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• ON •

Strengthening Women Entrepreneurship For Achieving Sustainable Development Goals

6th - 7th October 2023

Dr. Shilpi Bhattacharya

Adv. Juhi Marothia



*Strengthening Women
Entrepreneurship for achieving
Sustainable Development Goals*

Seminar Proceeding

Editors

Dr. Shilpi Bhattacharya

Adv. Juhi Marothia

Kalinga University

Naya Raipur, Chhattisgarh, INDIA



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+91 9425210308

Editors

Dr. Shilpi Bhattacharya
Adv. Juhi Marothia
Kalinga University, Naya Raipur, Chhattisgarh



Sub Editor

Ms. Tuhina Choubey
Kalinga University, Naya Raipur, Chhattisgarh



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Kalinga University, Naya Raipur, Chhattisgarh



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Preface

In today's rapidly evolving global landscape, women entrepreneurs play a pivotal role in driving economic growth, reducing inequality, and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This book, "Strengthening Women Entrepreneurship for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals," serves as a comprehensive guide that explores the critical intersections of women's entrepreneurship and the SDGs. By delving into various aspects of women-led businesses, it provides a conceptual framework to understand and support women entrepreneurs in their journey towards sustainable development. The book concludes by emphasizing the integral role of women entrepreneurs in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. It underscores the importance of continued support, collaboration, and policy interventions to further empower women in entrepreneurship and drive sustainable development worldwide.

"Strengthening Women Entrepreneurship For Achieving Sustainable Development Goals," offers a holistic view of women's entrepreneurship, shedding light on their remarkable contributions and the untapped potential they hold for a more equitable and sustainable future. It serves as a valuable resource for policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and anyone interested in promoting gender equality, economic growth, and the SDGs through women-led businesses.

The financial assistance received from research and development fund of national bank for agriculture and rural development (NARARD) towards publication of proceedings of the conference is gratefully acknowledged.



Message from The Chairman



On behalf of the organizing committee of the National Seminar on "Strengthening Women Entrepreneurship for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals," in collaboration with NABARD I congratulate the organizing committee for organizing the seminar on such relevant topics. In today's world, women's entrepreneurship plays a pivotal role in driving economic growth, fostering innovation, and promoting social development. However, it is a reality that women continue to encounter numerous challenges on their entrepreneurial journey. This seminar stands as a testament to our commitment to address these challenges and work collectively towards a brighter, more inclusive future. Our collaboration with NABARD, a renowned institution with a deep commitment to rural and agricultural development, underscores our dedication to achieving sustainable development goals through women's entrepreneurship. NABARD's expertise and support have been instrumental in shaping this seminar, and we are grateful for their partnership. In the spirit of unity and progress, let us work together to find innovative solutions, address challenges, and create an environment where women entrepreneurs can thrive and contribute significantly to our nation's development.

With Best Wishes

Dr. Rajeev Kumar
Chairman, Kalinga University



Message from The Chancellor



As an established and highly esteemed organization, Kalinga University maintains the utmost academic standard, incorporated with the conduct of discipline, thereby achieving a remarkable and excellent percentage of results. We believe that creating an educational foundation for social, cultural, scientific, economic, and technological development in our Nation can mature into a Global Interface by giving way to democratic thoughts and equality in the context of women's entrepreneurship. Our aim is not only to contribute to academic knowledge but also to provide practical insights for organizations worldwide. We are profoundly committed to facilitating discussions on a diverse range of topics that directly impact our mission of empowering women entrepreneurs and advancing sustainable development. These critical issues encompass addressing the global fragmentation of governance, acknowledging women's pivotal role in combating climate change, and leveraging women's entrepreneurship in the battle against poverty, crises, etc. I would like to congratulate the Faculty of Arts and Humanities and thank NABARD for their commitment and superb drive in organizing this seminar. I am very sure that this event will be able to provide a platform for strengthening our relationships in knowledge sharing. I believe that this seminar will be a foundation for the growth of new ideas towards a better tomorrow.

With Best wishes

Dr. Sandeep Arora
Chancellor, Kalinga University



Message from The Vice-Chancellor



As the Vice-Chancellor of Kalinga University, I appreciate the much-required efforts towards the concept and theme of the National Seminar on "Strengthening Women Entrepreneurship for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals," organized by the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Kalinga University, New Raipur in collaboration with NABARD. The Seminar is timely in view of the tremendous importance of the worldwide opportunities for women in every aspect of life. With optimism, we anticipate that this Seminar will offer profound and cohesive insights into the significant issues and opportunities related to women's entrepreneurship for sustainable development. I am sure that, the National Seminar will show some good, coherent, and integrated understandings of women's entrepreneurship opportunities in modern scenarios. I wish each and every one of you good luck for a fruitful discussion.

With warm regards

Dr. R Shridhar
Vice Chancellor
Kalinga University



Message From The Director-General



On behalf of the organizing committee of the National Seminar on "Strengthening Women Entrepreneurship for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals," organized by the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Kalinga University, New Raipur in collaboration with NABARD, I am extremely delighted to know that the experts and academicians PAN India have joined us for this event. By empowering women entrepreneurs to drive sustainable development, we are not only ensuring a fairer future but also building resilience against shocks in our increasingly interconnected world. In today's dynamic environment, the challenges we face are indeed intertwined. Yet, our shared efforts to address these challenges can be just as interconnected. Through this seminar, we aim to foster collaboration and innovation that transcends borders, helping us create a more prosperous and equitable future for all. Our collective commitment to women's entrepreneurship as a catalyst for sustainable development will undoubtedly lead us towards a brighter and more resilient world. As the Director General of Kalinga University, it's my pleasure and privilege to see such academicians on this platform, and at the same time my sincere thanks to the organizing committee for hosting this landmark event.

Dr. Byju John
Director General
Kalinga University



Message from The Registrar



Greetings!

As Registrar of Kalinga University, New Raipur, it is with great pleasure I welcome you to the National Seminar on "Strengthening Women Entrepreneurship for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals," organized by the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Kalinga University, New Raipur in collaboration with NABARD. I would also like to thank all of you who have worked on putting this successful summit together. This Seminar is uniquely positioned to address the complex circumstances we find ourselves in, replete with significant tasks and formidable challenges. It is only through collective effort that we can ensure that our global economy continues its trajectory toward a more environmentally conscious, technologically advanced, and equitable path to recovery. This Seminar anticipates an array of engaging and interactive sessions, bringing together distinguished speakers and experts PAN India. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the organizing committee for orchestrating this exceptional and enriching event. Through our shared commitment to empowering women entrepreneurs and advancing sustainable development, we have the opportunity to collaboratively shape a brighter future for all.

