

Dear Sir/Maam,

Mr P.D.Mukhia—Field Visit on 15/2/2025 to Panighata and Ambotia

1. Panighata-Chenga Village

Areca Trees was giving Satisfactory Results as soil and climate is suitable.

Saplings requires 5 years waiting period before bearing fruits

From 6th Year each Tree produces 25/30 kgs on average

Selling price of Raw Nuts was Rs 30/35 per kg

Nuts Boiled from 100 kgs reduced to 9 kgs which fetched average Price of Rs 400/per kg

Harvesting Period is from November to March

Some Farmers planting Pepper, a Creeper around Areca Trees giving good result

Areca Nuts sold locally, some buyers want raw variety and some boiled variety depending on the demand

The local vendor then sells to big companies who buy in bulk for easy transportation.

The produce is easily sold due to the demand but we have to explore the current market rate as farmers mention the rate is low.

DWS has distributed 2500 Saplings to farmers last year.

Overall Areca Nuts is a Good source of Income as there is no damage from Elephants, Monkeys and Squirrels.

DWS Team to explore a suitable Buyer to eliminate the middle man

The Areca Growers Group is called Sampurna Organic.

After discussion it was decided to explore converting Areca Leaves to disposable bio Degradable plates and spoons.

The feasibility has to be worked out and formalities for obtaining loan from DIC.

2. Panighata Tribal Women Group

Training was given to Women for Tailoring Ready-made Garments

The main Target was School Uniforms

Proposal to make a SHG/Cooperative

DWS Team needs to visit this Group again and find more Avenues of Employment for them besides Tailoring.

3. Ambootia Tea Garden

Womens Group called Grihani Producers

All are SHG with 36 members producing pure vegetable black soap after receiving training

Selling is not a problem as all purchased by cluster level Federation.

The Demand is growing mainly sold in nearby towns and response is encouraging.

Observation-Soap does not have label and packing in plastic Adds cost and Weight is not accurate as soap is cut manually.

It was decided to emboss with a Stamp the name "Grihani" which is not very Expensive

The Soap is packed in Cartons(50 Pcs)and discussed to put a Sticker in the Carton with the name "Grihani"to promote and market the product.

Monthly Sale is around Rs 30,000/-but raw materials have to be procured from outside and sometimes not available.

To explore making Bath and Body Soap from Local Plants and Herbs like Titepatey, Banmara, Sisnoo, Citronella, lemon grass, which is easily available

Flower Nursey/Plant Nursery/Vegetables is doing well as Climate is suitable , water available and road is accessible.For Vegetables Squirrel and Monkey is a menace

Lastly Women in these gardens were enthusiastic, dedicated and keen to learn and develop skills to add source of income for the family

However, the Group which needs more Focus and Attention is the Tribal Women in Panighata who need to develop a regular livelihood and find out what they are interested in also.

Photos:

Panighata Tribal Women's Group

Soap Making Unit in Ambootia

Vegetable Farm

Areca Nut