

SUPER 16

THE CHAMPIONS OF RESPONSIBLE BUSINESSES

Where Sustainability Meets Leadership

- ✓ 16 Transformative Case Stories
- ✓ MSMEs Driving Climate Responsibility
- ✓ Redefining Business Leadership in India



9th Responsible BMO Awards
Edition IX | February 2026



Foreword



It gives me immense pride and optimism to present **SUPER 16 – Case Stories of Champions and Changemakers**, brought to you as part of the 9th Responsible BMO Awards by the Foundation for MSME Clusters (FMC).

Over the years, the Responsible BMO Awards have grown into a national platform that recognizes Business Membership Organizations which go beyond representation and become drivers of transformation. This 9th edition reaffirms a powerful truth: when institutions choose responsibility, entire ecosystems evolve. Their journeys reflect innovation, collaboration, sustainability, and inclusive growth, showing that business success and social responsibility can move forward together.

From strengthening MSME ecosystems and empowering artisans to advancing environmental stewardship and community resilience, these organizations exemplify leadership that goes beyond business to create lasting impact.

At FMC, we believe responsible BMOs play a crucial role in building a future-ready MSME sector. We hope these stories inspire many more institutions to adopt responsible practices and contribute to a more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient economy.

Mukesh Gulati
Executive Director
Foundation for MSME Clusters (FMC)
February 2026

Table of Content

03

Champions of Responsible Enterprises

04

Emerging Leaders in Responsible Business Practices

05

Backdrop

06

FMC's Responsible Business Membership Organisation (BMO) Awards

07

Overview of Applications and Multi-Stage Evaluation

08

Technical Assistance from WWF India

09

About FMC

Champions of Responsible Enterprises

01

Level: Cluster/District | Category: Social

Crafting a Greener Legacy: Tradition, Skill, and Sustainability Hand in Hand

Santiniketan Artistic Leather Goods Manufacturers Welfare Association

State: West Bengal

Woven with Hope: Where Tradition Becomes a Path to Independence

Eri Weave Pvt. Ltd. | **State:** Meghalaya

When Women Rise Together, Fields Turn into Fields of Hope

Koderma Sadar Women Farmer Producer Company Ltd. | **State:** Jharkhand

02

Level: Cluster/District | Category: Environment

From Bamboo to Brighter Futures: Crafting Dignity Through Green Enterprise

Basuba Brooms Producer Company Limited | **State:** Meghalaya

From Waste to Worth: How Rural Hands Turned Banana Stems into New Beginnings

Tarasankar Panchagram Producer Company Limited | **State:** West Bengal

Seeds of Strength: Tribal Women Cultivating Hope and Leadership

Jagruk Mahila Farmer Producer Company Ltd. | **State:** Jharkhand

From Scraps to Stories: Where Skill, Sustainability, and Hope Come Together

Kolkata Institute of Technical Education | **State:** West Bengal

03

Level: Country | Category: Environment

Industry with a Heart: Where Progress Walks Hand in Hand with the Planet

Haryana Environmental Management Society | **State:** Haryana

Crafting a Greener Legacy: Tradition, Skill, and Sustainability Hand in Hand

“We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.” – Albert Einstein



Santiniketan Artistic Leather Goods Manufacturers Welfare Association

President: Buddhadeb Sengupta

Background

Established in 2005 in the cultural heartland of Santiniketan, the Santiniketan Artistic Leather Goods Manufacturers Welfare Association brings together a vibrant network of over 70 MSMEs devoted to the art of leather craftsmanship. Rooted in tradition yet forward-looking in vision, the association works to strengthen artisan skills, support enterprise growth, and nurture a culture of innovation. Through collaborations with state and central government bodies, it has opened pathways for learning, improvement, and long-term sustainability within the artisan community.



Key Challenges

Artisans often faced the dual challenge of preserving traditional craftsmanship while adapting to changing market preferences and environmental concerns. Limited exposure to modern techniques and sustainable materials made it harder for enterprises to stay competitive. At the same time, there was a growing need to reduce environmental impact and adopt greener production methods without losing the authenticity of handcrafted designs.



Turning Point

The transformation began when members recognized that sustainability and tradition could move forward together. Instead of viewing environmental responsibility as a limitation, the association embraced it as an opportunity for creative innovation. This shared vision encouraged artisans to experiment with eco-friendly materials alongside leather, blending heritage with conscious design.

Intervention & Support

The association facilitated skill development programs in partnership with government institutions, enhancing artisan capabilities and improving product quality. Members began integrating sustainable materials such as cotton, jute, and bamboo fibre into their creations, promoting environmentally friendly production practices. Knowledge-sharing platforms and collective efforts strengthened collaboration, design innovation, and market readiness across enterprises.

Impact Achieved

Artisans gained stronger skills, greater confidence, and improved opportunities for sustainable income. Products that combined leather with natural fibres attracted wider appreciation, opening doors to environmentally conscious markets. The initiative not only reduced environmental impact but also reinforced pride in traditional craftsmanship. Enterprises grew more resilient, while livelihoods became more secure and future-ready.



Way Forward

Today, the association continues to expand its network, deepen sustainable practices, and encourage innovation rooted in tradition. By uniting craftsmanship with environmental care, it is shaping a future where heritage thrives alongside responsible production — ensuring that artistry and sustainability grow together for generations to come.



Woven with Hope: Where Tradition Becomes a Path to Independence

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”
– Eleanor Roosevelt



Eri Weave Pvt. Ltd.

President: Iaishah Rymbai

Background

In the lush landscapes of Ri Bhoi district, Meghalaya, Eri Weave Pvt. Ltd. began its journey in 2022 with a heartfelt mission — to turn the timeless art of handloom weaving into a source of dignity, pride, and sustainable livelihood for rural women. Rooted in indigenous traditions, the enterprise connects age-old spinning and weaving practices with modern market opportunities, ensuring that culture is not only preserved, but also celebrated and rewarded.



Key Challenges

For generations, women carried remarkable weaving skills in their hands, yet their earnings remained uncertain. Without structured training or organized production systems, their work often went undervalued. Dependence on intermediaries reduced their share of profits, while limited financial literacy and digital awareness made it difficult to manage income, access banking services, or reach customers beyond their villages. Their talent was rich — but opportunity was scarce.



