



**SWAYAM SHIKSHAN PRAYOG**  
empowering women to lead change

*SSP facilitates sustainable community development by building capacities of grassroots women's collectives to lead social and economic transformation in climate threatened regions of India*

For more information:

[www.sspindia.org](http://www.sspindia.org)

## SWAYAM SHIKSHAN PRAYOG QUARTERLY UPDATE

APRIL - JUNE 2019

### CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRICULTURE

A drought assessment study was conducted by SSP in Latur and Osmanabad districts which revealed that there is distress sale of livestock in some of the villages due to lack of fodder and water and absence of fodder camps by government. Most of the farmers being small and marginal and without any irrigation sources were not able to take Rabi and summer crops. There was no source of income for majority of the families.

SSP in partnership with Soppecom conducted two-day's workshop on Land Rights for 51 Community Resource Persons and Leaders in Latur. Women farmers are perceived as farm labour and lack access to govt. extension services in the absence of no land titles on their names. This workshop focused on informing processes related to accessing land rights by women farmers through these leaders.

Nearly 15,000 women farmers were provided awareness on drought resilient farming practices like cultivation of crops that require less water, azolla, hydroponics, water conservation and management

In partnership with AFARM and Easy Krishi, SSP conducted soil testing for 841 women farmers and provided instant reports. Soil testing helps determine NPK value in soil, increases soil fertility and saves cost incurred on farm inputs as well as increases productivity.

**Supported by: APPI, Misereor, MKSP under MSRLM, GoM & GES.**

### ACHIEVEMENTS

- Cultivation of vegetables by women farmers through nutrition gardens
- Women farmers accessed govt schemes worth Rs. 1.78 cr
- Leadership development workshop was conducted for women leaders
- Tree plantation carried out in villages by women leaders in partnership with the Gram Panchayat.
- Women farmers in Latur trained in dairy value-chain as part of livelihood diversification and enhancing income and market access for women farmers.



## BUILDING RESILIENCE IN DISASTER HIT ODISHA

The cyclonic storm, Fani in Odisha has devastated communities and caused tremendous losses. Instead of mourning their losses, the brave women of Ganjam District have collectively started restoring livelihoods and homes.

Supported by Huairou Commission, SSP and ORISSA, the NGO began building women's leadership for climate action in 2018. The program enhances access to reliable climate resilient information for combating climate threats & building resilience through a robust govt-NGO-community eco system.

The women farmers in Ganjam district

were mobilized to design their plan for kharif crops with a diversified range to help small farm families face the repeated climate change challenges.

The team also facilitated the mobilisation of government resources for cyclone shelters. ORISSA facilitated village level seed mapping and crop planning with experience from Fani affected crops. Exchange program with tribals of Kondhamal for local and traditional know of seeds and best practices were carried out.

**Implementation Partners:** ORISSA  
**Supported by:** Huairou Commission



## STRENGTHENING GRASSROOTS CAPACITIES IN BIHAR

With the support of Misereor and NGO Partners in 9 districts, SSP implemented the DRR program to strengthen grassroots capacities, climate change adaptation & disaster risk reduction, through promotion of women's leadership.

Agriculture based skill training was provided to women farmers with the help of Krishi Samvad Sahayaks. Capacity building workshops were conducted to promote low cost models of organic farming, organic manure, vermi-compost production and compost pits for solid waste management. Climate resilient farming techniques, use of matka rasayan, an organic pesticide, and regular network meetings were promoted.

## POST FLOOD INTERVENTIONS IN KERALA

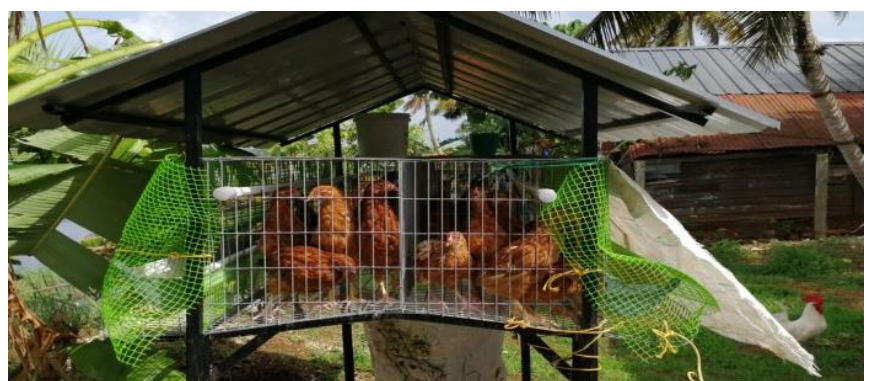
### **SSP initiated the Post Flood Program across five districts of Kerala in August 2018 to create sustainable models in community resilience**

SSP has launched the livelihood initiatives at Mundar in Kottayam district. Chicks and quails with hi-tech cages were distributed by Hon. Ms. C K Asha, MLA, Vaikkom to the flood affected families. SSP has rebuilt houses for two flood victims and handed over the key to the house owners. Thirteen women masons who had completed training conducted by Archana Women's Center were presented with a course completion certificate. Based on this newly acquired knowledge, these women masons have started construction of houses and toilets for flood affected families.

**Sakhi Farmer Groups** were formed in Wayanad district to train women on climate resilient farming techniques. SSP collaborated with the local authorities to access different varieties of high quality seeds for these Sakhi farmers groups. Most of them will be cultivated in grow-bags with organic inputs. Loan approval schemes were introduced to these groups. Women farmers participated in Farmers Assembly from 18 wards.

In partnership with GPs and Haritha Kerala mission, members of Sakhi Women's Groups in Wayanad district, cleaned their villages as part of the **"Get prepared for monsoon"** program.

