



Foundation for MSME Clusters (FMC)



**FRIEDRICH NAUMANN
FOUNDATION** For Freedom.

South Asia



Promoting Responsible Business by BMOs

Issue VII



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Foundation for MSME Clusters (FMC)



Mr. Mukesh Gulati
Executive Director

Foreword

We are delighted that this unique Award Programme for "7th Responsible BMO Award" has now successfully entered its Seventh year. Around 130 BMOs from 17 states applied this time for the Award. While fifteen best cases have been detailed in this publication, efforts made by the other applicant BMOs are also very impressive. We heartily congratulate all the BMOs for the good work being done by them for promoting responsible production. We firmly believe that putting across the message of "Responsible Production" to the huge mass of 60 million plus MSMEs can happen more meaningfully if intermediary organizations, including the BMOs, not only at the National and State levels, but also at the District, Cluster and Industrial Estate levels become further empowered to provide both common solutions as well as technical support to its member as well as non-member MSMEs. For this edition we are grateful to **Shri Sivasubramanian Ramann, CMD, SIDBI, for kindly agreeing to be the Chief Guest** to address us and also felicitate the Awardees.

The Jury under the Chairmanship of Shri S K Tuteja, Former Secretary, Ministry of SSI & ARI, Dr H. P Kumar, Former Chairman, NSIC, Shri Rakesh Rewari, Former DMD, SIDBI, Dr R. K. Singh, Chief General Manager, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and Mr Deepak Arora, President- Public Affairs Nayara Energy have given us valuable guidance and supported us in framing the parameters for evaluation and in the selection of award-winning BMOs. We are indeed deeply obliged to them. We are also grateful to our knowledge partner STENUM Asia for guiding and steering the Award process.

We also sincerely thank our partners and principal sponsor Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, South Asia (FNF).

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Abbreviations

AASRA	:	Associate for Active Service in Rural Area	APMA :Auto Parts Manufacturing Association
BBCS	:	Bharatpur Beekeeping Cluster Society	
BFPCCL	:	Baishata Farmer Producer Company Limited	
BMO	:	Business Membership Organization	
BRR	:	Business Responsibility Report	
BRSR	:	Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting	
CFC	:	Common Facility Centre	
COP	:	Conference of the Parties	
CSIR-IHBT	:	Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology	
DIC	:	District Industries Centre	
DPR	:	Detailed Project Report	
EDP	:	Entrepreneurship Development Program	
ESG	:	Environmental, Social and Governance	
FPO	:	Farmers' Producer Organisation	
GAPS	:	Growth Acceleration Program for SMEs	
GDP	:	Gross domestic product	
GeM	:	Government E-Marketplace	
GHG	:	Green House Effect	
GST	:	Goods and Services Tax	
HDPE	:	High-Density Polyethylene	
HIEIWA	:	Howrah Industrial Estate Industries Welfare Association	
Iam SMEof India	:	Integrated Association of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise of India	
IP	:	Intellectual Property	
IPFC	:	Intellectual Property Facilitator Centre	
JDF	:	Juta Dastkaar Federation	
KHCDS	:	Krishnapurchak Handloom Cluster Development Society	
KMDA	:	Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority	
KPI	:	Key Performance Indicator	
LEDP	:	Livelihood Entrepreneurship Development Programme	

LIFE	:	Lifestyle for the Environment
LP	:	Livelihood Program
MEDP	:	Micro Entrepreneurship Development Programme
MGF	:	Maa Ganga Devi Foundation
MoMSME	:	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
MSE-CDP	:	Micro & Small Enterprises - Cluster Development Programme
MSME	:	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
MVO	:	Manyaseema Voluntary Organisation
NABARD	:	National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development
NDC	:	National Development Council
NGRBC	:	National Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct
NHDC	:	National Handloom Development Corporation Limited
NSDC	:	National Skill Development Corporation
NTFP	:	Non-Timber Forest Products
NVG	:	National Voluntary Guidelines
OAE	:	Own Account Enterprise
ODOP	:	One District, One Product
OHS	:	Occupational Health and Safety
ONDC	:	Open Network for Digital Commerce
SALGMWA	:	Santiniketan Artistic Leather Goods Manufacturers' Welfare Association
SBCPRCL	:	Sathiya Bamboo Craft Producer Company Limited
SDG	:	Sustainable Development Goals
SDP	:	Skill Development Program
SEBI	:	Securities and Exchange Board of India
SFURTI	:	Scheme of Funds for Regeneration of Traditional Industries
SHG	:	Self Help Groups
SPV	:	Special Purpose Vehicle
TEDP	:	Technology Entrepreneurship Development Programme
UN	:	United Nations
UNFOA	:	Udyog Nagar Factory Owners' Association
WBSIDCL	:	West Bengal Small Industries Development Corporation Ltd

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CHAPTER 1

MSMEs and Sustainable Development

1.1 MSMEs in India

Globally, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) have given big boost to their economies and India is no exception. Here, 63.4 million MSMEs are estimated to account for 29.2 per cent of gross value added and 36.2 per cent of manufacturing output in 2021-22. MSMEs are often

classified with respect to various parameters like employment, turnover, assets, investment in plant and machinery, etc. In India, MSMEs are defined with respect to investment in plant, machinery and equipment and turnover as detailed below.

Table 1: MSMEs in India

Micro	Not more than Rs.10 million investment in plant and machinery or equipment and not more than Rs. 50 million annual turnover
Small	Not more than Rs.100 million investment in plant and machinery or equipment and not more than Rs. 500 million annual turnover
Medium	Not more than Rs.500 million investment in plant and machinery or equipment and not more than Rs. 2500 million annual turnover

1.2 Presence of MSMEs in Clusters

The existence of Indian MSMEs is deep rooted in its 5200 plus clusters - around 1300 being industrial, i.e., having large, medium, small and micro enterprises, around 3000

are artisanal clusters of handicrafts and handloom manufacturers consisting mostly of own account enterprises (OAEs) and around 850 services clusters..

