



ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013



PFI Foundation

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(Assam) India

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President's Note



It is acknowledged that NGOs and other civil society organizations play a vital role in plugging gaps in basic services, by building bridges between the government and marginalized communities. This is amply demonstrated by the role of PFI Foundation in rural areas of Northeast. Working in the areas of education, health services, protected water supply, sanitation, etc., PFI Foundation strives to create an enabling environment in which development processes can be nurtured for take off.

One of the biggest challenges for PFI Foundation is to mobilize and utilize resources in a creative and optimal manner, with a clear focus on building systems, which will ensure sustainability of development processes and products even after PFI Foundation withdraws. While systematic development of technical and managerial capacities is a key ingredient in this, it is important that each community has substantial funds at their disposal as well. The process of building up community funds needs a tremendous amount of foresight and ability to calculate future costs and factor in contingencies. The process of convincing communities to raise resources today to meet tomorrow's expenses is tougher. This has been most impressively accomplished in its interventions in community managed water supply and sanitation. The foundation ensures that all families will have access to water supply and sanitation at all time in the future, even as the number of families grows in the villages. Another interesting and innovative aspect of PFI Foundation's

work is the principle of cost-sharing that is evident in all interventions. PFI Foundation believes that local communities can and will pay a share of the cost of development projects, but 'social costs' clearly are necessary for basic services which are 'fundamental rights'. These are leveraged from the government wherever feasible and from external donor institutions. The process of linking with government creates spaces where PFI Foundation together with rural communities can, through a process of demonstrating alternative implementation processes, influence implementation of development schemes and formulation of policies. One thing PFI Foundation has realized, is that to be really able to influence the government, activities have to be demonstrated on a sizeable scale, impacting large populations. PFI Foundation has articulated in its Strategic Plan the vision for scaling up. The challenge will be to simultaneously build up financial resources and human and institutional capacities to match the scaling up. Quality and effectiveness must not be compromised. The good and bad experiences from the scaling up of interventions in biogas in the decade of the 80's will stand in good stead as PFI Foundation prepares to expand exponentially in the coming years.

With a committed workforce PFI Foundation promises to grow bigger and more effective in the coming years.

Dr (Mrs) Sulekha C Bhattacharjee
President

From The Executive Director



PFI Foundation has made consistent efforts to counter inequities and injustices that are manifest in the society around us. Over the decades of working in rural Northeast, we find that while the nature of inequities may have morphed from one form into

another, the fundamentals persist. In fact, politics and policies deliberately perpetuate and sustain several of these inequities. This is most manifest in the ever-widening divide between rural and urban areas. With poor living conditions, the absence of basic services of education and health, and the lack of meaningful employment, poor people are drawn from rural areas to urban centers, where they live like vermin in slums and shanties to keep their body and soul together, in an existence that is sub-human and abhorrent to any civilized society.

Take the case of rural poverty reduction, an area that PFI Foundation has been working in for more than a decade. We have recently organized a national workshop on Modernization of Traditional Schools for employable life-skills education with the support from the British High Commission and in collaboration with Govt. of Assam. The task at hand is by no means simple, and demands high levels of resilience and stamina. Thanks must also be extended to all institutional supporter, donors, partner organizations, volunteers and supporters in India and abroad. Thanks to the new President of the Foundation Dr (Mrs) Sulekha Bhattacharjee for her strategic guidance in all our endeavors.

One of the major highlight of the year was the launching of the South Asian Regional Development Gateway (SARDEG) through a partnership alliance with country development gateways and in collaboration with the Development Gateway Foundation, USA . The project is envisaged to be an online communication initiative (Internet portal) that provides and promotes exchange and dissemination of information on development matters in the region initially focused on Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

I am proud to present to you the Annual Report of PFI Foundation.

K M Jahirul Islam, PhD
Executive Director

December, 2013

STRATEGIES AND APPROACHES

The strategic reference points for the PFI Foundation' missions are local interventions through a global development visions such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and nearly all-developmental priorities of the Foundation are aligned to these goals. This major goal is realized through the programs and a process that has five core strategies:

- a. **Awareness Raising**
- b. **Connecting Good Governance and Development**
- c. **Coordination in Policy, Projects and Development**
- d. **Capacity Building & Knowledge Sharing**
- e. **Development Information Services**

Institutional and methodological features aligned with these core strategies are as follows:

1. Awareness Raising:

Through the activities of the NGO network, and in formulating, implementing and publicizing the strategy and action plan, awareness will be raised amongst key development stakeholders within the region as to the benefits and challenges of development information sharing. It will be done through:

- Frequent Seminars, Workshops, and online discussions.
- Publication in the newspapers.
- Regular shows/programs in the electronic media .
- Publication of relevant materials and distribution.

