

# Annual Report 2020-21



**Gram Bharati Samiti (GBS)**

**ग्राम भारती समिति**

# A HUMBLE HOMAGE TO BHAWANI SHANKER KUSUM!

Born : June 4, 1947

Death : November 14, 2020



The great humanist, Recipient of Jammalal Bajaj Award for Constructive Work in 2019 and a noble Gandhian Bhawani Shankar 'Kusum' passed on November, 14, 2020.

**Mr. Bhawani Shanker 'Kusum'** (President, Gram Bharati Samiti), the greatest model of a Gandhian, an energetic and never fatigued social worker, a visionary, a philosopher, a writer, a journalist and so on...!

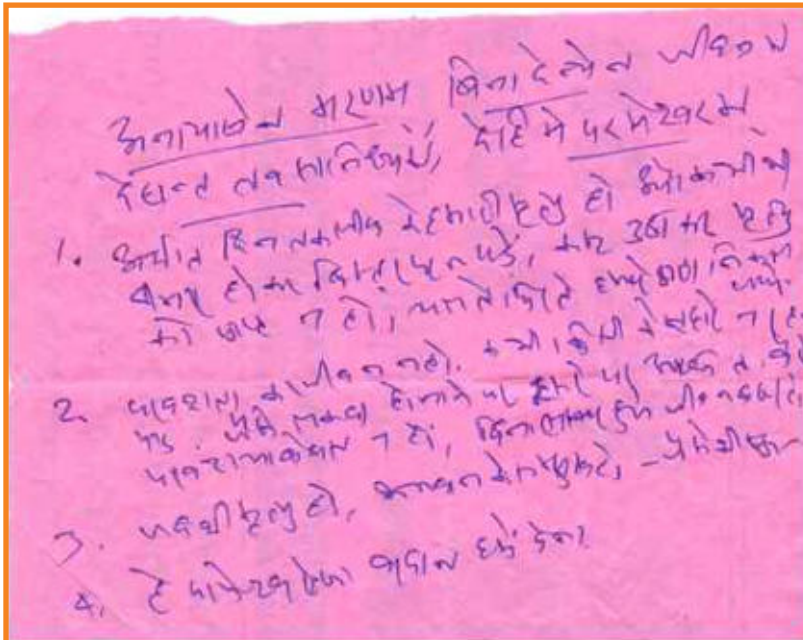
Efforts of Bhawani sir in different fields of social service, particularly in rural Rajasthan has changed the lives of thousands of people afflicted by leprosy, the physically handicapped and also the poor rural and women of backward castes and tribes.

*Bhoodan* land development for the Sahariya tribe, Padyatras for Gram Swaraj, non-formal education, people's rights, youth camps to stop liquor and smoking habits, healthcare and hygiene, cleanliness drive, propagating Gandhian values, etc. have been some of Mr. Kusum's Gandhian work in the initial years. He set up Gram Bharati Samiti in 1984 to carry out rural constructive work following the principles of Mahatma Gandhi, Vinoba Bhave and Jayaprakash Narayan.

Mr. Kusum was encouraged to carry out meaningful rehabilitation work of the leprosy patients during one of his meetings with Baba Amte in 1987. He also sensitized and guided the rural poor women on the benefits of saving money and linked them to micro credit facilities, which has kindled a spirit of entrepreneurship in the women. Mr. Kusum initiated 'Gandhivan wasteland development project' wherein twenty five hectares of wasteland in the Aravalli hill range is transformed to a forestland involving community participation and its outcome is a balanced eco system.

Mr. Bhawani Shanker Kusum's work is multi-faceted and he is a staunch Gandhian in his thoughts and actions.

I can never forget the few heart touching words he wrote to me in his own hand writing on a small piece of paper before few days of his death.



An easy death, a life without hardships,  
provide me kindly o Lord Shambhu...  
unwavering faith/devotion in you.

I am one of the fortunate people those who could get ample opportunities to live, work and share with Bhawani sir on many national, international projects.

A salute to Bhawani Sir from his own GBS family!

Ramchandra Saini

## WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

A seminar was organized in Amber on 'Save Trees, Save the Mother Earth' on June 05, 2020 on the occasion of the 'World Environment Day'. Bhawani Shanker Kusum, President while expressing his concern over the serious problem of global warming and scarcity of drinking water described the shrinking forest covers all around and suggested that everyone should plant at least one tree in his/her life time.

