficiaries of all age and gender in total over two phases  
 6,000 units of utensils distributed  
 23,700 pieces of roofing materials distributed  
 700 water purifiers reached families ”

# Organic Growth

*Organic Growth* is a publication by APPL Foundation which makes a conscious effort to generate awareness on environment conservation amongst its readers which primarily consists of school and college students and community people. In our 2017 publication we shared the distresses of forest cover degradation and stories of affirmative transformations with our readers.

Through this publication, we intend to sensitize readers to grow into active agents of environment conservation.

*Over 500 copies of Organic Growth circulated to create awareness*



**R K GHOSH**

*Effluent and Water Treatment Engineer*

It is said that the best coaches of the Brazilian football teams have been non-players because from the sidelines they can spot the gaps and improve the quality of the game inside the field. Similarly, 'APPL Foundation' with emphasis on *Organic Growth* is improving the quality of life, environmental interaction of thousands of workers in the gardens which is really praiseworthy.



# Culture

Culture is the lifeblood of a vibrant society, expressed in the many ways we tell our stories, celebrate, remember the past, entertain ourselves, and imagine the future. Its creative expression helps define who we are, and helps us see the world through the eyes of others.

Cultures help people connect with each other and build communities, within the same cultural backgrounds. The tea industry has developed a culture of its own. APPL Foundation, being a pioneer in this area is doing its bit to promote and preserve the culture of this industry we are all proud to be associated with.







Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal addressing the audience at Sirish 2018

Assam Tea has carved a niche for itself globally: there can hardly be a tea lover who has not tasted pure Assam Tea. This great industry, however, exists because of those lakhs of Tea Garden Community who work tirelessly in the fields. These workers are descendants of the earliest workers who were indentured by the British to Assam from places like Bengal, Bihar, Odisha; even as far as Andhra Pradesh. This community comprises 15-20% of the State's population.



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister of State Shri Keshab Mahanta and Chairman of APPL Foundation Mr Ranjit Barthakur at Sirish™ 2018





SIRISH™, a brain-child of APPL Foundation was an initiative started in 2015 which aimed to celebrate this rainbow community and unearth their own heritage. The name is derived from the Sirish tree, which grows abundantly in the estates and is also the site where the garden workers congregate after their day's work for music, dance and games. The name, thus, draws instant appeal.

Culture is a key ingredient for civilized society, and by upholding the traditions and integrating a sense of pride in the culture of the Tea Tribes, SIRISH™ encompass development of a holistic, self-sufficient and empowered community.

With people coming in from such diverse regions, there is bound to be a lot of vividness. Since the first edition, SIRISH™ has unearthed at least 10 different dance forms, such as Sawra dance, Kurug dance, Santhali dance, Sabar dance, Satnami dance and Odiya dance. Apart from folk dance, Sirish awards stalwarts from the Tea Community in the field of literature and culture.

SIRISH™ was appreciated by the Chief Minister of Assam, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal.



“ SIRISH™ is an inspiration for the young generation in the field of art and literature, which instills a sense of commitment and dedication. It is highly essential to promote value of life.

**Shri Sarbananda Sonowal**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam ”



- 1 Culture Icon Awardee: Dulal Manki
- 2 Literature Icon Awardee: Sushil Kurmi
- 3 Winning Team of Dance Competition





“ 83 teams with 1,500 artists across the Brahmaputra Valley and Dooars participated in the preliminary rounds

Nearly 6,500 people of Assam and West Bengal attended the preliminaries and approximately 12,000 people attended the finals

Various dance forms as Jhumoor, Odiya, Sawra, Kurug, Domchik, Santhali and Tusu were performed at the Festival ”



**PRIYA MURARI**

Worker, Borhat Tea Estate

Priya Murari, a daily wage worker of Borhat Tea Estate was oblivious of her talent in indigenous dance form until her talent was unearthed. Busy in managing her family and work at the Tea Garden, Priya an aced Jhumur dancer, especially Lathi dance was ignorant of her talent. She was encouraged by the Estate management to train 30 men and women for Lathi Nritya. She started working on preparing her own team and now she is ready to showcase her trained dancers at the next Sirish Festival.



## Management Development Centre – Misa Polo Club

A couple of decades after the setting up of Tea Industry in Assam, the British, longing for their home started a culture for social and sports activities. As a result, tea planters' club emerged to fulfill the tea planters' social needs.

Misa Polo Club, set up in 1888, derives its name from the name of the town Misa which is next to the club. The club was used by the US Army when they were temporarily stationed in Misa during World War II. Recently, the club was renovated and refurbished into a Management Development Centre. The services available at the centre

have made it the most opted facility to conduct workshops events and is attracting tourists as well.

Apart from being an outdoor sports centre, which includes an 18-hole golf course, 3 tennis courts, an outdoor badminton court, basketball and volley ball courts, there is also provision for indoor games like chess, billiards, table tennis and carrom in the Club which also doubles as heritage structure.