With Best wishes

Dr. Sandeep Gandhi
Registrar
Kalinga University



Message From the Convenor and Dean - Faculty of Arts and Humanities



As Convenor and Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities Kalinga University, New Raipur I want to thank the Management of Kalinga University for providing the opportunity to organize a National Seminar on "Strengthening Women Entrepreneurship for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals," in collaboration with NABARD. I also extend a heartfelt thanks to the stellar lineup of seminar speakers and distinguished guests PAN India for blessing us with their esteemed thoughts. Through the Seminar on "Strengthening Women Entrepreneurship for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals," we are poised to channel our collective efforts, discussions, and policies toward a future that champions sustainability. Rather than viewing these challenges as insurmountable, we see them as opportunities for positive change. We understand that nurturing women's entrepreneurship and advancing sustainable development goals is not only an imperative but also a pathway to a more prosperous and equitable world. Our actions and deliberations during this seminar are aimed at generating widespread awareness and inspiring meaningful progress towards a sustainable future. Together, we can forge a brighter path forward that benefits not only women entrepreneurs but also society as a whole. Let us make the most of the forum. I wish you all an engaging, constructive, and very enjoyable event. Thank you all for being a part of this wonderful event.

With best wishes

Dr. Shilpi Bhattacharya
Convenor and Dean
Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Kalinga University



Message from The Convenor



I am delighted to extend my warmest welcome to all of you as the convenor of the Seminar on "Strengthening Women Entrepreneurship for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals." in collaboration with NABARD. This seminar represents a significant milestone in our collective journey towards fostering women's entrepreneurship for a sustainable future. Over the course of this seminar, we will explore the critical role that women entrepreneurs play in advancing sustainable development goals. We will engage in thought-provoking discussions, share insights, and cultivate innovative strategies that empower women entrepreneurs and drive positive change in our communities and beyond. Our diverse group of speakers brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and expertise to the table, making this event a platform for vibrant and meaningful exchanges. Together, we will forge a path toward economic empowerment, environmental stewardship, and social equity. I want to express my gratitude to each one of you for your commitment to this vital cause. It is through our collective efforts that we can make a lasting impact and contribute to a more inclusive and sustainable world. I look forward to the inspiring discussions and innovative solutions that will emerge from our time together.

With best wishes

Adv. Juhi Marothia

Convenor



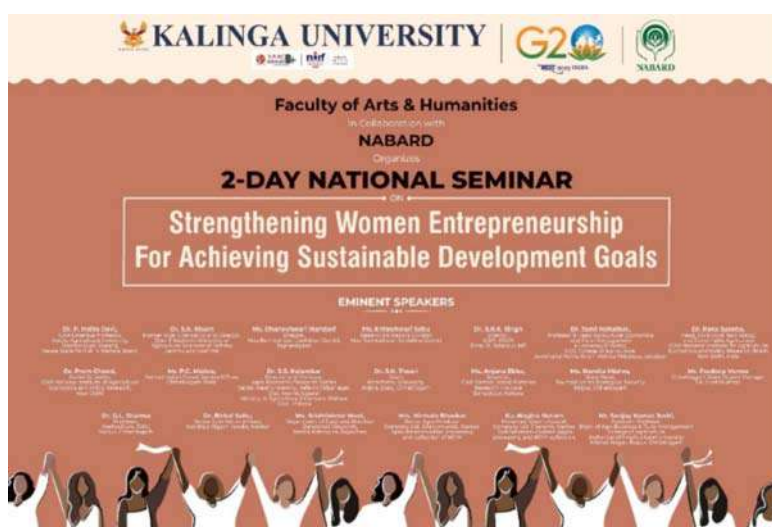
About the Seminar



The seminar on "Strengthening Women Entrepreneurship for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals," held on the 6th and 7th of October 2023, in a hybrid mode, stood as a transformative gathering that echoed with diverse perspectives, experiences, and visionary insights. Facilitated by the Faculty of Arts and Humanities in collaboration with NABARD, the seminar hosted around 20 esteemed speakers, each contributing a unique and significant dimension to the overarching theme.



The primary aim of the seminar was two-fold: to comprehensively understand the intricate socio-economic, cultural, and environmental factors influencing women entrepreneurs and to explore avenues for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to positively impact the lives of women. This dual objective set the stage for a rich and multifaceted discourse that unfolded during the seminar.



Eminent speakers from diverse corners of the country graced the seminar, sharing their invaluable expertise and real-world experiences in promoting women's entrepreneurship for the attainment of SDGs. Women Entrepreneurs who shared their experiences on this platform were Ms. Dhaneshwari Mandavi, the Director of Maa Bamleshwari Janhitkari Samiti in Rajnandgaon, Ms. Khileshwari Sahu, who leads the Krishi Kendra Division at Maa Bamleshwari Janhitkari Samiti, Smt. Nirmla Bhaskar from Bastar Agro Producer Company Ltd., Ghotulmunda, Kanker, specializing in Millet processing and the collection of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP), and Ku. Nagina Netam from Mahanadi Kisan Utpadak Company Ltd., Charama, Kanker, with a specialization in Custard Apple processing and NTFP collection.

The collective significance of these speakers lies in the amalgamation of their varied experiences, which collectively form a comprehensive narrative. This narrative is not only reflective of the current state of women's entrepreneurship but also serves as a guide for future endeavours aimed at empowering women and achieving sustainable development. The diverse voices in the seminar illuminated the path forward, emphasizing collaboration, innovation, and inclusivity as crucial elements in the journey towards a more equitable and sustainable future.



Inaugural Ceremony

The inaugural ceremony started at 10 AM on 06th October 2023 and it was graced by Padma Shree Phoolbasan Bai Yadav, Indian Social Worker and Founder of the Maa Bamleshwari Janhit Kari Samiti as Chief Guest, Dr. Gyanendra Mani, Chief General Manager, NABARD and Professor Dinesh Marothia, President, Indian Society of Agriculture Economics, Member Technical Advisory Board, South Asia as Special Guests.





**Address by Padma Shree Phoolbasan Bai Yadav
Indian Social Worker and Founder of the Maa
Bamleshwari Janhit Kari Samiti**



The seminar addressing "Strengthening Women Entrepreneurship for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals" featured a compelling address by Padma Shree Phoolbasan Bai Yadav, a distinguished Indian social worker and the founder of Maa Bamleshwari Janhit Kari Samiti. Bai commenced her talk by underscoring the unique and pivotal role that mothers play in society, accentuating the innate strength and determination inherent in women. She drew a poignant distinction, noting that while men typically bear the responsibilities of one clan, lineage, and family, women shoulder the burdens of two.

Expressing sincere gratitude to NABARD, Bai acknowledged the crucial role it plays in providing financial support that propels women entrepreneurship. She highlighted the indirect advantages, particularly in terms of education, that women derive from NABARD's initiatives. Bai passionately advocated for education as a cornerstone of women's empowerment, urging women to seize every opportunity to pursue education and independence through employment.

A recurring theme in Bai's discourse was the integration of education with societal contribution. She championed a holistic approach, emphasizing that educated women should actively engage in the betterment of society. Bai shared her personal struggles and triumphs, using her life narrative as a powerful motivator for the audience.

Bai's convictions found tangible expression in her various ventures. Notably, the 'Mor Bazaar, Sabko Rozgaar' initiative has empowered 2600 individuals, primarily women, allowing them to sell a diverse array of products, including organic vegetables, herbal goods, and vermicompost. Starting with a modest 11 women in 2001, Bai's initiatives now encompass around 2 lakh women, amassing a collective savings of approximately 40 crores.

