



# ANNUAL REPORT

2022-23



# ACRONYM

ANM	:	Auxiliary Nurse Midwifery
ASHA	:	Accredited Social Health Activists
CMSS	:	Community Managed Seed System
CSOs	:	Civil Society Organizations
CWC	:	Child Welfare Committee
ECOSOC	:	Economic and Social Council
EHVDP	:	Ecologically Harmonized Village Development Plans
FAO	:	Food and Agriculture organisation of the United Nations
GP	:	Gram Panchayat
ICDS	:	Integrated Child Development Services
INM	:	Integrated Plant nutrient Management
IPM	:	Integrated Pest Management
IWM	:	Integrated Weed Management
JSK	:	Jan Jatiya Swaraj Kendra
JSS	:	Jan Jatiya Swaraj Sangathan
JSSSI	:	Jan Jatiya Swaraj Sangathan Sahyog Ikai
JVM	:	Jan Jatiya Vikas Manch
KRA	:	Key Result Areas
MGNREGS	:	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Development Employment Scheme
MIS	:	Management Information System
MLA	:	Member of the Legislative Assembly
MoU	:	Memorandum of Understanding
NSFS	:	Nutri Sensitive Farming System
PESA	:	Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996
PLA	:	Participatory Learning and Action
PO	:	Peoples Organization
PWD	:	People with Disabilities
SDG	:	Sustainable Development Goals
SFT	:	Senior Facilitation Team
SIFS	:	Sustainable Integrated Farming System
SME	:	Small and Medium Enterprises
SS	:	Saksham Samooch
SU	:	Support Unit
TSU	:	Technical Support Unit
TAD	:	Tribal Area Development
UN	:	United Nations
VDCRC	:	Village Development Child Rights Committee
WCD	:	Women and Child Development

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# SECRETARY DESK



**Jayesh Joshi**  
Secretary & CEO  
VAAGDHARA

Over these strategic years, Vaagdhara directly impacted the lives of more than hundred thousand tribal communities' people in three states covering district and blocks and villages through different programmes.

## Dear Friends, Partners and Stakeholders,

We are happy to share the latest edition of our Annual Report for the Financial Year 2022-23. The past two years have posed significant challenges for all of us, and as we enter a new phase in a "post-COVID" world, we are filled with hope and determination to overcome the challenges.

At Vaagdhara, we have evolved as a trusted partner, working closely with communities, and it has been a period of rapid scaling up of our response in Swaraj Framework, climate resilient circular lifestyle, and other focus areas, with a strong focus on the needs of Tribal communities.

Additionally, this year has been special to us as we marked the culmination of our current strategic plan. One of the greatest joys in seeing Vaagdhara's third strategic plan come to realization, and looking our ideologies aligns strongly, resulting in a shared sense of accomplishment and satisfaction. The insights gained from our achievements, challenges, and lessons learned will guide us in formulating a robust and forward-thinking strategic plan that aligns with the evolving needs of the communities we serve.

Over these strategic years, Vaagdhara directly impacted the lives of more than hundred thousand tribal communities' people in three states covering district and blocks and villages through different programmes. This achievement was

made possible through cross-sectoral partnerships with our partners in various fields and the unwavering support of our Sanghatans. We are immensely grateful have had the opportunity to learn from and collaborate with various stakeholders, ranging from communities to partners and academic institutions to deliver large-scale impact on the ground.

As we reflect on the past year, we emerge stronger and more resilient, ready to face the setbacks caused by the different crises communities are facing. We remain committed to building robust systems that can deliver impact at scale, creating lasting change in the lives of the communities we serve. We are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and are committed to leveraging our experience, expertise, and partnerships to chart a new course for Vaagdhara. We aim to design community-based approaches in relation to Swaraj, innovative approaches, explore new interventions, and adapt to emerging trends and challenges.

With this, we heartily invite you to delve into the pages of our Annual Report, which provides a comprehensive overview of our achievements, challenges, and the remarkable progress made during this unprecedented time. Your continued support and engagement are vital as we navigate the path ahead and work towards a more equitable and sustainable future. Thank you for your unwavering belief in our mission and for joining us on this transformative journey.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Vaagdhara Annual Report for the year 2022-23 showcases our organization's impactful initiatives and the progress we have made in empowering tribal communities in the tri-junction region. Throughout the year, we remained committed to our mission of fostering sustainable development, promoting cultural preservation, and improving the livelihoods of tribal families.

By employing innovative and culturally aligned processes and technologies, we ensure sustainable production and consumption practices. This enabled us to enhance nutrition security through agriculture, reduce migration, and improve the income of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Moreover, our interventions also fostered community seed management systems, empowering farmers to preserve their traditional agricultural techniques and promote culturally rich and diversified seed varieties.

Through our comprehensive reach, we have been able to impact the lives of over 100,000 families in 06 identified districts in the tri-junction region. Supporting them with the necessary knowledge and resources, these families were enabled to enhance their livelihoods, access nutritional food, and improve their overall well-being. The introduction of sustainable farming practices, organic pesticides, and indigenous seeds has resulted in increased agricultural production and reduced dependency on chemical fertilizers and market forces. The impact of our work goes beyond the numbers. It is reflected in the improved quality of life, increased self-confidence, and enhanced resilience of the tribal families we serve. We have witnessed positive

transformations in their livelihoods, health, and overall well-being. These changes have not only benefited individual families but have also had a ripple effect on the entire community.

Our reach extends beyond direct beneficiaries to include collaborations with partner organizations, government agencies, and local communities. We actively engaged with stakeholders to foster inclusive markets, promoted regenerative agriculture and facilitated the reduction of youth migration. By leveraging these partnerships, we created a positive multiplier effect, amplified the impact of our intervention for paving way towards sustainable development.

As we reflect on this year, we are proud of the transformative outcomes we have achieved. The dedication and commitment of our team, along with the invaluable support of our partners and donors, have been instrumental in driving our success. We remain steadfast in our mission to empower communities, strengthen sustainable practices, and create lasting change in the lives of individuals and families in the tri-junction region. Together, we can continue to expand our reach, deepen our impact, and build a brighter future for all

*Tribal communities discussing their rights on Mnrega site at Anandpuri Block*





# VAAGDHARA AT GLANCE

VAAGDHARA is a non-profit organization, registered under Rajasthan Societies Registration Act, 1958. VAAGDHARA draws its name from its area of working i.e., Vagad the tribal area of Rajasthan adjoining Gujarat and Dhara (stream).

The core value of the organization is Swaraj 'self-reliance' which is drawn from Gandhian philosophy, but at the same time, it believes in the use of the latest technology for the development of tribal and poor. For more than 2 decades, VAAGDHARA has been working with the tribal community in the western part of India (in adjoining areas of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat) with 100,000 tribal families in 1000 villages in 3 States. Following the Swaraj philosophy, VAAGDHARA is making efforts on True Farming (focus on food and farming sovereignty), True Childhood (community-based child protection and child rights initiatives) and True Democracy (reaching the most marginalized ensuring their entitlements and participation in the governance).

VAAGDHARA has impacted about 95476 tribal families, who are most vulnerable and marginalized to bring change in the quality of their life. It has implemented a number of interventions with the support of government, national and international organizations like Bfdw, Ford Foundation, KKS, Misereor, NABARD, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP and Welthungerhilfe so on.

VAAGDHARA is striving to work towards the development of 1 lakh tribal families on focus issues through facilitating 26 Peoples organizations which are the key pillars for creating sustainable pathways for development. It has learned from its experiences and used the learning in designing new and improved interventions.



Happy women sharing her red chilli after grading

## Mission

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

## 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.



Seed selection process in the field through technical expertise



Saksham Samooch attending PLA sessions

## Goals and Objectives:

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

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 Gram Panchayats are managed sustainably, in harmony with ecological conditions and adapted to climate change.

Empowered Gram Chopal in 100 Gram Panchayats 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.

## Key Result Areas:

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:

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.

Empowered Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathan - JSS facilitate increased access to state entitlements for the members.

100 Gram Panchayat- GP adopted ecologically harmonized developed plans.

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.

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 forced child labour.

Institutional and meta-governance capacities of VAAGDHARA are strengthened to support innovation.



# HOW OUR STRATEGY FRAMEWORK ENLIGHTENS OUR VISION



*Saksham Samooch members exchanging their seeds as process of CMSS*

Our strategy framework acts as a beacon that illuminates our vision by clarifying objectives, identifying priorities, setting strategic direction, aligning actions, monitoring progress, and inspiring stakeholders. It provided the necessary structure and guidance to navigate our journey towards realizing our vision and making a positive and meaningful impact in line with our organization's purpose over the last 4 years. During the course of 4 years, Vaagdhara keeps an eye on the macro situation for supporting the mission and vision and our core values while adapting the strategic plan.

As we reflect on the final year of our strategic plan, we can celebrate several significant achievements that have propelled us closer to our long-term vision. Alongside these accomplishments, we have also identified new opportunities that can further accelerate our progress and shape our future direction. Here are some highlights from the last year:

1. We successfully achieved several strategic goals set out in our plan. These accomplishments include strengthening people's organizations through various campaigns, representing the organization at different levels, and providing a way towards tribal sustainable development which have had a positive impact on our organization, stakeholders, and the communities we serve. These achievements demonstrate our ability to execute and deliver on our strategic commitments.
2. Over the past year, we have witnessed a tangible increase in our overall impact. Through our programs and initiatives, we have reached 95476 beneficiaries and made a meaningful difference in their lives. This expansion of our impact reinforces our position as a leading organization in the development sector and strengthens our visibility within the community.

3. We have fostered strategic partnerships with key stakeholders, including government and non-government organizations, donors, institutions and communities. These collaborations have allowed us to leverage shared resources, expertise, and networks, leading to innovative solutions and broader reach. The strengthened partnerships with different like-minded stakeholders have created a multiplier effect, enabling us to achieve outcomes beyond what we could accomplish independently.

4. Our strategic plan placed a strong emphasis on building organizational capacity. Over the past year, we have made significant progress in this area, enhancing our internal processes, systems, and talent development initiatives. These improvements have increased operational efficiency, effectiveness, and team satisfaction, positioning us for sustained growth and impact.

## Opportunities:

1. The rapid advancements in technology present new opportunities to optimize our operations, enhance service delivery, and deepen our impact. Vaagdhara itself look at technology as a great boon in the development sector, therefore it supports deepening the technologies in the strategies to deepen the impact.
2. Building on our successful partnerships, there is an opportunity to further expand and diversify our network of collaborators. Engaging with new partners from diverse sectors can bring fresh perspectives, resources, and expertise, enabling us to tackle complex social and environmental challenges more effectively.

3. Through these years, Vaagdhara sees an opportunity to amplify tribals' voices and influence policy discussions relevant to our mission and the communities we serve. By engaging in advocacy efforts, policy dialogues, and partnerships with decision-makers, we can drive systemic change and create an enabling environment for our work.
4. Exploring innovative and sustainable models can help us diversify our initiatives and create a way towards sustainable development. This may include exploring social enterprise ventures, and impact investing, that align with our mission.

The final year of our strategic plan has been marked by notable achievements, demonstrating our commitment and progress towards our long-term vision. These achievements, coupled with the identified opportunities, provide a strong foundation for our next strategic cycle. As we embark on a new phase, we will build upon our successes, leverage emerging opportunities, and continue to adapt and innovate, all while remaining steadfast in our mission to create positive and lasting change.



*Swaraj Samwad Yatra - Unyielding Spirit: Tribal Community Embarks on a Transformative Journey from Banswara to Jaipur*



# OUR TOP 10 ACHIEVEMENTS IN THIS YEAR-2022

1. 1.25 lakh farmers were adopted climate resilient methodologies for sustainable integrated farming systems in 1000 villages of three states i.e., Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan. A number of farmers trained on multiple cropping systems, organic manure and fertilizer, livestock management, and prevention of soil erosion techniques.



2. 45623 migrant youths have been aware and linked with various schemes and 313 Panchayats giving legitimacy to an effort by creating a support system for migrant workers.



3. Two days National Conference on "Rashtriya Krishi Evam Poshan Swaraj Sammelan" was a resounding success, attracting over 500 stakeholders from various sectors. The conference centered around three technical sessions including Soil health and Water Swaraj 2. Seed sovereignty 3. Significance of forgotten foods and minor millets. The event witnessed the release of three policy briefs by esteemed agriculture and water resource ministers.



4. 18000 tribal women linked with seed conservation mechanisms to improve biodiversity, preserved more than 28 indigenous varieties of seeds and also helps in spearheading sustainability and financial independence.



5. VAAGDHARA collaborated with MPUAT, Udaipur under a non-financial MoU for 3 years executed with the objective to promote sustainable livelihoods of tribal farming communities.



6. Community march Swaraj Sandesh-Samwad Padayatra was carried out by more than 200 members of the indigenous and vulnerable communities. The Swaraj Sandesh Samwad Yatra facilitated the members of the indigenous communities a platform to identify the issues of the communities of different districts and increase understanding among the stakeholders.



7. A side event titled 'Conservation, utilization and value addition of crop diversity existing in tribal areas for food, nutrition and livelihood security' was organised by VAAGDHARA at the 9th session of the governing body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, organized by FAO at New Delhi on 19-24 September 2022. The event highlighted the need to support the conservation, utilization and value addition of local genotypes owing to their broad genetic base, nutritional value and adaptability.



8. 125 small marginal enterprises have been set up by tribal women in tribal areas where now they have been benefitting with more than 30,000 INR annually. They are turning into women entrepreneurs and having enterprises in organic fertilizers, flowers, Nursery development, Vermin compost making.



9. Advancing policies through sharing policy briefs to keep the UN and other stakeholders informed on sustainable agriculture development. This year, we developed 5 policy briefs.

10. "Anjuri Me Ujas" - a set of innovative practices developed for child rights. These innovative practices are able to set up innovations, helped the 121 groups of teachers in unforeseen difficult situations; and supported them to create a model for the education world.



# OUR PROGRAMME AREA MAP AND OUR REACH

Vaagdhara's impact and reach extend across diverse programme areas, encompassing multiple districts, villages, and communities in the tri-junction region of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat. Through our dedicated efforts, we have been able to bring about positive change and empower the lives of numerous individuals and families.

In our Programme Area, we strategically focus on identified districts that are in need of sustainable development interventions. These districts serve as the epicentre of our work, where we implement a wide range of initiatives to address pressing challenges and promote holistic development. Our interventions cover key sectors such as agriculture, health, education, livelihoods, and community empowerment.

