



# From the Secretary's Desk



It gives me immense pleasure to present the latest edition of Satmile Satish Club 'O' Pathagar's (SSCOP) Annual Report for the Financial Year 2023-24. The past few years have been challenging for all including 2022-23 and as we step into a new "post- COVID" world, brimming with hope and armed with the determination to mitigate and emerge stronger from the impact of the pandemic, SSCOP India has evolved as a preferred partner with communities especially small, marginal and women farmers, local rural entrepreneurs, most underprivileged populations, particularly those from marginalized communities.

At SSCOP, it was a period of rapidly scaling up our response on agriculture, allied sector, livelihood, climate change, rural entrepreneurship, and education focused on the needs of the farmers, women, and girls from the marginalized communities we work with.

For us, this past year has seen several collaborations and partnerships that have contributed significantly to improving our reach and programmatic impact among farmers, women, and girls, especially from the most marginalized communities in the poorest and remotest regions, and brought about meaningful and sustainable change in their lives and livelihoods.

This year has also seen SSCOP diversifying into the Fisheries sector to enhance the livelihoods of small fishers and also the critical issue of climate change where we have initiated some very important projects.

You all will also be happy to know that SSCOP has also geographically expanded its operations with States like Bihar, Jharkhand, and Telangana and also are in the process of some more states.

During the year, SSCOP has directly reached out to more than 1 lakh people in 5 states across 12 projects through interventions in agriculture, livelihoods, rural women entrepreneurship, climate change, and fisheries. This was only possible by building cross-sectoral partnerships with Governments (Both State and Central) and International, Research donors, who together steadfastly supported us in planning, implementing, monitoring, knowledge generation, and delivering large-scale impact on the ground. We are grateful to all our partners for their support in driving the execution of various programs in this environment. We are also deeply indebted to our members of corporate partners for the funding to deliver much-needed assistance to the rural communities. In addition, the support of the state government, and district officials provided to us was of immense help in delivering the projects and activities where needed.

Looking back, we have emerged stronger and more resilient to take on the setbacks caused by the pandemic and post that period of confusion and less support to NGOs. With the support of our donors and collaborators, we are determined to build systems towards delivering impact at scale.

Warm regards,  
(Amal Roy)  
Secretary

Satmile Satish Club “O” Pathagar (SSCOP) is registered under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act as an NGO that was established in 2001. SSCOP empowers the villagers to combat the continuous cycle of poverty, backwardness, and illiteracy through its various projects.

SSCOP works in the area of Agriculture, and allied sectors including poultry, goat rearing, duck rearing, piggery and fishery, Education, Sanitation, WASH, Livelihood, Entrepreneurship, Training and Capacity Building, and Farm Mechanization.

## WHAT SETS US APART

### Agriculture

SSCOP is one of the most important organizations in India in the area of Agriculture extension and training. SSCOP has reached out to almost 100000 small and marginal farmers directly and almost 500000 farmers in the last 3 years who are now farming through Conservation Agriculture technology. It has also reached out to almost 1500 women farmers directly and 2500 indirectly who are now being recognized as farmers.

- Working with NABARD for the last decade and a POPI – Formed 56 FPCs who are now in various stages of business – One of the Key Resource Agencies for FPOs
- Currently taking 20 FPCs in the next stages of business supported by NABARD
- Working with the University of Adelaide, Australia, CIMMYT, Mexico, UBKV, KVK - Transforming smallholder food systems in the Eastern Gangetic Plains – Project Rupantar
- Working with Department of Agriculture, Government of West Bengal – Carrying out Demonstration and Training with farmers and also setting up agri technology pilots
- Has been empanelled as a CBBO with SFAC to promote 10000 FPOs in India – Formed 36 FPOs in 8 Districts of West Bengal
- Partnering with Paschim Banga Agri Marketing Corporation Ltd (PAMCL) in the formation of 4 FPOs under the 10000 FPOs in India Scheme
- Knowledge Hub - Carried out more than 600 training in Agriculture for various stakeholders
- SSCOP promoted a rental model on Mat Paddy Seedling and RTP is being replicated in many parts
- Reviving Foxtail Millet all across North Bengal through a NABARD-supported project
- Hi-Tech Potato unit with the support of the Department of Agriculture Fisheries
- Partnering with SFAC in the formation and promotion of Fisheries FPOs – 50 in Jharkhand, Bihar and Telangana - PMMSY

# Rural Entrepreneurship

Standalone organization in Eastern India with a varied portfolio focusing on rural entrepreneurship and incomes – a major focus on women entrepreneurs  
SSCOP has trained almost 500 rural entrepreneurs in different trades  
SSCOP most importantly has created more than 3000 rural entrepreneurs out of which more than 150 are run by women. They are mostly on mat paddy seedling, poultry, and duck rearing.

## Climate Change

Currently targeting 30000 Ha of paddy area under AWD with support from Koshier Climate India Pvt. Ltd

Facilitating network partner on AWD supported by Dinabandhu Trust–Bayer India.

## Others

Enjoys the confidence of donors, government officials at local, regional, and state levels, and corporate and community stakeholders.

Emerged as the key Training provider for the farmers, officials, FPOs, FPCs, and SHGs.

Commended by international agencies like ACIAR, and CIMMYT for its outstanding work.

One of the most valued partners of NABARD, KVK, Department of Agriculture, Cooch Behar, Department of Fisheries, Cooch Behar, and UBKV, KVK in Cooch Behar District.

Corporate like Mahindra Rise, National Agro Ludhiana, and Southern Agro Engine Pvt. Ltd are all partnering with SSCOP in expanding their businesses in North Bengal.

Godrej Agrovet Ltd., Fullerton India Credit Company Ltd, and Eureka Forbes are the corporations supporting SSCOP with their CSR funds.

SSCOP was a partner to The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and also the Australian High Commission – New Delhi and Kolkata



## CHANGING LIVES OF SMALL FARMERS IN WEST BENGAL THROUGH FORMATION AND PROMOTION OF FARMER PRODUCER ORGANIZATIONS (FPOs)

SSCOP is empanelled as a CBBO with SFAC to promote 10000 FPOs in India –Formed 36 FPOs in 8 Districts of West Bengal. SSCOP is also partnering with Paschim Banga Agri Marketing Corporation Ltd. (PAMCL) in the formation of 4 FPOs under the 10000 FPOs in India Scheme.

Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Government of India has launched a Central Sector Scheme for the formation and promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) with the following objectives:

To provide a holistic and broad-based supportive ecosystem to form new 10,000 FPOs to facilitate the development of vibrant and sustainable income-oriented farming and for overall socio-economic development and well-being of agrarian communities.

To enhance productivity through efficient, cost-effective, and sustainable resource use and realize higher returns through better liquidity and market linkages for their produce and become sustainable through collective action.

To provide handholding and support to new FPOs up to 5 years from the year of creation in all aspects of management of FPO, inputs, production, processing and value addition, market linkages, credit linkages, and use of technology, etc.

To provide effective capacity building to FPOs to develop agriculture entrepreneurship skills to become economically viable and self-sustaining beyond the period of support from the government.

### Main Objective of the FPOs:

#### *The objectives of the FPOs (long-term and short-term) are to:*

1. Undertake various activities such as the bulk purchase of inputs and delivery to farmer members; marketing of produce, grading and quality control, and first level processing of farm produce
2. Assist farmers to realize higher prices for their produce through aggregation & sale and also value addition
3. Assist farmers from the cluster in reducing production costs through rationalized use of inputs and labour and the use of modern Farm Technology
4. Ensure timely availability of quality Agro-inputs at competitive rates through collective procurement
5. Procurement and maintenance of farm equipment for hiring out among farmers from the cluster (CHC)
6. Assist the producer organizations to develop and strengthen the linkages for
  - a) Knowledge and information
  - b) Banks & other commercial lending institutions
  - c) Input suppliers and traders
  - d) Insurance companies
  - e) Logistics providers etc.