## TREE PLANTATION AT GANDHIVAN

After the lockdown a campaign for tree plantation was conducted by Kusum Jain, Secretary, GBS between July 22 and 29, 2020 at Gandhivan. In the beginning a meeting was organized with the local village communities who wanted to plant trees on the boundaries of their fields. They advised in consultation with the community people to select the plants of indigenous species and adaptable to the local situation.



**Left: Bhawani Shanker Kusum planting a tree in Gandhivan**  
**Right: Bhawani Shanker Kusum with tree that planting 2 year ago at Gandhivan**

In the second phase seedlings were developed in the GBS nursery for 10,000 plants of various species of fuel, fodder, timber, fruits and shade etc. according to the advice of the Forest officers and community people. 5,000 saplings of them were distributed among the villagers of the area. The other 5,000 were planted on the wastelands in and around Gandhivan and rest of the 5,000 trees were kept in the nursery to be planted during the next season e.g. February, 2021.

## HEALTH CAMPS FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Two health camps were organized in village Pawta and Koliyon Ki Dhani, Block Jamwaramgarh, district Jaipur on December 22-23, 2020 with kind support from Evangelische Kirchengemeinde Kobe-Osaka and Kobe Union Church, Japan. Pawta is a small village with a population of 1,600 people situated at 50 km away from Jaipur. Koliyon ki Dhani is on a distance of 60 km from Jaipur.



### Village Pawta in Block Jamwaramgarh, Jaipur

Most of the residents of the village are marginal farmers with small land holding around 1-2 ha. Since cultivation is not profitable over the non-irrigated land, many of the villagers have to go to the metro cities in search of jobs on construction sites or other kind of labour work during non-harvesting season.

Mostly the women in these villages belong to very poor class those who can't afford to go to the hospital in Jaipur seeking treatment and hence generally continue to tolerate the agony of the diseases until they fell sick seriously.

The literacy rate in the village is considerably low e.g. 65% among male and 35% female, but most of the younger generation is going to School established in the village.

Health care situation is very poor in the villages both in terms of facilities and services available and awareness among the people, particularly the women.

#### Logistics and Welcome

Ms. Raju, the trained volunteer of GBS informed the women of SHG, girl volunteers and other community leaders in Pawta whereas Mr. Moolchand in village Koliyon ki Dhani encouraged the women to participate in the camps.

#### Doctors and Nurses

The paediatrician, gynaecologist and eye specialist doctors having expertise in their areas and 2 female nurses form National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA), Jaipur were requested to deliver their services in the camp.



First of all Sarita introduced Doctors to the participants of the camp and Raju on behalf of the women of the SHG of the village welcomed Doctors and Nurses.



Dr. Vinay Kumar advised about prevention of CORONA virus. He spoke to women on general safety of the covid19 i.e. to wear mask and hand wash regularly.



Dr. Poonam Choudhary asked the women in the beginning of the camp about the kinds of their health problems, length of the diseases, possible causes thereof etc. Then she spoke to them on general terms of health care, which was very encouraging for the women. She told the women to follow some norms i.e. water and the Sun heat therapy, performing yoga exercises, adopting low cost nutrient food habits, avoiding heavy quantity of spices etc. soto keep them fit.



Also, Dr. Poonam Choudhary advised the women to avoid unhygienic clothes and use sanitary napkins during menstruation.

### **How to Live a Smooth Life**

Dr. Poonam spoke to the women as how to live a smooth life without having any trouble and spending extra money. She asked the women about their health problems and suggested easy solutions. Also, she answered the questions related to their gynecological problems. Dr. Poonam advised the women to :



1. Use sanitary napkins or clean clothes during their periods and destroy them safely after use
2. Use green leafy vegetables as much as they could
3. Washing eyes with clean water twice or thrice a day
4. Boil water before drinking to make it safe
5. Get proper diagnosis and treatment on account of long spell white discharge

Dr. Vinay and Dr. Sonu diagnosed the patients and dispensed the medicines with help of the nurse. Generally the women were suffering from skin diseases, leucorrhoea, and eye and ear problems. Also, some of the women have acute problem of the uterus. Most of them were anemic. Since there was no testing facility, some of the patients those who were found to suffer from tuberculosis, cancer or sugar problems were referred to SMS Hospital to undergo some tests. Also, she showed them to do a few Yoga techniques to make some of the body fit. She performed it with some of the women who were very much satisfied with this kind of remedy.