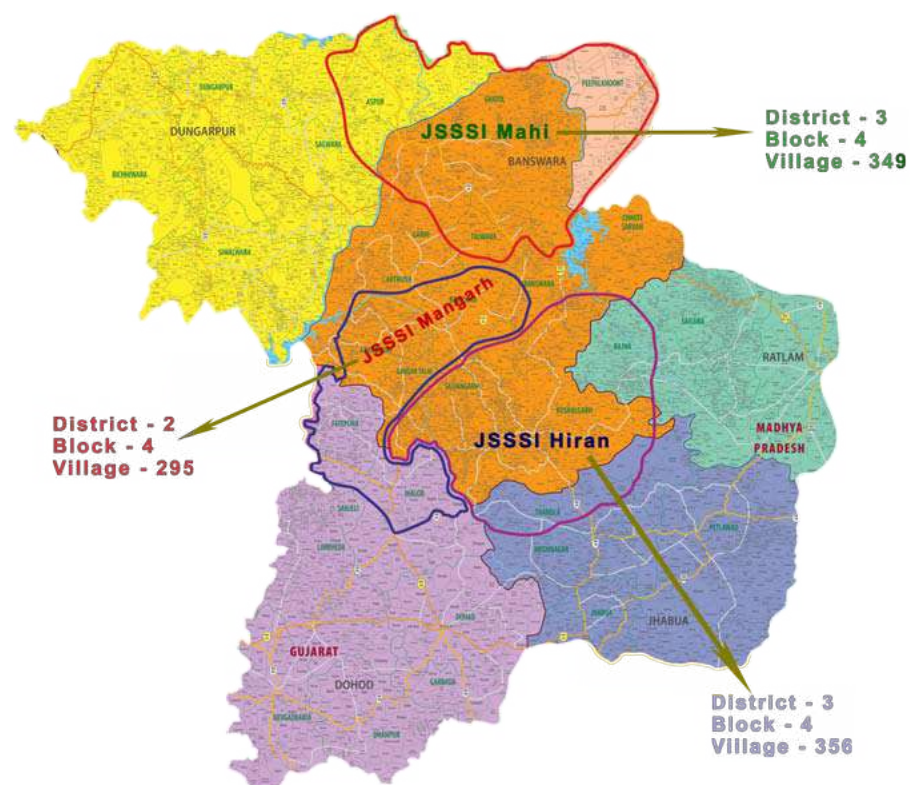
**100,000**  
Families

**1000**  
Village

**12**  
Blocks

**06**  
Districts

**03**  
State



JSSSI : Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathan Sahyog Ikai (JSSSI) is field level operation wing of VAAGDHARA. During this period there will be three JSSSIs, placed at Kushalgarh, Anandpuri, and Ghatol. These JSSSI are designed to ensure technical quality and sustainability of various programs implemented by different JSS within its operational area of VAAGDHARA



*Sustainable Guardians: Women and Children Forge a Greener Path with Cow Dung, clay and matters or germination to form Seed Balls*



# OUR KEY PROGRAMMES

## True Farming

To address the farming challenges and linear form of economy which been present in tribal and marginalized tribal communities, we initiate and follow the approach of “Sustainable Integrated Farming System – SIFS” which incorporates climate resilient methods, and multiple interventions simultaneously, which follows the concept of improvement in resource management and cycling development of resources following the principles of circular economy. We are targeting to improve resource management to result in increased productivity per unit piece of land, which can be achieved through a reduction in input cost and increased production by working with more than 84346 farmers directly. The efforts are planned to ensure the effective protection of indigenous people's right to the lands (including forests, grazing lands, water, seed, soil and other common property resources) on which they depend for their food and sustaining production.



Empowered Women harvesting crops which prospers their Community”

## True Childhood

VAAGDHARA adopts a twin-track approach to enhance child protection and inclusive quality education in the target area by creating a child-friendly environment in the villages. Through consecutive years according to our strategic plan, we have reached about 1.76 lakh children to ensure their protection against all kinds of abuse, exploitation and violence; prevention of migration for work and child labour; ensure improved quality of education with a focus on learning at pre-school and primary level, improving diet diversity score of children and enhance access to social protection schemes for improved income of families. VAAGDHARA undertook a range of activities and research studies to understand the child development indicators at the micro level and develop child-friendly villages and institutions where they can participate and share their views on different platforms.



Happy children participating during science awareness exhibition

## True Governance

VAAGDHARA strongly believes that by encouraging and empowering the tribal communities, we can foster the approach of self-sustainability and drive regional developments. Taking freedom as its epitome of sustainability, it is necessary to see this community in its own nature and expectations, then only the programs and acts can be developed which can do justification with these tribes. The objective of VAAGDHARA is to re-align the natural rights of the Tribal Community, to protect them from socio-economic injustice, and to provide the right of true childhood, livelihood, health and traditional lifestyle, which has been snatched away by the ill effects of marketization. We have been working with 26 Jan Jatiya Swaraj Sanghatans and tribal leadership through involving and strengthening 2000+community-based institutions, linkages with government and convergence to access their entitlements, share their voices at different national and international platforms, advocating with the government for policy changes according to their need, sharing demand charter to share their views, organize yearly tribal colloquium to formulate tribal leadership.



Jan Jatiya Swaraj Sangthan- Sabla discussing their issues in monthly meeting



# KRA -01

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

In 2022, VAAGDHARA prepared the foundation for sovereignty and laid sustainable development in this isolated and neglected junction of the three states. The actions were mainly to strengthen Jan Jatiya Swaraj Sangathan, enhance tribal leadership, identify programs and schemes, government allocations and implementation, organise the community, build the capacity of Sangathan members, and revive traditional practices related to Halma and the Haat system. In supporting Jan Jatiya Swaraj Sangathan, this year, we together have taken significant steps to strengthen their capacities and provide them with resources for their development initiatives. Here are some of the actions we have undertaken:

We have conducted 8 training programs and workshops to enhance the skills and knowledge of more than 486 Sangathan members. These capacity-building efforts include areas such as leadership development, project management, financial literacy, and advocacy skills. These capacity-building initiatives aimed to empower members by equipping them with the necessary skills, knowledge, and tools to drive their own development initiatives, advocate for their rights, and effectively manage their clusters. Vaagdhara also has provided technical support to Jan Jatiya Swaraj Sangathan through

mentorship, knowledge sharing, and guidance on intervention planning and implementation. This year, we aimed to assist them in designing sustainable programs that address the needs and priorities of Tribal communities.

This year, Sangathan members proactively engaged in advocating their rights by sharing 368 memoranda at district-level administration and continual follow-up with those memoranda, the district official recognized the urgency of addressing the issues as well as the power of the people. Sangathans' successful advocacy efforts not only brought tangible improvements but also empowered them. This kind of sharing memorandum and formal discussion with district-level officials strengthened their organizational capacity, built their expertise in advocacy, and increased their credibility among the community members and stakeholders. It encouraged them to continue working towards addressing other pressing issues faced by the tribal communities.

This year, almost 168 members also participated in policy dialogues and engaged with relevant stakeholders which helped them to create an enabling environment for their work and promote their role in decision-making processes. We aim to empower them with the necessary skills, resources,



Sangathan members meet with District Collector of Banswara district to advocate for their issues



"Through strengthening our 26 Sanghatans, we aspire that we are contributing in an equal word".

- Parmesh Patidar, Theme leader democracy and Institutions

Gram Panchayat meetings on submitting village development proposals

## Key Results:

- 476 Jan Jatiya Swaraj Sangathan members supported 64081 farm families were linked in MNREGA and also linked with job cards in 1000 villages.
- The budget allocation for the TSP area in 2022-2023 in Gujarat has increased to 6.70% out of the total State budget allocation. It was about 6.47% in 2021-22 and about 6.58% in 2020-21 (BE). Similarly, TSP allocation (Revised Estimates – RE) in Rajasthan in both 2021-22 and 2020-21 was 3.92%. In 2022-23, the budget estimates (BE) have increased to 4.31%.
- Overall, 16096 Development proposals have been shared at the district level with the support of Jan Jatiya Swaraj Sansthan and the tribal development forum.
- There is an overall increase of more than 24 per cent where communities are accessing the government schemes for livelihood development and integrated farming programmes. Our different meetings and state-level events through colloquiums and Marches created a favourable environment in the political arena where can able to see a significant increase in budget allocation in different states.
- The Jan Jatiya Swaraj Sangathan in the different districts are strengthened enough that they are able to discuss in their meetings at the GP level, Block level and also share their findings at the state level. The Tribal development forum turns into an active platform where more than 20000 tribal families are networked with the platform.
- 30,000 Tribal farmers including men and women pitched in halma and save almost INR 90,00,000 yearly basis as 'Halma' is stated to be an age-old tradition of Bhil tribes, but it was revived and extended over a large scale.



and platforms to drive sustainable development in their communities and create positive change in the coming years. In a tribal community facing numerous challenges, including limited educational opportunities and a lack of economic prospects, Vaagdhara always believes to empower tribal youths to take charge and become champions of change. Vaagdhara worked with more than 1000 youth with the goal of addressing the pressing issues faced by their community and empowering fellow tribal youth. Recognizing the power of their collective voice, youths actively engaged in advocacy efforts to address systemic issues impacting their community. They organized awareness campaigns, conducted rallies, and utilized platforms to raise awareness about tribal youth issues and advocate for policy changes. Through these efforts, they aimed to create a conducive environment for the growth and development of tribal youth.

The tribal development forum is another big network significant initiative aimed at addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by tribal communities and promoting their overall development. The TDF serves as a platform for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and collective action among various stakeholders, including tribal communities, government agencies, non-profit organizations, academia, and civil society. The TDF advocates for policies and programs that address the unique needs and rights of tribal communities. It engages with policymakers, government agencies, and legislators to shape policies that promote inclusive and sustainable development for tribes. Through evidence-based advocacy, the TDF aims to influence policy reforms and ensure the integration of tribal perspectives into development agendas.

Overall, the Tribal Development Forum represents a collaborative and comprehensive approach to tribal

development, aiming to address the complex challenges faced by tribal communities and foster sustainable and inclusive growth. By promoting partnership, policy advocacy, capacity building, livelihood development, and cultural preservation, the TDF seeks to empower tribal communities, improve their socio-economic conditions, and ensure their meaningful participation in the development process.

Gender equality and women's rights are important issues in all areas of our work: in our target groups and working concerns - from strengthening Sangathan to poverty reduction - we focus on the equality, rights and protection of women. This applies just as much to our focus programmes as it does to our lobbying, campaigning and educational work. As family breadwinners, farmers who are actively involved in farming practices as well as sharing their points in Sangathan as an activist, women make a decisive contribution to the development.



*Sangathan members building their capacities on advocacy initiatives*



*Members are engaging in MNREGA activities*

# SUCCESS STORY

## Jan Jatiya Swaraj Sangathan, Tamesra Support in Halting Distress Migration and Linking with MNREGA and Migration-Related Schemes

In a Tribal region with a high prevalence of distress migration due to limited livelihood opportunities, a dedicated Jan Jatiya Swaraj Sangathan Tamesra took proactive measures to address this issue. They recognized that distress migration not only separated families but also perpetuated a cycle of poverty. Their efforts focused on stopping distress migration by connecting affected individuals with the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) and other migration-related schemes.

### Initiative Process:

**Community Awareness:** At cluster level, they conducted extensive community awareness campaigns to educate local residents about the potential benefits of MNREGA and other migration-related schemes. They held meetings, organized workshops, and utilized various communication channels to disseminate information about the available opportunities for employment and income generation within their own villages.

**Capacity Building:** Then members also offered capacity-building programs through our published scheme booklet to equip individuals with the necessary skills and knowledge required to participate in MNREGA and other schemes effectively. They conducted counselling sessions on job readiness, financial literacy, and sustainable livelihood practices. Additionally, our tribal youths also provided guidance on the application process and documentation required for accessing these schemes. Through efforts of tribal youths, also submitted a development plan at the village level which includes 8 villages Tamesra, Itala, Andeshwar, Timba Mahudi, Pali Badi, Ppli Choti, Nawa Gaanv, Saansa Vadela.

advocacy initiatives. To strengthen their efforts, Sangathan members forged continual follow up and approved the development plan of 7 check dams and 2 pond development in these villages which also supported local families involved in the implementation of MNREGA and migration-related schemes. By establishing strong networks, JSS, Tamesra enhanced its knowledge base, expanded its reach, and gained access to additional resources and support mechanisms.

During the work allotment, Sangathan members maintained regular contact with 642 individuals who had availed themselves of MNREGA and other migration-related schemes. They monitored the progress of their employment, income generation, and overall well-being.

### The impact which we have seen through this as follows:

- 1. Reduced Distress Migration:** Through JSS efforts, distress migration from the region significantly decreased. 642 Community members became aware of the alternative employment opportunities available locally, reducing the need to migrate in search of work. This led to the preservation of family unity and social cohesion within the community.
- 2. Increased Livelihood Opportunities:** By linking individuals with MNREGA and other migration-related schemes, JSS members created additional livelihood options within the community. People found employment in various sectors, such as infrastructure development, agriculture, and watershed management. This generated income and improved the economic conditions of individuals and their families.
- 3. Poverty Alleviation:** The increased access to employment and income-generating schemes facilitated by JSS resulted in poverty reduction within the community. Individuals were able to meet their basic needs, invest in education, healthcare, and other essentials, breaking the cycle of poverty and enhancing overall well-being.
- 4. Sustainable Development:** By focusing on local employment and income-generation opportunities, JSS members contributed to the sustainable development of the region. The emphasis on MNREGA and other migration-related schemes allowed for the utilization of local resources, leading to environmentally sustainable projects and reducing dependence on external resources.

The case story exemplifies how the support provided by a JSS like Tamesra can effectively halt distress migration by connecting individuals with MNREGA and other migration-related schemes.

*Connecting families with MNREGA and increasing livelihood opportunities*





# KRA -02

## Empowered POs facilitate increased access to state entitlements for the members.

The year 2022 marked a transition from a state of identifying entitlements from administration to accessing them all in a proficient manner. Vaagdhara works with its Jan Jatiya Swaraj Sangathan to strengthen people’s governance and human rights, and to allow the participation of all people in society. We help indigenous people demand their rights from states, and others and take advantage of regional entitlements. We also stand alongside gender equality which increases the participation of women in every entitlement and even in public meetings. Together with Jan Jatiya Swaraj Sangathan, we ask them to discuss their rights and amplify their voices.

Empowered Sangathan played a vital role in facilitating increased access to state entitlements for their members. By empowering and mobilizing community members, they create a supportive environment that enables individuals to access and benefit from various state entitlement programs. Empowered Sangathan members ensured that their members

are aware of the various state entitlement programs available to them. As a result, members become informed about their rights, eligibility criteria, and the benefits they are entitled to receive. With the support and guidance provided by them, members have an increased success rate in submitting and processing their applications for state entitlements. Our members and tribal youth volunteers assisted them in completing application forms accurately, gathering the necessary documentation, and meeting deadlines, reducing the likelihood of application rejections.

This year, we have an increase in the total of 25.6% in accessing government entitlements through timely and Efficient Processing and following up on their members’ applications for state entitlements. By actively engaging with government departments, members and tribal youths help ensure that applications are processed in a timely and efficient manner, reducing delays and bureaucratic hurdles.



