



Farm2Food Foundation



# ANNUAL REPORT

- 2022 -

*towards a prosperous earth*



Written By  
Mandeep Digra  
Angelina Bordoloi



## YEAR THAT WAS

The year 2022 was meant for picking up the pieces and rebuilding. Amid all the despair and loss during the past two years, it was refreshing to step out of the lockdown. It began with mixed feelings. But as we started the process of dialoguing with children, women, farmers, and communities, it became clear that now is no time to sit and cry for the year gone by. It is the time to reorganise and rethink our strategy. It is an opportunity to sow the seed for a prosperous earth.

## Reviving the village entrepreneurship narrative.

There is a need to revive and recreate the narrative that villages have better economic prospects layered with strong social foundation. And economic activities in rural areas are dependent on local agroecology. It features a built-in system of checks and balances to make sure the village economic operations are both socially and environmentally responsible. This year, we dab into natural farming, Goatery, and Solar arenas. An army of trained entrepreneurial Sakhis would ensure these paths to revival is intact. They have become role models for the community as well as for the young aspiring youth. There will be a time very soon when people will say, "Let us go back to the village, we can absolutely have better socio-economic opportunities".



## Young people as Jagriks

The covid pandemic has had the most impact on young children and women. This year we decided to facilitate the creation of safe spaces for them to explore, examine and learn. Through Farmpreneur, Be a Jagrik, mobile science laboratory and open library we could provide spaces to discover the joy of learning. They were able to reintegrate into academic life after tow years of lockdown.

Our work with young people fetched us yet another award this year. The Glenmark Nutrition Award 2022 reaffirms our belief localised production led by youth leadership are necessary for achieving nutrition security.

## With Gratitude and Kindness

Deep Jyoti Sonu Brahma

Chairperson

Farm2Food Foundation





## Farm2Food Foundations approach



*To build farm and food entrepreneurs across Northeast India for a prosperous and peaceful region*

In order to achieve our goal, we have identified three key partners.

**Established Farmers** are those who have established themselves as successful Agri entrepreneur. They are socially, economically, and ecologically building a positive impact. These groups of entrepreneurs are regularly engaged for two-fold purposes;

- To upgrade themselves to the next level of growth. Through training and networking skills and opportunities are built.
- To become mentors to emerging farmers. Their knowledge and skills from various fields help the upcoming entrepreneurs. They are the ones influencing the narratives.



**Emerging Farmers** are those who have crossed the early stage of establishing themselves as entrepreneurs. They are at the stage of consolidating their business. Continuous engagement and mentoring are provided to the women entrepreneurs. Skill-building training on the topics of organic farming, goatery, piggery, solar, etc is being provided to these women entrepreneurs. There is focus on financial skills as well as life skills also. Problem-solving, envisioning skills, and group dynamics skills are constantly provided to these women entrepreneurs.

**Learning Farmers** are those who are acquiring basic knowledge of a trade. Organic farming, nutrition education, and most importantly aspiration building for a career in Agriculture are imparted at this stage. This is the most important stage of an entrepreneur's journey. Dreams and aspirations are built at this stage. Young people's aspiration has to be weaved around Agri entrepreneurship for a prosperous earth.



## Farmpreneur



"I have learnt about food and nutrition. It helped develop my skills. Besides our area is dependent on agriculture. It will help us to become a green entrepreneur."

Priyanka Polong,  
Student Brahmaputra Janajati  
MES School



### The three pillars of Farmpreneur

**a) Nutrition Education;** By encouraging young people to grow food, they are inspired to learn about nutrition. The experience helps students to adopt more local leafy vegetables and fruits into their diets. Nutrition behavior survey and experiential nutrition curriculum help them build their understanding of Nutrition.

**b) Science and Mathematics Education;** School nutrition garden activities have been mapped with the science and mathematics syllabus of the Assam State Education board. Through an activity-based learning approach, School Nutrition Garden becomes an open science and mathematics laboratory.

