SGP The GEF Small Grants Programme

Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

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TISS GUWAHATI

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Creating Innovative Solutions for a Sustainable Future

COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

PREFACE

The Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP) empowers local communities to address environmental challenges while strengthening livelihoods. In its Seventh Operational Phase (OP7), SGP-India—implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in partnership with UNDP and coordinated by TERI—supports 71 projects, including community, upscaling, and knowledge grants, across three ecologically critical landscapes: the biodiversity-rich Northeast Region (NER), the water-stressed Central Semi-Arid Region (CSAR), and the climate-sensitive Indian Coastal Region (ICR).

This fourth quarterly newsletter (October–December 2025) captures several proud moments for GEF-SGP-India, including the recognition of Mr. Manish Pandey, National Coordinator, GEF-SGP-India, with the Global Sustainability Awards 2025, and the honour conferred on Velvizhi Singaravelu of the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), who received the Tech4Nature Award in the Species Conservation category for her pioneering work to protect the endangered Olive Ridley turtles along the Odisha coast.

The newsletter also brings together inspiring stories from the ground—highlighting community-led efforts to restore ecosystems, enhance livelihoods, and build resilience. It features the promotion of indigenous knowledge and practices, updates from workshops and training programmes, progress review meetings and field visits, key events, and media coverage of SGP grantees' work.

We thank our readers and partners for their continued support in advancing community-led environmental action across India.

SGP Team

CONTENT

Proud Moments for GEF-SGP-India

Celebrating Excellence: GEF–SGP India's Leadership Recognised Globally

GEF–Small Grants Programme India proudly celebrated the recognition of Mr. Manish Pandey, National Coordinator, who was conferred the Global Sustainability Awards 2025. Presented by the Global Council for the Promotion of International Trade (GCPIT) at the Global Sustainable Development Summit 2025, held under the Global Confluence Summit at Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Bengaluru, the award honoured his outstanding leadership and transformative contributions to sustainability. Mr. Pandey's work has strengthened community-led climate action, inclusive growth, and grassroots innovation across India, reflecting the collective impact of the GEF–SGP network in advancing sustainable development nationwide.

Tech for Turtles: A Proud Moment for GEF-SGP-India

Velvizhi Singaravelu of the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) has received the Tech4Nature Award (Species Conservation) for her pioneering work to protect endangered Olive Ridley turtles along the Odisha coast. Central to this achievement is the Fisher Friend Mobile Application, developed with Qualcomm and Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, which provides real-time, multilingual sea and weather information to small-scale fishers.

The geo-fenced "No Fishing Zone" alerts—functional even offline—have prevented over 6,800 intrusions, reduced bycatch, and improved safety. This initiative powerfully demonstrates how digital innovation and community engagement can safeguard biodiversity while strengthening coastal livelihoods.

Vermicomposting with Bandasuk

Bandasuk Nongrum, a beneficiary of Mawsiatkhnam Umpling, is one farmer who transformed her farming with the support of Bosco Integrated Development Society under SGP through vermicomposting. Earlier, soil degradation, overuse of chemical fertilizers, and limited access to manure reduced her productivity. She restored soil health, improved soil structure, and reduced reliance on chemicals by installing a vermi-bed. With regular use of vermicompost, crop growth and fertility increased. Today, she harvests up to four cycles of vermicompost for use in her farm and the sale of surplus quantity from her farm, which has helped generate more income and thus sustainably strengthen her livelihood.

Deigracia's Encounter with Intercropping

Deigracia Rangtong of Thad village was practicing monocropping of groundnut on her two-hectare land. Later, she attended the Crop Diversification Workshop organized under the GEF SGP project. She changed her practice to intercropping of sweetcorn and groundnut. She obtained groundnut seeds from ICAR-KVK and sweetcorn seeds from ATMA, Umsning Block. Line sowing was practiced with 30 cm spacing for groundnut and 60 cm for sweetcorn. Seeds were treated with Trichoderma and cow dung, and rock phosphate was given at the time of sowing. Biopesticide BABA was applied at the knee-height stage. The practice helped to increase land productivity, soil fertility, and stability of income, and also reduced the risk of crop loss.

Harvest Nutrition, Harvest Happiness

Meryhun Lyngdoh, a 24-year-old farmer residing in the Ri-Bhoi district in the Umngei village, shifted her ways of living through the support of the NEICORD under SGP. Meryhun is a farmer by profession, with the majority of the income generated from her farming activities. After being exposed to the training on nutrition gardens, she has grown a vibrant kitchen garden where she planted an assortment of vegetables like beetroot, carrots, brinjal, salad, beans, cauliflower, peas, ginger, cabbage, and mustard leaves. Her family's nutrition has improved, and she's even selling surplus produce for extra income. Today, she encourages the rest of the farming population within the vicinity to embrace kitchen gardening for healthier living.

Resilient Farming with Mandala Gardening

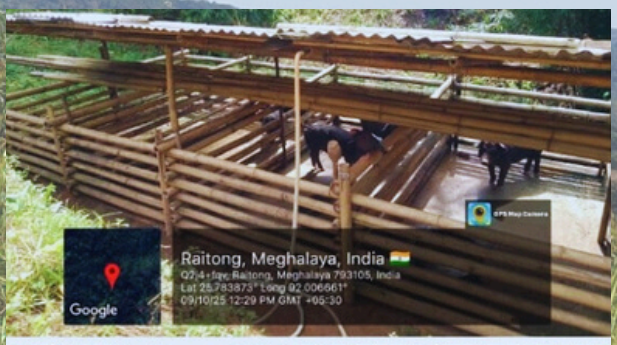
Women farmers of Lumsohpieng SHG, under Thad Integrated FPO, implemented the Mandala garden system after participating in the Crop Diversification and Permaculture Workshop organized under the GEF SGP. They grew eight vegetables: cabbage, white carrot, pink carrot, lettuce, coriander, cucumber, brinjal, and chilli, in circular segmented beds. Soil was made fertile by the use of Jivamrut, and Trichoderma and Decis were used for pest and disease management. Watering was done by rainwater and groundwater through bucket watering. Situated in the Umsning-Umling agricultural belt, the Mandala garden increased water conservation and soil health and ensured vegetable diversity, thereby increasing women's participation and earnings.

Self-Reliance through Integrated Aquaculture

Smti. Kajol Daimari is a woman farmer living in Mantikiri village, Udalguri district, Assam. She enhanced her livelihood through integrated aquaculture practices with the help of Kalong Kapili under SGP. She improved her family's traditional farming system by adopting an integrated farming model comprising fishery, horticulture, and a household nutrition garden. With training, technical assistance, fish seed, fish feed, lemon saplings, and vegetable seed assistance, the productivity of their farm has been increased manifold. The income has also increased from an annual income of only Rs.30,000 to an annual income of Rs.2.2 Lakhs. Today, Kajol Daimari is an empowered woman farmer who is motivating other farmers in her village to practice sustainable farming in an integrated manner.

Transforming Livestock Managegement

Mr. Kenestarfield Rangtong of Thad Village, a member of the Thad Multipurpose Cooperative Society, had a traditional piggery with only one shed. After participating in the Crop Diversification Workshop organized under the GEF SGP, he improved his piggery by building four new sheds with proper ventilation, drainage, and room space. He keeps one sow in the old shed and raises piglets in new sheds. The piglets are fed green vegetables mixed with Azolla and grower feeds. Veterinary suggestions were helpful in dealing with health problems. Better housing conditions minimized health problems, improved animal welfare, and generated more income through faster growth and the timely sale of piglets.



