



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE QUARTER

Swayam Shikshan Prayog facilitates sustainable community development by building capacities of grassroots women's collectives to lead social and economic transformation in climate threatened regions of India with a focus on building climate resilience through women's groups.

Our 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. A total of 7725 potential entrepreneurs trained and 4129 enterprises were supported under the **Start up Village Entrepreneurship Program (SVEP)**

Promotion of grassroots women's empowerment through entrepreneurship and leadership program is being implemented across 4 blocks of Osmanabad and Solapur with **Women's Resource Centers (WELI)**. 16 trainers were engaged to deliver refresher and basic trainings & handholding support to entrepreneurs. 997 women participated in mobilization meetings and 276 women attended network meetings to discuss progress & innovative ideas for scale-up.

**Business trainings** were organised to support dairy, management of cattle fodder, control of animal diseases and value-added services along with allied enterprises and standardizing inputs like packaging, branding, marketing, finance and a sales channel for their produce in Osmanabad and Latur districts.

SSP brings together local governments and women for **enhanced food security, sustainable sanitation, nutrition** and productive activities in drought-hit regions of Nanded district of Maharashtra.

To **reduce mortality through addressing anaemia and malnutrition problem** among women and children program in 30 village of Nanded district focuses on a holistic approach of Arogya Sakhis model, kitchen garden and nutrition.

SSP's programs in **Kerala state is focusing on encouraging women's leadership**, diversifying livelihoods and entrepreneurship, making agriculture climate resilient, food security, health, water, sanitation and hygiene, as well as constructing houses and repairing damaged houses and toilets.

SSP is working in **partnership with 9 different NGO's in Bihar** to build Community resilience as well as exhibiting disaster resilience program in various districts of Bihar. Women farmers were trained and motivated with community resilience agricultural practices including organic farming methods.

Our team has completed **the survey and identified 144 Sakhis across 600 villages** for improving access to clean energy through women's entrepreneurship in Nalanda and Gaya districts in Bihar.

## Climate Resilient Agriculture

SSP's model seeks to empower and recognize rural women as farmers and change-makers by ensuring they get cultivation rights over their family farm and later land rights to make a shift from cash crops to food crops and gain over selling produce in local markets.

*Krishi Samvad Sahayak training:* Training for CRP [krushi sakhi] on sustainable agriculture, women empowerment as well entrepreneurship were conducted. Over 7418 farmers and Krishi Samvad Sahayaks participates in the 536 farmer's group meeting and 4056 women were trained in farmer's training organized in 117 villages of Osmanabad and Latur. KSS's were trained on sustainable agricultural model using low cost input farming and access to farmers for government convergences.

*Farmer Training:* 7000 were trained on land ownership to women farmers, accesses to government convergences and consumptions of nutritious cultivation of vegetables organized in 125 villages of Osmanabad and Latur. Farmers were trained on bio-fertilizer bio-pesticide and organic seed production.

*Land ownership:* We aim to encourage women farmers for decision making in the farm and as well as household. They take decision on kind of seeds, use of bio pesticides, bio fertilizers also cultivation of food crops in both season with chemical free farming especially for house hold consumption. 156 meetings held by KSS & 2208 women farmers participated. Eight groups were linked to ATMA in this month.

*Awareness campaign:* 164 campaigns were organized which trained 2744 farmers on climate resilient agriculture and one acre model farming. 5,756 house visits were done in 200 villages, for providing awareness on the harmful uses of chemical pest control by women farmers and benefits of using bio-farming techniques, use of azolla, hydroponics for cattle feed supplementary, making bio fertilizers like vermi-compost beds as well as for promotion of marketing of rural products by our women.

From 19 villages, total of 63 farmers were connected for convergence of Government Schemes for farm sustainability. 25 farmers from 10 villages accessed Government schemes through convergences of Rs. 37,96,500/-. Twenty women accessed land ownership for a total land of 44.50 acres. Total 26 Producer Groups were formed in 13 villages across four blocks.



