



NATIONAL SEMINAR

on

WOMEN IN FARMING: UNSUNG HEROES OF THE SOIL

(କୃଷି ଜଗତରେ ନାରୀ: ମାଟିର ଅଜଣା ହିରୋ)



**ORGANISED BY
MAA RAMA DEVI CHAIR,
RAMA DEVI WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY
Vidya Vihar, Bhubaneswar**

Theme: Women in Farming: Unsung Heroes of the Soil

(କୃଷି ଜଗତରେ ନାରୀ: ମାଟିର ଅଜଣା ହିରୋ)

ABOUT THE SEMINAR

Maa Rama Devi Chair was established with the objective of highlighting and amplifying women's contributions across various fields, fostering equality and inclusiveness, and promoting research on women achievers and their role in sustainable development in Odisha.

Odisha, being an agrarian state, witnesses significant contributions from women in farming. However, these contributions often go unrecognized. The seminar aims to celebrate the unsung women farmer achievers of Odisha who have demonstrated remarkable resilience, innovation, and leadership in the field of sustainable farming.

This seminar will mark the culmination of a collaborative research project conducted by Maa Rama Devi Chair (MRDC) in association with Jeevan Rekha Parishad (JRP), Bhubaneswar, a reputed non-governmental research and development organization working extensively on women farmers, fisherwomen, peace, solidarity, and sustainable development issues in Odisha.

Date: 6th-7th March, 2026

Venue: NEW AUDITORIUM, RAMA DEVI WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY

OBJECTIVES

- To document, recognize, and celebrate the achievements of women farmers at the grassroots level in Odisha.
- To analyze the challenges and opportunities for women in farming.
- To highlight their contribution to sustainable and climate-resilient farming practices.
- To bring together researchers, policymakers, and practitioners for dialogue and knowledge exchange on women's empowerment in farming.
- To promote the visibility of women farmers as agents of change in rural development.

SUB-THEMES

1. Women's Contribution to Development in Farming

- Historical and contemporary roles of women in India's agricultural landscape
- Invisible labour and recognition of women farmers
- Policy perspectives on women's participation in farming
- Leadership roles of rural women in agricultural decision-making
- Role of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in strengthening women's economic independence

2. Sustainability, Innovation, and Climate Resilience

- Women as innovators in climate-resilient and organic farming
- Traditional ecological knowledge and women's indigenous farming wisdom
- Role of women in promoting agro-ecology and sustainable livelihoods

3. Technology, Digital Inclusion, and Market Linkages

- Women's access to technology and digital platforms in farming
- E-commerce and digital marketing for women farmers
- Bridging gender gaps in agricultural innovation and market systems
- Farming education and training for rural women

4. Media, Government Initiatives, Institutional Support, Documentation, and Representation of Women Farmers

- Portrayal of women in farming through print, digital, and visual media
- Government policies, schemes, and programs for women in farming
- Public-private partnerships for empowering women in the agri-sector
- Role of documentation and storytelling in amplifying women's voices
- Case studies, short films, and documentaries as advocacy tools

5. Challenges, Opportunities, and the Way Forward

- Structural and cultural barriers to women's agricultural empowerment

- Economic empowerment through innovation and entrepreneurship
- Policy recommendations for inclusive and sustainable agricultural growth

TARGET AUDIENCE

- Academicians, Environmentalists and Researchers
- Agricultural Scientists and Practitioners
- NGOs and Development Professionals
- Policymakers and Government Representatives
- Students and Research Scholars
- Women Farmer Collectives and Rural Leaders

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

This will be a **two-days National Seminar** featuring:

- **Keynote Addresses** by eminent agricultural and gender experts
- **Panel Discussions** with women farmer achievers and policymakers
- **Documentary Screening** on Women in Farming
- **Book Launch** and **Felicitation Ceremony** of Grassroot level Women Achievers

The event will be **bilingual (Odia and English)** to promote *Odia Asmita* while reaching a wider audience. This seminar will be in hybrid mode.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Abstracts are invited under the theme “*Women in Farming: Unsung Heroes of the Soil*”. The abstract must clearly define the objectives, methodology, and significance of the study and should not exceed **500 words**.

- Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt, double spacing, A4 size.
- Margins: Left 1", Right 0.8", Top 1", Bottom 0.8".
- Include **Keywords** (3–5).
- Submission format: Word file only.

Send abstracts to **Prof. Sucheta Priyabadini, Convenor**, at ramadevichair@rdwu.ac.in on or before 30th January, 2026.

FULL PAPER GUIDELINES

Full papers (within **2500-3000 words**) should include: (i) Title, (ii) Author(s) details, (iii) Abstract, (iv) Keywords, (v) Introduction, (vi) Literature Review, (vii) Research Gap, (viii) Objectives, (ix) Methodology, (x) Results/Findings, (xi) Discussion, (xii) Conclusion, (xiii) References.

Citations are mandatory within the body of the article. Permissible plagiarism limit: **10%**; AI Plagiarism: **10%**

* An edited book with an ISBN number will be published, featuring the selected papers.

* The participants will present their papers. A poster paper presentation will also be conducted.

REGISTRATION FEES

Category	Registration Fee
P.G. Students	Rs. 200/-
Scholars/Researchers/PhD Students	Rs. 500/-
Teachers, Faculties, Professionals & Others	Rs. 1000/-

*No accommodation facilities

*A Seminar Kit and Edited Book, along with Lunch & high-tea, will be provided to all registered participants.

ACCOUNT DETAILS:

Name: SEMINAR MRDC

A/C no: 7761211029

IFSC Code: IDIB000S159

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/yaaSpy279pLDASpYA>

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Deadline for Abstract Submission:** 30th Jan, 2026
- **Notification of Acceptance:** 5th Feb, 2026
- **Deadline for Full Paper Submission:** 15th Feb, 2026

Chief Patron

Prof. Chandi Charan Rath, Vice Chancellor(I/C), RDWU

Patrons

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Prof. Sucheta Priyabadini, Chair Professor, Maa Rama Devi Chair, RDWU

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Finance team

Prof. Sucheta Priyabadini, MRDCP
Ms. Sagufta Ali, BAO

Event Co-Ordinator:


Ms. Jyotatsi Jangyanseni, Research Assistant, MRDC

Format:

Keynote Addresses | Panel Discussions | Paper Presentations | Documentary Screening
| Felicitation Ceremony | Networking & Interactive Sessions | Book Release

Contact Person:**Ms. Jyotatsi Jangyanseni**

Research Assistant, Maa Rama Devi Chair

 +91 7205155103

 ramadevichair@rdwu.ac.in

THANK YOU
MAA RAMA DEVI CHAIR,
RAMA DEVI WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY

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