Stories from the Ground

Blending Tradition with Technology: Women Entrepreneurs Take the Lead in Sindhudurg, Maharashtra

Future Green Samasthe is enabling women-led rural entrepreneurship by thoughtfully combining traditional food practices with appropriate technology. In Sasoli village of Dodamarg Taluka, Sindhudurg district, a Chakali–Kurdai Making Machine has been installed at the residence of Ms. Kavita Bhujbal, opening new livelihood pathways rooted in local culinary traditions. The machine supports the efficient production of popular Maharashtrian snacks such as chakali and kurdai, which see high demand during festive and summer seasons. By mechanising time-consuming tasks such as mixing, shaping, and drying, the intervention has improved hygiene, consistency, and production speed while significantly reducing drudgery.

The initiative has directly benefited ten women from the Sateri Self-Help Group, enabling them to scale up home-based food enterprises, enhance household incomes, and strengthen their collective bargaining power. Beyond economic gains, the effort safeguards traditional food knowledge by helping it adapt to modern market demands. Supported by GEF-SGP and Future Green Samasthe, the initiative demonstrates how community-based entrepreneurship can generate sustainable livelihoods while fostering resilience, inclusion, and cultural continuity at the grassroots.

Reclaiming Bundelkhand: Community-Led Climate Action Transforming Land, Livelihoods, and Futures in Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh

In the Bijawar block of Chhatarpur district, Madhya Pradesh, communities in the Bundelkhand region have long struggled with land degradation, water scarcity, and fragile livelihoods, often leading to distress migration. With support from the GEF Small Grants Programme, Haritika is working with local communities to reverse this cycle by transforming 15 villages into Climate-Smart Model Villages. The initiative focuses on soil and water conservation, climate-smart agriculture and millet revival, biodiversity restoration, and strengthening women's leadership and rural entrepreneurship—placing communities at the centre of climate action.

The project has benefited nearly 5,000 people across 1,000 households. Over 1,000 women farmers have been trained, enabling annual income gains of ₹30,000–₹50,000, while 3,000 farmers have adopted sustainable practices guided by Mahila Gram Sewaks. More than 400 hectares of degraded land have been restored, 12,000 trees planted, and a 25-acre biodiversity park established. Investments in water harvesting structures, irrigation ponds, and solar irrigation systems have strengthened water security and clean energy use. This community-led effort demonstrates how nature-based solutions can build resilience, restore ecosystems, and create sustainable livelihoods in climate-vulnerable regions.

Building Climate-Resilient Farms: Farmers Take the Lead in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra

In Sakhar and Posare villages of Ratnagiri district, Maharashtra, Rural Communes is supporting farmers to strengthen climate resilience through sustainable tuber cultivation. The initiative distributed climate-resilient tuber seeds along with organic fertilisers, enabling farmers to adopt practices suited to local soil and rainfall conditions. A total of 108 farmers—56 men and 52 women—actively participated in plantation activities, marking a collective shift towards low-input, climate-smart agriculture.

These high-yielding tuber crops are helping improve soil fertility, conserve moisture, and enhance overall farm productivity. By adopting organic and sustainable farming practices, participating farmers are securing better yields and more stable incomes while reducing dependence on chemical inputs. Beyond immediate livelihood gains, the initiative contributes to long-term environmental conservation and climate adaptation in the region. The experience demonstrates how simple, context-specific interventions can empower farming communities to respond effectively to climate risks while strengthening the ecological foundations of agriculture.

Community-Led Water Conservation Revives Farming in Nayagaon, Madhya Pradesh

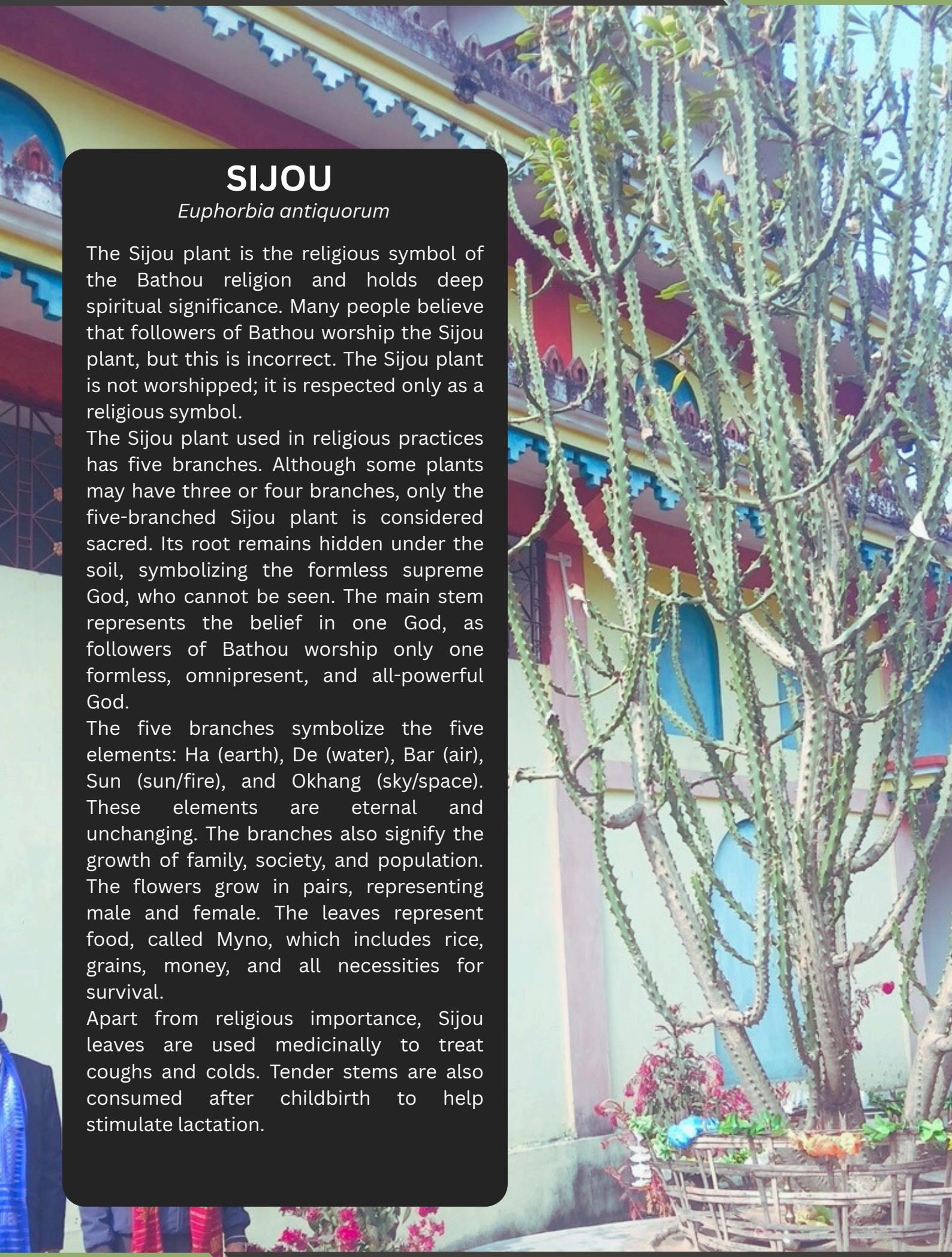
In Nayagaon village of Madhya Pradesh, collective action by farmers has transformed water scarcity into an opportunity for resilient livelihoods. With support from the GEF Small Grants Programme, the National Institute of Women, Child and Youth Development (NIWCYD), in collaboration with Janabhiyan Abhiyan Parishad, Damoh, worked with local communities to renovate the Puliya-cum-Stop Dam on the Sunya River. The intervention included strengthening the structure and installing new gates to improve water retention and regulation, restoring the dam's role as a critical community water asset.

