Sharmmili

PhD (Chemical Engg., Australia), M.Tech (Bioprocess Tech., ICT Mumbai)

Founder & CEO, PureMe Organics Pvt Ltd Director, Y D Mane Research Centre Advisor, The Kagal Education Society, Kagal https://www.linkedin.com/in/sharmileemane/



I have a Bachelor's degree in Biotechnology Engineering and a Masters in Bioprocess Technology from Institute of Chemical Technology, one of the leading Institutes in India. I secured a 100% scholarship from the Government of Australia to pursue my research work and PhD in Chemical Engineering from Curtin University, Australia. I have 11 years of research experience in secondary agriculture and agro-processing. I have authored 6 scientific publications, 13 International conference proceedings and have 2 international patents. I have won many international awards and grants for my research. My innovative PhD project in secondary agricultural development, was awarded with 'Research Excellence Award' and 'Curtin Commercial Innovation Award' by Curtin University & Engineer's Australia. My work also laid the platform for 'Australian Research Council Grant 2019'. After completing my PhD, I returned home to Kolhapur (The Jaggery capital of India) and established the Y.D.Mane Research Centre, a not for profit organisation for Agricultural & Rural Development (https://ydmresearchcentre.com/).

My startup, **PureMe Organics** was founded in the year 2020 by me and my mother with the vision to create a sustainable ecosystem for Jaggery Manufacturing, Processing and Jaggery supply chain network, such that, it impacts small farmers at a grassroot level through Agrotech commercialisation. I have researched and developed multiple Jaggery products with innovations in terms of its value addition and smart packaging. At PureMe Organics and Y D Mane Research Centre, we focus on the empowerment of rural farmers, not only via technical assistance through our Research Centre, but also financial empowerment as my business model is based on profit sharing with the farmers. My startup has received support from **StartUp India, Ministry of Food Processing and Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**.

I aspire for my startup to be a multinational brand in Jaggery based product line through perpetual R&D, ever-evolving technology and empowerment of local farmers, in order to make Jaggery sustainable, easily obtainable, storable and usable though its smart variants.

PureMe has received following awards recently for contribution in Agriculture and Social Entrepreneurship.

- Received Special Jury Award in the catagory "The Best Agtech Women Entrepreneur 2024" by FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) in their Sixth Edition of Agri Startup Awards, held at New Delhi on 5 August 2024.
- Winner of "Punyashlok Ahilya Devi Holkar Women Startup Scheme Phase 1" organised by Maharashtra State Innovation Society (MsInS) with prize money of INR 5 Lakh.
- Received "The Best Agtech Women Entrepreneur Award" by FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) in their Fifth Edition of Agri Startup Awards, held at New Delhi on 2 November, 2022.
- Received 'The Progressive Women Entrepreneur Award 2021' by AIC-SKU Confederation, supported by Atal Innovation Mission, NITI-Aayog, Govt of India







