



VAAGDHARA

# ANNUAL REPORT

2020-21







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## Abbreviations

ANM	Auxiliary Nurse Midwifery
ASHA,	Accredited Social Health Activist
CDEO	Chief District Education Officer
CDPO	Child Development Project Officer
COVID	Corona Virus Disease
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CSocD	Commission for Social Development
EHVDP	Ecologically Harmonized Village Development Plan
GP	Gram Panchayat
IEC	Information Education and Communication
JSS	Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathan
JVM	Janjatiya Vikas Manch
KCR	Key Contribution Result
KMA	Kaam Mango Abhiyan
KRA	Key Result Areas
MGNREGA	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
NSFS	Nutri Sensitive Farming System
PESA	Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996
PLA	Participatory Learning and Action
PLCPCs	Panchayat Level Child Protection Committees
PRIs	Panchayati Raj Institutions
RCRC	Rapid Rural Community Response to COVID-19
RSCPCR	Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIFS	Sustainable Integrated Farming System
SFT	Senior Facilitation Team
TADD	Tribal Area Development Department
VDCRC	Village Development Child Rights Committee

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## Executive Summary

As its Annual progress, Vaagdhara is concerned that more families who are vulnerable are coming under crisis areas which definitely affecting the human development indicators of the vulnerable communities.

The pandemic has dramatically worsened conditions for community in this year and the coronavirus has mutated into a virus of hunger, inequalities and unemployment and women and children in particular are suffering most as a result. Agriculture also suffered due to varied number of reasons and climate change poses an existential threat to families in tribal dominated regions. In Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, floods have destroyed farmland, crops and herds of cattle, and with them the livelihoods of smallholders. People also do not have reserves due to reverse migration and condition of their agriculture which suffered much and as result rise in their poverty level.

But it is a saying that Sun always finds its way to give its light and this stands true when it comes to Vaagdhara. This report shared that how we have much achieved despite of having such critical conditions. The organization as whole took unfavorable condition as an opportunity as it portrayed the prolonged existing reality of inequalities having the worst impact on the tribal communities and that enabled us to work even deeper for such communities.

School closures, increased vulnerability to abuse especially children and women, mental health strains and loss of access to vital services have upset the community deeply. But not all have been affected equally as the pandemic has exposed deep inequalities that have existed for too long, with the worst

consequences on tribal families in the areas.

VAAGDHARA's quick and innovative response to the pandemic allowed for new approaches to its work by adapting strategies to cope up with the situation and to keep on serving the tribal communities when the need us the most. The Management information system used its data systems to rapidly assess the pandemic's impact on the vulnerable families and initiated humanitarian and development mandate to play a key role in the response to COVID-19 across the three states. The framework supported to managing risk communication, disseminating community engagement information and supporting activities that reached 85000 community members including children and women.

"Save Kharif Campaign" was one of the important benchmark for supporting farm families in for taking up their kharif cropping season and aided 28000 families through different critical inputs. This also able to restore the importance of agriculture and lay a foundation for protecting the culture of solidarity.

We continuously collaborated with the state governments and in this financial year, 4.2 crores of Village Development Plans were also being prepared and were adapted by the government.

The children who are the most vulnerable section of the society and even community does know how it hurt them deeply. Putting in place community-based child tracking mechanism and psychosocial life skill interventions that reached ten thousand children, adolescents, parents and caregivers in 1000 villages.

As Always, Human Resources are always an

important element and for them, Vaagdhara shifted to adaptive measures, taking care of their mental health and supported them to fight with this such situation. Beyond all this, the dedication of Tribal development volunteers, Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathan and Team helped to achieved what its achieved in this year. They all living up to the organizational values of care, respect, integrity, trust and accountability.

As always, partnerships and voluntary funding

were essential to our work to support and improve the lives of tribal communities. We have received fund from different partners and CSRs to fight against vulnerabilities of the community and supported COVID19 efforts. The pandemic also demonstrated how essential flexible resources and our ability to respond quickly and effectively at the onset of sudden emergencies and provide communities with the long-term support that builds resilience.

# Message by Secretary

## Introduction

# An unprecedented Year – THE YEAR WE FOUGHT VIRUS

Certainly, COVID-19 has impacted many lives adversely but if we see it from the rosy outlook then it has brought the pre-existing problems of the marginalized communities such as:- climate emergency, growing inequalities, contested democratic values and prolonged conflicts into the forefront and has also awakened communities to work together/collectively. The pandemic has showed the real picture of long drawn inequalities, with having the worst impact on the tribal communities.

This year has urged to find unique ways to carry out our vital roles amidst of the persisting circumstances. A year when the institutions we built, nurtured, and resourced together with our partners, realizes their responsibility and came forward to take action for it. In context to pandemic, it is hard to prioritize any issue.

When the pillars of the Nation i.e. Government and economy are battling against COVID-19 and this situation, Vaagdhara tried leaving no stone unturned to bring about sustainability in the tribal communities.

Following Gandhi's philosophy which says "Strength doesn't come from physical capacities. It comes from indomitable will" Vaagdhara is perpetually engaging tribal communities to make them sensitive for their journey towards sustainable pathway through integrated approach. In fact, it was relishing to witness Tribal Communities implanting local based solutions in their daily lives as Covid-19 increased awareness and commitment to embracing sustainable lifestyles through Integrated farming Practices and raise democratic voices for system change through strengthened Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathan.

## About US

VAAGDHARA is a community-based organization working in western India for more than three decades, focusing on sustainable tribal development through true childhood, true agriculture development and true democracy. We are able to do this through well planned and comprehensive programme covering agriculture, nutrition, livelihoods, child education and migration and sovereignty. Our overall goal is the to empowerment of 1 lakh families of Indigenous communities in tribal junction adapts participatory processes and join sustainable development pathway. During the year 2020-21, we directly reached out forty thousand Families through different programmes across three states. We are part of the different networks and coalitions who are working towards same goal of tribal development.

## Vision

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.

## Mission

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

## GOAL

By 2022, 100000, families of Indigenous communities in tribal junction adapts participatory processes and join sustainable development pathway

Certainly, year 2020 has evidently established that community led efforts can catalyze the movement of change. In the current situation where a virus has stopped the whole world for a longtime, it's imperative to individually embrace, protect the environment and provide space to those environment protectors.

In 2020-21, Vaagdhara showed its impact foot prints enhanced both geographically and sector-wise by expanding our skyline to new 40 villages in new districts of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. This year, we were able to reach and make impact in the lives of more than fifty-six thousand beneficiaries directly, and reached nearly one lacs people indirectly as a result of working closely with our partners, State and Central Government simultaneously through successful interventions. VAAGDHARA follows an integrated approach in programme designing, implementation on the ground and policy advocacy with decision makers. At grassroot level, Saksham Samooh, groups of women champions and Village Development Child Rights Committee are utilizing mechanisms and community discussions to achieve social inclusion and gender equity

yielded measurable impact and empower our women who are now contributing as an active change maker.

This year we encouraged active tribal youth i.e., Swaraj Mitras in every village to create a sustainable development and nurture vibrant partnerships with community institutions with the aim of inculcating appropriate scientific and indigenous technology and knowledge.

In order to bring sustained changes in the lives of the tribal community in the tri-junction area, VAAGDHARA has created following 6 key result areas (KRAs) which are its priority focus.

1. Strengthened people's organization and tribal leadership demands increased public investment in tribal area on nutrition, education and sustainable livelihoods focusing on most vulnerable families.
2. Empowered Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathan - JSS facilitate increased access to state entitlements for the members.
3. 100 Gram Panchayat- GP adopted ecologically harmonized developed plans.
4. 100000 families in 10 identified districts in



tri-junction, have benefited from, VAAGDHARA innovated culturally aligned processes, technologies (NSFS) ensuring sustainable production and consumption, livelihoods.

5. 50% of villages (100 GP) are child friendly, where all children in age group of 6-14 are in school, having quality education, enjoying good health, participation and free from child labor.
6. Institutional and meta-governance capacities of VAAGDHARA are strengthened to support innovation.

Our six KRAs represent integration in actions required for our thematic areas and achieve related sustainable development goals. This helps us to tackle the Tribal problems from every angle, creating impact at a larger scale.

## OUR OBJECTIVES:

The prime objectives are:

- Tribal junction of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat as a place where all children get opportunities for better emotional, physical and educational growth.
- Livelihood resources of small and marginal tribal families in 100 villages are managed sustainably, in harmony with ecological conditions and adapted to climate change.
- Empowered Gram Chopal in 100 villages are able to help village community to access benefits of various government schemes they are eligible for.
- Tribal junction community has active networks, policies and participate in developmental processes and take their issues at local, regional, national and international platforms.



## 2020 in Review

2020 was an unfavorable and challenging year for everyone, but it became more challenging for the tribal communities, as they were affected the most.

The pandemic brought unprecedented upheaval - magnifying the hardships of millions of tribal families and migrants who were already struggling. This situation triggered for digging deeper into the systematic inequalities within societies and created the urgency to work for the betterment of tribal community.

The challenges have been immense but through strenuous efforts by unified team, partners and like-minded stakeholders, we successfully conquered this battle. We were able to deliver our programmes related to true childhood, true agriculture and true democracy and also drafted a response framework to address the pandemic's devastating impacts.

### Community Ownership in Pandemic

In the year which can be called the year of COVID-19, it showcased the community ownership as the best identified solutions for their respective communities including women and children. They were able to differentiate between a rumor and right information. Our Tribal development core teams were well placed to work with others from their communities to devise collective responses. Some of the examples included that Closing & monitoring entry-exit points in village; pooling resources for vulnerable families and migrants; pooled sale and procurement for physical distance; barter within village; credit extended to vulnerable families; isolating and monitoring incoming migrants; awareness drives.



## Dignity to Migrants

During the phase of reverse migration due to pandemic, little attention was paid to the provision of relief and social protection of the migrant workers during state lockdowns. Migrant workers were running out of food, struggling to access healthcare and faced acute livelihood problems during first and second partial lockdowns. Vaagdhara's Tribal youth volunteers supported and helped them in improving the living conditions of the migrants through enlisting them in MNREGA, accessing them to food packets, seeds for initiate their agriculture, community quarantine centers and even supporting them in financial and banking solution for far flung areas of communities.

Better self-governance through Peoples organization for curbing Covid situation

More than 2000 community-based institutions supported to develop data base of migrant families, vulnerable families, families who required immediate support, taking care of quarantine process. VAAGDHARA reached out to around 1,00,000 families in this financial year. Around 1029 Volunteers supported to supply immediate support related to food packets, ration kits, medicines and other immediate arrangements for the community.

## Giving no Time to Stigmas of outbreak of COVID-19

Immediately after the lockdown imposed in March 2020 in India, we worked with our different partners to develop IEC materials with a view to spread awareness about reasons behind such huge step by the Government. It quickly became clear that children and young people were particularly badly affected by the constraints due to pandemic.

## The Power of Participatory Learning Approaches

15000 Tribal women, who were the part of our Saksham Samooh in 1000 Villages, have improved the livelihoods in their communities through sustainable agriculture. They learned to develop vegetable garden with the help of PLA sessions of Nutrition Sensitive Framing System. Later on, these 15000 women acted as change makers and imparted knowledge by sharing their expertise on mothers on child nutrition, promoting the use of local crops and seeds, or encouraging families to adopt new cultivation methods. We are thrilled at this recognition of their efforts.

## Prioritizing Climate Protection

Climate change is already intensifying hunger and agriculture especially in the rain fed areas of western India. We worked with the people who were directly affected as most of the families were in rain fed agriculture through one of our major partners Ecoselva in Germany. We developed youths as activists and decision makers of tomorrow for climate protection and climate resilience agriculture methods.

## Making virtual connections at different Platforms

Civil society as a driver for change was the motto to be part of different symposium where Vaagdhara is key member. We shared our oral statement for ongoing the UN's "CSOCD-59" session and global symposium for soil biodiversity, UN for climate change. Virtual spaces have opened up completely new possibilities in this regard.

## COVID-19 Response Framework

As soon as lockdown was imposed, we created our response framework involved mitigate, built,

enable and adapt strategies in different aspects to move on with the situation and support the communities and team in stress time.

## Building strong mechanism of stakeholders

Many organizations such as HDFC-CSR, Jiv

Daya Foundation, RCRC Coalition, HSBC bank, and other partner agencies have come together to disseminate information, food kits, and enabled smooth operations to deal with the current grim situation. We express our gratitude to them on behalf of the Tribal communities!



## Mitigating the effects of Covid-19 Crisis

The global pandemic has evolved us as an organization where in fundamental shift to digitalization of grassroot level team, household level counseling sessions, and virtual awareness campaigns forcing us to find innovative ways of working to achieve our breakthroughs for our communities.

