

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

SSP has been awarded with the prestigious 'Saksham Samudaya' Award

We are honored to share that Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) has been recognized with the prestigious 'Saksham Samudaya Award' ('Community Excellence') at the 34th IISSM Annual Global Conclave 2024, held at Taj Vivanta, Dwarka, New Delhi. Representing SSP's team, Ms. Naseem Shaikh proudly accepted the award.

The conclave brought together global thought leaders and experts to explore the theme, "Total Loss Prevention–Risk to Resilience." This recognition underscores SSP's unwavering commitment to empowering communities through rehabilitation, resilience, and sustainable solutions.



Anjali Masalkar wins the Manikarnika Award 2024

Our FPO leader, Anjali Bhagwat Masalkar, has received the prestigious Manikarnika Award 2024 for her inspiring journey as a woman entrepreneur. This is fantastic news for SSP and the strong grassroots women leaders!

The award ceremony was held on November 19, 2024, at the Yashwantrao Chavan Center, Mumbai, under the theme "Badhate Kadam, Naye Vicharon Ke Sang." Anjali's association with Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) since 2016 has been nothing short of transformative. Her leadership and dedication have paved the way for impactful milestones:

SSP and IDBI Join Hands to Support Wayanad Landslide Victims

In the aftermath of the devastating Wayanad landslides triggered by heavy rains on July 30, 2024, Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP), in collaboration with IDBI Bank, distributed health and hygiene kits to 600 affected families in Meppadi Panchayat. The landslides caused widespread destruction in the villages of Punjirimattom, Mundakkai, Chooralmala, and Vellarimala in Vythiri Taluk, Wayanad District.

We are deeply grateful to IDBI Bank for their generous financial support, which has enabled us to provide much-needed assistance and hope to families as they work to rebuild their lives. Together, we stand united with our communities on their journey towards recovery and resilience.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



Visit by India Desk Officer, Misereor

On 18th November 2024, Heike Roschanski, India Desk Officer at Misereor Germany, visited Kumbhari village. For years, SSP and Misereor have collaborated to fight poverty and empower women as leaders of change.

During her visit, Heike met Sunita Kumbhar, a farmer and self-taught entrepreneur. Sunita, a mother of two, began crafting vibrant cement idols six months ago, using techniques she learned online. Through platforms like WhatsApp, she turned her creativity into a thriving business.

In addition to her artistry, Sunita cultivates 15 acres of farmland (2 owned, 13 leased) and manages 4 cows, a buffalo, and 11 goats, combining farming with livestock rearing for a diversified livelihood. Her journey transformed after SSP's training in Women-Led Climate Resilient Farming (WCRF).

Reflecting on her visit, Heike remarked:

"Women are the architects of the future, bravely confronting daily social and climate challenges to protect their families and communities."



Teachers training workshop

On December 2-3, 2024, a Meena-Raju Manch (MRM) workshop was held at the District Education and Training Institute, Dharashiv, organized by the District Council, Dharashiv, in collaboration with Coro India and UNICEF. The workshop trained teachers from 40 schools on promoting gender equality through the MRM initiative. Sessions included group discussions, problem-solving exercises, and practical demonstrations to address gender-related issues in schools. The training encouraged teachers to take proactive steps toward creating inclusive learning environments. This initiative laid the foundation for gender-sensitive education, positioning schools as agents of social change in their communities.

Trainer of Trainers (TOT) for Gender Fair Program

On November 21, 2024, a Trainer of Trainers (TOT) for Gender Fair session was held at the Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) office in Dharashiv under the Gender Transformative Program (GTP). The training aimed to prepare 50 facilitators from CORO, SSP, and MAVA to organize Gender Fairs in their communities to promote gender equality. Promotional strategies, such as posters, letters to parents, and social media, were discussed to maximize participation. The session ended with participants committing to organize Gender Fairs and work towards ongoing gender equality initiatives in their villages.





