

Reviving Earthy Elegance

Reviving the Bodo Tribal Handloom Tradition

An initiative of Handloom Foundation

RECAP

We started our crowdfunded initiative (known as Direct 2 Crowd 'D2C') during Covid lockdown to support weavers. With our limited resources we managed to get a precise impact on the ground. Due to its impact we continued this initiative after covid.

Till date we financially empowered almost 60 Artisan families through this initiative in this small journey. 11 successful Seasons of this initiative made us feel that may be in small numbers but there are people who like to get authentic craft from authentic sources.

This impression made us more energetic to go ahead. This time we are embarking on a revival initiative to celebrate and restore the earthy authenticity and enduring craftsmanship of Bodo tribal handloom weaving traditions.

THE BODO TRIBE

The Bodo tribe is one of the ancient indigenous communities of the eastern Himalayan foothills, belonging to the larger Bodo-Kachari ethnic group of the Tibeto-Burman lineage. Their history in this region goes back many centuries, making them among the early settlers of the plains and forested foothills of Northeast India.

In North Bengal, Bodo communities are primarily found in the Dooars and Terai regions, especially in districts such as Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri, and parts of Cooch Behar. Living close to rivers, forests, and fertile plains, their lifestyle has traditionally been connected with agriculture, nature, and weaving.

The Bodos have preserved a rich cultural identity through their language, handloom traditions, music, and festivals, where weaving plays an important role in expressing their heritage and connection to the land.

THE PROJECT

Just like previous 11 seasons this pro-bono project will help few weaver families to be economically independent so that they can be self reliant when it comes to procuring raw material in order to fulfill orders. These families don't need to stay dependent on middle men and local lenders.

As we all know 2nd wave of covid hit India really hard and flood in West Bengal added to it. Handloom is not an exception and still now weaver and spinner community facing a real hard time. On this note Handloom of India is committed to support the craftsmen with its limited ability.

This tribal handloom revival Project is also a crowd-funded project where all participant can place pre-order for Bodo Tribal saree. Saree will be 6.5 Mtr long as it will have blouse piece and it will have 46+inch of width. This saree is going to have a old world Bodo Tribe design in it. We will elaborately know about that.

HOW THIS PROJECT CAN HELP ARTISANS?

Generally, ground-level artisans don't have money to use a working capital hence they mostly work under traders and middlemen. Here we are inviting at least 100 pre-orders where one has to pay 50% advance in time of order placement and rest 50% before delivery.

That 2nd part of payment is the remuneration they earned. Getting that remuneration at once may get them some bulk amount so that they can kick-start their own venture. Generally, from middlemen or traders, they get remuneration in instalments hence that small amount went out for daily life needs.

Your pre-orders can help them to get the amount in one shot so that they can use it as working capital. In this process you are getting a muslin by just paying production cost and you are also helping a group of muslin weavers to arrange working capital for independent venture.



REVIVING THE HERITAGE OF BODO WEAVING

Traditionally, Bodo women do not wear sarees. Their elegant and culturally significant attire consists of a handwoven wrapper skirt called the *Dokona*, paired with a complementary upper cloth. These garments are not merely clothing—they are expressions of identity, skill, and a long-standing weaving tradition carried forward by the women of the community.

In this revival initiative, we have respectfully drawn inspiration from the *Dokona*, reinterpreting its characteristic design into a saree form. The lower drape of the saree reflects the visual rhythm and structure of the *Dokona*, making it the most distinctive and celebrated part of the textile.

This project is committed to reviving an old-world weaving practice where every step follows traditional knowledge preserved within the community. The cotton used will be wild cotton gathered from forest regions, a fibre that is rare today but deeply connected to the indigenous textile heritage of the region. Unlike commercially cultivated cotton, wild cotton carries a natural strength, breathability, and character that makes the fabric both precious and irreplaceable.

