



MAHILA KISAN SASHAKTIKARAN PARIYOJANA



*Transforming Agriculture
Touching Lives*



CONTEXT

A large percentage of the poor i.e. 79%¹ of the productive rural women labor force and 67% of productive male workforce are involved in agriculture. A majority of this labor workforce, toiling on 85% of total agricultural landholdings in India (MoA 2012) comprises, of small and marginal farmers. Women in agriculture constitute 33% of the agricultural labour force and 48% of self-employed farmers.

Beyond the conventional market-oriented narrow definition of 'productive workers', almost all women in rural India can be considered as 'farmers'.

In spite of the critical role played by the women in agriculture and allied activities, and their rightful entitlement over factors of production as agricultural workers and cultivators, the agricultural support system in India has not been able to ensure the inclusion of women force into the set-up. Moreover, the parity of wages between men and women has not been achieved uniformly.

Many households with women farmers as the head of the family are not able to access extension services, farmer support institutions and production assets such as seed, water, credit, subsidy etc.

The "Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana" (MKSP), a sub component of the Deendayal Antodaya Yojana-NRLM (DAY-NRLM) was announced to improve the present status of women in Agriculture, and to enhance the opportunities available to empower her.

DEENDAYAL ANTODAYA YOJANA-NRLM (DAY-NRLM)

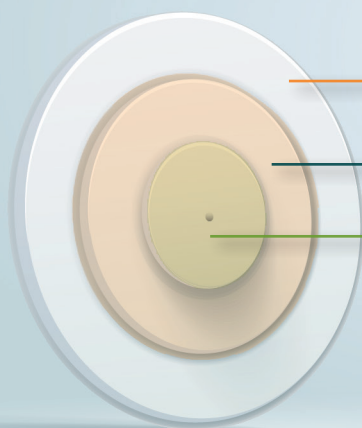
Deendayal Antodaya Yojana-NRLM (DAY-NRLM) was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India in the year 2011 with a mandate to reach out to poor families, link them to sustainable livelihoods opportunities and nurture them till they come out of poverty.

It set out with an agenda to cover 8-10 crore poor rural households, across 600 districts, 6000 blocks, 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats and 6 lakhs villages through self-managed Self Help Groups (SHGs) and their federated institutions, in a mission mode, across the country.

Around 7 crore out of these rural poor families are dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods. 3 crore of these 7 crore households dependent on agriculture are Ultra-Poor families. The Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana was launched to cater to the needs of these ultra-poor families.



OUR CLIENTELE



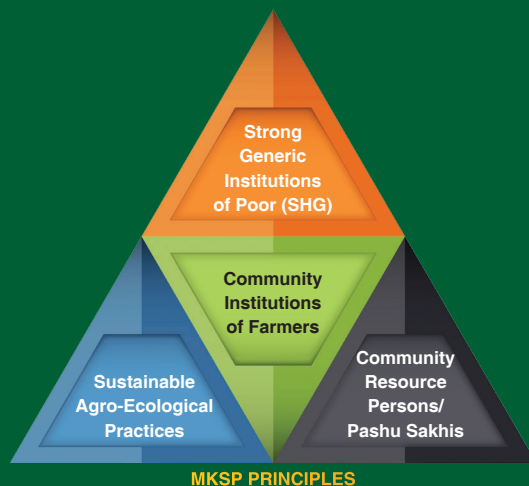
Rural poor households targeted by Deendayal Antodaya Yojana-NRLM (DAY-NRLM)

Households having agriculture as their primary source of income

30 million households constitute Ultra-poor and most vulnerable sections – These form the Core Focus area

MAHILA KISAN SHASHAKTIKARAN PARIYOJANA: FOCUS AND STRATEGY

The **Mahila Kisan Shasaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP)** was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development, in 2010-11 as a sub component of Deendayal Antodaya Yojana-NRLM (DAY-NRLM), with the aim to empower women in agriculture. MKSP recognizes the identity of “Mahila” as “Kisan” and strives to build the capacity of women in the domain of agro-ecologically sustainable practices. It has a clear vision to reach out to the poorest of poor households and expand the portfolio of activities currently handled by the Mahila Kisan.



The focus of MKSP is on capacitating smallholders to adopt sustainable climate resilient agro-ecology and eventually create a pool of skilled community professionals.

Its objective is to strengthen smallholder agriculture through promotion of sustainable agriculture practices such as Community Managed Sustainable Agriculture (CMSA), Non Pesticide Management (NPM), Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF), Pashu-Sakhi model for doorstep animal care services, Sustainable regeneration and harvesting of Non-Timber Forest Produce.

