

Towards A Sustainable Future



Annual Report
2022-23



Dr. Vikram Sarabhai

Our Founder and Mission

Mission

VIKSAT aims at proactively promoting and strengthening Peoples' Institutions (PIs) through interaction between Government, Non-Government Organizations and the people by the means of active participation of men and women from all sections of the community, for equitable and gender-sensitive, sustainable development, and management of natural resources.

Dr. Vikram Sarabhai was a great scientist who dedicated his life to nation-building. He established several institutions of eminence, working in a wide range of areas. He fathered India's Space Program, contributed to the development of India's atomic energy program, and seeded the Electronics development in India. He was honored with Padma Bhushan in 1966 and Padma Vibhushan in 1972.

In 1966, Dr. Sarabhai founded Nehru Foundation for Development (NFD), a charitable trust dedicated to rural development and environmental awareness. Its main aim was to promote basic studying and thinking on current problems of development at an individual and social level. The Vikram Sarabhai Centre for Development Interaction (VIKSAT) was set up in the year 1977 as an activity of NFD. VIKSAT is taking proactive steps in conserving the environment and promoting sustainable development by endorsing People's Institutions and interactions among them. VIKSAT has provided a forum for interaction among individuals and organizations involved in efforts towards addressing environmental and natural resource development-related issues in the state of Gujarat and at the national level.

VIKSAT's pivotal objective has been to strengthen the implementation of activities that can improve the environment. Since its early stage of involvement with the directions set by the founder, VIKSAT has striven to meet its purpose—to promote interactions between individuals and organizations for environmental protection and to endeavor to build People's Institutions (PIs) for sustainable development and management of natural resources.



Chairperson's Message

VIKSAT has been promoting rapid and substantial financial enhancement in rural and Tribal families, while simultaneously conserving the environment. This addresses a major challenge of sustainable development as we go toward a *Viksit Bharat* by 2047. In 2022-23, VIKSAT continued its programs focussing on climate smart agriculture, residue free agriculture value chain development, and increasing tribal families' income through sustainable means in an irreversible manner. The activities revolve around 'Lakhpati Kisan' and 'More Crop Per Drop' themes of VIKSAT interventions. VIKSAT is proud to promote residue free farming practices which help to preserve soil fertility and offer consumers a healthier and safer option. SAFE, the Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) promoted by VIKSAT, was honoured to receive a key to a new retail outlet in the Ambaji pilgrimage area in the esteemed presence of Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel. This shop is one of the four SAFE outlets which help to expand the reach of FPO products. VIKSAT programmes contributed significantly to achieving multiple UN SDGs on the ground. I would like to extend my gratitude to the VIKSAT Council of Management, Director, Deputy Director, and all the staff for their dedication to VIKSAT's mission of strengthening People's Institutions for a sustainable future.

Kartikeya V. Sarabhai



Director's Message

VIKSAT's achievements in 2022-23 demonstrate our commitment to working with People's Institutions to facilitate economic and environmental resilience. VIKSAT implements renewable energy solutions that meet communities' needs in alignment with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). In 2022-23, VIKSAT installed 19 solar pumps in project villages. Solar pumps provide Tribal farmers with a more reliable, more sustainable, and cheaper alternative to diesel and electric pumps. This year, SAFE FPO, promoted by VIKSAT, improved its value addition services with the purchase of solar dryers. These solar dryers utilize the sun's renewable energy to dry FPO members' pulses and spices, allowing the FPO to sell members' produce at a higher rate. SAFE also expanded the reach of its residue free line of pulses and turmeric powder. I would like to thank our Chairman Shri Kartikeya V. Sarabhai and all members of the Council of Management for their invaluable guidance this year. I am also grateful to our dedicated team members who make this progress possible.

Dilip Surkar



Dy. Director's Message

This year's annual report highlights the activities and progress made by VIKSAT during the year 2022-23. VIKSAT's interventions led to Rs. 20.23 crore of additional income, an increase in agricultural production by 2007 tonnes, and 9.33 billion litres of water saved for the Tribal farmers in north Gujarat. Jay Gurudev Self-Help Group (SHG) and Chamunda SHG, two SHGs supported by VIKSAT, both received letters of appreciation from the Government of Gujarat for promoting natural

farming practices. This year we managed to recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and expand our programs in newer areas. These achievements would not have been possible without the dedicated support of our Council of Management, funding partners, network partners, staff members, and the local communities.

