



VAAGDHARA

**(VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURE GENERAL
DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH AND RECONSTRUCTION ALLIANCE)**



ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14

Area of Operation



Total Districts:
Total Blocks:
Total Villages
Total Coverage: 25000 Beneficiaries

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FROM THE DESK OF SECRETARY

As we reflect on the year gone by 2013-14; and analyze our program experiences for tribal development we find them contributing towards the attainment of the national goal of inclusive and sustainable development. VAAGDHARA concentrated on CBO'S and the beneficiaries focusing on real childhood (child labour eradication, quality education and effective learning); sustainable livelihoods, and true democracy in rural areas. This year we continued to partner with KGBV for quality improvement in education for girl child.

We have been promoter of Sustainable Integrated Farming System – SIFS approach among the local farming communities in Rajasthan and adjoining tribal regions of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat for the past five years. The success of this can be seen from adoption of SIFS practices by poor families in remote region. Within perspective of gender balance society we have been organizing women groups and improving their access to resources be it financial, physical and knowledge.

This year we collaborated with Praxis India and organized side event at U.N. HEAD QUARTER to influence post 2015 development agenda participated in 'Voice for Change' representing Vulnerable Tribal Communities in remote tribal area of three states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat.

The financial year has been marked by the continuation of our association with several international and national agencies like IKEA, NABARD, Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT), SCF and among others. We continue to, work with the Ministry of Tribal Development and Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Government of Rajasthan. I am also grateful to state Government, development partners, financial institutions and other organizations and academicians

This year we did introspection of 15 years of our existence and learnt from past to decide our future action to evolve perspective plan for coming six years i.e. till 2020. Our Perspective plan again reinforced our focus to broad categories of Strengthening Livelihood of poor; addressing the Rights of the Children and facilitating the poor to voice their concerns and issues. The intricacies involved in the SIFS, Child Labour prevention and Voice of Tribal has created enormous scope for improvement in our approaches adopted during implementation.

The challenges faced during the financial years, be it in the ground level difficulties of terrain has only strengthened the capacity of our staff with the experience gained. Continued guidance and encouragement of our Governing Body has provided energy for our teammates to strive forward. Their insights have proved valuable in our endeavors to address all the three focus areas. Of special mention is the active role played by members of the Governing Body in preparing our perspective plan for the next six years.

A special thanks to our partner communities with whom we have worked at the field level with shared visions. Last but not the least a word of appreciation to the commitment and work of our teams.

Secretary
Jayesh Joshi

AT A GLANCE: VAAGDHARA

VAAGDHARA is a non-profit society, registered under Rajasthan Societies Act 1958. It was founded in 1987 but started actively functioning in 2000. It works mainly in Udaipur region of South Rajasthan, including Banswara, Dungarpur and Pratapgarh, with footprints in other districts of Rajasthan as well. VAAGDHARA has the average annual turnover of INR 30 million during last 3 yrs with a strong partner base which includes Save the Children, Welthungerhilfe, NABARD, IGSSS, Plan India, Sight Savers International, Government of Rajasthan etc. The organization has the Special Consultative Status granted by the UNECOSOC in the year 2011 and is also empanelled with the National CSR Hub.

Thus it has completed about one and half decade of functioning. It has learned from its experiences and used the learning in designing new and improved interventions. Currently, the focus is on creation & nurturing of peoples' institutions and empowering the communities so that they (community) can manage the interventions in a sustainable way.

VAAGDHARA has confined its programme with following focus areas:

1. *Sachcha Bachpan* (Real Childhood): Protection and Participation
2. *Sachcha Loktantra* (True Democracy): Community platform to resolve issues
3. *Tikau Ajeevika - Sachchi Kheti* (Sustainable Livelihood – Real Farming)
4. *Sachchi Udhyamita* (True Entrepreneurship) : An initiative for youths of rural areas to create the job-creators

Vision

The poor in tribal region of India have sustainable livelihoods and their next generation is at par with others on all development parameters like education, health, income and rights.

Mission:

Creating and nurturing vibrant institutions of poor and tribal in tribal region of Western India so that they have sustainable livelihoods through scientific knowledge while appreciating indigenous know how and appropriate technologies and their children are properly educated, free from malnutrition, and free from any form of bondage, by 2020.

Goals and Objectives

By 2020, VAAGDHARA plans to reach out to about one lakh poor families in tribal region of Rajasthan and Central West India (tribal areas in Gujarat and MP, adjoining Rajasthan) under its various development interventions.

The Year In Review: Key Highlights

As the strategic Plan for the six year was about to end and it was the most precious time for VAAGDHARA to review interventions done and accordingly prepare strategies for future interventions. Encouraged by the solid impact of its work at the grass roots and the recognition it has got from all stakeholders, VAAGDHARA has prepared its perspective plan for six years (2014-2020) after a series of consultation, discussion and debates among community people, its staff members, board members and other friends & supporters. Some of the key highlights for the year 2013-14 are as follows:

- Prepared Strategic Plan for the next six year which would aid to sharpen the VAAGDHARA strategies and provide route plan to improve the situations of the tribal community.
- It has increased access of poor tribal to Aanganwadi Centers, health services, other government schemes, built more than 400 vibrant institutions of poor and has built the capacities of Gram Panchayats to implement the development programs.
- WADI Programme is recognized as an successful initiative effective for tribal development and supported in improving the quality of life improving living standards of 1500 marginalized families in tribal community. It emerged as a model for the organizations that are willing to initiate the WADI in their upcoming Programmes. More than 4 organizations had done their exposure visit to the WADI Program in Anandpuri Block.
- On March, 2014 VAAGDHARA “Tribal Food and Grain Initiatives Producer Company Limited” was formed and registered under Companies Act. This company will help its member's tribal families to participate in FAIR Trade process. The producer company has been established with a goal to help the farming community throughout the process “from seed to table” in the form of timely availability of quality inputs and seeds, creating proper marketing facility and value addition of the agriculture produce.
- VAAGDHARA Resource Center emerged as Training Center in the Banswara district and has embarked their presence by facilitating many training programmes by government and non government level.

