

Van Dhan Yojana – A step towards tribal entrepreneurship – Implementation in Odisha – A study

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Abstract - The Van Dhan Vikas Yojana (VDY) is a part of the 'Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) & Development of Value Chain for MFP' Scheme. The scheme aims to promote livelihood generation among tribal gatherers and facilitate their transformation into entrepreneurs. This programme, which is centered around NTFP-led tribal development, was officially launched on April 14th, 2018 in Bijapur, one of the aspirational districts in Chhattisgarh, India. Its main objective is to enhance the MSP by enabling tribal Self Help Groups (SHGs) to add value to the MFP they procure under MSP. The VDY program is aimed at promoting the development of tribal communities by encouraging them to form clusters and engage in the processing of forest produce, thereby enhancing its value. In addition to this program, the initiative also provides new skills and effective tools to MFP gatherers through training and capacity building. This initiative demonstrates a strong drive towards tribal entrepreneurship. Authors have made an attempt to study the implementation of this flagship yojana in the State of Odisha.

Key Words: Van Dhan Yojana, tribal entrepreneurship, VDSHG

In India, indigenous tribal communities are the most backward sections of the society and they have been a matter of great concern for the Government. The tribes of India numerically form more than 8% of the total Indian population. They are spread out almost in all states including the Union Territories from the plains to the hills. More than 87 per cent of the country's tribal population is confined to 11 states. While half of these tribal folk live outside tribal areas, the other half still lives in their native habitat. Most of these are forest dwellers. In real terms, around 5 crore tribals live in their native environment.

It is widely recognized that forests in India have predominantly flourished in regions with a high

concentration of tribal communities. This can be primarily attributed to the historical involvement of these communities in the development and protection of forests. Forests play a significant role in their economy, culture, and overall existence, with a mutually beneficial relationship existing between the two. Over generations, tribal communities have amassed a vast traditional knowledge base about trees and forest products.

Following the passing of the Forest Act in 1927, the State began developing its forests using a commercial, timber-centric strategy, with a particular focus on high-value timber such as teak. Unfortunately, many non-timber products of the forests, referred to as 'Minor Forest Produces' (MFP), were dismissed. In reality, these MFPs are the primary source of reliance for tribal communities, with timber being of secondary importance. The preservation of MFPs was the driving force behind the care and protection of trees by these communities. Despite this, tribal communities were neglected.

Presently, the government is in the process of implementing various modifications pertaining to the ownership of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) by members of tribes. The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, which was enacted in 2006, has been instrumental in this regard. Prior to this, the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act of 1996 had conferred ownership rights on MFP discovered within the territory of tribal Gram Sabhas. In 2014, the Scheme of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for MFP was introduced.

Even if all of the aforementioned acts proved beneficial, several 'gaps' that include the following must be filled in order to achieve the desired result:

1. The area covered by trees bearing MFP is diminishing due to the prioritization of timber

extraction. This trend is reflected in a significant decline in production data for all MFP.

2. The MFP trading system at the primary haat bazar level is highly unfair to tribal communities. Consequently, even when market prices appear favorable, the amount of cash that reaches the hands of the tribes is minimal. The long chain of intermediaries benefits greatly from this system. Non-timber Forest Produces, commonly referred to as 'Minor Forest Produces,' play a significant role in the economy of tribal societies.
3. Although efforts have been made to address the livelihood issues of ST-members who have migrated to mainstream society, the challenges faced by tribes who have chosen to remain in traditional forest habitats have not been adequately addressed. This represents a significant gap. Clearly, there is a lack of a comprehensive plan to promote income-generating entrepreneurial activities, which are crucially embedded in the tribal character.

To put it differently, the initial and final measures taken by the Government to protect the trade interests of indigenous communities in Minor Forest Produce (MFP) are yet to be implemented. Consequently, the forested tribal areas persist as breeding grounds for unrest and endure the consequences of radical leftist ideologies.

