



**AGA KHAN RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME (INDIA)**

A PROGRAMME OF THE AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2017**

### Cover Page Photograph

“Goat rearing is an important livelihood option for the poorest households, especially women, in rural India. If supported well, this option can make a significant difference in poverty reduction. The lady on the cover is a goat-rearer, Manti Devi from Muzaffarpur, Bihar. AKRSPI works with goat-rearers in rural Madhya Pradesh and Bihar.”







## VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

### Vision

“AKRSP (India) can contribute in India to the creation of an enabling environment in which rural people can identify their needs and priorities and with professional support, organize themselves to improve the quality of their lives”  
- His Highness the Aga Khan

### Mission

“AKRSP (India) exists to enable the empowerment of rural communities and groups, particularly the under-privileged and women, to take control over their lives and manage their environment, to create a better and more equitable society”

### Values

- Empowerment
- Equity
- Transparency
- Collaboration
- Professional Excellence
- Responsive to Change



# LEADERSHIP

## Board of Directors-2017

- |                          |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|
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| 13. Wajahat Habibullah   | Director    |
| 14. Apoorva Oza          | Secretary   |

## Auditors

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Statutory Auditors | M/s Haribhakti & Co Mumbai                      |
| Internal Auditors  | Manubhai & Shah LLP<br>Todi Tulsyan (for Bihar) |

## Bankers

- State Bank of India, Navrangpura Branch, Ahmedabad
- State Bank of India, Vadaj Branch, Ahmedabad
- Axis Bank, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad



## FOREWORD



There is no substitute for seeing conditions on the ground. I have just returned from visiting tribal communities in Madhya Pradesh where we have been working for nearly a decade. Simple interventions have had far-reaching effects on both the livelihoods of communities as well as their social well-being. These are communities that are almost untouched by development with malnourishment rates of over 60% (48% is the State average), hundred percent illiteracy of women and no power in the villages. A solar power microgrid that powers both their irrigation as well as lights up their homes and allows them to charge their phones has made a huge impact on their lives. It doesn't take much. The big question that arises is why is this not happening at scale?

The philosophy of development for the next decade in India has to be based on organising interventions with speed, scale and synergy. We cannot look back in 10 years and witness the conditions of human lives in rural India as they are today. That puts a huge responsibility on both civil society as well as government to forge a partnership that will dramatically impact the lives of the poor as soon as practically possible. This will be our agenda in the months and years ahead. Our annual report provides many examples of the interventions that we have made which have scalable properties that could dramatically impact the constituencies we serve.

AKRSP(I) has been growing rapidly in the last five years. This reflects the huge support we have received for our programs through the Corporate Sector through CSR budgets. We are very grateful for the support. With rapid growth, we will be concentrating this year on organisational strength and human resource development. The nature of the work that we do

requires people to work not just with their minds but with the hearts. My experience through my visits to programme areas demonstrates the passion and commitment in each and every team member displays in their daily work.

In order to do this effectively we will be trying to identify support for our institutional strengthening activities as well as harnessing the latest relevant technology that could impact our programs. Long-term sustainability of AKRSP(I) will depend very much on our efforts in this regard but support will also be required to develop community institutions which are the bedrock of all our programs on the ground. We will spend much more time training our senior management to be searchlights, constantly scouring the environment for new ideas, innovative technologies, new resource bases as well as new talent that could inform the design and execution of our future programs. A large part of our effort will be to institutionalise present solutions which have had direct and extremely beneficial impact on communities so that these may be scaled up to the district as well as the state-level. In order to do this, harnessing government infrastructure will be critical and a way will have to be found by which this can be done effectively.

It is my sincere hope that we will make accelerating progress in our endeavours in the years to come.

Nasser Munjee  
Chairman

# THE YEAR THAT WAS

All those who work with farming communities are used to the fact that mainstream media, and urban Indians, are largely unaware of the plight of farmers. While at the best they are indifferent, many also believe that rural poverty is a result of laziness and ignorance. In 2017 farmers in many states made their presence felt in the national and state capitals. The state and national governments, the mainstream media and even the urban citizens heard their stories first hand, and understood how an erratic rainfall and an exploitative market combine to frustrate all their hard work and traditional know how. Hopefully this has created greater sensitivity, and a more thoughtful response from the country as a whole to agrarian distress. And in this annual report we will also find many stories where farmers, men and women, who have, individually and through collectives, overcome agrarian distress.

## PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

Every year presents an opportunity not only to deepen the work initiated earlier, but also initiate new ideas and address new challenges.

2017 was a year which saw five major trends emerge

1) Farmers are slowly realising that the high input, high yield model is not working, and is only making them indebted, and making the soil unhealthy. Overuse of groundwater is making farming unsustainable. AKRSPI has piloted and scaled up a range of context-specific interventions to make farming environmentally sustainable; with adoption of SRI practices, drip irrigation, organic cotton at a large scale and conservation agriculture, non-pesticide management on a smaller scale. However, non-availability of appropriate inputs (non-BT cotton seeds as an example) and markets which offer a premium is a constraint which prevents further scaling up.

2) With declining prices of solar panels (and increasing cost of diesel), solar energy for irrigation is becoming increasingly viable, and may provide the answer to poor agriculture incomes in central and eastern India. In eastern India, the major constraint to irrigation for small farmers is the high costs (capital and operational) of pumping and transporting water. And without irrigation, farming for small landholders is not viable, which is why most young people choose to abandon farming. Even in remote tribal regions, access to electricity and diesel is a major challenge. Solar power has proved to be a good option, with group irrigation/solar irrigation entrepreneurs reducing the investment per farmer. AKRSPI's 50 plus projects in Bihar and tribal MP and Gujarat (many of which were installed in 2017) show that, if designed well, solar irrigation can dramatically change livelihood options.

The other area where irrigation is possible at low operational costs is by using gravity. AKRSPI has supported communities to rehabilitate their traditional diversion based irrigation systems (DBIS) in MP, and also scaled up participatory canal irrigation schemes in Gujarat in partnership with the government.

3) Rural youth have high and varied aspirations, and therefore to slot all of them for a skill training and placement intervention alone is not sufficient. In 2017, AKRSPI piloted higher education counselling and enterprise support as additional options with substantial success. Tribal youth are eagerly investing in local enterprises even in poor districts like Dangs, Gujarat.

## Coverage

231 additional villages were covered during the year taking total numbers of villages to 2520 across three program states. During the year AKRSPI engaged with around 2 lakh households through various interventions.

## Agriculture and Food Security

We at AKRSPI are reworking on our own approach towards agriculture so that it fulfils three larger objectives of income security, food & nutrition security and sustainability. In year 2017, we covered over 100,000 farming families through various interventions targeted at above objectives. Irrigation development continues to have major focus across all geographies. Solar pumps have helped farmers in remote and off grid locations like tribal areas of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, and Bihar. Drip irrigation intervention continues in Saurashtra at large scale, some of the studies in our areas suggest that drip irrigation has huge benefit over traditional flood irrigation methods. 60 solar based schemes have already been operationalised; we expect to complete 100 schemes by end of year 2018. Our sustainable agriculture work which includes organic practices, conservation agriculture, SRI and other practices covered 65,390 farmers during the year. Our interventions on vegetable cultivation, fruits cultivation, millets, dairy and poultry are targeted at nutrition security in addition to income enhancements. Around 12,000 households benefitted from these interventions during the year. Goat Rearing is one of the major



interventions for marginal farmers and landless families. We have trained 216 PashuSakhis in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, this cadre is proving preventive veterinary care services to over 23000 Goat Rearing households. Studies suggest that there is substantial decrease in mortality rates of goats and poultry birds due to vaccinations and deworming services provided by these PashuSakhis. AKRSP(I) has promoted 18 farmers producers companies which are providing market linkage services for agricultural commodities, although these companies require much more capacity building to make them competitive in market space.

## Village Institutions

AKRSP(I)'s work on strengthening Gram Panchayats have resulted in significant gains for poorest households in villages. Citizens' participation has increased in local governance in addition to improved coverage of poorest households under various government schemes. In last three years over 45000 citizens received their due entitlements due to our work on information dissemination and Panchayat strengthening.

819 new SHGs of women were promoted during the year taking total numbers of SHGs promoted by AKRSP(I) to 7554. These SHGs continue to work on issues like financial inclusion, livelihoods enhancement and improving local governance. Women's groups in Sagbara and Dediapada blocks are working with women on various issues related to agriculture including land titles for women. Hundreds of single women who are extremely marginalised in the community are empowered through land titles and benefit from the agriculture income from this land. Women's day celebration was organised across all locations in the organisation. Over 8000 women participated in these events signifying collective strength of women's institutions.

List Irrigation Groups and Canal Irrigation Societies are helping farmers in ensuring timely access to irrigation services. In last three decades of AKRSP(I) work, more than 65000 farmers have benefited from the works of these irrigation related village institutions.

## Drinking Water and Sanitation

Learning from AKRSP(I)'s work on community managed decentralised drinking water schemes, Bihar government has started a large scale rural drinking water scheme for the state. This scheme will cover 1.25 lakh habitations over next few years making one of the largest such initiatives. AKRSP(I) continue to work with Bihar government to provide technical assistance wherever sought by the government in this regard. Madhya Pradesh is also among regions where drinking water is among top priority of rural communities, we are slowly building a drinking water portfolio there too.

During the year 2017 we facilitated 28648 households to complete their sanitation units taking total numbers of

households covered under this initiative to over 62000 households. Our current focus is on ensuring open defecation free villages. Over 400 habitations have been made open defecation free in last three years. We also plan to complete more than 150 school sanitation units by end of year 2018 in addition to hygiene education for children on over 500 schools. In order to make sanitation a comprehensive programme, menstrual hygiene management particularly for adolescent girls was given priority during the year.

## Education

AKRSP(I)'s education program continues to focus on primary and pre-primary levels. During the year we worked 254 schools on various aspects on education including improved pedagogy, improved infrastructure, community engagement and libraries. Hallmark of AKRSP(I)'s education program is involvement of community in education of children through various possible means. We covered 126 Anganwadies during the year 2017 to benefit children in the age group of 3 to 6 years through improved nutrition and learning outcomes.

## Skills and Rural Enterprises

Yuva Junction, the skills unit of the organisation trained and provided job opportunities to 5937 rural youths during the year. We started a very unique intervention around promoting tribal youths as entrepreneurs. There are around 30 youths who have started their enterprises in rural areas and providing job opportunities to self and others in the area. In future skills and enterprises will be critical to reduce over dependency on agriculture in rural areas. AKRSP(I) has also trained 58 tribal youths in through uniquely designed certificate course around development management. These youths are placed in NGOs working in rural areas; they are expected to serve rural communities through their professional services.

## Resources Mobilisation

Donor organisation continues to put faith in AKRSP(I)'s ability to work in rural development space. Several new well known corporate foundations and other foundations signed 20 new agreements during the year in addition to extension of agreements by existing supporters. We feel there is much more potential for collaborations in near future.

## Program Budgets

Overall program budget utilisation for year 2017 was over Rs.115 Crores which highest ever in our history. Budget is growing sustainably in last few years and expected to grow further in near future.

## Organisation Development

AKRSP(I) has grown rapidly in recent years in terms budgets, reach and employee strength. In this context continues efforts are being made to ensure that organisation remains at the forefront of rural development. Continuous investment is done in employees to improve their capacities. Efforts are also made to make AKRSP(I) more gender friendly organisation with more numbers of women employees at all levels.

## Challenges Faced In Program Implementation

- Short term projects by many donors make it difficult to design a program with long term sustainable outcomes.
- There is shortage of resources for community mobilisation and strengthening rural institutions which is core of our work.
- Resources for capacity building of AKRSP(I) team remains inadequate. We need to make investment in these professionals for bright future of organisation as well as rural development sector.



## Future Potential

- Malnourishment in rural areas remains one of the big challenges. Dedicated and integrated efforts are required to tackle this grave problem.
- Adolescent girls and Youths are unique sections within rural communities hence there is immense potential to empower these sections for better future of rural communities. Skills and enterprise development can be extremely useful intervention with these sections.



Apoorva Oza  
CEO





# CONTENTS

AKRSP(INDIA)'S DEVELOPMENT APPROACH	13
STATISTICAL OVERVIEW	14
STATE REPORTS	15
COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATIONS (CBOs)	21
GENDER	26
LOCAL GOVERNANCE	28
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE	35
LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT	41
SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT	46
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION (SWC)	50
DRINKING WATER	52
SANITATION, HEALTH AND HYGIENE	55
HEALTH AND NUTRITION	62
RENEWABLE ENERGY	65
EDUCATION	70
SKILLS DEVELOPMENT	77
VADVAI	80
NEW INITIATIVES	83
RESEARCH, DOCUMENTATION AND VIDEO UNIT	87
HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT	88
MEDIA COVERAGE	89
FINANCIAL DETAILS OF YEAR 2017	90
DONOR PARTNERS	92
AWARDS	94
OFFICE ADDRESSES	95



# AKRSP(INDIA)'S DEVELOPMENT APPROACH



AKRSP (India)'s development approach has two main goals. They are, organising people for collective action, and addressing rural inequities. Keeping these goals in mind, it under takes the following interventions and activities:

## Alternate Energy

- Biogas
- Solar Lighting Systems
- Acrylic Sheets

## Savings and Credit Groups

- Self Help Groups
- Community Based Savings Groups

## Non-Farm Livelihoods

- Animal Husbandry
- Bamboo Crafts
- Skill Building & Placement (Yuva Junction)
- Tailoring Centers
- Forestry
- Joint Forest Management
- Farm Forestry

## Agriculture

- Promotion of Biopesticides and Organic Compost
- Horticulture
- Creeper Vegetable Cultivation
- Input Supply
- Collective Marketing
- System of Root Intensification (SRI)
- Vermicompost
- Group Wire Fencing
- Conservation Agriculture
- Organic Agriculture

## Water Resource Management

- Lift Irrigation
- Small & Large Water Harvesting Structures
- Micro Irrigation Systems
- Group Wells
- Participatory Irrigation Management
- River Basin Management

## Soil and Water Conservation

- Land Levelling
- Contour Bunding
- Gabions
- Gully Plugs

## Education

- Early Childhood Development Centers (ECD)
- Anganwadi Support
- Learning Support Centers (LSC)
- Family Literacy
- Learning Enhancement Programme (LEP)

## Vadvai

- Capacity Building
- Exposure Visits
- Advisory Services
- Certificate Course in Development Management

## Research and Communication

- Studies on Field Implementation
- Research
- Audio Visuals
- Documentation and Dissemination

## STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

Details	2017 Achievement	Cumulative Achievement
<b>Coverage</b>		
Villages (no)	231	2520
Village institution (no)	2504	28025
Women Institution (no)	819	7554
<b>Rural Governance</b>		
Panchayat Strengthened (no)	100	100
Gram Sabha/ Mahila Sabha Strengthened (no)	295	295
Citizens Benefited through better governance (no)	42680	45107
<b>Sustainable Agriculture</b>		
Sustainable Agriculture Practices (HHs)	29375	57436
System of Root Intensification (HHs)	2124	30507
Conservation Agriculture (HHs)	434	587
Agri Input Supply (HHs)	16074	81927
Agri Equipment (HHs)	4225	14450
Farmer Producer Organization (no)	3	21
Soil and Water Conservation (ha)	395	50655
Agro Forestry/ Horticulture (HHs)	2068	20899
Vegetable Cultivation (HHs)	10695	49480
<b>Water Management</b>		
Canal Irrigation Scheme (no)	21	186
Lift Irrigation Device (no)	0	968
Check Dams and Irrigation Tanks (no)	13	1408
Well Irrigation (no)	0	1411
Farm Ponds/Bori Bandhs/Gabion (no)	490	2482
Water Use Efficiency Device (ha.)	4880	19197
<b>Forestry</b>		
Joint Forest Management (no. of village)	4	87
<b>Livestock Development</b>		
Dairy (HHs)	77	5271
Poultry (HHs)	3327	4528
Goat Rearing (HHs)	23296	35853
Pashu Sakhis (Para vets)trained (no)	216	216
Veterinary Service Provided (HHs)	18699	33778
<b>Renewable Energy</b>		
Solar Powered Irrigation Schemes (no)	41	51
Alternate Energy Coverage (HHs)	2007	73113
<b>Drinking Water and Sanitation</b>		
Roof Rain Water Harvesting Structure (no)	0	10615
Drinking Water Supply Schemes (Village / Hame3let)	11	325
Sanitation Unit (HHs)	28648	62071
School sanitation unit	156	156
<b>Education</b>		
Anganwadies / ECDs Supported (no)	145	303
Children in Anganwadies and ECDs	11136	16375
School Improvements (no of schools)	68	307
School Children (no)	39711	57157
Learning Enrichment Programme (no. of schools)	90	120
<b>Skill Development</b>		
Youths Trained (no)	5937	35459
Youths Places (no)	910	5431

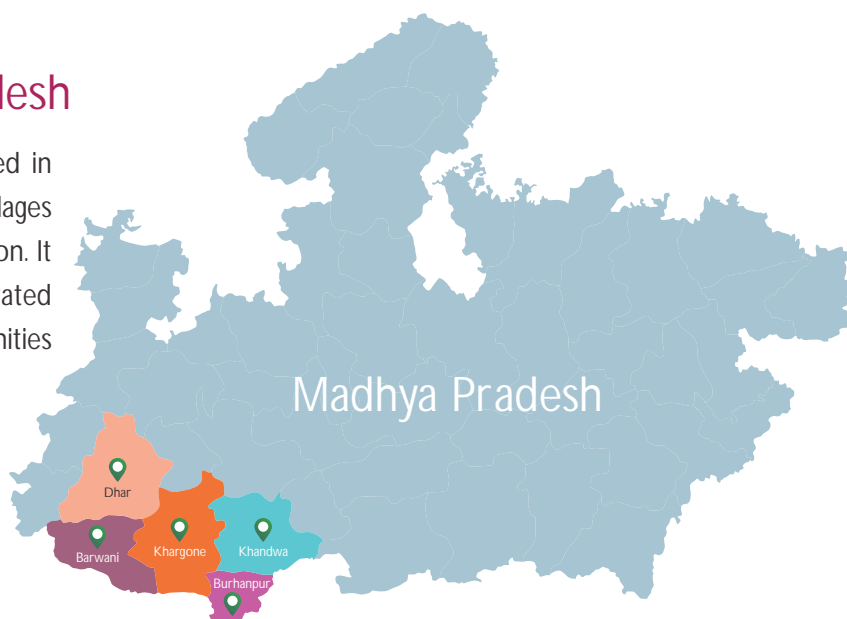
## STATE REPORTS

### State Report : Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh program of AKRSP(I) started in the year 2004. It has grown to 274 revenue villages of 7 blocks in Nimar Region since its inception. It continues to have strong focus on integrated livelihoods development of tribal communities living in this region.

#### Coverage

- 5 Districts
- 7 Blocks
- 274 Villages
- 27000 households



### Major Achievements During Year 2017 in Madhya Pradesh

#### Community Institutions

- 427 new SHGs were formed during the year. SHGs now have the membership base of 14560 women. 236 SHGs got credit linkages with the banks.
- 6 farmer producers companies are engaged in aggregation of input and output requirements of farmers.
- 2 livestock producers companies having 100% women membership are providing critical development support to goat and poultry farmers.

#### Sustainable Agriculture

- Our organic cotton initiative now reaches to 7000 farmers.
- Over 20000 farmers are practicing sustainable agriculture practices like conservation agriculture, SRI, non-pesticide management, inter cropping and better composting.
- 1250 farmers who were benefitted through horticulture projects in past have now started selling fruits leading income enhancement.





### Land and Water Development

- Various irrigation development activities led to increased irrigation area by 275 hectares during the year.
- 310 hectare land covered under soil and moisture conservation measures.
- 54000 saplings have been planted including Horticulture and forestry species as farm forestry and common land plantation.

### Solar Energy

- Over 4000 people benefitted from solar home lighting systems while 45 farmers got irrigation facilities through 11 solar pumps.

### Livestock Development

- 7666 households are covered under integrated goat rearing development programme leading to significant reduction in goat mortality and enhanced income levels.
- 1916 households are covered under backyard poultry development initiative.

