

NEWSLETTER

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PREFACE

The Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP) empowers local communities to address pressing environmental challenges while enhancing their livelihoods. In its Seventh Operational Phase (OP7), SGP India is being implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) in partnership with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and is nationally coordinated by TERI.

Under OP7, SGP India supports 71 projects — including 59 Community Grant projects, 2 Knowledge Management Grants, and 10 Upscaling Grants. The Council for Social Development (CSD) leads knowledge management and communication for the Central Semi-Arid Region (CSAR) and the Indian Coastal Region (ICR), while the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) anchors these efforts in the North-Eastern Region (NER).

This third quarterly newsletter presents inspiring stories from the field, highlighting community-led initiatives in ecosystem restoration, sustainable livelihoods, and climate resilience. It also features indigenous and traditional knowledge, training workshops, review meetings, field visits, and the growing media presence of SGP grantees.

We extend our sincere appreciation to our partners, grantees, and readers for their continued support and collaboration in advancing community-driven environmental action across India.

Team SGP India



Stories from the Ground

From Shore to Showcase: Women Seaweed Farmers Shine at Incredible Chef Challenge 2025

What began as a small coastal livelihood project has turned into a wave of empowerment. Under the Ocean Farming Project by Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham (GEF-SGP, Operational Phase 7), three women from Olaikuda and Sambai villages—Rakkini, Gnanasowndari, and Dhanalakshmi—embarked on a 500 km journey from Tamil Nadu's shores to Bengaluru to participate in the Incredible Chef Challenge 2025. Their creation, the Devaamritam Seaweed Superfood Pickle, captivated chefs and visitors alike, blending coastal tradition with modern nutrition.



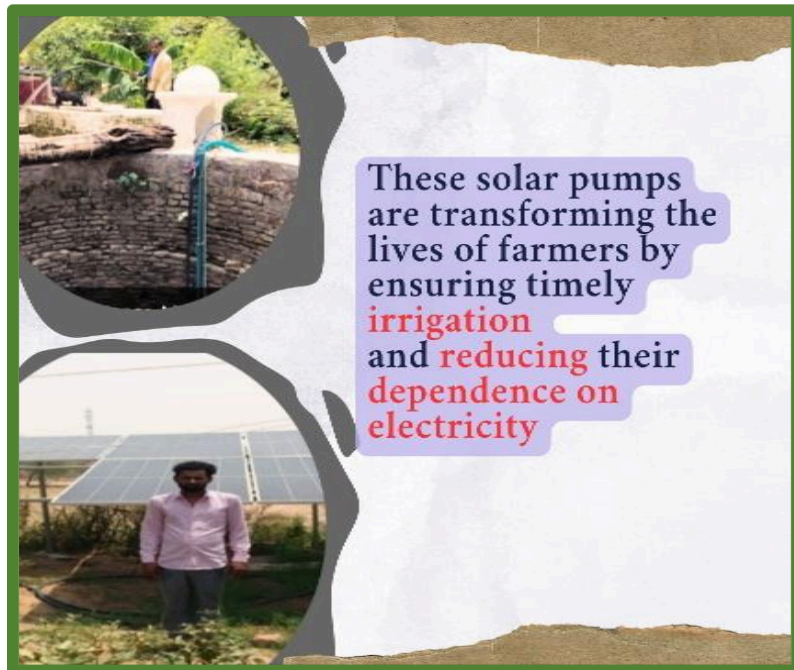
At the event, these women didn't just present a product - they shared a story of resilience, innovation, and transformation. Their microenterprise drew attention from industry leaders, opening doors to new markets and collaborations.

What started as a small-scale livelihood intervention along Tamil Nadu's coast has now evolved into a movement of courage, creativity, and community-driven transformation. The journey of these women embodies the true spirit of empowerment - proving that when opportunity meets determination, coastal communities can lead India's blue economy revolution.



Powering Fields, Brightening Futures

In the heart of Chhatarpur district, Madhya Pradesh, farmers in the villages of Bagaum, Ratanpara, and Kathara are witnessing a quiet revolution. With support from the GEF-SGP- India and implemented by Aabhar Mahila Samiti, four solar-powered irrigation pumps now light up their fields—not with electricity, but with hope. The once unpredictable irrigation schedules are now replaced with timely watering and assured harvests.