*Demonstration on Pest Management:* Pest management being the most crucial part of resilient agriculture. SSP promotes use of Bio-pesticide to improve crop health & crop condition.

*Dashparni* is important for the control 43 demo of Dashparni at village level and 667 women farmers involved. *Nimark* is also good for pest management in climate resilient agriculture. We have conducted 43 Nimark making demos at village level where 597 women participated. *Jeevamurth:* 25 farmers participated in the D composer demo in one village, while 9 trainings cum demonstration were conducted in 9 villages & 89 farmers participated in the demo on making Jeevamurth.

*Vermiculture Composting Training:* were conducted at village level in 10 villages across three talukas to promote low cost and using natural resources management through vermi composting. 200 participants benefited from the training on using fertilizers for increased soil fertility, capacity for storage of water holding, less water consumption for crops and nutrient value for crops management. In 2 blocks 14 training cum demonstrations were conducted in 14 villages in which 136 farmers are participated.

*Cattle Feed Supplementary [Azolla]* training to farmers was organized to give training on azolla as supplementary for livestock for saving cost and to increase milk quantity, promote animals health, support as a nutritious method and to use in farm as a tonic for increase farm productivity and 48 women participated from 4 villages.

*Dialogue workshops:* Workshop with KVK's, ATMA department officials, Resilience department and Bank Manager for loan disbursement were organized. Through these workshops women farmers got an opportunity to interact with the government officials and resolve their local issues. 898 farms were conducted in Ausa and Lohara villages of Osmanabad and latur by KSS to identify best farm practices, encourage other farmers with proper guidance on farming.

*Two inspiring leaders Archana Bhosale and Godavari Dange were invited as special guests for women Farmers Melava at Parbhani University, Maharashtra. They addressed the audience and shared their experiences on how to transform agriculture in severe drought conditions.*



## Women's Entrepreneurship and Leadership

**SSP supports women entrepreneurs with business training to support Dairy, management of cattle fodder, control of animal diseases and value-added services along with allied enterprises and standardizing inputs like packaging, branding, marketing, finance and a sales channel for their produce.**

Total of 76 follow-up meetings held outreached to 1127 women. Four leadership meetings were participated by 50 members. 3 Basic trainings held which includes 1-day induction training and 4 days basic training. Total of 156 women participated.

Handholding support is given through regular one-to-one follows up, meetings in village and network meetings. 4 Network summits organized in Jan at 4 centers provided an avenue to exhibit their entrepreneurial talents, and networking possibilities.



**EDP Training:** SSP's EDP module is a comprehensive training unit. It is four days' inclusive classroom training. It focuses on enterprise development and its successful management. This four-day training emphasis on journey of an enterprise and its owner: group discussion on planning one's own enterprise are the main aspects of the said module. It also stresses upon risk taking approach and innovative entrepreneurship opportunities, book keeping, roles and responsibilities of entrepreneur, customer and dealer relationship and dialogue as well. Skills of an entrepreneur in developing her own business plan and need for legal and license along with existing government schemes and bank linkages for an enterprise development are communicated in these sessions.

Entrepreneur Mudra Loan access from bank to 124 SVEP entrepreneurs is Rs 107/- lakhs. Through conversion 1547 SVEP entrepreneurs have been given Udhog Adhar license.

Through conversion 206 SVEP enterprise have been given food license (FSSI) and 56 CRP-EPs Trained and placed under SVEP

7725 Potential entrepreneur trained under 321 Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP). 4129 enterprises supported under SVEP. 27 SVEP entrepreneurs have applied for GST certificate.

Rs.14507000 /- CEF amount released from MSRLM to nodal CBO. Community Enterprises Fund (CEF) Sanction to 1576 SVEP enterprises and is Rs. 447/- lakh. Community Enterprises Fund (CEF) given to 887 SVEP enterprises and is Rs. 231 lakh.

**CRP - EPs Planning Meeting:** CRP - EPs Planning Meeting conducted at BRC office, business expansion, marketing strategies, linkages with government schemes and availing Mudra loans were discussed.

