



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2014-15



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## GRAMEEN DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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## About GDS....

Founded by a group of development professionals, academicians and NGO leaders, Grameen Development Services (GDS) is a non-government development organization with its head office at Lucknow (U.P.) and having field offices at nine locations within its area of operation. Since its inception in 1993, GDS has, tirelessly, been striving for improving the quality of life of the disadvantaged sections of the society in the most backward and poverty stricken regions within the North India states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan.

Another successful year of achievements could now be added to GDS's community development endeavours, carried out in partnership with various development stakeholders and the communities it works with, in response to the GDS's avowed mission of enabling the communities as owners and partners, rather than remaining passive recipients of development initiatives.

The **organisational vision, mission and objectives** of GDS are as follows:

### Vision:

**To strengthen the socio-economic status of 100,000 families by creating enabling conditions for sustainable livelihoods by 2017**

More specifically, GDS, by 2017, envisions to directly reaching 60000 families and another 40000 indirectly. Its direct interventions will impact the targeted families while the remaining families would be benefited with the initiatives taken by other social entrepreneurs in support with GDS in whatsoever manner it is feasible.

### Mission:

**"To create and strengthen sustainable livelihood systems through community-based participatory approaches with techno-managerial inputs to achieve social and economic empowerment for poor and disadvantaged sections living in areas of structural poverty within India"**

### Organisation Objectives:

GDS envisages building a better life around the targeted community through;

- Stronger livelihoods with increased income and employment; reduced expenses, risks and vulnerability to shocks
- Ability to articulate justifiable needs, rights and entitlements, and the capacity to take up sustained collective actions to realize the basic rights and entitlements
- Enhanced equity as regards gender relations: in terms of women's access and control over resources, influence in decision making and ownership, within the household and the community
- Stronger resilience to counter the ill effects of disasters through proactive and community based measures and lessened dependence on external support or relief measures, in the event of natural calamities and disasters.

Towards attainment of its organisational mission and objectives, GDS pursues a two-pronged strategy:

- GDS has chosen **strengthening of the livelihoods of the poor** as the key focus of its developmental approach. GDS can proudly proclaim that this approach is prominently reflected in virtually all the interventions that it has undertaken under its diverse projects and programmes
- Since the lack of ability to respond collectively to their entrenched as well as emerging needs and issues is a prominent characteristic of the marginalised and the disadvantaged communities, and especially women; to help them to overcome this inability, GDS has taken up the task to **mobilise the communities it works with, into community based organisations/institutions** of various types and sizes

### Core Organisational Values

GDS firmly believes that certain cherished guiding principles to be practiced within the organisation by the members in their individual capacity as well as collectively, so that the organisation never wavers from its commitment for excellence in whatever it does. These guiding principles are identified as core values of the organization and reflected in the routine behavior of functionaries during their performances. They have commitment to comport and refrain from any deviation. GDS considers these values as non-negotiable and strives to leave no room for any compromise or non compliance on them. The core values of GDS are here-as-under:

- I. Empathy with the poor and discriminated
- II. Transparency and integrity
- III. Professionalism and team work
- IV. Gender Equity
- V. Participatory Approach

### Policies and Manuals on Governance & Management

In order to carry out the organizational governance and management in a professional manner, GDS has devised and standardized an elaborate set of policies and procedures on key functions of management and administration (viz., human resources and financial management, and accounting system) and these are properly documented in the form of manuals and policy documents. These documents are reviewed and revised periodically. HR & Accounting manuals were revised in 2014 incorporating the necessary amendments as acceded with the approval of competent authority. The key manuals and policy documents available with GDS are as follows:

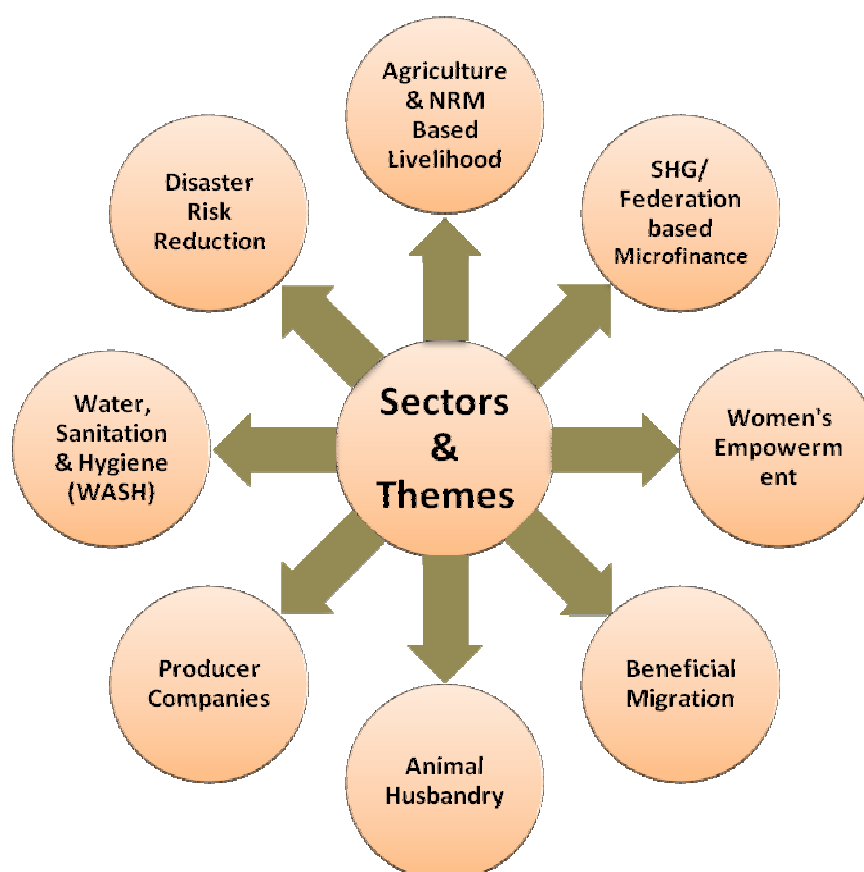
- Accounting Policy and Manual (Revised in 2014)
- HR Policy and Manual (Revised in 2014)
- Gender Policy
- Policy on Prevention of Sexual Harassment and ASH Committee.
- HIV/AIDS Mainstreaming policy (HR issues integrated with HR Manual)

Based on the rules and instructions delineated in the above policy documents, the management practices are decided across the GDS locations under the guidance of its head office.

### Action Areas – Sectors & Themes

As discussed above, the core of GDS's development approach is promotion of livelihoods and food security of rural poor and to enable the communities it works with to become proactive participants in taking the developmental processes, that GDS initiates, to their logical end. This broad action framework is further concretized into such sector/sub-sector/theme-based interventions and programmes that are considered to be most relevant in bringing about change in the quality of the life of poor.

The key sectoral and thematic focus areas of GDS's endeavours can be described through the following diagram:



Over the last one decade or so, GDS has primarily worked on two critical sectors of rural livelihood: agriculture and animal husbandry.

### Geographical Focus

GDS has chosen to work in such geographies that are characterized by structural poverty in North India. As a consequence its programmes and interventions are all concentrated within the eastern, central and southern Uttar Pradesh; north-western Bihar; and, Central Rajasthan. As mentioned in the vision statement, GDS outreach is made directly through its interventions and indirectly in partnership with the other organisations.

During 2014-15, GDS reached out to 66095 poor households directly with its all development interventions reflecting its thematic approach adopted for the empowerment of poor people living in its operational area in the above 3 states.

The following table provides details on GDS's geographic coverage:

States	Locations	Districts	Blocks	Gram Panchayats	Villages	House-holds
Uttar Pradesh	Khalilabad	Sant Kabir Nagar	Mehdawal, Baghauli, Belhar, Khalilabad, Nath Nagar, Hainsar, Pauli	132	278	25071
		Gorakhpur	Sahjanawa & Pali	23	32	697
		Basti	Bankati & Semariyawan	19	31	399
	Pharenda	Mahrajganj	Dhani , Pharenda & Brijmanganj	28	118	6200
		Gorakhpur	Caimpierganj	14	33	2800
		Siddarthnagar	Jogiya, Uska & Khesarha	12	38	3300
	Hardoi	Hardoi	Sursa	8	20	1000
	Lalitpur	Lalitpur	Birdha	26	45	3578
	Shravasti	Shravasti	Sirsiya	4	17	810
	Lucknow	Lucknow	Lucknow city	7 labour churahas	44 labour pockets	2084
Rajasthan	Jawaja	Ajmer	Jawaja	24	60	4207
		Pali	Raipur	7	16	533
Bihar	Muzaffarpur	Sitamarhi	Runni Saidpur, Belsand and Parasauni	16	50	10000
		Muzaffarpur	Sakra & Muraul	16	32	3500
	West Champaran	West Champaran	Bagaha-II	1	5	1916
<b>3 States</b>	<b>9 Locations</b>	<b>14 Districts</b>	<b>29 Blocks</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>66095</b>

JTT supported network project on agriculture based livelihood promotion was completed in partnership with 06 other partner NGOs in nine clusters (directly at 3 clusters) located in Nepal bordering districts of eastern UP and northern Bihar. It was the only Project in GDS that was implemented in the network mode. As this was the third and final year of current phase of this project (ending on March 31, 2015), the process of developing a fresh proposal for next phase is on.

## Community Based Institutions

As one of the most important elements of GDS's strategic approach, promoting social capital has ever since been emphasized in the different forms of community institutions for addressing the problems/issues experienced by the poor and the socially marginalised communities in its operational areas. A status update of these community institutions promoted by GDS is reflected in the following table;

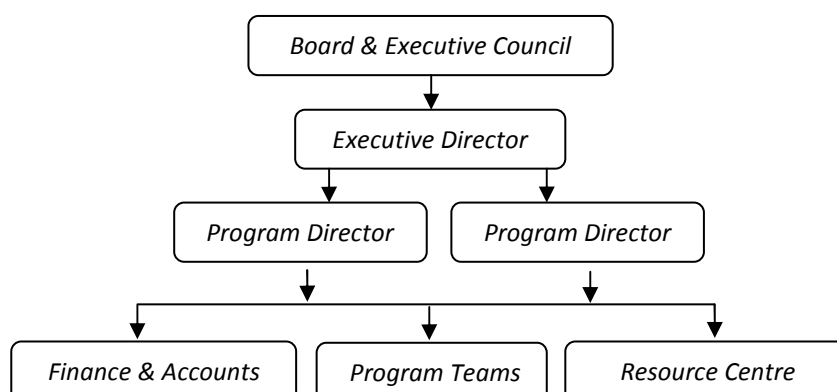
Location  Type of CIs	Khaliabad		Mahrajanj		Shravasti		Hardoi		Lalitpur		Lucknow		Muzaffarpur		Jawaja		Total	
	No.	Members	No.	Members	No.	Members	No.	Members	No.	Members	No.	Members	No.	Members	No.	Members	No.	Members
SHG	481	5333	308	3796					199	2526			165	1980	405	4740	1558	18375
Farmer Club			39	616 M 195	40	573M 218	20	600					20	212M 130			119	2544
GRG													4	95	71	1906	75	2001
VLI (member SHGs)									8	156					22	296	30	452
VLN	94	1045															94	1045
Federation/ Apex	18	5333	2	15M 3080	1	18M 5			2	1629					2	3660	25	13740
MKG															53	1308	53	1308
Producer Group															32	355	32	355
PPC			1	661											1	97	2	758
WUG	27	248M 39															27	287
MHM Groups	63	889															63	889
School WASH Brigade	27	218M 185															27	403
WASH Committee			18	36M 72													18	108
Watershed Committee									10	93M 21							10	114
DMG/VDMC/ SDMC			110	742M 1114									45	238M 240			155	2334
Migrant Collectives											1	115					1	115

Note: The figures shown with 'M' represent number of male members and the remainings are the number of female members only.

## The Target Group Focus

The target group of GDS's projects and interventions are the poor and the marginalised in the society, with specific focus on women. In terms of caste the GDS target group comprises SC, ST and OBC, by class those below poverty line; and by occupation the landless, artisans and small farmers. This criteria, however, is overlooked when GDS indulges in humanitarian response work. In such cases GDS supports all those who are affected by disaster, irrespective of their castes, religion and class.

## GDS Organogram



### Salient Features of GDS's Institutional Processes and Systems

- **General Body of GDS** is the highest decision making body followed by the **Executive Council** that provides strategic inputs and guidance to GDS' operations. The EC meetings and the AGM is organized in a regular manner.
- **Issue Based Experts (Focal Point Persons)** have been designated within GDS to provide thematic inputs and trainings and also review the integration of the critical themes adequately in the programmes.
- **Gender Core Committee of GDS** consisting of 4 members is authorized to carry forward gender mainstreaming in programmes as well as within the organization. Staff members from all locations are trained and capacitated to deal with the themes and issues related to gender mainstreaming.
- An empowered **Anti-Sexual Harassment (ASH) Committee** has also been constituted within GDS to adequately deal with the issues of sexual harassment at workplace, if any, both at the head office as well as at project locations. Its major focus is taking preventive measures through timely initiatives.
- GDS regularly organizes **Organizational Retreats** wherein all team members get together and deliberate on GDS's future directions and strategies. Under the reporting period, it was organized during third week of February'14 for 3 days at Lalitpur.
- **Performance Appraisal** is carried out on annual basis for each and every team member of GDS and based on the performance, the better performing members are provided with enhanced/independent responsibilities along with due incentives and promotions. Normally, this exercise is carried out immediately after completion of each financial year as per the guidelines laid down in the HR manual.
- Regular **Review and Monitoring Meetings** are organized within the organisation, to monitor the pace and direction of program implementation based on the milestones and the action plans and budget utilization. Accordingly, strategic inputs and feedback are to the programme team under review by senior program personnel, especially by the Directors, sub-sectoral experts and Finance & Accounts Department. Besides the meetings, regular visits to the field/programme locations are carried by the senior management members (including the accounts team members) for the purpose of monitoring and reviews and on-the-spot inputs and feedback are given to the location teams.
- **Internal & External Reviews** are conducted to strengthen the endeavors of GDS in a transparent manner. GDS openly invites both internal and external agencies and persons (on programmes as well as finance), to review the strategies and interventions and seek critical observations and comments towards strengthening the programmes. This is a critical aspect of GDS's Organization Development processes. GDS board members actively provide inputs in the programme strategies. Sometimes, such external reviews are undertaken by the funding agencies prior to execute partnership for a particular venture.
- Besides ongoing internal processes, **Staff capacity building** is done through deputing selected staff members to undergo theme specific trainings and exposures facilitated by renowned external agencies from time-to-time. They are also encouraged to participate in significant events held at larger platforms. In-house capacity building programmes are also organized from time-to-time to inculcate relevant perspectives and skills. GDS perception of development is inbuilt with all the programme staff through such programmes.
- **Interacting with supporting agencies and partner NGOs** is continuous process to share the vision, approaches, strategies and the interventions with the supporting partners. GDS believes in jointly setting the objectives and intervention design with support partners. Partnerships are explored with various government agencies and donor organizations for convergence as well as new projects based on GDS mandate and philosophy. Initiative is taken to seek partnership with other NGOs based on the nature of a particular project and provide technical support for their organizational development.

