

Report on Field Trip of 6th Semester students 2022

All the 6th Semester students (Both Science and Arts) of Sao Chang College went for a one day field trip as a part of Internal Assessment carrying 20 marks for Environmental Studies on 5th March 2022 to Farmers Innovation Centre (FIC), Angangba Village which is about 30 km from Tuensang town. It is located in Longkhim area, Tuensang District, Nagaland and supported by NABARD and implemented by the Better Life Foundation (BLF) since August 2019. The Founder of FIC is Mr Sethrichem Sangtam. It inspires the confidence and trust of local indigenous problem solvers and offers them an unprejudiced platform to engage in conversation. It also offers the community a utility that would extend beyond its mandate. Since its inception, the activities at FIC have inspired widespread local transformation resulting in increased productivity from farmers which led to the construction of a rural marketplace funded by NABARD for the sale of BLF products in the local and regional market.

Everything about FIC, right from the design of the building, which is an abstraction of the traditional Naga Morung to the sheer diversity of activities proposed within a handful of fluid spaces contribute to the innovative ideas of the founder towards realizing his mission. One of the key highlights of the centre is the Innovations Gallery. Here a number of locally sourced technological innovations are displayed. The aim of the space is to open the visitors' minds to the possibility of simple yet indigenous ways of simplifying complex tasks, improving speed and efficiency of work and ultimately improving productivity.

The Centre caters to the ever-growing BLF community which comprises of over 700 farmers and their families offering a diverse mix of spaces which hosts exhibitions, demonstrations, lectures, workshops, council meetings and social celebrations. Built by and for the local community in response to a pertinent social need and in celebration of the local culture and using locally available materials with traditional bamboo construction techniques, the design itself is an inspiration.

About Better Life Foundation (BLF)

Better Life Foundation (BLF) is an NGO based in Nagaland which works in the field of agriculture, rural empowerment and grassroots innovations through the unique and successful format of community story-telling. Founded by Mr Sethrichem Sangtam in 2009, BLF designs community initiatives which are specifically targeted at bridging distances and improving communication. BLF is a space for the identification, promotion, development and dissemination of grassroots innovations by farmers and inventors of the region. It is envisaged as a collaborative space for the local community with access to a global resource network. BLF's mission is to improve productivity and standards of living by involving cross-community dialogue in a safe and non-judgmental democratic space by encouraging sharing of thoughts and actions. The Founder gave us a visual tour of the whole area and also showed us a hands-on demonstration of the various Farming tools, equipments and machinery used. He also showed us different varieties of innovative fruits and vegetables grown there like Granny Smith Apples, Yacon (Gound apple), Cardamon, Kiwi, peaches, plums, gooseberries, Tithonia, Persimmon, Nectarine etc.

There was also an interaction with the National Innovation Foundation (NIF) team based in Gujarat, who were on a visit to FIC on that day. They explained about the mission of NIF, which is a process to help India become a creative and knowledge based society by explaining their policies and innovation techniques. Dr Nitin who is in charge of North eastern part of India for Indian Institute of Technology interacted with the students and encouraged them on how new innovations help in every sphere of life. He also challenged the students and advised them to always try to give new role in the community by bringing up new ideas of innovations.

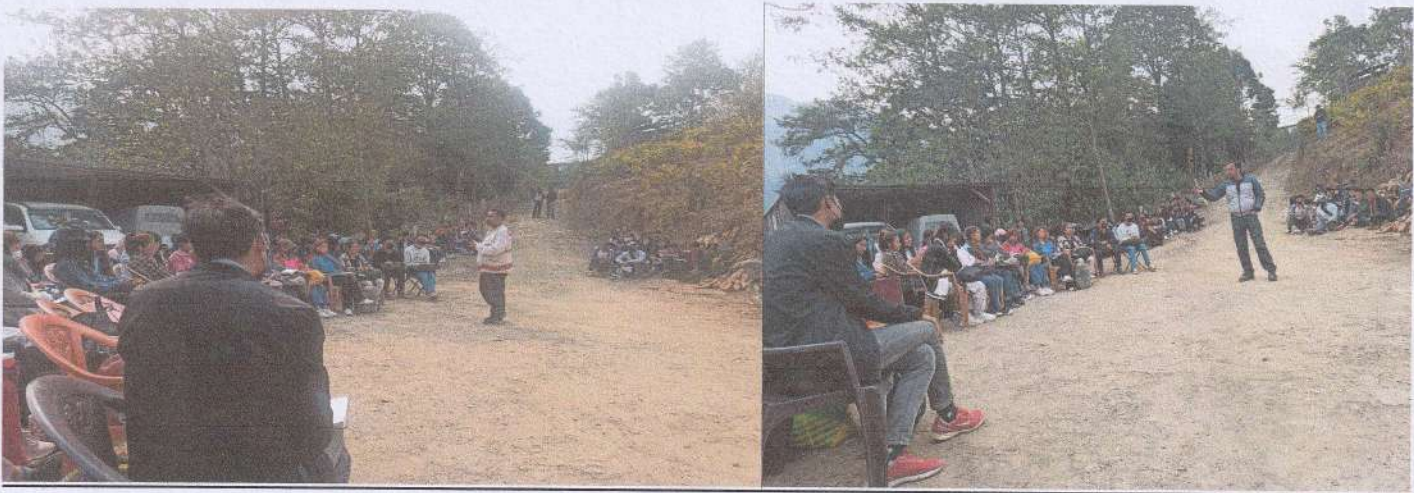
The day ended with a home cooked meal prepared collectively by all the staffs accompanying the students. For the students and Teachers accompanying them, it was an eye opener on how we can use our minds to innovative ideas.

Permaculture, (derived from permanent agricultural) a new term, which was conceptualized to avoid Jhum or shifting cultivation, was something which was very important and relevant as a part of our Environmental studies. Altogether 149 students and 3 faculties participated in the event. The trip was made successful due to financial assistance from the College authority as well as contribution from the students.

Photo Gallery



Group Photo



National Innovation Foundation (NIF) team from NIT Guwahati interacting with the students



Founder of FIC, Mr Sethrichem Sangtam briefing about various farm practices in the Centre to the students.

Authenticated

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