













MESSAGE FROM

HON'BLE VICE CHANCELLOR MGUVV

A Vision for Community-Centered Transformation

Dr. Ravi R. Saxena, Vice Chancellor of MGUVV – horticulture university in Chhattisgarh, delivered the address that anchored the day's events with wisdom and foresight. In his remarks, he lauded the grassroots spirit of Bhuiyan – Jimmewari aur Jatan, acknowledging the invaluable role of community-led innovation in driving sustainable change.

"As academicians and scientists, we often theorize from labs and classrooms, but real innovation is happening in the fields of Kabirdham, led by the very hands that till the land. This event exemplifies how institutions, communities, and government can converge to restore both landscapes and livelihoods."

Dr. Saxena emphasized the urgent need to bridge the gap between technological advancements and rural realities. He called for training rural youth and women as paraprofessionals, leveraging university resources to build local capacity. He stressed that transformation isn't solely the result of policy, but the cumulative impact of learning, leadership, and local ownership.

He concluded with a note of encouragement: "Agricon and Samerth are showing us that when grassroots organizations lead with empathy and expertise, they become the true engines of development. Today, we witnessed not just hope — but a working model of how restoration, innovation, and inclusion can go hand in hand."



Reflections from Leaders:

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Bhuiyan – Jimmewari aur Jatan was a testament to the power of community, culture, and collaboration. As we reflect on the journey of our farmers and women leaders, we realize that sustainable change doesn't come from outside—it grows from within. This event reminded us that innovation doesn't require sophisticated labs—it can sprout from rural fields, fueled by local knowledge and care. We at CAS are committed to walking hand—in—hand with our communities to build a greener, more inclusive tomorrow.



Mr. Manas Banerjee

Secretary, Chhattisgarh Agricon Samiti (CAS)



The vision of Bhuiyan aligns closely with our mission at Commonland — to restore landscapes through the 4 Returns: Inspiration, Social Capital, Natural Capital, and Financial Capital. Seeing communities take ownership of their land, voices, and future is deeply inspiring. The spirit of responsibility and persistent effort, reflected in 'Jimmewari aur Jatan', shows us that global goals of restoration are achievable only when local communities lead the way. It's a privilege for Commonland to support such meaningful, community-rooted action.

Mrs. Harma Rademaker Commonlands Foundation, Netherlands

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At Samerth, we have always believed in the strength and wisdom of communities. Bhuiyan was not just a celebration, it was a moment of realization that restoration is not an external intervention, but a collective inner strength. Watching women speak with confidence, farmers showcase their innovations, and youth take pride in their culture gave us a glimpse into a future shaped by courage and compassion. This journey of 'Jimmewari aur Jatan' is only the beginning—and we are proud to walk it together.

Mrs. Gazala Paul

Managing Trustee, Samerth Charitable Trust



A DAY OF COLLECTIVE ACTION AND CELEBRATION

Kabirdham witnessed an extraordinary confluence of tradition, innovation, and community empowerment at the event "Bhuiyan – Jimmewari aur Jatan" (Responsibility and Care). Jointly hosted by Chhattisgarh Agricon Samiti (CAS) and Samerth Charitable Trust, this vibrant gathering brought together over 400 individuals — including farmers, women leaders, youth, experts, artists, and development practitioners — in a celebration that was as reflective as it was forward–looking.

While Bhuiyan was the focal point of the event, the day also coincided with International Women's Day, adding a meaningful layer of celebration to honor the immense contributions of rural women in agriculture, environment, and community building. The dual significance of the day — rooted in action and recognition — made the occasion even more powerful and symbolic of the values the event sought to amplify.



A GROUNDING MESSAGE:

The Spirit of 'Koshish'

Mr. Krishna Shrinivasan, State Lead of Samerth Charitable Trust, commenced the event with a heartfelt message on the importance of collective responsibility. He reminded the gathering that while promises may fade, consistent effort ('koshish') is what transforms lives and landscapes. His words resonated deeply: "We are here not because we're waiting for change, but because we are the ones who will create it."