Turning Point

The shift came with an important realization: skill alone could not guarantee security. To truly thrive, women artisans needed both stronger technical expertise and the power to connect directly with markets. This insight shaped Eri Weave's holistic approach — one that blended craft training with financial knowledge and digital confidence.

Intervention & Support

The institute provided training, raw material access, and business guidance to tailoring units and artisan groups alike. Tailors continued producing garments, while leftover fabric pieces were passed on to artisans who turned them into handcrafted jewellery and decorative items. The institute strengthened supply chain coordination and opened doors to wider markets, ensuring these unique products reached appreciative customers. Skill-building programs also enhanced design, quality, and enterprise management.

Impact Achieved

What was once discarded now carries value and pride. The circular model reduced fabric waste while creating fresh income streams for artisans. Micro-enterprises became stronger and more resilient, and collaboration sparked innovation across sectors. Beyond economic gains, the initiative restored confidence — proving that creativity and cooperation can turn even the smallest scraps into symbols of possibility.



Way Forward

Today, Eri Weave Pvt. Ltd. continues to build the skills, confidence, and market reach of rural women artisans. By blending innovation with tradition, the enterprise ensures that these women remain at the heart of a growing, sustainable craft economy — weaving not just textiles, but brighter futures for themselves and their communities.



When Women Rise Together, Fields Turn into Fields of Hope

“There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish.”

– Michelle Obama



Koderma Sadar Women Farmer Producer Company Ltd.

BOD & Director: Seema Devi

Background

Since 2016, an inspiring movement has been quietly growing in Bardhaman — one that ties together helping hands and skilled hands under a shared dream of dignity and sustainability. This initiative stands beside families during their hardest moments while also nurturing the timeless artistry of Sehrabazar, where generations of artisans have carried forward delicate needle and thread traditions from the warmth of their homes. Here, service and craftsmanship are not separate paths, but part of the same story of community strength.



Key Challenges

Before coming together, women farmers worked long hours in the fields but had limited decision-making power and little control over earnings. Many depended on middlemen to sell their produce, often receiving low and unfair prices. Access to training, quality inputs, and financial services was limited, restricting productivity and growth. Social norms also kept many women in the background, preventing them from participating in financial or community decisions.

Turning Point

The turning point came during small village meetings where women openly shared their struggles and aspirations. These discussions helped them recognize that collective strength could reduce dependency on middlemen and open doors to better opportunities. This realization led to the formation of the Women Farmer Producer Company, creating a formal platform for learning, cooperation, and collective marketing.



Intervention & Support

The producer company introduced improved farming practices, shared resources, and access to training programs. Members began aggregating produce and connecting directly with markets, ensuring better price realization. The platform also encouraged peer learning, financial literacy, and leadership development, helping women take active roles in planning and decision-making.

Impact Achieved

Productivity and incomes improved as women accessed better market opportunities and reduced exploitation. Women who once remained unheard now lead meetings and make financial decisions. Families benefit from more stable incomes, children's education continues uninterrupted, and household confidence has grown significantly.



Way Forward

Today, the company continues to strengthen its network, expand market linkages, and nurture women's leadership, building a more resilient and self-reliant rural community.



From Bamboo to Brighter Futures: Crafting Dignity Through Green Enterprise

“Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.”
– Theodore Roosevelt



Basuba Brooms Producer Company Limited

Chairman: Robert Jones Ronghang

Background

In the green landscapes of Ri Bhoi district, Basuba Brooms Producer Company Limited is transforming a simple forest resource into a source of pride and possibility. Rooted in the traditional skills of rural artisans, the company connects bamboo craftsmanship with organized enterprise development. By turning locally available natural materials into eco-friendly products, it supports livelihoods while nurturing a deep respect for nature and sustainable living.



Key Challenges

For many artisans, bamboo work was a skill passed down through generations — yet incomes remained uncertain. Limited access to structured training, modern techniques, and reliable markets made it difficult to improve product quality or earn fair returns. Small producers often worked in isolation, without the business guidance or confidence needed to grow their enterprises sustainably.



Turning Point

Hope took shape when artisans realized that improving their craft and working together could open new doors. The formation of the producer company created a shared platform for learning, collaboration, and collective growth. What once felt like scattered individual efforts became a united journey toward better quality, stronger markets, and more secure livelihoods.

Intervention & Support

Basuba Brooms introduced structured training programs that strengthened technical skills in crafting and finishing bamboo brooms. Under the guidance of experienced master trainers, artisans adopted improved production methods and higher quality standards. The company also organized workshops for MSMEs on entrepreneurship and skill development, helping producers build confidence and manage their enterprises more effectively. These efforts nurtured an organized, community-based production system grounded in sustainability.

Impact Achieved

The change is visible in both products and people. Artisans now produce higher-quality brooms that earn better market recognition and improved incomes. Local employment has grown, and small producers have gained the confidence to see themselves as entrepreneurs, not just workers. The initiative has strengthened eco-friendly production while restoring pride in traditional bamboo craftsmanship.



Way Forward

Today, Basuba Brooms Producer Company Limited continues to expand its training programs and enterprise support, working toward stronger market connections and long-term sustainability. With every broom crafted, the community moves closer to a future where livelihoods flourish in harmony with nature — proving that even the simplest resource can spark meaningful change.



From Waste to Worth: How Rural Hands Turned Banana Stems into New Beginnings

“The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it.” – Robert Swan



Tarasankar Panchagram Producer Company Limited

President: Shyamal Sarkar

Background

In the heart of Birbhum district, Tarasankar Panchagram Producer Company Limited began its journey in 2014 with a simple yet powerful belief — that rural communities hold the key to sustainable change. Working closely with farmers and artisans, the Producer Company nurtured a vision where nothing from the land would go to waste. By blending traditional wisdom with innovative thinking, it built a bridge between agriculture and craftsmanship, creating livelihoods rooted in environmental care and collective growth.



Key Challenges

For years, farmers toiled hard but earned little. After every banana harvest, heaps of stems were left behind — treated as useless residue, slowly rotting away. What was once a symbol of hard work became a reminder of lost opportunity. At the same time, local artisans struggled silently. They had the skill, the creativity, and the will — but lacked steady access to raw materials, reliable markets, and structured business support. Their potential remained untapped, their incomes uncertain.



