



KRISHI SPOTLIGHT

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FPO Activities



Matching Equity Grant for FPOs



Equity Grant Scheme of SFAC and NAFED extends support to the equity base of Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) by providing matching equity grants subject to maximum of INR 15.00 lakh per FPC in two tranche, within a period of 3 years. The major objective of this equity grant is to increase the viability, enhance the credit-worthiness and increasing the ownership of shareholders of FPCs which have paid up capital not exceeding INR 30.00 lakh. BKSL team, in coordination with the promoted FPOs, helped in submitting grant proposals for 17 FPOs to Small Farmers Agri-business Consortium (SFAC) and 6 FPOs to NAFED. The approvals are expected in a few weeks.



Launching of Connect FPO e-marketplace



“Connect FPO Confederation” is an Association in the state of West Bengal of about 110 FPOs/FPCs promoted through various Central and State Government schemes. Out of this 25 FPOs are promoted by BKSL, as a Resource Institution (RI) under different schemes. “Connect FPO e-marketplace” was virtually launched on Independence Day for the benefit of all the partnered entities. This newly launched e-marketing portal is an effort to showcase different agri commodities being produced by the FPOs/FPCs. The same is supported by well-framed policies to take care of fair-trade practices and to ensure the farmers get the better price for their hard work. The portal can be accessed here: www.connectfpo.com.



Cultivation of Lemongrass by Angul FPC



Angul Farmers Producer Company Ltd (Angul FPC) was promoted by BKSL in January 2021, under the Central Sector Scheme with SFAC as Implementing Agency. Wild animals, especially elephants used to damage the crops of many farmers in the district of Angul and adjacent districts, therefore, lands are left unused and have become fallow/pasture lands. BKSL engaged with the FPC members and had rounds of discussion on finding ways to use the pasture lands for productive purposes. The Angul FPC then decided to introduce Lemon Grass cultivation in the district covering 50 farmers with 25 acres area of fallow lands. In this particular effort, the waste land is converted into a productive area and is being used to cultivate Lemon Grass - it is

one of the aromatic crops and is generally not being eaten or damaged by any wild or domestic animals. The Angul FPC has completed its first harvest with extraction of oil from the Lemon Grass. Lemon Grass Oil is marketed to traders. The oil is used as an essential ingredient for making of sanitizer, perfume, and other food and cosmetic products.



Market linkage

Cultivation of Grand Naine (G9) Banana in Uttar Pradesh



Uttar Pradesh comes in the top 5 states in India for the production of bananas. Hence, BKSL team took the initiative to encourage its FPO members to go for the cultivation of this crop and the team after rounds of discussion, selected the Grand Naine variety. BKSL Supplied 60,741 number of tissue culture Grand Naine (G9) banana plants to the

farmers in Lucknow, Unnao, Barabanki, Prayagraj districts in Uttar Pradesh. BKSL has plans to provide extension services to the farmers till its harvesting and output market linkage to help farmers get the best price through proper marketing access.

Projects: OIIP CRA

Orientation of CFT Members



In the ongoing World Bank supported and Govt of Odisha anchored "OIIP CRA Project", BKSL conducted an orientation program for the Cluster Facilitator Team (CFT) on 4th September 2021. The team comprises a Social Facilitator, Fisheries Facilitator, Agriculture Facilitator,

Community Mobiliser, Gender Facilitator and Multi Skill Assistant. The training program covered critical aspects of the project objectives, which include explaining the roles & responsibilities of each key team member, action plan, strategies and target vs achievement. BKSL is working as Supporting Organisation (SO) for Zone I, Ganjam district.