THROUGH THEIR EYES:

Visual Testimonies from PRERAK

Programme Coordinator at Samerth, introduced the audience to the powerful storytelling initiative, PRERAK. For over a month, the team engaged more than 800 participants from 30 villages to document their realities and perspectives through photography. The resulting 1,500 images weren't just snapshots; they were collective memories and aspirations — capturing the essence of four returns: Inspiration, Natural Return, Social Return, and Financial Return.

PRERAK played a pivotal role in demystifying and grounding the concept of the 4 Returns for local communities. By inviting them to visually interpret and engage with these abstract ideas through their own lived experiences, PRERAK enabled villagers to see how their everyday actions contribute to broader goals of sustainability and restoration. It served as a powerful pedagogical tool, blending creativity, reflection, and participation to deepen understanding and ownership of landscape restoration.

Images of barren fields sat alongside lush green patches, weathered hands sowing seeds next to proud women holding saplings. This photo exhibition transcended language, communicating the silent yet powerful voices of resilience and agency from the ground.



KAVIR Lab:

A Model for Ground-Up Innovation

"Namaste, Jai Johar! Today isn't just Women's Day it's a day of change," declared – Ms. Manisha Motwani, program coordinator CAS – as she introduced the KAVIR Lab."The lab is not just a facility – it's a transformative ecosystem for bio-inputs production and community empowerment."

Built on two foundational pillars the Bio-inputs Lab and the Participatory Action Lab - KAVIR Lab empowers local farmers, particularly women, to produce organic inputs using microbial solutions. Manisha narrated the inspiring journey of 50 KAVIR Sakhis - women who overcame hesitation and embraced science with open arms. They are now skilled in handling microbial cultures and creating natural alternatives to chemical fertilizers, fostering both ecological and economic resilience.

The Participatory Action Lab, meanwhile, functions as a dynamic space where farmers meet to troubleshoot problems, innovate solutions, and learn from each other's experiences.



A key component integrated into this space is Social and Behavior Change (SBC), which fosters critical dialogue on entrenched social norms and practices affecting agriculture, health, environment, and gender equity. Through participatory tools like community mapping, role plays, and open dialogues, the lab promotes reflection and collective decision making, enabling communities to adopt sustainable practices not just in their fields but in their daily lives as well.



CULTURE AS RESISTANCE:

Baiga Nritya and Connection to Land

The rhythmic drumming and dancing of the Palak Baiga Nritya Group served as a potent reminder of the deep-rooted connection between tribal communities and nature. Their performance was more than just an artistic expression — it was a declaration of identity and resistance, a visual embodiment of ancestral wisdom and spiritual harmony with the land.

Each beat of the drum echoed centuries of co-existence with forests and rivers, each twirl conveyed the story of survival through changing seasons, and every coordinated movement carried forward the collective memory of the Baiga tribe. By performing their traditional dance on this platform, the group affirmed their cultural sovereignty and emphasized the importance of safeguarding indigenous heritage as a pathway to ecological restoration.

In a world increasingly distanced from its roots, their performance became an act of resistance — against erasure, marginalization, and environmental degradation. It reminded the audience that culture is not static or ceremonial; it is alive, adaptive, and crucial in nurturing the values that underpin sustainable living. The Baiga dance stood as a living testimony that cultural expression can powerfully influence movements for environmental justice, land rights, and community resilience.



TRANSFORMATIVE JOURNEYS:

The Community's Voice

The event featured a powerful storytelling session titled "Voices of Change," which brought to the fore heartfelt narratives of ordinary individuals who have become extraordinary change-makers through collective strength, learning, and resilience.

Omprakash Chandrakar, a smallholder farmer, shared how "KAVIR" became a bridge that connected him to vital knowledge, peers, and new farming techniques. "Earlier, we worked alone, isolated in our struggles. But through the KAVIR Kisan group, we now share ideas and grow together like a family."