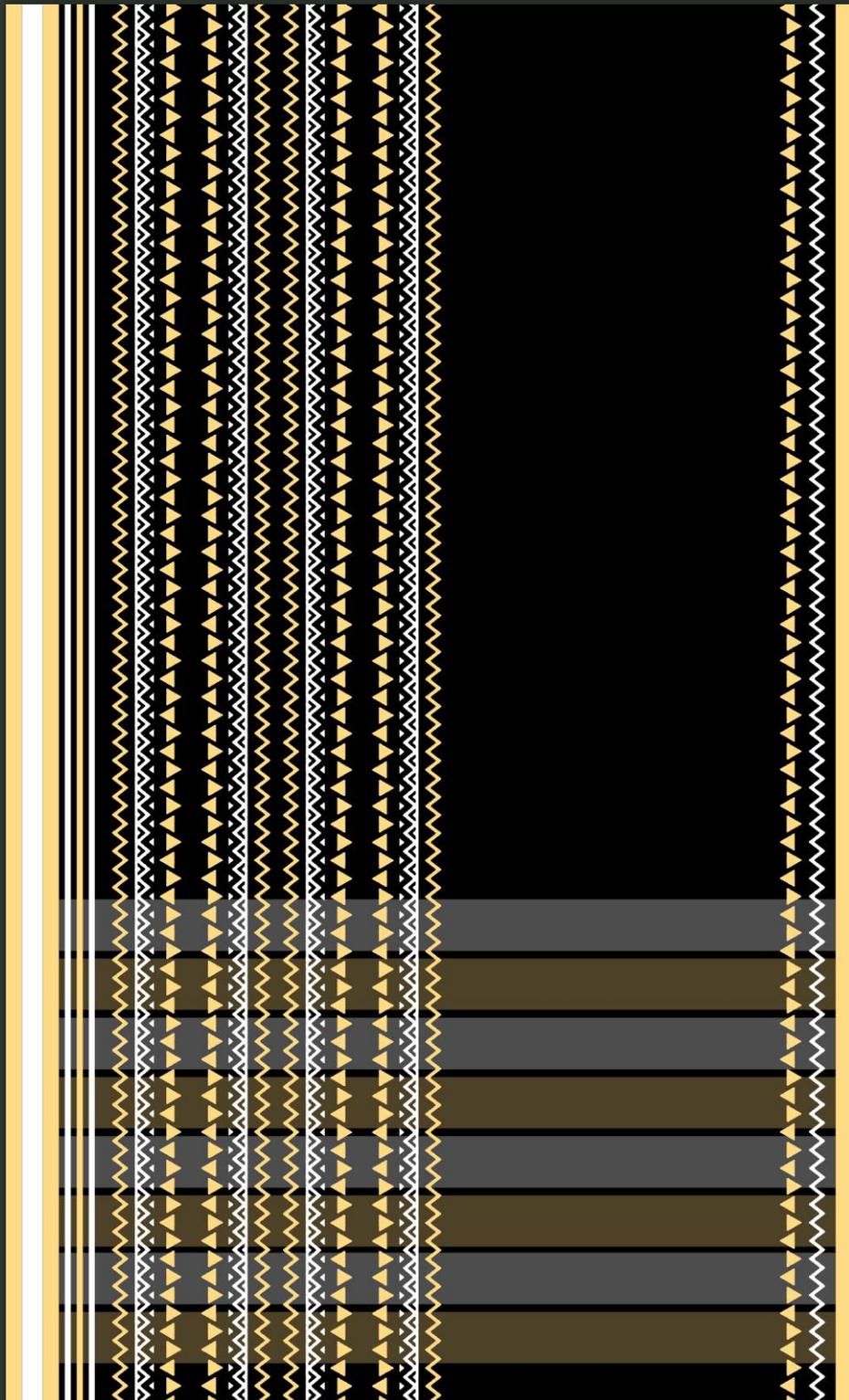
The yarn will be coloured with natural dyes, and the entire weaving process will be carried out by Bodo women artisans on their traditional looms, using techniques passed down through generations. Such slow, mindful craftsmanship cannot be replicated by industrial production—it represents a living cultural practice that is increasingly rare in the modern world.

The result will be a saree that brings together earthy tones, quiet elegance, and the timeless wisdom of tribal weaving traditions—a textile that is breathable, durable, and deeply rooted in the land and its people.

