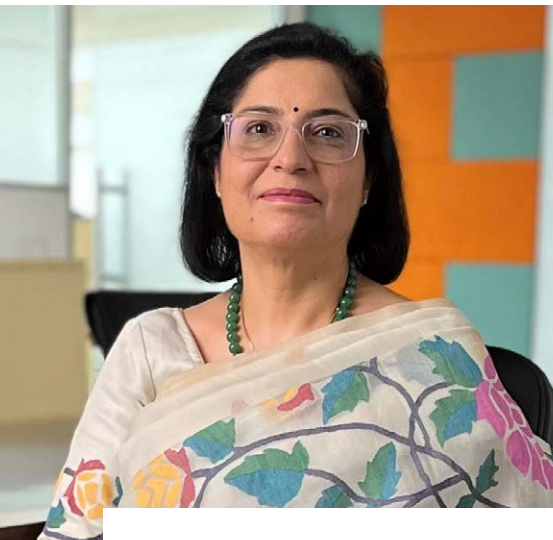


Connect

JANUARY 2024 | VOLUME 3 | ISSUE 4



Seema Arora
CEO
CII Foundation

“2023 was about expanding the geographic footprint of our work to launching new social-impact projects. We have pushed the envelope with the help of our supporters and partners who have walked shoulder-to-shoulder with us in our journey.”

Each new year carries within itself immense potential and possibilities and January is always infused with hope and determination for us at the CII Foundation. This month, I find myself looking back to reflect on our incredible journey in 2023 to meet our goal of inclusive development and impactful change and looking forward to further expand our horizons. 2023 was about expanding the geographic footprint of our work to launching new social-impact projects. We have pushed the envelope with the help of our supporters and partners who have walked shoulder-to-shoulder with us in our journey.

Our crop residue management program in Punjab and Haryana continues to grow and create positive change by mitigating stubble burning and promoting sustainable agricultural practices. In season 2023, we expanded the project coverage to 432 villages, up from 300 in 2022 and I am happy to report that the project interventions have resulted in an 86% reduction in stubble burning in the 432 adopted villages. To understand the impact of our project and amplify the message of positive change, media teams from Doordarshan and leading national dailies such as Financial Express and Mint visited our project areas in December. This newsletter presents the media coverage, especially the DD News documentary, which brings to life our project through the stories from the field.



**Climate
Change
Resilience**

03



**Disaster
Relief and
Rehabilitation**

09



**Early
Childhood
Education**

11



**Waste
Management**

14



**Women
Empowerment**

18

In other areas of our work, we were overwhelmed by the response to the call for nominations for the CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Award 2024, which crossed 300 applications of grassroots women leaders from across the country. It is heartening to see the growing stature of the Program, which identifies, recognises, and empowers grassroots women leaders from underprivileged backgrounds. Each application was scrutinised and evaluated as part of a multi-step rigorous process to shortlist women leaders for the next step of the evaluation which comprises due diligence visits. The process will yield the next cohort of Woman Exemplars who will join the pan-India network of over 100 Exemplars driving social transformation across India.

We have always been at the forefront of disaster relief and rehabilitation initiatives, and in response to the devastation caused by Cyclone Michaung leading to floods in Tamil Nadu, the CII Foundation distributed relief material amongst the affected. Our rehabilitation work in Kerala, post the floods that devastated the State in 2018, is reaching its culmination with the handing over of the reconstructed Family Health Centre at Puthuvypu, Ernakulam.

Our community-led and community-managed waste management project in Delhi's Abul Fazal has expanded to Farrukhnagar in Haryana, Leh and Kochi in Kerala, furthering our efforts to bring about notable changes in creating a clean neighbourhood.

As an organization, the CII Foundation is growing in stature and strength and is viewed as a trusted partner for multiple stakeholders, especially corporates, and I cannot overstate the importance of collaboration to drive social change.

The CII Foundation remains committed to social development and I am happy to share that we have recently initiated new projects in the areas of Healthcare and Skilling.

We are also making significant strides in our work on early childhood education and several capacity-building sessions were held to empower Anganwadi workers in Jammu and Kashmir and Karnataka.

The CII Foundation remains committed to social development and I am happy to share that we have recently initiated new projects in the areas of Healthcare and Skilling. A pilot project to improve the infrastructure of District level hospitals and Health Centres along with capacity building of the healthcare staff is being rolled out in the Government General Hospital, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, and in partnership with Health Oriented Programmes & Education (HOPE) we have also rolled out a program in schools identified in Haryana, UP and Delhi States to create awareness about health within the school students and through them, the community at large.

A new initiative to skill marginalized youth is also being implemented leveraging the technical resources within CII, the CII Chhindwara Skill Training Centre and MCCs, to provide training across different trades and link youth with employers. The project is being implemented in Madhya Pradesh, Assam, and Himachal Pradesh. You will read about these initiatives in the next edition of Connect.

As an organization, the CII Foundation is growing in stature and strength and is viewed as a trusted partner for multiple stakeholders, especially corporates, and I cannot overstate the importance of collaboration to drive social change.

As we embark on another year of driving social change, I wish everyone a happy new year and look forward to your continuing support.



CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE

Crop Residue Management

The nip in the air at the onset of winter in north India is welcome after a scorching summer, but with it comes rising levels of air pollution which lead to health issues, amongst other impacts. While there are several causes for the rising levels of air pollution, crop residue burning in the states of Punjab and Haryana is a significant cause. Farmers burn the crop residue for many reasons such as a short window period between harvesting of one crop and the sowing of the next crop and the lack of economically viable and environment-friendly alternatives to burning. To mitigate stubble burning, the CII Foundation launched a multi-stakeholder project on crop residue management in 2019 to support farmers to adopt sustainable agriculture practices.

The crop residue management project continues to grow with more corporates joining the program and new villages covered. In 2023, the project was being implemented in 432 villages compared to 300 villages in 2022.

In the October to December 2023 quarter, ground work was intensified to mitigate stubble burning by increasing engagement with farmers and supporting them in adopting viable alternatives to stubble burning. At the end of the season 2023, stubble burning was reduced by 86% in the 432 villages covered.