These activities will focus on the constraints and opportunities of development initiatives in the region, the requisite technological, human, cultural infrastructures, and policy frameworks, understanding the roles of various stakeholders, and the current development landscape within the region with special reference to poverty reduction.

2. Connecting Good Governance and Development:

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The Foundation seeks to link good governance and development goals in the region. The gateway will:

- Support the on-going national efforts in institutional and administrative reform and modernization.
- Serve to enhance public administration and the delivery of public services by providing a ready information outlet/window on Foundation portal.
- Help public and private institutions to ICT-based medium to channel the processes of decision-making, planning, co-ordination and management of their programmes. Eg, monitoring foreign assistance flow to the NGOs in a state/country.
- Establish links between actors in development initiatives at government, non- government and multilateral organizations and priorities of the regional as well as national and regional economic, social and political goals.
- Disseminate local success stories in development efforts and good governance and help scaling them up in other parts of the region.

3. Coordination in Policy and Project Implementation and Development:

While the countries in the region are at varied levels of ICT access and usage, the regional gateway program launched in collaboration with the South Asia Development Gateway portal (www.sardeq.org) will set the scene for improved co-ordination in South Asian regional developmental policy and project implementation. Much of developmental project implementation takes place at the national level and is not regional issues as such. Towards knowledge sharing on these activities and possible harmonization within the countries and possibly at the regional level, the portal will:

- Seek to build stakeholder consensus, provide broad guidelines for the harmonization of national efforts and identify opportunities for joint programming (e.g. meteorological warning systems),
- Facilitate partnerships through online networks between individual champions, organizations, and institutions.
-

4. Capacity Building & Knowledge Sharing at Regional and National Levels:

Through the development of an effective regional network of policy and decision makers, public administrators, the private sector and the civil-society, the Foundation will:

- Share information and knowledge on various developmental activities and strategies adopted by various actors and lessons learnt thereof.
- Increase visibility of “best practices” and fostering co-operation on developing common policies and activities.
- Inform the stakeholders, various government and non-government actors to build capacity in regional resource and knowledge sharing.
- Organize events to build the capacity of development planners and implementers in the region with regard to the operational aspects of poverty reduction policy and implementation of initiatives and programs.

5. Development Information Services:

Foundation will provide a forum for community-based and local, regional or national organizations to share and exchange ideas, experiences and resources on issues of common interest. In doing so SARDEG will:

- Organize a regional workshop of relevant institutions on development research and create an institutional network for data collection in key areas: infrastructure, sectoral applications (education, health, public and private sector), and the information economy.
- Develop a suggested framework for baseline studies with indicators.
- Disseminate the results of the studies through the internet portal in four components: Indicators and Benchmarks, policy Issues, Human Resources and Applications.
- Create a platform for action research by the development actors as well as institutional researchers.

- Will catalyze the development of new e-based economic development tools by providing information on and evaluations of various web applications and services, notably for e-learning, e-governance, e-education, e-health, e-jobs, e-communities and e-advisory services.

- 1.2.6. Financial Sustainability: SARDEG aims to become financially sustainable by the year 2009 through various income generation activities like:
 - Subscription for web-based service delivery (eg, Institutional admission, hospital appointments, out-sourcing of various licensing and tendering processes of smaller government departments who does not have dedicated ICT facilities).
 - ICT related training, and consultancies.
 - Creating a corpus fund through international donors.

Target groups and methodology

PFI Foundation' work is concentrated in predominantly poor districts of ASSAM with special reference to Barak Valley. We aspire to work with 1% of Assam's population over the next decade, through direct outreach and in collaboration with other non-government organizations.

PFI Foundation plays the dual role of an implementer and facilitator to achieve its mission. Involves mobilization of communities in identified clusters, initiation of development processes, supervision and management. There follows a gradual role transformation enabling communities to manage processes and eventual withdrawal upon handing over full controls to communities.

