SEWA Agriculture

Agriculture is the backbone of India's economy, employing over half of its working population. Despite their importance to local and national production, small-scale producers often do not earn enough or produce enough, causing families to fall into poverty traps and debt cycles. Low incomes and outputs of producers is often due to a combination of inefficient production techniques, little access to productive inputs, and weak market linkages. SEWA addresses these barriers to strengthen and grow agricultural producers and communities, ensuring ethical, fair, and inclusive development.

Enhancing Agricultural Techniques

Many farmers in India use traditional production techniques. SEWA connects farmers to farming schools and leads informational sessions to learn efficient production techniques, such as soil testing and crop rotation, and resource management, such as effective irrigation and pesticide techniques.

Creating Access to Inputs

Many small-scale producers do not have access to mechanized and efficient inputs. SEWA connects farmers to production capital, such as zero-tillage machines, tractors, wells, through custom hiring centers.

Strengthening Market Linkages

Many producers rely on middlemen and are limited by local markets. SEWA connects farmers and livestock producers to greater markets through cooperatives, marketing support, and organization. SEWA increases the bargaining power of small-scale producers and diversifies markets.
Creating Women Leadership

SEWA's agriculture programs are not only focused on overcoming the production barriers that prevent economic mobility, but are also focused on investing in women's leadership within the industry. Women play an important role in agricultural production and with increased migration of men into cities, the sector is becoming increasingly dominated by women. However, women do not have ownership of assets and are therefore unrecognized as contributors to the agriculture sector.

Increasing Production Through Technology

SEWA provides women farmers with access to mechanized inputs to overcome production barriers. SEWA members pool together resources to purchase tools and machines. Women then rent these machines through custom hiring centers, SEWA Sahara Kendras. By improving access to mechanized inputs, SEWA members have increased production by over 33%.

SEWA is a movement of women-led institutions and a trade union that serve women working in the informal sector. SEWA’s institutions provide solutions to economic, financial, health, social security, energy, and housing gaps that prevent women from reaching self-reliance and full-employment.

Find out more about our agricultural impact and programs