Key Components of the Program

Building awareness

Creating Community Tool Banks

Technical training and handholding

Local engagement and ownership

Research and policy advocacy

Managing biomass through ex-situ technology

EXPANDING GEOGRAPHIC FOOTPRINT

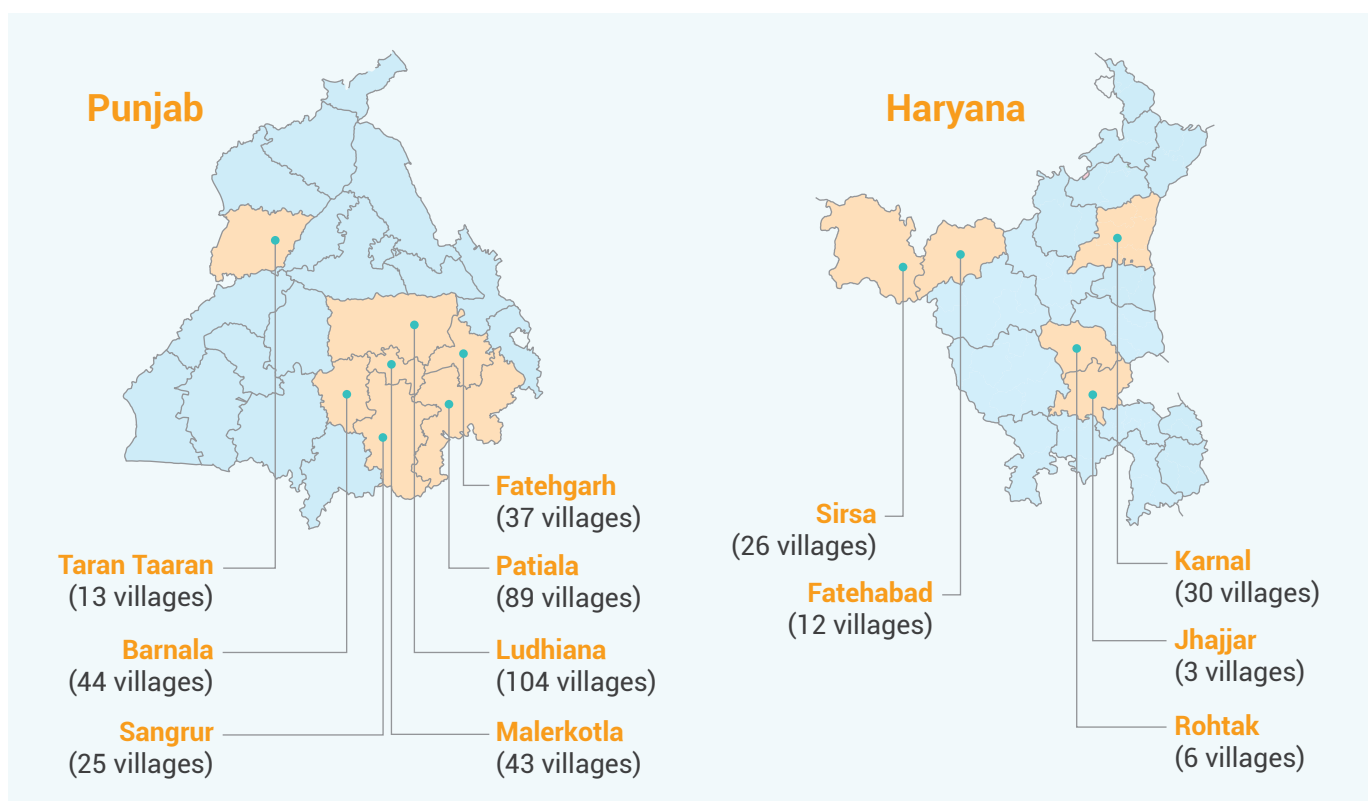
The geographic footprint of the project was expanded with new supporters such as HDFC Bank joining the project and some donors such as **Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)** and **Goodyear India Ltd** extending their partnership with the CII Foundation by adopting more villages. IOCL's Project Vayu-Amrit 2.0 was launched early October and covers 15,439 acres of farmland, benefiting 2,618 farmers (covered in detail in the October edition of Connect).

In November, the second phase of the **Goodyear CII Foundation** crop residue management project in Barnala was launched. The launch ceremony was held at Dhaula village, supported by the District Administration in Barnala. Present on the occasion were several officials from Barnala, Dr. Jagdish Singh, Chief Agriculture Officer, Dr. Tejesver Singh, Deputy Registrar, Mr. Gopal Singh, Sub-divisional Magistrate, Ms. Punamdeep Kaur, District Collector, Mr. Rupinder Singh, Assistant Registrar, Mr. Satnam Singh, Agriculture Development Officer, Mr. Anuj Thakkar, VP, Farm & Commercial, Goodyear India, Mr. George Varughese, Advisor, CII Foundation. Goodyear now assists farmers across 44 villages in Barnala covering more than 1.1 lakh acres of farmland. The initiative includes training sessions and technical support for farmers, machinery provisions and the adoption of



environmentally friendly alternatives to stubble burning. Commenting on the special occasion, Mr. Sandeep Mahajan - Chairman and Managing Director, Goodyear India Ltd. said, "The incredible response that we received from the community and government stakeholders for the first phase of CRM has inspired us to expand our efforts. Goodyear, as always, is committed to implementing ethical and sustainable practices to protect the planet and give back to the community."

HDFC Bank, under its CSR brand Parivartan and CII Foundation launched a crop residue management project aimed at mitigating farm stubble burning at Ludhiana district in Punjab. The initiative focuses on two blocks, Jagraon and Khanna in Ludhiana with the aim to propagate the adoption of improved biomass management methods among farmers. Nusrat Pathan, Head-CSR, HDFC Bank said, "Every year, open field



stubble burning adversely affects Punjab and its surrounding areas. HDFC Bank Parivartan aims to familiarise Punjab farmers with better techniques of managing stubble and shifting to more environment-friendly practices. Awareness and better supply of modern machinery will go a long way in keeping our surroundings clean and green." The launch events in the two places were attended by over 500 farmers and senior Government officials such as Sub-divisional Magistrate Jagraon, Ms. Manjeet Kaur, Mr. Tarunpreet Singh Sond, MLA, Khanna Mr Baljinder Singh Dhillon, SDM Khanna.



FARMER OUTREACH EVENTS

Over 200 farmers, Government officials and industry members participated in a farmer outreach event at Village Mohammadpuria, Rania Block, Sirsa, to strengthen the efforts to end stubble burning in the area. The event was supported by **Apraava Energy** partnering with the CII Foundation in its crop residue management initiative in Haryana. CII Foundation and Apraava have been working on crop residue management in the Sirsa District since 2019 and have adopted 26 villages covering 33,770 acres of land and 6795 farmers.

While the focus of interventions earlier was on In-situ measures, in season 2023 village-level Ex-situ interventions for the management of straw are also being promoted by CII in Sirsa. A key highlight of the event was the inauguration of a Biogas unit and a straw-based compost unit by Mr Ranjeet Singh, Minister for Power, and Jail, Haryana Government and Ms Sunita Duggal, Member of Parliament, Sirsa. Three other Biogas units in Sirsa and Fatehabad are already operational and can use 1.6 MT of Biomass of straw and 0.4 MT of cow dung for a 3-month cycle and turn it into cooking gas sufficient for a small family. The straw-based compost unit has a capacity of turning 16 MT of paddy straw into 32 MT of compost per month which will be ready to use by farmers in 30-35 days after a two-stage solid-state digestion.



Speaking at the occasion, Mr. Ranjeet Singh said " Due to stubble burning, we have lost a lot of flora and fauna from the villages, and we are harming nature and nature is reverting it in the form of earthquakes and floods. People are moving out of Delhi due to the poor air quality and its impact on children and older generation and a new trend of farmhouses has started." He urged farmers to adopt environmentally sustainable alternatives to stubble burning to stop the damage.

To achieve zero-burning in Malerkotla, CII Foundation in partnership with **Birlasoft and Fidelity International** and with the support of the District Administration organised a farmer outreach event in Banbhaura to launch the Zero-Burning Amargarh Block Campaign. The event was attended by officials from Malerkotla, Mr Karanpartap Singh, Assistant Registrar; Agriculture Development Officer Ms Kuldeep Kaur; Assistant Sub Inspector Inderdeep Kaur; Co-operative Inspectors Robin Verma and Gursimran Singh, and Mr Ameet Nayak – Head of India Legal & Asia-Pac Co Sec, Fidelity International; Mr Amit Handoo, India Risk Oversight Lead, Fidelity International; Mr Vikas Dewan - Senior Legal Counsel, Fidelity International and over 350 farmers.

