

# TALES OF CHANGE FROM TEA PLANTATION COMMUNITY

PROGRESS & IMPACT  
APRIL - SEPTEMBER 2017

## APPL FOUNDATION

A Trust built on Trust

**APPL Foundation (APPLF)** was formed to promote the social impact initiatives of Amalgamated Plantations Pvt Ltd (APPL). To intensify the social impact initiative of APPL in the areas of education, skill development, healthcare, environment conservation, livelihood and culture at the tea plantations in North East India, APPLF is striving to create a ripple of transformation through innovation. Since the time of its inception in 2011, APPLF has considered tea garden community not just as a mere stakeholder but as the purpose of its existence.

Meandering through challenges APPLF is serving for the best interest of the tea garden community. The narrative is invitation to spread the tales of APPLF's initiatives in the heart of Tea Estates of West Bengal and Assam.

### WE TRAIN



SKILL & EDUCATION

### WE TREAT



HEALTHCARE

### WE PROTECT



ENVIRONMENT &  
LIVELIHOOD

### WE PROMOTE



CULTURE

# SKILL & EDUCATION



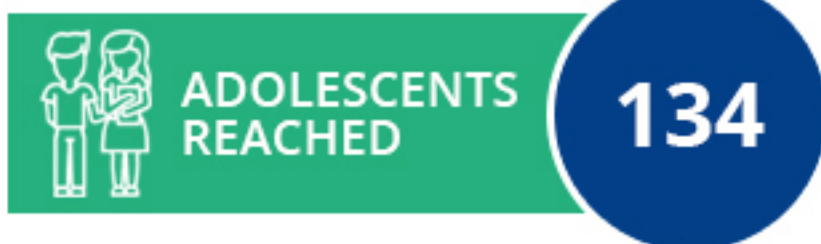
“Education is the most powerful weapon which can change the world”  
– Nelson Mandela

## RESILIENT COMMUNITY PROJECT

The tea garden workers community displays a literacy rate of 78.85% but only 5.9% of them have studied beyond Higher Secondary level. No doubt dropout remains as high as 70.2%. The Resilient Community Project empowers and trains the adolescents at the 3 tea estates of Nahorani, Majuli and Hattigor to make informed positive decisions in life. The stakeholders as mothers, community leaders and management have been geared up to create a protection net for the children to safeguard them from abuse, exploitation, trafficking and to help them develop as productive individuals.

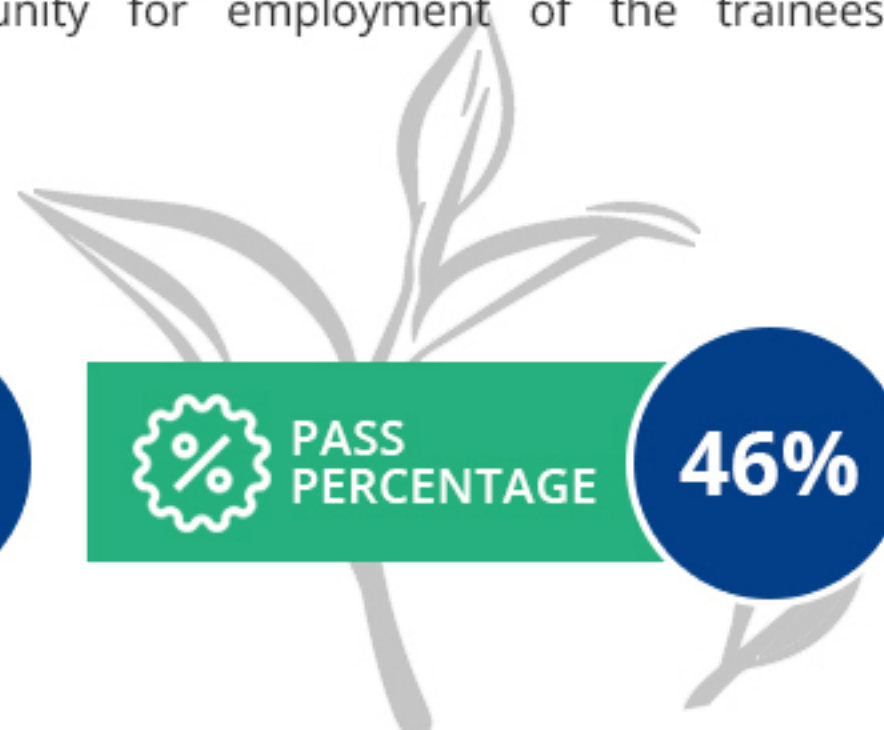
A drive to identify dropout children by extensively meeting the tea garden worker families and counselling children leading to rehabilitation through admission into school and vocational training has been implemented. New adolescent groups have been formed and more children have been trained with valuable life skill education.

