



Farm Drudgery Reduction Trainings

Trainings on drudgery-reduction tools, equipment, and implements were organised in Chittorgarh. Resource persons demonstrated innovative farm tools and machinery, including hand ridgers, seed treatment drums, improved sickles, groundnut decorticators, maize shellers, weeders, and picking bags, to reduce labour intensity and enhance productivity.

Trainees were encouraged to adopt these tools in agricultural practices to reduce labour costs and increase farm incomes. A total of 12 training sessions were organised, with over 450 farmers participating, and tool and technique adoption have been observed across all target villages.



Capacity Building on Integrated Farming System



FS trainings were organised to educate farmers on integrating multiple agricultural activities to enhance productivity and income. The programme included demonstrations and interactive discussions.

Ram Avtar Kaushik, Director (Extension), Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology (MPUAT), Udaipur, and Kapil Ameta, Head (Horticulture), served as resource persons. Key topics included crop and livestock management, mixed vegetable cultivation, orchard promotion, poultry farming, soil health, waste management, and livelihood enhancement. A total of seven training sessions were conducted, with 405 farmers participating.

Follow-up Trainings on Community Health Services

A total of 34 follow-up trainings were held during the period. Government health and Anganwadi workers participated as resource persons and shared detailed information on project objectives, planned activities, expected outcomes, health schemes, and available health services.

Roles and responsibilities of health staff in ensuring access to quality healthcare were discussed. The team's survey key findings were shared during these sessions. Over 700 participants, including 389 women, attended.



INSIDE

- Community & Stakeholder Interface Meetings
- Village Awareness & Citizen Committees
- Cyber Security Training for MSMEs
- Poultry Farming Promotion
- World Standards Day Observance
- FPO Promotion Activities
- Oilseeds Expansion in Rice Fallows
- Representations
- Visitors and Meetings
- Media

Community & Stakeholder Interface Meetings

Community and stakeholder interface meetings were organised to discuss challenges and opportunities in healthcare delivery. Discussions covered project objectives, activities, expected outcomes, causes of malnutrition, institutional deliveries, early pregnancy, family welfare, iron-folic acid usage, avoidance of unregistered health practitioners, doctor shortages, observance of MCHN days, and the role of paramedical staff.

The Child Health Officer provided input on health services and emphasised continued efforts to reduce malnutrition, blindness, and tuberculosis, and to improve immunisation coverage. In the first phase, 100 villages were covered, with 1,644 participants, including 993 women.

Village Awareness & Citizen Committees

Village awareness meetings-cum-formation of Citizen Oversight Committees were held in 100 *Gram Panchayats* across Pratapgarh and Banswara tribal districts. Project objectives, proposed activities, and expected outcomes were shared, and the committee formation process was initiated.

As part of a scoping exercise, the health team visited various health centres to assess service conditions and community perceptions. Inputs were gathered from community members, doctors, and paramedical staff, highlighting service gaps and advocacy priorities. Health workers and Anganwadi workers attended as resource persons and provided detailed information to participants.

Cyber Security Training for MSMEs

A total of 16 workshops were organised in Chittorgarh, Bhilwara, and Udaipur districts for micro and small businesses, nonprofits, social enterprises, and entrepreneurs. Sessions focused on cyber resilience, awareness, and adoption of cyber-secure practices to address digital vulnerabilities.

CUTS experts delivered sessions on cybersecurity risks and mitigation strategies. These training sessions were critical, as MSMEs often face higher cyber risks due to limited resources. Over 1,050 MSMEs and small business units participated.

Poultry Farming Promotion

A poultry farming training programme was organised in Badi Sadri Block to promote livelihood diversification. MPUAT Udaipur provided 1,000 chicks, along with 50 water storage and feeder pots, and bird feed to 50 tribal farmers from two identified *Gram Panchayats*.

Kaushik outlined best practices for housing hygiene, balanced nutrition, vaccination, disease prevention, and bird welfare to enhance productivity. Beneficiary farmers expressed satisfaction with the quality of free chicks and have begun earning additional income by selling eggs, chicks, and poultry products locally.

World Standards Day Observance

World Standards Day was organised by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) in Chittorgarh to recognise the global collaborative efforts behind voluntary international and national standards. The event aimed to raise awareness among regulators, industry, NGOs, and consumers on the importance of standardisation in the global economy.

Gauhar Mahmood attended and highlighted CUTS' contribution to the consumer movement through awareness initiatives. Kanika Kalia, Director and Head, BIS, and Poonam Choudhary, Joint Director, appreciated CUTS CHD's grassroots work in consumer development.



FPO Promotion Activities

With support from the Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC), the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), and the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), CUTS continued to promote FPOs to enable sustainable, income-oriented farming and the socio-economic development of agrarian communities.



Efforts focused on productivity enhancement, better market linkages, entrepreneurship skills, and capacity building. Credit linkages worth ¹ 11 crore were established with banks.

Currently, 34 FPOs with 22,694 shareholder members have achieved a combined business turnover of ¹ 30 crore. Plans are underway to establish processing units to further enhance farmers' incomes.

Oilseeds Expansion in Rice Fallows

Under the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)-supported project, the Area Expansion of Oilseeds (groundnut and sunflower) in rice fallows aims to increase domestic oilseed production and reduce dependence on edible oil imports.



The initiative focuses on transforming underutilised land into productive oilseed hubs through improved varieties, sustainable practices, capacity building, and GIS-based precision mapping. The project will cover 6,000 hectares across Rajasthan and Gujarat.

NETWORKING VISITORS

- Alok Ranjan, District Collector, Chittorgarh
- Kapil Ameta, R.L. Soni, P Mishra, R A Kaushik, MPUAT Udaipur
- Dinesh Kumar Jaga, Joint Director (Agriculture), Chittorgarh
- Shanker Lal Jat, Deputy Director (Horticulture) & Custard Apple Centre, Chittorgarh
- District Development Managers, NABARD (Chittorgarh, Bhilwara, Banswara, Udaipur)
- Rajender Solanki, Scientist; Deepa Indoria, Sanjay Dhakad, KVKS
- Rajender Khatik, Additional District Magistrate, Chittorgarh
- Director, Skill Development Centre, Bank of Baroda, Chittorgarh