Turning Point

Everything changed when the organization looked at banana stems not as waste, but as hidden treasure. What others discarded, they saw as possibility. This shift in perspective sparked a powerful value-addition model that brought farmers and artisans together in a shared economic journey — one where sustainability and livelihoods grew side by side.

Intervention & Support

Communities were trained to extract natural fiber from banana stems and transform it into beautiful, eco-friendly handicrafts and home décor products. The Producer Company supported artisans with design inputs, production guidance, and access to wider markets. Farmers and micro-enterprises were organized into a collective network that now connects over 1,500 MSMEs, creating a strong ecosystem of shared learning, collaboration, and mutual support.

Impact Achieved

What was once agricultural waste now brings dignity and income. Farmers earn more from what they once threw away. Artisans have found steady work, improved earnings, and renewed confidence in their skills. Families that once faced uncertainty now see stability and hope. At the same time, the land breathes easier, as waste reduces and eco-friendly production becomes the norm. The initiative proves that sustainability is not just about the environment — it is about people, pride, and possibility.



Way Forward

Today, Tarasankar Panchagram Producer Company Limited continues to grow its network and deepen its commitment to green livelihoods. Birbhum is steadily emerging as a hub of sustainable rural enterprise, where circular economy practices are not just a concept, but a lived reality — shaped by resilient communities turning challenges into change.



Seeds of Strength: Tribal Women Cultivating Hope and Leadership

“The power of the people is stronger than the people in power.”
– Wael Ghonim



Jagruk Mahila Farmer Producer Company Ltd.

President: Kiyaful Soren

Background

In the heart of Dumka, Jharkhand, a quiet transformation began in 2016 when tribal women farmers chose unity over uncertainty. Jagruk Mahila Farmer Producer Company Ltd. was born from their determination to protect their land, preserve their traditions, and secure better futures for their families. Rooted in age-old agricultural wisdom, these women came together to improve productivity, adopt environmentally friendly practices, and build collective strength that would carry them forward with dignity.



Key Challenges

Life in the fields was never easy. Harvests were shrinking, farming costs were rising, and incomes remained uncertain. Working alone, women had little bargaining power and struggled to access quality seeds, tools, or training. Seasonal earnings meant months of financial stress, and changing environmental conditions made cultivation even more difficult. Despite their resilience, stability felt out of reach.

Turning Point

Change began in village meetings where women spoke openly about their hardships and dreams. In those heartfelt conversations, a powerful idea took root — what if they farmed and sold their produce together? That shared vision led to the formation of their own Women Farmer Producer Company, creating a formal space for cooperation, learning, and collective growth.



Intervention & Support

Through the producer company, women gained training in improved and sustainable farming practices that protected both soil and tradition. They accessed better seeds, shared agricultural tools, and knowledge on soil health and eco-friendly cultivation. By aggregating their produce and marketing collectively, they secured fairer prices and connected with reliable buyers. Regular group meetings strengthened peer learning, confidence, and leadership among members.

Impact Achieved

The results have been life-changing. Farm productivity has improved, and incomes are now more stable throughout the year. Women who once depended solely on seasonal earnings now contribute steadily to their families' well-being. Collective action has strengthened community bonds and nurtured new leaders at the grassroots level. Along the way, members have developed deep pride in caring for their land, preserving traditional knowledge, and shaping more secure livelihoods.



Way Forward

Today, Jagruk Mahila Farmer Producer Company Ltd. is stepping into its next chapter — focusing on value addition, improved storage, and better post-harvest practices while exploring new market opportunities. As more women join the collective, leadership continues to grow from within the community. By blending sustainable agriculture with collective enterprise, these tribal women are proving that they are not only cultivators of the land, but also cultivators of change, resilience, and rural economic strength.



From Scraps to Stories: Where Skill, Sustainability, and Hope Come Together

“There is no such thing as waste, only things in the wrong place.”
– William McDonough



Kolkata Institute of Technical Education

President: Kakali Dutta

Background

Since 1995, the Kolkata Institute of Technical Education in Kalyani has quietly transformed lives by standing beside micro and small enterprises with both technical knowledge and human understanding. With a growing network of over 100 MSMEs, the institute goes beyond training — it walks hand in hand with entrepreneurs, helping them access raw materials, connect to markets, and build stronger supply chains. At its heart lies a belief that skill, when nurtured with opportunity, can create dignified and sustainable livelihoods.



Key Challenges

Many small enterprises — especially tailors and craft artisans — worked hard but struggled to move forward. Access to quality raw materials was unreliable, markets felt distant, and supply chains were weak. Meanwhile, heaps of fabric scraps from garment production went unused, quietly piling up as waste. For artisans with creative talent, the lack of affordable inputs and steady demand made it difficult to sustain their craft and income.



Turning Point

The shift began with a simple yet powerful realization: what if one sector's waste could become another's opportunity? The institute saw the hidden connection between garment makers and craft artisans. Instead of letting fabric scraps go to waste, they envisioned transforming them into beautiful, value-added products. This idea gave birth to a circular model where sustainability and livelihoods could grow together.

Intervention & Support

The institute provided training, raw material access, and business guidance to tailoring units and artisan groups alike. Tailors continued producing garments, while leftover fabric pieces were passed on to artisans who turned them into handcrafted jewellery and decorative items. The institute strengthened supply chain coordination and opened doors to wider markets, ensuring these unique products reached appreciative customers. Skill-building programs also enhanced design, quality, and enterprise management.

Impact Achieved

What was once discarded now carries value and pride. The circular model reduced fabric waste while creating fresh income streams for artisans. Micro-enterprises became stronger and more resilient, and collaboration sparked innovation across sectors. Beyond economic gains, the initiative restored confidence — proving that creativity and cooperation can turn even the smallest scraps into symbols of possibility.



Way Forward

Today, the institute continues to grow its MSME network, refine its waste-to-craft approach, and explore new sustainable enterprise partnerships. With every connection it builds, the Kolkata Institute of Technical Education shows that when skills meet opportunity and sustainability meets compassion, livelihoods flourish and waste finds a second life.



