ANNUAL REPORT

Foundation for Development Initiative

ADDRESSING MULTIPLE DIMENSIONS OF DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

Agriculture, Education & Skills, Environment & Climate, Plantation, Health, Technology & Innovation, Water & Sanitation.

Addressing Multiple Dimensions of Devolpment Challenges

The Foundation for Development Initiative (FDI) was established in 2003 by group of development professionals to address a broad spectrum of development issues affecting the country. FDI aims to reach people without access to services and resources, complementing—but not substituting—the efforts of the government and other providers. Over the years, FDI has grown into a consortium of individuals, organizations, and businesses dedicated to the holistic development of people and communities, with a focus on improving living conditions and opportunities.

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Foreword

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Dear Friends, Partners, and Stakeholders,

For over two decades, the Foundation for Development Initiative (FDI) has advanced inclusive, sustainable, and community-led development. Since 2003, we have partnered with underserved communities to strengthen livelihoods, expand opportunities, and enable people to shape their pathways to progress with dignity and resilience.

FY 2025–26 marked another significant year in this journey. In collaboration with our CSR partners, including NatWest and PNB MetLife, we reached over 800,000 farmers, 51% of whom were women, reaffirming our commitment to inclusive rural prosperity. Our climate-smart agriculture initiatives delivered measurable outcomes, including a 48% reduction in freshwater use, 60% decline in stubble-burning pollution, and 41% decrease in methane emissions.

Alongside rural development, FDI supported education and skilling in association with Sun Pharma and Exide Industries by facilitating scholarships worth more than ₹60 lakh for students, in association with government bodies, schools, engineering colleges, and ITIs. We also advanced urban environmental action through the plantation of nearly 10 lakh saplings in association with MakeMyTrip Foundation and others in Gurugram, helping communities breathe cleaner and healthier air.

These achievements reflect the strength of partnerships, the trust of communities, and the dedication of the FDI team. As we move forward, our vision remains the holistic development of underprivileged communities, while deepening impact, expanding scale, and building resilient communities.

Together, we will continue to innovate, inspire, and create meaningful, lasting impact.

Vijay Singh, President - Foundation for Development Initiative (FDI)

Foundation for Development Initiative

VISION

To enable resilient, inclusive, and sustainable communities where people and nature flourish together.
FDI envisions a just and equitable future in which vulnerable communities have the capabilities, resources, and opportunities to lead dignified lives. We strive to advance climate resilience, sustainable livelihoods, social inclusion, and environmental stewardship, while restoring and protecting ecosystems for future generations.

MISSION

To drive sustainable and inclusive development by empowering communities, strengthening livelihoods, and advancing environmental stewardship.
FDI promotes data-informed, community-led interventions across rural livelihoods, women's empowerment, skilling, education, health, sustainable farming, Direct Seeding of Rice, crop residue management, and natural resource conservation, while aligning development with long-term ecological well-being.

FOCUS AREAS

- Agriculture
- Education
- Environment & Climate
- Urban Plantation
- Health
- Technology & Innovation
- Water & Sanitation
- Skilling


हरित धरा, साफ़ वायु
समुदायों को सशक्त बनाना, जीवन को सरल बनाना
धान की सीधी बुआई (DSR)
डायरेक्ट सीडिंग ऑफ राइस तकनीक के लाभ
₹ 5000-8000
25-30%
30-35%
50%
हरा मेरा खेत


EXIDE


"Greener Today
Brighter Tomorrow"
MAKEMYTRIP
FOUNDATION
GMDA

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Project Dharunam

Project Dharunam continues to uplift tribal communities across 30 villages in the Saraikela–Kharsawan district of Jharkhand through a holistic approach that integrates sustainable agriculture, stronger community institutions, and improved livelihood opportunities. Building on the progress achieved in previous years, the project has further advanced the adoption of modern farming techniques, promoted entrepreneurship among women and youth, and expanded access to essential services.

Key Achievements (April 2025 – January 2026)

Sustainable Agriculture & Productivity

- 625 farmers adopted improved practices like multi-layer cropping, natural fertilization, and efficient water use.
- Irrigation expanded by 50 acres of previously unirrigated land.
- 295 acres shifted to chemical-free farming, improving soil health and productivity.

Natural Resource Management & Climate Resilience

- Set up 7 vermicompost units and 3 solar-powered irrigation systems to reduce costs and groundwater use.
- Introduced soil health cards and seasonal advisories for climate-smart farming.

Women & Youth Empowerment

- Supported 50 women-led micro-enterprises linked to local markets.
- Trained 20,000+ youth in digital literacy, enterprise planning, and career readiness.

Community Institutions Strengthening

- Revitalized 18 Self-Help Groups and strengthened 34 community institutions.
- Formed user groups to manage water resources and community assets.

Livelihood & Income Enhancement

- Trained 230 individuals in skill development.
- Improved income opportunities for 380 farmers through capacity building.

