





Cultivating Hope at Nazareth Farmers' Training and Research Centre

 **Supported By:** SAC Netherland and the Diocese of Rottenberg Stuttgart

 **Area of Operation:** The Nazareth Farmers' Training Centre, spanning 25 Bighas in Balihati Village, is situated in the Kharagpur sub-division of West Medinipur district, West Bengal. It is part of the Lachhmapur Gram Panchayat and is centrally located between Kharagpur and Medinipur towns.

 **About Nazareth Farmers' Training Centre:** On 18 March 2020, the building was blessed and inaugurated in 2021.

 **Objective:** To enhance community care and promote the development and learning of farmers at the Nazareth Farmers' Training Centre, also known as "Krishi Pathshala".



Ongoing Projects and Activities:

1. Traditional Farming

Initiation of Organic Farming:

The project team committed to promoting organic farming practices. Embarked on a significant journey to cultivate traditional paddy varieties in a 2-bigha plot.



Diverse Paddy Cultivation:

Cultivated four varieties of traditional paddy: Black, Kandagiri, Muggai, and Mayur Panki. Achieved a bountiful harvest of 1200 kgs without the use of synthetic fertilizers, and pesticides.

Diversification and Innovation:

Impact extended beyond the harvest, leading to the centre evolving into a model of innovation. Features included a thriving Vegetable Nursery, flourishing Orchard, and Weed Composting Pit.

Knowledge Exchange Hub:

Became a learning space where farmers and project staff exchanged ideas and explored cutting-edge techniques.

Future Expansion Plans:

Nazareth Farmers Training & Research Centre is gearing up for an even more promising year. Plans underway to expand cultivation to a 4-bigha expanse, embracing a wider array of traditional crops.

Anticipated Benefits of Expansion:

Expansion promises increased yields and a deeper connection to the rich agricultural heritage of the region.

Transformative Impact and Sustainability:

The center’s story is a testament to the transformative impact of dedicated individuals and team members. Nurturing a sustainable future rooted in past traditions, poised to inspire generations to come.



2. Asha Ki Kiran – a ray of hope through Education and Ecological Farming



Enrolling need-based rural children:

Prioritizing slow learners, irregular attendees, and deprived students. Addressing academic challenges caused by financial constraints and family neglect.

Creating a friendly learning environment in coaching centers:

Implementing innovative educational techniques. Improving learning outcomes. Fostering co-curricular activities. Instilling good values among students.

Providing hands-on training to farmers:

Teaching improved farming methods. Educating on ecological farming practices. Enhancing knowledge and skills for sustainable agricultural development.



Optimizing land and water usage. Managing inputs like chemicals, fertilizers, and seeds. Simultaneously increasing crop productivity through ecological farming mechanization.

Building knowledge-based awareness in the community:

Addressing social, environmental, and health issues. Sharing information and providing inputs. Facilitating participatory learning to prevent violence, promote safety, and reduce social and ecological degradation.



3. Empowering Local Women through Skill Development



Concurrently, a skill development-training program on sewing is conducted at the Nazareth Farmers' Training Centre for the women from the local community and adjoining villages.

Economic Empowerment Focus:

The sewing training program serves as a catalyst for economic growth within the local community. Aims to uplift the economic status of participating women through enhanced sewing skills.

Creating Sustainable Livelihoods:

By improving vocational skills, the program contributes to the creation of sustainable livelihoods. Enabling women to explore entrepreneurial opportunities and contribute to economic development.

Empowering Financial Independence:

The overarching goal is to empower women with the means to achieve financial independence. Fosters self-reliance and resilience by equipping participants with marketable skills.

Integrated Community Development:

Aligns with the center's commitment to holistic community development, the skill development training program envisions a community where improved economic growth is intertwined with skill development and sustainable practices.

