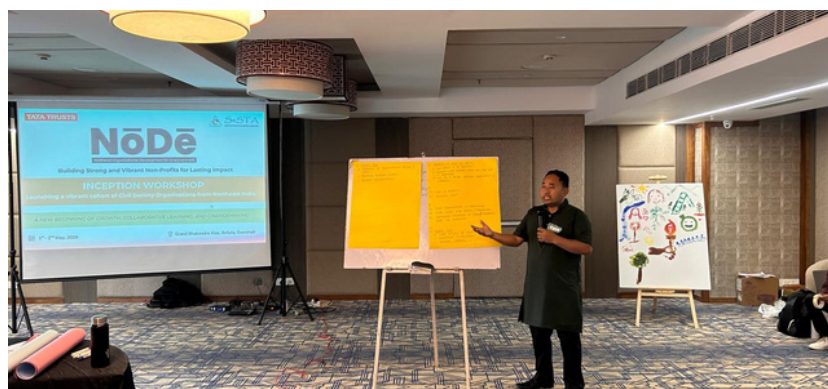


NEWSLETTER

April to June 2026



NoDe Cohort 4: A New Journey Begins

1st and 2nd May | 2026 | Guwahati, Assam

The launch of NoDe Cohort 4 marks the beginning of another exciting chapter in strengthening Civil Society Organisations across Northeast India. The journey began with an open call for applications, followed by in-depth interactions and field visits to understand the work, communities, aspirations, and challenges of applicant organizations firsthand.

After a careful and rigorous selection process, 10 CSOs from Assam, Manipur, and Nagaland were chosen to be part of the fourth cohort. The selected organizations came together at the NoDe Inception Workshop, officially launching a two-year journey of learning, collaboration, and organizational growth. With diverse experiences and a shared commitment to creating positive change, the cohort is set to embark on a transformative journey of strengthening systems, expanding impact, and building a stronger network of changemakers across the region.



Creating spaces where ideas meet experience and partnerships grow into long-term change.

Learning Beyond the Workshop: Field Visits to Cohort 4 CSOs

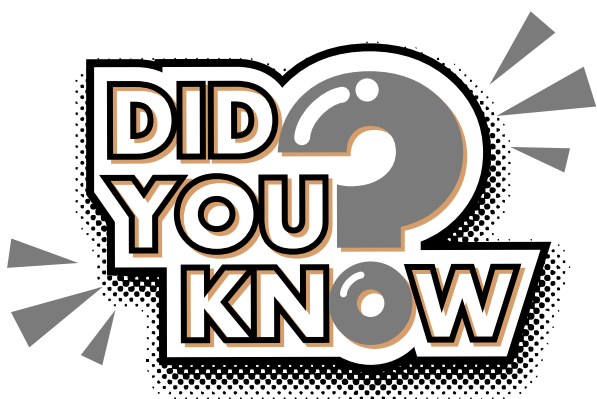
May - June | Assam, Manipur, Nagaland

Following the Cohort 4 Inception Workshop, the NoDe team undertook field visits to all selected CSOs to gain a deeper understanding of their organisational contexts and communities. As the organisations had recently joined the cohort, these visits provided an opportunity to move beyond workshop discussions and learn directly from their realities on the ground.

Through interactions with leadership teams, staff members, and community members, the visits explored organisational strengths, challenges, systems, and future aspirations. The team also observed ongoing programmes and engaged with beneficiaries to better understand local contexts and community needs. The insights gained from these visits will help NoDe provide more tailored and context-specific support to each organisation throughout their Cohort 4 journey.



Understanding contexts, building relationships, and strengthening partnerships through field visits across Assam, Manipur, and Nagaland.



The name **Rilum** means "Hill Country" in Khasi - a fitting reflection of the foundation's roots in Meghalaya. Since its beginnings in 2001, **Rilum Foundation** has championed a simple but powerful idea: the best solutions come from within the community itself. By supporting farmers, women, youth, and village institutions, the foundation helps rural communities build sustainable livelihoods while preserving their traditions and protecting the environment.