Kunti Bai, speaking from the stage for the first time in her life, described how she and a group of village women took initiative to start a nursery. "We didn't know how to begin, but we learned together. Today, it's more than just plants — it's our symbol of self-reliance."

Fagni Meshram, part of the Maa Saraswati Self-Help Group, recalled their humble beginnings with a few goats. Today, with 18 goats and a vision for breeding, she proudly declared, "We're no longer just farmers. We're entrepreneurs."

Sunita Chandravanshi, emphasized frugality as a path to empowerment. "I began a kitchen garden, and soon other women joined. We realized that saving money through homegrown food is as powerful as earning it."



Vijay Merawi, expressed how his perspective shifted through the KAVIR initiative. "I used to think hard work would always go unnoticed. But knowledge and support helped me realize I could lead change — not just for myself, but for my entire village."

Ballu Singh Baiga, envisioned a return to traditional livelihoods through lac cultivation. "This isn't just income — it's about reviving our culture and becoming self-sufficient as Baiga people."

Dukalha Chandravanshi, explained how his mindset around agriculture transformed. "Earlier I followed what I was taught. Now, with improved techniques, my field thrives — and so does my confidence."

Bhagwat Chandrakar, connected soil health to human well-being. "Healthy land means healthy people. What we grow is what we become."

Each narrative offered a rich tapestry of change — not just material improvements, but psychological empowerment, identity, and agency. These were not stories of aid, but of awakening — proof that when communities are given space, knowledge, and trust, they become architects of their own future. of how information, support, and self-belief could trigger lasting change.



ISHA JHAWAR'S ENTREPRENEURIAL INSPIRATION

Young entrepreneur Isha Jhawar, founder of Repeat Gud, reflected on how the COVID-19 pandemic compelled her to rethink food systems. Her business was born out of necessity — to reconnect with traditional, healthier foods. She spoke candidly about her struggles, from facing self-doubt to navigating government systems, and emphasized the importance of innovation rooted in cultural wisdom.

"Innovation isn't about building something new — it's also about improving what already exists," she concluded, urging youth to find purpose in solving existing problems.



PANEL DISCUSSIONS:

Tapping into Collective Intelligence Voices from the Panelists

Each panelist left the audience with a resonant message:

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The forest is our identity, our economy, and our future — it's time we see it as our responsibility too.

Mr. Shashi Kumar, DFO Kabirdham





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Let's reconnect our children with nature, early restoration starts with love and learning.

Mr. Shekhar Kolipaka, Landscape Developer, Commonland



Real change comes when we Convene, Catalyze, and Converge — communities must lead with clarity and collaboration.

Mr. Abhishek Singh, SBC Specialist, UNICEF





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Our land doesn't need chemicals, it needs care — and farmers already have all it takes to heal it.

Dr. Sanket Thakur

Agricultural Scientist and Organic Farming Practitioner



Let's combine grassroots wisdom with engineering innovations to scale sustainable solutions.

Dr. Govardhan Bhatt, Asst. Professor, NIT Raipur





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Technology is the bridge — but people are the drivers. Precision agriculture must be accessible, affordable, and human-centered.

Vishnu Vaibhav Dwivedi

CTO, Innovation & Technology Foundation IIT Bhilai

The Event Featured Three Critical Panel Discussions

Panel 1

Connecting with the Ecosystem

Moderated by Mr. Manas Banerjee and Mr. Krishna Shrinivasan, this session brought together Mr. Shashi Kumar, Mr. Shekhar Kolipaka, and Mr. Abhishek Singh. The discussions addressed challenges such as youth engagement, knowledge convergence, and building sustainable agricultural ecosystems.

Highlights included:

- ☼ The 3C framework Convene, Catalyze, Converge to drive community
- Ocalls to revive interest in indigenous products like Bodla honey and reduce forest fires through community collaboration.
- Examples of eco-tourism as a livelihood option through homestays and birdwatching in forest areas.



Panel 2

Technology and Sustainability

Panelists Dr. Ravi R. Saxena, Dr. Sanket Thakur, Dr. Govardhan Bhatt, and Mr. Vishnu Vaibhav Dwivedi discussed the intersection of technology, traditional knowledge, and natural resource conservation.

