



Building Community Resilience through Ecosystem-based Adaptation

Annual Report 2023-2024



Our Founder Director and His Vision



Dilasa was founded with the dream of bringing rural prosperity by using natural resources wisely. This vision is deeply connected to the late Shri Madhukar Dhas, Dilasa's founder.

He established a foundation for Dilasa's activities. The foundation focuses on conserving natural resources, watershed management, rainwater harvesting, environmental awareness, livelihoods, and sustainable development.

Dilasa believes that true conservation can only be achieved by involving local communities. The organization works to provide employment opportunities and encourages a sustainable lifestyle that works in harmony with nature.

Agriculture is the potent means of livelihood for majority of people in the operational area. Present agriculture has been trapped in vicious circle of various issues and problems involving rain-fed agriculture, declined support system, reduced soil fertility, disappearing bio-diversity etc. After taking in to account all these, Dilasa is working for finding out practical, innovative solutions to lift farmers out of this state of distress. Yearlong agriculture and continued work to each of the hands could only be possible if water is made available for irrigation purpose. Therefore, Dilasa emphasizes on harvesting of rain water and promoting diversified agriculture.

In order to achieve comprehensive development of the community, a collaborative approach is needed from funding agencies, financial institutions, specialists, Government Departments and of course the local community as otherwise the interventions might not yield the expected results.

Dilasa is focusing its attention on creating sustainable livelihood for distressed farmers by laying special emphasis on protective irrigation through Phad project, Bodi Phad, Doha models, Farm pits, Farm ponds and Minor Irrigation projects by way of arresting and storage of rain water. It is merely impossible to improve crop productivity under dry-land condition and in order to meet the gap of dry spells during rainy season protective irrigation is must. Facility for seasonal irrigation especially bridging the gap of dry spells will definitely enable survival of crops and also enable the farmers to grow second term crop during the year. This all will support in improving the overall economic conditions of farmers and ultimately preventing suicides of Farmers.



Foreword

As we reflect on the past year, the journey of Dilasa Sanstha has been defined by resilience, compassion, and unwavering commitment to our mission. I am immensely proud to present our 29th year 2023-24 annual report, encapsulating our collective efforts and achievements in serving our community.



Agriculture stands as the potent means of livelihood for the majority of people in our operational area. However, present-day agriculture is ensnared in a vicious circle of challenges—rain-fed agriculture, diminished support systems, declining soil fertility, and disappearing biodiversity. Recognizing these issues, Dilasa Sanstha endeavors to find practical, innovative solutions to uplift farmers from distress.

Central to our efforts is the conviction that sustainable agriculture and livelihoods are intrinsically linked to water availability for irrigation. Thus, Dilasa emphasizes the critical importance of rainwater harvesting and promotes diversified agriculture practices. Through these initiatives, we aim to enhance crop productivity, create irrigation facilities, and ensure year-round support to every farming household.

Our strategic plan, "Harvesting as much rainwater for livelihood sustenance," will guide our work in the years to come. This plan underscores our commitment to addressing the paramount issue of water scarcity, which directly impacts the livelihoods of all individuals in our community. It consolidates our efforts to mobilize communities, foster partnerships, and prioritize gender equality in achieving sustainable development goals.

In this annual report, you will find detailed insights into our activities, impact assessments, and financial stewardship. Each section reflects our dedication to transparency and accountability, honoring the trust and support of our stakeholders.

As we navigate through challenges and opportunities ahead, I extend heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated staff, volunteers, and partners who stand alongside us in this journey. Your unwavering commitment and solidarity inspire us to continue striving for a future where agriculture thrives, communities prosper, and resilience prevails.

Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Vijaya Dhas

Co-Founder and President

Dilasa Sanstha

1 Vision

Communities especially the poor within, are empowered to live in dignity and secure their livelihood in sustainable ecosystem

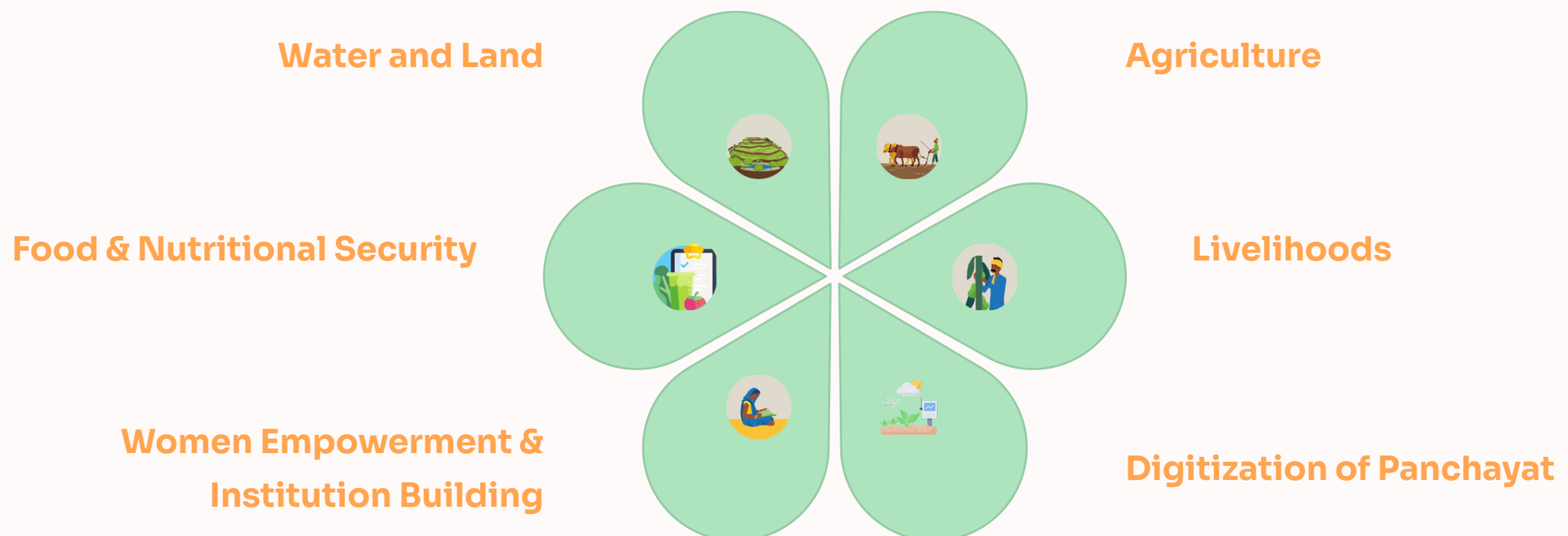
2 Mission

To provide committed development support that motivates, energizes, and empower individuals, groups, communities and other organizations to undertake integrated ecosystems development for enhancement of well-being in a sustainable basis.

3 Core Values

1. Commitment
2. Transparency
3. Inclusiveness
4. Integrity
5. Self criticism
6. Sensitivity
7. Humility
8. Creativity
9. Gender Sensitivity
10. Equity

Thematic Areas:



Our organization aims to foster transformation and create a more sustainable future for all. We are dedicated to supporting vulnerable communities and promoting positive changes within society. Together, we can work towards a more equitable and prosperous world.

Dilasa's Reach

15

Districts

Dilasa works across 15 districts in Maharashtra.

1600

Villages

Serving over 1600 villages.

2.4L

Households

Reaching 2.4 lakh households.

