

## Marathwada District Transformation Model

# Empowering Women to Drive Prosperity

Osmanabad is an aspirational district in southern Marathwada, known among Maharashtra's most drought-affected regions. The average annual rainfall is between 600-850 mm and an irregular pattern, securing farm produce is challenging for the local communities. The Centre and State have launched several schemes to address the region's water crisis. While fund deployment is adequate, utilisation is inadequate.



Programme Partner: Swayam Sikshan Prayog (SSP)

# 48,000\*

Farmers benefitted

# 100\*

Farm ponds supported

\* New Programme, figures yet to be assured.



Image Credit: Swayam Sikshan Prayog (SSP)

HUF is partnering with SSP to implement a district-wide integrated 'Sustainable Water for Agriculture' model relevant for farmers in climate-risk and drought-prone regions. SSP will establish a 'sakhi cadre' of women village leaders to execute the model across the district of Osmanabad. The model rests on a three-pronged approach, focusing on:

1. **Kissan:** Expansion of a well-established vegetable farming model (1-Acre model) that helps farmers improve nutritional sufficiency, increase productivity and household incomes with a significantly reduced water footprint (30-40% compared to sugarcane/soya);
2. **Sarkaar:** Drive engagement with GPs by mobilising community demand to effectively allocate and utilise government funds for creating village-level water infrastructure;
3. **Bazaar:** Establish a replicable market model for local produce by activating 2 FPOs.

This integrated approach will prompt other farmers in the region to adopt the model and become a replicable solution for Maharashtra's drought-prone districts. The district transformation model is built on the philosophy that, if adequately equipped, women can transform their districts' water future and lead the path from deficiency to prosperity.

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**With the right training and awareness, it is possible to change the farmer's life, even if it is a small percent. I have convinced 3200 farmers to start organic farming practices. I am also excited about working with our Gram Panchayat to access Government schemes around water. I can see a pathway to connect communities towards sustainable livelihood.**

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**Priya Rakhunde**  
Osmanabad, Maharashtra