



Stories of Change

from innovative and progressive farmers

Preface

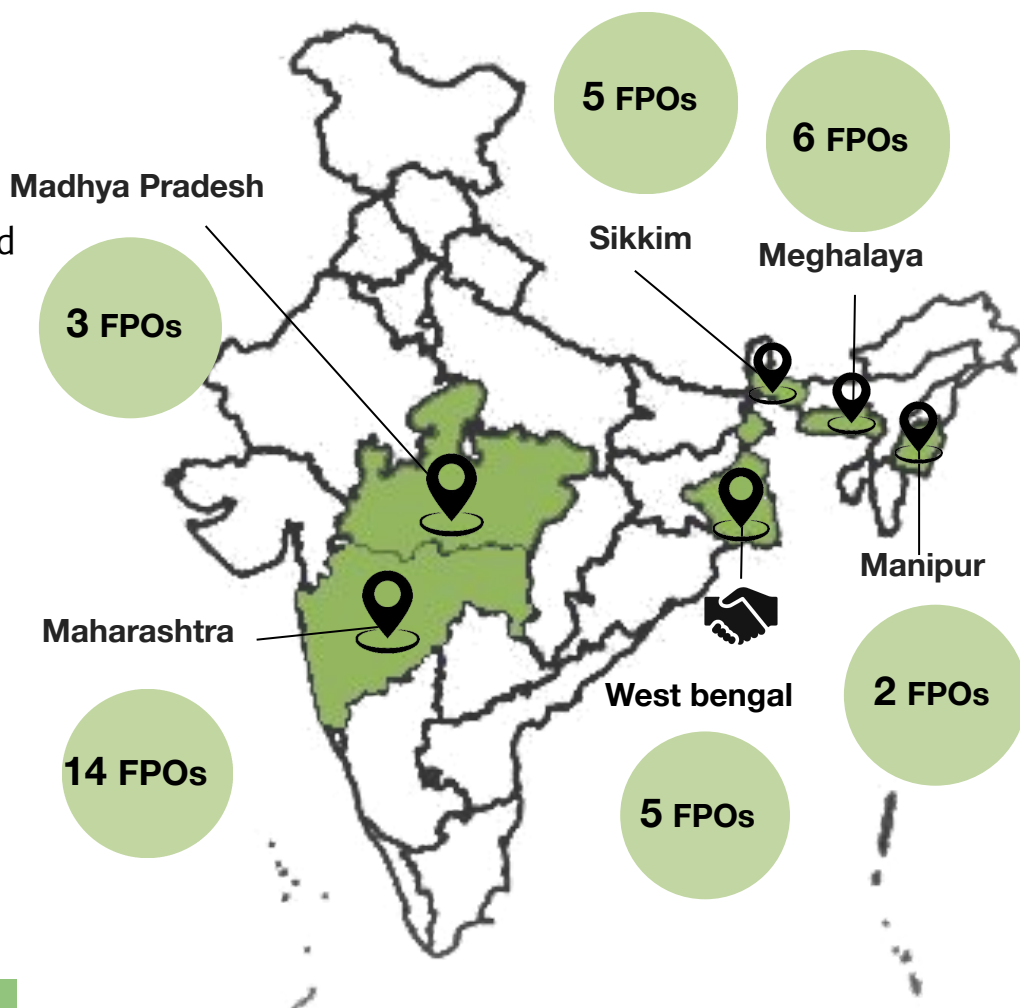
This report brings the efforts of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and inspiring stories of smallholders who hoped to improve their agricultural produce to achieve better economic status. The journey depicted here shows some milestones in the lives of these farmers and the process of achieving an ever-increasing positive impact.

Farmer Producer Organizations are legal bodies which are formed from farmers' collectives to help farmers have recognition as a legal entity that protects their interests and works for an overall goal to improve the economic status of small holders.

The smallholders are supported through training, meetings, exposure visits, scheme linkages, and most importantly to make them believe that they are the ones without whom the world will not have food on their plates!

SwitchON Foundation has been promoting Farmer Producer Organizations since 2013. Along with government empanelled agencies under the **Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India**, SwitchON Foundation is successfully promoting **more than 35 FPOs** in East, North East and Western parts of India.

SwitchON is a CBBO and RI for promoting FPOs with the following agencies





About us

A leading organisation established in 2008 dedicated to creating climate smart livelihood opportunities for underserved communities.

SwitchON Foundation is a dynamic NGO of 100+ Team Members spread across 10 states in India.



