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They are happy with their newly acquired skill. They are now become inspiration of the villagers. The young group of men are looking forward to upscale the production of jaggery. The customer are quite satisfied with the quality of their products. The story tells that the rural youth has the potential to build themselves as entrepreneur.



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## The Focus

### A case study of Palm Jaggery Ecopreneurs

The dry land districts of West Bengal (Purulia, Bankura, Birbhum Paschim Midnapore) by default are



**Making of palm jaggery**

ecologically fragile.

Bankura is a BRGF district of West Bengal. Alighara is a village of Bankura district, is also characterized by poverty, illiteracy, lack of access of social & technical services. Most of the people of this village are from scheduled tribe community. They used to migrate to work as wage labourers for their livelihood. Though the village has large population of palm trees only few of them are currently getting tapped for juice preparation and mostly consumed as liquor. Last year a group of 12 young men visioned for the change of their livelihood &

desired to improve the overall quality of life. Within the framework of natural resource management palm jaggery preparation is consider as commercially valuable subsistence product concept in broader scale. They got an opportunity to undergo 16 days training on Palm Jaggery & Value Added products under Vocational Education and Training Programme (VET) supported by EU and Welthungerhilfe implemented by DRCSC.



In this context a large scale initiative was under taken by DRCSC. After receiving the training they were able to process palm juice for palm jaggery preparation which provided them five months' employment (January to December). DRCSC provided

some infrastructural support for developing better packaging & brand for the products. They selected 400 trees for jaggery preparation and per day they were collecting juices from 200 trees in the pick production time. From which they were getting 510 liter juice. Per day average jaggery productions were 70-80 kg. In this season they produced around 1840 kg jaggery. They sold their products in local area & market and kolkata at an average rate of Rs. 50/- per kg. By selling the product generated around Rs. 92000/-. They also took initiative in product diversification by preparing palm cake on a trial basis.



## Street To School Project



Children with prizes

February 1, 2014 Street to School project of DRCS organized its Annual Sports in Banga Bir Sangha Maidan near Pagladanga, Dhapa. Around 210 children were present in this sport. All the children from 6 different facilitation centres participated in the event. Children group members were also present there

as volunteers. Vocational trainees also participated in game competition. 2 types of games were there for each group and there were total 3 groups. 100 meter run, chocolate race, sack race, niddle and thread, and vegetable race were there.



*“Who will bring light to the poor? Who will travel from door to door bringing education to them? Let these people be your God - think of them, work for them, pray for them incessantly. The Lord will show you the way.”*  
-Swami Vibekananda

## Annual Sports



## Post Vocational Camp

11 to 13 January 2014, Street to school project conducted post vocational camp in Jhargram. Total 16 children were present there. Among them 11 female and 5 were male. It was 3 day residential camp. In this camp we tried to groom up the participants in front of interview board.

How to prepare Bio-Data. What types of quality they should acquire to develop their potentiality. What will they do after completing the courses. We tried to give some information regarding different schemes of Govt. to start a small business on the basis of the skills which acquired.



Post Vocational Camp going on



# Step-up Project - An update

**Objective: To ensure that 1900 ultra-poor households can increase their sustainable income and food production by adapting environmentally sustainable agricultural technologies and can improve marketing techniques in 5 blocks of Birbhum & Murshidabad districts.**



International Human Solidarity Day was observed with STEP-UP project beneficiaries on December 20, 2013 at Turku Hansda Sriti

Satabarishiki Sanskriti Sadan [community hall] at Md. Bazar block of Birbhum.

About 330 beneficiaries, BLDO of the Block and representatives from DRCS were present there. Some of the beneficiaries have shared their views on their living-standards in pre and post intervention periods. The trained Para-veterinaries were provided the certificates

through the BLDO.

Mr. Amitava Sarkar, Coordinator, STEP-UP Project, DRCS, has phrased his words on significance of the day and the importance of solidarity in human life. The programme got a colour with performance of tribal songs and dances.

*International Human Solidarity Day was celebrated with the beneficiaries on 20th Dec 2013*

## Glimpses



## Photo Gallery



# FHFI Project - Recent Activities

**Objective: To improve key indicators related to food, income and nutrition security in Chatna Block, Bankura**



Youth Group orientation on Joyful learning



Youth Group orientation on RTI

**Recent activities of Fight Hunger First Initiative Project**



PRA in Dhadanga village for preparing Village based development micro-plan



VHND in Kalipur village, Jhunjka GP

## Photo Gallery



Participation in Krishimela in Bankura II Block (2)



Demonstration on Nutrimix in Chhachanpur village, Ghosergram



Workshop with students in Bhalaidiha



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Ensuring food and livelihood security of  
the rural poor through sustainable  
management of natural resources...

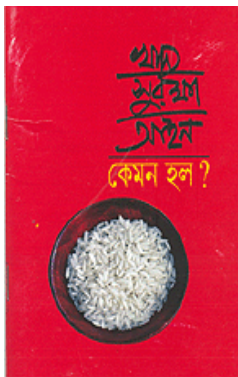
## Upcoming Events



উত্তর ২৪ পরগনার হিজলগঞ্জের ব্লকের  
কালিতলা পঞ্চায়েতে এই মেলা। যৌথ  
প্রচেষ্টায় ডিআরসিএসসি ও ইন্ডিয়ানহিলফে  
নেটওয়ার্ক এগেনস্ট চাইল্ড লেবার।  
আপনি অবশ্যই আসবেন।

Residential Pre Vocational Camp at Seva  
Kendra, Kolkata, 20-22 March, 2014  
under Street To School (STS) Project

## Some of our recent titles



Food Security Act



Vegetable Garden



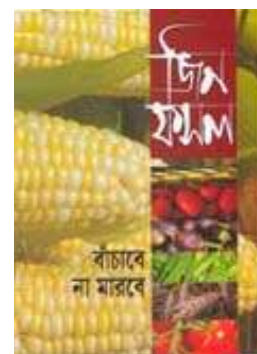
Pusti (Nutrition)



Integrated Farming System



A collection of critiques of AKI



A handout on GM menace