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Glimpses of Wardha Programme Area

788 villages reached
1,17,498 families benefited
5,75,746 population covered

*Figures in parentheses ( ) represents the achievements of the year under reporting i.e. 2017-18, all other figures represents the cumulative progress over the years

Village Institutions

4,407 Village Institutions Established (727)

Water Resource Development & Management

224 Rivers/Streams of 485 Km area Rejuvenated (229)
96 Check Dams Constructed
3,036 Farm Ponds/Recharge Pits’ Constructed
2,128 Wells Recharged
249 Group Wells Constructed
1,468 Group Lift Irrigation Devices Installed
32 Percolation Tanks Constructed
4,038 Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation Systems Installed (104)
2,230 Boribundh Installed
1,267 Acres Of Farm Bunds Formed
2,225 Gabion Structures Formed

46,302 Families and 1,49,778 Acres of Land are Covered Under Water Resource Development and Soil Conservation Programme

Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture

11,276 Families Covered Under Convergence of Agricultural Interventions in Maharashtra (CAIM) Project
11,000 Families Adopted Better Cotton Initiative Programme (BCI)
6,760 Families Benefitted Under WADI Project (840)
5,915 Farmers Adopted Natural Farming (807)
35,251 Farming Families and 80,625 Acres of Land are Benefitted Under of Sustainable Agriculture Practices

Biogas: A Boon for the Rural Community

3,132 Biogas Plants Installed (300)

Promotion of Indigenous Cows Programme

3,969 Families Adopted Indigenous Cows

Women Empowerment

2,662 Self Help Groups Formed (465)
34,050 Families Benefitted (5349)
3,094 Families Benefitted Under Rural Enterprises
44,245 Women Benefitted Under Self Help Groups, Income Generation Activities, Indigenous Cow and Biogas Programme

Skills & Entrepreneurship Development

1,376 Youth Benefitted Under Skill Development Programme (515)

Awards & Recognitions

- National Award for Excellence in Water Management, 2010 in Beyond the Fence Category, by Confederation of Indian Industries (CII)
- Excellence in Water Management and Conservation Water Awards-2012, by FICCI
- River and Stream Rejuvenation Project was Identified as “Note-worthy Project in Water Management” in Beyond the Fence Category by Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), 2016
- International Humanitarian Water, Air and Food Award (WAF), 2016 in the Category of Water
- “ICSI CSR Excellence Award 2016” by the Institute of Companies Secretaries of India
- “Lion CSR Precious Award 2016” by Lions Club International

Our Partners

- Rural Community of Wardha District
- Government of Maharashtra
- TATA Trusts
- National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD)
- International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD)
From an early age, destiny carved out a unique role for young Jamnalal. At the age of five, he was adopted by Shri Bachhraj Bajaj, a wealthy merchant in Wardha. Throughout his life, he was a staunch follower of Mahatma Gandhi who also inspired Jamnalal to initiate Hindusthan Sugar Mills in 1931. Jamnalal was the founding father of the present-day Bajaj Group of Companies.

Freedom fighter, social reformer, humanitarian and a devoted follower of Mahatma Gandhi, Jamnalal Bajaj was born in Kashi-ka-Bas in Rajasthan on November 4, 1889. In 1920, at Jamnalalji’s request, Gandhiji accepted him as his ‘fifth’ son. In Gandhiji’s own words:

He joined in Gandhiji’s programmes and India’s freedom struggle in 1915. He was elected Treasurer of the Congress party in 1920. Jamnalalji took active part in the Non-Co-operation Movement in 1921, the Salt Satyagraha in 1930 and the individual Satyagraha at Nagpur to uphold the honour of our National Flag. He also led the Jaipur Satyagraha in 1939. In all he was imprisoned for over five years.

It was in implementing the Constructive Programme of Gandhiji that Jamnalalji’s contribution was of an enduring nature. As inspired by Gandhiji, he opened the doors of his family temple, the Lakshmi Narayan Mandir at Wardha, to all, including Harijans in 1928. It was the very first temple in India to welcome Harijans. Jamnalalji established the Gandhi Seva Sangh in 1921 and was its Founder-President. Also Chairman of the All-India Khaddar Board. He was also closely associated with the All-India Village Industries Association, Talimi Sangh and Hindi Sahitya Sammelan. He not only played an active part in establishing and conducting these organisations, but also supported a large number of workers who dedicated themselves to these activities.

Jamnalal made Wardha the centre for Gandhiji’s economic and social development programmes. He established the Satyagraha Ashram in Wardha in 1921. He brought Vinoba Bhave to the Wardha Ashram to nurture it into national institution. In1936, Gandhiji wanted to shift to a rural habitat. Jamnalal then offered a large piece of his land in Segaon to build his Ashram which is known as Sevagram. Bajajwadi in Wardha was like a home for all eminent national leaders visiting Gandhiji. The meetings of the Congress Working Committee were also frequently held there. The famous Quit India resolution was adopted by the Congress Working Committee at its meeting in Bajajwadi in 1942. Jamnalalji was thus the main pillar of strength to Gandhiji. Gandhi himself admitted that “It was an easy thing for me to rely on Jamnalal to carry out my wishes. No one has identified himself so much with every one of my activities as he”.

On 11th February 1942, at the age of 53, Jamnalalji passed away suddenly.

Jamnalalji dedicated himself and his resources, without reservation. There is hardly any activity of mine in which I did not receive his full hearted co-operation and in which it did not prove to be of the greatest value. He placed at my disposal his ample possessions. He became a guardian of my time and health and he did it all for the public good.

- Mahatma Gandhi
Kamalnayan Bajaj, the eldest son of Jamnalal Bajaj, started shouldering family responsibilities from an early age. After completing his education in Cambridge University in England, Kamalnayan returned to India to assist his father Jamnalal, both in business and in social service.

After Jamnalalji’s death his elder son Kamalnayanji felt it was his duty to fulfil his father’s wish to put into practice Gandhiji’s theory of trusteeship. In consultation with Gandhiji and the other members of the family he created a public charitable trust of Jamnalalji’s personal assets including his shares in the joint family property.

He was a strategist and chose not to court arrest. His purpose was to keep himself free to help those actively engaged in the freedom movement. Keenly conscious of the legacy of his reputed family that he had to carry forward, Kamalnayan once wrote to his father, that “It is no joke to be the son of a big man”. Kamalnayan was a man of strict principles, which he never swerved from. He had earmarked a large portion of the income from his family business for public causes and social service programmes, the mantle of all of which he had inherited from his father. He always had a sense of a larger social mission, transcending the dictates of business and the bottom line.

As astute businessman, Kamalnayan envisaged immense potential in India for manufactured textiles. But he did not pursue the profit in that business because of the firm commitment of the Bajaj family to Khadi, inspired by Mahatma Gandhi. Clearly expounding his philosophy and his perspective, Kamalnayan observed, “The various industries I am connected with should generate profit. But if any move on our part goes against national interests, “I would condemn it and would not be party to it, even if it meant a loss in the bargain”.

Every new business venture that Kamalnayan got into, eloquently testified to his legendary business acumen. With tremendous foresight and a spirit of zestful enterprise, Kamalnayan acquired ailing industrial units and then miraculously turned them around.

Kamalnayanji extended help to many causes like education, medical care and famine and flood relief. Besides being an insightful businessman and his preoccupation in politics, he was associated with a large number of institutions – social and educational. He devoted a good deal of time, resources and energy to them. He was an ideal philanthropist.

He was elected thrice as a member of the Lok Sabha between 1957-1971 from Wardha constituency in Maharashtra.
Shishir Bajaj

Although industrial as well as service sectors of India leaped forward after opening of its economy to the world, it is still a fact that the economic growth, which was boosted in the last two decades, has not led to high level of employment generation. Since it was unable to absorb the workforce in the rural areas that was aspiring to migrate to cities for better prospects, a large majority of population of India still continues to live in the rural areas. The problem of employment for the youth has been more intensified in the recent years. In such a situation, agriculture and allied activities remain the only option left for them to sustain their livelihoods. Presently, agriculture faces with many challenges right from its excessive market dependency for the required inputs to non-profitable returns from the farming activities. We are trying to change this scenario through participatory management and judicious use of natural resources and through other need based development interventions.

Multi-input development approach will help the community to overcome the distress, sustain their livelihoods and attain self-reliance in terms of economic and social upliftment. We are making efforts to address issues related to environment, livelihoods, education and health. Upgradation of skills and capabilities of the rural people with the active participation of the community to overcome the distress, sustain their livelihoods. Presently, agriculture faces with many challenges right from its excessive market dependency for the required inputs to non-profitable returns from the farming activities. We are trying to change this scenario through participatory management and judicious use of natural resources and through other need based development interventions.

KJBF’s major focus, since inception of the rural development programme, has been ‘Water Resource Development and Management’ to mitigate a major risk of availability of irrigation water for farming. As in other parts of the country, silted seasonal rivers in Wardha district of Maharashtra State could no longer supply water for agriculture during the period when it is badly required. Their beds become shallow due to continuous deposition of silt, and so, are not in position to hold more water added during monsoon; this water, therefore, rushes out of the boundaries of the Rivers/Streams to damage their banks, flood the adjoining fields, destroy crops, and erode lands. Rejuvenation of Rivers and Streams can arrest such losses, and hence, revives hopes of thousands of farmers. In the light of this, we entered into a tripartite collaboration with Government of Maharashtra and TATA Trusts for rejuvenation of Yashoda river basin located in Wardha district and the actual work started since last year. Out of a total long stretch of 630 km of rejuvenation proposed within 3 years, 350 km of work has already been completed successfully. Moreover, for more stability to the bunds created, 1 lakh bamboo saplings have been planted.

While we are slowly moving towards the resilience against over-dependancy on rainfall for successful crop harvest, there are other structural challenges which farmers face as a barrier between them and the market. Constraints which hinder their growth and market viability are poor market infrastructure, credit unavailability from formal channels, knowledge of and access to market, lower bargaining power and holding capacity, higher input costs and lower economic returns due to fragmented buying and selling. KJBF has, therefore, engaged itself in formation of ‘Farmers’ Producer Organisations’ (FPOs’) and building their capacities to deal with these obstacles and helping farmers to regain their self-esteem.

E-Shakti is a pilot initiative undertaken by NABARD to link the rural community to credit accessibility through SHGs. This year, KJBF has arranged to link 1500 SHGs to E-Shakti portal which will trigger quick access to the credit and help in further building of micro-enterprises. KJBF has contributed towards strengthening capacities of Self-Help Groups by being appreciated by NABARD on its ‘Foundation Day’ at a National function organized at Pune. We thanks to all stakeholders, funding partners and community of Wardha for their continuous support to us throughout the year. We will continue our efforts in future too, for the holistic development of the rural society in Wardha district being served by us.

Kushagra Nayan Bajaj

At Kamalnayan Jannalal Bajaj Foundation (KJBF), we believe that environmental conservation is our prime responsibility. It is essential that we educate ourselves and community and act swiftly to protect the environment.

To empower Children, Youth, Women and Community at large, we regularly organise training and capacity building programmes and involve them in all stages of community development programmes through formation of various community-based village development institutions. To tackle increasingly serious environmental challenges KJBF is making efforts to improve the rate of ground water recharge.

There are solutions available to combat challenges of agriculture growth and increasing quality of lives of farmers through development of water resources, diversifying agriculture, and better use of technology.

Our efforts in Wardha district towards water resources development and the benefits they yielded to the farmers were noted by the Government of Maharashtra. An ambitious project of ‘Rs. 100 Crore for ‘Rejuvenating Yashoda River Basin’ has been designed and initiated in collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra, Kamalnayan Jannalal Bajaj Foundation, TATA Trusts and the local community. Yashoda River and its tributaries are being rejuvenated over a length of 630 kms under this project.