Our Goal is to make
Agriculture Sustainable & Equitable

Our Approach



Promotion of Organic Farming



Market Linkage and Value Addition

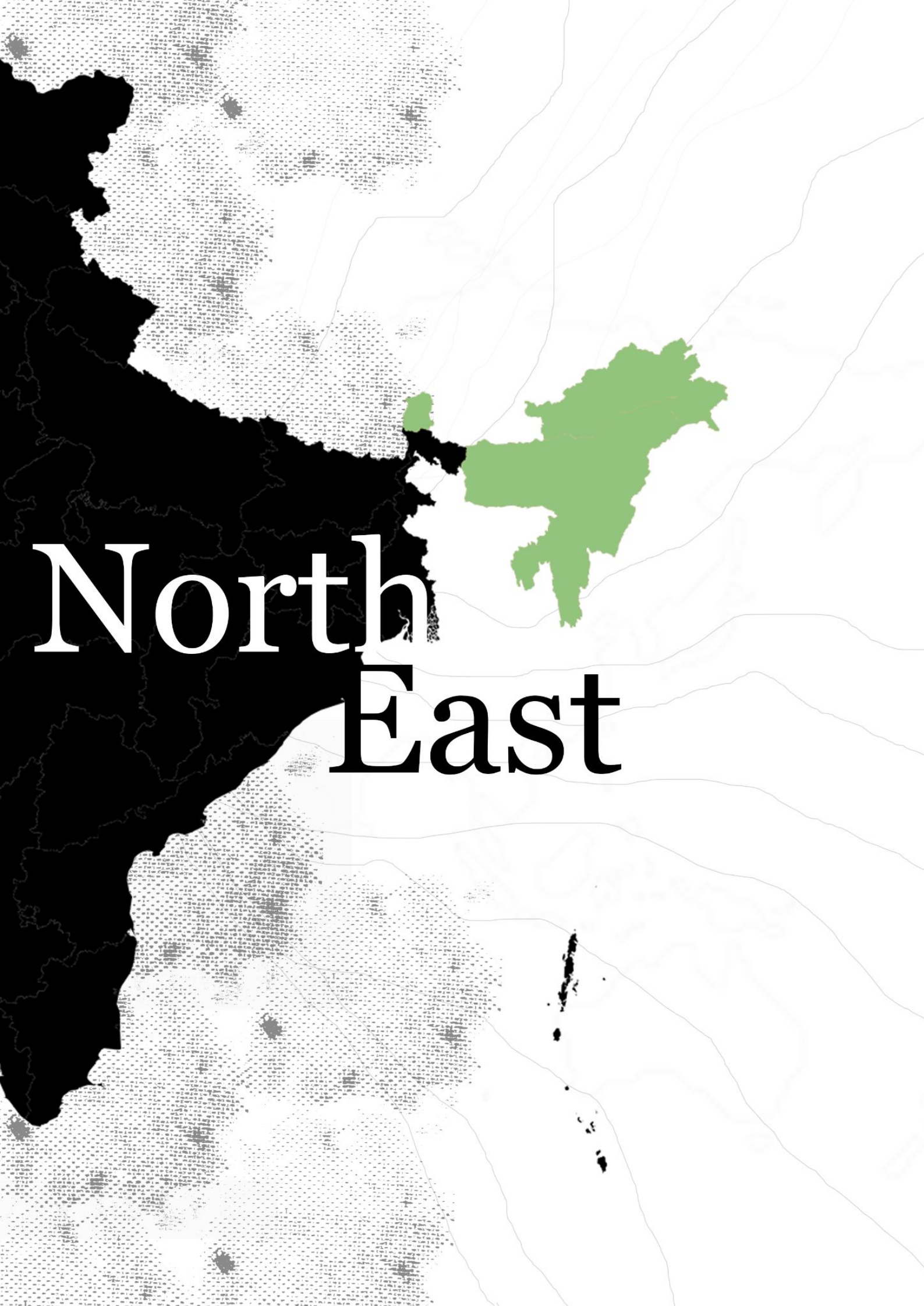


Empowering women farmers and linking them to technologies and services.



Development of training framework for all FPOs and support staffs





North East

U Shang Ki Nongrep Producers Cooperative Society Ltd.

