



Dipali Kakasaheb Thodasare: A Trailblazer in Women's Empowerment and Sustainable Farming

A Visionary Leader in Women's Empowerment

Mrs. Dipali Kakasaheb Thodasare is a dedicated mother, social worker, entrepreneur, and CEO of Manjiri Sakhi Producer Company Ltd. With 20+ years at Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP), she has been instrumental in uplifting women and transforming rural communities. Starting as a volunteer in 2006, Dipali pursued higher education alongside her work, earning a Commerce degree and a Master's in Social Work. Her resilience and determination have driven her success, making her a catalyst for change in women's financial independence and leadership.

Empowering Women Farmers

Recognizing the need for financial independence and decision-making power among farmers, Dipali envisioned women-led Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) as a transformative solution. She sought to shift women farmers from being mere laborers to key decision-makers in agriculture.

Founding Women-Led Farmer Producer Companies

With guidance from Ms. Godawari Dange, a global grassroots leader in women's empowerment, Dipali co-founded Manjiri Sakhi FPC and Vijaylaxmi FPC in 2017. These companies:

- Are entirely led by women, with women shareholders.
- Buy cereals and pulses from shareholders and sell them in urban markets.
- Expanded their business to include essential agricultural inputs like tarpaulins, organic fertilizers, and certified seeds.
- Grew significantly through initiatives like soybean procurement, boosting year-on-year turnover.

Driving Sustainable Agriculture and Market Linkages

Dipali actively works under the Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) scheme, focusing on:

- Organic certification for 500 hectares with 500 women farmers in Dharashiv block.
- Increasing land water retention capacity, leading to water savings.
- Expanding organic certification to an additional 500 hectares.
- Developing organic fertilizers under the Manjiri Sakhi brand through research and production.

Impact at a Glance

- Economic empowerment for 5,252 farmers through input businesses and tractor services.
- Market linkage training for 18,000 farmers, improving organic certification schemes.
- Direct market access for 12,000 farmers, eliminating middlemen and increasing profits.