Direct Beneficiaries Reached in FY 2025–26

Impact Area	Achievement
Women-Led Community Enterprises	**50** enterprises	**20,000+** beneficiaries
Skill Development	**230** individuals trained
Farmer Income Enhancement	**380** farmers with increased income
Sustainable Community Institutions	**34** institutions strengthened
Irrigation Expansion	**50** acres of unirrigated land brought under irrigation
Chemical-Free Agriculture	**295** acres under sustainable, chemical-free practices

Emerging Outcomes

- ✓ Increased year-round income sources through diversified cropping
- ✓ Enhanced local leadership and stronger community governance structures
- ✓ Greater inclusion of women and youth in decision-making and livelihood planning
- ✓ Improved ability to manage climate and market-related risks

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Project
Harit Dhara, Saaf Vayu

Launched in 2023 in partnership with NatWest Group, the "Harit Dhara, Saaf Vayu"

The program is dedicated to encouraging sustainable farming practices under the Rice-Wheat Cropping System (RWCS) in Jind district, Haryana. Its key focus areas include Crop Residue Management (CRM) and Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR), with the aim of reducing stubble burning through a collaborative and well-rounded approach.

The initiative involves active participation from various stakeholders such as the Department of Agriculture, Haryana, District Administration, Jind, Haryana State CSR Trust, Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs), and the farming community. Together, they work towards minimizing Active Fire Locations (AFLs) in the district, spreading awareness about the harmful effects of stubble burning, promoting eco-friendly residue management practices, and encouraging the adoption of DSR as a climate-resilient farming method.

To support these objectives, the program conducts stakeholder meetings, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), farmer outreach activities, awareness campaigns, and one-on-one interactions. In addition, the Krishi Yantra Saathi mobile application is being utilized to improve farmers' access to CRM-related services and resources.

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Approach

Strengthening Access to Crop Residue Management Services

The project works towards building effective linkages between farmers and Crop Residue Management (CRM) service providers. Farmers are assisted in booking CRM services through multiple outreach platforms, including village-level awareness campaigns, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), one-on-one interactions, and the Krishi Yantra Saathi mobile application, ensuring easier access to sustainable farming solutions.

Encouraging Sustainable Farming for Environmental Conservation

The initiative aims to promote sustainable agricultural practices that support the conservation of natural resources. In partnership with government departments, Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities are conducted across villages to raise awareness about responsible farming practices. IEC materials carrying CRM-related messages are distributed widely, while community engagement is strengthened through FGDs, training sessions, farm events, door-to-door campaigns, awareness drives, and outreach videos.

Advancing Awareness and Adoption of Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR)

The program focuses on increasing awareness and adoption of Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR) as a climate-smart agricultural practice. Farmers are educated through village-level campaigns, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and personalized interactions. Awareness materials such as posters and pamphlets are distributed in target villages, while demonstration plots are established to provide farmers with practical exposure to the DSR process, from sowing through to harvesting.

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Target Achieved under **FY 25-26**

Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) Demonstrations

- **192** demo plots established, leading to **228** adoptions implemented on **1086.5** acres.
- **3528** farmers participated in on-field demonstrations, covering **37,537** acres (**15,197** hectares).

Crop Residue Management (CRM)

- **8,482** farmers with the land holding of **24,904** hectares engaged through the Krishi Yantra Saathi Application covered under CRM strategies.
- Out of this **4,629** farmers directly benefited, managing stubble across **15,190** hectares (**215 %** higher than our initial target)
- Targeted Awareness Campaigns: Conducted 99 mega events, **785** FGDs, and **38,789** one-on-one interactions to drive behavioral change.
- Our team actively facilitated both in-situ and ex-situ stubble management.

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Economic Impact

- DSR Input Savings: ₹3,631/acre.
- ROI (PB 1509): 142% DSR vs 133% TPR.
- Profit Improvement: ₹4,000–5,000 per acre.
- Subsidy Benefit Claimed: ₹5,000/acre (DSR + CRM combined) (further increased from this year).
- Stubble worth approx. 33.86 crores saved from burning @INR 1800/ton in 24,904 hectares.

Environmental Impact

- Water Saved: 25.25 crore litres via DSR.
- Reduced Emissions: 2.05 lakh kg CO_2-equivalent.
- Methane Emissions Reduced: ~40–45%
- Soil Health: Moderate gains in organic carbon (from soil tests).

AFL in 2022	AFL in 2023	AFL in 2025
505 (As reported)	218 (43.6% reduction)	120 (76.2% reduction)

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Project **Samriddhi**

Launched in 2024 in partnership with PNB MetLife, “Project Samriddhi” aims to promote sustainable farming practices in rural Haryana by combining Crop Residue Management (CRM) with women-led livelihood development under the rice–wheat cropping system. Implemented across 20 villages in the Jind and Uchana blocks, the project focuses on reducing stubble burning while creating income-generating opportunities for women through the productive use of crop residue.