A total 485 Km of River rejuvenation including Yashoda river has been completed. To improve storage capacities of these water bodies and more efficient ground water recharge, various water harvesting structures like 96 Check Dams, 3036 Farm Ponds, 2128 Well Recharge, 2230 Bori bundhs have been completed by us in 542 villages in Wardha district. To make water available for irrigation, 1468 Lift Irrigation Systems and 250 Group Wells have been established. To conserve water and propagate practices for judicious use of water, 4038 Micro Irrigation Systems have been promoted as part of integrated water resource development programme.

As a result of these sustained integrated efforts, the level of water in the area has risen by 6 to 8 ft and the period of water availability is increased from seasonal to 8-10 months. This has resulted in increased cropping intensity from a single crop to 2 to 3 crops every year. Under the water resource development programme 46,302 families from 542 villages covering 1,49,778 acres of farming land have been benefited in the Wardha district.

Looking at the success of our Yashoda River Basin Project, we understand that if similar investment is made through participatory approaches the benefits could be extended to a wider geographic reach. We have already expressed our intent to cover entire Wardha District by rejuvenating all Rivers and Streams in the district running a length of 2700 kms and there is tremendous potential to replicate our Wardha model across Maharashtra State and the Country.

KJBF has initiated six Climate Proofing Projects in collaboration with NABARD to enhance the resilience of agricultural crops and livestock. It includes development and application of improved production and risk management technologies to safeguard food security and generate decent incomes for rural communities.

It is our great honour that Hon. Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri. Devendra Fadnavis and Maharashtra State Water Resource Minister Shri. Ram Shinde have visited our “Rejuvenation of Yashoda River Basin” during their visit to Wardha. I am thankful to them for their insights and the appreciation expressed during their visits and it would be helpful in future planning and furthering our collaboration.

I wish to thank our villagers, team members, village volunteers and all other stakeholders for their unintering efforts and cooperation to reach out in 788 villages benefiting 1,17,498 families covering 5,76 Lakh population in Wardha district. We are aiming to cover entire Wardha district with all above need based development interventions through participatory approaches to make Wardha a socio-economic prosperous district by 2025.

Chairman’s Message

Foreword
India’s food security depends on producing cereal crops, as well as increasing its production of fruits, vegetables and milk to meet the demands of a growing population. Agriculture in India has been in distress since last few decades. Zero budget natural farming promoted by Padmashri Subhash Palekar is an adoptable option to revert the situation to achieve sustainable development in agriculture sector. It is the necessity of time for concentrated efforts for dissemination of information about practices of natural farming to reaching out to maximum number of farmers.

There are more employment opportunities available in agriculture than in business sector. There are many such examples set by youths in Wardha. Sarang Bahadure (M. Tech in Biotech) in of Muradgaon village of Deoli block is one of them. He shared, “My farm gives me equal package I could get with an industrial job. Moreover, it rendered me dignity and identity in the community.”

Community consultation and development of relevant interventions in accordance with traditional knowledge will only evolve better management practices for natural resources. In the similar way Kamalnayan Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation has been making efforts for development of water resources which had subsided the flooding and water logging conditions directly bringing beneficial impact on farming. Besides development of water resources, construction of recharge pits is very important initiative of KJBF which accelerates the rate of ground water recharge and source of protective irrigation. Recharging of traditional water resources like farm wells, ponds, etc will surely improve the status of water available for irrigation.

All measures to increase productivity needs to be explored. Amongst them increasing yield, diversification to higher value crops and developing value chains to reduce marketing costs needs to be focused. There is a scope for setting up food processing and packaging centres at cluster of villages to add values to the agriculture produce. Efforts made to increase the shelf life of fruits and vegetables will also make lot of difference. We are promoting farmers’ producer companies with this vision in mind which will help the farmers to regain their bargain power and make farming a profitable business. Besides, we are trying to facilitate opening of various outlets at the safe sides of highways where passengers use to stop for food. Planning of such permanent outlet at market place in Wardha town is under process.

It is a growing need to establish processing units for agricultural produce at village level to increase profit margins. Tapping this potential KJBF has been working for establishing such agro based enterprises run by women farmers. Maina Wasu sets an example of this kind. She says, “I process the Ambadi flowers and grind spices to prepare Garam Masala. Now my monthly income has raised from zero to Rs. 15,000 and we are planning to reconstruct the house and could afford the medical care. The most important is the happiness and smile which my family has cherish.”

Development of agriculture leads ultimate development of the nation. It will contribute in bringing food security to all of us. From ancient time farmer is dependent to all of us. From ancient time farmer is dependent on monsoon rains for farming. But since last few decades monsoon has shifted its pattern in term of season, intensity of rainfall and number of rainy days. Farmers are already experiencing the implications in terms of reduction in productivity and increased pest manifestation due to erratic rain fall patterns and frequent temperature variations. The climate change is directly affecting the local biodiversity. Decrease or increase in total rainfall is the major reason for soil erosion which has intensified now-a-days and became the serious issue.

It’s a challenge to deal with the existing climate change issue for better future. Agriculture has to be developed in accordance to mitigate climate change effects. Growing indigenous varieties of seeds and diversifying cropping pattern can help to resolve the problem. The farmers are actually facing the problem of availability of seed varieties which had developed resistance over the years towards unexpected weather changes. The solution could be found out if the scientist and farmers work together. Many of the organizations and groups have been working for bringing seed sufficiency in Wardha and across the nation.

Every year we organize Grain Festival for developing direct consumer linkages for the farmers growing food naturally. Consumers are aware of benefits of naturally grown food but at the same time we should not hesitate to offer profitable rates to the produce. The solution could be found out if the scientist and farmers work together. Many of the organizations and groups have been working for bringing seed sufficiency in Wardha and across the nation.

Many exciting and diversified projects have emerged out of Design for change. The children worked upon current social issues with outstanding outcomes. The student of Model highschool, Dhanoli of Arvi block has constructed 5 magic pits at places where the sewage water used to get collected and posing a great threat to human health. They received Innovation Nominee Award at national “I CAN” gathering. Three more schools were in top 100 recognized projects. One of them was of Dinakar Nagar Vidyalaya, Jamni of seloo block. These children created awareness on reduction in overuse of whatsapp and facebook by the children. Another one was of N M Ghatwai Vidyalaya, Wadner of Hinganghat block showed their humble care towards elderly people living in the village by availing them health facilities through organization of health camps. The third one was of Yashodeep Convent, Wardha. They had created Children Money Bank to raise accidental help to the poor and needy children.

There is a scope for investments for the funding agencies and donors for establishing ware houses, cold storage facilities and agro processing centres at village level. Collaborative efforts can be exerted for developing market linkages for processed food as well as naturally grown farm produce through networking of various organisations so that farmers get a profitable rate for the farm produce. Similarly, indigenous variety of seeds suitable to climatic and soil conditions of Wardha district can be shared for propagation in order to bring seed sufficiency for the farmers and conserving the climate resilient seed varieties.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to each of the joining hands who have rendered deep concern, support and partnership. Thank you for being with us on this journey.
Average Rainfall of Wardha district is 1,062 mm. The run off takes away fertile top soil which leads to severe soil erosion. Soil erosion adversely affects the fertility status and land use. About 10 percent of the eroded material usually gets deposited in streams and rivers resulting in silting up of river beds and reservoirs, thereby reducing water flow, ground water recharge and water retention capacity. This, in turn, reduces crop productivity leading to lower income to farmers.

To resolve above problems, Kamalnayan Jamanalal Bajaj Foundation (KJBF), in consultation with local community and in collaboration with development stakeholders, has implemented various need based programmes as emerged during Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) process, like construction of innovative water harvesting structures, efficient and judicious use of water through adoption of less water intensive crops and use of micro-irrigation systems, moving towards diversified cropping pattern, promotion of indigenous cows and natural farming, women empowerment through formation of self help groups and need based income generating activities, promoting non-conventional energy sources through construction of biogas plants, etc. These programmes were aimed at strengthening the livelihoods of distressed agrarian community of Wardha district.

There is a scope for investments by the funding agencies and donors for establishing warehouses, cold storage facilities and Agri-processing centres at village levels. Collaborative efforts can be extended for developing marketing linkages for processed food as well as naturally grown farm produce and networking of various organizations so that farmers get profitable return for their produce. Similarly, indigenous varieties of seeds suitable to climatic and soil conditions of Wardha District can be shared for multiplication and dissemination in order to bring seed self-sufficiency to farmers and conserve the climate resilient varieties of native and locally preferred crops. We also like to welcome academic institutions for conducting impact studies of different programmes implemented by KJBF.
Empowering Rural Women through Self Help Groups

Rural women have to deal with many problems which they can resolve through their collective efforts. Empowerment of women signifies harnessing women power by sensitising their tremendous potential and encouraging them to work towards attaining a dignified and satisfying way of life. Women constitute 90% of total marginal workers of the country. Rural women, who are engaged in agriculture, form 78% of all women in regular work.

It is well known fact that the growth of women, in turn, develops her family, village and the nation in general since women constitute 48.46% of total population in India (Census data of 2011). Formation of Self Help Groups (SHG) is a viable alternative to achieve the objectives of rural development and to ensure community participation. In all rural development interventions, activity of Self Help Groups (SHGs) has emerged as a platform for empowering rural women to strengthen their livelihood, thereby alleviating poverty.

In the words of Gandhiji, “One step for women ten steps for Nation”. Women and SHGs in Wardha have achieved success in bringing the women to the mainstream of decision making.

SHGs are effective in reducing poverty, creating awareness and ensuring sustainability of environment which finally results in sustainable development. The status of SHGs members in their families and in the society has also been improved.

KJBF had organized need based skill trainings and exposure visits for the members of SHGs so that they can build their confidence and start enterprises through exploring their own skills. Continuous monitoring and feedback support provided by KJBF to the SHGs has the backbone of their confidence building. Besides achieving financial security, the programme had raised the confidence of women SHG members of Wardha district and they began to involve themselves in solving social issues like banning liquor production in the village as well as raising their voices against domestic violence. They are also raising their participation in Gramsabhas, involvement in tree plantation programme and Sanitation campaign, etc.
Imparting Skill Development Trainings

Building micro-enterprises is an integral part of planned strategy of KJBF for securing balanced development of the economy of the rural women. The women had effectively undertaken both the production and agro-processing oriented enterprises. To develop the required skills, they were imparted skill development trainings.

Training in tailoring was organized at taluka places in 6 blocks in the district where 160 women got equipped with skills in this enterprise. Out of these, 92 women had setup their own tailoring units and started earning ₹2,000 per month. Training in making of paper bags, rexine bags, cloth bags and leather bags were also organized. Out of 89 women participated in this training, 62 women are earning ₹4,000 per month through sale of bags.

Training in mushroom cultivation as well as spices processing was conducted in collaboration with Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Rural Industrialization, Wardha. Out of 12 women participated in this training, 9 has initiated their enterprises earning ₹5,000 per month.

In addition, a process of formation of two Women Farmers’ Producer Companies has been undertaken for developing packaging and marketing facilities. These FPOs will help to establish market linkages for women entrepreneurs as well as to revolve issue of offering credits to 1,000 women shareholders from 18 villages which ultimately will lead to strengthening of their livelihoods.

SHG Digitization Programme

Keeping in view the Government of India’s mission for creating a digital India, NABARD has launched “E-Shakti” project for digitisation of all Self-Help Groups (SHG) in the country. Digital empowerment will help in bringing SHGs on a common web based e-platform by making book keeping easy. This will help in promoting national agenda of Financial Inclusion and pave the way of credibility of SHG data which can later be used by credit institutions to reduce the issues related to multiple financing by banks. KJBF had joined this venture and linked 1,050 SHGs to the E-Shakti portal.