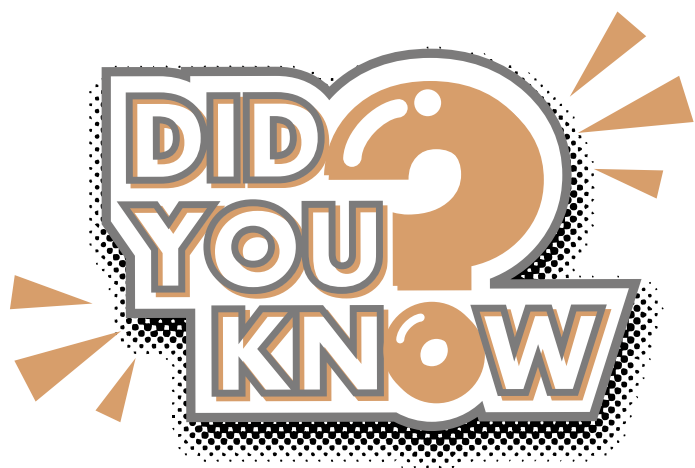
Strengthening MIS and Organisational Systems through In-Person Support

6th - 10th April, 2026 | Dimapur, Nagaland

NoDe provided in-person support to Chingthur Foundation and Gracious Life Foundation (GLF) to strengthen their Management Information Systems (MIS), Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) frameworks, and organisational policies. The sessions focused on understanding each organisation's programmes and data needs, while introducing systematic approaches to data collection, monitoring, and digital tools such as KoboToolbox. Discussions covered baseline and implementation data, beneficiary tracking, outcome monitoring, and the development of customised formats to support programme management and organisational learning.

At GLF, additional support was provided on reviewing and strengthening Human Resource and POSH policies, while both organisations received guidance on improving internal systems, documentation processes, and organisational practices.

These visits helped identify key priorities for institutional strengthening and laid the foundation for continued handholding support in areas such as digital data management, policy development, and organisational systems strengthening.



The **Amri Karbi Community Development Project (AKCDP)** has been working with indigenous communities in Assam and Meghalaya for nearly 40 years, promoting sustainable livelihoods, education, healthcare, and cultural preservation all while ensuring that development remains rooted in community traditions and identity.

A tragic incident involving a young girl who lost her life while fetching water inspired **Rongmei Baptist Association** to begin its work on safe drinking water and sanitation. Today, the organisation promotes safe water access, community health, and sanitation initiatives in rural communities, demonstrating how one incident can spark long-term social change.

Strengthening Livelihoods and Organisational Growth: Joint Visit to DAWN

6th April, 2026 | Meghalaya

A joint visit with APF to DAWN provided an opportunity to closely review the progress of the organisation's livelihood programme while also assessing its current organisational strengthening needs. The team interacted with community members to gain first-hand insights into the livelihood initiatives being implemented on the ground.

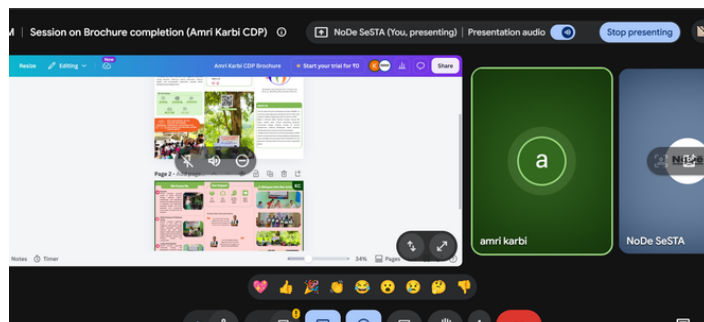
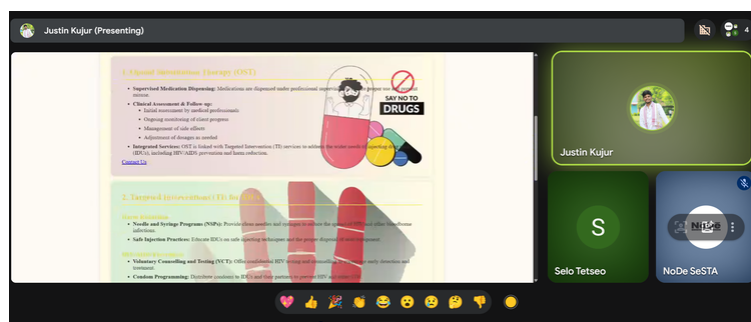
The field visit offered a deeper understanding of the programme's achievements, implementation approaches, and the positive changes taking place within the communities. It also helped identify key areas where additional capacity-building and organisational support could further strengthen DAWN's effectiveness, sustainability, and overall impact.