"Thanks to SGP and Aabhar Mahila Samiti, we can irrigate our fields whenever needed and no longer worry about electricity bills," shared a farmer with a smile.

The initiative has not only eased farming but also uplifted rural livelihoods by reducing costs and promoting clean energy. As the sun powers their pumps, it also fuels a brighter, more sustainable future for the farming families of Lavkushnagar Block.



Sowing the Seeds of Prosperity: Agro-Horticulture Initiative

In the semi-arid heartland of Madhya Pradesh, farmers are turning their fields into thriving orchards of opportunity. With support from GEF-SGP India, Abhyudaya Sansthan has launched an innovative agro-horticulture project, distributing 940 fruit and medicinal plants—lemon, guava, mango, moringa, jackfruit, and karaunda—across 30 farms. Each farmer now tends a blend of crops that promise not just better harvests, but a more secure and nutritious future for their families.



This green initiative goes beyond planting trees—it nurtures resilience. By improving soil health, diversifying incomes, and enriching on-farm biodiversity, the project is helping communities adapt to a changing climate. What began as a simple idea to blend agriculture with horticulture is now blossoming into a movement for sustainable livelihoods and ecological restoration. With every sapling planted, Abhyudaya Sansthan and the farmers are truly sowing the seeds of prosperity.



Reviving Wells, Restoring Hope

In the lush yet water-stressed landscapes of Ratnagiri, Maharashtra, Rural Communes has turned community action into a source of renewal. With support from GEF-SGP India, three percolation ponds—two in Sakhar and one in Posare—now capture precious rainwater. Each pond, measuring 25m by 30m, allows water to slowly seep into the ground, replenishing depleted aquifers and ensuring a steady water supply for farms and households alike.



These ponds are more than just water bodies—they are symbols of resilience. As groundwater levels rise, farmers regain confidence to cultivate through the seasons, and communities feel the tangible benefits of working together for sustainability. By combining traditional wisdom with modern conservation practices, Rural Communes is helping Ratnagiri's villages secure a future where every drop counts and every pond tells a story of hope restored.



Restoring Roots, Renewing Resilience

In the scenic yet climate-stressed landscapes of Ratnagiri, Maharashtra, Yuva Mitra—supported by the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP)—is breathing new life into degraded lands and farming systems. Through a blend of eco-balanced farming, biodiversity conservation, and climate-smart practices, the initiative has restored over 78 hectares of land, introduced agroforestry, and empowered hundreds of farmers to embrace sustainable agriculture and biological pest control. Bamboo plantations now protect 45 hectares of soil, while farmers conserve indigenous seeds and produce nutrient-rich vermicompost.



What began as an effort to heal the land has grown into a movement for resilience and renewal. With four active Biodiversity Management Committees guiding the process, communities are reclaiming their environment and securing their livelihoods. By reconnecting people with nature, Yuva Mitra's work in Ratnagiri stands as a shining example of how local action can restore balance and build climate-resilient rural futures.



Lighting the Path to Sustainable Rural Development

In the heart of Madhya Pradesh, Abhyudaya Sansthan is bringing the glow of clean energy to rural communities. Under the GEF-SGP-India, the organization held a demonstration of energy-efficient solar lighting at its Garhimalhera office for farmers from Nowgaon and Chhatarpur blocks. During the event, Dr. B.P. Sootrakar, Director of ATMA, distributed solar lighting units to 25 farmers, inspiring them to adopt sustainable and eco-friendly farming practices.



Retired ADO Shri G.D. Kori applauded the initiative, highlighting how reliable solar lighting can transform farm life—especially in areas plagued by power outages. For many farmers, these lights mean safety, productivity, and a renewed sense of empowerment. With heartfelt gratitude, they thanked TERI-UNDP SGP and Abhyudaya Sansthan for illuminating their lives. This simple yet powerful initiative is lighting the way toward cleaner energy and a more sustainable rural future.



