



ANNUAL REPORT

2015-16



GRAMEEN DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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GDS- An Introduction

Established in 1993 by a group of renowned development professionals, academicians and NGO leaders, Grameen Development Services (GDS) is a field based non-government development organization with its head office at Lucknow (U.P.) and field offices at ten locations for direct implementation of its various thematic interventions focusing towards 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. These interventions supported by external agencies have highly impacted to attain the overall objective envisioned by GDS. The organization has significant stake in the voluntary sector to promote sustainable livelihoods for poor community in the region it works seeking coordination with other development players including local government.

GDS is registered under Societies Registration Act 1860 and accredited with 'Credibility Alliance' New Delhi. It is also registered with Income Tax Department & FCRA (MoHA), GOI. Thus, the organization has its legal status.

One more year of its success; 2015-16 could be added to its historical perspective enriched with reaching out thousands of poor households enabling them to become owner of development process with their active role through collective and individual initiatives. All on-going interventions have catered to GDS mission and its objectives for socio-economic betterment of the poor mostly living in rural areas.

The **organizational 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"

Organizational 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 organizational 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 marginalized and the disadvantaged communities, and especially women; to help them to overcome this inability, GDS has taken up the task to **mobilize the communities it works with, into community based organizations/institutions** of various types and sizes and also integration of the livelihoods strengthening services with the community institutions.

Core Organizational Values

GDS firmly believes that certain cherished guiding principles to be practiced within the organization by the members in their individual capacity as well as collectively, so that the organization 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

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. The governance and management practices are guided by these policies and manuals to proceed with operational system in a professional manner. All such documents are reviewed and revised periodically to incorporate relevant modifications wherever found necessary. HR & Accounting manuals were revised in 2014 incorporating the necessary amendments as acceded with the approval of competent authority. Addition to these was made while executing grant agreement with SDTT in 2015 which resulted in draft child protection policy 2016. The key manuals and policy documents available with GDS are as follows:

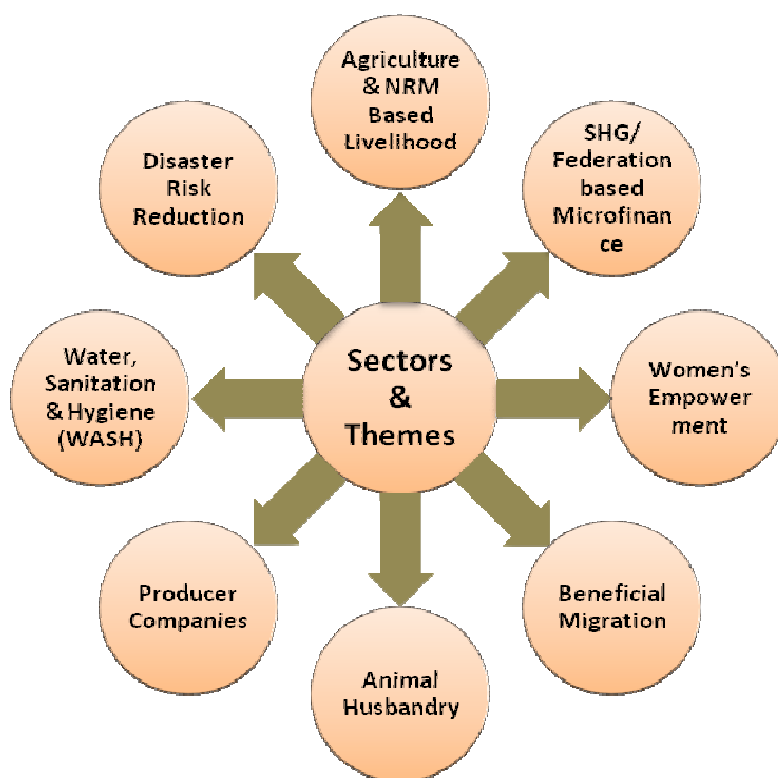
- Accounting Policy and Manual (Revised in 2014)
- HR Policy and Manual (Revised in 2014)

- Gender Policy
- Policy on Prevention of Sexual Harassment and ASH Committee.
- HIV/AIDS Mainstreaming policy (HR issues integrated with HR Manual)
- Child protection Policy (Draft 2016)

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 endeavors 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

Preference was always given to work in such geographies that are characterized by structural poverty mainly in North India. This basic criterion has led to concentrate within the eastern, central and southern Uttar Pradesh; north-western Bihar; and Central Rajasthan. Apart from above, GDS operational areas have diverse climatic contexts; flood plains in eastern UP & northern Bihar, semi arid

Bundelkhand region of southern UP and Ajmer & Pali in central Rajasthan. As mentioned in the vision statement, GDS outreach is made directly through its interventions and indirectly in partnership with the other organizations.

During 2015-16, GDS had coverage of 76208 poor households for its direct interventions based on 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, Santha, Semariyawana	189	414	33441
		Gorakhpur	Sahjanawa & Pali	23	32	697
		Basti	Bankati	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, Sandi, Ahirauri & Bilgram	15	50	2712
	Lalitpur	Lalitpur	Birdha	26	45	3578
	Shravasti	Shravasti	Sirsiya	4	17	810
	Balrampur	Balrampur	Tulsipur	11	18	615
	Lucknow	Lucknow	Lucknow city	7 labour churahas	44 labour pockets	5000
Rajasthan	Jawaja	Ajmer	Jawaja	24	60	4207
		Pali	Raipur	7	16	533
Bihar	Muzaffarpur	Sitamarhi	Runni Saidpur, Belsand, Parasauni, Dumra, Nanpur, Pupri, Riga & Bajpatti	42	173	10000
	West Champaran	West Champaran	Bagaha-II	1	15	1916
3 States	10 Locations	14 Districts	38 Blocks	415	1058	76208

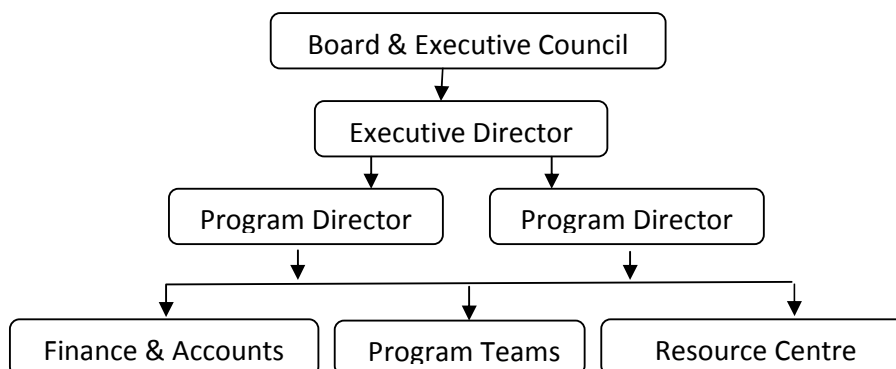
On completion of JTT supported agriculture focused Project in March, 2015, the coverage for next phase sanctioned by SDTT was restricted to the state of UP only covering 8 districts in floodplains eastern UP in network mode. The direct implementation in Bihar still continued even on phasing out of above Project exploring resources from other external sources. It is obvious that GDS approaches are not merely confined with its Project's objectives & outputs but beyond that to strive for socio-economic empowerment of the community. So far, the organization has completed several projects at these locations but efforts were made for layering of need based interventions through innovative projects for their sustainable development.

The Target Group Focus

The target group of GDS's projects and interventions are the poor and the marginalized 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



Community Based Institutions

Supporting community to respond in an organized manner to address their issues through collective initiatives has been one of the most important elements of GDS's strategic approaches being emphasized in the different forms of community institutions constituted by the poor and the socially marginalized communities in its operational areas. A status update of these community institutions promoted by GDS is reflected in the following table;

Location	Khalilabad		Mahraiganj		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
Type of CIs																		
SHG	481	5333	308	3796					200	2295			165	1980	388	4740	1542	18144
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	16	4735	2	15M 3080	1	18M 5			3	1743					3	3660	25	13256
MKG															53	1308	53	1308
Producer Group															32	355	32	355
PPC			1	661											1	97	2	758
WUG	45	248M 39							5	45							50	332
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									5		1	115					1	115

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

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.
- **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.
- **Daily activity report** is prepared by all categories of staff working at head office and field locations on monthly basis and submitted to GDS HO, Lucknow. It enables an easy desk review of performance of individual staff discharging duties at frontline and also in managerial role.
- Provision of 3- member **child protection committee (CPC)** has been incorporated in the draft child protection policy to safeguard the interest of children within GDS system. On approval from GB, the above draft policy would come into force for its application in the system.
- **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 process continues and CB programmes are also organized from time-to-time to inculcate relevant perspectives and skills in them. 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 mandates 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.
- **Financial control mechanism** is adequately designed and complied with in a transparent way where each field location is responsible to reveal the financial facts to GDS HO and demand for remittances as decided under the system. GDS HO takes care to minimize error/lapses with close financial monitoring but at the same time preferring the achievement of objectives through field activities. Sometime external audit is taken by funding agencies in addition to regular statutory audit by the organization periodically.

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	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

S. No.	Name	Brief Background
	Treasurer	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

Major Highlights in 2015-16

Impact of various field interventions has usually been a convincing factor for potential supporting agencies to seek GDS partnership for a particular endeavor. Consequently, many times the funding agencies took initiative to establish partnership with the organization on the basis of its image in the sector, credibility in the community and demonstrating successes in the field operation. During the year, GDS completed some projects and opened the door for some more initiatives either through the expansion of on-going interventions or undertaking new ones.

The significant achievements of the organization, during 2015-16, have been as follows;

A. Existing Projects

On the approval from funding agencies, 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).

These existing projects included:

- WaterAid India supported Project '**School WASH and WASH in Health Set-ups**' continued its field interventions effectively particularly through mobilizing the support from local district & block level administration in Khalilabad (HQ of dist. S K Nagar) to promote SBM activities.
- Under its extension phase, Oxfam India supported project '**Facilitating Community Led WASH and Livelihoods**' Interventions focusing on WASH issues in flood and water-logging prone villages in the mid-Rapti basin, continued in the floodplains of eastern UP during 2015-16.
- In Hardoi district of central Uttar Pradesh, ITC supported '**Promotion of Profitable and Sustainable Agriculture**' continued covering 20 villages. This is also an annually sanctioned project and likely to be phase out next year.
- 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. The current phase of this project would be completed in mid 2016.
- LWR supported Project titled '**Cross Border Early Warning System**' was initiated during this year in Bagaha-II block of West Champaran district.
- A four-year JTT supported Project '**Improving Livelihood through Natural Resources and Agriculture Development**' could be completed in Birdha block of Lalitpur (Bundelkhand region in U.P.).

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

B. Newly Started projects

- A three year SDTT supported project on '**Women empowerment through literacy**' was started in selected villages of Shravasti, Balrampur and Mahrajganj districts layering over the agriculture focused Sujalam Sufalam project being implemented in these districts in support with the same funding agency.
- **Sujalam Sufalam Initiative** project was started for a period of three years in support with SDTT in network mode involving 6 small NGOs as its sub-partners in 8 districts of eastern floodplains of UP. In all, it is being implemented at 9 locations including three locations; Shravasti, Balrampur & Mahrajganj under direct implementation of GDS. After withdrawal of MJSS from Tulsipur block of Balrampur district, GDS adopted the cluster for its direct implementation with some modification in the coverage under above project.
- BMGF supported **Technical Assistance and Research for Indian Nutrition and Agriculture (TARINA)** Project was started in March, 2016. GDS will be supported by Tata Trusts, one of the consortium members of TARINA to launch field interventions in 50 villages of 3 blocks of Mahrajganj district.

C. Exploring for new initiatives

GDS has been successful to get approval for both the proposals on women literacy and agriculture from SDTT and started their implementation during their year. Exploration for new avenues of resources was continuously taken care of through sending new proposals to Tata Trusts, HCL, BMGF and HSBC.

- D. Keeping in view making new entrants acquainted of GDS development perspective and inculcating to perform in the system responding to the overall objective of the organization, a **three day participatory workshop** was organized by GDS HO in last week of April, 2015. The participants were from across the GDS locations irrespective of their position and projects they were working with.
- E. Two day **workshop on 'Organization Development'** was conducted for senior team members at GDS HO, Lucknow during second week of December'15 when organizational culture survey was performed using questionnaire and its findings shared commonly with all. Other technical sessions were conducted to identify organizational issues and OD task force of nominated senior management staff members was constituted to perform similar exercises for other staff members at location level.
- F. A new **GDS website 'www.gdsindia.ngo'** was developed in support with DEF India enriched with all the mandatory and significant posts worth for putting in public domain. In addition, GDS has, also, been registered with '<https://www.OnGood.ngo>' aiming at generating resources through propagation of its broad objectives and major achievements among the supporting agencies.
- G. A **Child Protection Policy** for GDS has been designed for GDS's operations and is being circulated for inputs and suggestions. It will be placed before the AGM for inputs, finalization and adoption.

It was initial field penetration by GDS in the year 1995 ushering into Khalilabad aiming at promoting livelihoods through women empowerment with the support of Oxfam Novib as funding agency. It enabled organizing community in groups at primary (SHGs) and secondary level (federations) with their ownership through developing group management skills among the office bearers of these groups. In 2011, the external support of any kind was withdrawn and these groups continued functioning on self sustained basis but GDS had been associated with them through its other field interventions; WASH focused interventions being one of them. The various interventions launched at this location have yielded rich experiences to individuals and GDS with much learning for replication in other areas also. These groups have paved as community support system to carry on field based interventions; currently WaterAid India supported WASH programme, in the district along with Safe & Beneficial Migration Programme.

1. School WASH and WASH in Health Set-ups

On successful completion of 1st year of project implementation, the coverage was considerably expanded during current year for this WaterAid India supported project being implemented in 9 blocks of S K Nagar district. Earlier, it covered 30 GPs that too in Baghauli block only. Now, 57 GPs containing 136 villages from 8 newly covered blocks were added to above previous coverage. With this expansion, accessibility to project interventions was made to total 33441 families living in the above villages which count almost 3 times to what it was in year 1 of project implementation. More than 82% of these families (OBCs - 19050 & SCs - 8382 families) belong to backward, SC & ST community.

