



Transforming Agriculture Touching Lives

**MAHILA KISAN
SASHAKTIKARAN PARIYOJANA**



CONTEXT

A large percentage of the poor in India are engaged in agricultural practices. This includes 79% of the productive rural women labour force and 67% of the productive male work force. According to MoA 2012, a majority of this work force is formed by small and marginal farmers who toil on 85% of the total agricultural landholdings in the country. Women in agriculture constitute 33% of the total agricultural labour force and 48% of the self employed farmers.

Almost all women in rural India can be considered 'farmers' once we move beyond the conventional market oriented narrow definition of the term 'productive worker' and factor in for the fact that the parity of wages between men and women is still a distant dream.

Despite the critical role played by women in agriculture and allied activities, the agricultural support mechanism in India has not been able to ensure their inclusion in the system. This extends to a lack of rightful entitlement over factors of production as agricultural workers and cultivators. Many households, with woman farmers as heads of family units, are not able to access extension services, farmer support in institutions and production assets such as seeds, water, credit, subsidy etc.

The Mahila Kisan Sashakti Karan Pariyojana (MKSP) was launched as a sub component of the Deendayal Antodaya Yojana-NRLM (DAY-NRLM) to improve the present status of women in agriculture and to enhance the opportunities that empower her.

महिला किसान को
बढ़ाना है, गरीबी को
दूर भगाना है।

जागरूक महिला
किसान, हर ओर
बढ़ाए अपना मान।

SOCIETY FOR ELIMINATION OF RURAL POVERTY (SERP) of Andhra Pradesh working in Sustainable Agriculture (SA) has covered 653 blocks in 22 districts touching the lives of 1837700 mahila kisans. Their total project cost for 3 years was 251.58 crores.

SERP (AP)-NTFP PROJECT (Jattu Trust, Kovel Foundation, Sahyog CCN and CSB) of Andhra Pradesh has been working in Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP). It has covered 30 blocks in the a districts of Hyderabad, Adilabad, Warangal, Khammam, East Godavari, Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Kurnool and Chittoor. It has reached out to 23928 mahila kisans. It's total project cost for 3 years was 38.32 crores.



MKSP BACKGROUND

The mandate of the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, is rural poverty alleviation through programmes directly targeted at the rural poor households. During 1999-2000 to 2011-12, the number of women SHGs promoted by Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) programme increased to 29.51 lakh from 1.76 lakh. However many concerns arose about the quality of implementation of the programme and the sustainability of SHGs that had been formed.

Accordingly, based largely on the recommendations of the Prof. Radhakrishna Committee, SGSY has been restructured as National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), and approved by the Cabinet in their meeting on 26th June, 2010, to implement in a mission mode across the country. The programme was formally launched on 3rd June, 2011 and has subsequently been renamed as “Deendayal Antodaya Yojana”.

Drawing lessons from large scale rural poverty reduction initiatives in the country (especially from the states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Kerala and Tamil Nadu), Deendayal Antodaya Yojana-NRLM (DAY-NRLM) formulated new strategies to move from allocation based disbursement and monitoring of central government resource, to demand driven strategy and provide quality technical assistance to states to formulate their own livelihoods based poverty reduction action plans, annual action plans to roll out mission’s activities. DAY-NRLM is designed to reach 8-10 crore rural poor households in 600 districts, 6000 blocks, 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats and 6 lakhs villages across the country, in next 8-10 years to be implemented in phases.

DAY-NRLM focusses on targets, outcomes and time bound delivery, continuous capacity building, imparting requisite skills and creating linkages with livelihoods opportunities for the poor, including those emerging in the organized sector, and monitoring against targets of poverty outcomes. DAY-NRLM aims, to reduce poverty by enabling poor households to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities, resulting in appreciable improvement in their livelihoods on a sustainable basis, building strong grassroots institutions of the poor.

BIHAR RURAL LIVELIHOODS PROMOTION SOCIETY (BRLPS) has been working in Sustainable Agriculture (SA). It has covered the blocks Pandal, Kurhani, Saraiya, Rahui, Nagar Nausa, Tankuppa, Wazirganj, Amas, Chautham, Allauli, Bhawanipur, Ruapuli, Sonbarsa, Pratapganj, Kumarkhand and Chakai in the 10 districts Prurnia, Khagaria, Nalanda, Muzaffarpur, Gaya, Madhubani, Saharsa, Madhepura, Jemui and Supal in Bihar. It has reached out to 112500 mahila kisans. It’s total project cost for 3 years was 97.6 crores.



To maintain standards and quality institutions of poor, DAY-NRLM has initiated intensive block strategy, wherein community resource person (CRP) and professional resource person (PRP) enters one block and completes five rounds in a year, to ensure adequate social inclusion, creates new SHGs and strengthens existing SHG to comply the principles of Panchasutra. CRPs provide support to strengthen SHG federation, livelihood promotion and financial inclusion, complimenting institution building process, to be scaled up in other blocks.

The Mahila Kisan Sashaktikarn Pariyojana (MKSP) was introduced as an independent livelihood initiative targeting women in the farm sector (agriculture and allied sector) under DAY-NRLM in 2011. Livestock, especially small ruminant has been envisaged in DAY-NRLM as an integral part of livelihood strategy. Non Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) has been included in MKSP as an integrated vertical. The program focus is to improve the present status of women in agriculture and enhance the opportunities for her empowerment. Community Resource Persons (CRP) are identified as best practitioners (locally named as Pashu Sakhi, Krishi Sakhi etc.) and are instrumental in promoting farm sector livelihoods (agriculture, animal husbandry and NTFP), through community to community sharing and learning – as a “proof of concept”.

MAIN THEMES OF MKSP

AND A CASE FOR CONCURRENT INTERVENTION UNDER DAY- NRLM

Layering or “concurrent intervention” is an important strategy of the the DAY-NRLM roll out. The strategic options of layering - Social Mobilization, Financial Inclusion and Livelihoods - are neither independent nor mutually exclusive. The community institutional architecture provides a unique

MKSP हर ओर
फैली,
लेकर जैविक कृषि
की शैली।

ACTION FOR SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT (ASA) of Bihar has been working in Sustainable Agriculture (SA). It has covered the blocks Chakai, Chautham and Bhawanipur in the districts Prurnia, Khagaria, Jamui and Munger. It has reached out to 112500 mahila kisans. It's total project cost for 3 years was 10000 crores.

BASTAR SEWAK MANDAL OF CHATTISGARH HAS BEEN WORKING IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (SA). It has covered the blocks Tarapur, Baniyagaon, Tulnar, Karithgaon and Ulnar Panchayats in the district of Bastar. It has reached out to 2200 mahila kisans. with a total project cost of 2.99 crores in 3 years.

A SUCCESS STORY OF SMT. ANTIPARTHY YERRAMMA

Smt. Antiparthi Yerramma of village Kantepuram, Andhra Pradesh is one of the 3000 Mahila Kisans who are a part of MKSP-NTFP project operational in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. She has been a member of the SHG Dhanalakshmi for the past 10 years and is also a leader of the Kantepuram Village Organization. She lives with her husband and three children. Her family owns 3 acres of land, out of which 1 acre is rain fed and 2 acres have irrigation facility.

Until the year 2013, the family was using the "Agro Forestry model" for the part of land that was rain fed and were growing Paddy on the irrigated land. They used to harvest 20 quintals of Paddy from the land. Out of the produce, 10 quintals were sold for cash and the remaining 10 quintals were kept for self-consumption.

Out of these 10 quintals of paddy, only 500 Kgs of rice was obtained which did not last for more than 150 days. As a result the family was left with no option, but, to purchase rice from the outside market. Food grain was purchased mainly from the cash obtained by selling Non-timber forest produce (NTFP) which they collected. They faced several difficulties with respect to food security particularly during the months of April, May and June.

Antiparthi Yerramma 's life as a Mahila Kisan changed when she learnt about the SRI Paddy intervention, an innovative technique introduced to the village in the year 2013 by Kovel Foundation, a PIA working for the MKSP. With help from the SHG, the family opted for Paddy cultivation in System of Root Intensification. (SRI as a method was developed in Madagascar in the year 1983 and has now been popularised across the world.)

She along with her husband underwent a two days long training programme at the village level to learn about SRI and was provided technical support from Kovel Foundation on a regular basis through Community Resource Person and Community Master Trainer.