The initiative brings together key stakeholders, including the Department of Agriculture, Haryana, District Administration, Jind, Self-Help Group (SHG) Department, Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs), service providers, and local farmers, to drive community-based sustainable solutions. Its major objectives include reducing Active Fire Locations (AFLs), increasing awareness about the environmental impact of residue burning, and promoting both in-situ and ex-situ CRM practices for cleaner and more sustainable agriculture.

A major highlight of the project is the establishment of the Samriddhi Skill Centre, where 30 SHG women received training to transform paddy residue (parali) into handicraft products, creating livelihood opportunities through waste-to-value initiatives. The project also includes stakeholder consultations, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), village awareness campaigns, one-on-one farmer interactions, CRM machinery support, and coordinated field activities to strengthen on-ground impact.

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Approach of Project Samriddhi

Driving Community Awareness

- Village meetings, demonstrations, door-to-door outreach, IEC materials, and campaigns promoting alternatives to residue burning.

Strengthening Farmer Skills

- Training on Crop Residue Management (CRM), soil health, farm machinery use, and improved practices.
- Support for local agri-entrepreneurs for long-term service delivery.

Expanding Access to Farm Machinery

- Access to CRM equipment via custom hiring, shared services, and trained operators.
- Demonstrations of machinery like mulchers and seeders to encourage adoption.

Promoting Sustainable Agriculture

- Focus on in-situ CRM, crop diversification, soil conservation, and efficient input use.
- Demonstration plots to support practical learning and adoption.

Strengthening Partnerships & Monitoring

- Ongoing field monitoring and coordination with government bodies, FPOs, and local institutions for effective implementation

Parameter	Details
Villages Covered	20 villages across Jind & Uchana blocks
Farmers Reached	4,907 farmers
Farmers Linked to CRM Services	3,803 farmers
SHG Women Trained	30 women
Engagement Activities	234 FGDs, 80 awareness sessions
AFL Hotspots Identified	77 hotspots
Area Coverage	3,500 acres

Impact Highlights

Environmental Impact

- 5,000+ tonnes of crop residue diverted from burning.
- ₹1 crore worth of residue prevented from being burnt.
- Avoided release of 8 million kg of greenhouse gases (GHGs).
- Improved adoption of eco-friendly in-situ and ex-situ CRM solutions.
- Strengthened community awareness on air quality and soil health.

Economic & Social Empowerment

- 30 women trained in parali-based handicrafts, establishing new income pathways.
- Product diversification achieved through multiple SKUs developed at SSC.
- Improved confidence, mobility, and decision-making among SHG women.
- Initial government orders and exhibitions supported early-stage market linkages.

Community Behavior Change

- Strong participation from farmers in CRM demonstrations and sensitization meetings.
- Enhanced readiness to adopt cleaner, climate-smart alternatives.
- Strengthened collaboration across farmers, service providers, and local governance.

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Project
Harit Dhara, Saaf Vayu-II

Initiated in 2025 in collaboration with NatWest Group,"Harit Dhara, Saaf Vayu - II "

Building on the success of the 'Harit Dhara, Saaf Vayu' initiative in Jind—where over 10,000 hectares were managed and 20,325 tons of stubble burning prevented—the proposed program aims to extend this proven model to Kaithal and Sonipat over a 2.6-year period (October 2025 to March 2028). The goal is to reduce fire incidents by at least 90% in these districts through community engagement, on-field assistance, and the promotion of sustainable practices. These districts are strategically selected based on their AFL data, proximity to Delhi, local market access, farmer availability, and potential for impact. The program will also include a baseline survey to refine implementation and select target areas and crops.

To ensure long-term sustainability, the program will promote crop diversification into maize and sweet corn, which require less water, have shorter crop cycles (75–110 days), produce lower residue, and offer strong market demand. With government incentives and farmer interest, this approach supports both income generation and environmental benefits.

By integrating proven stubble-burning reduction models with DSR and diversification, the initiative will curb residue burning, conserve water, and strengthen rural livelihoods.

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Approach

1. Farmer Awareness on Sustainable Agriculture

- IEC campaigns, workshops, FGDs, and door-to-door outreach on soil, water, and air conservation.
- Coordination with government and use of IEC materials, farm visits, and multimedia tools for CRM awareness.

2. CRM Service Access Linkages

- Improved access to Crop Residue Management (CRM) services via village-level facilitation.
- Use of Krishi Yantra Saathi, FGDs, and campaigns to enable machinery booking and use.

3. Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) Promotion

- Awareness and training on DSR as a water-saving, cost-efficient practice.
- Support through FGDs, IEC materials, and full-cycle demonstration plots.

4. Crop Diversification & Sustainable Systems

- Promotion of climate-resilient crops like maize and sweet corn.
- Field trainings and 1–2 acre model demonstrations to support adoption of diversified farming systems.

