

“WORKSHOP-CUM-ORIENTATION PROGRAMME ON REVIVING OF INDIGO DYEING (A TRADITIONAL DYEING PROCESS OF AO'S)”

Sponsored by NEC, Shillong

<https://necouncil.gov.in/events/tourism-culture-and-sport>

1.Title of the Event

Workshop-cum-Orientation Programme on Reviving of Indigo Dyeing (A Traditional Dyeing Process of Ao's)

2. Date and Venue

Date: 09-12 April 2025

Duration: 2–3 months (Project Period)

Venue: Akhoya Village , Tzumok – Kong Ward. Now Medical Ward, Longchara Ward, Tuli Town, Mokokchung District, Nagaland

3. Organizing Agency

The Workshop was organized by Tzumok- Kong Welfare Society with financial assistance from the North Eastern Council (NEC), Shillong.

4. NEC Support: Rs. 10.00 Lakhs

5. Objectives of the Event

The Workshop-cum-Orientation Programme was organized with the primary objective of reviving and preserving the traditional Indigo dyeing process of the Ao Naga community while creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for local artisans.

The specific objectives were:

- i) To revive and preserve the traditional Indigo dyeing process as an integral part of the Ao Naga cultural heritage.
- ii) To document Indigenous knowledge relating to traditional Indigo dyeing techniques, raw materials, recipes, and production methods.
- iii) To provide training and capacity-building programmes for artisans, weavers, women, and youth interested in learning traditional dyeing techniques.
- iv) To encourage the use of natural Indigo dye and other eco-friendly materials while reducing dependence on synthetic dyes.
- v) To promote environmentally sustainable and culturally appropriate textile production.
- vi) To strengthen community participation in preserving Indigenous cultural heritage.

- vii) To improve product quality through standardization and quality control measures.
- viii) To develop market opportunities for traditionally dyed Ao textiles and enhance the livelihoods of artisans.

6. Brief Proceedings and Major Highlights

The programme commenced with an inaugural session attended by representatives of the Tzumok-Kong Welfare Society, village elders, community leaders, traditional artisans, government representatives, and invited guests. The objectives and significance of reviving the traditional Indigo dyeing process were explained during the opening session.

Technical experts and experienced artisans conducted detailed demonstrations on identifying Indigo plants (Osak), collection of leaves, preparation of natural Indigo dye, dye extraction techniques, yarn preparation, traditional dyeing methods, drying procedures, and preservation techniques. Participants were given practical exposure to every stage of the traditional dyeing process.

Interactive sessions were organized to discuss the historical importance of Indigo dyeing among the Ao Naga community, challenges posed by synthetic dyes, documentation of Indigenous knowledge, marketing opportunities, and sustainable livelihood development. Community members actively shared their traditional experiences and discussed strategies for preserving the practice for future generations.

The workshop also included awareness sessions on environmental conservation, promotion of eco-friendly products, quality improvement, entrepreneurship development, and marketing of naturally dyed textiles. The programme concluded with a feedback session, distribution of participation certificates, and a vote of thanks.

Major Highlights

- Inaugural session with community leaders and invited dignitaries.
- Practical demonstrations on traditional Indigo dye extraction and dyeing techniques.
- Hands-on training for artisans, weavers, women, and youth.
- Awareness programmes on environmental sustainability and cultural preservation.
- Interactive discussions on documentation and transmission of Indigenous knowledge.
- Community participation in preserving traditional Ao textile heritage.
- Capacity-building and entrepreneurship development sessions.

7. Participants

The workshop witnessed active participation from traditional Ao artisans, weavers, women self-help groups, students, youth, community elders, village leaders, representatives of local organizations, and members of the Tzumok-Kong Welfare Society. Technical experts and resource persons also attended the programme to provide practical guidance and demonstrations.

Total Participants: Artisans, weavers, women, youth, students, community leaders, and beneficiaries from various villages of Mokokchung District. A total no. of around 131 participants attended the Workshop.

8.Outcomes/Impact of the Event

The workshop successfully revived awareness regarding the importance of traditional Indigo dyeing as a valuable component of the cultural heritage of the Ao Naga community. Participants gained practical knowledge and hands-on experience in natural Indigo dye preparation, traditional dyeing techniques, quality improvement, and environmentally sustainable production practices.

The programme enhanced the technical skills of artisans and encouraged younger generations to learn and continue the traditional craft. It promoted the use of eco-friendly natural dyes, reducing dependence on synthetic colouring materials and contributing to environmental conservation.

The event also strengthened community participation in preserving Indigenous knowledge systems, created awareness about market opportunities for naturally dyed textiles, and encouraged entrepreneurship among local artisans. The workshop laid the foundation for continued capacity building, better product quality, improved market access, and sustainable livelihood generation while safeguarding the rich cultural heritage of the Ao Naga community.



Participants of the Workshop-cum-Orientation Programme on Reviving Traditional Indigo Dyeing.



Resource person conducting a practical training session on traditional indigo dyeing techniques.



Indigo-dyed textiles showcasing the successful application of traditional natural dyeing practices.



Freshly harvested indigo leaves collected and prepared for the traditional natural dye extraction process



Leaves of OSAK (*Strobilanthes flaccidifolius*) Plant