syngenta foundation India

2024–25

ANNUAL REPORT

Farmers and Youth Together

Growing a Sustainable Future

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Rajendra Jog
Executive Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As we close the financial year 2024–25, we reflect not just on our progress as an organization, but on the lives transformed and ecosystem strengthened across India's rural landscape. This year marks a defining moment for Syngenta Foundation India (SFI)—one of renewed identity and evolving impact. In November 2024, we formally transitioned into a fully independent, not-for-profit entity, concluding a 20-year legacy with the Syngenta Group. This shift signifies not an end, but a bold continuation of our mission—to empower small and marginal farmers through resilient last-mile delivery systems, innovation, and grassroots entrepreneurship.

Over the past year, we deepened our presence across 13 states, reaching over 2.4 million smallholder farmers and impacting 2.75 million acres of land with sustainable agricultural practices. Our network of 23,000+ Agri-Entrepreneurs continued to demonstrate the power of local leadership in driving agricultural transformation. These AEs are more than service providers; they are catalysts of change, bridging gaps in access to quality inputs, credit , technology, and markets while fostering inclusive development.

At the heart of our strategy lies the belief that agriculture must be entrepreneurial, climate-resilient, and inclusive. From pioneering Climate-Smart Agriculture models with partners like EDF and NABARD, to enabling the creation of 10,000 women Agri-Entrepreneurs through our Gates Foundation collaboration, our programs have created tangible and measurable impact. Our IRise program, supported by Syngenta India Pvt. Ltd., has been a landmark initiative in this direction—successfully skilling over 1,000 rural youth across 13 states and helping build a future-ready cadre of agri-leaders equipped to innovate, adapt, and lead in their communities.

The year also brought national recognition for our work. We were once again honored with the FICCI Award 2024 for Sustainable Farmer Income Enhancement, a testament to our model's impact in improving livelihoods. At the Indian Social Impact Awards 2024, we were celebrated for our efforts in Climate-Smart Agriculture with the Best Environment Protection Initiative of the Year, and recognized for our commitment to women's economic empowerment with the Best Women Empowerment Initiative of the Year award. These recognitions reaffirm our belief in co-creating solutions with our partners and rural communities.

Our Annual Synergy 2025 gathering reinforced a shared commitment to drive scale, innovation, and collaboration across the ecosystem. As we navigate the complexities of India's agricultural transformation, we remain steadfast in our mission to build resilient farmer communities, powered by knowledge, digital tools, and inclusive models.

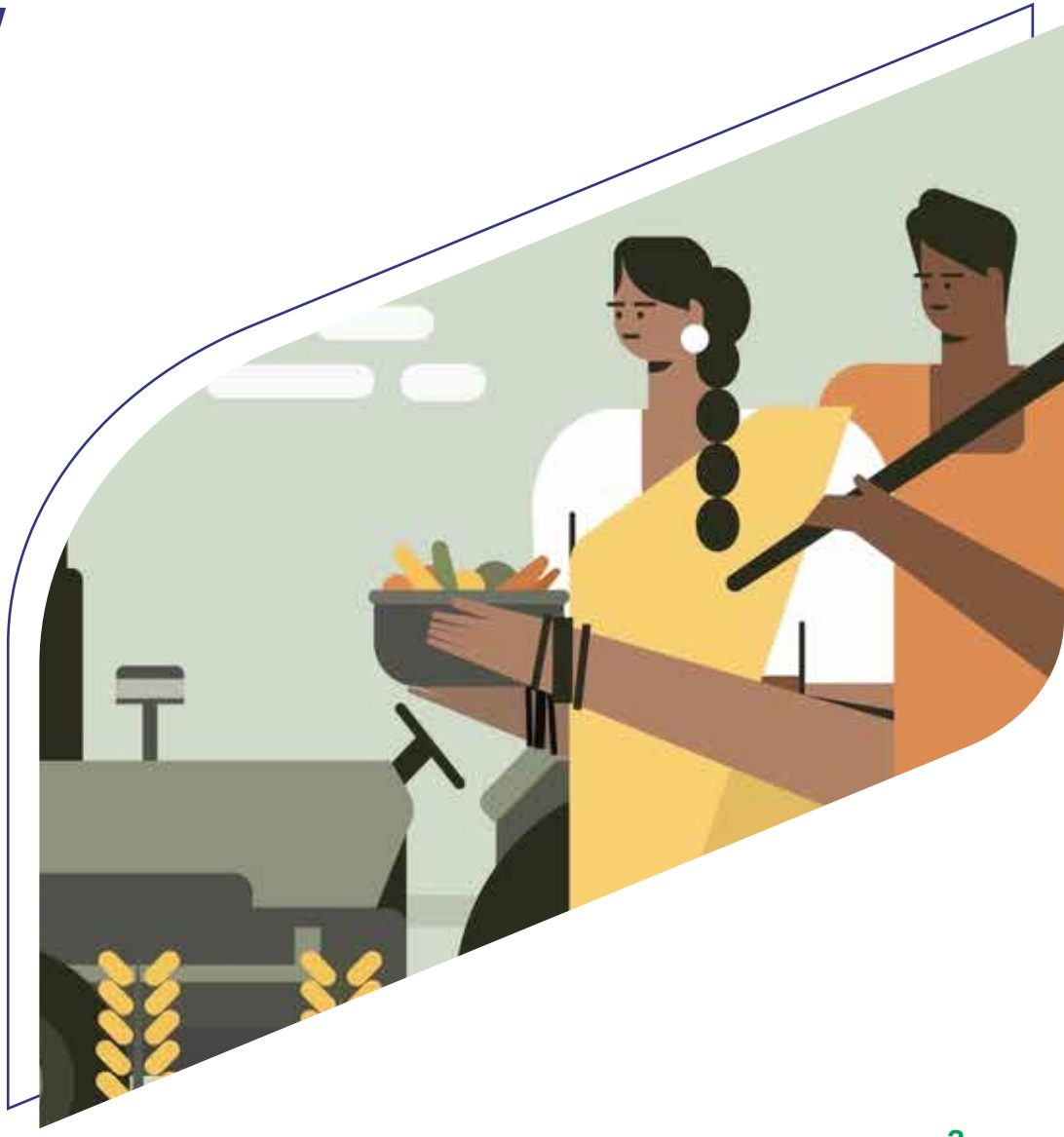
To our partners, donors, team members, and the farmers and entrepreneurs we serve—thank you. Your unwavering support has enabled us to scale new heights while staying rooted in our values. As we enter the next chapter of our journey, let us continue to grow together driving forward a vision of sustainable, equitable agriculture that works for every farmer.

Warm regards,

Rajendra Jog
Executive Director
Syngenta Foundation India

SECTION 1

ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW



ABOUT SYNGENTA FOUNDATION INDIA (SFI)

Established in 2005, with a vision to enhance the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, Syngenta Foundation India (SFI) focuses on driving agricultural development by improving their access to quality seeds, agronomic knowledge, credit, and market linkages. The vision of SFI is to create tangible transformation for smallholder farmers and rural households in India.

Over the years, SFI piloted innovative models to support smallholders – most notably the Agri-Entrepreneur (AE) approach launched in 2014 as its flagship initiative. This model follows a decentralized strategy of empowering rural youth to become agricultural change agents. Each Agri-Entrepreneur brings together critical farm services (credit, market linkages, quality inputs, crop advisory) for a group of local farmers, acting as a one-stop solution at the village level.

SFI's work has now further diversified into multiple thematic areas, including Climate-Smart Agriculture, Women Empowerment, Regenerative Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, Sustainable Livelihoods, Credit and Financial Ecosystem Development, and Agritech for Sustainability. These thematic interventions are implemented through two primary domains of work: the Agri- Entrepreneur (AE) program and Training / Capacity Building initiatives. SFI formed collaborations with governments, NGOs, research institutes, and private sector partners, including, Gates Foundation, SBI Foundation, NABARD, Hatching Hope Foundation, and Villgro, to further enhance program effectiveness.

The SFI's mission is to fuel the spirit of enterprise in agriculture through knowledge, innovation, and youth participation. As of March 2025, SFI's network includes over 23,000+ trained AEs who serve approximately 2.4 mn farmers across 13 states in India. Supported by robust digital tools like the Agri-Entrepreneur Digital Diary (AEDD), Training Management System (TMS), and the Krishi Abhyaas You Tube platform, the program has achieved a remarkable impact in terms of outreach, farmer engagement, and capacity development.

