



ICAR- All India Coordinated Research Project on Spices
ICAR- Indian Institute of Spices Research
Kozhikode, Kerala.



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH SPICES

Case Studies of FPOs and Enterprises in collaboration with ICAR-AICRP on Spices

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Technical Bulletin



ICAR- All India Coordinated Research Project on Spices
(ICAR-AICRPS)

ICAR- Indian Institute of Spices Research
Kozhikode, Kerala

Technical Bulletin – 09 (2025/09)

Published by

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ICAR–All India Coordinated Research Project on Spices,
Kozhikode – 673 012, Kerala, India
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Correct Citation

Cheekilote N, Mukesh Sankar S, & Prasath D. (2025). *Empowering Communities through Spices: Case Studies of FPOs and Enterprises in collaboration with ICAR-AICRP on Spices*. ICAR- All India Coordinated Research Project on Spices: ICAR- Indian Institute of Spices Research, Kozhikode, Kerala

October 2025

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INTRODUCTION

The ICAR–All India Coordinated Research Project on Spices (AICRPS), headquartered at the ICAR–Indian Institute of Spices Research, Kozhikode, Kerala, operates through 40 centers—including 19 regular centers, 19 voluntary centers, and two project mode centers—spread across 25 states and 14 agro-climatic regions, with special emphasis on the North Eastern States and tribal areas. The network plays a pivotal role in the development of region-specific varieties and in addressing critical challenges faced by the farming community, such as crop diseases, pest management, and coping strategies during adverse or aberrant weather conditions. At present, AICRPS focuses on 17 mandate crops: black pepper, small cardamom, large cardamom, ginger, turmeric, nutmeg, cinnamon, clove, coriander, cumin, fennel, fenugreek, ajwain, nigella, saffron, kalazeera, and mango ginger.

In today's competitive agricultural landscape, mere crop production is no longer sufficient for securing sustainable livelihoods. The need of the hour is to empower farming communities with post-harvest processing, product differentiation, and enterprise development. Processing reduces post-harvest losses, improves quality, and extends shelf life, enabling farmers to capture better prices. Product differentiation through value addition—such as branded spice powders, oils, extracts, and specialty products—opens access to premium markets while reducing dependence on middlemen. Equally vital is the formation of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), which enable small and marginal farmers to pool resources, access advanced technologies, and compete collectively in the marketplace. By evolving from cultivators to entrepreneurs and enterprise-builders, farmers can secure higher incomes, withstand market fluctuations, and build long-term resilience.

The close collaboration of ICAR–AICRP on Spices centers with FPOs and rural enterprises has already demonstrated significant impact on the livelihoods of farmers across India. Acting as knowledge and innovation partners, these centers provide access to scientific crop management practices, improved seed material, and post-harvest technologies that directly enhance productivity and profitability. Training programs, demonstrations, and diagnostic field visits help address farmers' real-time challenges, while value-addition technologies and processing equipment enable them to move beyond selling raw produce. With market-oriented interventions and branding support, farmers are now entering new value chains and positioning themselves as producers of high-quality, market-ready products.

This publication aims to showcase some of these success stories of collaboration between ICAR–AICRP on Spices centers and FPOs, highlighting how research-driven interventions and community action are transforming spice farming in India. It is hoped that these stories will inspire the growth of more such partnerships, paving the way for sustainable livelihoods, rural empowerment, and a stronger spice economy for the nation.

List of FPOs/ Enterprises supported by ICAR-AICRP Spices

1. Yercaud Vadakkumalaiyan FPCL –Salem, Tamil Nadu
2. Rangsang Agro Producer Company Limited, Assam
3. Sankhu Radhu Khandu Organic Farmer Producer Cooperative Society –Gyalshing, Sikkim
4. Maathota Tribal Farming & Marketing Producer Company Limited –Chintapalli, Andhra Pradesh
5. Sreshta Farmer producer company limited, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh
6. Subramanyeswara Farmers Producer Company Limited, Krishna, Andhra Pradesh
7. Vigneswara Farmers producer Organization Ltd. Krishna, Andhra Pradesh
8. Sri Skandaya Horticulture Farmer Producers Co Operative Society Ltd, Krishna, Andhra Pradesh
9. Bade Organic Turmeric Growers Group, Chumoukedima, Nagaland
10. Sri. Laxmanchanda Mahila Producer Company, Laxmanchanda
11. Pembu Tribal farmers Producer company, Pembu, Nirmal district, Telangana
12. Vempally Farmer Producer company Limited, Vempally, Nizamabad, Telangana
13. Korutla FED company limited, Korutla, Jagityal, Telangana
14. Koraput Nari Sakti Farmers Producer Company Ltd. Lamataput, Koraput, Odisha
15. Anchalika Mahila Farmers Producer Company Ltd. Kunduli, Semiliguda, Koraput, Odisha
16. Pottangi Agro Products Producer Company Ltd. Pottangi, Koraput, Odisha
17. Laxmipur Agro Products Producer Company Ltd. Toyraput, Laxmipur, Koraput, Odisha
18. Majhiamba Agro Products Producer Company Ltd, Majhiamba, Narayanpatna, Koraput
19. Shree Mahashakti Farmer Club, Gochand, Patan, Gujarat
20. Rughji Farm, Jaipur, Rajasthan



FROM HILLS TO HIGH RETURNS: YERCAUD'S FPO JOURNEY

In the cool hills of Yercaud, Salem district, Tamil Nadu, a quiet transformation is underway. The Yercaud Vadakkumalaiyan Farmer Producer Company Limited (YVMFPCL), formed in 2021 with 205 members (including 50 women), has become a beacon of collective strength and scientific progress. Supported under the Government of India's FPO promotion scheme, the group unites farmers cultivating black pepper, coffee, and minor millets—crops that thrive in this rich hill ecosystem.

The turning point came when YVMFPCL partnered with the Horticultural Research Station (HRS), TNAU Yercaud, under the ICAR-All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Spices.

Yercaud Pepper is not just a spice—it's a symbol of how collective strength and research can change lives



Farmers, once reliant on traditional practices and vulnerable to middlemen, gained access to scientific expertise, quality planting material, and modern market strategies. This collaboration opened new doors, transforming farming from subsistence to enterprise. Through capacity-building trainings, demonstration plots, and the supply of improved planting material, farmers learned integrated crop management, pest and disease control, and better post-harvest handling. They also received support in market linkages and branding, paving the way for the premium identity of “Yercaud Pepper.” These scientific interventions were not limited to classrooms—farmers saw them in action through model plots, making adoption easier and more effective.



