

21 YEARS



Foundation for
Development Initiative

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24



ADDRESSING A
BROAD SPECTRUM
OF DEVELOPMENT
ISSUES

AGRICULTURE | EDUCATION & SKILLS |
ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE | HEALTH |
TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION |
WATER & SANITATION

ADDRESSING A BROAD SPECTRUM OF DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

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The Foundation for Development Initiative (FDI) was established in 2003 by a 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



Dear Stakeholders,

Sukhbir Singh, a farmer from Bighana Village in Jind, Haryana, cultivated non-basmati rice across 11 acres. Initially planning to burn the crop residue after harvesting, Sukhbir was advised by the FDI staff about the losses and benefits of crop residue management. Heeding their advice, he decided against burning and, with FDI's help, acquired a baler from a neighboring village. The baler managed his field and extended its services to 150-200 acres in the village, preventing crop burning. This initiative inspired other farmers to pledge against burning residue, ensuring timely wheat sowing.

Sukhbir Singh's story is a proof of the power of collaboration, education, and sustainable practices. It highlights the core values and mission of FDI: to empower communities through knowledge and resources, driving sustainable development from the ground up.

Over the past year, FDI has continued to expand its reach and impact across multiple sectors, including agriculture, health, education, and livelihood development. Our projects have touched the lives of thousands, providing them with the tools and support needed to improve their quality of life and secure a better future.

Our achievements are a collective result of the dedication and hard work of our team, partners, and community members. As we move forward, FDI remains steadfast in its commitment to creating lasting change through sustainable development. We will continue to innovate, adapt, and collaborate, ensuring that our projects meet the evolving needs of the communities we serve.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

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

VISION

FDI envisages a society, which is economically productive, socially equitable, environmentally sound, culturally vibrant, and truly democratic.

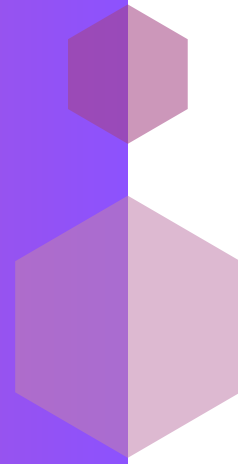
FOCUS AREAS

- Agriculture
- Education & Skills
- Environment & Climate
- Health
- Technology & Innovation
- Water & Sanitation

MISSION

- Creation of “enabling environments”, through fostering public-private partnerships and capacity building of stakeholders.
- Our mission is to coordinate an integrated approach to development, by assembling under a single umbrella and forming collaborations with the grassroot organisations, communities, businesses, and individuals working in the sector.

Projects undertaken in **2023-24**



Project Dharunam

Dharunam provides end-to-end solutions to rural and tribal communities struggling to overcome poverty. The project's strength lies in the rich experience of our development professionals who offer their services pro bono, focusing on sustainability and creating better livelihood opportunities for these rural communities.

Implementing these programs in rural territories and tribal communities, Dharunam addresses a broad spectrum of development issues, including poverty alleviation, education and skills, environment, health, water and sanitation, good governance, micro-enterprise development, technology and innovation, and sustainable agricultural practices.

Our Current Intervention

A pilot project has been initiated in building the economy of a tribal area in the Saraikela-Kharsawan district, adjoining West Singhbhum in Jharkhand. Using a hub-and-spoke model, the hub is set up in Chaliama (Tumung) Village of Rajnagar Block. The surrounding villages have small land holdings, and agricultural practices are rapidly diminishing. Many families migrate to urban areas to work in brick kilns, stone quarries, and construction site. The onset of COVID-19 in May 2020 caused significant reverse migration, leaving families dependent on government subsidies and vulnerable to exploitation by middlemen who took young children to cities for meagerly paid domestic work.



Location: Saraikela
Kharsawan,
West
Singhbhum, Jharkhand

Beneficiaries: Tribal
population of 18 Villages

It is essential to generate local livelihood opportunities to engage adults at the local level and provide them with daily wages to sustain their families. Dharunam has established a community-based integrated sustainable development program in Chaliama village, promoting the concept of a model village with improved health, nutrition, sanitation, and livelihood status, focusing on women, children, and youths. The program includes interventions in maternal and child health, hygiene and sanitation, safe drinking water, employment-linked skills, and income-generating activities, including agriculture on their land.

Ongoing Programmes by Dharunam

1

Farmer Field School (FFS) has been established on 10 acres of land to demonstrate sustainable and fully organic agricultural practices using advanced techniques. Practical activities, such as multi-layer farming techniques, are demonstrated to farmers on-site. These methods enable farmers to produce a substantial amount of food for both personal consumption and sale, even on a small plot of land as small as 10 decimals.