3

Regions

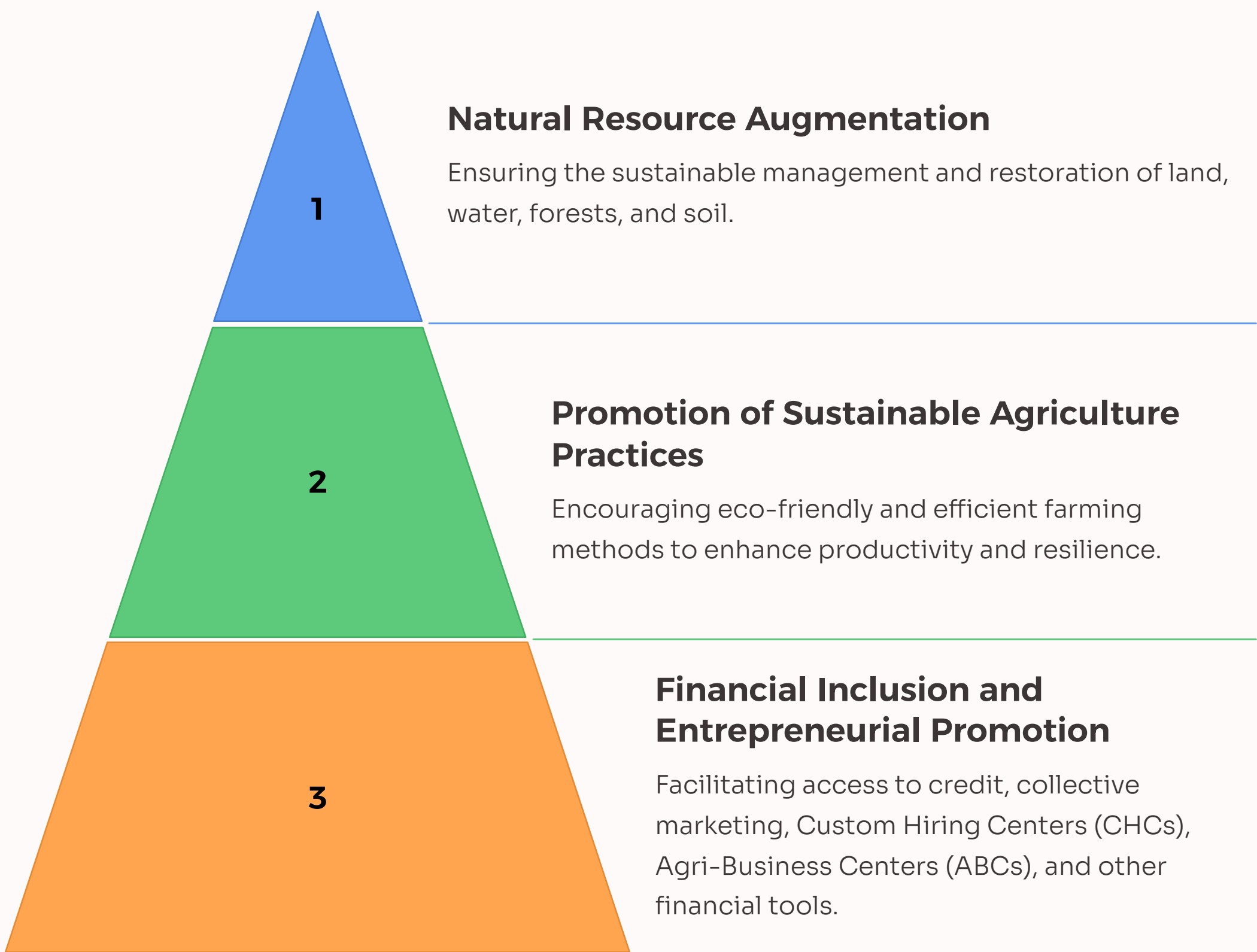
Dilasa operates in 3 major regions.

1

Head Office

Dilasa operates from Ghatanji

Dilasa Sanstha's Livelihood Enhancement Model: A Holistic Approach to Sustainable Rural Development





Program Area Profile

Limited Irrigation

Less than 20% of the land is under irrigation, leaving agriculture vulnerable to erratic rainfall.

Marginal Farmers

90% of farmers own less than 2 hectares of land, making them highly vulnerable.

Degraded Resources

The region faces degraded natural resources, undulating topography, soil erosion, and poor vegetative cover.

Poor Financial Inclusion

Poor financial inclusion restricts access to credit and other financial tools.

Limited Role of Women in Community activity

High Tribal population & Agriculture is the main Livelihood

OUR PARTNERS



Sustainable Development Goals:



Awards

Sr No	Name of Award	Year	Award given by
01.	Vyasanmukti Puraskar	1994-95	Yavatmal district committee
02.	Samajkarya Gaurav Puraskar	2011-12	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Jalvikas Parishad
03.	PARIS “The Golden Way of Life”	2011-12	Samajik Va Vaidhyakiya Bahuuddeshiya Sanstha, Amravati
04.	National Rural Innovation Award	2012-13	NABARD, Pune
05.	Salute to Social Consciousness Award	2013-14	Child Actors of Basoli
06.	Samajik Krutadnyata Puraskar in memory of Late Shri Madhusudan Satpalkar	2014-15	Maitrai Foundation
07.	The Vocational Excellence Award	2015-16	Rotary Club, Nagpur
08.	Social Worker	2015-16	Sant Dnyandev Tukaram Charitable Trust Kalamb, Dist. Osmanabad
09.	Maharashtracha Panidar Manus	2015-16	IBN Lokmat, Mumbai
10.	India’s Premiere Travel and Tourism Interaction	2015-16	Nagpur
11.	Melghat Bhushan Puraskar	2015-16	Melghat Gramonnati Bahuuddeshiya Sangh
12.	SAFAIGIRI Award (2.10.2017)	2017-18	India Today, by the hands of Vice-president of India
13.	Jivan Gaurav Puraskar	2017-18	Yavatmal District Congress Committee
14.	Jalmitra sanman	2018-19	By Minister of State (Home Affairs) , Government of India
15.	Water warrior Jalsanman	2018-19	Pani Foundation
16.	Social worker Award	2019-20	Dainik Bhaskar
17.	Water Award	2022-23	Dainik Bhaskar
18.	Dr. Acharya Avinashi Seva Puraskar	2024-25	Keshav Smruti Pratisthan



Empowering Communities and building their institutions

Dilasa Sanstha has established a network of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) with the primary objective of enhancing livelihoods in a sustainable and long-term manner. These community institutions serve as the cornerstone of the development process, acting as the primary agents to carry forward initiatives at both the community and individual levels. Every development intervention by Dilasa is implemented with the active participation of these CBOs, which include Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Farmer Groups, Water User Groups, Watershed Committees, Gramsanghas, Village Development Committees (VDCs), and Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs).

Types of Community-Based Organizations

1 CBOs for Natural Resource Management and Development

These groups are dedicated to the sustainable management and development of natural resources, ensuring their conservation and optimal utilization:

- Watershed Committees: Focus on watershed management and soil conservation.
- Village Development Committees (VDCs): Drive community-level planning and development activities.
- Sayukta Mahila Samiti: Empower women to take an active role in natural resource management.
- Water User Groups: Manage and maintain water resources for agricultural and domestic use.
- Lift Irrigation Groups: Oversee the operation and maintenance of lift irrigation systems.

