



Annual Report

2019-20



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Abbreviations

ADP - Annual Development Plan

FPO - Farmer Producer Organizations

GP - Gram Panchayat

JSK - Jan-Jatiya Swaraj Kendra

JSS - Janjatiya Swaraj Sanghatan

JVM - Janjatiya Vikas Manch

MNREGA - Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

NSFS - Nutri sensitive Farming system

PGS certification - Participatory Guarantee System

PLA - Participatory Learning and Action

PLCPC - Panchayat Level Child Protection Committee

SDG - Sustainable Development Goals

SIFS - Sustainable Integrated Farming System

STDG - Sustainable Tribal Development Group

VCPC - Village Child Protection Committee

VD&CRC - Village development and child rights committee

VDP - Village Development Plan

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Message from Secretary

I am hereby presenting you the annual report of Financial year 2019-2020, but can't resist myself in sharing the present scenario. It was 20th March, when Vaagdhara representatives who came from the community were discussing on the annual evaluation and were planning for the next Financial Year's work plan and budget. That time, no one knew the horrible situation that COVID 19 can create. My fellow people like me, who believe in Swaraj assumed that Corona shall not affect the Tribal much because of their

inherent strong life style. But underneath, there was some fear due to increase in market dependency, the Government issues and the migratory tribals whose enslavement on market economy can bring us in problem.

And it happened the same way....

The tribal families who lived as per their traditions and tribal lifestyle, the villages and the panchayats which sustained it, faced less problems than compared to the families who were dependent on the market for their day to day needs and food. These circumstances have made us and the Government, rethink about what kind of lifestyle, food habits and practices could be considered wholesome and sustainable.

I am happy to say that the Swaraj accreditation that Vaagdhara was focusing on, has come out brightly, and leaving no doubt of its sustainable functionality. I am bringing forward the compilation of the work done by village level organization in 1000 villages, various Jan Jatiya Swaraj Sanghatan, volunteers and active workers of Vaagdhara, all created under consensus of Vaagdhara's hypothesis.

This compilation is neither the report of activities nor that of processes. This is just a snapshot for your review of what the community expected and what efforts and work was done.

In the end, I would thank my colleagues and team members who worked hard to bring this report in front of you, the various organizations and partner institutes without whose help these efforts could not be made and Media partners without whom all this cannot be put in the front of the whole world.

Thank you.

Jayesh Joshi
Secretary, Vaagdhara

Introduction



Mahatma Gandhi's concept of development was Sarvodaya through Antyodaya, implying the welfare of all through the weakest of the society. He said that principles of cooperation and collective endeavor are central to society. Vaagdhara's working area consists of the tribal belt of tri-junction area of 3 states- Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, and it is continuously striving for empowering 1 lakh families of 1000 villages.

Historically, the Tribal were people living in isolated areas of hills and dense forests. The majority of them were never a part of any organized religious group and they had their own beliefs and customs for worshipping and nurturing nature, based on their location and community. With time, transition occurred and they were influenced by the outsiders. This influence brought around a major shift in their cultural and economic practices. The otherwise self-reliant communities turned into market oriented people. Their excellent gender specific practices and their way of taking care of children deteriorated over centuries.

Gandhi said that an ideal Indian village will be so constructed as to lend itself to perfect sanitation. It will have cottages with sufficient light and ventilation, built of a material obtainable within a radius of five miles of it. The cottages will have courtyards enabling the householders to plant vegetables for domestic use and to house their cattle. The village lanes and streets will be free of all avoidable dust. It will have wells according to its needs and accessible to all. It will have houses of worship for all, also a common meeting place, a common place for grazing its cattle, a cooperative dairy, primary and secondary schools in which industrial education will be the central factor, and it will have village panchayats for settling disputes. It will produce its own grains, vegetables and fruit, and its own Khadi. Gandhi used to say that nature has everything for human needs but not for her greed. Thus, the principle of Sarvodaya must be invoked.

Vaagdhara is making continuous efforts in taking the Tribal back to their ancient wisdom. Vaagdhara has combined Gandhi's main goals- Swaraj, Swadeshi, Sarvodaya and Non-violence into its three focused areas –

1. Facilitating the voice of poor
2. Addressing child rights
3. Sustainable livelihood.

To achieve its vision and mission, Vaagdhara has made a Strategic plan for its organization whereby it intends to empower 1 lakh families of Indigenous communities in tribal junction to adapt participatory processes and join sustainable development pathway.

Vision

The poor in tribal region of India have climate change resilient sustainable livelihoods ensuring education, health, rights and participation for their children.

Mission

Creating and nurturing vibrant institutions of tribal communities at tri-junction of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya-Pradesh states of India; integrating new-generation and indigenous technology, knowledge and practices ensuring sustainable livelihood and realization of childhood.

Vaagdhara Envisages

- That the emotional, physical and educational growth of the tribal children increases.
 - That the livelihood resources of small and marginal tribal families in 100 villages are managed sustainably, in harmony with ecological conditions and adapted to climate change.
 - That Gram Choupal of 100 villages are empowered.
 - That the community participates in its own development process by liaisioning both at local and National level.
-

For fulfilling its dream, Vaagdhara has created Key Result Areas on which it constantly monitors itself. In 2019-20, Vaagdhara continuously evolved and worked for the achievement of its goals.



1. Leveraging Community to build up Leaders

Voicing the problem and finding solutions

Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathan Sahyog Ikai (JSSSI) in collaboration with the Technical Support Unit (TSU) works for the critical communal issues and helps Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathan (JSS) in preparing solutions to the issues arising at village or panchayat level. 1 male and 1 female are chosen per village and the members from 25 villages constitute a JSS. These members in consultation with experts of JSSSI conduct a monthly meeting and discussions are done on the community issues, social Security Programme and agricultural practices. In one such meeting in December 2019, people of Nagreda village realized that in their community, problems of Diarrhea, stomach ache, pain in joints and teeth staining were increasing. This was shared in the larger group at the JSS meeting wherein out of 25 villages who were the member of that JSS 10 other villages (Lakheriya, Dhanelapada, Levapada, Ghatol, Goliyawada, Kaheri, Churla, Narolo ki Goz, Chunakhera, Maud kiGhati), realized that they were facing the same problem. JSSSI mentored them in finding out the root cause of this issue. The problem was identified as water contamination. The water source in these villages was hand pump. Water was collected from each hand pump in a bottle and was taken to the next JSS meeting. The water in some bottles was yellowish while others had a peculiar odor. TSU mentored them that such issues are tackled by PHED department. The members of the JSS went to PHED department with their water bottles and asked the authorities to look into the matter so that their health can be safeguarded. The department sent their Engineers and all handpumps were individually checked and problems identified and rectified. In the words of the President of JSS Ghatol, “The Vaagdhara team has sensitized our vision that now we are able to see that the cases of Diarrhea are increasing in our community. The Ikai made us understand that if we have a large scale issue that means the problem should be common. Now, we do not sit with the problem, but work towards the solution. Some of our hand pumps were leaking and sewerage water was mixing into it. Others had high fluoride content. The PHED department mended the issues and now the water is safe. All the village people are happy now and we at JSS feel that we have done something worthwhile for the community.”



Vaagdhara enabled the tribal community as Janjatiya Swaraj Sanghatan (JSS) *to strengthen people's organization and tribal leadership which raises voice for demanding increase in public investment on nutrition, education and sustainable livelihoods focusing on most vulnerable families.*

In a JSS, a group of 30-40 people; with a strong sense of their distinctiveness; come together on a platform to throw light on issues prevailing in the community.

Vaagdhara motivated both men and women of the community by identifying one male and one female from the village to systematically approach the communal issues at Gram Panchayat level where a collective solution can be conveyed.

For strengthening stake in tribal leadership, Vaagdhara designed broad activities for FY 2019-20:

- 1.1 To devise plans for JSS led development approach in tribal tri-junction area and training of core team of Vaagdhara.
- 1.2 To constitute JSS and training of Governing Councils of JSS in decision making and development arena.
- 1.3 To undertake three batches of 'leadership schools' for developing leadership among the Tribal youth.
- 1.4 To develop a road map and devise a Janjatiya Vikas Manch (JVM) for mentoring the facilitation of JSS.
- 1.5 To facilitate in organizing 'Farmer's Sovereignty March' and Tribal conclaves.
- 1.6 To interact with JSS and JVM functionaries to equip them with policy interventions and to raise tribal voice at different platforms.

Major facilitation undertaken during FY 2019-20 to strengthen the tribal leadership:

1. Surveil the operations done in 250 Villages of tri-junction area across 3 States by Vaagdhara team-

- Institutional and organizational development took place through Policy advocacy Unit by setting up inter-institutional and organizational coordination mechanisms.
- Support to Panchayat level works was given.
- By promoting the federation of farmers' organizations, convergence with government through MNREGA was done.
- Regular mentoring of :
 - 24 Jan Jatiya Swarj Sangathan,
 - 1000 Village development and child rights committee (VD&CRC),
 - 1000 Saksham Samooh (smart farmer women group)

2. Linkages were established to enhance smooth delivery

- 9539 members of the community derived benefits from different Government schemes like Palanhar, NHM, Pension, ICDS schemes, PMKVY and other.
- 6700 communes associated oneself with Tribal Colloquium where they exchanged ideas on major concern areas of the tribes.
- 3000 families were financially benefitted with Rs 11 crore by linking them to MNREGA Scheme under Apna Khet Apna Kaam.
- 3543 community members participated in Gram Sabhas in 144 Panchayats and submitted their Micro Plans for village development actions. The fund utilization increased under the VHSWNC committees in these villages.

