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**2023
2024**

ANNUAL REPORT

CENTRE FOR AQUATIC LIVELIHOOD JALJEEVIKA

water for livelihood, water for all

FOREWORD

DEAR FRIENDS

With gratitude, I present the remarkable highlights of Jaljeevika's initiatives, illuminating countless lives and communities we've touched.

In 2023, Jaljeevika remained steadfast in its commitment to empower fishing communities and promote sustainable aquaculture practices. With unwavering dedication from our team and invaluable support from our esteemed partners, we've strived to uplift lives while conserving our aquatic resources.

Amidst challenges, we've discovered strength and determination, sailing through stormy seas towards our vision. Heartfelt appreciation to our supporters, partners, and donors for believing in our mission, enabling us to create tangible change in small and marginal farmers and fishing communities' lives.

As we turn the page on 2024, our voyage continues, brimming with new opportunities and horizons of impact. Committed to making enduring differences, we envision a future where every individual thrives like the ocean waves. Thank you for being an indispensable part of our journey. Let's unite in sailing towards a brighter, sustainable, and inclusive world.

Warm regards,
Neelkanth
CEO, Jaljeevika



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ABOUT US

The Centre for Aquatic Livelihood Jaljeevika is a registered not-for-profit organization committed to the promotion of resilient livelihood opportunities, securing income and nutritional security in rural India. The very essence of Jaljeevika lies in mainstreaming vulnerability reduction related to livelihood and employment for small-scale farmers through the promotion of climate-resilient agriculture practices.

OUR VISION



Enhancing human capability and ensuring wellbeing through knowledge transfer, empowerment and collective process.

We believe in an evolving process to facilitate and nurture Everyone as a Changemaker. Our vision is to empower rural communities through sustainable and inclusive livelihood opportunities, fostering resilience to climate change and promoting gender equity.

OUR MISSION



Reduce vulnerability, build resilience and empower the community through strengthening aquatic-based livelihood opportunities.

Jaljeevika aims to create a million climate-resilient households over the next ten years, by establishing a collaborative and gender-just model that enhances livelihoods and ensures inclusive development in rural areas.



OUR SUPPORTERS

Herbalife[®]

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INSPIRE. INNOVATE. DELIVER.

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STUDIO
SUBU

CORE

pwc

assist
Transformative solutions for economic well being

tr

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आजीविका

ASCI
Agriculture Skill Council of India



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
मत्स्यपालन विभाग
DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

महाराष्ट्र शासन • आदिवासी विकास विभाग
शबरी आदिवासी वित्त व विकास महामंडळ



© Jaljeevika | women attending training on nutri garden, Velhe, Pune

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ALIGNMENT TO UN **SDG**



We are
committed to
12 of the UN
Sustainable
Development
Goals



© Jaljeevika | engagement with youth, Niwari, MP

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OUR INTERVENTIONS



Humanitarian

extending support in difficult times



Capacity Building

capacitating communities to achieve sustainability



Resilient Livelihood

empowering to ensure climate resilient livelihood



Blue Economy

harnessing blue economy for larger goods



Convergence Facilitation

convergence and leveraging resources for community development



Environment

encouraging communities towards environmental sustainability



© Jaljeevika | Ration kit distribution in Pune

COVID 19 RESPONSE

supported by

CORE

Community Organized Relief Effort

Ration distribution to the
underprivileged



Maharashtra

Helping the ultra poor in Pune slum

The COVID-19 crisis profoundly impacted lower-income groups, particularly daily wage earners who struggled to meet basic needs. Lockdown measures disrupted livelihoods, exacerbating hunger in vulnerable communities. Women and children were especially affected, facing setbacks in health and nutrition



© Jaljeevika | women collecting ration kit in Pune

FAMILIES

5000

PUNE

Building on this impactful work, Jaljeevika continued its efforts in FY 2023-24. Innovatively, they expanded their approach to include nutritional support programs and health check-ups, ensuring a more holistic response to the ongoing challenges. Jaljeevika's sustained and evolving efforts exemplify a targeted and compassionate response to the complex issues posed by the pandemic in marginalized communities, continually adapting to meet the needs of those most affected.

Recognizing these challenges, Jaljeevika took proactive steps by distributing essential food and ration packets to slum dwellers in Pune during FY 2022-23. This initiative addressed immediate hunger and targeted the specific vulnerabilities faced by women and children, providing critical support during a time of heightened need.



Manoj Kamble

Construction Worker

This ration kit is a big help for my family as I am the only bread earner. I lost my wife in the corona pandemic. She used to work as a house help.



© Jaljeevika | Chakra candidates at TS Rahman college, Mumbai

supported by



CHAKRA SCHOLARSHIP

Supporting girls to pursue a bright
career in merchant navy



All India

THE CHAKRA SCHOLARSHIP

The Chakra Scholarship program is a joint initiative of Jaljeevika & Synergy Group aims to provide female students from underprivileged backgrounds with the opportunity to study maritime courses that help them to pursue a career in the marine shipping industry.

Through this program, we aim to exemplify women empowerment in India by breaking barriers and enabling talented females from marginalized backgrounds to access education & pursue thriving careers in the male-dominated maritime industry, fostering gender equality and economic independence. This initiative not only transforms the lives of these young women but also contributes to reshaping societal norms, demonstrating that women can excel in traditionally male-dominated fields.



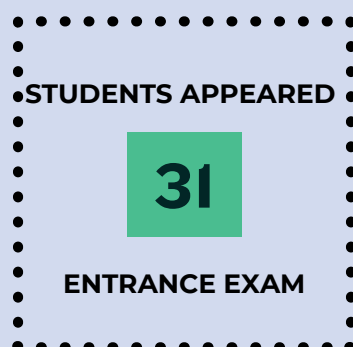
© Jaljeevika | Chakra Project team at TS Rahman college, Mumbai



COURSES

1. General Purpose Rating (GP Rating)
2. Diploma in Nautical Science (DNS)

Under this scholarship program, students were recruited through counseling sessions and then selected for online preparation and mentoring classes focused on entrance examination subjects. Currently, participants from Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, and Jharkhand are involved in the program, preparing to take entrance exams conducted by IMU and merchant navy colleges. Upon selection, they will receive fully funded scholarships and job placements provided by the Synergy Maritime Group.