VISION FOR AN INDIVIDUAL HOUSEHOLD UNDER MKSP

1. That at least two sources of livelihood out of agriculture, livestock and NTFP are strengthened.
2. That all households have backyard kitchen gardens for household food and nutrition security.
3. That there is reduction in the cost of cultivation along with an increase in productivity through adoption of improved practices.
4. That there is an year round flow of income for the poor household through adoption of multiple livelihood streams
5. And that there is an increase in the annual income of each household by ₹30,000-₹50,000 through a continuous engagement for 3 years.

VISION FOR VILLAGES COVERED UNDER MKSP

1. Availability of pesticide free food (cereal and vegetables) for every household
2. Increase in animal population on account of better animal husbandry practices.
3. Door-step extension services delivery in every village through Aajeevika Krishak Mitras and Pashu Sakhis
4. Creation of synergy among agriculture, livestock and non- timber forest produce to create sustained returns for households
5. Movement towards self-sufficiency in food, agriculture inputs and extension services
6. Improvement in the bio diversity and eco system, one where healthy human beings, animals, birds and plants thrive.



MKSP INTERVENTION STRATEGY: SUSTAINABLE AND ECOLOGICAL PRACTICES

MKSP intervention strategy involves building a structure on the foundation of sustainability. This involves incorporating climate change resilient and ecologically sound practices into the overall structure. CRPs play a proactive role in scaling up these initiatives. Major interventions promoted under DAY-NRLM which contribute to climate change resilience & risk mitigation among the poor are:



- Community managed sustainable agriculture (agro-ecology approaches)
- Usage of locally available natural inputs – for pest management and soil fertility management
- System of root intensification – SRI, SCI
- Promotion of millets and cereal crops
- Promotion of multiple crops
- Tree based farming practices



- Regeneration of forest species
- Usage of locally available natural inputs
- Integrated farming practice with small ruminants
- Convergence with MGNREGA to create agriculture assets for the community
- Non Pesticide Management
- Natural soil fertility Management
- Integrating livestock with agriculture
- Integration of livestock – promotion of Pashu sakhi model
- Ensuring the scalability of climate change resilient agriculture practices through Community Best Practitioners (CBPs)
- *In-situ* rain water harvesting

MKSP IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The program is being implemented by DAY-NRLM in partnership with State Rural Livelihood Missions/Community Based Organizations (CBOs)/NGOs, as implementing partners (PIAs) across the country. These agencies are expected to support and nurture scalable livelihood models in the MKSP intervention areas. In the process, it is expected that a cadre of barefoot community professionals will be created from among the best practitioners. The State Rural Livelihood Missions will further replicate the models with the help of the community.



MKSP stakeholders

PIA: Project Implementation Agency | DAY-NRLM: Deendayal Antodaya Yojana-NRLM | SRLM: State Rural Livelihood Mission | CRP: Community Resource Person Mahila Kisan

PIA (PROJECT IMPLEMENTING AGENCY)

MKSP follows a demand based strategy rather than an allocation based approach for sanctioning projects. Project proposals are submitted by the Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs), to the state rural livelihoods missions (SRLMS) for consideration under MKSP. The PIA is responsible for implementation and execution of projects adhering to MKSP guidelines. A consortium of the PIAs are also allowed for bringing about synergies of scale and resources. The proposals are evaluated by the state missions and subsequently forwarded to DAY-NRLM if found satisfactory. The state recommended proposals are then evaluated by the experts for their adherence to the overall MKSP mandate.



58 projects are currently being implemented under MKSP in the 15 states of India.

STATE RURAL LIVELIHOOD MISSIONS (SRLMS)



The SRLMS are responsible for overseeing MKSP project implementation by the PIAs. For monitoring and periodic review of the sanctioned project, a Committee at the State level, headed by the Secretary (RD) of the State and responsible for reviewing and monitoring the Project/s is constituted. The Mission Director, SRLM is the

convenor of the committee. The Committee undertakes quarterly reviews with the PIAs and members of the consortia as the case may be. The State governments may also constitute a State Level Technical Project Support Group to assist the PIAs in the implementation of the Projects.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE PERSON (CRP)



WHO IS A CRP?

