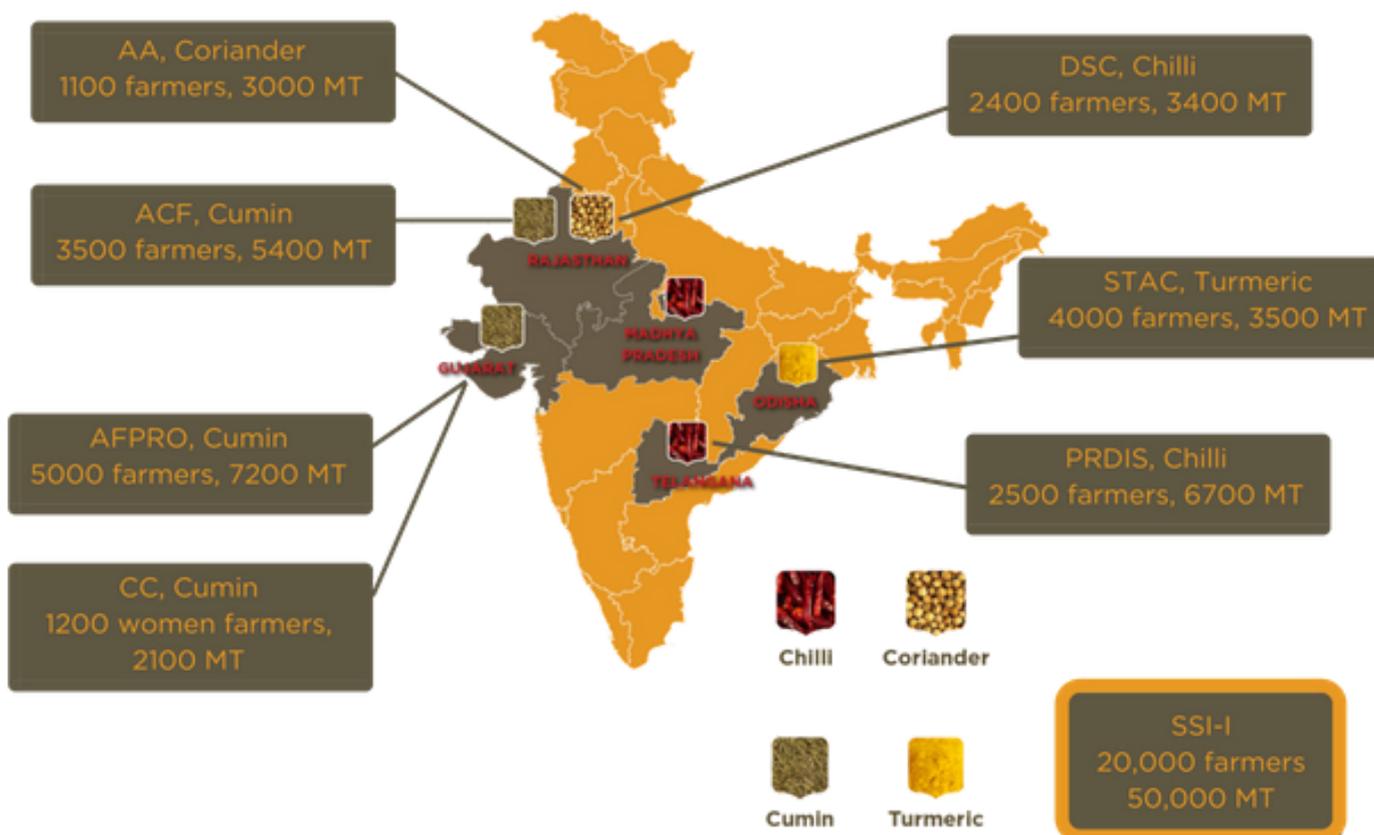




sustainable spices
initiative - India

powered
by



Introduction

Advancing towards its vision of making transparent, credible and traceable sustainable spices in India a mainstream commodity, Sustainable Spices Initiative - India (SSI-I) made substantial progress in promoting field-level sustainability in spice production in the country in 2017.

With support from the Implementing Partners (IPs) associated with the program, the program reached 20,000 farmers in the year to train them on sustainable agricultural practices, covering 23,000 hectares to produce around 30,000 MT of sustainable spices.

Snapshot on Field-Level Implementation in 2017-18

2017-18 was an important season for SSI-I as it made progress in the field-level extension work in areas of responsible agrochemical management, integrated pest management, gender empowerment, water management and working conditions.

Several projects under the program reported a decrease in number of pesticide sprays at the farms, with farmers also following pre-harvest interval period to reduce Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) in the produce.

Farmers are also increasingly incorporating integrated pest management techniques on their farms with botanical preparations such as neem seed kernel extract, border cropping, inter cropping and sticky traps.

Gender empowerment work under the program strengthened this year as more women farmers were reached by the IPs. In addition to farm-related trainings, they were also trained on health and hygiene and nutrition. In some projects, awareness programs on economic empowerment of women were also conducted.

For more details on the program's field-level intervention in the year, read our report "[Bridging the sustainability gap in the Indian spice industry](#)".

SSI-I Projects 2018

Participatory Rural Development Initiatives Society (PRDIS) Khammam, Telangana

PRDIS is implementing SSI-I project in Khammam district in Telangana with 1000 farmers for 2018-19 season to drive sustainable chili production. The program will work on capacity building on package of practices and agricultural extension services.

