

bajaj FOUNDATION

**ENRICHING LIVES
FULFILLING DREAMS**

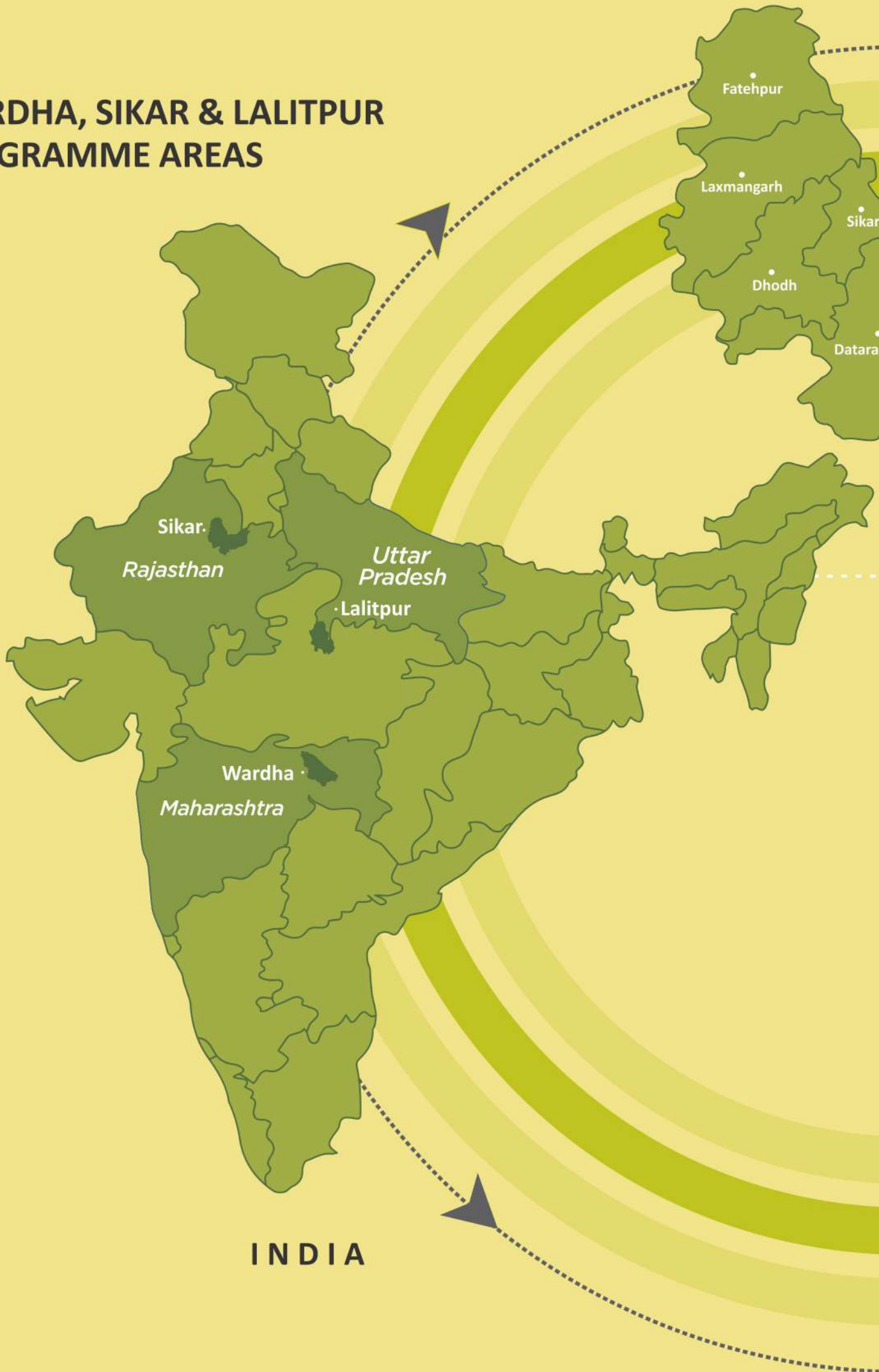
ANNUAL REVIEW 2021-22



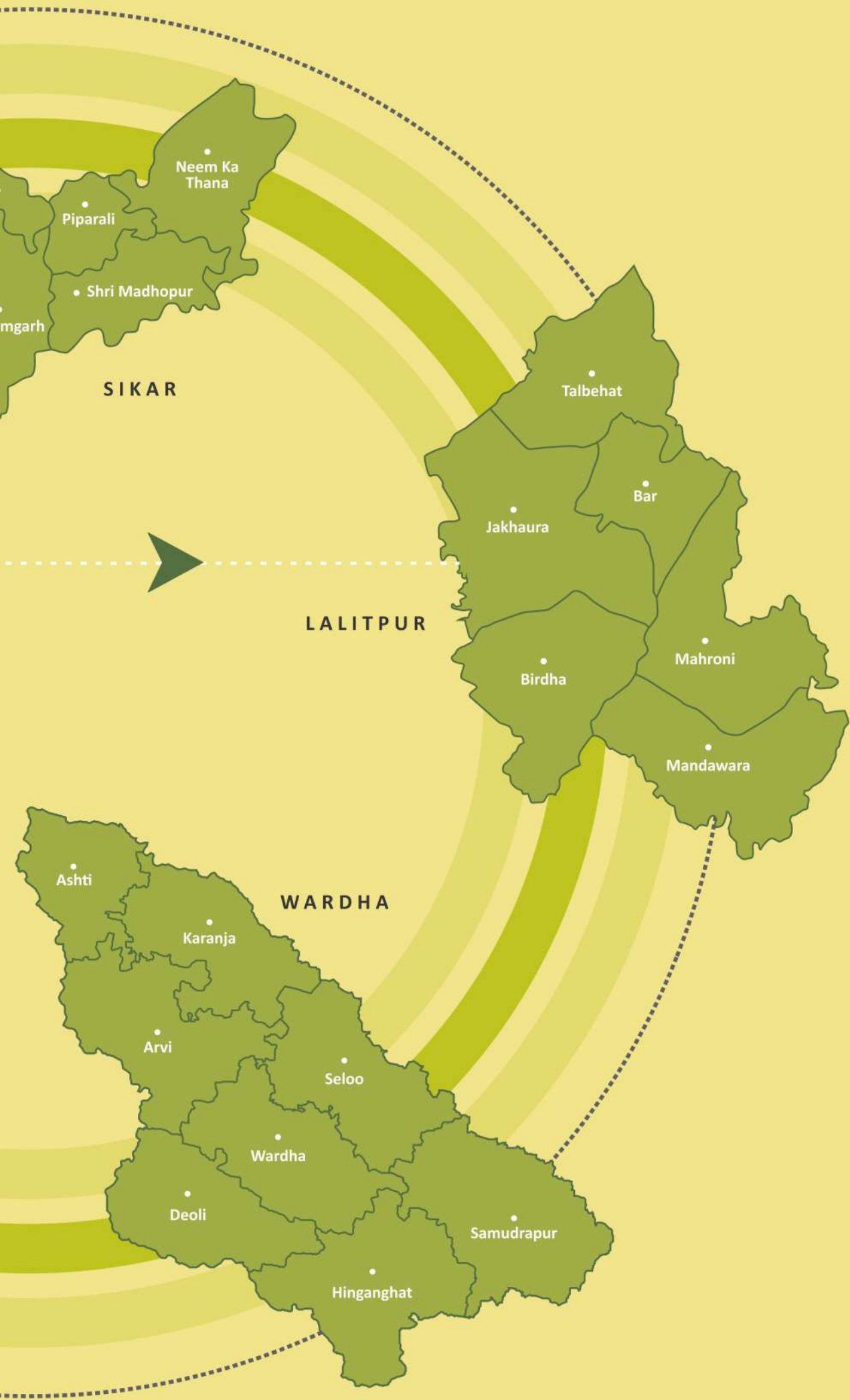
KAMALNAYAN JAMNALAL BAJAJ FOUNDATION

bajaj GROUP
THINK TOMORROW

WARDHA, SIKAR & LALITPUR PROGRAMME AREAS



INDIA





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Glimpses of Wardha, Sikar and Lalitpur Programme Area



4,09,126

Families Benefitted



1530

Villages Reached



19,36,115

Population Covered



Village Institutions

- 6850 Village Institutions established (55)



Water Resource Development And Soil Conservation Interventions

- 245 Rivers/streams of 687.88 km length rejuvenated (9.65)
- 109 Check dams constructed (02)
- 4248 Farm Ponds/Recharge Pits constructed (1396)
- 3958 Wells Recharged (1230)
- 1929 Roof rainwater harvesting structure constructed (529)
- 55 Common Water harvesting structures constructed (26)
- 311 Individual roof rain water recharge structure (100)
- 289 Group roof rain water recharge structure (127)
- 388 Group Wells Constructed (60)
- 1405 Individual Wells Deepening (420)
- 1669 lift irrigation devices installed (30)
- 50 percolation tanks constructed
- 8631 Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation Systems Supported (1599)
- 3960 Boribundhs Installed (950)
- 1517 acres of farm bunds formed
- 1763 Gabion structures formed 2225 Families Benefitted
- 5568 Acres of land levelled and brought under cultivation.

79,587 families and 2,99,769 acres of land covered under Water Resource Development and 1378 villages covered under Soil Conservation Program



Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture

- 11276 families covered under Convergence of Agricultural Interventions in Maharashtra (CAIM) project
- 11,000 families adopted Better Cotton Initiative programme (BCI)
- 26416 families benefitted under WADI project (2775)
- 20736 farmers adopted under Natural farming (4677)
- 14706 acre under Vegetables/Mini Drip with Overhead Tank/cash crops/floriculture (3251)
- 83164 Farmers covered under 334 trainings arranged for the promotion of Natural Farming (17776 Farmers covered under 779)
- 34 families supported for the construction of Indigenous Cow Urine Collection Unit
- 2046 families benefitted under climate proofing project
- 23 Farmers Producers' Companies established (5)
- 139 Grameen Fridge constructed
- 896 Cattle drinking systems/ chaff cutter

1,15,714 farming families benefitted and 1,56,312 acres of land improved under Sustainable Agriculture Practices across 1370 villages



Biogas: A Boon for Rural Communities

- 5922 biogas plants installed (347)
- 1835 Domestic Solar Light/solar street light Unit Installed (1050)
- 1292 farmers benefitted under Solar Pump-Offgrid (554)



Promotion of Indigenous Cows

- 8374 families adopted Indigenous Cows



Women Empowerment

- 4421 Self Help Groups formed
- 56294 families benefitted
- 17400 families covered under Kitchen garden (4400)
- 8091 families benefitted under Rural Enterprise (800)
- 518 Special initiative for needy family (81)
- 2071 Sock Pit Constructed

76,496 women benefitted from programmes such as Self-Help-Groups (SHGs), income generation activities, adoption of Indigenous cow and installation of Biogas plants across 970 villages



Skill and entrepreneurship development

- 5024 youths benefitted under skill development programme (560)



Rural Infrastructure Development

- 9 KM Cement Concrete road constructed for village connectivity
- 42 KM Road constructed for village connectivity
- 39 Need based community assets constructed
- 1 Village water supply scheme
- 6 Cow rehabilitation centres constructed at village level



Health Camp

- 18729 Villagers benefitted under health camp/Mobile dispensary program



Design for Change

- 392 Design for change initiative (52)

Figures shown in parentheses indicate achievements for FY 2021-22 while the other figures reflect our cumulative achievements from the past years.



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- National Water Award by Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, Govt. of India, Best Industry for CSR Activities in Water for the year 2019
- River and Stream Rejuvenation project identified as 'Noteworthy project in Water Management' in 'Beyond the Fence' category by Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), 2016
- International Humanitarian 'Water, Air and Food Award' (WAF), 2016 in the category of water
- 'ICSI CSR Excellence Award 2016' by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India
- 'Lion CSR Precious Award 2016' by Lions Club International
- NGOBOX 5th CSR Impact Award 2018 in Rural Development category
- National Award for Excellence in Water Management 2018 in 'Beyond the Fence' category by Confederation of Indian Industries (CII)
- Polestar Award 2018 in the category of 'Best Social Impact – Livelihood' from Polaris Foundation
- ET CSR award 2020 in the category of 'Water Conservation'
- 'Best Practices in CSR' 2020 for Yashoda River Basin project recognised by Institute of Public Enterprises, Hyderabad
- CSR Times Award 2019 in 'Best NGO in Green and Environment Stewardship' category for Rejuvenation of Yashoda River Basin at National CSR Summit
- NGOBOX 6th CSR Impact Award 2019 in the category of Environment
- Zee National Award 2019 for Excellence in CSR and Sustainability in the category of Best Environment Sustainability for our efforts in Water Conservation
- CSR TIMES Award 2019 in the category of 'Best NGO in Environment, Climate and Forest' category for promoting need-based integrated development through water resources and agriculture development
- 'Dharti Putra' Award for 'Agriculture Innovations and Crop Diversification' from Agriculture Times
- Mahatma Award 2019 for 'Yashoda River Basin' Project
- "I CAN" Award for Design for Change Programme in 2018 and 2019
- Recognition from Sikar District Administration for CSR and Development Interventions

- Recognition for construction of Biogas plants by Indian Biogas Association (IBA) in the category of 'Operational Excellence - Biogas Plants' in 2020
- CSR TIMES Award 2020 in 'Best NGO in Livelihood' category for “Reviving Agriculture Systems and Allied Enterprises in Agriculture Distress District, Wardha Maharashtra”
- Mahatma Award for Social Good 2020 in 'Affordable and Clean Energy' category
- Grant Thornton (Bharat) Sabera Award 2020 in 'Agriculture and Rural Development' category for Rejuvenation of Yashoda River project
- Greentech CSR award for 'Promotion of Farm Irrigation' by Greentech Foundation 2020
- Greentech CSR award for 'Rural Development' by Greentech Foundation 2021
- SABERA Award for 'Alternative Energy - Construction of Biogas Plants' for 2021
- CSR Times Award for 'Empowering Rural Women through Self-Help-Groups' in Wardha (Maharashtra) for 2021

OUR PARTNERS

- Rural Community of Wardha, Sikar, and Lalitpur Districts
- Government of Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh
- TATA Trusts
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD)
- Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology (MPUAT)
- Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Fatehpur
- Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, Ministry of Youths Affairs and Sports, Govt. of India
- International Horticulture Innovation and Training Centre, Jaipur
- State Institute of Agriculture Management (SIAM, Durgapur, Jaipur)
- Aravali, Rajasthan
- Riverside School, Ahmedabad

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Shishir Bajaj



For the longest time, perseverance has been the defining attribute of Indian agriculture. Our farmers succeed, even in the most trying of circumstances. This seemingly inherent ability of theirs was on full display yet again when during the second wave of the pandemic they defied the odds to help India emerge as the world's largest producer of milk, pulses, jute, and spices and second largest producer of rice, wheat, cotton, sugarcane, tea, groundnut, and fruits & vegetables.

This remarkable resilience and drive of our farmers is what inspires us to work with them, equipping them and steering their limitless energy such that they may achieve their full potential.

Today, some of the biggest obstacles facing Indian agriculture include increasingly unpredictable weather patterns induced by climate change, fragmented landholdings, and low yields due to irrigation challenges and farmers' continued reliance on dated farming techniques. Bajaj Foundation hopes to mitigate these challenges by pushing for adoption of environmentally sustainable and climate change resistant farming practices, development of market for land consolidation and improvement in post-harvest practices.

Having identified crop diversification and natural farming practices as keys to making villages 'atmanirbhar' in terms of food sufficiency and building greater resiliency among farming communities against the threat of climate change, we have reached out to

over 50,000 farmers through our various interventions. These interventions go beyond simple awareness campaigns and lend active support to farmers as they adopt newer farming techniques and take to things like diversified cropping patterns.

We've even made efforts to promote indigenous seed varieties which, over the years, have resulted in many seed varieties 'making a comeback'. At Bijotsav, a festival of seeds held on the occasion of National Science Day, farmers who we worked with displayed over 150 indigenous varieties of seeds ready to be used for cultivation. Additionally, with help from partners like National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) we've been supporting farmers adopt climate resilient cropping patterns and implement risk mitigation measures in as many as 6 project sites in Wardha district. Furthermore, our focus on promoting Natural Farming among farmers has resulted in significantly lower input costs and better crop yields.

I'm happy to report that among those who have taken to Natural Farming there are several farmers who've clocked a net profit over Rs.1 lakh per acre.

Going beyond the farm, through Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), the Bajaj Foundation has sought to build capacities at the grass-root level. These FPOs not only catalyse a spirit of entrepreneurship among farmers but also create all-important market linkages which end up improving the financial health of the larger

community. This year, we witnessed several enthusiastic groups of farmers open their own block-level outlets for sale of naturally grown fruits and vegetables. Moreover, some of the FPOs formed with the help of the Foundation converged several government schemes for setting up cleaning and grading facilities, agricultural tool bank and agro processing centres for the farmers in the corresponding areas.

For developing greater market-orientation among farmers through smarter cropping patterns we collaborated with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). As part of the programme, we promoted high-value crops like watermelon, muskmelon, groundnut and mixed vegetables. The farmers who participated in the programme, generated an average profit of Rs. 25,000 per acre, proving its tremendous potential.

Gram Panchayats, central to developmental activities in rural areas, were also brought under the scope of our engagement this year as we collaborated with Mission Samruddhi and ANOD to build capacities of Gram Panchayats. Part of our effort to explore newer dimensions of rural development, we believe that the intervention will go a long way in revitalising the Panchayati Raj in the 21st century India.

The Bajaj Foundation is also collaborating with NABARD to create dedicated Off Farmers Producer Organizations (OFPOs) and rural haats in Wardha for cotton farming. Operating on a 'cotton-to-cloth' approach, these OFPOs will serve the large community of cotton farmers and weavers in the block by linking them directly with the local markets and generating employment opportunities for a larger subset of people.

Besides these new interventions, our stated thrust areas of Water Resource Development, Women Empowerment, Renewable Energy, and initiatives such as Design for Change continued receive the due mindshare. This year under Water Resource Development, we put an added emphasis on recharging wells and creating 'bori bundhs' for enhancing water availability for irrigation.

In terms of furthering our Women Empowerment agenda, this year we focused on lending support to widows and creating income generation opportunities for single-women responsible for their families. In what was a high point for our team, a rural haat built at Kannamwargram village of Karanja block in Wardha was inaugurated by Honourable Minister of Finance for Maharashtra Shri. Honourable Minister of Finance for Maharashtra Dr. Bhagwat Karad. Handed over to one of the Self Help Groups (SHGs) from the village, the new haat is expected to bring about a slew of opportunities for the local women.

The unsparing second wave of Covid-19 which threatened to derail many of our programmes, at least in the first quarter of FY 21-22, saw our teams work tirelessly to help the communities located in our project areas. Besides supplying ration kits and basic hygiene kits to the needy, we also donated equipment like oxygen concentrators, wheel chairs, stretchers etc. to public health centres and medical facilities in remote areas. The extraordinary work carried out by our teams during some of the bleakest hours in our living memory swells our chest with pride.

For this and much more, we are grateful to our team and all our stakeholders. Their dedication and courage continues to fuel our noble mission.

FOREWORD

Kushagra Nayan Bajaj Trustee



Perhaps it's the plainness of our relationship with water which prevents us from thinking just how essential it is to our survival. For those of us who live in cities with reasonable access to it, water is almost a blind spot. However, speak to a farmer from a small nondescript village with limited water availability and you'll realise the difference it makes to people's lives.

Recognising the urgent need to help address the challenge of water scarcity and its effect on farming communities, the Kamalnayan Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation (KJBF) has been working tirelessly in water-stressed villages across Maharashtra's Wardha district for over a decade.

Due to their heavy reliance on seasonal rains and absence of alternative means of irrigating the fields, for farmers in Wardha life has long continued to be a struggle. In a bid to ease their pain, KJBF has adopted a three-pronged approach involving developing water resources, diversifying agriculture, and enhanced use of technology. Working closely with local communities and other stakeholders, the Foundation has implemented programmes such as installation of water harvesting structures, use of micro-irrigation systems and adopting less water intensive varieties of crops.

In the perennially parched region, absence of water lifting systems and devices for the small and marginal category of farmers is a major challenge. To address the issue, the Foundation has spent a significant portion of its resources creating large-scale irrigation facilities. I'm

happy to report that nearly half of the recharge pits constructed as part of the effort have been converted into wells by the farmers themselves after striking water.

The rejuvenation of river Yashoda and its more than 235 rivulets and streams stretching 674 km has revived the fortunes of the farming community in the region. Thanks to desilting an estimated 409.90 mcft of surface storage has been created along with an approximate 1,229.70 mcft of subsurface storage. The project has directly benefited 23,070 farmers. It has even led to a water level rise of approximately 6 feet across 5211 wells in the region and prevented 19151 acres of land from flooding during the rainy season. Greater water availability has allowed farmers to grow 2-3 crops in a year and nearly triple their overall yield from 5 qt to 15 qt for cotton.

Under the Foundation's comprehensive watershed management programme 96 check dams, 32 percolation tanks, and 1156 farm ponds have been constructed. Additionally by recharging 3958 wells, digging 3354 recharge pits (out of which 2341 were converted into wells by farmers), promoting 118 group lift irrigation system, and installing 1498 group water lifting devices, water has been ensured for thousands of families across Wardha. Furthermore, soil & water conservation measures such as nala plugging, construction of 3684 bori bunds, gabion structures, farm bunds and contour bunds have brought 279220 acres of land under irrigation and benefited 67778 families in the district. These efforts have also had a positive impact on water wells used for fetching drinking water.

For efficient and judicious use of available water, 5771 drip and sprinkler irrigation systems have been installed along with less water intensive and short duration cash crops. Collectively, these efforts have resulted in an increase in overall irrigation area from 8% to 30% in the district. Studies conducted to assess the efficacy of these water resource development initiatives have shown that there's been a 20% increase in double and triple cropped areas in the district with farmers able to cultivate Rabi crops as a result of water availability.

Diversifying agriculture, the second prong of KJBF's three-pronged approach, features encouraging farmers to employ multi-cropping for improving farm yields and building greater resiliency against the threat of Climate Change. The Foundation has inspired over 50000 farmers in Wardha to diversify their cropping pattern for attaining 'Atmanirbharta' in food security. Additionally, we're encouraging farmers to take up mixed horticulture and develop farm forestry plantations around their farms for bolstering farm ecosystems.

This year, we also undertook multiple programmes to increase green cover on land not used for cultivation and supplied seeds and saplings of indigenous variety.

The third prong is about climate proofing. The Foundation has embarked on as many as six Climate Proofing projects in collaboration with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). Under these projects mini agromet observatories have been set up. The data from these observatories has been helping farmers adopt measures which protect their crops from unexpected weather events. Plus, the farmers are offered due support to adopt climate resilient agricultural practices which have not only led to enhanced yields and profits but lowered the risk of crop failures.

Our collaboration with NABARD has also led to the formation of community-based entrepreneurial ventures focused on agro products through Farmers Producer Organizations or FPOs. This year, we focused on creating agro processing facilities such as oil mills, solar vegetable dryers, pulverisers and cattle feed makers at village level. The Foundation is even empanelled by NABARD as an organisation for promotion of FPOs in Wardha. Our efforts have seen formation of three new FPOs in Hinganghat, Seloo and Deoli blocks which are involved in collectivisation of cotton and soyabean crops.

Besides improving water availability, we've also been focusing on improving the energy quotient of our villages. In the last few years, we have created plenty of awareness about government initiatives in the areas of biogas, solar irrigation systems, and solar lighting systems among the rural communities. One of the highlights of our effort has been our recent collaboration with National Dairy Development Board under which we've been promoting its Flexi Biogas model.

