



Foundation for MSME Clusters (FMC)

PROJECT UPDATES

MARCH - APRIL 2025

25,000+ Lives Transformed Through Digital and Financial Literacy Under FMC’s Dhan Samvaad Initiative

The National Dissemination Workshop on Dhan Samvaad, spearheaded by the Foundation for MSME Clusters (FMC), marked a milestone in empowering nano-entrepreneurs across India. Through a robust combination of financial and digital literacy initiatives, over 25,000 individuals were equipped with essential skills to drive their economic advancement.

Spanning 15 districts in 4 states, the initiative ignited a movement for inclusive growth and sustainable development. More than 18,000 participants embraced digital tools, accelerating their nano-enterprise journeys, boosting financial literacy, and fostering long-term resilience. The landmark event celebrated the power of grassroots transformation, reaffirming FMC’s unwavering commitment to community-driven change and inclusive prosperity.



Certificates were proudly distributed to inspiring beneficiaries at the National Dissemination Workshop under the Dhan Samvaad Program, celebrating their journey toward financial & digital empowerment.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



At FMC, we turn sustainability commitments into tangible impact. Our initiatives have already prevented 4,600 tons of carbon emissions, and with Green Threads, Green Weave, and HSBC decarbonization pilots, we're scaling this success. Green Threads, funded by the European Commission, is helping 14,800 MSMEs to adopt traceable, efficient practices while linking emission cuts to green finance. This is more than environmental stewardship—it's about future-proofing livelihoods and industries. As we pioneer this green transition, we invite partners to join us in building an ecosystem where MSMEs thrive as sustainability leaders. Together, we can turn climate challenges into opportunities for inclusive growth.

- Mukesh Gulati



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FMC and HSBC Launch Groundbreaking Green Textile Initiative to Decarbonize Panipat's SME Cluster



On 8th March, the Foundation for MSME Clusters (FMC), with the support of HSBC officially launched the ambitious project 'Decarbonization Pathways for Textile SMEs' initiative in Panipat—India's textile hub. Centre for Responsible Business (C4RB) and Stenum Asia playing a crucial role in providing expert guidance. The event brought together thought leaders and policymakers, including Amit Pande, COO, FMC; Devyani Hari, Sr. Director, CR4B; and Shri Sanjeev Chawla, Additional Development Commissioner, MSME DFO, who shared forward-thinking strategies for reducing emissions and advancing green innovation. This pioneering initiative is set to reshape Panipat's textile ecosystem by helping 62 SMEs transition toward sustainable practices. Early achievements include the formation of 8 Competitive Collaborator Groups (CCGs) and 12 focused CCG meetings, paving the way for collective action and low-carbon solutions.

Green Weave in Action: Baseline Study Launched to Drive Low-Carbon, Traceable Textile Production in Panipat



Under the Green Weave project—'Profitability by Integrating Traceability & Resource Efficiency in Recycled Textiles (India)', supported by the Danish Green Business Partnership (DGBP)—FMC has initiated a Diagnostic Study and Baseline Assessment to transform Panipat's recycled textile MSMEs into competitive, sustainable, and regulation-ready enterprises. Launched in March-April, the study focuses on five key areas: creating a Sustainable Cluster Brand, tracking textile waste, promoting Sustainable Production Practices, facilitating access to Green Financing, and strengthening the Policy Environment for Climate Resilience. In partnership with Reverse Resources and Sustent, field testing began in six units, followed by full-scale research from 15th April, including surveys of 75 MSMEs, 25 small-group interviews, and five focus group discussions. The initiative aims to de-risk MSMEs by enhancing resilience through Traceability Mechanisms (TM) and Resource Efficiency Solutions (RES)—laying the foundation for future-ready, low-carbon growth.

Cybersecurity Training Empowers MSMEs Across Four States Under APAC Fund Initiative



As part of the ongoing APAC Cybersecurity Fund initiative, the Foundation for MSME Clusters (FMC), in collaboration with The Asia Foundation (TAF) and supported by Google.org, continued to build momentum in its mission to strengthen digital safety among MSMEs. During March and April, the program expanded its reach by initiating activities in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Karnataka, while reinforcing its efforts in Andhra Pradesh—which led performance this month with 828 MSME representatives successfully completing cybersecurity workshops. These hands-on sessions equipped MSMEs with critical skills such as creating strong passwords, securing online operations, identifying phishing threats, and protecting sensitive business data—laying the groundwork for safer digital transitions. Backed by a \$15 million grant from Google.org, this regional initiative aims to enhance cybersecurity resilience for 300,000 small businesses and social enterprises across 12 Asia-Pacific countries. In India, the program targets up to 70,000 underserved MSMEs to build a robust, secure digital ecosystem and ensure long-term business continuity.