© Jaljeevika | Women leading to work, Purnia, Bihar

AQUAECO

Building climate resilient livelihood opportunity for small marginal farmers using aquatic food production system

supported by

Herbalife



Bihar, Madhya Pradesh,
Maharashtra, & Karnataka

AQUAECO

This intervention enhances the aquaculture value chain and promotes data-driven decision-making through technology-enabled advisory services and support for micro-entrepreneur networks. Cluster-based initiatives engage stakeholders like government departments, credit institutions, markets, input service providers, and insurance to strengthen aquatic livelihoods.

The project targets three geographical zones: flood zone (Purnia, Bihar), dryland (Tikamgarh and Newari, Bundelkhand region, MP), and coastal region (Ratnagiri, Maharashtra, and Karwar, Karnataka). The goal is to ensure resilient livelihoods for small and marginal farmers via aquatic food production systems. Each region, rich in aquatic resources, offers ample livelihood opportunities.



Target Beneficiary

Traditional Fisherfolks, Fish farmers, Marginal Farmers Women, Youth and Micro entrepreneurs, women fish vendor and processor

1305

individuals trained

on better mgmt practices, value added products making, pond- based integrated farming, seaweed cultivation,

634

Nutrigarden seed kits

distributed to the women farmers for all year kitchen garden

48774

fish seed

distribution to the fish farmers

5160

moringa plants

sapling distribution to the farmers





© Jaljeevika | Community meeting

Specific Objectives

- Enhance fisheries/aquaculture production and incomes of people living in poverty.
- Build scientific knowledge and adherence to best management practices.
- Improve women's status by specifically targeting aquaculture-based income-generating activities.
- Set up ecosystem for micro entrepreneurs' and access to market development.
- Technology architecture towards creating open-source platform for public good.

Training & Capacity Building

- Better management practices
- Value added products
- seaweed cultivation
- Integrated farming
- Training centre
- AEDP Course
- Empowerment of CBOs, SHGs, cooperative and NGOs

Resilient Farming

- Vegetable seed kit distribution
- Moringa saplings distribution
- Water chestnut saplings distribution
- Fish seed distribution
- Seaweed raft & seedlings distribution

Strategic Interventions

- Aqua Schools
- Solar Dryers
- Mini Cages
- Mini RAS
- Training cum Resource Centre

Blue economy and engagement with the coastal communities



Ratnagiri (MH)
Karwar (KA)



© Jaljeevika | women learning seaweed cultivation skills

Marine fisheries along the Indian coast are witnessing a significant decline, adversely impacting fishing and coastal communities, particularly in terms of employment. The increasing hardships are driving people towards casual wage labor, exacerbating the socio-economic challenges in these areas. Recognizing the urgent need for sustainable and alternative livelihood opportunities, Jaljeevika has initiated a transformative project focusing on seaweed cultivation. This initiative, targeted at women self-help groups (SHGs) and coastal communities in Maharashtra, not only provides a viable income source but also contributes positively to the environment. Seaweed cultivation offers a promising solution, with a robust market demand and potential for significant economic upliftment of these communities.

In addition to promoting seaweed cultivation, Jaljeevika is actively engaged with fishing communities to enhance awareness of government schemes and facilitate community development. By empowering these communities with knowledge and resources, we aim to foster sustainable livelihoods and improve their socio-economic conditions. Our efforts are geared towards creating resilient coastal communities that can thrive despite the challenges posed by declining marine fisheries. Through these initiatives, Jaljeevika remains committed to uplifting the lives of those most affected and paving the way for a sustainable and prosperous future for coastal communities.

© Jaljeevika | Fisherman catching fish at Ratnagiri coast



maintaining the freshness of fish is a biggest challenge for me. I have to travel to the city to purchase ice everyday and its quite expensive now. Thanks to the gel based cooling box provided by Jaljeevika, now the cost of ice is reduced for me. Earlier I required 30 kilos of ice but now 10 kg is enough for me. Fishes remain fresh in the box.

Rubina

A Women Fish Vendor

Resilient livelihood in the draught zone



Niwari &
Chhatarpur
(MP)



The Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh, encompassing Niwari and Tikamgarh districts, is a dryland and drought-prone area. Despite these challenges, the region boasts several water bodies and significant fishing communities, presenting opportunities for aquatic livelihoods such as aquaculture and singhara (water chestnut) cultivation. Jaljeevika is actively working in these districts, assisting fishing communities and fisheries cooperatives to harness the potential of these large water bodies. By promoting sustainable aquaculture practices, we aim to enhance the livelihoods of these communities, ensuring they can thrive even in the face of environmental challenges.

Simultaneously, Jaljeevika is committed to reducing the income and health vulnerabilities of farming communities in Bundelkhand through the promotion of sustainable and resilient agricultural practices. We support farmers in adopting integrated farming systems, multi-layer farming, and kitchen gardens, which contribute to food security and economic stability. By integrating these practices, we help create a diversified and resilient agricultural landscape that can withstand the adverse effects of drought and dry conditions. Our efforts in Niwari and Tikamgarh are focused on empowering both fishing and farming communities, fostering sustainable livelihoods, and building resilience against environmental vulnerabilities.



The major intervention to reduce the drudgery includes promotion of integrated farming with multiple vegetable crops and engagement with women and cooperative members in the waterbodies based activities such as fish seed stocking and singhara cultivation.

In addition, convergence camps to avail government schemes, better management practice training and enterprise development interventions, and establishment of Aqua School for information dissemination strengthen the project.



© Jaljeevika | Women stocking fish seed in mini cage, Niwari, MP

From excess water to wealth



Purnia,
Bihar



© Jaljeevika

The annual floods in the Kosi region of Bihar bring an abundance of water, offering significant opportunities for aquatic livelihoods for the local population. However, most of these resources are underutilized due to insufficient advisory and input support.