The scope of Foundation's work continues to evolve and expand to cover areas which need our most urgent attention. The villages we work in and the communities we serve, not only in Wardha but at Sikar (Rajasthan) and in Lalitpur (Uttar Pradesh), have gained much from our efforts over the last 10 years. And to this end, I wish to thank our team members, partners, collaborators and volunteers for their exemplary work and cooperation.

As we enter a new decade, we stand resolved to going beyond our mandate and doing more.

PREAMBLE

Apoorv Nayan Bajaj Trustee



The economic prosperity of India is tied inextricably to the health of our rural economy. And while the share of agriculture in the overall economy may have declined in the last 50-60 years, the sector still forms a key part of that equation. Employing nearly half of country's workforce, the shape of agriculture and those engaged in it, is in many ways a marker of our growth as a nation.

It is for this reason that for over 10 years, we at Bajaj Foundation have been working tirelessly in villages across Wardha, Sikar, and Lalitpur to equip and empower individuals and communities to be a part of the economic mainstream. All our interventions, whether in the area of water resource development, smart farming, renewable energy, skill development, or institution building, all have a clearly defined economic well-being objective for our target communities.

We do this with the sole aim of reversing the economic flow and turn the dream of 'Gaon Ka Paisa Gaon Mein aur Sheher Ka Paisa Bhi Gaon Mein' into a reality.

In India, farming practices for the most part have remained unchanged and therefore inadequate to stave off the effect of climate change. Farmers, especially the smaller ones with fewer resources find themselves at the mercy of Rain Gods and live in the constant fear of low yields and crop failures given the increasingly unpredictable weather patterns. This is a problem especially acute in places like Wardha and Sikar. To overcome this, we've been promoting crop diversification and helping farmers take to indigenous crop varieties which minimise the risks of crop failure and

lessen the impact of climate change. Besides this, we're also encouraging farmers to adopt multi-cropping and grow short duration cash crops so as to increase their yields and boost their income.

Natural Farming is another focus area through which the Foundation is helping build self-sufficiency among farmers. Promoted by Subhash Palekar, natural farming besides rejuvenating the soil and restoring its fertility also enhances productivity without the need to resort to extractive (and damaging) techniques. Such is our commitment to Natural Farming that National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has recognized the Bajaj Foundation as a resource agency under its Capacity Building for Adoption of Technology (CAT) programme.

I'm happy to report that our efforts in this area have turned around lives of hundreds of farmers, many of whom have become 'lakhpati' after adopting Natural Farming. I invite individual farmers and organisations interested in exploring the potential of Natural Farming to visit our success stories and help us spread greater awareness.

Taking our theme of sustainable development beyond the farm, we also work with other stakeholders who are part of the rural community to develop an ecosystem which not only has market linkages but also fosters entrepreneurship. As part of this, we have helped build direct home delivery linkages for food grains and pulses. Today we have several farmer collectives who run mobile

outlets for selling fresh fruits and vegetables at the taluka level. The initiative has even piqued the interest of urban communities and city dwellers who stand to get easy access healthy produce, directly from the farmers.

Multiple outlets set up in Wardha and Hinganghat, as part of this initiative, have been known to register daily sales of Rs.10,000 plus. In order to extend the reach of the collectives we are looking to provide them with transport vehicles with the help from NABARD and Sahachari Foundation (Mumbai).

Similarly as part of another initiative we've constructed a rural haat at village Kannamvargram in Karanja block of Wardha district with NABARD's help. This haat serves as an outlet for the small and marginal farmers to sell their produce directly in the market. Managed by women self-help-groups, the haat reflects our wider approach to empowerment.

Another programme of ours focuses on reviving the rural handloom industry and secure financial independence for those involved in it, especially the women folk. Run in collaboration with NABARD, we are promoting Off-farm Producer Organisations (OFPOs) which will give fillip to our traditional cottage industry and further the cause of Aatmanirbhar villages.

Furthermore, we are working with farmers, women, and the youth through other need-based direct intervention programmes and connecting them with various stakeholders such as Govt. Officials and District Administration, and helping revive Panchayati Raj Institutions for holistic development of villages.

The examples served up by the women of Kutaki village of



Hinganghat block who built soak pits so as to clean up the village surroundings and the efforts of a youth group from Tembhari village of Arvi block towards providing nutrition for village children stand out on this count and deserve much applause.

Through smaller, yet meaning initiatives such Transect Walks and Kisan Paathshalas we continue to exchange vital information which our target communities. Such interactions not only help us improve the design of our interventions but also keep the villagers sufficiently informed of all the ways they can gain from our programmes.

Besides grown-ups, our programmes also cover children, a demographic often ignored in matters of rural development. Through our Design for Change (DFC) initiative, we continue to encourage children to step-out of the classrooms and assume a larger role in community development.

In all our efforts, across all our interventions, we embed sustainability and build a scope for project ownership for our target communities. For it is our firm belief that external agents of change like us can only succeed if the communities are prepared to do their part. At Bajaj Foundation, we look to inspire and encourage. Our mission is it to ignite the spark which galvanizes the rural masses to work towards their own betterment.

While our journey of the last 10 years has given us plenty of hope and reasons to cheer, our mission is far from over. We promise to continue along this path and with the same missionary zeal until we have achieved the goal of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

The Programme Areas



Need-based interventions of the Bajaj Foundation have transformed the lives of the community of Wardha in Maharashtra, Sikar in Rajasthan and Lalitpur in Uttar Pradesh. Roof Rainwater Harvesting Structure is a one-time investment and permanent solution to having pure, fresh, safe drinking water at the doorstep.

Wardha District Area

The average annual rainfall of the Wardha district is 1,062 mm. The runoff takes away the fertile topsoil, which leads to severe soil erosion; soil erosion adversely affects fertility status and land use. About 10% of the eroded material usually gets deposited in streams and rivers, traversing the villages in the operational area, silting up riverbeds and reservoirs, reducing water flow, groundwater recharge, and water retention capacity. This, in turn, harms crop productivity leading to lower income for the farmers.

Social responsibility and commitment towards sustainable development solutions have been the core ideology and mission of Kamalnayan Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation. Gandhiji fought his non-violence struggle to make India independent from Wardha. It has also been 'Karma Bhumi' of Jamnalal Bajaj and Kamalnayan Bajaj. It is where Bajaj Foundation initiated its need-based community development interventions through participatory approaches.

Bajaj Foundation has created a positive impact in the area of its operations through focused, innovative interventions in the form of Water Resources Development, especially rejuvenation of Rivers/Streams, Water Management and Sustainable Agriculture Development with particular efforts on natural farming, shifting of cropping pattern from traditional to market-oriented crops, Agro-based livelihood support through village level institutions like FPOs, SHGs, Group lift irrigations etc. and Design for Change interventions for school students.

With our integrated efforts in the Wardha program area, we have reached 893 villages benefitting 2,00,574 families.

Sikar District Area

Sikar, the Door to the Thar Desert, lies in the northeastern region of the Rajasthan. Annual average rainfall of 466 mm and water scarcity is the major challenge in the district.

The situation is alarming due to the high level of groundwater exploitation, and the area has been declared a 'dark zone'. The average depth of the tube well is up to 350-400 ft. to a maximum of 700 ft. Water is unsafe for drinking due to high fluoride and TDS 2600 ppm recorded and declining groundwater table.

Water scarcity is the major challenge in the region, especially drinking water and water for irrigation. Moreover, the people in the area are not well conversed in water harvesting techniques. Sensing the potential, Bajaj Foundation has initiated different models with active participation from residents.

Another imminent need of the area is the conservation of existing natural water resources. Erosion of sandy soil has, over the years, led to silting of most of these water resources structures. There is a pressing need for the

rejuvenation/recharging of existing wells/bore wells through rainwater and exploring new water harvesting technologies, which could fulfil community demands while matching the geo-hydrological conditions of the region.

With our integrated efforts at the Sikar program area, we reach up to 600 villages benefitting farming land of 32,473 acres covering 1,63,523 families.

Lalitpur District Area

The Bar block of district Lalitpur is our area of operation. This block is diverse, rain-fed, risk-prone, under-invested, vulnerable, socio-economically heterogeneous, ethnically unique, agricultural, and backward compared to other blocks of the district. The area lacks infrastructure and access to improved technologies, markets, and inputs. Due to these reasons, crop productivity is low. The farming system of crops and livestock is the main occupation, whereas outsourcing livelihood by seasonal migration minimizes risks and vulnerability. Rainfall is in the range of 500 to 700 mm; black, red, mixed, and alluvial soils; sufficient surface runoff; the network of rivers & streams and forests, animals, and social capital are the opportunities for the sustained development process. Increased droughts frequency due to climatic changes, forest degradation, depletion of groundwater, etc., are the challenges to be dealt with.

Strategic Approach

To resolve existing problems, Bajaj Foundation in Wardha, Sikar and Lalitpur districts have been implementing various programs in consultation with the local community and in collaboration with development stakeholders. The primary emphasis is on integrated Water Resource Development and Management, sustainable Agriculture and agro-based livelihood Development, Livestock Development, Women Empowerment, community-based institutions development and Training and Capacity Building. These programs aim to strengthen the livelihoods of distressed agrarian communities located in the program areas. The developmental interventions focus on making the farming community self-reliant, thereby strengthening the program areas' socio-economic and sustainable environmental development.

Empowering Rural Women through Self-Help-Groups



Shishir Bajaj, Chairman of Bajaj Foundation, interacts with women SHGs members in Wardha and Motivates them to initiate rural entrepreneurship, thereby empowering themselves.

“The economic empowerment of women is essential for upholding their rights and ensuring gender equality. We define women's economic empowerment in terms of their access to and control of productive resources and meaningful participation in economic decision-making at all levels as well as their ability to act as equal participants in existing markets.

Our Women Empowerment programmes at Wardha have led to economic empowerment of the district's women through vehicles such as self-help-groups (SHGs) and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) which have enabled access for women to small productive assets such as livestock, entrepreneurial ventures, and formal & non-formal credits.

”



4,421
SHGs formed

56,710
Members Covered
from
803 Villages

1,500
SHGs digitized

Promotion of Women Farmer Producer Organisations

Women Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) aim to get them organised formally as a collective and improve their access to credit and markets which in turn affords them greater economic opportunities.

This year we focused on enhancing the capacities of 3 FPOs at Ashti, Deoli and Arvi blocks through knowledge exchange, trainings, and exposure meetings. At Ashti, Pragatishil Farmers Producer Company is engaged in agro processing and offers services centred on skills of

individual shareholders whereas Damini Women Farmers Producer Company at Deoli is focused on decentralised processing and collective sale of agriculture produce including wheat, pigeon pea and chick pea. The FPO has benefitted 225 farmers and recorded a turnover of Rs. 1,43,28,904 Cr. The efforts of Damini Women Farmers Producer Company were recognized by NABARD at its 40th Foundation Day Celebrations where it was awarded the prize for 4th Best Performing FPO for 2021-22 in Maharashtra. The FPO has also extended its services to processing raw turmeric by renting boiler and polisher units at its farms.

Preventive and Curative Measures

Providing access to basic healthcare in rural areas forms a key part of our agenda. As part of this, during the past year we continued to organise Health Camps, Hygiene Awareness Workshops and special sessions in which villagers were taught how to prepare Ayurvedic remedies for common illnesses at home. This is especially important since even seemingly small out-of-pocket expenses on medicines can often be a challenge for ordinary villagers. During 2020-21, regular Health Camps were organised in 25 villages of all 8 blocks.

Promoting Kitchen Gardens

Though seemingly small, Kitchen gardens can be a great source of self-reliance for households. Besides providing fresh vegetables for daily consumption, they can of particular use to women's health, especially in rural areas. In Sikar as many as 2000 kitchen gardens were started with the help of the Foundation with training and support offered for growing 15 different types of vegetables.

Imparting Training & Supporting Skill Development

Building micro-enterprises is an integral part of planned strategy of KJBF for ensuring balanced development of the economy of the rural women. In line with this, 455 women from 26 villages across 8 blocks were given training in tailoring course. Besides, training for electric appliances repairing, electrician's work, mobile repairing, and welding was organized for 105 rural youths in the 6 villages across 4 blocks.



Apoorv Bajaj and Meenakshi Apoorv Bajaj (Center) appreciated the efforts made by Damini Women's Farmers Producers Organisation, Wardha, in agriculture production and marketing.

Collaborative Projects with NABARD

• Digitization of SHGs

In line with Government of India's digitalisation initiative, in 2015 NABARD had launched 'E-Shakti' a project aimed at digitisation of Self-Help-Groups (SHGs). Done in a bid to make it easier for SHGs to conduct business by promoting transparency and availability of data, the project is said to accelerate the process of Financial Inclusion, particularly in rural areas. Bajaj Foundation joined this important initiative and helped link 1437 SHGs to the E-Shakti portal which in turn resulted in SHGs availing a loan of Rs.52960000 by 7369 SHG members from 8 blocks Wardha district

• Establishment of Rural Haats

Rural Haats can be a vital instrument of economic activity. With a view to spur on economic movement the Foundation constructed a Rural Haat at Kannamwargram, a tribal village in Karanja block. Supported by NABARD, the Haat is expected to help farmers increase their profits and sustain it over time. Built at a cost of 17.34 lakh, the Haat includes sheds for 60 shops, roof rain water harvesting system, office room, solar lighting, vermicompost unit for solid waste disposal, drainage system, pathways, drinking water, and sanitation facilities.

• Conducting Financial Literacy Workshops

The Foundation in collaboration with NABARD organised financial literacy camps in 3 villages of Seloo, Wardha, and Hinganghat blocks for the members of local Self-Help-Groups (SHGs). During these camps, Mr. Pravin Mule, District Development Manager, NABARD oriented the participants in ways in which they can set up small scale enterprises, access bank loan schemes and other support which they may require.

Lending Support for the Extremely Poor

The Foundation raised a grant support of Rs.1457000 for 81 families belonging to the poorest of the poor category. The grants were disbursed among the beneficiaries so that they may extricate themselves from the financial rut and take up income generating activities. In some cases grants were issued to lend financial support for covering healthcare costs & medical expenses.

Achievements and Impact

- 4421 SHGs were formed with a membership of 56710 members in 803 Villages covered Rs 30.29 crore of total saving accrued by SHGs group.
- Rs. 35.52 crore as internal credits of SHGs
- Rs. 38.91 crore credits from Bajaj Foundation as revolving funds and external credits from banks.
- Rs.4.33 crore as interest earned on internal credit lending.
- 1500 Self Help Groups were digitized on E Shakti portal.
- 150 types of rural IGAs started by SHG members.
- The average monthly income of the SHG members increased by Rs.3000 to 20000



Income Generation Activities (IGAs) undertaken by the SHG serves as an engine for the growth and sustainability of SHGs in the long run, as they earn an economic return and generate savings and profits for the group. A Laxmi SHG group of Pratappur, Sikar, has initiated group IGA in the processing of pulses



'Rural-Haat' is a dynamic platform for economic activities intending to spur economic movement; the Foundation has constructed 'Rural-Haat' at village Kannamwargram, Wardha

Winning Hearts with Rural Haat

Kannamwar Gram is a tribal village located 16 km away from Karanja block in Wardha district. The village is the only marketplace for about 15 neighboring villages. Every market day vendors from these villages set up shop, out in the open hoping to conduct business. The marketplace wasn't a comfortable space for these vendors who are mostly small and marginal farmers from the surrounding areas. Crowded and unkempt, it was a space dirty and teeming with stray animals. To alleviate the situation Bajaj Foundation and NABARD built a Rural Haat at Kannamwargram. A space with pucca flooring and 2 large sheds which could accommodate 60 shops, the Haat was decked out with a small office, drinking water facilities, toilets, composting units, and wired fences so that no strays could enter the premise. On January 5, 2022, the Haat was inaugurated by the Union Minister of State for Finance Dr. Bhagwat Karad with much fanfare.

Besides addressing the pains of the farmer-vendors who set up shops in the marketplace, the Haat was also built with another objective. That of women's empowerment. And so a women self-help-group called Tejasvini was tasked with the responsibility of operating and upkeep of the Haat. It was up to the members of the SHG to collect the rent, maintain the premise and manage all the affairs of the Haat. The women took to their new role with surprising ease and have managed the Haat successfully for several months now. They've put in place mechanisms for a smooth functioning of the Haat, collecting rent on time, and keeping the premises clean and stress-free for everyone. The women have even managed to put the leftover waste and garbage material to good use via composting which is likely to earn the SHG some extra money come the farming season. Part of the earnings from the Haat goes to the Gram Panchayat while the rest is used for maintenance activities.

Striking Prosperity with Oil Mill

Three friends Ramdas Meghare, Raju bobade and Vishal Naukarkar, residents all of Shekapur village in Hinganghat block were trained and offered financial aid by the Foundation for setting up a Cold Press Oil Extraction unit in their village. Installed at the cost of Rs.1,25,000, the unit produces groundnut and linseed oil and serves customers not only from the local community but also those from the neighbouring villages. During their first 6 months of operation the business earned a total turnover of Rs.60,000. Besides gaining vital business experience, the trio is thrilled at having a newfound confidence in their entrepreneurial abilities. They now plan engage directly with the local farmers to grow more quantities of groundnut and linseed assuring them of buying their produce in bulk and scaling up operations.

Of New Roof and Fresh Hope

Pramila Ravindra Aakolkar is a resident of village Lahan Arvi in Ashti block of Wardha district. Until recently she lived in a small, rickety house with her blind husband and two children – a girl of 6 years and a boy 2 years old. Poor and landless, the family relies on Pramila for its bread, which she earns by working as a farmhand and taking up odd-jobs around the village. The house in which they live is one of a handful of things which offer Pramila, her husband and their two children a sense of ownership and security. In the last few years, lack of upkeep had meant that the house had fallen into disrepair and become unlivable. The back portion of the house was completely dilapidated and the roof of the house seemed as though it could cave in any hour. Pramila feared for the safety of her family. When the representatives of Bajaj Foundation were informed of Pramila's woes, they rushed in with help. The foundation released much-needed funds for Pramila to not only put in a new roof but also carry out repairs around the house. The urgent help she received from the Foundation left Pramila teary-eyed and full of gratitude. Today she's filled with a renewed sense of hope.

Weaving Success and Inspiring Others

Up until three years ago, life for Varsha Praful Bhojar was not much different from the other women in her community. For Varsha, a resident of Satoda village in Wardha, life meant taking care of her husband, their two children and her mother-in-law and working as a farmhand to earn a bit of extra money to supplement the family income.

In 2019, Varsha along with 11 other enterprising women from her community formed a self-help-group called **Khadi Mahila Bachat Gat** and underwent a handloom weaving training course organised by the Bajaj Foundation. After completing the course, Varsha set up her own handloom with the Foundation's support and began weaving high-quality fabric in her spare time, after laboring in the fields.

Producing roughly about 8 meters of fabric per day, she began earning on average Rs.400 per day from this venture. This income not added to her family's monthly earnings but also instilled in Varsha a great deal of confidence.

Over time, the word of her enterprise grew and women from her village and surrounding areas began asking her to train them and help them find their feet. Encouraged by the demand, she honed her skills as a trainer and began training others and offering inputs for setting up their own handloom operation. The training venture not only brought her further recognition but also added to her finances which grew by as much as Rs. 10,000 per month.

Today, a role model to young girls and women in her village, Varsha feels extremely proud of her work and remains grateful to the Foundation for its guidance and support. "Bajaj Foundation helped me to stand on my feet and prosper. Beyond that it gives me immense satisfaction that I am able to help in a similar way to other women in need," notes Varsha.



Edible oil extracted through a cold press oil mill is in great demand. Farmers of Shekapur village in the Hinganghat block of Wardha installed a cold press oil mill through the support of the Bajaj foundation as a group-based income generation activity.

Shaping Entrepreneurial Dreams

Reena Mahesh Dave's earthen pots and other wares never lacked quality. In fact her skills and that of her family's which also made idols of Gods and Goddesses were known to the residents of Nalwadi and neighbouring villages across Wardha. It was simply the scale which prevented Reena from earning a fair income, enough for her to fulfil her family's needs. When the Sarpanch of Reena's village approached the Bajaj Foundation seeking financial aid for her, the Foundation

was more than willing to lend a helping hand. After receiving a grant from the Foundation, Reena and her family members could make and sell additional items such Tulsi Vrindavan, Cement Kundis, Chulhas, Flower Pots, and even Plastic Kundis. This not only resulted in greater sales but also improved the Reena's daily profits which range anywhere from Rs.150 to Rs.200. Today, a much happier Reena believes that she can grow her business even beyond this and earn more.

Eating Healthy, Eating Fresh

50-year old Ucchhav Kanwar was anaemic. She had a long history and was advised by the doctors to include green leafy vegetables in her diet. The local market in her village didn't always have leafy greens available for her to follow the prescribed diet. The Bajaj Foundation helped Ucchhav by creating a kitchen garden in her backyard. It not only allowed her to grow all the

vegetables she needed to consume but also discover a passion for growing her own food. Ucchhav's story inspired others in her neighbourhood to create similar kitchen gardens and lead a healthy lifestyle. Ucchhav now plans to set up a kitchen garden at the local village school.



Members of SHGs were trained in preparing the Natural colour required for the colour of Holi Festival. Women of village Mirchwara exploring the business opportunity for preparation of colours.

“ Testimonials ”



**Seema Bhaskar
Sawarkar**

Pipri (Meghe), Wardha

“I am thankful to Bajaj Foundation for lending me financial support to start my own Beauty Parlour. Without this help my dream might not have become a reality. Today, I'm financially independent and earn Rs.7000 every month to meet the needs of my family.”



Pappu Sahariya

Mogan, Lalitpur

“Bajaj Foundation offered me guidance and support for growing vegetables in my own backyard. The food I grow not only improved my family's diet but also boosted our income. Today the excess vegetables we grow have added an additional Rs.50,000 to our annual income.”



Harshwani Khose

Kajli, Karanja

“Thanks to KJBF for supporting our SHG's cattle feed business. Our venture which we launched in January 2022 produces 9000 kg high-quality cattle feed every month which in turn generates an income of Rs.27000 for our SHG.”



Chali Raja

Surikala, Lalitpur

“I am 58 years old and need regular hospital check-ups. The nearest hospital facility for us is 45 km away. Given this, the mobile clinic operated by the Bajaj Foundation is like a Godsend to me. The free-of-cost service saving countless lives in our area.”

Driving Change Through Design for Change



In addition to building confidence and character, Design for Change also brings smiles and happiness and teaches them life skills and the value of self-reliance and empathy for others.

Design for Change is an opportunity for children to express and implement their own ideas for a better world.

Design for Change or DFC is a global movement launched by Kiran Bir Sethi of Riverside School, Ahmedabad. The initiative encourages students to identify challenges which they would like to work on and solve using their own ideas. Through DFC children (and even adults) tend to learn the value of "I CAN" - two simple words which once imbibed can help people move mountains.

With **Feel, Imagine, Do** and **Share** as basic tenets of the programme, children are encouraged first to **Feel** and understand the situation before jumping to solve it. At the **Imagine** step children are asked to brainstorm solutions to improve, enrich, and change the user experience. **Do** is about creativity and the ability of children to take timely action. The final step **Share** encourages cultivating the abundance mentality. The

various tools used throughout the process include telling stories, screening inspirational videos, singing motivational social songs and playing games help inculcate values necessary for participants to build character and lead better lives.

Bajaj Foundation has been drawing participation of schools in DFC for over 10 years in collaboration with District Education Department. In addition to building confidence and character, DFC also brings smiles and happiness for children and teaches them life skills, and value of independence, self-reliance, and empathy for others.