From Wells to Resilience: A Step Towards Water Security

In the drought-prone Tendukheda tehsil of Damoh district, Madhya Pradesh, four farmers in Sasna Khurd village have found new hope through the construction of dug wells on their farms. Supported by the GEF-SGP-India and implemented by Manav Jeevan Vikas Samiti, the initiative ensures assured irrigation for smallholders who once depended entirely on uncertain rainfall. These wells now provide year-round water access, helping farmers grow diverse crops, improve yields, and adopt climate-resilient farming practices.



More than just a source of water, the wells symbolize residence and renewal. By promoting groundwater recharge, efficient water use, and sustainable resource management, the project turns each well into a lasting community asset.

As farmers regain confidence and self-reliance, this initiative stands as a powerful reminder that local, community-driven action can pave the way for water security and sustainable rural development in India's most vulnerable landscapes.



STORIES FROM THE GROUND

The Inspiring Story of Bhabani Rabha, a Farmer

Bhabani Rabha, a 46-year-old from Chamuapara village, epitomizes the change brought about by the SGP OP7 intervention in Udalguri Block. The family is moving towards self-sustainability through Aquaculture with Kalong Kapili.

Before joining the programme, Bhabani Rabha and her family struggled with traditional farming methods. Their annual income barely covered basic expenses. However, after applying the knowledge gained from SGP-OP7 and witnessing increased production and income, she invested in



1st Pond of Bhabani Rabha, measuring 1.5 bighas near her house at Chamuapara village

constructing a 3-bigha fish pond on her own land. She now owns three fish ponds with a total area of 7.5 bighas. The annual income of the family is Rs. 1,24,000 in a single year. Today, she is inspiring the other farmers to adopt modern fish farming practices.

Bhabani Rabha's success has also had a ripple effect. *"There is always a difference between farming and doing farming right,"* she explains. *"That's what I realized, and now I share this with others."*



2nd fish pond measuring 3 bighas land at Chamuapara village

"At first, I had no idea fish farming technique could be so profitable."

"The pre- and post-training on fish pond management and horticulture practices of crops increased my knowledge, and I followed the guidance accordingly in mixed cropping, which helped increase my yields and production significantly."

BHABANI RABHA





Empowering Rural Livelihoods

My name is Tngen Nongdhar, and I live in Umsaw Mawjynrong, Mawsynram Block, East Khasi Hills, Shillong.

This project was provided to us by SGP. First, we received banana saplings, and later we were given vermicompost.



Under SGP, Bosco Integrated Development Society (BIDS) supported us with vermicompost beds for producing vermicompost, which is now ready to use. They also provided cucumber seeds and tomato saplings. From selling cucumbers alone, we earned around ₹15,000, and we also received additional income from selling vermicompost.

Sustainability with Sumitra

A piglet was given to Smt. Sumitra Daimary of No. 2 Koklabari by the Manas Maozigendri Ecotourism Society (MMES) under the project of SGP OP7. When we visited her household to take the coordinates, we spent some time having tea with her. During our conversation, Mrs. Daimary happily shared that the piglet has now grown and is about to give birth to more piglets. This brought us immense joy, as it shows how our beneficiaries are slowly progressing.

Furthermore, once the piglets are born, Mrs. Daimary will be able to sell them to others in her village and nearby areas. This will generate a sustainable source of income. In this way, the initiative is creating a positive cycle of livelihood improvement and economic empowerment.



INDIGENOUS TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

DONG SYSTEM

>>> ORIGIN AND CULTURAL ROOTS

The Dong system's origin is not easily traceable but it is deeply embedded in the collective memory of the Bodo people, one of the oldest indigenous communities in Assam.

Historically, the Dong irrigation system was developed to address the challenges of low water retention in upland soils and insufficient monsoons in Xali paddy cultivation. Over time, it spread through migratory Bodo groups who carried their knowledge to various settlements.