OUR FOOTPRINT & KEY FIGURES

01 **23,166** Total AEs trained

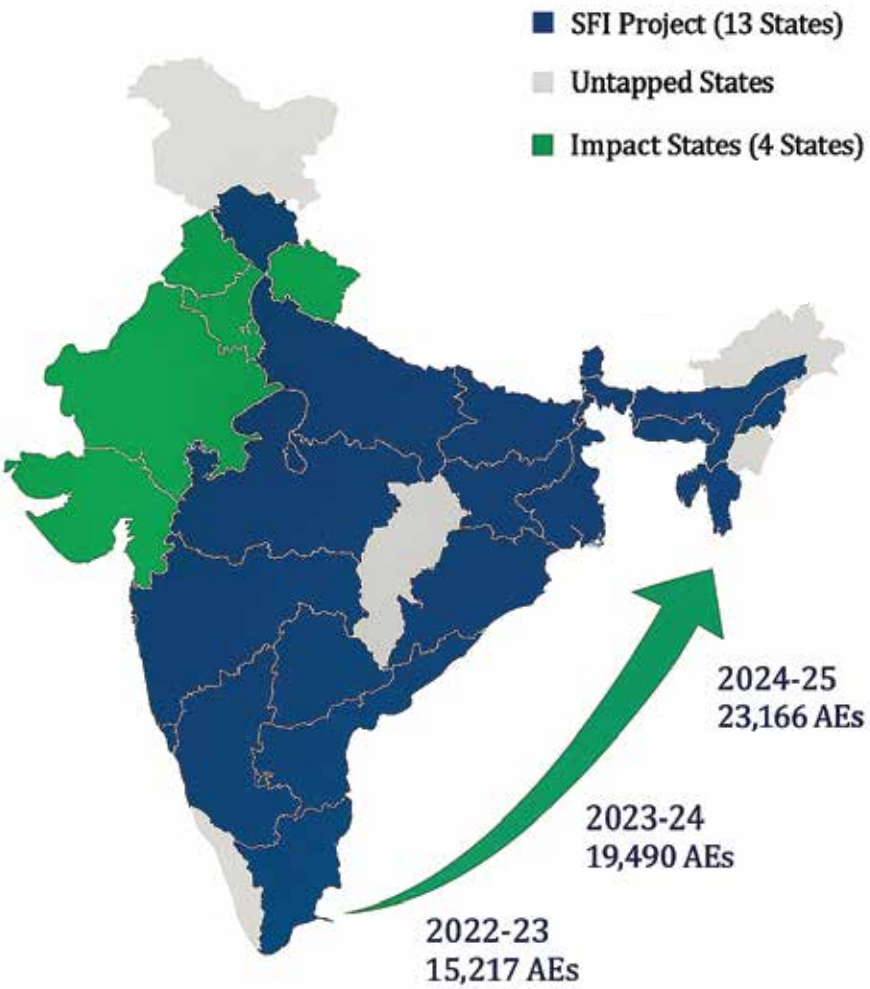
02 **9,302** Female AEs trained

03 **13,864** Male AEs trained

04 **2,384,995** Farmers registered

05 **1,375,987** Female Farmers

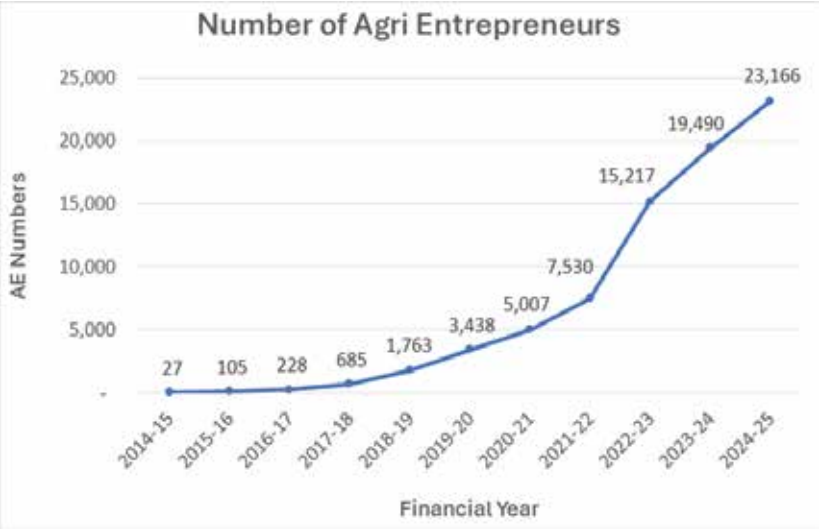
06 **1,009,008** Male Farmers



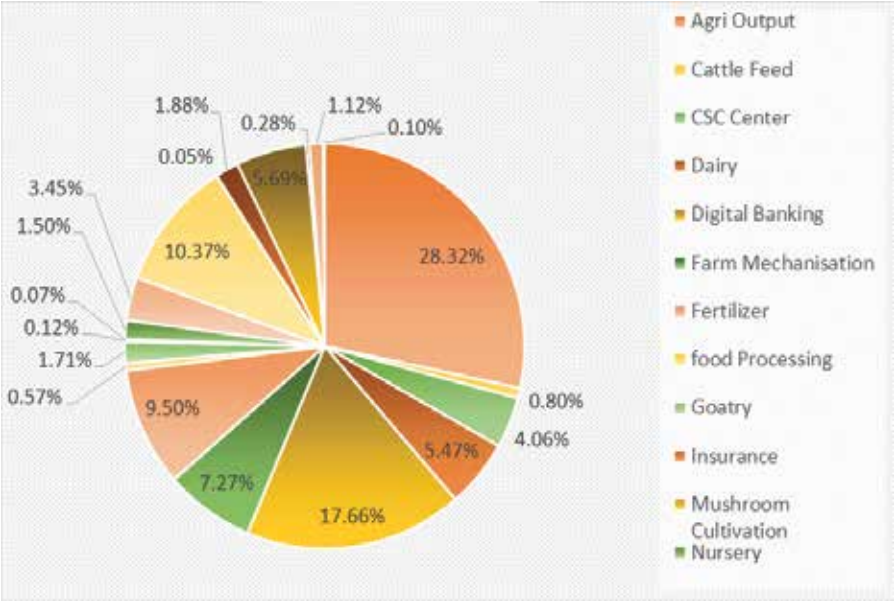
NUMBER OF TRAINED AEs, ASSOCIATED FARMERS, AND ACREAGE

State	AE trained	Farmers served	Acreages Served
Andhra Pradesh & Telangana	1285	57,193	1,38,140
Assam & West Bengal	495	42,267	1,36,076
Bihar	5925	5,05,203	7,53,547
Jharkhand	696	54,694	1,44,501
Tamil Nadu	242	12,242	43,324
Maharashtra	5845	4,22,352	11,29,003
Madhya Pradesh	3316	3,51,030	10,61,916
Odisha	884	88,512	3,78,082
Punjab	1,961	-	19,621
Rajasthan	250	3,072	33,303
Uttar Pradesh	1180	72,151	73,159
Others	93	4,650	9,300
Before 2023 (back-end updated data)	994	771,629	35,21,696
Total 2024-25	**23,166**	**23,84,995**	**37,00,403**

A Graph Representing the Number of AEs over last 10 years



Archetype wise business transaction by AEs in %



SECTION 2

PROGRAMME STRATEGY

2.1 THEMATIC FOCUS AREAS

Syngenta Foundation India (SFI) addresses key challenges in Indian agriculture through focused thematic interventions. These priority areas shape the design and implementation of our programs across geographies:

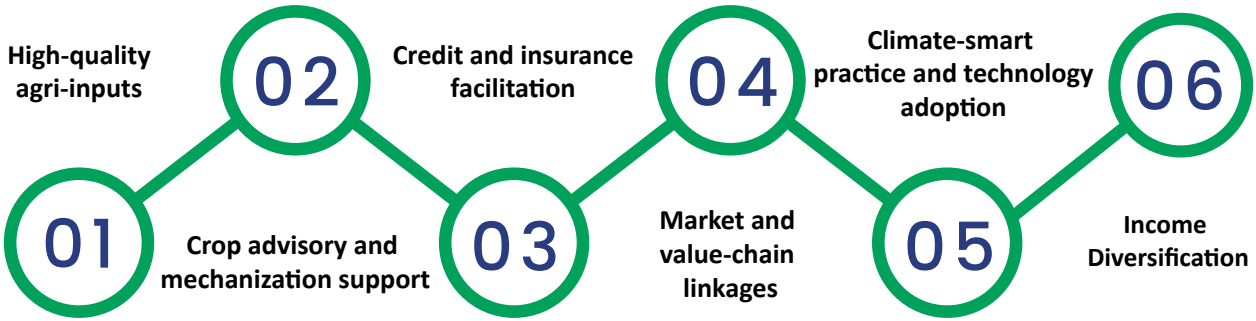
- Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA)
- Women's Empowerment
- Regenerative Agriculture
- Food Security and Nutrition
- Sustainable Livelihoods
- Credit and Financial Ecosystem
- Agritech for Sustainability

2.2 KEY DELIVERY MECHANISMS

SFI has developed and institutionalized scalable delivery mechanisms that enables last-mile access to knowledge, services, and livelihoods. These five models can function independently or in tandem based on the developmental context:

1. Agri-Entrepreneur (AE) Model

The flagship model that empowers rural youth to become Agri-Entrepreneurs (AEs), each serving 150–200 smallholder farmers in their localities. AEs act as one-stop agricultural service providers, delivering:



With over 23,000+ trained AEs (53% women) across 13 states, the model impacts 2.4 million+ farmers and is integrated into CSR and government programs.

2. Skilling and Capacity Building – The I-RISE Program

A national youth skilling initiative that trains rural youth to become agri-professionals. The I-RISE (Inculcating Rural India Skill Enhancement) program offers:

- Experiential learning in agriculture, entrepreneurship, and digital tools
- Classroom and field exposure
- Pathways to employment or rural entrepreneurship

In partnership with Syngenta India, I-RISE has become a model for rural youth transformation and sustainable livelihoods.

3. Collective Growth through Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)

To strengthen collective bargaining and improve farmer access to inputs, credit, and markets, SFI:

- Incubates and registers FPOs
- Integrates AEs into FPO structures
- Provides governance and board training (with a focus on women-led FPOs)
- Supports market readiness and entrepreneurship within collectives
- Collaborates with NABARD, Jeevika, Villgro, and others to scale enterprise-led farmer institutions

4. Climate-Smart Village Agriculture

CSA integrates practices and technologies that demonstrates enhancement in productivity, Farmers income, Resilience against the climatic adversities and simultaneously reduces potential GHGs emission. This is achieved through :

- Intensive Capacity Building program on Climate Smart Agriculture Principles and Practices
- Climate Proofing of Package of Practices of Major crops of the identified geography
- Adoption of Technologies like vermicompostig, solar powered solutions, biochar, Hydrogel, soil testing etc
- Use of digital tools for advisory dissemination and effective monitoring data

Currently being scaled in states like Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha with partners such as EDF and Varaha.

5. Financial Access and Literacy Enablement

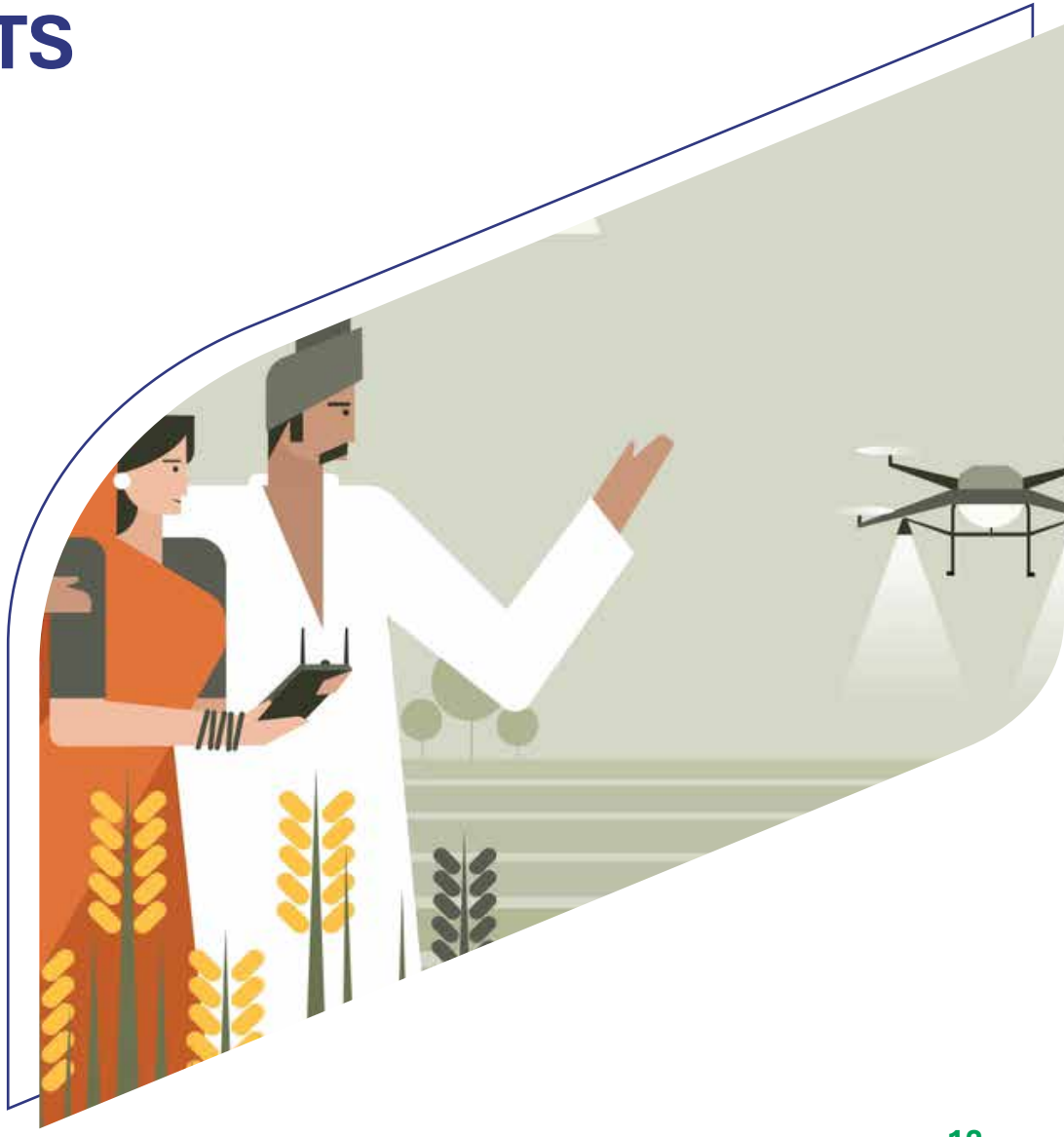
An initiative to bridge rural financial gaps by training youth across India for employment and entrepreneurship in the BFSI sector. In partnership with VAMNICOM and NIA, the program focuses on:

- Certification and skilling of rural youth in banking and insurance
- Strengthening local financial institutions like PACS and cooperatives
- Promoting doorstep delivery of savings, credit, and government schemes