The project demands for close coordination with district & block level administration. GDS role in SBM of the district has been well recognized by the District Sanitation Committee S K Nagar organized under the chairmanship of District Magistrate. Capacity building of PRIs, frontline health providers (AWWs & ASHAs) and school representatives was emphasized upon through conducting various training programmes on Swachhcha Bharat Mission (SBM). In all, 21 village Pradhans & equal number of Panchayat secretaries and 174 AWWs could be trained to promote SBM activities in their respective villages. The prime focus has been towards discouraging open defecation and attains ODF status by GPs in the area. The achievement under Project's broad components can be described as follows;

I. Accessibility to safe drinking water

Availability of safe drinking water has been one of the major challenges taken up by the project. Even on existence of water sources (like India Mark-II hand-pumps), the operation and management of these seemed a critical issue which was addressed by GDS through sensitizing & organizing the community members for collective decision and compliances. In all, 45 water user groups (WUGs) were organized to properly handle the factors responsible for defunct hand pumps and put them in full operation. Renovation of 45 water sources was done through mobilizing community contribution in addition to external investment enabling 3304 water users living in 39 hamlets spread over 19 GPs. The local level management of these water sources is looked after by WUGs to reduce dependency on external sources and ensure sustained initiatives at their own.

II. Sanitation

The key thematic focus of Swachhha Bharat Mission (SBM) entails promotion of sanitary practices particularly use of toilet by individuals with coverage of households and to the larger unit of village, blocks and district. District Sanitation Committee has been instrumental in mobilizing government machinery to ensure attainment of the objectives laid down under the Mission at local level. The prime focus has been achieving more villages for ODF. Besides trainings given to local PRIs & front-line health providers, the representatives of school management committees (SMCs) of 40 new schools and selected teachers were trained to promote school sanitation and hygiene to build WASH secure around them. So far, 80 schools (PS – 43, UPS- 19, HS & ICs – 7 and Madarasa – 7) have been covered with such trainings and their regular follow-ups were made. Priority was given to adopt Lohia villages for promoting construction of toilets.

Addressing the technical requirement needed for construction of toilets, skill based on-field trainings on construction of toilet with twin leach pits were organized for 79 masons in 3 batches. All the trained masons were from project area and easily available on demand for quality construction. The intensity of availability was observed at the villages identified for ODF and having training sites also. Initially, model toilets were constructed under the guidance of trainers. Thus, the project could create a well trained masons' base in the area. So far, 4739 toilets were constructed to be used by 23698 individuals with leverage of PRIs' resources in 63 villages of 47 village panchayats. Further to this, model of school WASH facilities was demonstrated through establishment of 4 sanitation blocks in local schools.

Aiming at sensitizing community for sanitation related issues, district-wide week long campaign 'Mera Shaulaya-Mera Swabhimaan (My toilet is my self respect)' was launched on 19-24 November, 2015 to observe World Toilet Day. The event was organized in support with PRD, Education Deptt. & ICDS of the district covering schools and community based institutions in the area. Messages on promoting use of toilet & ODF villages were disseminated promptly. As done last year, this year also the Project highlighted WASH practices through visuals displayed at its stall installed at Magahar Mahotsava site. Useful informations were passed to visitors from community communicating the govt. schemes & provisions under SBM through IEC materials followed by a mass meeting in the presence of officials from district administration. In all, approx. 1100 persons had personally visited the stall.

III. Hygiene (Personal & public as well)

As an integral component of WASH approach, emphasis was laid on promoting personal & public hygienic practices during school training programmes and community awareness programmes. AWWs, ASHAs & school teachers were sensitized to motivate females for hygienic practices particularly during their menstrual periods. During training programmes conducted for volunteers, PRI members and school representatives, the participants were sensitized about hygienic issues, their impact and action required at individual level & collectively.

Global hand wash day was observed on October 16, 2015 involving children from 7 schools to demonstrate mass hand washing through 5 steps using soap at a common open ground. The district authorities; ADM & BSA witnessed the event and awarded 27 school teachers for their

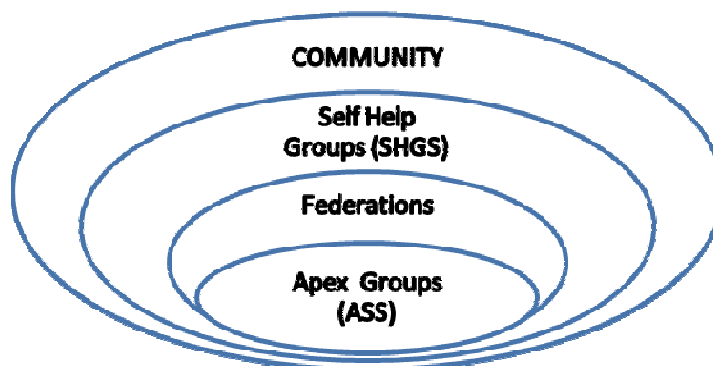
initiative to promote best hygienic practices in their respective schools. All 80 schools were covered with WASH sessions themed at water & sanitation. School interventions alone benefitted 22576 school children (10400 boys and 12176 girls) for WASH practices. Thus, the initiatives taken by the project benefitted 35879 persons as hygiene users in the area.

IV. **Government's stake mobilized**

It was the impact of project's efforts that a written *Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)* could be executed between GDS/WaterAid India and DPRO, Ex-officio District Sanitation Committee of S K Nagar to join hands for common cause of SBM. It would help to mobilize support from government machinery in a procedural way but in effective manner. GDS may consider it as one of its major achievement at locale.

2. **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.

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

Considered as a positive factor for overall development of the country, migration has highly impacted increase in urban population and more than 93% of the people are engaged in unorganized sector to earn their livelihoods from potential sources. Lack of opportunities to arrange for quality of life to their families, people have to migrate from one place to other with better potentials for earning but still leaving some challenges at the source as well as destination ends. Lack of marketable skills, deficient credit support, unaware of challenges at destination, insecure support to family at source end and burdening of responsibilities on elders & women of the family during migration period have been some of the major challenges for them.

Keeping this problem scenario in mind, '*Promoting Safe and Beneficial Migration Project*' was started in district Sant Kabir Nagar during the year 2009. In its second phase, the project coverage has expanded to 124 villages spread over 44 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. 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 Mitras at source end. The major achievements made during the reporting period at source location (S K Nagar) are summarized separately under the GDS location 'Lucknow' while for source end these are as below;

- **Registration & Issuance of ID documents**: 800 migrants were registered with BoCW while registration for issuance of Aadhar Card was done for 4904 migrants. Individual ID card from Project was issued to 385 migrants.
- **Skill based/vocational training**: 161 youths were given skill based training in 9 trades with better potentials of employment even at local level and also self employment. Placement of 77 trained

youths (48% of the total trained) was done in various trades while 47 of them (61% of the total placement) got employment during locally organized 'Rozgar Mela' in collaboration with the district administration.

- **Counseling & legal support:** 19 legal clinic days and 2 legal support camps were organized. 32 wage related cases could be registered with 2SK and 6 of them (19%) were resolved. Since most of them were registered in the 2nd half of the year, the process of resolution was in progress by the end of reporting period.
- **Linkage with social welfare schemes & strengthening of financial service system:** 1680 persons participated in 35 financial literacy events. Facilitation was made for coverage of 117 migrants under accidental insurance, 1588 for bank opening and 129 for linkage with Sukanya Samridhi Yojana. 6 financial inclusion camps were organized and 28 migrants availed credit support of Rs. 66429/- from local SHG federations.
- **Strengthening of VLNs:** Safety & security net was established through formation of village level network (VLN) of migrants' families being 99 in number. Migrants were sensitized about their rights & entitlement through meetings (32), trainings (8) and other mass events (5) at different places of the blocks. The process of linkage of these VLNs as SHGs with federations was initiated for financial inclusion through local sources.
- **Linkage of migrants with labour centres at destination end:** The migrants from above two blocks of S K Nagar were facilitated to have linkage with labour centres/agencies working in Delhi, Ghaziabad, Gurgaon & Dayal Nagar Delhi to seek local support from them to get their issues/problems resolved.

All the above interventions have led to increase awareness among migrants and their families which enabled them for realization of their entitlements from labour department and mainstreams. The community has started recognizing the services of 2SK as service centre and availing benefits from BOCW schemes got provocation from these centers. Now, the migrants were in process to voice for their welfare through organizing their collectives/union and exploit resources from state for improvement of their quality livings. Skill based technical input proved instrumental to enhance their negotiation capacity and expanded opportunities of employment.

As a field based laboratory for rural development, Pharenda in Mahrajganj location yielded diverse learnings and opportunities to gain experiences through implementation of a range of development interventions by GDS from 2001 when it ushered into this floodplain area focusing towards strengthening agriculture based livelihoods of poor farming families. In every monsoon season, large areas in this programme location are flooded by River Rapti and its tributaries disrupting livelihoods of the farmers, mostly having small land size of 1-2 acres. Floods and water logging are perennial problems that devastate the Kharif season crops and also, many times, disrupt timely sowing of Rabi season agriculture. Consequently, the dependency of farmers on Rabi crops becomes increased. Due to GDS interventions, the situation became changed through induction of STVs of paddy and the most popularized Narendra 97 early variety of paddy in the area and later with STVs introduced by IRRI like Swarna Sub-1. 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.

GDS had rightly assessed the situation 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, the interventions well suited to the area contexts were executed in support with local community and external resource support of development stakeholders. A few of these interventions, currently being in existence have the following narration;

1. Sujalam Sufalam Initiative-GDS network

On completion of three year agriculture based project supported by JTT in March 2015, Sujalam Sufalam Initiative started in May, 2015 with the support of SDTT for a period of 3 years at 9 locations of GDS network; Mahrajganj being one of them for direct implementation. The project has common modalities across the networks & locations. The new initiative has shift in approach, strategies and processes to attain overall objective of the project stating attain an average incremental income of 50 thousand per household during project period. The planned coverage includes 3000 farming households (25% of the total planned coverage of the project) living in 121 villages spread over 29 GPs in Pharenda, Dhani and Brijmanganj blocks of Mahrajganj districts. In addition to coverage of new farming households, effort was made to continue with old farmers of previous phase with minor change if required at any village. Once the project team was organized, the following interventions/activities were carried out in the operational area;

- **Registration & agriculture micro plan of individual farmers:** Out of total planned coverage, registration of 1776 farmers (farming households) was done as target beneficiaries to collect base-line data for further proceeding. Since this project has certain specific products (crops), crop based assessment was done to identify farmers through micro plan of all individual

farmers for at least one year. The above initiative was taken for the first time in agriculture based projects.

- Crops cultivation:** Cultivation of banana and onion crops was majorly promoted as high value crop (HVC). Supply of G-9 variety of 9500 banana tissue culture saplings to farmers was arranged from Jain Irrigation Ltd. and crop management was taken up properly under the guidance of consultants from JIL & agriculture institutions. Quality onion seed of AgroFound Red variety supplied from NHRDF was procured through LAPCL, a local FPO at Pharenda, and distributed to farmers on contributory basis. Both the crops were promoted for the first time by the project on such large scale. In addition, Machan technique was adopted for cucurbits and also yam cultivation was done by a few selected farmers. Under crop productivity enhancement, Narendra-1 variety of pigeon pea was adopted. For kanda reduction purposes, dhaincha & mustard on bunds cultivation was given emphasis in Kharif & Rabi seasons respectively. Technical input was given by scientists from time-to-time for proper crop management, harvesting & storage of produces but marketing skills among growers was still needed particularly for HVCs. Crop cards were maintained by Field Supervisors for each crop of individual farmers detailing on entire crop cultural practices & its economics. On harvesting of crops, separate fact sheets were prepared for selected farmers extracting the overall productivity and profitability of said crops.



- Establishment of backyard garden:** Enabling for nutrient intake for farming families through their own resources was the basic purpose of promoting establishment of backyard garden among all the target beneficiaries. In all, 1432 farmers were motivated and given some perennial fruit plants for establishment of BYGs in their homesteads. This activity is, in no way, meant for generating any income by the farmers under project's framework.

- Capacity building of stakeholders:** Besides in-house capacitating of staff members during monthly review meetings, training programmes were organized to farmers and also staff members on crop protection, nursery development skills, techniques & practices, harvesting and storage utilizing the expertise of agriculture scientists from reputed institutions throughout the year. In all, 111 training sessions could be organized and 5 exposure visits were arranged to learn from successful models in neighboring areas.

Achievement made during the year 2015-16					
S. No.	Crop	No. of farmers	Area (in acre)	Yield (qtls.)	Total Incremental income - (Rs.)
1	High Value Crops (HVCs)				
1.1	Banana	41	8.06	Results awaited	
1.2	Onion	1362	145.5	7714	6788372/-
1.3	Machan	150	14.85	Results awaited	
1.4	Yam	23	3.8	452.5	652135/-
2	Crop Productivity Enhancement (CPE)				
2.1	Pigeon pea	733	154.5	864.7	5997971/-
3	Kanda Reduction				
3.1	Dhaincha	194	21.12	31.3	243997/-
3.2	Mustard on bunds	1368	131	890.4	3475384/-

- **Convergence/linkages:** Seeking support from other development agencies particularly government sponsored schemes has been highly emphasized. Linkages with agriculture institutions (Universities, KVKs etc.), individual agriculture professionals, experts etc. were developed. Besides, support from community based institutions promoted by GDS; LAPCL being one apex of them was sought as and when required. Seeds, being one of the vital inputs, were arranged for supply by LAPCL.

Since it was first year of Project implementation, the Project team had to pass through so many learning situations in the field. Obviously, the next two years of implementation would be for transforming these learnings into action for achievement. The average incremental income of individual household is expected to be more than what it was in this year to attain overall objective of the project ----- Rs. 50,000/- per household during the project period.

2. Empowerment through literacy for Women in Eastern UP

Layered with the on-going GDS endeavors, this learner centered new project aims at strengthening women empowerment process through literacy skills for realization of their rights and entitlements to build a dignified life for them. The project covers selected villages of Mahrajganj, Shravasti and Balrampur districts to launch women literacy focused interventions in support with SDTT for a period of three years at above GDS locations. The project has two phased; basic & advance literacy, programme covering 1500 women and adolescent girls aged 15-40 years (for Shravasti, Balrampur & Mahrajganj locations) under its field interventions. In Mahrajganj, 20 literacy centres were planned for about 600 beneficiaries (average 30 beneficiaries per centre) while there will be 1200 community members as indirect beneficiaries. The priority was given to select beneficiaries from those families already covered under NRM based livelihood projects. First stage/year is devoted for building basic literacy (reading & writing numeracy and discussion) among learners. The key activities undertaken during reporting period were as follows;

- **Identification of learners & base-line study:** Identification & enlistment of potential regular learners for attending learning centres was done through mobilization meetings conducted in 26 villages involving key persons of the family, community and village panchayats. Base line study was conducted using a 46 pages form with comprehensive data about literacy skills, employment, mobility etc. of these learners. Efforts were made to generate an environment conducive to establish learning centres in the villages. Personal documents of all the neo literates were prepared by Shiksha Saathis after their orientation in record keeping.
- **Shiksha Saathi approach:** Selection of one Shiksha Saathi was made at each learning centre and they prepared personal documents of all the learners at their respective centres as per guidelines of resource agency. ToT was conducted by Nirantar for a team of 5 master trainers in the presence of ED & PC to develop skills for conducting second generation training for Shiksha Saathis. Based on the training module developed by MTs, 3-day training of Shiksha Saathis was organized in 2nd week of October, 2016 and 27 women were trained for conceptual clarity & technical aspects during this participatory session. Follow-up guidance and observation on impact of these training sessions was closely monitored and handholding support given to them from Project Coordinator.
- **Learning centres:** Initially, awareness meetings were conducted to seek stake for building appropriate environment to establish and run learning centres in the selected villages.