Case study of Women Empowerment through Self Help Group

SHG	Mukteswar	GP	Mahanadapur
MIP	Ittigadibandha	Block	Chhatrapur
Village	Mahanadapur	District	Ganjam

With very limited scope of other income opportunities in the Mahanadapur village and nearby locality, men tend to migrate to other locations in search of employment. Their household entirely depend on the income of the male member who has to face many adverse situations wherever he is migrated for employment. The locality is confined to the years old social taboos which deter women to accompany the male members in search of work to other cities. The women are bound by the circumstances and spend their life at home and depending on the only income source of the head of the family.

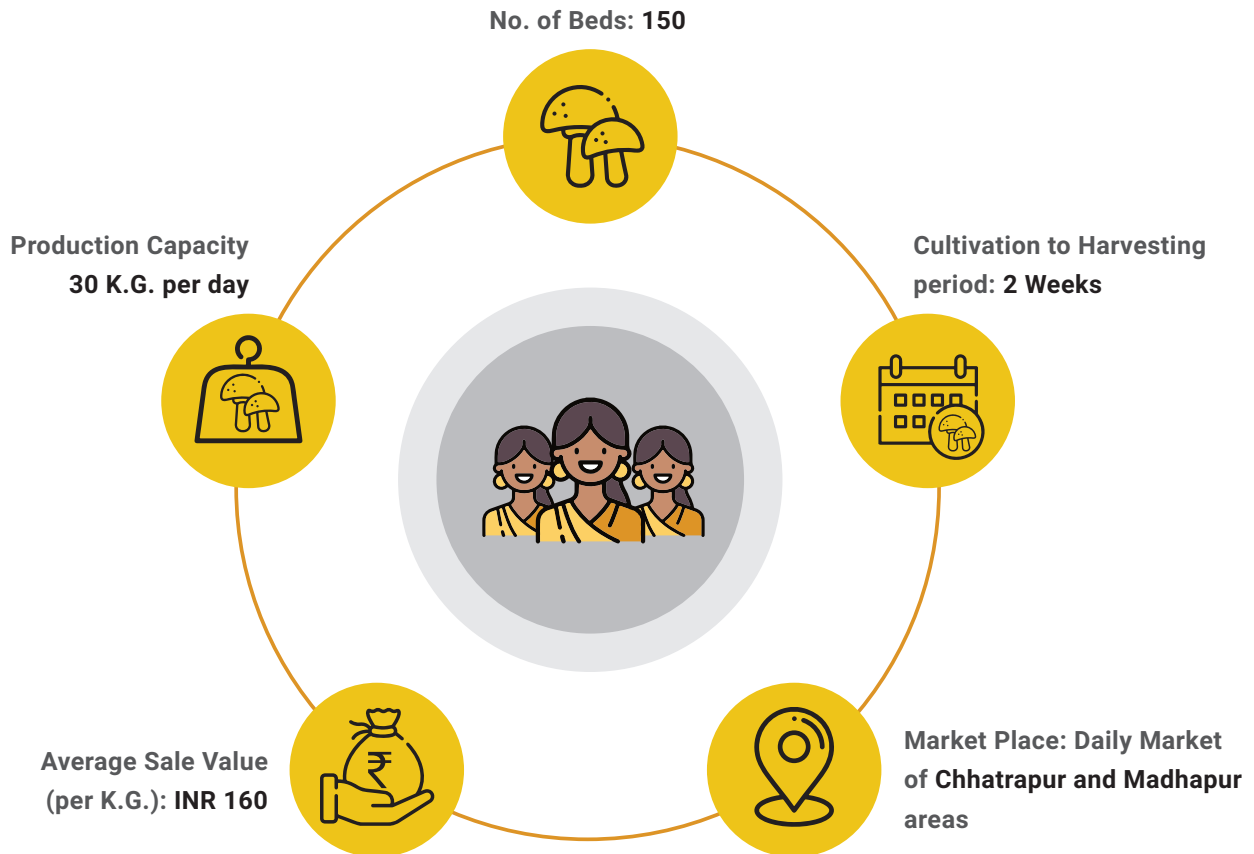




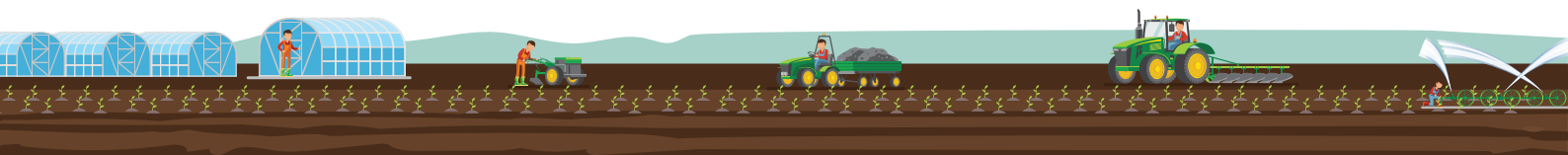
BKSL while understanding the scenario, devised a plan to bring together the women members of the household and form Self Help Groups (SHGs). The CFT team had rounds of discussion and shared key aspects and benefits about forming groups. After the formation of SHGs, BKSL Chhatrapur CFT team organized a training program on “Mushroom Cultivation” and encouraged the group members to

take up this activity. to earn supplementary income for their respective households. In the training program, BKSL CFT team clearly explained about the benefits of nutritional value, productivity and profitability, and suggested the SHGs to adopt mushroom farming for self-employment and income generation.

The SHG members have taken up the activity and were able to harvest good amount of mature mushrooms, as given below.

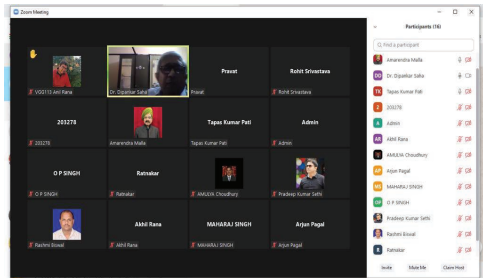


The women members can easily identify the sudden positive change that has happened in each of their lives, after coming together and forming groups, then taking up this farming activity with the support of the BKSL CFT team. They understand how important it is to keep yourself engaged, build your skill and do something on your own to create an identity of your own.



Operating Environment