Dr. Prachi Sha was testing sugar level of the patients in camps. Some have high sugar level after fasting.



Since it is the season for hoeing and weeding, most of the village women were either engaged at their fields or doing labour work at others' fields to earn their bread labour. However, on getting the message of organizing health camp in their village, they rushed to the village, got diagnoses and got treatment of their health problem and went back to their fields.



**Sarita's help to Chemist to distribute medicines to the women and girls**

Most of them are victim of malnutrition and have several kinds of diseases i.e. jaundice, scabies, itchiness, eruptions on the skins, ear and stomach related problems etc.

Many were given treatment and some of them were referred to JK Lone Children Hospital for further checkup and tests etc.



Total 523 (225 in village pawta and 298 in village Koliyon Ki Dhani) men, women and girls children were benefitted from the camps. Community leaders and women members of the SHG of the village were very much happy for organizing the camp in the villages. Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat (village community) and Ms. Raju, president of SHG and Mr. Moolchand thanked Sarita and Gram Bharati Samiti for organizing the camps for welfare of the women of their villages.



## HEALTH CARE SERVICES

### Obstruction

Health care project supported by HSHR and The Runnebaum Foundation, Germany was obstructed this year after April onward because of lockdown announced by the Government of India due to Covid 19. No one could go out even for buying anything of his/her essential need including food and water. Travelling was completely stopped within the Mohalla (ward), street, colony or the city. Cross border (within and outside the state) travelling was completely restricted. It is now being slowly opened with a condition to live in quarantine for 14 days. Therefore, as neither the nurse nor any of GBS staff personnel could travel, visiting the community women to provide them with health care services was postponed temporarily.

Anjana, the nurse has got offer from a private hospital for a job nurse to provide services for the corona affected patients, and she asked GBS for a temporary permission to join the hospital. But looking at the need of her services when the lockdown is ended in couple of months we decided to keep her continued in our project. Permission was obtained from HSHR and the Runnebaum Foundation in this regard. Thus she was paid salaries for the month of April, May and half of June without work.



Sarita's help to Chemist to distribute medicines to the women and girls

During the lockdown period GBS, in collaboration with the local Government engaged in supplying food packets, sanitizers, washable masks, sanitary napkins etc. among the migrants who were wandering here and there without any shelter, slum dwellers and the daily wage earners etc. with support from some donors, factory owners and the state Government. This work was accelerated with support from HSHR and the Runnebaum Foundation. It is still going on and would be continued till the end of July, when the effect of covid 19 is likely to be reduced.

### Health care services reinstated

The health care services restarted from June 15, 2020 after a short pause of couple of months. The first visit was paid to village Koliyon ki dhaani. Anjana, the nurse accompanied by Kusum Lata Jain, Secretary and Sarita Yogi, project Coordinator, GBS travelled to the village together with food packets, medicines, sanitizers, masks and sanitary napkins for the women and girls.



**Anjana diagnosing and treating the patient while others are waiting for their turn**

In the beginning the women of the village were made wash their hands with sanitizer and then masks were distributed among them. They were taught as how to use the masks covering their mouth and nose properly. Then food packets were distributed and asked to sit on the floor keeping minimum distance of one meter with each other. After completing this round the nurse started to diagnose the patients those who had come over there for getting medicines for their sickness.



**Sarita and Kusum motivating the women (Left) and Anjana issuing medicines (Right) in Pawta**

While Anjana described the women as how to protect them from the risk of infection with corona by wearing mask while going outside the house, wash their hands regularly and keep distance from everyone they were meeting, Kusum Jain advised them to avoid to go to the crowded places, not to spit here and there and wash hands when coming back to home from outside. Eighty women were diagnosed and dispensed medicines for different diseases they found affected with in Koliyon ki dhaani alone and total 630 were provided with medicines in all the fourteen villages visited during past 8 days:

- |                  |               |                       |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Khawarani     | 2. Pawta      | 3. Phutala            |
| 4. Sankotada     | 5. Paladi     | 6. Maliwas            |
| 7. Meeno ka Badh | 8. Bilod      | 9. Manota             |
| 10. Booj         | 11. Kharkhada | 12. Sarjoli           |
| 13. Ghoreth      | 14. Shivpura  | 15. Kachrala Ki Dhani |
| 16. Jugalpura    |               |                       |



**Sarita and Kusum describing the women how to protect from corona**

Many of the women were found anemic, whereas scabies, leucorrhoea, eye infections, pain in teeth and gums etc. were the general diseases diagnosed by the nurse among the women.