Therefore, this proposition aims to rectify the existing deficiencies. Appropriately titled Van Dhan (Abundance of the Forests), this endeavor would serve as a supplementary measure to the esteemed Prime Minister's Jan Dhan scheme, guaranteeing comprehensive progress and genuine integration of indigenous communities.

The Van Dhan Yojana (VDY) or Van Dhan Scheme, which is a part of the 'Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) & Development of Value Chain for MFP', was officially launched on April 14th, 2018 in Bijapur, one of the aspirational districts in Chhattisgarh. It has been recognized that Van Dhan, along with Jan Dhan and Govardhan, has the potential to bring about significant change.

VDY is a comprehensive program designed specifically for forest-based tribes. Its main objective is to enhance the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for MFP by enabling tribal Self Help Groups (SHGs) to add value to the MFP they procure under MSP. These

SHGs will be referred to as Van Dhan Self Help Groups (VDSHGs). The aim is to maximize the income of the tribal communities by utilizing non-timber forest products at the local level. This will be achieved through the establishment of shared facilities for value addition, known as Van Dhan Vikas Kendra Clusters.

What sets VDY apart is its approach of utilizing traditional skills, while also incorporating technology and market intelligence to enhance these skills, rather than introducing entirely new livelihood promotion techniques.

Currently, there exist several issues that are ailing Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP). It is imperative that these issues are addressed. Firstly, the compensation earned by tribal gatherers in this business is far below what would be considered fair and equitable. Despite being entitled to at least 50% of the sale price, they are only receiving approximately 20%. This can be rectified through the administration of fair-trade practices and the curtailment of the long chain of middlemen.

Secondly, the area under NTFP is shrinking due to the large-scale supplanting of timber species in the decades following independence. Tribes are the best conservators of forests, provided that the forest can sustain them. It is crucial to appreciate and encourage the symbiotic relationship between tribes and forests. To this end, the area surrounding a forest village (at least 5 kms around the village) should be reserved solely for NTFP forests, and no timber plantation should be allowed in this area.

Thirdly, the haat bazars where NTFP is traded by tribals must be brought under effective Mandi regulation to ensure proper weighing and payment to the tribal gatherer. Currently, it is a free-for-all domain.

Fourthly, every village must have a common facility centre (Van Dhan Self Help Group) where tribals can do primary processing in clean conditions for quality products. Presently, many tribals are constrained to do primary processing on tarmac roads.

Lastly, the processing of NTFP at the local level needs to be promoted to ensure that employment is generated locally.

The VDY program, which is centered around NTFP-led tribal development, has the potential to serve as a key initiative that can facilitate the achievement of multiple national objectives. These objectives include

inclusive development, women's empowerment, tribal aspiration and development, forest conservation, environmental protection, livelihood promotion, skill development for value addition to NTFP, preservation of tribal culture, reduction in left-wing extremism, eco and ethno tourism, ease of living for forest-tribes, and the provision of assured raw materials for various sectors of corporate industry.

VDY is a comprehensive program that is designed to benefit forest-based tribes by optimizing their income through the use of non-timber forest products. The Ministry intends to establish a network of common-use facilities for value addition, which will be referred to as 50,000 Van Dhan Self Help Groups (VDSHGs). These groups will then be integrated into secondary and tertiary production centers located in semi-urban and urban areas under the TRIFOOD Scheme of NTFP and Forest-based product development clusters with export orientation.

To enhance the effectiveness of the network, the details of the tribal gatherers, primary production units, and subsequent secondary and tertiary units, as well as their operations, will be digitized onto a single platform. This platform will be geo-tagged and will also have an interface with digital payments. The aim is to ensure that operational information is readily available for prompt management action.

The Van Dhan Vikas Yojana aims to promote the development of tribal communities by encouraging them to form clusters and engage in the processing of forest produce, thereby enhancing its value. These clusters are provided with the necessary infrastructure, including tools and equipment, as well as training in value addition and entrepreneurship. Additionally, the scheme facilitates market linkages for the tribal communities through various channels, including online platforms.