The results have been remarkable. Black pepper productivity rose by nearly 39%, millet yields increased significantly, and post-harvest losses in pepper dropped from 12% to 4.5%. Farmers now earn 15–25% higher prices through collective marketing, with black pepper fetching ₹525/kg against the earlier ₹420/kg. Income gains have been substantial, with the FPO generating an additional ₹58 lakhs in 2023–24. Over 85% of members have shifted to organic or low-chemical farming, further enhancing the sustainability of their practices.

Beyond immediate gains, YVMFPCL is building for the future. With guidance from HRS-Yercaud, the FPO has framed a five-year business plan, promoted women-led processing units, and is preparing to launch value-added products like pepper powder and millet mixes.

Plans for processing facilities, e-commerce sales, and even carbon credit initiatives are on the horizon. This story is not just about improved yields or higher incomes—it is about how farmers, empowered by science and united under a common platform, are writing a new chapter of resilience and prosperity in Yercaud.

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SPICING UP LIVELIHOODS IN ASSAM: THE PARASANG AGRO PRODUCER COMPANY SUCCESS

In Kamrup district, Assam, the Rangsang Agro Producer Company Limited is redefining the future of spice farming. Established in 2020, this women-led initiative with 641 members—all women—has become a vibrant force in empowering spice farmers across approximately 160 acres. With support from the Spice Board Regional Office, Guwahati, and technical guidance from Horticultural Research Station, Assam Agricultural University, the centre of ICAR-AICRP on Spices, the company is transforming cultivation practices, enhancing market linkages, and promoting sustainable livelihoods through collective effort.

The partnership has enabled farmers to access expertise, high-quality inputs, and advanced cultivation techniques. Over 5,000 black pepper saplings, 5 t of ginger seeds, 6 t of turmeric seeds, and 5,000 arecanut saplings have been distributed, helping farmers expand their plantations.

Demonstrations on black pepper plantation, nursery raising, and pest control have equipped members with the knowledge and skills to implement best practices. Capacity-building programs on post-harvest handling, storage, and disease management have further strengthened farmers' confidence in spice production.

The results have been remarkable. Farmers are now achieving higher yields, better prices, and access to new markets through the company's buyer and exporter networks. The initiative has especially benefited women farmers, who have gained awareness of commercial opportunities and are expanding their ventures. Improved cultivation methods and collective marketing have enabled them to not only increase productivity but also ensure fair prices for their produce, laying the foundation for sustainable agricultural growth.

Women-led spice farming is transforming lives
and livelihoods in Assam



With production stabilized, the consortium moved to the next phase - value addition. In 2019, supported by the Business Planning and Development unit of ICAR-IISR, they launched their own turmeric powder brand, SUBAKSHYA. Made from a single, superior variety and processed under expert supervision, the product quickly gained market recognition. By 2020, they had set up their own spice processing facility. The journey of Alagappanagar Cooperative Consortium shows what well-planned collective action, backed by scientific support, can achieve in the farming sector.

It's a story of farmers taking control, creating value, and building something lasting together. With new plans for product diversification and higher-end value addition, this close-knit farming collective continues to move forward with confidence, clarity, and purpose.

The story of innovative interventions and collective action of this consortium of primary cooperative societies is noteworthy, not only in terms of its demonstrated potential, but also for the lessons it offer for collective intervention in crop value chains



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GROWING PROSPERITY IN SIKKIM: A LARGE CARDAMOM SUCCESS STORY

Better nurseries, better incomes—science is transforming large cardamom farming in Sikkim

In the picturesque hills of Dentam, Gyalshing district of Sikkim, the Sankhu Radhu Khandu Organic Farmer Producer Cooperative Society (FPCS) is showing how collective effort and scientific guidance can transform traditional farming. Established in November 2021, the FPO today has 204 members, including 57 women, who are primarily engaged in the cultivation of large cardamom—a spice synonymous with Sikkim’s heritage and economy.

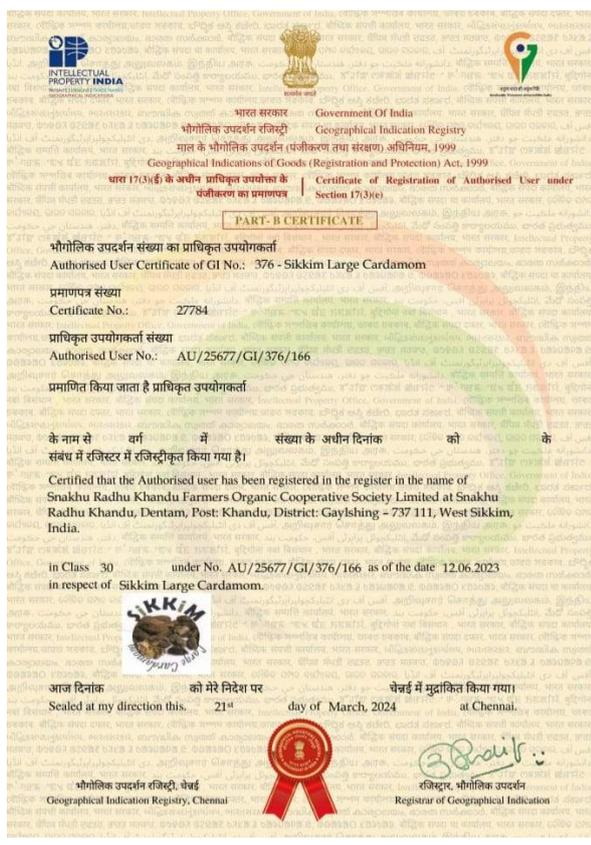
The real breakthrough came through the Indian Cardamom Research Institute (ICRI), Gangtok, functioning as a voluntary centre under the ICAR-AICRP on Spices. Under the NEH programme, the initiative “Model Large Cardamom Nursery Village in Sikkim” was launched in collaboration with the FPO. The programme specifically targeted 30 farmers of the Radhu Khandu area, combining scientific interventions with community-based nursery development.

A series of trainings and demonstrations equipped farmers with the skills to manage nurseries scientifically—right from selecting mother plants and preparing fields to identifying and controlling pests and diseases. Farmers also learned to use bio-pesticides, bio-control agents, and vermicomposting techniques for organic production. Inputs such as neem oil, organic manure, Trichoderma, Pseudomonas, and portable vermibeds were distributed, while practical support came in the form of backpack sprayers, water tanks, and irrigation pipes to strengthen on-farm infrastructure.

The impact has been significant. Farmers collectively produced over 9 lakh planting units of quality cardamom suckers, which fetched a premium price of ₹12 per unit. This not only improved incomes but also positioned the community as a source of reliable, healthy planting material for the region.



