

Livelihoods for All Newsletter



South Asia, Issue: 01, December 2021



Livelihoods Dialogue, Meghalaya-India | ©Ashoka 2021/Anant Learning & Development

ABOUT US

Ashoka's Livelihoods for All Initiative started with the intention of scaling up the innovative ideas of Ashoka Fellows and catalyze a shift in the paradigm of thought within the livelihoods sector. As part of this programme, we also focus on bringing women back into the workforce and putting them at the centre across different domains of skilling and livelihoods ecosystem in Tier-II and Tier-III cities. This initiative is an impact multiplier that aims to bring about systemic change in the livelihoods landscape by establishing synergies, fostering collaboration and advancing eco-system development.

FELLOWS AND PARTNERS



INSIGHTS

Ashoka has partnered with the India Development Review – a premier industry-specialist platform in the development sector in the region. Take a look at the articles below to peek into the stories shared from the Livelihoods domain.

- [1. A crisis is an opportunity to recognise women's leadership](#)
- [2. Building a disability-friendly workplace: Why inclusability matters](#)
- [3. Understanding what our youth want, not what they need](#)
- [4. Income shouldn't be the only measure of livelihoods](#)
- [5. When women are celebrated, things change](#)

Reach out to us at lhd@ashoka.org if you wish to connect with experts on the field of market linkages and sustainable FPOs.

LIVELIHOODS DIALOGUE MEGHALAYA 2021

In September, The Livelihoods Dialogue was organised by Anant Learning and Development Pvt Ltd in collaboration with Ashoka. This event brought together stakeholders to engage in an immersive dialogue around community-led livelihoods. It comprised of founders from different organisations, Ashoka Fellows and Directors from Government agencies, it is worth noting that Dr. Chintan Vaishnav's (Mission Director for Atal Innovation Mission-NITI Ayog) presence gave the founders foresight on technological direction and advancement in the social sector. As the panellists shared their journey and their experiences, they also reflected on the power of networks in catalysing innovation and creating a wider impact in the community.



General Updates



Spice making unit, Manjari, Rajasthan-India ©Ashoka 2021/Chaitali Kamble

AROUND THE FIELD

During August to October, the team carried out field missions to Rajasthan, U.P and Maharashtra to understand the progress of the projects and map the potential for ecosystem building in these areas. The team was welcomed by dedicated FPO members at the Sakhi Haat, an enterprise run by Manjari and Vedanta which sells textiles, spices, home décor etc. At The Goat Trust, the team was privy to the trainings and session held to capacitate women farmers on goat rearing and financial know-how. The team was also drawn to the experiences shared by the staff members and partners from Swayam Shikshan Prayog who unpacked the technicalities of the Farmer Produce Organisations (FPOs) and provided insights on the challenges.



Members of FPO, SSP Maharashtra-India ©Ashoka 2021/Chaitali Kamble

SPOTLIGHT

Promoted and nurtured about 100+ FPOs in the country covering about 42,500 farmers. The organisation has impacted lives of over 400,000 families through their model which continues to build resilient, sustainable and wealthy farmers.

ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME

Accelerator program brought together 16 organizations, 50 participants, and 25 guest faculty to indulge in 24 sessions around organization strategy, fundraising, strengthening employability, and innovation. This virtual event was held during the trying times of the first wave of COVID-19 where many organizations were rethinking their strategies, this intensive program provided direction and a platform to collectively discuss challenges and solutions.



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In September, an MoU was signed with UN Women to bring more rigour in gender inclusivity in our programmes.



ACCESS LIVELIHOODS SUMMIT 2021

Ashoka co-curated sessions on building bottom-up value chains, embracing gender inclusive entrepreneurship and equipping youth with skills in an evolving employability market. The panel had a presence from distinguished speakers from multilateral organisations and the Ashoka community. The event had a virtual footfall of more than 1800 delegates.

