Monthly Updates- August 2026

SHG Households' Adopting Agriculture through Natural farming practices (SHAAN)

Overview

Project SHAAN is being implemented across Bihar and Jharkhand in partnership with the Gates Foundation. This is done in partnership with Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS) of Andhra Pradesh, the national pioneer in natural farming. The project works to transform smallholder agriculture for SHG households by making it profitable, sustainable, and climate resilient through a shift away from chemical-intensive farming towards natural farming practices. CRISP and RySS together provide technical guidance and field expertise at no cost to state governments, with the SRLMs owning implementation.

Project Goal



To promote natural farming by the rural poor (organised into Self-Help Groups) and thereby make agriculture profitable, sustainable and climate resilient.

Strategy



Working with the SRLMs in Bihar and Jharkhand and transfer of knowledge and natural farming know-how through the expert practitioners of natural farming in Andhra Pradesh.



Schools of Practice developed which can be used for training other farmers.



The project is implemented along with AP RySS which is spearheading the natural farming movement under the leadership of Mr T. Vijay Kumar.



Deploy External Community Resource Persons from Andhra Pradesh to live in pilot villages and work side by side with SHG households.

Progress this Month

Jharkhand

- Received JSLPS approval for piloting the SHAAN project in the two identified blocks - Anandpur and Manoharpur blocks in West Singhbhum
- Initiated planning for the RySS field visit to the pilot blocks.

Bihar

- A joint scoping visit was carried out from 18 to 20 August by CRISP, JEEViKA and a three-member RySS National Resource Organisation (NRO) team led by Shri Krishna Rao, across both project districts. This was done to acquaint the team with natural farming practices.
- In each district the team began at the Block Project Implementation Unit, meeting the Block Project Manager, the Block Agriculture Officer and the DPCU's district agriculture representative.
- At the Cluster Level Federation the team met the CLF board, Skill Extension Workers, Village Resource Persons for agriculture, the Area Coordinator and Community Mobilisers.
- Village scoping followed in each village, with Village Organisation members drawn from different Self-Help Groups participating.
- Four intervention villages were finalised - Malikaur and Bishanpur Bathua in Pusa block (Samastipur), and Kaila and Premanbigha in Nagarnausa block (Nalanda), all cropping in three seasons, with vegetables alongside cereals, pulses and fodder.
- A village profiling exercise was completed covering land use, cropping systems, soils, irrigation, livestock, pest and disease incidence, market access, crop-wise chemical use and reported yields and income per acre.
- The team also assessed what Didis currently know and practise, how they view the effect of chemical farming on health and environment, and their willingness to work with ECRPs from Andhra Pradesh.
- Comprehensive discussion with JEEViKA's State Project Management Unit in Patna on the scale of APCNF, the NRO's mandate and the proposed exposure visit.
- The pilot design was agreed in principle, four villages, one External Community Resource Person (ECRP) in each, and RySS in collaboration with CRISP has since prepared and shared a detailed scoping visit report.

Way Forward

Jharkhand

- Finalise the schedule and logistics for the RySS field visit.
- Undertake the field visit and facilitate interactions with key stakeholders to inform the implementation and rollout of the pilot.

Bihar

- Deploy four ECRPs, one per village, after operational coordination with JEEViKA and CRISP.
- Develop the baseline covering cropping systems, cost of cultivation, input use, productivity, income, soil, irrigation, livestock and farmer perceptions.
- Establish a joint coordination mechanism across RySS-NRO, JEEViKA, CRISP, block teams and village institutions.
- Prepare village-level implementation plans once ECRPs are in place and the baseline is complete.

Photo Gallery



Image 1: Bihar, Village-level discussion with farmers and SHG members



Image 2: Bihar, Field visit to a proposed intervention village