



SWAYAM SHIKSHAN PRAYOG

From Margin to Mainstream



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

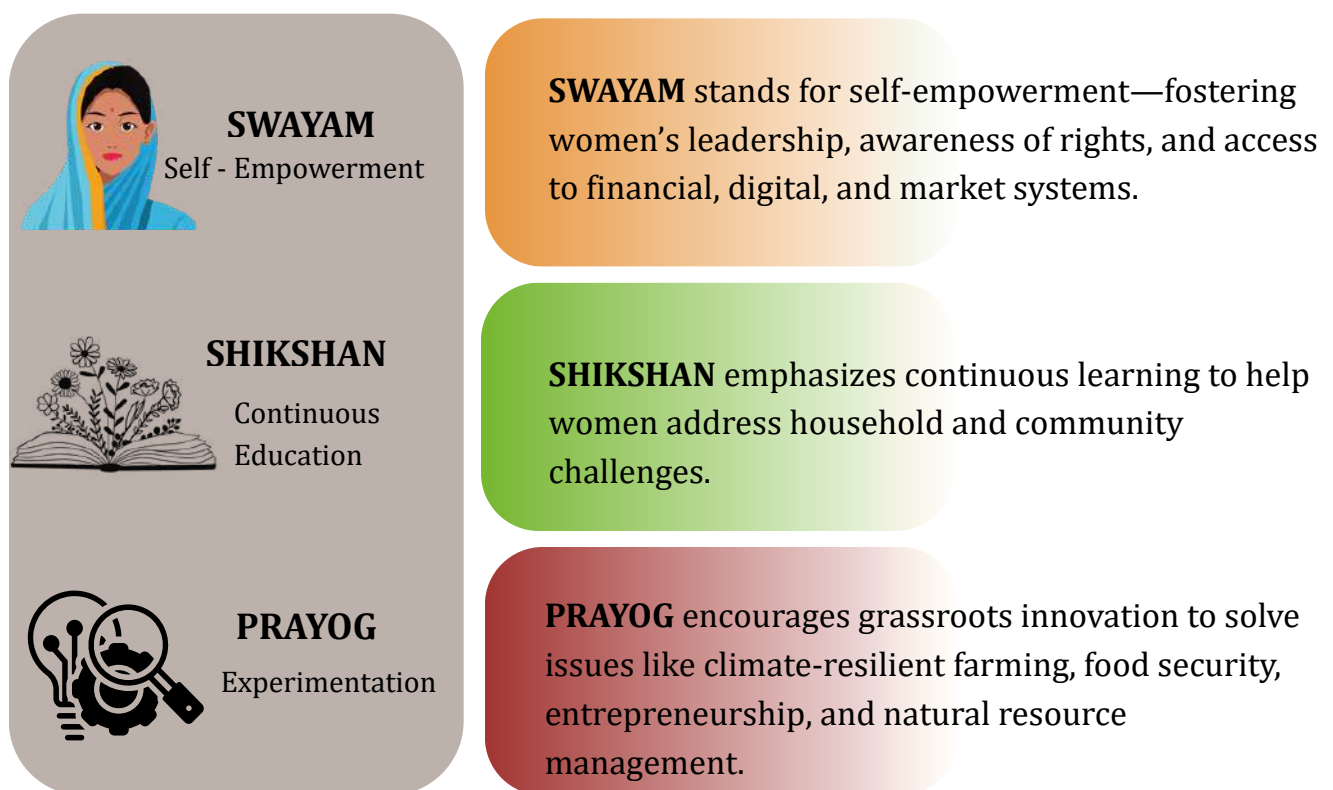
April-June 2026

About SSP

Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) was established in 1998, four years after partnering with the Government of Maharashtra on the Latur earthquake reconstruction project (covering 1200 villages), where SSP reshaped a beneficiary program into a successful community women led effort.

With a vision to empower grassroots women to move from “Margin to Mainstream”, the late Prema Gopalan and SSP have developed a model of livelihood diversification.

Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) promotes inclusive, sustainable community development by empowering women in low-income, climate-threatened regions. It strengthens women’s collectives by training them as farmers and entrepreneurs, enhancing their social and economic resilience.



Empowerment, Resilience, Sustainability

Overview

Vision

To build a robust partnership ecosystem that enables grassroots women's networks to access skills training, financial and digital literacy, and technology and marketing platforms.



Mission

To promote inclusive and sustainable community development by empowering women in low income climate threatened communities/regions. Swayam Shikshan Prayog repositions women's collectives by training them as farmers and entrepreneurs and thereby increasing their economic and social resilience.

