

IN FOCUS

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TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES



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Sustainable Agriculture & Energy

Sustainable agriculture is an approach to farming that aims to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Mahashakti operates with a mission to promote environment-friendly and socially-responsible farming practices while enhancing food security and livelihoods in rural communities. It collaborates closely with smallholder farmers, providing training, resources, technical support, and formation of Farmer Producer Organization (FPOs) on agroecological methods such as organic farming, integrated pest management, and soil conservation. MSF has formed 38 FPOs in the state of Odisha under Government of India's Central Sector Scheme project -that aims to form and promote 10,000 FPOs. Mahashakti is also an implementing agency for Govt. of Odisha's ambitious project- Millet Mission through which we are trying to enhance the potential of millets by value-chain intervention. Under Millet Mission We have helped 750 millet farmers in cultivation of millets across more than 700 Hectares of land in Bargarh district. We have also facilitated in the formation of a millet FPO, ensuring an income of Rs 1.80 Cr for around 320 farmers.



Chilly farming is a good business with great returns on investment because of the high demand and low production cost of this spice. We promoted red chilli cultivation with 1000 farmers with all value chain support systems. Now farmers are very happy after getting their first production with a high return.



Crop diversification helps divide the risk posed by fluctuating market prices. If in one season the vegetables don't perform well, the farmer can sail through by the income brought in by the pulses that year. And when both the crops get good prices, there is also an opportunity to maximize the earnings. Exposure Program of farmers to our Crop Diversification Project at Ambabhona Bargarh.





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The Joint Director of Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment visited different activities under Odisha Millets Mission at Bijepur Block of Bargarh district. He visited Ragi Fields, Processing Units and interacted with Farmers along with district level officials.





We are introducing advanced agriculture practices along with new technologies to minimize the input cost of farmers. Happy to get associated with Social_Alfa to demonstrate new agriculture technologies with our farmers.



Exposure Program of farmers to Commercial Vegetable Farming of Kalahandi- Farmers of Bargarh and Sambalpur were surprised by visiting the farm of Mr Krushna Nag - MD of Agrahi Chasi FPO Kalampur, promoted under Central Sector Scheme. Monthly income of this progressive Farmer is above Rs 10 Lakhs from 10 acres of land. He has personally supervised the development of this vegetable cultivation ecosystem over the years.





Farmer Field School (FFS) is a participatory education approach that brings together a group of farmers to solve production problems through sustainable agriculture. We promoted around 20 Hi-Teach Farm Field Schools in the districts of Bargarh and Sambalpur. An Exposure program was organized for farmers to the Farm Field Schools at Jamankira, Sambalpur, Odisha.



Organic Manure is beneficial in protecting the damage of the environment from chemicals such as pesticides and fertilisers, recycling the biological wastes, i.e., animal excreta and plant wastes. We are promoting use of organic manure with farmers and conducting a series of trainings with practical sessions.



Strengthening Tribal Livelihoods

MSF is committed to promoting the socio-economic development and cultural preservation of tribal communities through sustainable livelihood projects. Back in 2004, Mahashakti began its socio-economic upliftment initiatives from very poverty-stricken districts of Odisha which are dominant in tribal population. Through capacity-building programs, technical assistance, and market linkages, we empower tribal communities to harness their natural resources sustainably, increase their income opportunities, and improve their overall quality of life.

Trickle Up empowers people to escape extreme poverty through graduation approach, a holistic set of interventions designed to address their complex and long-term needs. In Bongomuda block of Bolangir district, we graduated 500 low income households and accessed a set of multiple income sources at household level where a household has an economically viable livelihood, food secure, and also connected to essential services. Recently we organized an exposure program for NGOs and community to share our experiences.



Providing solar study lights to tribal communities offers access to sustainable and reliable lighting, empowering education, safety, and economic opportunities.



Skill Building

Since beginning Mahashakti has been instrumental in empowering individuals with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in today's rapidly evolving employment market. It offers a variety of training programs and workshops tailored to the needs of diverse populations, including youth, artisans, unemployed home-makers, and low-income generating households.



Farmers Training Program on Crop Planning, Advanced Package of Practices, Crop Diversification to multiply their income at Ambabhona, Bargarh, Odisha.



Millet Recipe Training to SHG Members at Redhakhol, Sambalpur.



Strengthening CBOs

Mahashakti is a pioneer in building sustainable cluster-based organizations. Be it farm based, non-farm based or off-farm based, we have been instrumental in facilitating CBOs. Currently we are associated with the formation and workings of 45 FPOs in the category of farm-based CBOs. Through capacity-building workshops, networking events, and mentorship programs, we empower cluster-based organizations to enhance their competitiveness, productivity, and market access. Moreover, MSF facilitates partnerships with government agencies, financial institutions, and industry stakeholders to leverage resources and support cluster development initiatives.

