

bharatkhand

Newsletter

**Bharatkhand Consortium of
Farmer Producing Company Limited**

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SUPPORTED BY

Solidaridad

Welcome to another edition of the Bharatkhand Newsletter.

This month is particularly special for us as we witness growing collaboration between Bharatkhand, farmers and industry partners that is steadily creating new opportunities across the agricultural value chain.

A significant milestone in this journey is the renewed commitment of VIPPY Industries Limited to support smallholder farmers by procuring approximately 25,000 metric tonnes (MT) of regenerative soybean directly through FPOs during 2026–27. This commitment is an encouraging step towards building stronger market linkages for farmers who are adopting regenerative agriculture practices and moving towards more responsible and sustainable farming systems.

The ongoing Kharif season has brought further optimism for soybean and groundnut farmers across Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Through our work under the Vegetable Oil Mission in collaboration with the Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA), farmers are witnessing promising results in the fields. Well-filled soybean pods and healthy groundnut pods reflect the benefits of improved agricultural practices and the efforts farmers are making to enhance productivity and resilience.

Our FPOs are also reaching important milestones. Dhriti FPO, under its seed programme, has successfully received 2,720 quintals of wheat seed, supporting a programme involving 30 farmers. Such initiatives demonstrate how FPOs can become important enablers of farmer-led entrepreneurship, access to quality inputs and collective growth.

This edition brings together many more such stories of farmer enterprises and growing partnerships that Bharatkhand has nurtured over time.

Farmers' growing trust, stronger FPOs and increasing engagement with industry partners are creating a foundation for long-term growth and impact.

We hope you enjoy reading this edition as much as we enjoyed bringing these stories together.

Happy Reading!

Dr. Suresh Motwani
General Manager, Solidaridad



Farmers' Conclave Strengthens Collective Action through Dhriti Mahila FPO

A farmers' conclave was organised by Dhriti Mahila Farmers Producer Company Limited (FPO) in Sirolia village, bringing together a large number of FPO members and farmers. The conclave aimed to strengthen collective efforts to make agriculture more profitable, resilient and market-oriented, while promoting greater farmer participation through the FPO.



The session introduced farmers to the activities and benefits of Dhriti Mahila FPO, along with its seed production programme, natural farming and regenerative agriculture practices. The discussions also focused on key challenges faced by farmers and explored practical solutions through collective action.

► Addressing key challenges in Soybean and Wheat cultivation

Farmers actively shared their experiences and perspectives on issues affecting soybean and wheat cultivation, including rising input costs, pest and disease management, soil health, fair prices for agricultural produce and improved market access.

The discussions highlighted the importance of strengthening farmers' collective capacity through the FPO to address these challenges and create better opportunities across the agricultural value chain.

► Promoting seed production and collective marketing

A key focus of the conclave was on quality seed production and collective marketing through the FPO. Farmers discussed opportunities for producing quality soybean and wheat seeds and collectively marketing their produce through the FPO.

For the Year 2025-26, Dhriti FPO has undertaken wheat seed production work with 30 farmers covering 172-hectare land. Total seed production received 2720 quintal.



Connecting Digital Agriculture with Climate-Smart Farming

Stakeholders explore ways to strengthen farmer-centric digital advisory services in Madhya Pradesh

As weather variability and climate-related risks increasingly affect farming, timely and reliable agricultural advisories can help farmers make better decisions on crops, irrigation, pest management and other farm practices. Recognising this need, ICARDA and the Bharatkhand Consortium, in collaboration with Solidaridad, organised the Second Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on “Scaling Digital Agricultural Advisory Services and Climate-Smart Agriculture in Madhya Pradesh” in Bhopal.

The consultation participated by government departments, research institutions, development organisations, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and other stakeholders to explore how digital technologies can be better connected with agricultural extension and climate adaptation efforts.



