



## Executive Summary

## Final Project Report 2020

Strengthening Livelihoods of Women in Agriculture,  
through Natural Resource Management

### **Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana**

DAY-NRLM, MoRD, GoI & Dept. of P & RD, Govt. of West Bengal

*Implemented by*

**Loka Kalyan Parishad, West Bengal**





## Acknowledgement

**We sincerely acknowledge cooperation, guidance & advice received from the following organizations:**

- The Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India
- Panchayat and Rural Development Department, West Bengal State Rural Livelihood Mission, Government of West Bengal
- PD, DMMU, Birbhum, Purulia, Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur and Alipurduar districts
- All Block Development Officers and Gram Panchayat Pradhans in the project area
- The members of the SHG institutions (VLF, GPLF, BLF)s
- Various experts in the field of Agriculture, Animal husbandry, Fisheries, Horticulture etc.
- The commercial banks and Micro Finance Institutes
- Barnamala Credit Co operative Society, Illamabazar (Run by BLF )
- Jamna Nitya Sangha Mahila SHG Co operative Society Ltd., Labpur (Run by GPLF)
- The institutes that extended help in skill development:
  - BCKV, UBKV, RKVK(Visva Bharati)
  - NIRD & PR, Hyderabad, IIT (KgP), IEST, West Bengal
  - BIRD, BRAIPRD, KVKs, WBCADC
  - PRADAN, BASIX, SAMUNNATI, FOSET etc
- For Monitoring and Evaluation
  - Divisional Commissioner, Bardhaman Division, West Bengal
  - World Bank Team
  - NIRD & PR, Hyderabad
- Experts from NMMU, MoRD, WBSRLM
- All dedicated staff members and Mahila Kisans under the project



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# Loka Kalyan Parishad

A resource centre for collaborative action initiatives with local self government institutions



On the recommendation of the Panchayats and Rural Development Dept. Govt. of West Bengal, the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India awarded, in 2013, the Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana, (abbreviated as 'MKSP') or the programme for empowerment of women farmers to Loka Kalyan Parishad (in short LKP) for implementation in a few identified areas of our state. It gives us immense pleasure to bring out this booklet narrating the story of implementation and achievements of 'MKSP'.

Both the Union and the State governments have been implementing various programmes for development of women over the years but the MKSP was unique as it specifically acknowledged the contribution of women in agriculture and felt that something special needed to be done so that women engaged in agriculture are also recognized as 'Farmers'. LKP with all its experiences in the fields of livelihood development of rural poor based on natural resource management and involving local self government institutions (or Panchayati Raj Institutions) took the challenge of accomplishing the objectives of the MKSP. This publication narrates the story of LKP's journey towards successful implementation of the programme.

From a reading of the book readers will have an idea of the programme objectives, expected outcomes, strategies adopted for implementation, physical achievements, impact of the programme etc. described in separate paragraphs. It will not be out of place to mention here that most of the targeted 'mahila kisans' being landless, the strategies adopted by LKP for implementing this programme, has been acknowledged by the government as the development model for the landless poor. LKP gratefully acknowledges the support it recieved from all concerned including the Union and State governments, WBSRLM, district administration and others in successful implementation of MKSP.

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Kolkata  
November 10, 2020.

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The MKSP is a well-designed programme implemented by the MoRD to mainstream the role of women in agriculture. The main objective of the project was to empower the women farmers through creation of sustainable livelihood opportunities to address Food and Nutrition Security at the household level based on Decentralized Natural Resource Management to lead a life of economic prosperity. Since the majority of the Mahila Kisans belong to the ultra-poor community under the project were landless, they did not have the potential to contribute any significant income from a single source of activity. Need was felt to engage most of the assisted families around the whole farming system, where a basket of compatible activities was taken up in an integrated manner that really contributed significant enhancement of income following sustainable agriculture practices as the core principle i.e. focusing on ecological relationship within man, animal and plants in the ecosystem.

Benefits that accrued by the Mahila Kisans included availability and accessibility of food round the year, regular cash flow in the household, chemical free healthy food reducing medical cost, enhancing income, production and productivity and most importantly, improved household status and become a part of the decision-making process in the family as well as enabling interactions in the external environment.

It was always a great challenge for the entire project to see a considerable stepping up of reducing poverty with more income generation, sufficient skill building, making provisions of better opportunities for access to additional land, seeds, finance, technologies and market connectivity along with formation of Mahila Kisan Farmers Producer companies by them.

All these happened successfully due to unleashing capabilities and innate desire of the poor to come out of poverty net through institutions that was established for them to provide space, voice and resources in the environment.

I like to express my deepest appreciation to the whole team of field officials, Project Managers, and the Self-Help Group leadership for their immense efforts, dedication and hard work to accomplish the project. My sincere thanks to all technical advisors, who extended their invaluable services in fulfilling the objectives of the project for the poor.

I would like to express my gratitude to the management team of NRLM, WBSRLM, state and district administrations including experts from concerned state departments for their constant support and guidance.

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Women farmers going to their field