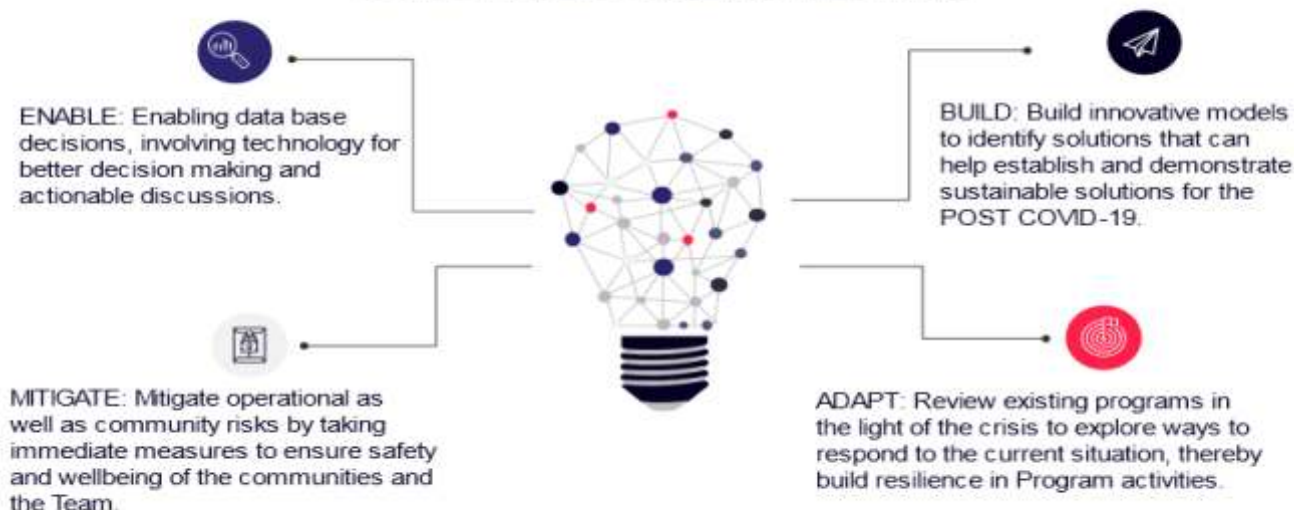
While travel and movement were restricted due to lockdown, we had more opportunities to localize our work on the ground, to benefit even more through technical expertise and capabilities of Swaraj Mitras (tribal development volunteers). Having local expertise gave us an edge of advantage and helped in achieving our goals of the year.

We were required to rapidly scale up our digital efforts – not only while engaging with our team, but also how we influence policymakers and engage our supporters. Our teams used digital and mobile platforms to be continuously in touch with communities, train facilitators to deliver programming aspects, and to engage our campaigns at larger area through radio programmes.

Schools were closed, and economy was struggling since the spring of 2020. The whole world has been held hostage by the novel Coronavirus. Not only the virus itself but also the measures taken to fight against it were turning the pandemic into a struggle for survival in many countries and especially the countries like India. Vaagdhara with presence in 1000 villages across 03 states i.e. Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat and outreach of 100,000 families created a Covid response framework and also complimented Government's effort in making rural communities self-sufficient and live with dignity, at this hour of crisis. We worked in close coordination with local administration, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and community-based organization to help tribal community prepare for, respond to and recover from the COVID19 pandemic, focused particularly on the most vulnerable group.

Our comprehensive response to the pandemic was targeting varied dimensions of the crisis- securing livelihoods, saving childhood, providing food and nutrition secure months to the families.

### COVID-19 RESPONSE FRAMEWORK



The COVID-19 pandemic is threatening to unravel development successes achieved in impoverished communities and it has revealed many weakpoints in our global food systems, showing to be unable to weather crises and to be unjust and unsustainable. In many cases, Indigenous people, and marginalized groups lacks secure access to land and agricultural methods and practices. The key is to create a healthy and equitable nutrition environment that offers small-scale farmers a fair and sufficient income and also reinforce their agriculture practices.

Lockdown brought economic recessions in their wake, poverty is rising more rapidly, food is becoming more expensive, no livelihoods, schools were closed and basic amenities were no longer affordable for communities. As per our assessment it came out that people are eating less and having a less-varied diet especially those families who were reverse

migrate. More than 90 percent of people simply do not have enough money to purchase basic things and even access to markets which inhibit the agriculture production. Overall health has declined, and education has suffered for children. The negative effects of the pandemic have fallen disproportionately on women with more household pressure and domestic violence. Some of our responses have also uncovered the disproportionate division of labor that this lockdown has brought into many households. It has emerged that the greater burden of work (child care, field work, household chores etc.) during the lockdown has fallen on women and men have been reported to have been busy socializing and indulging. Women were affected deeply by the crisis on various fronts especially the widow ones and women headed households. Many of them engaged in agriculture wage work and now they are without work and hence without any cash flow. They



would often buy their ration from the wages they earned on a daily basis.

Imparting knowledge on preventing the spread of COVID-19 and busting myths around the same has become an integral part of our projects and messaging.

We have also provided support to communities in adopting appropriate preventive practices, hygiene behaviors and creating linkages to testing and treatment services for COVID-19. Since a big spike in cases of domestic violence has been reported in and post the lockdown, our social media platforms carried updates on various issues which was an important during COVID-19. As the country learns to live with COVID19, we help vulnerable communities and returning migrants revive livelihoods, bridge the gap in education for children and help strengthen health systems, in partnership with our corporate donors. With the continuous efforts of our Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathan Members, Swaraj Mitras (Youth volunteers) enabled us to continue our work and supported the vulnerable families who need immediate response from our side.

### Stronger with our Partners

We worked hard to expand our immediate activities as the pandemic got underway. We were able to count on reliable partners who responded with great energy and flexibility. 16,448 Vulnerable Families are reached through dry ration food kits, 22650 Community members connected with government schemes, relief packages, 80,135 Community members reached directly through awareness drives. We went on local radio programmes to let people know how they could protect themselves from COVID-19.

### Community Crisis Management

Closing & monitoring entry-exit points in village;

pooling resources for vulnerable families and migrants; pooled sale and procurement for physical distance; barter within village; credit extended to vulnerable families; isolating and monitoring incoming migrants; awareness drives.

### Healthy meals despite lockdown

As we undertook the training session on vegetable cultivation with our Saksham Samooch members, 20,000 women received seeds to plant a kitchen garden. At the time, they could not have guessed how essential her garden would soon become to their survival. The pandemic thrust thousands of people in our intervention area into unemployment and hunger. Food prices skyrocketed, no access to market, zero purchasing power including for most of the people in the areas. But our families who practicing vegetable garden, offered their families enough to eat, which would be exceptional even in normal times. They have less dependency on market through availability of their own resources where they are preparing own species of turmeric powder, red chili powder and Mahua oil for daily purposes. Some of the indigenous food recipes were also come into the existence and some of wild leaves used for chutney in their meals.

### Saving the Agriculture practices

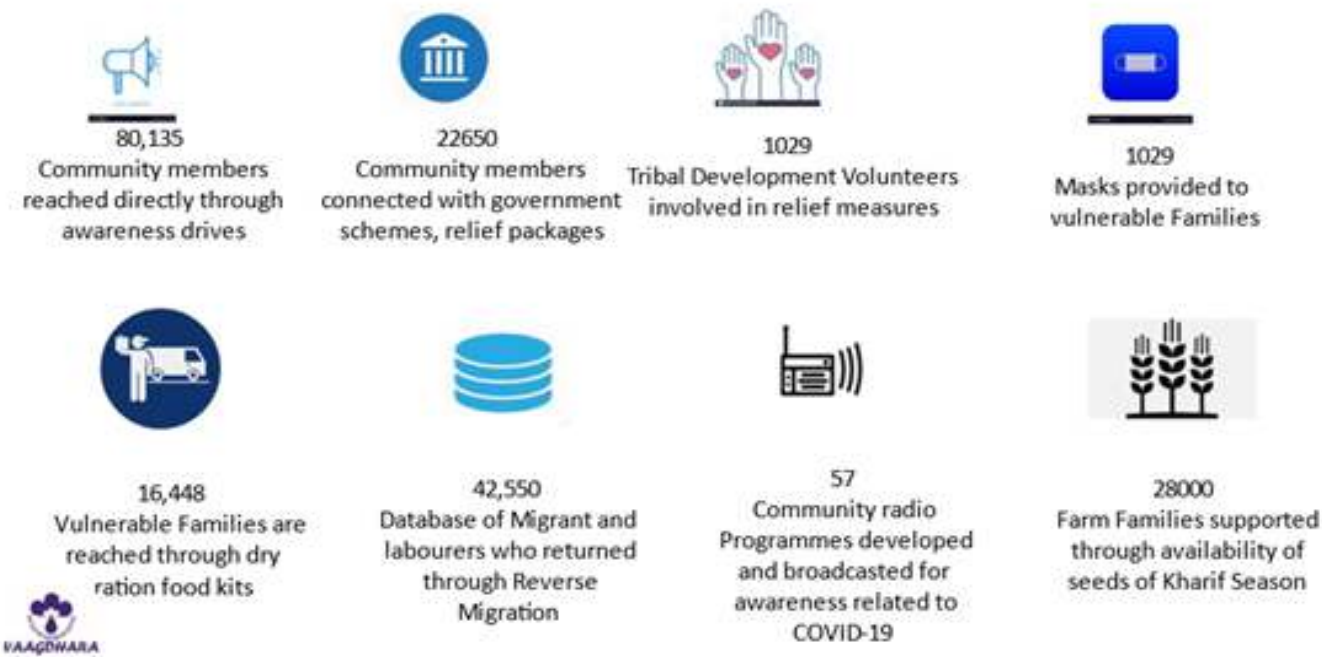
The COVID-19 has compounded agricultural crisis due to no access to markets and no income, therefore VAAGDHARA extended support to 28000 families with kharif critical inputs to save agriculture in critical times. While helping these families to get prepare to make effective use of Kharif season we also incorporated long term vision of self-dependency of these community on nutrition and health aspects. Therefore, the focus will be on long-term sustainability, reviving and rejuvenating nutrition sensitive farming system.

Addressing Multiple crisis

The COVID-19 pandemic compounded existing crises related to livelihood opportunities and food and nutrition Insecurity. Many of them were earning their livelihood and ensuring food

security by farming crops and livestock, and they were dependent on trade with neighboring markets but closure of state border and other restrictions have severely disrupted the domestic market.

Assisting Communities In Distress



## Our Reach

**Direct beneficiaries** involve all the people who are experiencing a positive difference at the individual or household level, as a result of receiving services, goods and resources directly from VAAGDHARA

**Indirect beneficiaries** include all individuals who are not directly involved in project activities nor

receive direct services/ goods/ resource but still impacted in some way through our intervention

Our Area of work is in 1000 Villages covering three states. We are providing our integrated approaches and sustainable development to seventy thousand families all around the villages

State	District	Block Name	Gram Panchayat	No. of Village	Direct Beneficiaries	Indirect beneficiaries
Madhya Pradesh	Jhabua	Thandla	20	40	1400	4000
Madhya Pradesh	Ratlam	Bajna	15	40	1395	3100
Rajasthan	Banswara	Sajjangarh	28	118	5474	9520
Rajasthan	Banswara	Kushalgarh	43	158	7110	15000
Rajasthan	Banswara	Ghatol	68	258	11610	25800
Rajasthan	Pratapgarh	Peepalkhunt	9	30	1395	2480
Rajasthan	Dungarpur	Aaspur	12	30	1380	3000
Rajasthan	Dungarpur	Sabla	8	30	1360	3000
Rajasthan	Banswara	Anandpuri	33	136	6120	10800
Rajasthan	Banswara	Gangadtalai	26	80	3600	8000
Gujarat	Dahod	Fatehpura	20	40	1375	2400
Gujarat	Dahod	Jhalod	30	40	2710	6000

*43,259 were directly impacted by our Programmes and 8,99,980 were targeted indirectly*

### Our SWARAJ MITRAS

There are over 500 tribal youth volunteers across the three intervention states who are working on the pathways towards sustainable development and playing an important role of behaviour change in communities. They have been considered as epitome of change strategy where they are touching and making changes in

the lives of so many people, transforming communities and paving way on same pathways, sowing knowledge, changing mindsets and attitudes , empowering generations not of only human but soil, seed, water and biodiversity.

The integral part of achieving all the achievements stated above is all due to our

youth advocates. Of all the things we can do with our lives, of all the things we can make, nothing comes even close to making a real difference what they are doing at grassroots level.



While 60 per cent of the volunteers are age 18-25 years, and another 20 per cent are between 25-35 years, there are older volunteers as well which shows that there is no age limit to motivate and be a part of change. Women comprise 40 per cent volunteers. They were chosen in every village, trained on different issues and motivational lessons to discuss the issues and group exercises on the way to find community-based solutions. The continual leadership sessions and training sessions were planned round the year, even covering COVID 19 appropriate behaviours. They were able to explain COVID-19 Appropriate Behaviour to the

community and were oriented on the social distancing process. They also acquired basic digital skills using smartphones as well.

### Meet our Youth led Advocates

1. This village is my home and its people are my family. I have always wanted to contribute to my village.
2. With the support and guidance of VAAGDHARA, we are trying to build participatory learning approach in group-based manner and through this we can accomplish many tasks. The whole village feels confident that we can bring about a positive change in sustainable way.
3. Together we can all truly make a difference; especially during these pandemic times.



## Key Result Area 01:

### Key Achievements

26 Peoples organization strengthened and advocating with district level officials on converging government schemes and services worth of INR 1.32 crore around covering all departments particularly agriculture and integrated rural development.

Thousands of tribal villagers participated in halma- community tradition movement and worked of almost INR4,50,000 and all this is for the society and not for any individual benefit. This two-day activity was practice initiated by CBOs in 990 villages on mind to take self-initiative in their own villages.

135 Swaraj Mitras have become Resource Person & imparted training in their area and associated with other programmes also. This effort has also helped to identify local talent and encourage them.

*Strengthened people's organization and tribal leadership demands increased public investment in tribal area on nutrition, education and sustainable livelihoods focusing on most vulnerable families.*

In this context of growing structural injustice and even COVID 19 helped to recognize more on inequality against tribal, it becomes important for tribal youth to sharpen their skills for facilitating their social, political, economical rights related dialogue process within communities. Through a continuous process of reflection action, identifying the forces that challenge us, and devising strategies for change, Vaagdhara concluded that communities especially youth and next generations have to be at the centre of deciding our future. This is how we evolved people led organization - Janjatiya swaraj Sangathans.

Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathans are now in transformation mode where they are in process to evolve as independent organizations who can work for the immediate improvements in their villages. The mentoring through continual orientations and trainings have enabled them to initiate work independently and also develop their annual plan of action.

Continuous participatory review processes in our programmes have enabled people to identify strengths as well as gaps in the programme and act accordingly. It has given the space for making changes based on the programme development and people's needs at specific intervals. As people are involved in the review process, they also have solutions to address specific problems with available local resources. This process therefore is constantly evolving and does not follow a rigid framework.

This year highlighted the certain 'pressure points' for strengthening Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathans such as people-driven change processes, critically reflecting upon challenges and finding out mitigation measures. Our 26 Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathans break down the issues and work together to rethink on development practice in sustainable development.

### What we have done in this year

Recognising the community knowledge, creating platforms to share and strengthening their capacities is what VAAGDHARA has supported by facilitating a people – centered development process. Our 26 Janjatiya Swaraj sangathans developed their own annual action plan for the next year and also reviewed their progress in the year. Communities with renewed confidence are returning back to their traditional

systems of community based mechanism in terms of ensuring their involvement in improving investments towards food and nutrition security for the households and empowering farm families.

357 Swaraj Mitras were actively involved in Village development Actions which included Participatory learning approach and meetings for community-based institutions to create awareness on thematic focus issues, and how village need sustainable actions for development. They act as change agents which has been about communities reflecting on their conditions of oppression, identifying the forces that oppress them and evolving strategies for change, and in turn be changed (transformed). In doing so, communities draw on both their knowledge and knowledge of the reality around them. A cadre of 300 tribal youths were identified from the tri- junction area who are to be trained on the issue of tribal sovereignty, TAD, PESA act and allocation of more resources to the tribal development through PLA exercise. They have also submitted new development plan comprising 274 under individual category and 575 under community plans. Youths are also getting involved with the Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathan for regularization of Chaupal. They have acted timely and enforced the gram panchayats to start the MGNREGA work during COVID-19 and provided livelihoods to community. A rapid survey was conducted with the help of these village youth, which indicated that the even during covid, 68 percent of the job card holders got the employment and received timely payments.

By the consistent efforts of our Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathans, Halmahas taken an enormous shape in 951 villages. And about 1800 community members were involved in this practice, which helped saving lakhs of rupees in the community which they would have spent , if

problems was resolved involving professional labourers. The success story of the tradition serves as an example of tremendous achievements through community contribution. The communities across the area recognized the success of the movement and will try to achieve more and advocate with government in next year.

Over the last three-four years, members of the Tribal Development Forum (TDF) have continued to work together on both struggle and constructive actions, and have expanded their forum in 1000 villages in three states. There were 8705 persons who took the membership of the forum. The core group of this TDF discussed the issues prevailing due to COVID-19 situations, heavy rainfall which disrupted the crops and other issues. They also submitted a memorandum to district level authorities highlighting their issues and advocating to resolve those issues.

Endeavors and initiatives round the year along with the COVID-19 response dominated the dialogue process in the "Agriculture and Tribal Sovereignty Conclave 2020" which continued for 11 days from November 21 to December 5, 2020. Janajtiye Swaraj Sangathans and their respective Swaraj Mitras marked their presence in batches and enriched discussions which emanated out of their work in villages. The conclave was conducted with the objectives to retreat and reflect on the progress of the institutions and organization as well as draw the future strategies along with the way forward for the institutional bodies.

The necessities of life during the COVID-19 pandemic were hard to come by, but our Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathans organized and delivered the much needed services and commodities to the vulnerable people who need them the most through their. Focusing the right resources at the right place is crucial when

responding to outbreaks that are travelling fast through the communities and their responding to other epidemics have utilized their experiences to fight COVID19. VAAGDHARA therefore went to work to identify the communities who were the most vulnerable and in the greatest need with Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathans.

In the tribal area the biggest challenge has been the information gap. Our Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathans and Swaraj Mitras organized awareness campaigns where they played a leading role in sensitising the tribal communities to properly abide by the rules and guidelines issued by the state government to deal with the pandemic-induced crisis. Drawing on the statistics generated by the government, as well as their own knowledge about the demography and availability as well as accessibility of the health services, Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathans observed poverty levels among communities, over crowding by the migrant families and people finding difficulty in accessing health care. It was clear that the people who were the most vulnerable were finding much challenges due to COVID-19.

VAAGDHARA focusing on those communities, mobilized young and female leaders from the community and trained them on the ways to make community aware on preventive measures, identify positive cases and sensitize as well as motivate the infected people for visiting health centers to get appropriate treatment. Materials required for awareness activities were also distributed to these leaders.

It was obvious that many people affected by COVID-19 with whom VAAGDHARA closely worked like Vulnerable communities, SAM/MAM children, anaemic women, food insecure families, young women and adolescent girls—had lost their incomes owing to the

lockdown and were struggling with the triple impact of COVID-19 and poverty. In its response and on the basis of their assessment, Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathan supported the 20,000 vulnerable families with packets of dry ration.

Janjatiya Swaraj sangathans successfully organized the “Kaam Mango Abhiyan”. It was significant to note that lack of people's awareness for demanding work, administrations inability to capture demand effectively, also lack of communities collective strength and many more other reasons have been declined due to people demanding work under MNREGA and those in critical COVID times. The main objective of this campaign was to disseminate the important information about “KMA” (Enforcing Guarantee of work – Providing at least 100 days employment to maximum households.) and parallel awareness related to COVID 19 guidelines, social distancing measures and support to reach to unreached people making it more successful. The campaign was collaborative effort of 1000 CBOs members including Saksham Samooch Members and Village development Child Rights Committee, 26 Peoples Organization and our Tribal Development forum core team members. During this campaign an attempt was made to reach out to every hamlet of the village and support people with the opportunity to register their demands under MGNREGA. About 18564 job cards have been issued under this Campaign which itself a big achievement in the Covid situation and also helpful for migrant communities.

*“The development of the villages can only be possible when the villagers come on one platform to demand for their rights and entitlement and this can only be possible through forming Sangathan.”*

## **Mansingh Katara-Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathan Chairperson**

He is nominated as president of Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathan, Tambesara and a dynamic person with a vision of development for the society. The Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathan is working actively for the development of the community in the presidentship of him and 35 villages are active and understanding the concept of leadership and roles and responsibilities towards sustainable development.

The Sangathan is working towards broad spectrum of developing and covering the issue related to farming practices, village development, child holistic development. It also focuses on the rejuvenation of Gram Chopal through participatory learning tools and techniques with equal rights and participation for community members and trying to find out community-based solutions.

As Mansingh ji shared that this Sangathan is focusing more towards the Swaraj and so we are promoting the traditional knowledge and practices which were once the heritage for these tribal region and so the practices such as Halma, Nautra, organic farming is being promoted. We are also working as supporting hand for the government and promoting their schemes and programs and linking the vulnerable families with the schemes and also getting the community aware about new government programs which are useful in the path of development. Some of the key achievements which Mansingh states are as follow:

During the lockdown of 2020 the members of this Sangthan submitted a memorandum at Panchayat Samittee to the President and Asst. Departmental officer of the panchayat Samittee demanding the work in MGNREGA as due to lockdown most of the family's livelihood was

affected as majority of them were migrant labors and the memorandum was then passed to Tehsildar and 1000 families of these 35 villages received the work and payment and their livelihood got secured.

In the same year 2020 the Kharif was not one of the best harvesting season as majority of the crop failed due to heavy rainfall and the survival of the families was on stake. In this critical period of time the Sangathan moved forward and took a step through submitting a memorandum to the district collector regarding crop failure insurance. Due to their regular visits to government offices with his team and members and as a result the collector passed a notice to the concerned Patwari of the region to get the survey done and provide them the compensation for the crop failure. This survey supported 3000 Families through compensation.

5000 Families worked in MNREGA and also helped 2450 members in preparing their job cards who were come due to revers emigration.

He also encouraged the communities towards vaccination process and he was first to get vaccinated in these 35 villages which helped to motivate others and remove misconception towards vaccine.

The above achievements marked huge success towards investing in tribal leadership and it will definitely support the community to finding their own solutions and support the community in long run and will definitely make the dream of Gandhiji village.

## Key Result Area 02

### Key Achievements

As per grading tool which been done by half-yearly basis, 63% of JSS were in effective category (17 number of JSS) 50% of women in each JSS and they are expressing their views in JSS which surely providing women empowerment. 25% of women are on governing role and participating in sustaining JSS. As per monitoring data, though 50% of women are being in JSS, where 42.3% are attending training and highly effective in sharing the platforms of JSS.

Convergence Through Activities like cattle shed, field bunding, land leveling, well were facilitated in 364.40 Lakhs

The year 2020-21 was unprecedented in terms of challenges faced by JSS due to pandemic but it did not deter them. JSS took various initiatives which had positively impacted the lives of tribal people and moved ahead to achieving sustainable development goals. Gender balanced committees has also helped sangathans achieve various milestones. Nearly all 26 sangathans have equal number of women in their core committees.

### What we have done in This Year

Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathans have initiated developing isolation and quarantine centers in the villages in collaboration with PRI members. During lockdown, isolation centers were established at panchayat level and 42435 migrant families were quarantined by sangathans. This has largely prevented spread of COVID-19 in villages.

45% JSS are following developed procedures,

for registering and resolving grievances, by gender balanced committee. In Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathan meetings, agenda were prepared and shared. Later on, implementation took place as per their annual action Plan agenda.

50% members from both the gender participated and bring village issues in JSS meeting. Based on these issues, each member brings the details of persons who didn't get benefits from govt schemes and other entitlement. JSS members are more confident and has started interacting with govt official in panchayat level.

Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathans initiated a "Jan Jagrukta Abhiyan" during 1st wave of COVID-19 pandemic reaching out to 82143 community members to make them aware about preventive measures and precautions to be taken. The campaign also disseminated information about various government schemes along with immunity boosting measures that could be easily adopted at family and community level. Sangathans also tried to reduce the vaccine hesitancy among the tribal community by sensitizing the community about significance of vaccines. Sangathan members coordinated with ward panch, other local influential people to reach out maximum number of people and also wrote letters to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Rajasthan for increasing vaccination drives. This contributed to easy administration of vaccines by door-to-door and hamlet wise vaccination by the health department.

Sangathans in 1000 villages emerged as empowered people organization which advocated with the government by submitting numerous memorandums related to various issues related to compensation of crop failure,

drinking water, irrigation facilities, repair maintenance of canals, functioning of e-mitra in villages, renovation of dilapidated government building and COVID-19 vaccination drives.

Sangathans also facilitated preparation of village development plans in 42 panchayats of five blocks covering 118 villages. These plans, which were in synchronization with Sustainable Integrated Farming System, were submitted with estimated 4.2 crores of works for village development.

Sangathans have contributed immensely in convergence with different government schemes in villages by periodic awareness activities, organizing gram chopal meetings and trainings. A booklet consisting information about various government schemes was published by Janjatiya Swaraj which also supported sangathans in spreading awareness about COVID-19 preventive measures to the community. JSS have shown concerted action for convergence with Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, through which practice of sustainable integrated

farming system was strengthened among families. Convergence to community level work was also facilitated by sangathans that include ponds, checkdam, canals repair, dhora, anicuts, and plantation. Convergence activities under MGNREGA during this years had public investment of 1.34 crores which benefitted 12500 families. Convergence with other government departments like agriculture and horticulture department done by sangathans resulted in supporting 8500 tribal farm families with sprinklers, drip irrigation mechanism and fruit-based plantations. Sangathans also strived to link the vulnerable people with various social security schemes like old-age pension, widow pension, Palanhar yojna, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojna and many others. With such efforts by sangathans, 14576 eligible families were benefitted.

An yearly grading process of Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathans is done on the basis of average attendnace, action and implementation plan, convergence with government departments, number of active women in the groups, and decision making skills. Assesing and analysing





all the above indicators revealed that 65% of our Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathan lied in “B” category which shows that the Sangathans have fair chance to improve their knowledge and skill based.

Since Panchayati Raj Institutions plays an important role in delivering the government Programmes, therefore to increase their involvement, VAAGDHARA organized capacity building programmes for more than 500 Sarpanch, Ward Panch on increasing the entitlements, strengthening their Panchayats, Linkages with JSS and Panchayats which helped them to know the ground situations of different pockets of the villages. Regular communication between the Gram Panchayat members and JSS leaders served as a feedback channel helping the GP understand the issues in a better way.

Gram Sabhas were conducted regularly and more than 3500 micro plans were submitted during the Gram Sabhas with the support of JSS and our Community resource persons who are positioned in different village. These Gram Sabhas were organized where community from all parts of the Panchayats getting 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.

### Case study:

Water is a basic human right and therefore everyone has the right to avail safe drinking water. To practice this right, Janjatiya swaraj sangathan, Peepalkhunt raised their voice against government's delay on providing safe drinking water in their villages under Panghat scheme. This started from the summer by as people when people were facing immense difficulties. Under the government's Panghat scheme

in 2013-14, a budget of 560 crores was allocated for providing safe drinking water facilities in 102 villages of the block by bringing water from Mahi Bajaj Sagar to all villages and hemlets by 2018. But even in 2021, the water wasn't available for people though taps were installed in all villages and hemlets and construction of tanks in all panchayats was completed in 2 years ago. Still the farmer families weren't able to avail it due to which women in the villages have to fetch water from at least 1 to 2 kilometers away. This issue came into light in the VDCRC meetings at the village level and they bring the issue to JSS meetings. After a thorough discussion on it, a letter was given to Development officer at the block level to make them aware about this issue at ground and also to take an immediate action against it. This was covered by the news paper on 10th June. After these efforts, the team members of Vaagdhara were able to achieve the success. Orders were given to start water from the district level as soon as possible. After 2 months. Water was supplied to almost all the village and hemlets by putting pipelines in all the villages.