The initiative also encouraged organic management of pests and diseases, ensuring sustainability while protecting the region's fragile ecosystem. Notably, 13 women farmers were direct beneficiaries, reflecting the inclusive nature of the programme. Looking ahead, the FPO and ICRI aim to expand the programme to more farmers, making the region a hub for high-quality large cardamom planting stock. By focusing on nursery management and better market linkages, the initiative promises to raise incomes while safeguarding the traditional spice cultivation of Sikkim. The story of Sankhu Radhu Khandu FPO proves that when science and farmer organizations work hand in hand, the result is not just better crops –but stronger, more resilient farming communities.



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TURMERIC TRANSFORMATION IN ANDHRA PRADESH: THE MAATHOTA FPO STORY

In the remote tribal belt of Alluri Sitarama Raju (ASR) district, Andhra Pradesh, farmers of Maathota Tribal Farming & Marketing Producer Company Limited (FPO) are scripting a new success story. Established in 2017 with 624 members, including 153 women, the FPO brings together small and marginal tribal farmers who cultivate turmeric, ginger, coffee, and black pepper. By pooling resources, processing produce in bulk, and eliminating middlemen, the FPO has given its members not just better markets, but also a renewed sense of confidence.

A major breakthrough came when Maathota FPO linked hands with the ICAR-AICRP on Spices through the Horticultural Research Station (HRS), Dr YSRHU, Chintapalli, Andhra Pradesh. Traditionally, farmers here cultivated local turmeric varieties once in two years, on flat beds with close spacing, leading to low yields and high incidence of rhizome rot during the rains.

With technical guidance, training programmes, and demonstrations, farmers were introduced to the high-yielding Roma variety of turmeric and improved raised-bed cultivation methods. Quality seed distribution, capacity-building sessions, and awareness campaigns gave the community the confidence to embrace scientific practices.

The results have been striking. Farmers in villages like Kodisingi and Kothabandha have now fully shifted to Roma variety cultivation, achieving higher yields and better resilience. Frontline demonstrations and exposure visits familiarized them with every stage of crop management—from seed treatment and sowing to harvesting, boiling, drying, and polishing.

With continuous support from HRS-Chintapalli, nearly 800 ha of turmeric under the FPO received organic certification, opening premium markets for their produce.



For the first time, tribal farmers secured direct market linkages, selling turmeric at a price substantially higher than local market rates. Digital weighing machines, a curcumin-based marketing system, and advisory support for organic certification further strengthened their bargaining power. By cutting out middlemen and ensuring fair prices, Maathota FPO has built a stable market, bringing sustainable income to over 500 tribal families.

Looking ahead, the FPO plans to focus on value addition in turmeric and other spices, enabling farmers to move beyond raw produce into branded, processed products. What began as a small effort to improve yields has grown into a movement of empowerment. The story of Maathota FPO shows how science, organization, and determination can transform tribal agriculture into a model of prosperity and pride.



For the first time, Maathota FPO secured direct market linkages, fetching ₹113 per kg of turmeric



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GOLDEN GAINS IN GUNTUR: THE SRESHTA FPO STORY



Lam Swarna turmeric is helping farmers turn golden yields into golden incomes

In the fertile fields of Kollipara, Guntur district, turmeric farmers have found a new ray of hope through the Sreshta Farmer Producer Company Limited (FPO). Formed in 2021 with 300 members, including 100 women, the FPO has been working relentlessly to strengthen livelihoods by promoting scientific cultivation, collective marketing, and value addition in turmeric. What began as an effort to improve productivity has now grown into a model for sustainable spice farming and farmer empowerment in Andhra Pradesh.

The turning point came with the FPO's partnership with the ICAR-AICRP on Spices at Regional Horticultural Research Station (RHRS), Lam under Dr. Y.S.R. Horticultural University, Guntur. Farmers were introduced to Dr. YSRHU Lam Swarna, a high-yielding turmeric variety known for its strong aroma, high curcumin content, and suitability for processing.

Demonstrations on farmer fields showcased its potential, while training programmes equipped members with Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), pest and disease management techniques, and mechanized methods of boiling, drying, and polishing. Quality planting material was also supplied, ensuring that farmers had the right start for better results.

The impact has been remarkable. Farmers reported significantly higher yields and better market prices, thanks to the processing-friendly nature and consumer-preferred aroma of Lam Swarna. With collective marketing strategies, they were able to negotiate better rates, while value addition further boosted incomes. Seventy farmers directly benefited from these interventions, experiencing not just increased earnings but also greater confidence in sustainable farming practices.



By cutting costs through improved practices and gaining premium prices, the FPO has positioned itself as a role model for turmeric-based livelihood development.

Looking ahead, Sreshta FPO has ambitious plans. Over the next three years, it aims to scale up demonstrations, disseminate more AICRP-developed technologies, and motivate farmers to take up processing and branding of turmeric products. Efforts will focus on establishing community-based

processing hubs, building entrepreneurial skills among youth and women, and promoting low-cost, high-efficiency technologies such as organic nutrient management and water-saving irrigation. The vision is clear—doubling farmers’ income while reducing input costs and ensuring that Kollipara becomes a hub for premium, processing-quality turmeric.



The story of Sreshta FPO highlights how research, when combined with farmer organization and determination, can create lasting change.

By linking science with practice, these farmers are not just producing more turmeric—they are producing prosperity, sustainability, and a brighter future for their community.



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TURMERIC INNOVATION IN KRISHNA: THE SUBRAMANYESWARA FPO JOURNEY

In Ramudupalem village of Krishna district, turmeric farmers have come together under the Subramanyeswara Farmers Producer Company Limited (FPO) to transform the way they cultivate and market their spice. Established in 2018 with 201 members, including 25 women, the FPO is showing how collective infrastructure and scientific practices can boost productivity, improve product quality, and enhance farmer incomes.

The FPO's partnership with the ICAR-AICRP on Spices at RHRS, Dr. Y.S.R. Horticultural University, Lam, Guntur has been a game changer.

Farmers adopted the raised bed system of turmeric cultivation using mechanized bed formers, which improved soil aeration, drainage, and rhizome growth. This shift reduced pest and disease incidence while ensuring healthier crops and higher yields. To complement better cultivation, the FPO procured turmeric boilers and polishers, enabling members to process their produce with greater efficiency, hygiene, and uniformity. For the first time, small and marginal farmers gained access to modern post-harvest infrastructure at the village level.

“With boilers and polishers, farmers now add value right in their village”



The results have been impressive. Demonstrations and trainings on raised bed cultivation, steam boiling, and polishing empowered farmers to reduce post-harvest losses and increase the market value of their turmeric. With collective processing facilities, the produce now meets quality standards preferred by buyers, resulting in better price realization. Thirty-five farmers directly benefited from these interventions, reporting higher benefit-cost ratios and greater confidence in turmeric farming.



Looking ahead, Subramanyeswara FPO plans to expand raised bed cultivation to more members, strengthen post-harvest infrastructure, and set up a dedicated turmeric processing unit with boilers, polishers, and packaging facilities.