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Target Achieved under **FY 25-26**

Program Component	Key Coverage / Output	Strategic Impact
Women-Led Enterprise	30 SHG women	Product development and livelihood diversification
Climate-Smart Adoption	480 farmers	Crop diversification enabling resilient agriculture
Model Farm Demonstration	4 model farms (1 acre each) in Kaithal & Sonipat	Maize cultivation showcase for climate-smart farming
Behavioural Transformation	6,000+ farmers	Increased DSR awareness and adoption of water-efficient practices
Sustainable CRM	872 farmers	Mechanization access leading to reduced stubble burning
Ecosystem Convergence	78 villages	Government alignment and strengthened grassroots networks

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Project
Urban Plantation

In collaboration with PNB MetLife, the Urban Plantation Initiative was launched in Gurgaon, Haryana, as a strategic environmental intervention to address the growing challenges of traffic-related air pollution, high Air Quality Index (AQI), dust accumulation, and urban heat stress caused by rapid urbanization. Gurgaon, being a major commercial and residential hub, experiences continuous vehicular congestion along key road corridors, significantly contributing to pollution levels and deteriorating urban air quality.

To respond to this need, the project adopted an Urban Plantation Approach, focusing on developing structured green buffers and restoring degraded roadside spaces into functional green belts. This approach emphasized plantation in high-impact public corridors such as highways, metro-adjacent stretches, and arterial roads, where greenery can act as a natural barrier for dust suppression, carbon absorption, and air purification.

The initiative aimed to establish a sustainable and visible green belt network, improving the city's environmental health and enhancing the quality of life for commuters and residents. The project was planned with a sustainability-first model, ensuring long-term plantation survival through systematic maintenance, monitoring, and ecological strengthening.

Approach

Air Quality Improvement

- Urban plantations created green buffers along key corridors, helping reduce dust and particulate pollution (PM2.5 & PM10).

Carbon Sequestration & Climate Action

- Increased green cover supported CO_2 absorption and long-term carbon sequestration.

Dust Suppression

- Green belts acted as natural barriers, reducing roadside dust dispersion and improving commuter comfort.

Heat Reduction & Micro-Climate Improvement

- Enhanced vegetation lowered surface heat, increased shade, and reduced heat stress in roadside areas.

Urban Biodiversity Enhancement

- Plantations supported birds, insects, and pollinators, improving ecological balance and biodiversity.

Sustainable Maintenance Model

- Structured monitoring and regular maintenance ensured long-term plantation survival and impact.

Scalable Urban Plantation Framework

- The initiative established a replicable plantation model aligned with urban sustainability goals.

Target Achieved under **FY 25-26**

Area	Achievement
Integration	4+ sites integrated with corridors, intersections, NH-48 & metro viaduct
Environment	Reduced dust, better micro-climate, enhanced biodiversity
Coverage	31,610 sq. m developed
Transformation	1.5 km corridor improved
Sustainability	36-month maintenance model
Execution	100% continuity despite metro disruptions & relocations

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Project
Exide Diksha Scholarship for Engineering Students

The Exide Diksha Scholarship for Engineering Students is a dedicated education and talent development initiative designed to empower deserving engineering students through financial support and career advancement opportunities. Introduced for FY 2025–26, the program reflects a strong commitment to promoting technical education, nurturing future-ready engineering talent, and enabling students to pursue academic excellence without financial constraints. Under the initiative, scholarships amounting to INR 1,50,000 were provided to selected students to support their academic journey and reduce financial barriers to higher education.

During FY 2025–26, the scholarship program extended support to 18 engineering students across some of West Bengal's premier engineering institutions. The initiative was implemented at Jadavpur University, Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology, Shibpur, and National Institute of Technology Durgapur, ensuring strong academic outreach and regional representation. Covering key educational hubs such as Kolkata, Shibpur, and Durgapur, the program contributed meaningfully to strengthening the state's engineering education ecosystem while supporting the aspirations of young technical professionals.

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Program Strategic Impact

IInstitutional Outreach & Awareness

- Conducted outreach across premier engineering institutions to promote scholarship opportunities among eligible students.
- Shared information on eligibility, application procedures, and selection criteria to encourage wider participation.

Merit-Based Selection

- Evaluated applicants based on academic performance and essay-writing assessments.
- Shortlisted students with strong academic potential, leadership qualities, and career aspirations.

Scholarship Support

- Provided financial assistance to selected students to continue their engineering education.
- Ensured timely scholarship disbursement through smooth coordination with institutions and beneficiaries.

Monitoring & Follow-up

- Maintained regular follow-up with students and institutions to track beneficiary progress.
- Ensured accountability and effective utilization of scholarship support.

Fair & Transparent Process

- Followed a structured and merit-based evaluation system at every stage.
- Applied clear selection criteria to ensure fairness, transparency, and equal opportunity for all applicants.

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Project
Exide Scholarship for ITI Students

The program was initiated in FY 2025–26 with the objective of supporting ITI students and strengthening vocational education by enabling students to continue their technical training without financial barriers. The initiative was introduced to address key challenges faced by ITI students, such as financial constraints, limited access to training-related resources, and the risk of discontinuing education due to economic hardship. At the same time, the program was designed to contribute towards building a stronger pipeline of skilled youth who can meet the growing demand for trained manpower in industrial and technical sectors. Under the initiative, scholarships amounting to INR 45,000 were provided to eligible students to support their educational and training-related expenses.

During FY 2025–26, the program supported a total of 60 ITI students across selected ITI institutions. The initiative was implemented through collaboration with ITI colleges, where awareness was created among students regarding scholarship opportunities, eligibility requirements, and the selection process. Applications were invited from eligible candidates, followed by a structured screening and merit-based evaluation to ensure that the most deserving students were identified. The program was implemented in a way that ensured transparency, fairness, and timely scholarship support, ultimately helping students pursue their ITI education with greater confidence and improved career prospects.

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Program Strategic Impact

Scale & Coverage

The program was implemented at scale to support 60 ITI students across 5 industrial clusters and 8 ITI institutes. The initiative covered key locations including Taloja, Pune–Chinchwad, Ahmednagar, Bawal, and Haldia, ensuring wider geographic reach and impact across multiple skill-development regions.

Intervention Design

Each selected student received a scholarship of ₹45,000, aimed at reducing financial barriers and enabling uninterrupted vocational education. The program followed a structured and merit-based selection process consisting of application submission, screening, and interviews, ensuring that support reached deserving candidates. In addition, the program integrated industry exposure and engagement, helping students gain practical awareness and motivation towards skill-based careers.

Timeline

The program was executed within the planned timeline of September 2025 to March 2026, ensuring timely delivery and completion of all activities as per schedule.

Execution Model

The program adopted a strong execution framework supported by a digital application platform for streamlined application and selection management. It was implemented through strong partnerships with ITI institutions, enabling smooth coordination, student identification, and execution at the ground level. The model ensured end-to-end implementation and monitoring, maintaining transparency and accountability throughout the program cycle.

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Project Siksha

The program is a comprehensive school education and digital learning support initiative implemented at Senior Secondary School, Gairatpur Bass with the objective of strengthening the overall educational ecosystem through improved infrastructure and enhanced access to digital education resources. Designed as a strategic intervention, the initiative aimed to create a more inclusive, technology-enabled, and future-ready learning environment for students at the senior secondary level. Recognizing the growing importance of digital literacy in modern education, the program focused on providing students with access to digital tools and educational resources that support interactive learning, classroom engagement, and improved academic performance. The initiative also emphasized building awareness among students regarding the effective use of digital appliances and technology within the education sector, enabling them to develop essential digital learning skills and adapt to evolving educational practices.

Implemented in Gurgaon, Haryana, the program addressed key educational and infrastructural gaps through a structured school-level assessment process, under which critical requirements were identified and supported through targeted funding assistance. During the reporting period, the initiative directly benefited 405 students, including 190 girls and 215 boys, ensuring equitable outreach and inclusive impact. By integrating digital education support with infrastructure strengthening, the program contributed towards improving learning outcomes, enhancing student participation, and creating a safer, more engaging, and quality-driven educational environment.

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Program
Strategic Impact

Improved Learning Environment
By strengthening school infrastructure and facilities, the program contributed to creating a better educational atmosphere, supporting improved learning outcomes and student engagement.

Support to Adolescent Education & Retention
Improved school facilities help increase motivation among students and reduce dropout risk, particularly at the senior secondary level where continuation is often a challenge.

Enhanced Access and Student Well-being
The initiative supported students by improving the overall school ecosystem, contributing not only to academic learning but also to student comfort, safety, and well-being.

Inclusive Development for Girls and Boys
With direct benefits to both girls and boys, the program promoted equitable educational support and strengthened access to improved schooling conditions for all.

Community-Level Education Strengthening
By improving a government school in Gurgaon, the program created long-term value for the local community and contributed towards stronger educational infrastructure in the region.

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Project
Make My Trip Plantation

The Urban Green Plantation Initiative, implemented in Gurgaon, Haryana, in collaboration with MakeMyTrip, is a strategic urban sustainability intervention aimed at enhancing the city's green cover, environmental quality, and overall urban aesthetics. Conceptualized to address the growing environmental challenges associated with rapid urbanization, the initiative focuses on improving public spaces through structured plantation, landscaping, and beautification activities across identified high-impact locations. The program seeks to create cleaner, greener, and more organized urban surroundings while contributing towards improved ecological balance and community well-being.

Under the initiative, priority sites were identified and developed through systematic site preparation, plantation drives, landscape enhancement, and urban beautification measures. The program promotes the development of sustainable green spaces that support environmental improvement by aiding dust reduction, improving air quality, and strengthening urban biodiversity, while simultaneously enhancing the visual appeal of public corridors and community spaces. Implemented through a structured approach with long-term maintenance and monitoring mechanisms, the initiative contributes meaningfully towards Gurgaon's broader vision of urban sustainability, environmental stewardship, and responsible civic engagement.