3. Saksham Samooh, the women leaders of the community acquiesced in Vaagdhara gathered with the slogan “Stop soil erosion – Save our future” to celebrate, ‘The World Soil-Day’ on 5th December 2019 in 1000 villages of tri-junction in association with the United Nations.



- A grand gathering of 1 lakh families in 1000 villages celebrated ‘World Soil Day’ by performing ‘Bhoomi Poojan’ and practicing Halma under the governance of the members of the 24 JSS.
- Saksham Samuh, VD&CRCs, Panchayats and local leaders discussed on the current status of soil and approaches required to revive the soil nourishment.
- Awareness was raised on the importance of sustaining healthy ecosystems so that human well-being can be maintained.
- The custom of worshiping nature and its components were revived.
- The increasing challenges in soil management and how to raise the profile of healthy soil were addressed.

4. Vaagdhara organized Swaraj-Abhiyaan (Sovereignty Campaign) dedicated to 150th birth anniversary of Ba and Bapu (Kasturba was born in the same year as that of Mahatma Gandhi). A two day celebration was held at Banswara on 10-11 December 2019, marking ‘International Human Rights Day.’

- Around 5000 representatives of 1000 tribal villages in the junction of the three states (Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Madhya-Pradesh) and 1000 volunteers participated and dedicated themselves to the ‘Gram-Swaraj’.
- Vaagdhara domineered a two day event on this esteemed occasion where ideas on whole Swaraj thinking, community actions, need and demand from state on key themes of true-childhood, true-farming, and true-democracy were exchanged.



2.

Community Empowerment

Jheekli back to life

There is a natural, monsoon supported lake in village Jheekli of Kushalgarh block of Banswara. The water from this lake irrigates four nearby villages- Jheekli, Vakaner, Kanajpada and Bhimgha supporting the need of 1500 families.

Around six years ago, a leak was suspected in the lake's boundary which disrupted its water holding capacity. The panchayat tried mending the damage but couldn't spot the exact leaking spot. Gradually, the life of the dependent families; especially that of farmers, started getting deteriorated. The cropping patterns altered and they started losing advantages based on the water availability.



Then JSS were created through the intervention of Vaagdhara. These JSS leaders were trained on problem identification and getting their resolution.

The JSS leaders of the affected villages approached the panchayat with the suggestive interventions for repairing the lake. The first meeting of the newly formed unit was held with the Sarpanch of the Jheekli panchayat. A proposal for repairing the leak in the lake was developed with the continuous follow up of JSS leaders with Panchayat Members. This proposal was then submitted and passed in the Gram Sabha. The errand for the repair was passed again. The leak was thoroughly searched for and spotted. The raw materials were ordered. First, the leak was filled with soil and boulders and then the wall was cemented to cover other minor cracks and flaws. It was planned in such a way, that the construction work of the lake gets completed prior to the monsoon so that it gets filled with the rain water. The erratic long-term monsoon of the year 2019 proved good for the lake. The lake was finally filled with water upto the brim.

The inhabitants of the village said that the amount of rain water collected was higher than ever.

Now, they had plenty of water for grains, paddy, maize, pulses and cotton. They used the water not only for the precedent rabi but for the zaid of 2020 too. Many people even used the fertile soil for cultivating vegetables as the water resided after mid rabi. The water also increased the availability of fodder for the animals of the region. Fishery was initiated in the lake.

This improved the life style of more than 400 benefitted villagers. It was noticed that there was 25% increase in production rate reducing 40% migration rate as families have enough work in their farms. The farmers were able to have a second crop harvest as water availability was ensured.

Vaagdhara has always strived hard to stimulate the JSS with the aim of governing councils and facilitators on various entitlements in the form of government policies and interventions to assist the community access their benefits.

The continuous capacity building of JSS governing council enables them to identify the common issues and raise their voices at suitable platforms. The JSS also interacts with the community on various issues so that the proper and authentic information can be shared with the concerning departments.

The JSS leader voices the community in coordination with the stakeholders. Policy Advocacy Unit provides guidance to JSS governing council for addressing these issues at State and National level. There is an increase in the interaction level with government officials from all the Panchayats.

Thus, Vaagdhara envisions communities to gain control over the factors and decisions that would shape their lives and increase in State entitlements.

Major activities identified for empowering JSS on sustainable production and consumption, livelihoods and child rights by Vaagdhara for FY 2019-20:

- 2.1. To bring innovation in technologies, processes and market alignment so as to provide solutions.
- 2.2. To conduct Training of Trainers of JSS for effective implementation of programs.
- 2.3. To develop and conduct Radio-programs on market aligned technologies and social processes.
- 2.4. To continuously guide and mentor JSS teams for developing and implementation of programs and projects.

Some of the activities conducted by Vaagdhara for empowering JSS in FY 2019-20:

1. Vaagdhara has commenced the VAGAD Community radio in the year 2018 which has now become an effective means of making the voice of vulnerable communities heard, and building collective energies around issues that impact the Tribal. With a mandate to produce majority of programmes locally, Vaagdhara has been able to give voice to the muted community by broadcasting programmes in the local dialect on the topics close to their heart.

- 1074 Radio Programmes were developed on different focus areas.
- The anchor of the Radio Programmes often seek ideas from the community to get their views and issues recorded which can be discussed with Administration for advocacy.
- In FY 2019-20, the Vagad Radio team has aired interviews of more than 500 community members and its impact are reflected as:
 - More than 20,000 Farmers benefitted by getting awareness on organic Farming Practices and linkages with government through different schemes.
 - 5614 people got job cards under MNREGA.
 - 4300 mothers responded on Maternal and Child health issues which increase their entitlements towards JSY, during "Nutrition Month" in collaboration with UNICEF.
 - 100 Specialists were aired on community radio who discussed the issues with community directly.



2. In context of endowing communities, Vaagdhara focuses on achieving both; short term and long-term goals associated with the community wellbeing. Under short term goals, entitlements are designed to meet the immediate objectives of providing for the educational, economic and social welfare benefits of individuals who are often unable to provide for themselves.

- Vaagdhara reached 10450 community members to access their entitlements in different areas and radical changes were found in implementation of schemes like Public Distribution System, ICDS, Different Pensions, Student Scholarships, MNREGA etc.
- Around 125 Government Officials and elected representatives have been roped in to answer the grievances and questions of community members with active involvement of JSS.

3. Entitlements under the long-term goal are for making survival and improvement possible for the community and their future generations.

- Regular and timely facilitation by the Vaagdhara Policy and advocacy units to Jan Jatiya Swaraj Sangathan for making changes in Policy level.
- Quarterly orientation meetings have been organized with 96 JSS members to understand their issues and advocate at State, National and International level. Some achievements:
 - Gained positive and consistent coverage in the form of 242 stories.
 - Sensitized 77 journalists from 61 Print Media Houses and 16 Electronic Media houses.
 - Journalists were engaged to feature the significant issues of the community. Stories were covered on Vaagdhara and 'Bhoomi Ka' supported Tribal Food Movement.
 - Secretary, Vaagdhara nominated as member of State Health Society, Chaired by Chief Secretary.
 - 58th Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD58) at UN headquarters in New York: Vaagdhara shared the concept of social protection system for affordable housing for all to address homelessness of rural communities particularly those of indigenous origin whose housings are integral parts of their livelihoods.

4. Vaagdhara organized capacity building programs for PRI members:

- 503 Sarpanch and Ward Panch were trained on:
 - How to increase the entitlements,
 - How to involve the community
 - How to strengthen their Panchayats,
 - How to maintain linkages with JSS so that they can know the ground situations of different pockets of the villages as regular communication between the Gram Panchayat (GP) members and JSS leaders serves as a feedback channel helping the GP understand the issues better.



- The GP with the collaboration of JSS organized 100 social camps to spread awareness.
 - At these camps people were informed about different social pension schemes provided by the Government, the eligibility criteria and the documents needed to enroll under this scheme.
 - Gram Panchayat members mobilized the community to attend these camps and helped them in organizing the necessary documents to enlist themselves under these schemes.
 - Gram Sabhas are conducted regularly and frequently and 3543 individual micro plans have been submitted during the gram Sabhas with the support of JSS and Vaagdhara Community resource persons assigned to different villages. These Sabhas are conducted in different hamlets on rotation to ensure that community from all parts of the Panchayat get an opportunity to participate. This has resulted in improving attendance at these meetings as well as increasing awareness levels among the public about the activities of the Panchayat.
 - Micro Plans of 750 villages were developed by the community along with the Vaagdhara team members and submitted under MNREGA scheme 'Apna Khet Apna Kaam' and Land and Water Resource Development at respective Gram Panchayat.
 - Encouraging women leadership by appointing one women facilitator in each JSS (ensures 50% women participation) which ultimately results in a greater number of women participants from the community.
 - Monthly capacity building of JSS members to strengthen the community.
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3. A Road to Eco-villages

Valji Bhai's dream turns true

Valji Bhai is a small tribal farmer from Hadmat village of Banswara, Rajasthan.