Participating Speakers

 Nikhil Singh Director of Field Program Central Ashoka	 B.B. Hegde President, FPOs
 Dr. Neeraj Maheshwari Senior Lecturer South Asia Institute	 Nancy Zutshi Secretary National Federation of India
 Dr. Binay Ramesh Senior Professor Ashoka Centre Africa and Director Africa South Centre	 Prema Choudhary President Swayam Shikshan Prayog
 Suryan Mishra Co-Founder FPOs	 Ajay Singh President Livihoods India
 Sangeeta Kumar President FPOs	 Sangeeta Sharma President FPOs

Catch the conversation here:

- [Gender and women inclusive entrepreneurship in Global South](#)
- [Scaling up resilient Value Chains](#)
- [Skill gap and youth employment](#)

Stay updated 

Livelihoods for All Newsletter



South Asia, Issue: 02, March 2022



Community members at the farm demonstration plots in Bihar | ©Ashoka 2022/PRAN

ABOUT US

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OUR INSIGHTS

Ashoka's LiFA has partnered with the India Development Review – a premier industry-specialist platform in the development sector in the region. Take a look at the articles below to peek into the stories shared from the Livelihoods domain.

- [1. Fish to Water: Meghalaya's emerging aquaculture community](#)
- [2. Back to School: Assam's nutrition gardens](#)
- [3. Faith in business: Nagaland's nonprofit networks](#)

FELLOWS AND PARTNERS



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ARTICLE SERIES LAUNCH:

Discover all the articles from the LiFA series here!



WEBINAR ON ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Ashoka's LiFA organised a webinar in collaboration with UN Women India under this year's International Women's Day's theme of "breakingthebias". The event had a line-up of highly experienced professionals working in the fields of skilling and creating livelihoods from the Fellow-led organisation such as Udyogini, Medha and Quest Alliance. Further, Dr. Suvarna Kharat, Joint secretary from Department of skill, development employment and entrepreneurship, Maharashtra, underlined the crucial role of entrepreneurship in the 21st century which ignited actionable recommendations from the panel.

Catch the conversations here:

Panel 1 - [Successfully bridging the gender gap in rural-urban livelihood spaces](#)

Panel 2 - [Empowering women entrepreneurs in rural India: challenges and opportunities](#)



General Updates



COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP

Ashoka's LiFA team jointly held a successful workshop with IDR to hone the communication skills of the partners on 10th and 11th March 2022.

"The process of mapping what we want our audience to takeaway was beneficial" - Jai Tiwari, Medha

"The pitch needs to keep evolving, start with a general pitch and customise it for the end audience"- Ajit Singh, Anant Learning and Development Pvt. Ltd.



AROUND THE FIELD

As the Omicron wave subsided, the LiFA team hit the field to connect with the Fellows, identify challenges and better understand the progress made in the first quarter of 2022. The scorching heat in Bihar did not stop the community members from enthusiastically narrating their experiences.



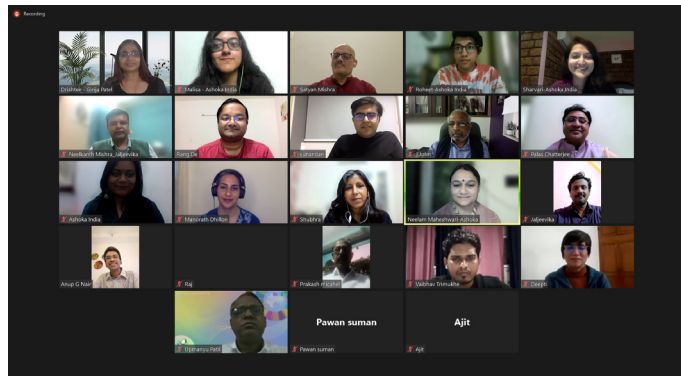
Various types of organic fertilisers being produced in Bihar | ©Ashoka 2022/PRAN

PEER TO PEER LEARNING

In February, LiFA's peer meet witnessed partners and fellows sharing lessons learnt and discovering solutions. With a curated set of experts like Manorath Dhillon, CEO, Okhai, and Anup Nayar, COO, Local Economic Development Society, the cohort benefited from engaging with stalwarts in the field of market.