Participation of community members, community based groups, PRIs & village level frontline service providers from government department were ensured in these meetings. On formal inauguration of these 20 learning centres, the learners were taught about writing their basic identity followed by lessons from both the primers already designed for them. Daily schedule at training centre was devised with provision to conduct community level activities and record maintaining by Shiksha Saathis. Similarly, monthly schedule of teaching & learning was also devised slotting down centre level activities.

- **Categorization of learners:** Based on the status of learning skills, the learners were divided in 3 levels for Hindi & maths. Each level has defined criteria. By the end of reporting period, three chapters were completed in Hindi language & maths.
- **Monitoring & hand holding support:** Preparation of data management module by Nirantar was in progress but it had developed some MIS formats to report for essential data and the same were used by GDS for programme management. The information is also shared with Nirantar on quarterly basis. Frequent monitoring visits were paid by PC and some visits by donor/resource agencies to review on-site progress & functioning of the project and suggest corrective measures for improvement.
- **Exposure visit of learners & Shiksha Saathi:** With a view to observe and learn from peer learning centres, a 21 member team comprising learners, SS & also location GDS staff from Balrampur happened to visit Pharenda location to learn about teaching processes, record-keeping and learning & teaching materials being used at the centres.
- **Day camp for learners:** A five-day camp was organized for 100 selected weakest learners to give them special attention for learning spending 5 hours daily to complete the curriculum of Hindi & maths both. The camp was inaugurated in the presence of panchayat representatives & block level officials. The sessions were planned and conducted supplementing the gaps assessed initially through pre-test. On completion of camp post test was conducted to evaluate the progress which reflected learning about substantial part of Hindi & maths.
- **Collaboration with other interventions:** Since the learning centres fall within the coverage of Sujalam Sufalam Initiative Project and learning women are from the same households, the women's participation in agricultural activities is promoted using the platform of these learning centres. On the other hand, the rapport with farming household, already established by above agriculture focused project, was utilized to penetrate with this venture. Similarly, efforts continued to facilitate the platform for nutrition focused new Project 'TARINA' to be implemented in the area.

With the programme getting matured and more learnings coming up, the project experiences and learnings will be shared with other stakeholders including mainstream and CSO practitioners. The initial impact has been encouraging; hence, the use of literacy in day-to-day practical life would certainly be attained during next stages of project implementation.

3. Facilitating community led WASH & livelihood interventions in the floodplains of eastern U.P.

Dearth of WASH practices was observed since very beginning of GDS penetration in flood-plains of eastern Uttar Pradesh causing socio-economic vulnerabilities more to farming families with small sized land ownership and limited opportunities for livelihoods. DRR interventions were found meaningful to address with the local contexts sustained with flood occurrence and water logging particularly during

rainy season. This was the decisive factor to join hands with Oxfam India in 2012 for promoting WASH approach integrated with DRR and livelihood interventions in one block in each district of Gorakhpur, S.K. Nagar, Siddharthnagar and two in Mahrajganj covering 3528 households; 72% of them being SC and OBC. The household members were made aware of WASH issues and their adverse impact on their quality of life. They were prepared for collective response and action which enabled organizing minimum one WASH Committee in the 20 Project villages. The project interventions were implemented with the active support from these WCs as mentioned here-below;

- Community motivation & capacitation:** Practicing safe hygiene behavior by the adolescent girls, women and school children was at the crux of awareness campaign launched in project villages. 50 campaigns were conducted in all the 20 Project villages and refresher training on CLTS triggering tools was given to 20 volunteers to strive for preventing open defecation in villages using low cost single pit toilet.
- Sanitation promotion:** Interface events with govt. mainstreams were organized in Soharwaliya, Marukhargkala and Ramkola village and 80 toilets were constructed in Soharwaliya and Zabbar villages under SBA in S K Nagar district. After getting technical training on hand pump repairing & maintenance, each woman caretaker was equipped with single set of toolkit. In all, 67 single pit toilets were constructed in 4 villages with the support of local Panchayatiraj department.
- Disaster preparedness:** Following mock drills exercised at 25 places, early warning system was established at 5 vulnerable points under the management of WASH Committees and local community. As emergency food security measure, demonstrations on Zaid crops (like green gram, cowpea etc.) were held with 212 farmers in 31.5 acres to produce before onset of rainy season. As veterinary services, 4256 animals were vaccinated in 50 camps and artificial insemination for 6400 in support with Pashumitra and livestock rearers. For emergency relief, warehouse was maintained at Khalilabad with relief material readily available for approx. 3000 families along with humanitarian team to respond immediately in case of emergency or disaster.



4. GDS promoted FPO- LAPCL, Pharenda

Seeded with the GDS initiative, LAPCL was established in the middle of 2010 as registered primary producers' company under Companies Act 1956 (amendment 2002) under the sole ownership of local small and marginal farmers. 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 company has a 10 member governing board constituted by its shareholders to provide efficient governance and ensure mandatory compliances. The intensity of its shareholders 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, ICCO and others. During last five years, the Company traveled through vagaries finally arriving at stability in its proper governance and management.

GDS has bridged for a number of interventions between LAPCL and its stakeholders. The company is basically engaged in agri-input business particularly seed, fertilizer and agro-chemicals supplies to local farmers. This profit making venture was under task for establishing its own processing unit at Pharenda. Sale of onion seeds to Tata Trusts' partners in eastern UP has been one of the major business products during current year of reporting. GDS strategic support continued to LAPCL for exploring potential avenues of business making keeping in mind its independent entity as profit making enterprise. *(For details on LAPCL, one can visit its website 'lapcl.co.in')*

5. 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 exists 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 continuously 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.

6. Technical Assistance and Research for Indian Nutrition and Agriculture (TARINA)

Started in March, 2016, BMGF supported TARINA Project aims at enhancing 'the rural poor's year round access to affordable food diversity and quality' through influencing the designs of ongoing and future agriculture projects, programmes and policies. The project is being implemented by a consortium of institutions with diverse set of expertise, especially in the areas of evidence generation, evidence based

policy advocacy and field implementation. The consortium will comprise of Tata-Cornell Initiative (TCi), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Emory University, Cornell University, the Tata Trusts, BAIF and CARE. GDS interventions under TARINA Project are supported through Tata Trusts while consortium partners have direct connect with BMGF for Project support. The project will be of four-year duration. The Project's broad objectives include; (1) Agriculture Projects explicitly incorporate nutrition outcomes, (2) Agricultural Policies promote availability & affordability of food diversity & quality, and (3) Leadership and capacity increased to institutionalize nutrition sensitive agriculture in India.

During first month of its implementation, the establishment work of Project including deployment of team was on priority. The preliminary operational tasks were identified and strategized for further proceeding. Visits were paid by senior staff members to Project location. for initially, 15 villages are to be covered in 1st year and expanded to 50 villages of Pharenda, Dhani and Brijmanganj blocks of Mahrajganj district. These villages had already been covered under other GDS Projects and layered with the interventions of 'TARINA' also.

Ushered into location with JTT supported agriculture project in 2012, GDS has been successful to accomplish agriculture extension approach for technological percolation, imbibing practices, tending towards innovations among the selected farming families in Sirsiya block of Nepal bordering Shravasti district. The project completed in April, 2015 when SDTT started supporting next phase with modified approach and strategies expanding the coverage to more families and villages. This is one of the blocks where tribal population is high and has extensive forest cover if compared with others. 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. Average literacy of the district is as low as 46.74% but the female literacy is even lower to 34.78%, hence, the status of women in development process can easily be assessed. GDS has taken into consideration these factors in totality beyond the framework of Project based approach to go with appropriate interventions depending upon the resources and priorities of the funding sources.

1. Sujalam Sufalam Initiative- GDS network

The project has, briefly, been described under Mahrajanj location. GDS is directly implementing this project in Sirsiya block of Shravasti covering 1500 households in 26 villages spread over 7 village panchayats. 40 farmer clubs with membership 760 were organized during previous phase and these were continuing in addition to 4 newly organized to go with the project interventions. During the year 2015-16 being the year 1 of project implementation, the major achievements made were as follows;

- **Project's coverage:** Priority was given to adopt new villages in surroundings with the old operational area and also cover maximum number of all those farmers in previous phase. In all, registration and individual agriculture micro plan of 721 small farmers was completed but 681 farmers of them could be covered with minimum one intervention of the project.
- **Promotion of high value crops:** Turmeric cultivation as HVC was tried upon for the first time in this location. Under the guidance of agriculture scientists, the Project seed input of *Rajendra Sonia* and *Sonali* varieties of turmeric to total 49 farmers who cultivated it in 10 acres of area. Earlier, the farmers were seen reluctant to adopt this new crop but later on they agreed to go with the crop. The production was below 60 quintals per acre which was low but the farmers were satisfied with their crop and most of them preserved seed for next year cropping. Further, onion was the next HVC promoted for commercial purposes for the first time in this area. The Quality seed of *AgroFound Light Red* variety procured from NHRDF through LAPCL was supplied to farmers. The average production of more than 78 quintals per acre was achieved and farmers were highly encouraged with this crop.
- **Crop Productivity Enhancement (CPE):** Pigeon pea and lentil were the two pulses promoted for cultivation to earn income and also enable nutrient intake among the farming families. Supply of *Narendra-1* variety of pigeon pea was arranged to farmers and they were motivated to adopt line sowing of the duo pulse crops. Similarly, HUL 57 variety of lentil was used for sowing by the farmers. The practices of soil & seed treatment, distance making, weed control etc. were emphasized upon. This year, the farmers fetched high price of their pulse produce and their incremental income was remarkably enhanced.

- **Kanda reduction:** Mustard cultivation on bunds was the only measures adopted for kanda reduction in the villages. The dry stem (residues) of mustard was used as firewood to save use of cow-dung cakes for firewood purposes. The production of mustard seed benefitted them to meet their requirement of edible oil and also revenue generation. The result of dhaincha cultivation was discouraging due to poor/non-germination at early stage of crop and it was almost heavy loss to the farmers.
- **Enabling nutrient intake through backyard gardening:** Taking into consideration the availability of homestead land with target families, perennial fruit plants like lemon, drumstick & papaya and vegetable seeds were distributed among 600 households to establish backyard gardens. It not only effected their saving from paying for vegetables fruits etc. but these were readily available to fulfill nutritional requirement of the families which they, hardly, can afford for their family members. Some of them even gifted the produces to their neighbors and a very few of them sold for earnings.

Achievement made during the year 2015-16					
S. No.	Crop	No. of farmers	Area (in acre)	Yield (qtls.)	Total Incremental income - (Rs.)
1 High Value Crops (HVCs)					
1.1	Turmeric	49	10	598.7	363908/-
1.2	Onion	148	28	2190	1694814/-
2 Crop Productivity Enhancement (CPE)					
2.1	Pigeon pea	202	48.2	219.7	948940/-
2.2	Lentil	306	137	721.8	3492534/-
3 Kanda Reduction					
3.1	Dhaincha	145	29.1	6	18836/-
3.2	Mustard on bunds	500	92	242.2	587942/-

- **Capacity building of stakeholders:**

The selected project staff members were deputed to participate in various trainings organized by external agencies; ISABS, UP NEDA and ILRT Hyderabad aiming at capacitating them to execute field programmes effectively. Besides, in-house capacitation has been a regular process while reviewing the progress and deciding for immediate field strategies. In addition, frequent orientation and training sessions were organized for farmers to prepare them for adoption of crop specific PoPs particularly for trials on new crops. 34 training sessions were conducted locally utilizing the expertise of scientists and agriculture experts while 5 farmers were deputed to undergo training on post harvesting management of crop produce organized by agriculture department at state level.

- **Shade-net enterprising by women's group:** A group of 16 active tribal women had established **Laxmi Krishi Sansadhan Kendra** (Agriculture resource centre) in 2014-15 with the support of GDS and later on linked with ATMA project. The above resource centre had installed shade-net for nursery entrepreneurship and supplying plants to the farmers in the area. The intervention was well recognized by district authorities and president of this group Mrs. Ram Kali was nominated as member of District Livestock Mission, Shravasti. Earlier, she was felicitated by the district administration for her collective action.

- **Convergence with govt. department:**

Linkage with govt. horticulture department, Shravasti was strengthened and convergence mobilized through approaching the authorities. Turmeric cultivation was done by



25 farmers in 5 acres with the seed support from the department. In addition, vegetable seed of

bottle gourd was distributed among 600 farmers for their backyard gardening by the department and chili seed for cultivation in 3 acres area by the 15 farmers.

The project interventions were well taken by the farmers and farmers were encouraged by high value crop cultivation to enhance income from their agriculture sources. Water conservation based interventions would be highly needed to improve ensured irrigation for these crops. The initiatives, taken earlier in previous phase, have visible impact and supplementing the current interventions of this project. Coordination with government mainstreams was emphasized and became productive in favor of these agriculture focused interventions.

2. Women empowerment through literacy in eastern UP

Sirsiya is one of the three GDS locations to implement this project with provision of 15 learning centres for 450 direct women beneficiaries aged 15-40 years and 900 indirect beneficiaries of the peer age group. As already mentioned, the literacy among women in the entire district is quite low and the same is in case of Project area. Layering of this project on NRM based project has minimized intensive community mobilization to some extent as GDS had already established rapport with the community but not in this specific context. Hence, awareness meetings about literacy focused interventions to be taken up were conducted to mobilize local support conducive to Project implementation. During its start-up phase of first 6 months, establishment of project was put in place; thereafter, community mobilization had been the major focus for creating awareness for identification of 450 potential learners and suitable accommodation for opening of learning centres at village level. Profiling of all the learners with their details was completed at all the 15 learning centres established in the project villages. The programme design to utilized first half of the project duration for facilitating basic numeracy and literacy was placed in practice.



