

Programme Guide
Certificate Programme
in
Bari Unnayan (Agro Forestry Based Homestead Farming)

CBW



Guru Prasad Das School of Interdisciplinary and Vocational Studies

Krishna Kanata Handiqui State Open University (KKHSOU), Assam
Resham Nagar, Khanapara-78102

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University (KKHSOU), the sole State Open University in North East India, was founded under the KKHSOU Act, 2005, passed by the Government of Assam and published in the Assam Gazette (extraordinary) on 29/09/2005. The university received recognition from the former Distance Education Council (DEC), (now Distance Education Bureau, UGC), New Delhi through letter no. DEC/Misc/07/5957 dated 03/10/2007. The University Grants Commission, in a letter dated 18/03/2009 with reference no. F.9-13/2008(CPP-I), empowered the university to confer Degrees under Section 22 of the UGC Act, 1956.

OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME

The Bari system which is Assam's traditional homestead agroforestry model has sustained rural communities for centuries with food, nutrition, fuel, fodder, herbal medicine, and ecological stability. However, rapid urbanisation, monocropping, and external-input-based agriculture have led to a decline in homestead biodiversity, nutrient-rich diets, and climate resilience.

Parallelly, Assam faces multiple challenges:

- High levels of malnutrition & hidden hunger
- Rising input costs for small farmers
- Climate threats (irregular rainfall, soil degradation)
- Reduced interest among youth in farming
- Limited extension workforce at community level

The growing consumption of chemically produced food has increased concerns about human health and environmental sustainability. The traditional **Bari**, once an integral part of every Assamese household, provided safe and nutritious food while supporting livelihoods and conserving biodiversity. The **Certificate Programme in Bari Unnayan** aims to revive and strengthen this traditional system by combining indigenous knowledge with modern agroecological practices, enabling learners to transform their homesteads into productive, healthy, and climate-resilient Baris.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

1. To impart knowledge of traditional Bari systems, history, and ecological importance.
2. To build practical skills in agroecological soil care, composting, biochar, and organic inputs.
3. To train participants in designing and managing multi-storeyed cropping and homestead food forests.
4. To promote nutrition security and household savings through diversified homestead production.
5. To develop competencies in natural pest management.
6. To equip learners for small-scale value addition and rural marketing.
7. To develop extension skills to support village households.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learners completing the course will be able to:

- Establish and manage a **100 sq.m homestead food forest**
- Prepare compost, vermicompost, bamboo biochar, Jeevamrit, and liquid manures
- Identify pests and prepare natural bio-pesticides
- Guide households in nutrition-focused homestead planning
- Produce simple value-added products
- Lead Farmer Field Schools (FFS) in their community

The course integrates **Agroforestry, Agroecology, Indigenous Knowledge, and Natural Farming**, making it highly relevant to Assam's socio-economic and cultural context.

TARGET GROUP

- Rural women and youth
- SHG members
- Farmers interested in agroecology
- Krishi Sakhis

- Community Resource Persons (CRPs)
- Individuals passionate about converting their backyard into a vibrant Bari for food, nutrition, and sustainable living.

This creates a skilled cadre supporting rural development missions.

DURATION & MODE

Duration: 3 Months

Mode: ODL

Credit: 4

Medium: English and Assamese

STRUCTURE

UNIT 1: BAREE/BARI: OUR ANCESTRAL BLUEPRINT FOR
CLIMATE-SMART FARMING

UNIT 2: IMPORTANCE OF THE BAREES (HOMESTEAD GARDENS) IN
ASSAMESE LIFE

UNIT 3: BAREE AS A STRUCTURED EXAMPLE OF AGROECOLOGICAL
PRACTICES

UNIT 4: MULTISTOREYED CROPPING PATTERN AND FOOD FOREST

UNIT 5: SOIL CARE PRACTICES IN BAREES– BUILDING AND PROTECTING
LIVING SOIL

UNIT 6: IMPORTANCE OF BIO-INPUTS IN BAREE-UNNAYAN AND
PREPARATION OF ORGANIC INPUTS

UNIT 7: PREPARATION OF BIO-INPUTS AT HOME FOR SUSTAINABLE
BAREE-UNNAYAN

UNIT 8: THE DIVERSIFIED AND COMPANION CROPPING PATTERN
OF AGROECOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION

UNIT 9: AGROFORESTRY IN THE BAREES

UNIT 10: KEEPING THE BAREE HEALTHY

UNIT 11: STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO CREATING A HOMESTEAD FOOD FOREST
– THE BAREE UNNAYAN

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UNIT 12: BAREE UNNAYAN AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS – VALUE
ADDITION AND MARKETING

UNIT 13: NUTRITION AND HOUSEHOLD ECONOMICS WITH BAREE UNNAYAN

UNIT 14: EXTENSION SKILLS, TRAINING AND DEMONSTRATION

10-DAYS PRACTICAL / HANDSON ACTIVITIES

Day 1: Orientation, food forest exposure

Day 2: Multi-storeyed cropping demonstration

Day 3: No-till and mulching practice

Day 4: Composting systems

Day 5: Bamboo biochar preparation

Day 6: Liquid manures &Jeevamrit

Day 7: Raised bed construction

Day 8: Bio-pesticide making

Day 9: Value addition & packaging

Day 10: Exposure visit to a model Agroforestry based IFS Bari

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Component	Weightage
Continuous Assessment (Assignments, Quizzes)	30%
Practical Evaluation (During Campus Training)	40%
Final Project (Model Bari + Video)	30%

Final Project Includes:

- A 100 sq.m demonstration Bari with 20+ species
- One value-added homestead product
- 5-minute documentation video

COURSE DELIVERY & LEARNERS SUPPORT

- Online and Face to Face Counselling
- E-Mentoring
- E-learning materials including demonstrating video lectures
- Field mentor / trainer for monitoring
- Monthly doubt-clearing sessions