HIGHLIGHTS OF THE QUARTER



WOMEN-LED CLIMATE RESILIENT FARMING

Marathwada District Transformation Model

In collaboration with Hindustan Unilever Foundation (HUF), SSP launched the Marathwada District Transformation Model in Dharashiv district, that brought water conservation at the centre of the WCRF model.

Led by women cadre, known as Sakhis, the programme adopted a three-pronged approach of Kisan, Sarkar & Bazar to mobilize farmers towards adopting resilient water & agri practices. The transformation of our women in agriculture & livelihoods increased their participation in gram Sabha, with leadership roles in panchayat programs & recognition as leaders of change.

SSP has organised various activities such as promoting sustainable farming practices across communities, demonstrations were conducted on bio-seed treatment and improved sowing methods, equipping farmers with techniques to enhance crop resilience. In 406 villages in Dharashiv district.

Sakhis played a key role in training farmers on the preparation and use of bio-pesticides, reducing dependency on chemical inputs. Awareness programs emphasized the use of fencing and traps to protect crops from pests and diseases, ensuring healthier yields.

This effort has made a significant impact in various aspects:

Social

- 500 local women leaders (Sakhis) trained and deployed
- 1,00,000 women farmers mobilized to adopt bio farming
- 12,000 women farmers secured land rights

Environment

- 55,000 Hectares under climate resilient and chemical free farming practices
- 150 villages augmented with water conservation infrastructure
- 75 Billion Liters of water saved through demand & supply side interventions over two years

Economic

- 50,000 Tons of additional agricultural production achieved (equivalent to estimated cost of ~200 crore)
- 47 Crore leveraged through government programmes
- 35,000 women entrepreneurs established (Vermi-composting, Biopesticides, Nursery, etc.)



WOMEN-LED CLIMATE RESILIENT FARMING

Improvement of the socio-economic conditions of women

This initiative supported by Misereor, SSP made significant progress in scaling women-led climate-resilient farming (WCRF). A total of 29,650 women received training under the WCRF model, equipping them with sustainable farming techniques. As a result, 7,000 women farmers have already adopted these practices, strengthening community-driven resilience against climate challenges.

Strengthening Women-Led Sustainable Farming and Nutrition Awareness

The project supported by Welthungerhilfe-WHH in 2 blocks in Wardha, Maharashtra & 4 blocks in Kutch, Gujarat. Extensive training programs were conducted to empower women farmers with sustainable farming techniques and nutrition awareness. 373 women farmers received training on pre-sowing techniques for the Rabi season, enhancing crop productivity. 1,045 women were trained in natural pest control and management, promoting eco-friendly practices. To improve household nutrition, 417 women learned nutrition garden development, and 831 women gained awareness on malnutrition and food groups. Additionally, 277 women led vegetable cultivation, while 217 women focused on food crops, strengthening food security and sustainable livelihoods.

Training on WCRF

Under the Misereor supported project, SSP provided two batches of two-day technical training on women-led climate-resilient farming in Rajgir, Nalanda, on 06 to 08 November 2024. In this training, 62 women leaders have participated. Guest trainers kept the current agricultural practices, challenges, and solutions. The SSP team shared detailed information about WCRF (innovation, why, when, how, its effects, etc.). We also discussed the role of stakeholders in it and prepared a plan for Rabi and Summer.

Demonstration Plot

Under the Fair For All: Improving Value Chains at Scale, supported by Huairou Commission, Sarayi Sakhi FPO in Bhoom block, Maharashtra has established a 5-acre demonstration plot in Bhawanwadi village in Dharashiv District. This farm showcases improved agricultural practices with diverse crops like flaxseeds, jowar, wheat, and gram. The FPO has leased this land specifically to highlight sustainable soil management and climate-smart techniques. Women farmers have been trained in organic composting, water conservation, and mixed-cropping, equipping them with skills to enhance soil fertility and productivity.





WOMEN-LED CLIMATE RESILIENT FARMING

Advancing Sustainable Farming through Vermicompost, Biogas, and Mushroom Cultivation in Wayanad, Kerala

Supported by Oak Foundation in Wayanad, Kerala, Eight vermicompost units have been installed, yielding 800 kg of high-quality compost, enhancing soil fertility and reducing chemical input dependency.