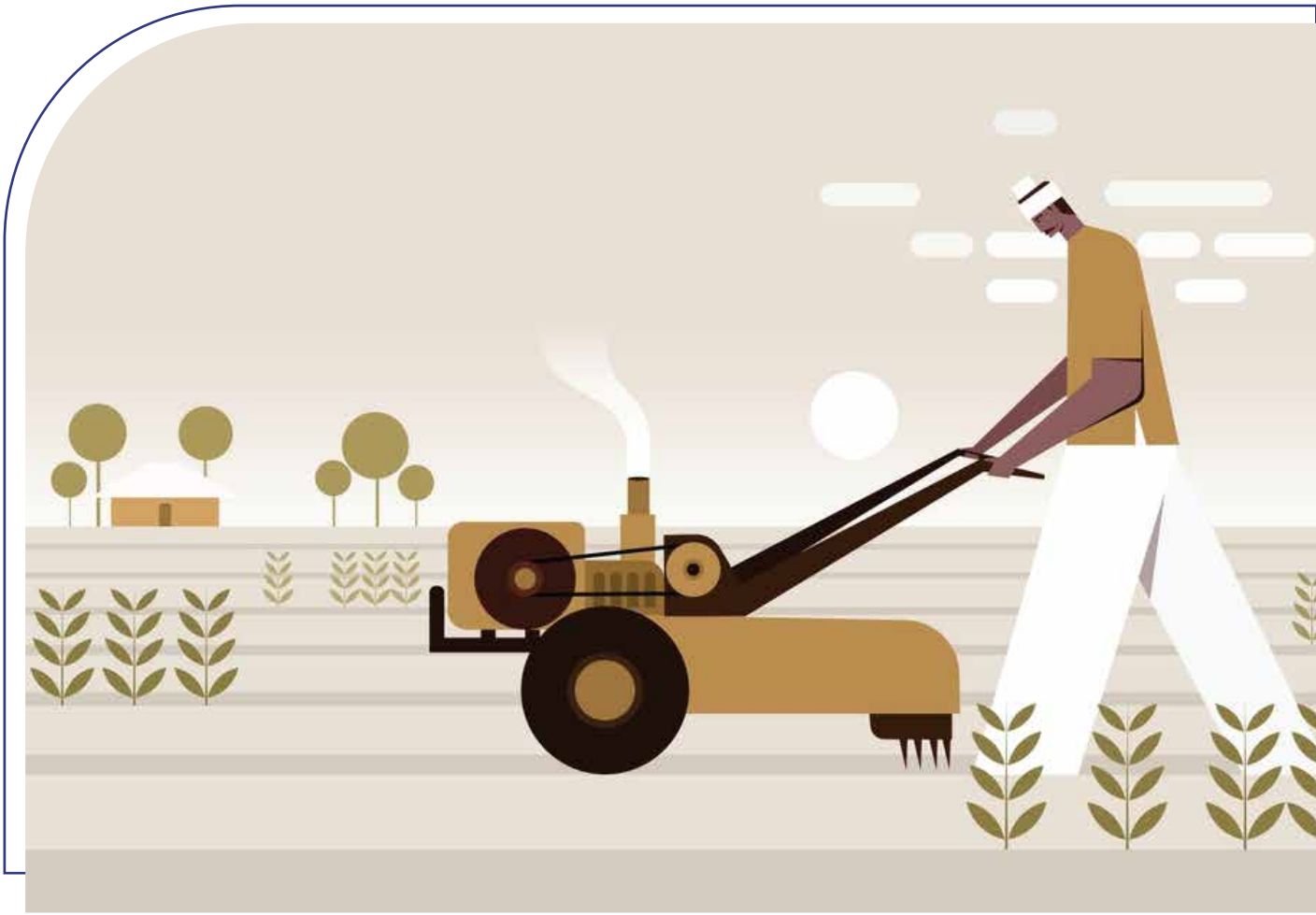
This initiative enhances rural financial inclusion while offering alternate income avenues to Agri-Entrepreneurs.

SECTION 3

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE



1.1. Climate-Smart Agriculture Project in Maharashtra

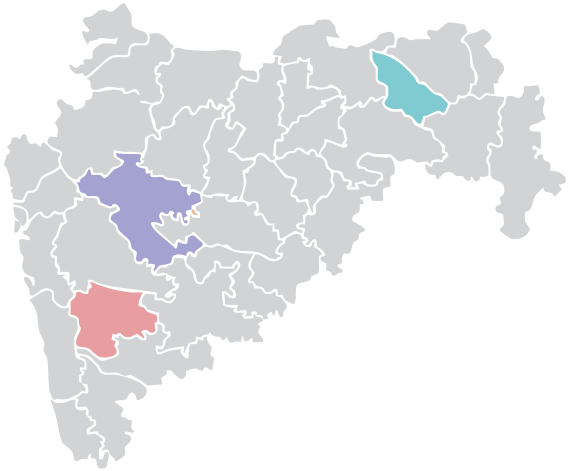
Objective: To promote climate-resilient agricultural practices that contribute to improved yields, better income, and climate adaptation and mitigation, while empowering Agri-Entrepreneurs (AEs) as climate ambassadors in their communities.

The Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) Project, a collaborative initiative between the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) and Syngenta Foundation India (SFI), commenced in April 2023 to address the urgent need for climate action in agriculture. With a threefold objective—raising awareness on climate resilience, building AE capacities, and validating CSA's triple-win potential—the project made major strides in demonstrating scalable, sustainable models for smallholder farmers

At the core of the initiative was the climate-proofing of the AE curriculum, the development of 200 master trainers and 2,000 champion farmers to serve as influencers for wider CSA adoption, and outreach to 20,000 farmers through the implementation of nutrient balance (N balance) principles. The program also aims to develop Climate Smart Agri-Entrepreneurs (AEs) in progressive regions of Maharashtra like Satara District, who will serve as local change agents. Through structured training modules, demonstration plots, refresher workshops, and exposure visits, Master Trainers were equipped to support farmers in adopting practices that increase productivity, reduce input costs, enhance climate resilience and simultaneously reduces GHG emission. A key innovation was the implementation of the N-Balance concept which enabled over 20,000 farmers to receive personalized advisories on optimal use of nitrogen fertilizer, leading to input cost savings and reduced emissions.

Visually impactful field demonstrations for key crops like cotton, wheat, and sugarcane showcased the economic and agronomic benefits of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices, with notable yield improvements observed. Strategic engagement of stakeholders, recognition at national platforms, and strong partnerships with local government agencies helped scale the initiative's reach and credibility.

Climate-Smart Agriculture Project in Maharashtra



Geographies Covered:

- Ahilyanagar
- Wardha
- Satara

HIGHLIGHTS

- Trained **2,017** Agricultural Entrepreneurs (including **792** in Maharashtra) across various districts in India, enhancing their skills in CSA practices.
- Refresher training organized for **211** Master Trainers who provided guidance, support to local farmers and conducted N- Balance surveys with **20,193** farmers.
- A total of 76 Agri Entrepreneurs (AEs) were trained in Satara district; **71** remain active (**64** male, **7** female), collectively reaching **9,070** farmers across **68** villages.
- Trained **14,767** farmers across Maharashtra on CSA concepts, including Integrated Nutrient Management, Integrated Pest Management, and Climate-Proof Package of Practices (POPs).
- Rolled out over **20,193** N-Balance surveys, enabling customized nitrogen fertilizer advisories to optimize input use and reduce emissions.
- Established **44 demonstration** plots across cotton, wheat, and sugarcane, showcasing **25–40% yield improvements** and input cost savings.
- Hosted exposure field visits for over **3,492** farmers to demonstration sites, fostering peer learning and motivation to adopt CSA practices.

- Achieved significant yield increases:

Cotton:
34% yield enhancement with only a 2% increase in cost cultivation.

Wheat:
25% yield enhancement with a 12% reduction in cost of cultivation.

Sugarcane:
38% higher yields with significant cost savings.

1.2. Climate Smart Agriculture Village

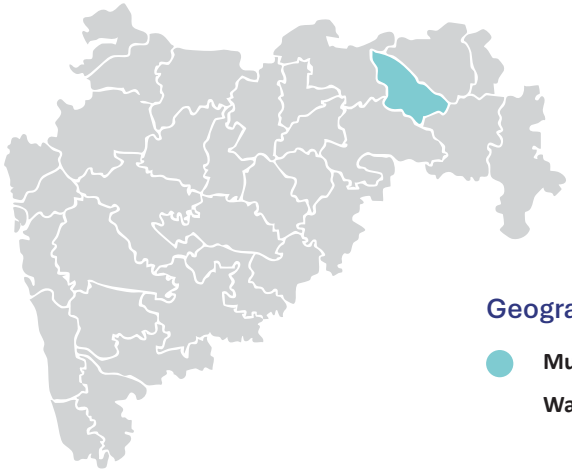
NABARD | NATIONAL BANK FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Objective: To develop Muradgaon Belsare in Wardha, Maharashtra as a model Climate Smart Agriculture Village by integrating resource-efficient, resilient, and inclusive farming practices aimed at reducing climate vulnerability and increasing farm productivity and profitability.

Launched in FY 2023–24, the NABARD-supported Climate Smart Agriculture Village (CSAV) initiative, implemented by Syngenta Foundation India, aims to transform Muradgaon Belsare into a sustainable, climate-resilient agriculture ecosystem. The project empowers 158 households through a combination of capacity building, demonstration plots, and CSA-based interventions focused on key crops like soybean, cotton, wheat, and Bengal gram. In its second year (FY 2024–25), the initiative achieved full household coverage, mainstreaming practices such as Broad Bed Furrow (BBF) planting, Seed Treatment with bio-fertilizers, Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), and Integrated Pest Management (IPM). These efforts not only enhanced yield and reduced input costs but also strengthened soil health and climate adaptation.

The year witnessed remarkable scaling of proven practices, most notably BBF in soybean cultivation—and continued farmer engagement through demo events, soil health management, and participatory knowledge sessions. Adoption of these interventions has significantly boosted incomes and lowered dependence on chemical inputs, creating a replicable model for climate-smart rural transformation.

Climate Smart Agriculture Village



Geographies Covered:

Muradgaon Belsare Village, Deoli Block, Wardha District, Maharashtra

HIGHLIGHTS

- Full coverage of 158 households achieved under CSA practices through consistent handholding.
- 271 acres under Broad Bed Furrow (BBF) for soybean—surpassing initial targets.
- Visually impactful CSA Demonstration plots for Soybean, Cotton, Wheat, and Bengal gram were established while conducting farmers exposure visit across the various stages of crop.
- 216 trees planted to help biodiversity, soil conservation and carbon sequestration.
- Demonstration event attended by 130 farmers and key dignitaries, reinforcing trust and visibility of CSA gains.

Yield enhancement across crops:

- Soybean: +47% (from 5.37 to 7.88 qtl/acre)
- Cotton: +13% (from 7.64 to 8.66 qtl/acre)
- Wheat: +6% (from 8.94 to 9.44qtl/acre)
- Gram: +16% (from 7.64 to 8.89 qtl/acre)

Cost of cultivation reduced:

- Soybean: ₹11,000 to ₹9,500/acre (−14%)
- Cotton: ₹25,000 to ₹23,000/acre (−8%)
- Wheat: ₹10,000 to ₹9,000/acre (−10%)
- Gram: ₹10,500 to ₹9,000/acre (−14%)

Income gains per acre:

- Soybean: +30%
- Cotton and Gram: +21%
- Wheat: +10%

1.3. Implementation of DRE powered Livelihood applications across identified locations in Bihar

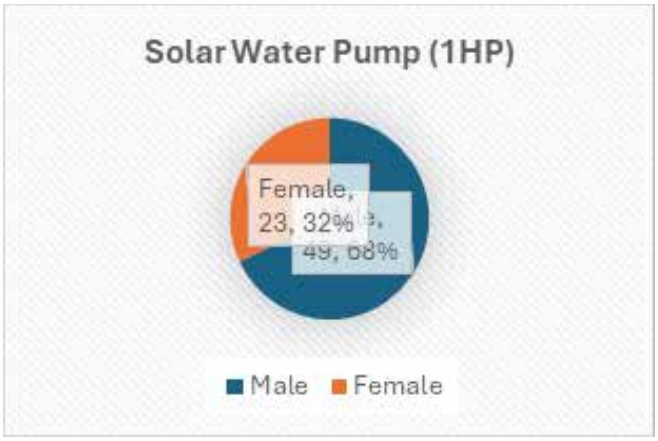
In collaboration with UNDP, Syngenta Foundation India has coordinated the deployment of 102 DRE technologies across 8 districts of Bihar. The DRE technology includes 72 micro solar pumps of 1 HP capacity and 30 Solar powered DC freezer of 100 litre capacity. These technologies are designed to enhance agricultural productivity and sustainability by providing reliable, clean energy solutions to farmers.

The district wise breakup is given in the table below.