FOCAL AREA: VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Vocational Training Center in Assam

Village: Alamkhani, Post. Nilambazar,
Dist: Karimganj, Pin 788722 State: Assam (India)



The current unemployment rate among the minority communities in India is very high compared to others and even the socially recognized disadvantaged section in India, namely the Scheduled Castes as per a report of the committee set up by the Prime Minister (Justice Sachar Committee). It is observed that the main challenge is to provide employment and livelihood opportunity to the 'unemployed' youth segment of the society. But, if we look closely into the characteristics of the youths we will find that they are actually "unemployable" as they do not have any skill that fit into the market/industry demand today. So, we see thousands of Class VIII to Masters Degree holders in Assam without job whereas a coffee-shop chain (Café Coffee Day) don't find even suitable waiters for their outlets or get only a few out of hundreds they interview. While high percentage of school dropouts, meaning a very low educational capacity to absorb any further higher training or limited potential for value addition, is one main reason for such unemployables the other main reason is the lack of opportunity/facility to attain any such 'employable' training / skill. There are around 1500+ skills/trades that are in demand in India's growing economy. Unfortunately, the rural poor, especially minorities, who has higher school dropout rates compared to others, individuals to pay the fees and the communities to 'prepare infrastructures' at are necessary as per the "Guidelines" both are equally difficult. The scheme is again going to be

leveraged by urban creamy layers who can start 'facilities' and also get their training cost reimbursed while villagers will run pillar to post to build a establish training infrastructures to start the skill training.

Objective

PFI Foundation India therefore approached this problem with a target to impart skill training in various sectors/trades keeping in view the fact that India has set a target of skilling 500 million people by 2022 to meet the challenges of Indian economy. To fill the gap under the National Skill Development Policy 2009, the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India has invited NGOs to act as Vocational Training Providers (VTP). However, the interested NGO must have its own 'minimum infrastructure' – mainly classrooms and a workshed to install various training equipment. Towards this goal, PFI Foundation approached IRW for necessary financial assistance to built a **Workshed** at its *Rural Technology Institute* located at Village: Alamkhani in Karimganj District of Assam (India).

Progress Made



However, the Foundation has already initiated a few training programmes in alternative rented buildings to expose the local youths to various skills/trades that are in demand in the job-market. These are:

1. Computer aided Business Accounting and Multi-lingual DTP Training: Program is sponsored by Ministry of HRD, Govt of India.
2. Functional Diploma in Arabic (targeting Gulf job market): Program is sponsored by Ministry of HRD, Govt of India.
3. Training on Printing Press operator, Motor Mechanic, Driving and Licensing Facility for Commercial / Heaving Vehicle Driving – in collaboration with the local small businesses such as Motor Garages, Printing Press etc.

These programs are run without any 'workshed requirement' and as such the training programs are already in progress but a permanent classroom and workshed will be required for the Training Facility to be accredited as a VTP to get the training cost reimbursed from the Ministry of Labour as per their scheme. This will increase the benefits to reach to the poorest of the community as they generally belong to 'Below the Poverty Line' category' and cannot afford the costs of training.

Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW) from its Wakf Fund assisted PFI Foundation to build its own Workshed for the Vocational Training Center. The Foundation has managed to procure land, staff and other equipment to get the government's accreditation to run the VTP. The center has already started the soft-skills training as indicated above (in language, DTP, accounting etc) but the VTC will have technical training in trades like electrician, plumbing, masonry etc. A few trainees are already absorbed, specially from the driving certification program but the main skill training on technical trades are still to be launched.



In the mean time, there has been a visit from the Directorate of Employment & Training, Government of Assam. Except the permanent infrastructure the VTC has met other requirements. Further, the Center for Distance Education, Aligarh Muslim University (India) has also approved the center as one of its open learning study-center from this academic session. This will be the first study center of AMU Aligarh in the Northeastern Region of India,

The construction of the Workshed is complete and the Center is fully operational from its new IRW assisted building. Our potential trainees are already selected and taking the soft skills training at the Language/DTP Center sanctioned by the Government of India. But they will now need the technical/trades training once the workshed at VTC is operational.

IMPACT

The National Policy on Skill Development under Ministry of Labour and Employment on 24 Feb 2009 that proposed 1500+ MES (Modular Employable Skill) courses under SDI (Skill Development Initiative) scheme of DGE&T (Directorate General of

Employment & Training. It is a training program for persons aged 14+ years who have studied upto Grade V and aims to make them ready for a 'skill trade' that is needed in local market and thus provide a 'single-window trained-employable' skilled persons recruitment facility for the potential employers.

It is expected that the workshed facility will provide skill training and 'guaranteed' pre-arranged jobs to around 500 youths by the end of 2011. The beneficiaries would comprise about 5000 individuals from about 5000 families in next 5 years placed in various jobs / trades after getting trained and 'certified' by the VTP.