A biogas unit installed on Mrs. Madhavi's farm now completely replaces LPG, saving her family ₹800 per month. Fed with 45 kg of cow dung daily, it produces nutrient-rich slurry, an excellent nitrogen-rich fertilizer for crops.

Seedling units at Mrs. Shaina's and Mrs. Lissy's farms are producing cabbage, cauliflower, okra, beans, cowpea, tomato, and carrot seedlings. Mrs. Lissy has already sold 1,000 seedlings, while Mrs. Shaina supplies her WCRF demonstration plot and neighboring women farmers.

Mushroom production is now a thriving venture, providing Mrs. Madhavi with ₹1,200 in additional income. To expand production, a dedicated plot has been identified for a full-scale mushroom unit.

Empowering Rural Communities

Over the past quarter, SSP with the support of Axis Bank Foundation has significantly advanced rural livelihoods through community outreach, climate-resilient farming, entrepreneurship, and financial empowerment. The initiative reached 2,880 families across 220 villages, exceeding targets. Through 50 training sessions, women gained livelihood skills, while 165 grassroots leaders were trained to sustain efforts. In agriculture, 3,500 farmers learned modern farming techniques, and 1,122 farmers received livestock training. The Entrepreneurship Development Program trained 480 entrepreneurs, promoting self-reliance. Financial inclusion efforts linked 284 individuals to banks and 211 to government schemes. Exposure visits benefited 780 farmers, while 300 entrepreneurs received business mentorship. Despite challenges, the initiative strengthened rural economies, fostering long-term sustainability.





HIGHLIGHTS OF THE QUARTER



CLEAN ENERGY

With the support from Misereor, Germany, SSP is strengthening the capacity of 200 women entrepreneurs in Bihar, equipping them with knowledge of clean energy, organic farming, and climate resilience while fostering sustainable livelihoods. During this quarter, significant progress was made in expanding climate awareness, promoting energy-efficient solutions, and fostering micro-entrepreneurship in various regions. This period saw remarkable strides in climate action, clean energy adoption, and grassroots advocacy. The engagement of women micro-entrepreneurs and partnerships with key stakeholders played a crucial role in scaling impact.

Key initiatives include:

- Basic Entrepreneurship Development Training, where newly selected Sakhis learned about SSP's mission, climate change challenges, and clean energy solutions.
- Block-level advocacy workshops in Wazirganj, Tharthari, and Noorsarai connected 90 Urja Sakhis with government officials and experts, ensuring access to schemes and training.
- 2,500 people were reached through 42 community meetings and 500 household visits, fostering awareness on climate resilience and sustainable practices.
- 394 bio-digesters were booked during this period demonstrating increased adoption of clean energy technology.
- 298 bio-digesters were installed in Maharashtra and Bihar, contributing to reduced dependency on conventional fuels.
- 510 villages were covered through last-mile promotions led by women micro-entrepreneurs, ensuring greater reach of energy-efficient products.
- The Clean Energy Women Entrepreneurship Fair 2024 reached 25,000 people, generating ₹45,000 in clean energy product sales.



CLEAN ENERGY

Clean Energy Awareness Rally

SSP organized Clean Energy and Climate Awareness Rally on December 7, 2024, in Rajgir Market, Nalanda. The rally covered a 7 km stretch, engaging 100 community leaders, six SSP employees, and two guests, reaching approximately 2,500 people. It aimed to promote clean energy, climate-resilient farming, solar power, energy efficiency, biogas, and organic farming.



National Energy Conservation Day

On the occasion of National Energy Conservation Day, a workshop was held in Nalanda on 14th December 2024, bringing together over 100 farmers and government officials to discuss energy conservation and its challenges. During the event, participants took a pledge to switch off unused electrical appliances and promote the reuse of plastic bags. The workshop also featured energy-efficient products from Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) under the Ministry of Power, Government of India, emphasizing their quality, cost-saving benefits, and positive environmental impact. The event was facilitated by women leaders Smt. Poonam Sinha, Smt. Kamla Devi, and Smt. Sangita Kumari.





WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT

Empowering women on sustainable agricultural value chains

SSP empowers grassroots women-led organizations to develop inclusive, resilient, and sustainable agricultural value chains. The initiative supported by Huairou Commission, implement in 15 villages in Kerala and 35 in Maharashtra, promoting economic empowerment and climate resilience.

In Maharashtra, Sarayi Sakhi FPO partnered with the Samhita Foundation to provide 237 women farmers with interest-free loans, addressing financial barriers and promoting inclusive growth, gender equity, and economic resilience—key elements of the FAIR for ALL theory of change.

In Kerala, Keravriksha FPO reached a milestone with the launch of the Sakhi Flour Mill in Kottathara, in collaboration with the Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA).

Key Achievements:

- ₹10 lakh secured for millet processing infrastructure.
- Five-acre millet demo plot established for climate-resilient farming.
- Expanded market access and strengthened women's roles in agriculture.
- Keravriksha products gained official recognition under Kerala's Agro Branding initiative, enhancing credibility and sales.





WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT

Basic Business Training

Under the Fair For All project, SSP has empowered 1,250 grassroots women across 50 villages in Bhoom block, fostering entrepreneurship through business awareness, financial independence, and sustainable market linkages. As part of this initiative, 470 women entrepreneurs from 20 villages participated in a two-day Basic Business Training (EDP) covering business identification, financial literacy, and market linkages. Additionally, 250 women from 10 villages received Advanced Entrepreneurship Training in specialized clusters such as food processing, tailoring, dairy, spice milling, vermicomposting, and Women-Centered Resilient Farming (WCRF).

SSP further strengthened market connections for women-led enterprises in value-added food production, handicrafts, and spice processing, ensuring long-term sustainability. By equipping women with essential skills and linking them to viable markets, SSP is enhancing economic resilience and promoting women's leadership in rural entrepreneurship.



Handholding support with women entrepreneurs

Supported by Sterling Investment Corporation Pvt Ltd, in Latur District, SSP have successfully reached 500 women farmers, creating awareness and fostering knowledge in sustainable agriculture and entrepreneurship. Among them, 65 entrepreneurs have gained essential financial skills, enabling them to make informed business decisions. 65 entrepreneurs have integrated financial learning into their enterprises, strengthening their business acumen.

Technology adoption has also seen remarkable progress, with 175 entrepreneurs now owning smartphones, allowing them to access vital market information and financial services. Apart from this, 53 entrepreneurs have successfully availed government schemes, benefiting from various support mechanisms.

A significant milestone has been the mobilization of Rs. 36.55 lakhs, empowering women-led businesses and strengthening their financial resilience. 23 entrepreneurs have taken a step towards financial independence by opening their own business bank accounts, ensuring better financial management and growth opportunities.





WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT

Developing Skilled Trainers for Sustainable Agriculture

SSP is strengthening community-led knowledge-sharing and capacity-building by developing a network of skilled trainers in agriculture and allied sectors. As part of this initiative, two trainers in Women-Led Climate Resilient Farming (WCRF) were equipped to guide women farmers in climate-resilient agriculture. Additionally, a leader in mushroom production was trained to promote sustainable cultivation for income generation.

To enhance agricultural expertise, three trainers in seedling production were developed, ensuring small-scale farmers have access to high-quality planting material. SSP also trained two apiculture trainers to promote beekeeping as a viable enterprise, and one bio-input trainer to encourage the use of organic fertilizers and pesticides, reducing reliance on chemicals.

Awareness on Agricultural Value Chain

By this quarter, SSP mobilized and raised awareness among 3,750 women farmers across Maharashtra and Kerala. Building on previous learnings, SSP adopted a cluster-based approach, organizing programs at the cluster level to enhance operations and outreach.

