

## Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) Program.

Are you a woman aged 35 – 50 year who is a community-based leader of a primary cooperative or a grass-root Community Based Organization (CBOs)? We are looking for you to apply for the SEWA program.

**Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA)** is the largest national trade union of poor informal sector women workers from the informal economy. Established in 1972, SEWA has been working relentlessly over the last 4.5 decades organizing over 1.9 million women workers across 18 states in India and also spread its wings of action in 7 south-Asian countries like Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh.

**Women to Women Organizing:** With the twin goal of facilitating full-employment and self-reliance to its members, SEWA strives to achieve what it calls the "The Economic Freedom" through a joint action of union and cooperatives. From years of experience, working with women of informal sector of India and south Asia, we have learnt that economic empowerment plays a key role in providing dignity, food security and economic security to households. SEWA's approach has been to identify the needs or issues of women and work on addressing them. This encourages participation of local women and gradually their communities. There is mutual accountability, a sense of belongingness.

SEWA firmly believes that exposure and training at SEWA, by the SEWA member's own economic organizations is the key turning point. Talking to and listening to the life struggles of other women, and how they overcame them will make sisters of Africa realize that they are indeed strong and they can make a difference. SEWA's 'women to women organizing' helps not only transfer the knowledge and skills, but helps inculcate values, ideology and tremendous confidence building.

**Women, Health and Immunization:** Health and inaccessibility to immunization, nutrition, water and sanitation is still a problem to many rural women and children across India as well as in Africa. This is a root cause for other allied problems such as reduction in effective time available for livelihood and welfare, reduction in child welfare and deterioration of overall health standards. Therefore, SEWA has embarked on a journey to create awareness about importance of access to nutritious food, water, sanitation and immunization on the health of women and children and also its direct impact on their lives and livelihood, through trainings, workshops as well as immunization campaign.

The relationship between Africa and India dates back to many centuries. To ensure the continuity of this relationship and with an objective of strengthening women's access to economic freedom across Africa, SEWA proposes to organize exposure visits for grass-root sisters from Africa aged 35 – 50 years to SEWA. During these visits, the sisters would visit:

- SEWA's own cooperative bank – to understand how access to financial services like savings, credit insurance can lead to economic empowerment
- SEWA's tree-growers cooperative – to understand how eco-tourism and rural tourism can generate newer and modern livelihood opportunities for rural women
- SEWA's artisan cooperatives, federation and company – to understand how owning an entire garment value chain can enable integration of home-based women workers and artisans into every stage of a value chain leading to economic as well as social empowerment
- SEWA's agribusiness enterprise – to understand how organizing small farmers into their own agri-business value chain can make agriculture of small farmers viable, sustainable and profitable.

The initial 7-day exposure visit will enable sisters from Africa to understand the SEWA model and also identify the areas of interest for them, which can then be explored further for Training of trainers. SEWA will cater for international travel costs, local travels costs, accommodation and food costs during the visit.

*\*Interested candidates are asked to apply by submitting their application forms below to [info@icaafrica.coop](mailto:info@icaafrica.coop) cc [chiyoge.sifa@icaafrica.coop](mailto:chiyoge.sifa@icaafrica.coop). Please mention in the email subject 'SEWA- your name- your country of residence'. Deadline for applications is 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019. Only those candidates selected for the next steps will be contacted.*

*The application form is editable.*

**APPLICATION FORM**

First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Country and city of residence: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email-address: \_\_\_\_\_

Language proficiency:

English

French

**1. a) Are you a community-based leader in any of the listed organizations below?**

A primary Cooperative?

A grass-root Community Based Organization (CBO)?

**b) Is the organization politically affiliated?**

YES

NO

**2. Which Leadership position do you hold?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**3. Do you have experience from helping a wider community in a leadership position? Please mark the number of years you have worked as a primary cooperative / a community-based organization leader.**

No Experience	1 - 2 Years	3 - 4 Years	4 - 5 Years	Above 5 Years
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**4. Name of the organization?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Briefly describe what your organization does? (You can provide evidence such as links to projects or works e.t.c..)**

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**6. Do you have training and learning skills?**

Basic	Good	Very Good	Excellent
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**7. Briefly present yourself and your leadership experience.**

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**8. Why would you like to participate in this SEWA Project?**

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**9. Do you have any medical conditions / special needs?**

YES.                      NO

If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**10. Kindly attach your CV when submitting your application.**