OUR KEY SECTORS



Women-Led
Climate Resilient
Farming



Women's
Entrepreneur-
ship

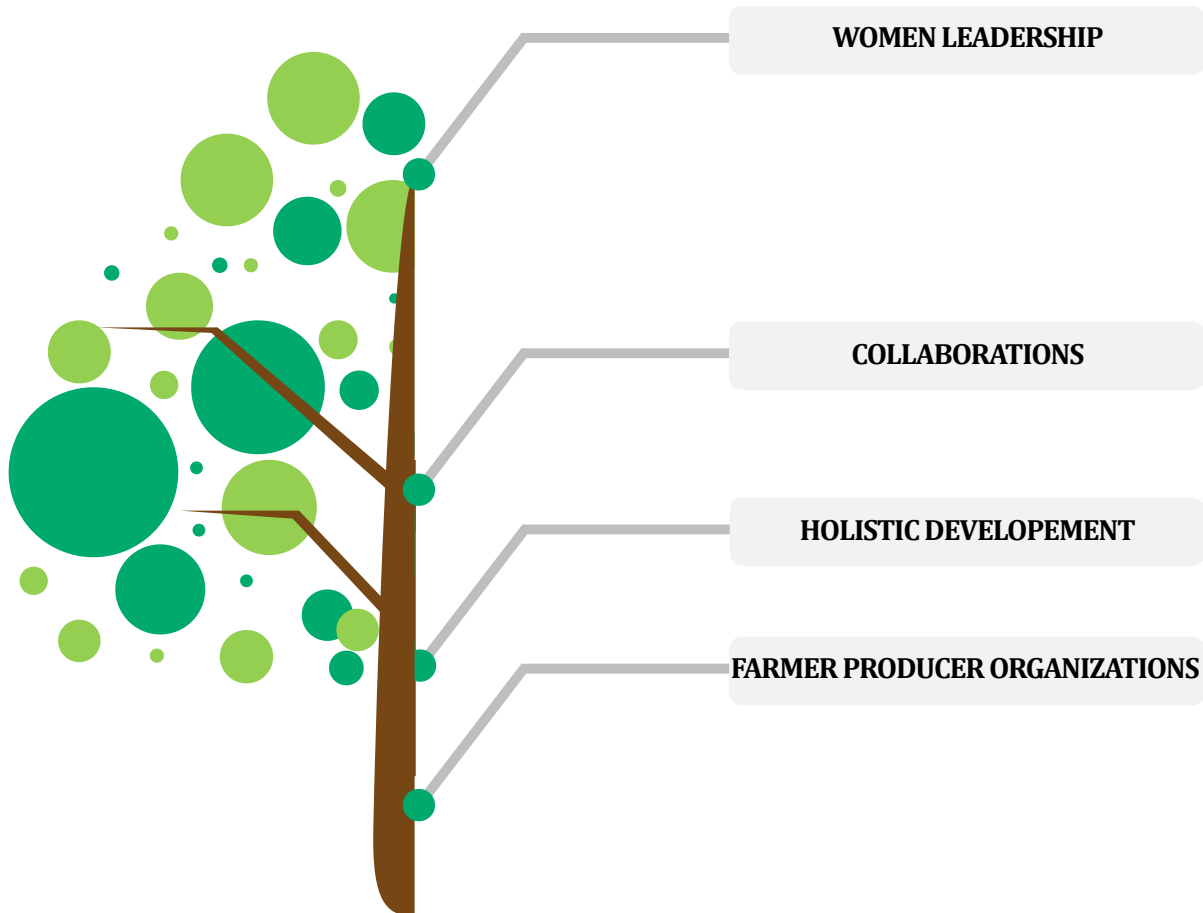


Health, Water,
Sanitation &
Hygiene



Clean Energy &
Environment

OUR INITIATIVES



STRATEGIC APPROACH

Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) supports community development by empowering women in low-income and climate-threatened areas. SSP helps rural women in problem solving, decision making and provides insights to tackle issues like water scarcity, food security, sustainable farming and improved livelihoods.

Women trained through SSP cultivate fast-growing, climate-resilient crops, manage diversified agricultural practices, and adopt strategies that reduce dependency on debt - resulting in improved cash flow, greater food security, and enhanced household income.

SSP focuses on transforming the society by building skills, providing technical support and leadership development. Trained groups of SSP Sakhis, women's collectives, and Village Action Groups (VAGs) lead these efforts, working with local governments and market systems.

GEOGRAPHY



Empowering rural women for 3 decades

Outreach (April-June'26)

Quarterly Outreach (April-June'26)



36232

rural women

Provided awareness and trainings



26309

women farmers

Empowered with women led climate resilient agricultural practice (WCRF)



14380

women farmers

Practice in Action: Women Led Adoption of Improved Agricultural Practices



4026

rural women

Received entrepreneurship related training and handholding



12

Market & Enterprise Fairs

Market Stalls & Enterprise Fairs
Organized for Sustainable Product Promotion



Collaborations

1.29 Cr

Government Scheme Linkage (Amount in Rupees)

1.08 Cr

Bank Scheme Linkage (Amount in Rupees)



Women



Farming



Livelihoods



Collectives



Resilience



Communities

Growing Impact Across Rural India

CORE PROGRAMS

WOMEN-LED CLIMATE RESILIENT FARMING (WCRF)



Land Rights & WCRF Awareness

As part of community mobilization efforts, two Gram Panchayat-level workshops were organized under the Womanity Project on 14 June 2026 at Kandha, Biccha Gram Panchayat, and 21 June 2026 at Ghuriyama Gram Panchayat. The workshops brought together women farmers, community leaders, Panchayati Raj representatives, and government officials to raise awareness on Women's Land Rights (WLR) and Women-Led Climate-Resilient Farming (WCRF), covering climate-resilient agriculture, government schemes, and livelihood opportunities. Women shared experiences and discussed challenges including limited land ownership, climate risks, low agricultural income, and restricted participation in household decision-making.

Strengthening Soil Health for Kharif

3,650 households collected soil samples for laboratory testing, enabling farmers to understand soil nutrient status and apply fertilizers based on scientific recommendations. 1,032 households adopted Azolla cultivation as a low-cost, nutritious fodder supplement, helping improve livestock nutrition and contributing to better milk quality and productivity. 1,520 households adopted vermicomposting, promoting the use of organic manure, reducing dependence on chemical fertilizers, and improving long-term soil fertility. The training on land preparation practices equipped all 6,000 households with knowledge on proper field preparation, soil moisture conservation, and management of soil-borne diseases before the Kharif season. This is part of SSP's Axis Bank Foundation supported programme.

Preparing for Kharif Season

Supported by Axis Bank Foundation, this quarter was unfolded amid a notable regional reality: a nearly one-month delay in the onset of the monsoon. The climate shift heavily impacted seasonal agricultural schedules, delaying typical Kharif sowing across the Ausa, Nilanga, and Deoni blocks of Latur District. In response, the overall direction of work adaptively pivoted toward pre-season land preparation, capacity building, and intensive pre-sowing preparedness. By strategically shifting schedules, the team delivered vital climate-resilient farming methodologies ahead of the rains while navigating low community participation caused by concurrent traditional festival periods.



WOMEN-LED CLIMATE RESILIENT FARMING (WCRF)

Household Climate-Resilient Farming

With Axis Bank Foundation's continued support, household-wise training plans were implemented, and village-level training on soil testing, Azolla cultivation, vermicomposting, and scientific land preparation reached 6,000 households. Improved farmers' knowledge of sustainable agriculture, soil health, and climate-resilient practices before the Kharif season. Agriculture Trainers, Village Sakhis, and 6,000 farming households. 3,650 households collected soil samples, 1,520 adopted vermicomposting, and 1,032 established Azolla units, indicating strong adoption of sustainable practices.

Kharif Pre-Sowing Preparedness

Refresher training on seed germination testing, bio-seed treatment, mixed cropping, and organic farming practices was conducted for 8,114 households. Helped farmers prepare for delayed monsoon conditions and improve crop establishment while reducing cultivation risks. This outcome was enabled under the Axis Bank Foundation-backed project. Agriculture Trainers, Village Sakhis, and farming households across 200 villages. 4,620 households adopted seed germination testing, 1,825 conserved their own seeds, and 892 adopted bio-seed treatment. This was carried out with funding support from Axis Bank Foundation.