- Poor must have access to the latest and best technology for increasing their efficiency of operations. It is always a strong believer in the appropriateness and sustainability of the technology. This was proved by using online field guide through Mobile app with the support of Commcare Application and Dimagi India and benefitting 1500 families in WADI Programme.
- Strengthened women of 179 SHGs from marginalized community to come together, express themselves, work towards social and economic improvements through small but tangible activities such as small savings and credit. VAAGDHARA credit linkages of INR 5545000 to the 176 SHGs benefitting women with the support of Rajasthan Rural Livelihood Mission.
- VAAGDHARA is making its efforts in the Education sector for the well being of child development in 7 blocks of the district through developing Model KGBVs. Significant improvement in the learning level of 700 tribal girls in 7 KGBVs located in 7 Blocks of Banswara District.
- Training of Trainers on life Skills Education by Dr. Swaroop Rawal, A National Level Trainer which would lead to develop life skills for girls.
- VAAGDHARA with the support of Praxis India organized a side event on “Narratives from Margins: Marginalizing Community envisioning Social Development Agenda” in the Fifty-Second Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD52).
- Under its Wadi Programme it has supported 1500 families through Fruit Plantation (60,000 in numbers) of Mango, Guava and lemon covering 600 acre land.
- It has also planted 150000 plants of other products such as fuel, fodders, timbers and local fruits.
- This Year February marked start of a new project initiative on Child Rights for Change.

VAAGDHARA: THEMATIC AREAS

Sachcha Bachpan (Real Childhood): Protection and Participation

VAAGDHARA focuses its efforts towards providing protective environment to all children for their overall development. The right of children to be protected from exploitation and to receive education has been recognized as fundamental to a child's dignity and growth as a well-informed individual to build just and fair society. Child Protection is the area which directly affects the daily lives of hundreds of children around the Area and exploited with the different forms of Child labor, migration. Actions we take to end such exploitation mean the difference between a life of hope or a life of deprivation for these children. Children are not the cause of poverty, they are not responsible for widespread child labour, nor are they the reason for failing education systems. It has been adults who have created these problems. And it continues to be. Adults make decisions about government policies, resource allocation, and social priorities that perpetuate these problems. But things have changed. Vaagdhara always show its efforts in active Child Participation in every Project, which be directly or indirectly linked with these children and their Families.. VAAGDHARA's approach is adamant about local ownership of the programme and foster

In 2013-14, We Impacted

Reached 8473 Children in the Community for creating awareness upon their Right to Education.

Enriched Libraries with 2548 Reading books in 7 KGBVs

Improved School Plan in 7 KGBVs.

Reached out 130 School Management Committees



Figure Organizing Health Camp for 700 tribal girls to aware them about health education

genuine participation by

children in its design and implementation. The right to survival and development underscores the vital importance of ensuring access to basic services and to equity of opportunity for children to achieve their full development.

The views of the child mean that the voice of children must be heard and respected in all matters concerning their rights. We must promote children's active, free and meaningful participation in decision-making that affects them. However, children's rights are intimately tied to those of women. Realizing the rights and equality of women is not only a core development goal in itself, but it is also the key to the survival and development of children and to building healthy families, communities and nations.

Migration of children for work is a serious concern in context of child development for VAAGDHARA as it violates their right to growth and development. These children not only miss their education but also exposed to abuse and exploitations. Vaagdhara initiated the Child Rights for Change with the support of Save the Children in 100 villages, it would be done by establishing community based institutions such as Child Protection Committee and Children's Group and engaging closely with School Management Committees and Panchayati Raj Institutions. We are planning to develop community linkages with the Integrated Child Protection Schemes such as District Child Protection Unit. VAAGHDHARA is adopting **a twin-track approach to enhance child protection and inclusive quality education**. It will work with to ensure their protection against all kinds of abuse, exploitation and violence; prevention of migration for work; ensure improved quality of education with focus on learning at pre-school and primary level and enhance access to social protection schemes for improved income. Vaagdhara is working with Children at the community level, with belief that Children are Changing agents and can easily percolate the habits in their families, sibling and far with community. Children can form and express views from an early age but the nature of their participation, and the range of decisions in which they are involved will necessarily grow with their age and evolving capacities through strengthening their Children Groups. Young children's participation will be largely limited to issues relating to their immediate environment within the family, care facilities and local community. However, as they grow older and their capacities evolve, children's horizons broaden and they are entitled to be involved in the wide range of issues that affect them, from the immediate family to issues at the international level,



Initially, activities such as consultation among stakeholders, survey to identify migrant and potentially migrant children were conducted with the beneficiaries after that activities such as Accelerating Learning Programme (ALPs), TLMs for the children, provision of library books, life skill training, children festival, Motivation Campaign, Awareness Programmes, orientation of PR representatives were undertaken with the mutual consent of all the community members. Children are equally involved in designing and implementation of the activities :

Community Involvement

VAAGDHARA also seeks to create benchmarks for learning so that accountability improves as does people's awareness about what to expect in terms of learning outcomes. In 30 Villages, the Panchayats are being involved to monitor the activities related to the Child and about its rights. In some of the Villages, the Panchayat leaders have extended strong support towards the Motivation campaign by urging community members to support the campaign and also ensure children participation in decisions. Discussion on the CTS data with the Panchayat Raj Members and analyze them about the drop out Children in the villages, Number of children who are going for child labor in neighboring states.