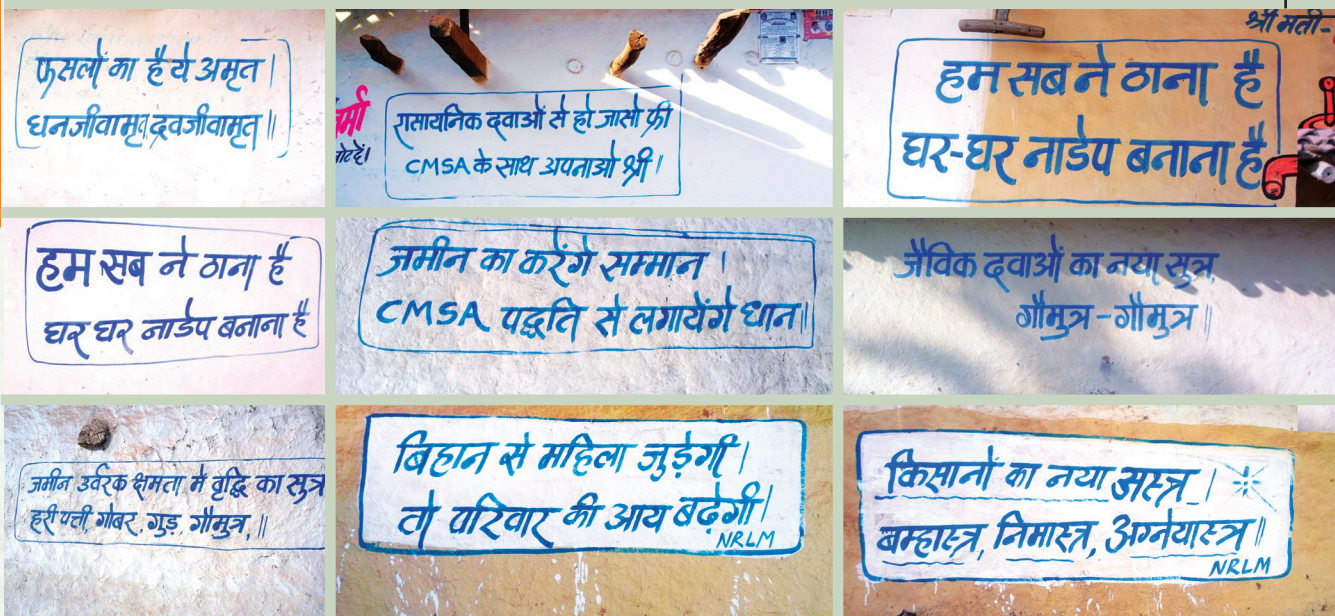
A Community Resource Person (CRP) is typically

- A **PROGRESSIVE WOMAN FARMER**, preferably from a poor household.
- She is the **MEMBER OF A SELF-HELP GROUP**.
- She has **RECEIVED TRAINING ON ALL MODULES** of sustainable agriculture practices, and has been
- a **PRACTITIONER OF ALL THE BEST PRACTICES** for at least 2 years having demonstrated the practices on her farm.
- She is **WILLING TO TRAVEL**,
- has **GOOD INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS** and
- is **LITERATE**.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A CRP

- **INFLUENCES PEOPLE TO ADOPT SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES BY DEMONSTRATION OF THE BEST PRACTICES**
- **WORKS WITH THE POOR HOUSEHOLDS FOR DEVELOPING AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION PLAN**
- **CONDUCTS FARMER FIELD SCHOOL** regularly with the women farmers.
- **MAKES REGULAR VISITS TO THE FARMS** of poor households for handholding and troubleshooting.
- **MONITORS THE ADOPTION OF THE DIFFERENT PRACTICES AND PROVIDES FEEDBACK.**
- **DOCUMENTS THE LOCAL BEST PRACTICES/case studies** in the area
- **REPORTS THE PROGRESS** of intervention to community institutions.



NON-NEGOTIABLE PRINCIPLES

There are certain principles which are essential and need to be addressed by the PIA implementing the project. Reduction in the cost of cultivation, improving household nutrition security, identification and promotion of locally adapted best practices, promoting homestead nutrition garden and use of organic inputs like NADEP, Jeevamrutham, Beejamrutham etc form the non-negotiable principles of MKSP.



MKSP projects must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Strengthen various Primary Livelihood activities for the members of Community Based Organisations (CBOs) under DAY-NRLM
- Ensure all interventions are built on a strong platform of Community Institutions.
- Ensure landless, small and marginal farmers are given utmost focus.
- Create and capacitate a strong cadre of Community Resource Persons (CRP), from among the best practicing farmers for scaling up and ensuring sustainability.
- Promote climate change resilient sustainable eco-agriculture practices

MKSP: FOCUS ON ULTRA-POOR

Targeting the “Poorest of Poor” is the unique feature of MKSP. MKSP primarily focuses on the landless, small and marginal women farmers who constitute the bottom 20% of the rural society. MKSP is making concerted effort to identify scalable and sustainable agro-ecology models across different agro-climatic zones in the country.

