

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



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## CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRICULTURE

### Sakhi Food Secure Agriculture

**Success story of Revati Kangule, Bahderpura, Nanded District published in Agrowon:** Revati talks about the guidance SSP gives farmers in their agricultural work.

<https://www.agrowon.com/agriculture-news-marathi-success-story-ravti-kangulebahderpuradistnanded-23183>

**Rabbi Farmer's Meeting:** Malan Raut, SSP's trained farmer, got an opportunity to speak at the event - Rabbi Farmer's Meeting organised on the occasion of 'Marathwada Mukti Sangram Day', in association with the Directorate of Extension Education, Vasant Naik Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani and Department of Agriculture, Govt of Maharashtra

**Training cum Demonstration on Pest Control and pre-sowing for farmers:** In Latur and Osmanabad districts, training cum demonstration on Sakhi Food Secure Agriculture was conducted on crop diversification, usage of organic methods to increase productivity, soil testing to analyse the nature of the soil, germination test, and seed treatment. Pest control trainings were conducted to reduce the cost of chemical fertilizers, and to promote organic methods of farming.

Krishi Samvad Sahayaks Trainings were conducted to educate them on agricultural farming techniques, exposure visits, village level demonstration on vermi-composting, local pesticide production, formation of variety of vegetable gardens, and helping women farmers gain access to government schemes and to create a platform for knowledge exchange with groups. Preparation and use of animal fodder supplements like Azolla and Hydroponics, and prevention of cattle loss during lean period were also taught.

A seed bank was created so that women farmers would have access to a variety of seeds and be able to increase their nutritional basket. Tool banks were provided to farmers with access to govt schemes.

**District level dialogue workshop:** A District level dialogue workshop was conducted with government officials Mr. Jadhav sir (PD) ATMA Latur, Dr. Diggrase Sir, and KVK Head Latur. A total of 121 women farmers and women entrepreneurs were present for the workshop organised at SSP office in Latur on 19th Sept.

Krishi Samvad Sahayaks conducted farm visits to review farms with the aim of encouraging farmers and leading them with proper guidance, promoting bio farming, methods spraying pesticides method, etc. Farmer's producer groups were formed for collective cultivation and selling to market



1000 tree saplings were distributed to women farmers by village panchayat in Mane Jawalga village in Nilanga block on 10<sup>th</sup> Aug. Total of 1.5 lakhs tree samplings were distributed to women farmers in our project areas in Maharashtra.



Samvad Sahayaks planning meeting on 11th Aug at Ausa, Latur



Azolla cultivation demo

## STRENGTHENING GRASSROOTS CAPACITIES IN BIHAR

Working in partnership with 9 different NGO's 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.

**Block level dialogue workshop** was organised with Bihar Water Development Society on 30<sup>th</sup> Aug to share information about government schemes. Various agri schemes available for farmers and need of online farmer registration to access schemes, etc. were discussed.



### Special Initiatives taken by network

Awareness campaign by women to promote organic agriculture. Women were presented some examples of organic farming such as the production and use of vermi compost, integrated compost pit & organic pesticides. 42 members of four groups participated in the environment rally organised.



**Capacity Building of Women led Disaster Task force** was organised with KDVS for training of women led disaster task force at Saharsha District on 26<sup>th</sup> August. The trainer taught women about importance of preventive measures to be strong to reduce loss in disasters. Committees with 30-40 people have been formed in two places. Four sub-committees are formed namely information team, health team, defense team and liaising with officers team. Group discussions were held with public representatives on affiliation and cooperation with the Disaster Task Force.

## POST FLOOD INTERVENTIONS IN KERALA

SSP had responded to the devastating Kerala Flood August 2018. In partnership with local government authorities, SSP 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.

### **Kottayam:**

**Self Help Groups:** The SSP team conducted Self-help group orientation program for the 120 members of the new SHGs formed recently in Mundar.