Strengthening Organizational Stories Through Communications Support
10th April - 20th June, 2026 | Guwahati, Assam

Effective communication is key to showcasing impact and building meaningful connections with stakeholders. To support this, the NoDe team conducted an online communications support session for Lakpanhu Welfare Society, Lightway Society, and the Amri Karbi Community Development Project (AKCDP). The session focused on enhancing organizational communication materials, including brochures, websites, and annual reports with a regular follow up.

Through interactive discussions and practical guidance, participants explored ways to present their work more effectively, tell compelling stories of change, and strengthen their organizational visibility. The session provided a platform for organizations to refine their communication strategies and develop materials that better reflect their mission, achievements, and impact.



Learning, Sharing, and Strengthening Livelihoods Together

21st - 23rd April, 2026 | SeSTA, Kalaigaon

NoDe conducted a three-day training on Sustainable Pig Farming for Rural Livelihoods in North-East India at Kalaigaon, with participants from Samaritan Resource Centre (Manipur) and AIDA (Dimapur). The training covered key aspects of piggery, including housing, feeding, breeding, health care, and biosecurity, alongside field visits and practical demonstrations. Participants also learned basic business planning and profit estimation to strengthen pig farming as a sustainable livelihood option. The programme combined technical knowledge with hands-on exposure, equipping participants with improved practices to support rural livelihoods in their communities.



From classroom discussions to field demonstrations, participants explored sustainable pig farming through practical, real-world experiences.

Strengthening Financial Management and Compliance

24th April, 2026 | Guwahati, Assam

NoDe provided an Accounts and Compliance support session to Samaritan Resource Centre (SRC) at the Guwahati Office. Facilitated by Debashish Acharjee, the session focused on strengthening financial systems and regulatory compliance.

Key areas covered included financial and physical reporting, Flux report updates, 10BD filing guidance, compliance tracking, Tally accounting processes, cash and bank controls, and procurement systems. The support aimed to enhance SRC's financial management practices and ensure stronger compliance with statutory requirements.



Strengthening Livelihood Interventions through Learning and Field Support

5th - 6th May | SeSTA, Barpeta

In May 2026, NoDe facilitated an Exposure Visit on Livelihood Process Learning for FSDT Assam and the Amri Karbi Community Development Project at Pakabetbari, Barpeta. Through classroom sessions and field exposure, participants gained practical insights into livelihood planning processes, including wealth ranking, Family-Based Livelihood Planning (FBLP), and interventions in Backyard Poultry, Goatery, and Fishery. The visit enabled participating CSOs to learn from field experiences and identify strategies for strengthening livelihood programmes in their communities.

As a follow-up, a field visit was conducted to Khandapukhuri Village, Morigaon, to assess the progress of livelihood action plans implemented with FSDT Assam. Interactions with fishery and backyard poultry beneficiaries highlighted key challenges such as seasonal water shortages, high pond maintenance costs, and limited market access. The visit also revealed strong interest in integrating poultry with fishery activities, providing valuable insights for future livelihood planning and support.



Hands-on learning in action: Participants interact with community members and observe practical livelihood interventions during the exposure visit in Assam.

Strengthening Livelihoods and Organisational Systems: Visit to ASHA

7th May, 2026 | Kokrajhar, Assam

A field visit was conducted to ASHA to review the progress of its livestock rearing programme, which provides alternative livelihood opportunities for Self-Help Group (SHG) women in the Gossaigaon area of Kokrajhar. The visit included interactions with programme teams and field-level stakeholders to better understand the implementation of the initiative and its impact on the communities.