*SSCOP has completed a large part of the work in the second year of its work and created a strong platform for the FPOs in the State which is also acknowledged by the State Government of West Bengal.*

**We are sharing updates of our work with a few FPOs in this annual report.**

## **FPOs of Darjeeling District**

- **Ekta Kishan Samaj FPC Ltd. Business Activity:** Ekta Kishan Samaj FPC is incorporated on 22nd March 2023. The FPC is concerned with the related functions of Farmers. The primary focus of the FPC is to facilitate the farmers with benefits of government schemes, help them with agricultural inputs, make easy procedures of government policies application, and indulge them in companies' various projects and procurements by creating employment. Highland Hills FPC is far more active in the production of Agriculture Output Products, Such as mushrooms, Maize, Tea, Round Chilly, and Strawberry. Trading is a secondary aspect. Following are the brief details about their Business Activities-

- **Organic Tea Cultivation:** Highland Hills FPC produces various types of Tea. The Types of cultivation done this financial year are First Flush Black Tea, Second Flush Black Tea, Hand Rolled Tea, and Green Tea. They are a producer and seller in the region.



- **Registration and Collaboration with farmer Tea Members:**

On 24-08-2023, Highland Hills FPC is facilitating farmers for the cultivation of Tea in the Hilly area.





**Corn Seed Distribution:** Highland Hills FPC is helping farmers by distributing agricultural inputs from Cultivation such as Corn Seeds. We distributed these through our Registration Camps, visiting farmers personally.



**Strawberry Cultivation:** Highland Hills FPC has taken the First-mover advantage in the cultivation of Strawberry Cultivation in the Jorebunglow Sukhia Pokhri Development Block. Strawberry is a highly valued Fruit in the market. Production of Strawberry is under process.



**Carrot Cultivation and Distribution:** Highland Hills Fpc has availed a golden opportunity of working with the Sub-Division of Horticulture, Darjeeling, We are Producing and it is also a mode of Business in the upcoming Future.

## Distribution of HDPE vermi-bed:

Highland Hills FPC distributed a Good quality HDPE Vermi bed to the Farmers of Sukhia Pokhri with the help of Horticulture Department Darjeeling. The Motive behind the distribution is to earn business by making Vermi Compost from it. Vermi Compost which has good demand in markets of the Highland Hills FPC has taken the initiative to make business from Vermi Compost for a better future for FPC and the Farmers of Sukhia Pokhri.



## Farmers Mobilization and Awareness Meetings:

Highland Hills FPC conducts periodical Meetings for Farmers Mobilization. It also conducts Training and camps to facilitate farmers with different activities. One of the profound Mobilization Meetings with farmers was done in the presence of DDO Darjeeling, DDA Darjeeling, Soil Conservation Officer Darjeeling, and Hills Small Tea Growers Association.



# FPC License Details:

Highland Hills FPC Ltd. Received Business License like a Trade license, FSSAI License, and APEDA License. Ekta Kishan Samaj FPC Ltd. got registration on online portal like ONDC (MyStore) and E-Nam for Agri-Business.

**"FORM 11"**  
[For rule 58 (2)]

**Rangbhag Gopabandhu Gram Panchayat**

Name of Panchayat (Sanskrit): **Jorabangla Sukhia Pokhri Development Block**  
Name of District: **Darjeeling**

Trade Registration No: **40/RGGP/23** Date: **28/04/2023**  
Trade Regd. Cert. Issue No: **40/RGGP/23** Date: **28/04/2023**

Trade Registration Certificate issued for the period of **2023 - 2024 (Valid till 31st March 2024)** to

**Highland Hills Farmers Producer Company Limited**

(Name of Proprietor / Partner / Director)

Gram Sansad / Part No: **B**  
Full Address: **Lower Jawabri, Rangbhag buseri  
P.O. Rangbhag Sukhia Pokhri P.S. Sukhia Pokhri and  
District Darjeeling**

Description of Trade: **Agricultural Products**  
The Gram Panchayat acknowledges a sum of Rs **500.00** (Rupees Five hundred only) (in words) only from M/s **Sri Highland Hills Farmers Producer Company Limited** vide Receipt No. **40** Date: **28/04/2023**

Grant of this certificate shall not absolve the applicant from the requirement of procuring all the statutory clearances to be obtained from the appropriate authority before actual commencement of the trade, if any violation / default is noted later, the certificate shall be liable to be cancelled and the trade / business shall be closed down with immediate effect.

Executive Secretary / Secretary  
*Seema Bala Choudhary*  
N.B. - Gram Panchayat has every right to cancel or revoke or not allowing renewal of registration at any time.

**fssai**  
Government of West Bengal  
Department of Health and Family Welfare  
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India  
License under FSS Act, 2006

Registration No. / License Number: **12823000000334**

- Name & Registered Office address of Licensee / Registration No. & date of issue: **Highland Hills Farmers Producer Company Rangbhag Buseri, Darjeeling, West Bengal 734216**
- Address of Authorized Premises / Office: **Rangbhag Buseri, JORABANGLA SUKHIA POKHRI, Darjeeling, West Bengal 734216**
- Kind of Business / nature of work: **Manufacturer - General Manufacturing Trade/Retail - Retailer**
- Quarry Business Details / Self within Item B: **No**
- Category of License / Registration No. & Date: **State License**

This license is granted under and is subject to the provisions of FSS Act, 2006 and all of which must be complied with by the licensee. The applicant has to renew this license, take a self-declaration and submit it within 30 days after the expiry date of the license.

Place / work: **Darjeeling** Designated Officer: **Dr. B. B. Bhowmik**  
Issued On / Birth: **01-09-2023 (New License)** User ID: **12823000000334**  
Valid Upto / Term: **31-03-2024 (For details, refer Annexure)** Verified by: **9800000019**  
License Grant On: **30-07-2023 22:16:25**  
License Issued On: **01-09-2023 11:52:56**

Annexures:  
1. Photo of Licensee  
2. Self-declaration  
3. Self-declaration  
4. Certificate of License

Note:  
1. Application for renewal of license can be filed as early as 180 days prior to expiry date of license. You can file application for renewal or modification of license by login into FSSAI's Food Safety Compliance System (<https://www.fssai.gov.in>) with your user id and password or call us at 1800121000 for any clarification.  
2. This license is only to commence or carry on food businesses and not for any other purpose.  
3. This is computer generated license and doesn't require any signature or stamp by authority.

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**AGRICULTURAL AND PROCESSED FOOD PRODUCTS EXPORT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
APEDA

Name of the registrant: **HIGHLAND HILLS FARMERS PRODUCER COMPANY LIMITED**  
Address of the Registered Office: **Lower Jawabri, Rangbhag Buseri, P.O. Rangbhag Sukhia Pokhri, P.S. Sukhia Pokhri and District Darjeeling, West Bengal**

Registration Number: **APEDA/REGD/2023/0304**  
Issued against FPO Number: **12823000000334**

Registered as: **Manufacturer**

Name of the Proprietor/ Partner/ Director/Shareholder: **Sri Highland Hills Farmers Producer Company Limited**

This certificate is issued in pursuance of the provisions of the Act and is subject to the conditions laid down in the relevant scheme of registration of the applicant.

Issue Date: **01/09/2023** Valid upto: **01/09/2024**

Signature of the Proprietor/ Partner/ Director/Shareholder: **Sri Highland Hills Farmers Producer Company Limited**

**UDYAM REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE**

UDYAM REGISTRATION NUMBER: **UDYAM-WB-06-0024034**

NAME OF ENTERPRISE: **MS HIGHLAND HILLS FARMERS PRODUCER COMPANY LIMITED**

TYPE OF ENTERPRISE: **Micro** (Classification Year: **2023-24**, Category Type: **Micro**, Classification Date: **01/09/2023**)

MAJOR ACTIVITY: **TRADING**  
(For trading business of Private Sector, Learning No. 12/19/1)

SOCIAL CATEGORY OF ENTREPRENEUR: **GENERAL**

NAME OF UNIT: **MS HIGHLAND HILLS FARMERS PRODUCER COMPANY LIMITED**

OFFICIAL ADDRESS OF ENTERPRISE:  
Plot No: **100**, Name of Premises/ Building: **SUKHIA POKHRI**  
Village/Town: **RANGBHAG BUSERI**, Block: **JORABANGLA SUKHIA POKHRI**  
Road/Street/Lane: **100**, City: **DARJEELING**  
State: **WEST BENGAL**, District: **DARJEELING**, Pin: **734216**  
Mobile: **9800000019**, Email: **highlandhillsfpc@gmail.com**

DATE OF INCORPORATION / REGISTRATION OF ENTERPRISE: **22/09/2023**  
DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF PRODUCTION-BUSINESS: **24/09/2023**

NATIONAL INDUSTRY CLASSIFICATION CODE(S): **55102023**

DATE OF UDYAM REGISTRATION: **01/09/2023**

Note: In case of graduation (upward movement) of status of an enterprise, the benefit of the Entrepreneurship Scheme will be available as per the provisions of Notification No. S.O. 31763-Dated 26.06.2019 issued by the MoS, MSME.