The FPO also envisions collective input procurement and direct linkages with premium buyers and exporters, ensuring better prices and reduced costs for members. These initiatives are expected to further enhance profitability while making turmeric farming more sustainable.

The story of Subramanyeswara FPO reflects how technology, when coupled with farmer cooperation, can create a ripple effect of change. By embracing raised beds and value addition, Krishna's turmeric farmers are not just growing a spice—they are growing resilience, prosperity, and a stronger future for their community.

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BRIGHTENING FUTURES THROUGH SPICES: THE VIGNESWARA FPO'S TURMERIC TRANSFORMATION

In Chagantipadu village of Krishna district, turmeric farmers are embracing innovation to improve both quality and income. Established in 2015 with 773 members, including 100 women, the Vigneswara Farmers Producer Organization Ltd. has emerged as a catalyst for change in the region's spice farming. By focusing on scientific cultivation techniques and modern post-harvest processing, the FPO is strengthening the turmeric value chain while empowering farmers with access to better infrastructure and markets.

The FPO's partnership with ICAR-AICRP on Spices at RHRS, Dr. Y.S.R. Horticultural University, Lam, Guntur has been instrumental in bringing these transformations to life.

Farmers were introduced to portray technology, a controlled nursery method using single-bud rhizomes to produce healthy, disease-free turmeric seedlings at a lower cost.

Regular field demonstrations and training sessions equipped members with the knowledge and tools needed to implement advanced practices. Additionally, the FPO set up a steam boiler system for curing turmeric, preserving its natural color and curcumin content while reducing fuel consumption. A turmeric polishing unit further enhanced the produce's appearance, hygiene, and market appeal.

The results have been substantial. Farmers reported uniform crop establishment, improved yields, and better curcumin retention. Post-harvest losses were reduced as mechanical polishing replaced labor-intensive traditional methods. With access to healthier seedlings and modern infrastructure, farmers are now producing cleaner, higher-quality turmeric that commands better prices in competitive markets.



One hundred farmers have directly benefited from these interventions, enjoying higher productivity and increased income through collective marketing and value addition.

Looking ahead, the Vigneswara FPO plans to scale up seedling production by establishing larger community nurseries and expand its processing capabilities with new technologies like slicers and solar dryers. By developing its own brand for packaged turmeric products, the FPO aims to tap into retail markets and build a reputation for high-quality spices. These efforts are expected to further boost farmer livelihoods and create a sustainable, self-reliant agricultural community.

The story of Vigneswara FPO highlights how scientific knowledge, shared resources, and farmer cooperation can unlock new opportunities in spice cultivation. With a clear vision for growth and an unwavering commitment to quality, these turmeric farmers are setting new standards—and lighting the way for others to follow.

“
Scientific nursery methods and modern processing are turning turmeric into a high-value crop

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SEEDING SUCCESS IN KRISHNA: HOW SRI SKANDAYA FPO IS STRENGTHENING TURMERIC FARMING

With certified seeds and scientific practices, farmers are sowing the seeds of success

In Venkatapuram village of Krishna district, turmeric farmers are sowing the seeds of a brighter future. Established in 2021 with 312 members, including 30 women, the Sri Skandaya Horticulture Farmer Producers Co-operative Society Ltd. is focused on improving crop yields and income by ensuring access to high-quality seed material. By prioritizing scientific cultivation practices and fostering awareness among farmers, the FPO is making significant strides in strengthening the turmeric value chain across Mopidevi mandal.

The turning point came through a partnership with the ICAR-AICRP on Spices at RHRHS, Dr. Y.S.R. Horticultural University, Lam, Guntur, which provided technical guidance and access to improved turmeric varieties known for their high curcumin content and superior processing traits.

Through field demonstrations and training programs, farmers learned how to select, handle, and store seed rhizomes scientifically—ensuring healthy crop stands, uniform growth, and reduced disease incidence. With certified, disease-free seeds now reaching members in a timely manner, farmers are experiencing better crop establishment and higher yields than ever before.

The results speak for themselves. Farmers have reported improved profitability, thanks to better germination rates, uniformity in planting, and higher market acceptance of their produce. By reducing dependency on unreliable seed sources and minimizing input costs, the FPO has not only enhanced productivity but also empowered farmers to adopt sustainable farming methods.



Forty farmers have directly benefited from these interventions, which have laid a solid foundation for long-term growth and resilience in turmeric cultivation.

Looking ahead, Sri Skandaya FPO plans to expand its reach by initiating community-based seed multiplication programs using foundation seeds provided by the ICAR-AICRP on Spices. It also aims to establish a dedicated seed storage and grading facility, ensuring consistent access to quality seeds while training more farmers in seed production and post-harvest handling.

These initiatives will further strengthen local capacity, promote seed sustainability, and help farmers scale up their operations. The story of Sri Skandaya FPO illustrates how access to quality seeds, combined with expert knowledge and community-driven action, can transform the landscape of spice farming. By ensuring that farmers have the tools and training they need, this initiative is not only boosting turmeric production but also cultivating confidence, cooperation, and prosperity in Krishna district.

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TURMERIC TALES FROM NAGALAND: THE RISE OF BADE ORGANIC GROWERS

Small in number, strong in impact.
The Bade Organic Growers are showing the way

In the quiet village of Bade, Chumoukedima district, with humble means and steadfast resolve, a modest circle of farmers is quietly rewriting the narrative that success depends on size. The Bade Organic Turmeric Growers Group, established in August 2020 with just ten members, has become a model for how collective effort, guided by science, can transform farming outcomes. Though modest in numbers, the group is rich in determination, focusing on organic cultivation of turmeric, ginger, and local herbs that carry both market value and health benefits.





The turning point came when the group was introduced to the ICAR–AICRP on Spices, Nagaland Centre (Department of Horticulture, SASRD, Nagaland University) through farmer–scientist interactions. What began as conversations soon grew into collaboration, bringing scientific interventions, modern inputs, and exposure to advanced farming methods. Members received capacity-building and hands-on training, with demonstrations on seed rhizome production, storage, and micronutrient management. Support also came in the form of seed rhizomes, micronutrients, farm tools, and turmeric-processing equipment like a drier and pulverizer—laying the foundation for better productivity and value addition.

The impact has been encouraging. Farmers now produce high-quality turmeric, both fresh and processed, commanding better market prices. On average, each member earns around ₹1.3 lakh annually, a substantial improvement compared to traditional practices.

Equally important, the initiative has helped small and tribal farmers in the group link directly with buyers, reducing dependence on middlemen and ensuring fair returns for their produce.