Figure 1: Sector wise List of Industrial Clusters

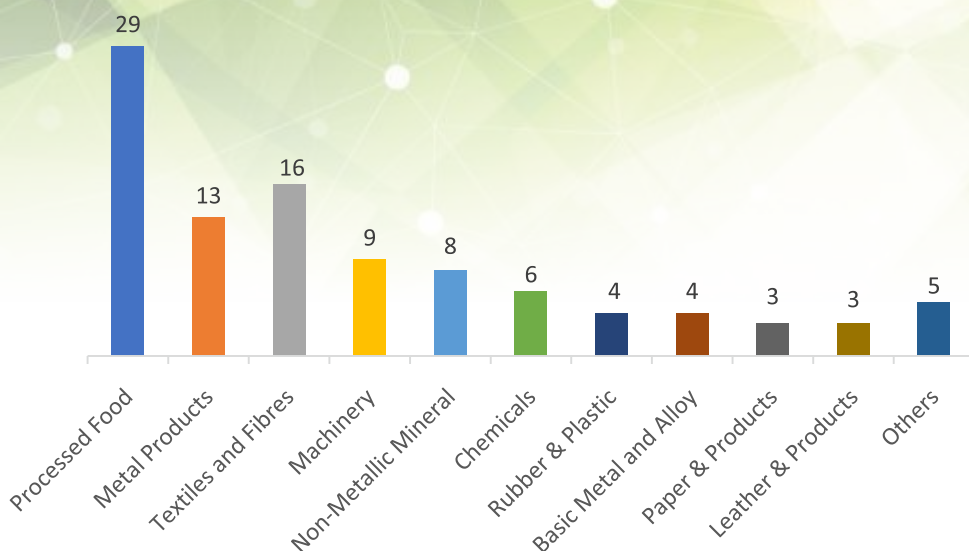
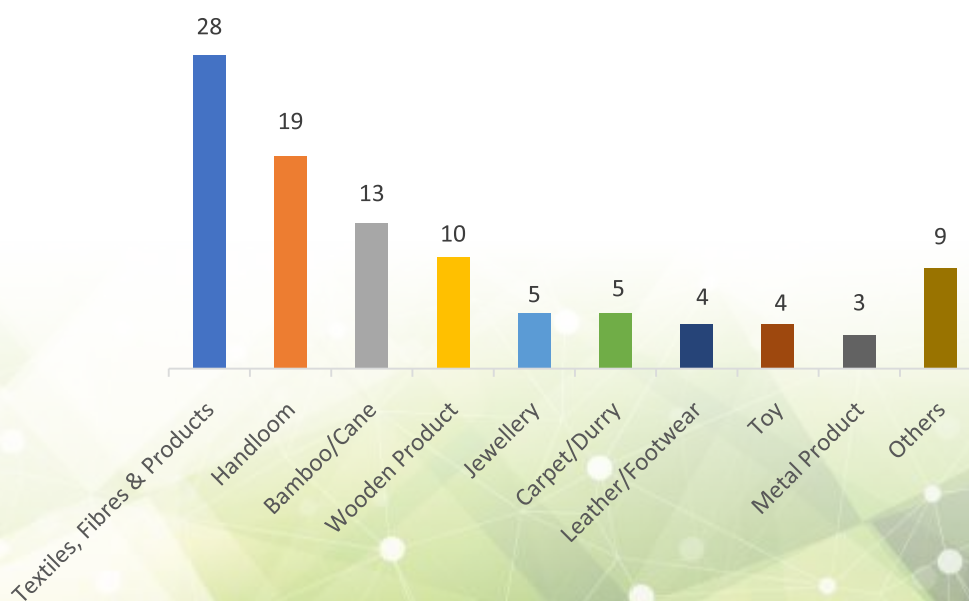


Figure 2: Sector wise List of Artisanal Clusters



These clusters vary in maturity with respect to the nature of stakeholders, business linkages and level of operation in the value chain. However, their growth can be further accelerated through “targeted joint action” among the enterprises in clusters to address issues related to finance, infrastructure, technology, human resources, market, raw material, etc. Growth is also constrained due to lack of efforts to promote vertical networks too.

1.3 Sustainability Requirements of Industry

While a number of laws including water and air pollution, etc. works towards prevention of GHG emission, serious efforts to control emission by industry in the year 2012, when for the first time SEBI introduced the

concept of Business Responsibility Report (BRR) for top 100 listed entities¹. BRR was framed based on the National Voluntary Guidelines (NVG), that had 9 principles. The target was enhanced to top 500 listed entities by 2015-16 and top 1000 listed entities by 2019-20.

Mean while the Paris Agreement signed in 2015-16 and India had submitted her first NDC. Also, in 2015 came the SDG of UN. All these led to the reworking of the NVG. Thus, in 2018, National Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct (NGRBC) replaced NVGs. NGBRC incorporated requirements of UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (2011), UN SDG (2015) and Paris agreement (2016). NGRBC has 9 principles that cover various ESG parameters including, social, ethical, sustainable production and sustainable consumption.

Table 2: ESG Issues Covered by NGRBC

Principle Number	Principles
1	Businessesshouldconductandgovernthemselveswithintegrity,andina manner that is ethical, transparent and accountable.
2	Businesses should provide goods and services in a manner that is sustainable and safe.
3	Businesses should respect and promote the well-being of all employees, including those in their value chains
4	Businesses should respect the interests of and be responsive to all its stakeholders
5	Businesses should respect and promote human rights
6	Businesses should respect and make efforts to protect and restore the environment
7	Businesses, when engaging in influencing public and regulatory policy, should do so in a manner that is responsible and transparent
8	Businesses should promote inclusive growth and equitable development
9	Businessesshouldengagewithandprovidevaluetotheirconsumersina responsiblemanner

¹A listed entity is one which is listed in any stock exchange in India and the top 100 being decided by value of market capitalization in the previous financial year.

In 2021, India submitted her upgraded NDCs² at CoP 26. It declared among others³ (a) reduction of carbon intensity (emission intensity of GDP) by 45 per cent from the 2005 levels by 2030, (b) achieving Net Zero by 2070, (c) increase forest cover that will absorb 2.5 to 3 billion tons of CO₂ by 2030 and (d) adopt a "Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE)" – a lifestyle that does not harm our planet.

listed entities (by market cap) on a comply or explain basis from FY 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26 and 2026-27.

1.4 Sustainability Requirement of MSMEs

While various regulations, court orders and public demands are promoting to go for various ESG up-gradation, various MSMEs are also doing it Suo moto. Also post CoP 26, BRR framework was converted to one Business Responsibility Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) in 2021 and later SEBI came up with BRSR core. BRSR Core has limited set of key performance indicators (KPIs) from BRSR for which listed entities need to obtain reasonable assurance and which will encompass both the upstream and downstream business partners of a listed entity, comprising 75 per cent of its purchases/sales by value. This scope 3 coverage definitely brings in the MSMEs legally in the ambit of ESG coverage. It is applicable to 150, 250, 500 and 1000 top

² India's Updated First NDC under Paris Agreement (2021-2030) August 2022 Submission to UNFCCC, <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/NDC/2022-08/India%20Updated%20First%20Nationally%20Determined%20Contrib.pdf>

³ Other declarations included reach 500GW of non-fossil fuel energy capacity, 50% of energy requirement from renewable energy and reduce total projected carbon emission by 1 billion tons from now (COP26 held in 2021) to 2030

CHAPTER 2

Role of BMO in Promoting MSMEs

It is here, that conglomeration of MSMEs and entrepreneurs, which are historically the most trusted ally of the MSMEs, can play a significant role by demonstrating the scope of sustainable development and even working out means through which MSMEs can attain sustainability. Such conglomerations are also known as Business Membership Organizations (BMOs).

2.1 What is a BMO?

Business Membership Organization (BMO) refers to any organization in which firms, companies or individual entrepreneurs are members. Besides, BMOs can have special category members (non-industrial/non-entrepreneurial) depending upon the objective of the BMO. BMOs include chambers of commerce, industry associations, federations, apex bodies and SPVs of enterprises/entrepreneurs, employers' organizations, etc. They serve as a link for entrepreneurs with government, service providers and other stakeholders.

Until the late 1990s the country was mostly having national, regional, district and sectoral level BMOs. With the advent of the Cluster Development Program in late nineties, cluster level BMOs started getting registered or rejuvenated throughout the country. Lately, also within clusters, activity/product specific BMOs, Parks/Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) have also become a very common phenomenon.

2.2 Registration of BMOs

Legal registration of BMOs mostly happens under some of the following Acts:

- (a) Societies Registration Act, 1860
- (b) Indian Trusts Act, 1882
- (c) Cooperative Societies Act, 1912
- (d) Companies Act, 1956
- (e) Companies Act u/s 8
- (f) Companies Act u/s 32 (Producer's Company)
- (g) Bombay Industrial Relations Act, 1946

2.3 Level of BMOs

Figure 3: Level of BMOs

Cluster/SPV Level

Their members produce a typical product and are geographically concentrated in a city, town or surrounding place and even a district. It may also include product specific industrial park, SPV, etc. created mostly for making common infrastructure projects.

- Rajkot Engineering Association, Gujarat
- Jaipur Integrated Texcraft Park Private Limited

District Level

Their members are spread over a district, but have no specific product. It may also include all product industrial Parks/Estates found in a district or similar places.