The training broadened the horizon of her knowledge regarding farming techniques, some of the learning derived from the training were: preparation of land, preparation of nursery by raising the bed, transplantation of plants aged between 8 to 12 days, usage of single plant transplantation, ensuring the 10 x10 cm distance between two rows of plants, using the NPM (Non Pesticide Management) methods, using bio fertilizers, ensuring that the water does not stagnate in the field etc.

Due to adoption of SRI Paddy technique the family now harvests 36 quintals of paddy from the same land which was producing only 20 quintals of paddy earlier.

The following is the cost benefit analysis of the intervention in terms of direct benefit to the family.

S.No	Support from the project to the MahilaKisan	Support extended in terms of finance	Benefits received by the MahilaKisan	Benefits in financial terms
1	Financial support	2500	Increased yield from 20 quintals to 36 quintals	20000 (The family has got direct benefit of the said amount as additional income within a period of 4 months.
2	Technical training	200	MahilaKisan was trained to use the new method of cultivation and it in turn helped her acquire new set of skills	The MahilaKisan and the family will retain the skills and knowledge gathered to be utilised in the long run.
3	Hand holding support throughout the crop period by CRP	200	Increased food security and decreased drudgery as the method consumes less number of human days engagement.	Since the yield has gone up the family is able to get security for food.
	Total	2900		20000

The family has also initiated vegetable cultivation in their agro forestry farm. This effort has ensured an additional income of Rs 6000 to the family, while catering to their nutritional needs as a result of the consumption of the vegetables cultivated in the farm.

The intervention of Kovel Foundation has successfully brought about significant change in the life of Smt. Antiparti Yerramma and set an example to motivate 36 more families to learn about the initiative of SRI Paddy cultivation.

Inspired by the positive contributions of the method in addressing economic and food security needs of the tribal community, Kovel Foundation is planning to train around 1100 Mahila Kisans across the project area during the Khariff season of 2014.



PRADAN-TASAR with Central Silk Board (CSB) of Chattisgarh has been working in Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP). They have been working in the blocks Raigarh, Tamnar, Lailunga, Nagri, Magadlor, Narharpur, Bhanupratapur, Pali, Ambikapur and Darbha in the districts of Raigarh, Dhamtari, Kanker, Bilaspur, Sarguja and Bastar. They have reached out to 4505 mahila kisans with their total project cost allocation being 8.02 crores.

opportunity to create synergies, and to provide bundled services to the poor and vulnerable sections of society.

Vulnerability reduction has a significant bearing on promoting livelihood security.

Focusing on 'vulnerability vectors' tends to have a greater impact on poverty reduction. The layering strategy of Livelihoods works to create a basket of opportunities for small and marginalized communities in the country such that the strategy adopted is resilient to the risks associated with the failure of one activity. Thus, by reducing the dependence of the poor households on a single activity "concurrent intervention" under DAY-NRLM address the prevalent problem of vulnerability amongst them.

This strategy adopted for livelihood layering is essentially anchored on the following activities.

- Sustainable Agriculture
- Livestock
- Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP)

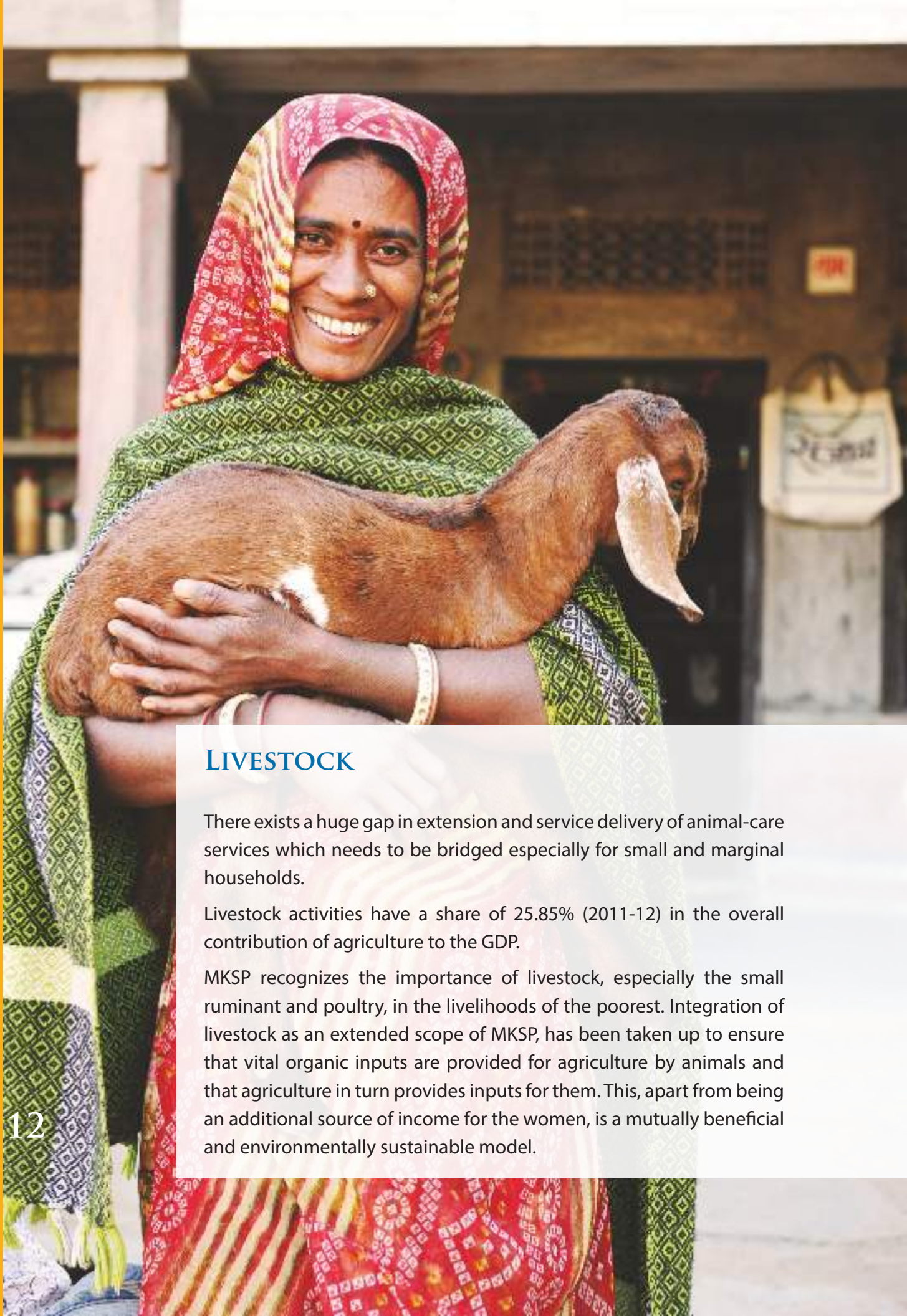
These are also the main themes of MKSP.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is a major part of the livelihood basket of the rural poor in India. Sustainable Agriculture has therefore been chosen as the core theme of MKSP. It is expected that the focus on agro-ecologically responsive sustainable agriculture practices will continue to serve towards securing the primary livelihood of the poorest of poor households. It is also expected to give recognition to women as farmers and key bread earners of their families. Other activities are added on to expand to the overall livelihood basket.

AGA KHAN RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME (AKRSP-I) of Gujarat has been working in Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP). It has covered the blocks Dediapada, Sagbara and Tilakwada in the Narmada district. It has reached out to 10000 mahila kisans in its total allocated project cost of 5.786 crores.

COHESION FOUNDATION of Gujarat has been working in Sustainable Agriculture (SA). It has covered the blocks Rapar, Bhachau and Santhalpur in the districts Kutch and Patan. It has reached out to 10000 mahila kisans. Its total project cost for 3 years was 7.562 crores.



LIVESTOCK

There exists a huge gap in extension and service delivery of animal-care services which needs to be bridged especially for small and marginal households.

Livestock activities have a share of 25.85% (2011-12) in the overall contribution of agriculture to the GDP.

MKSP recognizes the importance of livestock, especially the small ruminant and poultry, in the livelihoods of the poorest. Integration of livestock as an extended scope of MKSP, has been taken up to ensure that vital organic inputs are provided for agriculture by animals and that agriculture in turn provides inputs for them. This, apart from being an additional source of income for the women, is a mutually beneficial and environmentally sustainable model.

NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCE (NTFP)

Tribal communities across the country are hugely dependent on Non Timber Forest produce (NTFP) collection as a major source of livelihood. The NTFP dependent population per hectare of forest cover has remained almost constant or might even have increased in the last quarter of a century. With a dwindling forest cover and the number of poor dependents on the forest remaining practically the same, the issue of alleviating the livelihoods of the poor, and especially of the tribal women engaged in NTFP collection becomes extremely challenging.

In this context, the Deendayal Antodaya Yojana-NRLM (DAY-NRLM), Ministry of Rural Development acknowledges the need for special intervention to promote NTFP collectives towards increasing the income of tribal NTFP collectors through

- a. ensuring sustainable harvests
- b. scientific post-harvest practices for higher returns
- c. better negotiation with market forces, while also taking up
- d. various value addition activities at appropriate levels.

The intervention envisages strengthening the NTFP value chain on an end-to-end basis and creating strategic public-private-panchayat partnerships for the benefit of all stakeholders.

The overall strategy endeavors to dilute the risk associated with any one activity by providing the Mahila Kisan access to a basket of livelihood activities.

The basic criterion for support to any project under all the components focuses on the sustainability of the proposed model for the poorest of poor rural households.

कृषि सखियों ने
यह ठाना है,
जैविक खेती का
अलख जगाना है।

DEEPAK FOUNDATION of Gujarat has been working in Sustainable of Agriculture (SA). It has covered the blocks Naswadi and Kawant in the district of Vadodra. It has reached out to 6000 mahila kisans. It's total project cost for 3 years was 3.508 crores.

NM SADGURU of Gujarat has been working in Sustainable Agriculture (SA). It has covered the blocks Dhanpur , Garbada and Dahod in the district Dahod. It has reached out to 9000 mahila kisans in it's total allocated project cost of 5.387 crores.

BORE WELL BASED LIFT IRRIGATION SYSTEM:**Changing lives of Mahila Kisans in Bhawanipur**

Access to water, especially for small and marginal farmers in Bhawanipur block of Purnia District in Bihar, was an issue. Scarcity and uncertain availability of water led to delays in timely sowing. At times the standing crop wilted, reducing yields. As a result, the farmers were bound to cultivate only cereals and paddy in Kharif and wheat in Rabi seasons.

ASA project teams observed that owing to the presence of shallow aquifers, water was available at about 13 to 18 meters below the ground. An option of employing pumps to lift this water through tube-wells or bore-wells could be sought but equipment such as these was unaffordable to small and marginal farmers. A system was designed for lifting the water and distributing it across a series of fields through a mechanized and effective Lift Irrigation System (LIS). Channelizing it to field locations would eliminate requirement of individual units for farmers. After discussions with the villagers, it was decided that a group of farmers shall collectively utilize the water under a mutual agreement.

Mahila Kisan Jal Upbhokta Samuh (MKJUS) was promoted under the MKSP by ASA at Kemai village of Bhawanipur Block in the year 2013. Ten female members of MKJUS, with help from ASA decided to implement the tube-well based lift irrigation scheme. For installation of this unit a written agreement was signed between Sunita Devi, a Mahila Kisan and President of MKJUS and the team Leader, ASA-Purnea. With MKJUS contributing Rs. 35,500 of the total project cost of Rs. 142,000, implementation of the scheme was completed in a mere 3 months.

Sunita Devi owns 0.4 acres of cultivable land where earlier she was limited to cultivating maize in the rabi season. After the installation of the lift irrigation unit, she started cultivating vegetables. She has till date sold her cauliflowers. Next would be cabbages. And then onion & radishes. Such use of her land has been made possible because she now has access to and control over availability of water. There has been a substantial increase in her income.

She is one of the many mahila kisans in the region who have found greater freedom of options and thus a potential of greater income due to the LIS.

The LIS brought about a commendable change in the cropping pattern and the overall income levels of the entire area.

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE –**A method supporting Bastar Sewak Mandal in addressing the Food security needs of Mahila Kisans in Chhattisgarh: The success story of Smt. Arno**

Smt. Arno is one of the 2200 Mahila Kisans of village Baniagaon, block Bakawand, district Bastar in the state of Chhattisgarh who are being supported in their livelihood endeavors by the Bastar Sewak Mandal (BSM), an implementing agency for MKSP. She is a part of the Nari Shakti SHG.

The villagers in the area primarily depend upon agriculture and wage labour for their livelihood. Arno lives with her husband and four children and is a marginal farmer with only one acre of agricultural land. They use the land to grow vegetables. Prior to the inception of MKSP in their village, they were not satisfied with the quantity or the quality of their produce. They adopted traditional techniques of farming and were unable to afford the spiraling prices of agriculture inputs.

The BSM staff began their intervention with organizing Community Resource Persons into groups and trained women farmer on various sustainable agricultural practices. Arno, a participant in the trainings, successfully learnt preparation and application of Handidava, Jeevamruth, and Organic Urea etc, along with her SHG members, she .

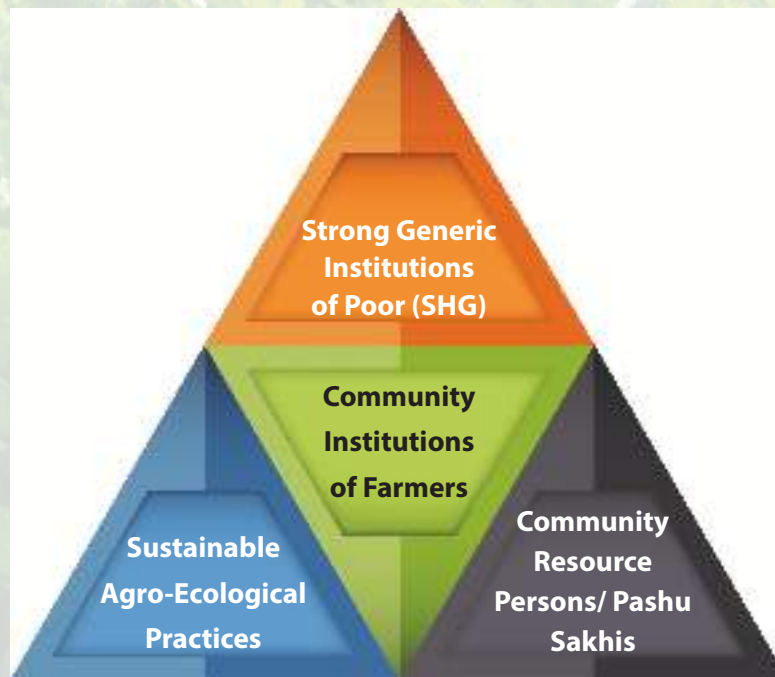
Equipped with the knowledge gained through training, she prepared Jeevamruth under the guidance of the field functionaries and applied organic manure in her vegetable field. She was ecstatic to see the improvement, particularly in the growth of her plants. It gave her the confidence to continue using the concoctions. With the support of her SHG members and close engagement with BSM, she learnt techniques to prepare other effective yet low cost organic manures and pesticides for all food crops grown by her. Her income grew substantially.

MKSP introduced Arno to a sense of happiness and fulfilment that she wouldn't have otherwise dreamt of. With pride, she shares her experience and learning regarding the benefits of new farming techniques, with other Mahila Kisans from her village.

As the programme has moved forward several women farmers in the area have shown interest in sustainable agriculture, inspired by the story of Arno and the promise of betterment, and are a step closer to their dreams.

THE MKSP PRINCIPAL

The program is being implemented by DAY-NRLM in partnership with State Rural Livelihood Missions/Community Based Organizations (CBOs)/NGOs, as implementing partners (PIAs) across the country. These agencies are expected to support and nurture scalable livelihood models in the MKSP areas. In the process, it is expected that cadres of barefoot community professionals will be created. The State Rural Livelihood Missions will replicate the models with the help of these community professionals in the resource areas.



MKSP

The Mahila Kisaan Shasaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development in 2010-11 as a sub component of Deendayal Antodaya Yojana-NRLM (DAY-NRLM), with an aim to empower women in agriculture.

Its objective is to strengthen smallholder agriculture through promotion of sustainable agriculture practices such as

- Community Managed Sustainable Agriculture (CMSA),
- Non Pesticide Management (NPM), Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF)
- Pashu-Sakhi model for doorstep animal care services and
- Sustainable regeneration and harvesting of Non-Timber Forest Produce among others.