Rendering Alternative Livelihood Opportunity through Tailoring

Advance tailoring course was organized for the members of 9 self-help group of Ashti town with an objective for generating alternative livelihood source for the women. The duration of the course was 3 month and conducted from November 2016 to January 2017. Total 20 members participated in the course. All of them were housewives as majority of them has to stay back at home to take care of their younger children and old age in-laws. This tailoring course created an opportunity of income generation for them.

Smt. Rubina Khan, who resides in Ashti was appointed as trainer of the course. Rubina was well known for her well finished work in the town. She covered 15 types of fashion cloths during the course and ensured that each of the trainees acquired the skill.

Out of 20 participants 18 owns personal tailoring machine and immediately began stitching their own cloths. In very short period under the guidance of Rubina 4 of them developed expertise in the stitching fashioned cloths and began to earn ₹1,000 per month.

Rest of the members stitch their own cloths and save money which would have been spent on tailoring. Those who do not have stitching machine share the machine of their friend for stitching their own cloths. They all save average ₹2,600 annually on stitching cloths.

Rubina continued her support and guidance to the members and offered each of them an opportunity of marketing the cloths stitched by them through her own outlet. She also shares the extra work with the 4 members who developed expertise in stitching. Now these 4 members are thinking of taking a lead for supplying the children cloths to the Rural Mall of Wardha to generate assured income.
Providing Support to Livelihood of Landless Family

Archanatai Thakre, lives in Husnapur village of Deoli block with her husband, children and mother-in-law. Her daughter and son study in 8th class and in 7th class, respectively. Her husband works as a cook in the Ashram School of the village. The family does not own any agriculture land. Archana works as a farm labour to support her family. The family was not able to save any money for future of their children as well as for themselves.

To generate regular income, she expressed her desire to have single phase flour mill as there was no flour mill in her village. She availed a revolving fund of ₹12,000 and an internal loan of ₹5,000 from her SHG to purchase single phase flour mill for ₹12,000 and constructed a platform with a shed for its installation. Family runs the flour mill in the evening and earns ₹150 per day. Their net income from this business is ₹4,000 per month. As a result of this regular additional income, Archana feels happy and secured.

Uplifting Economic Status with an Enterprise of Bangles Selling

Vanitatai Dhurve, of village Dhadi of Ashti block. She could complete her school education till 2nd class only. She lives with her husband, 2 daughters and a son. Her children are in school. Her family owns 3 acres of rain-fed land. But farming income was not sufficient to support education of the children. Besides, wages were available for 1 or 2 days of a week.

In the year 2014, Vanita joined ‘Radhika’ self-help group which comprised of 12 members. They were triggered with the thought of running small scale enterprises for supporting their livelihoods. Vanita thought of having bangle selling enterprise because there was no such enterprise in the village and women had to go to another village at a distance of 3 Km. It was difficult to manage purchase of bangles during family functions and visit of close relatives as traditionally it’s a ritual to gift bangles.

Her desire was supported and she received a revolving fund of ₹12,000 from KJBF in 2014. She began to sell bangles in the village and neighbouring villages as a door vender. She used to walk down to the neighbouring village which was quite cumbersome job for her. But soon her drudgery has been reduced as she purchased second hand bike and her son used to drive the bike and help her travel to neighbouring villages for business. She is known for sale of good quality bangles. Her business flourished. She began to earn ₹3,000 per month normally, but around ₹40,000 during marriage and festival seasons.

Vanita shared, Dhadi village, Ashti

“My children help in business. Now I feel relieved from the anxiety. I can spare money for offering better educational facilities for my children. I am planning to expand the enterprise with the sale of stationery and artificial jewellery. I feel respected and known for my best services. Now I feel confident enough to carry out financial transactions of the bank on my own.”

Experiencing benefits of Changing Cropping Pattern

Mrs. Sunita Bhimraoji Thakare, resides in a village Mandawa of Wardha block. She is a member of ‘Savitribai Fuley’ SHG. Her family owns 5 acre of land where they grow oranges, cotton and chick pea. In the year 2017-18, she was inspired to grow coriander over a half acre of land. She spent ₹1,300 as its cost of cultivation with adoption of natural farming practices. She harvested 1 qt. of coriander which was sold at the rate of ₹100 per kg in her own village itself. Thus, she earned ₹8,600 as net profit. As she calculated the profit over cultivation of chick pea, she found that she would have harvested 3 qt. of chick pea at an input cost of ₹4,000 and her net profit would be around ₹6,500 only. Hence, she came to know that cultivation of coriander was more beneficial over that of chick pea.

Sunita opines, Mandwa village, Wardha

“Now I learnt how to improve the profits with cultivation of high valued crops and adoption of natural farming practices. This was only possible as I got useful information on natural farming practices in SHG meetings and exposures.”

Vina Madelwar, Mandwa village, Wardha

“We are making an effort for registering our women FPO under the guidance of KJBF. We are planning to have enterprise of preparation of sanitary napkins and outlet for processed food like Dal, Papad, Spices, Pickles, etc., thus in turn, increasing our annual income.”

Pushpa Ambadare, Nanbardi village, Seloo

“We are running our SHG from last 5 years. But we didn’t got any loan from banks. After we joined E-Shakti portal, within 6 months we received ₹1 lakh bank loan at the crucial time of agricultural operations.”

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Conquering Poverty through Establishment of Income Generating Activity

Bhagyashri Kalaskar (age 31), is a resident in Samudrapur town. She is a member of ‘Unnati’ self help group. Her husband is a professional photographer, but could not accomplish his wish of having a photo-studio of his own because of financial crisis in the family. Bhagyashri is a home keeper. In the course of discussion during one of the SHG meetings over establishing income generating activity, her mind got struck with the thought of having a stationary shop at home to support the family. Later, she availed a loan of ₹10,000 through revolving fund that was routed through SHG by KJBF. She expanded her business slowly and now she earns a profit of about ₹150 per day. She wisely reinvested the profits in the business and now a total stock in her shop raised to ₹3,00,000.

Bhagyashri conveyed, “My financial stress has been resolved and we are now planning to open a small photo-studio which has been a long cherished dream of my husband.”

Achievement and impact:

- 2,662 SHGs were formed with a membership of 34,050 members (1968 women SHGs & 694 men SHGs)
- 1,050 Self Help Groups were digitized on E-Shakti online portal
- 437 Villages covered
- ₹10, 62, 24,553 of total saving accrued
- ₹21,14, 67,489 Revolved among 99,865 member as internal credits and revolving fund received from KJBF (₹10,29,26,006) and external credits from banks (₹3,09,86,681)
- 129 Types of rural enterprises explored
- The average monthly income has increased from ₹3,000 to ₹15,000

Vandana Bhivgade, a member of ‘Swargy Viththalrao Meshram Smriti’ SHG, Borgaon (M), Wardha, “I acquired a skill of preparation of various kinds of bags through training organized by KJBF in our village. Now, I have started my own business and began to earn at door step.”

Manda Tandulkar, Hinganghat, “I turned confident after I became SHG member. I developed communication skills and social attitude as a result of involvement in the SHG activities. Now, I work as a resource person for Panchyat Samiti.”

Rita Ambude, of ‘Tejasvini’ SHG, Kannamwargram, Karanja, “Discussions held and information shared in the SHG meetings enriched our knowledge. Now, we feel confident while communicating with anyone.”
Design for change is an opportunity for the children to express their own ideas for a better world and put them into action. It is a unique platform and global movement initiated by Kiran Bir Sethi, Riverside School, Ahmedabad.

DFC also provided an opportunity to students where they get to dream and solve the problems they bother about by their own initiatives. DFC helps to improve life-skills among students and draw out their hidden potential.

A four stepped process of Feel, Imagine, Do and Share helps students reach their desired goal. Feel step starts with asking children to slow down and understand the situation before jumping to solve it. In the Imagine step children are asked to brainstorm solutions to improve, enrich, and change the user experience. Do step is about creative agency and the ability to take timely action. The final step is Share - cultivating the abundance mentality.

In many cases, we have seen DFC to be a confidence building and character building experience for children bringing smiles and happiness to them. DFC improves life skills like independence, self-reliance, stage daring among children and draws out their hidden potential. Based on our experience, we recommend that all schools must participate in the DFC movement.

We came across cases like children committing suicides due to over burden of parental expectations and that of school for scoring higher marks. They find themselves in confusion and their minds are trapped in a thought “What if I could not score?” and so they choose to end the life. This situation is becoming critical day by day. In social life, both boys and girls face many issues which they mostly avoid to share and keep suffering. Design for change gives them a chance to share issues, which keep bothering them either secretly or openly, during group discussions and helps them to overcome their emotional mental problematic situation. This, in turn, builds their confidence to resist the adverse situations.

Students of Jijamata Vidhyalaya village Nalwadi developed low cost models of bird shelters to protect birds from intense summer heat under ‘Design For Change’ (DFC) project.
On the other hand, some children are quite innovative. They develop their own models to find a solution. One of the students of Adarsh Vidhyalaya, Wardha invented a low cost water filter with his own ideas. But unfortunately, he received any recognition or encouragement neither from his parents nor from the teachers. Design for change brought his talent in front of society and he was quite appreciated. Thus, design for change proved itself as a diverse platform for multi-dimensional development of the children tapping their own potential.

The children are retracting from the social behavior. Some of the main reasons are use of social media, internet games and increased burden of studies. Design for change make an effort for regaining the team spirit and social attitude by working together for a good cause.

To our surprise, the children dealt with diverse subjects related to gender discrimination, sexual harassment at various places, early marriage, girls’ education, etc. These are actually the hottest issues society is concerned with. This came out as an important advantage of DFC process.

Many of the children developed skills and thoughts of reusing and recycling of waste materials. They also supported Government schemes like ‘Swachha Bharat Abhiyan’ and construction of soak pits to make the villages cleaner. One of our programme schools, a Model High School, Dhanodi of Anvi block received, “I CAN INNOVATION” award in 2017 for construction of soak pits in the village to resolve a problem of open spilling of sewage water spreading many diseases among villagers.

Future generation may face a difficulty in finding employment opportunities. The society is forgetting real meaning of education i.e. living a satisfactory life and building social community surroundings where everyone feels secured and cared. We also make efforts for development of skills required for generation of employment as well as becoming a good citizen through DFC activities. Various tools used in the process like telling stories, screening inspirational videos, singing motivational social songs and playing games helps to inculcate all the ethical values necessary to shape the future life of the school going children.

An effort of building an accidental fund through regular savings by the students of Yashodeep Convent, Wardha was also recognized in National “I CAN” gathering. The students of Dinkar Nagar Vidhyalaya, Jamani, Seloo were bothered about overuse of social media by the school going children and its impact on their personalities. They created a mass awareness to turn the attention of the elderly people towards this issue and help their wards to come out of it. The students of Nimu Ghatvai School, Wadner of Hinganghat block were concerned about health conditions of the old age people in their village. They communicated to this problem to big hospitals in the nearby towns and draw their help for organization of health camp at village level for the elderly people. They also helped the old age people to reach the place of health camp and keep follow up of the prescribed treatments. The efforts were recognized at national level at “I CAN” gathering at Riverside School, Ahmedabad. This national reorganization and exposure was an exciting and learning experience for the students and surely brought positive changes in their behaviour and thinking to make them a responsible Indian citizen.

Achievement and Impact :

- 192 Schools reached in collaboration with State Govt. in 163 villages
- 150 Projects completed by students
- 320 Teachers trained in DFC concepts and project implementation
- 5,850 Students participated directly in the projects
- 6,390 Students acquainted with the DFC concepts
- 150 Completed projects uploaded on youtube

Students prepared herbal insecticides and Pesticides to aware the villagers to reduce the external input cost in Agriculture under the DFC project, Students of Dadasaheb Adsad Vidhyalaya, village Khadki, Ashtri
Caring For the Birds
The students of Jijamata Vidhyalaya, Nalwadi observed that the people were not aware about caring birds specially during summer season when the harsh heat was resulting in a large mortality of the birds during their flight in the search of food and water. Moreover, the population of evergreen trees in the village had reduced considerably to provide a shelter to the birds. The students became bothered about it and they decided to develop model shelters for birds besides also serving them food and water.

