Empowering Rural Women Entrepreneurs

Through Clean Energy Solutions: The Swayam Shikshan Prayog Experience

Farah Ahmed, SAREP
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Introducing South Asia Regional Energy Partnership (SAREP)

Four Interlinked objectives:

Enhanced Regional Energy Markets and Integration-Cross border transaction through markets

Increased Deployment of Advanced Energy Solutions and Systems- RE, EV, EE, Storage, Fuel Switching

High Performing Modern Utilities-Tx and Dx.

Transparent, Best Value Procurement and Private Sector Investment

Program Period
2021 – 2026

Regional Countries (6):
Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka

Key Bilateral Partners (2):
Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)
Ministry of Power (MoP)

Sub-national Partner States (7):
Haryana, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Assam, Andaman & Nicobar and Uttarakhand

Partner Institutions (14):
Indian Railways, NTPC, EESL, PFC, CEA, FoR, CERC, SCGJ, CII-GBC, PSSC, NPTI, Delhi EV Cell, SJVNL, Niti Aayog
SAREP’s Program Strategy

Develop new business models, improve access to financing and accelerate private sector investments

Enable partnerships and alliances

Technical assistance and capacity development

Grants for innovative solutions under Strategic Partnership Fund through competitive procurement

Enhance cross learning and outreach

SAREP Program Strategy
USAID’s SAREP Partnership Fund (SPF)
SAREP Partnership Fund (SPF)

- Market-based clean energy transition
- Engage private sector & local organizations
- Innovate with business models & technologies
- Complement SAREP's technical assistance
- Maximize USAID impact sustainably
Grants awarded through the previous RFA

Swayam Shikshan Prayog

Aims to utilize its network of rural women entrepreneurs to drive adoption of cost-effective and energy-efficient innovation and livestock waste to energy solutions. Estimated impact includes reduced wastage of harvested produce and energy cost, along with increased income for small scale farmers and rural women micro-entrepreneurs.

AutoGrid Systems Inc.

In collaboration with a leading power distribution company, proposes a large-scale Behavioral Demand Response (BDR) program to reduce peak electricity consumption. Small electricity sheds by individual consumers can reduced power consumption of the city and reduced carbon footprints, while reducing power bills.

New Buildings Institute

Develop methodologies and metrics for optimizing energy use in buildings by better and integrated operation with the electric grid. These will facilitate building-grid optimization by identifying key behind-the-meter, time-oriented energy efficiency and demand flexibility strategies for various kinds of buildings and grids in Indian and South Asian contexts.
Introduction

Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP), is committed to promote sustainable community development by repositioning women as change makers and fostering collective leadership. The organization is a grantee under USAID’s SAREP Partnership Fund (SPF), exemplifies the successful implementation of practical clean energy solutions that promote gender equality and rural development.

The SSP-SPF project aims to address two main challenges in rural populations in India:

1. Reducing the wastage of harvested produce (vegetables, fruits, and flowers) and increasing the income of small-scale farmers by using energy-efficient cooling systems.

2. Increasing the adoption of low-cost bio-digesters to reduce household energy and cultivation costs.
Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) has identified the most pressing and locally relevant energy problems for rural India

- Scaling up access to innovative energy efficient solutions for rural populations in India through a women led micro-entrepreneurship model

**A 2-year USAID SAREP Grant assisted Project**

**Background about – SSP**

The project naturally fits into the priority cross-cutting themes of SAREP – private sector engagement, gender equality and social inclusion, and pollution mitigation

- SSP’s Strategy: market-based approach, rural women micro-entrepreneurs
- Products: biodigesters, decentralized cooling systems
- Scope: 500 villages, 5 districts (Maharashtra, Bihar), 500 women entrepreneurs
- Impact: Sale of 7,000 clean energy products, 30,000 MT CO2e saved
- Funding provided as grant – 4,55,453 SSP to leverage – 35,20,975 (approx)
Success Stories
Impacts in the long run

Women empowerment takes paramount importance for women in society. Empowering women helps to make necessary changes in social and economic development. It motivates women in terms of rural aspects to grow women as change-makers in water-scarce, drought-prone regions across seven states of India.

SSP contributes to empowering women entrepreneurship in different sectors, including technology, energy and environment, water, sanitation, agriculture, and many more.

“Ordinary women can trigger extraordinary changes. My vision is to create an ecosystem that empowers women at the grassroot enabling them to move from margin to mainstream, transforming not only their lives but their community, their villages, and society – for the better.”
THANK YOU!

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND UPDATES, VISIT THE SAREP WEBSITE:
https://sarepenergy.net