**Sarita and Nurse dispensing medicines to a patient in Kachrala ki Dhani, Kukas**



**Sarita and Nurse dispensing medicines to a patient in village Jugalpura**

# EXCHANGE OF VOLUNTEERS BETWEEN IN INDIA AND NEPAL

Second round of the project 'Promotion of women's handicrafts in India and Nepal' through exchange of volunteers supported by NOREC, Norway was completed successfully. Due to covid in second round three months were working period (April 15 to July 14, 2020). GBS end their project on July 14th due to the situation related to Covid-19. No physical exchange of participants between partners in round II and round III. Participants were working in their home country organizations.



**Women artisans placing warp and weft of durry (Left) and showing samples (Right)**



The overall experience of round I and round II of the project was satisfactory as we could learn many things, acquainted with need and problems associated with women artisans, enriched ourselves with improved designs of their handicrafts and scope of sales thereof in the domestic and international market. Women artisans have improved their designs of handicrafts, demand has increased and also sale has enhanced. Also we have gained experience how to work in partnership during covid.

Third round of the project '**Trainers' training to women entrepreneurs in cotton mats and handicraft bags**' started in February, 2021.

Cotton mats woven by the women artisans in India and handicraft bags produced by the women artisans in Nepal are very popular in the international market.



Trainers' training had been provided to **5 women artisans** in India for cotton mats and training to **10 women artisans** in Nepal for handicraft bags in the first batch February 2021.



## COVID19- DISTRIBUTION OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES IN LOCKDOWN

GBS is engaged in supplying food to the poor families and migrants, feeding the fowls and producing and distributing masks free of costs. The participant Gautam Kumar Yogi was helping poor families during covid by distributing food packets in rural area of Jaipur District. GBS received support from HSHR, Germany, some industries, local donors, sympathizers and GBS executive members.



**Kusum and Gautam distributing food packets, sanitizers and masks in Khawarani**

Though the food grains stuff distributed by the Government should have been enough to survive, but most of the people also need tea, sugar and biscuits etc. which were not distributed. Furthermore masks and sanitizers were not distributed to them by anyone. After notifying these facts in a random survey through cell phone, whatsapp and messages, GBS decided to distribute both the items required by the people i.e. rice, tea, sugar, biscuits, roasted grams (ready to eat) along with sanitizers packed in small bottles and washable masks. The women and girls informed GBS personnel and volunteers that they didn't have access to sanitary napkins, therefore GBS produced sanitary napkins at its unit and distributed among the migrant women and girls. It was appreciated by the Government and media (see news clippings) as well :

### Distribution of Ayurveda Kada (Immunity Booster) and Free Mask

Ayurveda kada (Immunity booster) and free mask distribution at Office, Gram Bharati Samiti (GBS), Amber Bhawan, Amber, Jaipur on 24 December, 2020. We have distributed Ayurveda kada and Masks to approx 200 people in Amber. Special thanks to Mr. Haji Rukhsar Ahmed, Social worker and President, Social Welfare Society, Karauli and Mr. Harshwardhan Agrawal, President, GBS.

Thanks to all GBS executive members for joining this event.



## स्वयं सहायता समूह की 60 महिलाओं को सामग्री वितरित



अनंत न्यूज राजस्थान

जमवारामगढ़ (जयपुर) समाज सेविका कुसुम जैन ने सोमवार को खरकडा ग्राम पंचायत के खराणा गांव में चार स्वयं सहायता समूह की महिलाओं को सैनेट्री पैड व आवश्यक सामग्री बांटी। समाज सेविका कुसुम जैन ने वहां की ए एन एम अंजना के साथ कोलियों की ढाणी में पहुंची।

उन्होंने वहां 60 महिलाओं को चने, चीनी, दाल, बिस्किट दुग्ध, चाय, सेनिटाइजर, सैनेट्री पैड व मास्क बांटे। उन्होंने महिलाओं को सैनेट्री पैड का उपयोग करने की जानकारी दी। कोरोना काल में सावधानियां रखने व कोरोना से खुद को तथा दूसरों को बचाने की अपील की। वापस लौटते समय उन्होंने जमवारामगढ़ बांध पर आवारा पशुओं को चारा खिलाया।