Looking ahead, the Bade Organic Turmeric Growers Group is determined to expand its footprint. Plans include bringing more farmers into turmeric cultivation, procuring additional machines for processing and packaging, and strengthening market linkages. Exposure tours and advanced capacity trainings are also on the horizon, ensuring that members continue to learn, adapt, and innovate. The story of this small FPO demonstrates that with the right support, even a handful of farmers can create meaningful change. By blending traditional commitment to organic practices with scientific know-how, the growers of Bade are not only improving their livelihoods but also shaping a sustainable, healthier future for their community.



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EMPOWERING WOMEN FARMERS IN TELANGANA: THE LAXMANCHANDA FPO'S TURMERIC REVOLUTION



With better seeds and training, women farmers are harvesting more than crops—they're harvesting confidence

In the heart of Nirmal district, Telangana, women farmers are leading the way in sustainable turmeric farming. Established in May 2023, the Sri Laxmanchanda Mahila Producer Company, with 180 women members, is creating waves by promoting value addition, scientific cultivation methods, and market linkages across the Laxmanchanda mandal. Focused on empowering women through collective action, the FPO is ensuring that farmers not only grow crops—but also grow their confidence, income, and independence.

The FPO's partnership with the Turmeric Research Station, Kammarpally, under ICAR-AICRP on Spices, has been instrumental in bringing scientific knowledge and modern technology into the hands of local women farmers.

Regular field visits, farmers' training programs, and diagnostic sessions have equipped them with best practices for turmeric cultivation. The group has also benefited from the SSCP components of the project, including the supply of turmeric pulverizers, quality seeds, and portray plant material, helping farmers adopt improved cultivation methods such as bed planting with drip irrigation.

The results have been transformative. Between 70 to 80 percent of the women farmers, many from small and marginal (SC & ST) communities, have directly benefited from the distribution of seed material and training sessions. With guidance through literature booklets and newly created WhatsApp advisory groups, farmers have seen their turmeric yields increase from substantially.

The adoption of scientific farming methods has improved productivity, reduced input costs, and opened new avenues for value-added products like turmeric powder.



Looking ahead, the FPO aims to become a self-sufficient organization by linking with the state's DRDA group, establishing seed production centers, and expanding value addition initiatives in turmeric processing. With ongoing support from ICAR-AICRP on Spices, the group is poised to enhance livelihoods, build resilience, and foster economic empowerment among women farmers in Telangana.

The story of the Laxmanchanda Mahila Producer Company is a shining example of how women-led initiatives, when backed by scientific expertise and community participation, can transform agriculture. By combining tradition with technology, these women are cultivating not only turmeric—but also dignity, sustainability, and prosperity.



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TRIBAL EMPOWERMENT THROUGH TURMERIC: THE PEMBI FPO STORY

In the tribal heartland of Nirmal district, Telangana, farmers are embracing new opportunities with renewed hope and determination. Established in July 2023, the Pembri Tribal Farmers Producer Company brings together 350 tribal members, including 50 women, to enhance turmeric cultivation and improve livelihoods in Pembri mandal. By raising awareness about government schemes, promoting scientific cultivation methods, and creating market linkages, the FPO is helping farmers move towards sustainable and profitable agriculture.

The FPO's partnership with the Turmeric Research Station, Kammarpally, under ICAR-AICRP on Spices, has been a key driver of change. Regular field visits, farmers' training programs, and the distribution of SCSP components such as turmeric pulverizers have equipped farmers with better tools and techniques. High-quality seed material and portray plant inputs have been supplied to members, while WhatsApp groups and literature booklets have provided continuous technical advice and guidance. These interventions have empowered farmers, especially small and marginal tribal farmers, with knowledge, resources, and access to government support systems.



The impact has been striking. Nearly 90 percent of farmers in the group have benefitted from the initiative. Improved cultivation practices, timely technical support, and the availability of better seed material have boosted yields from 9 tonnes to 12 tonnes per acre as fresh turmeric. Farmers now access assured markets and fair prices, reducing dependency on middlemen and strengthening their bargaining power. The FPO has fostered a sense of community, resilience, and self-confidence among its members.

Looking ahead, the FPO plans to further strengthen its operations by linking members with state and central government schemes, promoting organic farming, micronutrient sprays, and other sustainable practices. With continued support from ICAR-AICRP on Spices, the group aims to expand its technical outreach and market presence, ensuring that tribal farmers remain at the forefront of the region's agricultural development.

The success story of the Pembi Tribal Farmers Producer Company is a testament to how focused interventions, scientific expertise, and collective action can transform farming communities. By cultivating turmeric—and opportunities—the farmers of Pembi are building a stronger, self-reliant, and prosperous future.

Empowered with knowledge and technology, tribal communities are building sustainable livelihoods



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SPICING UP AGRICULTURE IN TELANGANA: THE VEMPALLY FPO'S JOURNEY TO GROWTH



In the Nizamabad district of Telangana, farmers are embracing innovation and collective action to boost productivity and market access. Established in May 2023, the Vempally Farmer Producer Company Limited brings together 500 members, including 100 women, from three districts across the state. With support from the horticulture department and technical guidance from the Turmeric Research Station, Kammarpally, the FPO is helping farmers enhance agricultural practices, access markets, and build financial resilience through value addition, especially in turmeric cultivation.

The FPO's collaboration with ICAR-AICRP on Spices has been a game-changer for members.

Farmers have received expert advice on organic farming practices, IISR turmeric booster pockets, and quality seed material,

along with essential equipment like turmeric pulverizers under the SCSP component.

Demonstrations, training programs, and field visits have been organized to educate farmers on seed treatment, disease management, and post-harvest care. WhatsApp groups and literature booklets have further empowered farmers to stay informed and connected, ensuring they adopt best practices and improve crop yields.

The results are impressive. Nearly 80 percent of farmers, including small and marginal cultivators from SC and ST communities, have benefited from access to quality seeds, organic farming techniques, and assured marketing channels.

As a result, turmeric yields have risen from 10 to 13 per acre, enhancing both income and sustainability.

Farmers now enjoy better prices and reduced post-harvest losses, strengthening their bargaining power in the market. Looking ahead, the Vempally FPO plans to expand training programs, distribute turmeric booster pockets, and enhance seed material and post-harvest support. With continued collaboration and access to scientific know-how, the FPO aims to further build the capacity of its members, ensuring long-term growth and sustainability in turmeric farming.

The journey of the Vempally Farmer Producer Company is a testament to the power of community-led initiatives backed by science. By combining technical expertise with grassroots participation, this FPO is not only cultivating turmeric—it is cultivating opportunity, resilience, and prosperity across Telangana’s farming communities.