Key takeaways:

- The urgent need for para-professional training at panchayat level.
- Promotion of direct sowing and bio-gas use.
- Ontroduction of Al and IoT-based soil sensors for precision
- Emphasis on human data and behavioral change as cornerstones of effective technology integration with agriculture.



Panel 3

Community Development and support from Government Departments

Moderated by Team members of CAS & Samerth – Mr. Deepak Bagri and Mr. Deepak Biswas, this session focused on sustaining community efforts beyond project timelines. This panel featured Dr. B.P. Tripathi (Senior Scientist, KVK Kawardha), Smt. Kritika Singh (CDPO, Dashrangpur), and Dr. N. Sarang (Associate Professor, College of Fishery).

Insights included:

- Training women through Anganwadis as agricultural mobilizers.
- OPPromoting fisheries as viable alternative livelihoods with government support.
- Advocating for community ownership of knowledge as the key to sustainability.



CULTURAL PERFORMANCES:

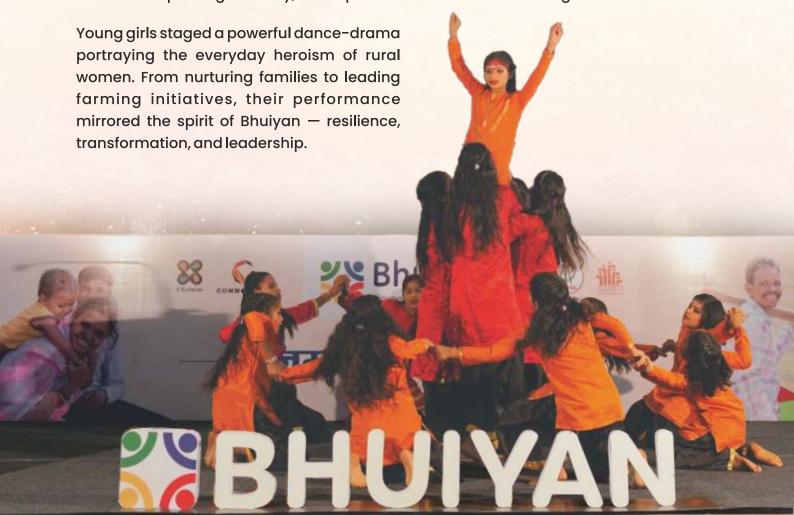
Celebrating Women's Voices

The stage came alive with color, emotion, and power as the young girls from Kasturba Gandhi Balika Awasiy Vidyalaya performed a breathtaking dance–drama. It wasn't just a cultural segment — it was an evocative tribute to the strength, resilience, and untold sacrifices of women. Through expressive choreography and deeply symbolic storytelling, the girls portrayed the many avatars of women in their communities: caregivers, farmers, educators, decision–makers, and warriors of change.

Their performance took the audience through a journey — from dawn to dusk, from sowing seeds to cooking meals, from nurturing families to standing at the frontlines of environmental protection. Each movement and gesture echoed the theme that women are not only participants in rural life — they are its pillars.

The girls, many of whom are first-generation learners, confidently took the stage and embodied the power of generations of women who came before them. Their dance transcended art and became a call to recognize women not just as contributors, but as leaders of restoration and regeneration. The applause that followed was not just for their talent, but for the stories they carried — of invisible labor, quiet strength, and emerging leadership.

This performance perfectly mirrored the spirit of Bhuiyan — a space where women's voices were not only heard but gloriously celebrated. It served as a living reminder that when we empower girls today, we empower entire communities for generations to come.



LEARNING IN ACTION:

Thematic Stalls and Engagement Zones

The event was enriched with interactive experiences designed to turn learning into action:

PRERAK Photo Exhibition: Celebrating community storytellers and visual learners.

Invisible Allies: Know Your Microbes: Microscopic soil world displays highlighting the role of beneficial microbes.