On completion of ToT of master trainers conducted by Nirantar, the second generation training was conducted for 18 Shiksha Saathis based on the training module devised by trained MTs on September 14-16, 2015 when conceptual clarity on project design and its implementation strategy was made to them. These Shiksha Saathis were from the same location but deployed to LC in neighboring village to ensure her full engagement at centre's activities with no local any biasness. A three level approach; community level, CIs level and village representatives like Pradhan, ANM, AWW level, was adopted to seek their support for establishment of learning centres and participation of learners from the concerned families. The necessary records like registration form, baseline format, test paper progress reports etc. as suggested by resource agency were kept with each learning centre. Daily and monthly schedule of LCs' functioning was sketched out with provision of teaching sessions, community level activities and preparation of records.

Categorization of learners was made at three level depending upon their learning capacity of Hindi and maths. Lesson 3 & 4 of Hindi are going on at almost 80% LCs and similar in Maths covering 1-80 and more with ones & tens and calendar, plus and minus of single digit.

- **Akshar Mela** : Observance of '*International Women's Day*' was through organizing mass event titled Akshar Mela on March 8, 2016. A women's rally was organized when the participating women raising slogans on women empowerment & literacy marched forward towards mela site. Akshar tree was showcased as an eye-catching display and finally it turned into a mass meeting participated by about 500 women. They were given information on skill India, insurance schemes and power angel's scheme of 1090 women power line.
- **Literacy Saving Groups at LCs**: The learners were made acquainted of importance of small savings to fulfill the credit need of the women. 8 literacy saving groups with membership of 98 learners were formed at LCs. The monthly saving of each group member was decided by the members ranging between Rs. 30 to Rs.100/- depending upon their paying capacity.
- **Other initiatives** : 28 learners & Shiksha Sakhis were registered as Power Angel and issuance of ID card to 18 members as Power Angel under 1090 scheme. 164 learners from 9 LCs were benefitted with Samajwadi Pension Scheme.

In addition to various training programmes and exposure, using the platform of monthly planning & review meeting for capacitation of FEs and Shiksha Sakhis continued regularly and follow-ups were made in a problem solving manner. It was found to be an appropriate platform for collective learning, sharing & identifying the gaps for corrective measures with remedial recommendations. Project Coordinator continued paying handholding support through her frequent visits to the location and LCs to provide strategic guidance and monitor the progress. Overall guidance and direction was constantly provided by ED, GDS for not merely achievement of set objectives of the project but its real impact on the quality lives of illiterate and neo-literate women. Through literacy, the status of women would be uplifted in the society and sign of such change is visible in the project villages where the initial objection by the family members could be melted with their approval and support to get the women of their families literate through these learning centres.

GDS took over the responsibility of direct implementation of SDTT supported Sujalam Sufalam Initiative at Tulsipur block of Balrampur district in May, 2015 which was taken care by one of the network partners. GDS landed with implementation of one more project '*Empowerment through literacy for Women in Eastern UP*' layered upon the previous one. Tulsipur block is flood prone and besides the waters of Rapti and Budhi Rapti, the area is drained by numerous streams and nullahs emanating from the Himalayas. Since it is low lying region hence floods and water logging is a persistent problem for the local farmers. The area is a good example of the classic paradox: excessive water in the rainy season and water paucity in the Rabi season. Irrigation during the Rabi season is a major bottleneck for agriculture. As observed during implementation of previous phase, the landholding pattern of the region shows 15% of the households landless, 40% have 1 acre or less land while 45% of households have over 1 acre of land.

Thus, this is one more location added to GDS coverage in eastern UP during 2015 neighboring to GDS Shravasti cluster. This location has the similar interventions as in Shravasti tried upon within almost the same coverage of beneficiaries. The various interventions launched in Tulsipur block of Balrampur district by GDS during reporting period are as follows;

1. Sujalam Sufalam Initiative-GDS Network

Out of 3 locations covered directly by GDS for implementation under the project, GDS Balrampur is one newly adopted cluster covering 1500 selected farming households in 26 villages spread over 11 village panchayats of Tulsipur block. There had been some modification while deciding for covering the families and villages of previous phase. The following interventions were taken up in the project villages during reporting period;

- Promotion of HVCs** : Promotion of turmeric and onion cultivation as high value crops was emphasized upon to maximize incremental income of farmers. It was for the first time in the area that turmeric cultivation was taken up by 28 farmers in 7 acres attaining the per acre low yield of 57.5 quintals. The next crop onion cultivation was done by 147 farmers in 26 acres and such commercial production of onion also was taken for the first time in the area. The per acre production of 98.9 quintals was achieved and it was an encouraging trend for the farmers and project as well. The incremental income from turmeric & onion cultivation was enhanced to Rs. 45,979/- and Rs. 96,099/- respectively. Initially, it was very challenging to motivate the farmers to adopt above two HVCs as they had

Achievement made during the year 2015-16					
S. No.	Crop	No. of farmers	Area (in acre)	Yield (qtls.)	Total Incremental income - (Rs.)
1	High Value Crops (HVCs)				
1.1	Turmeric	28	7	402.3	293942/-
1.2	Onion	147	26.2	2572	2404657/-
2	Crop Productivity Enhancement (CPE)				
2.1	Pigeon pea	210	114	829.3	4563394/-
2.2	Lentil	601	200	1462	7617162/-
3	Kanda Reduction				
3.1	Dhaincha	211	31.95		
3.2	Mustard on bunds	615	100		

never adopted these crops ever before for commercial purposes and a few of them used to grow for to meet their domestic requirement only.

- **Kanda reduction:** Dhanicha and mustard cultivation was promoted to reduce the use of cow dung cakes (kanda) for firewood purposes and FYM to be used for soil health improvement. Full plot and on-bund dhaicha cultivation was done but due to low germination of seed, the desired results could not be achieved. Meanwhile, it was decided to promote on-bund mustard cultivation. This practice was found useful for proper crop management and get better yield. It was an additional agriculture income to farmers for their main crop established in the plot.
- **Crop Productivity Enhancement:** Context specific agriculture PoPs for pigeon pea cultivation was emphasized with all the 160 farmers covering 100 acres area under above crop. Necessary technical input including crop specific training was given to farmers. Line sowing & distance management had been the major practice related challenges and these were taken up successfully. Further, recommended use of pesticide for control of pod borer was done. Soil & seed treatment was preferred for lentil cultivation which least taken care of in the past. Emergence of wild weed 'Satyanashi' (in local dialect) had been still a major challenge to be addressed. Seed varietal change was highly accepted for both the crops. Arhar Narendra-1 and HUL 57 variety of lentil was used by all the farmers.
- **Backyard garden established by each household:** Enabling nutrient intake by the household members was the basic purpose of this activity; hence, all the target farmers irrespective of coverage under any specific crop/intervention were brought under this activity and encouraged to develop backyard garden at their homesteads with provision of perennial fruit plants and vegetables for their own consumption. All 600 farmers were benefitted to adopt backyard gardens.
- **No cost interventions :** Technological percolation was one of the initiative and line sowing of wheat was promoted through using zero till machine in total area of 178.5 acres. It enabled timely sowing of wheat by the farmers to get better yield.
- **Capacitation of farmers & project team:** Most of the team members had already been associated with agriculture focused interventions of GDS and they were capacited for conceptual understanding about project design and its approach. Since commercial production of some new crops were inducted in the programme package, frequent trainings and monitoring of farmers took place under the technical guidance of scientists and project team. The crop specific PoPs were shared with Field Supervisors and concerned farmers. 28 trainings for farmers and 2 trainings for project team were conducted during the reporting period.

The project has endeavoured to introduce commercial production of onion and turmeric crops for the first time in project area which has never been attempted before by the farmers. The farmers seemed motivated to continue with these HVCs to add more income. They also became aware to imbibe the business way of thinking and proceed for agriculture production.

2. Empowerment through Literacy for Women in E-UP

GDS Balrampur is one of three locations implementing SDTT supported women literacy focused project in selected villages. At the initial, Khalilabad was proposed as third location for implementing this project but later on it was replaced by Balrampur to follow the guidance from funding agency. 456

illiterate and neo-literate women aged 15-40 years were covered through running 15 learning centres in 14 villages. These learning women were from the households covered under Sujlalam Sufalam Initiative. Layering of literacy interventions on agriculture focused activities was finally well accepted in the community. The interventions have mutual supplementary characteristics for socio-economic empowerment of women. The basic objective was to enhance numeracy and literacy skills & practices of target women and prepare them for realization of their rights and entitlement through collective action. Since it was new GDS location with partial coverage of erstwhile JTT supported agriculture based project implemented by MJSS (a partner of GDS network), presence of community groups in new operational area was minimal.

Some major achievement made by the project are given here-as-under;

- Induction of new project team comprising Field Executive, MIS & Documentation Executive & Project Accountant was made and their capacity building was taken up during first half of the year. They were assigned with their defined role & responsibilities.
- Through mobilization initiatives, potential learners could be identified. Meetings were conducted with community members in 17 villages to build an environment conducive for literacy project sensitizing the people about the issues being impacted by illiteracy of women. Profiling of all the regular learners was completed.
- A comprehensive baseline study of each learner's family was conducted using format of 46 pages with simultaneous functioning of learning centres. The study got delayed due to harvesting season but later on went in fast track mode.
- Awareness generation meetings were conducted to convince local people in favour of women literacy involving community in general, community groups and local PRI representatives, ANM, AWW etc. These meetings enabled community members to identify their problems and share with mainstreams' functionaries.
- Suitable candidates (15) to play the role of Shiksha Saathi were selected through certain process and deployed each of them to village based learning centre on the basis of given criteria.
- Literacy related documents and records of the learners were properly maintained as per guidelines of the resource agency. The personal docket of learners has her registration form, base-line format, test paper and chapterwise progress report of maths & language.
- On completion of ToT of selected master trainers conducted by Nirantar, 3-day second generation training of Shiksha Saathis was conducted on September 28-30, 2015 on the basis of module and resource materials developed by master trainers and it was participated by 20 Shiksha Saathis. During the training sessions, emphasis was laid on developing conceptual



clarity about project design and implementation strategy. As follow-ups, handholding support from Project Coordinator continued to observe the impact of training.

- Learning centre was established in each project village. Daily & monthly schedule of learning centre was decided and put up for compliance with hourly session slots on daily & weekly basis.
- Based on the learning skills, the categorisation of learners was made at three level in Hindi & maths and also the assessment of status of learning centre was done from time-to-time.
- MIS formats provided by Nirantar were used to provide programme updates on quarterly basis for programme management.
- 100 weakest learners were identified to attend day camp for five days with special attention to improve their skills.
- Training of Key functionaries : Executive Director, GDS and Project Coordinator participated in three day orientation on basics of women literacy programme and various aspects related to Nirantar model on July 14-16, 2015.
- Review and planning meetings are regularly held for the entire project team to identify gaps and seek remedial action, learnings and bottlenecks. 50% of these meetings were participated by Project Coordinator. Strategic guidance was made available to staff by Executive Director regularly.

Brought with the confidence to explore for their well being, the women now feel comfort to discuss their issues with government officials and other development players to address their day-to-day requirement. The earlier opposition from their family members has now turned into supporting mode with recognition of women literacy for their real empowerment

3. IRRI-NFSM supported paddy demonstration


Along with Sujalam Sufalam Initiative, field demonstrations on drought tolerant variety of Sahbhagi rice were done in support with IRRI, STRASA & NFSM in this water logging area of Balrampur district. The above jointly organized intervention was launched at very opportune time because poor rainfall had created drought situation and Kharif crops particularly paddy was affected with low yields. It favoured the demonstrations taken up by 336 farmers in total area of 250 acres in project villages. The seed input of 39.9 quintals of Sahabhagi was given by IRRI for the entire coverage. Other technical support was arranged from time-to-time for the success of the intervention. The crop result of Sahbhagi highly motivated the farmers as they achieved 40% more yields as compared with other varieties. The yield of other varieties had been quite low for want of irrigation. The average yield of Sahabhagi was 13-15 quintals per acre enabling net income of Rs. 5800/-. Prior to this, GDS had already conducted IRRI supported field demonstrations on STV 'Sahabhagi' rice at its other locations in UP & Bihar.

Thus, GDS landed with multi-layered approaches in its new location of Balrampur district. The achievements made within a short period of initial first year of implementation had been quite satisfactory and its presence has, now, become well established in the district. The coordination with district & block level agriculture/education department officials progressed positively and would be strengthened during the ensuing period. It was really a learning situation for GDS team to perform through integrated field approach. Initiatives would be required to promote community based sustainable livelihoods for small and marginal farming households in the area.

Bordered with state capital, Hardoi is the only district covered with agriculture focused interventions in central Uttar Pradesh under GDS operation for last 5 years. The district is characterised with small and marginal landholding percentage of more than 93% and average land holding size of less than one hectare. Besides marginalization of land holdings, deterioration in soil health, inadequate input support, poor technological percolation & awareness and traditional agriculture practices are some other crucial factors largely impacting the crop productivity and agriculture gains to the farmers. The emerging agricultural issues have been driving force for seasonal migration by a large number of farmers to fend for their families. Since last two decades, agriculture productivity has shown declining trend and emerged as a challenge to the agriculture planners and stakeholders.

It was in 2011-12 when GDS became in partnership with ITC to launch agriculture based interventions under its project titled '**Promotion of Profitable and sustainable agriculture in district Hardoi of Uttar Pradesh**' in Sursa block of Hardoi which now expanded to 4 blocks; Sursa, Sandi, Bilgram & Ahirauri benefitting 1000 farming families living in 20 villages of 8 village panchayats. Enhancing crop productivity and soil health improvement were at the crux through enabling technological percolation and improved practices in the area. Initiative was taken to encourage for collective action by the farmers. Some major activities conducted during 2015-16 were as follows;

- Interventions on soil health improvement:** Promotion of using FYM was the basic purpose to motivate farmers for preventing deterioration of soil health. In all, 578 compost pits were constructed and out of these, 286 pits were vacated for 10879 quintals of compost which was used over 317 acres of land by the farmers avoiding use of chemical fertilizers in this land area. The average production of potato and onion was 130-158 qtls. & 81.6 qtls. respectively. It helped to achieve average yield of wheat crop to 23-26 qtls. Per acre and effected saving of Rs. 3000/- per acre. Construction of NADEP was the next technique promoted in the area. 21 NADEP units were constructed and filled with dung and farm wastages. The activity was recognized by the government department also for its sustainable and appropriate use. 18 units of tetra bags were used by the farmers for vermi-composting of organic wastes using Earthworms. Quality fertilizers were achieved and also it helped in reducing the garbage. The agriculture produces thus gained had high marketing potential and farmers could fetch fair prices of their produces.