The focus of MKSP is on capacitating the smallholders to adopt sustainable climate change resilient agro- ecology, eventually creating a pool of skilled community professionals.

MKSP recognizes the identity of “Mahila” as “Kisan” and strives to build the capacity of women in the domain of agro-ecologically sustainable practices. It has a clear vision to reach out to the poorest of poor households and expand the portfolio of activities currently handled by the Mahila Kisan.

HOW DOES MKSP FIT INTO DAY-NRLM?

Deendayal Antodaya Yojana-NRLM (DAY-NRLM) has a vision for reaching out to approximately 10 crore rural poor households over a period of 8-10 years.

About 7-8 crore such households, are engaged in agriculture, livestock activity and NTFP as their primary source of income. DAY-NRLM being a livelihoods promotion program will support each family with multiple livelihoods for a period of 6-8 years, in this time, addressing specific needs of these households.

SHROFF FOUNDATION of Gujarat has been working in Sustainable Agriculture (SA). It has covered the blocks Chhotaudepur and Jetpur Pavi in the district Vadodra. It has reached out to 7320 mahila kisans. Their total project cost for 3 years was 4.384 crores.

CHINMAYA ORGANIZATION FOR RURAL Development of Himachal Pradesh has been working in Sustainable Agriculture (SA). It has covered the blocks Nagrota and Dharamshala in the district Kangra. It has reached out to 2500 mahila kisans. It's total project cost for 3 years was 2.71 crores.



PRADAN-TASAR WITH CSB of Jharkhand has been working in Non-Timber Forest Produce. They have covered the blocks Sundarpahari, Boarijore, Poraiyhat, Littipara, Shikaripara, Kathikund, Raneswar, Masaliya, Jamundi, Kuchai, Chakradharpur, Khutpani, Hatgamharia, Dalbhumgarh and Devipur in the districts of Godda, Pakur, Dumka, Saraikela, West Singhbhum, East Singhbhum and Deogarh. It has reached out to 6457 mahila kisans. Their total project cost for 3 years was 23.94 crores.

MKSP would engage with these poor households and help them to adopt sustainable practices in agriculture, livestock practices and NTFP making them viable livelihoods for the poor households.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF MKSP BEING PART OF DAY-NRLM?

DAY-NRLM aims to reach all the districts and villages in the country in a phased manner by 2021-22. It has invested in organizing rural poor women with limited resources into groups, their livelihoods skills being built over a period of time. MKSP can leverage these institutions for the delivery of doorstep extension services across the country through DAY-NRLM, the latter thus, being an appropriate platform to facilitate the former. Eventually some of these women will emerge as best practitioners and trainers.

THE NON-NEGOTIABLES UNDER MKSP

All MKSP projects must adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Focused intervention towards landless, small and marginal households is an important component of MKSP policy.
2. Strong Community Institutions comprising of women farmers must form the foundation for all intervention.
3. Promotion of practices like Non Pesticide Management (NPM), sustainable regeneration and harvesting of Non Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) and better Livestock Production and Management practices.
4. Promotion of food and nutritional security at both the household and community level
5. Creation of Community Resource Persons (CRPs) and Pashu Sakhis from the pool of community best practitioners. These “community heroes” to be encouraged to spearhead the expansion and deepening of best practices.

GREEN FOUNDATION of Karnataka has been working in Sustainable Agriculture (SA). Covering the blocks Challakere, Chitradurga, Molakalmuru and Kanakapura in the districts Chitradurga and Ramanagra. It has reached out to 5000 mahila kisans. In it's total allocated project cost of 6.25 crores in 3 years.

IDF of Karnataka has been working in Sustainable Agriculture (SA). It has covered the blocks Gubbi and Rayabagh in the districts Tumkur and Belgaon. It has reached out to 11000 mahila kisans in it's total allocated project cost 15 crores in 3 years.

ORGANIC VEGETABLE FARMING: A Success story of Gitaben Rajubhai Bhil

Gitaben Rajubhai Bhil , is a Mahila Kisan who lives in a small village called Raysingpura (block Naswadi) located in Chhota Udepur district of Gujarat. She belongs to the SHG Mahila Mangalam.

More than 90% of the residents of this district including her, belong to the Scheduled Tribe category. Gitaben lives in a joint family with her husband Rajubhai, her two children, and aged in-laws. Their livelihood, as of all the villagers in their village, depends on cotton cultivation.

Low levels of income were a major cause of concern to them. Last year, heavy rainfall caused serious damage to their crops. The villagers suffered severe loss and ever since were even more worried about their produce and income.

It was around this time that Deepak Foundation, a corporate social responsibility (CSR) outfit of Deepak Group of Companies based in Gujarat, began background work for implementation of the MKSP in Raysingpura. The programme entailed that SHG Mahila Mangalam members were included as project beneficiaries. Gitaben, the then president of 'Jay Bapa Sitaram Sakhi Mandal' operating in the Raysingpura village, consequently, became a part of the project.

The Foundation had around the time of Gitaben's enrollment, introduced organic vegetable farming in the area, as a part of its extension service. Gitaben attended the training programme conducted by the foundation and learnt about "chemical-pesticides free" cultivation of vegetables. She displayed an active interest in investing in organic farming.

Prior to the training, growing vegetables had meant procurement and use of expensive chemical pesticides and problematic market linkages. She had thus confined herself to growing only cotton and castor. After attending the training however, she was encouraged to grow lady finger on her land. She started sowing in the month of march and as instructed, used only organic fertilizers and home made pesticides, namely Jeevamruth Neemastra and Brahmastra. Gitaben's husband Rajubhai also took keen interest in organic vegetable farming, and helped her with the preparation of all these solutions. They used the solutions throughout the season and saw within 45 days of undertaking the initiative, an abundant produce, meaning in turn, a substantial increase in their income.

Gitaben plans to continue with the technique and is confident that it will lead to a more secure future for her family and herself.

JEEVAMRUTH:

Ingredients of Jeevamruth (for 20 liters solution):

Mix the following ingredients in a drum:

- 17.5 litres water
- 1 litre cow urine
- ¼ kg jaggery, ¼ kg gram flour
- 1 kg cow dung
- Small quantity of fertile soil from undisturbed area.
- The microorganisms that supply nitrogen like Azotobacter, Acetobacter, Azospirillum and phosphorus solubilizing bacteria

Pseudomonas and potash solubilizing bacteria like Bacillus silicus are present in the dung that is used to prepare Jivamrut. Similarly urine has disease resistant organisms.

NEEMA STRA :

Ingredients of Neemastra:

- 5 kg neem leaves
- 5 liters cow urine
- 1 kg cow dung
- 100 liter water

Crush all the material and store in a cold place for 48 hours. Use 2 liter solution in 100 liters of water in 1 acre land. It controls all sucking pest and caterpillars in vegetable.

BRAHMA STRA :

Ingredients of Brahmastra (for 20 liter solution)

- 10 liters cow urine
- 3 kg neem leaves
- 2 kg leaves of custard apple
- 2 kg leaves of bilipatra
- 2 kg leaves of guava

Crush all the material and boil for 1 hour. Keep for 48 hours to cool it. Use 2 liter solution in 100 liters of water in 1 acre land. It controls all sucking pest and caterpillar in vegetable.



VISION FOR AN INDIVIDUAL POOR HOUSEHOLD COVERED UNDER MKSP

1. At least two livelihoods out of Agriculture, Livestock, NTFP will be practiced by a household.
2. NTFP is a viable livelihood option for people living in forest areas, specifically in this case for rural tribal women. The focus will be on NTFP activities including those to do with Lac, Tasar, Gum Karaya and Medicinal Herbs.
3. All households will have a backyard kitchen garden for household food and nutrition security.
4. The adoption of multiple livelihood streams will ensure a year round flow of income for the poor household.
5. Adoption of sustainable practices will result into reduction of the cost of cultivation along with an increase in productivity.
6. An annual increase of Rs. 30,000 – Rs. 50,000 per household is expected over a period of continuous engagement for 3 years.

M.S. SWAMINATHAN RESEARCH FOUNDATION (MSSRF) of Odisha has been working in Sustainable Agriculture (SA). It has covered the blocks Boipariguda and Kundra in the district Koraput. It has reached out to 2500 mahila kisans. It's total project cost for 3 years was 3.13 crores.

PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT ACTION (PRADAN) of Odisha has been working in Sustainable Agriculture (SA). It has covered the 2 blocks in the districts Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Rayagada. It has reached out to 6000 mahila kisans. It's total project cost for 3 years was 6.17 crores.

VISION FOR VILLAGE SATURATED UNDER MKSP INTERVENTIONS

1. At least one Non Pesticide Management (NPM) shop per village will be established.
2. A Custom Hiring Centre (CHC) or a Community Tool Bank will be established in all villages
3. Regular farmer field schools (FFS) will be conducted at the village level
4. Compact, contiguous block/patch of lands will be developed under the protocols of Ultra-poor strategy
5. Seed bank will be established at the village level
6. At least one pico-projector for every group of 5 villages will be procured. This will be used for training and capacity building of women farmers and community professionals.
7. A CRP rollout strategy and the saturation plan for each village and block will be put in place.
8. Pashu Sakhis will be trained and deployed in the villages to provide door-step extension services under the Livestock Production and Management practices programme
9. Maintenance of farmer wise records will be done at the Village level through “Krishak Diaries” and “Farmers profiles”
10. Village organization (VO) sub-committees will be formed to monitor project implementation
11. Community Best Practitioners in each area of specialization, will be identified, their skills enhanced and deployed in all villages

Addressing the issue of rural poor's hunger, MKSP's farming technology does wonders.

SOCIETY FOR UPLIFTMENT of people with People's Organization and Rural Technology (SUPPORT) of Jharkhand has been working in Sustainable Agriculture (SA). It has been working in block Mandu of district Ramgarh. It has reached out to 3000 mahila kisans. In it's allocated project cost of 2.347 crores oues 3 years.

TAGORE SOCIETY FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (TSRD) of Jharkhand has been working in Sustainable Agriculture (SA). It has covered the blocks Patamda and Boram in the, district East Singhbhum. It has reached out to 2500 mahila kisans. It's total project cost for 3 years was 1.32 crores.

DEMONSTRATION PLOTS:**Platform to restore crop diversity, combat climate change and encourage small farms**

By employing multiple cropping or polyculture systems, traditional farmers can adapt to local conditions, sustainably manage harsh environments and meet their subsistence needs without depending on mechanization, chemical fertilizers, pesticides or other technologies of modern agricultural science. Indigenous farmers tend to combine various production systems as part of a typical household resource management scheme.

Throughout the world, small farmers use practices such as crop rotation, composting, green manures and cover crops, agroforestry, etc., – practices that increase biomass production and therefore build active organic matter. Soil management systems that lead to maintenance of soil organic matter levels are essential to the sustained productivity of agricultural systems in areas frequently affected by droughts.

GREEN Foundation under MKSP introduced a model of 'demonstration plots' with the following objectives:

- To ensure that mahila kisans are confident about organic cultivation
- Enhance crop diversity in their choices.
- Reduction in cost of cultivation by using best organic practices
- Demonstrate best and improvised agricultural methods to increase productivity
- Encourage use of indigenous varieties of crops
- Minimize the loss or damages due to climatic changes like drought, erratic rain etc. by maintaining crop diversity
- To enhance the socio economic condition of the mahila kisan
- To know resilience of local seeds against climatic changes
- To make, replicate and scale-up sustainable agriculture amongst other mahila kisans in coming days.

900 women farmers were allocated half an acre of land to demonstrate various cropping patterns using sustainable practices. Learning by seeing and doing, the basic principle of demonstration, is a very powerful method of information dissemination and knowledge transfer to the farming communities. The women were involved right from the stage of seed-to-seed demonstration activities and received the support of community extension workers and CRPs.

Sprayers were distributed to SHGs with the community contributing to 20% of their cost. The demonstration plot farmers intensively promoted organic inputs for pest and nutrient management. The groups are also underwent seed selection training and developed skills related to post-harvest technologies.



Field visits to the demonstration plots were conducted and provided a platform for agro-biodiversity conservation and self-sustaining the farming community.

The demonstration plots exercise led to

- Conservation and multiplication of indigenous seeds
- Enhanced crop diversity
- *In-situ/on* farming conservation
- Organic farming practices
- Seed production of various crops and varieties with buy back guarantees from the federation
- Promotion of individual seed savers (this was done by providing 2-3 rare varieties to conserve through demo plot activities)

The activity further improvised by introducing cultivation practices like the SRI and Guli system of cultivation. Today, more than 50% of the women have introduced SRI/Guli as a cultivation practice in their farms and are satisfied with the results.

The beneficiaries are expected to adopt many more sustainable practices such as cropping system, productivity enhancement techniques, organic best practices, improvised agriculture techniques and mechanisms to increase income levels by reducing the cost of cultivation.

The project seeks to replicate and scale up sustainable agriculture with more mahila kisans in the project period.



RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (RDA) of Jharkhand has been working in Sustainable Agriculture (SA). It has covered the blocks Ghatshila and Dhalbhumgarh in the district East Singhbhum. It has reached out to 2000 mahila kisans. It's total project cost for 3 years was 1.50 crores.

LOKPRERNA of Jharkhand has been working in Sustainable Agriculture (SA). It has covered the blocks Jarmundi and Ranishwar in the district Dumka. It has reached out to 2000 Mahila kisans. Their total project cost for 3 years was 1.3 crores.

ULTRA-POOR STRATEGY

Targeting “Ultra-poor” is a novel feature of MKSP. It focuses primarily, on the landless, small and marginal women farmers who constitute the bottom 20 per cent of the rural society.

Concerted efforts are being made by the PIAs to identify scalable models that can expand the livelihood basket of the ultra-poor. A combination of interventions is expected to result in an improvement in family incomes, household food and nutrition security.

Various strategies such as

- land leasing,
- promotion of community kitchen gardens,
- poly-cropping models,
- promotion of Pashu Sakhis for doorstep livestock management services,
- promotion of improved lac/tussar cultivation practices etc.
- are being scaled up by the PIAs.

POP strategy features:

- Endeavor to convert “wage seekers” into “net food producers”
- Substantial increase in household income for the covered household

MKSP IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The program is being implemented by DAY-NRLM in partnership with State Rural Livelihood Missions/Community Based Organizations (CBOs)/NGOs, and implementing partners (PIAs) across the country. These agencies are

MYSORE RESETTLEMENT & DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (MYRADA) of Karnataka has been working in Sustainable Agriculture (SA). It has covered 20 villages in Sedum Taluk in the district of Gukbarga. It has reached out to 3000 mahila kisans. It's total project cost for 3 years was 3.21 crores.

KUDUMBASREE of Kerala has been working in Sustainable Agriculture (SA). It has covered the blocks 152 in the districts 14. It has reached out to 150000 mahila kisans. Their total project cost for 3 years was 79.9 crores.





expected to support and nurture scalable livelihood models in the MKSP areas. In the process, it is expected that cadres of barefoot community professionals will be created and these in turn will support scaling up of the best practices in other areas.



जैविक प्रक्रिया से
बीजोपचार
ज्यादा उपज
ज्यादा पैदावार

MKSP से बड़ी
पहचान,
बन गईं में
सशक्त महिला
किसान

MKSP stakeholders

PIA: Project Implementation Agency | DAY-NRLM: Deendayal Antodaya Yojana-NRLM (DAY-NRLM) | SRLM: State Rural Livelihood Mission | CRP: Community Resource Person Mahila Kisan

MALAPPURAM, PALAKKAD AND THRISSUR PANCHAYAT of Kerala has been working in Sustainable Agriculture (SA). covering 44 blocks in the districts of Palakkad, Thrissur and Malappuram. It has reached out to 30000 mahila kisans. Their total project cost for 3 years was 60.62 crores.

BAIF- TASAR WITH CSB HAS BEEN WORKING IN NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCE (NTFP). It has covered the blocks Ettapalli, Aheri, Bhamragarh and Deori in the districts Gadchiroli and Gondia. In maharashtra it has reached out to 5790 mahila kisans. It's total project cost for 3 years was 10.12 crores.

FARMER FELICITATION CENTRE –**A Kudumbasree initiative transforming lives and addressing the Food security needs of Mahila Kisans in Kerala**

Sustainable agriculture, productivity enhancement and drudgery reduction are the corner stones of MKSP. Successful implementation of the programme in the state of Kerala required some paradigm changes in the way the extension services were provided to farmers. MKSP is being implemented in the state through the Kudumbasree Poverty Eradication Mission and has ushered in various innovative agricultural practices.