Training on Women-Led Climate Resilient Farming (WCRF)

Under the Axis Bank Foundation-supported project, a five-day WCRF One Acre Model training was conducted covering sustainable agriculture, nutrition-sensitive farming, integrated farming, and women-led farm planning. Strengthened women's leadership, climate resilience, food security, and scientific farming knowledge. 1,447 women farmers, Agriculture Trainers, successful women farmer trainers, and Sakhis. Women actively adopted improved practices, with 998 households conducting seed germination tests and 198 households implementing bio-seed treatment.

Livestock & Poultry Management Training

Scientific livestock management training covered breeding, nutrition, fodder planning, disease prevention, insurance, and enterprise development. Improved livestock productivity and promoted livestock as a sustainable livelihood enterprise. 216 livestock-owning households, livestock experts, Animal Husbandry Department, and project staff. 156 households accessed fodder seeds through government support, while 32 households enrolled in livestock insurance schemes. This component was implemented under the project supported by Axis Bank Foundation.

Government Scheme Convergence

As part of the Axis Bank Foundation-supported intervention, beneficiaries were supported with documentation and applications for agriculture, irrigation, mechanization, and enterprise-related government schemes. Increased access to financial assistance and agricultural services while reducing farmers' investment burden. Project team, Village Sakhis, Agriculture Department, MahaDBT Portal, and beneficiary households. 518 households received benefits worth over ₹45 lakh, improving access to quality inputs and climate-resilient technologies.

10 Drum Theory Farmer Demonstrations

A two-day hands-on demonstration trained women farmers in preparing ten farm-made bio-inputs for soil health, crop nutrition, and pest management. Reduced dependence on costly chemical inputs while improving soil fertility and climate resilience. Retired KVK Scientist Mr. Ashrubajadhav, 50 women farmers, Village Sakhis, and project staff. Farmers demonstrated increased confidence in preparing bio-inputs locally and showed interest in establishing village-level Livelihood Support Centres for long-term sustainability. This progress was made possible with support from Axis Bank Foundation.



WOMEN-LED CLIMATE RESILIENT FARMING (WCRF)

Advancing WCRF Training and Farm Resilience

Under the LIC HFL supported Hridaya project, 250 women completed core WCRF training, while 450 women across Wayanad and Dharashiv underwent 4-day advanced refresher training for the Kharif and Rabi seasons. Exposure visits took 125 women to institutional research facilities at Ambalavayal. Twenty-five homestead farms were established in Wayanad and Dharashiv with distributed bio-inputs and seeds. Despite challenges like erratic weather and wildlife interference, strong convergence with local Krishi Bhavans, KVK, and RARS strengthened the community's technical capacity and long-term climate resilience.

WCRF Refresher Training

A 4-day refresher courses were conducted for 450 seasoned women farmers preparing for the Kharif crop cycle. Cultivation tracks were evenly distributed across two key operational regions, with 225 farmers completing the intensive training in Kalpetta block and another 225 farmers successfully meeting the module requirements in Paranda block. Through this specialized curriculum, participants achieved practical mastery in vital climate-adaptive protocols, including scientific seed and seedling treatment methods, optimal crop spacing techniques, and the diagnostic identification and correction of soil nutrient deficiencies. This was made possible through LIC-HFL's continued support.

Refresher Training on Mushroom Cultivation

A refresher training on mushroom cultivation was conducted at Venniode, Kottathara Panchayath, with over 30 women farmers participating to strengthen their skills in income-generating and sustainable agriculture. The session was led by Agriculture Training Manager Ms. Athira K. S. Gaji, who shared guidance on scientific methods and best practices. Experienced model farmers Mrs. Janaki and Mrs. Bindu demonstrated key steps, including substrate preparation, bed making, and maintenance. Participants engaged in hands-on practice by preparing mushroom beds individually, reinforcing their learning. The training enhanced practical skills and encouraged women farmers to adopt mushroom cultivation as a viable livelihood option.

WCRF Zaid Season Cultivation Training

WCRF training sessions were conducted across five villages in Kottathara, with 50 women farmers participating, focusing on Zaid-season vegetable cultivation and region-specific practices. The sessions covered key components of the WCRF model, including land preparation, crop and variety selection, nutrient management, pest and disease control, water conservation, and post-harvest handling. Farmers actively engaged in discussions and practical demonstrations, gaining clarity on applying these practices in their fields. The training emphasised sustainable, eco-friendly approaches to improve yield quality while maintaining soil health and strengthening climate-resilient farming practices.



WOMEN-LED CLIMATE RESILIENT FARMING (WCRF)

Field Exposure Visits

As part of the LIC HFL supported Hriday project intervention, experiential learning visits were successfully organized for a total of 125 women farmers to encourage peer-to-peer knowledge transfer. From Kalpetta Block, a batch of 62 newly enrolled women visited a successful WCRF model farm in Vellithod, Meppadi, as well as the Regional Agricultural Research Station (RARS) and the Centre of Excellence at Ambalavayal. During these institutional visits, they received expert briefings on precision farming, protected cultivation layouts, and water-efficient irrigation systems. Simultaneously, a separate batch of 63 farmers from Paranda Block completed exposure visits to two successful local WCRF model farms to study field implementation strategies.

Strengthening Support for Women Farmers

Under SSP's LIC HFL Hriday-supported programme, the project deepened institutional convergence with government agricultural bodies and research networks to expand support systems for women farmers. A partnership with the local Krishi Bhavan enabled distribution of quality seasonal vegetable seeds to beneficiary farmers, while soil survey results were explained to around 100 farmers for soil test-based nutrient management. Close coordination with RARS also helped three women farmers secure ₹30,000 in government grants for multilayer cropping models, silt pits, and water harvesting structures.

Weather-Based Crop Advisories in Wayanad

Supported by the Oak Foundation, women farmers improved their preparedness to manage climate variability, with over 600 farmers receiving weekly location-specific weather-based crop advisories developed using data from 30 trained Climate Managers, enabling timely decisions on irrigation, soil moisture conservation, and crop management during a monsoon season with nearly 50% below-normal rainfall in Wayanad.

Seasonal WCRF Training in Bidar

In Bidar, the main focus was on the seasonal based WCRF and refresher training with the women framers along with the preparation of bio-inputs. Farmers are continuously practicing the vermi-compost unit, bio-inputs and low-cost methods of the agriculture. SSP team continuously observing the demo and monitoring the demo. Arranged and conducted one campaign on the awareness about soil test and Importance of soil test in 2 villages of Kamalnagar block. Total 40 women framer is actively participated in the campaigns. This initiative was supported by Oak Foundation.