- Ajmer Zila Laghu Udhog Sangh
- Cherlapally Industries Association

State level

Their members may or may not be producing a specific product only or involved in a particular trade only, but membership is spread all over a state or more than one district of a state. Many times they also have other BMOs as their members.

- Chattisgarh Laghu and Sahayak Udyog Sangh
- Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Country Level

Their member may not be producing in a specific product only or involved in a particular trade only, but membership is spread all over the country or more than one state of the country. Many a times they also have other BMOs as their members.

- Confederation of Indian Industry
- Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry

2.4 BMOs across the country

It is estimated that there are around 3500 BMOs in India. On the basis of data of around 1600 plus BMOs available with the Foundation for MSME Cluster (FMC), state-wise presence of BMOs has been classified according to their geographical presence as presented in the figures below. However, this data is only indicative and will give a truer picture with the availability of data of all BMOs in India.

2.5 Analysis of BMOs

Figure 4: Cluster, District, State and Country Level BMOs

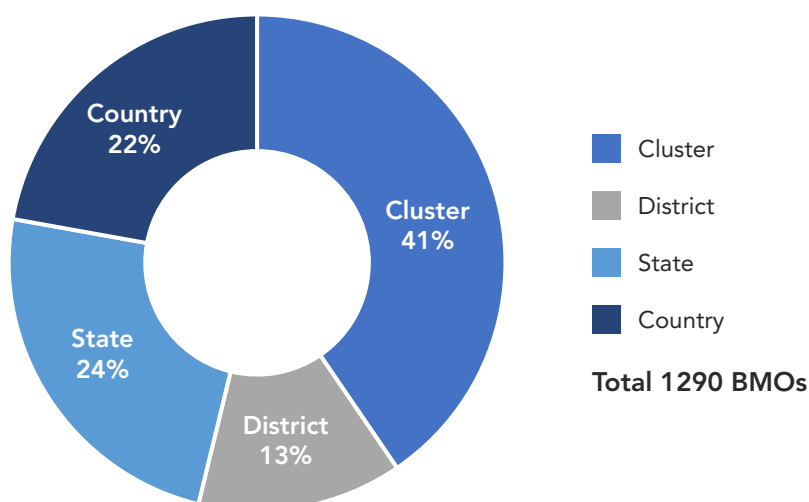


Table 3: Spread of Product Specific BMOs

Classification	Cluster & SPV	State	Country	Total
Aerospace	100%	0%	0%	100%
Agro	50%	14%	36%	100%
Auto Parts	50%	25%	25%	100%
Automobiles	50%	25%	25%	100%
Bamboo	100%	0%	0%	100%
Brick	88%	0%	13%	100%
Cement	20%	20%	60%	100%
Ceramic	44%	11%	44%	100%
Chemicals	27%	11%	61%	100%

Classification	Cluster & SPV	State	Country	Total
Coir	92%	0%	8%	100%
Electrical	40%	0%	60%	100%
Electronics	14%	31%	55%	100%
Energy	9%	9%	82%	100%
Engineering	51%	17%	32%	100%
Food Processing	49%	18%	33%	100%
Foundry	79%	11%	11%	100%
Furniture	0%	50%	50%	100%
Glass	0%	50%	50%	100%
Handicraft	65%	15%	20%	100%
Handloom	88%	9%	3%	100%
Jewellery	86%	5%	9%	100%
Leather	65%	0%	35%	100%
Metal	43%	14%	43%	100%
Mineral	25%	25%	50%	100%
Mining	0%	100%	0%	100%
Paper	14%	36%	50%	100%
Pharmaceuticals	33%	0%	67%	100%
Plastic	18%	41%	41%	100%
Refractory	50%	0%	50%	100%
Rubber	50%	0%	50%	100%
Service	20%	14%	65%	100%
Software	33%	33%	33%	100%
Sports Goods	0%	0%	100%	100%
Stone	75%	0%	25%	100%
Textiles	55%	27%	18%	100%
Tourism	27%	47%	27%	100%
Toy	0%	0%	100%	100%
Trade	73%	14%	14%	100%
Wood	56%	33%	11%	100%
Other Manufacturing	43%	44%	13%	100%

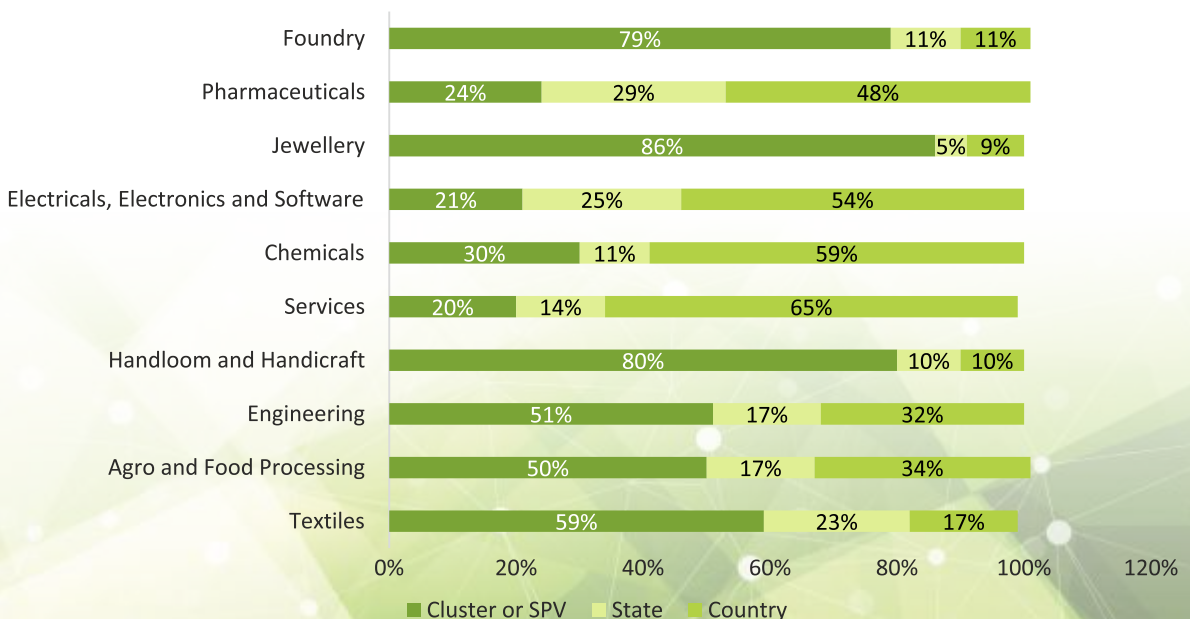
2.6 Sectoral BMOs

Many a time, BMOs represent a specific product. Out of the 1300 odd BMOs for which information is available with FMC so far, around 700 are product specific BMOs. The top 10 are as below.

Table 4 : Spread of Top 10 Product Specific BMOs

Sl. No.	Classification	Cluster or SPV	State	Country	Grand Total
1	Textiles	59%	23%	17%	115
2	Agro and Food Processing	50%	17%	34%	101
3	Engineering	51%	17%	32%	87
4	Handloom and Handicraft	80%	10%	10%	59
5	Services	20%	14%	65%	49
6	Chemicals	30%	11%	59%	46
7	Electricals, Electronics and Software	21%	25%	54%	24
8	Jewellery	86%	5%	9%	22
9	Pharmaceuticals	24%	29%	48%	21
10	Foundry	79%	11%	11%	19

Figure 5: Spread of Top 5 Product Specific BMOs



2.7 Issues faced by BMOs at District / Cluster / SPV level

BMOs at the state and country level are relatively strong in influencing the policies related to issues faced by their members. Some of the major challenges faced by BMOs at district/cluster/SPV level are as follows:

- 1) Limited vision: This restricts BMO from having a holistic perspective about the role they can play in the growth process of their members.
- 2) Limited sources of income: Lack of innovation to introduce innovative income generating services makes the BMO functionally weak to implement its action plan.
- 3) Lack of efficient secretariat: While office bearers remain busy in managing their own factories/establishment, lack of a professional secretariat rules out the implementation of various planned

activities, creating further disinterest among members.

