



Sustainable Farming: Curbing the Harm of Pesticides

The current agricultural practices are still heavily reliant on chemical pesticides, having far-reaching consequences. Globally, pesticide use disrupts ecosystems, leading to declines in beneficial insects and pollinators. This can have a domino effect, impacting food production and biodiversity.

Additionally, pesticide residues contaminate water sources and soil, posing health risks for humans and wildlife.

The need for sustainable farming is clear. Sustainable practices promote healthy soil, minimize pesticide use, and encourage biodiversity. This leads to long-term agricultural resilience and reduces environmental harm.

SUVIDHA has also been making an effort towards sustainable farming for the last 20 years. Their focus lies on promoting methods that minimize environmental damage and prioritize long-term farm health. We accomplish this by:

- **Encouraging Organic Farming** by promoting organic farming techniques, eliminating the need for harmful pesticides and fostering a healthier ecosystem.
- **Sustainable Practices** Adoption by capacity building of farmers in sustainable agricultural practices like crop rotation, water conservation techniques, and natural pest control methods.
- **Market Access for Rural Farmers** by facilitating the farmers in acquiring organically certified land and connecting the farmers directly with consumers, ensuring fair prices for their organic produce.

By tackling these crucial areas, SUVIDHA empowers farmers, safeguards the environment, and paves the way for a more sustainable future of agriculture in India.



HIGHLIGHTS

Empowering Mithila Artists (Wurth Electronics) Mithila Art Workshop on Tantric Art Form

HRDP MP 2.0 (HDFC Parivartan) Empowering Farmers for Sustainable Agriculture

Village level awareness meeting on Climate Action Plan

Empowering TISS Alumni: Insights into Carbon Credits and Environmental Sustainability

PROJECT UPDATES

Revitalizing ICDS Centers through an Integrated Approach (HDFC Bank Parivartan): Completion of 40 ICDS Centers in Assam

The project enhanced early childhood care and education in the Northeastern states of India. It renovated 40 dilapidated ICDS centres, addressing structural, sanitation, and educational resource deficiencies. BaLA painting was employed to add vibrant and child-friendly designs to the surroundings, promoting a stimulating learning environment. Additionally, play material support was provided to enrich recreational activities. Recognizing the importance of digital literacy, smart TVs were installed for digital learning, facilitating access to educational content and interactive experiences, thus aligning with modern pedagogical approaches.

This created safe, engaging environments and improved learning outcomes. **The project covered 20 ICDS centers in Assam, and 10 each in Tripura and Meghalaya.**

The renovated centres were handed over to the District Social Welfare Officer/ District **Child Development Officer** of the respective States in the esteemed presence of **Mr. Mridul Yadav, IAS**, the eminent District Commissioner of Karimganj, Assam who graced the occasion as the chief guest. Also present were luminaries such as Mr. Rupak Mazumdar (ADC), Mrs. Neena Hojoi (CDPO), and Mr. Kanak Chakraborty (Branch Manager of HDFC Bank), adding further credence to the significance of the day.



Gram Seva (SBI Foundation): Establishment of School Libraries, Computer Classes, and Community Open Gyms

In Lagga and Kiri villages of Chamba District, students, once deprived of essential computer skills and quality reading material, are now equipped with a vibrant learning environment.

With the establishment of the **computer lab in Government Middle High School, 63 students** are transforming their skill in computer knowledge. Despite the absence of a designated computer teacher, the project's Education In-charge is diligently imparting basic computer skills, gradually expanding to advanced concepts like MS Office and programming languages.

The **library** has become a hub of intellectual growth for **415 students** in Government Senior Secondary School. Initially they lacked accessibility of books but the library now offers a diverse collection of course and non-course materials, enhancing their knowledge base and curiosity for learning.

Beyond academics, the initiative has also promoted holistic well-being in the community. **Open gyms in both villages** provide accessible fitness resources, empowering individuals to prioritize their health and wellness.



Project Unnati (SBI Foundation) Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship in Himachal Pradesh



In the Blocks of Pachhad, Paonta, and Nahan in Sirmaur District, along with Kandaghat Block in Solan District, Himachal Pradesh, a transformative initiative has taken root. Here, **20 Food Processing units, 8 fruit processing units, and 3 Bakery Units** have been established, heralding a new era of economic vitality and local empowerment.

Managed by dedicated groups of 10 to 15 members, these processing units harness locally sourced produce to create an array of finished goods: spices and flour, cakes, buns, cream rolls, cookies, and bread, squash, juices, and jams from the established units.

This initiative not only reduces post-harvest losses but also opens new markets for local produce, boosting farmers' incomes by bypassing intermediaries. By providing employment, especially for women, it promotes gender equality and economic empowerment. Additionally, it fosters women's entrepreneurship, driving sustainable livelihoods and regional prosperity.

Sangam Lakadong (LIC HFL): Community Mobilization and Demonstration Plot Initiative for Lakadong Turmeric Cultivation

At the onset of the project, community mobilization stands as the cornerstone of success, recognizing the vital role of community involvement in project outcomes. Through regular meetings and orientation sessions, communities were engaged and empowered to lead the project. Open discussions emphasized the importance of diversification, with a focus on the cultivation of Lakadong turmeric.

