



Annual Report

Activities in 2022-23

**SRISHTI (Society for Rural Initiatives in Sustainable
and Holistic Themes in India)**

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Dear Members,

Our organization, SRISHTI (Society for Rural Initiatives in Sustainable and Holistic Themes in India), is working for facilitating the process of recognition of the rights of rural and tribal people on natural resources to strengthen livelihood and conservation of natural resources. We are working in the tribal areas of Gadchiroli district in Maharashtra and Rajnandgaon district of Chhattisgarh. Capacity building of community institutions and facilitating them to implement different acts and schemes for livelihood security are the key areas of the work of the organization.

SRISHTI: How we work –

There are numerous schemes set up for development purposes such by the government at various scales each year. Yet, there are some issues that commonly riddle their effective implementation at the local level. These problems include, firstly, the mismatch between the design of various schemes to suit local issues. Secondly, the lack of awareness among elected local government representatives about details of various schemes and lack of monitoring of their implementation. And thirdly, the lack of awareness among community members about their rights to those schemes, lack of awareness of basic documents for accessing schemes. SRISHTI operates primarily at the level of local capacity building and partially at the level of networking with policy makers for designing locally relevant schemes. At the local level, SRISHTI's model of work starts with a careful study of government schemes that need to be implemented for a particular target group. E.g. schemes for infants and new mothers. In this scheme we will identify the nature of benefits to be received by target group – monetary transfers, access to free medication, access to nutritious food supplements, etc. We will analyse the sub-categories of target groups, e.g. differences of benefits between SC, ST or other caste beneficiaries. We will also enlist documents and details required from each beneficiary and enlist the various administrative wings involved e.g. doctors, nurses, ASHA workers, Aanganwadi workers, etc. After a careful study, we start to build networks or groups of target group members and/or members of the local gram sabha (i.e. village council). The groups are then made aware of the schemes and are empowered to monitor the implementation of the scheme e.g. the group is asked to regularly communicate with the responsible nurse/Aanganwadi worker, doctor, etc. We also support the monitoring effort of the local group by holding regular meetings with local

administrators such as local panchayat members, gram sevak, members of the Panchayat Samiti, BDO, CO, etc. SRISHTI also ensures to address issues that might hinder an individual's access Points of intervention by SRISHTI SRISHTI Report 6 to the schemes. E.g. helping in creating bank accounts, updating ration cards, creating or updating Aadhar cards, etc. At the policy level, SRISHTI is part of several NGO groups and study circles which meet regularly to discuss policy matters. This group of NGOs often writes notes, discussion papers, and policy recommendations together to contribute to policy makers' efforts. Regular meetings are held with the district and state administrations through various fora for giving inputs and feedback on existing and prospective development schemes. SRISHTI: Where we work SRISHTI works in two states Gadchiroli in Maharashtra and Rajnandgaon in Chhatisgarh And 4 districts From this perspective, the following programs have been implemented in the year 2022-23

Gadchiroli	Wadsa	10	10776
Gadchiroli	Kurkheda	29	10345
Gadchiroli	Korchi	12	1894
Gadchiroli	Armor	3	1226
Gadchiroli	Dhanora	10	3408
Rajnandgaon	Ambagad Chowki	11	3222
Gondia	Arjuni Morgav	11	6795
Chandrapur	Rajura, Bhadravati, Gonpipari	20	5300

Right over Natural Resources

Helping the local communities to establish rights over forests by using the provisions of the Forest Right Act for livelihood enhancement is one of the focus areas. In Gadchiroli where the rights have been already recognized, the process of enterprise development, based on NTFP has been initiated.

Mahagramsabha of 23 gram sabha has been formed and undertaken work in the 325 hectares and 25 hectares of the mixed plantation from which 335 individuals got employment. Registering process of the gram sabhas as planning and implementation initiated in six-gram sabha.

Similarly, the 23 individuals have appealed at the SDLC level for IFR. Further, the village coordinators have been appointed to prepare the forest conservation and management plan.