Industry with a Heart: Where Progress Walks Hand in Hand with the Planet

"We won't have a society if we destroy the environment."
– Margaret Mead



Haryana Environmental Management Society

President: Bhisham Singh

Background

Founded in 2004, the Haryana Environmental Management Society (HEMS) stands as a powerful reminder that industry and nature do not have to stand on opposite sides. Representing nearly 4,550 industrial units across Haryana, HEMS brings businesses together under a shared commitment to responsible growth and environmental care. It works not only to strengthen industries, but also to nurture a culture where ecological awareness and community well-being are seen as essential parts of progress.



Key Challenges

As industries expanded, so did environmental pressures. Waste management, pollution control, and the adoption of sustainable practices became urgent concerns. Many industrial units needed guidance to understand environmental regulations and implement responsible systems. Beyond factory gates, awareness about environmental protection and preventive healthcare remained limited among local communities and youth, creating a gap between development and well-being.



Turning Point

HEMS recognized that real environmental responsibility could not remain confined within industrial boundaries. Lasting change required industries and communities to move forward together. This understanding transformed HEMS into a collective platform that not only supports businesses but also reaches out to society, building awareness and participation at every level.

Intervention & Support

The society guides industries in improving waste management systems and adopting sustainable operational practices that align with environmental norms. Membership initiatives continue to bring more industrial units into this shared mission. At the community level, HEMS organizes health check-up camps and blood donation drives, promoting preventive care and social responsibility. Through school speech competitions and awareness programs, it inspires young minds to value sustainability and environmental protection from an early age.

Impact Achieved

Industries within the HEMS network are now better equipped to understand and implement environmentally responsible practices. Communities benefit from improved awareness of health and social responsibility. Young people are growing up with a stronger sense of environmental consciousness, helping create a culture where sustainability becomes a shared value — not just a policy requirement.



Way Forward

Today, HEMS continues to widen its reach among industries and communities, strengthening partnerships and expanding awareness initiatives. With every new member and every young voice inspired, the society moves closer to a future where economic growth, environmental stewardship, and social well-being flourish together.



Emerging Leaders in Responsible Business Practices

01

Level: Cluster/District | Category: Social

When small voices unite, they don't just grow businesses — they build stronger communities

Confederation of Purba & Paschim Medinipur District Chamber of Commerce & Industry
State: West Bengal

02

Level: Cluster/District | Category: Environment

Threads of Hope: Weaving Compassion and Craft into a Stronger Future

Sehrabazar Zari & Zardoushi Product Manufacturing Cluster Co-operative Society Ltd.
State: West Bengal

When the Soil Heals, So Do Lives: Women Cultivating a Greener Tomorrow

Jarmundi Utkrsh Krishi Bagwani Swawlambi Sahkari Samiti Ltd. | State: Jharkhand

Stronger Together: Empowering Dreams, One Enterprise at a Time

Udyog Bandhu Welfare Association | State: Uttar Pradesh

Growing Together: Farmers Turning Unity into Prosperity

Bisaha Krishak Vikas Swawlambi Sahkari Samiti Limited | State: Jharkhand

03

Level: Country | Category: Social

Where Compassion Meets Action: Building Stronger Communities Together

M/S A Foundation Trust | State: Haryana

Empowering Industry with Care: Small Enterprises, Big Responsibility

Laghu Udyog Bharti (Mahila Ikai) | State: Punjab

04

Level: Country | Category: Environment

Together for a Better Tomorrow: Industries Caring Beyond the Factory Gates

Howrah Industrial Estate Industries Welfare Association | State: West Bengal

When small voices unite, they don't just grow businesses — they build stronger communities

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” – Helen Keller



Confederation of Purba & Paschim Medinipur District Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Secretary: Chandan Roy

Background

Established in 2015, the Confederation of Purba & Paschim Medinipur District Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI) represents businesses across Purba Medinipur, Paschim Medinipur, and Jhargram districts. In these regions, small business owners have long worked hard to sustain their livelihoods. Local traders, artisans, and manufacturers faced persistent challenges such as poor connectivity, limited market access, weak supply chains, and the absence of a strong collective voice, which often restricted their growth potential.



Key Challenges

Most enterprises operated in isolation, limiting their ability to expand or influence market conditions. Women entrepreneurs faced even greater barriers due to social norms and mobility restrictions. Many ran home-based enterprises with limited exposure to larger markets, resulting in fewer opportunities for growth, visibility, and financial stability.



Turning Point

The turning point came when a few local entrepreneurs began discussing their shared struggles. They realised that individual efforts were often insufficient to bring change, but a collective platform could amplify their voices, improve market access, and influence policies. This understanding led to the creation of DCCI as a responsible and inclusive business initiative designed to support local enterprises, particularly women-led businesses.

Intervention & Support

The turning point came when a few local entrepreneurs began discussing their shared struggles. They realised that individual efforts were often insufficient to bring change, but a collective platform could amplify their voices, improve market access, and influence policies. This understanding led to the creation of DCCI as a responsible and inclusive business initiative designed to support local enterprises, particularly women-led businesses.

Impact Achieved

DCCI fostered a collaborative environment where entrepreneurs could connect, learn, and grow together. Through regular meetings, knowledge-sharing sessions, and exposure visits, members gained better awareness of government schemes, compliance requirements, and improved production practices. The chamber also helped businesses build market linkages beyond district boundaries. Over time, women entrepreneurs gained greater visibility and confidence, while other local businesses strengthened networks and expanded their operations.



Way Forward

Today, DCCI stands as a unified platform where local business owners and women entrepreneurs grow together. By transforming shared challenges into collective action, it continues to support regional economic progress and strengthen opportunities for inclusive business development.



Threads of Hope: Weaving Compassion and Craft into a Stronger Future

“We rise by lifting others.” – Robert Ingersoll



Sehrabazar Zari & Zardoushi Product Manufacturing Cluster Co-operative Society Ltd.

President: Ram Prasad Paramanik

Background

Since 2016, an inspiring movement has been quietly growing in Bardhaman — one that ties together helping hands and skilled hands under a shared dream of dignity and sustainability. This initiative stands beside families during their hardest moments while also nurturing the timeless artistry of Sehrabazar, where generations of artisans have carried forward delicate needle and thread traditions from the warmth of their homes. Here, service and craftsmanship are not separate paths, but part of the same story of community strength.