Eastern West Khasi Hills, Meghalaya

Journey from Broad Fields to the Board of Director

Rosybel Kharjana, a 45 years old woman farmer lives with eight family members in Umthlong village of Mairang Block. For Rosybel, the major income for the family's sustenance comes from agriculture. But for a knowledgeable, hard working person with strong leadership qualities, producing only for sustenance could not be a way of life. Being participative in trainings and meetings, Rosybel's life took a shift when in September 2021 she got the chance to meet the SwitchON Foundation team during the village level awareness meeting on central sponsored CSS scheme for formation and promotion of 10,000 FPOs under the Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India. Rosybel was not happy with the old methods of farming which was yielding her **less production** and therefore **lesser profit**. With the quench to learn more, she came to know about the U Shang Ki Nongrep Producers Cooperative Society Ltd Farmers Producer Organization (FPOs), its functioning, benefits of being a member and forming the FIG (Farmers Interest Group) in their respective villages. It was from this **awareness program** that Rosybel started to resonate with the **capacity building** component for farmers under FPOs and tapped the opportunity to get help for marketing her produce which was one of the key challenges she faced, in being self reliant and improving her socio – economic condition.



"My goal is to help each and every farmer to benefit from the FPO. Since it is a women led FPO, I want all women to be self reliant by utilising the trainings imparted and other activities done by the FPO."

Rosybel

Kharjana

Farmer, Eastern West Khasi Hills, Meghalaya



Monthly increase in income
from 20000 INR to 45000 INR



Organic farming expansion
from 1000 to 8000 sq.ft.



Rise in confidence to diversify
crop varieties

Rosybel has always been passionate about organic farming and associated with it since 2018. But she has been doing it without any learning or innovative practices. Earlier the organic farming was done only on **1000 sqft.** Land but after being a part of the FPO, she has extended her farming area to **8000 sqft.** This has followed with diversification of different varieties of vegetables which has increased her income from **20000 INR** to **45000 INR** monthly. She has also started being one of the leading farmers to take initiatives and involve herself in mobilizing and encouraging other farmers about the importance of FPOs. In April 2022, she started cultivating buck wheat provided by **KVK through ATMA scheme**, the harvesting has resulted in high yield and she is determined to cultivate it again in August 2022.

Being a member of the FPO, she has received variety of trainings and learning which has made her more active towards dedicating herself to increase the production with organic farming and

continue with organic farming practice. She also continues to impart the knowledge to other farmers to ensure that the knowledge reaches to other farmers leading to their empowerment. By being a part of the FPO, her leadership qualities have been honed as she has taken the responsibility as a **Board of Director** and **Chairman** of the FPO. From the project, she also learnt that building linkages with different line departments can lead to variety of benefits to farmers which she was abstained from till she joined the FPO. She wants to explore different trainings like processing, mushroom cultivation so that she along with other women farmers achieve better economic prospects and build new ventures. She feels grateful towards Switch ON Foundation for providing her with a common platform to engage with the other farmers and provide her with the opportunity, support, encouragement and making her understand the value and contribution of farmers.

Tylli Deimaia Joint Farming Cooperative Society Ltd.

Laskein, Meghalaya

The Power of Collectivisation

Tylli Deimaia Joint Farming Cooperative Society Limited is an FPO in Laskein, Meghalaya which has 104 shareholders and other farmers who are getting indirect support through the FPO formation. Various types of training provided to the farmers under the FPOs are on organic plantation, piggery training, knowledge training on LAB-lactic acid bacteria, IMO indigenous microorganism training and training on rechargeable trench. The farmers have also undergone various thematic trainings related to enhancing agriculture productivity and livelihood expansion.

Apart from this, Tylli Deimaia Joint Farming Cooperative Society Limited also provides support to the farmers by providing them **linkages with schemes** like Piggery Mission and Mission Lakadong (Turmeric) and educate the farmers on the **modern techniques** of farming. The farmers have been able to cultivate and get the maximum profit by engaging in cultivating crops like turmeric, ginger, maize, rice, potato, tomato etc. Farmers have been able to use the modern techniques of farming as well as **organic farming practice** in cultivating and maintaining the quality of these crops. Recently the FPO was able to procure a **turmeric washer and dryer** under the Lakadong Mission by the Department of Horticulture, Govt. of Meghalaya and polyhouse from Bethany Society Shillong.



With the formation of Tylli Deimaia Joint Farming Cooperative Society Limited, the farmers have not only evolved their agri-practices but also **gained self confidence** by stepping out of their old traditional methods of farming and engage in new technique and skills adapted to **changing climate** and erratic rainfall pattern. The FPOs are also imparting farmers with additional knowledge on **entrepreneurship, networking** with the government department, **partnership** with the various block and district level agencies. The FPO also enables the farmers to know about new schemes and process to apply for these schemes to avail benefits.