- Plantation:** Keeping in view the environmental and economic aspects, plantation of timber & fruit plants was taken up in the year 2013-14 when 14000 poplar and 13281 fruit plants were distributed among farmers for plantation. So far, 15930 poplar, 17443 eucalyptus and 15046 fruit plants have been distributed among farmers. Only 70.2% of poplar and 76.2% of fruit plants survived due to blue-bulls' irruption. The overall survival rate of these plants was 79.4%. The seedlings were purchased from reputed nurseries of WIMCO & others in area. Due to cold weather, the growth of plants slowed down but improved later on.

- **Paddy demonstration & upscaling:** Despite unfavorable weather situation, paddy demonstration was successfully completed through using DSR method in 19.2 acres and SRI in 20.8 acres in newly adopted villages. Technology transfer could be accomplished for its up-scaling in total area of 266 acres with emphasis on adopting intercultural practices of agriculture. Thus, total coverage for paddy demonstration had been in 344 acres. DSR method has been considerably low effective due to loss of seed germination caused by heavy rains during first week of July'15. Hence, Use of DSR for paddy crop



- needs to be taken up during first half of the June. The rice thus grown through DSR qualifies for better grading. Reduction in cost of cultivation and enhanced production helped to increase incremental income of farmers which was estimated to be Rs. 29.7 lacs for all 230 farmers.
- **Line sowing for wheat cultivation with zero-till:** Overwhelming response was observed for using line sowing method through zero-till machine for wheat sowing in total area of 7787.5 acres by 2712 farmers. In addition to ZT machines available within the Project area, support from KVK and other big farmers was taken to use their ZT machine to cover such large area. Micro nutrients and pesticides were made available to farmers for demonstration. ITC opened the door to purchase wheat directly from farmers but most of these farmers could not fulfill quality parameters and only 31 tonnes was sold by the farmers rejecting 92 tonnes for want of quality norms. However, an enhanced production of 4-6 quintals was achieved due to timely sowing and proper crop management.
- **Technology Transfer:** Technologies have gradually filtered down at grass-root level in the district but availability of technology based equipments is still a problem for a large number of small and marginal farmers for their poor affordability. The district being adjoining to state capital is prone for migration of agriculture labourers to avail better earning opportunities, hence, labour intensive agriculture works need technological support for timely cultivation. Induction of mechanized **paddy transplanter** was one step towards mitigation of labour problem at high time of manual paddy transplantation. Paddy transplanter was used for the first time in district by small farmers. Since it needs technology based nursery development which couldn't be done during shorter period when machine was procured, demonstration was done in an area of 4 acres only this year. Also, transplantation needed plain land and well leveled.

Use of **zero till machine** was facilitated by project initially in Sursa block and provision of ZT machines was made in support with the farmers. It not only saved the cultivation expenses but enabled timely sowing of crops during both the agriculture seasons; Kharif & Rabi. 3 new ZT machines were purchased for this purpose. During current year alone, line sowing of wheat was widely adopted in 7887 acres. The farmers have, now, become well motivated to use ZT machine for crop cultivation. Thus, these were the two major mechanical interventions brought for change for a profitable agriculture.

- **Farmers' Field Schools:** Each month FFS sessions were organized in all the 20 villages to sensitize the farmers about care to be taken for crop management separately during 6 crop stages. These were field based sessions to discuss about the current stage of a particular crop on the basis of PoPs and decide action during that period. In all, 228 such FFS sessions were organized during the year. Master Trainers had their active participation in these FFS sessions.
- **Farmers' Federation for collective action:** Narendra Kisan Mahasangh representing a network of 10 farmer clubs organized previously in 10 old villages came into existence with the initiative taken by GDS for collective action by them. The collection of monthly membership fee was the only source of revenue for these clubs. It aimed at addressing issues of farmer clubs at larger platform. Training sessions were organized for farmers' federation when group dynamics, leadership, modalities of group functioning etc. were well discussed with the participants. A 10-member executive committee was constituted to provide governance and leadership to the entire venture. The federation had its own bank account. The balance available with bank account was utilized for purchase of 22.5 kg of onion seed and distributed among members for developing nursery. Onion transplantation took place in 56 acres. These farmers observed a crop cycle of potato-onion-maize for respective plots.
- **Observance of Global Hand wash Day** – On October 15, 2015, school children were made aware of importance of hand wash as individual hygienic practice to protect from diseases. Subsequently, drawing competition was organized for these school children. A demonstration on hand wash skill was performed and the children had their lunch after washing their hands in the same way. The school teachers also actively participated in the event.
- **Review and handholding support:** Monthly review meeting was conducted regularly to assess the progress made and identify the gaps to strategize for corrective measures to be adopted for improvement. It was also used for mutual learning and experience sharing by the Project team members. The progress and impact of project interventions were reviewed on quarterly basis in the presence of senior staff of GDS particularly during onset of Kharif & Rabi season. Plan of action for further period was prepared by the team during the review meeting.

In nutshell, the project completed one more successful year of its extended span as it is sanctioned on year-to-year basis sanction from ITC. Its interventions had highly impacted the profit from agriculture source of earning to farmers and brought them to adopt technologies and practices for better gains on sustained initiatives basis.

In 2006, GDS made entry in Birdha block of Lalitpur district with its DFID supported PACS interventions with coverage of 45 villages in the block. Lalitpur one of the 7 districts in UP-Bundelkhand region, a semi arid area of southern part of the state but availability of water sources is comparatively better to other areas of the region. The low level of water flow in the rivers namely Betwa, Jamani and Dhasan absorbs moisture from upland area of the Project villages. GDS launched various field based development interventions in support with funding agencies in selected villages of the block. Goat based livelihood promotion was taken up in the year 2009 with the support of JTT. On completion of this project in 2011-12, new initiative was taken for livelihood promotion through agriculture based interventions in support with the same funding agency.

1. Improving livelihood through natural resources and agriculture development

The Project has three way approaches focusing towards soil & water conservation, agriculture development and strengthening of community groups in its operational area. During this final year, priority was given to accomplish all the tasks left out during previous years of project implementation.

- Soil & water conservation:** Major accomplishment was made under soil and water conservation. The whole planning for these interventions was made for lenient period of agriculture season particularly after harvesting of standing crops. Land reclamation of a huge area of 622 ha was targeted but inadequate availability of labourers, increase in cost due to increase in daily wages, increased community contribution and reluctance of farmers were the major factors responsible for creating hindrances to complete the task in time. Assessing the situation, the appropriate actions including judicious use of machines, preparation of design, drawing & estimates by engineer, community level preparations etc. were taken. Trainings on techniques for construction of water conservation bodies were given to farmers. Bunding of 693 plots covering an area of 1030 hectares was done in 9 villages. Sesame cultivation and transplantation of nappier grass was done on newly constructed bunds to prevent soil erosion during rainy season. 75% of the total length of bunds was covered with above which helped in establishing the soil and also enhanced income to farmers.

Type of bunds constructed	No. of Villages covered	Length (Mtr.)	Earth Work (Cu. Mtrs)	Area (ha)	No. of plots
Small sized bunds	08	38682	49650.4	435.6	348
Medium sized bunds	09	32684	93773.3	508.6	334
Gabion on bunds	03	-		85.7	11
Total	09	71366	143423.7	1029.9	693

Impact: Bund construction helped in preventing water flow from plots and enhanced storage and capacity of wells for irrigation. Soil erosion was also prevented and its fertility has been enriched. The farmers got success in installing bore-wells and sufficient water for irrigation of their crops. Its social impact was that boundary of each plot could be fixed to avoid fighting among them. During current year, leveling after ploughing was not needed which reduced the cost of irrigation. As assessed, the bunding plots had enhanced production upto 17% as compared to non-bunded plots. Due to moisture content, the seed germination rate has considerably increased.

- Watershed development:** Dearth of water resources for irrigation has been one of the major constraints for enhancing agriculture income through high value crops in Bundelkhand region. Despite existence of rivers in Lalitpur, the farmers have no adequate availability of water for irrigation throughout the year. Due to sloppy land, moisture content is hardly maintained in plots and the rain water flows towards rivers during rainy season. Consequently, water absorbing capacity of land has deteriorated. Having assessed the situation, construction of wells in deep soil and rocky soil condition was taken up. Initially, open meetings were conducted with Watershed Committees to share the proposal for construction of wells through their physical and monetary support. Based on the budget estimates, their contribution was decided in terms of labour, materials and construction work.



During the reporting period, construction of 7 new wells was completed whereas renovation of 25 old wells was done. It benefitted 184 farmers to get water for irrigation from these wells for total agricultural land coverage of 284 acres in these villages. Assuming the prospective risks, use of machinery was preferred to complete the task well before onset of rainy season. All it was done with a concretized planning and strategized manner in consensus with WCs.

Impact: Despite draught situation, irrigation of crops established in 250 acres area was done through these wells. The farmers tried for cultivation of high value crops in their fields. The farmers could earn revenue through irrigation water supply to other neighboring farmers. They also cultivated zaid crops this year.

- Agriculture development:** Emphasis on enhancing crop productivity and reducing cost of cultivation has been the basic purpose of agriculture development interventions launched by the project. Keeping in view the above purpose, the key interventions on identification of issues, preparation of agriculture PoPs, field testing, crop demonstration, upscaling and HVC cultivation were considered for the project area.

For the first time, Kharif onion cultivation was promoted in 13 villages covering 47.3 acres area with 67 farmers for commercial production. The nursery of quality seed of AFDR variety procured from NHRDF was casted in 11 collective nurseries. The farmers could earn net income of Rs. 32000/- per acre from Kharif onion. Encouraged with the achievement, Rabi onion was cultivated in 100 acres by 200 farmers. The average yield was 60 quintals per acre. The farmers continued chilly cultivation of US 611 variety and coverage expanded to 21.7 acres by 58 farmers. Further, Azad P-3 of pea variety was cultivated by 275 farmers. In addition, cauliflower and lentil cultivation was also done by 50 & 150 farmers respectively. Regular capacity building and follow-ups of the farmers continued to provide on-site technical support for crop

management in consultation with scientists. The availability of ensured irrigation was one of motivational factor and it yielded results and impacted for its up-scaling in the area in future.

- **Strengthening of community based organizations:** Organizing community members in their groups to respond with collective action has been the major focus since GDS ushered in the district. The community groups were capacitated to identify their issues at each level and address these

issues through their groups formed at village and cluster level. These were classified as; (1) primary level community groups, and (2) secondary level community

Status of community based organizations							
Type of CBO	No.	Membership	Villages covered	No. of groups collecting service charges	Total income (Rs.)	Total expenditure (Rs.)	Cash Balance (Rs.)
Primary level community groups							
SHGs (W)	202	2295	40	133	35,78,592/-	33,15,425/-	2,63,167/-
WCs	05		05				
WUGs	05		09				
Secondary level community groups							
Women federation	03	1743 from 173 WSHGs	03 clusters in 40 villages	133	11,08,829/-	11,01,826/-	7,003/-

groups depending upon their coverage, functioning and nature of issues. Women Self Help Group(WSHG), Watershed Committee (WCs) and Water Users' Groups (WUG) are primary level groups while women federation is secondary level group functioning in the area. Thrift and credit practices continued within SHGs while credit support of Rs. 4, 95,716/= was also availed from external sources. Convergence with govt. scheme was emphasized upon. The primary level groups played their role for the specific purpose of their groups. A proportionate of SHGs' income (16.3%) was given to federation for saving while payment of loan to its members (35% of the total income) was made during the period. The amount realized from SHGs was used to sanction loan to members from federations. The federations arranged for collective procurement of agriculture inputs required by SHGs and took their issues of concern to the larger platform.

All the above interventions launched at Lalitpur locations were made successful with the capacity building of community members and project team. Trainings on soil & water conservation issues were given to Bhu-mitras while PoPs preparation was taken up in another training programme. Exposure visit to learn about improved agricultural practices was arranged. In addition, capacity building of community groups particularly SHG & federation members were done through training sessions.

Capital city of the largest populated state of India, Lucknow is emerging as one of the fastest job creating cities having national and state headquarters of various agencies from public and private sector as well. It accommodates a huge migrated population not only from within the state but also from the neighboring states searching for employment to fend for their families. Consequently, there had been a remarkable increase in urban population by almost 23% in last decade. The foundation of GDS was laid down long back in 1993 with establishment of head office in Lucknow city. The entire functioning of GDS field location offices is guided and supported from the head office. Hence, the organizational governance and management support is centrally extended from its head office. State level coordination with development stakeholders whether from government or non-government sector is made for advocacy, resource generation and providing feedback to concerned agencies. Broad strategies for field operation are decided at senior management level and compliances ensured for programmatic and financial observations from external viewers. Besides above, two major interventions were in progress as given below;

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

1. Coordination unit of Sujalam Sufalam Initiative through Livelihood Resource Centre (LRC)

After 9 years of its functioning, the role of LRC became more refined to cater with the broad objective to provide strategic support for field operation to its locations and serve for knowledge management to support for livelihood promoting interventions for poor & underprivileged community. Theme based specific strategic support is provided to field locations through LRC under the close guidance and observation of GDS head office. The LRC had played significant role to opt for new avenues to explore potentialities for community based programmes directly or indirectly associated with peoples' livelihood issues. Besides aggregated initiatives, the major contribution was to carry out the coordination role for effective implementation of Sujalam Sufalam Initiative through GDS network in the following manner;

The project being implemented at 9 locations in eastern UP by 6 partner NGOs & 3 direct implementing clusters covers 12000 farmers in 8 districts of floodplains of UP. GDS was assigned with the responsibilities to provide handholding & monitoring support to all the above clusters. Since the project has shifted its approach and implementation strategies, the major role of coordination unit was to arrange for capacity building, constant handholding and close monitoring particularly at the initial stage of project implementation. The followings were the activities carried out by GDS coordination unit during the year;

- i) *Capacity building of stakeholders:* Common operational modalities across the 3 networks were decided through strenuous joint performing in meetings and workshops at preparatory stage. Crop specific PoPs were prepared for all the selected HVCs & pulses. Prior to happening at field implementation, capacitation of project team was taken up through technical training sessions on PoPs organized utilizing the expertise of agriculture scientists. In all, 9 such crop PoPs based trainings were conducted involving all categories of cluster level staff and their follow-ups made to assess the need for reorientation.