# दैनिक भास्कर

## 60 महिलाओं को सैनेट्री पैड व अन्य आवश्यक सामग्री वितरित



जमवारामगढ़। समाजसेविका कुसुम जैन व सरिता योगी ने सोमवार को खराणा गांव में चार स्वयं सहायता समूहों की महिलाओं को सैनेट्री पैड व आवश्यक सामग्री बांटी। वे एएनएम अंजना के साथ कोलियों की ढाणी पहुंची और 60 महिलाओं को चने, चीनी,

दाल, बिस्किट, दुग्ध, चाय, सेनिटाइजर, सैनेट्री पैड व मास्क बांटे। उन्होंने महिलाओं को सैनेट्री पैड का उपयोग करने की जानकारी दी। कोरोना काल में सावधानियां रखने व कोरोना से खुद व दूसरों को बचाने की अपील की। जमवारामगढ़ बांध पर आवारा पशुओं को चारा खिलाया।

## समाचार जगत

### स्वयं सहायता समूह की 60 महिलाओं को सामग्री बांटी

जमवारामगढ़ (समाचार जगत ब्यूरो)। समाज सेविका कुसुम जैन ने सोमवार को खरकडा ग्राम पंचायत के खराणा गांव में चार स्वयं सहायता समूह की महिलाओं को सैनेट्री पैड व आवश्यक सामग्री बांटी। समाज सेविका कुसुम जैन ने वहां की ए एन एम अंजना के साथ कोलियों की ढाणी में पहुंची। उन्होंने वहां 60 महिलाओं को चने, चीनी, दाल, बिस्किट दुग्ध, चाय, सेनिटाइजर, सैनेट्री पैड व मास्क बांटे। उन्होंने महिलाओं को सैनेट्री पैड का उपयोग करने की जानकारी दी। कोरोना काल में सावधानियां रखने व कोरोना से खुद को तथा दूसरों को बचाने की अपील की। वापस लौटते समय उन्होंने जमवारामगढ़ बांध पर आवारा पशुओं को चारा खिलाया।

Looking at the situation of silent spread of the virus and increasing number of patients regularly it looks that supply of food and other essential commodities and masks, sanitizer and sanitary napkins etc. would be needed to keep continue for 1-2 months more.

# WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITIES

## Closure of the Work

As happened to other small scale business sectors, entrepreneurial activities of the rural women GBS working with i.e. weaving durry (cotton mats) and embroidery was entirely turned off due to lockdown. As the wedding ceremonies banned throughout the country, all the orders of embroidery work were cancelled by the shopkeepers and hence the women became completely jobless in village Pawata and the neighborhood. Likewise export of cotton mats was stopped as there was no order from Europe, America or Australia. Therefore, the women weavers of cotton mats became jobless for almost 2-3 months.

It was very crucial period for the entrepreneurial women and their family who were dependent on their handicraft works only. In such a situation GBS kept continue to supply them food grains with support from the Government and some other private donors as well. The Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) of the area issued a curfew pass to GBS in the name of Kusum Lata Jain and Sarita Yogi who kept moving to reach the community people in the villages.



**Women artisans initiating embroidery on a saree in village Pawata after a long gap**

Now, as the Government has allowed wedding ceremonies restricting the gathering of maximum 50 people, very little work of embroidery has started in village Pawata. GBS contacted the wholesalers of embroidered sarees and suits etc. in the city to provide jobs to the women entrepreneurs and a few have given small orders for embroidery work on sarees. Also, the cotton mat weaving unit at Koliyon ki dhaani has got few orders on GBS persuasion to some of the local exporters. It will take couple of months in building the momentum for boosting the market and it will keep moving slowly till then.

# avaclim



VALUE AGROECOLOGY FOR DRYLANDS

## INCEPTION WORKSHOP OF AGROECOLOGY PROJECT

“Agriculture is the most healthful, most useful and most noble employment of man”.

*- George Washington*

January 2020 was a historical moment in India wherein Gram Bharati Samiti under the aegis of CARI, France led the project on agro ecology with the support of likeminded civil society organizations.

Gram Bharati Samiti, GBS has been effectively implementing programs and activities by actively involving farmers, scientists and other stakeholders. In this regard AME, Renuka agri farms, Zero budget natural farming, Vaagdhara and Dharamitra are five progressive initiatives with regard to avaclim agro ecology projects in India that proved to be effective and created greater impact as per the objectives of the project.