## Summary of Progress

Sl. no.	Outcome	Target	Achievement
1.	Mobilisation & capacity building of Mahila Kisans(MKs) into institutional framework(MKSHG, Sub cluster, Cluster etc.).	To mobilize 60000 MKs mobilized into 6000  MK Self Help Group (SHGs)s & build up their institutions upto Gram Panchayat(GP) level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>61109 MKs have been mobilized into 5900 MKSHGs</li> <li>655 Gram Sansad Level Federation have been formed</li> <li>50 GP Level Federations formed</li> <li>5 Block Level Federations formed</li> </ul>
2.	Access of additional land & water body under DNRM activities	To cover 24000 MKs under partnership (Pvt- pvt & pub-pvt) model on land, water, livestock & agro forestry	35764 MK (58.52 percent) have been brought under partnerships- Private-Private(Pvt-Pvt) & Public-Private (Pub-Pvt).
3	Attainment of food & nutritional security of MKs at house hold & community level through adoption of area specific, eco friendly SA practices	To bring 48000 families (80 percent) into eco friendly Sustainable Agricultural (SA) practices.	Yearlong food was available to 99 percent MKs at the household as well as community level from home/community and school nutrition gardens.
4	Orientation & sensitization to the functionaries at the block level and Panchayat Samity(PS) level	To orient & sensitize all Block level local governments Panchayat Samities & other support to MKSHGs	11 Panchayat Samities have been oriented and sensitized adequately to provide responsive technical support for economic development of the MK.
5	Orientation & sensitization of the GP level functionaries representatives regarding MKSP.	To 48 GPs orient, train & to create linkages with GP & support them for economic development of the MKs.	100 percent of the target has been achieved.
6	To build up institutions for production and market access	Formation of 200 Producer Groups (PGs) with market linkage from village level to Block level & upwards	307 Producer Groups formed and federated in 3 cooperative societies and 5 producer companies having linkage with local & non local markets.
7	Enhancement of level of income	To earn Rs.3500-4000 Per month	MKs has able to earn Rs. 5309.00 in an average.





Sl. no.	Outcome	Target	Achievement
8	Creation of physical assets worth Rs.20500 on an average per family	To create assets like additional land, agro forestry tree plantation, live stocks, stock in grain and seed bank	Assets worth Rs. 46131.00 per MK on average have been generated under the project period.
9	Drudgery reduction through gender friendly tools for the MKs	To establish 50 Common Facility Centre (Equipment Hub) in 50GPs	48 Common Facility Centre (CFC) have been functional.
10	Development of social capital from amongst the community to provide sustained support to MKs	To develop & engage 450 local CRPs, PPs & Prani Sakhi to extend support to local MKSHGs.	510 CRPs, PPs, <i>Krishi Sakhi</i> , <i>Prani Sakhis</i> , <i>Matsyasakhi</i> , <i>Udyog Sakhi</i> and <i>Jaibo Sakhi</i> , Progressive Farmers, Village Volunteers have been developed.
11	Participation of MKs in bottom up plan process to incorporate those in the Annual GP plan .	To cover at least 75 percent, i.e in 34 GPs in the programe	76 percent of the MKs participated in bottom up planning process i.e 48 GPs under the project



**Women farmers transplanting paddy plants**



## **Chapter 1: Background, Context, Goals, Objectives, Locations, Vulnerability**

### **1.0: About the organization:**

Loka Kalyan Parishad (LKP), was established in 1977, as a voluntary organization under the leadership of Sri Shankar Prasad Mitra, former Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court; Sri Sudhangshu Kr. Chakraborty, a renowned civil servant, former Vice Chancellor of the Rajendra Agricultural University and recipient of the 'Padmashree' award for his work with small farmers in the Gandak / Kosi project in Bihar, Sri Narendra Nath Sen, Member-Secretary of the West Bengal State Planning Board; Sri Akshay Kumar Koley, eminent industrialist. Smt. Sumana Chakraborty a dedicated social worker along with 13 other respected educationists and social workers were amongst the founding members. The most disadvantaged section of the people living in the rural Bengal remain in the focus of the organization and endeavored for their uplift through decentralized Natural Resource Management and working in tandem with the rural governments.

Loka Kalyan Parishad was registered under the *Societies Registration Act, 1961*. Subsequently it obtained registration under the *Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 1976* and obtained exemptions under Sections 12A and 80G of the *Income tax Act*. It obtained the Unique ID Registration No. - WB/2009/0015010 from Planning Commission, Govt. of India.

**1.1. Background of the Study under MKSP:** MoRD, Government of India launched a mission mode national programme called NRLM (later called as DAY - NRLM) with MKSP as one of its components making partnership with NGO and CSOs throughout the country. The West Bengal State Rural Livelihood Mission (WBSRLM) was also a co-sponsor in the programme to implement it in the state of West Bengal. Loka Kalyan Parishad (LKP) having sound domain knowledge and relevant experience in rural livelihood development was awarded the project as a partner Project Implementing Agency (PIA) in five backward districts in the state of West Bengal. The programme started in May, 2013 came to an end on 30 September, 2020, MKSP, a woman centric special programme for livelihood enhancement demands a concerted effort to recognize the role of women in agriculture. The main objective of the project was empowerment of the women farmers through creation of sustainable livelihood opportunities, based on community managed sustainable agricultural practices and successfully address the Food and Nutrition Security at the household level as well as raising their income level through enhancement of production and productivity.



**1.2. Project title:** ‘Strengthening the Livelihood of Women in Agriculture, through Natural Resource Management in the backward blocks of the districts of Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur, Birbhum, Purulia & Alipurduar in West Bengal’

### **1.3. Objectives that fulfilled under MKSP**

- Ensured yearlong food and nutrition security at the household and the community level.
- Improved net incomes of the women farmers from sustainable agriculture and other livelihood resources and reduced the cost of cultivation.
- Created area specific and need based sustainable agriculture practices for wider replication in the project area with specific farm intervention integrated model (Land based, Pond based, Livestock based)
- Upgraded the skills and capabilities of the women farmers in SA practices, management skills of the SHGs and its associated tiers to support farm and off-farm activities in order to access resources (land, credit, technology, inputs and services) of the Government and non-governmental sources.
- Created and strengthened the platform and institutions for women to establish the community managed system in agriculture and related activities and thus empowering the Mahila Kisans.
- Drudgery is reduced for women farmers through use of gender friendly machines.