- ii) *Trainings by external agencies* : Some of the reputed source agencies for capacity building of workers working in the sector are in regular contact of GDS inviting its staff members for important training/orientation programmes. Based on the assessment of need and usefulness for prospective deliverables, LRC took initiative to depute staff members of project/coordination team to undergo trainings organized by reputed external agencies. ILRT



training on NTFPs based livelihood promotion for tribals was participated by PC, Shravavasti in March'16. PC, Mahrajganj was deputed to participate in MDP on 'Practical Answers to Poverty:Marketing of Rural Products' organized by IRMA, Anand (Guj) in Sep'16. LRC facilitated participation of 3 staff members from network partners to participate in event 'Sharad' organized by ISABS, New Delhi. LRC also deputed Accounts Executive working at GDS HO to participate in training on 'legal compliance' organized by SRRF at New Delhi in Dec'15.

- iii) *Monthly PC meeting*: Review of progress and planning was the main purpose of monthly PC meeting when PCs from all clusters had to make presentation on the progress, identify gaps and initiate corrective measures for improvement. Only 4 monthly PC meetings could be conducted during the year.

- iv) *Periodic Programme Review*: Half yearly programme review was made jointly for GDS & TCL networks in the presence of officials from Tata Trusts at SSK, Lucknow. Kharif review meeting was done on October 14-15, 2015 while Rabi review was made on February 11-12, 2016. The progress of individual clusters & also coordination unit was discussed at this platform and based on the emerging issues, action points were decided for compliance.



- v) *Monitoring & handholding support*: On-site monitoring of progress of project interventions and financial management was regularly made by coordination team members. The support was given to Tata Trusts officials to develop standard MIS tools (formats for registration/micro plan of farmers, crop cards, fact sheets, monthly MIS reports etc.) to be used across the networks. In all, 54 visit days were paid for providing appropriate guidance and arranging for technical input to all the clusters. The emphasis was on crop monitoring and enhancing technical skills of grass-root level providers through on-site observation & learnings.

- vi) *Visits by agriculture consultants:* In addition to utilizing consultant services by cluster at their own, Coordination team organized visit of onion scientist to review the progress and for future recommendation in onion growing clusters. Technical support from other scientists was made available as per need of the concerned clusters throughout the year.
- vii) *Crop PoPs:* Crop Pops for each of the selected crops (HVCs, CPE & Non-farm) under Sujalam Sufalam Initiative was prepared through team exercises giving stage specific practices and economics as field guiding tool to be given to all front-line workers. The PoPs were finalized and made available to all concerned well before onset of agriculture seasons. The technical core of a particular crop was decided on the basis of these PoPs.
- viii) *Organizational Development & Review (OD) Workshop:* Workshop on OD was conducted for senior staff members from GDS locations & head office as well. Review of achievement of all 10 projects was made, gaps identified and corrective measures suggested for improvement. Emphasis was laid on preparation of location plan. During session on OD processes, 5 balloons model was adopted to discuss about essential elements of organization based on which group exercise was done. Life cycle model and organizational culture assessment survey of individual participants was practiced. The summary and findings of the above survey were discussed in details with the participants. 6-member task force was assigned with the task to conduct similar exercises on OD process at each GDS location.
- ix) *GDS in public domain :* MIS-cum-Documentation Officer of Coordination unit was deputed to participate in two day training on 'digital inclusion for social good' organized by Digital Empowerment Foundation India on September 28 & 29, 2015 at SSK Lucknow. After training, initiative was taken to get new website of GDS developed from DEF India. Consequently, its new website 'www.gdsindia.ngo' was developed replacing the previous one. GDS was also registered with 'Ongood.ngo'. The content of website was updated regularly.
- x) *Advocacy for rural development& livelihood issues:* The senior management of GDS participated in various national and state level advocacy meetings, workshop and conferences on various thematic issues particularly addressing the development & livelihood need of rural people. GDS has been associated with various national and regional networks of voluntary nature for advocacy of development programmes. Meetings with funding agencies were conducted at LRC from time-to-time to explore new avenues of resources and decide future strategies. Meetings with senior government functionaries were held to mobilize their support for agriculture based livelihood interventions and other thematic approaches being taken up by GDS. Workshop on CSR for NGOs organized by UPVAN at SSK, Lucknow was participated to have interaction with corporate sector.
- xi) *State level events:* Sujalam Sufalam Initiative exhibits were displayed at stall in Agri-Horti Tech Uttar Pradesh organized jointly by multi-stakeholders at the behest of government of Uttar Pradesh during last week of January 2016. At the initiative taken by LRC, GDS network partners had actively participated in this state level event and nursery seedlings



grown in shade-net (women's enterprise) and some other products were brought to the expo and sold out to fetch fair prices to the farmers. The representatives from state government ministry and administration happened to visit the stall of Tata Trusts and it succeeded to win second prize. Similarly, the coordination unit ensured participation of senior staff members from its network to participate in ICAR sponsored scientists' meet organized at Sugarcane Research Centre, Lucknow. The experiences of renowned agriculture scientists were shared in this meet.

LRC has been instrumental in knowledge management and dissemination of significant informations among development players whether from government, non-government or corporate sector. Its liaisoning with funding agencies yielded positive results to explore resource potentials for GDS. Its role of advocacy at community and provider level continued to seek favour for policy changes, adoption and learnings with context to its thematic areas.

2. The 'Destination End' component of GDS's Migration Programme

With its largest urban population as metropolitan city, Lucknow city has potential for huge job opportunities for both skilled and unskilled labour in public, private and corporate sectors. Cyclical and seasonal migration of poor particularly from rural areas has rapidly floated for more gainful opportunities in big cities of the country, Lucknow being one of them. 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.

Under the above situation, GDS sought partnership with SDTT in the year 2009 to address these issues through involving other stakeholders including migrants themselves. During the reporting year, 10 labour chaurahas and 52 labour pockets in the city and its outskirts. The migrant settlements were identified at the colonies of Engineering college, Janakipuram, Gomtinagar, Indira Nagar, Vikas Nagar, Patrakar puram, Nishat ganj and Chinhath areas of the city. The project outreach expanded to 5000 migrant households.

Major activities during 2014-15

- 2859 migrants were registered for issuance of Aadhar card and 260 registered with labour union. Issuance of PAN card facilitated to 145 migrants while ration card given to 35 migrants.
- Legal counseling given to 271 migrants and 63 new legal cases were registered. Compensation of Rs. 201150/- realized from employers. Legal process of 158 cases completed while 44 cases were still under process.
- Legal literacy events (23) were organized and labour diary distributed among 713 labourers. Further, 5 wage related cases were registered during labour clinic days. 2215 migrants participated in 18 awareness generation camps.
- 782 migrants were treated for minor ailment in 10 health camps organized in the covered area.

- 15 meetings with migrants' collectives were conducted and 404 migrants participated in 10 events organized for these collectives.
- Entitlement realization was made by 101 migrants for one bi-cycle for each worth Rs. 3,13,100/- and 10 migrants for solar light worth Rs. 1,60,000/- under BoCW schemes while 415 migrants were benefitted with social security schemes. In addition, 5 interface programmes were organized for them with govt. mainstreams.
- For financial inclusion, bank accounts were opened by 1143 migrants and 146 of them opened Sukanya account with post offices. 567 migrants for life insurance under PMJBSY & 173 accidental insurance under the same were covered. Credit linkage was facilitated to 44 migrants.
- 6 events were organized in collaboration with AKAM network for policy advocacy and mazdoor haqdari yatra was organized widely in the state.
- Trainings were organized for project team members on MIS, insurance & financial inclusion & migration related issues organized by external agencies including Bank & others. Exposure visit was paid to PEPUS interventions on brick kilns at Allahabad.
- Capacity building programme of Shramik Mitra was conducted.

Now, the services of 2SK are well recognized among the migrants and they have started availing services of the centre. The linkage with government labour department has been established properly and migrants started taking benefit from the department under its various schemes. Multi-service provisioning camps were found to be very effective to link the migrants with government schemes but realization of their rights and entitlements remains still an area to be widely addressed in their own interest.

Added with the woes of recurring cycle of flood and drought as climatic variability induced problems covering both the districts in Muzaffarpur & Sitamarhi highly impact the agriculture based livelihoods of farming households mostly with small landholding and limited resources. As in other regions, inadequacy of technological percolation and quality agricultural inputs, poor access to resources, age long cultivation practices and deteriorating soil health led towards low crop productivity and negatively impacting the earnings from agriculture sources to small farmers. The whole approach of GDS interventions was woven around above contexts in its operational areas in the state. On completion of JTT supported agriculture based project, external support continued for two major projects; CRS supported network project on IRRAS and UNICEF funded CBDRR Project implemented by GDS in state of Bihar. The progress made under above two projects can be delineated briefly as given below;

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

Increasing productivity and reducing the risk of rain fed rice based cropping system through adopting appropriate agronomic practices brought in on the basis of functional adaptive research pipeline and interactive knowledge shared with the farmers living in flood prone Sitamarhi district. This project is basically a partnership between CRS, IRRI and 4 implementing NGOs across the state.

During 4 years of Project's life, demonstrations on 22 techniques through research pipeline were completed and GDS outreached about 10,480 farmers through Project activities to share IRRAS learnings and experiences for up-scaling of interventions. During the year rainfed improved varieties of HD 2967 & K 9157 were demonstrated in 15 villages and also lentil variety PL 8 in 4 villages. The crop PoPs was adopted for demonstration. Despite line sowing of wheat & lentil in demo plots, intercultural practices were adopted for successful demonstration. The average productivity of wheat variety HD 2967 was 26.3 quintals/ha and K 9351 variety 22.7 quintals/ha. Hence, HD 2967 became the preferred wheat variety among farmers. 24% increase in Rabi production was achieved through using varietal change and IRRAS recommended best practices.

Swarna Sub-1 emerged as the best performing variety in flash flood submergence situation. It has highly yielded as compared to other varieties during cyclonic and drought occurrence conditions. Its highest yield was recorded 99 quintals per hectare. Consequently, Bihar state government has planned to promote Swarna Sub-1 variety in flood prone districts in next Kharif season and announced for subsidy to farmers on DSR and SS-1 for wet season in 2016.

Exchanging knowledge: Diverse motivational initiatives were taken involving farmers, government officials and other agriculture functionaries. The trainings of input suppliers were conducted for quality supply at time and district level stakeholders' meeting was also conducted. Exposures to successful models were arranged for farmers to discuss and learn about best



practices. Hence, the entire approach was well taken not merely by the farmers but by the other stakeholders also particularly government local department. GDS tableau on IRRAS interventions displayed on the occasion of Republic Day had been attractive and eye catching and got appreciation from the local administration and other visitors. It highlighted different stages of Swarna Sub-1, live display of seed treatment and spraying of herbicides by the women farmers. Wall paintings and slogan writing were done at 35 strategic points for wide dissemination of messages. Project has experienced many challenges which need to be addressed but at the same time learnings also to be put into practice for further replication.

2. Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) and School Safety programme

Aiming at developing a sustainable model of community based management system for disaster risk reduction in two blocks of multi-hazards prone Sitamarhi district, GDS implemented the above project in support with UNICEF which continued during the year 2015-16. Under this short duration project, Runni Saidpur & Belsand blocks were covered under CBDRR and SSP interventions while Parsauni, Dumra, Nanpur, Pupri, Riga and Bajpatti blocks were covered exclusively for SSP interventions. 7704 households in 42 village panchayats spread over 173 revenue villages were covered for CBDRR interventions and 493 schools of these blocks were covered for school safety programme (SSP).

- **Management of CBDRR & SSP :** Keeping in view its sustainable management, 30 village disaster management committees (VDMCs) and 15 school disaster management committees (SDMCs) were organized previously and based on certain performance criteria their grading was done this year. 27% of these committees were found in 'A' grade and 53-60% were in 'B' grade but none of them was in 'D' grade. Monthly meetings of these VDMCs were conducted regularly under the facilitation of DRR catalysts. Interventions were launched in 30 villages and 15 schools. Annual disaster management plans were submitted to concerned village panchayats and also education committees. Broad issues including release of polluted water from Riga sugar mill, unavailability of fire services at block level, approach road and construction of bridge for connectivity to nearest block/towns were taken up by VDMC federation active in the area. DRR catalysts have now adequate coordination with PRIs and government officials. Task forces with strength of 384 members became well trained to work on the issues of malnutrition, water testing, first aid etc. Additionally they conducted survey on climate change and child protection issues. 155 MAM and 27 SAM screened babies were suggested for special home based care by their mothers.

A total sum of Rs. 12,80,96,621/- could be leveraged through various mainstream schemes and Rs. 4,27,74,600/- for construction of 5 new school buildings & school safety programme under the monitoring of DMCs. An amount of Rs. 8,52,95,021/- was mobilized for community level work which included construction of AWC buildings, community hall, boat & embankment repairing, land elevation, new hand pumps & toilets construction etc. Sanction of Rs. 5,20,31,121/- could be realized for road and drain construction. The amenities including connecting road and culvert was constructed between 2 villages; Ramnagara & Nunaura and 145 toilets were constructed after CLTS triggering & 5 toilets rehabilitated in schools.

Identification of risks was done using hazard hunt tools at 15 schools and submitted to SDMCs. Do's and Don'ts exercised were taken up with school children in 15 schools. Sensitization on sanitation, hygienic and environmental issues was done through mass awareness campaign organized in 10 villages and 9 schools and an approx. 2000 community members and 1500 school children were made aware of issues like hand washing, use of toilets, tree plantation and child education/marriages/abuse/trafficking during the above campaign.

- **Scaling up of SSP & CBDRR:** District & block level orientation programmes were conducted to boost up SSP in all the 8 blocks. The selected 497 school teachers were also sensitized. In all 350 SDMCs were formed and hazard hunt exercises taken up in 300 schools. Review of entire approach was made at district level learning sharing workshop and realizing the impact of interventions, the DEO took initiatives of its upscaling in other areas also. Block officials after their orientation happened to visit project villages to learn about CBDRR interventions. Exposure visit of PRIs was arranged at model village 'Ramnagra' to observe and learn about CBDRR initiatives. Trainings were conducted for new DRR catalysts identified in villages covered for upscaling and also front-line workers working in these villages.
- **Climate change adaption:** Sensitization towards climate change related issues was made for all the 30 VDMCs including task force members. Hazard hunt exercises were done with 240 SDMC members & school children. Plantation of 2000 fruit, medicinal and fuel saplings was done under social forestry scheme & MNERGA in 12 school premises and 22 villages. Concept of no pesticide village was seeded among DRR catalysts and VDMCs and they were motivated to promote use of bio-fertilizers (compost/vermin compost etc.). Use of LED bulbs and reducing use of papers were some of the hints addressing for environmental issues.
- **Social issues:** 155 task force members were capacitated to work for WASH & nutrition issues. 1437 children were screened for identification of MAM/SAM babies. 632 families in 26 villages were practicing hand wash properly. Child Protection Task Forces were organized in 30 villages for taking care of child protection related issues. Awareness generation about child marriages was made in campaign mode. After CLTS triggering, one village (Bhadadih) became ODF.