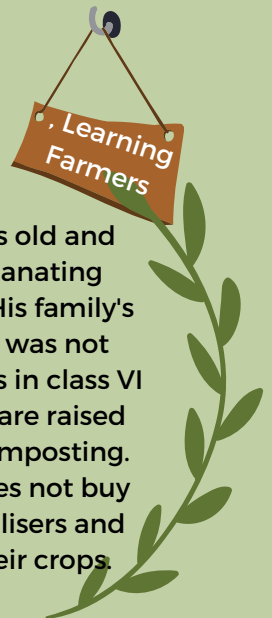
**c) Entrepreneurship education;** Student gets a first-hand experience of live project based on agriculture using local resources.



80% of participants are girls from Tea Garden and other disadvantaged communities



## Farmpreneur



Biswajit a 15 years old and studying at Mohanating Chariapathar HS. His family's economic status was not good. When he was in class VI , he learnt to prepare raised beds and vermicomposting. Now his father does not buy any chemical fertilisers and medicines for their crops.

This year Farmpreneur project restarted in schools as soon as schools reopened. It provided an opportunity for the schools to engage the student in an activity-based learning approach. It helped student ease back into the academic journey after a long break of almost 2 years. Several of their classmates have dropped out of school. It was time to pick up and restart the journey.

| Description                                    | Numbers |
|--|---------|
| Students directly engaged                      | 280     |
| Improved Mid Day meals served to               | 2800    |
| Number of schools Directly                     | 140     |
| Number of school Nutrition Garden (Indirectly) | 10,000  |



### Gratitude

Office of Inspector of Schools Jorhat and Golaghat  
Azim Premji Foundation, Shamdasani Foundation,  
Beiersdorf - CYC





## Angela's legacy scholarship



This year, we gave scholarships to 15 students from the Tea Garden community as well as other minority and tribal communities. These students are selected based on the recommendation of school teachers, parents, and peer groups. Only those students who have secured either the 2nd division or 3rd division are eligible for the selection. Often these students are the most vulnerable and are likely to discontinue their academic journey. Winners of the previous year's scholarship come together to select the new batch of awardees. This helps in making the process of selection democratic and close to the reality of the ground. The scholarship amount of Rs. 53,000/- per child was distributed.

"Scholarship was a nice surprise and a much needed boost to continue my education. I want to study further."

Ritumoni Urang,  
Khumtai Higher Secondary  
School, Golaghat



### Gratitude

Office of Inspector of Schools Jorhat and Golaghat  
Rang De Foundation, SwissRe, Ashoka Swiss



## Angela's legacy School Library



School Library renovation program was inspired by Angela Marti's fond memories. She dreamed that Girls from Tea Garden Community succeed in life. The library project is designed to increase the fascinations of the students for reading books and stories. This project also aims to build the literacy skills and to ensure that young people are performing

well in their academics. Age and grade appropriate books are distributed as a part of this project in many schools.

This project has two parts;

a) **Upgradation of the existing libraries** in the government schools. Through collaboration with school and parents, we renovate the school library room. Over the year we have witnessed parents donating either equipments, books or labour to renovate, repair and build furnitures, white washing of the walls. We provide financial resources and books for the library.

b) **Mobile reading & learning sessions.** During the weekends and holidays, we organise reading meetings in the villages. This helps young people pick up the habits of reading.



| Districts       | Schools   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>Jorhat</b>   | 1.Hemchandra Tribal ME School<br>2. Chamoguri ME School<br>3. Dahotia Girls High School<br>4.Mohanating Charia Bagicha<br>5. Charaibahi Girls ME School |
| <b>Golaghat</b> | 1. Brahmaputra janajati MES<br>2. Daria Bagicha High School<br>3. Matikhola Nabajyoti High School   |

### Gratitude

Office of Inspector of Schools Jorhat and Golaghat  
Rang De Foundation, SwissRe, Ashoka Swiss





## Mobile Science Lab

| Districts           | Numbers   |
|---------------------|---|
| Schools reached out | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 8 schools</li><li>• 120 student</li></ul> |



During the Covid Lockdown, we operated a mobile science lab for children. It kept students interested and updated about science through games and experiments. We continued the operation reaching out to the interiors of the tea garden and other backward areas. We also conducted the same at several schools. It helped schools to improve the academic performances of their student.