A Residential Training on Accounting Bookkeeping in Tally and For CEO Training regarding Database Management Systems (DBS) was organized by Satmile Satish Club 'O' Pathagar.



### **Awareness and Mobilization camp of Farmers about the concept of FPC and FIG:**

A one-day awareness camp on the concept of FPC and FIG was organized by Ekta Kishan Samaj FPC Ltd. On 24-08-2023 at Sukhia Pokhri Higher Secondary School Hall.

The essence of the camp was to make farmers aware of the Project initiative of FPC and the benefits that can be earned by the creation of FIG.



### **Training and Demonstration of Strawberry Cultivation and High value Vegetables by expert Trainer:**

Three-day training on Mushroom cultivation was initiated by Highland Hills FPC Ltd. On 13-10-2023. The training was in the presence of DHO Darjeeling Mr. Debojit Basak, DDH Darjeeling Mr. Surapati Mandal, ADH Darjeeling Mr. Arkaprava Sarkar, Trainer of the day. The initiative was undertaken to aware the farmers about the profitable business through Strawberry and value Vegetables Cultivation.



## Farmers Mobilization Meeting:

Farmers Mobilization Meeting is organized periodically by Ekta Kishan Samaj FPC Ltd. The main aim of these meetings is to gather more and more farmers and aware them of the importance of cultivation with proper business ideas. FIG creation is another important motive of Mobilization.



## PARTICIPATED IN ATMA NIRBHAR BHARAT PROGRAM DELHI:

Highland Hills FPC had Actively Participated in the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Program in Delhi. An eight-day program held from 03-01-2024 to 10-01-2024, their engagement included attending Key sessions, networking with Industry Experts, and exchanging ideas for profitable business, and promoting Darjeeling Products in such a valuable program.

## Institutional Training of CEO/BODs:

Satmile Satish Club organized a BOD and CEO residential Training program for their Capacity Building on Roles and responsibilities of BODs and CEOs, ROCs compliance, product, Business Plan, processing, branding, labeling, and marketing. SCCOP covers all the topics on those training with the External Expert.



**Jalpaiguri Krishi Vigyan Kendra organized a Training on “Strengthening of FPOs through Capacity Building Programme During 2023-2024”, dated 11 September 2023.**



Residential Training course on Operational Management of FPOs under RKVY 2023-2024” was organized by Netaji Subhash Training Institute of Agricultural Marketing where knowledge about the Management System of FPOs was shared.





## REVIVING A LOST MILLET

Millets are one of the oldest food grains known to mankind and possibly the first cereal grain used for domestic purposes. Millets are the most important cereals of the semi-arid zones of the world. For centuries, millets have been the staple diet for nearly 1/3rd of the world's population. Millet crops primarily constitute a diverse group of small grains.

Millets are classified into major millets and minor millets or small millets. Minor or small millets are categorized under Coarse Cereals in India. India is the leading producer of small millets namely, finger millet (ragi), kodo millet (kodo), foxtail millet (kangni), barnyard millet (sawan), proso millet (cheema) and little millet (kutki). Millets are

strategic in terms of their food, nutritional and livelihood security and their role in local agro-ecosystems. Millets are important crops for dry land farmers; they are highly nutritious and climate-compliant crops. However, due to drudgery in preparation, overall millet consumption in India has declined over the years.

Kaun as locally called Foxtail Millet was once a Poor man's food in Cooch Behar and North Bengal was slowly losing its existence and farmers due to modern farming practices and new varieties of Hybrid crops which were bringing more income. A revival was needed as the Poor man's food turned into a Rich man's diet because of its food value and being less sugar.

In North Bengal, the cultivation of Foxtail Millet is slowly losing ground and the cultivation area is reducing year after year. However, with the sudden interest of consumers, the prices of foxtail millet have gone up and the demand is also rising due to its nutritional value. Hence it makes great business sense for the small and marginal farmers of the 3 districts to start cultivating foxtail millet and create profits for them. This also converges with the Government of India initiative of International Year on Millets 23 (IYOM23).

Foxtail and finger millets are highly nutritious with diverse usage, well-adapted to marginal lands, and mostly grown by resource-poor farmers. Worldwide >46,000 foxtail millet and >37,000 finger millet germplasm accessions have been conserved, and the largest collections of finger and foxtail millet germplasm accessions are in India and China, respectively. Considerable variation exists for biotic and abiotic stresses and for quality and agronomic traits for improvement. The entire diversity of these crops has been captured in the form of core, and mini-core collections and is being used in genetic and genomic studies for identification of new sources of variation. Genomic resources are available in foxtail millet, while in finger millet these resources are being developed. Use of the genetic and genomic resources needs to be accelerated to assist in developing improved cultivars for these crops.

SSCOP in partnership with NABARD started a project called “Reviving and creating the value chain on Foxtail Millet in North Bengal Districts by area expansion, seed production, processing and marketing through FPOs benefitting the small and marginal farmers”

### **The objectives were following:**

Reviving and creating the value chain on Foxtail Millet in North Bengal Districts by area expansion, seed production, processing and marketing through FPOs benefitting the small and marginal farmers. The project was undertaken in the 3 Districts of North Bengal, train the farmers on modern cultivation practices, bring in value addition and processing thereby not only profiting but also bringing in nutritional value. This project included the existing FPOs as partners.

FPOs will have its own brand of Seed and will market its produce within its members as well as other farmers of the district and nearby districts. The processed and packaged product will also be sold through big retail chains and food outlets.

The project as of now has 15 FPO partners out of which 2 are from Alipurduar, 5 from Jalpaiguri, and 8 from Cooch Behar Districts. SSCOP Team has carried out 11 training programs with 40 participating farmers in each training across the 3 districts. The farmers are organized into FIGs and training is completed on improved agriculture practices to raise good quality Seeds and farmers are actively involved in production. Farmers have also realized benefits in terms of increased incomes through the production of high-quality foundation seeds and marketable surpluses. SSCOP has also carried out 3 Demonstrations in different locations among the farmers.

SSCOP has distributed around 300 Kg of high-quality foxtail millet seeds out of which 74 Kg to Alipurduar and 215 Kg to Cooch Behar. In project year 1 SSCOP through its FPO 7-Mile FPC has procured 28.80 Quintals of Foxtail Millet from farmers of different districts and has processed 23 Quintal of Millet. A total of 16.1 Quintal has been sold. Various District Agriculture Departments are also procuring Foxtail Millet seeds and are popularizing them in their areas.

SSCOP to popularize also organized a Foxtail Millet Food Utsav where the local Cooch Behar women made various dishes of Foxtail millet which all the visitors including senior officials from various Government Departments enjoyed. The local community also enjoyed the food. Prizes were given to all the ladies who cooked.



## Impacts as of date

Foxtail Millet has once again become popular among consumers and the market demand has increased.

The FPOs are now popularizing it among their farmers and the farmers are showing keen interest.

There is almost a 3 times increase of farmers and land under Foxtail Millet.

It generated employment for 5 rural poor women for 2 months and provided them with incomes.

The local processing mill benefitted and its income has gone up.