Fabrication process of organic fertiliser in Bihar | ©Ashoka 2022/PRAN



IMPACT ASSESSMENT

In January and February, Sambodhi (an independent research firm) completed the baseline for 4 organisations reaching a sample of 2200 individuals across Bihar, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Meghalaya as part of LiFA's impact assessment. This longitudinal study will bring out key insights from the partners' work and provide significant programmatic direction.

#SHEMEANSBUSINESS

LiFA Fellow, Hasina Kharbih, Founder and Chairperson of Impulse NGO Network, spoke about [the necessity and ways of closing the gap created for women entrepreneurs](#) during the pandemic at the National Women Entrepreneurship Summit 2022, hosted by Meta India. She highlighted the role of the digital space in the survival of MSMEs through these tough times, and the growing need to empower women with technical skills.

SPOTLIGHT NITI Aayog

Trupti Jain from Naireeta, Prema Gopalan from Swayam Shikshan Prayog and Hasina Kharbih from Impluse NGO Network, are among 75 coveted women recognised by NITI Aayog for their exceptional work in transforming India.

EXPERT DIALOGUE

Start Up! convened social entrepreneurs to gain insights from Geeta Goel, Country Director, Michael and Susan Dell Foundation on designing solutions for nano-entrepreneurs to thrive. The discussions around government buy-in and collectivising efforts using the LiFA platform resonated with the participants.

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MEDHA IS HIRING!!



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South Asia, Issue: 03, June 2022



GET WISE

The get WISER Summit was hosted by Ashoka Arab World in collaboration with Ashoka South Asia, presenting a series of riveting conversations on promoting women's entrepreneurship through various enthralling discussion on mitigating barriers to create an ecosystem for women leaders. Nikita Ketkar spoke about how Masoom made a concerted effort on upskilling and alternative job creation, while also making counselling services available to help curb psychological and physical abuse. Seema Prakash explained SSSS's way forward through collaboration with Rang De, The Goat Trust and bolstering existing relationships.

Catch our first ever Hindi panel [here!](#)

भारत में महिलाओं की आजीविका पर कोविड-19 का प्रभाव

मई २६, दोपहर २:१५-३:१५ IST



निकिता केतकर, मासूम



प्रियस्वरा भारती, बिहार युथ फोरम चाइलड राइडरस



सीमा प्रकाश, स्वदन समाज सेवा समिति

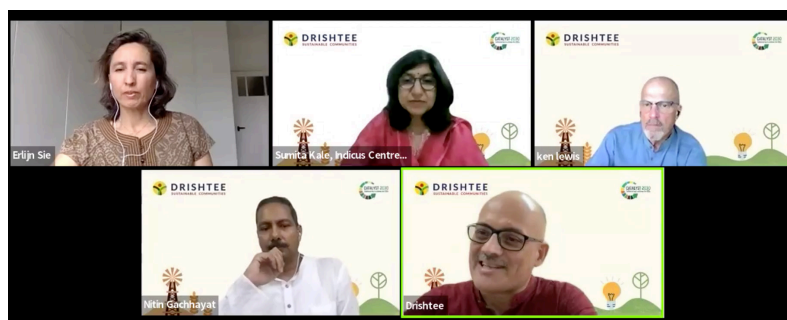


गेट WISER समिट



CATLYSING CHANGE WEEK 2022

Catalyst 2030 hosted over 250 sessions and activities to facilitate a collaborative environment among social innovators to exchange ideas. Satyan Mishra, co-founder of Drishtee held a thematic workshop on creating sustainable communities through a sharing economy. The online session was geared towards finding creative ideas and to bring forth a multitude of perspectives to resolve existing barriers in order to establish a resilient rural community linked through this 'sharing economy'. Watch the video [here!](#)



ABOUT US

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OUR INSIGHTS

Ashoka's LiFA has partnered with the India Development Review – a premier industry-specialist platform in the development sector in the region. Take a look at the articles below to peek into the stories shared from the Livelihoods domain.

