

PRESENTING  
THE SPADE  
**OUTREACH**  
SPECTRUM

*Every individual and family has right to an honourable livelihood. And, when it is achieved by deploying personal own skills with a little training support, it gives a sense of freedom allowing the family to live the life earning a few more necessities.*

*Livelihood Promotion has always been in the center of SPADE's outreach programs. We always strongly feel that to prepare the ground for livelihood intervention, forming institutions at the grass root level and making them self-reliant, dynamic and carefully cultivated member-specific Income Enhancement Plan is crucial. Designed by SPADE, this innovative step by step approach has ensured many poor households a stable livelihood with steadily increasing income and, eventually providing them with asset ownership, social participation with self esteem.*

## Agriculture

West Bengal as a surplus state in agricultural production is a myth rather than a reality. It is true that agricultural production of, particularly, paddy rice has increased at an average rate of 4% per annum during last two decades making the state topper in the list of major food grain producing states. In this scenario, it has been the small and medium farmers who keep producing three types of rice three times in a year - *aus, aman and boro* and vegetables with high technological inputs have gained economically. But down the line, the marginal farmers who could ill-afford costly technological inputs have been farther marginalized and have become agricultural labour or daily wage earners in their own lands by







changing hands with the small and medium farmers. They have been helplessly subjected to a abject living conditions, awaiting measures for reversal.

SPADE's interventions in the field agriculture have two major dimensions viz. to improve the economic status of the poor and marginalized farmers through introduction of improved agricultural practices and secondly to preserve soil fertility by adopting eco-friendly agricultural practices.

With a wide canopy of cultivations covering vegetable, dal, fishery, rice (through SRI), poultry & duckery, nutrition garden etc., the villagers are steadfastly coming out of their marginalised existence and making sure a better living for themselves. SPADE is influencing the community to cultivate improved rice varieties like black rice, aromatic rice through SRI methods and to produce early and late varieties of vegetables so that the farmers may enhance their income. The organisation also continues to play the role of a facilitator in providing hand holding and yield augmenting support to existing gardens and formation of new nutrition gardens as well. SPADE also provides capacity building inputs like use of SRI method, vermin-composting, preparation of other bio-fertilizers and bio pesticides. While SRI reduces the cost of agriculture, vermin-compost and other bio-fertilizers retain soil fertility, bio-pesticides have the proven potential to prevent ecological imbalance. Hence the inputs provided by SPADE make agricultural activities more sustainable and climate friendly.

SPADE is implementing Tata Power Community Development Trust's CSR project at Haldia wherein promoting sustainable agricultural practices is a priority. Total beneficiaries under this project have already crossed 400 households.

Finally, SPADE is readying to promote agriculture causing no harm to the climate. Towards this end, SPADE shall introduce user friendly quality vermin-compost, bio-pesticide to the farmers. Organistaion's future plan includes promotion of seed bank for assured the supply of quality seeds.