FMC Employees Pledge for Progress on International Women's Day 2025

On March 8, 2025, FMC celebrated International Women's Day by embracing this year's #AccelerateAction theme through personal commitments. Each employee crafted specific pledges to advance gender equality in their professional spheres and communities. These individual promises collectively strengthen our organizational mission to empower women in MSMEs through enhanced opportunities, leadership development, and policy advocacy.

This initiative transforms advocacy into tangible action, reinforcing FMC's role in driving systemic change. By mobilizing our workforce, we amplify the global movement for equal representation and economic participation. Together, we're building an inclusive future where women thrive as entrepreneurs and leaders.

FMC Participates In Save the Earth Conclave 2025, Highlighting Bamboo as a Key to Sustainable Growth



Save the Earth Conclave 2025, a global platform spotlighting sustainable innovations. Organized by Phoenix Foundation Sanstha in collaboration with FMC, ICFA, ISB Hyderabad, and AARDO, the conclave brought together changemakers, policymakers, and industry leaders to accelerate real-world environmental impact. This year, the conclave emphasized bamboo as a game-changing solution for climate action. Celebrated for its rapid growth, carbon sequestration ability, and renewable industrial potential, bamboo emerged as a symbol of green development. FMC's participation highlighted its mission to drive inclusive, climate-smart transformation in the MSME sector. Executive Director Dr. Mukesh Gulati represented FMC, reinforcing its vision of aligning grassroots enterprise with global sustainability goals. The event also featured the prestigious India Sustainability Awards 2025, honouring 15 climate pioneers, and was graced by Hon'ble Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari. With panels bridging policy, innovation, and practice, the conclave echoed a powerful call to scale bamboo-led development for a greener future.



GFA Team Visits FMC to Discuss Next Steps for EU Switch Asia's Green Threads Initiative



FMC recently welcomed their consortium partner for EU Switch Asia project, GLOBAL FASHION AGENDA (GFA) team, including the COO, Lennart Bernhoft to their Delhi office to discuss the implementation of the EU Switch Asia Green Threads project. This ambitious initiative aims to empower 1,000 MSMEs to adopt eco-efficient technologies, helping them reduce their carbon footprint by 20% and cut operational costs. The project is set to benefit approximately 5,000 enterprises, driving sustainable change across the textile industry.

By focusing on upskilling workers, promoting green innovation, and establishing sustainable branding, the collaboration will boost productivity, reduce environmental impact, and open new revenue streams for MSMEs. Supported by the European Commission, Green Threads is designed to make India's textile recycling clusters more environmentally sustainable, economically viable, and socially responsible—a key step toward a greener, more resilient industry.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Cybersecurity Awareness Initiative for MSMEs in Hyderabad**

We're organizing a learnshop in Hyderabad, Telangana, under the TAF program to educate 120 MSMEs on essential cybersecurity practices. This initiative aims to enhance their resilience, promote awareness, and contribute to a safer digital ecosystem, helping MSMEs navigate the complex cybersecurity landscape.

- **Digitalization to Employment: Empowering Women Artisans of India**

FMC, with support from Cisco, aims to enhance the livelihoods of women artisans through a multi-faceted intervention targeting 10,000 artisans over ten months. This initiative represents a proposed scale-up of the successful project "Empowering Artisans Through Digital Technology."

Weaving the Future: Empowering Jharkhand's Artisans with Skills and Enterprise



The Foundation for MSME Clusters (FMC) is revitalizing the handloom heritage of Godda and Sahibganj in Jharkhand through a holistic cluster development approach. Focused on strengthening textile value chains, the initiative empowers artisans with digital literacy, design innovation, and market readiness. In just two months, eight capacity-building workshops have reached over 90 artisans—featuring hands-on sessions in color theory, drawing, and digital skills. By blending traditional artistry with modern tools and entrepreneurial support, FMC is not only preserving cultural identity but also positioning Jharkhand's weavers to thrive in today's evolving markets.

MSME Updates

1. Tamil Nadu unveils Space Industrial Policy 2025, eyes Rs 10,000 crore investment and jobs

- Tamil Nadu unveils bold Space Policy 2025, aiming ₹10,000 crore investment, 10,000 jobs, and vibrant 'Space Bays' to power startups, innovation, and manufacturing.

2. Digital Divide: MSMEs struggle to tap into AI revolution as high costs block access

MSMEs in the country are facing challenges in adopting AI solutions due to financial constraints, including the high costs of infrastructure, tools, and training.

3. Haryana Powers up MSME sectors with rupees 170 crore cluster development plan

Haryana launches a ₹170 Cr MSME Cluster Development Plan to boost 11 industry clusters with shared testing, training, and research facilities, backed by ₹20 Cr subsidy to drive innovation and jobs