The visit focused on assessing programme progress, strengthening team capacities, reviewing financial systems, and exploring opportunities to integrate organisational development initiatives within the programme. These discussions helped identify key areas of support required to enhance the programme's sustainability, strengthen organisational systems, and increase its long-term impact.



NoDe team in conversation with SHG women, listening, learning, and strengthening community-led livelihoods.

From Learning to Livelihoods: BDF Explores SeSTA's Backyard Poultry Model

13th May, 2026 | SeSTA, Mangaldai

What does it take to build a successful rural enterprise with just a few backyard chickens? Representatives from Bodoland Development Foundation (BDF) explored this question during an exposure visit to SeSTA's Backyard Poultry (BYP) programme.

The visit offered participants a close look at how livelihoods can be strengthened through careful beneficiary selection, family-based livelihood planning, community institutions, and strong ecosystem partnerships. From low-cost poultry sheds and disease management practices to financing options and market linkages, participants gained practical insights into every stage of the enterprise journey.

A highlight of the visit was the interaction with poultry farmers, who shared their experiences of managing enterprises, overcoming challenges, and improving household incomes. These conversations brought the livelihood model to life and demonstrated how small-scale poultry farming can become a sustainable source of income for rural families.



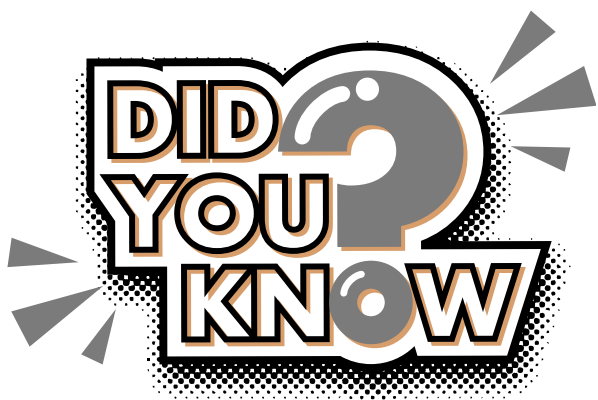
Hands-on exposure to sustainable poultry practices and rural entrepreneurship.

Reflecting, Planning, and Strengthening: Organisational Support Visit to Rilum Foundation

22nd - 23rd May, 2026 | Meghalaya

A two-day in-person organisational support visit was conducted with the Rilum Foundation team to create space for reflection, learning, and strategic planning around their livelihood programme. Through participatory discussions, the team examined their existing community engagement practices, implementation processes, and the opportunities and challenges emerging from their work.

The visit encouraged collective thinking on how livelihood interventions could be strengthened and better aligned with the organisation's long-term vision. The engagement culminated in the co-creation of a strategic roadmap to streamline programme approaches, strengthen implementation systems, and enhance the overall effectiveness and sustainability of Rilum Foundation's livelihood initiatives.



Ya_All means "Revolution" in Manipuri. True to its name, the organisation is among the first registered queer youth-led organisations in Northeast India, working to create safe spaces and amplify queer voices in the region. Through peer support, advocacy, leadership development, and community initiatives, Ya_All is helping foster acceptance, visibility, and inclusion for LGBTQIA+ communities across the Northeast.

Strengthening Governance for Sustainable Impact

29th May | SeSTA, Guwahati

As part of NoDe's Online Knowledge Series, a session on "Understanding Governance Compliance in CSOs" brought together 67 participants from civil society organisations across the region. Facilitated by Debasish Acharjee, the session explored key aspects of governance, legal and financial compliance, board responsibilities, conflict of interest management, FCRA governance, and organisational accountability.

The highly interactive session featured live polls, case discussions, and engaging conversations that encouraged participants to reflect on governance challenges within their own organisations and identify practical solutions to strengthen transparency and accountability.

