



Annual Report

Activities in 2020-21

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 the 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, a 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 the target group – monetary transfers, access to free medication, access to nutritious food supplements, etc. We will analyze the sub-categories of target groups, e.g. differences in 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 2020-21.

Gadchiroli	Wadsa	10	10776
Gadchiroli	Kurkheda	29	10345
Gadchiroli	Korchi	12	1894
Gadchiroli	Armori	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

After the baseline was done and the survey report presented by the consultant, we developed a project proposal with the help of the Swiss Aid India Office and later it has been started in June 2020. Fifty-one villages from the Wadsa and Kurkheda block of Gadchiroli district, Arjuni Morgaon block of Gondia district, and Bhadravati, Rajura, and Gondpipri block of Chandrapur.

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.

In this process we have created a WhatsApp group of 3 districts. Further, Gram Mandat Samiti was established and a beneficiary selection committee was established. The project worker was taken care of on precautionary measures to prevent the risk of corona infection. There is a committee at the NGO level for the selection of vendors and procurement of materials. After providing benefits to each beneficiary, the beneficiary list was verified by the village committee. Yes, 289 families were allotted. Posters and leaflets regarding Coronavirus (Covid-19) were prepared and placed in public places and distributed to the beneficiaries. Such a situation has not been created in our field of work.



Figure 1 Provided seeds in the Covid - 19

Health and Nutrition Project:

This program has been implemented in the Kurkheda block of Gadchiroli in this year. The project was roll out in the 36 villages under 2 PHCs, 11 HSCs are in the project area. The various health initiatives like Vaccination, nutrition, and sanitation were undertaken in the project.

Awareness of vaccination programs for all 0 to 5 years children and pregnant and nutrition for lactating mothers has been done in all 36 villages. The importance of maintaining the health care of pregnant women's vaccination and nutrition for getting the benefits of the government schemes has also been provided to the women. 21 villages have water supply and sanitation committees. Out of these, 15 committees were activated and regular meetings were organized, through which basic amenities in Angawadi were ensured and the supply of dresses and baskets to children was ensured. 3 health camps were organized with the active participation of Purada PHC for women. The issue of making first aid kit available at Anganwadi has also been discussed in the meetings of the Manav Vikas Mission in Gadchiroli. And in 36 villages, meetings started in January 2020 due to the Kovid-19 communication ban, and village ban.



Figure 2 Houshold good nProduct



Figure 3 Allocation of masks

E-Vidyaloka program:

Online education of the students of classes 5th to 8th in 5 Zilla Parishad schools in Wadsa and Kurkheda blocks has been done through this program. The students had not access to the basic tools to attend online classes in the lockdown period, so the Organisation arranged facilities for them to continue their education, through this program. Ten schools got benefited under this programme. Given the condition prevailing in country and at the global level in the covid -19 period, the online learning was the only option to make the education available and we feel the programme helped the students significantly.



Figure 4 education dissemination in the small group in covid -19



Figure 5 facilitating learning through following the standard covid protocols

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.



Figure 6 Training on honey collection

Improved livelihoods of forest-dependent communities by securing forest land rights and control over natural resources (BMZ)

The improved livelihood of forest-dependent communities by securing forest land right and control over natural resources project was initiated in 2018 and implemented till 2021. The project included the Forest management information from the display board. Which included the local and dependent villages, identification of their traditional boundaries, and traditional forest area etc. after securing the Community area the demand for forest management work and MNREGA work by Gram Sabha was initiated. The implementation part had training on technical knowledge for forest management. Capacity Building Training of District Level Forest Rights Federation

Seeking evidence from the administration to process community claims. Training in technical knowledge for collection processing and processing of forest produce lastly the District Level Conference of Community Forest Management Committee was organized.

Formation of Maha Gram Sabha Sangh Taluka Vadsa/ Kurkheda

Maha Gramas ha initially included 7 villages in Kurkheda, its purpose was to increase the income of the people and overall economic conditions. The legal recognition of these initiatives is already laid in the Forest Rights Act, that is 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 Mahuva flower from the year 2020 were shown.

Sr.	Block	Year	NTFP	Rate per standard bag	Forest department rate
1	Vadsa	2020	Tendu	4500	290
2	Kurkheda	2020	Tendu	5800	
3	Vadasa	2021	Tendu	5800	310
4	Kurkheda	2021	Tendu	7800	

If each gram sabha start doing it collectively, 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 also.

.Keshav Gurnule,

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