Program
Strategic Impact

Improved Urban Environment

The program contributed towards cleaner and better-maintained public areas, improving the overall urban landscape of Gurgaon.

Enhanced Community Well-being

Improved surroundings create a positive impact on community health, safety, and daily living experience by reducing environmental degradation and promoting cleanliness.

Increased Civic Pride and Engagement

Beautification initiatives encourage local residents to take pride in their surroundings and motivate stronger community participation in maintaining public spaces.

Support to Sustainable City Development

By strengthening public space infrastructure and aesthetics, the program supported Gurgaon's long-term vision of becoming a cleaner, greener, and more livable city.

Target Achieved under **FY 25-26**

Category	Achievement
Site Preparation & Restoration	4,600 sq. m. cleared | Vegetation pruning | Debris removed
Central Verge Development	2,300 m stretch | Structured plantation zones | Corridor greening
Plantation Readiness	100% soil prepared | Defined plantation beds
Ongoing Maintenance	36-month cycle | Watering | Pruning | Gap filling
Plant Health & Survival	Regular monitoring | Soil improvement | High survival focus

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Project
Sun Pharma Career Counselling

The “Sun Pharma Career Counselling” program was initiated in Gujarat in collaboration with Sun Pharmaceutical Industries as a structured education and career guidance initiative aimed at enabling school students to make informed academic and professional decisions at an early stage. Designed to address the growing need for career awareness and direction among adolescents, the program focused on helping students identify their interests, understand their strengths and capabilities, explore diverse career pathways, and develop greater confidence in planning their future. The initiative aimed to create a supportive guidance ecosystem that empowers students with the knowledge and clarity required to make well-informed educational and career choices.

Implemented through a school partnership model, the program was conducted across 14 schools in Gujarat and directly benefited 1,945 students. The initiative was rolled out through a phased and systematic approach, beginning with school onboarding, stakeholder engagement, and student orientation sessions, followed by structured career counselling interventions and guidance activities. Through interactive counselling sessions, students were introduced to various academic streams, emerging career opportunities, skill requirements, and future education pathways, enabling them to make more informed and aspirational career decisions.

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Program
Strategic Impact

Student Orientation
Orientation sessions were conducted to build awareness on the importance of career planning, clarify misconceptions, and prepare students for the counselling process.

Psychometric Assessment
Scientific psychometric tools were used to assess student aptitude, interests, personality traits, and learning styles, enabling objective and data-driven career guidance.

Career Awareness Sessions
Students were introduced to a wide range of traditional and emerging career options, including required skills, education pathways, and future industry trends.

Personalized Counselling
Individual counselling sessions helped students understand their assessment results, explore suitable career directions, and gain clarity through personalized guidance.

Career Roadmap Support
Students were supported with a structured action plan including career options, academic recommendations, and next-step planning.

Behavioural Shift & Outcomes
The approach led to improved career awareness, increased confidence, reduced confusion, and stronger decision-making among students.

Project Hydroponics

The Hydroponics Project is an urban sustainability initiative aimed at promoting hyperlocal food production through decentralized hydroponic units installed in homes, workplaces, and institutions. The project enables year-round cultivation of fresh leafy greens using a smart 30-pod hydroponic system, supported by app-based crop monitoring and management.

Each unit produces 25–30 kg of greens annually (around 650 servings) with zero pesticide usage, while saving nearly 5,400 liters of water per year compared to conventional farming. By producing food close to the point of consumption, the project also reduces dependency on long supply chains and avoids 200–1000 km of food miles, supporting climate-friendly consumption practices.

Approach

The program follows a structured approach focused on sustainability, efficiency, and scalability:

- **Deployment of Smart Hydroponic Units**
- **App-Based Crop Management**
- **Resource-Efficient Cultivation**
- **Pesticide-Free Production**
- **Hyperlocal Consumption Model**
- **Scalable & Replicable Design**

Foundation for Development Initiative

Project Samriddhi-Metlife

Project Samriddhi, initiated in 2025 in collaboration with Metlife, is a climate-focused rural development initiative implemented in Fatehabad, Haryana. The project aims to promote sustainable crop residue management (CRM) and reduce stubble burning through large-scale community engagement, adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices, and women-led enterprise development.

The initiative has reached 4,500+ farmers across 45 villages, driving a shift away from residue burning through structured awareness and field-level interventions. Alongside farmer engagement, the project has also empowered 25–30 SHG women by establishing a women-led manufacturing enterprise, supporting unit setup, product development, and market linkage creation to enable sustainable livelihood generation.

The project has delivered strong environmental outcomes by managing crop residue across 7,500 acres, handling nearly 13,500 tonnes of residue, and avoiding approximately 20,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, contributing to improved air quality and climate resilience in the region.