Speaking at the occasion, Mr Karanpartap Singh Chehal said, "I commend the work of these organizations – they have been working in the Amargarh block for the past several years, and I also congratulate the Cooperative Societies who have been

associated with these organizations during the last few years and helped make straw management smooth. I request the newly adopted Cooperative Societies to take advantage of such opportunities to lead our society towards a bright future. In today's program, youth have also participated in large numbers, and they are the future. With a message of environmental responsibility, let us all contribute to making our future environment burn-free and cleaner."

Pradhans and secretaries of 14 Cooperative societies were felicitated for their support to the project and farmers present at the event pledged not to burn stubble and promote the zero-stubble burning campaign.



PARTICIPATION IN RAAHGIRI DAY 2023

On 29 October 2023, the crop residue management initiative was showcased at a Raahgiri Day event in Delhi. Raahgiri Day serves as an excellent platform to talk about issues that affect communities and the crop residue management team spoke with the public and shared information about our efforts in reducing air pollution and promoting a healthy, sustainable environment through managing stubble burning.



EDF TRADING TEAM VISIT

On 12 and 13 December 2023, a team from EDF Trading, headed by Brice Perombelon, Carbon Portfolio Manager and Nirmal Beura - Head of Project Development, Climate Partner Impact GmbH visited the crop residue management project district,

Fatehgarh Sahib. During the two-day visit, the team engaged in a meaningful session with the local community, gaining insights into the project's community-driven approach and the transformation it has brought about.



AMPLIFYING MESSAGING THROUGH MEDIA OUTREACH

To amplify the message of zero-stubble burning through media, media familiarisation trips were organized in this quarter with teams from leading media such as Doordarshan News (Hindi), Mint and Financial Express taken to the field to see first-hand the project interventions and speak to farmers and other on-ground stakeholders.

Curbing stubble burning



YET the target of eliminating the practice in the next couple of years is unlikely to be met. "It would be difficult to set a timeline for elimination of stubble burning practices... there has been a significant improvement which will continue in the coming years," Onkar Singh Sindhu, officer on special duty to Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann, told FE.

However, he said that in addition to immersing paddy straw in soil (mulching), the Punjab government has mandated use of 20% paddy straw pallets by coal-based power

Punjab and Haryana.

This has helped reduce straw burning in these places by more than 80%. The Foundation also donated 947 super seeder machines to cooperatives in Punjab and Haryana since 2018.

In Kandhargarh village of Sangrur district of Punjab, visited by FE recently, all the 200-odd farmers used straw from paddy as mulch before sowing wheat thus turning the village from red-zone (which reports high farm fire) in 2017 to green-zone (no reports of stubble burning) now.

Many farmers had taken

"Now I use 4 bags (50 kg each) of urea per acre prior to sowing of wheat, one bag less than when I used to burn stubble," a farmer said, adding that gradually most farmers are realising that straw burning degrades the soil health.

Sangrur district remains one of the hot spots in terms of stubble burning with reports of 5,600 events this season.

Rajesh Kumar, a farmer from Dholu, a village in the Fatehabad district of Haryana, who has recently harvested Pusa 44 paddy, chose the variety for its high yield.

He makes bales of straws by using the machine supplied by the cooperative.

These bales will be soon supplied to a biomass based power plant—Shree Jyoti Renewable Energy—unit located nearby at a rate of ₹185/quintal.

FE spoke to a number of farmers in Punjab and Haryana who cultivate the Pusa 44 variety developed by the India Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) for the last two decades.

They said that the variety

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Copyright © 2022 Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd. All rights reserved
Tue, 31 Oct-23; Economic Times - Delhi; Size : 87 sq.cm.; Circulation: 84027; Page : 5

FIRING ON ALL CYLINDERS

India Inc Playing Firefighter as Stubble Burning Turns Air Toxic

Corporates across sectors ready equipment, funding to curb fires, their impact

Ratna Bhushan@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: As stubble burning returns ahead of the winter season, leading to deteriorating air quality across North India, close to a dozen large companies are stepping in to mitigate the fires and their impact on air and soil.

Suresh Narayanan, chairman of packaged foods company Nestle, which has one of its largest dairy manufacturing plants in Punjab's Moga, said: "Our Moga factory will start using briquettes (compressed coal) from April 2024 in biomass boilers, reducing 4% of stubble burning in district." HDPC, PepsiCo, Fidelity International, Royal Enfield, SBI Cards, Cummins, BirlaSoft, Indian Oil Corporation and Goodyear

What are Cos Doing

- Setting up equipment such as 'biochar kilns' which use smokeless technology
- Using compressed coal in biomass boilers to cut stubble burning
- Conducting sessions for farmers to raise awareness
- Providing farmers with funding to buy additional resources to put crop residue back into the soil as they harvest rice and prepare the next crop
- CII working with 86,000 farmers across more than 430 villages in Punjab and Haryana to address issue

we are actively broadening the project's reach to additional districts and are adding more Biochar kilns," a PepsiCo India spokesperson said. He said the com-

pany is working on the ground, directly impacting agri sourcing and production efficiency of companies that have a large manufacturing reliance in the region.

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

Copyright © 2022 The Financial Express
Mon, 11 Dec-23; Financial Express - Delhi; Size : 211 sq.cm.; Circulation: 41902; Page : 1

PUNJAB, HARYANA MAKE A FIRM BEGINNING

Stubble burning: Fire rages but the heat goes down

SANDIP DAS
Barnala (Punjab)/Fatehabad (Haryana), December 10

JARNAIL SINGH, A farmer from Kotduna village in Barnala district of Punjab, broke convention by not setting fire to the paddy straw in 2-acre of his 15-acre farm this season. Amidst suasion by the state authorities, his intent was to assess the benefits of not burning the crop residue and resorting to in situ management of the straw as mulch. Singh is likely to find his experiment fruitful, given the experience of Karamjeet Singh at Kandhargarh village in Sangrur district of the state, who completely stopped the practice of burning paddy stubble before the onset of winter three years ago.

The Kandhargarh farmer, who

STUBBLE BURNING INCIDENTS (September 15–November 30)

	2021	2022	2023
Punjab	71,304	49,992	36,663
Haryana	6,987	3,661	2,303
UP	4,242	3,017	3,996
Delhi	4	10	5
Rajasthan	1,350	1,268	1,775
MP	8,160	11,737	12,500
Total	92,047	69,606	57,242

Source: CREAMS



deposited the residue as mulch in the soil. He also promptly sowed wheat in the field, which, he vows, has turned more fecund.

Of course, thenewslows of air qual-

farmers has reduced in recent years. Perhaps, the inflection point which makes the impact of the restraint more visible is yet to be reached.

Farmers are being offered sig-

ity in the NCR and nearby places.

The Haryana government extends a financial assistance of ₹7,000/acre for diversification from paddy to other crops, given

straw. "In the next 2-3 years, we will eliminate paddy stubble burning events," a state government official said.

