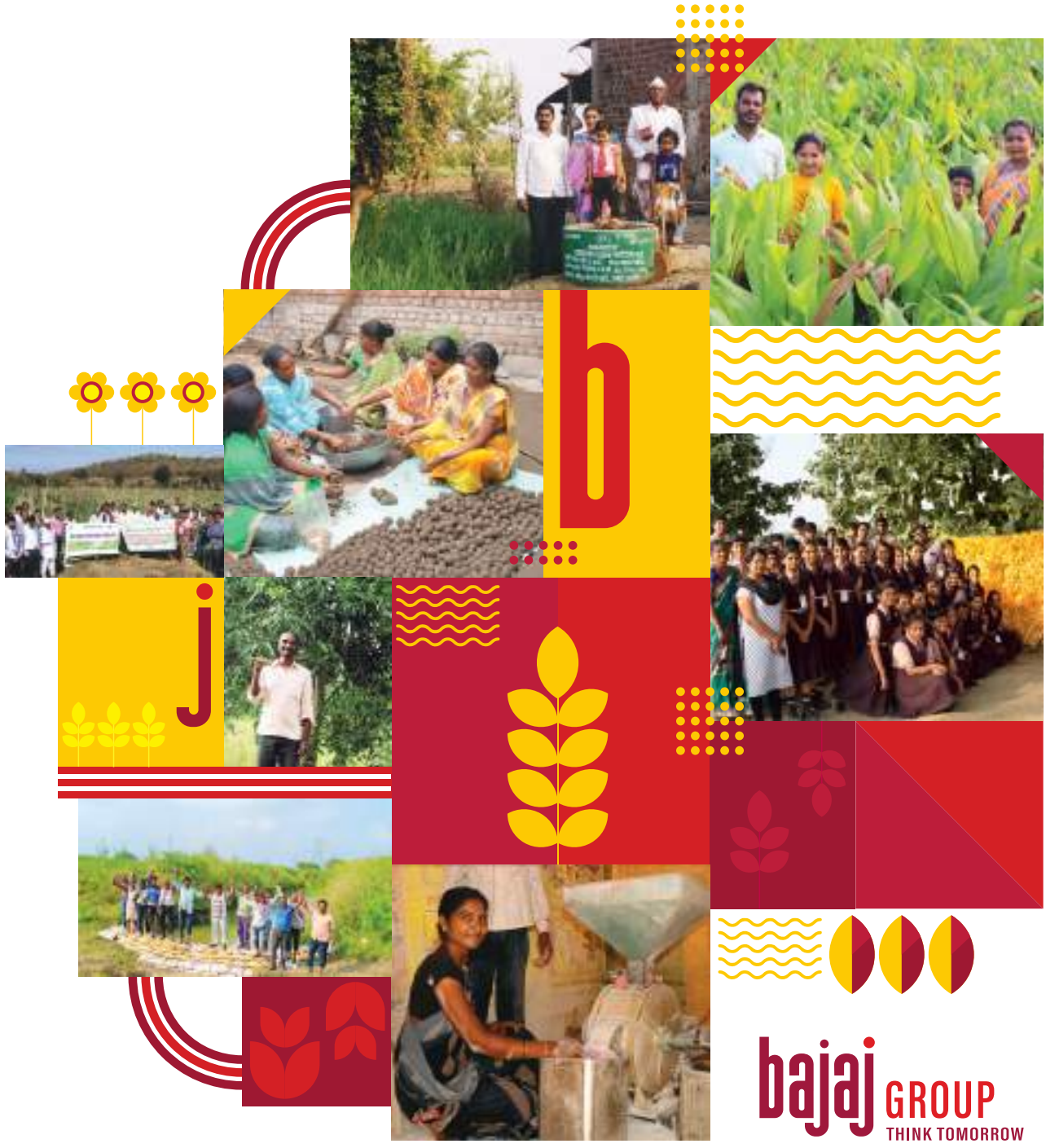
bajaj FOUNDATION

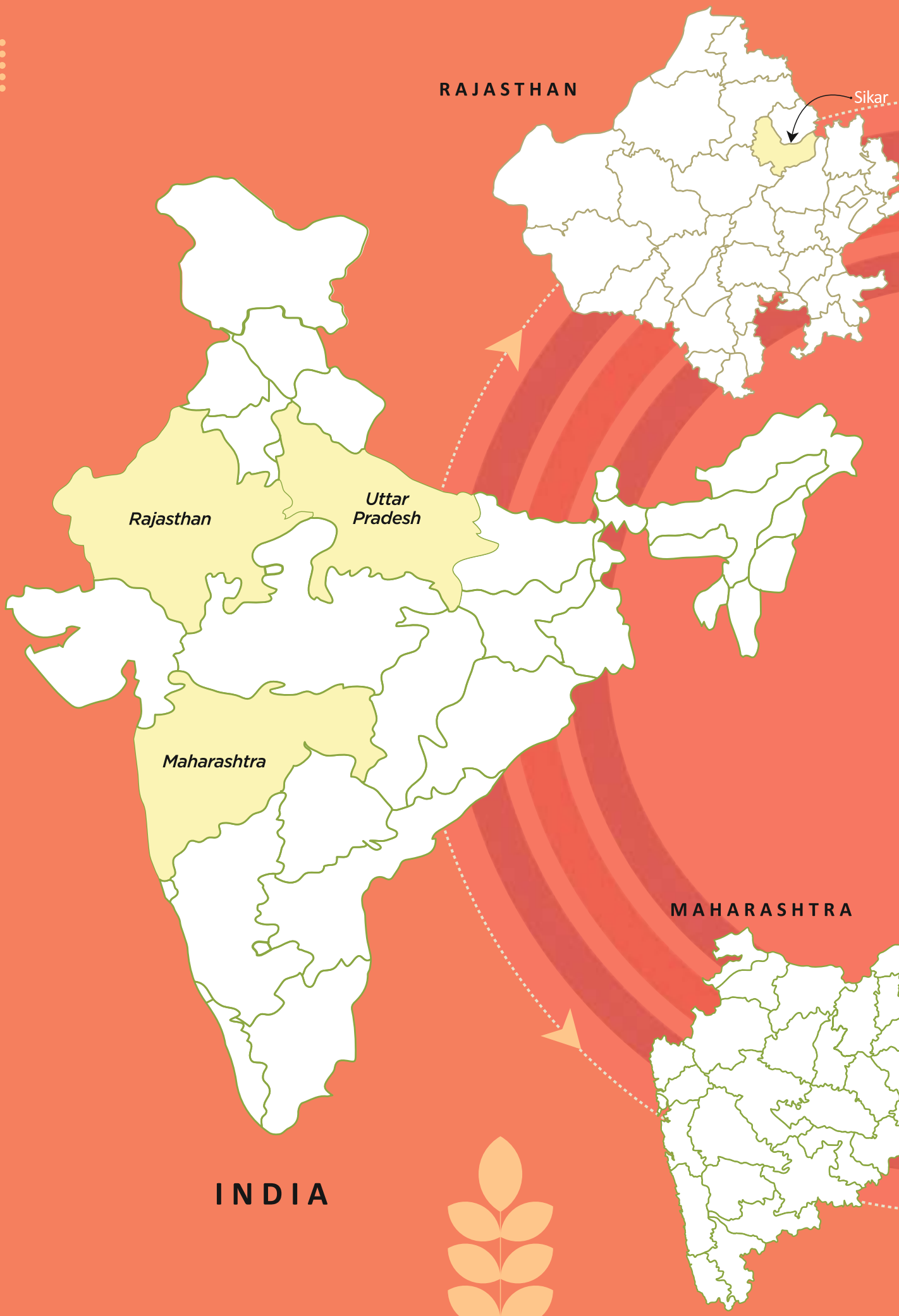
ENRICHING LIVES
FULFILLING DREAMS



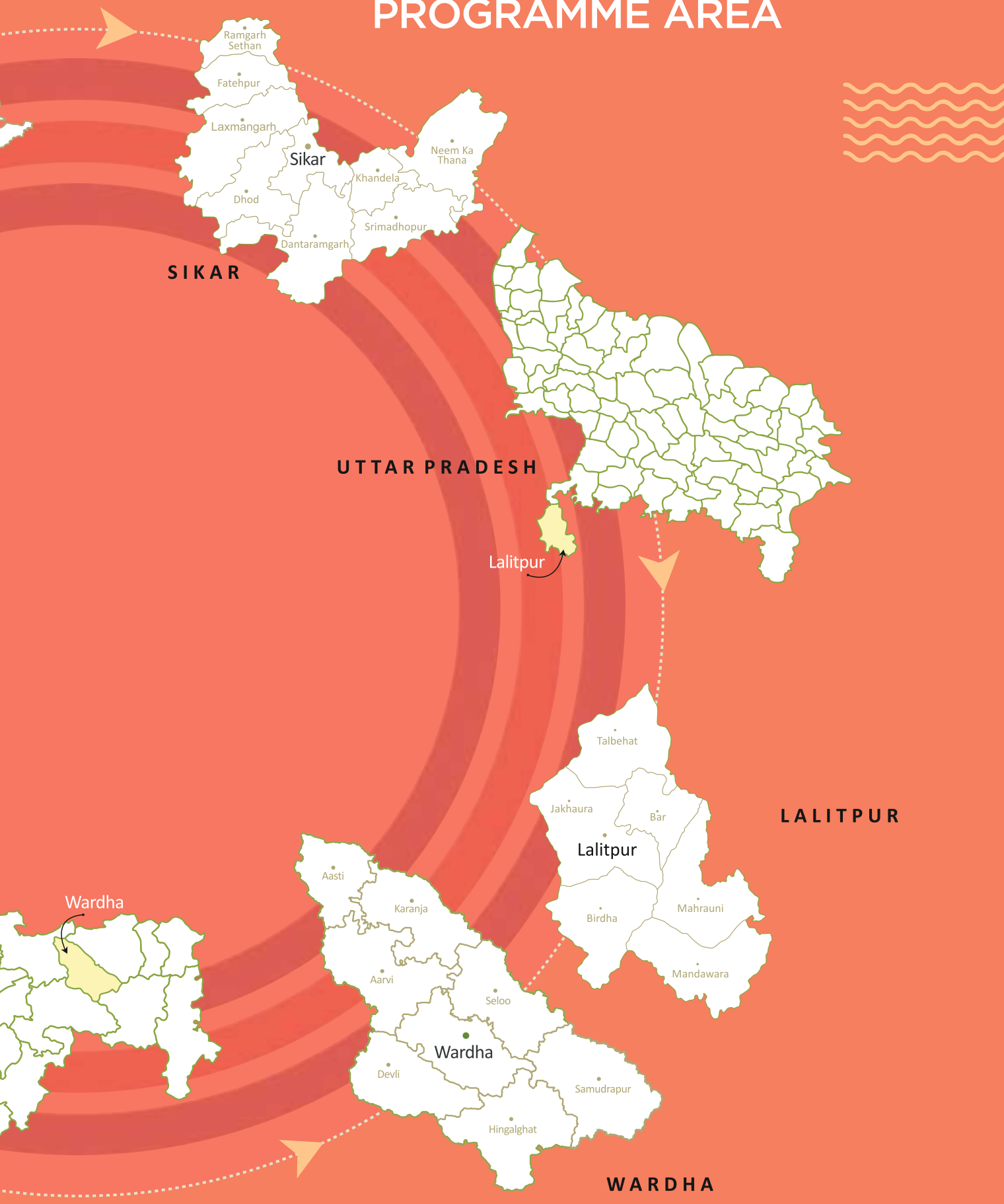
bajaj GROUP
THINK TOMORROW

KAMALNAYAN JAMNALAL BAJAJ FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REVIEW 2019-2020


RAJASTHAN
Sikar
Rajasthan
Uttar Pradesh
Maharashtra
MAHARASHTRA
INDIA

WARDHA, SIKAR & LALITPUR PROGRAMME AREA



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Glimpses Of Wardha, Sikar And Lalitpur Programme Area

1197
Villages Reached

3,12,347
Families Benefitted

14,44,255
Population Covered

Village Institutions

6700 Village Institutions Established (588)

(Figures shown in parentheses indicate the achievements during the year. 2019-2020; rest of the figures reflect the cumulative achievements over the years)

Water Resource Development and Soil Conservation Measures

- 245 Rivers/Streams of 668.5 KM Length Rejuvenated (72).
- 107 Check Dams Constructed.
- 3211 Farm Ponds/Recharge Pits Constructed (93)
- 2178 Wells Recharged (50)
- 1190 Roof Rainwater Harvesting Structures Constructed (308)
- 254 Group Wells Constructed (6)
- 1515 Lift Irrigation Systems Installed (47)
- 50 Percolation Tanks Constructed.
- 6386 Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation Systems Supported (371)
- 2376 Boribundhs Installed (39)
- 1267 Acres of Farm Bunds Formed
- 2225 Gabion Structures Formed
- 4024 Acres of Land Levelled and Brought Under Cultivation (620)
- 23 renovation of drinking and irrigation open wells.

65,971 Families and 2,64,328 Acres of Land are Covered under Water Resource Development and Soil Conservation Program in 772 villages

Biogas: A Boon for the Rural Community

- 5293 Biogas Plants Installed (338)
- 585 Domestic Solar Light/Solar Street Light Unit Installed
- 133 Solar Irrigation Pumps (125)

Promotion of Indigenous Cows

- 7879 Families Adopted Indigenous Cows.

Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture

- 11276 Families Covered Under Convergence of Agricultural Intervention in Maharashtra (CAIM) Project
- 11,000 Families Adopted Better Cotton Initiative Programme (BCI)
- 8,315 Families Benefitted Under Wadi Project (940)
- 12882 Farmers Adopted Under Natural Farming (1310)
- 6082 Acre of Land Under Vegetables/Mini Drip/Cash Crops/Floriculture (137)
- 50407 Farmers Covered Under 1674 Trainings Arranged for the Promotion of Natural Farming (kisan Pathashala) (1674)
- 2046 Families Benefitted Under Climate Proofing Project (1300)
- 18 Farmers Producers' Companies Established (3)
- 139 Grameen Fridge Constructed
- 896 Cattle Drinking Systems and Chaff Cutters (10)

75,792 Farming Families and 1,26,821 Acres of Land are Benefitted Under a Programme of Sustainable Agriculture Practices in 960 Villages

Women Empowerment

- 4381 Self Help Groups (SHGS) Formed (385)
- 55958 Families Benefitted (4459)
- 9773 Families Covered Under Kitchen Garden (2000)
- 7300 Families Benefitted Under Rural Enterprise (125)
- 339 Special Initiative for Needy Family (147)
- 1194 Sock Pit Constructed (368)

72,548 Women are Benefitted Under the Programmes of Self-help Groups, Income Generation Activities, Promotion of Indigenous Cows And Installation of Biogas Plants in 950 Villages

Skill and Entrepreneurship Development

- 3141 Youths Benefitted Under Skill Development Programme (703)

Rural Infrastructure Development

- 9 Km cement concrete Road Constructed for Village Connectivity.
- 42 km road repaired for village connectivity.
- 24 Need Based Community Development Assets Constructed.
- 1 Village Water Supply Scheme Established.
- 6 Cow Rehabilitation Center Constructed in the Villages

Design for Change

- 284 Design for Change Project Completed and their Videos Shared on YouTube (69)

AWARDS AND RECONGNITIONS

- National Water award by Ministry of Jalshakti, Department of Water resources, Govt of India, Best Industry for CSR activities in water for the year 2019
- River and Stream Rejuvenation project were identified as “Note-worthy 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 Companies Secretaries of India
- “Lion CSR Precious Award 2016” by Lions Club International
- NGO box 5th CSR Impact Awards in the category of Rural Development, 2018
- National Award for Excellence in Water Management,2018 in beyond fence category, by Confederation of Indian Industries (CII)
- Polestar Award, 2018 in the category of Livelihood by 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 best NGO in Green and Environment Stewardship category for its project on “Rejuvenation of Yashoda River Basin” at National CSR Summit
- NGO box 6th CSR Impact Awards in the category of Environment, 2019
- Mahatma Award, 2019 for the project “Yashoda River Basin”
- Zee National Award, 2019 for excellence in CSR and sustainability in the category of Best Environment Sustainability Award for our efforts in Water Conservation

- CSR TIMES Award in the category of Best NGO in Environment, Climate and Forest category to promote need based integrated development through water resources and agriculture development Rural Development and Infrastructure, 2019
- Agriculture Times honoured "Dharti Putra" Award for initiatives in agriculture innovations and crop diversification.
- "I CAN" Award for Design for Change Programme in 2018 and 2019
- Bajaj Foundation awarded for the best work in Sikar District by District Administration

OUR PARTNERS:

- Rural Community of Wardha, Sikar and Lalitpur District
- Government of Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh
- TATA Trusts
- 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, Jaipur
- Riverside School, Ahmedabad

JAMNALAL BAJAJ

1889-1942

Jamnalalji 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 establis 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 Segaon 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.

HISTORICAL LINEAGE

Gandhiji at a prayer meeting at Wardha with PT. Madan Mohan Malviya,
Khan Abdul Graffar Khan, Mahadev Desai and Jamnalal Bajaj

Kamalnayan Bajaj addressing at Mahilashram, Wardha in
the presence of Vinoba Bhave and Jankidevi Bajaj

CONTENTS

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Shishir Bajaj

The year 2019-20 was marked with the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and the 125th birth anniversary of Acharya Vinoba Bhave. My grandfather, Jamnalal Bajaj, made Wardha a center to transform Gandhiji's dream of economic and social development into reality. In 1921, he established 'Satyagraha Ashram' at Wardha. He brought Vinoba Bhave to the Wardha Ashram to nurture it as a national institution. After Jamnalalji's death, my father Kamalnayanji considered it his duty to fulfill his father's wish to practice Gandhiji's theory of trusteeship. In consultation with Gandhiji and the other family members, he turned Jamnalalji's assets, including his shares, into a public charitable trust.