Furthermore, Bai shed light on NABARD's 'e-Shakti' project, aligning with her vision of women's economic empowerment. This project, which complements her ongoing efforts, provides an additional avenue for women to achieve financial independence. Additionally, Bai has established about 30 Krishi Kendras and founded 'Maa Bamleshwari Private Limited,' a brand focused on the production and packaging of various spices. These initiatives contribute not only to women's economic empowerment but also to the development of rural communities.

In conclusion, Padma Shree Phoolbasan Bai's lecture provided a nuanced exploration of the challenges and victories in women entrepreneurship. Her emphasis on education, financial empowerment, and societal engagement resonated deeply with the overarching theme of the seminar, emphasizing the continual efforts required to fortify women's roles in achieving sustainable development goals.



Address by Dr. Gyanendra Mani
Chief General Manager, NABARD



In the vibrant Seminar dedicated to fortifying women entrepreneurship for the pursuit of sustainable development goals, Dr. Gyanendra Mani, the Chief General Manager of NABARD, commenced his discourse by lauding the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at Kalinga University, Raipur. He extolled the fusion of women entrepreneurship with academic disciplines, recognizing the innovative strides taken by the university in fostering interdisciplinary connections.

Dr. Mani delved into the concerning reality of women's relatively low participation in entrepreneurship, shedding light on the imperative to address this disparity through concerted efforts. The stage then shifted to the canvas of NABARD's Community Development Program, an expansive palette that includes initiatives like Vikas Volunteer and Farmers Club, acting as catalysts for community engagement and holistic development.

The spotlight turned towards the impactful 'Swayam Sahayata Samooh,' a visionary initiative aimed at empowering women. Dr. Mani underscored the pivotal contributions of individuals like Phoolbasan Bai Yadav and Indira O.M., recognizing their transformative role in the realm of women entrepreneurship and the consequent elevation of entire communities.

Dr. Mani painted a vivid picture of the practical landscape, where approximately 80,000 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) thrive, with a poignant emphasis on the role of Production Cum Development Cum Training Centers. His nuanced approach advocated for a balanced ecosystem that encompasses both formal and informal organizations and institutions, tailored to be unequivocally women-centric.

The discourse then meandered through the landscape of Micro-Enterprise Development Programs (MEDP) and Livelihood Enterprise Development Programs (LEDP), revealing Dr. Mani's dedication to the pursuit of livelihoods rooted in sustainable development. He championed the concept of Rural Hatts, envisioning a transition from monthly markets to weekly gatherings, offering a steady platform for women to showcase and vend their products.

Dr. Mani's narrative unfolded further into the realm of innovation, exploring the rich tapestry of the NABARD Tribal Tree Culture, Intra Cropping, and the dynamic landscape of Poultry Farming. These visionary initiatives, according to him, not only empower women economically but also serve as crucibles for skill development.

In summation, Dr. Gyanendra Mani's discourse injected energy and creativity into the conversation around women entrepreneurship. His insights into community-driven programs, the catalyzing role of influential personalities, and the kaleidoscope of livelihood initiatives added depth and vibrancy to the broader narrative of achieving sustainable development goals through the prism of women's economic empowerment.



Address by Professor Dinesh Marothia
President, Indian Society of Agriculture
Economics, Member Technical Advisory Board,
South Asia



The Seminar addressing "Strengthening Women Entrepreneurship for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals" brought together distinguished experts, among them Professor Dinesh Marothia, President of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics and an esteemed member of the Technical Advisory Board for South Asia. Professor Marothia's discourse encompassed the intricate facets of women entrepreneurship, elucidating its benefits, collaborative endeavours, and its alignment with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

With eloquence, Professor Marothia illuminated the myriad advantages of women entrepreneurship, articulating its pivotal role in cultivating self-reliance and independence among women. Beyond individual empowerment, he underscored its far-reaching societal impact, emphasizing how the economic autonomy of women significantly contributes to overall development.

A noteworthy element in Professor Marothia's presentation was his expression of gratitude to Dr. Gyanendra Mani, Chief General Manager of NABARD, for endorsing the collaborative initiative with

Kalinga University. This acknowledgment underscored the significance of strategic partnerships and institutional backing in addressing the pivotal issues surrounding women entrepreneurship.

The speaker engaged the audience in a reflective exploration of the 17 SDGs established by the United Nations, expounding on their diverse dimensions and the imperative of their achievement. He drew connections between women entrepreneurship and the global agenda, positioning it as a potent force in advancing sustainable development on a comprehensive scale.

Integral to Professor Marothia's discourse was the imperative to minimize gender-based disparities. By accentuating women entrepreneurship, he argued, it becomes conceivable to dismantle existing inequalities and foster a more inclusive and equitable society, aligning seamlessly with the ethos of the SDGs.

In advocating for the adoption of the Phoolbasan Bai Yadav model for rural transformation through active women participation, Professor Marothia highlighted a tangible and successful framework. This model, rooted in the empowerment of rural women, serves as an exemplar for leveraging the transformative potential of women in marginalized communities.

Further enriching his discourse, Professor Marothia drew from Amartya Sen's philosophical insights on parallel thinking. He underscored how empowering women through entrepreneurship aligns with Sen's vision of broadening capabilities and choices, thereby contributing to sustainable development at both individual and societal levels.

A crucial emphasis in the lecture was on heterogeneous interaction. Professor Marothia stressed the importance of diverse collaborations and interactions in the realm of women entrepreneurship. By fostering a climate of inclusivity and collaboration, innovative solutions can emerge, contributing to a more comprehensive approach in addressing the challenges faced by women entrepreneurs.

In conclusion, Professor Dinesh Marothia's discourse was a thought-provoking exploration of the pivotal role of women entrepreneurship in achieving sustainable development goals. His insights, combined with expressions of gratitude and a call for collaborative efforts, underscored the imperative of collective action in empowering women economically and fostering societal development. The Seminar, through such nuanced perspectives, emerges as a catalyst for meaningful dialogue and tangible steps towards a more equitable future.



Section 1

a. Summary of keynote Address

Day 1 (06th October, 2023)

The following women entrepreneurs and eminent speakers from reputed organizations presented their views on this topic.

Deliberation of Dr. Sanjay Kumar Joshi

Assistant Professor in the Department of Agri-Business & Rural Management

In the Seminar dedicated to strengthening women entrepreneurship for sustainable development goals, Dr. Sanjay Kumar Joshi, Assistant Professor in the Department of Agri-Business & Rural Management, unfolded a multifaceted discourse on the pivotal role of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in fostering economic empowerment. While delving into the Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana Scheme, he underscored the transformative impact of Women-Centered SHGs, aligning with global efforts to recognize women as catalysts for community development and economic progress.

Dr. Joshi further expanded the canvas by discussing crucial government initiatives such as the Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana and the National Rural Livelihood Mission. These initiatives underscore the commitment to uplift marginalized communities, emphasizing the integral role of women in catalyzing rural economic development. Such programs not only empower women entrepreneurs but also contribute to the broader objective of poverty reduction and inclusive growth.

