

MLINDA

PRODUCE WELL · CONSUME WISELY



[Mlinda](#)'s rural electrification project provides access to 24/7 good quality electricity. This is the catalyst for villagers to build financially and environmentally sustainable businesses. Mlinda facilitates this by providing financing for productive machinery and business support and advice. Existing entrepreneurs act as mentors for new entrepreneurs to provide support and transfer of skills and knowledge.

Mlinda was proud to be an ARE 2020 award winner and are grateful to [EAIF](#) for their promotion of our work.

We'd like to share examples of recent business models, which are already demonstrating potential:

A mustard cultivation programme undertaken by Mlinda, supported by a livelihoods organisation, enabled farmers to take up mustard cultivation and sell the produce at a fair price to local oil expeller units, which run on Mlinda mini-grids. Mlinda extracts and packs the oil for sale on the market. A business development team in Gumla supports forward market linkages to sell the oil.



Mlinda piloted an electric vehicle (EV) as a rural mobility solution based on renewable energy. The EV is operated by a village-entrepreneur and used for: a) transporting children to school and b) inter-village transport. We are researching battery swapping system for the EVs to support the introduction of EV's in clusters of villages to build an ecosystem.



Santosh is married with three children and runs a brick making unit, with machinery running on electricity from Mlinda's solar mini grid. A year earlier, he ran a small tent house business and repaired vehicles. Santosh always wanted to run a micro enterprise which used modern technology, was cost effective and generated employment for the youth of his village. He learnt about machinery for making cement bricks & the business potential through a YouTube video. He used his

savings, loans from family and financing from the local Self-Help Group to start the business. Initially Santosh ran the brick making machine using a diesel generator. After a few months he realised that the generator had high maintenance costs and was noisy. Mlinda supplied a three-phase electricity connection for his unit. Santosh is now producing about twenty thousand cement bricks a month to customers from the surrounding villages. Santosh now earns up to twenty thousand rupees monthly and provides paid employment to thirteen youths. Currently, the business is a dependable source of income for fifteen households.

Mlinda Foundation CIO

Home base: United Kingdom

Focus countries: India – Gumla district, Jharkhand

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