

EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN FARMERS

Krishi Mitr – Prerna

Central FD

Madhya Pradesh and Bihar



Impact Assessment Report
Implemented by: **PRADAN**
Project Year FY 22

Supported by Submitted by

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Project Highlights:

Need :



Labour drudgery and less access to modern technologies.



Poor market linkages causing low income realisation.



Low market access.



Lack of knowledge and capital.



Low income from agriculture activities.



Objective

To work towards effectively breaking the vicious cycle of low production and poor market access for small landholding women farmers.



Implementing partner

Professional Assistance for Development Action (PRADAN).



Geography

Madhya Pradesh

- Dindori
- Shahdol
- Singrauli district

Bihar

- Araria
- Kishanganj



Activities:



Farmers Producers Company (FPC) formation and Strengthening

7 FPCs were formed and strengthened through actions like concept seeding, awareness campaigns, exposure visits, enrolling womens as shareholders.



Training to farmers

The project provided input and marketing support and conducted training and capacity-building sessions for 1018 farmers. Additionally, Sessions focused on organic agricultural practices, method harvesting, seed type for better crop production etc.



Infrastructure support

Establishing five poly nursery units, developing two Custom Hiring centres, providing infrastructural support for processing units, implementing three Solar lift irrigation units, establishing three Bio input resource centres, and supporting farmers through vaccine cold chain infrastructure.



Market linkages

Market linkage support were provided for FPC members, ensuring direct selling and better return for their produce.

Approach and Methodology

Approach



Methodology

Stakeholders		Tools
FPC members	➔	Focus Group Discussion
Women	➔	Focus Group Discussion
Women	➔	Key Opinion Former
Block Development Officer	➔	Key Informant Interview
Community leaders/Panchayat Members	➔	Key Informant Interview
Implementing Partners	➔	Key Informant Interview

Finding and Analysis

FPC Formation and Strengthening

Awareness and training events led to increased registration of women farmers as shareholders in FPCs. 350 women covered in Dindori and 300 women in Shahdol over the project period. These shareholder were trained and motivated to adopt organic farming.



Infrastructure support

During the survey, women farmers expressed that the processing units had reduced their processing, cleaning, polishing, and packaging time and increased their income by approximately 25%.



Bio-Resource Centres (BRCs) positively impacted environment by ensuring easy access to organic input, reducing dependence on chemicals and pesticide and generated income for women running BRC business.

100%

Respondent reported decrease in pest attacks after the adoption of bio inputs. 98% Have access to organic input at low cost, 100% better yield in crop.

100%

of respondents shared that poly nursery units ensures easy access to affordable and good quality seedling, which led to better crop yield.



Custom Hiring Centres and Solar-based lift irrigation system significantly addressed the need of farming community in the project areas.



Production and Marketing Support

Study findings indicate that post-intervention, accurate weighing machines and transparent pricing helped farmers get fair value of their produce.



Formation of producer groups standardized cultivation practices, improving marketability and profitability.

Women Empowerment

77%

of respondent women
expressed increased
confidence and financial
independence.

*Project's intervention like Poly Nurseries
and Bio-Resource Centres fostered
women's entrepreneurship in organic
farming.*

women shareholders in Farmer
Producer Companies (FPCs)
earn an additional Rs.100 to
Rs.200 per quintal for their
produce.



Impact on income



Study findings indicates that the interventions has increased their income by approximately Rs.40,000 to Rs.50,000 from multiple crop cycles.



The project enhanced financial returns by increased value of shares in Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) and improving profitability from organic produce.

Improved Soil and crop quality

80%

of respondents stated that they had observed a change in soil from hard to soft.



Women expressed healthier soil ecosystems, better crop quality and yield.

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Relevance

FPCs, BRCs, Poly Nursery Houses etc addressed the needs of agricultural community by promoting sustainable farming, showcasing organic methods' viability, and raising awareness.



Effectiveness

The comprehensive capacity-building projects, led by Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs), and establishing market linkages effectively strengthened communities, particularly women, and promoted sustainable agricultural practices.



Efficiency

The project emphasized setting up Custom Hiring Centres, Poly Nursery Houses, and BRCs, leading to reduced input costs and higher farmer incomes, propelling the region towards natural farming.



Coherence

The project is in line with national strategies like the establishment of 10,000 new FPOs, the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana, the goal of doubling farmers' income by 2022, and the National Animal Disease Control Program.



Impact

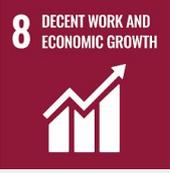
The project marked the significant reduction in exploitative practices like "Dandi Marna", leading to increased incomes for FPCs and women farmers. Project empowered many women' and heightened entrepreneurship. The impact was observed since FPC sold 30 tons of soybeans directly in the market in the first year of intervention. 100% of FGD respondents expressed a sense of pride and empowerment.



Sustainability

Project sustainability is ensured with FPCs regular meetings, strong focus on organic practices and local input sourcing. This approach guaranteed the environmental sustainability of farming methods and provided economic empowerment to local communities.

Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals

Goal	Activity of the Project	Target
 <p>2 ZERO HUNGER</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting up of processing units. • Providing seedlings and low-cost inputs. • Establishing Bio-Resource centres, Vaccine cold chains and Poly Nursery Houses. 	<div data-bbox="1450 310 1580 528"> <p>TARGET 2-3</p>  <p>DOUBLE THE PRODUCTIVITY AND INCOMES OF SMALL-SCALE FOOD PRODUCERS</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1599 310 1736 528"> <p>TARGET 2-4</p>  <p>SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION AND RESILIENT AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES</p> </div>
 <p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation and strengthening of women-led Farmer Producers Organisations (FPOs). 	<div data-bbox="1534 572 1657 779"> <p>TARGET 5-C</p>  <p>ADOPT AND STRENGTHEN POLICIES AND ENFORCEABLE LEGISLATION FOR GENDER EQUALITY</p> </div>
 <p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women are trained and supported to become successful entrepreneurs. 	<div data-bbox="1534 834 1657 1041"> <p>TARGET 8-3</p>  <p>PROMOTE POLICIES TO SUPPORT JOB CREATION AND GROWING ENTERPRISES</p> </div>

Case Studies:



Journey to Agricultural Entrepreneurship

Lilavati Didi set up her Bio-Resource Centre, producing Jeeva Amrita and Agni Shastra for nearby villages, collaborating with her husband. This initiative brings in an extra income of about Rs. 80,000 and has also motivated villagers to become entrepreneurs instead of job seekers.

-Lilavati Didi

Case Studies:



Journey to Prosperity

Mamta Didi, a widow, previously faced severe poverty. However, after using Jeeva Amrita and Agni Shastra, her input costs decreased, soil fertility increased, and crop production improved. She now comfortably supports her family year-round, saving Rs. 30,000 annually enabling her to prioritize her child's education and dream of a brighter future for her daughter.

- Mamta Didi

A group of approximately ten women are standing in a line, facing forward. They are dressed in traditional Indian clothing, including sarees and a pink headscarf. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent red filter. The text "Thank You" is centered in the middle of the image in a large, white, bold, sans-serif font.

Thank You