

## **A report on the celebration of International Women's Day by the POWIET's Women Cell**

After the establishment of the POWIET Women Cell in the year 2009, it has been organizing different events under its banner. Amongst them are the felicitation of retired faculties and staff of the institute in different times. It also took the honour to invite many renowned persons in different fields which helped the students motivated and encouraged to shine in their life. They comprised of Honorable Vice Chancellor of Dibrugarh University Prof. Kandarpa Kumar Deka, noted innovator Padma Shri Uddhab Kumar Bharali, Forest Man of India and environmental activist Padma Shri Jadav Payeng, noted journalist and editor-in-chief of the local news channel Pratidin Time Nitumani Saikia. POWIET Women Cell also celebrated Children's Day at the institute campus which included various sport's events amongst children of the faculties and staff, cooking event amongst the womenfolk and cleaning of the campus by tree plantation on World Environment Day. On different women's day celebrations, members visited Jorhat Blind School, Sarathi Old Age Home. This year 2022, we, members of POWIET Women Cell, decided to celebrate the women's day by felicitating a very famous lady "Pothar Konya" Nabanita Das of Jorhat. She was decided for the cause because of her incredible journey in a field which was considered to be a man's domain. This also meets the AICTE's idea of felicitating outstanding women who are contributing in our relevant domain for socio-economic development of women in measurable terms.

We, members of POWIET Women Cell, visited "Nabanita Organic Farm" at Potia Fokola gaon, Jorhat, Assam and had a meeting with Ms. Nabanita Das. At such a young age, she has been an inspiration. She toiled hard and had been a living example for all. Nabanita Das has been able to make a living for herself and for many others through organic farming. We felicitated Ms. Nabanita Das with a small token of gift. Nabanita Das was grateful for being appreciated and wished that she could continue to do her work in coming days. We wished her well. We also visited her organic farm where she grew vegetables like lemon, brinjal, bottle gourds, pumpkin, zucchini, papaya etc. Also, there were fruits like strawberries,

flowers like gerberas, orchids, petunias, dahlia, roses etc. We took few snapshots of her farm during our visit.

▪ **Success story of Nabanita Das**

- Ms. Nabanita Das, daughter of Late Ananda Das of Jorhat district in Assam is a young, energetic and dynamic progressive woman farmer.
- Leaving nursing profession from a government hospital of Jorhat, she started organic farming from the year of 2010.
- Now, she is an established progressive farmer of repute and owner of “**Nabanita Organic Farm**” at her village.
- Her first formal training was a training programme on Horticultural crop in 2014 organised by Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Assam (GoA). Thereafter, she attended trainings under Horticulture Mission for NorthEastern and Himalayan States (HMNEH), RKVY, Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART), GoA at various times.
- At present, her farm has become a small agri-hub with production of flowers (Anthurium, Gerbera, Gladiolus, tuberose etc), rice, different pulses, oilseeds, fruits and vegetables, fish (local type and carps), eggs, milk, goaterly and different poultry breeds viz. Silky Chicken , Rainbow Roaster, Bonroja, Kadaknath, Turkey, Guniea fowl; Pigeon (Masokali); duck breeds (White Peikin), Indian Runner and indigenous duck.
- She has also introduced vermicompost production and Azolla culture.
- She also cultivates and preserves different types of indigenous, scented rice genotypes like Keteki Joha, Kunkuni Joha, Kola Joha, etc. Moreover, she is cultivating black rice which originated in Manipur and is used to make different products of black rice.
- For her excellence in the field of agriculture, Nabanita has received awards like ‘**Outstanding Contribution in the Field of Agriculture**’ by Vice-President of India in 2018 at Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat.

- She has also received the **‘Innovative Rice Farmer Award’** from the Indian Council of Agriculture Research, Patna in 2018. And in the same year, the **‘Progressive Woman Farmer Award’** in New Delhi on the occasion of Mahila Kisan Diwas.
- Moreover, she availed the chance to visit Vietnam to know about innovative cultivation practices along with other progressive farmers of the State sponsored by Govt. of Assam in the year 2019.

▪ **Snapshots and videos:**



**Fig.1: Felicitation of Ms. Nabanita Das, innovative & progressive women farmer of Jorhat, Assam**



**Fig.2: Celebration of International Women's Day on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2022**



**Fig.3: Few snapshots of vegetables and seasonal flowers growing in the farm in organic manner**