### Health, Drinking Water and Sanitation

- 3675 new sanitation units were constructed during the year.
- Two model school sanitation units were developed in addition to two villages which are provided drinking water facilities.
- A unique grass root health awareness cadre, known as Sachet Didis is being developed in tribal villages. 82 women are voluntarily working as Sachet Didi.
- 100% institutional deliveries were achieved in 10 villages while 100% full vaccination cycles have been achieved in 14 villages due to efforts of Sachet Didis.

### Rural Governance

- Governance program benefitted 3764 citizens.
- 110 Mahila Sabhs were organised to promote the participation of women in village governance.
- Capacity building of Panchayats benefitted 35 Panchayats.

### Education and Early Childhood Development

- A unique community driven education program was started in MP during the year. Program reaches 40 schools of Khaknar block and runs largely on voluntary efforts of community change agents and adolescent girls of villages.
- 56 anganwadies are supported to make their services regular and more effective. This is critical to achieve nutrition related outcomes in the region.
- 14 tribal students were supported for preparing for Engineering and Medical entrance exams so that they can avail higher education from institutions of excellence.

### Visitors

- Ms. Zhooma Solanki (MLA, Zhirniya), Ms. Manju Rajendra Dadu (MLA, Nepanagar) and Smt Yogita Borakar (MLA, Pandhana) attended Women's Day Celebrations organized by women's federations promoted by AKRSP(I)
- District collector of Burhanpur, district had a visit of our development works. District CEOs of Khandwa and Khargone districts visited our field works
- State level officials from Bhopal visited our work on goat rearing and poultry in Barwani and Khandwa districts
- AKRSP(I) received several visitors from its funding partners, academics and other organizations during the year



## State Report : Bihar

Bihar program of AKRSP(I) started in the year 2008. Since then it has steadily grown to a larger comprehensive initiative. Considering multi-dimensional complex poverty issues in Rural Bihar, we have tried to integrate several critical interventions in same geographies. Field implementation of development programs, piloting new ideas and technical assistance in government initiatives are part of our development approach in Bihar.

### Coverage

- 2 Districts
- 15 Blocks
- 370 Villages
- 69000 households





## Major Achievements During Year 2017 in Bihar

### Community Institutions

- One women's federation named EkjootMahilaMahasangh with over 8000 women as members was formed in Pusa block of Samastipur district to work on women's issues
- 551 Goat Rearing Groups were formed during the year for creating a platform for improving goat based livelihoods
- 55 women SHGs could link themselves with banks to avail credit facility of Rs.94 lakhs

### Sustainable Agriculture

- Bihar team formed 92 KishanVikasSamitis to promote the cultivation of pulse crops among smallholder farmers with prime focus on the enhancement of nutrition and income security in two blocks of Samastipur district.
- Covered 4321 farmers in providing better agriculture inputs

### Land and Water Development

- 7 Solar based Group Irrigation Systems installed and operationalized benefitted 399 farmers leading to cultivation of three seasonal crops

### Skills Development

- 60 % youths among the total enrolled candidate under various skills trades have been placed in various companies

### Livestock Development

- 19602 women benefitted from improved productivity of goat rearing. Goat Rearers received services like de-worming, vaccinations, feed, shelters etc which led to livelihoods improvement and women empowerment

### Drinking Water and Sanitation

- One of the major achievements of the year is ODF declaration of Pusa block. AKRSP(I) played important role in community mobilisation and mason's trainings
- 16500 households built safe sanitation facilities during the year
- We continued providing technical assistance to Bihar government on implementation of rural drinking water scheme in the state

### Education and Early Childhood Development

- Supported 13923 children under its pre-primary and primary education program to enhance their learning levels through creation of enabling environment in Aanganwadies and Primary Schools.

### Visitors

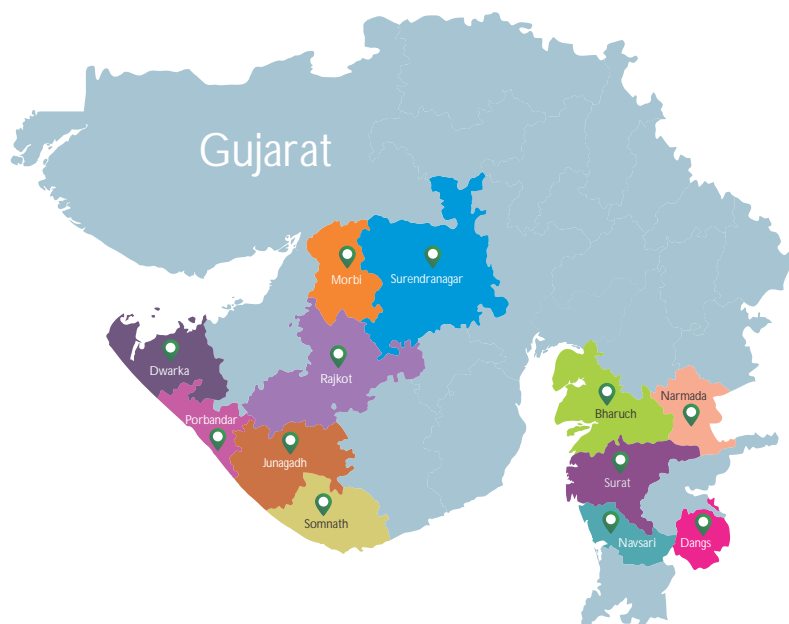
- During his SamikshaYatra held on 15th December 2017, Chief Minister Shree Nitish Kumar visited Jarang village of Gaighat block, one of the operational areas of AKRSP (I), interacted with beneficiaries and showed a keen interest about goat rearing program.
- Some officials from The World Bank visited our goat rearing program in the field
- A team of researchers from Japan visited our work on solar irrigation
- Several other government officials, our donors, researchers, students and academicians visited our programs for various purposes





## State Report : Gujarat

AKRSP(I) started its operations in Gujarat in 1985 in the then districts of Surendranagar, Bharuch and Junagadh. Over the years, the programme has expanded and entered newer geographies and is now active in 12 districts and 27 blocks of the state. The work in Gujarat is in 3 distinct regions: the coastal saline region with its headquarters in Mangrol, the drought-prone region with its headquarters in Sayla, and the tribal south Gujarat region with its headquarters in Dangs and Netrang.



### Coverage

- 12 Districts
- 27 Blocks
- 1876 Villages
- Over 200000 households



## Major Achievements During Year 2017 in Gujarat

### Community Institutions

- 28 water user associations were promoted in South Gujarat to work on participatory irrigation management  
Women's federations in South Gujarat helped their women members in getting land titles in their names
- Women's federation in coastal area continued their work on sanitation agenda alongwith other women's issues
- Federation of school management committees (SMCs) continued it work on strengthening school governance
- Farmer Producers Organisations in South Gujarat and Saurashtra actively engaged in marketing of agriculture commodities in addition to supplying inputs to their members.  
Villages where AKRSP (I)'s governance interventions are present, over 90% eligible citizens accessed benefits of various schemes and entitlements.

### Sustainable Agriculture

- System of Rice Intensification was done with over 2000 tribal farmers in the Dangs region leading to increased production.
- 4000 farmers in Surendranagar region benefitted from sustainable practices under better cotton initiative
- Large numbers of farmers adopted bio-pest repellent in South Gujarat region.
- 11 Farmer Producers companies are engaged in supplying various inputs to the farmers as well as engaged in the marketing activities like procurement of agricultural commodities on MSP. These companies achieved turnover of over Rs.10 Crore rupees during the year.

### Land and Water Development

- 27 solar based irrigation schemes were installed benefitting more than 150 farmers.  
In The Dangs area, 222 families covered under various soil conservation activities
- In south Gujarat, 28 water user associations formed through various processes. 6600 families (covering 8811 hectares of land) are the members of those associations. Out of 28, 17 associations completed their formal registration process and 13 had developed MoU of water usage. Main purpose of the water user association is optimal and equitable use of water.

### Skills Development

- The second batch of Certificate Course in Development Management (CCDM-2) was launched and concluded in this year and 29 participants graduated
- Over 4000 youths participated in various skills development activities of the organisation

### Drinking Water and Sanitation

- 8732 household level toilets were constructed during the year. 43 villages brought under ODF status.
- A total of 91 villages were selected where adolescent girls and women were mobilized through Kishori groups, women SHGs and their federations for extension of menstrual hygiene management.
- In Dang, partnered with a local organization named ARCH and imparted training on MHM with the help of women leaders to adolescent girls. They also trained women on sewing sanitary napkins from locally available material and the resultant products are being marketed in the local market as well as used for self-use.
- Solar based drinking water schemes were developed in 6 villages of The Dangs

### Education and Early Childhood Development

- Computer-Assisted Learning programme designed to actively involve students in a technology-aided learning process in Wankaner block of Morbi district. Two of the three pilot project schools were awarded infrastructure for two smart classrooms under the Gujarat government's Gyankunj contest. The contest aimed to identify and award tech-savvy rural primary schools using ICT4E. The schools sent documentation from this pilot as ongoing ICT4E activities in the school.
- Another major focus under education initiative was establishing school libraries.
- There is substantial increase in attendance and learning levels of Anganwadi going children in Mithapur area where work on Anganwadi improvement continued this year.

### Visitors

- Several government and donor agency officials visited our programs during the year in various geographies of Gujarat.



# COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATIONS (CBOs)



Community Based Organisations (CBOs) are core of majority of AKRSP(I)'s interventions. CBOs are promoted by AKRSP(I) with the purpose of

- Empowering community, particularly those from underprivileged sections of the society through providing them platforms to discuss, debate, plan and implement things which may lead to better quality of lives for themselves and communities around them
- Creating enabling environment for gender equity
- Ensuring community ownership of programs through active participation for better outcomes
- Ensuing sustainability of the interventions post withdrawal of AKRSP(I)
- Contributing to improvement in grass root governance by facilitating collaborations among CBOs, PRIs and other government departments

Over the period of time AKRSP(I) has promoted several community based organisations and groups. These organisations and groups are formed based on the purpose or problem to be solved. Currently AKRSP(I) is engaged with following types of community organizations and groups

- Women's Federations
- Village Level Associations or Mahila GramVikas Mandal
- Women Self Help Groups
- Canal Irrigation Management Committees
- Farmers Producers Organizations
- Nigrani Samitis for village sanitation programs
- Drinking Water Committees
- Adolescent Girls Groups
- School Management Committees





There are six women's federations in Madhya Pradesh program area having membership base of over 12000 tribal women. One federation was formed in Bihar during the year. Name of the federation is EkjootMahilaMahasangh and it has the membership base of over 8000 women. Six federations in Gujarat continued to provide their services to women members. These federations have started developing their identities over the period of time. During the year 2017, several initiatives were taken up by these federations.



- Federations in Sagbara and Dediypada blocks of Gujarat continued their work on land rights for women members particularly focussing on single women. These federations also took lead in extension of sustainable agriculture practices with their members.
- TaptiLaxmiMahilaMahasangh in Madhya Pradesh is driving a multi-thematic development intervention in Khaknar block focussing on integrated development of tribal

communities of the block. Women change agents nominated by federation are working on various issues like education, governance, health, livelihoods and financial inclusion of their members.

- EkjootMahilaMahasanghin Bihar actively worked on issues like facilitating bank credit to their members in addition to ensuring various entitlements for their members.
- Federation in Pandhana block of Madhya

Pradesh is working on improving the income of their members from livestock based activities. They have formed a separate producers company to work on improving productivity and market linkages of goats and poultry birds.

- MangrolMahilaManch worked on ensuring safe sanitation facilities for their members. They also organised various events around village cleanliness and menstrual hygiene management.
- Invariably all federations work on facilitating government schemes like social securities, Ujjwala, agriculture schemes, livestock schemes, bank credit, NRLM, sanitation, drinking water, insurances etc for their members.

## Village Level Associations (VLA) or Mahila Gram Vikas Mandal (MGVM)

VLAs or MGVMs are village level associations of women SHGs. All SHGs in a village come together to form VLA so that they can work on holistic development of a village. VLA sgenerally form sub-committees to work on specific issue like education, bank related works or health. Some of the works done during year 2017 are

- VLAs in Madhya Pradesh identified change leaders around education and health. These change leaders are known as ShikshaSakhi and Sachet Didi respectively. These change leaders are working proactively on access, practice and social norms issues related to their domains.
- MGVMs in the Dangs region of Gujarat worked on issues like alcoholism, agriculture extension and Panchayats.



## Women Self Help Groups

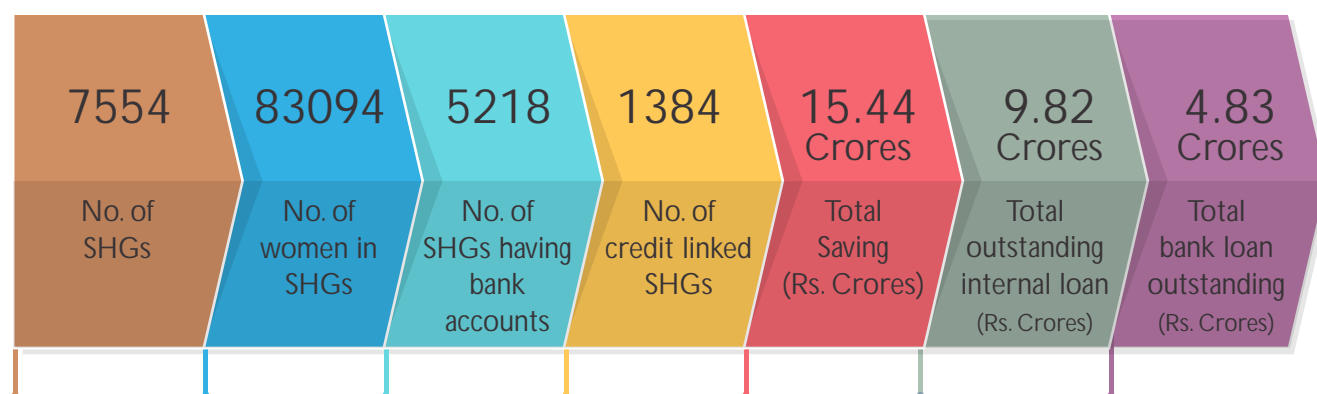
SHGs promoted by AKRSP(I) are generally working on financial inclusion and livelihoods issues. Savings, internal lending, credit linkages with banks and promotion of micro-enterprises is generally done by all SHGs across all geographies. There are also initiatives around facilitating dialogue on gender issues at household levels using SHGs as the platform. By the end of the year 2017 total numbers of SHGs promoted and directly managed by AKRSP(I) has reached 5554. Additionally around 2000 SHGs continues to work independently of us after their day to day management is taken over by their federations hence total SHGs formed by AKRSP(I) till year 2017 is 7554.





## Progress of SHG program in numbers

(Status at the end of the year 2017)



### Challenge

There is considerable amount of overlapping efforts by NGOs as well as government agencies in term of promotion and strengthening of women SHGs across several geographies. There are existing good quality SHGs and Federations on ground which could not get the intended benefits of NRLM due to several reasons. Also there is need to recognise the fact that all geographies cannot have same design principles for SHGs; based on context, structure and design can be different in different geographies.

If better collaboration is worked out among NGOs and SRLMs then it will lead to huge gain for final intended beneficiaries of NRLM i.e. rural women.

## Canal Irrigation Management Committees or Water User Associations

Participation of farmers in the management of canals is critical to effective and efficient use of irrigation water from medium and large irrigation schemes. Canal irrigation management societies play important role in equitable distribution of irrigation water, repairs and maintenance of canals, crop planning and collection of water charges. During the year 2017, we worked with 28 canal irrigation management societies which managed 9632 hectares of irrigation in South Gujarat region. A new MoU was signed with government to work in Surendranagar region to work on 5700 hectares of land. During the year large numbers of capacity building events were organised for these water user associations on various topics like crop planning, maintenance of canals, distribution of water, water charges and management of farmers' water cooperatives.

## Watershed Committees

Watershed Development Committees coordinate the watershed works at village level in addition to ensuring norms around management of natural resources within villages. AKRSP(I) continued to work with 31 committees in Madhya Pradesh during the year. These committees continued facing severe shortage of resources during the year. 5 new watershed committees are being formed in Barwani district of Madhya Pradesh under a watershed project supported by NABARD.

## Goat Rearing Groups and PashuPalanSamities

Goat rearing groups and PashuPalanSamities are platform for goat rearing households particularly women to learn best practices of goat rearing and other livestock. They also collectivize the efforts on



getting inputs like preventive veterinary services, feeds etc. During year 2017 AKRSP(I) worked with 641 goat rearing and livestock groups on various aspects. Two livestock producers companies have started their business activities in Madhya Pradesh, their focus is on goat rearing and poultry related services to their members.

## Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs)

AKRSP(I) has formed 20 FPOs in last few years. Some of these companies have started generating substantial business for their farmer members. These companies have membership base of around 10700 farmers at present. In addition to crop based FPOs there are two livestock FPOs conducting activities in the field of goat rearing and poultry. These companies provide deworming, vaccination, feed and knowledge extension services to their members, in addition to market linkages for goat and poultry.

## Drinking Water and Sanitation Committees (WATSAN Committees)

Management and maintenance of drinking water and sanitation infrastructure post construction is very critical for continuous access of these services. Drinking water and sanitation committees (also known as Nigrani Samities) are playing important role in facilitating behaviour change around hygiene and sustainable use of WATSAN infrastructure. These committees also help in liaison with Panchayat and other departments wherever required. Monitoring the use of toilets built under Swachh Bharat Mission is continuous activities for these WATSAN committees. During the year 2017, AKRSP(I) worked with 318 WATSAN committees in as many villages across all three programme states.

## Adolescent Girls Groups (Kishori Balika Samuh)

AKRSP(I) promoted 112 Kishori Balika Samuh during the year 2017. These groups work with around 1800 adolescent girls. Major objective of these groups is to work on menstrual hygiene, nutrition and skills related issues of adolescent girls.

## School Management Committees

School Management Committees are Right to Education Act (RTE) mandated committees for community participation in ensuring compulsory and quality education of children. AKRSP(I) is working on strengthening these committees so that they can play active role in education of children at village level. SMCs are encouraged to participate actively in various school development activities like planning, budgeting, enrolment of children, retention of children, infrastructure maintenance and grievance redressal. During the year 2016, AKRSP(I) worked with around 350 SMCs in Gujarat, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. In Gujarat we have done piloting on federating SMCs into a block level federation so that there is continuity of education work at village level in case of frequent changes in the membership of SMCs.





AKRSP(I) firmly believes in gender equity. This year, we spent more time in reflecting on the priority that we assign to this belief and the efforts that we put to realize it. Hence, this year's initiatives mainly focussed on doing a concrete groundwork, especially, within the organisation. Some of the major initiatives involved selecting and grooming a team of Change Agents, conducting a series of workshops for the staff on gender and empowering processes, preparing innovative resources to be used in these processes and under taking important studies related to gender. One of the most important studies conducted this year was an in-depth study with all the female staff of the organisation to understand their experiences and seek their suggestions to make AKRSP(I) a more gender friendly workplace. Besides these, efforts were also put to promote and strengthen women-led community institutions and work with women's institutions in their struggle to get an identity as 'Farmers'.



## Training and Workshops

Gender empowerment is the key focus of AKRSP(I) and this empowerment cannot be achieved without empowering processes. This year, a series of 6 training and reflection workshops were organised on Empowering Processes with teams of The Dangs, Madhya Pradesh and Saurashtra. A team of Change Agents has also been created and trained to lead the process of change in their respective locations. An exclusive two day workshop was also organised for the senior management of the organisation.

Mahila Manch or Women Federations are one of the most important community institutions that AKRSP(I)

has promoted to achieve the mission of gender equity in the society. This year, a 2-day residential workshop was organised with the women's federations promoted by AKRSP(I). Over 40 leaders from 11 federations and two states gathered in Ahmedabad for two days to share their best practices, learning and experiences and to plan for the next phase of Women's Federations. Also, potential leaders for new Women's Federations were identified and trained through in-house training as well as exposure visits to the Federation of other organisations.