**Meeting with Panchayat:** The SSP team conducted a meeting with Kallara Panchayat President, Mrs. Soumya, and Ward member, Mrs. Sujatha on 20<sup>th</sup> Sept. It informed them about the progress of home repair, IHHL and New house construction works, and submitted the details and approval letters given by the Agriculture Officer for the construction of a new house. It also conducted a meeting with the Vice President, Panchayat Secretary, Village Officer, and Agriculture Officer on 25<sup>th</sup> Sept and informed them about the progress of the work and approval for the community hall at Anganwadi. The Panchayat offered all possible help and support for the initiatives.

**Capacity Building Program:** SSP conducted capacity building for the SSP Wayanad and SSP Kottayam teams on 4<sup>th</sup> Sept at the SSP Kottayam office. Mr. V C Nadarajan led the session and gave an orientation on 'Community Based Intervention and Leadership'. The session evaluated the work progress of Mundar and Wayanad project. During the feedback session the participants stated that it was an opportunity for them to work with communities.

### **Wayanad:**

**Training to group Members on Loan Management:** SSP Wayanad team had conducted 2 one day training programs for the Sakhi Farmers Group Members from Edavaka and Kottathara panchayats. Thirty members from the two panchayats participated in these programs. The topics covered include: aspects of loan management, loan utilization, monitoring appropriate activities, impact on climate change, maintaining books and records, communication skills, etc.

**Rice Cultivation:** SSP organized seed multiplication program at Maravayal and Karakkunnu. Two Sakhi Farmers groups are involved in farming. 11 women members of Maravayal group are cultivating 3.5 acres paddy on leased land, centered variety of Gandhakasala. We got the seeds from MSSRF. MSSRF had given inputs and other support to our groups. Sakhi Farmers group of Karakunnu is cultivating Uma variety of rice in 2.5 acres on lease land.

**Mizhi, News Letter:** As part of the documentation process, the SSP Team Wayanad prepared a newsletter named 'Mizhi'. This newsletter includes SSP's intervention, entry points of activities, partnerships with the Government and GP, workshops and conferences, and other activities done at grass root level by SSP in Wayanad as well as Kottayam and Ernakulam. The responsibility of bringing the newsletter was divided among the team. Preena is the chief Editor and Saritha and Girija are the editors. Mizhi was published by Mr. V.C.Nadarajan SSP Board member at Mundar.





## Relief and rehabilitation interventions in the flood affected Wayanad district in Kerala

To help families recover from the devastating impact of the floods in Wayanad, women's group members and SSP team worked with Gram Panchayats, and took charge in cleaning houses, streets, schools, and anganwadis and distributed food and necessary items in collaboration with the panchayats and through relief camps. These women took the lead in providing moral support to women and children in the camps, helping them to go back to their houses, and identifying households to get compensation from the Government. In partnership with Vincent De Paul, Koodathai SSP has distributed essential food items to 25 families.



# WATER, SANITATION, HEALTH AND HYGIENE

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

## **JAL SHAKTI ABHIYAN (JSA) – A WATER CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN**

Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) is a campaign with a mission mode approach with an aim to improve 225 water stressed districts with water conservation related programs. JSA aims at making water conservation and promotion of irrigation efficiency a Jan-Andolan through asset creation and communication. JSA has been planned to be carried out in two phases. Under this campaign, activities targeted are: Water conservation and rainwater harvesting; Renovation of traditional water bodies / tanks; Re-use, bore well recharge structures; Watershed development; Intensive afforestation.

## **Implementation of JSA under Women-led Sanitation, Hygiene and Resilient Practices (wSHARP)**

Jal Shakti Abhiyan started in 7 blocks of Osmanabad, Latur and Solapur districts where our team of leaders are sharing the concept of Jalshakti Abhiyan and what work we can do from which scheme. SSP launched its initiatives under JSA by conducting training on JSA in collaboration with Zilla Parishad Osmanabad for the gram sevaks, rojgar sevaks and more than eighty VWSC members on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2019. Actively involved in the campaign, SSP is enthusiastically working with excluded women and women's groups to ensure water security among communities that belong to the drought-prone Marathwada region through various village awareness meetings, block-level workshops, follow-up meetings, leverage through convergence & advocacy. Implemented as recently as a month ago, SSP looks forward to improving the progress in the achievements on tree plantation, rainwater harvesting, river deepening and widening, soak pits & recharge pits, and bore well and well recharge.



