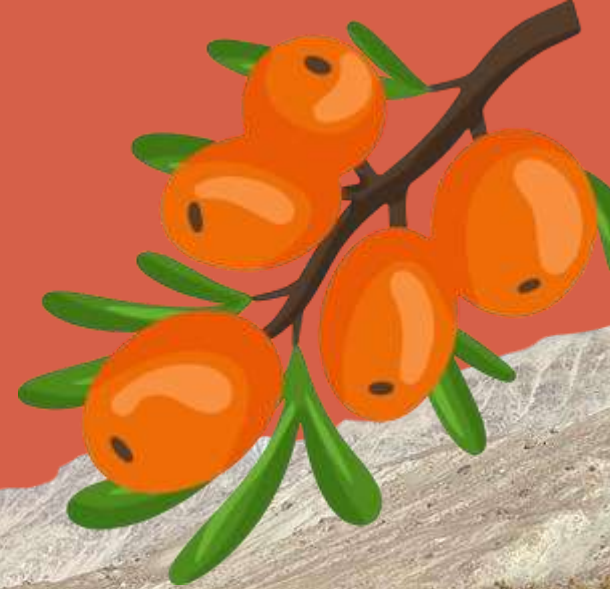


Swavalamban – LEAP

ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT ON SEA-BUCKTHORN PROCESSING



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Disclaimer:

This coffee table book is a visual and informational representation of the Swavalamban-LEAP Project, an initiative dedicated to fostering entrepreneurship through the processing and value addition of Sea Buckthorn, also to increase the Livelihood and uplift the community in Nubra Valley, Ladakh. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, the content herein is for informational and documentation purposes only. The project, supported by SIDBI and M3M Foundation and implemented by Aide et Action South Asia, is dynamic in nature, and the details presented, including achievements, statistics, and participant experiences, may evolve over time. The book does not constitute business, financial, or technical advice and should not be considered a binding representation of any future commitments. The image, and narratives included are intended to highlight the journey, challenges, and impact of the program but do not claim to represent an exhaustive or absolute record of the project's scope. The creators of this book, along with the project partners, disclaim any liability for errors, omissions, or any outcomes resulting from reliance on the information provided. For official updates or further details, readers are encouraged to contact the project team directly.

About the Organizations

Funded & Supported by :  

Implemented by : 



Swavalamban - LEAP





The SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India) is wholly owned subsidiary of IDBI (Industrial Development Bank of India), established under the special Act of the Parliament 1988 which became operative from April 2, 1990.

SIDBI was made responsible for administering Small Industries Development Fund and National Equity Fund that were administered by IDBI before. SIDBI is the Primary Financial Institution for promoting, developing and financing MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise) sector. Besides focusing on the development of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise sector, SIDBI also promotes cleaner production and energy efficiency.

SIDBI helps MSMEs in acquiring the funds they require to grow market, develop and commercialize their technologies and innovative products. The bank provides several schemes and also offers financial services and products for meeting the individual's requirement of various businesses.



Following the values of Equality, Empathy, Inclusion, Collaboration & Trust and with the vision of Economic Empowerment of the marginalized communities for Sustainable Development, M3M foundation, which was founded in 2019 by the prestigious M3M group is determined to bring development across all sections of the society by empowering them to plan, implement, monitor and contribute in sustainable community development projects in the thematic areas of Education, Health, Livelihoods and Environment Conservation that ensure holistic growth and support innovative ideas, various government initiatives and proactive steps in the developmental regime.

The Foundation's strategic plan is rooted to support a diverse range of social activities across the nation. M3M Foundation through their thematic interventions is successful in transforming more than 1.8 million lives with the presence in 22 states, 3 union territories, 60 districts and more than 750 villages across India with collaboration and partnerships with state, central government and more than 15 civil society organisations.



Changing the world through Education

Founded in 1981, Aide et Action (AEA) is a global not-for-profit organization dedicated to transforming lives through education. Originally headquartered in Paris, AEA shifted to Geneva in 2017 and now operates across South Asia, South East Asia, Africa, and Europe. In South Asia, AEA started in India in 1981, registered as a not-for-profit in 1988, and later expanded to Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bhutan, with its regional headquarters in Chennai, India.

Guided by the values of Dignity, Inclusion, and Liberty, AEA follows a Human Rights Approach, advocating for child rights and quality education, a Participatory Community-Based Approach, empowering local communities, and a Social Change Approach, involving all stakeholders in tackling educational challenges. Its core program areas include Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), Access & Quality Education (AQE), and Lifelong Learning & Vocational Training, promoting sustainable livelihoods and resilience among marginalized groups.

Women empowerment, inclusive education, climate change, peace education, and migration are key focus areas integrated into AEA's interventions. By fostering education and skill development, AEA ensures that vulnerable communities can take charge of their growth, contributing to a more peaceful and sustainable world.

The Project Advisory Committee (PAC)



SHRI. SAURABH

DGM, SRF-MPIV (SIDBI)



DR. AISHWARYA MAHAJAN

President M3M Foundation



MR. SAJEEV

CEO Aide et Action India



MR. LIGZEN

Counsellor LAHDC



MR. MOHAMMAD NAZIR SHEIKH

Director – DIC Leh

Project Team



DR.BINUJEETH

Regional Manager Aide et Action India
(SPOC of the project)



MR.R.MURALITHARA

Center Incharge and PHT Trainer



MRS.RIGZEN

Computer Staff



MR. STANZIN

Lab Assistant



MR. RIGZIN ANGUDU

Office Staff

Goals

The goal is to create heterogeneous groups of 5 candidates that represent the demography of each village.



Target Group and Reach out

- The target social groups would be the youth residents of the Identified villages of Nubra.
- Youths belonging to families with low-income group, and minimum qualification of 10th Pass



The Deliverable and expected Impact

Establishment of Lab- cum training center in the project area.

Establishment of at least 15 new enterprises involving 75 entrepreneurs (5 Entrepreneurs in one enterprise) in the processing and production of sea buckthorn.

Ensure at least 30% female in each cohort of 25 youth.

At least 750 households to be touched, directly / indirectly.