Better seeds, better practices, and assured markets are boosting yields and incomes



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SPICING UP FARMING IN JAGITYAL: THE KORUTLA FED FPO'S DRIVE FOR GROWTH

From seeds to markets, Korutla's farmers are redefining sustainable agriculture

In the heart of Telangana's Jagityal district, a growing community of farmers is uniting to boost productivity, increase incomes, and tap into new market opportunities. Established in March 2023, the Korutla FED Company Limited now brings together 320 members, including 80 women, with a shared mission to enhance agriculture through scientific practices and value addition. With encouragement from the agriculture department and technical backing from scientists, the FPO is helping farmers to access quality inputs, embrace modern techniques, and forge new paths toward profitability and resilience.

The group's partnership with the Turmeric Research Station, Kammarpally, under ICAR-AICRP on Spices, has been a major catalyst in transforming turmeric cultivation.

Through regular field visits, training programs, and the supply of SCSP components like turmeric pulverizers, the FPO has helped farmers adopt best practices for seed treatment, crop management, and post-harvest processing. High-quality turmeric seeds, portray plant material, and IISR turmeric booster pockets were distributed, while WhatsApp groups and literature booklets ensured continuous technical guidance. These efforts have empowered farmers to transition from traditional methods to scientifically proven approaches.

The impact has been significant. Nearly 70 percent of small and marginal farmers have benefited from the initiative, reporting better access to seeds, fertilizers, and equipment.

Improved farming methods, such as raised bed cultivation with drip irrigation, have boosted turmeric by 25% as fresh produce. By reducing input costs, minimizing losses, and improving market access, farmers are now experiencing better prices and higher incomes, with turmeric powdering becoming a key value-added activity.

Looking ahead, the FPO plans to further strengthen its operations by expanding farmer training programs, increasing the distribution of turmeric booster packets and post-harvest implements, and building robust market linkages.

With continued collaboration and expert guidance, the group is set to scale up production, promote sustainable farming, and ensure long-term prosperity for its members.

The story of the Korutla FED Company is a shining example of how collective action, scientific knowledge, and value addition can create transformative change. By empowering farmers with the tools and techniques they need, this FPO is not just cultivating turmeric—it's cultivating confidence, resilience, and a sustainable future for agriculture in Telangana.



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SEEDS OF CHANGE – THE RISE OF KORAPUT NARI SAKTI FPO

In the lush tribal highlands of Lamataput, Koraput, Odisha, a quiet revolution led entirely by women is reshaping the region's agricultural landscape. Koraput Nari Sakti Farmers Producer Company Ltd., founded in 2020, today boasts an impressive 5,983 women members, making it one of the largest all-women FPOs in the country. For the women of Koraput, who for decades had limited exposure to markets and technology, this collective has become much more than an economic platform—it is a symbol of solidarity, empowerment, and transformation. The sheer size of this collective is a reflection not just of numbers, but of the unity and trust that bind thousands of tribal women together under one vision of progress.

The turning point came with the partnership of ICAR-AICRP on Spices centre, High Altitude Research Station, (OUAT), Pottangi, whose scientists brought in the missing link between traditional farming practices and modern agronomy. Women were introduced to scientific ginger cultivation through single-bud propagation, which ensures higher yields and better-quality planting material.

They were trained extensively in organic farming methods, which appealed to both health-conscious consumers and ensured sustainability in fragile ecosystems. Diagnostic field visits gave farmers immediate solutions to pest and disease problems, building their confidence in adopting new techniques. Interventions such as the mobile turmeric boiler and black pepper seedling production units transformed subsistence farming into structured, market-ready enterprises. For the first time, women could process turmeric efficiently at the village level and explore new crops like pepper.

The results have been remarkable and measurable. Ginger productivity has risen by 25–30%, turmeric processing time has been reduced by half, and members now fetch premium prices for cleaner, processed produce. Farmers report a significant rise in household income—enough to invest in education, better nutrition, and even small-scale entrepreneurial activities beyond farming.

We are no longer just cultivators. We are entrepreneurs and decision-makers in our homes and our fields



Seed availability has improved, ensuring consistency in production, and dependence on middlemen has reduced drastically. With this shift, women farmers are now taking their produce to better markets, including urban centers where demand for high-quality organic spices is steadily growing.

Yet, the impact goes far beyond economics. For many women, this FPO has given them their first formal identity as shareholders, decision-makers, and entrepreneurs. The change is visible in community life: women are participating in village meetings, taking leadership roles in managing the FPO, and mentoring younger members to join. As one member proudly puts it, “We are no longer just cultivators.

We are entrepreneurs and decision-makers in our homes and our fields.” This powerful transformation is not just reshaping agriculture in Koraput but is redefining gender roles and paving the way for a new generation of women leaders. The story of Koraput Nari Sakti is a testament to courage, resilience, and the transformative power of research-driven interventions combined with collective action.



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SPICE SISTERS – ANCHALIKA MAHILA FPO'S JOURNEY OF EMPOWERMENT



In the quiet blocks of Semiliguda and Pottangi, Odisha, women farmers have created a vibrant identity for themselves through Anchaliika Mahila Farmers Producer Company Ltd., founded in 2020. With 2,712 women members, this FPO reflects the power of community-driven models in transforming lives in remote tribal regions. For women who traditionally had little control over the sales of their produce, the formation of this FPO was a historic milestone—it gave them a platform where their collective strength could translate into market power and visibility.

Collaboration with ICAR-AICRP on Spices centre, High Altitude Research Station, (OUAT), Pottangi, marked a turning point in their journey. Scientists worked closely with the FPO to introduce members to ginger propagation, post-harvest practices, and value addition. Farmers were trained in identifying quality seeds, maintaining nursery beds, and practicing integrated crop management.

The introduction of a mobile turmeric boiler enabled women to process turmeric efficiently within their own village, reducing dependence on external processors and ensuring consistent quality. By combining traditional wisdom with modern tools, the FPO turned once irregular and small-scale production into a reliable supply chain.

The impact has been significant and life-changing. Farmers report an average 20% increase in turmeric yields and nearly 30% higher returns from processed turmeric compared to raw sales. Women who earlier sold their crops individually in small quantities are now pooling resources, processing collectively, and selling in bulk—giving them stronger bargaining power with traders. With training support, seed quality has improved, ensuring better crop cycles season after season. The income boost has enabled families to invest in education and household improvements, reducing economic vulnerability.



Equally important is the social transformation. The women of Anchalika are no longer invisible workers but active participants in decision-making at both the household and community levels. “We never imagined that turmeric and ginger could give us such dignity and recognition,” shares a farmer from Kunduli. Looking ahead, the FPO envisions expanding its product line into packaged spice powders and oils, creating branded products for regional and national markets. Their journey demonstrates how research-driven interventions and collective willpower can transform rural women from subsistence farmers into confident entrepreneurs and leaders.

