



Annual Report

2021-22

**Society for Rural Initiatives in Sustainable and
Holistic Themes in India**

(SRISHTI)

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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 2021-22.

District	Taluka	No. of villages	Population
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.

Nos. of forest-dependent families that have legal rights over forests. Also, women landowners were also considered in livelihood generation activities. Thirteen village-level forest and

fisheries micro-plans made and operationalized by the gram sabhas / fishery cooperatives. It is being observed that in 52 % of CBOs women actively participating in decision making process. Seventeen gram sabhas and one Cooperatives made functional effectively as per the institutional maturity index. 172 and 530 households from Gadchiroli and Chandrapur getting work for at least 70 days in NREGA in the last 12 months.

A significant number of households have successfully developed at least 2 less climate-sensitive livelihood options.

Response on Covid- Preparedness Activities:

The major emphasize was given on the Increase preparedness of communities to control transmission of the COVID-19 pandemic in 51 villages. 50% of the village population was better informed about COVID-19 pandemic, including benefits of testing and vaccination. 60 community mobilizers receive capacity building trainings required to mobilize communities observe covid appropriate behavior and coordination among stakeholders. This resulted in the increased number of eligible populations in targeted villages are vaccinated with at least 1st dose. 46 front-line public health workers receive equipment to monitor symptomatic and potential COVID-19 patients. The community institutions (CBOs) played a crucial and active role in the mobilization of communities for testing and vaccination.

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 23villages under 2 PHCs, 11 HSCs are in the project area. The various health initiatives like Vaccination, nutrition, and sanitation were undertaken in the project.

The major activities include the health checkups of the pregnant women to identify the anemia, malnutrition's and complications to treat the same. The awareness building through distribution of reference material on the menstruation cycle to adolescent girls was undertaken. Further, the wall paintings were used as an effective method for creating awareness on Malnutrition. The proper site identification and visibility of the letters were taken into consideration while painting the wall. The training for the programs was organized for the adolescent girls of the ashram Schools. The pictorial depiction of the activities is as below.



Figure 1 Pregnant women' Checkups



Figure 2 Distributing the book named Menstrupedia to the adolescent girls, Ambezari



Figure 3 Awareness of malnutrition through wall painting.



Figure 4 Training program on health for adolescent girls

E-Vidyaloka program:

Online education of the students of classes 5th to 8th in ten zilla Parsihad schools was taken forward. The emphasize was given on the education of subjects like Math's English and science

as these subjects were suggested by the target group. Provided tools made it easy to organize the classes and sessions for the external resource persons on various topics. The benefit of such initiative is visible in the form of increased percentage in the specific subjects and also in the form of increased attendance which is also an indicator of the increased interest among the students.

HONEY

SRISHTI established a honey collection centre 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 5 Honey Training

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

SRISHTI has implemented the "DEVELOP SKILLS AND GENERATE SCOPE FOR EMPLOYMENT AND RURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP OF TRIBAL POCKET OF GADCHIROLI, MAHARASHTRA" project under the Price Water House Foundation since October 2021. This project contributing to building sustainable livelihoods and strengthening the skills of vulnerable tribal communities in the Kurkheda and Wadsa blocks of the Gadchiroli district. SRISHTI's project promotes fishing and honey production and collection practices by helping its beneficiaries access information and networks to generate more income. It helps build capacity to improve the management of resources, enables the community to mitigate risk due to the unpredictability of weather, and develops products to suit the market's needs through sustainable practices. Additionally, this project also helps sensitize the public about environmental issues. To build an understanding of the project's beneficiaries and the requirement of each household for fishing or honey production activities, SRISHTI conducted a baseline survey, conducted an awareness program, a Training program for capacity building, organized the exposure visits, and supported fish seed, fish kit, and honey kit to beneficiaries of 7 villages of the two target blocks – Kurkheda and Wadsa. This included beneficiaries from 265 households in Bodhadha, Nallikassa, Dalli, Ambezari, Chipari, Sonpur & Kasari villages.



Figure 6 Honey Collection

Figure 7 Honey Training

MAHARRAN (Kharif campaign)

1. Worker Selection Online Training in Village Selection Process 2021.
2. Beneficiary selected widow, but poor financial situation family.
3. Beneficiary meeting (within the project).

Under this project, the project scope decided under the organization is in the villages of 30 talukas of Wadsa, Kurkheda Dhanora, organic farming as a supplement to agriculture, dairy business, the CFR area received by the Gram Sabha, availability of space for grazing for cattle, planting of grass, information books for planting suitable seeds in agriculture and for organic farming, seed distribution program. (Rohilo) Employment Guarantee was implemented. Rakesh Khevle as WhatsApp taluka representative Mandatai Kelzarkar Kurkheda taluka representative and Sanjay Walde in Dhanora taluka worked under Maha RRA in village to village. As all these programs were conducted during the Covid period, the online training meeting of the program was conducted.

Maha Gram Sabha Sangh Taluka Wadsa/ Kurkheda.

Maha Grama sabha 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 Mohaful of the year 2022 are shown.

Sr.	Block	Year	NTPF	Rate per standard bag	Forest department rate
1	Wadsa	2022	Tendu	8300	340
2	Kurkhuda	2022	Tendu	11160	

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.

Keshav Gurnule,
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