Scaling Climate-Resilient Farming

In Wayanad, Kerala, women farmers strengthened their adoption of climate-resilient farming practices, with more than 800 women learning and replicating techniques such as multi-tier cropping, integrated nutrient management, organic bio-input use, and sustainable pest management through 10 demonstration plots and regular technical follow-up. This work was carried out under the Oak Foundation - supported project.

Women-Led Farming for Resilience

As part of SSP's Oak Foundation - supported programme, women-led farming groups in Bidar strengthened household economic status along with the hold of women on the plot/ land given for the WCRF model. Women farmers improved climate resilience by adopting drought-tolerant crops, leading to a 42% food security by implementing climate-smart practices, reducing seasonal food shortages by 65%. Increase in average yields despite reduced rainfall. Linked 55 women framer to the various training and campaign on organic farming arranged by the Krishi Vighyn Kendra in the Kamalnagar area. Women farmers' enhanced adaptive capacity to climate shocks by using diversified farming Systems, cutting crop losses during extreme weather events by 40%.



WOMEN-LED CLIMATE RESILIENT FARMING (WCRF)

Demonstration Plot Development

In Bidar, land preparation for the demonstration plots were established for Kharif, where crops such as turmeric, beans, ginger, and seasonal vegetables are being grown. Women farmers receive continuous technical guidance and follow-up visits, making these plots practical learning centers for adopting scientific and climate-resilient farming Practices under the WCRF model. This progress reflects the ongoing support of Oak Foundation.

Community-Based Climate Monitoring

With support from Oak Foundation, a key innovation this quarter was integrating community-based climate monitoring with localized weather advisory services. Thirty women farmers were trained as Climate Managers, equipped with weather monitoring instruments to collect village-level data, consolidated by the HUME Centre into timely crop advisories that enabled informed decisions on irrigation and nutrient management.

Save the Farm Campaign

The Khet Bachav Abhiyan (Save the Farm Campaign) was implemented in Kelewadi and Zhinnar villages of Washi Taluka, Dharashiv district, with KVK, and Agricultural University, Parbhani. Agricultural scientists provided guidance on organic farming, seed selection, soil erosion prevention, and sustainable soil health management, while farmers were encouraged to cultivate the Khadki and Nirmal tur (pigeon pea) varieties for better productivity and climate resilience.

Strengthening Soil and Water Conservation

The Agriculture Department's "Jaltara" initiative was implemented across project villages to raise awareness about soil and water conservation. Jaltara structures, built along farm slopes, help reduce soil erosion, improve water retention, and enhance groundwater recharge. Through coordinated efforts of SSP and the Agriculture Department, 525 Jaltara structures were constructed, contributing to climate-resilient agriculture and sustainable land management. This forms part of the Misereor - supported intervention.

Land Rights for Women Farmers

Under the Misereor-backed project, the programme supported 518 women farmers across 223 villages in strengthening their land ownership rights, important for long-term livelihood security. Overall, the quarter moved in a positive direction toward stronger women-led farming, better incomes, and improved access to resources and services.

Land Rights and Resource Management

Women strengthened their access to institutional support and natural resource management, with 518 women supported in securing land ownership rights, 525 Jaltara structures constructed for soil and water conservation, and 75 women participating in a block-level dialogue workshop with government departments to improve access to technical guidance and schemes. This activity is supported by Misereor.



WOMEN-LED CLIMATE RESILIENT FARMING (WCRF)

Preparing for a Climate-Resilient Kharif

WCRF organized 827 pre-sowing training sessions reaching 16,004 women across project villages, covering climate-resilient practices including seed selection and treatment, soil testing, land preparation, mixed cropping, integrated pest management, and the one-acre model. Community leaders, field staff, and agriculture resource persons facilitated the trainings through practical demonstrations. This is part of SSP's Misereor supported programme.

Women's Access to Finance and Services

Under the project supported by Misereor, continuous mentoring, financial literacy training, and coordination with banks and government departments helped 325 women farmers from 73 villages secure bank loans worth ₹1.322 crore for dairy farming, agriculture, food processing, poultry, and goat rearing. A block-level dialogue workshop and regular government office visits further connected women with officials from the Agriculture Department, KVK, ATMA, and other institutions.

Building Farming and Financial Confidence

As part of the Misereor supported intervention, practical, demonstration-based pre-sowing training enabled women farmers to apply climate-resilient practices such as seed treatment, soil testing, the One-Acre Model, and integrated pest management more confidently. Integrating financial literacy with livelihood and value chain training helped women strengthen enterprise management and household financial decision-making, while block-level dialogue workshops and interface meetings with government departments, banks, KVK, and ATMA improved access to technical guidance and institutional services.



Building Sakhi Capacity for the Kharif Season

The April-June 2026 quarter focused on preparing women farmers for the upcoming season through intensive capacity building, WCRF training, and enterprise development. The programme strengthened the capacities of Sakhis through three specialized training programmes on water management and climate-resilient Kharif farming practices. Awareness meetings reached nearly 5,000 women farmers, Gram Panchayat representatives, and women entrepreneurs, promoting the WCRF model, sustainable agriculture, government schemes, and livelihood opportunities. This achievement was recorded under SSP's Kadoori Charitable Trust supported programme.

Awareness, Training, and Enterprise Growth

With the ongoing support of Kadoori Charitable Trust, around 5,000 women farmers participated in awareness meetings, increasing their understanding of the WCRF model, government schemes, sustainable agriculture, and women's leadership in village development. 10,000 women strengthened their knowledge of the one-acre farming model through practical demonstrations on seed treatment, crop diversification, bio-inputs, and water conservation. 1,000 women completed Entrepreneurship Development Programme training, enhancing their capacity to establish and manage farm and non-farm enterprises, while four network meetings connected 200 women entrepreneurs with mentors, banks, and government departments, improving access to financial services and market linkages.

Building Sakhi Leadership for Climate-Resilient Agriculture

To strengthen grassroots implementation, SSP organized three intensive training programmes for Sakhis covering water management, and Kharif season preparedness MIS and MGrant reporting. The trainings combined classroom learning with practical demonstrations, group discussions, field-based examples, and experience sharing. Sakhis enhanced their skills in digital reporting, farmer tracking, water conservation techniques, and seasonal agricultural planning. This work was carried out under the Kadoori Charitable Trust supported project.