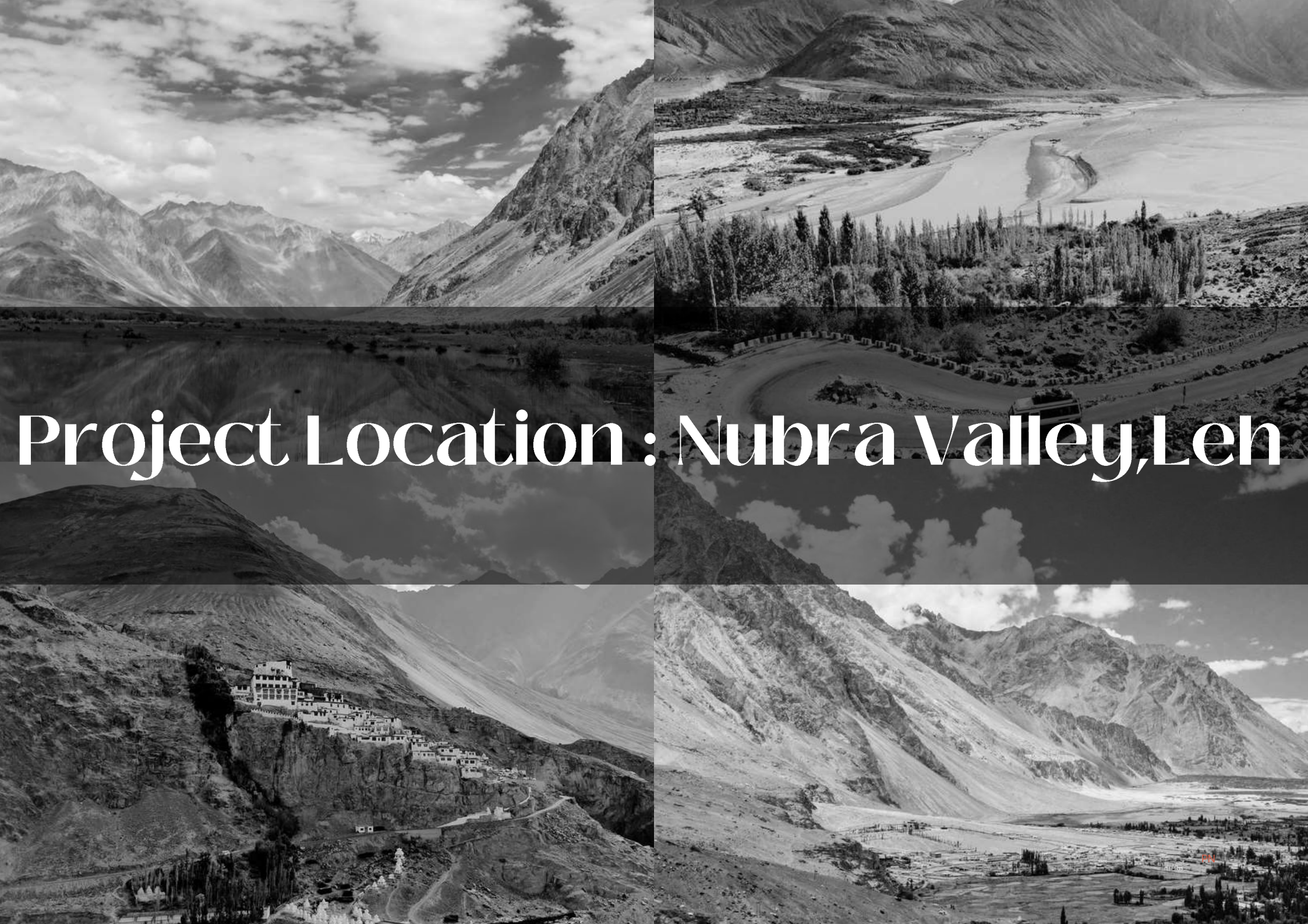
Establishment of an association of entrepreneurs trained under the program

Ensure the transfer of the Lab cum training center as a common facility center (CFC) to an Association of Entrepreneurs and other community organizations in consultation with SIDBI.

Ensure the creation of knowledge management documents, case studies, success stories, and videos for promotion and awareness of sea buckthorn products in the market.

Ensure market linkages are well in place.

Ensure onboarding of at least 1/3 rd of the newly established enterprises on major e-commerce website.



Project Location: Nubra Valley, Leh



**Centre Location : Behind Thebla, Panamic Main Road,
Lakzung, Nubra Valley, Leh, Ladakh, 194401**



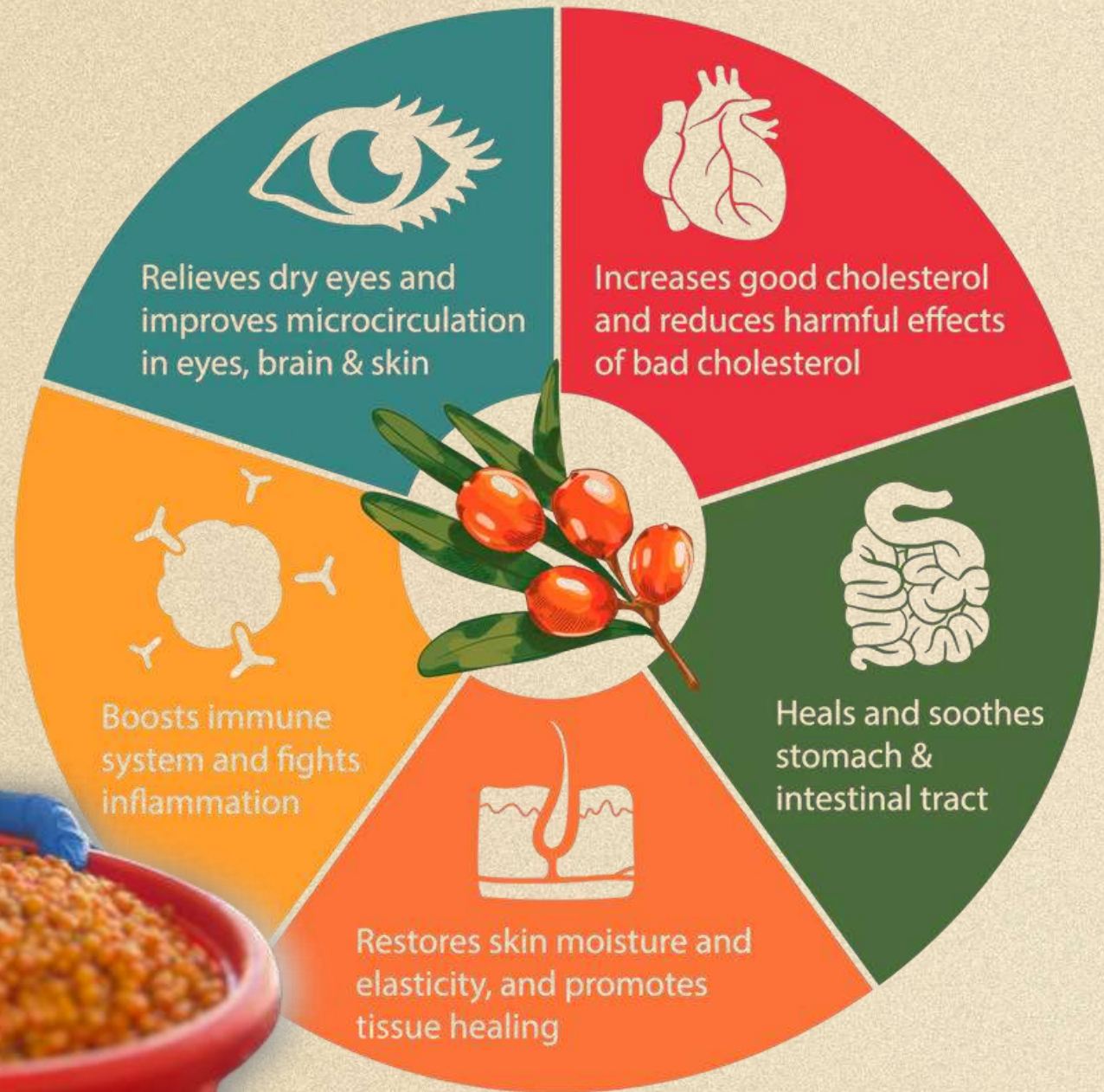
What is Sea-Buckthorn?