The session reinforced the importance of strong governance systems in building credible, resilient, and sustainable organisations that inspire trust among communities, donors, and stakeholders.



ONLINE KNOWLEDGE SERIES

Understanding Governance Compliance in CSOs



What makes a CSO truly accountable? Join this interactive session to explore governance compliance, ethical and legal responsibilities, common governance gaps, and the key practices that build transparent, credible, and resilient organisations.

29TH MAY, 2026

11 AM - 12:30 PM

Resource Person **DEBASISH ACHARJEE**



About the Resource Person

Debasish Acharjee is a finance and compliance professional with 15 years of experience in the development and non-profit sector, specializing in accounting, internal controls, statutory compliance, donor reporting, audit coordination, and governance support for NPOs. He has worked closely with community-based livelihood and development projects, supporting organizations in strengthening financial systems, regulatory compliance, and operational transparency. He is also experienced in capacity building and providing guidance on finance, FCRA, Income Tax, and organizational compliance matters for civil society organizations.

— SCAN TO JOIN —



Join Us Online!

Be part of this insightful and engaging session

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Strengthening Collaboration in the Northeast Social Sector

15th May, 2026 | Selco Foundation, Guwahati

The Northeast Together Foundation (NETF), a network of not-for-profit organisations from Northeast India, continues to advance its vision of building a credible and collaborative social sector in the region. Following its registration as a Section 8 company, NETF members came together for a strategic meeting in Guwahati to discuss the network's roadmap, organisational structure, and future direction. Organised by SeSTA, which serves as the Secretariat of NETF, with support from Tata Trusts, the meeting also brought together representatives from Dhvani Foundation and Roots to Branches. Their participation enriched discussions on organisational development and capacity strengthening within the Northeast social sector ecosystem.

The meeting reaffirmed the collective commitment of member organisations to strengthen collaboration, leadership, and institutional capacities, while working together to address development challenges across the region.



Strengthening Systems and Shaping Future Livelihoods: Organisational Support Visit to BDF

11th - 12th June, 2026 | Sonapur, Assam

A two-day organisational support visit to BDF provided an opportunity to review the organisation's programmes, internal systems, and future priorities. Working across youth skill development, women's empowerment, and Decentralised Renewable Energy (DRE), BDF is also exploring new livelihood opportunities through livestock rearing and strengthening the Eri value chain.

The visit focused on strengthening organisational systems, reviewing the newly formed OD Steering Committee, and identifying key areas for support, including fundraising, partnerships, programme design, budgeting, and data management. The engagement helped chart practical next steps to build a stronger, more sustainable organisation.



Learning from Success: Strengthening FPC Leadership Through Exposure

15th June, 2026 | Boitamari, Assam

As part of DIYA's ongoing FPC strengthening initiative, NoDe facilitated an exposure visit for the leaders and Board of Directors of Rangsang Agro Producer Company and Mapakkai Agro Producer Company to Birangana Mahila Producer Company Limited.

The visit provided an opportunity to learn from the experiences of a successful Farmer Producer Company, with discussions on governance, the roles and responsibilities of Board members, business development, and sustainable enterprise management. The peer-learning experience inspired participants with practical ideas and strengthened their vision for building resilient and member-driven FPCs.



Women leaders of Birangana Mahila Producer Company sharing their journey, experiences, and best practices with fellow FPC leaders.

Building Teams for Stronger Organisations

12th June, 2026 | Sonapur, Assam

Finding the right people is often the first step toward building strong organisations. In response to a request from the Amri Karbi Community Development Project (AKCDP), the NoDe team extended support in conducting the recruitment process. The support included participation in the interview and selection process to help ensure a structured and transparent assessment of candidates.

The recruitment process brought together representatives from AKCDP and NoDe, creating an opportunity to discuss the importance of building strong organisational teams and effective human resource practices. Such engagements contribute to strengthening organisational systems and ensuring that CSOs have the right people in place to support their work and growth.