Tylli Deimaia Joint Farming Cooperative Society Limited has successfully helped the farmers to gain confidence and create strong networks and understanding among the members. The FPO strongly displays the power of collectivisation whereby the farmers work together as a **collective** to work as a team and help each other to sustain by ensuring good productivity and economic growth of the farmers. Tylli Deimaia Joint Farming Cooperative Society Limited has the **future plan** of connecting with registered buyers/ traders to help the members of the FPO in selling their products in large quantity and enhance the system of **providing inputs** to the farmers available at the block level departments.



Variety of trainings program on organic plantation, piggery, lactic acid bacteria, indigenous micro organism and rechargeable trench



Scheme linkages (Piggery Mission and Mission Lakadong)



Procurement of polyhouse, dryer and washer by the agriculture & allied departments

Kamjong Farmer's Producer Company Ltd.

Kamjong, Manipur

From Hurdles to Opportunities

Ningzanla Keishing, 34 years old woman farmer lives in Bungpa khunou, Kamjong District, Manipur with 7 members of her family. Ningzanla is earning 2-3 lakhs annually. In April 2022, the SwitchON Foundation staff came to visit the Kamjong district and had a meeting with the village leaders and the villagers, where Ningzanla got the information on the central sector scheme of FPO formation, its functioning, membership process and benefits. The identified farmers were encouraged to form a Farmer Interest Group (FIG) with the aim to empower them and improve their economic status by providing support in agriculture practices. Before joining FPO, Ningzanla used to spend major part of her time in growing crops and vegetables but due to lack of money, she faced the problems like **shortage of good seeds, lack of knowledge** regarding pest control etc. However she remained persistent to put maximum efforts to yield a good harvest. This led to positive results by improving her produce but the **persistent issue** experienced every harvest season remained **finding suitable buyers**.

This made Ningzala realise that she is working hard in vain as her produce is unable to attract fair price in the village. She **traveled** for **4-5 hours** at a stretch from villages to towns and faced



"I'm grateful for the information on various schemes and provisions that FIGs provide us with. With right knowledge, I now get good buyers for my farm products at reasonable prices without any stress that I used to experience earlier."

Ningzala
Farmer, Kamjong, Manipur

Keishing



multiple challenges like hiring vehicle, food, lodging and other expenses. This resulted in complete exhaustion of resources, energy and lack of hope. In April 2022, after joining as an FIG member, Ningzanla slowly started gaining self confidence in the group's objectives. She became more **knowledgeable** through the **training** imparted to her by the FIG on growing organic products, understand pest control, production of organic manure etc.

As a result, Ningzala increased her farm area from **10,000 sq. feet to 30,000 sq. feet** and she continues to expand her area of cultivation. Since she has gained knowledge, she is becoming more conscious about **intertwining organic farming** practice for the overall benefits of the society and environment. In addition to this, she is **sharing the learnings** from the training with her friends and relatives as well.

Ningzala has now become **self reliant**, and **independent** and proudly wears her badge of an FPO member around people of her village.

"I feel it was my luck to meet SwitchON Foundation and become a part of the project. I feel determined to do better with growing support from the FPO", she said.



Training on growing organic products



Knowledge on pest control & production of organic manure etc.



Increase in the farm area from 10,000 sq. feet to 30,000 sq. ft.

Tarku Namphing Organic Growers Cooperative Society Ltd.

Namphing, Temi block, South Sikkim

Devi's Story of Business Expansion

Devi Ghimeray lives in Namphing, block Temi in South Sikkim with 4 other members of her family. Devi is 36 old has only studied till is 7th standard but her incomplete education could not become a barrier for her to be successful in operating her **food processing business**. The story of earning 2 to 3 lac INR is not an overnight change for Devi but the result of dedicated effort and persistence. In the year March 2021, Devi came became aware of SwitchON Foundation when she first came for the village level meeting regarding FPO promotion. She felt the encouragement from the SwitchON team to participate in meetings to better her socio-economic conditions.

Before starting her business to **cultivate** and **sell turmeric**, she was a housewife and saw a life full of struggles where she strived to find opportunities in a competitive world to be able to give a better life to her family and herself.



"I am very thankful to the team of SwitchON Foundation for the opportunity and support given to me. I now have an identity and feel valued for my work."

