

Monthly Newsletter

She never thought she could grow and sell her own vegetables. Today, she does both - *Sembati's Story*

In a small village in Rayagada, mornings once began with uncertainty for Sembati Kandagari. Her land could only yield a few crops- ragi, cotton, and arhar. The harvest was limited, the income unpredictable, and like many small farmers, her work was more about survival than growth. But something began to change.

With the right guidance and support, Sembati slowly transformed her farming practices. What was once a single-pattern field is now a thriving, diverse patch of vegetables—bitter gourd, tomato, pumpkin, cabbage, beetroot, corn, and carrot. This shift did more than improve her farm. It changed her life at home. Today, Sembati feeds her family fresh, nutritious food grown on her own land.

For the first time, her harvest is not just for survival; it reaches the local markets of Rayagada, where she sells her produce with confidence.

So far, she has earned around ₹7,000 in profit, an important step toward financial independence. But beyond income, she has gained something deeper: knowledge, confidence, and control over her future.

Sembati's journey is a reminder that sustainable change does not happen overnight. It grows—season by season, effort by effort.

Through its livelihood initiatives, Shakti continues to work closely with farmers like Sembati, helping them adopt improved practices, diversify crops, and build resilience against uncertainty.

Because when a farmer stands strong, a family eats better, a community grows healthier, and a future becomes more secure.



SEMBATI KANDAGARI
(FARMER)



Protecting Vision, Promoting Healthy Ageing

Shakti Organisation successfully organised a Glaucoma Screening & Eye Health Awareness Program at Matrushakti Senior Citizens Home with the support of District Headquarters Hospital team. The initiative aimed to promote eye health and ensure early detection of glaucoma among elderly citizens to prevent permanent vision loss.

A total of 32 senior citizens benefited from eye screening and counselling services during the camp. Awareness sessions on glaucoma, cataract, symptoms of vision-related diseases, and the importance of timely treatment were also conducted. Participants were encouraged to undergo regular eye check-ups and adopt preventive eye care practices.

Through this meaningful initiative, Shakti Organisation reaffirmed its commitment to improving the health, dignity, and well-being of senior citizens by making essential healthcare services accessible to vulnerable communities.

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Building Stronger Field Teams for Sustainable Agriculture

Shakti Organisation actively participated in a three-day residential Training-cum-Exposure Programme held from 6th–8th April 2026 at KVK Chipilima under the REWARD Project. The programme was organised by PD Watershed for 40 DLSA and FPO partner staff along with the DLSA-Shakti team. Technical sessions were facilitated by scientists from KVK and RRTS.

The training focused on techno-assessment, demonstration practices, capacity building, and the use of organic bio-fertilizers for sustainable agriculture. Participants gained practical knowledge and hands-on experience on improved farming techniques and organic cultivation methods. The programme strengthened the confidence and skills of field staff to support farmers more effectively, promote eco-friendly agricultural practices, and contribute towards improving productivity, soil health, and farmers' livelihoods in rural communities.



Empowering Farmers Through Climate-Resilient Agriculture

Shakti Organisation successfully organised a training programme on off-season vegetable cultivation on 12 April 2026 under the REWARD Project for 85 farmers from Nuabarangamal and Gadgadbahal Micro Watershed areas. The training was facilitated by Horticulture officer Sambalpur with the objective of strengthening farmers' knowledge on scientific and climate-resilient agricultural practices.

organic inputs, and effective water management for successful off-season farming. The training equipped farmers with the confidence and skills to adopt improved cultivation methods, helping them diversify crops, increase productivity, and strengthen household income. By promoting sustainable farming practices, this initiative supports better livelihoods while also improving food and nutritional security for farming families.



Strengthening Sustainable Farming Practices

On 25th and 26th April 2026, Shakti Organisation conducted a Package of Practices (POP) training programme at Japa Village under Baising Panchayat, engaging over 40 farmers from Kusuku and Japa villages.

The training focused on improved crop management, soil health, organic fertilizers, and natural pest control methods to help farmers increase productivity at lower costs.

Participants also learned to prepare Handikhat, a locally made organic mixture using plant leaves, cow dung, and cow urine to protect crops from pests and diseases.

This programme promoted practical, low-cost, and sustainable farming solutions for stronger livelihoods.



Growing Knowledge Through Exposure: Farmers Explore Scientific Tuber Cultivation Practices

Shakti Organisation organised an Exposure Visit to Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Bhubaneswar, on 17th April 2026, with participation from 46 farmers and 4 staff members. The visit aimed to enhance farmers' knowledge of improved tuber crop cultivation and management practices.