► From Information to Action

A key message from the consultation was that weather and climate information must go beyond forecasts and be converted into simple, timely and actionable farm-level advice. Technologies such as artificial intelligence, early warning systems, remote sensing, GIS, sensors and decision-support tools can help deliver more relevant information on crop management, pest and disease risks, irrigation, soil conditions and other farming decisions. However, participants emphasised that technology alone cannot create impact. Digital advisory services need to be farmer-centric, locally relevant, accessible and integrated with existing agricultural extension systems to effectively reach small and marginal farmers.

► Connecting Existing Initiatives

Madhya Pradesh already has several initiatives working on digital agriculture, weather information, agricultural extension and climate adaptation. The workshop highlighted the need for stronger coordination, data sharing and knowledge exchange among these initiatives. Bringing together government, research institutions, FPOs, development organisations and private-sector stakeholders can help create a more connected system and strengthen the last-mile delivery of agricultural advisories. The consultation also reinforced that digital climate-smart agriculture should not be viewed merely as a technology intervention, but as a collaborative ecosystem that places farmers at the centre.

Strengthening Soybean Productivity and Farmer Incomes through Frontline Demonstrations

SOPA and Bharatkhand bring science-based soybean practices closer to farmers across Madhya Pradesh

Improving soybean productivity while reducing cultivation costs and enhancing farmer incomes is at the heart of a collaborative initiative by SOPA and Bharatkhand, with support from UPL.

Under the initiative, 250 frontline soybean demonstrations have been established across Madhya Pradesh to help farmers understand and adopt scientifically recommended crop management practices under real field conditions. The demonstrations focus on improved agronomic practices, timely crop management, weather-based advisories, pest and disease management, and measures to reduce cultivation costs.

Rather than being limited to demonstration plots, the initiative aims to create practical learning platforms for farmers where they can observe improved practices in the field, interact with technical experts and apply relevant recommendations on their own farms.

► Farmer Programme at KVK Dewas

As part of the initiative, a farmer programme was organised at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Dewas, on 26 August, bringing together around 250 farmers. Supported by UPL, the programme included technical interaction with farmers and distribution of free crop protection kits.

The programme was addressed by Dr. R.P. Sharma, Head, KVK Dewas; D. N. Pathak, Executive Director, SOPA; Dr. Suresh Motwani, Programme Head, Vegetable Oil Programme, Solidaridad, Ms. Ruby, UPL and Mr. Prashant Bani, SBU Head, UPL.

Experts highlighted the importance of timely agronomic interventions, balanced nutrient management, effective pest and disease management and adherence to recommended crop practices to improve soybean productivity and farm returns.

Through these frontline demonstrations, SOPA and Bharatkhand are taking scientific knowledge, field-based learning and timely advisories closer to farmers, with the broader objective of strengthening soybean production systems, lowering cultivation costs and improving farm incomes across Madhya Pradesh.

The initiative reflects a collaborative, farmer-centric and science-based approach to scaling improved soybean production practices and creating more profitable farming opportunities.



From Demonstration to Impact: Strengthening India's Oilseed Productivity

Bharatkhand, SEA and Solidaridad bring science-based practices to the field through a growing network of Model Farms

What happens when farmers can see improved agricultural practices working in fields similar to their own? The experience from Jhalawar is showing that field-based learning can build confidence, improve crop management and create a pathway towards higher productivity and farm profitability.

Under the joint Vegetable Oil Mission of The Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA), Solidaridad and Bharatkhand, with support from AWL Limited, frontline demonstrations and Model Farms have been established across major oilseed-growing regions. Around 450 soybean and groundnut demonstrations are currently being implemented approximately 200 in the Jhalawar region of Rajasthan and another 250 across Mandsaur, Neemuch and other programme districts.

The Model Farm approach brings together quality seed, improved agronomy, balanced nutrient management, responsible input use, timely crop operations, plant protection, soil health and farmer-to-farmer learning. The objective is not simply to demonstrate a package of practices, but to create local learning platforms where farmers can observe results and confidently adapt suitable practices on their own farms.