### **1.4: Mobilization of Mahila Kisans and Vulnerabilities :**

- The project has been implemented in 691 census villages of 50 GPs under 11 blocks in 5 backward districts of West Bengal namely, Birbhum, Purulia, Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur and Alipurduar.
- Total 61109 Mahila Kisans have been mobilised under the project in 5900 SHGs.
- Predominant section of mobilized population belonged to marginalized section viz. Scheduled Caste (34 %), Scheduled Tribe (16 %), Other Backward Caste (9 %), Minority (28 %) and others (13 %).
- Out of total MKs under coverage, most vulnerable sections(58115 MKs) are distributed in the following categories as landlessness(55189 MKs), women headed families(1960 MKs), differently abled(484 MKs) and single women (282MKs).





## Chapter 2: Intervention Strategies, Key Programme Components

**2.1: Intervention Strategies:** The programme is implemented by the community managed and community owned women institutions of the poor developed under MKSP through intensive capacity building.

- Adoption of Sustainable Agriculture practices was followed through Decentralized Natural Resource Management (DNRM) by 99.74 percent Mahila Kisans.
- To ensure enhancement of income of the MKs under target, appropriate measures were adopted to their livelihood activities from multiple sources.
- **A combined activity strategy was followed to mitigate food security from Home/Community & School Nutrition Gardens** at individual as well as community level and further integrated with small livestock, fishery/other activities to **enhance income level** of the MKs as a strategy for strengthening the livelihoods under MKSP. A well designed ultra-poor strategy has been developed through a basket of livelihood activities for this purpose.
- Participatory approach was followed to prepare bottom up plans by the SHGs themselves for incorporation of their demands and needs in the annual plan of Gram Panchayat. Efforts were made as a core principle of LKP to establish sound relationship with the PRIs in general and Gram Panchayat in particular for exchange of mutual advice, support and sharing of resources for livelihood development of the MKs.

### 2.2: Programme components:

- The Institutions were developed and mobilised as 655 Village Level Federations (VLF), 50 GP level Federations (GPLF) and 6 Block Level Federations (BLFs) in the intervention districts  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QtPMHgQwt6U&t=148s>
- Developed group based micro entrepreneurship through formation of Producer Groups (307).
- Farmers Producer Companies (5) and Cooperative Societies (3) have been incorporated as per respective Government acts.
- Financial Inclusion for (5900 MKSHGs) through bank linkage to make funds available through Community Investment Fund (CIF), Revolving Fund (RF), bank loan etc.
- Home/Community/School Nutrition Gardens were used in by the MKs for food and nutrition security clubbed with intervention on small livestock for additional income generation along with other activities.
- Access to additional land and water bodies through partnership mode also helped them to procure more food.



- Developed strong contingent of social capital (Krishi Sakhi-160, Prani Sakhi-102, Matsya Sakhi -78, Jaibo Sakhi-96, Udyog Sakhi-25 etc.).
- Common Facility Centres ( 48) were set up at each GP to reduce drudgery of the women farmers with gender friendly tools and equipment run by GPLF.

### Chapter 3: Target, Achievements and Progress under MKSP

**3.1. Bottom up Planning Process & Convergence with PRIs:** Mahila Kisans (76 percent) participated in the bottom-up planning process in 2018-19 compared to participation of 65 percent in 2013-14. Out of the total plans submitted, 81.06 percent were incorporated in 2018-19 in place of 61.82 percent in 2013-14 following LKP- Best Practices.

**3.2. Access to Land: Owned Land, Additional Land (partnership), Common Property Resource Management:** Land owned and accessed in lease per MKs was 0.26 acre in 2013-14 that was enhanced to 0.76 acre in 2018-19. Additional land ( road and canal side, unutilized land, culturable waste land, seasonal fallows etc. were accessed by MKs in two modes, (i) Public -Private partnership and (ii) Private -Private partnership (LKP-Best Practice). Access of total land by these kinds of partnership was found in 7361 families using 1102 acre of land in 2013-14 while that was turned into 12211 acres of land to be used by 35764 MKs at the end of the project. In case of Public -Private partnership, 1529 MKs were found to procure 113 acres of land which was enhanced to 1395 acre and used by 12372 MKs in 2018-19.

**3.3. Access to Finance:** SHGs accessed institutional credit facilities to avail fund per MK amounting Rs. 14400 (2018-19 ) which was Rs. 8500.00 in 2013-14 per MK households.

**3.4. Capacity Building of All Stakeholders:** Total 6936 training programmes were organized for the MKs with 10 trainee days per MK on an average and for the CRPs and PPs it was 133 and 162 days respectively. LKP has been recognized as a certified training provider by the Govt. of West Bengal under Utkarsh Bangla, PBSSD, under DDUGKY. LKP has developed theme based distinct modules, AV training materials, books etc. that has been utilized by the project staffs, community institutions, capacity builders, and other stakeholders. Institutional trainings received by the CRPs/PPs/Progressive farmers, village Volunteers (939 nos.) from eminent institutes at the state as well as national level such as NIRD & PR, BIRD, NABARD, BCKV, UBKV, WBCADC, KVKs, FOSET etc.

**3.5. Development of Social Capital: CRP Strategy:** A resource pool of 510 personnel have been developed and nested at the grassroots out of which 104 nos. of CRPs/ Master Trainers have been deployed by the WBSRLM in different districts.

**3.6. Convergence: Line Departments, MGNREGA and Other Government Programmes/ Schemes:** Maximum number of MKs were benefited (50,259) through convergence from ARD department followed by MGNREGS (29872), Agriculture (38072), WBCADC (18478),



Horticulture (9131) and Fishery (8056), health (38996) and PDS(60253) during the project period. It was found that 29872 MKs earned total wages amounting Rs.3921 lakh In 2018-19 i.e., average earning per MK households Rs. 12943.00 at the end of the project.

**3.7: Non-Pest Management (NPM) Shops Developed under MKSP:** MKs (93.04 percent) have adopted Non-Pest Management system, practiced in the field as well as sold their products in the locality.

**3.8: Formation of Organic Clusters: Journey to Organic Farming:** Twenty 'Organic Clusters' were formed in the districts of Birbhum and Purulia under MKSP.

