DRCSC | Transforming Lives Through Climate Adaptive Livelihoods

DRCSC

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

SODI!

Seeds of Change, Roots of Resilience:
Renuka Hansda's Story

A climate-adaptive livelihoods case story

Renuka Hansda • Jihurbona Adibashi Mahila Samity • Jihurbona, Kashipur, Purulia

AT A GLANCE

Participant's Name:	Group Name:	Village:	Block:	District:	Household:
Renuka Hansda	Jihurbona Adibashi Mahila Samity	Jihurbona	Kashipur	Purulia	joint family of 13 members

HER STORY, OUR CONTEXT

The family previously lacked a stable source of income and depended mainly on occasional wage labour by Renuka's husband and brothers-in-law. Inadequate rainfall often caused agricultural losses, while wage employment opportunities were limited. The family joined a DRCSC-supported group to diversify livelihoods and adopt climate-resilient practices.

Family ***Inadequate Rainfall*** ***Wage Labour*** ***Livelihood Diversification & Climate Resilience***

From household responsibilities to new possibilities

After marriage, Renuka primarily devoted herself to household responsibilities—caring for her family, managing daily chores, and supporting her home. Her association with the project gradually opened new doors. Through hands-on learning and ongoing support, she discovered practical skills that strengthened her confidence and created new livelihood opportunities.

KNOWLEDGE SHE GAINED

- Livestock feeding
- Shelter management
- Vaccination schedules
- Disease prevention
- Local remedies for common livestock ailments
- Hygiene maintenance
- Raised-bed cultivation
- Efficient water management
- Preparation of bio-inputs
- Bio-pest control



Her learning pathway


Group strengthening


Livestock rearing


Nutrition gardening


Ecological farming

Knowledge become the foundation for action.

Growing a livestock-based livelihood

BEFORE



2 goats received through the project last year

AFTER



8 goats in the household herd today

6
hens

3
ducks

Renuka and her family now pay greater attention to timely vaccination, disease prevention, and proper livestock care. Regular deworming, clean water, nutritious feed, and clean housing have become part of their routine.

A cleaner, safer goat shed

Motivated to improve livestock management, Renuka constructed an elevated goat shed using locally available bamboo. The raised structure allows animal droppings to fall below the resting area, helping keep the shelter cleaner and more hygienic while reducing the risk of disease.



These improvements have strengthened her confidence in livestock rearing as a sustainable livelihood option.

Food, savings, and productive land



A A 2-decimal homestead nutrition garden

- Raised-bed cultivation
- Mulching to conserve soil moisture
- Bio-fertilizers
- Four to five varieties of vegetables each season
- Fresh vegetables for household consumption
- Surplus can be sold in the local market
- Approximate household savings: ₹35–40 per day on vegetables

The garden improves family nutrition and reduces household expenditure.



B Mixed cropping on previously barren land

- During the current Kharif season, Renuka jointly cultivated 6 decimals of land with another SHG member, Balika Hansda
- **Mixed crops:** millets, pigeon pea, roselle, and maize
- **Purpose:** bring previously barren and uncultivated land under productive use, diversify crop production, and improve land utilization.

Resilience in practice

Paddy and natural pest management

- 0.5 bigha of paddy cultivated using the single-stick paddy transplantation method
- Approximately 45 days after transplanting, plants developed 22-26 tillers per plant
- The method can reduce seed requirements during nursery preparation and may improve productivity when properly managed
- Bird-Parchers attract insect-eating birds, support natural pest control, and add organic nutrients through droppings
- These practices reduce dependence on chemical inputs and promote ecological farming.

Cleanser household energy

- The family adopted a smokeless cooking oven
- It reduces firewood consumption and indoor smoke exposure
- It helped address the eye irritation Renuka and other family members previously experienced while cooking.

The training, technical guidance, and input support provided by DRCSC helped Renuka develop new skills, diversify livelihood activities, and adopt more sustainable farming and livestock management practices.

> **With diversified livelihood activities and growing livestock assets, Renuka is steadily progressing towards greater self-reliance and a more resilient future for her family.**

Knowledge, practice, and resilience growing together.