The implementation process of the scheme is structured in three tiers, involving the establishment of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras at the village level, Van Dhan Vikas Sanrakshan Samitis at the cluster level, and Van Dhan Vikas Samuh at the district level.

The scheme has set a target of establishing 50,000 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras nationwide, which is expected to benefit approximately 10 lakh tribal entrepreneurs. By providing alternative livelihood opportunities and improving the socio-economic status of tribal communities, the Van Dhan Vikas Yojana has the potential to significantly transform their lives.

Moreover, the scheme not only promotes entrepreneurship but also contributes to the conservation of forests and the protection of biodiversity.

VAN DHAN VIKAS YOJANA KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The proposed initiative aims to promote livelihood generation among tribal gatherers and facilitate their transformation into entrepreneurs.
- The concept involves the establishment of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) that are owned by the tribal community and located in predominantly forested tribal districts.
- Each Kendra will comprise of 15 tribal Self-Help Groups (SHGs), with each group consisting of up to 20 tribal Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP) gatherers or artisans, thereby benefiting approximately 300 individuals per Van Dhan Kendra.
- The initiative is fully funded by the Central Government, with TRIFED providing Rs. 15 lakhs for each 300-member Van Dhan Kendra.

THESE STEPS ARE FURTHER DIVIDED INTO SUB-STEPS WHICH ARE AS FOLLOWS

In order to instil ownership, the Tribal Gatherer Contribution of Rs.1000 per member is required. The Panchayats/District Administration will provide the necessary operational premises to the Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

A well-thought-out Bankable Project Report is essential, which should include an Annual MFP Gathering Plan, various types of value addition such as sorting and grading, processing, and a comprehensive business plan.

The procurement of equipment will be done through GeM or tendering by SIA/DIU. Master Trainers will be identified and provided with training in value addition, the use of equipment, and enterprise management.

Efforts will be made to identify local, district level, state level, national, and global buyers for MFP Value Added Products. Arrangements will be made for logistics and transportation, as well as branding and marketing.

It is pertinent to note that the Van Dhan Yojana extends beyond the gathering of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) and their value addition. The scheme also allows SHGs to engage in farming/agricultural production, post-harvest processing, and value addition of these items.

COMPOSITE KENDRAS SHALL BE SET-UP THROUGH A 2-STAGE PROCESS

Stage I (set up) of the Van Dhan Yojana aims to establish 6000 Van Dhan Kendras in tribal districts across all States (excluding Haryana, Punjab, and Delhi, as these regions do not have Scheduled Tribe gatherers). During this phase, the necessary building facilities will be provided in the beneficiary's household, part of their house, or in a Government/gram panchayat building.

The implementation of the Van Dhan Yojana will be carried out through a robust framework, with TRIFED at the central level, State Nodal Department, State Implementing Agency, and District Implementing Units at the state and district levels, respectively.

The District Implementation Unit in each state will supply basic equipment for harvesting and value addition of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) to each Van Dhan Vikas Self Help Group (SHG). Training programs, lasting up to 7 days, will be conducted through the Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Program (ESDP) to educate the SHGs on sustainable harvesting, value addition of MFPs, branding, and marketing.

After receiving training, the members of the Van Dhan Vikas SHGs will begin operations by sustainably harvesting MFPs and adding value to them. The VDVKs will develop a business plan to allocate funds for processing, value addition, branding, and packaging of products that meet global export and retail standards.

To promote and market the tribal products, each VDVK will be provided with marketing and promotion platforms through various convergence initiatives with industry partners. This will help create a local value supply chain and establish a global presence for the tribal products.

VAN DHAN YOJANA STAGE II (SCALE-UP) SHALL FOCUS ON SCALING UP THE WELL PERFORMING

Kendras will be transformed into permanent facilities with improved amenities such as storage, primary processing, and packaging facilities. The evaluation of each Kendra will be carried out by the District Level Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DLCMC) and ultimately approved by the State Level Coordination and Monitoring Committee (SLCMC). Following the assessment, the District Collector will submit the proposal for the approval of permanent Kendra to TRIFED.

