JSLPS establishes first Basic Seed Processing Unit for cocoons in Jharkhand

In pursuit of its ultimate goal, Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society (JSLPS) continues to focus on “Expanding Horizon and Enriching Lives”. To achieve this aim, JSLPS continuously works to develop new ideas and innovations for the overall upliftment of women in the remote areas of the state. Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojna (MKSP) is one such initiative that has become a crucial element of the development programme. The project works to empower the women farmers of the state.

Jharkhand, with its ample natural resources, has the potential to encash its NTFPs (Non-Timber Forest Produces). Under the MKSP program, special focus is being given to enhancing the skills of women farmers to enable them to extract the maximum value from NTFPs and thereby enhance their overall earnings. Under its umbrella, the first Basic Seed Processing Unit (BSPU) by Aaburu Rural Service Centre of Khuntpani block of West Singhbhum district has been established in Jharkhand. Altogether 16 PGs are associated with Aaburu RSC.

On the basis of rearing time and season of cultivation, seed rearing is classified into two major categories namely:

In this issue

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Brave & generous

SHG inspires and supports member to return to school

Fish Farming by Members of Sakhi Mandal

BSPUs aim to become the sole suppliers of Disease Free Layings to the whole of Jharkhand
1. Basic Seed Rearing (mainly conducted during months of July to September)
2. Commercial Seed Rearing (mainly conducted during months of October to January)

Basic Seed Rearing Unit (BSPU) is responsible for production of basic seed for commercial seed production. Commercial Seed Rearing Unit (CSPU), on the other hand, is used for production of cocoons. In layman terms, rearing of cocoon seeds may be classified into two categories, namely Basic Seed Rearing (BSR) and Commercial Seed Rearing (CSR). Basic seed rearing involves the entire process of mating of caterpillar in a closed chamber in order to produce eggs (producing DFLs). Commercial Seed Rearing involves hatching of DFLs and transferring it to Aasan, Arjun and Sal trees where cocoons are then formed. Earlier, all the MKSP units engaged in cocoon production were dependent on other states for commercial seeds or DFLs. Now, the Aaburu RSC has marked its presence in production of Disease Free Layings (DFLs).

The Process
The best quality cocoons are kept aside in the month of December. This process of regeneration has been in practice under Aaburu RSC since December 2019. The cocoons are placed in such a manner that each square foot contains 100 cocoons (in the ratio of 7:3 for male: female). These cocoons are stored in an airy room which is cleaned and taken care of for six months on a daily basis. After six months, in the month of June, the pupa starts coming out of the cocoons. Male and Female pupae start mating within 3 to 4 hours of their natural extraction from cocoons. The mating pupae are then transferred into a plastic box for laying of eggs. These pupae are kept in the box for 72 hours and then the female pupae are tested individually with the help of microscope. Only such boxes are considered for next stage germination whose female pupae clear Tabrine disease level in the microscopic test and are found disease free. Post testing, the Disease Free Layings (DFLs) are washed properly with extra care and then left for few hours to get dry. Then comes the process of packaging of DFLs. Each set of 100 DFLs combine to form a packet which weighs 200g approximately. After 9 days of mating, newly born larvae comes out of egg and continue the same cycle of cocoon formation.

Future Targets and Sustainability
One BSPU can supply raw material to at least 8 CSPU. With appropriate care, one can earn adequate amounts of money through this intervention. Each DFL is priced at Rs 14/- per piece and the rate is Rs 1400/- for one packet of DFL.

The practice has been started with a team of 100 farmers in the first lot which is to be escalated to 800 farmers in the coming years. After West Sighbhum, Rania block of Khunti district has also commenced training of farmers in the process and the practice will be replicated there from the next season.

Mahila Kisaan Sashaktikaran Pariyojna (MKSP) is aiming at becoming self-sufficient in the supply of DFLs in entire Jharkhand. The team is also working on a plan for nuclear rearing.
Judicious selection of crops can change farmers’ lives

*Mushroom and broccoli cultivation changes a farmer couple’s life, fetches better income and improves their standard of living.*

Nandini Devi is a young and feisty woman of 27 years of age. A resident of Bhadgawan village of Chainpur block of Palamu district, Nandini is a member of Durga AjeevikaSakhi Mandal formed by Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society (JSLPS). Nandini and her husband Ravi Anand Prasad have taken up mushroom and broccoli cultivation as their major occupation. Along with mushroom and broccoli they also cultivate other crops and vegetables, like wheat, paddy, brinjal, lady’s finger, sesame, etc. Before starting mushroom and broccoli cultivation, Nandini and her husband were involved in cultivation of paddy, wheat and vegetables which are commonly grown by other farmers also. Nandini also works as an Active Woman of her village and looks after the functioning of the Sakhi Mandals of her village.