The Carbon Coin: Turning Emissions into Earnings: Gamified introduction to carbon credits and sustainable farming incentives.



Mind Matters: Mental Health & Wellbeing: Mental health awareness activities using games, art, and reflection.

Kavir Kisan: Harvesting Change: Before-and-after displays showing the tangible impacts of collective farming. Nurturing Young Minds: Eco-based activities, STEM water testing, and tribal art to encourage sustainability from a young age.

Natural Resource Management and Human Values: Sustainable Land, Water, and Livelihood Practices, communities harmonizing natural resource management.



CLOSING REFLECTIONS:

A Commitment to the Future

Mr. Rajnish Awasthi, President of CAS, concluded the event with a powerful and heartfelt reflection that captured the essence of Bhuiyan – Jimmewari aur Jatan.

"What we witnessed today is more than a gathering — it is a movement. From the stories of transformation to the innovations led by women and youth, from the cultural tributes to the knowledge shared in panel discussions — every moment was a reaffirmation of our shared commitment to responsibility and care.

As President of Agricon, I am deeply humbled and proud of the way our communities have come together. This event is proof that when the spirit of 'Jimmewari aur Jatan' is embraced, the possibilities are endless. Let us carry this spirit forward — not just in our fields and forests, but in our everyday actions. Because true change begins when we believe in our people, our land, and our ability to nurture both."



CONCLUSION:

Bhuiyan as a Movement

"Bhuiyan – Jimmewari aur Jatan" transcended the bounds of an event — it became a living movement. Grounded in local wisdom, energized by innovation, and fueled by collective action, it provided a roadmap for sustainable development rooted in justice, equality, and ecological balance.

As the sun set over Kabirdham, what remained was not just memories, but a palpable shift — a belief that the future of the land lies in the hands of those who care for it the most: its people.



MEDIA COVERAGE

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भुइयां जिम्मेवारी व जतन कार्यक्रम का आयोजन सतत कृषि और पर्यावरण संरक्षण पर हुआ व्यापक संवाद



हरिभूमि न्यूज 🦦 कवर्धा

छत्तीसगढ एग्रीकॉन समिति और समर्थ चैरिटेबल ट्रस्ट हारा संयक्त रूप से आयोजित भइयां जिम्मेवारी और जतन कार्यक्रम का सफल आयोजन श्याम पैलेस, कवर्धा में हुआ। इस आयोजन में चार सौ से अधिक लोगों की भागीदारी रही। कार्यक्रम का मुख्य उद्देश्य 4 रिटर्स फ्रेमवर्क के तहत समुदाय नेतृत्व और समावेशी भृदृश्य पनस्थापन (लैंडस्केप रेस्टोरेशन) पर संवाद को प्रोत्साहित करना था।

कार्यक्रम में कृषि, पर्यावरण और सामाजिक क्षेत्रों के कई प्रतिष्ठित विशेषज्ञ एवं अतिथि उपस्थित थें। इनमें प्रमुख रूप से डॉ आर रवि सक्सेना (कुलपति एमजीयुवीवी), शशि कुमार (डीएफओ, कवर्धा), विष्णु वैभव द्विवेदी (सीटीओ, आईआईटी भिलाई), डॉ गीवर्धन भट्ट (सहायक प्रोफेसर, एनआईटी रायपुर), अभिषेक सिंह (एसबीसी विशेषज्ञ, युनिसेफ), डॉ एन सारंग (एसोसिएट प्रोफेसर, फिशरीज कॉलेज कवधां), अखिलेश दुबे (सहायक कृषि निदेशक, कवर्धा), डॉ शभा बनर्जी (सहायक प्रोफेसर, आईजीकेवी), हरमा राडेमेकर और शेखर कोलिपाका (कॉमनलैंड, नीदरलैंड्स), ईशा झावर (सीईओ, रिपीट गुड) और डॉ संकेत ठाकुर (कृषि वैज्ञानिक एवं शोधकर्ता) शामिल थे। कार्यक्रम में सतत कृषि, जल एवं पर्यावरण संरक्षण, महिला संशक्तिकरण और सामुदायिक विकास जैसे महत्वपूर्ण विषयों पर और सामुद्धयिक भागीदारी की पैनल चर्चाएं आयोजित की गई। विशेषज्ञों ने टिकाऊ कृषि, जलवाय अनुकुलन, कार्बन क्रेडिट और कार्यक्रम के अंत में डॉ. रवि आर. सक्सेना ने अपने समापन भाषण में सतत कृषि, महिला संशक्तिकरण