Sea-Buckthorn (*Hippophae* L.) is a multipurpose plant, which meets short term economic needs of the people and long term environmental conservation. It is an excellent fuel wood, fodder and soil binder, a hardy plant which can tolerate extreme climate (-40 to $+40$ degree Celsius). It grows naturally in Ladakh region and is widely distributed in the Nubra region of Leh. Sea buckthorn berries are highly nutritive and are quite rich in vitamin C (300-2400 mg/100g), vitamin A, E and K, protein, organic acid, carotenoids, flavonoids and steroids, which are used in Russia, Mongolia and China for the production of medicines, cosmetics and food products.

Following the transfer of Sea-buckthorn based technology by the Defense Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR) to a private firm in year 2001, collection of the berries has become an important income generating activity. The harvest period is short while the return is high. Popularity of the Sea-Buckthorn as a source of income can be judged from the appreciation in price of the fresh berry from Rs. 8 per kg in the year 2001 to Rs. 65 per kg in 2021. Currently, the demand for Sea-Buckthorn far exceeds the supply capacity of the region.

Ladakh remains the major site for natural Sea-Buckthorn resource with over 70% of the total area (13,000 hectares) under Sea-Buckthorn in the country. Despite the vast area under natural forest, the mean annual berry harvest is less than 5% of the total available Sea-buckthorn resource in the region. This becomes the very objective of initiating this kind of project in the valley which focuses on maximizing the cultivation, harvest and post-harvest processing of the Sea-Buckthorn fruit and also providing skill-based training to the local youth in order to induce their entrepreneurship skills and make them financially independent for a better tomorrow.

BENEFITS OF SEA BUCKTHORN



S-LEAP ROADMAP

Praposal Submission

The praposal for the Project has been submitted in December 2020



Soft -Launch ceremony

Soft Launch of the project has held in Hundar village on May 2021



Center Inauguration

Official local government Permissions have been Acquired and center Inogration on May 2023



Entrepreneurship Potential Assessment

EPA and mapping of the project reagon has been done on April 2021



Data Validation

Data validation done with local farmers and officials on October 2021



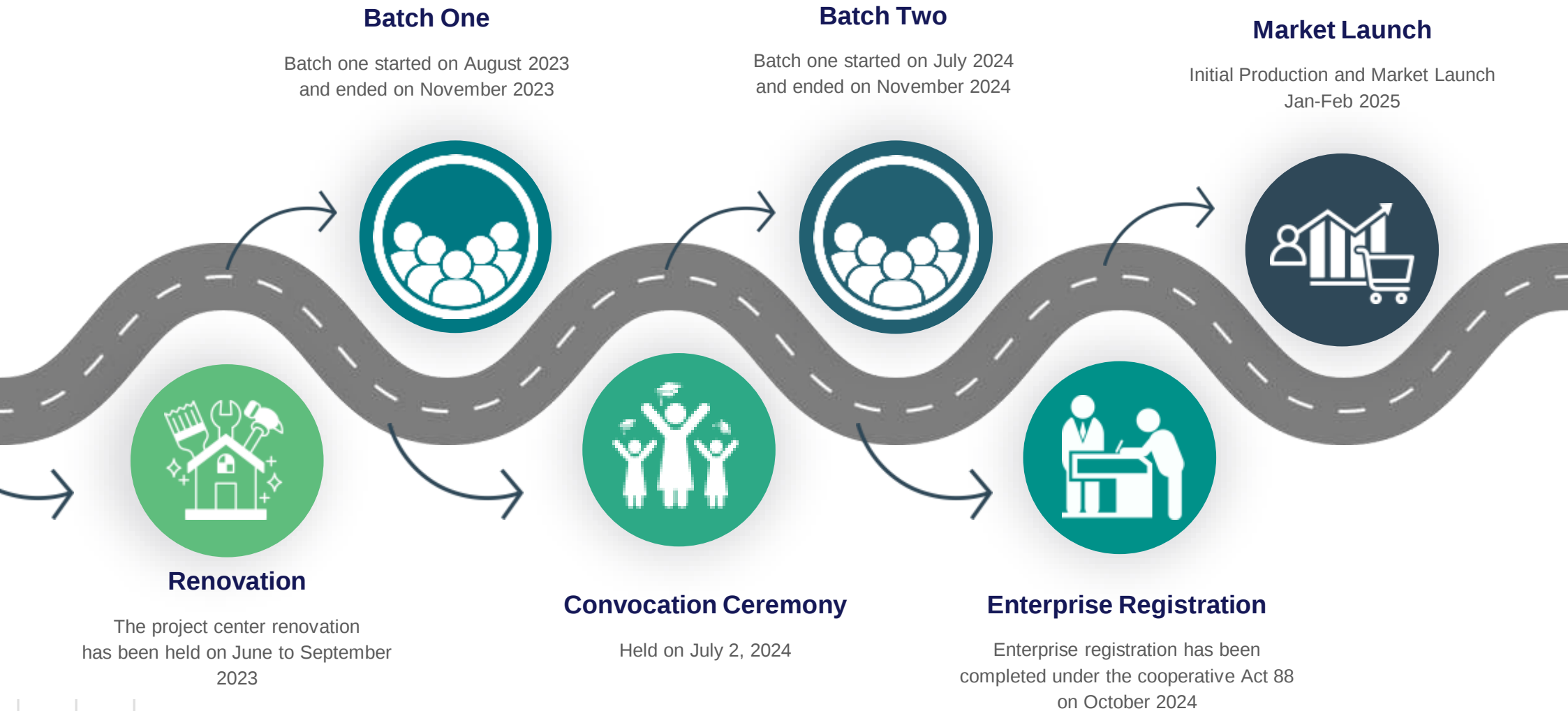
SETTING UP THE TRAINING CENTER

All the project items required have been shifted to the project center on June and July 2023