## Key Result Area 03

100 Gram Panchayat has adopted and implementing ecologically harmonized village development plans

### Key Achievements

- Village develop plans have been submitted into 1000 villages covering the aspects of Ecologically harmonized indicators and out of 77.2% plan were adapted to the government.
- Participatory learning approach sessions in Gram Chaupal supports and encourage the farm families to adopt the indicators.
- The transferring of knowledge through Saksham Samooch is showing positive change towards adapting integrated Farming system components and about 40,000 Families have been reached indirectly.
- Improvement in participation of gram Sabha through 35% increase in number of community members.
- 80135 Community members got awareness through community radio programmes upon SIFS

change on nutrition, particularly nutrition during disasters and emergency as well as improved mother and child care practices.

### What we have done this Year

The PLA approach with SIFS mitras established a dialogue and action forum in 1000 villages with the community through Gram Chopal and SIFS PLA approach. The PLA cycle turned out to be successful as a process which establish two-way dialoguing to evolve indigenous approach. Gram Chopal helped to support sustainable development through improved planning of resources and optimum utilization of the integrated farming system through village development. With this, ten number of enterprises were guided to develop local production related to SIFS approach of farming and they are providing good results.

Gram Chaupals have turned up as an active discussion-based platforms where interaction

As Tribal habitations have been effected by the COVID pandemic the most, Vaagdhara in collaboration with Department of Rural Development in all three States ensured that the development works shouldn't be hampered due to pandemic. Even in such unfavorable condition, Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathans with the facilitators and swaraj mitras witnessed progress in developing village development plans. This helped them to adopt sustainable livelihood options that make optimum use of farm resources and climate resilient need-based technologies ensuring better availability of food, higher diet diversification, more income opportunities and better access to markets. Along with this, it also focuses on behavioral

Mr. Jayesh Joshi Secretary Vaagdhara, who envisioned the way forward with coping strategy of livelihoods challenges in this region. He says "whilst making our 2020-21 annual plan, no one knew about this terrible situation that COVID-19 has created. My fellow people, like me, who believe in Swaraj assumed that COVID shall not affect the tribal communities much because of their inherent strong life style. But underneath, there was some fear due to increased market dependency, the Government issues and the migratory tribal whose enslavement on market economy can put us in problem. And it happened the same way. These circumstances have made us and the Government, rethink about what kind of lifestyle, food habits and practices could be considered wholesome and sustainable".

with the VDCRC members takes place for taking forward the issues related to the village's overall development. Household and community-level proposals for SIFS activities included as part of MGNREGS works, were prepared during meetings and subsequently submitted to the village panchayat. MGNREGA marked a paradigm shift and stood out amongst other rural employment programmes as it empowers the rural population; marginalized sections of the society with a legal right that guaranteed employment through an act of parliament, unlike other wage employment programmes. PRIs also played an important role in involving SIFS activities both individually and community to involve into Village development plans which in turn shall help improve their livelihoods, reduce migration and eventually develop independent farmers.

VAAGHDHARA adapted integrated development approach as countermeasures. The organization adopted the strategy of convergence and bringing in more public and private investment/ support to bring long term remedy, aligning them with socio-economic and cultural perspective and addressing the goal of achieving true agriculture and self governance.

100 percent of villages shared their proposals related to SIFS activities like land leveling, bund building, cattle sheds and other works which are 77,2% have been passed.

The proposals with the support of 263 PRI members including sarpanch, ward panch and our JSS members have been directly submitted to the district administration. Consistent liaison and advocacy resulted in approval of 18 Gram Panchayats plans. The plans included SIFS activities and 35% increase in participation into



the Gram Sabha to advocate and promote SIFS related activities and components in their villages.

Women are the drivers of sustainaing agriculture, and linking nutrition to our own produce and we are the change of the agriculture face.

### **Rukamni devi, Nagred, Goliyawada**

Rukmani Devi is Resident of the village Negred of Goliyawada Gram Panchayat Block Ghatol-Bnaswara, Rattan Devi wife of Poonam Chand owned 5 Bigha (.85 Ha) of sloppy agriculture land. Family purchased land in 2009 from other farmer in very barren condition. The land was though full of bushes with a big ravine and gullies dividing the whole piece of land in to 3 to 4 parts. However, after clearing the bushes they started cultivating maize and sesame on the land. Cultivation was totally dependent on rains, thus they could take only kharif season crops. Since the land was fallow with bushes for years, they got reasonably good produce for initial two to three years. But yield dropped suddenly, and they started applying chemical fertilizers which helped to some extent but family was unable to grow crops profitably. By the time they realized that due to high gradient/slope and regular ploughing soil erosion causing the damage to soil health and they are losing top fertile soil, it was too late.

Devi could put up her demand in Gram Panchayat for the land and water development project under village development plan. Ratan Devi prepared the land development plan with the help of JSS member, Mr Ranjeet Mahida and Community Facilitator of VAAGDHARA Mr. Naresh Bunkar that later got approved. The plan



was made, considering the terrain and topography of the land on the principles of EHVP.

Based on the personal interview with farmer and production data, it has been observed and proved that farm production has been increased more than two times of the bench mark of production before interventions. The farmer has revealed the information that nearly one third of land has become leveled and family is able to cultivate more than one crop in the area during kharif and rabi. This has become possible only due to improvement in soil and moisture regime. Especially the soil in whole leveled area as well as the sloping terrain is improved due to control in soil erosion and run off and it has been observed that more than 1 ft good soil being deposited on field. The application of compost and overall organic fertilizer application has enriched the soil humus which in turn improved soil organic matter percentage to the improved level (observation based, no scientific soil testing). On slopping sides the contour bunding and trenching around the periphery of the filed helped conserving moisture and improved ground water level besides improving soil quality thereby improving soil ecosystem.

## Key Result Area 04

### Key Achievements

18460 Families are directly involved in Integrated Farming system and improving their nutrition diversity as well through increasing 1.8 score in such critical times.

16689 families have improved income by additional 50% through adopting the SIFS practices in their field which helps to decrease the market dependency, decrease consumption of chemical fertilizers and others. Though numbers of families have achieved the increases in production by 20-30% with adopting SIFS practices.

The nutrition garden is also providing local income generation opportunity to them, it was found that 83.6% of families receive some income from their nutrition garden by selling vegetables to local market or neighbourhood. Out of 12% families were found generating income of more than INR 4000 a year from their nutrition garden by selling the vegetables. Hence nutrition garden is promoting towards increased production and income along with nutrition security.

137 tribal youth participated and motivated to get back into farming. They also sensitized that during this pandemic agriculture is one of the sustainable methods to ensure their income as well as food security.

This Key Result Area is focused on promoting the traditional farming practices for sustainable production in the farming system. The tribal population in this tri-junction are totally dependent on agriculture for their livelihood and survival. At the changing face of agriculture, we can see that the input in agriculture has increased a lot while the output and return from it is merely a thing for survival and no longer a profitable enterprise for them. The drudgery has

increased to its extent and the resources are getting depleted. The new and young generation has lost interest in farming and the essential traditional practices are losing their importance.

In order to revive these practices and improve livelihood of 1 lakh tribal families, we are constantly working towards sustainable farming practices. To achieve these goals, we have formed Saksham Samuh group of 20 women in each 1000 villages to carry forward the learnings and practices as we believe that women are the backbone of Indian agriculture. Most of the agricultural activities are being done involving women and still they are in the shadow and their contribution towards agriculture has never not being casted any where. VAAGDHARA identified women with all age groups and from all hamlets of the villages to form a group where they could meet on monthly, learn and share their views and knowledge on traditional farming practices as well work on innovative solution for mitigating the challenges in farming. We are continuously coordinating with these groups and through our PLA module lessons we exchange ideas among each other which is related to all the aspects of sustainable farming. For motivating the groups we also sometimes support them with various inputs which could lead to adoption of components (inputs includes like seeds, drums for preparing organic pesticide, vermicompost bed, multipurpose plants etc.). Through our PLA lessons we not only provided knowledge about SIFS but we also motivated women to be a decision maker in their family about farming system. It must be them who will be deciding what to sow, when to sow and how to sow and these empowered women become change agents for others and motivate 10 other women in their village to practice sustainable farming so

as to secure the livelihood and decrease the drudgery which is being faced in agriculture. However, due to pandemic situation, we faced a bit challenge in meeting them as our community was also not much equipped with digital technology. But we found solutions for it and with the support of district authorities we prepared certain plans to be in contact with them and carry forward our work.

### What We Have Done This Year

**Save Kharif Campaign-** This tribal tri-junction is totally dependent on agriculture and Kharif being the most important season of cultivation for them. In this critical period of pandemic, the farmers were affected by it as they were out of cash and the markets were closed leaving no place for farmers to buy seeds from. VAAGDHARA took an immediate action towards this critical situation and launched a "Save Kharif Campaign". Through this campaign, we approached our different partners and illustrated them the existing situation of this area and pooled funds for the support of these tribal families. Through the help of our community institutions and

Saksham Samuh members, we identified the families which were in real disastrous situation and most affected through reverse migration. We supported those families by linking them with MGNREGA schemes as well as supported them with food packets. Utilizing the pooled funds we directly supported 35000 families with Kharif seeds which included (Rice, Black Gram, Sesame, Millets, Maize, Vegetable Seeds, Red gram, Chavla).

**Critical Inputs Available:** 15000 families were supported with critical inputs in order to adopt sustainable farming practices and inputs like drums, vermibeds, and seeds of wheat, horsegram and vegetables and summer moong seeds. Our major focus was on seeds with improved local varieties and thus for wheat and moong seeds we did liaison with the government and procured seeds as well as distributed in the community so that improved seeds could be incorporated in the area. The result was seen with high production and farmers were highly satisfied with these seeds. Nutrition is one major focus areas on which we work through this KRA and for this we are dedicatedly working towards establishing



nutrition gardens at homes which could provide nutrition to the family round the year. For this, we support the families with vegetable seeds and with continuous efforts 20,000 nutrition gardens were established in this year as a result of our direct intervention while 6000-7000 gardens through indirect approach of passing on seeds with the help of our Saksham Samuh members.

**Reduced Migration:** it came out very evidently through our monitoring of the activities that the migration rate of our intervention areas have been reduced by 20%. The women said that by adopting the SIFS components, their farming is getting better and they are now able to give more time towards farming. Since the output from farming has increased and cost is getting reduced, hence now their men of the houses are migrating only during peak times to gather some extra cash for other social and cultural activities like Nautra and festivals.

**Small Marginal Enterprise:** 10 Enterprises have been set up (nurseries) to support entrepreneurs to improve their income. Enterpriser SIFS Mitras were given green net, polythene bags and seeds of multi-purpose plants like guava, kachnar, lemon, jamun, papaya and jackfruit, and other plants to develop nurseries. 8 such enterprisers were successfully set up their enterprises and doing business of more than Rs 70,000 per annum.

**Broadcasting Radio Programs on Sustainable Farming:** Though the world has got digitized but still our community needs some more time to match with the pace with the rest of the world and owing to it, radio is still one of the most effective channels for communication. Through our community radio station we developed and broadcasted 152 number of programs on sustainable farming practices. Many live programs with special guests and experts on nutrition and agriculture were developed broadcasted to bring awareness among

community on good practices on agriculture. VAAGDHARA created an amalgamation of traditional communication method with modern science by developing an android operating system based application for our community radio as VAGAD Radio 90.8 and because of this, people sitting in any corner of the world **ACHIEVEMENTS**

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could listen and enjoy the program. This has increased the reach in our community as many young generation in villages are using android application and are regular listeners of our radio programs.

Vatein Patrika: When pandemic hit the entire world it became very difficult for everyone to communicate with each other as the physical movement was curbed, and our whole intervention is based on direct dialogue with the community. Our whole process of PLA got affected and we were somehow getting away from our community and were not able to properly communicate with them so we thought of certain platform through which we could deliver our thoughts as well as share learnings and ideas of community. In such circumstances, VAAGDHARA developed a monthly community newspaper – which is for the community and also from the community. Through this platform we were able to directly sensitize 22000 families on improved and traditional farming practices and the sessions which we couldn't cover through PLA were covered through this method. Our Swaraj Mitra (community volunteer) covered each individual households and distributed and disseminated the knowledge of this IEC to every families.

**Animal Health Camp:** Livestock is one of the major components of sustainable farming, therefore we organized animal health camps in 100 villages as a sensitization purpose so that people could understand its importance, vaccinate and medicate their animals at proper intervals. We organized this camp just before arrival of monsoon because it is one of the peak period when the livestock suffer from diseases like foot rot, bloat, worms attack etc. To sensitize the community on this issue we organized a camp in 100 villages of 5 blocks. District authority and Animal husbandry department provided a great support for the successful implementation of this event. Through this camp we were able to vaccinate around twenty thousand of animals including small (goats, sheep) and big animals (cows, buffaloes, oxen).