As a result, 43 students of 8th class made 43 model shelters for the birds. Their work inspired other students of the schools and 157 more students joined the initiative. Each of them made a shelter for the birds.

The children went to the residential colony and demonstrated the importance of hanging shelters for birds prepared from waste material like plastic bottles, earthen pots, waste hard boards, etc.

Creating Permanent Water source for the School
The students of Vikas Vidhyalaya of village Kangaon in Hinganghat block thought of having drinking water source for the school. The students used to bring water bottles to the school, but the quantity of carried with them was not sufficient for the day. The school did not have any drinking water source.

During ‘feel’ process students discussed about problems of village sanitation, liquor addiction and women harassment, unclean surroundings at market place, irregular supply of water in the school by Gram Panchayat, no toilet facility in school, having fence for school, etc. Ultimately, they thought that making the water available in sufficient amount will be a ground breaking effort to get rid of all these issues one by one.

Hence, the 8th class students approached to a bore well contractor and got estimated approximate cost of construction of a bore well which came out to be ₹32,000. Each of the 55 students contributed ₹100 and got the rest of the amount shared by the community. The children convinced the villagers by discussing the intensity of the problem of absence of drinking water facility at school which becomes more severe during summer which is an examination period. Finally, required amount was collected and the school has developed its own water source for drinking as well as for other purposes.

The students gained the attributes of social attitude and a team spirit. Besides, they were acquainted with the techniques of communication and proper planning of activity to reach the defined goal. ‘Design for Change’ brought a joy and satisfaction to the students in a way that they could do something for betterment of their school.
Introduction

In Wardha district, alike other districts in Vidarbha, rainfall has been playing with the destinies of the hapless farmers in the recent years. Though the annual average rainfall is supposed to be about 1060 mm, it has become extremely erratic and is distributed in three to five spells instead of being evenly spread over a four months of monsoon period. Added also to their misfortunes had also been the rivulets and streams that have over the years got silted. The carrying capacities of these water running bodies have shrunk and that has added to the distress. The water shortages, occurring soon after the monsoon months, have been negatively affecting the prospect of agriculture and, hence, farmers are at the receiving end. For most of the farmers, agriculture is proving to be a losing proposition for livelihoods. During periods of torrential downpour, which has now become a common phenomenon across all regions, and Wardha is no exception either, the farmers find their crops getting damaged. All these realities have been affecting the farmers’ income.

Kamalnayan Jannalal Bajaj Foundation (KJBF) has looked at water related issues from several perspectives. Its approach has been problem-solving. Hence, it has often adopted new technologies and also practices that are based on traditional knowledge vested in rural communities taking into account specific geographic conditions. KJBF has constructed check dams for better groundwater recharge and surface storage to increase the quantity of water available to the villagers as well to improve its quality. Interventions like rejuvenation of rivers/streams, construction of check dams, percolation tanks, farm ponds, recharging of existing wells, promotion of group lift irrigation initiatives, group water lifting devices and group wells, etc. along with soil and water conservation measures such as Nala plugging and construction of Gabion structures have been initiated by KJBF with active participation of the local community. For efficient and judicious use of available water, drip and sprinkler irrigation systems have been promoted along with less water intensive and short duration cash crops.

Rejuvenation of Yashoda River Basin
Rejuvenation of Yashoda River Basin

Looking to the impact of above programmes, KJBF has designed a project on Rejuvenation of Yashoda River Basin in collaboration with Government of Maharashtra, Tata Trust and rural communities residing in the project area. The Yashoda River basin consists of six micro watersheds which include 65 streams and rivulets across 143 villages covering 630 Km. span of river beds. The project would cover 2,05,000 acres, of total land and benefited to 36,945 families.

Yashoda Drainage Network

Yashoda River is one of the tributaries of Godavari River Basin in India. Yashoda is a sub-river of Wardha River originating at 357 meter height of Satpura hills. It flows north-west till it reaches Allipur in Hinganghat Tehsil. Later, it changes its path and flows southward to ultimately join Wardha River near Takli village.

The Yashoda basin is located in the south-west of the Wardha district. The Yashoda River has its two major tributaries, the Bhadadi River and the Punsuda River. The course of the Yashoda River is highly fertile with deep black soil. Kharif crops like cotton, sorghum, pigeon pea, green gram, moth bean, groundnut and vegetables. Rabi crops like wheat, gram and linseed are cultivated throughout the year along the river basin.

Yashoda River Basin Watershed

Yashoda River basin watershed covers 2 villages of Arvi, 55 villages of Deoli, 75 villages of Wardha and 11 villages of Hinganghat blocks. It is divided into 6 micro watersheds.

Awareness on Water Budgeting

Training and exposure visits were organized for KJBF team as well as villagers to understand the importance of water budgeting for increasing farmers’ income and efficient utilisation of available water. Water budgeting for 15 villages has been carried out and the outcome was shared with the villagers. They were also suggested to use appropriate irrigation system and cropping pattern.

Plantation on the River Bunds

1,00,000 bamboo saplings were planted over the river bunds to strengthen the bunds with the support of forest department in order to strengthen the river bunds and minimise soil erosion against the rains during rainy season. This intervention has added strength to the bunds and increased their life span.

Achievement under Rejuvenation of Yashoda River Basin Project:

- 270.38 Km length of river basin rejuvenated covering 77 villages
- 25,563 Acres of land covered benefiting 4,509 farmers
- 38,70,539 Cubic meter recharged as surface and ground water
- 2,289 Acres of water logged land brought under cultivation
- 1,849 Wells located in the vicinity of river showed increased water level
River Rejuvenation: Reviving the farmers’ life line

Village Kurzadi is one of the villages of Yashoda River Basin Project. The number of households in the village is 265 with 1,303 population. Out of 266.91 ha cultivable farming land 199.11 ha. is rainfed land. As a result of River rejuvenation work irrigated area increased from 67.80 ha to 83.50 ha.

Mangesh Vashantraoji Navade, is one of the beneficiaries of this River Revival Work in Kurzadi having 5 acres, of rainfed land. The water facility created used for the cultivation of cotton, pigeon pea, soybean, wheat and vegetables.

Before the intervention he used to cultivate cotton and pigeon pea and harvested cotton 15 qt. and pigeon pea 2 qt. from 4 and 1 acres, respectively with a net profit of ₹31,500 from 5 acres.

After rejuvenation of River along with cotton (2 acres, harvested 21 qt.), Pigeon Pea (1 acre, harvested 6 qt.) and additionally Soybean (2 acres, harvested 11 qt.) also, due to availability of water he has cultivated Rabi crop wheat (2 acres, harvested 18qt.) of his land and vegetables in 0.5 acres, of land. He has earned net profit of ₹1,38,200 from his 5 acres, of land.

Recharge Pits

Over the years, KJBF has technically improved farm ponds which efficiently arrest surface runoff and conserve rain water that can be used for support irrigation during dry spells and periods of distress. These modifies farm ponds are now named as Recharge Pits. The average water storage capacity of these recharge pits is 75 cubic meter. It had been observed that, in addition of providing protective irrigation during prolonged rain falls, the recharge pit had also helped to overcome conditions of waterlogging in low lying areas. Since the ground water tables is 15 to 20 ft in some areas, farmers are converting their recharge pits into wells on their own expenses and converting their rain-fed land into irrigated land system.

Achievement and Impact:
- 3,036 Recharge pits constructed
- 4,557 Acres of land covered
- 3,036 Families reaped benefits
- 815 Recharge pits converted into wells
- 350 Villages covered
- Cropping intensity increased from 1 to 3 crops

Construction of Check Dams

The Check Dams are constructed across the river beds and streams. This helped to increase water storage in streams which is being used later for irrigation of crops and also to augment ground water level in surrounding areas.

Achievement and Impact:
- 96 Check dams constructed
- 3,314 Farmers benefited
- 10,490 Acres area brought under irrigation
- ₹7,50,000 Average cost of construction for a check dam
- Total Average Investment ₹7.20 crores (96 X 7,50,000)
- Total Benefit ₹34.63 crores
- 10,490 Acre land benefitted due to increased availability of water for irrigation
- Water level in 635 wells increased by about 6 ft.
- Increased availability of water for irrigating the Rabi and Summer crops
- Ground water substantially recharged
Water Management

Efficient way of irrigation is a vital component of total agriculture and it ensures additional supplies of many of the fruits, vegetables, and cereals foods consumed by humans and the feed to sustain animals. KJBF has been promoting micro-irrigation systems to increase the output per unit of water, reduce losses of water to unusable sinks, reduce water degradation and reallocate water to raise additional crops.

Sprinkler irrigation systems save the water up to 60% to 70% whereas drip irrigation saves water up to 80%. Farmers in Wardha district were motivated to install micro-irrigation systems for optimum use of water which was made available through replenishment of ground water. It has proved its benefits on number of crops including horticulture, floriculture, pulses, grains and vegetables.

Achievement and Impact :
- 4,038 Drip/Sprinkler irrigation units installed
- 7,266 Acres of land covered
- 320 Villages covered
- 4,038 Families benefited

Boribundhs

At many locations, various streams continue to flow for two to three months during post monsoon period. Boribundhs are proposed for harvesting maximum water to use it to support irrigation during dry spell. Boribundh is a seasonal cost-effective temporary water harvesting structure which is established by filling empty cement bags with sand/soil and stacked across the river/stream to harvest rain water running through stream during rainy season. The stacked cement bags are also covered with plastic sheets to minimize leakage of water.

Achievement and Impact :
- 2,230 Boribundhs installed
- 8,839 Families benefited
- 29,701 Acres of land covered/benefited
- 298 Villages covered/benefited
- Average yield increased from 5 qt. to 10 qt. per acre in cotton crop
- Average investment in boribundh was ₹5,000 and average return was ₹35,000 over one acre of land.

Lift Irrigation Systems

Wardha river, Wana river, Dham river and Bor river in Wardha district are perennial which flow through the year although the intensity of the flow and level of water held by them differ during different seasons of the year. However, the lands surrounding them remain un-irrigated as farmers are unable to lift the water due to lack of resources. As a result, the productivity of farms held by them has been suffering. KJBF has initiated establishment of lift irrigation systems and also providing diesel engines to a group of farmers to lift water available in the rivers/streams, group wells, dams, canals and ponds and brought rain-fed farming under irrigation.

Achievement and Impact :
- 91 Lift irrigation systems installed in 45 villages
- 1,377 Group lift irrigation systems installed and provided with diesel engines
- 249 Group wells constructed
- 8,520 Families benefitted
- 21,620 Acres of land covered under irrigation
- 243 Villages were covered
- ₹50,000 Average income increased per family
- Increased yield per acre average cotton 5 qt. to 10 qt. wheat as an additional Rabi crop 6 qt. from 1 acre
- Cropping intensity increased from 1 to 3 crops
- Increased yield per acre (Average - Cotton 5 quintal to 10 quintal to, Pigeon Pea, Wheat-Additional Rabi crop 6 quintal form 1 acre).

