

Livelihoods for All Newsletter



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Livelihoods Dialogue, Meghalaya-India | ©Ashoka 2021/Anant Learning & Development

ABOUT US

Ashoka's Livelihoods for All Initiative started with the intention of scaling up the innovative ideas of Ashoka Fellows and catalyze a shift in the paradigm of thought within the livelihoods sector. As part of this programme, we also focus on bringing women back into the workforce and putting them at the centre across different domains of skilling and livelihoods ecosystem in Tier-II and Tier-III cities. This initiative is an impact multiplier that aims to bring about systemic change in the livelihoods landscape by establishing synergies, fostering collaboration and advancing eco-system development.

FELLOWS AND PARTNERS



INSIGHTS

Ashoka has partnered with the India Development Review – a premier industry-specialist platform in the development sector in the region. Take a look at the articles below to peek into the stories shared from the Livelihoods domain.

- [1. A crisis is an opportunity to recognise women's leadership](#)
- [2. Building a disability-friendly workplace: Why includability matters](#)
- [3. Understanding what our youth want, not what they need](#)
- [4. Income shouldn't be the only measure of livelihoods](#)
- [5. When women are celebrated, things change](#)

Reach out to us at lhd@ashoka.org if you wish to connect with experts on the field of market linkages and sustainable FPOs.

LIVELIHOODS DIALOGUE MEGHALAYA 2021

In September, The Livelihoods Dialogue was organised by Anant Learning and Development Pvt Ltd in collaboration with Ashoka. This event brought together stakeholders to engage in an immersive dialogue around community-led livelihoods. It comprised of founders from different organisations, Ashoka Fellows and Directors from Government agencies, it is worth noting that Dr. Chintan Vaishnav's (Mission Director for Atal Innovation Mission-NITI Ayog) presence gave the founders foresight on technological direction and advancement in the social sector. As the panellists shared their journey and their experiences, they also reflected on the power of networks in catalysing innovation and creating a wider impact in the community.



General Updates



Spice making unit, Manjari, Rajasthan-India ©Ashoka 2021/Chaitali Kamble

AROUND THE FIELD

During August to October, the team carried out field missions to Rajasthan, U.P and Maharashtra to understand the progress of the projects and map the potential for ecosystem building in these areas. The team was welcomed by dedicated FPO members at the Sakhi Haat, an enterprise run by Manjari and Vedanta which sells textiles, spices, home décor etc. At The Goat Trust, the team was privy to the trainings and session held to capacitate women farmers on goat rearing and financial know-how. The team was also drawn to the experiences shared by the staff members and partners from Swayam Shikshan Prayog who unpacked the technicalities of the Farmer Produce Organisations (FPOs) and provided insights on the challenges.



Members of FPO, SSP Maharashtra-India ©Ashoka 2021/Chaitali Kamble

SPOTLIGHT

Promoted and nurtured about 100+ FPOs in the country covering about 42,500 farmers. The organisation has impacted lives of over 400,000 families through their model which continues to build resilient, sustainable and wealthy farmers.

In September, an MoU was signed with UN Women to bring more rigour in gender inclusivity in our programmes.



ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME

Accelerator program brought together 16 organizations, 50 participants, and 25 guest faculty to indulge in 24 sessions around organization strategy, fundraising, strengthening employability, and innovation. This virtual event was held during the trying times of the first wave of COVID-19 where many organizations were rethinking their strategies, this intensive program provided direction and a platform to collectively discuss challenges and solutions.



ACCESS LIVELIHOODS SUMMIT 2021

Ashoka co-curated sessions on building bottom-up value chains, embracing gender inclusive entrepreneurship and equipping youth with skills in an evolving employability market. The panel had a presence from distinguished speakers from multilateral organisations and the Ashoka community. The event had a virtual footfall of more than 1800 delegates.

Participating Speakers

 Nikhil Singh Director of Field Program Central Institute	 B.B. Hegde President, FPOs
 Dr. Neeraj Maheshwari Senior Lecturer South Asia Institute	 Nancy Zuttermann Secretary South Asia Institute
 Dr. Binay Biswas Senior Professor Ashoka Centre Africa and Director Africa South Centre	 Prema Choudhary President & Executive Director Swayam Shikshan Prayog
 Suryan Mishra Co-Founder and CEO FPOs	 Ajay Singh President Ashoka Centre Africa
 Sandeep Kumar President and Managing Director The Goat Trust	 Sanyal Shreya President Central Institute Manjari Foundation

Catch the conversation here:

- [Gender and women inclusive entrepreneurship in Global South](#)
- [Scaling up resilient Value Chains](#)
- [Skill gap and youth employment](#)

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