### Executive Council of GDS

S. No.	Name	Brief Background
1.	Ms. Nishi Mehrotra Lucknow President	Senior Development Consultant with more than 30 years experience in the field of women's rights and child education issues. She is associated with several national and international development agencies and in various committees. She has held key positions as State Project Director in 'Mahila Samakhya', with BETI Foundation and SHPHP GTZ, New Delhi.
2.	Ms. Padmaja Nair, Lucknow Vice President	Masters in Economics with a Diploma in planning and management from the School of Public Policy, University of Birmingham, she has over 25 years experience in the social development sector in program and project planning, Water resources development & urban issues, institutional development, capacity building and gender.
3.	Mr. S. K. Dwivedi Lucknow Secretary	Is a Masters in Economics and Rural Development and has previously has served with technical institutions and NGOs for 11 years before joining GDS in 1996. Mr. Dwivedi has vast experience of a variety of income generation and livelihood programs as a strategist, implementer and a trainer. He has been closely associated with the Women's Livelihood and Social Empowerment project of GDS in Khalilabad District of Eastern UP as Project Director. Currently, he is Executive Director of GDS. He is also on the Board of INAFI-India and in the Advisory committee of Center for Migration and Labor Solutions.
4.	Mr. Amitabh Mishra Lucknow Treasurer	MA in Political Science from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and has seven years teaching and research experience before joining GDS in 1996. He had been closely coordinating the field mobilization and SHG teams in Eastern UP and has substantial understanding of issues relating to women's empowerment, livelihoods and community development. Presently he is Program Director associated with various field projects, Research and Documentation, besides anchoring the internal monitoring and evaluation activity of GDS's projects.
5.	Dr. B. K. Joshi Dehradun Member	Former Director of Giri Institute for Economic Studies Lucknow and Vice Chancellor of Kumaon University and well-known academician. He has been an evaluator and consultant to UNICEF and other education programs in India and overseas.
6.	Mr. Manoj Sharma Lucknow Member	Senior development professional with a focus on Microfinance and Institutional Capacity Building, he has held senior positions in SIDBI Foundation for Microcredit before joining Microsave as founder Director
7.	Dr. J. L. Dwivedi Lucknow Member	A senior Agricultural scientist, now retired, Dr. Dwivedi was formerly head of the Crop Research Center at Masaudha, under the N. D. University of Agriculture & Technology, Faizabad. Dr. Dwivedi has been closely associated with research on rice production of a number of varieties
8.	Mr. Probir Bose Lucknow Member	Graduate in Commerce from St. Xavier College, Kolkata, has served for 22 years in the corporate business sector prior to joining GDS in 1999. He has more than 14 years experience in the development sector in the field of livelihoods and organizational development. He has been engaged in monitoring, evaluation and supporting field programs as a consultant to the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and Udaipur Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Udaipur, Rajasthan from 1999–2001 and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), in Eastern India from 2001 to 2004. Presently he is Program Director of the GDS's WASH and Agriculture development Projects.
9.	Mr. Anil Tandon Gurgaon Member	MBA from IIM, Ahmadabad, Industrialist
10.	Mr. R. K. Gupta, Lucknow Member	Retired government official and associated with GDS board



## Year 2014-15: Major Highlights

During the year, the interventions and programmes of GDS remained on their logical course of progression, while some of them reaching their conclusions. Simultaneously, explorations for new areas and issues for future interventions was also been carried out in a rigorous manner. GDS's credibility as a field based development NGO drew attention of development stakeholders and encouraged them to join hands with GDS for initiation of new ventures.

The significant achievements of the organisation, during 2014-15, have been as follows:

### A. Existing Projects

Continuation of projects already in implementation went on uninterruptedly. In some cases where the project cycle came to a close during the year, negotiations for further phases with the donor/support agencies were carried out in all earnest; and, successfully concluded in many of the cases. Defined as large and small on the basis of financial outlay and also coverage, these projects were implemented directly by GDS (except one project, which was implemented in the network mode). At the same time, short-term ventures were also be taken up keeping in mind their contextual relevance and local exigency particularly in case of disaster risk reduction.

These existing projects included:

- The JTT supported three year network project on 'Revival of Agriculture Based Livelihoods in the Nepal Bordering Districts of Eastern Uttar Pradesh & northern Bihar' implemented by GDS and its network partners at 9 clusters. This was the third and final year of the project. In this project GDS continued its coordination role, providing handholding support to all the clusters with programmatic and financial facilitation, towards steering the project to successful conclusion. The Project was given one month's extension (April 2015), so as to bridge the gap between the outgoing phase and the next phase
- Focusing on WASH issues in flood and water-logging prone villages in the mid-Rapti basin, Oxfam India supported project 'Facilitating Community Led WASH and Livelihoods Interventions in the floodplains of eastern UP' also came to a successful conclusion of its three year cycle. The project has been granted a one-year (2015-16) extension.
- In Sursa block of Hardoi district of central Uttar Pradesh, ITC supported 'Promotion of Profitable and Sustainable Agriculture' continued covering 20 villages as in 2013-14. This is also an annually sanctioned project.
- The implementation of SDTT supported project on 'Promoting Safe and Beneficial Migration in Uttar Pradesh' continued at both the locations; Lucknow as destination end and Khalilabad as source end. The redressal of migrant labours' issues was taken up through project interventions.
- LWR supported Project titled 'Cross Border Early Warning System' was completed this year in Bagaha-II block of West Champaran district of Bihar.
- A four-year JTT supported Project 'Improving Livelihood through Natural Resources and Agriculture Development' continued in Birdha block of Lalitpur (Bundelkhand region in U.P.)
- Under the MKSP scheme of GoI, CMF (Jaipur) initiated Project activities on agriculture development continued in Jawaja block of Ajmer district of Rajasthan.

Besides, Projects including IRRAS, CBDRR, SSV and PPCs (LAPCL & GAPCL) continued at the specified locations in the above 3 states.

### B. Newly Started projects

WaterAid India accorded approval for proposed project 'School WASH and WASH in Health Set-ups' and the implementation started from the beginning of year 2014-15 in Khalilabad.

### C. Exploring potentials

Proposal for next phase of Agriculture Project in network mode is submitted to SDTT keeping in mind the revised strategy under guidance of the donor, the SDTT, for a period of three years. The Project is designed to cover 12000 small farmers in trans-Sarayu area of eastern Uttar Pradesh. One more project focusing on 'Empowerment through

literacy for women in eastern UP' is submitted to SDTT. The approval for implementing both these projects is expected in the beginning of next year.

Negotiations were also on with LWR for the second phase of the DRR project in the Gandak river basin, in the West Champaran district of Bihar. This project is also expected to begin in the next year.

At the behest of Reliance industries, a proposal for promoting agriculture based livelihood in Bachharawan block of Rae Bareilly district was prepared and submitted under its CSR provision. In another development, BMGF designated nodal agency approached GDS for interaction and prima facie observe its capacities to seek partnership particularly for agriculture based livelihoods promotion.

- D.** An organisational review exercise was completed successfully by a two-member team deployed by SDTT to review the governance, management and field operation of GDS in December, 2014. The team was satisfied with its functions and achievement and submitted report to SDTT.
- E.** Besides on-going process of reviewing and planning at Project/location level, reviewing performance and strategize for future action across the Projects and locations was undertaken collectively in three day GDS review workshop in August, 2014 under the guidance of senior staff of GDS. The action points that emerged as the outcome of this exercise were shared with all concerned for necessary compliance.
- F.** During the year GDS realized its dream of buying a piece of land for accommodating its head office, and a training centre. A piece of land was acquired in Lucknow, the state capital of UP and plans are chalked out to begin construction of the office premises.
- G.** Sub-sector based studies could be conducted through utilizing external expertise and resources provisioned under certain on-going projects. The report of these studies is available with LRC and referred as and when required in the organization.

This is the location where GDS initiated its field programmes, in 1995, when with the support of Oxfam Novib it initiated interventions for strengthening livelihoods through women's empowerment. The women's empowerment programme was successfully completed in 2011. Their concrete outcome has been the self sustained women's institutions, in the form of federations that are still carrying forward the dreams setup under the programme. Now-a-days, these community institutions of women are playing a critical role in transforming GDS's programmatic concepts into real field implementation, in addition to their usual proceedings. Currently, such interventions focus on promoting WASH practices in the community and taking up migrants related issues at source end in the selected villages of the district.

## 1. School WASH and WASH in Health Set-ups

It was due to its previous experiences of accomplishing WASH related tasks in GDS operational area that prompted to accept the offer extended by WaterAid India to promote WASH practices in Baghauli block of the district Sant Kabir Nagar. The project covers 11499 households including 2951 SC households (25.7%) and 6867 OBC (59.7%) spread over 81 villages of 30 GPs of the block. Under its school interventions, 80 schools are covered with a strength of 11318 students 53.5% of whom being girls.

The situation of WASH facilities in the district is grim. Open defecation is common in the villages and reluctance towards using toilet prevails in most of the cases. Even the government initiatives to promote subsidized toilets involve procedural implication and got least preference. Availability of drinking water sources through installation of hand pumps by the state government is inadequate as many of them are not functional due to poor maintenance. Besides these system related obstacles, the lack of awareness is also one of the major constraints to adopt WASH practices.



In this situation, GDS started this WaterAid India supported project in April, 2014. At the beginning, the representatives of the education, health, rural development & Pachayati Raj departments of the state government, and other stakeholders including PRI representatives, teachers and selected opinion makers were sensitized with the project objectives in a block level induction workshop. Project took up a three-tier capacity building initiative for; (1) stakeholders, especially the government departments functionaries, to overcome system related problems, (2) community groups to increase awareness and adoption, and (3) skill based training to facilitate hardware component of the project.

- i. *Capacity building of stakeholders:* Capacitating WASH stakeholders directly engaged with influencing programme policies at local level and providing services to the community at grass-root has been a key step to strengthen supply side of the intervention. It included;

- Grass-root level people's representatives of village panchayats were capacitated through PRI trainings conducted for 311 panchayat representatives orienting them about new guideline of SBM (Grameen). The district and block level development functionaries were mobilized.
- Menstrual hygiene particularly for adolescent girls is one of the focal components, hence, trainings to ASHAs and AWWs were conducted in coordination with health & WCD departments. In all, 15 ASHAs and 25 AWWs underwent the training on promoting menstrual hygiene.
- Sensitization of SMCs was necessary to promote School WASH interventions in the educational institutions. 139 members from 40 SMCs were trained in 3 batches to identify issues and initiate action for

WASH focused Community Groups	No.	Members	
		M	F
Water Users Group (WUG)	27	248	39
Women MHM Group	29	0	354
Adolescent MHM Group	26	0	323
Adolescent MHM Group in Schools	8	0	212
WASH Brigade in Schools	27	218	185
<b>Total</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>1113</b>

school sanitation and hygiene in collaboration with GDS and mainstreams. Similarly, 99 school teachers almost half of them being females underwent training to build WASH secured schools in the area.

- ii. *Capacity building of community groups:* It primarily focused on changing health practicing behavior particularly among adolescent girls and women with specific focus on menstrual health management. 322 adolescent girls and women participated in various trainings on MHM. Out of 67 community based female depot holders (CBDs) trained in MHM, 25 CBDs have started sanitary napkin distribution assimilated with proper counseling on revenue model to the adolescent girls and women in their respective villages. In addition, 28 volunteers took over as change agent to promote WASH practices in 22 villages. For ensuring sustainable and functional drinking water source, 32 Water Users' Groups (WUGs) were organized and capacitated to arrange operation and management of hand pump (India Mark-2) as locally available drinking water supply source.
- iii. *Skill based capacity building:* Updated technological input for masons engaged in construction of twin lease pit toilets could be provided through fresher and refresher trainings to enrich their skills for toilet construction in collaboration with Panchayatiraj department. It enabled a team of 12 well trained masons expanding the coverage of their services to 2 blocks. The construction of 200 toilets was completed during on-site technical training. It would help in ensuring locally available skilled manpower and preventing open defecation practices through construction of toilets. Apart from this, 13 hand pump repairing mechanics were trained in coordination with local unit of UP Jal Nigam.

*Observance of important international days (recurring events)*

- World Toilet Day (19 Nov'2014) : A week long campaign to sensitize community and stakeholders for promoting use of toilets to prevent open defecation was launched in support with community groups and line departments of GOUP in third week of November, 2014. The senior officials from government deptt. of RD, Panchayatiraj, education and health participated in a seminar and interfaced with community members to learn their issues. The campaign was witnessed by 271 persons and 947 school children. A commitment was shown by these officials for construction of 98 toilets in the villages.
- World Water Day (22 March, 2015): Availability and use of safe drinking water in rural area was at the crux to observe World Water Day. The day was endorsed by a wide array of government departments, organizations and community groups. A seminar focusing towards existing drinking water facilities and prospective action was organized and participated by 93 representatives (69 males & 24 females) from government departments, NBA, DWM and community leaders preferably from community groups.
- Global Hand-washing Day (15 October, 2014): Demonstration on hand wash practices were held with 457 school going children and wash kit distributed to 7 schools while celebrating GHWD on October 16, 2014. It was aimed to foster and support culture of hand washing with soap in the Project area.
- Magahar Mahotsava, 2015: As a district administration initiative, Magahar Mahotsava was organized to highlight the major achievements of the district in public domain. The project intervened through displaying its major achievement at its stall in the fair ground and witnessed by mass on the occasion. More than one thousand persons happened at GDS stall and interacted with staff regarding WASH activities.



Besides above, renovation of 27 water sources was undertaken benefitting 2707 users in 21 hamlets of 14 GPs. 600 toilets were made functional for nearly 5000 users from 24 villages. WASH sessions were conducted in 40 schools while sanitation block were developed as model in five schools. With all the above efforts, a conducive environment has now been built to usher WASH practices in a more effective way for the rural people living in Baghauli block.

## 2. Promoting Safe and Beneficial Migration in Uttar Pradesh (Source end)

Besides other socio-economic reasons, absence of more gainful employment opportunities in the vicinity has been the driving force for cyclical and seasonal migration by the rural people to fend for their families through earning livelihoods in urban/metropolitan and industrialized areas of the country. It helps in positive economic impact on their families but at the same time fraught with the negative impact on their own at destination and their families at source end also. In most of the cases, the male members of the family migrate leaving their other family members at the source end. It tends to increased workload on women and insecure emotional life of women and children in the family. The need for credit/finances of the family is sometimes hardly addressed at locale affecting the management of expenses during migration particularly due to delayed remittances and payment.

With this problem scenario in mind, the *Promoting Safe and Beneficial Migration* Project was started in district Sant Kabir Nagar during the year 2009. The project is into its second phase and currently, covers 84 villages spread over 27 GPs of Baghauli and Khalilabad blocks of the district. Initially planned for a period of two years, the project was considered for further continuation taking into consideration the overall impact experienced during its implementation. The major focus has been on integrating with mainstreams for critical services including issuance of identity card, facilitate skill based inputs and developing a village level cadre base of Shramik Mitra at source end. The major achievements made during the reporting period at destination end are summarized separately under the GDS location 'Lucknow' while for source end these are as below;

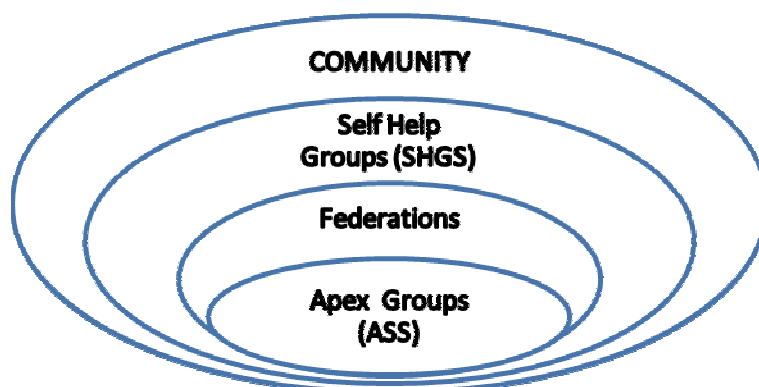
- *Mobilization, registration & Identify documents:* 1063 migrant workers were registered with BOCW while 3802 initially registered with GDS. The federation members actively participated in taking the programme to the community.
- Individual Identity cards were issued to 2187 migrants.
- *Counseling & legal support:* 8 legal awareness meetings and 15 legal literacy events were organized to take up migrants' issues and aware them about their rights and entitlements. In all, 835 workers turned up to share their issues in these sessions. Out of 12 legal cases identified, final settlement was made for 4 cases and the remaining are in process by the end of reporting period.
- *Skill development:* 116 persons underwent vocational training in 6 batches and 55 of them completed the course of training successfully. For enabling the placement of trained persons and other youths, 2 rozgar melas were organized when 329 youths were counseled for undergoing skilled based trainings to get employment.
- *System for financial services:* 4 women federations were sensitized and motivated to facilitate credit support to migrant families and 49 such families could avail credit facility from these federation. 219 workers could be brought under insurance coverage. 81 financial literacy sessions were also organized.
- *Safety & security net for migrant families:* 99 village level safety & security nets were organized and their 39 meetings were conducted with the existing federations. Joint sessions on rights and entitlements were organized jointly for SHGs & VLNs. Shramik Mitras have direct link with these VLNs.
- Initial linkage with Mumbai based labour centre 'YUVA' has been established as a significant proportion of migrants are employed there. The Project functionaries paid visit to destination points in Mumbai and interacted with the migrants from the S. K. Nagar district to share their issues and suggest relevant action.
- The selected project functionaries participated in capacity building programmes organized by Aajevika Bureau and GDS itself.
- Structured capacity building and orientation of shramik mitra was arranged and on-site handholding support was given to improve their performance.
- *Programme Review & monitoring:* The review of project progress was made on frequently at source location. Earlier, it was done on quarterly basis. This recurring practice was emphasized to identify the gaps, if any, share experiences for mutual learning and decide action plan for future execution. On-site visits by senior staff members and also reports generated by the location were instrumental for reviewing the progress at project level.