On its part, the Union agriculture ministry has so far released ₹3,333 crore to Punjab (₹1,531 crore) and Haryana (₹1,006 crore) under a crop residue management scheme.

However, the pace of the phasing out of the insalubrious ritual of burning stubble has indeed been lower than required.

This year, adverse meteorological conditions coupled with stubble burning resulted in the Air Quality Index (AQI) to plunge steeply and remain in the "hazardous" range for several days, before marginally improving. The average AQI in Delhi last month was 372, clearly in the

such events, dropped 26.5% on year to 36,663 between September 15 and November 30 this season.

According to sources in the Punjab government, several measures initiated to curb the post-harvest burning of paddy straw contributed to this fall. These include in-situ management of paddy stubble or the practice of leaving the crop residue in the field for decomposition and ex situ operations or removal of agricultural waste from the field for use as compost, firewood, animal feed and as industrial input.

Punjab still contributed 64% to the total farm fires of 57,242 in northern India registered this season. Last year, as many as 71,304 such events were witnessed. Haryana, too, reported a 67%



A program on DD News about the crop residue management initiative led by CII Foundation
7 December 2023

गांवों में रंग ला रहे पराली प्रबंधन के प्रयास

जागरण संवाददाता, करनाल: पराली प्रबंधन के लिए किए जा रहे प्रयासों के साथ-साथ परागण सामने आ रहे हैं। इसके साथ-साथ कृषि पद्धतियों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए एसबीआई कार्ड और सीआईआई फाउंडेशन ने संयुक्त रूप से गांव मर्दानहेड़ी में फार्म फील्ड डे कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया। इस दौरान बताया गया कि दोनों संगठनों के प्रयासों से क्षेत्र के 20 गांव पराली जलाने से मुक्त हो चुके हैं। यह सिलसिला और आगे बढ़ाया जाएगा।

असंध के खंड विकास अधिकारी श्याम सिंह अरोड़ा, चार ग्रामों के सरपंच और अन्य प्रमुख हितधारकों की उपस्थिति में आयोजित कार्यक्रम में 300 से अधिक किसानों ने भाग लिया। कार्यक्रम में पराली जलाने के नुकसान बताने के अलावा प्रबंधन के वैकल्पिक तरीकों, नवीनतम तकनीकों और प्रक्रियाओं के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाना रहा। खंड विकास अधिकारी श्याम सिंह ने बताया कि असंध पराली प्रबंधन में राज्य में सबसे अच्छा प्रदर्शन करने वाले खंडों में रहा है, क्योंकि क्षेत्र के किसानों ने पराली जलाने के बजाए अन्य उपयोगी विकल्पों को अपनाया। उन्होंने एसबीआई कार्ड व सीआईआई फाउंडेशन के प्रयासों की सराहना की। साथ ही स्थानीय कृषि पद्धतियों को बढ़ावा देने व किसानों के जीवन में सुधार लाने के लिए ऐसे आयोजनों के महत्व पर भी जोर दिया।



कार्यक्रम में प्रतिभागी किसान को प्रमाण पत्र देते अतिथि व आयोजक। • विजय

किसानों ने पुआल प्रबंधन, चावल की सीधी बुवाई सहित इकोसिस्टम के विभिन्न तरीकों को अपनाने के अनुभव साझा किए। कार्यक्रम में 60 किसानों को कृषि भूमि में फसल अवशेष प्रबंधन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए प्रमाणपत्र दिए गए। सरपंच कुलदीप सिंह ने कहा कि पंचायत यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कदम उठा रही है कि क्षेत्र के किसान पराली जलाने के हानिकारक प्रभावों से अवगत हों और उन्हें अधिक टिकाऊ और पर्यावरण के अनुकूल प्रथाओं को अपनाने के लिए सक्रिय रूप से प्रोत्साहित किया जाए। ग्राम थल के सरपंच गुलाब सिंह ने कहा कि पराली नहीं जलाना सभी किसानों की सामूहिक जिम्मेदारी है।

उल्लेखनीय है कि 2021 से सीआईआई फाउंडेशन और एसबीआई कार्ड द्वारा असंध के 20 गांवों में पराली प्रबंधन कार्यक्रम चलाए जा रहे हैं। इससे किसानों को पराली न जलाने का दृष्टिकोण अपनाने में मदद मिली है। 63 कृषि उपकरण गांवों में उपलब्ध कराए गए और क्षेत्र में 13500 पौधे रोपे गए हैं।

Goodyear India extends partnership with CII

BARNALA: Goodyear India (Goodyear) has extended its partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to support farmers in Barnala, Punjab mitigate crop residue burning, a significant cause of air pollution and soil health deterioration. The collaboration aims to reduce environmental impact on the community, by increasing the accessibility of farm tools and upskilling farmers so they can adopt climate-friendly agricultural practices. BPE

फसल अवशेष जलाने से रोकने के लिए किसान, उद्योग और सीआईआई हुए एकजुट

सिरसा - क्षेत्र में पराली जलाने को रोकने के प्रयासों को मजबूत करने के लिए, 200 से अधिक किसानों, सरकारी अधिकारियों और उद्योग के सदस्यों ने गांव मोहम्मद पुरिया, रातिया ब्लाक, सिरसा में सीआईआई द्वारा आयोजित एक किसान आउटरीच कार्यक्रम में भाग लिया। यह कार्यक्रम सीआईआई के पराली जलाने के विकल्पों को बढ़ावा देने वाली क्षेत्रीय पहल का हिस्सा है। सीआईआई पंजाब और हरियाणा के 430 गांवों में जागरूकता सत्र, मशीनरी सहायता और तकनीकी प्रशिक्षण के माध्यम से समर्थन कर रहा है। इस आयोजन को अपरावा एनर्जी द्वारा समर्थित किया गया था, जो हरियाणा में क्रॉप रेसिड्यू मैनेजमेंट इनिशिएटिव में सीआईआई के साथ साझेदारी कर रहा है। सीआईआई और अपरावा एनर्जी 2019 से सिरसा जिले में फसल अवशेष प्रबंधन पर काम कर रहे हैं और उन्होंने 33,770 एकड़ भूमि और 1,000 किसानों को जलाने से रोकने के लिए प्रमाणपत्र दिए गए।



एचडीएफसी बैंक, सीआईआई ने पंजाब में क्रॉप रेसिड्यू मैनेजमेंट प्रोजेक्ट शुरू किया

लुधियाना। भारत के अग्रणी निजी क्षेत्र के बैंक एचडीएफसी बैंक ने अपने सीएसआर ब्रांड हाइड्रोपरिफॉर्मिड और भारतीय उद्योग परिसंघ (सीआईआई) के तहत आज एक क्षेत्रीय पहल एक फसल अवशेष प्रबंधन परियोजना (क्रॉप रेसिड्यू मैनेजमेंट प्रोजेक्ट) के शुभारंभ की घोषणा की, जिसका उद्देश्य पराली का जलाना कम करना है। गौरतलब है कि पंजाब के लुधियाना जिले में पराली जलाई जा रही है, नतीजतन पर्यावरण के लिए खतरा हो गया है। यह पहल, जो लुधियाना में दो ब्लॉकों, जगराओं और खन्ना पर केंद्रित होगी, का उद्देश्य किसानों के बीच बेहतर बायोमास मैनेजमेंट विधियों को अपनाने का प्रचार करना है। इस उद्देश्य को ध्यान में रखते हुए, बैंक और सीआईआई ने लुधियाना के जिला प्रशासन के सहयोग से जगराओं और खन्ना में पराली जलाने की रोकथाम के बारे में जागरूकता फैलाने के लिए दो दिनों की अवधि में दो कार्यशालाओं का आयोजन किया। सब डिवीजनल मजिस्ट्रेट (एसडीएम) जगराओं, सुश्री मनजीत कौर ने जगराओं में कार्यशाला का उद्घाटन किया, जबकि खन्ना के विधायक श्री तरुणप्रीत सिंह सोड और खन्ना के एसडीएम श्री बलजिंदर सिंह ढिल्लों ने खन्ना में कार्यशाला का उद्घाटन किया।

