

## Warm Greetings from the Grameen Foundation for Social Impact!

February marked another step forward in enabling women and underserved communities to build sustainable livelihoods and move beyond poverty.

From digital financial access to women-led enterprises, girls' education, and farmer support- every effort is creating lasting change.

## Her Success, Our Shared Responsibility

Our campaign continues this month and your support can be a turning point.

₹10,000 can help a woman start and grow her own business with the skills, mentorship, and confidence to succeed.

What we spend on small luxuries can build her future for life.

 **Support a cause that truly makes a difference**

 **Tax benefits available**

 **[Donate here](#)**



- This -

# International Women's Day,

## Invest in HER Udaan

Despite strong potential, **80% of women-led enterprises** in India stay small due to lack of skills, mentorship, and market access

**GFSI has enabled over 72,445 women to lead enterprises, strengthen agriculture, expand financial inclusion, and drive collective growth**

**With the right support, she can build a thriving livelihood**

### ₹10,000

*Enables one woman for 6 months to start and grow her business*

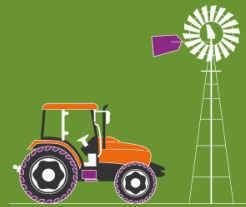
**Training****Mentorship****Digital Skills****Market Access**

What we spend on small luxuries  
can help a woman build a **sustainable livelihood.**

**Scan & Donate**

With Warm Regards,  
**The GFSI Team**

# Agriculture And Livelihood Practices



## GROW>Returns: Powering Women Agri-Entrepreneurs



Across Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and West Bengal, GROW>Returns is going to enable 5,000 rural women to build agri-enterprises, impacting up to 500,000 farmers. Through AI-enabled training, local-language tools, and hands-on mentoring, women are stepping up as leaders, service providers, and market connectors.

### What's new?

We conducted a comprehensive Landscape Assessment Study across Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Gujarat, and Maharashtra to understand the ecosystem for women-led agri-entrepreneurship.

The study combines surveys, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and case documentation to explore opportunities, challenges, and support systems for rural women in agriculture.

Insights from this study will guide the design of AI-enabled incubation models, digital advisory tools, and context-specific interventions to empower rural women as successful agri-entrepreneurs.

**[For more details, click here](#)**

Agriculture And Livelihood Practices

## Sector Highlights



- The Pusa Krishi Mela 2026 (25-27 Feb) at IARI, Delhi, highlighted technology, advanced seeds and smart agriculture. Reports noted a special focus on women's empowerment and inclusion in farm innovations. [Read more](#)

## Spotlight

### Special Program: Mariam-Lakshyavati



**With support from GFSI's Mariam-Lakshyavati initiative, Heena is following her passions and steadily progressing toward success.**

Heena grew up in a small rural village, living with her mother and younger sister after her father passed away in 2019. With limited income and a tiny room at her grandparents' house, pursuing education and personal interests was a daily challenge.

Through the **GFSI Mariam-Lakshyavati initiative**, Heena received a bursary that covered her school fees and allowed her to buy books. This support made it possible for her to focus on her studies and explore her love for painting and reading, things that were difficult before due to financial constraints. She is now able to participate in school activities, improve academically, and develop her talents without the constant worry of expenses.

Grameen's mentorship and guidance helped Heena plan for the future. With consistent support, she is building skills, gaining confidence, and shaping a path toward a successful career. The initiative provided not just financial aid, but a foundation that enables her to continue learning, growing, and aiming higher despite her circumstances.

**[For more details, click here](#)**



Special Program: Mariam—Lakshyavati-Ki-Udaan

## Sector Highlights



### STEM Advancement Through Girls' Innovation

In Jharkhand, an initiative supporting over 36,000 girls in STEM education was highlighted when a Class IX girl developed a 5 km range audio transmitter, showcasing the potential of girl-child education in technology fields. [Read more](#)



## Grameen Neev Sustainability Accelerator 2026

A joint initiative of Grameen Foundation and IKN Innovation Foundation, this accelerator is designed to enable early- and growth-stage social enterprises across rural and semi-urban India.