He always dreamt of leading a good and prosperous life but could not due to constraints in his life, before he got connected with Vaagdhara.

Farming was the only source of livelihood for Valji Bhai and his family. His small land of 2.5 acre was not sufficient for his family of 6. His wife and son used to do labour work for family survival.

His life took a turning point when he got introduced to VD&CRC of his village. There he learnt about Sacchi Kheti (True Farming), in which he was told how to use traditional practices of farming to earn extra income and improve soil health. He learnt the concept of kitchen garden and got knowledge on how to improve nutrition by using local foods.



Vaagdhara helped him with seeds for kitchen gardening through APPI under the project, 'Sustainable Eco-friendly Farming for Small and Marginal Tribal Families'.

Although there was water scarcity in his village but somehow he managed to grow a kitchen garden. For manure he used Desi compost and 'Jeevaamrut'. To protect plants against insects and pests, he made organic pesticide 'Dasparni'. The result was that his small land had 6 varieties of kitchen plants. He used some vegetables in his family diet and excess was sold in the market. In this current season he has also planted some fruits like Mango and Papaya to bring more variety in his kitchen garden. By seeing his efforts he was also given vermi-bed for vermicomposting and drum for preparing desi pesticide. He has been enrolled in PGS certification which will further help him in selling his produce at higher price.

Currently he is saving Rs 700-800 monthly which earlier he used to spend in buying vegetables from market and earns Rs 500-1000 by selling remaining vegetables that were grown on his farm. The variety of foods in their diet has improved the nutrition status of his family. He has now become a True Farmer of Vaagdhara and is also sharing his knowledge with other fellow farmers of the village.

Till Mid-March 2020, he has saved Rs 5000/- by not buying vegetables from outside and have sold vegetables in market for Rs 3500/-. This saving of Rs 7500/- is a huge achievement for him because he has never accumulated this much amount before. Also he saved money by not buying fertiliser and pesticides from outside because he is using farm inputs like compost and Dasparni.

Valji Bhai is really thankful to Vaagdhara and APPI which has turned his dream into reality and with this he is also helping other families by spreading awareness and fulfilling his responsibilities as a VD&CRC member.

Vaagdhara strongly advocates that a true development can take place only when the vision of the village is in true harmony with the nature. Thus, it developed a key result area **to enable 100 Gram Panchayats adopt ecologically harmonized village development plans.**

An Ecologically Harmonized Village Development Plan (EHVDP) is a plan that helps people to increase their resilience to climate change, to conserve natural resources and strengthen capacities of farming communities, so that they have better livelihood opportunities and increased incomes. It also focuses on behavioral change on nutrition and mother and child care practices. Participation of rural youth, small holder farmers and women are central to this program.

Identified and trained volunteers by Vaagdhara in the tri-junction area motivates and mobilizes the village level leadership to take charge of change in their village using the traditional platform of Gram Choupal and involve it to work in collaboration with Panchayati Raj Institutes. The Village Development Plan (VDP) encourages a lead role of Community Institutions in the efficient delivery of development services at village levels covering each household. The development activities identified in VDP could also be incorporated in the Annual Development Plans (ADPs) prepared by the district government.

The purpose of preparing VDP is to identify and prioritize development issues of a village and develop such mechanisms which encourage active community participation and effective utilization of local resources in resolving the development issues in short, medium, and long-term perspectives.

For empowering JSS, Vaagdhara has outlined the following activities for FY 2019-20 for enabling 100 Gram Panchayats adopt ecologically harmonized VDP -

- 3.1. Training, exposure and knowledge building of PRI leaders on ecologically harmonized village development.
- 3.2. PLA (Participatory Learning and Action) exercises with 'Gram-Choupal' and Sustainable Tribal Development Group (STDG) on SIFS.
- 3.3. Guiding JSS for carrying out promotion function of ecologically sound technologies to 1 lakh member families.
- 3.4. Helping Gram Panchayat for preparation of ecologically harmonized village development plan.
- 3.5. Community Radio Program on SIFS and NSFS.

Activities performed by Vaagdhara to empower JSS in FY 2019-20:

1. Strengthening Gram Choupal –

- 2 batches of Training of Trainers have been conducted and 200 Community Resource Person of JSS have been made as trainers.
 - After analyzing, 8 JSS conducted PLA-gram Choupal and monitoring CRPs for harmonizing the Gram Choupal sessions.
- The first phase of training gram Choupal has been completed in 1000 villages and 4 sessions has been transmitted to the community members of every Gram Choupal in an effective manner (1000x4 sessions conducted).

- A mid follow up meeting was organized by Vaagdhara after completing the sessions to observe and analyze effects of Behavior Change Communication towards communities.
- The second phase of gram Choupal training has also been completed with the Development Villages (6 sessions conducted).
- The contents of the meetings deal elaborately on the rights of the community, gender equality, the need of participation of the people, liaisoning and linkages of the community people with the different entitlements that is being provided by the government.

2. A one day inter department meeting was conducted on 21st October 2019 by Vaagdhara.

- 11 officials from different government departments participated. Mr. P.L Patel, Thematic leader, Agriculture and Nutrition, Vaagdhara, continued the presentation and focused on Agriculture and its components- Soil, Water, Seed, Forest and Livestock. Actionable points were noted.



3. 325 PRI members trained on SIFS components by Vaagdhara to seek knowledge on how to make convergence so that they can get perks from government schemes.



4.

Cultural Farming for Food and Nutrition



Amuli: Self-declared Nutrition Ambassador

Amuli Damor lives in Dungaripara village at block Sajjangarh, Banswara, Rajasthan district of Rajasthan. She studied till class 7 and her husband, who is a farmer, has completed high school. She has three children – two daughters aged 12 years and 10 years studying in class-8 and class-6 and son aged 7 years studying in class 3.

Amuli is an active member of Self Help Group for last two and half years. Currently she saves Rs. 100/- per month. She also works as Community Nutrition Advocate.

Her husband goes out to Ahmadabad, Gujarat to work as construction labourer for 2 to 3 months and earns Rs. 7,000 to 8,000/- per month to support his family during summer season. They have one and half bigha land where they cultivate seasonal crops. Amuli was one of the participants from first Training of Trainers. She received modular training as a member of Saksham Samooch.

As trained in the training, she has started using iron pot to cook her family meals and is involved in doing Sukhmani in dry season to ensure consumption of balanced diet at household level. Amuli says, **“Eating together with family not only strengthens family bond but also improves love within family.”** With the support of Vaagdhara, she has developed a Poshan Wadi in her land and planted fruits like Papaya, Guava, Lemon and Pomegranate and vegetables such as Bitter Gourd, Bottle Gourd, Ridge gourd, Okra, Brinjal, Green Chili and Tomato. They also grow other unconventional vegetables such as Kachari, Rajan, Dhimara, Cheel and Potato. She has also grown 40 Mango trees which would later assist her financially.

She preserves all kind of seeds and shares them with other community members for developing their Nutrition garden. She is grateful to Vaagdhara for providing her these trainings which has enhanced her knowledge on Nutrition and Health.

Amuli is using organic manure (NADEP, Compost pit) and pesticides (Dashparni, Onion-Garlic-Chili paste). She guides SHG members on organic farming practices. She advises pregnant and lactating mothers on importance of visiting ICDS Center on MCHN day so that their ante-natal check-ups can be done. Her focus is on healthy and balanced diet; she guides women to consume leafy and green vegetables, milk, pulses, and seasonal fruits in their daily meal. To non-vegetarians, she suggests to eat fish, mutton, chicken and eggs along with vegetables. Amuli explains them, the benefits of JSY, breast feeding within 1 hour of child birth, exclusive breast feeding till 6 months of age and complementary feeding after 6 months. Working as a community catalyst, she is a president in GPNSG - Dungari Para panchayat.

In GPNSG, they discuss service gaps related to Nutrition and Health and also share the issues in panchayat meetings in front of service providers which results in proper functioning of ICDS center, health center and PDS in her village.