Capacity Building session with Sangathan members



Submitting Memorandum on Canal Seepage Problem

“Empowering Sanghatans: Unlocking State Entitlements for All!”  
- Parmesh Patidar,  
Theme Leader, Democracy and Institution

### Key Results:

- A total of 242 crore rupees worth of individual/community works have been carried out across various categories. These include construction of cattle sheds, well construction, road construction, community centers, and provision of drinking water through the Janata Jal Yojana, among others.
- In the tribal community, the deteriorating condition of canals led to the loss of crops for thousands of tribal farmers. To address this issue, in collaboration with various self-governance organizations at the village and block levels, protests, rallies, and memorandums were organized to raise awareness and draw the government’s attention. As a result, the government approved 500 crore rupees for the repair of canals in the Banswara, Dungarpur, and Pratapgarh districts of Rajasthan.
- Under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), land bunding work was carried out on 350 hectares of land at the village level, with approximately 17,500,000 crore rupees invested.
- Through the efforts of the tribal self-governance organizations, 7490 families were able to avail themselves of social security schemes in the past year.
- For compensation due to crop loss among tribal farmers, memorandums were submitted, resulting in compensation being provided to 32,000 farmers under different categories.
- In tribal areas, crops were being destroyed by wild animals due to the lack of fencing under the government’s canal irrigation scheme. A representation was made to the Governor and Chief Minister, which led to the Rajasthan government providing relief to all tribal farmers by allowing those with less than 0.5 hectares of land to avail themselves of the scheme.



### The impact which we saw in this year:

- 1. Increased Entitlement Utilization:** With the assistance of empowered JSS members are better able to access and utilize their entitled benefits. This leads to improved socio-economic conditions within the community as members can access crucial services, such as healthcare, education, social welfare, and livelihood support.
- 2. Strengthened Advocacy:** Empowered JSS serve as advocates for their members, representing their interests and concerns to relevant authorities. By actively engaging in advocacy efforts, They are able to influence policy decisions, address systemic barriers, and advocate for the expansion and improvement of state entitlement programs.
- 3. Enhanced Grievance Resolution:** In cases of grievances or disputes, empowered JSS to provide support and guidance to their members in navigating the grievance redressal

processes. This leads to more effective resolution of issues and ensures that members' concerns are addressed and their rights are protected.

- 4. Improved Social Inclusion:** Through their work, empowered JSS contributed to promoting social inclusion and reducing inequality within the community. They tried that vulnerable members have equal opportunities to avail themselves of essential services and benefits.

Overall, empowered JSS significantly improved members' access to state entitlements, leading to increased awareness, successful application outcomes, enhanced capacity, timely processing, higher utilization of entitled benefits, strengthened advocacy, improved grievance resolution, and greater social inclusion. These results contribute to the overall well-being and empowerment of community members, fostering inclusive and sustainable development.



Meetings for discussing on increasing the entitlements.

This year, the adoption of Halma practices by tribal communities is a result of cultural preservation, community participation, and the passing down of traditional knowledge from one generation to the next. *Halma has united tribal communities to work together and also offers a platform for raising awareness about the importance of environmental conservation, sharing knowledge about sustainable practices, and mobilizing community involvement in community-led initiatives.* Until now, Communities have harvested more than 3000 bighas of land, repaired 15 Aanganwadis centres, and repaired 18 handpumps This year, a total of 14387 Families joined in

halma practices and saved almost 14.5 lakhs.

On February 26, 2023, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said at the closing ceremony of Halma Utsav in Jhabua district that the tradition of Halma will be extended to the entire Madhya Pradesh. The Chief Minister said that Halma is such a tradition by which nature can be saved from global warming. The Halma tradition of the forest dwellers is unique. It gives the message of help to a person in distress. He said that by expanding this tradition in the entire Madhya Pradesh, water, soil and environment-conservation work will be done.

## SUCCESS STORY

### Halma Practice Empowers Tribal Community for Collective Development



"Joyful Halma Unites the Community at the Aanganwadi Center"

**Introduction:** Etli Devi, a member of the Saksham Samooch and actively involved in community meetings, faced a significant challenge during the harvesting season due to her husband's absence and the inability to engage her young children in sowing and harvesting crops. With limited financial resources, hiring extra labor seemed impossible. Recognizing the potential of Halma, a traditional practice of tribal communities, Etli Devi proposed its implementation as a solution to her predicament. The idea was embraced by the group members, leading to a successful application of Halma in Etli Devi's farm and setting an inspiring example for the entire community.

During a meeting in November 2022, Etli Devi shared her situation with the group members, who realized the challenge faced by vulnerable families in the village. Etli Devi explained Halma as a practice where a group of people voluntarily comes together to help a family in need. She suggested that by collectively supporting the harvesting of crops, the work could

be completed quickly and without any extra cost for her or other families in similar circumstances.

The group members warmly received Etli Devi's idea and pledged to put it into action. They decided that no remuneration would be sought, and participation in the Halma practice would be entirely voluntary. The members extended an invitation to the Vaagdhara team to join them in this endeavor. On the designated date, approximately 45 individuals, both male and female, gathered at Etli Devi's farm to participate in the Halma activity.

The group commenced the activity at 11 am and remarkably completed the harvesting of crops on 3 bighas of land by 12:30 pm. The efficiency and collective effort demonstrated during the Halma practice drew the attention of other villagers who gathered out of curiosity. After the work was completed, the group members and Etli Devi shared the purpose and



significance of Halma with the villagers, who appreciated the efforts and suggested its continuation in their own farms. Etli Devi expressed her happiness and pride in being a part of the group and highlighted the benefits of Halma practice. She emphasized that hiring 45 laborers for harvesting would have cost her Rs 11,250, which she could now utilize for her family's needs. Halma not only saved her money but also reduced the time and hard work required. Furthermore, it showcased the power of teamwork and the relevance of traditional practices in the present day.

The successful implementation of Halma in Etli Devi's farm attracted media attention, and prominent state-level newspapers such as Dainik Bhaskar, Dainik Navjyoti, and Rajasthan Patrika published the story. This coverage further spread awareness of the group's efforts and their commitment to collective development.



*Harvesting Unity: Community Halma Tradition Transforms Crop Gathering, Saving Resources and Strengthening Bonds*



Etli Devi's initiative to introduce Halma practice to address her farming challenge exemplifies the power of traditional practices in finding innovative solutions. The successful implementation of Halma not only resolved Etli Devi's problem but also inspired other community members to embrace the practice for their own benefit. This story serves as a testament to the positive impact of community participation, collective action, and the preservation of cultural traditions in fostering sustainable development.



# SUCCESS STORY

## Mitigating Crop Loss: Securing Tribal Farmers' Livelihoods

In many tribal areas of Rajasthan, farmers were heavily reliant on the government's canal irrigation scheme to water their crops. However, the absence of proper fencing along the canals led to significant crop losses as wild animals freely encroached upon the farmland, damaging the harvests of the tribal farmers. This posed a severe threat to their livelihoods and created a pressing need for immediate action.

This case study focuses on the efforts made by Swaraj Sangathan Ganoda, a grassroots organization, to address the issue of crop destruction caused by wild animals in tribal areas of Rajasthan. By actively engaging with government officials and presenting their concerns, the organization successfully influenced the Rajasthan government to make amendments to the Tarbandi Yojana (fencing program) under the Rajasthan Crop Protection Mission. These changes aimed to benefit tribal farmers by adjusting the land requirements and promoting community participation.

Between October and November 2022, Swaraj Sangathan Ganoda actively pursued the resolution of the crop destruction issue. They submitted a memorandum to the honourable Governor of Rajasthan, Kalraj Mishra, and Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, along with the Forest Minister Hemaram Chaudhary, through the Sub-Divisional Officer Ghatol.

On December 30, 2022, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot forwarded the organization's suggestions to the Rajasthan government regarding the Tarbandi Yojana, requesting amendments to benefit tribal communities with smaller landholdings.

The Swaraj Sangathan Ganora advocated for modifications in the Tarbandi Yojana's rules and regulations, specifically for tribal areas with limited land availability. They proposed reducing the minimum land requirement from 1.5 hectares to 0.5 hectares to accommodate tribal farmers who had smaller plots of land situated at a distance from their villages. By doing so, they aimed to ensure that tribal farmers in Rajasthan's Janjati (tribal) regions could avail themselves of the benefits of the Tarbandi Yojana. In response to the organization's representations, the Rajasthan government, through the Department of Agriculture, issued a circular (No.क्र/एनएफएसएम OS/फेंसिंग/2022-23/6429-6641) on March 1, 2023. The circular acknowledged the damage caused by nilgai (bluebills) and stray animals to crops and announced the inclusion of the Tarbandi Yojana under the Rajasthan Crop Protection Mission for the financial year 2022-23. The changes included:

1. Reducing the minimum land requirement for individual applications from 1.5 hectares to 0.5 hectares in tribal regions due to smaller landholdings.



*Swaraj Sangathans submitting Memorandum on crop destruction to SDM Ghatol*

2. Increasing funding from 50% to 70% for groups of 10 or more farmers implementing Tarbandi Yojana on a minimum of 5 hectares of land, aiming to enhance community participation.

With these amendments, the Rajasthan Crop Protection Mission under the Tarbandi Yojana will provide financial assistance to farmers for implementing fencing measures to safeguard their crops from nilgai and stray animals. This change will directly benefit tribal farmers from the 34 villages across 10-gram panchayats associated with the Swaraj Sangathan Ganoda. Moreover, farmers in all scheduled tribal areas of Rajasthan will be eligible for direct access to the Tarbandi Yojana, ensuring the protection of their crops from wild animals.

The Swaraj Sangathan Ganoda's continuous efforts and effective representation led to significant changes in the Rajasthan Crop Protection Mission's Tarbandi Yojana. By advocating for amendments to accommodate tribal farmers with smaller landholdings and promoting community participation, the organization successfully influenced the government to address the challenges faced by tribal farmers in Rajasthan. This case study demonstrates the power of grassroots advocacy and highlights the positive impact of collaborative efforts between communities and government authorities in bringing about meaningful change for marginalized farming communities.

The positive outcomes of this initiative were twofold. Firstly, the installed fencing effectively prevented wild animals from damaging crops, thereby ensuring the sustenance and economic stability of tribal farmers. Secondly, by allowing smaller landholding farmers to access the canal irrigation scheme, the Rajasthan government demonstrated its commitment to inclusive agricultural development, empowering even the marginalized tribal communities.



# KRA -03

## 100 Gram Panchayat have adopted ecologically harmonized village-developed plans

During this year, we have almost a 40% increase in the number of plans submitted to the district administration and it is reflecting a holistic approach towards sustainable development, emphasizing the harmonious coexistence of activities with the environment. By implementing EHVDPs, these Gram Panchayats took significant steps towards creating environmentally conscious and resilient communities. The adoption of such plans showcased their commitment to promoting ecological balance, preserving natural resources, and enhancing the overall well-being of the communities. Vaagdhara also advocates these pilot innovations at the state level where other villages and districts can also influence through them and reinforces the importance of village development plans in changing their lives as well as in overall environment changes.

This Year, Vaagdhara planned 14 district-level meetings for engaging district administration in this process where we built

their capacities on EHVDP and its importance to overall tribal communities for ground-level impact.

PRIs also actively participated in the planning process, contribute their perspectives, and collaborated with Swaraj Sangathans and Gram Panchayat members to develop the Ecologically Harmonized Village Developed Plan (EHVDP). During the preparation phase, they gather inputs from community members, conveyed their concerns and suggestions, and advocated for their interests during the planning process. They serve as a bridge between the community and the Gram Panchayat, ensuring that the development plan reflects the aspirations and welfare of the villagers.

Once the EHVDP is finalized, this year they took the responsibility of submitting the plan to the appropriate authorities, including the Gram Panchayat, higher-level



Involving Tribal women in developing village development plan through participatory exercises



Tribal Women Proudly Display Indigenous Varieties for the Next Harvesting Season

## Key Results:

- 22065 Individual Plans and 10743 community Plans have been submitted to district administration where 11649 individual plans and 6584 community plans were approved in March 2023.
- 26 Jan Jatiya Swaraj Sangathans have been involved in organising PLA- Gram Chaupal in 768 villages.
- This year, we were the target on those investments which been contributing to the SIFS approach and overall, a 13.4% increase in submitting work-related Panchayat nurseries, earthen bunds, and village ponds.
- 287 PRIs are trained in developing village development plans related to SIFS instruments.
- More than 31 stakeholders involving district officials, MLA and MP followed the EHVDP concept and regular interactions with them supported getting approval for the plans.
- 3276 Farmers have been involved for four seasons in a farm field school and shared that there was a decrease in using pesticides and production has been increased by 13.5%.



administrative bodies, or relevant government departments. Their role in this process was crucial as they ensured that the plan receives the necessary approvals and support for effective implementation. Their involvement in submitting and approving the Village Development Plan further strengthens the participatory and inclusive nature of the planning process, ensuring that the plan represents the collective vision of the community and has the potential to bring about positive changes in the village's development trajectory.

This year 33456 families in 100 Gram Panchayats (GPs) have developed their resources using the Sustainable Integrated Farming Systems (SIFS) approach, supported by various investments through plans. This signifies a remarkable achievement in promoting sustainable agriculture and enhancing livelihoods at the grassroots level. By adopting the SIFS approach, these families have focused on integrating different agricultural practices, and sustainable land management techniques, to optimize resource utilization and increase productivity.

**1. Capacity Building and Training:** Various Capacity building initiatives have been planned for Sangathan members, community institutions, and development developing plans which be synchronized to sustainable farming practices which equip the families with the knowledge and skills necessary to implement the SIFS approach through the Village development plans.

**2. Technical Assistance:** Providing technical support and

guidance to families through agricultural extension services, and farmer field school itself is an important way to provide technical guidance to local resource persons. This helped them understand and implement best practices related to crop selection, soil health management, livestock rearing, pest and disease management, and other aspects of integrated farming systems. This year, a total of 2379 farmers have been trained through farmer field school. This helped in promoting knowledge exchange and peer learning among the families, encouraging them to share experiences, success stories, and lessons learned. This facilitated the spread of good practices, innovation, and collective learning within and across the Gram Panchayats.

**3. Provision of Seeds, Livestock, and Inputs:** we collaborated with district administration, and partners for ensuring the availability of indigenous seeds, improved livestock breeds, and other agricultural inputs necessary for implementing the SIFS approach. This enables 48965 families to start or enhance their farming activities using appropriate and sustainable resources.

**4. Market Linkages and Value Addition:** More than 2000 farmers Facilitated in access to markets and established market linkages for the produce generated through the SIFS approach. Additionally, promoting value addition and processing activities to increase the income potential for the families and create market opportunities for their agricultural products and we have involved some experts from Germany to improve labelling and packaging costs.



Exercises for developing VDPs



Nursery development

## SUCCESS STORY

Manidevi Damor, a resident of Seranagla village in Banswara District, Rajasthan, shares her remarkable success story of transforming her livelihood with the support of Vaagdhara, a development organization. Four years ago, Manidevi's life revolved around cultivating vegetable and fruit crops, struggling with limited resources and agricultural infrastructure.

Inspired by Kanta Devi Damor, the Facilitator of Vaagdhara, Manidevi became a member of the Saksam Mahila Group formed by Vaagdhara. This step marked a turning point for her and other marginalized farmers in the region, bringing prosperity and hope.

