

INSTITUTE FOR MOTIVATING SELF EMPLOYMENT IMSE

ANNUAL REPORT FY 2022-23



INDIAN FEDERATION OF
TOILING PEASANTS
JHARKHAND



YOUTH WORKSHOP ON
RESPONSIBLE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA



NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON
SMALL SCALE FISHERIES



GRASSROOTS AWARENESS
CAMPAIGNS



PRESS CONFERENCE



CRAFTGENIC-AN IMSE
SHG INITIATIVE



PRE PRIMARY SCHOOL



BIPLAB HALIM MEMORIAL MUSEUM
AT LABPUR, BIRBHUM



SWADHAR GREHA AT BARDHAMAN



PROMOTION OF FPC



BIPLAB HALIM MEMORIAL AWARD
TO SOCIAL WORKERS



MASS AWARENESS ON RTI



STRENGTHENING SELF HELP GROUPS



DISTRIBUTING BOATS AND NETS
TO FISHERMEN IN DANDI, ODISHA



SUPPORTING FARMERS
THROUGH FO4A

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

The Institute for Motivating Self Employment (IMSE) started its journey in 1973, being founded by eminent social worker and humanist Late Mr. Biplab Halim.

In the past five decades, we as an organization have been able to extend help to more than a million people with its pro-poor activities going from micro-level to macro-level. It has fostered strong networking relationship with prominent regional and international institutions and organizations, including civil society platforms of FAO and IFAD of United Nations.

IMSE works to strengthen grassroots level governance and effective participation of poor, particularly women, in decision-making processes so that they themselves can decide their development priority and also for providing them with improved livelihood opportunities. IMSE has been able to develop a network of 8000-strong women groups in West Bengal, Odisha and Jharkhand. The organisation has been able to set up its village-level units in more than 700 villages in Eastern India.

Vision:

A society based on egalitarian principles and food sovereignty.

Mission:

Ending socio-economic exploitation by enabling people to claim and exercise their democratic rights through social initiatives and participation in democratic decision-making



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

IMSE believes in growing stronger together. Like previous years, IMSE's major focus was on women empowerment programme, following the gender policy of the organization by mainstreaming gender aspect in all its programmes. IMSE's social activities to achieve the targeted goal so that the poorest of the poor may get the benefits have started yielding results.

IMSE's women empowerment projects included capacity building of women farmers for better agricultural production & market linkage, imparting trainings to peasant women in three states of Eastern India - West Bengal, Odisha and Jharkhand. The aim is to support self help groups at community levels so that they can emerge as strong women's network. We have been able to increase our outreach in Andhra Pradesh too.

IMSE has been engaged in the following programmes in last one year to translate its belief into reality and for the betterment of the poor and needy women:



Members of Monachitura Farmers Producers Company Participating at the exhibition at JD Birla College



Training with SHG members on Sanitary Napkin packaging and selling at Birbhum



Women farmers of IMSE participating on an international platform at the Cooking Contest on Forgotten Foods and winning awards for their unique recipes. It was organised by Asian Farmers Association (AFA).

SWADHAR GREH

IMSE strengthened its Short Stay Home/Swadhar Greh running since 1993 with the financial assistance from Government Of India, for distressed women. IMSE provided shelter to distressed women at its Swadhar Greh at Krishnakunja, Vill. Malancha, P.O. Singi, District Purba Bardhaman and had been successful in rehabilitating a good number of women in the society by livelihood and skill development counseling services. Socially and economically marginalized women have been provided with shelter and support and proper rehabilitation.

We take utmost care towards ensuring the physical and mental wellbeing of

our dear inmates through various activities like gardening, counselling,engaging them in creative activities,exploring their interests, giving them training on maintaining personal health and hygiene etc. This year they received the Swasthya Sathi Cards which were handed over to them at the Katwa SDO office. The Swadhar Greh inmates were a part of the documentary film shot by the Govt. officials.

The inmates enjoy day celebrations such as Women's Day, Independence Day,Republic Day etc. Competitions like drawing Alpona, singing and dancing are organised to help them discover their creative abilities.

