

The Practical Farmers' Education Project: A photo story



The JICA supported Practical Farmers' Education Project runs 60 SHGs in Allahabad district that helps 700 women get micro-loans for better livelihoods. Indrakali, 40, from Haldi village saves 50 rupees every month.

Photo credit: Poorva Sagar/ OneWorld



The SHGs are integral to building the financial capacity of the villagers. The project aims to educate marginal and small-scale farmers and rural women in income-generation activities to improve their quality of life.

Photo credit: Poorva Sagar/ OneWorld



Namita Singh, the rural project coordinator believes helping women save can help them become self-reliant. Here in her backdrop is a wall sign exhorting the virtues of education.

Photo credit: Poorva Sagar/
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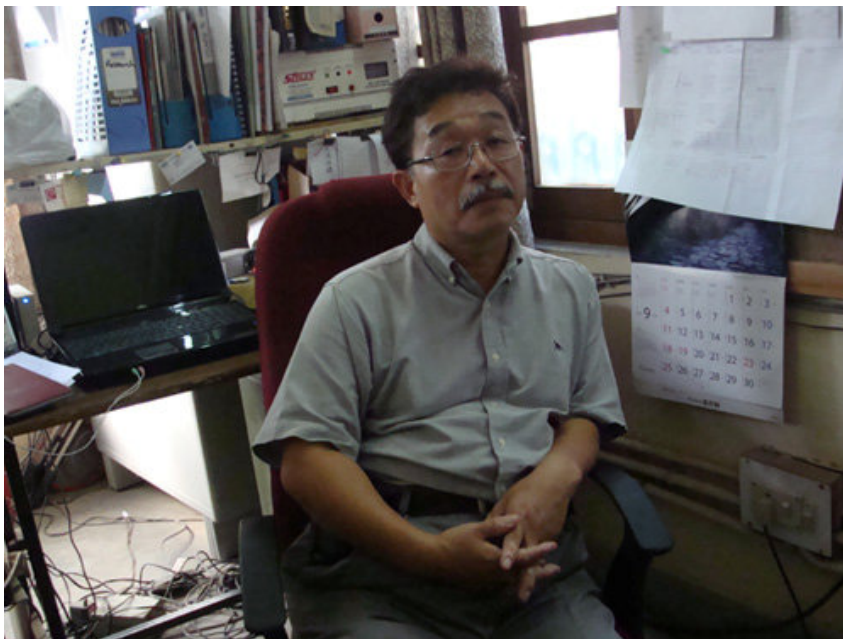
Over time Namita has built a relationship of trust with the village women. Here she listens to the problems of the Bada Kanjasa SHG and gives advice.

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Urmila Kushwaha (right) and her husband Kamlesh supervise the project on the ground. Their job is to visit the villages and encourage people to set up SHGs. Seen here with Takaya Machigami, the ASHA Project Coordinator.

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Professor Teruo Miura, Project Manager of Japan based NGO Asian Sustainable Holistic Approach (ASHA), which runs the project, believes nurturing rural talent and leadership is the best way to people's empowerment.

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The Allahabad Organic Agricultural Cooperative (AOAC) at the Sam Higginbottom Institute of Agriculture, Sciences and Technology buys and processes organic produce from farmers trained by ASHA.

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Shubh Narayan, 22 (centre) from Bargohna village has been trained by ASHA in meat processing at the AOAC. He now helps the students at the Makino School of Continuing and Non-Formal Education (MSCNFE) to prepare pork sausages.

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Phool Kumari, 18, is among the many young women who have been trained in tailoring by ASHA to help earn extra. She now teaches her skills to girls from neighboring villages at a Chota Kanjasa ASHA centre.

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The JICA-ASHA project has been a life changing experience for Allahabad's rural women and farmers as they have gained new skills, knowledge and livelihood opportunities. Here the women of Bada Kanjasa SHG celebrate a new found sense of right to better lives.

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