Farmer Felicitation Centres: A Kudumbasree Initiative

Establishment of Farmer Felicitation Centers (FFC) across each of the 978 CDS/ Panchayats, serving as a one-stop solution for issues related to the agriculture, is one of the many innovative practices initiated by Kudumbasree.

FFCs act as service and knowledge repositories and dissemination centers ensuring timely delivery of knowledge to farmers. In order to make the FFC a self-sustaining unit, a component of machinery support worth Rs. 50,000 is provided to each FFC. This machinery, can be leased out to farmers on demand for a nominal fee, generating funds for service and maintenance of the FFC.

Each FFC is managed as a community institution, its ownership vested with the CDS (Community Development Society of the NHG network) and operations taken care of by selected master farmers from the village. These selected master farmers are trained in the operation and service of the machinery provided to each FFC.

Impact: Labour forms a major factor of production for agriculture and lack of skilled labour has been a serious issue affecting the agricultural scenario in the state. Mechanisation of labour was seen as a step towards a solution and hence the intervention of the FFC and the provision of machinery support works to solve this issue, especially for marginal and landless women farmers who would otherwise be unable to afford high priced machinery for their farming.

Provision of the machines at nominal rates also allows for a revenue stream for the FFC. The ownership of the same under the well-established network of CDS helps in eliminating elite capture of the services. Apart from the machinery support, the knowledge support component allows farmers to adopt better nature friendly techniques in farming and has augmented the productivity



figures. Currently 800 FFCs have been established across the state of Kerala and machinery worth Rs. 4 Cr has been purchased.

Credit linkages directly to JLG

Timely credit delivery forms an integral component of successful farming. Acknowledging this fact Kudumbashree has evolved a direct bank linkage facility with Joint Liability Groups (JLG). Each JLG is graded according to a format developed by NABARD. The score obtained by each JLG is referred to for bank linkage. If satisfactory, the bank provides the credit to accounts of JLG members.

More than 9000 JLG members were beneficiaries of the credit linkage, an amount totaling 1.05 Cr, from March to December, 2013. This was over and above the normal bank linkage to the NHG unit.

Efficient functioning of the CDS and a prompt monitoring and repayment mechanisms have helped in create confidence among bankers to lend to agricultural activities promoted through JLGs. Such linkages go a long way in promoting sustainable agriculture in the area in times to come.



SODI (MADHYAM FOUNDATION, HARSH TRUST, OPDSC, PRADAN, RCDC, PRAGATI & CHETNA ORGANIC FARMERS' ASSOCIATION) of Odisha have been working in Sustainable Agriculture (SA). They have covered the blocks Nawarangapur, Papadahandi, Gunpur, Muniguda, Muniguda, Bisam Katak, K. Singpur, Rayagada, Kotopad, Koraput, Mathili and Khirapur in the districts of Koraput, Nabrangpur, Malkangiri, and Rayagara. They have reached out to 13200 mahila kisans with their total allocated project cost for 3 years being 18.556 crores.

THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AGENCY (PIA)

PIAs, one of the key stakeholders, play an integral role in the implementation of MKSP right from the stage of the project proposal right through its final execution.

WHO CAN BECOME A PIA?

Women centric NGOs, CSO, CBOs, SHG Federations, Women Organizations active in agriculture activities, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Women Development Corporations, or any other Government organizations under MKSP may become a PIA, provided that the project proposed by them adheres to the guidelines of MKSP. They must also fulfill the following conditions :

- Have at least 3 years of relevant experience in implementation of sustainable agriculture based livelihood activities for the poor through community participation and in the rural areas where they propose to work
- Have a minimum turnover of over Rs.25 lakhs per year for the last 3 years (as evidenced by audited financial statements of the last three years)
- Have worked with at least 500 farmers
- Have adequate experience of working with community based organizations and their federations
- Have adequate infrastructure and human resources with respect to the proposed project
- Should be registered, non- political and secular in nature
- Should not be on the black list of any government department
- Should be transparent in financial and material handling, benefit sharing and fulfillment of legal compliances

MSSRF OF MAHARASHTRA HAS BEEN WORKING IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (SA). It has covered the blocks Wardhadeoli, Deoli, Hinghanghat (1 village only) and Ralegaon in the districts of Wardha and Yavatmal. It has reached out to 3000 mahila kisans. it's total project cost for 3 years was 5.8 crores.

PRADAN OF MADHYA PRADESH HAS BEEN WORKING IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (SA). It has covered the blocks Mohgaon, Narainganj, Paraswada and Balaghat in the districts Mandla and Balaghat. It has reached out to 8000 mahila kisans. it's total project cost for 3 years was 19.97 crores.



LOK KALYAN PARISHAD (LKP) OF WEST BENGAL HAS BEEN WORKING IN **SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (SA)**. It has covered the blocks Itahar, Goalpokur-I, Harirampur, Bansihari, Labpurllam Bazar, Khairasol, Jhaldah-II, Md. Bazar, Kalchini and Jaipur in the districts Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur, Birbhum, Purulia and Jalpaiguri. It has reached out to a total of 60000 mahila kisans. It's total project cost for 3 years was 13.51 crores.



WHO ARE CRPs?

Community Resource Persons or CRPs, identified from within their communities, are motivated Mahila Kisans who follow some of the best agrarian practices. They are integral to supporting the strategy for scaling up of the best practices in the different regions.

The CRPs are responsible for

- mobilization of the women farmers,
- facilitating demonstration of sustainable agricultural technologies, and
- providing continuous handholding support to the Mahila Kisan during critical stages of interventions.

They form a key mechanism for outreach and for ensuring sustainability at the village level.

More than 14000 CRPs have been trained and deployed for promotion of best practices in the different states of the country. In addition, more than 400 para-professionals are working with the communities supporting women farmers in practicing sustainable farming in 14 lakh ha of land in kharif season and 75000 ha of land in rabi season.

ASA OF MADHYA PRADESH HAS BEEN WORKING IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (SA). It has covered the blocks Ranapur, Jobat, Udaygarh, Rajpur, Thikri, Barwani and Mandla. In the districts of Jhabua, Barwani and Mandla. It has reached out to 10000 mahila kisans with a total allocated project cost of 13.35 crores in 3 years.

ASA OF MADHYA PRADESH HAS BEEN WORKING IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (SA). It has covered the blocks Nawgong, Bijawar and Jatara in Chhatarpur and Tikamgarh districts. It has reached out to 8000 mahila kisans. It's total project cost for 3 years was 9.16 crores.

A HEALTHY RETURN TO TRADITIONAL MIXED CROPPING PRACTICE FOR FARMERS IN MALELGUDA: An initiative by the Organisation For Rural Reconstruction & Integrated Social Service Activities (ORRISSA)


The Organisation For Rural Reconstruction & Integrated Social Service Activities (ORRISSA) with an objective of reviving ecological agriculture, started working with village communities in Odisha in 2007.

With extensive discussions on the food and livelihood crisis, communities identified 'seed' as the basic farm input on which they needed to have control. The first step towards this was to revive the local seed. With support from the community resource persons, mahila kisans went around looking for local seeds but found far too few with families around. Millet and pulses seeds were then collected from nearby villages through a seed exchange process. Village leaders identified elder farmers willing to take up the task of multiplying these local seeds.

The adivasi mahila kisans resolved to revive traditional cultivation models of Sabuja Padar and Gharabari to encourage households to nurture biodiversity in farming systems. To facilitate this, they worked on the approach of Seed Mapping at the cluster and village levels and shared this at the Gram Panchayat Sangathans.

This process opened up an opportunity for crop enrichment in the area. Exchange of seeds became a tool to increase food production rather than a personal choice of adopting local seeds at personal will. Considering the strengths of the traditional mixed cropping practice, farmers in Malelguda decided to go back to the age old practice of mixed cropping on their lands. Presently, more than 78 households follow mixed cropping using pulses, millets, cereals etc. The crops are integrated in such a manner that the communities are able to harvest food throughout the year. Soil fertility is enhanced and resilience of the farm to climate change is increased. In 2014, around 10 households raised 1-6 varieties and 7 households raised 7-15 varieties of crops on their land.

The communities now grow food during the summer season also. The households choose drought resistant vegetable varieties and creepers, to manage vegetable production within the available soil moisture. Waste water from the household is used to maintain the plants. Liquid manure is used to grow healthy plants.



