NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2026

Exposure trip of Project Coordinator and the District Animators: Fr. Bipin Pani, the Director of SIGN, along with two Regional Coordinators viz. Walter Zaphed Kerketta and Sujit Kumar and seven Block Animators went to Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu to learn from Village Integrated Development Program (VIDP) about self-sustaining Self Help Groups working.

SIGN team reached VIDP center on 2nd February. On the first day i.e., 3rd February, they met the members of SHGs supported and guided by VIDP. SIGN team was amazed to see that SHG members are meet twice a month. In the first meeting they talk about Bank loan, whereas in the second meeting they talk about inter loaning. In each of their meeting they save Rs 500. In the afternoon, SIGN team visited some of the production centers managed by SHG members, where SIGN team learnt that how women can increase the income of the family by different income generating activities. On the second day, SIGN team visited self-managed Bank-cum-training center. It is the place SIGN team saw that how successfully women can handle all the banking system. VIDP also provides many training trough out the year to the SHG members and their relatives to empower SHG members and financial strengthen their respective family. In the afternoon of the second day. SIGN team had opportunity to learn the documentation system of VIDP. Entire SIGN team express that it was big learning for them and they seem to be determined to implement some of the learning this





exposure trip. SIGN team express their sincere thanks to Mr. Kulandei Francis for his generous hospitality. The team also congratulate Kulundei for successfully SHG for last 50 years.

Visit of Delegates from Fratelli Dimenticati: On 8th February 2026, 5 delegates viz. Gino Prandina, the former President, his wife Francesca, Lorenzo Zago, the Present President, Tito Cappelaro, the HoD Project Department as well as



Sponsorship Program and Paolo Gatto, the Councillor from Fondziano Fratelli Dimenticati Onlus, Italy visited SIGN. In the evening of the 8th February, this team had dinner with the Sisters of Daughters of St. Anne's at their Generalate. On 9th February this team visited Immaculate Heart School, at Plandu run by Oblet Sisters of Immaculate Heart. The delegates were welcomed as per the tribal customs. Their hands were washed at the school gate itself and from there they were asked to walk on the basket so that their feet would not touch the dust. On reaching the school, children performed a beautiful welcome program. Sr. Bina Tirkey presented the Annual report as well as the history of the school. Fr. Kuldip SJ, practicing Lawyer Sunita and Army man Mr. Arjun, who were once a beneficiary of sponsorship program presented their life journey and expressed their gratitude to





Fratelli Dimenticati for its support, when they needed most. They said it is only because of the generous support of Fratelli Dimenticati that they have come in their life. In the afternoon, delegates visited SIGN office, where they were welcome by the staff and introduced about the work SIGN do. There was

special presentation from Sponsorship department. Delegates were much impressed the work done by SIGN specially the sponsorship work managed by SIGN. On 10th morning, delegates visited Mausibari run by REDS, where this team met Cricketer, Free Boxing Champion and had interaction with the children of the center. They also went around the colony, where these children of Mausibari cener come from. In the afternoon, all the Center-in-charges from 37 centers came to meet these delegates at SDC, Ranchi. There was a big welcome program for them and then each center-in-charge shared the sponsorship work carried out by their respective center. Each of them express their sincere thanks to Fratelli for their support to 1000s children through this program and said that in future too they expect the same collaboration and support. After this, Gino, Tito and Paolo addressed the Center-in-Charges. They thanked congratulating each center-in-charges and SIGN for their wonderful work. Delegates from Fratelli Dimenticati left for Mumbai on 11th Morning. It was very good experience with these delegates. Hope many more children will continue get support from Fratelli Diminticati.



Training on Upland and Lowland Farming Held in Four Districts: SIGN, Ranchi organized a series of two-day training programmes on Upland and Lowland Farming in different districts of Jharkhand during February 2026. The trainings were held at Hazaribagh (12–13 February), Khunti (16–17 February), Gumla (19–20 February), and Simdega (23–24 February). Farmers from several villages of the project areas participated in these programmes.



The training aimed to help farmers understand the proper use of different types of agricultural land and to promote crops suitable for upland, midland, and lowland areas. The sessions were facilitated by Mr. Jageswar Mahto, an experienced trainer in watershed management and sustainable agriculture.

During the training, participants discussed the classification of land and suitable crops for each type. Farmers learned that lowland areas are mainly suitable for paddy cultivation, while upland areas are better suited for millets and pulses. The trainer

highlighted crops such as ragi, jowar, bajra, kodo, and gondli, which grow well in upland areas and are also highly nutritious.

The sessions also introduced farmers to traditional and drought-tolerant varieties of paddy, which can perform well even with limited rainfall. In addition, participants learned about organic farming practices, including the preparation and use of natural inputs such as Beejamrit, Jeevamrit, vermicompost, and natural pesticides.

Farmers actively participated in the discussions and shared their own experiences from the field. Many participants expressed interest in reviving the cultivation of millets and traditional crops, which are well suited to the local climate and soil conditions.



Through these trainings, SIGN continues to support farmers in improving their farming practices and making better use of their land resources. The programmes also encouraged farmers to work together and adopt sustainable methods of agriculture for better productivity and long-term soil health.