>>> STRUCTURE AND MECHANISM

Dongs are large open canals 7–15 feet wide and 2–10 kilometers long. They begin at a higher altitudes where water is diverted using bunds made of earth, bamboo, or now increasingly concrete.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

A Dong typically serves 4–20 villages, managed by a Dong Committee composed of village headmen and elders. These committees manage maintenance, dam construction, and water sharing. Labor has recently shifted from entirely voluntary to a mix of paid and unpaid, funded partially by the Bodoland Territorial Council.

>>> COMPONENTS OF A DONG SYSTEM:

- **Dong:** Main macro channel.
- **Jamphai:** Micro-channels routed from the Dong to individual fields.
- **Ali:** Field embankments that retain water.
- **Bund/Overflow/Sluice Gate:** Structures to regulate water flow.
- Traditional bunds are manually controlled, opened, or closed depending on flow intensity.
- Concrete sluice gates and overflow structures have replaced vulnerable earth-and-bamboo structure models in recent years.





JINGPYNNEH IA KI SYMBAI

Seed Preservation

A traditional method of conserving harvested seeds for future planting. This practice enables farmers to retain seeds for the next season, ensuring crop continuity and food security. By preserving seeds, farmers can maintain crop diversity, reduce costs, and promote sustainable agriculture. This traditional technique is crucial for farmers' self-sufficiency and preserving indigenous crop varieties. Effective seed preservation is key to successful crop production and food sustainability.

WHEN TRADITION OUTPERFORMS

Earlier, they used to store the seeds in ordinary containers, but later they realized that the seed quality was not as good as the ones preserved in the bamboo containers kept above the kitchen hearth.



Events Organized

Women Lead Seagrass Restoration Efforts in Tamil Nadu

In the coastal village of Thondi, a group of 13 spirited women took to the sea on 19 August 2025 to restore life beneath the waves. Organized by the AMMACHI Labs Ocean Farming Team, the activity brought together community members to revive degraded seabeds by planting nearly 500 seagrass sprigs across 0.11 hectares using cocopeat pots and direct planting methods. With infectious enthusiasm and teamwork, the women showcased their swimming skills and determination, proving that ocean conservation isn't just men's work—it's a shared community mission.



Seagrass meadows play a crucial role in capturing carbon, protecting shorelines, and nurturing marine biodiversity. Through their hands-on efforts, these women are not only restoring vital ecosystems but also strengthening local resilience and sustainable blue livelihoods. Their story stands as a shining example of how grassroots leadership can help protect the planet, one sprig at a time.



Nurturing Nutrition and Nature: Community-led distribution drive in Madhya Pradesh

In a vibrant step toward sustainable farming and environmental care, the National Institute of Women, Child and Youth Development (NIWCYD), Madhya Pradesh, organized a community-led distribution drive under the GEF-SGP-India.

During the event, 35 families received fruit-bearing, medicinal, and shade-giving saplings, while 100 families were provided with vegetable seed kits containing tomato, chili, brinjal, okra, beans, spinach, ridge gourd, cucumber, and more. The initiative inspired local participation and enthusiasm for home-based cultivation and greener surroundings.



The distributed saplings—jackfruit, lemon, custard apple, jamun, tamarind, bael, khmer, and amla—will enrich the ecosystem while supporting nutrition and livelihoods. By promoting kitchen gardens and agroforestry, NIWCYD is helping families grow healthy food, reduce expenses, and earn from surplus produce.

This simple yet impactful event demonstrates how community-based efforts can nurture both nature and nutrition, laying the foundation for self-reliant and climate-resilient rural communities.



Celebrating Traditional Seeds on Maharashtra Krushi Din

On the occasion of Maharashtra Krushi Din (Farmer's Day), the BAIF Development Research Foundation celebrated the wisdom of traditional farming at Grampanchayat Warde village, Kudal. In collaboration with the Panchayat Samiti Kudal and the Taluka Agriculture Department, the event showcased an impressive exhibition of indigenous seed varieties, rekindling local pride in the state's rich agricultural heritage. Farmers explored diverse seeds, exchanged knowledge, and participated in an engaging session on natural farming and crop diversity.