Seranagla village and its surroundings faced the challenge of scarce natural resources and inadequate agricultural facilities. Rainfed agriculture was the primary source of livelihood, with people experiencing moderate to poor socio-economic conditions and an average annual income of approximately Rs 20,000.

Jan Jatiya Swaraj Sangathan linked her with Agricultural department with the support of our facilitators and facilitated with 20 mango saplings, 20 guava saplings, 5 jackfruit saplings, and lemon plants. They also collaborated with the submission and approved village development plans to improve agricultural practices and increase the income of tribal families. Furthermore, through her individual plans which had been approved, she got support in improving the irrigation system.

This assistance enabled her to overcome the challenge of water scarcity by water pump that collected rainwater for use in her fields and agricultural activities.

Through the Mahila Saksham Group, facilitated by Kantadevi, Manidevi and 20 other members came together to establish a community-based irrigation facility. By contributing their labor, they successfully installed a lift irrigation system, saving Rs 50,000 in the process. This reliable irrigation facility allowed Manidevi to cultivate her land three times a year, enabling her to transition from traditional crops to agricultural and fruit crops.

The combined impact of improved irrigation, enhanced farming practices, and crop diversification led to a significant increase in Manidevi's income. In a single season, her earnings doubled to Rs. 40,000 in November 2022. Encouraged by her success, Manidevi ventured into using vermicompost to enhance soil quality and productivity.

In the year 2022, she sold mangoes, guavas, jackfruit, and lemons worth INR 30,000 in the market. With Vaagdhara's support, Manidevi expanded her agricultural activities by cultivating vegetables like brinjal and tomatoes. Looking ahead, she plans to diversify her crops further by incorporating standing maize crops and expanding into floriculture. Manidevi is optimistic about investing more in seed production, envisioning a brighter future for herself and other smallholder farmers.



Manidevi with her farm sharing mangoes





# KRA -04

1,00,000 families in 10 identified districts in the tri-junction have benefitted from VAAGDHARA's innovative culturally aligned processes, and technologies (NSFS) ensuring sustainable production and consumption, and livelihoods.

**RUKMANI DEVI IS A FARMER IN GUJARAT. SHE PARTICIPATED IN SIFS PROGRAMMES THAT ENABLE SMALL-SCALE FARMERS TO SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE THEIR INCOMES BY GAINING TECHNICAL INPUTS ON SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE. THROUGH THIS CONTINUOUS LEARNING PROGRAMME, SHE LEARNED ABOUT CULTIVATION METHODS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP. HER HARVESTS HAVE TRIPLED SINCE SHE BEGAN USING INDIGENOUS SEEDS FROM THE COMMUNITY SEED EXCHANGE.**

The adoption of the SIFS approach empowers families to diversify their income sources, improve food security, and enhance the resilience of their farming systems. By utilizing available resources effectively and adopting sustainable practices, these families are not only improving their own livelihoods but also contributing to environmental conservation and mitigating the impact of climate change. In the current year, VAAGDHARA focused on various key areas to enhance the well-being and resilience of tribal

communities. Significant efforts were made in community seed management, livestock management, and promoting seed and soil sovereignty. Additionally, the organization worked towards fostering a climate-resilient circular lifestyle among these communities.

Through its focus on regenerative agriculture and inclusive market channels, VAAGDHARA has successfully contributed to a reduction in youth migration. By promoting sustainable farming practices and creating opportunities for youth engagement in agriculture, the organization has provided viable alternatives for young people in rural areas, thus mitigating the need for them to migrate in search of livelihood opportunities.

Regenerative agriculture, which prioritizes soil health, biodiversity, and ecological balance, has not only improved agricultural productivity but also created a conducive environment for youth involvement. VAAGDHARA's efforts in promoting regenerative agriculture have empowered 1045 young farmers with the knowledge and skills to adopt sustainable farming techniques. By emphasizing the use of organic inputs, crop rotation, agroforestry, and water

Farmer Field School



SIFS demonstration plot



Saksham Samooh Meeting



(Left) Vermi-beds, (Right) production of Dashparni pesticide



Seed Exhibition

## Key Results:

- Increased availability and access to diverse and nutritious food through sustainable agricultural practices in 32659 households.
- 20146 women gained knowledge and awareness of sustainable agriculture practices and initiated a circular lifestyle.
- 312 PGS groups comprising 1,630 farmers received PGS Green certificates after undergoing a rigorous peer review process. Recognition of farmers' adherence to organic farming practices and sustainable agriculture.
- Beej Swaraj" platform was established by Vaagdhara to promote seed sovereignty among farmers where 40,710 farmers from the tribal tri-junction of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat registered on the platform.
- One Common Facility Center (CFC) was established for processing pulses (Dal Mill). The Dal Mill processes approximately 10 tons of pulses daily, contributing to value addition and market access for farmers.
- Around 42875 farmers have adopted components of the Natural Sustainable Farming System (NSFS), including the use of organic pesticides like Dasparni and vermicomposting.
- Around 72.5% of families save seeds for the next season and engage in a seed exchange with other families.
- This Year, we developed around 513 demonstration plots showcasing traditional crops such as Desi maize, Red tuar and minor millets like kurgi, ragi, and til. This helped in sharing the importance of indigenous seed varieties.
- Provision of Kharif critical inputs, including seeds of Desi maize, small millets, pulses, oilseeds, and vegetable kits, to 3,000 farmers with essential agricultural inputs for Kharif season cultivation.
- There is an improvement in diet diversity scores especially in women and adolescent girls through adopting NSFS components and an increase in 2.1 overall scores which helps to attain food and nutrition security.
- Food secure months have increased and now they have been able to sustain in summer months with dry vegetables from their Nutrition Garden and adopting the SIFS components, especially multiple cropping, vegetation (5 types of multipurpose plants).

These key results demonstrate the significant achievements of VAAGDHARA in promoting sustainable agriculture, seed sovereignty, value addition, youth engagement, adoption of organic practices, seed conservation, and provision of critical inputs to farmers. The interventions contribute to the overall well-being and livelihood improvement of the farming communities in the identified districts of the tri-junction.





Preparation for SME development (Plant Nursery)



Maize Crop

conservation practices, we enhanced the productivity and resilience of farming systems, providing a stable income source for young farmers.

In addition to regenerative agriculture, we also focused on creating inclusive market channels for agricultural produce by establishing direct market linkages, supporting value-addition activities, and facilitating access to fair and remunerative prices, it enhanced the economic prospects of tribal farmers. This has reduced their reliance on traditional agriculture-dependent income sources and created opportunities for them to earn a sustainable livelihood within their communities.

This year, we demonstrated a tangible reduction in youth migration. By offering migrant youths viable and fulfilling livelihood options in their own communities, we tried to reduce the need for them to migrate in search of better opportunities elsewhere. This not only contributed to the overall well-being and retention of youth in their communities but also promotes the sustainable development of rural areas.

Other important things have been done so far on community seed management practices which has made significant contributions to tribal farmers by enabling them to store and exchange their own seeds while incorporating practices rooted in indigenous wisdom. This initiative has not only empowered farmers to regain control over their seed resources but has also resulted in numerous benefits, including the production of more nutritious food and the cultivation of sustainable crops.

Through the programme tribal farmers have been able to preserve and safeguard their traditional seed varieties, which are often adapted to local climatic conditions and possess inherent resilience. By promoting seed conservation practices, we helped farmers maintain a diverse pool of seeds, ensuring genetic diversity and reducing their dependence on commercially available seeds. This has contributed to the resilience of their agricultural systems and mitigated the risks associated with crop failures and diseases.

Moreover, the use of indigenous seed varieties has led to



Hangadi Kheti



Post crop production analysis

the production of more nutritious food. These seeds often possess higher nutritional content, including essential vitamins, minerals, and micronutrients. By cultivating and consuming these diverse and nutritious crops, tribal farmers have improved their own dietary intake and the overall nutritional well-being of their communities. This approach not only ensures the long-term sustainability of farming systems but also promotes ecological balance and biodiversity conservation.

Vaagdhara has demonstrated its commitment to evidence-based decision-making through its implementation of seven action-based research projects and the development of policy briefs focusing on agriculture. These initiatives have aimed to address key challenges faced by farming communities and inform policy formulation at various levels.

The action-based research conducted with the support of Swaraj Sangathans has involved rigorous data collection, analysis, and field experimentation. These researches have focused on critical areas such as sustainable agriculture practices, climate resilience, market linkages, value chain development, and livelihood enhancement. By engaging

directly with farming communities and conducting on-the-ground research, Vaagdhara has gained valuable insights into the realities and needs of tribal farm families, enabling them to design context-specific interventions.

Furthermore, the development of policy briefs has allowed Vaagdhara to distil research findings and recommendations into concise and accessible documents. These policy briefs serve as important tools for communicating research outcomes to policymakers, government agencies, and other stakeholders. By highlighting key issues, presenting evidence-based solutions, and offering policy recommendations, Vaagdhara has contributed to the discourse on agricultural development and influenced policy decisions.

The action-based research and policy briefs have covered a wide range of agricultural topics, including sustainable farming techniques, water management, seed sovereignty, market access, value addition, and rural livelihoods. Through their research, Vaagdhara has generated valuable knowledge and insights that have helped shape their own programs and interventions while also contributing to the broader knowledge base in the field of agriculture.



# SUCCESS STORY

## From Adversity to Achievements: Nita Devi's inspiring journey with SIFS methods transform lives

Mrs. Nitadevi Rathod, a 28-year-old resident of Chikli Teja village in Banswara district, has experienced a remarkable transformation in her life through her association with Vaagdhara and the Mahila Saksam Samuh. Previously, she and her husband struggled as daily wage earners, with her husband migrating to Lunawada in Gujarat for additional income. Despite their efforts, their household income was insufficient to meet their expenses.

Recognizing the need for alternative sources of income, Nitadevi joined Saksham Samooh group where she attended PLA sessions on agriculture development, nutrition security and circular lifestyle. She took the initiative to set up a nutrition garden in her backyard, ensuring the availability of organic vegetables for her family. Her engagement with the Mahila Saksam groups further strengthened her involvement in community initiatives, leading to her appointment as the group's president.

Nitadevi's involvement in the program went beyond her own personal development. She motivated other members of her Mahila Saksam group to participate, and her enthusiasm inspired an additional 50 women to come together and expand their budding business. Utilizing the one and two bighas of land owned by the Mahila Saksam group members, they worked collectively, employing organic manure and sustainable farming practices.

The driving force behind Nitadevi's interest in the program was the need to diversify her family's diet. Prior to joining, their meals lacked variety, mainly consisting of crops they could afford from the market. However, relying solely on the market proved costly, limiting their ability to expand their dietary choices.

Although Nitadevi had limited knowledge initially, her eagerness to try new things and her active participation in the program turned her into a source of motivation for many women in her village. Her involvement led her to become a trainer, sharing her newfound skills and knowledge with others. Not only did Nitadevi enhance the nutritional status of her family with an increase of 2.1 points through access to diverse vegetables and fruits, but she also generated additional income of 67500 annually by selling surplus produce.

The success of Nitadevi's case can be attributed to the kitchen garden model promoted by Vaagdhara, which provides technical guidance on the use of diversified seeds and improved sustainable farming practices. By engaging households in the program, Vaagdhara has facilitated increased access to nutritious food, enhanced agricultural skills, and provided opportunities for additional income generation. Nitadevi's journey exemplifies the transformative power of sustainable livelihood initiatives and the positive impact they can have on individuals and their communities.



Nutrition Garden

# SUCCESS STORY

## Empowering Women Farmers: Bhima Ka Kheda Village's Journey to Self-Reliance

In the village of Bhima Ka Kheda in Ghatol Tehsil, Banswara, a group of 20 determined women has transformed their lives and inspired others to follow suit. Through their association and learning from different capacity-building sessions, these women have embraced integrated farming practices, empowering themselves and their communities.

Paru Devi, a member of the "Saksham Samooh," admits to her initial ignorance about farming and livelihood. However, after being connected to Saksham Samooh, she underwent intensive training and capacity-building sessions. Today, she proudly shares how her newfound knowledge has bolstered her confidence and transformed her life.

With a focus on animal husbandry, Paru Devi decided to raise Sirohi breed goats. She currently owns five goats, which provide her family with 10 litres of milk daily. This substantial milk production has eliminated her dependency on the market. Additionally, Paru Devi has taken advantage of the nutrition garden. By nurturing the soil and cultivating various seeds provided by internal exchange with seed mothers, she now enjoys a diverse range of vegetables and fruits, including papaya, mulberry, mango, guava, and lemon. This achievement

has further diminished her reliance on external markets, making her family self-reliant.

Paru Devi's success story is emblematic of the broader impact of the SIFS techniques in Bhima Ka Kheda village. Through the regular meetings of Saksham Samooh, knowledge is shared, new techniques are explored, and resources are pooled. This collaborative environment has empowered the entire community to improve their food security and enhance their income. By adopting sustainable farming practices and reducing market dependency, these women have set an inspiring example for others to follow.

The journey of Bhima Ka Kheda village's women farmers is a testament to the transformative power of the circular lifestyle. Through their dedication and determination, they have not only improved their own livelihoods but also inspired a sense of self-reliance within their community. By embracing integrated farming practices and nurturing their nutrition gardens, these women have redefined their relationship with the market, ensuring a sustainable and prosperous future for themselves and future generations.



Her nutritional garden consisytes of 14 varities of vegetables and 4 type of fruits



Pary devi with her goats



Paru devi with her red chillies



# KRA -05

50% of villages 100 GP are child friendly, where all children in the age group of 6-14 are in school, have quality education, enjoy good health, and participation, and are free from child labour.

Last year saw the worst food and nutrition crisis in covid times, leading to a shocking increase in wasting among children in tribal areas. And even as the COVID-19 pandemic winds down, its harmful impact on children continues. Learning losses persist. Migration and child labour again took a high rise. Therefore, this year, we took the right plan for this time of multiple issues one geared towards a holistic understanding of the deprivations and discrimination children face, systemic change to address these issues at their roots and action through partnerships – above all with local actors, children and tribal youths.

Despite the challenges, significant efforts have been made to help learners recover the learning losses, including through leveraging technology and accelerated learning methods. There were several innovative works and activities promoting child rights were organized in government schools from tribal areas by the school head, teacher, and community level (with the help of SMC and VDCRC). A teacher's workshop has been organized to script these innovations by the teachers and compiled the innovation by VAAGDHARA.

We are proud to highlight the valuable contribution of VAAGDHARA as a partner NGO in the preparation of the draft curriculum framework (SCF) under the National Education Policy 2020. As per the policy guidelines, the state government, in collaboration with various agencies, undertook the task of developing the curriculum framework, and VAAGDHARA played a crucial role in this process.

One of the significant contributions of VAAGDHARA was its active participation in the Focus Group on Environment Education, tasked with preparing a position paper. The

members of the Focus Group engaged in rigorous processes, including critical thinking, writing, discussions, and reviews, to develop an efficient draft of the position paper.

VAAGDHARA led the discussions in the Focus Group and provided valuable insights from the perspective of tribal children, considering the geographical and historical context of the tribal areas. The organization emphasized the importance of incorporating the tribal context into the curriculum framework, ensuring the inclusion of sensitive aspects relevant to tribal communities.