"Science experiments helped students to understand scientific phenomenon better in the school. There are schools that still do not have science teachers. This program has helped bridge that gap and at the same time popularise science among young people"

Sunil Saikia, Farm2Food Foundation





## Adolescent Leadership Club



Post-pandemic, there are more reasons to engage with young people in rural areas, especially with girls. They have been one of the most hard hit. We engaged with schools to create space for young girls to develop their leadership abilities as well as encourage them to find their voices in the community.

“Adolescent girls leadership programme have helped me to overcome my fear of public speaking and become more confident. Now I’m able to express myself in front of the whole class without any hesitation” – Pankhi Gogoi, Dahutia Girls HS, Class-8



### Ray of Hope

Jyoti Borah is a young adolescent girl from a small village in Jorhat, Assam. She was born into a low-income family. Due to their conservative mindset, her parents expected her to stay at home and help with household chores. Due to household work, she was quite irregular in school. She was on the verge of dropping out of her school. However, Jyoti always dreamt of studying. Farm2Food foundation started the Adolescent Girls Leadership programme at her school. Jyoti joined the leadership program. After several interactions and self-discovery sessions, Jyoti picked up the skills of negotiation. She gathered the courage to confront her parents and let them know about her dreams. With calm perseverance, she convinces her parents. They finally understood her dreams and allowed her to continue her education and follow her aspiration. They have promised to help her continue her studies.

#### Gratitude

SHEF, Dhriiti - The Courage within,  
Beiersdorf - CYC



## Nutrition Education



In partnership with Nourishing Schools Foundation, USA• Nutritional intervention is done in schools across Golaghat and Jorhat districts. It starts with an anthropometric and nutrition behavior survey among children between the age group of 9-14 years. Surveys are done at the Pre-project level, Mid project level after about a year. And at the end project stage which is typically after 3 years from the Pre survey date. This year, due to the Covid crisis, we have resumed it after a gap of two years. After the survey, a Nutrition toolkit is shared with the schools. It imparts nutritional education to children in a fun and impactful manner.

"We learned why nutrition is important, how we can fight malnutrition, and which food is right for us, I was unaware about this before the programme. Due to our parents being busy in work, they hardly get time to tell us about nutrition. Thank you for helping us to understand about nutrition."

-Pinky Das,  
Student, Class -10  
Puranimati MES, Jorhat

| Description  | Outreach |
|--|----------|
| Number of students covered under Nutrition project | 2848     |
| Number of schools covered under Nutrition project  | 69       |



### Gratitude

Nourishing School Foundation,  
Assam Agriculture University



## Be A Jagrik - Constitutional literacy



Constitutional literacy is an important aspect of an active citizen or Jagrik. In order to achieve this goal, we facilitated Be a Jagrik program in schools. Through experiential journeys, young people learned about constitutional rights and duties.

Samjho Toh's project provided skills to young learners in cross-border dialogue. QKi championship provided an important space for young people to engage in mental well-being narratives.

It helped us learn how to engage with multiple view points, build capacities for deep dialoguing, collaboration and co-creation."  
- Luna Chetia,  
Student,  
Cinnamora College, Jorhat

| Description                | Outreach |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Number of students         | 220      |
| Number of community action | 100      |



### Gratitude

Community - the Youth Collective, Vartaleap,  
The YP Foundation

## Organic Farming Training

Emerging Farmers

After the Covid pandemic, nutrition and livelihood were the focus of our intervention. This year, we reached out to SHG groups more frequently. In partnership with NABARD and ASRLM, we provided numerous trainings on organic farming. Setting up vegetable garden has been a compulsory part of all our training. With all the other livelihood options, a homestead garden ensures that there is at least some nutrition security at home.

In partnership with MANAGE Hyderabad, we provided training on natural farming to panchayat leaders.



| Description             | Outreach |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Number of women trained | 2000     |



### Ray of Hope



Priyakshi from Tekelagaon, a village on the outskirts of Jorhat, was 12 years old when she joined her school's Farmpreneur club. Her father a daily wage worker and her mother a homemaker were struggling to meet the family's financial targets.