The *Shramik Sahayata Kendra*, initiated under the project has emerged as an effective hub for enhancing skill/trade based vocational training to local youths and it organised appropriate training batches assessing the employment potentials

locally and outside as well. However, strategic upgradation would be necessary to feed the requirement of job market in future.

### 3. Sustainable community action

Since its inception, GDS took assessment of local situation prior to strategizing for a particular venture and its designing in the light of prevailing socio-economic context. It was in 1995 when GDS happened to initiate its field based interventions in Magahar, a town of erstwhile Basti district (now in S K Nagar) involving poor community for their livelihoods promotion. The venture further expanded into hundreds of villages in and around Khalilabad, the rural poor were mobilized to form community groups to collectively respond to their issues and to strive for sustainable livelihoods. Emphasis was constantly laid on strengthening and capacitating these community groups to adopt institutional approach to take ownership of the programme leading towards their social and economic empowerment. The 3-tier community support system, in time, evolved into self-sustained institutions and started functioning independently with minimum external support. The three tiers of the system are as follows-



- *Self-help Groups*: A network of 1026 SHGs was earlier created and these are, now, functional without any external support from GDS sustaining their thrift and credit practices and realizing entitlements from mainstreams in S K Nagar, Gorakhpur and Basti districts. Their major presence exists in 7 blocks of S K Nagar district. However, 481 WSHGs are still in touch with GDS seeking least support for techno-managerial inputs. 5333 women are member of these SHGs. These SHGs are linked with their respective federations for managerial and financial support. The strong presence of above network enables them to carry on advocacy for advantageous policies at village level and redressal of local grievances.
- *Federations (Mahasangh)*: The SHGs were federated into secondary level groups with deputing their elected representatives for taking up broader issues at larger platform. In all, 16 federations each representing 30-40 SHGs were functional but almost 40% of them have slowed down their functionality congruity. The situation was reviewed and further initiatives taken to revitalize those particularly existing in current programme areas.
- *Annapurna Sewa Sansthan*(an apex level community institution): All the 16 federations are represented by ASS which is entrusted with the responsibilities as single body to devise key policies, system and directives for member federations layered between SHGs and ASS. It continued providing managerial and financial support to SHGs and federations appreciating institutionalized approach for ensuring their sustainability. Once the external support from GDS was minimized, Sansthan has crucial role in carrying on the community initiatives.

Thus, the thrift and credit practice has led these community groups to explore external credit support from financial institutions mainly from Banks to fulfill the credit need of their individual members protecting them from any prospective risk of exploitation or loss due to unavailability of fund and maintaining their social dignity through timely support. It enabled them not merely exercising mutual support but also collective action to realize benefits from mainstreams through effective advocacy at different levels.

In the year 2001, GDS initiated its endeavours in the floodplain region of eastern Uttar Pradesh with focus on strengthening agriculture based livelihood in selected area of Maharajganj district. In every monsoon season, large areas in this programme location of GDS are flooded by River Rapti and its tributaries disrupting livelihoods of the community living in the flood plains. Floods and water logging are perennial problems that devastate the Kharif season crops and also, at times, disrupt timely sowing of Rabi season agriculture. Consequently, the dependency of farmers on Rabi crops increases. Over the past few years, they have also started growing summer crops, as a coping strategy. In certain pocket, the vegetable cultivation is adopted round the year. With high density of small and marginal farmers, the situation truly becomes grim for the communities and tends to be a major factor for their migration to earn livelihood for their families.

The facet was well taken by the GDS while strengthening the agriculture based livelihoods in the given context of erratic climate and submergence of agriculture land. Initially, a livelihood based flood preparedness and response model was tried upon in support with Oxfam Novib in Pharenda and adjoining areas focusing towards reducing the loss of livelihoods by introducing appropriate cropping pattern, technical improvement and policy and practices advocacy on flood disaster related local issues. Encouraged with the progress made through these initiatives, GDS efforts continued to launch appropriate interventions beneath the banner of community based Projects with the external support of development stakeholders. A few of these initiatives that contributed to bring change in the quality of life of people during the reporting period are as follows;

**1. Revival of agriculture based livelihoods in Nepal bordering districts of eastern UP and northern Bihar (JTT supported Agriculture Project)**

The three year network project was directly implemented by GDS at this location covering 1497 small and marginal farmers (82% OBC & 15% SC families) living in 61 villages of 19 GPs in Pharenda, Dhani and Brijmanganj blocks of the district focusing on enhancing crop productivity and reducing the cost of cultivation through technological percolation and improved agricultural practices. Encouraged by the achievement and overall impact of the project, the next phase of the project is proposed for enhancing net income of farmers through promotion of selected high value crops intensively. The major activities conducted are given below;

- *Orientation & trainings* – 806 members of 35 community groups were trained for group management. LAPCL (PPC) board members were trained twice capacitating them for strengthening governance and management system. In addition, training was given to 406 farmers to improve their technical skill for seed production of cereals and vegetables during the year. 16 orientation programmes were organized sensitizing 956 farmers about soil health related issues of their area. Field based farmers' training on PoPs has been quite useful to testify and refine it in local agricultural context and continued repeatedly for most of the farmers associated with the project interventions during all the three seasons. Such repeated count of farmers could be 16428 during project period. Agriculture technology based trainings were organized for grass-root animators engaged in field implementation of PoPs directly with the farmers. Many of them are progressive farmers of the same village and will sustain providing voluntary technical support to farmers even after the cessation of project activities.
- *Context specific package of agriculture practices (PoPs)*: GDS Maharajganj has adequately documented its context specific PoPs (containing agriculture technologies, techniques, and practices) refined through field experimentation. 800 copies of above PoPs were got printed and made available in the field within the easy access of local farmers and stake holders.
- *Upscaling of PoPs* – The number and size of crop sites multiplied six times to what it had been in the first year for testing of PoPs. 1959 sites sized 664.4 acres were cropped adopting improved PoPs. It clearly reflects the ascending trend in acceptance of PoPs by the farmers. The field testing was done in first year followed by piloting of PoPs in second year (2013-14). The farmers used technologies like SSP, DSR, drum seeder, zero-till, line sowing, soil-less media (cocopeat) & shade-nets for developing vegetable nursery, mulching & raised bed, and machan while nutrient management, varietal changes and other improved practices were brought into for achieving better results.

Total coverage with interventions	
District	4
Block	8
Village panchayats	58
Villages	194
Households/ families*	8500 (SC- 2550/ OBC-5100/ Gen- 850)



- Soil health improvement:** Deterioration in soil health was identified as one of the major issues affecting crop productivity for last many years. The farmers were sensitized with the soil health issues and prepared to initiate corrective measures by recycling of organic wastes and green manuring. Use of cow dung as cooking purposes was discouraged among target farming families motivating them to use bio-gas and improved smokeless chulha. Digging of 282 coordination compost pits and green manuring over a land area of 215 acres by 380 farmers demonstrated good impact not merely on improving crop productivity with reduced cost but also developed a positive idea for neighboring farmers to adopt the practice at their own. The farmers could save minimum Rs. 500/- per acre as cost of chemical fertilizers and also 5-10% increase in crop yields. However, the installation of bio-gas plants could not get desired impact for want of technical viability and affordability by small farmers.
- Plantation:** Initial focus on promoting firewood and fruit plants has marginally shifted to plantation of timber wood like sagaun for cash generation in second/third year. Su-babool plantation got little preference for its low return in monetary terms. The plantation was done mainly on wasteland or field bunds. The plantation of 20536 such plants was done by 722 farmers.
- A study was conducted for exploration of milk business feasibility in Pharenda area which revealed the low production of milk from bovines and their poor feeding practices. These bovines were of medium quality. The area has plenty scope and it was recommended to start milk business.



Otherwise forced by the dearth of adequate resources, lack of timely supply of quality agriculture inputs and technological inputs, the small and marginal farmers have enthusiastically responded to the above interventions. An average increase of about 35-40% in their agricultural income was noticed during the project period. The project yielded significant learnings to GDS as implementing agency and farmers as community partner of the venture. DSR, zero-tillage, soilless media (coco-peat), shade-net and ridge bed planting technologies percolated effectively but need rigorous replication and expansion. GDS has decided to extend its presence in the area and extend strategic support to the livelihoods through community institutions.

## **2. Facilitating community led WASH and livelihood interventions in the floodplains of eastern Uttar Pradesh**

It was in 2012 when GDS took up WASH promotion integrated with DRR and livelihood interventions in the flood prone area of eastern Uttar Pradesh in support with Oxfam India. The project has covered 3528 households (almost 72% of them being SC & OBC) in one block of Gorakhpur, S. K. Nagar, Siddharthnagar and two blocks of Maharajganj district. Scanty health seeking behavior is common among community in this area leading towards health problems arising out of their own practices and causing hindrances to earn their livelihoods. For sensitization and reciprocal collective response towards WASH issues, the community members were prepared to constitute WASH Committee in their respective villages. 20 WASH committees were formed with membership of 100 persons; 60% of them being females. Some salient achievements made under the project are given below;





- *Community mobilization & awareness:* Highly needed to get the people prepared for adopting healthy measures during and after monsoon, campaigning for WASH practices was done in all the 20 villages before onset of rainy season and similarly prior to winter season. The emphasis was laid water related issues. Issue based IEC materials including hand washing, use of toilet, safe drinking water and personal hygiene with focus on menstrual hygiene were used during the drive.
- As follow-up action, chlorination of drinking water was done thrice during the year and kits for water quality test was made available in 10 villages. Formation of WASH Committees and induction of community based early warning system (CBEWS) happened at 6 flood prone local points through effective community mobilization processes.
- CLTS approach has been instrumental to motivate community for using toilets. Construction of 50 toilets was done under NBA scheme of GoI. It is worthy to put on record that out of 20 villages, 7 villages were declared as *Open Defecation Free (ODF)* and the efforts continue for the remaining. The experience of CLTS approach and GDS WASH model was shared with other stake holders at district level workshop. The training of CLTS volunteers and other community stake holders was done. During the year, construction of 100 single pit toilets took place in support with government initiatives.
- For agriculture based livelihood promotion, appropriate technological percolation was preferred involving 734 farming families to comply with the PoPs. Demonstrations on summer crops were organized with 200 farmers in an area of 24 acres. Keeping in view imbibing improved practices for productive livestock among rearers, the local volunteers (Pashu Mitras) were trained to provide basic technical support for housing and health management of their cattle.

### 3. **Lehra Agro Producer Co. Ltd. (LAPCL)**

Situational emergence to cope with the scarcity of quality agricultural inputs enabled establishment of business enterprise under entire ownership of local small and marginal farmers in the middle of 2010 as registered primary producers' company under Companies Act 1956 (amendment 2002). It has its legal status and also registered with Income Tax Department of India. All its 661 shareholders are small farmers living in 101 villages spread over 35 village panchayats of Mahrajganj, Gorakhpur and Siddharthnagar. The intensity of its presence dominates in Mahrajganj particularly in 3 blocks namely Pharenda (registered office), Dhani and Brijmanganj and surrounding block; Campierganj in Gorakhpur and Uska Bazar in Siddharthnagar. GDS as promoter of the venture continued providing managerial, technical and resource support mobilized from various sources including JTT, IRRI, ISSCO and others. During last four years, the Company traveled through vagaries finally arriving at stability in its proper governance and management.

- *Capacity building initiatives:* The Board of Directors and management staff members were capacitated to wear ownership in true sense of business approach. It was for the first time that orientation was given to 621 shareholders in Mahrajganj & Gorakhpur districts sensitizing them about the LAPCL activities and their role. In order to learn more about PPC approach, an exposure visit to successful model '*Sironj Crop Producers Company Ltd.*' was arranged at MP which encouraged them for timely compliances and resource generation. The BoD underwent 2 trainings themed at system, governance, procedures, record keeping and management. 326 farmers were given field based seed production training to grow and sell quality seed to Company fetching fair prices of their agri produces.
- Keeping in mind marketing promotion, *branding and market facilitation* process was initiated last year and the seeds branded in the name LAPCL got popularized. Easily affordable and attractive packaging was emphasized this year and the pulse and vegetable seeds were packed in small polypack of 1 Kg to cover seed dealers in the market. The seed certification processes continued in support with SCO, Gorakhpur. Wall paintings and brochure distribution was also preferred as business promotional measures.
- As cited earlier, the Company focused on the issue to arrange supply of quality agricultural inputs supported with technical counseling to small and marginal farmers particularly to its shareholders. As vital input, business of *supplying quality seeds* of main crops; rice and wheat was taken care of at the initial stage expanding the range to pulse and vegetable seeds also. Sale of 127 quintals of paddy and 271 of wheat seeds could be made during the current year. It included 42 quintals truthful level STV paddy seeds (33 qtls. of Sahbhagi & 9 qtls. of Shushk Samrat) and 146 quintals of PBW-343 variety of certified wheat seed sold to farmers.

- Besides, *other inputs* including oilseed, vegetable seeds, agri-chemicals were also sold though on small scale. Provision of renting paddy transplanter made available with IRRI support helped to generate revenue for company but more to helping farmers to save money and time for paddy transplantation in their fields. Successful trial was demonstrated with 7 farmers for paddy transplantation in an area of 6.5 acres.
- The support for equipping the *seed processing unit* was extended by JTT and IRRI through GDS and necessary equipment like digital moisture meter and processing instrument machine. In addition, monetary support was given for initial working capital by JTT.

The above farmers' centered business approach has set a model for facilitating availability of quality agriculture inputs at the own initiatives of farmers and enhancing profitability on their produces. Minimizing the dependency on external resource support would continue, as GDS perceives, to establish it as a self sustained business enterprise by the farmers.

#### **4. Community Based Institutions**

Strengthening livelihoods as development measures adopted by GDS covering poor community as target beneficiaries at this location needed their high involvement in a strategized way which the GDS took over through organizing them in groups to energize the process of community ownership. It resulted in formation of community groups focusing on seeking solution of common issues on collective action basis. The nature and complexity of these common issues was largely responsible whether to form primary or secondary level community based groups. The primary level groups included SHGs, farmer clubs, Wash Committees and DMGs to take up village level issues while federations and PPC were the secondary/apex level for addressing their broader issues. Minimum one primary level institution is existing in all the villages and even more in case of SHGs (women groups). The status of all the community based institutions currently existing in the area is given earlier in the report.

The representation of women in all the above groups has been satisfactory. SHGs and their federations are utterly represented by women only. The overlapping in membership within these groups remained there. Each community based institution has its separate entity. By the end of reporting period, two federations namely '*Grameen Vikas Trust*' and '*Grameen Pashudhan Vikas Trust*' were continuing providing technical and financial support to their associated member SHGs. Besides, these served as larger platform to accept social issues like gender/domestic violence, other women related issues etc. to loudly upraise for public advocacy. Grameen Pashudhan Vikas Trust has been engaged in livestock development and arranging services for cattle health improvement for better productivity. These federations have achieved self sustainable status with least external support and GDS provided only strategic support to expand their activities. Promotion of milk business is one of such strategies supported by GDS to explore production and marketing potentials, strategize business approach and transform to real ground implementation.

### **Yield Enhanced through Zero-tillage Technology**

Shiv Kot village is situated under the embankment of a Rapti tributary, in Dhani block of Maharajganj district. This is floodplain area and wheat is the main Rabi crop. In this area, the wheat sowing is often delayed due to late harvesting of paddy crop which causes low productivity. In order to enhance agriculture productivity to impact incremental income of farmers, a farmer club named 'Uttam Kisan Club' was organized as one of the interventions of the JTT supported agriculture project. The technical interventions under the project were carried out in the village with the support of the club. Lalman Yadav is a member of Uttam kisan club. During rabi season in 2013-14, the Project conducted training on using zero till technology for wheat sowing. He also participated in the training.