# RUPANTAR -

## TRANSFORMING SMALLHOLDER FOOD SYSTEMS IN THE EASTERN GANGETIC PLAIN

The Eastern Gangetic Plains of Bangladesh, India, and Nepal are home to 450 million people, with the world's highest concentration of rural poverty and a strong dependence on agriculture for food and livelihood security.

The area has the potential to become a major contributor to South Asian regional food security, but agricultural productivity remains low and diversification is limited. This is because of poorly developed markets, sparse agricultural knowledge and service networks, inadequate development of available water resources, and low adoption of improved, sustainable production practices.

Current food systems in the Eastern Gangetic Plains do not provide smallholder farmers with profitable livelihoods, nor the population of the region with balanced diets, and put unnecessary pressure on natural resources. Transformation of the food system, with viable technical options for smallholders and interventions for scaling, is essential.

ACIAR and DFAT have invested more than \$25 million into diverse farming systems research in this region over the past decade. The new Rupantar project builds on existing work and partnership networks to provide a link between research outputs and development goals, through the demonstration of inclusive diversification pathways, definition of processes for scaling to the millions of smallholder farmers in the region, and generating a better understanding of the policies that support diversification.

### Research objectives

- Defining the processes and practices (technical options, scaling interventions, policy settings, and implementation) that can be applied to achieve sustainable, efficient, diversified food systems at scale in the Eastern Gangetic Plains.
- Understanding the context for diversification in the Eastern Gangetic Plains.
- Defining and implementing diversification pathways using collaborative and inclusive approaches.
- Deepening understanding of the trade-offs and synergies associated with diversification pathways.
- Engaging and communicating with change-makers to ensure outputs are used and integrated into independent programs.

# Project outcomes

- Demonstrated pathways for equitable and sustainable diversified food systems in the EGP.
- Improved evidence-based policies for planning and development programs that promote diversification.
- Self-sustaining diversification pathways that are owned by local partners and promoted without ongoing project support.

This project is currently in the 3rd year of its work and the University of Adelaide is the Lead Implementing Agency. SSCOP is a project partner in this project along with multiple organizations across the 3 Countries.

## Update

The project carried out several training which included one-day farmers training in non-plot areas. A total of 3 batches of training have been completed and a total of 100 farmers were trained. A large number of women participated in these trainings. The trainings were conducted by the senior faculties of Uttar Banga Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya. The first training was conducted on 31 January 2023 with the first batch, on 15 February with the 2nd batch at Chhat Singimari, and the final one on 17 February 2023. Professor Kalyan Das, Dr. Arunava Ghosh, Dr. Dilip Hazra, Dr. Soumodeep Das, UBKV, and Chittaranjan Adhikari, Mijanur Rahaman of the SSCOP team carried out the first training.

The second training was conducted by Professor Apurba Kumar Chowdhury, Dr. Dilip Hazra, Dr. Soumodeep, Chittaranjan Adhikari, and Mijanur Rahaman of the SSCOP team carried out the second training. The final training was conducted by Professor Apurba Kumar Chowdhury, Dr. Dilip Hazra, Dr. Soumodeep Das, and Chittaranjan Adhikari of the SSCOP team carried out the final training.



The project also carried out Enumerators training at the SSCOP office where 15 enumerators from different locations were trained by CIMMYT Team and UBKV who are working on this project and carried out the baseline study.



Rupantar project had its Annual Project Review Meeting (APRM) in May 2023 at Cooch Behar where all the project partners from Bangladesh, Nepal, India, and Australia deliberated on the progress of the project. A special session was kept in the APRM where the findings of the Case Studies on Crop Diversification were shared by all the Resource persons and the farmers from the case study region also participated and shared their views.



The Rupantar Team carried out field visits and farmers' discussions in all the clusters in July 2023. This was very important as it was to identify the clusters where the actual interventions would start under the project.

# Field Interventions



The project is running smoothly in all the villages. The current visit dated February 7, 2024, was to the Unishbisha Cluster – Bhogmara Ruidanga villages. The selection criteria were to get the smallest farmer having the least land holding and women farmers.

A total of 28 farmer were reached out (7 women farmers) with the total land at 30 Bighas – 4 hectares with the break-up as - Conventional- 7, Reduced- 2 and ZT – 17. The crop that was selected is Mustard. The Sowing date was 4th and 5th of December 2023.

The results as on date are as follows:

## **ZT and Reduced Tillage**

1. Plant height 3 feet
2. Less pest attacks
3. Judicious irrigation
4. Expected production - 160- 200kg per Bigha
5. Properly managed and maintained – Weed management
6. Behavioral change of farmers in adopting new technology – Next season they will use the technology again
7. The gap between Kharif and Aman paddy was included in trial basis to increase one crop \ in the field.

# Conventional

Expected production will increase and pest attack is less because of proper crop management with proper guidance. But cost of production is higher than that of ZT.

The Mustard is now getting harvested and the farmers feel that the production has increased.



## SSCOP BATTLING CLIMATE CHANGE COMPREHENSIVELY

### Improved Agricultural practices through Carbon finance for subsistence farmers in West Bengal

#### Project Details

In October 2022, Satmile Satish Club “O” Pathagar signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Kosher Climate India Pvt. Ltd. to implement Conservation Agriculture and AWD (Alternate Drying and Wetting) techniques in farming practices among the farmers of West Bengal. Cooch Behar was the first district then Uttar-Dinajpur, Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri, and Darjeeling were taken to increase the land size as well as include more number of farmers in Climate resilient farming practices.

#### Background:

SSCOP is working as POPI (Producer Organization Promoting Institution) for the Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) under NABARD (National Bank For Agriculture and Rural Development) and CBBO (Cluster Based Business Organization) for the FPCs under SFAC, Central Sector Scheme. At present SSCOP leading to 51 FPCs under Nabard and 32 FPCs under SFAC and some independent FPCs. Through these FPCs, a large number of farmers is connected with SSCOP for different purposes and services. Besides, in 2014, the execution of SRFSI (Sustainable and Resilient Farming System Intensification) project supported by Australian Center for International Agriculture Research (ACIAR) including the use of RTP, the formation of seedling factories, and the spreading of this technology and techniques among farmers through FPCs was the turning point for incorporating climate Resilient Farming Practices in Cooch Behar. Especially 4 blocks – Dinhata I, Dinhata II, Cooch Behar I, and Mathabhanga II were the project nodes of the SRFSI project. This also triggered the quick acceptance and adoption of AWD in these blocks in the Pilot phase.

#### Stakeholders:

Smallholder farmers including women farmers are the major stakeholders of this project. However, AWD is a technique that is used in the paddy fields and the “Boro” season, and hence the Boro farmers were the main stakeholders. The first task for the SSCOP team was to identify the “Boro” lands. For this purpose, SSCOP linked up with the Agriculture Department, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, and Uttar Banga Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (Technical Lead of this project) to generate the right data and technical support for training and capacity building.

#### Vision of the Project:

Since 2001, SSCOP working with small and marginal farmers in the North Bengal region. So the primary vision is to include farmers in climate-resilient farming practices as much as possible. To decrease the carbon footprint from the agricultural practice of farmers of West Bengal to some extent. Providing the opportunity for the farmers to get some benefits from the carbon revenue generated from such NBS is one of the major goals of SSCOP.

A 1.5-ton carbon credit is produced from one hectare of land practicing AWD properly. Of the total revenue generated from the project, 25% will be shared with the registered farmers under this project. The benefit will be provided to the farmers after 3 years of implementation of AWD in the field. The benefit will be distributed among the farmers in a cluster approach like agri- inputs /machinery/ seeds to a group of farmers in a particular area so that they can use it together.

## Why Alternate Wetting and Drying in Paddy areas?

### Basic Principle of AWD

The basic principle of the AWD technique is the alternate process of wetting and drying of the paddy field instead of continuous submerged conditions throughout the entire crop season. According to research, in the traditional method, 3500-4000 liter of water is needed per kg of paddy production but using AWD technique it only needs 2000 liters of water per kg of paddy production. If there is optimum water in the soil, the roots can take the needed water from the soil.