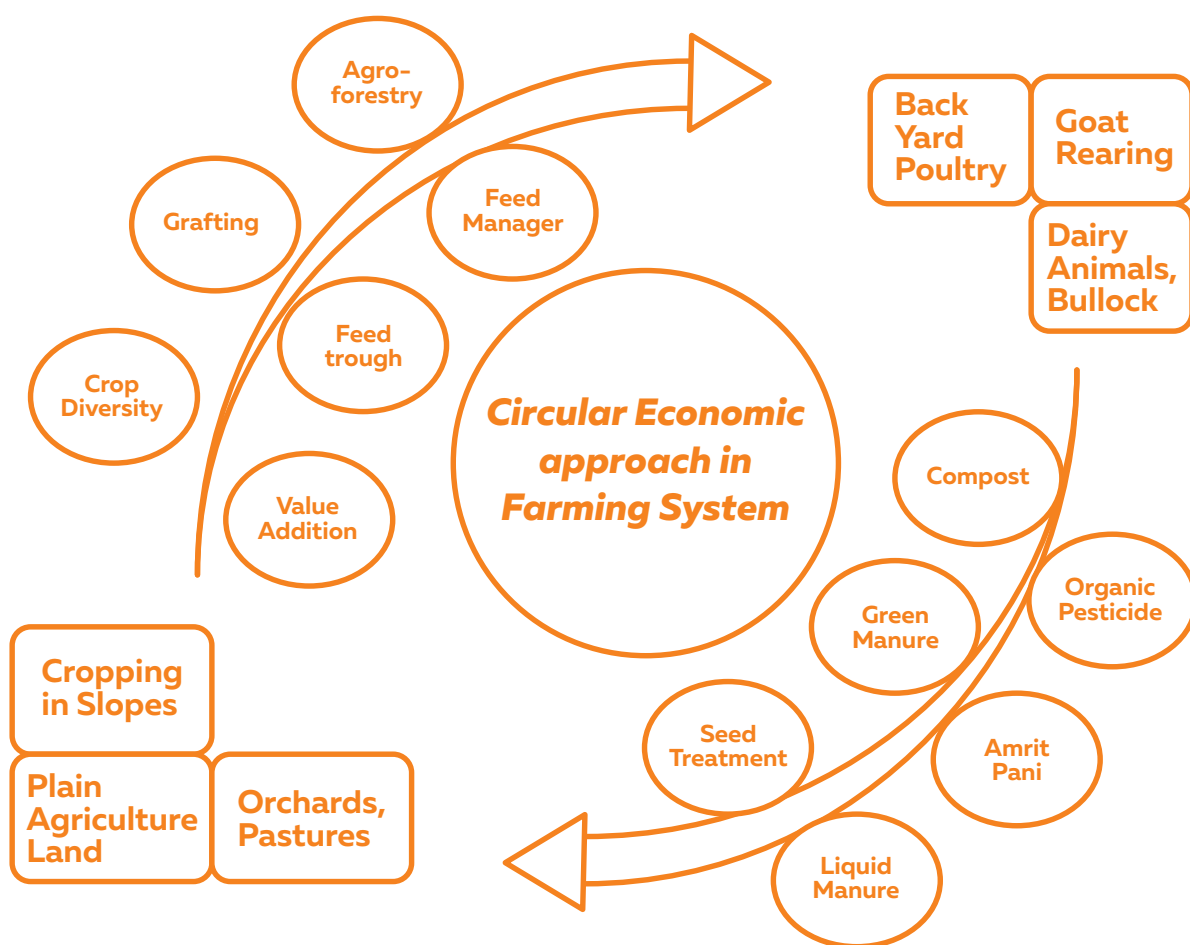
Vaagdhara has always motivated and cultured indigenous farming system among the community to use their lands for organic farming and small livestock like; chicken and goat for their own consumption along with the purpose of selling it into the market.

One lakh families of 10 identified districts in tri- junction, have benefitted from, Vaagdhara's innovated culturally aligned processes and technologies (NSFS) ensuring sustainable production and consumption and livelihoods.

Nutri sensitive Farming system (NSFS) approach involves cultural knowledge, indigenous practices that help to maximize the production and its contribution towards nutrition security.

To reduce vulnerability of marginalized sections, the organization is promoting livelihood improvement and Food and Nutrition security, through Sustainable Integrated Farming System-SIFS, Nutrition Sensitive Farming Systems - NSFS, Horticulture Development, Watershed Management, Community Lift Irrigation System, Micro Finance and policy advocacy for realization of people's right to Livelihood. Vaagdhara advocates multi-dimensional concept which includes:

- Availability of food through agricultural sustainable production
- Consumption at household level first,
- Physical and economic access to food,
- Adequate use and utilisation of available food throughout the year (stability)
- Improving food and nutrition security and thus, sustainable livelihoods.



Key activities which help Vaagdhara in encouraging sustainable cultivation:-

- 4.1. Mentoring JSS for carrying out promotion function of ecologically sound technologies to 1 lakh Member families.
- 4.2. Helping JSS for PLA exercises with sustainable tribal development group (STDG) on SIFS.
- 4.3. Promoting Small and Marginal Enterprise (SME).
- 4.4. Undertake research and innovation activities pertaining SIFS, NSFS and other ecologically harmonized technologies.

Major activities conducted for encouraging sustainable cultivation in FY 2019-20:

1. 1000 families were endowed with vermi beds in November 2019 by Vaagdhara. The villagers are using homemade compost and vermi compost in their fields apart from the organic solutions as pest repellents.
2. 1000 Saksham Samooh Members (in total 20,000 women) were encouraged by Vaagdhara
 - SIFS principles were delivered through PLA to 1000 members of Saksham Samooh
 - The 4 sessions helped the members in reviewing their diets, learning about importance of indigenous seeds, maintaining kitchen gardens, improving production and multiple cropping methods.
 - The monitoring framework showed 35% of participating families have adopted circular economy methods which involve continuously using more than 5 SIFS components.
 - Saksham Samooh were facilitated with 15000 vegetable seed kits. The kits included seeds of Maize, Egg Plant, Okra, Chilli, Fenugreek etc. The idea for providing vegetable seed kits, was to sensitize and improve their diet and nutrition.
 - 14500 saplings of various fruit trees were provided to the members of the Saksham Samooh.
3. 18000 tribal families used crop planning to increase crop diversity which lead to better input system and low market dependency through available SIFS components in their field.
4. 'World Soil Day' was celebrated on 5th December 2019 in 1000 villages. All the Tribal families of the community carried out the celebration by revering the soil as mother and an Arti (praise verse) was sang in the end to thank the 'Mother Earth' for nurturing all forms of life.
5. By adopting NSFS in the fields, 25% of the families have improved their Household diet diversity score by 2 points.
6. Vaagdhara encouraged 450 families to adopt Green Gram (Moong) as third crop to seek subsidy advantage on farm inputs and for additional nutrition and health.
 - Moong is normally grown in Kharif season during monsoon. As yields were less in Kharif, farmers were encouraged to grow Moong as summer crop in March-April on their idle farm lands to boost soil health which provided benefits to farmers.
 - With the advocacy efforts from Vaagdhara, 4000 Farmers signed a Petition. This was given to Agriculture Minister, Government of Rajasthan, for green gram production program, which would also improve soil health.



- With the advocacy efforts from Vaagdhara, 4000 Farmers signed a Petition. This was given to Agriculture Minister, Government of Rajasthan, for green gram production program, which would also improve soil health.
- A Petition shared to Agriculture Minister, Government of Rajasthan, for developing tri-junction area as indigenous seed capital and organic mango capital.



- Two Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) – Ghatol Agro Producer Company and Mangarh Agro Producer Company were formed.
 - Vaagdhara executed various capacity building exercises with their FPOs to enable the understanding of the need of market. Quarterly Meeting has been done with 25 Members of each FPO and the discussion were done on finalizing the product line, understanding the standards of organic produce, quality packaging, and designing the product concepts.
 - As a result, members were linked with the markets and started middle level chain with the retailers.
 - Vaagdhara holds an approved license of FSSAI. All the planning has been implemented related to crops, marketable surplus and how to target the market to meet demands of the products.
- PGS certification of farmers through Indian organic Regional Council with the support and guidance of Vaagdhara–
 - 850 farmers certified
 - 750 farmers have reached the last phase of certification
 - 42% of women had applied for certification showing gender equality as Vaagdhara promotes women entrepreneurs.
 - 145 Monthly Meetings conducted for PGS group where they have been able to share the market linkages
- 25 events including 2 Food events were organized where cooking demonstration was done to provide awareness on use and importance of organic produce.
 - Vaagdhara demonstrated recipes by using organic produce to develop a better understanding regarding the indigenous food groups, their nutrient values and easy to make recipes. These recipes were made in such a way that even children would develop their inclination towards it.
 - Rajasthan Patrika Diwali Carnival from October 16–24, 2019 at Jaipur, Rajasthan
 - Vaagdhara participated in the event and demonstrated their brand 'Bhoomi Ka' to increase awareness about organic produce.
 - Distribution of IEC materials was done (flyers, pamphlets) and billboards were hanged. They covered 8000 consumers in the Carnival.



- Participated in OFAI 'the Organic Mahotsav' from 29 November to 1 December 2019 at Shilpgram Udaipur.
 - Vaagdhara set up a stall, and displayed organic produce like – Pulses, Rice, Turmeric, Rajma, Oil, Lip balm, etc. and also organic manure along with 27 PGS Farmers who participated in this fair to see the market demand on their produce.
 - Flyers on, 'How to grow your own food at home,' were distributed to 7000 people who visited the stall.
 - People exhibited their organic food and approached for 'Bhoomi Ka' products.





5.