## Research Studies

An in-depth qualitative study was conducted with all the female staff of the organisation to understand their experiences of working with the organisation. The report will be used to introduce initiatives to make the organisation a more gender friendly workplace. The second important study was conducted with all the Programme Leaders of different programmes to understand the relevance of gender in different programmes and how these programmes work towards bringing gender equity in communities that AKRSP(I) works with and also with society at large. We also tried to understand Gender, Skills Training, and Employment through a study with the students of YUVA Junction in Surendranagar district of Gujarat. One of the important exercises was the Gender Equality Marker Exercise. Gender Equality Marker (GEM) exercises are assessment exercises to assess the gender focus of projects being implemented by an organisation. This year, GEM exercises were conducted for 7 key projects being implemented by AKRSP(I).

## Resources Developed

Case-studies on different forms of sexual harassment of women at the workplace were compiled which will be used as a resource for training on organisation's Policy for Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal of Sexual Harassment of Women at Work Place. Case studies on initiatives and best practices of different organisations to ensure gender equity through Programmes were compiled together. 20 interesting case studies on women leaders (from South Gujarat) were produced to document their leadership journeys.

## Women's Federations

The women's federations or Mahila Manchs serve as an important platform for the implementation of different livelihood interventions and also for advocating for their rights and entitlements. The women federations of Madhya Pradesh played a vital role in the implementation of Transforming Rural India initiatives. In The Dangs, the federation actively took up issues like construction of village roads, electrification

of remote villages, and access to social security schemes and encouraging participation of women in Gram Sabhas and Panchayat meetings, etc. The women federations of the Narmada district reached out to hundreds of women to help them get ownership rights on land and other productive resources, in training them in sustainable agricultural practices and also helping them in creating their identity as 'Farmers'. The federations in Saurashtra were actively involved in enhancing the livelihood of families through different livelihood activities, leading school and village sanitation campaigns, menstrual health and hygiene-related initiatives with adolescent girls and strengthening relationships with local government offices for proper implementation of government schemes. On this year's International Women's Day, many women in different SHTs were felicitated by the government department for their initiatives or contribution to the society, e.g., women of an SHG in Nadagkhadi, The Dangs, Gujarat.

## Women Farmers and Land Rights

AKRSP(I) is part of the Working Group for Women and Land Ownership (WGWLO) which is a Gujarat based network of more than 40 NGOs and CBOs committed to sustained grassroots action and policy advocacy around the issue of women's land rights, including access and ownership over land and other productive resources. Two CBOs promoted by AKRSP(I) are also a part of this network. This year, mass awareness campaigns on Women Land Ownership were organised in 30 villages in Sagbara and Dediapada block of Narmada district. The legal processes for the inheritance of rights to land were completed with 85 women. More than 500 women farmers participated in internal as well as external training on Organic farming. 70 women farmers were registered on I-Kisan Portal of the Gujarat government and 120 women farmers were supported in accessing different agricultural schemes. Stories of women from the Narmada district were featured on the website of an international campaign on women and land rights, called Her Land Her Story Campaign.





Our local governance program has following integrated components

- Extension of information directly related to citizens on mass scale using various means including establishment of citizen information centres and use of mobile technologies
- Promoting participation of women in grass root governance
- Facilitating preparation and follow-up of village development plans comprising activities leading to holistic development of villages
- Capacity building of Panchayat leaders so that they can effectively fulfil their responsibilities
- Motivating and supporting Panchayats to initiate development activities in villages based on real demands of citizens, going beyond existing schemes of state and central government if required
- Promoting monitoring of Panchayat works by citizens

During the year, Governance intervention in AKRSP (I) has been streamlined moving from a project to a more comprehensive program in 10 blocks, focusing largely the tribal belt of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. The approach of jointly working on improving the local governance institutions' capacity and empowering citizens through Nagrik Suchana Kendra is internalised and few new dimensions of improving the practices and services relating to nutrition, health and education has been added to the programme. These dimensions emerged largely from the Gram Panchayats' initiatives to work on these issues as demanded by its citizens during the processes of preparing Village Development Plans.

The overall progress in the current year is given in table.

Particular	Outreach
Number of operational Nagrik Suchana Kendra	14
Number of citizens who received information from all means	23724
Number of citizens who received various entitlements/schemes	5514
Number of PRI representatives received trainings	1531
Number of villages where Mahila Sabha conducted	204
Number of villages where Gram Sabha conducted	80
Number of village development plans completed and approved by gram Sabha	20

The 14 Nagrik SuchanaKendra, out of which 7 are run and managed by Gram Panchayats, have reached to 23724 citizens in around 140 Gram Panchayats of 7 blocks.

Last year on women's day event, we launched our helpline in both the states. The helpline is managed by a village volunteer with the support of AKRSP(I). We have publicised the helpline number on large scale through posters, Mobile Mahiti Karyakram (MMK) and community meetings.

Detailed software has been developed for capturing the data of each citizen who calls into helpline for any query/support or guidance. We have trained our team for operating the helpline software as well accessing information to respond to the query of any citizen. During the last year, total 596 calls have been received and were provided guidance. Initially there were very few calls coming on helpline but later on the call numbers has increased.

One observation is that we receive maximum number of calls, immediately after we send any voice message. This gives a clear link between MMK and helpline where the MMK works as trigger for any information of scheme/services and then citizen make a call on helpline for more detailed questions or problems. It also gives us an idea that citizen are actually looking for information and ready to bear the cost of making a call to helpline.

In MP, with constant liaison with district administration, we have been able to facilitate 300 families in Niwali and Zhriniya each for accessing poultry scheme. We have been able to do a regular implementation of this scheme in two districts.

In education, the work on ensuring admissions for students, especially girls in the age group of 10 years and above, into the government residential schools has also picked up and streamlined. Along with that few GPs have come forward and supported the SMC to work with Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan to use different programmes like Seasonal hostel and Bridge Course.



## Community monitoring of services and advocacy with government for resolving the issues:

The major lacuna in our system is less-responsive service providers and government functionaries. People's needs are not addressed on time and application for schemes/services are not processed on time. We have worked with communities and provided information to them on different means of solving this problem, and ensuring that works are implemented at administration level on-time. We provided information about different grievance redressal mechanisms like, CM helpline 181 in MP or online grievance redressal mechanisms for different schemes in Gujarat. Another important process is citizen's collective representation to authorities in administration for quick action. Here the first step is citizen monitors the service providers or tracks the resolutions and if no action is taken on time then collectively raise the issue with block or district administration.

In 24 GPs, citizen are regularly monitoring different government services, like MDM, Anganwadi etc. And in 46 GPs, citizens and Panchyats approached block, district or state authorities/grievance mechanisms to resolve the problems or gaps in schemes or services. There are many examples of such action by citizen and GP jointly which lead to resolution of the problems.

In the Saka panchayat, the midday meal of the school was prepared by the Bagdari SHG group situated at a distance of 20 KM, due to the distance many a times the meal did not reach the school at the right time and the children did not get the mid-day meals at proper time. Villagers were informed that if there was a group in the village who could make the meal and provide the same to the school then government may give them the responsibility of mid-day meal preparation. After the training three women SHGs of the same village held a meeting and decided that the Parvati group can take up this work. They also prepared an application through the panchayat and submitted it to the Janpad for their registration and in October 2017 the registration was approved, and now they are making meal for the school and anganwadi.



## Capacity building of Local Governance Institutions:

Capacity building of local governance institutions, especially gram panchyats and gram sabha has been the key focus area of the whole initiative. This process is showing remarkable results. In the current year, 24 trainings for elected members, 23 trainings for sub-committees and 6 exposure visits were organized. Most of the elected members of all the GPs have participated in training.

Particular	Achievement
Number of villages where Mahila Sabha conducted	204
Number of villages where Gram Sabha conducted	80
Number of village development plans completed and approved by Gram Sabha	20





The work with Panchayat sub-committees is largely focused around important committees like Social Justice Committee, SMC and VHNSC. During the year, we also facilitated formation of new Gram Sabha committees defined under new PESA rules of Gujarat. The gram sabha committees thus formed will be provided with trainings in coming time. The sub-committees are supported to take up their role under the leadership of Gram Panchayats. The SMCs in Sagbara block, first time started seasonal hostel for the children of kotwaliya families (Kotwaliya are Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups) and that ensured continuity of 52 children in school. GPs and VHSNC of Dediapada blocks have initiated process for medical check-ups of their citizens for sickle-cell anaemia with the support of health department.

## Case Study: Ward Panch, Tulsiram taking leadership in panchayat functioning

Tulsiram is the ward panch of the Ratlipura panchayat. When the Sarpanch candidates came for the vote appeal, Tulsiram asked the candidates to work for four areas: electricity, establishment of drinking water well, housing and road construction but after becoming Sarpanch no work was done. Tulsiram participated in many trainings and exposures, and this helped him realize his role and he started raising questions in the gram sabha. Tulsiram carried out the survey in the villages where there was no anganwadi and he submitted an application to the concerned department for its establishment. He also encourages the women to attend the gram sabha as a result the women place their issues for discussion. He gathers information from the Nagrik Soochana Kendra and provides information to the villagers. Tulsiram also follows up the issues submitted to various departments and now he keeps visiting the Janpad Panchayat, education department, Lok Seva Kendra, electricity department and Tehsildar office. Tulsiram has stated that his life has changed after he started participating in local governance. Earlier he was not at all confident in placing the issues before the people. He also pointed out that being a ward panch if he was scared to place the issues in front of people then how could the common people raise their voice for their demands. He further stated that AKRSP(I) helped him realize that in order to get the demands fulfilled by the government; everything should be done in writing.

## Facilitating Mahila Sabha and Gram Sabha:

During the year, total 309 Mahila Sabhas and 164 Gram Sabhas were facilitated. 3456 and 7132 members participated in each respectively.

Local Governing Institution (LGI)	No of LGI meetings	No of Members participated
Mahila Sabha	309	3456
Gram Sabha	164	7132
No of Sub-committees	136	967
No block/District Committees	11	92

Average number of women in Mahila Sabhas has risen to 60 to 70 members, and most of women from Mahila Sabhas also attend Gram Sabha. The average participation in Gram Sabha has also increased a lot and the average attendance is in the range of 80 to 100 members per meeting.

## Preparing integrated Village Development Plans

By end of year, total 65 VDPs were fully completed in 6 blocks. Through meetings and trainings, citizens were informed about the benefits of VDP. The vision plan of the development of the panchayat in 5 years was also prepared by the people. VDPs listed out the problems of the villages. They also realised that their issues could be solved not just in gram sabha but in other places as well. Citizens were informed about the sources from where their panchayats received the money. While preparing VDPs, people also realized that development is just not building of roads and buildings.

The plans prepared by GPs during VDP process cover all requirements and needs of the local community. Now they are preparing their annual plans according to their vision plans and taking high priorities works first. This led to improvement in quality of the works and monitoring of the works.

The uniqueness of VDPs prepared by GPs are:

- Problems related to health and education came up in VDPs like irregularity of teachers in schools, poor education quality, improper staff at anganwadi and irregular work at hospitals etc.

- Problems of alcoholism and domestic violence came up in the community meetings for VDPs
- Problems regarding livelihood and migration came up
- Problems of water, sanitation, improper treatment during pregnancy raised by women

## Tracking of Mahila Sabha, Gram Sabha and VDP action points:

Tracking of the VDP as well as the Mahila Sabha and Gram Sabha resolutions has created a great impact on the overall work of the panchayats. 38 GPs have ensured implementation of VDPs through different departments. Here we are presenting examples of few panchayats.

In the Baikheda GP, issues related to drinking water, bridge and road were raised in mahila sabha; all the issues have been resolved now. In Saikheda panchayat, problem of drinking water was raised in gram sabha in written form and they also submitted it to Janpad CEO for action, which was later on resolved. Similar examples are there in Rentiawadi, Ratlipura, Bedhanya etc GPs where women raised several issues and resolved it through constant follow up.

## Sushashan budget for GPs:

The motive of sushashan budget is to demonstrate that panchayat have willingness and ability to work effectively if they have access to untied flexible funds. Through the sushashan nidhi we have explained to the people as to how the panchayat can identify the work at their level, plan for the implementation of the programme. Citizens can be involved in implementation and when the work is completed, citizens can build systems for management of the completed works.





## Coaching class for 10<sup>th</sup> standard students: an initiative by Khokhra Umar, Patdi, Kundi Amba, Babda, Navagam Panuda Panchayats

Last year, as part of training on VDP and SMC, we did a workshop with GPs on status of education in Dediapada block where we highlighted the poor results of the block – which was just 9.5%, lowest in the whole of Gujarat. Khokhra Umar panchyat took an initiative to start a coaching center for the students. We supported the intervention from Sushashan Budget for initial 6 months then after GP run the classes for the whole year. Looking at this, now other panchayats from the blocks have asked for support to run similar center and now 6 GPs are running coaching classes for the student. The class is managed by GPs, mostly in GP office, GPs identified a teacher from local area for teaching Maths and English while AKRSP (I) provided training to the teachers. GPs also took responsibility of motivating and engaging parents to take interest in the learning of their children. This year, the GPs could provide support to 50 to 60 students, 30% of them are appearing for second trial for SSC exam.

### Impact:

The major impacts of our work can be summarized as following:

- Panchyats on their own dialoguing with their citizens for development of village and solutions for problems.
- Increased demand and supply in livelihood schemes related to agriculture and poultry.
- Volunteers and panchayat members accessing online portals.
- Coordination between citizen, SMCs and Panchyats leading to holistic development of school, better management of MDM and accessing of SSA schemes for quality education like Seasonal hostel and Bridge course.
- Mahila Sabhas are now active and women raised their issues beyond grams sabha taking it to block, SDM and to district level jansunwai; ensuring due follow up for their demands.
- Follow up of gram sabha resolutions and VDP action points in next gram sabha has become a practice in few GPs
- Panchyat office started providing services to citizen from panchyat office with information, forms and online services.
- Panchyats' capacity to plan, implement and manage projects independently have increased.



Our agriculture program has following components based on agro-ecological conditions and availability of resources

- Organising farmers into collectives
- Irrigation development for rainfed regions
- Improving irrigation water use efficiency
- Soil conservation and land quality improvement
- Extension of better practices like Organic, Non-pesticide management (NPM), System of Root Intensification (SRI), Conservation Agriculture (CA) and Intercropping
- Crop diversification to fruits, vegetable and millets cultivation
- Suitable mechanisation of small holder farming practices
- Ensuring better inputs through quality seeds and improved composts
- Better market linkages for major agricultural commodities

Agriculture programme at AKRSP(I) aims at improving the quality of life of small holder farming families through

- Enhanced food and nutrition security
- Enhanced and sustained incomes
- Reduced risks



## Organic Farming

Over 7000 farmers are currently practicing organic farming mainly in Madhya Pradesh programme area. Some women farmers are also practicing organic agriculture in tribal south Gujarat. Most of these farmers practice cotton farming with other crops as inter crops. Organic practices required very intensive extension support to farmers. Farmers Field Schools and JaivikMitras have been developed for effective extension of organic practices. Major supports provided to organic farmers are

- Enabling access to quality non-BT seeds. This remains a big challenge as good quality non-BT seed is not easily available these days.
- Training of farmers on preparation and use of improving soil fertility through organic composts.
- Training of farmers on preparation and use of bio pest-repellents prepared from local organic materials
- Promoting inter-cropping and agro-forestry to achieve farm diversity
- Helping farmers to get certification for their organic agriculture
- Organising farmers into collectives so that farmers can access better markets for their organic produce

There are some excellent results on cost saving for farmers due to use of local organic materials as inputs. There are also visible improvements in the quality of soil and farm level diversity. However there are several challenges like unavailability of good quality non-BT seeds, tedious certification processes and unavailability of remunerative market for organic produces. If these constraints are overcome then organic farming holds good potential for future especially when safe food and ecological balance have become major needs of current times.



## System of Root Intensification (SRI)

2124 farmers practiced SRI in paddy in tribal south Gujarat during the year. Over 150 farmers adopted SRI practices in Soybean and millets with equally good results. There is considerable increase in productivity in addition to savings in costs. Suitable small equipment has been introduced to reduce the labour efforts in the farms. More effective machineries which help in spacing of plants will be critical for future of SRI practice with small holders.





## Conservation Agriculture (CA)

Over 500 farmers have been covered under CA practices so far and it is expected that it will expand rapidly in near future. Conservation Agriculture is primarily based on three principles

- Minimum tillage and soil disturbance
- Permanent soil cover with crop residues and live mulches
- Crop rotation and intercropping

It has been three years since this practice was introduced in AKRSP(I) program villages. Results are extremely positive, some of the results on ground are

- Enhanced organic carbon percentage in the soils
- Enhanced earth worms in the soils
- Enhanced porosity in the soils
- Better maintained soil temperature
- Enhanced diversity on farm



These results have led to several gains for farmers like

- Increased moisture retention leading to reduced need for frequent irrigation. Irrigation requirement reduced up to one third in majority of the cases.
- Reduced need for application of chemical fertilizers
- Improvement in the quality of farm produce
- Increased productivity by around 10%

Conservation Agriculture holds immense potential for small holder farmers. There are some challenges like availability of mulching material and unavailability of suitable sowing equipment. If these challenges are overcome then CA can benefit millions of small holder farmers particularly in semi-arid and arid regions of the country.

## Non-Pesticide Management (NPM)

Over 20000 farmers in AKRSP(I) program villages practice non-pesticide management. Farmers have used several locally available alternatives like Amrit Paani for chemical pesticides. Madhya Pradesh and Tribal South Gujarat regions have benefitted from NPM practices. Linkages have been built with Safe Harvest for marketing of NPM produce from our program areas. Farmers who do not wish to produce organic pest repellent themselves have been given the option of purchasing these inputs from micro-entrepreneurs developed in the villages. Standardisation of inputs, practices and produce remains a challenge in further development of NPM.

If suitable incentives are given to farmers for adopting NPM then there can be large scale geographies which can be brought under "Pesticide-free zones".







## Better Cotton Initiative (BCI)

4000 farmers have adopted BCI practices in Saurashtra region of Gujarat. BCI promotes various practices which lead to sustainability of cotton production through moving away from non-sustainable chemical intensive practices. BCI led visible reduction in cost of cotton cultivation because of appropriate use of inputs and other practices like inter cropping etc.

## Promotion of Pulses Production in Bihar

Over the period of time farmers in states like Bihar have reduced the cultivation of pulses due to several constraints like less productivity, unavailability of better seeds, less focus on extension and fluctuating market rates of pulses. A pilot is being done with 2000 farmers to bring back pulses into cropping system through several integrated interventions. Initial results are encouraging in this regard.

## Crop Diversification

Over the period of time more than 4000 farmers have adopted fruits and vegetable cultivation in AKRSP(I) program villages. Several fruits' orchards have come to fruiting stage and farmers have started selling produce in the market. Mango, Guava, Pomegranate and Lemon are major fruit plants planted by farmers in our program villages. In addition to this over 7000 households benefitted from kitchen vegetable gardens during the year.





## Suitable Mechanisation

Several improved farm implements have been introduced to improve the efficiency of farming operations. Reduction of drudgery particularly for women has been prime focus of introduction of improved farm implements. Some of the highly effective implements are

- Spiral seed graders which are used for grading of grains
- Multi-purpose seed-drills driven by bullocks
- Maize shellers
- Thrashers suitable for small millets

In addition, one of the women's federations in Gujarat owns four tractors which are rented to their members at reasonable rates.

## Farmers Collectives

10700 farmers of 442 villages have been organised into 20 Farmer Producers Organisations (FPOs) with the overall objective of raising farmers' incomes in sustainable manner. Most of the farmer members are small holders. Currently these producers companies are engaged in

- Procurement of pulses and groundnut on minimum support prices (MSP) on behalf of government agencies
- Collective selling of NPM pulses through Safe Harvest Ltd
- Market linkages for organic cotton and other organic produces
- Collective purchase of agriculture inputs
- Extension of better agriculture practices
- Leveraging government schemes for farmers

Total turnover of these FPOs during the year 2017 was around Rs.12 Crores.

In addition to crop based FPOs there are two livestock FPOs conducting activities in the field of goat rearing and poultry. These companies provide deworming, vaccination, feed and knowledge extension services to their members, in addition to market linkages for goat and poultry.