Workshop on importance of JSA initiatives towards water conservation schemes & climate resilient farming at Osmanabad at Kallam block



Joint workshop on Jal Shakti Abhiyan in Washi block

## **Budgeting of Water-**

Important observations pose a discussion regarding "Water Budgeting" in drought ridden Osmanabad District. Photograph of a Women's Group from Hasegaon (K) Village, Osmanabad district, Maharashtra. Project implemented in partnership with UNICEF India.



"We learn how to salvage every single drop of water. And then, I visit Pune, a mere 5 hours away where people are washing hands with more water than what I budget to cook food for my entire family."  
- Ashwini Tai, Hasegaon (K) Village



As village level water is now budgeted, a family receives approximately seventy five litres of drinking water through efficient tanker water distribution once in three days in Bhatshirpura village in Osmanabad to cope with the severe drought situation despite heavy rains in other parts of Maharashtra.



Dr. Anaita Hedge and her colleagues from Kamal Udwadia Foundation from Mumbai and representatives from Jaylok Advocate Foundation as well as R.K. R. Nirmal Sar, the headmaster of Malpani Matimanda Vidyalaya, actively participated in the health camp and visited 2 villages of Sonkhed and Kalmber in Loha taluka in Nanded district, and discussed with the women of the village about the work of SSP and the obstructions of health of the people in their villages.



## WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Program's (SVEP) 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 of the state. Highlights of the last six months are:

- 328 women-led enterprises have been created/facilitated.
- CEF loan of Rs 53,45,000 has been facilitated and distributed (starting point of rural entrepreneurs).
- 251 enterprises have been certified under Udyog Adhaar.

- A bank loan of Rs 8,36,000, a Mudra loan of Rs 10,92,000 and a Govt. Scheme of Rs 32,10,900 been disbursed to women-led enterprises.
- 22 enterprises have obtained the GST license.
- Total of 79 grassroots women underwent enterprises training; Resource centers having 76 new members are supported under the project supported by Dalyan.



Dr Mahadev Jagtap & Dr Ranganath Warle, together with the SSP team, developed a training manual on dairy and poultry management.



As a part of **Avendus's** CSR support, SSP supports women entrepreneurs with business training and 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. Women were trained on livestock and fodder management, water management, milk management, and market.



**8 s for Milk Business:** Women were held and they were told about the process of milking cows and buffalo breeds, managing the herd of cattle in open "Gotha" method, caring of young calves, and about hydroponic fodder management. Guidance related to animal diseases and vaccinations was given. The present methods of producing milk, and difficulties in training, are causing problems in dairy farming because of drought in the region. The training included discussions on how to conduct dairy businesses by overcoming the problems of current milk business, etc.



## Flood Relief Interventions for the communities in Kolhapur district in Maharashtra

Kolhapur and Sangli districts in Maharashtra were seeing widespread death and destruction after being submerged for days after receiving heavy, incessant rainfall in August 2019. Colossal losses were reported in livelihoods, land, livestock besides housing and infrastructure. Assessment of the Post Flood Situation in Kolhapur district of Maharashtra was done by SSP team from 26th to 28th Aug, 2019. The team visited 48 villages severely affected by the flood. The flood water was not receded even after 11 days from many villages, and people took shelter in relief camps. Drinking water distribution and electricity lines were affected. Meetings with women were held, acknowledging their role in relief - running community food camps, and ensuring health aid and care of safety of elderly people. It is important that women's groups are seen as a resource group in rehabilitation and building resilience. The team had meetings with the CEO of Kolhapur Zilla Parishad, Block Development Officers of Chandgad and Shirol blocks and the officials agreed to support SSP's interventions.