In addition to that once the VTC is accredited by the government, it will also start reimbursing the training cost to the trainees who are mostly below poverty line (<\$1/day). We are providing 150-200 hrs of training in various trades at present (where workshed facility is not required) on rented accommodation. In fact in last 3 yrs we placed many of our trained youths in jobs with a assistance for their recruitment.

The interventions in education by PFI Foundation aim to ensure that all children are able to access primary education. Where government schools exist, our efforts are towards motivating and mobilizing village communities to ensure effective functioning of these schools. In this regards the organization was mainly involved in identifying dropout children from formal schools and making case study of each of these identified children. Efforts were made to find out actual reason of dropout through interview sessions both with the parents and the particular child and it was found that parents pressure, school environment, financial weaknesses were the reasons for dropouts. The Social Worker, from the organization tried to sought out the problems

through counseling both the Parents and the

Child. As a result of these efforts there were more than 20 Children were readmitted into schools for their continuation of formal education in different villages of our targeted area of villages. While, dealing with such cases a special attention had been given to Girl Child.

Further, in association with the Barak Education Society, Silchar (Assam) the Foundation sponsors financial assistance for the poor and meritorious students.



FOCAL AREA 2: FAMILY HEALTH CARE AND POPULATION CONTROL PROGRAM

2.1. RURAL HEALTH CARE CUM SELF EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM FOR POOR WOMEN IN INDIA

Though the majority of preventable diseases and deaths in remote, rural and below poverty line areas of India's northeast (72% of total Population, 50% of them below \$1/day) are due to infections, communicable, parasitic and respiratory diseases and these can be reduced by preliminary check-up and medicines, the health workers (HW), leave alone the doctors, do not want to stay in those villages and communities due to poor communication and living conditions. Several attempts by the government to encourage, compensate and even 'force' the health workers to stay in those villages have failed as HW like to stay in urban and semi-urban centers for 'better' living conditions.

The idea is to plant in each uncovered remote, rural and poor villages of the northeast India a community women health worker cum entrepreneur in who will start a rural medicine shop and provide preliminary health care at the grassroots level. He will be backed up by training, business startup loan and referral facilities. She will be tied to her business of running the rural drug store, not 'transferable' by the government and based in the communities living with her family there. The strategy is to an employment opportunity for the women in rural areas while ensuring the availability of rural basic health care and the referrals for complicated cases by cross-subsidization.

The project will identify the rural women with necessary education, business-acumen and residential criteria to start healthcare business in selected areas. They will be trained for 6 months in the partner institutions of medical hospital and research. A network of business support system with local banks and medical referral facilities with local hospitals will be established to support them with the starting of the rural drug store cum health facility. The implementation of the project will be managed, monitored and supported by a team of business, medical and government representatives who will act as mentors the selected trainees.

FOCAL AREA: RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ERADICATION

The starting point of all PFI Foundation' activities is the community. Development of community based management systems is vital for enabling gradual transfer of responsibilities to the community. To improve the economic condition of lower income group of rural areas, the organization has started its first step as creating awareness among youth to form Self-Help-Group for self sustainability and economic reliance in the late part of the year 2003. For said purpose, the organization had been conducting meetings with different groups of youth in different places of Patherkandi in Karimganj district of Assam. The main aim behind the conducting of these meeting was to make them aware of SHG, its formation procedure and its benefits.

In the area of rural development and poverty reduction, the Foundation aims to:

- Enable creation of appropriate living

upliftment and poverty reduction by utilizing new technologies and availing business development assistance.

- Providing a single-window facilitation Institute market research, financing and technical expertise in areas where Northeastern states have unique resources.
- Enabling access to professional knowledge that would provide a competitive edge for the rural communities.
- Providing services that enable rural unemployed youths to plan and take appropriate 'tailor-made' programs from a variety of central and state government agencies in one place with minimum formalities and paper-work and enhance their self-employment capacity through establishing small businesses.
 - Enabling rural communities to access research and development on new technologies suitable for realities of rural areas.

The following basic assumptions are made for this mission:

- Collaborative action is essential between

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conditions, including protected drinking water, sanitation.

- Enable creation of adequate common infrastructure including community halls, grain stores, communication systems etc.

PFI Foundation' intervention in the rural infrastructure sector focuses on mobilizing communities to pool resources to create basic infrastructure for sustainable development. People contribute labour and locally available materials. In this regard, the organization in collaboration with Kabaribond Nabajagaran Club, Patherkandi, revived and ran the Kabaribond Water supply Scheme which was close down due to lack of fuel.