WOMEN-LED CLIMATE RESILIENT FARMING (WCRF)

Free Paddy Seed Drive

As part of the Bihar Beej Pariwartan Pariyojana, SSP conducted a special drive for free paddy seed distribution across eight blocks of Gaya and Nalanda districts from 20 to 25 June, promoting improved seed varieties, farm productivity, crop diversification, and income for smallholder women farmers. A total of 500 WCRF leaders received 2 kg of foundation paddy seed each, enough to cultivate approximately 234 acres, with distributed seeds worth INR 90,000 in direct cost savings. These foundation seeds can be reused for up to three seasons with proper management, and farmers also received guidance on nursery management, sowing practices, crop planning, and women's participation in farm-level decision-making. This progress was made possible with support from Misereor.

WCRF Refresher Training

This refresher training under the WCRF model reviewed the previous year's achievements, inviting 90% of last year's WCRF leaders and collecting data on three cropping seasons covering farming processes, organic input usage, crop diversification, sales income, and challenges faced. Around 1,000 women farmers were trained across 16 one-day batches, with government agricultural experts providing technical guidance. Sessions covered organic farming methods, soil health management, seed conservation, nutrition gardens, and water-saving techniques through practical demonstrations, group discussions, and experience-sharing, fostering active participation and effective learning. This was made possible through Misereor's continued support.



WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Promoting Women-Led Entrepreneurship

The project organized five-day Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) trainings for 1,000 women from Sillod and Palam blocks. Using participatory methods such as case studies, role plays, and group exercises, the sessions helped women identify viable business opportunities linked to agriculture and rural services. Four network meetings further connected trained entrepreneurs with mentors, banks, and government departments, enabling them to access financial services, enterprise support, and market information. This progress was made possible with support from Kadoori Charitable Trust.

Strengthening Women Farmers' Livelihoods

With the ongoing support of Misereor, women strengthened their knowledge and adoption of climate-resilient practices, with 16,004 women participating in 827 pre-sowing training sessions on sustainable farming, soil health, and improved sowing techniques for Kharif. Livelihood and financial capacities also grew, as 126 women received value chain training on poultry and vermicompost production, while 5,227 women improved financial literacy through 298 sessions on budgeting, savings, and income planning. Access to financial services expanded too, with 325 women farmers from 73 villages securing bank loans worth ₹1.322 crore for dairy farming, agriculture, food processing, poultry, and goat rearing.

Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP)

Supported by Axis Bank Foundation, a five-day entrepreneurship programme covered business planning, marketing, financial management, digital payments, and enterprise development. Encouraged rural entrepreneurship and diversified household income sources. 94 farmers, women entrepreneurs, agricultural labourers, project mentors, and trainers. Thirty-six entrepreneurs adopted digital payment and social media marketing, while 20 households applied under PMFME for new enterprises.

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Skill Training for Micro-Entrepreneurs

Five-day practical training on Mat Rangoli and Mehendi Art included enterprise management, digital marketing, pricing, and market linkage. Created low-investment self-employment opportunities for rural women. 30 women participants, skill trainers, and project staff. Participants improved technical skills and expressed readiness to start home-based enterprises for additional income. These results were achieved with the support of Axis Bank Foundation.

Vocational Skill Training

Under the Axis Bank Foundation-backed project, twenty-day Beauty Parlour and Sewing & Tailoring training programmes were organized for vulnerable women across three blocks. Enhanced employability and created opportunities for sustainable home-based businesses. Participants gained marketable tailoring and beauty service skills, significantly improving confidence and employment prospects.

Enterprise Skills Through Value Chain Training

Under the project supported by Misereor, value chain training focused on poultry farming and vermicompost production, equipping women with practical skills to strengthen their enterprises. Delivered through hands-on demonstrations, sessions covered production planning, sales management, capacity building, packaging, and branding. Six training batches benefited 126 women.

Financial Literacy Training Builds Women's Economic Resilience

Financial literacy training was conducted to strengthen women's financial knowledge and decision-making skills, covering money management, household budgeting, income planning, cyber fraud awareness, secure savings, insurance, and access to financial institutions. A total of 298 training batches reached 5,227 women, enhancing their capacity to make informed financial decisions and improve economic resilience. These results were achieved with the support of Misereor.

Women-Led Enterprises

Under the SVEP project, supported by MSRLM, Government of India, the quarter unfolded amid steady post-winter recovery, with improved mobility and renewed engagement of women in livelihood activities across Jalna district. Focused efforts expanded entrepreneurship opportunities and strengthened rural enterprise ecosystems through training, credit access, and close handholding support. As a result, 293 new women-led enterprises were established — 115 in Bhokardan block and 178 in Jalna block — across sectors such as grocery, tailoring, dairy, food processing, beauty parlours, and petty trade, responding to local market needs and seasonal demand.

Counselling and Credit

Attention was also given to enterprise sustainability, with 130 existing enterprises (95 in Bhokardan, 35 in Jalna) supported through business counselling and improved financial linkages. Access to capital remained a key focus, with 78 women entrepreneurs in Jalna receiving CEF support worth ₹36.10 lakh and 105 in Bhokardan worth ₹40.15 lakh, while Block Resource Centres approved 102 business plans worth ₹47.60 lakh in Jalna and 83 worth ₹36.40 lakh in Bhokardan. The quarter reflected a clear shift toward consolidation and community-led enterprise growth. This activity is supported by SVEP project, supported by MSRLM.



WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Rural Enterprise Ecosystem

With support from the SVEP project, supported by MSRLM, women entrepreneurs in Jalna block strengthened access to capital, with 78 women receiving Community Enterprise Fund (CEF) support worth ₹36.10 lakh and 105 in Bhokardan block receiving ₹40.15 lakh. Block-level enterprise systems became more responsive, with 185 business plans approved through BRCs, speeding up enterprise initiation and growth, while diversified sectors such as grocery, dairy, tailoring, and food processing expanded, increasing local employment and service availability.

Community Enterprise Fund (CEF) Support

This quarter, 78 women entrepreneurs in Jalna block received CEF support worth ₹36.10 lakh and 105 in Bhokardan block received ₹40.15 lakh to start or expand their enterprises. Routed through SHGs, VO, CLFs, and the BRC, the support ensured community-led decision-making and helped women initiate businesses without relying on informal credit, bringing a visible shift in confidence and faster enterprise start-up. These results were achieved with the support of SVEP project, supported by MSRLM.