Capacity Building of farmers on preservation of local seeds of millets .



Capacity Building program for the FPO functionaries of Kandhamal and Kalahandi district with the presence of DDM NABARD.





Health & Nutrition

One of our much focus areas is health and nutrition. We try our best towards improving the well-being and quality of life of communities through comprehensive health and nutrition interventions. Mahashakti implements a range of programs focused on maternal and child health, nutrition education, and access to healthcare services. Project Peheli Udaan launched by Vedanta Limited - Aluminium Business, to help girls accept menstruation as a normal body function and learn how to care for themselves during their menstrual period. Also, the program aims to disprove the old taboos, and give girls a thorough, wholesome understanding of menstruation. Shaktimayee Foundation - SHG Federation promoted by us is targeting 5000 school students to educate about mensural hygiene with the esteem support from Vedanta Limited, Lanjigarh.




The influence of awareness on rural women's health, hygiene and sanitation practices has profound and positive impact. It benefits not only individual well-being but also healthier communities and more gender equality.



Increased awareness and use of safe sanitary napkins in rural and tribal communities can lead to improved menstrual hygiene, reduced risk of infections, enhanced overall health, increased school attendance among girls, empowerment of women through better menstrual management, and reduced environmental impact through proper disposal methods. We are ensuring use of safe sanitary napkins with 3000 families in Lanjigarh and Muniguda blocks of Kalahandi and Rayagada districts of Odisha with the support from Vedanta Ltd.

Improving menstrual health and hygiene can help girls stay in school, reduce the risk of infections and other health complications, and empower girls to take control of their reproductive health. Mensural Hygiene Program in the schools of Lanjigarh, Kalahandi, Odisha.