*I am business women who are taking care of all operations and also linking through online*

*marketing through whatsapp group.*

### Jemli Behan, Khushalgrah Block

In rural areas female entrepreneurship may contribute to the economic diversification of households and the preservation of their social fabric. Jemli Behan, a women entrepreneur who owns a nursery and working towards the knowledge behaviour on multipurpose trees and how it is supporting through improving soil health, and other benefits. During PLA meetings, she emphasized the approach of not contaminating our own land and water resources and start practicing SIFS.

For her nursery, VAAGDHARA provided her support with necessary skills like grafting, cutting, germination techniques of different plants, along with some input material required for the purpose. For the initial one year, she worked on eight types of saplings i.e. jackfruit, jamun, bamboo, moringo, kachnar, lemon, guava, and mango with thousands of plants of each. She earned about 10000 rupees after selling around 4000 plants in the local market. During this time, she became known for selling fruit and agro-forestry plants in nearby villages. From the first year's profits, she purchased high demanding seeds like almond, cashew, eucalyptus, Mitha Neem, sandal along with vegetable nursery. She now has 9 varieties of fruit plant saplings, 5 agro-forestry and 3 types of vegetables nursery. Now her nursery business is expanding exponentially and a sale up to Rs. 3.75 lakh rupee is estimated by the end of this rainy season.

Jemli's family has been a motivation for many in the locality. Her sons have also leveraged technology for marketing purposes as they have made a whatsapp group where photos of plants are regularly posted. She is now has that charisma which attracts others to follow her leads.

## Key Result Area 05

50% of villages 100 GP are child friendly, where all children in age group of 6-14 are in school, having quality education, enjoying good health, participation and free from child labor

### Key Achievements

With the incessant affords to Vaagdhara and state governments in providing education to children even in the mid of the pandemic through local youths, total 6561 children were able to get the continuous education with this intervention in the 263 villages.

In the efforts of combating malnutrition among children, community people were aware of the nutritional benefits of nutritional farming and to assess the improvement in the diet security, a pre and post Household dietary diversity survey (HDDS) was conducted. As a resultant, it came out to be increased from 3 score to 4 score in HDDS which means that community people involved dietary diversity.

With our Advocacy with Madhya Pradesh Government functionaries upon foster care scheme to orphan children, In the succession of this effort, Madhya Pradesh government came up with a scheme called MP foster care under the department of women and child development.

With the target of 303 children group, 171 groups are functional which means these groups have regular meetings to discuss child related issues, more than 75% attendance in the meetings.

While children seem to be less vulnerable to the virus directly, but closing of schools, increased vulnerability to abuse, mental health strain of parents and families, loss of access to vital health care and protection services have affected the children deeply and its intensity differs from child to child. The pandemic exposed deep inequalities that existed for too long, with the worst impact on children in the most vulnerable tribal areas and communities.

The children struggled to live with this lockdown as these days were not usual happy days for them yet they were in their homes, no pressure of going schools but anxiety were there in their minds.

As COVID-19 has heightened the urgency to address the digital divide and unequal access to quality education and it estimated more than lakhs of children and adolescents are projected to drop out of school because of the pandemic. The data also showed that 99.4% children were linked with schools but our assessment showed that only 12.4% of children had accessed the education through digital means. Moreover, initiatives had been taken to provide online study materials to the children of rural area which would help to keep them in the learning process, but still only 5-7% had android phones who could assess the materials. Besides, there was no follow up done by the parents and caregivers whether children were reading these materials or not. The children, teachers and most of the social worker were feeling stunned to meet the demand of the education and learning to be continued.

Vaagdhara has strengthened its village development child rights committee in 1000 village covering three states to support community-based child protection mechanism and develop their efficacy towards education, protection and overall development. 1000 Village development and child rights committee through phase wise meetings highlighted the development indicators of each and every child in the villages and discussed in meeting the effects of COVID -19 on children. Through this, 6671 children were positively impacted and were linked with the community-based learning



centres where active youth have been taking charge to make them learn basics and engaged them in learning process.

COVID brought increased stress and risks to millions of children and families in the tribal area. Over 4500 children were contacted through telephonic counselling as well as ChildLine team members also visited and build skills of these children and their parents. Team guided and supported the activities that deal with children's stress and promote self-expression and learning.

The real impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on tribal children extends well beyond that of a viral infection. This crisis has public health implications that could have life-long consequences on children. It requires effective and targeted measures mainly for vulnerable children and households to guarantee children's basic rights for optimal nutrition, health and development. Through this Our Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathan planned nutrition camps and benefitted 5640 number of children. Focusing their agriculture and nutrition security, support

was extended to 6580 vulnerable MAM children for developing nutrition garden for enabling better nutrition security.

Continuing every year's practice, this year a virtual event was organized keeping the current situation into consideration. An online webinar was organized on the occasion of children day on 14th November, 2020 where 167 members attended this webinar. In this online event, discussion were done on child rights aspects, the role of village level institutions to protect child rights, government initiatives towards making child friendly state, the situation of tribal children in the current scenario and how we need to fight over this.

The Children's group raised the issue in monthly meeting by saying "we are in a big trouble. There is no playing ground in our school and there are bushes and bumpy ground all around" In such situation, where do the children will perform their sports activities?

The Children's group from the village put this issue in front of community and not only with community, they also shared this issue with an



organization working for the protection of child rights and Village Development and Child Rights Committee. The committee along with BAL Panchayat representatives apprised Gram Panchayat Morwaniya Sarpanch Smt. Antar Devi about this problem.

There were Panch, Sarpanch members of Children's group and Village Development Child Rights Committee insisted on resolving this problem. In December 2020, the field was leveled under NREGA and all the bushes were also removed from here.

After that the members from the Children's group visited the playground they were satisfied and thanked the Village Development Child Rights Committee and the Gram Panchayat.

We are the children of modern India; we will bring the community forward to grab the attention of the community about their issues and their problems and to solve them and our village will move towards child-friendly village.

### **Raveena, Sarpanch, Children's group**

When children put their words in front of elders and they are called upon to fulfill them like persistence, then this is our responsibility as elder we have to come forward for development work. This children group of Morwaniya is an ideal example throughout the district.

### **Antar Devi, Sarpanch, Morwaniya Gram Panchayat**

## Key Result Area 06

Institutional and meta governance capacities of  
VAAGDHARA are strengthened to support innovations, learning and Effective Implementation.

VAAGDHARA has high belief in enhancing organizational capacity to improve learning, innovation and efficiency. Organization has significantly invested in development of human resources, creating systems and procedures which streamline internal functioning of the organization. The following initiatives were taken for achieving the goal.

Two modules of Leadership School were conducted with 24 young professionals of the organization by Mr. Gagan Sethi an expert in the field of organizational and leadership development. These modules majorly included reflective processes where tribal youth thought over their journey till now in the field of their work and personal lives as well. All of them created some benchmarks which are the prerequisites to be a leader while working in VAAGDHARA's ecosystem. These modules also helped these

youth to recognize their dominant learning styles which could help them understand new information raising their consciousness. Leadership modules also covered identification of individual personality of young professionals for their self and social awareness. Modules provided idea to develop knowledge materials for collective learning by young professionals.

This year we have also introduced induction of one female and one male to each people's organization (JSS) for facilitation. Three modules of capacity building was also created with JSS facilitators on gender, different areas of child rights and agriculture, stakeholder mapping, building effective networks with stakeholders, and field documentation. Also involving the women in leadership, we continued to strengthen saksham samooch in different



aspects of concern issues. The gender integration facilitated enhancing their roles and in agriculture issues, creating linkages for women with input supplies, technology providers, and markets. It also involved establishing women as technology providers and entrepreneurs, creating assets in her name, such as developing nursery, opening bank accounts in the name of women, and ensuring women have control over income.

Management Information System of VAAGDHARA has significantly improved in terms of its features and adoption by team members. New features like annual plans of people's organization level contributing to facilitation unit's plan, qualitative monitoring reports (activity level, output level and outcome level), data collection of community institutions, Key Contribution Result (KCR) and Accountability, Responsibility and Authority Framework, personalized planning and others

were added to it. This has strengthened the internal functioning of organization. This has also provided the data for decisions making at organizational level.

VAAGDHARA has a "Senior facilitation Team" consisting of heads of different units such program, finance, advocacy, different themes chaired by secretary. SMT met fortnightly to take and implement decisions related to smooth functioning of organization. During this year, SMT conducted 6 meetings to discuss various issues related to programs and internal functioning as well. Welfare and social security initiatives were also undertaken by organization for its human resource. This includes enrolling to gratuity scheme by organization as social security measure. Organizational policies related to information technology and child protection are strengthened within the organization

## Annual Tribal Colloquium

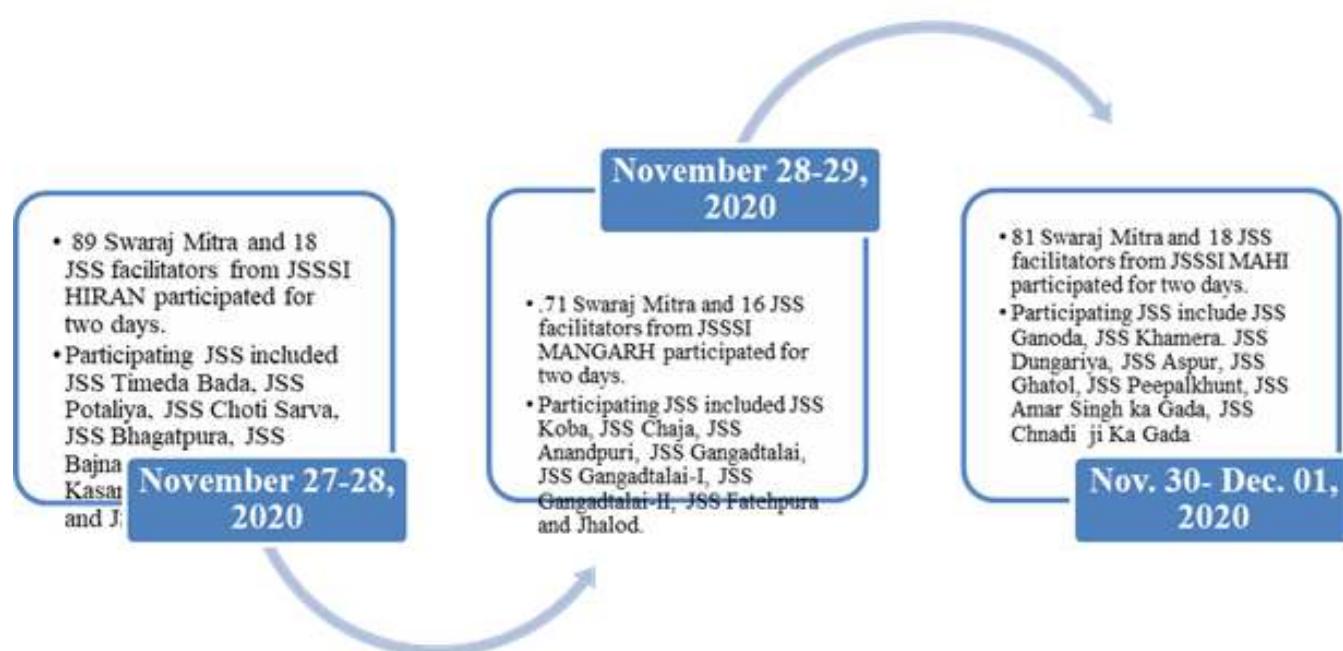
We celebrated our annual event " Agriculture & Tribal Sovereignty Conclave"with our Janjatiya Sawraj Sangathan a Community-based Organization and Swaraj Mitras from 21st November 2020 to 1st December 2020. The event marked its success with the participation of thousands of members from 1000 villages of tri-junction of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. Keeping the pandemic in consideration, the event was organized with small groups of participants.

The objective of the event was to reflect on the progress of work done by our institutions and the future strategies that will be undertaken for the community development under the three themes of Vaagdhara viz Sacchi Kheti, Sachha Swaraj and Sachha Bachpan.

This year the colloquium was in two parts as taking care of COVID-19 where guidelines have been taken care of:

The first phase included with the dialogue to Janjatiya swaraj Sangathan members who have shared their views and initiatives on focus issues which they have covered in a year and shared their achievements as Sangathan. The attractive exhibitions of True Farming, True Childhood & True Governance also helped the members to understand the focus issues in detailed manner and supported their ideas to the way towards sustainable development. They were motivated to focus on four things – Satya, Samay, Sewa, and Sanskar. It was shared with them that by these four things will help reach our goals of Swaraj. The 300 participants took resolution to pass on the message on sustainable development to the community by adopting indigenous practices and reducing dependency on markets.

The second phase towards involving Swaraj Mitras who have risen to the extraordinary



challenge of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic. They were meeting shortfalls in masks, sanitizers and protective equipment, Running community quarantine centers, supporting with food packets, fighting misinformation and even providing banking and financial solutions to far-flung communities. A total of 241 Swaraj Mitra participated during the conclave and enriched the discussion with their experiences in villages.

Mr. Jayesh Joshi, Secretary Vaagdhara thereafter initiated discussion with the participants about the organization's vision towards Swaraj Mitra. He said, a volunteer or Swayam Sevak always has two ways of fulfilling a task-

1. Samasyaon ki Suchna (Information of Problems)
2. Samadhan ke liye Samvaad (Discussions for resolving issues)

He further said that "No development can take place until the self-consciousness of volunteers is not awakened".

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 of tribal community representatives 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 key stakeholders. Ideas of whole Swaraj thinking, community actions, need & demand from state on key themes of true childhood, true farming and true Swaraj were exchanged.

