



## CONTENTS

SEWA Co-operative Federation bags award for leadership in innovative co-operatives by Canadian Co-operative Association

A work shop on 'SEWA Heritage Haveli Project' at Kanak Hotel on 24<sup>th</sup> January

Study visit to Sri Lanka by Board members of SEWA Co-operative Federation

SSM wins PRL case

Updates

Trainings in the last quarter

Research programs

Publications

## HIGHLIGHTS

SEWA Co-operative Federation bags award for leadership in innovative co-operatives by Canadian Co-operative Association

Exposure visit to Sri Lanka by the Board members of SEWA Federation from 21<sup>st</sup> February to 1<sup>st</sup> march



(From left) Ms. Jo-Anne Furguson Director, CCA, Mrs. Lalita Krishnaswami, President SEWA Co-op. Federation, Ms. Carol Hunter, Director, CCA and Ms. Anita Manchandani, CEO, NCUI on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2011 at AMA

*"Women have a special capacity to lead us to a more peaceful world with compassion, affection and kindness."*

- Dalai Lama

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## SAHAKARITA

*On the eve of 100<sup>th</sup> year of Women's International Day I am happy that our efforts in the development and self reliance of womens co-operatives have taken shape. Intensive programmes are further needed to enhance their capacity.*

*However, there is a need to initiate suitable tax reforms to revitalize people's organizations. The Federation continues to support its members in the socio-economic development. More and more innovative co-operatives are being promoted and registered.*

*I wish my readers Happy International Women's Day!*

- Lalita Krishnaswami  
President (GSWSCF)

### SEWA Co-operative Federation bags award for leadership in innovative co-operatives by Canadian Co-operative Association

The award for leadership in innovative co-operatives were given to 22 women cooperators at a function organized at Ahmedabad Management Association on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2011. The President of the Federation, Mrs. Lalita Krishnaswami explained the role of the Federation to its member co-operatives. The Federation supports them in the economic viability and governance for sustainability and livelihood. Mrs. Lalita Krishnaswami received the award for the Federation from CCA's director, Carol Hunter which was hailed with a standing ovation by the women present.

"I am the President of Saundarya Cleaning Co-operative, which is completing 25 years. I have learnt a lot from the Federation, which is for me a university from where, I have done my M.A."

-Manjula Vaghela

Comparing the Federation with a banyan tree, Ms. Carol said "In times to come this banyan tree will grow into a forest and give oxygen to the whole world. As a token she presented a sculpture made by tribal of Canada."

"I congratulate the women leaders who have been felicitated today. This is the only women's Federation with varied co-operatives. Though India has the largest no. of co-operatives, only 2-3 % is women's co-operatives." - Carol Hunter.

Jo-Anne said "I know Lalita Krishnaswami for a long time but to be a witness to the activities was an eye opener and inspiring. Nothing but hard and sincere work results in success. The co-operatives need ideal leadership which this Federation has."

Anita Manchandani, Chief executive Officer, National Co-operative Union of India was the key note speaker. She said "Women do not become leaders for status of the post. They work keeping in mind values which in turn makes them leaders. To be born a woman is a matter of pride for only a woman can make society a success "She is a born leader" Shri Krishna Ahoojapatel from Women's International

The co-operative run by men, was lying defunct. The women took over and revived the milk co-operative of Miroli village, Banaskantha, breaking the myth that only men can run any business."

- Kamiben Ayer.

"With the help of the Federation, fish co-operative is standing on its own feet. This leadership award is not only mine but also of all the members of the co-operative."

- Shantaben Patni.

League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), Geneva said, "I feel elated being a witness to this fascinating programme. I have learnt from my long experience with self employed women that only courage can make exemplary institutions."

Mrs. Lalita Krishnaswami mentioned that there should be an exclusive fund for the co-operative education for women by the government and apex bodies to enable them to be active in the co-operative movement.

Ms. Labhuben Thakkar, M.D., SEWA Co-operative Federation thanked Ms. Anita Manchandani for coming from Delhi to participate in this function. She also thanked the CCA Directors, Ms. Carol Hunter and Jo-Anne Furguson for honoring the Federation. She thanked Dr. Krishna Ahoojapatel, WILPF for peace and freedom.

## A step forward to SEWA's first Heritage building "Live Craft Museum"

The Design SEWA of the Federation organized a work shop on 'SEWA Heritage Haveli Project' at Kanak Hotel on 24<sup>th</sup> January.

Ms. Ela R. Bhatt - Founder of SEWA, Mr. Ashok Chatterji - Member, Prime Minister's committee for culture and heritage, Mr. I Khan - Assistant Commissioner office of the Handicraft Development and representatives of SEWA's sister organizations attended the meeting.

Design SEWA is housed in a nearly 100 years old building in Dhal ni Pole, Ahmedabad.

The objective of the workshop was to assess aesthetic damage and need for restoration of the building and develop it as 'Live Craft Museum' to preserve the heritage values and characteristics, restoring the bonds of artisans between traditional buildings crafts and SEWA's activities in the 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of Ahmedabad city.



Meeting on 'SEWA Heritage Haveli Project' at Kanak Hotel on 24<sup>th</sup> Jan., 2011.