**3.9: New ventures under MKSP - Seed Certification:** MKs (577) participated in Certified Seeds production programme having maintained the stringent protocol under the Seed Certification Authority, Govt. of West Bengal. In 2018-19, 105 MKs produced 462 qtl of paddy seeds with *Rani Dhan, Sahabghi and Gotra* varieties in Birbhum and Purulia districts with an turnover of Rs.973000.00.

**For Certified Seeds:** <https://youtu.be/L7cucAI5ces>

**3.10: Drudgery Reduction: Custom Hiring Centre formed under MKSP:** 48 such centres have been established in 48 GPs that was utilized by 38318 MKs in lieu of paying hiring charges.

**3.11: Creation of assets:** The average value of assets, (agriculture and non agricultural, created by each MK worth Rs. 46131.00 at the end of the project.

## **Chapter 4: Adoption of Sustainable Agriculture:**

**4.1: Home and Community Nutrition Garden:** Each Mahila Kisan has adopted minimum three agro-ecological techniques in agriculture and allied activities. In order to produce vegetables, 99.74 percent MKs have utilized their multi layered home nutrition as well as community nutrition gardens.

**4.2: School Nutrition Gardens** were developed by 3056 MKs of 1118 SHGs to provide mid-day meals in 235 schools. In order to serve chemical free food for the school kids.

### **4.3: Soil health. Plant Nutrition Management and Bio Pest Management:**

- MKs adopted sustainable practices like bio pest management (80.45 percent), soil moisture management (63 percent) and system approach of cultivation (46 percent) in agriculture.
- LKP helped adopting 14 kinds of indigenous technology- based activities throughout the project period and trained the MKs intensively. Major activities are Individual and Community Nutrition Garden, Soil Health Management, Plant Nutrition Management, Seed/ Grain Banks, Bio Diversity Enhancement, Land/pond/small animal based integrated farming, system approach etc.





- LKP has developed 830 group-based grain banks being maintained by 10,942 MKs and 4904 nos. group-based seed banks for preservation of grain/seeds by 13948 MKs under the project.
- Introduction of new crops and revival of extinct crops were adopted by 24750 MKs to maintain dynamic equilibrium (Red cabbage, Pakchoi, Broccoli, capsicum etc.).
- MKs (99 percent) applied vermi compost, Azolla, NADEP compost, green manure and homemade fertilizers (Uddipak, Sanjeevani, Panchagabya, Taral sar, Ghono & Draba Jeevammrita etc. ) and bio pesticides like Neemastra, Agneyastra, Brahmastra etc.

**4.4: Livestock development:** Livestock development activities practiced by 94.32 percent MKs as the secondary source of livelihoods with goats, chicks and ducks of improved varieties to enhance the income and economic prosperity.

**4.5: Common Property Resource Management:** 1395 acre of land were utilized by 12372 landless women farmers (20.24 percent) in Common Property Resource Management through Public -Private partnership for agro forestry plantation to produce fruit-fodder-fuel-fertilizer and timber.

**4.6: Use of fallow land:** MKs (25422) have utilized seasonal fallows and fallow dykes through Private-Private partnership to produce vegetables, pulses, ground nut etc.

**4.7: Soil moisture management:** MKs (38340) have practiced various agro ecological methods like pitcher irrigation, recycling domestic waste water, drip irrigation, bio mulch, cover crop etc. for soil moisture management.

**4.8: Integrated Farming:** LKP developed and introduced potential livelihood models to strengthen the livelihood of the MKs with land and pond based multiple agriculture integrated with livestock development in 5 districts of West Bengal in various agro climatic zones.

**4.9: Other agro ecological practices:** Other practices that were followed by the MKs namely, crop rotation, cover crop, zero tillage, summer ploughing, *Poiracropping*, companion cropping etc.

**4.10: System of Crop Intensification:** As a measure to reduce the input cost in agriculture, 28110 MKs followed SCI in 5071.55 acre of land for cultivation of rice, wheat, maize and mustard. <https://youtu.be/ZK0h78wQi68>



## Chapter 5: Enterprise Development

**5.1: Producer Groups:** Under the project, 307 Producer Groups were formed from amongst the interested MKSHGs to roll out collective production and collective marketing by the MKs

**5.2: Producer Companies/Cooperatives:** Out of these groups, 281 PGs have been federated into 5 Producer Companies under Companies Act 2013 in Birbhum (3), Purulia (1) and Dakshin Dinajpur (1) and 3 Cooperatives under the State Cooperative Societies Act, 2011 in Birbhum (2) and Purulia (1). Business plans were made, marketing network both local and non-local to upscale their business activities established along with various value addition activities. Efforts have been made to establish a combination of traditional and modern marketing including online marketing. <https://youtu.be/kro6ZLgS94w>

## Chapter 6: Food Security, Income Generation, Production and Productivity

**6.1: Food Security:** Food was secured with the net availability with 6.50kg per day per household at the end of the project.

**6.2: Production and Productivity:** Total agricultural production enhanced as 33.57 qtl. per MK household in 2019 in comparison to 7.63 qtl in 2013, while productivity of the major crops for cereals (11.05qtl.), pulses and oilseeds (7.12qtl.) and vegetable (13.77 qtl.) found in 2013 per acre have turned out to be as 11.48qtl, 7.66 qtl and 28.65 qtl per acre respectively at the end of the project in 2019.

Land was utilized judiciously to produce crops in three seasons (Pre-kharif, Kharif, Rabi) and diversification of multiple crops took place in every season on a single plot. Thus, cropping intensity along with volume of production increased throughout the year.

**6.3: Income Generation:** The MKs undertook multiple income generating activities (agriculture, livestock development, off farm and non-farm etc.) to enhance their income 3.4 times as Rs. 5309.00 per month in 2019 compared to Rs.1557.00 per month in 2013-14. It may be noted that Income per MK as Rs. 1250.00 per month was estimated in the Baseline Survey in 2012-13.