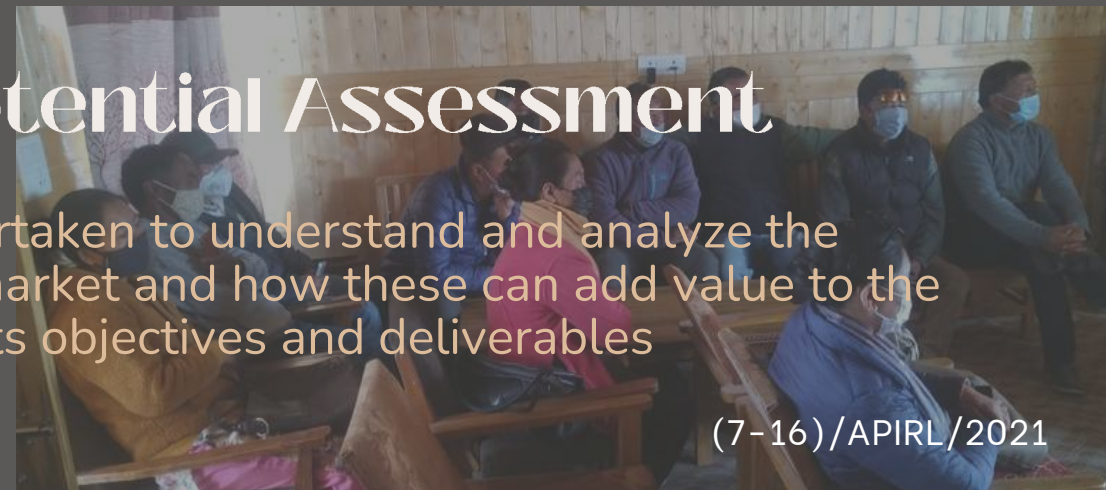
S-LEAP ROADMAP



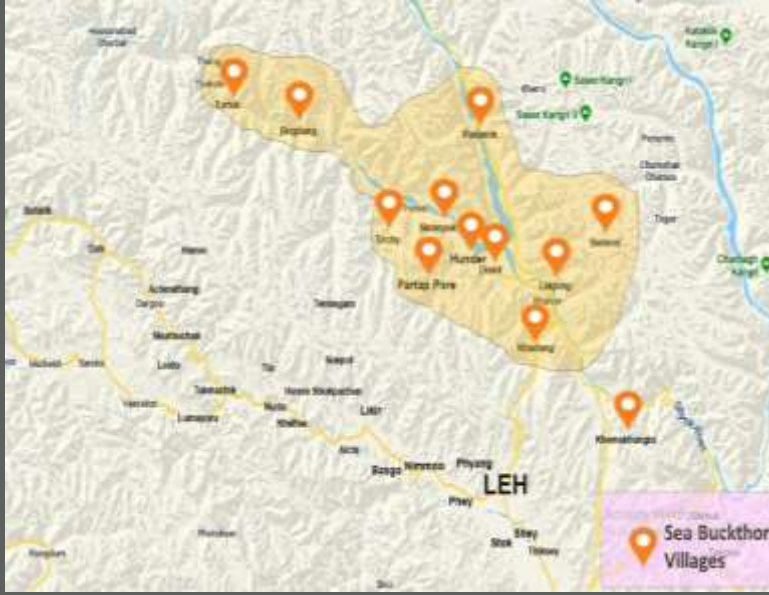


Entrepreneurship Potential Assessment

EPA: is an empowering exercise undertaken to understand and analyze the expectations of the target group, and the market and how these can add value to the project enabling it to achieve its objectives and deliverables



(7-16)/APIRL/2021



Villages Identified
for
project implementation



Charting the sea-buckthorn path in the Nubra region.

The Swavalamban LEAP project team visited various villages across Nubra Valley to engage with the local community and officials. The objective was to gain insights into the region's sea-buckthorn cultivation, assess its geographical coverage, and understand local market scenarios. The team also gathered valuable information on harvesting, processing, and potential opportunities for expanding the sea buckthorn industry in Nubra.

Data Validation & Stakeholder Interaction

At the beginning of 2021, the project team conducted data validation and engaged with primary sea-buckthorn processors in Nubra. The objective was to identify constraints, gaps, and key challenges in the value chain while gathering insights and suggestions for improvement. This interaction provided a deeper understanding of the processing landscape and potential opportunities for strengthening the sea-buckthorn industry in the region.

Key Findings

Constraints	Gap	Intervention/ Suggestion
Underutilization of the produce.	Less than 5% is harvested	Making alleyways through the dense growth.
Need for developed harvesting tool.	Berry is harvested manually by beating the bush method.	Scientific user-friendly harvesting device based on local condition
Highly perishable berry	Need to be processed on the same day	Cold chain facilities should be developed Reefer Vans should be used
Long-distance transport	berry is not harvested due to the remote location	Needs to certify to fetch a premium price
Organic certification Value-added products	Wild harvest but not certified	Several formulations are being developed by DRDO.
Strengthening market linkages	Over 90% of berries harvested are sold without value addition.	Single window online system for the buyers and the sellers.
Local entrepreneurs	Poor market linkage and small players in the value chain.	Encourage them to develop and market value-added products
Insufficient raw material	Sell only the raw material and depend on the demand of outside regions Demand far exceeds the supply	Increase harvesting and plantation of berry



Soft -Launch ceremony of Swavalamban-LEAP Project.



Hundar Valley, Nubra Valley.