Besides meeting household needs, Ms. Manguli Pangi, one of the active mahila kisans, earned Rs. 4500 out of her vegetables sale during the dry summer of 2012. In 2014, around 39 households grew vegetables for a period of three months and 27 households grew them for a period of 4 to 6 months.

Bihana Maa Adivasi women, play a key role in nurturing the local seeds through selection, treatment and conservation. Recognizing this, the village committee of farmers of Malelguda identified Kanchan Pujari as the “Seed Mother” of their village. To multiply the identified lost varieties of seeds, the seed mother would source them from other villages, distributing the seeds to women farmer leaders like Dukhia Benda, Jaya Madkami, Manguli Pangi, Chandrama Khara etc., ensuring multiplication of these seeds.

Collectively, the women initially took up millet and pulses cultivation and shared their yield with fellow farm families. This helped other farm families to exchange seeds while enhancing crop diversity on their family farms.

Kanchan was the contact point for all the farmers in the village. She helped them map their cropping pattern based on the type of land they had. She encouraged women to raise seasonal vegetable nurseries so that all families could collect saplings and raise them in their backyards. Over the years Kanchan has been instrumental in organizing the annual and seasonal seed exchange among the farm families.

Poverty to Prosperity: Communities that starved under food insecurity for four to six months in a year during 2009 now have accessibility to staple food for almost 8 months and other foods for 10 months in an year. The financial needs of the families are also being met by selling of aromatic paddy and vegetables at premium prices. Dependence on external inputs has considerably reduced, both for seeds as well as for other inputs. Communities are preparing the compost and liquid manure and using them in place of fertilisers and pesticides. They have also availed support from the government in setting up compost pits.

The emergence of village leaders like Mr. Arjun Dura, Laxmi Khila and Chandrama Khara who passionately share the resilient nature of the local crops in the dry land conditions, promise a hope that this development will remain sustainable.

Farmers in Malelguda now have better access and control over their seeds, inputs and food. With the help of MKSP and support received from SHGs, they have learnt how to come out of poverty and lead a dignified life.



PRADAN-TASAR WITH **CSB** OF **ODISHA** HAS BEEN WORKING IN **NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCE (NTFP)**. It has covered the block Banpal in the district Keonjhar. It has reached out to 2654 mahila kisans. it's total project cost for 3 years was 4.77 crores.



PROCEDURE FOR PROJECT APPROVAL

The Mahila Kisan Shashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) strives to move away from the allocation based approach for sanctioning projects. Projects under MKSP are undertaken on the basis of demand.

ROLE OF STATE RURAL LIVELIHOOD MISSIONS (SRLMS) IN PROJECT APPRAISAL?

The state missions are responsible for scrutinizing the PIAs.

Different PIAs are identified on the basis of their existing engagement with poor and vulnerable households to develop suitable ecosystems which can support livelihood enhancement of the targeted rural poor women households. This is done by covering them under a SHG network.

The basic procedure for project sanction under MKSP follows as below:

1. Proposals are submitted to the state missions for consideration under MKSP. These are evaluated and forwarded on the basis of specific requirements of the given state.

CARD OF MADHYA PRADESH HAS BEEN WORKING IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (SA). It has covered the blocks Mandla, Ghughri and Dindori in the Maikal Hills Region of Mandla and Dindori. It has reached out to 4500 mahila kisans. Their total project cost for 3 years was 2.56 crores.

LIFE ACADEMY OF VOCATIONAL STUDIES HAS BEEN WORKING IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (SA) and Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) in odisha. It covered in the Koraput district. It has reached out to 3000 mahila kisans in its total allocated project cost of 1.73 crores in 3 years.



2. The projects recommended by the State are then forwarded to the MoRD in a prescribed template.

- Processing of the projects received with state recommendations is done in two cycles in a given year.
- In each cycle, the process starts with a primary scrutiny that is conducted by MoRD officials with the following objectives (i) to check that the project has been recommended by the State Government (ii) to check that the PIA has provided the requisite information as per the MKSP project template (iii) that the set of activities proposed are covered under the umbrella of Sustainable agriculture or NTFP.
- Thereafter, desk scrutiny of the projects is done as per norms under the 'desk appraisal and score card'. The desk appraisal is conducted by a team of independent experts, representatives from the State Government and the NMMU team of DAY-NRLM.
- Desk Appraisal of projects is followed by field assessment of shortlisted projects. This is done by a team of experts/project resource persons/community resource persons and representative from the state government. The field appraisal report of each project is prepared by the team of experts.
- The projects found to be in conformity with the guidelines after the field visit are placed before the Project Screening Committee (PSC) for consideration. After approval of the PSC, the projects are placed before the PAC for approval.
- Once the PAC approves the project, the coordinating agency and PIA sign the MoU and accept the terms and conditions of approval. Subsequently, the 1st installment of the central share is released.

Poor Rural woman gets empowered, MKSP is need of the hour.

HARSHA TRUST OF ODISHA HAS BEEN WORKING IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (SA). It has covered the block Kundra in the district Koraput. It has reached out to 1750 mahila kisans. it's total project cost for 3 years was 0.97 crores.

MADHYAM FOUNDATION OF ODISHA HAS BEEN WORKING IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (SA). It has covered blocks in the districts Kalahandi, Malkangiri and Khurdha. It has reached out to 6000 mahila kisans. It's total project cost for 3 years was 4.19 crores.

TRAINING OF PASHU SAKHIS

An approach supporting Centre for microFinance (CmF) in addressing the Food security needs of Mahila Kisans in Rajasthan

Meera Devi, a Mahila Kisan from Rampura village, district Tonk in Rajasthan, is one of CmF trained livestock service providers. She has attended, as part of her course, the Improved Animal Management (IAM) training and the Cornerstone training. She was selected to be a Pashu Sakhi by the village level cluster in 2013 and has been a member of the Pashu Palak group for the past two years.

Empowered with her new-found knowledge, Meera today, trains residents of her villages as well as those of nearby villages to create awareness regarding various practices associated with animal rearing. As per Meera, SRIJAN, the SHG she is a part of, helped her learn the basics of preventive care for animals and gave her the confidence to guide villagers. Her students have now learnt the method to provide basic first-aid treatments to animals when needed.

By expanding her services to different villages, she is able to earn an additional Rs. 1000 per month. Motivated, however, by a zeal to help other women in distress she often offers free services and training to those that cannot afford it. Meera feels, the major benefit associated with SHG membership, is the strength that the women have as a group.

Meera gave Azola seeds as gifts to members of her SHG and while doing so, requested them to not only use them but subsequently gift them to some other people who did not have sources of green fodder for their animals. She has developed a sense of compassion in her fellow mahila kisans as well and has been dedicated to the cause of spreading happiness and a sense of security amongst them.

As an environment savvy women, she plants different types of trees such as Neem, Lemon, and Guava etc. As a forward-looking one, she uses her additional income to further her education.

Centre for microFinance (CmF), a Jaipur based not for profit organization is implementing MKSP in seven districts of Rajasthan, as a lead agency along with six consortium partners. CmF aims to upscale livelihood interventions under Sakh-Se-Vikas (SSV) to over 25,500 women farmers by organizing them into producer collectives. Training mahila kisans to work as pashu sakhis or livestock service providers is one such initiative towards building a producers collective.