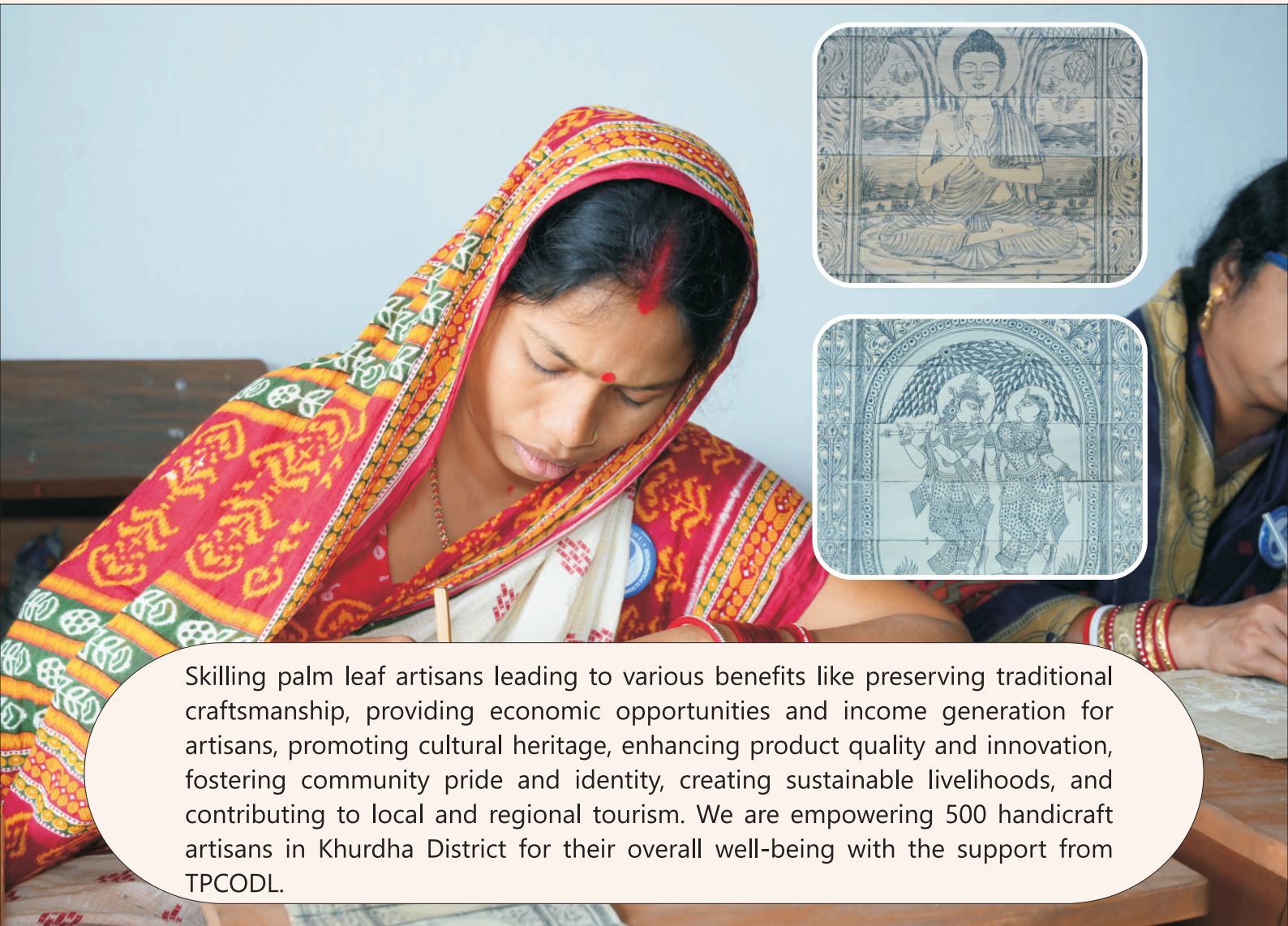


Financial Inclusion & Digital Literacy

Mahashakti operates with a mission to bridge the digital divide and empower underserved communities through access to financial services and digital skills training. It conducts workshops, seminars, and community outreach programs to educate individuals, particularly those in rural and low-income areas, about the importance of financial literacy and the benefits of digital technology. Through partnerships with financial institutions and technology companies, MSF facilitates access to banking services, digital payment platforms, and affordable credit options, enabling individuals to manage their finances more effectively and participate in the formal economy.



Digitally paying electricity bills empowers rural women by promoting financial inclusion, saving time and resources, enhancing financial literacy, and fostering independence and control over household finances. In collaboration with TATA Power we have trained SHG members on digital payment systems to promote digital payments in rural areas of Baleswar, Bhadrak and Jajpur districts of Odisha.



Skilling palm leaf artisans leading to various benefits like preserving traditional craftsmanship, providing economic opportunities and income generation for artisans, promoting cultural heritage, enhancing product quality and innovation, fostering community pride and identity, creating sustainable livelihoods, and contributing to local and regional tourism. We are empowering 500 handicraft artisans in Khurda District for their overall well-being with the support from TPCODL.

Art & Crafts

Market access is a catalyst for economic, social, and cultural development. To empower SHG members and handicraft artisans we facilitate market access to their products on a regular basis.



Saura paintings are a mural practice that is a form of documentation of their daily activities, religious storytelling, and local folklore. These are all important factors of their socio-cultural ethos. With the support from Vedanta Limited - Aluminium Business and ORMAS Kalahandi, we are promoting such paintings with the tribal girls of Lanjigarh Kalahandi. Through one Producer Group and Producer Company, they are able to earn Rs.3000 - Rs.5000 as an additional income per month. Vedanta Limited - Aluminium Business

Enterprise Promotion



Cooking Competition among SHGs under the Crop Diversification Project at Ambabhona, Bargarh



Cooking Competition among SHGs under the Crop Diversification Project at Ambabhona, Bargarh

Cooking Competition at Laxmimunda, Block Tarabha dist Sonapur, under CDP MLIP Project.



New Millets Tiffin Centre inaugurated at Balanda village of Bijepur block, Bargarh, Odisha.





We are happy to launch the Millet Products of Project Sampurna at HDFC Parivartan's Eastern Zone Annual Partners Meeting held at Ranchi this week. Senior Team members of CSR, HDFC Bank launched the product.



Special Focus



In association with Institute of Social Development and Gram-Utthan, MSF celebrated International Women's Week at Geeta Govinda Sadan Bhubaneswar. The theme for 2024 is 'Invest in Women: Accelerate progress. Also, 'Inspire inclusion is the campaign theme for Women's Day.



Special Focus



Celebration of International Women's day at Project UPMA, Bongomunda, Balangir.



Millets Recipe Cooking Competition on the occasion of International Women's day at Bijepur Bargarh,Odisha.





Micro Enterprises and CBOs promoted by us visited by the Impact Assessment Team.



Interactive sessions with the community, field visit, assessment of outcome indicators over the years of interventions. Impact Assessment of Mahashakti Foundation.

Photo Gallery



MSF's Recruitment Drive at KIIT School of Rural Management



Mahashakti Foundation signed an MOU with Semina Agro Pvt Ltd - a new generation social enterprise focusing on overall farmers wellbeing by ensuring responsible cropping practices and nutrition sensitive agriculture. Dr Debasish Mohapatra President Mahashakti Foundation and Dr Mohit Kumar - Founder Semina Agro signed the MoU at our State Coordination Office Bhubaneswar.



Project Management is important because it brings leadership and direction to projects. It creates vision, motivation and removes roadblocks. We organized a three days training program on Project Management for our Project Leaders at Bolangir. Around 45 Project Managers and Senior Managers participated in the program.



Mahashakti Foundation at Gramostav 2024.