**Cluster level Entrepreneurs meeting for peer learning:** Cluster meetings were organized at Narkhed block to train 59 participants on strategies for start-up, value chain creation and linkages to banks and government schemes. This meeting helped to setup 10 new business in the village.

The program was organized in three places at Narkhed, wafale, waluj with 52 potential entrepreneurs. This training helped to setup 24 business new start-ups in the village. A total of 22 business proposals were submitted at the BRC meeting. Proposals for businesses of production, trading, services sectors. Out of a total demand of Rs 10 lakh, Rs 8.30 lakh has been approved for 22 enterprises.

A pilot model of branding broom has been created by selecting 8 professionals from 2 villages for working on value chain development broom products.

**Grand rally for women's day:** March 8: - A grand rally was organized in Barshi on the occasion of World Women's Day. Business exhibition were made by the women entrepreneurs. Various businesses of the group were showcased at a business exhibition rally. All the women entrepreneurs participated in the rally.



### **"Improving access to clean energy through women's entrepreneurship in Bihar"**

**Training of Sakhi:** We had organized a one day entrepreneurship training program on clean energy where information on the need for clean energy were understood, existing and new Sakhis were introduced, business plan was discussed and sakhis were given training on basic entrepreneurship skills including product promotion, network meeting etc.



# Water, Health and Sanitation

**A women led community in which Arogya Sakhi's and families are trained on water allocation during lean period, with an aim to build community resilience towards improving water security and nutrition for women and children.**

They offer preventive antenatal, postnatal, baby care, nutritional health and family planning counselling and sanitation and hygiene information during their home visits in project villages. The project aims to reduce mortality through addressing anaemia and malnutrition problem among women & children in Nanded district.

Reducing Mortality through addressing anemia and malnutrition problem among women and children. The project seeks to empower married women, pregnant women and women with children under age five through home base care with an Arogya Sakhi (health friend).

**Training on Health and Sanitation of Arogya sakhi and village leaders:** held at Sonkhed PHC Hand wash and sanitation awareness games and puzzles were organized. Group presentations with creation of sanitation awareness songs and pledge by arogya sakhi. Hand wash demonstration kit was provided involving including, water and sanitations guide, wastewater and solid waste management to each Arogya sakhi. Trainings were conducted on water treatment, water budgeting for household, water management, sanitary surveillance, child health and waste management.

Training on Health and sanitation held at Sonkhed PHC sessions by ms Naseem sheikh and seema sayyad. The methodology followed was very interactive as it started with why you come for training and their expectations from it. Hand wash and sanitation awareness games and puzzles were played among groups. Moreover individual topic presentations among groups with creation of sanitation awareness songs and pledge by arogya sakhi. We provided hand wash demonstration kit involving sequence boxes and puzzle along with booklets including nutritional recipes, water and sanitations guide, wastewater and solid waste management to each arogya for awareness meeting at village level.



**Cluster poshan melawa:** Special attendees from government officials such as anganwadi worker, asha worker and supervisor were involved in posahan melawa includes sonkhed, madki, Dhapshed, Mohanpura Betsangvi. Total 56 participants were involved and the importance of nutritional food for mother and her child was explained with the help of games involving nutritional food knowledge among targeted beneficiaries.

**Water (Household level and village level) Management:** Training was provided on Water storage, Ways of treating water for drinking purpose, Water need in day to day life, Water budgeting for household, Rain water storage and reuse to villages and leaders.

**Health and Sanitation training:** Training was also provided on Water sanitary surveillance, Water resources investigation by arogya sakhi, Group wise presentation on topics namely bad water disposal, Water resources and its hygiene, water storage, Child stool management, Hand wash benefits for households with games and puzzles and Menstruation management for girls and women.

**Awareness campaign in 10 villages:** Awareness campaign on Health and nutrition to address malnutrition in the village - What is Malnutrition, Symptoms of Malnutrition, Reasons behind Malnutrition and Ways to tackle Malnutrition.