Unfortunately for the last three months the initiative has been stalled due to lack of funds. APPLF is networking with prospective agencies in order to continue the good work.



## DIGITAL LEARNING CENTRE, Latakoojan

With the drive to digitization in every facet of life and nations commitment to educate at least one individual in every Indian family to become digitally literate through NDLM, the relevance and the need for the DLC at Latakoojan has been evoked. The centre is providing Basic and Advance computer operation skills to youth completely free of cost. On completion of course the students appear for an online exam post which they are provided with certificates accredited by Microsoft. This has also created opportunity for employment of the trainees completing the course.



## APPITI, Rowta

APPITI Rowta is a flagship initiative of APPLF to encounter the concern of unemployed youth of the tea tribe community and rural Assam at large. The institution is affiliated to the National Council for Vocational Training in long term as well as short term courses. Besides skilling the trainees, creating employment opportunities to generate economic sustainability in their life is the major impact that the programme has been able to instrument. Hostel facilities for the trainees in the campus, hostel for girls being the latest inclusion adds an edge to the institution.

In order to impact a broader mass of youth through skill development and employability, APPITI Rowta is replacing the long term courses by short term courses affiliated under DDU - GKY and PMKVY schemes of the Govt. of India.



# 216 TRAINEES PASSED OUT

## Short term Programme



Driving - 45



Fitter - 95



Electrician - 18

100 %

Retention rate reflecting nil dropout

## 50 PLACEMENT OFFERED

Short term Programme Placement Offered



Fitter - 38



Electrician - 12

44%

Passed out trainees provided placement



## TRAINING TO EMPOWER YOUTH



Daimalu Basumatary of Majbat in Udalguri District has completed training in Wireman Control Panel course under the SADVABNA the Army Project in 2016-17.

After completing the certified course he was employed at Western Refrigerator at Gujrat. After working for a very short span when Daimalu was awarded the Best Electrical Operator of the Month in August 2017, he not only earned accolades for himself but also made APPITI, Rowta his training institute proud of his achievements.

## VTC, Chubua

The short term courses offered at the skill development centre at Chubua is one of its own kinds in creating window of opportunities within a very short span of time. Training youngsters in Industrial Sewing Machine Operation and Customer Care Executive Courses, the training centre is reputed as one of the most successful initiatives of APPLF.

# 175 NUMBER OF YOUTH



Sewing Machine Operator (SMO)



Customer Care Executive (CCE)

## 76 Placement Offered



Sewing Machine Operator (SMO)



Customer Care Executive (CCE)

## FROM TRAINEE TO TRAINER

Ms. Jushi from Sadiya had little idea, when she had enrolled for the Sewing machine operator course at Chabua, that one day she would create a name for herself. After completing the 2month residential Sewing Machine Operator course at GTETS-VTC Chabua, Jushi was offered job placement at Cotton Blossom (India) Pvt. Ltd., Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu as a Trainee Tailor (DOJ : 15th May 2017). By sheer hard work, sincerity and eagerness to learn and a burning desire to grow in life Jushi continued her work and within the first four months (August 25th, 2017) she was promoted to be a member of the Industrial Engineering Department. Jushi's work now is to keep a track of the daily production work and train the supervisors. We congratulate Jushi on her success and wish her all the best for her future endeavour.