Focused on **climate action & green livelihoods, health, nutrition, & well-being, and digital & financial inclusion**, the 12-month engagements deliver a structured journey combining **enterprise diagnostics, two, 3-day in-person bootcamps, sector-specific mentors's engagements, pitch deck preparation, products enhancement related sessions, and investor connects.**

Supporting **up to 120 enterprises annually**, the initiative places a strong emphasis on **women-led and impact-driven ventures**, enabling them to refine business models, strengthen financial planning, and build scalable solutions.

By bridging gaps in funding, capacity, and market linkages, the accelerator aims to help enterprises **scale sustainably, drive livelihoods, and create measurable social impact** aligned with key SDGs including gender equality, innovation, and climate resilience.



## Grameen Foundation India News

**From Evidence to Policy | National Policy Consultation AgriPath Initiative | 27 February 2026 | Convened by Grameen Foundation India**

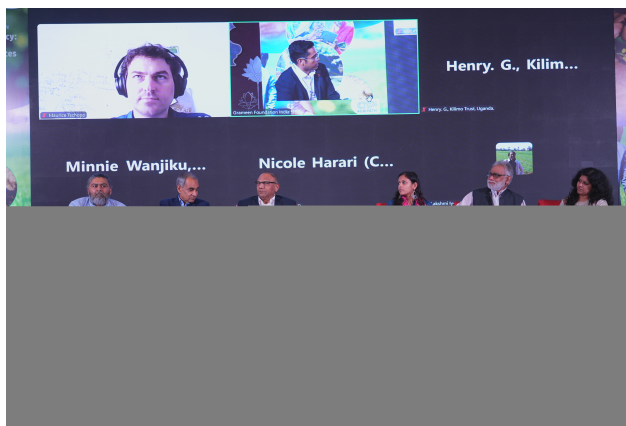
India's agricultural advisory landscape is evolving rapidly, driven by platforms like Bharat-VISTAAR and AgriStack. Yet technology alone cannot guarantee better farming outcomes. The pressing challenge is to institutionalize digital advisory services that are effective across regions, genders, and income groups.

At the National Policy Consultation on “**From Evidence to Policy: Institutionalising Digital Advisory Services**”, convened under the AgriPath Initiative, Grameen Foundation India presented insights from one of the first multi-country Randomised Controlled Trials (RCTs) on Digital Advisory Services and Sustainable Land Management Practices in Uttar Pradesh. The trial provided practical evidence on how digital advisory can scale effectively within public agricultural systems.

Key findings revealed that farmers adopt recommended practices more consistently when digital tools are combined with human support. This hybrid approach—built trust, increased uptake, and overcame behavioral and financial barriers that purely digital interventions could not address.

Participants explored strategies to embed inclusion and gender-responsive design into advisory systems. They highlighted persistent challenges for women farmers, including mobility limitations, restricted access, and unequal control over smartphones. The discussions emphasized integrating digital services with existing public extension systems rather than creating parallel structures.

The consultation translated evidence into actionable policy direction, including a **24-month roadmap** for mainstreaming hybrid digital advisory within public systems. The overarching message was clear: digital transformation in agriculture must align technology with people, institutions, and everyday farming decisions.



**Once a Grameenie, always a Grameenie**



I am Pankaj Srivastava, and it's truly a pleasure to reflect on my three-year journey with Grameen Foundation for Social Impact as a Project Manager.

I have grown immensely both professionally and personally, acquiring invaluable skills that will stay with me throughout my career. Grameen's HR policies were exceptional, always fostering a positive, supportive environment that valued every individual. The experiences and lessons I gained here are deeply meaningful, and I am certain they will continue to guide me as I take the next steps in my professional career.

- Pankaj Srivastava



- Pankaj Srivastava

Follow us



E-86, Lower Ground Floor, Sun City, Sector 54, Golf Course Road, Gurgaon-122011, Haryana, India

T: +91 124 41007023  
M: +91 9910699823

www.gfsi.in/

info@grameenfoundation.in