Mahesh Patel

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VIKSAT Activities supporting SDGs

(Last two decades)



Improved Agriculture

3,18,418 Farmers adopted improved agriculture practices	1074 Fruit Orchard (Wadis) developed	8370 HHs engaged in High Value Crop cultivation	14 Hi-Tech polyhouse nurseries established	10,378 HHs producing hybrid and certified seeds
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Water Resources Management

2436 HHs accessed irrigation in 2196 acres through 129 Lift Irrigation Schemes	1675 HHs accessed irrigation in 1664 acres through 438 well renovations	801 HHs accessed irrigation in 1265 acres through 104 check dams and ponds	627 Acres of land covered through 476 drip irrigation systems, benefiting 722 HHs
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Livestock and Small Ruminant Development

14 Dairy cooperatives promoted and their facilities improved	3023 Milch animals provided to farmers	1772 HHs adopted vermicompost	10 Sirohi Goat Farms (4 Buck + 16 Goat) established for breed improvement	120 Sirohi buck provided to individual entrepreneurs for breed improvement
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Drinking Water and Sanitation

140 Villages covered under drinking water schemes	35 Primary school facilities improved in WaSH, Education and RWHS activities	1000 PVC drinking water tanks provided to salt pan workers	1200 Toilets constructed for salt pan workers and Tribal HHs
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Networking

750 Small NGOs, Schools, CBOs joined in network in Gujarat, Diu and Daman	8961 VRPs and 1201 MTs Trained on PoP training for major crops	26,62,230 Farmers trained on PoP for major crops by VRPs, CRPs, and staff	9,84,536 Women trained on digital literacy in 5240 Villages across 14 Districts of Gujarat
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Institution and Capacity Building

17,365 HHs covered through 1319 SHGs in project area	SAKSHAM State-Level Federation of TGCS/JFMCs with 59078 members, covering 9 Districts	5 Block-Level federations covering 99 TGCS and 393 SHGs with 19,232 members	103 TGCSs in 103 villages, covering 16,959 members	3 Cluster-Level FPOs, covering 3618 SHG members and 946 other members	124 CRPs trained to provide handholding support to the community
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Environment and Climate Change

4621.51 Hectares treated, benefiting 6225 HHs through SMC work	15,145 Hectares of forest land protected and managed by TGCSs	23,021 Hectares of forest land protected by SAKSHAM	3178 HHs involved in cultivation of Climate Smart Agriculture Practices	25 Peoples Biodiversity Register (PBRs) prepared with BMC in villages
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Renewable Energy

152 Biogas units installed, benefiting 152 HHs	36 Solar pumps installed for irrigation, covering 308 HHs and 413 acres	250 HHs provided solar light units	195 Solar traps installed
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1.

Introduction

Vikram Sarabhai Centre for Development Interaction (VIKSAT) supports grassroots-level action towards people's empowerment in its five thrust areas: Institution and Capacity Building, Land and Water Management, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH), Sustainable Livelihoods, and Environment and Climate Change. VIKSAT works in 8 Districts of Gujarat and in 27 Aspirational Districts across 8 states of India.



Thaltej Tekra,
Ahmedabad



Kheroj,
Sabarkantha



Kukma,
Kachchh

VIKSAT as an Organization

Over the last five decades, VIKSAT has evolved from a platform for intellectual discourse to a catalyst for promoting sustainable Natural Resource Management-based livelihoods in rural areas. VIKSAT's team contributes its expertise in networking, impact assessment, need assessment, evaluation studies, surveying, and other areas. VIKSAT's accomplishments show that successful collaboration between civil society and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) can create tremendous impact in the livelihood space in Gujarat and at the National Level.

VIKSAT at the Grassroots

VIKSAT has worked towards sustainable development at the grassroots level with over 50,000 families in 615 villages. VIKSAT has also indirectly reached over 2.5 crore households through its capacity building work with stakeholders.

VIKSAT as a Training and Resource Centre

VIKSAT has established itself as a resource organization by partnering with communities, Government agencies, and NGOs on technical, social, and institutional aspects of Natural Resource Management. This work has included designing and publishing Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials in multiple languages, conducting need assessments and impact assessments, and preparing feasibility reports. VIKSAT has facilitated training and capacity building in 27 Aspirational Districts across 8 States. VIKSAT's offices also provide a platform for conducting training programmes.

Institution and Capacity Building

VIKSAT is dedicated to working through strong community institutions towards sustainable development. VIKSAT promotes various People's Institutions (PIs) like Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Village Organizations (VOs), and Cluster Level Federations (CLFs), equipping them with skills through training and knowledge-sharing. **To strengthen PIs, VIKSAT deploys a three-tiered model with women's SHGs at the ground level, VOs at the village level, and Cluster Level Federations (CLFs), such as Farmer Producer Organization (FPOs), at the apex level.** VIKSAT also works with Village Watershed Committees (VWCs) for climate-proofing interventions and watershed activities. VIKSAT follows the cascade model for institution and capacity building.



Capacity Building for SHGs

- 3 orientation trainings were conducted for 54 SHG members. Trainings focused on SHG management, group norm setting, and the importance of bank accounts.
- As of March 31, 2023, 217 SHGs have received National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) revolving funds of Rs.15000/- each.
- 3 SHGs received the Mukhyamantri Mahila Utkarsh Yojana (MMUY) Government scheme, securing 0% interest loans of Rs. 1,00,000/- each. Additionally, 25 SHG members obtained Rs. 7,50,000/- in bank loans.
- VIKSAT performed assessments of 521 SHGs, highlighting areas for improvement. Programme staff also audited 43 SHGs and shared the annual progress and profit updates with the SHGs.
- 220 SHGs gave a service charge of Rs. 272,705/- collectively to VOs for VO services.
- Jay Gurudev SHG and Chamunda SHG, which are promoted by VIKSAT, were awarded a letter of appreciation by Gujarat state Government officials on April 15, 2022 for promoting natural farming practices in the tribal region Poshina block of Sabarkantha District.