- 5) Lack of support infrastructure: Lack of computer, computer trained executives, websites and email practices severely restrict their outreach.
- 6) Poor communication: Most of the BMOs have little understanding of the importance of communication and public relations. This keeps the number of their members low and growth stagnant.

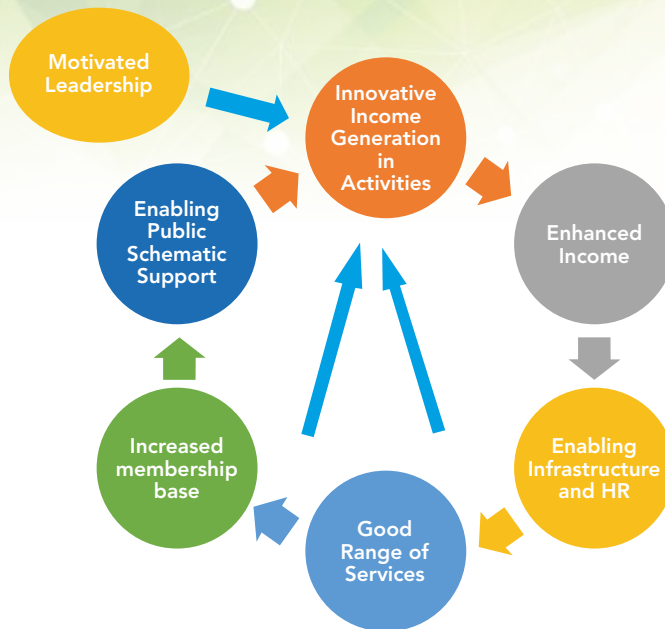
These Challenges may trap BMOs in a vicious cycle of inefficient functioning, low membership base and sustainability issues. The figure below shows that in the pictorial form.

Figure 6: Vicious Cycle (referred from Training Module of FMC)



However, an inspired leadership with a solid vision can convert this cycle into a virtuous cycle as exhibited below

Figure 7: Virtuous Cycle (referred from Training Module of FMC)



2.8 Role of BMOs in Promoting Responsible Business

It is here that the BMOs can play a very proactive role. Firstly, BMOs being the most trusted ally of MSMEs can play a very significant role in spreading the word and motivating the MSMEs to come out of the vicious cycle and challenge the sustainability issues upfront. This can be done at a minimum cost as the cost of spreading the knowledge through well informed BMOs is most economical.

Secondly, BMOs can pass their trust to the newly found service providers and promote their services. BMOs can negotiate an appropriate price and product suiting the requirements of their members and pass the

negotiated price advantage to their members as well as non-members.

Thirdly, BMOs as a collective entity can promote various activities like organizing workshop, providing trainings, giving services and creating Common Facility Centers (CFCs) to address various types of activities for promoting responsible business. In all the above cases the activity needs to be linked to promoting or bringing a change in the status quo of sustainable practices.

Fourthly, BMOs need to appoint efficient and trained secretariat to promote the causes of its members.

CASE STUDIES



G. Ramakrishna
Secretary-AASRA

“AASRA: Nurturing Sustainable Livelihoods and Responsible Business Practices in Rural India”

BMO Background

Associate for Active Service in Rural Areas (AASRA) got registered under Society Registration Act (1860) in 1998 in Vizianagaram district, Andhra Pradesh. It has 500 micro enterprise members. It strives to foster an inclusive society that upholds human dignity, equality, and social and economic development. Guided by the principles of environmental promotion, it aims to advance sustainable livelihood systems through the application of scientific human and resource management, coupled with increased community participation.

Genesis of Responsible Business Activity

Tribal Livelihood depends, among other, on agriculture and forest. Tamarind is abundantly available in the area, which is collected seasonally and sold through middle man. It has been observed that middle man is making more money than the producer. Again, death among planted trees is very frequent and this not only deprives the tribal population from their earnings, but also takes away the environmental benefits of plantation of trees. Also, agricultural waste creates greenhouse gases (GHGs).



Implementation

AASRA decided to work on this subject and create direct market link for the producers. AASRA promoted activities like collective farming, direct market linkage and take the benefit of schematic subsidy in this process through the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD). AASRA also promoted cultivation of millet and other commercial products like mango and other fruit farming activities.

In particular, AASRA distributed 7300 seedlings of mango, guava, custard apple, curry leave, drum stick and teak for gap filling for the dead saplings through the MAATHOTA scheme of NABARD to the Tribal Framers in Pachi Penta mandal. 17000 tamarind, 5000 teak, 3000 Gummadi teak plants was collected from forest department and distributed to tribal farmers free of cost during the fiscal year 2020-21. Also, training in agricultural waste conversion into fodder and storing those in bags and compost preparation reduced GHGs as farmers entered into these value additions.

Beneficiaries, Benefits and Continuity of Activity

The overall value of benefits for members amounted to Rs. 6.2 million, while non-members also gained substantial value with benefits totalling Rs. 1.8 million. The planted trees will continue to clean the atmosphere from CO₂ and produce oxygen. Conversion of agricultural waste into manure and fodder will also reduce GHG. The processes are naturally sustainable.



"Empowering Innovation: APMA's Journey in Intellectual Property Advocacy and Implementation"

Office Bearers-GS Kahlon
President

BMO Background

The Auto Parts Manufacturers Association (APMA) was registered as a Society in 1969 in the district of Ludhiana, Punjab. It has 380 MSME members. Its primary areas of focus include taxation – especially GST related services, Udyam registration, organizing local exhibitions and facilitating participation in national and international exhibitions.



Genesis of Responsible Business Activity

Intellectual property (IP) plays a crucial role in bolstering both our national and state economies. Numerous industries spanning our economic landscape depend on the robust enforcement of their patents, trademarks, and copyrights. IP helps to secure purchases of safe and guaranteed products. APMA firmly advocates protection of IP rights, both within India and internationally. The governing body of APMA assumed a leading role in presenting a proposal to the Ministry of MSME for creating an Intellectual Property Facilitator Centre (IPFC) and remained actively involved throughout the approval process.

Implementation

APMA governing body created the idea and obtained approval from its members. This was followed by preparation of the proposal for grant and its submission to the Ministry of MSME and responding to queries through active follow-up. Upon approval from the Ministry, the infrastructure was created and the Intellectual Property Facilitation Centre (IPFC) was established in the year 2020. While members contributed Rs. 1.07 million, Ministry of MSME gave grant of Rs. 9.65 million.

Beneficiaries, Benefits and Continuity of Activity

Since 2020, a total of 55 members and 140 non-members have got benefitted from IPFC. Awareness and skill development programs were conducted by IPFC for APMA members and nearby MSMEs including local community and described the benefits of getting patent rights. MSMEs applied in the programs through the IPFC and gets their patent rights and also receive government subsidy. Members are also getting benefitted through dissemination of technical information which is enabling technology transfer.



Saifulla Mondal
Chairman

"Harvesting Prosperity: Baishata FPC's Sustainable Aquaculture and Eco-Friendly Agribusiness"

BMO Background

Baishata Farmer Producer Company Limited (BFPCL) started operating in the year 2018 in the South 24 Paragan district of West Bengal and was established in 2021. It has 1050 members. It deals in distribution of fish feed and seed among the members and non-members of the society. It also creates market linkage of members and non-members for selling of fish and other products. It also facilitates bank loan linkage to its members.