2 CBOs for Financial Inclusion (with a Special Focus on Women)

These institutions aim to promote financial literacy, access to credit, and economic empowerment, particularly for women:

- Self-Help Groups (SHGs): Foster savings, credit, and income-generating activities among women.
- Gramsanghas: Strengthen collective decision-making and financial inclusion at the village level.

3 CBOs for Income Generation and Market Access

These groups focus on enhancing income opportunities and improving market linkages for rural communities:

- Custom Hiring Centers (CHCs): Provide access to farm machinery and equipment on a rental basis.
- Agri-Business Centers (ABCs): Facilitate agricultural input supply, output marketing, and value addition.
- NTFP Collection Groups: Promote sustainable collection and marketing of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs).
- Dairy/Goatry Groups: Support livestock-based livelihoods through collective efforts and market access.



Empowering Women Through Self-Help Groups

Dilasa Sanstha is indirectly transforming the lives of over 90,000 women members by empowering them through Self-Help Groups (SHGs). These SHGs have gained significant momentum in savings and internal lending, creating a strong foundation for financial independence and community solidarity.

More than 4282 women SHG members have successfully ventured into income-generating activities, thanks to the skill training programs facilitated by Dilasa. These women have diversified into various entrepreneurial ventures, including:

- Garment designing and tailoring
- Beauty parlours
- Embroidery and saree patchwork
- Vegetable vending
- Grocery and daily needs shops
- Stationery businesses
- Bee-keeping
- Poultry
- Custom Hiring Centres
- Goat and milch cattle rearing

These initiatives have not only provided sustainable livelihoods but have also significantly reduced the drudgery and economic dependency of women. By equipping them with skills and opportunities, Dilasa is fostering economic empowerment, enhancing self-confidence, and improving the overall quality of life for women and their families.

Capacity Building and Team

Capacity Building of Village Watershed Committees (VWCs)

Two Village Watershed Committees (VWCs)—Mangurda and Gevrai—have taken a significant step forward by registering as Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs). These initiatives were supported under the NABARD-backed holistic watershed development project and the Madhurayan FPC formed in Zari project with assistance from Bajaj Allianz Pune. To ensure the effective management of these FPCs, comprehensive training programs were conducted for shareholders and board members, equipping them with the necessary skills and knowledge to run the companies successfully.

Team of Workers

Earlier, Dilasa operated with a team of 173 workers, comprising both in-house staff and outsourced personnel from service provider organizations. However, starting September 2020, the team size was streamlined to 60 dedicated individuals due to the scaling down of one of its major projects.

The current team at Dilasa includes around 60 passionate professionals, blending technical, administrative, and support staff. This diverse team brings expertise in various fields such as:

- Watershed management
- Rainwater harvesting
- Community mobilization
- Engineering
- Rural development and management
- Finance

Dilasa strategically assembles project-specific teams by combining the right mix of skills and expertise to ensure the successful implementation of its programs. Over the years, Dilasa has extended its impact to more than 1,600 villages across the Vidarbha and Marathwada regions of Maharashtra, driving sustainable development and empowering rural communities.



Driving Economic Growth through Sustainable Natural Resource Management

Natural Resource Management and Poverty Alleviation: Two Sides of the Same Coin

They are deeply interconnected and must be addressed together for sustainable development. While watershed management alone may not directly reduce poverty, it plays a critical role in conserving natural resources, which in turn enhances agricultural productivity. Agriculture remains a key driver of rural development and poverty reduction, with growth in this sector often yielding the greatest benefits for the poorest communities.

Watershed development programs are at the core of addressing rural poverty, particularly in rain-fed regions. Dilasa Sanstha places utmost importance on these programs, recognizing their potential to transform livelihoods when integrated with agriculture-based initiatives. Our watershed programs focus on:

- In-situ moisture conservation
- Small-scale water harvesting
- Afforestation
- Agriculture and livestock-based livelihood interventions.

A unique aspect of Dilasa's approach is the active involvement of communities in planning, execution, & post-project maintenance of assets. This participatory model ensures the success and sustainability of watershed programs. Since its inception, Dilasa has implemented watershed programs in collaboration with esteemed partners such as the Aga Khan Foundation, DST, NABARD, ABF, ITC & Bajaj Auto Limited. These initiatives have delivered significant benefits to communities, including improved water availability, enhanced soil fertility & increased agricultural productivity





Portescap

डोहा जल

CSR Initiative

DOHA

Project Village

Ta. Babulgaon

DOHA MODEL

Innovative Rainwater Harvesting Models

Dilasa has developed low-cost, eco-friendly rainwater harvesting models in collaboration with farmers. These models are based on locally available resources, making them adaptable and easy to replicate on a larger scale. Our strategy involves:

1. Piloting innovative water models in select areas.
2. Scaling up successful models to broader regions.

Key factors for enhancing crop productivity include:

- Soil building and fertility improvement
- Water availability and equitable distribution
- Efficient and judicious use of water resources

Natural Resource Management in Agriculture

A significant portion of the project area is classified as agricultural land. Therefore, our natural resource management plan focuses on interventions that improve land and water resources, which are critical for agriculture. Key activities include:

- Farm bunding
- Loose boulder structures
- Gabion structures

These measures enhance soil moisture retention, which is vital for improving crop productivity.

Supporting Rain-Fed Agriculture

In rain-fed regions, the possibility of cultivating a second crop during the Rabi season depends on soil moisture and access to support irrigation. To mitigate crop failure risks, Dilasa promotes the development of sustainable irrigation sources, such as:

- Surface water harvesting structures (e.g., Doha, farm ponds, recharge pits, and check dams)
- Earthen structures designed with local knowledge and farmer input

These structures capture excess rainwater that would otherwise be lost to runoff, providing a reliable source of irrigation.

Key Rainwater Harvesting and Agriculture Activities

Dilasa's watershed treatments and sustainable agriculture practices include:

Water Conservation Structures

- Construction of Doha, Bodi, and recharge pits
- De-silting of tanks and dams
- Promotion of the Broad Bed Furrow (BBF) method of sowing
- Establishment of Custom Hiring Centers (CHCs)

Soil Improvement

Additionally, silt removed from dams is made available to farmers for spreading on agricultural fields, further improving soil fertility.

DOHA MODEL: A Landmark Innovation

The Doha Model, a landmark innovation by Dilasa Sanstha in the field of rainwater harvesting, is an artificial replica of the traditional "Doha" structure—a natural pond found in riverbeds. This low-cost, highly effective model has revolutionized water resource development, offering a sustainable solution to water scarcity in rural areas.

Designed with local knowledge and community needs in mind, the Doha Model has proven to be more efficient than many conventional water harvesting techniques. Its success has led to widespread recognition and adoption, including endorsement by the state government and implementation by over 150 renowned NGOs working in watershed management across Central India.

By enhancing water availability and promoting eco-friendly practices, the Doha Model has become a cornerstone of Dilasa's efforts to empower communities, improve agricultural productivity, and ensure long-term water security. This innovation exemplifies Dilasa's commitment to blending traditional wisdom with modern technology to create scalable, sustainable solutions for rural development.

A total of **2,767 Doha models** have been constructed across Maharashtra, resulting in the treatment of 461.2 kilometers of streams. This initiative has contributed to making **85 villages tanker-free**, ensuring improved water availability and reduced dependency on water tankers for drinking and agricultural purposes.



