



Foundation for MSME Clusters (FMC)

PROJECT UPDATES

MAY - JUNE 2025

From Vision to Impact: Celebrating Two Decades of MSME Transformation

We began a journey with a bold vision—to empower MSME clusters and fuel their potential as the backbone of our economy. Where we celebrated our 20th Foundation Day on 9th June, we reflect on a remarkable legacy of impact, innovation, and inclusive growth. Through these years, we've witnessed MSMEs evolve into competitive enterprises, artisans become entrepreneurs, and local clusters transform into thriving economic hubs. Our initiatives in skill development, technology adoption, market access, and financial inclusion have touched countless lives, created sustainable livelihoods, and strengthened communities. This milestone is not just ours—it belongs to every MSME owner who dared to dream bigger, every artisan who perfected their craft, and every entrepreneur who turned challenges into opportunities.



FMC Marks Its 20th Foundation Day with Team Celebrations in New Delhi

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



India's MSME ecosystem stands at the crossroads of transformation, where sustainability, inclusivity, and innovation converge to redefine growth. The recent visit by the European Parliament Delegation to Panipat reflects growing international recognition of India's leadership in textile recycling and circular production. It is a proud moment to see our MSME clusters becoming models of green transition, generating livelihoods while addressing global environmental challenges. FMC's initiatives from Green Threads to Net Positive Panchayats and Aarthik Aarogyam Kendras demonstrate how local action can drive systemic change. By connecting micro enterprises, artisans, and panchayats to cleaner technologies, digital tools, and sustainable markets, we are building resilience from the ground up. As we deepen collaborations with partners like the EU, GIZ, SBI Foundation, and WWF India, our collective vision remains clear to make Indian MSMEs globally competitive, environmentally responsible, and socially inclusive. The journey toward a truly circular and climate-resilient economy has begun.

- Mukesh Gulati

Crossing Borders, Igniting Innovation: FMC Leads India-Nepal MSME Collaboration



The Foundation for MSME Clusters (FMC) proudly hosted a high-impact delegation from the Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) under their three-year action research project, Promoting Innovation and Inclusion in Growth Potential Enterprises. This initiative has equipped 25 Nepalese entrepreneurs with exposure to cluster-based growth, technology adoption, and targeted capacity-building. As a core implementation partner, FMC led a dynamic nine-location learning tour across India—sparking dialogue, exchange, and real-time insights. By connecting ecosystems and showcasing tested practices, we are not only advancing inclusive entrepreneurship in Nepal but also deepening regional MSME collaboration and innovation.

Building Cyber Resilience: Empowering 7,000+ MSMEs Across India



In a rapidly digitizing world, cyber safety is no longer optional—it's essential. Through the APAC Cyber Security Fund initiative, the Foundation for MSME Clusters (FMC), in partnership with The Asia Foundation and support from Google.org, is leading the charge to protect small businesses. Together, we've empowered over 7,000 MSMEs, 20 BMOs across 10 states with vital skills and tools to guard against online threats. Also two state level learnshops were conducted in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. This initiative reflects our strong belief that digital growth must go hand-in-hand with digital safety. We're not just raising awareness—we're building a cyber-smart MSME ecosystem that's ready to thrive with confidence in today's connected economy.

Rooting Change: Bamboo Brings New Life to Meghalaya's Degraded Lands



In Meghalaya, the Foundation for MSME Clusters, with UNDP-TERI support, is revitalizing 100 hectares of degraded land through bamboo agroforestry. This green initiative will capture 3,200 tons of CO₂ annually while boosting rural livelihoods. Already more than 13,000 saplings have transformed 37 hectares across five villages—Umtngam, Mawrathud, Tyrso Pdeng, Tyrso Lumdiengjri, and Tyrso Nongkhyllep. Powered by 136 local community members, the project combines ecological restoration with economic empowerment, creating a sustainable model for climate resilience.

Threading Tradition with Technology: Digital Skills Empower 10,000 Women Artisans



With support from Cisco's CSR initiative, the Foundation for MSME Clusters (FMC) is on a transformative mission to digitally empower 10,000 women artisans across India. Building on the momentum of the "Empowering Artisans Through Digital Technology" project, over 1,000 women artisans in West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, and Assam are currently being trained in critical skills such as drawing and color theory. Ten e-learning centers have been established in key artisan clusters, offering access to digital content in local languages. By blending traditional craftsmanship with digital tools, the initiative is unlocking new income avenues and market opportunities while preserving India's rich artisanal heritage—proving that when tradition meets innovation, entire communities rise.

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



The Foundation for MSME Clusters (FMC), in collaboration with the Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society, is revitalizing the handloom heritage of Godda and Sahibganj in Jharkhand through a holistic cluster development approach. By strengthening textile value chains, the initiative empowers artisans with digital literacy, design innovation, and market readiness. As part of this effort, a producer enterprise named Thakurganti Mandro Sakhi Silk Handloom Weavers Pvt. Ltd. has been established. In just two months, eight capacity-building workshops have trained over 180 artisans, featuring hands-on sessions in color theory, drawing, and digital skills. By blending traditional craftsmanship with modern tools and entrepreneurial support, FMC is not only preserving Jharkhand's cultural identity but also equipping its weavers to succeed in today's evolving markets.

FMC and YES Foundation Drive Sustainable Transformation for 100 MSMEs Across North India



With the support of YES Foundation, the Foundation for MSME Clusters (FMC) has initiated a program to enhance the sustainability and competitiveness of MSME clusters across five states - Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, and Delhi. Targeting 100 enterprises, the initiative focuses on energy conservation, adoption of advanced technologies, and reduction of carbon footprints through comprehensive interventions. During May and June, FMC conducted 18 specialized workshops encompassing energy audits, sensitization workshop, and safety and first aid training, equipping MSMEs with essential tools for eco-friendly and socially responsible operations.

POLICY UPDATE

Schemes to bolster the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector

- **Boosting MSMEs Credit:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced doubling credit guarantee for MSMEs to ₹10 crore in Budget 2025, unlocking ₹1.5 lakh crore credit in five years, prioritizing technology upgrades and capital access.
- **Sustainability Push for MSMEs:** MSMEs gain special assistance for renewable energy, efficient machinery, and waste reduction under India's net-zero push. SIDBI expands to 25 clusters, offering incentives for carbon cuts, digital passports, and circular economy adoption.
- **Digital Commerce & Payment Support:** The government, aligning with India's net-zero goals, expands SIDBI's Cluster Development Program to 25 clusters, supporting MSMEs with incentives for renewable energy, efficiency, waste reduction, carbon cuts, digital product passports, and circular economy.

ABOUT US

The Foundation for MSME Clusters (FMC) is a non-government, not-for-profit trust dedicated to promoting and developing Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through clusters and value chains. FMC provides cutting-edge policy and research support, comprehensive training, and capacity-building programs. It leads initiatives to generate employment, alleviate poverty, and promote a green economy. FMC supports cluster-specific infrastructure, market linkages, and management support, fostering MSME growth and development. With 35 scholarly publications, FMC is a leading authority on MSME cluster development.

GET INVOLVED



Volunteer

Opportunities:

Contribute your expertise to our ongoing projects and make a tangible impact on MSME development.



Corporate

Partnerships:

Collaborate with us to foster the growth and development of MSMEs across India. Your support can make a significant difference.

CONTACT US