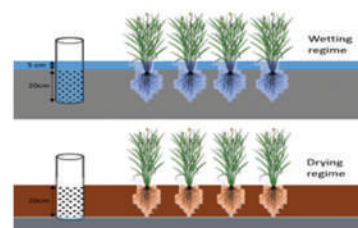


Fig: AWD – wetting and drying phase

### Tools

#### Filed Water Tube:

The field water tube is a 30 cm or 1 foot long PVC/metallic/ bamboo pipe with a 10cm diameter. The upper 15 cm of the pipe is non-perforated and the lower 15 cm is perforated. Horizontally two perforations have a 5cm distance and vertically two perforations have a 2.5 cm gap. The tube should be incorporated into the soil in a manner so that the perforated portion would be under the soil surface and the non-perforated portion above the soil surface.

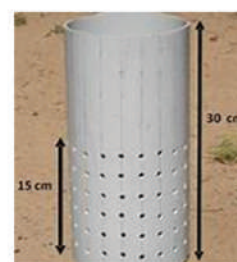


Fig: Process of AWD

### Process of Implementation

One to two weeks later of the transplantation of the seedling AWD technique should be initiated. In this phase 2-4cm water stagnation is to be maintained. A plain land of the field should be selected for the field water tube installation. If the field is undulating then the place where average water level is same should be selected. After the installation of the tube, the clay inside the soil should be removed to ensure that only water is present there. The water level inside and outside the field water tube is the same has to be maintained.



Fig: Process of AWD

Then allow the field to dry and keep observing the water level inside the field water tube. Next irrigation should be done 5 cm above the soil surface whenever there is no water inside the field water tube.

At the time of flowering for 2 weeks AWD should be stopped. At this stage, 4-5cm water level should be maintained in the paddy field. After 2 weeks AWD can be restarted again and before 1-2 weeks before irrigation should be stopped and the Field Water Tube should be removed from the field.



### **Benefits:**

Research shows that using AWD a farmer can save 4-5 irrigation which saves 25% of total water used against conventional method in one crop season (Paddy).

Triggers the root growth and makes the plant stronger.

Increases organic carbon and other micro-nutrients in soil.

Reduces Methane emissions.

Increases the production approximately 0.5ton / Hectare.

### **Implementation:**

A baseline survey was conducted before starting the pilot in the Cooch Behar district for sensitivity analysis and feasibility checking. Block-wise record of "Boro" cultivation was assessed and analyzed, the land target was divided for the pilot project among 7 blocks of Cooch Beha district – Dinhata I & II, Cooch Behar I & II, Sitalkuchi, Mekliganj and Mathabhanga II.

In the first year (Pilot phase) human resources were recruited through FPCs and in some blocks member farmers from FPCs worked as volunteers/ field officers.

In the next phase, the land target increased by 300 times of the pilot and the human resource also increased by 40 times. 12 Blocks from Cooch Behar and 7 Blocks from Uttar Dinajpur are selected for this ongoing phase. SSCOP carried out a number of interviews to recruit such a large number of manpower. Field recruitment of volunteers also was done during the project. It is a great achievement for SSCOP that this project has created a large number of jobs for the youth as well as farmers irrespective of gender. All volunteers and block coordinators are not necessarily from agricultural backgrounds even in the case of volunteers rather than educational qualifications communication skill was the main strength to recruit them. They were trained numerous times by the SSCOP Team and their capacities were built not only for the project-specific work but also in increasing primary knowledge of agriculture and conservation agriculture.

## Scope of Work for SSCOP:

- Baseline survey and Land identification
- Networking with the Farmer Producer Companies
- Recruitment of staff
- Training and capacity building of staff
- Organize stakeholder meeting in block level and farmer awareness meeting in village level to create awareness
- Collect data from farmers and share it to KOSHER CLIMATE for further process
- Make linkage with the Govt. Agriculture departments for cooperation and establish the authenticity and legality of the project as it requires personal documents of a farmer to register under this project.
- Arrange Field Water Tubes and distribution among the volunteers.
- Supervise the block coordinators and volunteers on daily basis.
- Assist funding partner in verification process.

### Pilot Phase

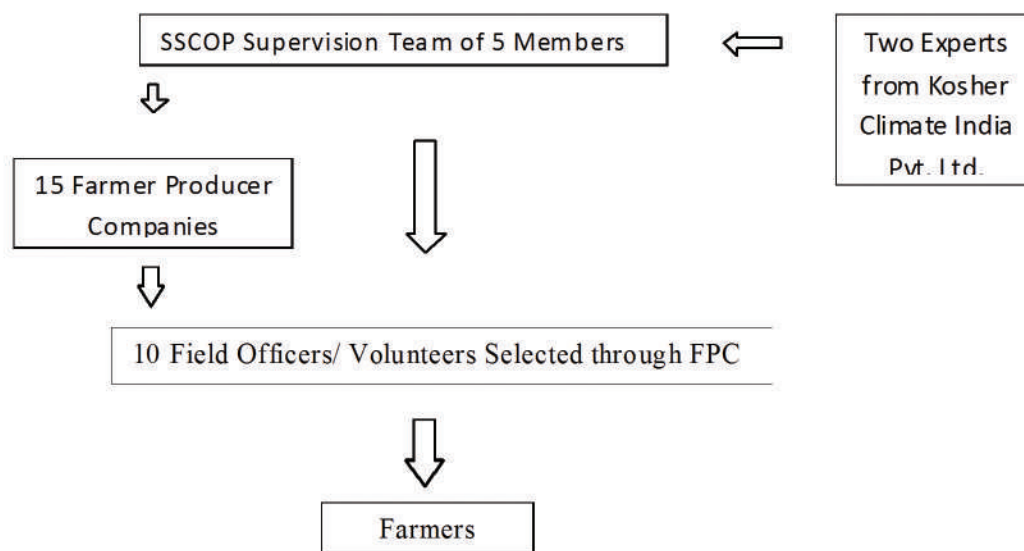
Satmile Satish Club "O" Pathagar carried out AWD technique in two phases. The first phase was the trial/ pilot phase which started in November, 2022.

Land covered: 1000 Hectare

Project Location: Covering four districts – Cooch Behar, Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling but maximum land covered was in Cooch Behar Districts.

### Staffing Structure:

Trial phase was carried out through the FPC (Farmer Producer Company) Model. A five member supervision team from SSCOP with the cooperation of 2 members from Kosher Climate India Pvt. Ltd. implemented the project with 10 Field Officers who were selected from different Farmer Producer Companies (FPC). Total 3500 farmer were targeted in this project with whom the pilot phase was planned to be rolled out.



## Project Performance:

736 Hectare land came under AWD process in this pilot project phase. 2079 Field Water Tubes were distributed among 2079 farmers, who were registered under this phase, and were installed in their paddy field. 1ST year farmers were given the target of two times drying in each crop season (Boro/Aman). Currently 50% of the farmers are carrying on the process of AWD. Remaining 50% farmers carried out one time drying but all of them are willing to continue the process in the next paddy seasons also. All the farmers practicing AWD in their paddy field admitted that the production has increased by 60-80 kg per Bigha of land. In first year of trial phase and the success rate is 73.6%.