Teaching Learning Material

An effort for learning while playing

Initially when VAAGDHARA started working with KGBV School in Aamja, there was no concept of painting the walls with IEC. To make the learning creative. VAAGDHARA painted some walls of the schools to attract the students towards it and also insisted the KGBV warden to initiate this activity in their school. They have budgetary provision for the same but never utilized it. Frequent visits to the KGBV, helped us to observe the impact of Wall Paintings on the learning attitude of the students. The students of KGBV were learning through the IEC in a more creative and energetic manner. VAAGDHARA staff shared this impact with the school warden and convinced her to get all the remaining walls painted in school from the budgetary provision they have under KGBV. Today the students of school are enjoying learning through this creative approach.

Special graded reading material and practical of Maths and Science subjects which includes manuals, graded reading cards/books, currency notes, word charts etc has been provided to the KGBVs. Steps have also been taken to build local capacity of states and school systems to create their own content. VAAGDHARA also provided Training to the local Teachers on the usage of Teaching Learning Material and teach children according to them.

Life Skill Training

Importance of Life skills being carried out by VAAGDHARA to develop KGBV children intellectually and to develop inner confidence in them. Dr. Swaroop Rawal, National Trainer demonstrated the TOT of life skills training to the Teachers and the team members.

I WANT TO SUPPORT MY MOTHER!!!



"I want to study to support my mother" - Manisha

Manisha and Mounika, 12 and 13 years old respectively, are two of the six-children from a family belonging to a socially excluded community from Rathdhanraj village of Banswara district in Rajasthan. Their six-member family includes their mother who is suffering from psychological problems since 4 years, she rarely stays at home and roams around the village, their two younger brothers who are studying in the village's government schools and their father who works as a daily wage laborer.

Every year, their father migrates to a nearby city, Ahmadabad in Gujarat for livelihood options. These girls were forced to leave their studies to do household chores, to look after the younger siblings and to take care of the goats at home. They were deprived of their basic right to education and it didn't seem like there was any chance of this changing as girls are married at a very early age in this community. The staff members who interacted with both the sisters during a motivational camp organized in their village realized that both the sisters wanted to continue their studies but were forced to give up due to their mother's illness.

The Team Member reached out to the girls' father to sensitize him regarding the importance of girls' education as well as various schemes and facilities provided in KGBVs for girls to study there. With the continual follow-ups and efforts made by the team, the father agreed to enroll both his daughters in KGBV schools.

Today, both the girls are studying in grade 6th and enjoy the educational environment in KGBVs. When both the sisters were asked about their plans, Monika said, "We shall study and become our parent's future support". Manisha added, "I want to support my mother".

The organization also plays a proactive role at policy level by suggesting changes in existing policies and demanding new policies to safeguard children's right to development and protection. Measures are taken to provide improved access to quality education and health services, and are underpinned by livelihoods activities to give families the opportunity to access alternative sources of income. VAAGDHARA organized Udaipur Divisional Workshop for providing awareness on different acts linked with Child Protection and Child Rights

The training workshop for different stakeholders including NGOS, Police Officers, Government Officials, PRIs was held in Banswara and inaugurated by District Collector Mr. K.B. Gupta, who explained children's rights in general and how it was essential for police officers to be clear on what steps to follow when faced with a case of child rape or sexual assault on both boys and girls. The workshop was organized in collaboration with the Save the Children and Vaagdhara. In the process of sharing Mr. Gupta shared that we need to sensitize, aware the society by which we can address the issues of children and can minimize these issues, he also appreciated the effort of VAAGDHARA, CULP and save the Children for organizing a workshop to bring a mass sensitization and to reach over a larger mass of children regarding ICPS and POCSO Act 2012 through the CSO partners and various departmental authorities. The Open House discussion helped to identify the different solution regarding the proper implementation of different schemes and act to the Tribal community. ***Media plays a prime role in promoting advocacy and bringing child abuse to light, says Shree Anil Kumar Tak, SP Banswara.***



Figure 3 : Mr. Prabhat Kumar, Save the Children sharing the concepts of POCSO Act

Sachcha Loktantra: Fight For Rights

Raising the voice of indigenous people is one of the crucial issues on which VAAGDHARA works. It always strives to collect issues and concerns of the tribal community from grassroots and voicing the same at international fora. Poor tribal people are found to be diversifying their livelihood bases, doing different things at different seasons of the year. There is a declining trend in livelihoods securities mainly due to factors like fragmentation of operational holdings,

***In this Regard, Recently, An attempt was made by the organization in the form of organizing the side event at 52nd session of the Commission for social Development.** The session shared excerpt from these different groups to put forward various elements of a people-led development agenda. It is also an attempt to bring together like-minded organizations and create a platform to share and as well as build solidarity with others in the sector. VAAGDHARA also submitted a written statement at UN level and get approval for same. This is a distinguished remark and is a great achievement and recognition for VAAGDHARA in development sector. With this VAAGDHARA is planning to take participate in different forums at UN level and share the voices of the indigenous community at national and international fora.*

erosion of natural resources, tragedy of commons, low access to institutional credit, poor implementation of public programmes, indebtedness, loss of safety nets and support networks. The livelihood insecurities result from seasonal nature of activities, high vulnerability of these people (especially to natural disasters and other socio-economic shocks and risks), exclusion from institutions and the market, entitlement failures, and low human capability.