Nandini’s father-in-law was a mushroom cultivator but with time nobody in the family carried forward mushroom cultivation as livelihood. When Nandini joined her Sakhi Mandal, she took a loan of Rs 5000 and started mushroom cultivation once again. It’s been about two years since Nandini and her husband Ravi took up mushroom and broccoli cultivation. Till date Nandini has taken different small loans amounting to around Rs 1 lakh from her Sakhi Mandal for mushroom cultivation.

The couple cultivates both oyster and button mushroom in a small room of their house. Nandini says that button mushroom is more in demand in the market compared to oyster mushroom, but it requires more care and investment. To cultivate 1 kg of mushroom, Rs 40 needs to be invested and the earning from it is about Rs 150 to Rs 200 per kg. There is huge profit margin of about Rs 110 to Rs 160 per kg of mushroom.
Like mushroom, broccoli is also a lucrative crop. Nandini cultivates broccoli in about 3 to 4 kattha of land and harvests about 4 to 5 quintal of broccoli from her field. The market price of broccoli ranges from Rs 50 to Rs 80. Nandini says that just after the harvesting season of broccoli the price remains high, but after some time the rate goes down when the market is flooded with broccoli. Broccoli is sown in September to October and the crop gets ready to be harvested in about 2 months of time. They sell broccoli in the local market and earn about Rs 30000 from broccoli sale each season.

Nandini says, “Mushroom cultivation is very profitable and I will continue it in the future. One does not require to move out to work as mushroom cultivation can be done at home. At present we cultivate mushroom in a small room, but in future we are planning to rent or build a big room exclusively for mushroom cultivation. Mushroom and broccoli cultivation has changed our lives. It has almost doubled our income. Our income per year is about Rs 60,000 to Rs 70,000 after all the expenditures. Because of our earnings from mushroom and broccoli cultivation we are able to send all our three children to private school for better education.”

Nandini and her husband are extending the learning from their experiences to other farmers also who are interested in mushroom and broccoli cultivation. Nandini says that they also provide broccoli seeds to the farmers who are interested in broccoli cultivation so that they do not have to travel to Ranchi for the seeds.

From her earnings Nandini has built two concrete rooms in her house which were earlier thatched. Shifting from traditional crop cultivation to cash crop cultivation has changed Nandini and her family’s life.
Brave & generous

“There is nothing more beautiful than someone who goes out of their way to make life beautiful for others.” This is what Bhanumati Tantubai is doing – empowering elderly SHG members through her enterprise.

Bhanumati Tantubai, aged 45 years, from Tutki Nawadih village of Silli block, Ranchi is one of those women entrepreneurs of Jharkhand who are not only reframing the stories of their life but are also filling colors in others’ life.

Bhanumati has established a successful enterprise of Agarbatti manufacturing. Through this business she is not only earning a regular monthly income of around Rs 10000-15000 but is also helping other members of her Sakhi Mandal earn a good income every month.

Bhanumati came under the fold of NRLM in the year 2016 and became a member of Jharkhand Mahila Samiti, Tutki. Prior to joining the Sakhi Mandal, she used to stitch clothes at home, but her income was never regular. Bhanumati’s Sakhi Mandal group consists of mostly elderly members. Bhanumati observed that the members of her group constantly demanded small loans for their personal needs, and it used to be very difficult for them to repay it in the absence of any regular source of income. She kept this issue before everyone in the weekly meeting. The issue was acknowledged and presented in the Village Organization meeting.