Follow up on growth monitoring at Aanganwadi centre



Engaging children in social activities to make them more vocal; and interactive



Meeting with Children group

## Key Results:

- 26.5% of Villages are child friendly where children are enjoying school, no migration and child labour and access to AWCs.
- 52.7% found an improvement in increasing weight among 750 villages.
- Vaagdhara being identified into SCERT, Curriculum development for new education policy, 2020.
- Rajasthan Government put the circular to increase the usage of minor millets in nutrition programs to curb malnutrition after Roshan swaraj abhiyan and also replicate into other districts viz. Dungarpur, Chittorgarh, Pali, Sirohi, Rajsamand."
- One recommendation of the children group related to developing the school Playground has been adopted by all 26 JSS and in this year 125 school playground has been reformed through levelling the ground and developing fencing/ construction of Boundaries.
- Total of 84 AWCs were identified in poor condition where no proper facilities, children's groups, and VDCRC members jointly shared the list with district officials and a budget has been imposed from the Rajasthan government to restructure the AWCs. Out of 84 AWCs, 63 AWCs repairing or reconstruction work has been done.



During the preparation of the position paper, VAAGDHARA also utilized data from the RSCF\_DLC and Mobile App to support their recommendations. As a responsible member of the editorial group, VAAGDHARA provided effective guidance in refining the state-level draft of the position paper before its submission to the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

This collaboration between VAAGDHARA and the state government exemplifies the commitment to developing an inclusive and contextually relevant curriculum framework. It showcases the organization's expertise in advocating for the needs and perspectives of tribal communities, ensuring that their voices are represented in the educational policies and frameworks.

Vaagdhara, with the support of the Department of Science and Technology, organized a science exhibition that enhanced their understanding of science experiments and improves their overall learning process. The exhibition aimed to bridge the gap between traditional knowledge and modern science, allowing children to explore scientific concepts through familiar experiences and examples. We carefully curated exhibits that incorporated elements from their daily lives, incorporating local flora, fauna, and traditional practices to make science relatable and accessible to them.

1543 tribal children were encouraged to actively participate in the exhibition, conducting experiments, asking questions, and making observations. This interactive approach empowered them to become co-creators of knowledge and develop a deeper understanding of scientific principles. Furthermore, the exhibition showcased the talents and achievements of tribal children in the field of science. Their innovative projects

and creative ideas were given a platform to be recognized and appreciated, fostering a sense of pride and motivation among them. To ensure maximum participation and engagement, the exhibition was held in a location accessible to tribal communities, considering their geographical constraints. Local schools, community centres, or tribal villages served as ideal venues, creating a familiar and comfortable environment for the children.

The success of the exhibition was evident in the enthusiastic response and positive feedback from the participants and their communities. Tribal children not only gained a better understanding of scientific concepts but also developed a passion for learning, sparking their interest in pursuing further studies in science-related fields.

We are proud to report that our last year's nutrition campaign has made a significant impact in decreasing the percentage of malnutrition within our target communities. Through a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach, we have successfully raised awareness about the importance of proper nutrition and implemented interventions to improve the overall nutritional status of individuals, particularly among vulnerable populations.

Furthermore, we implemented interventions to improve access to nutritious food sources. This included establishing nutrition gardens, promoting backyard farming, and facilitating partnerships with local farmers and markets to ensure the availability of fresh and diverse food options. Additionally, we provided training on sustainable agricultural practices and supported income-generating activities related to food production and processing.



Meeting with Children group



Engaging in activities during awcience awareness programme

To measure the impact of our campaign, we conducted regular assessments and monitoring of nutritional indicators, including measuring the prevalence of malnutrition within the target population. The results have been promising, with a significant decrease in malnutrition rates observed over time. This positive trend demonstrates the effectiveness of our interventions in addressing the root causes of malnutrition and promoting healthy dietary habits.

We also collaborated with local healthcare facilities and professionals to provide screening and treatment for malnutrition cases. This comprehensive approach ensured that individuals identified with malnutrition received the necessary medical care, dietary supplements, and counseling to improve their nutritional status.

The success of our nutrition campaign is a testament to the collective efforts of our team, community members, local stakeholders, and partner organizations. By working together, we have been able to reduce the percentage of malnutrition and positively impact the health and well-being of individuals in our target communities.

In our annual publication, we will highlight the achievements of our nutrition campaign, showcasing the measurable decrease in malnutrition rates and sharing inspiring stories of individuals whose lives have been transformed through improved nutrition. We will also acknowledge the contributions of our partners and community members, emphasizing the importance of collaboration in achieving sustainable change.

Moving forward, we remain committed to sustaining and expanding our nutrition campaign, ensuring that more individuals have access to nutritious food, education, and resources to lead healthy and fulfilling lives.

Happy Children with their grandmother who taking care of them



Science Awareness Exhibition where children are putting their imagination on chart papers.



Meeting with Children group





# SUCCESS STORY

## Uplifting tribal children through ensuring access to entitlements

In the remote village of Upala Ghaltala in Pratapgarh district, a tribal community was facing numerous challenges in accessing government schemes and services. The lack of awareness and poor public outreach had left many families, including Ramesh's, without any support or benefits from public welfare programs. However, thanks to the concerted efforts of the Village Development and Child Rights Committee working in the area, positive changes began to unfold.

Ramesh, a 40-year-old man, fell into depression and abandoned his family, leaving his wife Meera and their five children in a vulnerable situation. Meera, seeking support from another man as per the local tradition, which called Nata Pratha left her children behind. The five children, aged between 4 and 12 years, found themselves orphaned and deprived of basic necessities. They were not enrolled in schools or connected to any Anganwadi centres, and two of them were suffering from severe illnesses.

Upon learning about this distressing situation, VDCRC committee sprang into action. They visited the children at their maternal grandparents' house, gathering all the necessary information to advocate on their behalf. The Village Development and Child Rights Committee, along with Vaagdhara, prepared a comprehensive report and forwarded it to the Pipalkhunt Sub-Divisional Officer.

Recognizing the urgency, the government officials swiftly intervened. The two malnourished children were admitted to the Pipalkhunt government hospital for immediate treatment. Government workers were instructed to assist the children in accessing their entitled benefits under various public welfare schemes.

Collaborating closely with the Sub-Divisional Officer, Vaagdhara took further steps to initiate positive changes. Payal, the oldest child, was enrolled in a government school, while two other children were connected with a Maa Bari center. The youngest children were admitted to an Anganwadi center. The malnourished children received nutrition kits, and efforts were made to link them to the guardianship scheme through an application to the Social Justice Empowerment Department.

Moreover, recognizing the grandparents' plight, an application was made for their pension benefits. Vaagdhara emphasized the importance of awareness about available schemes and services,

advocating for all children to have equal access to education and anganwadi centers. They also coordinated with the state level to include this family in the government's Palanhar scheme.

The collaborative efforts of VDCRC, Vaagdhara, government officials, and the responsible administration yielded significant results. All five children were successfully connected to relevant government schemes and services. The family's access to support and assistance improved drastically, thanks to the swift actions and commitment of Premlata and other members of the Vaagdhara team.

This success story highlights the transformative impact of community-based organizations like Vaagdhara in empowering vulnerable tribal communities. By bridging the gap between communities and government services, Vaagdhara ensured that every child had equal opportunities for education, healthcare, and overall development.

It is a testament to the power of collective action, highlighting the importance of raising awareness, building strong partnerships with government officials, and advocating for the rights of marginalized communities. Through their dedicated efforts, Vaagdhara and its team have brought about positive change and set a shining example for ensuring the well-being and empowerment of tribal children in remote areas.



Happy kids in nutrition garden with their grandmother





# KRA -06

Institutional and meta-governance capacities of VAAGDHARA are strengthened to support innovations, learning and effective implementation.

By conducting regular meetings with the senior facilitation team, governing board, and an annual general meeting, Vaagdhara demonstrated a commitment to transparency, accountability, and stakeholder engagement. These meetings facilitated the opportunities for collaboration, exchange of ideas, and ensuring the organization's activities align with its mission and goals.

At Vaagdhara, acting responsibly is a core value that drives our commitment to maintaining quality and transparency in our work. We believe in the importance of internal supervisory bodies, committees, processes, and cross-cutting reports to achieve these goals. We do have different committees and processes to streamline the functions.

## 1. Committees:

- We have various committees composed of individuals with relevant expertise and diverse perspectives.
- These committees acts as platform for in-depth discussions, decision-making, and recommendations on specific areas or projects.
- By involving a range of stakeholders, including representatives from different departments or functions,

we promoted collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and a comprehensive approach to problem-solving.

## 2. Processes:

- We worked and upgraded processes in place to guide our work and ensure consistency, efficiency, and accountability.
- These processes encompassed project management, financial management, risk assessment, and quality control, among others.
- By adhering to these processes, this year, we maintained a structured approach to our activities and minimize the potential for errors or oversights.

## 3. Cross-Cutting Reports:

- We generated cross-cutting reports that provide a holistic view of our operations, outcomes, and impact.
- These reports consolidated information from different areas and present it in a transparent and comprehensive manner.
- This year, these reports served as valuable tools for monitoring progress, identifying trends, and making informed decisions based on reliable data.

By keeping a close eye on our work through these committees,



Committee meetings



Strategic Planning Review

processes, and cross-cutting reports, we demonstrated our commitment to maintaining quality and transparency. We continuously evaluate our practices, seek opportunities for improvement, and ensure that our actions align with our values and the expectations of our stakeholders.

We recognized the importance of evaluations in improving the quality of our work. We engage external experts to undertake evaluations, which assess various aspects of our projects using internationally recognized evaluation methods. This approach allowed us to gain insights into the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability, and impact of our projects. Through these evaluations, external experts provide well-grounded recommendations for enhancing the projects. We value the input from our grassroots-level team, and the Internal committee to set up the evaluation. They critically reflected on these recommendations and strive to implement them as quickly as possible. We believe in the continuous learning process, integrating the evaluation findings into the planning of future programmes to ensure their effectiveness and positive impact.

Vaagdhara recently underwent an evaluation process in collaboration with Cognisphere Solutions to assess the effectiveness of our strategic plan for the period 2018-2022. This evaluation was conducted by external experts who employed their expertise and internationally recognized evaluation methods to thoroughly examine the plan. The evaluation process focused on various aspects of our strategic plan, including its relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability, and impact. Cognisphere Solutions, as external evaluators, brought an impartial perspective to the evaluation, ensuring a comprehensive assessment. The evaluation process provided us with valuable insights and recommendations for improving our strategic plan and informing our future direction.

This year, Vaagdhara was involved in a series of thorough exercises facilitated by renowned experts to formulate a new strategic plan after taking the above recommendations.



Process sharing through discussions with Saksham samooh members

In July 2022, a deep exercise took place, bringing together a diverse group of team members, including ground-level teams, facilitators, JSSSI unit leaders, and senior facilitation team members. During this exercise, the accomplishments and challenges in key areas were identified. The previous KRAs were reviewed, and new ones were formulated based on the findings and recommendations of the external assessment. In August 2022, detailed discussions were held on the existing Sangathan (People's Organization) structure. JSSSI unit leaders and team members from various units, including Technical Support, Policy Advocacy, and the Senior Facilitation Team, were involved. These discussions focused on the need for Sangathan structures at different levels, such as the village, gram panchayat, block, and district, assessing their advantages and limitations. The exercises led to the tentative development of a Sangathan structure and hierarchy.

The final comprehensive exercise involved the participation of the entire team, including field-level team members. Discussions and exercises were conducted on key aspects of the strategic plan, including priorities, strategies, revised KRAs,





Evaluation exercises done by congnsphere solutions.

indicators, organization and Sangathan structure, theory of change, reporting systems, management information systems (MIS), inclusive development in the Vaagdhara ecosystem, and sustainability.

Insights from key experts and the various exercises highlighted the limitations of the existing situation, prompting Vaagdhara team members to revise priorities, strategies, KRAs, indicators, and activities. The new strategic plan addresses the situation of tribal communities in the trijunction areas of Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh in India. It encompasses a comprehensive sovereignty framework, reflecting the key pillars of Vaagdhara and related strategies.

Compared to the earlier strategic plan, which focused on working in the trijunction area, creating people's organizations, livelihood generation through Self-Initiated Food Security (SIFS), and promoting women's leadership as prime movers of the Sangathan, the new strategic plan expands Vaagdhara's engagement with tribal communities in the trijunction area and seeks to create influential spaces in other parts of India and the world.

Furthermore, the new strategic plan emphasizes increasing the living income of tribal farmers, building youth leadership, strengthening community and people's organization participation in governance and budget advocacy, creating child-friendly villages, promoting and reviving traditional knowledge and culture, and overall empowering the community for their development.

Through this comprehensive and participatory strategic planning process, Vaagdhara aims to address the needs and aspirations of tribal communities while effectively responding to the challenges they face.



Group discussion during strategic review meet



# MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

“One of the objects of a newspaper is to understand the popular feeling and give expressions to it, another is to arouse among the people certain desirable sentiments, and the third is the fearlessness to expose popular defects” – Mahatma Gandhi

Media works with the objective of serving the people with news, views, comments and information on matters of public interest in a fair, accurate, unbiased and decent manner and language. It not only purveys public opinion but also shapes it. It is supposed to exist to maintain the bridge between the government and the people. Being the fourth pillar of democracy it is significant to understand that the media not only communicates but also offer its own perspective on every event that takes place. It serves as an agency of the people to inform them of the events and activities around them locally and of national and international significance. Like a mirror it reflects both aspects of life- the truth and the lies.

It is this influence of the media that has impacted the society through the voices of the community raised by the media on the interventions by VAAGDHARA in sustainable livelihoods for the tribal in the southern part of the state. The association of the organization with the media reached a close bonding clearly visible during the Swaraj Sandesh Samwad Padyatra where the entire state was getting the vibes of the messages of swaraj and was identifying oneself as a part of the new swaraj movement.

We appreciate and are indebted to the media that has always supported our cause from the local lands to the global fronts.

## The Media houses that bonded with us in spreading our messages to one and all.

The Hindu  
The Times of India  
Indian Express  
First India  
National Herald  
Rajasthan patrika  
Dainik Bhaskar  
Rashtradoot

Newsques India  
Dainik Navajyoti  
Samachar Jagat  
Punjab Kesari  
Jalte Deep  
Jaipur Doordarshan  
Zee TV, Rajasthan  
Gramtaru

E-TV, Rajasthan  
Jannayak  
Virat Vaibhav  
Liveaaryavrat.com  
Countercurrents.org  
UNI  
Hukumnama  
Marudhar Vishesh

## Key Media Coverage

### Sachchi Kheti (True Farming):

The efforts of the organization for the last several years on the promotion of the traditional agricultural practices for the sustained livelihood of the tribal community, pollinated through the media reached to both the common people as well as the administration and the government. They understood the significance and the need of such practices essential for the healthy well being of the people. Similar efforts and programmes are now being worked out and executed. It was the millets- the cultivation of which was constantly promoted and in practical adopted by the community – the crops which have been named as shree-ann and the year 2023 being observed as the International Year of the Milles.