The renovated structure has created nearly 90,000 cubic metres of additional water storage, extending water availability up to three kilometres upstream. This has enabled continuous irrigation for around 250 hectares of Rabi crops such as wheat and gram, while also opening opportunities for cultivating summer crops like urad and moong across 100 hectares during the Zaid season. About 100 electric pumps now draw water reliably, reducing farmers' vulnerability to erratic rainfall. The initiative demonstrates how community engagement, technical support, and sustainable planning can strengthen water security, boost agricultural productivity, and build climate resilience—translating local action into lasting livelihood and environmental gains.

Restoring Life, One Sapling at a Time: Communities Lead Landscape Revival in Khed, Maharashtra

In the forested hinterlands of Khed block, Maharashtra, communities are reversing the effects of water scarcity, land degradation, and declining livelihoods through a large-scale, community-led restoration effort supported by UNDP–GEF–SGP India and implemented by TERI. Spanning four villages, the initiative adopts a landscape approach to conservation—combining watershed restoration, afforestation, and livelihood diversification to rebuild fragile ecosystems. Activities include orchard development, percolation ponds, and large-scale plantation of over 6,000 medicinal plants and more than 2,200 horticulture and forest trees, breathing new life into degraded commons and farmlands.

Covering nearly 300 hectares, the project has already delivered tangible benefits. Improved soil health, water retention, and biodiversity are strengthening the local ecosystem, while families are reporting income increases of around 30 percent. Women and Self-Help Groups play a central role through leadership of Village Watershed Committees, driving decision-making and ensuring inclusive outcomes. Complementary livelihood activities—such as backyard poultry, vertical bag farming, eco-friendly honey collection, and nurseries for native species—are enhancing resilience and financial security. Together, these efforts demonstrate how community stewardship and nature-based solutions can restore landscapes, empower women, and create climate-resilient futures for forest-fringe communities.



SIJOU

Euphorbia antiquorum

The Sijou plant is the religious symbol of the Bathou religion and holds deep spiritual significance. Many people believe that followers of Bathou worship the Sijou plant, but this is incorrect. The Sijou plant is not worshipped; it is respected only as a religious symbol.

The Sijou plant used in religious practices has five branches. Although some plants may have three or four branches, only the five-branched Sijou plant is considered sacred. Its root remains hidden under the soil, symbolizing the formless supreme God, who cannot be seen. The main stem represents the belief in one God, as followers of Bathou worship only one formless, omnipresent, and all-powerful God.

The five branches symbolize the five elements: Ha (earth), De (water), Bar (air), Sun (sun/fire), and Okhang (sky/space). These elements are eternal and unchanging. The branches also signify the growth of family, society, and population. The flowers grow in pairs, representing male and female. The leaves represent food, called Myno, which includes rice, grains, money, and all necessities for survival.

Apart from religious importance, Sijou leaves are used medicinally to treat coughs and colds. Tender stems are also consumed after childbirth to help stimulate lactation.

Bamboo support for cucumber growth
Bamboo poles are used to support cucumber plants, which helps in better airflow, less damage from pests, and the production of healthier and better-quality fruits.

Banana stems around mustard plants
Banana plants are grown around mustard plants to absorb excess soil moisture, which helps in protecting the crop from water stress and increasing yield.

Strengthening paddy roots after harvesting
After paddy dries, the stalks are bound together to strengthen roots and increase soil stability for the next growing cycle

For quick germination
Water-soaked rice seeds are kept on top of banana leaves, covered with wet gunny bags (jute bags).

Indigenous Knowledge and Practices

Sowing Traditions, Shaping Futures: Youth Learn Indigenous Rice Practices in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra

In Dhamapur village of Sangameshwar block, Ratnagiri district, Shramjivi Janata Sahayyak Mandal (SJSM), in collaboration with the Agriculture Department, organised a field demonstration of the traditional four-point rice planting method using indigenous rice varieties. Rooted in local farming wisdom, the demonstration highlighted sustainable cultivation practices that support agrobiodiversity conservation and climate resilience. What set this initiative apart was the active participation of school students, who learned directly from experienced farmers and agricultural experts in the field.

Through hands-on exposure, students gained insights into indigenous rice varieties—their adaptability to local climatic conditions, low input requirements, and ecological benefits. The interaction fostered respect for farming communities and their time-tested knowledge systems, reinforcing the importance of conserving local seeds and biodiversity. By creating a space for intergenerational learning, the initiative helped ensure that traditional agricultural knowledge is passed on to future generations. This effort demonstrates how engaging youth can strengthen community-led conservation while keeping indigenous practices alive in evolving food systems.

Reviving Indigenous Wisdom: Communities Restore Land and Water in Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu

Rooted in community knowledge, Thuvakkam is revitalising indigenous practices through the Integrated Community cum Environment Development Programme (ICEDP) in A. Punavasal and Orivayal Panchayats of Kadalaadi Block, Ramanathapuram district. The initiative promotes traditional water harvesting, soil conservation, and sustainable farming practices that have long sustained coastal livelihoods.

Through 21 community-led activities, nearly 900 hectares of land have been conserved, improving soil health, biodiversity, and water availability for agricultural and domestic use. The initiative demonstrates how collective practice of indigenous knowledge can restore ecosystems, strengthen climate resilience, and support sustainable livelihoods in coastal Tamil Nadu.

Rooted in Tradition: Indigenous Tree Planting Revives Commons in Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu

GEF–SGP India continued to promote Drawing on local ecological knowledge, Thuvakkam supported the planting of 3,500 indigenous tree saplings along the bund of Kalporuki Kanmai in Orivayal Panchayat, Kadalaadi Block, Ramanathapuram district. Native species were selected for their suitability to local soils, water regimes, and climate conditions, reflecting long-standing community practices of managing shared water bodies.

Community members ensured regular watering, protection, and monitoring to support healthy growth and long-term survival. Implemented under GEF–SGP India with support from UNDP and monitoring by TERI, the initiative strengthened ecosystem restoration, built climate resilience, and reinforced community stewardship of common natural resources.

Cultivating Resilience: Reviving Indigenous Farming Practices in Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh

In Lavkushnagar Block of Chhatarpur district, Madhya Pradesh, Aabhar Mahila Samiti is strengthening sustainable agriculture by reviving indigenous and low-input farming practices across ten villages. Farmers have been supported with traditional Kodo and Kutki millet seeds, green vegetable seeds, and saplings such as Narahari—crops historically suited to local soils and climate. The initiative promotes organic methods rooted in community knowledge, including the use of natural fertilisers, compost, and bio-inputs to improve soil health and enhance crop resilience.