Bhanumati’s group got to know about the SVEP (Small Village Enterprise Program) and about the financial aid that is provided under the program to set up small enterprises in villages. Bhanumati presented the idea of setting up an enterprise of agarbatti making as it would give them work all around the year and the members could even work from their homes. Interested group members agreed to her point and in March 2019, the unit was finally set up with all the necessary machinery and equipment required for Agarbatti
making and packing. Bhanumati received Rs 50,000 as loan under SVEP and another Rs 50,000 as loan from the Sakhi Mandal. The total investment thus amounted to Rs 1 lakh.

Presently, six members of Bhanumati’s Sakhi Mandal are working with her and helping in the production and packaging of agarbatti. On an average, the team produces around 25-30 kg of agarbatti per day as per demand. The cost of input in producing per kg of agarbatti comes to around Rs 35-40 and is sold at Rs 70-75, giving a good margin of profit. Bhanumati’s enterprise thus generates a regular monthly income of around Rs 50000–60000 on average by selling the final product into local markets and a wholesale dealer in Ranchi. The six SHG member engaged in the unit are paid a monthly remuneration of around Rs 5000 per month based on the input labor. These six members working with Bhanumati are all elderly in the age group of 50-65 years.

Radhika Devi, the eldest among the members is 65 years old. Sharing her experience she says, “This enterprise has not only become a source of income for us but we have also achieved a sense of empowerment. Earlier, we used to take loans from Sakhi Mandals for our general needs such as medicines but paying the loan back was difficult as we didn’t have any source of earning. Now, we are earning a regular income and if we require loans from Sakhi Mandal, borrowing even bigger amounts does not worry us.”

According to Bhanumati, Sakhi Mandal has taught her the power of unity where the members treat the problems of others as their own and are ready to help each other in every possible situation. This keeps Bhanumati Tantubai motivated to use her entrepreneurial skills to enable a stable livelihood for not just herself but for members of her Sakhi Mandal as well. She is one of those lakhs of rural women of Jharkhand who are collectively helping achieve the objectives of Aajeevika Mission.
**Lemongrass Cultivation: Less pain more gain for farmers**

*Lemongrass cultivation proves to be a lucrative additional source of income for farmers.*

Jharkhand Opportunities for Harnessing Rural Growth (JOHAR) is a World Bank funded project which aims to diversify the household income in selected farm and non-farm sectors in the project areas of Jharkhand. Over 200000 farmers are expected to benefit from the project, SHG members being the focused beneficiaries of the project. The benefits of the project are reaching the farmers through the Producer Groups.

Non Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) is one of the components of JOHAR Project. Under this component, lemongrass cultivation is being promoted in Chainpur, Chhatarpur and Patan blocks of Palamu district. Lemongrass cultivation requires less labour as compared to other crops. Lemongrass can be cultivated in unutilized barren land and does not require irrigation. It has pest resistant properties because of which it does not require insecticide or pesticide and provides good return to the farmers. Last year, total 162 farmers of 14 villages cultivated lemongrass and harvested it this year in the month of July. Total 9 lakh slips of lemongrass plant have been harvested in the whole district.

Lemongrass slips and leaves have been bought by the Uttari Koel Farmer Producer Company at the cost of 50 paisa per slip. Each plant contains about 10 to 15 slips. Total Rs 4.5 lakh is the earning of the farmers of Palamu from the sale of lemongrass slips. The slips are being provided by FPC to the farmers who wish to cultivate lemongrass this year. Lemongrass leaves have been sent to distillation plant established by JSLPS in Manika block of Latehar district for extracting oil. The price of lemongrass oil is Rs 1000 per litre. Lemongrass oil is utilized is cosmetic and medicine industries.

Chinta Devi who is a resident of Parsakhaad village of Chainpur block of Palamu district says, “I cultivated 450 slips of lemongrass in 20 decimal of land last year in month of September. This year I harvested 18,000 slips of lemon grass from my field. I have sold 16000 slips and kept 2000 slips to cultivate it this year also. I earned Rs 8000 by selling the slips. Lemongrass cultivation is a profitable source of income so this year I am thinking of cultivating it in more land. Seeing the return from lemongrass cultivation, other farmers have also decided to cultivate lemongrass this year.”

Like Chinta, many farmers are diversifying their source of income through lemongrass cultivation under the NTFP component of JOHAR Project.
SHG inspires and supports member to return to school

Back to school after a gap of 6 years, young Meleshri is setting up new milestones to inspire village women like her.