Innovative Irrigation Models

Phad Irrigation Model

Dilasa Sanstha has been a pioneer in reviving and developing the Phad Irrigation System in the Yavatmal district of the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra. Over the past decade, Dilasa has successfully developed **252 Phad structures** with the support of partners such as Axis Bank Foundation, SDTT, DST, Arpan Foundation, and other donor agencies.

Through extensive field demonstrations and by considering factors such as farmer attitudes, local natural resources, and geographical conditions, Dilasa has created a standardized package for Phad technology. This system has proven to be highly effective in regions with specific characteristics, such as annual rainfall above 900 mm and undulating agricultural landscapes.

Based on these findings, Dilasa has concluded that the Phad Irrigation System can be successfully replicated in Central and Eastern India, where similar climatic and topographical conditions exist.



Bodi Phad Structure

In eastern part of Vidarbha region constitutes four districts mainly Gadchiroli, Chandrapur, Gondia and Bhandara where rice is main crop of the farmer community. The paddy crop area is more than 80 % of total cultivable land in these districts. Annual rainwater is very good ranges from 1200 to 1500 MM in this part. Rice crop needed additional watering during dry spell. Farmers of region used BODI structures for protective irrigation of rice crop in Kharip. **2200 no of Bodi Phad structure** has been created.



RECHARGE PIT

This is very effective soil and water conservation measures suitable for rainfed farming areas. The size of farm pit kept to 250 CUM so as farmer can provoke for further deepening and use it for protective irrigation purpose. One pit should be constructed in one acres of land at lower altitude of the area. The farm pit should be constructed from top to bottom of watershed area hence there will be a network of farm pit. **1700 nos. of recharge pits** has been constructed in vidarbha and marathwada region of Maharashtra.



De-siltation of tank:

Bringing the lands back to normalcy is the need of the hour. Farmers have been applying tank silt in their farmlands to restore physical, chemical and biological properties of the soil. Dilasa is helping farmers to access tank silt through facilitating needed administrative clearances, providing them support in making the silt available from tanks to apply the silt to the farm land, which will have immediate impact on the production and productivity. This activity is being run under support of Axis Bank Foundation and Caring Friends, Mumbai.

Impact on Ground water:

The GDGS works has visible impact enhancing ground water table in command area of Dams in following way

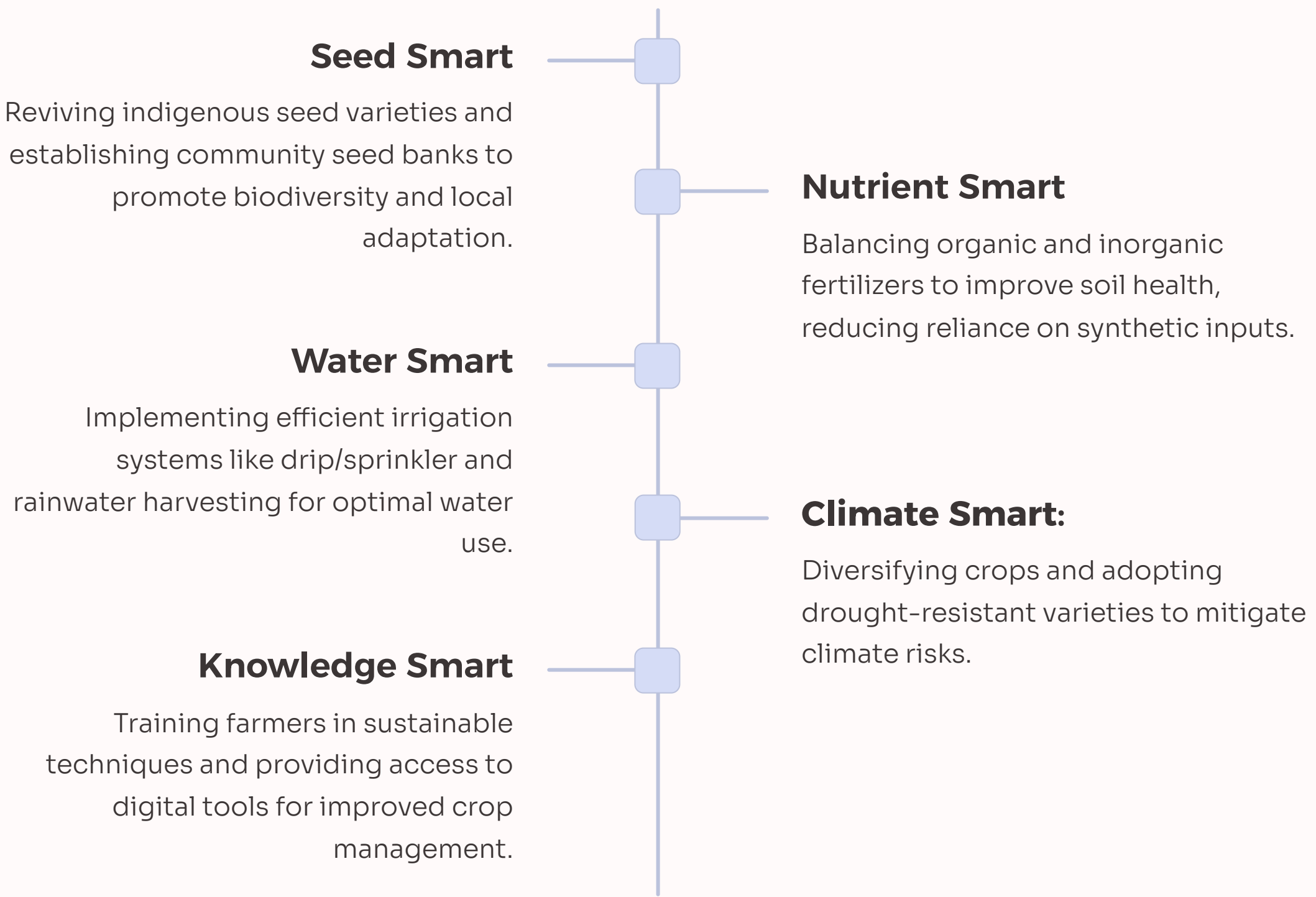
Parameter	Output
Increasing net storage capacity	126 Crore-litre
Gross projected rainwater harvested in 43 dams which gets overflowed twice.	500 Crore-litres
Enhancing ground water table to its optimum capacity in command area around 15000 Hactre.	1 Meter below GL in command area of Dam or zero level in close vicinity dams.

Sustainable Agriculture: A Holistic Approach

From Soil to Security: Transforming Livelihoods through Sustainable Farming

Sustainable agriculture, as defined by the FAO, emphasizes the responsible management of natural resources to meet current and future human needs while conserving land, water, and biodiversity. It integrates environmental health, economic viability, and social equity, ensuring farming practices are technically sound, eco-friendly, and socially acceptable. To transition from conventional to sustainable agriculture, Dilasa Sanstha adopts a holistic approach that combines capacity building, technological innovation, and institutional support. Key strategies include promoting agroforestry, seed conservation, organic inputs, and climate-resilient practices. The project focuses on five core interventions—**Seed Smart, Nutrient Smart, Water Smart, Knowledge Smart, and Climate Smart**—to enhance productivity, reduce environmental harm, and build resilient livelihoods.