It is our moral responsibility to reinforce the teachings of Bapu and Vinobaji. The resources of Sevagram and Pavnar Ashrams were utilized for spreading the message. A series of cultural events were organized in the villages and schools, encouraging the non-violent way of life and celebrating their efforts during the Indian Independence movement. As envisioned by Hon. Prime Minister, Bajaj Foundation joined one of the most pivotal steps taken on Gandhi Jayanti was the launch of the Swachh Bharat Mission. Our reach and effect of this cleanliness drive are significant and continue to grow every year.

Strengthening the village economy is the visionary development plan proposed by Bapu for building a strong Indian economy. Agriculture is the most crucial sector of the Indian Economy. Over the last ten years, our presence in the Wardha district has enriched our experiences and realized enormous recognitions. Skill up-gradation and building capacities of stakeholders through frequent training and relevant exposures is a strategy adopted by the Bajaj Foundation to lead rural development. Since its inception, our primary focus has been 'Water Resource Development and Management' to mitigate a significant risk of non-availability of irrigation water for farming. The rejuvenation of rivers over 658 km in collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra and Tata Trusts has reversed the conditions; as a result, the streams and tributaries of this rivers have begun to flow almost throughout the year after a passage of 40-50 years as reported by villagers and what hit the news headlines.

To achieve the goal of integrated rural development, efforts are being continuously made by promoting zero budget natural farming, installing biogas plants, women empowerment, and promoting small scale rural enterprises. Constraints, which hinder farmers' growth and market viability, are poor market infrastructure, knowledge and access to the market, lower bargaining power and holding capacity, higher input costs, and lower economic returns due to fragmented buying and selling. Therefore, Bajaj Foundation has engaged itself in promoting natural farming to reduce the input cost of cultivation and the formation of 'Farmers' Producer Organisations' (FPOs') and building their capacities to deal with these obstacles. These FPOs have taken the initiative to collect and purchase farming inputs, thus saving money and increasing profits. They are in the process of opening their outlets at the block level. To disseminate the best practices messages of prosperity attained, the best practicing farmers were engaged in the organization of 1674 Kisan Pathshalas, reaching out to 50407 farmers who

benefited from this program.

Women empowerment is one of the crucial programs through which we are trying to strengthen rural families' livelihoods by promoting income-generating activities. To continue with this focus, we have supported 72,548 rural families to include single women-headed families and families headed by disabled persons. The amounts granted to these families have helped them utilize their skills and available resources to generate stable income for themselves. Besides, we continued to link SHGs to the E-Shakti portal of NABARD for developing easy access to bank credits. These efforts also supported our initiative of promoting handlooms through 4 women SHGs members and have installed individual paddle handloom units. Further, we have collaborated Muslin Khadi industry for market linkages. Exploring such a collaborative approach will help achieve a win-win situation for everyone and bring prosperity to rural areas.

I am grateful to all stakeholders, various Government departments, funding partners, and the community of Wardha, Sikar, and Lalitpur for their continuous support and partnership with us. There is still a long way to go and, I feel your constant support is crucial to achieving Atma-Nirbhar Kisan, Atma-Nirbhar Gaon thereby, Atma-Nirbhar Bharat.

FOREWARD

Kushgra Nayan Bajaj
Trustee

I am pleased to share the community development work being carried out in Wardha district, Maharashtra, Sikar district, Rajasthan, and Lalitpur district in Uttar Pradesh through the Bajaj Foundation, which has reached 1197 villages, directly benefiting 3,12,347 families covering 14.44 Lakh people. The Foundation is implementing various sustainable development interventions like Rejuvenation of Rivers, Indigenous Cow based Natural Farming, Construction of Biogas Plants, Skill Training, promotion of Farmers' Producer Organizations, Women's Empowerment Initiatives, and the Design For Change program targeted at school students for their skills enhancement have been implemented through participatory approaches.

Self-sufficiency in basic needs was one of the fundamental conditions of Gandhian village reconstruction. For the last ten years, we have been making sincere efforts to realize this vision so that basic necessities should be met with at the village itself, which would lead to full employment for all the people, thereby strengthening the rural livelihood, which would prevent the rural-urban migration in search for jobs and better opportunities.

Since its inception, Bajaj Foundation has adopted an integrated approach for water resources development and rejuvenation of natural water bodies, including rivers, streams, and ponds. A river is a complex ecosystem, and a complex dying ecosystem requires a committed team's rigorous work to breathe life back into it. Yashoda is one of the rivers, which had lost its existence due to heavy siltation caused over the years and, at places, the encroachment of its beds for agriculture. Out of 650 KM of its total basin, we have completed rejuvenation of up to 485 KM of its length so far. The results are quite encouraging as the river has now begun to flow almost 8 to 10 months during the year, subsiding flood conditions and doubling farmers' income with increased period of availability of water for irrigation.

To improve storage capacities of the water bodies located in our operational areas and to ensure more efficient groundwater recharge, we have adopted watershed development approach like the construction of Check Dams, Farm Ponds, Recharging of Wells and Bore Wells through rainwater, installation of Bori Bandhs, promotion of Group Lift Irrigation and Micro Irrigation Systems covering 772 villages in Wardha, Sikar, and Lalitpur districts. As a result of these integrated efforts, the groundwater level in the area has risen by 8 to 10 feet. This has resulted in increased cropping intensity, which got enhanced from a single crop to 2 to 3 harvests. Under our integrated water resources development program, 65,971 families from 772 villages covering their 2,68,328 acres of farming land have been benefited.

Constraints on access to land, natural resources, finance, technology, knowledge, information, and education also make it difficult for rural people to seize opportunities to improve their lives and contribute to the rural economy. Bajaj Foundation has been helping them to prosper in this new world of intelligent automation and digital giants, globalized communication of information, aspirations, and values, and a changing climate by shifting cropping patterns under natural farming, regaining bargaining

power through promoting Farmers Producers Organisations all of which have significant implications for rural livelihood and economies.

To demonstrate climate-proofing strategies, Bajaj Foundation has initiated six Climate Proofing Projects in collaboration with NABARD. Under these projects, mini agro-met observatories have been established, and the data has been circulated among the farmers. This has been helping farmers to adopt acceptable practices to save their crops from unexpected weather changes. Besides, farmers are supported to adopt climate-resilient agricultural practices, which have improved their profits besides reducing the risk of total crop failure on unpredictable weather changes.

Hon Prime Minister envisions Atma-Nirbhar Bharat and to make it possible at the grassroots level, and we have initiated Atma-Nirbhar Kisan and Atma-Nirbhar Gaon interventions under which our farming families are increasingly becoming self-reliant and mitigating all their annual needs from their farms. Forty-four thousand four hundred families and their 1,00,000 acres of land have benefited under natural farming and horticulture program. Many of these farmers' income has already been doubled, and they have become 'Lakhpati' farmers.

The hour's need is to share and spread these best practices across the agricultural community by creating a national network of these best practicing farmers by organizing 'Kisan Pathshalas' and exposure visits for farmers for practical learning and sharing best practices across the states.

In 2014, under international ranking, India stood 81, with overall energy self-sufficiency attained at 66%. India's primary energy consumption grew by 7.9% in 2018, and it is the third biggest after China and the USA with a 5.8% global share. For future rapid and sustainable growth, our nation needs to be resource-efficient and environmentally benign. Bajaj Foundation has been promoting biogas plants, solar irrigation pumps, and solar lighting systems to support this. These efforts could reach the benefits of biogas technology to 5293 families and solar devices to 718 families in collaboration with the government. Also, each family produces manure to the tune of 7 Metric Tons per year from each biogas plant's slurry. While the global cattle population stood at over 987 million, India had the highest cattle population, 303 million, and looking to this potential, India's rural part can quickly become completely energy self-reliant for domestic and irrigation requirements.

I wish to thank all our villagers, team members, village volunteers, and all other development stakeholders for their untiring efforts and cooperation in reaching out to our rural community's benefits in all three districts. Our efforts will continue through participatory approaches until Wardha, Sikar, and Lalitpur accomplish socio-economically and environmentally prosperous districts.

PREAMBLE

Apoorv Nayan Bajaj
Trustee

Making efforts for Gram Swaraj is a way of paying tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and Acharya Vinoba Bhave in the real sense, as we celebrate their birth anniversaries. Gandhiji's Gram Swaraj was not the reconstruction of the old village but the formation of new independent units of villages having a self-sufficient economy. With this goal, Bajaj Foundation has been working with the rural people to develop natural resources available to them to stand on their feet and enjoy a steady stream of income.

Interventions for building the community and strengthening village institutions towards promoting natural farming and water resources management are continuous processes carried out by our Foundation in Wardha Sikar and Lalitpur districts. Working with a specific target group is not enough; developing linkages with all stakeholders is indispensable for sustainable development. We are empowering farmers, women, youth, and children with various need-based program interventions and connecting them with different stakeholders, i.e., sharing challenges and success stories with Govt. officials and District Administration, developing a relationship with all service providers in the villages, and strategic partnership with Panchayati Raj Institutions, etc. They all play influential roles in harvesting rainwater, efficient and judicious use of available groundwater, natural farming, appropriate cropping pattern, green coverage, etc. We also try to get benefits of different government schemes aimed at the village development.

Nowadays, the agriculture sector has been facing severe problems of lowering profits with increased input cost and loss of bargaining power in the market. The farmers living in such an ecosystem are at high destruction risk. Natural farming sees us working with nature to produce healthy food to keep ourselves healthy and keep the land healthy. Natural farming supports maintaining, prosper and sustain the farm ecosystem. The program drives with the vision of helping farmers attain food, economic and environmental security to meet the farming families' livelihood expenses and be on the path of prosperity. The program has been integrated with developing horticulture, climate-resilient agriculture system, and construction of biogas plants. Geeta Devi, Village Ramsinghpura of Sikar district, says, "I belong to a big family and used to face too much struggle in collecting fuel, making cow dung cakes. After constructing biogas plant, I feel healthy and saved expenses on fuel, gas, medicine, etc." Natural farming makes use of locally available raw materials at the farm level itself, and the farmers themselves make the products. This makes the natural farming method extraordinarily relevant and critical for the farming community as the economic flow is reversed and the rural economy is strengthened.

Agriculture diversification is considered one of the crucial components of the agricultural sector's growth and development. Diversity of cropping pattern is an essential means to minimize risk and overcome food insecurity. Bajaj Foundation has been promoting indigenous varieties of crops to bring seed sufficiency among the farm

Uttamrao Salame is a farmer of village Ekburji of Wardha district. He says, "Crop diversification with horticulture plantation and intercropping high valued crops has increased my per acre net profits over Rs.1.5 lakh per year".

Here, I recall one more example of the benefits of crop diversifications. Pandurang Kadave is a highly qualified young Sarpanch of the village Rahati in the Wardha district.

He helped cultivate tomatoes under a trail system over 1.5 acres of land in 2 sets of relay cropping. He earned a profit of around Rs.1 lakh with this adoption. But the benefits accrued by Pandurang are impressive. He said, "The intermediate income from tomato renders me the time to hold my cotton harvest till I get good rates. Because of crop diversification, I could sell my cotton harvest at the rate higher by about Rs.1000 than what I could get if sold immediately after harvest, which means a huge difference for me." The most crucial part is developing forward linkages for the farmers to hold bargaining power and decide over the selling price for their agro-produce.

Multiple natural farming results have now started surfacing, and farmers are encouraged to take the next step towards processing and packaging natural farming products like oilseeds, pulses and spices, and serving to local consumers. They are getting reasonable prices as health consciousness has increased among villagers and city dwellers. Natural farming resource farmers are engaging themselves in conducting 'Kisan Pathshalas'. They provide practical training and demonstrations on natural farming to neighboring farmers and farmers in surrounding villages under our foundation's support. This year, the message has reached 50,407 farmers through 'Kisan Pathshalas'.

After our successful experience towards building direct linkages with consumers through organizing grain festival/'Kisan Melas', farmers have now gained the confidence to directly sell their products to the consumers and earn a decent profit. Through collective efforts, farmers have founded their own 'Farmers' Producers Organisation' (FPOs) to expand their business further. Recently, FPOs have initiated their business focusing on various agricultural needs. The farmers generally get non-profitable returns because they do not have storage facilities at the village level. In this regard, an entrepreneurship model could be developed with proper interventions. Similarly, entrepreneurship could also be designed to establish decentralized processing centers at the village level and a centralized marketing system. The collective sale of farm produce with the establishment of FPOs is also a good opportunity.

There are many challenges and areas which need to be explored for technological support and entrepreneurship development. The non-renewable resources are now ending, and the world has been searching for renewable resource options. Hence, there is a scope for developing low-cost rural technologies exploring solar power and biogas energy. The government of India has already intervened with solar pumps and solar lighting systems. We have been collaborating with the government for the same.

Children are the nation's future face and, thus, they play an important role in sustainable social development. After all, they are the farmers, workers, and entrepreneurs of tomorrow. Their energy and dynamism are needed to transform food systems as well as rural areas. They have the potential to help feed the world. 'Design For Change' (DFC) is a unique concept pioneered by Kiran Bir Sethi, and under this program, the school children gain confidence, and they try to realize their dreams. They develop an attitude of social belongingness and develop designing and implementing relevant interventions in the rural areas.

Sitaram, School Teacher, Choudhary Bal Niketan, Durgapura, says, “Usually elders do not believe in children's capacities. But Bajaj Trust believed and helped them to achieve their dreams with DFC.” Two hundred eighty different innovative projects have been completed by school children and have shared all of them on YouTube.

Bajaj Foundation has been collaborating with all major stakeholders to contribute to making farming death free. In my observations, the suicide graph has been lowered down, and there is negligible news of farmers' suicides in the Wardha district in the last few years. These are all the development stakeholders' collective and collaborative efforts to enhance the Wardha, Sikar, and Lalitpur districts' livelihood and environment.

Thanks to all our supporters for collaborating at various ends and to the community for propelling their hard work to march towards Gandhian vision of self–sufficiency and happiness, “Gaon Ka Paisa Gaonme Aur Sahar Ka Paisa Gaonme”.

The Programme Areas

During the year, 50,000+ farmers were aware of the adoption of natural farming techniques by organizing Kisan Pathshala guided by resource farmers under natural farming programme promotion. A Kisan Pathshala at village Wagheda, Wardha

Wardha District Area

Wardha district comprises 1006 villages located in its eight blocks, i.e., Arvi, Asthi, Karanja, Wardha, Seloo, Deoli, Hinganghat, and Samdrapur. The total population of Wardha district is 1.29 million (12,96,157); out of this, 32.47% population (4,20,873) resides in urban areas, while 67.53 % (8,75,284) is inhabitant of rural areas. The Wardha district's total geographical area is 6309 sq. km. or 6,29,000 ha of land, out of which 4,26,200 ha area is under cultivation. Around 3,83,300 ha area is covered under Kharif season, while only 43,600 ha area (11.36%) is cultivated during Rabi season. The important cash crops like cotton, soya bean, and pigeon pea (Tur) are grown during Kharif season, wheat and green gram during Rabi season and groundnut during the summer season.

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 the fertility status and land use. About 10 percent of the eroded material usually gets deposited in streams and rivers, traversing the villages in the operational area, resulting in silting up of 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.

Sikar District Area

Sikar district, 'The Door to the Thar Desert', lies in the north-eastern region of Rajasthan. It is comprised of 1,192 villages and 343 Gram Panchayats, which fall under nine blocks, i.e., Laxmangarh, Dantaramgarh, Dhod, Piprali, Fatehpur, Neem Ka Thana, Khandela, Shri Madhopur, and Patan.

Population of Sikar district is 26,77,333 including 13,74900 males and 13,02,347 females; 76.32% of the total population lives in rural areas (2,043,427; of which 1,047,469 are males and 995,958 are females). The sex ratio is 951 females per 1000 males (Reference census report 2011).

The district experiences extreme weather conditions with arid and hot summer and intense cold winters. The average maximum and minimum temperatures are recorded as 480 C and 00 C, respectively. The annual average rainfall is 466 mm, which makes it one of the significant water-scarce districts of Rajasthan.

Although monsoon rains are scarce, agriculture is mainly rain-fed. The major crops grown are pearl millet, green gram, Moth bean, cluster beans, sorghum, etc. During the Rabi season, wheat, gram, mustard, barley, etc., are commonly grown. Borewells are the primary source of irrigation in the area. However, rapid withdrawal of groundwater through bore wells and their frequent deepening has led to a drastic reduction in the groundwater.

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, 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 of livelihood by seasonal migration minimizes risks and vulnerability. Rainfall 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 a sustained development process. Increased droughts frequency due to climatic changes, forest degradation, depletion of groundwater, etc., are the challenges to be dealt with.

A significant portion of rainfall is received during July and August and sometime in early September. In the district, annual rainfall is partitioned into surface runoff (24.7%) and deep percolation (18.40); 45.6% of the rainfall water is evaporated due to high temperatures, and only 9.45% of the annual rainfall is stored in the soil profile, which is used for farming systems. It is surprising to note that less than 1% of rainfall water is accumulated in ponds and bunds etc. Basic amenities like drinking water, sanitation, rural roads, and infrastructure are also lacking.

Strategic Approach

Bajaj Foundation works through a Livelihood enhancement approach to empower the rural community to take charge of their development in a participatory manner by developing and managing natural resources. To resolve existing problems, Kamalnayan Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation (KJBF) in Wardha and Lalitpur districts & Jamnalal Kaniram Bajaj Trust in the Sikar district have been implementing various programs in consultation with the local community and collaboration with development stakeholders. The primary emphasis is on integrated Water Resource Development and Management, Agriculture Development, Livestock Development, Women Empowerment, and Training and Capacity Building. These programs aim to strengthen the livelihoods of distressed agricultural communities located in the program areas. The developmental interventions focus on enhancing the income generated from agriculture, the principal source of Livelihood. Bajaj Foundation also promotes alternate agro-based Livelihood opportunities such as dairy farming, horticulture, promotion of agro-based enterprises, promotion of need-based income-generating activities, promotion of Biogas technology, which not only provides additional steady income but also provides opportunities to the people of rural communities to improve the quality of their lives.