The **Ultra-Poor strategy** features:

- Converting “wage seekers” into “**net food producers**”
- Ensuring **substantial increase in the household income** of the poor rural households





MKSP DESIGN

MKSP promotes a household approach with primary focus on sustainable agriculture and NTFP interventions; intervention in livestock is entwined with both. This diversification also minimizes the risks associated with any single livelihood activity.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

DAY-NRLM focusses on stabilizing and promoting existing livelihoods i.e. 'vulnerability reduction' and 'livelihoods enhancement' through deepening/enhancing and expanding existing livelihoods options and tapping new opportunities in farm based livelihoods. Agriculture is one of the core livelihoods activity of the rural poor in the country and forms major part of the livelihood basket of rural poor in India. There is a felt need to address the food and nutrition security of poor households and make the livelihood more resilient to external factors. Under sustainable agriculture seed management, soil management, in-situ moisture conservation, disease and pest management are promoted through CRPs.

MKSP recognizes the importance of livestock, especially the small ruminant and poultry in the livelihoods of the poorest. By developing a strategy to integrate livestock as an extended scope of MKSP, it has been ensured that vital organic inputs are provided for agriculture and agriculture in turn provides inputs for the animals. This is a mutually beneficial and environmentally sustainable model that brings additional incomes to the women.

NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCE (NTFP)



With dwindling forest cover and hardly any reduction in the number of tribal poor households dependent on NTFP collection, the issue of elevating the livelihoods of the poor especially the tribal women engaged in NTFP collection becomes extremely challenging.

Systematic efforts have been made under MKSP to promote NTFP collectives. The aim is to increase the income of tribal NTFP collectors through sustainable harvest and scientific post-harvest practices for higher returns; better

negotiation with market forces while also taking up various value addition activities at appropriate levels.

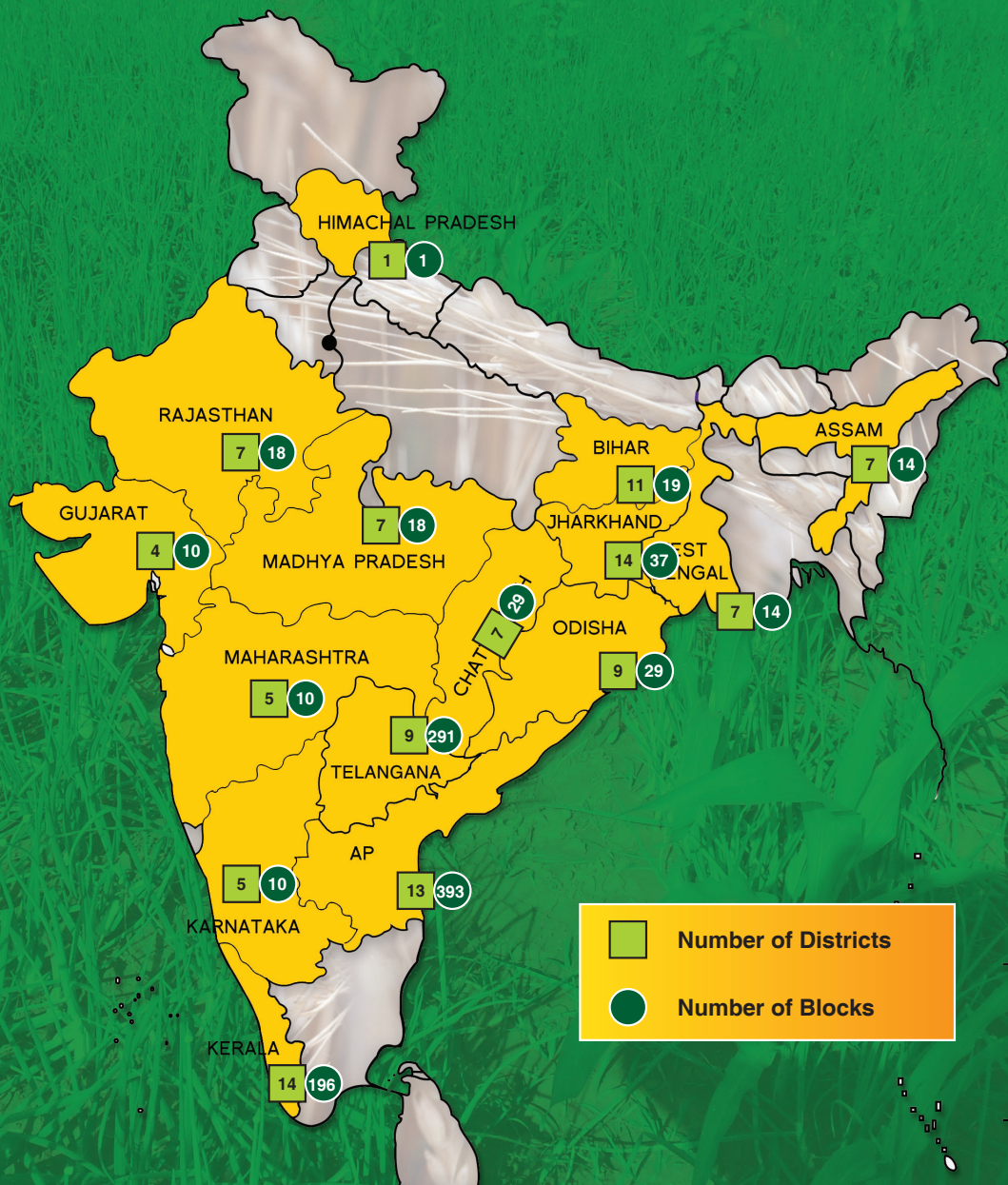
Total Mahila Kisan targeted by all projects sanctioned is **32 lakh**.