### Agricultural Budget:



Seeking the opportunity for budget allocation for the tribal community VAAGDHARA presented its plans at the various meetings and discussions on the pre budget meetings called by the government. The media support in carrying forward the tribal voice in the form of an editorial was helpful in extra budget allocation for the tribal community. The editorial in the leading Hindi daily 'Rajasthan Patrika' was a resonance of the tribal asks by the media. The media also raised the voice for a separate budget for the tribal community that would address the local issues at local level for the tribal community people.

### Global Recognition:

The community voices were echoed by VAAGDHARA at the 52nd session of the UN Human Rights Council. Nutri sensitive farming has been a key issue for VAAGDHARA leading to improvement in tribal health. Such efforts of the organization at the global platforms were highlighted by the influential media houses in the state. The significance of the green gram as the third crop was acclaimed by the global organizations.



### Sachcha Bachpan (True Childhood):

Securing child rights and giving them a space to dream and an environment for fulfilling their dreams with has been the aim for VAAGDHARA. The future generations can survive and live a happy life only if their childhood is safe and secure. Involving the children in the decision making process the organization has played key roles as facilitator in collaboration with the Government for all round development of children and adolescent girls.

### Child Education:

Improving education status of tribal children, increasing understanding on basic education in combination of traditional and modern knowledge ensuring child rights the organization is reaching to about one lakh children. VAAGDHARA has taken ample measures to connect all the children to the social protection schemes and providing improved health and nutritional status to the tribal children. Constant media coverage has been an eye opener for the administration and has kept the officials on foot to take a prompt action for the children's' issues.

### Child Rights, Health and Nutrition:

Various activities and promoting nutritious food to ensure a healthy childhood has been the motto of the organization. Acknowledged campaigns like the nutrition campaigns have shown results this year also. Cases of migration, securing social justice to the downtrodden and securing child rights were the issues taken up by the media in support of the organization ensuring prompt action from the administration.





### Child Line Services:

The child line 1098 running round the clock has seen the practice of child labour and child marriage even after years of awareness and the various acts working for the eradication of such crime. It has been instrumental in reaching out to such situations and with the support of the authorities and the media that the instances of such evil practices have been stopped.

### Sachcha Swaraj (True Governance):

Swaraj is the practice of the tribal community since ages. It is this practice that has kept the traditions alive and the community still surviving despite all odds. The socio political conditions have once again brought the concept of swaraj on the forefront for the happy life among the individuals. To spread the message of swaraj beyond the community and the boundaries of the southern part of the state a Padyatra (walk on foot) was undertaken by the community. The media coverage showed as if it was accompanying the padyatris every single minute for 21 days from Banswara to Jaipur. Almost all the media houses were a witness to the yatra and the message of swaraj was carried all along the 500 KM of the journey touching all the communities on route. The coverage in the entire state edition of the leading Rajasthan Daily, Rajasthan Patrika on the traditional practice on Halma was a readers delight.



### Social Media:

With the advent of social media platforms the media seems to have taken over the reins of human life and society in every walk of life. It has assumed the foremost importance in society and governance. While playing the role of informer, the media also takes the shape of a motivator and a leader. There would be a rare community today who is either now aware or is not using social media. The power of various social mediaplatforms has changed many a lives in the recent times. VAAGDHARA has left no stone unturned to use this powerful media to take up the community issues and share them with the stakeholders.

### Fact File

335154

Facebook Reach

32005

Instagram Reach

4900

YouTube View

686

LinkedIn Follower

857

Engagement





# POLICY SENSITIZATION INITIATIVES

Active engagement of the community in decision-making and policy formulation process, strengthening local governance through community institutions, and ensuring access to quality education, are crucial to bring sustainable changes and overall development.

- Sudeep Sharma, Policy and Outreach Lead

The policy sensitization initiatives implemented this year have yielded positive outcomes for tribal communities. We have witnessed enhanced community engagement, increased awareness about rights and entitlements, and improved collaboration between stakeholders. Tribal communities are now better equipped to navigate policy landscapes, make informed decisions, and actively participate in their own development.

We are striving to build strategic partnerships, advocate for

inclusive policies, and amplify the voices of tribal communities in policy-making processes. Our commitment to sustainable tribal development remains steadfast, as we work towards creating a more equitable and empowered future for these marginalized communities. This chapter highlights the significant impact these initiatives had on tribal communities' sustainable development. By enhancing their understanding of policies, rights, and opportunities, Vaagdhara aimed to foster positive change, promote inclusivity, and uplift marginalized tribal communities.

## TRUE FARMING

### 1) Rashtriya Krishi evam Poshan Swaraj Sammelan

With the purpose to have detailed discussions on strengthening sustainable agriculture programs through promotion of traditional crop diversity, improving the situation of soil health, water and seed sovereignty, which can help strengthen the economic conditions of small and marginal farmers, a two days National Conference - 'Rashtriya Krishi evam Poshan Swaraj Sammelan' was organised at Jaipur. Three technical sessions 1) Soil Health and Water Swaraj; 2) Seed Sovereignty; and 3) Significance of Forgotten Foods and Minor Millets on Food Diversity were organised. Subject experts and other eminent participants from various states participated in the event and shared their views and recommendations. Three technical briefs: a) Improving Soil Health in Tribal Areas; b) Conservation of Crop Diversity and Utilization in Tribal Areas; c) Seed Sovereignty in Tribal Agriculture was released by Hon'ble

Agriculture Minister, Shri Lalchand Kataria and Hon'ble Water Resource Minister, Shri. Mahendrajeet Singh Malviya and other dignitaries in the event. Following key action points came out from the 2 days discussion:

1. Need of approaches to check the washout of top soil due to rains from the farmers' fields.
2. Need of the decentralised system of soil testing and soil testing facility in every village.
3. Soil health mapping at every village should be done and tracked.
4. Composite variety of seeds should be promoted and focus must be shifted from the hybrid variety.
5. Millets should be proposed to be included in the nutrition programmes.
6. Programmes like Community Managed Seed System need to be implemented to bring back preserved and conserved seeds to the agricultural lands.



Mr Mahendra Jeet Singh Malviya, water resource minister, Mr Lal Chand Kataria, Agriculture minister and other key dignitaries releasing policy briefs at national conference

### 2) Efforts to ensure sustainable livelihoods of tribal farmers in collaboration with Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur

VAAGDHARA collaborated with MPUAT, Udaipur under a non-financial MoU for 3 years executed with the objective to promote sustainable livelihoods of tribal farming communities, through promoting following approaches:

1. Conservation and promotion of crop-diversity, especially small millets, and increasing its utilization in tribal areas.
2. Sustainable soil health management by increasing – organic matter, moisture and microbial activities (MMM) through adopting improved organic farming agro technologies.
3. Conservation and utilization (value addition) of seeds, traditional crop varieties, germplasm and its research aspect.
4. Promote agriculture and allied activities in technology demonstration, capacity building, certificate courses, and research for the betterment of tribal farming community.

This collaboration will help in extending facilities and technical knowhow by exchange of experts in the broad areas of agriculture, traditional crop diversity, seed sovereignty, improving soil health through organic farming, natural farming, and other approaches and research aspects. An annual plan of activities has been prepared including major activities like organizing farmers' fair for showcasing traditional varieties of crops, agriculture technologies, workshops for promoting minor millets to name a few.

### 3) Actions to Protect Local Varieties of Crops

A significant step has been made to protect the local varieties of Southern Rajasthan. The germplasm of local varieties of minor millets viz. Finger Millets (Ragi), Foxtail Millets (Kangni), Proso Millets (Cheena) and Kodo Millets (Kodo) and 4 varieties of paddy (Rice- Oryza Sativa) namely Lal Kolombo and Patharya of Anandpuri area while Hutar and Jeera of Gangartalai area of Banswara have been conserved in the gene bank at National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources NBPGR, New Delhi as national property. This move will help in the protection of the 4 varieties which are a significant part of the tribal food platter. NBPGR has allotted Indigenous Collection number (IC number) to these germplasms. This action will help preserve the germplasm of local varieties and prevent these varieties from being extinct.



Seed Mothers, who are conserving more than 28 varieties of indigenous seeds

### 4) Participation in International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

A side event titled 'Conservation, utilization and value addition of crop diversity existing in tribal areas for food, nutrition and livelihood security' was organised by VAAGDHARA at the 9th session of the governing body of International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, organized by FAO at New Delhi on 19-24 September, 2022.

### 5) Joining Hands for Protecting Soil Health on World Soil Day

Thousands of farmers from tribal area in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh of India came together to save soil and improve its productivity on the occasion of World Soil Day. VAAGDHARA along with people from the tribal community have been celebrating World Soil Day with gaiety and fervour. This year too, going by this year's theme 'Soil: Where food begins' thousands tribal people residing in villages in tri-junction area of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat States of India joined hands with a common goal of protecting the soil and improving soil health. Celebration of the World Soil Day was done to raise awareness on the significance of sustaining healthy ecosystems and human well-being by encouraging governments, organizations, communities and individuals to engage proactively in improving soil health.

The soil of individual farm was collected at a common place in a heap, considering as the deity of farmers. Farmer offered seeds, flowers and pot of water on the heap. Community people worshipped the soil together and at the end of the

day. The soil from heap was distributed among everyone as an offering of God, which they again spread in their fields. The tribal farmers pledged to conserve the soil by producing only organic produce with the help of organic manure and pesticides. Tribal farmers also vowed to use their own seed in the farms and reduce their dependency on the market for seeds, crop nutrient and pesticides. Various discussions were done around the significance and the ways to improve soil health in their areas.





### 6) Demonstration of Indigenous Seeds in 'Rajasthan Conclave on Millets'

The state government organised 'Rajasthan Millets Conclave' on 13-14 March 2023, at Jaipur with a view to mainstreaming millets in its programmes, with the convergence of several departments. It was envisioned that it will lead to demand generation with the involvement of rural households, anganwadi centres and self-help groups. Through this event,

Rajasthan showed its commitment towards promoting indigenous varieties of millets, with a special focus on the consumption of local and traditional recipes. VAAGDHARA participated in the event and exhibited above 70 varieties of traditional crops including minor millets, cultivated by indigenous communities in Southern Rajasthan. VAAGDHARA was conferred with the best exhibition presentation in the event for its consistent efforts to promote millets.



## TRUE GOVERNANCE

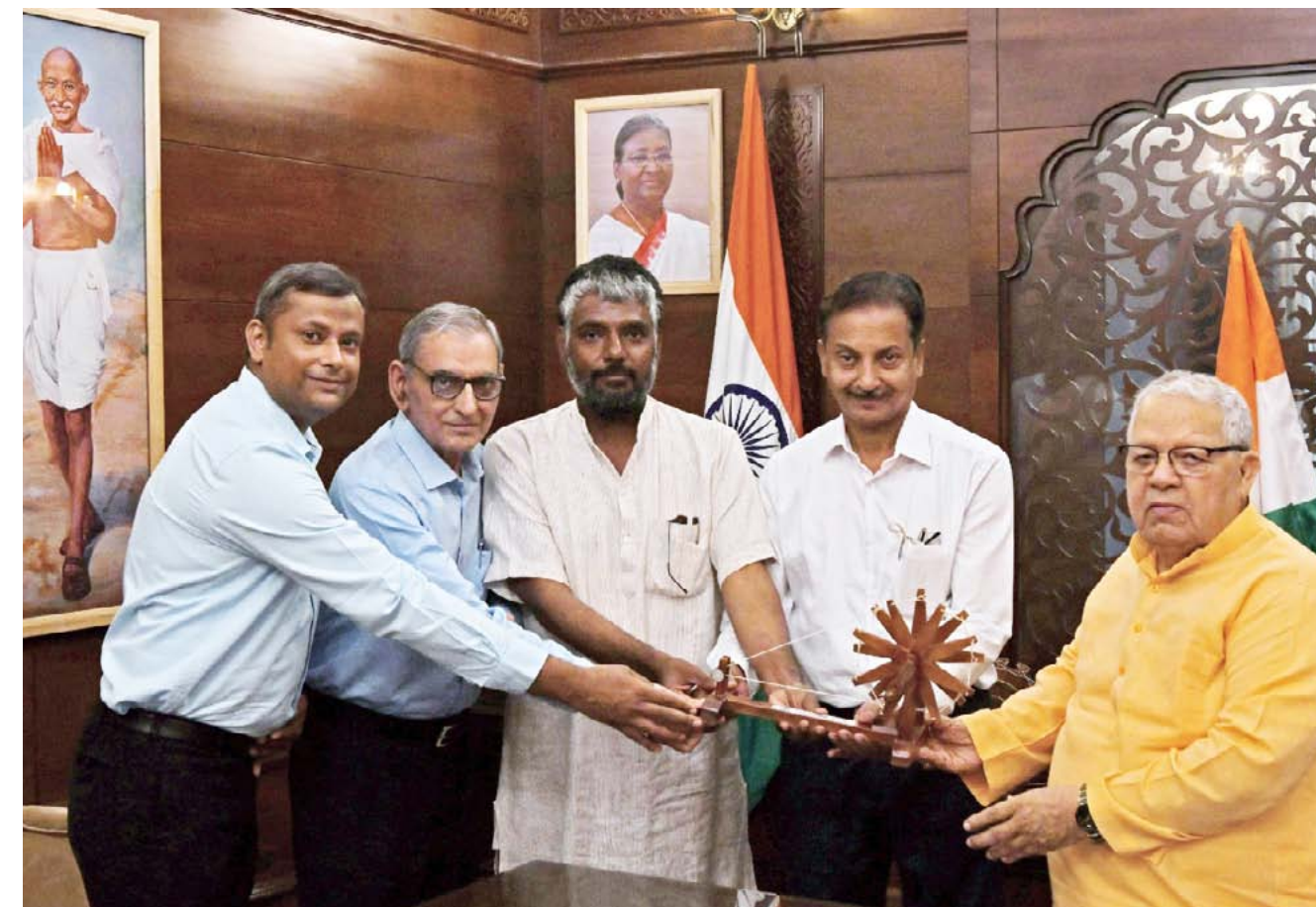
### 7) 'Swaraj Sandesh Samwad Padyatra' – A Call for Solidarity

With the aim to revamp the entire ecosystem and re-establishing the dialogue between mankind and nature, eventually empowering one's self-esteem through Swaraj - a community march Swaraj Sandesh-Samwad Padyatra was carried out by more than 200 members of the indigenous and vulnerable communities. Commenced from Banswara district on the occasion of Acharya Vinoba Bhave's birth anniversary on 11 September, 2022, the yatra culminated at Jaipur, the capital city of Rajasthan on the auspicious occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, 2nd October, 2022. The 21-day long padyatra (foot march) led by the indigenous and other vulnerable communities of Rajasthan covered a distance of 500 kms covering 4 regions and 7 districts of Rajasthan – Banswara, Pratapgarh, Chittorgarh, Bhilwara, Ajmer, Tonk and Jaipur and

was successful in carrying the demands of the community to the district, state and national level, providing the community a platform for solution-based discussions related to policy actions. Two sessions for dialogues and meetings with the local community and key stakeholders (students, teachers, local governance members, representatives of various local organizations and officers of the state government) were organized per day during the yatra. Such dialogues and meetings were organized at more than 40 villages and towns during the yatra. The exchange of versions on various aspects of agriculture, issues on children and the involvement of people in the democratic process at the regional level provided with insight of the actual and ground level situation that helped in preparing the Swaraj Agrah Patra which was presented to the Chief Minister and the Governor of the State.



