

## Women Self Help Groups in BAIF: A Diagnostic Study

With a view to understand the scope of Self Help Groups (SHGs) in the development programmes of BAIF, information on their functioning and impact of their work was collected from 12 states in April 2021.

The following findings emerged from the study:

1. More than 2500 Self Help Groups are functioning in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
2. These groups are involved in various activities related to Sustainable Livelihood, Health and Nutrition, Social Action and Community Development.
3. The groups are engaged in various on-farm as well as off-farm activities and are operating various micro-enterprises while demonstrating suitable leadership development qualities and skills.
4. Some of the activities popular among the groups are vegetable cultivation, vermicomposting and PROM unit,, operation of rice and flour mills, mushroom cultivation, silage preparation, conservation and popularization of traditional seeds, dehydrated sapota chips using solar dryer, nutritious snacks, pickle and papad making, traditional cuisine counters (Nahari), paper recycling unit, petty shops, tailoring, women's health and hygiene-related manufacturing unit, sale of cattle feed, mask making and handicrafts from indigenous resources.
5. Presently, 11 women-led apex People's Organizations designated as "Federations", are operating in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha and Bihar and contributing to community development through internal money lending for income generation activities, school and higher education of children, construction of toilets, installation of solar water heaters, dairy farming, backyard poultry and goat keeping, cultivation of traditional and organically grown vegetables, procurement of seeds and fertilizers, dal making, nutritious snacks, operating canteens and marketing of various products.