The development of fisheries and aquaculture in Bihar faces several major bottlenecks. These include a lack of extension services and technology transfer, inadequate infrastructure and market linkages, climate change and environmental degradation, and limited access to finance and business support. Jaljeevika is addressing these challenges by providing comprehensive support to fishing communities, including capacity building, technological assistance, and facilitating market access. Through these efforts, Project AQUAECO aims to enhance the resilience and productivity of aquatic livelihoods, contributing to the economic upliftment of the region.



© Jaljeevika | A multilayered farming system supported by Jaljeevika in Purnia

Under Project AQUAECO, Jaljeevika engages in strategic interventions to convert excess water into wealth by promoting aquatic livelihoods. By adopting better management practices and utilizing small and seasonal ponds for fish production, farmers in the Purnia region can potentially double their fish productivity. This initiative aims to maximize the use of available water resources, ensuring that even small and seasonal water bodies are effectively used for sustainable fish farming.





© Jaljeevika | Engagement with women farmers, Purnia, Bihar

supported by



AQUAEDP

AQUA ENTREPRENEURS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



Vidarbha Region
Maharashtra

Aqua Entrepreneurs Development Program for Livelihood (AquaEDP)

Project AQUAEDP in the Vidarbha region focuses on promoting aquaculture-based livelihood activities and enterprises while sourcing investment from government schemes to uplift the tribal communities. This region, despite its socioeconomic backwardness, is abundant in aquatic resources, presenting a significant opportunity for sustainable development. Jaljeevika's strategic interventions under Project AQUAEDP aim to harness these resources to create viable economic opportunities for the tribal population.

Objectives

- To create aqua entrepreneurs across the value chain.
- To enhance productivity and annual income of 5000 farmers.
- To develop and promote six Fish Farmer Producer Organizations (FFPOs) through PMMSY and Department of State Agriculture.
- To include aquaculture into local NGOs' working in the livelihood domain for expanding the coverage of aquatic livelihood.

Districts Covered

Wardha, Yavatmal, Amravati, Gadchiroli, Chandrapur, and Gondia districts of Vidarbha region, Maharashtra

© Jaljeevika | engagement with fish farmers, Gondia, MH

By fostering aquaculture enterprises and facilitating access to government investment schemes, Jaljeevika seeks to empower the tribal communities of Vidarbha. The project includes comprehensive training on sustainable aquaculture practices, support in establishing market linkages, and assistance in navigating and securing funding from relevant government programs. Through these efforts, Project AQUAEDP aims to transform the aquatic resources of Vidarbha into a source of economic stability and growth, improving the livelihoods and socio-economic status of the tribal communities in the region.



© Jaljeevika | Demonstration of women SHG members at RAS site, Wardha

5

Aqua Schools

Aqua Schools have been established in all 6 districts with training facilities

8

RAS Installation

installed 8 mini RAS to capacitate communities in aquaculture technology

30+

FPOs/Coop/NGOs

partnered with more than 30 agencies including FPOs, cooperatives, NGOs, UMED, MAVIM, and other developmental agencies for aquatic livelihood

443

PMMSY Training

443 persons participated in the training program on PMMSY to avail various schemes related to enterprise development

2004

Capacity Building

person trained in different themes such as better management practices, value added products, government schemes, PMMSY and enterprise development

8

Supported NGOs in Aquatic Livelihood

these NGOs have been capacitated to include aquatic livelihood in their agenda



Success Story

Empowering Women and Transforming Fisheries in Vidarbha

The Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, rich in waterbodies, holds significant potential for fisheries. However, inadequate supply of quality fish seed has hindered sector growth. Farmers relied on external suppliers, leading to delays, frauds, and inefficiencies in stocking.

The Problem

We recognized the challenges faced by fish producers, especially the lack of quality seeds during crucial seasons. Extensive engagements with local communities and women groups in Chandrapur revealed that underutilized waterbodies were limiting economic prospects.

Engagement & Collaboration

Jaljeevika collaborated with community-based organizations (CBOs) and government agencies like Manav Vikas. Awareness sessions highlighted fisheries-based livelihood opportunities in Vidarbha, leading to financial support from Manav Vikas to address seed unavailability.

We empowered women farmers with training in aquaculture management. Motivated by the potential of hatchery operation, women were encouraged to take charge of their economic futures. Comprehensive support, including capacity building, was provided to ensure success.

The collaborative effort resulted in women from Village Organizations (MSRLM) securing funding from Manav Vikas for hatchery construction. Three fish hatcheries were established in Nagbhid, Mul, and Gondpipari, operated by local women. This initiative exemplifies the power of community engagement and collaboration in driving socio-economic transformation. By addressing seed unavailability and fostering sustainable fisheries development, Jaljeevika's efforts in Vidarbha have inspired replication in other locations.



© Jaljeevika

RESILIENT AQUACULTURE

supported by



Capacity building of fish farmers



Kumurambheem Asifabad &
Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Telangana



Fishery activities have long been a traditional livelihood for many fisherfolk and marginal farmers in the Bhupalpalli and Asifabad districts of Telangana. However, these communities face significant challenges in adopting modern practices, sourcing quality seeds, acquiring feed, managing inputs and outputs, and effectively marketing their fish. Recognizing these challenges, Jaljeevika has developed a comprehensive approach to address the needs of these communities. Our interventions include value-added training, fingerling production, integrated farming techniques, and seed distribution. We are also actively promoting the Moringa Plantation, which complements aquatic farming, and providing better management training to enhance overall productivity.

Training & Capacity Building	Aqua Schools	FPOs & Cooperatives	Government Scheme	Spawn
1500	2	5	500	50 LAKHS
Farmers	for training	Support	Beneficiaries	Stocking

Through regular training sessions and community engagement, Jaljeevika has sparked a growing interest in innovative fisheries practices in these districts. The introduction of a recirculatory aquaculture system at the Aqua School has been a game-changer, reducing input costs and empowering members to produce their own seed from spawn. Additionally, we have focused on mobilizing fish vendors, ensuring that they are well-integrated into the supply chain and can effectively market their products. By implementing these modern techniques and holistic interventions, Jaljeevika is transforming the aquatic livelihood landscape in Bhupalpalli and Asifabad, paving the way for more sustainable and profitable fisheries practices.