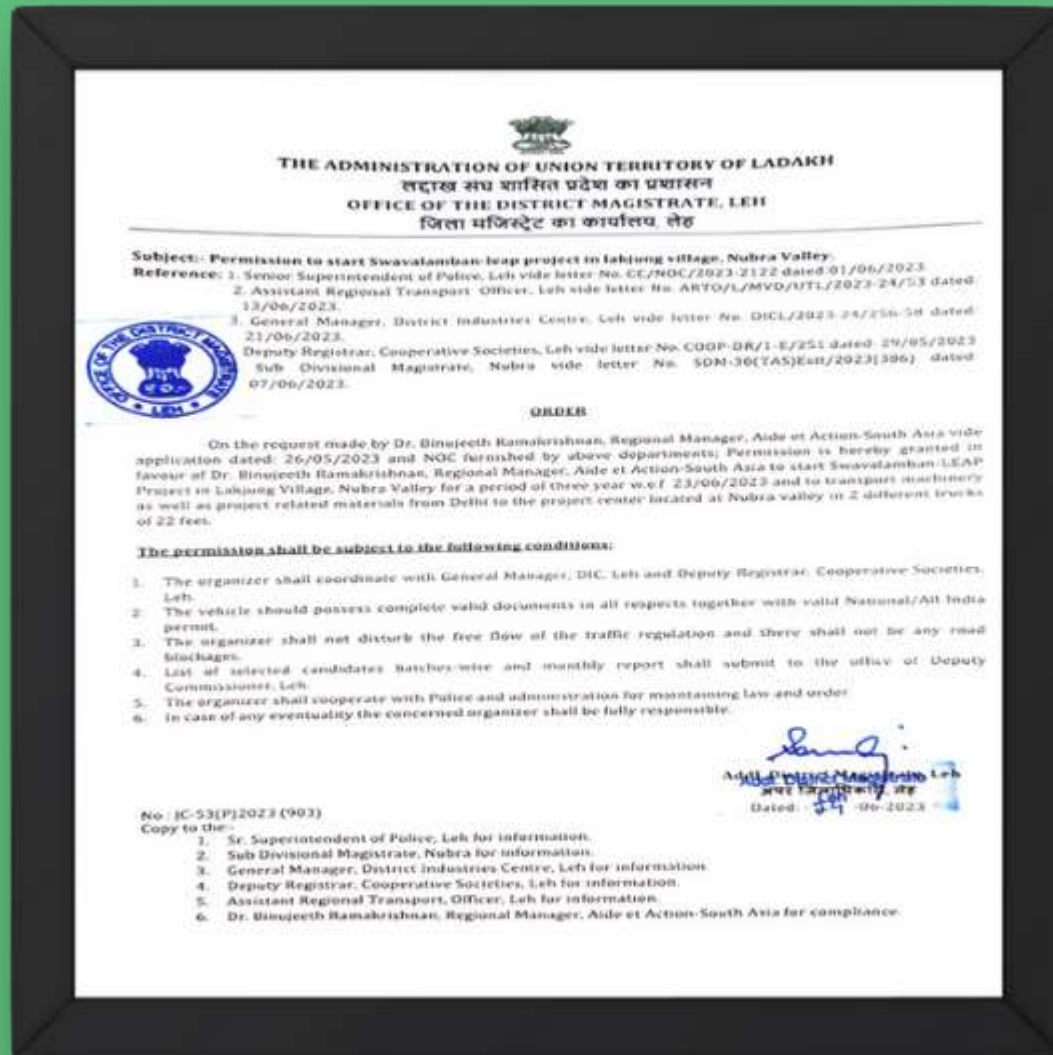
July 2021

Official Permissions for the Project

The Swavalamban-LEAP project team successfully acquired official permissions after meeting with key government officials in Leh on March 2024. The discussions focused on regulatory approvals, enterprise development, and strengthening the sea-buckthorn processing initiative in Nubra.

Permissions granted by

- Deputy Commissioner (DC), Leh
- Deputy Registrar, Cooperative Society, Leh
- General Manager, District Industries Centre (DIC), Leh
- Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Leh
- Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Nubra
- Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO), Leh





Key Meeting on Project Establishment & Future Planning with Government Officials of Leh (June 3, 2023)

Members Present :

- Shrikant Bala Saheb Suse,(Deputy Commissioner)
- Dr. Mohamad Abass (DRC, Leh),
- Abdul Hamid (BI),(Representative of DIC from Nubra)
- Beronica and Tundop Wangail from the DIC office,
- Kunzang Wangmo (CHO),
- Tsewang Gyalsen (Chief Planning Officer), as well as
- Shri Rigzen Lundup and Shri Sundup (Councilors, LAHDC) participated virtually.

A detailed meeting was held on June 3, 2023, to discuss the establishment of the Swavalamban-LEAP Project in Nubra and strategies for moving forward. A major focus of the discussion was securing support from the local government to ensure the project's success. Several key officials participated in the meeting, both in person and virtually.

One of the key proposals was to involve Dr. Mohd Abass from the District Rural Development Committee (DRC) to leverage his expertise in rural enterprise development.

Discussions were also held regarding obtaining a 3-phase electrical connection for the project center in Lakjung. The connection line is 50 meters away, and Shri Rigzen Lundup, Councilor, LAHDC, took charge of coordinating this requirement. The Deputy Commissioner assured support in arranging funds for the installation.

Another critical point was the coordination with the Cooperative Office and the District Industries Centre (DIC). A proposal was made to convert the enterprise into a cooperative for sustained oversight and support. Additionally, discussions were held on integrating PMFME funds and subsidies with the Swavalamban-LEAP project to enhance opportunities for entrepreneurs. DIC members, Ms. Beronica and Mr. Tundop, were actively involved in this discussion.

Several other forms of government support and assistance were also discussed to ensure the project's long-term sustainability and success in Nubra.



Logistics & Renovation for the Swavalamban-LEAP Center

Given Nubra Valley's high-altitude location and the high cost of purchasing materials locally, all necessary items for the center were transported from Delhi and Srinagar. The identified building, which had been abandoned for years, underwent extensive renovation both inside and outside to make it fully functional for the project.

Additionally, toilet facilities were constructed, along with a borewell for water supply. Separate septic tanks were installed for both the toilets and the processing unit, ensuring proper sanitation and waste management.



Swavalamban-LEAP Center

BEFORE



AFTER



The Swavalamban-LEAP Center in Nubra Valley, Leh, has undergone a remarkable transformation. Initially constructed as a local school, the building was abandoned for over four years due to its remote location on the outskirts of the village. At the time of abandonment, the structure lacked essential amenities such as painting, windows, lighting, water facilities, and proper road access.

After securing a lease from the educational department of Leh, the project team renovated the building, making it accessible and usable for the community. The renovations included installing toilets, providing electricity through a genset (as grid connection was unavailable), painting, and overall building restoration, along with improving road access to the site. This transformation has

Transformation of abandoned Auditorium into a Fully Functional Processing Unit

To meet the requirements of a processing unit, a proper sewage system, floor leveling, and a 3-phase electrical connection were essential. To accommodate these needs, the building's auditorium was fully renovated and transformed into a fully operational processing lab equipped with the following:



- **Pulper Super Deluxe** - Extracts pulp from sea buckthorn berries.