Following her interactions with Farm2Food facilitators at school, she installed vermicompost boxes at home with the help of her mother. She sold a total of 50kgs of vermicompost produced in her home at a farmer's mela in Delhi. That was the first time she earned money through agribusiness. With time, her family extended the vermicompost business which helped Priyakshi complete her education. Now her mother has become a resource person for vermicomposting training in the district. And Priyakshi is pursuing her M.Sc in Agriculture from Assam Agriculture University. She was provided a scholarship by the University to pursue her Higher education.



Her mother has now mobilized more women in her village toward village entrepreneurship. They have been trained in organic farming, as well as in Coatery management. Farm2Food Foundation is committed to creating such inspiring stories.



## Goatery Training

Emerging Farmers



We aim to develop a cadre of Pashu Sakhi across the state to promote goat-based livelihood among communities. In partnership with The Goat Trust, a five-day training was organized in Jorhat with women from the community. For the Pashu Sakhi, it paved the way for additional income by providing care and support for goats in the community.

For the community, it would provide complete one-stop support to engage in Goat based livelihoods.

For Farm2Food Foundation it is an opportunity to provide an opportunity to the communities with to diversify their livelihood options.

| Description             | Outreach |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Number of women trained | 13       |
| Number of villages      | 50       |

### Goatery Management Training

**Topics to be covered**

- Breeding Management
- Feeding Management
- Health Management
- Artificial Insemination

Equipment and future mentoring support to be provided

Exclusively by invitation only  
For further details;  
Parag Mahanta (7086060960)  
Email: farm2food@gmail.com

**For Youth Farmers from Nagaon, Golaghat and Jorhat districts of Assam**

**Knowledge partner: Goat Trusts**  
**Venue partner: Bosco Institute**

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022    Batch size: 15    Charges: Nil (Lodging, food, local transport and training)    Venue: Jorhat



### Gratitude

The Goat Trust, NABARD, ASRLM, Beiersdorf - CYC



## Poshu Sakhi

Emerging  
Farmers



**Pashu Sakhi** has taken the field by storm. In a few months, they have already reached out to a large number of villagers and goat owners. They have been consistently doing visits, providing advice and medicines to the goat owners. This has had a positive impact on the community. There is a positive shift among communities towards goatery as an alternative livelihood option.

Pashu Sakhi ventures out to the field everyday morning. It has provided them with a regular stream of income.



| Description             | Outreach |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Deworming               | 2000 +   |
| Vaccinated              | 300 +    |
| Treatment               | 250 +    |
| Artificial insemination | 150      |
| Castration              | 117      |

### Gratitude

The Goat Trust, NABARD, ASRLM,  
Beiersdorf - CYC

## Solar project

Emerging Farmers



Another area for entrepreneurship is that of Renewable energy. Assam has been constantly ravaged by climate change impact. It is imperative that our entrepreneurs are also looking for green and renewable energy solutions. It is in this endeavor we have started the journey of Solar

sakhis. We aim to develop thousands of Solar Sakhis who would be promoting solar energy solutions across the regions. These barefoot engineers would be providing one-stop solutions from marketing and supplying solar energy products, they would also be involved in the maintenance of these solar energy products.s a potential area of livelihood. In partnership with Barefoot International College, we are developing a cadre of solar Sakhis across the state of Assam.

| Description           | Outreach  |
|-----------------------|---|
| Number of Solar Sakhi | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3+</li><li>• 20 (To undergo training)</li></ul> |



Gratitude

Barefoot International College



## Swasthya Sakhi

Emerging Farmers



The Covid crisis required all arms on the deck. Border areas of the Sarupathar sub-division in Golaghat district required special attention. Many of our farmer friends had reached out to us for help. We worked with the Sub Divisional Medical Office of Sarupathar. And with support from Azim Premji Foundation, we trained our first batch of Swasthya Sakhi or health workers. They helped in mobilizing the community and setting up registration/help desk. The training was provided by the Sub-divisional Medical office and Healing fields team.