From Victim of Dam-Displacement to a Visionary Fish Farmer

In the early 2000s, the people of Asifabad district, Telangana, eagerly anticipated the arrival of a new reservoir project on the Peddavagu stream near Ada. This project promised the gift of water, prosperity, and a better future. However, not everyone shared in this promise. Vude Bivusan was one of the unfortunate farmers who lost their land, the very source of their survival, to the reservoir's rising waters. The reservoir's submergence area swallowed around 3000 hectares, displacing countless tribes and non-tribal residents and farmers. As the dam began to quench the thirst of surrounding communities and nurture their crops, the opportunity for fisheries activities emerged as a beacon of hope. Yet, this hope was clouded by a local influential figure who monopolized the dam's fishing rights, leaving the local residents, tribes, and non-tribal farmers, struggling for their livelihoods.



© Jaljeevika | On site training at a fish pond in Vidarbha

Determined and unwavering, Vude mobilized the people of 15 villages and embarked on a journey of resilience. After enduring a long and arduous struggle, they achieved the formation of the Ada Cooperative Society. Now, the reservoir's bountiful fisheries are managed by the 590 members of this cooperative. However, securing the fishing rights was only the first step towards their newfound success. Knowledge was the missing puzzle piece, as many were unfamiliar with the intricacies of fisheries. Challenges related to sourcing seeds, acquiring feed, managing inputs and outputs, and marketing their fish loomed large.

Empowered by the newfound skills and the support of Jaljeevika's Aqua School, Vude, along with fellow cooperative and non-cooperative friends, extended their horizons. They ventured into fisheries activities in ponds outside the reservoir area, producing their own seed and selling it to other regions. Today, the cooperative is thriving, with their catch from the reservoir generating a respectable income. The transformation is evident not just in their improved living standards but also in their children's access to education and their awareness of various resilient livelihood activities, centered around aquaculture. Vude's journey from displacement victim to visionary fish farmer is a testament to the power of resilience and collective effort, turning adversity into inspiration and hope for a brighter future.



© Jaljeevika | training on fish based value added product, Telangana



In their hour of need, Jaljeevika emerged as a guiding light. The dedicated Jaljeevika team extended a helping hand by imparting vital skills required for reservoir fisheries. They established an Aqua School in the region, becoming a beacon of knowledge and information dissemination. Through regular training and engagements with cooperative members, a palpable interest in innovative fisheries practices began to flourish. The introduction of a recirculatory aquaculture system at the Aqua School marked a significant turning point, teaching them cutting-edge technology and reducing input costs. Members learned how to produce their own seed from spawn, thus liberating themselves from the monopoly of seed sellers.



© Jaljeevika | Participants at demonstration site



Jaljeevika

Water for Livelihood, Water for All

Introducing aquaculture to

SOLDIERS

as a livelihood opportunity post
retirement

Sensitizing retiring army personals to aquaculture based livelihood activities

To provide military personnel of the Bombay Sappers Regiment in Pune with training and exposure in "Fresh Water Fish Farming," a non-financial Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between Jaljeevika and the Indian Army. This arrangement, organized by the officials of the Bombay Sappers Regiment Pune in collaboration with Jaljeevika Pune, includes monthly one-day sessions dedicated to Fisheries Training.



© Jaljeevika | Soldiers at training site, Pune

500 INDIVIDUALS
TRAINED

During these sessions, experts offer comprehensive insights into Fish Farming in Fresh Water Resources, including village ponds, lakes, man-made ponds, and agricultural ponds. Each session will train fifty retiring military personnel, focusing on the principles of fish farming techniques and freshwater aquaculture, providing them with various post-retirement planning options.



© Jaljeevika | Ariel view of Jaljeevika Aqua School and training centre, Dhamdaha, Purnia



Jaljeevika

Water for Livelihood, Water for All

AQUA SCHOOL

Empowering Sustainable
Aquatic Livelihoods

AQUA SCHOOL

The Aqua School is a cornerstone initiative by Jaljeevika, designed to strengthen and diversify aquatic-based livelihoods through training, capacity building, and practical support for farmers, fishers, and micro-entrepreneurs. With a focus on sustainable aquaculture and integrated farming, the Aqua School offers a blend of theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience to empower communities to adopt modern techniques while maximizing the use of available resources.



- Bihar: Dhamdaha (Purnia), Kataiya (Supaul)
- Telangana: Charigam (Kommuram Bheem Asifabad District)
- Maharashtra: Wardha, Yavatmal, Amravati, Gondia, Dharni
- Jharkhand: Bero (Ranchi) with TRIF
- Madhya Pradesh: Prithvipur (Niwari District)

Additional training teams and facilities are active in Ratnagiri, Mau, with plans to establish a training cum resource center in Velhe block (Pune).

Through these Aqua Schools and training centers, Jaljeevika has engaged over 30,000 individuals, equipping them with the skills and knowledge required to adopt sustainable aquaculture and integrated farming practices. By combining innovative technologies, traditional methods, and community engagement, the Aqua School ensures long-term resilience and economic stability for aquatic-based livelihoods.

Key Services and Support at Aqua Schools

Training on Advanced Fish Farming Technologies

Recirculatory Aquaculture System (RAS), Bio floc, Cage

Integrated Farming Systems

Bund-based integrated farming, Aquaponics, Multilayer farming

Specialized Farming Techniques

Seaweed cultivation, Moringa cultivation, Nutri-garden

Capacity Building for Livelihood Diversification

Aqua Entrepreneurship Development Program (AEDP) course, Better management practices

Aquatic Value Chain Development

Support in processing, marketing, value added products

Government Scheme Facilitation

Guidance on accessing government schemes

Practical Demonstration and Exposure Visits

Fish seed nurseries, rearing and breeding ponds, RAS systems, and aquaponics setups to give participants real-world experience

Handholding Support

Guidance for implementing learned practices in integrated farming and modern aquaculture



© Jaljeevika | training at Amravati Aqua School

Through these Aqua Schools and training centers, Jaljeevika has engaged over 30,000 individuals, equipping them with the skills and knowledge required to adopt sustainable aquaculture and integrated farming practices. By combining innovative technologies, traditional methods, and community engagement, the Aqua School ensures long-term resilience and economic stability for aquatic-based livelihoods.