Village Organizations (VOs)

VIKSAT promotes VOs at the village level to strengthen SHGs and enable knowledge-sharing and issue resolution within its project areas. 48 VOs have been formed.

Capacity Building for VOs/CLFs

Topics	Trainings	Participants
CLF Exposure Visit for CRPs	01	31
VO Sustainability	02	55
Exposure visits at PEDO, Dugarpur	04	128
CLF Formation	03	132

A financial inclusion camp, supported by NABARD, was held in Patadiya village on December 19, 2022. 49 people attended along with the representatives from NABARD, including Shri Gyanendra Mani and Shri Nilesh Shah. They recommended accessing loans from institutional setups/banks rather than private lenders. They also explained Government Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) and Rural Entrepreneurship Development Programme (REDP) schemes.

1319
Total SHGs

17,365
Total SHG members

05
Total VWCs

56
Total VOs

05
Total FPOs

Farmer Producer Organization (FPO)

The Sabar AART Farmer Enterprise Producer Company Limited (SAFE FPO), supported by VIKSAT, is registered under the Companies Act of 2013. SAFE FPO is based out of Kheroj, Gujarat and has outlets in Kheroj, Mandali, Ambaji, and Chota Bamdora villages that offer affordable, high-quality agricultural inputs and help to facilitate easier agricultural produce procurement.

This year, SAFE FPO conducted a survey to gauge what it would take to have a financially sustainable FPO. An online form was developed, tested, and rolled-out in the field. **The survey covered 684 households, including 260 non-shareholders, 266 active shareholders, and 158 inactive shareholders.** Qualitative data was also gathered through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with stakeholders.

SAFE FPO's Major Achievements

A Maize Hammer Mill was installed at SAFE FPO in Kheroj to bolster agricultural entrepreneurship, with the support of HDFC Bank Parivartan, and Collectives for Integrated Livelihood Initiatives (CINI) Tata Trusts. It was inaugurated on December 19, 2022, by Shri Gyanendra Mani, Chief General Manager of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Regional Office (R.O.), Ahmedabad. The event was graced by Shri Nilesh Shah, Deputy General Manager (DGM) of NABARD, R.O., Ahmedabad, and Shri Naval J. Kannon, District Development Manager of Sabarkantha/Aravalli Districts, NABARD.

7 solar dryers were installed by SAFE FPO to enhance the processing capacity of the pulse and spice unit. A cumulative total of 6730 kilograms of turmeric, 700 kilograms of ginger, and 500 kilograms of pulses have been dried using these solar dryers.

Enhancing the Farmers Income Through Market Linkages and Value Addition Activities

With the support of Welthungerhilfe (WHH), VIKSAT facilitates horticulture farming among economically disadvantaged and small-scale farmers by collaborating directly with Kutch Agriculture Livelihood Producer Company Ltd. (KALP FPO). This involves providing technical

In the esteemed presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Bhupendra Patel, SAFE FPO was presented with the key to a new outlet in Ambaji by the Hon'ble Shri. Purnesh Modi, the Minister for Roads and Buildings, Transport, Civil Aviation, Tourism, and Pilgrimage.



SAFE FPO

- SAFE FPO organized its Annual General Meeting on October 18, 2022. 70 Institutional shareholders (VO Leaders) attended.
- Share capital of **₹8,77,500** contributed by **3880** shareholders at **₹100-500/-** per shareholder.
- Training imparted to SAFE FPO staff on cattle insurance. After receiving training, SAFE FPO provided SBI insurance to 218 cattle and goats.



Inputs sold
-
₹1,29,06,078

Procurement
1219 QI
₹61,17,676

Cereals, pulses,
and castor sold
895 QI
₹62,47,690

Dal and
spices sold
52 QI
₹6,44,844

expertise to improve production quality through best agricultural practices. **The objective of this work is to uplift communities by involving them in value-added activities.**

Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Material and Training

- IEC materials, like a pamphlet on the best package of practices for pomegranate farming and processing and value addition for pomegranates, were prepared.
- 8 meetings were held with Board of Director (BOD) members for the revival of KALP FPO, procurement of pomegranate, auditing, reconstruction of the BOD, market linkage development, and value addition.
- 6 trainings on pomegranate farming benefited 93 participants from project villages.

Major Highlights of KALP FPO

- 179 farmers sold 3138 tonnes of pomegranates. Compared to the previous year, there was a remarkable 144% increase in pomegranate production per farmer, reaching 17.53 tonnes in 2022 from 7.18 tonnes in 2021.
- Additionally, the average income surged by an impressive 153%, rising from Rs. 3,36,397 in 2021 to Rs. 8,50,117 in 2022.