स्वच्छ वायु दीर्घ जीवन : इंडियन ऑयल के प्रोजेक्ट वायु अमृत-2 का डीसी साहनी ने किया उद्घाटन

पराली जलाने वालों पर सेटेलाइट से रहेगी पैनी नजर

भास्कर न्यूज | पटियाला

खेतों में फसल अवशेष और पराली जलाने की समस्या के समाधान के लिए कॉर्पोरेट सामाजिक जिम्मेदारी के तहत इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन द्वारा सीआईआई का आयोजन किया गया है। बम्पना गांव के सहयोग से शुरू की गई वायु अमृत परियोजना के दूसरे चरण का उद्घाटन डीसी साक्षी साहनी ने किया। इस अवसर पर जिले के 16 गांवों जहां से इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन की उत्तरी क्षेत्र पाइपलाइन गुजरती है, वहां पराली जलाने से रोकने के लिए 7 सहकारी समितियों को सुपर सीडर दिए गए। डीसी साहनी ने पराली को आग न लगाने की भावनात्मक अपील की और इसके धुएं से ईंसानों, जानवरों और खासकर



बच्चों को होने वाले नुकसान, दुर्घटनाओं, मित्र कीड़ों के सड़ने, जमीन को होने वाले नुकसान के बारे में जागरूक किया। उन्होंने कहा कि सेटेलाइट के जरिए हर जगह पर कड़ी नजर रखी जा रही है, जिससे कोई भी आगजनी करने वाला किसान प्रशासन से बच नहीं पाएगा। किसान मित्र व्हाट्सएप

चैटबॉट नंबर 7380016070 को सेव किया और अंग्रेजी में एसएसए टाइप किया और उनसे अपने पास उपलब्ध मशीनरी के साथ इन सीडर और एक्स सीडर तकनीकों के साथ पराली का निपटान करने का आग्रह किया। डीसी ने किसानों से खेतों में पराली को आग लगाने में जल्दबाजी न करने की अपील

करते हुए कहा कि गेहूं की पीबीडब्ल्यू 826 किस्म की बुआई के लिए अभी पर्याप्त समय है, इसलिए किसान खेतों में आग न लगाएं बल्कि पराली को जला दें। खेतों में। साक्षी साहनी ने कहा कि नेशनल ग्रीन ट्रिब्यूनल और माननीय सुप्रीम कोर्ट के दिशा-निर्देशों के तहत पंजाब सरकार के आदेशों के तहत जिला प्रशासन पराली जलाने के मामलों को बहुत सख्ती से निपटेगा। उन्होंने कहा कि जिले में पराली जलाने से रोकने के लिए जिला प्रशासन न सिर्फ सख्ती कर रहा है बल्कि किसानों को जागरूक भी कर रहा है। गेहूं की बुआई के लिए चयनित 16 गांवों में सुपर सीडर और स्मार्ट सीडर मशीनें उपलब्ध कराने समेत और अधिक तकनीकी सहायता उपलब्ध कराएगी।



DISASTER RELIEF AND REHABILITATION

The CII Foundation has been at the forefront of disaster relief and rehabilitation initiatives across India, responding to calamities like the devastating floods in Kerala and Assam, earthquakes in Jammu and Kashmir, cyclones in Tamil Nadu and other natural disasters. Notably, it has played a critical role in aiding

communities impacted by the widespread effects of COVID-19. The CII Foundation employs a multi-stakeholder approach, leveraging industry connections and collaborating with local governments, NGOs, hospitals and other stakeholders to ensure comprehensive support to those affected by disasters.

Key Components of the Program

Establishing a Robust Disaster Response System:

Utilizing the extensive CII network to effectively execute disaster relief efforts, empowering numerous touch points across the country, and facilitating a comprehensive relief and rehabilitation process.

Distribution of Relief Material:

Providing essential aid such as food, ration, and medicine to affected regions.

Rehabilitation Initiatives:

Undertaking the reconstruction of impacted infrastructure like schools and health centers, coupled with livelihood programs for affected communities.

KERALA RELIEF & REHABILITATION

In response to the devastating Kerala floods in 2018, the CII Foundation undertook the renovation/construction of one government lower primary school and six health centres. Of these, the school and four health centres were handed over earlier in 2023.

On 23 December 2023, the Family Health Centre at Puthuvypu, Ernakulam, was inaugurated by Hon'ble MP Shri Hibi Eden. Also present at the occasion were MLA Shri K N Unnikrishnan, Former Minister & MLA, Shri S Sharma, Shri K K M Kutty, Past Chairman, CII Southern Region and CII Kerala, Managing Director Sealings & Jointings, and Smt Rasikala Priyaraj, Panchayat President, Elamkunnappuzha Grama Panchayat.

During the inauguration, Shri K K M Kutty handed over the key of the newly constructed building to Smt Rasikala Priyaraj, President of Elamkunnappuzha Grama Panchayat, in the presence of MLA, Shri K N Unnikrishnan and other ward members of Elamkunnappuzha.

The newly constructed building is a state-of-the-art facility spanning 5563 Sq.ft. The building is eco-friendly, energy-efficient, disabled-friendly, and disaster-resilient catering to the emerging health care needs of the people, especially those residing in the coastal belt of Ernakulam district. The building has advanced facilities with the Medical Officer room, laboratory, pharmacy procedure room, nursing station, observation room, primary and secondary waiting areas, feeding room and immunization room.



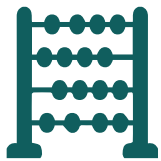
TAMIL NADU RELIEF & REHABILITATION

The state of Tamil Nadu witnessed unprecedented rainfall due to Cyclone Michaung leading to floods, displacing thousands of people and damaging property and infrastructure in the State, severely affecting Chennai, Thiruvallur, Kanchipuram & Chengapattu, and some districts in Andhra Pradesh.

The CII and CII Foundation were in constant touch with various Government Agencies and local authorities to assess the situation and initiate urgent relief operations in the affected areas. The CII Foundation worked extensively on the ground to provide assistance and relief to alleviate the distress caused by the cyclone. As part of the relief efforts, essentials such as dry ration kits were distributed amongst displaced families in Thiruvallur district, who were placed in temporary shelters.

The efforts covered both immediate relief as well as long-term rehabilitation, considering the magnitude of damage caused in different areas.





EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Recognising the importance of the formative years in a child's life in shaping their aspirations, dreams, and potential, the CII Foundation has been working on strengthening early childhood education (ECE) for children up to 6 years delivered through Anganwadi Centres. Several Centres are inadequately equipped vis-a-vis infrastructure or appropriately

trained teachers who can provide quality education to the children. The CII Foundation uses a multi-stakeholder approach and works closely with State Governments, industry and local NGOs to equip caregivers and educators to create a child-friendly environment in the Centres and enhance ECE. The program is currently being implemented in Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka and Maharashtra.

Key Components of the Program

Infrastructure Support to Develop Model Anganwadi Centres

Anganwadi infrastructure is transformed into child-friendly learning spaces through wall art and other creative means under the Building as a Learning Aid (BaLa) concept.

Developing Age- and Culturally-Appropriate Curriculum

The Foundation supports the development and implementation of age-appropriate curriculum. In places where there is a State mandate on the curriculum, the CII Foundation ensures compliance.

Strengthening the adoption of TLM

Considering the pivotal role of Teaching Learning Material, the Foundation is working towards promoting play-way as a medium of learning for the holistic development of children, aligned with the NEP 2020.

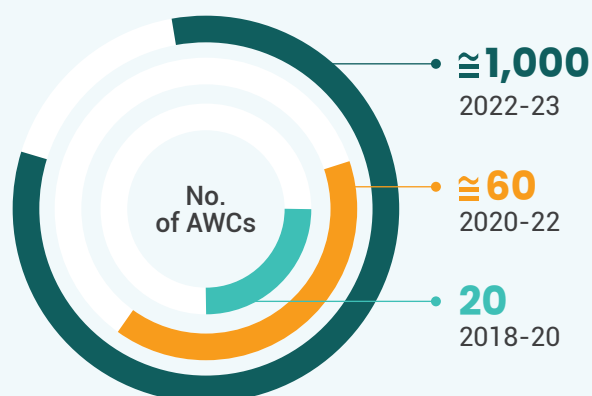
Capacity Building of Anganwadi Workers

Comprehensive training sessions, group discussions, workshops and educational videos are used to enhance the skills of the Anganwadi workers so that they are better equipped to work with the children and monitor their growth and progress.

Engaging the Community

Through the program, community engagement is enhanced so that the community and the Anganwadi workers work together towards the common goal of improving learning outcomes and nutritional levels of the children.

Year-Wise Increase in AWCs



ANGANWADI ADOPTION PROGRAM, J&K

The CII Foundation is implementing the ECE program in four blocks across three districts - Banihal and Gool in District Ramban, Breng in District Anantnag and Narwah in District Baramulla to improve the quality, access and functioning of ICDS Mission Programme through enhanced capacity of ICDS functionaries and strengthening Community institutions (ALMSC) aligned with NEP 2020. In the October-December quarter, the second skill training session to empower Master Trainers (MT) was conducted in three phases: from 11 to 15 September in Anantnag, 18 to 22 September in Banihal, and 9 to 13 October in Gool.

With 'Nurturing Knowledge for Better Nutrition and Growth Monitoring of Children' as the topic of the second training session, the training session aimed at upskilling MTs in nurturing children's growth and nutrition. This comprehensive training equipped MTs to effectively implement nutrition and health services, emphasizing core aspects of nutrition, health, and growth monitoring. To facilitate the same, a comprehensive Nutrition Awareness Package, containing 3 flip books, was developed in three languages, namely, English, Hindi and Urdu. This Nutrition Package will be distributed to the AWWs in our 80 model AWCs to begin with, and additional copies as per the State requirement.

Cascading Knowledge to Grassroots:

The MTs effectively passed on this vital knowledge to 1000 Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) in Baramulla and Anantnag. Their pivotal role ensured the dissemination of essential knowledge to the grassroots level, with plans in place to extend the same support to Ramban in the upcoming months.



Key Objectives Achieved

Orientation to Health, Nutrition and ECE Services

Participants were introduced to the concept and importance of health and nutrition services for various target groups, including adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers. Understanding the specific needs and requirements of these different groups was emphasized. Additionally, Early Childhood Education is being strengthened through various activities to make children school ready.

Emphasis on Growth Monitoring

Growth monitoring was integrated as a core area of the training program. Participants were trained in the methods and importance of growth monitoring for children. Additionally, the training also included demonstrations of the Growth Monitoring equipment used by the State and a step-by-step instructional session on how to use the Poshan Tracker efficiently.

ANGANWADI ADOPTION PROGRAM, KARNATAKA

In rural Karnataka, the CII Foundation has collaborated with Anganwadi Centers in Dharwad, Karwar, Hoskote, Nellamangala, and Chamrajnagar. The program here is supported by the Volvo Group Trust and has made substantial progress in infrastructure development and strengthening.

Capacity Building Initiatives

Building on the achievements, the program is set to be expanded to include comprehensive capacity-building training in Hoskote and Karwar. These sessions will equip AWWs with essential knowledge for empowering the workers with the foundation knowledge of the

different domains of holistic development in children, and best utilization of Teaching Learning Material (TLM) for the achievement of optimal learning outcomes in children.

CELEBRATION OF CHILDREN'S DAY

The future of a nation lies in the hands of its children. To celebrate Children's Day, children gathered at the mobile creche for children of migrant workers – the first in Vengola, Kerala, launched by the CII Foundation with SOPMA and the Vengola Administration as partners.

The children spent the day engaging in fun-filled activities and enjoyed their day at the mobile creche.





WASTE MANAGEMENT

Empowering Communities for a Greener Tomorrow

In the heart of India's urban landscapes, particularly in overcrowded pockets, waste management is a challenge. Piles of garbage rotting on the roadsides result in poor living conditions and health hazards, calling for an urgent need for change. To address the issue of urban waste management, the CII Foundation, supported by PTC Financial Services Limited and PTC Foundation launched a pioneering project in New Delhi's Abul Fazal in 2021. The aim of the project was to create a modern, community-led urban waste management system

which complements the efforts of the Government. The project coverage was expanded in July 2023 to cover Farrukhnagar, Gurugram, Haryana, to improve the waste management practices in the villages of Tajnagar, Judola, Hajipur, and Ghoshgarh.

In the October-December quarter, the CII Foundation expanded the waste management project coverage further to cover Leh in the North, and Kochi in the South, while strengthening its initiatives in Okhla, New Delhi, and Farrukhnagar, Gurugram.

Key Components of the Program

Creating awareness and catalysing civic engagement

Promoting waste segregation at source and safe waste collection

Promoting recycling waste locally and value-addition in bio-degradable waste with the involvement of RWAs

Segregating and recycling non-biodegradable/dry waste such as plastic

Building skills of waste workers and enhancing their safety

CLEAN ABUL FAZAL PROJECT

In the last quarter of 2023, efforts to transforming Abul Fazal into a 'zero-waste' neighbourhood were intensified with several activities undertaken collaboratively with local government bodies, residents, and community institutions such as Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) to increase civic engagement.

Mobilising the Community

Community meetings are held at regular intervals to increase awareness and participation of the community in the project. Twelve meetings were held in this quarter with all stakeholders including the waste workers, members of SAAF (the organisation of waste workers), to share experiences and learnings and plan the way forward.