It is common for girls in rural families to quit studies for marriage at a very young age. And, it is rare to find a married woman with children who takes up her education again after a gap of many years. The importance of education for women is rarely understood in rural areas. But 21-year-old Meleshari Hansda realized its value and has set an example for thousand of rural women like her. Meleshari associated with Kadam Badha Self Help Group, got the motivation from her SHG to study again and after 6 years gap, living alone with her two children, she went back to school taking admission in Class 9 in 2018. In June this year she qualified the Xth board exam with first division securing 391 marks which is equivalent to 78.20%.

Meleshri belongs to the small village Baghmara in Simariya Panchayat of Dumka district. Married at a very young age of 13 in the year 2012 to a daily wage laborer who usually migrated for work, Meleshri gave birth to two sons in the next four years. Meanwhile; her in laws passed away and she had to take care of her sons alone – aged 4 and 2 years respectively.

In 2017, Meleshari joined an SHG and as she was the only literate member in her group, she got the work of a Bookkeeper. After 6 months, she was also appointed as the Village Organisation’s accountant. Her good work was noticed by one of the JSLPS staff who suggested she enroll in Class 9 and take up her education from where she had left off. Other SHG members also motivated her to go back to school. Eventually, Meleshari took admission in the village school. Along with her studies, she also continued to do her SHG work while looking after her family as well. Motivated by her success in the 10th board exam she is now planning to continue her studies further.

Talking about the journey she says, “My family did not support me and abandoned me when I needed them the most. But I didn’t give up. I was unable to attend all classes at school because of my younger son. Also, it wasn’t possible for me to study in day time. So, at night after putting the babies to sleep I studied for hours to cover the syllabus. I am grateful to my SHG family because they were the only people who supported me and encouraged me. I am determined now to study further and also to continue working.”

Meleshri is working as a CLF Accountant now. She wants to become a math teacher as mathematics is her favorite subject. Meleshari with the support of SHG members is also actively fighting against sale of liquor in her village.
Rice Packing under PVTG Daakiya Scheme

An additional source of income for Sakhi Mandal women, the Daakiya scheme continues during the pandemic with due precautions in place.

PVTG Dakiya Scheme is a Central Government initiative for the welfare of Primitive Tribal Groups. In Jharkhand, there are eight Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) or Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), namely – Asur, Birhor, Birajia, Korwa, Parahiya, Sabar, Mal Pahariya and Souriya Pahariya. Under this scheme, all the PVTG households get 35 kg of rice per month free of cost delivered at their doorsteps. These rice packets are packaged by the women of Sakhi Mandals. 4763 households are covered under the PVTG Dakiya Scheme in Palamu district of Jharkhand.

Even during the pandemic, women of Sakhi Mandals are carrying on the rice packing process with all the precautionary measures like use of mask, social distancing, sanitisation, etc. Members of Ekta Ajeevika Gram Sangathan of Chainpur block are involved in packaging of rice packets for the PVTG Daakiya Scheme. They receive rice in 50 kg packs from the Food and Civil Supplies Department. They unpack the 50 kg packets and repack it again into 35 kg rice packets. They do the packaging, weighing, sewing and labelling of the sacks themselves. The women packed 1671 sacks of rice in the month of July for the beneficiaries of Chainpur and Ramgarh block. These rice sacks are delivered through the doorstep delivery mechanism. Swayam Sewaks are responsible for the delivery of rice sacks.

The Sakhi Mandal women are paid Rs 12 for each sack of rice packed. Their wage goes to the Village Organization’s account and from there it is transferred to their individual accounts. This serves as a source of additional income for the Sakhi Mandal women. As they are not involved for the whole month in the work, they can carry out other livelihood activities as well in their free days. The activity serves as an opportunity for enhancing the livelihood of the members of Sakhi Mandal.
Advanced Agri-Techniques help rural farmers
A farmer couple get back to their field armed with advanced farming practices and reap rich dividends.

Suma Devi, 26 years old, is a resident of Sirsa village in Palojori block of Deoghar district and works on her agriculture farm with her husband. Her hard work is reaping benefits for her even in the time of the epidemic. But it was not always a happy life for Suma.