- **Fruit Mill** - Crushes sea buckthorn fruits for further processing.

- **Steam Jacketed Kettle (Tilting Type)** - Cooks or processes sea buckthorn products.

- **Steam Jacketed Kettle (Stationary Type)** - Heats or cooks large batches of sea buckthorn products.

- **Inline Homogeniser** - Ensures uniform texture in sea buckthorn products.

- **Hydraulic Juice Press** - Extracts juice from sea buckthorn berries.

- **Boiler** - Generates steam for processing sea buckthorn.

- **Decorticator** - Removes seeds or pits from fruits.

- **Oil Expeller Cold Press** - Extracts oil from sea buckthorn seeds.

- **Vacuum Filling Machine** - Fills processed products into glass bottles.

- **Pneumatic Filter** - Filters sea buckthorn juice or oil.

- **Crown Corking Machine** - Seals bottles

- **Screw Cap Sealing Machine** - Seals containers

- **Dryer / Dehydrator** - Dries sea buckthorn berries or pulp.

- **Pulverizer** - Grinds sea buckthorn materials into fine powder.

- **Extra Spares and Accessories** - Trays, Tables, Storage and Mixing Tanks, Wooden Crate, Hydraulic cloths, etc...

Now, the processing lab stands as the **Biggest Processing Unit** in all of Nubra, providing a facility that the entire community can utilize.



3

Month Course

4

Subjects

288

Hrs of Training

(PHT)

Post-Harvest Technology (PHT) focuses on agricultural aspects, post-harvest processes, value addition, and the processing of Sea Buckthorn to enhance its market potential.

(EDP)

Enterprise Development Programme (EDP) Training focuses on marketing strategies and the complete process of starting and managing a business effectively.

Basic
Computer

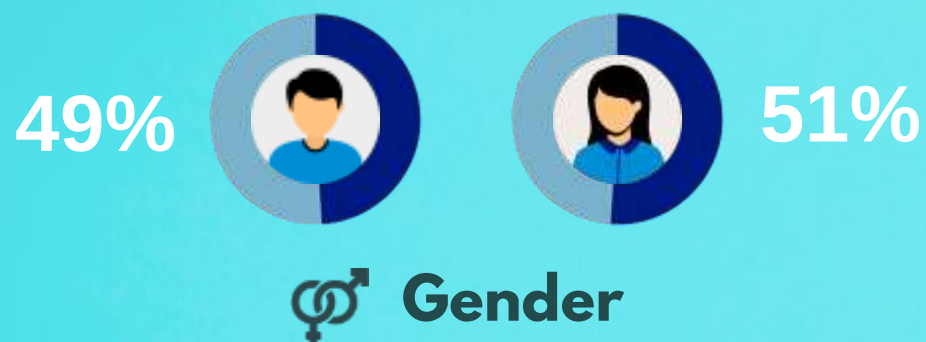
Basic Computer Training covers Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Canva for business and product design, and adding products to e-commerce websites.

Soft Skills

Soft Skills Training focuses on Spoken English, personality development, and real-time marketing scenarios.

BATCH - ONE

No of Candidates : 30



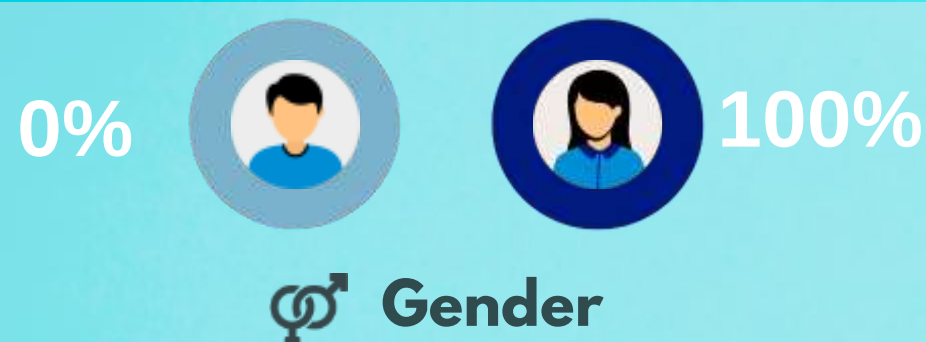
18-30 Years 31-40 Years



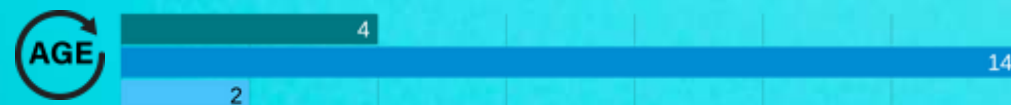
S/No	No of Villages Covered	No of Candidates from Each Village
1	Tirth	5
2	Tigger	8
3	Chamshen	2
4	Hargam	2
5	Summor	9
6	Khalsar	1
7	Taksha	1
8	Tongsted	2
Total	8	30

BATCH - TWO

No of Candidates : 20



18-30 Years 31-40 Years 40-45 Years



S/No	No of Villages Covered	No of Candidates from Each Village
1	Chamshen	5
2	Lakzung	5
3	Pinchimik	9
4	Panamick	1
Total	4	20

Installing drinking water pipeline at the Government Middle School in Tigger, Nubra



We have successfully installed a drinking water pipeline at Government Middle School, Tigger, Nubra, benefiting 50+ students, the ICDS center, and the surrounding trees. Principal Mr. Sklyzing and 14 staff members expressed heartfelt gratitude to the M3M Foundation for their timely support in addressing this essential need, and ensuring clean drinking water for students and staff.



Installing drinking water pipeline at the Government Middle School in Tigger, Nubra





Constructed the first Archery Indoor Ground for the Community of Nubra



The much-awaited Archery Competition, organized by the M3M Foundation in collaboration with the Archery Association of Nubra, was successfully held on 24th November 2024, with 107 archers from 27 villages participating. The event was inaugurated by Mr. Saleem, Executive Magistrate (on behalf of SDM Diskit), and Mr. Rigzin Lundup, Councillor for Tigger and Samour villages, alongside other dignitaries:

**Mr. Rigzin Gurmat – Nambardar
Village Committee Members – Nubra
Chowkidar – Tigger Village**

Taksha Village won in Modern Archery, while Tigger Village triumphed in Traditional Archery. The Best Modern Archer was Tundup Spanges (Taksha Village), and the Best Traditional Archer was Tundup Namgyal (Tigger Village).