**Supported by:** Habitat for Humanity India, Huairou Commission, Merrimac Foundation and Microland





# WATER, SANITATION, HEALTH AND HYGIENE

**SSP brings together local governments and women for enhanced water security, sustained sanitation, nutrition and productive activities in drought-hit regions.**

**Women for Sanitation Hygiene and Resilient Practices (wSHARP)**, is a women led, community in which 10,000 families along with 100 Arogya Sakhis were trained on water allocation during lean periods. The aim was to build community resilience towards improving water security and nutrition for women and children.

In the last six months, more than 1200 kitchen gardens were created for food security and 650 soak pits for water storage. Over 1500 women were trained in one acre model farming. 2828 families benefitted with 64 lakh rupees through various schemes such as ATMA, PoCRA, SBM, MREGS and the water supply department

**Arogya sakhis** in partnership

with local government authorities conducted sanitary surveillance of 400 village water sources across Osmanabad and Latur.

**Menstrual Hygiene Day** was celebrated at Deoni in Latur district. Awareness sessions on menstrual hygiene management were organised for 5,500 women and girls to adopt safe menstruation practices.

**Exchange program:** Women farmers from Kallam visited 50 villages of Deoni to train farmers on organic farming and introduce bio-farming as a means to fight climate change. Women pledged to reduce risk, grow vegetables, grains and dal in the face of water scarcity. Tree plantation in partnership with GPs was conducted in 21 villages.

**Supported by: UNICEF India**



## WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP

**UMED-MSRLM's 'Startup Village Entrepreneurship Program** – SVEP's non-farm livelihood strategy is to launch rural women as new entrepreneurs and provide business support to existing women led-enterprise resulting in enhanced earnings and social status. The SVEP project is being implemented in the two blocks of Barshi and Mohol in Solapur district. Achievements in this quarter include: 294 Women-led enterprises have been created / facilitated; CIF, Bank and Mudra loan of Rs 40 Lakh have been facilitated and distributed; 262 enterprises have been certified under Udyog Adhaar; and training on digital and financial literacy module.

Over 2000 women farmers accessed government schemes worth Rs. 1.78 crore. Leadership development workshop was conducted for 550 women leaders. 561 women farmers in Latur district were trained in dairy value-chain as part of livelihood diversification and enhancing income and market access for women farmers.

As a part of Avendus's CSR efforts their team of corporates visited Latur district to witness grassroots interventions. The team intends to work on initiatives along with SSP to support these marginalized women entrepreneurs with business training and support Dairy and value added services along with allied enterprises and standardizing inputs like packaging, branding, marketing, finance and a sales channel for their produce were initiated.

**Supported by: UMED-MSRLM, Dalyan Foundation and Avendus.**

## EVENTS AND CONFERENCES:

**Global Commission of Adaptation (GCA) at Dakar, Senegal** which was co-hosted by OXFAM and Huairou Commission was attended by Prema Gopalan, Executive Director, SSP on 18th - 19th May, 2019. The Dakar constituency based consultation provided a bird's eye view and a micro view of specific impacts of resilience strategies by the communities. During the meet the GCA delegation understood the challenges faced by the urban and rural communities who were impacted by climate change, their adaptation strategies and their needs for resources, reforms and support.

**CBA13: Local Solutions Inspiring Global Action**, at Addis Ababa in Ethiopia brought together practitioners, grassroots representatives, government planners, policymakers and donors working at all levels to brainstorm ways to drive the ambition for a climate-resilient future. Prema Gopalan participated in this conference held during 1st - 4th April, 2019 to share her ideas pertaining to grassroots women.

## CASE STUDIES

### SUSTAINING SANITATION IN DROUGHT: AROGYA SAKHIS INTRODUCE SATO

In Dongarewadi village 55 houses had toilets but Jaya an Arogya Sakhi Resource amongst other 6 did not. With the help of SSP she installed the SaTo (Safe toilet) pan which uses minimum water. SaTo limits disease transmission by not exposing toilets to open air. It is a plastic mold fit into a concrete base over a pit, which can be used without basic plumbing or sewer infrastructure.

She also convinced other households to construct toilets. She helped people to get due incentives provided under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) to BPL or identified APLs for construction of Individual Household Latrines.

### BREAK YOUR MENTAL BARRIERS: A STORY OF AN INTUITIVE ENTREPRENEUR

***Vanita Khole was a revolutionary who broke all social norms of her village and became an independent woman supporting her family.***

Vanita received SVEP entrepreneurship training from UMED-MSRLM through SSP in 2017 on marketing skills, value chain, maintaining records, attracting more customers and expanding her business. Based on market opportunity she started a small ice-candy manufacturing unit.

Since the last 2 years, Vanita has managed to successfully earn 3-4 lakhs rupees per season from her ice cream business alongside her household chores. Maintaining financial records and data enabled her to enhance her understanding of market conditions and customer requirements. Vanita has also developed the confidence to expand her business beyond her village.

Vanita, now feels empowered and independent. She is capable of running a business without compromising her household responsibilities and stands as a great inspiration to others. She provides consultation to other entrepreneurs to maximize profit margins and improve business potential. Vanita has earned self-respect and dignity through her business.



### WOMEN'S REBUILDING INITIATIVES IN WAYANAD, KERALA

Six women farmers from the Paniya tribal community lost their livelihood after 2018 Kerala floods. SSP helped them form Sakhi farmer groups and carry out organic farming on an acre of leased land using only organic manure and fertilizers. They shared the labour and used limited irrigation resources. Post a healthy demand for their products and good market rates they expanded the area of cultivation thus leading to higher income.