Turning attention to the MSME sector, Dr. Joshi highlighted the gender disparity prevalent in this domain, where a majority of enterprises are primarily run by men. His emphasis on technology upgradation in MSMEs raises questions about inclusivity and the imperative to create an environment that encourages women's active participation in technology-driven enterprises. This observation aligns

with global discussions on the need for gender-responsive policies to bridge such gaps.

In addressing the financial dimensions of MSMEs, Dr. Joshi spotlighted the KVIC (Khadi and Village Industries Commission) financial inclusion schemes. This acknowledgment resonates with global conversations on the importance of financial inclusivity in empowering entrepreneurs, especially those in rural areas. By focusing on schemes that facilitate access to financial resources, Dr. Joshi underlined the need for creating an enabling environment for women entrepreneurs to thrive.

Additionally, the inclusion of the Grameen Kaushal Yojana in Dr. Joshi's discourse adds a crucial dimension to the discussion. This scheme, focused on skill development in rural areas, complements the broader theme of women's empowerment by equipping them with the necessary skills for entrepreneurship. Skill development is a linchpin in enhancing the effectiveness of women entrepreneurs and promoting sustainable growth.

In alignment with Dr. Joshi's insights, it is vital to recognize the global imperative for inclusive economic development. Efforts to bridge gender gaps in entrepreneurship, financial inclusion, and skill development align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 5 (Gender Equality) and Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).

In conclusion, Dr. Sanjay Kumar Joshi's comprehensive lecture not only unveiled the significance of SHGs but also navigated through key government initiatives and financial inclusion schemes in the MSME sector. His insights collectively contribute to the broader narrative of fostering women entrepreneurship for sustainable and inclusive economic development.



Deliberation of Ms. Dhaneshwari Sahu

Director of Maa Bamleshwari Janhitkari Samiti

In the seminar aimed at fortifying women entrepreneurship for the attainment of sustainable development goals, Ms. Dhaneshwari Sahu, the Director of Maa Bamleshwari Janhitkari Samiti, shared a compelling narrative of her initiatives, particularly focusing on the transformative power of women in society. Ms. Sahu delved into the impactful Padyatra undertaken to enhance societal development, highlighting the pivotal role of women as agents of change. The emphasis on women's empowerment as a catalyst for broader societal improvements echoed a sentiment deeply ingrained in the global discourse on sustainable development.

A significant aspect of Ms. Sahu's presentation was her dedication to Swachta Abhiyan, underscoring the interconnectedness of cleanliness and societal progress. This commitment aligns with broader sustainability goals, emphasizing the importance of environmental and community well-being in any developmental endeavor.

Ms. Sahu's association with NABARD APO Shareholders further showcased a collaborative approach to sustainable development. Collaborations with financial institutions like NABARD play a crucial role in providing the necessary support systems for women entrepreneurs, ensuring their financial inclusion and stability.

Her involvement in Vermi Compost Training highlighted the practical application of sustainable agricultural practices. This aligns with the global push towards sustainable agriculture, where women play a vital role in implementing eco-friendly and resource-efficient farming methods.

The establishment of Bamleshwari Krishi Kendra, encompassing 30 such centers and affiliated with Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishvidyalay, is a testament to the comprehensive approach taken by Ms. Sahu.

The integration of academic institutions with practical training centers reflects a holistic vision for women's education and empowerment in agriculture.

Additionally, Ms. Sahu's venture into Agarbatti and spices production contributes not only to economic empowerment but also adds value to local economies. This diversification of production aligns with the broader principle of sustainable and diversified economies as a means to ensure resilience and growth.

In complementing Ms. Sahu's insights, it's essential to recognize the global movement towards gender-inclusive entrepreneurship and sustainable agriculture. Numerous studies underline the positive impact of women's involvement in agriculture on food security, poverty reduction, and overall sustainable development.

In essence, Ms. Dhaneshwari Sahu's lecture provided a vivid picture of the transformative potential of women-led initiatives in the pursuit of sustainable development goals. Her focus on cleanliness, collaboration with financial institutions, agricultural training, and diverse production ventures resonates with global efforts to empower women as key contributors to a sustainable and equitable future.



Deliberation of Ms. Khileshwari Sahu

Head - Krishi Kendra Division at Maa Bamleshwari Janhitkari Samiti

In the seminar dedicated to fortifying women entrepreneurship for the attainment of sustainable development goals, Ms. Khileshwari Sahu, Head of Krishi Kendra Division at Maa Bamleshwari Janhitkari Samiti, presented a compelling discourse on the grassroots initiatives led by her organization. A pivotal highlight of her talk was the inception of Mahila Mandal with a meager investment of Rs. 5, underscoring the transformative power of small beginnings in fostering women-led movements. This resonates with the principle that even modest resources can lead to substantial impacts when coupled with dedication and community engagement.

Ms. Sahu's emphasis on Swachta Abhiyan reflects a commitment to holistic development. The intersection of cleanliness initiatives with women's entrepreneurship aligns with broader sustainability goals, acknowledging the interconnectedness of environmental well-being and economic empowerment. This aligns with global efforts to integrate environmental consciousness into development agendas.

The focus on normal gram yojana and the undertaking of Nasha Mukti Abhiyan demonstrate a multifaceted approach to community development. Addressing societal issues beyond economic dimensions, such as substance abuse, aligns with the understanding that sustainable development encompasses social and cultural aspects. It highlights the importance of women-led initiatives not only in economic spheres but also in addressing societal challenges.

Supplementing Ms. Sahu's insights, it's essential to recognize the global push for community-led initiatives in achieving sustainable development. Studies consistently show that grassroots movements,

particularly those championed by women, play a crucial role in driving positive social change and fostering resilience in communities.

In essence, Ms. Khileshwari Sahu's lecture painted a vivid picture of the transformative power of grassroots initiatives led by women. Her focus on cleanliness, community health, and addressing societal challenges contributes to a broader narrative of women entrepreneurship not only as an economic force but also as a catalyst for comprehensive and sustainable community development.



Deliberation of Prof. P. Indira Devi
ICAR Emeritus Professor
Kerala Agricultural University

In a seminar dedicated to bolstering women entrepreneurship for the pursuit of sustainable development goals, Dr. P. Indira Devi, an ICAR Emeritus Professor from Kerala Agricultural University, delivered a thought-provoking lecture on the challenges and nuances of women's participation in agriculture. Prof. Devi delved into the disconcerting trend of a declining number of women engaging in agriculture, attributing this decline to the burdens of household tasks and other major responsibilities that women shoulder. She painted a vivid picture of a scenario where the farming undertaken by women is primarily for household consumption rather than catering to the market, highlighting a crucial aspect often overlooked.

Adding layers to the discussion, she brought to the forefront the intricate issue of invisible landownership factors, shedding light on the complexities that women face in accessing and owning agricultural land. The discourse touched upon the findings of the National Family Health Survey, unveiling a stark reality where women's participation in agricultural activities is substantially lower when weighed against their responsibilities within the household.