- **Mr. Saleem** commended M3M Foundation for the Archery Unit and emphasized its role in developing future champions.
- **Mr. Rigzin Lundup** appreciated the foundation's support, including the drinking water project at Government Middle School, Tigger, and requested turf installation for further enhancement.
- **Mr. Rinchen Wangdus**, President, the Archery Association of Nubra, expressed gratitude to Mr. Aishwarya Mahajan for his commitment and highlighted M3M Foundation's efforts in empowering youth through sports infrastructure.





1500+

Lives Touched through the initiative

50

Candidates trained

500+

House Hold got Benefitted from the Swavalamban-LEAP Center

100

people got registred for the enterprunership

Established

Biggest Processing Unit in Nubra Valley free for community use

Events and Activities



Inspirational Visit by Sumoor Councilor Shri. Lundup Ji to Our Center - September 2023

On September 12th, 2023, Sumoor Councilor Mr. Lundup Ji visited our center, touring the construction site and engaging with our teaching staff and students. His inspiring lecture on government subsidies and the project's community impact left a lasting impression, motivating our team to strive for greater excellence.

Hands-On Training in Traditional Sea Buckthorn Harvesting - September 2023

Our candidates participated in practical training on the traditional "Beat the Bush" method of Sea Buckthorn harvesting. This hands-on session offered them valuable insights into the age-old technique, deepening their understanding of sustainable harvesting practices and preserving traditional knowledge in the field.



Events and Activities



Exploring the Seabuckthorn Pulping Industry: A Transformative Field Trip to Tirit Nubra - October 2023

The field trip to the pulping industry in Tirit Nubra on 2023 September 19th was a transformative experience for our candidates. They observed the seabuckthorn pulping process, from berry selection to extraction, and learned about its applications in pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and supplements. Interactions with industry expert Mr. Gelson highlighted its economic and ecological importance, enriching their understanding of sustainable practices and preparing them for future opportunities in the field.

Industrial Visit to Seabuckthorn Industries in Leh - October 2023

On 2023 October 6th and 7th, an industrial visit to three prominent seabuckthorn industries in Leh was conducted. The visit aimed to explore the seabuckthorn industry's processes, understand its operations, and identify potential collaboration opportunities. This hands-on experience provided valuable insights into the industry's workings, enriching our candidates' knowledge and opening doors for future partnerships.



Events and Activities



Active Participation in Nubra Heritage Festival - October 2023

Our candidates enthusiastically participated in an army-organized marathon during the Nubra Heritage Festival in Tigger village. Mr. Murali, a staff member, delivered a compelling speech highlighting the significance of our project and its community benefits, resonating with Nubra councilors, the army chief, and local residents. This active involvement showcased our commitment to community engagement and strengthened our ties with local authorities, emphasizing the meaningful connection between our educational journey and Nubra's cultural heritage.

Mastering Product Photography - October 2023

On October 30th, professional photographers Mr. Ayush Nema and Mr. Devansh Sharma from Alsisar Impact conducted an insightful session on product photography. Through practical demonstrations and hands-on activities, they provided our participants with valuable skills and techniques in the field. This engaging workshop not only enhanced their photography expertise but also inspired creativity and professionalism in their work.



Events and Activities



Knowledge Exchange with School Students in Samataling, Tigger village, Nubra Valley - November 2023

In November 2023, Project staff conducted a knowledge exchange session with school students in Samataling, Tigger. The interactive session focused on sharing insights about sustainable practices, skill development, and community initiatives. This engagement not only inspired the students but also strengthened our connection with the local community, fostering a culture of learning and collaboration for future endeavors.

Celebrating the Success of Batch 1 - November 2023

On November 16, 2023, we celebrated the successful completion of Batch 1, marking a significant milestone in our journey. The event honored the hard work, dedication, and achievements of our candidates, who have grown both personally and professionally throughout the program.



Events and Activities



Marketing Research on Product Varieties and Ingredient Quantities – December 2023

In December 2023, our team conducted in-depth marketing research on various product types and their ingredient quantities. This study aimed to better understand market trends, consumer preferences, and the role of ingredient proportions in product effectiveness.

Stakeholder Engagement and Recommendations – January and February 2023

Meetings with Thinley Dokpa (Government Employee), Tundup Alay (UPSC Aspirant), Rigzin Wangdus (Sarpanch, Tigger Village), Tsepal (Executive Member, Summor Village), and Rigzin Jora (Secretary, Tigger Society) yielded valuable insights. Key suggestions included integrating solar dryers for skill development, expanding the project team, diversifying enterprises, and extending age limits for inclusivity. Stakeholders emphasized the need for a computer training center and sustainable transportation solutions like solar-powered rickshaws. Their collective feedback highlighted the importance of innovation, collaboration, and community-driven approaches to ensure long-term success and impact.



Events and Activities



Batch 1 Students Engage with Dr. Aishwarya Mahajan and Mr. Binujeeth Ramakrishnan – June 2024

In June 2024, Batch 1 students held an inspiring meeting with Dr. Aishwarya Mahajan, President and Trustee of M3M Foundation, and Mr. Binujeeth Ramakrishnan, Regional Manager of Aide et Action. The discussion centered on their training progress, efficiency, and potential entrepreneurial opportunities. The session provided valuable guidance, motivation, and a clear pathway for the students to embark on their entrepreneurial journeys with confidence and vision.

Batch 1 Students Shine at District Level Archery Competition – July 2024

Batch 1 students Tani and Mutup achieved an impressive 2nd place in the District Level Archery Competition. Their success highlights their dedication, hard work, and the unwavering support of the Swavalamban - LEAP program. This accomplishment not only reflects their personal growth but also underscores the program's commitment to nurturing talent and fostering holistic development among its participants.



Events and Activities



Batch 2 Begins at iLEAD Lakzung Center – July 12, 2024

On July 12, 2024, the iLEAD Lakzung Center welcomed Batch 2 of the Swavalamban - LEAP program, continuing its mission to empower local entrepreneurship. While awaiting the sea buckthorn season, practical classes have commenced using locally available products like apricots, apples, vegetables, and barley. This hands-on approach ensures candidates gain valuable experience with machinery and processes, preparing them for future opportunities in sustainable entrepreneurship.

Swavalamban Project Showcased at Ensa Gompa Festival – 2024

On July 21, 2024, our Project Manager delivered an impactful speech at the Ensa Gompa Festival in Murgi village, Nubra. The address highlighted the Swavalamban project's significant contributions to skill development, enterprise creation, and community empowerment. By showcasing its achievements and initiatives, the speech reinforced the project's commitment to fostering sustainable growth and positive change in the region.