Building Livelihoods Through Exposure and Learning

15th - 16th June, 2026 | SeSTA, Tripura

SHG members, Community Resource Persons (CRPs), and the team members from Sanatan Unnayan Sangstha, our first cohort, visited SeSTA's working area in Tripura, to explore sustainable livelihood practices and learn directly from successful farmers and entrepreneurs. From goatery and poultry to integrated farming, nutrition gardens, and organic cultivation, the visit showcased how diverse livelihood activities can strengthen rural incomes.

Interactions with entrepreneurs and Krishi Sakhis provided practical insights into improved farming practices, low-cost technologies, and community-led approaches. The exposure visit not only offered valuable learning experiences but also inspired participants to adapt these ideas within their own communities.



Staying Connected: NoDe Follow-up Visit to DAWN

15th - 16th June, 2026 | Meghalaya

As part of its continued handholding support, the NoDe team visited DAWN to follow up on the progress of activities and action points identified during previous engagements. The visit provided an opportunity to review ongoing initiatives, understand emerging needs, and discuss areas requiring additional support.

Interactions with the team focused on organisational priorities, implementation progress, and future plans. The visit also created space for reflection, shared learning, and collaborative discussions to ensure that the support provided remains responsive to the organisation's evolving needs.

Regular follow-up visits help strengthen partnerships, encourage continuous learning, and support organisations in translating plans and ideas into meaningful action.

Beyond the Meeting Room!

June, 2026 | Assam

Not just during in-person visits, but through regular online support as well, NoDe continued working closely with partner organisations. Centre for Relief and Rehabilitation (CRR) received support on its POSH Policy, while Grace Trust strengthened both its POSH and HR Policies through virtual mentoring sessions.

Reflecting on Progress and Strengthening Livelihoods: Joint Visit to FSDT

17th - 18th June, 2026 | Guwahati, Assam

A joint visit with APF was conducted to FSDT to review the annual progress of its fish rearing programme and assess the strides made in strengthening both programme implementation and organisational systems. The visit included discussions with the team and field interactions to better understand the impact of the initiative on local livelihoods and the lessons emerging from its implementation.

The engagement provided an opportunity to reflect on key achievements, review progress against planned objectives, and identify strategic areas for further organisational and programmatic support. The visit also helped map opportunities to strengthen the programme's effectiveness, sustainability, and long-term impact within the communities it serves.

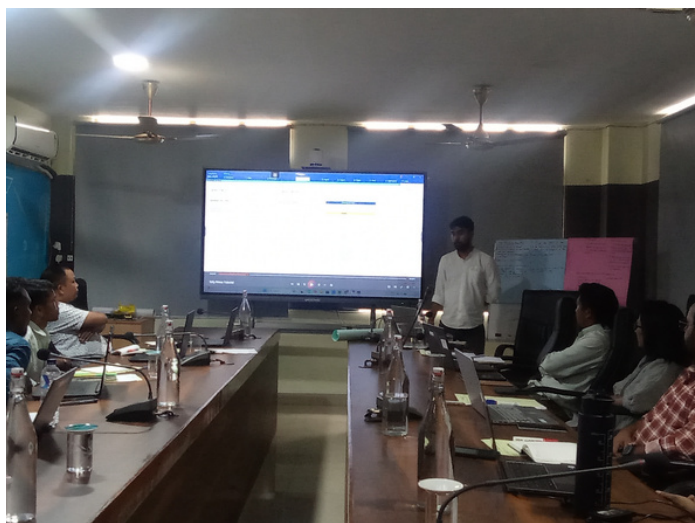


Beyond Numbers: Strengthening Financial Systems in CSOs

18th - 19th June, 2026 | Selco Foundation, Guwahati

What happens behind the scenes often determines the strength of an organisation. Recognising the importance of robust financial systems, an Accounts and Compliance Workshop was organised at Selco Foundation, bringing together participants from NoDe Cohort CSOs as well as other civil society organisations. The workshop focused on key aspects of accounting, statutory compliance, and financial management, while also providing hands-on exposure to Tally for maintaining organisational accounts. Through practical sessions and discussions, participants explored how strong financial systems contribute to transparency, accountability, and organisational sustainability.

