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Welcome to the first ever newsletter of Mahila Kisan Adhikaar Manch (MAKAAM)! This is a quarterly newsletter filled with exciting news, activities and campaigns of MAKAAM, along with a digest of important news and articles that you might have missed and fun quizzes!

Quarterly report:

Here's a quick round up of our activities from the last quarter:

1. Agroecology workshop in Wardha, April 2022:

A two-day national level agroecology workshop was organised by MAKAAM for women farmers from several states such as Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Telangana. The workshop was held on 17th and 18th of April, 2022 in Wardha, Maharashtra, to bring together women farmers that have been practising chemical free farming, and to share their experiences and document best practices in agroecology.

As part of this workshop, the women farmers also went for a field visit that was guided by Mr. Vasant Phutane. He spoke at length, dispelling several common misconceptions around natural or agroecological farming.

Ms. Niranjana Maru from Chetana Vikas and Dr. Tarak Kate from Dhara Mitra were guest speakers, and spoke of various concerns ranging from the impact of climate change on women farmers to reviving traditional practices based on the knowledge of women farmers themselves.

The proceedings report will be up on our website soon. Photographs below:



2. Meeting for alliance building to strengthen women farmers' forest rights in Uttarakhand, May 3rd, 2022:

Various communities in Uttarakhand shared their experiences of struggles for forest rights in the state, especially with the forest and revenue department that hinders recognition of rights. They also shared experiences of climate change and resilience practices. The last session was offline, and they discussed strategies to move forward collaboratively on forest rights, against violence and regarding disaster resilience.

3. MAKAM state consultation in Maharashtra, May 7, 2022:



MAKAAM Maharashtra in collaboration with farmer's network AFARM (Action for Agricultural Renewal in Maharashtra) organised a 2-day consultation on the challenges of women farmers in Maharashtra and the way forward. MLA Bachchu Kadu inaugurated this consultation. Women leaders across the state took active part in it.

4. Month long National campaign - World Environment Day, June 5, 2022:

On the occasion of World Environment Day (5th of June, 2022), MAKAAM launched a nationwide campaign to highlight the issues and challenges faced by women farmers, in terms of climate change and its impact.

The objective was to go beyond platitudes and token gestures such as tree plantation, and address deeper issues of marginalisation, structural violence and inequality, especially in the case of women farmers and forest produce workers.

Coordinated action:

Women farmers and other people joined our coordinated action from 5th June to 5th July 2022, by organising events, submitting the memorandum and sending postcards addressed to the Prime Minister, Minister Of Tribal Affairs at state and national levels.

Social media campaign:

- A Twitter storm was held on 5th of June from 6.30 pm to 8 pm using the hashtags #ParyavaranAurMahilaKisan or #WomenFarmers4Environment

- We had also designed a fun filter on Instagram and Facebook that allows you to click a

selfie with our campaign message. For future campaigns, you can simply look up our filters using the keyword “MAKAAM” in the filters/effects gallery on your respective apps.

Photographs below:



Women Farmers in News:

Millets vs Malnutrition: Reviving The Super Crop Via Nutrient-Rich Meals at Odisha's Anganwadis

August 2, 2022

Odisha's new initiative aims to boost the production and popularity of millets in tribal areas and also improve the developmental growth of preschoolers

India's natural farming policy should recognise women's new role

August 1, 2022

Their participation in natural farming will not just ensure the sustaining and scaling of the practice, but also promote economic well-being, equity and support the nation's sustainable development agenda

Mulugu: Podu farmers stage protest

July 2, 2022

In Telangana, seven women Podu farmers protested at Chinna Boinpally village under Eturnagaram mandal against the harassment they faced at the hands of forest officials for preventing them from tilling the land, citing dispute in the land title. This is in spite of the fact that they have been tilling the land for decades.

How heat waves hit women farmers

June 30, 2022

"As the crops fail more often, the men take contracts for migrant work, handing over papers and passports to recruiters who organise travel to nearby cities or faraway countries. As climate change, and particularly heat waves, worsen for South Asia's farmers, women are increasingly left to try to make crops grow in the oppressive heat."

India's women water warriors transform parched lands

June 30, 2022

"Three years ago, Rajput joined Jal Saheli ("Friends of Water"), a volunteer network of around 1,000 women working across Bundelkhand to rehabilitate and revive disappeared water sources."

Desertification: 'Droughts reduced India's GDP by up to 5% in 20 years'

May 11, 2022

"The world has a new 'water-scarce' generation growing up, with women and girls spending as much as 40% of their calorific intake carrying water in dry lands."

Women Farmers Are Going Crazy Over Organic Mushroom Farming

18 April, 2022

"Pesticide-free mushroom farming is being practiced by women farmers in Elakamon grama panchayat, which is steadily changing agricultural practices in rural Thiruvananthapuram."

Andhra: Tribal women protest cashew crop destruction, stage 'mock suicide' protest

April 8, 2022

"Tribal women farmers of Andhra Pradesh alleging destruction of their cashew plantations at Urlova village of V Madugula mandal in the Anakapalli District of the state staged a symbolic protest in which they imitated the act of suicide by hanging."