Well Recharge

Over extraction of water through open dug wells/borewells has resulted in rampant depletion of ground water which is limited and has become very scarce. To balance the mismatch of the withdrawal and recharge, rain water that falls over farm lands during rainy season is diverted into existing wells through filtration mechanism to maximize ground water recharge at a faster rate. Through this measure, it has been noted that water table increases up to ground level during rainy season, whereas under other rain water harvesting measures, the percolation rate of rain water is observed to be quite less. One pit of size 8’x 6’x 5’is excavated adjacent to the existing well and filled up with the filtering materials like gravels, pebbles and sand with layer of 1.25 ft each over one another in this sequential order. The filtration pit is fixed with 3 perforated pipes of size 12.5 cm diameter and 1m length. The inlet pipes is covered with a net to arrest the silt and allow the clean water to enter into well.

Achievement and Impact :
- 2,128 Wells recharged through rain water
- 3,193 Acres of land covered under irrigation
- 219 Villages were covered/benefited

Achievement and Impact :
- 2,199 Acres of land covered under irrigation
- 472 Families directly benefitted
- Water table increased from 6 to 8 ft in the surrounding areas
- Cropping intensity increased from 1 to 3 crops
- 24 Villages were covered/benefited

Percolation Tanks

Based on need assessment in consultation with local community, KJBF has constructed reservoir/percolation tanks in wasteland areas, where there is an adequate surface runoff in catchment area to harvest rain water for surface storage and ground water recharge. The surface stored water, thus harvested, is directly used for irrigation while ground water table is increased in the vicinity of percolation tanks and resulted in increased area under irrigation.

Achievement and Impact :
- 30 Percolation tanks constructed
- 2,199 Acres of land covered under irrigation
- 472 Families directly benefitted
- Water table increased from 6 to 8 ft in the surrounding areas
- Cropping intensity increased from 1 to 3 crops
- 24 Villages were covered/benefited

A stream and pond has been revived at village Chiti, under Yashoda River Rejuvenation project as part of Jaluyaka Shivir an initiative of Govt. of Maharashtra
Promoting Horticulture: Wadi

A livelihood model of WADI has been adopted by 7,060 farmers in the district. Many farmers increased their profit of ₹80,000 per acre through various interventions in wadi in a year. A proud Wadi beneficiary Maroti Kasar, with his Mango trees and family, village Chitki Arvi.

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and Kamalnayan Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation has been supporting ‘Wadi’ project in Wardha district for integrated development of tribal, small and marginal farmers.

Under the project, a Wadi plot usually covers one acre per beneficiary. Two or more crops are strategically selected for intercropping in Wadi model to minimize climatic, biological and marketing risks. In each acre, fruit trees like guava, mango, lemon, etc. are planted with agricultural crops. The main feature of Wadi model is economic upliftment of the farmers through sustainable agriculture, social empowerment, improvement in quality of life including health and women empowerment in tribal dominated areas of Wardha district.

The Wadi projects of Seloo, Arvi and Karanja clusters were implemented from 2010 to 2018 and their project durations are now over. The number of farmers engaged in raising ‘Wadis’ on their farms are 700, 1,000 and 800 located in Seloo, Arvi and Karanja, respectively. Out of total 2,500 Wadis established in these 3 blocks, 604 Wadis have reached fruiting stages and the total harvests from them are 40 ton of mango, 11 ton of Amla and 57 ton of lemon which added an economic benefit of ₹8,110 per Wadi as a net profit. This economic gain will continue to improve every succeeding year and expected to reach a maximum of ₹1 lakh per acre (Wadi) per farmer.

Efforts are being made for developing market linkages through formation of 6 Producer Companies, 2 in each block. 322 rural enterprises were established for the same number of landless families. The rainfed Wadis were suffering from mortality in absence of water for irrigation. Hence, 64 recharge pits were installed in some of these Wadis which had greatly helped in their survival.
of availability of water for irrigation. KJBF provided pitcher irrigation units to him. He has also supported for establishing wire fencing to protect the plantation from attack of wild animals. Earlier, he was growing only Soyabean and Pigeon Pea on this part of land. After establishing Wadi, he changed his cropping pattern and began to cultivate intercrops of Green Gram, Black Gram and Chick Pea. He now earns a net profit of ₹10,000 from the intercrops in each season.

Cashew and Fig plants were at fruiting stage for the first time during the year 2017-18 and the quality of fruits was also good. He harvested 30 kg Custard Apples, 3 kg Figs, 250 kg Guava and 2 kg of Cashew nuts in the year 2017–18. Shankar, thus, set an example of horticulture farming with minimum water input for irrigation.

Shankar shared, “The change in cropping pattern improved my earnings and strengthened ensured livelihood. The fruit crops will continue to raise income even in my old age. Moreover, as I began to sale the agriculture produce by myself in the nearby villages, my profit margin has been considerably increased. My heart feels with joy and pleasure as I enter my farm because of cool and green surroundings.”

Augmenting Profits with Wadi

Yuvraj Shingarul, a resident of village Bhadod of Arvi block. He lives with his wife, 2 sons and daughter in law. Their main livelihood source is agriculture. They own 4 acres, of land which was rainfed before Wadi intervention.

Earlier, he was cultivating Soyabean over all 4 acres, The soil type was light medium and there was no net gain out of rainfed farming. In 2011–12, he established Wadi with 25 Mango plants, 20 Amla plants and 10 Guava plants in one acre of his land. He cultivated Soyabean and Chick pea as intercrops in Wadi and earned a net profit of ₹24,500 from this part of land. He continued with the same cropping pattern for next 2 years i.e. during years 2014–15 and 2015–16, he cultivated green gram in Kharif and Maize in Rabi with an input cost of ₹2,000. He harvested 2 qt. of Green Gram every year and earned a gross profit of ₹10,000. Maize cultivated in Rabi season was utilized as cattle fodder.

In year 2016-17, Yuvraj cultivated Black Gram in Kharif season and Wheat in Rabi season. He harvested 4 qt. of Black Gram with an input cost of ₹2,000 and earned ₹14,000 net profit. He harvested 8 qt. of Wheat with an input cost of ₹2,500. He sold Wheat in the market at the rate of ₹1,200 per qt. Besides, he also harvested 700 kg of Mangoes which he sold at the rate of ₹60 per kg and earned ₹42,000 as a net profit. His annual net profit per acre came out to be ₹61,000 per annum per acre.

Satisfied with the farming income generated, Yuvraj decided to continue the same cropping pattern in the coming years.

Experimenting with New Crop Varieties

Panchala, is a small village located at a distance of 6 km from Ashti town. The village is surrounded by forest and has limited water resource available for irrigation as well as drinking water. KJBF promoted horticultural plantation. Along with Mango, Guava, Custard Apple and Lemon Plants, the fruit varieties like Cashew, fig, Jack Fruit, Plum and Jamun were also promoted on an experimental basis.

Shankar Dudhkavre from Panchala village of Ashti block is one of the farmers who adopted mixed horticultural cropping pattern. He owns 6 acres, of land. He is able to provide protective irrigation to his crops with the open dug well till the month of February. He established mixed horticultural plantation with Guava, Mango, Lemon and Teak plantation during 2014-15. The soil strata comprises of murrum and basalt rock. During the establishment stage of the plantation, he took efforts for shifting fertile soil from the nearby stream to the pits for proper filling. He grows vegetables over these beds for family consumption. Besides, this helped to reduce the requirement of water as the soil remained covered with vegetation and water supplied is utilised for growing food crops. To mitigate the limitation of availability of water for irrigation KJBF provided pitcher irrigation units to him. He has also supported for establishing wire fencing to protect the plantation from attack of wild animals. Earlier, he was growing only Soyabean and Pigeon Pea on this part of land. After establishing Wadi, he changed his cropping pattern and began to cultivate intercrops of Green Gram, Black Gram and Chick Pea. He now earns a net profit of ₹10,000 from the intercrops in each season.

Cashew and Fig plants were at fruiting stage for the first time during the year 2017-18 and the quality of fruits was also good. He harvested 30 kg Custard Apples, 3 kg Figs, 250 kg Guava and 2 kg of Cashew nuts in the year 2017–18. Shankar, thus, set an example of horticulture farming with minimum water input for irrigation.

Shankar shared, “The change in cropping pattern improved my earnings and strengthened ensured livelihood. The fruit crops will continue to raise income even in my old age. Moreover, as I began to sale the agriculture produce by myself in the nearby villages, my profit margin has been considerably increased. My heart feels with joy and pleasure as I enter my farm because of cool and green surroundings.”
Vasudev Sayam, Menkhat, Seloo narrated, 
“As a result of to hand holdings provided by KJBF for establishment of Wadi, I am now relieved from anxiety and distress. The cultivation of vegetables as intercrops ensured weekly income to manage household requirements. My burden of debt requirement got rid of with adoption of Natural Farming practices which has drastically reduced input cost of cultivation.”

Rameshvar Warkade, Garamsur, Seloo shared, 
“Now, we like to spend more time on the farm as the surroundings are filled with life and freshness of growing fruit trees.”

Uttam Jadgad, Krishnapur, Arvi opined, 
“Making water available for farming by KJBF has resolved all my worries. I feel relaxed at my old age as my horticultural farm will continue generate livelihood for me.”

Shanta Kaurati, Ladgad, Karanja said, 
“Intercropping not only fulfilled my families’ requirement of vegetables but also generated additional income of ₹ 9,500 during one season only.”

Achievement and Impact:

- 7,060 Wadis successfully established in 204 villages spread over 8 blocks of Wardha district
- Resulted in 80% reduction in migration of tribal families
- Socio-economic status improved because of sustainable agriculture model
- Basic needs of the families such as food, fruits, fuel wood, timber, fodder and regular income has been fulfilled
- Strengthened natural ecosystems
- One acre of land covered under Wadi provided an annual profit of ₹45,000 to be enhanced to ₹1 lakh per Wadi with the harvest of fruits after 7 years as revealed from field study
- 187 Group wells constructed benefiting 1,562 families and 1,562 acres covered under (Wadis)
- 3,197 Families benefited under 584 group lift irrigation devices (Diesel engines)
- 3,415 Farmers assisted for water tanks to store water for irrigation
- 2,830 Farmers supported for intercropping vegetables in Wadis
- 4,256 Farmers provided help in the form of fencing wire for protection of Wadis
- 408 Tribal landless families helped for establishment of 48 grocery shop and 360 families for rearing of indigenous cow for dairy for sustaining livelihood
- ₹45,000 to ₹75,000 Income earned by landless families from the enterprises like running dairy and grocery shops
Vision

Helping farmers to attain food, economic and environmental security to meet the livelihood expenses of the farming families and be on the path of prosperity.

Looking to the vision of our Prime Minister, “Doubling the income of farmers by 2022”, those of our Wardha farmers, who have adopted Zero Budget Natural Farming practices, have already doubled their profits.

Kamalnayan Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation had been guiding and motivating farmers by adopting various capacity building measures like village meeting, demonstration of ZBNF techniques (Jiwamrit, Ghanjiwamrit, Dashparni arka, Agniastra etc.), trainings and field exposures at different stages of crop growth. Besides that, demonstration plots were maintained in each village to make the farmers understand the adoption of proper technique relevant to particular crop conditions.

Cumulative experience of intercropping for last few years directed us to further diversify the cropping pattern to cope up the effects of climate change. The efforts resulted in diversification of cropping pattern from 2 to 4 crops in one season (ranging between 2 crops at minimum and 6 crops at maximum). Farmers experienced failure of intercrops i.e. Green Gram and Black Gram due to untimely rains during cropping period. Benefit was that, mulching of the crop residue helped in enriching the soil leading to increased yields during Rabi season. This was in turn made up the financial loss of Kharif season. In order to improve the profit gains for the farmers,

Women are known as inventors of farming. However, their role has been now limited to only as working hands and not the decision makers. KJBF has taken an initiative to help women to have equal stake in decision making in all farming operations. Special efforts were made to orient them to the benefits of process of diversified, mixed and inter-cropping patterns of farming. The processed agro-commodities like Coriander powder, Turmeric powder, Chilli powder, etc. Provide ready cash in the market at village level. This worked as a motivational force for them, and so, they now feel confident. It was observed that these women farmers developed an understanding that they should cultivate different crops so that village demand for various food items would be fulfilled. Some of groups felt that having uniform cropping pattern will reduce the risk of damage by wild animals and the produce can be processed at bulk level for collective sale.

