Monthly Updates- October 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

- Successfully coordinated and conducted a three-day scoping visit by the RySS team to the pilot blocks of Manoharpur and Anandpur in West Singhbhum, Jharkhand.
- Facilitated interactions with district and block-level government officials, Cluster Level Federations (CLFs), women's organisations, Gram Sabha representatives and community members to assess the scope and potential for implementing the natural farming initiative.
- The RySS team also met with the CEO, JSLPS, to discuss the proposed intervention and seek institutional support for its implementation.
- Identified four villages across the two blocks for piloting the initiative and deployment of Extension and Community Resource Persons (ECRPs).

Bihar

- The field teams attended the CRISP Patna Orientation Meeting on 8–9 October. The report identifies the teams as WE-GIVE and SHAAN project teams.
- In Nagarnausa, the Block Lead explained natural farming to coordinators.
- Field teams interacted with SHG members, VO representatives and CLF functionaries, providing opportunities for introducing the project alongside WE-GIVE.

Way Forward

Jharkhand

- Recruit Block Coordinators to support project implementation and field-level coordination.
- Deploy ECRPs across the four identified villages to initiate field-level activities.
- Kick-start the natural farming pilot in coordination with JSLPS, RySS and the respective CLFs and village-level institutions.
- Initiate community mobilisation and engagement to facilitate the rollout of natural farming practices.

Bihar

- Expand awareness of natural farming among SHG members, VO and CLF functionaries.
- Identify interested SHG members and farmers who could participate in natural farming interventions.
- Develop a structured training plan for coordinators and community-level functionaries on natural farming practices.
- Plan practical exposure, demonstrations and farmer-level learning activities to move beyond introductory awareness.
- Establish a mechanism to track participation, training coverage and adoption of natural farming practices.

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Photo Gallery



Image 1 : CRISP Coordinator participated in a Jeevika Drive in Kaila - a Project SHAAN village and informed the Jeevika Didis about the initiative.



Image 2 : Comprehensive Orientation Program for the new hires of SHAAN along with Jeevika officials.