

Thriving Landscapes

Stories from community led conservation, food systems transformation, and sustainable practices

Dear Readers,

As we bring out this edition of Thriving Landscapes, we reaffirm our collective commitment to nurturing landscapes where forests flourish, water systems revive, and communities, especially indigenous peoples and women, lead resilient livelihoods. At a time when climate uncertainty, ecological degradation, and rural distress are deeply interconnected, our work demonstrates that restoration is not merely about trees or soil, but about dignity, equity and sustainable prosperity. Thriving landscapes emerge when local knowledge, community stewardship, and long-term partnerships converge to regenerate nature and strengthen socio-economic resilience. Let this issue inspire deeper collaboration and renewed action toward protecting ecosystems while securing equitable and climate-resilient futures for all.

Prasant Mohanty
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Green Guardians: Women leading forest conservation and climate action

Across Daspalla and surrounding regions, NIRMAN has strengthened women-led forest governance by securing forest rights over 23,425 acres in 177 villages. Women-led Gram Sabhas now protect forests, curb illegal activities, conserve biodiversity, and link conservation with food security through indigenous seed banks and food forests—building resilient ecosystems, livelihoods, and communities. [Read more](#)



Harvesting rain for resilience



In climate-vulnerable rural Odisha, NIRMAN strengthened resilience through decentralized rainwater harvesting and landscape restoration across 2,500 acres, benefiting 1,800+ households. The initiative conserved significant green and blue water, improved soil moisture and farm productivity, revived streams, and reduced erosion. By securing community forest rights in 174 villages and integrating water conservation into local planning, NIRMAN institutionalized climate-resilient agriculture and sustainable water governance. [Read more](#)

Protecting Coastal Communities: Women decide on mangrove restoration

Along Odisha's coast, women in Keutajanga village are leading community-driven mangrove restoration to protect their villages from cyclones and sea intrusion. With NIRMAN's support, they established a nursery of 10,000 mangrove saplings to restore 25 acres of degraded coastline—strengthening coastal resilience, livelihoods, and women's leadership in climate protection. [Read more](#)



From Monocropping to Abundance: Pushpanjali Mallik's farming journey



In Nayagarh district, Pushpanjali Mallik transformed her one-acre farm from low-income monocropping to diversified natural farming with NIRMAN's support. By adopting mixed crops and allied activities, she increased her income, improved family nutrition, and inspired other women farmers—showing how diversification and knowledge can build resilient livelihoods. [Read more](#)

Nutri Garden as a Lifeline for Women-Headed Households

In Dehingia Gaon, Assam, NIRMAN supported Ms. Sunamoni Chetia—a woman-headed household facing severe economic distress—through a Nutri Garden initiative under the HDFC–HRDP program. By cultivating eleven varieties of vegetables in a small backyard, her family gained free access to nutritious food, reduced expenses, and restored dignity and stability during a time of crisis. [Read more](#)



Backyard Poultry: Small beginning, long-lasting change



In Raimada village, Tila Sethi transformed a small backyard poultry unit supported by NIRMAN's SHIVIA Poultry Development Project into a sustainable livelihood. Earning a net profit of ₹40,450, she improved her family's education, health, and nutrition, while inspiring her husband to start poultry trading—demonstrating how small interventions can create lasting economic resilience. [Read more](#)

Seed Conservation: Women led seed banks cater to farmers

In forest fringe villages of Odisha, women-led seed banks—like the Raisar community seed bank—are preserving indigenous paddy, millet, and pulse varieties to strengthen climate resilience and food security. Managed by 27 women and supporting 750 farmers, these initiatives revive agrobiodiversity, reduce input dependence, and position women as key custodians of sustainable farming knowledge. [Read more](#)



Sanjita Pradhan's integrated farming model



In Pilipaju village, Daspalla block, Sanjita Pradhan's pond-based integrated farming system combines crops, ducks, and multiple fish species to enhance biodiversity, nutrition, and sustainability. This interconnected approach improved farm productivity and resilience, generating a profit of ₹8,000 from vegetable sales within six months and serving as a model for sustainable rural livelihoods. [Read more](#)

Celebrating community seed festival

The Community Seed Festival aimed to empower local communities and promote traditional seeds, foods, and recipes. It highlighted the importance of biodiversity, sustainable agriculture, and preservation of traditional knowledge. Villagers displayed indigenous crops such as Kerwa, Kodo, Kosala, various vegetables (brinjal, beans, sem, tomato, pumpkin, banana, chillies, lemon, coriander), green leafy vegetables, wild tubers, and yams, encouraging the continuation of their rich agricultural heritage.