By encouraging diversified cropping systems and reducing dependence on chemical inputs, the initiative is improving nutrition security and stabilising farm incomes. Special emphasis on women's participation has strengthened their role in farm-based livelihoods and decision-making. Through collective learning and hands-on practice, farmers are renewing knowledge of sustainable land and resource management. The experience demonstrates how indigenous farming wisdom, when practised collectively, can build climate resilience, restore soil health, and support self-reliant rural livelihoods in vulnerable landscapes.

Nurturing Living Soils: Indigenous Composting Revives Farms in Damoh, Madhya Pradesh

Drawing on traditional organic soil management practices, Gramin Vikas Samiti is promoting vermicomposting among tribal communities in Damoh district, Madhya Pradesh. Through the establishment of 100 vermi-beds, farmers are converting farm residues into nutrient-rich compost, strengthening soil health through natural, low-input methods.

Farmers are actively producing vermicompost for the sowing season and refilling beds to continue composting cycles. The initiative reduces dependence on chemical fertilisers, improves soil structure and productivity, and reinforces indigenous, nature-based practices that support climate-resilient and sustainable farming systems in semi-arid landscapes.

Strengthening Traditional Mahua Harvesting with Green Nets in Damoh, Madhya Pradesh

Building on indigenous forest-based livelihoods, the Society for Resource Planning, Development and Research (SRPDR) supported forest-dependent communities in Damoh district, Madhya Pradesh, with green nets for sustainable Mahua collection. The nets allow flowers to fall on clean surfaces, improving quality and reducing daily collection time from 6–8 hours to 2–3 hours.

Covering 250 trees across about 85 hectares, the practice has increased seasonal household incomes from ₹3,000–4,000 to ₹8,000–10,000, reduced forest fires by 95 percent, and avoided over 1,000 tonnes of CO_2 emissions. This low-cost innovation strengthens traditional practices while enhancing livelihoods, biodiversity, and forest stewardship.

Mulching for the Future: Reviving Indigenous Dryland Practices in Karur, Tamil Nadu

In Karur district, Tamil Nadu, Vidiyal, in partnership with the Karur Vysya Bank CSR Scheme and supported under GEF–SGP, organised a field-level demonstration on mulching as a climate-resilient dryland farming practice. Hosted by farmer Mr. N. Chinnamuthu, the session showcased traditional mulching techniques that help retain soil moisture, reduce surface evaporation, and improve soil structure. Farmers received hands-on guidance on different locally adaptable mulching methods and their role in enhancing soil fertility and microbial activity under water-scarce conditions.

Mr. Chinnamuthu's active participation and willingness to document the entire process created a strong example of farmer-led knowledge sharing. The recorded demonstration will support wider learning and replication within the community. By promoting mulching as a simple, affordable, and effective practice, the initiative reinforces indigenous soil management wisdom while strengthening climate resilience, farm productivity, and long-term livelihood security in dryland landscapes.

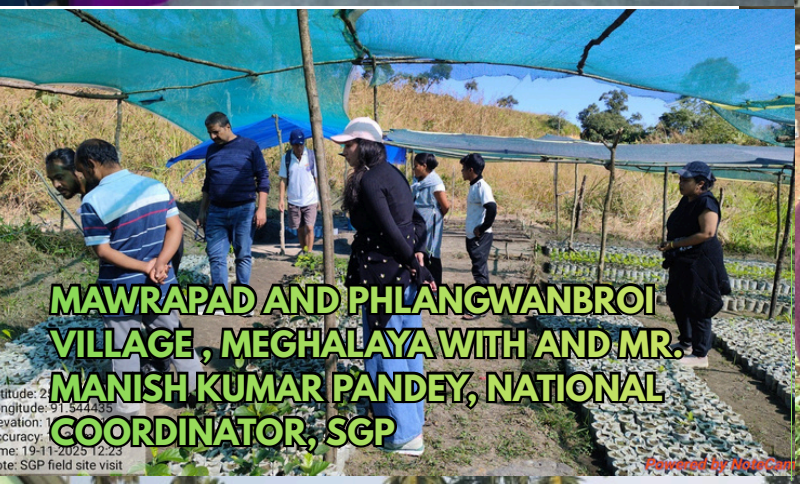
When Communities Sow Hope: Seed Ball Traditions Restore Land in Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh

In Rajnagar Block of Chhatarpur district, Madhya Pradesh, Vikas Samvad is leading a community-driven Seed Ball Campaign under the GEF Small Grants Programme to revive degraded landscapes and conserve native biodiversity. Rooted in traditional ecological practices, the campaign mobilised village youth, women, and children across 12 villages to prepare and disperse seed balls made with locally adapted, drought-tolerant species—transforming environmental restoration into a collective learning process..

Between World Environment Day and mid-June 2025, over 12,000 seed balls were dispersed across 70 hectares of barren land, using native species such as Sirsa, Jamun, Ber, Bael, Tamarind, and Tendu. With a germination rate of around 50 percent, the initiative demonstrates the effectiveness of low-cost, knowledge-led restoration methods. Ongoing care by community members and local institutions is fostering ownership, ecological awareness, and long-term sustainability—showcasing how indigenous practices, when revitalised collectively, can build climate resilience and restore degraded rural landscapes.

UDALGURI, ASSAM WITH DR. DIPANKAR SAHARIA, SENIOR DIRECTOR, TERI

UDALGURI, ASSAM WITH DR. DIPANKAR SAHARIA, SENIOR DIRECTOR, TERI



MAWRAPAD AND PHLANGWANBROI VILLAGE , MEGHALAYA WITH AND MR. MANISH KUMAR PANDEY, NATIONAL COORDINATOR, SGP

RI BHOI, MEGHALAYA WITH SOUNIKA KARMAKAR, REGIONAL COORDINATOR, TERI

BONGAIGAON, ASSAM MR. MANISH KUMAR PANDEY, NATIONAL COORDINATOR, SGP

DARRANG, ASSAM WITH MR. MANISH KUMAR PANDEY, NATIONAL COORDINATOR, SGP, AND SOUNIKA KARMAKAR, REGIONAL COORDINATOR, SGP

PAHAMBIRLUM, MEGHALAYA

INTERACTION WITH BENEFICIARIES, DARRANG WITH THE PRADAN TEAM

Progress Review Meeting and Visit

Partners in Action: RAC Meeting Advances Coastal Sustainability

The Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting for the Indian Coastal Region under the GEF Seventh Operational Phase of the Small Grants Programme (SGP-OP7) was held on 1 November 2025. The meeting brought together NGO partners from Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu to review project progress, share field-level experiences, and strengthen collaborative learning for coastal sustainability. Mr. Manish Pandey welcomed the participants and acknowledged the valuable guidance provided by RAC Members Dr. Nambi Appadurai, Dr. K. S. Murali, Dr. Abhay Pimpalkar, and Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam. The Secretariat presented key national-level updates, highlighting the successful implementation of 59 community grants, 2 knowledge management grants, and 10 upscaling grants across India.

Updates from the Indian Coastal Region were also shared, with a focus on projects being implemented in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. Partner NGOs—including VIDIYAL, Amrita Vidyapeeth, Thuvakkam, Arulagam, Anubhav Pratishthan, and Yuva Mitra—presented their achievements and discussed operational challenges and lessons learned. RAC members appreciated the progress made and emphasized the importance of documenting innovations, strengthening carbon accounting, and fostering continuous learning. A follow-up session scheduled later in November 2025 will further enhance engagement with additional partners. Collectively, the meeting reinforced a shared commitment to building resilient coastal communities and advancing sustainable development under GEF SGP-OP7.