Suma along with her husband and two children was living in abject poverty since her marriage. In 2018 she joined Maa Durga Ajivika Sakhi Mandal running under the fold of NRLM and with that life took a good turn for her. According to Suma, it was the beginning of her good days. Her husband who was a driver decided to venture into farming once he learnt about the benefits of advanced methods.

Suma and her husband wanted to start farming on a large scale, but they faced two major challenges – the first one was the capital. Earlier, whenever they faced a financial crisis, they took loans from moneylenders at very high rates of interest and found it difficult to repay the lenders. The second challenge was the lack of knowledge of modern techniques and methods. Traditional farming could barely generate profit for them.

Help came from the SHG. Suma got financial help in the form of loan. She took a loan of Rs 20,000 from her SHG and invested it in the cultivation of chilli and watermelon. Secondly, she also received technical help from the Ajivika Krishak Mitras in her village who work with farmers. Suma and her husband got training and learnt about good quality seeds, organic fertilizers and how to develop seedlings. They began farming adopting the new advanced methods.

Suma says, “The traditional seed varieties give us minimal production whereas the hybrid seeds or good quality seeds help us to have better yield in the same size of land. Also, when we started adopting organic methods it enhanced the land productivity. The developed seedlings are also less prone to the effects of adverse weather conditions.”

Suma produced 11 quintals of chilies and 7 quintals of watermelon in one acre of land and earned Rs 63000 in last 6 months. With the good profit earned, she has sowed paddy in one acre of land using SRI transplantation method in the Kharif crop season. Her family’s income has increased to around Rs 2 lakh to Rs 2.5 lakh annually from their farm.

"By adapting methods of advanced farming, we have been able to attain food security and also earn profit. Also, we have sufficient money to meet the expenses of health emergency, send our three children to school and to pay their tuition fees,” Suma adds with a smile.
Pushpa transforms herself from liquor seller to Agri-Expert

- SHG transformed Pushpa’s life and then she provided shield to her children by nurturing them post her husband’s sudden demise who was the only earning member in the family of 5.

The Background

Phase of hardships tastes bitter when someone loses hope. Pushpa Devi a resident of Anigara village placed under Barudih Panchayat of Sadar block of Khunti district (Jharkhand). She has been residing there with her husband and 3 children. In a family of 5 her husband was a marginalised farmer and used to work as labourer in nearby sites in off seasons. Her family was not enough to cope-up the demand of growing family and their basic needs.

Disappointed Pushpa choose to contribute somehow as it was need of the hour. She chooses to produce ‘Rice beer’ commonly known as ‘Hadia- the local drink of rural Jharkhand’. She used to earn 200-300 bucks a day and this provided an extra financial aid to her family.

The Transformation

Then came the first turning point in Pushpas’s way back in June 2016 when she got associated with Surbhi Mahila Mandal during a drive for mobilising poor females and building a community institution. She got associated with the SHG and started following the norms and policies of SHG along with her weekly savings. Slowly and gradually she was elected as the AKM (Aajeevika Krishak Mitra). Post few trainings, she was able to gather a gist of best practices to be implemented at grassroot level. Subsequently, she left the task of making Hadia and indulged herself completely in working for the community.

Contribution and the fact file

During her various trainings, she was inducted regarding pros of organic farming and cons of chemical farming. She started making organic fertilizers and pesticides and spread awareness regarding it at her own level. As cadre she looked after 260 farmers and tried to spread the use of organic farming amongst them. Pushpa for a change, started making organic fertilizers and pesticides on her own and she sold it to the local farmers on a marginalised rate. She produced the following things and sold each of them at a subsidised rate of Rs 10/- only for each Kg/Litre of produce-

1. Ghajjevamrit - used while ploughing the field as substitute of D.A.P
2. Dhravjeevamrit - used as Vitamin booster for the crops. Is also a substitute for DAP.
4. Neemastra - used as pesticides for killing the unwanted insects.
In a span of two months, Sushila managed to earn Rs 41,114 from the cultivation of tomatoes and cucumbers through MDI; earning 90% profit. Next, Sushila planted peas, this time the cost was incurred only on seeds, while the other things remained. The project’s objective is to enhance household income with diversified farming and on-farm activities, capacity building of community on improved MDI technology and Package of intensive training on horticulture and marketing. The MDI project is a boon for farmers in the state.

