

For Immediate Release: October 10, 2025

PRESS-RELEASE

IIT (ISM) Dhanbad Workshop Empowers Tribal Women in West Bengal through Entrepreneurship and Millet-Based Enterprise Development

The second day of the three-day workshop on “*Designing and Delivering Capacity Building Programme for High Quality Millet Cultivation to Empower Tribal Women Entrepreneurs in West Bengal*” witnessed an engaging and insightful session led by **Mr. Sumit Layek**, a renowned Agri-Business Expert.

Organized by the **Department of Management Studies & Industrial Engineering, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad**, under the **CSR initiative of Coal India Limited (CIL)**, the workshop aims to strengthen the livelihood and entrepreneurial capacity of tribal women through scientific millet cultivation, value addition, and business development interventions.

Mr. Layek conducted a detailed session on “*Entrepreneurship Mindset Development*,” focusing on leadership, confidence building, teamwork, and women’s empowerment as the foundational pillars of successful rural and tribal enterprises. He emphasized that empowering women with the right entrepreneurial mindset and financial literacy can transform millet cultivation into a profitable and community-driven enterprise.

The session also delved into practical aspects of “*Financing and Business Planning for Millet Enterprises*.” Mr. Layek elaborated on various government schemes, Self-Help Group (SHG) initiatives, NABARD support programs, and microfinance avenues available for small and medium agri-based entrepreneurs. He further guided participants through financial management essentials — including costing, pricing, and budgeting — to help them understand the economics of running sustainable millet-based businesses.

The highly interactive session inspired participants to explore innovative business ideas, adopt digital tools for marketing, and pursue self-reliance through entrepreneurship.

The workshop also showcased the collaborative fieldwork and training efforts of the IIT (ISM) Dhanbad project team — **Mr. Rohit Singh, Ms. Sumana Banerjee, Mr. Sunny Kumar, and Mr. Firdaus Ansari** — who have been facilitating community engagement, training delivery, and smooth execution of the programme.

This initiative, **led by Prof. Niladri Das and Prof. Rashmi Singh** from the Department of Management Studies & Industrial Engineering, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, bridges academic research, corporate social responsibility, and grassroots development. By focusing on **agro-entrepreneurship, women’s empowerment, and digital inclusion**, the programme reflects the shared vision of **IIT (ISM) Dhanbad and Coal India Limited** toward promoting sustainable, inclusive, and community-oriented rural development.

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