#### **Changing the practice for timely sowing**

It emerged out that the most burning agriculture issue faced by the member farmers was the delay in sowing of wheat crop, caused by water logging and late ripening of the paddy crop, adversely affecting the production and productivity of the crop. The farmers were suggested to use zero tillage method of wheat sowing to overcome the problem. Initially the farmers were not convinced and apprehensive about the solution suggested as it went against their conventional wisdom of the need for intensive tilling for land preparation for good wheat harvest. They had never seen the zero tillage being practiced in the area. Mr. Lalman Yadav, along with a certain other farmers took initiative to try the suggested technology. There are 6 members in his family and he is a small farmer earning his livelihood from agriculture.

On harvesting of paddy crop, immediate action he took was hiring of zero till machine from Farmers' Resource Centre (FRC) for timely sowing of wheat in his field. It helped him to save precious cultivation time spent for land preparation. The wheat sowing of PBW 343 variety was done on time. Mr. Yadav underwent some orientation and trainings useful for the use of this technology. He is open to learning new things in agriculture. All the necessary steps for use of fertilizers & agro chemicals, watering, weeding etc. were taken appropriately at each stage of wheat crop growth in the demo plot. At a very early stage, he was fearing of low germination but later on, the decent growth encouraged him to be more attentive towards its proper management. After 45 days of sowing, farmers became satisfied to see their crop bearing 10-20 tillers per plant.

#### **Production increased by 23%**

The crop was harvested during the second week of April, 2014. A comparison was made between the performance of demo-plot with a non demo plot, also sown by Lalman. A production of 8.5 quintals in an area of 0.5 acre (17 quintals per acre) was achieved on his demo plot showing an increase of 23.2% over control plot (13.8 quintals per acre). Not only this, the cost of cultivation also reduced considerably, by 21.1% through use of zero tillage method of sowing. It impacted incremental income of his family. Lalman is satisfied with his decision to adopt this technological approach and intends to continue its use in the ensuing years also.

#### **What Mr. Lalman feels...**

- It needs less quantity of seed and fertilizers as compared with broadcasting method of sowing.
- It saves time after harvesting paddy, for timely sowing of wheat. It also needs less watering.
- Protects from bird picking of wheat seeds lying in depth.
- Fertilizers have direct impact.
- Weeds have least impact on crop growth.
- Clump having more plants.
- Minimum loss occurs due to wind.
- Healthy & bright grains.

Zero tillage seemed to be a very useful sowing method particularly in the water logging area of Shiv Kot. It is expected that its adoption would increase in future but at the same time it is also essential to ensure availability of zero tilling machine.

Shravasti is one of Nepal bordering districts of eastern Uttar Pradesh where a three year JTT supported agriculture project was launched in April, 2012 This was the first venture of GDS's in this area.. Agriculture sector, as a major source of livelihood, has employed 83% of the total labor force. The district has 93% small and marginal farmers having limited resources. GDS started working in Sirsiya block covering 810 small and marginal farmers living in 17 villages of 4 GPs. Almost two-thirds of these farmers are from scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. This is one of the blocks where tribal population is high and has extensive forest cover. The project area falls in the thin strip of land adjacent to Himalayan foothills wearing very low ground water aquifers causing sinking of bore wells and lifting ground water for irrigation expensive propositions. Irrigation is the crucial factor limiting the potential of agricultural productivity. Crop productivity is low. Technological percolation like other areas is inadequate in agriculture. All these factors enhance add significantly to the cost of cultivation and simultaneously cause low productivity.

**JTT supported Project on 'Revival of Agriculture Based Livelihoods in Nepal Bordering Districts of Eastern Uttar Pradesh & Northern Bihar'**

During 2014-15, the third and final year of JTT supported agriculture project, emphasis was laid on to upscaling the agriculture packages developed. The major achievements made during this period are as follows;

- I. A network of 40 farmer clubs with membership 791 (573 males & 218 females) was strengthened. These clubs were further federated in one secondary level group represented by 23 members elected from FCs. With the training to 253 members of 12 FCs, all the members were trained to recognize the importance of mutual support and collective action. 187 members were trained to develop leadership quality in them.
- II. 4 farmer resource centres (FRCs) were established with the support of above FCs and equipped with agriculture implements (Zero-till machines, diesel pumping set, land leveler etc.) to ease access to technologies. The responsibility of management of these FRCs is bestowed upon FC committees constituted and assigned with the task within them.
- III. The refined context specific PoPs was documented based on the results of field trials and made available at the cluster. All the crop interventions focusing technological promotion went with the above PoPs. Technical training sessions on PoPs were organized for all the animators particularly before onset of the agriculture season. Similarly, 1559 field based training days were spent for farmers to enrich their skills for adopting PoPs. 185 farmers were facilitated for exposure visits to successful intervention at GDS locations and agriculture institutions.
- IV. The upscaling of PoPs expanded over an area of 418 acres covering 1090 sites (539 farmers in Kharif, 390 in Rabi & 161 farmers in Zaid season) while initial field testing was taken up only at 103 sites during 1<sup>st</sup> year.
- V. Deterioration in soil health was commonly perceived to be one of the alarming issues responsible for low agricultural productivity. In response to this, 205 coordination compost pits were prepared for recycling of organic wastes and refilling of these pits was brought to the practice by the farmers. In addition, Dhaincha cultivation was done in 90.5 acres of land owned by 261 farmers for green manuring purposes. For promotion of safe culinary environment at homes, 50 improved smokeless stoves were distributed on contributory basis. A study on assessing community response towards smokeless chulha revealed that it is fuel efficient with saving cooking fuel upto 41% but it is not currently feasible to carry it to total revenue model.
- VI. The project area adjoins with forest, so the farmers were least interested for plantation as their firewood requirement is fulfilled easily. It was because of that, plantation of fruit plants was promoted and plantation of 11644 fruit plants was done by 489 farmers during the project period.

Location Coverage	
District	01
Block	01
Village Panchayats	04
Villages	17
Households	810
Community Based Institutions	
Farmer Clubs	40
Member in Farmer Clubs	791 (218 females & 573 males )
Federations	01
Federation membership	23 (5 females & 18 males)
Farmers' Resource Centre (FRCs)	04

- VII. As project initiative, 2 shade net sites were developed successfully to establish vegetable nursery in support with farmer clubs and it yielded well under the technical guidance of project.
- VIII. A study on 'People-forest relationship & their dependency on forest resources' was conducted by external consultant in Project area. It recommended for exploring alternate cooking fuel sources to minimize the dependency of local households on forests.

Since it a relatively new location for GDS, the initial achievement was to build adequate rapport with the community and win their trust to go with Project interventions. It took relatively more time as compared with other location to start real field implementation.

The reduction in cost of cultivation (10-28%) and considerable increase in crop production (13-58%) has positively impacted the facilitation process for technological percolation. Increase in crop sites by more than ten times in the third year underlined the positive response from. The capacity building of farmers and their access to technical input has been quite useful to achieve the desired results.

*Capacity building of project team:* Capacitating field staff responsible for executing the above interventions was assessed periodically and they were deputed to undergo need based trainings organized by the reputed organizations like training on design thinking and social innovation by IRMA, CPFP training by ISABS, New Delhi, and exposure to Jain Irrigation Ltd. Jalgaon to learn drip irrigation & Surabhi Research Institute, Mirzapur etc. for boosting their technical potentials. Besides, on-site technical input was provided to these staff members by internal system of GDS in support with agriculture scientists and subject matter experts from time-to-time. Hence, the interventions were adequately executed by a well trained project team.

*Linkage improved with mainstreams:* It was not merely for execution team but farmers also to move towards improved linkage with mainstreams including government departments and agriculture institutions. The interface with these



agencies yielded proximity to farmers with agriculture scientists & experts and they became more confident to interact with the government officials regarding their problems and agriculture related issues. At the same time, GDS initiatives were acknowledged by these agencies. The Project functionaries were invited to participate in district level events organized by agriculture and allied departments and various government schemes launched in the district. GDS stall in kisan mela was awarded with second prize in district kisan mela.

Apart from above, increasing incremental income of small farmers through agriculture sources targeting each household would be focused as per the revised strategic approach of SDTT during the next phase of project partnership with GDS at this location. The farmers have already taken up high value vegetable cultivation through adopting new technologies of coco-peat nursery and mulching on raised bed and earned more profit of their enhanced yields. It motivated the neighboring farmers to try upon vegetable cultivation to earn cash to meet their requirement. For GDS, it is a favorable situation as promotion of high value crops is one the major interventions to be proposed during next phase and a pathway to arrive at the project objectives but all will happen through participatory approach.

Thus, by the end of reporting period and also current phase of agriculture project, induction of agriculture PoPs could be brought to the field successfully and technological percolation has gradually created pace among farmers. However, external support would still be required for providing technical support to farmers either in their groups or individuals for some more time in future when the community based institutions own the process to sustain their agricultural profitability.



Situated within the wider region of Gangetic plains and one of the most fertile areas, Hardoi is a district of central Uttar Pradesh blessed with all the favorable conditions to promote agriculture particularly among small and marginal farmers for strengthening their livelihood. The emerging agricultural issues have led seasonal migration by a large number of them to fend for their families. Deterioration in soil health, marginalization of land holdings, inadequate input support, poor technological percolation & awareness and traditional agriculture practices are some of these issues largely impacting the crop productivity and agriculture gains to the farmers. Since last two decades, agriculture productivity has shown declining trend and emerged challenging to the development stakeholders. Aware with the fact, GDS decided to intervene in the sector to improve the situation in support with ITC in the selected area of the district during 2011-12.

### Promotion of Profitable and Sustainable Agriculture Project

Aimed at bringing about improvement in agricultural productivity, GDS started above project at Sursa block of Hardoi district in 2011-12 with the support of ITC. The overall objective of the project was to develop a context specific agriculture development model for small and marginal farmers and to upscale the same for wider replication. The entire gamut of the programme has been implemented around the farmers' collectives promoted through organizing them in farmer clubs and federation. It progressed by through experimenting, demonstrating and upscaling the PoPs in a systematic manner among the farmers. The Project is sanctioned on year-to-year basis after reviewing its progress and achievement. The year under review was the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the project and major achievements have been as follows-

- I. *Soil health improvement:* The vital issue of declining soil health was taken up to improve organic contents through using bio-mass processing. 210 compost pits were prepared under the technical guidance of experts. The filling of these pits was done by using organic wastes. 141 farmers happened to adopt Dhaincha cultivation in an area of 83 acres without any input support from GDS for green manuring of fields where paddy cultivation was done through SRI methods. Prior to these interventions, soil samples were taken from 60 sites of selected villages and dispatched to IFFCO, Phulpur, Allahabad for soil testing. Test results indicated inadequate presence of organic contents. In addition, organic test of compost, vermin compost and CPP of 7 samples was got done at IISR, Lucknow.
- II. *Farmers' Field School Sessions (FFS):* The FFS approach has been instrumental to facilitate learning process through on-site observation and guidance for a particular crop. The farmers could interact on agriculture technologies, techniques and practices during these sessions. 168 such sessions were organized when lead farmers were trained as master trainer providing guidance to student farmers and members of community groups.
- III. *Field demonstrations:* The field demonstrations focused towards using appropriate agriculture technologies for crop cultivation during Kharif and Rabi seasons.
  - Despite occurrence of draught condition, SRI method was used by 302 farmers for paddy cultivation in 250 acres and DSR method was used for the first time by 28 farmers in 28 acres with zero till. 6 units of paddy drum seeder were made available in the field. Due to inadequate rainfall, the crop growth of DSR was poor and same was the production while it has an increase of 15% in case of SRI.
  - During Rabi season, zero till and line sowing with seed drill was used for wheat cultivation in an area of 321 hectares. The other improved agricultural practices including manure application, use of nutrient supplements etc. were also done as suggested in the PoPs. Zero-tillage technology was preferred by the demonstrating farmers.
  - Availability of agriculture implements was facilitated by providing 14 conoweeders, 12 paddy drum seeders, 7 zero-till machines and 10 winnowing fans to farmer clubs for proper management. It saved time and money reducing cost of cultivation on one hand and enhancing crop production on the other.
- IV. *Plantation Programme:* Initiative was taken for block and bund plantation by the farmers on contributory basis which enabled plantation of 17473 eucalyptus and 1930 poplar plants in all the 20 villages. The quality saplings were procured from WIMCO which provided technical guidance for successful plantation. During previous year, fruit plants were also planted. Decent growth and survival of the above plants was observed. In addition to revenue generation, the plantation will help in improving environment protection.
- V. *Awareness and capacity building:* Awareness rally was organized on September 18, 2014 to widely propagate the significance of using new agriculture technologies. The people were exhorted to promote soil health improvement measures and technologies like SRI, zero-tillage etc. Messages on ITC mission 'Sunahar Kal',

agriculture technologies and practices were disseminated through wall paintings prominently displayed at 20 sites.

Keeping in mind to develop understanding about government schemes for agriculture promotion and enabling effective linkages with mainstreams, various programmes were organized; one of the them was workshop for agriculture development stakeholders including district and local level government functionaries, scientists, bank officials and representatives from funding agency. It was participated by 100 farmers benefitted with Project interventions. In another similar event, 60 farmers participated and shared their issues with the mainstream officials. It provided a platform to farmers to directly interact with government officials and seek guidance.

- VI. *Federation of farmer clubs:* Formation of federation was felt necessary to ensure sustainable support to farmer clubs (one in each of the 20 villages) to address their broader issues at a large platform. 75 famers representing all the 20 farmer clubs participated in the orientation training and decided for sketching up federation modalities. PRA exercise was taken up on December 5, 2014 with 30 farmers to assess the field situation in context with agriculture development through socio-economic mapping. The issues were identified by the responding groups and their priority was decided with mutual consensus. Water scarcity, presence of blue-bulls, water logging, alkalization of soil, unemployment, poor education and labour problems were some of the major issues identified by the participating groups.



- VII. *External exposures:* Exposure visits were facilitated for other organisations including AIMS & JCT to learn from Project interventions. The visiting team observed all the visible successful interventions during the visit. The exchange of experiences took place between the visitors and beneficiaries in support with project staff. A team of Claro Energy Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi visited the location to explore potential for solar power promotion to address the irrigation issue, if feasible in the area.
- VIII. Regular review of progress was made as an internal exercise on monthly basis to critically assess the performance and plan for next month. Review by senior staff from GDS and also from funding agency was emphasized each quarter to provide strategic input and timely guidance to achieve project's objectives.

The expertise of senior representatives from ITC was utilized to develop skills about logical framework approach to trace out broader issues of the community, identify and analyze local problems and devise appropriate plan to resolve these issues.

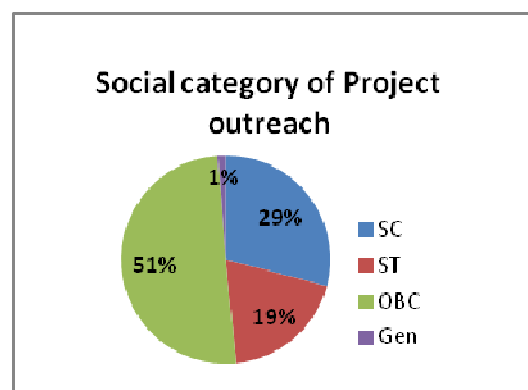
The context specific agriculture PoPs developed on the basis of field experimentation and trials needs upscaling in the larger areas having similar context in other areas of the district. By doing so, more farmers will be benefitted and their agriculture based sustainable livelihood would also be strengthened with gainful activities.



Lalitpur district falls in Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh sharing its border with Guna, Sagar and Tikamgarh districts of Madhya Pradesh. The entire Bundelkhand region consists 7 districts from UP and 6 districts from MP. Lalitpur is well known for its culture, peace and natural beauty. Betwa, Dhasan and Jamini rivers flow through the district. The district is characterized by sub-tropical climate; very hot dry summer and cold winter. GDS entered into Birdha block of the district with induction of erstwhile 'The livelihood augmentation and women's empowerment' Project supported by DFID under PACS programme long back in the year 2006. The women were encouraged in all the 45 project villages to organize them in SHGs. Dry land agriculture techniques were tried upon in an area of 350 acres. Keeping in mind the semi-arid nature of climate, initiative was taken to promote natural resources based livelihoods focusing towards soil and water conservation with the support of JTT in 2008 after completion of the PACS project. Since it needed advocacy at large platform to address their broader issues, it was conceived to federate these SHGs at secondary level to undertake rather broader area of action amalgamating representation by all the existing groups. Another intervention focusing goat based livelihood promotion was started in 2013. Depending upon achievement made in coherent with the project objectives, support from JTT continued during the coming years. During the implementation process of the above interventions, significant learnings evolved to be exercised for replication in community based initiatives in future.

