

**CREATING HER
OWN IDENTITY**

GENDER IMPACT STORIES





Solidaridad's understanding of gender inclusive development is guided by its vision and mission statement in which Solidaridad, through its sector and landscape transformation approach, takes into account the needs, the participation and the contributions of women and men equally.

Solidaridad recognizes the potential of men, women and youth, male and female, who are the leading drivers of sustainable change towards an inclusive economy and society.

We envision a world in which women and men work together side by side, in the private and the public sphere, both contributing to solutions in an atmosphere of equality and mutual respect, to jointly face the huge social, economic and environmental sustainability challenges of the decades to come.

Solidaridad believes that its approach based, on opportunities and incentives can also for the purpose of gender inclusivity help to mobilize the critical mass needed for change.

From planter to Entrepreneur

Ibu Sripah is a female tea planter who is actively involved in the local women's group of tea farmers, contributing to the local tea produce. This group was established as a means to organise women, especially independent tea planters. They have their own small tea factory with a daily production capacity of 25 kg of green tea and black tea. They do everything themselves from planting, plucking, producing and all the way to marketing.



Ibu Sripah



Preeti Shrivastav

Nutrition at the bottom of the pyramid

Preeti Shrivastav is a woman farmer who leads a family of 6. She is the Nutri Sakhi [Nutrition Friend] for the district Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh. With the help of Solidaridad's network, Preeti was able to establish a market presence and showcase her talent in many of the farmer's exhibitions. But apart from the success in personal affairs, Preeti's contribution to the community outweighs all her other inputs. She focuses a vital part of her time guiding her companions through the nutrition program (Nutri Sakhi) launched by Solidaridad.



Binota Mondal i

Income enhancement through dairy farming

Binota Mondal is a marginal farmer who started rearing cows to fulfil household milk consumption. After attending Solidaridad led trainings on better dairy practices and adopting them, not only increased the productivity but also reduced the cost incurred in rearing the cows. Through artificial insemination she now has two cross breed cows. Binota says “apart from fulfilling the house hold consumption need of milk, I am able to earn by selling the milk at milk collection centre”.



Manzila Khatun

Model Farmer

A Sustainable Agriculture, Food Security and Linkages (SaFaL) certified Lead Farmer, Manzila Khatun, 26, has emerged as a role model and local champion for the women farmers in her community, helping them realize high productivity and income through good agricultural practices and business linkages with public and private entities. Manzila inspires more than 2,500 women in adopting nutrition-sensitive and climate-smart farming techniques.

Commercially viable dairy farming

33 year old Shewly Adhikary, adopted the technology of hydroponic fodder production and increased the milk production while reducing the cost of cattle rearing. By feeding green fodder which is also rich in nutrients, Shewly says, she has increased the yield by three litres and reduced the cost by Rs 150 per cow per day. Since green fodder is grown indoors it saves a lot of her time too, she adds.



Shewly Adhikary



Indrani Goswami

Tea Testing

An organic tea farmer-entrepreneur in Phillobari, Assam, Indrani Goswami, 34, is an inspiration for the women in her locality in terms of attaining economic independence. Originally a conventional tea-growing farmer, Indrani switched to organic farming soon after she identified the virtues of green and organic tea in treating stubborn diseases and health conditions, like cancer. Indrani thanks Solidaridad's Trinitea programme for directing her towards sustainable agricultural practices.



Savita Shrivastava

Leading the way

Savita came out as a strong lead farming managing 5 acres of land in Nandgaon of Belgaum district. She started flood irrigation to grow sugarcane but only able to cover 1-acre land due to frequent drought in the region. However, she is keen to learn new techniques of irrigation and wanted to grow sugarcane on 5 acres of land. She installed a drip irrigation system with the help of Solidaridad and government subsidy. Now, she has been cultivating sugarcane (Variety CO-86032) and significantly enhance the yield and saved water through micro irrigation system. She has been regularly attending the good agriculture practices imparted by Solidaridad and has also started mobilizing other women farmers to take these trainings.

Fair Price Facilitator

Jhorna Khatun, 42, carries milk from the farm gate of women dairy farmers in her community to the SaFaL Business Center, where a digital milk payment system ensures fair price based on the quality of milk. Her acumen developed through Solidaridad-led training sessions has not only helped Jhorna overcome the many challenges facing dairy farming, including lack of good farming practices — but also helped more than 200 women farmers in her vicinity attain economic empowerment.



Jhorna Khatun



Sri Lestari

Of Grit & Passion!

Here is the story of a woman who managed to establish an all-women-led cocoa cookie brand in a hamlet in Indonesia. Sri Lestari of Tumbit Melayu village started on a low key—got married and chose to be a housewife, despite holding a diploma in environmental engineering. Yet, she kept her passion for entrepreneurship ignited, which manifested with Solidaridad’s intervention and her constant endeavour towards driving the local women to participate in trainings and workshops on production processes and entrepreneurship. Lestari is now the leader of the local women and family empowerment group in her village and an inspiration to all women in the Berau District.



Basonti Rani Kha

Healthy Production

Marginal vegetable farmer Basonti Rani Kha joined one of the Producer Groups promoted by Solidaridad and started learning good agricultural practices which led her to apply compost and necessary micronutrients as per the soil health. She is using the local variety of seeds which are more resilient to pests and disease. Basonti says “I have been able to reduce the cost of inputs and chemical free production which is better for consumption, due to less usage of chemical fertilizers and insecticides.”