Growing Entrepreneurial Acceptance

As part of the SVEP project, supported by MSRLM, a total of 293 new enterprises were started across Bhokardan (115) and Jalna (178) blocks in sectors such as grocery, tailoring, dairy, and petty trade, led by women who had undergone EDP training with support from CRP-EPs. This expansion improved local service availability and income opportunities, while increased participation of women in enterprise planning reflected growing acceptance of women as entrepreneurs.

BRC System Speeds Up Enterprise Finance

During the quarter, 185 business plans were approved through Block Resource Centre for Enterprise Promotion - 102 in Jalna and 83 in Bhokardan — enabling quicker access to enterprise finance. This streamlined system reduced delays and strengthened coordination between community institutions and programme teams, resulting in faster enterprise initiation and improved accountability in enterprise governance. This was made possible through SVEP project, supported by MSRLM.



CLEAN ENERGY



Marking Mid-Project Progress in Sakhi Enterprise Development

Under SSP's Misereor supported programme, this quarter marked the completion of almost half of the project's third year; with all planned activities completed on time, including Refresher WCRF Training, farm follow-up visits, community meetings, and market stall awareness programmes. Focus continued on strengthening Sakhi income and enterprise development, with the Micro Enterprise Development Training completed without using project budget, and Sakhis linked to government schemes. Another key achievement was building partnerships with businesses in the high-value agriculture sector, which expanded the market for Sakhi products and increased sales and income for women entrepreneurs.

Product Partner Withdrawal Disrupts Sakhi Compost Sales

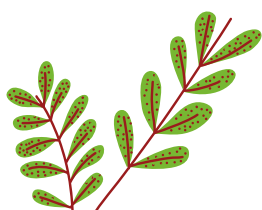
This quarter, we faced an unexpected challenge in the Sakhi product basket when a partner withdrew INERA Organic Compost. We had worked hard to establish this product in our project area, first demonstrating it, then promoting its use among farmers, and finally supporting its sale — reaching total sales of around INR 1.6 million (16 lakh) last season, with farmers reporting better crop growth and benefits. However, the company discontinued its dealership in Bihar due to internal reasons. This was carried out with funding support from Misereor.

Advance EDP Strengthens Entrepreneurial Skills in Nalanda

Supported by Misereor, SSP conducted a two-day Advance Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) for 30 women entrepreneurs from Nalanda district, Bihar, held at Ma Tara Family Restaurant, Parwalpur, during 2–3 June 2026. Designed to strengthen entrepreneurial capabilities, business planning, and market understanding, the programme adopted a blended approach engaging both government and private-sector resource persons for practical, policy-level insights. Sessions covered enterprise strengthening, financial literacy, market linkage awareness, compliance basics, and leadership development, with interactive discussions and case examples enhancing participant engagement.

RSETI-Led MEDP Builds Krishi Udyami Skills

With the support of Misereor, a 14-day Micro-Enterprise Development Programme (MEDP) on Climate-Resilient Farming and Krishi Udyami was organized for 30 women entrepreneurs (Sakhis) from four blocks of Gaya district, from 18 April to 3 May 2026, conducted by RSETI Nalanda in collaboration with SSP. The training strengthened women's knowledge in climate-resilient agriculture and agri-entrepreneurship, covering sustainable crop production, soil health, water conservation, value addition, business planning, and financial literacy through classroom sessions, demonstrations, and group discussions. Participants gained technical knowledge and confidence to develop agriculture-based enterprises, improve farm productivity, increase income, and explore local market opportunities.



INITIATIVES

Women's Initiative to Learn and Lead (WILL)



Advancing Women's Leadership

This quarter, the Ford Foundation supported programme continued to strengthen women's leadership and community institutions across 17 blocks in Dharashiv, Solapur, Latur, and Nanded, focusing on Village Action Groups (VAGs), leadership development of community trainers, facilitation of government entitlements, and women's participation in local governance. Special emphasis was placed on inclusive participation of women from all castes, communities, single women, and home-bound women. Village-level outreach reached 18,250 women, while collaboration with Gram Panchayats strengthened access to welfare schemes, and household surveys across 325 villages generated community-owned data for Village Development Plans.

Strengthening Community Institutions

Supported by Ford Foundation, VAGs conducted 610 monthly meetings across 17 blocks during the quarter, bringing together 18,250 women to review progress, identify priorities, and develop action plans. Supported by trained community facilitators, women discussed issues related to livelihoods, education, health, sanitation, and government schemes while monitoring earlier decisions. VAG leaders increasingly coordinated with Gram Panchayats and government departments, demonstrating greater confidence and leadership, and as a result, women became more actively involved in village development processes, with VAGs emerging as stronger community institutions.

VAGs Driving Collective Action

VAG members strengthened collective leadership, with 18,250 women participating in 610 monthly meetings to identify community priorities, monitor progress, and implement village action plans. Community trainers also enhanced their facilitation and leadership skills, enabling 180 trained facilitators to independently support Village Action Groups and strengthen programme implementation across 17 blocks in four districts. This achievement was recorded under Ford Foundation supported programme.

Strengthening Women's Leadership in Governance

Women strengthened their participation in local governance and decision-making, with 1,473 women taking part in 93 Single Women's Day programmes and VAG leaders actively engaging with Gram Panchayats and government departments to address community issues. This intervention is backed by Ford Foundation.

Expanding Access to Entitlements

Community trainers and VAG leaders played a key role in helping women access government welfare schemes by identifying eligible beneficiaries, assisting with documentation, and coordinating with government departments. Their efforts facilitated 13,810 MGNREGA job cards, 6,720 BOCW cards, 945 Ayushman Bharat cards, 700 Farmer Producer Group linkages, and 50 PMFME applications, reducing barriers many women faced in accessing public services and livelihood opportunities. This work was carried out under the Ford Foundation supported project.

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (MIS)

Strengthening Digital Monitoring Through MIS Capacity Building



SSP conducted MIS training programmes in Loha, Nanded District (Maharashtra) and Gaya, Bihar to strengthen digital programme monitoring and data management. The training in Loha focused on ensuring accurate and timely baseline data collection using the MIS platform. In Gaya, field teams were trained on project activity tracking through the mGrant application to enable real-time monitoring of programme implementation. The sessions provided hands-on guidance on digital data entry, validation, and reporting processes. These capacity-building initiatives enhanced the ability of field teams to use digital tools effectively, improving data quality, accountability, and evidence-based programme management.