Devi

Ghimeray

Women Farmer, Sikkim



Leadership skill enhancement



Enhancing value addition of the products



Channelising learning & becoming an agent of change



Create market linkages and expanding business



But in March 2021, after she came in contact with the FPO promotion intervention in her village, her life started to change. She started engaging with the FPO as an active member and with passing time, she was chosen as one of the **board of members**.

From this point, she started growing as a **leader**, becoming more **confident**, and possessing the **willpower** to work for community development. She also received various types of **training** including food processing training from various departments which helped her to develop the required skills. With her dedicated efforts and knowledge through above mentioned trainings, she eventually improved her business. With the help of the market linkage component under FPOs, she was able to get the **best market price** for her **turmeric produce**.



Devi is a self-reliant woman which proves that women are not less than men. Devi with whatever she has received from the FPO does not want to keep that with herself but wants to **help other women** to be independent, enhance their value addition of the products, create market linkages to receive the best price/profit and **expand their business**.

With the enhanced income Devi is able to provide **better education** and ensure better future to her children.

Ridhi Karna Sharma

Mamjey East Pendam, Pakyong, East Sikkim

Recognition as a Self-reliant Farmer

Ridhi Karna Sharma, a young man in his early twenties, lives in Mamjey East Pendam, in Pakyong Block in East Sikkim. Ridhi studied till class 8th standard. Agriculture became his obvious choice as it is the main livelihood activity in his family.

As a farmer he supports 4 members in his family. In the March 2021, Ridhi got to know about SwitchON Foundation during one of the village level meetings conducted for FPO promotion by the organization. The project team encouraged the farmers to form an Farmers Interest Groups (FIGs) to improve their socio- economic conditions.

Earlier, Ridhi used to follow the old methods of farming without any learning and the production was less which gave him **lesser margin**.

But in March 2021, post intervention of FPOs in his village, Ridhi's life started to change for good. Being an active member of the FIG, he was chosen as a **Local Resource Person (LRP)**. Ridhi also had the chance of whetting his leadership skills.



"I feel thankful to SwitchON Foundation for the support given to me. I now know where to go for better market prices. I will now take advantage of this opportunity and adopt modern technologies, and explore value added agriculture."

Ridhi

Farmer & Local Resource Person, Pakyong in East Sikkim



As a Local Resource Person, he is now **confident** and has also got the willpower to work for the farmers in his community. Through FPOs, he received number of **training** which added knowledge to his existing farming practices and helped him to **improve his crop production**. Before the association with FPOs, Ridhi could cultivate vegetables only **on 0.5 acre of land** but with the necessary support and confidence he is in the process of expanding his cultivation area to **more than 1 acre**. This has been the result of developing his farming skills and technical knowledge. With his farsightedness and focus, Ridhi has been able

to increase the production of his crops. FPOs also helped Ridhi with the **market linkages** and get the **best market price** for his vegetables and crops. Today Ridhi is recognized as a **self reliant** and a **progressive farmer** in his entire village.

His future goal is to help his fellow farmers turn into **progressive** ones so that they can also **improve** their production and experience the sense of **empowerment** that Ridhi has.



Working in the capacity of Local Resource Person in FPO



Adopting modern technologies for farming



Increased cultivation of vegetables from 0.5 acre to 1 acre of land



Recognized as a self reliant and progressive farmer





A stylized map of India is shown on the right side of the image. The state of Maharashtra is highlighted in a solid green color, while the rest of the country is represented by a black silhouette. The background of the entire image features a light gray topographic map with contour lines.