Teams from BAIF and Agricart FPOs highlighted how conserving traditional seeds can build climate resilience, strengthen food security, and ensure sustainable farming for future generations. The event inspired farmers to preserve and revive local varieties adapted to changing weather patterns. By blending tradition with innovation, the celebration underscored a vital message—protecting native seeds today paves the way for resilient, self-reliant agriculture tomorrow.



Green Fences for a Sustainable Future in Maharashtra

In Sindhudurg district, Maharashtra, Prithvisangram Gramvikas Sanstha (PSGS) is turning farms into greener, safer spaces.

As part of an eco-friendly initiative, paper lemon saplings have been planted across ten villages in Dodamarg and Kudal talukas to serve as bio-fences. These living barriers protect crops from wild animals, reduce farm damage, enhance local biodiversity, and provide additional income through fruit production



The plantation drive saw enthusiastic participation from villagers, working hand-in-hand with the PSGS team, reflecting strong community ownership and environmental stewardship. More than just a protective measure, the initiative fosters sustainable livelihoods and resilient landscapes. By combining ecological conservation with economic benefits, PSGS is nurturing a model of biodiversity-rich, climate-resilient rural farming—proving that a green fence can be the first step toward a sustainable and prosperous future.



Engaging Discussion on Clean Energy and Livelihoods in Madhya Pradesh

In Mandwada village, Thikri block of Barwani district, Aparajita Mahila Sangh brought together 22 community members for an engaging discussion on clean energy and sustainable livelihoods. The meeting highlighted the benefits of biomass briquettes as an alternative to wood-based fuel, emphasizing how their adoption can reduce dependence on firewood, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and protect local forests.



Participants also explored opportunities to generate income through carbon credits and small-scale production of briquettes, linking environmental protection with economic empowerment. By combining climate action with livelihood development, the initiative strengthens community resilience while promoting sustainable practices. The meeting inspired villagers to embrace eco-friendly solutions that not only safeguard the environment but also create new, sustainable pathways for rural prosperity in Barwani.



Farmer Exposure Visit for Climate-Resilient Agriculture in Madhya Pradesh

In Damoh district, Madhya Pradesh, the National Centre for Human Settlements and Environment (NCHSE) organized an exposure visit under the GEF-SGP-India to help farmers experience climate-resilient agriculture firsthand. The visit introduced participants to eco-restoration techniques, natural farming methods, and sustainable livelihood practices suited to local conditions. Farmers observed live demonstrations on climate-smart approaches for Kharif crops and learned about soil conservation, organic inputs, and improved seed varieties.



Experts engaged closely with the farmers, sharing practical insights and field experiences from successful green farming initiatives. The visit inspired participants to integrate sustainable and organic techniques into their own fields, reinforcing the idea that ecological balance and productivity can grow together. This hands-on learning experience strengthened farmers' confidence in adopting climate-smart solutions- marking a step forward for resilient agriculture and sustainable livelihoods in rural Madhya Pradesh.



EVENTS

Paschim Bhadragaon Madrasa



BEFORE



AFTER

Individual plot



BEFORE



AFTER

Bhadragaon LP school



BEFORE



AFTER



Van Mahotsav



**Plantation drive to revive
springshed**

EVENTS



Household nursery, Umsawwar,



Tree plantation on the restoration sites, Ladmawphlang



Mapping of the restoration site, Umsawwar



Plantation drive, Ri Bhoi



Conservation Awareness Program



School Awareness Program



Bamboo Plantation drive



Bamboo Plantation drive, Ri Bhoi

Workshops and Training Programme

Capacity Building Workshop on Effective and Impactful Knowledge Management and Communication through Participatory Methods in Madhya Pradesh