To improve the communities/villages communication system, the organization was always extended its helping hands to communities/villages from time to time. As a example of that on 2-5 Jan, 2013 the organization in collaboration with Kabaribond Nabajagaran Club repaired the 5.5 kms road from Patherkandi to Mukamtilla village.

government bodies overseeing rural development, technical and entrepreneurial training, micro-financing mechanisms and civil society organizations.

- Initiation and management of such a mission requires strong, committed leadership and national support.
- Rural communities will continue to lag behind in poverty unless there are interventions that increase the capacity of the community to participate in a competitive market more strategically.
- Access to infrastructure in the region will continue to improve.
- The application new technologies will likely increase institutional costs unless there is a clear understanding and analysis of the objectives to be achieved and matched by a revenue return from a paid up portion of the service provided by the facility and support from international donors who will share costs on multilateral basis.

The proposed Rural Technology Institute is driven by a long-term vision of building technical skills and services sector and creating a regional trade hub in the Northeast with international links with bordering



countries. The Institute will be committed to reducing rural people's poverty level by producing skilled people and entrepreneurship development assistance and services to the region as a whole. Four features of this vision are underscored:

- The proposed institute is not being proposed as a institute in the conventional single- campus institutional sense. It will, in fact, be a “integrated collaborative network” of several institutions – training centers, universities, polytechnics, and engineering colleges across the region.
- The proposed institute will carry out its functions by optimizing ICT applications, particularly those that enable the creation and deployment of content databases based on learning objectives. It is therefore a bold and challenging vision that has the promise of enabling the learners to become information hubs in the rural communities.
- The programmes are expected to be tailored to the realities of the learners, infrastructural and marketing opportunities of the region to better serve the prevailing employment and economic conditions of the region/communities.
- The proposed institute will be as much concerned with “adding value” to conventional formal instruction as it is with providing the community with a means to gain successful employment in all possible sectors embedding them in rural communities and reversing the urban migration.

RTI MISSION

The prime objectives of the proposed Rural Technology Institute are to examine and train rural youths on the new technologies suitable for rural areas and that are being used in other parts of the country by the rural industries. It also aims to identify and develop appropriate Technology

and get it accepted and adopted by the rural communities with the help of dissemination of information, networking with local institutions, NGOs and communities.

However, within the broader objectives of the vision, the proposed regional **Rural Technology Institute** will be to:

- Examine the existing status of technology to assess its employment potential and engage in income-generating activities with a view to creating awareness of lucrative investment and build entrepreneurial skills in rural areas.
- Identify Appropriate Technologies and transfer through various media of communications.
- Monitor the on-going R & D in technology and test its application and suitability to local conditions
- Undertake pilot projects of proven but untried technology.
- Introduce more remunerative new economic activities through rural youths with advanced skills for capacity building at the community level.
- Promote the concept of Appropriate Technologies among the Technocrats, Professionals and Academic Institutions and at the policy level in Government and Non- Government organizations.
- Promote research and motivate young professionals to accept Rural Development as their future career.
- Equip To disseminate the results of research through teaching, seminars, conferences, public lectures, publications and other appropriate means.
- Provide consultancy services to government, industry, the private sector and the community at large
- Contribute to the cultural, civic and moral training of the youths in the region against separatist activities and to participate actively in the economic and socio-cultural development of the Northeast.



FOCAL AREA: BOOKS PROMOTION

The Foundation operates a rural library cum reading room at Fakhruddin Ali Amed Degree College, banskandi, District Cachar (Assam). During the year 2012-13 the library collection was further enriched by donors from USA (Assamese NRI) Sri Kalyan and Rani Dutta Choudhury who donated books and DVDs. We acknowledge with sincere gratitude the receipt of valuable books and DVDs (2) and are pleased inform you that we have accessioned the same in our College Library. The books have indeed become a valuable addition to our library and these are really useful for our students and the faculty alike. A few snapshots of the library with your books in our shelves are attached herewith. We understand that this acknowledge was long due but due to some communication errors, we are late in sending this formal acknowledgement. Kindly accept our apologies.



In Pic: Students and faculty of Banskandi College, Cachar (Assam) appreciating the books donated by Ms Rani & Mr Kalyan Dutta-Choudhury from Berkeley, California, USA



The library is named as Moulana Ahmed Ali Library & Research Center, Banskandi, Cachar, Assam (India) remembering the great seer and pioneer of education in Barak Valley who was a great unifier of Barak and Brahmaputra Valleys in post- independence period in Assam. Your contribution in kind will mark the initial steps in building this rural library in this remote corner of Assam where access to quality books are really a great hurdle for us specially in building capacity on our educational programs.