National Farmers' Day Celebrations

9 programmes were organized with 394 farmers at the Kheroj field office as a tribute to the indispensable role of farmers in sustaining food security and fostering economic growth during a week-long celebration in December.

2 programmes were organized at the Bhuj field office focusing on the cultivation of Pomegranate and Date Palm in Kutch. It was attended by 75 farmers, 8 Government officials, and VIKSAT staff, and covered various topics such as horticultural department subsidies, cultivation methods, organic farming, and market linkages.



Staff Development Programmes

- A two-day training was organized on work ethics, time management, communication, and the art of effective pitching on September 23-24, 2022 in Ambaji. 27 staff members participated in the programme.
- A two-day training was held on team building, work strategies, and action planning on October 12-13, 2022 at Abu Road. 18 staff members participated in the programme.
- A two-day workshop was held on preparation

of an Annual Work Plan (AWP) for 2023-24, including a discussion of the major challenges faced in the previous year, on February 13-14, 2023 at Abu Road. 50 staff members and CRPs participated in the programme.

- Programme staff and CRPs had 22 monthly meetings for programme review and planning.
- VIKSAT staff participated in trainings on date palm cultivation and a National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX) training on FPO marketing, and other topics.



3.

Land and Water Management

VIKSAT undertakes an array of initiatives to improve land and water management for rural communities because sustainable land and water management is vital for long-term poverty reduction. This work has been made possible with the support of Hindustan Unilever Foundation (HUF), CInI, Tata Trusts, and Government Schemes.



Water Resource Development

Since 2019, VIKSAT has been working on water resource development in 53 Tribal villages. VIKSAT aims to set up a replicable model that small and marginal Tribal farmers in dry-arid regions can use to build their capabilities, increase their income, and build climate resilience. VIKSAT incentivizes farmers' smart choices in water use, farm practices, and crop choice, helping Tribal farmers to multiply their current incomes manifold. This year, Crop Water Budgeting exercises were completed with SHGs and VOs in all 53 villages with the help of a Crop Water Budgeting app. VIKSAT has implemented these initiatives with support from HUF and Government Schemes.

Ernst & Young Associates LLP assured the 2021-22 data for the HUF project. November 14-15, 2022

2021-2022 Assurance Data

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
 Water Potential +			
5.54 billion litres	8.93 billion litres	9.33 billion litres	
 Yield +			
947.46 Tonnes	1129.52 Tonnes	2007.00 Tonnes	
 Employment +			
38610 person days	48831 person days	98095 person days	
 Income			
6.17 crores	9.79 crores	20.23 crores	

Lift Irrigation Schemes (LIS)

6 Small Lift Irrigation Schemes were installed, benefiting 64 Households, and bringing 89.83 additional acres under irrigation.

Drip Irrigation Systems

60 drip irrigation systems were installed for 60 Households to help irrigate 60 acres of land.

Pond Desilting and Deepening

7 ponds desilted and deepened, generating 42,273 person-days of work across 7 project villages under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

Check Dams and Nala Plugs

6 Check Dams and Nala Plugs were constructed, leading to 26 wells with increased water access, 83.85 acres with increased irrigation capacity, and benefiting 82 farmers.

World Water Day

In alignment with the UN's World Water Day theme of "Accelerating Change," the VIKSAT team also celebrated World Water Day on March 21-22, 2023 with events in Galenda, Jolva, Akhod, and Rahiyad villages of Bharuch District, Gujarat. 137 community members attended to learn about how to address the water and sanitation challenges that they face.

A workshop on natural farming techniques for horticulture crops was held at AART Centre, Kheroj, Sabarkantha District, Gujarat on March 20, 2023 in commemoration of World Water Day. Over 600 SHG members and 100 community leaders from project villages participated.

Agricultural Interventions

VIKSAT supports Tribal farmers in diversifying their agricultural production and increasing their incomes through market linkages, value addition, and technology replication.

Solar and Pheromone Traps

86 solar traps were installed in farmers' fields with the support of HUF. In total, 195 solar traps have been installed in the farmers' fields.

Capacity Building Programme on Water Resource Development

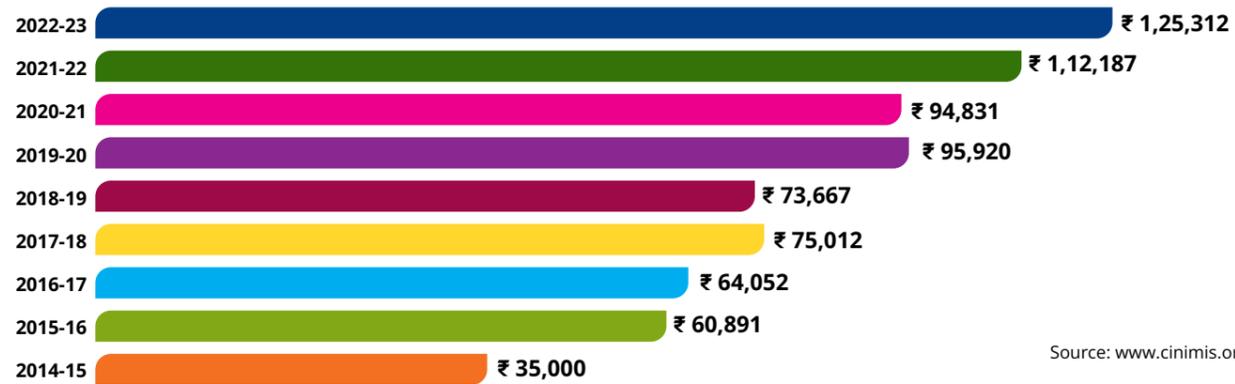
Training Topics	Trainings	Male	Female
Awareness campaign on water literacy for water saving practices for farmers	8	40	137
Training on crop water budgeting for Self-Help Group (SHG) members and farmers	15	203	384
Training on irrigation resource development and record keeping of Lift Irrigation leaders	1	20	0
Training on innovative water saving technology for SHG members	132	1188	3393