### Charter of Demands:

Detailed discussion on each demand was done with the members and the agreeable points

were recorded during the conclave and were given a form of charter to be presented to the authorities, policy makers at District, State, and National as well as International level.

### True Swaraj

- Equal participation of women in conclave has underscored their confidence in philosophy, concepts and processes initiated by VAAGDHARA for strengthening local democracy in its rightful sense. This emanated demand for expansion of leadership school batches especially dedicated for women candidates and women representatives in Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathan put forth demand which is to be advocated to Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj and other agencies to promote innovations in tribal areas by youth. This will require dedicated "United Fund for Promoting Innovation by Tribal Youth" in Gram Panchayat budget.
- Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathan demanded training and education programmes for lifelong learning having modern technological edge with tribal youth in the area of Sustainable Integrated Farming System.
- Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathan also expressed concern that all households should get their 100 days of work under MGNREGA and wages on timely basis.

### True Farming

- There is need for advocating with agriculture department for adoption of traditional practices of tribal farming system of VAGAD region to improve soil health and its nourishment.

- Establishment of Community-owned Seed Management practices and advocacy with government for evolving Vagad region – Indigenous Seed Capital.
- Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathan needed promotion of crops like green gram by government incentives and infrastructure serving dual purpose of livelihood promotion along with nutrient-recycling within farming system.
- Increase the ambit of soil-testing at Panchayat Samiti/ Gram Panchayat level to ease facilities and awareness to farmers along with proper advisory services.
- Government to include practices of Sustainable Integrated Farming System in activities of MGNREGA and other schemes for better adoption.
- Sangathan this year also demanded for increased investment by government for promotion-adoption of both community and household based water conservation methods in Sustainable Integrated Farming System.

## True Childhood

- Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathan demanded for higher degree of knowledge and capacity for community to develop child-friendly villages.

They required VAAGDHARA to have concerted efforts in this direction.

- Spreading the coverage of Child line 1098 through wider awareness on one hand and advocacy with Child line India Foundation for further broaden its reach to remote locations.
- Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathan demanded transparency and accountability measures in functioning of School Management Committees and develop strategies to ensure 100% enrollment and participation in education programmes leading to zero drop-out.
- Government departments to work for eradication of Child labor and Child Marriage within community.
- Sangathan have demanded special programmes for tri-junction to address the “loss of learning” among children especially girls during pandemic. Programme shall consider vulnerabilities and social milieu of the region.
- Sangathan demanded effective collaboration between Agriculture and Women and Child Development department via convergence promoting Poshan Vatika to strengthen ICDS services for improving nutritional status of children and women.

## Policy And Advocacy Initiatives

### SIDE EVENT – UN HLPF 2020

An UN HLPF Side event titled “Indigenous Solutions to Achieve SDGs with Accelerated Actions” focusing the situation of the indigenous community who has been least benefitted since decades was organized on 15th July, 2020. The event highlighted how the tribal communities in southern Rajasthan had utilized their indigenous agricultural practices to survive during the pandemic and embraced an intelligent food management after rabi crop harvesting. The pandemic had immensely affected their livelihood and economy. The struggle of the tribal population to preserve their indigenous practices and the challenges of survival amid malnourishment, weather variability and resource losses were also emphasized in the side event at the U.N. High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Its emphasis was on “tribal voices” which could deliver the best solutions. Experts in the event Shri Jayesh Joshi, Secretary VAAGDHARA; Prof. Sudarshan Iyengar, Former Vice-Chancellor – Gujarat Vidyapith, Ahmedabad and Shri Gagan Sethi, Chair, Revitalizing Rain fed Area Network highlighted several suggestions for ensuring a better association of indigenous communities with natural resources, including seed, water and soil.

Jayesh Joshi Ji and Prof. Sudarshan Iyengar emphasized on Gandhian philosophy and said shared that the tribals were pioneers of Gandhian Swaraj and had all the solutions to achieve the SDGs. “Increased commercialization is responsible for disturbing indigenous practices, leading to inequalities and new challenges”. The tribal communities of

Banswara, Dungarpur and Udaipur districts earlier had a forest resource-based livelihood, but the large-scale deforestation forced them to shift to farming activities on a sloping land and caused degradation of land. The recommendations highlighted during the side event were also submitted to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Rajasthan.

### Written Statement Published in UN ECOSOC High Level Segment – Session 2020

Being an UN ECOSOC accredited organization, VAAGDHARA submitted its written statement on the theme titled 'Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development'. The statement was published in ECOSOC High Level Segment in 2020 session. It highlighted various indigenous solutions, which are practiced by the tribal community and are significant for the development of tribal community, however, these traditional practices are increasingly under threat owing to a range of factors, which need to be addressed. The statement also provided recommendations to address the global challenges. These recommendations were suggested by thousands of tribal farmers participated in tribal colloquium of VAAGDHARA.

- The eco-friendly farming practices free from the use of chemical fertilizers and are climate resilient, need to be promoted by the Government, providing maximum benefits to the small and marginal farmers.
- Government should focus on making the communities aware about the methods to grow nutritious food items.

- Decentralization of quality health services and education up to much lower levels in the rural areas are needed.
- Community engagement in planning process would be essential to develop a sense of ownership and responsibility towards achieving the SDGs.

## Webinar on Investment in Rain fed Areas

In order to create enabling environment at the state level for advocating the policy issues regarding SIFS and Rainfed area, an online consultation on Rainfed area development approach – Policy perspective, Challenges and Opportunities was organized on 11th November, 2020 in collaboration with Agriculture Department, Government of Rajasthan. Considering the much larger size of rainfed area than irrigated area, majority of the farmers and conditions of rainfed area, it was suggested in the event to focus on the development of rainfed area in Rajasthan through changes in policy perspective.

In current policy framework of Agriculture development, there is no separate consideration about the rainfed area and irrigated area. While all the inputs support in most of the policies of agriculture and allied, for instance, hybrid seed, subsidy on fertilizers, subsidy on irrigation and mechanization are quite generalized across the state irrespective of the irrigated and rainfed area. It was also discussed that promotion of hybrid seed and fertilizer through existing policy framework is not suitable for rainfed area but for irrigated areas and may be useful for medium and large farmers.

Eminent Speakers like Shri R.K. Yadvendra, Joint Director, Department of Agriculture, Government of Rajasthan, Dr. Rakesh Sammauria, Professor and Chief Agronomists Agriculture University, Jobner (Jaipur) participated in the consultation and deliberated on the Policy Perspective,

Challenges & Opportunities in Development of Rainfed Area and the theory of Sustainable Integrated Farming System respectively.

Besides, Prof. Srinivasa Kunuthur, Principal Scientist (Dryland Agriculture), ANGR Agricultural University Service and President, Consortium of Natural Farming Technologies Tirupati, also participated and expressed his invaluable suggestions like Production of rainfed grassy vegetation which requires least water on a massive scale in a vast area, Xerophytic tree plantation to cover extensive areas which thrive on rainwater, massive tree plantation, establishment of an agro-forestry ecosystem, establishment of a small-scale bird sanctuary and many other interventions which could eventually cause biological conversion of rainfed areas into green fed areas.

## Online Training on 'School Nutrition Garden' of School Teachers of 100 Schools in Banswara

A district level training of school teachers of 100 schools was organized in January 2020 on the theme “Developing Nutrition Garden in Schools and its significance” in collaboration with the Chief District Education Officer, Banswara. The training was organized in order to help the participants in developing better insights on the steps to develop Nutrition Garden in schools. The Chief District Education Officer of Banswara along with the Nodal Persons who have been appointed from 100 schools as an in-charge for handling the School Nutrition Gardens in their schools were the participants of the training. The objectives of the training were to:-

1. Understand the needs and benefits for establishing School Nutrition Gardens and the pre-requisites needed to be taken before it.
2. Gain knowledge on the technical aspects and the steps that should be undertaken for the establishment of SNGs.

3. Understand the precautions that have to be taken while developing the Nutrition Garden and the steps required for its proper maintenance.

Ms. Angelica Palat, Chief District Education Officer, Banswarafirst explained the rationale behind the establishment of Nutrition Garden in the schools and the reason for keeping Kitchen Garden as the major approach to address malnourishment by the Government. School Nutrition Garden can help in addressing the issues of mal-nutrition and may make a direct and immediate improvement in children's diet. She emphasized that the fruits and vegetables obtained through the School Nutrition Garden will directly add to the nutritional value of the mid-day meals and will help in growth and development of the Children. She also emphasized on the importance of nutrition for children to live a happy life and how proper nourishment can help a child to fight from various aspects of malnourishment viz wasting, stunting, under-weight and anemia.

Thereafter, the participants were told about the technical aspects of establishing the nutrition garden and pre-requisites required for its establishment:

- Identification of the site in the school
- Preparing the site and layout
- Identification of the key crops
- Setting up kitchen garden in the schools which don't have land
- Roles and responsibilities of school members

A format using which the development of the nutrition garden can be easily monitored was also shared with the participants. A manual regarding nutrition garden and its significance as well as the process of its establishment was shared with the school teachers for their reference. The school teachers and CDEO considering it significant assured to develop

these nutrition gardens once the schools are re-opened.

### **Submission of the Demand Charter of Tribal Children to RSCPCR**

A charter of demands raised by the tribal children during the Annual Tribal Sovereignty Conclave-2020 was presented to Mrs. Sangeeta Beniwal, Chairperson-Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights. The demand included various issues on four Child Rights viz. Right to Survival, Health and Nutrition, Right to Education and Development, Right to Protection and Right to Participation.

The major issues were related to reducing malnutrition, development of nutrition garden in schools, increase in numbers of Anganwadi centers, immunization of children and controlling the sales of tobacco in the villages to prevent children from its menace, revitalizing Panchayat Level Child Protection Committees (PLCPCs) to address issues related to child protection, making gram panchayats in tribal areas sensitive towards child protection, strengthening basic facilities like toilets with water, safe drinking water, school boundary wall, playground in schools, availability of residential schools for girl children, developing Bal panchayats for increasing participation of children at village level etc. The Chairperson appreciated the demands raised by the tribal children and assured VAAGDHARA team to take it forward with the Government.

### **Advocacy Efforts Towards Tobacco Control**

- Communication done with the offices of Hon'ble Chief Minister and Health Minister requesting for imposing ban on Spitting and Sales of Smokeless Tobacco products and Hukkah bars in the State, with a special mention of sections 269, 270, 278 of the IPC which could be used to penalize the violators

for spitting, causing spread of an infectious disease in the public. A letter was sent to the Hon'ble Chief Minister requesting for declaration of Vendor Licensing on the occasion of World No Tobacco Day in the State specifying the benefits of implementing vendor licensing mechanism. Thereby, Issuance of an Order by the Govt. of Rajasthan imposing ban on spitting of any chewable tobacco or non-tobacco products in public places and institutions under the Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases Act, 1957.

- A representation to Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, was sent against opening Foreign Direct Investments in tobacco sector. As the recent Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce 154th Report on "Export of Agricultural and Marine Products, Plantation Crops, Turmeric and Coir" presented on the 26th August, 2020 to Rajya Sabha, inter-alia recommending the Department to undertake a study to analyze the prospects of opening FDI investment in the tobacco sector at the earliest, which will stimulate the production and processing of Indian tobacco thereby boosting its export, which is a clear violation of FCTC Article 5.3.
- Regular meetings and telephonic follow ups done with District Collectors and CMHO Jaipur and Kota for formal declaration as Tobacco Free Jaipur and Kota respectively. District collectors issued directions to all the concerned departments which in turn ensured compliance of COTPA in their area and later on submitted Self Declaration certificates to the District Collector. On this basis and having assured compliance of

COTPA in the cities, the District Administration and Health Department in Jaipur and Kota, declared tobacco free cities on the occasion of 31st May 2020 (World No Tobacco Day) and 15th August 2020 respectively.

- Having continued efforts by VAAGDHARA for establishing licensing mechanism for tobacco vendors in the State, Jaipur Municipal Corporation-Greater showed their priority for establishing the licensing mechanism. On the basis of letter issued by the Department of Local Bodies and considering the aspect of revenue generation as well as improvement in public health, Jaipur Municipal Corporation – Greater, framed the rules for tobacco vendor licensing mechanism and notified the rules through a gazette notification on 4th February 2020.
- VAAGDHARA team sensitized MPs, MLAs, Presidents, key office bearers of different Trades Associations and other influential people like Coalition Members, PRI Leaders of Banswara district, academicians, college student leaders, faith leaders on COTPA amendment and seek their support in sending their representation to Union Health Minister, Government of India for presenting a bill on it in a parliament session. As a result, 205 comments through representations were submitted on COTPA Amendment to Union Health Minister from various stakeholders.
- Mr. Jayesh Joshi, Secretary-VAAGDHARA was nominated as the non-official members of the State Health Society, NHM. This society is the executing agency for National Health Mission at the state level chaired by Chief Secretary.

## Media, Communication And Publication

Digitalization is playing increasingly an important role in today's development era and Vaagdhara is resonating with it by developing apps, tools and involving community as well in the development work. We are not only using the social media as a platform to disseminate information but also to make people aware about the power and strength of media.

Our activities are linked to the issues of Tribal people of the western India, with the aim to raise awareness about different issue centric topics. We reach out to our stakeholders through a range of media channels, magazines or public events and, thereby, simultaneously it ensures the transparency of our work.

Being the year of the pandemic 2020 was something nobody has ever thought of and gave us lessons for life. It took us back to our values and culture to make realise the importance of a 'family and togetherness'. The media managed to show us everything happening around us despite of such challenging situations.