2

A Safe drinking water facility has been established to address the critical issue of clean water availability in the village, where waterborne diseases are prevalent in the surrounding areas. Additionally, there is a need to educate and create awareness among the local community about utilizing low-cost methods to improve the quality of drinking water.

3

An integrated low-cost solar facility has been established to demonstrate, with the installation of an environmental friendly power generation system, both irrigation and household electricity needs can be efficiently met.

4

A dairy is being established to demonstrate its dual benefits: supporting organic farming and fulfilling the family's nutritional needs. Additionally, any surplus can be processed and sold, generating income for the family.

Project Harit Dhara, Saaf Vayu

Initiated in 2024 in collaboration with NatWest Group, "Harit Dhara, Saaf Vayu" focuses on addressing sustainable practices under RWCS (Rice Wheat Cropping System) namely, Crop Residue Management (CRM) and Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR) in Jind District, Haryana to combat stubble burning through a multi-pronged approach. Bringing together stakeholders such as, the Department of Agriculture, Haryana, District Administration, Jind, Haryana State CSR Trust, Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs), and Farmers,

The project's primary objectives include reducing Active Fire Locations (AFLs) in the Jind district, raising awareness about the harmful effects of stubble burning, promoting alternative methods like Crop Residue Management (CRM), and sensitizing farmers to Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR), a climate-smart agriculture practice. Various activities such as stakeholder engagement, Focus Group Discussions (FDGs), one-to-one interactions, awareness programs, and the use of the Krishi Yantra Saathi mobile application for CRM services will be pillars of the project.



**Location: 96 villages of 7
Blocks of Jind, Haryana**

Farmland: 18,708 acres

Beneficiaries: 5,492 farmers

Approach

1

Farmer Awareness of Sustainable Agricultural practices leading to Natural Resource Conservation

- Engaging with government officials to conduct Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) events at the village level. IEC merchandise with CRM messages are distributed in each village.
- Establishing networks with farmers and community leaders through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), one-on-one interactions, training sessions, farm events, door-to-door campaigns, and outreach videos.

2

Building a Bridge between the farmer and service providers for Crop Residue Management

The project will facilitate booking services through various channels, including village events, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), one-on-one interactions, and the Krishi Yantra Saathi Mobile App.

3

Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR) Awareness and Adaption

- Transferring knowledge to registered farmers through Focused Group Discussions (FGDs), door-to-door campaigns, and distributing IEC materials like pamphlets and posters in target villages.
- To ensure the adoption of DSR by farmers, setting up demonstration plots in various villages covering aspects from sowing to harvest.

Target

- 1 Over the course of 3 years, the project will hold a series of **182 village-level events**, facilitating **1,274 FGDs**, group interactions, and engaging in **45,654 one-to-one meetings with farmers**
- 2 The project aims to **raise awareness among 19,000 beneficiaries** at various levels
- 3 Promoting the **adoption of DSR with more than 4,000 farmers**
- 4 Supporting the **establishment of DSR demonstration plots – a total of 192 – spanning across 77 hectares**
- 5 Aiming to achieve an **awareness adoption rate of 30%**, approx. **1,200 farmers covering 500 hectares by 2026**



Highlights: Project Launch

In January 2024, 'Harit Dhara, Saaf Vayu' was launched in Jind, Haryana, to promote and demonstrate sustainable agriculture practices - Crop Residue Management and Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR). The launch brought together key stakeholders namely Dr. Ranpal Singh, Vice Chancellor of Chaudhary Ranbir Singh University (CRSU), Jind, Mr. Nihal Singh, Controller of Examination at Chaudhary Ranbir Singh University, Dr. Girish Nagpal, Deputy Director of Agriculture (DDA), AAE, Jind, and key members of NatWest Group, including Mr. Saurabh Gupta, Mr. Ross Douglas, Ms. Kiranmayi Guduru, Mr. Dhiraj Anand, Ms. Tania Chatterjee, and Mr. Vijay Singh, and Mr. Pooran Chandra Pandey from FDI. At the launch event, 20 progressive farmers were honored for adopting Crop Residue Management and sustainable practices in the 2023 season. With the participation of over 150 farmers and stakeholders, the event marked the beginning of a transformative journey towards sustainable agricultural practices.



Speaking on the occasion, **Dr. Ranpal Singh, Vice Chancellor of Chaudhary Ranbir Singh University** expressed the urgency to cease stubble burning due to its extensive implications on public health and the environment. Lauding the initiative, he stated that the project will provide farmers with alternatives, as burning stubble often becomes the sole recourse due to a lack of options.