In Bhoom block of Dharashiv district, two clusters were formed to streamline activities, providing a structured platform to share knowledge on sustainable agricultural practices and climate-resilient farming. These gatherings also encouraged women to join Farmer

Producer Organizations (FPOs) and take an active role in local agricultural programs. In Wayanad, leadership initiatives boosted women's confidence, enabling them to initiate agri and agri-allied businesses and explore market opportunities through the Keravriksha FPO platform.

Local Advocacy Initiatives

In Maharashtra, SSP leaders collaborated with local government authorities to enhance women's access to agriculture and animal husbandry schemes. Women leaders engaged with the Agriculture Department and Block Development Officer through meetings and advocacy workshops, learning the government scheme application process and showcasing their bio-inputs, liquid pesticides, and fertilizers.

With support from Krishi Vigyan Kendra and ATMA, 500 women farmers established nutrition gardens, gaining expertise in bio-input preparation, seed preservation, and entrepreneurship. A block-level advocacy event in Nanded brought together 60 women leaders to discuss livelihood support and MREGS linkages with officials. Women in 10 villages actively participated in the October 2024 Gram Sabha, advocating for job cards and agricultural benefits.

In Wayanad, Kerala, SSP organised local advocacy efforts, enabling women farmers to secure ₹3.65 lakh worth of agricultural support, including seeds, fertilizers, soil testing, and packaging equipment. 250 grassroots women strengthened their expertise in WCRF and sustainable farming, fostering leadership and resilience.





WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT

Empowering Voices: Girls of Dharashiv Engage with District CEO on International Day of the Girl Child

On October 11, 2024, Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP), under UNICEF's Gender Transformation Programme (GTP), celebrated the International Day of the Girl Child in 10 schools with great enthusiasm. Students learned about her pioneering efforts as India's first female teacher, her fight against gender discrimination, and her role in shaping women's rights.

Joined by education officials, UNICEF's Mansi Acharya, SSP, and CORO representatives, the girls highlighted issues like poor hygiene facilities, unsafe schools, and lack of transportation, which increase the risk of early marriage. The CEO pledged to improve sanitation, school safety, and midday meals, while launching the Read to Dream Campaign and proposing a task force to monitor school-related concerns.

Gender Fair program

The Gender Fair program, held across 4 villages in Dharashiv Taluka under the Gender Transformative Programme (GTP) led by Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) with UNICEF support, aimed to promote gender equality and social justice while addressing discrimination. Bringing together 440 participants, including villagers, parents, and local governance representatives, the event featured a rally with slogans and banners advocating for equality and education. The program left a lasting impact by fostering social responsibility and inspiring youth to challenge traditional norms.





WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT

Strengthening GPDP Planning & Horticulture Plantation

SSP is following up with 200 Gram Panchayats (GPs) to support the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) process and facilitate horticulture plantation initiatives under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in Dharashiv District.

In collaboration with Advanced Centre for Water Resources Development and Management (ACWADAM), we are conducting a research project titled 'Careful Irrigation' in Ansurda Village. The study focuses on integrating agroecological practices to promote sustainable groundwater management.

Partnering with WELL Lab and Hindustan Unilever Foundation (HUF), we are working on a research initiative to develop water-saving indicators in Hipparga Rawa and Malegaon villages. This project seeks to measure and enhance water efficiency in agricultural practices, contributing to long-term water sustainability. This project is supported by Hindustan Unilever Foundation (HUF).

Strengthening sanitation and hygiene practices

SSP, with the support of Oracle Financial Services Software Limited (OFSS), is implementing a project aimed at helping underserved communities and schools by strengthening sanitation and hygiene practices. The goal of the project is to improve the health and well-being of rural communities and school students in 200 villages across Nanded and Washim districts in Maharashtra by enhancing access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services.

The project focus on empowering 200 Arogya Sakhis and engaging community members in sustainable WASH practices, ensuring that village development plans are created with the involvement of the communities and integrated into daily life. As part of this program, the "Utsav Samatecha – Festival for Unity" was celebrated at Zilla Parishad School in Rajura Taluka, Washim district.