JUSHI AS A SMO OPERATOR



JUSHI AND HER TEAM



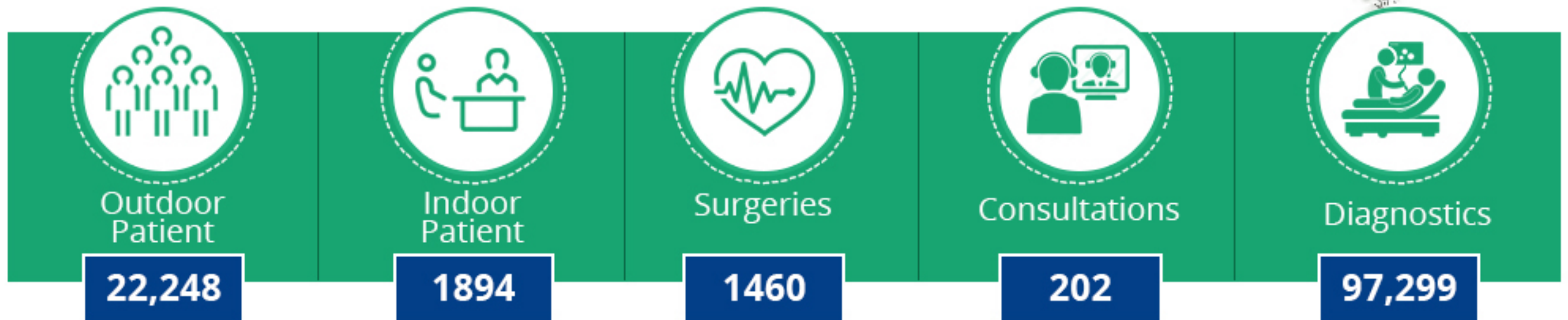
JUSHI AS A SUPERVISOR

# HEALTHCARE

“Of all forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane”  
 – Martin Luther King Jr

## Referral Hospital and Research Centre (RHRC), Chubua

Referral Hospital and Research Centre (RHRC) was established by Tata Tea at Chubua Tea Estate in 1989 with the purpose to serve as a secondary Hospital. Since then the 75 bed occupancy abled hospital has attained medical, ethical and technical sophistication to serve patients from remote corners of North Eastern states. With a dedicated crew of doctors, nurse and technicians thousands of patients are provided with services as consultation with specialists, diagnosis of ailments and required surgeries. Recent extension of services includes regular Urology consultation and a desk by Vision Spring dedicated to dispense affordable quality spectacles for patients.



The optical desk at RHRC Chubua by Vision Spring, inaugurated in April'17 is now dispensing quality spectacles at affordable prices to commoners.



