

Annexure II

Impact Evaluation Report for LEDP-Mushroom

Basic Information	
Name of the RO	WEST BENGAL
Name of the Project	LEDP-MUSHROOM
Scheme (MEDP/ LEDP)	LEDP
Sector (Farm/ Off-Farm)	OFF-FIRM
Activity	TRAINING,CREDIT LINKAGE,ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT
Date of sanction by ROCHSC	21/02/2023
Duration of the project	2 YEARS
Part A-Implementing Agency (IA) Details	
Name of the IA	DASPARA NABADISHA EDUCATION & WELFARE SOCIETY
Type of Implementing Agency	NGO
Proposal Details	
Scheme/Proposal Specific Details	
Number of participants	150
Social/ Economic Category of the beneficiaries	SC-17 , ST-12 , OBC-17 , GENERAL-40 MINORITY-64 ,
Number of batches	5
Outcome of MEDP/ LEDP	
Number and % of participants which have set up units	70%
Number and % of participants wage employed	15 & 10%
Number and % of participants self-employed	75 NOS. & 50% (approx)
Average increase in monthly income after training (Indicate % also)	Income before Training -00 Income after Training- 3000(average)

No. and % of participants credit linked (individual/ group mode)	81 , 54 %
Whether there is a tie-up for marketing? (If yes, indicate physical/ e-marketing)	Yes , Physical
No. and % of participants covered under social security schemes	50%
Indicate the adoption of digital banking mode by trainees	Approximately 80% of the trainees have adopted digital banking facilities for their financial transactions. Beneficiaries are using bank accounts, ATM services, UPI-based transactions, mobile banking, and digital payment methods for receiving income, savings, and making business-related payments.
Marks obtained as per the Outcome Matrix for MEDP and LEDP	(As per Annexure I of circular No. 158 dated 18 July 2023) 85
Financial DetailsAmount in ₹	
Total Financial Outlay (TFO) of the Project	8,15,810.00
IA Contribution	59,560.00
Grant sanctioned by RO/ HO	7,56,250.00
Actual Grant released by the RO	5,72,260.00
Activities and Deliverables of the Project	
Indicate how the projectwas monitored and efforts taken to popularize it	The LEDP Mushroom Cultivation project was regularly monitored by Daspara Nabadisha Education & Welfare Society (DNEWS NGO) through field-level supervision, beneficiary interaction, practical session monitoring, and periodic follow-up visits after completion of training. The Implementing Agency maintained regular communication with the trained beneficiaries through community meetings, phone calls, and field visits to assess adoption of mushroom cultivation practices, production status, income generation, and challenges faced by participants. Awareness regarding mushroom cultivation was promoted through local community mobilization, SHG networks, women groups, village-level meetings, and interaction with local stakeholders. Demonstration units were established to provide practical exposure and

	encourage more beneficiaries towards mushroom-based livelihood activities. Regular guidance was provided on spawn management, cultivation techniques, harvesting, value addition, packaging, and marketing. Credit linkage support was also facilitated for interested beneficiaries to establish small-scale mushroom production units.
Actual Deliverables of the Project	Total 150 rural beneficiaries were trained through 5 batches on scientific mushroom cultivation techniques. Beneficiaries were provided practical knowledge on mushroom bed preparation, spawn handling, cultivation management, harvesting, post-harvest management, packaging, and marketing. Around 75 beneficiaries (approximately 50%) started self-employment activities related to mushroom cultivation after completion of training. Many trained participants started mushroom cultivation at household level and generated additional livelihood opportunities. Around 81 beneficiaries (54%) were linked with credit facilities through individual/group mode for strengthening their mushroom enterprises. The average additional income generated by active beneficiaries is approximately ₹3,000 per month, depending upon production capacity and market demand. The project particularly supported women beneficiaries, including SC/ST/OBC/minority communities, by providing skill-based livelihood opportunities and promoting entrepreneurship. Demonstration units were established for practical learning and replication among rural communities.
Whether Exposure visit of the participants was undertaken? Feedback from the exposure visit.	Yes, an exposure visit for each batch was organized for the beneficiaries to provide practical knowledge and motivation regarding successful mushroom cultivation practices. Participants observed advanced cultivation techniques, production management, hygiene