Azad Agro Kota, Rajasthan

Azad Agro is implementing an SSI-I project in Kota district of Rajasthan, focusing on sustainable coriander production with 2000 farmers. The project will train farmers on MRL-based farming, IPM techniques, women empowerment and community development.

Sustainable Textile and Agriculture Commodity (STAC) Kandamal, Odisha

STAC is implementing SSI-I project in Kandamal, Odisha, focusing on the sustainable production of turmeric. The project is being implemented with training of 4000 farmers on SAPs, focusing on data management, demo plots and group trainings.

Development Support Centre (DSC) and Gram Unnati Dhar, Madhya Pradesh

DSC and Gram Unnati are implementing SSI-I project in Dhar, Madhya Pradesh to drive sustainable chili production with 1000 farmers. Together the IPs will work towards creating market linkages for the farmers associated with the project.

New Initiatives

Business Case for Spices Production & Processing in Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Uttarakhand

SSI-I commissioned 'Business Case for Spices Production & Processing' report, prepared by Yes Bank in April 2018. The report provides insights on developing business case in spice production in Uttarakhand and North Eastern States of Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland. It focuses on business case for a viable spices processing facility considering the market, locational advantage and production in these regions. It also identifies most promising spice products that are available in the North-eastern region and which offer the following substantial export potential:

| STATE | MAJOR SPICE CROP | POTENTIAL SPICES |
|-------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Meghalaya | Ginger, Turmeric | Pepper, Cinnamon |
| Mizoram | Ginger, Chilli, Turmeric | - |
| Nagaland | Chilli, Ginger | Cardamom, Turmeric |
| Uttarakhand | Chilli, Ginger | Coriander, Cinnamon, Turmeric |

The report maps the existing situation of production, organic farming and production clusters, processing, infrastructure, exports and government support for each of the identified products. It also assesses viability of going 'organic' and suggests implementable action plans to counter the challenges and harness the potential of the region.

Read full report here: [Business Case for Spices Production & Processing](#)

SSI-I to support Andhra Govt.'s program aiming to transition 6 million farmers to zero budget natural farming

IDH, the Sustainable Trade Initiative, in India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS) – a not-for-profit established by the Andhra Pradesh Government to support transition of 6 million farmers to zero budget natural farming (ZBNF) by 2024.

The MoU establishes strategic relationship between IDH and RySS for key aspects covering – knowledge sharing, market-linkages, productivity enhancement to improve the overall efficiency of chosen value chain and thus improving incomes of agricultural households in the state of Andhra Pradesh for Cotton and Spices.

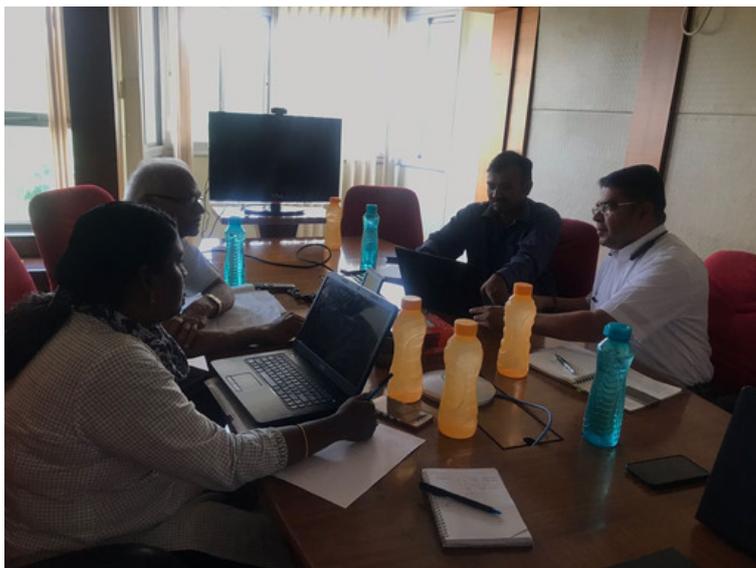
As per the agreement, the agriculture extension services to the spice farmers under the program will be facilitated by SSI-I.



IISR Endorses Good Agricultural Practices Recommended by SSI-I

The document, 'Good Agricultural Practices for Chili, Turmeric, Cumin and Coriander', developed by joint interventions of scientists from Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR) and AICRP on Spices, with feedback from SSI-I members, has been endorsed by IISR.

SSI-I Technical Committee: Implementing Partner Training



In the last SSI-I meeting held in April 2018, it was decided by the members to form a Technical Committee to give technical guidance for the program implementation. Mr. Ashok Nair from Nedspice, Mr. Anil Shastri from Jayanti and Mr. Phillip Kuruvilla volunteered to be a part of the committee and conducted the first training with Participatory Rural Development Initiatives Society (PRDIS) in May 2018. During the training, PRDIS staff was trained on good agricultural practices through interactive sessions and knowledge sharing.

About SSI-I

The Sustainable Spices Initiative - India (SSI-I) is a not-for-profit multi stakeholder platform that provides a comprehensive and ambitious framework to overcome the challenges of sustainable sourcing in the spice industry. while improving the livelihoods of producers, and giving consumers - both locally and globally - increased access to sustainable, food-safe spices.