

HIGHLIGHTS

Best Environmental Film Award

We are glad to share that A Biogas Revolution for Healthier Lives has won the Best Environmental Film Award at the Mumbai Short and Documentary Film Festival! The documentary follows Yashoda, a Sakhi from Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) in Solapur district, as she addresses climate, health, food, and livelihood issues in her community through simple yet impactful biodigesters. These biodigesters convert cattle dung into clean biogas, reducing firewood dependency, improving family health, and creating income opportunities.

The film captures how SSP supports grassroots women like Yashoda to become entrepreneurs and changemakers, promoting clean energy and sustainable living. This recognition honors the dedicated work of SSP's Urja Sakhis in building climate-resilient rural communities. Watch the full documentary here: <https://youtu.be/BCDf9nzfZzY?si=9byHLAIdDMoQDbal>



Under Hindustan Unilever Foundation (HUF) supported programme "Marathwada District Transformation Model" in Dharashiv district, 88,390 farmers have adopted improved agricultural practices, including advanced irrigation methods such as drip and sprinkler systems, the use of bio-pesticides for pest control, and enhanced plant growth techniques like nipping in gram crops and the application of plant growth promoters in sorghum and vegetable crops. Key achievements of the program include: expansion of improved practices to 83,697 hectares; an increase of 12,000 farmers adopting the WCRF model; registration of 1,000 demo plots by 500 sakhis; and implementation of 4,890 demonstrations.

CII Woman Exemplar Awards 2025



At the CII Annual Business Summit 2025 in New Delhi, two grassroots leaders from Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP), Payal Kokate and Revati Kangule, were recognised with the CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Awards.

Payal Kokate was awarded for improving maternal and child health in 30 villages of Nanded, reaching over 6,000 families with nutrition awareness. Revati Kangule was honoured for empowering 750 women entrepreneurs across 50 villages through agri-business, organic production, and local market linkages.

Both leaders received a certificate and ₹1 lakh cash prize, joining 14 other inspiring women from across India. Their journey from "Galli to Delhi" highlights the power of grassroots women's leadership in driving health and economic resilience.

Youth Progressive Farmer Award 2025 !

Our Women Leader, Vaishali Balasaheb Ghuge received the prestigious Youth Progressive Farmer (Yuva Pragatshil Shetkari) Award, jointly presented by Vasantnao Naik Marathwada Agriculture University and Agriculture Department, Maharashtra State. This recognition celebrates her outstanding contributions to sustainable agriculture and farmer empowerment. With 19 years of dedication to Swayam Shikshan Prayog, Vaishali has transformed the lives of 20,000+ farmers in Tuljapur block, educating them on organic farming, water conservation, and innovative agricultural practices. Her efforts have led to increased productivity, improved soil health, and better water management across rural Marathwada.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

A Powerful Exchange of Ideas and Impact!



We were delighted to host 12 team members from Dasra, representing departments like Social Impact, Catalytic Philanthropy, climateRISE, WASH, and more. The visit offered an enriching opportunity to share the work and vision of Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP). Five inspiring women leaders from the grassroots presented their journeys, highlighting the impact they've created in sectors like sustainable farming, clean energy, health, entrepreneurship and women leadership.

We thank the DASRA team for their enthusiastic participation—this visit marks the start of exciting possibilities for future collaboration and impact.

Mankind Pharma's Annual CSR Meet

A sincere thank you to Mankind Pharma for curating the inspiring Vimarsha CSR Meet—a true platform for experience, learning, and action. Swayam Shikshan Prayog was honored to be the host organization for the event and field visit, and truly grateful for the recognition and collaborative spirit shown by all participating partners. From healthcare to holistic rural development, organizations shared powerful stories, impactful models, and key learnings. These conversations not only celebrated achievements but also led to clear action points for future implementation. A special thanks to Mr. Sheetal Arora, CEO of Mankind Pharma, for their continued presence and strategic insights over the two-day event. At the field visit, SSP shared about holistic development of 5 villages in Trimbakeshwar block of Nashik district in Maharashtra reaching 1000+ tribal households in first-year of the 3-year PROSPER Project – a women-led holistic village development initiative.

SSP Represents India at GFDRR 2025



Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) proudly represented India at the 8th Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GFDRR), organised by UNDRR in Geneva, June 2025.

SSP's Associate Director, Programs, Naseem Shaikh, and grassroots leader Godavari Dange, Director of a Women-Led FPO and Huairou Commission Asia Representative, shared insights on women's leadership in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate resilience. Godavari highlighted how grassroots women in Maharashtra tackled droughts by promoting water-efficient crops, local seeds, and community-based water management. Naseem presented the Community Resilience Fund (CRF)—a women-led financing model that has enabled 25,000+ women-led households to invest in adaptive farming, diversify livelihoods, restore land, and secure water.

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During the drought and Covid-19, we mobilized grassroots women to assess community risks, grow food and fodder using climate-resilient methods, and linked vulnerable groups to the Public Distribution System and social protection schemes like MGNREGS. The women-led Community Resilience Fund also supported alternative livelihoods.”