The main axis of exclusion in rural Banswara is forged along the lines of caste and gender. Women are discriminated in a number of ways. In the social sphere there is a common restriction on women's mobility, a lack of agency (literacy, health, voice and autonomy), and their relationship to the outside world (government offices, markets, banks etc.) is mediated through male members of the household. Together with the economic discriminations against women (lack of access to and control over resources, ownership of assets etc.) they have a direct bearing on the functioning of the SHGs and the entrepreneurship building programmes through the SHGs. Women's discrimination in the labour market, their wage-disparities, the non-recognition of their household activities in terms of economic value, atrocities and violence against women (condemning them as witches, dowry, female feticide etc.) are very common in Banswara. It is commonplace to find a proxy participation of women in the PRIs and other community based organizations.

It is therefore extremely important that the intervention is designed to focus on these issues. The tribal livings in this region are deprived of the benefits given to the tribal. Nonetheless, they are

displacement etc., while whatever little benefit provided by the government is usurped by the others. It is frequently stated that in the development strategy there is a need to move from welfare to human rights based approach. This implies a change in mindset, reorganizing development priorities with required fund allocations committed to address the needs of a large proportion of deprived and marginalized communities. All our development projects whether funded by Government or other development agencies have to recognize this shift. The challenge becomes urgent and difficult also because of the inevitable negative effects of globalization and liberalization.



Figure 4 : Right to Work helps to start small enterprises for women empowerment

The Livelihood program takes Rights Based Approach for addressing the crucial issues related to livelihood program, such as; food security, sustainable livelihood, economic development, access to credits and better management and access to natural resources. The actualization of the rights of the people related to these issues has been the backbone of the Livelihood Program Intervention Strategy. Strong Community based organizations have emerged and are taking initiatives at the community level. Initiatives by Community Based Organizations (CBOs) are foundation stones towards achieving sustainability. Some innovative approaches and tools like Job cards, Kisan Credit Cards, Regularization of PDS to deal with the access to food and address the issues of marginalized tribal community. The Programme has successfully contributed to monitoring of the government food security schemes like PDS, ICDS, mid day meal through active CBOs.

VAAGDHARA is working as a catalyst and facilitator by providing platform help the community to voice their concern and to positively engage with policy makers for enabling policy environment. In addition to this, Vaagdhara also organized a side event with the Praxis India on **“Narratives from Margins: Marginalizing Community envisioning social development Agenda”**. As part of various initiatives to influence Post-2015 development agenda, *“Voice for Change”* is an attempt to enhance the participation of vulnerable communities to analyze, dialogue and voice their perspectives on development goals. It is attempting to amplify narratives from the margins of society. These efforts try to bring issues of marginalised into limelight through their own direct voices. A series of participatory exercises were organized to identify groups that are often left out of decision-making processes.

i n d i g e n o u s
communities are often romanticized but experience discrimination on an on-going basis and lack of access to basic services, often perpetuated unknowingly by planners leading to lack of awareness and information among the tribal communities, are highlighted across the document. The demand for better



Figure 5: Vaagdhara organizing a side event in 52nd session of the commission for social development at UN Head Quarter

alternatives to services and specially livelihood echo across the board along with a determination to cope with new institutions that are encroaching their traditional ones and their basic identity. This was facilitated by Vaagdhara, in geographies, which are not considered a tribal belt, where issues of such communities are exacerbated.

With Addition, VAAGDHARA also submitted written statement which marked their flag at UN level after approval. The written statement was on firm belief of VAAGDHARA that however we may emphasize a rights-based approach and State responsibility, the empowerment of people and their participation in governance concerning the affairs of their lives, as well as those of their communities, are essential for democracy, harmony and social development.

Sacchi Kheti: Sustainable Livelihoods

The livelihoods of people in tribal region and especially of the marginalised people are getting vulnerable. The forest cover which was the main source of food, fiber, fodder and various items is shrinking. Tribal communities are also getting alienated from the forests due to non participative policies of government. The topography is undulating and there is heavy soil erosion in the regions. The land productivity is low, irrigation sources are scare and though most tribal regions get moderate to heavy rains, they do not get sufficient water for irrigation and even for drinking. The education is low and of extremely low quality. Most tribal youth have to migrate to cities for un-skilled manual labor. Even small children migrate to add

VAAGDHARA is currently working for income enhancement of over 2,000 rural poor in the districts through water resource development and livelihood promotion mainly agriculture and horticulture.

some income to family, when they should be going to schools. Thus they remain illiterate. This vicious cycle of poverty and ignorance continues.

The sustainable livelihoods are a way to improve understanding of the livelihoods of poor people. It draws on the main factors that

affect poor people's livelihoods and the typical relationships between these factors. VAAGDHARA always endeavor for planning new development activities and in assessing the contribution that existing activities have made to sustaining livelihoods.