Taking up Biofloc Technology (BFT) as a Commercial Model for Fish Farming



Biofloc Technology (BFT) is an innovative and affordable technology gaining popularity due to its enhanced environmental control over fish production. BKSL is working on taking up this method of fish farming for some of its FPOs and monitor its impact for replication. On this line, BKSL organised a virtual training - "Biofloc & its Commercial Viability" for its core team members in early August 2021. Dr. Dipankar Saha, BKSL Board Member (Retired Scientist, ICAR), was very kind to join as a Resource Person. Dr. Saha elaborately touched upon and explained key elements of the BFT method of cultivating freshwater fish culture. Colleagues from Fisheries Project, OIIPCRA team and BKSL key personnel took part in the training session. BKSL is making a strategic process to pilot "Biofloc" in Dhenkanal district of Odisha. Subsequently, BKSL Corporate Office team even visited a local farmer in the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, engaged in fish farming using the BFT model. BKSL team had an engaging discussion with the farmer on the pros and cons of the method, and key take-away from the visit shall help in planning the proposed initiative in a much better manner.



Training on Biofloc Technology at Dhenkanal, Odisha

As part of its ongoing effort to take up Biofloc Technology (BFT) for fish farming, BKSL has identified 12 prospective rural entrepreneurs in Dhenkanal District who are keen to initiate the innovative and affordable farming method. Coordinating with Dhenkanal Farmers Producer Company Limited, BKSL conducted a one-day orientation program on BFT for those identified rural entrepreneurs. District Fisheries officials were kind enough to join the training program and shared their invaluable inputs on BFT. The identified entrepreneurs will be supported by BKSL and Dhenkanal Farmers Producer Company Limited to set up Biofloc units along with various market linkage assistance.

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