Promoting Waste Segregation at Home and Home Composting

To promote the segregation of waste into wet and dry waste, a team has been formed with the support of SAAF to monitor segregation and provide assistance to residents as well as waste workers. Dustbins and home composting bins are being distributed at the household level to encourage households to segregate waste. Out of the 14,000 households in Abul Fazal, segregation is being done in 70% of the households (11,200 households), which is leading to more efficient waste management.

A Composting Unit was established in January 2022 with an initial daily capacity of processing 4 tonnes to convert wet waste into high-quality organic compost. Till December 2023, a total of 1,10,000 Kg wet waste was treated to make produce manure, which is then being sold to make Abul Fazal a green neighbourhood.

Training Sessions

Waste worker engagement sessions and meetings, facilitated in collaboration with SAAF, focus on enhancing technical skills, safety measures, and environmental impact reduction. A training session was held in November on machine maintenance.



Plastic Waste Management Initiative

Plastic waste is not only a health hazard but is a huge problem as it chokes drains and does not disintegrate. Under the project, a decentralized model for plastic waste recycling was introduced which involves distributing the responsibility of plastic waste management across multiple smaller units, rather than relying on a centralized old value chain system. Decentralized models for plastic waste recycling has several benefits: it can reduce transportation costs and carbon emissions by semi processing waste locally along with increasing plastic recovery rate from the market. It can also create jobs and economic opportunities in local communities, particularly in areas where there is high unemployment.

Infrastructure Deployed for Local Recycling of Dry Waste

Item	Quantity	Remarks
Bailing Machine (100-120kg)	1	Machine used to compress scrap material to create dense blocks.
Grinder Machine (1 Ton per Hour)	1	The machine is used to cut material into smaller pieces. Semi Processing of plastic



A total of **7,107Kg of Plastic Bottles (PET)** were collected from the community by waste collectors and was sent to the facility for further process.

ADARSH VILLAGE WASTE MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE, FARRUKHNAGAR, GURUGRAM

Project Adarsh Village, a waste management initiative in Farrukhnagar, Gurugram, Haryana is being implemented in the following villages; Tajnagar, Judola, Hajipur and Ghoshgarh. The project was launched in July 2023, in partnership with Gram Panchayats and aims to address the challenges of open dumping, lack of infrastructure, and pollution in local water bodies by involving the community. A preliminary interaction with the community members and Gram Panchayat has revealed the following challenges:



No Waste Collection
from Households and Shops



Open Dumping/Burning
of Waste on Roadsides



Inadequate Infrastructure
for Waste Transport and Treatment



Choked Drains
and Channels Polluted by Plastic Waste

Under the project a series of activities are being undertaken to promote efficient waste management.

Field Visits

Four comprehensive field visits were undertaken to assess the initial on-ground challenges and mind mapping of Panchayat towards the project. Field visits involved visiting village sheds to assess the scope of work needed in each village to establish waste recycling infrastructure in village.

Community Meetings

Regular engagements with the gram panchayats was done through meetings to build an understanding of the receptivity of waste management by the Sarpanch and Panchayat. Doubts and misunderstanding towards waste management were resolved and the way forward through the project was discussed at these meetings.

Through the project interventions so far, some of the key outcomes are as follows:

Shed Repair and Preparation

Collaboration with the respective Panchayats led to the repair and preparation of sheds in each village. This included general repairs such as fixing roofs, doors, and fencing for the safety of machines. Electricity and water facilities were also set up to support waste management infrastructure.

Waste Collection Staffing

With the help of Gram Panchayat, two individuals will be hired for waste collection and recycling, strengthening community participation in waste management.

Volunteer Finalization

A cadre of volunteers will be created for mobilising the community and conducting awareness activity along with monitoring the ongoing activities.

Procurement of Recycling Infrastructure

Each Adarsh Village will have essential infrastructure like E-carts, composting machines, and dustbins for efficient waste recycling across villages.



E-carts

For waste collection



Composting Machines

For decentralised waste recycling



Dustbins for Households

For improving waste segregation at home



Community Dustbins

For improving waste collection in public places, local institutions etc

The waste management project interventions are leading to significant change in the communities and the neighbourhoods as the communities engage actively to create a clean neighbourhood.



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Woman Exemplar Program

The CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Program has grown into a comprehensive empowerment initiative for women over the years. The program identifies and recognizes grassroots women leaders through an award for their work within communities in Education, Health and Micro-enterprise. This recognition not only applauds their efforts but also amplifies the credibility of their work and fosters support for their initiatives. Furthermore, the program empowers these grassroots women leaders through

capacity-building initiatives to magnify the social impact generated by their transformative contribution at the community level.

The Woman Exemplar Program remains committed to empowering women by nurturing self-belief and enhancing their skills, thereby unlocking their potential to drive significant social change. Currently, the program boasts a cohort of over 100 women leaders across India, collectively impacting the lives of over 1.5 million individuals annually.

Key Components of the Program



Scan the ecosystem for exemplars



Award and recognize/ amplify work



Assess & design inputs for women for scale & impact



On ground interventions to create new leaders



Broadening and strengthening the network

In September 2023, a call for nominations was launched using multiple outreach channels to identify the next cohort of Woman Exemplars. In the October-December quarter, the focus was on reviewing the nominations received while also

building the capacity of the current exemplars through training sessions. In October, we launched Empowering Champions of Change Program in Assam. The program aims to empower the grassroots women of Assam to address the development challenges of the state of Assam.

IDENTIFYING THE TRAIL BLAZERS

Following the launch of the call for Nominations, a rigorous 4-step process is undertaken to identify the 15 women who will make the cohort of 2024. Out of this, 3 will be selected as winners of the prestigious Award.

This year, the online platform for applications was launched as an extension of the CII Foundation Website. To expand outreach, the online application form was available in Hindi, Tamil, Marathi, Bengali, and English.

First shortlist of Nominees via desk reviews of the nomination forms

Second shortlist of Nominees via telephonic interviews and reference checks with nominators and other referees

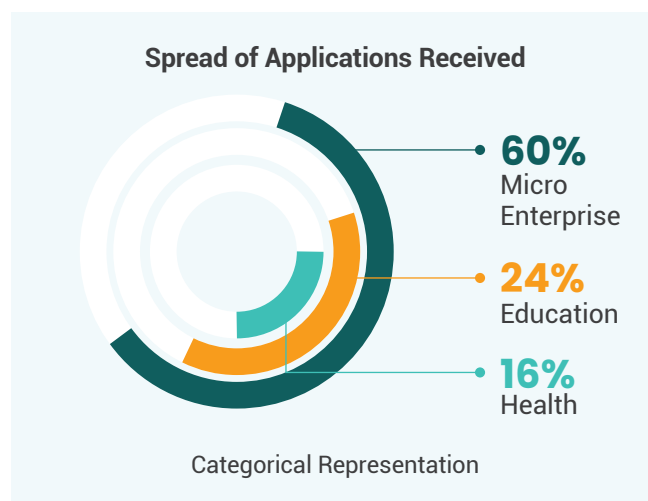
Final shortlist of Nominees via field visits