Key Challenges

When crises struck, many families were left to rebuild their lives without timely support, medical care, or rehabilitation. At the same time, Sehrabazar's artisans — guardians of a beautiful heritage craft — watched their orders decline as markets leaned toward modern designs. Their artistry remained rich, but opportunities grew scarce. Working alone from their homes, many women artisans received little recognition and had limited power to negotiate fair prices, even though their skills were extraordinary.

Turning Point

Change began with awareness and empathy. Community leaders understood that families in distress needed structured and compassionate support. Meanwhile, master artisans and local entrepreneurs realized that tradition must evolve to survive. These shared realizations sparked collective action — forming support systems for vulnerable families and creating a cooperative platform for artisans to strengthen skills, improve quality, and reach new markets without losing the soul of their craft.



Intervention & Support

Families received emergency relief, medical care, and rehabilitation assistance, helping them rebuild their lives with renewed dignity. Alongside this, the artisan cooperative opened doors to design training, shared learning, and quality improvement. Women artisans could continue working from home while accessing better markets and fairer opportunities. Community awareness programs also encouraged environmental care and kindness toward animals, reinforcing the belief that true development includes compassion for all living beings.

Impact Achieved

Hope returned where uncertainty once lingered. Families regained stability and confidence through timely support. Artisans began earning more consistent incomes and gained recognition beyond their local markets. Younger generations learned to blend traditional stitches with contemporary styles, keeping heritage alive while embracing the future. Women found not just livelihoods, but pride, voice, and collective strength. The community discovered a shared identity rooted in service, culture, and sustainable progress.



Way Forward

Today, the initiative continues to grow as a beacon of resilience and unity. By strengthening families, preserving cultural heritage, and promoting compassionate, sustainable development, it proves that when communities come together, every thread — of care, craft, and courage — can help weave a brighter tomorrow



When the Soil Heals, So Do Lives: Women Cultivating a Greener Tomorrow

“The ultimate goal of farming is not the growing of crops, but the cultivation and perfection of human beings.” – Masanobu Fukuoka



**Jarmundi Utkrsh Krishi
Bagwani Swawlambi
Sahkari Samiti Ltd.**

President: Md. Sanaullah

Background

In 2022, in the villages of Dumka district, a group of tribal women chose to return to the wisdom of their roots. Jarmundi Utkrsh Krishi Bagwani Swawlambi Sahkari Samiti Ltd. was formed from their shared dream of farming in a way that protects the land while securing their families' futures. Guided by traditional knowledge and strengthened through collective action, the cooperative became a space where women could nurture not just crops, but confidence, self-reliance, and care for the environment.



Key Challenges

The land that once fed families abundantly began to show signs of stress. Soil fertility declined, harvests grew uncertain, and the rising cost of chemical inputs added financial strain. Many households depended on a single crop, leaving them vulnerable to changing weather and unpredictable markets. Despite working tirelessly in the fields, women had limited access to training or a voice in decisions that shaped their livelihoods.



Turning Point

Hope began with conversation. Elders spoke of the days when farming was guided by natural methods, and younger women shared their desire for more stable incomes. Together, they wondered if returning to organic, soil-friendly practices could revive both the land and their livelihoods. That shared vision gave birth to their cooperative — a blend of ancestral wisdom and modern learning.

Intervention & Support

Through the cooperative, women learned organic paddy cultivation, compost preparation, and sustainable livestock care. Mixed farming systems combined crops with dairy and poultry, creating multiple sources of income. By reducing dependence on costly chemicals and promoting recycling of farm resources, families lowered expenses and restored soil health. Regular group meetings strengthened women's leadership, ensuring they played active roles in planning and decision-making.

Impact Achieved

The earth began to breathe again. Soil grew healthier, harvests became more reliable, and farming turned more cost-effective and eco-friendlier. Milk, eggs, and surplus produce added steady income streams, bringing financial stability to homes. Women gained skills, confidence, and stronger voices in managing farms and family finances. The entire community benefited from greener fields, reduced waste, and a renewed sense of hope rooted in harmony with nature.



Way Forward

Today, the cooperative is stepping forward with plans for organic certification, stronger local market connections, and wider adoption of integrated natural farming. With each season, these women continue to prove that caring for the soil also nurtures resilient families and a sustainable future for generations to come.



Stronger Together: Empowering Dreams, One Enterprise at a Time

“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.” – Henry Ford



Udyog Bandhu Welfare Association

President: Sushil Gupta

Background

Udyog Bandhu Welfare Association was created from a powerful belief — those small enterprises, when united, can achieve extraordinary growth. As a collaborative platform for MSMEs, the association stands beside entrepreneurs who form the backbone of local economies. By connecting businesses with institutions and government systems, it ensures that small business owners are not alone in their journey. Instead, they become part of a supportive ecosystem built on cooperation, shared learning, and long-term sustainability.



Key Challenges

Many MSMEs begin with passion and hard work but struggle to find the guidance and resources they need to grow. Access to timely information, technical skills, and financial advice often feels out of reach. Navigating government schemes can be confusing, and limited exposure to reliable markets restricts expansion. Without strong peer networks, entrepreneurs frequently face challenges in isolation, making innovation and growth even harder.

Turning Point

The change began with a simple realization: MSMEs needed a community, not just occasional support. Udyog Bandhu Welfare Association emerged as a collective platform where entrepreneurs could learn together, share experiences, and build connections with institutions. This spirit of collaboration helped bridge information gaps and create a more supportive and responsive business environment.



Intervention & Support

The association organizes capacity-building workshops, skill development programs, and personalized business advisory services designed around MSME needs. It actively helps entrepreneurs understand and access government schemes, financial services, and new market opportunities. Through networking events, policy dialogues, and knowledge-sharing forums, members gain practical insights and the confidence to adopt better management practices and more sustainable production methods.



Impact Achieved

Enterprises connected with the association have grown stronger and more confident. Improved business knowledge and operational efficiency have enhanced their readiness for markets. Collaboration among members has sparked innovation and opened new avenues for growth. With greater awareness of policies and support systems, MSMEs are now better equipped to navigate challenges and build resilient futures.