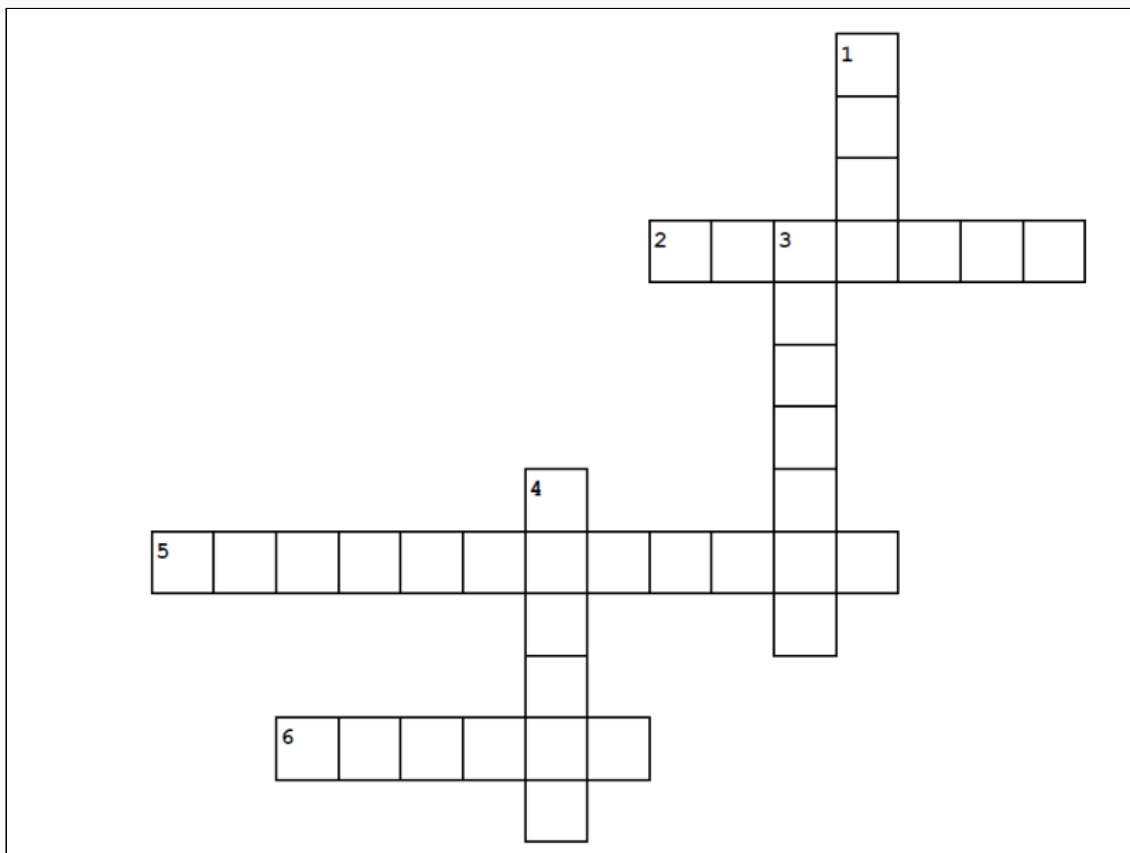
ADB, LDC Sign \$100 Million Loan to Support Smallholder Farmer Livelihoods

April 7, 2022

“The loan will support LDC’s operations in India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Thailand, and Viet Nam by financing coffee, cotton, and rice inventories for over 50,000 smallholder farmers across these countries. This will help secure food supply chains and reliable incomes for smallholder farmers, and help offset the impact of supply chain disruptions due to the pandemic.”

Crossword #1

The answer keys to this crossword will be released on Monday on our social media handles, and will also be published in the next edition of the newsletter. Hint: The answers are mostly within this newsletter!



Across:

2. A study undertaken by the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines and the Japan International Research Centre for Agricultural Sciences, in association with research organisations of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Odisha, shows that _____ is a major factor in keeping people below the poverty line forever.
5. A community organization of Neighborhood Groups (NHGs) of women in Kerala that has become a model for women farmers.
6. One of three kinds of mushrooms that is currently being grown in India.

Down:

1. A form of shifting agriculture using slash-and-burn methods, traditionally used on the hill-slopes of Andhra Pradesh.
3. National Women Farmers' Day is celebrated on 15th of _____ (month) every year.
4. What status/identity does MAKAAM want to secure for women working as cultivators, agricultural labourers, forest produce workers, livestock rearers, fisherwomen, pastoralists, etc.?

Upcoming activities:

- **Panel discussion:**

There will be a virtual panel discussion based on two booklets from MAKAAM, one of which has case stories documenting the resilience of women farmers during the pandemic and the other has case studies from the forest rights thematic group. There will be presentations made from authors of case studies. Do check out our social media pages for further updates.

- **Women Farmers' Day or Mahila Kisan Diwas celebrations:**

As a result of the efforts of MAKAAM and the NCW, October 15th was declared as Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas (National Women Farmers' Day) by the Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister in 2017, with the aim of mainstreaming women farmers' contribution and issues. However, there has been no real effort made by the government after 2019. This time around, we are asking the government to revive this tradition. Don't forget to keep an eye out for further details on our social media handles and join us for our coordinated action towards the end of August.

We would love to hear your feedback. In the coming editions, we are planning to do interviews/profiles of inspiring women farmers or organisations. Do keep an eye out for the next edition of our newsletter in the next quarter.

Don't forget to follow us on:

- Instagram: [@mahilakisan](https://www.instagram.com/mahilakisan)
- Twitter: [@MahilaKisan](https://twitter.com/MahilaKisan)
- Facebook: [@MahilaKisanAdhikaarManch](https://www.facebook.com/MahilaKisanAdhikaarManch)

Do help us amplify the voices of women farmers at the national level by donating online to our fundraiser on GiveIndia. All funds are collected at Gramya Resource Centre for Women, Hyderabad. If you would like to donate offline, contact us at mahilakisan.makaam@gmail.com

Mahila Kisan Zindabad! Long live women farmers!



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Mahila Kisan Adhikaar Manch (MAKAAM) · MAKAAM c/o SOPPECOM, 16, Kale Park, · Someshwarwadi Road, Pashan · Pune, 411045 ·
India