Valmiki Matsya Sahakari Sanstha has been able to sell 19 quintals of fish and earner 312000 rupees. The total cost for labor of 61000 thousand occurred. Similarly, the Nallikasa gram sabha has earned 277000 rupees and the Chipri gram sabha has earned 13400 from fish selling. In Yerandi gram sabha the de-siltation work of 24 lakhs was undertaken.

21 women benefited from goatary, 102 benefitted from the poultry 147 women benefited from the kitchen garden initiative. Notably, in these gram sabhas women's participation has increased and MGNREGA works of soil and moisture conservation are increasing and the institutions are performing better in the maturity indexes.



Figure 1 Fish Marketing

Health and Nutrition Project:

This program has been implemented in the Kurkheda block of Gadchiroli this year. The project was rolled out in the 23 villages under 2 PHCs, and 11 HSCs are in the project area. Various health initiatives like Vaccination, nutrition, and sanitation were undertaken in the project. The major strategy of involving ASHA workers was adopted. Nutrition food the provided to the children.



Figure 2 Nutrition food provided to the children



Figure 3 Training to the ASHA worker

Case story

A Malnutrition-Free Village

Srishti Sanstha is working in 23 villages of Kurkheda and Dhanora taluka of Gadchiroli district under the health and nutrition project by Yerandi from 2022! The area of operation is approximately 65 km from the headquarters and at least 40 km from the taluka headquarters. All 23 villages of the working area are inhabited by the tribal (Gond) community and the average punishment in the village is low due to being a tribal Gond community, the people of the community promote their tribal traditions and the elderly people of the old age adopt new

policies and traditions. Inability to grant recognition! While working in each village, the level of malnutrition among children aged 0 to 5 years is quite high at the Anganwadi level of each village! According to the purpose of the Rakhkar project, every village should be free from malnutrition. This matter was discussed in every village meeting, village meeting, women's group, youth group, and parent group and people were made to understand its purpose!

10% received by the Gram Panchayat after giving an understanding of the concept of a Malnutrition Free Village in 23 villages of the working area in the month of October 2022 namely Khamatla and Murmadi (internal villages Khatitola, Majitola) in this village after discussing with the Gram Sabha officials. It has been decided to spend the funds only on malnourished children and the process is underway! In the remaining 21 villages, the process is going on at the village level on how to make the village free from malnutrition.

In all the 23 villages of the working area, during the home visit to every beneficiary family, the head of the family, female members of the family, the elderly members of the family and discussed with them what are the causes of malnutrition, such as Addiction in the family, the reasons for women joining farming work. Children do not get milk or nutritious food on time, there is less gap between 2 children, lack of cleanliness in the family.

The process was done at the village level by sitting with the parent group Mahila Mandal, village leaders, Panchayat officials and the Gram Sabha of the village. In this area, Murmadi, Khatitola, and Majitola villages of the area have been discussed with the village leaders, panchayat members, Anganwadi workers, and school teachers to create awareness about malnutrition-free villages at the village level, and on 19/11/ On 2022, awareness was raised by conducting a round with the children of schools and Anganwadi! And in Khatitola and Murmadi village, writing idiom on the wall of the house (wall painting) was made aware!

E-Vidyaloka program:

Online education of the students of classes 5th to 8th in Ten Zilla Parishad schools in Wadsa and Kurkheda blocks has been done through this program. The students had not the basic tools to attend online classes in the period of lockdown, so we have arranged facilities for them to continue their education, through this program. One of the successful cases can be seen as a student delivering a fluent and good speech in English.

HONEY

SRISHTI established a honey collection center and developed a brand called SRISHTI Honey through guidance and support received from the Manav Vikas Mission in the year 2009. Through the years we have been successful in training over 100 families in sustainable and non-violent means of harvesting honey. These honey collectors have now ensured a market all through the year. We have a storage capacity of over 25 quintals of honey and a processing unit that ensures filtered and pure quality honey. SRISHTI Honey owes its success to its strategy for giving fair prices to honey collectors, developing strong local market relations, pricing for enabling good local sales, and also sending our product to a few urban markets.