Empowering Rural Women Through Self Help Groups

Shishir Bajaj encouraged and motivated the rural women of Self-Help Groups to initiate rural enterprises to strengthen their livelihoods, village Ekpala, Wardha

Installing *Karghas* (handlooms) to bring Cloth Sufficiency to Villages

"Khadi is the sun of village solar system."

-Mahatma Gandhi

Following Mahatma Gandhi's views, collaborative efforts with Neevedita Nilayam, Wardha have been made to increase the availability of handloom cloths at village level and get handloom back to its pride place.

213 SHG members in Wardha, Arvi, Seloo, Samudrapur, Hinganghat were exposed to two months' intensive training to get familiar with all aspects of operating Karghas (handlooms). They are now at their initial stage of establishment as an enterprise.

Economic empowerment of women enhances their ability to manage the risks and improve their financial status and wellbeing. Evidence shows that putting economic resources in women's hands is the best way to accelerate development and reduce poverty at a sustainable level.

The Women Empowerment Programme's overall objective is to strengthen processes that promote the economic development of women and create an environment for social change. The specific goals are to a) Establish women's self-help groups (SHGs); b) Sensitize and strengthen the institutional capacity to proactively address women's needs; c) Increase the incomes of poor women, and d) Develop linkages between SHGs and lending institutions to ensure women's access to credit financing. The program works to improve livelihood opportunities by developing women's skills.

Construction of Soak Pits

The rural community is experiencing a problem of maintaining the drainage line clean. In the last two years, Bajaj Foundation created awareness among villagers over the importance of keeping the surroundings clean for better hygiene and sensitizing them to construct soak pits. This year, 368 families residing in 15 villages located in 4 blocks were supported for the construction of soak pits through convergence with the government MGNREGS scheme.

Imparting Training in Skill Development

Building Micro-enterprises is an integral part of the planned strategy of Bajaj Foundation for securing balanced development of the economy of the rural women. Tailoring, dress designing, bag making, motor re-winding, handloom operations were organized in 30 villages of 7 blocks wherein 574 women participated.

Promotion of Women Farmers' Producer Companies

As understood by Bajaj Foundation, social empowerment is the process of developing a sense of autonomy and self-confidence and acting individually and collectively to change social relationships and institutions. The formation of women FPOs in Ashti, Deoli, and Arvi block facilitated through SHGs meetings leads to creating an environment for women where they can make decisions of their own for their personal benefits and that for the society. The Pragatshil Farmers' Company of Ashti is engaged in the creation of a storage facility. Marketing linkages for onion produce Damini Women Farmers' Producer Company, Deoli has undertaken decentralized processing of agricultural produce like turmeric and Dal. In contrast, Nandsarthi Farmers' Producer Company Ltd, Arvi has developed a plan for producing and marketing A2 type of milk and milk products. All these efforts will undoubtedly bring prosperity to these rural areas.

Support to Poorest of Poor Families

With an objective economic upliftment of the poorest of low-income families in rural areas, Bajaj Foundation has provided grant support ranging from Rs.10,000 to Rs. 20,000 for the establishment of income-generating activates to 92 families from 25 villages.

Organization of village-level Workshops in collaboration with NABARD

Financial literacy camp was organized in Seloo for SHG members. During the camp, the bank officers apprised the women of a need for savings and described the details of the saving and loan schemes. Similarly, the vigilance week camp was organized in Borgoan (M) of Wardha block.

Shishir Bajaj, interacting with women of SHG on their stalls during the exhibition organized to display their products at Wardha

Ensuring Nutrition & Health Care in Rural Areas

Bajaj Foundation has been promoting kitchen gardening to make nutritious vegetables available at the doorstep to address prevailing anemic conditions among rural women. Every year, more than 2,000 families in the rural areas are supported for growing kitchen gardens with the adoption of natural farming practices.

Similarly, health is an essential factor that contributes to human wellbeing and economic growth. In the year 2019–20, 17 women's health awareness camps were organized in all Wardha district blocks in collaboration with Mahatma Gandhi Ayurved College, Hospital and Research Centre, Salod. A total of 920 families got benefited from these camps. In these camps, the training was imparted to the participants under the guidance of experts on the preparation of herbal medicines using locally available herbal plants; the training's objective was to reduce medical expenses on common sicknesses commonly noticed in the villages.

SHG Digitization Programme

Keeping in view the Government of India's mission for creating a digital India, NABARD has launched “E-Shakti,” a project for digitizing all Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in the country. Digital empowerment will help in bringing SHGs on a common web-based e-platform by making bookkeeping easy. This will help promote the national agenda of Financial Inclusion and pave the way to establishing SHG data's credibility, which Credit institutions can later use to reduce issues related to multiple financing by banks. Bajaj Foundation has joined this venture and, thus, linked 1,156 SHGs to the E-Shakti portal. The efforts resulted in availing a total loan of Rs 1,39,46,000 by 66 SHG group members of 6 blocks of Wardha.

Organization of Women Gathering

Organization of Mahila Melavas, the celebration of International Women Day, and Farmers' Experience Sharing Workshops were the platforms created for the SHG members and women farmers where they learn from each other and keep the products of their enterprises for market testing. Besides, woman entrepreneurs were facilitated to participate in the various exhibitions organized at different places in the district as a step towards building forward linkages. A workshop for 600 farmers was organized on the management of forward and backward linkages for a strong marketing strategy for a group with the help of Shri Dyneshwar Bodke from 'Abhinav Farmers' Club,' Pune, addressed the group as a resource person.

Achievements and impact

- 4381 SHGs were formed with a membership of 55958 members in 803 Villages.
- Rs.29.15 crore of total saving accrued by SHGs groups.
- Rs. 22.83 crore as internal credit of SHGs
- Rs. 21.16 crore credit from Bajaj Foundation as revolving funds and external credits from banks
- Rs. 3.67 crores as interest earned on internal credit lending.
- 1156 Self Help Groups were digitized on E Shakti online portal.
- 150 types of Rural IGAs started by SHG members.
- The average monthly income of the SHG members increased by Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 20,000

Women members of Self Help Groups are involved in various community-based programmes regularly. Women of Village Baloti, Wardha Block engaged in the plantation drive in collaboration with Bajaj Foundation

Foundation-supported in establishing small need-based rural enterprises strengthen the livelihoods of thousands of families in the programme area. Darshana Kukade, Dhamen Gaon, Samudrapur, Wardha SHG member-initiated floor mill with support from Bajaj Foundation earning Rs. 6,000 per month.

Sangita Became Self Employed with an Income Generating Activity

Sangita Latkar is a resident of village Warud of Wardha block. She is an active member of the Shivparvati self-help group. She got motivated through discussions held during regular SHG meetings to establish a small outlet at home to sell plastic wares to keep herself busy and generate income.

Sangita drew an internal loan of Rs.10,000 from SHG and invested Rs.5,000 from her pocket. Now she earns Rs.150 / day, which increases even more during festival seasons. Thus, her monthly income has increased from 0 to Rs. 5,000. Sangita now feels confident and independent. She shared, *"It's a great pleasure that I could fulfill small demands of my children and support my husband in managing household finance."*

Manisha Supporting Educational Dream of her Daughters

Manisha Kirnapure resides in village Pipri (M) of Wardha block. She has two daughters and a son. The income of her husband was not sufficient to meet the two ends. The financial insufficiency was not allowing the parents to support their daughters' demand for attempting professional courses.

In 2015, Manisha was guided to run a flour mill to generate income at her doorstep. Out of a total cost of Rs.58,000 towards the purchase of flour mill, Manisha managed Rs. 30,000 from her source drew an internal loan of Rs.18,000 from SHG and availed a revolving fund of Rs.10,000 rendered by the Bajaj Foundation.

Manisha's flour mill is generating profitable business. She paid back all her loans in a stipulated time. She opined, *"Timely help and guidance by Bajaj Foundation helped me to support the dream of my daughters, which is a blissful achievement for us. Now, my both daughters are attempting the nursing course, and my son is attempting the ITI course."*

Establishing Profession with Inherited Skill

Pushpa Nehare belongs to village Hingani of Seloo block. After marriage, she began to stitch clothes to raise financial support for the family. Eventually, few girls asked her starting tailoring class as she developed expertise in stitching blouses and dresses. Her total earning per month was only Rs. 3000.

Puspa is a member of SHG formed by the Bajaj Foundation. To support her, Bajaj Foundation rendered her an opportunity to work as a trainer and conduct tailoring classes organized at the village level. Here, she proved her ability and became famous as the best tailor in the area. Gradually, with the expansion of business, she hired a shop at the market place. Now, she is earning a net income of Ra.5000 per month.

Pushpa shared, *"Over some time, I trained around 500 girls and ladies who are stitching their clothes and saving money. It is most satisfactory that they still remember me and visit me wherever they come nearby my village, Hingani."*

Self-help Group Supporting Single Woman for Strengthening Livelihood

Forty-two years old Jyoti Uike is a widow living in the outskirts of Samudrapur town in a rented house and has no farming land. After her husband's death, she suffered from a heavy financial crisis with no experience of working outside. Her SHG friends came to help and suggested her to start supplying lunch boxes. As a result, she began earning Rs. 2,500 per month with the establishment of a small mess.

The earnings were not sufficient to meet all her needs. Therefore, she borrowed an internal loan of Rs. 5,000 from SHG and began to sell readymade garments. Later on, she again availed a loan of Rs.10,000 from SHG and purchased Pico-machine. With this additional enterprise, her monthly income has now increased to Rs.10,000.

Her husband had invested in a small piece of land for house construction. In the year 2019, Gharkul was sanctioned to Jyoti. But managing initial investment became a challenge for her. Bajaj Foundation helped her SHG to avail a total loan of Rs.3.60 lakh from NABFINS, and so she could share her part of the loan for house construction.

Jyoti said, *"I could overcome my financial distress only because of timely help provided by my self-help group. My friends not only assisted me with financial assistance but also joined in the convergence of schemes. Now I never feel alone."*

QUOTES

Sunita Warfade
Shirpur, Deoli

*"I am thankful to Bajaj Foundation for rendering timely help for setting up grocery shop as an income-generating activity that fetch me **Rs. 4,000** per month."*

Nita Mohmare
Wardha

*"I intended to learn sewing for a long time. Participation in the training organized by Bajaj Foundation provided me opportunity, and in future, as I become skillful, I could establish my small business of tailoring, earning **Rs. 2,000** per month."*

Aruna Wakhare
Satoda, Wardha

*"Bajaj Foundation gave me technical and financial help to run handloom unit. Now, it has become earning source of **Rs. 5,000** per month for me. I experienced that running handloom unit is a prestigious job."*

Sunita Dhurbade
Bothali, Samudrapur

*"In our village, there was no grocery shop. I was supported with the revolving fund of Rs.12,000 by the Bajaj Foundation for the establishment of a grocery shop in the village. This small beginning was a good startup for me, and soon my monthly earnings got added with an income of **Rs. 15,000**. Now, I rebuilt my Kaccha house into a Pakka house. Besides, the enterprise has created access to daily needs at the village level."*

Design For Change Initiatives

441
Schools covered from 308 villages

284
Projects completed & Videos uploaded on YouTube.

44351
students & 962 Teachers participated

Apoorv Bajaj (In Red Jacket) appreciated the Students, and students participated in design for change projects. "I CAN" gathering organized for sharing of design for change experiences at Wardha

Design for change is an opportunity for the children to express their ideas for a better world and put them into action.

'Design for change' is a global movement started by Kiran Bir Sethi, Riverside School, Ahmedabad. Students are encouraged to identify dreams they would like to work on or problems they would like to solve. Children and adults learn through the 'Design for Change Challenge' that **"I CAN"** are the two most powerful words a person can believe. Children who have discovered this are changing their world.

A four stepped process of **Feel, Imagine, Do** and **Share** helps students reach their desired goal. Feel step starts with asking children to slow down and understand the situation before jumping to 'solve' it. In the **Imagine step**, children are invited to brainstorm solutions to improve, enrich, and change the user experience. **Do** step is about the creative ability to take timely action. The final step is to **Share** - cultivating the abundance mentality. The various tools used in the process like telling stories, screening inspirational videos, singing motivational social songs, and playing games help teach all the ethical values necessary to shape the future life.

Bajaj Foundation has been drawing the schools' participation in DFC for the last eight years in collaboration with District Education Departments of Wardha and Sikar districts. This year, we circulated the Marathi book, namely *"Apala Jag Badalnari Mule,"* and video documentaries of schools that participated in the initiative to 103 schools of Wardha to motivate them to continue their participation in the movement. Zilla Parishad school's journey at Lahori in Samudrapur block of Wardha district from the digitization of school to development of village has been shared with 107 schools of Wardha district to gain inspiration for similar kind of efforts. Similarly, we shared our efforts with the Education Ministry of Maharashtra state. We requested to provide content for schools spread over the state to share the Design for Change initiative's benefits. To date, we shared the E-prints of the book, DFC tool kits, and internet links for YouTube documentaries to 7,400 schools of 20 districts of Maharashtra.

Efforts exerted under DFC initiatives by various schools, documented in 273 short video clips, were uploaded on YouTube for public view.

New Initiative with SHGs and Youths at Wardha

In many cases, we have seen DFC be a confidence-building and character-building experience for children bringing smiles and happiness to them. DFC improves the life skills like independence, self-reliance, and stage daring among children and draws out their hidden potential. The efforts were made to bring SHGs and youth groups under the fold of DFC to extend the benefits among the youths and women and evolve need-based activities to overcome the existing problems in society. This year, 15 SHGs and 196 women members and two youth groups, recorded their participation in the initiative.

Recognition at Nation 'I CAN' Gathering

Students of Nandgaon Madhyamic Vidhyalaya, Nandagaon of Hinganghat block made a successful attempt to prepare a buzzer for household water storage tanks to stop the wastage of water at a minimal cost. Their efforts were recognized as one of the top 20 inspiring stories. Zilla Parishad School of Tembhari village in Arvi block felt the need of fitting the automatic switch to a street light to make the evening time safer and save the wastage of electricity. Similarly, students of SSM Vidhyalaya, Hinganghat, became sensitive to old age people's sufferings due to joint and muscular pains, so they designed automatic massage chairs. The efforts of both these groups of students were recognized as one of the top 100 inspiring stories at the national 'I can' gathering.

Wardha 'I CAN' Gathering

The organization's objective of the 'I CAN' gathering at the district level was to appreciate and celebrate the achievements of schools and participant students. The 45 schools spread across all the eight blocks of the district participated in the event and shared their experiences. Celebration of birth anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and Vinoba Bhave was one of the themes of the event. The children shared the messages of these two legends performing drams and dances. The function was graced by the presence of District Education Officer Shri. Ulhas Narad, a follower of Vinoba Bhave, Shri. Gautam Bajaj and Trustee of Bajaj Foundation, Shri. Apoorv Bajaj. The event also received the guidance of Shri. Hemchandra Vaidya, Anuradha Mohini, and representatives of Vidarbha Headmaster Association.

Achievements and Impacts

- 284 Projects successfully completed by students
- 441 schools covered from 308 villages
- 44,351 students actively participated in DFC movement.
- 962 Teachers trained in DFC concepts and implementation.
- 28 schools received recognition at National 'I can' Gathering
- 273 stories uploaded on YouTube

Under Design for Change, students came up with innovative ideas to resolve the problems prevailing in the society.
The simple magical four-step formula of Feel, Imagine, do, and Share has built their confidence and boost their morale.
An awareness rally by the students of Arvind Senior Secondary School, Vijaypura, Sikar.

"We are not in this just to make money. You have to create value for society."

One hundred ten students from 9th class of Arvind Senior Secondary School, Vijaypura village Dhod block, they feel that most of the children are addicted of tobacco, gutkha, cigarette, etc. During the problem-solving session, they clearly mentioned through imagine the process and after discussion with addicted children that if elderly people from their families still live after consuming tobacco, gutkha, cigarette then they also have no harm from that, and they enjoyed such addictions. They imagine finding out the solution to make Addiction Free School.

Children started working together by creating four groups first group working on Addiction and harmful effects on health, family and society, second group engage in making posters and placards to create awareness in school as well as in the village, third group arranging rallies after meeting with key persons of the village and Principal of the school. The fourth group prepares road drama during demonstrations to create awareness among youth and children of the village. The primary step they take to make their campus free from addictive material for that they convince owners of two shopkeepers to shift their 'Pan-thelas' from their own place which is nearby to their schools.

During Everyday prayers, children offer remedies to addicted children to avoid problems caused by intoxication. Six hundred sixty children took an oath that they will not get intoxicated and will not let anyone do it.

On Republic Day, children have given a message to all parents and children through a drama presentation on addiction. The Sarpanch of the village praised this work of the children and he mentioned that through this program, he saw the budding values in children which is helpful for building a strong platform for the society and nation because children are the future of the nation. It is this I CAN mindset that equips every child to be AWARE around them, ENABLED with the skills to take action and EMPOWERED to design a desirable and sustainable future – TODAY.

Creating Best from Waste

Sunshine School, Karanja of Karanja block is located close to the national highway. There are many hotels on both sides of the road, and they were generating lot of plastic waste, the major portion of which comprises mostly mineral water bottles. The students of 9th class became worried about the stacking up of the garbage in the surroundings causing harm to the environment.