Like previous years we had well-wishers and other social organisations sending over sarees, clothes, fruit etc for them.



PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL & ANGANWADI PROGRAMME

Since its inception IMSE is running a pre primary school at Monachitura village in Labpur at Birbhum district in West Bengal. The school aims to educate the children of the poorest rung of the society and motivate the parents to continue their child's education despite their economic challenges. The idea is to provide a safe space for the children where they can play and learn while their parents are busy earning for their daily needs.

The school is situated inside the lush green sprawling campus of IMSE. The students are encouraged to play in the campus and participate in planting trees and taking care of them. This helps in building a strong bond between the children and mother nature.

The Govt. of India, is supporting IMSE since 1983 in successfully running a training centre for Anganwadi Workers under their Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme. They are trained to provide additional and supplementary healthcare and nutritional services to children and pregnant women. Both theoretical and practical teachings are imparted to the trainees during the training on various aspects of child development including non-formal pre-school education, community participation, Health and Nutrition education.

The trainees are also encouraged to participate in the various philanthropic activities of the institution, day celebrations and tree planting programmes.



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

As a part of our community engagement programme, we have been continuously conducting various sensitization workshops and activities among adolescent boys and girls, youth and women both across rural and urban areas of West Bengal in various schools, colleges, universities, youth clubs etc. Through these series of workshops we have reached out to more than 2500 youths.

Our Youth Workshops are categorized under the following topics:

- Responsible Use of Social Media- Focusing on the judicious use of the most powerful tool in today's world," The Internet" is the main aim of these workshops. The sessions also train the participants on how to be safe online and the measures to be taken when they are under a cyber crime attack.
- Sensitization Workshop on Role Of Social Media in Human Trafficking in India and how to counter it
- Youth and Democracy-These workshops focus on how the youth practice democracy in their daily lives and what hurdles do they face in the process.
- Debate Competition On Contemporary Issues related to Youth
- Street Theaters
- Poster Making Competitions

IMSE also imparts trainings to youths who are engaged in agriculture with orientation workshops on how to adopt climate smart technologies and practices in their fields. They also receive guidance from agri-experts on usage of vermicompost, making kitchen garden, nutri-garden etc. They are also taught to utilize various applications for enriching their knowledge in agriculture and give them a global view. Various competitions themed on making nutritious meals with forgotten foods, documenting innovative practices etc are organized from time to time to engage more and more youths in the field.

Our resource persons/trainers include Cyber detectives, Google Fact Checkers, Renowned Journalists, Social Development Specialists, Head Of the Departments Of various educational institutions, lawyers, climate experts and senior social workers.



Ramakrishna Mission Institute Of
Culture, Narendrapur



75th Anniversary of Bahitrakunda High School,
Purba Medinipur

PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE & RURAL LIVELIHOOD

IMSE's genesis is closely linked with its work among farmers and the rights and recognition of women farmers. IMSE has mobilized farmers into formal and informal cooperatives, and helped them to develop grain banks, seed banks etc. It has motivated farmers to preserve and promote traditional knowledge in agriculture that is climate appropriate and which primarily caters to the need of the local people.

IMSE promotes sustainable agricultural practices as this method utilises the resources to the maximum without harming nature. Thus safeguarding the interests of the current or future generations to meet their needs. We have been continuously conducting various awareness campaigns, training and disseminating IEC materials among the farmers to adopt the above practices. Groups of small scale food producers were trained to acquire new knowledge and skills on methods of making small scale organic farming viable like preservation of local seeds, techniques of sustainable production practices collectivization, marketing and so on. IMSE with support from the Asia Pacific Farmers Programme (APFP) has been able to maximise its outreach further inside the states of West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha and expanding.

This year IMSE inaugurated its new office in Sundarban in south 24parganas through their new office at MousuniGram. IMSE is working among peasants and rural entrepreneurs of Sundarban for several years now. A family woman lead family counseling centre is running successfully in this area with support from the organization.



PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE & RURAL LIVELIHOOD

IMSE with support from Asian Farmers Association organised the national level Workshop on Climate Resilient Practices and Value Chain in Small Scale Fishery in collaboration with District Youth Welfare Association (DFYWA) at the Public Library, Visakhapatnam. The workshop had representatives from national level fisheries organisations like Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), National Institute of Fisheries Post Harvest Technology and Training (NIPHATT), Network for Fish Quality Management and Sustainable Fishing (NETFISH) registered under the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) and small scale fishers. Focused group discussions took place post the presentations by the esteemed panelists.



Presentation by IMSE on need for monitoring the implementation of VGSSF



Focused Group Discussion in progress

PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE & RURAL LIVELIHOOD

Small scale fishery (SSF) is a key contributor to India's economy in terms of revenue generation and absorbing workforce. It plays a critical role in contributing to food and nutritional security of large section of people. The sector is plagued with many challenges which need to be addressed systematically to ensure better livelihoods of the fish harvesters and fish workers.

IMSE collaborated with East Coast Fish Workers Union (ECFWU) in Odisha which is a member of the World Forum Of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers and performed a series of focused group discussions among a total of 186 participants from the small scale fishers (SSF) community to access the ground level implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries(VGSSF). The objective was to understand the present challenges of SSF, to mobilise resources for supporting small fishers in order to improve their livelihoods, to initiate a discussion on gender equality and to understand the post disaster response in fishery sector.



An FGD in progress in Odisha

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN RURAL LIVELIHOOD PROMOTION

1



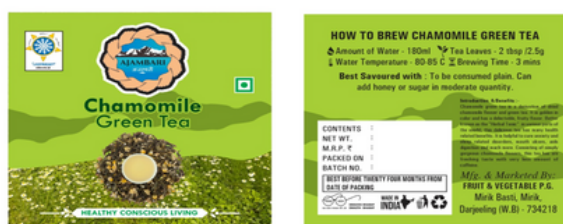
Monachitura Farmers Producer Company sold 1000MT Paddy to the Government through 4P Agreement.

2



SSF-FPC opened raw and dry fish kiosk and on call fish selling through 4P agreement.

3



Mirik Vegetable Producer Group started Chamomile farming in Darjeeling districts.

UTKARSHA BANGLA

The Department of Technical Education, Training & Skill Development; Government of West Bengal has launched the "Utkarsha Bangla", scheme under the aegis of the PBSSD (PaschimBanga Society for Skill Development) for placement linked short-term skill trainings across the State of West Bengal. IMSE runs a training centre wherein applicants register for Short-term Skill development trainings like vermicompost producers, medicinal and aromatic plants growers etc thereby aiding in large scale skill development of youths to improve their scope of gainful employment and entrepreneurial opportunities

VERMICOMPOST:

Vermicompost has a large number of advantages over chemical fertilizers. It restores microbial population which includes nitrogen fixers, phosphate solubilizers etc. Provides major and micro-nutrients to the plants. Improves soil texture and water holding capacity of the soil. It boosts the yield of crops.



IMSE has been providing extensive trainings to the farmers on how to easily produce vermicompost. This has given them increased crop production and this also aids in keeping the environment free from harmful chemical fertilizers.

TRADITIONAL HEALTHCARE PRACTICES

Traditional system of medicine continues to be widely practiced on many accounts till date. Inadequate supply of drugs, population rise, huge cost of treatments, side effects of several synthetic drugs and development of resistance to currently used drugs for infectious diseases have lead to the increased demand for using plants and herbs for medicinal purposes. In 2022-23, IMSE continued its programme in its project areas in West Bengal and Jharkhand for the promotion of tribal medicine and acupuncture among indigenous communities and others, as peoples' alternative to promote realization of right to health of the poor and marginalised indigenous groups. IMSE's herbal tribal medicinal programme has already drawn wide spread attention of the people from different walks of life. Health check up camps and blood donation camps organized in Jharkhand, Odisha and Krishnakunja and Birbhum.



