



RAMA DEVI WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY, BHUBANESWAR

EVENT REPORT FORMAT

“सा विद्या या विमुक्तये” (Knowledge is that which liberates)

Event Report

National Seminar on “Women in Farming: Unsung Heroes of the Soil”

Rama Devi Chair, Rama Devi Women’s University, organized a two-day National Seminar on “Women in Farming: Unsung Heroes of the Soil” on 7th and 8th March 2026. The seminar was conducted to highlight the crucial yet often unrecognized role of women in agriculture and to create a platform for academic discussion on issues of sustainability, climate resilience, technology, and empowerment of women farmers. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation of more than 500 participants, including academicians, researchers, students, and women farmers from different parts of the state and beyond. An important highlight of the seminar was the participation of 20 women farmers from four districts of Odisha- Khurda, Koraput, Nayagarh, and Puri. Their presence added a significant grassroots dimension to the academic discussions of the seminar. The farmers actively attended the sessions and stayed on the university campus for both days of the programme, engaging with scholars, students, and other participants. The fieldtrip partner was Jeevan Rekha Parishad (JRP), the financial assistance for the 20 women farmers was given by Hindalco Aditya Birla for their accommodation, travel and honorarium and the gifts and momentos were sponsored by Indii Verse.

The women farmers also brought some of their agricultural and homemade produces for display and sale, which attracted considerable interest among the participants. This initiative not only provided them with a platform to showcase their work and indigenous knowledge but also created an opportunity for direct

interaction between the farming community and the academic community. Their participation enriched the seminar by bringing real-life experiences and practical perspectives on women's role in agriculture.

The inaugural session was graced by Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Odisha, Smt. Pravati Parida, as the Chief Guest, who emphasized the need for greater recognition and support for women farmers. The seminar was convened by Prof. Sucheta Priyabadini, who delivered the welcome address. The Registrar of the University, Smt. Manaswini Sahu, also addressed the gathering. The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor (I/C), Prof. Chandi Charan Rath, presided over the session and delivered the presidential address. The inaugural programme also included a book launch and felicitation of five women farmers for their outstanding contribution to agriculture. The Vote of Thanks was delivered by Dr. Sasmita Kar, Organizing Secretary of the Seminar. The programme was emceed by Ms. Jyotatsi Jangyanseni, Research Assistant, MRDC.

The seminar featured three technical sessions focusing on themes such as women's contribution to farming, sustainability and climate resilience, technology and digital inclusion, and institutional support for women farmers. Nineteen research papers were presented by scholars and researchers during these sessions, fostering rich academic discussion and exchange of ideas.

A panel discussion on "Women in Farming" was also organized with distinguished speakers including Dr. Sabita Mishra (Retd. Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIWA) and Dr. Avinash Patnaik (Assistant Professor, SOA) along with experienced three women farmers who shared their field experiences. The discussion provided valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities faced by women engaged in agriculture. The Cultural Program by students of RDWU was graced by Mrs. Sukirti Patnaaik, Founder Indulge and Indii Verse and her team.

The International Women's Day Cum Valedictory Session was held on the second day. The session was graced by Dr. Anupam Behera, Founder of Nigam Group of Hospitals, as Guest of Honour, and Mr. Manoranjan Mishra, Director of Jeevan Rekha Parishad (JRP), as Chief Guest. The Vice-Chancellor (I/C), Prof. Chandi Charan Rath, addressed the gathering and emphasized the importance of empowering women

farmers through research, institutional support, and policy initiatives. The session concluded with the vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Jyotirmayee Udgata, Co-Convenor of the seminar.

The seminar concluded with vibrant cultural programmes, including performances by university students and a special appearance and performance by the team of the upcoming Odia film *Mantra Muugdha*. The event successfully created an academic and social platform to recognize and celebrate the invaluable contribution of women farmers to society.





