► Encouraging results from the field

Farmers, scientists, agriculture officials and programme teams visited demonstration plots and interacted directly with participating farmers. Farmers reported a marked improvement compared with the previous season, when crop performance was poor. This season, soybean and groundnut crops are looking healthier, with several farmers expecting soybean yields of around 2,000 kg per hectare or more and groundnut yields above 2,500 kg per hectare, subject to final harvest conditions.

Farmers also highlighted that quality seed, judicious input use and timely crop management helped them achieve promising crop performance without creating an additional cost burden.

These early field observations point to an important opportunity: closing the productivity gap does not necessarily mean using more inputs it means using the right inputs, at the right time and in the right quantity.



Vippy Industries Commits to 25,000 MT Regenerative Soybean Procurement for 2026–27

Vippy Industries Limited has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening the livelihoods and resilience of smallholder soybean farmers through regenerative agriculture, stronger Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and transparent, market-linked value chains.



As part of this commitment, Vippy has partnered with Solidaridad and the Bharatkhand Consortium to advance regenerative soybean production and market linkages. The company is also an active member of the NARVOS Platform, which brings together multiple stakeholders to promote regenerative vegetable oil value chains.

For the 2026-27 season, Vippy Industries will support the procurement of approximately 25,000 metric tonnes (MT) of regenerative soybean directly through FPOs a move designed to strengthen farmers' market access, encourage wider adoption of regenerative practices, and ensure competitive, transparent pricing through organized farmer collectives.

Looking ahead, Vippy aims to steadily grow the share of regenerative soybean in its sourcing strategy, backing initiatives that boost farmer participation and create lasting commercial incentives for regenerative farming.

"Collaboration among farmers, FPOs, civil society organizations, and industry is essential to building a resilient, sustainable, and climate-smart soybean supply chain that benefits both producers and consumers, while accelerating the shift toward regenerative agriculture," the company noted in its public letter of commitment.



From Farmer to Bio-input Entrepreneur

How Bharatkhand is helping women farmers turn field knowledge into a new income stream, Rs. 8,600 in bio-input sales in just three months from *learning to entrepreneurship*



For smallholder farmers, better yields are only half the story. The bigger shift happens when farm knowledge itself becomes something that can be sold turning a skill into an income stream. Sangeeta Malviya, a farmer from Khajukhedi village in Ujjain, is showing what that shift looks like in practice.

A Class 8 graduate and mother in a five-member household, Sangeeta farms soybean, wheat and vegetables on three bighas of land. She has been part of the Bharatkhand initiative for three years but her real turning point came when she connected with her village's Bio-input Resource Centre (BRC).

From learner to maker

At the BRC, Sangeeta learned to turn resources she already had access to into usable farm inputs preparing Kanda Tonic and bio-input-based manure, and applying them on her own soybean and garlic crops. It worked. And that raised an obvious question: if this worked for her fields, why not for her neighbours' too?

From maker to entrepreneur

Sangeeta began preparing bio-inputs to order and selling them locally. Between June and August 2026, that side activity brought in Rs. 8,600.



Month	Kanda Tonic Sold	Bio-input Manure
June	Rs. 1,700	Rs. 1,300
July	Rs. 2,400	Rs. 2,100
August	Rs. 1,100	—
Total	Rs. 5,200	Rs. 3,400

The number is modest. What it represents isn't. In three months, Sangeeta moved from being a user of agricultural inputs to being their producer and local seller a small but real business, built on knowledge she already had.

How Bharatkhand is helping women farmers turn field knowledge into a new income stream, Rs. 8,600 in bio-input sales in just three months from *learning to entrepreneurship*

From entrepreneur to community leader

Sangeeta's impact hasn't stopped at her own household. As a Lead Woman Farmer, she now trains other women in her village to prepare and use bio-inputs, passing on both the skill and the confidence to try it themselves.

Her journey is proof that a village-level BRC can be more than a place to access inputs; it can be a launchpad. Given the right platform, farmers don't just apply knowledge in the field; they turn it into products, income and local enterprise.