In a very short span of time, we were able to reach out to the villages in the most interior areas. Many of these areas are struggling with basic infrastructure and also comes under the disturbed area tag. We are glad to have built a network of Swasthya Sakhis who helped us complete the vaccination goals.

Our efforts were captured on a youtube video "Collaboration for Greater Good" jointly produced with Green Hub.

| Description  | Outreach |
|--|----------|
| Number of Swasthya sakhi                           | 50       |
| Number of eligible person for vaccination          | 1,78,052 |
| Number of persons vaccinated with our intervention | 1,68,000 |



### Gratitude

SDMO Sarupathar,  
Azim Premjee Foundation, Healing Fields,  
Green Hub



Click here to watch the video →





## Farmpreneur training


Emerging  
Farmers


As a long-term strategy, we have been providing training and mentoring support to institutes on School Nutrition Garden. This year, we conducted two School Nutrition Garden training. The first one was organized for the Delhi Mentor Teachers in March. About 30 teachers from Delhi arrived at Jorhat. They underwent training and exposure to schools. This was the second batch of Delhi Mentor teachers.

The second round of training was organized in the month of May with about 15 participants from Civil Society Organisations across Assam. We plan to organize these training regularly as a part of our national expansion plan. Over the years, these Garden Mitra will help schools across the country to set up Nutrition

Garden and manage them with young students taking the lead. We are doing the review and updating exercise of our Farmpreneur curriculum to meet the needs of the New National Education Policy 2020.







### School Nutrition Garden Training

- Setting up School Nutrition Garden
- Organic soil and garden management
- Vermicomposting, Bio pesticides etc.
- Linkages with Mid Day Meals
- Nutrition Education
- Setting up linkages with Academic curriculum

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022 Batch size: 20. Venue: Jorhat  
Date: 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> May 2022 Batch size: 20. Venue: Jorhat  
Charges: Rs.3,500/- per participants (Lodging, food, local transport and training)  
For further details; Parag Mahanta (7086060960) Email: farm2food@gmail.com



**Gratitude**

SSA Assam, Delhi Government



## Learning events

This year we have organised several talks and learning exchange programs. One of the highlight was the Nutrition Security conversation held at Catalysing Change Week 2022. We had several dignitaries attending the event. The report is attached as an Annexure II. We organised, learning exchanges with young people from across the country.



Established Farmers



We presented a paper on nutrition at D4N event. A research on pilot basis was done focusing on both healthy dietary behaviours and consumption of unhealthy foods among going school going adolescent girls in rural areas. The consumption of UPF was not only limited to urban children but it has reached a remarkable extent to children of rural areas too. Their unhealthy eating habits were also found to be correlated with the clinical and biochemical assessments.

This year we won The Glenmark Nutrition Awards 2022. Our work on Farmpreneur was recognised as an exemplary work done in the rural areas. We were chosen from the pool of more than 100 organisation. This award is given every year by Glenmark foundation, Idobro and World Food Program.



We took a break to initiate a dialogue on identification of the next growth curve for Farm2Food Foundation. The three days conversation was facilitated by Manisha Gupta of Start Up foundation. Regional and national expansion of Farmpreneur program was identified as one of the path. Expansion of livelihood intervention was the other area identified.



## Collaborative spaces

Established  
Farmers



Collectivization  
of  
Rural Women  
Entrepreneurs



Partnership with  
Bahona College, Cinnamora College  
Assam Agriculture University



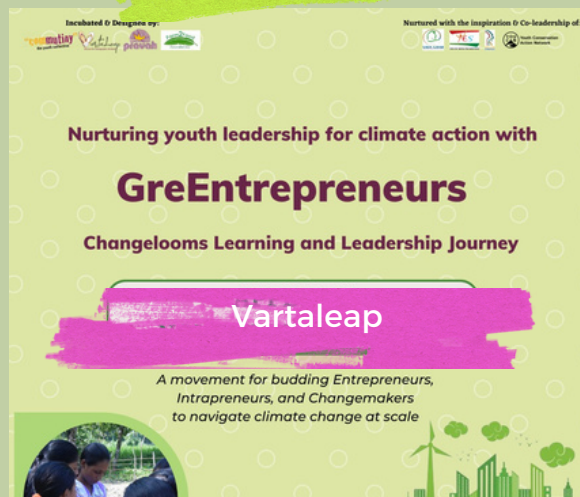
Quest Alliance's Civil society  
Platform