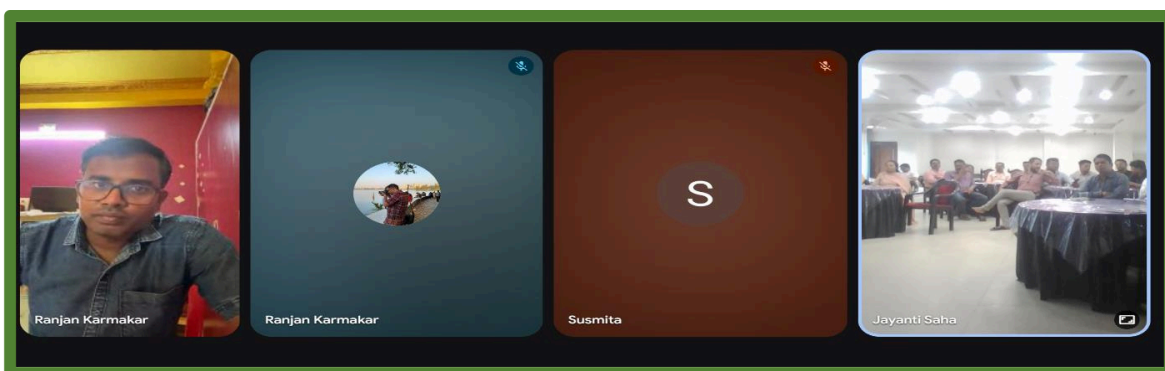
The Council for Social Development (CSD), New Delhi, in collaboration with UNDP-GEF-SGP India, organized a one-day Capacity Building Workshop on Effective and Impactful Knowledge Management and Communication through Participatory Methods on 9th July 2025 at Jata Shankar Palace, Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh. The workshop aimed to strengthen the communication, documentation, and knowledge management skills of grassroots NGOs working on biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, and land degradation.



The event featured eight interactive sessions, combining expert lectures, participatory discussions, and hands-on training. The inaugural session included a panel discussion with Mr. Manish Pandey, National Coordinator, GEF-SGP India; Mr. Surendra Agrawal, Editor, Dainik New Rashtra Bhraman; and Ms. Aathira Vasudevan, Data and Communications Consultant, UNDP India, among others. The panel highlighted the importance of storytelling, visibility, and communication as essential tools for scaling grassroots impact and building credibility.



The training sessions focused on developing practical communication skills—writing case studies, creating photo essays and videos, and assessing project impacts through GIS tools. Dr. Susmita Mitra (CSD) and Dr. Jayanti Saha (DEF) led sessions on storytelling and digital media, while Dr. Ranjan Karmakar (HNBGU) provided hands-on guidance on GIS-based impact assessment. Participatory sessions facilitated by Dr. Mitra and Dr. Dhiman Debsarma introduced systems mapping and deep listening as innovative methods for institutional learning and sustainability assessment.



The workshop concluded with a participant feedback session that reflected high levels of satisfaction, particularly with the storytelling and GIS mapping sessions. The event successfully equipped NGO representatives with creative and technical skills to enhance project documentation, strengthen communication strategies, and amplify their environmental impact through participatory and knowledge-driven approaches.



From Skills to Sustainability: Women at the Forefront at One-Day Vocational Training in Sindhudurg

In Sindhudurg district, Maharashtra, Prithvisangram Gramvikas Sanstha (PSGS), with support from the GEF-SGP-India, organized a one-day vocational training programme for women from Self-Help Groups (SHGs) across ten villages in Dodamarg and Kudal talukas. The session blended livelihood training with lessons on wildlife conservation, empowering women to earn sustainably while protecting their local environment. Project Director Shri Dadasaheb Yadav, Shri Praveenkumar Pawar, and the PSGS team encouraged participants to explore green enterprise opportunities.



The event highlighted how women's participation is key to building resilient and eco-conscious communities. By combining skills development with conservation awareness, the initiative is helping women strengthen their businesses, enhance household incomes, and lead local sustainability efforts. This inspiring training underscores how empowering women at the grassroots can turn skill-building into a pathway for long-term environmental and social transformation.



Technical Awareness Programme on Solar Dryers in Maharashtra

In Mithmumbari village, Devgad, Future Green Samasthe shone a light on sustainable innovation by organizing a technical awareness programme on solar dryers. The session introduced farmers to the dryer's design, functioning, and capacity, with live demonstrations on how it can effectively preserve fruits, vegetables, and other perishables. Participants learned how solar drying not only extends shelf life but also reduces post-harvest losses, helping them add value to their produce while minimizing waste.