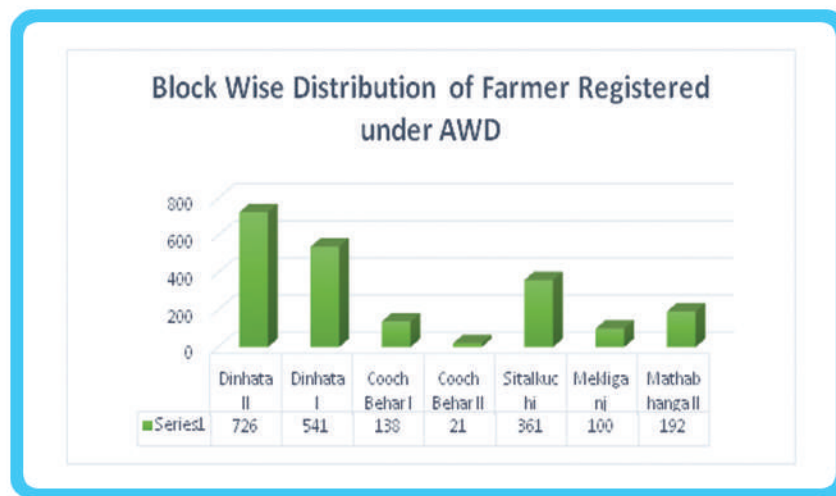
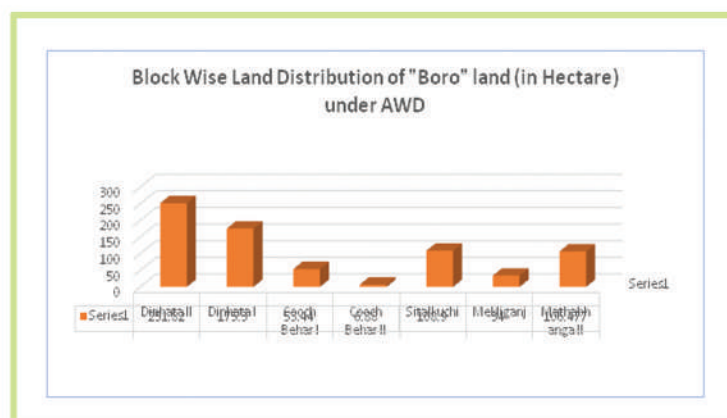


Fig: Graphical representation of farmer registration

According to the Government Data, Dinhat II block is having the maximum land under “Boro” followed by Dinhat I, Sitalkuchi and Mathabhanga II. Cooch Behar I & II having comparatively less amount of “Boro land”. And as expected Dinhat I farmers responded to the AWD technique most.



### Block wise Percentage Distribution of Land coverage

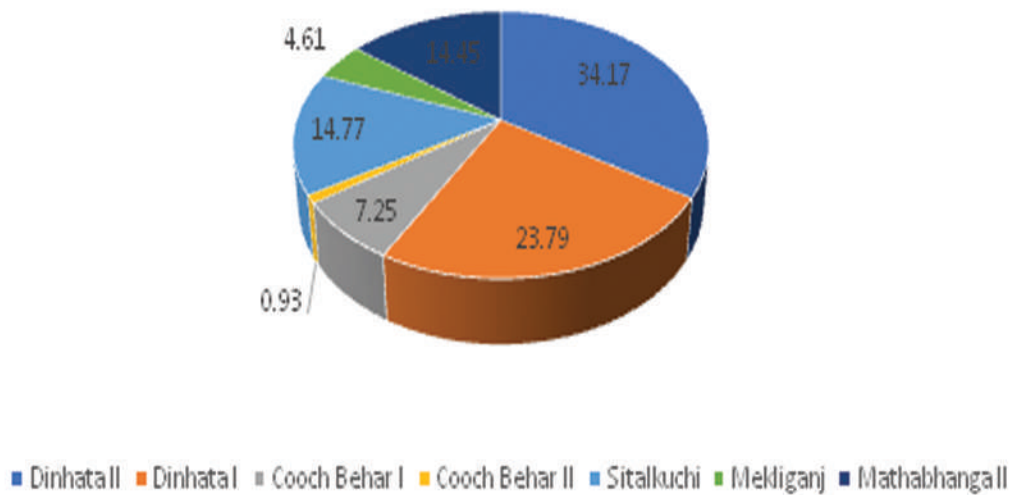


Fig: Pie chart showing land distribution block wise

In case of land coverage Dinhata I, Dinhata II, Sitalkuchi and Mathabhangall responses were the best as part of the pilot project.

# Fig: Farmer awareness meeting





**Fig: Pictures showing Farmer Registration for practicing AWD**



**Fig: Drying Phase of AWD**

**2nd phase of AWD Carried out By Satmile Satish Club "O" Pathagar:**

2nd Phase has started in August, 2023 with large target and vision.

**Project Period: 10 years**

Land Target: 30000 Hectare

**Fig: Pictures sowing Wetting phase of AWD**



**Fig: Pictures Showing Drying Phase of AWD**

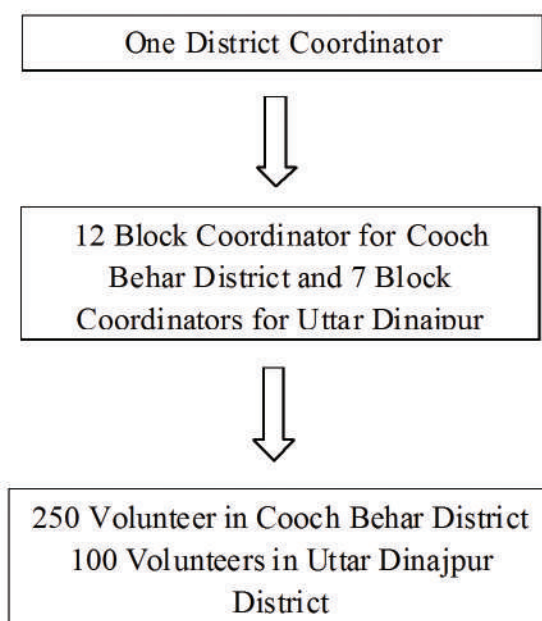


## Project Location: 19 blocks in Cooch Behar and Uttar Dinajpur

<b>Cooch Behar</b>	<b>Uttar Dinajpur</b>
Cooch Behar I	Raiganj
Cooch Behar II	Kaliaganj
Dinhata I	Itahar
Dinhata II	Hemtabad
Mathabhanga I	Goalpokhar I
Mathabhanga II	Goalpokhar II
Tufanganj I	Karandighi
Tufanganj II	
Mekliganj	
Sitai	
Sitalkuchi	
Haldibari	

**12 blocks of Cooch Behar district covering 420 villages and 7 blocks of Uttar Dinajpur district covering 250 villages under this project.**

## Human Resources:



## Project Planning and Present Status:

Components	Target	Achieved
Total Number of Farmer Registration under AWD in "KOSHERISE" App	100000	47248
Number of Polygon Mapping of land practicing AWD (in "KOSHERISE" App)	100000	14000
Total land registered under AWD	37500 Hectare	49191 Acre
Total land Covering under Polygon Mapping	30000 Hectare	10624 Acre
Field Water Tube Installation	90000	5000 FWT have been distributed and 200 already installed in early boro paddy land
Drying Phase	2 times	Yet to start

# Project outcomes

To date, SSCOP has achieved 50% of the target of farmer involvement in AWD practice which started in November 2023. By the end of March 2024, SSCOP is targeting to complete the farmer registration under this project in the 4 blocks of Cooch Behar district. Farmers practice late “Boro” paddy in which seedling transplantation generally starts from the end of March. Polygon Mapping of the AWD lands (“Boro” fields where AWD techniques will be practiced) has started since mid-December and it will continue till seedling transplantation ends. Then with the transplantation of seeding the Field Water Tube installation will be done simultaneously. Then the farmer will be instructed to allow the drying of the field in



accordance with the proper scientific protocol recommended for the AWD method.