Thus, mobilization of government support could deliver positive results for upscaling of CBDRR and SSP in large area of the district. The community proximity with government officials developed through these interventions would certainly support in sustainable initiatives and the community support system brought in through organizing purpose specific community groups has paved for way forward to sustain at its own.

Sharing border with Nepal and UP in India, the basin of Narayani & Gandak rivers out-flowing from Nepal in India is highly flood prone in Valmiki Nagar & West Champaran districts devastating human and economic resources each year. In absence of proper disaster management system & its timely implementation, the people of this area have to face mitigable vulnerabilities. Timely alertness, institutionalized community approach, effective government support mechanism, livelihood sources and financial support are some major action areas for disaster risk reduction which lack in this area. GDS, based on its previous experiences about DRR, took initiative in partnership with LWR to launch interventions in flood hit villages.

India-Nepal Trans-boundary Flood Resilience Project

Learnings from previous DRR initiatives taken in Sitamarhi district by GDS had been the guiding path to decide for community based approach for sustainable disaster risk reduction in a cluster of 15 villages falling in the lap of volatile Gandak river and Valmiki tiger reserve in West Champaran district of Bihar state. Due to peculiarity and remoteness, these villages had been at low priority of government initiatives to provide services and packages for mitigation of losses to people in perennial flood situation. The Project had some salient achievements in the following way;

- ***Community based support system evolved*** : Strengthening and capacitation of community based institutions; village disaster management committees (VDMCs), task forces, citizens' forums and women SHGs was done to initiate community action to cope with the emerging situation during flood occurrence in the villages. A trans-boundary team was also organized for facilitating advocacy and learnings. Early warning system remained at the priority to minimize the loss due to floods. Necessary tools and equipments were provided for EW & DRR to VDMC in 3 villages. All the above institutions having their specific roles and responsibilities and were given training for effective functioning.
- Smart & mega phones and other necessary equipments were provided to 10 task forces. In addition, essential early warning equipments were provided to 40 task forces. 9 flood river gauges were installed at strategic points in along the river streams.
- Emergency telephone pocket diary containing telephone numbers of all emergency & essential services was distributed among community members.
- Community sensitization and awareness activities were carried out in all the project villages. Trainings on EWS & DRR were conducted for 64 task forces in two batches; one at Kushi Nagar & another one in Bagaha-II. Mock drill sessions (13) were arranged in project villages under the guidance of external consultants.
- So far, school safety plan (flood) was prepared for 8 schools and orientation of teachers and children was conducted. Similarly, 13 disaster management plans were developed.
- 93 members were covered under PMSBY/PMJJBY after their orientation by the bank representatives. Life saving aids including life jackets was distributed among 11 VDMCs. To ensure food security, community grain banks were established at 16 villages.

- GDS representatives had been in regional workshop at Kathmandu in January'16 and Patna to share experiences for dissemination and advocacy. Key advocacy issues were identified. Experiences were also shared with UPSDMA and Relief Commissioner took the notice of these suggesting government functionaries for support to organizations working on EWS.
- Livelihood assessment and study on gender issues was conducted to identify further initiatives to be taken in the project. Aiming at strengthening agriculture based livelihood in this flood affected area, field demonstration on agriculture package of practices (PoPs) were done in 507 plots under the close monitoring of project team. The necessary technical inputs were provided by scientists for proper crop management.
- 73 farmers' field school sessions were conducted to provide on-site technical support to selected farmers at various crop stages.
- Interface meetings were conducted with government agriculture & veterinary departments at Khadda & Bagaha-II blocks when farmers could share their concerns and became acquainted with government schemes. Trainings on group management (39) were conducted for all 49 SHGs organized in the area.
- Meetings were conducted with bankers for linkage of SHGs to seek credit support required by them.
- Exchange visits were organized for members of citizens' forum to learn through successful model at IDF, Birpur in Supaul and Sahamati project location. Revitalization of citizens' forums was also done enhancing women's representation also. Now, almost 50% of the members are females in these citizen forums.

The Project had been quite relevant in the above context and its positive impact is visible in the area. The existence of community groups itself puts for sustainability of the interventions in future.

Enabling the process of women empowerment and their stake in development initiatives were well thought and imbibed while responding to the local need of strengthening agriculture based livelihoods in Jawaja block of Ajmer district situated at plain region of Plato and East Rajasthan hills. In this draught hit region, the people find migration the only way to fend for their families as their income through agriculture sources is quite insufficient. The locally available major source of livelihood is wage labour and livestock especially ruminant goat and sheep. Since its penetration in the state in year 2001, GDS has been striving for strengthening the livelihoods through its agriculture based interventions. The community members mostly women were organized for collective response to their development need and uplifting socio-economic status in the society.

During the year 2015-16, 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. Mahila Kisan Shasaktikaran Pariyojana

In May 2013, MKSP was initiated in 25 villages of Jawaja block of Ajmer district in network mode which currently has been expanded in 50 villages with involvement of 1547 women living in these villages. The women have started adopting new agriculture technologies and improved practices to have increased crop productivity with low cost cultivation. Use of bio-fertilizers for soil health improvement was brought in practice. 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;

- Demonstration on PoPs based wheat cultivation was conducted in 46 plots in 11 villages during Rabi season of 2015-16. The average yield of wheat crop enhanced by 25.9% in demo plots as compared to control plots.
- 93 village level meetings were organized before onset of Kharif & Rabi seasons in all 50 villages to provide technical input to members of Women farmer clubs on weed & pests control, other crop management practices for the crops like chilly, tomato, brinjal, ladyfinger, bottle & bitter gourd being grown in project area. 886 new women were identified during these meetings.



- 14 refresher courses were conducted for women farmer clubs focusing towards collective thinking, input procurement and marketing to enable small farmers for procuring quality input and negotiating capacity.
- Two day -trainings on crop PoPs were conducted for Krishi Sakhis in two batches; one at the office of Ujala Women federation for 17 Krishi Sakhis and at GDS office for 28 Krishi Sakhis during last week of May, 2015. Refresher courses were also conducted for all these Krishi Sakhis during last week of October'15 before onset of Rabi season.
- Exchange of quality maize seed was made among farmers. In addition, 100 kg. breeder seed of PUSA-composit-3 and 110 kg. of PUSA composit-4 was purchased by Suraj women's federation from IARC, ND and distributed among farmers through Krishi Sakhis. Seed treatment culture was also purchased from Cooperative Society, Byawar.
- 491 backyard gardens were established in 50 villages to facilitate nutrient intake particularly by women. Provision of vegetables was made for establishment of backyard gardens.
- Training was given to 486 women farmers in 27 batches before sowing of crops, 294 farmers in 17 batches after sowing and 44 farmers on crop harvesting & storage.
- The members of women farmer clubs were given training on preparation of compost pits for compost fertilizers and 38 compost pits were constructed during current year.
- 14 Krishi Sakhis were identified as master trainers under NRLM and they conducted training programmes for 28 days and earned honorarium in addition to provision for fooding & lodging. Payment of Rs. 50/-day was made to women's federation also.

Krishi Sakhi approach adopted under the project has been quite effective to involve women farmers in agriculture based interventions. Through these initiatives, the crop productivity of wheat and maize could be enhanced by 26% during last two years but due to low rainfall, maize production went down to 60-70% during current year.

2. Community based organizations (Women SHGs & Federations)

Efforts were made to organize underprivileged, unorganized poor community particularly women in their groups at village level and also at cluster level in Jawaja block of Ajmer district and Raipur block of Pali district. They were prepared for their collective initiatives to be taken for their empowerment and social mainstreaming. The day-to-day contact and support is provided by 16 Vikas Sakhis/Mitra associated with federations. These Vikas Sakhis have dual responsibilities; promotion of women's group related activities and goat rearing activities. The following major activities were carried out under the above intervention;

- I. Women SHGs & federations' strength:** 388 women SHGs including 21 newly organized were active while 38 of old SHGs dropped out for either of the reason. Two federations; Suraj & Ujala were functioning at Jawaja and one more at Raipur block. 202 SHGs were associated with Suraj federation and 135 SHGs with Ujala. 33 SHGs were newly linked with federations.
- II. Capacity building of groups:** Training on group management and leadership quality was given to members from 26 SHGs.

III. **Bank linkage:** The branch Managers of Bank of Baroda, ICICI Ajmer, Baroda Rajasthan Gramin Bank Jawaja branches scrutinized records being maintained by 25 SHGs and discussed about bank linkage procedures. Currently, 354 SHGs are operating their bank accounts with these banks. Bank account was opened by 42 SHGs this year. So far, these SHGs were able to get credit support of Rs. 8, 44, 97,000/- through credit camps.

Bank credit support to WSHGs in the year 2015-16		
Name of Bank	Credit support given to SHGs	No. of SHGs
Bank of Baroda	16,00,000/-	10
BRGB	45,35,000/-	20
ICICI	1,44,63,600/-	93
Total	2,05,98,600/-	123

IV. **Bank credit support to SHGs through federations:** Federations were found instrument to mobilize credit support to their SHGs from banks. 58 SHGs of Suraj Mahila Mahasangh could get credit support worth Rs. 1,11,52,000/- from BoB Jawaja, ICICI bank & BRGB while 42 groups of Ujala Mahila Mahasangh got Rs. 64,67,000/- from ICICI Ajmer, BoB Bada Kheda and 23 SHGs of Raipur Mahila Mahasangh could realize Rs. 29,79,600/- from ICICI during the year.

V. **Services given by Mahila Mahasangh(federations) :** 180 SHGs linked with Suraj Mahila mahasangh and 125 SHGs of Ujala Mahila Mahasangh continued paying service charges @ 10% of their income to their respective federations for maintenance of financial and programmatic records properly. All these SHGs made payment of their annual membership fee to Mahila Mahasangh which is another source of income to these federations. 300 families associated with Suraj Mahasangh and 400 families of Ujala Mahasangh were getting regular supply of food grains and domestic provisional items through the federations. It saved their time, money and quality items for the daily use of their families.



VI. **Credit support to SHGs from federations:** Recoveries of mortgaged land or ornaments to meet emergent requirement was facilitated through providing credit support to member in need to prevent him/her from socio-economic exploitation by the federations. For this purpose only, the federations have, so far, given total loan of Rs. 42, 95,400/- to 116 SHGs for their members. In addition to above, 33 SHGs were given loan of rupees eleven lacs. 68 SHGs of Ujala Mahila Mahasangh could get Rs. 27, 96,800/- as loan from federation. During current year, loan of Rs. 8, 10,000/- was given to 27 SHGs.

VII. **Support in goat rearing based livelihoods promotion:** Regular vaccination and de-worming of goats was arranged by the federations for 900 goat rearing families through Suraj federation and 500 families through Ujala federation for prevention of diseases and health care of goats. It helped goat rearing SHG members to get better gains from their goat based livelihood intervention. The service providers were easily mobilized through federations as it was difficult to seek their services by individual family.

VIII. **Women Conference:** As recurring event, this year the women conference initiated by GDS was themed at 'social responsibilities towards girl child, water, forest & land' held under the aegis of Suraj & Ujala Mahila Mahasangh and GAPCL (PPC) at Jawaja on March 20, 2016. Mrs. Anita Bhadel, Hon'ble Minister for WCD, GoR while addressing the audiences as chief guest emphasized on

community role in protecting girl child and natural resources. A loan of Rs. 58,00,000/- was distributed among SHGs by Chairman, BoB on the occasion. The representative of district, block & village level PRIs were also present. 3 women for their contribution in social & environmental causes, one woman for her commendable job against child marriages and violence against women, another one woman for promoting women's participation in PRIs, renowned environmentalist Sri Shyam Sundar Paliwal for environment protection and development and one journalist for his creative journalism were given Magra Shiromani award for their dedication & contribution to the society. The event had wide media coverage also.

3. *Women owned FPO -GAPCL, Jawaja*

Women's role in promoting agri-business is well witnessed by their FPO 'Grameen Aloe Producer Co. Ltd.' organized involving them as primary producers and shareholders of the Company and formally established in the year 2009 at Jawaja, Ajmer (Raj.).

Wholly owned by the women farmers it continued its agriculture based business of aloe-vira juice involving 355 women members engaged in aloe-vera cultivation. SHGs and federations were the driving force to lean towards enterprising venture of such nature with the handholding support by GDS at initial stage. It is a registered FPO under Company Registration Act 1856 and has its legal status. Last year, the company got registered with FSSAI 2006. With support from MicroSave, process manual was developed. The company had external support from ICCO & Kerk Actie through GDS during previous years. It has a well structured governance & management system and processing unit at Jawaja. All its 97 shareholders continued their association with it. GDS in coordination with MicroSave helped in technical aspect and sought resources for capacitating the Company. The fowwings were major achievement during 2015-16;

- In all, 785 liters of aloe vira juice was produced during the year. The major production took place during the months April & May in 2015 and February & March in 2016.
- The sale of 744 liters of juice was made by the company and the remaining stock was under process of sale by the end of reporting period.
- Total quantity of 39 quintals of aloe-vira leaves was purchased through 8 farmers and payment made accordingly.
- There had been good achievement in respect of production vs. sale as compared to previous years when the sale had been quite low causing loss to company but due to prompt marketing initiatives this situation could be changed to realized gains from production this year.
- Exploration of new markets with more profit potentials would be speeded up and strategies were under consideration for this approach.

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.

The initiatives taken by GDS for livelihood promotion in this semi arid region of Rajasthan were well taken by the community. The women were not merely engaged in agricultural work but they endeavored for establishing their own business enterprise 'Grameen Aloe Producers Company Ltd. (GAPCL)' as the first wholly women owned FPO in the state of Rajasthan. The entire approach has been taken over by self sustained women's groups at village level and at larger platform of federations. All these community based institutions have developed their own resources with low dependency & interference from external sources.

