

Visit to IMEDF-SFURTI Clusters in Jharkhand and West Bengal

We visited the Indian Micro Enterprises Development Foundation - Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (IMEDF-SFURTI) Jungle Mahal Tasar Silk Cluster in the Jhargram district of West Bengal and Lac & Other NTFP Processing Cluster in the Gumla district of Jharkhand on 26–28 August, 2022. The objective of the visits was to interact with the artisans, review the progress of the clusters, and meet implementation and technical partners.



Lac Cluster, Gumla, Jharkhand



Lac & Other NTFP Cluster products

At the 997 tribal women-led Jungle Mahal Tasar Silk Cluster, the team met the silkworm rearers and visited granaries where cocoons are stored and the plantation site where Arjuna trees have been planted on which silkworms are reared. The team interacted with Ms Basanti Mahato, the head of the Governing Body of the Cluster and other Working Committee members. The team also visited a training centre where Ms Rehana Bibi, a master trainer trains artisans in silk yarn reeling.



Women at the Lac & Other NTFP Processing Cluster processing raw lac



Member of Tasar Cluster in West Bengal flipping through IMEDF Insights

At the 500 tribal women-led Lac & Other NTFP Processing Cluster, the team met a producer group of 11 members responsible for collecting lac from the bark of trees. The team then went to the Common Facility Centre (CFC) to meet the workers who process lac to make value-added products. The team also interacted with Ms Jawanti Topno, the Head of the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)-Udyam Utthan Samiti, along with other members. They showed the cluster products such as tamarind cakes, chironjee, and lac bangles.

As a way forward, the team discussed possibilities of how to scale up the clusters in terms of an added product line and marketing for the benefit of the artisans.



Camouflage: Silkworms feeding on the leaves of the Arjuna tree



Women at the Jungle Mahal Tasar Silk Cluster reeling silk