

## Report on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019

On the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary Unnat Bharat Abhiyan and Centre for Rural Technology, IIT Guwahati organized an awareness campaign to discourage the use of single-use plastic. This move was carried out as part of a broader campaign nationwide, initiated by Honorable Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi to rid India of single use plastic by 2022.

As an eco-friendly and cost-effective alternative for the single use plastics used by the people, cloth bags made out of used clothes were distributed among the shopkeepers and local people of Kating Pahar village and the IIT Guwahati campus vegetable vendors and shopkeepers. Professor S. K. Kakoty, Regional Coordinator, UBA IITG and Head of Centre for Rural Technology, Professor M. K. Dutta, Head of Humanities and Social Science Department, Professor Arup Sarma and Dr. Sudip Mitra along with the students and staff of Centre for Rural Technology carried out the awareness campaign. Professor S. K. Kakoty, Professor M. K. Dutta, Professor Arup Sarma and Dr. Sudip Mitra explained the negative impacts of using single use plastics. Different ways to reduce its usage through alternatives such as paper bags or cloth bags were also explained to the gatherings around the village and the shops. The audience present at the different campaign sites responded very positively about the initiative. Ms. Kamini Kalita, Mr. Tapan Nath, Ms. Arti Sarma, Mr. Bhulu Das and other villagers also complemented on the initiative and shared their views on the importance of such an initiative and their past experiences with the single use plastics.