Workshop on Regenerative Agriculture by PRADAN

Workshop on Strengthening Collaboration between Agricultural Institutions and Farmers

Training on Pest Management Control and Training on Soil Testing Report at Umphrew Village.

Training on soil sample collection and integrated pest

Training on IPDM and its impact on soil and environment

Trainings on Scientific Crop Intensification

Training on IPDM and its impact on soil and environment

Raised Nursery Bed

Promotion of PG [PRODUCER GROUP] as an enterprise of Vermicompost & Organic pesticide preparation

Training men and women on Kitchen Garden

Lemon Pruning and propagation

Capacity Building Workshop and Training

GEF-SGP Strengthens Field-Level Capacity in Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh

Under the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP), an orientation programme was conducted for the block team of the State Rural Livelihoods Mission (SRLM) at the Janpad Panchayat Office, Rajnagar, Chhatarpur district, Madhya Pradesh. The session was attended by Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, Regional Coordinator, Central Semi-Arid Region, SGP-India, and Mr. Shyam Gautam, District Programme Manager, SRLM. The orientation focused on enhancing the understanding and implementation of Solar Home Lighting Systems and other ongoing solar-based initiatives being executed under the Upscaling Grants of the GEF SGP. Participants were trained on technical aspects, operational requirements, and effective field-level execution to ensure the smooth rollout of these projects. The programme also emphasized improved coordination among teams to strengthen project management and monitoring.

By equipping the block team with technical knowledge and practical insights, the initiative aims to ensure efficient delivery of solar solutions, contributing to renewable energy adoption, rural electrification, and climate action. Strengthened partnerships and informed teams are critical for community-led, sustainable development. This orientation exemplifies GEF SGP's commitment to promoting capacity building, energy access, and environmental stewardship while empowering local institutions to implement sustainable interventions that benefit rural communities across Chhatarpur and the Central Semi-Arid Region.

Empowering Coastal Women through Seaweed-Based Entrepreneurship in Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu

Under the GEF Small Grants Programme (Operational Phase 7), Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham has been actively strengthening women-led livelihoods through seaweed-based value addition in coastal villages of Ramanathapuram district, Tamil Nadu. As part of this initiative, a series of value-added product training sessions were conducted for women associated with seaweed cultivation projects. During the trainings, participants learned to prepare seaweed-based soaps and pickles, which were showcased during Amma's Birthday celebrations and exhibition stalls. The sessions emphasized hands-on learning, covering indigenous seaweed cultivation practices, hygienic processing, packaging, quality assurance, and timely order delivery. These practical skills enabled women to meet market standards and respond effectively to customer demands.

In addition, fresh seaweed was collected and transported to support upcoming production cycles, ensuring continuity in livelihood activities. The integrated approach—from cultivation to value addition and marketing—helped women gain confidence in managing products, interacting with customers, and organizing for large events. Overall, the initiative has significantly strengthened women's entrepreneurship, enhanced income-generating opportunities, and contributed to the blue economy through sustainable ocean farming practices. By combining traditional knowledge with skill development and market linkages, the project is fostering resilient coastal livelihoods while promoting environmentally sustainable development.

Building Climate-Resilient Agriculture: Two-Day Farmers' Training on Natural and Sustainable Farming Practices in Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh

Parmarth Samaj Sevi Sansthan successfully organized a two-day farmers' training programme on 30–31 August 2025 at Block Badamalehra, Chhatarpur district (Madhya Pradesh) under the Small Grants Programme (SGP). The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation, with around 110 farmers attending each day, reflecting strong community interest in sustainable and climate-resilient farming practices. The training focused on strengthening farmers' knowledge and skills in natural and eco-friendly agriculture. Key sessions covered the preparation and use of farmyard manure (FYM), methods for making organic fertilizers and bio-pesticides, and the promotion of natural farming systems.

Farmers were also introduced to climate-resilient, low-water-intensive crops, along with the benefits of zero- and low-tillage practices for soil health, moisture retention, and reduced cultivation costs. The sessions were facilitated by eminent resource persons, including Dr. Rakesh Prajapati, Senior Scientist at KVK Tikamgarh; Dr. Sunil Jatav, Scientist at KVK Tikamgarh; and Mr. Amit Singh Karchuli, an Agriculture Expert. Through interactive discussions and practical insights, farmers gained a better understanding of adapting agriculture to changing climatic conditions. Overall, the programme emphasized climate-smart and sustainable farming approaches, empowering farmers to improve productivity, reduce input dependency, and build resilient livelihoods while conserving natural resources.

DISTRIBUTION OF VEGETABLE SEEDS FOR NUTRI GARDEN, NONGTYRLAW

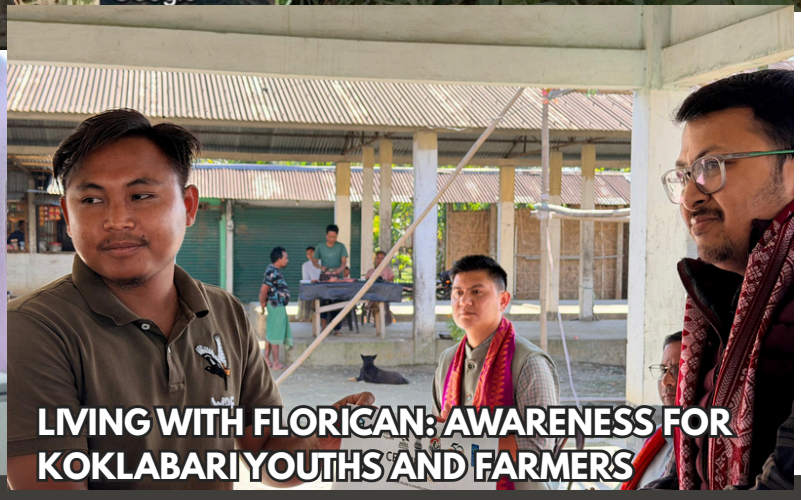
EXPOSURE VISIT TO BOITAMARI ON ORCHARD MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

CREATION AND MAINTENANCE OF FIRELINE, HIMA MALAI SOHMAT

CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF NURSERY, MAWRAPAD

SOLAR LIGHTING FOR POULTRY FARMS

SOLAR FREEZER INSTALLATION, MAWPHREW VILLAGE, RI BHOI



LIVING WITH FLORICAN: AWARENESS FOR KOKLABARI YOUTHS AND FARMERS

Events Organized

Cultivating Change: Empowering Farmers through Organic Farming and Community Awareness in Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh

Gram Sudhar Samiti successfully organized an Organic Farming & Community Awareness Program across Biharwara, Jharkuwa, Matipura, and Kudwara Gram Panchayats, strengthening grassroots capacities for sustainable agriculture and environmental stewardship. The initiative reached 822 farmers through 30 interactive training sessions, creating a vibrant platform for learning, dialogue, and collective action. The program focused on organic farming practices, soil and water conservation, and sustainable agricultural systems. Resource persons Mr. Rajesh Satnami, Mr. Somnath, and Mr. Inderpal Singh (Satna) provided practical guidance on organic inputs, crop management, and conservation techniques tailored to local agro-ecological conditions.