## Study visit to Sri Lanka by the Board members of the Federation



Meeting with Dr. and Mrs. Aryaratnam, founder of Sarvodaya movement



Some of BoDs look at simple technologies, introduced by Practical Actions



Meeting with Dr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya, founder of Sanasa Bank with the Federation team

The Federation organized a study visit for its BODs for 7 days to Sri Lanka in February with the purpose of learning and exchanging of new ideas and experiences. They visited Sarvodaya movement, Sanasa organization and Practical Actions.

Sarvodaya is a 52 years old Gandhian Institute, working in 15000 villages in Sri Lanka. Manjulaben of "Saundarya Cleaning Co-op." appreciated 10 basic human needs at Sarvodaya movement specially 'Clean & beautiful environment'.

Sanasa is a 34 years old organization, in banking services for the poor. Jassiben of "Vanlaxmi Tree-growers' Co-op." found the 7 pillars, translating 7 principles of the co-operatives very interesting.

Practical Actions is an organization, working with poor and marginalized people, who are economically vulnerable and do not have access to technology. It introduces affordable and simple technology to the people.

The team also visited the herbal garden to understand the use of herbs. Subhadra from health-care co-op., who are already growing herbs found it very interesting to tie up the herbs and medicines.

## Updates

#1

SEWA Kalakruti participated in five exhibitions held in Lucknow and two in Bombay, Palanpur and Mehsana. The response for environment friendly vegetable dyeing, patch work products and paper craft products including paper jewellery were very well received.

#2

135 women from Saundarya Cleaning Co-operative and Artisan co-operatives participated in the eye camp. 127 women received glasses.

#3

30,000kg of fresh fenugreek (methi) was directly sold from the farm to the wholesaler to eliminate the cost of transportation through shop no. 40 at APMC Market, Jamalpur.

#4

Matsyagandha co-operative has expanded its marketing in some residential areas to supply fresh fish.

#5

SEWA Video Co-operative received the media award for its contribution for capacity building of women, organized by UNFPA and MICA.

#6

Mrs. Susuchi Mehta presented marketing strategies of the Federation in the Annual General Meeting of SEWA Bharat at Delhi.

#7

Ms. Dipika Gajjar, Accountant, Lokswasthya Co-operative received Government Diploma in Co-operation and Accountancy. This diploma is equivalent to CA., which makes her eligible to be on the panel of auditors.

#8

Labhuben Thakkar, M.D., SEWA co-operative Federation participated in the workshop on “Advancing Strategies to Deliver Welfare & Livelihood Development Services to India’s Informal Sector Workers” on February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2011 at Bangalore. She made a presentation on “Creating Livelihood through Co-operatives”. Miraiben Chatterji, President of SEWA Lokswasthya Co-operative was the Key-note Speaker.

#10

The Federation in collaboration with SEWA Academy introduced Computer training and English speaking classes at the Kadi Khuddar Co-operative’s centre.

#9

Ms. Jo-Anne Furguson and Ms. Carol Hunter, Directors of CCA visited SEWA Co-op. Federation for 3 days to appraise the activities of the Federation. They also visited Design SEWA, Mahila Housing Trust, Jamalpur-Shop No. 40, Fish market, Vegetable producers’ groups at Kheda village and SEWA Mahila co-op. bank.

“We are proud to help to make the story of The Federation and members known to more Canadians. It is difficult to put into words- how inspiring the women and their co-operatives are. We saw that co-operatives are indeed a strong force for positive development in very challenging conditions.”  
-Jo-Anne Furguson

“We still feel the warmth of The Federation and its substantial learning experience.”  
- Carol Hunter.



Mrs. Lalita Krishnaswami received the award for the Federation from CCA’s director, Carol Hunter



Kamiben Ayer receives leadership award from Mrs. Anita Manchanda, CEO, NCUI on 10<sup>th</sup> Feb., 2011 at Town Hall

## Trainings

### Skill Up-gradation Trainings



Members of Saundarya Cleaning Co-op. in a training session

No.	Training	No. of members
1.	Patch work	15
2.	Badla work	15
3.	Paper block printing	15
4.	Paper jewellery	20
5.	Soft skill training	30
<b>Total</b>		<b>95</b>



Women at patch work training

### Other Trainings

366 members participated in 11 educational training programs organized by the Federation for the first quarter of 2011.

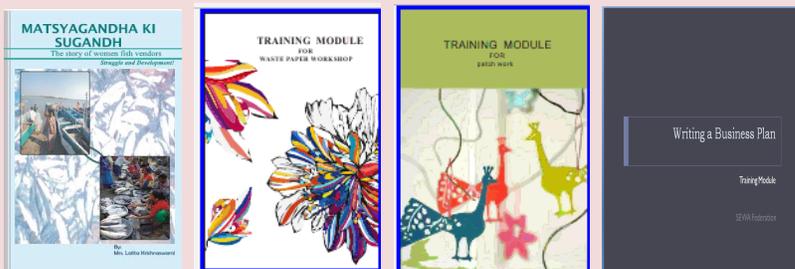
Two trainings on “Land Management for organic crops” held at Anand Agricultural University.

Information was disseminated regarding the nutritional value of the vegetables. Grading, sorting, drying, pre cooling, packaging and storage including processing are value addition to the vegetables..

37 women participated in a workshop “How to make pesticide from natural ingredients

Training to identify the categories of the vegetables and its diseases & insects and how to have maximum productivity on 1 bigha of land.

## Publications



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