A regular initiative to promote greenery around the centre has been fulfilled by plantation drive throughout 2017-18.

“ 17 Development & Management events held  
3,975 trees planted in a year ”



# Our Social Media Campaigns

In today's world when social media has become the platform of interaction between communities, we made the very first attempt to share the joy and success of children and women at the tea gardens through social media campaigns. Our campaigns "Children of the Garden" and "Bagaan ki Shaan – Pride of the Garden" carried the news of children's rights and women's rights being championed at remote locations far and wide.

## CHILDREN OF THE GARDEN

Every year, Children's Day is celebrated in India on 14th November and 20th November is celebrated as International Child Rights' Day. On this occasion, a weeklong celebration was organised at the Tea Estates to promote child rights and awareness regarding the children at the gardens, their life and rights was the prime objective of the campaign.

This was a campaign targeted at the social media – Facebook, Twitter and our Website audience to be introduced to Children of Tea Gardens. The objective of the campaign was to generate awareness on social media about the life and rights of children at Tea Gardens and celebrate to promote child rights with children's participation at the tea gardens.

The post at social media to generate awareness was run from 6th November till 13th November. Celebration at four Tea Gardens on the North Bank of Assam – Majui, Hattigor, Nhaorani and Lamabari was relayed to the campaign promotion through pictures, stories and videos from 14th till 22nd November. 1100 children participated in the programme in a plethora of activities – cultural programme and sports, drawing competitions and quiz contests, street theatre, rally, awareness generation sessions, film show and sapling plantation drive.



**94,598**  
PEOPLE REACHED

**21,935**  
PEOPLE ENGAGED

**3,904**  
PEOPLE LIKED  
APPLF PAGE

**6,367**  
PEOPLE VIEWED  
VIDEOS OF THE CAMPAIGN

## BAGAAN KI SHAAN – PRIDE OF THE GARDEN

A woman is very integral to the society, family and life of every individual. At the tea gardens, a hive of women work to brew cups of tea for thousands of people. APPL Foundation celebrated Women's Day to make every working woman; mother and adolescent girl living at the Gardens feel special which they

already are. "Bagaan ki Shaan" – Pride of the Garden is an initiative to bring forth the stories of women in the tea gardens and beyond with whom APPL Foundation is associated. Often the stories of their battles remain in oblivion, away from the limelight of acknowledgement and appreciation. It is time we share their stories with the world. We shared the stories of 11 girls and women who have braved difficulties in life to emerge as champions in their arena of work and life.





# Our Volunteers

“Alone we can do so little,  
together we can do so much.”

It is this thoughtfulness to care for others that inspires us to volunteer. We not only care for our fellow human beings but also our environment, which is repeatedly reflected in our volunteering initiative!



You too can be a part of APPL Foundation. Join us as a Volunteer because *service to others is the rent you pay for the space you occupy here on earth*

To be a volunteer contact us at: [applfoundation@amalgamated.in](mailto:applfoundation@amalgamated.in)





# Extending a Helping Hand

APPL Foundation strongly believes in partnership to bring effective change in the life of people in distress. It reaches out to people through its partners and well-wishers. Tales of long-standing association to support each other in the cause of common good is what APPL Foundation cherishes.

## MORAN BLIND SCHOOL

Since 1971, Moran Blind School has been an abode of wellness and empowerment for visually challenged children. The institution has held the hand of hundreds of young children and led them to the light of education and established them in life.

In 2017, APPL Foundation encouraged the initiatives of the organisation and supported its cause. We wish our support will benefit more children by changing the course of their life.

## INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CEREBRAL PALSY

Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy (IICP) located at Kolkata, West Bengal is an organisation committed to change the lives of children and adults afflicted with cerebral palsy through multifaceted activities. The organisation bound by the ethos of UN Convention on Rights of Person with Disabilities has been striving hard to bring a positive transformation in the society.

APPL Foundation is an ardent supporter and a close partner in advocating the rights of the disabled. 2017 was another year of standing in solidarity with IICP and we have extended our support in advancing educational and skill development opportunity to the child benefactors of the organisation.

# Our Team



**RANJIT BARTHAKUR**  
*Chairman*



**DEEPAK ATAL**  
*Vice Chairman*



**DHIRAJ KAKATI**  
*Managing Trustee*



**AMITAVA RANJAN SEN**  
*Finance Trustee*



**RADHA CHAUDHURY**  
*Trustee*



**MAJ GEN S S SANDHU**  
*Trustee*



**JAGJEET KANDAL**  
*Invitee Member*



**CONRAD DENNIS**  
*Invitee Member*



**KUHELI SARKAR**  
*Resource Executive*



**JATIN BAVISHI**  
*Resource Executive*



**DYA SHANKER**  
*Specialist Officer (Finance)*





# Our Partners in Progress







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