**GDS Partnerships
2015-16**

Funding partners	Implementing partners
Tata Trusts, Mumbai	Aparajita Samajik Samiti, Bahraich
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), Shravasti, UP
International Rice Research Institute	Social Empowerment Through Women's Initiative (SEWI), Balrampur, UP
ITC, Kolkata	Jan Vikas, West Champaran, Bihar
Jamsetji Tata Trust, Mumbai	Yuva Chetna Kenda, Deoria, UP
Lutheran World Relief (LWR)	Utthan, Deoria, UP
UNICEF, Bihar	PRDF, Gorakhpur, UP
WaterAid India	DISA, Basti, U.P.

Voluntary Disclosures by Grameen Development Services for the Year 2015-16

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 renewed for next five year on dated 24.05.2016	31.10.2021
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 Executive Council members' during the Year 2015-16

Sr. No.	Name	Position held	Type of payment	Amount
1.	Mr. S. K. Dwivedi	Secretary & Executive Director	Salary	8,21,500.00
2.	Mr. Amitabh Mishra	Treasurer & Program Director	Salary	6,08,400.00
3.	Mr. Probir Bose	Member	Remuneration	2,64,000.00

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	-	01	01
Between 5001-15000	44	10	54
Between 15001-25000	20	-	20
Between 25001-50000	07	01	08
Between 50001-75000	02		02
Total	73	12	85

Part Time			
Remuneration Levels	No. of team members		
	Male	Female	Total
Up to Rs. 5000	17	04	21
Between 5001-15000	-	-	-
Between 15000-25000	-	-	-
Between 25001-50000	-	-	-
Total	17	04	21

C. 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			

Auditor's Report

To the Members of Grameen Development Services

Report on the Financial Statements

1. We have audited the accompanying financial statements of **Grameen Development Services** ("the Society"), which comprise the Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 2016 and the Income and Expenditure Account for the year then ended, and a summary of the significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

2. The Society's Management is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position and financial performance of the Society in accordance with the Accounting Standards issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. This responsibility includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

3. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. Those Standards require that we comply with the ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.
4. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and the disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers the internal control relevant to the Society's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of the accounting estimates made by the Management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.
5. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

6. In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the financial statements give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India:
 - a. in the case of the Balance Sheet, of the state of affairs of the Society as at 31st March, 2016; and
 - b. in the case of the Income and Expenditure Account, of the deficit of the Society for the year ended on that date.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

7. We report that:
 - a. We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit.
 - b. In our opinion, proper books of account as required by law have been kept by the Society so far as it appears from our examination of those books.
 - c. The Balance Sheet and the Income and Expenditure Account, dealt with by this Report are in agreement with the books of account.

Lucknow: September 01, 2016



A.K. Goel
Membership No: 071257
Partner
For and on behalf of
Ajay Goel & Co.
Chartered Accountants
FRN: 02107C

GRAMEEN DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2016

As on 31.03.2015 Rupees	Annexures	As on 31.03.2016 Rupees
SOURCES OF FUNDS		
CORPUS		
197,373.14	As per last account	197,373.14
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT		
2,851,579.98	Balance as on 01.04.2015	2,995,155.98
143,576.00	Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure	-
	Less: Excess of Expenditure over Income	112,258.13
		2,882,897.85
CAPITAL RESERVE		
2,599,998.00	Balance as on 01.04.2015	2,827,738.00
805,947.00	Add: Cost of assets purchased out of grant funds	2,960,191.00
(33,519.00)	Less: Depreciated value of assets sold/ discarded	16,548.00
(544,688.00)	Less: Depreciation on assets purchased out of grants	1,048,165.00
		4,723,216.00
UN-UTILISED GRANTS		
23,502,457.82	Balance as on 01.04.2015	16,862,875.56
45,468,543.47	Add: Grants received	79,578,503.91
13,020.97	Add: Exchange gains	-
750,477.00	Add: Interest earned	884,054.00
(45,341,018.70)	Less: Grants utilized	51,395,047.29
(7,530,605.00)	Less: Onward grants to partners	9,179,628.17
4,377.00	Add: Grants receivable as on 31.03.2016	481,142.76
		37,231,900.77
81,300.00	REVOLVING FUNDS	81,300.00
22,968,819.68	Total	45,116,687.76
APPLICATION OF FUNDS		
FIXED ASSETS		
10,465,058.37	Gross Block	13,357,388.37
(5,512,223.37)	Less : Depreciation	6,531,411.37
		6,825,977.00
CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS & ADVANCES		
4,377.00	Grants receivable	481,142.76
1,730,684.00	Loans and Advances	1,330,310.83
16,437,098.68	Cash and Bank Balances	37,020,600.17
		38,832,053.76
(156,175.00)	Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES	541,343.00
22,968,819.68	Total	38,290,710.76
ACCOUNTING POLICIES & NOTES TO ACCOUNTS		

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

[Signature] *[Signature]* *[Signature]*
Treasurer Secretary President

per our report of even date

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



Lucknow : September 01, 2016

GRAMEEN DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2016

2014-15 Rupees	Annexure	2015-16 Rupees
INCOME		
Grants		
<i>(Grants received are accounted as income to the extent utilized during the year)</i>		
Grants from Foreign Donors		
	'I'	
2,257,549.71	Balance as on 01.04.2015	1,464,341.75
16,744,014.47	Add: Receipts during the year	16,875,303.91
	Add: Amount receivable as on 31.03.2016	382,619.26
(1,464,341.75)	Less: Un-utilised balance as on 31.03.2016	1,188,058.19
		17,534,206.73
Grants from Indian Donors		
	'I'	
21,244,908.11	Balance as on 01.04.2015	15,398,533.81
28,724,529.00	Add: Receipts (net of refunds) during the year	62,703,200.00
4,377.00	Add: Amount receivable as on 31.03.2016	98,523.50
(15,402,910.81)	Less: Un-utilised balance as on 31.03.2016	36,043,842.58
		42,156,414.73
13,020.97	Gain on exchange rate fluctuation	
930,926.00	Interest from banks and others	974,339.00
38,790.00	Contribution from community and others	83,265.00
242,224.00	Fees for training and consultancy services	268,889.00
	Sale Proceeds of assets	8,500.00
6,425.00	Miscellaneous receipts	13,055.00
1,200.00	Membership fees	1,200.00
53,340,711.70		61,039,869.46
EXPENDITURE		
Programme Expenses		
	'I'	
17,640,070.40	- out of grants from foreign donors	17,627,154.73
27,700,948.30	- out of grants from Indian donors	33,767,892.56
		51,395,047.29
Onwards Grant to partners		
7,530,605.00	- out of grants from Indian donors	'I'
		9,179,628.17
284,652.00	Other organisational expenses	'VI'
		540,460.13
40,860.00	Depreciation	'II'
		36,992.00
53,197,135.70		61,152,127.59
143,576.00	EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	
	EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME	
		112,258.13
ACCOUNTING POLICIES & NOTES TO ACCOUNTS		
Annexures 'I' to 'VII' form integral part of Income and Expenditure Account		
'VII'		

[Signature]

Treasurer

[Signature]

Secretary

[Signature]

President

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 : September 01, 2016

GRAMEEN DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2016

Previous Year Rupees			This Year Rupees
	OPENING BALANCE		
11,857.00	Cash in Hand	9,686.00	
1,889,313.00	Fixed Deposits with Banks	3,900,000.00	
5,010,201.94	Balance with Scheduled Banks	<u>12,527,412.68</u>	16,437,098.68
	RECEIPTS		
45,468,543.47	Grants		79,578,503.91
13,020.97	Exchange gain on Grants		-
38,790.00	Contribution from community and others		83,265.00
1,888,445.00	Interest earned		1,050,043.00
1,200.00	Membership fee		1,200.00
223,010.00	Fees for technical services		272,922.00
6,425.00	Miscellaneous receipts		13,055.00
-	Sale of assets		8,500.00
-	Payable to Others		384,063.00
-	Advances refund (Net)		214,291.00
<u>47,639,434.44</u>	Sub Total		<u>81,605,842.91</u>
	PAYMENTS		
	Expenses on development projects		
2,724,632.40	Facilitating Community Led WASH and Livelihoods Interventions in the Floodplains of Eastern U.P	2,342,862.48	
1,483,845.00	Business Development of Agri. Producer Companies in U.P	-	
46,207.00	Strengthening People's Participation in Budget Process	-	
2,966,799.50	Improved Rice Based Rainfed Agriculture Systems	2,784,941.24	
2,884,209.00	School WASH and WASH in Health Set Ups	4,919,831.78	
4,442,873.50	Flood Response Program Shrawasti 2014	-	
-	Stress Tolerant Rice for Africa and South Asia (STRASA) Phase 3	59,184.00	
258,085.00	Cross Border Early Warning System	-	
9,586.00	Nepal India Trans-boundary Flood Resilience Project	4,732,041.40	
303,250.00	Awareness Generation on stress tolerant rice varieties, Seed Dissemination and Business model development for aCommunity seed company.	-	
3,836,909.50	Promoting Safe and Beneficial Migration in Uttar Pradesh	4,098,050.00	
6,252,226.80	Improving Livelihoods through Water and Agricultural Resource Development	9,602,758.61	
13,329,207.00	Revival of Agriculture Based Livelihoods in the Nepal Bordering Districts of Eastern U.P and Northern Bihar	3,731,374.00	
869,281.00	Goat Based Livelihood Promotion in Eastern Rajasthan	-	
-	GDS-TARINA	45,833.00	
1,074,636.00	Scaling Up CBDRR and School Safety Program Sitamarhi- Bihar	1,229,823.00	
-	Community Resilient Building Programme Sitamarhi- Bihar	98,523.50	
-	SUJALAM SUFALAM Initiative – GDS network	10,196,159.21	
-	Empowerment through Literacy for the Women of Eastern Uttar Pradesh	3,168,246.00	
2,147,065.00	Empowering women farmer through agriculture based livelihoods in Rajasthan under Mahila Kisan Shaktikaran Pariyojna	1,367,826.24	
2,826,308.00	Promotion of Profitable & Sustainable Agriculture	<u>2,781,822.83</u>	51,159,277.29
7,022,374.00	Onwards Grant to Partners		9,265,411.00
517,439.00	Other Organisational expenses		543,377.13
1,941,740.00	Assets purchased out of General Fund		14,656.00
-	Income Tax deducted at source		33,320.00
-	Security Deposit		6,300.00
167,034.00	Advances to staff and others (Net)		-
<u>55,103,707.70</u>	Sub Total		<u>61,022,341.42</u>
	CLOSING BALANCE		
9,686.00	Cash in Hand	12,779.00	
12,527,412.68	Balance with Scheduled Bank	37,007,821.17	
3,900,000.00	Fixed Deposit with Bank	-	37,020,600.17

Annexures 'I' to 'VII' form integral part of Receipts and Payments Account

[Signature]

Treasurer

[Signature]

Secretary

President

per our report of even date

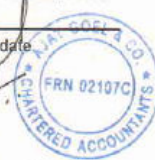
A.K. Goel
(ICAI Mem. No. 071257)

Partner

For and on behalf of

AJAY GOEL & CO.
Chartered Accountants
(FRN: 002107C)

Lucknow : September 01, 2016



GDS Offices

Head Office	
<p style="text-align: center;">Grameen Development Services, B 1/84, Sector-B, Aliganj, Lucknow- 226024, UP Phone- 0522 – 4075891, Email- ho@gds.org.in, & dwivedi.sk@gds.org.in Website: www.gdsindia.ngo Contact Person: Mr. S. K. Dwivedi, Executive Director, Mobile: 09415110759</p>	
Project Locations and Offices	
<p>Sant Kabir Nagar, Uttar Pradesh Grameen Development Services House no: 318, National Highway-28 Near Nedula Chauraha, Khalilabad. Sant Kabir Nagar -272175 Contact Person- Mr. Rajesh Srivastava Mo: 09807154137 Email- khalilabad@gds.org.in</p>	<p>Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh Grameen Development Services, House No.-2, Ward No.-3, Sonauli Road, Anand Nagar, Farenda, Maharajganj- 273155 Phone-0552-222306, Email- maharajganj@gds.org.in Contact 1: Mr. B. N. Tiwari, Mo: 09828382341</p>
<p>Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh Grameen Development Services, C-381/1, Awas Vikas Colony, Near BSNL Colony, Hardoi Contact Person : Mr. Sanjeev Tiwari, Mobile: 09125946748 Email: hardoi@gds.org.in</p>	<p>Lalitpur, Uttar Pradesh Grameen Development Services, C/O Mr. Rana Ravindra Pratap Singh 318, Civil lanes (Behind Zila Praishad), Lalitpur, Pin-288403 Contact Person: Mr. Ashok Tripathi Mobile: 9795341176 Email: lalitpur@gds.org.in</p>
<p>Shrawasti, Uttar Pradesh Grameen Development Services C/o Mohd.Jakir Kote Riyasat Bhinga, Shrawasti, Near Shrawasti Public Inter College, Bhinga, Distt. Shrawasti, UP Contact Person : Mr. Om Prakash Rai Mobile: 09415409143 Email: shravasti@gds.org.in</p>	<p>Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh: Grameen Development Services, Veer Vinay Chauk, Moti Sagar, Opposite Pathik Hotel, Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh Contact Person : Mr. Om Prakash Rai Mobile: 09415409143 Email: balrampur@gds.org.in</p>
<p>Runnisaidpur, Bihar Grameen Development Services Sharma House, Village - Bahramnagar, Post Bhanaspatti, Runnisidpur, Sitmarhi-843328 Contact Person: Mr. Ravindra Kumar Mobile: 07739803822 Email: sitamarhi@gds.org.in</p>	<p>Muzaffarpur, Bihar C/O Shri Nageshwar Prasad Singh Bihar Niketan, South East of Law college Gunnipur Muzaffarpur-842002 Contact Person: Ms. Mandavi Dikshit Mobile: 09431813152 Email- muzaffarpur@gds.org.in</p>
<p>Valmikinagar, West Champaran, Bihar: Grameen Development Services, C/O Mr. Anil Singh, Biseha, Valmiki Nagar, District – Betia, West Champaran, Bihar, Contact Person: Mr. Arshad Umar Mobile: 08090269032 Email: valmikinagar@gds.org.in</p>	<p>Ajmer, Rajasthan, Grameen Development Services 12 Quarter, NH-8, Udaipur Road Vill. & PO- Jawaja (Ajmer) – 305 922 Contact Person: Mr. Shivraj Vaishnav Mobile: 09460111003 Email: ajmer@gds.org.in, tiwari.bn@gds.org.in</p>