**Immediate measures to tackle the COVID-19 outbreak:** Arogya Sakhi Task Force was formed and they were provided best possible information and guidance on COVID precautions and care. Arogya Sakhis were closely working and helping their respective gram panchayats COVID- 19 sahayata team along with GP sarpanch, GP members, Gram Sevak, Talathi and health care workers namely Asha and Anganwadi workers. Needy and vulnerable household selections who are suffering due to 21 day COVID-19 lockdown in targeted villages were done.



# Building Community Resilience

## Post Flood Interventions in Kerala

### Kottayam

#### Project highlights:

- Provided solar lanterns to 100 families.
- Provided lamp wick production training to beneficiaries.
- Beneficiaries started marketing.
- Completed 26 home repairs.
- 26 new house construction work in progress.
- Completed 20 Individual Household Latrines.

**Solar Lantern Distribution (Saurorja Viplavam 2K20):** As the part of the Mundar development project, SSP team decided to distribute solar lanterns to the families in the village. MP of Kottayam, Mr. Thomas Chazhikkadan inaugurated the function of solar lantern distribution by lighting up a Solar Lantern. 800 solar lantern were distributed to 100 families in the Mundar district.

**Training for Summer Crop:** SSP team conducted summer crop training, the importance of summer crop cultivation and of food security was discussed. Spinach, peas, bitter guard, snake guard, ladies finger etc will be cultivated by beneficiaries. The Agricultural officer offered support by providing seeds and bio-fertilizers for cultivation. 73 beneficiaries participated in the training programme.

**Women's Day Celebration:** On March 8<sup>th</sup> everyone celebrates World Women's day. Mrs. Sujatha Shaji gave motivational speech to the women in Mundar for their empowerment and inspiration followed by various activities.

### Wayanad

**Community Resource Fund (CRF):** CR Funds were given to 12 Self Help groups for starting their own business. Starting from Agricultural Nursery, Cattle rearing, Floor Mill to ready-made garment and tailoring unit have been successfully started and established by all the 12 groups. Group members were also actively involved in activities such as cloth paper bag making, for COVID-19 mask preparing and distribution.

**Cloth Bag and Mask Making:** One of our Sakhi Farmers Group Kallodi started cloth bag making at their residence, women's are now take trainings to make cloth and paper bag. They sold these bags at local markets. Due to the Situation of Covid-19 they are making masks widely and distributed to local peoples at the rate of Rs 10/- mask, by the end of March they distributed 478 masks to general public.

**Community Kitchen:** 2 community kitchens were started at Kavatta, Edavaka Grama Panchayath and Venniyode Kottathara Grama Panchayath as part of Covid -19. They made 1245 food kits in 2 Panchayaths.



## Strengthening Grassroots Capacities through Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adoption Program, Bihar

*SSP is working in partnership with 9 NGO partners for ongoing project "Strengthening and Scaling up Grassroots Capacities and Initiatives in Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in Bihar through Promotion of Women Leadership and Grassroots Network."*

**Learning Exchange with Community leaders:** SSP conducted peer learning exchanges event at pratapganj block of Supaul District. They shared experience about formation of SHGs, organic farming, training on disaster management task force, implementation training, meeting with district officials and exposure visits.

**Leadership development training:** 33 people were trained in four different groups in four villages on qualities of leadership, reasons to shift to organic farming, inspiring women to be potential farmers, creation of three year disaster task force and how to avail government schemes.

**CRF Follow-up visit:** SSP done CRF follow-up visit in three areas- the last month. So far 15 SHGs have received CRF which is being used for cultivation purpose like vegetables, papaya and rabbi crops in the last few months.

## Climate Justice Resilience Fund (CJRF), ODISHA

*Community Resilience Fund (CRF) being transferred to vulnerable communities in Ganjam District, Odisha.*

Activities are continuing in agriculture and livelihoods. The women groups in the villages are learning ways to negotiate with the government to address the community cause of safe drinking water, adequate cyclone shelters, effective drainage, irrigation to the crops and many more in the times to come to build on their efforts of resilience building.