Maharashtra

Case Story VI

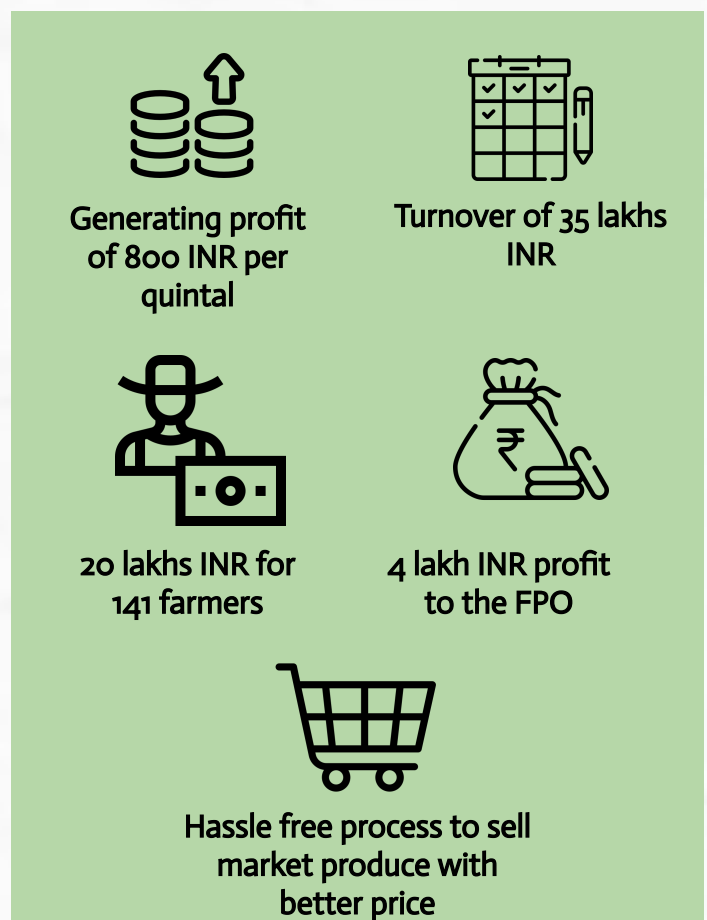
Stories of CHANGE

Dattapurna Krishi Farmer Producer Company Ltd.

Chandurbazar, Maharashtra

Generating Profits and Enabling Better Market Price

Dattapurna Krishi Farmer Producer Company Limited unfolds a story of successful model of **farmers association** and work of **collaborative efforts** by farmers. The exemplary work done by the FPO shows a terrific annual turnover of **35 lakhs INR**. In April 2022, the FPO inaugurated a **Purchasing centre** which was set up as a unit for farmers to **sell their produce**. The centre is supported by National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) to enable the farmers to sell their produce hassle free at a **higher rate than the markets**. The farmers usually sell their produce at **4,500 INR per quintal** in the markets (*mandis*) but the Purchasing centre is taking the produce from the farmers at a higher **5,230 INR per quintal** making farmers' profit straight at **800 INR per quintal**. The **profit** goes to the farmers' account helping them to avail **direct benefit**. The FPO has been able to sell **2500 quintal gram** of agricultural produce by **141 farmers**. The purchasing centre has been able to make a total **turnover of 35 lakhs INR**. Under the model, FPO directly gets **1%** of the **profit** generated by the Purchasing Centre. In June 2022, Dattapurna Krishi Farmer Producer Company has been able to generate the profit of **20 lakhs INR** for 141 farmers and **4 lakh INR** profit to the FPO (including the transportation, manpower charges etc.).



Earlier, the farmers did not get the profit as they were **selling** their produce at **lower rates**. The farmers were also **struggling** to **sell their produce** in the *mandis* as they had to **queue up** in crowded mandis and **wait endlessly** for their turn but now they are able to sell their produce effortlessly through **online registration**. The best solution posed by the FPO for farmers is them **receiving money** within **1 month** of selling their produce **without** going through the **cumbersome process**.

There are 144 farmers in the FPO have who have received **benefits** from **state schemes linkages** so far. The farmers are also planning to do **trading** for **orange crop** and **diversify crop cultivation** by including varieties like soybean, red gram, wheat etc. in the coming season.

Dattapurna Krishi Farmer Producer Company is aiming to **branch out more** in the coming months to apply for the **subsidy scheme** for the **facility of a godown**, **input shops** to **sell seeds**, **organic fertilizers** and **start a nursery**.



Amruttirth Farmer Producer Company Ltd.

Akot, Maharashtra

Input Shops for Enhancing Farmers Profits

Amruttirth Farmer Producer Company Limited in the Akot block, Akola district is registered under the Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) with a total annual turnover as **1,35,19,550 INR**. From June-July 2022, the FPO generated **2585 quintal of gram** produce with the help of 171 farmers. A total of **240 farmers** have been registered through online mode for **NAFED purchasing centre for collecting the produce from farmers and selling it to NAFED**. A successful initiative under the FPO has been the **annual trading** done for **50 lakh INR** through selling the crops like cotton, groundnut and soybean where farmers were able to **sell** the produce to the **private companies and mills and generate profit**. The **input shops** have emerged as a **valuable** component of the FPOs where they have been able to **sell** seeds, bio pesticides and fertilizers and generate **10 lakhs INR profit till date**.

20 farmers were provided with the **training** on **organic farming** and **demonstration of fertilizers** and **micronutrients**. The **exposure visits** to various **successful models** of agricultural activities are conducted often to help farmers **learn from** other **farmers** on new & **different ideas** like seed processing, **milk processing**, trading, **contract farming** etc. **50 lakhs INR** has been generated through the annual trading.