Godavari Dange
Swayam Shikshan Prayog



Women Farmers Join Climate Resilient Farming



Under Kadoori Charitable Foundation, 10,000 women farmers have been selected for the Women-Led Climate Resilient Farming Project in Sambhaji Nagar and Parbhani districts, Maharashtra. Sakhis and mentors conducted village sessions to share project goals and benefits, followed by farmer selection. This sets the stage for capacity-building on climate-smart farming, water conservation, and entrepreneurship.

Village and Farmers Selection

To begin the project across Ausa, Latur, and Dharashiv-Osmanabad, 42 villages were identified for project activities. From these, 500 women farmers owning livestock and showing interest in adopting new technologies were selected. These women expressed readiness to participate in training, supported by their families, and committed to using new farming methods. This project is supported by HSBC Foundation.

Government Linkage

Through active coordination with the Agriculture Department, Animal Husbandry Department, and MREGS, 5,720 women farmers received support under government schemes. These included seeds, drip irrigation sets, spray pumps, water tanks, and equipment for small processing units.

In addition, 4,500 women farmers were trained under the WCRF model to prepare seven plots of land each, with land cultivation formalized in their names. Around 6,000 adapter farmers have already begun applying WCRF techniques on their own fields, showing strong adoption of climate-resilient practices. This initiative is supported by Misereor.

Weather Monitoring with Climate Managers

Under the Oak Foundation supported project to enhance climate-resilient farming, a weather monitoring initiative was launched in partnership with HUME Centre. Twenty women farmers were trained as Climate Managers, each equipped with rain gauges and temperature monitors. They now record daily rainfall, temperature, and humidity data, helping farmers make informed crop decisions.



Advancing Climate-Resilient Farming

The Axis Bank Foundation-supported project made steady progress in Ausa, Nilanga, and Deoni blocks of Latur district, covering 220 panchayats. It focused on mobilizing women farmers and rural micro-entrepreneurs for training in modern farming, livestock care, and entrepreneurship. Pre-sowing trainings in 100 villages before the Kharif season introduced certified seeds, germination testing, bio-seed treatment, and the One Acre Model. Farmers also learned about bio-pesticides, organic fertilizers, and soil health practices.

Training on WCRF Model

SSP organized Pre-Kharif Training for 4,354 smallholder women farmers across 30 villages, focusing on climate-resilient farming through the One Acre Model. The sessions covered sustainable land preparation, use of organic fertilizers like vermicompost and neem cake, and natural pest control methods such as Dashparni Ark and Neem Extract. Out of the total, 2,567 women have committed to applying the One Acre Model on their own farms, strengthening the move towards climate-resilient and organic agriculture at the grassroots level. This initiative is being implemented in partnership with Kamal Udwadia Foundation (KUF).



WOMEN-LED CLIMATE RESILIENT FARMING

LIC HFL Hriday Project Launch



The LIC HFL Hriday project was launched to support 3,000 vulnerable farming households in Dharashiv, Maharashtra, and Wayanad, Kerala. This quarter, SSP surveyed 3,000 women farmers to understand their socio-economic and farming profiles. Additionally, 17 community workshops and two consultative meetings were held to build partnerships and create platforms for farmers and entrepreneurs.

Promoting Local Enterprises and Natural Farming

Sarayi Sakhi FPO, with Samhita Foundation, is setting up a production unit in Bavi village for khoya, ghee, and millet processing. Five women-led dairy groups have also been formed to boost the dairy value chain. In Kallamb block, Sarayi Sakhi FPO has partnered under the Panjabrao Deshmukh Natural Farming Mission to support 550 farmers across 1,250 acres for organic certification. Ten Bio-Input Resource Centres will be established over three years to supply natural farming inputs, with support from the Huairou Commission.

Digital Service Centers

1,250 services were delivered through Digital Service Centers (DSCs) in five villages this quarter. Operated by trained VKC Sakhis, these centers help women, youth, and marginalized groups access government and utility services locally, making essential services more accessible in rural areas. From April to June 2025, over 1,250 services were provided through Digital Service Centers (DSCs) operational in 5 villages in Thrimbakeshwar Block of Nashik District, Maharashtra. This project is supported by Under the Mankind Pharma.

Sakhi Selection and Government Linkage

Under Oracle Financial Software Services Limited supported project, village selection is complete across 300 villages in 6 blocks from 3 districts. Coordination visits were held with local authorities, and official support letters were received from BDO Washim, District Agriculture Officer Nanded, and BDO Daund. Mobilization activities in 218 villages engaged 7,862 women farmers, setting the stage for project implementation. A total of 290 Sakhis were selected and oriented through the Entrepreneurship Development Program, ensuring clarity on their roles and project goals.

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WOMEN-LED CLIMATE RESILIENT FARMING

Mobilizing and Strengthening Farmer Networks

Under the SBI Foundation-supported project, 100 new farmers were mobilized to join agricultural initiatives, helping build collective capacity and improve access to resources. Through four active Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs), farmers are being encouraged to adopt sustainable practices, increase productivity, and access better market opportunities.