During series of sessions under 'Design for Change,' they came up with the idea of building a beautiful wall fencing of flowery look around their school utilizing these waste mineral water bottles. They requested hotel owners to collect the bottles in the container provided by them. To their surprise, 6,000 bottles got collected over a very short period. They gave a flowery cuts to each of the bottles and fixed them in a mesh, and used them for fencing the school premises. The cut-outs were beautifully colored with attractive colors. The total length and height of the wall are about 60 feet and 6 feet, respectively. The work continued till they could build the complete fence for the school.

The children are happy as they could contribute towards protecting the environment and at the same time could create an asset for their school. The creative wall fence has become an attraction point and educating model for reducing plastic use for others.

Students of Sunshine school Karanja, Wardha innovatively used waste plastic bottles and created a decorative wall for their school.

Improving Access to Fresh Green Vegetables available in the Village

Dhadi is a small village located in Ashti block with the residence of 400 families. Women of this village, during the discussion of feel part of the 'Design for Change' process, felt that unavailability of space for village 'Hat', because of which fresh vegetables are not regularly available. They felt the need to make green and fresh vegetables available in the village for nutritional security. As there is no open space available with Gram Panchayat, they requested one of the farmers named Shri. Vinod Dange to spare 1000 sq feet for community kitchen garden as his farm is on the village road and holds an irrigation facility. A total of 18 women worked together to establish a kitchen garden with an average of 10 varieties of vegetables growing during each season. They divided among themselves the responsibility of maintaining the kitchen garden and sharing the harvest.

Now, fresh and green vegetables are available, especially for pregnant women, sick people, and small children, as a priority.

Mrs. Vasavadatta Bajaj (Standing: Fifth from right), Trustee Bajaj Foundation, along with children Anandamayi, Vishwarupe (Standing Fourth from right), and Yugadikrit (Sitting Planting tree) at Wardha programme villages and interacted with the rural community in various villages. A plantation at village Salai (K) in Seloo, Wardha.

Youths Caring for Nutrition of the Young Ones

An enthusiastic group of adolescent girls of Tembhari village of Arvi block was involved in the village level meeting jointly conducted by Bajaj Foundation and Shri. Kunal Pardhseshi, the CM Fellow, to prioritize the critical issues of social concern prevalent in the village. Out of the number of problems identified, the girls prioritized the issue of securing nutrition for the school-going children. They observed that some of the school-going children belong to the poor section; while some others from the village hamlet area have no access to the milk.

Through 'Design for Change,' they led a viable plan. The group knew that many of the families possess milking cattle, and they sell all the milk produced to consumers in Wardha city. They planned to request each of these families to share half a liter of milk for the school on every Saturday. They discussed the importance of this initiative, with 25 families having milking cattle, of which ten families agreed to contribute their share every Saturday. The girls arranged to shuffle of responsibility among themselves for collecting and distributing the milk in the school. The activity has been regularized over a year and will continue in the future till it becomes a village culture.

Making the School Playground Hygienically Clean

Students of Government Upper Primary School in Ghorani Johri Paladi village in Sikar district got concerned about collecting wastewater of drinking water basin in the school playground making it unpleasant. Moreover, the students used to slip over the muddy surface while playing different games. So, they decided to have a two-chambered recharge pit to direct the water to the groundwater table, which ultimately made the surroundings hygienically clean.

The students of this class divided themselves into groups and shared responsibilities among themselves. In a few weeks, they constructed a recharge pit taking due care of technicalities under the expert's guidance. The most outstanding benefit was that the students were overwhelmed with the joy of achievement and learned the planning techniques and the importance of consistency in implementation.

QUOTES

Shradha Chinchulkar
Lok Vikas Vidhyalaya,
Nimbha, Samudrapur, Wardha

*"We got inspired after watching the DFC videos and decided to come together for a similar cause. We felt the need to create sitting arrangements in the **School playground** and we did it utilizing waste tyres. Now the sitting in the ground has become more pleasant. We experienced the truth in the saying that we can achieve anything as a group. "*

Vivek Shinde
Muktabai Vidhyalaya,
Samudrapur, Wardha

*"Our school has a water tank but available water was not safe for drinking. So we collected contributions from villagers as well as from all of us and installed a **Water filter**. This project helped me to develop confidence and to acquire decision making ability at a critical period of time."*

Harshita Sharma
Shahid Jaipalsingh Rajkiy Vidhyalaya,
Khinwasar,
Laxmanagarh, Sikar

*"Bajaj Foundation guided us through the DFC program to find out the solution of our own problems and introduces us to the techniques of Natural Farming which shows the ray for Aatmanirbhar Gaon and the first time we **cultivated vegetables** which is poison-free and nutritious"*

Payal Tagade
Indira Gandhi Vidhyalaya,
Wadner, Hinganghat, Wardha

*"We created awareness among the villagers about the use of **Smokeless Cookstoves** and we also demonstrated to them the benefits of this device. The project developed an attitude of teamwork and skills of coordination amongst us."*

Water Resource Development

Rejuvenation of Rivers and streams proved extremely useful to convert rain-fed farming into irrigated by harvesting rainwater there by improving crop productivity and farmers' income. A stretch of Yashoda River rejuvenated in Deoli block.

The few decades have seen dramatic rise in the demand for water in India due to a variety of socio-economic processes and demographic trends. Available reports suggest that per capita per annum availability of fresh water in India was 51.77 lakh in 1951, which has reduced to 15.08 lakh in 2014. ICAR study report dated 5 September, 2019 quotes that fresh water availability will reduce to 14.65 lakh till 2025 and if it further declines to around 10 to 11 lakh, then India could be declared as water stress country. This alarms the condition to make serious efforts to restore and conserve our freshwater resources.

In the Wardha district, rainfall has always been playing truant with the fortunes of the hapless farmers. Though the annual average rainfall is about 1060 mm, it is erratic and distributed in three to five spells. Decreased rainy days, as a consequence of climate change effect, have added to the misery of the farmers. The area is experiencing water shortage this year, because of decreased rainy days and absence of water recharging structures in urban as well as rural areas. This has led to increased awareness and demand for water harvesting structures for recharge of open wells and tube wells recharge along with individual recharge pits in the rain-fed land.

Bajaj Foundation has looked at water-related issues from several perspectives. Its approach has been integrated. Hence, it has often adopted new technologies and conservation techniques with traditional knowledge vested in rural communities taking into account specific geographic conditions. Bajaj Foundation has constructed check dams for better groundwater recharge and surface storage to increase the quantity of water available to the villagers and improve its quality.

Interventions like rejuvenation of rivers/streams, construction of check dams, percolation tanks, farm ponds, recharging of existing wells, promotion of group lift irrigation schemes, group water-lifting devices, group wells, etc. along with soil and water conservation measures such as Nala plugging and construction of Gabion structures have been initiated by KJBF ensuring 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.

Achievements under River Rejuvenation of Project

- 668 Km. span of river basin has been rejuvenated covering 256 villages
- 1,50,519 acres of land covered benefiting 22,827 farmers
- 1,14,13,889 cubic meter surface and ground water recharge
- 18,890 acres of water logged land brought under cultivation
- 5,182 wells in the vicinity have been recharged showing increased water levels

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 to rejuvenate the Yashoda river basin. The Yashoda River basin consists of six micro watersheds, which include 65 Streams and Rivulets across 153 villages covering 630 Km. Span of River beds. The project would benefit 2,05,000 acres of land, helping 36,945 families.

The key problem this project attempted to address is a 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 floodings during monsoons and 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 significantly reduce agriculture productivity: standing crops are lost due to waterlogging during the monsoons, and water shortages in the post-monsoon season reduce crop yield and the farming community's income.

Impact Study

Yashoda is one of the sub-rivers of the Wardha river flowing through the Deoli block, which had almost lost her existence due to the tremendous amount of silt over the years. Yashoda river basin watershed covers two 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 present study reports the findings of a scientific survey conducted in 25 villages with the help of one of the renowned organizations, WOTR, Ahmednagar.

The years 2017 and 2018 were comparatively low rainfall of 695 mm and 740 mm, respectively, which is 32% and 26% short of the 10 years annual average. Rainfall, which was below the preceding 10 - years' average yearly precipitation of 964 mm, affected the groundwater levels in these 25 villages. It was observed that the depth of water levels during the pre-monsoon months in 2018 ranged from 2.7 m bgl to 18 m bgl. Analysis of the trend indicates that during the pre-monsoon period, the rise in water level was recorded in the range between 0.51m / year and 7.43 m/year. Irrigation has subsequently increased by 22 %. The increase in river scrubland was also noted, one of the impact indicators for efficient aquifer recharge. Due to our intervention, 81.60 acres of land was freed from water logging conditions.

Both the GIS and socio-economic analyses showed an increase in the double-cropped area while the single cropped area has reduced. Farmers were able to take Rabi crops as irrigation potential has increased. This increased water availability for the second crop has contributed to raising agricultural productivity.

Community-based rainwater harvesting structures are constructed at the common drainage line of the villages' catchment area found useful in increasing the groundwater table and decreased the salinity of water in the Sikar area. A common water recharge structure constructed at village Harsh, Piprali Block, Sikar.

Improve Income through recharging rain water: Common Water Harvesting Structure

Ramsinghpura village is about 8 km away from Ranoli. Its population is around 2043. Only 37.7 percent of farms in the village are irrigated, and the water level has gone down to 184 feet. Ninety percent of the village population depends on income from agriculture. Most of these farmers belong to the small farmers' category.

Since this village severely faces water scarcity, the villagers requested the Bajaj Foundation team to conduct a meeting at Ramsinghpura to discuss this issue of great importance to them and find out some solution. After the meeting, Bajaj Foundation technical staff suggested constructing a 'Common Rain Water Recharge Structure.' The villagers got convinced and decided to construct this structure through community contribution, and they could manage to collect Rs. 1,06,000. In addition to this, 11 families of good financial background contributed Rs.11,1000 by sharing Rs. 10,000 each.

On 25th April 2018, the villagers constituted a monitoring committee at the village level. With this committee's help, the Bajaj Foundation team identified the catchment area and the site for the construction of a common rainwater harvesting structure. Rainwater water recharging structure with a bore depth of 180 feet was constructed at the drainage point of the catchment area of 450000 m3 area. In this recharge structure, the rainwater flowing into the village is recharged. In the last monsoon, 3,30,750 cubic meters of water has got recharged through this structure. In 2019-20, it was observed that 25 farmers surrounding this common water recharge structure could get water available for 5 to 8 hours and could increase number of sprinkler irrigation nozzles from 2 to 5. They could irrigate Rabi crop over 41.37 acres of land and improve their average income up to Rs 36000.

Solution on water logging condition made water available to school children: Common Water Recharge Structure

Dantaramgarh is the first block that was declared as a dark zone in the Sikar district. This block's people were dependant on the nearby block for drinking water as the Rewasa lake water was saline. Since 2011, Bajaj trust has been actively working in the area to solve the drinking water crisis.

Dudhwa is one of the villages in the Dantaramgarh block with a total population of 1894 and 308 households. All the families depend on agriculture as a primary source of livelihood. They were able to cultivate the crop only during the Kharif season, whereas in the remaining season, the land was left barren due to scarcity of groundwater. Most of the small, marginal, and medium farmers of this village were compelled to opt for seasonal migrations as agriculture laborers.

The other problem, a group of farmers shared with the Bajaj trust, was that rainwater directly used to flow in their fields from the slope of Reta and, thus, creating a waterlogging condition over about 13.8 hectare of farmland that belonged to farmers like Mr. Laxman, Mr. Suresh, Mr. Hanuman Ram and Mr. Mohanram who used to lose their total crops due to this problem.

During 2017-18, Bajaj trust created awareness in the area and developed the 'Village Development Committee.' The Bajaj trust team took the initiative to construct a community water recharge structure in collaboration with the committee, and after surveying that area, it identified the catchment area and constructed the common RRWHS.

The villagers have now noticed several benefits of this venture, such as farm fields free from waterlogging, enhancement of groundwater table, availability of irrigation water for Rabi season, and increase in their income of the farmers through saving of crops in Kharif season as well as cultivating crops in Rabi season.

Villagers also observed that as a major impact of this intervention, the nearby school could receive water from the tube well installed in the in-school premises, which earlier used to dry. Previously, the school had to either arrange water from another tube well which was 1 Km away from it, or it had to depend on a water tanker during the summer season. After this intervention, the school now fills up its water tank. After meeting its own drinking water need, it can supply water from the tank to about 100 families residing in the vicinity.

As a result of this intervention, 13.8 hectares of land used to go earlier waterlogged have now been brought under crop cultivation during Rabi season. This intervention also helped to provide drinking water to 100 families from February till June. On account of this, a saving of money over not needing to pay over water tankers and earning by the farmers through land cultivation, which used to be waterlogged, together amounted at Rs. 16,93,498 per year.

Achievements and Impacts

- 20 Common Water Harvesting Structures constructed in 16 villages
- 1500 families benefitted and receive clean water for drinking purpose
- 1750 acre of land benefitted from water logging
- 6,03,982 cubic meter water recharge annually in the structures
- 3 to 4 feet ground water table increases from each structure
- Recorded reduction in TDS from 2,400 ppm to 1,700 ppm
- Rs. 1,40,000 Average cost of Construction of Common Water Harvesting Structures

Achievements and Impacts

- 122 Single Roof Rain Water Harvesting Structures constructed in 51 villages
- 3241 cubic meter water recharge annually in 122 defunct water structures
- 122 defunct borewells and wells rejuvenated
- Average 57 square meter roof consider for Single Roof Rain Water Harvesting Structures
- Average Rs.10,000 /- cost incurred for the construction of Single Roof Rain Water Harvesting Structures

2106
Saplings of horticulture & forestry plants planted

20
farmers adopted Natural farming

250
farmers participated in trainings

Shri. M. L. Meena, DDM NABARD Sikar, regularly visited Disnau watershed programme area and interact with the beneficiaries of the project.

Watershed Development Project - Disnau

A Watershed Development project in collaboration with NABARD was initiated over 1,349 hectares of land in Laxmangarh Block, with 52% NABARD, 32% Bajaj Trust and 16% community contributions. This year, 170 hectares of land has been covered under the project capacity building phase. Also, activities like strengthening of village watershed committee, training and exposure visits, moisture conservation tasks like raising farm bunds, drip irrigation, soil mulching, land terracing, plantation, etc. have been taken up.

Benefit of Integrated Watershed Development Project

Shri Nemi chand Sharma, Age 60 years, living in Disnau village. He is very clever and innovative farmers doing small job in Assam. Due to some reason, he came back to his own village Disnau and he had 3 acre of land which was totally barren.

He attended a training on natural farming under Capacity Building phase of Disnau watershed project in the year 2015. He consulted JKBT team and asked for the demo on his farm and from that time he dedicatedly and holistically adopted natural farming on his farm. After understanding the methods, he adopted integrated farming and planted Kinnow, Sweet Lime, Lemon and Thai apple Ber and main crops cultivated in between the lines of fruit plants. Due to continuous use of Jeevamrit, Ghanjeevamrit and Dasparning his soil quality improved and crops are healthy. He didn't utilize pesticide and insectide on his crops/orchard.

He is very much happy and living satisfied life, sale his farm produce on bicycle to provide direct services to his customers. Customers pay good price of natural farming produce; he also provide sample to the new customers and once the customers love the quality of his produce they call him and place dtheir orders for fruits and vegetables.

He has harvested 31.25 quintals of Kinnow, 9 quintals of sweet lime, 14 quintals of lemon and 50 quintals of ber. He saves cost on Agri.-input and earned net income of Rs. 4, 08,850 /- in the financial year 2019-20.

Achievements and Impacts

- 1 Roof Rain Water Harvesting Structure (RRWHS) constructed
- 2106 saplings of horticulture and forestry plants planted with 20 farmers
- 393 Block / Orchard Plantation done
- 2 *Biga* of land covered under orchard plantation with 1000 Liter overhead water tank with Drip irrigation
- 2 ZBNF Training / Workshop on Sustainable Agriculture
- 20 farmers adopted Natural farming through Farmers Field School
- 1 *Biga* of land covered under Vegetable Cultivation
- 250 number of farmers participated in 4 programmes of training and capacity

Apoorv Bajaj (Third from Rt), Haribhai Mori (First from Rt.) Rakhi Somkuwar (Second from Rt) of Bajaj foundation interacting with the farmers on the various interventions being carried out by Bajaj Foundation in the villages for the benefit of farmers in Sikar

Farmers are reaping the benefit of harvested water through check dam, thereby converted rainfed farms to irrigated.
A check dam constructed in participation with farmers at village Shedgaon, Samudrapur, Wardha

Construction of Check Dams

The Check Dams are constructed across the riverbeds and streams. This helped increase water storage in the stream, which is being used later for irrigation purposes, and it also helps to augment groundwater level in surrounding areas.

Achievements and Impacts

- 107 Numbers of Check dams constructed.
- 3354 Number of farmers benefited.
- 10,667 Acres of farming land benefited.
- Rs. 7,50,000 Average Cost of construction for Check dam
- Rs. 8.02 crores (107 X 7,50,000) total average investment
- Rs 38.59 crores total benefit accrued by farmers.
- 635 wells benefitted with increased water table by 6 fts
- Increased availability of water for irrigating the Rabi and summer crops.

Case Story

Jyostna Jaipurkar, Village Chitoda, Wardha, says, *"I have 4 acres of land which was being cultivated only under rain-fed condition till 2019. Bajaj Foundation helped me construct a recharge pit, and fortunately, it struck a natural spring of water at the bottom. So, we constructed a well that became a permanent irrigation source for us. This year, I could cultivate soya bean (3 acres), wheat (3 acres), sugarcane (0.5 acres), and vegetables (0.5 acres) during Rabi for the first time. This, helped me to earn a profit of Rs.70000."*

Achievements and Impacts

- 3211 recharge structure constructed.
- 8086 acres of land benefitted
- 3234 families reaped the benefits
- 1048 recharge pits converted into wells
- 379 villages covered
- Cropping intensity increased from 1 to 3 crops

Recharge Structure

Farm Ponds were traditionally used for the storage of water for irrigation. Bajaj Foundation has constructed technically improved Farm Ponds which efficiently arrest surface runoff and conserve rainwater for support irrigation during dry spells and periods of distress with an 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% of recharge structure into wells on their expenses, thus, having a permanent irrigation source.