Genesis of Responsible Business Activity

Despite the presence of ample water bodies, the current fish production falls short of meeting demand. Utilizing technology in aquaculture promotes an organic approach to water management and fish waste accumulation through High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) cultivation. This method enables the creation of organic fertilizer for agricultural fields, offering a cost-effective solution with enhanced productivity and profitability while operating within an ecosystem framework that is economically viable.

Implementation

The process started with assembling farmers and making them aware about aqua culture, horticulture and agriculture through knowledge distribution and skill training. In 2020-21 farming was done by 512 farmers covering 60 acre of water body. HDPE method of aqua culture was used in 2022 covering 70 acre of water body by 150 farmers by re-cycling of water and use of fish waste as organic fertilizer. Later the coverage was increased to a further 200 acres water body by 750 farmers. Of the total cost of Rs. 19 million, bank financed Rs. 15

million and government subsidy was Rs. 3 million. Besides BFPCL is also selling fish seeds among the members to increase production and facilitated usage of fish waste for agriculture.

Beneficiaries, Benefits and Continuity of Activity

These efforts ultimately led to registration and licences from Central and State Government for distribution and marketing of fish seeds. 800 participants established market linkages ensuring a comprehensive approach to sustainable and productive practices in aquaculture. 300 farmers started using of zooplankton (organisms that have animal-like traits) natural fertilizer in agricultural fields including fish waste substances which is good sources of protein, fat, minerals which leads to organic fertilization and waste deduction by re-using causes due to aqua cultivation by maintaining eco-system.

700 non-members of skilled and unskilled youth got engaged in gainful employment in aqua cultivation, farming, fish feed suppliers, machinery suppliers, maintenance of aqua cultivation. 350 persons are working as retailers, wholesalers and dealers. 25000 community are safe against health hazard by consuming organic aqua cultivation and are living in an improved environment. Revenue generated is Rs. 10.4 million by the association per year amounting to the total of Rs. 10.9 million of last one year which is 4% of total cost. Participants achieved average additional profit Rs. 0.0022 million per annum.



Damodar Sharma
President

"Nectar Harvesters: Transforming Beekeeping with BBCS Innovation"

BMO Background

Bharatpur Beekeeping Cluster Society (BBCS) was registered as a Society in Bharatpur, Rajasthan in the year 2020. It has 670 members. It provides new age services like Udyam registration, Goods and Services Tax (GST) guidance, etc. as well as innovative sales promotion through Government E-Marketplace (GeM), Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), etc. It also organizes Entrepreneurship Development Programs (EDP), Livelihood Programs (LPs), Skill Development Programs (SDPs), Technology Entrepreneurship Development Programme (TEDP) for its members.



Genesis of Responsible Business Activity

Landless beekeepers miss out on agricultural sector support for beekeeping. Besides the traditional market approach gives very low return and that too is shifting towards e-markets. Also, there is huge dearth of technical knowledge with respect to impact of pesticides, hive maintenance, disease recognition, etc. Also, there is financial gaps as well as infrastructure challenges for producing quality honey for consumers.

Implementation

Instead of addressing one problem at a time, the innovation was a holistic exercise, especially in terms of a path changing modular infrastructure creation, wherein part of a common facility centre (CFC) was at a separate place and part of the infrastructure was distributed across the cluster, supported by new age market promotion. 180 beekeepers were distributed bee-box including bees and equipment. Beekeepers were motivated to migrate to other states to get honey from different flowers. The modern processing plant (CFC) was established with the

grant support of Rs. 43.5 million by the SFURTI scheme of Ministry of MSME and contribution of BBCS for Rs. 4 million. 15 persons were trained to run the processing plant. Beekeepers' meetings on marketing and honey procurement were held at different places and quality honey was tested in accredited laboratory. The honey produced underwent a registration process for sale, accompanied by logo and packaging design. In pursuit of sales, presentations were made to major corporations such as Dabur, Big Bazaar, Amazon and Patanjali, seeking orders and engaging in agreement negotiations.

Beneficiaries, Benefits and Continuity of Activity

Members of BBCS made sales worth Rs.30.6 million and 25 non-members also sold for value of Rs.1 million. This led to additional income generation of Rs. 0.0052 million per member. Quality and pure honey led to consumer satisfaction and sustainable consumption. The processing plant is self sufficient in terms of its operational expenses.



Partha Roy
General Secretary

"HIEIWA: Nurturing Communities and Industry Through Responsible Practices"

BMO Background

Howrah Industrial Estate Industries Welfare Association (HIEIWA) was registered as Society in 2012 in district Howrah of West Bengal. It has a membership of 95 micro enterprises. HIEIWA maintains the cleanliness of the industrial area, fostering an ecosystem that minimises diseases, ensuring a healthy environment within the estate. It also focuses on enhancing skills of school dropouts, facilitating their recruitment into industries. This initiative aims to generate local employment opportunities. During COVID-19 Howrah's association extended significant support to the local community. They provided essential food supplies and transportation assistance to ensure access to necessities. Additionally, in collaboration with the Health Department of West Bengal, they facilitated approximately 10,000 vaccinations, contributing to community health and safety.



Genesis of Responsible Business Activity

The need for the activity arose due to a severe scarcity of drinking water within the estate, compelling industries and workers to procure water at higher prices from outside sources. Witnessing the distress, association recognized the critical necessity for accessible drinking water facilities.

Implementation

Discussion on this issue was initiated in 2011 with Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority (KMDA). Thereafter the new leadership took the project forward. During the year 2020-2021, the Annual General Meeting was held by the association to discuss about the

necessity of Installing an R.O. Plant in Balitikuri Industrial Estate. In 2021-2022, the association submitted a proposal to West Bengal Small Industries Development Corporation Ltd (WBSIDCL) for comprehensive Estate development, emphasizing water consumption. Simultaneously, they engaged with KMDA to ensure a reliable supply of pure drinking water. In the same year, i.e., 2021-2022 association members organized a procession advocating immediate intervention of authorities. Finally in 2022-2023, KMDA provided pipeline connections to the association for clean drinking water supply. Capitalizing on this infrastructure, they established the R.O. Plant to ensure the distribution of pure drinking water to meet the requirement of workers.

Beneficiaries, Benefits and Continuity of Activity

The industrial estate has seen a significant impact, with 2000 individuals, including buyers, sellers, visitors, and members of the local community, directly and indirectly benefiting from proper health and safety measures. Members experience a monthly benefit of Rs. 0.05 million, while non-members receive a monthly benefit of Rs. 0.02 million.



Sh Rajiv Chawla
President

"IamSMEofIndia: Pioneering Responsible Growth through GAPS Initiatives"

BMO Background

Integrated Association of Micro Small Medium Enterprises of India (IamSMEofIndia) was registered as a Section 8 Company in district Faridabad, Haryana in 2009. It has 7119 members. Its services revolve around social and ethical practices, encompassing placement services, business advisory and consultancy services, as well as training sessions and seminars.



Genesis of Responsible Business Activity

Inception of the Growth Acceleration Program for SMEs (GAPS) arose in response to the numerous challenges and obstacles confronted by businesses in the aftermath of the COVID19 pandemic. The program was designed with the objective of assisting SMEs in not only navigating through the adversities but also in thriving and establishing a prominent presence in the market. It is a concerted effort to provide support, fostering growth and ensuring the revival of the SMEs by addressing and overcoming the unique challenges they faced post COVID19.

Implementation

The idea was conceived in September 2020, documented in October 2020 and launched in November 2020. A seminar was organized to disseminate GAPS details among member units, encouraging them to enhance momentum in routine business activities. The seminar emphasized on leveraging parameters outlined in a case study, including accessing emergency loans, engaging in collective buying, promoting energy savings, and fostering skill development. Energy audits were conducted and wherever required; old energy

consuming machinery was replaced with new one. Training was given to rectify shopfloor plan to reduce time, material and energy usage, OHS benefits to enhance productivity and also use apprentices to combat manpower shortage. Members spent around Rs. 4 million. Government support was obtained for Rs. 1 million.