The workshop created a shared learning space where finance and programme teams exchanged experiences, discussed common challenges, and strengthened their understanding of compliance and accounting practices. By bringing together organisations from across the sector, the programme reinforced the importance of sound financial management in building resilient and credible CSOs.



NoDe Facilitates Exposure Visit on Livelihoods and Entrepreneurship

17th - 20th June, 2026 | SeSTA, Tinsukia

NoDe facilitated an exposure visit for seven representatives from MANEDA to SeSTA to strengthen their understanding of entrepreneurship and livelihood promotion. The participants gained insights into business planning, risk management, entrepreneur selection, and sustainable livelihood approaches.

Field visits to successful goatery and backyard poultry entrepreneurs provided practical exposure to enterprise development, scientific livestock management, and incubation support systems. Participants also learned about the use of digital tools for entrepreneur monitoring and programme management. The exposure to innovative livelihood models and hands-on learning experiences equipped participants with ideas and approaches that can be adapted to their own contexts and communities.



Strengthening Organisational Systems: NoDe Conducts Training for MANEDA

22nd - 23rd June, 2026 | SeSTA, Guwahati

NoDe conducted a two-day training for the MANEDA team on Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL), data management, communications, and fundraising. The sessions focused on strengthening project monitoring systems, introducing digital data collection tools, and developing MEL frameworks. Participants also explored communication and fundraising strategies, including storytelling, organisational branding, and resource mobilisation. The training equipped the team with practical tools to strengthen organisational systems and improve programme implementation.



Strengthening Civil Society in Tripura

29th June, 2026 | Tripura

Over 15 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) from remote districts of Tripura came together at the North East NGO Meet, organised by Tripura University in association with VHAT. The event created a space for organisations to share community realities, discuss emerging needs, and learn from one another. Representing the NoDe Programme, Tanushree Medhi, NoDe, SeSTA shared The NoDe Program's vision of strengthening the development ecosystem across Northeast India. The participating CSOs reflected on their aspirations to build stronger systems, processes, and governance, recognising that stronger organisations are essential for creating lasting impact in their communities.



Research in Action: Evidence that Drives Impact

April - June, 2026 | SeSTA

The research team continued to strengthen evidence-based programming through field research, data analysis, and knowledge generation across the Northeast.

This quarter, the team completed fieldwork and prepared draft reports for the Apple Ber Value Chain Feasibility Study, assessed Apiculture as a Livelihood in Goalpara, and advanced the MMUA Study to understand the impact of women-led enterprises. Alongside these studies, they developed 10+ research tools, supported data quality and field coordination, and contributed to reports, case studies, and knowledge products.

Quarter at a Glance:

- 📊 3 major research studies supported
- 📝 10+ research tools developed and refined
- 📍 Research across Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, and Tripura
- 👨‍👩‍👧‍👦 Multiple household surveys, FGDs, KIs, and regular field monitoring

By combining data with community voices, the team continues to generate insights that inform programmes, strengthen decision-making, and create lasting impact.



MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Launched Cohort 4 with 10 CSOs from Assam, Manipur, and Nagaland.



Initiated support for Cohort 4 CSOs, expanding outreach and engagement.



Provided continuous handholding and organisational development support to Cohort 3 CSOs.



Supported the strengthening of the Northeast Together Foundation (NETF) as it formally registered as a Section 8 company, marking an important milestone in building a collaborative social sector network in Northeast India.



WAY FORWARD

Cohort 1:

Sustain engagement with Cohort 1 organisations through ongoing mentoring and tailored support.

Cohort 2:

Continue providing tailored support to strengthen organisational capacities and build on the progress achieved.

Cohort 3:

Launched Peer Learning Assessment to encourage peer learning, organisational reflection, and access to critical funding opportunities.

Cohort 4:

Continue providing tailored organisational development support based on the needs and priorities identified during the field visits and Inception Workshop.

Beyond the Cohorts:

Continue extending need-based support on organisational development and livelihoods to CSOs beyond the NoDe cohorts, contributing to a stronger and more connected civil society ecosystem.