Jharkhand is a state which faces water crisis, and the MDI project is a boon for farmers. Looking at the results, Sushila became interested in adopting the MDI technology for farming. Post her husband’s demise, Pushpa applied for advanced agricultural options through JHMDI and JOHAR projects functional under JSLPS. These projects aided needy and potential farmers with advanced Micro Drip Irrigation and Poly House Nursery at a marginal and subsidised rate. In her hardships, Pushpa opened up multiple livelihood opportunities like AKM, Organic fertilizer business (from home), CRP for sustainable agriculture, Organic farming, Micro Drip Irrigation and Nursery for giving a better life to her children and growing to be a strong and proud mother.

### Cost Benefit Analysis

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<td>3</td>
<td>Peas</td>
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</tr>
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Apart from this she was nominated as Community Resource Person (CRP) for expansion of practices of organic farming under Community Managed Sustainable Agriculture (CMSA) programme. She has been to villages like Chapi, Mango, Reva, Birhu, Belwadaag, Chalam, Dadgama etc for spreading the practice of sustainable farming in socially and economically backward areas. During this drive, she spends a span of 5 days in a village and gets honorarium of Rs 450/- per day.

### Challenge and coping-up with the obstacle

Second and the most crucial turning point happened in Pushpa’s life in October, 2019 when her husband passed away. Astonished Pushpa had to bear the responsibility of 3 children who were still school going kids studying in 11th, 7th and 5th standard simultaneously. Apart fromthis she was nominated as Community Resource Person (CRP) for expansion of practices of organic farming under Community Managed Sustainable Agriculture (CMSA) programme. She has been to villages like Chapi, Mango, Reva, Birhu, Belwadaag, Chalam, Dadgama etc for spreading the practice of sustainable farming in socially and economically backward areas. During this drive, she spends a span of 5 days in a village and gets honorarium of Rs 450/- per day.

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5. Nadeb- used as compost fertiliser.

To encourage people to go for alternate farming options, she used her plots as demonstration piece and encouraged use of organic fertilizers in her 1 acre of paddy cultivation and 0.25 dismal land used for vegetable cultivation. Apart from this she is now working with more than 30 farmers who are replicating her practices partially and 18 are replicating it in full-fledged way. A desi liquor seller motivated approximately 50 farmers and counting to towards sustainable agricultural practices.

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Spread of the deadly pandemic has made people realize the importance of livelihood activities like agriculture, fishery and animal husbandry that can be carried out in the villages itself to earn money. Fish farming which is also referred as pisciculture is one of the good sources of livelihood that can be carried out in the villages. Villages have plenty of water bodies like ponds, dobhas and check dams which can be utilized for fish farming. Artificial tanks can also be constructed for serving the purpose.

A Producer Group named Butanduba Ajeevika Mahila Machhli Utpaadak Samuh has been formed by the members of Sakhi Mandal of Sokra and Parsakhad villages of Chainpur block of Palamu district in June, 2020 to carry out fish farming as a source of additional income along with agriculture. There are 42 members in the PG which includes members of PVTG community also. Most of the members owned the land in which Butanduba dam has been constructed. They applied for the licence of fish rearing from the fishery department with the support of JSLPS. Earlier some other person owned the licence of fish farming in the Butanduba dam. Rubi Devi serves as President, Rinku Devi serves as Secretary and Sharda Devi serves as the treasurer of the Producer Group. Each member has contributed Rs. 7000 as share capital in the PG.

Before putting the spawn in the dam the PG members decided to catch all the big fishes in the dam so that the big fishes don’t end up eating the spawn. They caught about two quintal of fishes and sold them for about Rs. 30,000 at the rate of Rs. 150 per Kg. After cleaning the dam they have put six quintal of Rehu and Katla spawn in the dam. They have bought the spawn from Kolkata in Rs. 2.5 lakh. Rinku Devi who is a Secretary of the PG tells that the fishes will be ready for sale in about 6 to 7 months and they are expecting to earn about Rs. 75 to 80 lakhs after selling the fishes. Butanduba Ajeevika PG aims to provide additional income to the villagers of Sokra and Parsakhad village by utilizing the resource available in their village which was otherwise being used by an outsider for earning profit.
From Poverty to Prosperity: Journey of Radha Devi

Starting with a chicken shop, Radha Devi consistently pushed the envelope in pursuit of her goal.