Farmers utilized the Subsidy Schemes portal to apply for various state-supported programs aimed at promoting sustainable agriculture. Through this, 132 farmers received support from the Agriculture Department, including solar pumps, sprinklers, vegetable kits, and fertilizers—enhancing their farming practices and efficiency.



Participatory Learning on Agriculture

During January and February 2025, a series of meetings were held in 10 villages across Wardha and Kutch, focusing on the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GDPD). Active participation came from villagers, especially women farmers. Through village transect walks, participants formed groups to map, observe, and record village conditions. A collaborative ground map was created, followed by a Focus Group Discussion to analyze findings, challenges & local resources. This participatory process led to the development of comprehensive village plans, later submitted to respective Gram Panchayats. A total of 359 women from 19 Gram Panchayats actively contributed to this inclusive planning initiative. This project is supported by Welthungerhilfe – WHH.

Women Leaders in Farming and Data Collection

As part of the ongoing project activities, 16 community leaders were trained in data collection and the Women-Led Climate Resilient Farming (WCRF) model. A baseline survey was completed for 500 women farmers, along with data collection from 500 rural micro-entrepreneurs. In the first round, 365 entrepreneurs received training to strengthen their business skills. Additionally, 350 women farmers participated in WCRF training sessions at the village level, conducted with support from project staff and community leaders. The project also facilitated convergence with government departments, bringing in a total value of ₹2,35,800 through linked schemes and resources. This initiative is supported by Sterling Investment Corporation, Pvt Ltd.

Promoting Climate-Resilient Farming

During the first quarter of the LIC HFL Hriday project, the Women-Led Climate Resilient Farming (WCRF) model was systematically introduced and promoted across project areas. Introductory sessions were held for Sakhi Supervisors and community women, focusing on sustainable, low-cost farming methods that rely on local resources and traditional knowledge. Through a series of workshops and field visits, women farmers were guided on mixed cropping, composting, kitchen gardening, and natural pest control techniques.

Convergence of Schemes for Kharif Season

To strengthen women farmers' engagement in agriculture and allied businesses during the Kharif season, convergence efforts were made with government departments. The Agriculture Department distributed food crop seeds to eligible farmers, including soybean seed bags (30 kg each) and pulse varieties such as red gram, green gram, and black gram (2 kg each). A total of 512 women farmers benefited from this support. This project is supported by Under the Manjri Stud Farm, Pvt Ltd.





WOMEN-LED CLIMATE RESILIENT FARMING

Training on Climate-Resilient Farming

Under Misereor supported project, a one-day training session was organized for 20 women leaders on Women-Led Climate Resilient Farming (WCRF) On 6th June 2025. The training focused on key topics such as the objectives of WCRF, the step-by-step implementation process, creating leader profiles and baselines, and planning methods for all three agricultural seasons. The session also highlighted how WCRF contributes to food security, women's leadership, climate resilience, and access to pure, chemical-free food — essential for families, communities, and villages. Following this training, 1,000 women farmers were identified for further strengthening under the WCRF model.

Kitchen Garden Kits for Nutrition and Food Security

Under the PROSPER Project, supported by Mankind Pharma, continued its efforts to strengthen women-led climate-resilient farming practices. A key initiative was the distribution of 200 kitchen garden kits to women farmers across 10 villages in June 2025. Each kit contained seasonal vegetable seeds and organic inputs, supporting women in starting or expanding home-based food production. These kitchen gardens help families access fresh, chemical-free vegetables, contributing to better nutrition, reduced household food expenses, and improved food security.



Short Cropping and Kharif Season Cultivation

Over the past quarter, various trainings and initiatives were carried out under the Women-Led Climate Resilient Farming (WCRF) model to equip women farmers in Wayanad with practical skills for sustainable agriculture and allied livelihoods. Training sessions were conducted for 91 women farmers on cultivating Zaid season vegetables, focusing on water management, land preparation, crop selection, pest control, and post-harvest practices. Separately, 246 women farmers participated in Kharif season training, learning about cultivating vegetables, tubers, fruit trees, and plantation crops suited to monsoon conditions. This project is supported by Oak Foundation.



Promoting Low-Cost Farming Practices

In preparation for the Kharif season, SSP organized pre-sowing trainings under the SIFS initiative across Wardha (Maharashtra) and Kutch (Gujarat). The focus was on promoting no-cost and low-cost farming techniques aimed at reducing cultivation costs, improving crop yields, and encouraging food crop production for both household use and market sale. Women farmers were trained in seed germination testing, nutrient management and seed treatment methods to manage pests naturally. A total of 1,933 women participated in 77 such training activities. This project is supported by Welthungerhilfe – WHH.



WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT

Capacity building on Women Entrepreneurship

Under the Kamal Udwardia Foundation project, the Mahila Mahiti Kendra platform continued to foster women's interest in entrepreneurship. A total of 107 women reached out for information on business loans, reflecting a steady rise in entrepreneurial aspirations. Along with these inquiries, women were also guided on government schemes and connected to opportunities in food processing, kitchen gardening, and organic input preparation for farming. At the same time, Arogya Sakhi group meetings focused on strengthening village-level financial systems. Women were encouraged to increase their monthly savings contributions from ₹100 to ₹200, alongside maintaining regular loan disbursements and bank transactions.

Sarayi Sakhi FPO Strengthening Rural Enterprises

Sarayi Sakhi FPO has partnered with Samhita Foundation in setting up a multi-purpose production facility with a grant of ₹10,00,000. Now in its final phase, this facility will function as a central hub for key rural enterprises, including khoya production, ghee processing, and millet cleaning and grading. Once operational, the facility is expected to boost local value chains by creating market opportunities for women farmers and entrepreneurs, while also promoting standardized, quality products from the community.

In Kerala, efforts are taken to strengthen women's business skills and entrepreneurial capacity in agri allied business. To support this, EDP training sessions were conducted for women farmers. A total of 120 women actively participated across seven training sessions. The focus areas included business awareness, orientation, baseline mobilisation, meeting practices, reporting, climate-resilient farming, livelihoods, and income generation.

Entrepreneurship Development Programme

A total of 158 entrepreneurs participated in the Entrepreneurship Development Program this quarter. Among them, 100 women expressed interest in starting new enterprises, exploring opportunities in areas such as food processing, agriculture, and small-scale services. Others chose to strengthen their existing businesses by introducing new products or services, aiming to diversify income sources and improve their livelihoods. This project is supported by Axis Bank Foundation.

Empowering women on Agricultural Value Chain

During this quarter, the Fair for All project supported by Huairou Commission, advanced its efforts to empower grassroots women across 26 villages in Bhoom block, Osmanabad, through focused work on entrepreneurship development, agricultural collaboration, and institutional strengthening. These initiatives aim to support rural women in becoming leaders in local economic activities, improving access to resources, and building resilient value chains within their communities. As part of this effort, 450 women successfully completed Entrepreneurship Development Training.





WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT

Women Leaders Training

SSP organized a combined training and meeting for 500 women leaders (Sakhis) to align them with the overall project objectives and strengthen their leadership roles. The session covered key topics such as the project's theme, goals, and the specific responsibilities of Sakhis in community mobilization, entrepreneur identification, and capacity-building. Sakhis were oriented on how to conduct surveys for selecting potential women entrepreneurs and how to support them through planned training sessions facilitated by SSP. This project is supported by Sterling Investment Corporation Ltd.



Building Skills for Women Farmers

As part of Kadoori Charitable Trust supported project on strengthening women's leadership in farming and enterprise, 1,500 women farmers from Palam (Parbhani) and Sillod (Aurangabad) blocks were selected for the first phase of Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP) training. The sessions were conducted in 31 batches, with 15 batches in Palam and 16 batches in Sillod, each involving 45–60 participants.



Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP)



Under MSRLM-UMED supported project, SSP strengthened rural entrepreneurship through EDP trainings and enterprise support in Bhokardan and Jalna blocks in this quarter. In Bhokardan, 22 trainings reached 499 women and youth, while 8 trainings in Jalna engaged 176 participants. Focus areas included business skills, financial literacy, and enterprise development. As a result, 181 new enterprises were set up in Bhokardan and 105 in Jalna, bringing the totals to 1,476 and 1,325 enterprises respectively.





WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Training of Trainers & WILL Network

As part of Fair For All project, a two-day Training of Trainers (TOT) program was conducted to empower grassroots women leaders and develop them as community resource persons. The sessions provided focused capacity building over the course of two days, with 15 women actively participating. This initiative aims to strengthen local leadership and ensure effective knowledge transfer within their communities.

Peer Learning Exchange: The Women Initiative to Learn and Lead (WILL) Network Meeting was recently held in Bhoom, bringing together 87 women entrepreneurs and farmers from 13 villages. This gathering provided a valuable platform for open discussions on various topics, including business challenges, government schemes, and land ownership rights.



Promoting Women's Entrepreneurship

In this quarter, SSP made significant strides in strengthening grassroots women's leadership through multiple initiatives. A total of 270 Mahila Mahiti Kendra meetings were held across 30 villages, where 405 women actively raised and addressed important community issues such as health, government schemes, alcoholism, education, and unemployment, reflecting their growing empowerment and agency. This project is supported by Kamal Udwadia Foundation.

Women Leadership Network Meeting

Under Axis Bank Foundation supported project, the Women Initiative to Learn and Lead (WILL) Network Meeting recently convened in Bhoom, bringing together 87 women entrepreneurs and farmers from 13 villages. This vibrant forum created an open space for discussing key issues such as business challenges, government schemes, and land ownership rights. Participants also shared inspiring success stories from the field, fostering motivation and collective confidence. A major highlight of the meeting was the emphasis on peer-to-peer learning, enabling women to identify common opportunities and collaborate effectively across clusters, thereby strengthening their collective impact and support network.