Agriculture Field Crop	
Seasons	Households
Kharif	12014
Rabi	9250
Summer	3908

High Value Crop	
Seasons	Households
Cotton Seed Production in Kharif	10341
Kharif	408
Rabi	623
Summer	859

Income Realization Graph



Training Programmes on Improved Agricultural Crop

Training Programmes	Trainings	Participants	
		Male	Female
1. Pre-season training on kharif, rabi & summer crops for staff and community resource persons (CRPs)	3	84	25
2. Training on leader's exertion and technical knowledge of package of practices (PoP) for lead farmers	120	1133	2742
3. Technical training on growing vegetable seeding and seed production for entrepreneurs	1	22	0
4. Training on PoP of kharif, rabi and summer agriculture & vegetables and water saving techniques	203	569	4207
5. Farmer field school on agriculture & vegetable crops and water saving methods	89	271	1867
6. Local exposure visits on high value crops	3	9	93
7. Exposure visits at KVK & Center of Excellence (CoE)	3	30	25

Major Highlights, 2022-23

- 7,69,800 vegetable saplings grown in soil-less mediums in hi-tech polyhouse nurseries.
- 12 soil moisture meters installed in fields for testing soil moisture percentage to improve farmers' irrigation intervals with support from WIN Foundation.
- 120 small agricultural tools were provided to marginal farmers with the support of Sustain Plus.
- 69 households benefited from production of BT cotton and wheat seeds carried out by SAFE FPO.

Demonstration

112 Maize and cotton plot demonstrations in Kharif, 56 wheat in Rabi, and 56 green gram in Summer conducted in project villages.

International Year of Millets

To celebrate International Year of Millets, VIKSAT hosted a millet workshop at the AART Centre in Kheroj where 34 farmers were trained in millet cultivation.



Livestock and Small Ruminant

VIKSAT supports Tribal farmers by facilitating visits to dairy cooperatives and helping Tribal farmers to gain access to VO revolving funds. VIKSAT also trained Pashu Mitra and Pashu Sakhi, who visited villages, to deliver services such as vaccination, dipping, castration, and feed management to goat-rearing farmers.

- 569 milch animals purchased with the support of Government subsidy, generating an estimated additional income of Rs. 24,000/- annually per milch animal.
- 34 Azolla unit demonstrations and 148 fodder demo plots resulted in increased animal fat and milk production. Generating an additional income of Rs. 1100-1200/- per unit.
- 287 vermicompost units were installed with support from HUF and NABARD to increase farmers' soil fertility.

Capacity Building Programmes on Livestock and Small Ruminants

Training Programmes	Trainings	Participants	
		Male	Female
1. Training on vermicompost	25	76	698
2. Training on animal husbandry and dairy	1	23	0
3. Training on animal husbandry and livestock management for SHG leaders	2	0	37

Animal Health Camps

84	3334	2328	5156
Camps	Beneficiaries	Cattle	Goats



Lumpy Virus Camps

- 11 animal health camps focused on lumpy virus organized with Government support
- 3428 animals treated

Sustainable and Comprehensive Agriculture for Livelihood Enhancement (SCALE) Project

The SCALE project aims to enhance the livelihood of date palm growers by encouraging the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices and strengthening FPOs through its various activities.

Major Highlights

- 26 training programmes were conducted with 1340 farmers, including 1275 men and 65 women.
- 3 solar dryer units installed at Kali Talavadi (500 kg), Zarpara (100 kg), and Kukma (500 kg).
- Demonstration on date palm drying under a solar dryer dried 18.70 kilograms of fresh date palm to 4.45 kilograms of dried date palm after 9 days.

Demonstration

- Demonstration on mulching of date palm plots was conducted with 17 farmers.
- Demonstration on the use of plastic bags for date palm protection was conducted with 16 farmers.
- Demonstration on the use of micro-nutrients such as boron, Phosphorus Solubilizing Bacteria (PSB), and Potassium Mobilizing Bacteria (KMB) was conducted with 60 farmers.
- Demonstration on the use of hand pollination kits was conducted with 35 farmers.
- Demonstration on the use of vermicompost was conducted with 30 date palm farmers.
- Demonstration on solar drying of drumstick (ODC3 plus variety), banana (G9 variety), and onion (pusha red variety) was also conducted.