Beneficiaries, Benefits and Continuity of Activity

Around 1735 members benefitted through energy savings, skill development, wastage reduction, improved OHS, lean manufacturing, etc. Benefit accrued from GAPs is estimated at Rs. 1 million per member. Around 1680 members enhanced employment.



Abhikam Pippal
President

“JDF: Empowering Women Entrepreneurs in Shoe Production for Sustainable Growth”

BMO Background

Juta Dastkaar Federation (JDF) was established as a society in 1993 in Agra district of Uttar Pradesh. It has 1500 MSME members. Its primary emphasis lies in suggesting policy changes, promoting government schemes, providing financial linkages and organizing skill development programs for its members as well as for would-be entrepreneurs.



Genesis of Responsible Business Activity

Several shoe workshops had to close down due to COVID19. Also, reverse migration of workers from the units reduced production and led to closure of units too. Closure of micro units also impacted the SMEs who sub-contract their production. JDF thought innovatively and came out with an idea of creating local entrepreneur cum work force for shoe production. To make it even more rewarding it was decided to train women and create them as women entrepreneurs.

Implementation

This was done through a series of inter-related activities. Firstly, a ten-day skill development program was organized with the support of the Government of Uttar Pradesh under its One District One Product (ODOP) Scheme. 50 women were trained. Also, several financing camps were organized at various places including Prem Nagar, Sunderpara, Chakkipat, Idgah Kutlupur, Barakhamba, etc. and limits for financing for Rs.0.025 million to Rs.0.05 million were provided to 100 beneficiaries. Health camps were organized too. On the sustainability aspect, energy savings mechanisms were also organized with the support of Torrent Power Limited and waste reduction mechanisms were organized with the support of Nagar Nigam (City Corporation).

Beneficiaries, Benefits and Continuity of Activity

The women entrepreneurs got benefit of Rs. 3 million in terms of business created. It led to employment of 600 persons. This will only get better with time. Information on health benefits were extended to 1000 shoe makers and that of energy savings and waste reduction were passed to 600 and 700 units respectively. These will lead to improved environmental compliance. Jutta Dastkaar organized a health camp benefiting 3000 workers.



Ashis Debnath
Secretary

"KHCDS: Weaving Resilience - Empowering Artisans and Communities Through Disaster Management Initiatives"

BMO Background

Krishnapurchak Handloom Cluster Development Society (KHCDS) was established in 2010 in district Nadia of West Bengal. It has 537 micro enterprises as its members. It has established market connections for the weavers' productions, both online and offline. Additionally, it focuses on enhancing the skills of weavers for introducing new and upcoming designs of sarees to capture new market.



Genesis of Responsible Business Activity

Nadia is prone to heavy rainfall, and cyclones, resulting in frequent natural calamities. These events often leave the residents in a state of devastation, challenging their survival. Recognizing the urgency, the Government of West Bengal came up with a Disaster Management Policy. This policy, among others supports the locals by giving them business linkages. KHCDS supported its members by linking them with the policy benefits.

The BMO (Business Management Organization) secures orders from the West Bengal Government, distributing them among both members and non-members, particularly those facing challenges in securing orders regularly due to poor market linkage. The Secretary, supported by financial contributions from all office bearers, takes the initiative to meet immediate project expenses, leading the way for the introduction of disaster management measures. And it led to the birth of weaving looms which gave support to these needy people.

Implementation

In 2018-19 meeting were conducted with the Department of Disaster Management where networks were established with non-government community-based organizations at State/district levels. Training was conducted and human resource development plan was introduced within cluster. Focus was put on developing linkages with National Handloom Development Corporation Limited (NHDC) for establishment of handloom depot and distribution of handloom among weavers. KHCDS distributed subsidised handloom yarn among member and non-member weavers under the Handloom Yarn Depot Scheme. Also order of finished products were channelised from the State Government handloom marketing agency – Tantuja. Sample order was procured from Tantuja.

Beneficiaries, Benefits and Continuity of Activity

The weavers through KHCDS received order for Rs. 0.8 million in 2019-20. The order value increased to Rs. 0.9 million in 2020-21 and to Rs. 5.8 million in 2021-22. KHCDS also established Disaster Resource Network and started exchanging information and knowledge among all concerned weavers. This led to creation of jobs for people who suffered in the natural disaster. 5000 victims got benefitted because of the improved environment to survive. 457 members got weaving jobs. 630 got involved in allied activities like dyeing, polishing, packaging, quality checking, purchasing of raw materials like yarn, colour, loom suppliers, etc. 60 members are engaged in transportation, parts suppliers and accessories. Total profit and income for last 3 years was Rs. 1.5 million and Rs. 3.2 million respectively.



"MGF: Empowering Fisheries and Enhancing Livelihoods Through Sustainable Business Practices"

BMO Background

Maa Ganga Devi Foundation (MGF) was established as a Trust in 2020 in district Khordha of Odisha. It has 728 members. MGF works on promoting social advancement of farmers by enhancing, among others, their livelihood options. It works on various products including edible oil and maize processing. It also carries out waste management programme including fish waste management and Banana fiber extraction. It also does women awareness programme in various parts of Odisha.



Genesis of Responsible Business Activity

Dry fish is very famous at Humma village in Ganjam District, Odisha. They have been selling it from ancient times. The fishing community faces difficulty in getting appropriate prices because of lack of storage of fish for longer time. Also, fish that gets processed everywhere, in the absence of a centralized facility, leads to unhygienic environment and loss of potential business from fish processing waste.

Implementation

MGF played an important role in marketing that enhanced productivity and diversified products. SFURTI scheme of the Ministry of MSME gave a grant of Rs. 38.7 million and MGF contributed Rs. 3.8 million for creating a cold storage and processing facility. The cold storage offered storing of fishes which are hooked from Rushikulya river. When market demand is low, the members store their fish with minimum charges and when demand is high, they sell their fish at market price to customers. MGF did capacity building training

programmes on best practices of fish farming and storing; establishing the facility with required machineries, tools and equipment; and distribution of machineries and tool kits to fishermen. Stalls at district and local markets are promoting regular and sustained income. Additionally, market surveys to understand the market requirements and accordingly planning their stock as per the market demand has further boosted their income. Post processing wastes are also now being used productively.

Beneficiaries, Benefits and Continuity of Activity

The members and non-members have increased their average income by Rs.0.006 million per month. The facility is managing its operational cost from the business being done.



Srinivasa Rao
Director

"MVO: Nurturing Nature, Empowering Tribes - A Saga of Sustainable Development"

BMO Background

Manyaseema Voluntary Organization(MVO) was promoted as a society in 2001 in the district of Anakapalli, Andhra Pradesh. It focuses on sapling plantation, awareness programme on importance of biodiversity conservation, restoration of water bodies through removal of plastic, promotion of organic farming, etc. In particular, MVO is involved in promoting initiatives that will phenomenally improve the income generation to tribal women in the operational areas.



Genesis of Responsible Business Activity

Purpose of this program is to rehabilitate the endangered species in the forest area and to develop the blueprint of the future space to learn, teach and experiment. Many plant species get extinct due to deforestation of plants for several reasons. This scenario led to an idea of planting new species in the forest.

Implementation

Alluri Sitharama Raju district was created by taking some part of each of Visakhapatnam and East Godavari districts. Simultaneously the Anakapalli district was carved out of Visakhapatnam district. During this process, deforestation took place leading to natural loss in biodiversity. MVO decided to plant trees to negate the effect. MVO took the initiative to organize campaigns through Kalajathara (tribal festival), information dissemination in school and college to create necessary interest of the local community to support them in this endeavor. Huge nurseries were created and saplings were planted with the support of the Biodiversity Program by the government of Andhra Pradesh to bring ecological balance. MVO got a subsidy of Rs. 2.8 million to do this activity.