Key Interventions :



Parameter	UoM	Cumulative Progress
Agri Business Promotion		
Establish CHC	No	95
Establishment of ABC	No	21
Business turnover of CHC	Rs.	24,81,653
Business turnover of ABC	Rs	75700
ABC Training	No	75
FPO Formation	No	3
Land & Water Resource Development		
Doha Model	No	2767
Dug well	No	12
Dam Desilt	No	100
Micro sprinkler & Drip Irrigation system	No	1005
Farm bund & CCT	Cum	87005
Check Dam	No	3
Recharge pit	No	1700
Loose boulder check dam/RFD/Gabian structure/Outlet	No	4786
Farm Ponds	No	101
Phad Irrigation Model	No	252
Cement Water Tank for livestock	No	158
Agriculture Interventions		
Quality Seed Promotion	Kg	13970
Demonstration of Shivansh Khad	No	52
No of FFS	No	506
No of Farmer get training	No	75900
ToT Training	No	18
NADEP (Cover in Convergence)	No	578

Organic input support	kg	623
Vermi compost unit	No	1281
Horticulture	No	29360
Kitchen garden/ Pata seed	No	304533

Gram Panchayat: The Foundation of Rural Development

The **Gram Panchayat** serves as the cornerstone of local self-governance in India, operating at the village or small-town level under the Panchayati Raj System. Governed by the **73rd Constitutional Amendment**, which empowers rural local governments, Gram Panchayats are the base-level institutions in the Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs). Each Gram Panchayat is headed by an elected representative, the **Sarpanch**, who plays a pivotal role in driving community development.

SBI Gram Seva: An Integrated Community Development Approach

The **SBI Gram Seva** initiative is a comprehensive CSR program by the State Bank of India, aimed at fostering sustainable rural development. Rooted in the Gandhian principle that *“India lives in its villages, and villages should become self-sustaining,”* this initiative focuses on creating self-reliant communities by leveraging existing village resources. The program is currently operational in **five villages each in Dharur block (Beed district) and Arvi block (Wardha district)**.

The Key Initiatives are:



1. Promoting Education for All

Ensuring access to quality education in rural areas.



Environmental Protection

Building a symbiotic relationship between communities and nature to sustain livelihoods.



Digitization of Gram Panchayats

Integrating technology to streamline developmental activities.



Skill Development

Creating year-round employment opportunities through vocational training.



Healthcare Improvement

Enhancing preventive and primary healthcare services in villages.

Major Achievements

1

ODF Villages

Five Gram Panchayats in Arvi and Dharur blocks have been declared Open Defecation Free (ODF)

2

Drinking Water Supply

Ten Gram Panchayats now have access to **24x7 quality RO-filtered drinking water**

3

Financial Inclusion

100% of the population in eight Gram Panchayats have been brought under the banking system, ensuring financial access for all



Parameter	UoM	Cumulative Progress
No of Household befitted	HH	2306
Population coverage	Nos.	11483
Establish community WI-FI Network	Nos.	10
Establishment of Community Information Centre	Nos.	22
Established infrastructure for E-Learning in school	Nos.	10

Established Computer classroom for all	Nos.	10
Fitting Community level RO in Gram Panchayat	Nos.	11
Water Purifier	Nos.	6
Solar Lamps in villages.	Nos.	90
Convergence	Nos.	1047
Health Centre Improvement	No	11483
Health Camps	No	20
Prerna Centre	No	211
Farmer Support Centre No of distressed Farmers supported	No	8900
Ration Kits	No	52117



MEDICINE BAG
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Diversifying Livelihoods: Reducing Dependence on Agriculture and Enhancing Opportunities

To address the over-reliance on agriculture and create sustainable livelihood opportunities, it is essential to productively employ the rural labor force in **farm-based enterprises** and equip them with skills for **self-employment**. The proposed project focuses on building an enabling environment for employment, increasing income levels, and enhancing existing livelihood opportunities through the following measures:

Formation and Strengthening of SMS and SHGs

- Establishing and empowering **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** and **Sayukta Mahila Samitis (SMS)** for households aspiring to improve their livelihoods.
- Facilitating collective action in activities of common interest to enhance income and resilience.

Capacity Building and Skill Development

- Organizing **exposure visits, training programs, and workshops** to enhance knowledge and skills in diverse livelihood activities.
- Equipping individuals with the expertise needed for farm-based and non-farm enterprises.

Promoting Agri-Based Entrepreneur Models

Encouraging collective entrepreneurship in agriculture-based ventures, such as **custom hiring centers (CHCs)**, **agri-business centers (ABCs)**, and **value-added processing units**.

Promoting Animal Husbandry:

Supporting SHG and SMS members in adopting **animal husbandry practices**, such as dairy farming, goat rearing, and poultry, to diversify income sources.

Building Market Linkages:

- Establishing **backward and forward market linkages** to ensure fair prices for farm produce and access to inputs.
- Facilitating the establishment of **farm-linked enterprises** to create sustainable value chains.

Livelihood Support Programme		
Dairy promotion unit	Nos.	672
Quality He- Goat	Nos.	25
Milk collection Centre	Nos.	05
Individual -Entrepreneurship	Nos.	4282
Trainings	Nos.	2200
Custom Hiring Centres	Nos.	95
Pashu Sakhis	Nos.	10
Fisheries unit	Nos.	2
Poultry	Nos.	159
Goat Rearing Unit	Nos.	950
Farmer Producer Companies	Nos.	3

Networking Approach: Expanding Impact through Collaboration

To amplify the reach and effectiveness of its successful models, Dilasa Sanstha adopts a **collaborative networking approach**, partnering with **152 grassroots organizations** across the Vidarbha and Marathwada regions. This strategy not only disseminates Dilasa’s innovative solutions but also enhances the capacity of smaller NGOs to implement sustainable development programs.

SBI GRAM SAKSHAM



SBI Gram Saksham Project: Enhancing Agricultural Productivity and Community Development

The **SBI Gram Saksham Project** was implemented to boost agricultural productivity and foster community development in the **Arvi and Dharur clusters** of Beed district, Maharashtra. The project focused on establishing **Kisan Seva Kendras (KSKs)** and conducting capacity-building initiatives to empower farmers, particularly marginalized groups and women.

Formation of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)

Established CBOs at **nine locations** in Arvi and Dharur clusters with active participation from marginalized farmers, women, and Gram Panchayat (GP) members.

Kisan Seva Kendras (KSKs)

- Despite severe drought conditions in Dharur, 135 farmers utilized KSK services, while 145 farmers benefited in Arvi through 8 KSK centers.
- Conducted informative sessions on tractor features and maintenance, with upcoming training planned on organic composting and farm equipment management.

Events and Visits:

- Participated in a cleanliness drive on Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary.
- Organized engagement activities led by Mr. Kiran from SBIF Mumbai.
- Conducted awareness programs and training sessions on National Farmers Day.