The most crucial part is developing forward linkages for the farmers where they can hold bargain power and decide over the selling price for their produces. Our efforts resulted in creating market for 10 percent of farmers, we are working with. The Grain Festival organised for the first time in April 2017 in Wardha, developed direct consumer linkages for the farmers.
Doubling the Profits with Crop Diversification

Ashoksingh Dhumal, aged 60, is a resident of village Kelapur of Wardha block. He owns 7.5 acres, of irrigated land. He has adopted natural farming since last 2 years. He got inspired through participation in exposure visits and trainings organized at district level. He cultivated Wheat over 1.5 acres, Garlic over 1 acre, Onion over 1.5 acres, Sugarcane over 0.25 acre, Chick Pea over 0.25 acre and Black Gram over 2.5 acres.

He cultivated 3 straight line varieties of wheat i.e. Bansi, Chawalkata and Hariyana-360. He harvested 17 qt. of Bansi Wheat and earned a net profit of ₹45,000.

He sold 350 kg Spring Garlic at the rate of ₹25 and earned ₹9,000. This intermediate harvest fulfilled his immediate financial requirement for farming operations. He harvested 16 qt. of Garlic which he has stored and will only sale when he gets a rate of ₹80 per kg. He harvested 125 qt. of Onion and earned a net profit of ₹60,000 by direct selling to the consumers. He harvested 3 tons of Sugarcane which he sold for juice and earned ₹10,500 net profit. Besides, he earned ₹17,000 with a harvest of 1.2 qt. Chick Pea and 4 qt. Black Gram.

The total annual cost of cultivation for Ashok Singh came out to be ₹91,450 with adoption of almost all practices of Natural Farming. He used Jivamrut for soil application as well as spray on the crops. He mulched the residues of intercrop in the soil to maintain fertility. His average annual profit for the last 2 years was ₹2,38,150 per annum. Earlier with chemical farming practices, his total cost of cultivation was around ₹1,41,750 and a net annual profit was ₹1,40,500.

Ashok Singh shared, “Learning natural farming practices and relay cropping with multiple varieties of crops is a key of my doubling the profit. Farmers should evolve their own cropping pattern to the best of their capacities and knowledge as per market demand. Participation in grain festival exposed me to learn marketing techniques and developed direct consumer linkages.”

Finding Future with Zero Budget Natural Farming by earning ₹2.34 lakh per acre as net profit

Sarang Bahadure, is a young farmer of village Muradgaon (Belare) of Deoli block. He had done his M.Tech. in Biotechnology. As he was bothered about the farmers’ suicides, he observed that increased cost of farming with lower net profits was the reason behind the distressful conditions of the farmers.

While searching for the options to reduce the cost of farming, he came across with the interventions being made by KJBF and a concept of zero budget natural farming promoted by Shri. Subhash Palekar.

Sarang began farming under the guidance of KJBF. Two of his friends, Aniket Likhar and Anand Kumbhare with the similar vision, also joined the venture. Both of them hold master degree in Biotechnology (M.Sc). In the first year i.e. 2016-17, they cultivated vegetables on 2 acres, as intercrops. He told that the tomato, long beans and cucumber were in special demand in market.

Learning from this experience inspired them to expand the area under zero budget natural farming in the year 2017-18. Sarang had divided his 4 acres, of farm into 5 parts. He keeps the distance of 15 days in sowing of crops so as to attain relay cropping and maintaining earnings at regular intervals. He cultivated drum stick, turmeric, soya bean and papaya as main crops and intercropped floriculture and vegetables. He incurred a total expenditure of ₹1,36,000 and earned a net profit of ₹8,94,000. The farming system had diversified with 14 crops.

Sarang narrated, “Adoption of Natural Farming not only reduced the external input cost of farming but also improved the soil health. The cultivation cost for main crops is recovered from the income gained from intercrops. Even though there was slight decline in yields, but there was rise in net profits with reduced cost of cultivation. I had experienced the benefits of intercropping and mixed cropping in terms of reduced risk of total crop failure. I will make efforts to motivate and help the farmers of my village to adopt zero budget natural farming in near future”
Mainatai Vasu, is 55 years old residing in village Pimpalgaon of Deoli block of Wardha district and is a member of ‘Shri. Swami Samarth’ SHG since 2009. She has 2 sons; both of them are married. Elder son lives separately in the same village with his family while younger son lives with them. They own 5 acres, of irrigated land. Her husband could not help in farming as he is suffering from health problems.

Since last 15 years they are living on the farm in a small hut. Repeated failure of crops in the past few years made their conditions miserable. Their prevailing financial condition could not support the farming.

KJBF representative guided them to adopt practices of Zero Budget Natural Farming for cultivation of their land. Now they are growing Onion, Chilli and Coriander seeds required for preparation of Garam Masala along with Ambadi, Cotton, Pigeon pea and vegetables. They are selling Sharbat of Ambadi flowers which has medicinal properties and it is also protective against sun stroke. They sale vegetables at village level. Now, their monthly profit has been raised to ₹15,000 and they are planning to reconstruct their own house. The most important is the happiness and smile which the family has cherished.

Field Experiences:
- Increased manifestation of bollworm and sucking pest beyond threshold level resulted in crop failure for majority of farmers in earlier year led them to adopt intercropping pattern
- Promotion of traditional crops like linseed, Sorgum, Green Gram, Black Gram, Spices, etc. proved their climate resilient benefits
- Organization of internal and external exposure visits to the successful farmers proved as the best inspirational tool for promotion of Zero Budget Natural Farming
- As application of Jiwamrit proved laborious, automatic Jiwamrit application system was developed in consultation with innovative farmers to simplify the work
- Failure of Green Gram and Black Gram crops was experienced by majority of farmers in the region due to erratic rains
- Controlling weeds under natural farming becoming challenge for the farmers; availability of small weeding implements like ‘Cycle Weeder’ is the rising demand from the farmers

Achievement and Impact:
- 9,640 Farmers sensitized and trained
- 3,435 Farmers totally adopted natural farming practices
- 2,763 Farmers partially adopted natural farming practices
- 3,128 Acres of land in 202 villages brought under natural farming
- 40 to 45% Reduction in cost of cultivation
- 138 Farmers preserving indigenous seeds and attained seed sufficiency
- 446 Farmers received 20% higher rates compared to market prices
- 1,737 Farmers adopted intercropping to combat climate change and to reduce risk of total crop failure
- 134 Women farmers (SHG members) from 22 villages adopted process oriented ropping pattern e.g. cultivation of Coriander, Linseed, Chilli, Fenugreek, Chick Pea, Wheat, Garlic, Mustard and Onion
- 102 Men and Women farmers participated in ‘Grain Festival’ organized at Wardha. Total sale within 2 days stood at ₹8.64 lakh. The attempt helped farmers earning 20% more than compared to market rates
- 350 Farmers from 7 states participated in ‘Shivar Pheri’ (field tour) under the guidance of Padmshri Subhash Palekar to learn from experiences of farmers adopted ZBNF practices
- 36 Farmers adopted multilayer model of mixed cropping pattern
- Internal evaluation revealed that 85.02% farmers experienced softening of soil strata, 77.29% farmers observed increased moisture holding capacity and 58.46% of farmers reported increased number of friendly insects

Shailesh Nawal, District collector, Wardha along with Apoorv Bajaj, Dr. Karunakaran visited and guided the participant farmers in Grain Festival organized by KJBF, at Wardha town.
In rural areas animal and organic waste is usually available in plentiful and is often considered as having little value. The production of biogas can make such residues of great fuel and manorial value and provide economic opportunities for the agricultural sector in rural areas. It is a cost effective replacement for dung cakes and conventional domestic fuels like LPG or kerosene. Biogas technology has the potential to meet the energy requirements in rural areas and also counter the effects of reckless burning of biomass resources.

Greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions associated to biogas are low. Biogas can potentially be carbon-neutral as the amount of carbon that is emitted during combustion of the biofuels is equal to the amount of carbon that was absorbed from the atmosphere during plant growth, hence creating a closed cycle.

The nitrogen-rich compost indirectly reduces the costs associated with use of chemical fertilizers. It enriches the soil, improves its porosity, buffering capacity and ion exchange capacity and prevents nutrient depletion, thus, improving the crop quality. This means enhanced income for the farmers.

Further, being relatively-clean cooking fuel, biogas reduces health risks associated with conventional Chulhas (traditional wood stoves). The generation of employment for rural youths by imparting them requisite skills is a social benefit associated with biogas technology which makes it a viable alternative.

Many farmers find it difficult to bear the construction costs of setting up a biogas plant. Kamalnayan Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation in collaboration with scheme of Government agriculture department initiated financial support to enhance the approachability of the technology and, thus, increased its diffusion. The unit cost of Biogas plant is ₹20,500 of which KJBF supported ₹7,500 and Government subsidy is ₹9,000 per plant. Community contributes cash and kind equivalent to ₹2,000 each, respectively. During 2017-18, 300 Biogas plants were constructed. Till date, 3,132 families have been using biogas for household consumption.
Biogas: Changing Family Surroundings

Prabhakar Kowrate, lives in the village Undirgaon of Samudrapur block. His family comprises 5 members. He owns 4 acres, of agriculture land and is a electrician by profession. The family also runs a flour mill.

Prabhakar constructed biogas in 2016-17. He feed the biogas with cow dung obtained from a single cow and her calf owned by him, kitchen waste and flour waste of mill. He also collects the vegetable waste from the market and feed the biogas. This has reduced requirement of cow dung for him.

The villagers using the service of flour mill used to visit the biogas plant and were discussing the benefits. This has resulted in propagation of biogas plants.

Prabhakar’s wife, Sunita, shared, “Biogas saved annual expenditure of ₹7,000 on purchase of fuel. We needed to purchase LPG from a outlet at neighboring village which is at a distance of 7 km. Moreover, there was always a shortage of LPG transporting biogas slurry to the farm and collecting it into a pit. The dried slurry was then applied to the vegetable cultivation.

Sachin shared, “There was no weed growth observed in a area where the biogas slurry was applied as a manure. The quality of vegetables was also improved.”

Biogas Technology is Proving Replicable

Sachin Khurpade, is a farmer of village Kesalapar of Samudrapur block. He lives in a joint family of 9 members and owns 10 cattle. He observes the benefits of biogas during his stay at his family of in-laws in Anatargaon village where KJBF promoted installation of biogas plant. He experienced that the taste of food was quite better than the food cooked on LPG cook stove.

After he came back to his home village, he immediately contacted KJBF and demanded for having a biogas plant in 2017. He was the first person of the Kesalapar village who had constructed biogas plant. His house is located at a corner of the Chandrapur highway. The persons passing by used to stop and enquire for where they could get help for installation of biogas plants. Now, 8 families in the village are ready for installation of biogas plants.

Sachin’s family was earlier using traditional Chulha for warming water for bathing and LPG cylinder for cooking before availing a biogas facility. Now, they completely stopped using traditional Chulha and their LPG requirement has reduced to 1 cylinder per 3 months from 1 cylinder per month. They are

On the other hand, I used to carry cattle dung to a distant place for preparing manure where we could not keep attention for its quality. Biogas technology has reduced not only all our drudgery but also brought fuel sufficiency for us."

Prabhakar shared, “Initially I filled the tank completely with water and put 15 kg of cow dung, flour mill waste and vegetables cuttings. This has reduced the requirement of large amount of cow dung for the first feeding.”