Dr. Susanta Kumara Jata, Farm Superintendent of CTCRI, provided valuable insights on various tuber crop cultivation practices, diseases and pests management.

A field visit was also conducted, where participants observed practical demonstrations and modern techniques in tuber crop cultivation. Farmers actively engaged in discussions and clarified their queries. The visit proved highly informative and strengthened farmers' capacity towards adopting scientific practices for better productivity.



Strengthening Team Capacity for Better Farmer Support

On 7th April 2026, Shakti Organisation conducted a capacity-building programme for team members focusing on agriculture, horticulture, convergence, and sustainable organic farming practices.

Resource persons from the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments shared insights on government schemes, technical practices, and support services available for farmers.

The programme helped strengthen staff knowledge and coordination, enabling teams to better guide farming communities through more effective and sustainable field support.



Strengthening Financial Inclusion for Rural Women

On 15th April 2026, Shakti Organisation, Rayagada facilitated a financial inclusion initiative in Rugudibai village with the support of the Public Relations Officer and team from State Bank of India Ramanaguda branch.

As part of the programme, 8 women members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) successfully opened their savings bank accounts and received their passbooks. Around 35 SHG members participated in the awareness and account opening process.

For many rural women, access to formal banking is more than just opening an account—it is the first step toward financial independence and long-term security. Through this initiative, women were introduced to basic banking services, savings practices, and opportunities to access financial support for livelihood activities.

The programme also created awareness about government schemes and financial opportunities available for SHG members, including support under initiatives such as the Lakhyapati Didi Yojana. With access to banking services and individual loans, women can start or expand small businesses, improve household income, and support their families more confidently.



Beyond financial access, the initiative encouraged women to actively participate in financial decision-making and build confidence in managing savings and future investments.

This effort reflects Shakti Organisation's continued commitment to strengthening rural livelihoods through women-led development and community empowerment. As part of its larger strategy, the organisation plans to expand similar financial inclusion activities across 24 villages, ensuring that more women gain access to banking services, government schemes, and sustainable livelihood opportunities. By connecting rural women with formal financial systems, the initiative is helping build stronger communities where women are not only participants in development, but leaders of change.

“Financial inclusion is not only about banking services; it is about creating confidence, independence, and new possibilities for rural women.”



Promoting Community Awareness for Forest Conservation

Shakti Organisation has taken a meaningful initiative to promote awareness on forest conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in Ramanaguda, Gunupur, and Padampur blocks of Rayagada district. Through informative and well-designed posters displayed in both forest and non-forest villages, the organisation is educating local communities on the importance of protecting forests and maintaining ecological balance.

The awareness messages focused on preventing forest fires, controlling open grazing, protecting biodiversity, and encouraging collective responsibility for environmental conservation. The initiative also highlighted the importance of sustainable livelihoods linked to forest resources and motivated villagers to actively participate in conservation efforts. The

campaign created positive awareness among community members and encouraged behavioural change towards responsible use of natural resources. Through such grassroots initiatives, Shakti Organisation continues to work towards environmental sustainability and community-led conservation practices.



Building Brighter Futures Through Early Education

With the support of Jiv Daya Foundation, Shakti Organisation continues to strengthen early childhood education and nutrition in remote tribal villages of Rayagada under its Pre-School and Nutrition Programme. During 2026–27, 41 children successfully transitioned to government primary schools, while 157 children are currently continuing their education across six villages. Along with learning support, children receive regular nutrition, study materials, clothes, and essential care to support their healthy growth. Through community support and continuous care, Shakti Organisation is committed to giving tribal children a stronger start towards a better future.



Transforming Rice Fallow Lands into Livelihood Opportunities

Shakti Organisation successfully implemented the Comprehensive Project on Rice Fallow Management System (CPRFMS) during Rabi 2025–26 across Rayagada, Koraput, and Balangir districts of Odisha. The programme achieved 100% of its target, covering 18,827 hectares through pulse cultivation, including green gram, black gram, bengal gram, lentil, and field pea. Through farmer trainings, awareness programmes, field demonstrations, seed support, and technical guidance, farmers were empowered to use rice fallow lands productively and adopt sustainable agricultural practices. This initiative continues to strengthen food security, improve farmer livelihoods, and promote sustainable rural development across Odisha.

THANK YOU FOR READING!

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Empowering communities. Sustaining futures.



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