

Agriculture Development

Sector Challenges

The future of food security, nutrition, and farmer's livelihoods are each highly sensitive to the effects of climate change. Smallholders (farmers with holdings of less than 2 hectares) cultivate roughly 85% of Indian farmland, but due to volatile global produce prices and growing production risks caused by climate change, managing these land-holdings is progressively becoming unviable. These factors have resulted in increasingly vulnerable farmer and agricultural labor livelihoods and have been linked directly with tens of thousands of farmer suicides. While the promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) has gained traction, their capacity to develop viable business ideas and translate them into sustainable operating enterprises is missing. At present, the sector lacks a supportive ecosystem that can assist the FPOs through their journey from inception to becoming a self-sustaining, member-controlled organization with the capacity to successfully operate a business and strengthen farmer livelihoods for individual, community, market and national impact.

Outcomes Catalyzed



Market Level

System Level

Our Approach

S3IDF partners with farm collectives such as Self-Help Groups, Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies, and Farmer Producer Organizations to improve the employment opportunities of small and marginal farmers and landless labourers. We enhance value capture through small infrastructure improvements such as mills, fodder cutters and organic composting units. S3IDF enables access to critical processing technology, financial literacy training, and formal working capital, each of which allows farmers to integrate ecologically responsible practices into their livelihoods while improving their incomes and increasing their resiliency to weather events.