© Jaljeevika | Prof. Dilip Kumar addressing the conference

POLICY & ADVOCACY

collaboration for larger goals



NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON

Integrated Agroecological-based Aquaculture and Aquatic Food Systems for Promoting Livelihood of Women SHGs Members in India

6-7 November 2023

The Crown, Bhubaneswar, Odisha



© Jaljeevika | Our CEO at conference

The national conference on Integrated Agroecological-based Aquaculture and Aquatic Food Systems for Promoting Livelihood of Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) members in India was organized by DAY-NRLM, Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) on 6 and 7 November 2023 at The Crown, Bhubaneswar, in collaboration with GIZ India as part of the Indo-German bilateral project "Support to Agroecological Transformation Processes in India (SuATI)". The Centre for Aquatic Livelihood Jaljeevika contributed as the knowledge partner.

The conference aimed to provide a platform for State Rural Livelihood Mission (SRLM), thematic experts, practitioners, policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders from the fisheries and aquaculture sector to converge, deliberate and develop a strategy on innovative approaches and best agroecological/aquaculture practices within woman SHG groups.

The conference had four technical sessions, a pitch deck presentation by the startups involved in the sector, and working group discussions on four main themes. The national conference was also accompanied by the launch of the knowledge product "Digigyanshala" (www.digigyanshala.in), an online knowledge repository on aquatic livelihood means. A few key themes emerge and cut across aquaculture sub-sectors in the expert panel discussions and the interactive working group sessions. These are:

- A) Promotion of integrated livelihood models, thereby supporting income diversification and sustainability,
- B) Convergence through schemes and different governmental departments as a co-financing model,
- C) Capacity building in terms of technical expertise, innovations, and market linkages, and
- D) Enhancing the production system of agroecology-based aquaculture.

A total of 120 participants participated in the conference from institutions including the Indian Council of Agricultural Research- Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (ICAR-CIFT), Chilika Development Authority (CDA), ICAR-CIFA (Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture), NABARD, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute (CSIR-CSMCRI), SRLMs, SasiWATERS, Centre for Aquatic Livelihood Jaljeevika, and GIZ personnel.

Key Takeaways

Panel Discussion 1: Agroecology-based fish production system to ensure livelihood for SHG members: Scope for integrated farming of fish, livestock and crop

- Integrated farming (fish farming with agriculture-vegetable farming, floriculture, horticulture, and livestock) can be practised as a viable livelihood option.
- Need for alternative means such as fish feed, manures, ornamental fishes, value addition enterprises for woman SHG groups.
- Integration of agroecology-based products such as farm-based feeds, biofertilizers, and by-products such as bagasse and straw bed in aquatic food production can be a green solution promoting circularity and zero waste.
- Species diversification with a focus on indigenous species instead of monoculture to ensure nutrition and biodiversity.

Panel Discussion 2: Harnessing livelihood potential of wetlands

- Convergence of aquatic food system activities with agroecology components by harnessing different ministerial existing programmes and schemes is the need of the hour.
- Identifying potential livelihood opportunities in the wetlands and its catchment area should be specific to the policies and potential in a given site.



- The creation of livelihood opportunities needs to be done in an integrated manner that follows a participatory approach. Examples include the integration of Wetland Sakhi and Krishi Sakhi in SRLMs activities.
- An inclusive market with branding and a sustainable value chain mechanism must go together with livelihood opportunities. Examples include Singhara Aata from water chestnut, considered food for fasts and gluten-free, thus catering to health and livelihood activities.
- Integration of multiple wetland schemes and strengthening vertical and horizontal linkage to harness the benefits of bringing ecological sustainability and economic opportunity for women SHGs.
- An advisory group for sustainable livelihood on convergence and co-financing needs to be instituted to guide SRLMs and female SHG members on wetland and catchment-specific activities.

Panel Discussion 3: Scope for mariculture and coastal aquaculture through agroecological transformation: livelihood models

- For successful implementation, standardized knowledge dissemination related to technology interventions for practitioners / CRPs is needed.
- Market linkage for less explored potential livelihood options, such as seaweed farming, needs to be done simultaneously with enhancing the production system.
- Collectivization as a solution for empowering women SHGs needs to be accompanied by continued community engagement, capacity building, market linkages and site-specific technological customization.
- Value chain mechanisms need to have an inbuilt certification process for ease of access to domestic and international market thereby enhancing woman SHGs income.

Panel Discussion 4: Ornamental fish and pearl farming potential and domestic market opportunity

- There is a need for training modules on supply chain modalities, enhancing market linkage by tapping into the domestic market and expanding the export portfolio of fish varieties.
- Harness the potential of ornamental fish and pearl farming niche space in the luxury market segment.
- Mapping of ornamental and pear farming potential sites and livelihood opportunities for pilot projects.

Panel Discussion 5: Startups and innovation

- Credit linkage can succeed when startups and innovators cultivate the bank system's confidence in their technologies.
- Business models promoting circular economy through green interventions based on the principle of converting waste to wealth.