Way Forward

Today, Udyog Bandhu Welfare Association continues to expand its partnerships and outreach, strengthening its role as a connector, guide, and advocate for MSMEs. By fostering unity, knowledge, and opportunity, it is helping small enterprises not just survive, but thrive — contributing to inclusive and sustainable local economic development



Growing Together: Farmers Turning Unity into Prosperity

“The farmer has to be an optimist or he wouldn’t still be a farmer.”
– Will Rogers



**Bisaha Krishak Vikas
Swawlambi Sahkari Samiti
Limited**

President: Rajesh Kumar

Background

Formed in 2021, Bisaha Krishak Vikas Swawlambi Sahkari Samiti Limited emerged from the shared hopes of farmers who believed that their future could be stronger if they walked the journey together. As a Farmer Producer Organization, the cooperative works to improve rural livelihoods through collective and sustainable agricultural practices. By encouraging women’s participation and promoting livestock development, tree plantation, and water conservation, it nurtures a vision where farming supports both people and the planet.



Key Challenges

Before coming together, many farmers struggled under the weight of high input costs and unreliable access to quality seeds and fertilizers. Dependence on middlemen for buying and selling reduced their profits, while limited market information weakened their bargaining power. At the same time, declining soil health and water scarcity cast a shadow over long-term agricultural sustainability. Women, despite being deeply involved in farm work, often had fewer opportunities to take part in decisions or income-generating activities.



Turning Point

Hope took root when farmers recognized that their challenges were shared — and so could be their solutions. By forming the cooperative, they built a platform for collective strength. Together, they could reduce costs, access better resources, and stand stronger in the marketplace, while also caring for the land that sustains them.

Intervention & Support

The FPO provides quality agricultural inputs at affordable prices, easing financial pressure on farming families. Through collective procurement and marketing, members secure better prices for their produce. The cooperative shares timely market information, links farmers to government schemes, and offers training in advanced and sustainable farming methods. It also promotes livestock rearing, tree plantation, and water conservation, helping families diversify incomes while restoring ecological balance.

Impact Achieved

The transformation is visible in both fields and homes. Farmers now enjoy improved incomes, lower production costs, and more reliable market access. Women's participation has grown, strengthening household stability and community confidence. Healthier soil and better water management practices have enhanced environmental resilience. Collective enterprise has created local employment and built a deeper sense of trust and unity among members.



Way Forward

Today, the cooperative continues to expand its reach and deepen its services, bringing more farmers into its circle of support. With every new member and every season of growth, Bisaha Krishak Vikas Swawlambi Sahkari Samiti Limited moves closer to its vision of inclusive participation, sustainable agriculture, and resilient rural communities that thrive together.



Where Compassion Meets Action: Building Stronger Communities Together

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”
– Mahatma Gandhi



M/S A Foundation Trust

President: Amit Rohilla

Background

Established in 2021 in Gurugram, Haryana, M/S A Foundation Trust was born from a simple but powerful belief — that real change happens when compassion is paired with collective action. As a social welfare organization, the trust brings together communities and more than 500 MSMEs in a shared mission of service and sustainability. Its work stretches across disaster relief, environmental protection, cultural preservation, healthcare access, and animal welfare — weaving together humanity and responsibility into a single, purposeful journey.



Key Challenges

In times of disaster, vulnerable families often face not just immediate loss, but long-lasting hardship. Livelihoods are disrupted, homes are damaged, and recovery feels overwhelming. Alongside this, environmental degradation threatens natural balance, traditional cultural practices slowly fade, and affordable healthcare remains out of reach for many. The welfare of animals and birds — vital to ecological harmony — frequently goes unnoticed, leaving a gap in holistic care for the environment and living beings.



Turning Point

The turning point came with the realization that meaningful change required both heart and structure. The trust stepped forward as a platform where social commitment and enterprise responsibility could work hand in hand. By engaging MSMEs alongside dedicated community volunteers, it built a responsive network capable of offering immediate relief during crises while also addressing long-term development needs.

Intervention & Support

During disasters, the trust organizes rescue, relief, and rehabilitation efforts, ensuring families receive essential aid and support to rebuild their lives. Its charitable health centres provide accessible healthcare services to underserved communities, offering care where it is needed most. Environmental initiatives promote conservation awareness and sustainable practices, while cultural programs revive and celebrate local traditions. At the same time, the trust works to protect and care for animals and birds, recognizing their essential role in maintaining ecological balance.

Impact Achieved

Through its diverse efforts, the trust has helped communities become more resilient, improved healthcare access for vulnerable groups, and inspired greater awareness of environmental and animal welfare. By involving MSMEs in social initiatives, it has also fostered a culture of responsible enterprise, expanding the reach and sustainability of its work. The result is not just support in times of need, but a growing spirit of collective care and responsibility.



Way Forward

Today, M/S A Foundation Trust continues to widen its partnerships and deepen its impact, working toward a future where humanitarian service, environmental stewardship, and inclusive well-being move forward together — proving that when communities unite with purpose, hope becomes action.



Empowering Industry with Care: Small Enterprises, Big Responsibility

“We won’t have a society if we destroy the environment.”
– Margaret Mead



Laghu Udyog Bharti

Director: Priyanka Goyal (Mahila Ikai Group)

Background

In the vibrant industrial landscape of Amritsar, President Mahila Ikai Laghu Udyog Bharti stands as a strong collective voice for more than 100 MSMEs. More than an association, it is a community of entrepreneurs committed to growing responsibly. With a focus on sustainability, worker well-being, and environmental protection, the platform helps small enterprises improve how they operate — proving that progress and responsibility can move forward together.



Key Challenges

For many MSMEs, adopting energy-efficient and environmentally safe technologies felt difficult without proper guidance. High energy consumption increased operational costs, while improper waste disposal and untreated water posed risks to both the environment and community health. At the same time, workers needed continuous skill development to keep pace with modern industry standards and safer, greener production practices.



Turning Point

A shared realization changed the path forward: business success and environmental responsibility are not separate goals. The association understood that MSMEs needed structured support to transition toward efficient, safer, and eco-friendly operations while staying competitive in changing markets. This awareness became the foundation for collective action.

