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IN FOCUS



MAHASHAKTI FOUNDATION

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EXPOSURE VISIT OF FARMERS TO ICAR-IIRMR, RAJASTHAN



An exposure visit was organized for farmers from March 15th to 19th, 2025, at ICAR-Indian Institute of Rapeseed-Mustard Research, Bharatpur, Rajasthan. This initiative was led by the Chief District Agriculture Officer, Bargarh, Odisha, under the Crop Diversification Programme in the Mega Lift Irrigation Project (CDP-MLIP), supported by the **Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment**. The visit aimed to benefit farmers from the Chikhili, Ambabhona cluster of Bargarh and was facilitated by Mahashakti Foundation.

During the visit, agricultural experts provided valuable insights into the economic advantages of mustard cultivation, highlighting its profitability, low water requirement, and resilience in diverse climatic conditions. Farmers were introduced to advanced farming techniques, including scientific seed selection, effective pest and disease management, and timely crop care practices to enhance yield and productivity.

Additionally, participants engaged in interactive learning through hands-on field demonstrations, exposure to innovative farming methodologies, and visits to state-of-the-art research facilities. These experiences equipped them with practical knowledge and confidence to adopt modern mustard farming techniques, ultimately promoting crop diversification and improving their livelihoods.



KAKARUDRAPUR CRAFT CLUSTER ARTISANS' EXPOSURE VISIT

As part of Project Samriddhi, supported by **Tata Power Central Odisha Distribution Ltd**, 21 artisans specializing in Palm Leaf Carving and Patachitra painting from the Kakarudrapur Art and Craft Cluster embarked on an exposure visit to Kalabhumi, Bhubaneswar, during the Kalabhumi Utsav organized by the Department of Handlooms, Textiles & Handicrafts, Government of Odisha. The visit aimed to provide artisans with fresh insights and learning opportunities to refine their craft. The Palm Leaf Carving artisans had the privilege of exploring the SIDAC Palm Leaf Carving Training Department, located within the Kalabhumi campus, where they discovered new techniques and perspectives to enhance their skills. This experience not only deepened their understanding of their traditional art forms but also reinforced the value of dedication and continuous practice in mastering their craft.



FINANCIAL LITERACY SESSION FOR PALM LEAF ARTISANS

As part of the Sanskruti Project supported by **YES Foundation**, Mahashakti Foundation organized a Financial Literacy Session at the Palm Leaf Center, led by Mr Mohan K Baliyarsingh, Director - Operations, Mahashakti Foundation. The session focused on essential financial concepts crucial for long-term financial well-being, empowering artisans with the knowledge to make informed financial decisions. Key topics covered included financial independence and smart money management, understanding KYC and its significance, fixed deposits, and government schemes benefiting artisans. Through this initiative, the aimed is to enhance the financial awareness of artisans, enabling them to build a secure and financially stable future.



LTIMINDTREE OFFICIAL VISIT THE IVDP PROJECT LOCATIONS

Mr. Amlan Biswas, Senior Specialist in Sustainability at **LTIMindtree**, visited the Gudvella, Madanpur Rampur, and Paikmal blocks on March 9-10, 2025. During his visit, he inaugurated a check dam and two diversion weirs in Tarsuguda village, Gudvella Block, and another check dam in Paikmal Block. He also interacted with farmers in these areas.

Additionally, he inspected the renovation and repair work of Anganwadi centers, as well as the toilet and drinking water facilities at government schools, including Tejipada Upper Primary School and Dalabahali Anganwadi in Madanpur Rampur Block, and Makhanamunda Anganwadi in Paikmal Block.

Mr. Biswas visited pond renovation sites in Singpur Gram Panchayat and sunflower crop diversification sites in Madanpur Rampur Block. He interacted with staff members and suggested focusing on holistic development, especially in terms of civil infrastructure projects.





EXPORT OF BANANA TO DUBAI BY TRILOKESWAR FPCL, KALAHANDI

Trilokeswar FPCL of Kalahandi district promoted by Mahashakti Foundation under the Central Sector Scheme of government of India, supported by **NABARD - National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development** traded 10 tons of G9 variety bananas to PRB Super Foods Pvt. Ltd., Khurda, for export to Dubai. This milestone was achieved through the collaborative efforts of the Director of Horticulture and Palladium. During the trading process, Mr. Kishore Mahaling, Joint Director of Horticulture, along with the Deputy Director of Horticulture (DDH) and other officials, were present to oversee the process. The officials also applauded the efforts of the CBBO and FPO teams, encouraging them to continue their commitment to expanding market opportunities for farmers.



TPCODL LEADERSHIP VISITS PROJECT ADHIKAAR OFFICE

Mr Manoj Kumar Singh - COO, TPCODL, Mr Pradeep Ghosal - Head CSR, TPCODL, and Mr Santosh Kumar Mahapatra - Executive Engineer, Nayagarh Electrical Division, visited the Project Adhikaar office supported by **Tata Power Central Odisha Distribution Ltd** at Daspalla, Nayagarh. Their visit reinforced the project's mission of empowering marginalized communities by improving access to government welfare schemes and entitlements. They shared valuable insights on enhancing outreach, ensuring last-mile service delivery, and leveraging community engagement for greater impact.