Child Friendly Villages

The real change-maker

Kacharu was not attending the school from 6 months. Jivani Devi and Raju Devi, the president and the vice-president of VD&CRC respectively, noticed this and talked to Kacharu's father Laxman Lal. He informed them that he had no objection of Kacharu going to school. He himself had stopped going. Then Jivani Devi and Raju Devi talked to Kacharu. They knew it was difficult for them to win his trust and know the real reason of his not attending the school. But they tried constantly and gradually were able to find out the reason. They talked to his friends and the teacher of the school too.

Kacharu was not interested in doing the homework and thought that if he will not do it, the teacher shall punish him by a severe beating. So, he stopped going to school and since no one at his home was bothered enough of his attendance at school, it was not a problem for him to stay home. These two females then started their project of sending Kacharu back to school. For this, first they counseled his parents about the importance of education so that they can make Kacharu understand the same. Then they talked to the teacher to understand the mind set of Kacharu and how the teacher can give some interesting homework to him, so that Kacharu may develop inkling towards school.

Then they talked to Kacharu and motivated him to go to school. After many rounds of discussions, finally Kacharu started going to school and today he is a student of class 6. These two stakeholders of VD&CRC show what true leadership is. They monitored the school attendance and took a concrete step where they found a gap. The future of Kacharu and his family will be brighter due to their efforts.



Vaagdhara in dedication to its focused area aims towards a child friendly village to ensure the protection of children 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 of families. Initially, Vaagdhara has strategically planned to make 50% of villages (100 GP) child friendly, where all children in age group of 6-14 will go to school, having quality education, enjoying good health and free from forced child labor.**

Vaagdhara adopts a twin-track approach to enhance child protection and inclusive quality education in the target area.

Essential indicators for a Child Friendly Village:

1. Elimination and withdrawal of child labor from the village
2. Enrolment of all children in school
3. Establishing a children's parliament in every school in the village
4. Enabling children raise their voice in the meetings of VD&CRC and PLCPC
5. Ensuring nutrition security which helps to reduce malnutrition

Child participation is an essential principle on which Vaagdhara is working with certain interventions like Role and Rights of children in VD&CRC, organizing Baal Gram Sabha and conducting various elections for promoting child participation in community decision making in context of child development.

Secretary, Vaagdhara believes that child participation improves the relevance and appropriateness of decision made in relation to children issues by ensuring that their experiences, situation and knowledge are represented. To ensure children's participation and involve them in the policy and decision-making process of the Panchayati Raj institution, Bal Panchayats were formed.

To help children gain confidence and provide them with an opportunity to articulate and voice their opinion, Child Orientation Programme are organized. This also helps the children to learn a great deal about the democratic process of holding elections, debating and acting on local issues.

Through linking the vulnerable children with foster care scheme, Paalanhar scheme and ensuring their protection at village level through VD&CRC/PLCPCs and CGs Vaagdhara secures the right of protection and development of the children.

Vaagdhara facilitates Community led advocacy playing a depictive role in collaboration and alliances with all stakeholders. Approaches like awareness raising, campaigning, mobilizing communities, and village level tracking system, strengthening of community institutions, linkages with government schemes, integration approach, Childline 1098 support, etc. Vaagdhara ensures Child protection at grass root level.



The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC, Article 12) recognizes the right of children to be heard in all matters affecting them.

A Bal Panchayat is an elected children's assembly to voice and put forward the children's opinion. This unique institution is recognized by the Community Based institutions like; Village development and child rights committee (VD&CRC), Panchayat level child protection committee (PLCPC) etc.

Vaagdhara has set following activities to promote child friendly villages for FY 19-20:

- 5.1. Formation and strengthening Village Development and Child-Rights Committee (VD&CRC) as people's organization in villages of 100 Gram Panchayat.
- 5.2. Help JSS to build capacity of different institutions of child-rights, Mother's Group, SMC, GPCPC, along with capacity building of various Gram-Choupal
- 5.3. Training of JSS on concept of child-friendly village and role of volunteerism in it, like Annauprna, Bal mitra.
- 5.4. Undertake innovative programs on child rights
- 5.5. Capacity building of JVM leaderships for child rights issues.

Activities done during FY 2019-20 to build upon child friendly villages:

1. Vaagdhara organized trainings:

- 2 batches of Refresher Training provided to 78 Team members (JSSSI & JSS team) on Formation and strengthening of VD&CRC.
- One day orientation provided to 13 JSS team for PLCPC formation and to build capacity of PLCPC on child-rights perspective in Ghatol, Anandpuri and Kushalgarh block. (119 PLCPC)
- 2 orientation trainings of JSSSI leaders, POs and JSS team members on child friendly village formation. 357 volunteers were trained on child friendly village aspects.
- Organized 3 batches of Training of Trainers for POs and JSS team members on 'Volunteer development on child protection issues'.

2. A Survey was conducted by Vaagdhara in 1000 villages:

- Survey format was designed to know the status of children in selected villages.
- Oriented POs for facilitating survey in all 1000 villages with the help of JSS team.

3. Vaagdhara monitors that regular VD&CRC meetings are conducted:

- 1000 Committees strengthened
- Conducting regular meeting helps in identifying and putting issues to JSS and district level for village development and child development issues.
- Due to strong Community based child Protection mechanism which has been adopted by VD&CRC, 26% of program villages have zero dropouts now.
- Increase in decision making of children in VD&CRC strengthens their active participation in gram Sabhas. More than 3800 children participated in Gram Sabhas during 2019-20.

4. 119 PLCPC reformed and capacitated on child rights perspective by Vaagdhara.

5. Screening of malnourished children was done in 50% of intervention villages.

- In 500 villages, 27% of children were found in MAM category.
- 15 days nutrition camp was organized for malnourished children.

- A continuous follow up with these children, linked with NSFS components showed improvement in 22.5% of children.
6. 11505 children and their families were linked with different Social Protection Schemes and programmes of the Government.
 7. 1000 tribal dominated villages of four districts of the tri-junction commemorated 'Bal Divas' on 14th November 2019 at the same time. The whole event was organized by Village Development and Child Rights Committee (VD&CRC) in collaboration with School Management Committee and Saksham Samuha. These VD&CRC is a communal body facilitated by Vaagdhara to safe guard child rights and education.

- Discussions on the impact of malnutrition and how to fulfill the four child rights were done.
- Halma, a tribal practice of free labor and synergy for cleaning and leveling school campus and surrounding play-grounds was carried out in almost all villages.
- A grand oath was taken by 25,350 members of the VD&CRC to strive hard to model their village as 'Child Friendly Village' within next two years.
- Vaagdhara celebrated 'Bal Divas' with 73391 children across 1000 villages of tri-junction.
- 56782 community members took an oath to make their village child-friendly ensuring four main rights of children so that the village can be made an ideal place where all our children can enjoy their true childhood without any limits.

- Right to life
- Right to protection
- Right to development
- Right to participate



8. The percentage of new mothers who breastfed their infants within the first hour of birth increased from 47 to 83 percent through Vaagdhara's continuous follow up with ICDS centers.
9. Vaagdhara created 44 Child –labor free villages in Banswara district of Rajasthan.
10. 150 Awareness Campaign on relevant social protection schemes were organized by Vaagdhara at village level with special focus on nutrition and agriculture schemes.

11. A Nation-wide campaign, Dosti Saptah (Being friends with Childline) was celebrated during 14-20 November, 2019. The aim was to make people aware about National Childline services, 1098.



12. Approval of developing Kitchen Gardens in schools received by Vaagdhara for 200 schools initially. Discussion going on with District Collector- Banswara and Child Development Education Organization (CDEO) for providing technical support in establishment of kitchen gardens in schools.
13. A rigorous discussion was done with Aravali organization and Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (RSCPCR) for providing feedback in draft policy document on Child Friendly Panchayats.
14. Active Participation in Workshops organized by Government and Development Partners - Gayatri Foundation, IPE Global, RSCPCR, Save the Children etc.
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6. Strengthening Meta- Governance in Vaagdhara team

Vaagdhara's conceptual framework of Vaagdhara addresses different dimensions of scaling up, specifically, the attributes of the policies and measures of innovation being scaled, the Team involved, the context, and the scale-up strategy.

For meeting out its strategy of scaling up, **Institutional and meta-governance capacities of Vaagdhara are strengthened to support innovations, learning and efficient implementation.** To achieve this rigorous discussions are done with team members and external consultants. The questions are answered via Qualitative Implementation concerning acceptability, appropriateness, adoption, feasibility, costs, coverage and sustainability to explore how it will define with other Key result areas.

For building the capacity of the organization, Vaagdhara has conceptualized the following activities:

- 6.1. Designing and strengthening existing Vaagdhara systems for JSS led development and to conduct training for team on it.
- 6.2. Develop MIS for coordinated actions of JSSSI and JSS
- 6.3. Training of team on SDGs, designing grassroots survey pertaining to relevant SDGs
- 6.4. Developing road-map and establishing Jan-Jatiya Swaraj Kendra (JSK).
- 6.5. Guiding JSK for conducting research, and studies on impact of different policies and programs on livelihoods, nutrition, child rights and equality
- 6.6. Help JSK and JVM for preparing policy briefs pertaining to tribal sovereignty and child-rights.