During the year under the DFC programme Wardha, I CAN gathering was organized in which I CAN book publication ceremony was carried out. The gathering was organised in the presence of Dr. Sachin Ombase, Chief Executive Officer, Zilha Parishad, Wardha.

Achievements and Impacts

- 392 Projects completed by students
- 616 schools covered in 344 villages
- 46483 Students actively participated in DFC movement.
- 1643 Teachers trained in DFC concepts and implementation
- 32 schools received recognition at National I CAN Gatherings
- 334 stories uploaded on YouTube

Bringing Social Outcasts into the Fold

Class 8th & 9th students of St. John Vidyalaya, Borgaon (Meghe) took on a project which few could dare take. They decided to make an attempt to bring transgender people commonly known as 'Kinnars' into the mainstream and give them their due respect through a

Design for Change Initiative. Seeing them being heckled and jeered as they begged for money didn't feel right to the children who took part in the initiative. Curious about their lifestyles and in a bid to understand them better, the group visited a Kinnar ashram in Wardha and interacted with them. Learning about the Kinnar community, the challenges faced by them allowed children to develop a deeper appreciation for their unfortunate condition.

Moved by their plight and how they are treated as social outcasts, the children decided to hold a programme where they could be made to feel a part of the mainstream. Some even wished to felicitate them. Initially reluctant, the group of Kinnars didn't wish to participate in any such event. However after much pushing and prodding, they relented and a programme was held the school. The event brought the group of Kinnars in touch with people from all walks of the society in an environment where they did not receive any abuse or were looked at strangely. They felt at ease and happy in the environment. The entire event conceptualised and executed by the children bore witness to many heart-touching moments. It left everyone, including the children with lessons for life.



The "I CAN" gathering was organized at Sewagram, Wardha, to recognize the efforts made by the students of various schools under DFC. A DFC book was released by the hands of Dr Sachin Ombase, CEO, Zilla Parishad Wardha (Second from Lt. to Rt.), Hemchandra Vaidhya and Anuradha Pathak.



Shishir Bajaj (4th from Rt to Lt. front row) and Apoorv Bajaj (5th from Rt to Lt. front row) appreciated the efforts made by the students under the 'Design For Change' initiatives

Walking in the Footsteps of Savitribai Phule

A group of 22 students of Adarsh Vidyalaya, Pimpalgaon of Samudrapur block felt that the elders in their communities could do well with some financial literacy. Having seen many of them struggle at places like banks and post office for seemingly simple tasks, they decided to take it up as challenge and teach the senior citizens, many of whom were illiterate, basics of financial literacy. This was important since many of them stood to lose their moneys to instances of cheating and fraud.

The children interacted with the community elders and convinced them to attend financial literacy classes they planned to hold. Not an easy task, many elders refused initially and appeared less than thrilled at the idea. However the children persisted and managed to convince the lot. They also interacted with the village

sarpanch to help them arrange a place where they could hold these special "classes" for the community elders. The students even ran a campaign to collect donations for buying teaching aids and study materials for the participants.

After a few classes, a visible change among the elders began to be seen. Many felt more confident conducting their own affairs at banks and post offices. They could navigate public places with ease, travel on their own, and go about their day as changed individuals. The classes even ignited the curiosity of some to take up things like reading and writing.

The students of Adarsh Vidyalaya had sparked a mini-revolution!

A Home for Their Winged Friends

Whenever they played in the schoolyard, the children of Nandgaon Madhyamik Vidyalay, Nandgaon (Borgaon) would notice the chirping of different birds in the premise. They would see them look frantically for seeds to eat, water, and sometime places where they could nest. Over time these casual observations precipitated into an idea for some of the children who in turn decided to do something for their “winged friends”.

In order to figure out all that they could do, the children held a meeting with the school teachers and administrators to discuss various ways in which they could go about helping the birds who would visit their school. After going over a variety of solutions, they decided to provide permanent homes for the birds on the school premises. Looking at the different varieties of bird who would frequent their school, the children built customised artificial nests, swings and water bowls using discarded items such as empty cans and waste material.

Soon after these nests and water bowls were placed in various corners of the school, it was noticed that the birds began gathering around them in much greater numbers. The chirpings grew louder with sparrows, pigeons, parrots, and crows flying in and staying at school for longer periods. This allowed the children to learn a great deal about the birds and enjoy their company. The campus of Nandgaon Madhyamik Vidyalay today is filled with the music of the cute little winged critters.

When Stray Empathies Turn Into Real Care

They are all around us and yet we don't see them. The stray animals who hazard our streets and struggle on the fringes for survival don't really draw our sympathies. It takes hearts and minds that aren't cluttered or self-involved to see their pain. It takes a child's eyes to see the pain of these four-legged creatures who are as much a part of our surroundings as anyone else. When the opportunity came for the students for Little Angels High School, Hinganghat, to do something about the plight of stray animals they decided to make arrangement for medical care of the sickly and injured animals from their community.

The children reached out to local veterinary hospital in order to understand how they can go about helping the strays and the arrangements they would have to make to get the animals the care they would need. The children in consultation with their school teachers, local veterinarians, and community members ran a campaign to identify the animals who needed urgent medical care and ran a fund-raiser to procure the medicines and pay for the medicinal expenses. Moved by their kind gesture people responded and soon the children had enough money to make arrangements for the care of 8 stray dogs, 11 cows and 6 buffalos.

“Even though none of the animals could speak, the look of gratitude in their eyes was enough for us to see,” said Ashish, one of the students involved in the project. “It was worth all the trouble we went through.”

“ Testimonials ”



Ms. Chaturthi Yadav

Class 9, Nandgaon Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Hinganghat

“I participated in a DFC project which helped us develop a positive attitude and instill a great deal of confidence for implementing innovative ideas for the betterment of society with a scientific temperament.”



Ms. Purwa Girsawale

Little Angels School, Hinganghat

“Because of DFC we learnt the value of empathy and care and realized our responsibility towards the society. We will continue to do all we can to make the world a better place.”

Water Resource Development

Rejuvenation of Rivers/ streams



687 KM
River Length
Rejuvenated

245
Rivers/ Streams
Covered

151757
Acres of Land
Covered

23070
Families
Benefited

687 Km span of Rivers and streams Rejuvenation has benefited 23,070 farming families and their 1,51,757 acres of farming land covered under cultivation and irrigation in Wardha district. A stretch of Punsuda River Rejuvenated at village Muradgaon, Wardha



Agriculture is the main consumer of water stock in India. In rural India 80 to 90 per cent of drinking water needs are fulfilled by groundwater resources. What is worrisome is that groundwater levels in India declined by over 60 per cent between 2007 and 2017, and of the extracted water, almost 90 per cent is used in agriculture. In a 2014 report, the Bharatiya Agro Industries Foundation estimated that 70 per cent of India's farming is rain-fed. Yet, 65 per cent of its total rainfall ends up in the sea. Wardha is not an exception. This denotes the importance and need of rain water harvesting and water conservation interventions.

In rural areas runoff water from the fields can be diverted for recharging groundwater tables effectively. The Bajaj Foundation has looked at water related issues from several perspectives. In this context, Bajaj Foundation has been promoting efficient measures like recharge pits, percolation tanks, farm ponds, well recharge structures, bori bunds and check dams along with rejuvenation of river beds. Its approach has been integrated with active participation of the local community. For efficient and judicious use of available water, drip and sprinkler irrigation systems have been promoted along with less water intensive and short duration cash crops.

The net irrigated area in Sikar is 2,95,000 ha out of total of agricultural land. There rivers flows are seasonal making the farm wells as the only source of irrigation. Huge amount of rain water runoff with decreased efficiency of water table recharging characterising the extremities observed in the levels of ground water tables (5 m

to 60 m) and readings of salinity (less than 2,000 mmhos/cm to above 5000 mmhos/cm). As a mitigation measure promotion of different recharging structures have been main focus for the area.

Rejuvenation of Yashoda River Basin

The Rejuvenation of Rivers/streams - The Wardha model for the Yashoda river basin is a joint project of the Kamalnayan Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation, Government of Maharashtra, TATA Trust and rural community residing in the project area with the aim to rejuvenate the Yashoda river basin. The Yashoda River basin consists of six micro watersheds which includes 65 Streams and Rivulets across 153 villages covering 630 Km. span of River beds. The project would benefit 2,05,000 acres of land benefitting 36,945 families.

The key problem this project attempted to address is shortage of water for agriculture, despite an average annual rainfall of 1141 mm. While the Yashoda river basin is rich in rivulets and streams / nalas, it experiences both flooding during monsoons, as well as water shortages in the post monsoon period. High intensity rainfall occurring erratically during the monsoon causes soil runoff, siltation, and plugging of the rivulets and nalas. Both situations greatly reduce agriculture productivity: standing crops are lost due to water logging during the monsoons, and water shortages in the post monsoon season reduce crop yield and income of the farming community.





Integrated water resources development is an essential aspect of Natural Resource Management. Farmers benefitted from combining efforts of River Rejuvenation and Construction of Check dam. A check dam constructed at village Gaurkheda in Wardha.

Impact Study

Yashoda is one of the sub rivers of Wardha river flowing through Deoli block had almost lost her existence due to collection of silt over the years. Yashoda river basin watershed covers 2 villages of Arvi, 55 villages of Deoli, 75 villages of Wardha and 11 villages of Hinganghat blocks. It is divided into 6 micro watersheds. Out of these the impact study reports the findings of scientific survey conducted in 25 villages with the help of the one of the renowned organizations, WOTR, Ahmednagar.

Analysis of the trend indicates that during the pre-monsoon period, the rise in water level was recorded from 0.51m to 2.15 m. Irrigation has subsequently increased. Period of water available for irrigation has increased by 2 months. 721 ha barren land which was submerged came under cultivation with the subsiding of water logging conditions. The water receiving hours during September to January has reduced from 16 hrs to 7 hrs while in summer it has reduced from 27 hrs to 14 hrs.

Project Achievements

The river basin has been rejuvenated over a length of

- 687.48 km span of river basin has been rejuvenated in 253 villages
- 151757 acres of land covered benefiting 23070 farmers
- 1,14,13,889 cubic meter surface and ground water recharge
- 19151 acres of water logged land brought under cultivation
- 5175 wells water table in the vicinity has been increased

Both the GIS and socio-economic analysis showed an increase in the double and triple cropped area by 20 % while corresponding single cropped area has reduced. Farmers were able to take Rabi crops as irrigation potential has increased. Area under perennial cropping system has been doubled with increased tendency for farm forestry plantation the increased water availability for the second crop has contributed to raising agriculture productivity.

Shri. Dilip Ram, Village – Bara, Block – Arvi, “Yashoda river rejuvenation work done in 2017 – 18 recovered 5 acres of my farmland from water logging conditions. Widening and deepening of the river automatically resisted the movement of wild animals into my farm and thus saved crop damage, especially in rabi season. Moreover, desiltation has increased water availability in the river so that I can irrigate my farm. With the water available for irrigation, cotton and pigeon pea yield increased from 5 qt/acre to 9 qt/acre for cotton and from 2 qt/acre to 5 qt/acre for pigeon pea. Besides routine crops, I also began to cultivate vegetables. Overall, my net profit has been increased from Rs. 24,200/acre to Rs. 1,96,000/acre.”

Construction of Check Dams

Construction of Check Dams: The Check Dams are constructed across the riverbeds and Streams. This helped in increasing water storage in stream which is being used

Achievements and Impacts

- 109 Numbers of check dams constructed
- 3702 Numbers of farmers benefitted
- 11757 Acres of farming land benefitted
- Rs.8.17 crores (109*750000) total average investment
- Rs 38.59 crores total benefit accrued by farmers.
- 635 wells benefitted with increased water table by 6 feet.
- Increased availability of water for irrigating Rabi and summer crops.

Construction of Water Recharge Structure

Farm Ponds were traditionally used for storage of Water for irrigation. KJBF has constructed technically improved Farm Ponds which efficiently arrest surface runoff and conserve rain water for support irrigation during dry spells and periods of distress with average storage capacity of 450 cubic meters and 75 cubic meters respectively. It had been observed that besides providing protective irrigation during prolonged rain falls it had helped to overcome conditions of waterlogging in low lying areas. Farmers converted 51% recharge pits in to wells on their own expenses thus having permanent irrigation source.

Shri.Jaisingh Ashoksingh Mate resides in the village Kelapur of Wardha block. He owns 2 acres of land which was rainfed before 2014 and earning net profit of Rs. 26,000. He was helped for having recharge pit, which he later converted to an open well. He created this permanent irrigation source, because of which his net profit from 2 acres of land was raised to Rs. 1,14,400.

Achievements and Impacts

- 5248 recharge structure constructed
- 15190 acres of land benefitted
- 9215 families reaped the benefit
- 2450 recharge pits converted into wells
- 851 village covered
- Cropping intensity increased from 1 to 3 crop

Bori bunds

After monsoon various streams are flowing for two to three months Bori bunds are proposed for harvesting maximum water to use it for support irrigation during dry spell. It is a seasonal cost effective temporary water harvesting structure which is established by filling empty cement bags with sand/soil and stacked across the river/stream to harvest rain water running through stream during rainy season. The stacked cement bags are also covered with plastic sheets to minimize leakage of water

Percolation Tanks

Based on the need assessment in consultation with local community, KJBF has constructed reservoirs/percolation tanks in wasteland areas, where there is an adequate surface runoff in the catchment area to harvest rain water for surface storage and ground water recharge. Harvested surface stored water is directly used for irrigation while ground water table is increased in the vicinity of percolation tanks resulted in increased area under irrigation.



Achievements and Impacts

- 3960 Boribunds installed
- 13445 families benefitted
- 48046 acres of land benefitted
- 392 villages covered
- Average yield increased in cotton crop from 5 qt to 8 qt acre
- One Boribunds benefitted approx. 13.5 acres of farming land.
- Average investment in boribunds was Rs 5000 and average return was Rs. 35000 over one acre of land

Achievements and Impacts

- 50 percolation tanks constructed
- 6089 acres of land benefitted
- 1437 farmers received direct benefits
- Water table has increased from 6 to 8 ft in the surrounding areas
- Cropping intensity increased from 1 to 3 crops, 40 villages were covered.

Smiling faces of the farmers because of the impact of Water Resources Initiatives of the Bajaj Foundation

Group Lift Irrigation Interventions

Perennial River like Wardha River, Wana River, Dham River and Bor River are flowing, in spite of that surrounding lands remains unirrigated as farmers are unable to lift the water due to lack of resources. As a result, the productivity of farms was suffering for those farmers. KJBF has initiated establishing lift irrigation systems and also providing diesel engines to a group of farmers to lift water available in the Rivers/streams, group wells, dams, canals and ponds and brought rain fed farming under irrigation.

In 2013 – 14, a group of 5 farmers of village Anji in Deoli block was helped to have a lift irrigation system to bring their 40 acres of the rainfed area under irrigation. Suresh Mankar is one of the farmers who could now irrigate his 19 acres of land because of the lift irrigation system. He shared, "Risk of crop failure has now been reduced with the availability of irrigation water. Cotton production has increased from 5 qtl/ace to 8 qtl/acre, and pigeon pea production increased from 1.5 qtl/acre to 2.25 qtl/acre. I

cultivated soybean in kharif season, wheat in rabi and vegetables in summer as I have assured irrigation. The soybean harvest was 6.5 qtl/acre, and wheat was 12 qtl/acre. My overall net profit has been increased from Rs. 7,756/acre to Rs.36,015/acre."

Achievements and Impacts

- 118 lift irrigation system were installed in 52 village
- 1506 Groups lift irrigation system established
- 388 groups wells established
- 11188 families benefitted
- 27953 acres of land covered
- 346 villages covered
- An average income per family increased by Rs. 50000
- Increased yield per acre (Average- cotton 5qt to 10 qt/ acre, pea 1 to 2 quintal, wheat additional Rabi crop 6 qt / acre)
- Cropping intensity increased from 1 to 3 crops



Small Group Lift Irrigation Schemes implemented were found to be more impactful. As a result, rainfed farmers can now cultivate two to three crops due to direct availability of water for irrigation.

Well Recharge Structures

Over-extraction of water through open wells/bore wells has resulted in depletion of ground water which is limited and has become very scarce. To balance the mismatch of the withdrawal and recharge, rain water that falls in the farms during rainy season is diverted into existing wells through filtration mechanism to maximize ground water recharge at a faster rate. Through this measure, it has been noted that water table increases up to ground level during rainy season, whereas through other rain water harvesting measures, the percolation rate of rain water is much less. One pit of size 8'x6'x5' is excavated adjacent to the existing well and filled up with the filtering materials like gravels, pebbles and sand with layer of 1.25 ft each. The filtration pit is fixed with 3

perforated pipes of size 12.5 cm diameter and 1m length. The inlet pipes is covered with a net to arrest the silt and allow the clean water to enter into well.

Farmer Vijay Damodar Pote resides in Isapur village of Deoli block. Earlier, his farm could not support rabi crop cultivation because of the lowered water table. In the year 2020–21, he was guided to take up a well recharge structure to increase water availability for irrigation. He experienced positive results in the same year. This small intervention increased the water level in the well by 5 ft and added rabi season to his cultivation. He began to cultivate vegetables during the rabi season. Increased water availability raised his net profits from Rs. 12,452/acre to Rs. 22,892/acre.



Bori-bandh is a low-cost water harvesting structure which is more beneficial to harvest the seasonal Rainwater to support irrigation to crops of rainfed farmers. 3900+ Boribahds have been established with the active participation of farmers. A boribandh constructed at village Shedgaon, Wardha

Intervention of Group Well Changing the Scenario:

Group of 4 farmers at village Burogaon of Bar block in Lalitpur district were suffering from losses in agriculture in absence of irrigation facilities. Mr. Jivan Kushwaha was one of the farmers shared, "We are earning profit of Rs.3 to 4 lakhs per annum from total 20 acres of land in absence of irrigation source. Bajaj Foundation helped us to have group well and fortunately it discovered good source of spring beneath. Now we our annual profits from same 20 acres of land has raised to Rs. 7 to 8 lakhs."

Achievements and Impacts

- 3958 wells were recharged
- 9895 acres of land covered under irrigation
- 468 villages were covered under the programme
- Water table increased up to 6 ft

Water Management

Irrigated agriculture is a vital component of total agriculture. KJBF has been promoting micro irrigation systems to increase the output per unit of water, reduce losses of water to unusable sinks, reduce water degradation and reallocate water to raise additional crops.

Sprinkler irrigation systems save the water up to 60% to 70% whereas drip irrigation saves the water up to 80%. Farmers in Wardha district are motivated to install micro irrigation systems for optimum use of water which was made available through replenishment of ground water. It has proved its benefits on number of crops including horticulture, floriculture, pulses, grains and vegetables.

Krushna Bajirao Yadav lives in village Waifad of Wardha block. He owns 4 acres of irrigated land. He usually cultivates cotton and pigeon pea over 3 acres and 1 acre of land, respectively. He could not irrigate all his 4 acres of land through flood irrigation practices. Moreover, it also facilitated the growth of weeds and increased the weeding cost. He was supported for the installation drip system, which resolved both of these problems. Optimised water use could now support irrigation of all 4 acres without hampering crop productivity and reducing weeds' growth.

Achievements and Impacts

- 8631 Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation Systems Supported (1599)
- 21213 acres of land covered (3625)
- 8622 families benefitted (1590)
- 1201 village covered (304)

Common Water Recharge Structures

Common water Recharge Structures are a boon in drought-prone areas. Millions of litres of rainwater are wasted due to unavailable recharge structures in our country. Due to climate change, rainfall has become quite erratic in the Sikar district in the last few years, and it is observed that flood situations are quite often created due to which all water flow in drains and is wasted.

Bajaj Trust discussed this matter with the community and identified the Common Water Recharge Structures (CWRS) model with 7000 sq mt surface area as a catchment area to collect the water flow during rain and recharge it through defunct bore wells.

Achievements and Impacts

- 1929 Roof Rainwater Harvesting Structures constructed (RRWHS)
- 2,89,35,000 litres rainwater stored in 1929 RRWHS for safe drinking water
- Average 4 hours saved by a woman for fetching drinking water
- The health of the adopters improved
- Rs. 3,600 saved by each family on water collected and total Rs. 10,51,575 saved by 1929 beneficiaries RRWHS



Common rainwater harvesting structures are boon to drought-prone areas like Sikar. A Group of Farmers constructed community water recharge structures in the village Khichdo Ki Dhani.

Common Water Recharge Structure Improves Hygiene:

Balaji Navyuvak Mandal of Kochor village got annoyed with the unhygienic surroundings in the playground during rainy season due to water getting collected all around making it inhibited by various insects and diseases. Villagers discussed the issue in the village meeting with the team and decided to construct common recharge structure. This investment proved worth and the surroundings became cleaner getting rain water effectively recharged to the ground. Now the children enjoy playing even during monsoon.

Agricultural Profits Soar with Recharge Structure:

Agricultural Profits Soar with Recharge Structure: Mr. Hitesh Kumar residing in the village Chudimia of Sikar district worried due to continuous loss of crop as a result of water logging conditions during monsoon. In order to overcome this, he was suggested to construct bore well and recharging all the collected rain water to it. This worked very well saving his crop from total crop failure.

Recharge Structures Bring Water and Green Cover:

Churimiya village was facing the problem of waterlogging at places during rainy season. On the other hand village was also facing water scarcity due to decreased water table. These youths consulted Bajaj Trust and took initiative for having common recharging structure. To get started with they identified one of the waterlogging site and the nearby tube well which was dry since few years. It was a joyful moment when they saw their efforts turned out fruitful. The tubewell started receiving water almost throughout the year. Further youths replicated the same structure in another 2 waterlogging areas and found the same encouraging results. With the increased availability of water they planted fruit and forestry trees around the tube wells which has now turned into a green cover.

Roof Rain Water Recharge Structure (RRWHS)

In Sikar, all the blocks struggling for clean and safe drinking water. To provide safe drinking water at the doorstep, Bajaj Trust effortlessly works with the community to promote Roof Rain Water Recharge Structure (RRWHS) all over the Sikar district.

In Sikar, groundwater depleted day by day, and the quality of water deteriorated. The groundwater table deepens up to 250 to 450 feet, and fluoride content and total dissolved solids are high, not safe for drinking water. At the same time, most people complain about bone aching and tooth problems due to high fluoride consumption through drinking water.

We promoted RRWHS of 15,000 litres which is sufficient for five family members for the period of six months (Feb. to June). During training, we explained the importance of safe drinking water for good health to maintain a good quality of water in the tank for an extended period. We guided them to provide a coat of limestone in the tank's inner walls, put an earthen pot having minor holes below the surface with some limestone, and cover the earthen pot mouth with a clean cotton cloth. Also, create awareness on cleaning so that they maintain cleanliness on the roof and surface area from time to time

RRWHS having three essential elements: Clean Roof (collection area), a conveyance system such as a pipeline and a storage facility such as a tank. The effective roof area and the material used in constructing the roof influence the efficiency of collection and the water quality.

Bore Well Recharge Ends Struggle for Water:

79 year old Mr. Budhram lives in the village Palasiya Bajiya ki Dhani of Piprali block in Sikar district. His house is in the 2 ha of agricultural land owned by him. For him tube well is the only source of water for irrigation and household consumption. But every year water table was going down and he had to keep adding one more pipe in the bore well making it 280 ft deep. Even than the water was insufficient to fulfil the need of irrigation and family consumption. In 2019-20, Budhram participated in one of the village meeting organized by Bajaj Trust and actively participated in the discussion on harvesting of roof rain water for recharging wells. Soon he joined his house roof to the bore well through structured pipeline and filtration chamber. He was excited to hear the trickling sound made by water falling into the bore well. The results were as expected. In the year 2020 he need not put another pipe in the bore well. Moreover he water was sufficient enough throughout the year.