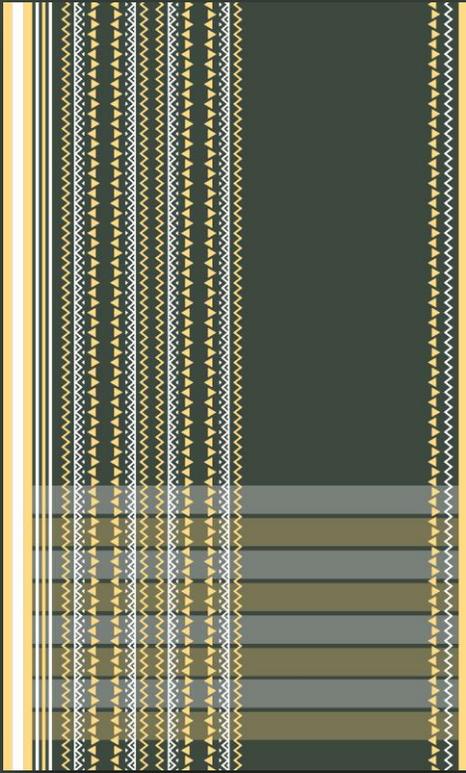
We are now inviting pre-orders from those who wish to support this meaningful revival and help sustain a priceless weaving heritage for future generations.

THE CAD

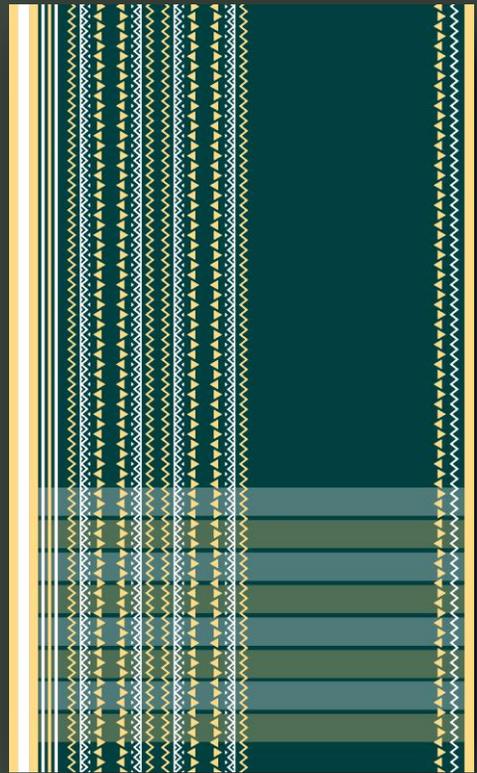
This image is for design reference only, final colour combination choices are placed in later part of this document