A distinctive aspect of Prof. Indira Devi's presentation was her exploration of the cultural dynamics at play in Meghalaya. Drawing attention to the unique societal structure of Meghalaya, characterized by a matriarchal system, she noted that approximately 71% to 86.9% of women in the region are engaged in some form of work. This stark contrast to national averages underscored the impact of cultural and societal structures on women's participation in economic activities, especially in the context of agriculture.

Building upon these insights, it becomes evident that efforts to strengthen women entrepreneurship in agriculture must encompass not only economic considerations but also address cultural, social, and structural factors. Prof. Indira Devi's discourse provided a critical lens through which the multifaceted challenges faced by women in agriculture were explored, paving the way for a more comprehensive understanding of the path towards sustainable development goals in this sector.



Deliberation of Prof. Sunil Nahatkar

Head of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management & Honorary Director

In the Seminar centered on enhancing women entrepreneurship for the realization of sustainable development goals, the inaugural lecture by Prof. Sunil Nahatkar, a distinguished Professor and Head of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management, provided a comprehensive exploration into the realm of agri-entrepreneurship. Prof. Nahatkar strategically delved into the vital components of agri entrepreneurship, emphasizing the critical factors of production that form the bedrock of sustainable agricultural practices.

The lecture extended its purview to the contemporary landscape of technology, as Prof. Nahatkar shed light on various mobile app services designed to empower farmers. His discourse, rooted in the fusion of technology and agriculture, underscored the transformative role of digital solutions in enhancing efficiency, market access, and overall sustainability within the agricultural sector.

A noteworthy aspect of Prof. Nahatkar's presentation was the classification and function of entrepreneurs within the agricultural domain. By delineating the diverse roles entrepreneurs play, he emphasized the need for a multifaceted approach to women agri-entrepreneurship. This resonates with the broader narrative of recognizing and nurturing diverse skill sets and roles that women can undertake in the agricultural value chain.

The discourse seamlessly transitioned to the strategic consideration of fundraising in agri entrepreneurship. Prof. Nahatkar illuminated the importance of raising funds and elucidated the array of opportunities available for women agri-entrepreneurs. In doing so, he not only highlighted the financial aspect but also underscored the need for comprehensive support systems that go beyond mere monetary backing.

Central to Prof. Nahatkar's lecture was the exploration of incubation services as a pivotal tool for the development of women agri-entrepreneurs. Delving into the ways and principles of incubation, he outlined a roadmap for nurturing and fostering entrepreneurial ventures in agriculture. The objective of promoting rural agriculture-based income emerged as a cornerstone, aligning with the overarching goal of sustainable development.

Supplementing Prof. Nahatkar's insights, it is pertinent to acknowledge the global trends emphasizing the role of technology in modern agriculture. The integration of mobile apps, precision farming, and data-driven decision-making has proven to be instrumental in enhancing productivity and sustainability.

In essence, Prof. Sunil Nahatkar's lecture provided a rich tapestry of insights into the multifaceted world of agri entrepreneurship for women. His discourse, seamlessly weaving together technology, financial considerations, and incubation principles, laid a strong foundation for subsequent discussions in the seminar. The emphasis on empowering women in rural agriculture aligns with global efforts towards achieving sustainable development goals by fostering inclusive and resilient economic systems.



Deliberation of Professor S.S. Kalamkar

Director and Professor at the Agro-Economic Research Centre, Sardar Patel University

In the seminar dedicated to bolstering women entrepreneurship for the realization of sustainable development goals, Professor S.S. Kalamkar, Director and Professor at the Agro-Economic Research Centre, Sardar Patel University, Gujarat, delivered an insightful lecture. Professor Kalamkar centered his discussion on the SEWA (Self Employed Women Association), illuminating the organization's efforts in the context of the Global Gender Gap Index 2023. This focus underscores the critical need to address gender disparities and the role that women-led initiatives can play in bridging these gaps. It aligns with the global discourse on gender equality as a cornerstone of sustainable development.

An important facet of Professor Kalamkar's discourse was the emphasis on the significance of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He drew attention to the glaring issue of gender-based wage gaps, highlighting the economic challenges that women entrepreneurs face. This resonates with global efforts to recognize and rectify gender-based economic disparities, acknowledging that women's economic empowerment is integral to achieving sustainable development.

Professor Kalamkar pivoted to a rural perspective, shedding light on the substantial share of rural India in the agriculture sector. His discourse touched upon the pivotal Green, White, and Yellow revolutions, emphasizing the transformative impact of these movements on agricultural practices. This context is crucial in understanding the historical evolution of agriculture in India and how women's participation can further shape its trajectory.

Furthermore, Professor Kalamkar delved into the Prime Minister's initiative of Atma Nirbhar Bharat, underlining the importance of self-reliance for women entrepreneurs. This aligns with global calls

for fostering entrepreneurship as a means of building resilient economies, particularly in the wake of global challenges.

The mention of India being the fourth-largest producer of agrochemicals and having the largest livestock population highlights the nation's significant role in the global agricultural landscape. This information not only emphasizes India's economic potential but also underscores the vast opportunities for women entrepreneurs in the agriculture sector.

Professor Kalamkar's call for recognizing a dedicated Women Farmer Day adds a layer of advocacy for acknowledging and celebrating the indispensable role that women play in agriculture. It aligns with the broader recognition that women, as primary contributors to agricultural activities, deserve acknowledgment and support.

In conclusion, Professor S.S. Kalamkar's lecture provided a comprehensive overview of the challenges and opportunities in women entrepreneurship within the agricultural context. His emphasis on gender equality, the significance of SDGs, and the pivotal role of women in agriculture aligns with global efforts to build inclusive and sustainable economies.



Day 2 (07th October, 2023)

The deliberations on the second day started sharp at 10 AM and the following women entrepreneurs and eminent speakers from reputed organizations presented their views on this topic.

Deliberation of Dr. Raka Saxena Head of the Division of Technology and Sustainable Agriculture, ICAR

In the seminar focused on strengthening women entrepreneurship for the attainment of sustainable development goals, Dr. Raka Saxena, Head of the Division of Technology and Sustainable Agriculture at ICAR, delivered an insightful lecture addressing the critical theme of gender mainstreaming in Indian agriculture. Dr. Saxena shed light on the multifaceted dimensions of women's participation in agriculture, emphasizing the importance of integrating gender considerations into agricultural policies and practices. Her discourse extended beyond mere representation, delving into the barriers and driving forces that shape the landscape of women's entrepreneurship in this sector.

Reflecting on the trajectory of women's participation in agriculture, Dr. Saxena provided a historical perspective that underscored the evolving role of women in this crucial sector. This historical context is essential for understanding the dynamics at play and the progress made in integrating women into various facets of agricultural activities. It also serves as a foundation for recognizing the existing gaps and potential areas for improvement.