VAN DHAN YOJANA AND ODISHA

The implementation process of the scheme is organized into three tiers, which involve the establishment of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras at the village level, Van Dhan Vikas Sanrakshan Samitis at the cluster level, and Van Dhan Vikas Samuh at the district level.

As part of TRIFED's "Sankalp se Siddhi" - Village & Digital Connect Drive, teams comprising officials from TRIFED and State Implementation Agencies/Mentoring Agencies/Partners have been conducting visits to villages in order to activate and assess the status of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras. These visits are being carried out nationwide and have facilitated Team TRIFED in monitoring the on-ground implementation of the Van Dhan Vikas Kendras.

One state that has made significant progress in the implementation of the Van Dhan Yojana is Odisha. Over the past few months, activities such as training, procurement of necessary processing machinery, branding, and packaging have been underway in these clusters, which are situated in Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Rayagada, Sundergarh, and Koraput. The tribals have commenced the production and processing of raw materials earlier this month.

In the Mayurbhanj district, tribal beneficiaries from three clusters, namely Luguburu VDVKC, MaaDharithri VDVKC, and Bhimakund VDVKC, will engage in the processing of sal leaf, sal seeds, kusum seeds, and wild honey to produce plates, cups made of sal leaves, Kusum oil, and processed honey. Similarly, in the Keonjhar district, tribal beneficiaries from the Anchalika Khandadhar VDVKC will process raw mango, mustard, and turmeric into Aampapad, mango pickle, turmeric powder, and mustard oil. In the Ban Durga VDVKC cluster, the MFPs that will

undergo value addition are tamarind, sal seeds, and char seeds, which will be transformed into deseeded tamarind, tamarind cake, sal shampoo, and packed char seeds.

Other value-added products that will be processed in the VDVK clusters in the districts of Koraput, Rayagada, and Sundargarh include tamarind cake, mahua oil, organic packaged rice, neem oil, neem cake, deseeded chironji, and turmeric powder.

One of the numerous initiatives being implemented by TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, with the objective of generating employment and income among the

tribal population, is the Van Dhan tribal start-ups programme. This programme is a constituent of the 'Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) & Development of Value Chain for MFP' Scheme. The primary goal of the Van Dhan tribal start-ups programme is to facilitate the establishment of sustainable livelihoods for forest-based tribes through the establishment of Van Dhan Kendras, which will focus on value addition, branding, and marketing of Minor Forest Produces. The state has set the following targets for this programme:

Sk No	District	Planned		MFP
		No. of VDVKS	Total No. of beneficiaries	
1	Deogarh	1	304	Harida, Bahada, Dhatiki Flower, Bhui Neem, Mahua Flower, Mohua Seed, Tamarind, Neem Seed, Wild Honey, Satabari root, Siali leaf, Bana Tulasi, Kendu leaf
	Gajpati	10	3000	Hill Broom, Siali leaf, Tamarind
	Kalahandi	2	6386	Harida, Bahada, Amla, Neem Seed, Sal Seed, Tamarind, Mahua Flower, Mahua Seed
	Kandhamal	17	5238	Siali leaf Srichhing, Amla, Harida, Bahada, Tamarind,
	Keonjhar	2	603	Wild Honey, Tamarind, Sal Seed, Mahua Seed, Harida, Bahada
	Koraput	26	6686	Tamarind, Mahua Flower, Bahada, Mahua Seed, Amla, Hill Grass, Wild Honey
	Malkangir	9	2844	Hill Broom, Sal Leaf, Wild Honey, Siali Leaf Plate, Amla
	Mayurbhanj	12	3663	Leaf Sticking, Mahua Seed, Tamarind, Karanja Seed, Honey, Arrowrat, Hill brooms, Kusum Seed, Neem Seed, Harida, Bahada, Amla, Lime Seed, Aswagandha, Gudmari, Shikakai, Khali & Dana
	Nabarangpur	3	900	Tamarind, Sal Seed, Myrobalan, Hillbrooms
	Nuapada	8	2400	Harida, Bahada, Amla, Kusum Seed, Mahua Seed, Karanja Seed, Neem Seed, Char Seed, Honey, Tamarind, Arrowroot
	Rayagada	29	8700	Hill Broom, Stick broom, Turmeric, Ginger, Siali Leaves, DONGRIA SWAL
	Sambalpur	1	303	Sal Seed, Sal Leaves, Tamarind, Stick Broom
	Sundargarh	18	5400	Harida, Bahada, Dhatiki, Flower, Bhui Kakharu, Janmun Seed, Dried, Mahua Seed, Tamarind, Wild Honey, Neem Seed, Satabari root, Bana Tulasi,