FOCAL AREA : SEASONAL FEEDING

Like past years, seasonal feeding programs were organized by the Foundation during 2012-13 with support from OFFER, Calicut (Kerala). This year following areas were identified for distribution:

District: North Lakhimpur

Name of Villages/Locations:

1. Johing,
2. Rogajan,
3. Saboti Kailonpur,
4. Sensuwa,
5. Bantow,
6. Dafola Gaon,
7. Ranapur,
8. Silonibari,
9. Khonajaan,
10. Padmapur Muslim Gaon,
11. Harmoti,
12. Nadika Islampur
13. Hilikha Guri-Narainpur
14. Bipuria

District: Barpeta

Name of Villages/Locations:

15. Barbala
16. Koyakuchi
17. Lzakhibazar
18. Fazubazar
19. Gulibandha
20. Bhaktorduba
21. Mazdia
22. Gormara

District: Cachar

Name of Villages/Locations :

23. Kanakapur
24. Berenga
25. Banskandi
26. Niyarirgram
27. Udharbond

District: Karimganj

Name of Villages/Locations

28. Nilambazar
29. Fatehpur
30. Akamkhani
31. Jatkapon
32. Ratabari
33. Baraigram
34. Dholobill

District: Badarpur Development Block

Name of Villages/Locations

35. Rasulpur
36. Bhanga
37. Nandapur
38. Sarpur

Beneficiaries were selected as per the policy based on a scoring system, which ranks families according to need and the list of "Below Poverty Line" families generated by the government department.



No of food packets distributed (area wise)

Lakhimpur District	1454
Barpeta District	1800
Cachar District	6900
Karimganj District	6900
Badarpur Dev Block	6660
Total	23,714

Average weight of one food pack: 2.5 Kg

One meat pack = 5 beneficiaries

Total Number of beneficiaries : 1,18,570

Barpeta, Karimganj, Lakhimpur and Dhemaji districts suffered heavy floods during the last rainy season in 2012. In Barpeta, IRW executed a Flood Relief Operations in 2012 giving emergency food supplies to the affected people. In the Karimganj district also the areas are perennially flood-affected where villagers are moved from their homes for weeks and months. Children and Women are the worst sufferers at those times and become victims of malnutrition. The seasonal feeding programme is targeted to address the nutritional food support to the poor and flood-affected people in the areas where farmers lost their

normal rice crops this year and had to love on supplementary food during the season. In this way the seasonal feeding programme was planned to fit into the supplementary food supply aspects.



Every year, the floods leave a trail of destruction, washing away villages, submerging paddy fields and drowning livestock, besides causing loss of human life and property in Assam. Malnutrition was evident among the poor families, pregnant women and specially children. It was suggested by the beneficiaries to have a long term plan to have a 'food stock' or seed bank to address the food shortage following the flood season in the flood prone areas.



Packaging the food packs in large quantity in one spot is problematic in terms of handling the crowd and it is a bit difficult for the beneficiaries to travel to a distant location in order to collect a packet of meat. As such we increased the number of distribution "locations" this year across Five Districts – Two in upper Assam, One in Lower Assam and two

in southern part of the state and tried to reach at the door step of the target beneficiaries wherever possible.

This year we had tried to further streamline the collection of materials, packaging etc at the field level with advance preparation ahead of the season. We continued with our last year's beneficiary identification process through the data collected from both the Flood Damaged villages as well as the BPL (Below Poverty Line) card holders data from the local government offices like (Block Development Office) to reach out to the target beneficiaries evenly at the target locations/villages. It helped us to avoid unnecessary trouble and complaints of 'not receiving the meat packets' by anybody in the target locations. However, as the programme is on seasonal feeding we screened the beneficiary list with the actual location-wise identification procedures. For ensuring distribution to the bonafide beneficiaries the Distribution Coupon was suitable re-designed at the local level adding a part of the coupon to collect the witness /signature of not only the beneficiaries but also a 3rd Monitor who is a community representative in the locations. The new coupon has virtually eliminate the mistake in identifying the actual beneficiaries and delivering the packets.



Financial Statement - 2012-13

The audited statement of accounts of PFI Foundation for the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013 is appended herewith. The financial systems in PFI shows transparency. There is regular internal audit scrutiny and the management is continuously reviewing and implementing needed improvements. PFI Foundation has satisfactorily complied with all statutory requirements related to financial management.