The programme focused on promoting organic farming through awareness sessions and proposed plans for establishing a Bio-Research Center, complemented by hands-on training in soil and water conservation. Farmers were sensitized to government schemes and farmers' rights through interactions with Farmer Interest Groups and Biodiversity Development Committees. Tree plantation drives reinforced ecological balance, while discussions encouraged reviving traditional crop varieties. Overall, the initiative strengthened farmers' capacities in sustainable agriculture, environmental conservation, health awareness, and institutional linkages, fostering resilient livelihoods and eco-friendly rural development.

Young Hands Nurturing Nature: NSS Students Learn Biodiversity Conservation at Neithal Nursery in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu

Under the GEF Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP), Arulagam organized an enriching fieldwork session at the Arulagam Neithal Nursery, Rameswaram, with active participation from National Service Scheme (NSS) students of Government Higher Secondary School, Thangachimadam. The initiative aimed to provide hands-on exposure to nursery management, native species conservation, and biodiversity restoration practices. Guided by NSS coordinators Mr. Sundar and Mr. Jerom, a group of 26 students worked closely with nursery staff and actively engaged in a range of practical activities. Students were introduced to the fundamentals of nursery management and sapling production, including a live demonstration on seed preparation and germination techniques.

As part of the exercise, nearly 700 Mahua (Illuppai) seeds were sown, and a shade structure was erected with the support poles properly arranged and stacked to protect young saplings. The students also transplanted Dodonea viscosa (Virali) and Vepulaan saplings raised in trays, assisted in regular watering, and cleaned moss from saplings in the designated Mangrove (Alaiaathi) section of the nursery. Through this immersive learning experience, students gained practical ecological skills and developed a deeper understanding of biodiversity conservation, coastal ecosystem protection, and the role of youth in promoting sustainable environmental stewardship.

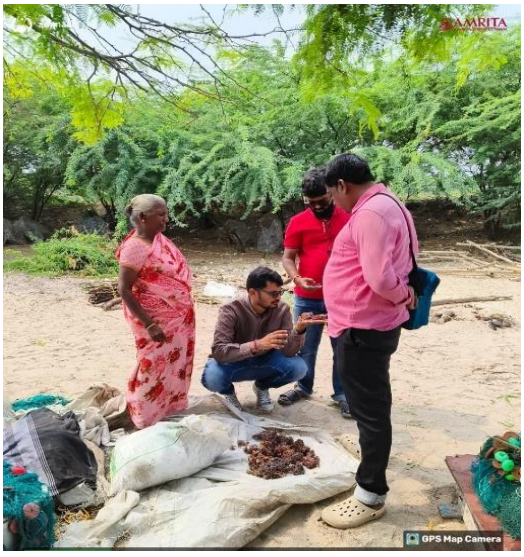
Urad & Moong Seeds: Growing Livelihoods and Climate Resilience in Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh

With support from the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP), Gram Sudhar Samiti distributed urad and moong seeds to 264 farmers across seven villages in Bijawar block, Chhatarpur district, Madhya Pradesh. Each farmer received 4 kg of seeds through the Agriculture Department, promoting sustainable farming practices that enhance soil health and build climate resilience. This initiative not only strengthens farmers' livelihoods but also contributes to long-term community well-being by encouraging eco-friendly agricultural practices. Such interventions play a vital role in empowering rural farmers, restoring degraded lands, and advancing sustainable development in the region.

Growing Wellness Locally: Promoting Nutrition and Traditional Health Knowledge in the Community in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra

Anubhav Pratishthan Trust (APT) organized a Vegetable & Medicinal Plant Exhibition at Anganwadi No. 2, Tiware (Gangechi Wadi) in Chiplun block, Ratnagiri district, Maharashtra, under the National Nutrition Mission. The exhibition promoted the importance of nutritious vegetables, traditional medicinal plants, and healthy dietary practices, with a special focus on children, mothers, and families. By strengthening awareness around local food diversity and traditional health knowledge, the initiative encouraged healthier food choices and community wellbeing. The programme highlights how nutrition education and community engagement can play a vital role in building healthier and more resilient communities.

Climacrew Scientists Visit Seaweed Cultivation Project at Olaikuda in Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu

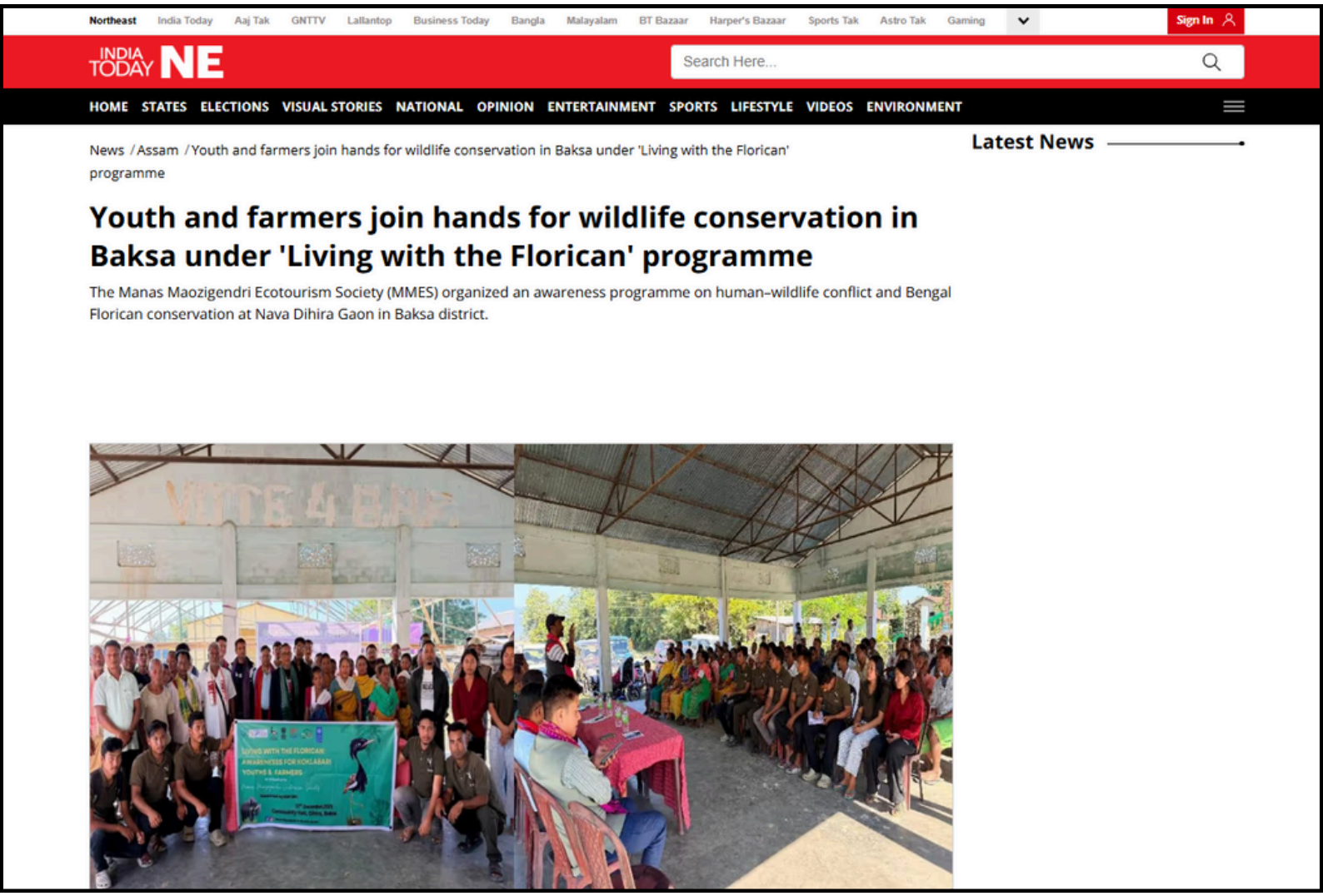


Climacrew scientists, Dr. Purnit and Dr. Milan, visited the Seaweed Cultivation Project at Olaikuda, Tamil Nadu, evaluating dried Kappaphycus produced by local women. They praised its high quality and recognized its potential for future market collaborations. The team also sampled seaweed-based products, including pickles and glycerine soaps, expressing interest in their taste, quality, and diverse applications. This visit strengthens market linkages and supports sustainable livelihoods for coastal women through ocean farming. The initiative advances SDGs 5, 8, 14, and 17, promoting gender equality, economic growth, marine conservation, and collaborative partnerships, and is implemented by Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham with UNDP, TERI, and partners.

From Learning to Practice: Climate-Smart Farming in Imlidol, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh

In the forest-fringe village of Imlidol, nestled in the Tendukheda Block of Damoh district, Madhya Pradesh, farming has always been closely tied to nature. Dependent on rainfall, forest resources, and traditional knowledge, small and marginal farmers here face growing uncertainty due to climate variability, soil degradation, rising input costs, and declining crop productivity. Against this backdrop, a modest yet transformative initiative under the GEF Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) demonstrated how locally grounded learning can become a powerful catalyst for sustainable change.

Implemented by Gramin Vikas Samiti (GVS), Madhya Pradesh, the initiative reached 39 farmers through a block-level Kisan Khet Pathshala, bringing climate-smart and organic agricultural practices directly to farmers' own fields. Rather than relying on classroom-based instruction, the programme focused on hands-on, experiential learning, allowing farmers to observe, practice, and immediately relate new knowledge to their everyday farming challenges.



Awareness programme for Koklabari Youths and Farmers

Grantees in the News Media

जिपं सीईओ ने किया गौरेया नदी के उद्गम स्थल पर पौधरोपण कार्य का निरीक्षण किया

भास्कर न्यूज़ | तेंदूखेड़ा

जिला पंचायत सीईओ प्रवीण फूलफगारे ने नगर के शासकीय कालेज में एसआईआर निर्वाचक नामावली का विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण कार्यक्रम में पहुंचे। जिसमें समस्त बीएलओ, सहायक बीएलओ उपस्थित रहे। जिनको सीईओ ने निर्वाचक नामावली के तहत दिशा निर्देश दिए। इसके बाद गौरेया नदी उद्गम स्थल इमलीडोल ग्राम पहुंचकर उद्गम स्थल पर किए गए पौधारोपण कार्य का निरीक्षण किया। कुछ पौधों में रोग को देखकर जिला पंचायत सीईओ ने सोमवार को उद्गम स्थल पर कृषि वैज्ञानिक को भेजने की बात कही। जिससे पौधों में उत्पन्न रोग खत्म हो सके। इसके बाद बंधना मोहल्ला में पहुंचकर ग्रामीण विकास समिति टेरी एसजीपी के सहयोग से किए जा रहे कार्यों वर्मी कम्पोस्ट खाद बनाने के लिए स्थापित वर्मी बेड का निरीक्षण किया। महिलाओं से भी जैविक खाद बनाने के तरीके के संबंध में चर्चा की। प्राकृतिक व जैविक पद्धति से खेती होने वाले फायदों को उपस्थित लोगों ने सीईओ को अवगत कराया। सीईओ ने जीवीएस द्वारा कराएं जा रहे कार्यों की सराहना की। इसके अलावा अन्य कार्यों का जायजा लिया गया। इस दौरान मनरेगा सहायक यंत्री एचके राज, उपयंत्री खेमचंद्र मरावी, सरपंच नवल झारिया, सचिव भगवानदास यादव, ब्रजेश लोधी, जीवीएस से धरमदास पाल, राजेश सिंह, भूरे सिंह, नीरज यादव, सविता रानी, नीमा गौड़, बबीता गौड़ के अलावा ग्रामीण जन उपस्थित रहे।

सीईओ ने किया गौरेया नदी के उद्गम स्थल का निरीक्षण

तेंदूखेड़ा। जिला पंचायत सीईओ प्रवीण फूलफगारे नगर के शासकीय कॉलेज में एसआईआर निर्वाचक नामावली का विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण कार्यक्रम में पहुंचे। जिसमें समस्त बीएलओ, सहायक बीएलओ उपस्थित रहे। सीईओ ने निर्वाचक नामावली के तहत निर्देश दिए। इसके बाद गौरेया नदी उद्गम स्थल इमलीडोल ग्राम पहुंचकर किए गए पौधारोपण कार्य का निरीक्षण किया। कुछ पौधों में रोग देखकर सीईओ ने सोमवार को उद्गम स्थल पर कृषि वैज्ञानिक को भेजनी की बात कही। इसके बाद बंधना मोहल्ला में पहुंचकर ग्रामीण विकास समिति टेरी एसजीपी के सहयोग से किए जा रहे कार्यों वर्मी कम्पोस्ट खाद बनाने के लिए स्थापित वर्मी बेड का निरीक्षण किया। महिलाओं से भी जैविक खाद बनाने के तरीके के संबंध में चर्चा की। प्राकृतिक एवं जैविक पद्धति से खेती होने वाले फायदे बताए। जीवीएस द्वारा कराएं जा रहे कार्यों की सराहनी की। इस दौरान मनरेगा सहायक यंत्री एचके राज, उपयंत्री खेमचंद्र मरावी, सरपंच नवल झारिया, सचिव भगवानदास यादव, ब्रजेश लोधी, जीवीएस से धरमदास पाल, राजेश सिंह, भूरे सिंह, नीरज यादव, सविता रानी, नीमा गौड़, बबीता गौड़ के अलावा ग्रामीण उपस्थित रहे।

खजुराहो में युवाओं व महिला कृषक समूहों के प्रतिनिधियों का एक दिवसीय प्रशिक्षण संपन्न