Intervention & Support

The association facilitates energy audits that help enterprises identify ways to cut consumption and improve efficiency. Skill development programs enhance worker capabilities, leading to higher productivity and safer workplaces. Awareness drives promote proper waste disposal and safe water treatment practices. Through workshops and community camps, MSMEs are encouraged to adopt greener technologies, reduce carbon emissions, and embrace environmentally friendly production processes.

Impact Achieved

The transformation is both visible and meaningful. Enterprises are using energy more efficiently and reducing their environmental footprint. Workers feel more confident and capable, contributing to safer and more productive work environments. Improved waste and water management practices have created cleaner surroundings and strengthened trust between industries and communities.



Way Forward

Today, President Mahila Ikai Laghu Udyog Bharti continues to widen its reach and deepen its technical support, guiding MSMEs toward greener technologies and sustainable growth. With every enterprise it supports, the association is helping shape a future where small industries not only succeed — but also care for the people and the planet that sustain them.



Together for a Better Tomorrow: Industries Caring Beyond the Factory Gates

“Try to leave the Earth a better place than you found it.”

– Robert Baden-Powell



Howrah Industrial Estate Industries Welfare Association

President: Partha Roy

Background

Established in 2011 in Howrah, the Howrah Industrial Estate Industries Welfare Association was built on a shared belief that industries can thrive while also caring for people and the planet. Bringing together MSMEs from across the industrial estate, the association works to improve workplace conditions, promote environmental responsibility, and address common infrastructure needs. It stands as a collective voice for enterprises that understand progress is most meaningful when it uplifts both workers and the surrounding community.



Key Challenges

Like many industrial areas, the estate faced growing concerns around sanitation, waste management, and environmental degradation — issues that affected not just operations, but the health and well-being of workers and nearby residents. Poor infrastructure, including water with high iron content, created additional hurdles for industries. At the same time, there was a clear need to inspire stronger participation among enterprises in social and environmental initiatives that could benefit everyone.



Turning Point

The shift came when industry members realized that shared problems needed shared solutions. Instead of tackling issues in isolation, enterprises united under the association to improve the overall industrial environment and contribute positively to the wider community. This spirit of collaboration transformed challenges into opportunities for collective action.

Intervention & Support

The association launched hygiene initiatives and organized regular road-cleaning drives, creating a cleaner and healthier industrial space. Blood donation camps and tree plantation activities encouraged a culture of social responsibility and environmental care. To address infrastructure challenges, the association established a utility water supply system designed to reduce iron content, ensuring better-quality water for industrial use. These combined efforts strengthened cooperation among MSMEs while improving both working and living conditions.

Impact Achieved

Cleaner surroundings and improved hygiene have enhanced worker well-being and productivity. Plantation drives have increased green cover and built awareness about environmental stewardship. The upgraded water supply system has supported smoother and more efficient industrial operations. Most importantly, the spirit of collective participation has deepened community bonds and fostered a shared sense of responsibility among enterprises.



Way Forward

Today, the association continues to expand its environmental, health, and infrastructure initiatives, reinforcing its role as a unifying platform for responsible industrial growth. With each new effort, it proves that when industries come together with purpose, they can build not only stronger businesses, but also healthier communities and a more sustainable future.





About FMC's Responsible Business Membership Organisation (BMO) Awards

Backdrop



Industry Associations or Chambers of Commerce, also called Business Membership Organizations (BMOs), provide a variety of business related services to promote the competitiveness of their members as well as non-members. Over the years, BMOs are also playing an important role in promoting responsible business, thereby helping to:

- **Promoting Green Environment** - Including achieving India's COP 26 target of reduction of carbon intensity by 45 per cent from the 2005 levels by 2030, achieving Net Zero by 2070, increasing forest cover that will absorb 2.5 to 3 billion tons of CO₂e by 2030 and adopting a "Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE)" – a lifestyle that does not harm our planet.
- **Promoting Social Issues** - Including promoting decent and safe work environment, labour rights, equal pay, gender equality, employment generation, poverty alleviation etc.

Industry (including manufacturing, construction and industrial processes) contribute a good 21 percent of the 4 billion tons of CO₂ e emission in India. Textiles and apparels companies constitute over 40 percent of Indian industry. This BMO Award has therefore targeted BMOs who have textiles or apparels, or their value chain partners (machinery manufacturers, raw material providers, buyers, service providers, etc.) as their members.

Objectives

- Encourage BMOs to promote responsible business
- Enable BMOs to promote sustainability linked national and global agendas
- Empower BMOs to develop innovative sustainability tools
- Inspire MSMEs to adopt different sustainability tools
- Disseminate nationally and globally the good work done by Indian BMOs in promoting responsible business
- Provide a platform to BMOs to share their ideas and thoughts with policy makers

What is a BMO?

Business Membership Organization (BMO) refers to any organization in which firms, companies or individual entrepreneurs are members. Besides, a BMO can also have related (value chain units/individuals) special category members, depending upon the objectives of the BMO. Until the late 1990s the country was mostly having national, regional, district and sectoral level BMOs. With the advent of several Cluster Development Programs in the late nineties, cluster level BMOs started getting registered or rejuvenated throughout the country. Lately, also within clusters, activity/product specific BMOs, including Industrial Parks (IP) /Special Purpose Vehicles (SPV) as well as Industrial Estates (IE) level BMOs have also become a very common phenomenon.

Registration of BMOs

Legal registration of BMOs mostly happens under the following Acts:

1. Societies Registration Act, 1860
2. Indian Trusts Act, 1882
3. Cooperative Societies Act, 1912
4. Companies Act
5. Companies Act u/s 25 (previously)
6. Companies Act u/s 8
7. Producers Company
8. Bombay Industrial Relations Act, 1946

FMC's Responsible Business Membership Organisation (BMO) Awards

The Responsible Business Membership Organisation (BMO) Awards—an FMC initiative stands as **India's first and only recognition platform for BMOs** that demonstrate excellence in driving social impact and environmental responsibility within the MSME sector. Since its inception in 2015, the BMO Awards have celebrated BMOs that go beyond traditional representation and actively support their member enterprises in building cleaner, greener, socially inclusive and responsible businesses. The initiative has seen **more than 1000 BMOs participate across eight editions, with around 150 BMOs participating each year** in categories such as innovation, social impact and environmental responsibility.

