



Foundation for  
Development Initiative



**2024-2025**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**ADDRESSING MULTIPLE DIMENSIONS OF  
DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES**

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

# ADDRESSING MULTIPLE DIMENSIONS OF DEVELOPMENT 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



*Dear Friends, Partners, and Stakeholders,*

For over two decades, the Foundation for Development Initiative (FDI) has upheld a core conviction — that when communities are empowered with dignity, they become the architects of their own progress. Since 2003, FDI has evolved into a dynamic consortium championing holistic and equitable development for India's most underserved populations.

This year demonstrated meaningful advancement. In collaboration with our partners, we reached over 700,000 farmers — 51% of them women — reaffirming our commitment to inclusive rural prosperity. Our climate-smart agriculture efforts resulted in a 45% reduction in freshwater use, a 30% decline in stubble-burning pollution, and a 35% decrease in methane emissions, strengthening livelihoods while enhancing ecological resilience.

Our initiatives expanded across 10+ states, improving access to services and supporting communities through agricultural sustainability, natural resource management, livelihoods, education, skilling, and health interventions. Partnership continues to be our cornerstone — enabling scalable, last-mile impact through close collaboration with government, private sector, academia, and community institutions.

As we move forward, we remain focused on deepening programme quality, broadening scale, and strengthening long-term sustainability, with an unwavering emphasis on advancing rural prosperity for marginalized farming communities.

Our progress reflects the trust of communities, the commitment of partners, and the dedication of the FDI family. I extend my sincere appreciation to all.

*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 build a future where every community thrives in harmony with nature. A future defined by equity, resilience, and shared prosperity. We envision a world free from poverty and environmental degradation, where people have the knowledge, opportunities, and resources to lead dignified lives, and ecosystems are restored and protected for generations to come.

## MISSION

Our mission is to drive sustainable and inclusive development by empowering communities, strengthening livelihoods, and advancing environmental stewardship. We work to ensure that development interventions are grounded in data, shaped by community participation, and aligned with long-term ecological wellbeing.

## FOCUS AREAS

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

# Projects Undertaken in FY

2024-2025



# Project Dharunam

Project Dharunam continues to empower tribal communities across 18 villages in Saraikela-Kharsawan district of Jharkhand through a multi-dimensional approach combining sustainable agriculture, strengthened community institutions, and enhanced livelihood opportunities. Building on strong foundations from earlier years, the project has accelerated adoption of modern farming practices, supported women and youth entrepreneurship, and ensured greater access to essential services.

## Key Achievements (April 2024 – January 2025)

### Sustainable Agriculture & Improved Productivity

- 625 farmers have adopted improved farming practices such as multi-layer cropping, natural fertilization, and efficient water management.
- Demonstrations conducted across four Farmer Field Schools for hands-on learning.
- Vegetable crops recorded a steady 12–18% increase in yield during Kharif 2024 due to better techniques and resource optimization.

### Women and Youth Empowerment

- 22 new women-led micro-enterprises are now operating and linked to local markets.
- 285 youth trained in digital literacy, enterprise planning, and career readiness.
- More women and youth have become active economic contributors within the community.

### Strengthened Community Institutions-

- 18 Self-Help Groups revitalized through capacity building and financial linkage support.
- Local user groups formed to manage water, irrigation, and common assets, ensuring long-term sustainability and ownership.

### Natural Resource Management and Climate Resilience

- 7 vermicompost units and 3 solar irrigation solutions established to reduce input costs and ground water stress.
- Introduction of soil health cards and seasonal crop advisories to promote climate-smart agriculture.

### Community Health, Wellbeing and Enablement

- Over 1,100 individuals reached through awareness drives on sanitation, nutrition, and safe water usage.
- Improved adoption of clean energy practices and reduced dependency on chemical inputs.

# Direct Beneficiaries Reached in FY 2024–25 (Till March 2025)

Impact Area	FY 24–25	Cumulative Progress
Farmers trained and adopting improved practices	625	2,400+
Women engaged in livelihoods	420	1,800+
SHGs strengthened and operational	18	75+
Youth trained and linked to opportunities	Youth trained and linked to opportunities	300+
Households benefiting from irrigation & NRM solutions	350	2,500+

## 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



# Project Harit Dhara, Saaf Vayu

**Initiated in 2023 in collaboration with NatWest Group, "Harit Dhara, Saaf Vayu"**

This program 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.