### Improving livelihood through natural resources and agriculture development

Started in October, 2012 with the support of JTT, the water & soil conservation initiative integrated with promotion of dry land agriculture has reached out 3578 households residing in 45 villages of 26 village panchayats in Birdha block of Lalitpur district. Prior to current year, micro planning of watershed and agriculture development was done which enabled field bunding in 335 hectares, 5 field ponds and lakes. It impacted conversion of 43 acres of barren land into cultivable area which provoked to go into further similar micro planning covering 35 villages in next phase. The dependency of livelihood of almost 99% families in these villages lies on agriculture sector and the average landholding of each family is 1.6 hectare. Rain-fed agriculture, low fertile rocky soil & sloping land, soil erosion, lack of irrigation and unavailability of quality seeds are some of the major challenges in this area. The project upholds 3 components; (1) Agriculture development, (2) Soil & water conservation, and (strengthening community based institutions) and the major achievement made under these are as follows;



#### (1) Agriculture based activities

Based on the context specific dry land agriculture PoPs particularly emphasizing on soil & seed treatment, Reduction in seed rate, balanced used of chemical fertilizers and promotion of using bio-fertilizers, agriculture interventions filtered down in 11 villages during Kharif and 32 villages in Rabi seasons. Before onset of Kharif season soil testing of their demo plots was got done by 47 farmers. Demonstration of black gram (variety Azad 2) and JS 9560 variety of Soybean was held with 133 farmers in 160 acres under the technical guidance of subject matter specialists. All the practices, as guided, were put to crop fields including timely weeding, disease control etc. with due care by the concerned farmers. Despite low rainfall causing inadequate irrigation to these crops, an average increase of 69% in production of black gram and 50% in Soybean could be achieved by the demonstrating farmers. It highly impacted the project area as 70% farmers preferred for seed replacement through varietal change of black gram and storage of 75 quintals of seed was arranged collectively by them. More than two third of them have started weeding practices intensively to get better yields of pulses.

Encouraged by Kharif yields, 936 farmers went with the PoPs demonstrating wheat, pea, gram and lentil in total area of 2048 acres but their crops were severely damaged by excessive rains. The pulse crops were entirely devastated whereas an increase in wheat and pea production was achieved by 29.2% and 21.8% respectively even in the high erratic climatic condition.

The farmers had to wear with loss due to using sub-standard quality of seeds purchased from local market for Kharif crops. It paved the way out to go for seed production at their own during Rabi season. With the 50% financial support from



federation, production of wheat seeds in 52 acres and pea in 40 acres was taken over the farmers committed to return 50% additional produce to what they procured as seed from federation.

## **(2) Soil & Water Conservation**

Field bunding was started to improve the declining soil health in this rocky and sloping land. Earlier, the reluctance existed to go with the intervention for its invisible direct impact but the enhancing moisture retaining capacity for 15-12 days motivated the farmers for its adoption. 206.59 hectares could be covered for field bunding by 204 farmers. The height of bunds depends upon the ramping of land with 80 or 100 centimeters. In this semi-arid region, the wells are prepared with average diameter sized 9-10 meters for quick exudative filling. Digging of one such well was done to provide irrigation to 26 acres cultivable land of 13 farmers contributing 30% of the total cost incurred in. Now, the above well has 8 meters deep water and farmers will opt for cash crops. Renovation of 7 wells; 5 in thick soil layered and 2 in rocky land, was facilitated and the average water level increased by 3 meters in these wells which helped in watering wheat crops. Drip and sprinkling irrigation was initiated to promote water saving by providing 40 sets of sprinklers on 30% cost contribution by the beneficiaries. It will reduce the women labour for irrigation and men will take more interest in irrigation work.

All the above activities were carried out with the active support of watershed committees organized in the project villages. These committees were involved during situation analysis, surveying and entire planning process. Water Users' Groups (WUGs) were also formed to manage the water sources, thus created, for judicious use. The *modus operandi* of the whole intervention is decided and reinforced in villages by these groups.

## **(3) Strengthening Community Based Institutions**

Women empowerment was at the crux while preparing village women for SHG formation to make them self-reliant for their socio-economic development. It was since PACS programme that energizing the mutual support for collective response towards local socio-economic issues continues through organizing task focused local groups. The groups were identified as SHGs, GRGs, VWMGs and WUGs within the village and federation at cluster level.

- **Self-help Groups of Women:** Currently, 199 SHGs are functional with membership of 2237 women and engaged in thrift and credit practices in their respective villages. The average membership ranges 10-15 women in each group. 23 new SHGs were organized including 20 old that were re-organized with some replacement. Revitalization of 62 SHGs was also taken as these were found underperforming. These SHGs were capacitated for group management, enhancing leadership quality, credit planning, devising prospective plan and livelihood strengthening for their smooth functioning and effective management. 156 SHGs opened their bank accounts with the local branches of 4 scheduled banks. Revolving fund of Rs. 15,000/- was realized by 7 SHGs under NRLM. 90% SHGs have increased monthly savings by 3-5 times as compared to last year excluding those (10%) constituted by 'Sahariyas' without any increase.
- **Secondary level community institutions (Federations):** With the merger of Indira Gandhi Samuh Sangh, only 2 federations namely Ekta and Maharani Laxmibai existed in Balabehat and Jakhlaun clusters representing 189 SHGs of the area. These federations continued providing managerial and financial support to member SHGs. 30% of their expenditure is contributed by SHGs through paying service charges. Hence, a sustainable process evolved to run the entire community support system with sole ownership.
- **Sensitization of CBIs:** Exposure visit of federation team was arranged at GDS Jawaja location in Ajmer district of Rajasthan state to observe successful model of women owned federation engaged in business promotion of aloe vera produce. It helped them to learn strengthening of sustainable operation of the federations. Interfaces with the mainstream officials created confidence in them to interact with the appropriate authority for their rights and



entitlements. Sessions on gender sensitization, AIDS, anaemia, age at marriage, girl child education, sanitation etc. were organized through these women groups in their villages.

### She got the way.....

“Perspective plan is in hand to go with onion and chilli cultivation in forthcoming (2015) Kharif season with potential of net income amounting approx. Rs. 60,000/- followed by pea cultivation in an area of one acre for Rs. 40,000/- as net income during Rabi season. We are confident of achieving almost 40-50% more yields for other Rabi crops” Champabai’s face shone in happiness as she shared her dreams. She is a progressive woman farmer from Piprai village.

Water scarcity adversely effects agriculture work in sloping and rocky land region of Bundelkhand where. It severely impacts the man power and agricultural routines resulting in low crop productivity. GDS has been striving to improve soil health and local water sources through renovation of existing wells and percolating new technologies like drip and sprinkler irrigation in the villages of Birdha block in Lalitpur district. Piprai is one of these villages having similar geographic context and it was selected for micro water conservation development component of GDS’s programme. Increasing water level for improved irrigation in thick soil layered and also rocky soil layered wells was included in micro plan prepared in consultation with the experts. Champabai, has 11 members in her family and the family earns livelihood from agriculture and wages. Her cultivable land is situated adjacent to the forest and the irrigation facility available for her field is only a well with no other option to additional 22 acres of land owned by Sahariya community in the surroundings. Consequently, 80% of the total land is barren.

The deepening of above well was planned and executed through blasting method to deepen it by 3.5 meters for to enhance its water holding capacity. The water available out of dewatering process at the time of renovation of the well, was used for sowing wheat crop in 8 acres and watering of the wheat crop cultivated in 12 acres by others was also done. Since the sowing period of pulses was over by this time, she decided for barley cultivation. On harvesting, she could get additional 22 quintals of yield. In addition, she could generate Rs. 24,000/- in cash as water charges from the neighbouring farmers.

As a recurring event, women’s day was observed by the federations through organizing a cluster level women conference attended by 650 women when Ekta federation earned commitment from village pradhan to award a piece of land for establishing its office premise.

- **Innovative approach by CBIs:** As an innovative approach, the federations initiated Udaan and Swavalamban (Flying & self-dependence) awards to be given to eligible women. These awards would be given to mothers for marrying their daughter at right age of marriage and SHG members showing successful model of entrepreneurship through federation support. The mothers of 3 girls were awarded with Udaan and Rs. 1,100/- given to each of them as token of marriage gift to be given to their daughter. The cash award is sourced from local donors. Mrs. Sunita, Ram Sakhi and Parveen Sahjad Khan were selected for Udaan while Mrs. Bhuri, Kamla and Sheila for Swavalamban.

The project has made significant learnings for precautionary measures to be taken during field bunding and deciding appropriate cropping pattern. The farmers could take decision for arranging quality inputs particularly crop seeds at their level. To go ahead, vegetable cultivation with focus on onion and chilli will be promoted taking into consideration the context and feasibility. Field bunding and construction of wells will be expanded and SHGs would be linked with NRLM through revised strategy.

Accommodating number of national and state headquarters of public and private sector agencies, Lucknow is state capital of Uttar Pradesh, the largest populated state of India known for its multicultural settlements. It is growing as one of the fastest job creating cities in the country. The urban population in last ten years, as per census 2011, has increased by 22.3% with the total population of 28, 17,105 under municipal corporation area. Considering the strategic importance of the city, GDS has decided at its inception to locate its headquarters in the city. The senior leadership as well as the accounts section of the organisation is located here and provides governance and administrative support to its field locations in UP, Bihar and Rajasthan states. The broader strategic approaches are defined and transformed to actual happening in the field under the overall guidance and observation by head office. Exploration of potentials for development stakes serving the organizational objectives continues as central initiative taking into account the empathy with poor to specifically bring qualitative change in their lives. The major responsibilities consist of coordination with various donor partners, government & voluntary agencies and other development stakeholders at state, national and international levels.

Besides the head office, there are two programmes that are also taken up at Lucknow location-

1. The Livelihood Resource Centre (LRC) of GDS
2. The 'Destination End' component of GDS's Migration Programme

### 1. Livelihood Resource Centre (LRC)

Coordination with field level implementation of livelihood interventions is the major programmatic focus of LRC at HO represented by a team of senior staff of GDS. During 8 years of its establishment, the Centre has been striving to design and implement coordination upholds within GDS outreach. Theme based specific strategic support is provided to field locations through LRC under the close guidance and observation of GDS head office. During the year 2014-15, the major contribution of the centre, as in the last two years, was to ensure GDS coordination role in implementing JTT supported network project. The followings were the major achievements made by LRC during the year;

- I. **Support to JTT supported Agriculture Project:** The centrally located GDS Coordination Unit of JTT supported agriculture project could accomplish the following tasks;
  - *Capacity building programmes* for project team working at all the 9 clusters were conducted on technical and financial aspects from time-to-time. These programmes included training on context specific PoPs, agriculture technologies and practices for crop cultivation, soil health improvement, organizing community based institutions and other proposed under the project utilizing the expertise of individuals and institutions. Trainings on good practices for crop management to senior team members, gender mainstreaming in agriculture, technical training to Krishi Mitra, kitchen gardening, CPFP by ISABS (New Delhi) and MDPs (IRMA, Anand) were given to team and coordination unit members as well. In all, 122 persons underwent 7 trainings in addition to 2 exposure visits arranged for 7 staff members during the year.
  - *Programme review & planning* for agriculture project could be undertaken on quarterly and annual basis with the participation of Project teams and representatives from funding agency. The annual review was organized for all the SDTT partners in eastern UP & northern Bihar.
  - Publication and distribution of quarterly news letter '*Ajeevika Varta*' was made for all the 4 quarters of the year 2014-15. It contained useful articles on agriculture based livelihoods and other social aspects disseminated among its 200 regular readers from development sector and community as well.
  - LRC is equipped with printed materials (books, periodicals, journals etc.) on relevant subjects for useful references by the GDS staff. Besides, it has developed plentiful livelihood & community focused training modules for staff and community. In addition, subscription to website '*Indiastat.com*' was also made effective for accessing comprehensive data on relevant sectors. The resource materials on development interventions are usually collected, processed and distributed to concerned individuals and agencies from time-to-time.
  - **Research studies on critical agriculture related issues;** (1) Decline in soil organic content - causes & remedies, (2) Bio-gas technology for floodplains of UP & Bihar –suitable models and operational guidelines, (3) People-forest relationship & their dependency on forest resources, (4) study on best agricultural practices, (5) Community response towards using smokeless chulha and (6) Climate stress

resilient cropping systems were conducted in support with external consultants. Some sub-sector based studies were also conducted at cluster level in support with LRC.

- II. **Organisational Review of GDS by external agency:** A 2-member team of consultants deputed by SDTT took up organizational review of GDS on December 8-13, 2014 to assess the organizational capabilities of governance, management and field implementation. LRC played its significant role to facilitate the entire review process in office and field locations as well. The team performed a critical review and submitted its report to SDTT prior to consideration of next phase of agriculture project. The report was shared with GDS also which reflects positive remarks recommending to continue with the agriculture extension approach. The LRC, of course, needs resources was felt by the team.
- III. **GDS programmes review, learning & planning workshop:** As regular internal exercise, review of all GDS programmes was made to assess the progress, identify gaps and concrete planning for future at the single platform enabling mutual learning and interacting with each other on August 21-23, 2014 at Lucknow. The senior staff shared their critic observations on performances with the implementing team of each location and decided action points for future compliances. The status of compliances responding to action points emerged during lastly held Lalitpur retreat was also brought to the forum. The event enabled to identify 21 actionable points focusing on management and execution of programmes to be complied in the ensuing period and 4-point agenda as organizational resolution. A 5-member committee was constituted to provide strategic input for organizational strengthening of GDS and serving as think tank to GDS.
- IV. **Capacity building of new entrants in GDS:** The process of induction to newly recruited staff focusing on GDS perspective of development had slowed down during last 2-3 years as felt by the management. Having assessed the need to capacitate the new entrants in the light of above, 4 day training on 'The dimensions of economic and social development' was conducted for 28 staff members (employed within last 3 years) assigned with the field and office jobs and minimum one from each GDS location. It enabled them to develop conceptual understanding about economic and social development dimensions, perspective building about GDS approaches and skills to contribute as development professionals to the organization.
- V. **Exploration of new avenues:** The senior level management staff continued exploring additional resources for launching need based interventions. Proposals for further extension of existing projects and new interventions are prepared and submitted to concerned funding agency. GDS succeeded to get ensured extension of some of the existing and also approval for new interventions from funding agencies. It intends to access CSR counters to widen the outreach geographically and programmatically and has started to initiate the process though in narrowed way at this stage.
- VI. **Coordination with other stakeholders:** As field implementing agency of voluntary sector, GDS has represented its development stakes at various forums at state and nation level as well to impact approaches, strategies and policies within the purview of its mission. It participated in various development related district and state level events organized by government and voluntary sectors to share its experiences amongst them.



In nutshell, LRC is primarily engaged in knowledge management of the GDS recites for its internal consumption and support to external development environment. It, however, would need to be strengthened for professional capacities to contribute as a resource centre more effectively.

## **2. Promoting safe and beneficial migration in UP (Destination end, Lucknow)**

As one of the metropolitan cities of UP, Lucknow has the largest urban population with high job opportunities for both skilled and unskilled labour. Cyclical and seasonal migration of poor particularly from rural areas has rapidly progressed for more gainful opportunities. Its positive impact lies on economic growth of the migrants but leaving them with palpable risks and hazards at the destination end. During migration, the vulnerability of their life at the large cities like Lucknow tends to be the poor living condition, arbitrary terms of employment galvanized with low or no negotiation opportunity, remittances to their homes, increased workload on family members particularly women and insecurity to emotional life to their dependents. The crucial issue they face at destination is their identity as they lack local identity even living for a long time.