आवश्यकता को रेखांकित किया। रजनीश अवस्थी (अध्यक्ष, छत्तीसगढ एग्रीकान समिति) ने सभी प्रतिभागियों सामुदायिक नेतृत्व पर चर्चा की। और अतिथियों का धन्यवाद ज्ञापन किया। कार्यक्रम का संचालन कविता लांजी और दीपाली ने किया।

कवीर लैब का उद्घाटन जैव-इनपुट उत्पादन में नवाचार की दिशा में बड़ा कदम

कार्यक्रम के बौरान कवीर लेब का उद्घाटन किया गया, जो जैव इनपट उत्पादन के लिए एक बायोटेकनेलॉर्जी लेंब, ब्रायोफर्टिलाइजर उत्पादन प्रशिक्षण केंद्र, मुद्रा परीक्षण प्रयोगशाला और व्यवहार प्रयोग शाला को मिलाकर तैयार की गई है। यह लैब किसानों को जैविक खेती से जोड़ने. बढ़ा स्वास्थ्य में सुधार और कृषि पारिस्थितिकों तंत्र को मजबूत करने के लिए नवाचर और झान प्रसार का एक महत्वपूर्ण केंद्र बनेगी।

बैगा नृत्य और परिवर्तन की कहानियां बनीं आकर्षण का केंद्र

कार्यक्रम में पलक बैगा मृत्य समूह द्वारा पारंपरिक बैगा मृत्य प्रस्तुत किया नया, जिसने आदिवासी समुदायों के प्रकृति से नष्टरे जुड़ाव को दर्शाय। इसके बाद ओमप्रकाश चंद्रांकर, कृती बाई, फगनी मसराम, सुनीता चंद्रवंशी, विजय मेरावी, दुकलहा चंद्रवशी, बल्लू शिह बैंगा और मामवत चंद्राकर ने अपनी परिवर्तनकारी कक्षनिया साझा की, जो 4 रिटर्ब्स मॉडल के प्रमाव को दर्शती है।

महिला सशवितकरण पर विशेष प्रस्तृति

कार्यक्रम के बौरान करतूरमा आविवासी विद्यालय कवर्धा को छात्रओं द्वारा महिला संशक्तिकरण पर आधारित मृत्य मारिका प्रस्तुत की गई। इस प्रस्तुति ने कामीण महिलाओं की सामाजिक और आर्थिक मार्गावार्य को उजनार किया।

मुड्यां - 'जिम्मेवारी और जतन' कार्यक्रम का आयोजन, पर्यावरण संरक्षण पर हुआ व्यापक संवाद

'कवीर लेक' का उद्घाटन - जैव-इनकुट अध्ययन में नवाधार की दिला में बड़ा कदम, तकनीकी तम और विषय विशेषती हाना वर्षी

में से जुल और परिवर्तन की कहानियां करी आवर्षन का केंद्र प्राचक र प्रकार के एक जुल कर प्रचार के प्रकार कर का का का 1- श्रेस करिया जाता है कर की कर का पुत्र के अग्रेस कर की कर अग्रेस कर की कर का पुत्र के प्रकार कर की कर की क्या कर की का कर की का कर की कर की क्या कर की का कर की कार कर की कर की क्या कर की के कार के प्रचन के कार्य की



कृषि और पर्यावरण संरक्षण पर व्यापक संवाद

तम एडीकोन समिति और समर्थ देशियन रार रात भट्टा विभोगती और रूपन कार्यक्रम का सफन आर्थजन