1. [A fine balance: Koru people's nutrition palki and a wholesome diet](#)

2. [Government partnerships: What makes them successful?](#)

WEBPAGE LAUNCH:



Launching our webpage where we share everything from our approach, insights, and events from over the years and much more!

FARMERS FOOTBALL CUP



Youth in action | ©Anant L&D 2022/Meghalaya

12 teams participated in the first ever [Farmers World Cup](#) organised by Anant L&D Pvt. Ltd. with other organisations in Ri Bhoi, Meghalaya. Teams competed for the title and to celebrate the vibrant farming communities of the state.

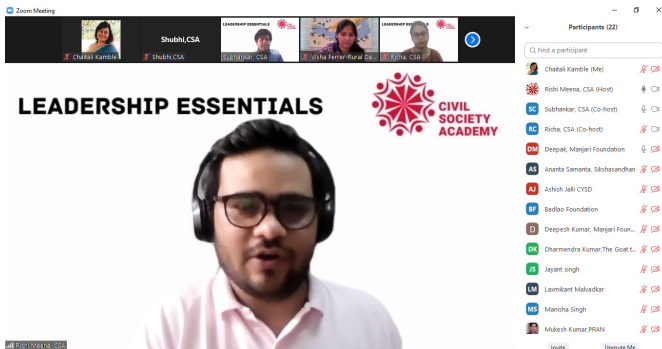
"Almost 98 percent of the population is engaged in farming, and they all love football", Ajit Singh, Anant L&D Pvt. Ltd.

General Updates



CSA TRAINING

With a vision to lead society towards a just and inclusive world free of hunger and poverty, the Civil Society Academy extends its training to organizations working towards a similar mission. In the month of May and June, 50 nominees from 6 of Ashoka's partner organisations participated in extensive training sessions that delved into an array of topics from leadership to design thinking and fundraising. CSA training attendees remarked that the value proposition session helped them empathise with donors and the interactive methodology was extremely beneficial.



PEER TO PEER LEARNING

In May's peer meet, we were amidst well-recognised sector experts; Rita Sengupta from NIESBUD, Chandra Sekhar from Vidya Helpline Project, NIRMAAN and Vinod Kaushik of End Poverty. We were also delighted to have senior Ashoka fellow and founder of Digital Empowerment Foundation, Osama Manzar, speak to us on using digital means to alleviate poverty. He graciously spoke to us at length on his sectoral interventions in creating communities of digital entrepreneurs and the wide applicability of his framework and methodology.

Reach out to us at lh@ashoka.org if you wish to connect with experts.

SPOTLIGHT

PRAN is a technical expert to NITI Aayog and PMO in Delhi for SRI technique of rice cultivation along with natural methods of agriculture such as natural pesticides and fertilisers.



Anil Verma (left), Founder of PRAN being felicitated by NITI Aayog for innovative agriculture in the prestigious company of several governors and chief secretaries on the eve of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

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AROUND THE FIELD

The LiFa team carried out field visits to engage, interact and oversee project areas. At Manjari in Rajasthan, Vandana Verma of IKEA Foundation accompanied Dr. Neelam Maheshwari, Director of the Livelihoods programme.



At The Goat Trust in U.P., the loan distribution programme was carried out in the presence of the LiFA team. The team also visited the Grameen Banks to understand the challenges in the operation of the loan model.



FOCUS

Expressing our sincere gratitude towards all those working for the flood relief in the Northeast of India.

NAGALAND CHANGEMAKER DAY

Ashoka Young Changemakers (AYC), in collaboration with the Government of Nagaland organised an event on Nagaland's [Changemakers Day](#) to foster changemaking in the state's education system. Envisioning the way forward, Neichute Doulo, Ashoka Fellow and Founder of Entrepreneur Associates said, "If we do not create students who can become problem solvers, we have failed the motive of education in many ways".