GENDER TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

Orientation on Gender Transformation

Under the UNICEF supported Gender Transformation Program, the initiative made steady progress across schools and communities. Orientation sessions were conducted in 8 newly onboarded schools, engaging 74 teachers and introducing them to key project concepts and activities. To strengthen community-level implementation, a three-day refresher training was organized for 25 Community Facilitators, focusing on Meena-Raju Manch (MRM) modules. Following this, MRM groups have been formed in 14 out of 18 targeted schools, making them functional and ready for further activities.

Community Action for Gender Equality & Education

Over the past months, the Gender Transformative Project has steadily built momentum through regular meetings and community engagement sessions. Seven review and planning meetings were held with 25 community facilitators, creating a space for peer learning, addressing challenges, and refining strategies for gender-focused activities.

In four local schools, facilitators organized sessions on 'Gender Roles' and 'Children & Education,' engaging 43 School Management Committee (SMC) members. These discussions helped deepen understanding of how gender norms affect children's education and encouraged collective action.

At the village level, Gram Panchayat sessions also gained pace. The first round was successfully completed in two Panchayats, followed by the second round in eight more, bringing together a total of 81 members. Through these efforts, both facilitators and community leaders are working together to promote gender equality and strengthen education outcomes in their villages. This initiative is supported by UNICEF.

Refresher Training on Gender Issues

From May 19–21, 2025, a three-day refresher training was held for 26 Community Facilitators under the Gender Transformative Project (GTP) at SSP's Dharashiv office. The focus was on strengthening their skills to lead Meena-Raju Manch (MRM) sessions in schools and communities. Through participatory exercises like "Power Walk" and mock MRM sessions, facilitators practiced communication, facilitation, and addressing gender issues. Key topics included gender equality, social norms, child rights, and mental health. The training enhanced facilitators' confidence and prepared them to promote gender-transformative change, creating safer, inclusive spaces for children and adolescents.





CLEAN ENERGY

Partnership with Skyquest

SSP formalized an agreement with Skyquest Company to strengthen climate-resilient farming initiatives. Through this partnership, 4,000 kg of wheat seeds were acquired and distributed free of cost to 1,000 women leaders practicing the Women-Led Climate Resilient Farming (WCRF) model, supporting them in adopting sustainable farming practices. Alongside this, 95 community meetings were organized to sensitize 2,225 farmers on climate-resilient farming methods and clean energy challenges. These sessions helped raise awareness about eco-friendly products and sustainable agricultural inputs. The clean energy initiative is supported by Misereor.

Cluster Level Network Meetings

Under Misereor supported Clean Energy project, regular cluster-level meetings were initiated with all Sakhis and local stakeholders to strengthen coordination and business growth. While 30 cluster meetings were initially planned across both districts, a total of 248 meetings were successfully conducted, with an average participation of 175 Sakhis each month. These meetings have created a platform to review the occupational health, business progress, and awareness status of Sakhis in each cluster. Through this process, individual profiling and grading of Sakhis were carried out, allowing for personalized business planning and support.



Clean Energy Sensitization Meetings

Under the Misereor-supported Clean Energy project, 95 community sensitization meetings were held, engaging 2,225 farmers on climate-resilient farming, clean energy challenges, and the use of affordable renewable energy products. Alongside this, 15 market stalls were set up, reaching 1,500 people with information about organic manure products and the clean energy challenges linked to their production and use.

Bio gas installation

A biogas unit has been set up on Mrs. Madhavi's farm, marking a practical move toward clean and sustainable energy in Wayanad, Kerala. By utilizing around 45 kg of cow dung each day, the unit now fully replaces LPG for household cooking, reducing reliance on petroleum-based fuels. Along with providing clean energy, the biogas slurry generated from the unit is being effectively used as fertilizer in cultivation, helping improve soil health and supporting organic farming practices on her field. This initiative is supported by Oak Foundation

Clean Energy for Remote Villages

To address the challenge of limited or no electricity access in remote and tribal hamlets, the PROSPER Project, supported by Mankind Pharma, introduced solar-based home lighting solutions in June 2025. A total of 40 solar home lighting kits were distributed across 10 villages, with four households selected in each village based on identified energy needs. This initiative is helping families access reliable, renewable energy for daily use, improving living conditions while reducing dependence on conventional power sources.





HEALTH, WATER & SANITATION

Installation of Sanitary Pad Vending Machines

As part of the PROSPER Project, a significant step was taken to improve menstrual hygiene and overall women's health in rural areas through the installation of Sanitary Pad Vending Machines in 10 project villages. In many tribal and remote communities, menstruation remains a sensitive and often stigmatized topic, leading many women and adolescent girls to rely on unsafe and unhygienic alternatives. On average, each village records the sale of 20 to 30 sanitary pads per month, totaling approximately 250 to 300 pads across all 10 villages. Over the course of one quarter (April to June 2025), between 750 and 900 sanitary pads were accessed, directly benefiting an estimated 100 to 150 women and adolescent girls. The beneficiaries include school-going girls, working women, and homemakers—many of whom previously had limited or no access to hygienic menstrual products.