Small start, bigger possibilities

Rs. 8,600 is a beginning, not a ceiling. The real story is the mindset shift it represents: from a farmer who buys inputs to a farmer who makes, sells and earns from them.

This is the entrepreneurship model Bharatkhand is built to encourage where agricultural knowledge doesn't stay in the field, but becomes a livelihood, a small enterprise, and eventually, a stronger rural economy. Sangeeta's story shows that with the right knowledge, skills and platform, even a small beginning can become the foundation of something bigger.





Krishi Jagat Pranali Watershed Farmer Producer Company Mohan Badodiya Block, Shajapur

Established: 21 July 2023

Promoted by the Rajiv Gandhi Watershed Mission (RGMW) and registered in July 2023, Krishi Jagat Pranali Watershed Farmer Producer Company has been working to build farmer collectivisation, strengthen institutions, and improve incomes for small and marginal farmers across the Mohan Badodiya block of Shajapur district. Operating in a semi-arid, mixed rainfed and irrigated region, the FPO has quickly moved beyond aggregation to build its own processing and input-production infrastructure.

► At a Glance

- Registered: 21 July 2023
- Operational Area: Mohan Badodiya Block, Shajapur (and surrounding region)
- Shareholders: 334
- Women Members: 134 (about 40% of total membership)
- Small & Marginal Farmers: Approximately 60%
- Annual Turnover (FY 2024–25): Rs. 18 Lakh, with a profit of Rs. 1.36 Lakh
- Major Crops: Soybean and Wheat



 **KRASHI JAGAT PRANALI
WATERSHED FARMER
PRODUCER COMPANY LIMITED**


► What the FPO Does



► Growing Stronger Through Diversified Business

Within just two years of its formation, the FPO has established two active business verticals certified seed production and bio-input production alongside processing infrastructure that includes an atta (flour) making unit and a cattle feed unit, both managed directly by the Board of Directors.

This early diversification has helped the FPO achieve a turnover of Rs. 18 Lakh with a profit of Rs. 1.36 Lakh in FY 2024–25, demonstrating commercial viability at an early stage. A notable strength of the organisation is its gender inclusion, with 134 of its 334 members around 40% being women, reflecting a meaningful commitment to women's participation in governance and business.

► Promoting Sustainable Agriculture

Alongside business development, the FPO actively promotes practices that improve soil health and reduce production costs. Key interventions include:

- Promotion of bio-inputs and organic fertilizers through the FPO's own bio-input production unit, reducing chemical dependency among member farmers
- Awareness sessions on soil health management, balanced nutrition, and sustainable crop practices
- Local-level marketing of bio-fertilizers and organic inputs, making regenerative inputs accessible and affordable
- Certified seed production supporting the use of quality seeds, reducing input wastage and improving crop performance
- Plans to expand bio-input production and introduce vermicompost as a new product line

Key Achievements



ORGANISATION & INCLUSION

334

farmer shareholders connected through a strong producer organisation, with

40%

women membership



FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Rs. 18 Lakh

turnover with a profit of

Rs. 1.36 Lakh

achieved in FY 2024–25, within two years of registration



PROCESSING INFRASTRUCTURE

Two processing units: atta (flour) and cattle feed, made operational and managed by the Board of Directors



CERTIFIED SEEDS

Active certified seed production programme for soybean and wheat



BIO-INPUTS

Established bio-input production unit supplying bio-fertilizers and organic inputs locally



PARTNERSHIP

Strong market linkage and technical support secured through partnership with

Solidaridad



► The Road Ahead

Over the next few years, the FPO aims to strengthen its value chains and become a sustainable, profitable farmer-owned organisation by:

- Establishing formal buyer networks and industry linkages beyond Solidaridad-supported channels
- Accessing institutional credit and grant support to scale operations
- Onboarding e-NAM and ONDC platforms to improve market reach and price discovery
- Expanding bio-input production and adding vermicompost as a new product line
- Strengthening direct market linkages for soybean, wheat, and emerging horticulture crops like onion and garlic
- Building institutional strength through consistent governance and expanded staffing



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