Axom State Collective



Catalysts 2030



Nurturing youth leadership for climate action with

**GreEntrepreneurs**

Changelooms Learning and Leadership Journey

Vartaleap

A movement for budding Entrepreneurs,  
Intrapreneurs, and Changemakers  
to navigate climate change at scale



Partnership with SHEF on  
Girls Education



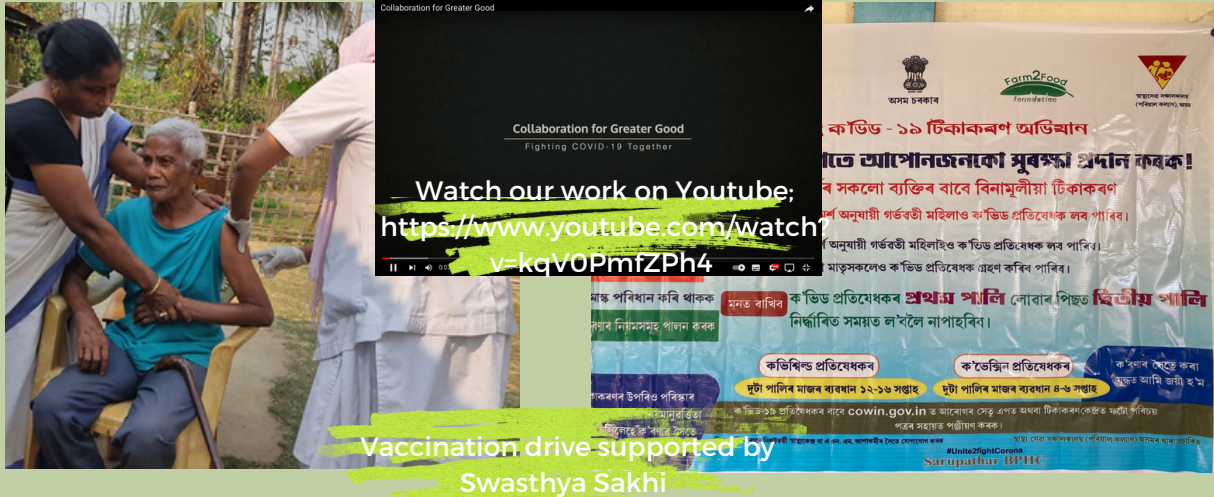
Partnership with  
The Goat Trust



NABARD partnership



## Emergency response

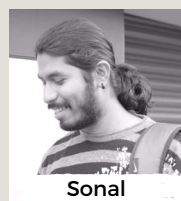
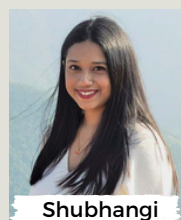
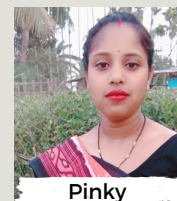
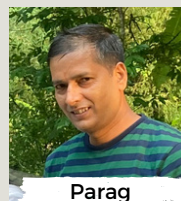
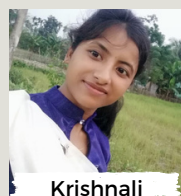






### Board of Governance

Deep Jyoti Sonu Brahma  
Gaurav Dasgupta  
Shailey Hingorani  
Neha Naqvi  
Nidhi Gupta  
Kanika Sinha  
Swati Sahni  
Manmeet Kaur  
Samant Veer Kakkar



### Gratitude to

Arman Ali  
Aruna Pandey  
Gaurav Gogoi  
Hasina Kharbhih  
Manisha Gupta  
Madhulika Jonathan  
Monica Banerjee  
Laxminarayan Sahu  
Pratibha Pathak  
Pradyut Bhattacharjee  
Rajeev Agarwal  
Roshani Aparanji Korati  
Sonal Roshan  
Urvashi Sahni