Total turnover as 50,00,000 INR



Annual trading for 50 lakh INR



Generation of 10 lakhs INR profit through selling seeds, bio pesticides and fertilizers

Brahmani Agromind Farmer Producer Company Ltd.

Rahuri, Maharashtra

Reducing Input Cost & Increasing Knowledge on Agri practices

In Rahuri taluka of Ahmednagar district, Sarjerao Rajdev is identified as a progressive farmer. Sarjerao's journey to becoming a progressive farmer started with introduction to **Brahmani Agromind Farmer Producer Company Limited, Rahuri** which has around **320 shareholders**. SwitchON Foundation was approached by **National Food Security Mission (NFSM)**, under the NFSM scheme and **Agriculture Department, Maharashtra** to identify and select **25 progressive farmers** in their areas of operation in December 2021, due to the earlier interventions done by SwitchON for improving marginalised farmers' socio-economic conditions. The local identified farmers (where Sarjerao was also included) were asked to carry out an exercise to do the intercropping of sugarcane and gram and enhance their land fertility. After **witnessing beneficial results** of the experiment for himself, Sarjerao decided to become a **shareholder** in September 2021 and started being regular in the farmers meeting conducted by SwitchON Foundation.

Sarjerao approached **Brahmani Agromind Farmer Producer Company** for free gram seeds provided under the NFSM scheme and started sowing on 10th December 2021.

The seeds were the new hybrid variety (**Phule Vikram variety**) developed by Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth and yielded a **good produce** compared to the existing varieties which were yielding less production and unsuitable for machine harvesting due to **inadequate plant height**. In addition to this, the newly-released variety is disease-resistant, early-maturing and have market-preferred traits.



Profit in the last 4 months as 42800 INR



Adopting new technologies and climate smart agriculture



Learning new schemes & receiving benefits to enhance productivity



Sarjerao earlier was **unaware** of a lot of useful **farming practices** but after becoming the part of the FPO, he started using **additional products** and **practices** like **pheromone traps**, **emamectin benzoate**, **NPK fertilizer**, chemical spray, **dribbling**, harvesting, rizobium culture for **nitrogen fixation** etc. Due to adopting these practices, the production cost reduced significantly. Now he has to only spend **8900 INR.** as the input cost. Sarjerao's last **4 month's income** is now **51700 INR.** The entire profit in last 4 months has come to **42800 INR** which he uses for the **education** of his children and save for their **marriages**.

"I truly believe that every shareholder in FPO can benefit from the collectivisation of farmers. It is difficult to walk alone but easier to walk together"

Sarjerao Pandurang Rajdev

He is availing many benefits through various **scheme linkages**, learning through **agri training** and **adopting new technology** like **drip irrigation** to do **climate smart agriculture**. From the past trainings Sarjerao has been able to learn about various accident policy, govt. schemes (**PMFME** and **MREGS**), **storage schemes**, **Krushik** mobile apps for information on agriculture crops etc.





Wasuputra Farmer Producer Company Ltd.

Telhara, Akola, Maharashtra

Access to Agriculture Equipment Bank & Training for Better Output

Nilesh Shantaram Nemade, a 34 years old farmer in Telhara block of Akola district of Maharashtra was **struggling** to **enhance** his **agriculture productivity** and **access to tools** and **machinery** but could find least success, sometimes he would spent **heavy rentals** on **machinery**. In December 2021, after becoming the shareholder of Wasuputra Farmer Producer Company Limited, Telhara with **327 shareholders**, Nilesh understood the importance of FPO, functioning and the benefits that he can avail. As a shareholder, he gained benefit from the **Agriculture Mechanization program** which is a scheme to **enhance the access to machinery and tools** to farmers (under POCRA Scheme Maharashtra State).

Under this scheme, the shareholders received a subsidy of **10 lakh 87 thousand**. As a part of the Agriculture Equipment Bank, Nilesh could get the access to tools like **tractors**, plough, **sowing machine**, rotavator, 3 tine and 5 tine cultivators, rotavator, multi-crop thresher, hydraulic reversible plough etc.

This has helped Nilesh to **save a lot of time** for running around to manage machinery on rental making him a lot confident to handle serious issues while doing **agriculture activities**. Nilesh is now **saving 25% annually** on the **cost of cultivation** which ranges from **sowing to harvesting**.

The training on **seed germination**, **seed treatment**, **sowing technique**, **integrated pest management**, **integrated weed management** etc. has **changed** the entire **perspective** for Nilesh towards agricultural practices.