Beneficiaries, Benefits and Continuity of Activity

This activity is promoting sustainable development in the tribal economies of the districts of Alluri Sitharama Raju and Anapalli districts by promoting ecological balance and through improved livelihoods. The tribal communities have adopted this as one of the sources of their incomes during agricultural off seasons. Students are learning trades related to NTFP and environmental initiatives and nutrition intake has emerged as one important offshoot to address the malnourishment scenario through fresh regeneration of several of the fruit bearing trees and these are also being commercially for livelihood generation.



Chandan Roy
President

"The Confederation: Fostering Innovation and Sustainability in MSMEs Through Collaborative Excellence"

BMO Background

Confederation of Purba and Paschim Medinipur District Chamber of Commerce and Industry (The Confederation) was established in 2015 as a Section 8 Company in Paschim Medinipur district of West Bengal. It has 580 MSME members. The Confederation aims to organize its members through collective efforts to provide access to modern instruments, upgraded equipment and other facilities. These improvements are anticipated to reduce production costs, enhance profitability, and elevate the quality of finished goods, thereby promoting sustainability of these micro units.



Genesis of Responsible Business Activity

Apart from various skill development activities and health aspects, awareness camp was organized on MSE-CDP Scheme by DIC, Paschim Medinipur District, Government of West Bengal. From that camp, the idea of creating a Common Facility Centre (CFC) was generated. Many discussions were also held with the State and Union Governments.

Implementation

Post the awareness camp, discussion was done with MSMEs for the formation of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to create a CFC which will further promote skilled workforce, innovative designs, space efficiency and swift delivery. Additionally, by utilizing scrap material, the project aims to create by-products. Project was approved by State Level Project Steering Committee of MSE-CDP Scheme of the Ministry of MSME. There after the Techno Economic Appraisal Committee of MSE-CDP in its meeting held in December 2021

recommended the proposal to be placed before National Level Steering Committee for consideration and approval subject to submission of some details, which have been since clarified. The Confederation has also introduced air-conditioned ambulance services, conducted training on skill development by experts and started a Women Entrepreneurship Cell.

Beneficiaries, Benefits and Continuity of Activity

A total of 26 members and 87 non-members, along with 467 members of the local community have benefitted through training, adoption of improved technology usage of PPEs, etc. The beneficiaries will also have access to the Common Facility Centre (CFC), which will offer updated technology and modern equipment.



Surendra Gouda"
Trustee

"Pallivikasha Trust: Transforming Maize Waste into Agricultural Gold for Sustainable Livelihoods"

BMO Background

Pallivikasha Trust was established in Khordha district of Odisha in 2020. It has 729 micro enterprise members. Its emphasis is on promoting social advancement by enhancing farmers' livelihood. The Trust works on a variety of products like fish processing, women entrepreneurship, waste management in the districts of Ganjam, Gajapati, Cuttack, etc.



Genesis of Responsible Business Activity

Improper disposal of maize waste, leads to ecological imbalance. This prompted Pallivikasha Trust to introduce an innovative solution. They envisioned utilizing this maize waste as cattle feed, thereby not only addressing ecological concerns but also adding value for maize farmers and boosting their income. In their product diversification efforts, the Trust aims to enhance herd milking. However, the insufficient nutrient content in their current feed hampers their longevity. To overcome this, the Trust strategized to introduce silage, a crucial natural resource for grass-fed animals. Silage is rich in essential energy and plays a vital role in maintaining body condition and facilitating optimal milk production among cows. Also, maize can be converted to high value products like corn flakes, etc.

Implementation

Pallivikasha Trust with the support of SFURTI scheme of the Ministry of MSME created a common facility centre to store maize and also convert it into its by-products. The Scheme supported for Rs. 36.5 million while the Trust contributed Rs. 4.1 million. The venture provides service for maize farmers enrolled with Chheligada Maize Cluster. When market

demand is low, they can store their crops at a minimum charge and when demand is high, they sell their crops to customers at market prices. Farmers were given capacity building programmes and they were also given tool kits. Sales support was also given by installing stalls at district and local markets.

Beneficiaries, Benefits and Continuity of Activity

This process generated income to the maize farmers and made them skilful in their work by emphasising more systematic operations with the use of mechanized processes and hygienic infrastructure. The value of benefit to members and non-members was Rs.0.0055 million and Rs.0.005 million per month respectively.



Smriti
Director

"SBCPRCL: Crafting a Sustainable Future with Bamboo Artistry"

BMO Background

Sathiya Bamboo Craft Producer Company Limited (SBCPRCL) was established as a Producer Company in 2020 in Betul district of Madhya Pradesh. It has 10 members. As a fast-growing renewable resource, bamboo brings together sustainability, economic growth, and creative solutions. SBCPRCL focuses on training community about strength, durability and versatility of bamboo products, up skilling them with expertise to create high quality bamboo products, form Self-Help Groups for financing and promote bamboo products through direct selling, exhibition and online platform.



Genesis of Responsible Business Activity

Need of interventions to provide a platform was felt to preserve the traditional craftmanship and boost their socio-economic status and contribute towards reducing environmental challenges through higher usage of bamboo.

Implementation

To start with, baseline survey of artisans was done. This was followed up by general awareness, skill development, design development, marketing exposures, EDP trainings, etc. with the support of Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles. Diagnostic study was done to understand the gap and a common facility centre (CFC) was created under the SFURTI initiative of the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium

Enterprises (MoMSME) with grant support of Rs. 28.6 million and SBCPRCL financing of Rs. 2.5 million. SBCPRCL also provided sales support offinishedbamboocraftitems.

Beneficiaries, Benefits and Continuity of Activity

Since establishment of SBCPRCL, artisans not only enhanced their skills but also experienced substantial increase in earnings compared to pre-intervention. 370 artisans got involved in production including 45 artisanswho did job work at CFC. Value of benefit to members and non-members is Rs.0.005 million and Rs.0.003 million per month respectively.Besides, skill development and OHS initiatives supported 550 artisans. Lean principlesare followed in the CFC,thushelpinginenergysavingandwaste reductionand recycling.



"SALGMA: Reviving Tradition through Sustainable Leather Innovation"

Buddhadeb Sengupta
President

BMO Background

Santiniketan Artistic Leather Goods Manufacturers' Welfare Association (SALGMWA) was established as a Cooperative Society in 2005 in Bolpursub-division of Birbhum district, in the state of West Bengal. It has 152 micro manufacturers as members. Due to its concerted efforts, it has obtained 'Geographical Indication Certificate' for Santiniketan leather goods. It has also been approved as a 'Training Centre' for leather goods by National Skill development Corporation (NSDC). Along with a pioneering institute dedicated towards cottage industries - Silpa Sadana (PSV), Visva Bharati, SALGMWA provides training in making leather products. In addition, it also helps artisans towards setting up units and provides financial linkages.



Genesis of Responsible Business Activity

A major concern of artisans was with regard to the effective usage of leather waste. In most cases, these were discarded, causing significant financial loss and environmental degradation. SALGMWA members deliberated on the issue over several years, leading to a frugal and essential innovation, namely a fusion of leather by-products and traditional handicrafts.

Implementation

In June 2021 extensive discussion and deliberation to collate technical know-how regarding effective handling and processing of leather by-products were done. During the first half of 2022, thenecessaryinfrastructurewas created and the member units were simultaneously encouraged to adopt the activity. The Government of West Bengal (namely WBSIDC) gave a grant of Rs. 10.3 million and SALGWMA contributed Rs. 1.2 million.