FPOs need further support on several fronts to make them truly member owned self-sustainable economic institutions. Regular and remunerative market linkages for farm produces, and need of working capital remains big challenges for FPOs.





## LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT



Livestock, particularly goat and poultry play very important role in the lives of poorest communities. Majority of the households from under-privileged rural communities like scheduled tribes (ST), scheduled castes (SCs) and Minorities own small numbers of either goats or poultry birds as secondary income sources in addition to vital sources of nutrition. These sectors are also important for achieving goals

like women empowerment as women are directly involved in rearing of goats and poultry birds. Traditionally goat and poultry systems have been neglected in the country as there was not enough understanding of its importance for poorest communities. Recently, a large scale vaccination program has been launched by government which is good sign of progress in this sector.



## AKRSP(I)'s goat and poultry programs have following integrated components

- Organising women into livestock groups namely Goat Rearing Groups or Pashu Palan Samities for collectivising efforts on extension of better rearing practices in addition to backward and forward linkages. These groups are being federated into Producers Companies owned by women.
- Promoting a cadre of women, known as Pashu Sakhis who provide preventive veterinary care services like vaccinations, de-worming and castration
- Promoting improved low cost shelters for goats and poultry
- Promoting better feeding practices suitable for local contexts
- Facilitating breed improvement in goats
- Facilitating convergence and linkages with government schemes and services
- Promoting better marketing practices like selling animals after weighing and collective marketing of animals



## Bihar

Goat Rearing program is being implemented by AKRSP(I) in Samastipur and Muzffarpur districts. Currently program reaches over 23000 women goat rearers of these two districts. It has the objectives of increasing the income of the goat rearers through goat rearing by 50%, empower women at household as well as community level and replication of the project by government agencies. Our target is to reach over 60000 women goat rearers in next three years. Pashu Sakhi cadre that is being developed deliver preventive health care services to the goat rearers. Pashu Sakhi have been selected and they have been provided training on Goat health management modules. Pashu Sakhis have also been provided training on women empowerment with Gender basic module. Collectivization of the Goat rearers was done by mobilizing them into groups called Women Goat Rearers' Groups. These groups were provided trainings on various goat health management practices in order to generate awareness on better practices. These groups also acted as platform for piloting various interventions including goat housing, goat health and nutrition, management and upkeep. Through Pashu Sakhis vaccinations and deworming programs were carried out to reduce mortality and disease outbreak. Lastly an attempt was made to realize the marketing potential of the goats. By inviting goat traders into the field area and facilitating the sale of goats on the basis of live weight was done to break the monopoly of the local traders who have been consistently exploiting the goat rearers by not giving them deserved rates for their goats.





## Major Progress during the year 2017 in Bihar

Particular	Achievement till December 2017
Number of goat rearing households reached	23182
Number of Pashu Sakhis	112
Improved goat shelters	1202
Number of households receiving vaccination services	14094
Number of households receiving de-worming services	23182
Number of households benefitted through improved feeding practices	5267
Number of households practicing Azola cultivation	1213
Number of livestock groups	541





## Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh team continues to implement integrated goat and poultry development program. Goat and poultry plays critical role in livelihood risk mitigation for tribal communities of our program region. Around 50% of the households keep goats while over 65% households keeps backyard poultry in program villages hence these are important livelihood sources for the community.

Major highlights of livestock program in Madhya Pradesh during the year 2017 are

- Interventions reached to more than 5000 households during the year.
- 83 Pashu Sakhis are actively working in the program villages providing services like de-worming, vaccinations and castration.
- 138 Pashu Palak Groups (PPGs) are currently functioning in the program villages. These groups have membership of over 2500 women.
- 138 households benefitted through poultry shelters activity while 47 households covered under goat shelters activity.
- 31417 chicks vaccinated and 7324 had gone through de worming process.
- 4202 HHs have been provided preventive veterinary services by Pashu Sakhis
- 40777 goats were vaccinated and 24414 goats had gone through de worming process.
- One women's group has taken up goat feed production and marketing as enterprise activity. This group sold their products to over 1000 households during the year.

## Livestock based Farmer Producers Organization (FPO)

It has been observed that farmers were facing various critical issues in goat and poultry farming systems like; lack of technical knowledge, high mortality, productivity deficit in animals, and lack of proper market information. This institution would address the issues of production system at various levels. To address the above issue, AKRSP(I) has promoted a women owned Farmer Producers Organization. There are two livestock based FPOs in Madhya Pradesh. Major benefits of FPOs to livestock rearers are as follows

- Transparent market for goat and poultry products, where farmers will get competitive market prices due to collective marketing to major urban areas.
- Farmers get other services like veterinary care services and quality feed supply etc.
- These FPOs also monitor the services provided Pashu Sakhis to their members.

During the year, Pandhana Pashu Palak Company had the turnover of Rs. 9.48 lakhs with profit margin of Rs.1.2 lakhs. This company has membership base of 512 women. In coming years this company can grow its services and business to much higher level.

In addition to Goat and Poultry programs The Dangs unit in Gujarat continued its work on dairy development. It helped tribal farmers in Dangs to get dairy animals from cooperative dairy of the region. In addition it also helped revival of couple of milk cooperatives in the district.







## Water Resources Development for Irrigation

The single greatest constraint for small farmers to have higher agriculture productivity and diversification is water control. With an increasingly erratic rainfall, irrigation, both for supporting during the rainfall gaps in the monsoon crop, and for water availability in winter and summer is critical and defines the difference between a viable and impoverished farming. Most rainfed large farmers are much worse off than smaller, but irrigated farmers.

AKRSP(I) supports the villagers for greater water control, not only through supply side solutions but also by managing demand through promoting micro-irrigation schemes and agriculture interventions like SRI, Conservation agriculture, which reduce the water demand.

AKRSP (I)'s interventions can be categorized broadly into:

- Recharge the groundwater: Indirectly supporting irrigation. Interventions under this category are percolation tanks, checkdams, watershed work etc.
- Provide direct irrigation from surface water sources (canals, dams and rivers) and groundwater (group wells, bore wells etc). Interventions include participatory canal management, checkdams (both new and repair, boribandhs, mini-lift irrigations schemes, groupwells, farm ponds etc.)
- Promoting efficient use of water through large scale promotion of Drip Irrigation.

Major objectives of the water resource development program in AKRSP(I) are

- Increasing income through Integrated Package for Irrigated Agriculture
- Increase ground water storage through rain waterrecharge
- Promoting water use efficiency
- Promoting equitable distribution of irrigation water







## Surface Water Harvesting

- Some of the major activities carried out during the year were water storage structure development, developing solar based irrigation systems and capacity building of the community in relation with optimal use of the water. AKRSP (I) also developed several video documentaries for replicating best practices during the year.
- During the year, 11 stop dams and 3 earthen dams were constructed under various projects. As a result of this, farmers who did not have water for irrigation before are now taking 2 or more crops in a year.
- 11 structures repaired during the year benefitting more than 120 farmers.
- To pump water, solar based group lift irrigation has been introduced which reduces the cost incurred on watering the crops due to replacement of diesel engines by solar panels. Boribund is a low cost intervention which requires plastic sacks. The sacks are filled with mud and placed in a position where it checks the water from flowing out. The water stored helps in irrigating the fields. This was one of the major interventions in MP and Gujarat. More than 100 Boribunds were constructed during the year.
- One medium size check dam construction was laid down on Besana River (Netrang region of Gujarat) of Kolivada village. The dam is having a command area of 73 acre with the water storage capacity of 1.03 mcft. As a result of it, 36 farmers are getting a direct benefits from the project in the form of supplementary irrigation. This in turn would enhance their livelihoods.
- In MP, 9 new lift irrigation systems have been installed. Basically lift irrigation systems meant for providing protective irrigation during the dry spells within the rainy season as well as rabi season. During this year 4 new diversion based irrigation system also been introduced with same intention.

## Diversion Based Irrigation System (DBI)

A low cost option for poor to have food sufficiency and decent livelihoods

### Concept behind Diversion based Irrigation System

All surface irrigation works could be divided into gravity (when the water is transported by the force of gravity) or lift irrigation (when water is transported by pumping or other means of lifting).

- ✓ All gravity based irrigation system work on a system called 'Head Work'. A hydraulic structure which diverts stream-flow to the farm fields is called 'Head Work'.
- ✓ Head Work can be created either by 'Storage head-work' (By constructing a dam across the river) or 'Diversion head-work' (diverts the required supply of water by using temporary bunds (constructed every year after floods) or permanent weirs (tank) and barrages put across the river.

A Diversion Based Irrigation (DBI) system is one which diverts a portion of water from a natural stream/water course/river and uses it with or without intermediate storage for the purpose of irrigation and for other human ends.

- ✓ It can tap a small mountainous stream to irrigate up to 40 hectares of land.
- ✓ It can be done in small rivers, which can be done with or without intermediate storage to irrigate larger areas belonging to a single village or multiple villages

Diversion Based Irrigation (DBI) Systems have great traditional importance for Tribal Regions of the country due to following reasons

- Tribal communities generally live in hilly tracts
- Hilly tracts have abundant water streams which are traditionally used for several domestic and agriculture purposes by the tribal communities
- Tribal regions are highly remote locations hence large portion of these regions still do not have access to reliable power for transportation of water

- Farm fields of tribal farmers are highly undulating hence transportation of water is not easy in such farms

### Objectives of AKRSP(I)'s DBI Program

- To provide protective or critical irrigation to kharif crops and rabi crops.
- To provide assured source of irrigation for the agricultural uplands of the poor and the marginal farmers.
- To reduce transmission losses of water during transportation from streams to farms

### Advantages

- ✓ Easy to implement and short execution period.
- ✓ Small streams are tapped.
- ✓ Nearly zero maintenance cost option makes it affordable for poor to take benefit of it.
- ✓ Reduces transportation losses during operations
- ✓ Helps poor to attain food security throughout the year by providing continuous water supply system for irrigation
- ✓ Also provide 24hrs water supply to fulfill domestic need as it depends on natural gravity.

### Beneficiaries

Groups of small and marginal tribal farmers (mostly 5 to 20 members having total 5 to 40 hectares of land).

### DBI Work Implemented During the Year

During this year four diversion based irrigation systems have been installed. Three systems introduced in Sendhwa block and one in Palona village of Zhirniya block. In DBI Schemes we have covered 30 farmers and net irrigation area increased by 37 hectares of land. In coming year, we have planned about a dozen more such systems.



## Drip Irrigation

- More than 7000 farmers have adopted Drip Irrigation in AKRSP(I) programme areas over last few years. 1899 new farmers adopted drip irrigation during this year. Surendranagar, Rajkot and Morbi districts have largest numbers of drip farmers.

A research study has shown that

- Cotton farmers earned Rs. 9235 per acre more from drip irrigation farms in comparison to crop without drip irrigation.
- Drip irrigated cotton farms are 26.5% more water efficient in comparison to farms without drip

- In Dangs, 53 farmers from 8 villages have adopted Drip Irrigation.
- Mini drip kits have been provided to farmers for backyard land mostly for vegetable cultivation. A single kit fulfils the irrigation need of 150 square meter area. This mini drip kit included a 500 liter water tank, 500 ml neem oil and 50 kg organic manure. Farmers were imparted training for installing and maintaining the mini drip systems.



## Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM)

Participatory Irrigation Management refers to a management approach which involves the group of people who directly derive the water they need for irrigation from canal. PIM ensures that the farmers pay water-charges for the water which they take from canal. Participatory irrigation management helps in uniform supply of water to the fields and as a result helps in increased production. Major objectives of PIM are

- To promote farmers ownership and democratic management of irrigation schemes built by government.
- Rehabilitation of canal system for maximizing the area under irrigation. This leads to bridging the gap between potential created and potential utilized.
- To promote and secure equitable distribution of water among its users, adequate maintenance of irrigation system, efficient and economical utilization of water to optimize agricultural production.
- To ensure that farmers pay water-charges for the irrigation services so that this funds can be used in repair and maintenance of irrigation schemes.
- Participatory resolutions of irrigation related disputes.

In south Gujarat, 28 water user associations formed through various processes. 6600 families (covering 8811 hectares of land) are the members of those associations. Out of 28, 17 associations completed their formal registration process and 13 had developed MoU of water usage.



# SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION (SWC)



Soil and water conservation activities are extremely important activities for undulating topographies. Poorest communities like tribal communities of the country settle in such topographies. Under Soil and Water Conservation, the focus is on two activities namely area treatment and drainage line treatment. Under area treatment earthen field bunding, stone field bunding, farm forestry and common land plantation is done. Under drainage line treatment, gabions and loose boulder structures/nala plugs were constructed. These treatments will not only be helpful to reduce soil erosion but also conserve flowing rain water. SWC was major focus in Madhya Pradesh and The Dangs which have higher slopes.

## Highlights of the Year

- In Madhya Pradesh, field bund/stone farm bund constructed in 34 hectares of private land and contour trenches constructed in 28 hectares of common land. These activities helped in checking soil erosion and augmenting the ground water recharge, and soil moisture conservation in the field. 87 Gabions and 116 Boulder gully plugs (Nalla plug) have been constructed under which 174 ha and 59.5 ha area treated respectively. The development of gabions and gully plugs proved very effective in reducing the flow of runoff and checks the soil erosion. The effect of the reduced soil erosion can be seen as silt deposition in upstream side of gabions and boulder gully plugs.
- As Dangs lie in a hilly terrain and faces high rainfall, soil erosion is major problem. If one visits Dangs during monsoons, the colour of the water which flows in its rivers will tell the whole story. These rivers along with water also take away the healthy top soil. In order to



check this erosion, AKRSP(I) has been engaged in range of soil conservation interventions such as farm bunding, nalla plugging, gabion structures, and continuous contour trenches. These interventions not only prevent soil erosion but will also transform their undulated land into a plain one. Major interventions under SWC in The Dangs benefitted 222 households through contour bunding, construction of 30 Gabion structures, 31 kotar bunding and 14 Nalla plugging.

- In two villages of Dangs – Amsarpada and Divdyawan – 107 households were given





stumps of various trees. The plants distributed include Mango, Neem, Drumstick, Jamun (Blackberry), Coconut, Peepal, and Ashok. The trees once fully grown, apart from increasing the green cover, will provide fruits to the people and will also help in reducing soil erosion. From the interest people have shown during the event of tree plantation in both the villages, it was evident that they too realize the importance of trees. They not only planted the trees but have also taken oath to protect the trees.

- In Madhya Pradesh, 15000 forestry saplings planted in 15 hectares of revenue waste land

with the objectives of introduction of fast growing species (mainly MPTS such as *Leucaena leucocephala*, Karanj, *Glericidia* etc.) to reduce the drudgery of villagers especially of women and children for fuel wood and fodder collection.



## DRINKING WATER



Drinking water issues both access and quality have become major development challenges in rural areas. In western part of the country, availability of water particularly during summers has become a challenge while in eastern states; quality of water from shallow aquifers used by community for drinking purpose has become a major challenge. AKRSP(I)'s drinking water program runs on following integrated mechanism

- All drinking water schemes built by AKRSP(I) are run by community groups. Community actively participates in the planning, construction and operations of the schemes.
- Drinking water management committees compulsorily collect water charges from all members of the water user groups to make schemes self-sustainable once built
- Schemes are smaller in size catering to all households of a single hamlet, typically a scheme serve 100 to 200 households
- Quality testing is compulsory part of all drinking water interventions.

- Women have active role in planning, implementation and operations of the drinking water schemes.







## Bihar

Most of the communities in Bihar rely on the ground water for the drinking purpose. Shallow hand pumps are used as the major source of water by rural people. Shallow aquifers are highly contaminated in Bihar due to various reasons like lack of drainage systems.

To overcome the problem, Community based Mini Drinking Water scheme was introduced by AKRSP(I). During the year, AKRSP (I) installed community owned mini drinking water schemes in 4 villages benefitting 550 households. They are getting safe water at their doorstep. Household level tap connections have reduced the drudgery for women who earlier had to fetch water from hand pumps. Schemes not just provide the safe water to rural families, it also serves schools of these villages and 520 children of these schools are benefitting from these schemes.

In the initial phase, convincing the communities was quite challenging. To make it run in a sustainable mode, with active community participation, a water user committee was formed in each of the village to promote and implement the scheme. The major role of this committee is to work as facilitators and monitors at the community level. The user groups are responsible for maintaining the mini drinking system and ensuring that the water charges are paid by all the users.

On an average, each community member taking water from the mini drinking system pay about Rs.30 per month. Collected water charges are handled transparently by water committees; these are deposited in a joint bank account. After paying the electric bill and expenses to sundry repair (whenever necessary) remaining fund is kept in the account for future unexpected expenses.

## Technical Assistance for “HarGharNalkaJal Scheme” of Bihar Government

AKRSP(I) has prepared training modules for “formation and strengthening of ward level water committee”. One video module has also been prepared which is used extensively by the Panchayati Raj department for the extension of “HarGharNalka Jal Scheme”. District level orientation workshops for government officials and Panchayat leaders were conducted during the year where PRI leaders of 8 blocks participated.

## The Dangs-Gujarat

Due to its terrain and geographical pattern, fetching water is very difficult in The Dang district of the Gujarat. So, solar based drinking water schemes were developed in 5 villages – Pipalpada, Sadadvahir, Vanjhetemrun, Savarpada, and Chichpada. The source of water in all these schemes is dug-well. Compared to the electricity supply which was uneven and often of low voltage, these solar powered schemes ensure the regular supply of drinking water at the door step. In addition, dug-well which is a source of drinking water scheme in Pipalpada has also been renovated.

Another drinking water scheme was developed in Chichinagavtha under which all the 89 households of Kotwalia faliya were provided tap connections. A water tank of 10000 liter capacity has also been built. Water pumped from dug-well is stored in it. From there, water is supplied to the households. The water scheme developed here under the Clean Village Project – implemented with the support of South Dangs Forest Department – has helped in reducing the drudgery faced by women of Kotwalia faliya.

12 member Community Group (NigraniSamiti) was also formed by the community to manage all the activities which includes liaison with Panchayat, conflict resolution, water charges collection, work quality monitoring, maintenance of records and operations.

The ownership developed through community contribution in the form of labour kind work resulted into efficient utilization of this scheme and made community more aware about the benefits of safe drinking water. Various capacity building activities such as trainings, exposure and video shows on various benefits of safe drinking water on health were organised to make villagers aware about importance of safe drinking water.

## Madhya Pradesh

With the aim of providing access to safe drinking water, AKRSP(I) initiated drinking water program in Ahmadnagar village of Khalwa block of Khandwa district. Most of the population in the village belongs to tribal Korku community. Lack of access to information resulted into low awareness about safe drinking water. Ahmadnagar is a small village with 87 households and situated 52 Km from district headquarter Khandwa. Community demand of ease of access to safe drinking water was pending for long time at Panchayat. Villagers started demanding for any initiative to solve their safe drinking water problem in mid-2015. Based on community need and continuous demand we initiated Safe Drinking Water project on pilot basis. By involving community and line department in the process, we were able to develop integrated drinking water plan with participatory approach in the village. With the aim to use available drinking water resources efficiently we have supported to install 3 tanks of 5000 liter each at various locations of the village according to population concentration. 4 stand posts (common outlets) were also provided as per community need.