During FY 2019-20, Vaagdhara has done following activities for increasing its organisational strength:

1. A mobile application named 'Vaagda' is designed to access database in MIS for VD&CRC and Saksham Samooh.

- The application enables the individual to access the information regarding village level committees.
- This information accessed tells about number of members in each committee, their sex, Identification Proof Code, Mobile Number.

2. Changes made in the office of Vaagdhara:

- The Vaagda software has been strengthened by developing key points.
 - 70% of team is using the software for sharing progress against plan.
 - Action plan for FY 2020-21 has also been developed in the software with qualitative and quantitative data analysis.
- Feedback mechanism and SoPs of different units has been developed and implemented which has resulted into improved work efficiency and convergence between different units.
- Common cost Policy, HR policy and financial policy has been updated for better functioning.
- Various leadership trainings have been organized for different facilitation units for strengthening the team structures.

3. To build on capacity in extended teams:

- Jan Jatiya Swaraj Kendra has been established.
- Around 5000 JSS members have been interviewed for exploring the focus area issues.
- 200 JSS members have been trained at JSK with innovative models.
- Mentoring sessions for JSS has been organised.

4. 6 researches and 2 studies have been undertaken through JSK and TSU for understanding the tribal farming and its mechanisms to integrate development issues. 2 demand charter have also been submitted through TSU and PAU – one for an overall issue which been identified in Tribal Colloquium of January 2020 and the second one for advocacy on tobacco related issue.

5. Secretary, Vaagdhara is nominated as member of State Health Society, Chaired by Chief Secretary, and Government of Rajasthan.

6. Vaagdhara Secretary, Mr. Jayesh Joshi, orated in 41st Human Rights Commission Council Meeting held at the United Nations, Geneva where Vaagdhara raised and strengthened the voice against tobacco, stating Tobacco as the major reason for Human Rights Violation.



7. UN Statement on 'Affordable Housing and Social Protection System for All to Address Homelessness' submitted for 58th Session of the Commission for Social Development. Submitted and conformed our written statement.

8. Vaagdhara has initiated an integrated course of capacity building to develop tribal youth leadership in the community so as to empower the members to raise voices on different platforms demanding their rights and public investment on nutrition, education, health and all the elements generating sustainable livelihoods. VAAGDHARA has not only acted upon tribal youth leadership but it has also conducted orientation programs for the JSK members and field team.

- First step in this direction is setting up of first role over in "Leadership School" with a batch of 30 tribal youths (from our existing volunteers). The Leadership School has started with an aim of nurturing youths across various fields of work and study. It will also focus on value-centric multi-disciplinary approach to Leadership.
- Design and evolve program on Leadership strategy for strategists in public / private services and for those who wish to take up roles involving strategy design and decision making in organization.
- This program combines a blend of theoretical and practical experiences of development actions. Under this, members will interact with each other on a different note and will be able to make decisions on their own. Leadership School emphasizes on practical application of key leadership principles in contemporary organizations.



7.

Campaign, Media and Advocacy

Vaagad Radio as Changemaker

Mansingh lives in a remote village of Banswara. He has a small farm and a big family with 5 children and old parents. He was able to barely grow food for meeting out the needs of his family. Poverty stricken, he was not able to send his children to school. The only luxury item his family owned was a radio.

One day while scanning for stations he came across Vagad Radio 90.8 FM where a program on how to do 'True Farming' was being aired. That day onwards he started tuning into Vagad radio. Some time later he called on the radio number taking the mobile from one of the resident of his village and told them about himself. The Vaagad Radio team shared his details with the Vaagdhara team who further contacted him through JSS.

The JSS ensured that he gets trained in true farming. Vaagdhara helped Mansingh by providing him seeds. He made organic pesticides which he learnt in the training and did weeding as and when advised through radio programs. He started using low cost irrigation methods which lowered the investment and improved the crops.

He received on-going guidance as what to do, when to do through various programs on Vagad Radio under True Farming. Many a times Specialists were called who even suggested how much to irrigate and when. In a year, Mansingh was able to harvest 3 crops. He had also learnt about the importance of nutrition and nutrition garden. One day, it was announced on the radio, that free plants were being distributed and so he went to collect some saplings of various fruits and vegetables. On a small patch of land just near his hut, he planted those vegetable and fruit trees hoping to get the harvest soon.

The methods that were taught to him for irrigation and pest control were quite simple and now he was able to free his children for school which he earlier engaged in the farm. Now, they help him in their after school hours.

Mansingh thanks his stars for owning the radio without which he would have never stumbled upon 90.8 and thus would never be able to transform his and his children's life. Sometimes, he takes the radio with him to the village Chaupal so that other people who do not have a radio can listen to the programs aired on the Vagad Radio.

Vaagad Radio 90.8 FM started broadcasting programmes in 2017 and have 3.50 lakh listeners through the radio sets in 250-300 villages. Approximately 80 thousand international listeners from Kuwait, Australia, Germany, Dubai etc. are regularly listening programmes and giving feedback. Vaagad Radio is also available on Radio Garden. Vaagad Radio have a strong network with tribal community and promoting indigenous practices through Infotainment (Information + Entertainment) based programs which broadcasted in two slots i.e. morning 6.00A.M. to 1.00P.M. and evening 5.00P.M. to 10.00P.M. focusing on local dialect.

Media influences culture. It can shape the opinions of society to suit the desires of those creating it. In a democratic society, where officials are elected and laws are formed based on of public opinion, media is one of the most important influences on public policy.

Media includes television, radio, newspapers, internet, social media sites and various relevant sites and blogs. Media not only gives us information and knowledge but raises our consciousness through voicing against social evils.



In FY 2019-20, more than 250 stories of Vaagdhara were published in newspapers ranging from national, state and regional level in both printed and electronic media. Vaagdhara got support from media on its thematic goals:

1. **Sustainable livelihood through Sachchi Kheti** Vaagdhara has been introducing new innovative techniques and apt scientific technologies with indigenous knowledge to improve the Agriculture productivity of marginalized people in tribal region to bring positive change in their lives. To reduce vulnerability of marginalized sections, the organization is promoting livelihood improvement and Food and Nutrition security, through Sustainable Integrated Farming System (SIFS), Nutrition Sensitive Farming Systems (NSFS), Horticulture Development, Watershed Management, Community Lift Irrigation System, Micro Finance and Policy Advocacy for realization of people's right to Livelihood with approximately 17,000 farm families. As a result of Vaagdhara's advocacy through media its efforts have been acknowledged by the state government. Families are not only spreading awareness of balanced diet of conventional foods but they are practicing it too. Organizing farmers' market, workshops on balanced diet and nutrition gardens, improvement of soil health through Moong are major advocacy stories covered by the media houses prominently.
2. **Sacha Bachpan** – Vaagdhara has plans to reach about 1 lakh children 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 of



families. Advocating for child rights the stories in the media got the attention of the stakeholders and was successful in rehabilitating children from child marriage, child labour and migration. Other events including workshops and activities like helping children get medical care also found prominent place in the leading media houses.



3. **Sachcha Swaraaj** - The tribal society in Banswara is not much aware of its rights and entitlements. The community people do not know about the policies and programmes designed for them by either government. Vaagdhara acts as a catalyst and facilitator by providing platform and network to help the community to voice their concern and to positively engage with policy makers for enabling policy environment. Media has always advocated for Vaagdhara's cause giving full coverage to the activities and events organized by the organization. It covered the Women's March held to protest atrocities against women. The story on the oath taken by the tribal to participate in the democratic process was given a prominent place in the media by leading media houses. The association of the organization with the community during the lockdown period and the exam organized to promote the Sarvodaya ideology was also covered by the media.



Annual Tribal Conclave

A two day Agriculture and Tribal Swaraj and Sovereignty Conclave- 2019 was organized and celebrated by Vaagdhara in Kupad village of Banswara on 10-11 th December 2019 to achieve "Gandhi Ke Sapano Ka Gaon."

This year Swaraj-Abhiyaan (Sovereignty Campaign) was dedicated to 150 th birth anniversary of Ba and Bapu (Kasturba was born in the same year as that of Mahatma Gandhi). This celebration also marked 'International Human Rights Day.'

A Sensitization walk was conducted in the villages by the trained members and during this walk the team makes itself familiar with families, their life, resources and issues. On the way the team exchanged the traditional seeds and soil was collected. Transect walks provided insight in knowing how the community felt about all the four thematic areas- Childhood, Farming, Democracy or governance and Health. The meeting always began with the Bhoomi and Jal Poojan.

During this yatra, traditional food, traditional farming, self-sustainable farming which fulfills the needs of family and community were discussed with villagers. Screening of Films and Street plays were done. Discussions were done with Female groups and youngsters. Seeds were collected and shared.

The Yatra culminated in the two days conclave held at Vaagdhara, Kupda village, Banswara during 10-11 December 2020. Around 5000 representatives of 1000 tribal villages in the junction of the three states (Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Madhya-Pradesh) and 1000 volunteers participated and dedicated themselves to the "Gram-Swaraj".

There was various other cadres like officers from Government and NGO sector, Educationists, politics and eminent tribal leaders from Vaagdhara project and Yatra area along with media personnels and various Bhajan Mandalis.

