

# WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

Maharashtra



Impact Assessment Report

Implemented by: **Naandi Foundation**

Project Year FY-23

Supported by

**mahindra** <sup>Rise</sup>

Submitted by

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services

# Project Highlights:

## Need for the project:



Women contribute significantly to farm land labour.



They have minimal land ownership.



They do not have access to credit facility.



They have low access to market for selling their produce.



They do not have access to the money earned from agriculture.



## Objective

To enable women farmers to use regenerative agriculture practices to improve soil fertility and increase productivity, ensuring food and nutrition security for their families, along with enhanced income levels. The strategy was to establish regenerative agriculture (RA) hubs which served as farmer resource centres for training women farmers in regenerative agriculture practices, development of household-based “Good Food Corners” and production of carbon rich compost.



## Implementing partner

Naandi Foundation



## Geography

Wardha,  
Maharashtra



# Activities



Establishment and strengthening of Regenerative Hubs.



Production and distribution of resources like compost and bio-inputs.



Training 30,029 women farmers for Regenerative Agriculture practices.



Engageing Hariyali Associates for providing hands-on support and guidance.



Promoting Good Food Corners.

# Approach and Methodology

## Approach



## Methodology

Stakeholders	Tools
Women Beneficiaries	Focused Group Discussions (FGDS)
Mixed Group	
Women Beneficiaries	Quantitative Survey
Community leaders/Panchayat members	Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)
Hariyali Associates	
Implementing Team Member	

## Findings and Analysis

# 98%

98% of the respondents expressed that exposure to the **training helped them to learn and adopt** regenerative agricultural practices in their Good Food Corners.



90% of respondents rated the support from the **Hariyali Associate and Naandi team as very supportive** in helping them to transition to Regenerative Agricultural practices

## Good Food Corners

98% Respondents mentioned that they created a **Good Food Corner**.

# 73.4%

**73.4%** respondents mentioned that their monthly savings ranged between Rs. **500 - Rs.5000** after adopting Regenerative Agricultural practices.



95% of respondents reported that the **training significantly increased their confidence**. Previously seen as mere farm labour, these women now take pride in contributing to their family's savings and income. Male members of the family also acknowledged that the women in their family gained knowledge from this training and male family members have now started availing their input in agricultural practices.

95%



In a mixed-group discussion, notable health benefits associated with consuming produce grown through regenerative practices were highlighted.



100%

of respondents who created **Good Food Corners** expressed that they had observed a lower need for chemical pesticides and fertilisers. This directly creates positive impact on soil health and ecosystem.



Focused Group Discussion respondents shared that adoption of regenerative agriculture led to increase in yield, **Improved crop quality, and improved soil texture** after using the compost.



## Relevance

The training directly addressed pressing issues such as excessive pesticides and fertilisers. Focusing on sustainable practices like SEED+SALM and regenerative hubs catered to the urgent need to shift towards regenerative farming.



## Effectiveness

The project effectively trained women farmers on regenerative components like compost, C-100, Black-100, and White-100, alongside understanding the lunar cycle to optimise farming operations. This resulted in the adoption of Good Food Corners by 98% of respondents. Respondents also noted decrease in the need for chemical pesticides and fertilizers.



## Efficiency

Participants learned compost making and farm cultivation through practical sessions at the training hub. This significantly improved the efficiency of their agricultural practices. The project, led by Hariyali Associates, offered a hands-on approach covering theory and practice over 6-7 days. 90% of respondents rated support from the Hariyali Associate and Naandi team as very helpful.



## Coherence

The project aligns with national strategies such as the National Mission on Natural Farming and contributes to initiatives like the Swachh Bharat Mission through waste management. By promoting chemical-free agriculture, the project is coherent with broader sustainability goals.



## Impact

The project's impact is evident in the adoption of Good Food Corners, improved crop quality, increased savings, healthier soil, and reduced expenditures, with Good Food Corners providing fresh vegetables and increasing household savings post-COVID-19. Project empowered women, generated confidence and sense of financial independence.



## Sustainability

The project's sustainability is evident through its enduring benefits and positive outcomes for the community. Participants reported improved crop quality, healthier soil, reduced expenditures, and increased household savings. Establishing Good Food Corners contributed to better nutrition and economic empowerment post-COVID-19, significantly increasing crop yield and soil health.

# Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals

Goal	Activities of the Project	Target
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhancing organic produce quality and quantity.</li> <li>Promoting Regenerative Agriculture for food security.</li> </ul>	 
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoting consumption of healthier, organic vegetables.</li> <li>Educating on the harmful effects of chemicals.</li> </ul>	 
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Empowering women through employment in agriculture.</li> <li>Training women in sustainable farming practices.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhancing soil health and biodiversity.</li> <li>Implementing sustainable farming practices.</li> </ul>	 

# Case Study



## Harvesting Empowerment

*Maya Kailash Sogandhi's journey encapsulates the project's transformative impact on women's empowerment within rural communities. She reported an increase in wheat selling price from ₹2,500 to ₹3,000 per quintal after adopting regenerative practices, indicating a positive response from consumers to the improved quality of produce. Before her involvement with the project, Maya was confined to household chores, devoid of economic independence or decision-making power. However, her participation gave her a newfound sense of purpose and autonomy. Engaging in agricultural activities empowered Maya to contribute meaningfully to her family's income and independently take charge of her expenses. Moreover, the project equipped her with valuable skills and knowledge, elevating her status within her family and community. Maya's story exemplifies how initiatives like these can break traditional gender norms, enabling women like her to emerge as agents of change and drivers of economic prosperity in their communities. Through her journey, Maya inspires others to embrace opportunities for empowerment and create lasting positive change.*

**-Maya Kailash Sogandhi from Hebbarpur Wathoda Village**

# Case Study



## Agricultural Transformation through Regenerative Practices

*Sonu Sharad Dahanke saw a remarkable boost in production after adopting Regenerative Agricultural practices at larger scale. Before this, she grew Chana and Soya Beans on one acre of land, yielding around 4-5 quintals of Soya Beans using traditional chemical methods. With regenerative techniques, her Soya Bean yield soared to eight quintals, indicating a significant increase in both yield and crop quality.*

*Additionally, Sonu diversified her crops by introducing Sonamoti Gehu, a wheat variant rich in fiber and protein. This move allowed her to sell wheat for ₹40 per kilogram, doubling her previous rate of ₹20 per kilogram with conventional wheat. This diversification not only improved her crop variety but also enhanced her income.*

*Sonu's success continued with Chilli production, where she consistently harvested 20-25 kilograms from 400-500 plants. This surplus satisfied her household needs and generated extra income through local market sales.*

*Overall, Sonu's experience with Regenerative Agriculture illustrates the clear benefits of this approach in improving yield, crop quality, and economic returns for smallholder farmers.*

**-Sonu Sharad Dahanke's Experience**



**Thank You**