Major source of average income per MK per annum from agriculture reached Rs.41532.00 in 2019 which was only Rs.7478.00 in 2013-14. Average income from **livestock** rearing and fishery enhanced from Rs.6254.00 in 2013-14 to Rs. 14186.00 in 2018-19 per annum. Average income from other sources (**off farm/ non farm** etc.) per year per MK also increased from Rs. 4950 in 2013-14 to Rs. 7990 in 2018-19. Thus, total income of MK from all sources enhanced to Rs. 63708.00(2018-19) from Rs. 18682.00 (2013-14).



## Chapter 7: Monitoring and Evaluation

**7.1: Monitoring, internal monitoring and monitoring by community institutions:** The monitoring and review activities had two parts, internal and external. Internal monitoring has been done by Project Implementation Body (PIB), Community Institutions (VLF, GPLF, BLF) in the field area and external review by funding agencies like MoRD, WBSRLM and NIRD&PR. A committee consisting of internal experts specifically for internal monitoring and evaluation of the project work was formed by LKP as a principle of its project implementation.

Monthly meetings used to be held at the Head Quarter every month to assess progress, obstacles and needs for the project besides regular meetings in the field level. Monthly reports (Physical and Financial) from the field units submitted to the LKP head quarter and the DMMU of respective districts with a copy to the local BDOs under the project area.

The Quarterly Progress Reports in the prescribed format were regularly submitted to WBSRLM for onward transmission to NMMU by the specified date in every quarter in a year.

Regular field visits were undertaken by our subject matter specialists from LKP to assess the situation in the field as well as providing training required for the project staffs.

A specialized MIS has been developed by LKP to capture the progress on a regular basis and uploaded in the website.

**7.2: External review and impact assessment by the external agencies:** External reviews took place by the representative from state, district, block as well as national level throughout the project period.

Third party assessment was done by the external agency namely, JVES, Regional Council for PGS Organic Certification and a training provider in Organic Farming and allied sector In January, 2018. NIRD&PR also conducted a field study based interim evaluation on behalf of MoRD to assess the performances and its impacts on the livelihoods of the poorest of the poor farmer households under MKSP.

M/s A.C. Nielson undertook a detail study as a part of the end evaluation of the MKSP project in our intervention area in all the 5 districts on behalf of the MoRD held in 2019.

MoRD has come out with a Compendium of selected '**Agro Ecological Best Practices**' in which an explicit report on '**Integrated Livelihood approach for landless and marginal farmers through Convergence by LKP in West Bengal**' was included.





## Chapter 8: Documentation, Public Disclosure, Seminar/ Conference and Special Achievements

**8.1. Project documentation:** Mahila Kisan card was designed as per MoRD guidelines to collect all relevant information throughout the seasons during the entire project period. A sound MIS was developed to generate various types of information, as required by the project team with feedback received from the field units.

Theme- based Models/Modules (21), books (38), pamphlets/leaflets (9) , charts (21) , etc. were developed under the project and disseminated to grass root level and also shared with the agricultural experts available in the line departments of the district and block level. Subject specific Audio-Visuals (18) along with instant photo documentation have been prepared by the experts and widely used as learning material for different stakeholders under MKSP. Various Whats -App groups have been formed at the level of LKP HQ to disseminate relevant updated information regarding season wise agricultural plans, advisories, weather reports, pest attack, market price of produced commodities and the market network etc. in order to exchange information instantly.

**8.2: Public Disclosure:** Updated information was disseminated through Public Disclosure (wall writing, display board, flex/ banner, leaflets, hoarding etc.) displayed in the public places in the project area.

**8.3: Seminars/ Workshops/Conferences:** Series of seminars/ conferences/workshops were attended and also conducted by LKP in association with various eminent institutions like IIT-Kharagpur, Department of Electronics, Indian Institute of Engineering, Science & Technology (IIEST), Forum of Scientists, Engineers & Technologists, NIRD & PR, WBSRLM, NRLM etc.

Papers were presented in NIRD &PR, Hyderabad and All India Peoples Technology Congress (AIPTC) on different aspects of livelihood development of the Mahila Kisans in West Bengal under MKSP.

### 8.4: Special Achievements

- LKP was recognised by MoRD while publishing an explicit report in the compendium of 'Agro Ecological Best Practices' under MKSP on 'Integrated Livelihood Approach for Landless and Marginal Farmers through Convergence by LKP in West Bengal'. . [https://aajeevika.gov.in/sites/default/files/nrlp\\_repository/Compendium%20of%20Agro%20Ecological%20Best%20Practices%20under%20MKSP%20%28English%29.pdf](https://aajeevika.gov.in/sites/default/files/nrlp_repository/Compendium%20of%20Agro%20Ecological%20Best%20Practices%20under%20MKSP%20%28English%29.pdf)
- 104 CRPs/Master Trainers developed under MKSP were deployed by WBSRLM as village level extension worker in their CMSA project in 8 districts of West Bengal.
- Five Mahila Kisan companies were incorporated under Companies Act 2013 and three Cooperative Societies under State Cooperative Act, 2011 and are functional at present.



- Twenty four Mahila Kisans/ CRPs/ PPs/Progressive Farmers have been conferred various awards like KrisakRatna, Kriti Krisak, Kriti Krishi Samman and other awards for agriculture and livestock activities by the department/agencies of the Government of West Bengal.
- LKP Training Centres in Birbhum and Purulia have been recognised as certified training centre under Utkarsha Bangla, DeenDayal Upadhyay Kaushalya Yojana.
- LKPset upsoil test laboratories to examine the soil parameters to have valuable insight of the soil condition in order to maintain proper soil health in the village level.

<https://youtu.be/5cEwPtaMDKA>

## **Chapter 9: Special Studies on Food Intake and Women Empowerment under MKSP**

**9.1: Objectives:** The objectives of the study were to understand the extent of empowerment achieved by the Mahila Kisans in terms of attainment of food security and to study the different dimensions of women empowerment in the context of their space in domestic as well as social environment.

