

Internship
at
Vaagdhara, Banswara, Rajasthan

By
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About the Organization

VAAGDHARA

Voluntary Association of Agricultural General Development Health and Reconstruction Alliance (VAAGDHARA)

VAAGDHARA is non-government organization, registered under The Societies Registration Act, 1958, and FCRA. VAAGDHARA was formed in 1986-87 as a result of efforts of number of individuals including health professional, academics, farmers and social workers.

The immediate goal was to provide relief of farmers who have become victims of successive droughts in Ghatol Tehsil of Banswara region. Starting with delivery of agriculture inputs such as seed and fertilizer distribution for 15 farm families, the scope and work area of VAAGDHARA has expanded exponentially.

With the aim of augmenting livelihood sources and options through improving traditional agricultural practices among the tribal population and other marginalized groups, the organization has undertaken a variety of activities. The organization, at a broader level, has always strived for upliftment of tribal community through Policy advocacy, realization of child rights, empowering women and proofing the food security net of the community through their livelihood enhancement.

Secretary's Desk

We have been promoter of Sustainable Integrated Farming System – SIFS approach among the local farming communities in Rajasthan and adjoining tribal regions of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat for the past five years. The success of this can be quantified with having mobilized the largest number of farmers towards the adoption of SIFS practices by poor families in remote regions. Within perspective of gender balance society we have been organizing women groups and improving their access to resources be it financial, physical and knowledge.

The financial year has been marked by the continuation of our association with several international and national agencies like IKEA, NABARD, Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT), SCF and among others. We continue to, work with the Ministry of Tribal Development and Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Government of Rajasthan. I am also grateful to state Government, development partners, financial institutions and other organizations and academicians

This year we did introspection of 15 years of our existence and evolved out perspective plan for coming six years i.e. till 2020. Our Perspective plan again reinforced our focus to broad categories of Strengthening Livelihood of poor; addressing the Rights of the Children and facilitating the poor to voice their concerns and issues. The intricacies involved in the SIFS, Child Labour prevention and Voice of Tribal has created enormous scope for improvement in our approaches adopted during implementation.

The challenges faced during the financial years, be it in the ground level difficulties of terrain has only strengthened the capacity of our staff with the experience gained. Continued guidance and encouragement of our Governing Body has provided energy for our teammates to strive forward. Their insights have proved valuable in our endeavors to address all the three focus areas. Of special mention is the active role played by members of the Governing Body in preparing our perspective plan for the next six years.

A special thanks to our partner communities with whom we have worked at the field level with shared visions. Last but not the least a word of appreciation to the commitment and work of our teams.

Secretary

Jayesh Joshi

Vision

The poor in tribal region of India have climate change resilient sustainable livelihood ensuring education, health, rights and participation for their children.

Mission

Creating and nurturing vibrant institutions of tribal Communities attri-junction of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya-Pradesh states of India; integrating new-generations and indigenous technology and practice ensuring sustainable livelihood and realization of childhood.

Objective

The major objectives of the organization as enshrined in its MoA are:

- Tribal Junction of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat as a place where all children get opportunities for better emotional, physical and educational growth.
- Livelihood resources of small and marginal tribal families in 100 villages are managed sustainably, in harmony with ecological conditions and adapted to climate change.
- Empowered Gram Chopal in 100 villages is able to help village community to access benefits of various government schemes they are eligible for.
- Tribal Junction community has active networks, policies and participates in development processes and takes their issues at local, regional, national and international platforms.

Three Focused Thematic Areas

✚ **Facilitating poor to voice their issues and concerns**

✚ **Child Right Programmes**

✚ **Sustainable Livelihood**