Taking into consideration the above facts, the project was taken up at Lucknow with the support of SDTT in the year 2009 covering 7 labour chaurahas and 44 labour pockets in the city and its outskirts. The migrant settlements were identified at the colonies of Janakipuram, Gomtinagar, Indira Nagar, Mulayam Nagar and Chinhat areas of the city.

### ***Major activities during 2014-15***

- 36 awareness events were carried out and registration of 3172 migrants done. 292 workers were registered with CLWB.
- Aadhar card issued to 3117 migrants and 455 workers got ID cards.
- 15 legal literacy sessions were conducted for 368 migrants.
- 913 migrants participated in health awareness meetings organized within their reach.
- One labor collective organized and process of registration with UP labour deptt. is underway.
- 116 migrants having registration with CLWB were provided bi-cycles and 189 given solar light system free of cost under state labour welfare schemes.
- 26 workers were linked with NPS and bank account was opened by 1034 migrants.
- Two research studies on; (1) Socio-economic status of migrant brick Klin workers in and around Lucknow, UP and (2) Health hazards to migrants engaged in construction sector- health services & facilities, were conducted and documented.
- IEC materials (booklet, pamphlets, handouts etc) were developed and used during awareness activities.
- The senior project staff participated in national and regional level advocacy for migrants' issues organized by PBI in Delhi and Yugantar in Hyderabad. Participation in AKAM network activities was ensured as and when required.

### ***Capacity building of project team***

The selected team members were deputed to participate in the training/certification programmes organized by TISS, Mumbai (PA-1), Ajeevika Bureau (PA-1) and GDS (6 staff members) for their perspective building and skills enhancement to carry on the project interventions in more effective way. On-site handholding technical input was given to 15 Shramik Mitras in two rounds for their capacity building.

The Project has definitely moved forward and has gathered pace after the slow start. Shramik Sahayata Kendra (SSK) at both the locations have got popularity among migrants and the project team has, by now, got experiences to recognize the key issues of migrants and started facilitating the basic services of identification, linkages etc. to them. Preparing the migrants to realize their rights and entitlements would be intensified in future.

Multi-disaster prone districts of Muzaffarpur and Sitamarhi fall in north-west alluvial agro-climatic zone of Bihar state. Climatic variability induced problems specifically recurring cycle of flooding and drought have added woes of both the districts. The predominance of small size holdings characterizes the area having high density of population. Inadequate agriculture technological percolation, scarce availability of quality input, age long cultivation practices and deteriorating soil health have led to increase the cost of agriculture production at stagnating situation. It was in 2007, GDS ushered with some agriculture based interventions in support with JTT. Despite being three crop areas, the Kharif season agriculture is sensitive to potential losses from floods and water logging. The issues were well taken not merely in the initial phase of the project but in a more focused way during its 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of implementation. Considering its humanitarian approach for disaster risk reduction, the selected villages of neighboring West Champaran district were brought under community based cross border flood early warning system in 2013 to establish sustainable community response towards flood preparation in their villages situated nearby Gandak River.

GDS covered an approx. 10000 households living in 87 villages of 32 village panchayats spread over 6 community development blocks namely Runni Saidpur, Belsand & Parasauni blocks of Sitamarhi, Sakra & Muraul blocks of Muzaffarpur and Bagaha-II block of West Champaran district in Bihar. A network of total 234 community groups was created with membership 2895 persons to prepare the community for ownership of the various initiatives on sustainable basis.

### **1. Revival of agriculture based livelihoods in Nepal bordering districts of eastern Uttar Pradesh & northern Bihar**

As one of the 3 locations where GDS has direct intervention, the project activities were conducted in Runni Saidpur (Sitamarhi), Sakra & Muraul blocks (Muzaffarpur) covering 1097 small and marginal farmers (63.9% being OBC & 24% SC/ST) to enhance their crop production at reduced cost of cultivation. Tilting towards piloting and upscaling of agriculture PoPs already developed in previous phase, the Project interventions were dedicated for agriculture extension through popularization of technologies, techniques and practices integrated with soil health improvement measures. It was the only GDS direct cluster where improved goat rearing practices were promoted as one of the project components. All these field courses were taken in support with the community based institutions existing in the area. This three year project ended in March, 2015 with an extension of only one month and no furthermore. Some major achievements made during the reporting year are summarized as below;

- I. Capacity building of CBIs*
  - 130 leaders and 968 members from 66 CBIs (13 SHGs & 53FCs) were capacitated to adopt group management practices, appreciate mutual support spirit, and initiate collective response to promote agriculture interventions launched by GDS in the area.
  - One residential training was given to PPC board members to enhance their governance skills and management practices this year. Three day training was given to them on business plan development.
  - Varietal demonstrations on turmeric (Rajendra Sonia & Rajendra Sonali) were done for comparative study and Rajendra Sonia was found better on its colour quality ground.
- II. PoPs were finalized and documented to make it available in field for use by the stakeholders and farmers as well. 37 field based farmers' trainings were conducted to a total of 129 in 3 years to conceptualize and imbibe PoPs for field adoption.*
- III. Upscaling of PoPs was done with 926 farmers in Kharif and 705 in Rabi season. These farmers were overlapped during the three seasons. Total land coverage of 626.5 acres was under improved PoPs promotion during the year. The technologies like SSP, zero-tillage, & coco-peat nursery were preferred among them. The field testing and piloting of PoPs were already taken up during previous years.*
- IV. Soil health improvement:* In all, 62 orientation programmes were conducted on soil health improvement sensitizing farmers about soil health issues and corrective measures to be adopted. 452 farmers prepared coordination pit for organic compost processing and 150 farmers demonstrated cow pat pit. Green manuring was done by 755 farmers in an area of 386 acres. 19 syntax gobar gas plants were also installed to save cow dung being used for cooking fuel.



- V. During the project period, *Plantation* of 24206 plants (su-babool & fruit plants) was done by the farmers preferably for their own domestic consumption and revenue generation in some cases.
- VI. *Promotion of goat based livelihood*: 231 quality goats and 2 breeding bucks were inducted in 110 *goat rearing* families. For providing basic health care and referral services to these goats, a local volunteer base termed as Pashu Sakhi was developed and capacitated for efficient working. 4 Pashu Sakhis continued providing services in their respective villages. They were supplied with necessary kits and equipment particularly for providing vaccination to goats.
- VII. *Other initiatives*
  - One smokeless stove was given to each of the 58 households to reduce the use of cow dung cakes for cooking fuel and promote healthy culinary practices.
  - KSNM brand paddy drum seeder was given to 8 SHGs/FCs for collective use by their members.
  - Total 6 paddy threshing machines were provided aiming at reducing drudgery.
  - Demonstration of bamboo toilets was done at 16 sites to promote sanitation and also bamboo based livelihood.

## 2. Improved Rice Based Rain-fed Agricultural Systems (IRRAS)

Increasing crop productivity and reducing the risk of rain-fed rice based cropping system was at the crux of project objectives as envisaged for CRS supported 4 year IRRAS Project starting from January, 2012 in selected villages of Sitamarhi and West Champaran districts of Bihar. It focuses on creating a functional adaptive research pipeline to develop context specific agriculture PoPs (technologies, techniques & practices) and propagate through interactive knowledge exchange network among the small farmers. During 2014-15, the third year of project implementation, the project has been effective in the following way;



- Demonstration of Swarna Sub-1 in 12 villages and Sambha Mansoori Sub-1 in 8 villages was done through using DSR by ZT in 2-3 full submergence hit area.
- It was observed that Swarna Sub-1 had more stress tolerance capacity as compared with others but the rice of Sambha Mansoori Sub-1 is finer. SS-1 is preferred for its high yield. Re-germination of above varieties was also observed at some villages.
- Varietal change was made by introducing PL-8 variety of lentil and HD 2967/K9351 in 15 villages through using zero-tillage for line sowing over 20 plots.
- Use of super bag was demonstrated with 100 farmers for safe storage of grains and seeds.
- Linkages were well established with local KVKs, RAU, PUSA & TCA Dholi and stakeholders' meeting was organized to share the major achievements with mainstreams and other local development players.
- Interactive events like farmers' engagement, farmers' fair etc. were organized for farmers to share their concerns and experiences. Their exposure visits were facilitated to observe station trials at RAU PUSA and KVK.

The on-site technical support given by TAC was helpful in making the demonstration a way for learning by farmers. It paved space for learning to others willing to go with the interventions directly or indirectly.

### **3. Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction in Multi-hazard Prone Sitamarhi district in Bihar**

Community based management system for disaster risk reduction was taken up by GDS to develop a sustainable model in Runni Saidpur and Belsand blocks of multi-hazard prone Sitamarhi district with the support of UNICEF. So far, the Project interventions covered 7704 households living in 30 selected villages of these two blocks. CBDRR and SSP interventions were intensified in these villages and schools. Local voluntary groups of the community and school were organized for disaster management initiatives to be taken locally by the sufferer themselves. The community participation in the entire process of planning and execution of DRR interventions was emphasized upon through establishing response mechanism for appropriate preparedness and timely action by the local people.

#### *Key Activities undertaken*

- Strengthening of 30 VDMCs and 15 SDMCs was done in all the project villages.
- 180 VDMC members deputed from all the 30 VDMCs were trained in risk management, preparing DRR, tracking implementation, review & updating of DRR plan.
- 164 MAM babies linked with AWC by task force and 78 of them entered in normal category.
- Mainstream leverage worth Rs. 9, 65, 54,400/- was realized under various schemes.
- 258 hand pumps (139 new & 119 old) were either installed or repaired by PHED under safe drinking water mission.
- Construction of new school building at 11 sites was done by Basic Education Department under the observation of VDMCs & SDMCs to maintain quality parameters.
- Repairing and construction of 25 toilets and 10 hand pumps was facilitated through PHED.
- Refresher training was given to selected peer educators and students to enhance disaster awareness as routine task. Cleanliness drive was carried out in 6 villages by VDMCs & 3 SDMCs.
- Project document on school safety scale-up programme developed and shared with DDMA.
- District level sensitization workshop on school safety scaling-up organized for district level government authorities for horizontal expansion of the programme and process started in 4 blocks (Runni Saidpur, Belsand, Parasauni and Nanpur).
- With the induction 12 new, total 15 catalysts were active and their capacity building on CBDRR issues was done by the project. They actively coordinated with their respective disaster management committees.
- Block level sharing and orientation events were organized for all the stakeholders.

Disaster risk reduction involves a well planned and coordinated venture of responsible agencies but simultaneous initiatives would be needed for adequate collective response from sufferers at opportune time. Local committees and catalysts proved as frontline support providers to reduce disaster risks at community level. School children have the potential to go for helping as they are more susceptible and can be developed for long sustainable action.



It was in 2001 when GDS ushered its development stake in Ajmer and Nagaur districts of Rajasthan state. Subsequently after 3 years, it concentrated in Jawaja block of Ajmer district intensifying NRM for poverty alleviation in support with UNDP. The block is covered under Plato and East Rajasthan hills and plain region with least congenial agro-climatic characteristics and the frequent drought situation enforces to seasonal/permanent migration for fending a large number of families living in this area. The locally available major source of livelihood is wage labour and livestock especially ruminant goat and sheep. GDS interventions were planned considering the local context and situational requirement particularly for strengthening the agriculture based livelihoods and enabling the process of women empowerment.

During the year 2014-15, GDS outreach has been to 4740 households at least 50% of them being small farmers having land size of one hectare or less whereas more than 95% households were from OBC. The location covers 76 villages spread over 31 village panchayats in Jawaja block of Ajmer district and adjoining to this Raipur block of Pali district. Diverse geographic condition exists in these two blocks and the livelihood opportunities depend upon the local context as mentioned earlier. GDS development interventions taken up during the reporting period are summarized as follows;

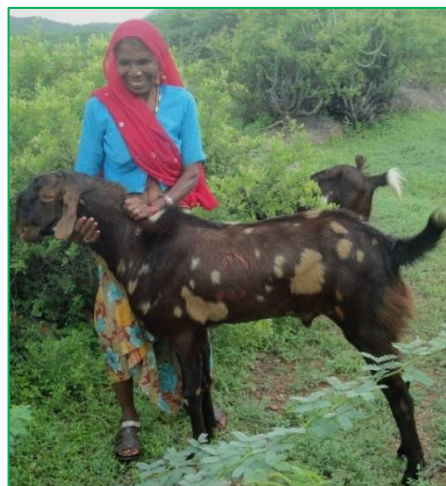
### **1. Strengthening of goat based livelihoods**

Started in 2012 with the support of JTT, the Project was taken up covering 300 goat rearing families in 10 villages spread over 3 GPs of Raipur block in Pali district. Agriculture based livelihoods has meagre scope due to poor geographic condition for cultivation in these villages. Livestock especially small ruminant; sheep and goat based livelihood is adopted mostly by Raika community in the area. The Project focused towards promoting improved goat rearing practices among the rearers for feeding, breeding and health care of goats to ensure their regular income enhanced through better survival, quality improvement and productivity. Induction of local volunteers called '*Pashu Sakhi*' proved to be a successful model for promotion of sustainable goat based livelihoods. The followings were the major achievements of the Project;

- *Sustainable community support system*  
The goat rearers were prepared to organize themselves at village level to collectively response towards their broad issues of goat rearing. Thus, 10 goat rearer groups (GRGs) were functional with membership 308 one in each project village. However, 2 GRGs still needed capacity building input and these are under performing as observed. In another initiative taken to create local cadre, 10 Pashu Sakhis were trained on basic health care services to goats and assigned with the responsibility to cater services in their own villages. It enabled them to earn a monthly income ranging between Rs. 500 - Rs. 1500/- as their individual gain whereas basic health care services including vaccination, de-worming, first-aid etc. of goats are made available at their doorstep on demand.
- With the induction 116 new quality goats this year, the cumulative induction was 319 goats whereas 20 breeding bucks were also inducted for breed improvement. Concentrate nutrient feed weighing 25 quintals and 200 mineral bricks were used by 295 families.
- On recommendation of KVK Ajmer, Azola cultivation was started with 22 farmers as fodder for their goats. 89 goat rearers started using manager and 210 farmers for plastic pot whereas 66 farmers used water tub for their goats.
- Milk yield increased by 50% and kidding gap reduced to one in a year. Twin birth percentage went up by 20% and due to health improvement; the minimal abortion level was achieved.
- The goat mortality rate reduced to 4-5% due to healthy improved rearing practices including timely vaccination. Risk mitigation was also covered under SSY initiated at community level.
- Improved breeding service was made available to 806 goats got through quality bucks on payment basis and the sale price of breeding bucks also went high.
- The marketing practice of pricing of goat on live body weight added additional gain of 25-30% which benefitted the farmers.

The project interventions and also some innovations including community led risk mitigation, pricing on live body weight, Azola cultivation for fodder, kids nursery have highly impacted the goat rearing practices to reduce the mortality rate, birth spacing and appropriate kidding, enhanced milk production etc. resulting in 30-35% increase in the income from goat rearing activities.

The basic health care services of goat being provided by local women were recognized by the community in monetary terms and social acknowledgement as well. The women from goat rearing families had control over proceeds earned out of goat rearing to decide its utilization pattern within the family.



## 2. Strengthening of FPO (GAPCL, Jawaja)

Wholly owned by the women farmers as agro-based business enterprise, Grameen Aloe Producer Co. Ltd. established in 2009 continued in business promotion of aloe-vera juice involving 355 women members for aloe-vera cultivation. The role of SHGs and their federations has been crucial to initiate entrance of primary producers of aloe-vera into agri-business venture utilizing their entrepreneurship potentials. The women federations had been driving force to evolve strategy and take decision to go with the intervention, though externally supported by GDS at close and ICCO & Kerk Actie through GDS. It has a well structured governance & management system and processing unit at Jawaja. Presently, there are 97 shareholders associated with it. GDS in coordination with MicroSave helped in technical aspect and sought resources for capacitating the Company. The major achievements made by the Company are briefed as follows;

- As mandatory for all production units, GAPCL got registered under FSSAI 2006. A process manual was also developed with the help of MicroSave.
- New collaboration emerged with Mahi Farmer Producer Co. Dungarpur, Surabhi Mahila Cooperative Banswara and Vrindavan Farmer Producer Co. Udaipur.
- Product range expanded to offer diverse products shifting from uni-product to multi-products marketing. It has offered desired results and increased market penetration.
- Exploration of market potentials continued to find new buyers for bulk sale. Display and sale of products in trade fairs (one of them at India International Trade Fair, New Delhi: 23-25 Nov'14) and rural markets (locally approached at 7 sites) has been the business promotion strategy. For better market penetration, exploration for more resources to appear competitive for quality and price in the market was emphasized upon.
- 55 women producers were trained for marketing skills to fetch fair prices of their produces and the expertise of resource persons from National Institute of Agriculture Marketing (NIAM), Jaipur was utilized to train them.