Hands-on training sessions guided farmers in the proper operation, cleaning, and maintenance of the equipment, ensuring efficient long-term use. Experts also shared easy tips for sorting and preparing produce for better drying results and product quality. By embracing this clean-energy technology, Mithmumbari's farming community is taking a confident step toward climate-smart agriculture—turning sunlight into opportunity and paving the way for brighter, more sustainable rural livelihoods.



Workshop on Government Convergence and Natural Farming in Madhya Pradesh

In Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh, Arunoday Sansthan hosted a one-day workshop on Government Convergence and Natural Farming for Climate Change, bringing together over 100 participants—including farmers, women champions, and subject experts. Representatives from the Agriculture Department, ATMA Pariyojna Director & DD Sootrakar, Dr. Sitaram Dubey (Pashupalan Vibhag), and D.K. Gupta (District Project Manager, MGNREGA) joined the discussions, emphasizing collaboration and knowledge exchange for sustainable farming.



The workshop focused on promoting natural farming as a key pathway to climate resilience, highlighting ways to reduce chemical inputs, restore soil health, and strengthen farmer livelihoods. Participants shared innovative ideas and success stories, reinforcing the value of collective action across departments. By linking policy support with grassroots initiatives, the event showcased how community-driven natural farming can help build greener, more resilient rural landscapes in Madhya Pradesh.



Strengthening Agriculture Skills in Vighrawali in Maharashtra

In the lush village of Vighrawali, Sangameshwar block, farmers gathered for a hands-on agricultural training programme organized by Shramjivi Janata Sahayyak Mandal (SJSJSM) in collaboration with the Agriculture Department. The event aimed to strengthen farmers' knowledge and promote better farming practices through expert guidance. Mr. Chandrakant Koli, Agriculture Officer, shared techniques for healthy plant growth, while Mr. Kamble, Mandal Officer, emphasized traditional wisdom in rice cultivation.



Adding to the day's insights, Mr. Ram Kolekar, Head of Operations at SJSJSM, presented ongoing projects and shared lessons from past initiatives, and Project Coordinator Mr. Indrajeet Mane highlighted achievements from 1.5 years of work under the GEF SGP. The session inspired farmers to adopt improved cultivation methods and tap into government support, marking another step toward sustainable and resilient agriculture in the region.



WORKSHOPS



Vermicomposting

School of Livelihood and Rural Development (SLRD) under SGP OP7 hosted one-day vermicomposting workshops for 39 inspiring women in the Marngar and Lakyrshan clusters of Ri-Bhoi District.

These resilient women farmers are now equipped with hands-on skills to turn farm, animal, and



household waste into "nutrient-rich compost," boosting soil health and reducing their reliance on chemical fertilizers.

With expert guidance from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research - North Eastern Hills (ICAR-NEH), they also learned low-cost, eco-friendly methods to increase crop productivity.





Crop Diversification

A 4-day training on Crop Diversification & Integrated Farming was held at ICAR-KVK, Umiam, organized by the School of Livelihood and Rural Development (SLRD) under SGP OP7 India. With specialized trainers from ICAR-KVK, engaging sessions on millets, paddy & maize management, piggery, poultry, and climate-smart practices like intercropping, crop rotation & pest



control were covered during the sessions. Adding to it, farmers also learned the benefits of Integrated Farming Systems (IFS), especially paddy–fish farming for dual income, soil health & sustainability.

Participants also gained hands-on training to boost productivity, income & resilience, encouraging them to adopt sustainable practices in their own farming spaces.

Livelihood through Eco-tourism

Conservation Initiatives organized a 6-day women's livelihood training workshop as part of eco-tourism and hospitality training under SGP OP7. As an effort to strengthen community-based forest management for Western Hoolock Gibbon conservation in Hima Malai Sohmat, East Khasi Hills, the livelihood training played a crucial role.

With training involved in homestay management, local cuisine, and cultural experience hosting, communities become mindful, responsible custodians of the forests, sharing the beauty of their wildlife with visitors while ensuring that conservation and livelihoods go hand in hand.



