

Newsletter July 2025

Adoption of SRI Method by Villagers in Namkum Block: Change is never easy. For farming families who have followed the same methods for generations, trying something new often feels like stepping into the unknown. Yet in the villages of Lali Panchayat, Namkum Block, a few families have taken that brave step—choosing to walk the path of innovation and hope. With the



support of *Manos Unidas*, SIGN is promoting climate-adaptive and organic farming methods. At the heart of this effort lies the **System of Root Intensification (SRI)**, a scientific approach that promises higher yields with fewer seeds and less water.

Earlier this year, SIGN organized training sessions to help farmers understand the principles of SRI. For many, it was their first

exposure to the idea that crops can flourish with less input and smarter techniques. The training taught them about early transplantation, wider spacing, and better soil management. These were new concepts—strange at first—but they sparked curiosity and courage in a few hearts.

Among those who dared to try were **Mrs. Martha Xalxo and Mr. Niroj Runda** from Serengtoli village. For the first time in their lives, they cultivated paddy using the SRI method on 10 decimals of their land. It was not just farming; it was a declaration of faith in learning and change. In Bartoli village,



Mr. Sohrai Lakra and Mrs. Budhni Lakra also took the leap, applying SRI on 12 decimals of farmland.



Their journey was not smooth. With saplings only 12–15 days old, they transplanted them carefully, maintaining the exact spacing taught in the training. Some neighbors laughed at them. Others doubted their choice, saying such methods would never succeed. To make matters harder, the families faced a shortage of labor and unusually heavy rains during transplantation. Many would have

given up. But these farmers pressed on—determined to prove that knowledge and courage can open new doors.

Today, as their paddy fields stand green and strong, their hearts are filled with satisfaction. What seemed like a gamble is now a testimony of what is possible when faith meets action. The SIGN field staff and project coordinator, who walked with them through the challenges, now proudly point to their fields as “living classrooms” for other farmers in the Panchayat.



This success is more than just good farming—it is a story of resilience. It tells us that even small steps can lead to big changes. When one family dares, others begin to dream. When one field flourishes, it lights hope for many more.

The courage of these farmers is inspiring their neighbors, slowly breaking the barriers of doubt and fear. As harvest time approaches, the fruits of their labor will not only feed their families but also feed the imagination of their community—showing that sustainable, scientific, and climate-friendly farming is possible.

SIGN believes that such seeds of courage, once sown, will spread across villages and blocks. For in every grain of paddy grown with SRI lies a story of dignity, resilience, and hope for a better tomorrow.

Annual General Body Meeting and Governing Board Meeting: Month of July is special for SIGN. This is the time of the year, when all the General Body Members gather in Ranchi and have the General Body meeting. This year, on 23rd July, SIGN had its General Body meeting at the Conference Hall of Social Development Centre at 4.30 pm. This year six new members viz. Bishop



Sonatan Kisku, Fr. Dominic Tudu, Fr. Suresh Samad, Fr. Prabhu Prakash Lakra, Fr. Lucas Runda and Mr. Maria Loiuse, were inserted in the General Body of SIGN. Bishop Sonatan Kisku

was, earlier, a Secretary-cum-Director of Social Educational Development Society, Dumka. Now he is elevated as a Auxilray Bishop of Dumka. He was welcomed and faliciated. All the new members were welcomed. During the meeting, unanimously NVA, the Auditing Firm from Dumka, was appointed as the Auditor of SIGN for year 2025-2026. On the following day i.e., on 24th July, SIGN had its Governing Board Meeting, where Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas and Bishop Julius Marandi were absent. During the meeting, minutes of the last meeting was passed. The highlight of the Annual Report was SIGN being recognized by Birsa Agricuture University. Secretary said like last year SIGN continued to promote Safeguarding Policy. Another proud

moment came to SIGN, when SIGN promoted Peace Building efforts among the leaders and representatives of different religion, by celebrating Deepwali and Christmas celebration with the representatives and religious leaders of different religion. At the end President thanked all the members for taking time out for the meeting and giving valuable suggestion. He also thanked all the staff of SIGN for serving the people in the remotest places of Jharkhand.