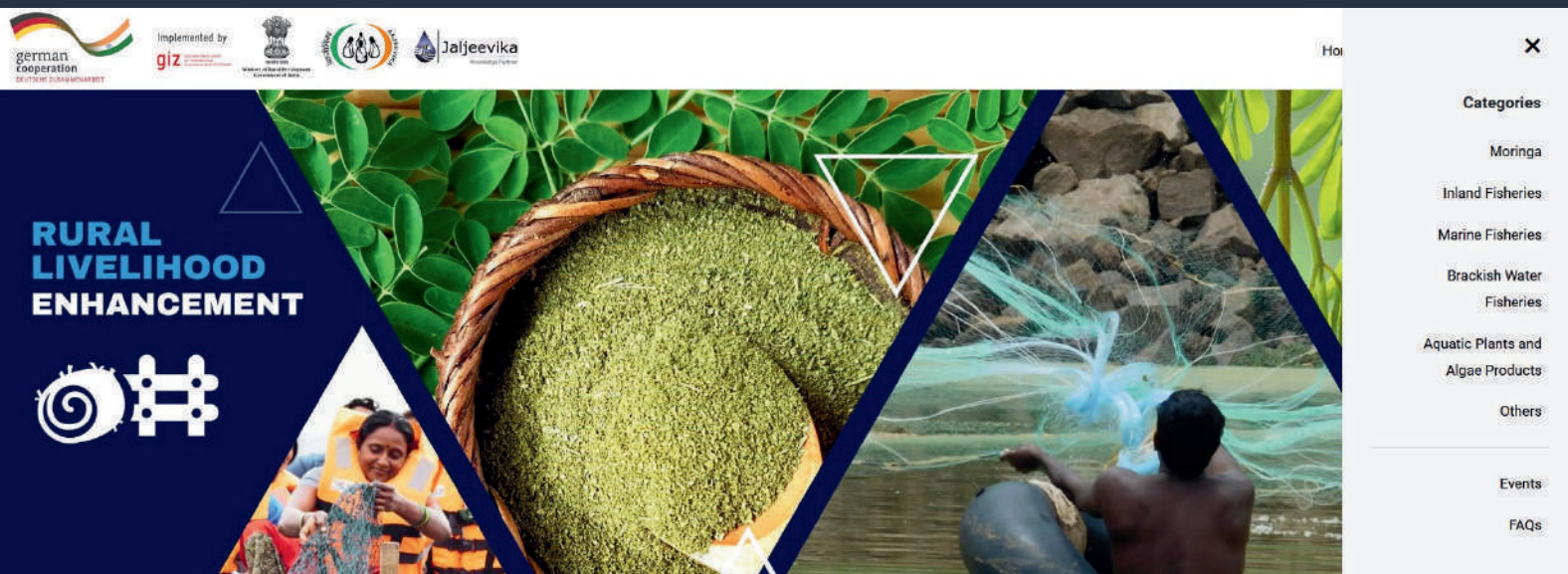


Launch of knowledge product digigyanshala



www.digigyanshala.com

Digi Gyanshala is a virtual academy dedicated to aquatic livelihoods, designed to offer valuable learning resources to researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and grassroots workers. Our goal is to provide comprehensive technical knowledge on various aquatic livelihood models from across the country. Digi Gyanshala also offers information on different government schemes that support the promotion of aquatic livelihoods.





AI QUAD CAMERA
Shot on realme 5i

© Jaljeevika | Scheme facilitation camp at Purnia



Jaljeevika

Water for Livelihood, Water for All

FINANCIALS

CENTRE FOR AQUATIC LIVELIHOOD- JALJEEVIKA
CIN : U05010PN2013NPL148986

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2024

Particulars	Note No.	Amount in ('000)	
		Current Year 31st March 2024	Previous Year 31st March 2023
I EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
[1] Shareholder's fund			
Share capital	2	0.00	0.00
Reserves & surplus	3	10289.21	6691.11
		10289.21	6691.11
[2] Current liabilities			
Financial Liabilities			
Short term borrowings	4	0.00	0.00
Trade payables			
Total Outstanding dues of Micro and small enterprises		0.00	0.00
Total Outstanding dues of other than Micro and small enterprises	17	155.87	1838.52
Other current liabilities	5	2618.29	2384.50
		2774.16	4223.02
TOTAL		13063.37	10914.12
II ASSETS			
[1] Non current assets			
Property, Plant and equipment And Intangible Assets			
Property, Plant and equipment	6	4476.06	160.29
Intangible Assets	6	1004.61	17.88
		5480.66	178.16
[2] Current Assets			
Cash & bank balances	7	2788.32	7858.36
Trade receivables	18	0.00	83.23
Refer Note No.18			
Other current assets	8	4794.38	2794.38
		7582.70	10735.96
TOTAL		13063.37	10914.12
III [1] Significant Account Policy	1 12		

Notes forming an integral part of the financial statement.

As per our Report of Even Date
For S R Pandit and Co
Chartered Accountants
FRNo. 107309W

CA Manas Jogekar
(Partner)
M No.611225
Date : 25/09/2024
Place : Pune
UDIN : 24611225BKAVK57452



For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
CENTRE FOR AQUATIC LIVELIHOOD- JALJEEVIKA
CIN : U05010PN2013NPL148986

DILEEP KUMAR NAGARIA
Director
[DIN : 10186383]
Date : 25/09/2024
Place : Pune

RANJEET AMBASTHA
Director
[DIN : 03643948]



CENTRE FOR AQUATIC LIVELIHOOD- JALJEEVIKA

CIN : U05010PN2013NPL148986

STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Particulars	Note No.	Amount in ('000)	
		Current Year 31st March 2024	Current Year 31st March 2023
I Revenue from the Operations			
Revenue from the Operations	9	45546.50	31286.39
Other Income	10	151.61	21.91
Income recognised to the extent of depreciation		19.05	79.47
TOTAL INCOME		45717.15	31387.77
II EXPENSES			
Depreciation on reserves	6	19.05	79.47
Depreciation		60.52	61.79
Employees Benefits		0.00	0.00
Other Expenses	11	41951.19	24832.97
TOTAL EXPENSES		42030.76	24974.23
III Profit Before Tax		3686.40	6413.53
IV Tax Expenses			
Current Tax	-	0.00	0.00
Previous Year Tax short /(excess) provision		88.30	0.00
Deferred Tax	-	0.00	0.00
V Profit for the period		3598.10	6413.53
VI Earning Per Equity Shares			
Nominal Value of Share of Rs.			
[1] Basic		-	-
[2] Diluted		-	-

VII Significant Account Policy 1
Notes forming an integral part of the financial statement. 12

