



Photo: Peter Caton/OxfamAUS

# YOUR POSTCARD FROM INDIA

MANJU TIWARI SAYS SHE OWES HER LIFE AND LIVELIHOOD TO ASCEND WOMEN FARMERS' FORUM (AROH), A CAMPAIGN SUPPORTED BY OXFAM THAT IS CHAMPIONING THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN FARMERS IN INDIA'S NORTH-EAST.

"I participated in the foot march for the rights of women farmers ... in 2007 and 2009. This was the start of my connection with Aroh.

"Women do the majority of the work. We do domestic work and we also work in the field. We do everything but our work is not recognised. This prompted me to participate in the march, to go to the sub-district magistrate and demand our rights.

"Had I not been in the collective, I would have perished. I had no house in my name, no land in my name ... now I have asserted my rights and got property rights ... I am now better informed, I know how to deal with government officials, with the police, with lawyers.

"I've been able to get farming related information. I have been able to get benefits out of government agricultural schemes, like access to the seeds and fertilisers provided by the department.

"I also got training, which helped me get land in my name.

"I grow sugar cane as a cash crop, rice, wheat, peas, potatoes, garlic, onion, chickpeas, and more ... Last year I sold sugar cane to the sugar factory, and I got 45,000 rupees [AUD \$803] from it. I also sell rice and wheat at the market.

"Thanks to the information I got, the benefits and being able to access schemes and learn about new techniques, I am now able to get at least 80% more than before ... I was also able to repay the debt I took to register my land, which was 75,000 rupees [AUD \$1,339] ... and buy a cow. Now I sell milk at the market too, for some more income."

**MANJU TIWARI**  
Farmer, Chachikpur village,  
Uttar Pradesh



## FAST FACTS

**Capital:** New Delhi

**Population:** 1.27 billion

**Area:** 3,287,590 km<sup>2</sup>

**Currency:** Indian rupee

**Major languages:** Hindi, English and 14 other official languages

**Major religions:** Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Sikh

**Life expectancy:** 66.7 years (male), 69 years (female) [CIA Factbook]

**Adult literacy:** 75.2% (male), 50.8% (female) [UNDP]

**Population living on less than USD \$2 a day:** 68.7% [World Bank]

**Population living in rural areas:** 68% [UNDP]

**Labour force by occupation:** agriculture 49%, industry 20%, services: 31% [CIA Factbook]

**Crimes against women reported to police:** 244,270 in 2012 (National Crimes Records Bureau)

**Carbon emissions per person:** 1.7 tonnes [World Bank]

**Oxfam's areas of work:** empowerment of vulnerable communities, gender equality, women's leadership, advocating for basic rights, indigenous peoples' capacity building, sustainable rural development, food security, humanitarian assistance, agricultural productivity, water, sanitation and hygiene, microfinance, girl child education, disaster risk reduction, natural resource management, gender-based violence, labour rights, urban poverty, Oxfam Shop producers.



[www.oxfam.org.au/education](http://www.oxfam.org.au/education)



**OXFAM**  
Australia