Vaagdhara is working over the years to build a strong relationship with media and media proved it once again that sincere efforts do wonders and when someone dedicates oneself towards a social cause it speaks volumes. In spite of the limitations and tough times, the media played an important role in portraying our issues to the government.

Being the 4th pillar of democracy, media has always played its role in supporting Vaagdhara's objectives and commitments towards strengthening of democracy, protection of child rights, and livelihood for tribals through traditional forms of agriculture not only at the local level but also providing a global platform.

Responsible and sensitive media reporting in matters of child rights have helped us prevent

child labour, migration and child marriages. The government of Rajasthan has taken up many agricultural policies related issues on their agenda after powerful, engaging and compelling stories in the media. The menace of tobacco is a universal issue and the consumption of tobacco in any form has killed many more relations than people. Media has been able to build up a consensus among the stakeholders on the health hazards of tobacco.

Vaagdhara stands grateful to media for being a part of our campaigns and we believe that it will continue to do so in the times to come.

The Media houses who supported us in our cause



### The Media houses who supported us in our cause

The Hindu	Virat Vaibhav
The Times of India	Sandhya Jyoti Darpan
Hindustan Times	Daily News
Rajasthan patrika	Jalte deep
Dainik Bhaskar	Jaipur times
Rashtradoot	Chambal sandesh
Dainik Navajyoti	Vishwas Express
Samachar Jagat	Jaipur Doordarshan
Mahanagar Times	Zee TV, Rajasthan
Punjab Kesari	E-TV, Rajasthan





## True Swaraj

The picture of true democracy can be seen in the traditional practices prevailing among community. Halma is one such practice where the community people come together to help someone in hard times not expecting anything in return. Media lapped up the news when they came to know about the practice that will be revived in the Ghatol block where Halma would be done for crop harvesting in 40 villages to help the villagers.

## 40 गांवों में हलमा परंपरा से जेहूं की फसल कटाई में मदद करेंगे

जनजातीय स्वराज संगठन की बैठक में निर्णय स्वराज की ओर बढ़ते कदम

घाटोतल: जनजातीय स्वराज संगठन भुवना की मिश्रस ग्राम पंचायत के राजीव गांधी सेवा केंद्र में यह बैठक हुई। अध्यक्ष लक्ष्मण विजय ने बताया कि 28 फरवरी से दो दिवसीय कार्यक्रम का आयोजन गांधीवादी संस्था द्वारा संगठन सदस्यों का समर्थन करने के लिए किया जाएगा। यह बैठक गांधीवादी संस्था के अध्यक्ष लक्ष्मण विजय ने संबोधित की।

उपस्थित सदस्यों को विस्तार पूर्वक बताया गया। संगठन के अध्यक्ष लक्ष्मण विजय ने बताया कि भुवना स्वराज संगठन में प्रत्येक गांव के अंदर ग्राम विकास एवं ग्राम विकास समिति के सदस्य एवं ग्राम समिति के सदस्यों के सहयोग से गांधीवादी संस्था में गांधी की परंपरा को बढ़ावा देने के लिए काम किया जा रहा है।



घाटोतल, राजीव गांधी सेवा केंद्र में यह बैठक हुई।

स्थिति मजबूत करने में सहयोग प्रदान करेंगे। यह प्रस्ताव परंपरा को बढ़ावा देने के लिए गांधीवादी संस्था में गांधी की परंपरा को बढ़ावा देने के लिए काम किया जा रहा है।

का समर्थन हो सके, इस दौरान संगठन के अध्यक्ष लक्ष्मण विजय ने गांधीवादी संस्था में गांधी की परंपरा को बढ़ावा देने के लिए काम किया जा रहा है।

The tribals have always managed a balance between their tradition and existence because of a strong social unity fabric. They have been resolving their issues through the "Adivasi Samajik Panchayat". This was the first time that in the Pratapgah district in the village Ghantali formed a "Rudhigat Gram Sabha" with its first meeting held on 27th August. This democratic event in the district was covered by the State level publication 'Dainik Bhaskar in its series of "Monday Positive" stories.

**आजादी के बाद जिले में पहली रूढ़ीगत ग्राम सभा बनी, छोटे विवाद थानों की बजाय जाजम पर बैठकर निपटाएंगे**

राजमंडल भी, रामझुल भी - जमीन विवाद जैसे छोटे अमरावत मिलकर सुलझते हैं

जिले में पहली रूढ़ीगत ग्राम सभा की बैठक 27 अगस्त को हुई। इस बैठक में गांधीवादी संस्था के अध्यक्ष लक्ष्मण विजय ने गांधी की परंपरा को बढ़ावा देने के लिए काम किया जा रहा है।

इस बैठक में गांधीवादी संस्था के अध्यक्ष लक्ष्मण विजय ने गांधी की परंपरा को बढ़ावा देने के लिए काम किया जा रहा है।

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## Licensing mechanism for tobacco vendors

Creating the need for Vendor Licensing and emphasizing on the benefits of the same: After regular and continuous sensitization of journalists from various media house the media stories created a need and licensing mechanism for tobacco vendors. The highlights of the stories on licensing of vendors selling tobacco were that the easy availability of tobacco products at every nook and corner serves as the main cause for children getting addicted to tobacco. The licensing mechanism would not only reduce such mushrooming tobacco vendors and check the sale of tobacco products but also keep the youth away from the menace of tobacco.

This mechanism would generate revenue for the municipal bodies and keep the environment clean. This would be an opportunity for the vendors to get registered with the government body which would make them eligible to avail all the benefits of the social security schemes for the street vendors.

Negative stories brought the matter to the forefront and the Jaipur Municipal Corporation took the initiative to implement the licensing mechanism.

**हीलसी ने नगर निगम को बिक्री पर प्रतिबंध लगा देने का फैसला किया**

**जगह-जगह बिक रही तम्बाकू, लाइसेंसिंग प्रणाली अभी लागू नहीं हुई**

लाइसेंसिंग प्रणाली के अभाव में तम्बाकू की बिक्री में तेजी आई है। नगर निगम को बिक्री पर प्रतिबंध लगा देने का फैसला किया है।

नगर निगम को बिक्री पर प्रतिबंध लगा देने का फैसला किया है। नगर निगम को बिक्री पर प्रतिबंध लगा देने का फैसला किया है।

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Licensing mechanism implementation a bold step: National media covered the issue of implementing vendor licensing quoting the voluntary groups. The story highlighted the fact that the young were the most vulnerable among all to fall in the trap of tobacco industry. It is this section of the society which needs to be protected from the tobacco menace. The groups appealed the state to take the bold step towards tobacco control.

# Licencing system for tobacco sellers sought

It will restrict sale and curb consumption by the youth, say voluntary groups

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
JAIPUR

Voluntary groups working for tobacco control in Rajasthan on Wednesday demanded a licencing mechanism for retail tobacco sellers which would restrict the sale of tobacco products and curb their consumption by the youths. Activists said this would protect the health of youths during the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure the success of a de-addiction campaign starting here shortly.

Though the State government had authorised municipal bodies in 2018 to regulate the sale of tobacco products, the vendors violating the rules pay a petty fine

and go back to selling tobacco. Activists have been pressing for enforcement of a vendor licencing system with the framing of rules under the Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2003.

## Vulnerable section

Young tobacco users were vulnerable to catching influenza-like infections and they could expose non-users to the tobacco products, besides spreading contagious diseases by the habits such as spitting in the open, said the activists on the occasion of the International Youth Day.

Jayesh Joshi, secretary of Banswara-based Vaagdhara group, said here that the

youths were getting addicted to tobacco "faster than ever before" and the projected number of deaths from tobacco far exceeded than those of COVID-19. He said the State government had failed to take any concrete step to curb the menace even after accepting the high number of fatalities by tobacco-related diseases.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has announced the launch of a comprehensive de-addiction campaign from August 15 with the focus on the youth vulnerable to substance abuse. As part of its steps to discourage youths from addiction, the State government had banned e-cigarettes on May 30, a day be-

fore World No Tobacco Day, in 2019.

The spitting of betel leaf and chewable tobacco and non-tobacco products or sputum in public places and institutions was also banned under the Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases Act, 1957, in April this year.

## 'Bold step' sought

Mr. Joshi said the State government should take a "bold step" to stop unregulated tobacco sales by allowing only licenced sellers through the municipal bodies in order to curb the access to tobacco products and shield the youths and children from the biggest cause of preventable death.

## Adoption of WHO FCTC Article 5.3 in the State:

In a measure towards tobacco control a global treaty to stop the tobacco industry interference in the states health policy titled WHO FCTC was formed and 181 countries signed it. The article 5.3 of this treaty intends to stop the interference of the tobacco lobby in the health policy of the state. Thirteen states in India have already implemented the article in their states but the otherwise pioneer state for tobacco control initiatives, Rajasthan has not taken any step toward bringing this into legislation. The advocacy efforts of the team were complemented by the media by covering the news at the state level. The impact of the news came out as the matter was taken on file and the process of bringing the article into legislation has begun. The members of the coallation were also instrumental in giving their quotes in the stories which helped the matter reach the concerned officials.



## Social Media

Social media has gained a lot of significance over the period of time and has become the most powerful media tool for communication. Face book, Twitter, Instagram, WhatsApp, YouTube and many more have become an integral part of our social life these days. Social media messages are well received and create an immediate impact on the stakeholders and the society as well. Youth is the most trapped in the net of social media. To communicate any message the best medium is the social media in this age of gadgets and internet.

Vaagdhara has also acknowledged the power of social media and social media messages have started floating on





## Key Achievements

- The media has created multiplier effect on the good work Vaagdhara has been doing. Now the people know what we have achieved and what we do, they are involving with our efforts likely to support our programmes. With more and more support we are getting from the media we are more likely to make a

bigger impact in the times to come.

- Gained positive and consistent coverage in the form of 242 stories.
- Consistent sensitization of more than 77 journalists from the 60 Print Media Houses and 16 Electronic Media houses. In our focus cities had an incredible impact on the work Vaagdhara has done.

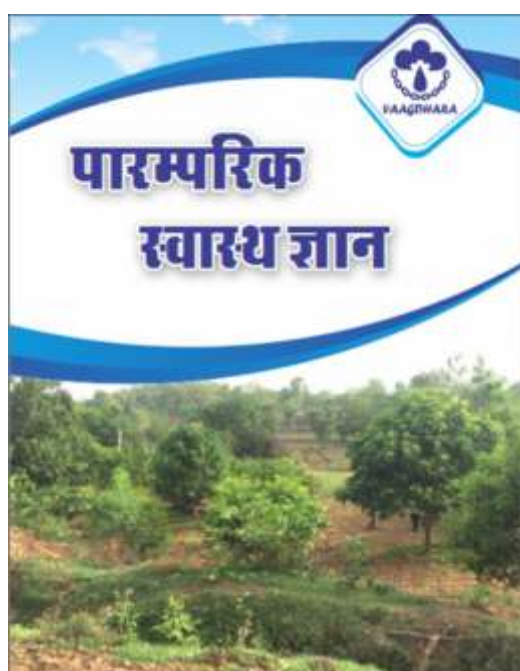
- Engagement of Journalists for Media Fellowships. Stories to be covered on Vaagdhara and Bhoomika supported Tribal Food Movement.
- Developed more than 300 radio Programmes and one documentary on Sustainable Integrated Farming system.

## PUBLICATIONS

This financial year, Vaagdhara has published nine publications catering different topics which are following:-

### 1:- Traditional Health Knowledge (Parmrik Swasthya Gyan)

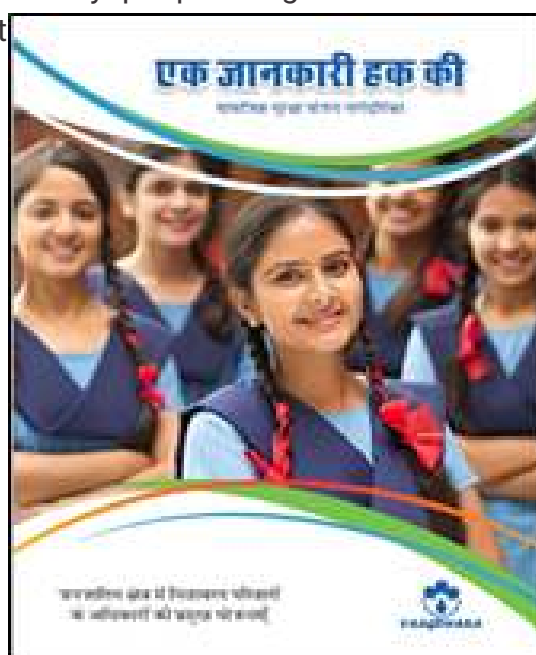
This booklet contains information about the traditional medicinal plants, identification and use of such plants to treat of health problems. In earlier times people used to use traditional medicinal plants like- Navli (useful in treating fever) to treat health problems at home. These plants and roots are still available in abundance but with the time, people have forgotten such practices. Therefore this booklet is an effort to make people recall such traditional and use them in the time of emergency.