The vulnerable village women with their deep understanding of the local resource base map its diversity as well as climate risks they face. Based on these, they also evolve simple ways to help each other to overcome the challenges.

Using Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools, they engage all the families to be part of this enabling process. The focus group discussions help women members mostly from vulnerable women to chart out the stress areas of their livelihoods as well as basic needs. The women primarily focus on local opportunities and resources available in the village and neighbourhood while finding alternative solutions.

Their focus is also on the aspects of low or no investment which can enable the cash poor families, the women also learning the skills of engaging with the government plans and program as they help members to access supports under various schemes. No of villages covered so far are 15 and Active villages in the last month are 10 and Beneficiaries covered till last month – 500 families.

## SUCCESS STORIES

### **Chandrakala Shivaji Kochre, a WCRF adopter from Osmanabad**

After adopting the MKSP program in 2016 and then the SFSA program in 2017, Chandrakala transformed herself from a farm labour to a decision maker in the family's farm practices. Chandrakala started off her journey as a farmer with 1 gunta (0.025 Acres) of land and today she has received 2 Acres of land in her name from her husband. Chandrakala has also influenced her husband in changing his farm practices and today the entire 4 acres has turned chemical free. Let us find out how the transformation happened.

After the initial MKSP training from SSP in Rabi 2016, it was difficult for Chandrakala to gain the right to cultivate from her husband. After repeated coaxing her husband agreed to give only 1 gunta (0.025 Acres) of land where she grew 5-6 varieties of vegetables in Kharif 2017. The next season she expanded to 2 guntas (0.05 Acres) and the production was encouraging. Since then the Kochre family has been dedicatedly growing food for their consumption in that 1 Acre of land and Chandrakala has been leading the effort. Last year, Chandrakala had managed to grow 5 varieties of Pulses, 2 varieties of Cereals, 4 varieties of oilseeds, and 15 varieties of vegetables for the family in her 1 acre of SFSA land – all these through use of locally available fertilizers, pesticides and seeds.

The shift in farm practices have empowered the family by reducing the costs on farm inputs and hired labour, saving money on market bought food items. The couple shared the change in food habits have improved their health and no one in the family needed to visit a doctor in the last one year.



Chandrakala and Shivaji Kochre

### **Baby Vinodhini, New House Beneficiary, Mundar, Kallara Panchayat, Kottayam district, Kerala**

Baby Vinodhini is a 53 year old woman who is living in Mundar with her husband Gopi (65) since 1985. They were living with the meager income of her husband in a small house, which had the chance to collapse at any moment. Their family income was not sufficient for meeting their daily expenses and hence they struggled to save good amount for their new house construction. They have a monthly income of INR 5000. In between all such struggles in 2018, the Kerala floods affected their lives badly with water getting entered to their house. With water reaching almost their neck level, they went to the flood relief camp (NSSHSS Kallara) and stayed there for 30 days. When they returned to their home, they were concerned and worried about their shelter. Their household materials were destroyed by the flood and the house was in a state filled with mud. It was found more horrible than before with their house getting completely damaged. They tried for getting a new house through different housing schemes, but unfortunately they didn't get any approval for the same. Later, she got selected as a new house beneficiary of Mundar Village Development Project and now their house construction work is in progress. They got INR 150000 as flood relief fund from Panchayat and they used this for material transportation for the new house. "We tried a lot to get a new house through different housing schemes and we were left unanswered by many that made us almost hopeless. But when we realized that we are getting a new house, our hope has been restored" said Baby Vinodhini.



# MEDIA ARTICLES

## Best of 2019: Women lead climate-smart farming in Marathwada

by Soumya Sarkar | Jan 11, 2020

An increasing number of women in the climate-hit region Marathwada in Maharashtra are feeding their families and making money through diversified organic agriculture



Climate-resilient agriculture ensures food security for smallholder and marginal farmers in Marathwada (Photo by Swayam Shikshan Prayog)

THE ASIAN AGE

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### Prema Gopalan: A silent crusader in rural India

THE ASIAN AGE | MOJIB QAZI | Published: 1 Feb 18, 2020, 1:50 am | Updated: 1 Feb 18, 2020, 1:50 am



Today, several thousand women among those severely affected by the tragedy are recognised as transformational leaders.