Roof Rainwater Harvesting Quenches Years Long Thirst:

Mr. Jagdish Prasad lives in the outskirts of Pipli village. The drinking water available from the village water source was high in fluoride content because of which the family was suffering from sickness and he himself was having severe backache. One time while visiting his friend's houses he saw a functioning roof rainwater harvesting structure constructed under support of Bajaj Trust. He was impressed and replicated the same for his house under construction. He painted it so beautifully that it became eye catching structure for every visitor. Now the family has been enjoying benefits of safe drinking water.



Single rainwater harvesting structures are boon to drought-prone areas like Sikar. A single rainwater recharge structure constructed by Ummed Singh at Laxmangarh, Sikar

Safe Drinking Water with Roof Rain Water Harvesting:

35 years old Mr. Dinesh Kumar resides in the village Palasiya of Piprali block His wife had to fetch water for household consumption from a distance of 1.5 km. Moreover this water was not safe for drinking as it was high in fluoride content. Bajaj Trust supported him for having RRWHS which has opened a way of access to safe drinking water. His mother with tearful eyes recollected their suffering for search of safe drinking water and thanked Bajaj Trust for their support.

Regaining Health with Roof Rain Water Harvesting:

Shishpal Jat resides in village Dhani and generating livelihood through dairy farming. His health expenditure for cattle as well as his family was quite high due to frequently occurring sickness because of fluoride rich water available to their nearest source. So they were purchasing water tankers for fulfilling their requirement. These regular medical and water expanses had increased their financial burdens so also the worries

for family and enterprise. Shishpal participated in one of the meetings organized by Bajaj Trust in the village followed by exposure visit to RRWHS. It was a life changing moment when Shishpal decided to construct roof rain water harvesting structure. Now he and his family is enjoying good health and also got rid of medical expenditure for cattle with harvesting of 15,000 litre of rain water falling on their house roof.



Achievements and Impacts

- 1929 roof rainwater harvesting structure constructed (529)
- 55 Common Water harvesting structures constructed (26)
- 311 Individual roof rain water recharge structure (100)
- 289 Group roof rain water recharge structure (127)

“ Testimonials ”



**Shri.
Rajan Sahariya**
Mogan, Lalitpur

“In the last few years we have seen reduction in total rain fall with long intermediate droughts. This was affecting our agriculture production as our lands were rain-fed. But group well intervention of Bajaj Foundation has proved boon to us reducing risk of total crop failure in the critical water demanding stages.”

Promoting Horticulture: Wadi Project



22,016
Acers Land Covered
Under
Horticulture

Rs. 45,000
to **Rs. 65,000**
Average Income
Per Acre
Per Annum

26,416
Families Covered

Horticulture plantation support is a livelihood model under which farmers get regular income through fruit crops and intercropping. A Sweet lemon Orchard supported the farmer Raghuvir Singh of (village pipli, laxman garh)

Indian horticulture sector contributes about 33% to the agriculture Gross Value Added (GVA) making very significant contribution to the Indian economy. Apart from ensuring nutritional security of the nation, it provides alternate rural employment opportunities, diversification in farm activities, and enhanced income to farmers. Maharashtra is one of the leading states in the country in Horticulture Development. The area under fruit crops which was 2.42 lakh ha. in 1990 has gone up to 12.89 lakh ha.

In 1965-66 the total area under fruit cultivation in Wardha district was 5,104 acres. In the year 2009 area under fruit cultivation was 7,224 ha while in the year 2020-21 it is 642.05 ha.

Horticulture plantation constitute main part of climate resilient cropping pattern. As Wardha has been hot spot experiencing climate change effects, Bajaj Foundation has been building capacities of famers through meetings, trainings and exposures for promotion of horticulture and forestry development since inception.

Joining hands with NABARD for Horticulture Promotion

Kamalnayan Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation in collaboration with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has been supporting Wadi projects in Wardha district for integrated development of tribal farmers. Under the project a Wadi plot usually covers one acre per beneficiary. Two or more crops are strategically selected for intercropping in Wadi model to minimize climatic, biological and marketing risks. In each acre, fruit trees like Guava, Mango, Lemon, Amla etc. are planted with agricultural crops. The main feature of Wadi model is socio-economic empowerment of the farmers as well as landless families in tribal dominated areas of Wardha district.

Bajaj Foundation Conducts Programme on Horticulture

Under this planning of horticulture plantation has been carried out as per the demand of farmers. Programme included establishment of Jack fruit, Sapodilla plum, Orange, Sweet lemon, Clustered apple, lemon, guava and mang over 1 acre of land. Imparting training and exposure visits has been an integral part of the intervention. Farmers were supported to change their cropping pattern as per market demand. They were guided for adopting natural farming practices and vegetable intercropping.

Achievements and Impacts

The integrated approach led to development of sustainable farming systems which has minimized the risk of total crop failure and secured future income for the farmers. This has increased per acre net profit from maximum Rs. 2.60 lakh to minimum Rs. 38,000 (Avg Rs. 60,000) as profit per Wadi.

- 22016 acre land covered under horticulture plantation by 26416 families in 976 villages spread over.
- 45 % Reduction in migration of tribal families
- Strengthened natural eco-systems
- 294 group wells are constructed benefiting 2843 families and brought 3132 acres of land under irrigation
- 1749 farmers supported for existing well deepening and construction benefitting 4850 acres of land
- 325 Farmers were supported under MGNAREGA wells
- 3425 Families are benefited under 645 group lift irrigation system covering 4276 acre of land
- 7014 farmers are supported for water storage tank to store water for irrigation
- 9160 farmers are supported for intercropping vegetables in Wadi
- 5456 farmers are supported with fencing wire as a protection to Wadi
- 491 tribal landless families are supported for establishment of grocery shop.
- Rs. 45,000 to Rs. 65,000 income earns by Landless families from grocery shops per annum per family.

Reaping Profits with Horticulture:

36 years old Shri. Pramod Mahajan resides in the village Dhanora of Hinganghat block. In the year 2019-20, he brought 2.5 acres under horticulture cultivation out of total 14 acres of land owned by him. He received training and sapling support through Bajaj Foundation's programme for plantation of sweet lemon (60) and Jack fruit (30). Immediately after plantation he invested in raising solar fencing around the horticulture area to protect it from attack of wild animals. In the second year of plantation, Pramod was advised to grow turmeric and pigeon pea as intercrops adopting natural farming practices. In the next consecutive year 2020-21 and 2021-22, Pramod harvested 10 qt/acre of turmeric every year thus raising his gross per acre income to Rs.1 lakh/acre every year. Pramod recovered horticulture establishment and intercropping cost of Rs.50,000 in the first year of turmeric keeping the rest of Rs.50,000 as net profit which was raised to Rs.90,000 in the year 2021-22. Pramod says: "Net profit with cotton was around Rs.40,000/acre which has been doubled with cultivation of turmeric. Further with the onset of fruiting in the 5th year of plantation my profits will surely get stabilized at Rs.1.5 lakh/acre."

Horticulture Turns Around Life for Small Farmer:

Janardan Hiwanathe is a farmer of village Bothali of Arvi block. He owns 3.5 acres of land which was rain-fed before 2011. He was cultivating cotton, pigeon pea and soybean crops by expending Rs. 12,500/acre and retaining profits of Rs. 12,500/acre. As the production was completely dependent on weather conditions, there was great fluctuations in the net profits more on negative side. Year 2011 – 12 became turning point for his life journey as he brought 1 acre of his land under NABARD horticulture development project and established plantation of mango, amla, lemon and custard apple. Bajaj Foundation helped him for having farm well to sustain the plantation and guided him to cultivate intercrops adopting natural farming practices. His cropping seasons moved from 1 to 3 seasons with creation of irrigation facility. Janardan participated in the

exposure visits to diversified intercropping farming to learn about it. In the year 2021-22, he cultivated sorghum, sesame and green gram as intercrop in horticulture plantation. He expended Rs.5,500 and had a profit of Rs.22,000. Besides his horticulture had been at fruiting stage since 2019 and in the year 2021-22 he recorded net profit with harvest of lemon, amla, mango, and custard apple at an expenditure of Rs. 22,500. His net per acre income from horticulture and intercrops raised to Rs.1,90,500. Janardan says: "Adoption of natural farming practices not only saved my input cost but also reduced family health expenditure."

Horticulture Offers Fresh Hope to Young Farmer:

32 year old Akash Dhurve lives in village Khanwadi of Arvi block. Out of his 7 acres of land, only 4 acres is under cultivation and rest is barren. He is cultivating cotton, pigeon pea and soybean under rain-fed conditions as his farm well did not discovered a spring beneath and so no water for irrigation. His net per acre income was in negative i.e. Rs. -10,000 / acre at an expenditure of Rs. 17,500 under modern agriculture practices. In the year 2013-14, he received support for establishment of horticulture of mango, guava and lemon over 1 acre along with the training on adoption of natural farming practices. Moreover, Akash received fund for deepening of his existing well. Fortunately, the well discovered spring and Akash ensured the irrigation for his crops almost throughout the year. Akash began to intercrop vegetables and other seasonal crops in all seasons under natural farming conditions. In the year 2019 – 20, he intercropped vegetables in 3 seasons; in the year 2020-21 his intercrops were Veg soya bean, cotton and groundnut while in the year 2021 – 22 his intercrops were Soya bean, wheat, chick pea and vegetables. With this his per acre net profits were raised to Rs. 1 lakh, Rs.1.92 lakhs and Rs.1.45 lakh respectively. Akash says: "Intercropping improved soil health status and added intermediate income till I start earning from horticulture which is a main cash crop. This year viz., 2021-22, I harvested mango of Rs.20,000 which will gradually increase in future with development of horticulture plants."

Hazarpati to Lakhpati with Horticulture:

Samir Bagade residing in the village Pargothan of Arvi Block says that his soil is having very low moisture holding capacity which could support cultivation of crops with 6 to 8 months life cycle. For him there was no option but to cultivate cotton, pigeon pea, green gram and Mot under rain-fed conditions. But the profits were very low which compelled us to work as farm laborers. Samir has 4 acres of agriculture land. His net profit was Rs.5,500 at an expenditure of Rs.17,500. Samir was induced to establish horticulture over 1 acre in the year 2013- 14. He established mango, custard apple, amla and lemon. In the first year he fetched water from a distant source for watering the plants using pots. Next year Samir and his neighboring farmers received support for having group

well and diesel engine through NABARD funds. The availability of irrigation facility cropping seasons moved from 1 to 3 for the group. Cultivation of cotton, pigeon pea, cattle feed along with harvest of mango, amla, lemon and custard apple consecutively increased the per acre net profit from Rs. 42,600 (expenditure Rs.17200) - Rs. 1,04,500 (expenditure Rs.23,000) to Rs.57,000 (expenditure Rs. 33,000) in the years 2019, 2020 and 2021 respectively. Samir now says: "Now I feel stress-free as natural farming reduced burdens of debt and generated annual employment for my family. We all enjoy working in our farm and prospering the family economy."



Arvind Kumar Nigam, DDM NABARD, visited the WADI project area and interacted with the Farmers at village Badokhara in Lalitpur district.



Horticulture Plantation of farmer Jagdish Ji Kumawat , village Thehath, Sikar district.

Tribal Farmer Transforms Life with Horticulture:

49 years old Dattu Timaji Parteki resides in the village Pandurna of Ashti block. He owns 2 acres of farming land which was rain-fed till 2020-21. His family comprises of 6 members including his parents and children. Before 2020-21, Dattuji's land was rain-fed as his farm well did not found any spring beneath because of which he was able to cultivate only cotton and pigeon pea crops. His farming income was always under risk due to unpredictable weather changes and attack of wild animals. He was harvesting 5 qt of cotton and 2 qt of pigeon pea over 2 acres of land. Thus receiving net profit of Rs. 16,000 at an cultivation cost of Rs. 15,000. Bajaj Foundation under NABARD sponsored Wadi project brought Dattauji under the fold of benefits. Dattubji received help for establishing planation of sweet lemon (no.40) and lemon (no. 42), vegetable kit for intercropping, barbed wire for fencing, farm well deepening, plastic drum for preparation of inputs of natural farming and built his capacities for efficient

maintenance of horticulture plantation. He was guided to cultivate soybean, chick pea and vegetables as intercrops in horticulture plantation. Dattuji says: "Fencing the field was a great relief from wild animal attack. Well deepening brought the dead farm back as it found water spring and could survive plantation. Now I could take crops in all 3 seasons. Use of natural farming inputs i.e. Jivamrut, Dashaparni and Mdulchi reduced the cultivation cost for me. Besides, cultivation of vegetables has been saving Rs.200/ week on its purchase and sale of excess added to my income. Reduction in family health expenditure is an added benefit." Dattuji harvested 4 qt of soyabean (sale at Rs.5500), chick pea 6 qt (sale at Rs.4,600), 30 kg coriander seeds (sale at Rs.100) and vegetables of Rs. 15,000. With this he raised his net profit from this 1 acre of land to Rs.50,100 in the first year of horticulture plantation at an cu

Intervention of IGA – Giving Hope to Landless Woman:

Mrs. Rajabeti Das resides in village Burogaon of Bar block in Lalitpur district. The family is landless and Rajabeti has to work as farm labour. Because of this she could not pay attention to her children's overall development. Bajaj Foundation through NABARD Wadi project helped her to start grocery shop. This has been proved very helpful to her as she is earning Rs.300 to 400 per day and could also take care her children.

Regaining Quality of Life with Horticulture Plantation:

39 years old Shri. Harikishan Sahariya lives in the village Mogan of Bar block in Lalitpur district and have marginal landholding of 3.25 acres. The land productivity was very low in rain-fed condition which had compelled him to work as truck driver. In the year 2017-18, Hemraj participated in the village level consultation meeting organized by Bajaj Foundation for promotion of horticulture model under NABARD support. He joined the exposure visit to the established wadi. He got convinced that horticulture establishment can stabilize and improve his family earnings. Bajaj Foundation first of all helped him to have existing well deepening as source of proactive irrigation and later he is converting it into a completely constructed well. This creation of permanent source for irrigation raised his confidence and he again switched over to farming. Now his farm has 23 mangoes, 29 guava and 20 lemon plantation over 1 acre of land. Till the year 2017-18 the production of farm was nil. He was further guided to cultivate ginger, garlic, turmeric and taro (arbi) as intercrop in wadi adopting natural farming practices. The changed cropping pattern raised his net annual profit to Rs.1.10 lakh / acre. Mr. Harikishan says: "Now I regained my self-esteem and feel financially secure. This year my mango plants are on flowering stage and will surely render me an income of Rs. 20, 000. I am sure that in next 2 years each of the guava plants and lemon plat will render me an income of Rs. 550 and Rs. 450 respectively. This will add minimum Rs.1 lakh in my net earnings."

“ Testimonials ”



Kalla Sahariya
Badokhara,
Lalitpur

: "I had to borrow diesel engine every year on rent of Rs.25,000. I am very happy that now I am saving this money due to support of Bajaj Foundation for diesel engine under NABARD sponsored wadi project."



Pramod Mahajan
Dhanora,
Hinganghat

"I established plantation of custard apple over a acre in the year 2019 with the support of Bajaj Foundation and in the year 2020-21, I cultivated turmeric and pigeon pea as intercrop. I harvested 10 qt of turmeric (sale at Rs.6,500) at a cultivation cost of Rs.10,000. This alteration in cropping pattern has raised my per acre net profit from Rs.27,000 to Rs.55,000."



Bhagawan Kasar
Pachod,
Arvi

: "My annual per acre profit with cotton under chemical farming was only Rs.15,000 which has been raised to Rs.1.25 lakh / acre with cultivation of fruits and other food crops under natural farming conditions."

Glimpses of Lalitpur Program Area



Farmers are reaping the fruits of the horticulture crops grown in support of Bajaj Foundation. A plantation of farmer in the village Jamb of Samudrapur block of Wardha.

A. Water Resource Development And Soil Conservation Structures

- 12 Rivers/streams of KM 13.5 area rejuvenated (2 km).
- 06 Check dams constructed.
- 06 Check Dams Renovated (2).
- 14 Revival and renovation of large traditional farm ponds.
- 04 Creation of reservoirs in abandoned sandstone mines.
- 23 Farm pond development of abandoned quarry.
- 276 Boribandh are installed (150).
- 1300 acre of land covered for rainwater harvesting.
- 205 Existing Well deepening's (20).
- 70 New Group Well Construction (15).
- 100 Micro Irrigation System (100)

4674 families and 14159 acres of land of 32 villages are covered under Water Resource Development and soil conservation programme.

B. Promotion Of Agro Based Livelihood

- 3528 farmers covered under program of Agricultural and Environmental Interventions (800)
- 3500 farmers covered through kisan pathshala and seed support under natural farming (1525).
- 1202 farmers covered for improved agriculture practices in pulses cultivation through natural Farming (250).
- 300 farmers are covered under intercropping practices (200).
- 700 kitchen gardening Promotions (400).
- 350 - acre fodder plots developed
- 128 small old fruit plants orchard supported
- 49100 old trees/ orchard being maintained.
- 2,30,300 forestry plants planted in LPGCL Campus and Surrounding villages (25300).
- 12 Animal health cum vaccination camp.
- 1100 Families covering in integrated tribal development

program.

10 indigenous cow breed improvement intervention organized

1 Cattle feeding cum drinking water system.

700 Drum Distribution for Natural Farming Practices (700)

10098 farming families and 7853 acres of land are benefitted under of Sustainable Agriculture and Environmental Practices in 37 villages.

C. Promotion of Non-conventional Energy Sources

40 Biogas Plants : A boon for the Rural community- plants successfully installed.

300 Solar lamps has been promoted

10 Solar Street Light installed

D. Rural Infrastructure Development

9 KM Cement Concrete Road Constructed

42 KM road repaired for village connectivity

04 Community need based assets constructed.

13 Community need based assets renovated.

01 Farmers training and development centre established.

01 Playground development.

01 Village Water Supply Scheme

01 Culvert Construction

12 School Renovation Work (11)

01 Village uniformity of one colour houses.

06 Constructed cowshed for cow rehabilitation centre at Village Kalyanpura.

01 Medical Shop Constructed

01 Police Station Constructed

12 Animal health cum vaccination camp.

1100 Families covering in integrated tribal development program.

5002 families are directly benefitted under the rural infrastructure development interventions

E. Community Empowerment

136 unemployed youths participated in skill and entrepreneurship training.

2510 Students benefitted through education support.

46 trainings/exposure organised on different issues of community (22)

02 weekly rural market / hut organised.

05 Cycle support to needy girls' students.

102 Grocery Shop support for Landless & IGA activity (102)

3590 families benefitted under skill development and Income Generation program, school support program etc.

F. Community Health and Sanitation Intervention

22919 patients benefitted under health camp/Mobile dispensary program (7098).

7098 patients benefitted in 170 health camps during financial year 2021-2022 (123).

15 Hand pumps/bore well are installed.

04 Villages planned for open defecation free under Swatch Bharat Mission

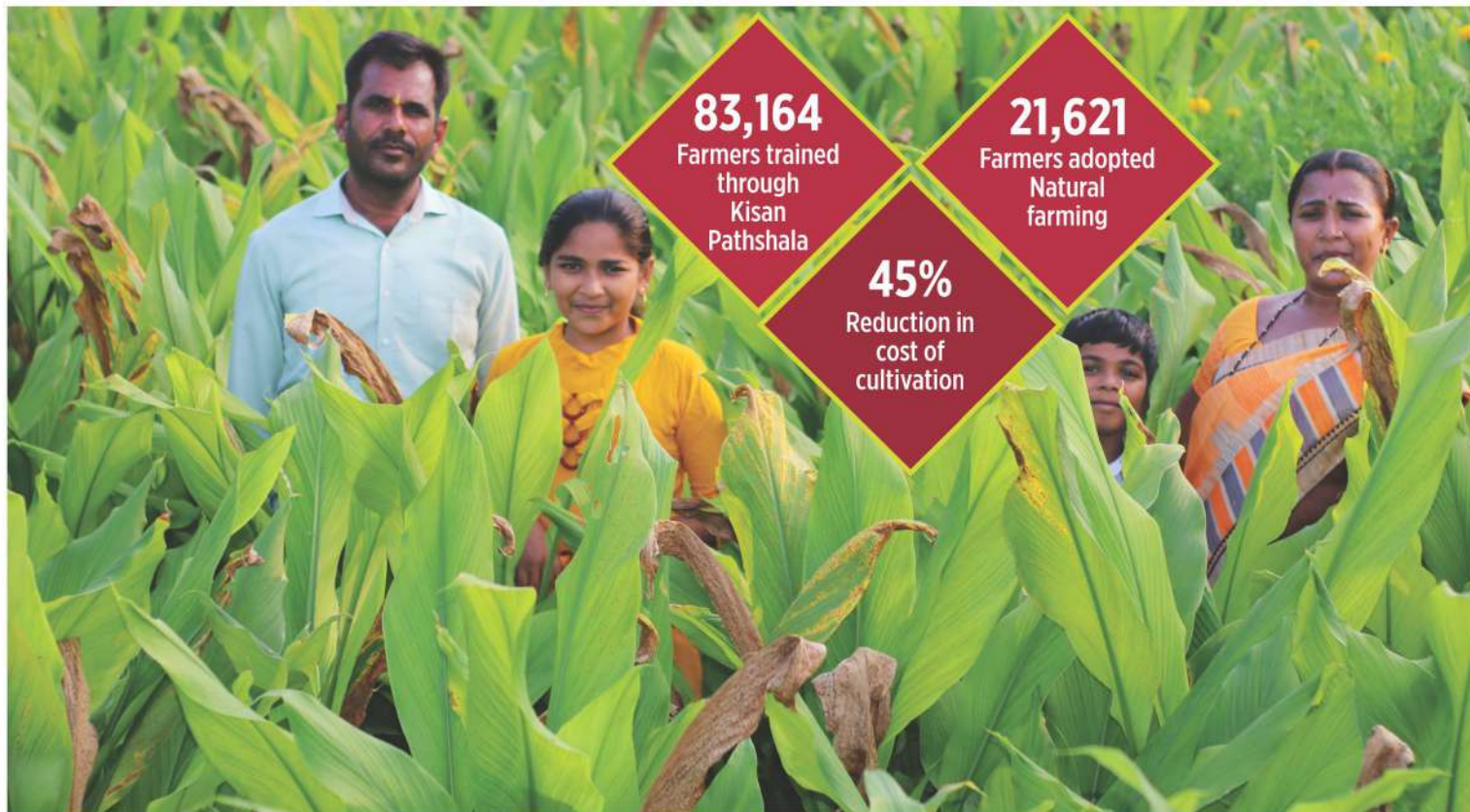
25 Soak pits constructed

500 Household covered Under Swatch Bharat Mission (Toilet Construction) support to District Administration.

22919 beneficiaries from 10 villages are benefitted from community health and Sanitation program

(Figures shown below in parentheses indicate the achievements during the year, 2021-22; rest of the figures reflect the cumulative achievements over the years)

Promotion of Natural Farming



Promotion of Subhash Palekar Krishi to strengthen the concept of the Atmanirbhar (self-reliant) Families in all three locations Wardha, Sikar and Lalitpur.

Reviving Ancient Farming Technique and Conserving the Ecosystem

The programme looks to help farmers attain food, economic and environmental security to meet the livelihood expenses of the farming families and put them on the path of prosperity. Natural farming sees us working with nature to produce healthy food so as to keep ourselves healthy, and to keep the lands healthy. Natural Farming helps maintain, prosper and sustain farm ecosystem.