SSP's Digital Journey: Transforming Programme Management with MGrant Nuo

Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) is strengthening its digital ecosystem through the transition to the mGrant Nuo Portal, an advanced Management Information System (MIS) that integrates programme implementation, monitoring, and reporting on a single platform. The portal enables real-time tracking of projects across all sectors while providing centralized access to programme data through interactive dashboards. Management-level dashboards are being developed to support timely review of key performance indicators and informed decision-making.

The integration of a Project Proposal and Grant Tracking System is currently underway to streamline the grant management process, from proposal development to project implementation and reporting. Integration of beneficiary-level tracking, automated analytics, and sectoral dashboards is also in progress to strengthen programme oversight and reporting efficiency. Once fully integrated and operational, mGrant Nuo will serve as SSP's central digital platform, enabling improved data quality, greater transparency, reduced manual reporting, and evidence-based programme management across the organization

VOICES OF WOMEN

Reviving Land, Restoring Hope

Sakeena Cherikkathodi from Meppadi, Wayanad district, Kerala transformed her struggling farm into a thriving, climate-resilient livelihood through Swayam Shikshan Prayog's LIC HFL supported HRIDAY Project. Adopting Women-Led Climate Resilient Farming (WCRF) practices, she restored neglected farmland, revived wetlands, and now cultivates over 20 varieties of vegetables using organic methods. Reduced pest attacks, healthier crops, lower cultivation costs, and improved food security have strengthened her family's future. Today, Sakeena is also inspiring more than 25 women in her community to adopt sustainable farming, proving that the right support and determination can restore both land and livelihoods.



From Homemaker to Farmer Leader

Nagamma Biradar from Madnoor village of Bidar district in Karnataka, transformed her life through Swayam Shikshan Prayog's Women-Led Climate Resilient Farming initiative. Once a shy homemaker with little confidence, she adopted sustainable practices such as vermicomposting, Jivamrut, seed treatment, and natural pest control on her four-acre farm. The results were remarkable—healthier soil, 25% higher vegetable yields, 30% lower cultivation costs, and savings of nearly ₹10,000 per acre each season. Today, Nagamma confidently mentors farmers from nearby villages, demonstrating how knowledge, confidence, and sustainable farming can empower rural women to become leaders in building climate-resilient communities.

VOICES OF WOMEN

Growing Her Own Path

Punam Kumari from Sadbahari village, Nalanda district of Bihar, transformed financial hardship into opportunity through Swayam Shikshan Prayog. After joining a Self-Help Group, she received training in entrepreneurship and Women-Led Climate Resilient Farming, enabling her to convert unused land into a productive organic farm. She became the first woman in her village to produce vermicompost using tetra bag technology and was later selected as a Syngenta agri-entrepreneur. Today, Punam earns around ₹25,000 per month while providing soil testing and fertilizer services. Her journey reflects how skills, sustainable farming, and entrepreneurship can empower women to lead with confidence and dignity.



Starting Small, Inspiring Many

Laxmi Thombare from Chandai Thombari village, Jalna district of Maharashtra, transformed her life through Swayam Shikshan Prayog's Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP). While supporting women as a Community Resource Person, she found the confidence to start her own enterprise, producing vermicelli, papad, packaged pulses, and dehydrated vegetables. Built on quality and consistency, her home-based business now provides a steady income and greater financial security for her family. Today, Laxmi plans to expand her enterprise while continuing to inspire other rural women, proving that small beginnings can grow into lasting opportunities and community leadership.

MAJOR EVENTS

WCRF Learnings at IIM Kashipur

SSP team members Akshay Kharade and Deepak Mallick presented a paper on the Women-Led Climate Resilient Farming (WCRF) model at the International Conference on Sustainable Management Strategies for India's Future (SMSIF 2026) at IIM Kashipur.

Drawing from field experiences in Marathwada, the presentation showcased how women farmers are adopting climate-resilient, low-cost farming practices to improve livelihoods. The conference provided an opportunity to connect grassroots experiences with national discussions on sustainability, while strengthening the visibility of women-led initiatives and informing future research and impact measurement.

Recognising Women-Led Agricultural Excellence

Prema Gopalan Women Farmer Producer Company Pvt. Ltd. has been recognised as a nominee for the Women-Led Agricultural Excellence & Rural Empowerment Award at the Insights Excellence Awards, an initiative by Insights Success Media and Technology Pvt. Ltd. This recognition reflects the collective strength of women farmers who are building sustainable livelihoods, strengthening local economies, and leading change from the ground up.

Women Leaders in Policy Dialogue

SSP participated in the State Level Workshop on Women Farmers' Rights and Empowerment, organised by the Government of Maharashtra Agriculture Department on 6 May 2026 in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar. The workshop brought together around 60 women farmers and representatives from NGOs, CBOs and FPOs to discuss strengthening women farmers' rights and access to resources. Key discussions focused on Women Farmer Certificates, inclusion of women's names in land records (7/12), water rights, irrigation, credit access, and the proposed Maharashtra State Women Farmers Agricultural Development Fund. SSP was represented by CEO Naseem Shaikh, along with women leaders from Vijayalakshmi Farmers Producer Company and Manjiri Sakhi Producer Company. The consultation reinforced the need for stronger institutional support, women-led collectives, and policies that recognise women as farmers with equal rights, entitlements, and decision-making power.

Women Driving Climate Resilience in Bihar

Across Nalanda and Gaya districts of Bihar, rural women are building climate-resilient livelihoods through skill development and enterprise training supported by SSP in partnership with RSETI. In Nalanda, 31 women Sakhis completed training in vegetable nursery development and climate-resilient farming, gaining skills in organic cultivation, poly-house management, and nursery enterprises. In Gaya, 25 women Sakhis underwent micro-enterprise training in bangle and jewellery making, strengthening their business, financial, and marketing skills.

World Environment Day 2026 | Grassroots Women Leading Climate Action

Across rural India, women are among the most affected by climate change, facing erratic rainfall, drought, water scarcity, declining soil health, and growing food insecurity. Yet they are also leading solutions. Across Maharashtra, Karnataka, Bihar, and Kerala, over 200,000 women farmers associated with SSP's Women-Led Climate Resilient Farming (WCRF) initiative are adopting sustainable practices such as soil restoration, indigenous seed conservation, water management, and biodiversity protection. Beyond their farms, these women mentor fellow farmers, engage with Panchayats, and help communities prepare for climate risks. Their leadership shows that effective climate action is rooted in local knowledge, collective effort, and community participation. This World Environment Day, we celebrate these grassroots women leaders who are building resilient livelihoods and a more sustainable future.