The culmination of the yatra witnessed the presentation of the Swaraj Agrah Patra to the Chief minister, Rajasthan by the tribal community members on the occasion of the Gandhi Jayanti, on 2nd October, 2022. The Chief Minister appreciated the efforts by the indigenous community and assured for a positive action. Since the governor has the authority to oversee the governance in the tribal areas in the state, in this context, the representatives of the tribal communities met the Governor of the state Mr. Kalraj Mishra in the series of the concluding programmes of the Yatra. The representatives presented the Swaraj Agrah Patra to him and urged to consider the requests made by the community to protect and safeguard their sovereignty which is being harmed by the dominance of the market forces in all segments of their culture and lifestyle.



VAAGDHARA Representatives Meeting with the Governor, Shree Kalraj Mishra

### 8) Orientation of Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathans on Budget Allocation

In order to understand about the budget and various government schemes, the members of 26 Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathan and cluster facilitators were capacitated on budget analysis on allocation and utilization process in a two-day workshop, organized in December 2022.

Initiating with the purpose of preparing state budget, a detailed information was shared with the team members on collection of local level budgets, and how the maximum advantage of the government schemes can be availed in all the 3 states.

The participants were also trained on identifying the local community issues and action plans were prepared by them. Based on the identified community issues, charters of demands were prepared by the Sangathans sent to the State

Government for consideration and inclusion in the upcoming budget.

The issues identified by them were related to agriculture, irrigation, natural farming and seed related issues.

The budget 2023-24 was presented in February 2023. Various concerns raised and recommendations raised by the sangathans were included in the budget announcement for the budget 2023-24 like:

- Support to farmers with input subsidy for organic farming.
- Inclusion of millets into government safety net programmes like mid-day meal, Indira Rasoi and ICDS for increasing its local consumption.
- To reduce the minimum size of landholding criteria upto 0.5 ha for barbed wire fencing scheme, considering the small landholding of tribal farmers.
- Paved ditch in Mahi Major Irrigation Project



## TRUE CHILDHOOD

### 9) Collation of innovative practices related to Child Rights in Banswara during the Pandemic-

There were several innovative works and activities promoting child rights were organised in government schools from tribal areas by the school heads, teachers and the community (with the help of SMC) during the lockdown phase of the pandemic. A teacher's workshop was organised to script and compile these innovations. A compendium of these innovations titled "Anjuri Me Ujas" in a set of innovative practices was developed. These innovative practices will be able to set up the innovations, help the group of teachers in unforeseen difficult situations; and will support them to create a model for the education world.

### 10) State Curriculum Framework

According to the National Education Policy 2020, the state government has prepared the draft curriculum framework (SCF) with the support of other agencies and VAAGDHARA has been played a role as a partner NGO in this process. As per the member of the Focus Group, Environment Education to prepare the position paper several rigorous processes were there like-thinking, writing, discussion, review to prepare an efficient draft of the position paper. VAAGDHARA led the discussions and added values from the context of the tribal children, the geographical and historical perspective of the

tribal area, and the need to incorporate such sensitive part as tribal context in the curriculum framework. Besides, being a member of editorial group, VAAGDHARA also provided a direction to the state level draft of the position paper before submitting it to NCERT.

### 11) State/District level (online/offline) consultation-

Several state-level consultations were conducted to address child rights perspectives. These consultations involved in-depth discussions on the current situation of children in the state and identified the necessary steps for improving and revitalizing the existing government facilities in the post-pandemic period. VAAGDHARA participated in these consultations; shared and discussed the present situations of tribal children and the effective practices use to overcome by the challenges.

Being a member of Girls Not Brides network, VAAGDHARA supported in a research study on Girls' Re-Joining to Schools after COVID-19 closure" in data collection from tribal Rajasthan. VAAGDHARA also participated in the state and district level dissemination of the findings and articulated the tribal situations after the pandemic as per the findings.



Meeting regarding State curriculum Framework in Rajasthan

## VAGAD RADIO- TRANSFORMING TRIBALS LIVES

VAGAD Community Radio is fundamentally linked to the idea of 'voice-to-voiceless' and is a tool for social change. We started our community radio in 2014 with a small team of volunteers who shared a common vision to develop communication methods towards sustainable development. Licensed by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, it turns out to be a value-based community radio station. Over the years, the team has designed several radio shows in local languages, keeping in mind the listeners' interest and the objective of spreading a meaningful message through broadcasting. The many village outreach programs organized on several occasions all-round the year attract huge local crowds. The team endeavours to promote awareness on focus areas, additionally as health, nutrition, sanitation, cultural values and traditions by celebrating local festivals and events with them.

Vagad Radio also undertakes development projects from time to time, focused on effecting a significant change in the region by tackling prevalent challenges and issues. These initiatives have together propelled a wave of development in the region. This year, we focused on strengthening nutrition, education and development through the support of UNICEF. Also broadcasted programmes related to agriculture development on monthly basis. Our efforts had a great impact and connected many new listeners to the radio station. With a strong volunteer base, passion to work, and enthusiasm, we are transforming lives.

Vagad Radio has become a good platform for communication, information sharing and connecting with the community. Listeners call in large numbers to share their ideas and feedback for the shows and projects. Creatively produced shows and content in local languages is the key factor in the success of community radio efforts. It is truly for the community, by the community and to the community approach.

- Mr Ankit, District Collector, Banswara

### FACT FILE

313

Live events covered

21

Outreach Programmes

54,750

Broadcasting Programmes

150

Guest on the Radio station

710

Phone calls

2,920

Hours of Production

814

Hours in Community

1,24,654

Total Listeners

1,051

Number of Volunteers



**VAGAD radio became a catalyst for positive change and empowerment. Here's how community radio broadcast programs supported the tribal communities:**

**Preserving Indigenous Culture:**

The radio station dedicated airtime to promoting and preserving the rich cultural heritage of the tribal community. Local traditions, folk songs, stories, and oral histories were shared, ensuring that the younger generation remained connected to their roots.

**Information Dissemination:**

Community radio served as a vital source of information for the tribal communities. It broadcasted news, weather updates, health awareness programs, and agricultural practices relevant to the region. This helped bridge the information gap and empowered the community with knowledge.

**Local Governance and Democracy:**

The radio station played a crucial role in promoting democratic values and participation. It provided a platform for community members to voice their concerns, opinions, and ideas. Public debates, discussions, and interviews with local leaders were broadcasted, encouraging civic engagement and fostering accountability.

**Education and Literacy:** Recognizing the high illiteracy rates, the radio station designed programs specifically aimed at promoting education and literacy. Radio dramas, storytelling sessions, and educational content were broadcasted, enabling community members to learn and enhance their skills.

**Health and Social Welfare:** The radio station collaborated with local healthcare providers to broadcast health-related programs. These programs covered topics such as maternal and child health, nutrition, hygiene practices, and disease prevention. The radio became a trusted source of information, positively impacting the well-being of the tribal community.

**Livelihood Support:** Community radio facilitated economic empowerment by

providing information on sustainable livelihood opportunities. Programs focused on agriculture, animal husbandry, vocational training, and entrepreneurship were aired, equipping community members with knowledge and skills to improve their economic prospects.

Over time, the community radio station became the heart of the tribal community, fostering unity, inclusivity, and social cohesion. It not only

empowered the community members with information and resources but also amplified their voices, ensuring their concerns were heard and addressed. The success of this community radio initiative led to increased awareness and recognition of the rights and needs of the tribal communities. By addressing their unique challenges and amplifying their voices, community radio played a pivotal role in empowering the tribal community, fostering social change, and improving their overall well-being.



*Kisan Aayog chairman Mr. Mahadev Singh Khandela, giving programme on Vagad radio*



*Vagad Radio in between school girls to listen their concerns*



*Narrocasting programme on child rights, Ms Seema Mohane, RJ intercatating with children in Anagnawadi centre*

**Community Radio Alliance:**

Vagad Radio took the initiative to unite all functional community radios in Rajasthan, forming an alliance to effectively disseminate diverse content on community issues to various unreached areas. The efforts to bring these radios together and formalize the alliance - Alliance of Community Radios Rajasthan (ACRR), have paid off. ACRR is now an independent entity registered under the Societies Act as of March 13, 2023. Vagad Radio has been elected as the Convener of the Alliance, which currently consists of 15 founding members. This Alliance will play a crucial role in shaping organizational strategies and expanding visions. With community radios spread across remote communities, the Alliance collectively reaches around 45-50 lakhs of people.



*Community Radio Alliance*

## MAIN EVENTS

### International Labour Day

Vaagdhara celebrated international labour day to create awareness of the rights and different schemes for migrant workers. In 1000 villages, the celebration of International Labour Day took on a unique flavour, often reflected the rural context and the agricultural labour that is prevalent in those communities covering 45043 community members. During the event, information booths have been set up in village clusters to provide easy access to materials and resources related to migrant worker schemes. These booths offered pamphlets, brochures, and other informative materials that explain the available benefits, procedures for enrolment in the migrant card, and contact information for further assistance.



*Meeting with communities on International Labour day*

### World Environment Day



To spread awareness among people about environmental conservation and the value of nature in our lives, World Environment Day is celebrated each year on June 5. Vaagdhara, a firm believer in nature and the environment celebrated this day to spread awareness on sustainable measures which helps to make safe our earth by perils of pollution, climate change and other effects. 20,365 members participated in the sessions where our volunteers and team members shared how our small activities, organic farming practices, and organic fertilizers supported this cause. Children groups developed more than 50,000 seed balls to disperse in and around the locations to bring down carbon footprint and increase the green cover.



## World no Child Labour Day



A lot of work that Vaagdhara is doing aims to address the problem of child labour in India in a way that becomes socially and culturally unacceptable. 12th June is World Day Against Child Labour, marked this day our villages conducted various activities and events. More than 30000 people in 313 Gram Panchayats were made aware about the ill-effects of child labour on children. Community members also took an oath to prevent child labour in their respective villages. A school enrolment drive was organised to mark World Day Against Child Labour in 1000 villages. The aim of the drive was to identify children working on farms and get them enrolled in schools. This was followed by an awareness rally on the issues of child labour and migration in the neighbouring state. Children and community elders, teachers and Child Protection Committee members of the area participated in it.

## Rajasthan Kisan Aayog Chairman Mr. Mahadev Singh Khandela visited Vaagdhara premises

On October 30, 2022, the Chairman of the Rajasthan Farmers Commission, Mr. Mahadev Singh Khandela, along with the members of the commission, visited Vaagdhara premises. Mr. Mahadev Singh Khandela stated that the efforts being made by the organization for many years in the tribal region are commendable. The valuable contributions made in the production of traditional seeds, indigenous grains, and native vegetables in the tribal areas are being recognized.



## Oral statement delivered at UNHRC



On 9th March 2023, VAAGDHARA delivered an oral statement during the Interactive dialogue with the UN Special Rapporteur on right to food at the UN Human Rights Council's 52nd session. The statement expressed that consistent dialogues are done with them with a view to discussing their issues and coming up with key

recommendations to make them resilient and self-sufficient for their food and nutrition security. There are many actions required to be undertaken on the policy front to improve this situation like 1) promotion of an integrated farming system in hilly and tribal areas, 2) promotion of local crops which are best suited for the local agro-climatic conditions, 3) promote local seed production and distribution, strengthening their seed sovereignty.

## International Conference on crop Intensification system for Climate Smart Livelihood and Nutrition (ICSCI-2022)



Vaagdhara and farmers attended and participated in the international conference held at Hyderabad. The inaugural session exhorted several challenges in sustainable rice production like degrading soil quality and issues of greenhouse gases and mentioned that technologies like SRI and SCI can address several of these issues. Dr. Himanshu Pathak, the chairman also mentioned that location-specific modification of SCI is needed to upscale the technology. Several publications were released during the conference's inaugural session.

Seven awards instituted by the Society for the Advancement of Rice Research (SARR) were awarded, where our Farmer Mr Mansingh Ninama was awarded the "Best Farmer award".

## Child rights week

Children were engaged through recreational activities like organizing child collective meetings, developing teaching-learning materials in schools and building Anganwadi Centres also known as pre-school education centres, slogan writing, discussion on child rights, child march, poster making and various fairs were held.

## Strengthening health care services in remote area of Anandpuri Block



On October 21, 2022, with the aim of strengthening healthcare services in remote areas, the Honorable Minister of Water Resource Department, Mr. Mahendra Jeet Singh Malviya, and the Chairman,

Zila Parishad, Mrs. Resham Malviya, were present for the inauguration of the model community health center and the donation of a well-equipped ambulance to the Anandpuri, Banswada region by Vaagdhara. This ambulance will be instrumental in transporting patients from remote rural areas to higher healthcare centres. The presence of such an ambulance in these distant regions will significantly contribute to improving access to quality medical services.

## Presented our view on the : "seminar on soil health" in Food and Agriculture organization for the United Nation

At the international level, the cultivation of summer moong in the tribal region of Rajasthan is considered an important effort by the United Nations organization.

The Food and Agriculture Institute of the United Nations Organization has considered the cultivation of summer moong in the tribal region of Rajasthan as an important effort to improve soil health at the international level.

Speaking at the 'Seminar on Soil Health' organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Secretary Jayesh Joshi said that there was a time when tribal society, the pioneer of tribal culture, was endowed with quality-rich soil and forest produce, but market pressures and conditions arising out of the government's support to specific crops have brought the soil in this region to its lowest quality level. Moong cultivation in the summer season maintains food security, meets the nutritional needs of the family and improves their livelihood, as well as preventing migration of farmers and more importantly improving soil health.

## Awarded with "VAGAD RATNA" Award

The prestigious "Vagad Ratna" Award was conferred upon Vaagdhara at the concluding ceremony of the 36th Dharti Jatan Yatra at the Nagar Village in Malpura, Tonk District in Rajasthan, under the aegis of Gram Vikas Navayuvak Mandal, Lapodia.



## Participation in "People's Convention on Millets of Millions", New Delhi



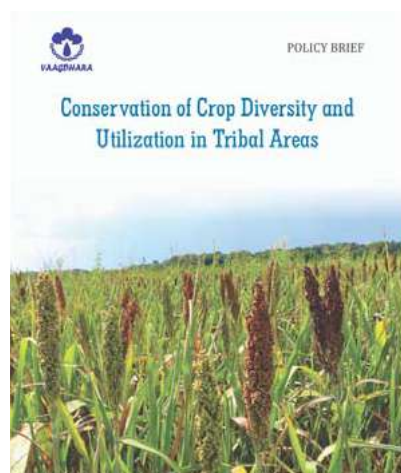
The two-day event on Millet's rejuvenation focused on finding ways to make millet affordable and accessible while benefiting millions of farmers and rural entrepreneurs through people-centric approaches to millet cultivation and processing to establish productive and resilient rainfed agriculture in collaboration with the Centre's National Rainfed Area Authority.