In this two day event, ideas on whole Swaraj thinking, community actions, need and demand from state on key themes of true-childhood, true-farming, and true-democracy were exchanged.

Vaagdhara initiates processes that lead the tribal communities on the pathway of self-governance, self- reliance, self-managed, self-sustaining and having their own system of socio-economic justice. The indigenous farming practices, resources and knowledge sharing calls thousands of tribal in this conclave attracting nationwide media.

The conclave has always been a centre of attraction for the media as it involves the entire community and the stakeholders. The eminent personalities, Dr. C P Joshi –Speaker,Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha and Mr. Lal Chand Kataria - Minister for Agriculture, GoR were present at the conclave this year. The unveiling of The life size Gandhi Statue in the Vaagdhara premises was also unveiled during this auspicious event.

गांधीजी की प्रतिमा का अनावरण



बलरामपुर, रायचारा संस्थान के जनजातीय स्वराज अभियान के तहत दो दिवसीय शिबिर के समापन अवसर पर गांधीजी की प्रतिमा का अनावरण कर पुष्प उषाई बलरो डी सीपी जेडटी। (पुष्प इन्डर जेडटी)

Thur, 12 December 2019
epaper.patrika.com/c/46775641

Farmers highlight indigenous farming practices at conclave

Event focused on sustainable farming and safeguarding of forest, land and seeds

Representatives from the tribal belt of western Rajasthan highlighted their struggle to save indigenous agricultural practices as well as their efforts for sustainable farming, soil conservation and farming of medicinal plants at tribal (swag) and farm safety (swag) held in Bikaner on Sunday.

The event focused on sustainable farming and safeguarding of forest, land and seeds.

Local representatives from 10 tribal villages in the tribal belt of Rajasthan, Jaisalmer and Bikaner districts attended the two-day conclave. Rajasthan Assembly Speaker C.J. Joshi said in the event that there would be no threat to local communities and resources if the role of tribal representatives was the same as that of the people.

After discussing the status of traditional crops of the region at an exhibition at the venue, Mr. Joshi said they should be promoted for



Rajasthan Assembly Speaker C.J. Joshi observing the samples of traditional crops at tribal conclave in Bikaner.

creating sustainable prices for the farmers and generating income for the government.

"Village panchayats should revive traditional farming systems without the government's intervention. Utilization of tribal lands was the purpose," he said.

The main objective of the conclave was to discuss the

Village panchayats should revive traditional farming systems without the government's intervention. Utilization of tribal lands was the purpose.

C.J. Joshi, Rajasthan Assembly Speaker

Address and landowners.

Tribal farmers should be encouraged to follow their own land and agricultural systems in order to get healthy and culturally appropriate food produced in a sustainable manner, they said.

President of the conclave, Mr. B. Maheshwari, former Vice-Chancellor of University of Agricultural Sciences, (Bikaner), Bikaner, said that tribal farmers should be encouraged to follow their own land and agricultural systems in order to get healthy and culturally appropriate food produced in a sustainable manner, they said.

The main objective of the conclave was to discuss the



Vaagdhara and Tobacco Control

Vaagdhara has always been striving to achieve its objective of Tobacco Free Rajasthan since 2017 advocating for strengthening of tobacco control policies in the State through its effective enforcement, working in close coordination with the stakeholders including the state government, members of the state assembly, Bureaucrats, civil society organizations and officers of the key line department.

- Media advocacy created an environment in the state to move forward to a tobacco free state.
- COTPA Act was included in training courses of enforcing officials and the concerned police officers.
- A need was created through the media for the ban on e-cigarettes highlighting its health hazards on the human body.
- Similarly the consumption of tobacco in the form of Pan Masala which was leading to fatal diseases like cancer were covered by the media with quotes from doctors and representatives of CSOs.
- The government took note of these and steering committees were formed. Citizen mobilization programmes were conducted and got featured in leading publications in the state.



Vaagdhara was instrumental in getting the ban on E- Cigarettes, Hookah Bars and Pan Masala containing tobacco and other toxic chemicals. Media advocacy not only helped in banning these toxic materials but also assisted in formation of committee to oversee the enforcement of the same.

Vaagdhara is working to achieve the following objectives for strengthening Tobacco Control Policies in the State:

1. Licensing Mechanism for Tobacco vendors:
 - Vaagdhara is working towards reducing the use of tobacco products through robust licensing mechanism for vendors through rules and guidelines, who are selling tobacco in an unorganized manner.A circular from the state government's departments directs the municipal bodies to authorize the vendors selling tobacco.
A strict need for the regulation of sales of tobacco products was created through media in the state.

- The stories included that the implementation of vendor licensing would enforce the tobacco control laws in the state restricting the vendors to sell only tobacco products and no child friendly products, thereby limiting children's access to tobacco products.
- Both positive and negative Media coverage helped in getting the rules and guidelines for licensing of vendors, formulated in the state.
- A Media Sensitization workshop on Licensing Mechanism for Tobacco Vendors was organized by Vaagdhara in order to sensitize the media journalists.

2. Tobacco Free cities –

- In its run up to Tobacco Free State the first clearance is the declaration of Jaipur, Jodhpur and Kota as tobacco free cities. The concept of tobacco free city is that where all the tobacco control laws including COTPA are implemented and enforced effectively.
- At the city level, the respective collectors called on meetings with other stakeholders and CSOs to discuss the matter and have finalized an action plan to declare the three focus cities as tobacco free.
- Key departments like Health, Education, Transport, Home (Police), Hospitality and other Government offices ensured effective compliance of COTPA in their sector and submitted Tobacco free self declaration certificate to District Administration.

3. Taxation – Hiking of taxes on any product acts as a deterrent for the consumers to buy their valued products.

- In case of tobacco products the raising of taxes proves beneficial to both- the government, as it earns more revenue and the consumer as such products go out of reach so they cannot buy and indirectly protect their health. The higher the taxes, lower becomes the purchasing power of the poor reducing the consumption of such products.
- Highlighting the proposed increase in revenue generation and reduction in the consumption of tobacco products both the state and the national media coverage helped in the matter being taken up before the GST Council at New Delhi.

4. FCTC Article 5.3 and surrogate advertising – According to WHO, tobacco industry interference in governance is the biggest challenge in implementing the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). In response to the globalization of the tobacco epidemic, the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) was developed and was ratified in 2004 by 181 parties. Tobacco industry has been instrumental in spreading the tobacco epidemic globally through aggressive marketing campaigns.

- Vaagdhara acted as a pioneer in highlighting this serious issue in media in our state. The coverage in the National Media took notice of the fact that the tobacco industry is the only industry that kills it's millions of loyal customers every year. The tobacco industry is the single largest barrier to effective implementation of tobacco control policies.
- The media stories brought up before the stakeholders that surrogate advertising is a clear violation of the article 13 of the WHO FCTC and India is one of its member nation. Besides, Article 5.3 of the WHO Framework Convention on tobacco Control (WHO- FCTC) says that there should not be any interference and influence of the tobacco industry in public health policies of the state but providing advertising spaces by the municipal corporations for tobacco brands in the state and not framing a licensing mechanism for tobacco vendors

even after the orders from the Government's own department released two years back might be an indication of the influence of the tobacco industry in government affairs.

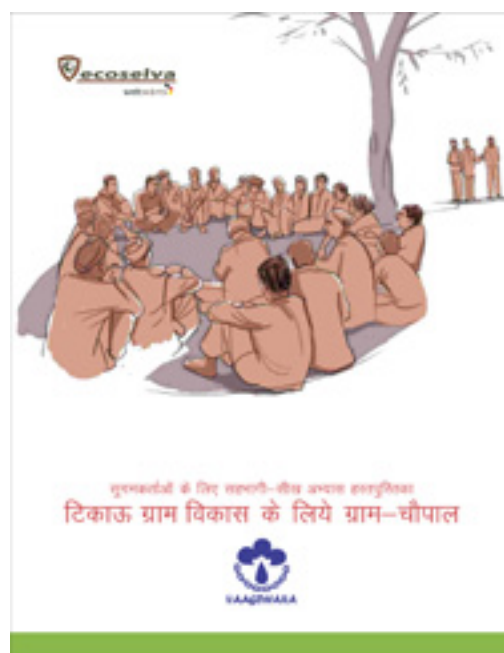
- Vaagdhara stepped in 2017 with an objective to make Rajasthan a Tobacco Free State involving all the stakeholders.
- Special drives and reporting thereof has now become a regular feature and all such events and activities have been reported by the media from time to time asserting its support to our commitment towards tobacco control laws, including COTPA, 2003.