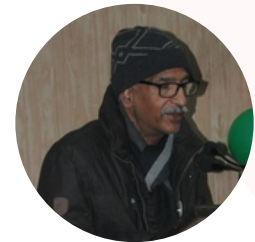
"Every acre of crop residue holds a value of INR 1,800, yet we recklessly burn approximately INR 150 Cr worth of this resource. It's not just the rise in pollution levels but also a fortune going up in flames, which is a stark reminder of the economic and environmental cost we pay for the unsustainable practice of stubble burning," said **Dr. Girish Nagpal, Deputy Director of Agriculture (DDA), AAE, Jind, Haryana**



Mr. Vijay Singh, President, FDI said, "Air pollution levels have been increasing over the years, exacerbating global warming, and affecting economies. We are pleased to announce our partnership with NatWest Group India. Through the 'Harit Dhara, Saaf Vayu' initiative, we aim to assist farmers in adopting environment-friendly alternatives to stubble burning using a successful project model, which will lead to improved soil health and reduced air pollution levels."



Ms. Tania Chatterjee, Head of Sustainability at NatWest Group, applauded FDI's commitment to sustainability. Underscoring the urgent need to combat crop residue burning, she emphasized that this is a prevalent issue plaguing Northern India's farmlands. The partnership aims to engage with farmers and local communities in Jind, promoting cost-effective and eco-friendly stubble management practices. The goal is to foster awareness and encourage the adoption of sustainable precision farming methods, creating a healthier environment for agriculture and ecosystems.



Mr. Pooran Chandra Pandey, General Secretary, FDI, discussed the importance of agriculture in India, emphasizing its significance for the livelihood of a large population. He mentioned the need for programs to support both urban and rural businesses. Additionally, he highlighted the environmental impact of agriculture, particularly in terms of pollution, and stresses the importance of cleaner and greener practices.



Mr. Saurabh Gupta, Chief Financial Officer & Head of Finance Hub, NatWest Group, spoke about NatWest Group's strong commitment to addressing climate change issues by emphasizing on sustainable practices, reducing carbon footprint, and fostering environmental awareness to contribute positively towards a greener future.

Crop Residue Management Initiative

The North Indian states of Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh suffer from rampant air pollution, emission of GHG, respiratory issues, and increased soil temperature due to widespread burning of the paddy straw in the harvest season in winter. Amongst them, Haryana ranks second highest in terms of the amount of stubble burnt (1.6MT) and number of occurrences of fire incidents (6987) in the year 2021.

FDI partnered with Deloitte in spearheading a Crop Residue Management (CRM) to make a significant impact in the agricultural landscape of Haryana, specifically in the 24 red villages and 72 yellow villages in Jind, as well as the 36 red villages and 107 yellow villages in Kaithal. Addressing the critical issue of stubble burning, the initiative aimed to combat air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and respiratory challenges prevalent in North Indian states during the winter harvest season. In 2023, recognizing challenges such as limited awareness, lack of affordable CRM machines, and the absence of a formalized marketplace, The project adopted a three-pronged strategy across district, block, and village levels.



Location: 239 villages of Jind and Kaithal, Haryana

Substantially Mitigated Active Fire Locations (AFLs) in Jind and Kaithal

Approach

1

IEC Awareness Program: An innovative **Information, Education, and Communication (IEC)** campaign designed and executed to raise awareness among farmers. It involved stakeholder engagement, government collaboration, & the dissemination of awareness through various means, including collateral distribution and social media outreach adopting the help of the fiction character 'Parivartan Prakash', which aims to weave narratives that inspire positive change, foster awareness, and spark meaningful conversations around our initiatives.

2

A multi-lingual mobile application, Krishi Yantra Saathi (KYS) App, was introduced, enabling farmers to access services and assistance from equipment owners seamlessly – from promoting awareness to conducting app-based surveys and ensuring efficient coordination among stakeholders. The Demand-Supply ecosystem for paddy stubble is orchestrated by identifying operators, assessing markets, and maintaining real-time updates on the app. Additionally, a Result Monitoring and Feedback Collection System is integrated, encompassing data collection, status reporting, and stakeholder feedback, contributing to a comprehensive and dynamic framework for successful project execution.