## eHealthcare

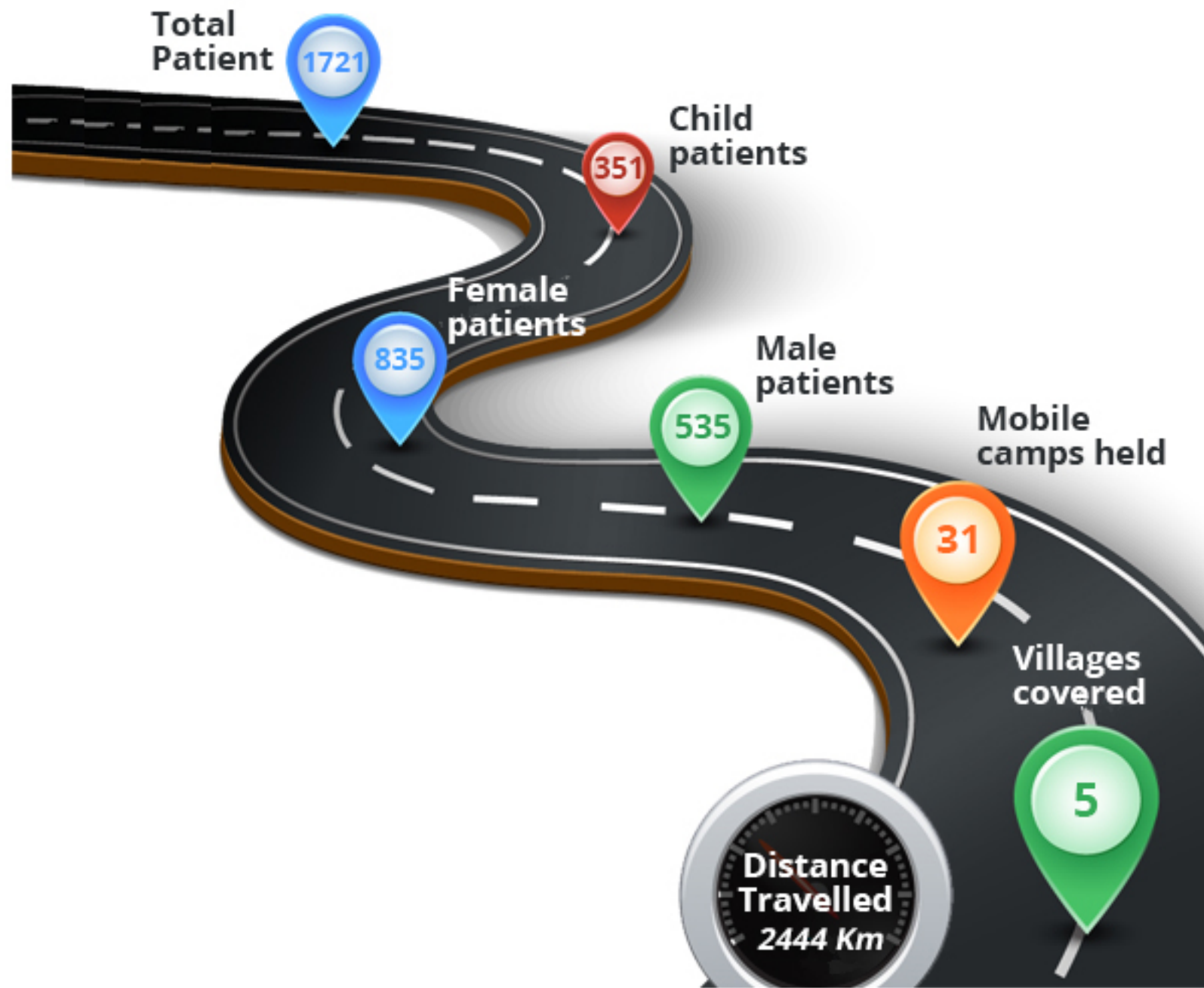
The eHealthcare workstations installed by HP at 5 Tea Estates of Powai, Namroop, Hathikuli, Kellyden and Dam Dim with RHRC, Chubua as the centre of the hub and spoke model has brought high end medical service to the gardens holding the hands of technology. Doctors at the estates diagnose, test and treat patients by correspondence with specialists at RHRC thus providing quality medical care without the patients having to travel miles of distance to town from their home for treatment. A latest addition has been ECHO consultations with Neurologists of Holy Family Clinic of Delhi which has elevated the efficiency of the center.



# HEALTHCARE

## MEDICAL OUTREACH PROGRAMME

North Bank of Assam being one of the most remote parts of the state is in a dearth of quality medical facility. To fill in the gap a team of doctor and nurses from the Hattigor Tea Estate in the State of art Ambulance as donated by State Bank of India, visits the villages to extend medical aid to the neighboring villagers.



## PROJECT PROSPER

VisionSpring in partnership with Community Eye Care Foundation and Queen's University, Belfast partnered with APPL to establish to assess the impact of near vision correction on the productivity of presbyopic pluckers in three APPL Estates, measured by weight and quality of tea picked. After screening of 1297 women and men pluckers of Kellyden, Sagmootea and Nonoi gardens, 718 workers participated in the study. This study is the first attempt to delve deep into the ophthalmological issues of the tea garden workers especially the tea pluckers.

## PROJECT SAMBHUYA

APPLF in collaboration with SAATHI has initiated Project Sambhuya at the tea gardens of Assam with a vision to improve maternal and child care along with major focus on providing maternal, neonatal and family planning services.

A rapid baseline assessment of APPL tea garden Facility was conducted covering twenty-eight health facilities spread across Assam and Dooars by the SAATHI team. Along with the facilities, baseline assessment of pregnant women and adolescent girls in the community in the respective tea garden was conducted in July. ECHO session on Antenatal care have being held for the APPL health facility staff from the RHRC Chabua hub for the ECHO spokes. A total of 25 health care providers from 15 facilities have attended the session.