Promoting Nutrition through Sustainable Farming

A total of 1,179 women farmers are playing a crucial role in promoting household nutrition by adopting chemical-free practices in the cultivation of food crops and vegetables for home consumption. By consciously avoiding synthetic inputs, these women are ensuring their families have access to safe, healthy, and nutrient-rich food, while also setting examples of sustainable farming within their communities. This project is supported by Axis Bank Foundation.

Seasonal Nutrition Gardens for Food Security

Under Oak Foundation supported project, seasonal nutrition gardens have been established in the households of women farmers—particularly among tribal families—under the guidance of model farmers and Community Resource Persons (CRPs) in their respective villages. These gardens promote year-round access to diverse, nutritious produce, enhancing household food security and dietary diversity. In this quarter, 650 nutrition gardens have been successfully developed, reflecting the growing leadership and initiative of women in advancing community nutrition.

Women's Health through Hemoglobin Testing

As part of the ongoing efforts to improve women's health and nutrition, Hemoglobin (Hb) testing was conducted in the village with the support of the Health Department. The initiative aimed to assess the Hb levels of women and raise awareness about the importance of a balanced diet rich in iron and other essential nutrients. A total of 32 women farmers participated in the testing. The results served as a starting point for promoting dietary changes through the inclusion of iron-rich food groups, such as leafy greens, legumes, and millets, to address anemia and enhance overall well-being.

Capacity building training on Water Conservation

SSP organized capacity-building training for 185 Sakhis and 10 supervisors, focusing on water conservation, modern agricultural practices, project execution strategies, and effective community engagement. As part of the program, 100 villages were identified and finalized where specific water conservation activities such as bunding, farm pond construction, and drip irrigation promotion will be carried out through active participation of women farmers and local communities.





MAJOR EVENTS



World Environment Day 2025: Women in Action

At Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP), rural women are leading climate-resilient, eco-friendly initiatives across India. In Latur district, Maharashtra, under the Swavlamban Project with Axis Bank Foundation, 200 women across 220 villages prepared 2 lakh litres of Dashparni Ark for chemical-free farming. In Wayanad, Kerala, under LIC HFL Hriday Project, 286 Sakhi women from Kottathara, Padinjathara, and Meppadi planted saplings and pledged to reduce plastic use. In Trimbak block, Nashik, under the PROSPER Project with Mankind Pharma, eco-friendly solutions like solar lights, biogas units, and climate-smart farming were adopted in 10 villages.

In Gaya and Nalanda, Bihar, supported by Misereor, 10 women leaders distributed 500 saplings across 10 villages. Across Latur, Dharashiv, and Tuljapur blocks in Maharashtra, 46 women farmers were trained through WCRF on ecosystem restoration and sustainable farming. In Kutch, Gujarat, under WHH, and Bidar, Karnataka, under Oak Foundation, women led sapling distribution, seed sharing, and organic input preparation.

Celebrating World Food Safety Day 2025

Celebrated globally on June 7, World Food Safety Day promotes safe food practices across the entire chain—from agriculture to the consumer. At Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP), we celebrated this occasion by highlighting women-led initiatives that ensure safe and nutritious food production.

This year, SSP marked the day through grassroots events in two regions. Across 15 villages in Dharashiv and Kalamb blocks, Maharashtra, over 350 women participated in community dialogues centered around the Women-led Climate Resilient Farming model, which promotes local cultivation of nutrient-rich crops. Women showcased simple, healthy recipes using drumstick leaves, spinach, wild greens, and sprouted legumes like chickpeas and rajma—demonstrating that nutritious meals can be both affordable and accessible. Discussions emphasized traditional dietary practices such as replacing sugar with jaggery and including sesame seeds, peanuts, and seasonal vegetables.





MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (MIS)

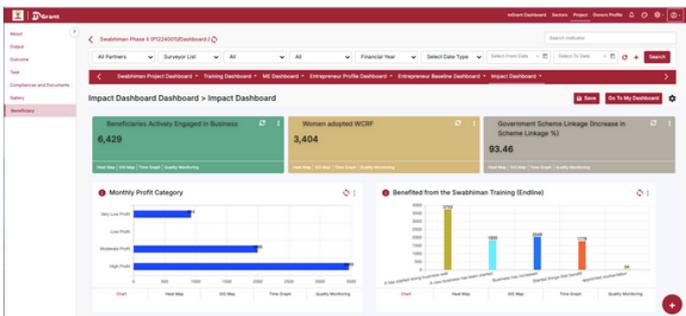


One Year of Digital Transformation at SSP: A Milestone Update

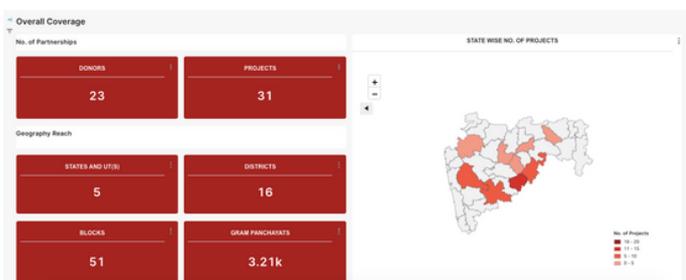
Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) has completed one year of its Digital Transformation journey under the Fidelity Asia Pacific Foundation project, which began on 1st July 2024. At the heart of this transformation is the Centralised Data Management System, built on Dhvani's mGrant portal—tailored to SSP's multi-state, multi-project operations