Bajaj Foundation has been guiding and motivating farmers by adopting various capacity building measures like village meeting, Kisan Pathshalas, demonstration of Natural Farming techniques (Jiwamrit, Ghanjiwamrit, Dashparni Arka, Agniashtra etc.) trainings and field exposures at different stages of crop growth. Besides this demonstration plots have been maintained in each village to make the farmers understand the adoption of proper technique relevant to particular crop conditions. Moreover, two Gomutra collection centres have been established in villages to improve the availability of inputs for adoption of Natural Farming practices.

Diversifying Cropping Pattern

The Bajaj Foundation has been promoting indigenous varieties of crops specifically Bansi wheat, linseed, turmeric, Ambadi (Hibiscus Sabdariffa), coriander, green gram, black gram, sorghum, pigeonpea, sesame, chick pea, green pea, broad beans, Kashi tomato, ginger, potato and onion to bring seed sufficiency among farmers. To meet the market demands the Foundation has also taken the initiative for the promotion of local and exotic vegetables (Broccoli, Red Cabbage, Knol Khol). Many farmers have found in turmeric, ginger and garlic crops to be financially viable replacements for cotton. Each year due to unpredictable weather patterns and rains patterns, farmers in Wardha would see many instances of crop failures, especially during the Kharif season. To tilt the equation in the farmer's favour and avoid crop failures, the Foundation promoted seed varieties of green gram, sesame and sorghum for rabi and summer cultivation.

Bijotsav – A Festival of Seeds

Farmer workshop and indigenous seed variety exhibition was organized on February 28, 2022 with an objective of promotion of indigenous seed varieties for bringing greater seed sufficiency in Wardha district and creating awareness among the agriculture and social work students.

Dr. Vidya Manakar, Project Director, ATMA (Agriculture Department) was the Chief Guest for the inaugural ceremony. A total 97 Farmers from 8 blocks participated in the workshop focused on Seed Selection and Preservation Techniques. Together the participating farmers displayed 132 varieties of seeds. Besides farmers from Wardha, Deoli, Hinganghat and Karanja block, more than 250 people visited the exhibition including students from Ramkrishna Bajaj College of Agriculture.

Introducing Latest Technologies to Farming

This year 600 farmers were supported for having rain pipes to optimise the production of vegetables during the rainy and summer season. This technology has an advantage of mainlining quality of leafy vegetables over use of sprinklers.

To reduce the cost of labour and drudgery in natural farming, the newly designed agricultural implements like hand hoe, cycle hoe and automatic Jiwamrut system (Venturi model and drum model) were promoted. The use of hand hoe and cycle hoe made the inter cultivation operations easier for intercropping and mixed cropping patterns. The implement was optimised with adjustable handle and tillage angle to make it more farmer friendly. As the weeding and inter cultivation operations became easier more number of farmers switched over to 750 multi cropping systems.



Support of Marketing vans to the farmers is a great help to sell their Agri products. Five vans have been provided to the groups of farmers/FPOs in Wardha. Then District Collector Ms. Prerana Deshbhratar handed over the van to the group of farmers.



Marketing Efforts

- **Mobile Outlets:**

Bajaj Foundation inspired several groups of young farmers to open mobile outlets at marketplaces in towns of Wardha, Hinganghat and Pulagon. These outlets today record daily average sale of Rs.10,000 for each group of farmers, which is double the money they would earn in their local markets.

- **Support Marketing of Vehicles:**

To further strengthen the marketing activities two marketing vehicles have been donated by Mumbai-based Sahachari Foundation, a close collaborator of the Foundation.

- **Opening Fixed Outlets:**

Two permanent shops were opened by farmers at Wardha and Hinganghat with financial support from Bajaj Foundation. The funds have been utilized for purchasing machineries and shop essentials.

- **Organic Certification:**

50 farmer groups with a membership of around 700 farmers who have adopted natural farming practices have been brought under PGS scheme of organic certification in consultation with Nagpur-based Parnanetra Marketing Pvt. Ltd.

Demonstrations and training are an essential and integral part of promoting Natural Farming. Growing chemical-free Agri produce is the need of the hour for better health and immunity of the people and domestic animals.

Success Follows Collaboration

Pilot Project on Zero Budget Natural Farming:

Bajaj Foundation inspired several groups of young farmers to open mobile outlets at marketplaces in towns of Wardha, Hinganghat and Pulagon. These outlets today record daily average sale of Rs.10,000 for each group of farmers, which is double the money they would earn in their local markets.

Sustaining Agriculture despite COVID-19:

Wardha has been known for cotton cultivation, something that has resulted in repeated crop failures due to climatic changes. The Covid pandemic of the last two years however also made everyone realise the value of cultivating healthy and market-oriented crops. Considering the experience of Bajaj Foundation over past 12 years in supporting farmers in sustainable farming and move the district towards “death free farming” GIZ collaborated for supporting 1500 farmers for shifting their cropping pattern to market-oriented cropping patterns. The support mainly focused on cultivation of high valued crops like groundnut, vegetables, onion, green gram and sesame. Several

linseed varieties were also promoted to make the farmers seed sufficient. Besides 7000 farmers were made aware of natural farming and advantages of crop diversification through street plays and kirtans.

Workshop on Developing Marketing Linkages for Natural Farming Produce:

A one day workshop on developing strong market linkages was conducted in collaboration with Bajaj Foundation, Govt. Agriculture Department (ATMA), NABARD and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). About 100 farmers from all 8 blocks of district participated in the workshop and interacted with the representatives of 5 companies interested in buying natural farming produce.

Enrolment by NABARD as Resource Agency:

NABARD recognized Bajaj Foundation as a resource agency for the promotion of natural farming techniques under Capacity Building for Adoption of New Technology Programme (CAT). Under this initiative Utkarsh Foundation, Nagpur organized training for 25 farmers from their working area.

Achievements and Impacts

- 83164 farmers were sensitized and trained under 3324 kisan Pathshala in 970 villages.
- 13947 farmers totally adopted Natural farming practices
- 7724 Farmers partially adopted Natural farming practices
- 10103 acres of land in 690 villages has been brought under natural farming
- 40 to 45% reduction in cost of cultivation
- 1320 farmers preserving indigenous seeds and attained seed sufficiency
- 2593 farmers received 20% higher rates compared to market prices
- 3375 farmers adopted intercropping to combat climate change and to reduce risk of total crop failure.
- 477 men and women farmers participated in Grain festival organized at Wardha. Total sale within 2 days was Rs. 53.27 lakh. This attempt helped farmers to get 20% raise in sale than compared to market rates.
- 1400 farmers from 8 states participated in 'Shiwar Pheri' (field tour) under the guidance of Padmshri Subhash Palekar to learn from experiences of farmers adopted ZBNF practices
- 327 farmers provided with hand hoe, cycle hoe and locally designed implement for keeping the birds away from sorghum and sesame crops.
- 364 Agriculture officers trained b the farmers in Sikar
- 92 farmers were helped for installation of automatic Jivamrut application system
- 34 cow urine collection constructed in 10 village



Promotion of horticulture crops in the area like Sikar in Rajasthan under natural farming are growing as a result of continuous efforts of Bajaj trust.

Self-reliant farming through diversified cropping pattern.

30 year old Aakash Dilip Shambharkar is a young farmer who cultivates his family land at village Yenora in Hinganghat block. Aakash took to Natural Farming after visiting the mobile outlet of group of farmers associated with Bajaj Foundation where they sold their “chemical-free” vegetables, fruits and food grains. In 2020, Aakash bought 1 acre of land out of total 3 acres of irrigated land under diversified vegetable cropping pattern (var. 28) and decided to experiment with natural farming. He also cultivated Bansi wheat, Green gram and Black gram and preserved traditional crop - Kochai - whose leaves and tubers are edible and possess great nutritional value. This 1 acre plots also have few plants of Guava, Drumsticks and Pomegranate. Cultivation of total 34 varieties brought him back to economic and environmental comfort. In the year 2021, Aakash established horticulture over another acre of land with Lemon, Mango, Apple bor, Dragon fruit, Chiku, Sweet

Lime, Orange plantation. He continued with the vegetable cultivation as previous over same piece of land. He received support of plants except dragon fruit though Bajaj Foundation. He expended Rs 4,810 towards establishment of 1 acre horticulture plantation. Per acre net profit with intercropping of leafy vegetables during 2021-22 over 1 acres of land under natural farming and its sale at Farmers' outlet was Rs. 4,87,300. He spent Rs.1,50,000 towards cultivation, processing and marketing of the produce. Aakash says: “It was an eye-opening experience for me when I visited the outlets of farmers who had adopted natural farming at Hinganghat. I was amazed to see the healthy conversation between farmers and consumers both were getting what they want. I went back to farm and convinced my uncle to diversify cropping pattern over 1 acre and now we are enjoying the desirable benefits.”

Self-Reliant Farm Leads to Self-Sufficiency:

Subhash Pundalik Chidhe lives in village Dhumankheda of Samudrapur block. During 2020-21, Subhash got inspired from a discussion held at village level meeting about developing self-reliant cropping pattern and established over 1 acre of land. After Subhash decided to adopt self-reliant cropping pattern under complete natural farming practices, the very first support he received from Bajaj Foundation was for rearing of indigenous cow. Now this Govalu cow has 2 calves and when they grow up can fetch Subhash Rs.1 lakh each in the market. Currently, he gets cow dung and cow urine which are the basic ingredients of the formulations to be used in natural farming. Moreover, the family is saving money on purchase of 4 lit of milk per day totalling to Rs. 3200 on monthly basis. Subhash adopted cropping pattern of green gram, black gram, sesame, wheat, pigeon pea and 15 types of vegetables cultivated throughout the year as well as spices like turmeric,

ginger, garlic, onion and chili. This cropping pattern has been saving almost Rs.1 lakh annually on purchase of food and grain items at an cultivation cost of Rs.10,000 / acre. Besides he also earned Rs. 35,000 with sale of excess of vegetables. Thus net profit from this 1 acre raised to Rs. 1.25 lakh. Subhash notes: "Natural Farming has changed my life and that of family's. It gives us healthy and poison-free food to us and those who buy our produce. I now plan to develop an orchard to add more nutritional benefits for my family and ensuring long-term profits."

Profits Soar with Indigenous Crop Varieties:

Shri Haralal, a resident of village Grassu Bas brought his 3.5 acres of farm under cultivation of indigenous onion variety by adopting the practices of Natural Farming. He spent Rs. 2,40,000 for cultivation and harvested 400 qt. of onion. Through this shift he raised his net profit of Rs. 6,20,000 from his 3.5 acres.



Many farmers harvest bumper crops using the techniques of Natural farming. A harvest of naturally grown tomatoes in Mahakal village of Wardha.



Raghuvir Singh of village Pipli in Laxmangarh of Sikar raised a horticulture plantation through the support of the Bajaj Foundation.

Attaining Self-Sufficiency with Natural Farming:

Santosh Dhawade is an enthusiastic farmer of 45 years residing in the village Waigaon (Halad) of Samudrapur block. He owns 3 ares of irrigated land. Previously he cultivated cotton with chemical inputs as main crop but he decided to shift his cropping pattern after he participated in village level awareness meetings conducted during initial phase of implementation of pilot project on Zero Budget Natural Farming. Santosh decided to diversify cropping pattern over 1 acre of land. Over rest of 3 acres he cultivates cotton as monocrop expended Rs.15,000 as cost of cultivation and earned Rs. 50,000 net profit per acre. In 2020-21, Santosh adopted natural farming practices and cultivated turmeric, pigeon pea and 20 types of vegetables as intercrops. In the following year, he extended the area under natural farming by another half acre to cultivate Bansi variety of wheat and continued with same cropping pattern over 1

acre of land. Santosh's self-marketing efforts turned in increased profits. Moreover, Santosh's wife, Vanita, began keeping the seed for to be used next year. With this changed cropping pattern, Santosh raised his net profit from Rs. 12070 to Rs.1,13,250 per acre despite of increase in cost of cultivation by 77.71%. This is mainly due to increased seed cost with cultivation of high valued crop i.e. turmeric and ginger. He says: "I stopped borrowing loans for farming as I achieved seed sufficiency and brought the input cost of cultivation down to zero. Besides, vegetable sale in the nearby markets not only increased my profit margin but also supported the intermediate finance required for farming operations especially labour wages. My family's financial requirements are also fulfilled from this 1 acre and profit earned from rest 3 acres have become by annual savings."

Shifting Cropping Pattern Shifts Profits:

Shri Dhannaram Dotasrais of village Rulyana Mali practiced conventional farming for cultivation of wheat over 1 ha of farmland owned by him. He would spend Rs.12,000 and harvest 24 qt of wheat. His net profit was around Rs.33,600. In 2018-19 Dhannaram participated in an induction meeting on natural farming. As he discussed his low farming income, he was advised to cultivate onion for harvesting seeds. He decided to cultivate onion over 0.5 ha of land. This shift increased his net profits to Rs. 2,95,000 with an harvest of 3.20 qt of onion seed from 0.5 ha of land (sale rate Rs.1000) and Rs.25,000 as an cultivation cost. Now he's become one of the leading proponents of Natural Farming in his village and advises others to take it up.

Transforming Agricultural Economics with Natural Farming:

Shri. Rajaram Goswami is a small farmer with 5 acres of landholding. A resident of village Buragaon of Bar block of Lalitpur district he cultivates wheat, green gram and black gram since long run adopting techniques of chemical farming. He began to adopt natural farming practices for same crops after he got inducted through various capacity building efforts of Bajaj Foundation. Rajaram says: "Adoption of natural farming practices increased the production of wheat by 20% and brought the input cost of cultivation down to zero."

“ Testimonials ”



Subhash Chide,
Dhumankheda,
Samudrapur,
Wardha

"I have seen the fertility of my soil go up after the adoption of natural farming. Diversification of cropping pattern has increased my per acre net profits from Rs. 15,800 to Rs.79,450. Moreover, I have planted mango, custard apple, guava, lemon and ber fruits trees for ensuing sustainability of farming income. I have decided to expand the area under natural farming from the next season. In fact I already started reduction in application of chemical fertilizers."



Akshay Shingarup,
Takali (Chore),
Deoli

"I am rearing 20 indigenous cows and processing cow dung and cow urine for supplying natural farming inputs to my own farm as were as nearby 10 farmers. I cultivate mixed vegetables expending Rs.20,000 / acre towards its cultivation and receiving net profits of Rs.1lakh/acre."



Meherdip Sahare,
Kolona (Dhok),
Deoli

"I have a Master's Degree in Business Management but unfortunately I lost my job during the pandemic. It was after this that I came back to my village and purchased some agricultural land. 2021-22 was my first year as a farmer. The Foundation guided me to cultivate multiple crops and recycle the residue for soil replenishment. The handholding proved invaluable to my confidence. I practice Natural Farming over 1 acre of land out of the total 5 acres of land owned by me. It gives me immense satisfaction that my work also contributes towards the preservation of the ecosystem, besides saving money and providing food security to my family."

Farmers Promoting Natural Farming through Kisan-Pathshala:

Kisan Pathshala (farmer field school) is a group-based learning platform which has been set up by Bajaj Foundation to promote Natural Farming. Through this Kisan Pathshala's evolved curriculum Farmers are educated on the various aspects of Natural Farming and all that the practices encompasses. Its activities involve presentations about natural farming, simple demonstrations, field observations and group analysis. The knowledge gained from these activities enable participants to make their own decisions about crop management practices.

The Kisan Pathshala's approach is based on learning by doing. The resource farmer do not lecture the farmers, but helps them learn by asking questions and building on their experience and observations. Every Kisan Pathshala is unique in terms of its content. Farmers decide what is relevant and the topics Kisan Pathshala should address. The field/standing crop is the main learning tool.

Between 25 and 30 farmers participate in a single Kisan Pathshala. All Kisan Pathshalas follow a systematic training process - key steps are knowledge sharing, a "special topic", observation, group discussion, analysis, decision-making, and action-planning. In every Pathshala, participants conduct a discussion comparing modern agricultural practices with natural farming practices.

The Kisan Pathshala are organized close to a plot where natural farming is carried out. "Classroom" sessions often take place in sheds or sometimes under the shade of trees in the open.

It was intentionally decided to have a team of farmer resource persons who have the advantage of knowing the community and the area well, and are likely to be accepted better by community as they

could see his/her progress every day. Moreover, being local, they require less transportation and financial support, and can operate independently.

The role of a resource farmer is central to the Kisan Pathshala. Each Kisan Pathshala needs a resource farmer to take participants through a series of hands-on exercises. As resource farmers are not familiar with the activity, they needed to be trained on impactful training skills.

Farmers who are interested in becoming resource persons are identified from a select group of farmers who had previously adopted natural farming and proven credentials. This selected group of (which stands currently at 59 farmers) is then exposed to a 2-day training every 6 months. The periodic refresher trainings help keep them abreast of all the latest developments and technical knowledge. The resource farmers are also familiarized with IEC material developed by Bajaj Foundation during Kisan Pathshala.

So far 1655 Kisan Pathshalas have been organized with 59 farmer across 698 villages of Wardha district. It has managed to impart precious information about natural farming practices to 43811 farmers.

Kisan Pathshalas have helped strengthen social capital at the local level. The processes adopted by Kisan Pathshala have helped build self-confidence among farmers, particularly among women farmers. Participation in Kisan Pathshala has further resulted in improvement in farmers' knowledge of natural farming practices, their problem solving abilities, and enhanced decision-making skills. Moreover, these Pathshalas have empowered farmers and improved collaboration among them for collective action.



83,000+ Farmers sensitized and trained through Kisan Pathshalas (Farmers' Field School) in the concept of Natural Farming. Farmer-to-farmer agriculture extension has proved extremely useful. A farmer adopted natural farming and grew tomatoes at Sikar.

Promoting Renewable Technologies: Biogas & Solar Appliances



Biogas plant provides clean and environmentally friendly cooking fuel. The smoke-free environment also impacted positively on the health of rural women.

Bajaj Foundation has been promoting renewable energy technologies for over 10 years in line with the Government of India's vision for advancing economic development, improving energy security, improving access to energy, and mitigating the burning issue of climate change.

Promotion of Biogas

Biogas is one of the most viable options for combating the energy challenge. At a time when the feasibility and safety of energy alternatives is being questioned, it is pertinent to look at one of the oldest renewable energy alternatives, Biogas. The main objective of biogas promotion is the reduction of fuel wood consumption, with the final goal of mitigating global warming. It is a widely known fact that installation of domestic biogas plants makes for a great substitute for the use of firewood and chemical fertilizers.

Bajaj Foundation in collaboration with Government agriculture department supported to enhance the approachability of the technology and thus increased its diffusion. The unit cost of biogas plant is Rs.27,600 of which Bajaj Foundations' support Rs. 9,660 and government support Rs. 12,000. Community contributes Rs.5,940 per plant. During the year 347 Biogas plants were constructed. In all 5,922 families are currently using biogas for household consumption.

Collaboration with Systema

The Bajaj Foundation has been collaborating with Systema, Pune, and has installed 43 systema biogas plants on pilot basis.

Impact

The quantum of biomass and tree coverage is on the up since herbs, shrubs, and trees are no longer used by families for cooking purposes. Abandoning of cattle has been reversed as cattle dung is essential for biogas and has strengthened agro-eco system. Together, this has directly strengthened the micro ecosystem, thereby contributing towards the fighting off climate change.

Promotion of Solar Irrigation System:

Solar power irrigation systems save a huge recurring cost involved in the conventional electricity supply. The government has now subsidized the solar irrigation system for the farmers making it affordable even for small and marginal framers. The role played by Bajaj Foundation in promotion of this scheme is unique in converging farmers facing the challenge of creating irrigation facilities and making the farming systems energy sufficient. Bajaj Foundation funded beneficiaries' share of contribution in availing the government's scheme.

Promotion of Solar Lights:

Promotion of solar lights has been driven with an intention to create awareness about use of renewable energy resources among the rural community. The set of solar light system included 3 wall lights.

Promotion of Solar Driers:

Solar driers are being promoted via entrepreneurship units in Seloo and Ashti block for processing of excess vegetable harvest. This has been proving helpful in curtailing the loss of production in agriculture and increasing profits at a renewable cost.

Achievements and Impacts

- 5922 families benefitted in 947 villages
- 6.93 quintal of fuel-wood saved per annum per family. 3872 tons of fuel wood saved per annum with 5922 Biogas plants.
- Rs. 4,500 saved by each family per annum on fuel-wood.
- Bio gas use has reduced consumption of fuel wood by 80% conserving forests and resulting in arresting soil erosion and strengthening eco system.
- The drudgery involved in collecting fuel wood was minimized
- 7 tons of manure generated for each family per annum (total 34630 metric tons manure generated)
- 5922 women's saved 3 hours per day for collection of fuel wood, cooking and cleaning utensils.
- 196 youth imparted skill training of biogas plant construction. They are earning Rs.10,000 per month.
- The surroundings became cleaner as spread of vector borne diseases is arrested with the processing of dung.
- 5922 Biogas plants enabled to reduce the negative effect of Methane on climate by 14.92 million kg CO₂ per year. Combustion of biogas converts methane into CO₂ and reduces the Green House Gases impact over 20 times
- Replacing traditional *Chullha* with biogas has reduced indoor air pollution minimizing the irritation to eyes and lungs diseases especially for women members of the families.
- Use of biogas slurry reduces 4 to 5 bags of chemical fertilizers annually for each family
- 1292 farmers benefitted under Solar Pump-Offgrid
- 1825 Solar light installed

Balancing Ecosystem & Economy with Biogas Plant:

Kalpana Nigade is a resident of village Hingani in Seloo block. She belongs to a family of 4 and owns 8 acres of land. Kalpana rears 12 cattle. With plenty of cattle dung readily available to her, Kalpana decided to install a flexi-biogas system at the urging of Bajaj Foundation. The plant became fully functional in the month of May, 2021. Since then Kalpana has saved Rs.7000 since she hasn't had to purchase any LPG cylinders. Moreover she also uses biogas slurry for preparing close to 12 tons of vermicompost along with fodder waste. Her family also cultivates 8 acres of its land using Jivamrut and vermicompost. She earns Rs. 11,200 by selling close to 8 qt, of excess vermicompost. In her farm they grow 5 types of flowers (1 acre) and sugarcane, pigeon pea and fodder (7 acres). The family earns about Rs.7000 every week by selling flowers and Rs.10,500 by selling milk. Thus their annual profits with dairy, sale of compost and flower culture touches Rs.7.17 lakh. Fuel sufficiency is an added bonus and profits from rest of 7 acres are savings. Kalpana says: "Besides rendering fuel sufficiency, Biogas plant became intermediate processing unit for cattle dung converted into good quality slurry for vermicomposting. Moreover, their surroundings have become cleaner as there is no stocking of cattle dung and fodder waste."

Solar Irrigation Pump Adds Another Cropping Season:

Mr. Mustaq Ali, a farmer from Ballara village in Sikar district was able to cultivate only monsoon crop and not in winter due to absence of electricity. He was supported for installation of a 5 Hp solar pump. This has brought his farm under irrigation and he has now begun cultivating crops in winter too. He's immensely grateful to the Foundation for its support and adding another farming season to his year.

Saving Trees with Biogas Plant Construction:

Champat Masram is a farmer of village Talani (Bhagavat) in Deoli block. He rears 10 cattle and owns 10 acres of land. He constructed biogas plant in the year 2013. Earlier his family used about 8 qt. of fire wood collected by cutting down trees on their farm bunds. Besides they were also using cotton stalks for cooking. After construction of biogas plant however they have stopped using fire wood for good, this saving the environment. The biogas slurry obtained has been used for cultivation of cotton crops along with use of Dashaparni Arka for controlling pest. Champat notes: "We never feel need for having LPG connection after construction of biogas plant. The most important benefit I experienced was replenishment of soil fertility reflected in the harvest of cotton this year. I had 5 qt per acre cotton production and observed very level of damage by boll worm while my neighbouring farmers had cotton production of 3 qt/acre only."

