

Inauguration of the 32 kWp Women-Led Solar Mini-Grid Site



Empowering the future: Krishi Bagbani Urja Mandala Mahila Samiti launches a 32 kWp solar mini-grid

The Krishi Bagbani Urja Mandala Mahila Samiti has proudly inaugurated a 32 kWp solar mini-grid site in Palkot, Gumla, Jharkhand, marking a significant milestone in sustainable development and women’s empowerment. This project, led by an inspiring group of local women, represents a groundbreaking effort to address energy challenges in rural areas and demonstrates the transformative potential of renewable energy.

This initiative is a collaborative effort between Development Alternatives and The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC). It highlights the catalytic role of renewable energy in driving inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development. The partnership between these organisations and the local community aims to set a precedent for how decentralised renewable energy systems can be effectively utilised to foster development in underserved regions.

The “Urja Mandala” (Energy Constellation) model, central to this project, is designed to leverage a Private-Public-Community partnership. This innovative approach places Women’s Collectives at the forefront of the energy transition, ensuring that the benefits of renewable energy are equitably distributed. In Palkot, the solar mini-grid is owned, operated, and managed by 15 women from the Krishi Bagbani Urja Mandala Mahila Samiti. This model not only empowers these women but also demonstrates the critical role of local leadership in driving energy initiatives.

At the launch event, local entrepreneurs and the women’s collective shared that before the installation of the solar mini-grid, they faced significant challenges related to electricity. Frequent power outages and an unreliable supply hampered their ability to run businesses efficiently and limited their opportunities for economic growth. The introduction of the solar mini-grid directly addresses these issues, providing a reliable power source that will enhance productivity and support various economic activities.



Inaugural ceremony of 32kWp solar mini-grid site



Member of the Krishi Bagbani Urja Mandala Mahila Samiti highlighting the benefits brought by Urja Mandala

The solar mini-grid not only addresses these challenges by providing a reliable power source but also enables entrepreneurs to have uninterrupted access to electricity. This boosts productivity and supports business growth, allowing them to operate more efficiently, extend operation hours, and explore new business opportunities. As leaders in the energy sector, these women serve as role models within the community, inspiring others to undertake similar initiatives and advocating for broader gender equality.

The benefits of the solar mini-grid extend beyond immediate convenience. It promotes environmental sustainability by reducing reliance on fossil fuels and lowering carbon emissions. Additionally, the project underscores a commitment to gender equality and community-driven development, with women playing a pivotal role in managing and operating the energy system.

Overall, the inauguration of this 32 kWp solar mini-grid site is a milestone in the journey towards energy security and sustainable development. It highlights how renewable energy can transform lives and communities, showcasing the power of women-led initiatives in driving positive change.

“This solar mini-grid is not just a source of sustainable energy, but a symbol of empowerment for our community. Through this effort, we are laying the foundation for a bright and self-reliant future for all women” - shared by Madhuri, member of Krishi Bagbani Urja Mandala Mahila Samiti at the launch of the women-led 30 kWp solar mini-grid site in Palkot, Gumla, Jharkhand.



Powering a brighter future with transition to clean energy