Fig: Farmer Awareness meeting and Registration



Fig: Training of Block Coordinators and Volunteers



Fig: Training of Volunteers on Polygon Mapping



Fig: Training of Volunteers on Polygon Mapping



Fig: Field Water Tube Installation



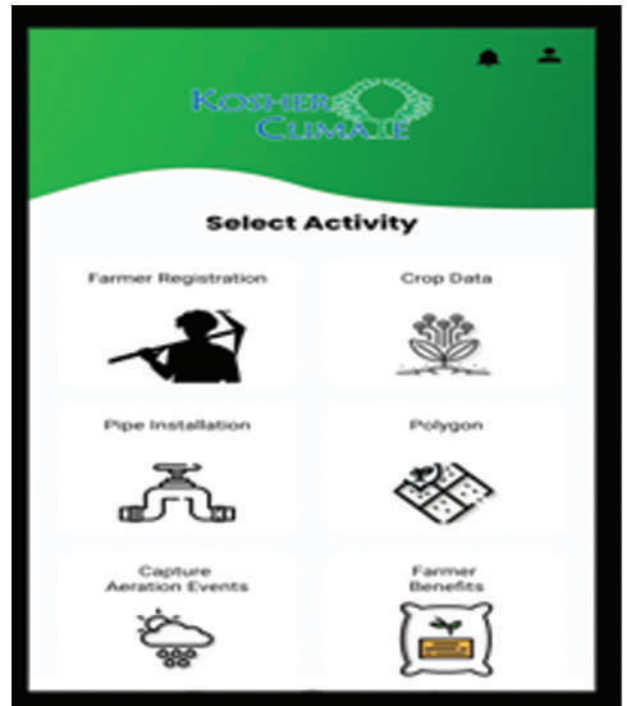
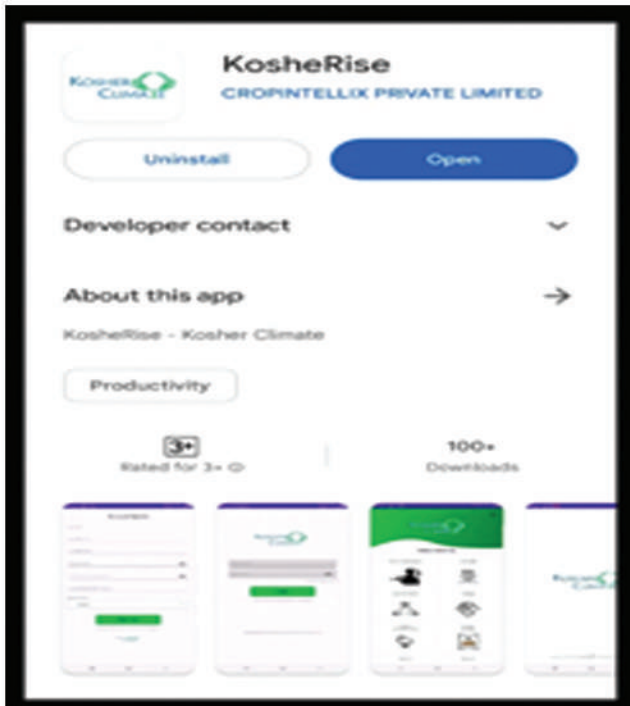
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accordance with the proper scientific protocol recommended for the AWD method.

# “KosheRise” App

The whole process of farmer registration and polygon mapping of AWD “Boro” land is recording in a Customized Application named “KosheRise”, developed by Kosher Climate India Pvt. Ltd. Four activities are assigned to the volunteers in a proper sequence. Farmer registration followed by crop, polygon and pipe installation accordingly.



## **CREATING SUSTAINABLE AND PROFITABLE FARMER PRODUCER COMPANIES WITH THE SUPPORT OF NABARD**

SSCOP is implementing a project supported by NABARD on “Extension of Grant Assistance for promotion and Nurturing of 20 Farmers Producer Organisation (FPOs) under Producer Organisation Development Fund (PODF)-ID of NABARD for additional duration of three years” where it is a Producer Organization Promoting Institution (POPI). The project got the approval on 1st January 2022 which is for 3 years.

SSCOP has formed 20 FPCs in Cooch Behar and Alipurduar districts and each FPC is registered under the Companies Act 2013 with 400-500 share members, who are small and marginal farmers of the above two districts. SSCOP has provided various support towards the development of FPCs as well as for the farmer’s benefit, such as handholding, Monitoring, Capacity building of CEO and BODs, training for technology adoption & productivity, Government Department linkage, corporate linkage, market linkage, documentation process, mobilization camp to increase or engage more farmers and also awareness camp for farmers. SSCOP has completed 7 BODs training, 1 CEOs & 1 Mobilization camp with a minimum of 100 farmers for each FPC in a year with a total number of 2000 farmers in a year.

SSCOP has also provided training to Baneswar Evergreen FPC which was approved under Additional Promotional Grant Assistance for 02 Years under Producer Organization Development Fund (PODF)-ID of NABARD: 01 Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) promoted under PRODUCE fund.

SSCOP found major problems in the agriculture sector - lack of knowledge, modern farm technology, availability of inputs – quality and timely availability, market linkage, etc. But now due to SSCOP interventions and training the FPOs are playing an active role and managing their businesses in the following ways.

### **INPUTS**

1. Seed Production: In Cooch Behar District there is a huge demand for seeds and farmers mostly are buying seeds from other states. A few of the FPOs are now producing local seeds of Paddy and Potato. (Thaneswar FPC, UAFTRSWO FPC, Promila Bahini FPC and Jiranpur FPC)
2. Fertilizer: In the Fertilizer and Pesticide business, Pranayi FPC has opened an input shop in Dinhata Block, where farmers get timely fertilizer and affordable prices. They have become dealers of IFFCO and other big companies.
3. Farm Equipment: Patlakhawa FPO has taken dealerships of several farm equipment companies like VST, Sonalika, Kishancraft, etc. for various farm equipment and Krishi Ratna FPO has taken dealership of Premier pipes for sprinkler irrigation.
4. Vermicompost Production: To preserve soil quality and reduce fertilizer usage some of the FPOs have taken to produce large-scale vermin compost production such as Shooting Camp FPO, Chhobi FPO, Patlakhawa FPO, and Pranayi FPO.

# OUTPUT MARKETING

- 1. Maize & Potato:** Krishi Ratna FPO is doing business in maize and potato aggregation and marketing from their farmer members. They are supplying the farmer's produce to other states like Assam, Mizoram, Bhutan, etc.
- 2. Paddy Procurement:** The area mainly produces paddy, so some FPCs are procuring it with MSP and supplying it to rice mills.
- 3. Chili & Tomato:** Haldibari Block of Cooch Behar district is famous for the production of Chili and Tomato and Sabuj Bangla Agri & Horti FPO is marketing them to other States to realize better prices for their farmers.
- 4. Banana:** Bhumi Shakti FPC is supplying bananas to Cavender Company and they are supplying its seedlings to the farmers.
- 5. TEA:** A small village in Cooch Behar known as Bhogramaguri has many small tea farmers and they produce green tea leaves. Bhogramaguri FPO is collecting the green tea leaves, aggregating them, and supplying them to the tea factories in the vicinity. They are planning to start their tea factory in the coming days.
- 6. Fish:** Fish is in high demand in West Bengal and also in Cooch Behar and is brought here from various distant places like Gangarampur, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar. Jirhanpur FPO in Cooch Behar 1 Block is into fish production, fingerling supply and marketing.

**The FPOs in Cooch Behar and Alipurduar are doing good business and there is an increase in the farmer's income from agriculture and allied sectors.**



## **SSCOP HERALDING THE NEW INITIATIVE - BLUE REVOLUTION**

SSCOP is known for its work in agriculture all across the country and even in countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, Australia, and Mexico. It has heralded a Green Revolution version 2.0 by promoting Climate Smart technologies all across North Bengal which has benefitted millions of small farmers.

Now we are also involved in Blue Revolution working with small fishers not only in Cooch Behar but also in 3 other states. SSCOP as the CBBO of SFAC India is actively promoting Fisheries Cooperatives in the States of Bihar, Jharkhand, and Telangana under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) since October 2023. The SSCOP Team is promoting 50 FFPOs in the 3 States. SSCOP is working with existing Fisheries Cooperatives.

The SSCOP Team is building capacities through focused training of the FFPOs in fish management, production, and supply chain, modern fishery practices, and disease management. The SSCOP team is also getting their compliance and other documents in place and training them in maintaining their important documents like cashbooks, audits, accounting books, vouchers, share certificates, etc. SSCOP is also conducting meetings in various locations on member mobilization, increasing shareholders.