**9.2: Study area and selection of sample:** Study was undertaken in 5 blocks, 4 districts under MKSP project, namely, Birbhum, Purulia, Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur in the state of West Bengal.

Selection of sample households (2.5 percent) were done adopting Circular Systematic Sampling technique to draw 1125 households for the purpose of study of women empowerment and 997 households for the purpose of food intake study.

### **9.3: Part 1: Food Intake**

- Almost 100 percent of households have ration cards to avail cereals amounting 21.55 kg.in average per month from PDS system mainly from NFSA card (52%), KhadyaSathi (47%) and other cards 1 percent.
- Access to food on an average was reported as 195.13kg per household per month that comes from their own production sources (73 percent) and commercial market (27 percent).
- Average monthly expenditure on food items per household is derived as Rs.5461.00 and non-food items Rs. 1260.00. Hence, total expenditure on both food and non-food turned out to be Rs.1680.00 per capita per month.
- MK households (490)are found to have crossed the ICMR consumption cut off mark i.e., 7542.5 kcal per day for a household with mixed membership of different age groups.
- Considering the average family size as 4 in our study, average individual consumption is derived as 1885.63 kcal per day; on the basis of this, the number of



households with average individual consumption above the cut off mark is calculated as 525 i.e., 52. percent of the surveyed households.

- An analysis of the data shows that more than 90 percent households had access to safe drinking water and toilet facility at home as well.
- More than 44 percent households have reported to be treated in a hospital whereas more than 81 percent of the household have been treated at home which also include the members hospitalized in the pre and post hospitalization period.
- Individual food security index was constructed using two broad domains i.e, food domain and hygiene domain.
- Based on various dimensions of food security, the analysis reveals that 68.9 percent MKs under study touched the minimum threshold line of FOOD SECURED (FS) status as per our definition.
- From over all analysis with all parameters of food security i.e., food availability, Physical and economic access to food, food utilisation in terms of kcal and access to safe drinking water as well as toilet facility at home, it is derived that 85.1percent women farmers have attained the FOOD SECURED status under MKSP.

#### 9.4: Part 2: Women Empowerment

- Perceptions of 1125 Mahila Kisan households were recorded and analysed on participation in the decision making process in the space of domestic and social environment. Those are as follows:

Sl. no	Issues	Subject	2018-19(%)
1	Input related matters	Agriculture	90
		Animal Husbandry	95
2	Ownership of properties(Joint/Single)	Land(Joint)	32
		Land(Single)	24.8
		Livestock	87
		Tools and Equipment	66
3	Non agricultural assets	Mobile	91
		Motor cycle/bicycle	60
		TV & Radio	48
4	Loan	Borrowing and repayment	90
		Bank linkage	100
5	Sources of loan taken	SHG inter lending	35
		Commercial bank	30
		Cooperative bank	19.7
		Private loan	7.6
		Relative & friends	1.06
		Micro Finance	5.82
6	Critical issues	Own Health Care	97





		Birth of girl child	30
		Travel outside home	63
		Education of the girl child	77
		Untimely marriage	16
		Construction of toilet	87
7	Other crucial issues	Domestic violence reduced	48.5
		Family status increased	91.6
		Food Security enhanced	88.62
8	Domestic environment	Own leisure time	2 hrs./day
9	Sharing domestic work	Husband	78
		Other members	40
		Mother in law	8
10	Leadership	SHGs, Producer Groups, Producer Companies, Social Groups, Nari Jagoroni Samity	25.35

Based on various dimensions of women empowerment, overall analysis reveals that 68.9 percent MKs under study touched the minimum threshold line of EMPOWERMENT status as per our definition.

<https://youtu.be/uKgzmjA7W8> , <https://youtu.be/daiRqmGBW0A>

## Chapter 10: Financial Progress

### 10.1: Fund Allocation and Disbursement :

- MoU was signed on 06.03.2013 between LKP and WBSRLM for implementation of MKSP with total project cost of Rs. 13.51 crore having allocation of shares as Rs. 10.13 Crore(Central Share), 3.3184 Crore (State Share) and 0.0616 crore (PIA Share)
- As per MoU, total fund was to be disbursed in three instalments in the ratio of 25:75:25
- The share of allocation was revised (vide memo. No. K-11011/100/2011/MKSP/WB dt.26 Nov,2018) in the ratio of 60(Central):40(State) that was adjusted accordingly.

### 10.2: Fund Received in Detail :

- Fund was received in five instalments amounting Rs.130748276.00 with central share as Rs.83760944.00 and state share as Rs. 46987332.00). in addition, bank interest accrued amounting Rs. 3902530.00 was also considered as fund received by LKP.
- LKP contributed Rs. 789000.00 as its share in place of Rs. 616000.00 as per the MoU.



### 10.3: Analysis of Expenditure incurred :

- Major expenditure (94 percent) under the project incurred mostly in 3 budget heads, i.e, IB(12.3 percent), CB(44.8 percent and CIS (37 percent) amounting Rs.2072.00 per MK. Cost per beneficiary was calculated as Rs. 2204.00 throughout the project period.
- Financial reports were regularly recorded following the standard accounting principles under MKSP.

**10.4: Quarterly Progress Reports** (Physical and Financial) were submitted to MoRD as well as to WBSRLM by the specified time and date in a regular manner.

- The annual Audited Accounts and Utilization Certificates were also shared with the funding agencies and uploaded as well in our official website [www.lkp.org.in](http://www.lkp.org.in) regularly.

**10.5: Cost of livelihood development** of the MKs was calculated on the basis of the performance coefficient of investment vs. achievements under the project.