Selected farmers, identified during these meetings, generously offered their farms for demonstration plots. These plots will serve as invaluable learning spaces, showcasing the superior quality of Lakadong turmeric, known for its exceptionally high curcumin content compared to other varieties. This unique feature enhances the flavor and color of dishes and offers numerous health benefits. The distribution of 10 quintals of Lakadong turmeric seeds to 50 farmers kickstarted the initiative, with demonstration plots being prepared. Farmers will gain hands-on experience in Lakadong cultivation, facilitating scale-up and widespread adoption of this lucrative crop.



HRDP MP 2.0 (HDFC Parivartan) Empowering Farmers for Sustainable Agriculture

The distribution of Kharif vegetable seeds to 150 farmers across 15 villages in Maheshwar block, Madhya Pradesh underscores a proactive effort to promote vegetable cultivation. Through comprehensive capacity-building programs, farmers are empowered with the necessary skills and knowledge to adopt sustainable farming methods confidently. They receive training in sustainable agricultural practices, encompassing pre and post-harvest management, efficient water management, production of bio-fertilizers and bio-insecticides and marketing channels. Adoption of high-quality seeds and sustainable agriculture practices have resulted in increased yields and, subsequently, higher incomes for farmers. This initiative will not only ensure food security in the region but also bolster the agricultural economy, contributing to overall growth and development.



Empowering Mithila Artists (Wurth Electronics) Mithila Art Workshop on Tantric Art Form

The Mithila Art Studio in Madhubani District, Bihar recently hosted a transformative workshop on the Tantric Art Style, conducted on May 23rd 2024. 30 talented artists delved into this captivating art form, exploring its intricacies and techniques.

We were honored to welcome Mr. Sanjay Kumar Jayswal, a state awardee in Mithila Art and an expert in the Tantric Art Form, who led the workshop and shared invaluable insights.

His guidance and expertise enriched the experience for all participants.

This event marked a significant milestone in the journey of Mithila artists, introducing them to the Tantric Mithila Art and expanding their artistic repertoire.



ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

Village Level Awareness Meeting on Climate Action Plan



The Village Level Awareness Meetings held in 10 villages of Ramnagar and Kotabag Blocks, Nainital District, Uttarakhand, marked a significant milestone in fostering climate action and community engagement.

These meetings served as platforms to discuss a range of interventions focused on sustainability and emission reduction.

From Biogas Plants to Improved Cook Stoves, Water Purifiers, Jal Minars, and Plantation, attendees were educated about the benefits of these interventions and encouraged to adopt them for greater environmental impact.

By raising awareness and promoting the adoption of eco-friendly practices and technologies, the meetings fostered a sense of environmental responsibility among villagers, paving the way for positive change and a greener, healthier community.

HUF Representatives' Visit to Experience the Impact of SUVIDHA's Previous Interventions

Representatives from Hindustan Unilever Foundation Mr Kumud Joshi and Ms Anantika Singh recently embarked on a visit to Gaulapar village in Haldwani Block, Uttarakhand in order to observe the completed projects and assess their sustainability, as well as gain insight into the operations of SUVIDHA.

The delegation interacted with community members, allowing them to showcase the impacts of the projects firsthand. These interactions provided an invaluable opportunity for community members to highlight the positive changes brought about by the initiatives, emphasizing the tangible benefits experienced within their villages.

Following the community visits, representatives from Hindustan Unilever Foundation gained insight into the operations of SUVIDHA. This visit served as an opportunity for Hindustan Unilever Foundation to witness firsthand the transformative initiatives undertaken by SUVIDHA and to explore potential areas of collaboration for future endeavours.



Empowering TISS Alumni Insights into Carbon Credits and Environmental Sustainability

Mr. Ashish Srivastava, Director- Programmes and Operations at SUVIDHA had the privilege to serve as a webinar speaker for 'TISSAA Vaani' on the Evolution of Carbon Credits, organized by the TISS Alumni Association.

During the webinar, he provided valuable insights into carbon credits, elucidating their evolution, significance, and role in environmental sustainability. Attendees gained a deeper understanding of how carbon credits function as a mechanism to mitigate climate change and promote sustainable practices.

Moreover, he highlighted the diverse opportunities available to TISS alumni to contribute to environmental conservation and can actively participate in initiatives that reduce carbon emissions, foster green innovations, and drive positive environmental impact.

New Beginnings Initiating Transformative Ventures

- Empowering Community for Sustainable Development' funded by RVNL (Rail Vikas Nigam Limited), being implemented in Tehri and Chamoli Districts of Uttarakhand.'
- Focussed Rural Development Programme' funded by HDFC Bank Parivartan, being implemented in Bahraich, Bhagalpur and Almora Districts of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Uttarakhand States respectively.
- Holistic Rural Development Programme 2.0' funded by HDFC Bank Parivartan, being implemented in Jorhat District of Assam.