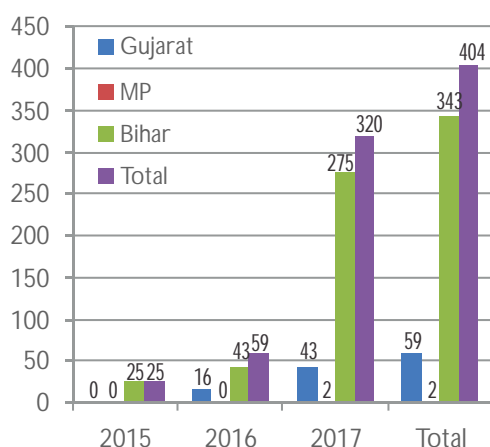
AKRSP(I)'s sanitation initiative is comprehensive in nature. It includes

- Facilitating construction and use of individual household level toilets with the focus on making villages Open Defecation Free
- Mass awareness on benefits of better sanitation practices
- Solid and liquid waste management
- Improving sanitation and drinking water infrastructure in schools
- Hygiene education in schools including large scale promotion of hand washing
- Menstrual hygiene management with adolescent girls
- Strengthening community based institutions including Panchayats to make sanitation outcomes sustainable
- Training and capacity building of masons on large scale
- Training and capacity building of government officials at district, block and Panchayat levels

The 'AKDN Comprehensive Sanitation Initiative' is being implemented by AKRSP(I) in 3 states namely Bihar, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, since 2015. In the year 2017, a total of 1106 villages were covered under the initiative; construction of 28648 new Individual Household Latrines (IHHLs) was facilitated and 404 villages were brought under Open Defecation Free (ODF) status. The methodology followed comprised of ODF plus approaches- which consists of construction and usage of household level toilets, school hygiene promotion, working on SLWM with concerned panchayats and educating adolescent girls and women on MHM. Villages are encouraged to move from ODF stage 1 to ODF stage 4 to become model villages, wherein all inhabitants are aware of the importance of WASH and practice WASH collectively to attain a healthy environment for present & future generations. This year 15 model villages were promoted under the Comprehensive Sanitation Initiative.

Pusa block in Bihar is the first block which becomes first of its kind to get the status of 100 % ODF under the block support approach and this approach was appreciated by Government. 35 villages in Saurashtra region (Mangrol SHT), 5 villages in Sayla and Wankaner were brought under ODF status this year. Chichina Gavatha; a primitive tribal habitation in Dang become first ODF primitive tribal village to get the status of 100 % ODF with the support from forest department. MP team facilitated 2 villages to attain the status of model village and 2 villages were brought under ODF status.

## Villages brought under ODF over the years



## Villages brought under ODF status in 2017

	Nos. of ODF villages as on 31/12/2017	No. of villages brought under ODF in 2017
Gujarat	59	43
MP	02	02
Bihar	343	275
Total	404	320

This year several state governments declared many districts as ODF, however there are some gaps at the field level. AKRSP(I) team is working towards bridging the gaps for making villages truly ODF.

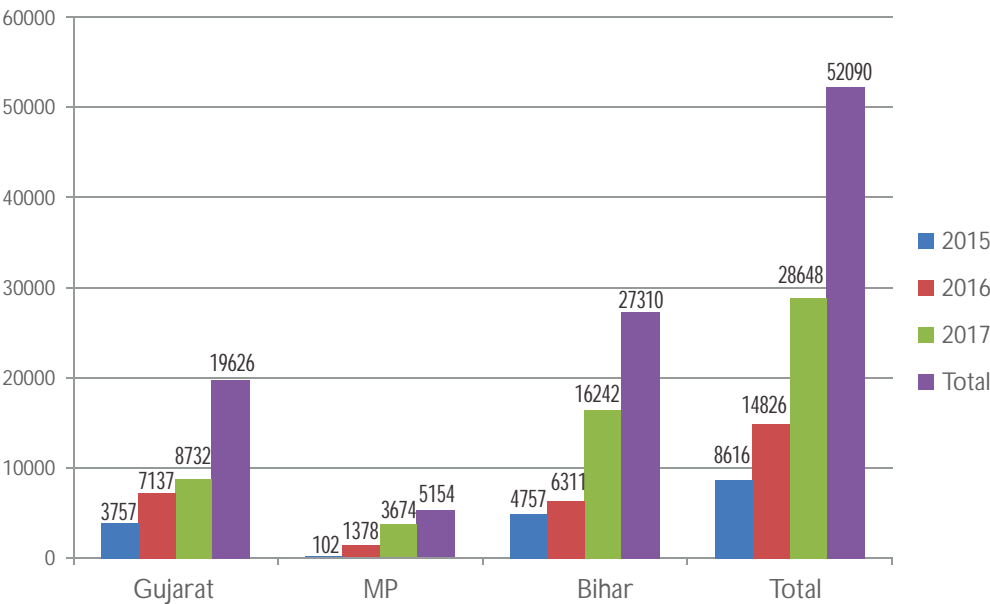
Bihar state has launched Lohiya Swachha Bihar Abhiyan to support the state ODF plan. This year our



Bihar team had projected entire Pusa block under block support approach and targeted for 100 % ODF and achieved this milestone in December by celebrating the Pusa ODF declaration events on 30th November 2017.



## Showing IHHL coverage over the years for different states



## IHHLs coverage for 2017

	IHHLs Coverage
Gujarat	8732
MP	3674
Bihar	16242
Total	28648



## Status of program villages as on 31st December 2017

Locations	Total Nos. of villages	Proportionate coverage towards ODF					
		0-25%	25-50%	50-75%	75-90%	90-99%	100%
Gujarat	263	38	45	58	42	21	59
MP	70	9	15	22	16	6	2
Bihar	773	155	104	107	37	48	343
Total	1106	202	164	187	95	75	404

## Rolling out IEC and Triggering activities for BCC

During the year 2017, various mobilisation and training tools were used which primarily comprises of village/falia level meetings of women SHGs, clean home campaigns with Mahila Mandals, one day village campaigns on awareness about hygiene issues and motivating community to construct toilets and adopt improved hygiene practices, orientation of Sarpanch and Mukhiyas of Gram Panchayats, training and activation of SMC for school sanitation improvement, CLTS training of motivators, training of Asha and Anganwadi workers etc.

One of the major focuses this year was on imparting training on toilet usage, with the aim of making toilet usage an accepted activity among rural community. Exposure visits of Nigarani Samiti members and key leaders to model villages were carried out which played a major role in motivating them for acting as a change agents for the entire community. These tools proved very useful in increasing the skills, knowledge and awareness of community regarding improved sanitation practices for the promotion of personal hygiene, keeping villages clean and achieving the ultimate goal of ODF village status.

## Cumulative coverage under various mobilisation and capacity development activities

Key BCC activities	Gujarat	MP	Bihar
Village level and cluster levels meetings	736	432	382
Knowledge base trainings at village level (health and hygiene training, toilet users training, school O & M trainings)	339	230	93
Skill base training at cluster level (training of para workers, ASHA & Aganwadi workers , exposure visits)	82	21	34
Mason trainings	17	10	6
Village and cluster level mobilisation events (CLTS, Gram safai, rallies, street plays, video shows, nukkad nataks , workshops, ODF celebrations ,etc. )	317	189	185
Promotional events for Menstrual Hygiene Management	280	87	29
BCC roll out for district wide approach	0	3	35

Other mobilisation tools used this year includes Gram Safai Abhiyan, rallies, street plays, Nukkad Nataks, video- shows, clean home competition; which have together helped in increasing awareness regarding the need for adopting improved sanitation and hygiene practices.

- Women's day celebration giving a message of adopting improved hygiene and sanitation practices, a celebration of world toilet day incorporating community events and school children rallies etc. were focused over the year.

- Mangrol, Gadu and Khambhaliya cluster in Mangrol SHT facilitated around 15 ODF celebration events with concern Gram panchayats in which the panchayat declared themselves as ODF and participating villagers took an oath to maintain the status of ODF.





## Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM)

This year, every cluster across the program areas prioritized certain villages where MHM initiatives were undertaken. A total of 91 villages were selected where adolescent girls and women were mobilized through Kishori Groups, women SHGs and their federations. In these villages, monthly meetings were conducted and training sessions were organized for imparting knowledge on important aspects of menstruation cycle like understanding it from a biological perspective, the importance of maintaining hygiene during this period, socio-religious taboos and beliefs prevalent in society about menses, current practices for managing menses and improving these practices wherever possible.

- Our team in Dang partnered with a local organization named ARCH and imparted training on MHM with the help of women leaders to adolescent girls and women belonging to 12-15 villages. They also trained women on sewing sanitary napkins from locally available material and the resultant

products are being marketed in the local market as well as used for self-usage.

- International MHM day was celebrated on 28th May 2017 at various clusters across the three states. A total of 13 events were organized in which 1798 adolescent girls and women participated. Resource material developed by AKF was used to discuss the scientific process of menstruation cycle, various types of sanitary napkins that could be used as improved practices, methods to use those napkins and its safe disposal etc. In Wankaner and Mangrol clusters, block and district level health officers also participated in the events while in some locations ASHA workers and external resource persons joined in the events.

MHM component is fast emerging as one of the most important components under the sanitation initiatives, few observations from the field are as follows:-

- MHM should not be limited to school girls or adolescent girls, but it needs to involve parents and other family members so that the entire village is the recipient of capacity building interventions and training.

- Under MHM approaches, the team also had a detail discussion on entrepreneurship model. There was a thought to develop women entrepreneur to sustain MHM linkages, but at the end, all get agreed that all need to keep in mind the availability, disposal and priority (cloth or pad) of the product before any startup.

## MHM interventions across the states

Type of intervention	Gujarat	MP	Bihar
Nos. of villages prioritized under the initiatives	68	18	5
Nos adolescent groups formed /activated	74	38	0
Nos. of meeting organized with adolescent groups	143	22	12
Trainings events imparted on MHM includes training, exposure visits, work -shops and video shows	137	27	3
Nos of adolescent girls and women covered under training during the year	7155	1201	1575
Nos of events organized on MHM day celebrations	5	7	1
Nos of women participated in MHM day celebration	826	415	557



## School WASH Activities

Under the AKDN sanitation initiatives, hygiene education to school children is an integral part of the IEC activities aligned with the main program. AKRSP(I) organized minimum 3 to 4 awareness events with all school children in all active program villages, on issues like personal hygiene, school cleanliness, school toilet maintenance and environmental cleanliness through rallies, essay writing, drawing competitions, playing games like snake and ladder, hygiene awareness session through hand washing demonstrations etc.

This year AKRSP(I) initiated school wash program in 50 schools in Gujarat and 104 schools in Bihar which includes imparting in-depth hygiene curriculum to students of standard 1 to 5 through well-designed modules. The entire curriculum covers all aspects of personal hygiene, hygiene at home, hygiene at schools, hygiene during sickness and environmental/ village hygiene and the same was covered through 40-45





sessions, conducted during the entire year. The entire curriculum is well-designed and user-friendly and it equips students of various levels to learn and adopt good hygiene habits.

Cluster coordinators were appointed in Gujarat and Bihar this year, and their ToT was done by AKF team. Our cluster team visits all the identified schools and meets students, teachers and SMC members regularly to generate awareness about the project. The inception workshops followed by training of teachers, head teachers, CRC and BRC members was completed in first half of the year in Gujarat and Bihar. Educational kits which include different games have been distributed during the teachers' training after a demonstration exercise on how to use them during the session.

Refresher training of trainers was also done across the project area during last quarter to ensure that the hygiene curriculum administered during the year remains an on-going process for the coming academic year. In additions to above, slogans giving the message on hygiene promotion were painted on the walls of all the schools covered under the project.

AKRSP(I) has completed school sanitation construction activities in Gujarat in two locations, covering 12 schools in Khambhaliya and 3 schools in Sayla block. In MP, 2 school sanitation units were completed during the year. 4 school sanitation units were completed in Bihar during the year. The children from these 17 schools are also covered under hygiene education initiatives.

## Showing activities covered under School WASH Initiative

Key school WASH activities	Gujarat	MP	Bihar
Nos of schools covered under school hygiene education	65	12	108
Nos of children covered under awareness events on WASH	18950	1124	38800
School toilet construction works completed	15	2	4



AKRSP(I) has started a community health and nutrition program in Madhya Pradesh. We are covering 41 villages through health and nutrition activities with the support of Transform Rural India initiative and Chetna organization. Our health program is fully built on model of bridging gaps between services offered by government and actual services received by the community on ground. Our health and nutrition program has following components

- Using women self-help groups as the platform for achieving better health and nutrition outcomes
- Creating a cadre of women change agents to facilitate demand generation for health services, bring changes in community norms and practices and facilitate trust building between government health workers and community
- Activating Village Health , Sanitation and Nutrition committee (VHSNC)
- Creating enabling environment in Anganwadi centers with the help of community and government

- Facilitating smooth flow of government schemes and entitlements to intended beneficiaries
- Promotion of infant and young child feeding practices
- Promotion of dietary diversity in tribal regions

Following major activities and results were achieved during the year

- 100% Institutional Deliveries:  
100 % institutional deliveries achieved in 10 villages of Khaknar block. Women were motivated to get themselves registered with Asha Workers to complete full ANC and take benefit of institutional delivery system. Women self-help groups and their leaders played important role in this achievement. In year 2018, additional 30 villages will be targeted to achieve 100% institutional deliveries.



- 100% Immunization of pregnant women and children:

100 % Immunization of pregnant women and children achieved in 14 villages of the block. All pregnant women and children (under 2 years of age) these villages took benefit of immunization. Community had lot of traditional myths related to immunization but we are conducting regular meeting with family members and conducting individual counseling.

- Strengthening Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committees (VHSNC):

Government formed village level committees for the monitoring the Health, Nutrition and Sanitation activities. Most of these committees are dysfunctional at village level. After several rounds of interactions, trainings and workshops, now 10VHSNCs are actively functioning. Some VHSNCs are doing regular meetings, participating in immunization process, participating in village sanitation work and regularizing the Aaganwadi services.

- *SachetDidi* Taking the Responsibility of Village Health-

Sachet Didis are women change agents selected by women's institutions at village level to work on health issues of women and children. Their main works are to generate demand for health services from community and bring change in community practices to improve community health and nutrition status. Total 82 Sachet Didis have been identified in 41 villages. These change agents are trained on best practices required for "Pregnant women, Mothers and Child Care". These health modules are prepared by Chetna organization. This cadre was instrumental in achieving 100% institutional deliveries and full vaccination coverage in some of the villages.

## Case Study: Success Story of a *Sachet Didi*

Whenever a mission is started with a determination then even the Almighty is on their side and it is this determination that leads to success. Such determination was shown by a member of Jay Ambe Self Help Group of Jhirmiti village, Ms. Vinita. Village Level Association (VLA) encouraged Ms. Vinita to work towards the health issues of the village community and named her the SachetDidi. She has studied till standard 8th and there are 6 members in her family that includes her two daughters and two sons, both the daughters are currently studying in Standard 10th and 8th, and the sons are studying in standard 6th and 5th respectively. In addition to this she also has a little agricultural land that helps her to sustain the family.

The moment she was selected as the Sachet Didi, Ms. Vinita was provided training on mother and child health. During this training, she was made aware of the complications during child birth that the women usually face and she was also made aware of the immunization of the baby. It was during this training that she realized that even she had undergone the same complications that usually arise during child birth because of early marriage of the girl, early pregnancy, inappropriate time gap during pregnancies, anaemia, etc. She was particularly moved by the facts that maternal deaths were still common and non-institutional deliveries leads to poor mental development of children. She decided during the training that she will spread awareness among the women of her village especially pregnant women on importance of better maternal care. She was determined to make the families of the pregnant women understand and encourage them to opt for institutional deliveries.

After the training, with the help of Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (India) she was introduced as the "Sachet Didi" in the village. She went from house to house creating awareness about mother and child health, immunization of mothers and infants, nutritional care for mothers, nutritional care for children, personal and family hygiene, care of pregnant women, anaemia etc. In this process she also encouraged people to have institutional delivery and proper immunization of both mothers and children.

She also helps the ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers and ANMs of the village, and counsels those who do not have faith on these workers. There were traditional delivery practices and some families did not agree for institutional deliveries. She was constantly forced to stop her work but she went against her families and all those who opposed her for encouraging institutional deliveries. It was her determination to work for these women that finally paid off as in the last year all the 17 deliveries that took place in the village were all institutional. In last one year, she has been helping the children of the beneficiaries and the pregnant women to be 100 percent immunized and also helping them to be registered in the Anganwadi centres. She has also been successfully helping women to get the benefits from Anganwadi centres.

In this way Ms. Vinita "Sachet Didi" has changed the identity of the village in whole Burhanpur district by making it the leading village with 100 percent institutional deliveries and immunization.

Vinita does all the hard work voluntarily and do not get any monetary rewards from the organization or community. This is sheer power of community driven health program where change agents from community takes the charge of driving change on ground.

- Celebration of Village Health and Nutrition Days (Mangal Diwas) in Anganwadi centers:

Government of MP has guidelines around celebration of VHN day in each Anganwadi but it is hardly celebrated in any tribal village. With the purpose of creating awareness in the community about Anganwadi services and improving the quality of services, we are motivating the Anganwadi workers to celebrate the VHN day. At present 56 Anganwadi centers are regularly celebrating the 4 mandatory VHN days (Mangal Diwas). Pregnant women, lactating mothers, adolescent girls and children are getting several benefits due to regular celebration of VHN days.

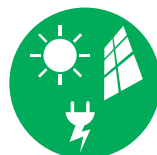
- Adolescent Girls Groups in Villages: AKRSP(I) has formed groups of adolescent girls at village level to address the issues of menstrual hygiene, nutrition and skills. These groups regularly meet to discuss issues and get benefit of improved knowledge about health and nutrition issues. Some of the adolescent girls are also working voluntarily on improving primary education status in

their respective villages. Their activities includes running summer camps for primary school children of villages promoting better learning outcomes, sports, arts and crafts etc. One of the regular health agenda

for women SHGs is to avoid marriages of adolescent girls at early age to avoid several health complexities for girls.







## Why Renewable Energy

Over the last 200 years, human beings have become more and more dependent on the energy sources that they dig out from the earth. Earlier, almost all of our energy requirements came from renewable resources i.e. wind, sun, water or firewood. As years passed, we began using coal, oil, natural gas displacing older energy sources. Over the past 25 years, use of these resources have increased to manifolds and have made us realize that they will not last forever and that their use is contributing to environmental pollution.

Solar energy – which basically comes from the sun, provides opportunities for an unlimited, sustainable energy supply with low environmental impact. Reduction in costs of solar products made it highly attractive source of energy for poorest communities who live in remote rural locations.

AKRSP(I) focus on renewable energy measures because of following reasons.

1. Renewable energy technologies are clean sources of energy that have a much lower environmental impact than conventional energy technologies.
2. It is a sustainable and reliable source of energy to rural households.
3. It can help the farmers reduce the cost of cultivation and processing.
4. Solar energy can be used for a variety of purposes with very less operational expenditure which can help poor families in setting up their livelihood options.
5. It can be a better option for the left out villages from conventional grid connectivity; invariably poorest communities are devoid of grid connectivity due to their remoteness.
6. Solar energy leads to reduction in drudgery for rural population particularly for women.

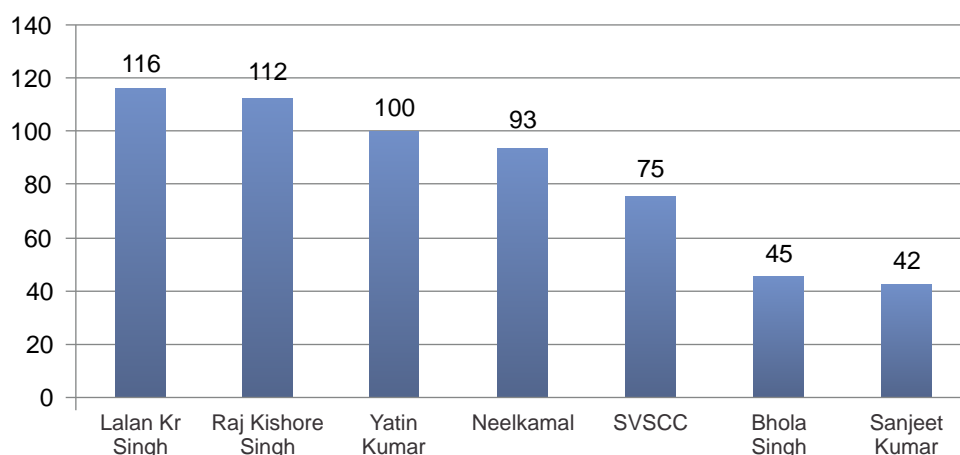
## Solarized Irrigation Service Markets - Chakhaji Model

(An enterprise based model which can transform livelihoods of eastern states of India)

Solar irrigation pumps offer a great opportunity to catalyse highly competitive and equitable Irrigation Service Markets in groundwater abundant eastern India. An Irrigation Service Provider with a solar pump faces high fixed cost (of depreciation and interest on solar panels), and very low operating cost; as a result, s/he would have strong incentive to maximize the 'utilization factor' of his irrigation asset to recover fixed costs by selling irrigation service to neighbours.