- The MKs were found to achieve Rs. 81967.00 as their average annual income with generation of productive assets amounting Rs. 46131. at the end of the project.
- Investment as monetary value, received from different sources was calculated to be Rs. 32895.00 per MK during the project period.
- Convergence played an important role from the line departments and PRIs amounting Rs. 22900.00 per MK while contribution from MKSP project was Rs. 2204.00 per MK.
- An analysis shows that the MKs have achieved 2.5 folds of the amount of investment that was made during the project period.

## Chapter 11: Constraints, Post Project Sustainability & Way forward:

### 11.1: Constraints:

- The major constraints to alleviation of their poverty were landlessness, unviable land holdings, and uncertainties of rainfall, periodic occurrence of long dry spells, and also disastrous cyclones and floods during the monsoon season. Landless people had to suffer immensely almost each and every year during the project period.
- Other hindrances faced and key issues that were addressed may be enumerated as follows
  1. To make the section of the beneficiaries those were critically marginalized to be involved in the state development programme



2. Invisible attitude and mindset of male members of the family was a great obstacle.
3. Some groups were disorganized and more disadvantaged and hence could not visualize the benefits of the programme due to lack of proper institutions for them to carry forward
4. Political atmosphere was found not favourable initially, and as a whole work disrupted for ten months due to three general elections (Loksabha, Bidhan sabha and Gram Panchayat held within the project period.
5. Uncertain fund flow for no fault of the PIA, restricting desired level of achievement was found to be a matter of concern throughout the project period.

#### **11.2: Post project sustainability :**

Efforts have been made to enhance the capacities of the Mahila Kisans, increase their income, and encourage their participation in agriculture and allied activities. The MKSP project has ensured food and nutrition for majority of people by securing the primary livelihood basket with increasing production and productivity clubbed with secondary and tertiary modes of activities as envisaged.

It was also found that more than 90 percent of women farmers have adopted the sustainable agro ecological practices learnt from MKSP and continuing the same without coming to a halt till date. It would affect the long-term sustenance of MKSP intervention.

So far the community engagement is concerned, MKs at the grassroots have traversed a long way from Sustainable Agriculture towards organic farming at the end of the project through community organisations starting from village level to block level federations. MKs are mobilised and engaged in collective production as well as marketing through a network established by them that has constructed a pathway from SHGs to producers groups up to Farmers Producers Companies formed by themselves.

Besides, one important development may be pertinent to be mentioned here. FPCs that are formed are going to enter into agreements with eminent marketing organisation to set up the Farmers Development Centres (FDCs) at all locations of the MKSP companies that will strengthen the FDCs by providing finance, market linkage, advisory services and modern technology as a one stop solution for all farmers' needs. LKP also in the meantime has gone further to form a consortium of the Mahila Kisan Farmers Producers Companies at Bolpur in the district of Birbhum to extend help to them.





At the same time, they have to leverage help and co operation from all corners for ease of doing business. Post project present situation of MKSP has further set the goal to go further for long term sustenance.

### 11.3: Way forward:

- Strengthening of existing Companies and formation of 20 more new companies in the backward districts of West Bengal .
- Programme will be undertaken on value chain analysis to be done for the purpose.
- To establish stable marketing network for the companies in and outside the state.
- To work for achieving the rights and entitlement of Mahila Kisans equivalent to their male counterparts.



**MKs raise their voice at Gram Sabha meeting**



**Access to additional land, Illambazar, Birbhum**



**Skill building on book keeping and interlending Jamna GP, Labpur**



**Training workshop on non-chemical farming, Khoyrasol, Birbhum**



**Common facility center, Harirampur Daksin Dinajpur**



**Group Poultry Farm under MCNREGA, Birbhum**





**Home nutrition garden of MK**



**Working together: Community nutrition garden, Itahar. U.Dinajpur**



**School Nutrition Garden**



**Vermi compost**



**Pond based integrated management**



**Group Grain Bank of ST group, Purulia**



**Group Seed Bank, Birbhum**



**Shed net cultivation by organic cluster**



**Pitcher irrigation**



**NADEP compost**







Products collection by Producer Company



Direct marketing : Biratnagar MKPC Ltd., D. Dinajpur



Mahila Kisans working at Mahila Coop. Bank



Mid term evaluation by NIRD



Wall writing on MKSP at Labpur



Project MKSP (UKP) Bhutura Gram Panchayet Md.Bazar Block, Birbhum







Abbreviations Used	
ADMI	Accelerated Development Minor Irrigation
Admn	Administration
BCKV	Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya
BIRD	Bankers Institute of Rural Development
BLF	Block Level Federation
BPL	Below Poverty Line
BRGF	Backward Region Grant Fund
BRLF	Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation
BRAIPRD	B.R. Ambedkar Institute of Panchayats and Rural Development
BYP	Back Yard Poultry
CBO	Community Based Organization
CB	Capacity Building
CFC	Common Facility Centre
CHC	Custom Hiring Centre
CIF	Community Investment Fund
CIS	Community Investment Support
CMSA	Community Managed Sustainable Agriculture
CPR	Common Property Resource
CRP	Community Resource Person
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CU	Consumer Unit
DAY-NRLM	Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission
DAY- NULM	Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihood Mission
DNRM	Decentralized Natural Resource Management
DUGKY	Deendayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana
FDC	Farmers Development Corporation
FFFT	Food-Fodder-Fuel-Fertilizer-Timber
FOSET	Forum of Scientists, Engineers & Technologies
FPC	Farmers Producers Company
FS	Food Security
FIS	Food Insecured
FSI	Food Security Index
GP	Gram Panchayat
GPLF	Gram Panchayat Level Federation
Gm	Gram