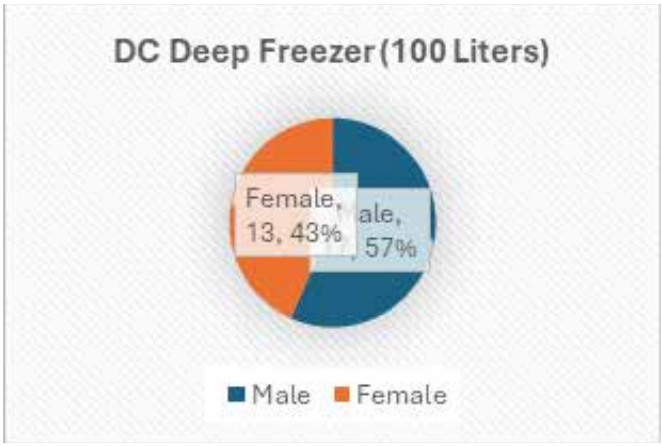
Sr No.	Districts	Solar Water Pump (1HP)	DC Deep Freezer (100 Liters)
1	Vaishali	9	5
2	Muzaffarpur	10	6
3	Saharsa	7	4
4	Purnea	12	5
5	Bhojpur	5	0
6	Kaimur	15	0
7	Samastipur	14	5
8	Madhubani	0	5
	Total	**72**	**30**

- **Gender Inclusion:** The pie chart-1 for the Solar Water Pump (1HP) shows that 68% of users are male (49 individuals), while 32% are female (23 individuals). The pie chart-2 for the DC Deep Freezer (100 Liters) indicates that 57% of users are male (17 individuals), whereas 43% are female (13 individuals). The smaller gender gap compared to the solar water pump suggests that both men and women are more equally engaged in using deep freezer

Gender distribution of the beneficiaries



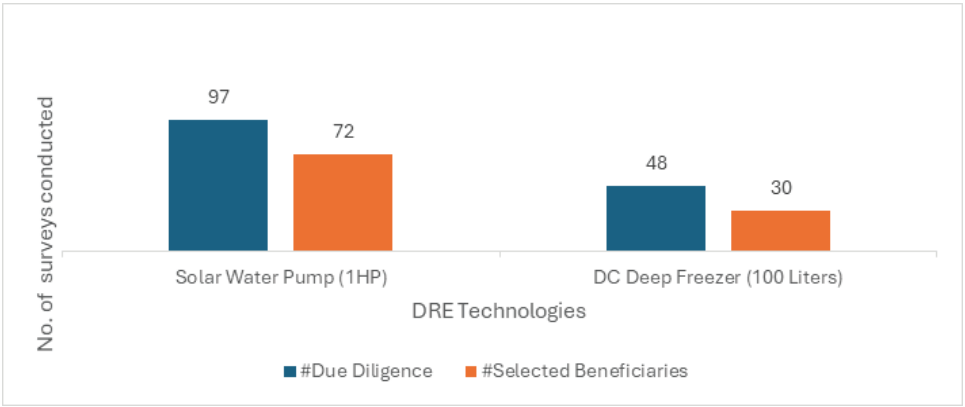
Pie Chart- 1



Pie Chart- 2

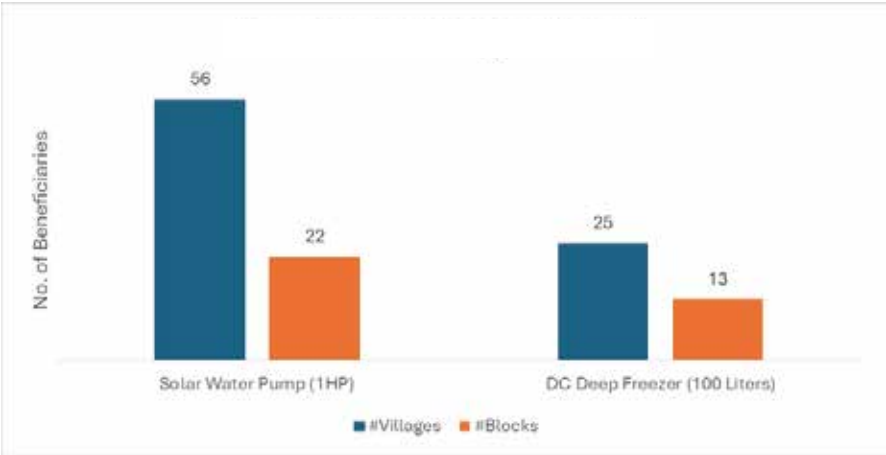
- **Details on Due Diligence Survey:** The below graph presents details of the due diligence survey conducted for two DRE technologies: the Solar Water Pump (1HP) and the DC Deep Freezer (100 Liters). The survey results show that a total of 97 due diligence assessments were conducted for the Solar Water Pump, out of which 72 beneficiaries were selected. In comparison, 48 due diligence surveys were carried out for the DC Deep Freezer, leading to the selection of 30 beneficiaries

Details of Due Diligence Survey



- **Blocks & Villages assessed:** The below graph illustrates the No. of blocks and villages covered by Solar Water Pump (1HP) and the DC Deep Freezer (100 Liters) beneficiaries. The Solar Water Pump has been implemented in 56 villages, spanning across 22 blocks, whereas DC Deep Freezer, which has been installed in 25 villages and covers 13 blocks.

No. of Blocks & Villages Assessed



Beneficiaries with their Solar Panels

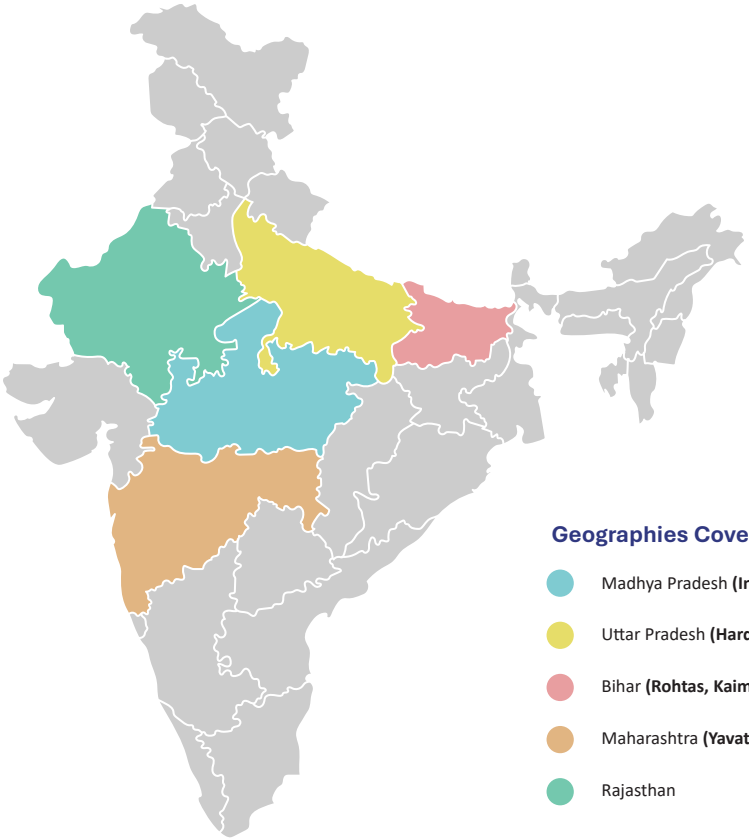
SFI has established a structured impact evaluation methodology to assess socio-economic and environmental outcomes of deployed DRE systems. It has conducted market analyses to identify key gaps and provide targeted technical and financial recommendations. Additionally, SFI has assessed scaling pathways, including business planning for existing DRE applications and opportunities to expand adoption through government schemes and financial institutions.

1.4. Capacity Building and Integration of Micro-Entrepreneurs with FPOs

Objective: To build and incubate 500 rural micro-entrepreneurs and strengthen Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) across four states by equipping both individuals and institutions with enterprise skills, digital tools, and strategic market linkages to enhance income and sustainability.

Under this initiative, Syngenta Foundation India (SFI), in collaboration with Villgro Innovation Foundation, supported 16 FPOs across Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Maharashtra. The program aimed to train and incubate 500 Agri-Entrepreneurs (AEs) to act as last-mile service providers, while also enhancing the institutional capacities of FPOs through structured leadership and governance training. Each AE was given 45 days of online training covering business models like poultry, vermicomposting, apiculture, nursery management, input/output trading, and digital banking. Simultaneously, SFI conducted specialized governance, compliance, and business development training for women-led FPO Boards in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, equipping them with practical leadership skills and tools to drive change.

Capacity Building and Integration of Micro-Entrepreneurs with FPOs



Geographies Covered:

- Madhya Pradesh **(Indore, Ujjain, Sehore, Dewas, Vidisha)**
- Uttar Pradesh **(Hardoi, Gonda)**
- Bihar **(Rohtas, Kaimur)**
- Maharashtra **(Yavatmal)**
- Rajasthan

HIGHLIGHTS

- 500 Agri-Entrepreneurs successfully trained and incubated
- AEs initiated diverse ventures in fish farming, seed processing, mushroom cultivation, poultry, goatry, digital banking, vermicomposting, etc.
- Women-led FPOs (Badaun, Gonda, Bundi) accessed over ₹2.25 Cr in credit and improved compliance and market engagement
- Over 50 women trained in leadership, digital literacy, and strategic planning
- Use of AE Digital Diary app for farmer onboarding and MIS
- Inspirational success stories such as Gudia Devi (mushroom entrepreneur), Mohit Singh (vermicompost), Dilip Dhakad (apiculture), and Raisa (poultry & compost)
- Improved FPO-Farmer integration, local market visibility, and adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture practices

1.5. Enhancing Green Leaf Quality and Reducing the Living Income Gap for STGs

Objective: To promote chemical compliance, sustainable tea cultivation, and economic resilience among Small Tea Growers (STGs) of Dirai and Kenduguri Tea Estates by strengthening Agri-Entrepreneurship, eco-friendly practices, and diversification models.

Implemented by Syngenta Foundation India (SFI) in partnership with Luxmi Tea, this project aimed to enhance the quality and traceability of green tea leaves sourced from Small Tea Growers (STGs), while simultaneously addressing income instability and environmental challenges. Between May 2024 and May 2025, the program focused on creating a robust framework for compliance, capacity building, diversification, and sustainable farming practices.

The initiative engaged 1,098 STGs across training, demonstration, and monitoring activities. It ensured zero detection of banned chemicals in tea leaves through training and field audits. Demonstration plots highlighted best practices such as vermicomposting, IPM, and use of eco-friendly inputs. A traceability system was introduced to improve procurement transparency, while diversification efforts helped farmers reduce reliance solely on tea cultivation. Lead farmers were trained as Agri-Entrepreneurs (AEs) to extend mentorship and ensure local support.

Geographies Covered: Dirai and Kenduguri Tea Estates (Assam)

HIGHLIGHTS

Chemical Compliance

- Conducted 180 training sessions for 1,098 STGs on safe and sustainable chemical usage.
- Distributed printed materials, including approved chemical lists and banned chemical guidelines.
- Ensured zero detection of banned chemicals in tea leaves supplied by STGs.

Quality Leaf Production

- Educated STGs on quality plucking techniques, including fine leaf count practices.
- Improved the quality of leaves supplied to factories, resulting in better prices for STGs.

Traceability Mechanism

- Implemented a challan system to track tea leaf procurement, ensuring accountability and consistency.

Sustainable Farming Practices

- Established 30 demonstration plots showcasing sustainable practices such as vermicomposting, yellow sticky traps, and light traps.
- Introduced Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques to reduce chemical dependency.

Economic Diversification

- Promoted intercropping, livestock rearing, and other income-generating activities to diversify STG livelihoods.
- Supported on-farm and off-farm diversification to reduce financial reliance solely on tea cultivation.