Events and Activities



Knowledge Transfer and Independence Day Debate – August 2024

On August 14, 2024, a knowledge transfer session between Batch 1 and Batch 2 of the Swavalamban LEAP program fostered a collaborative learning environment, with Batch 1 sharing valuable insights and experiences. The day also featured an Independence Day debate competition on the theme, "Are Digital Tools Beneficial for the Youth of Ladakh?" Three winners were recognized for their exceptional reasoning and presentation skills, sparking meaningful discussions on the role of digital tools in Ladakh's development and future growth.

Pre-Sea Buckthorn Season Preparations – August 2024

Ahead of the sea buckthorn harvesting season starting after September 10, regular practical classes have been conducted using alternative raw materials like apricots, apples, and barley. These sessions provide candidates with hands-on experience in machinery operation and processing techniques, ensuring they are well-prepared and confident to efficiently handle sea buckthorn when the season begins. This proactive approach highlights the program's commitment to skill development and readiness.



Events and Activities



Knowledge Exchange with Lahaul Forest Officials and Community – September 2024

On September 7, 2024, the Deputy Forest Ranger of Lahaul, Himachal Pradesh, along with three forest officers and 18 community members, visited our center to explore sea buckthorn processing techniques. Swavalamban-LEAP candidates showcased products like pulp, juice, and jam, demonstrating their expertise. A technical lecture deepened understanding, fostering knowledge exchange and strengthening collaboration with the Lahaul community for sustainable sea buckthorn utilization and shared growth.

Comprehensive Training on Fruit Processing by Mrs. Tashi – September 2024

On September 13 and 14, 2024, Mrs. Tashi from the Horticulture Department, Leh, led an in-depth training session for Swavalamban-LEAP candidates. The workshop focused on processing sea-buckthorn, apples, and apricots into products like juice, jam, and papad, alongside techniques for packaging and preservation. This hands-on training equipped candidates with vital skills, empowering them for successful entrepreneurial ventures in the food processing industry.



Events and Activities



Training Culminates with Chief Guests' Encouragement – September 2024"

On September 14, 2024, the special training session by the Horticulture Department concluded with the BDC Sir and Sarpanch of Sumoor as honored guests. Swavalamban-LEAP candidates showcased their sea-buckthorn products, including juice, pulp, and jam. The chief guests delivered motivational speeches, encouraging candidates to pursue their entrepreneurial journey with confidence and pledging support for the growth of local enterprises, marking a memorable end to the training program.

Community Engagement and Skill Application – July to November 2024

In September 2024, community members utilized our center's machinery to process apricot seeds, tomato puree, and apple juice at minimal costs. Swavalamban-LEAP Batch 1 and 2 candidates efficiently managed the operations, applying their training to support the community. This initiative not only strengthened local ties but also demonstrated the practical application of their skills in real-world scenarios.



Major Events and Milestones



Convocation Ceremony of Batch 1

The convocation ceremony of Batch 1 candidates of the Swavalamban-LEAP program was a momentous occasion, celebrating their transition from training to entrepreneurship. The event was graced by esteemed guests, including Mr. Shri Ram Meena (GM, SIDBI), Ms. Anamika Rajkumari (AGM, SIDBI), Dr. Aishwarya Mahajan (President, M3M Foundation), Mr. Sajeew PB (CEO, Aide et Action), Dr. Binujeeth Ramakrishnan (Regional Manager, Aide et Action), Shri Lundup (Local Councilor), Numverdars of all local Villages.

Key activities included certificate distribution, inspiring speeches from dignitaries, an exhibition showcasing candidates' sea-buckthorn products, and interactive sessions on future business opportunities. The event marked a significant milestone in empowering local entrepreneurs and fostering sustainable economic growth in Nubra Valley.

Major Events and Milestones



High-Level Officials of Leh Visit Swavalamban LEAP Center – July 14, 2024

On July 14, 2024, the Deputy Commissioner of Leh, along with the SDM of Nubra, councilor, tehsildar, and police officials, visited our center. The Deputy Commissioner commended the efforts of the Swavalamban LEAP project, assured support for future challenges.

Major Events and Milestones



president of the cooperative
Mr. Stanzin Tondan



Vice- president of the cooperative
Mr. Stanzin Dysal

Leadership Elections for Cooperative Formation – September 2, 2024

On September 2, 2024, the Swavalamban-LEAP program conducted elections for President and Vice President of the cooperative, marking a pivotal step toward formal leadership and registration. All candidates actively participated in the voting process, demonstrating their commitment to collective decision-making and the establishment of a structured, cooperative framework for future entrepreneurial endeavors. Following a fair and transparent voting process, Stanzin Tondan was elected as President and Stanzin Dysal as Vice President. Their leadership marks a significant milestone for the initiative, as they take charge of the registration process and guide the cooperative's future development, ensuring a collaborative and sustainable path forward for all members.

Major Events and Milestones



Showcasing Entrepreneurial Success at the Nubra Heritage Festival – September 2024



Swavalamban-LEAP candidates successfully produced high-quality samples of sea-buckthorn juice, pulp, and jam, showcasing their skills and entrepreneurial potential. At the Nubra Heritage Festival, they exhibited these products in a stall, marking a key milestone for the program. The event, graced by Deputy Chairman Leh, Councillors, and Padmashri Chewang Mutup, saw candidates launch their enterprises, selling sea-buckthorn juice and jam to nearly 200 attendees. The positive feedback and sales of ₹8,500, deposited into their group bank account, provided a strong marketing platform and laid the foundation for future business growth and market expansion in the region.

Major Events and Milestones



Progress Update and Gratitude to Additional Registrar – October 2024

On October 25, 2024, a meeting was held with the Additional Registrar in Kargil to provide updates on the Swavalamban-LEAP project. The team expressed gratitude for the successful registration of the cooperative for the candidates. Samples of products prepared by the candidates were also presented, showcasing their progress and the impact of the initiative. This meeting reinforced collaboration and highlighted the project's commitment to empowering local entrepreneurship.

Sample product of Riyul



- **Sea Buckthorn Juice**
- **Sea Buckthorn Jam**
- **Sea Buckthorn pulp**
- **Sea Buckthorn squash**
- **Sea Buckthorn cookies**
- **Sea Buckthorn dried berries**
- **Sea Buckthorn Lipbalm**

Riyul Product in Market

Three products introduced to the market





“Glimpse of practicals and production by candidates”







"Empowering communities, transforming livelihoods—Swavalamban-LEAP is shaping a self-reliant future in Leh's Nubra Valley. Through skill development, enterprise creation, and innovation in Sea Buckthorn processing, we are nurturing entrepreneurs, preserving local resources, and paving the way for sustainable growth."



Swavalamban - LEAP

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