Livestock

Livestock activities have a share of approximately 26% in the overall contribution of Agriculture to the GDP. There exists a huge gap in extension and service delivery in Animal-care services, which needs to be bridged for small and marginal households.

MKSP promotes investments in creation of Community Animal Health Workers or Pashu Sakhis from the pool of best practitioners, for door-step extension delivery towards better Livestock Production & Management practices.



GEOGRAPHICAL FOOTPRINTS: ACHIEVEMENTS

- Community Managed Sustainable Agriculture (CMSA), AP & Telangana – Scaled up sustainable agriculture models, creation of cadre of community professionals
- ½ acre model for landless women families. More than 18 lakh poor women farmers covered under different activities
- Kudumbashree, Kerala – Financing for different Livelihood activities. More than 1 lakh women farmers covered across state under “Joint Liability Groups”, for different sustainable Livelihood activities.



- JEEViKA, Bihar – Zero Budget Natural Farming Practices. More than 1 lakh Small and Marginal farmers in different areas have adopted sustainable agriculture practices that aim to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
- Loka Kalyan Parishad (LKP), West Bengal – Community planning of collective Livelihood activities – 60,000 poorest of poor women farmers, in more than 3000 SHGs undertake extensive Livelihood planning exercise, in coordination with PRI
- Action for Social Advancement (ASA), Bihar & MP – Convergence with other government programs. More than 15000 poor households have been benefited by convergence with various Govt. Programs like MGNREGA, IWMP etc.
- Central Silk Board (CSB) – WestBengal, Jharkhand, Chattisgarh, Odisha, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh – Promotion of NTFP best practices in the tribal areas. More than 15000 poor tribal women families covered, with an average incremental income of more than Rs. 15,000 per household/ year.
- PRADAN, MP – Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture practices in the tribal hinterlands.
- More than 5000 tribal families are covered, reduction of large scale migration and improvement in the viability of agriculture for tribal population.
- CMF, Rajasthan – Pashu Sakhi Model: Community Veterinary Paraprofessional cadre.
- Green Foundation, Karnataka – Promotion of local indigenous varieties of seeds. More than 100 local varieties of Paddy and Ragi, preserved and distributed every year through Community seed banks, supporting 5000 women farmers.
- Jattu, AP – Annapurna Model. Modified ½ acre model for tribal areas.

MKSP: KEY OUTCOMES

MKSP has emerged as a strong platform for launching the core livelihoods initiatives under Deendayal Antodaya Yojana-NRLM (DAY-NRLM)

- MKSP has put on ground many a replicable models/best practices across the country and across various agro climatic zones- Agriculture/NTFP/Livestock
- A large pool of resource persons to support the replication efforts- community professionals, program professionals, academicians
- A good number of CSO/CBOs as resource organizations

Since inception of MKSP, **119** districts, **1,067** blocks and more than **20,362** villages have been covered, with a total project outlay of **₹822 Crore** reaching out to more than **33.35 lakh** Mahila Kisans.

WAY FORWARD

Mahila Kisan Shashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) envisages following outcomes for the poor:

Each ultra- poor family should have **2 viable livelihoods**

The areas covered under MKSP will emerge as local best practice sites – **incubation centers** for development of Pro-poor Livelihood solutions

CRPs (Community Resource Persons) will support rapid scaling up of interventions in other areas

All Mahila Kisans will eventually become **Farmer Scientists** and Community Knowledge Disseminators





Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



Deendayal Antodaya Yojana-NRLM (DAY-NRLM)

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