In 2017 AKRSP(I) partnered with IWMI-Tata program to support six young farmers and one farmers' group in Chakhaji village of Bihar, India to become Irrigation Service Providers (ISP) by offering 60% capital cost subsidy on 5 kWp solar pumps each with 1000 feet of buried pipe distribution. The 40% contribution from the entrepreneurs is recovered through an upfront contribution and 4 annual instalments thereafter. The pumps are located so as to have over-lapping command to ensure that buyers could access irrigation from two or more service providers. The solar entrepreneurs benefit from free solar energy but are under pressure to generate cash for repaying instalments. This makes them aggressively seek buyers to maximize their water sales; in the process, they offer better irrigation service at lower prices.

**No. of Farmers benefited From 7 Different ISPs**



The pilot has only completed one winter and one summer season; but evidence is already mounting that 30 kWp solar panels combined with buried pipe distribution will benefit the poor immensely. Before the pilot began, 18 diesel pump owners served 1,623 plots belonging to 403 smallholders. These have now been crowded out by new service providers operating through solar pumps. Before the pilot, diesel pump owners sold water at INR 120 per hour; now solar pump suppliers sell water at INR 90 per hour and finish watering a field in much shorter time (typically 60% less time). Earlier, only tubewell owners sowed rice pre-monsoon while buyers waited for rains; tubewell owners grew maize when buyers grew fodder. Now, buyers sow rice pre-monsoon and also grow maize and vegetables. Gross irrigated area in the village has increased by 40%. While service providers are increasing their revenues from larger sales, water buyers are capturing a larger share of the growing pie than they had ever enjoyed.

In a field study conducted by AKRSP(I) shows that there is a reduction of 44.7125 ton/year CO<sub>2</sub> emission and of 36,448 Kg of CO<sub>2</sub> from replacing the diesel pumps.

Reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emission per 1kWh of solar power = 1 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>

*Diesel pump operational in Chakhaji Village [As per baseline Survey] = 17; Average operation of a pump in year = 1000 Hr; Litre of fuel (diesel) in one hour = 0.80 Litre; Total fuel consumption in village in one year = 17 \* 0.80 Litre \* 1000 = 13600 Litre; Kg of CO<sub>2</sub> emission in one litre of combustion of fuel (diesel) = 2.68; Total CO<sub>2</sub> emission in one year in village = 13600 Litre \* 2.68 = 36448 Kg of CO<sub>2</sub> (Note : Calculation is done for 5 H.P diesel pump).*



## Pilots on irrigation and drinking water scheme

Bihar has rich groundwater resource. Despite vast availability, utilization of water depends on cost of infrastructure built for irrigation and household consumption. For the irrigation, a major part of it depends on diesel based pump sets where an entrepreneur charges 100-150 Rs. per hours varies season to season.

AKRSP(I) has innovated a unique model of integrated drinking water and irrigation system to cope up with this situation. Keeping in mind 24/7 water requirement for drinking water and any time all weather solution for irrigation, a dual powered, high capacity AC submersible pump is installed in 400 feet deep bore well to provide adequate contamination free water for wider use. Solar PV providing DC electric supply to convertor which converts DC supply to AC which is required to run 5 HP submersible pump. This can be connected with grid power in case there is fog or cloudy weather to provide uninterrupted power supply.

A normal 5 HP AC submersible pump is providing approx. 1 lakh litre water per day in 30 meter head on a clear sunny day at average of 5.5KWH/SQM/day. This amount of water is sufficient to irrigate 20 to 25 acres of land, depending on season's crop. Similarly, a 5000 litre tank can fill in 22 minutes for drinking purpose. An AC 3 phase 5HP submersible pump is installed in 400 ft. deep bore well with 6" diameter which connects the 1000 litre distributing tank. The distribution tank has 4 outlets which connects PVC pipes to secondary distribution outlets placed at different locations of plots. A pipeline connected with distribution tank connects 5000 litre water tank to supply drinking water for hamlet. The 5000 litre tank supplies water to the community by stand posts located at different habitation of the hamlets. Each stand post serves the 5 households where household members collect water. Each quarter the source of water is tested in Lab to check contaminations and other parameters of water testing. The tank will be cleaned every month with water and bleaching powder so that the chance of contamination will be reduced.

The sustainability of the system focuses in two dimensions- Operational sustainability and financial sustainability. Though the system is functioning on dual power mode hence it required 3 phase electric supply to meet power requirement on late evening and early morning water requirement for irrigation. In these odd

times the pump will be function on electricity which costs bill as per kilo watt use counted by meter. Other than that the pump will function on solar power. Normally in Bihar's scenario the average 7 sunny hours are sufficient to meet daily requirement hence mostly less use of electricity required. The solar systems will last 25 years hence other than some repair and maintenance no additional cost is required.

For the financial sustainability, each household pay Rs. 20 per month per household for drinking water and save the amount in a bank account. For irrigation purpose, each member farmer pay Rs. 80 per hour and Rs. 100 per hour for non-members, to irrigation committee. The committee will deposit the amount in separate bank account so that the operation and maintenance cost will be covered.

## Workshop

Based on the Preliminary Assessment of Chakhaji Model, with the support of Development Management Institute and IWMI team, a workshop was held at Patna for sharing and discussion of pilot project "Solution to reduce rural poverty and sustainable eco-friendly harnessing of solar power" on 30th November 2017

The panel discussion was facilitated by renowned figures in the water management sector; Professor Tushaar Shah, Professor E.N. Reddy and Dr. R.C. Srivastava. The discussions were led on some of the important topics like how the pilot based on entrepreneurship is changing the farmers' lives of Chakhazi village by harnessing solar power to irrigate their land. The village is almost fully irrigated by the clean and irrigation cost has been reduced by 60-70% compared with the diesel engine and giving them opportunity to harvest more crops. Farmers and entrepreneurs from Chakhaji village shared their experiences and benefits of the pilot project in their village. The discussions also led to the discussion for enabling policies to scale up with question and answer session.

## Solar Group Irrigation Model

Group irrigation systems are basically owned by farmers' groups and provide irrigation services to their member farmers using solar pumps. The results of the effort have been found very impressive and some farmers started growing third crop due to availability of power. These group systems are found highly effective in tribal regions where most of the farmers are small holders.

The long term impacts of the group irrigation systems are:

- Stabilized agriculture as water is available whenever it is required.
- Increase in food production and thereby increase in income level as the land turns into irrigated land.

- Enhancing food security with the increase in variety of vegetables/crops production.
- Maintaining soil fertility by practicing crop rotation
- Minimize the rate of migration in the village.

AKRSP(I) has installed more than 50 schemes till now under group irrigation system. All of them are working well. Different financing models were opted for different schemes according to the level of income of the farmers. For example in MP, 70% of the total cost of the pump is funded by the donors and 30% is personal contribution.

### Solar Power: Irrigation/ Drinking Water Projects

Type of intervention	Gujarat	MP	Bihar	Total
Combined Schemes (Drinking Water and Irrigation)			3	3
Drinking Water Schemes	6			6
Irrigation Schemes	20	13	9	42
Ongoing Irrigation Schemes	11	13		24
TOTAL	37	26	12	75







## Home Lighting

It was another initiative of AKRSP(I) to address the problem of lack of access to domestic energy. AKRSP(I) believes that domestic energy is major part of quality of life of people. In MP, 440 home lighting schemes were installed during the year benefitting 2200 people. Each scheme includes at least 3 lighting solution with one mobile charging unit. Our internal studies show that, the intervention helped in reducing drudgery of cooking and also helped in increasing children's study hours.

## Solar Lanterns

Focusing on mobility of farmers for irrigation and other purpose, in their village, AKRSP(I) introduced several types of farmer friendly solar lanterns in the villages. The product offers robust exterior walls and 3 intensities of light (low, medium, high) with a battery backup of 8-10 hours when fully charged. More than 600 farmers covered under this intervention.

## Training of Energy Technicians

For providing facilities of repair and maintenance to the community at village level and enhancing knowledge of them related to the solar technology, energy technicians were selected from the community and were provided 3 trainings where they have gained basic knowledge of PV technology. Technicians after the training are able to identify and sort out the problems like soldering issues, microgrid units and pumps, shadow forecasting of objects in case of pumps, installing panels in the right direction for getting full sunlight on panels, figuring pump model based on the requirement of the user and available

resources etc. They also are certified by Institute of solar technology for attending a training on the module that covers Basic of electrical engineering, Solar water pump design, Safety measure, Solar water pump installation, Testing, and its operation and maintenance.

## Community Street Lights

Community lights are basically street lights which lighten up the street or verandah outside a house. These lights help people in moving around outside with ease and protection from wild animals or venomous animals found in their surroundings. Community lights was an intervention encouraged by AKRSP(I) in association with Litre of light in MP and HDFC Bank in Bihar. These lights were assembled and installed with the help of energy technicians and other members of AKRSP(I) team. Currently, more than 150 lights were installed at various villages benefitting 3000 households. These lights received very high level appreciation from the affected communities during the devastating floods in Bihar during the year 2017.





Anganwadi Pre renovation

## Primary School Improvement

Primary Education program of AKRSP(I) is focused on facilitating age appropriate learning outcomes for the children of primary grades. Our education program has following components

- Strengthening School Management Committees (SMCs) to improve school governance.
- Motivating and facilitating active role of community based institutions like SHGs, Women's Federations etc in education at village level
- Creating a cadre of village volunteers who work for improving education environment in villages. Volunteers are mostly village youths and adolescent girls.
- Facilitating the enabling environment through appropriate activities within classrooms of government schools for better learning outcomes
- Teachers trainings and capacity building
- Establishing village level libraries to inculcate reading habits among children and community
- Wherever required, additional community managed learning spaces are created for underprivileged students
- Pilot program is being done on active role of Panchayats in improving education levels in villages
- Appropriate technology is being introduced in several schools for learning outcomes
- Facilitating the improvement of school infrastructure like better sanitation and drinking water facilities. It is supplemented with hygiene education in schools.





Anganwadi Post renovation

## Gujarat

AKRSP[I] piloted a Computer-Assisted Learning programme designed to actively involve students in a technology-aided learning process in Wankaner block of Morbi district. Multimedia content of the Gujarat state government is used to supplement regular classroom teaching, followed by a quick quiz based on the lesson contents. The initiative optimized the use of scarce functional resources available in rural public schools and used freeware to minimize additional costs of implementing a CAL programme.

The aim of the pilot was to make the learning process more effective and engaging for both teachers and students. It was noticed that most CAL programmes replace teacher monologue with a multimedia lesson, eventually not leading to vastly different outcomes from two pedagogies. This project allowed students to actively participate with educational content in form of interactive quizzes. In more well-endowed institutions, such practices are carried out with the use of individual tablets or laptop or other smart devices. Considering the limited financial and hardware resources available to rural public schools, a method

to simultaneously allow up to twenty-five students to answer questions on a single display using USB mice was devised.

In September 2017, two of the three pilot project schools were awarded infrastructure for two smart classrooms under the Gujarat government's Gyankunj contest. The contest aimed to identify and award tech-savvy rural primary schools using ICT4E. The schools sent documentation from this pilot as ongoing ICT4E activities in the school. This award ensured the sustainability of the project.

## Village library programme

AKRSP[I]'s Village library programme in technical partnership with OELP [Organisation for Early literacy promotion] has the following focus:

1. Enhancing children's engagement with books and reading through planned exposure to a variety of books and book-based activities including read-aloud sessions.

2. Enhancing children's' involvement with the running of the libraries, and building a sense of ownership.
3. Using the library as a forum for knowledge building through the setting up of the Bal Manch – to support village studies and other knowledge building activities by adolescent youth of the village. The focus of this programme is on older girls.
4. Exploring ways of building meaningful linkages with local knowledge and with the wider village community, especially women.
5. Compiling and digitizing collections based on local stories, folklore and local knowledge, and using these in the libraries. This programme is in its inception stage.
6. A peer support programme has been developed to help struggling readers build bonds with books and attain reading proficiency. This Pathan Saathi or a Reading Buddy programme functions as a part of the Libraries.
7. Involvement of daughters-in-law as librarians of our village libraries. This is proving to be very effective, as they are highly motivated and it is empowering for them and other women who are often oppressed within the patriarchal systems that exist.

## Bihar

During the year as many as 74 Government primary schools were supported through the academic support given to cluster resource centre coordinators. This included the following major initiatives:

Teaching learning process in the classroom:-

The teaching-learning process has been a major focus of the programme as it is the key aspect of quality education. The efforts were made to make classroom learning more child centered instead of the prevalent teacher centered way of teaching. There has been a focus on understanding each child's academic level and working as per their level, working in sub-groups, developing appropriate TLM and making lesson plans as per the academic needs of children. The coordinators observe the classrooms and support teachers in making lesson plans, developing material and creating an interactive and joyful classroom where children can learn with interest.

Academic support encompasses developing weekly and daily teaching plans to record and overseeing all administrative/academic on goings in schools. Sharing and planning meetings are an integral part of academic support. In around 74 schools, discussions on the academic level of children, teaching according to the level of the children and working in sub-groups were done.

### Interaction with community members

Regular community interaction was an integral part of the programme as the objective was to empower community especially for women so as to encourage better participation in a wider scope. Community meetings were arranged at regular intervals (at least two to three times every month) in each hamlet where children hail from. Apart from involving community people in academic issues, an effort was always taken to involve them in other activities of the school too which incorporated participation in cultural activities, exhibition, puppet show etc. The latter mentioned activities were conducive to making the community people less inhibited in their participation.

Through community meeting, interaction and intervention were done with the community on a regular basis. Community meetings took place on issues related to school management, quality education, and teachers' output and so on. Regular community intervention took place in villages and ensures more participation of the women. This attempt was fruitful to a great extent since statistics show that in most of the community meetings 80% female participation could be noted. In order to make the community aware of the quality of education and development of schools, there were two kinds of activities undertaken namely

- a) A federation comprising of two members of SMCs from each school was formed
- b) A rally in selected clusters to increase the students' enrollment of students was organized.

### CRCs Workshop

Team members actively participated in all CRC meetings of all six clusters. These CRC meetings were organized by the government at the cluster resource centers with a total attendance of 2067 (1029 male, 1038 female) teachers in the reporting quarter (July to September). Some of the major discussion points covered:- assessment of last month, aspects of an ideal lesson plan, development of a class-wise routine,



organization of regular meeting of Bal Sansad and Mena Manch, various challenges faced by government teachers and use of TLMs for joyful learning.

#### Training of HM & CRCs members:-

This training with the intent of providing a platform to discuss and examine the thoughts and views of school leaders about their roles and responsibilities, challenges they face and related issues in schools. Based on this, the objective of the workshop is to build perspectives on education and academic leadership impact school improvement towards a better quality of education.

The workshop provided a forum to examine academic leadership through the perspective of the interconnected worlds of headmasters and cluster resource coordinators involved in supporting school leaders who have critical roles to play in changing what teachers think, feel and do and hence impact the quality of teaching and learning. The broader aim of the workshop is to develop an informed and empowering approach towards academic leadership and management.



## Madhya Pradesh:

### Community Engagement :The role of Shiksha Sakhis as Drivers of Change

Transformation of present education system particularly at primary level in Khaknar block is one of the major components of Transforming Rural India initiative (TRI). TRI is a unique initiative where the community is the primary agent of change for transforming the quality of lives of the poorest. Major stakeholders involved in transforming education system of the block are parents, teachers, children, government and village level institutions like SMCs, Panchayats etc and involves the active role of governing official of the education department.

Key drivers for bringing change in education from community side are called Shiksha Sakhis who are a voluntary change agent, selected among the representative of Village Level Associations (comprises of 2 members from each SHG of a village). VLAs are formed at village level by AKRSP(I) keeping in mind holistic development of villages in addition to financial inclusion and livelihoods improvement. Selection of the Shiksha Sakhi is done in VLA meetings where eligibility is determined by their passion for bringing change in education level, average education level (able to read and write) and activeness of individual.

Shiksha Sakhis are the major counterparts of this initiative who not only play the role of creating awareness among the various stakeholders but also lead matters related to the education department. Three Shiksha Sakhis from Chowkhandiya Jhirmiti and Teliyadhad villages, who are also a member of School Management Committees, are playing a critical role as a change driver by ensuring regular and effective meetings and delivering quality inputs in the same. They also perform some of the roles like the selection of center for active learning activities or rewarding teachers for their contribution or raising issues in Gram Sabha regarding education are some of the significant roles played by Shiksha Sakhis.

Till now, as such no monetary incentive is provided to the Volunteers and Shiksha Sakhis but community/AKRSP(I) tried to appreciate their contribution in the form of appreciation certificates and a small token of gifts. However, in future, the community is planning to give incentive to the volunteers for their contribution in running active learning centers as per the decision by respective VLA of the villages. This is totally left to the judgment of VLA leaders.

One of the best example of community engagement was seen during organizing mass level Bal Mela celebration in Gram Daiyat where planning, budgeting, execution, monitoring, team management etc all roles were played by the Shiksha Sakhi, Panchayat representatives, community, village level institutions, teachers, Anganwadi workers and other enthusiastic villagers with the overall financial contribution from all these stakeholders. AKRSP(I) did not provide any monetary support for this event. Teacher and community leader also played role in anchoring and organizing the event along with the active engagement of volunteers for the same.



## Coastal Gujarat (Mithapur)

The main focus this year was on the following in Mithapur:

Capacity building of Anganwadi workers in preschool education delivery, Exposure visits of Anganwadi workers AWW & Anganwadi helpers to good practice models internally and externally and Capacity building of community to enhance active involvement in Anganwadi Development.

During this year new 22 Anganwadis were added to the project. To deliver the SPP (Shishu Pahal Paddhati) training was very much required to these new AWW and reinforcement for the old worker. AKRSP-I organized 5 training for AWW and 2 training of AWH on Child psychology, Shishu Pahal Paddhati (SPP), Daily routine, lesson planning, students observation, Child Assessment Tool, Co-curricular activities

## Read for Children Programme

Parent's role in children's development is very crucial. Read for Children programme is effective for parent's engagement in child's development. AKRSP-I had launched this programme to improve parents' involvement. Age appropriate set of storybook was provided to AWC. While selecting the books: age of the children, content, fewer word, and more pictures were considered.

## Early Childhood Development Bihar

### Anganwadi worker training

During the year, AKRSP-I conducted training for ICDS workers (SEVIKA) as well as for the ECD resource teachers were organized every quarter. These trainings were organized in close collaboration with block-level ICDS department by intimation and formal approval of Muraul, TAJPUR & PUSA CDPOs. This training was executed with guidance of CDPO for imparting skills among ICDS workers on TLM development, how to tell story among children, how to present rhymes, and its effective usage during classroom process, demonstration by ECD resource teachers to implement best practices through application of child-centred activities using teaching-learning materials which is relevant for the age group with the effort of building capacity of ICDS worker.



## Classroom activities in ECD

Focusing on the demonstration of good practices to build and touch all the major developments of the children with the regular support of the Anganwadi workers', the major activities revolved around the improvement aspect of the quality of learning and ensuring to trace all their learning needs. As a positive change, the number of children participation was observed as increased within a span of time. The children not only participated voluntarily but are also found to develop their interest in some of the activities in their learning process.

### Assessment of children:

To enhance the quality of education, an assessment tool was introduced. We have been following the formats shared, namely "Nai Pahal" to assess the age wise development among children. Apart from that, class observations and active participation of a child also help us to measure their development in these five components.

ECD teachers have continued to facilitate the process of community contact through regular home visits. On an average, every ECD teacher visited child's home once during this period to share their observations on the child's progress. Special visits and focus on absent children to find the reasons and provide a solution to bring them to the center on regular basis. During these home visits, teachers discussed of developmental milestones and till what extent child has achieved and also shared their classroom observations as well as elicited parents' feedback. The reason observed as well as shared by our RTs is the acceptance as well as specific need generated by the communities.