Nilesh feels encouraged to have a future plan to **expand his business** by starting with a godown for **storage purpose** which does not seem a far fetched dream, if one looks at his dedication.

"I feel confident and encouraged to receive support from the FPO. Having an easy access to resources, this would be impossible without a strong group of farmers coming together to share their issues and take out solutions"

Nilesh S. Nemade



Samrudhha Adivasi Agro Farmers Producer Company Ltd.

Akola, Maharashtra

Increase in Agricultural Production due to Scheme Linkage

Yuvraj Damse, a 25 years old farmer, had no plans than to appear for competitive exams till recently. After repetitive attempts to get through government job examination, Yuvraj was unsuccessful and decided to go home and do farming. But after coming back he realised that he has **no finances** to conduct farming and **generate income**. One day out of the willingness to experiment and proposal given by the local Krishi Sahayak, Yuvraj along with two other farmer brothers brought and put light quality nets and iron from the market and started **cultivating capsicum** in his land. Slowly, Yuvraj thought of forming a farmers' group and successfully managed to **mobilise farmers** to help him in cultivating **capsicum** and **cucumber** with the help of **ATMA Maharashtra scheme linkage**. The idea reaped benefit to Yuvraj and he had a good yield. So much so that the farmers started selling their produce to markets in Mumbai and Gujarat which generated around **4 lakh profit** to the farmers. Yuvraj gives the entire credit to this success to **linkage with Government schemes** through Samrudhha Adivasi Agro Farmers Producer Company Limited. Yuvraj is now **growing** Kharif & Rabi Crops and **expanding** to paddy, cucumber, capsicum, iceberg lettuce, beans, broccoli, tomato, wheat, onion and other **exotic vegetables**.

The growth in production along with the use of modern technology has increased Yuvraj's **agricultural production by 50%**. In addition to this, Yuvraj is also getting **free spray drugs, organic seed** and **spray pesticide** through support from **FPO** and **agriculture officer** to avail benefits of ATMA scheme. Yuvraj's **future goal** is to **mobilise** his farmer friends from FPO to **set up a rice mill** and **start** their **processing unit** by availing **equity grant** under **SFAC** and sell the processed rice to **escalate the profits** for the FPO.



"A single farmer takes time to move forward, but he must not forget that with courage and right resources he can move the entire village forward."

Yuvraj Damse



A black silhouette of India is centered on the right side of the image. Within this silhouette, the state of Madhya Pradesh is highlighted in a solid green color. The background of the entire image features a light gray topographic map with contour lines.

Madhya Pradesh

Shri Shobha Krishi Producer Company

Pohri, Madhya Pradesh

Augmenting Profits through Innovative Practices

Shri Shobha Krishi Producer Company is an FPO in Pohri block of Shivpuri in Madhya Pradesh which has more than **300 shareholders**. The farmers in the FPO have been able to **purchase and sell drip, mulching and pipes** of worth **8 lakh INR** to other farmers through the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana to the farmers by the Madhya Pradesh Govt.

The FPO has been able to purchase fertilizer for **6 lakhs** (1200/ 50kg) and sell it for **6,12,500 INR** (1200/50 kg) which has helped farmers to achieve the profit of **12500 INR**. The FPO also incurred an average profit of **50,000 INR** while **selling fertilizer**. In addition to that, the FPO has also sold seeds worth **2.5 lakh INR** for which the profit drawn was 40,000 INR. The seeds of tomato, chilly, soybean etc were coles to the farmers.



An ever increasing number of 300 shareholders



Profit of 12500 INR by selling fertilizers and 40,000 INR by selling seeds



Tomato plant nursery initiated by farmers

The BODs of the FPO have **started a tomato plant nursery** in which farmers are using **pre ordered cocopeat** (Royal Israil Nursery Gujarat), **tray** (capacity 100 plants/ tray) and new **hybrid variety** of tomatoes (syngenta- shahu 035). To amplify the result, the farmers have also developed **polyhouse** in **1/5 acre area** to capacitate **65,000 plants more**. The farmers are in process of **sowing seeds** (200 trays of seeds have already being sowed, as of July 2022) and **planting 30,000 plants** out of which **20,000 plants** have been pre ordered from the FPO. The farmers in the FPO are taking **independent decisions** to **fix the selling price** for tomato plants and nursery plants.





Environment Conservation Society
1A, Debendra Lal Khan Road, Kolkata-700027
www.switchon.org.in