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# Awards and Recognition

## Outstanding Social Entrepreneur of the year 2019

Prema Gopalan, Executive Director of SSP received the Award of Outstanding Social Entrepreneur of the Year 2019 from Prof. Klaus Martin Schwab, the Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum at the SEOY 2019 Award Ceremony held at Delhi on Oct 3 2019, as part of the India Economic Summit hosted by WEF in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Govt of India.

Prema was also one of the 40 awardees who have received the award for Social Innovation Driving Change and Transforming Society at the World Economic Forum's Sustainable Development Impact Summit (SDI) held in New York on Sept 23, 20 19. We are happy to be part of the Schwab community!

<https://www.indianweb2.com/2019/10/04/shanti-raghavan-dipesh-sutariya-enable-india-win-social-entrepreneur-year-india-award-2019/>



## Grassroot Women's Organizations at 'The Climate Week NYC Summit'

Naseem Shaikh, SSP presented "The Role and Significance of Grassroot Women's in Mapping Climate Risks and Managing the Community Resilience Fund (CRF) for Locally-led Climate Innovations" at the Summit. "Women's land ownership is crucial to developing resilient food production and consumption systems", says Godavari Dange, a farmer and community leader associated with SSP, on the Resilient Future Day linked to the Climate Week NYC held in Sept 2019. While speaking at the forum, she strongly urged the involvement of women in food value chains, their access to technical knowledge and technology for addressing global food and nutrition security needs.



## Locally-led Climate Change Adaptation in India: Insights & Opportunities Dialogue with the Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA), Commissioner New Delhi, India 5th August, 2019

Over forty representatives from global, Asian and Indian practitioner networks active in climate action and sustainable development joined a one day consultation convened by Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP), Climate Action network South Asia (CANSAs), Huairou Commission and Sphere India with Sheela Patel, Commissioner Global Commission on Adaptation.

The Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA) seeks to accelerate adaptation; and from late 2019 through 2020, GCA will facilitate a Year of Action. This dialogue was a preliminary discussion among a range of stakeholders to: understand the role of the GCA, share insights from scaling up locally-led adaptation and make recommendations for catalyzing climate investments at local level.



## India CSR Summit 2019

Upmanyu Patil was one of the Panelists at the India CSR Summit 2019. He talked about the importance of sustainable livelihoods. The event brought together 550 plus corporate/CSR Heads, CEOs, CXOs and 1900 nonprofits, social enterprises, impact investors, philanthropists, and government agencies on 23-24th Sept 2019, in Delhi.

## SPNM Program at Harvard Business School, 14th to 20th July, 2019

Ms. Prema Gopalan, Executive Director of SSP attended the Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management Program (SPNM) at Harvard Business School from 14th to 20th July, 2019. Thanks to A.T.E. Chandra Foundation for providing the Scholarship and DASRA for the encouragement and support.

This year's SPNM leadership program aimed to encompass several themes, including: Formulating strategy in complex environments; Achieving internal alignment with the strategic vision; Managing key inter- and intra-organizational relationships: and Leading change.

The learnings from the program specially rethinking of the organization strategy, mission and where we want to go is being transferred to SSP to ultimately create greater social impact. We have to rediscover our social mission by listening to people we serve and work with.





## Media

Scroll.in published SSP's video on Youtube: Eco India Premiere: The women farmers in Maharashtra who are fighting for their right to own land <https://youtu.be/zzTqCQLXj8> Watch the success stories of the women farmers of Marathwada, Maharashtra who in their new roles as farmers, leaders, and decision makers, are leading transformations of their farms and communities amidst severe drought and water crisis, with support from SSP. These women have not only ensured food, water and livelihood security of their families and communities, but have also created new identities for themselves by breaking the social and gender norms!



### Latur's thirst for change!

The extended drought in parts of Maharashtra has resulted in loss of agricultural livelihoods and a severe water crisis. Some farmers in the worst-affected areas around Latur district have moved to sustainable community initiatives to survive



<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/.../.../article28793924.ece>, The Hindu Business Line article, August 2, 2019.