Umatai Pakal, village Sukalibai, Seloo using biogas as clean and renewable energy source
Experiencing Multiple Benefits of Biogas

Narayan Junghare, lives in a village Bondsula of Seloo block. He owns 10 acres, of irrigated land and 9 cattle. His family includes his wife, son, daughter-in-law and a grandson. The family was using traditional Chulha till 2015. In 2015 they installed biogas plant. Their desire was so strong that they collected 2 tons of cow dung required for initial filling of biogas plant. They immediately retrieved the benefits. Now, the kitchen surroundings are clean and smoke free.

The family lives on the farm and they directly apply biogas slurry to the crops during irrigation and dry slurry to the banana plantation.

Priti Junghare, (Narayan’s daughter-in-law) shared, “The nutrition of the food is preserved as it is cooked on a simmering heat and it does not get overcooked.” While Narayan said, “Every farmer should rear indigenous cow which brings fuel, milk and agriculture input sufficiency for the family.”

Achievement and Impact :

- 3,132 Biogas plants constructed benefitting 3,132 families in 460 villages
- 5 qt. of fuel-wood of ₹4,500 saved per annum per family
- 21,924 Metric tons manure generated per annum as cumulative effect of all installations @ 7 tons manure per plant
- 65 Youth were imparted skill training on biogas plant construction; they earn ₹10,000 per month
- All the biogas together enabled to reduce the negative effect of methane on climate by 8.08 million kg CO2 per year; combustion of biogas converts methane into CO2 and reduces the Green House Gas impact over 20 times
- Replacing traditional Chulhas with biogas stoves reduced indoor air pollution minimizing the irritation to eyes and lungs diseases

Traymbak Gudadhe, Shegaon Kund, Hinganghat
“Biogas meets all our fuel requirements. Now, with the reduction of drudgery for managing fuel wood, we have spare good time for engaging ourselves in other productive work.”

Umabai Pakal, Sukali (Bai), Seloo
“The best quality manure for farming is an added advantage with construction of a biogas plant.”

Sandip Deshmukh, Yenada, Ashti
“For us, biogas brought fuel sufficiency. We are applying biogas slurry to the horticulture crops. The luxuriant growth of plants is quite exciting.”

Sunitatai Kowrate, village Undirgaon, Samudrapur Dist-Wardha cooking food on biogas stove
Collectivisation of farmers is a good old strategy which has benefitted many farmers across the world. It helps in bringing economies of scale, bringing down the input costs, attaining better bargaining power and magnification of the voices of farmers as a collective voice. The most common form of collectivisation that Indian farmers have adopted is ‘Producer Companies’.

Promotion of Farmers’ Producer Organizations (FPOs)

Collectivisation of farmers is a good old strategy which has benefitted many farmers across the world. It helps in bringing economies of scale, bringing down the input costs, attaining better bargaining power and magnification of the voices of farmers as a collective voice. The most common form of collectivisation that Indian farmers have adopted is ‘Producer Companies’.

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The concept of Producer Companies (PCs) is relatively new in India as compared to other forms of Producer Organisations. Latest Agricultural Censuses show the constant decline in average landholdings in India has reached below 3 acres, of land. This shows that in future, the land holdings per household are going to fall even more while the area under agriculture will remain constant or even decline. Therefore, a need for collective farmers’ institutions is far more important at current juncture of time.

The broad objective is to promote and nurture ‘Farmer Producer Organizations’ (FPOs) by way of extending required financial and technical support during the formative stage. FPOs are critically supported in terms of awareness creation, capacity building, technical support, professional management, market access, regulatory requirements, etc. and in providing handholding support.

NABARD has collaborated with Kamlanayan Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation as a ‘Producer Organization Promoting Institution’ considering its previous experience. It was mutually agreed to establish 10 FPOs in a cluster of WADI farmers (supported under WADI project by KJBF and NABARD) and cluster of farmers with similar cropping patterns.

NABARD has decided to provide matching equity grants to registered FPOs up to a maximum of ₹9.06 lakh per FPO to enable them to leverage working capital. During a financial 2017-18, 10 FPOs were registered in the blocks of Anji, Karanja, Deoli, Seloo and Samudrapur. These FPOs are under various stages of formation. In order to support the FPOs in terms of strengthening their capacities, frequent trainings, workshops and relevant exposure visits were organized throughout the year. During the year, 110 farmers’ mobilisation meeting, 30 farmers trainings, 10 exposure visits were organized for building their capacity; 40 training were organized for Board of Directors of all FPOs and CEOs on over all aspects and functioning of FPOs. Out of these, 4 trainings were organized in collaboration with NCDEX (National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Ltd.) and NEML (National Electronic Marketing Ltd) at a block level. A total of 215 farmers participated in these trainings. Similarly, 4 days’ training programme was organized for CEOs in collaboration with Stars Forum, Mumbai in order to build their capacities on management of FPOs, preparation and execution of business plans and developing market linkages.
Deriving Benefits through Collective Purchase

Akhil Kshirsagar is a member of ‘Krushiunnati Producer Company’, Samudrapur. He lives in the village Aajda. He is a young farmer of 25 years of age.

He was experiencing exploitation of farmers by market players. He participated in village level meetings conducted by KJBF and convinced about the benefits of ‘Farmers’ Producer Company’. After registration, his company began to purchase agriculture inputs like spray pumps, fertilizers and seeds at whole sale price and it then supplied them to the farmers. Akhil also raised his demand for battery driven spray pump, 10 bags of fertilizers and 4 packets of cotton seeds. The market retail price of each of them was ₹2,500, ₹680 and ₹750 per item, respectively. But the cost of each item was reduced to ₹2,100, ₹300 and ₹600, respectively with the collective purchase by Producer Company. Thus, he saved a total ₹1,800 on the purchase of these items. Moreover, he purchased best quality of products.

Akhil says, “That was a good deal with less chances of getting deceived by the shop keepers and market players.”

Achievement:

- 10 Farmer Producer Organization registered
- 133 Villages covered from 5 blocks
- 3,000 Farmers became shareholders
- 10 CEOs appointed for 10 FPO’s
- 6 FPOs registered as a members under Asian Consortium of Farmers’ Producer Company
- Six FPOs successfully initiated purchase of agriculture inputs worth ₹5.18 lakh under which they could save ₹99,000 leading to boosting of the confidence and decision of collective input purchase and supply in future course of time
- FPOs developed 6 business plans i.e. vegetable cleaning, grading, packaging, marketing unit, Dal mill unit, Oil mill unit and Dairy unit
- 10 FPO engaged in the process of opening trading account at NCDEX platform for selling the agriculture commodity through its online portal
- 2 FPOs of Seloo block collectively sold the pigeon pea dal, black gram dal, green gram dal and other produce at Agriculture Exhibition/sell at Wardha

Training of Board of Directors and CEOs of Farmers’ Producer Organizations at Seloo guided by experts and DDM, NABARD
Farmers’ Owned Grain Festival
The objective of organization of grain festival was to develop direct market linkages for the farmers who have been adopting practices of zero budget natural farming over the past few years. Another important objective was to support to the farmers for getting profitable support price for the farm produces. The grain festival was organized in the month of April, 2017 at Wardha. Total 94 farmers, 8 SHG members became a part of this event. The advertisement of the organization of grain festival was made through distribution of pamphlets in the newspapers, display of banners at squares, WhatsApp messaging, public announcements. To develop market linkages innovative efforts were made by distributing message cards with contact numbers so that the visiting customers can contact for booking order for next year. The total cost of commodities brought for selling was ₹12.50 lakh and the total sale was of ₹8.65 lakh. The grain festival was visited by 950 Numbers of customers from Wardha town.

Collaboration with Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi Vishwavidyalaya
In the year 2017–18, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Hindi Vishva Vidhyalaya and KJBF to establish relations in the area of Social Work and joint study programme (training/ teaching/ outreach/placement). The objective of the partnership was to fulfil a common vision of collaborative academic and social activity. In addition to the above objectives, both organizations were desirous of establishing a working relationship to provide guidance and research for building resilient rural India.

As an initial step, a workshop on ‘Participatory Rural Appraisal’ was organised for the students appearing for bachelor and master degrees of social work. Few of these students will have field exposure in the working area of KJBF. The students will have their summer placement in integrating natural farming in the project area of Rejuvenation of Yashoda river basin and Climate Proofing project activities.

Collaboration with Social Work Colleges
In order to increase the dissemination of information about ‘Design for Change’ and approaching more number of schools, efforts were made to involve students of social work colleges. One day orientation programmes were organized in Kumbhalkar College of Social Work, Ambedkar College of Social Work and Aniket college of Social Work in Wardha town. The students were imparted skills for inspiring school going children through 3 steps; ‘Feel’, ‘Imagine’ and ‘Do’. The students of Ambedkar College of Social Work conducted sessions with the 9th class students of Ambedkar Vidyalaya through DFC project. The 9th class students were bothered about the unclean surroundings in their residential area. They organised rally to create awareness. They contacted Sarpanch and requested him for sparing Ghanta Gadi for collection of garbage and after his assistance this activity was immediately started. They also prepared dust bins out of used cans which were displayed at various places for public use.

Reliving Poor and Needy Families from their Grieves
KJBF has decided to render financial help to poor and needy people living in rural areas. This will help to reduce their worries during critical times. One of the SHG members, namely Lalita Shyamrao Jivatode, was supported. She lives in a village Saktra of Samudrapur block. Her husband died in a road accident in 2009. Since then, she had to manage household financial requirements besides caring for her children. She didn’t own any farming land. She started working as Anganwadi helper earning ₹3,500 per month. But it was certainly not enough to manage the needs of the family. Lalita’s mother was a great support to her. Unfortunately, she died in the year 2015 and condition of Lalita became more miserable.

Lalita’s own house was completely damaged due to heavy rains and storm making the conditions worst. One of her friends in the village, Mrs. Rekha Pandurang Bhoyar, was kind to her and offered her to live in her house till she gathered courage to manage rebuilding her own house. Lalita’s second challenge was improving her earnings. In order to meet that aim, she began selling sarees in her village. She could earn ₹1,000 per month through this business.

Lalita had a skill to prepare 25 types of items like Pickles, Papads, Chatanies, etc maintaining their traditional taste and quality. During some SHG meetings, Kamalnayan Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation inspired her to explore her skill of food processing. She was also supported for marketing. This had improved earnings of Lalita to ₹2,000 per month.
In the year 2017–18, she was rendered another help of ₹50,000 in the form of an interest free loan for expanding her business with noodle making and sale of Nirma products as a retailer in the village. With this extended business opportunity, her total monthly income was raised to ₹6,000. Later, she had shifted her family to her own house.

She now feels confident and independent. Both of her sons are concentrating on their studies. The government of Maharashtra has decided to increase Maharashtra’s green cover by planting 4 crore saplings on July 1st across the state. In Maharashtra, the green cover is reported to be only 20% against the required 33.5%. Out of a total of 307 lakh hectares, only 61.35 lakh hectares are under green cover. The depleting green cover is one of the major causes of climate change and it is affecting the monsoon.

KJBF joined this ambitious drive of the government and on 1st July, 2017, contributed its part for plantation of 1 lakh bamboo saplings across the bunds of rejuvenated Yashoda River basin. This will render the strength of bunds and minimise soil erosion and rain cuts.

Workshops on Sustainable Development & Youth

The two-days’ workshop was organized at Yatri Niwas, Sevagram in the presence of Apaori Bajaj (sitting extreme left), Kumar Prashant and Dr. Snehal Barande.

Kumar Prashant, one of the founding Sarvodaya workers, apprised the participants with real meaning of sustainable development and role of youths. He concluded the session with the message that we should try to involve children in the social development by rendering them responsibilities so that they feel respected and useful. Further, this would distract them from addiction and utilize the free time in constructive work. He said that there should be promotion of village industries in away the market becomes available at doorstep right from cotton to the food. This would bring in Swaraj and prosperity for the society.

