

# The Master Trainer in Silk Yarn Manufacturing



**R**ehana Bibi is a master trainer of silk yarn reeling at the Indian Micro Enterprises Development Foundation - Scheme of Funds for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (IMEDF-SFURTI) Jungle Mahal Tasar Cluster in West Bengal. She learned the craft as part of capacity-building programmes conducted under IMEDF-SFURTI to promote the Tasar silk value chain among the Santhal tribal artisans, the tribal community largely concentrated in West Bengal.

She trains women to operate yarn reeling machines and reel out the silk yarn from cocoons, which is then processed into silk fibre and ultimately into the fabric for garments like sarees. Rehana has trained 40–50 women in the past two years, and now she earns INR 15,000 per month.



Women of Jungle Mahal Tasar Cluster occupied in silk yarn manufacturing

The Jungle Mahal Tasar Cluster is an all-women cluster of the IMEDF-SFURTI, comprising 997 women artisans from 67 villages in 7 blocks of 3 districts – Bankura, Purulia, and Jhargram in west Bengal. The practice followed at the cluster is **Ahimsa silk**, unlike the traditional practice wherein cocoons were put in boiling water to extract the silk yarn.

She says, "Since I have been part of the cluster, I am financially independent and able to look after my own needs as well as of my family's."