Empowering Conservation

A two-day workshop on “Empowering Conservation through Technology, Habitat Restoration, and Community Engagement” was organised by MMES under SGP OP7. The sessions provided communities with insights into modern tools in wildlife management, covering species-specific habitat restoration, anti-depredation measures, especially for rhinos, and strategies for fostering active community participation in safeguarding biodiversity.

The sessions were led by Pranjal Baruah- Range Officer, Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary and Dr.Nilutpal Mahanta, who shared impactful and practical insights in community based conservation efforts.



SALT

Under SGP OP7, the North East India Committee on Relief and Development (NEICORD) conducted a Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT) training with the community members. SALT is a modern soil conservation method used especially on sloping or hilly terrain.

It involves:

- Planting leguminous or nitrogen-fixing shrubs or trees along contour lines to form natural barrier strips.
- These hedgerows reduce runoff, prevent soil erosion, and improve soil fertility through nitrogen fixation. Multi-cropping is then practiced in the strips between the hedgerows, allowing farmers to grow food while building resilience and generating income simultaneously.



Nutrition Garden

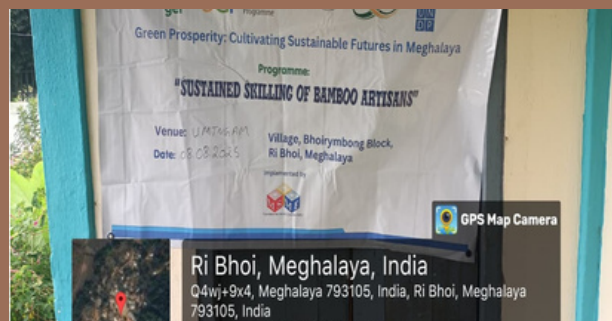
Under SGP, with the support of NEICORD, communities have established nutrition gardens where they can grow a mix of seasonal and nutrient-rich vegetables.

Communities have daily access to fresh produce, ensuring a steady supply of nutritious food, thus building climate resilience at the same time.



Bamboo Artisans

Under SGP, the Foundation for MSME Clusters (FMC) conducted a workshop to empower communities with sustainable bamboo craftsmanship skills. The workshop enabled them to enhance their craft while building consciousness about sustainable practices.





Natural Farming

With SGP, Seven Sisters Development Assistance (SeSTA) conducted training on natural farming practices, including the preparation of natural farming concoctions such as Jeevamrit, Agniastra, Neemastra, and IPDM (Integrated Pest & Disease Management). Farmers received training, along with initial input support provided to 1,500 farmers, consisting of Trichoderma, Agniastra, Vermicompost, and natural farming IEC materials and leaflets for reference.



Agniastra (organic pesticide) preparation by PG (producer group) members



Chipponsila village, Dangtol block.

Agniastra was distributed among SHG members for application in their vegetable plots. From a sustainability perspective, starting next season, farmers will prepare their own Agniastra at home for domestic use. This practice will reduce farming costs and will not harm humans or the soil.

Through SGP, communities are not only being empowered but are also becoming guardians of the Earth, ensuring a greener and sustainable future for generations to come.

Progress Review Meeting and Visit

Sharing Success, Strengthening Impact: CSAR Grantees Unite in Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh

On 8 July 2025, Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh, came alive with stories of transformation as grantees from the CSAR gathered for an Experience Sharing and Project Review Meeting under the OP7 of the GEF-SGP-India. Organized by Darshna Mahila Kalyan Samiti, the event brought together nearly all SGP partners from the CSAR landscape. Mr. Niranjana Yadav presented the organization's impactful journey—showing how small grants can spark big change—while beneficiaries shared inspiring accounts of empowerment and growth.



Continuing the engagement, the CSD team visited Darshna's project sites on 10 July to interact with community mobilizers and local beneficiaries. The field visit offered valuable insights into grassroots efforts driving sustainable livelihoods and climate resilience - demonstrating how collaboration, learning, and community spirit are at the heart of every SGP success story.



REVIEW MEETINGS

Monitoring Visit, Dangtol Block



Review Meeting, Nongtyrlaw



TERI Review Meeting Workshop



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