

## **"SWERA and Sujalaam Sufalaam" Balrampur PANI Sansthan"**

### **Mahila Kisan Sangathan: "Concept & Framework"**

#### **Vision**

To empower women farmers to make decisions for their own and their community's well-being and development, and to enable them to take necessary initiatives.

MKS (Mahila Kisan Sangathan), is working towards the following key objectives:

- Promoting and implementing best practices related to farming and effective water management through the project. This includes learning, adopting, and encouraging these practices within the community.
- Informing farmers and rural communities about various government schemes and ensuring they benefit from these schemes.
- Strengthening interpersonal relationships, family unity, and promoting social harmony.

In the Balrampur district, where the project is active in six blocks, over 1,061 women farmer organizations have been formed by December 20, linking more than 17,400 households. The project aims to organize approximately 70,000 families as MKS in the coming years. Efforts are ongoing to strengthen and support these sangathan, ensuring their continuous development.

It is a multi-phase plan:

#### **First Phase:**

- Among the MKS sangathan that have been formed and whose meetings have started, two members are to be selected as representatives of that MKS. One of them will undoubtedly be a leader (Agwa) member who works on writing reports, meeting activities, etc., is literate, and whose nomination is confirmed. Together with another such prominent member, the organization's representation will be nominated by the consent of other members.
- This means that two members from each MKS will go to the 'Mahila Kisan Gram Sangh' at the village level. There is a possibility of having about 10 to 12 MKS in each gram panchayat. In this way, two representatives will come from each MKS to form a village union consisting of 20 to 24 members.
- In this way, in each gram panchayat, there will be the establishment of a 'Mahila Kisan Gram Sangh' in which the representation of every MKS in that gram panchayat will be done by two members. The main work of this sangh will be to work properly and get the work done for the benefit of all members, addressing the needs, problems, challenges, and available opportunities of all MKS in the gram panchayat. This gram sangh will also serve as an empowered medium for raising the voices of women in the village.
- The members of this sangh, especially women, and their respective MKS, and generally for the entire family, will be developed as a resource group (Village Resource Group - VRG) and will work as Barefoot Experts."

#### **Second Phase:**

- The CRP (Community Resource Person) will work closely and intensively with these 20-24 members of the Gram Panchayat, primarily preparing this group entirely on the project's

important subjects, processes, information, and developing their capacities/skills. It will keep them motivated to work as a resource and motivator for their own sangathan.

- CRP will first share all the processes and programs related to the project with this group. Whatever training and orientation CRP receives from the project will first be transferred to this group, making them capable.
- CRP will ensure the monthly meeting of the sangathan to enhance the capacity of the sangathan members with the assistance of FC/BC.
- When CRP is showing videos to other members in the MKS or conducting discussions or training on a specific topic, the representative members of the MKS will assist CRP in helping other members understand and improve their abilities on the subject. They will also work on continuously strengthening the MKS and motivating the members in the field and during MKS meetings, along with the other two MKS leaders.
- They will primarily represent the MKS in the gram sangh, bringing proposals and all the issues that require cooperation or assistance from MKS members to the discussion and resolution in the gram sangh and will work on returning the decision made in the gram sangh back to the MKS for discussion and implementation. These members will essentially represent the MKS in the gram sangh.
- An operating procedure and rules will be developed for the Gram Mahila Kisan Sangh and will be made available in a timely manner.

#### **Third Phase:**

- The work is ongoing or will be carried out in approximately 50 Gram Panchayats in each project block. In this manner, there will be around 50 Mahila Kisan Gram Sangh in each block, which will practically be in clusters of 10-10 Gram Panchayats under the project. By combining all these Gram Sangh, a block-level federation will be established. The model rules for the federation will be prepared in due time and consideration can be given to registering this federation legally.
- The federation will have a General Body consisting of members from all the Mahila Kisan Gram Sang. In other words, there will be 20-24 members from each union in the General Body, and the total number of members in the General Body will be around 1,000 to 1,200.
- In this General Body, an Executive Committee or Executive Board will be formed, including three members from each cluster. The members of the Executive Committee may either be nominated by unanimous consent or, in cases where unanimous consent is not possible, they may be elected. It is essential for the Executive Committee to be represented by three members from each cluster.
- The main objective of the federation will be to work on the issues of the Gram Unions, find solutions to problems, and disseminate immediate governmental and non-governmental benefits to the MKS. Along with this, it will also focus on universal issues of the women's community, women's empowerment, social, economic, and developmental issues, and enhance the processes of better agriculture and water management.

#### **Fourth Phase:**

- There is also consideration for developing the organizational framework of the Mahila Kisan Federation to transform it into another commercial/business sangathan of farmers, especially as a Women Farmer Producer Organization (WFPO). It can also be developed primarily as a Farmers' Producer Organization (FPO) in the form of the main farmer producer group alongside the primary Sangathan MKS.