

## Monthly Updates- July 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.

### Jharkhand

- Prepared the project action plan outlining key activities, timelines, and the implementation strategy.
- Held discussions with the concerned department to identify and deliberate on potential pilot areas for project implementation.
- The file has been approved by the department; the formal communication letter is being drafted currently.
- The pilot locations have been identified in consultation with the department. The two blocks selected are Anandpur and Manoharpur (West Singhbhum).
- Incorporated the proposed revisions to the project budget and finalized the budget for implementation.

### Bihar

- To identify suitable blocks for Project SHAAN, the team met the District Project Manager (DPM), the Block Project Managers (BPMs), and the District Agriculture Officer. The selection took into account a range of factors, including the village profile of each area, its proneness to drought and heavy rainfall, the prevailing cropping patterns and the pattern of landholding amongst others.
- The shortlisted blocks (Nagarnausa in Nalanda and Pusa in Samastipur) were visited, where meetings were held with the BPM and JEEViKA's agriculture team, as well as with the Block Agriculture Officers and Agriculture Coordinators, to identify suitable villages.
- Four villages in each block have since been selected for the scoping visit by the RySS team. RySS, together with JEEViKA and CRISP, will subsequently narrow these down to the two villages per block where the intervention will be taken forward.
- Google Meets was held with Shri Krishna Rao of RySS and his team to agree on the next set of steps.
- The RySS team has been invited to Bihar in the second half of August to carry out the scoping visit across all these villages. The exact dates are being finalised.

## Way Forward

### **Jharkhand**

- Obtain the formal approval letter and share it with the stakeholders in the chosen pilot areas.
- Visit the pilot areas to build rapport with the stakeholders

### **Bihar**

- Undertake the joint scoping visit with RySS and finalise the two villages in each block where Natural Farming will be carried out.
- Collect and collate the agricultural profile of these villages, where the required information is available.
- Plan an exposure visit from Bihar to the RySS Natural Farming project in Andhra Pradesh, so that all partners can align on a common approach.