GoI	Government of India
GUS	Gram Unnayan Samity
HH	House hold
IB	Institution Building
ICMR	Indian Council of Medical Research
IIST	Indian Institute of Engineering, Science and Technology
IIT	Indian Institute of Technology
IWEI	Individual Women Empowerment Index
JVES	Jalpaiguri Vivekananda Education Society
kcl	Kilocalories
Kg	Kilogram
KM	Knowledge Management
KVK	Krishi Vigyan Kendra
LKP	Loka Kalyan Parishad
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MGNREGA	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
MIS	Management Information System
MK	Mahila Kisan
MKSHG	Mahila Kisan Self Help Group
MKSP	Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana
MoRD	Ministry of Rural Development
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MoPI	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
MPCC	Monthly Per Capita Consumption
NFSA	National Food Security Act
NGO	Non Government Organization
NMMU	National Mission Management Unit
NPM	Non Pest Management
NRLM	National Rural Livelihood Mission
OBC	Other Backward Caste
PBSSD	Paschim Banga Society for Skill Development
PC	Producer Company
PDS	Public Distribution System
PI	Project Inception
PG	Producer Group
PIA	Project Implementing Agency



PIP	Participatory Identification Process
P&RD	Panchayat & Rural Development
PP	Para Professional
PoP	Poorest of the Poor
PRI	Panchayati Raj Institution
Pvt-Pvt	Private-Private
Pub-Pvt	Public -Private
RDA	Recommended Dietary Allowance
RF	Revolving Fund
RKSY	Rastriya Khadya Surakhsha Yojana
RKVK	Rathindra Krishi Vigyan Kendra
SA	Sustainable Agriculture
SGSY	Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana
SHG	Self Help Group
SUDA	State Urban Development Agency
SV	Standard Value
TPDS	Targeted Public Distribution System
VLF	Village Level Federation
VO	Village Organization
SC	Scheduled Caste
ST	Scheduled Tribe
UBKV	Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya
WBCADC	West Bengal Comprehensive Area Development Corporation
WBSSC	West Bengal State seed Corporation
WBSRLM	West Bengal State Rural Livelihood Misson
WFP	World Food Programme





#### Key Outcomes:

- Availability of food is ensured to 99.90 percent of Mahila Kisans through PDS.
- Accessibility of food is ensured to 100 percent Mahila Kisan from home production and purchase from market.
- Utilization or absorption of food is ensured to 53 Percent MK households with required calorie consumption (kcal).
- Improved net income (Rs. 63708.00 per annum) of the women farmer (Rs.15000.00 per annum in 2012-13) from sustainable agriculture (SA) and other livelihood resources with reduced cost of cultivation.
- Developed area specific model for the landless on Integrated Farm Intervention for wider replication in the project area (Land based, Pond based and Livestock based)
- Home Nutrition Garden (99.74 percent MKs) is developed in the homestead land to meet the daily requirement of vegetables.
- Access to additional land took place by 58.52 percent MKs with enhancement of production and productivity
- Upgraded the skills of the women farmers in SA practices, management skills of the Self Help Groups(SHG) and its associated tier to access productive resources (land, credit, technology, inputs and services) from the government and non-governmental sources.
- Created and strengthened the platform and institutions for women that enhanced participation in agriculture and related activities
- Drudgery for women farmers is reduced through use of gender friendly technologies and tools available in the Common Facility Centres throughout the project area.
- Mahila Kisans (MKs) have been empowered to raise their voices as an interface with the local governance for just and equitable distribution of resources and enjoy other rights and entitlements.
- Certified seeds have been produced for seed sovereignty and replacement.
- A pool of strong social capital have been developed from amongst the community.
- Producer Groups (PGs) formed under MKSP have been federated into Producer Companies under Companies Act 2013 and Cooperatives under the Cooperative Societies Act, 2011.
- Organic clusters have been formed to enable the women farmers to enhance their income by selling organic vegetables.
- Through a well designed convergence mechanism with the line departments and government schemes, the poorest of the poor (PoPs) were served more efficiently.
- A strong bonding has been established with the Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) with the SHGs at the village level.
- At the end of the project Mahila Kisans are empowered both in the household level and deal with the issues coming across at the society.



**Mahila Kisans are transplanting paddy plants**



**Group based fish farming in leased pond  
taken through Pub-Pvt partnership**



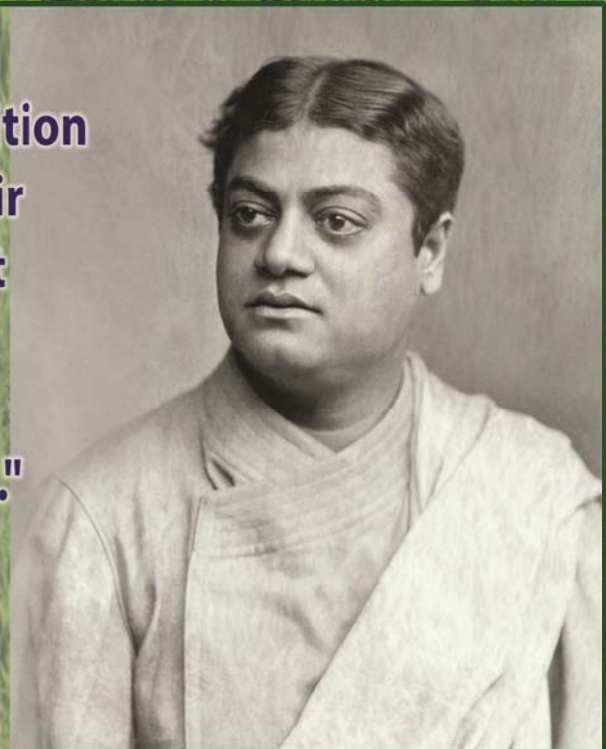


**"If we could free even one village from the shackles of helplessness and ignorance, an ideal for the whole of India would be established... Let a few villages be rebuilt in this way, and I shall say they are my India. This is the way to discover the true India."**

*— Rabindranath Tagore*

**"Women must be put in a position to solve their problems in their own way. No one can or ought to do this for them. Our Indian women are capable of doing it as any in the world."**

*— Swami Vivekananda*



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