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South Asia, Issue: 04, September 2022



Angel Chef, a bakery run by the differently abled | ©PFDA 2022/Bangladesh

ABOUT US

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INSIGHTS

Peek into the stories shared from the Livelihoods domain:

1. IDR features PRAN in this article on introducing organic farming in Gaya, Bihar. Read [here](#)
2. Oxfam India's latest report on discrimination in India reveals that women in India tend to be discriminated in the labour market despite being equally qualified and experienced as their male counterparts. Read [here](#)
3. Ashoka has published a report on strengthening personal capabilities for systemic change for highly resourced individuals. Read [here](#)

TACKLING YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

In July, Ashoka Fellows Aakash Sethi and Christopher Turillo, founders of Quest Alliance and Medha respectively, shared how they are rebuilding India's education system from the bottom up, with a focus on self-paced, joyful learning. They unpacked how to do this at scale, leveraging technology and collaboration. Catch the conversation on Ashoka's Welcome Change event [here!](#)



EXPERT ENGAGEMENT

LiFA has collaborated with Sesta Development Services (SDS) to provide technical support to the livelihoods cohort members. Sesta has over a decade of experience in training of farmers, developing local community service providers, setting up community based learning centres or farmers field schools, organising and capacitating producer groups and federation for efficient market integration. Some of the key experiences include partnerships with state governments in Northeast India, Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP), Ministry of Development and G.o.I in implementation of the broad based schemes on agriculture, fishery, piggery, nutritional garden and poultry farming.



(Left) SDS team conducting capacity building training with members of PRAN in Gaya, Bihar

Reach out to us at lh@ashoka.org if you wish to connect with experts.

NOMINATE A FELLOW [HERE](#)



AQUAFUND LAUNCHED

Jaljeevika in collaboration with Rang De launched the Aqua Fund program to encourage and support people in the aquatic livelihood segments. The AquaFund is the first-ever dedicated P2P credit support for the small and marginal fish farmers, micro-entrepreneurs, and women who are engaged in aquaculture, makhana, and water chestnut (singhara) farming in several Indian states. [Details here](#)



Fish farmers | ©Jaljeevika 2022/India

General Updates



PARTNER RETREAT

In July, the LiFA team organised a 4 day retreat where Fellows in the Livelihoods cohort from India and Bangladesh participated. Participants got to interact and consult with Dr. Chintan Vaishnav, mission director, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), on their challenges and pathways to scaling. While addressing the cohort, Dr. Harish Hande emphasised the importance and practicalities of innovation in processes and operations by reflecting on his learnings at SELCO. Further, Soumitra Pandey broke down the layers and definitions of scaling through his vast experience of consulting with Bain and Bridge Span. Lastly, Bhavana Issar of Sambhaavna and Mustafa Moochhala of Innobridge, led the attendees on an introspective and forward looking journey through a varied set of exercises.



Participants at the LiFA retreat | ©Sammy Adams 2022/Bangalore



Strategies to piece the puzzle: Zoom in, Zoom out session at LiFA retreat | ©Ashoka 2022/Bangalore



One on One session with Dr. Chintan Vaishnav at LiFA retreat | ©Sammy Adams 2022/Bangalore

Surrounded by others who are walking a similar path of changemaking, Fellows felt reassured that there was a network of problem solvers and innovative thinkers to rely on. Their dilemmas and trilemmas of being leaders and entrepreneurs were met with ideas, experiences, and perspectives from an enthusiastic group.

“Entire cohort feels like a community that is as invested in our success as us,” Seema Prakash, SSSS



Conversation with Dr. Harish Hande and Dr. Chintan Vaishnav at LiFA retreat | ©Sammy Adams 2022/

SPOTLIGHT

Hasina Kharbhii, founder, Impulse NGO Network, speaks about using technology, working with Meta and explains that women and youth that come out of rehabilitation should be equipped with marketable skills so that they can avoid being trafficked again. Watch the panel [here](#)



TOWARDS CREDIT LINKAGE

The Goat Trust has partnered with [ARTH](#), a micro enterprise financing company to provide credit to pashu sakhis who are able to perform artificial insemination in goats.