Dr. Saxena delved into the major challenges faced by women in agriculture and the factors that influence their entrepreneurship. By addressing these challenges, she contributed to a comprehensive

understanding of the complex interplay between socio-cultural, economic, and institutional factors that shape the entrepreneurial landscape for women in agriculture. Recognizing and dissecting these challenges is fundamental for formulating targeted strategies that address the root causes hindering women's full participation in agricultural entrepreneurship.

To complement Dr. Saxena's insights, it is crucial to recognize that gender mainstreaming in agriculture goes beyond mere numerical representation. It involves creating an enabling environment that addresses inequalities, fosters equal opportunities, and acknowledges the diverse roles that women play in agricultural value chains. Studies consistently highlight that empowering women in agriculture is not only a matter of social justice but is also crucial for enhancing agricultural productivity and ensuring food security.

In conclusion, Dr. Raka Saxena's lecture provided a nuanced exploration of gender mainstreaming in Indian agriculture, unraveling the barriers, driving forces, and challenges that define the entrepreneurial journey for women in this vital sector. Her insights contribute to the ongoing discourse on sustainable development by emphasizing the pivotal role of women in shaping the future of agriculture and rural economies.



Deliberation of Mr. P. C. Mishra
Retired Indian Forest Service Officer
Chhattisgarh State

In the seminar on fortifying women entrepreneurship for sustainable development goals, Mr. P. C. Mishra, a retired IFS (Forest Service), brought forth a comprehensive discourse intertwining watershed management, poverty alleviation, and the intricate dynamics of digital and economic disparities. He delved into the pressing issue of the digital divide, shedding light on how disparities in access to technology can exacerbate existing economic inequalities. The emphasis on the digital divide aligns with the global recognition of technology as both an enabler and a potential source of disparities in the quest for sustainable development.

As Mr. Mishra navigated through the landscape of poverty disparities, he drew attention to the concept of 'bhoomi heen,' a term encapsulating those lacking adequate land resources for agriculture. Specifically, he highlighted that around 20% of farmers engaged in agriculture-based crop production fall under this category. This revelation underscores the challenges faced by a substantial segment of the farming community, emphasizing the need for targeted interventions to uplift marginalized agricultural practices.

A critical facet of Mr. Mishra's discussion was the decline in tubewell irrigation, a concerning trend with far-reaching implications for agriculture. As he pointed out the decreasing prevalence of tubewell irrigation, it raises alarms about the sustainability of water resources for farming. This observation aligns with global concerns regarding water scarcity and the pivotal role of sustainable water management in achieving agricultural resilience.

In complementing Mr. Mishra's insights, it's imperative to recognize that the digital divide and disparities in land and water

resources are interconnected challenges. Bridging these gaps is not only essential for economic empowerment but is also pivotal for ensuring inclusive access to the benefits of technological advancements and sustainable agricultural practices.

In essence, Mr. P. C. Mishra's lecture presented a nuanced analysis of the multifaceted challenges encompassing watershed management, poverty disparities, and the evolving landscape of technology and agriculture. His insights underscored the interconnected nature of these challenges and highlighted the importance of holistic and inclusive strategies in achieving sustainable development goals. This approach aligns with the global vision of leaving no one behind in the pursuit of equitable and resilient societies.



Deliberation of Mr. Pradeep Verma
Chhattisgarh State Project Manager
J.K. Trust, Mumbai

In the seminar dedicated to strengthening women's entrepreneurship for the achievement of sustainable development goals, Mr. Pradeep Verma, the Chhattisgarh State Project Manager from J.K. Trust, Mumbai, delivered a comprehensive and insightful lecture. His discussion revolved around women entrepreneurship, exploring its various dimensions and shedding light on several schemes designed to foster and support women-led initiatives. Mr. Verma delved into the challenging factors that women entrepreneurs often face in their journey, providing a nuanced understanding of the obstacles and hurdles within the entrepreneurial landscape.

One notable aspect of Mr. Verma's discourse was the inclusion of schemes such as Nava Anjor, emphasizing the importance of targeted initiatives in catalyzing women's economic participation. The discussion extended to financial inclusion strategies, recognizing the pivotal role that access to financial resources plays in empowering women entrepreneurs. Additionally, Mr. Verma touched upon the significance of MNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act), showcasing the interconnectedness of various government programs in shaping a conducive environment for women's entrepreneurship.

Beyond the specifics of schemes, Mr. Verma's talk highlighted the need for a holistic approach towards women's economic empowerment. The multifaceted dimensions he explored underscored the interconnected nature of social, economic, and governmental factors that influence the success of women entrepreneurs. His insights contribute to a broader understanding of the ecosystem required for sustained and meaningful women's participation in entrepreneurship.

Moreover, Mr. Verma's emphasis on financial inclusion aligns with the global discourse on the crucial role of economic empowerment in achieving sustainable development goals. Providing women with the necessary financial tools not only contributes to their individual prosperity but also has a ripple effect, positively impacting families and communities.

Mr. Pradeep Verma's lecture offered a comprehensive overview of women entrepreneurship, interweaving discussions on schemes, challenges, and the intricate web of factors that contribute to the success of women-led initiatives. His insights contribute to a more nuanced understanding of the landscape of women's entrepreneurship and its significance in the broader context of sustainable development goals.



Deliberation by Mrs. Nirmala Bhaskar
Bastar Agro Producer Company Ltd.
Ghotulmunda, Kanker

In the Seminar dedicated to fortifying women's entrepreneurship for the attainment of sustainable development goals, Mrs. Nirmala Bhaskar, representing Bastar Agro Producer Company Ltd. in Ghotulmunda, Kanker, delivered an exceptionally insightful and comprehensive lecture. Her discourse gravitated towards community-based farming, intricately exploring the complexities of production and supply chain management, with a particular focus on showcasing the diverse varieties of "desi dhaan" (indigenous rice) cultivated in Chhattisgarh. Mrs. Bhaskar ardently underscored the pivotal role of a resilient production and supply chain, accentuating its profound significance in empowering local communities and fostering sustainable agricultural practices.

An integral facet of her discourse delved into the critical importance of market exposure and the strategic utilization of forestry produce. By seamlessly integrating forest resources into the agricultural value chain, Mrs. Bhaskar brought to the forefront the immense potential for creating sustainable livelihoods while concurrently contributing to environmental conservation. This strategic approach not only aligns seamlessly with the fundamental principles of sustainable development but also taps into the rich tapestry of resources available in diverse ecosystems.

Mrs. Bhaskar further shared profound insights into her entrepreneurial journey with the establishment of Bastar Agro Producer Company Ltd. Elaborating on the various facets of the venture's genesis, she highlighted the instrumental role played by NABARD, emphasizing the pivotal function of financial institutions in nurturing and propelling women-led enterprises forward. This collaborative

effort, beyond merely facilitating economic empowerment, stands as a resounding testament to the catalytic impact that strategic partnerships can wield in advancing sustainable development goals.

Upon deeper reflection, it is paramount to recognize the broader ramifications of community-based farming models. Beyond enhancing agricultural productivity, such approaches play a crucial role in fostering community resilience and social cohesion. The integration of forestry produce not only diversifies income streams but also aligns seamlessly with the global imperative of sustainable resource management, thereby setting an exemplary paradigm for harmonious coexistence with the environment.