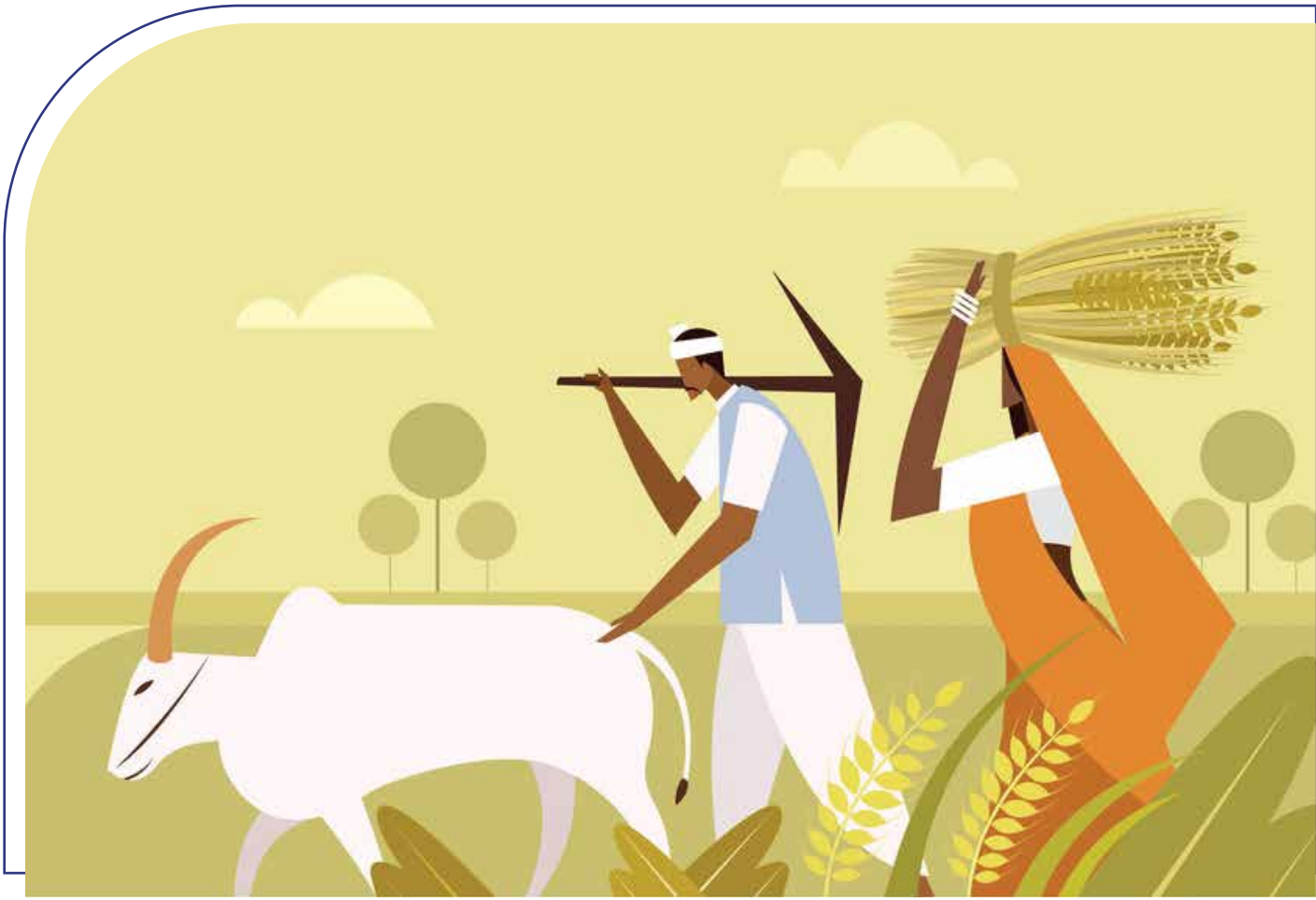
Capacity Building

- Trained 25 lead farmers in Agri-Entrepreneurship (AE) to empower them to support and guide other STGs.
- Strengthened collaboration with the Tea Board of India (TBOI) to promote soil testing, biometric cards, and self-help group creation.

Environmental Sustainability

- Encouraged the adoption of Indigenous Technical Knowledge (ITK) and sustainable practices for water conservation and soil health improvement.
- Conducted 39 soil sample analyses and advised on soil carbon and pH correction.
- Reduced chemical usage, enhancing soil fertility and reducing environmental impact.

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING



2.1. IRise Program

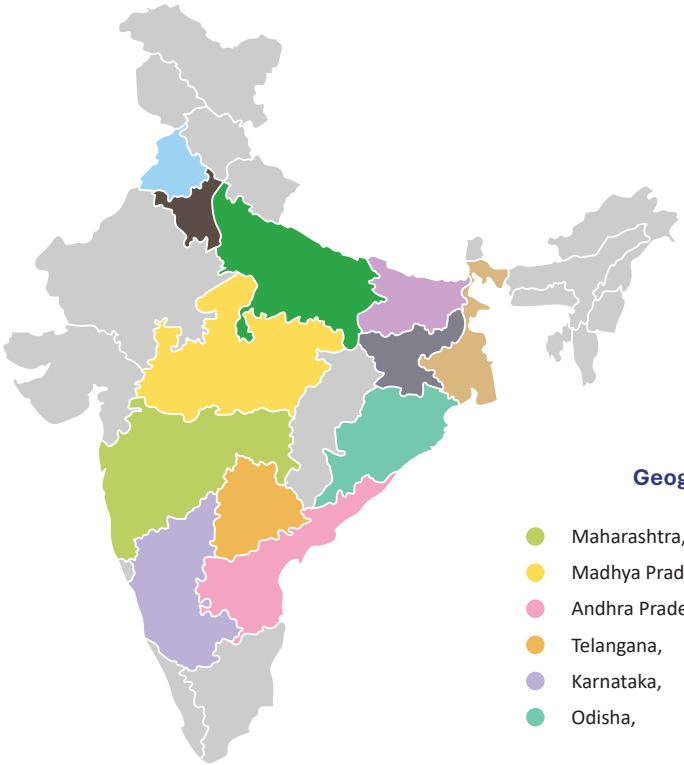
Vision: To empower rural youth to enhance their role in the future of agriculture.

Mission:

- Educate rural youth in agriculture through the training and internship program.
- Engage them in the agri-sector through employment, or as a smart farmer.
- Elevate their livelihood income.

The IRise program, supported by Syngenta India, is a transformative youth development initiative aimed at revitalizing agriculture through skill-building. Targeting youth aged 18–35, the program blends classroom training, field exposure, and advanced pathways into agribusiness careers or entrepreneurship. Through MoUs with ICAR, Agri universities, RSETIs, KVKs, and NGOs, IRise is building a scalable ecosystem to create future-ready agri-leaders. The 2024-2025 pilot phase showed promising participation, especially among women candidates.

IRise Program



Geographies Covered:

- Maharashtra,
- Madhya Pradesh,
- Andhra Pradesh,
- Telangana,
- Karnataka,
- Odisha,
- West Bengal,
- Punjab,
- Haryana,
- Uttar Pradesh,
- Jharkhand,
- Bihar

HIGHLIGHTS

01

1832 youth trained (Jan-Mar 2025): 23% female participants.

02

The IRise Program is accredited by CCS NIAM.

03

MoUs signed with ICAR, PDKV, Akola, VNMKV, Parbhani, MGRDPRU Gadag, Shamayita Math

04

517 candidates placed for field experience.

05

52 Batches completed till March 2025.

2.2. AE Training Program

Objective: To equip 100 rural youth—particularly women—with technical, entrepreneurial, and agri-input management skills through certified Agri-Entrepreneur (AE) training, enabling them to become licensed agri-input providers and support sustainable rural livelihoods in Andhra Pradesh.

Under a service contract signed with Grameen Foundation for Social Impact (GFSI), Syngenta Foundation India (SFI) was engaged to deliver offline AE training to 100 candidates selected by GFSI from intervention villages across East and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh. The training focused on preparing these rural youth to take up roles as licensed agri-input dealers and extension agents within their communities.

The AE training covered modules on technical agri-practices, input licensing, CSA (Climate Smart Agriculture), business planning, financial literacy, and digital tools. Each batch underwent a 25-day rigorous offline training program. The training was conducted across four batches: two held in August and September 2024, and the next two in March 2025. SFI facilitated the certification of qualifying participants through CCS NIAM, Jaipur-enabling them to apply for licenses in seed and fertilizer retailing.

GFSI managed the logistics, candidate mobilization, and attendance, while SFI ensured high-quality training delivery, assessment, and monitoring through its Training Management System (TMS).

Geographies Covered: East Godavari and West Godavari districts, Andhra Pradesh

HIGHLIGHTS

- 100 candidates trained across 4 batches
- Candidates trained on CSA, IPM, digital literacy, and enterprise planning
- 71 participants certified by CCS NIAM
- GFSI responsible for mobilization, infrastructure, and logistical support
- Training delivered offline, with practical sessions and real-time assessments
- SFI ensured regular reporting via its Training Management System (TMS)
- Focus on empowering rural women and strengthening village-level agri-services

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

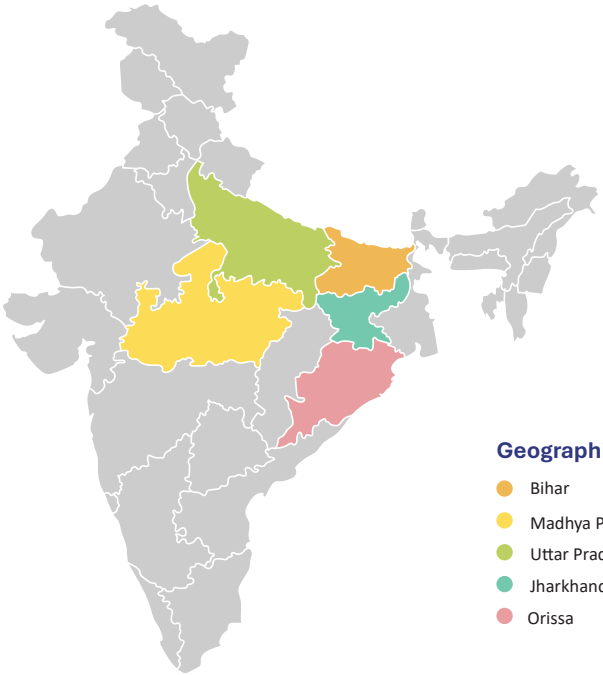
3.1. Development of 10,000 Women Agri Entrepreneurs

Gates Foundation

Objective: To build livelihoods and increase the income of small and marginal women producers in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and other states by scaling up the Agri-Entrepreneur model through Self-Help Group (SHG) platforms.

This project, supported by the Gates Foundation, is a continuation of a prior initiative aimed at expanding the Agri-Entrepreneur (AE) model in partnership with State Rural Livelihood Missions (SRLMs). Under this project, around 9400 AEs have been trained, of which a remarkable 72% are women AEs. These AEs have become vital change agents in their communities, supporting over 1.98 million smallholder farmers by providing access to, quality inputs, agro-advisory services, digital banking, and output market linkage services. Their reach now spans more than 25,000 villages across MP, Bihar, UP, Jharkhand and Orissa, evidencing deep rural penetration and trust. As a testimony of this project contributing significantly to women's economic empowerment and enhancing rural household incomes, more than 1750 women AEs have become Lakpati Didi during short span of 2 years. In total, 3300 Lakpati AEs have been developed offering multiple services to farmers.

Development of 10,000 Women Agri Entrepreneurs



Geographies Covered:

- Bihar
- Madhya Pradesh,
- Uttar Pradesh,
- Jharkhand
- Orissa

HIGHLIGHTS

01 9,400 AEs trained; 72.5% are women

02 7,603 AEs incubated with business archetypes.

03 ₹1,318+ crore worth of business transacted in FY 2024–25

04 1.98 million farmers reached, including 1.5 million women

05 25,000+ villages served; 74,000+ farmer meetings conducted

06 2264 AEs benefited worth 25 crores from various government schemes.

07 Income diversification for 5346 AEs undertaking allied businesses.

08 60,000+ farmers adopted CSA practices; 90,000+ shifted to high-value crops

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

4.1. NABARD FPO Accelerator Program

NATIONAL BANK FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Objective: To enhance the business viability and performance of 40 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) across Maharashtra through targeted capacity-building, market linkages, and strategic mentorship.

Launched in November 2024, the NABARD-supported FPO Accelerator Program is a 15-month initiative implemented by Syngenta Foundation India (SFI) in partnership with the Government of Maharashtra under the SMART program. With Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD), Lucknow as the knowledge and training partner, the program aims to empower FPOs through structured business training, dedicated mentorship, and strategic linkages. A team of Project, Market, and Upskilling Leads supported by 8 Business Coordinators is deployed to ensure seamless coordination and on-ground support.

Geographies Covered: 14 districts across Maharashtra

HIGHLIGHTS

- Baseline survey completed for all 40 FPOs across 14 districts
- Tailored business plans developed based on value chain analysis
- 3 batches of residential foundation training completed for FPO Boards
- Partnerships initiated for credit and input/output linkages
- Value chain diversification recommended for 75% of FPOs
- Digital baseline tool created and deployed for data analysis

4.2. NABARD–MP FPO Project

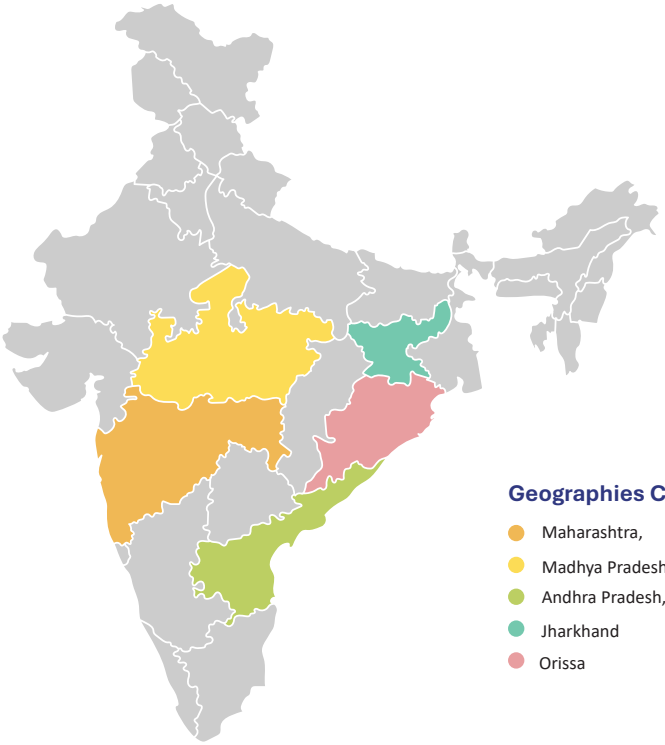
Objective: To establish Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in Madhya Pradesh leveraging the Agri-Entrepreneur (AE) network for efficient last-mile service delivery, market linkage, and governance, thereby creating resilient and self-sustaining farmer institutions.

