

Report on Exposure Visit

Tarasankar Panchagram Seva Samiti, Labpur, Birbhum



As a part of academic activity, the Textile Section, Department of Silpa Sadana, Visva-Bharati University, organised an industry visit on 22nd August 2025 at Tarasankar Panchagram Seva Samiti, Labpur, Birbhum. The seventh-semester undergraduate textile design students, postgraduate students, and research scholars took part in this exposure visit under the guidance of Dr. Sankar Roy Maulik. We were all warmly received by the CEO and secretary of this banana-craft cluster, who also gave us an update on their various activities.

The objective of this craft cluster is to transform banana fibres extracted from the stems of banana trees into yarns in order to make exquisite handcrafted products. The entire process of this transformation, which involves the extraction of the fibre from the banana pseudostem, production of yarns, weaving of this yarn into coarse sheets, and finally stitching into required products, is carried out in a sustainable way that complements the greenery of the rural area.

The yarn is produced with the help of a hand spinning process by the local women artisans. Despite managing household responsibilities and agricultural work, these women significantly contribute to the spinning, weaving and also to the ideation of product designs, bringing local creativity into every thread. This craft cluster is an example of very simple but creative utilisation of technology that not only results in mass production along with scaling up of profit but also encourages the rural population to become self-reliant. The cluster follows a zero-waste model, i.e., the non-fibrous residue is converted into vermicompost, and the water used for washing of banana fibre is used as fertiliser, thus completing a sustainable circular ecosystem.

The visit immensely helped students to gather experience in the world of banana fibre textiles - an eco-conscious, community-driven craft that turns agricultural waste into valuable resources. This visit was an enriching blend of field-based learning, rural innovation, and sustainable design thinking, offering a firsthand look at how traditional knowledge and environmental responsibility can merge into a viable small-scale business.

Some of the photographs taken during the visit are listed below.



Fig. 1. Cutting of the banana stem, extraction of fibres and conversion into yarn

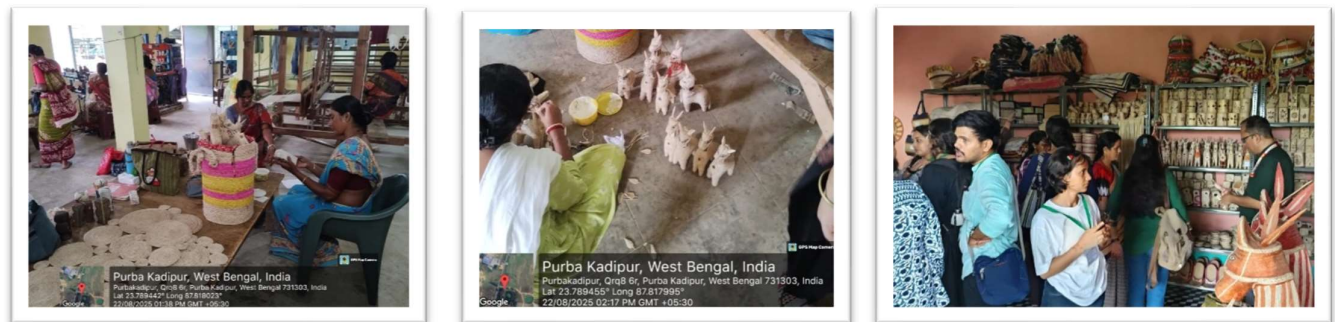


Fig. 2. Different craft items from banana yarn



Fig. 3. Interactive session and feedback