

Workshop on Women in agriculture –Emerging challenges and opportunities

MKSP Summary

Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) is a special program initiated for livelihood enhancement and vulnerability reduction in 2010-11, by Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD). The program envisages empowering women in agriculture by making systematic investments to enhance their participation and productivity, and also to create and sustain agriculture based livelihoods of rural women. The program is being implemented by National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) in partnership with State Departments/CSOs as implementing partners (PIAs) across the country.

Under NRLM, the core agenda of MKSP is to (i) create sustainable livelihood institutions around agriculture and allied activities (ii) create sector-specific geography-specific best package of practices and (iii) create a wide pool of community resource persons for scaling up livelihood interventions in the entire country

MKSP (Agriculture) Progress in Odisha

The monitoring and evaluation of MKSP is currently being looked after by Odisha Rural Marketing and Development Society (ORMAS), an autonomous body under the Panchayati Raj Department.

Under MKSP (Agriculture) proposals of seven PIAs have been sanctioned by MoRD. PIAs under MKSP are :

- SODI Consortium-Lead-Madhyam Foundation
- LAVS
- Harsha Trust
- Madhyam Foundation
- ORRISSA
- MS Swaminathan Research Foundation
- PRADAN

These proposals with a total project cost of Rs.38.50 crores for three years will be covering 35,450 Mahila Kisans of nine (9) districts of the states. The districts are Koraput, Rayagada, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Khordha and Kandhamal.

Objective of the workshop

MKSP designed to address issues of women farmers can facilitate creative interaction with an objective to understand the challenges women are facing in present situation and what kind of opportunities can be thought of to perform better and build up a resilient system. Hence ORMAS, under the aegis of Odisha Livelihoods Mission, is providing a platform to women farmers as well as persons working with them regarding their feedback on the challenges they are facing and discuss about possible opportunities as well.

Proposed date of workshop: 16th February 2015 (Monday)

Possible participants: 70

ORMAS / OLM, Partners of MKSP and women farmers from their respective areas, some NGO representatives, academicians and individuals working on the issue of SRI / SCI, gender and agriculture, DRWA, Department of Agriculture and Food Production, OTELP, OUAT and CRRI.

	No. of persons
MKSP PIAs	7
Partner NGOS of Madhyam and SODI	14
Mahila Kisans /CRPs	21
Individuals from MVSN, ,Department of Agriculture and Food Production, OTELP, OUAT , IMAGE , NABARD, DRWA and CRRI	6
Other NGO Partners & Acamedicians	10
ORMAS/OLM/ Officials	15
Total	73

Resource Person:

Renowned academician-activist **Dr. Joan Mencher** from Second Chance Foundation, USA, who has spent lot of time studying issues of smallholder women and landless agricultural labourers, sustainable agriculture, has kindly consented to join if such an interactive workshop takes place, where her rich experience can be shared with the other participants.

Methodology

It will be an interactive workshop including discussions, presentations and sharing of field experiences by participants

Tentative Schedule of the workshop (Needs to be finalized)

<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
10:30 – 11:00 a.m.	Welcome address by Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Panchayati Raj Department.
11:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Keynote address by Executive Director, ORMAS MKSP progress in Odisha
11:30 - 12:00 p.m.	Overview by Dr. Jones; Introduction by all participants ;
12:00 - 12:30 p.m.	Sharing of field experiences by women farmers
12:30 -2:00 p.m.	Discussion on the challenges faced by women farmers; (Drudgery reduction tools, Sustainable agriculture practices etc.)
2:00-2:45 p.m.	Lunch Break
2:45 – 5:00 p.m.	Open discussion with participants

Outcome of the workshop:

The experiences and the insights generated by the participants shall be documented and will be shared to all MKSP partners across the country for improved learnings.