



FORUM FOR SOCIAL INITIATIVES (FSI)

Regional Training Report Enhancing Livelihood Opportunities and Entrepreneurial Capacities for Sustainable Community Development

Dates: February 23-25, 2026

Venue: Kurji Sewa Kendra, Patna

Participants: 40+ practitioners from partner organizations

Coverage: All 38 districts of Bihar

This three-day regional training strengthened participants' understanding and practical capabilities in promoting sustainable livelihood and enterprise-driven interventions. The programme moved from conceptual clarity on sustainable livelihoods to entrepreneurship development, value chain analysis, and enterprise planning. The training adopted a participatory methodology combining case studies, role-plays, group exercises, and practical planning sessions.

Day 1 focused on understanding livelihoods and systematic analysis. Participants explored the Sustainable Livelihood Framework, learning that livelihood is not merely income but a system of assets, relationships, and resilience. Through village mapping exercises, they identified existing livelihoods, migration drivers, and hidden opportunities. Sessions covered livelihood risks (shocks, trends, seasonality) and the five capitals—Human, Natural, Physical, Financial, and Social. The Mohan Das family case study enabled practical application of livelihood profiling.

Day 2 centered on entrepreneurship development and selection. Through story-based comparison of self-employment versus entrepreneurship, participants learned that entrepreneurship focuses on growth, value creation, and generating employment for others. Sessions explored eight entrepreneurial competencies—initiative, risk-taking, planning, information seeking, quality orientation, self-confidence, persistence, and problem-solving. A key insight was that entrepreneurship requires commitment and market viability, not just need. Role-play on SHG enterprise selection meetings strengthened practical facilitation skills.

Day 3 addressed value chain analysis and enterprise development planning. Using the tomato value chain example, participants learned how value is added at each stage and how entrepreneurs can capture greater returns through processing, branding, and direct marketing. Group work resulted in structured Three-Year Village Enterprise Development Plans covering resource mapping, target enterprise selection, capacity building, market linkages, risk mitigation, and sustainability roadmaps. Common enterprises identified included dairy value addition, vegetable marketing, mushroom cultivation, and food processing.

"This training has equipped us to transform livelihoods into sustainable enterprises, creating lasting impact in our communities."