छतरपुर भास्कर न्यूज़ | छतरपुर / खजुराहो विकासखंड मुख्यालय स्थित ग्रामीण विकास संस्थान (आरसेटी) में मंगलवार को युवाओं व महिला कृषक समूहों के प्रतिनिधियों के लिए एक दिवसीय प्रशिक्षण का आयोजन किया गया। इस प्रशिक्षण में 50 युवा एवं 50 महिला कृषक शामिल हुए। प्रशिक्षण का उद्देश्य युवाओं और महिलाओं को कृषि से जोड़कर उन्हें आत्मनिर्भर बनाना है। प्रशिक्षण के दौरान विशेषज्ञों ने उन्हें आधुनिक कृषि तकनीक, जैविक खेती, मृदा परीक्षण, फसल चक्र, जल संरक्षण, पशुपालन और कृषि आधारित लघु उद्योगों की जानकारी दी। साथ ही उन्हें सरकारी योजनाओं का लाभ उठाने के तरीके भी बताए गए। प्रशिक्षण में शामिल प्रतिभागियों ने कहा कि उन्हें पहली बार इतने विस्तार से खेती के नए तरीकों के बारे में जानकारी मिली है। उनका कहना है कि वे अब रासायनिक खाद के बजाय जैविक खाद का उपयोग करेंगे और अपने खेतों में मिट्टी परीक्षण भी कराएंगे। कई महिलाओं ने कहा कि वे अब अपने समूह के माध्यम से सामूहिक खेती की योजना बनाएंगी। प्रशिक्षण के अंत में सभी प्रतिभागियों को प्रमाण पत्र प्रदान किए गए। इस अवसर पर संस्थान के निदेशक डॉ. राजेश कुमार सिंह, वरिष्ठ वैज्ञानिक डॉ. अनिता वर्मा, तकनीकी सहायक श्री रामकिशन पटेल, उमा प्रजापति, कौशल रजक, आरती हरिजन एवं सोसिल फजलानी भी मार्गदर्शन हेतु उपस्थित रहीं।

भूमिका भास्कर

Digital Edition

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मानव जीवन विकास समिति तेंदूखेड़ा द्वारा नेचुरल फार्मिंग प्राकृतिक खेती को करने का दिया गया एक दिवसीय प्रशिक्षण

मुकेश जैन तेंदूखेड़ा/झलौन

झलौन // ग्राम व ग्राम पंचायत बेहरी जनपद पंचायत तेंदूखेड़ा जिला दमोह मध्य प्रदेश में मानव जीवन विकास समिति के संचित निगेल सिंह जी के मार्ग दर्शन में नेचुरल फार्मिंग (प्राकृतिक खेती) पर एक दिवसीय प्रशिक्षण दिया गया प्रशिक्षक परमपाल प्रसाद रायकवार ने बताया कि नेचुरल फार्मिंग (प्राकृतिक खेती) एक ऐसी प्रणाली है जिसमें रासायनिक उर्वरकों और कीटनाशकों का उपयोग नहीं किया जाता है बल्कि पूरी तरह से प्राकृतिक संसाधनों का उपयोग किया जाता है यह विधि मिट्टी की उर्वरकता को बनाये रखने और उसे एक देसी गाय के गोबर और गौ मूत्र से बने जैविक उत्पादों जैसे जीवामृत, घीजामृत, और नीम जैसे प्राकृतिक तत्वों का

उपयोग करती है इसकी सबसे लोकप्रिय विधि जीरो बजट नेचुरल फार्मिंग है। ( ) नेचुरल फार्मिंग कैसे की जाती है। 1 बीजा गुण बुवाई से पहले बीजो को प्राकृतिक पदार्थों से उपचारित किया जाता है ताकि उन्हें रोगों से बचाया जा सके 1 जीवामृत यह देसी गाय के गोबर, गौमूत्र, गुड़, बेसन, और मिट्टी के मिश्रण से बनाया जाता है इसे मिट्टी में मिलाकर या छिड़काव करके मिट्टी के सूक्ष्म जीवों को बढ़ावा दिया जाता है और पौधों को पोषण मिलता है। 1 घन जीवामृत यह जीवामृत का एक ठोस रूप है जिसे मिट्टी में मिलाया जाता है। 1 नीमास्त्र नीम की पत्तियों और गौ मूत्र से बनाया गया एक प्राकृतिक कीटनाशक है जिसका उपयोग कीटों को नियंत्रित करने के लिए किया जाता है। 1 अग्न प्राकृतिक कीट नाशक, अग्निअस्त्र और ब्रह्मास्त्र, जैसे अन्य प्राकृतिक कीटनाशकों का भी उपयोग किया जाता है। 1 मल्चिंग फसल के अवशेषों या अन्य कार्बनिक पदार्थों से मिट्टी को ढकना यह मिट्टी में नमी बनाये रखने और खरपतवार को नियंत्रित करने में मदद करता है। 1 खाद रोटेशन मिट्टी की उर्वरता बनाएं रखने के लिए फसल चक्र अपनाना। 1 पशुधन का एकीकरण पशुधन को खेती में एकीकृत किया जाता है क्योंकि उनके गोबर और मूत्र से प्राकृतिक इनपुट तैयार होते हैं।

किसानों को मिला प्रशिक्षण

तेंदूखेड़ा (दो परिचायक) गांव व ग्राम पंचायत पाटन में कृषि विज्ञान केंद्र तेंदूखेड़ा द्वारा प्राकृतिक खेती पर एक दिवसीय प्रशिक्षण का आयोजन किया गया। कार्यक्रम में वैज्ञानिक डॉ. [illegible] ने किसानों को प्राकृतिक खेती के सिद्धांतों और व्यावहारिक तरीकों की जानकारी दी। उन्होंने बताया कि रासायनिक उर्वरकों और कीटनाशकों के अत्यधिक उपयोग से मिट्टी की उर्वरता और फसल की गुणवत्ता दोनों पर बुरा असर पड़ रहा है। [illegible] ने किसानों को जीवामृत, बीजामृत, घन जीवामृत, आच्छादन और वाफसा जैसी तकनीकों के बारे में विस्तार से बताया। उन्होंने कहा कि प्राकृतिक खेती से न केवल लागत कम होती है, बल्कि मिट्टी की सेहत भी लंबे समय तक बनी रहती है। [illegible] ने किसानों को सलाह दी कि वे रासायनिक खेती से धीरे-धीरे प्राकृतिक खेती की ओर बढ़ें। उन्होंने बताया कि शुरुआत में उपज थोड़ी कम हो सकती है, लेकिन तीसरे साल से मिट्टी की उर्वरता बढ़ने के साथ उपज स्थिर और लाभदायक हो जाती है। [illegible] ने कहा कि कृषि विज्ञान केंद्र समय-समय पर किसानों के लिए प्रशिक्षण, भ्रमण और परामर्श की व्यवस्था करता रहेगा। कार्यक्रम के दौरान किसानों ने खेती से जुड़ी अपनी समस्याएं भी रखीं, जिनका वैज्ञानिकों ने समाधान सुझाया। [illegible] ने बताया कि केंद्र द्वारा आयोजित प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम में तेंदूखेड़ा, पाटन, बरेला, गोटेगांव, करेली, नरसिंहपुर, गाडरवारा, चीचली, कुंडम, छपारा, लखनादौन, सिवनी, छिंदवाड़ा, बैतूल, होशंगाबाद, हरदा, खंडवा, बुरहानपुर, खरगोन, बड़वानी, धार, झाबुआ, अलीराजपुर, रतलाम, मंदसौर, नीमच, शाजापुर, उज्जैन, आगर-मालवा, देवास, इंदौर, रायसेन, सीहोर, विदिशा, भोपाल, राजगढ़, शिवपुरी, गुना, अशोकनगर, ग्वालियर, दतिया, भिंड, मुरैना, श्योपुर, टीकमगढ़, छतरपुर, पन्ना, सतना, रीवा, सिंगरौली, उमरिया, शहडोल, अनूपपुर, कटनी, जबलपुर, नरसिंहपुर, दमोह, साग

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