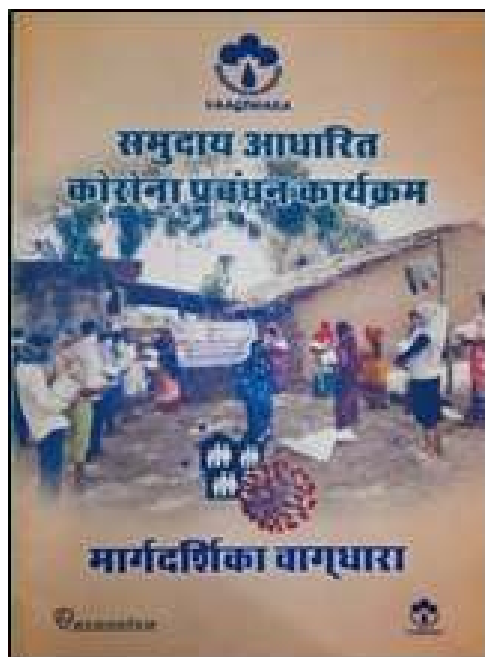
**2. Annual Progress Report of Agricultural and Tribal Development:-** This literature is a compilation of all the efforts been done by Janjatiya Vikas Mancha. In the year of 2020-21, JVM has conducted Janjatiya samagam (Annual conclave), Halma (farming together) and wrote letter to Collector for Ecologically Harmonized Village Development Plan.



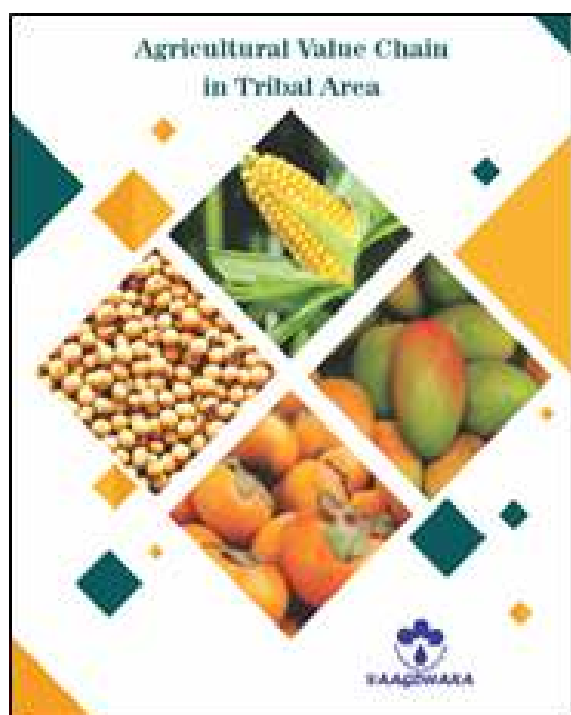
**3. Guide for Social protection Schemes:-** This guide is the compilation of all the social protection schemes in the state of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. It aims to aware community people to get aware about their entitlements.



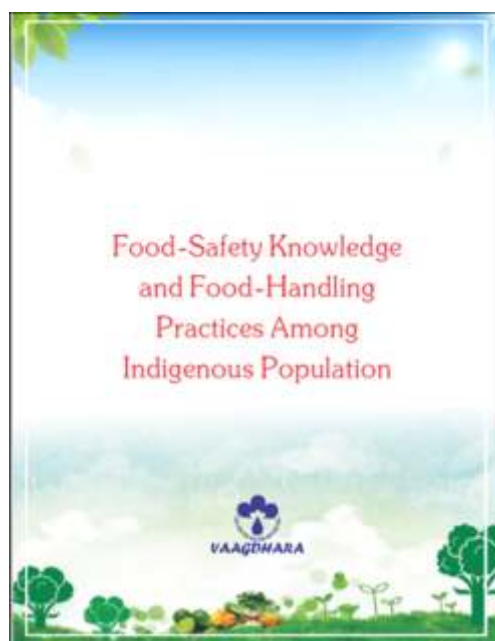
**4. Community based Case management guide for covid-19:-** Under this, detailed information about how community within themselves can follow some steps to protect them from covid-19. This guide has been distributed to ASHA, ANM and Anganwadi workers to make the community about such practices and also follow these on their own.



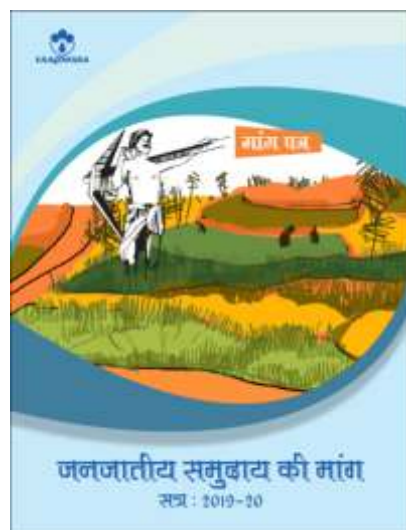
**5. Agricultural value chain in tribal area:-** Motive is to increase the income and livelihood of farmers. Local fruits, food. Many things can be extract from one thing. So this is a detailed of research and food items



**6. Food-safety knowledge and food-handling practices among indigenous population:-** There are various organic and traditional local food items that can be used for multipurpose and farmer can earn well by selling them in the market. So this booklet was prepared with the objective to revive such food items by sensitize community people about the same. These food items can be helpful in decreasing the market dependency and increasing the income of the farmers.



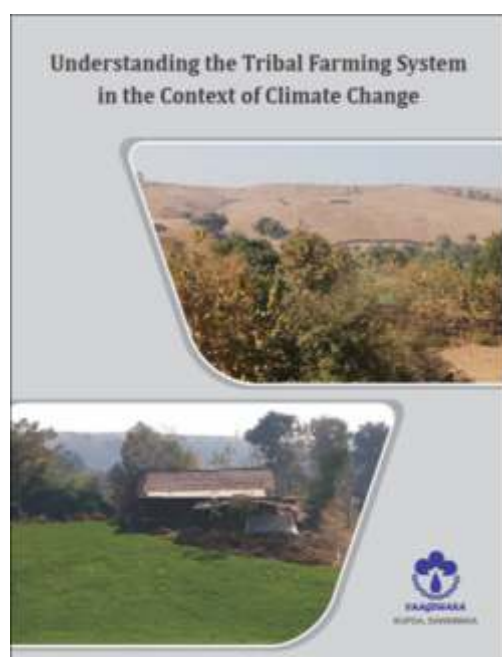
**7. Mang Patra: -** This piece of information is generated for the advocacy with the government. It has all the problems that people are facing and government's action is needed on them. Every year such book is published and submitted to government office to take an actions on these issues.



**8. Monitoring toolkit for government schemes entitled for most vulnerable communities during covid 19:-** This booklet is prepared to create awareness among vulnerable community about their entitlements under the central as well as state level schemes during covid-19.



**9. Understanding the tribal farming system in the context of climate change:-** This booklet is the collection of Farming patterns and practices of the farmers in the three states i.e. Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.



**10. Indigenous Solutions to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals with Acceleration:** This report highlights the VAAGDHARA's approach to attain Sustainable Development Goals, perception of indigenous communities about SDGs, Gandhian swaraj as a Sustainable solutions to achieve SDGs and key policy recommendations by the tribal communities highlighted during the UN HLPF Side event-Session 2020.



## Vagad Radio- A voice of tribals.

Though the reach out of the Vagad radio is limited but still it is trying to expand tribal's voice to far off places. This medium is working as a medium to advocate for their issues to the government.

During the time of Pandemic when social distancing is being followed, Vagad radio plays an important role in disseminating information on how to control the spread of the virus and access the various services and entitlements. In its response to COVID-19, VAGAD Radio broadcasted factual information across the three states and other areas as well about the spread of the pandemic. The station director, Ranjeet Singh, said that "team is being helping the communities in remote areas during this global health crisis." The different programmes were developed during the first lockdown phase with the idea to sensitise and inform people about various aspects of Covid-19 so that people can protect themselves and can also stop the spread to others. Vagad radio has also broadcasted different information related to Sachcha Bachpan, Sachchi Kheti and

Sachcha Swaraj to involve with the issues. It also became a key link between district and local administration and the mostly non-literate communities of tribal area.

Many Radio projects provided the opportunities for community members to learn new skills, thus improving prospects for integrated approach in achieving sustainable development. Many Government officials were also linked and discussed the issues within the community which itself was one of the best way to link directly with them.

"The radio has changed our lives. It makes us feel part of the system," says a listener in Gangadtalai block. "Now we can keep up to date with what is happening here. We get information on integrated farming and child development issues and also information about their nutrition intake. We enjoy some the events which been broadcasted under radio and also tell our relatives to get connected with radio programmes. We can also listen to our village music as well"

## Our invaluable Partners & Networks

In this difficult year, VAAGDHARA had the opportunity to partner with various corporate and public sector organisations, other agencies and those partners who remained with us during tough times. These partnerships not only provided financial support but also helped us in running our programmes more effectively and efficiently. We relied on the support of our partners more than ever as we help lift the world out of the pandemic and build forward better to the future of development.

Our corporate partners extended their trust and support by providing immediate care relief to the vulnerable communities.

Our strategic partnerships include a multifaceted, long-term integrated approach across thematic areas of Health, Education, Livelihood, agriculture, Humanitarian Response, Women Empowerment to achieve greater impact scale.

### OUR MAJOR PARTNERS



### OUR NETWORK



# Audited Financial Statements 2020-21

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

## BALANCE SHEET AS ON MARCH 31, 2021

Particulars	Schedule	As At 31.03.2021	As At 31.03.2020
<b><u>SOURCES OF FUNDS</u></b>			
General Reserve	1	11310315.70	9437008.63
Capital Reserve for Fixed Assets	2	16238774.00	12946397.00
Vehicle Loan		157392.89	367297.19
Current Liabilities & Provisions			
1) Sundry Creditors	3	4250809.00	6454604.00
2) Other Liabilities & Provisions	3	6496005.00	6243388.00
3) Unspent Local Contribution	4	39730.30	-
4) Unspent amount payable on Projects	5	16879939.94	27666484.24
<b>Total</b>		<b>55372966.83</b>	<b>55719571.18</b>
<b><u>APPLICATION OF FUNDS</u></b>			
Fixed Assets	6	28325608.00	24238816.00
Current Assets, Loans And Advances			
1) Deposits	7	58642.00	54628.00
2) Bank Balances	7	18768872.36	21248047.88
3) Other Current Assets	7	428905.00	473043.00
4) Overspent amount recoverable on Projects	5	7790939.47	27047358.83
<b>Total</b>		<b>55372966.83</b>	<b>55719571.18</b>

For VAAGDHARA

  
President

  
Secretary

As Per Our Report Of Even Date Annexed,  
For Nikhil Bhargava & Associates  
Chartered Accountants  
Firm Regn. No. 030864C



  
Nikhil Nand Bhargava  
Proprietor  
M. No.421413

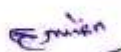
Dated: 08th September 2021  
Place: Udaipur

**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, 2021**

Particulars	Schedule	FY 2020-21	FY 2019-20
<b>INCOME</b>			
A. Grants and Donations			
I. Grants	8	88475750.42	85195614.99
II. Donations	8	8410513.90	6858591.97
III. Community Contribution	4	2948144.00	-
		99834408.32	92054206.96
B. Interest Income		627353.11	561781.47
C. Security Deposit Forfeited		-	100279.00
D. Other Income		1657635.00	1814592.00
E. Vagad Radio Station Income		24339.00	-
F. Janjati Swarajya Kendra Income		435904.00	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>102579639.43</b>	<b>94530859.43</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
A. Project Expenditure			
I. Development Programme Exp.	9	86377329.61	79667846.00
II. Administrative Salaries & Exp.	9	5864552.40	3208512.08
III. Local Contribution Exp.	4	4408588.70	-
		96650470.71	82876358.08
B. Other Expenditure	10	1857749.94	3393633.03
C. Loss on Sale of Assets		-	580.00
D. Deficit from VTDR		-	795170.00
E. Deficit from Vagad Radio Station		-	175871.00
F. Vaagdhara Development Expenses		278250.00	-
H. Balances Written Off		-	31006.58
<b>Total</b>		<b>98786470.65</b>	<b>87272618.69</b>
Excess of Income Over Expenditure		3793168.78	7258240.74
Less: Net excess/(short) of grant/Local	5	(1412245.59)	1687128.91
Contribution carried to Balance Sheet	4	39730.30	(1372515.29)
<b>Allocable Surplus</b>		<b>5165684.07</b>	<b>5571111.83</b>
Less: Net purchase of fixed assets			
transferred to capital reserves		3292377.00	3725525.00
<b>Net surplus transferred to General Reserves</b>		<b>1873307.07</b>	<b>1845586.83</b>

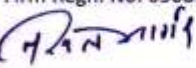
For VAAGDHARA

  
President

  
Secretary

As Per Our Report Of Even Date Annexed,  
For Nikhil Bhargava & Associates  
Chartered Accountants  
Firm Regn. No. 030864C



  
Nikhil Nand Bhargava  
Proprietor  
M. No.421413

Dated: 08th September 2021  
Place: Udaipur

## Vaagdhara Leadership Team

Jayesh Joshi	:	Secretary
Surbhi Saraswat	:	Senior Programme Lead, Operations
Sudeep Sharma	:	Senior Programme Lead, Outreach
Saurabh Sabikhi	:	Senior Programme Lead, Human Resource and Finance
P.L. Patel	:	Programme Lead, Agriculture & Nutrition
Ravinder Rakwal	:	Programme Lead, NRM
Parmesh Patidar	:	Programme Lead, Human Institutions & Democracy
Majid Khan	:	Programme Lead, Child Rights
Rohit Smith	:	Leader JSSSI Mangarh
Sohan Nath Jogi	:	Leader JSSSI Hiran
Hemant Acharya	:	Leader, JSSSI Mahi
Krishna Kumar Singh	:	Programme Facilitator, Leadership School
Girish Nagar	:	HR Dept.