Promita Goswami, founder of ‘Shramik Elgar Sanghatana’, Chandrapur explained her life journey and the problems she faced during the course. She expressed that we have to be with community in all situations whether they respond to us or not and try to help them, if we can. She further narrated that we should not meet the community with our own agenda. The first step should be to understand the priorities of the community and then evolve relevant interventions which is mutually agreed upon. Sometimes the community may not listen to us and we may feel disappointed. But we should keep patience and wait for a right time when community will be with you. This may take few minutes or few years. She told her experiences and discussed how the solutions were evolved after complete involvement of the community. She ended her discourse with the thought that the world is filled with people who can support for the good cause. We should make an intelligent effort to tap the potential.

Steps towards Developing Climate Resilient Ecosystem:

Climate Proofing Project

Climate Proofing Project has been initiated in collaboration with NABARD in 6 watershed areas located in Seloo, Karanja and Samudrapur blocks of Wardha district. In the initial phase of the project, the awareness was created among vulnerable community living in these watershed areas about necessity of climate change proofing.

The interventions has been designed for improving climate change proofing.

Kamalnayan JAMNALAL BAJAJ FOUNDATION

Achievements:

- 6 Village Watershed Committees formed
- 20 Recharge pits constructed
- 47 Soil samples tested for availability of nutrients
- 6 PRAs conducted in 6 watershed projects
- 48 Awareness meetings organized

Workshop organized in collaboration with Vishwa Yuwak Kendra, N. Dehli on Sustainable development and youth at Sevagram in the presence of Apaori Bajaj (sitting extreme left), Kumar Prashant and Dr. Snehal Barande.
Amgaon (Jangali) is a medium size village located in Seloo block with abodes of 92 families. The school facility in the village is up to 4th standard. Schedule Tribe (ST) constitutes 29.77 %, while Schedule Caste (SC) is of 8.40 % of total population. Out of total population, 235 were engaged in fieldwork activities of which 99.15 % of workers describe their work as Main Work (Employment or Earning more than 6 Months), while 0.85 % were involved in Marginal activity providing livelihood for less than 6 months. Of 235 workers engaged in Main Work, 60 were cultivators (owners or co-owners of the lands), while 155 were Agricultural labourers.

The village was selected under distress zone under CAIM project in the year 2011-12. In order to evolve appropriate interventions, “Village Development Committee” was formed with equal membership of men and women, thus, attempting social inclusion. The VDC members discussed problems related to agriculture and livelihood generation. They evolved appropriate interventions and identified beneficiaries as well as locations for various planned interventions. They involved themselves in mobilizing required resources and people contributions. The 6 self-help groups were formed including 46 families to increase savings.

Groundbreaking Efforts

The village was selected under distress zone under CAIM project in the year 2011-12. In order to evolve appropriate interventions, “Village Development Committee” was formed with equal membership of men and women, thus, attempting social inclusion. The VDC members discussed problems related to agriculture and livelihood generation. They evolved appropriate interventions and identified beneficiaries as well as locations for various planned interventions. The village was selected under distress zone under CAIM project in the year 2011-12. In order to evolve appropriate interventions, “Village Development Committee” was formed with equal membership of men and women, thus, attempting social inclusion. The VDC members discussed problems related to agriculture and livelihood generation. They evolved appropriate interventions and identified beneficiaries as well as locations for various planned interventions. They involved themselves in mobilizing required resources and people contributions. The 6 self-help groups were formed including 46 families to increase savings.

Water Resource Development

Kamalnayan Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation intervened with promotion of soil and water conservation practices. Graded bunds were formed over 26.19 ha of land benefiting 24 farmers. The de-silting of stream was one of the major concerns. During transit walk along the stream, a need for having a percolation tank at upper end of stream where it originates was strongly felt. Hence, out of total 5 acres, of area, where the water used to get collected during rainy season from nearby watershed, half of the area was de-silted and converted into a percolation tank. The 29 farmers in its vicinity began to lift water from this tank for irrigation benefiting 130.5 acres, of land. The originating stream was widened and deepened over a length of 1,400 Mt. As a result, 132 acres, of land was brought under irrigation and water logging conditions of 28 acres, of land was subsided. There are 2 Check dams constructed by Govt. Agriculture department in the middle part of the stream. The period of water available in these check dams increased as a result of increased rate of water recharge and deepening of stream.

32 years old Kishor Badge has 4 acres, of land besides stream. He was supported to purchase of diesel engine for lifting water for irrigation. This has converted his rainfed land into irrigated one. He shared, “I cultivate cotton and pigeon pea. With creation of irrigation facility, production of cotton was enhanced from 3 qt. per acre and pigeon pea from 0.5 qt. to 1.25 qt. per acre.” Similar benefit was experienced by 7 farmers who were supported to acquire diesel engines.

Similarly, construction of 2 Group Wells, 5 Farm Ponds and 5 Well Recharge Structures brought 28 acres, of land under irrigation. 2 of the farmers converted their farm ponds into wells thus creating permanent irrigation facilities. 8 farmers providing irrigating about 30 acres, of land in Rabi season. 6 farmers were financially supported for having sprinkler system to optimize the use of available water.
Promotion of Income Generating Activities

The women identified need to create 3 facilities viz., Bichhayat Kendra, Dal mill and grocery shop. Members of ‘Ekta’ SHG availed revolving fund routed through SHG by KJBF and established group enterprise of Bichhayat Kendra. The enterprise is generating profit of ₹15,000 per annum. Aruna Masram, Durga Naitam and Sakhu Kowe together established enterprise of a Dal mill. They opined, “There was no dal mill in an area of 12 km of radius. The facility is benefiting more than 150 farmers in the area and also generating a total business of ₹75,000 every year for us.” The grocery shop is owned by a landless widow woman, Kaosalya Nagorao Uike. This was the very first shop opened in the village and it is still generating monthly income of ₹3,500 for her. Of the five women, who were supported for rearing indigenous cow breed for generating livelihood, one of beneficiaries. Nine SHGs form in Amgaon (J) village.

Shanta Yewale mentioned, “The Gaolau breed of cow gave birth to 2 male calves which have now grown up into bullocks. We could now carry out timely farming operations. We are also generating annual income of ₹50,000 by renting the pair to the other farmers for their farming operations.”

Promotion of Biogas Plants

Eight households in the village installed biogas plants. They were mostly dependant on forest for fuel wood. Since forest was covered under ‘National Tiger Reserve’, cutting down trees for fuel was abolished. Forest department provided LPG connections to the villagers at subsidised rates. But biogas proved better option for them as they save ₹800 every month on purchasing of LPG gas cylinder.

Socio-Economic Impact

As a result of these integrated efforts, 292 acres, of land was brought under irrigation, thus, increasing the irrigation facility by 50%. This, in turn, has doubled the yields and incomes for the farmers. The water level in the wells has increased by 8 ft to 10 ft. The village required three fold water than average as majority of households possess cattle. Before intervention, they faced scarcity of water for household consumption during summer season which has now been overcome. There is more than sufficient water available for drinking and for other purposes. There used to be very little water available in the stream after September. The rejuvenation of stream increased its storage capacity and now there is always some water available even during summer season till next monsoon.

With the increased water table in the wells, almost every household was inspired by KJBF to have kitchen garden. The village school is also having their own kitchen garden and vegetables.

Sangita Parteki says, “I stopped purchasing vegetables from last 2 years. Availability of green and fresh vegetables keeps my family healthy.”

The people became aware of conserving environment and developing green cover. Every year, they are participating in a plantation drive initiated by Government. The villagers are sparing time and money for caring elderly persons living alone in the village. VDC is taking lead in collecting contribution for health care as and when required.

Almost 50% of the families improved their economic status. They rebuilt their houses and shifted to Pakka houses, have bikes and send their children to towns for continuing their education after their primary schooling.
Financial Progress 2017-18

Source of Fund

Year 2017-18: ₹ 23.21 Crore

- KJBF : ₹ 6.65 Crore (28.64%)
- Govt. of Maharashtra and other Organizations : ₹ 15.16 Crore (65.30%)
- Community contribution : ₹ 1.40 Crore (6.06%)

Fund Utilization

Expenditure for 2017-18: ₹ 23.21 Crore

- Programme Expenditure : ₹ 20.97 Crore (90.33%)
- Trainings and Capacity Building : ₹ 0.87 Crore (3.75%)
- Administrative expenditure : ₹ 1.37 Crore (5.92%)

Programme Expenditure

Total : ₹ 20.97 Crore

- WRD and Yashoda River : ₹ 17.27 Crore
- Skill & Entrepreneurship Development : ₹ 0.012 Crore
- Design for Change Programme : ₹ 0.008 Crore
- Alternative Energy Programme : ₹ 0.77 Crore
- WADI : ₹ 2.36 Crore
- Promotion of Natural Farming : ₹ 0.26 Crore
- NABARD FPO Project : ₹ 0.18 Crore
- Climate change proofing Project : ₹ 0.09 Crore
- UPNRM-NABARD Project : ₹ 0.009 Crore

Shishir Bajaj and Apoorv Bajaj encouraged members of SHGs for initiation of various income generation activities at village Mandawa, Wardha.
The Guiding Force Behind KJBF

Board of Trustees

Shishir Bajaj, is a founder member and Chairman of the Trust. After completing his MBA from New York University in 1974. He joined Bajaj Hindustan Sugar Ltd in August, 1978 and was elevated as executive Director in January 1986. He has shouldered the responsibility as Chairman of Bajaj Hindusthan Sugar Ltd. from 1999 to 2014. He also did his Owner President Management Program from Harvard Business School in 2000. Shishir Bajaj, also served as a whole time director of Bajaj Energy Ltd. from May 2015 to February 2017. He is also a promoter of Bajaj Corp Ltd. which manufactures Bajaj Almond Drops the second largest Hair Oil Brand in India.

Smt. Minakshi Bajaj, a co-founder member of the Trust, obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree from Calcutta University and is member of Sahachari Foundation, trustee of Jamnalal Bajaj Seva Trust and Seth Lakshman Prasad Urmilla Poddar Girls Education Charitable Trust. Director of A N Bajaj Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.

Kushagra Nayan Bajaj, is a Trustee of the trust and has been shouldering responsibility as Chairman and Managing Director of Bajaj Hindusthan Sugar since 2014. He is also Chairman of Bajaj Corp Ltd. and Bajaj Energy Ltd. Kushagra Bajaj holds a Bachelor Degree of Science in industrial management (finance), Economics and Ethics from the Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA. He earned his Master of Science in Marketing from North Western University, Chicago, USA. He is moving force behind the social responsibility initiatives of the Trust.

Apoorv Nayan Bajaj, is a trustee and the Executive President of Bajaj Corp Ltd. He has a Bachelor’s degree in Commerce from University of Mumbai. He regularly travels to Wardha Programme area to help and guide the programmes of the Trust. Socio-economic and spiritual development of the community is his passion.

Team KJBF

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Chetan Nandha
Prashant Borkute
Vijaya Thakare
Anand Joshi
GuneshwarPatle
Raju Pawar
Sachin Zadey
Surendra Fasge
Sushant Borkar
Suhas Haje
Hrushikesh Hardas
Karsahan Sarikhda
Ashwini Shende
Mahendra Jalgonkar
Rajendra Petkar
Navneet Upadhye
Javed Sattar
Rahul Borkute
JiwanKalbande
Tushar Fasge
Siddhartha Gaikwad
Ravindra Nagdeve
Mayur Pujage
Dhiraj Wankhade
Ravindra Ulikey
Lileshwar Naxine
Sachin Chatur
Sachin Nilaskar
Jayesh Jadav
Sachin Sonone
Pravin Chivane
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