As per our Report of Even Date

For S R Pandit and Co
Chartered Accountants
FRNo. 107309W

[Signature]
CA Manas Joglekar

{ Partner }

M No.611225

Date : 25/09/2024

Place : Pune

UDIN : 24611225BKAVKS7452



For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
CENTRE FOR AQUATIC LIVELIHOOD- JALJEEVIKA
CIN : U05010PN2013NPL148986

[Signature]
DILEEP KUMAR NAGARIA

Director

[DIN : 10186383]

Date : 25/09/2024

Place : Pune



[Signature]
RANJEET AMBASTHA

Director

[DIN : 03643948]



Jaljeevika

Water for Livelihood, Water for All

FUTURE PLAN

**Strategic Directive for
Wetlands and Blue Economy
Initiatives**

Over the past decade, Jaljeevika has pioneered sustainable models in aquatic livelihood systems, benefiting both communities and ecosystems. Building on our extensive experience and aligning with global agendas like COP 16, we are strategically focusing on scalable, wetland-based livelihood models. This transition emphasizes the critical role of wetlands both nationally and globally.

India's wetlands span around 15.26 million hectares, about 4.6% of its land area, providing essential ecosystem services—water purification, flood control, and groundwater recharge. These wetlands are vital for India's biodiversity and support millions involved in agriculture, fisheries, and tourism.

Globally, wetlands are valued for their ecological, economic, and social contributions, including their role in carbon sequestration and as natural buffers against extreme weather. The Ramsar Convention and recent focus at COP 16 have underscored wetlands' **importance** in meeting climate and biodiversity goals.

India's wetlands are increasingly at **risk**, with around 64% degraded due to urbanization, land use changes, encroachment, and pollution. Coastal wetlands are especially vulnerable to climate change impacts like sea-level rise and increased cyclones. These shifts jeopardize the **livelihoods** of communities dependent on wetlands, particularly fishers who face declining fish stocks and habitat loss.

By advancing wetland-centric programs, Jaljeevika is committed to addressing the vulnerabilities, fostering resilient livelihoods, and contributing to the sustainable development of wetland ecosystems.



STRATEGIC FOCUS ON WETLAND-BASED ECOSYSTEMS AND ECONOMY

WETLAND BASED LIVELIHOOD

Jaljeevika is committed to building sustainable livelihoods through wetland conservation, integrating aquaculture, agriculture, and eco-tourism to benefit both communities and ecosystems. By supporting sustainable practices in these areas, we aim to empower local communities to derive economic value while preserving wetland health. Tailored training and capacity-building programs equip communities to adopt resilient, sustainable practices that respond to environmental changes.

PARTNERSHIP & COLABORATION

Collaboration with government bodies, national programs, NGOs, and international organizations to advance wetland conservation and sustainable use. Through active participation in policy dialogues and contribution to conservation frameworks, we aim to help shape policies that prioritize wetland protection and sustainable management.

Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EbA)

Promoting ecosystem-based adaptation, Jaljeevika enhances the resilience of both communities and ecosystems to climate change. By restoring and conserving wetlands, we help mitigate climate impacts like flooding and fishery loss, while creating co-benefits such as biodiversity conservation and improved livelihoods for local communities.

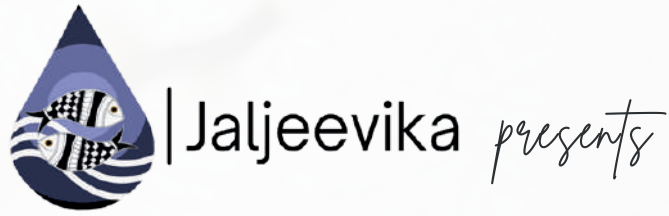
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & ACTION

Engaging local, wetland-dependent communities is central to Jaljeevika's approach. We involve communities in conservation efforts and decision-making, ensuring strategies are grounded in local knowledge and relevance. Educational programs and awareness campaigns foster a deeper understanding of wetlands' ecological and economic value, encouraging community stewardship and long-term commitment to conservation.

DOCUMENTATION & INNOVATION

Jaljeevika invests in action research and innovation to craft effective conservation strategies. Our research focuses on wetland ecosystems, investigating climate change impacts and exploring adaptive, sustainable solutions. This commitment to documentation and innovation enables Jaljeevika to develop targeted, scalable strategies that support both conservation and sustainable use.





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Success Story

From Migrant Laborer to Sustainable Farmer: Francis's Inspiring Journey

In the Digiya village of Bero block, Ranchi, Francis's inspiring journey from a migrant laborer to a sustainable farmer is a testament to resilience and innovation. Having left his job in Delhi as a migrant laborer, Francis returned to his roots, driven by a desire to transform his livelihood and contribute to his community. With support from Jaljeevika and TRIF, Francis's farm has become a model of sustainability and resilience, integrating fish farming, crop cultivation, and livestock rearing to enhance productivity while supporting local biodiversity. At its core, Francis's farm is based on agroecology-driven integrated farming, focusing on holistic and sustainable agricultural practices.

Francis faced significant environmental and resource constraints upon his return to Bero. Limited financial resources and environmental challenges such as erratic rainfall and soil degradation posed barriers to traditional farming methods. Recognizing the need for innovative and sustainable solutions, Francis connected with a Jaljeevika resource person at the Aqua School during a training program. He successfully implemented the learnings from this program. Additionally, through convergence efforts, he received fish seed and feed from the Fisheries Department, further strengthening his farming operations.

Key innovations & Practices

1. Fish Farming

A layered pond was constructed on Francis's farm under NREGA scheme which is found suitable for aquaculture. This pond supports Indian Major Carps (IMC) such as rohu and catla, alongside monosex tilapia and pangasius.

- **Plastic-Lined Tank:** Installed on the pond bund, this tank provides controlled conditions for rearing fingerlings.
- **Eco Pond Aeration:** A natural aeration system improves water quality, ensuring healthy fish growth. The water is also connected to drip irrigation lines and azolla beds for efficient resource utilization.