	practices, value addition methods, and marketing strategies. The exposure visit enhanced their confidence and encouraged them to adopt mushroom cultivation as a sustainable livelihood activity. Beneficiaries expressed that the exposure visit helped them understand commercial-scale production and improved their entrepreneurial approach.
Any notable achievements/milestones reached	The major achievements of the LEDP Mushroom Cultivation project are: Successful completion of skill development training for 150 rural beneficiaries. Development of trained rural women entrepreneurs in mushroom cultivation. More than 50% beneficiaries started mushroom cultivation/self-employment activities. Credit linkage support was provided to beneficiaries for enterprise development. Creation of awareness regarding mushroom as a low-investment and high-potential livelihood activity. Establishment of demonstration units for continuous learning and practical support. Increased confidence, decision-making ability, and economic participation among women beneficiaries.
Impact Analysis	
Economic Impact	The project generated positive economic impact among trained beneficiaries by providing them with practical skills and entrepreneurial opportunities in mushroom cultivation. Before the intervention, most beneficiaries had limited livelihood opportunities and no regular income from mushroom-related activities. After training, active beneficiaries started producing mushrooms at household level and earned additional income. The average monthly income increase among active beneficiaries is approximately ₹3,000,

	which contributed to improved household financial conditions and livelihood security. The project also encouraged beneficiaries to reinvest their earnings for increasing production capacity and expanding their small enterprises.
Social Impact	The project created significant social impact by promoting inclusive livelihood opportunities among rural women and economically weaker communities. DNEWS NGO engaged with local communities, SHGs, village-level groups, and stakeholders for beneficiary identification, awareness creation, training support, and follow-up activities. The project strengthened community participation, encouraged women entrepreneurship, improved confidence among beneficiaries, and promoted collective learning and cooperation among trained groups.
Educational Impact	The training programme enhanced technical knowledge and practical skills of beneficiaries regarding scientific mushroom cultivation. Participants gained knowledge about: • Mushroom production techniques • Spawn selection and handling • Scientific cultivation practices • Disease prevention and hygiene management • Harvesting and storage methods • Packaging and marketing strategies The training brought positive behavioral changes by motivating beneficiaries towards self-employment, entrepreneurship, and adoption of modern livelihood practices.
Miscellaneous	
Attach some High-quality photographs of the Project	



1. Beneficiary Name: PARUL KUMARI

"The LEDP mushroom cultivation training helped me to learn scientific cultivation techniques. I started mushroom production at my home and it has become an additional source of income for my family."

2. Beneficiary Name: LAKHI BEGUM

"Before this training, I had no knowledge about mushroom cultivation. The practical sessions helped me understand spawn preparation, bed making, harvesting and marketing methods."

3. Beneficiary Name: ANJU KUMARI NUNIYA

"The training provided by DNEWS NGO under NABARD LEDP was very useful. I gained confidence to start my own small mushroom

Feedback of the participants/ beneficiaries participated in the project

	cultivation unit." 4. Beneficiary Name: SOMA MAHATO "The project created a good livelihood opportunity for rural women like us. Mushroom cultivation requires less space and investment, which is suitable for household-level entrepreneurship." 5. Beneficiary Name: MOUSUMI ROY SINGHA "After completion of the training, I started selling fresh mushrooms in my local area and earned additional income. I am thankful for the technical guidance and support provided during the project." 6. Beneficiary Name: ANISA TIGGA "The exposure visit and practical demonstrations improved my knowledge about commercial mushroom production and motivated me to expand my activity."
Whether the project has been visited by senior officer/s from RO?	Yes , 03/10/2024 Shri Vikash Kumar,AM-nabard-WBRO
Feedback of the officers regarding the project.	Good
Key challenges faced during the project	Initial hesitation among beneficiaries regarding adoption of mushroom cultivation as a livelihood activity. Limited technical knowledge among rural participants before training. Seasonal variations affecting production management. Lack of initial investment capacity among some beneficiaries. Market linkage challenges during the initial stage of enterprise development. However, continuous handholding support, practical guidance, and follow-up visits helped beneficiaries overcome these challenges.
Any learnings/ key highlights from the project	Mushroom cultivation is a suitable livelihood option for rural women due to low investment and limited space requirements. Practical-based training creates better adoption compared to theoretical learning. Continuous mentoring after training is

	essential for sustainability of livelihood activities. Credit linkage and market support play an important role in enterprise development. Women beneficiaries showed strong interest and capability in adopting mushroom cultivation as a source of income generation.
Whether the project location has been geotagged (with coordinates).	<i>Demonstration Unit in case of LEDP</i> <i>Yes , DEMO Unit at</i> 1. 29.03.2023 2. 16.08.2026 3. 16.12.2023
Any suggestions/ ideas, etc. by RO/ IA	Based on the experience of implementation, it is suggested that future LEDP projects may include: Continued handholding support after completion of training. Strengthening market linkage and value addition activities. Promotion of producer groups/FPO-like models among mushroom growers. Additional refresher training for advanced production techniques. Support for packaging, branding, and digital marketing of mushroom products.