### Meeting with Village Shiksha Samiti (VSS) & Parents

Apart from exhaustive community contact activities, we carried out meetings and training of core committee of VEC of ECD centres and Anganwadi Vikas Samiti of ICDS with an aim of sensitizing parents and community towards their roles and responsibilities of not only for betterment of their ward and pal but overall holistic development of respective pre-primary education facilities (centres). The agenda for meetings was to orient and sensitize the parents on the importance of ECD and ICDS in early childhood development of their kith & kin. These meetings helped in recognition of their role in smoothness and proper operation and service delivery of the respective centers.

## Case study: Education

The Limbada Village Library: AKRSP[I]'s intervention to improve early literacy in Rural Surendranagar, Gujarat.

AKRSP-I has been working towards the implementation of RTE Act since 2012 in the district of Surendranagar. Whilst it has achieved considerable success in improving enrolment and preventing dropouts, a lot still needs to be done in the field of improving basic literacy skills of students. This problem gets compounded by several socio-economic factors unique to the area of Surendranagar which are:

- Annual seasonal migration
- Predominantly cotton-producing area, whose harvesting season often involves child labour
- Historically low literacy rates, with up to as many as 80% enrolees in the Reading Programme being first generational learners
- Poverty
- Prevalent social norm of giving less importance to education, especially girl child education
- Shortage of school teachers leading to skewed teacher-to-student ratio
- Poor attendance

Keeping in consideration the unique socio-economic factors of Sayla block, AKRSP-I has started Reading Programme in ten villages in order to supplement school learning with enriched learning methods. The main objectives of the Reading Programme are:

- To bring the students' reading and literacy skills at par with the level expected in the current school standard they are enrolled in,
- To foster all-rounded development of a child's personality, imagination, and creativity by engaging them in various activities,
- To help students develop self-confidence by providing them a healthy learning and growth environment at the library,
- To attract the dropout students back into learning and encourage re-enrolment in formal schooling,
- To improve girl child education by providing knowledge and support through our Balmitra and library structure, and all of these working towards
- To generate an overall interest in school and learning.

## Range of initiatives

At the village library centers where the Reading Programme is conducted, AKRSP[] and the school teachers engage the children with a wide array of activities such as:

Reading storybooks aloud to improve fluency

Individual reading sessions where students are free to pick books of their liking to create and generate a natural interest in reading

1. Students making their own puppets and presenting story-based puppet shows
2. Story-based individual role-playing to enhance the public presentation
3. Storytelling
4. Making personal storybooks
5. Picture-based activities
6. Group reading activity to promote peer mentoring
7. Creative activities such as best out of waste, freeze frame, paper crafts, clay modeling
8. Dumb charades
9. Picture-based story making
10. Potli Baba' where students are encouraged to learn stories from their elders and retell in class

11. Learn and tell stories about village history, traditions, folklore etc.
12. Kahani Mela' where students from 2-3 village participate in a library activity-centric fair
13. Book reviews to assess comprehension
14. Alternate endings to stories to enhance imagination and creativity
15. Village newspaper which will feature stories and news from the village displayed on a commonplace

## Some Preliminary Results of the village library program

In the fourteen months that the programme has been running in Limbala, we have received very encouraging intermediate results as well as community response. Significant improvement in reading fluency has been achieved for most enrolled students. From discussions with school teachers, we find that more students are now feeling confident to present in school assemblies and functions. Apart from the direct literacy-related benefits, the Reading Programme has also been responsible in lowering the instances of child migration and labour. Our continued engagement with parents and community institutions has led to a more well-rounded support system for village education.







## 10 Years of Empowering Rural Youths



With India at the forefront of “demographic dividend” and economic growth that comes with a changing population profile, the country must capitalize on its young workforce by developing a skilled human resource base. Skill India, a campaign launched by Government of India, aims to train over 400 million people in job skills by 2022. Aligned with government mission, Yuva Junction provides an opportunity for young people from rural areas to explore livelihoods beyond agriculture. Yuva Junction focuses on remote, rural pockets where household incomes have traditionally relied on farming.

Yuva Junction has completed 10 fulfilling years of empowering rural youths with information, skills and employment opportunities. This milestone was celebrated at our Gadu Campus by honouring 150 young people who dared to dream and fulfil their potential. In doing so, they have explored the world beyond the horizon, bringing smiles and hope into

their communities. Our work is not yet done. Yuva Junction plans to continue helping young people in our geographies to achieve their dreams and find new meaningful jobs. We have empowered over 25000 youths in last one decade and further aim to empower over 10,000 young people with job skills in the next three years. It's a small but important part of the movement to create a world where everyone enjoys decent work and economic growth.

## Holistic Approach for Growing Youth Skills

Yuva Junction began in 2007 with an initiative called “Computerji... Jode Duniya Se” that aimed to bridge the urban/rural divide by making technology accessible to rural youth through computer trainings. The program also provided information on careers.

The program evolved and in 2012 adopted the goal of “Inform, Educate and Employ.” True to that tagline, the initiative empowers rural youth by providing them information about government programs, jobs, career opportunities, and educates them to help them get jobs.

Yuva Junction has changed its approach from a supply-based approach to a market-oriented approach for jobs. In the year 2017, the curricular training has occurred for positions such as Retail Sales Associate, Bed Side Patient Assistant and Assistant Beauty Therapist. These include training on cross-cutting skills in Computers, Life Skills, Spoken English and Work Place Readiness to ensure training for holistic development. This market-based approach to training has helped rural youth bridge the urban/rural divide. Courses on repairing, sewing and stitching alongside entrepreneurship training also have helped to open opportunities with enterprise development.

All these training were delivered through 13 Yuva Junction centers – 11 in Gujarat and 2 in Bihar – and plans to scale up training in new areas. Fifty enthusiastic professionals manage these centers. They support training, mobilization and placement. In the year 2017, trainings done with 1176 youths on various job-oriented courses and has helped 813 youths find meaningful employment; a few of them have started their own enterprises. Graduates now work with leading service providers like Vodafone, Airtel and retail outlets like Big Bazaar, Café Coffee Day, Domino's, and KFC. The average graduate salary is around Rs. 7000/- per month. Employability training was conducted at ITI Mora to 82 candidates to help them polish their employability skills and be prepared for the job of work. The curriculum is a 160-hour module and it has been organised by the financial support of Hazira LNG and content from Quest Alliance. In addition, the program has conducted boot camps and Hour of Code event was conducted with approximately 1200 youths in various colleges, ITIs as well as Yuva Junction centers to provide exposure to basics of computer science to inculcate meta-level competencies such as analytical thinking, problem solving, creativity & interpersonal skills such as team working and appetite for coding related jobs. One of the cross-cutting outcomes that will be achieved as a result of all these training is that the skills gained by the young people will give them opportunities for employment that they were not able to access in the past.

## Coverage in Year 2017

Nature of Trainings	Participants
Skill based trainings	1175
Boot Camps	1200
Trainings at ITI	82
TOTAL	2407

40% of the total outreached participants are girls.

## Adapting to Unfamiliar Settings

AKRSP(I) recognizes that many trainees are first-time urban migrants and hence face challenges related to migration for work. To help them cope with the cultural shifts in new settings, Yuva Junction has a special focus on placement retention. Besides career trainings, graduates receive access to many services like exposure visits, pre-placement talks and parents meetings. Yuva Junction also set up a Migration Support Center in Ahmedabad to help young women with transition issues. The program mobilizes the whole community and works with parents and alumni to create an ecosystem that enables young people to succeed in their new careers. The Migration Support Center has hosted 82 girls in year 2017 to help them cope with accommodation related issues during their initial days at their jobs in urban areas.







## Our Plans

We want to make Yuva Junction as comprehensive program to empower rural youths in their chosen sectors of livelihoods. It will require widening of scope of services offered by Yuva Junction. Training youths and placing them in urban areas is just one of the several opportunities which exist for rural youths. We plan to empower rural youths through

- Developing leadership skills in rural youths
- Helping youths to become better citizens hence can become agents of rural transformation
- Timely counselling, guidance and information on career opportunities
- Helping youths to become entrepreneurs in remote locations to help themselves in addition to creating jobs for others
- Helping rural youth to benefit from several higher education opportunities including availing of scholarships targeting poor sections

In addition to above mentioned points, youths can become change agents to bring gender equality in the society through helping removal of societal constraints for women.

Vadvai is a capacity building and knowledge extension unit striving for making productive use of the experiences, knowledge, and expertise accumulated by AKRSP (I) for over 30 years. The name 'Vadvai'

means lateral roots of banyan tree" and it seeks to perform the same function through its core activities like various capacity building programmes, direct field support, and advisory services.



To facilitate wider outreach of the demonstrated community-based approaches for livelihood enhancement by disseminating its grassroots learning at the local, state and national level

Vadvai has following objectives:

1. Enabling organizations for effective and better implementation of programs by incorporating grassroots learning of AKRSP (India)
2. Disseminating lessons learnt through field demonstrations
3. Building capacities and providing handholding support to other development organizations
4. Influencing government policy through advisory services and capacity building

## Creating Grass-Root Development Professionals

Certificate Course in Development Management (CCDM):

Vadvai runs its flagship four and half months Certificate Course in Development Management (CCDM) at its Tribal Livelihood Resource Centre in Netrang, Gujarat. The course aims at preparing grass roots development professionals who are able to appreciate the dynamics and multidimensionality of rural realities and commit themselves to the improvement in a holistic way. Accordingly, it has academic rigour as well as the use of pedagogy which has adequate focus on practical learning rather than just developing theoretical understanding. With this approach, equal emphasis is put on both classroom learning and field exposure. Students are taken to different organizations working in various thematic areas of development. This exposes them to the ways the process of development is being facilitated at field level by the people themselves.



The course comprises of different modules like Understanding Development, Project Management, Financial Management, Natural Resource Management and Livelihood, Understanding Tribal Society with special reference to Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat tribal culture, Digital Literacy, Life Skills and Functional English, etc. Pedagogy used is:

1. Equal emphasis on classroom sessions and field exposure
2. Ample use of Audio-visual materials
3. Lecture/role play/games/interactive sessions
4. Socratic and Story-telling methods
5. Use of the case method
6. Group work
7. Visits to Different Organizations for on-field and learning from the experts: During the course, students are taken to various organizations in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh for field learning and organizational understanding

For the course, there are dedicated faculty members who conduct different course modules. AKRSP(I) has a pool of experienced staff with accumulated knowledge of rural development including tribal development programme. They are utilized to enrich the learning experience. As and when required, Community Leaders especially engaged in developmental works including women leaders have been involved throughout the course duration. External/visiting faculty from IRMA and other reputed institutes have also been invited for the specialized topic.

To make campus life a holistic and participatory learning experience, various committees have been formed to take up the responsibilities and manage them effectively. Therefore, the learning does not remain limited to the classroom. Academic committee, library committee, event committee, tour committee, mess committee, sports committee, placement committee, etc. are some of the important committees. Alumni Network has been formed so that the participants of the course can share their learning and help one another to meet developmental challenges.

The second batch of Certificate Course in Development Management (CCDM-2) was launched and concluded in this year and 29 participants graduated in August, 2017. CCDM graduates were placed in different development organizations. The third batch of CCDM (CCDM-3) with 25 participants has been launched in this year as well.

## Certificate Programme in Rural Livelihoods (CPRL)

Bharat Rural Livelihood Foundation (BRLF) is running Certificate Programme in Rural Livelihoods (CPRL) aimed at tribal youths. It is a multi thematic multi centre course under which students study different modules relevant for a development professional by going to expert organizations. Vadvai was given the responsibility of conducting four modules under the programme which were Watershed Management, Participatory Drinking Water Management, Participatory Irrigation Management and WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene). These modules cumulatively made the largest number of modules assigned to any single organization under this course. Second batch of CPRL successfully got trained in these modules at our Campus. Facilitator Manual and Student Manual were also developed in-house for these modules and they were used during the trainings. The response of the CPRL participants towards the modules conducted has been positive and encouraging.

## Capacity Building

- The year saw various capacity building programmes conducted on themes like natural resource management, village institutions, sanitation, education, leadership and other such themes to cater to the requirements of different categories of clients which included Government organizations, CSRs and NGOs.
- The second batch participants of Certificate Programme in Rural Livelihood started by BRLF, Delhi and IIHMR, Jaipur were trained on Watershed management, Participatory Drinking Water Management and Participatory Irrigation Management and WASH modules.
- Training programmes for Reliance Foundation started in 2014 and continued this year as well where the trainings were provided on Vision building and leadership.
- SHG training for DEEP was organized. The training topic was related to member awareness, internal credit, etc.

- Capacity building programme for staff of ZilaParishad, Jodhpur was conducted.
- Training programme for Adani Foundation CSR staff members were organized on Leadership and Team Building.
- Exposure visits were organized for DEEP and various Agriculture Universities.

## Advisory Services

Vadvai undertook the assignment of preparing "Micro-plan of Mahudi Village in Gandhinagar District" for Adarsh Charitable Foundation. To fulfill the objective, an assessment of the existing situation in the area of land and water based livelihood activities, skill development, sanitation and agriculture is being done and based on the assessment, a micro-plan will be formulated.

It has also been empaneled as a Key Resource Centre by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Govt. of India for capacity building activities under Swachh Bharat Mission.

The clientele of Vadvai:

- Adani Foundation
- Bharat Rural Livelihood Foundation (BRLF)
- Reliance Foundation
- ZilaParishad, Jodhpur
- Gujarat Rural Development Department
- Forest Department
- DEEP Trust







## Entrepreneurship Development for Tribal Youths

Tribal communities of the country particularly the central Indian tribal belt which spans from Gujarat in the west to Assam in the east is among the poorest region of the country with respect to all human development indicators. Over 95% of the tribal population in this region is rural and practice primitive agriculture.

The scheduled tribes are significantly underrepresented in the ownership of enterprises and the share of the workforce employed by them. Tribal communities represent 14.8% population of Gujarat and 20.3% population of Madhya Pradesh, most of them living in remote areas with abject poverty.

In the 21st century, access to mobile and internet has changed the lives of communities living in remote villages. Now the exposure and aspirations of tribal youths are different from the previous generations and they want to own enterprises, join good colleges, visit different places and acquire new skills. The tribal communities have a rich heritage of culture, arts and crafts making skills, beautiful landscape, organic agriculture produce and traditional knowledge of

animal husbandry. Linking this traditional know-how with modern technology and entrepreneurial skills has potential to create large numbers of enterprises in tribal areas. This can also create meaningful employment opportunities to local tribal communities.

With this background, AKRSP(I) started the entrepreneurship development project with the help of the Tata Trusts focused on tribal youths, having following objectives

- Catalysing entrepreneurial aspirations among tribal youths
- Identify and support select numbers of tribal youths in establishing their enterprises so that these youths serve the purpose of inspiration to other in their communities
- Create meaningful employment opportunities in remote tribal regions
- Create an enabling ecosystem around entrepreneurship development in tribal regions

## Design of the Initiative

- Conduct mass events to excite tribal youths around possibilities in exploring entrepreneurship as meaningful livelihoods choice
- Identify potential entrepreneurs through direct scouting on the grass roots
- Facilitate potential entrepreneurs in identifying entrepreneurial opportunities in their region
- Facilitate aspiring entrepreneurs in refining their business ideas
- Customised capacity building support to each individual enterprise owners in the areas of production, marketing, general management etc.
- Seed grants in cases where funds from other sources are totally non existent
- Facilitation of financial linkages with banks and other sources

The initiative is different from the traditional livelihood development approach as a lot of emphases have been on the scale and scope of business, modern and scientific practices, market linkages, identification and selection of entrepreneurs and development of entrepreneurial skills and mind-set. The enterprises supported are from diverse sectors ranging from modern poultry farming, agro-processing, bamboo furniture, crafts, restaurant and brick manufacturing unit. Each enterprise treated as a separate project in



itself and supported with customised training, exposure visits, capacity building, business plan development, and implementation strategy, financial linkages, sales and marketing support.

The project aims at to reach at least 100 entrepreneurs in next one year with employment opportunity to around 500 community members from tribal communities. In the year, 2016-17 total 45 enterprises were selected; 11 from Madhya Pradesh and 34 from Gujarat.

### Initial success of the initiative includes

- During our scouting process we found large numbers of tribal youths on ground who are interested in pursuing entrepreneurship
- There is good variety of ideas emerging from youths around entrepreneurial opportunities
- Entrepreneurs have mobilised and invested a good sum of money in the businesses which shows their confidence, aspirations and zeal to break the boundaries if some handholding support is given.
- An informal network of tribal entrepreneurs has been developed, supporting each other in the journey of entrepreneurship development.
- More than 60 jobs have already been created by the entrepreneurs
- Product quality of all the enterprises have shown constant improvement since the start of each enterprise

### Challenges

- Access to finance for micro and small enterprises remains one of the big challenges in remote rural locations particularly in tribal regions. Tribal youths hardly have anything to offer as collateral for loans hence very few youths could actually get credit from banks.
- It is extremely difficult to link tribal youths with government sponsored schemes around entrepreneurship development.
- Sustainable market linkage for rural products is also among big challenge. Long term investment is required in bringing market players to these regions.



### Bamboo craft and Furniture Enterprise – Raju Bhai, Dangs

Raju Bhai Gaikwad is a 27 years old tribal youth of Ambapada village in Dangs district of Gujarat. The village is famous for Giradoodh falls and manufacturing of local bamboo craft products. From the very beginning, he has big aspirations, after briefly working as an artisan in local craft manufacturing unit he started his own shop near the waterfall. After gaining some experience, he wanted to scale up business and product range but lacked the confidence, technical and business knowledge. The basic problem in scaling up was the lack of technical knowledge, home-based production, skill of artisans, quality management, product design, product diversification and sales support. In the last one year, he received support to streamline his business, established a production facility with modern types of machinery. Along with art and craft, he is diversifying in bamboo furniture manufacturing, sifted the production from home-based to factory-based system a lot of emphasis is on quality management, standardisation of prices and production system. In the last year turnover of the unit was around 4-4.5 lakh rupees, employing around 5-6 artisans. With the changes in business model, progress made in last one year now he is producing around 25 products, employing 12 artisans. It is expected that in next 2-3 year the unit will have a turnover of over Rs. 30 lakhs/annum and will provide employment to around 15 artisans.

## Way Forward

Entrepreneurship holds great promise for youths of remote rural locations particularly when income from traditional sources is uncertain due to various factors. However it will require investments, access to new technologies, collaborations and great amount of patience as the initiative is particularly targeted at youths from disadvantaged sections of the society.