2. Livestock Rearing

To diversify income and enhance the farm's ecosystem, Francis integrated livestock rearing:

- **Cows and Goats:** Provide milk and organic manure.
- **Ducks (Khaki Campbell):** Offer pest control and natural fertilizer.
- **Chickens:** Contribute to diversified farm income.

3. Azolla, Fodder Cultivation, and Vermicomposting

- **Azolla Cultivation:** This aquatic plant serves as a nutritious feed for fish and livestock.
- **Fodder Crops:** Napier grass and other high-nutrient crops are grown around the pond.
- **Vermicomposting:** Organic waste is converted into high-quality fertilizer, reducing dependency on chemical inputs.

4. Vegetable Farming

Using multilayer farming techniques with drip irrigation and mulching, Francis grows a variety of crops:

- **Vegetables:** Tomatoes, brinjals, and spinach.
- **Portable Plant Nursery:** Propagates seedlings for marigolds, chilies, and other crops. This approach conserves water, maximizes land productivity, and utilizes vertical space effectively.

5. Erosion Prevention and Soil Health

- **Erosion-Resistant Crops:** Mango, papaya, and moringa are planted to stabilize the soil around the pond.
- **Legume Cultivation:** Pigeon pea (arhar) and black gram (urad) add nitrogen to the soil, improving its fertility.

Water Management

To address water scarcity, a drip irrigation system was installed, ensuring plants receive adequate moisture even during dry spells. This innovation conserves water while supporting crop health and productivity.

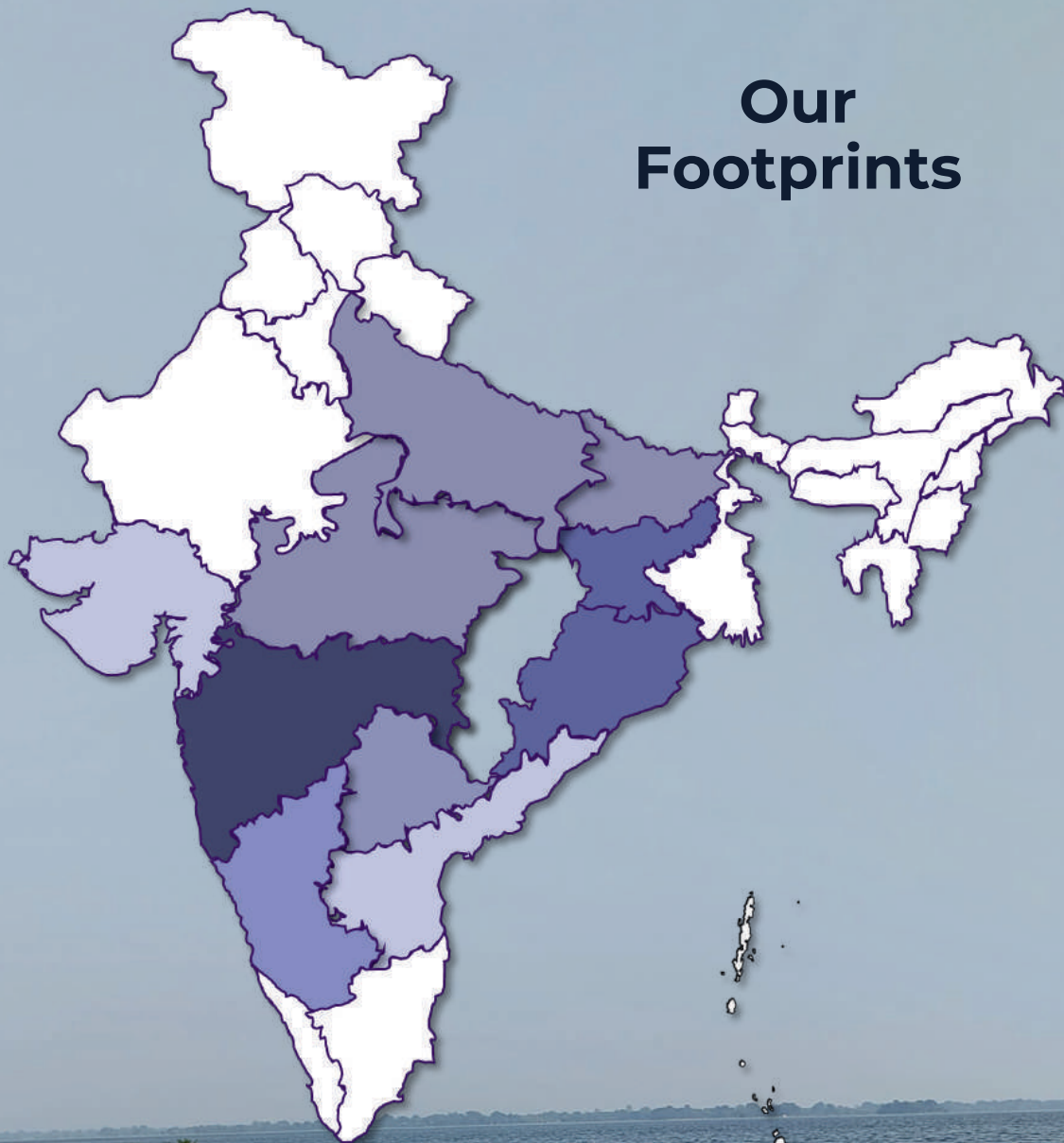
Impact and Inspiration

Francis's Resilient Fish Farm has become a beacon of hope and inspiration for the local community. His efforts have demonstrated that small-scale farmers can overcome environmental challenges through creativity, resourcefulness, and the right support. The farm not only sustains Francis's family but also serves as a learning center for neighboring farmers.

By integrating agroecology-driven sustainable practices and fostering biodiversity, Francis's journey exemplifies the transformative potential of sustainable agriculture. His collaboration with Jaljeevika and TRIF highlights the importance of institutional support in empowering rural communities. Today, Francis leads a self-reliant and prosperous life, inspiring others to adopt agroecology-based sustainable agriculture and fisheries to secure their livelihoods and protect the environment.



Our Footprints



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