FOCUS

- Expressing our sincere gratitude towards all those working for the flood relief in Pakistan.
- Show your support [here!](#)

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Livelihoods for All Newsletter



South Asia, Issue: 05, December 2022



ABOUT US

Ashoka's Livelihoods for All Initiative, in association with IKEA foundation, aims to scale up the innovative ideas of Ashoka Fellows and catalyze a shift in the paradigm of thought within the livelihoods sector. We bring you the fourth edition of our quarterly newsletter, where we share updates from our work at the Livelihoods for all (LiFA) programme and our partners, as well as insights from the field of livelihoods.

INSIGHTS

Peek into the stories shared from the Livelihoods domain:

1. Ashoka has published an article on the story of Bhungroo: How Naireeta services have opted for a gender-centric approach to tackle water shortage. Read [here](#)
2. IDR features an exclusive interview with Bill Drayton, emphasizing the big pattern-change ideas which drive social entrepreneurs to achieve maximum livelihood impact, Read [here](#)
3. This [article](#) by Stanford Social Innovation Review talks about the role of platform thinking in helping entrepreneurs scale and find solutions locally.

Co-creating and Journeying towards 'EACH'

LiFA and Ashoka Fellows Sanjay Sharma of Manjari and Neichute Doulo of The Entrepreneurs Associates participated in an intensive event by "Rang De," - which focussed on catalysing 'momentum of micromovements' to institutionalize entrepreneurial ecosystem and create livelihoods and a dignified future for 30 million youth.



LiFA COHORT MEMBERS AT COP27

Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) has been awarded the Local Adaptation Champions Awards for their rigorous work in supporting women farmers to adopt more resilient and sustainable agricultural practices. Over the last decade, SSP developed the Women-led Climate Resilient Farming (WCRF) model, to help small and marginal farmers transit from cash crops to food crops, and chemical to bio inputs, for more diversified and resilient livelihoods. Details [here](#).

Trupti Jain of Naireeta Services, who spoke at the capacity building hub in cop25, attended the event as well. As a panelist, she shared the strides of Bhungroo and how it continues to respond to climate challenges by being gender responsive and innovative, along with devising more than 100 designs to cater effectively to varying soil topography.



SSP receiving the award at Cop27, Egypt



Cop 27 | ©Trupti Jain/Egypt

BUILDING VALUE CHAIN

Drishtee and SeSta Development Services (SDS) are collaboratively identifying skill gaps in poultry training and presenting training and economic opportunities on various livelihood fronts. The training sessions were spread across 13 districts and covered more than 1000 individuals. "SDS has brought rigor and energy in the team besides handholding the team in building a value chain in Assam"- Satyan Mishra, Co-founder and Ashoka Fellow.



Microentrepreneurs | ©Drishtee & SDS 2022/Assam

General Updates



CLOSING THE CORE COST FUNDING GAP

“When it comes to budget marketing, there should be a common understanding and standardization between the NGOs and the donors on what exactly counts as core costs, norms around cost allocations, institutional needs will probably be helpful in this aspect”- Nikita Ketkar, CEO, Masoom spoke at a stakeholder dialogue at Bridgespan’s Pay-What-It-Takes India Initiative on 24th November 2022. This event was co-hosted by Indian School of Development Management (ISDM) and Catalyst 2030. Full video [here](#)



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SPOTLIGHT

Feminism In India features Seema Prakash Michael of Spandan Samaj Seva Samiti, who has pioneered workshops and financial assistance for women on learning the nitty-gritty of mechanical repairing systems, amidst various other sectors, in Khalwa. Spandan has been working to turnaround the effect of migration on women in Khalwa by aiding and encouraging them through local employment and entrepreneurship opportunities. As a result, the women have established repair shops and are taking up mechanics as a career path. Read [here](#).