Organization involved direct and indirect actors across various dimensions of operations and functioning. In this context the five fact sheets that were developed during the reporting period were appreciated by the funding agencies and the same were published on the official website of CARI which is a token of remarkable and outstanding contribution from India. This act reflects integrity and high levels of quality commitment for the cause of agro ecology movement in the country.

Two initiatives namely: Vaagdhara and Renuka bio farms were chosen among the above five initiatives for further exploration and assessment of the strategies and procedures adapted with an objective to upscale and sustain the program in view of UN SDG goals of 2030.

i) Renuka Bio Farms (RBF) was established in 2005 to restore a 20 acre degraded patch of land in Routhsurmala village of Tottembedu block. Since then the initiative has gradually expanded and successfully used eco restoration practices to create a productive agro ecological production system on 1,000 acres. The initiative is supported by a team with expertise in agro ecological farming, and demonstrates a balance between ancient knowledge and modern techniques without any chemical usage. RBF is an incubator for local farmers for capacity building and developing knowledge on agro ecological methods of farming.

The initiative is focused on the wellbeing of the rural poor, regeneration of natural resources and watershed management and the promotion of organic farming and marketing. Empowerment of women and alternative banking are important elements of promoting of rural enterprises and livelihoods. The capacities of local government (Panchayati Raj) are enhanced by the initiative, to enable them to serve the communities more effectively. The development of the capacities of the youth to promote sustainable development ensures the sustainability of the communities. The initiative reduces the cost of cultivation and enhances crop productivity, including by promotion of irrigated crops and effective water management techniques and dry land horticulture. Improving livestock productivity is also a priority.

Green manure agro forestry species and plants with insecticidal properties are grown on the borders of fields and farmers use ethno botanical practices for control of plant pests/diseases and for animal health care. They prepare and use “Biooster” and liquid manure and use them at least three times during the crop cycle for most crops. The initiative has been supported by advisors and scientists.

a) Sustainable agricultural practices have led to increased soil fertility and controlled pests. Production has increased despite limited water resources using micro irrigation systems such as drip irrigation, kitchen

gardening and off grid power generation through solar energy benefitting around 20 families.

- b) Income levels of poor farmers have increased in the villages of Chittoor district. Average yields for paddy have increased from 25 upto 28X75 kg bags per acre. There placement to external inputs with cow-based products has reduced the cost of production.
  - c) Rain water runoff is managed more effectively using bunds and farm ponds, thus increasing biodiversity in soils and above ground. The diverse farm ecosystems attract sparrows and other birds into the habitat. Land, water and biodiversity are being regenerated through conservation efforts and good natural resource management practices.
  - d) Beneficial Microbes are produced and used at farm level, increasing the effective micro organisms in the soil. Neem powder used as a bio-fertiliser to regenerate depleted soils, and as bio pesticide to control pests. Native breeds of cattle have been conserved and their by-products utilized for agriculture activities.
  - e) Moringa has been adopted as a 'super food' and is produced by many of the participating farmers. Mango and sa podilla (Manilkara zapota) are produced for their nutritional and health benefits. A groforestry species Gliricidia sepium and Cassia siamea are grown to provide fodder for live stock.
- ii.) The initiative at VAAGDHAARA nurtures peoples' institutions and empowers the communities to manage development interventions in a sustainable way. The 'Sustainable Integrated Farming System' (SIFS) approach supports farmer groups to transform their farms into more productive and sustainable systems. Farmers use multiple natural resource-based strategies to get more benefit from their produce through sustainable agro ecological production, improved post-harvest management, value-addition and marketing. SIFS focuses on increased farming system productivity based on agro ecological combinations of crops, horticulture, agro forestry, livestock and aquaculture. Use of external inputs is minimized by enhancing the recycling of materials within the farm system. Participatory farmer-based learning processes underpin the design of improved farming systems by farmer groups in collaboration with identified experts and facilitators. Choices are determined by available local natural resources, knowledge and skills, as well as household and nutrition needs and market opportunities. Women's empowerment is advanced by providing micro credits through Self Help Groups.
- a) 250 families have increased their income through improved poultry production, starting with 40-50 chicks. Before adopting the approach one farmer earned Rs.500-1000 per month, but after acquiring improved chicks of the Pratapdhan variety his earnings rose to Rs.4, 000–5,000 per month.
  - b) 300 families have adopted hedgerow winter cropping, farming annual crops between rows of multipurpose trees. The trees cycle nutrients from deep in the soil provide organic matter on the surface, restores soil structure, reduces erosion and enhances water retention while improving the micro-climate for crops.
  - c) 72 women have implemented integrated farming systems and established kitchen gardens using the Wasteland Agriculture Development Intervention (WADI) approach. These units established through this tree-based farming system contribute to other production components of the farm such as annual crop fields and livestock, creating productive agri-horti-forestry systems.
  - d) 325 families have adopted Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT), creating hedgerows nitrogen-fixing species on contour lines to trap sediments and gradually transform sloping land to terraced land. Contour trenching, planting and tending operations have generated significant local employment and ended season alout-migration.
  - e) 46 families have applied improved fodder saving methods for cattle production using cultivated fodder crops such as multi-cut pearl millet, maize, cow peas, berseem, oats and Lucerne. Mixed/inter cropping of cereals and legumes is a better crop management practice for providing the nutritive fodder to animals and results in 20-30% fodder saving using stall feeding practices.