Sowing Seeds of Change: Pushpaben Dama's Agricultural Revolution

Smt. Pushpaben Dama's journey is one of resilience and innovation. She is the secretary of the Jai Ramapir Self-Help Group and the head of a family of nine. Pushpaben has brought about a green revolution in the village of Chota Bamodra. It all started with a failed borewell that cost Rs. 1.20 Lakhs. But, Pushpaben didn't give up and persisted until she finally secured the necessary water for her nursery and high-value agricultural ventures. With VIKSAT's guidance, Pushpaben and her husband Sunilbhai implemented organic practices. They set up a polyhouse for nursery cultivation and adopted natural farming techniques that avoided the use of chemical fertilizers.

The impact of Pushpaben's efforts has been profound. Her family's income has soared, with the nursery business alone generating Rs. 2.15 Lakhs in revenue annually. The adoption of Azolla farming and vermicomposting has not only increased milk yield but also improved soil quality, leading to better harvests. Her innovative watering technique, designed to counter erratic power supply, has protected delicate seedlings and ensured consistent growth. Pushpaben's success has inspired neighbouring farmers to follow in her footsteps and embrace sustainable agriculture.

Pushpaben's story is a testament to the transformative power of determination and sustainable practices. It's not just about financial gain; it's also about building a pucca house, ensuring her children's education, and becoming a lakhpati family. Her narrative underscores the potential of individual efforts to foster community-wide prosperity and environmental health.



4.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH)

VIKSAT's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH) work includes ensuring safe drinking water access, constructing toilets, and educating communities on hygiene in support of UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6. VIKSAT's multidisciplinary approach tailors solutions to regional needs—empowering communities to live healthier, more sustainable lives.

Support from YOKOHOMA (formerly ATC Tires Private Ltd.) and United Way of Mumbai has greatly contributed to these initiatives.



Capacity Building Programmes

Training Topics	No.	Participants
WaSH Trainings in Primary Schools	10	1173
WaSH Trainings for Women and Adolescent Girls	10	312
Training of Trainers (ToT) on WaSH for Yokohama staff members	01	20

Beautification and Rejuvenation of Existing Pond Structures

Pond deepening, cleaning, and sediment removal in Galenda and Samatpor villages increased the storage capacity of the ponds by 118 lakh litres and 59 lakh litres respectively.

In Akhod and Galenda villages, retaining walls were constructed around the village pond to prevent soil erosion and to strengthen the embankment—a 71 metre wall in Akhod village and a 102 metre wall in Galenda village.

In Akhod, Galenda, and Samatpor villages, 972 metres of wire fencing were built, 25 solar lights were installed, and 760 trees were planted.

Galenda and Samatpor benefited from 938 metres of brick wall walkways and 20 benches surrounding their ponds.

WaSH Competition in Schools

VIKSAT conducted a school contest which engaged 753 students in drawing, elocution, and essay writing. The contest promoted creativity and raised awareness about water and sanitation. The best drawings were displayed during the Republic Day celebration, promoting cleanliness, hygiene, and water conservation. Trophies were awarded to the top three winners.



WaSH Rallies

Rallies were organized in Akhod, Galenda, Jolva, Samatpor, and Rahiyad villages where students carried WaSH slogan placards and chanted slogans during the Republic Day celebration.

Cattle Troughs

In Samatpor and Akhod villages, VIKSAT constructed cattle troughs along the side of village ponds to ensure year-round access to water for cattle.



5.

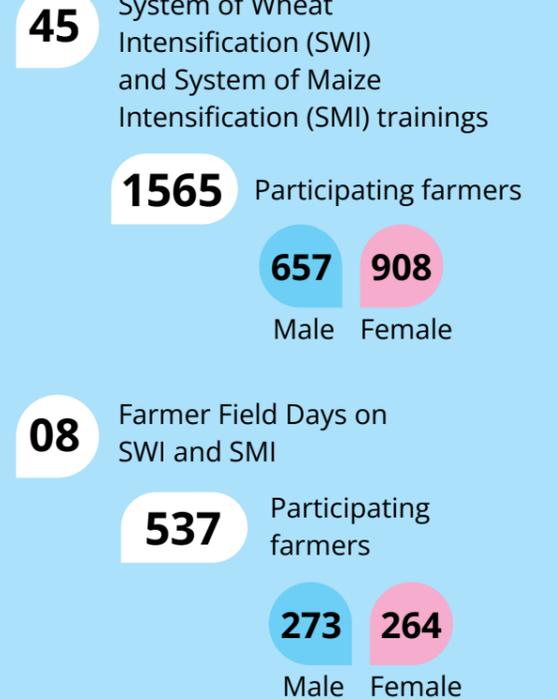
Sustainable Livelihoods

VIKSAT focuses on sustainable development and environmental well-being while addressing the diverse needs of communities. VIKSAT's holistic approach enhances livelihoods, improves resource access, and strengthens skills. This fosters ecologically resilient and self-reliant livelihood systems by promoting eco-friendly economic opportunities in various sectors and disseminating best practices through capacity building.