Develop Skill And Generate Scope For Employment And Rural Entrepreneurship Of Tribal Pocket (PWC)

It was implemented in 06 villages namely Bodhdha, Chipri, Sonpur, Nalliksa, Ambezri, and Dalli in Kurkheda and Desaignanj blocks of Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra state. The implementation of the project was scheduled from October 1, 2021, to October 31, 2022, however, due to community engagement in other activities and works. however, due to community engagement in other activities and works. All the planned sectoral activities were implemented till 31 January 2023.

The overall objective of the project was to increase local freshwater fish productivity and honey collection using the traditional knowledge of the habitat of the local communities and to introduce modern techniques of fishery management and honey collection/harvesting. An increase in fish productivity and honey productivity is expected to increase the household income of 177 families in tribal and other forest-dependent communities. Also, the project improves aquaculture and honey collection practices and production, to ensure households have access to aquaculture, honey-related information, and market knowledge, and provides communities and individuals with skills and resources to improve their mindsets for becoming enterprises.

Fish Collection Information				
Sr. No.	Village Name	Total Collection (B)	Market Value (D)	Gross Sale proceeds (G)
1	Sonpur	453	220.00	99660.00
2	Chipari	420	220.00	92400.00
3	Nallikassa	435	220.00	95700.00
4	Bodhadha	858	220.00	188760.00
Total				476520.00

Fish: The average income increased by 2707.05 per household

Honey Collection Information				
Sr. No.	Village Name (A)	Total Collection (B)	Market Value (D)	Gross Sale proceeds (G)
1	Nallikassa	394	200.00	78800.00
2	Dalli	221	200.00	44200.00
3	Ambezari	215	200.00	43000.00
Total				166000.00

Honey: the average income increased by 4742.00

Case Study

In the Bodhadha village, Survey No. 461 Arjee 61.48 in the scope of Fisheries Institute under Natural Resource Rights Project by Srishti Institute with Valmiki Fisheries Institute. Fish conservation and management work was done in this lake



Fish collection "Bodhadha"
Friday, 27 May 2022 at 3:12:44 PM

The actual water area is 19 Ha.R. Remaining lakes do not store water for 12 months. So livelihood can be done on a single lake. However, the lake was deepened 15 years ago. This resulted in the loss of vegetation and biodiversity in the lake and no food for fish, thus greatly affecting

Figure 4 Fish collection Bodhadha

fish production. The time of famine came upon this society. So it was decided to

revive the lake. 1 out of 19 ha watershed. The area was plowed and planted with trees. It consists of leaf plants, lotus tubers, kasai and seeds of data, parsoda, pohan. Sediment and fingerling seeds were put in it. 200 Gram wheat powder & KUKUS per day supplementary food for 2 months were fed for its rearing. 2 persons were selected from the fisheries organization to provide regular feeding of the fish and maintain the pond. After 2 months it increased by 200 to 300 grams. All those fish seeds were then released into the pond. After the seeds are released into the pond, these fish use the plants planted in the pond as food. Due to this, the growth of fish started to improve.

The following rules were prepared by the Valmiki Fisheries Society for the proper execution of all the above work.

1. Members shall not engage in fishing unless a meeting of the organization is held.
2. Organization members are responsible for maintaining the pond. Every evening 7 alternate Members of teams will take turns visiting a pond.
3. To take penal action against the person stealing from the lake.
4. Keeping a record of all accounts while fishing.
5. 50% of the fishing produce will be given to the organization and 50% to the laborers to increase the profit of the organization.
6. New members should deposit a registration fee of Rs.5000.
7. The organization and members shall ensure that the biodiversity of the lake is not destroyed.

All the above works have created enthusiasm in the work of the fishing organizations and an increase in production will create good employment for fishing families. Such is the sentiment of the fishing association.

Livelihood improvement of the forest-dependent local communities through improved access to resources and markets.(FES)

The relationship between forests and human beings has a long history. In the past, when the community people had no knowledge of cultivation, they used to live in the forest and totally depended upon the forest products for their subsistence. Gradually, they learned to hunt wildlife and used wildlife as food, started taking boiled food, cleared forests for cultivation and means of communication, etc., cleared the forest and constructed huts, and developed cultivable land. In the course of time, with the development of different fields, community people cleared more and more forests and constructed means of communication, developed ownership.