GBS in coordination and collaboration with all stake holders took active role in completion of all relevant and prescribed protocol documents related to the first two steps partnership strengthening, assessment of tools (Knowledge management) and marching ahead towards integration of the scientific results for advocacy and communication for a political decision and social empowerment.

“If we don't get sustainability right in agriculture first, it won't happen anywhere”.

*- Wes Jackson*

## RESTORATION OF SAYEED BABA STEP WELL

Restoration of Sayeed Baba step well has restored with collaborative support from the Prince Clause Fund, The Netherlands and Gerda Henkel Stiftung, Germany.



**Situation of Sayeed step well before and after Restoration**

The following results of restoration of the step well were very inspiring for whole of the team of GBS and community people of the area :

1. Enthusiasm of the people, particularly of the younger generation of the village and surrounding area was worth appreciation. They were so happy to see the ancient step well of their village and area was being brought in to its original form by restoring properly,
2. People in a big number are coming from the neighboring villages and gathering at the step well to see its new form after the restoration,
3. The water has begun to come up immediate after deepening and opening its underground holes. The community people call it a very good and positive omen.

### **The step well was brought into its original shape**

- The step well looked like a new one that resembles its original shape
- As all its infrastructural parts were restored with more strength, which gave the step well proper protection and beauty
- The senior people of the village say the painting and sculptures replaced are more attractive than that of the earlier ones



In the ancient time the step wells were not only the source of conserving water, but rather a social ritual, a sort of a pilgrimage itself. Water was always seen and revered as the giver of life.

With unfortunate destruction of the step wells not only a sustainable source of safe drinking water for the village communities and both water and repose for the long distance travelers was lost, but a glorious part of heritage of social get together and festive events for the rural India have been damaged. The village women had lost an opportunity to enjoy freely a small part of their drudgery life on these sites. This ritual part of social life will be revived once again with restoration of the Sayeed step well.



**Bhawani Shanker Kusum and Kusum Jain inaugurate Sayeed step well after restoration**

Small scale village level vendors, hawkers and mobile shopkeepers will be earning their bread labour while the festival events, monthly get together, folk music nights or religious ritual are on full moon nights etc. are organized. This boosts the economy of the area.

There are two kinds of feedback received from the community people i.e. a few of the villagers wrote their comments in the visitors book while many of them expressed their gratitude in the various group discussions and meetings of PIMC.

A Project Implementation and Monitoring Committee (PIMC) was formed in the beginning of the project involving key stakeholders of the local village community i.e. women leaders of Self Help Group (SHG), youth volunteers and community leaders. They were provided with training on importance of the heritage of the step well, proper usage, maintenance and preservation thereof. The PIMC has been meeting once every month to monitor the implementation of the project, assess the outcomes and achievements and discuss and solve the problems or bottlenecks if any.



Following were the major benefits of involving the community people :

- Regular monitoring of implementation of the project was done properly even in the absence of GBS personnel at worksite,
- Quality of work and materials as well used in the repairing could be maintained
- Encroachment in the surroundings of the step well made by the local people for a long could be removed without help of police or administration
- The heaps of rubbish dump at all side of the step well were removed by the neighboring people themselves
- As the members of the PIMC are from the same village area and they have been associated with restoration of the step well since the planning, they are committed to preserve it by all means and take care of maintenance. They have decided to raise adequate funds for repair and maintenance if needed in the future.

# AVACLIM Project Initiatives



**VAAGDHARA**



## RENUKA BIO FARMS





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