Key Achievements in the Last Year:

- 2.8+ lakh data entries collected across 29 projects.
- 15 dynamic dashboards developed and actively used by project teams.



As we move into the next phase, we are focusing on building an effective organisational dashboard that can be used to monitor the ongoing project and help in decision making.



SSP Team meets at Pune for 2 Day MIS Training

On 19th–20th June, team SSP consisting of Senior Management, Project Managers, MIS staff came together at YASHADA, Pune for a two-day intensive training on the mGrant platform, powered by Dhvani Rural Information Systems.

The training covered everything from understanding project-output-outcome-impact, form standardisation, user management, and dashboard visualisation, to data cleaning, and an overview of the Data Protection Act.

With hands-on practice, one-on-one support, and powerful analytics tools, our teams are now better equipped to lead data-driven action across geographies.





STORIES FROM THE FIELD

From Homemaker to Community Leader



Sangita Dhabale from Chandeshwar village, Bidar, once a homemaker with no farming background, transformed her life through Swayam Shikshan Prayog's Women-led Climate Resilient Farming (WCRF) model. Starting with just two animals, she expanded into dairy and poultry farming using SHG loans, adopting organic methods like Jivamruta and Nimboli Ark on 20 gunta land.

Her success inspired her family and community. Sangita mobilised 110 women, training them in leadership and entrepreneurship. She helped 80 families shift to sustainable farming, facilitated ₹3.85 lakh in irrigation support for 30 farmers, and secured ₹10–13 lakh bank linkages for 13 SHGs.

In 2024, her contribution was honoured with the Channabasava Kannada Ranta Prasasthi by the Karnataka government.

Collective Action and Resilience in Wayanad

In Rajeev Nagar Colony, Wayanad, Kerala, the Paniya tribal community has long struggled with landlessness and food insecurity. In 2024, Aswathy and Sheeba, with support from Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP), brought together 11 families under the Women-Led Climate Resilient Farming (WCRF) model. They leased 0.5 acres of fallow land, growing vegetables using organic methods despite challenges like water scarcity. Balancing wage work and farming, the collective now grows cabbage, tomatoes, spinach, and more—saving each family ₹1,200–₹1,500 monthly.

For Aswathy and Sheeba, this is more than farming; it's about building resilience and self-reliance. Their journey is inspiring others in the community to believe in food security through collective action and small, determined steps.

Championing WASH and Gender Equality

Rakhi Tajane, a grassroots leader from Kalabeswar village, Malegaon block, Washim district, Maharashtra, is driving change through the Oracle Financial Services Software-supported project with Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP). Rakhi has led impactful WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) initiatives, improving access to clean water and sanitation in her village. She has trained 145 women and youth in gender sensitivity, hygiene, and leadership, empowering them as community change agents. By collaborating with schools and Gram Panchayats, she has promoted menstrual hygiene awareness and gender equality. Her efforts have also helped mobilise resources for building and maintaining sanitation infrastructure, contributing to a healthier, more inclusive community.





STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Sustainable Farming and Clean Energy

Sarika Pawar, a grassroots leader from Marwade village, Mangalweda block, Solapur, is driving change through sustainable farming and clean energy initiatives.

Through Swayam Shikshan Prayog's Women-led Climate Resilient Farming (WCRF) model, Sarika has trained women farmers and helped 87 farmers install biogas units across her village and seven nearby villages. This shift has saved ₹1.27 lakh in fertilizer costs and reduced CO₂ emissions, with 87 families now practicing organic farming.

Beyond agriculture, Sarika has supported 25 women in starting small businesses and facilitated bank loan applications for 10 entrepreneurs. Her work now reaches across three blocks, impacting over 110 families, making her a true champion of rural resilience and sustainable development.

From Struggles to Strength

In Kumbhari village, Jalna, Maharashtra, Komal Badiye's life changed after her husband was left permanently disabled. Taking full responsibility for her family, Komal joined Swayam Shikshan Prayog's Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP) under the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Program (SVEP) in 2023.

Through business and financial training, she launched her handmade knotting products business, selling in local markets and through custom orders. Her daily income has grown from ₹200 to ₹500, bringing financial stability and new confidence.

Now planning to expand her enterprise, Komal is also training other women in macrame. Her journey inspires many in her community, proving that women's empowerment creates pathways to resilience and sustainable development.