At the very beginning, Odisha along with Chhattisgarh have taken the lead in implementation of this flagship programme with 156 and 136 proposals for VDVKS respectively sanctioned.

Odisha is currently experiencing rapid progress in the implementation of the Van Dhan Yojana. The state boasts a total of 660 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras, which have been consolidated into 22 Van Dhan Vikas Kendra Clusters. As a result, over 6300 individuals belonging to tribal communities are benefiting

significantly from this initiative. Throughout this period, the clusters located in various tribal districts of the State namely Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Rayagada, Sundergarh, and Koraput have been actively engaged in training, procuring necessary machinery for processing, establishing branding strategies, and implementing packaging techniques. The indigenous communities have successfully initiated the production and processing of raw materials.

In the Mayurbhanj district, tribal beneficiaries in three clusters, namely Luguburu VDVKC, Maa Dharithri VDVKC, and Bhimakund VDVKC, will engage in the processing of sal leaf, sal seeds, kusum seeds, and wild honey. The objective is to manufacture plates and cups made from sal leaves, as well as produce Kusum oil and processed honey.

Similarly, in the Keonjhar district, tribal beneficiaries of the Anchalika Khandadhar VDVKC will undertake the processing of raw mango, mustard, and turmeric. The aim is to produce Aampapad, mango pickle, turmeric powder, and mustard oil.

In the Ban Durga VDVKC cluster, the focus will be on value-adding certain MFPs (Minor Forest Produce). Specifically, tamarind, sal seeds, and char seeds will be processed to create deseeded tamarind, tamarind cake, sal shampoo, and packed char seeds.

The VDVK clusters in the other districts that of Koraput, Rayagada, and Sundargarh will process various value-added products, including tamarind cake, mahua oil, organic packaged rice, neem oil, neem cake, deseeded chironji, and turmeric powder. These products are part of the range of offerings that will be produced in these clusters.

One of the initiatives implemented by TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, with the aim of promoting employment and income generation among the tribal population, is the Van Dhan tribal start-ups programme. This programme is a component of the 'Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) & Development of Value Chain for MFP' Scheme.

Sl. No.	District	Total no. of VDVK	Total No. of beneficiaries	No. of VDVK in operation	No. of VDVK non-operational	No. of VanDhan SHGs formed
	Koraput	15	4526	6	9	450
	Malkangiri	9	2625	9	0	253
	Jeypore	11	3033	6	5	332
	Kandhamal (Baliguda)	16	4560	16	0	445
	Gajapati (Paralakhemundi)	10	2873	9	1	257
	Phulbani	2	579	0	2	51
	Sundargarh	18	5440	10	8	450
	Sambalpur (Kuchinda)	4	1215	0	4	106
	Deogarh (Tileibani)	1	305	0	1	25
	Kalahandi (Th.Rampur)	22	6543	14	8	645
	Nuapada	8	2394	8	0	300
	Karanjia	3	948	3	0	87
	Mayurbhanj(Rairangpur)	2	657	2	0	55
	Mayurbhanj (Baripada)	4	1238	4	0	119
	Mayurbhanj(Kaptipada)	3	915	3	0	69
	Balasore(Nilagiri)	2	605	2	0	60
	Keonjhar	9	2705	2	7	56
	Rayagada	8	2467	8	0	240
	Rayagada (Gunpur)	18	5100	11	7	502
	Balangir	2	600	0	2	0
	Nabarangpur	3	790	0	3	85
		170	50118			