Construction of recharge structures serve rainwater harvesting and reduce the water logging in the farmers' field. This structure increases the groundwater table.

Boribandh is a low-cost water harvesting structures constructed to harvest end monsoon season rainwater. This structure is extremely useful to irrigate standing Kharif season crops in the month of September and October. A Boriband constructed in Deoli block Wardha

Boribunds

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

Case Story

Stream flowing through village Shivangaon used to get dried up by December. Hence, the farmers were motivated to have *Boribund* across the stream to increase water availability in the stream. They constructed 4 m long, 1.5 m high, and 1 m broad Boribund in October 2020. As a result, a period of water availability increased till February. With this additional water availability, nearby farms' production increased, and their net profit has been enhanced by Rs. 59,000. Looking at the benefits, the villagers have now asked for the construction of check dams.

Achievements and Impacts

- 2376 Boribunds installed
- 9307 families benefited
- 31358 acres of land benefited
- 312 villages covered
- Average yield increased in cotton crop from 5 qt to 8 qt per acre
- One Boribund benefited near about 13.5 acres of farming land
- Average investment in Boribund was Rs 5000 and average return was Rs. 35000 over one acre of land

Group Lift Irrigation System are the most beneficial support to the farmers. A lift irrigation group at Village Ridhora, Wardha

Lift Irrigation Systems

Perennial River like Wardha River, Wana River, Dham River, and Bor River are flowing; despite that, surrounding lands remain un-irrigated as farmers cannot lift the water due to lack of resources. As a result, for these farmers, the productivity of their farms was severely suffering. Bajaj Foundation took the lead in establishing lift irrigation systems and providing diesel engines to farmers' collectives to lift water available in the rivers/streams, group wells, dams, canals, and ponds and brought rain-fed farming under irrigation.

Case Story

Dilip Ingole was a rain-fed farmer of Kharda village. In 2013 – 14, he formed a group of 7 farmers, and together they availed the facility of Lift Irrigation with the assistance received from the Bajaj Foundation. He shared, *"With the availability of water for irrigation, our cotton production has been improved from 7 qt/acre to 12 qt/acre. Besides, we are now able to cultivate wheat and chickpea during the Rabi season. This has also doubled our annual income."*

Achievements and Impacts

- 101 lift irrigation systems were installed in 52 villages
- 1414 Group lift irrigation systems established
- 254 groups wells constructed
- 9683 families benefited
- 24840 acres of land benefited
- 315 villages covered
- An average income per family increased by Rs. 50000
- Increased yield per acre (Average - Cotton 5 qt to 10 qt/ acre, Pigeon pea 1 to 2 quital, Wheat additional Rabi crop 6 qt / acre)
- Cropping intensity increased from 1 to 3 crops

The simple and cost-effective method of recharging wells by harvesting rainwater in a small filtration tank near the well and diverting the collected rainwater for augmenting the groundwater table.

Percolation Tanks

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

Achievements and Impacts

- 50 percolation tanks constructed
- 6089 acres of land benefited
- 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

Case Story

The place near the municipal water supply tank in one of the hilly areas along the Wardha district border had become a breeding place for germs due to stagnation of spilled over water from the tank. The hilly region comprises weathered basalt rock, which is a suitable medium for recharging the water table. In consultation with other social organizations and government, Bajaj Foundation explored the potential for constructing a percolation tank and then executed this idea. As a result, the spilled over water is now directed to this tank. This has accelerated the rate of groundwater recharge by harvesting rainwater also. The place has become clean, and the government has developed this place as a Joggers' Park for children and adults.

Achievements and Impacts

- 2178 wells were recharged
- 3318 acres of land covered under irrigation
- 224 villages were covered under the programme
- Water table increased up to 6 ft.

Well Recharge

Over extraction of water through open wells/bore wells have resulted in depletion of groundwater, which is limited and has become very scarce. To balance the mismatch of the withdrawal and recharge, rainwater that falls in the farms during the rainy season is diverted into existing wells through a filtration mechanism to maximize groundwater recharge at a faster rate. Through this measure, it has been noted that the water table increases up to ground level during the rainy season, whereas through other rainwater harvesting measures, the percolation rate of rainwater 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 a layer of 1.25 ft each. The filtration pit is fixed with three perforated pipes of size 12.5 cm diameter and 1m length. The inlet pipes are covered with a net to arrest the silt and allow clean water to enter the well.

Case Story

Mrs. Padma Munjevar, Palasgaon shared, *"My farm well is only 10 ft deep and has hard rock beneath. The production of wheat was suffering from a loss with no water available for irrigation after December. But since 2011, after the intervention and having a well recharge structure, my well remains almost filled with water even in December, and water is now available throughout the year. This has increased wheat production from 3 qt/acre to 10 qt/acre. "*

Water Management

Irrigated agriculture is a vital component of total agriculture. It is responsible for supplies many of the fruits, vegetables, and cereal foods consumed by humans and the feed to sustain animals for work. KJBF has been promoting micro-irrigation systems to increase the output per unit of water, reduce water losses to unusable sinks, reduce water degradation and reallocate water to raise additional crops. Sprinkler irrigation systems save water up to 60% to 70%, whereas drip irrigation saves water up to 80 %. Farmers in the Wardha district are motivated to install micro-irrigation systems for optimum use of water, which was made available through replenishment of groundwater. It has proven its benefits on many crops, including horticulture, floriculture, pulses, grains, and vegetables.

Case Story

Dnyaneshwar Devgirkar, Village Pachod, Arvi, *"I am using drip for irrigation over 4 acres. I could replace cotton crop over 2 acres with sugarcane in 2016-17. This has increased the net profit from Rs.8,000 to Rs.1 lakh over 2 acres".*

Achievements and Impacts

- 6386 drip / sprinkler irrigation units installed.
- 15992 acres of land covered.
- 6386 families benefitted.
- 862 villages covered.

Bajaj Foundation insisted on efficient and judicious use of harvested water through using sprinkler and drip irrigation systems. Farmer Prabhakar Wagh, Pachod, Arvi, Wardha with drip irrigation systems

Roof rainwater harvesting structure has proved a one-time investment and permanent solution to pure and safe drinking water at the doorstep.

Improved health due to drinking of rainwater after the construction of Roof Rain Water Harvesting Structure

Mr. Rattanaram Bhankhar is a small farmer who lives in Ratna village, Dantramgarh block. His main livelihood is farming and animal husbandry; he works as an agriculture labour to fulfill his family's daily needs during the offseason. Rattanaram, was highly affected due to knee pain and joint pains for nine years due to the low drinking water quality. This water was excessively saline containing fluorides and was also loaded with high TDH (1,700-2,600 ppm). Excess fluorides in drinking water cause knee pain, yellowing of teeth, and joint pain.

A friend of Rattanaram informed him about the utility of 'Roof Rainwater Harvesting Structure', but due to poor financial condition, he was unable either to implant a Reverse Osmosis system for cleaning water or to construct a rainwater harvesting structure.

He consulted with the Bajaj Foundation team to get support being provided under the drinking water program, and then after understanding the benefits of rainwater for drinking purpose, he decided to construct RRWHS at his home. After creating this facility, his family of five members could have access to rainwater at home. Rattanaram has got relief from knee and joint pains after using rainwater for drinking as it is free from fluorides.

Rainwater makes tension free life and saves money: benefits of Roof Rain Water Harvesting Structure

Smt. Bhanwari Devi lives in a village Basri (Khurd), Dantaramgarh block. Her husband works outside the Sikar district to meet his family's needs. In her husband's absence, she has to take care of their two children and domestic animals (Buffaloes and goat herds), which are quite a tedious job for her.

Her village is located in the dark zone as a result of the depleted groundwater table. Hence, she had to either struggle to arrange drinking water during the summer season for her family and animals by traveling a distance of about 10 km every day, or she had to depend on procuring it through the services of a water tanker. The family needed about 5,000 liters of water per month and had to pay @ of Rs. 500 / month from January and February, but during harsh summer months from March to June, it had to pay Rs. 800 / month for procuring water from this source.

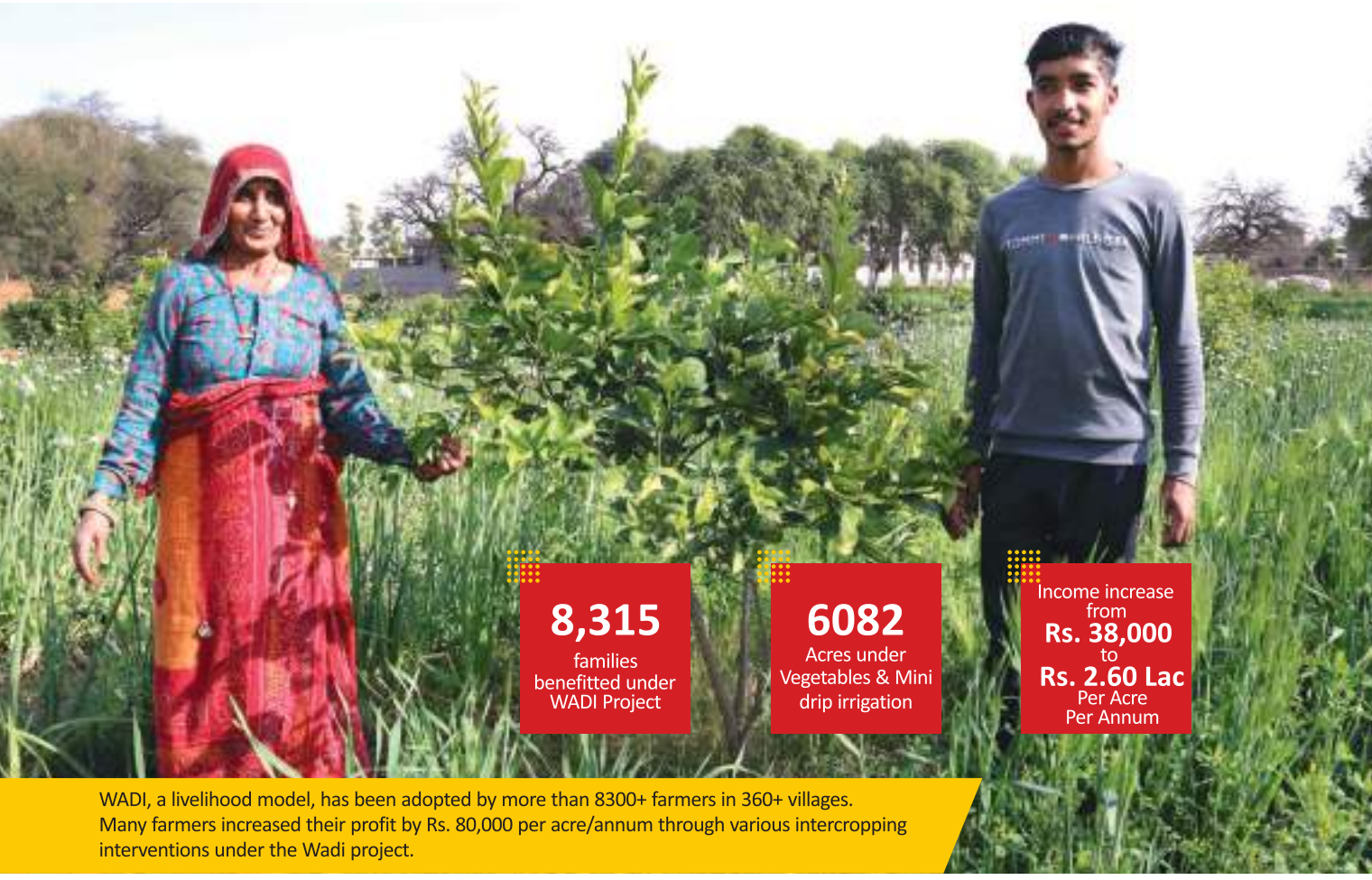
After successful intervention through the construction of RRWHS, Bhanwari Devi now saves not only money, which amounts to about Rs.4,200, but also her energy for fetching drinking water. She is now entirely free of tension during the summer months and feels strengthened after getting water at her doorstep without spending any money. She thanks Bajaj Foundation for helping her with the creation of this precious facility.

Achievements and Impacts

- 1190 Roof Rain Water Harvesting Structures constructed in 173 villages
- Rs. 50,000 Average cost of Construction of Roof Rain Water Harvesting Structures
- 1,78,20,000 (46,20,000) litre water storage capacity develop
- Rs. 3,600 saved annually by a family on water tank
- 3 to 4 hours saved by a woman for collecting water
- 1190 families get clean drinking water free from fluoride and high TDS

Mrs.Lalita, of village Sihot Choti has constructed RRWHS to provide clean and fluoride free water to her family

Promoting Horticulutre: 'Wadi'



WADI, a livelihood model, has been adopted by more than 8300+ farmers in 360+ villages. Many farmers increased their profit by Rs. 80,000 per acre/annum through various intercropping interventions under the Wadi project.

In collaboration with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Bajaj Foundation has been supporting Wadi projects in Wardha district for integrated development of tribal, small, and marginal farmers.

Under the project, a 'Wadi' plot usually covers one acre per beneficiary. Two or more crops are strategically selected for intercropping in the 'Wadi' model to minimize climatic, biological, and marketing risks. On each acre, fruit trees like Guava, Mango, Lemon, Amla, etc., are planted with other crops. The 'Wadi' model's main feature is economic upliftment of the farmers through sustainable agriculture, social empowerment, improvement in the quality of life, including health and women empowerment in tribal-dominated areas of Wardha district.

Planning of Improved Agriculture was carried out during the initial days of the project and the actual work undertaken as per farmers' demand. Imparting training and exposure visits were an integral part of the intervention. Farmers were supported to change their cropping pattern as per market demand. Model plots were developed where improved agriculture has been practiced, and vegetable intercropping was demonstrated. To reduce input cost of farming, practices of natural farming were promoted. This has improved the quality of fruits and vegetables which have growing demand in the market as chemical-free food. On the other hand, 'Wadi' growers were federated into 'Farmers' Producer Companies' to collectively develop forward and backward linkages.

The integrated approach led to the 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 to minimum of Rs.38,000 to a maximum of Rs. 2.60 lakh (average of Rs. 60,000) per 'Wadi'.

Converging MGNREGS for strengthening Livelihood of Small and Marginal Farmers

It was observed that low-income families, who received sanctioned for the construction of open dung well through MGNREGS, couldn't take up the construction in short of initial financial investment. Bajaj Foundation supported 325 farmers with landholdings less than 5 acres to construct wells. The farmers were supported with 10 % of the financial cost against a total budget of Rs.2.80 lakh sanctioned by the government. This has converted rain-fed land into irrigated one; thus, reducing the risk of farming.

Similarly, 450 farmers below 5 acres of landholdings were supported for the establishment of orange, sweet lime, and mango plantation over 1 ha of land. Total sanctioned by the government for each 'Wadi' was Rs.40,000, and the support provided by Bajaj Foundation was Rs.4,000. Besides the financial support provided, each of the farmers was imparted series of training and exposure visits to get them familiar with the pre-and post-care practices for sustaining horticulture.

Sustaining the Livelihood with 'Wadi'

46 years old, Shri. Maroti Ramsa Bode lives, in a village Kolhapur (Rao) of Deoli block. Farming is the only source of livelihood for him and his family. But earlier, he and his wife had to work as farm labour as the farming income was not sufficient to meet the family needs.

Maroti established horticulture over 2 acres with mango, lemon and guava orchard in the year 2014-15 and intercropped with soya bean, pigeon pea, wheat, chick pea, sesame and vegetables. The group of famers was supported with group well, thus, bringing his 2 acres of rain-fed land under irrigation. He was further guided to adopt practices of natural farming to reduce the input cost of farming. He harvested 8 qt of guava and 8,000 lemons which he sold in the local market. He incurred Rs.23,500 towards cost of cultivation of over 2 acres land and received a net profit of Rs.1,60,500 with intercropping.

Achievements and Impacts

- 8315 'Wadis' successfully established by 8315 families in 366 villages spread over
- 80 % Reduction in migration of tribal families
- Strengthened natural eco-systems
- 193 group wells are constructed benefiting 2316 families and brought 2316 acres of land under irrigation
- 492 farmers supported for deepening of existing wells or construction of new wells benefitting 1,476 acres of land
- 325 farmers were supported under MGNREGA wells
- 3,382 families are benefited under 621 group lift irrigation systems covering 3,382 acres of land
- 5,415 farmers are supported for water tanks to store water for irrigation
- 4,700 farmers are supported for intercropping vegetables in the 'Wadis'
- 4,256 farmers are supported with fencing wire to provide protection to the 'Wadis'
- 419 tribal landless families are supported for establishment of income generation activities.
- Rs. 45,000 to Rs. 75,000 income earned by Landless families from dairy and grocery shops per annum per family

Deepak Irpatkar of village Bhadod has raised horticulture Plantation the "WADI model" in one acre of farming land and earning Rs. 1.4 lakh per acre/annum through various intercropping model along with horticulture produces.

Bringing Business to Rain-fed Farmers with 'Wadi' interventions

Dipak Irpatkar is a young farmer of age 35 yrs. residing in a village Bhadod of Arvi block. He chose farming due to fewer job opportunities for his M.S.W. education. He owns 5 acres of rain-fed land. Previously, he was growing mono-crops only during Kharif season in the absence of irrigation facilities. His per acre net profit with cotton, soya bean, and pigeon pea was only Rs.15000 with Rs' input cost. 10000.