Beneficiaries, Benefits and Continuance of Activity

In July 2022 the process was started in 8 units. In September 2022, the activity got adopted in 15 units and by January 2023, 41 units, 33 being members, have picked up the activity, leading to the employment of 95 persons. The average quantity of waste material produced by these members is about 3 kg/member/day. Since the average number of working days for leather by-product processing is about 240 days a year, it leads to a large quantity of 109,440 kg a year for all 152 members. The cost of finished products produced from this is sold at a minimum price of about Rs. 0.00035 million /kg, which generates an additional revenue of about Rs.6.93 million a year (this is a conservative estimate, assuming 240 working days a year for each of the 33 member participants, each of which generate waste material of about 3 kg per day). In addition to this, there is a three-fold achievement of cost reduction, employment generation, and easy accessibility. 8 non-members have also participated and generated revenue worth Rs.0.85 million. In view of the additional business generated from waste, this innovative activity will sustain and increase its coverage.



Dr Yashpaul Sharma

"Triloki: Cultivating Prosperity Through Sustainable Farming Practices"

BMO Background

The Triloki Vermicompost & Agro Marketing Cooperation Society Ltd. (Triloki) was established in 2020 as a Cooperative Society Under Himachal Pradesh State Cooperative Act 1968 in district Sirmaur, Himachal Pradesh. It has 232 members. Triloki provides services to its members on environmental aspects and business development. Triloki also provides training in areas like Micro Entrepreneurship Development Programme (MEDP), Skill Development Programme (SDP), Livelihood Entrepreneurship Development Programme (LEDP), etc.



Genesis of Responsible Business Activity

Excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides has undeniably boosted production; however, the consequential impact on the soil in farmers' fields and the adverse effects on human health cannot be ignored. Recognizing these effects, a constituent laboratory of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology" (CSIR-IHBT) in Palampur, Himachal Pradesh, conducted research on organic alternatives such as vermicompost, enriched compost, and vermiwash fertilizers. Researchers of CSIR-IHBT created the organic fertilizers using a combination of animal dung, agricultural waste, and beneficial microorganisms.

Implementation

CSIR-IHBT consulted with interested farmers and established Triloki. Farmers were informed about the benefits of using organic fertilizers. But it needed investment to produce it. So, the interested farmers were grouped into a cooperative. Tenders and work orders for machinery were placed in January 2021. CSIR-IHBT taught the beneficiary farmers through small camps

in their villages how to maintain raw cow dung so that it can be converted into compost soon. Here also the plan was one of distributed responsibility, wherein the farmers prepared the pit and the requisite scientific inputs will come from the processing plant created with technical input of CSIR-IHBT. Processing Plant was established with the grant support of SFURTI scheme of Ministry of MSME of Rs. 19.6 million and contribution of the members for Rs. 0.8 million. Farmers were also provided with requisite tool-kits. Production started in the plant from February 2022. 10-days training program was organized in which farmers were given complete training related to compost technology, storing, packing and marketing. 10 farmers were trained in training of trainers to provide support to current and new farmers.

Beneficiaries, Benefits and Continuity of Activity

Monthly income of around 200 farmers increased from Rs.0.004 million to Rs.0.0068 million, a hopping 70 percent. Organic fertilizer now makes soil fertile and pollution-free and limited the moisture to a great extent. Since all the properties of the soil are present, there is no possibility of any kind of fungus or insect being found in the crop. Therefore, farmers do not have to use any kind of pesticide. Triloki runs its plant in a self-sufficient manner. The Business Member Organization (BMO) has positively impacted 200 MSME members. Through the collaboration of Special Purpose Vehicles (SPV) and BMO members, a business worth Rs. 21.6 million was conducted, while non-members engaged in business activities totalling Rs. 2 million.



Virender Nagpal
Vice President

"UNFOA: Pioneering Sustainable Practices in Rohtak's Industrial Landscape"

BMO Background

Udyog Nagar Factory Owners' Association (UNFOA) was registered as a Society in the year 2014 in the district of Rohtak, Haryana. It has 170 MSME members. Apart from various regular activities, UNFOA lays special emphasis on waste management programme and promotion of good health of workers by linking them with dispensary. It also supports its members in getting MUDRA loan and energy efficiency awareness programs too.



Genesis of Responsible Business Activity

UNFOA was formed in response to the diminishing industrial space caused by the inadvertent generation of waste materials by various organizations and firms. The idea was generated through many awareness camp organized by the government and UNFOA. Foundation for MSME Clusters also organized a waste management awareness programme and UNFOA took initiative for waste management.

Implementation

Raw materials arrive at the factory, proceed to production, and after manufacturing, the waste is transported to a waste godown. The waste is then bought by a waste collector, taken to waste collector units, sorted, cut, and the processed waste is then utilized as raw material in the manufacturing units.

Beneficiaries, Benefits and Continuity of Activity

Automated vehicles or tractors are employed to collect the waste. The waste collector engages in sorting activities that create employment opportunities for the local community. Additionally, the purchase of machinery by the waste collector contributes to the growth in the machine manufacturing sector. A total of 5,026 MSMEs have experienced benefits from this activity, which include 3118 non-member MSMEs. The process also contributes towards maintaining cleanliness in MSME units, ensuring a hygienic environment and preventing the spread of diseases in the industrial area. As the private sector in the form of a waste collector is involved in this model, the activity is self-sustainable.



Sandip Kumar Das
Director

"Empowering Women Through Innovation: Vernajyoti's Sustainable Garment Manufacturing Initiative in Mirik"

BMO Background

Vernajyoti Educare is a non-profit Section 8 company, a prominent organization dedicated to sustainability and development. It was founded in 2012 in Mirik, Darjeeling district of West Bengal, with the involvement of 11 micro enterprises. The organization is committed to ongoing innovation for the creation of sustainable livelihood options. Vernajyoti collaborates on various livelihood and skilling projects with grassroots community-based organizations, including FPOs (Farmers' Producer Organizations) and SHGs (Self-Help Groups).



Genesis of Responsible Business Activity

Mirik is a picturesque place and is known for its tourism industry. Hence, originally, Vernajyoti used to provide short term training and employment in the hospitality industry. However, they thought innovatively and felt a need to work with the women in Mirik in diversified areas as they were having very meagre earnings and that too not regular and sustainable.

Implementation

Vernajyoti took the lead in helping the women to form their cooperative with the guidance of Office of District Industry Centre (DIC), Darjeeling of the Government of West Bengal. Vernajyoti took lead in documentation and mobilizing the women members who will form the special purpose vehicle (SPV) to be created which will become an organization of the women and their innovative thoughts for the future. Vernajyoti conducted survey and made Detailed Project Report (DPR) in 2019 for setting up a readymade garment manufacturing facility at Mirik and provide market linkages also. In 2019-20 Entrepreneurship Skill Development

Programme (ESDP) training was conducted. In 2020 Vernajyoti started the process of creating the special purpose vehicle (SPV) and Mirik Nari Sewa Samity was registered as an industrial cooperative society in September 2021. In 2022, 36 Machines were procured with support of the Government of West Bengal for value of Rs. 0.14 million and training in readymade garment making were conducted in two batches for women.

Beneficiaries, Benefits and Sustainability

Since 2022-23, 60 women are executing Government orders for making school uniforms. These included both members as well as non-members of the Cooperative. The non-members are the local community members including family members who participate in the supply chain from sourcing of raw materials, logistics, deliveries to customer, etc. This resulted in an increase in the employment opportunities as well as generated more income for the women. Total value of business executed so far is around Rs. 2.5 million. The cooperative has business in hand to the tune of Rs. 1.5 million and is managing its business from its own fund.

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