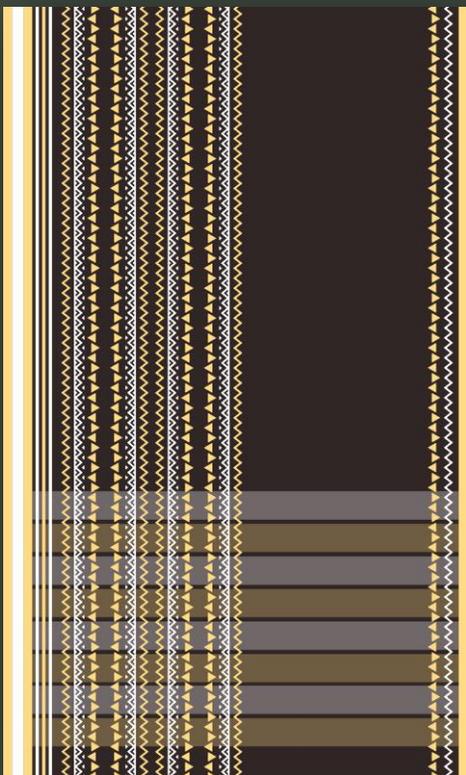
COLOUR OPTIONS



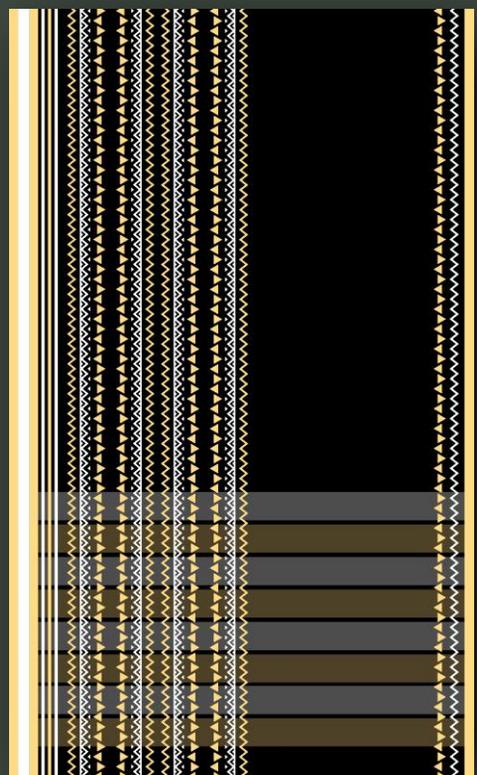
SAGE GREEN



DARK TEAL



DEEP ESPRESSO



JET BLACK

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Traditional tribal cotton handloom textiles are usually expensive because the entire process is highly authentic and labour-intensive. In many tribal traditions, cotton is locally collected or sourced from forest regions, then hand-spun into yarn using ancient spinning methods. The yarn is later coloured through traditional natural dyeing techniques that have been practiced for generations. Finally, the fabric is handwoven on traditional looms, which is a slow and meticulous process.

Because of this long and artisanal production chain, such textiles normally command very high prices in the market. For example, many of you may already know the market price of Kotpad Cotton Saree, which reflects the value of this traditional craft process. Through this initiative, we are trying to make authentic tribal cotton textiles accessible at one of the best possible value-for-money prices, while still respecting the traditional craft and supporting the weaver community.

PLEASE GIVE A LOOK TO THE DETAILED COST BREAKUP

Keep it in mind that this breakup applies to 1 unit only and can be achieved only when produced in a certain quantity. We are going to deploy 2 weavers on every loom.

| # | Detail | Cost (INR) |
|--------------------|---|----------------|
| 1 | Cotton Collection | 500/- |
| 2 | Yarn Spinning | 500/- |
| 3 | Dyeing cost (includes raw material and dyer remuneration) | 900/- |
| 4 | Sizing (applying starch before weaving) remuneration & Raw Material | 600/- |
| 5 | Warping & drafting | 500/- |
| 6 | Bobbin winder remuneration | 200/- |
| 7 | 2 Weaver's remuneration @ 500/Day for 10 days | 6,000/- |
| Grand Total | | 9,200/- |

HOW YOU NEED TO PAY AND WHEN YOU GET YOUR BODO TRIBAL SAREE?

- You have to pay 50% (INR 4,600/- for 1 pc) at the time of pre-order.
- You will receive the product within 6 months from the order date.
- Before order dispatch, you have to pay the last 50% (INR 4,600/- for 1 pc) of the price
- Shipping within India will be complimentary and in surface courier. Shipping outside India will be chargeable and should be paid with the last part of payment.

WHAT IF YOU GET DEFECTIVE PRODUCT?

There is almost no chance of any major defect because muslin is a delicate textile and will be woven with the utmost care. But still, if you see any structural defect or sign of damage on the product please email us (handloomfoundation@gmail.com) within 48 hrs of receiving the package with photos of that defect. We will exchange it with similar piece or initiate a full refund to you within 7 days after receiving the damaged product. Normal handcraft irregularity will not be considered as defect... damage or structural defect on the textile can only be considered as a defect.

LAST BUT MOST IMPORTANT POINT

This project is dependent on the number of orders as per our calculation without getting 100 orders this project won't be able to fulfil its motto. Initially, we are not asking you to pay the advance, rather we want you to fill up the form to show your interest if we get to see interest for 100 quantities (as one person may order more than 1 piece) then only we will share bank detail and ask for an advance from you. Without having an interest in at least 100 quantities the project can be aborted.

CONTACT

Handloom Foundation

Kolkata, India

handloomfoundation.org

WHATSAPP: +91 79803 18496