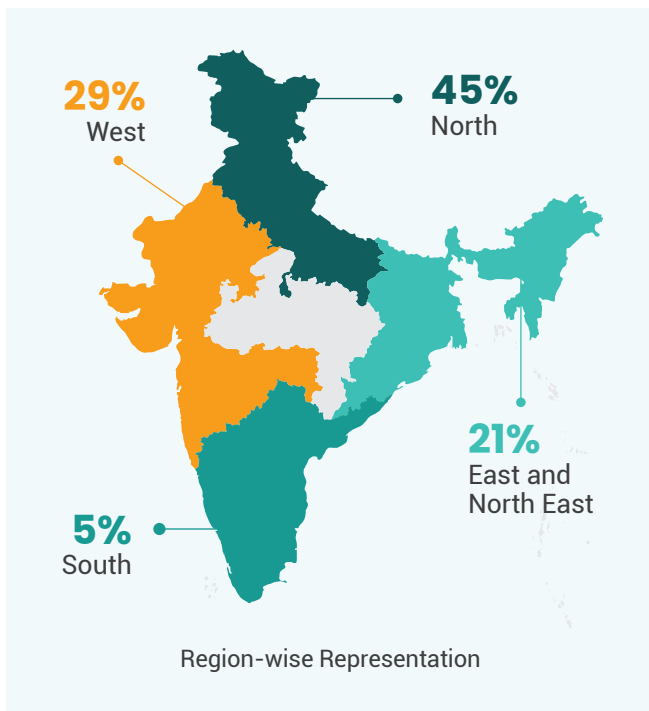
Identification and felicitation of the CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Award winners

Engaging Exemplars and due Diligence Partner Organisation for Greater Outreach

To extend our reach, our exemplary leaders like Rama Sharma, Nirmala, Mana Mandelkar, Sumitra Gagrai etc. from diverse states such as MP, UP, Rajasthan, and Bihar, among others, actively participated. They engaged in on-ground initiatives, printing pamphlets, and banners, and conducted awareness campaigns to encourage nominations. The CII Foundation partnered with GivFunds as the Diligence Partner to promote the program and boost nominations.

At the close of the call for nominations, over 850 registrations and a staggering 300+ applications were received from 21 states and 1 Union Territory, showcasing a diverse and widespread participation across the nation.





Intensive Desk Reviews and telephonic interviews were conducted to engage with the applicants to delve deeper into their impactful journey. Basis the shortlisting, due diligence visits are scheduled for January 2024 to personally meet the women leaders, the nominators and the beneficiaries to gain a first-hand understanding of the work undertaken by the woman leader and its impact.

CAPACITY BUILDING: LEADERSHIP TRAINING

The Woman Exemplar Program's Leadership Training 2023 kickstarted last October with a session on 'Empowering Women Leaders for Impact'. The training module was designed to empower women leaders to recognize and harness their leadership abilities, enhance project management and communication skills, and elevate their collaborative and advocacy efforts.



To help the Exemplars identify and understand their leadership styles, self-assessment tools were used and the participants were encouraged to embrace their distinctive styles to drive effective decision-making and conflict management to inspire teams and lead projects for significant impact.

Communication is key and the Exemplars were trained to enhance their skills to master strategic communication on social media platforms to leverage the power of effective outreach and storytelling. Additional sessions on Narrative Building and Legal Rights gave the Exemplars the skills and knowledge necessary to craft compelling and impactful stories, further helping them to effectively convey their mission, goals, and the positive change they aspire to bring to their communities. The Exemplars also learnt about the importance of networking to foster collaborations to forge strategic partnerships that would help them scale up their work.

Through engaging sessions, practical exercises, and peer interactions, participants acquired the essential skills and strategies needed for effective leadership and project success.



EMPOWERING CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE IN ASSAM

The CII Foundation, in partnership with Apraava Energy, launched a project in Assam to empower grassroots women to accelerate social change in the region. The program will identify and recognize 15 women leaders who have worked with women and children and become role models of change at the grassroots level. All 15 women leaders will receive a stipend of INR 25,000 each for their contribution and work. Under the program, these women will also be trained to build their capacity to enable them to scale up their work for greater social impact and create a new rung of leaders working within marginalised communities. Furthermore, they will be motivated to take up community development projects funded and supported by the CII Foundation and Apraava Energy.

To help identify women from marginalized communities actively working with women and children in 8 districts of Assam, a call for nominations was launched in November 2023. More than 100 e-mails and 70+ calls were made for outreach. The CII Foundation also used its network of Woman Exemplars in the North-East to amplify outreach. Additionally, an outreach partner, GivFunds, was identified to conduct targeted outreach efforts in Assam. The support of regional organisations like SeSTA, ANT BTAD, NRLM was also taken to reach out to active women in the region.

Twenty applications have been received so far, and as a next step, the applications will be reviewed, and due diligence visits undertaken to select the winners.

Supported by
APRAAVA
ENERGY

CII FOUNDATION

INVITING NOMINATIONS
FOR THE
**EMPOWERING
Champions
of
Change
Program**
FOR GRASSROOTS
WOMEN

Nominate determined women who are

- Coming from marginalised communities
- Working with vulnerable women and children
- Ready to commit a year to ignite change in their community

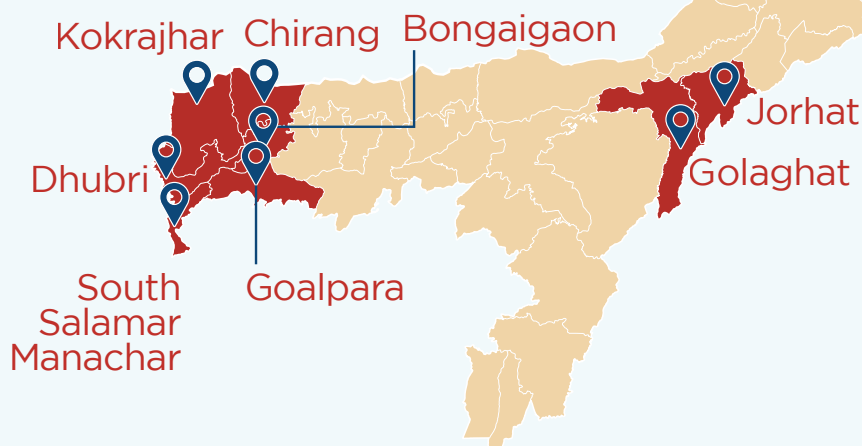
Inviting applications from the following districts in Assam

Kokrajhar Chirang Bongaigaon
Dhubri South Salamar Manachar Goalpara Jorhat Golaghat

Why should they join?

- Recognition for their work with a one-time Stipend of INR 25,000
- Opportunity to engage in skill development trainings
- Empowered to lead community development projects and scale impact

Last Date to Nominate
November 25th, 2023



OUR KEY SUPPORTERS



To know more about CII Foundation [Click Here](#)

For feedback and suggestions please contact Priya Shirali, Head - Communication at Priya.Shirali@cii.in

Copyright © 2024 CII Foundation All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in, or introduced into a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise), in part or full in any manner whatsoever, or translated into any language, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner. CII Foundation has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information and material presented in this document. Nonetheless, all information, estimates and opinions contained in this publication are subject to change without notice, and do not constitute professional advice in any manner. Neither CII Foundation nor any of its office bearers or analysts or employees accept or assume any responsibility or liability in respect of the information provided herein. However, any discrepancy, error, etc found in this may please be brought to the notice of CII Foundation for appropriate correction.

Published by The CII Foundation