Dipak was involved in the village meetings and exposures to let him understand the 'Wadi' benefits. In the year 2013 - 14, he helped establish a 'Wadi' with mango and lemon plantation. Later on, he planted orange plants in between the rows of mangoes. He and his neighboring farmers were benefited from the group well to bring the 'Wadi' area under irrigation. He was further guided to cultivate vegetables as an intercrop throughout the area with the availability of water. Now he spends Rs. 20,000 as cultivation cost over this 1 acre 'Wadi' plot per annum. In the year 2019 -20, he sold vegetables of Rs.70,000, oranges of Rs. 15000 and 5 qt ripened mangoes for Rs.75,000. Thus, his net per acre income has been increased to Rs.1,40,000.

Dipak shared, "Earlier, risk of total crop failure was high with mono-cropping which has been overcome with diversifying cropping pattern. Moreover, I could cultivate 1-acre land under 'Wadi' all the seasons and double crops in the rest of my land as I am benefited under the scheme of group well."

Improving Productivity with Intercrop in *'Wadi'*

Sheshrao Kelodkar is a resident of village Vardhpur of Ashti block. He was helped to establish 'Wadi' in the year 2013 - 14. Earlier, his net profit with cotton over this land was Rs.30,000 at a cultivation cost of Rs.20,000.

Sheshrao is now growing mango, lemon, and guava in the orchard and inter-cropped turmeric and pigeon pea. He was guided to adopt a proper package of practices to reduce the cost of plantation cultivation and survival. This year, he harvested 4.5 qt of pigeon pea, 28 qt of turmeric, 600 kg of guava, and 50 kg of mango. With all this harvest, his net profit from this 1-acre land has been raised to Rs.1,02,100 with a cultivation cost of Rs.25000.

QUOTES

Mohan Shamrao Dubale
Mandla, Arvi, Wardha

*"I cultivated cucumber over 0.5 acre of land under 'Wadi' as an intercrop. I adopted 'Wadi' maintenance practices as guided by Bajaj Foundation. As a result, I harvested 5,000 kg of cucumber in 3 months at the cultivation cost of Rs.21,000 and earned a profit of **Rs.69,000**. "*

Savita Arvind Parteki
Dighi, Arvi, Wardha

*"I received a grant of Rs.10,000 for initiating income-generating activity under Wadi project. I belong to a landless family and used to go out for earning. But after I started selling readymade garments, I began to earn at home. Now, I am self-employed for all the days of a year and earn **Rs.4,500** per month on an average."*

Bhuraram Rewar
Nani, Sikar

*"SPNF brings smile on my face and a new direction of my vision about natural farming. Previously, I thought, agriculture can be done by applying fertilizer and pesticides only. But, after attending, workshop under the guidance of Shri. Subhash Palekarji, it totally changes my view about farming. Adopted Natural Farming based on cow urine and cow dung formulation, after observing benefits on soil and plant growth, it gives immense satisfaction and also earning **Rs. 1,20,000** per acre."*

Regular meetings and awareness are crucial to succeed in the WADI programme. After care operation and management in WADI helped the farmers in critical stages of plant growth. A farmer meeting at Lalitpur.

Promoting Horticulutre: 'Wadi' in with Collabration NABARD, Lalitpur Progammee AreaLalitpur programme area

In collaboration with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Bajaj Foundation Lalitpur has been implemented 1000 Wadi during the year and divided into two projects (Project 1 and 2 each with 5000 wadies) in Lalitpur district for integrated development of tribal, small and marginal farmers.

During the year under the project, 1000 wadies have been raised in 21 villages. Fruit trees like Guava, Mango, and Lemon are planted with other crops. Each beneficiary planted three hundred plants of Custard apple, Karonda, and teak as border plantation and horticulture plants. During the year, various capacity-building measure training were organized with beneficiaries like 50 awareness training, 10 Farmers training, 5 Farmers exposure visits, 8 women awareness programs, and eight health awareness camps were conducted during the year. The 736 beneficiaries have been supported with Agri tools and barbed wire for the fencing of their farm. 8 landless beneficiaries under the project have been supported with grocery shops in 8 project villages.

Achievement & Coverage Of CSR Interventions in Lalitpur

- 37 Villages covered
- 34,626 Household Benefitted
- 1,18,050 Population Covered

A) Water resource development and soil conservation structures

- 09 Rivers/streams of KM 10.5 area rejuvenated
- 10 Check dams constructed & renovated
- 14 Revival and renovation of large traditional farm ponds
- 04 Creation of reservoirs in abounded sandstone mines
- 23 Farm pond development of abounded quarry
- 23 Renovation of drinking and irrigation open wells.
- 107 Boribundh are installed.
- 1300 Acre of land covered for rainwater harvesting.

3450 families and 11579 acres of land of 17 villages are covered under Water resource development and Soil conservation programme

B) Promotion of agro based livelihood

- 2728 Farmer covered under program of Agricultural and Environmental Interventions
- 1850 Farmers covered for vegetable and spices cultivation through natural farming
- 678 Farmers covered for improved agriculture practices in pulses cultivation through natural Farming
- 200 Kitchen gardening Promotions
- 350-Acre fodder plots developed
- 128 Small old fruit plants orchard supported
- 49100 Old trees/ orchard being maintained.
- 180,000 Forestry plants planted in LPGCL Campus.
- 12 Animal heath cum vaccination camp
- 1100 Families covering in integrated tribal development program.
- 10 Indigenous Cow breed improvement program organized
- 1 Cattle feeding cum drinking water system

6123 farming families and 4253 acres of land are benefited under of Sustainable agriculture & Environmental practices in 36 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
- 17 Community need based assets renovated & constructed.
- 01 Playground development.
- 01 Village Water Supply Scheme
- 01 Culvert Construction
- 01 School Renovation Work
- 01 Village uniformity of one colour houses.
- 06 Constructed cowshed for cow rehabilitation centre at Village Kalyanpura
- 01 Medical Shop & 01 Police Station Building Constructed

5002 families are directly benefited Under the infrastructure Development interventions

E) Community Empowerment

- 64 Women`s Self Help Groups formed and strengthen
- 220 Families supported financially assistance for rural enterprises
- 136 Unemployed youths participated in skill and entrepreneurship training
- 2510 Students benefited through education support

4248 families benefitted under Self Help Group, farmers clubs, water user association, skill development and Income Generation program, school support program etc.

F) Community Health and Sanitation

- 12929 Patients benefitted under health camp/Mobile dispensary program
- 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.

15803 families from 10 villages are benefitted from community health and Sanitation program

Indigenous Cow based Natural Farming

Market demand-driven cropping pattern is required. Under the Natural farming promotion programme, Farmers Pramod Mahajan cultivated diversified crop turmeric with following natural farming practices in village Parda block Samudrapur

The program drives with the vision of helping farmers attain food, economic and environmental security to meet the livelihood expenses of the farming families and be on the path of prosperity.

Natural farming sees us working with nature to produce healthy food, keep ourselves healthy, and keep the land healthy. The ancient natural farming system is more suited for farming because of its easy adaptability and cost-effectiveness. Natural farming supports maintaining, prosper and sustain the farm ecosystem.

Bajaj Foundation has been guiding and motivating farmers by adopting various capacity building measures like organizing village meetings, demonstration of ZBNF techniques (Jiwamrit, Ghanjiwamrit, Dashparni Arka, Agniastra etc.,) training and field exposures at different stages of crop growth. Besides that, demonstration plots have been maintained in each village to make the farmers understand and adopt proper techniques relevant to crop conditions.

Wardha district has been in the news due to increased suicides among farmers. The number of suicides in 2015, when the Bajaj Foundation imitated the program of natural farming, was 139 as per government record. As we review the incident of suicides in the last three years, the number has gone down to 94 (2016), 77 (2017), and 18 (2018) successively. This is an integrated impact of collaborative work with government agencies and local working non-governmental agencies. Bajaj Foundation focused on evolving climate resilient cropping patterns, reducing cultivation cost with the promotion of natural farming and converting rain-fed land into protective irrigation with recharge pits and brining the famers in groups to minimize psychological stress prevalent among the farmers.

Diversifying Cropping Pattern

Natural farming makes use of locally available raw materials at the farmers' level itself, and the products are made by the farmers themselves. This makes the natural farming method extraordinarily relevant and crucial for the farming community since economic flow is reversed and the rural economy is being strengthened. Bajaj Foundation has been promoting indigenous varieties of crops, specifically Bansi wheat, linseed, turmeric, Ambadi (Hibiscus Sabdariffa), coriander, green gram, black gram, sorghum, pigeon-pea, sesame, chickpea, green pea, broad beans, Kashi tomato and onion to bring seed sufficiency among the farmers of Wardha. The efforts resulted in increasing the area under cultivation of Bansi wheat from 11 acres in 2013 to 465 acres in 2018. The area under Chanoli (a local variety of Gram), Green Gram, Black Gram, Sorghum, Garlic, Turmeric, Floriculture, and vegetable cultivation has increased from 38 acres to 5,218 acres 2009 till the current year.

Similar efforts were made in the Sikar district to promote spices, vegetables, and fruit plants to maintain the genetic diversity of seeds and crops. At the same time, multiple cropping ensures food security and nutrition of the family.

Mass Awareness Campaign

To reach out the benefits of natural farming to large number of farmers, 770 awareness camps were organized in 500 villages in Wardha district, while 839 awareness camps were organized in 125 villages of Sikar district. The efforts resulted in reaching out to more than 24,000 farmers. The campaign has been extended with a team of 48 resource farmers who had experience of natural farming for over 3 years and have good communication skills. The required information material, including video case stories, was developed to make the drive more impactful.

Introduction of Appropriate Implements

To reduce the cost of labour and drudgery in natural farming, the newly designed agriculture 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. As per the farmers' suggestions, the implements were optimized with adjustable handle and tillage angle to make them more farmer's friendly. As the weeding and inter cultivation operations became easier, 718 farmers switched over to multi-cropping systems with a cultivation area of 786 acres. Installation of automatic Jiwamrut system helped the farmers to follow the recommended schedule and dose of Jiwamrut application. As a result, farmers could experience the optimum impact of the natural farming practices.

Grain Festival

The objective of the grain festival organization was to develop direct market linkages to get profitable returns for the farmers who have been adopting practices of zero budget natural farming over the past few years.

The grain festival was organized in April 2018 at Wardha. A total of 150 farmers and SHG members participated in the festival. The total sale of their produce was Rs 22.50 Lakh in two days.

Establishment of Gomutra collection centres

The farmers expressed the shortage of cow dung and cow urine of indigenous breeds to convert their farms to natural farming. To resolve this problem, Bajaj Foundation supported Gomutra Collection Centres' establishment in Wardha and Sikar districts' villages.

Kisan Pathshalas conducted during the year coupled with the dissemination of natural farming techniques and practical demonstrations helped farmers adopt natural farming on a large scale. 50,000+ farmers have participated in Kisan Pathshalas

Kisan Pathshalas: Sharing & spreading best practices

Bajaj Foundation promotes sustainable and holistic farming methods for the benefit of farmers. Our team is engaged in finding out sustainable models that create benchmarks in the social sector. In Sikar district, since 2011-12, we are promoting Natural Farming to provide a holistic approach to the farms and the farmers.

Our land got poisoned day by day due to a massive amount of chemical fertilizers and pesticides added in the fields for the cultivation of crops, the traces of which are also found in the groundwater or well water. Sikar district comes under a dark zone, and to conserve water and improve agriculture, we found a solution in the form of Natural farming. Due to our endeavor, around 4598 families adopted natural farming practices. We believe that if our farms are pure, then only we get pure and 'Sattvik' food.

To create awareness on a larger scale, we invited farmers as resource persons to provide training to other farmers in the Sikar area by running 'Kisan Pathshalas'. We identified 200 farmers who have been raising their crops through natural farming for the last 7 to 8 years. In the year 2019-20, we took the initiative to engage some of these experienced farmers to train the other farmers in their areas to remain in constant contact with them, conduct field visits and guide them from time to time. In this venture, we reached 24,331 farmers through 839 'Kisan Pathsahals' organized in 125 villages with 24 Resource Persons' help.

As a result of this efforts, most of the farmers in our contact are now aware of the four wheels of Natural Farming i.e. Beejamrit (Seed Treatment using local cow dung and cow urine), Jiwamrita (applying inoculation made of local cow dung and cow urine without any fertilizers and pesticides), Mulching (activities to ensure favorable microclimate in the soil), and Waaphasa (soil aeration). We are promoting these guidelines among the farmers and ensuring chemical-free agriculture at the lowest cost by saving water, maintaining ecological balance, and providing chemical-free food to society.

With the coordination of SIAM, our farmers also provided training to 120 Govt. officials from different districts of Rajasthan through the organization of 8 'Kisan Pathshalas'.

Achievements and Impacts

- 52,904 farmers were sensitized and trained under 1674 Kisan Pathshala in 943 villages
- 8284 farmers totally adopted Natural farming practices
- 7724 farmers partially adopted Natural farming practices
- 8236 acres of land in 686 villages has been brought under natural farming
- 40 to 45 % reduction in cost of cultivation
- 1320 farmers preserving indigenous seeds and attained seed sufficiency
- 1406 farmers received 20% higher rates compared to market prices
- 2900 farmers adopted inter-cropping 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 price compared to market rates.
- 1340 farmers from 8 states participated in 'Shiwar Pheri' (field tour) under the guidance of Padmshri Subhash Palekar to learn from experiences of farmers adopted under SPNF 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 by the farmers in Sikar
- 92 farmers were helped for installation of automatic Jivamrut application •system.
- 10 cow urine collection constructed in 10 villages.

Ensuring Sustainable Income through Cultivation of Straight line Wheat Variety

Kushal Singh lives in village Balaji ki Dhani of Dhod block in Sikar district. He has been adopting natural farming for the last 7 years. This year, he cultivated wheat (variety-3077) over 2.18 acres of land in Rabi season. He was facilitated to sell his harvest of 24 qt directly to the consumers at the rate of Rs.3,500 /qt. He earned a net profit of Rs.57,700 and spent Rs. 26,300 towards the cost of cultivation.

Onion Seed Plot cultivated under Natural Farming by Shri.Mahesh Kumar Sharma, Sob village, Piprali block, Sikar.

Biogas: A Promising Renewable Technology

Biogas reduces the drudgery involved in cooking on traditional chulhas and provides clean fuel for the household. The smoke-free environment also improves the health of rural women. A happy Zade family of Village Khandala, Samudrapur, Wardha

A primary objective of biogas technology promotion is to reduce fuelwood consumption, with the final goal of mitigating global warming. Biogas technology significantly contributes to protecting and improving local natural resources and the environment while enhancing energy security.

We observed that the introduction of biogas technology in the area appreciably affected the people's livelihood as a cheap and convenient energy source principally used for cooking and heating while also providing organic manure for soil fertility. The nitrogen-rich slurry indirectly reduces the costs associated with the use of fertilizers. It enriches the soil, improves its porosity, buffering capacity, and ion exchange capacity, and prevents nutrient depletion, thus, improving the crop quality. This means an increased income for the farmer. The community also reported a marked decrease in indoor air pollution and respiratory diseases.

Many farmers find it difficult to bear the construction costs of setting up a biogas plant. In collaboration with the government agriculture department's scheme, Bajaj Foundation supported enhancing the approachability of the technology and, thus, increased its dissemination. The unit cost of the biogas plant is Rs. 23,500 of which Bajaj Foundation supports Rs. 7,000, the government provides Rs. 12,000 and the beneficiary contributes Rs.4,500 per plant. During the current year, 200 Biogas plants have been constructed in Wardha district. In all, 5,293 families use biogas for household consumption, while 338 new biogas plants have been installed, benefiting 338 families in Wardha and Sikar districts.

Achievements and Impacts

- 5293 families benefitted from 797 villages.
- 5 qt of fuelwood saved per annum per family. 9716 tons of fuel wood saved per annum with installation of 5293 Biogas plants.
- Rs. 4,500 saved by each family per annum on fuelwood.
- Biogas use has reduced consumption of fuel wood by 80% conserving forests and resulting in arresting soil erosion and strengthening ecosystem.
- 7 tons of manure generated for each family per annum (total 34,398 metric tons manure generated)
- 5293 women saved 3 hours per day for collection of fuel wood, cooking and cleaning utensils.
- 166 youth imparted skill training in construction of biogas plants. They are earning Rs.10,000 per month.
- 5293 Biogas plants enabled to reduce the negative effect of Methane on climate by 12.88 million kg CO_2 per year. Combustion of biogas converts methane into CO_2 and reduces the Green House Gases impact over 20 times.
- Replacing traditional Chullha with biogas stove 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.

Mrs. Santra Devi with her familly members. She has installed Biogas plant at village Bosana in Sikar.

Food cooking on biogas is easy, save time and is also simple technology to use at the household level.

Biogas technology bringing Fuel Sufficiency to Landless Family

Ramaji Nehare is a resident of village Drugwada of Ashti block of Wardha district. He runs dairy business with 10 buffalos. He lives with his mother who was using traditional chulha for cooking. They were purchasing required fuel wood of Rs. 3000 annually. Ramaji's mother has now grown old and was facing problem of berating while igniting moist fuel wood during rainy season.

Ramaji was helped to construct biogas plant in the year 2015. Since then he stopped buying fuel wood as he started using biogas for cooking. He expressed, “Selling manure is one of my earning sources. Initially, I was hesitant to spare part of dung for biogas. But soon, I discovered that with generation of biogas slurry amount of manure was the same as before. ”

Improving the Yield of Sweet lime Utilising Biogas Slurry

Rajendra Nehare is a resident of village Wadegaon of Ashti block of Wardha district. He owns 10 acres of irrigated land and have plantation of sweet lime over 3 acres of land. He was using LPG before he participated in the exposure visit organized by Bajaj Foundation to the farm of Uttam Salame in Arvi block. There, he got impressed by benefits of biogas plant i.e. attaining fuel sufficiency and generating quality manure for the farmer.