Recognizing the success and impact of the Agri-Entrepreneurship (AE) model, NABARD Madhya Pradesh sanctioned grant support to create four Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in Sagar, Vidisha, Dindori, and Dhar districts. These FPOs were formed organically through the AE network, ensuring strong grassroots leadership, strong connect with farmers by the AEs, sound governance by the trained AEs as BODs, and early-stage operational success.

Each FPO was registered within two months of project initiation and has mobilized about 400-500 shareholders. Importantly, AEs have assumed leadership roles as Board of Directors (BODs), facilitating knowledge transfer and community engagement. All four FPOs have secured necessary business licenses, completed their first financial audits, and initiated business transactions, positioning them to apply for equity grant support. All the FPOs are registered under NCDEX opening the scope for online trading of agri-produce.

In parallel, SFI has also established six additional FPOs under its Captive FPO Initiative, with 2 in Maharashtra, and one each in Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and Madhya Pradesh. Of these, three FPOs (Jharkhand, AP, MP) are performing well with significant business volumes through the AE network.

NABARD–MP FPO Project



HIGHLIGHTS

- 4 NABARD-supported FPOs registered in MP (Sagar, Vidisha, Dindori, Dhar) & 6 FPOs promoted by SFI in Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh through AE network.
- Shareholder base ranging from 325 to 500 members per FPO
- Business transactions initiated and audits completed within one year
- AEs as BODs, fostered strong governance, trust, and entrepreneurial leadership.
- All FPOs hold necessary input/output licenses and are registered under NCDEX
- FPOs are positioned for equity grant application post audit and compliance
- All FPOs doing the Business activities effectively initiated.

4.3. Income Enhancement of Smallholder Farmers

Objective: To enhance the income of 30,000 smallholder farmers in Madhya Pradesh by developing 300 Agri-Entrepreneurs to deliver agri-advisory, promote climate-resilient practices, and input output market linkage services.

In collaboration with SBI Foundation, Syngenta Foundation India launched the SBIF LEAP : Income Enhancement of Smallholder Farmers Through Agri Entrepreneurship Program in the tribal districts of Dhar and Jhabua in Madhya Pradesh, Over a three-year period, the program aims to develop 300 AEs who will provide customized services such as agro-advisory, soil testing, digital banking, crop demonstrations, and market linkage support and encourage farmers to adopt adopt good agricultural practices and climate resilient farming methods which will help them improve their income and sustainability. The first year focused on strategic planning, field team deployment, AE selection and training, and community engagement. Demonstration plots were established to promote best practices in farming, drip irrigation, IPM, and crop diversification.

Geographies Covered: Dhar and Jhabua districts, Madhya Pradesh

HIGHLIGHTS

- 334 AEs onboarded (32% women); 324 trained
- 30,124 farmers registered through AE Digital Diary
- 137 AEs incubated with at least one business activity
- 20 demonstration plots established during Rabi season
- Yield increase of 30–40% observed in demo plots
- nitiated groundwork for capital grant support and credit linkage

4.4. Empowering Rural Livelihoods through Poultry Entrepreneurship

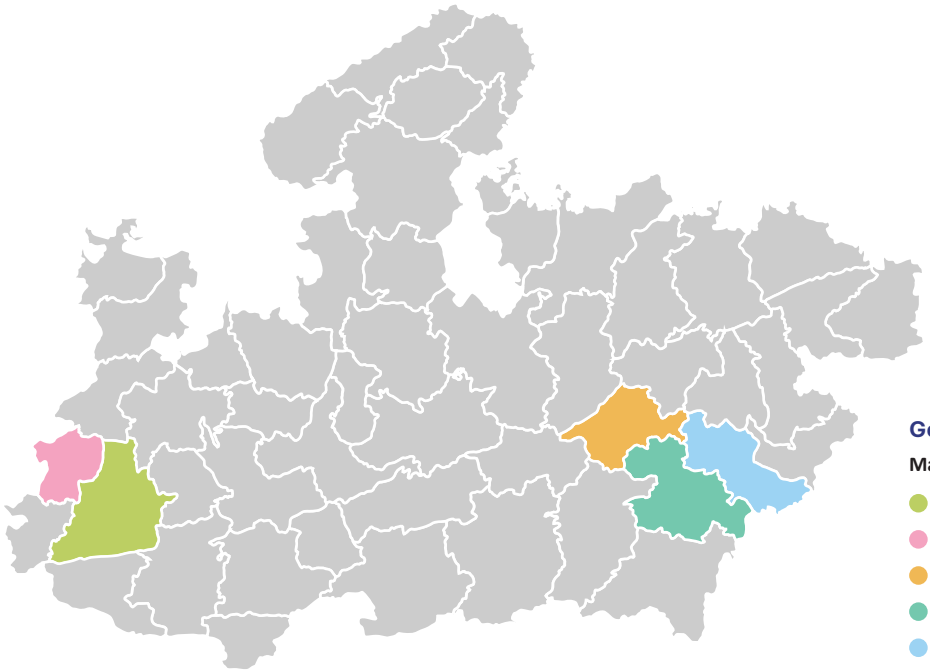
Objective: To establish and support a network of Poultry Entrepreneurs (PEs) and train smallholder farmers in sustainable backyard poultry farming practices, thereby enhancing rural incomes and livelihood security in Madhya Pradesh.

The Hatching Hope India initiative, sponsored by Heifer International and Cargill and implemented by Syngenta Foundation India (SFI), aims to improve the nutritional and economic well-being of rural communities by establishing 400 Poultry Entrepreneurs and promoting poultry farming among over 200,000 farmers. The initiative addresses last-mile service delivery challenges by creating a self-sustaining ecosystem of agri-based microenterprises led by local entrepreneurs.

In Madhya Pradesh, SFI is executing the program across five districts—Dhar, Jhabua, Jabalpur, Mandla, and Dindori—by training Agri-Entrepreneurs in poultry farming, enabling them to deliver technical services, rear poultry, and onboard farmers for collective impact. In collaboration with NDVSU Jabalpur, a Training of Trainers (ToT) program equipped the project team with comprehensive knowledge in biosecurity, feed management, disease prevention, and poultry economics. Farmer outreach efforts, PE mentoring, financial linkage facilitation, and market ecosystem strengthening have formed the core of the intervention.

Despite operational challenges like limited chick availability and delays in campus permissions for PE training, the project has made significant strides toward building a decentralized poultry value chain with localized enterprise hubs.

Empowering Rural Livelihoods through Poultry Entrepreneurship



Geographies Covered:

Madhya Pradesh

- Dhar
- Jhabua
- Jabalpur
- Mandla
- Dindori

HIGHLIGHTS

- A total of 240 Agri-Entrepreneurs were targeted under the project.
- 138 Agri-Entrepreneurs have been registered, and 65 have been onboarded.
- 48 Agri-Entrepreneurs have successfully completed training.
- 417 farmer outreach meetings were conducted by AEMs across project districts.
- 8,095 farmers have been trained on backyard poultry farming practices.
- 4,773 farmers have been onboarded under trained Poultry Entrepreneurs.
- PE incubation is underway with shed construction initiated by 25 entrepreneurs and chick placement completed for 10.
- A veterinary expert has been appointed to provide technical support on biosecurity and poultry health.
- Branding and monitoring of model poultry sheds is in progress to ensure quality standards and replication.

4.5. Living Income Project – Empowering Small Tea Growers in Assam & North Bengal

Hindustan Unilever Limited

Objective: To reduce the living income gap for Small Tea Growers (STGs) in Assam by promoting on-farm and off-farm diversification, enhancing market linkages, and building resilient farming communities.

The Living Income Project, led by Syngenta Foundation India (SFI) with support from HUL and IDH, aims to address the income instability faced by STGs by diversifying their income sources beyond tea. The project introduced a range of alternative livelihoods—including high-value crops like King Chilli and Dragon Fruit, as well as mushroom cultivation, piggery, goatry, and backyard poultry farming.

Through structured training programs, capacity-building sessions, exposure visits, and strategic resource distribution, the project empowered 1129 STGs to adopt diversified agricultural practices. These were further strengthened through market linkages with private buyers, government departments, and NGOs. The project's emphasis on women's participation and entrepreneurial leadership has contributed significantly to the transformation of STG households into economically secure, self-sustaining units.

Geographies Covered: Assam

HIGHLIGHTS

43	1129	1064	65
No. of AEs:	No. of farmers benefitted:	No. of Male Farmers:	No. of Female Farmers:

- Training Programs: Conducted 150 farmer meetings and multiple trainings for capacity building in diversified agricultural practices.
- Resource Distribution: Delivered 1260 kg of mushroom spawn, 51600 King Chilli seedlings, 42 Yorkshire piglets, and 11200 poultry birds.
- Market Linkages: Established partnerships with buyers for mushrooms, King Chilli, poultry, and pork, enabling sustainable market access for STGs.
- Increased Adoption: Supported 257 STGs in mushroom cultivation, 516 in King Chilli,43 in Dragon Fruit, 71 in piggery, and 214 in poultry farming.

4.6. Better Income Project – Small Tea Growers Sustainability Platform (STGSP)

Objective: To transform the livelihoods of Small Tea Growers (STGs) in Assam and North Bengal by improving green leaf quality, promoting mechanization, diversifying income sources, and establishing sustainable market linkages across the tea value chain.

The Small Tea Growers Sustainability Platform (STGSP), launched in partnership with IDH, has been operational since 2019 to address challenges faced by STGs—especially income instability, poor access to markets, and low adoption of sustainable farming practices. In 2024, the platform made remarkable strides across five districts in Assam and parts of North Bengal by focusing on Agri-Entrepreneur development, tea leaf quality enhancement, climate-resilient agriculture, mechanization, and income diversification.

The program certified 90 farmers as Agri-Entrepreneurs (AEs) through NIAM, supported their linkages with bought leaf factories, and enabled 286 AEs to transact over ₹2.1 Cr in business across input supply, output aggregation, mechanization, nursery, mushroom, and poultry. The project emphasized women's inclusion, training over 1,050 women STGs and supporting women-led AEs in mushroom and poultry businesses. The STGSP also promoted STG farm diaries to monitor input cost and income, and enabled 754 STGs to access schemes from the Tea Board of India. These initiatives contributed to improving yield, increasing price realization, and creating diversified income pathways for over 32,000 STGs.

Geographies Covered: Assam (Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Golaghat, Moran, Jorhat) and North Bengal (Jalpaiguri, and nearby STG belts)

Better Income Project – Small Tea Growers Sustainability Platform (STGSP)

HIGHLIGHTS

Enhanced tea leaf quality through training and pruning activities, impacting over 18,920 STGs across 94600 bighas.

Training Programs: Successfully conducted training sessions for 16,125 STGs, focusing on pruning practices, plucking standards, pesticide management, and income diversification techniques and certifying 90 farmers as AEs through NIAM Certification.

Resource Allocation: Distributed essential inputs such as high-quality seeds, irrigation pipes, vermicompost beds, and farm mechanization tools to support STG productivity.