Government Scheme Convergence and Bank Credit Linkages

- Facilitated credit linkages for 25 women engaged in goat farming.
- Initiated efforts to secure credit for 11 proposals in dairy farming and goat rearing.
- Collaborated with government schemes



Bajaj Finserv-Supported Skill Building and Enterprise Development for Tribal Communities

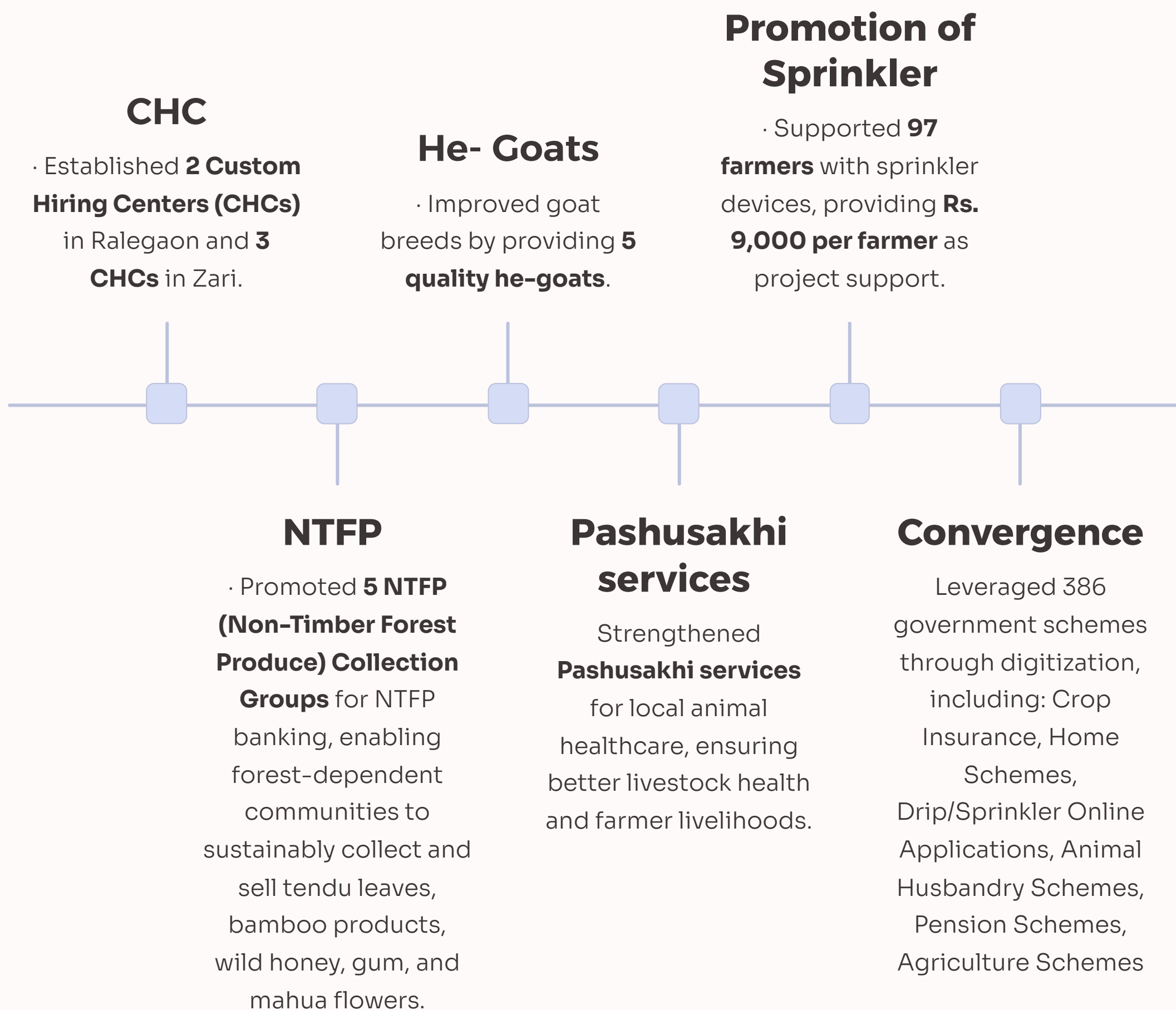
The **Bajaj Finserv-supported project** focused on empowering tribal communities in the **Zari and Ralegaon clusters** through skill development, sustainable agriculture, and enterprise promotion. The project aimed to enhance livelihoods by building capacities, improving agricultural practices, and leveraging government schemes.

Capacity Building and Training

To equip beneficiaries with the necessary skills, a series of training programs, workshops, and exposure visits were conducted, including: Krishimitra Cadre Training, Pashusakhi Cadre Training, CHC Member Training, Digital Marketing Training, Technical Poultry Business Management Training, Training on FPO Formation, Entrepreneurship Development Training.

Exposure Visits: Visits to CRIDA Hyderabad, Hiware Bazar, Patoda, LIPOK Foundation, and Jai Sardar Krishi Vikas Farmer Producer Company were organized to provide hands-on learning experiences.





Agriculture Enhancement Program

- Organized Krishi Melawa in 26 villages to explain soil test results, organic farming, and crop planning for Kharif and Rabi seasons.
- Conducted interactive sessions on soil health and nutrient management.

Soil Nutrient Management

Prepared soil nutrient management plans for 26 villages in collaboration with LIPOK Foundation, using color-coded maps to display nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, organic carbon, boron, sulfur, pH, and other nutrient levels.

Organic Pest and Disease Control:

Conducted demonstrations on organic pest and disease control methods for Kharif and Rabi crops.



Promotion of Horticulture:

During the September 2023 quarter, a total **of 12,000 orchard tree saplings** of various types were distributed to 127 farmers across 26 project villages in the Zari and Ralegaon clusters. The saplings included varieties such as oranges, sweet lime, mango, guava, clustered apple, drumstick, and lemons, carefully selected to suit the local climate and meet farmers' demands.

The distribution of these orchard tree saplings is expected to bring multifaceted benefits to the farming communities. In addition to boosting farmers' income, the trees will enhance food security, improve soil health, and reduce the environmental impact of mono-crop agriculture.

Construction of Water Tanks for Animals

The need for dedicated animal drinking water tanks emerged due to the insufficient and inconsistent water supply for livestock in the project areas. Access to clean and adequate water is crucial for the health, productivity, and well-being of animals. To address this critical need, 8 animal drinking water tanks were constructed during the December 2023 quarter in the Ralegaon and Zari clusters. These tanks provide a reliable and sustainable water source for livestock, ensuring better animal health and supporting the livelihoods of farmers dependent on animal husbandry.



✔

Water Conservation:

Constructed **4 km of Doha models** in Zari cluster resulting 30,000 cu.m of water storage has been created

SBI Jan Van: Nurturing Social Forestry at Jangodai Tekadi, Pandharkawda, Yavatmal District



As part of the SBI Green Initiatives, Dilasa has undertaken afforestation work in the proposed SBI Jan Van forest land area. This initiative was carried out in coordination with the Forest Department, CFRMC (Community Forest Rights Management Committee), and Nagarpalika Pandharkawda Town.

1 Plant Selection and Planting Methods: Suggestions for selecting a variety of local plants, along with planting techniques such as marking layout, plant spacing, and digging pits, were carefully considered.

2 Biodiversity Restoration: Introduced 32 different wild fruit tree species to enhance biodiversity and restore the ecological balance.

3 Green Cover Expansion:
Increased green cover in the area, with the goal of converting the land into a **quality forest within three years**.

4 Survival Rate:
Approximately **75% of the 8,935 planted trees** have survived.

5 Community Involvement:
Converted **10 hectares of degraded community forest land** into a quality forest with **100% density**, achieved through active community participation and ownership.

6 Protection and Maintenance:
CFRMC is actively involved in protecting and conserving the plantation. A Vanmitra (forest friend) has been appointed as a full-time volunteer under the project to ensure regular maintenance. Activities such as weeding, plant basin preparation, staking, mulching, watering, and pruning are carried out to ensure the healthy growth of all trees.