Figure 6 : Providing Goatery for Improving Income Generation and also helps to in improving Nutrition security

VAAGDHARA aims to bring positive changes in the livelihood practices of local communities through promotion of groups. The livelihood opportunities / income generating activities are identified considering the existing socio-cultural practices of the target communities. The skill building measures are planned to improve the effectiveness of existing livelihood practices. VAAGDHARA promotes empowerment of women for their active participation in decision making processes at the community level. The sustainable Livelihoods will strengthen the target tribal communities' income generation opportunities through tools and capacity building support. It is expected that the beneficiaries will continue the livelihood practices, which directly contribute to increased family economy.

SUSTAINABLE INTEGRATED FARMING SYSTEM

Agriculture is the most preferred activity of a large section in this region, yet the method of cultivation is in dilemma. In view of the rapid technology turn over, appropriate strategy for HRD is required to maximize farm income through adoption of cutting-edge appropriate and sustainable technology. The rich resource base in the region such as bio-diversity, fertile soil, favorable agro-ecological situation, immense water resources, ethnic and human resources could be potential sources. The region has a great potential for the development of water resources, if utilized properly and promptly may substantially improve the living conditions of the rural poor, particularly, small and marginal tribal farmers. However, due to lack of appropriate strategies for development of natural resources, absence of coordination in programme implementation, weak geographical links and poor infrastructure facilities, the region is handicapped in catching up with the agricultural developmental pathways in tune with the national ethos. VAAGDHARA has decided to focus on further strengthening and expanding its 'Integrated Farming System- IFS' program in tribal region. IFS include various small but timely and regular interventions which requires lot



of thinking process and continued motivation for such smaller interventions. The Sustainable Integrated Farming Systems (SIFS) Programme supports farmer groups to transform their farms into more productive and sustainable systems. In particular, the SIFS programme aims to capacitate farmers to adopt diversified and sustainable farming systems including multiple livelihood options based on natural resources to get more benefit from their produce through

Figure 7: Community shifting to Productive and sustainable Farming System



Figure A beneficiary adopted SIFS to its Field

better integration of various subsystems, post-harvest management, value-addition and marketing.

The SIFS approach moves away from individual crop performance to increased system productivity. Based on agro-ecological zones, combinations of crops, horticulture, agro-forestry, livestock and aquaculture are integrated into an interactive relationship. Use of external inputs is minimized by enhancing the recycling of materials within the farm system.

SIFS activities are built around selected, inter-dependent, inter-related and often inter-linking production systems based on crops, animals, and related subsidiary professions.

The SIFS approach uses participatory farmer based learning processes. In each of the select SIFS models are designed by farmer groups locally and in collaboration with identified experts and facilitators on the basis of available local natural resources, knowledge and skill sets available among the practicing farmers, household and nutrition needs, as well as market opportunities.

Major Achievements so far in this year are as Follows:

- 500 Families put forward in changing Agricultural Practices and in turn improve their livelihood standards.
- Through Poultry Management, 250 Families increase their source of income.
- 325 Families adopted SALT (Sloping Agricultural Land Technology) for land reformation.
- 3 Low cost Rain Water Harvesting Structure created which benefited 15 Families.
- 46 Families developed fodder saving Mechanism for cattle advancement.
- 300 Families adopted hedge row for improving their cultivation.
- Provided Training on Integrated Farming System to 72 Women Members.

Nutrition is an integral component of SIFS and farm planning also includes designing homesteads, gardens, pathways and water bodies to ensure year round healthy organic food for the household. The approach also integrates the smallholder farmer with the market by building up capacities of value chain analysis and business development. Credit and market linkages are provided and small farmers organized for enhanced competitiveness. The integration in the model helps further

strengthening through cultural habits of people of the area, where each individual house has space, time and cultural liberty to follow IFS. Poor tribal families in this region are conservative as far as resource utilization is concerned, therefore resource saving and smaller intervention with LEISA approach go hand in hand with tribal culture in the area.

WADI Development

The WADI concept is a holistic development approach that takes into account all aspects of rural life. It has dimensions of farm production, natural resource management, social mobilization and economic upliftment. From an individual farm perspective it is a tree-based farming system, more specifically a *WADI system*, in which the agri-horti-forestry unit interacts with other production components of the farm such as annual crop fields and livestock. At the level of the physical land unit, the *WADI plot* is an agri-horti-forestry arrangement of beneficial plant species. This

- *For Promoting Organic Farming, usage of 320 organic compost in WADI for 350 Families.*
- *Fruit Plantation of 15800 in number to 350 Families*
- *Number of 39500 Forest Tree Plantation to 350 Families.*
- *Total Savings INR 231300 to 30 SHGs linked with WADI Development.*
- *Formation of 27 new Self Help Groups which increase the involvement of 352 women members.*
- *Linked 1500 Families with the Mobile Application Technology to monitor the WADIs in their area.*



Figure 9: community adopting wadi system for sustainable livelihoods and also helping to stop migration

concept has turned out to be a practical strategy for the development of small Landholders in dry areas who cannot take the risk of investing in high-input intensive agriculture because of poor land quality and limited water availability. It is evident that the background of the people is a key factor in the success of the WADI programme. Their past failures had created disenchantment with the land and their association with it lasted for only a few months, sometimes weeks, in a year. The introduction of the

tree-based system makes them realize that their land is a valuable resource. As a result, they build a permanent relationship with their

land and devote more time and energy towards its development. There are many instances where farmers have moved their home from the village hamlet to the WADI plot, a clear indication of their affinity to the land that they own.

Having a family of seven members with four sons and one daughter, Amritlal has been closely associated with VAAGDHARA since three years and is currently the field guide in Mundri. He motivates, supervises and assists the beneficiaries for effective agricultural practices.