Solar Pump Leads to Less Worries and More Profits:

Mrs. Tai Pohane resides in the village Bagawa of Hinganghat block. She owns 10 acres of land. They installed 3 HP solar pump in the 2021-22 after construction of farm well in the same year. She has planted oranges with pigeon pea as intercrop over 2.5 acres and grows soyabean, wheat (3 acres) and chick pea (4 acres) over rest of 7 acres of land. Before construction of well and installation of solar pump, Tai was harvesting 8.75 qt/acre of chick pea, 10 qt/acre of wheat and 6 qt/acre of pigeon pea in absence of irrigation facility. Tai notes: "We decided to apply for solar pump to reduce the recurring cost of electricity charges and also get rid of worries of skipping of irrigation schedule due to electricity cut off." Now the yield of wheat has been increased to 16 qt/ acre and chick pea to 12 qt/acre. Moreover, in the year 2021-22, they had harvested summer intercrop in the orange orchard viz., muskmelon and watermelon and increased their per acre net profit from Rs.15000 to Rs.45000.

Home is Where Home-grown Electricity Is:

Vasantrao Lonkarn and his wife live in village Loni of Deoli block. The family is landless and lives in a small traditionally constructed Kaccha house with low light and ventilation windows. Their house has little light, especially the kitchen which receives very low sun light and requires electricity bulb even during the day. Bajaj Foundation which as a part of its climate adoption intervention has been promoting solar home light units supported Vasantrao in installing solar light system which has halved his electricity expenses. He says: "I am happy that I am not only saving on my energy bills and illuminating the dark corners of my house but also contributing to arrest global warming associated with generation of conventional electricity."

“ Testimonials ”



Phul Singh
Sewad Badi,
Sikar

"I received information on benefits of solar pump in one of the meeting organized by Bajaj Trust in our village and I installed solar pump at my farm. Earlier I was taking only Kharif season crop but now I am able to cultivate Rabi crop also which I can not only consume within the household but also sell in the market."



Baby Singhan
Kanholi,
Hinganghat

"Construction of biogas freed me from worries about managing fuel wood and LPG for household chores. Now I have absolutely no need to worry about what will happen if the LPG cylinder is exhausted. The fact that I am generating my own cooking gas, is immensely satisfying."



Sanjay Ghumde
Rehaki,
Seloo

"I process fenugreek, spinach, Ambadi flowers, brinjal and red chili with solar drier which has been saving excess produce and generating money for me. The solar drier has helped save Rs. 15,000 per year for me. Moreover, the dried vegetables I sell have been catching on among the customers who enjoy their unique natural taste."



Vanita Tivare,
Talani (Bhagawat),
Deoli

"I decided to construct biogas plant after I participated in exposure visit to Dattpur as SHG member in 2013. Since then we are saving Rs.6000 per annum on purchase of LPG and fire wood at an investment of Rs.2000 only with Biogas Plant."

Promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)



The Farmers' Producers Organizations are the platform for the farmers for collective activities like aggregation, value addition, and jointly selling of their products which fetches them more profit. 23 FPOs have been formed with members of 6,900+ Damini Women Farmers Producers Company, Wardha.

Producer companies can help small farmers double their income by strengthening market linkages. The Government of India has launched the Central Sector Scheme of "Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)" to form and promote 10,000 new FPOs which will leverage economies of scale in production and marketing with a view to enhance productivity through efficient, cost effective and sustainable resource use for ensuring sustainable income oriented farming, thus helping in reduction of cost of farm production and enhancing farmers' earning.

Bajaj Foundation builds on the ideas of value-chain governance and collective-action and introduces the functions and organizational structure of producer companies in Wardha within this context. The broad objective is to promote and nurture Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) by way of extending the required financial and technical support during the formative stage.

FPOs are critically supported in terms of awareness creation, capacity building, technical support, professional management, market access, regulatory requirements, etc. and provide handholding support for installation of processing and value addition units.

Strengthening the capacities of the FPOs remains the main focus of the Foundation and to achieve that goal due trainings, workshops and relevant exposure visits are frequently organized throughout the year. Recently a three-day interactive training was organized in collaboration with NABARD at Sahyadri Farmers Producer Company, Nashik, for the directors and CEO of 6 Farmer Producer Companies.

In terms of impact FPOs have created opportunities for farmers to get profitable rates for their produce by eliminating the middlemen from the market chain and created a win-win scenario for the producers as well as consumers.

Exploring Marketing Platforms

Wagheda Farmers' Producer Company, Samudrapur, has developed linkages with Gromer Biotech, Tamilnadu, Bharati Biotech, Tamilnadu, Vaibhav Biotech, Agartala for bamboo and established a plantation of over 223 acres also developed linkages with Friends Nursery Bengaluru and established a plantation of malbar neem over 117 acres. NABARD sponsored stall in the exhibition of Agro Vision Nagpur and Gondia where the FPO displayed turmeric products along with other produce from natural farming. Moreover, NABARD has funded for turmeric boiler and polisher unit and Dal mill enterprise to Damini Women Farmers Producer Company, Deoli. NABARD also supported for purchase of 2 marketing vehicles for expanding marketing to Krushionnati Farmers Producer Company, Samudrapur and Aakaji Maharaj Farmers Producer Company, Arvi.

Cluster Based Business Organization

Bajaj foundation has been empanelled as an implementation agency for the promotion of Cluster Based Business Organizations for Maharashtra State. Under this initiative 4 FPOs have been registered at Seloo, Deoli, Hinganghat and Samudrapur. Out of these Tejaswini Women FPO registered in Seloo block is completely owned by women.

Achievements and Impacts

- 23 Farmer Producer Organization registered. 343 villages covered from 12 blocks
- 6978 farmers became shareholders
- 23 CEOs appointed for 23 FPOs
- Overall total turnover of all FPOs Rs. 5.93 Crore and net profit of Rs. 17.08 lakh
- Rs. 68.47 Lakh saved for all the shareholders through business activities of FPOs

Farmers' Producer Company - Revitalizing the Agriculture Systems

Krushionnati Shetkari Producer Company was formed in the year 2017 with the vision of developing forward and backward linkages for the farmers of the area. The producer company has a shared capital of Rs.286,000 and 416 farmers as shareholders residing in the cluster of 23 villages. The directors and officer bearers of the FPO are well qualified, young and enthusiastic. Its office is located at village Waigaon (Haladya).

Since it was necessary to build trust in the initial phase of working for FPO, the directors decided to utilise the seed capital provided by NABARD for purchase of farming inputs like fertilisers, pesticides, better quality cotton seeds, tarpaulin sheets and spray pumps and supplying them to the farmers at no profit no loss value. The FPO introduced a new variety of cotton seed known as Simran. The farmers reported higher yield with this variety (7 qt/acre) than existing variety of cotton (5 qt/acre). Besides they also made a good sum of money by supply of tarpaulin sheets at the demand of shareholders.

The company was supported for a marketing vehicle through NABARD fund for creating a facility of collective marketing of produce from natural farming. The FPO opened up mobile vegetable outlet at Buttibori MIDC area in the Nagpur district. They sold vegetables of Rs. 59500 benefiting 32 farmers. The business generated profit of Rs.12100 for the farmers and Rs. 1900 for the company.

This experience proved invaluable and helped instil confidence among members. Village Waigaon (Haladya) is very famous for turmeric production because of high curcumin percentage in the turmeric variety. The FPO decided to concentrate its effort on developing strong market linkages for turmeric production. For the first time, the company took an initiative for decentralized processing and centralized marketing of turmeric which is a traditional crop of the cluster villages. In the year 2021-22 this generated a business of Rs. 64.63 lakh benefiting 350 farmers.

The FPO clocked a total turnover of Rs. 1,40,47,380 and recorded profit of Rs. 2,19,406. The enterprise saved Rs. 23,46,489 for 400 farmers.



The marketing van supported in collaboration with NABARD was handed over to Akajimharaj Farmers' Produces Company for the collective marketing of Agri produces.

Hinganghat Cotton Agro Farmer Producer Company Revs Up Cotton Farming

Hinganghat is the biggest city of Wardha district, in terms of area and population. The 1500 year old city was historically a major centre for cotton trade, dal and oil business.

At the urging and support of Bajaj Foundation the Hinganghat Cotton Agro Farmer Producer Company took to the traditional business of cotton trading. With the stated aim of reducing the input cost of cultivation, creating storage facilities and improving profit margins with collective marketing, the FPO worked with 350 farmers from a cluster of 9 villages. The FPO received equity amount of Rs.3.27 lakh from NABARD for business expansion.

After opening a bank account in December 2022, the FPO focused on the harvest season of cotton, pigeon pea and

chick pea and recorded a total business of Rs. 5.67 lakh with collective sale at Hinganghat APMC. The efforts resulted in increased profit by Rs.150/qt for farmers while FPO has a nominal profit Rs.900. This confidence boosting experience led directors to create facility of "Dron Sprayer" leveraging a government scheme. The total cost of unit was around Rs. 10 lakh.

Shri. Prakash Bhojar, Chairman says, "We are strategically planning for reducing use of chemicals and increasing area under natural farming for cotton crop. Along with that we will be hiring government storage houses (Wakhar, Mahanandal) for creating a storage facility which will allow us to hold our cotton for longer periods until it is profitable to sell it."



Ritesh Thool
 Krishonnati Shetakari
 Producer Company Ltd.
 Waigaon (Haladya),
 Samudrapur:

"I personally saved Rs.5000 on purchase of agriculture inputs by purchasing through FPO shop. Overall, FPO saved Rs. 21.73 lakh for 416 shareholder. This has increased my confidence so much so that I can help other farmers reduce their input costs. The Bajaj Foundation and NABARD have supported us in owning a marketing vehicle which we now use to sell vegetables and fruits produced naturally in our fields. This has helped create profitable forward linkages for our shareholders."



Pritam Kadu
 Sonora (Dhok),
 Deoli

"I am a shareholder of Annadata Utpadak Farmer Producer Company Ltd. I saved Rs.1500 on purchase of tarpolin sheet through FPO. We've also benefitted from Dal Mill unit established by the FPO at our village. This has been adding value to our produce."

“ Testimonials ”



Sanjay Dodake
 Aakaji Maharaj Farmer
 Producer Company Ltd.,
 Pachod, Block Arvi

"I lead the trading of pigeon pea as an FPO business. This year we have purchased 100 qt of pigeon pea from 27 shareholders and offered them a rate of Rs.6100 at their doorstep without incurring any trading or transportation charges. These farmers would otherwise get a market price of Rs.5000 while also paying transportation and trading charges. We have not only improved their profit margins but have also relieved them of their extra workload."

Making Farming Climate Proof



Creating awareness under Climate Proofing Projects benefitted farmers in Seed Selection, cultivation practices, and use of natural farming techniques. This knowledge equipped the farmers with better agronomical methods. A demonstration plot of sesame at Karanja, Wardha.

India is already experiencing the consequences of 1°C of global warming. Extreme heatwaves, heavy rainfall, severe flooding, catastrophic storms and rising sea levels are damaging lives, livelihoods and assets across the country. As per an IMD report, monsoon rains in 2021 are uniquely placed in “historical records” for the very distinct and contrasting pattern of rainfall variation in the 4 months of monsoon. The exceptionally high deficit in August, in particular, emerged to be a very rare phenomenon in India's 120 years of rainfall history. A deficit greater than 20 % has appeared only 10 times prior to it. The number of instances of excess rainfall have also increased. In 2017 there were about 1824 instances of very heavy and extremely heavy rainfalls which increased to 1909 in 2021, a jump of about 85 cases.

Climate crisis has cost India 5 million hectare of crops in 2021. To mitigate this, a climate proofing project has been initiated in collaboration with NABARD in 7 watershed areas located in Seloo, Karanja, Deoli and Samudrapur blocks of Wardha district. The interventions has been designed for developing climate resilient agriculture systems with integration of risk mitigation products, like crop, weather and market advisory and information system.

The project commenced with holistic approach right from awareness creation to dissemination of adaptive and mitigation measures for strengthening agro based livelihood. Renowned agricultural scientists and KVKs have been roped in to raise awareness among farmers and making them realise the impact of climate change on farming.

Impact

The efforts reflected in increased per acre net profits in the range of Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1 lakh. Soil and water conservation measures resulted in improved soil productivity and arresting soil erosion for sloping lands. In many places it has proven to be remedial for water logging and brought agriculture lands back into cultivation. Restoration of farm forestry has developed micro climate for the fields improving crop productivity. Moreover, agricultural and allied enterprises like animal husbandry, dairy have been observed to strengthen livelihoods in project areas. Diversification of cropping pattern also afforded enhanced food security for the families.

As climate mitigation measures solar light system and biogas have been promoted in project areas. Village Knowledge Centers (VKCs) have been established in each watershed area where the farmers could consult each other and gather information by reading resource material available at the center. Agricultural tool banks have proven to be an important asset for the small and marginal farmers for making farm implements available in a timely and cost-effective manner.

Digital advisory messages shared in context to adoption of natural farming practices and crop diversification have proved helpful for the farmers for timely adoption of practices for enhancing farming profits.

Achievements and Impacts

- 14 villages covered
- 2046 farmers covered benefiting 19118 acres of land
- 14900 m³ farm bunds reformed
- 84 recharge pits constructed
- 852 stone outlets formed
- 4600 m³ Water Absorption Trenches formed
- 1200 m³ Continuous Contour Trenches formed
- 35645 backyard fruit plants and horticulture and farm forestry plants distributed
- 255 demonstration of Ghanajeevamrut conducted
- 1980 soil samples analysed and soil health cards issued
- 2065 acres of agriculture land covered under deep ploughing activity
- 1136 acres of agriculture land covered under seed treatment activity
- 1577 acres of agriculture land covered under tank silt application activity
- 134 units of automatic Jeevamrut system established
- 620 acres of agriculture land covered under crop diversification activity
- 1368 acres of agriculture land covered under alternate climate resilient crops promotion activity
- 626 acres of agriculture land covered under intervention of broad and raised bed furrows
- 24 farmers were supported for cultivation of vegetable under trellis system
- 3 mini agromet observatories established
- 24 units of artificial honey comb boxes installed
- 58 beneficiaries covered under promotion of indigenous cow breed
- 110 famines supported for growing kitchen gardens
- 192 families supported for installing solar home light
- 7 Village Knowledge Centres established
- 2 Agriculture tool bank established



An exposure visit helped farmers to understand the various interventions, which in turn boosted their confidence to adopt the new technologies and cropping pattern

Refreshing Farming Profits with Crop Diversification:

Salai (Pevat) is a tribal village near Bor Tiger Reserve. In the last few years, livelihoods have been greatly affected due to climatic changes. To counter it, Bajaj Foundation has been implementing Climate Proofing project to educate the community for adopting climate resilient cropping system.

Ashok Vaidhya, farmer of Salai village having 16.5 acres of land participated in the sequential meetings organized in initial phase of the project and was intrigued by the contents of the exchange. A stream flowing near Ashok's farm was highly silted and the running water during rainy season used to enter into his farm submerging about 1 acre of his farm land under water. As a remedy the stream was rejuvenated which not only prevented water logging in his field and made the land cultivable but also increased the water discharge into the farm well. Earlier water level in his farm well was 25 ft and it would stop receiving water inflow around March. But desilting of the stream raised the water table to 40 ft and the well continues to receive water until the onset of monsoon.

Having dealt with water availability issue Ashok took to multi-cropping in his farm. Earlier he would cultivate cotton and pigeon pea and from it earn negligible profits which made him work as a bus conductor on the side to make ends meet. The multi-cropping he does over 3 acres of his land grows lemon and guava orchard and chili, cauliflower, garlic, onion, broad bean, brinjal, tomato and marigold crops. Over another 3 acres he cultivates groundnut in kharif and wheat and chick pea during rabi seasons. He spent Rs. 50,000 as per acre cost of cultivation and earned profit of Rs.1 lakh / acre on average.

Ashok says: "The unpredictable weather patterns as a consequence of climate change have made things very difficult for farmers like me but the switch to multi-cropping and farming techniques promoted by Bajaj Foundation and its support has given us a new lease on life."

Climate Proofing the Livelihood:

Pravin Dhule is a young farmer of 38 years residing in the village Ralegaon of Samudrapur block. He owns 4.5 acres of agriculture land with a farm well. Pravin used to get enough water to cultivate only Kharif crop in his farm. His earlier cropping pattern was soybean, pigeon pea and cotton. He would harvest approximately 7 qt of cotton and 6 qt of pigeon pea per acre at an cultivation cost of Rs.10,000 and earn net profits of Rs.25,000 per acre.

To ensure greater water availability farm bunds were constructed with the support of the Foundation. The bunds would help recharge a pit and trap surface runoff water. Once the water availability issue was put to rest, Pravin began cultivating wheat and vegetables after the soybean harvest on 2 acres and cattle feed crop over 1 acre for rabi and summer season adopting natural farming practices. On the rest of the land he continued with the same cropping pattern of cotton and pigeon pea. He also cultivated pigeon pea over the bunds.

Harvest of cotton (9qt/acre), pigeon pea (8 qt/acre), soyabean (2 qt/acre), wheat (8 qt/acre), 10 types of vegetables (Rs.19,000) and cattle feed crop (4000 bags /acre), Pravin's per acre net profit has been raised to Rs.51000 at an cultivation cost of Rs.15000.

He says, "Changed cropping pattern also saved Rs.2,000 per month on my family expenses for purchase of vegetables, wheat and cattle feed. Thus annually I'm saving Rs. 24,000. During 20-21, I planted mango, guava, lemon, apple, bor, karvanda, jackfruit and sapota on my farm for ensuring nutritional food security. Participation in village level meeting organized under Climate Proofing project helped me better understand the importance of crop diversification for sustaining my agro-based livelihood."

21st Century Farming for 21st Century Farmers:

Aparna and Ketan Katarpawar are a young educated couple. Trained agriculturalists both, Aparna works with Government Agriculture Department as Agriculture Assistant while Ketan left his job and purchased 14 acres of agriculture land in Loni village. The couple is convinced

that only natural farming and multi-cropping arrangements can improve the face of Indian agriculture and turn around the life of small and marginal farmers.

With the help of Bajaj Foundation under NABARD sponsored Climate Proofing project, they were helped to develop multi-tiered cropping pattern with drum sticks, lady finger, garlic and ginger crops. Moreover, for optimizing water usage and irrigation, they relied on Foundation's support for establishing a laser jet-based rain pipe system. Additionally, they were also guided on automating application of Jivamrut using a low cost venturi device.

Ketan and Aparna spent Rs. 10,000 for cultivation of multi-tiered cropping over 1 acre of land. The net profit they earned stood at Rs. 51,000. (Ginger Rs.10000, garlic Rs.50000, drum stick and lady finger Rs.16000). Ketan says, "Cultivation of cotton is no longer a profitable enterprise with increased labour expenses and risks of crop diseases." Aparna notes, "Growing and serving poison-free food is a real joy. And in my view natural farming can be extremely profitable if done right."

“ Testimonials ”



Subhash Dhobale,
Ralegaon,
Samudrapur

"I have 10 acres of land, in the year 2018, Bajaj Foundation guided me to desilt my farm pond. This intervention resulted in increased production of pigeon pea from 5 qt to 7 qt per acre. Besides it restored the storage capacity of farm pond and accelerated the water recharging process. Improved soil health encouraged me to again participate in the tank silt application activity of Climate Proofing project in the year 2021. I applied silt from the stream flowing nearby my farm over 4.5 acres of land. I spent Rs.35,000 for it and recovered the expense in the form of better yield and profits."

Aatmanirbhar Village Initiative



Bajaj Foundation has introduced the concept of *Aatmanirbhar* (self-reliant) Farmers, in which we support farmers to fulfil the nutritional requirement of the farmers and their families. The concept has been disseminated among the 50,000+ families across the Wardha, Sikar and Lalitpur districts.

Agriculture is the backbone of the rural economy (and to a degree the national economy as well) and the primary source of livelihood for those residing in our villages. Bajaj Foundation has taken it upon itself to propagate the idea of making villages Aatmanirbhar as once dreamt by Mahatma Gandhi.

Inspired by Bapu's vision the Bajaj Foundation has been focused on efforts that elevate agriculture, extend the quality education for all, establish agro-based enterprises with equal opportunities given to the poor and the landless, and enhance capacities of gram panchayats.

The Foundation chose 8 villages from across 8 blocks of Wardha district for a pilot programme which focused on capacity building exercises for communities to take charge of the situation and bring about visible changes. These villages included:

Kelapur, Wardha

Muradgaon has a total population of 634 with 158 households. The total geographical area of the village is 611.28 hectares. Of its entire population only 32 villagers own land and grow crops while 183 work as farm labourers.

Our Interventions:

- River Rejuvenation for a 5.610 km stretch and construction of 2 check dams benefited 123 farmers and 547 acres of land
- Construction of 16 recharge pits and 41 well recharging structures benefited 142.50 acres of land
- Support for 5 farmers for installing sprinklers and 9 farmers for putting in place drip irrigation system
- Installation of 11 biogas plants
- Organization of advance tailoring course for 24 women
- Support for Natural Farming (5 farmers adopted)
- Establishment of 1 off-farm enterprise viz., readymade cloth store

Overall the efforts benefited 231 families and 1416.5 acres of agricultural land.

Chamla, Ashtii

Chamla has a total population of 464 with 98 households in the village. The village's total geographical area is 270.68 hectares. The village has 207 farmers while 192 work in farms as labourers.

Our Interventions:

- River Rejuvenation for over 2.2 km benefited 41 farmers and 131.20 acres of land
- Construction of 5 recharge pits benefited 32 acres
- Support for Natural Farming (27 farmers adopted)
- Installation of 5 biogas plants
- Formation of 13 Self Help Groups (SHGs) with membership of 156 women
- Organization of advance tailoring course for 60 women
- Establishing 2 on-farm group enterprises viz., preparation of bio-pesticides and dairy centre and 3 off-farm enterprises viz., readymade cloth store, online e-Seva Kendra, tailoring shop.
- Support for 7 families for rearing of indigenous cows
- 7 farmers became shareholder of Pragatishil Mahila Farmer Producer Organization

In all the aforementioned interventions benefited 146 families and 2251 acres of agriculture land.



84,895 Farmers were practically trained in the concept of Natural farming out of more than 20,000+ farmers who have adopted natural farming techniques. A farmer from Sikar using jiwamrit a formulation of natural farming.



The promotion of horticulture crops results in sustainable income for the farmers. 25,416 farmers raised horticulture plantations and increased their revenue from Rs. 45,000 to Rs. 1,50,000 per acre per annum.

Sultanpur, Hinganghat

Sultanpur's total population is 384 with 86 households in the village. The total geographical area of Sultanpur is 292.89 hectares. There are 75 land-owning farmers and 11 agricultural labourers.

Our Interventions:

- River Rejuvenation for over 2130 meters and construction of check dam benefited 32 farmers and 96 acres of land
- Construction of 10 recharge pits benefited 10 acres of land
- Promotion of Natural Farming (40 farmers adopted)
- Installation of 9 biogas plants and 2 solar lights
- Formation of 3 Self Help Groups (SHGs) with membership of 39 women
- Organization of advance tailoring course for 25 women
- Establishment of 2 off-farm enterprises viz. Kapad Vyavsay and Sewing Machine Centre

In all, the Foundation's interventions benefited 144 families and 551 acres of agricultural land.

