



Organization: The South Asian Forum for Environment (SAFE)
Location: Sundarbans, Eastern India and Coastal Odisha
Solution: HEAL: Sustainable livelihoods for flood-prone communities with hydroponic and aquaculture floating farms
Factsheet Period: First round of UNDP AFCIA funding (18 months);
Second round of UNDP AFCIA funding (14 months)



SAFE in India works with communities to establish float-farms as a climate resilience agricultural practice - @SAFEINCH

In India, coastal erosion is threatening livelihoods. According to the government, 33.6% of the Indian coastline is vulnerable to erosion. Floating farming along inundated coasts and floodplains is an adaptive practice that enhances productivity and creates opportunities for women entrepreneurs.



Key achievements

- Deployed more than 600 float farms
- Inducted more than 14,000 farmers and fishers to float-farming and integrated aquaculture
- Benefited more than 5,700 rural households and restored 50 hectares of farmland in Eastern India
- Established 12 Farmer's Schools and 8 organic hubs
- Empowered women in agro-farming and leadership roles
- Enabled financial and social inclusion for more than 1,250 women
- Engaged local communities through partnerships for capacity building and market access
- Recognized globally for its impact and received the GEF Inclusive Assembly Challenge Award 2023 for successful replication across diverse socio-ecological contexts
- Trained more than 2,570 beneficiaries in advanced solar micro-irrigation and no-till regenerative farming
- Trained 125 women in gender-responsive agro-entrepreneurship and decision-making



Innovation

- Regenerative agriculture innovation promotes coastal sustainability
- Traditional knowledge merges with modern tech for resilience
- Floating farms built with local materials enhance food security
- Blended financing model with local banks and academic collaboration
- GIS and community-led resource mapping guides precise site selection



Adaptation benefits

- Resilience to climate flood risk
- Diversifying food production
- Implementing floating food farms in waterlogged areas



Social impact

- Benefited more than 12,900 households
- Fostered gender equality with women leading community agro-farming, fish culture and more
- Boosted leadership and income through women-led Farmer Field Schools and organic hubs



Replication potential

- Achieved self-sustainability through annual income from hydroponic/aquaculture systems, with potential for growth in subsequent years; successfully transferred and scaled technology in Bangladesh, Cambodia, and Sri Lanka with replication requests from Vanuatu and the Philippines.
- Demonstrates potential for sustainable scalability, leveraging carbon advantages, and empowering local communities through financial inclusion and capacity building



Funding snapshot

- UNDP-AFCIA grant: US\$235,000 (initial grant: \$125,000; scaling grant: \$110,000)
- GEF Assembly Challenge Fund: \$85,000
- PwC Foundation CSR grant: \$27,000;
- SBI Foundation: \$500,000

Investability

Revenue per year	Annual revenue of US\$390,000 from over 600 float-farms (including SAFE and beneficiaries revenue)
Sustaining criteria	Includes credit linkage with local MFI, circular funding, integrated crop cycle planning, and direct marketing
Financial innovation	Utilizes circular funding, reinvesting 20% of returns into the project, including internal lending to the farmers
Expected return	Projected to generate \$3,200,000 in annual revenue by 2030



To read their story, visit [UNDP-AFCIA](#)

To watch their video, click [here](#)

To contact the organization, visit [SAFE](#)