Within its limited resources and technical know-how, GAPCL emerged as the first of its kind entirely women owned FPO engaged in agriculture based enterprising in this region. The turn-over of the Company at this stage was below the expectation but for certain reasons; lacking of financial input, a major of them. Padding with additional financial input, the quality and quantum of products may be improved and the needful efforts were made to find such potential resources through approaching them and convincing for own purposes.



### 3. Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran project (MKSP)

As denotes the title, the network project started in May 2013 in Jawaja block of Ajmer district aiming at promoting women empowerment process in agriculture sector through their capacity building for adopting improved farming practices to strengthen livelihoods with the joint support of CMF, SRTT and MoRD, GOI. In all, 1308 farming households represented by woman family members were covered by the end of reporting period. Organizing these women in groups and capacitating them to identify and address their local issues pertaining to agriculture based livelihoods were the key strategic initiatives to create a sustainable base for agriculture development in this area. Induction of local volunteers (Krishi Sakhi) having basic technical knowledge and engaging them to utilize their knowledge in the fields was testified through field sessions.

The project activities were planned to address key issues underlined in support with the local farming community. Agriculture PoPs based maize cultivation was taken up to enhance productivity and also reduce cost of cultivation. In response to above the followings were the main activities conducted under the project;

- Community mobilization for sustainable action:* With the induction of 31 new farmer groups, there were 53 such group functional with membership 1318 in 49 project villages. Group management trainings were conducted for smooth functioning of the group and help them to adhere with the group modalities. 50 training sessions were organized out of which 28 trainings were organized as refresher course to woman farmers focusing towards technical enrichment for adoption of PoPs. It was the impact of project motivation that despite their traditional bashfulness, 49 woman farmers accepted to contribute as 'Krishi Sakhi' which they never had been exposed to and started working in their respective villages after undergoing technical training. Their services were recognized and appreciated by the local community.
- Promotion of crop cultivation based on PoPs:* Maize and wheat are the major crops being cultivated in the semi-arid region. Varietal changes for using quality seed of maize and technological input were emphasized upon. The PoPs, designed with the involvement of local farmers and agriculture experts, helped the woman farmers to achieve significantly enhanced yield up to 30-40% which encouraged them for future adoption. Maize cultivation was attempted for the first time during Rabi season. Similarly, the production of wheat also increased by 26% by adopting PoPs even in the unfavorable climatic condition aroused due to untimely rainfall. Despite water scarcity, vegetable cultivation could be practiced though at very small scale using the coco-peat technology for nursery development.
- Women drudgery reduction in agriculture work:* Women have a major share of work in agriculture and fall at stake of drudgery due to poor technological penetration. Initiatives were taken to arrange availability of women friendly agricultural implements; 200 nos. of maize sailers and improved suckles each, weeder & spray machines to 55 woman farmers, 5 urea broadcaster, 25 hazara sets and 11 dibblers in the project area for their collective use.

Type of CBI	By the end of reporting period	
	No.	Members
SHG	405	4740
VLI	22	296
SHG Federation	2	296
GRG	71	1906
Aloe-vera Producer Group	32	355
Mahila Kisan Group	53	1308

### 4. Women empowerment through Sakh-se-Vikas

The women empowerment process started long back in 2004 at this location traveling through appropriate strategic shifts in phases with the external support of funding agencies. Existence of sustainable development fettle of this process has obvious reflection over GDS perspective of women empowerment even on withdrawal of external support in September 2013. The entire SHG network associated with apex level federation is functional and self reliant for functioning with minimal external support in both the blocks namely Jawaja in Ajmer and Raipur in Pali district. Strengthening and capacity building of the above community based institutions have led towards their socio-economic empowerment through a well established operational and managerial mechanism involving 4740 families in the above two blocks. A brief delineation on its progress can be brought in the following way;

- 405 SHGs functional in the area were associated with 2 federations. The total membership of SHGs was 4740 (all women). There were 22 village level community institutions with membership 296.
- Suraj Mahila Mahasangh provided technical resource at the behest of Rajasthan State Rural Livelihood Mission by deputing its trained 20 CRPs to conduct training sessions in neighboring districts of the state and earn rupees 15-20 thousand on monthly basis. The capacity building programmes helped to enrich their knowledge and skills about group activities.
- The federations coordinated with NRLM to facilitate technical training on resource management and book keeping for their 30 CRPs and 20 book-keepers. GDS also coordinated with NIAM for training on marketing skills of federation leaders and Krishi Sakhi in February 2015.
- So far, the total savings made by SHGs was Rs. 1, 69, 06,250/- including Rs. 33, 69,400/- mobilized during the current year and bank interest thereof. It was a major convincing factor for bank officials to provide credit support of Rs. 2, 29, 36,900/- during the year. The total cumulative credit support mobilized from banks was Rs. 3, 25, 31,640/- and the SHG members were, now, confident enough for their economic capability.

#### **Sharing experiences and learnings with stakeholders**

During the implementation processes, GDS went through enormous learnings that may be useful for replication in the sub-sector. An amalgamation of learnings of various interventions focused towards goat rearing practices, business promotion and CBIs for socio-economic empowerment was brought forward to sensitize the development stake holders at a common platform of workshop organized by GDS in July 2014. It was in one way or other; the representatives had opportunity to hold face-to-face dialogue with the community sharing their needs and concerns for future discourses and action.

#### **Block level women conference**

Fostering women participation in development had been the core purpose of organizing block level women conference, as a recurring event observed by GDS annually. Prior to conference, a mass rally was organized involving more than 1500 women to create awareness about women related development issues. The representatives from federations and also GAPCL gave presentation of annual progress and achievements made by their respective organizations. The chief guest of the event highly commended the initiatives taken by SHG & federation women in support with GDS. This year 'Magra Laadli Samman' was awarded to one of the SHG members and her daughter for girl education and protecting from child labour. The other invited guests emphasized on social, economic and political awareness amongst women and their action to realize women rights and entitlements. A women help counter was also started to cover women related issues comprehensively and support them for redressal of grievances round the clock at this location.

Besides, these SHGs and federations intervene in emerging social issues particularly related with women and seek effective encounters for redressal of their grievances. Now, their economic dependency on external environment has drastically reduced and they are able to safeguard their interests and protect from exploitation. They own decision making process and produce a case of successful empowerment.

## GDS Partnerships

Funding partners	Implementing partners
Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Mumbai	Aparajita Samajik Samiti, Bahraich
Nawajbai Ratan Tata Trust, Mumbai	Jan Vikas (JV), West Champaran, Bihar
Catholic Relief Services, New Delhi	Jan Nirman Kendra East Champaran, Bihar
Centre for Micro-finance (CmF), Jaipur	Motilal Jan Sahyog Samiti (MJSS), Balrampur, UP
Oxfam India	Shrawasti Gramodyog Seva Sansthan (SGSS), Shrawasti, UP
International Rice Research Institute	Social Empowerment Through Women's Initiative (SEWI), Balrampur, UP
ITC, Kolkata	
Jamsetji Tata Trust, Mumbai	
Lutheran World Relief (LWR)	
UNICEF, Bihar	
WaterAid India	
Icco-Cooperation	

## Voluntary Disclosures by Grameen Development Services

### A. GDS Registration Details:

Sl. No.	Registration	Details	Valid Upto
1.	Registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860	2026/ 1992-93 dated 26.02.1993	25.02.2018
2.	Registered under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976/2010	136550091 dated 22.04.1997	21.04.2016
3.	Registered under section 12A of the Income Tax Act, 1961	18/1995-96 dated 11.10.1995	Life time
4.	Registered under 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961	834/114/ तक/आ.आ./लख/12-13/192/90 dated 20.03.2013	Life time
5.	Permanent Account Number (PAN)	AAATG2067M	Life time
6.	Tax deduction Account Number (TAN)	LKNG03807G	Life time

### B. Remuneration paid to Board members' during the Year 2014-15;

Sr. No.	Name	Position held	Type of payment	Amount
1.	Mr. S. K. Dwivedi	Secretary & Executive Director	Salary	6,19,800.00
2.	Mr. Amitabh Mishra	Treasurer & Program Director	Salary	5,20,080.00
3.	Mr. Probir Bose	Member	Remuneration	2,40,000.00

### C. Distribution of staff according to salary levels and gender break-up:

Full Time			
Remuneration Levels	No. of team members		
	Male	Female	Total
Up to Rs. 5000	-	-	-
Between 5001-15000	37	5	42
Between 15001-25000	18	2	20
Between 25001-50000	4	1	5
Between 50001-75000	1	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>68</b>

Part Time			
Remuneration Levels	No. of team members		
	Male	Female	Total
Up to Rs. 5000	19	5	24
Between 5001-15000	5	3	8
Between 15000-25000	-	-	-
Between 25001-50000	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>32</b>

### D. Details of international travel by GDS personnel during the year

Name of the Member with Designation	Travelled to	Purpose of visit	Expenses borne by
No such international Travel happened during the year			



**FORM NO. 10B**

[See rule 17B]

**Audit Report under 12A(b) of the Income-tax Act, 1961, in  
the case of charitable or religious trusts or institutions**

We have examined the balance sheet of **Grameen Development Services** as at 31st March, 2015 and the income and expenditure account for the year ended on that date which are in agreement with the books of account maintained by the said institution. These financial statements are the responsibilities of the management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in India. Those Standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Further to the above, we report that:-

We have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of the audit.


In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the above named institution visited by us so far as appears from our examination of the books. The institution has no branches.

In our opinion and to the best of our information, and according to information given to us, the said accounts read with Accounting Policies & Notes to Accounts give a true and fair view-

- (i) in the case if the balance sheet of the state of affairs of the above named institution as at 31st March, 2015, and
- (ii) in the case of income and expenditure account, of the surplus of its accounting year ending on 31st March, 2015.

The prescribed particulars are annexed hereto.

Place: Lucknow  
Date: August 24, 2015

  
A. K. Goel  
ICAI Mem. No.: 71257  
Partner  
for and on behalf of  
**AJAY GOEL & CO.**  
Chartered Accountants  
(FRN: 002107C)

GDS: 2014-15: 1

ANNEXURE TO AUDIT REPORT U/S 12A(b) ON THE ACCOUNTS OF  
GRAMEEN DEVELOPMENT SERVICES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2015

**STATEMENT OF PARTICULARS**

**1. APPLICATION OF INCOME FOR CHARITABLE OR RELIGIOUS PURPOSE**

- 1 Amount of income of the previous year : Rs.4,76,39,434.44  
applied to charitable or religious purpose in India during that year. Please refer statement "A" for calculation.
- 2 Whether the institution has exercised the option under clause (2) of the Explanation to section 11 (1)? If so, the details of the amount of income deemed to have been applied to charitable or religious purposes in India during the previous year. : No
- 3 Amount of income (accumulated or set apart /finally set apart) for application to charitable or religious purpose, to the extent it does not exceed 15 percent of the income derived from property held under trust (wholly / in part only) for such purposes. : Rs.4,76,39,434.44
- 4 Amount of income eligible for exemption under section 11 (1) (c) (Give details). : Nil
- 5 Amount of income, in addition to the amount referred to in item 3 above, accumulated or set apart for specified purposes under section 11 (2) : Nil
- 6 Whether the amount of income mentioned in item 5 above has been invested or deposited in the manner laid down in section 11(2) (b)? If so, the details thereof. : Not applicable
- 7 Whether any part of income in respect of which an option was exercised under clause (2) of the Explanation to section 11 (1) in any earlier year is deemed to be income of the previous year under section 11(1)(B)? If so, the details thereof. : Nil
- 8 Whether during the previous year, any part of income accumulated or set apart for specified purpose under section 11 (2) in any earlier year. : Not applicable
- a. has been applied for purposes other than charitable or religious purpose or has ceased to be accumulated or set apart for application thereto, or : No

GDS: 2014-15: 2



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- b. has ceased to remain invested in any security : **Not applicable**  
referred to in section 11(2) (b) (i) or  
deposited in any account referred to in  
section 11(2) (b) (ii) or section  
11(2)(b)(iii), or
- c. has not been utilized for purpose for which it : **No**  
was accumulated or set apart during the  
period for which it was to be accumulated or  
set apart, or in the year immediately  
following the expiry thereof? If so, the  
details thereof.

## II. APPLICATION OR USE OF INCOME OR PROPERTY FOR THE BENEFIT OF PERSONS REFERRED TO IN SECTION 13 (3)

- 1 Whether any part of the income or property : **No**  
of the institution was lent, or continues to  
be lent, in the previous year to any person  
referred to in section 13 (3) (hereinafter  
referred to in this Annexure as, such  
person)? If so, give details of the amount,  
rate of interest charged and the nature of  
security, if any
- 2 Whether any land, building or other : **No**  
property of the institution was made, or  
continued to be made, available for the use  
of any such person during the previous  
year? If so, give details of the property and  
the amount of rent or compensation  
charged, if any.
- 3 Whether any payment was made to any : **The society has made following payments to**  
such person during the previous year by office bearers of the society for their services ;  
way of salary, allowance or otherwise? If  
so, give details

<u>Name</u>	<u>Nature of payment</u>	<u>Amount in Rupees</u>
Mr. S. K. Dwivedi, Secretary & Executive Director	Salary	6,19,800.00
Mr. Amitabh Mishra Treasurer & Program Director	Salary	5,20,080.00
Mr. Probir Bose, Member	Remuneration	2,40,000.00

Reimbursement of expenses, in the normal  
course of activities of the Society has not  
been considered under this clause.

GDS: 2014-15: 3

Branches | Sultanpur : 05362 226650 | Sitapur : 09451236271 | Gauriganj : 9918871555



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- 4 Whether the service of the institution were made available to any such person during the previous year? If so, give details thereof together with remuneration or compensation received, if any. : No.  
Except reimbursement of expenses, in the normal course of activities of the Society.
- 5 Whether any share, security or other property was purchased by or on behalf of the institution during the previous year from any such person? If so, give details thereof together with the consideration paid. : No.
- 6 Whether any share, security or other property was sold by or on behalf of the institution during the previous year to any such person? If so, give details thereof together with the consideration received. : No.
- 7 Whether the income or property of the institution was diverted during the previous year in favor of any such person? If so, give details thereof together with the amount of income or value of property so diverted. : No.
- 8 Whether the income or property of the institution was used on applied during the previous year for the benefit of any such person in any other manner? If so, give details. : No.