5. Vaagdhara on International Platform:

- Vaagdhara has 20 years of experience of working in the development sector with indigenous communities on a wide range of issues including health, education, livelihoods, agriculture and natural resource management. Mr. Jayesh Joshi has always been an auxiliary secretary and employing all his efforts for sustaining the Swaraj philosophy of the Tribal community. He has represented the organization at national and international platforms including the United Nations and is always concerned about the developments in tribes.
- National media covered the event at the 41st Human Rights Commission Council Meeting held at the United Nations, in Geneva where Vaagdhara raised and strengthened the voice against tobacco, stating Tobacco as the major means for Human Rights Violation. During the meeting, Vaagdhara along with partner organizations, Action on Smoking & Health (ASH) and Shivi Development Society (SDS) with the United Nations urged to make special efforts to curb the harmful effect of tobacco on Human Rights.
- The state media highlighted that prohibition of tobacco will stop the Violation of Human Rights. Use of Tobacco in smoke or smoke-free state is totally contrary to Human Rights because at the grassroots level it is a sponsored nature of the violation of rights of children and economic rights.
- All overseas events have been given regular prominence by the media at both the National and at the State level. Endorsement of issues raised by Vaagdhara by the media gives an edge to the organization to take up the issues before the stakeholders.

COTPA: Compliance and enforcement - The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2003 or COTPA, 2003 is an Act of Parliament of India enacted in 2003 to prohibit advertisement of, and to provide for the regulation of trade and commerce in, and production, supply and distribution of cigarettes and other tobacco products in India. The actual compliance of the act started practically in 2016 and thereafter many steps have been taken for its compliance and enforcement.

Publications



7.

Audited Financial Statements 2019-20

**VAAGDHARA**

Voluntary Association Of Agriculture, General
Development Health & Reconstruction Alliance
Village & Post- Kopda, Banswara (Raj) 327001

BALANCE SHEET AS ON MARCH 31, 2020

Particulars	Schedule	2019-20	2018-19
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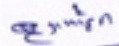
SOURCES OF FUNDS

General Reserve	1	9437008.63	7592118.80
Capital Reserve for Fixed Assets	2	12946397.00	9220872.00
Less: Current Liabilities & Provisions	3		
1) Sundry Creditors		6454604.00	7018575.45
2) Other Liabilities & Provisions		6243388.00	5337599.00
3) Unspent amount payable on Projects	6	<u>20270876.36</u>	<u>16810748.80</u>
Vehicle Loan		367297.19	566256.10
Total		<u>55719571.18</u>	<u>46546170.15</u>

APPLICATION OF FUNDS

Fixed Assets	4	24238816.00	20101045.00
Current Assets, Loans And Advances	5		
1) Deposits		54628.00	51074.00
2) Bank Balances		21248047.88	16563843.47
3) Other Current Assets		473043.00	597706.00
4) Overspent amount recoverable on Projects	6	<u>9705036.30</u>	<u>9232501.68</u>
Total		<u>55719571.18</u>	<u>46546170.15</u>

For VAAGDHARA


President


Secretary

Dated: 23.07.2020
Place: Udaipur

As Per Our Report Of Even Date Annexed,
For V. C. Vyas & Associates,
Firm Regn. No. 04183C
Chartered Accountants,



V. C. Vyas
Partner
M. No. 9859

**VAAGDHARA**

Voluntary Association Of Agriculture, General
Development Health & Reconstruction Alliance
Village & Post- Kopda, Banswara (Raj) 327001

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 2020

Particulars	Schedule	2019-20	2018-19
INCOME			
Grants and Donations	7		
A. Grants		85195614.99	73477933.54
B. Donations		<u>6858591.97</u>	<u>3645200.00</u>
Interest Income		561781.47	372864.84
Miscellaneous Income		-	24720.00
Security Deposit Forfeited		100279.00	-
Other Income		1814592.00	1864478.55
Vagad Radio Station Income		-	40000.00
VTDR Income		-	443564.00
Total		<u>94530859.43</u>	<u>79868760.93</u>
EXPENDITURE			
A. Development Programme Expenditure	8	79667846.00	62742354.00
B. Administrative Expenditure	8	3208512.08	1585428.24
Other Expenditure	9	3393633.03	1283372.11
C. Loss on Sale of Assets		580.00	54275.00
D. Deficit from VTDR		795170.00	-
E. Deficit from Vagad Radio Station		175871.00	-
F. Balances Written Off		31006.58	(78,298.53)
Total		<u>87272618.69</u>	<u>65587130.82</u>
Excess of Income Over Expenditure		7258240.74	14281630.11
Less: Net excess/(short) of grant received over utilization carried to Balance Sheet	6	1687128.91	9227832.32
Allocable Surplus		5571111.83	5053797.79
Less: Net purchase of fixed assets transferred to capital reserves		3725525.00	2501916.00
Net surplus transferred to General Reserves		<u>1845586.83</u>	<u>2551881.79</u>

For VAAGDHARA

President

Secretary

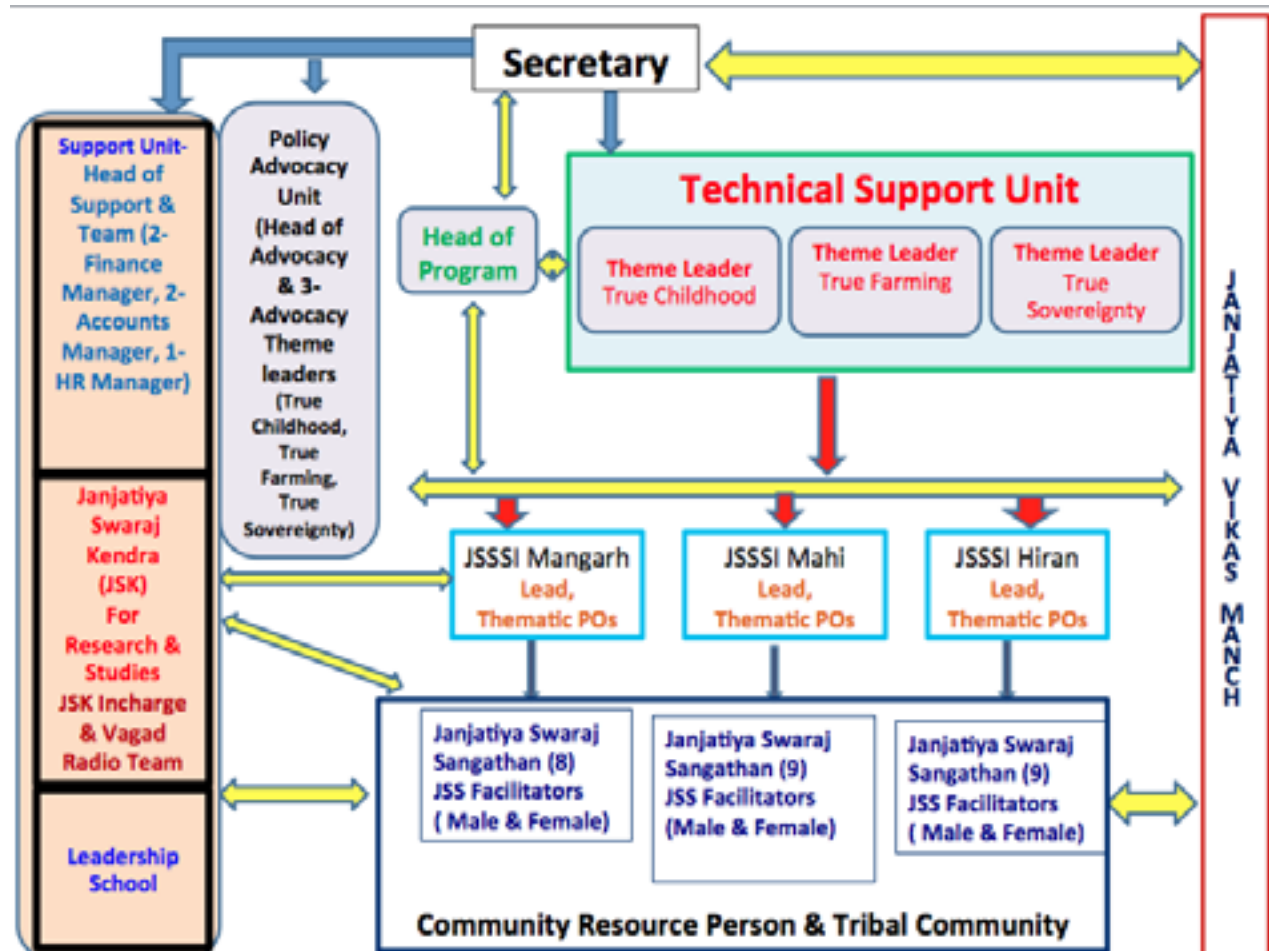
Dated: 23.07.2020
Place: Udaipur

As Per Our Report Of Even Date Annexed,
For V. C. Vyas & Associates,
Firm Regn. No. 04183C
Chartered Accountants,



V. C. Vyas
Partner
M. No. 9859

Organogram of Vaagdhara





VAAGDHARA

Head Office:

Village and Post KOPDA,, Banswara, RAJASTHAN, INDIA - 327026
+91 94149 82643

State Corporation Office:

A-38, Bhan Nagar, Near Queens Road, Vaishali Nagar, JAIPUR, RAJASTHAN - 302021
+91 141 235 1582

Field Office:

JSSSI Ghatol, Banswara | JSSSI Anandpuri, Banswara | JSSSI Kushalgarh, Banswara

vaagdhara@gmail.com | www.vaagdhara.org