WE NEVER IMAGINED THAT TURMERIC AND GINGER COULD GIVE US SUCH DIGNITY AND RECOGNITION



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SMALL ROOTS, BIG IMPACT – POTTANGI AGRO PRODUCTS PRODUCER COMPANY LTD.

“Even a small group of women can bring big changes if we stand together,” remarks one of the leaders

In 2021, Pottangi Agro Products Producer Company Ltd. took root in the tribal belt of Koraput with 562 women members. Though modest in size compared to some of its counterparts, the FPO has quickly proven that scale is not the only measure of success. What sets this collective apart is the determination of its members, their spirit of collaboration, and the technical guidance that has steered them towards new opportunities.

The active involvement of ICAR-AICRP on Spices centre, High Altitude Research Station, (OUAT), Pottangi, has been central to this transformation. Scientists introduced the women to diversification beyond ginger, guiding them toward high-value crops such as black pepper, cardamom, and cinnamon.

Training programs on grading, processing, nursery management, and spice diversification equipped members with the skills to venture confidently into new areas of cultivation



These interventions gave the women not just knowledge, but also the courage to embrace crops with greater returns and long-term market potential.

The results have been encouraging and measurable. Farmers report better yields, higher incomes, and access to new markets. Black pepper seedlings supplied by the centre have shown excellent adaptability, and early trials indicate promising harvests. By spreading risk across multiple crops, members have reduced dependency on ginger and achieved more stable and resilient incomes. Plans are already in motion to establish a small-scale spice processing unit, launch branded products, and participate in state and national exhibitions to showcase their unique produce.

The journey of Pottangi Agro FPO stands as a powerful example of how research-driven crop diversification can empower even smaller collectives to achieve significant results. With every new step, these tribal women are proving that determination, when paired with the right scientific support, can yield not just better crops, but a brighter and more sustainable future.



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FROM FIELDS TO FRAGRANCE – LAXMIPUR FPO'S VALUE-ADDED REVOLUTION



In the rolling hills of Toyyaput, Laxmipur, Odisha, innovation and determination are driving a new wave of prosperity. Laxmipur Agro Products Producer Company Ltd., established in 2021 with 602 members (majority women), is proving how value addition can transform farming communities and bring rural producers closer to high-value markets. For a region that largely depended on selling raw crops, this FPO's journey shows how rural communities can shift their focus toward enterprise and branding.

The crucial support came from ICAR-AICRP on Spices centre, High Altitude Research Station, (OUAT), Pottangi, which provided modern equipment such as a mobile turmeric boiler and polisher, along with specialized training in turmeric leaf oil extraction and soap production.

These were not mere technical inputs but life-changing opportunities for farmers to enter into the growing sectors of herbal cosmetics, wellness, and natural products.

The FPO members quickly realized that instead of selling raw turmeric, they could create products that commanded far higher prices and found a ready market among health-conscious consumers.

The results have been transformative and encouraging. Turmeric processing costs dropped by 40%, while value-added products such as turmeric soap and leaf oil fetch double the returns compared to raw turmeric. Farmers now retain greater profits by cutting out middlemen and selling under their collective identity.

The shift has also encouraged women to learn new entrepreneurial skills such as packaging, marketing, and customer interaction. For many, this is the first step into a world of formal enterprise. By adopting climate-smart practices, the FPO is also ensuring that its progress remains sustainable in the face of changing weather patterns.

“We used to sell raw turmeric. Now, we create turmeric oil and soaps that people demand.

It has changed our confidence and our income,” says a woman entrepreneur.

With ambitious plans to set up dedicated processing centers, improve branding, and directly connect with retail chains, Laxmipur FPO exemplifies how scientific interventions in value addition can elevate rural communities to new heights of prosperity and pride.

We used to sell raw turmeric. Now, we create turmeric oil and soaps that people demand. It has changed our confidence and our income



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Accuracy: 1.9 m
Time: 03-05-2025 12:52
Location: jeban Jyoti fpc
Village kondagaon
Post: Lamput
Activity: Leader meeting

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TRIBAL WOMEN, TURMERIC DREAMS THE MAJHIAMBA FPO STORY

In the Narayanpatna and Bandhugaon blocks of Koraput, Odisha, tribal women are shaping their own destiny through Majhiamba Agro Products Producer Company Ltd. Established in 2022 with 600 women members, this young FPO is already emerging as a beacon of empowerment and sustainability. For women who were once on the margins of agriculture and local economies, Majhiamba has become a pathway to recognition and economic independence.

The support of ICAR-AICRP on Spices centre, High Altitude Research Station, (OUAT), Pottangi, has been central to this transformation. Farmers received hands-on training in organic turmeric and ginger cultivation, ensuring better yields and healthier soils.

The introduction of a mobile turmeric boiler allowed them to drastically reduce processing time, while training in value addition and marketing provided the tools to access better markets. These interventions moved the farmers away from subsistence farming into a structured, more profitable spice economy.

The impact of these interventions has been measurable and life-changing. Processing time has reduced by 60%, fuel costs have dropped significantly, and the quality of turmeric powder has improved, fetching 25–35% higher prices in the market. Improved seeds and agronomic practices have boosted yields by 15–20%, leading to consistent income growth. With higher earnings, women are now able to invest in their children's education and healthcare, building a stronger foundation for future generations.



“Turmeric is no longer just a crop; it is our strength and our future,” says a young member from Majhiamba. Looking forward, the FPO aims to leverage e-commerce platforms to sell tribal spices directly to urban consumers, creating visibility for their unique produce. Their story underscores how research institutes can empower marginalized communities with knowledge, tools, and opportunities to build sustainable agribusiness ventures.

**Turmeric is no longer
just a crop;
it is our strength and
our future**



Latitude: 18.668039
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Note: Activity :-Nursery work
Name :-Dhanurjaya chalan
Village:-Panasput G:P:-Tikarpada

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GOCHNAD – PIONEERING CUMIN SEED PRODUCTION IN GUJARAT

Gochnad village in Radhanpur taluka, Patan district, Gujarat, is known for its long-standing tradition of cumin cultivation under conserved moisture conditions. Farmers in the village had been growing local/Gujarat Cumin-2 variety using traditional farming methods for years. In 2007, the village took a bold step toward improving productivity and seed quality by adopting modern agricultural practices through SSRS, Jagudan, which supported its transformation into Gujarat’s first dedicated cumin seed village.

The initiative began with 12 forward-thinking farmers, led by Mr. Devanbhai Bhagvanbhai Chaudhary, who embraced improved farming techniques and seed production methods. The group was supplied with breeder seed from SSRS, Jagudan and began producing foundation and certified seeds from 18,243 kg of truthfully labeled seeds. Motivated by the results, they formed a Farmers’ Club for Cumin Seed Production (GIC-4) in 2009 with 12 members, which later grew into the registered ‘Shree Mahashakti Farmer Club’ with 65 members today.