Ekburji, Arvi

Ekburji is tiny hamlet with a total population of 255 with 56 households. Spread over 403 hectares Ekburji has 32 main cultivators and 24 agricultural labourers.

Our Interventions:

- River Rejuvenation for over 2 km benefited 20 farmers and 50 hectares of land
- Construction of 5 recharge pits benefited 32 acres of land
- Promotion of Natural Farming (20 farmers adopted)
- 15 farmers became shareholder of Aakaji Maharaj Farmer Producer Organization
- Installation of 12 biogas plants
- Formation of 5 Self Help Groups (SHGs) with membership of 55 women
- Advance tailoring course for 5 women
- Formation of 3 off-farm enterprises including a readymade cloth store, a grocery shop, and a stationary store
- Support for 7 families for buying indigenous cows

In all, the above interventions benefited 181 families and 569.5 acres of agriculture land.

Wagheda, Samudrapur

Wagheda's population stands at 1461 with 212 households in the village. The total geographical area of the village is 304.9 hectares. There are 173 main cultivators in the village while 39 work as agricultural labourers.

Our Interventions:

- Support for 83 farmers for growing fruit plants over 83 acres of land
- Well-deepening benefited 15 farmers
- Construction of 12 recharge pits and 16 well recharging structures benefited 105 acres of land
- Support for 33 farmers for installing drip and sprinkler irrigation systems
- Promotion of Natural Farming (76 farmers adopted while another 30 farmers adopted self-reliant cropping pattern)
- Conservation of indigenous seeds (70 varieties conserved and multiplied)
- Organic Certification for 12 farmers
- Installation of 3 biogas plants
- Support for 15 families for solar lights
- Formation of 10 Self Help Groups (SHGs) with membership of 140 women
- 170 farmers became shareholder of Wagheda Farmer Producer Organization
- Promotion of Design for Change - 2 school projects
- Establishing 7 off-farm enterprises viz., readymade, grocery shop 5, stationary 2 store, etc
- Support for 7 families for buying and raising indigenous cows

In all the aforementioned interventions benefited 146 families and 2251 acres of agriculture land.



The use of indigenous crop seeds is required to get more benefits under Natural farming. Many farmers have initiated collecting and sharing indigenous seeds among their fellow farmers. Bajra (Pearl Millet) crop cultivated using indigenous seeds in Sikar.

Antargaon, Seloo

Village has population of 789 and the total number of household in village is 196. Total geographical area of Antargaon village is 333.20 Hectares. Literacy rate of Antargaon village is 72.06% out of which 77.64% males and 66.24% females are literate. Main Cultivators in the village are 228 while agriculture labors are 184 and other workers are 32. There were no Agro processing centers existed in the village.

Our Interventions:

- River Rejuvenation for over 4.695 km and construction of check dam benefited 115 farmers and 460 acres of land
- Construction of 16 recharge pits benefited 63.75 acres of land
- Construction of 15 farm ponds benefited 48.61 acres of land
- Installation of 3 biogas plants and 1 solar pump
- Recharging of 14 wells benefited 32 acres of land
- Support for micro irrigation systems for 56 farmers
- Construction of percolation tank resulting in improved harvesting of rainwater
- Construction of 2 group wells benefited 10 farmers and 25 acres of land
- Installation of 11 biogas plants and 7 solar lights
- Formation of 4 Self Help Groups (SHGs) with membership of 66 women
- Organization of rural electrician's course for 20 youths
- Promotion of Natural Farming (42 farmers adopted natural farming for over 42 acres of land)
- Establishment of 21 off-farm enterprises viz., tailoring, grossery shop, steel store, etc
- 20 farmers became shareholder of Krushanbhumi and Grmoonati Farmer Producer Organization

Cumulatively these interventions benefited 628 families and 2081 acres of agriculture land.

Muradgaon (Belsare), Deoli

Muradgaon has a total population of 634 with 158 households. The total geographical area of the village is 611.28 hectares. Of its entire population only 32 villagers own land and grow crops while 183 work as farm labourers.

Our Interventions:

- River Rejuvenation for a 11.5 km stretch benefited 152 farmers and 523 acres of land
- Construction of 4 group wells benefited 110 acres of land
- Support for 2 diesel engine benefited 8 acres of land
- Construction of 9 recharge pits benefited 35 acres of land
- Support for Natural Farming (22 farmers adopted)
- Setting up of a Dal/Pulse Mill and Noodle Making venture, 15 off-farm enterprises viz., readymade grocery shop, stationary store etc. and 7 families supported financially for buying indigenous cows
- 31 farmers became shareholders of Damini Women Farmer Producer Organization
- Installed 3 biogas plants and 1 solar pump
- Support for 8 families for solar lights
- Formation of 13 Self Help Groups (SHGs) with membership of 158 women
- Organization of advance tailoring course for 30 women

Put together Bajaj Foundation's interventions benefited 145 families and positively affected 641 acres of agriculture land.

Kannamvar Gram, Karanja

Kannamwar Gram has 301 households and a total population of 1609. The total geographical area of the village is 456.8 hectares. There are 275 farmers with their own land in the village and while there are 29 people who work as farmhands and labourers.

Our Interventions:

- Support for 24 farmers for growing fruit plants over 24 acres of land
- Support for 17 farmers for farm forestry
- Construction of 6 group wells brought ___ acres of land under irrigation
- Deepening of wells benefited 4 farmers
- Construction of 4 recharge pits and 19 well recharging structures benefited 78 acres of land
- Support for 7 farmers for installing sprinkler irrigation systems
- Promotion of Natural Farming (95 farmers adopted natural farming practices with an additional 47 farmers adopting Self-reliant cropping pattern)
- Conservation of indigenous seeds (48 farmers conserved and multiplied indigenous seed varieties)
- Organic Certification Scheme for 14 farmers
- 16 farmers became shareholder of Samagra Gram Farmer Producer Organization
- Establishment of Shri Sadguru Agro Processing Centre and 31 off-farm enterprises including setting up of readymade cloth centre, grocery shop, stationary store, bangle shop, artificial jewellery shop, book depot, footwear shop, catering and bichayat shop
- Support for 31 families for rearing indigenous cows
- Establishment of rural haat.
- Installation of 13 biogas plants & 24 Families Supported for solar lights
- Formation of 11 Self Help Groups (SHGs) with membership of 140 women

The aforementioned interventions have benefited 373 families and 936 acres of agriculture land.



Rural Haat has been established at village Kannamwargram Wardha in collaboration with NABARD which created the platform for 60 vendors and provides their services to the villagers of 12 nearby villages.



The change makers: Members of the Bajaj Foundation Wardha team.

Processes Adopted & Social Impact

The target communities involved in each of these villages and the interventions were discussed in detail with clearly articulated goals and objectives. At the every step, roles were clearly defined and project ownership was assigned for an impactful flow. Besides these interventions side-projects such as Kisan Pathshalas, Sanitation Campaigns and Plantation Drives were organised which besides making a vital contribution to the ecosystem also kept bringing people together for greater synergies.

There were many positive social changes which were observed over time including behavioural changes

across groups and sometimes entire communities. People showed greater interest in issues of development, and things like functioning of gram panchayats. Women began taking an active part in discussions relating to issues outside the household and began coming forward and taking part in public initiatives. The management of the Rural Haat constructed at Kannamvar Gram which was taken over by a women-run SHG for instance. The villages in general became cleaner with hygienic, healthier surroundings and improvement in general happiness of residents.



Economic Impact

Our efforts resulted in a slew of tangible economic benefits for individual families, communities and villages involved in the pilot programme. With interventions ranging from Water Resources Development, Natural Farming, Promotion of On-farm and Off-farm Enterprises and Formation of Farmer Producer Organizations etc, several markers of holistic economic growth were observed. In all, our interventions resulted in benefiting 1,735.5 acres of land, bringing more than 518 acres of area under irrigation and extending cropping season from 1 to 2 for 203 farmers and from 1 to 3 for 839 farmers. There were 320 farmers who adopted natural farming and increased their net profit by Rs. 70,600 per acre with cultivation of 11 crops on an average. Establishment of 2 on-farm enterprises viz., Pulse Mill and Rural Haat benefited 500 farmers and generated a net profit of Rs.57,000 per annum for the entrepreneurs involved. Similarly, 81 off-farm enterprises were supported by the Foundation which have been generating a profit of Rs.1,44,000 every month for the families involved. Women across many villages became financially independent through SHGs and business ventures of their own. Additionally, our support for kitchen gardens and for rearing indigenous cows resulted in cumulative savings of Rs. 4,80,000 and Rs.3,84,000 respectively for the villagers. Besides, use of biogas and solar lights accrued in annually savings of Rs. 4,82,000 for 101 families. Lastly, across the 8 villages, a substantial sum of public money was saved. Put together this number stood at Rs. 56,71,800.

One of the key impacts of these interventions was the reversal of the economy flow i.e. money earned stayed within the village and more money came into the rural economic system from outside. Simply put, our efforts help these villages to retain 'Gaon Ka Paisa Gaon Mein' and bring 'Shaharka Paisa Bhi Gaon Mein'.

A Village Case Story



Through training and capacity-building programs, people were made aware of various aspects of the climate-related issues that equipped them for the changing climate pattern.

Salai Pevat's March to Prosperity

Salai (Pevat) is a tribal village spread over an area of 629.95 hectares. Out of this 378.96 hectares is used by the villagers for agriculture. Home to 221 families, the village is joined to the famous Bor Tiger Reserve from three sides. For the last few years irregular rainfall and soaring temperatures during the summer had begun having a severe adverse impact on the village and the life of its residents. Agricultural output suffered on account of pest attacks and crop diseases, decreased availability, soil erosion and lack of means available for villagers to turn things around. To address the challenges faced by the residents of Salai Pevat, Bajaj Foundation devised a slew of interventions with the support of NABARD.

With the initial focus on creating awareness about climate change and its ill-effects, several detailed

engagements were carried out with the villagers, the farmers in particular, before embarking on any on-ground activities. As a first step, deep ploughing of roughly 374 acres of land was carried out as a measure to pests. An additional 220 acres of land was fertilized with green manure and bio-fertilizers. Then there were concentrated efforts carried out to diversify the cropping pattern across 437 acres of land belonging to 180 farmers to minimize the risk of total crop failure due to unpredictable weather patterns, crop diseases and pest issues.

As part of a multi-cropping campaign, farmers were encouraged to sow crops including green gram, black gram, sorghum, sesamum, maize, linseed, wheat, lemon, guava, vegetables, wild fruits, floricultural crops and

even plant teakwood saplings. Besides preventing crop failure, the variety was also to ensure improvement of soil. Farmers were given soil health cards and were asked to check the health of the soil regularly in an effort to quantify the efficacy of the measure.

Furthermore 270 families were supported by the Foundation for growing backyard kitchen gardens and fruit trees. As a result of these, food security was no longer an issue for the farming families. Intercropping also resisted the spread of pest attacks and helped better the farm yields which in turn boosted the income of the farmers. The Foundation's promotion of Natural Farming among the farmers resulted in 25 farmers adopting the practice over a 62.5 acres of land. The exercise resulted in an average increase per acre net profit from Rs.14,275 to Rs. 45,975, which is being practised on 500 acres of land.

To counter the challenge of water availability, 16 recharge pits were constructed which in turn enhanced the groundwater tables and raised water levels in farm wells. Farmers, thanks to the recharge pits, now had guaranteed water from March to until the next rainfall.

The forest land surrounding Salai Pevat rests on a slope and therefore suffered from soil erosion. To address this 3000 cum. water absorption trench and 1200 cum continuous counter trench (CCT) were constructed to arrest soil erosion. Besides 13,500 stumps of fodder trees were planted for stabilization of gully. This brought nearly 500 acres of land under cultivation improving the net profits for several farmers from Rs. 0 to Rs.14,275. Similarly, farmers were encouraged to desilt the check dams constructed in the streams and place the soil back across 384 acres of farm land. This had dual benefits in terms of restoring the capacities of check dams and revitalising the soil which had eroded previously.

In addition to these efforts were also made to increase the green cover across Salai Pevat with plantation of 4,884 trees. More recently agro advisory service was launched through mobile messages which used metrological data derived from Rahati Watershed in consultation with KVK. It helped farmers to better adopt appropriate practices to mitigate the prevailing agriculture issues.

Away from the farm, in the village, women were encouraged to form self-help-groups (SHGs) and engage in income generation activities such as opening stationary shops, general stores or selling artificial jewellery. Some were guided on how to preserve seeds, especially those indigenous to the area to make farming self-reliant. Constant engagement and encouragement over time helped these woman emerge as leaders within the Village Development Committee formed by Bajaj Foundation.

Timely availability of agriculture implements greatly impact agriculture production. This is true not only for resource poor farmers but also for landless labours. Many a times labourers struggle to find work due to non-availability of farm implements. The Foundation, therefore helped set up an agricultural tool bank which now offers farm implements to local farmers whenever they need.

Furthermore, Village Knowledge Centers (VKCs) were established in each watershed area where farmers could consult each other and gather information by reading resource material available at the centre. Digital advisory messages shared in context to adoption of natural farming practices and crop diversification also helped farmers for timely measures.

Farmers of Salai Pevat today have greater water availability (direct and indirect) for irrigation. The recharging efforts have resulted in improved productivity and enhanced earnings. Beyond there being water for farming, the villagers have also increased access to potable water for household needs. Crop diversification, horticulture development, floriculture, agro forestry development and promotion of natural farming has resulted in restoring green cover and improving the overall farming ecosystem. The fact that there hasn't been a single instance of crop failure or farmer suicide in the village since the interventions began to be implemented speaks volumes of the positive impact of the Foundation's efforts.

The economic activity spurred by the interventions of Bajaj Foundation at Salai Pevat has increased the village's earnings by about Rs. 4,38,31,855 and impacted 1,960.2 acres of farming land, ensuring that Salai Pevat continues its forward march to prosperity, unhindered.

New Initiatives, Newer Beginnings



The Gram Panchayat, Organizational Development project is being implemented in Collaboration with **Mission Samriddhi** and the technical support of **Anode**, a Bangalore-based organization. Grampanchayat members of Loni are involved in the process.

Gram Spandan - Strengthening Gram Panchayats

Gram Panchayats (GPs) are the most local of all government institutions. Nearly all the services a government is expected to provide are channelized and delivered through GPs. Given its centrality to the rural masses, it is necessary to have robust and empowered GPs. With a vision to bolster agro-based economies of villages, Bajaj Foundation in collaboration with Mission Samriddhi and procedural support from Anod Governance Lab, Bangalore, embarked on a mission of strengthening GPs and revitalize this critical institution at the heart of our democracy.

In the first phase of the initiative, 5 villages from Seloo, Wardha, and Deoli blocks have been shortlisted for administering a 4-step programme. The steps include context & enrolment, diagnosis & reflection, design, planning & operationalization and handholding. In future, the initiative will evolve to include added measures and interventions with “collaboration” as its guiding principle.

Preserving Environment & Extending Green Cover

The Bajaj Foundation realizes the urgent need to preserve the environment and work towards fighting the dreaded threat facing our planet in the form of climate change. In a bid to do its part the Foundation has planted ___ saplings and sown ___ seed balls across ___ locations at Wardha. Done in collaboration with villagers, the project involves raising awareness among the rural folk and making them realise their duty towards developing and extending green cover as a coping mechanism for climate change. Gram Panchayats are being tapped to secure the cooperation of villagers and triggering a mass movement towards the endeavor.

Covid Care: Standing by Rural Communities

Last year, during the deadly second wave of the Covid Pandemic, the Foundation and its people went above and beyond the call of their duty to come to the aid of the rural communities in every way possible. From distributing covid-care packages and ration kits to arranging medical care for the affected, the Foundation lived up to its motto of selfless service.

The Foundation offered support to ___ poorest of the poor across ___ villages during the lockdown announced in the wake of the second wave. Besides, it also organized awareness sessions and workshops during which participants were familiarized with how to prepare ayurvedic remedies at home. Additionally, it supported community medical institutions with oxygen-generator machines and wheelchairs for old and sickly.



The concept of Natural and Self-reliant Farming is disseminated through various capacity-building measures among the farmers. An exposure visit of farmers organized to model plots in the Samudrapur block.

In Sync with UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

We are acutely aware of who we are and much of our mission draws from real-world scenarios developing all around us. The interventions carried out by Bajaj Foundation at Wardha, Sikar, and Lalitpur districts are deeply aligned with UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and are driven by the communities we work for in the said districts. To date, our work has directly benefitted 1.9 million people across 1530 villages.



Women's economic empowerment enhances their ability to improve their economic status and well-being. Bajaj Foundation has been working actively towards the economic welfare of woman by issuing them interest free revolving funds and grants, besides giving vocational guidance and trainings for establishing cottage industries.

Financial literacy camps are organized for self-help-group (SHG) members for building capacities in collaboration with NABARD. Further these SHGs are linked to banks and financial institutions directly (for eg. E-Shakti portal of NABARD) for easier access to credits.

Wardha is among Vidarbha's farmer suicide districts. Crop failures, lack of market linkages, unjust prices for produce are just some of the many reasons which have long contributed to farmer's distress in the region. Bajaj Foundation has been working actively to mitigate these challenges whether it is through multi-cropping, by creating market linkages or by making farming more viable through innovative new means like Natural Farming.

It is also focused on multi-cropping so that food security is ensured for farming families. Horticulture promotion further diversifies crops to include vegetables and fruits orchards which in turn add to the income generating opportunities for villagers. The integrated approach to farming has in some cases increased per acre average net profit of farmers to the tune of Rs. 1,00,000.

The Foundation has gone a step further to alleviate

poverty among rural masses by encouraging the formation of Farmers Producer Companies which provided them with opportunities to create their own linkages to reduce the input cost of cultivation as well as improve profits gained through collective sale and purchase. FPOs tend to benefit the small and marginal farmers the most.

Through other institution led interventions, poor families are afforded all the benefits due to them through government housing scheme, MGNREGS and other such schemes.



Poor families are often unable to afford nutritious food for the pregnant women, lactating mothers and small children leading to malnutrition. Through SHGs, we encourage creating kitchen gardens which help supply nutritious food to needy families. Our efforts are often concentrated on homes of pregnant women and small children so that they do not suffer from malnutrition.

At Bajaj Foundation our focus isn't two pronged – on providing food and fighting off nutritional hunger. We have supported 5,000 families in growing kitchen gardens through supply of seeds. Also, 50,000 famers have been guided to divert their cotton-based farming to food crop-based farming for attaining food security in as many as 400 villages.

In Sikar, Rajasthan 1817 acre of non-cultivable land has been turned cultivable land through land levelling so that farmers can grow crops easily and more efficiently and generate more income.

With an objective of economic upliftment of the poor in rural areas, the Foundation has raised grant support ranging between Rs.10,000 - Rs. 20,000 for income generating activities and emergency healthcare support.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



The Foundation has been on a mission of boosting good health and well-being through Natural Farming. By encouraging more than 42,000 farmers and over 25,000 acres of land across the country to take up the practice, Bajaj Foundation is leading the charge for Good Health and Well-being among the rural folk.

Further it has supported 3500 farmers for creating market opportunities and reaching out to consumers via grain festivals and mobile vans for door-to-door marketing of natural produce such as grains, pulses, minor millets, edible oil, vegetables, fruits and processed food items like papad, solar dried vegetables, pickles, etc. This has created win-win situation for both the producers and the consumers.

The Foundation also organises health camps and awareness sessions in collaboration with government and non-governmental organisations for women and children. Close to 3000 families benefit from such efforts each year.

The Foundation also strives to inculcate eco-friendly and hygienic habits for clean river basins and water bodies and does much to revive water sources in order to maintain ecological balance for healthy surroundings for all living beings. Additionally Roof Rain Water Harvesting Structures are built at village level to provide fresh drinking water to rural families in water-stressed areas.

The team works in close collaboration with village schools through Design for Change initiative. Plenty of awareness on personal hygiene and menstrual hygiene has been created via the initiative.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Education is essential for developing knowledgeable, cultured and compassionate human beings. We at Bajaj Foundation devote considerable resources towards providing quality education to children in a bid to develop confidence and leadership abilities among them.

We have been working with district education departments for promoting a unique initiative called Design for Change. Through this we have created opportunities for youngsters at school and in communities to work towards improving various aspects of the societies they are part of. With hundreds of successful interventions carried out by thousands of children across schools, Design for Change has already made a visible change in communities across our project locations.

Going beyond schools and school children, the Foundation also lays a considerable focus on instilling skills and vocational education among youth. With skill training programmes ranging from rural electricians course, tailoring, and other on & off-farm skills, the Foundation's skill development agenda covers a range of activities for both men and women.

The Foundation's definition also covers Farming Education and it imparts such education through workshops and sessions on Natural Farming. Its current team of 48 resource farmers with proven record and excellent communication skills do much to engage with farmers to teach them Natural Farming practices and how they can be adopted.

Finally, the Foundation undertakes health education projects for tribal families in order to make them aware of good health practices and promote basic hygiene, especially among children, young adolescent girls and pregnant women.

5 GENDER EQUALITY



In India, given the highly patriarchal nature of its society rural women do not always enjoy the same freedoms and equity as women in urban areas and elsewhere. Bajaj Foundation's Women Empowerment programmes implemented through Self-Help-Groups (SHGs) allow rural women opportunities to step up and earn equality and social recognition on their own terms. With economic empowerment as the foundational basis for such interventions, our programmes also encourage women to participate in discussions involving village institutions.

In India, where agriculture is still the predominant means of economic growth for much of its population, we are pushing rural women to the fore by supporting formation of women-led Farmers' Producer Companies and entrepreneurial collectives (off-farm enterprises) led by women.

We are also encouraging women to take the lead in establishing green cover through sapling and seed ball plantation and also prompting them to work alongside men in certain projects. The construction of 1200 soak pits across 325 villages in 8 blocks of Wardha districts serve up an inspiring example of this.



Availability of clean drinking water and basic sanitation in rural India is still a challenge. The Foundation has been working to address the challenge through a variety of means. It recently installed 15 hand pumps fitted with innovative filters which deliver clean, microbes and bacteria free drinking water to people in 15 villages. The Foundation has long been promoting programmes such as rainwater harvesting and construction of recharge structures which ensure that soil and biomass free water enters in wells and provides safe drinking water.

As far as sanitation is concerned villages, lack of sewers and drainage systems mean that residents have to live in unsanitary conditions. The Foundation actively encour-

ages communities in which it works to keep the surroundings hygienically clean through relevant interventions and practices. Recently the Foundation supported construction of 1200 soak pits at 325 villages in coordination with government's MGNREGS scheme. It also runs cleanliness drives at regular intervals in target communities.



Bajaj Foundation has been promoting biogas and solar irrigation pumps as well as solar home lighting system among the rural community. Till now 5292 families have been supported for biogas, 585 families for solar lighting systems, and 177 farmers covering 550 acres of land for solar pumps in collaboration with state governments of Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

5292 Biogas plants have reduced the harmful effects of wood burning and other fuels on the climate by taking out 94,50,000 kg CO2 from the equation per year.

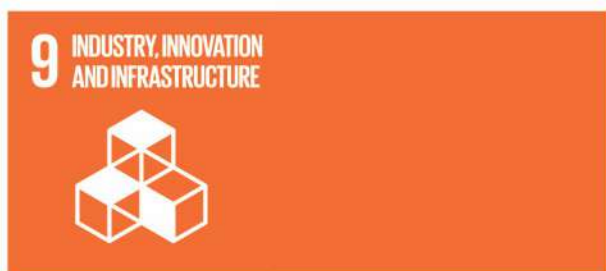


Bajaj Foundation promotes sustainable economic growth with its interventions helping 10,730 farmers in 440 villages. These farmers were supported for raising fruit orchard over 9730 acres of land with plantation of 6,43,800 fruit plants. Additionally, they were guided to establish tree-based farming systems including timber plantations for long term benefits.