Prema Gopalan

More than 26 years ago, in 1993, the Latur district in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra was jolted by an earthquake that left a trail of mass destruction. It was India's most devastating earthquake of the 20th century that left nearly 10,000 dead. It ravaged and obliterated vast swathes of villages and uprooted multitudes of people.

#### MOST POPULAR

- 1 Beware of fake news, you can't self-test for coronavirus
- 2 Hey Google, tell me about Santirbai Phule: Assistant celebrates feminist icon
- 3 Threat to data privacy as US bill targets encryption to curb child sex abuse online
- 4 Facial recognition used for rampant surveillance, say critics using cubist face paint to duck the system
- 5 Damaged your iPhone? You may have to wait for a replacement as Coronavirus hits China supply chain



**In 22 Years, Prema Has Helped Over 5 Lakh Women Become Organic Farmers, Mentors**



जावळी (ता. औसा) : लक्ष्मी दूध डेअरी व शीतकरण केंद्राचे उद्घाटन करताना आमदार अभिमन्यू पवार, यावेळी ग्रामस्थ,

## दूध संकलन, शीतकरण केंद्राचे जावळी येथे उद्घाटन

किल्लारी : जावळी (ता. औसा) येथे लक्ष्मी दूध संकलन व शीतकरण केंद्राचे उद्घाटन नुकतेच आमदार अभिमन्यू पवार यांच्या हस्ते झाले. यावेळी माजी नगराध्यक्ष सुनील उतगे, भीमशंकर रावठे, सलीम सय्यद, स्वयंम शिक्षण प्रयोगचे व्यवस्थापक दिलीप धवन, लीलाताई सोमवंशी, तालुका समन्वयक सुमित्रा जाधव, अंजली मसलकर, मंगेश बिराजदार, शरद साळुंखे, डॉ. वराळे, नागेश पवार, सादिक शेख यांची प्रमुख उपस्थिती होती. मराठवाड्यातील पहिली महिलांची दूध डेअरी येथे उभारण्यात आली असून, महिलांनी घरचे काम, शेती करत स्वतःच्या पायावर उभे राहावे, स्वावलंबी जीवन जगावे या उद्देशाने या डेअरीची स्थापना करण्यात आली आहे. यावेळी महिला मोठ्या संख्येने उपस्थित होत्या.

## सुराज्य

दैनिक फोन - 9975810870



## सावळेश्वर येथे उत्पादन गट प्रशिक्षण उत्साहात

मोहीळ : स्वयं शिक्षण प्रयोग व महाराष्ट्र राज्य ग्रामीण जीवनोन्नती अभिवादन व महिला आर्थिक विकास महाभंडळ यांच्या संयुक्त विद्यमाने सावळेश्वर (ता.मोहीळ) येथे उत्पादन गट प्रशिक्षण घेण्यात आले.

या प्रशिक्षणात दुर्गा भाजीपाला उत्पादक गटाच्या महिलांची सहभाग घेतला. यावेळी स्वयंम शिक्षण प्रयोग एमकेएसपीचे झालेश्वर जावळकर, मराठाजि अभिवादनचे तालुका समन्वयक यशत्रय सोई यांनी संक्षिप्त शैली उत्पादकांकरिता प्रशिक्षणाची महत्त्वात्ता तर तसेच पल्लवी बुरडे यांनी स्वयंसावाबटल मार्गदर्शन केले.

हा कार्यक्रम यशस्वी करण्यासाठी सुनी सखी उत्पादक गट, शबाना पटान, अर्चना माळी यांनी परिश्रम घेतले.



**Grassroots organisations share climate knowledge through exchange visits**

<https://swayamshikshanprayog.org/resources/#in-the-news>

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