“Earlier, I facilitated labour migration from villages to the nearby cities. VAAGDHARA motivated me to adopt a Vadi, and assist them with the WADI programme that they had started. Not only do I foresee the immediate and obvious benefits of the WADI, but am glad to have given up my previous work. Even though the latter provided more income, savings were minimal. However, Vadis are an excellent means to add up for a sustainable and secure future. Villagers are usually very apprehensive of external entities intervening on their land, as they fear that the land will be overtaken. However, with VAAGDHARA's persistent efforts, we have been able to build the trust amongst the villagers and continue to do so.”

Hence, VAAGDHARA offered Amritlal a different perspective towards livelihood which he otherwise might not have come across. Other than the direct benefits that the villagers can reap from the Vadis, this project is also providing them alternative approaches to their very idea of livelihood.



Water Shed Development

The successful implementation of the water shed Programme lead to increase in the utilization of land, production, preserving water source and increase in income status of the Tribal community. With the structural change of activities, VAAGDHARA provide awareness to the Tribal community, being giving

importance to the land based activities, which will increase area under cultivation, helps in preventing migration, improving in livestock and other non farm activities.

Involvement of Community Based Organization will lead to the community monitoring and surveillance system and also aid to the holistic development. The SHGs formed in the area has provided a direct positive impact on the economic independence of the tribal women.

Community Lift Irrigation

In 2013-14, Community Lift Irrigation from Kanglya, Iankai and Kotda irrigated total 172.18 hac land and started Rabi cropping in the Area

“

Community lift Irrigation Scheme” must accomplish two main tasks: first, to carry water by means of pumps from the water source to the main delivery chamber, which is situated at the top most point in the area. Secondly water must be distributed to the field of the beneficiary farmers by means of a suitable and proper distribution system. The concept behind the lift irrigation scheme is to benefit the tribal community which are living near water source and does not get benefit of them. Therefore, After Resource mapping and proper irrigation planning according to the situation of field, by new technologies we designed the structure with the **community support and their contribution**. Advocacy with government plays an important role in constructing and implementing the community lift irrigation scheme.

Recently 2 Community Lifts are under process and 2 are inaugurated with the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister, Mr. Mahendra Jeet Singh Malvaiya Ji.



Figure 10: Community Lift Irrigation System

Sachchi Udhyamita – True Entrepreneurship

The efforts have endowed the women with literacy and numeric skills and organized them into Mahila mandals leading to formation of SHGs linked to banks and availing credit facilities for their enterprises. Micro level interventions have translated into empowerment of women to some extent manifested in their coming out of veil and their increased participation in decision making within and outside their families. Within its thrust area of **developing self-sufficient women's network, and** achieve group **sustainability** it

works on forming women groups. VAAGDHARA always focus on **Women Empowerment and** is based on the premise that micro credits have been playing crucial role in life of the target

- *Formation of 146 Functional Self Help Group and linked with 1753 Women Members*
- *Linkage with Insurance to 316 Members*
- *Formation of 10 Cluster development Organization*
- *Net Owned Fund Of SHGs (Savings) INR 1891323*
- *Total Internal Credit Generated INR 658810*
- *Total credit leveraged from Banks INR 1198000*
- *76SHGs Linked with Rajasthan Rural Livelihood Mission and distributed INR 5275000.*

group. It is unorganized lending system that persists in the area which supports emergency demands and consumption needs arises out of the irregular money flow system in the area. The objective of formation and functioning of SHGs is to provide alternatives for the extreme exploitative credit practices of the moneylenders in the area of operation.

There are many projects which VAAGDHARA is undertaking upon the livelihood generation and formation of SHGs. The main concept of VAAGDHARA behind that the growing social awareness across the globe has brought a number of issues to therefore among which gender equality and empowerment of women are very significant.

VAAGDHARA helped in empowerment of women and building self-confidence, but lack of education often comes in the way and many a times they had to seek help from their husbands for day-to-day work viz; bank, accounts, etc. The distance education provides an opportunity to these women to improve their skills. The higher level of learning will help them to learn skill and vocations and play an effective role in the management of SHGs.

A significant development in recent years with VAAGDHARA'S efforts has been the mushrooming of community-based organizations and initiatives at the local level for women. It indicates that self-help programmes, often in the form of savings and credit or microcredit schemes, have succeeded in changing the lives of poor women, enhancing incomes and generating positive externalities such as increased self-esteem.



Figure 11: Empowered Self Help Groups

Lila never went outside her village and usually stayed back in the house. Now being the group member of Mahadev SHG in Kanthhav Village, she goes regularly to the bank in the town and to the bazaar. She has learned how to speak in front of others, especially men, and is now confident about speaking at meetings despite the traditions of the village. She is no longer obeying ghoonghat (veil). Lila is now in charge of all the household matters, while her husband is concentrating more on field work. She decided to put groceries shop in the village from the money allocated from bank loan to SHG Group members. The money allocated to Lila Devi was of INR 8000 and open the groceries shop with this money. As she is eager to learn more and save more money in order to use it for the enhancement of livelihood. Today Lila Devi has its own Wholesaler shop and also having income of INR 400-700 per day and owned respect from the community.

She also wants to further change the situation of women in the village by approaching the Panchayat and speaking there about their problems. This is presently forbidden by the men and she is hoping that will change if the whole SHG participates collectively in the process.