## Success Stories

### Women leaders who wanted to be successful entrepreneurs!

After the Kerala flood in 2018, Veena Self Help Group from Mayilad, i in the Kottathara Panchayat, in Wayanad, formed Sakhi Farmers Group facilitated by Swayam Shikshan Prayog-SSP. The group runs a flour mill with minimum facilities but good demand. The group of seven women started with flour mill for making powders of rice, turmeric and chilli to cater the needs of the local communities.

To strengthen their product quality and market, SSP decided to support this group. When they purchased packet sealing machine and coffee powder making machine the manual job has decreased marginally. This has saved their time, maintain quality and attract more customers.

In partnership with Kudumbashree they managed to get order for wheat powder for four panchayats

every month under Ashraya program by Government of Kerala. These orders have changed their business. Now they are getting orders from local communities, retail shops and organizations for different types of powders of rice, coffee, aviloose, turmeric and chilli.

Sheeja Baby, the woman behind the success of the group says "the support for purchasing the machines from SSP was very helpful and it reduced manual job, increased number of packets produced, saved time and attract more customers. Now we are working full time to achieve the target."

### Toilets proved as a rescue from floods!

As part of the Mundar Development Project, some toilets were built for those people who were affected with flood. Since, those toilets were flood resilient, it proved its efficiency in the recent floods which affected their houses again in 2019. With the support of Habitat for Humanity India, SSP had built 12 toilets which were in a height of 50 cm from the ground level at South Mundar. The toilet works have not been completed yet, since only the tiles have been attached in them and the closets are not yet fixed. This helped the people whose houses were affected by the recent floods to find a temporary shelter till they were sent to the rehabilitation camps. This made it evident that the built toilets were flood resilient. And as part of the next plan, the project aims to build houses in the height of 60cm from ground level. This proves that, Mundar Development Project is been able to build flood resilient houses for the flood affected victims.



### Grassroots women leaders don't want to Give up!

After the flood in two consecutive years in Kerala, women leaders are taking the lead in rebuilding their lives. In Kottathara panchayat in Wayanad district, women's groups have taken six acres of land on lease and prepared the land for paddy cultivation. Sakhi Women's Group, Maravayal is planning to sow Gandhakasala aromatic rice which has good demand in the market in 3.5 acres. Similarly, Sakhi Framers Group in Karakkunnu is also cultivating paddy in 2.5 acres land to revive the agriculture and improve their income. These practices will set examples for the communities in rebuilding the lives of Kerala.





### **One hand does not tie a bundle: Women's participation transforms water management**

Bhatshirpura, a village of 400 families in Osmanabad district, continued to face the severe water crisis when the village's water management committee was not adequately functional. Meetings were never held and there was silence on an issue that required critical consideration. Directly affected due to this situation, were women, who had almost no water to cook food for their families during summer periods. They seemed helpless and eventually situations led to communal fights.



Amidst the daily struggles on water distribution in the village, a few women (led by the Arogya Sakhi (a community facilitator nominated in wSHARP) collectively stood firm to resolve this issue for the entire village. They decided to individually step out of the house to collect funds. It was this effort that encouraged many other women to support them. Through self-generated funds, those women collected approximately INR 40,000 to save their village from drought to repair a well and to create water security. They're vision was to see peace in the village that was once, only harmonious. They not only mobilized other women in the community but also approached the local government to raise their concerns. It was when they gained confidence through their efforts that they were recognized by the local panchayats and government officials.

Today, women no longer peek from the window when village meetings are held. It was the start of an attitudinal change among women that was followed by other physical changes. Later on new pipes were bought, and all the old, leaky ones replaced. Their victorious efforts continued in the success of the construction of 300 soak pits in the village that witnessed the active participation of more than 200 women who stood head-strong to mitigate water issues during the scorching summer heat. "We have learnt that one hand cannot tie a bundle," one of the aged women explained.



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