The villages are selected from four blocks of Gadchiroli, the selection criteria is provided below. The 70 villages have been identified from the four blocks of Gadchiroli. Ten villages from the Dhanora and Desaignanj each. 32 and 18 villages from Kurkheda and Korchi blocks. At least 60 percent of the households are expected to get benefited from the project moreover all women-headed households are to be included in the project. Table 1 provides more information about the selected villages. CFR area is collected from the villages and the rest of the data is taken from the Census 2011. Interestingly, the villages are also selected where the CFR is recognized outside the village boundary.

The master trainers have been appointed and organized training for their capacity building. Further, the CFRMCs are formed and reconstituted 66 in all the project villages. The management plan preparation is in the process. Near about 15 gramsabhas registration as planning and implementation agency under MGNREGA is under process.



Figure 5 Gram sabha



Figure 6 Village-level Meeting

To secure and improve the rights and livelihoods of Adivasi and Forest Dependent Communities

This project is in two states- three districts of Maharashtra and two districts of Chhattisgarh. The project aims to secure and improve the rights and livelihoods of Adivasi and Forest Dependent Communities in 15 villages of Maharashtra and 15 villages of Chhattisgarh State

The major objectives of the projects are

Strengthening local institutions. - Capacity building through training of Gramsabha for CFRR, FRC, CFRMC

Securing of rights and entitlements- Baseline survey to ascertain the extent of IFR rights not claimed by individuals. Conduct camps and training and later on do hand holding of farmers eligible for IFR Claims.

Improving village income- Develop SoP for sustainable harvesting and trade of NTFP available in CFR areas. CFRMC will be encouraged to act as implementing arm of MGNEGRA, thereby accessing material and financial resources.

SRISHTI has identified 15 villages in Maharashtra where in most of the villages IFR and CFRR rights have already been conferred. Somehow, the spirit of CFRR has not been followed while conferring such rights. In the first step, it is, therefore, necessary to correct the mistake made by local authorities and get the CFRR corrected. Unless such corrections are made people shall not benefit from the benefits that they are entitled to under the FRA. There is a reasonably high percentage of rejection of Individual Forest Rights, some individuals are yet to claim their rights.

In Chattisgad 15 villages have been identified for intervention. In Chattisgad only 5 villages have been conferred with CFRR rights. In the rest of the villages, the process will have to begin with the preparation of a claim by the gram sabha, getting it conferred by appropriate authorities, and later on the formation of CFRMC followed by preparation of the Conservation cum Management Plan. In all villages of Chattisgad IFR rights have been conferred to individuals to the extent of 75% of the eligible case the rejection rate is relatively low but, in all villages, there are about 5 to 10 cases of rejection.

Gram sabha in case of CFRR and individual farmers in the case of IFR do not have the knowledge nor do they have access to SoP that needs to follow for formulating a claim for IFR and CFR. This problem leads to non-filing of claims for eligible and rightful claimants. In cases of incomplete or inappropriate claim the claims gets rejected creating a sense of dejection and ill will towards the state machinery. Handholding of local institutions and people shall resolve this problem. Evolving SoP around this shall address the problem in the long term and shall help other villages to access their rightful entitlements.



Figure 7 Maharashtra village CFR Information

Figure 8 Chattisgad village CFR information

Maha Gram Sabha Sangh Taluka Wadsa/ Kurkheda

Maha Gramas sha initially included seven villages in Kurkheda, but their purpose is to increase the economic income of the people, that is, as per the Forest Rights Act, the Gram Sabha has the responsibility to protect, conserve, nurture, and dispose of the collective area received by the Gram Sabha. The claims of collecting and selling Tendu Patta, Bamboo, and Mohava Flower from the year 2023 were shown.

Sr.	Block	Year	NTFP	Rate per standard bag	Forest department rate
1	Vadsa	2022	Tendu	4900	3650
2	Kurkhuda	2022	Tendu	6500	

If each gram sabha is done collectively than individually, it can benefit the gram sabha to a great extent, so it was thought to connect the villages in the project and the villages outside the project as a creative organization. From 7 Gram Sabhas, 39 Gram Sabhas have been included in the Mahasabha Union.



Keshav Gurnule,

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