FUSION CLOTHING TREE PLANTATION

Fruits Saplings Distribution Program

On August 20, 2023, and September 9, 2023, Dilasa Sanstha undertook a Fruits saplings distribution initiative at its Head Office to benefit the communities of Saykheda, Belora, and Inzala villages. This distribution aimed to promote environmental sustainability and enhance the green cover in these areas along with that helping beneficiary for livelihood option.



Saplings Distributed:

600 fruit saplings (100 each of Custard apple, Guava, Lemon, Jackfruits, Jamun, and Ramfal)
30 Orange saplings

Special Recognition:

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Fusion Clothing for their generous support in making this distribution possible. Their commitment to environmental conservation has played a significant role in our success.

Initiatives taken for the Plantation:

As part of our commitment to environmental sustainability, 10 saplings have been planted at the Dilasa Sanstha Head Office premises in honor of Fusion Clothing. These saplings bear the name "Fusion Clothing" as a symbol of our appreciation for their support. We would like to Thank Mr. Suyash Ji for his unwavering support and invaluable contribution. We look forward to witnessing the growth of these saplings and the positive impact they will have on our environment and the communities we serve.



Flood Relief Activities: Partnership with Amazon and Donatekart

In response to the devastating floods in Maharashtra, Dilasa Sanstha collaborated with Amazon and Donatekart to provide critical relief to affected communities. This partnership facilitated the distribution of essential supplies, including **1,120 shelter kits**, **1,000 ready-to-eat food kits**, and **1,000 ration kits**, each valued at approximately **₹3,500**. These relief materials were distributed in the flood-affected regions of Nagpur, Yavatmal, and Gadchiroli districts, offering immediate support to families in need. The initiative not only addressed the urgent requirements for food and shelter but also brought hope and resilience to communities grappling with the aftermath of the disaster. This collaboration underscores Dilasa’s commitment to timely and effective disaster response, ensuring that vulnerable populations receive the necessary aid to rebuild their lives.

Item	Quantity
Cup Noodles 80 gm	384 pcs.
Ready to Eat 80 gm	768 pcs
Amul Tetra Pack Milk 1L	1008 pcs
Parle G Biscuits Parle Rusk 180 gm	2016 Packets
Real Fruit Juice 200 ml	3600 Pcs
Haldiram Namkeen	3400 pcs.



Augmentation in Agriculture Production through Water-Based Solutions with Community Participation

The project implemented at Sukli and Taroda village of Babulgaon Block of Yavatmal district. The proposed project, supported by Portescap Pvt Ltd under its CSR initiatives for the FY 2023-24, aimed to enhance the groundwater level in the watershed area of two selected water distressed villages, thereby benefitting the poor and marginalized farming communities and increasing agricultural production.

The project was implemented in the villages of Taroda and Sukali, which together comprised approximately 212 households in the Babulgaon block of the Yavatmal district in Maharashtra. Agriculture serves as the primary livelihood for the community, with 90% of the project area's crops relying on natural rainfall. However, the sector has experience a significant agrarian crisis due to climate change and erratic rainfall. One of the main factors contributing to this crisis is the lack of irrigation facilities and depletion of the groundwater table.

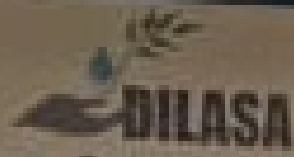
To address these issues, DILASA adopted the Doha Model approach to revive streams through rainwater in order to execute the stream-digging work within the watershed area of the project villages, DILASA organized Gram Sabhas (village council meetings) and obtained Panchayat resolutions as well as farmer consent. To encourage community participation, we formed a Water User Group and provided them with water management training.

Dilasa Technical team member conducted technical survey and support for layout and ensure quality of work with Water User Group participation. Around 10% funds have been mobilized as farmer contribution in all activity. The contribution is in the form of labor work such as cleaning if site, site supervision and shaping of bunds, construction of stone inlet and land donation needed for widening of stream in Doha Model structure etc.

- ❑ Rainwater Harvesting through stream rejuvenation with Doha Model technique Impacted on 500 acres watershed area Benefitted around 212 No of farmer Household (65 No HH is direct Beneficiaries)



BAJAJ Allianz



बजाज आलियांज जनरल इन्शुरन्स लि.
यांच्या संयुक्त विद्यमाने

लोक सहभागातून कृषी
व उपजिवीका विकास कार्यक्रम

सामुहिक वन उपज संकलन केंद्र

गाव : पाडी, तालुका : झरी, जिल्हा : यवतमाळ

अंमलबजावणी संस्था : दिलासा संस्था, यवतमाळ



Strengthening Economic Opportunities for the Rural Poor Through Natural Resource-Based Livelihood Initiatives (Bajaj Finance Ltd.)

The project, supported by Bajaj Finance Ltd., aimed to strengthen economic opportunities for rural communities through natural resource-based livelihood initiatives. Key activities included baseline surveys, meetings and workshops with local partners, line department officers, and experts, as well as the formation and training of Community Forest Rights Management Committees (CFRMCs). The project also focused on regeneration of common lands, forest-based livelihood interventions, and farm-based livelihood interventions.

- 1

Baseline Survey:
A comprehensive survey was conducted to gather basic village information, identify needy families (single women, NTFP gatherers, and job card holders), and assess the status of natural resources in the Community Forest Rights (CFR) areas. The survey mapped vegetation, identified available Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) and medicinal plants, and determined necessary treatments for CFR areas.
- 2

Meetings and Workshops:
Workshops were organized to inform government departments about the project and clarify the Forest Rights Act (2006) and its amendments. A total of 234 officials from the Revenue, Forest, Agriculture, and Panchayat Samiti departments participated. Additionally, 1,783 participants from various blocks of Yavatmal district were trained on mapping and CFRMC formation.
- 3

Regeneration of Common Lands:
Saplings of species like Bahava, Behada, Vad, Karanj, Nimb, Moha, Tamarind, Jambhul, and Chandrajoshi were planted in 72 hectares of CFR areas with the help of Gramsabha members.
- 4

Forest-Based Livelihood Interventions:
Significant progress was made in promoting NTFP-based livelihoods, including honey processing, Mahua trading, and bamboo craft products. Capacity-building programs equipped 110 families with skills for sustainable NTFP collection and market linkages.

- 1 Baseline surveys completed in **50 villages**.
- 2 **5 block-level workshops** conducted.
- 3 Capacity building of Gramsabha and CFRMC members completed in **50 villages**.
- 4 Saplings planted in **72 hectares** of CFR areas.
- 5 Conservation plans completed in **39 villages**.
- 6 **110 families** benefited from forest-based livelihoods.
- 7 PIA proposals submitted for **33 villages**, with **16 villages** listed on the MGNREGA portal.
- 8 Materials distributed and wall paintings completed in **50 villages**.





Launch of Azim Premji Foundation Project: Enhanced Quality of Life for Marginalized and Impoverished Communities (October 2023 - September 2026)

Dilasa Sanstha is proud to announce the launch of the Azim Premji Foundation-supported project, titled *"Enhanced Quality of Life for Marginalized and Impoverished Communities"*, which commenced in October 2023 and will run through September 2026. This initiative aims to improve the livelihoods and well-being of marginalized communities through sustainable development interventions.