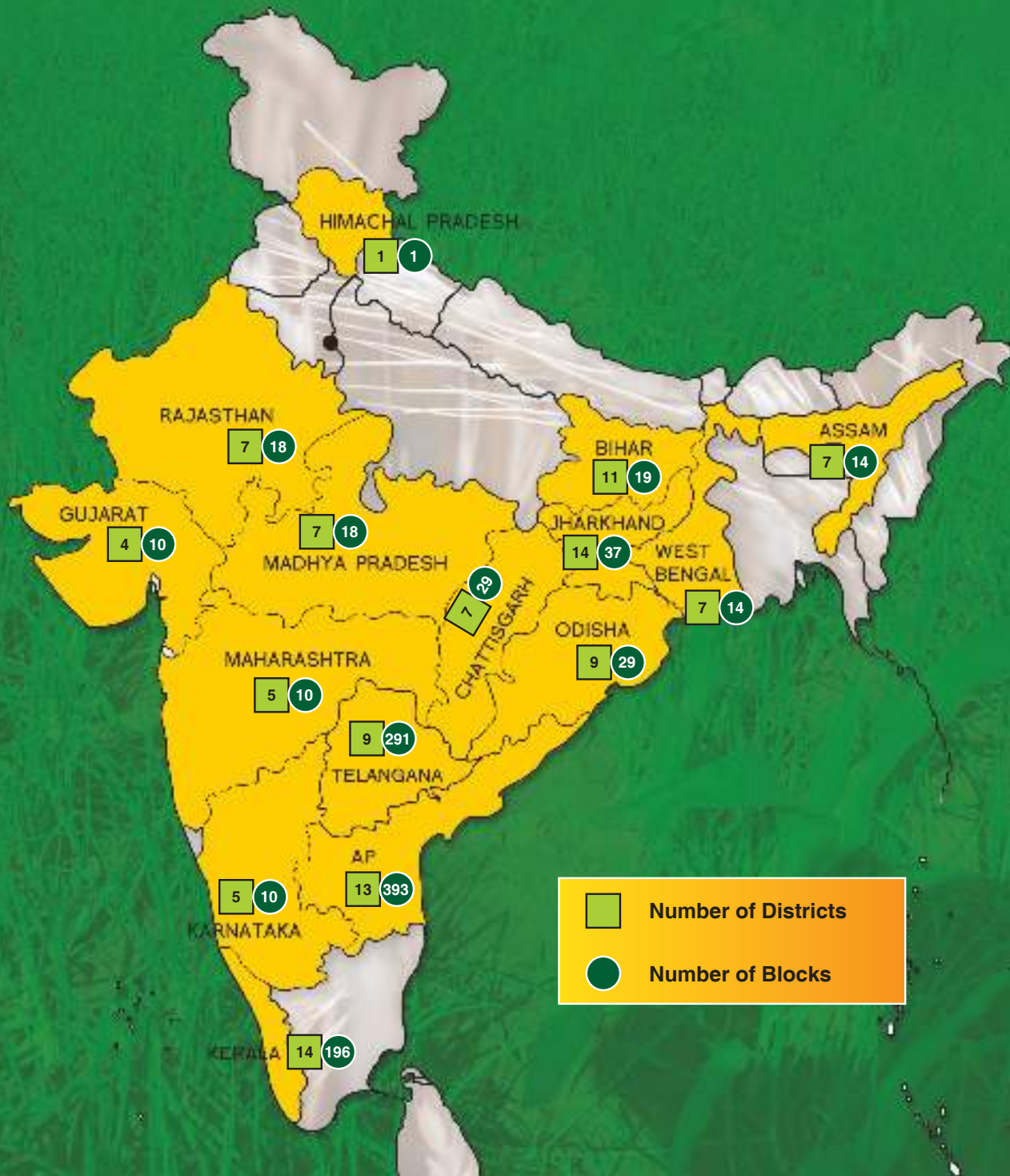
VILLAGE CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT BY BAIF: Addressing the Food security needs of Mahila Kisans in Maharashtra

BAIF Development Research Foundation (formerly registered as the Bharatiya Agro Industries Foundation), is a reputed voluntary organisation which promotes sustainable livelihood in Rural India. The major activities of BAIF are promotion of dairy husbandry, goat husbandry, water resources development, sustainable agriculture and agri-horti-forestry for rehabilitation of tribals on degraded lands and various rural non-farm activities for generating employment for landless families. Environmental sustainability and empowerment of women cut across all these programmes.

BAIF has developed the Village Cluster Development Approach to reach the poorest of the poor. This approach is a unique approach to identify the problems and needs of poor families and introduce appropriate technologies and services to solve them. To ensure sustainability, SHGs of men and women with homogeneous socio-economic statuses, who have identified their needs and initiated various income generation and community development initiatives are promoted. Over 10,000 people, 80% of which are women, have been promoted by BAIF through self-help groups, user groups and their federations.

BAIF's intervention in livelihood promotion including that in Tasar based Sericulture can be bulleted as follows:

- Wadi programme (Horticulture Orchard)
- Livestock development programme
- Poultry and Goatery
- Watershed development – Water Body based activities (Fishery and chestnut cultivation)
- Improved agriculture and Organic farming.
- Natural resource management
- Training and capacity building.
- Kitchen herbal garden / nutritional garden.
- Non-farm sector activities- Assistance to landless rural commune
- Tree based farming
- Clean drinking water.
- Forest based activities (NTFP activities viz. Lac cultivation, Tasar sericulture, Honey harvesting from rock bees)
- Tasar pre and post cocoon activities (silkworm rearing, seed production and spinning)



CENTRE FOR MICROFINANCE (CMF) OF RAJASTHAN HAS BEEN WORKING IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (SA). It has covered the blocks Deoli, Niwai, Uniara, Nainwa, Bundi, K.Patan, Dholpur, Bari, Baseri, Ramgarh, Umren, Laxmangarh, Thanagazi, Dausa, Biccjiwara, Simalwara, Aspur, Dungarpur and Jawaja in the districts of Tonk, Bundi, Dholpur, Alwar, Dausa, Dungarpur, Ajmer. It has reached out to 25500 mahila kisans. it's total project cost for 3 years was 11.24 crores.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

CRPs play an important role in promoting sustainable, climate smart eco-agriculture and NTFP practices. It is expected that strong cadre of community “heroes” or CRPs (Community Resource Persons) will be created in every village in the course of implementation of the MKSP. This will mark a departure from a Project based approach towards a community driven CRP led approach of project implementation.

Strategically, state missions are encouraged to play a direct role in the implementation of the livelihood interventions. It is envisaged that, as a result of these interventions,

1. Social capital in the form of CRPs will be created for every village. These community heroes, from the pool of community best practitioners, will practice all the protocols promoted under the Ultra-poor strategy for Sustainable Agriculture, NTFP and Livestock.
2. Every poor household will be supported on at least 2 primary sector livelihoods (Sustainable Agriculture, NTFP and Livestock).
3. There will be an improvement in food and nutritional security for all covered households.
4. There is an increment in the net household income for all households covered under the intervention.



ORGANISATION FOR RURAL RECONSTRUCTION & INTEGRATED SOCIAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES (ORRISSA) has been working in Sustainable Agriculture (SA) in odisha. It has covered 4 blocks in the districts Malkangiri and Kandhamala. reaching out to a total of 3000 mahila kisans. It's total project cost for 3 years was 3.43 crores.



KANCHONA DAS : A SUCCESS STORY

Loka Kalyan Parishad (LKP), a Kolkata based non-profit voluntary organization, is the implementing agency for MKSP in five districts of West Bengal. Kanchona Das of village Bagtore in district Birbhum is one of the mahila kisans who is being supported in her livelihood endeavours by LKP.

Kanchona lives with her children and husband. Her husband is a wage labourer in Bagtore village. They own 0.4 acres of land, of which 0.35 acres is under cultivation while the remaining is utilized as a Home Nutrition Garden. She also cultivates on 0.8 acre of leased land. Most of the area of her own land and the leased land is irrigated, the remaining being rain-fed.

Prior to LKP's intervention Kanchona worked as a domestic help to substantiate her income. While food insecurity had an adverse impact on her family's lifestyle she could not even think of procuring land on lease. She could not provide adequate education to her children and due to lack of awareness she was apprehensive about joining Self Help Group activities.

The inception of MKSP in her village, gave LKP an opportunity to get in touch with her and successfully motivate her to join the SHG Pritilata and participate in group activities. Further LKP facilitated her access to the Grain Bank and Group Seed Bank, and taught her about bank savings. A combined result was that Kanchona procured land on lease and learnt about the concept of a community garden, agro-forestry, fish cultivation in the pond, etc. She learnt about and was trained to utilize innovative techniques such as, construction of Vermin compost pit and Bio Compost, application of liquid manure etc. These helped her in enhancing food production.

With support from LKP, Kanchona Das experienced significant changes in her lifestyle particularly with respect to food security. The level of productivity of her land improved and she got involved in various activities that in turn ensured a substantial increase in her income from multiple sources.

Encouraged by the positive result of its intervention, LKP has decided to further scale up their activities to reach a greater number of mahila kisans.



MILESTONES

Since inception of MKSP, **119** districts, **1,067** blocks and more than **20,362** villages have been covered, with a total project outlay of **Rs. 822** Crore reaching out to more than **33.35** lakh Mahila Kisans.