# Approach

## **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 Focused Group Discussions (FGDs), one-on-one interactions, training sessions, farm events, door-to-door campaigns, and outreach videos.

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

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

## **Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR) Awareness and Adaption**

Transferring knowledge to registered farmers through Focused Group Discussions (FGDs), Village level campaigns, One to One Interactions 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 Achieved under **FY 24-25**

## Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) Demonstrations

- **41** demo plots established, leading to **115** adoptions implemented on **593** acres.
- **1,248** farmers participated in on-field demonstrations, covering **9,028** acres (**3655 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 **3,345** farmers directly benefited, managing stubble across **10,162** hectares (**37% higher than our initial target**)
- Targeted Awareness Campaigns: Conducted **45 mega events, 325 FGDs, and 13,042 one-on-one interactions to drive behavioral change**
- Our team actively facilitated both **in-situ and ex-situ stubble management**.

# Economic Impact

- DSR Input Savings: ₹3,631/acre.
- ROI (PB 1509): 181% DSR vs 171% 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. 22 crores saved from burning @INR 1800/ton in 24,904 hectares.

# Environmental Impact

- Water Saved: 66.7 crore litres via DSR.
- Reduced Emissions: 6.05 lakh kg CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent.
- Methane Emissions Reduced: ~40–45%
- Soil Health: Moderate gains in organic carbon (from soil tests).

AFL in 2022	AFL in 2023	AFL in 2024
505 (As reported)	323 (36.03% reduction)	218 (43.6% reduction)

# Project Samriddhi

Initiated in 2024 in collaboration with PNB MetLife, "Project Samriddhi" focuses on strengthening sustainable practices in rural Haryana by integrating Crop Residue Management (CRM) with women-led livelihood development across the rice–wheat cropping system. Implemented in 20 villages of Jind and Uchana blocks, the project aims to reduce stubble burning while simultaneously enabling women to gain skills and economic opportunities through value-added use of crop residue.

Bringing together stakeholders such as the Department of Agriculture, Haryana, District Administration, Jind, Self-Help Group (SHG) Department, Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs), service providers, and local farmers, the project adopts a multi-pronged approach to achieve sustainable community-led outcomes. The initiative emphasizes reducing Active Fire Locations (AFLs) in the district, improving community-level awareness on the harmful impacts of residue burning, and promoting both in-situ and ex-situ CRM solutions to encourage cleaner farming practices.

A key component of the project is the establishment of the Samriddhi Skill Centre, where 30 SHG women were trained to convert paddy residue (parali) into marketable handicraft products, creating a circular model that transforms agricultural waste into livelihood opportunities. Alongside this, activities such as stakeholder engagement, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), village-level awareness meetings, one-to-one farmer interactions, the use of CRM machinery, and coordinated field actions formed the backbone of the program.

## Title: Scale & Reach

- 20 villages across Jind & Uchana blocks
- 4,907 farmers reached
- 3,803 farmers linked to CRM services
- 30 SHG women trained
- 234 FGDs, 80 awareness sessions
- 77 AFL hotspots identified
- 3,500 acres covered

# Approach of Project Samriddhi

## Community Engagement & Behaviour Change

Project Samriddhi adopts a strong grassroots engagement model where field teams conduct village-level meetings, demonstrations, and door-to-door interactions to build awareness on sustainable farming practices. Behaviour change communication (BCC) is strengthened through IEC materials, wall paintings, and thematic campaigns, ensuring consistent messaging that encourages farmers to shift from traditional residue burning to climate-smart solutions.

## Capacity Building & Farmer Skill Enhancement

A core focus of the project is strengthening farmers' technical understanding and practical capabilities. Trainings are conducted on crop residue management (CRM), soil health management, machinery usage, and improved agricultural practices. The project also nurtures a cadre of agri-entrepreneurs who are trained to operate and manage modern machinery, ensuring sustainability and local service availability.