MAJOR EVENTS



Capacity Building Training for Community Facilitators

A two-day capacity-building training session was conducted in Osmanabad on from October 7-8, 2024, at Dharashiv for 25 community facilitators to assess challenges, and enhance their effectiveness in delivering consistent messages to students. The training focused on improving communication skills, managing classroom discipline, and addressing low engagement from schools and teachers. Discussions and role-plays emphasized the importance of breaking stereotypes and promoting gender equality. The training also included practical demonstrations on conducting engaging sessions, structuring lessons, and handling classroom challenges effectively.

One-Day Story Writing Training Workshop for SSP and CORO team

On October 15, 2024, UNICEF organized a Story Writing Workshop at the Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) office for field partners. Led by Shruti Ganpatye, the session provided expert guidance to 50 staff members from SSP and CORO, who work closely with schools. Participants learned to structure a story, create engaging outlines, craft compelling titles, and ensure cohesiveness. The workshop emphasized adding emotional depth, keeping readers engaged, and capturing impactful photographs that enhance storytelling. .

Discussions highlighted the importance of truthful, clear content across stories, news, and social media, ensuring authenticity that fosters positive audience engagement

Community Facilitator Training on School Management Committee (SMC)

A two-day Community Facilitator Training was conducted at Dharashiv from October 5 to 6, 2024 to strengthen the understanding and effectiveness of the School Management Committee (SMC). Participants were guided on conducting SMC meetings, ensuring active involvement in school development, and strengthening parental engagement to improve student attendance and learning outcomes. Discussions also covered UNICEF's Gender Transformative Programme (GTP) and its role in empowering schools and communities. The training emphasized the crucial role of SMCs in ensuring inclusive and quality education. The program concluded with a reaffirmation of the facilitators' commitment to enhancing school environments and supporting student success.



MAJOR EVENTS

World soil day celebrations

On December 5, SSP facilitated the participation of 75 women farmers in the World Soil Day Celebration at RARS Ambalavayal, jointly organized by the Kerala Soil Survey and Soil Conservation Department and the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. Honoured by the presence of the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, the event featured a soil testing campaign that provided farmers with Soil Health Cards to enhance their agricultural practices. SSP also sent 10 pairs of women farmers to engage in cultural and competitive activities, where three teams secured third prize and received fruit tree saplings in the agriculture quiz competition, promoting sustainable farming and biodiversity.

Empowering Girls Through Education and Gender Equality Initiatives

On October 11, 2024, Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP), under UNICEF's Gender Transformative Programme (GTP), celebrated the International Day of the Girl Child in 10 schools with great enthusiasm. The event began with a tribute to Savitribai Phule, led by the girls themselves, recognizing her contributions to women's education and empowerment. Students learned about her pioneering efforts as India's first female teacher, her fight against gender discrimination, and her role in shaping women's rights.



National Energy Conservation Day

On National Energy Conservation Day, Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) organized an event in Nalanda, Bihar, with 50 women farmers, 50 male farmers, and officials from the Block Agriculture and Horticulture Offices. The event focused on raising awareness about energy conservation through small yet impactful efforts.

Participants discussed the importance of energy conservation in detail and pledged to adopt two simple but effective practices: turning off electrical switches immediately after use and minimizing plastic waste by reusing bags instead of discarding them after a single use. Speakers emphasized how small actions can lead to significant environmental benefits. The event was led by SSP women leaders, including Smt. Poonam Sinha, Smt. Kamla Devi, and Smt. Sangita Kumari. Discussions provided participants with deeper insights into energy conservation strategies. A key outcome was that 100 attendees took an oath to follow these energy-saving and environmental protection measures in their daily lives.

National Women Farmer's Day

On the occasion of National Women Farmer's Day on October 15th, SSP appreciates the initiatives of grassroots women farmers and leaders across Maharashtra, Bihar and Kerala. Women comprise 80% of the rural workforce, yet only 13% own land and are often excluded from key farming decisions. But through the incredible efforts of women farmers, supported by Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP), this is changing!

In Marathwada, women have transformed 200,000 acres of drought-hit land into fields of food and water-efficient crops. Over the past 12 years, 47% of these women now have land ownership, carving a powerful identity for women in agriculture.