Approach

1. Women-Led Enterprise Development

The project empowered 25–30 SHG women by supporting the establishment of a local manufacturing unit. The approach included:

Setting up production infrastructure

Training in product manufacturing and quality processes

Supporting product development

Establishing market linkages to ensure income generation and long-term sustainability

2. Climate-Smart Agriculture Promotion

The project promoted sustainable agricultural practices among 4,500 farmers, focusing on:

Adoption of sustainable CRM practices

Encouraging alternatives to residue burning

Improving awareness on soil health and long-term productivity

3. Community Mobilization & Awareness

To drive behavioural change, the project conducted:

180 awareness sessions across 45 villages

Farmer engagement activities and village-level demonstrations

Continuous communication to shift mindset away from residue burning

4. Sustainable Residue Management Implementation

The project supported large-scale field-level action by enabling:

Residue management across 7,500 acres

Scientific handling of 13,500 tonnes of crop residue

Reduction in air pollution and avoidance of 20,000 tonnes of GHG emissions

Foundation for Development Initiative

Meet Our Board of Directors

Vijay Singh

President & CEO

Vijay Singh brings over 25 years of experience across the voluntary, humanitarian, and private sectors in India, Canada, and the U.K. He holds a PG Diploma in CSR & Sustainability from the Swedish Institute, an M.A. in Public Administration, and a PG Diploma in International Human Rights Law. Vijay has led CSR initiatives with organizations including The Times Group, DLF Limited, and PI Industries.

Pooran Chandra Pandey

General Secretary

Pooran Chandra Pandey is a contributor to the global encyclopedia on poverty alleviation and basic income guarantee, and serves on the board of the World Food Programme Trust of India. He has held leadership roles with UN Global Compact Network India, Ispat Industries Limited, Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd, and as founding CEO of Dialogue Of Civilizations Research Institute.

Shashi Prakash

Treasurer

Shashi is a committed social worker with over 20 years of experience in child rights, child protection, and the right to education. He has worked with organizations including ActionAid, Aide et Action, UNICEF, Times Foundation, DLF Foundation, and Bharti Foundation. He is also a trainer on juvenile justice for police, judiciary, and government officials.

Aparajita Roy

Aparajita brings over 24 years of experience across the social sector, consulting, KPOs, and BPOs. She has managed workforces of over 3,000 employees across startups, multinational organizations, and academic institutions in India. Formerly Director of HR at the Public Health Foundation of India, she has provided strategic leadership while advancing CSR initiatives focused on health, environment, and gender equity.

Sqn Ldr Vidula Abhyankar, a retired Indian Air Force officer, has over 17 years of experience in education, training, and development for Air Warriors and their families. As Executive Director of Air Force Schools and nominee Chairperson of Kendriya Vidyalaya institutions under the defence. she contributed to nurturing young talent and strengthening educational and vocational support systems for defence families.

Sqn Ldr Vidula Abhyankar (Retd)

Shishir Lal

Shishir holds an M.Tech in Environmental Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology Bombay and specialization in sustainability from the Swedish Institute. With over 23 years of experience, he has led environmental and social impact assessments, climate change, and sustainability reporting projects with organizations including The World Bank, USAID, IFC, and currently serves as Head Sustainability at Emaar.

Sandeep is a senior journalist with over 15 years of experience with Star News, India TV, Aaj Tak, Republic Bharat, and currently TV9 Bharatvarsh. Holding a Master's degree from University of Delhi, he has extensively reported on cross-border terrorism and actively mentors young talent, strongly advocating education as a pathway to social inclusion and positive change.

Sandeep Kumar Seth

Foundation for Development Initiative

Meet Our Execution Team

Bhoop Singh
Lead- Partnerships and Program

Durgesh Sharma
Operation and Program Manager

Anmol Pandey
Finance & Accounts

Gaurav Khatri
Product Design & Research

Priya Grover
Business development

Sahil Sharma
State coordinator

Shruti Singh
Program Associate

Pankaj Sharma
District coordinator

Foundation for Development Initiative

Meet Our Execution Team

Ananya Anand
Social media and communications

Ravi prakash
Agricultural consultant

Saddam ahmed
Artisan & Prototyping Associate

Rahul
Accounts Associate

Rohit
Outreach Associate

Ali Kazmi
Communication & Design

Salman
Artisan & Prototyping Associate

Our Partners

Foundation for Development Initiative

unicef

Bill & Melinda Gates foundation

MetLife

DLF

EXIDE

The Times of India

Swedish Institute

Deloitte.

NatWest Group

make my trip

foi
Centre for economic and climate justice

pnb MetLife
Milkar life aage badhaein

Greenway Grameen Infra

SUN PHARMA

GMDA

Media Coverage

Project to check farm fires in Jind

Jind: The Foundation for Development Initiative (FDI) and NatWest Group India have launched a wide-scale project to mitigate crop residue burning in Jind district of Haryana. The initiative was launched during a farmer outreach field event on Wednesday.