He constructed biogas plant in the year 2018 -19 and shifted his LPG to the house hired for his son and daughter attempting higher education at Ashti town. This saved his fuel cost, which otherwise might have doubled. Besides he has been utilising dried slurry as a fertiliser for sweet lime orchard as he was informed that it would surely improve the yield. Rajendra opined, "To my surprise the sweet lime yield has been increased from 6 qt to 10 qt per acre. Moreover, the size and taste of fruit is too good."

Biogas - Relief for a Housewife suffering Health Issues

Lada Devi from village Sewa, Dhod block of Sikar district has been suffering from back ache. She was also having itching of eyes during cooking with fuel wood due to smoke generation. She decided to Iinstall biogas plant as she came to know about its benefits during one of village meetings. Lada Devi detailed out her benefits as, "Chopping of fuel wood was very painful act due to my back ache problem. But with installation of biogas plant, I need not to bother about fuel wood. Beside,s there is no itching of eyes during cooking with biogas and my kitchen is now smoke free and cleaner. Biogas has reduced my overall drudgery."

QUOTES

Shri. Mahendraji Dhaka
Dudhwa, Laxmangarh, Sikar

*" Since last one year I am not seeing LPG cylinder on my door and my wife peacefully prepare food in **clean surrounding without smoke** "*

Kawaduji Garghate
Seloo, Hinganghat, Wardha

*"We live in a joint family. I am quite satisfied that biogas has been saving our monthly requirement of Rs.2,000 to purchase fuelwood. Besides, **biogas slurry** has been raising quality manure for my 3 acres of our natural farm. I am pleased with the production of chemical-free Bansi wheat, Sorghum, and linseed."*

Pratiksha Pandurang Andras
Hirdi, Samudrapur, Wardha

*"We live in a joint family of 12 members. We installed a biogas plant in the year 2019 -20. We have now completely stopped using fuelwood for cooking, and our requirement of LPG had moved from single refill per 2 months to 4 months, thus, saving **Rs.10,000 annually** for us. Moreover, the use of biogas slurry has been improving soil fertility reflecting into improved agricultural income for our family."*

Manohar Galande
Hirdi, Samudrapur, Wardha

*"I came to know about the benefits of biogas plant from my relative Balu Surwade living in the village Kesalapar and then I decided to have one for my family. We have completely stopped use of fuel wood and LPG with the experience that biogas **retains the taste of food**; 7 families in my neighbourhood have also got constructed biogas plants, as I began."*

Promotion of Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs)

Organized Inauguration function of FPO & opening of oil mil (100 % supported by Bajaj Foundation with Rs.3,00,000) in presence of Shri Yagya Mitra Singhdeo, District Collector Sikar as a chief guest, Shri M.L. Meena, DDM NABARD, Shri T.C Parihar, LDM, Shri S.R. Katariya, Deputy Director of Agriculture as guests of honour & Mr.Haribhai Mori From Bajaj Foundation.

Collectivization of farmers is an excellent old strategy that has benefitted many farmers across the world. It helps in bringing economies of scale, bringing down the input costs, better bargaining power, and magnifying farmers' voices as a collective voice. The most common form of collectivization that Indian farmers have adopted is 'Producers companies'.

Latest Agricultural Census shows the constant decline in average landholdings in India has reached below 3 acres of land. This indicates that the landholdings per household will fall even more in the future while the area under agriculture will remain constant or even decline. Therefore, collective farmers' institutions' need is far more important at the current juncture of time. Access to the market and the loss of bargaining power are the two major issues the farming community has been dealing with. On the other hand, farmers are on the verge of exploitation by the village level brokers. FPO is a better option to make the desired change. FPO created an opportunity for the farmers to get reasonable rates for their produce, eliminating these middlemen from the market chain, thus, creating a win-win situation for the producers and consumers.

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 awareness creation, capacity building, technical support, professional management, market access, regulatory requirements, etc., and provide handholding support for the installation of processing and value addition units.

During the financial year 2019-20, 3 more FPOs were registered in Ashti, Deoli, and Arvi block in addition to 10 FPOs already formed by Bajaj Foundation in the year 2017 - 18. Strengthening the capacities of the FPOs remained the main focus, and to achieve that, relevant training, workshops, and exposure visits were frequently organized throughout the year. To create the mass awareness about the benefits of FPOs, workshop of 500 farmers was organized at the district level in collaboration with Abhinav Farmers Club, Pune.

Since the formation of 10 FPOs, 448 farmers' mobilization meetings, 102 farmers' training, 49 exposure visits were organized for building their capacities; 70 trainings were organized for the Board of Directors of all FPOs and CEOs on the over ll aspect and functioning of FPOs. Out of these 10 trainings were organized in collaboration with NCDEX (National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Ltd) Samonnati Finance, and Yuva Mitra; 90 members, including CEOs BODs, and leading shareholders participated in these trainings. Five days' training and exposure visit for BODs and CEOs was organized to Yuva Mitra, Nasik, and Abhinav Farmers' Club to interact with the BOD members of FPO and get acquainted with the overall management of FPO.

Various platforms were explored, and all FPOs have been linked to National Commodity Derivatives and Exchange (NCDEX); this helped for the collective sale of cotton bales (R.18 lakh) and graded pulses (Rs.40 lakh). NEDEX funded Wagheda Farmers' Producer Company, Samudrapur, to establish large scale cleaning and grading unit for pulses and grains. The same FPO has developed linkages with Gromer Biotech, Tamilnadu, for bamboo, and established plantations over 170 acres of land. This will improve the profits from 1 acre to Rs. 2 lakh per annum for 101 farmers engaged in the initial plan. The benefits will slowly grow to all shareholder farmers.

Similarly, remaining FPOs have initiated their business in cattle feed production (no.2), production and sale of manure and botanical pesticides (no.2), sale of cotton bales (no.2), sale of agricultural inputs (no.10), production of jaggery (no.1), installation of oil press (no.1) and goat farming (no.1). The three new FPOs formed are to establish the dairy business, Dal mill business, and sale and processing of onions

Achievements

- 18 Farmer Producer Organization registered 247 villages covered from 6 blocks
- 4,002 farmers became shareholders
- 18 CEOs appointed for 18 FPOs
- Overall a total turnover of all FPOs Rs. 80.27 lakh and net profit of Rs. 3.78 lakh
- Rs. 13.18 Lakh saved for all the shareholders through business activities of FPOs

Farmers Producers organizations are the platform for the farmers for collective activities like inputs purchase, Aggregation, Value addition, and selling their products that fetch them more profit and saves money. We have promoted 18 farmers' produces company with a shareholders of 4000+farmers.

Krishnabhumi Farmers' Producer Organization: Bringing Profits to Cotton Farming

Krishnabhumi Farmers' Producer Organization was registered on 13.05.2017. The 147 shareholders of the company are spread across 13 villages in Seloo block. The total share capital is Rs. 65,700. The company office is located in the Seloo town.

The company focused on improving profits in cotton farming. Therefore, they initiated the availability of cotton seeds at a lower price; but they could help a little. Then they made efforts to reduce the cost of cultivation with the supply of yellow sticky traps and similar agriculture inputs. With this, they recorded a profit of Rs.17,872 and saved Rs.19,315 for the farmers. This was an encouraging experience for them. Further, they intervened in the collective processing and sale of cotton bales. In 2019 – 20, the company purchased 422 qt of cotton from 27 farmers and processed it into 90 bales. With this, they recorded a profit of Rs 8,440 with a turnover of Rs. 22,54,000 and rendered increment in a total profit of Rs.1,54,030 for the cotton farming. Thus, the FPO had a financial turnover of about Rs.24,18,270/- and recorded profit of Rs. 11,970.

This FPO has developed a plan for expansion of business with cotton bales to benefit more farmers. The FPO has also decided to purchase a tractor for renting to farmers and small industries for transportation. They are confident that it will be a profitable business. Rajendra Yadav, President of the FPO, says, “I could manage a Chief Officer's salary with execution of my business plans. But the limiting factor is the support of banks for timely credits.”

Farmers' Producer Organization: Stepping towards Prosperity of the Farming Organization

Krushiunnati Shetkari Producer Organization was formed in the year 2017 in May with a vision of developing forward and backward linkages for the farmers in the area. The producer company has a share capital of Rs. 88,200 and could register 245 farmers as shareholders residing in the cluster of 23 villages. The directors and office bearers of the FPO are well qualified, young, and enthusiastic. Its office is located at village Waigaon (Halad). "Opening of the office was helpful in trust-building among the farmers and helped increase the number of shareholders," says Divakar Gongade, Chairman of FPO.

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

Considering past years' experience of attack of manifestation of pink ball worms on cotton crop and with advocacy by the agriculture department, the FPO successfully made an effort for creating awareness on the use of pheromone traps and light traps for controlling the pest attack. The secretary of FPO, Nilesh Thul, has mentioned, "The pheromone traps were available in the market, but there was no assurance of quality. Our organization benefited farmers by supplying good quality traps." They also made ventury for Jivamrut application and better quality spray pumps.

The FPO has a total turnover of Rs. 19,17,155 and recorded a profit of Rs. 90,511. The enterprise saved Rs. 6,84,985 for 193 farmers; thus, adding profits to the farming enterprise. This is a new beginning for the farming community towards prosperity.

QUOTES

Kishor Ghumade
Waigaon, Samudrapur

*"I am a member of Krushikonnati Farmers' Producer Organization. This year, I purchased a spray pump, tarpaulin sheet, organic fertilizers and chickpea seeds for a total of Rs.26,020 from FPO and directly saved **Rs. 9,700** over purchase and indirectly over transportation cost as the material was available at the village level."*

Ram singh
Piprali, Sikar

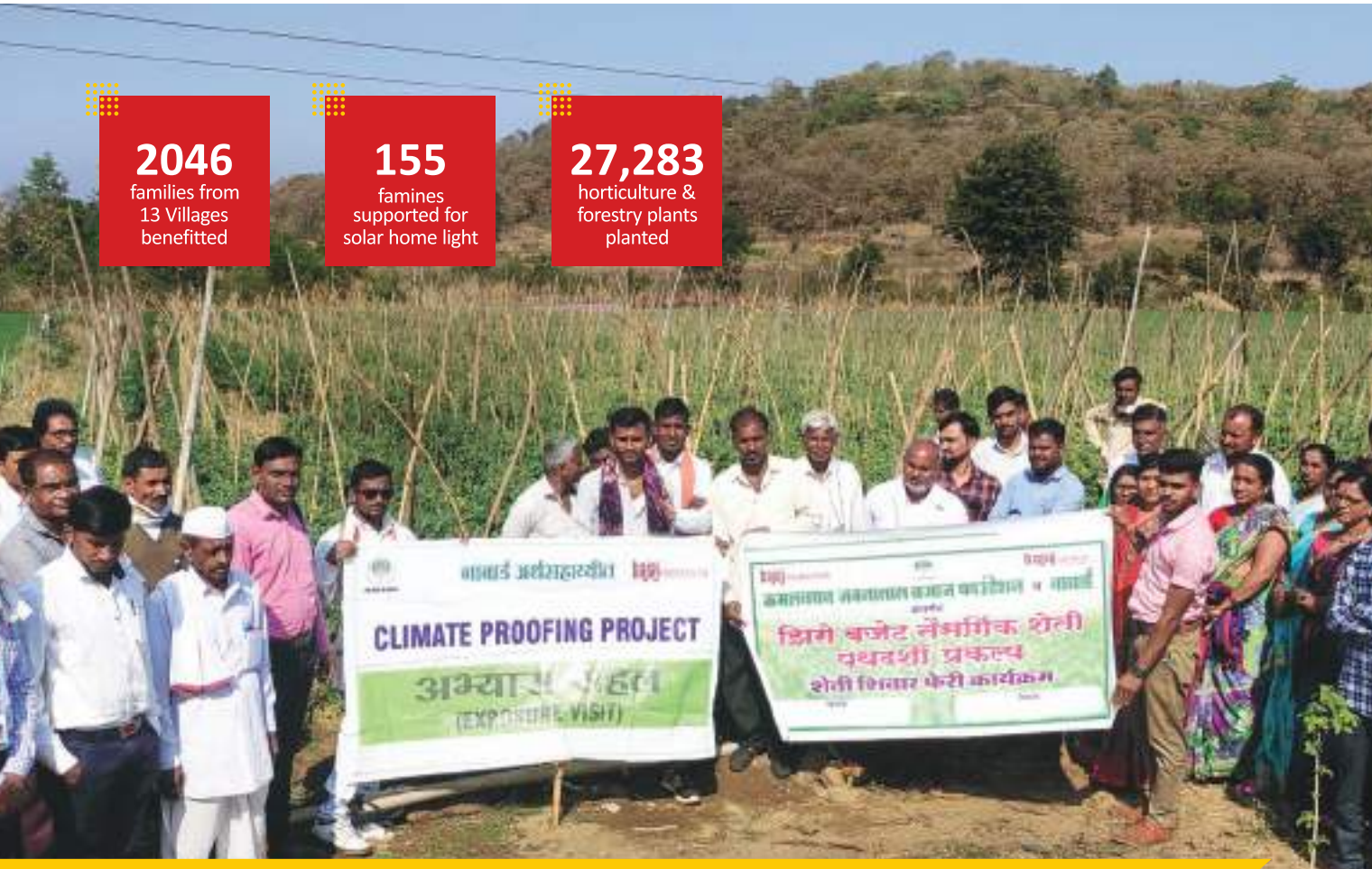
*"After retirement, I thought survival is difficult based on farming because there is no power with individual power in price discovery, processing and marketing. But as a Board of Director in Navjagriti Krishak Producer Company Ltd. , I realized that if farmers come together through FPO, they not only powerful through unity but they can develop the brand through processing agri. produce. We are thankful to Bajaj Foundation that they bring us together on the FPO platform and Bajaj Foundation provides Katchi Ghani Oil Mill, it brings new confidence in farmers and now, capable to process groundnut, mustard and sesame and earn **Rs. 1,06,080** by selling 608-liters of oil."*

Surendra Waidya
Salai (k), Seloo

*"I purchased cattle feed of Rs.29,900 from Bor Gram Samrudhi FPO and saved **Rs.2,500**. This is not a small amount for anybody."*

The experience gained proved inspiring and confidence-building for the directors of the organization. Village Waigaon (Halad) is very famous for turmeric production because of the high Curcumin percentage in the turmeric variety. FPO has now decided to concentrate its efforts on developing strong market linkages for turmeric production.

Steps towards Developing Climate Resilient Ecosystem – Climate Proofing Programme with NABARD



Climate proofing programme provides opportunities to the farmers to demonstrate the various crops in different climatic conditions. An exposure visit of farmers organized under the project on model farm at Karanja block, Wardha

Wardha district of Maharashtra is a cotton growing belt, and it has been experiencing adverse effects of climate change for the last decade. A continuous dialogue with the community has surfaced a need to educate them about the implications of climate change and the measures to cope with the changes.

As a result of this, a Climate Proofing project has been initiated in collaboration with NABARD in 6 watershed areas located in Seloo, Karanja, and Samudrapur blocks of Wardha district. The interventions have been designed for

1) Improving adaptation to climate variability/change in the farm sector with better management practices,

2) Promoting climate-resilient farming system, and

3) Reducing climate change vulnerability and process of marginalization through the integration of risk mitigation products like diversification of crops and by establishing weather and market advisory and information system.

The project progressed with promoting soil and water conservation practices to develop climate-resilient cropping systems with the inclusion of horticulture and farm forestry plantations for attaining nutritional security. Agriculture and allied enterprises like animal husbandry, dairy, and beekeeping have also been promoted to strengthen the livelihoods. This has been coupled with the promotion of natural farming practices to conserve the ecosystem and enhance soil health and crop yields.

Mini Agro-met observatories were installed in collaboration with IMD, Pune, to forecast the weather. Crop advisory for the farmers to get them prepared to deal with existing weather situations has been disseminated in consultation with KVK and Agriculture University. The message has been passed on to the farmers through mobile text message service. This has been helping farmers to adopt appropriate practices on short notice of weather change.

Village Knowledge Centers (VKCs) were established in each watershed area where the farmers could consult each other and gather information by reading resource materials available in the center. Diverse resource material and internet facilities have been made available for all age groups to facilitate their integrated development and improve their awareness level.

Awareness meetings, training, and exposure visits were organized to build the understanding regarding climate change issues. Besides, crop demonstration plots have also been maintained in each watershed to create a vulnerable community's adaptive capacities. The community was made aware of conserving natural resources like forests around the villages and farms and utilizing renewable resources such as solar lighting systems and biogas. The informative wall paintings and pamphlets were used to spread the information.

With this encouraging experience, Bajaj Foundation, in collaboration with NABARD, has developed a similar action plan for the Loni watershed area of Deoli block.

Achievements

- 746 farmers covered benefiting 3,730 acres of land
- 13 villages covered
- 7515 m^3 farm bunds reformed
- 57 recharge pits constructed
- 121 stone outlets formed
- 3396 m^3 Water Absorption Trenches dug
- 1200 m^3 Continuous Contour Trenches established
- 27,283 backyard fruit plants and horticulture and farm forestry plants distributed
- 133 demonstrations of Ghana Jeevamrut conducted
- 612 soil samples analysed and soil health cards issued
- 1438 acres of agriculture land covered under deep ploughing activity
- 903 acres of agriculture land covered under seed treatment activity
- 275 acres of agriculture land covered under tank silt application activity
- 82 units of automatic Jeevamrut system established
- 213 acres of agriculture land covered under crop diversification activity
- 1046 acres of agriculture land covered under alternate climate resilient crops promotion activity
- 179.5 acres of agriculture land covered under intervention of broad and raised bed furrows
- 11 farmers were supported for cultivation of vegetable under trellis system
- 2 mini agro-met observatories established
- 3 units of artificial honey comb boxes installed
- 58 beneficiaries covered under promotion of indigenous cow breed
- 350 famines supported for growing kitchen gardens
- 155 famines supported for installing solar home light
- 6 Village Knowledge Centres established
- 2 Agriculture tool bank established

Under climate proofing programme demonstration of climate resilient cropping pattern introduced.
A demonstration plot of floriculture at village Nagazari, Karanja block, Wardha

Ensuring Food, Economic and Environmental Security with Integrated Watershed and Climate Proofing Approach

Sixty-one years old Bhaurao Vadhve lives in Rahati village of Karanja block. He owns 4.25 acres of irrigated land. His younger son Devanand finds agriculture as the best livelihood for himself.