MAJOR EVENTS

Daan Utsav

From October 2nd to 9th, India celebrated the spirit of giving through Daan Utsav, a week dedicated to compassion and generosity. Led by Aventus, this year's event shined a spotlight on the inspiring talents of women entrepreneurs from Swayam Shikshan Prayog. On October 15th and 16th at BKC, Mumbai, we proudly hosted a vibrant stall featuring a unique assortment of homemade Diwali treats and organic products, including cold-pressed oils, grains, and spices. With over 20 handcrafted Diwali items on display, our stall became a tribute to the skills and entrepreneurial spirit of these remarkable women. We are thrilled to share that sales from this event totaled ₹41,345, with additional pre-orders secured for Diwali.

Clean Energy Women Entrepreneurship Fair

The three-day fair of Clean Energy Women Entrepreneurship Fair 2024 organised from concluded on 7th October 2024. This fair was organized by Swayam Shikshan Prayog and 100 Urja Sakhis from Nalanda district participated in it and led different stalls and made people aware on a large scale. A total of ₹45000 worth of sales took place in this fair, four Biogas were booked in advance and about 25K people were made aware about clean energy, climate change and solutions.



National Nutrition Week

SSP's Sakhis organised National Nutrition Week celebrations on September 7, 2024, in collaboration with the Primary Health Center (PHC) Valal and the health inspector from Kottathara, Wayanad. This celebration aimed to raise awareness about nutrition and health, further emphasizing the connection between sustainable farming practices and improved dietary habits within the community.





STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Indrabai's Journey: From Homemaker to Entrepreneur

Indrabai Anna Sathe, a homemaker from Javkheda Thombre village, Maharashtra, transformed her hardships into success through the Startup Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) by Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP). With no stable income and a family of six to support, she joined SVEP in December 2023, gaining entrepreneurial training that empowered her to start two pani puri stalls, managed by her sons. Her stalls now earn ₹700 to ₹1,000 per day, totaling ₹30,000 monthly. Her success has inspired other women in her village to explore self-employment, proving that empowerment creates lasting change.

From Adversity to Achievement: Shivkanya's Path to Empowerment

Shivkanya Ramphale, a young woman from Hasanabad village, Maharashtra, overcame financial struggles despite her academic excellence. After earning a diploma in agriculture, she returned to her parental home in 2023 with her three-year-old son due to personal challenges. Determined to rebuild her life, she joined the Startup Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) by Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) in December 2023. Recognized for her skills, she became a Community Resource Person for Enterprise Promotion (CRPEP) and received ₹50,000 to start a CSC Xerox Centre. Now earning ₹7,000 monthly, she plans to expand, proving that entrepreneurship transforms lives.





STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Megha Kelaskar: Inspiring Change Through Climate-Resilient Farming

Megha Kelaskar, from Dhanora village, Maharashtra, transformed her five-acre farmland into a thriving source of nutrition and income. Struggling with low yields and malnutrition, she joined Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) in April 2024 and trained in climate-resilient farming. Inspired by the 10-day training, she created a circular nutrition garden with 14 vegetable and pulse varieties, ensuring year-round food security. Megha also mobilized 30 women to start similar gardens, improving community nutrition. By using eco-friendly farming and selling surplus produce, she now earns ₹5,000–₹6,000 in peak seasons, proving that sustainable farming empowers rural women.

Onathi Shankaran: Cultivating Change in Her Indigenous Community

Onathi Shankaran, from Kottathara, Wayanad, Kerala, is a Paniya indigenous farmer who transformed her 4-cent plot into a thriving multi-crop garden. When Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) introduced Women-Led Climate-Resilient Farming in March 2024, she embraced the opportunity, blending traditional wisdom with sustainable techniques. Today, she cultivates 12 diverse crops, ensuring year-round food security. Her success has inspired eight women to start vegetable gardens. By creating bio-fertilizers and using river water, she saves ₹1,000 monthly on food expenses. A “silent inspirer,” Onathi is leading her community toward self-reliance, healthy living, and environmental care.

