

## AFARM IN ASSOCIATION WITH UMED TEAM – CHANGED HER LIFE



*Alka Santosh Metre, a widow lives in Kaamathwada village in Yavatmal District. Recently, her husband died of cancer. Alka had to take large loan from moneylenders for her husband's treatment. Entire family was devastated after Santosh's death. She was worried with no income how to manage expenses of the family? She was considering giving her land to other people for the cultivation.*

*At this point of time, AFARM in association with UMED team had organized a meeting in her village. Alka attended the meeting and after the meeting she decided to join Vaishnavi Self Help Group formed under the UMED program. She started attending workshops organized by AFARM on Sustainable Agriculture and Farmers Field*

*School (FFS). She learnt about seed treatment process using PSB and Rhizobium and preparation of Dashparni Ark for the pest control in the FFS. She used also these practices on her farm. Result was 100 percent germination of soyabean seeds and due to usage of Dashparni Ark, saved about Rs. 18,000/- on pest control. She also used other techniques like feroman traps, vermi wash, etc. under the guidance of AFARM agriculture extension officer. This all resulted in better yield and reduction in cost of production.*

*Alka also prepared vermin compost with the guidance of AFARM team and used it on her farm, which also saved her Rs. 12,000/- on fertilizer. She is planning to continue with the vermin compost in future.*

*On the advice of the project team, she also initiated backyard poultry as the supplementary income generation activity. She attended the skills development training organized by AFARM on the backyard poultry management. She took loan of Rs. 4,000/- from her Self Help Group to purchase 20 birds. She could earn Rs. 18,000/- from one cycle by selling 10 chickens, each weighing about 3 kg. and eggs.*

*Alka mentioned that I am fortunate to have met AFARM and UMED team in my village when I needed the inputs for agriculture and income generation activity. Guidance from AFARM team has helped me to overcome my difficult circumstances and forever I am grateful to AFARM.*