Sowing Strength in WCRF

Savita Shivaji Runje from Sanguchiwadi village, Nanded, Maharashtra, transformed her life through Swayam Shikshan Prayog's Women-led Climate Resilient Farming (WCRF) model. Once struggling as a farmer, she adopted organic methods, increased her income, and secured her family's future.

Savita has emerged as a respected community leader. She helped make her village Open Defecation Free, formed 15 women's savings groups with 150 members, and promoted small businesses and financial literacy. Under her guidance, 43 women launched enterprises, accessing microloans and government schemes.

Her groups generate ₹6 lakh annually, while she earns ₹2.5 lakh per year through farming. Savita's vision is clear: empowering rural women through sustainable farming, entrepreneurship, and collective action to build resilient communities.

Growing Her Identity Through Green Livelihoods

At 48, Dharmshila Kumari from Tetar village, Gayaji District, Bihar, chose to build her own identity beyond being a wife or mother. After joining as a Sakhi with Swayam Shikshan Prayog, she learned about climate change and clean energy, sparking new purpose. With SSP's guidance and family support, Dharmshila started a nursery on one acre of unused land. Supported by the Mukhyamantri Plantation Yojana and ATMA, her plants are now purchased under MGNREGA, giving her steady income. She also installed a biogas unit, adopting clean energy at home. Now earning ₹6,000–₹7,000 per month, Dharmshila proudly supports her son's education. Known as "Dharmshila Didi," her story proves it's never too late to grow, lead, and inspire.





IN THE MEDIA

Dipali Thodsare: Leading Manjiri FPO, Featured in Shetkari Magazine



Dipali Thodsare, Director of Manjiri Sakhi Producer Company Ltd in Dharashiv, has been featured in Shetkari magazine, published by the Department of Agriculture, Government of Maharashtra. In the article, Dipali shares insights on how Manjiri FPO was established under women's leadership, the innovative strategies adopted to enhance income generation and market outreach, and how improved financial stability has empowered women, strengthening their decision-making roles within families, villages, and even at the district level.

[Read the full article here>>](#)

Women at the Forefront of Digital and Social Transformation



Sakhi Tantra Shakti: Women at the Forefront of Digital and Social Transformation

Mr. Laxmikant Malvadkar
Associate Director, IT, Skills and Entrepreneurship,
Swayam Shikshan Prayog

By making women technologically empowered, the goal of inclusive and sustainable community development can be achieved even faster. Skill development programs and technology empowerment initiatives have been implemented to encourage women to come forward and contribute in various fields such as agriculture, entrepreneurship, rural development, health, water, and sanitation, so they can play an active role in achieving development goals. With the help of skills and technology, it has become even easier and more fulfilling for women to realize their aspirations, expectations, plans, and needs.

SSP is happy to share that the article titled "Sakhi Tantra Shakti: Women at the Forefront of Digital and Social Transformation" written by Mr. Laxmikant Malvadkar, Associate Director, Skills & Entrepreneurship, has been published by the Maharashtra Economic Development Council (MEDC) in the May 2025 edition of Economic Digest focused on Education & Skill Development – Learn, Skill, Rise. It showcases the impactful work of Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) in empowering grassroots women through digital tools and skills. [Read the full article here>>](#)

Grassroots Women Lead Drought Early Warning in Marathwada

Ten grassroots women farmers from Dharashiv, Tuljapur, and Lohara in Marathwada, associated with Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP), have created drought early warning systems using traditional knowledge. Their work was featured in BehanBox's article "Forecasting Drought: In Parched Marathwada Villages, Women Are Building Early Warning Systems."

By collecting indigenous indicators—like birds nesting lower or rodents storing extra grain—they help communities plan ahead for drought. With SSP's support, these women have become climate leaders, promoting sustainable farming and resilience. Today, over 500 villages benefit from these practices, reducing crop loss, migration, and women's hardships.

Thank you to BehanBox and journalist Priyanka Tupe for publishing and recognising our work. We truly value the support. [Read the full article here>>](#):





OBITUARY

BALASAHEB KALDATE

In Loving Memory of Balasaheb Kaldate

A Pillar of Strength and Dedication — 30 Years of Service

With deep sorrow and heartfelt gratitude, we remember Balasaheb Kaldate, a valued member of the Swayam Shikshan Prayog family for over three decades. His untimely passing has left a space that words cannot fill.

Balasaheb's journey was marked by quiet strength, perseverance, and unwavering service. More than a colleague, he was a mentor, friend, and steady guide—committed to uplifting communities with humility and integrity.

His discipline and dedication will continue to inspire us. We honour not just his professional legacy but the human spirit he carried in every interaction.

May his soul rest in peace. His memory will always stay with us.

In Loving Memory of



It is with great sorrow that we inform you of the passing of
our dear colleague

Balasaheb Kaldate

on 9th May 2025.

We pray to the Almighty to grant strength and inspiration to
his family during this difficult time.

Heartfelt condolences.



PARTNERSHIPS



TO KNOW MORE, VISIT:

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