FARMERS' CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING ON ORGANIC MANURE

A Farmers' Capacity Building Training on the preparation and application of Handi Khata, an organic bio-input, was conducted at Dayanabli Gram Panchayat under Project Chirantan, implemented by Mahashakti Foundation with the support of **HDFC Bank Parivartan**. The session was facilitated by a certified trainer, who provided in-depth guidance on the benefits, preparation process, and practical usage of Handi Khata in farming.

Handi Khata is a natural soil-enriching input made using cow dung, cow urine, jaggery, neem, karanja, arakha leaves, and water. This organic formulation plays a crucial role in enhancing soil fertility, boosting microbial activity, and improving crop productivity. Additionally, it acts as a natural pest and disease control agent, helping farmers mitigate infestations at an early stage without relying on chemical pesticides.

During the training, farmers were given hands-on demonstrations to prepare and apply Handi Khata effectively in their fields. Experts emphasized the importance of adopting sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural practices, aligning with the broader objectives of Project Chirantan to reduce dependency on chemical inputs, improve soil health, and ensure long-term farm sustainability.

RELIEF SUPPORT TO FIRE-AFFECTED FAMILIES



During the Tata Volunteering Week, relief support was provided to the affected families of Dalipada village of Dashpalla Block, who had suffered losses due to a fire incident under Project Adhikaar supported by **Tata Power Central Odisha Distribution Ltd.** With the support of the village committee, essential items such as new sarees, dhotis, and towels were distributed to the affected families in the presence of the Sarpanch of Sariganda. Several project officials and volunteers participated in this humanitarian effort.

SAKHI RASOI STALL GOT INAUGURATED



Sakhi Rasoi stall was inaugurated at Vedanta Township under the Sakhi Project, supported by **Vedanta Limited - Aluminium Business.** The event was graced by Ms. Sangita Sadafule (Deputy CEO, Red Mud), Ms. Vandana Sehrawat (Head of Administration), and Mr. Sisir Tarafder (Head of CSR, Vedanta). Offering a rotating menu of tea, coffee, sandwiches, and atta maggie, the stall aims to provide quality food while empowering women entrepreneurs. The opening day witnessed an overwhelming response, marking a promising start to this initiative.

HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT VISITED TRILOKESWAR FPO



A team from Palladium and the District Horticulture Department visited Trilokeswar FPO, Kalampur, to assess the potential for banana export. As part of the field evaluation, they measured the size, weight, and length of the crop to ensure quality standards. This FPO is promoted by Mahashakti Foundation, with support from **NABARD - National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development** under the Central Sector Scheme of the government of India, aiming to enhance banana cultivation and production along with market linkages and boost farmer incomes through improved agricultural practices.

APC PROJECT TEAM AT THE SUBHADRA SHAKTI MELA



The APC Project team from Jujomura Block showcased organic vegetables and organic fertilizers produced by producer group farmers with the support of the **Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment, Government of Odisha**, at the Subhadra Shakti Mela, held at Birsa Munda Field, Sambalpur. The stall attracted the attention of PD DRDA, Sambalpur, who visited and highly appreciated the quality and sustainability of the organic products displayed. He also encouraged the farmers to continue their efforts in organic farming and explore new market linkages to enhance their income.

SOLAR-POWERED COLD STORAGE UNITS ESTABLISHED



To address post-harvest losses due to the lack of cold storage facilities, Mahashakti Foundation, with support from the **LTIMindtree Foundation**, has established two solar-powered cold storage units, each with a 5-metric ton capacity. These units have been installed in Sarabeda village of Kalahandi district, & Pendimunda village of Balangir district. This initiative provides crucial support to farmers by enabling them to store perishable vegetables, reduce wastage, and secure better market prices, ultimately enhancing their income and livelihoods.

MEGA CREDIT OUTREACH PROGRAMME ORGANIZED



The Mega Credit Outreach Programme cum District-Level Loan Mela, organized by **NABARD**, at the Golamunda Block Conference Hall, marked a significant step in strengthening FPOs in the region. During the event, three FPOs promoted by Mahashakti Foundation under the central sector scheme of the Government of India received loan sanction letters along with cheques to enhance their operations. Pragatichasi FPO, Kalahandi received ₹5 lakh, Manikyadevi Fish FPO, Kalahandi was sanctioned ₹7 lakh, and Agrahichasi FPO secured ₹5 lakh.

NUTRITION MELA ORGANIZED AT LANJIGARH



A Nutrition Mela was organized by **Vedanta Limited - Aluminium Business** at Basantpada AWC Center, focusing on pregnant women, lactating mothers, and adolescent girls. Smt. Pragyan Rani Barik, Health Expert - Mahashakti Foundation, led the session. A nutrition display table showcased a variety of foods, including cooked meals, millet-based dishes, pulses, and green vegetables. The discussion covered essential topics such as the importance of the first 1000 days of maternity, menstrual health, and adolescent well-being. Over 40 participants attended the event, along with Mrs. Puspanjali Majhi, ANM Basantpada.