# SSCOP State wise Details on FFPO



JHARKHAND

## District and Block List

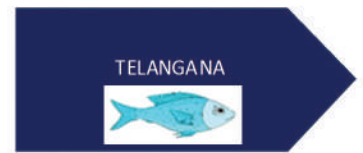
Koderma	Jainagar	Chandwara
		Markachho
Bokaro	Gonia	
Dhanbad	Topchanchi	
Dumka	Dumka	
Godda	Godda	
	Pathargama	
Gumla	Palkot	
	Basia	
Hazaribag	Keredari	
	Hazaribag	
	Barhi	
Ramgarh	Dulmi	
Ranchi	Angada	
West Singbhum	Majhgaon	



BIHAR

## District and Block List

Patna	Daniwa
Bhagalpur	Kahalgaw
East Champaran	Tetaria
Muzaffarpur	Bochaha
Nalanda	Parwalpu
Nawada	Kawakol
Shekhpura	Ariyari
Supaul	Kishanpur
Vaishali	Vaishali
	Gaural

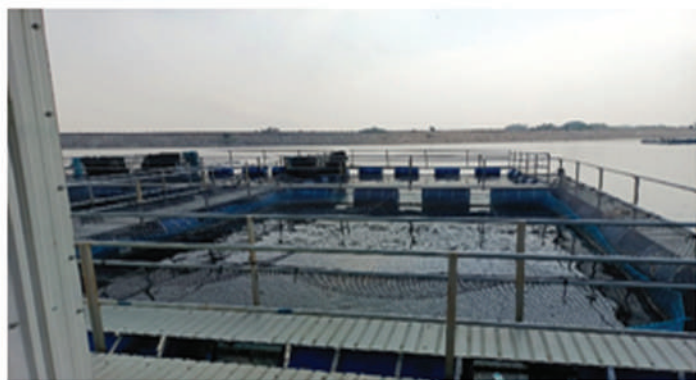


TELANGANA

## District and Block List

RajannaSircilla	Konaraopet
RajannaSircilla	Veeranapalli
RajannaSircilla	Yallareddy et
RajannaSircilla	Sircilla
Nagarkurnool	Kollapur





## ***HELPING THE POTATO FARMERS OF THE REGION WITH HIGH-TECH POTATO SEEDS***

SSCOP is a partner with the Department of Agriculture, Government of West Bengal under the RKVY Scheme where they are creating an ecosystem of virus-free potatoes under the protected system of Seed Production.

SSCOP has created 2 facilities of 1000 Square Meter area and has covered them with 40 mesh size nets. In the year 2022, this project was initiated and SSCOP created a 1000 sq. Mt area. The inside structure was of Bamboo. The first-year seeds were from

Krishnanagr Agri Research Station. In the first year, SSCOP provided G-0 potato seeds variety K-Sukhety and G-3 Himalini potato seeds. After production, the potato seeds were kept in a nearby cold storage unit before they were given to the farmers at a minimal cost.

In 2023 under the same scheme RKVY, there are 2 units which are been set up with K-Sukhety G-1 to G-2 (1600 kg), KCM G-2 to G-3 (2050kg), and K-Pokhraj G-0 to G-1 (200kg) being used in these facilities. In this year the same 2 units are set up with ARC plants of K-Sukhety and K-Mohan both with G-0 varieties and the old KCM G-3 variety. The expected production would be 4000 Kgs. This will not only get the farmers of Cooch Behar high-quality Potato seeds which will increase their production and also their profits but also the overall operation has provided more than 11 Man-days of work. The work was carried out by the local community members and 24 women members also generated incomes with this work.



## **TAKING MODERN AND CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE FARM MACHINES TO THE DOORSTEPS OF SMALL AND MARGINAL FARMERS – SSCOP AS A CUSTOM HIRING CENTER (CHC)**

SSCOP is a Custom Hiring Centre designated by the Government of West Bengal and for the last almost 1 decade is reaching out to the small farmers of Cooch Behar with Modern farm Technology which is mostly climate smart. The small and marginal farmers cannot buy Farm Machines which are very costly and hence SSCOP is providing them with Farm Technologies at a nominal rate on a rental model.

This year SSCOP has seen a major acceptance of the Farm Machines which includes Rice Transplanters (RTP), Zero Tillage (ZT) Combined Harvester, etc.

There are a total of 9 people who manage the CHC operations.

**Mat Paddy Seedling – RTP - Seedling Factory**

In the year 2023-24, SSCOP has carried out the transplantation of almost 1000 Bighas of Paddy reaching out to almost 500 small farmers mostly from Coochbehar Block I and II, Dinhata I, and Mathabhanga II Blocks. In the Aman season, SSCOP carried out 300 Bighas (15-200 farmers). The seedlings were raised by SSCOP on their farm. Out of this 130 Bighas were under the Government Subsidy program and the rest 170 were individual farmers. SSCOP Charged Rs1600 per Bigha against Rs.3300 which is incurred if done traditionally.

Currently, in the Boro season, SSCOP is targeting 700 Bighas out of which it was 120 Bighas were ordered by the Government of West Bengal. The Blocks remain the same minus the Mathabhanga Block II. The farmers who are now using machines for Paddy have been repeating it for last couple of seasons but 150 new farmers have placed orders this year for this rental model. We have seen an increase of almost 30% since the last year.

SSCOP also feels happy that out of this number 50 women farmers have also placed their orders (20 of them only for the mat Paddy Seedling which they have used traditionally). SSCOP has 5 RTPs in their farm bank.



## Zero Tillage (ZT)

This year Zero Tillage has seen an increase of 20% in farmers using this technology. SSCOP has provided ZT to farmers for cultivating Maize (200 Bighas), Mustard (100 Bighas), and Wheat (50 Bighas) but most importantly for the first time ZT has been used for Kaun (Foxtail Millet) (20 Bighas).

The Blocks from where farmers have used ZT are from Coochbehar I, II, and Mathabhanga II. A total of almost 150 farmers have used the ZT machine. SSCOP has 2 ZT machines under CHC.



## Combined Harvester

SSCOP carried out harvesting of Paddy in almost 1000 Bighas this year and the orders were placed from Coochbehar I, Dinhata I and II, Sitalkuchi, and Sitai. SSCOP charges Rs. 1800 for 1 Bigha of Paddy harvesting. There are 2 Machines in the Farm bank. This is not sufficient as the orders are huge.



## **SSCOP ties up with an Agri-Fintech to support the FPCs with easy business loans - Samunnati Financial Intermediation and Services**

The Objectives of this tie-up are that Samunnati helps Farmer Producer Organizations across the country meet the supply of markets, aggregation, market linkages, and advisory services, Samunnati provides opportunities for Farmer Producer Organizations to grow through customized Agri-finance solutions that empower Indian farmers while driving growth.

Samunnati has pioneered an approach that anticipates and creates forward-looking solutions for farmer collectives. Samunnati's AMLA approach (Aggregation, Market Linkage, and Advisory) entails a competitive and holistic engagement beyond finance with the collectives. Samunnati helps Agri enterprises towards growth and transformation by offering Agri Commerce solutions in addition to financial intervention. Such support is provided by the establishment of market linkages as well as trading solutions.

### **SSCOP Impact**

Total amount of disbursed- 75 Lakh  
Total FPCs have disbursed- 9 FPCs  
Total processed (disbursement)- 5 FPCs  
Total log in- 65 (till today)  
Total grading- 35

So far, SSCOP has provided Samunnati Credit Linkage to a total of 65 FPCs in Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri, and Alipurduar districts. In the future, SSCOP aims to provide this service in all the districts of North Bengal (Kalimpong, Darjeeling, and Uttar & Dakshin Dinajpur)



***FPC visit for checking the required loan documents as per Samunnati Guidelines***

# Physical Verification for Samunnati Loan



## Climate Mitigation through Agroforestry in North Bengal SSCOP at the forefront in West Bengal

SSCOP has just signed an agreement with Aavishkar Group and Intellecap where in the first year demonstrations will be carried out in 75 hectares of land in Cooch Behar District. SSCOP will be targeting 4 Blocks of Cooch Behar II, Mathabhanga II, Sitalkuchi and Sitai with around 300 farmers taking up this project in their own land. The species which are identified are Teak and Mahogany and Jackfruit and Mango. Two top nurseries have been identified who will raise around 1 Lakh saplings in the first year. SSCOP will also undertake replantation in 15 Hectares of land in Alipurduar.

This project will be for a period of 5 years and the area targeted will be 5000 Hectares. The project will be in Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri and Alipurduar.