Rani Kushwaha

Balancing Ration

Rani Kushwaha of Trilokpur village, Kanpur Nagar district, Uttar Pradesh, seems to have found a magic formula for her cattle feed! Since adopting the ‘balanced ration’ technique to feed her cattle following Solidaridad’s advice, the milk production has increased by 9.56 per cent in a 90-day cycle. This translates to a profit of INR 3,096 (@INR 40 per litre) for her, along with improvement in cattle immunity and overall health! The rise in household income and health of animals are not the only perks Rani is basking in. She is already a model dairy farmer as her technique is now being emulated across the village.



Rozina Khatun

Empowered Woman

Rozina Khatun is a community nutrition volunteer for the last four years. After receiving various non-invasive medical trainings such as recording blood pressure, blood sugar, pregnancy test, use of catheters etc., she is providing service to her community and also imparting training on sexual and health rights, menstrual hygiene, family planning and nutrition. She earns around Rs 11,000 by delivering services to 120 households and runs a shop that sells sanitary pads, contraceptive pills, pregnancy test kit etc. She feels empowered because people in the community knows and respects her.



Merry Biswas

Competent farmer and a decision maker

Merry Biswas is an enterprising woman who transformed herself to a competent aquaculture farmer. Her increased contribution in farm work added real value and by piloting probiotic use in Golda-Carp mixed culture, the production increased resulting in their enhanced financial status. Today, Merry and her husband share the farm work. Merry says, 'I have proved that, women are not only passive helpers, but also active workers and decision makers, which creates real and significant value.'



Shaitan Bai

Flower Power

Soy farmer Shaitan Bai, learnt about flower farming in one of the trainings on alternate livelihoods imparted by Solidaridad. Enthused by the idea and since soy is a short duration crop, she utilized the land for flower cultivation during off season. With Solidaridad's supported, she could receive additional subsidy from the horticulture department for flower cultivation. In the last production cycle, she was able to make a profit of Rs 100,000 by selling flowers in the nearby market.



Reshmina Begum

Enterprising Homemaker

“I used to be a homemaker without any ambition. With trainings received on enterprise development, business planning and financial management, I gained the confidence to dream of becoming an entrepreneur. I take my own decisions now. I receive a lot of respect and love from family as well as community people.” – Reshmina Begum, 39, a SaFaL-supported entrepreneur engaged in manufacturing ‘Aton’ for aquaculture farming. (Atons are locally made fishing equipment to catch tiger shrimps from ponds.)

Tractor Queen

A one-time investment in tractors has been reaping rewards for Surekha Sanjay Patil (and her husband), not only in terms of increased sugarcane production but also reduced labour cost and improved farm operations. A pioneer woman tractor-driving farmer in her village, Surekha is currently on an entrepreneurial journey promoting mechanization in farming.



Surekha Sanjay Patil



Sandirajoythi

Nutri Garden Specialist

Many women and children in Estates and villages in Sri Lanka suffer from malnutrition and anemia. Sandirajoythi's story was no different before she attended the training organized by the EU funded Reaching the Unreached WASH project partner, ISD which promotes healthy behavior changes among estate and rural communities. Trained on organic vegetable gardening empowered her to start her own vegetable garden. "Whenever I pick vegetables to cook meals for my family, I feel happy as I know they are more nutritious without pesticides. My home garden is a symbol to say our family is becoming more healthier", she adds.



Hemlata

The Change Agent

Hemlata, a farmer from Dewas, presents a strong case of a change brought to the farming practices by controlled and improved interventions. She started farming vegetables in a small area of 500 sq mtrs which resulted in a staggering improvement in the farm output after adopting good agricultural practices. The story of Hemlata and her successful farming is not limited to her own fields but carried and applied across her community today.



Jashiben Pravinshih

Woman in Action

Use of personal protective equipment (PPE) kits has helped Hadiyol Jashiben Pravinshih, 35, a castor crop farmer in Gujarat, protect herself from the hazardous health risks associated with castor farming. Good agricultural practices imparted through Solidaridad's Sustainable Castor Initiative-Pragati programme form the backbone of Jashiben's confidence today, allowing her to work more productively than ever before.



Solanki Vijyaben Yogeshbhai

Sieving/Harvesting Time

Solanki Vijyaben Yogeshbhai, 33, uses personal protective equipment (PPE) while sieving through harvested castor crop. Women like Vijyaben are more and more implementing good practices of castor farming acquired through Solidaridad-led training initiatives. Solidaridad organized the training sessions specifically curated for women farmers based on their time and availability, ensuring maximum outreach and footfall.



Puja Biswas

Lead Farmer to Business Entrepreneur

Puja Biswas (30) is a MCC and one stop service center entrepreneur from Hatgacha, Kultia, Monirampur, Jashore. SaFaL facilitated a milk collection center established at Hatgacha since September 2015 but it was not running in profit. Since July 2018 Puja and her husband Protap jointly started the MCC. As of today they collect 270 liter milk per day and sell input worth TK. 2,000 per day and on average.





Solidaridad

NEHA | Assistant Manager Gender, Asia
A-5, Shankar Garden, Main Najafgarh Road, Vikas Puri, New Delhi 110018
Tel: +91 (11) 45134500