

Discussion on Fruit Preservation Factory and Microfinancing Projects with the Local People in R.K. Nagar

Summary report by Subijoy Dutta, January 31, 2010

We met with the local youths (Saikat and his friends) who are looking into operating a fruit preservation factory locally. There is an existing building belonging to the Industries Department of the State of Assam and the Department has agreed to provide it to the local student groups to start the fruit processing operation there. There are a number of people who are instrumental in getting that established. One of them is Mr. Ramani (Rakhal) Kanta Dey, who is a good friend of mine, and a chemical engineer in Karimganj, recently retired from the Department. After the visit to R.K. Nagar, Rakhal visited me in Silchar and has assured me that he will help the young students group as an advisor and guide them to get this started. The main problem for them to begin a new product is to establish a market and that may take time and resources. So, Rakhal's suggestion is that the group should contact some of the established processors/industries and supply them with the bulk processed/preserved fruits.



Picture above shows discussion with the young students and Ms. Madhumita Pal, and Ms. Shipra Baidya concerning the microfinance project.

Four different types of projects were identified by Ms. Madhumita Pal. She said she could easily get 50 families involved to undertake the following types of projects:

1. Knitting
2. Tailoring
3. Jam-Jelly, and Pickles making
4. Cattle or poultry farming

This information and the summary of discussion is being sent to Dr. Prabhakar in Kerala, who runs the Society for Rural Improvement Projects. Dr. Prabhakar is well known in microfinancing projects in Kerala and he is interested to get the group started with the microfinance projects in R.K. Nagar.