This 9th edition recognises the essence of **greening the MSME ecosystem** and would endeavour to simplify the same for growth and impact. Greening is nothing but conscious call on environment and social aspects in the enterprise value chain from setting up to stepping up. The horizon of the awards will be expanded by integrating the special deliberations on critical theme of green financing where the participating BMOs will stand to gain, not only with the knowledge but also potentially get green financing for their members. This will broaden the participation of BMOs and will deepen sectoral relevance of the award event. The event will aim to bridge the gap between MSMEs, BMOs and Financial Institutions (FIs) that offer sustainable finance solutions.



Overview of Applications and Multi-Stage Evaluation

It is estimated that there are around 3,500 BMOs in India. So far as textiles and apparel related BMOs are concerned, Foundation for MSME Clusters (FMC) has a database of 450 BMOs across the country.

The 9th edition witnessed an encouraging response from across the country, with a total of **191 applications** received across two levels:

- Country/State Level: 51 applications
- District/Cluster Level: 140 applications

The evaluation process was conducted in three rigorous stages to ensure transparency, objectivity and technical robustness.

Round One – BMO Screening:

All 191 applications were assessed to determine thematic relevance, institutional credibility and responsible interventions. Based on this screening, 42 BMOs (9 from Country/State level and 33 from District/Cluster level) were invited to submit detailed case studies.

Round Two – Detailed Case Study Assessment:

Out of the 42 shortlisted BMOs, 40 detailed case studies were received and evaluated (9 at Country/State level and 31 at District/Cluster level). These submissions underwent comprehensive scoring and qualitative review.

Round Three – Jury Presentation:

Following technical evaluation, 16 BMOs (4 from Country/State level and 12 from District/Cluster level) were recommended for final presentation before the Jury Panel. The final cohort reflects a balanced representation of social and environmental interventions, with 6 cases under Social themes and 10 under Environmental themes.

Technical Evaluation Support by WWF India

WWF India played a critical and independent technical role across both evaluation stages of the Awards.

During Round One, WWF India conducted a rigorous review of all 191 applications received across both levels, applying defined thematic and quality parameters to ensure objective screening. Their structured assessment laid the foundation for shortlisting 42 BMOs to advance to the next stage.

In Round Two, WWF India undertook a detailed evaluation of the 40 case studies submitted by shortlisted BMOs. Through structured scoring and qualitative assessment—covering impact, sustainability, governance, scalability and thematic relevance—they provided robust technical inputs that were instrumental in ranking the applications. Their evaluation was central to identifying the final 16 BMOs recommended for presentation before the esteemed Jury Panel.

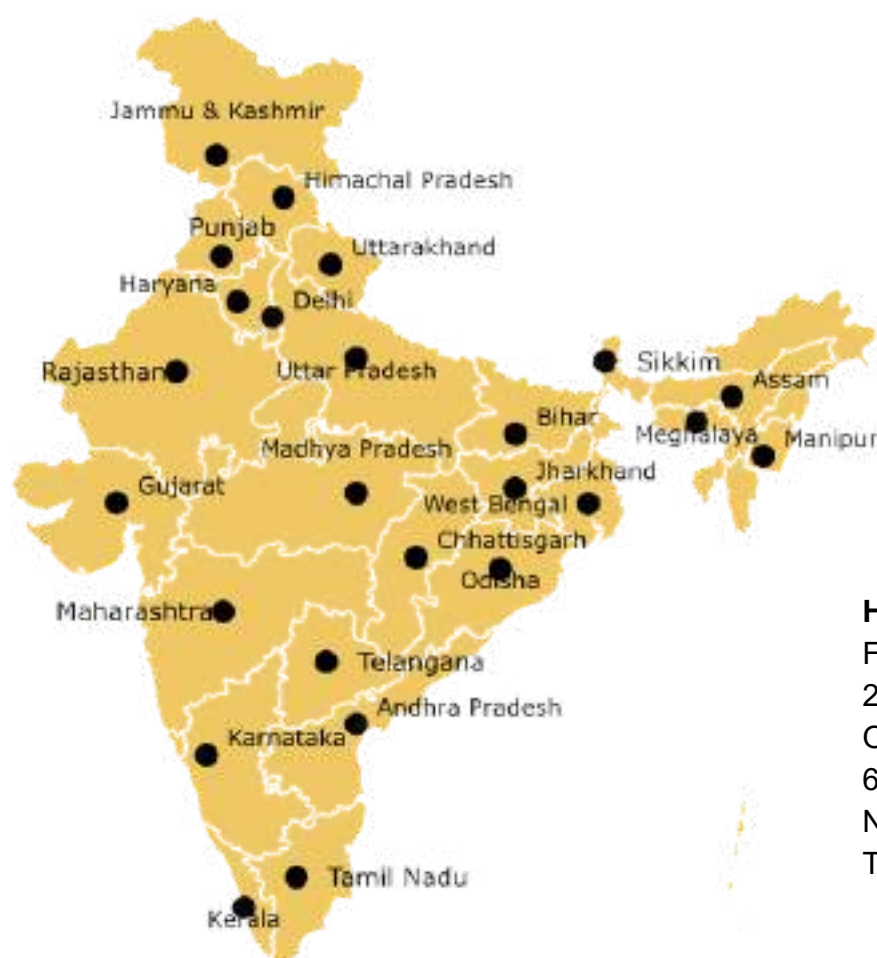
While technical scoring ensured consistency and depth of assessment, the final selection of awardees rests with the distinguished Jury





About Foundation for MSME Clusters (FMC)

Established in June 2005, the Foundation for MSME Clusters (FMC) specializes in promoting MSMEs through cluster and value chain-led development. FMC was set up as a registered public charitable trust with technical support from the UNIDO Cluster Development Programme. It is governed by a very eminent Board of Trustees from the Government, Banks, Academia, Donor institutions and NGOs, under the leadership of Mr. Ajay Shankar, IAS (Retd.), former Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Government of India.



25+
States

200+
Districts

400+
Blocks

1000+
Villages

Head Office

Foundation for MSME Clusters (FMC)
2nd Floor, USO House, USO Road,
Off Shaheed Jeet Singh Marg,
6, Special Institutional Area,
New Delhi - 110067
Tel (off): +91-11-40563323/24

To know more, visit:
www.fmc.org.in
www.clusterobservatory.in

Connect with us