A skill lab was established at RHRC Chabua for conducting skills based training. Training of healthcare facilitators are being conducted to skill them with the basics skills for maternal and infant care. The start has been made with 8 nurses attending training at the skill lab.

The very first of its kind initiative has been the formation of Quality Committee which is responsible for maintaining and upgrading the quality of medical service being provided from RHRC and Tea Estate Hospitals.



*Launch of the programme to skill enhancement trainings; Taking care of mother and child health at the gardens*

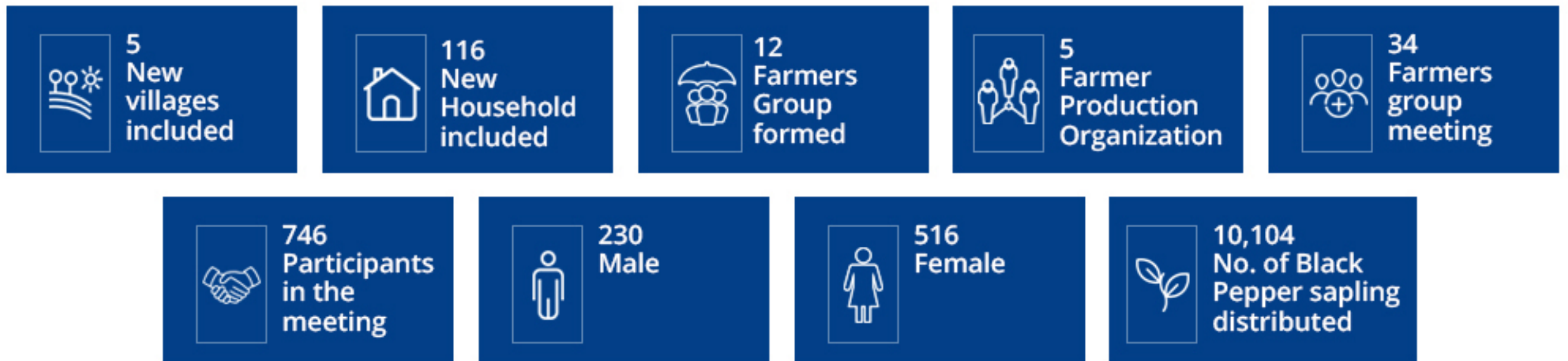
# ENVIRONMENT & LIVELIHOOD



“We are the only species with the power to destroy the earth and also the capacity to protect – **Dalai Lama**”

## Small Farm Integration & Sustainable Agriculture Project

With its great potential in farming, the farmers of areas at the borders of Assam and Meghalaya have been extensively encouraged and trained to integrate into the spices market through collaborative approach. Significant progress has been etched in promotion of Black Pepper and Turmeric value chain. More number of villages and farmers especially women have been empowered with trainings to increase the productivity of the crops. The project is creating a new horizon for the farmers of the hinterland of Assam.



## Organic Growth

APPLF's commitment to enhance the impact in the niche of environmental conservation has taken one step ahead through its Organic Growth Publication Vol 14 & 15. The latest edition of Organic Growth tables the concerns over the depleting forest cover, its impact and shares tales of conservationists who are creating and nurturing forest cover.



# ASSAM FLOOD RELIEF

“ We can do no great things only small things with great love ”  
 - **Mother Teresa**

Assam and floods go hand in hand in the advancing phase of South-West Monsoons. Right from the first showers in April, the rain gradually picks up intensity and by the end of July. This year's floods however have been reportedly the worst in the last 3 decades. The floods occurring in phases have affected 2500 villages displacing 17 lakh people and leaving 156 people dead. The enormity of the catastrophe drove APPLF along with its partners to extend relief measures across Lakhimpur, Majuli and Koliabor.



3000 people provided medical care in Phase I



3850 families comprising approximately 21,300 members provided relief in Phases II



Approximately 24,300 beneficiaries of all age and gender in total over two phases



6000 units of utensils distributed



23700 pieces of Roofing Materials distributed



700 water purifiers reached families

The Assam Investment Board, TATA Global Beverages, APPL, TATA Steel, TATA Chemicals Limited, Junbai Sanskritik Gusthi

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