VAAGDHARA STRTAEGIC PLAN SUMMARY



Figure 12 : Team members engage in Organization Diagnosis Exercise

With the working of 15 years with strong determination and hard work in the development sector, and in order to be ready for next era, VAAGDHARA has identified as learning and expanding organization, and now in order need to focus on strategic approach to building expertise – which is a predetermined factor for VAAGDHARA's success. Therefore for starting this, VAAGDHARA had done with

Organization Diagnosis exercise process which is undertaken by AHP AND KKID. The Process followed aimed at taking stock of the current projects' sustainability and expansion from organization perspective. It also looked at the existing and future structural, human, technical and financial resources per se. A strategic plan can be a very useful promotional document for VAAGDHARA, but more than that it is a very important tool for organizational development. Establishing an organization with a mission and objectives is just one part of the work; running it in the right direction is equally important.

The purpose of this Strategic Plan for six years is to establish the overall strategic direction to guide the staff, Board of Directors, and members of the VAAGDHARA over the next six years. This plan will provide the highest level guidance to the Team members and Community Based Organizations as we make choices about program direction, set fundraising priorities, allocate the use of limited human and financial resources, and develop long-term action plans. Good governance by the Board, leadership and management from the staff, and leadership and direction from the Working Group chairs and voluntary contributions will enable us to succeed.

VAAGDHARA has decided to remain focused on the development of marginalized people in tribal areas of country and it has decided to align its present and future interventions under three broad categories – 'Strengthening livelihoods of poor'; 'Addressing the rights of children'; and 'Facilitating the poor to voice their issues and concerns' with vibrant institutions.

FUTURE STEPS

This is the Time also to renew our sense of purpose for the years-our promise to live up to the expectation of tribal community particularly Children, to provide them with opportunities to develop their full potential and contribute for their own development.

In order to be ready for the next era, Vaagdhara has identified its need to focus the thematic areas in detail, moving from being an organization that provides basic implementation in the field area on different focus area to an organization that can deliver better services with strategies and sustainability, be a resource pool for the other organization in development sector. The idea being that the basic implementation programmes should evolve to being implemented in a catalytic mode. Efforts are already underway to move into the next phase of the strategic Plan i.e. implementing at Field level. It will also initiate taking programme learning to build developmental processes to benefit wider tribal community in central India and other similar regions.

Vaagdhara would like to address the child Rights by establishing community based institutions such as Child Protection Committees and Children Groups and engaging closely School Management Committees and PRIs. Linkages will be developed with structures establish under Integrated Child Protection Schemes under District Protection Unit. Vaagdhara will strengthen the formation and active participation of Village Child Protection Committee in the area. VAAGDHARA continues to advocate against child labour and will try best efforts to achieve success both at the policy and programmatic levels

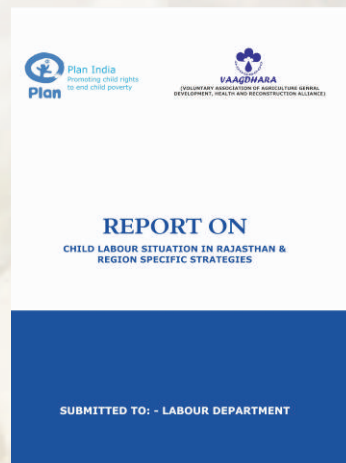
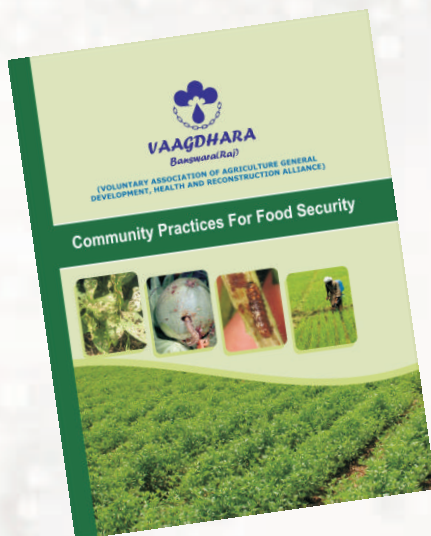
Addition to Vaagdhara approaches new agricultural horizons in the tribal community through initiating the Integrated Framing system, Organic Farming, indigenous food preservation and as well seed soverginity. Though organic farming is not new, it is yet to become popular enough to be followed by farmers on a large scale. Vaagdhara will promote the new farming area with 4000 farmers and share their Learnings at broader level to expand the new farming style.

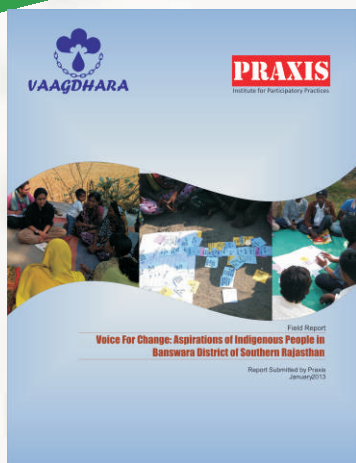
Vaagdhara aims at moving towards for setting up a platform for tribal for integrating their exiting vulnerable situations and sharing their voices at broader level. The Annual Colloquium for tribals would be thought of leadership forum where they can share their concerns and identify the probable solutions with sustainability future for them. Vaagdhara will be thinking as developing and exploring Tribal leadership for their voices.

Cadre development would be another area where Vaagdhara would like to see far in coming years. As there is a need of skilled persons in the development sector and will be available as a ready resource for rural development activities over a long term.

We believe that with sufficient commitment, collaboration, and strategic focus, our goal of empowering tribal communities can be realized. In Continual years, VAAGDHARA remains as firmly committed to this Vision and Mission as always.