**III. INVESTMENT HELD AT ANY TIME DURING THE PREVIOUS YEAR(S) IN CONCERNS IN WHICH PERSONS REFERRED TO IN SECTION 13(3) HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL INTEREST.**

Sl. No.	Name and address of the concern	Where the concern is a company, number and class of share held	Nominal values of the investment	Income from the investment	whether the amount in col.4 exceeded 5 percent of the capital of the concern during the previous year say Yes / No
1	2	3	4	5	6
			Nil		

Place: Lucknow  
Date: August 24, 2015



A. K. Goel  
CAI Mem. No.: 71257)  
Partner  
for and on behalf of  
**AJAY GOEL & CO.**  
Chartered Accountants  
(FRN: 002107C)

GDS: 2014-15: 4

Branches | Sultanpur : 05362 226650 | Sitapur : 09451236271 | Gauriganj : 9918871555

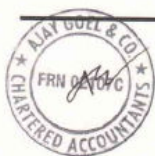
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## Statement "A"

## GRAMEEN DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

## COMPUTATION OF UTILISATION OF INCOME FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES DURING 2014-15

		Rupees
<b>Under the Head 'Income from Other Sources'</b>		
Grants received		
- from Foreign Donors	1,67,44,014.47	
- from Indian Donors	2,87,24,529.00	
- exchange gain on Grants	13,020.97	4,54,81,564.44
Interest from banks		18,88,445.00
Contribution from community and others		38,790.00
Fees for technical services		2,23,010.00
Miscellaneous receipts		6,425.00
Membership fee and Donations		1,200.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>4,76,39,434.44</b>
<b>Deduction U/S 11(1) of the Income Tax Act for the amount applied to charitable purposes in India during the previous year</b>		
Facilitating Community Led WASH and Livelihoods		
Interventions in the Floodplains of Eastern U.P	27,24,632.40	
Business Development of Agri. Producer Companies in U.P	14,83,845.00	
Strengthening People's Participation in Budget Process	46,207.00	
Improved Rice Based Rainfed Agriculture Systems	29,66,799.50	
School WASH and WASH in Health Set Ups	28,84,209.00	
Flood Response Program Shrawasti 2014	44,42,873.50	
Cross Border Early Warning System	9,586.00	
Nepal India Trans-boundary Flood Resilience Project	2,58,085.00	
Awareness Generation on stress tolerant rice varieties, Seed Dissemination and Business model development for aCommunity seed company.	3,03,250.00	
Promoting Safe and Beneficial Migration in Uttar Pradesh	38,36,909.50	
Goat Based Livelihood Promotion in the Bundelkhand Region		
Improving Livelihoods through Water and Agricultural Resource Development	62,52,226.80	
Revival of Agriculture Based Livelihoods in the Nepal Bordering Districts of Eastern U P and Northern Bihar	1,33,29,207.00	
Goat Based Livelihood Promotion in Eastern Rajasthan	8,69,281.00	
Promoting CBDRR and school safety program in multi hazard Prone area of Sitamarhi- Bihar	10,74,636.00	
Empowering women farmer through agriculture based livelihoods in Rajasthan under Mahila Kisan Shaktikaran Pariyojna	21,47,065.00	
Promotion of Profitable & Sustainable Agriculture	28,26,308.00	
Expenses incurred by other partner NGOs out of grants disbursed	70,22,374.00	
Other organisational expenses	5,17,439.00	
- Depreciation on assets purchased out of own funds		
(Cost is not being claimed as utilisation in the year of purchase)	40,860.00	5,30,35,793.70
		<b>5,30,35,793.70</b>
Less: Amount utilised out of balance brought forward from previous year as per clause (2) of explanation to section 11 of Income Tax Act, 1961		1,89,726.57
Net Utilisation		<b>5,28,46,067.13</b>
<b>Income of the previous year applied to charitable purpose in India during the year (Lower of income for the year and utilisation)</b>		
		<b>4,76,39,434.44</b>
<b>Balance carried forward</b>		
Income accumulated for application to charitable purpose (not exceeding 15% of the total Income)		-
Amount carried to following year for utilization as per clause (2) of explanation to section 11 of Income Tax Act, 1961		-



Branches | Sultanpur : 05362 226650 | Sitapur : 09451236271 | Gauriganj : 9918871555

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# **GRAMEEN DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

## **BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2015**

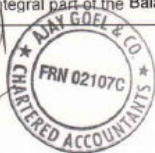
As on 31.03.2014 Rupees	Annexures	As on 31.03.2015 Rupees
<b>SOURCES OF FUNDS</b>		
<b>CORPUS</b>		
197,373.14	As per last account	197,373.14
<b>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT</b>		
2,601,806.88	Balance as on 01.04.2014	2,851,579.98
249,773.10	Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure	143,576.00
		2,995,155.98
<b>CAPITAL RESERVE</b>		
2,655,504.00	Balance as on 01.04.2014	2,599,998.00
558,998.00	Add: Cost of assets purchased out of grant funds	805,947.00
(16,986.00)	Less: Depreciated value of assets sold/ discarded	33,519.00
(597,518.00)	Less: Depreciation on assets purchased out of grants	544,688.00
		2,827,738.00
<b>UN-UTILISED GRANTS</b>		
2,292,148.80	Grants from Foreign Donors	1,464,341.75
21,380,317.11	Grants from Indian Donors	15,402,910.81
81,300.00		81,300.00
<b>REVOLVING FUNDS</b>		
<b>29,402,717.03</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>22,968,819.68</b>
<b>APPLICATION OF FUNDS</b>		
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
8,089,243.37	Gross Block	10,465,058.37
(5,265,028.37)	Less: Depreciation	5,512,223.37
		4,952,835.00
<b>CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS &amp; ADVANCES</b>		
170,008.09	Grants receivable	4,377.00
2,723,970.00	Loans and Advances	1,730,684.00
23,901,371.94	Cash and Bank Balances	16,437,098.68
		18,172,159.68
(216,848.00)	Less: <b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	156,175.00
<b>29,402,717.03</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>22,968,819.68</b>
<b>ACCOUNTING POLICIES &amp; NOTES TO ACCOUNTS</b>		

Annexures 'I' to 'VII' form integral part of the Balance Sheet

per our report of even date

A.K. Goel  
(ICAI Mem. No.: 074257)  
Partner  
for and on behalf of  
**AJAY GOEL & CO.**  
Chartered Accountants  
(FRN: 002107C)

Lucknow : August 24, 2015



*[Signature]*

Treasurer

*[Signature]*

Secretary

*[Signature]*

President

# **GRAMEEN DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

## **INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2015**

2013-14 Rupees	Annexure	2014-15 Rupees
<b>INCOME</b>		
<b>Grants</b>		
<i>(Grants received are accounted as income to the extent utilized during the year)</i>		
	<b>'I'</b>	
2,753,669.57	Grants from Foreign Donors	
	Balance as on 01.04.2014	2,257,549.71
7,588,650.84	Add: Receipts during the year	16,744,014.47
(2,257,549.71)	Less: Un-utilised balance as on 31.03.2015	1,464,341.75
		17,537,222.43
	<b>'I'</b>	
12,298,144.30	Grants from Indian Donors	
	Balance as on 01.04.2014	21,244,908.11
44,232,336.00	Add: Receipts (net of refunds) during the year	28,724,529.00
135,409.00	Add: Amount receivable as on 31.03.15	4,377.00
(21,380,317.11)	Less: Un-utilised balance as on 31.03.2015	15,402,910.81
		34,570,903.30
380,299.00	Gain on exchange rate fluctuation	13,020.97
2,397,015.00	Interest from banks and others	930,926.00
22,445.00	Contribution from community and others	38,790.00
316,617.00	Fees for training and consultancy services	242,224.00
-	Reimbursement of expenses	-
18,888.50	Miscellaneous receipts	6,425.00
1,200.00	Membership fees and donations	1,200.00
<b>46,506,807.39</b>		<b>53,340,711.70</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
	<b>'I'</b>	
8,681,436.70	Programme Expenses	
	- out of grants received from foreign donors	17,640,070.40
27,465,204.89	- out of grants received from Indian donors	27,700,948.30
		45,341,018.70
9,798,616.00	Grants utilised by other NGO partners	
	- out of grants received from Indian donors	7,530,605.00
272,993.70	Other organisational expenses	284,652.00
38,783.00	Depreciation	40,860.00
<b>46,257,034.29</b>		<b>53,197,135.70</b>
<b>249,773.10</b>	<b>EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>143,576.00</b>

### **ACCOUNTING POLICIES & NOTES TO ACCOUNTS**

Annexures 'I' to 'VII' form integral part of Income and Expenditure Account per our report of even date

A.K. Goel  
(ICAI Mem. No.: 071257)  
Partner  
for and on behalf of  
**AJAY GOEL & CO.**  
**Chartered Accountants**  
(FRN: 002107C)

Lucknow : August 24, 2015



*[Signature]*  
Treasurer

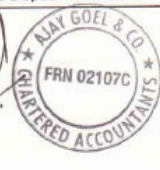
*[Signature]*  
Secretary

*[Signature]*  
President

## GRAMEEN DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

### RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2015

Previous Year Rupees			This Year Rupees
	<b>OPENING BALANCE</b>		
18,679.00	Cash in Hand	11,857.00	
10,550,815.00	Fixed Deposits with Banks	18,879,313.00	
5,948,686.39	Balance with Scheduled Banks	5,010,201.94	23,901,371.94
	<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
7,588,650.84	Grants from Foreign Donors		16,744,014.47
44,148,676.00	Grants from Indian Donors		28,724,529.00
380,299.00	Exchange gain on Grants		13,020.97
22,445.00	Contribution from community and others		38,790.00
2,043,731.00	Interest earned		1,888,445.00
1,200.00	Membership fee and Donations		1,200.00
316,617.00	Fees for technical services		223,010.00
14,988.50	Miscellaneous receipts		6,425.00
12,112.50	Refund of Security against consultancy		-
60,000.00	Recovery of Revolving funds		-
<b>54,588,719.84</b>	<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>47,639,434.44</b>
	<b>PAYMENTS</b>		
	<b>Expenses on development projects</b>		
2,433,044.70	Facilitating Community Led WASH and Livelihoods Interventions in the Floodplains of Eastern U.P	2,724,632.40	
1,563,996.00	Business Development of Agri. Producer Companies in U.P	1,483,845.00	
94,806.00	Strengthening People's Participation in Budget Process	46,207.00	
2,565,437.00	Improved Rice Based Rainfed Agriculture Systems	2,966,799.50	
-	School WASH and WASH in Health Set Ups	2,884,209.00	
-	Flood Response Program Shrawasti 2014	4,442,873.50	
754,798.00	Downstream research on seed systems, study to compare the women for SHGs trained vs. non trained		
985,914.00	Cross Border Early Warning System	9,586.00	
-	Nepal India Trans-boundary Flood Resilience Project	258,085.00	
-	Awareness Generation on stress tolerant rice varieties, Seed Dissemination and Business model development for aCommunity seed company.	303,250.00	
215,240.00	Downstream research on seed system, awareness generation and seed model and documentation of success stories		
2,581,951.00	Promoting Safe and Beneficial Migration in Uttar Pradesh	3,836,909.50	
449,558.00	Goat Based Livelihood Promotion in the Bundelkhand Region	-	
3,700,178.39	Improving Livelihoods through Water and Agricultural Resource Development	6,252,226.80	
12,472,554.50	Revival of Agriculture Based Livelihoods in the Nepal Bordering Districts of Eastern U.P and Northern Bihar	13,329,207.00	
1,208,571.00	Goat Based Livelihood Promotion in Eastern Rajasthan	869,281.00	
1,071,257.00	Scaling up of community based Microfinance and Livelihoods initiatives in Ajmer under the Saksh-Se-Vikas initiatives	-	
100,000.00	Cluster Demonstration on Stress Tolerant Rice Varieties under NFSM	-	
492,045.00	Promoting CBDRR and school safety program in multi hazard Prone area of Sitamarhi- Bihar	1,074,636.00	
655,740.00	KCCI Summer Internship Programme 2013	-	
83,660.00	Improved Rice crop Management for raising Productivity in the Submergence prone and salt affected rainfed lowlands in South Asia	-	
902,298.00	Empowering women farmer through agriculture based livelihoods in Rajasthan under Mahila Kisan Shaktikaran Pariyojna	2,147,065.00	
3,746,750.00	Promotion of Profitable & Sustainable Agriculture	2,826,308.00	45,455,120.70
9,824,616.00	Expenses incurred by other partner NGOs out of grants disbursed		7,022,374.00
269,487.70	Other Organisational expenses		517,439.00
-	Assets purchased out of General Fund		1,941,740.00
1,033,626.00	Advances to staff and others (Net)		167,034.00
<b>47,205,528.29</b>	<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>55,103,707.70</b>
	<b>CLOSING BALANCE</b>		
11,857.00	Cash in Hand	9,686.00	
5,010,201.94	Balance with Scheduled Bank	12,527,412.68	
18,879,313.00	Fixed Deposit with Bank	3,900,000.00	16,437,098.68

*[Signature]*  


*[Signature]*  
Treasurer

*[Signature]*  
Secretary

*[Signature]*  
President

Consolidated Financial Statements: 2014-15



## GDS Offices

Head Office	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Grameen Development Services,</b>  B 1/84, Sector-B, Aliganj, <b>Lucknow-</b> 226024, UP  Phone- 0522 – 4075891, Email- <a href="mailto:ho@gds.org.in">ho@gds.org.in</a>, &amp; <a href="mailto:dwivedi.sk@gds.org.in">dwivedi.sk@gds.org.in</a>  Website: <a href="http://www.gdsindia.org">www.gdsindia.org</a>  Contact Person: Mr. S. K. Dwivedi, Executive Director, Mobile: 09415110759</p>	
Project Locations and Offices	
<p><b>Sant Kabir Nagar, Uttar Pradesh</b>  Grameen Development Services  House no: 318, National Highway-28  Near Nedula Chauraha, <b>Khalilabad.</b>  <b>Sant Kabir Nagar -272175</b>  Contact Person- Mr. Rajesh Srivastava Mo: 09807154137  Email- <a href="mailto:khalilabad@gds.org.in">khalilabad@gds.org.in</a></p>	<p><b>Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh</b>  Grameen Development Services,  House No.-2, Ward No.-3, Sonauli Road,  Anand Nagar, Farendra, Maharajganj- 273155  Phone-0552-222306, Email- <a href="mailto:maharajganj@gds.org.in">maharajganj@gds.org.in</a>  Contact 1: Mr. Om Prakash Mishra, Mo: 08423333860  Contact 2: Mr. Ramesh Yadav, Mo: 08004479870</p>
<p><b>Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh</b>  Grameen Development Services,  C-381/1, Awas Vikas Colony,  Near BSNL Colony, Hardoi  Contact Person : Mr. Sanjeev Tiwari,  Mobile: 09125946748  Email: <a href="mailto:hardoi@gds.org.in">hardoi@gds.org.in</a></p>	<p><b>Lalitpur, Uttar Pradesh</b>  Grameen Development Services,  C/O Mr. Rana Ravindra Pratap Singh  318, Civil lanes (Behind Zila Praishad),  Lalitpur, Pin-288403  Contact Person: Ms. Hemlata Rawat  Mobile: 09829282105  Email: <a href="mailto:lalitpur@gds.org.in">lalitpur@gds.org.in</a></p>
<p><b>Shrawasti, Uttar Pradesh</b>  Grameen Development Services  C/o Mohd.Jakir  Kote Riyasat Bhinga, Shrawasti,  Near Shrawasti Public Inter College,  <b>Bhinga, Distt. Shrawasti, UP</b>  Contact Person : Mr. Om Prakash Rai  Mobile: 09415409143  Email: <a href="mailto:shravasti@gds.org.in">shravasti@gds.org.in</a></p>	<p><b>Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh:</b>  Grameen Development Services,  Veer Vinay Chauk, Moti Sagar,  Opposite Pathik Hotel,  <b>Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh</b>  Contact Person : Dr. Dinesh Singh  Mobile: 08756785620  Email: <a href="mailto:balrampur@gds.org.in">balrampur@gds.org.in</a></p>
<p><b>Runnisaidpur, Bihar</b>  <b>Grameen Development Services</b>  Sharma House, Village - Bahramnagar,  Post Bhanaspatti, Runnisidpur,  Sitmarhi-843328  Contact Person: Mr. Ashok Kumar  Mobile: 07766814273  Email: <a href="mailto:sitamarhi@gds.org.in">sitamarhi@gds.org.in</a></p>	<p><b>Muzaffarpur, Bihar</b>  C/O Shri Nageshwar Prasad Singh  Bihar Niketan, South East of Law college  Gunnipur Muzaffarpur-842002  Contact Person: Ms. Mandavi Dikshit  Mobile: 09431813152  Email- <a href="mailto:muzaffarpur@gds.org.in">muzaffarpur@gds.org.in</a></p>
<p><b>Valmikinagar, West Champaran, Bihar:</b>  Grameen Development Services,  C/O Mr. Anil Singh,  Biseha, Valmiki Nagar,  District – Betia, West Champaran, Bihar,  Contact Person: Mr. Arshad Umar  Mobile: 08090269032  Email: <a href="mailto:valmikinagar@gds.org.in">valmikinagar@gds.org.in</a></p>	<p><b>Ajmer, Rajasthan,</b>  Grameen Development Services  Village &amp; Post Jawaja,  Behind Baroda Rajasthan Grameen Bank,  Jawaja, District – Ajmer (Rajasthan)- 305 922  Contact Person: Mr. B. N. Tiwari  Mobile: 09828382341  Email: <a href="mailto:ajmer@gds.org.in">ajmer@gds.org.in</a>, <a href="mailto:tiwari.bn@gds.org.in">tiwari.bn@gds.org.in</a></p>