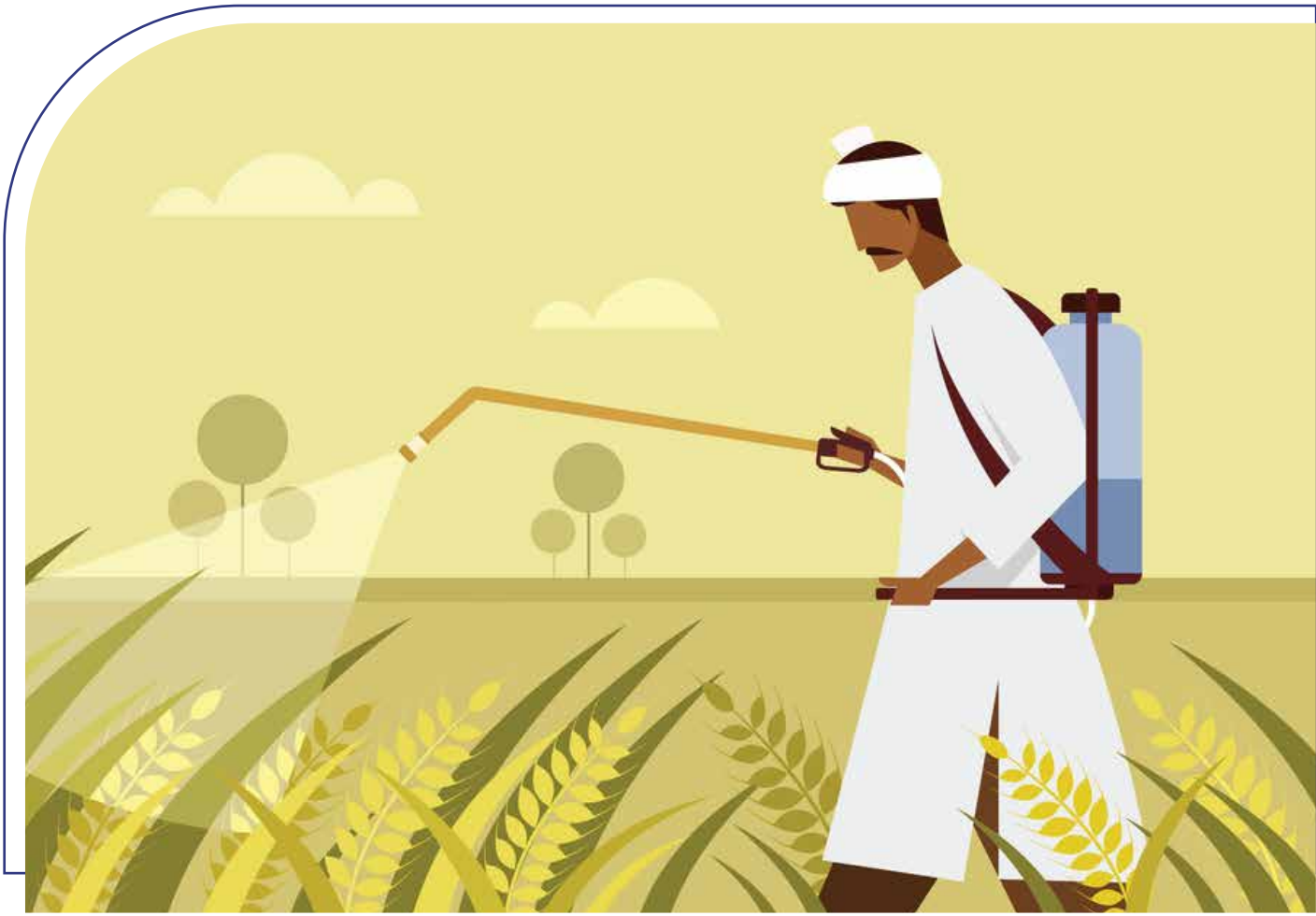
Market Linkages: Facilitated agreements with 55 bought leaf factories and 61 AEs, enabling market access for over 5,200 STGs and improving green leaf pricing.

Mechanization Support: Assisted over 4,000 STGs with diesel-operated harvesting machines, reducing harvesting costs and increasing operational efficiency.

Diversification Success: Engaged more than 10520 STGs in on-farm and off-farm activities, such as King Chilli cultivation, Mushroom production, and Potato farming, creating stable additional income streams.

Government Scheme Facilitation: Enabled 754 STGs to access multiple schemes, including Green Leaf Vehicles, irrigation systems, and solar operators, boosting their financial and operational capabilities.

CREDIT & FINANCIAL ECOSYSTEM



5.1. Bharat Banker Program

Objective: To skill 25,000 rural youth across India for employment and entrepreneurship in the BFSI sector while strengthening cooperative institutions like PACS

The Bharat Banker Program is a flagship rural skilling initiative by SFI aimed at bridging gaps in rural financial infrastructure and employment. In partnership with VAMNICOM and the National Insurance Academy for certification, and with implementation support from Pronnati Consultancy (retired bankers' network), the program empowers rural youth with the knowledge to operate in banking, insurance, and cooperative institutions. It also contributes to reviving rural banking by positioning PACS as Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) for last-mile financial services.

Geographies Covered: Pan-India (focus on underserved rural regions)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Target to train 25,000 rural youth in BFSI sector skills
- Promotes financial inclusion and job creation in underserved areas
- Supports government financial schemes and rural digitization
- Focus on skilling youth for PACS transformation and resilience

5.2. Business Correspondent Program

Objective: To enhance financial inclusion by training and deploying Agri-Entrepreneurs (AEs) as Business Correspondents (BCs) in underserved rural regions.

SFI's Business Correspondent Program began in early 2025 through partnerships with Bank of India and FINO Payments Bank. Focused on empowering AEs with financial service delivery capabilities, the program enrolls and trains them to become BCs, thus deepening rural outreach. In Maharashtra alone, over 230 applications were received, with a vision to scale the network across Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh. The program also prioritizes digital transformation and financial product diversification to meet evolving rural needs.

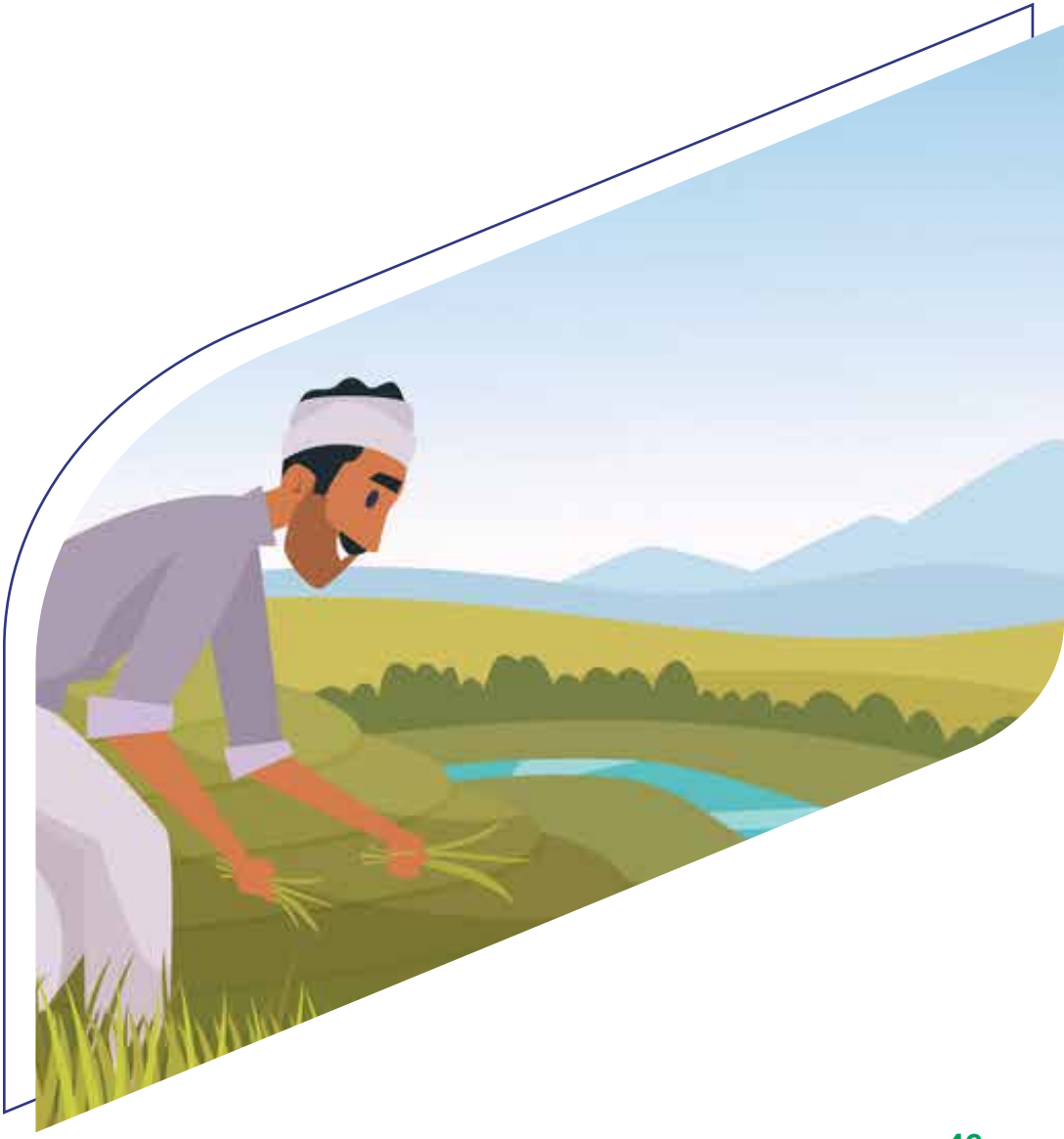
Geographies Covered: Maharashtra (current) | Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh (expansion)

HIGHLIGHTS

- 232 applications received in Maharashtra; onboarding underway
- Expansion to 300 AEs in Madhya Pradesh; next phases in Bihar & UP
- Plans for digital banking tools and mobile platforms
- Product diversification to include value-added rural financial services
- Strategic tie-ups with fintech and financial institutions

SECTION 4

STORIES OF IMPACT



4.1. Empowering Resilience through Climate-Smart Agriculture

Sujata Bhatkar

Mrs. Sujata Subhasrao Bhatkar, a 54-year-old woman farmer from Muradgaon Belsare village in Wardha district of Maharashtra, has been practicing agriculture for over 24 years. After the sudden demise of her husband, she single-handedly managed her 8-acre farm while raising her family. Traditionally relying on flat-land farming methods for crops like soybean, cotton, and Bengal gram, she faced significant setbacks due to climate variability, particularly during the 2022 Kharif season when high-intensity rainfall led to severe crop loss.

In 2022, heavy and sudden rainfall submerged Sujata's soybean field, causing root rot and pest outbreaks, which drastically reduced her yield and income. Like many farmers in the region, she lacked access to climate-resilient techniques and had limited exposure to sustainable agricultural practices.

In 2023, under the CSAV program supported by SFI and NABARD, Sujata received comprehensive training in climate-smart agriculture (CSA). She adopted the Broad Bed Furrow (BBF) method along with a suite of other CSA interventions, including Soil Testing & Fertilizer Advisory; Seed Treatment (Trichoderma & Rhizobium); Integrated Nutrient Management (INM); Integrated Pest Management (IPM) using sticky traps; Sprinkler Irrigation with stage-wise water advisories and Capacity-building programs on climate adaptation.

Impact of Climate Smart Practices

Increased Yield and Resilience

- Yield Rise: Sujata's soybean yield increased to 13.53 quintals/acre with BBF, compared to 10.5 quintals/acre under traditional methods—a 60% improvement over two years.
- Her CSA-adopted plot yielded 30% higher than the conventional one (13.53 vs. 10.41 quintals/acre).
- Reduced Crop Loss: Fewer incidences of yellow mosaic and root rot due to better drainage and aeration.

Economic Gains

- Income Boost: Her income from soybean cultivation increased from ₹30,000 (2022-23) to ₹56,826 (2024-25), marking a 60–80% growth.

Improved Water Management

- The BBF system ensured reduced water stagnation and ease in inter-culture operations like weeding, hoeing etc, and better drainage during heavy rainfall.

Social and Community Impact

Sujata's transition from traditional to climate-smart farming has inspired a ripple effect in her village:

- Women Empowerment: Her proactive role and success story are encouraging other women farmers to adopt CSA practices.
- Community Learning: She has become a role model, fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing among farmers.
- Behavioral Shift: Increased community confidence in climate-resilient agriculture, leading to innovation and reduced vulnerability.

Sujata Bhatkar's journey is a powerful testament to how climate-smart agriculture can transform the lives of smallholder farmers. Through technical support, practical training, and sustainable interventions, the Syngenta Foundation India has enabled farmers like Sujata to not only secure their livelihoods but also emerge as change agents in their communities.

4.2. Embracing Climate-Smart Agriculture for Cotton Farming

Prafful Diwakar Bele

Prafful Diwakar Bele is a 28-year-old educated and progressive farmer from Yeranwadi village in Wardha district of Maharashtra. With a graduation degree and deep-rooted passion for agriculture, he supports a family of four by cultivating Cotton during Kharif and Bengal Gram during Rabi on his five-acre farmland.

