



Empowering Tribal Farmers through Irrigation Efficiency: Vedanta ESL, NABARD, and Gramin Seva Sangh Celebrate Kisan Diwas

- ESL Steel Limited's Project WADI, in collaboration with Gramin Seva Sangh, aims to transform the lives of over 500 tribal farmer families across 8 villages in Chas and Chandankiyari Blocks, Bokaro District
- Rashtriya Kisan Diwas, observed on 23rd December in India, is a tribute to the invaluable contributions of the nation's farmers

Bokaro, 23rd December 2024: On the occasion of National Farmers Day (Kisan Divas), Vedanta ESL, in collaboration with NABARD and Gramin Seva Sangh (GSS), is proud to inaugurate state-of-the-art Drip Irrigation facilities under Project WADI. The event, commemorating the birth anniversary of India's fifth Prime Minister, Late Shri Chaudhary Charan Singh, is a significant milestone in promoting sustainable agricultural development for 500 tribal farmer families across eight villages in the Chas and Chandankiyari Blocks of Bokaro district.

Project WADI: ESL Steel Limited's flagship sustainable Agriculture Project

Project WADI is ESL Steel Limited's flagship sustainable Agriculture project, which is being implemented in association with NABARD. ESL Steel Limited's CSR department oversees and micro-manages Project WADI, in partnership with the implementing agency Gramin Seva Sangh. The project aims to help Tribal and Women Farmers implement Sustainable Agriculture and Gender Inclusion in their farming and will positively impact 500+ tribal farmer families in 8 villages of Chas & Chandankiyari Blocks under Bokaro District.

Presently, 450 acres of barren land have been converted into cultivable land through orchard development and intercropping with vegetables resulting in round-the-season income generation for the farmers. To date, soil cultivation, intercropping, fruit plantation, solar pumphouse, and irrigation facilities have been created. 50 landless farmers have been engaged in Micro Enterprise Groups of Poultry, Vermicomposting, Goatry, Duckery, and Piggery & Fisheries. The progress so far has been remarkable, with soil cultivation, fruit plantations, solar-powered pumphouses, and irrigation facilities already established.

Highlights from the Kisan Diwas Celebration

The event began with a vibrant welcome featuring a traditional tribal dance and customary greetings. The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the drill was gracefully conducted by Mr. Kunal Daripa, Head CSR, ESL Steel Limited. A total of 60 farmers participated in the program, highlighting its importance to the local community. The occasion was graced by distinguished guests, including Mr. Philmon Bilung, DDM NABARD; Mr. Vilas Sathe, Chairman, GSS; Mr. Aakarsh Pandey, Project Manager, WADI; and Ms. Prabhati Sanyal from the CSR team. The event highlighted the inauguration of the Drip Irrigation facilities, a groundbreaking step that reduced dependency on rain-fed agriculture and ensured increased productivity for farmers. Additionally, four Conoweeders were distributed to the WADI

Samitis (Farmer Groups). These tools significantly reduced the labour-intensive work involved in intercultural operations, enhancing the efficiency and well-being of the farmers.

ESL Steel's Commitment toward the Farmer's Community

Speaking at the event, **Mr Kunal Daripa, Head CSR, ESL Steel Limited**, said, *“On this National Farmers Day, we proudly reaffirm our commitment to empowering farmers with innovative and sustainable agricultural solutions. Through initiatives like drip irrigation and Conoweeders, we strive to transform farming practices, enhance productivity, and reduce reliance on rainfed agriculture, nurturing long-term prosperity and environmental sustainability.”*

About Project WADI:

The WADI project of ESL Steel Limited is in association with NABARD and is focused on the development of small fruit orchards (WADI), along with inter-cultivation, micro-enterprise for landless tribal farmers through water resource development & promoting irrigational efficient technologies. WADI will be an effective tool for addressing the livelihood problems of the tribal families. NABARD is the nodal agency and has created a dedicated fund for this namely the 'Tribal Development Fund (TDF)'.

The project, with our partner NGO Gramin Seva Sangh, aims to help 500 tribal families (450 wadi + 50 non-wadi), from 8 villages in the Chas & Chandankiyari Blocks of Bokaro District. These villages are Bhagabandh, Partand, Hutu Pather, and Kunwarpur of Chas and Asansol, Tentulia, Nepur chawk, and West Mahal in Chandankiyari block. WADI is for such tribal families who are living below the poverty line and does not have sufficient means of livelihood, and it would be by developing an orchard, around their houses and in their land to increase the family income and reduction of poverty.

About Vedanta ESL Steel Limited:

Located in Siyaljori village in the Bokaro district of Jharkhand, ESL Steel Limited is a leading manufacturer of steel products. It has a 2.5 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) greenfield integrated steel plant that produces pig iron, billets, TMT bars, wire rods, and ductile iron pipes. The plant works in sync with the prescribed environmental standards, bringing international expertise and solutions from reputed manufacturers to offer world-class services and products.

About NABARD:

WADI project is a NABARD-funded Tribal Development Programme (TDP) that aims at promoting sustainable livelihoods for tribal communities and enhancing their income security. “Wadi” means a 'small orchard' covering one or two acres of Land.

About Gramin Seva Sangh:

Gramin Seva Sangh is ESL Steel Limited's Implementing Partner in the WADI project (which is in association with NABARD). It is a non-profit organization that was established in 2007 and is from Ramgarh, Jharkhand. This organization works primarily in the domains of Agriculture, Gender, Energy & Environment, and Livelihoods.