A total 5009 youths and women have been trained as a result of the Foundation's skills training efforts in trades

such handloom weaving, tailoring, fashion designing, value added agriculture products, bag stitching, mobile repairing, plumbing, construction and repairing of biogas. Such skills provide fair opportunities of work to youths at the village level.

We have encouraged more than 6000 women to join Farmer Producers Organization and trained them in a variety of work practices across FPO institutions. In Sikar, most of the cattle rearing work is done by women. Automatic cattle feeding units have been promoted to reduce drudgery for such women. This has not only freed them for other tasks and improved their general health as well.



Following Mahatma Gandhi's edicts collaborative efforts have been taken to increase availability of handlooms and allied skills at the village level. Our efforts in collaboration with NABARD under Women Entrepreneurship Development Programme have enabled 500 women to get involved in the handloom trade.

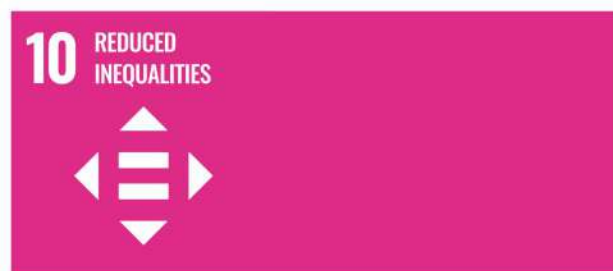
15 Farmers' Producer Companies have been formed with shareholding of 6000 members for scaling up farming enterprises. These FPOs have been supported for setting up processing infrastructures like cleaning and grading units, pulverising unit, cattle feed production units, oil press, raising nurseries, production of organic inputs such as botanical pesticides and compost.

To help alleviate the water-related challenges of agriculture, we have built check dams and lift irrigation systems. River rejuvenation projects, construction of rainwater harvesting structures and percolation tanks have also helped create the vital infrastructure for irrigation and farming in water-stressed areas.

The Foundation has also set up Village Knowledge Centers (VKCs) to allow farmers to consult each other and gather information by reading resource material available at the centres. Other resources along with

internet facilities have been made available for facilitating further knowledge exchange and learning. Mini Agro-met observatories too have been installed in collaboration with IMD, Pune, for weather forecasts. Plus crop advisories are also issued for farmers to help them prepare better in consultation with KVK and Agriculture University.

At the village level agriculture tool banks have been established to improve timely availability of agriculture implements to small and marginal farmers. Besides Rural Haats and mobile marketing outlets have been established by the Foundation in hinterlands of Wardha to provide basic marketplaces for rural folks.



Wardha has the unfortunate distinction of being an agriculturally distressed district and much of the economic inequality at Wardha can be placed at the feet of unavailability of water and lack of adequate irrigation infrastructure for the farming community. Bajaj Foundation has been running multiple interventions aimed at ensuring greater availability of water including river revival (668.5 km), construction of check dams (106), bori bunds (2376), and recharge pits (3286). Combined these initiatives have improved water availability and expanded the area under irrigation from 8% to 21%. In many a places, farmers who depended entirely on the seasonal rains for irrigating their field have been supported with group lift irrigation systems. Increased availability of water for irrigation has almost doubled crop yield for beneficiary farmers and improved their fortunes, lowering inequality across the community.

The Foundation also supports landless poor families with grants to open up shops and engage in trade to improve their finances. Such support is often aimed at the poorest of the poor such as widows, old people, orphans and differently abled folks.

The Foundation has even designed special horticulture programme aimed at the tribal community in collaboration with NABARD to strengthen livelihood opportunities for them.

Besides, the farmers who were especially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic were supported with financial aid to purchase seeds and finance other miscellaneous expenses. Similarly the farmers who had adopted Natural Farming were supported by the Foundation with tools to reach customers, which if absent might have meant the farmers selling their produce at lower, unprofitable prices at village level.



While its common knowledge that much of the basic requirements of the urban areas are fulfilled by those in the rural areas and engaged in agriculture sector, few realise the criticality of building the right infrastructure in the villages so as to strengthen the agri eco-system and make the rural-urban equation more sustainable for cities and communities.

Bajaj Foundation's need based interventions in rural areas for water resource development, sustainable agriculture, small scale on & off-farm enterprises, aggregating community through formation of FPOs and developing market opportunities have considerably reduced the migration of youths from villages to the cities. On top of this its teams works closely with Gram Panchayats for developing village infrastructures through convergence of government schemes.

Further Atmanirbharata for villages is being pushed gradually across all its interventions whether its innovative watershed development efforts, skill development & entrepreneurial programmes or Natural Farming. Village Knowledge Centres (VKCs) are also being tapped to bring in much needed education among the rural folk and the various ways in which they can create ecosystems which rely less on outside and are self-sufficient and sustainable. Besides, internet has also opened up avenues of

skills development and knowledge enhancement for the rural youth.



The farming sector in India has been experiencing a great setback in terms of increased cost of production with increased chemical input and low returns. On top of this consumption of "poisonous" and unhealthy food has been leading to untold health hazards and illnesses for the consumers. It has been Bajaj Foundation's mission to create awareness among farmers and food producers to produce healthy food by adopting natural farming practices and shift the market towards to consumption of healthy, naturally produced food. In Wardha, 11,000 farmers have adopted natural farming after the encouragement by the Foundation.

The most crucial step towards realising the Foundation's dream in developing direct market and consumer linkages for the farmers. The Foundation has been working hard to create forward linkages at district, block and village level to fulfil its objective. The efforts has resulted in strengthening direct consumer linkages for 4344 farmers who today sell more than 25 varieties of agriculture produce and clock a revenue in excess of Rs.7 crore.



Wardha is part of Maharashtra's cotton growing belt and has been witness to the adverse effects of climate change for over a decade. The Foundation as part of its efforts has been working with the local communities to stave off the effects of climate change through constant dialogue with the communities.

Bajaj Foundation has initiated climate proofing project in collaboration with NABARD in 6 watershed areas of Wardha. Its integrated approach has resulted in adoption of climate mitigation measures and climate resilient cropping patterns getting adopted by the local communities. The climate resilience activities being carried out in these 13 villages have benefitted over 1700 farmers and cover 7,000 acres of farming land.

Bajaj Foundation's push for natural farming has been making steady inroads among the farming communities and leading to sustainable farm ecosystems with improved soil health, air, and water quality. Additionally, Bajaj Foundation's financial support for plantation of 1.10 million saplings in its target areas has shown encouraging results in terms of climate-proofing the local environments.



Bajaj Foundation has been striving to ensure that water bodies are preserved in their natural state with little to no adverse impact on the flora and fauna. It has partially rejuvenated 235 rivers & streams of running a length of 669 in Maharashtra. Its efforts pay attention to the menace of water pollution and the Foundation continues to raise awareness against pollutants like insecticides, pesticides and fertilisers which invariably end up in the water streams and cause harmful effects.



Bajaj Foundation has been engaged in mega plantation drives in close collaboration with the Govt. of Maharashtra and local communities of Wardha and Sikar. Its efforts have resulted in plantation of 11,66,291 plants. Besides, it has also led a drive of 4,27,346 seed ball plantation on riverbanks and 1160 villages. Plus, focused efforts have been made for planation of Agro-forestry and timber wood plants over farm bunds. This has led to enhancing the biodiversity in many rural areas.



Bajaj Foundation works in close association with rural communities, village panchayats, and villagers and engages them in vital information exchange for improving the state of relevant institutions. One of its most recent initiatives involves working at the grass-roots level to strengthen Gram Panchayats which form the nerve centre of all village activities.



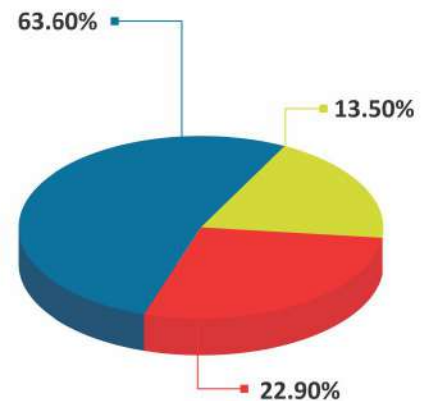
Bajaj Foundation believe in Public-Private Partnership and operates in that mode. The Foundation has implemented a number of developmental schemes in close collaboration with local communities and established 6700 village level institutions like women SHGs, village development committees, farmer producers companies, user groups besides working with government agencies and other development organisations like NABARD, CII, and FICCI. Many of the Foundation's training, education and finance-driven initiatives necessitate partnerships across a wide spectrum.

Financial Progress 2021-22

Source of Fund

2021-22 ₹ 71.44 Crore

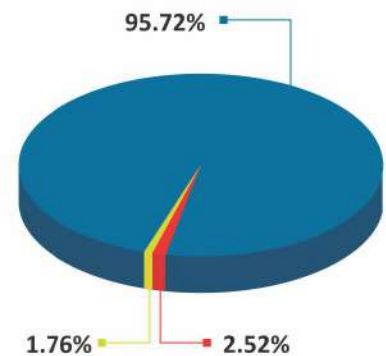
- Community Contribution ₹ 45.44 Crore (63.60 %)
- Bajaj Foundation ₹ 16.36 Crore (22.90%)
- Govt and other Organizations ₹ 9.64 Crore (13.50 %)



Fund Utilization

2021-22 ₹ 71.44 Crore

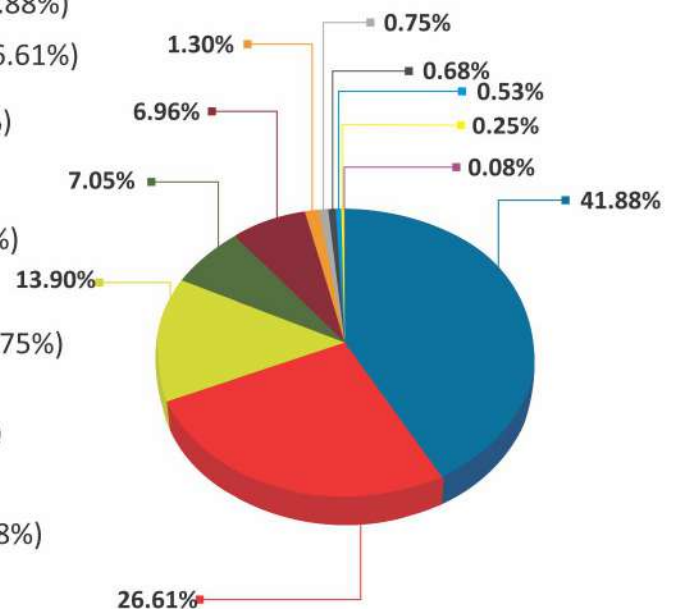
- Programme expenditure ₹ 68.38 Crore (95.72%)
- Administrative expenditure ₹ 1.80 Crore (2.52%)
- Trainings and capacity Building ₹ 1.26 Crore (1.76%)



Programme Expenditure

Total 68.38 Crore

- Water Resource Development ₹ 28.64 Crore(41.88%)
- Alternative Energy Programme ₹ 18.20 Crore (26.61%)
- Horticulture Development ₹ 9.51 Crore (13.90%)
- Women Empowerment ₹ 4.82 Crore (7.05%)
- Promtion of Natural Farming ₹ 4.76 Crore (6.96%)
- NABARD FPO Project ₹ 0.89 Crore (1.30%)
- Climate change proofing Project ₹ 0.51 Crore (0.75%)
- GIZ Project ₹ 0.46 Crore (0.68%)
- Infrastructure Development ₹0.36 Crore (0.53%)
- Rural Haat ₹ 0.17 Crore (0.25%)
- Design for Change Programme ₹ 0.06 Crore (0.08%)



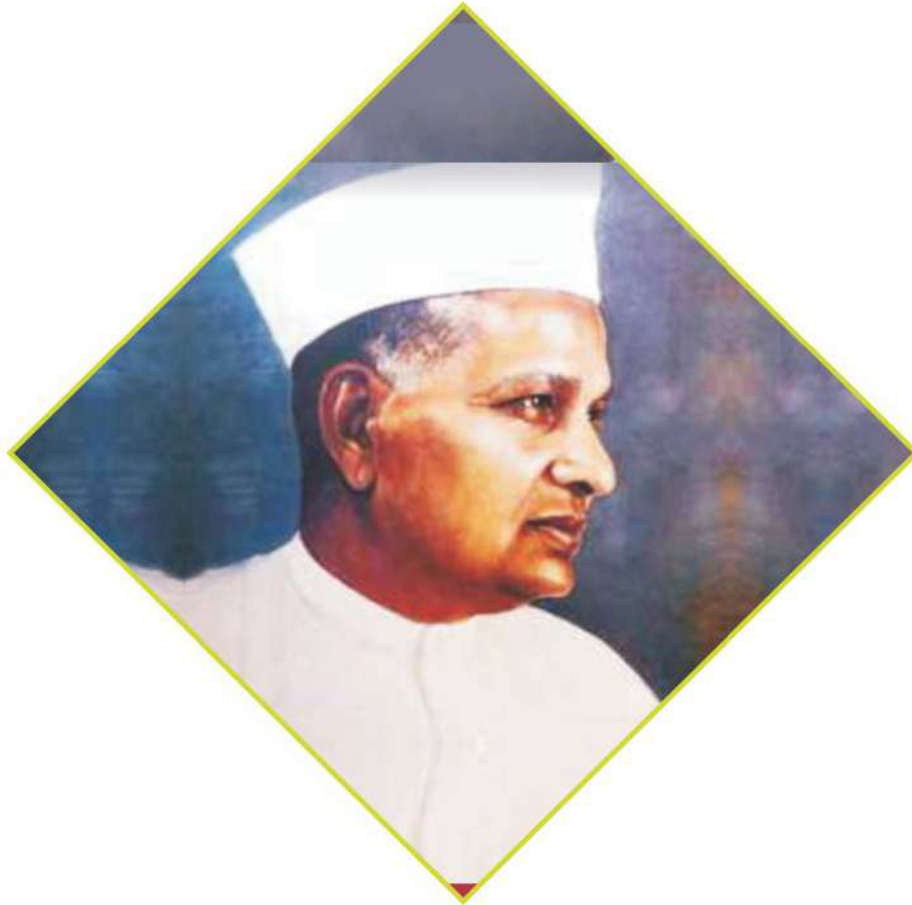
Awards & Recognitions 2021-22



During the year efforts of Bajaj foundation has been recognized through various awards

JAMNALAL BAJAJ

1889-1942



Jamnalal ji dedicated himself
and his resources, without reservation.
There is hardly any activity of mine in which I did
not receive his full hearted co-operation and in
which it did not prove to be of the greatest value.
He placed at my disposal his ample possessions.
He became a guardian of my time and health and
he did it all for the public good.

- Mahatma Gandhi



HISTORICAL LINEAGE

From an early age, destiny carved out a unique role for young Jamnalal. At the age of five, he was adopted by Shri Bachhraj Bajaj, a wealthy merchant in Wardha. Throughout his life, he was a staunch follower of Mahatma Gandhi who also inspired Jamnalal to initiate establish Hindusthan Sugar Mills in 1931. Jamnalal was the He founding father of the present-day Bajaj Group of Companies.

Freedom fighter, social reformer, humanitarian and a devoted follower of Mahatma Gandhi, Jamnalal Bajaj was born in Kashi-ka-Bas in Rajasthan on November 4, 1889. In 1920, at Jamnalalji's request, Gandhiji accepted him as his 'fifth' son. He joined in Gandhiji's programmes and India's freedom struggle in 1915. He was elected Treasurer of the Congress party in 1920. Jamnalalji took active part in the Non-Co-operation Movement in 1921, the Salt Satyagraha in 1930 and the individual Satyagraha at Nagpur to uphold the honour of our National Flag. He also led the Jaipur Satyagraha in 1939. In all he was imprisoned for over five years.

It was in implementing the Constructive Programme of Gandhiji that Jamnalalji's contribution was of an enduring nature. As inspired by Gandhiji, he opened the doors of his family temple, the Lakshmi Narayan Mandir at Wardha, to all, including Harijans in 1928. It was the very first temple in India to welcome Harijans. Jamnalalji

established the Gandhi Seva Sangh in 1921 and was its Founder-President. Also Chairman of the All- India Khaddar Board. He was also closely associated with the All-India Village Industries' Association, Talimi Sangh and Hindi Sahitya Sammelan. He not only played an active part in establishing and conducting these organisations, but also supported a large number of workers who dedicated themselves to these activities. Jamnalal made Wardha the centre for Gandhiji's economic and social development programmes. He established the Satyagraha Ashram in Wardha in 1921. He brought Vinoba Bhave to the Wardha Ashram to nurture it into a national institution. In 1936, Gandhiji wanted to shift to a rural habitat. Jamnalal then offered a large piece of his land in Segaoon to build his Ashram which is known as Sevagram. Bajajwadi in Wardha was like a home for all eminent national leaders visiting Gandhiji. The meetings of the Congress Working Committee were also frequently held there. The famous Quit India resolution was adopted by the Congress Working Committee at its meeting in Bajajwadi in 1942. Jamnalalji was thus the main pillar of strength to Gandhiji. Gandhi himself admitted that "It was an easy thing for me to rely on Jamnalal to carry out my wishes. No one has identified himself so much with every one of my activities as he". On 11" February 1942, at the age of 53, Jamnalalji passed away suddenly.



KAMALNAYAN BAJAJ

1915-1972



Kamalnayan Bajaj,
the eldest son of Jamnalal Bajaj,
started shouldering family
responsibilities from an early age.
After completing his education at
Cambridge University in England,
Kamalnayan returned to India to assist
his father Jamnalal,
both in business and in social service.



HISTORICAL LINEAGE

After Jamnalalji's death his elder son Kamalnayanji felt it was his duty to fulfil his father's wish to put into practice Gandhiji's theory of trusteeship. In consultation with Gandhiji and the other members of the family, he created a public charitable trust of Jamnalalji's personal assets including his shares in the joint family property. He was a strategist and chose not to court arrest. His purpose was to keep himself free to help those actively engaged in the Freedom Movement. Keenly conscious of the legacy of his reputed family that he had to carry forward, Kamalnayan once wrote to his father, that "It is no joke to be the son of a big man". Kamalnayan was a man of strict principles, which he never swerved from. He had earmarked a large portion of the income from his family business for public causes and social service programmes, the mantle of all of which he had inherited from his father. He always had a sense of a larger social mission, transcending the dictates of business and the bottom line.

As astute businessman, Kamalnayan envisaged immense potential in India for manufactured textiles. But he did not pursue the profit in that business because of the firm commitment of the Bajaj family to Khadi, inspired

by Mahatma Gandhi. Clearly expounding his philosophy and his perspective, Kamalnayan observed, "The various industries I am connected with should generate profit. But if any move on our part goes against national interests, "I would condemn it and would not be party to it, even if it meant a loss in the bargain". Every new business venture that Kamalnayan got into, eloquently testified to his legendary business acumen. With tremendous foresight and a spirit of zestful enterprise, Kamalnayan acquired ailing industrial units and then miraculously turned them around.

Kamalnayanji extended help to many causes like education, medical care and famine and flood relief. Besides being an insightful businessman and his preoccupation in politics, he was associated with a large number of institutions social and educational. He devoted a good deal of time, resources and energy to them.

He was an ideal philanthropist. He was elected thrice as a member of the Lok Sabha between 1957-1971 from Wardha constituency in Maharashtra.





1st March 1938 Members of the Indian National Congress on the dais at Haripura. From left to right, Seth Jamnalal Bajaj, Darbar Gopoldas Dasai, Mahatma Gandhi and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.



Kamalnayan Bajaj addressing at Wardha with Balkoba Bhawe, Vinoba Bhawe, Shivaji Bhawe and mother Jankidevi Bajaj (From Lt. to Rt).

The Guiding Force Behind Bajaj Foundation

Board of Trustee

Mr. Shishir Bajaj Chairman After completing his MBA from New York University in 1974 with finance as a major subject, he joined the Bajaj Group of companies in 1974 and has shouldered the responsibility as Chairman of Bajaj Hindusthan Sugar Limited from 1999 to 2014. He also did the Owner President Management Program from Harvard Business School in 2000. Bajaj Group's flagship company Bajaj Hindusthan Sugar Limited is today the number one sugar producer in India and 5th largest in the world and the largest producer of Ethanol in India. He is also a promoter of Bajaj Consumer Care Limited which manufactures Bajaj Almond Drops the second-largest Hair Oil Brand in India.

Mrs. Minakshi Bajaj Trustee Mrs. Minakshi Bajaj is a Trustee of the Trust. She has obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree from Calcutta University and is a Director of A. N. Bajaj Enterprises Private Limited.

Mr. Kushagra Nayan Bajaj Trustee he has been shouldering responsibility as Chairman of Bajaj Group and Chairman cum Managing Director of Bajaj Hindusthan Sugar Limited. He is also Chairman of Bajaj Consumer Care Limited since 2007. Kushagra Nayan Bajaj has obtained

Bachelor of Science in Economics, Political Philosophy and Finance from the Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA. He earned his Master of Science in Marketing from North Western University, Chicago, USA. He is moving force behind the social responsibility initiatives of the Trust.

Mr. Apoorv Nayan Bajaj Trustee he is the Executive President of Bajaj Consumer Care Limited. He has a Bachelor's degree in Commerce from the University of Mumbai. He travels extensively in the programme area to help and guide the programmes of the Trust. The socio-economic and spiritual development of the community is his passion.

Mrs. Vasavadatta Bajaj Trustee She has done her B.Com. in the year 1997 and additionally, she has also done one-year Pre-school Teacher's Training in 2001.

Dr. Pushpa Porwal Trustee with specialization in child and maternity care, a Trustee of JKBT, has been closely associated with People's Welfare Society since 1972- 73. Since 1997 she has been fully 'devoted to Shekhawati Zanana Hospital.

Team Bajaj Foundation

Haribhai Mori

Raju Pawar

Anand Joshi

Vijaya Thakare

Prashant Borkute

Chetan Nandha

Karsahan Sarikhda

Sachin Zadey

Guneshwar Patle

Rajendra Petkar

Sushant Borkar

Suhas Hajare

Rahul Borkute

Prashant Niwal

Sachin Nilskar

Mahendra Phate

Ashwini Shende

Navneet Upadhye

Pravin Chivhane

Sachin Sonane

Jiwan Kalbande

Tushar Fasge

Sidhartha Gaikwad

Gaurav Wakode

Ravindra Nagdeve

Ravindra Uikey

Lilleshwar Naxine

Anil Salam

Mangesh Talwekar

Sandip Telrandhe

Rakhi Somkuwar

Surendra Rajyoria

Hrushikesh Hardas

Sanjeev Kumar

Mohanlal Dogaya

Prashant Satone

Dhiraj Wankhade

Jayesh Jadav

Deobrat Singh

Gajendra Sharma

Ramakant Sharma

Pratap Mangrudkar

Rakesh Tailor

Manojkumar Sen

Nitish Ghadage

Rameshwar Yadav

Manish Kumar Singh

Chandrashekhar Mohije

Prabhaya Dube

Pramod Pateriya

Umakant Sudele

Niraj Bhimte

Mahendra Deshmukh

Vijay Chambare

Umesh Timande

Sachin Chatur

Javed Sattar

Photo gallery of activities at Wardha (Maharashtra), Sikar (Rajasthan) and Lalitpur (Uttar Pradesh)





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