Enhancing Livelihood of Tribals in Aravalli and Sabarkantha Districts

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) core project was sanctioned in October 2018. The project promotes research and creates awareness of sustainable farming methods through demonstrations and dissemination and replication among farmers. This year, project activities were conducted in 60 villages across the Idar, Khedbrahma, and Vijaynagar blocks of Sabarkantha District and Bhiloda block of Aravalli District.

Capacity Building



Sustainable Farming Methods

VIKSAT has implemented the principles behind System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in the form of System of Wheat Intensification (SWI) and System of Maize Intensification (SMI) to suit the unique needs of VIKSAT's project areas.



System of Wheat Intensification (SWI)

2138 farmers were educated about SWI production and 110 farmers used innovative SWI sowing tools during the 2022 Rabi season.

Particular	SWI (Rabi season)				
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Area (acre) - Increased	5.5	38.5	88.2	106.4	377.4
No. of demonstrations	22	77	200	200	315
Yield increased over traditional farmer practices (%)	25.5	23.56	28.86	25.46	32.69
Net profit (Rs./0.10 Ha)	2848	2630	3099	3872	4891
C:B ratio	1:1.58	1:1.73	1:2.49	1:2.37	1:2.55

System of Maize Intensification (SMI)

The SMI project began in 30 villages and initially covered 55.0 acres. The project has now expanded to cover 45 villages and 106.07 acres. **Use of SMI has resulted in a 12-16% increase in maize yields and generated an overall net profit of Rs. 2214/- per 0.10 hectares.** 1065 farmers were educated about SMI production techniques and 55 farmers used innovative SMI sowing tools during the Kharif and Rabi seasons in 2022.



VIKSAT participated in the India International Science Festival (IISF) 2022, Marching towards Amrit Kaal with Science, Technology, and Innovation, event on January 21-24, 2023 as part of the DST core project. VIKSAT was honored to receive an Award of Appreciation memento for 'Science and Technology Interventions for Better Livelihood of Tribals' at IISF 2022 for Reducing Multidimensional Poverty and Building Aatm Nirbhar Bharat.

Organic Turmeric Cultivation

767 farmers have adopted organic turmeric production methods, including 233 new farmers, increasing the land under organic turmeric cultivation to 104.61 acres. Residue free farming of turmeric has enabled SAFE FPO to obtain Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) licenses for selling turmeric powder. Over 112 farmers have benefited from the value addition of turmeric powder processing by SAFE FPO.

Particulars	Organic Turmeric Cultivation (Kharif season)			
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Area (acre) - increased	38.5	22	26.62	104.61
No. of demonstrations	77	200	213	233
Av. yield (Kg/0.05 Ha)	675	735	800	850
Net profit (Rs. /0.05 Ha)	7600	8415	10365	11865
C:B ratio	1:1.60	1:1.61	1:1.76	2:18

Project Highlights

- 77 demonstrations of biopesticides conducted, resulting in an average annual savings of Rs. 1500/- on biopesticide purchases per household.
- 50 demonstrations conducted for Azolla livestock feed, expanding the fodder area to 57.22 acres and benefiting 464 farmers.
- 11 animal health camps organized, vaccinating 6970 animals and benefiting 3331 farmers.
- 28700 kg vermicompost sold by SHGs to enrich the soil.

6.

Environment and Climate Change

VIKSAT is committed to environmental preservation, conservation, and climate resilience. **Building on VIKSAT's background in forestry, VIKSAT's environmental interventions now focus on bolstering the resilience of agricultural practices against the effects of climate change.** To advance this aim, VIKSAT promotes the use of climate-resilient crop varieties and water saving techniques. This work is supported by NABARD, CInI, Tata Trusts, Sustain Plus, HUF, and other Government Schemes.



Major Highlights of NABARD Watershed Project

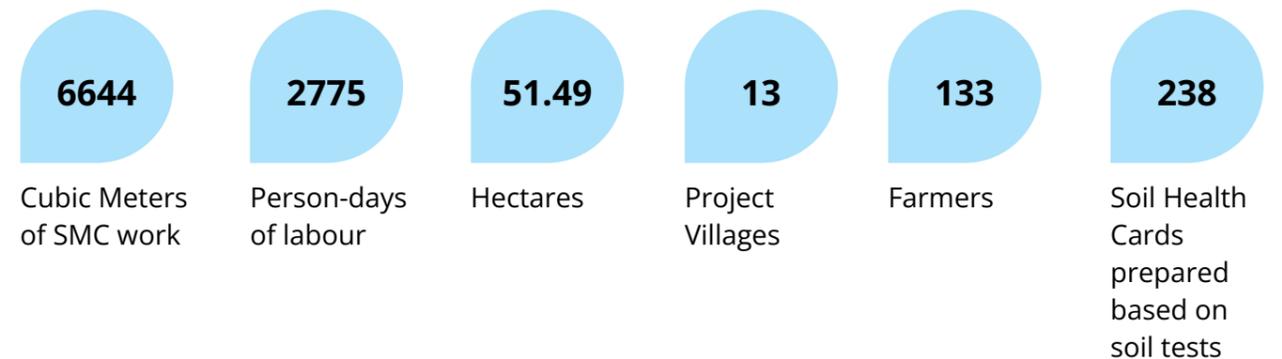
VIKSAT is facilitating watershed programmes that are implemented by Village Watershed Committees (VWCs) with support from NABARD.