TWO-DAY EXPOSURE VISIT TO KALAMPUR



Mahashakti Foundation, with support from **HDFC Bank Parivartan** under Project Chirantan, organized a two-day exposure visit to Kalampur, Jaipatna, and Golamunda in Kalahandi district, where 20 project participants explored innovative and sustainable farming models. Participants got engaged in hands-on learning on Bkisan G-9 Banana Farming, covering planting techniques, irrigation, fertilization, and pest management. They also gained insights into modern aquaculture practices along with chilli, tomato, and cucumber trellis farming, moong cultivation, and water conservation technology like drip irrigation.

SUCCESS STORY



EMPOWERING TRIBAL WOMEN THROUGH BROOM-MAKING

Nimursingha, a tribal-dominated village under Ghuna Gram Panchayat in Gudvella Block, is home to 30 families who primarily depend on agriculture, animal husbandry, and forest produce collection for their livelihood. The village is also home to three SHGs – Lakshmi Narayani SHG, Maa Mangala SHG, and Annapurna SHG, comprising 30 women working towards economic self-sufficiency. Recognizing the need for sustainable income opportunities, Mahashakti Foundation, with support from **NABARD** under the Tribal Development Fund (TDF), introduced the WADI Project in 2023. This initiative provided tribal families with 60 decimal lands for fruit orchards and training on various livelihood activities to enhance their economic stability.

As part of this initiative, a broom-making training program was conducted in March 2025 to improve the income-generating capacity of SHG women. Traditionally, the women of Nimursingha collected raw materials from nearby forests and made brooms for household use and occasional local sales. However, the absence of structured marketing limited their ability to earn substantial profits. The training program addressed this gap by covering critical aspects such as raw material collection, efficient processing and assembling techniques, quality improvement methods, and bulk selling strategies. A total of 30 women from the three SHGs participated in the program, which emphasized collective production and market linkages to ensure better income prospects.

The impact of the training has been significant. Post-training, the women have started producing brooms collectively under SHG coordination, enabling them to negotiate better prices and ensure structured sales. Each broom is sold at ₹30, yielding a profit margin of ₹20-₹25 after deducting expenses. The SHG women highlighted that working as a group has led to improved pricing and streamlined sales, ensuring higher earnings for all members. Additionally, they also emphasized that, before the training, women lacked financial tracking skills, but they can now efficiently manage production, sales, and profit calculations.

The broom-making training program in Nimursingha has empowered tribal women with essential entrepreneurial skills, combining their traditional knowledge with improved techniques and structured sales strategies. By creating a sustainable livelihood model, this initiative is fostering financial independence among women, strengthening SHG structures, and contributing to the overall economic development of rural communities.

EVENT SNAPSHOTS

This page captures the significant events, milestones, and initiatives undertaken during March 2025, showcasing the impactful work and achievements throughout the month.



The Board Meeting of Mahashakti Foundation was held at Hotel Suryansh, Bhubaneswar to review key initiatives and future strategies



The March edition of Mahashakti Foundation's Newsletter - *In Focus* was officially released at Hotel Suryansh during the organization's Board Meeting



All staff members of the State Coordination Office, Bhubaneswar celebrated Holi at office premises with colours, smiles, and festive cheer



Mahashakti Foundation celebrated International Women's Day across all the project locations engaging with our women beneficiaries.



Dhokra artisans of Nuagaon Dhenkanal showcased and sold their handcrafted products at Toshali Mela at Janata Maidan, Bhubaneswar



A two-days capacity-building programme was organized by Vedanta training 150 SHG members in fish farming.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

ପଞ୍ଚାୟତସ୍ତରୀୟ ସ୍ୱେଚ୍ଛାସେବୀ ସପ୍ତାହ

ଦଶହରା, ୨୩ମା (ବିପ୍ର): ସ୍ୱେଚ୍ଛାସେବୀ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନ ମହାଶକ୍ତି ପାଠକପଣ୍ଡା ଏବଂ ତାଙ୍କ ପାଠକପଣ୍ଡା ମିତ୍ରଙ୍କ ଉପସ୍ଥାପନାରେ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତସ୍ତରୀୟ ସ୍ୱେଚ୍ଛାସେବୀ ସପ୍ତାହ ଆରମ୍ଭ ହୋଇଛି। ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନର ପ୍ରତିନିଧିମାନଙ୍କୁ ପ୍ରୋତ୍ସାହିତ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତସ୍ତରୀୟ ସ୍ୱେଚ୍ଛାସେବୀ ସପ୍ତାହ ଆରମ୍ଭ ହୋଇଛି। ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନର ପ୍ରତିନିଧିମାନଙ୍କୁ ପ୍ରୋତ୍ସାହିତ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତସ୍ତରୀୟ ସ୍ୱେଚ୍ଛାସେବୀ ସପ୍ତାହ ଆରମ୍ଭ ହୋଇଛି।

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