3

Facilitating of Market Linkage:

Provided comprehensive support to farmers, including creating market linkages that connect them with potential buyers for their stubble. This aimed to provide farmers with an additional source of income while promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

Our Impact

10,00,000+

farmers trained in good agricultural practices

5,000+

acres of land prevented from stubble burning

5,000+

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

60,000

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

5,000

women and youth provided employment-linked skilling every year

12,000+

acres of land under paddy cultivation through Direct Seeded Rice technique



Story of Change



**Dayanand,
Shahpur Village
Jind, Haryana**

“

I faced challenges in availing a subsidy for a baler, but my desire to contribute to stubble management never wavered. When the FDI team approached me, I expressed my wish to be part of this initiative. The team arranged a baler for rent from Dalampura village, and I gladly provided my services in stubble management. With the rented baler, I was able to assist around 250 to 300 acres of farmland, not only in my village but also in nearby villages.

Being part of stubble management not only allowed me to contribute to a crucial cause but also provided a decent income. I'm grateful for the opportunity, and I encourage fellow farmers to join hands in sustainable agricultural practices.

Thank you, FDI!

Our Partners

BILL & MELINDA
GATES foundation



SI. Swedish
Institute



Deloitte.



Media Coverage



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

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

By BioVoice News Desk · February 1, 2024



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

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



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.

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Deli aur dharan ke uss anasari

फाउंडेशन फॉर डेवलपमेंट इनिशिएटिव (एफडीआई) और नैटवेस्ट ग्रुप इंडिया ने मिलकर फसल अवशेष प्रबंधन के लिए "हरित धरा -साफ वायु" प्रोग्राम की शुरुआत।

संबंधितता , जींद

सोमवार, 29 जनवरी, 2024: फाउंडेशन फॉर डेवलपमेंट इनिशिएटिव (एफडीआई) और नैटवेस्ट ग्रुप इंडिया ने मिलकर हरियाणा के जींद जिले में फसल अवशेषों को जलाने को कम करने के लिए एक व्यापक परियोजना की शुरुआत की है। इस पहल का आयोजन आज हमेटी ऑडिटोरियम, जींद, हरियाणा में एक किसान आउटरीच कार्यक्रम के दौरान किया गया। इस अवसर पर डॉ. रणपाल सिंह (वाइस चांसलर, चौधरी रणवीर सिंह विश्वविद्यालय, जींद) ने फसल अवशेष जलाने के दुष्प्रभावों के बारे में बताया तथा उन्होंने परंपरा जताते हुए कहा कि परियोजना किसानों को विकल्प प्रदान करेगा, क्योंकि इनकी कमी के कारण स्टबल जलाना अक्सर एकमात्र विकल्प बन जाता है। कृषि उप निदेशक श्री गिरीश नागपाल जी ने किसानों को संबोधित करते हुए बताया कि इस दिशा में पूरे वर्ष कार्य करने की आवश्यकता है तथा उन्होंने कृषि विभाग के द्वारा चलायी जा रही विभिन्न परियोजनाओं कि जानकारी दी। श्री सोरभ गुप्ता, मुख्य वित्तीय अधिकारी और फाइनेंस हब के प्रमुख, नैटवेस्ट ग्रुप इंडिया, ने कहा कि वायु प्रदूषण जैसे मुद्दों का सामना करने के लिए नैटवेस्ट ग्रुप का मजबूत समर्थन है, जिसमें सतत अभ्यासों, कार्बन फुटप्रिंट को कम करने, और पर्यावरण जागरूकता को प्रोत्साहित करने पर जोर दिया जाता है, ताकि एक हरित भविष्य के प्रति सकारात्मक योगदान किया जा सके। एफडीआई और नैटवेस्ट ग्रुप इंडिया साझेदारी टिकाऊ कृषि प्रथाओं - फसल अवशेष प्रबंधन और जींद जिले में चावल की सीधी बुआई को बढ़ावा देगी। यह परियोजना हरियाणा के जींद जिले में 7 ब्लॉकों, 96 गांवों और 18,708 एकड़ कृषि भूमि को शामिल करते हुए संपूर्ण चावल गेहूं फसल प्रणाली (आरसीडब्ल्यूएस) को पूरा करेगी, जिससे स्थायी हस्तक्षेप के माध्यम से 5,492 से अधिक किसानों को लाभ होगा। इस अवसर पर डॉ. निहाल सिंह, इंजीनियर विजय कुंडू, फाउंडेशन फॉर डेवलपमेंट इनिशिएटिव (एफडीआई) और नैटवेस्ट ग्रुप इंडिया टीम तथा 150 से अधिक किसान मौजूद रहे।



“परियोजना जिले के 7 ब्लॉकों, 96 गांवों तथा 18,760 एकड़ भूमि को शामिल करेगी”



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