Mrs. Nirmala Bhaskar's lecture offered a radiant exploration of the nuanced dynamics within community-based farming, sustainable supply chain management, and the symbiotic interplay between agriculture and forestry. Her entrepreneurial journey emerged as a guiding light, highlighting the transformative possibilities inherent in strategic collaborations and financial support to propel women-led enterprises towards the achievement of sustainable development goals.



Deliberation of Ms. Anjana Ekka

Scientist

ICAR Central Inland Fisheries Research
Institute, Barrackpur

In the Seminar dedicated to fortifying women's entrepreneurship for the attainment of sustainable development goals, Ms. Anjana Ekka, a Scientist from the ICAR Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute in Barrackpur, delivered an insightful lecture that intricately addressed the intersectionality of women's equality, entrepreneurship, and the broader framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Her discussion, centered around SDGs 1, 2, 5, 8, 12, and 13, underscored the interlinked nature of poverty eradication, gender equality, decent work, responsible consumption, and climate action.

Ms. Ekka delved into the deeply ingrained social and cultural norms influencing the roles of women, examining their psychological, educational, economical, social, and political dimensions in the context of entrepreneurship. This holistic examination shed light on the multifaceted challenges women encounter in navigating traditional barriers to participate and thrive in entrepreneurial pursuits.

Highlighting the ornamental fishery sector, Ms. Ekka emphasized the pivotal role women play in the marketing industry within this domain. This recognition aligns with the broader narrative of acknowledging women as essential contributors across diverse economic sectors, even in traditionally male-dominated industries.

The discourse extended to encompass the critical aspect of nutritional security within entrepreneurship. Ms. Ekka's exploration of cage culture technology and inland water waste management resonates with global efforts promoting sustainable practices in fisheries. As women actively engage in various aspects of fisheries and aquaculture, integrating their perspectives into sustainable practices becomes crucial

for ensuring long-term food security.

Furthermore, the identification of target beneficiaries in the context of cage culture technology and inland water waste management adds a pragmatic dimension to the discussion. Targeting specific groups, particularly women, ensures that the benefits of entrepreneurship are equitably distributed, contributing to the broader goal of poverty alleviation and inclusive economic growth.

In reinforcing Ms. Ekka's insights, it is imperative to recognize the global endeavors to integrate gender perspectives into sustainable development. Studies consistently emphasize that empowering women across sectors, including fisheries and aquaculture, not only drives economic growth but also enhances social and environmental sustainability.

In essence, Ms. Anjana Ekka's lecture provided a nuanced exploration of the intricate connections between women's equality, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development. Her insights align with global initiatives to create a more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable future by acknowledging and leveraging the potential of women in various economic spheres.



Deliberation of Ms. Nagina Netam

Mahanadi Kisan Utpadak Company Ltd in Charama,
Kanker

In the seminar dedicated to fortifying women's entrepreneurship for the attainment of sustainable development goals, Ms. Nagina Netam, representing Mahanadi Kisan Utpadak Company Ltd in Charama, Kanker, delivered a compelling and insightful lecture. Focusing on her specialization in "setaphal" production, Ms. Netam shared a comprehensive narrative of her entrepreneurial journey. This venture took shape with the crucial support of NABARD and the Agricultural Atma Pariyojna, showcasing the collaborative efforts that play an instrumental role in fostering women-led enterprises.

Ms. Netam delved into the intricacies of her startup, providing a detailed exploration of the various dimensions involved in "setaphal" production. The discussion encompassed the powder production process and pulp processing of "setaphal," unraveling the multifaceted aspects inherent in her agricultural venture. Beyond the technical intricacies, her discourse extended to shed light on the broader significance of initiatives like the Atma Pariyojna in empowering women in the agricultural sector.

The lecture underscored the pivotal role that financial institutions, particularly NABARD, play in nurturing women entrepreneurship. The collaborative endeavors highlighted in projects like the Atma Pariyojna emphasized the collective commitment required to elevate women's roles in agriculture. Ms. Netam's experience served as a tangible example of how strategic partnerships and focused initiatives can transform aspirations into impactful realities.

Furthermore, Ms. Netam's emphasis on women entrepreneurship within the broader context of agricultural ventures resonates with the diverse contributions women can make to sustainable

development. By harnessing the potential of indigenous produce like "setaphal," her initiative aligns seamlessly with the principles of promoting local resources and fostering sustainable practices. This, in turn, contributes not only to economic empowerment but also to broader goals such as environmental conservation and community development.

In this expansive exploration, Ms. Nagina Netam's lecture provided a vivid and comprehensive narrative of her journey into "setaphal" production, interweaving technical intricacies into the broader theme of women entrepreneurship. Her startup, buoyed by collaborative support from institutions like NABARD, stands as a testament to the transformative impact that strategic partnerships and focused initiatives can have in advancing sustainable development goals, particularly through the lens of women's economic empowerment in agriculture.



Deliberation of Ms. Namita Mishra

State Head
Foundation for Ecological Security

In the seminar dedicated to strengthening women's entrepreneurship for the realization of sustainable development goals, Ms. Namita Mishra, the State Head of the Foundation for Ecological Security, delivered a compelling lecture that intricately interwove women's empowerment, environmental sustainability, and the overarching framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Her discourse unfolded within the context of forest conservation and livelihoods, underscoring the inherent connection between sustainable environmental practices and the empowerment of women.

Ms. Mishra's discussion ventured into the pragmatic dimensions of this interconnection, citing instances such as the cultivation of popular traditional crops like Kodo and Ragi and the adoption of sustainable practices such as vegetable seeding. These initiatives, deeply rooted in ecological principles, not only contribute to preserving biodiversity but also act as sources of economic empowerment for women actively involved in agriculture. The promotion of traditional crops aligns harmoniously with sustainable farming practices, enhancing resilience within agricultural systems.

Furthermore, Ms. Mishra emphasized the significance of seed banks, presenting a comprehensive approach to conserving biodiversity and promoting sustainable agriculture. Seed banks function as repositories for safeguarding traditional crop varieties and stand as essential resources for empowering women farmers. By preserving and proliferating indigenous seeds, women play a vital role in maintaining agricultural diversity and bolstering food security.

Integrated farming emerged as another pivotal aspect of Ms. Mishra's discourse. This approach highlights the synergy between

various agricultural activities, advocating for sustainable practices that boost productivity while minimizing environmental impact. The seamless integration of livestock, crop cultivation, and agroforestry not only sustains ecological equilibrium but also presents diverse opportunities for women to engage in entrepreneurship across multiple sectors.

Ms. Mishra's discussion also delved into the challenges associated with monocropping, emphasizing the need to move away from an exclusive focus on a single crop for heightened sustainability. Monocropping poses environmental risks and constrains the economic opportunities available to women in agriculture. Diversification, on the other hand, empowers women to explore a range of agricultural and entrepreneurial avenues, contributing to both economic growth and environmental sustainability.