PUBLICATIONS





**VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURE GENERAL
DEVELOPMENT HEALTH AND RECONSTRUCTION ALLIANCE
(VAAGDHARA)
VILLAGE AND POST-KOPDA
DISTT. BANSWARA (RAJ.) 327001**

<u>BALANCE SHEET AS ON MARCH 31,2014</u>	Sch.	<u>2013-14</u>	<u>2012-13</u>
<u>SOURCES OF FUNDS</u>			
General Reserve	1	1861213.12	7228197.54
Capital Reserve for Fixed Assets	1A	2715490.00	110000.00
Total		<u>4576703.12</u>	<u>7338197.54</u>
<u>APPLICATION OF FUNDS</u>			
Fixed Assets	2	12146962.00	11538428.00
Current Assets, Loans And Advances	3		
1) Deposits		13711.00	14160.00
2) Bank Balances		3590017.98	4781622.94
3) Other Current Assets		102974.00	811883.00
4) Overspent amount recoverable on Projects	5	<u>800415.00</u>	<u>4507117.98</u>
			8390796.54
Less: Current Liabilities & Provisions	4		
1) Sundry Creditors		3984490.00	2921564.00
2) Other Liabilities & Provisions		1250573.00	1646920.00
3) Unspent amount payable on Projects	5	<u>6842313.86</u>	<u>8022543.00</u>
		12077376.86	12591027.00
Total		<u>4576703.12</u>	<u>7338197.54</u>
Accounting Policies & Notes on Accounts	9		

For VAAGDHARA

Place : Banswara
Date :29.06.14

(President)

(Secretary)

As per our report of even date
For B.L. Pagaria & Co.,
Chartered Accountants
FRN: 001821C

(Anand Pagaria)
Partner
M.No. 401182



**VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURE GENERAL
DEVELOPMENT HEALTH AND RECONSTRUCTION ALLIANCE
(VAAGDHARA)
VILLAGE AND POST-KOPDA
DISTT. BANSWARA (RAJ.) 327001**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR
ENDING MARCH 31, 2014**

	Sch.	2013-14	2012-13
<u>INCOME</u>			
Grants and Donations	6		
A. Grants		25401335.06	29660433.55
B. Donations		1911501.00	27312836.06
Interest Income		33660.91	24558.00
Miscellaneous Income		133648.00	15638.00
Total		27480144.97	32448929.55
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>			
A. Development Programme Expenditure	7	27048080.00	26041465.00
B. Administrative Expenditure	8	2297189.93	1671101.00
C. Loss on Sale of Assets		103983.00	0.00
Total		29449252.93	27712566.00
Excess of Income Over Expenditure		(1969107.96)	4736363.55
Net excess of unspent/overspent balances carried to Balance Sheet	5	(802486.46)	(3318202.05)
-Difference over last year's balances			
Allocable Surplus		(2771594.42)	1418161.50
Less: Net purchase of fixed assets transferred to capital reserves		358342.00	0.00
Net surplus transferred to General Reserves		(3129936.42)	1418161.50
Accounting Policies & Notes on Accounts	9		

For VAAGDHARA

Place : Banswara
Date : 29.06.14

(President)

(Secretary)

As per our report of even date

For B.L. Pagaria & Co.,
Chartered Accountants
FRN: 001821C

(Anand Pagaria)
Partner
M.No. 401182



Management team, donors, bank, auditor and address of VAAGDHARA

Mr. Narendra Nath Joshi, Chair Person: Agriculture Economist with specialization in rural finance, cooperatives and farm management. He is Ex GM, Rajasthan State Cooperative Bank, Jaipur. And former MD, Sikkim state cooperative Bank, Gangtok.



Mr. Jayesh Joshi, Secretary: Mr. Jayesh Joshi is a Development Analyst & Practitioner and a social worker of “Vaagar” region of Rajasthan. He has been associated with VAAGDHARA from the last 15 years.



Mr. Brij Mohan Dixit, Treasurer: An Agriculture Economist with 34 years of experience with 12 research papers. He has vast experience in the field of Environment, Bio-diversity, Agriculture, Sericulture, Animal Husbandry and Irrigation Management



Ms. Sachi Bhatt, Member : Ms. Bhatt is a gold medalist of master,s qualification in Social work. She has specialization Health.



Ms. Varsha Joshi: Professional, working with Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur. Her expertise includes Cultural History, Globalization, Nutrition and Policy Research.



Dr. Meeta Singh, Member: Qualified medical doctor with experience of working on gender and women reproductive health. Presently Director of IFES.



Mr. Kanji Charpota: Mr. Kanji Charpota is a dedicated progressive Farmer and represents the community in Vaagdhara board.



Core Team Members

- Mr. P.L.Patel, Programme Manager
- Ms. Richa Sharma, Programme Manager
- Mr. Saurabh Sabikhi, Programme Manager
- Ms. Surbhi Saraswat, Programme Manager
- Mr. Parmesh Patidar, Project Coordinator
- Ms. Saroj Soni, Project Coordinator
- Mr. Pramod Kumar, Project Coordinator
- Mr. Sohan Nath Jogi , Program Coordinator

PARTNERS

				
WELTHUNGERHILFE	NABARD	IGSSS	SAVE THE CHILDREN	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.
				
PLAN INTERNATIONAL	SIGHT SAVERS INTERNATIONAL	GOVT. OF RAJASTHAN	SEVA NETWORK FOUNDATION	

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VAAGDHARA

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