Bike Repairing Workshop | ©Spandan Samaj Seva Samiti/Khalwa

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CONNECT WITH EXPERTS

Join us for an insightful session around **Creating Sustainable Aqua Value Chain for Livelihoods**

Speakers:
Devleena Bhattacharjee | Founder of Numer8
Neelkanth Mishra | Founder of Centre for Aquatic Livelihoods Jaljeevika

Date:
20 December 2022
Time:
4PM-5.30PM

[Register NOW!](#)



“We have developed “AquaECO” - a model that facilitates and strengthens the aquaculture value chain and creates a data-driven decision-making support system. It acts as a tool for connecting fisheries to markets and credit sources, among others”

Neelkanth Mishra of Jaljeevika in conversation with Devleena Bhattacharjee, data scientist and founder of Numer8 on the importance of intimate value chain community creation, building an entrepreneurial approach, and leveraging technology towards creating a broader ecosystem. Stay tuned for more such sessions on value chain building, and scaling in the agricultural-allied field with renowned fellows and experts.

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

In November, DD News Bihar featured Preservation and Proliferation of Rural Resources and Nature’s (PRAN) SRI intervention spearheaded by the NGO’s Executive Director, Mr. Anil Kumar Verma. The news focused on the change in crop cultivation, integrated with Climate change adaptation, which has exposed the lives of women cultivators and farmers to an equitable share of a dignified life. PRAN is expanding its operations to reach additional 3000 extra poor households by 2027. Watch the full news [here](#).

SCALING UP

The Goat Trust has entered in a partnership with Maharashtra Gramin Bank to finance goat farmers and ensure high quality goat supply and access to financial and non-financial business services. Currently, this financing model is active across 3500 branches of Regional Rural Banks in India. Details [here](#)

CREATING ACTIVE CHANGEMAKERS

“Women empowerment in rural areas is not only about personality and leadership development but it’s about uplifting their skills and adding their values in the society”- Sanjay Sharma, Founder of Manjari, in a podcast episode by Ashoka Changemakers.

Improving Gender Equity Through Sustainable Livelihoods

EVERYONE A Changemaker



Highlighting the challenges that women faced in rural areas, he focused on the need of empowering and mobilizing them to better livelihoods and being active Changemakers. Listen [here](#).

Stay updated

Livelihoods for All Newsletter



South Asia, Issue: 06, March 2023



Sajida Rahman Danny, Founder Chairman, PFDA-VTC, Bangladesh on an exposure visit to Manjari foundation | © Manjari 2023/Rajasthan

Building Climate resilient livelihoods in the Northeast

LiFA in partnership with Sesta Development Services (SDS), organized the Northeast conclave on climate-resilient livelihoods in Assam. This event brought together ecosystem stakeholders such as Ashoka Fellows, prominent state actors, entrepreneurs, and philanthropists to bring forth examples of exemplary public-private partnerships, scalable value chains, and technological adaptations that are catalysing sustainable growth in the North East region. Read more [here](#).



Ranjit Rang De (center) speaks about enabling ecosystems at the conclave. | ©SDS 2023/Assam

INTRODUCING TECH TO AGRI-PRENEURS

Udyogini conceptualised the digitalisation of their lac content in partnership with LiFA. The shift from verbal to digital medium allows the women entrepreneurs to learn at their own pace and ensures greater accessibility and adoption. Discover [here](#).

PRERANA SAKHI DIWAS

Spearheaded by Upmanyu Patil, Director-Programs, Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) organised its first Sakhi Prerana Diwas honouring the women community leaders of rural Maharashtra for their exceptional contribution to the organisation's work during the pandemic.



Top-Sharvari Chauhan of LiFA in conversation with women community leaders at the event | © SSP 2023/ Pune

REPLICATING SUCCESS

Ajit Singh, founder of Anant Learning and Development Pvt. Ltd. is working meticulously to utilize Meghalaya's enormous untapped potential. After mobilising over 15000 farmers in a short span of 2 years, he is all set to replicate his need based livelihood model to Manipur.



Eco-friendly food processing unit underway | ©Anant L&D 2023/Garo Hills, Meghalaya

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INSIGHTS

Peek into the stories shared from the Livelihoods domain:

1. Ashoka fellow Miguel Luengo-Oroz, AI Expert and social entrepreneur, in a conversation with Ashoka's Hanae Baruchel, speaks about AI's inability to forget and its implications on user's right to privacy and agency. Read the entire piece by Forbes [here](#)

2. The Bhungroo water management system by Naireeta Services Pvt. Ltd. has been as one of the 8 successful technological innovations across the globe by United Nations Climate Technology. Read [here](#).