The Van Dhan tribal start-ups, which is also a component of the aforementioned scheme, is a programme that focuses on value addition, branding,

and marketing of Minor Forest Produces. It achieves this by establishing Van Dhan Kendras, which in turn

facilitate the creation of sustainable livelihoods for the forest-based tribes.

Over the past 4 years, the Van Dhan Vikas Yojana has made significant progress, thanks to its swift adoption and robust implementation, supported by the state nodal and implementation agencies throughout India. As the VDVKs gain traction and commence production in Odisha with these clusters, the benefits of this programme will extend to the tribals residing in this Eastern State. Consequently, their lives and livelihoods will witness improvement.

PERFORMANCE FACTS OF VAN DHAN YOJANA IN ODISHA

Implemented by TRIFED as the nodal agency at the national level, and Tribal Development Cooperative Corporation, Odisha Ltd., at the State level, the Van Dhan startups is a well thought master plan for the socio-economic development of the tribal population of the country.

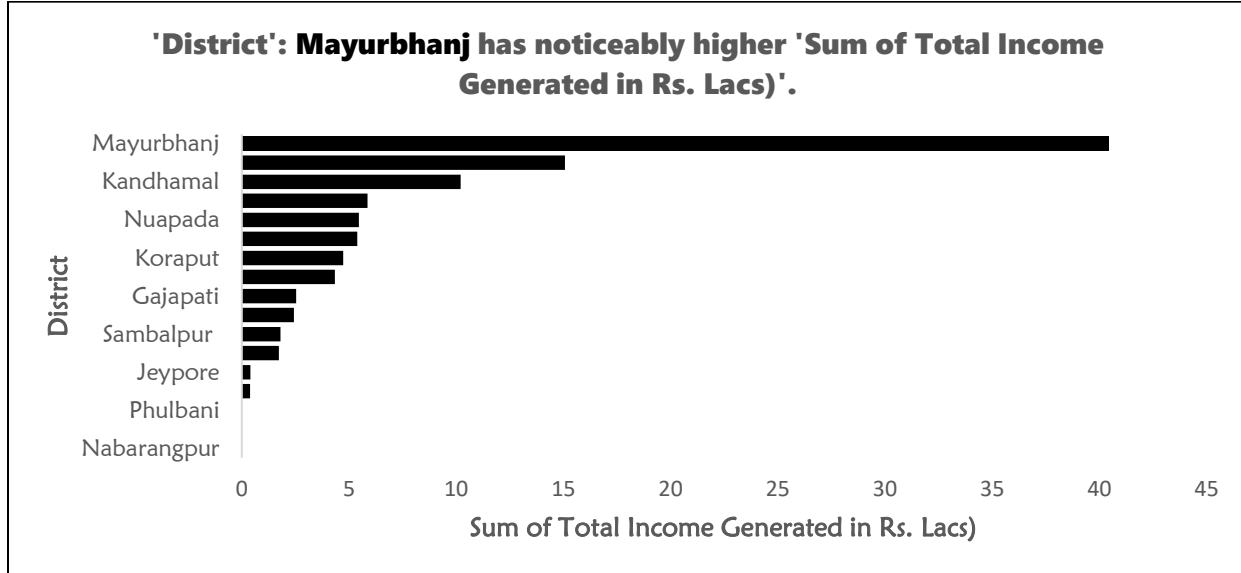
It is important to note that the Van Dhan Yojana has successfully covered 168 villages across 79 blocks in 16 districts within the state. The total number of women members is 48,075, accounting for 95.92% of