With assistance from NABARD, SSRS Jagudan, and local NGOs, the club expanded its reach, producing 47,610 kg of foundation seeds and 30,582 kg of certified seeds between 2009 and 2016. These seeds were distributed not only within Gujarat but also to neighboring states, helping improve the overall quality and availability of cumin seeds. The initiative also resulted in significant improvements in productivity—raising yields from 670 kg/ha to 900 kg/ha, and boosting the seed replacement rate from 22.5% in 2008-09 to 62% in 2012-13. The success of Gochnad’s farmers has had a far-reaching impact on the cumin industry in Gujarat.

— ” —

A village united by cumin is sowing the seeds of progress and prosperity





Recognizing the role of the Shree Mahashakti Farmer Club in enhancing both production and productivity, NABARD honored the group in 2012 for their contribution to agricultural development and sustainable farming.

Gochnad's journey exemplifies how farmer-driven innovation,

backed by scientific guidance and community leadership, can transform a traditional village into a model of excellence. By blending heritage with modern agricultural practices, Gochnad has set a benchmark for cumin cultivation—and shown how collective action can lead to lasting progress.



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A SPICE OF CHANGE: HOW RUGHJI FARM IS EMPOWERING WOMEN AND FARMERS

In Jaipur, Rajasthan, a small but inspiring enterprise is making a big impact. Rughji Farm, led by entrepreneur Hariom Yadav, is redefining spice processing by blending tradition, quality, and empowerment. Established in March 2023, this venture has become a beacon of sustainable rural entrepreneurship, creating livelihood opportunities while preserving the natural aroma and health benefits of spices like seed spices.

What sets Rughji Farm apart is its commitment to manual processing methods. Unlike modern, heat-intensive techniques, spices are ground using a traditional hand chaki (manual grinder), ensuring that their aroma, flavor, and medicinal properties remain intact. Every step, from cleaning and grinding to packing, is performed manually by women—many of whom are over 50 and from economically vulnerable backgrounds.

By providing dignified, home-based employment, the initiative is fostering women empowerment and social inclusion, while producing pure, high-quality spice products.

The farm's journey began with technical support from the ICAR-AICRP on Spices, SKN Agriculture University, Jobner. After attending a training program on spice value addition, Hariom Yadav transformed his traditional flour mill into a spice processing hub. With guidance from scientists, access to raw seed spices, and participation in Frontline Demonstrations (FLDs), he experimented with new processing methods and extended support to fellow farmers.

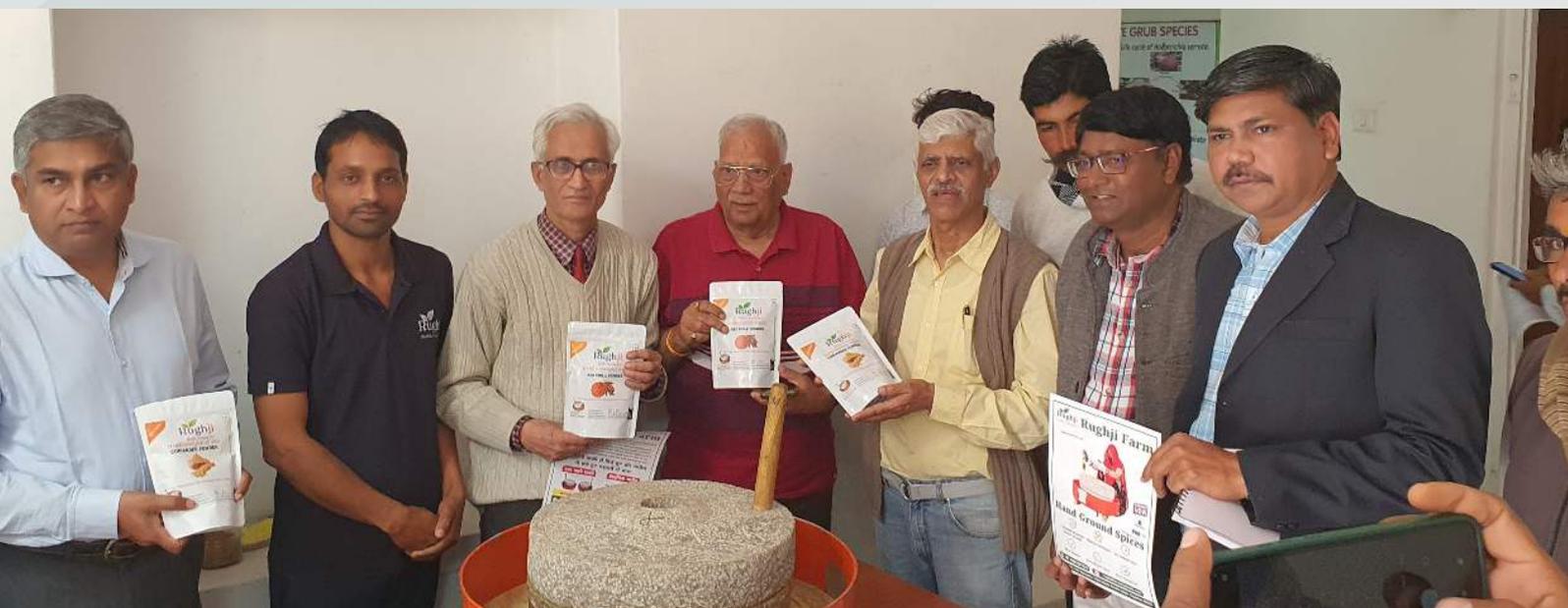
At Rughji Farm, spices are ground by hand—and hope is stirred into every batch

Today, he stands as a role model, connecting farmers, institutions, and buyers, and encouraging youth to pursue agriculture-based enterprises. The impact is far-reaching. Spices are procured directly from small and marginal farmers, ensuring fair prices and reducing dependency on middlemen. Consumers benefit from pure, unadulterated products, while local communities enjoy improved incomes and sustainable livelihoods. Training sessions and field days have enhanced the skills of farmers and rural youth, spreading knowledge and fostering innovation across the region.

Looking ahead, Rughji Farm aims to collaborate with over 1,000 farmers, expand employment opportunities for women tenfold, and scale its traditional spice processing infrastructure—all while maintaining the authenticity and health benefits of hand-processed spices. With its focus on community-driven development, sustainable cultivation, and fair markets, this enterprise is a shining example of how innovation, when rooted in tradition, can transform lives.



The story of Rughji Farm is more than just about spices—it's about dignity, inclusion, and resilience. By giving women and farmers the tools, training, and opportunity to thrive, this initiative is cultivating not only crops but also hope, pride, and prosperity for rural India.

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EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH SPICES



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