MAJOR EVENTS

Women at the Center of Climate Action

On 1–2 June 2026, more than 100 elected women Panchayat leaders from 35 villages gathered in Dharashiv for India's first Conference of Panchayats focused on women-led climate action. The conference highlighted how women are addressing the impacts of drought, water scarcity, erratic rainfall, and livelihood challenges through local leadership. Participants presented Climate Action Plans featuring water conservation, climate-resilient farming, drip irrigation, tree plantation, and diversified livelihoods such as dairy, poultry, goat rearing, and agro-processing. A key outcome was the release of a study on Gender Inclusive Drought Early Warning Systems, advocating stronger communication, women-led planning, and greater inclusion of women in drought preparedness and climate resilience initiatives.

Women Farmers Grow Collective Livelihoods

On 23 June 2026, Keravriksha Farmer Producer Company, facilitated by SSP, launched a collective marigold and vegetable cultivation initiative in Wayanad for the Onam market. Ten women farmers are managing a demonstration plot using climate-resilient farming practices. The initiative promotes food security, safe food production, women's agri-entrepreneurship, and seasonal incomes through collective cultivation and marketing. During the launch, participants discussed collective farming, climate-resilient agriculture, and market opportunities, while a technical session covered scientific cultivation, soil health, and pest management. Supported by the Oak Foundation, the initiative demonstrates how collective action can help women farmers strengthen livelihoods, improve incomes, and build sustainable farming systems.



IN MEDIA



India's Women Farmers Want Recognition. Our Food System Depends on It.

By Jyoti Shelar | 15 June 2026

FEATURE STORY

GENDER



Forty-one year old Vaishali Gluge is a respected farmer and community leader from Dharashiv district in Maharashtra. In a drought prone region often associated with agrarian distress and farmer suicides, she has transformed not only her own livelihood but also that of thousands of other women. Through her work, she has trained and supported women in organic farming, water conservation, vermicomposting, poultry farming, and other sustainable agricultural practices.

India's Women Farmers Want Recognition. Our Food System Depends on It. We are delighted to share that Vaishali Guge, a grassroots woman leader associated with Swayam Shikshan Prayog, has been featured by the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF). Her inspiring journey highlights the transformative impact of women-led climate-resilient agriculture and reinforces the need to recognize women farmers as leaders, innovators, and key drivers of sustainable food systems.



SPARKS OF A NEW ECONOMY

This report highlights inspiring community-led initiatives that are shaping a more inclusive and sustainable economy. Supported through the Fair For All initiative by Oxfam Novib and the Huairou Commission, these stories demonstrate how local leadership, women's collective action, and community-driven solutions are transforming lives across the Global South. The report features inspiring examples from nine countries, including SSP's work with women farmers in India, showcasing how grassroots innovations are building resilient livelihoods, strengthening food systems, and creating lasting social and economic change.

In Loving Memory of



VIKAS KAMBLE

APRIL 5 1967 - JUNE 15 2026

A Journey of Dedication and Humanity

With deep sorrow and heartfelt gratitude, we remember Vikas Kamble, a valued member of the Swayam Shikshan Prayog family for over three decades. His passing has left a deep void among all of us..

Vikas was a kind, humble, and thoughtful person with a deep understanding of social issues and a strong commitment to supporting communities. His compassion, wisdom, and willingness to help others touched many lives.

We remember him not only for his dedicated service but also for the values he embodied - humility, respect, and care for people. His memory and contributions will continue to inspire the SSP family.



Sustainable Development GOALS



SDG 1: No Poverty

SSP's Work: Micro-entrepreneurship Programs: SSP supports rural women in starting and growing micro-enterprises, which generate income and lift families out of poverty. Financial Inclusion: SSP facilitates women entrepreneurs' access to financial services, including savings, credit, and insurance.



SDG 2: Zero Hunger

SSP's Work: Food Security Initiatives: SSP promotes sustainable agricultural practices and provides training to women farmers, increasing food production and security. Nutrition Programs: SSP conducts nutrition education programs to ensure families, especially children, receive nutritious balanced diets.



SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

SSP's Work: Health and Sanitation: SSP implements community health programs, including maternal and child health initiatives, and promotes clean water and sanitation access. Health Enterprises: SSP supports women in establishing health enterprises that provide affordable healthcare services in rural areas.



SDG 5: Gender Equality

SSP's Work: Women's Empowerment & Leadership through its WILL process: SSP focuses on empowering women through leadership training, economic opportunities, and participation in decisionmaking processes. Gender Advocacy: SSP advocates for gender equality and works to change societal norms that hinder women's progress.



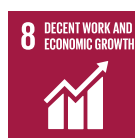
SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

SSP's Work: Water Management: SSP promotes community-based water management practices and the construction of sustainable sanitation facilities. Awareness Campaigns: SSP conducts awareness campaigns on water conservation and hygiene practices.



SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

SSP's Work: Renewable Energy Solutions: SSP supports adoption of clean energy solutions, such as solar lighting and clean cooking stoves and biogas in rural communities. Energy Enterprises: SSP helps women entrepreneurs establish energy enterprises that provide sustainable energy solutions.



SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

SSP's Work: Entrepreneurship Development: SSP fosters entrepreneurship and provides business development support thus creating decent work opportunities in rural areas. Market Linkages: SSP connects women entrepreneurs with markets, enhancing their economic growth and sustainability.



SDG 13: Climate Action

SSP's Work: Climate Resilience: SSP works to build climate resilience in rural communities through sustainable farming practices and disaster risk reduction initiatives. Environmental Education: SSP educates communities about climate change and promotes environmental stewardship.



SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

SSP's Work: Collaborative Networks: SSP builds alliances and networks of grassroots women leaders, civil society organisations, private sector companies and policymakers to work towards common goals. Resource Mobilization: SSP mobilizes resources and technical expertise through partnerships with various stakeholders, enhancing the impact of its initiatives.

Through these multifaceted approaches, Swayam Shikshan Prayog contributes significantly to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, fostering inclusive and sustainable development in rural India.



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SWAYAM SHIKSHAN PRAYOG
 102, Gayatri Building, Orchid School Lane,
 Balewadi Phata, Baner, Pune, Maharashtra 411045
 Website: www.swayamshikshanprayog.org