## Access to Mechanization & Technology Adoption

Samriddhi enhances farmers' access to sustainable agricultural machinery through custom hiring models, community-level equipment pooling, and support for machinery operators. Demonstrations showcase the effectiveness of tools like mulchers, seeders, and rakes, helping farmers experience first-hand the benefits of improved residue management. Affordable and timely access to mechanization reduces dependency on burning and promotes better field preparation.

## Promotion of Climate-Smart & Improved Agronomic Practices

The project emphasizes practical adoption of climate-resilient techniques such as in-situ residue management, soil conservation, crop rotation, and optimized fertilizer use. Demonstration plots and success stories help build local confidence and encourage wider adoption. Farmers are supported in making informed decisions that boost productivity, reduce emissions, and improve long-term soil health.

## Monitoring, Evaluation & Institutional Partnerships

Regular field monitoring, farmer feedback, and field officer reports help track progress and tailor interventions. The project collaborates with government departments, FPOs, local leaders, and private stakeholders to strengthen implementation and leverage existing schemes. These partnerships ensure improved outreach, resource convergence, and long-term sustainability of project outcomes.

# 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.

# Meet Our Board of Directors



**Pooran Chandra  
Pandey**  
General Secretary



**Vijay Singh**  
President & CEO



**Shashi Prakash**  
Treasurer



**Aparajita Roy**



**Sqn Ldr Vidula Abhyankar  
(Retd)**



**Shishir Lal**



**Sandeep Kumar Seth**

# 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*

# 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*

# Our Partners



BILL & MELINDA  
GATES foundation



**Deloitte.**



# 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



रेड और ग्रीन जोन वाले 52 गांव प्रोजेक्ट समुद्धि में शामिल

संवाद मराठीयों, जागरण, अंतेका :  
फारंडेशन पार डेकलप्मेंट  
इनिशिएटिव संस्था को तरफ से  
फसल अवधारण प्रबंधन का जिसा  
संस्थान गोडी भूमि की  
अव्यक्ति में हुई। जिला कौशि उप  
नियोक्तक डा. गिरिश नायापाल ने कहा  
कि, यह पर्यावरण जिले में प्राप्त  
जलाने के बठनाओं का काम करने  
और फसल अवधारण के वैज्ञानिक  
प्रबंधन को बढ़ावा देने के उद्देश्य से  
प्रारंभ की है। जोकें समिति जिंद  
जिले के 52 गांवों को कवर करेगा।  
जिम्मेदार रेत और जल के गों  
संहों को परानी से उत्थान बनाना  
सिखाकर आजीविका के नए अवसर  
पी ध्रवन कर रही है। हमें ये  
में प्रतिक्रिया के परिवर्क डा. सुभाष  
चंद्र ने बताया कि खेतों की  
लागतों को कम करने और मिट्टी की  
उत्तरता बनाए रखने में मददगार  
सर्वियत हो सकती है।

इस अवसर पर चैप्पौ डा. सुरेंद्र  
कामान, लुक्कीप रेत संस्थान  
जयपाल रेत उपस्थित है। डा. गिरिश  
नायापाल ने कहा कि किसानों को फसल  
प्रबंधन के साथ-साथ राशि याच  
एवं कैप्स संस्कार रखा दी जा रही

फसल अवशेष प्रबंधन पर किसानों के साथ जागरूकता गोची प्राकृतिक खेती लागत को कम करने और मिट्टी की उर्वरता बनाने में होती मददगार



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



इस प्रकार विद्यार्थी को विवेचित करते रहते हैं, विद्यार्थी में उत्तमिका विद्यार्थी यह बताते हैं।

# BioVoice

www.biovoicenews.com  
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 successful project model, it will lead to improved soil health and reduced air pollution levels.*

By BioVoice News Desk • February 1, 2024



# 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**



**5,000+**

**school-going children benefited through  
improved learning and retention outcomes**

# Our Impact Highlights



**12,00,0+**

**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**



**6,000+**

**acres of farmland prevented from stubble (parali) burning**

**500+**

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





Foundation for  
Development Initiative

# Contact Us



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