

Livelihoods for All Newsletter



South Asia, Issue: 04, September 2022



Angel Chef, a bakery run by the differently abled | ©PFDA 2022/Bangladesh

ABOUT US

Ashoka's Livelihoods for All Initiative, in association with IKEA foundation, aims to scale up the innovative ideas of Ashoka Fellows and catalyze a shift in the paradigm of thought within the livelihoods sector. We bring you the fourth edition of our quarterly newsletter, where we share updates from our work at the Livelihoods for all (LiFA) programme and our partners, as well as insights from the field of livelihoods.

INSIGHTS

Peek into the stories shared from the Livelihoods domain:

1. IDR features PRAN in this article on introducing organic farming in Gaya, Bihar. Read [here](#)
2. Oxfam India's latest report on discrimination in India reveals that women in India tend to be discriminated in the labour market despite being equally qualified and experienced as their male counterparts. Read [here](#)
3. Ashoka has published a report on strengthening personal capabilities for systemic change for highly resourced individuals. Read [here](#)

TACKLING YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

In July, Ashoka Fellows Aakash Sethi and Christopher Turillo, founders of Quest Alliance and Medha respectively, shared how they are rebuilding India's education system from the bottom up, with a focus on self-paced, joyful learning. They unpacked how to do this at scale, leveraging technology and collaboration. Catch the conversation on Ashoka's Welcome Change event [here!](#)



EXPERT ENGAGEMENT

LiFA has collaborated with Sesta Development Services (SDS) to provide technical support to the livelihoods cohort members. Sesta has over a decade of experience in training of farmers, developing local community service providers, setting up community based learning centres or farmers field schools, organising and capacitating producer groups and federation for efficient market integration. Some of the key experiences include partnerships with state governments in Northeast India, Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP), Ministry of Development and G.o.I in implementation of the broad based schemes on agriculture, fishery, piggery, nutritional garden and poultry farming.



(Left) SDS team conducting capacity building training with members of PRAN in Gaya, Bihar

Reach out to us at lh@ashoka.org if you wish to connect with experts.

NOMINATE A FELLOW [HERE](#)



AQUAFUND LAUNCHED

Jaljeevika in collaboration with Rang De launched the Aqua Fund program to encourage and support people in the aquatic livelihood segments. The AquaFund is the first-ever dedicated P2P credit support for the small and marginal fish farmers, micro-entrepreneurs, and women who are engaged in aquaculture, makhana, and water chestnut (singhara) farming in several Indian states. [Details here](#)



Fish farmers | ©Jaljeevika 2022/India

General Updates



PARTNER RETREAT

In July, the LiFA team organised a 4 day retreat where Fellows in the Livelihoods cohort from India and Bangladesh participated. Participants got to interact and consult with Dr. Chintan Vaishnav, mission director, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), on their challenges and pathways to scaling. While addressing the cohort, Dr. Harish Hande emphasised the importance and practicalities of innovation in processes and operations by reflecting on his learnings at SELCO. Further, Soumitra Pandey broke down the layers and definitions of scaling through his vast experience of consulting with Bain and Bridge Span. Lastly, Bhavana Issar of Sambhaavna and Mustafa Moochhala of Innobridge, led the attendees on an introspective and forward looking journey through a varied set of exercises.



Participants at the LiFA retreat | ©Sammy Adams 2022/Bangalore



Strategies to piece the puzzle: Zoom in, Zoom out session at LiFA retreat | ©Ashoka 2022/Bangalore



One on One session with Dr. Chintan Vaishnav at LiFA retreat | ©Sammy Adams 2022/Bangalore

Surrounded by others who are walking a similar path of changemaking, Fellows felt reassured that there was a network of problem solvers and innovative thinkers to rely on. Their dilemmas and trilemmas of being leaders and entrepreneurs were met with ideas, experiences, and perspectives from an enthusiastic group.

“Entire cohort feels like a community that is as invested in our success as us,” Seema Prakash, SSSS



Conversation with Dr. Harish Hande and Dr. Chintan Vaishnav at LiFA retreat | ©Sammy Adams 2022/

SPOTLIGHT

Hasina Kharbhii, founder, Impulse NGO Network, speaks about using technology, working with Meta and explains that women and youth that come out of rehabilitation should be equipped with marketable skills so that they can avoid being trafficked again. Watch the panel [here](#)



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TOWARDS CREDIT LINKAGE

The Goat Trust has partnered with [ARTH](#), a micro enterprise financing company to provide credit to pashu sakhis who are able to perform artificial insemination in goats.



FOCUS

- Expressing our sincere gratitude towards all those working for the flood relief in Pakistan.
- Show your support [here!](#)

Stay updated