the total beneficiaries, which is a significant majority. This trend is observed in most states. Additionally, the number of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) formed under the Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK) is 4,587. Out of the 170 VDVKs that were sanctioned, a total of 163 VDVKs have been established with bank accounts. Furthermore, 116 VDVKs are currently operational, with 167 value addition units set up at various clusters. All 153 business plans that were submitted for approval have received a positive response. These 167 value addition units directly benefit over 27,876 beneficiaries. These units include sal/siali leaf plate making units, honey processing units, badi making units, scented rice processing units, sabai craft units, bamboo craft units, turmeric power units, tamarind value addition units, chilli processing units, various oil processing units, ragi value added units, hill brooms units, de-seeded chiranjee units, dal processing units, maize processing units, lemon grass oil units, ragi powder processing units, and more. A total of 157 VDVK business plans were reviewed, and 134 VDVKs received funding to establish value addition units. The table below depicts the total income generated from value added products of VDVK Centres:

District	Sum of Total Income Generated in Rs. Lacs)	Sum of No. of VanDhan SHGs formed	Sum of Total no. of VDVK	Sum of Total No. of beneficiaries
Karanja	20.435	87	3	948
Malkangiri	15.078	253	9	2625
Mayurbhanj(Kaptipada)	13.25754	69	3	915
Kandhamal (Baliguda)	10.20622	445	16	4560
Keonjhar	5.865	56	9	2705
Nuapada	5.46	300	8	2394
Balasore(Nilagiri)	5.3924	60	2	605
Koraput	4.732	450	15	4526
Mayurbhanj(Rairangpur)	4.63318	55	2	657
Rayagada (Gunpur)	3.02	502	18	5100
Gajapati (Paralakhemundi)	2.5298	257	10	2873
Sundargarh	2.42866	450	18	5440
Mayurbhanj (Baripada)	2.0876	119	4	1238
Sambalpur (Kuchinda)	1.8	106	4	1215
Kalahandi (Th.Rampur)	1.72609	645	22	6543
Rayagada	1.3233	240	8	2467
Jeypore	0.4	332	11	3033
Deogarh (Tileibani)	0.39	25	1	305
Nabarangpur	0	85	3	790
Balangir	0	0	2	600

Phulbani	0	51	2	579
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From the table it is revealed that total sales at VDVK cluster are Rs. 11.019 crores and income generated is Rs. 100.76 lacs (approx.)



The aforementioned data serves as evidence indicating the performance of Mayurbhanj district in generating income from value-added products of MFPs. This observation highlights the achievement of the scheme's primary objective, namely the economic empowerment of tribal individuals, as well as the demonstration of entrepreneurial skills within the local population. Consequently, Mayurbhanj district has successfully positioned itself on the national map in this regard.

In addition to this program, the initiative aims to provide new skills and effective tools to MFP gatherers through training and capacity building. This is done by establishing grassroot business clusters with a focus on value addition. The VDVK Centres serve as Common facility centres for the procurement and value addition of raw produce. The progress made in terms of providing tools and training to MFP gatherers at various VDVKs in the state is highly encouraging, with a current figure of 6558 individuals benefiting from these initiatives. The interest and enthusiasm displayed by these grassroot MFP gatherers in acquiring training for new skills and effective tools to enhance the value of their produce is commendable and demonstrates a strong drive towards tribal entrepreneurship.

With the implementation of this program, the significant obstacles faced by the indigenous communities in marketing their products, such as

market competition and lack of infrastructure to launch or expand their businesses, have been effectively addressed. Additionally, this program facilitates regular training and capacity building for tribal entrepreneurs, enabling them to stay updated on modern marketing and management challenges, as well as technological advancements. In the current business environment, there are numerous opportunities for entrepreneurs to innovate, diversify, and expand. By identifying the appropriate access points and their respective uses, these grassroots MFP growers can also achieve substantial growth for their enterprises, potentially reaching the scale of large corporate entities and making a significant contribution to the country's GDP. Undoubtedly, the mindset of these grassroots MFP growers ensures that the days for such achievements are not far off.

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