FDI and NatWest Group India to launch a program to mitigate crop residue burning name "Harit Dhara- Saaf Vayu"

VIJENDER KUMAR / TNN / Jan 31, 2024, 22:15 IST

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रेड और ग्रीन जोन वाले 52 गांव प्रोजेक्ट समृद्धि में शामिल

संवाद सहयोगी, जागरण. अलेवा : फाउंडेशन फार डेवलपमेंट इनिशिएटिव्स संस्था की तरफ से फसल अवशेष प्रबंधन पर जिला स्तरीय किसान गोष्ठी भूप सिंह की अध्यक्षता में हुई। जिला कृषि उप निदेशक डा. गिरीश नागपाल ने कहा कि, यह परियोजना जिले में पराली जलाने की घटनाओं को कम करने और फसल अवशेषों के वैज्ञानिक प्रबंधन को बढ़ावा देने के उद्देश्य से प्रारंभ की है। प्रोजेक्ट समृद्धि जींद जिले के 52 गांवों को कवर करेगा। जिनमें रेड और ग्रीन जोन के गांव समूहों को पराली से उत्पाद बनाना सिखाकर आजीविका के नए अवसर भी प्रदान कर रही है। हमेटी में प्राकृतिक खेती के प्रशिक्षक डा. सुभाष चंद्र ने बताया कि प्राकृतिक खेती लागत को कम करने और मिट्टी की उर्वरता बनाए रखने में मददगार साबित हो सकती है।

इस अवसर पर बीएओ डा. सुरेंद्र कादयान, कुलदीप रेढू, सरपंच जयपाल रेढू उपस्थित रहे। डा. गिरीश नागपाल ने किसानों को फसल अवशेष प्रबंधन के साथ- साथ राज्य एवं केंद्र सरकार द्वारा दी जा रही

CLIMATE SAMURAI

FDI and NatWest Group India Unite to Combat Stubble Burning in Jind, Haryana with 'Harit Dhara, Saaf Vayu' Initiative

फसल अवशेष प्रबंधन पर जिला स्तरीय किसान गोष्ठी आयोजित

फसल अवशेष प्रबंधन पर किसानों के साथ जागरूकता गोष्ठी

प्राकृतिक खेती लागत को कम करने और मिट्टी की उर्वरता बनाने में होती मददगार

अलेवा, शाहपुर गांव में कार्यक्रम में उपस्थित किसान व महिलाएं।

राली से उद्यमिता: गुलदस्ते, बेंच स्टैंड, चटाई, पावदान और इट वाली फूलझड़ी बनाया, 30 महिलाओं का दिया रोज़गार

BioVoice Get Heard

www.biovoicenews.com

FDI & NatWest Group India partner to support farmers in Haryana to mitigat crop residue burning

Aimed at assisting farmers in adopting environment friendly alternatives to stubble burning using successful project model, it will lead to improved soil health and reduced air pollution levels

By BioVoice News Desk · February 1, 2024

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Foundation for Development Initiative

Our Impact Highlights

10,00,000+

Farmers trained in Good Agricultural Practices

60,000+

rural and urban poor receive basic preventive and curative healthcare annually in North India

₹60 lakh

in scholarships initiated for students, supporting access to education and fostering academic growth.

13,500+

government school-going children benefitted with improved learning & retention levels

Foundation for Development Initiative

Our Impact Highlights

12,000+

Acres of paddy land brought under Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) cultivation for sustainable agriculture

5,000+

Women and youth provided with employment-linked skill training every year

3.2 Lakh

acres of farmland prevented from stubble (parali) burning

10 lakh

Saplings planted under Green Drive Urban Plantation and Beautification initiative, advancing urban greening and cleaner air.

500+

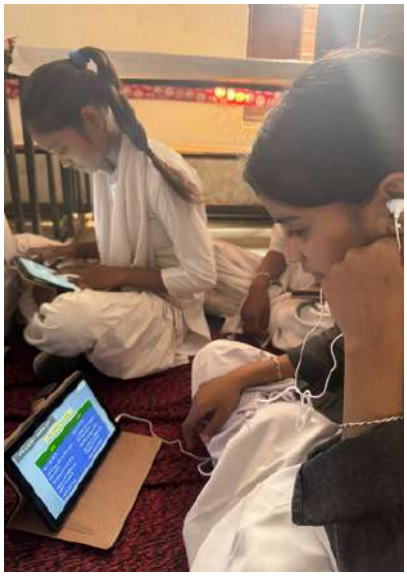
Rural women trained to create products from agri-waste (parali)

Foundation for Development Initiative

Program Gallery

Foundation for Development Initiative

Program Gallery



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Program Gallery

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Contact Us

https://www.developmentinitiatives.org

+91 9918455550 , +91 9899677890

info@developmentinitiatives.org

Plot No. 70, 2nd Floor,
Sai Enclave, Sector 23,
Dwarka - 110077, New Delhi

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