Prafful's farming journey was severely impacted by unpredictable weather patterns, particularly heavy rainfall during the Kharif season, which damaged crops and delayed harvests. In 2024, mid-August rains caused late flowering in cotton, extending the harvesting season till February. Additionally, a lack of awareness of climate-smart agricultural (CSA) techniques limited his ability to respond to these climate anomalies effectively.

His turning point came when he engaged with Agri-Entrepreneur Mentors (AEMs) under the EDF supported CSA Project. Through consistent training sessions, Prafful learned about the effects of climate change and adaptive techniques. He also participated in the Cotton N Balance Survey and received customized advisory, with his nitrogen use found to be within the optimum range.

He began implementing the following CSA techniques:

- Ridge and Furrow Bed Method for improved drainage and crop stability
- Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) with balanced micronutrients
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM) using traps to reduce chemical dependency

These interventions enabled him to maintain healthy crops even during excessive rains, ensuring standing crops and improved plant vigor.

Impact & Results

Metric	Control: Traditional practices	Treated: CSA practices	Change
Cotton Yield (quintals/acre)	10 quintals	13 quintals	▲ 37% increase
Input Cost	₹21,520	₹19,110	▼ 11% reduction
Cultivation Cost	₹42,440	₹43,430	▼ 2% reduction
Urea Use (per acre)	112.5 Kg	90 Kg (Saved half bag)	▼ Efficient use
Sprayings	Regular	2 fewer spraying events	▼ Reduced frequency

By adopting CSA, Prafful not only improved yield but also achieved cost savings of inputs, thereby enhancing profitability and resilience.

Initially skeptical about the ridge and furrow method, Prafful was convinced by the visible improvements in plant health and yield. Today, he confidently advocates CSA practices among fellow farmers and emphasizes balanced fertilization based on soil tests.

Prafful plans to scale CSA practices across all five acres, continue soil testing for customized nutrient management and adopt improved seed treatment methods for better resilience

Prafful's journey is a powerful example of how knowledge, technology, and community support can transform farming. His success highlights the importance of climate-smart solutions in ensuring long-term sustainability and income security for smallholder farmers.

"CSA practice is best for farming. Day by day, climate change is making farming more challenging. Its effects on yield are significant. CSA programs help manage unpredictable conditions, and input cost is reduced by 11%."

– Prafful Diwakar Bele

4.3. From Quantity to Quality – The Journey of Small Tea Grower

Gagan Kakoti

Like many small tea growers in Assam, Gagan Kakoti once believed that producing more leaves meant more income. His approach focused heavily on volume — relying on chemical inputs, irregular plucking cycles, and limited garden management practices. The result was poor-quality leaves that fetched lower prices and reduced buyer interest.

Recognizing his potential, Syngenta Foundation India engaged Gagan through its Agri-Entrepreneur (AE) training program. He learned the importance of quality parameters, sustainable tea practices, and ecologically safe pest control methods. A garden-level diagnosis was conducted, including Soil testing for nutrient analysis; Review of plucking cycles and Evaluation of chemical use
This laid the foundation for a transformational journey.

Key Interventions included

1. **Reduction of Chemical Inputs:**
Transitioned from synthetic pesticides to Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques and Indigenous Technical Knowledge (ITK) like yellow sticky traps.

2. **Pruning and Plucking Discipline:**
Trained in scientific pruning methods and regular plucking cycles, which improved leaf tenderness and uniformity.

3. Soil Health Management:
Post-soil analysis, organic manure and balanced fertilization were introduced to correct deficiencies and promote healthy plant growth.

4. Pest & Weed Control:
Manual weeding and regular pest surveillance were adopted, reducing the need for chemical sprays while ensuring a healthy crop.

5. Fine Leaf Percentage Training:
Gagan learned how to measure and maintain fine leaf percentage, achieving over 40% — a benchmark for premium-quality green leaf.

Outcomes

Impact Area	Before	After Intervention
Leaf Quality	Coarse, uneven	Finer, more uniform, better grade
Income per Kg	Lower price	₹15–20 more per kg of green leaf
Production Cost	High due to chemical use	Lowered through eco-friendly practices
Market Demand	Low	High – preferred by buyers & factories

Today, Gagan Kakoti is not just a successful farmer but also a role model in his community. His shift from quantity-driven to quality-focused farming has enhanced his income, reduced his input costs, and set a benchmark for other small tea growers.

"Earlier, I thought more leaves meant more money. But now I understand—quality matters."

– Gagan Kakoti

4.4. Cultivating Change through Nursery Enterprise in Madhya Pradesh

Prabhu Choudhary

Prabhu Choudhary, a progressive farmer from Dhulet village in Sardarpur block of Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district, has successfully transitioned from subsistence farming to becoming a thriving nursery entrepreneur. In 2024, recognizing the need for quality planting material among local farmers, Prabhu enrolled in Syngenta Foundation India's 40-day Agri-Entrepreneurship Training Program. Equipped with technical know-how and entrepreneurial skills, he launched his own nursery enterprise in December 2024.

Starting with a UV-stabilised net house nursery, Prabhu focused on producing healthy, disease-free vegetable seedlings. By conducting a door-to-door survey of 103 farmers in his region, he identified gaps in access to quality inputs and developed tailored offerings including a structured pre-booking system and flexible payment options. To build trust, he conducted live demonstrations showcasing the quality of his seedlings and nursery practices.

Prabhu also diversified into vermicomposting to promote sustainability and increase his income. His enterprise quickly gained traction, receiving orders for over 1.1 lakh seedlings within the first few months. Remarkably, he achieved financial break-even in just six months—an inspiring milestone for a first-generation entrepreneur.

Today, Prabhu serves over 100 farmers in his locality, helping them access reliable, high-yield planting material while enabling timely sowing and reducing crop failure. He plans to expand operations and share his expertise with nearby villages, reinforcing the spirit of community-led growth.

Impact:

- **Farmers Served:** 100+
- **Monthly Income Growth:** Achieved break-even within 6 months; profits now supplement household income
- **Initial Investment:** Personal savings + local loan
- **Seedlings Supplied:** 1.1 lakh+ (within initial months)
- **Innovations Introduced:** Pre-booking & deferred payment systems, live demos, and vermicomposting

AE Program Highlights:

- **Training:** 40-day Agri-Entrepreneurship Program by Syngenta Foundation India (2024), covering nursery management, business planning, pest and disease control, and farmer engagement
- **Mentorship:** Guided by an Agri-Entrepreneur Mentor (AEM) for business setup and scaling
- **Resources Provided:** Support for establishing a 20 x 12-meter UV-stabilised net house for seedling production

Prabhu Choudhary's journey is a shining example of how the right blend of skills, support, and vision can unlock sustainable rural livelihoods. Through his entrepreneurial drive and commitment to serving local farmers, he is not only building a successful business but also fostering agricultural resilience and community empowerment in Madhya Pradesh.

SECTION 5

ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

5.1. AWARDS & ACCOLADES

FICCI Award 2024: Sustainable Farmer Income Enhancement

For the third consecutive year, SFI has been honored with the prestigious **'Sustainable Farmer Income Enhancement Award',** recognizing the unwavering commitment to empowering farmers and driving sustainable agricultural practices.

GreenHarvest Innovator Award for Excellence in Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture

Honored with the GreenHarvest Innovator Award at the Sustainable Agriculture Summit and Awards 2024 organized by GreyMatters Communications & Consulting, AgriculturePost, and IndiAgri. This recognition celebrates SFI's outstanding contributions to environmentally friendly practices in agriculture.

5.2. ORGANIZATION CULTURE & INITIATIVES

Annual Synergy 2025

...Celebrating Collaboration and Impact
Syngenta Foundation India (SFI) and Agri-Entrepreneur Growth Foundation (AEGF) came together to host their flagship event Annual Synergy 2025 on March 17–18, 2025. The event served as a powerful platform to reflect on the year's milestones and reaffirm the organizations' joint commitment to transforming agriculture through innovation, entrepreneurship, and community partnerships.

From inspiring keynote sessions to engaging panel discussions, the event brought together leaders, experts, and field teams to exchange insights and chart the course for future impact. Outstanding contributions were celebrated through special recognitions for Agri-Entrepreneurs and project teams, highlighting the spirit of collaboration at the grassroots. Synergy 2025 reinforced the shared vision of inclusive growth and laid the groundwork for continued momentum in building a resilient and farmer-focused agricultural ecosystem.

Rajendra Jog, Executive Director SFI moderated a panel discussion on Sustainable Sourcing at IDH conference SUTRA in 2024.

Extending a Helping Hand: A Testament to Our Commitment

At Syngenta Foundation India (SFI), our responsibility towards our employees extends far beyond the workplace. Upholding our commitment to their well-being, we provide comprehensive Group Insurance benefits to all team members, ensuring a sense of security for them and their families.

In the past year, we were faced with the tragic loss of a valued colleague from Bihar. During this difficult time, SFI stood firmly by the bereaved family, ensuring that they received the necessary support through our Group Term Life Insurance policy, which offers financial assistance equivalent to three times the employee's annual CTC. When the claim process encountered challenges due to incomplete documentation, our field team stepped in to assist the employee's elderly parents with empathy and dedication, guiding them through every stage until the claim was successfully settled.

This act of solidarity reflects our core values of compassion, support, and community. It stands as a reminder of the culture we continue to nurture, one where every member of the SFI family feels protected, valued, and supported in times of need.

5.3. PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

5.4 . MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

SECTION 6

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

SYNGENTA FOUNDATION INDIA
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

	Notes	As at 31 March 2025 Rs.'000	As at 31 March 2024 Rs.'000
Equity and liabilities			
Reserves and surplus	3	**6,864**	(3,356)
		6,864	(3,356)
Non-current liabilities			
Long-term provisions	4	-	8,090
		-	8,090
Current liabilities			
Trade payables	5		
- total outstanding dues to micro enterprises and small enterprises		-	-
- total outstanding dues of creditors other than micro enterprises and small enterprises			
to related parties		**1,389**	1,409
others		**18,680**	2,439
Short-term provisions	4	-	476
Other current liabilities	6	**258,448**	79,124
		278,517	83,449
Total		**285,381**	88,182
Assets			
Non-Current Assets			
Fixed Assets	16	**524**	1,063
Other Non-current asset	11	**3,797**	1,505
Current assets			
Cash and bank balances	7	**276,842**	79,966
Short-term loans and advances	8	**495**	1,586
Trade Receivables	9	**843**	1,652
Other current assets	10	**2,880**	2,412
		281,060	85,615
Total		**285,381**	88,182
Significant accounting policies	1-2		
Notes to the financial statements	3-31		

The notes referred to above form an integral part of the financial statements

As per our report of even date

For B S R & Co. LLP
Chartered Accountants
Firm's registration no.: 101248W/W-100022

SUCHETA SURESH KOLHATKAR
Digitally signed by SUCHETA SURESH KOLHATKAR
Date: 2025.09.09 18:41:03 +05'30'

Sucheta Kolhatkar
Partner
Membership No. 114192

Place: Waterloo, Belgium
Date: 09 September 2025

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors of
Syngenta Foundation India
CIN: U91120PN2005NPL139186

RAJENDRA MADHAO JOG
Digitally signed by RAJENDRA MADHAO JOG
Date: 2025.09.09 17:09:07 +05'30'

Rajendra M. Jog
Director
DIN- 03011334

Place: Pune
Date: 09 September 2025

SUSHEEL KUMAR DHARAMPAL KAMBOJ
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Date: 2025.09.09 17:11:34 +05'30'

Susheel Kumar Dharampal Kamboj
Director
DIN- 09531602

Place: Pune
Date: 09 September 2025

SYNGENTA FOUNDATION INDIA
Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Year ended 31 March 2025 Rs.'000	Year ended 31 March 2024 Rs.'000
Income			
Grants and donations	12	**216,894**	221,481
Fees from activities		**27,636**	12,620
Other income	13	**10,451**	3,207
Total income		**254,981**	237,308
Expenses			
Project expenses	14	**200,528**	190,957
Employee Benefit Expenses	15	**33,713**	38,947
Depreciation	16	**538**	612
Other expenses	17	**9,982**	5,427
Total expenses		**244,761**	235,942
Excess of expenditure over income - deficit		**-**	-
Excess of income over expenditure - surplus		**10,220**	1,366
Significant accounting policies	1-2		
Notes to the financial statements	3-31		

The notes referred to above form an integral part of the financial statements

As per our report of even date

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syngenta foundation India

For further information, please contact:
Syngenta Foundation India

Amar Paradigm, Survey No - 110/11/3 Baner Road, Baner,
Pune, Maharashtra 411045

www.sf-india.in

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