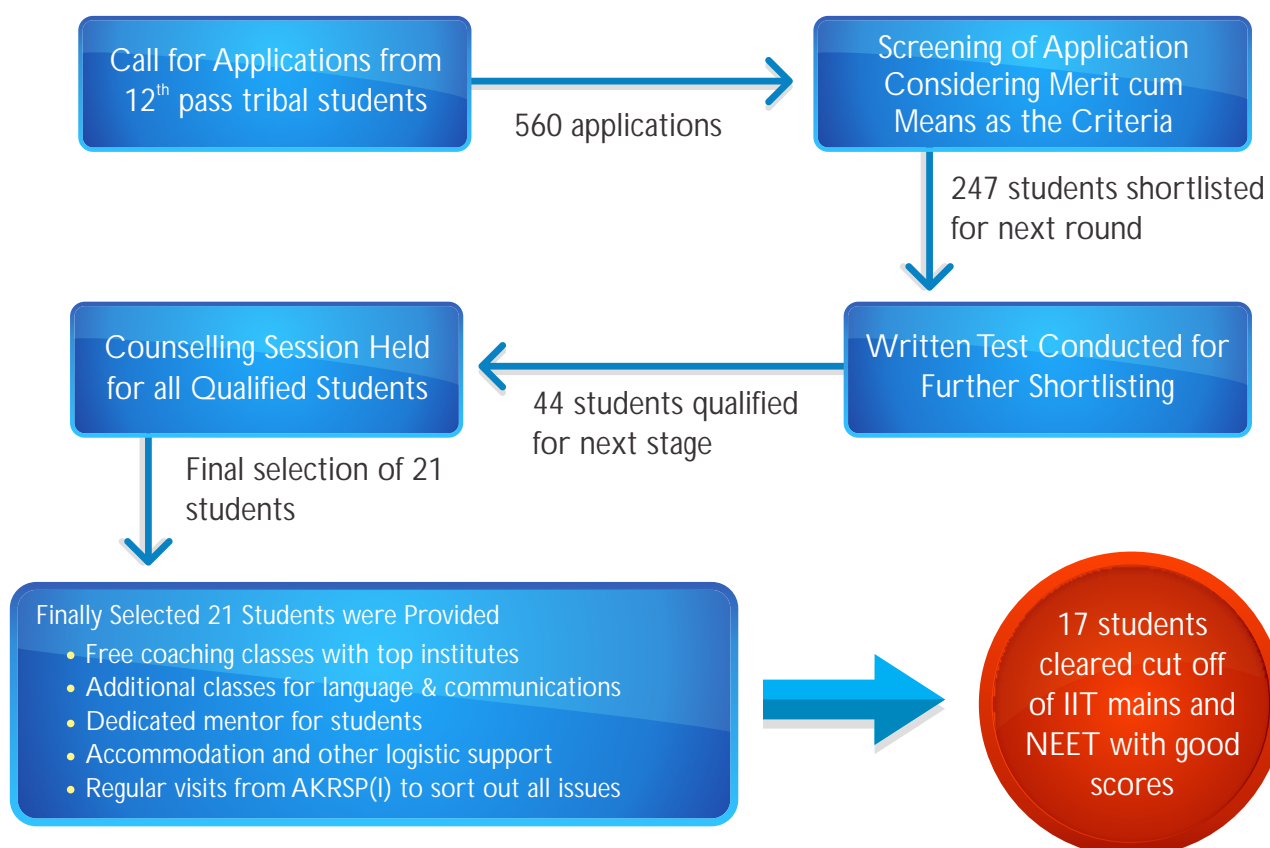
## Creating Icons among Tribal Students through Higher Education Support

Remote locations, extreme poverty, poor education infrastructure and poor teaching quality are among many factors behind very low numbers of tribal students aspiring for higher education in the country. There are tribal regions in the country that have never seen anyone among their community going into premier higher education institutions of the country and making a name for themselves. Young students in tribal areas often do not have role models who can inspire them to aspire for higher education.

With the objective of creating such icons, we in partnership with The Tata Trusts started a unique initiative to support meritorious students from tribal communities so that they can enter premier



higher education institutions of the country. 2017 was the first year of this experimentation where we targeted aspirants for IITs, NITs and Government Medical Colleges. In coming years there are plans to include many more disciplines of higher education. This year we followed following process



Soon these students will participate in counselling sessions at top institutes and will get admissions. In year 2018, there are plans of supporting another 45 students.

## Case Study of Niravkumar Patel

Niravkumar Patel hails from a very small village of Chikhli Taluka of Navsari district of Gujarat and had appeared for his higher secondary examination in 2017 and had dreamt of becoming an engineer. His parents are farmers and their family income barely supports their daily needs. He scored 80 percentage in his higher secondary but lacked the proper guidance to prepare for the JEE exams. Though he appeared for JEE in 2017 but could not clear the final examination. He came to know about SETU Scholarship from his school principal who encouraged him to apply and he was selected for the scholarship after qualifying all the selection criteria. At first he was afraid to study in the coaching institute as his rural background did not match with the fast urban life. Coming from a Gujarati medium background, English language was a major barrier. All the course materials were in English and he had to work even harder than others to understand the English technical terms. He was very quiet in the class as he was scared to talk in English in front of other city students. But against all odds he focused only on his coaching and did the best he could to cope up with both the coaching and cultural pressure. Among all the students in his class he performed well and managed to among top 5 students of the class. With full coaching and preparation he again appeared for JEE and scored 144th (All India Rank in ST Category) rank in JEE Mains. It was a moment of joy for him as all his efforts paid off and he was sure that now he would get any premier engineering college of his choice.



# RESEARCH, DOCUMENTATION AND VIDEO UNIT



During the year, the major focus of this unit was on carrying out assessment studies through various organizations and individuals. In addition to that, internal cross functional monitoring started in Bihar unit based on the learning from Madhya Pradesh. It helped in understanding the quality of program implementation in a concurrent manner.

*Table below gives a list of completed documents/studies/ videos for the reporting period.*

## Gujarat

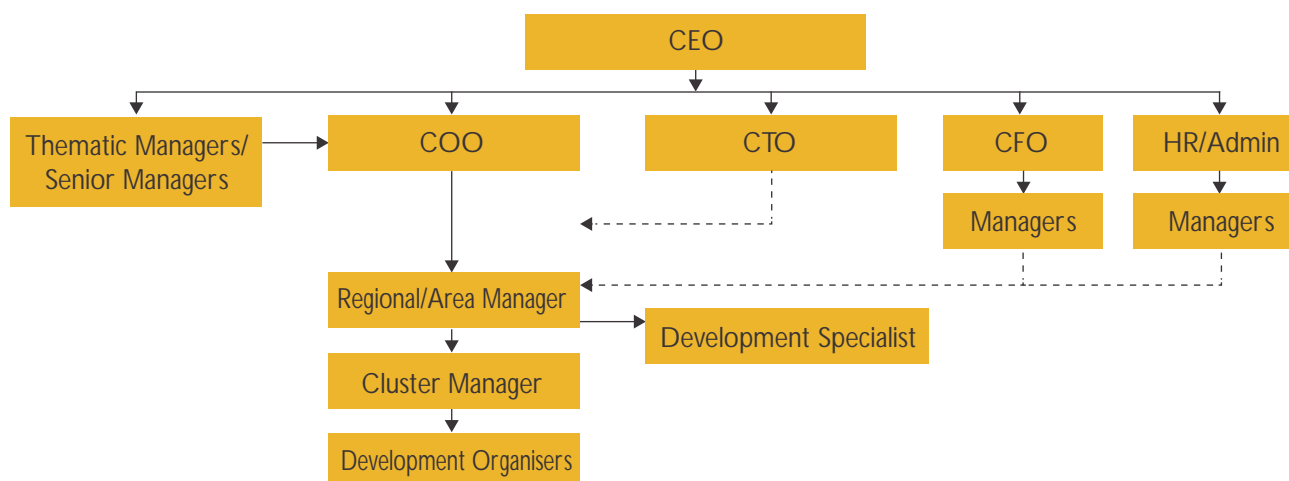
1. Vegetable value chain study of The Dangs, Gujarat
2. Opportunities of Bamboo based enterprises in The Dangs, Gujarat
3. Value chain opportunities in Millets
4. Margins to Mainstream, Stories from The Dangs
5. Report on government budgetary resources for The Dangs
6. Dairy value chain study for The Dangs district
7. Towards sustainable livelihoods (Dangs)
8. End line impact assessment of the Axis Bank Foundation funded "Dangi Vikas" project
9. Promotion of adolescent-friendly interaction forums to guide adolescent girls toward a healthy transition to adulthood.
10. Documentary on 'Sanitation for Health'
11. Drinking water through solar energy (Video)
12. Water for livelihood (Video)
13. Smoke less stove (Video)
14. Mahalpada on the path of development (Video)
15. Solar based irrigation for livelihood (Video)
16. Technology in Education (Video)

## Bihar

1. Preliminary Assessment of Pilot Project on "Solar Option for Reducing Rural Poverty in Bihar, Chakhaji Village, Samastipur" (By DMI Patna)
2. An Assessment Report: Integrated Development of Three Villages in Bihar funded by John Deere Pvt Ltd.
3. Impact of the flood on the livelihoods of the marginalized community in Musahari and Bochaha blocks
4. Sanitation usage adopted by the marginalized communities amidst and post-flood in Musahari and Bochaha"
5. Socio-economic impact of Bank Credit Linkage on the most marginalized members of SHG+ members in Pusa block
6. Goat-rearers economics and analysis of Goat-Sheds
7. "Har Ghar Nal Ka Jal" video training module
8. Story of Baby Kumari; Case Story of a Pashu Sakhi (Video)

## Madhya Pradesh

1. Value chain development of Backyard Poultry, Sendhwa Block, Barwani district
2. Present status of the existing water harvesting structures and potential for new structures
3. Kitchen Garden; Providing Nutrition Security to the Poorest (Video)



For any organization, the biggest asset is its human resources. As we are expanding geographically as well as adding to our programme interventions, there is a constant need for the able human resource to meet new challenges of work and also for scaling-up our work. After establishing ourselves in Madhya Pradesh, we expanded our work with MIAD approach in Bihar. Post mid-2009, we have further started exploring the problems and opportunities in India's poorest district, Dangs.

During 2017, we have recruited over 132 staff members making our total staff strength reach 437. Out of 437 staff strength, 35 are in Central office, 187 are in Gujarat-field offices, 114 are in Madhya Pradesh and 101 are in Bihar.

## Capacity Building

We have developed in-house video module on organization to orient our new staffs. This module covers organization's introduction, history, legal entity, vision, mission, values and outreach.

As a part of capacity building measure, Organization stress survey was taken up with middle and senior management team of AKRSP(I) by Academy of HRD. Based on the survey, training for Senior Management was held by Dr. Pestonji (ex- IIMA Professor) who is a renowned expert for stress management and author of 'Stress & Work'.

We have also organized a training on gender sensitization and POSH (prevention & Prohibition of Sexual Harassment) at the workplace for all the AKRSP(I) staffs. Another one workshop was conducted for middle management professionals on project management and team building which was facilitated by IRMA professors – Hitesh Bhatt and Biswas Shashwat.

## SBI Youth fellowship

SBI Youth for India fellowship is a CSR initiative of the State Bank of India which was launched to provide a platform to enable outstanding youth to work on rural development projects of Partner NGOs. Aga Khan Rural Support Program (India) is one of the partner NGOs to the program.

AKSRPI has been allocated 15 SBI fellows, out of them 1 in Bihar, 1 in Saurashtra, 6 in South Gujarat and 7 in MP. One week orientation/induction of youths was organized with classrooms sessions, experience sharing and field visit of AKRSP(I) program area. Their major projects are on Education, Health, Agriculture, Youth Entrepreneurs, Governance and Sanitation.



News Paper Prabhat Khabar - 16 Dec 2017

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Dattatraya Bhaskar  
Dated: 01-12-2017, Page No-4

[illegible]

संस्था	कुल विद्यार्थी	महिला	पुरुष
राष्ट्रीय विद्यापीठ	884	475	409
राष्ट्रीय	566	312	254
राष्ट्रीय	318	163	155
राष्ट्रीय	443	247	196
राष्ट्रीय	100	50	50
राष्ट्रीय	170	85	85
राष्ट्रीय	276	138	138
राष्ट्रीय	100	50	50

[illegible]

## बकरी पालन से सुधर रही गरीबों की ज़िंदगी

[illegible]

# विना स्त्रो पाक भेजवी शक्य छ

**दैनिक भास्कर**

महिला तरावितरकण सम्मेलन में शामिल हुई हजारों महिला

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

**Pashu Sahitya** are helping transform lives of rural women in #Bihar. Given only 27% of women participate in paid workforce in the country, meeting in women's economic empowerment is even more critical for closing the gender equality gap. #QualityOverQuantity

[illegible]

## FINANCIAL DETAILS OF YEAR 2017



In order to make development investments for the communities at grassroots, AKRSP(I) mobilise wide range of resources from various sources. Donor funded grants enable our teams to leverage additional resources from communities own investments, government schemes and bank credits.

Our field teams could leverage large amount of other resources which flowed directly to communities or their institutions. Important leverage amounts are listed below

Total expenditure of AKRSP(I) through its books of accounts during the year 2017 was Rs.49.29 Crores against Rs.42.14 Crores in the year 2016. It is around 17% increase over last year's total expenditure.

Source of Leverage	Total Amount of Leverage (Rs. Crores)
Community Contribution in Kind including collective input supply done through village groups	8.28
Government subsidies through various schemes	13.61
Bank credit leverage	2.01
Community expenditure and government subsidies on AKRSP(I) facilitated toilet constructions	42.18
Total	66.08

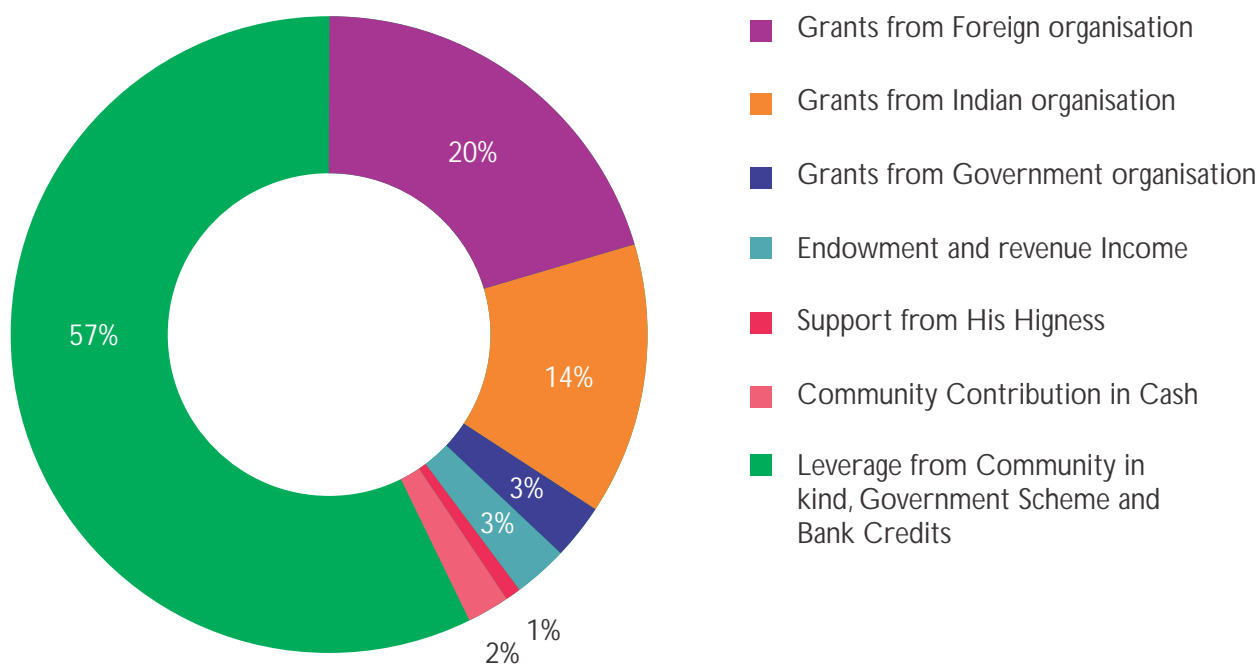
In addition, the credit leverage through internal lending by AKRSP(I) promoted SHGs and Farmers Groups was about Rs. 9.82 Crores. Turnover of AKRSP(I) promoted producers companies have touched Rs.11 Crores during the year.

### Sources of Funds

Sources of funds from various sources are provided below.

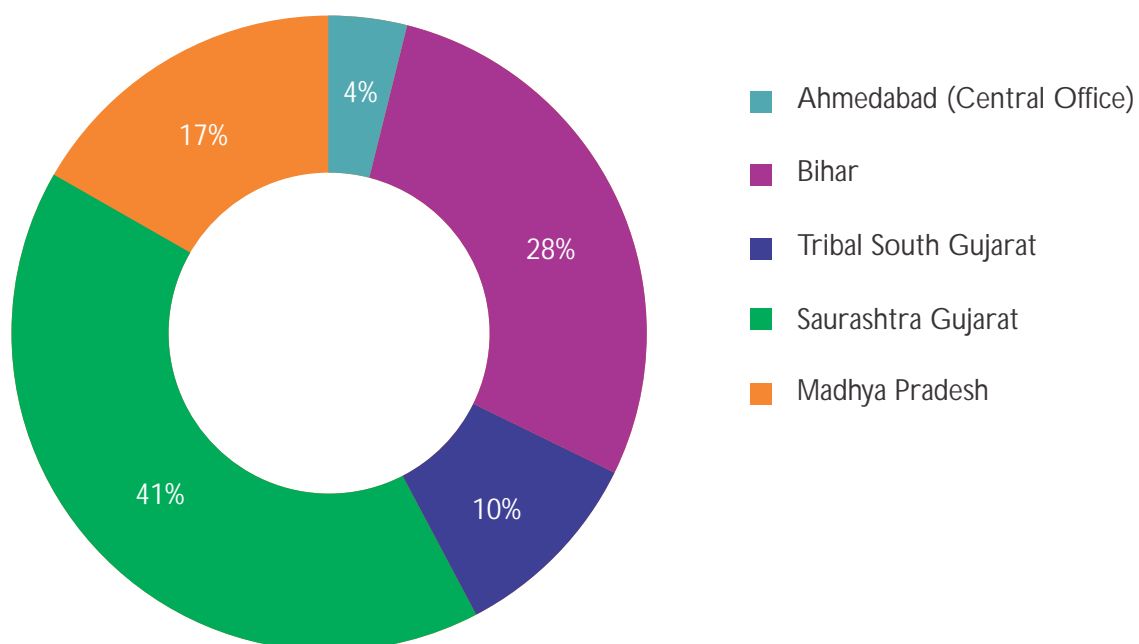
Sources	Amount in Rs. Crores
Grants from Foreign Organisations	23.45
Grants from Indian Organisations	16.03
Grants from Government Organisations	3.18
Endowment and Revenue Income	3.22
Support from His Highness The Aga Khan	0.90
Community Contribution in Cash	2.51
Leverage from Community in Kind, Government Schemes and Bank Credits	66.08
Total Expenditure	115.37





## Region-wise Financial Utilisation

Location	Amount in Rs. Crores
Ahmedabad (Central Office)	4.49
Bihar	32.69
Tribal South Gujarat	11.61
Saurashtra Gujarat	47.51
Madhya Pradesh	19.07
Total	115.37



## DONOR PARTNERS







Rabobank



## AWARDS



FICCI Sanitation Award to AKDN for the best non-profit engagement model in the sanitation sector.



District Administration of Bihar recognized AKRSP(I)'s support to Lohiya Swachh Bihar Abhiyan for making Pusa as first ODF block of district Samastipur.



Awarded 1st prize in the water initiatives in NGO category for Recognizing Excellence in Water Management and Conservation.



Best SHG Promoting Institution in Madhya Pradesh by NABARD





## OFFICE ADDRESSES

Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (India)  
9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Corporate House,  
Opp. Dinesh Hall, Off. Ashram Road, Ahmedabad-380 009  
Tel: 079-40069127, 27540421, 27542158  
Fax: 079-66312471

### SAURASHTRA REGION

Surendranagar/Rajkot/Morbi Field Office  
Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (India)  
Nr. Shree Raj Shobhag Ashram  
Sayla – 363 430  
Dist. Surendranagar  
Tel-Fax : 02755-280668

Junagadh/Devbhoomi Dwaraka/Porbandar/  
Somnath Field Office  
Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (India)  
“Bhavani Krupa”,  
Mangrol- Porbandar Road,  
Traffic Points Char Rasta, Gujarat - Central Office  
At: Mangrol, Tal. Mangrol, Dist. Junagadh – 362225  
Tel. No. 02878-223486

### TRIBAL SOUTH GUJARAT REGION

Bharuch-Narmada-Surat Field Office  
Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (India)  
Movi Road, Netrang, Dist. Bharuch-393 130  
Tel: 02643-282127  
Tel-Fax -283331

Dangs/Valsad/Navsari Field Office  
Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (India)  
Mr. Chandubhai P. Ghavani's Residence,  
Shramjivi Vasahat, Rani Faliya above Forest Check Post  
Taluka Ahwa,  
District: Dangs

### MADHYA PRADESH REGION

Madhya Pradesh Field Office  
Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (India)  
HIG-7, Scholar Den School Road  
Dindayalpuram Colony  
Khandwa (M.P) – 450001  
Tel-Fax: 0733-2249292

### BIHAR REGION

Muzaffarpur Central Office  
Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (India)  
Rana Dheerand Prasad Singh,  
Near North Bihar Agro Agency,  
Chakkar Maidan, Tel-0621-2223355

For more information please visit our website : [www.akrspindia.org.in](http://www.akrspindia.org.in)  YouTube

















**AGA KHAN RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME (INDIA)**

A PROGRAMME OF THE AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK