

# **TOWARDS EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN FARMERS IN VIDARBHA**

## ***PROJECT CLOSURE REPORT***

NOVEMBER 2017



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**M S SWAMINATHAN RESEARCH FOUNDATION**

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## **Project Background**

### **1. M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF)**

M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation is a non-profit trust registered as a non-governmental organization. MSSRF's vision is to harness science and technology for sustainable and equitable development. The organization believes that this can be achieved through pro poor, pro nature, pro women and pro sustainable livelihood orientation to technological development and dissemination. In all the thematic areas of MSSRF's work, gender mainstreaming is adopted as a strategy through the project cycle. MSSRF adopts pro women approach as a way to achieve gender equity in development. It addresses gender issues related to livelihoods such as equitable access to technology, skill and knowledge, resources and opportunity which are a prerequisite to ensure sustainable livelihoods.

The **Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana** implemented by **M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation** in the district of Wardha and Yavatmal since 2007 works with women farmers groups on adoption of sustainable/integrated agricultural practices, improved food security and attainment of women's rights. The work is implemented through Mahila Kisan Samitis amongst 3265 women farmers in Wardha and Yavatmal district. The project is currently towards completion of Phase II and has been funded by the Ministry of Rural Development (Government of India) and the Maharashtra State Rural Livelihood Mission.

*According to the organization, "Contemporary relevance of MSSRF's work on anticipatory research for identification of climate savior genes, participatory research involving, scientist-farmfamily partnership in conservation of biodiversity, promotion of commercial gene-seed-grain and water security system in promotion of food security, and creation of multiple livelihood opportunities through bio villages have yielded results of immense significance, application of ICT has ensured the last person and last mile connectivity and information empowerment.*

*Through research and development and community empowerment, MSSRF influences policy issues for ensuring sustainable agricultural and rural development”.*

## **1.2. “Towards Empowerment of Women Farmers in Vidarbha”**

Begun in December 2011, MSSRF implemented the project ‘Towards Empowerment of Women Farmers in Vidarbha’. The project envisaged three focal themes:

1. Institution building
2. Sustainable/Integrated agriculture
3. Food security

Women farmers were provided capacity building on aspects such as:

1. Organizational management to equip them to effectively manage their groups and federation
2. Different dimensions of sustainable/integrated agriculture practices
3. Household food and nutrition security

The first phase of the project duration was from December 2011 to November 2014 and the Second Phase during 2014-17. The Project was funded by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) and the Maharashtra State Rural Livelihood Mission (MSRLM).

## **1.3. Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP)**

Post the budget presentation of 2010-11, the program ‘Towards Empowerment of Women Farmers in Vidarbha’ received national recognition and became a national program under the title of **Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana**. The Government of India (GoI) provided funds for expanding the program on a national scale. It also became a component of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) of the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India.

MKSP is operational in 60 villages in the districts of Wardha and Yavatmal with a membership of 3265 women farmers who have been organized into 215 women farmers groups (Mahila Kisan Samitis). These groups have been federated at the block level.

There are three federations at the block level:

- a. Wardha Taluka Mahila Shetkari Kashtakari Sanstha
- b. Deoli Taluka Mahila Shetkari Kashtakari Sanstha
- c. Ralegaon Taluka Mahila Shetkari Kashtakari Sanstha

The federations have been registered as autonomous institutions under the Government of India laws and functions independently.

#### **1.4. Strategies Adopted**

The objectives of the program have been met by adopting the following methodology:

- 1.4.1. **Building capacity of women on Grass root Institution Building:** This was done by ensuring strengthening of the documentation and financial systems of the groups and federation. Further, resource mobilization, networking and partnership for effective functioning, strengthening of leadership skills, linkages with government on socio-political issues such as land rights for women were areas of capacity building
- 1.4.2. **Building and enhancing capacity of women farmers on livelihood aspects:** To build and enhance capacities by promotion of sustainable/integrated agricultural practices, promotion of non-farm enterprises such as income generating activities and promotion of livestock management.
- 1.4.3. **Building the capacity of women farmers to enhance household food security** by creating awareness on nutrition, health and hygiene; promotion of mixed cropping and promotion of kitchen gardens.
- 1.4.4. **Enhancing the social and economic empowerment of women farmers** by enhancing their decision making capacity, income earning capacity through technical training on cultivation practices and entrepreneurial skills;

enhancing knowledge on women’s rights with respect to land, domestic violence, Panchayati Raj Institutions, etc.

## 1.5. Key Stakeholders of the Project

1.5.1. **Community Resource Persons** – Community Resource Persons (CRPs), selected from within the village community, were trained in the first phase and served as the main agents of change towards empowerment of women. They educate and motivate women farmers and the group to practice sustainable agriculture. Women farmers are motivated to participate in Gram Sabhas. CRPs

1.5.2. **Women Farmers** – traditionally women have been carrying out farming activities as much as or more than men. But varying forms of marginalization has been faced by them. Hence, the program focuses on the “poorest of the poor”. They are women farmers from the most backward sections in the economic, social, and gender spheres. The criteria for selection of Poorest of the Poor (POP) was as follows:

**Table 1: Criteria for selection of Poorest of Poor**

Pro Poor Criteria		Pro Woman Criteria	<i>The Poorest of the Poor would be the person who would belong to a subset of all 3 criteria</i>
<i>Economic</i>	<i>Social</i>	Widow	
Marginal	ST SC	Single woman -	
Small	NT VJNT	Divorced/ Deserted/	
Landless	Minority	Unmarried woman	

## 1.6. Key Activities Carried Out

- **Mahila Kisan Samitis** are the women’s farmers groups through which training on sustainable/integrated agricultural practices have been carried out. Through the same group, leadership skills have been imparted along with formation of linkages to the government agencies and their schemes therein.

- **Credit support provision for income generating activities** - is provided to women farmers. This has been started in the second phase of the program where need based credit support have been provided to women farmers to adopt recommended practices and for livelihood diversification.
- **Sustainable/Integrated Agricultural Practices (SAP/IAP)** - includes soil and water conservation methods; seed treatment methods, integrated nutrient management (INM), integrated pest management (IPM), and post-harvest seed management.
  - a. **Soil and water conservation methods** - awareness and skill training on making of farm bunds, contour bunding, and recharge pits. Opening of ridges and furrows during the last hoeing by tying of rope to hoe for earthing up and situ soil and water conservation.
  - b. **Seed management** - awareness and skill training on seed selection, storage, treatment and germination procedures
  - c. **Integrated Nutrient Management (INM)**- awareness on need for soil testing, training on soil sample collection and facilitating soil test; awareness and training on identification of nutrient deficiency; awareness on the correct combination of nutrients to be use and knowledge and training on the judicious use of different nutrient sources; awareness and training on proper storage of farmyard manure; promote application of organic matter to the soil; and promotion of bio fertilizers
  - d. **Integrated Pest Management (IPM)** - promotion of judicious combination of chemical and organic pesticides; awareness and training on appropriate cultural practices to control pests and diseases; growing of trap crops for pest control and use of pheromone traps for pest control; promotion of bio pesticides and skill training on contour bunding.
  - e. **Post-harvest practices** - involving the promotion and training on the correct way of collection and threshing of crops; grading and storage of the grains and seeds thereafter.

1.6.4. **Common Facility Centres (CFC)** – The CFC is a custom hiring centre for basic agricultural equipment. It facilitates timely availability of agricultural equipment for the use of farmers (all in the village) on a rental basis, in their cultivation process. The Centre is managed by a Steering Committee which is made up of selected Samiti members.

1.6.5. **Kitchen Garden** – has been introduced to support the idea of consumption of healthy and nutritious food at an affordable cost. The kitchen gardens are made in the small space available in the women’s houses. Vegetables and fruits are encouraged to be grown for the use of the household. Jowar is also promoted in the fields as a locally suitable food crop.

1.6.6. **Seed Banks** – have been introduced in some villages for preservation of local and traditional variety of seeds of grains and vegetables in that village. Moreover, the members of the Samitis contribute to the collection of the grains and borrow from it too for their kitchen gardens.

1.6.7. **Health benefits through Community Hunger Fighters** – Community Hunger Fighters (CHF)/Swasthya Mitra have been introduced in 33 of the villages under the MKSP program to address issues of malnutrition. The CHFs undergo a structured training program covering various aspects related to health, hygiene, malnutrition, government schemes, etc. Routine health camps in convergence with both the government and private health centers have been organized under the program. The CHFs initiative was part of Phase I of the project and not continued in Phase II.

## **2. The key findings of the project have been summarized below:**

### **2.1. Awareness on agriculture practices**

The project has thus been successful in raising awareness on various SAP/IAP through trainings and demonstrations. The awareness on IPM was found to be significantly high during the endline survey with 92% of the total respondents being aware of application of Neemastra, 82% being aware of Pheromone Traps/Yellow Sticky Traps and 83% being aware of the use of biopesticides. Of the respondents interviewed, a majority (77%) stated that MSSRF-MKSP is their key source for the know-how on agricultural practices. 70% also stated that MSSRF-MKSP is the source for information on seeds, manures etc. For 72% the Project has been the locus to know about health and nutrition; while for 64% of the respondents, MSSRF-MKSP is source to know about Government schemes. With increase in awareness, the mobility of women has increased with women farmers accessing various information sources like the Krishi Sahyak Kendra, the market (APMC) apart from MSSRF.

### **2.2. Adoption of Sustainable Agricultural Practices (SAP)/Integrated Agricultural Practices (IAP) and their impact**

Compared to the baseline (2012) there is a perceptible shift from small land ownership to semi-medium ownership. During the baseline (2012), 40% of the total respondents (220) were small land owners. There is a reduction in this category during the endline (2017) and a parallel increase in the medium land-owners category. This indicates towards increase in land-holding size.

Significant changes have been observed across all the methods with 'cultivation across slope' (60%) and 'bundling/bund repair' (52%) registering the maximum change. The endline survey brought forth that of the respondents who have adopted seed treatment practice (132 of 168 respondents), 88% used seed treatment for Tur followed by 60% for storing Soybean and 42% for cotton seeds. The endline survey found that of those who



own land and/or have been cultivating on leased land (139 respondents of 168), the method of farm yard manure (76%), crop rotation (76%), and soil testing (74%) are the top 3 adopted methods. IPM practices of Neemastra (74%), pheromone traps (65%) and bio-pesticides (58%) were being widely used by the respondents.

The trainings undertaken and the consequent adoption of various practices has had impact on multiple levels like knowledge and information on methods of practicing agriculture; on agriculture yield; on expenditure incurred on inputs and the income generated from agriculture. Of the surveyed respondents who have adopted any of the SAP/IAP (139 of 168 respondents), a majority of the respondents (90%) stated their total yield had increased. Another 78% respondents stated that they saw an improvement in the soil quality. Additionally at the individual level there is a change in the women farmers themselves with increase in confidence and ability to take decisions. Of the surveyed respondents, 61% stated that they are better prepared to take decisions

Of the total respondents surveyed during the endline 73% (122 women farmers) had space for a kitchen garden. Of these, 98% have cultivated a kitchen garden. The key benefits attributed to the kitchen garden are 'availability of sufficient food' (91%); 'nutritional support to family' (84%); 'access to pesticide free food' (83%).

### **2.3. Benefits of MKSP**

Maximum women (76%) identified improved access to knowledge as a benefit of being part of MKSP, closely followed by increase in household income (72%). Better access to nutritious food was also considered a benefit (69%). 62% women also stated that their decision making ability has improved owing the knowledge they have gained through MKSP. With respect to women farmers as individuals in the family and community, 14% stated that their position in the family has improved while 10% stated that they now have better access to the Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI).

The major motivation of the women farmers to continue their association with the Samitis is the new information and knowledge which they gain. Additionally the benefits which they have accrued as a result of the project namely, scientific knowledge on agriculture, increase in yield, reduction in input costs, increase in income from agriculture better availability of nutritious food, improved access to government schemes and access to credit through the Federation are some of the reasons cited for continued association.

### **3. The key learning's emergent from the endline survey:**

#### **3.1 An overview of changes observed**

The MKSP's aim of working with women farmers and capacitating them on sustainable/integrated agricultural techniques can be observed in the adoption of practices. Table 19 captures the change by depicting ten such indicators where a perceptible change in adoption is noted.

- With increase in access to government schemes (like constructing a well under MGNREGA or the Jawahar Vihar scheme), there is an increase in the land brought under irrigation.
- Cultivating across the slope has increased from 5% of the total respondents during the baseline to 60% of the respondents during the endline.
- Similarly undertaking soil testing has improved from 23% during baseline to 74% during the endline.
- The application of SAP/IAP like Jeevamrut, vermicomposting and Neemastra has also recorded significant increase.
- Using pheromone traps has increased from 1% to 65% under the IPM practices.

- The component of ensuring household food security has been particularly well received under the MKSP project with kitchen gardens and community kitchen gardens being adopted across the target villages.

**Table 19: Comparison between key indicators of the Baseline and Endline**

<b>Key indicators</b>	<b>Baseline (2012)(n1=220)</b>	<b>Endline (2017)(n2=168)</b>
Cultivation across a slope	5%	60%
Soil testing	23%	74%
Jeevamrut	1%	55%
Vermicomposting	0%	53%
Neemastra	8%	74%
Pheromone traps	1%	65%
Kitchen garden	84%	98%

### **3.2. Introduction of Sustainable/Integrated Agriculture Practices (SAP/IAP)**

- The introduction of SAP/IAP in the Project areas has received a positive response.
- The women farmers have been able to adapt their agricultural practices to include methods of INM and IPM to favourable outcomes.
- Application of Jeevamrut and Neemastra has been widely observed in the Project villages.
- Additionally the practice of ridge and furrow planting has also been widely accepted.
- Soil testing is another practice adopted by the women farmers to effectively apply the required nutrients.
- Samiti members have noted the benefits of these practices as increase in yields and reduction in expenditure. The intervention has been able to diversify the crops cultivated.

- A case in point would be the Samiti members in Bhidi (Wardha) who stated that apart from cotton, soybean and tur women farmers have also started cultivating other crops (like green chilies) which can also be remunerative. Options have thus increased thereby reducing dependence on one type of crop.

### **3.3. Kitchen Garden as a means of ensuring Household Food Security**

Kitchen Garden has been one of the most successful initiatives under the MKSP Project. The change in the adoption of Kitchen gardens from the baseline (2012) to the endline (2017) has been significant. The women farmers have keenly invested time and efforts to grow seasonal vegetables. This has resulted in availability of nutritious food and reduction in expenditure incurred on buying vegetables. The Kitchen Garden along with the Seed Bank is also a site for interaction among women farmers within the Samiti as well as women farmers from the larger village community. It is a site for give and take of seeds, sapling and exchanging of information on vegetables and food preparations.

Kitchen garden has been channelized by some women as a source of income. In Kelapur (Wardha) a member has invested in her Kitchen Garden by taking credit from the Federation. She prepares seed trays to be sold in the market. In Kelapur (Wardha) another women has invested in a nursery which is a source of income for her. A member in Paloti (Wardha) cultivated marigold and *mogra* flowers which are sold in the market, thereby generating income for the household. In Paloti (Wardha) another member uses the lemons from her Kitchen Garden to make lemonade for the children in the Anganwadi during summers. She also makes pickles from these lemons and sells pickled bottles in the local market.

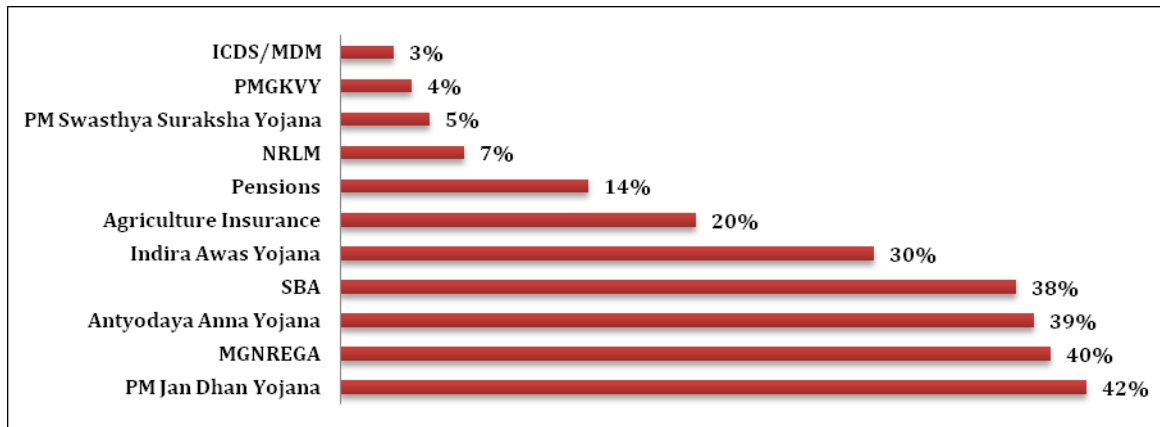
### **3.4. Participation of women farmers in Gram Sabha and Accessing Entitlements**

Apart from disseminating agriculture related information and practices, the Mahila Kisan Samitis also act as channels for information on various government schemes and entitlements. Participation in the Gram Sabha has improved access to information for the MKSP members. 84% of the respondents stated that their participation in Gram Sabha has increased over the Project period. The Samiti members in Chikana (Yavatmal) stated, *"Mahila bolayla laglaya, majboot zhalya!"* (Women have started talking, they have become stronger). Not only has the participation increased, but women are proactively becoming members of the Gram Panchayat. A case in point would be Kelapur (Wardha) where women Samiti members fought elections and formed an all woman's Panchayat.

The women farmers have become better aware about the various schemes and entitlements they can access. This has resulted in an increase in the schemes the respondents have accessed. Figure 45 given below depicts the various schemes access by the survey respondents. The scheme accessed by maximum women farmers (and/or their household) is the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana with 42%. This is followed by Mahatma Gandhi National rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNRENA) at 40% and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) at 39%. The latter two schemes, i.e. the MGNREGA and the AAY facilitate ensuring food security of vulnerable households.

Other infrastructure related entitlements have also been accessed including housing under Indira Awas Yojana (30%) and toilets under Swaccha Bharat Abhiyan (38%). Social protection schemes like agriculture insurance (20%) and pensions (14%) have also been accessed by MKSP members and/or their households.

**Figure 1: Access to government schemes**



### **3.5. Creation of supportive environment**

The Mahila Kisan Samitis along with the Federations have created a supportive environment for the women farmers by making accessible information, technical support and credit. Women respondents stated that they started taking more interest in farming after joining the Project as members.

In Chikana (Yavatmal), a Samiti member has been able to adopt irrigated agriculture after constructing a well in the fields under MGNREGA. This information she received from the Mahila Kisan Samiti in her village. Similarly women are accessing the Community Facility Center (CFC) to meet their equipment need. The women farmers are also accessing credit from the Samitis and Federations to meet their cash requirement during agriculture season to buy seeds, fertilizers etc. In Chana Takli (Wardha), Samiti members have taken loan from the Federation to start enterprises like noodle manufacturing thereby diversifying their sources of livelihood. The Samiti members in Vihirgaon (Yavatmal) believe that the Federation(s) will manage and monitor the Samitis once MSSRF exits the Project area. This indicates not only towards continued association with the Samiti and the Federation(s) but also towards the aspiration of sustaining the work initiated under MKSP.

### **3.6. Availability of inputs as a challenge to adopt SAP/IAP**

While adoption over the Project period has been positive among the Samiti members, the sustained and continued use would be dependent on external factors like availability of cow dung and urine. Since not all Samiti members own cattle, a major limiting factor in application of INM and IPM is the availability of cow dung and urine.

### **3.7. Mahila Kisan Samitis as agents of change and empowerment**

The MKSP has been able to empower women to effectively contribute to decision making. This is visible through the gradual increase in application of SAP/IAP. Starting from 2 lines in the field to 2 acres, the women farmers have been able to change the way agriculture is practiced. While some farmers still use chemical fertilizers and pesticides, there is a slow but steady reduction in the amount used. Another key transformation is the realization amongst the Samiti members of centrality of women in the agriculture process and thereby asserting themselves by way of decision making, which earlier was seen as the prerogative of the male members of the household.

In Paloti (Wardha) the MKSP members organize a *Dabba* Party 3-4 times a year. They invite all the village women for this gathering which takes place in the fields. In this they share different food preparations along with their nutritional content. These preparations are usually made from the vegetables grown in the Kitchen Garden. The women share recipes and encourage others to grow their own vegetables. The women members in Paloti (Wardha) shared that this initiative has evoked interest amongst the women, few of who have started growing Kitchen gardens.

In Chana Takli (Wardha), the Samiti members stated that their position in the family too has undergone a change. Their role and contribution in decision making has increased

and they noted instances where the male members would return from the market and show the bill of sale to their wives.

The members of the Mahila Kisan Samitis now increasingly participate in the Gram Sabha. They raise questions regarding schemes and village development activities. This is a significant change where women are actively engaging with the PRI. Not only are they accessing this forum but also making it accountable. In Chikana (Yavatmal), for instance, the women members came together and got a bore-well installed in the village. Similarly the Samiti members are seen to petition the Government officials for any village work and/or information without the fear of authority.

Samiti members in Chikana (Yavatmal) stated that the Mahila Kisan Samiti members have spoken about SAP/IAP in the village Gram Sabha. As a result a few women farmers (non-members) showed initiative and inquired about these practices and have adopted them in their fields. The Samiti members further stated that earlier there was little or no presence of any official from the Krishi Sevak Kendra. Post the Project, this has changed and the women are seeking information from the Centre – this has resulted in increased presence over the project period.

Another instance in Bhidi reinforces the change in position of women in the larger community. In Bhidi (Wardha), the Samiti members compelled the Gram Panchayat to utilize the funds allocated under women and child development to organize Women's Day events. The self-reliant attitude and transformation of MKSP project is reflected in the statement of Nanda Junghare, 42, a Mahila Shetkari Samiti member from Dahegaon Miskin (Wardha) - "*Balkat mahilaa banachay!*" (*We want to become strong/empowered women!*).



**Achievements so far vis-a-vis expected outcomes as per MKSP guidelines**

**TOWARDS EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN FARMERS IN VIDARBHA**

**November 2017**

**M S SWAMINATHAN RESEARCH FOUNDATION, CHENNAI**

Expected Outcomes (As per MKSP guidelines)	Output Indicators	Outcomes so far																	
(a ) Net increase in the incomes of women in agriculture on a sustainable basis;	Number of women who adopt Sustainable Agriculture Practices:	Net Increase in incomes of families - % families having incremental income range from the interventions under MKSP																	
	<u>Soil and Water Conservation:</u>																		
	• Number of women farmers practicing sowing across slope = 2039																		
	• Number of women farmers who have adopted farm bunds -211																		
	• Number of acres covered - 512																		
	• Number of women farmers practicing opening ridges and furrows =2413																		
	<u>Seed Management Practices:</u>																		
• Number of women farmers who have adopted seed treatment = 1931																			
• Number of seed banks established = 58																			
<u>Integrated Nutrient Management:</u>																			
• Number of women farmers who have	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="1314 805 1514 943">Incremental Income Range</th> <th data-bbox="1514 805 1713 943">% families</th> <th data-bbox="1713 805 1911 943">Number of families</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="1314 943 1514 984">&lt; Rs.7,500</td> <td data-bbox="1514 943 1713 984">4</td> <td data-bbox="1713 943 1911 984">131</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1314 984 1514 1081">Rs.7501 - 10000</td> <td data-bbox="1514 984 1713 1081">18</td> <td data-bbox="1713 984 1911 1081">588</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1314 1081 1514 1179">Rs.10001-15000</td> <td data-bbox="1514 1081 1713 1179">37</td> <td data-bbox="1713 1081 1911 1179">1208</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1314 1179 1514 1219">&gt;Rs.15,000</td> <td data-bbox="1514 1179 1713 1219">41</td> <td data-bbox="1713 1179 1911 1219">1339</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1314 1219 1514 1268"></td> <td data-bbox="1514 1219 1713 1268"><b>100</b></td> <td data-bbox="1713 1219 1911 1268"><b>3265</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Incremental Income Range	% families	Number of families	< Rs.7,500	4	131	Rs.7501 - 10000	18	588	Rs.10001-15000	37	1208	>Rs.15,000	41	1339		<b>100</b>	<b>3265</b>
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* Source of data: Latest Quarterly Progress Report July - Sep 2017																			

	<p>adopted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Soil testing - 2008</li> <li>○ Bio-fertiliser - 1540</li> <li>○ Plantation of green manure plants - 1200</li> <li>○ FYM - 2168</li> </ul> <p><u>Integrated Pest Management:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of women farmers who have adopted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yellow Sticky Trap -1851</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Number of women who have enterprises or IGA for multiple livelihood = 158</p> <p>Number of women who reported increase in income due to low input costs in agriculture = 912</p>	
b) Area covered under SAP	12613.45 acres	<p>Nearly 12,613 acres of agricultural land has been brought under sustainable agriculture of MKSP owned by Mahila Kisans, out of which, 683 acres is under share cropping or lease.</p> <p>* Source of data: Latest Quarterly Progress Report Jul - Sep 2017</p>