## Global Symposium on Soils for Nutrition

VAAGDHARA participated in the Global Symposium on Soils for Nutrition (GSOIL4N) organised between 26th July to 29th July, 2022. Mr. Jayesh Joshi, Secretary VAAGDHARA deliberated on 'Prospects of sustainable food security in tribal areas with improvement in soil health by adopting practices of summer green gram cultivation'. The FAO appreciated and considered the cultivation of summer green gram in the tribal region as a significant effort to improve soil health. The deliberation emphasized on green gram cultivation in the summer season which helps maintain food security, nutritional needs of the family, improve their livelihood, prevent migration of farmers and more importantly improve soil health.

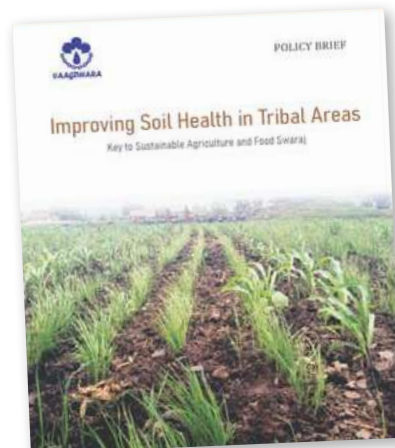


# OUR PUBLICATIONS FOR THIS YEAR



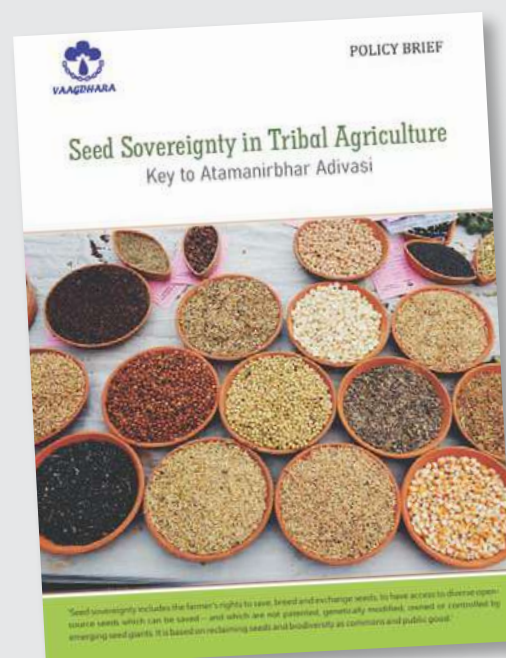
This policy brief shared that Tribal communities often possess unique traditional knowledge about various crops and their uses, which have been cultivated and preserved over generations. These diverse crops can be valuable regarding food security, cultural heritage, and overall biodiversity preservation and

recommend policy recommendations through this published article.

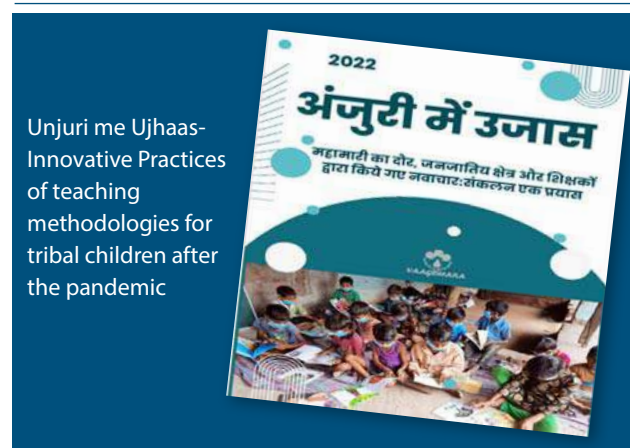


This policy brief shared that Tribal communities often possess unique traditional knowledge about various crops and their uses, which have been cultivated and preserved over generations. These diverse crops can be valuable regarding food security, cultural heritage, and overall biodiversity preservation and

recommend policy recommendations through this published article.



This policy brief publication highlighted the importance of seed sovereignty and provides recommendations for policymakers to support and promote this crucial aspect of agricultural sustainability and food security. It was explained that ensuring seed sovereignty for farmers, particularly in rainfed tribal reg of paramount importance. Seed sovereignty must be articulated and actively promoted to empower farmers with access to a diverse range of seeds and control over their agricultural practices.

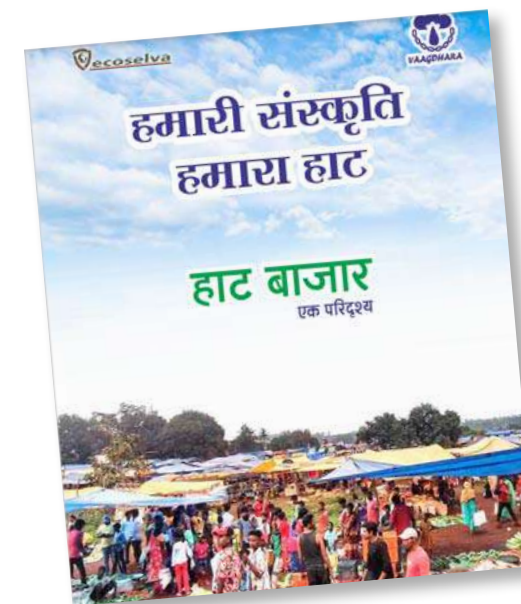


Unjuri me Ujhaas- Innovative Practices of teaching methodologies for tribal children after the pandemic



This publication shared the traditional farming and organic farming techniques' common principles of sustainability, environmental protection, and holistic development and their importance in preserving agricultural diversity, cultural heritage, and the overall well-being of communities.

In this published book, the author researched into the fascinating world of Haat Bazar, a traditional marketplace that holds immense significance in the lives of tribal communities. Through vivid descriptions and captivating narratives, the publication explores how Haat Bazar serves as more than just a place of trade; it is a cultural lifeline where tribes gather to exchange goods, share stories, and strengthen social bonds. It sheds light on the pivotal role these markets play in preserving indigenous customs, sustaining local economies, and nurturing a deep sense of community among tribal populations.



The Swaraj Sandesh Padyatra is a significant grassroots movement aimed at promoting self-reliance, community empowerment, and social change. This process document outlines the key steps and guidelines for organizing and conducting the Padyatra, a symbolic march undertaken by activists and volunteers to advocate for the principles of Swaraj (self-governance) and sustainability.

## SWARAJ SANDESH – SAMWAD PADYATRA

11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER - 02<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER, 2022

A PROCESS DOCUMENT



Our abstract titled 'Prospects of sustainable food security in tribal areas with improvement in soil health by adopting practices of summer green gram cultivation' has been published for Global Symposium on Soils for Nutrition (GSOIL4N) – organised by FAO.



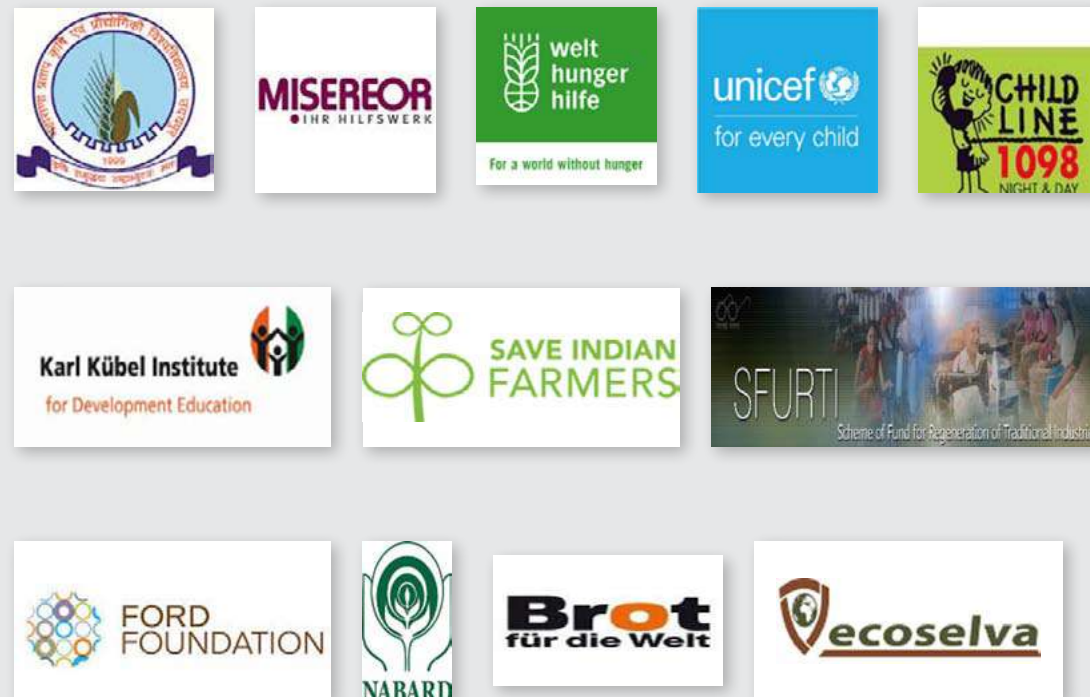
Under the theme of "Creating full and productive employment and decent work for all the way as a way of overcoming inequalities" a written statement has been published during the 61st session of the Commission for Social Development. This statement highlights the pivotal role played by Vaagdhara in promoting a socially just and sustainable transition. It outlines Vaagdhara's efforts in empowering marginalized communities, fostering inclusive growth, and addressing social inequities through various sustainable development initiatives. The statement emphasizes the importance of collaborative partnerships and community-driven approaches to achieve meaningful and lasting positive impacts on society.



# OUR PARTNERS

Vaagdhara is immensely grateful for the unwavering support received from our valued partners in 2022. Without your personal commitment, investment of time and resources, creative ideas, and steadfast loyalty, our work would not have been possible. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our partners, private donors, supporters, Academic Institutions and foundations who have collaborated with us.

Our gratitude extends to the institutions both in India and internationally that have entrusted us with significant grants and challenging tasks. Their confidence in our work demonstrates the value they place in our efforts. For over 35 years, we have been dedicated to creating sustainable pathways for tribal communities, and it is your support that fuels our progress.



## OUR NETWORK



# OUR GOVERNING BOARD

## Our Board Members



Mr Brijmohan Dixit,  
President



Dr. Shachi Aadesh Chaturvedi,  
Treasurer



Mr. Jayesh Joshi,  
Secretary



Ms. Anita Damor,  
Member



Dr. Anuradha Prasad,  
Member



Mr. Sukhdeo Singh Burarak,  
Member



Mr. Sunny Sebastien,  
Member

## Our Senior Facilitation Team

- Ms. Surbhi Saraswat, Senior Programme Lead, Operations
- Dr. Sudeep Sharma, Senior Programme Lead, Policy sensitization
- Mr. Saurabh Sabikhi, Senior Programme Lead, Finance and administration
- Mr. Parmesh Patidar, Programme lead, Institution and Democracy
- Mr. P.L. Patel, Programme lead, Agriculture & Nutrition
- Mr. Majid Khan, Programme Lead, Child development
- Ms. Minal Mehta, Accounts officer





# Auditor's Report



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

**BALANCE SHEET OF AS ON MARCH 31, 2023**

Particulars	Schedule	As At 31.03.2023	As At 31.03.2022
<b>SOURCES OF FUNDS</b>			
General Reserve	1	10166392.68	7111021.84
Capital Reserve for Fixed Assets	2	19820553.76	19748807.76
Vehicle Loan		407221.00	-
Current Liabilities & Provisions			
1) Sundry Creditors	3	7565653.00	6008876.00
2) Other Liabilities & Provisions	3	4721354.87	6070802.00
3) Unspent Local Contribution	4	154776.16	251041.80
4) Unspent amount payable on Projects	5	12122134.22	24563918.25
		23241458.93	35572178.73
<b>Total</b>		<b>54958085.69</b>	<b>62432008.33</b>
<b>APPLICATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Fixed Assets	6	34914736.00	31984504.00
Current Assets, Loans And Advances			
1) Deposits	7	25837.00	24520.00
2) Bank Balances	7	10965087.81	21316614.98
3) Other Current Assets	7	1739565.00	1233365.00
4) Overspent amount recoverable on Projects	5	7312859.88	20043349.69
		7873004.35	30447504.33
<b>Total</b>		<b>54958085.69</b>	<b>62432008.33</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: 28th June 2023  
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 OF FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 2023**

Particulars	Schedule	FY 2022-23	FY 2021-22
<b>INCOME</b>			
Grants and Donations	8		
A. Grants		77645933.84	107606696.48
B. Dohations		9958269.00	6954000.00
Interest Income		615669.36	447387.24
Other Income		2616866.00	1697830.04
Vagad Radio Station Income		726756.00	-
Community Contribution	4	9705575.00	2417140.00
Sales proceed of Project Assets		12000.00	-
Balances Written Off		-	256077.43
<b>Total</b>		<b>101281069.20</b>	<b>119379131.19</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
<u>Project Expenditure</u>			
Development Programme Exp.	9	81264475.10	95385856.20
Administrative Salaries & Exp.	9	5409489.25	5877384.56
Development Exp. - Local Contributor	10	12623793.00	4689690.40
Administrative Exp. - Local Contributor	10	411533.34	-
<u>Others</u>			
Other Expenditure	11	3963726.87	4830930.67
Deficit from Vagad Radio Station		-	90532.00
Deficit from Janjati Swarajya Kendra		1350413.80	2282960.00
Vaagdhara Development Expenses		978459.00	-
Balances Written Off		73005.15	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>106074895.51</b>	<b>113157353.83</b>
Excess of Income Over Expenditure		(4793826.31)	6221777.36
Less: Net excess/(short) of grant/Local Contribution carried to Balance Sheet	5	(10445675.51)	
	4	(96265.64)	(10541941.15)
<b>Allocable Surplus</b>		<b>5748114.84</b>	<b>(637860.10)</b>
Less: Fixed assets transferred to capital reserves			
Out of Grants		2458269.00	3,561,433.76
Out of Local Contribution		234475.00	2692744.00
<b>Net surplus transferred to General Reserves</b>		<b>3055370.84</b>	<b>(4199293.86)</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: 28th June 2023  
Place: Udaipur





Vibrant Seed Rangoli Pays Tribute to the Diversity of Traditional Seeds



Nurturing Indigenous Wisdom: Celebrating the Richness of Indigenous Seeds and Millets



**Head Office:**

Village and Post Kupra, District Banswara, Rajasthan (India)

Ph: 9414082643 | Email: [vaagdhara@gmail.com](mailto:vaagdhara@gmail.com) | Web: [www.vaagdhara.org](http://www.vaagdhara.org)

**State Coordination Office:**

Plot No. 37, Shiv Shakti Nagar, Gautam Marg, Near Kings Road, Nirman Nagar, Jaipur, Rajasthan - 302018

Ph: +919829823424

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 <https://www.instagram.com/vaagdhara/>