Reiterating Ms. Mishra's insights underscores the global emphasis on the pivotal role of women in sustainable agriculture. Studies consistently affirm that empowering women in agriculture not only advances gender equality but also stands as a central strategy for attaining broader sustainability objectives.

In conclusion, Ms. Namita Mishra's lecture offered a comprehensive perspective on women's empowerment within the context of environmental sustainability. Her insights underscore the potential of integrating traditional farming practices, preserving seeds, and embracing diversified agricultural approaches to not only economically empower women but also substantially contribute to the achievement of sustainable development goals.



Deliberation by Ms. Srishtishree Mani

Department of Food and Nutrition

Banasthali Vidyapith

In the seminar aimed at fortifying women's entrepreneurship for sustainable development goals, Ms. Srishtishree Mani, representing Banasthali Vidyapith's Department of Food and Nutrition, delivered a captivating lecture. She intricately wove together the themes of women entrepreneurship, sustainable development goals, and the vibrant realm of beverages and active functional foods. Her discourse ventured into the transformative realm of value addition and scientific interventions, showcasing the potential to elevate commonplace foods into high-value products.

Ms. Mani emphasized the pivotal role of women in this context, illustrating how their active involvement can forge new paths for rural entrepreneurship. The emphasis on beverages and active functional foods aligns seamlessly with the global shift towards health-conscious consumption patterns. By empowering women in this sector, the impact extends beyond economic growth, addressing health and nutritional concerns in a sustainable manner.

The discussion delved into the effective utilization of agricultural waste, portraying it not as a mere byproduct but as a valuable resource. This approach aligns with the principles of sustainable development, fostering innovation and eco-friendly practices in the entrepreneurial landscape. Utilizing agri-wastes for the creation of marketable products not only aids in waste reduction but also promotes a circular economy.

Ms. Mani also stressed the importance of value addition and scientific interventions in transforming basic foods into products with enhanced market value. This strategic approach holds significant potential for impacting rural economies, equipping women with the tools and knowledge to augment the value of their agricultural produce.

Complementing Ms. Mani's insights is the global imperative to integrate sustainable practices into the food industry. From reducing food waste to crafting nutritious products, aligning women's entrepreneurship in the food sector with sustainable development goals offers a multifaceted strategy with far-reaching positive consequences.

In conclusion, Ms. Srishtishree Mani's lecture offered a forward-thinking perspective on women entrepreneurship, blending elements of sustainability, nutritional value, and economic empowerment. Her insights illuminated the potential of leveraging scientific interventions and value addition in the food industry, creating new avenues for rural women entrepreneurs that contribute not only to economic growth but also to the broader objectives of sustainable development.

b. Emerging Issues from the keynote address

- Limited access to education
- Challenges in scaling initiatives like 'Mor Bazaar, Sabko Rozgaar.'
- Limited economic opportunities for women in rural areas.
- Gender-based disparities in entrepreneurship.
- Lack of understanding of the Grameen Kaushal Yojana focused on skill development in rural areas.
- Lack of digital literacy among women in rural area.
- Disparities in land, water, and technology resources
- Lack of awareness regarding the role of seed banks in preserving traditional crop varieties and empowering women farmers.
- Visibility of women's entrepreneurship in the food and beverage sector.

c. Major Findings

- Self-Help Groups (SHGs) play an important role in empowering women for economic development.
- Government initiatives like Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana and financial inclusion schemes are crucial for women's economic empowerment.
- Skill development, exemplified by the Grameen Kaushal Yojana, is essential for women entrepreneurs.
- Collaborative approaches with financial institutions should be encouraged.
- Sustainable agriculture and eco-friendly farming practices to be promoted.
- Women-led grassroots initiatives are crucial for driving positive social change and community resilience.
- Women's involvement in agriculture is decreasing due to household responsibilities.
- SEWA plays an important role in addressing gender disparities and promoting gender equality.
- Emphasis should be given on gender mainstreaming in Indian agriculture, highlighting the need for integrating gender considerations into agricultural policies and practices.
- Highlighted the digital divide's role in exacerbating economic disparities and the importance of inclusive technology access.



Valedictory Ceremony

The two day National Seminar was concluded by the valedictory ceremony that was graced by Dr. Sandeep Gandhi, Registrar of Kalinga University, Deans of various Faculty, Professors and Delegates. Dr. Ajay Shukla presented a brief report of the Seminar that was followed by the address of Dr. Sandeep Gandhi, Registrar, Kalinga University. Dr. Shilpi Bhattacharya, Convener and Dean of Faculty of Arts and Humanities extended vote of thanks and the seminar was finally concluded by National and State Anthem.



Section 2

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Dr. Shilpi Bhattacharya is a Professor and Dean in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at Kalinga University. She has over 22 years of versatile experience in Academics, Administration and Research. She has the experience of working in capacities like Dean, Head of the Department, core committee member of IQAC, chairperson BOS, Chairperson Board of Examination etc. She was the President of English Language Teachers' Association of India (ELTAI), Raipur chapter. From 2014 to 2022 She is the editor and reviewer of many peer reviewed research journals of national and international repute. She has three national patents to her credit. She received research excellence award 2020 from Institute of Scholars. She received two best paper awards in national conferences. She is the convenor of many International and National Conferences. She has communicated over 50 research papers in various national and international conferences. She has the merit of publishing 48 quality research papers in journals indexed in SCOPUS, Web of Science and UGC CARE II and merit of publishing 05 books and 05 book chapters in various anthologies. She Chaired technical sessions in many National and International conferences and delivered invited talks in various Faculty Development programs. She is invited as resource person in various national and international conferences. 40 research scholars completed their Ph.D. under her supervision.



Adv JUHI is a Corporate Trainer who specialises in interview skills and personality enhancement. Crime and Harassment Consultant Criminal Lawyer, Counsellor, and Column Writer. GRADUATION in English literature and psychology. Post-graduation in travel tourism and aviation from Delhi University post-graduation in public administration. Postgraduation in Psychology and LLB Totaling 21 years of work experience, Trained and professionally groomed more than 15,000 students for corporate and MNC's. 13 years of experience in counselling and criminal cases in mahila Thane, schools, hospitals, NGO's, and more than 6,000 charitable crime & depression counselling sessions.



Tuhina Choubey is a highly accomplished professional with a diverse background and extensive experience in the fields of journalism, media production, and education. Her dynamic and focused approach has enabled her to excel in various roles throughout her career. Tuhina Chaubey is currently working as an assistant professor in the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at Kalinga University, located in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. In this role, she provides her knowledge and expertise to the next generation of media professionals. She is currently a research scholar. She holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree with a specialisation in human resource development. In addition to her MBA, she has a Master of Journalism (MJ) degree in electronic media. This qualification reflects her strong foundation in media and journalism. Tuhina Chaubey's commitment to education is evident through her significant contributions. She has authored 8 research papers and 2 book chapters, reflecting his intellectual engagement and desire to contribute to the field of education.

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Opp. New Panchjanya Vidya Mandir, Near Tiranga Chowk,
Kushalpur, Dist.- Raipur-492001, Chhattisgarh
shodhsamagam1@gmail.com, +91 94252 10308

