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She also says that officials of TRLM have taught them about weekly savings, loans, banking works and loan repayments. She also works as Community Service provider (CSP) in the area.

Dr Abhijit Das, Block Development Officer (BDO) when asked about the group, says that the aim of Tripura Rural Livelihood Mission (TRLM) is to reach out to the rural women and reduce poverty. Interestingly, the Tripura Rural Livelihood Mission (TRLM) under Jolaibari RD Block linked several self-help groups to village-level organizations and several village-level organizations to a cluster-level federation. Sri Mithun Chakraborty, Block Mission Coordinator said, “We helped out every SHGs to create and introduce different innovative models in livelihood promotion, and have given access to finance and scale-up initiatives on digital finance and livelihood interventions.”

Anju Das, a member of about 50 years old, said, “I have received Rs 2.5 lakhs from the Bank to purchase a Bolero Maxi Truck and now my son has started doing well in transportation businesses” She also says that her family earns near about Rs 25,000 profit a month and her family condition has improved substantially.

Another active member of the group is Renu Ghosh, 55 years old, who always wanted her children to get good education. She says “I have not only created a livelihood opportunity for myself with the money I received through Nabadurga SHG both my son and daughter have also completed nursing course from a prestigious college in South India and are now well established in their own field.

Another member Shilpi Sarkar, 35 years old, is happy that her dream of purchasing a Power Tiller Machine has come true after securing a loan of Rs 80,000 with the help of Nabadurga Mahaila Dal.

The story about Anima Ghosh, 55 years old, hailing from the same locality is also motivating. She was struggling to make both ends meet. “After I joined Nabadurga Mahila Dal my family economic condition has revived and with the help of the group I have started venturing into fish farming”, says Anima Ghosh.

The members also come out together once a month to conduct a meeting and are engaged in tailoring, farming, fishery, handlooms, stitching and embroidery activities etc. They also prepare varieties of food items like pickle, sweets items, muri etc. which are sold locally and in local festivals. Some of the members are involved in the activities like cow keeping, goatery and poultry.

Interestingly, the group has also set up a Non-Pesticide Management (NPM) shop to provide a set of natural alternatives to chemical pesticides. The core of the NPM strategy is use of neem tree, neem seeds, chili-garlic solution, mixture of cow dung and cow urine etc. as a repellent and powder for spraying onto the crop. They also cooperate extensively with other self-help groups and community resource persons to realize their goals, and for technical assistance and training.

“Empowering rural women socially and economically is our key prime mission in the area,” added Sri Mithan Chakraborty, Block Mission Coordinator of Jolaibari RD Block.

“Nabadurga Mahila Dal” is a must visit for those wanting to know and explore the work and life of SHGs and to experience rural life.