Sangeeta Dhumal: From Struggles to Sustainable Farming

Sangeeta L. Dhumal, a 34-year-old farmer from Manjari Village, Latur, embodies resilience and determination. Married at 13, she balanced raising three stepchildren and her daughter while supporting her husband's chemical-based farming. Financial struggles constrained their growth until she discovered Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) in 2016.

Through SSP's training, Sangeeta embraced sustainable farming, convincing her husband to transition, improving their livelihood. Beyond her farm, she mobilized 50 women farmers to adopt eco-friendly techniques, fostering community empowerment. Her journey proves that knowledge and perseverance break barriers, positioning women as leaders of agricultural transformation and environmental stewardship.





STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Seema Uchale: Overcoming Challenges to Build a Thriving Business

Seema Uchale, an entrepreneur from Tamalwadi village, Dharashiv, turned her life around despite financial struggles. Raised in a family of eight, she helped on the family farm and studied until 5th standard. As expenses grew, she sought additional income. In January 2023, she joined Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP)'s entrepreneurship training, gaining business skills. She started a flour mill with ₹25,000 savings and a ₹50,000 self-help group loan. Expanding into chutney-making and spice sales, she repaid her loan and acquired a second flour mill. Now earning ₹10,000–12,000 per month, Seema is a symbol of determination, inspiring her community.



Jyoti Chandrakant Kale: A Journey of Empowerment and Leadership

Jyoti Chandrakant Kale, from Shirala village, Latur, transformed her life through resilience and dedication. Facing financial struggles after her marriage in 2000, she sought income opportunities by offering tuition and sewing classes, training 70–80 women. Expanding her skills, she ventured into wedding garment crafting, micro-businesses, and baking.

In 2023, she joined Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) as a village Sakhi, training 45 entrepreneurs and guiding 450 women in business. As a Block-level Sakhi, she facilitated ₹1 lakh grants for 30 women and helped 45 women access ₹95 lakh in government schemes.





RECOGNITION & AWARDS

We are happy to share that one of our key partners, ADM, has been awarded the prestigious FICCI Sustainable Agriculture Award 2024 for its outstanding program, "Shashwat Sheti Upakram", empowering 25,500 farmers in Latur, Beed & Dharashiv District of Maharashtra. Partnering with Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) and other organisations, the program spans 36,000 hectares and promotes sustainable practices like soil enrichment, resource efficiency, and integrated crop management. This initiative has not only enhanced farmer productivity and income but also aligned with global Sustainable Development Goals. Congratulations to ADM for driving positive change in India's agricultural landscape!

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IN THE MEDIA

[Agriculture Water: Today and Tomorrow](#)

How did a female farmer get back her land in Maharashtra, increase her income 10 times, and become a successful entrepreneur by becoming a owner of five different businesses? Read this story of Maharashtra's farmer and mentor trainer Archana Mane. Learn how water conservation and sustainable farming helped them and many other women farmers achieve food and economic security. Visit the link below to read the full article. https://hindi.idronline.org/groundup/women-farmers-of-osmanabad-mean-business/?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social_media&utm_campaign=HUFCampaign_Agriculture

Why Do Women Seek Ownership of Farmland?

A heartfelt thank you to India Development Review (IDR) for sharing the inspiring story of Rekha Pantre. It's time our women farmers receive the recognition they deserve for their tireless efforts in nurturing India's soil. At Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP), we are dedicated to empowering these women by advocating for land ownership, providing training in the Women-led Climate Resilient Farming (WCRF) model and allied agricultural skills, and connecting them to essential government schemes. SSP's women farmers are securing food, water, and income for their communities while playing a crucial role in the fight against climate change.

https://hindi.idronline.org/groundup/a-farm-of-ones-own-why-women-want-to-be-farmers/?fbclid=IwY2xjawlpY69leHRuA2FlbQlxMAABHcgdFSRh_VAw_jYfAswUuTvhpF_wR62cYkmvWR4DBcDdQGvmIE5fcFnCdw_aem_oWPpaxxutEiUkWsVttCJKQ





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