In the initial phase, the project focused on community mobilization, the formation of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), and the establishment of Farmer Interest Groups (FIGs). Additionally, 1 kilometer of stream was treated using the Doha Model for rainwater harvesting and stream rejuvenation, benefiting the local watershed area. Soil testing was also conducted across 30 villages to assess soil health and guide sustainable agricultural practices. These foundational activities have laid the groundwork for long-term impact, ensuring community participation and ownership in the project's success.

Tree Plantation and a forestation Project

has been implemented on 10 Ha of land Adjacent to Yavatmal city on Godhani Road, behind Amolakchand Law College, Yavatmal. This initiative is being implemented by Dilasa Sanstha in collaboration with Prayas Yavatmal. Prayas Yavatmal is not just an organization but a platform for a group of self-motivated, enthusiastic individuals dedicated to environmental conservation.

Objective: The project aims to generate green cover on barren land, boosting local biodiversity and improving the environment. An oxygen zone will be developed near Yavatmal city, attracting various bird species and helping maintain the ecosystem. The plantation will also support different species of butterflies, contributing to a balanced natural food cycle. Additionally, the project seeks to foster a positive community attitude towards the conservation of the ecosystem.

Financial Overview

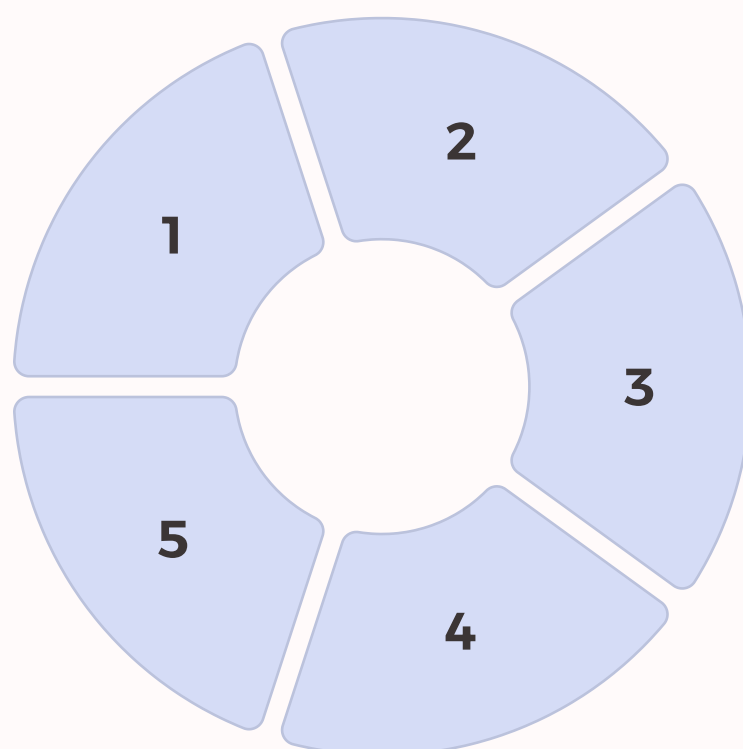
Funds Received:

Bajaj AGI Co Ltd

19,000,000/-

FES

1785000/-



SBI Foundation

12,473,760/-

**Azim Premji
Foundation**

19,980,001/-

**Portescap India Pvt
Ltd**

2548000/-

Total Funds Received: 55,786,761/-

Acknowledgment

Dilasa Sanstha takes this opportunity to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our funding partners, donors, and well-wishers for their unwavering financial and moral support, which has been instrumental in helping us achieve our objectives. We extend our deepest appreciation to our dedicated team members who worked tirelessly in the remote regions of Maharashtra, serving communities during the challenging times of COVID-19 with immense dedication and commitment during the financial year 2020-2021.

We salute all the COVID warriors—doctors, nurses, and para-professionals—for their selfless service to humanity with love and care. We are also profoundly grateful to our CSR partners, funding agencies, international organizations, and non-profit organizations for proactively collaborating with us and believing in our vision for change.

Dilasa Sanstha extends its sincere thanks to the villagers and workers for their active participation in this noble mission of serving society. We also acknowledge everyone who has been directly or indirectly involved in supporting our efforts.

Let us continue to join hands and work together for the welfare of marginalized and underprivileged communities, empowering them to live with dignity and hope.

Sincerely,

Komal Dhas

Assistant Director

Dilasa Sanstha

Ashish Ramgiriwar

Chief Accountant

Dilasa Sanstha

Annexure I

Case Study

Women Economic Empowerment through Custom Hiring Centre

Project Name: Skill Building and Enterprise Development for Tribal Community and Rural Poor

Name of CHC Centre: Vaishnavi Custom Hiring Center (CHC), **Village:** Botoni **Cluster:** Zari

Botoni village in the Zari cluster is a remote village situated in the forest. The village's economy has primarily relies on agriculture, forestry, and labour work. The village has 85 families, all belonging to the tribal poor community. None of the villagers have access to a goods transport vehicle. The absence of public transportation has had a negative impact on the villagers' ability to travel to nearby town for work and other essential services. Therefore, the SHG group has recognized the establishment of a reliable transport system as a crucial necessity to enhance the quality of life in the village.

Formation of CHC Group:

The self-help group (SHG) identified the lack of reliable transport options as a major challenge for the village and initiated initiatives to address the issue. Additionally, women self-help groups formed a CHC group called Vaishnavi Custom Hiring Center (CHC) consisting of local women under the project, aimed to address the transportation challenges faced by the village.

Project and Training Support:

Recognizing the entrepreneurial potential of CHC groups and aiming to encourage CHC group, a two-day workshop on the concept of Custom Hiring Center (CHC) was conducted for CHC members at Dilasa Training Center, Choramba in the month of July 2022 under the project support. This support includes enhancing the skills and knowledge of CHC group members in various areas such as to optimize transport services, financial management and record keeping, customer service and communication, vehicle management, maintenance, route planning, ensuring its proper functioning, enabling them to effectively manage transport vehicles.

After the training, the group members pooled their financial resources and a total of Rs. 3.40 lakh. Out of this amount, from project assistance of Rs 1.50 lakh and Rs 1.90 lakh from the community share were given by the CHC group. In December 2022, under the Custom Hiring Center initiative, they purchased a suitable vehicle, such as a mini pickup truck, with an investment of 3.40 lakhs. Now, this group is renting out this vehicle at a subsidized rate to many farmers in and around his village.

The Custom Hiring Center generated an additional income of around Rs. 304300/- lakhs in 7 months with a net profit of about Rs. 175970 /- lakhs. The CHC group is now successfully running their Goods Transport Vehicle and plans to expand this business further.

Business Details of Custom Hiring Center

Total Business in Rs	Total Expenditure in Rs	Net Profit in Rs	Duration in Month	Per Month Profit in Rs	Per Member Profit in Rs
304300	128330	175970	7	25138	2500

Impact and Sustainability:

The CHC group transportation services had a significant impact on the village and its residents. The availability of reliable transportation improved access to healthcare, and employment opportunities in nearby towns. It also facilitated the transportation of agricultural produce, enabling farmers to reach markets and sell their goods more efficiently.

The CHC group success in operating the transportation vehicle created a sustainable model that empowered the group and showcased the potential of collective action and entrepreneurship within the community.

The financial project support and training provided under the Bajaj project plays a vital role in building the capacity of CHC group and ensuring the long-term viability of the project.