He rears 11 cows and utilizes the cow dung for making good quality manure and Jivamruta. He constructed a biogas plant with the help of the Bajaj Foundation to attain domestic fuel sufficiency. He eventually diversified his cropping system and introduced lemon plantation in the orchard. Besides, his farm has few orange trees, papaya trees, and Ber trees.

He began to cultivate Bansi wheat, green gram, black gram, maize, sesame, groundnut, linseed, Ambadi, and vegetables along with routine crops i.e., cotton, soya bean, and pigeon pea. He grows leafy vegetables, cucurbits, fruit vegetables, and tubers over half an acre of land. He extracts edible oil from oilseeds and processes pulses into Dal for household consumption. On the other hand, the cultivation of vegetables and fruits throughout the year adds to his food security. Besides, preserving seeds for next year's use has brought him seed sufficiency and risk cover in germination failure due to unexpected climate changes. Bhaurao adds, *"Use of chemicals makes the crops succulent for pest manifestation, while natural growth conditions build the crop immune system. He daily earns an average profit of Rs.250 with the sale of milk."*

Every week, he also gets Rs. 300 with the sale of excess vegetables left after household consumption. The cost of cultivation for Bhaurao has been zeroed down as they do not employ even the labour for farming work. The family records a total profit of Rs. 2,99,401. Support for poultry through project funds will further magnify the annual earning by Rs. 20,000. The most important point made by him was that the family had to have borrowed loans for their daughter and son's marriage.

Thus, Bhaurao sets an example of the benefits of integrated watershed and climate-proofing approaches in attaining food, economic, and environmental security.

Village Knowledge Centre: Exploring Modern Information and Communication Technology

Village Knowledge Centres serve as an information dissemination centre providing instant access to farmers to the latest information/ knowledge available in agriculture, starting from crop production to marketing. VKC of Dhumankheda is maintained voluntarily by enthusiastic youth Ashish Tamgadge, and a group of girls in the Ralegaon villages of Samudrapur block. The villagers have shared the place and maintenance.

The libraries established have been enriched with books, magazines, and newspapers covering the broad areas of subjects like agriculture, weather, and livelihood generation. To our surprise, this has triggered the process of exchange of information through discussions. Besides, the VKC became a centre for sharing job opportunities and competitive exam notices for youths.

Providing internet facilities rendered the opportunity to develop computer skills for youths and access educational information for school-going children. The colour printer and photocopy machine provided with the computer system made documents easier for women. Similarly, the villagers began to utilize online portals for payment of electricity bills and other purposes, saving their time and money.

The meeting became more interesting with audiovisual aids and resulted in the speeding up of adaptability measures to mitigate climate change effects. As a result, 306 farmers adopted intercropping with vegetable and sorghum cultivation. Ankush Partake shared, *"I intercropped round gourd and cucumber in cotton over 2 acres after I saw a video case story shared by the representative of Bajaj Foundation at VKC. The intercrop helped me recover my cotton cultivation cost, and I could manage cultivation practices with the intermediate earnings with vegetable selling. "*

Thus Village Knowledge Centre has been approaching its objective of bringing information, building skills, and scaling up adaptive measures essential for mitigating climate change effects envisioned under the project.

QUOTES

Balvant Ghode
Dhumankheda, Samudrapur

*"Guidance provided under climate-proofing project by KJBF for diversifying cropping pattern with chili cultivation under natural farming improved my per acre income from Rs.34,500 to **Rs.63,390**."*

Avinash Chaudhari
Gohda, Seloo

*"My farm is located at the foothill and rate of soil erosion has increased with increased intensity of rainfall. As a result of heavy water flow and soil erosion, my first sowing used to be completely damaged in the last many years. But the construction of **Water Absorption Trench** at hillside has now arrested the soil flow and saved my crop. "*

Amit Hingane
Ralegaon, Samudrapur

*"I received SMS from the weather station at village Lahori forecasting the unexpected rainfall after two days. This helped me to save harvest of soya bean from damage as I could gather a time to make **a quick decision** over harvest."*

Ghanashyam Chopade
Nagazari, Karanja

*"**I shifted cropping pattern** to floriculture as suggested by Bajaj Foundation. To my surprise, this has increased the number of honey bees in my farm, which has eventually increased the production of the orange orchard and other routine crops."*

Village Case Story

Integrating Interventions for Bringing Water, Food, Nutrition and Health Security-Palasgaon and Muradgaon

11 SHGs in Palasgaon and 7 SHGs in Muradgaon has improved the financial status of 198 women through savings and bank credit linkages.

Palasgaon and Muradgaon (Khose) are the two neighboring villages in the Deoli block separated by a stream named Punsai flowing between them. The stream joins the Yashoda river at Nandora village. The stream was highly silted up before 2010, and 19 acres of farming fields on its banks were facing the problem of waterlogging and, so, suffering from a loss in crop productivity. Siltation of stream over the years resulted in a reduction in the wells' water table, leading to a decrease in irrigation percentage. Although the village Muradgaon is on the riverbank, the problem of scarcity of drinking water was persistent for decades, even with the well which is almost inside the stream. The Gram Panchayat also exerted efforts for having 200 ft deep bore in the well, but it was not fruitful.

Water Resource Development

The ground breaking efforts were made with deepening and widening of the stream over a length of 1,565 m, and a check dam of size 25 m was constructed as a step towards recharging the water table. This has generated a surface storage capacity of 58,687 cm3 along with intensified efficient recharge.

The construction of check dams in accordance with hydrogeological data available proved a boon to the villagers. The drinking water well began to receive a discharge of the water recharged. Now the well always has sufficient water, even during summer. Every family residing in the village now gets a supply of drinking water for all 365 days of a year.

Stream revival has reduced waterlogging conditions for 19 acres of agriculture fields; thus, bringing it under cultivation. The intervention benefited lands of 20 farmers and 22 farm wells on both sides. On the other hand, seven farmers on both banks have been directly lifting the water for irrigation from the stream, which now began to flow throughout the year. The rain-fed farmers also received benefits in terms of the increased period of soil moisture retention.

Overall, 77 acres and 96 acres of Muradgaon and Palasgaon village land, respectively, improved their productivity. The irrigation percentage has been increased from 8 % to 18%. The water availability increased the average yields by 3 to 4 qt per acre for cotton. The 15 farmers were convinced to use micro-irrigation systems for optimum use of water made available for irrigation.

The Farmers are maintaining the structures on their own as they experienced the long-term benefits of the interventions. They keep the doors of the check dam open in the initial rainy days so that the deposited silt gets washed away, restoring the structure's surface storage capacity. Thus, an integrated approach for water resource development led to efficient recharging of the aquifer and resolved both villages' water crises forever.

Women Empowerment

The formation of 11 SHGs in Palasgaon and 7 SHGs in Muradgaon has improved the financial status of 198 women through savings and bank credit linkages. Support of revolving funds for 14 off-farm income-generating activities and rearing indigenous cows to 36 families has strengthened their livelihood. The increased level of awareness and confidence among the women has resulted in their participation in various village level Samities.

Mrs. Papita Gudhe, a resident of Palsgaon village, achieved the banning of liquor in the villages by using her administrative power as a *'Police Patil'* of the village. She was strong enough to decide to become against her husband's denial. She was a member of Gram *'Tantamukti Samiti'* for few years. She is a great support to the women, and they trust her. *'Mahila Gram Sabhas'* are now regularly organized in the village because of her initiative.

Promotion of Natural Farming

Kisan Pathshala was organized in the villages to spread the information about natural farming to reduce the cost of cultivation and improving profits with crop diversification, wherein 99 farmers participated. As an immediate outcome, 19 farmers began to adopt natural farming practices under the guidance of the Bajaj Foundation.

A seed-ball is an easy method of three plantation to increase the green cover.
Self-Help Groups involved in the preparation of seed-balls in Wardha.

Alka Mankar, of village Palasgaon has grown vegetables in her kitchen garden and turmeric in her farmland.

Ensuring Health and Nutrition

Installing kitchen gardens and growing a variety of vegetables for self-consumption has been promoted to ensure the rural families' nutritional security at their doorsteps. Seed support to 19 families became an auto-promotional tool for homestead gardening. Similarly, 171 families in Palasgaon and 155 families in Muradgaon were supported for availing health insurance cards of Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Sevagram.

Forty-five years' old Mrs. Alka Mankar lives in the village Palasgaon. She viewed, *"I received varieties of vegetable seeds, which improved the diversity in my kitchen garden and brought nutritional sufficiency to my family. Besides, it has become income generating source for me. I could sell out vegetables of RS 250 every week."*

Social Impact

The village atmosphere became happier and friendly for women with a reduction in domestic violence and liquor addiction under the leadership of empowered woman members of the village level Samities and Gram Panchayat. The villages of Palasgaon came together and shifted the mobile tower proposed to be installed near the school in the middle of the village to the village's outskirts as they became aware of the harmful impact of radiations on reproductive health. The villagers understood the importance of the Bajaj Foundation's water resource structures and are undertaking all the necessary post-care maintenance actions.

Economic Impact

With the development of water resources and reduction in crop cultivation cost with natural farming, the farmers' productivity and net income have almost doubled. On the other hand, the promotion of income-generating activities has led to self-employment for many of the village women with a minimum monthly income of Rs.7,000 and increased grocery and stationery availability at the village level; this has saved time and transportation cost for the villagers.

Environmental Impact

Plantation of 1,700 trees and 5,000 seed balls at riverside has been increasing green cover and helping restore the ecosystem. Diversification of cropping patterns has been reinstating the soil health and conserving insect diversity. The cattle and wild animals also have sufficient water for consumption throughout the year, which is an added advantage of water resource development.

Special Highlights of the Year

Celebrating Birth Anniversaries of Legendary Leaders

Various programs were organized in the villages to observe the 150th and 125th birth anniversary of Gandhiji and Vinobaji, respectively. One such programme was organized at village Alodi in Wardha.

On the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and the 125th birth anniversary of Acharya Vinoba Bhave, three days' collaborative workshop on "Gandhiji Ke Sapano Ka Bharat Aur Gramin Sahabhagita" was conducted at Mahantam Gandhi Hindi Vishva Vidhyalaya, Wardha from 30.09.2019 to 2.10.2019. After thought-provoking sessions, field exposure to village Ganeshpur of Wardha block was followed by field exposure, where various activities like awareness rallies, need assessment exercises, street plays, and plantation were organized with the active participation of the villagers.

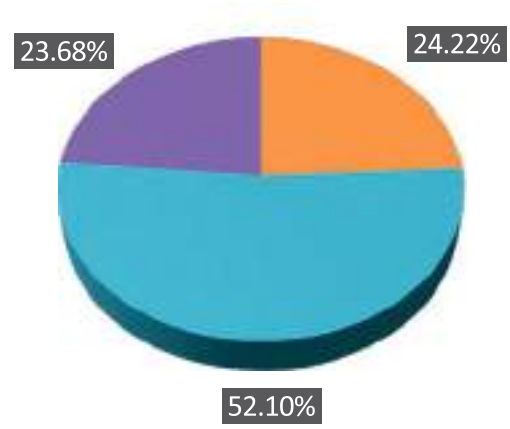
This was followed by a series of workshops with 1,500 villagers of 15 villages covering all blocks of Wardha district involving students and teachers of ZP schools, villagers, SHG members, and farmers. During the events, various activities like singing patriotic songs, essay writing, and speech competitions were conducted in the schools. On the other hand, cleanliness drives were also organized along with the rallies in the selected villages.

The resource persons from Sevagram Ashram and Paramdham Ashram were invited to narrate the life journeys and values of Mahatma Gandhi and Acharya Vinoba Bhave and their relevance for restoring social culture in the villages to achieve Gram Swaraj as depicted by them. They emphasized the values like cleanliness, self-reliance, honesty, eco-friendly life, promotion of rural enterprises, etc. be inculcated among the rural community. They also talked about the need to adopt natural farming and rearing of indigenous cows for nutritional, health, and economic security.

Financial Progress 2019-2020

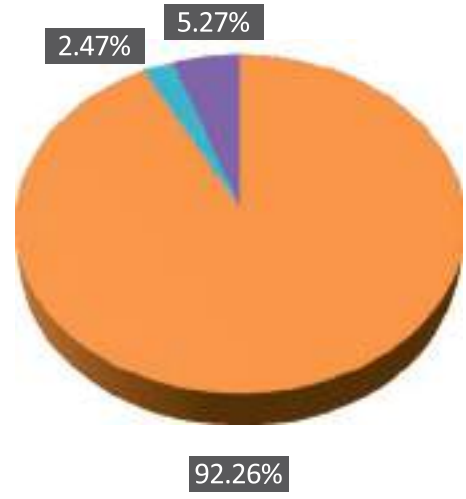
Source of Fund
2019-20 ₹ 40.19 Crore

- Bajaj Foundation ₹ 9.73 Cr. (24.22%)
- Govt of Maharashtra and other Organizations ₹ 20.94 Cr. (52.10%)
- Community Contribution ₹ 9.52 Cr. (23.68%)



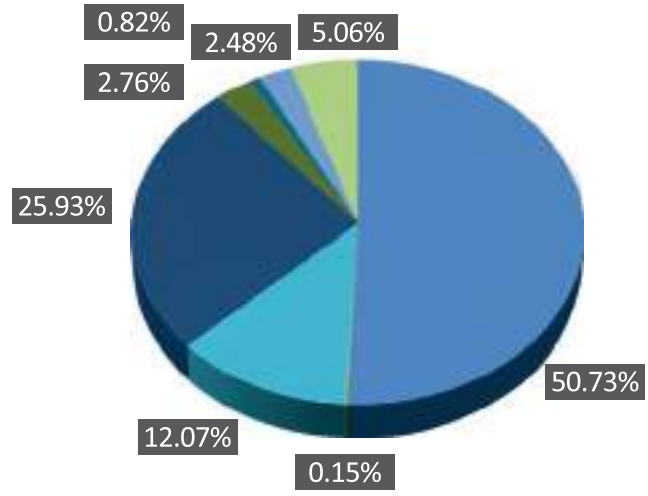
Fund Utilization
2019-20 ₹ 40.19 Crore

- Programme expenditure ₹ 37.08 Cr. (92.26%)
- Trainings and capacity Building ₹ 0.99 Cr. (2.47%)
- Administrative expenditure ₹ 2.12 Cr. (5.27%)



Programme Expenditure
2019-20 ₹ 37.08 Crore

- Water Resource Development ₹ 18.81 Cr
- Design for change Programme ₹ 0.06 Cr.
- Alternative Energy Programme ₹ 4.47 Cr.
- Horticulture Development ₹ 9.61 Cr.
- Promotion of Natural Farming ₹ 1.03 Cr
- FPOs Project ₹ 0.30 Cr.
- Climate Change Proofing Project ₹ 0.92 Cr.
- Women Empowerment Programme ₹ 1.88 Cr.



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.

Mr. Ramvallabh Agarwal Trustee he is a Trustee and also Secretary, Rajasthan Khadi Gramodyog Sanstha Sangh, Bajaj Nagar Jaipur. He is President of Sikar Zilla Gramodaya Samiti, is an active member of the Trust.

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

Mahendra Phate
Chetan Nandha
Prashant Borkute
Vijaya Thakare
Anand Joshi
Guneshwar Patle
Raju Pawar
Sachin Zadey
Surendra Fasge
Sushant Borkar
Suhas Hajare
Hrushikesh Hardas
Karsahan Sarikhda
Ashwini Shende
Mahendra Jalgaonkar
Rajendra Petkar
Navneet Upadhye
Javed Sattar
Rahul Borkute
Jiwan Kalbande
Tushar Fasge
Sidhartha Gaikwad
Gaurav Wakode
Ravindra Nagdeve
Mayur Pojage
Dhiraj Wankhade
Ravindra Uikey
Lileshwar Naxine
Sachin Chatur
Sachin Nilaskar
Sachin Sonane
Pravin Chivhane
Sandip Telrandhe
Vishal Thakare
Mangesh Talwekar
Vijay Chambhare
Umesh Timande
Nitin Ubhale

Vinod Parise
Prashant Niwal
Narayen Tawde
Shashikant Pudke
Pratap Mangrudkar
Ravindra Deshattiwar
Yuvraj Lonare
Swapnil Hemke
Satish Suryavanshi
Pankaj Raut
Anil Salam
Suchita Ingole
Sonali Phate
Yogesh Lidbe
Chandrashekhar Mohije
Priyanka Nandha
Niraj Bhimte
Mahendra Deshmukh
Praful Tonge
Nitish Ghadage
Rakhi Somkuwar
Surendra Rajyoria
Sanjeev Kumar
Mohanlal Dogaya
Prashant Satone
Jayesh Jadav
Devbrat Singh
Gajendra Sharma
Ramakant Sharma
Riddhkaran Ansarava
Sunil Kumar
Rameshwar Yadav
Ankesh Kumar
Manish Kumar Singh
Prabhaya Dube
Pramod Pateriya
Umakant Sudele

Awards & Recognitions

During the Year Bajaj Foundation has received various awards for its work.
Awards were received by Haribhai Mori, Raju Pawar, Anand Joshi, and Pravin Chivhane from Bajaj Foundation

bajaj FOUNDATION

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