Radha Devi is a resident of Masihani village of Chhatarpur block of Palamu district. She transformed her life by opening a chicken shop. Before that, Radha and her husband used to work as daily wage labour and did farming on small scale for subsistence. Radha’s family comprises of 10 members. Working as a daily wage labour, there were times when the couple returned home empty handed when they did not get work. It was a painful existence in the absence of a fixed source of income.

In 2015, Radha joined became a member of Ragini Ajeevika Sakhi Mandal which was formed by Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society (JSLPS). She began working as a Community Resource Person (CRP) which brought her some additional income. As a CRP she visited other villages with her team members to encourage rural women to become a part of Sakhi Mandals and transform their lives.

The true transformation of Radha’s life began when she decided to start a chicken shop. She took a loan of Rs 15000 in three instalments to open the shop. After repaying the loan and interest amount, she took another loan of Rs 50000 to buy a chicken feather cleaning machine to make her work easy. She has repaid back the loan along with the interest to her Sakhi Mandal.

Radha’s shop started to buzz with customers soon with the locational advantage of being situated beside the main road in Chhatarpur. On an average, Radha sells about 50 to 60 kgs of chicken, which increases upto a quintal in case of big orders during festive season or wedding orders. Presently, Radha earns an income of around 15,000 rupees from her shop. With the earnings from the chicken shop, Radha decided to diversify her source of income and bought a pickup van on EMI and started to provide it on rent.

Today, Radha has multiple sources of income and can afford to be relaxed as if one source fails, she can rely on the other sources for income. From her earnings, Radha has, Radha has constructed a concrete house with decorative floor tiles. Her family is leading a happy and prosperous life. She is able to provide good education to her children. Radha’s strong will fuelled her to work hard and pursue her goal. She has not only attained financial stability, but has also gained self-confidence to lead a dignified life.

From her earnings. Today Radha’s family is leading a happy and prosperous life. Her elder daughter is pursuing Diploma in Elementary Education (D.El.Ed.) from a private institute and her other children also have access to good education.
Women farmers of Murhu block are setting an example of group farming success using Lift Irrigation E-bulletin, March 2020

Allow these woman cultivators to engage in three crop seasons under Producers Group (PG) fold. This story is related to a barren patch (in Rabi and Zaid) of Hesal village in Hassa Panchayat of Murhu Block which eventually turned into 21 acres (6.85 hectares) of cultivable land due to the joint efforts of the PG members. This story elaborates on the transformation of this patch from Kharif based paddy cultivation to a fertile field producing seasonal water-intensive cash crops throughout the year.

Lili Purti - The Catalyst

Lili Purti, a local resident of Hesal village acted as the catalyst in planning, mobilising, setting, executing and replicating the plan of Lift Irrigation on a patch in her village. It all started way back in May 2018 when Lili got an opportunity to get associated with Juhi Mahila Mandal. She even helped the drive team to mobilise women to join SHGs. In July 2018, she was elected as an Aajeevika Krishak Mitra (AKM) for her village at the time of formation of Producer Groups in her village.

JOHAR project has worked significantly in the past few years to achieve the goal of Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society. In Khunti district, JOHAR has registered its presence prominently in three out of six blocks. In order to expand its horizon, JOHAR project has facilitated the women of extremely backward areas with its livelihood enhancing interventions across the state. Murhu block of Khunti district is a leading block in terms of interventions, beneficiaries and work penetration.

Lift Irrigation - an introduction

Lift Irrigation popularly known as ‘LI’ is an effort by the Rural Development Department of the Jharkhand Government to bring water to the agriculture fields of marginal farmers in order to enhance their livelihood opportunities. It is a successful initiative that has paved the way for sustainable development in rural areas.

PHOTO GALLERY

COVID 19 awareness discussion in Sakhi Mandal meeting (Pakur)
Sakhi Mandal members conducting EOL Survey (Ranchi)
Construction of Poshan Vatika (Seraikela-Kharsawan)
PPR Vaccination by Aajeevika Pashu Sakhi (Ranchi)
Distribution of Poshan Vatika kit to Birhor families (Hazaribagh)
Soap making training (Bokaro)