RECOGNISING SOCIAL WORKERS ON 75TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF BIPLAB HALIM

For the last four years (since 2018) on the occasion of the birth anniversary of our founder Late Biplab Halim, we at IMSE have been organizing various cordial social events in his birth month of September. On 14th September, 2022, we celebrated his 75th birth anniversary. On this occasion we organized a memorial lecture delivered by Prof Miratun Nahar in his memory at Turiyananda Hall, Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Golpark, with the theme "Neutrality and Civil Society". This was followed by awarding six social workers selected by the Biplab Halim Memorial Committee. They have been making significant contributions in the society through their dedicated and selfless efforts. In the second half, a discussion meeting was held focusing upon peace building and strengthening democracy.



Discussion session on peace building and strengthening democracy



Biplab Halim Memorial Award 2022 winners



Biplam Halim Memorial Lecture by Prof. Miratun Nahar

SUPPORT SERVICES AND NETWORKING

IMSE like earlier years extended support services to a number of small organizations such as Forum of Voluntary Organisations West Bengal, Pension Parishad West Bengal, FIAN West Bengal, East Coast Fish Workers Union, Workers Owner Forum, Peoples Action Network National Integration and Communal Harmony, Indian Federation of Toiling Peasants, Right to Information Network West Bengal, Monachitura FPC, Subarnarekha FPC and others to facilitate the process of meaningful social change.

This year IMSE highly focused upon capacity building and training of the farmers, fishermen, tribals and forest dwellers. Hence reaching out to the interiors and enriching their knowledge was our motto.

We organised several trainings on Value Chain and Market Linkage, Improved Agriculture and Fishing Techniques, Promotion of Kitchen Garden and Challenge and Risk Mitigation in Agriculture etc

Ms Pooja Moitra, Programme Officer Research and Documentation participated at the Biennial Research Conference organised by Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN) in Phuket, Thailand from 4th to 8th April 2022. She also presented two research proposals at the conference.

Mr Suman Kalyan Mandal, Joint Project In-Charge and Mr Supratik Charborty, Officer Documentation and Communication participated at the National Farmers Forum Partners Meet organised by Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) at BIMTECH in Noida, New Delhi from 7th to 9th April 2022.

Dr Ujjaini Halim and Mr Suman Kalyan Mandal participated at the Asia and Pacific Advisory Group(AG) in Fishery Meeting from 10th May to 13th May 2022 at Thailand. The Advisory Group in Asia and Pacific is one of the three regional platform of the Global Advisory of the SSF-GSF. AG is established to support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. The Regional Advisory Group facilitates exchanges among social movements and different actors to raise awareness on the SSF Guidelines as the international legal framework that recognize the small-scale fisheries as important actors for the economic, social, and sustainable development.

SUPPORT SERVICES AND NETWORKING

Dr Ujjaini Halim, Executive Director ,IMSE participated at the national partners meet of Voluntary Action Network in India (VANI) at New Delhi from 28th to 29th June 2022

Pooja Moitra hosted the virtual regional dialogue on UN decade of Family Farming in Asia Pacific : Leveraging the role of family farming towards more inclusive and resilient food systems in response to crisis organized by FAO and IFAD on 29th June 2022. She also gave a presentation on behalf of IMSE on the "Role of Small scale fishers in eastern India in climate change adaptation".

IMSE hosted the Annual General Meeting and the governing body meeting of the Forum of Voluntary Organisations West Bengal

IMSE organised a "Workshop on Climate Resilient Practice and Value Chain in Small Scale Fishery" on 12th July 2022 at the Public Library in Vishakapatnam.

IMSE in collaboration with East Coast Fish Workers Union (ECFWU) organised a "Meeting on Strengthening multi-stakeholder platform of small-scale fisheries" at Panthaniwas O.T.D.C, Chandipur, Balasore, odisha

Mr Suman Kalyan Mandal participated at the Preparatory Meeting of COFI of Civil Society at Rome from 31st August to 4th September 2022 and attended the FAO Committee on Fisheries from 5th September to 9th September 2022.

On 29th September 2022 IMSE inaugurated the new branch office at Mousuni island in South 24 parganas.

Ms Pooja Moitra participated at the Young Scholars Meet organised by Asian Resource Foundation (ARF) in Bangkok, Thailand from 4th to 8th November 2022.