<p>(c) Increase in the food Production</p>	<p>Number of women farmers practicing mixed cropping = 2144 (Sesame, green gram, black gram, jowar, pigeon pea, cow pea where cotton or soyabean is the main crop)</p> <p>Number of women farmers having kitchen garden with access to vegetables = 2017</p> <p>Number of community Kitchen gardens established = 76</p>	<p>Average Additional Food Sufficiency Per Family from the interventions under MKSP</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1312 329 1906 743"> <thead> <tr> <th>Food Sufficiency</th> <th>% families</th> <th>Number of families</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>&lt;6 months</td> <td>8</td> <td>274</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7 - 9 months</td> <td>21</td> <td>693</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9 - 12 months</td> <td>70</td> <td>2298</td> </tr> <tr> <td>&gt;12 months</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><b>100</b></td> <td><b>3273</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>* Source of data: Latest Quarterly Progress Report Jul- Sep 2017</p>	Food Sufficiency	% families	Number of families	<6 months	8	274	7 - 9 months	21	693	9 - 12 months	70	2298	>12 months	0	0		<b>100</b>	<b>3273</b>
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<p>(d) Increase in benefit and reduction in cost</p>	<p>Increase in benefit and reduction in cost per acre: a) Cotton=Rs.4500 b) Soyabean = Rs.2500</p>	<p>Increase in benefit and reduction in cost per acre: a) Cotton=Rs.4500 b) Soyabean = Rs.2500</p> <p>* Source of data: information submitted by PIA</p>																		
<p>e) Soil health and Fertility (environment)</p>	<p>Number of women farmers adopting soil test based nutrient management =2008</p>																			

<p>f) Increased visibility of women in agriculture as an interest group</p>	<p>Number of women farmers' group = 215 Number of federations = 3</p>	<p>The Mahila Kisan Samitis have gained identity as women's farmers groups in the project villages, which is a major step towards empowerment and ownership of the group by the women in the community.</p> <p>Women have become more confident about farming practices and assisting their husbands/families in making informed choices about farming techniques</p> <p>Increase mobility among women, who now are taking up responsibilities in Samiti/Federation, and also participate in Panchayat Meetings.</p> <p>Participation of Women in Gram Sabhas has increased considerably.</p> <p>* Source of data: Endline Report</p>
<p>Increase in the skill performance levels of women in agriculture</p>	<p>Number of women farmers serving as resource persons for SAP = 66 Number of women farmers serving as resource persons for Health and Nutrition = 30 Number of women farmers recognised as Resources Persons by MSRLM = 21</p>	<p>The women who have participated in the programme understand issues related to agriculture better, The Samitis that they are part of, meet regularly and discuss issues related to agriculture. The groups receive door step support from well</p>

		<p>trained community resource persons in the village.</p> <p>* Source of data: Endline Report</p>
<p>Drudgery reduction for women in agriculture under the Project area through use of gender friendly tools/technologies</p>	<p>Number of Custom Hiring Centres set up and managed by the women farmers = 18</p> <p>These centres have gender friendly tools as given below which are widely utilised by the women farmers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perforated Sheet : It reduces drudgery in cleaning and grading of grains</li> <li>• Spiral separator: It also reduces drudgery in cleaning and grading</li> <li>• Cycle hoe: It reduces drudgery in weeding operation</li> <li>• Cotton picking aprons: It reduces drudgery in cotton picking.</li> </ul>	<p>Women are making use of the common facility centres, which are functioning effectively, through well-defined processes and norms for use of implements on rental basis. It has resulted in reduced drudgery in cleaning and grading of grains, weeding operations, cotton picking etc which are major agricultural operations done by women involving lot of drudgery.</p> <p>Dept. of Agriculture has scaled up this initiative in 8 MKSP villages</p> <p>* Source of data: Endline Report</p>
<p>Increased access to input and services</p>	<p>Number of women farmers benefited (increased access to input and services) through agro advisories = 2214</p>	<p>The members have benefitted from increased access to agro-advisories, through use of technology - video based disseminations, mobile based advisories and community resource persons at village level.</p>

		<p>Women Farmers have also benefitted through better access to schemes of line department through facilitation and support as part of the project. More than 6 Cr worth of assets – farm ponds, wells, Agricultural implements have been accessed from government schemes, due to the MKSP project.</p> <p>* Source of data: Endline Report</p> <p>* Source of data: Latest Quarterly Progress Report Jul-Sep 2017</p>
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