3. 10 major findings from the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report 2023 on climate change. Read [here](#).

CHANGING THE STATUS-QUO

"The focus on technical skill development in India must not overlook the importance of soft skills in the workforce. By institutionalizing career mentoring, employment exposure, and skill development in colleges, students will be more prepared for life"- Christopher Turillo, Co- Founder of Medha, in a podcast episode by Ashoka, while highlighting the importance of experiential learning, and impactful government partnerships in amplifying the livelihoods and employability of over 85,000 students across 600 educational institutions in India. Listen [here](#).



General Updates



PARTNERS' GATHERING

“My journey with Ashoka has given my organization a global exposure which we didn't have before, not just me, but to all its fellows working invarious sectors. I have begun to learn the significance of empathy which is binding all of us together”– Ajit Singh, Founder, Anant Learning and Development Pvt. Ltd.

Ashoka has always emphasized and acted upon the need of collaborations and partnerships to be an integral part of forming fluid teams wherein every player can contribute and lead their organizations to driving impactful solutions. With this zeal, LiFA organised a gathering Ashoka Fellows from India and Bangladesh to reflect, connect and continue co-creating.



LiFA Fellows and Partners | ©Ashoka 2023/Bangalore

PRAGATI AUR PRAGATI

Ashoka facilitated Naireeta and PRAN's collaboration which is soon going to provide relief to the flood affected and water-scarce areas of Bihar so PRAN can further scale up their SRI (system of root intensification) programme to additional farmers in the area. Biplab's recent visit also highlighted the disappearance of several existing water bodies and excess waterlogging from construction that is adversely affecting the livelihood activities of the farmers.



Biplab Paul of Naireeta visiting Anil Verma of PRAN in Begusarai | ©Naireeta 2023/Bihar

Biplab and his team at Naireeta are all set to extend methodologies, know-how, technical procedure, capacity and decision-processing to create a multi-pronged strategy for catalytic impact in rural Bihar.

SPOTLIGHT

Ashoka Fellow Sanjay Kumar, Executive Director of Manjari, has been presented with the CSR Journal's Excellence in Business & Society Award 2022 by Shri Eknath Shinde, Chief Minister of Maharashtra. Since 2015, Manjari Foundation has designed and implemented several thematic programmes for bringing lasting social and economic changes in the lives of rural women from marginalized communities. Watch [here](#).

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

Polo Stories has recently launched a documentary paying tribute to Ashoka Fellow Hasina Kharbhii on her remarkable journey to dismantle various networks of illegal prostitution in India and other countries. The documentary has brought forth Hasina's immense belief and perseverance in providing a safe environment for women and children, through the Impulse NGO Network and Social Enterprise, which has evolved into a global program today. Watch [here](#).



Right: The official poster of the documentary: Two Trains, by Polo Stories

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CELEBRATING SRI FARMERS

SRI didis of PRAN were celebrated for their work in augmenting the agricultural benefits of System of Root Intensification (SRI) by being awarded “Best Farmer” award. The session also featured a one-to-one interaction between the didis and with agricultural scientists along with Anil Verma, Founder of PRAN presenting the myriad benefits of cultivating this system before agriculture experts from reputed organizations in 20 countries. Read more [here](#).

SOCIAL INNOVATION FOR SYSTEM CHANGE

Rang De in collaboration with LiFA held a series of workshops to build capacities of the cohort members. While one introduced the concept of making an impactful presence on LinkedIn, the others have been about building inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystems in rural India by the likes of Development Alternatives, Go Green, and Akshaykalpa to name a few.

UN WATER CONFERENCE, 2023

Trupti Jain of Naireeta Services Private Limited was recently invited to attend two conferences: the 67th Commission on the Status of Women and the UN Water Conference 2023 in the USA, held at the UN Headquarters. The conferences were directed towards seeing women as leaders in the space of climate change and sustainable development.



Trupti Jain | ©67th Commission of Women 2023/ UNHQ

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