Mr Suman Kalyan Mandal attended the Farmers Forum (FAFO) Meeting from 26th November to 29th November 2023 at Bangkok, Thailand. The objective was to understand, appreciate and learn from the work of IFAD and the dynamics of FO-IFAD engagement in Asia Pacific region at regional and country levels; and to identify areas of potential and stronger interaction and collaboration between IFAD and farmers' organizations at national and regional levels.

SUPPORT SERVICES AND NETWORKING

On 6th December 2022 the organisation celebrated the 122nd Birthday of Late Abdul Halim, prominent freedom fighter and people's leader at its Head office in Kolkata.

On 10th December 2022 on the occasion of International Human Rights Day , the Biplab Halim Musuem at Labpur in Birbhum District was inaugurated. On the same day , the inauguration of Biplab Halim's bust was done by Dr Debasish Sarkar, Agricultural Scientist at Visva Bharati University. A cultural programme was organized in the campus in which prominent personalities of the district took part.

On 4th and 5th January 2023 Workshop with FPC members was organised on discussing business model on Sanitary napkin with Diksha NGO. Post this, the women members have been engaged in the packaging, marketing and selling of the sanitary napkins.

On 26th January 2023, Ms Rashmi Roy, Secretariat and Ms Pooja Moitra attended the 26th Annual Children's Festival of Indian Institute for Mother and Child (IIMC).

Throughout the year several youth workshops on Responsible Use of Social Media have been organised pan West Bengal.

RESEARCH & DOCUMENTATION

IMSE put major emphasis on conducting participatory action research on various issues in Role of Sustainable Agriculture in ensuring household food sovereignty, ways to establish a functional democracy, Deprivation of elderly people from old age pension, transparent governance, economic empowerment of rural poor and restricting rural to urban migration were undertaken by IMSE among others. The outcome of those participatory researches have been instrumental in strengthening the organization further.

Researches and surveys have been conducted on State of implementation of fisheries guidelines towards achieving SDGs, Motivating Farmers on Organic Farming, Status of women empowerment in local governance structure and Scope of promoting local breed in livestock farming in West Bengal.

We have worked under various UN bodies such as FAO, UNHRC, COFI, IFAD on various UN Guidelines on Land tenure and small scale fisheries

ADMINISTRATION & COORDINATION

For successful coordination of its various programme spread over hundreds of villages in three states of West Bengal, Jharkhand and Odisha, the Administrative wing of IMSE remained always active in 2022-23. In 2022-23, IMSE made arrangement to build the capacity of its core staff members at the head quarters for planning, monitoring, evaluation (PME), computerization of accounts etc. and thus to facilitate the successful implementation of its various programmes .

DAY CELEBRATIONS



THANKING OUR WELL WISHERS

Extending our heartfelt thanks to our donors and well wishers:

Mr Ajoy Ghosh and Mrs Christel Ghosh for donating four boats, two nets and three handpumps for the benefit of the poor fishermen and their families of two hamlets in the Dandi village at Odisha. The villagers at Dandi were suffering due to the low availability of drinking water for long, the two installations of handpumps have been of great help to them. In addition to that an outlet has been constructed that allows the cattle to drink water at the same time The fishermen who were handed over with boats and nets now have the ability get better means of livelihood.

Ms Ishita Mukherjee and Deraj Lifestyle for continuously donating sarees to our inmates at Swadhar Greh.

Mr Ashok Ghosh for donating a refrigerator to be used by our inmates at Swadhar Greh.

Mr Indranil Chakraborty, Ms Bula Mandal, Ms Moumita Panda, Mr Amar Ghosh and Mr Bimal Ghosh for donating ceiling fans for the newly constructed building of Swadhar Greh



REMEMBERING OUR DEAR COLLEAGUE LATE NIKHIL RANJAN MAITY

Rest in Peace



Late Nikhil Ranjan Maiti

5th August 1951- 1st January 2023

May the departed soul of comrade Nikhil Ranjan Maiti rest in peace. He will always reserve a special place in our hearts. His dedication towards social development is an inspiration to us. He has been an integral part of IMSE for more than four decades. We extend our sincerest condolence to his family and friends.