

SASAC – NEWS (July– September 2024)

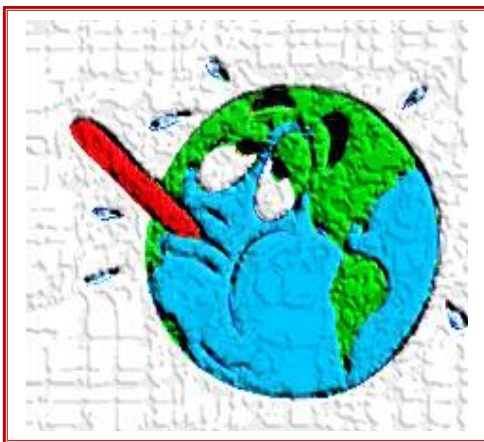


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“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth... And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good”. (Genesis 1)

Looking at the earth and all that it contains, the seas, the mountains, the rivers, the vegetation, the flowers, the fruits, the animals, the birds, the fish and so on we all know that it is the masterpiece of God’s creation. God himself was satisfied and was glad for what he had created. **“God saw that it was GOOD.”** God created the earth and everything in it so meticulously and beautifully. At times when we reflect and meditate on creation, we are filled with awe and wonder. Indeed, it is a wonderful world.

When God created the earth, it was like a heaven in itself. And after that, once everything was created to God’s satisfaction he handed over everything in the hands of human beings. And what have we done to God’s precious creation due to our own greed, ego and selfishness? While on the earth we all wish and pray to go to heaven. Will God allow us to step in his abode after seeing what we have done to his creation? Will he trust human beings? Will God again put trust in mankind that we will not pollute or destroy the heaven itself if he lets us in? Will He not question us for the harm we have done? Will He not held us responsible for what we have done to His beautiful creation?



Pope Francis in his messages in the month of August and September urges the whole world to take ecological crises very seriously. He says that the Earth is sick, “if we took the planet’s temperature, it will tell us that the Earth has a fever. And it is sick.” Let us hope and pray that this sickness of the earth does not become too serious and turn into a terminal illness, leading eventually to its death. The pope has requested prayers worldwide to focus on the “Cry of the Earth” he asks all of us to listen carefully to the pain and the cry of the earth. He urges that each of us might listen with our hearts to the cry of the earth and of the victims of environmental disasters and climate change, making a personal commitment to care for the world, our common home we inhabit. The Pope says, “The ones suffering the most from the consequences of these disasters are the poor, those who are forced to leave their homes because of floods, heat waves or drought.”

Let us pray in the words of Saint Francis of Assisi, “O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty. Praise be to you! Amen.

-Fr. Pramod Dabhi SJ

VISITORS FROM GUJARAT:



A couple, Mr. Arun Dabhi and his wife Hiral visited Woodcot in the first week of July. They are retired teachers and Social Workers. They were here for a week and had the opportunity to grasp the initiatives taken by SASAC in the field of social work. They promised to support SASAC, specially with its initiatives for anti-human trafficking.

HELPING FARMERS WITH PIGGARY:



SASAC helped the farmers to procure good quality of piglets. SASAC ordered some 75 piglets from reputed pig farms and distributed the piglets to the farmers. Some piglets were brought all the way from Kolkata as there is a shortage of piglets in local farms.

Farmers were given the basic training and logistic support. All the piglets were vaccinated at the centre before handing them over to the aspiring farmers.

More and more requests are coming from the farmers to help them with piggery as the pork price has increased considerably, and they see good profit in this venture.

GREEN-HOUSE REPAIR AT WOODCOT:



Fr. Sundeep and his team repaired the green-house which was damaged during the rainy season by heavy winds. There is much damage to the greenhouse at Chimney Centre as well. Mr. Prakash Sharma who is a driver but also does lots of repair and maintainance work at both centers was very helpful in putting things together. This year monsoon has been prolonged and destructive. Surely, it must be the effect of climate change.

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION:



On 15 August 2024, SASAC celebrated the Independence day of our nation. In the morning there was a flag hoisting ceremony with Fr. Sundeep being the Chief Guest. In the evening there was a well organized cultural programs based on patriotic theme. All our trainiers and ASHAs prepared varieties of dances and speeches suitable for the occasion. We were amazed at their enthusiasm and talents.

ASHA REVIEW MEETINGS:



A couple of review meetings were held for the ASHA Training Program, one at Darjeeling on 13 September and one in Woodcot on 27 September. The purpose of these meetings was to evaluate the performance of our ASHA training program. It was observed that we were not fulfilling the demands of field visits which is also called the handholding support visits. This was mainly due to the insufficient staff. However, now there is sufficient trainers and this year we will be able to complete our target with ease.

Fr. Sundeeep and Ms. Deepsula explained with a help of the PowerPoint Presentation the achievements, failures and challenges faced in running this program.



From the State level also officers make periodic visits to the Training Centre to make sure that the training is conducted as per government norms. These visits are proved very beneficiary to the trainers and also to the ASHAs.

The training centre also has a monthly meeting, preferably at the end of every month. This meeting is attended by all the staff members and trainers to evaluate and plan the future activities. This meeting is also represented by the District Program Coordinator, a government officer.

TEACHER'S DAY CELEBRATION



SASAC celebrated the Teacher's Day on 5, September. It was a very joyous moment for all the trainers and the staff as the ASHA trainees put up a surprise performance to felicitate them. Their speeches were very heartwarming as they expressed their gratitude towards the trainers and the entire staff.

MEETING WITH LIVESTOCK OFFICIALS:



Mr. Mrinal Debnath (first from the left) and his associates from Mohit Nagar Pig Breeding Farm, a semi Government enterprise, visited Woodcot to discuss about procuring good quality of piglets for the farmers in the hills. He and his team assured their wholehearted support to SASAC in procuring good quality of livestock, feed, medicines, vaccines and any other equipment required for the farms.