- 5400 plants planted to support agro-forestry under MGNREGA.
- 225 households implemented integrated pest management practices.
- 250 nutritional gardens planted to ensure access to fruits and vegetables at household level.
- 200 households conducted seed treatment for climate resilient crop varieties.

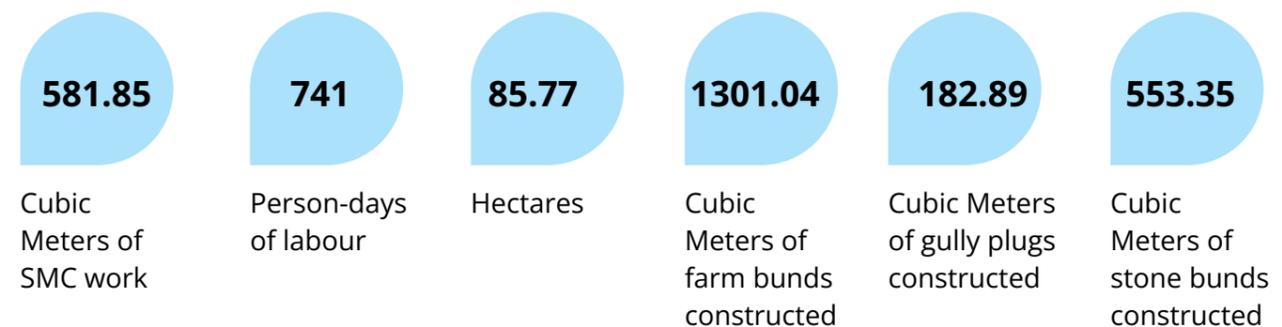
Soil and Moisture Conservation (SMC)

SMC measures are crucial for mitigating soil erosion, controlling land degradation, and promoting land reclamation.

SMC Work Supported by HUF



SMC Work Supported by NABARD





Major Highlights of Sustain Plus Project

VIKSAT is working in 53 Tribal villages in convergence with CInI Tata Trusts on the Sustain Plus Project.

- This year, 2 mini Lift Irrigation Schemes were converted from diesel to solar pumps. Cumulatively, 8 mini Lift Irrigation Schemes have been converted from diesel to solar pumps, covering a total of 96 households and bringing 115.57 additional acres under irrigation.
- This year, 7 solar pumps with pipelines were installed. Cumulatively, 8 solar pumps with pipelines have been installed, covering a total of 70 households and bringing 76.20 additional acres under irrigation.

- This year, 10 standalone solar pumps were converted from diesel to solar pumps in project villages. Cumulatively, 19 standalone solar pumps have been converted from diesel to solar pumps, covering a total of 146 households and bringing 215.33 additional acres under irrigation.

Capacity Building

- 3 orientation trainings on solar scheme were organized at AART Centre, Kheroj. 69 farmers participated.
- 3 trainings on solar-based irrigation, irrigation management, operation and maintenance of solar pumps, lift irrigation, and drip irrigation were organized. 94 farmers participated.

- An exposure visit on solar pump systems and high value crops was organized at NM Sadguru Foundation. 61 farmers participated.

Convergence

Under the project "Water Harvesting and Promotion of Water Use Efficiency in Tribal Villages of Sabarkantha and Banaskantha Districts of Gujarat," 7 farmer groups were selected for solar pump installation with the financial support of Marico through CInI.

Custom Hiring Centre

A Custom Hiring Centre was inaugurated on February 22, 2023 by Shri Naval Kannor, District Development Manager of NABARD for the Sabarkantha District. The Custom Hiring Centre offers improved access to mechanized

machinery, which helps reduce labour costs and saves time for farmers in Patadiya Watershed villages.

Carbon Credits

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Conserwater Technologies Inc. DBA Boomitra, Boomitra O2C Tech India Private Limited and SAFE FPO to work on providing carbon credits to farmers for sequestering carbon in the soil and reducing greenhouse gas emissions through sustainable agriculture practices.

- 1835 farmers received carbon credits, covering 1389 acres.

Cultivating Prosperity: Mevaben's Journey to Increased Income through Sustainable Agriculture

Mevaben Nonabhai Morjiya, a dedicated member of the Jay Hanuman Self-Help Group (SHG) in Khador Umbari village, Danta Block of Banaskantha District, Gujarat, has successfully transitioned to sustainable agriculture with support from Sustain Plus. She owns 40 Gunthas of agricultural land and traditionally cultivated crops like Pigeon Pea, Wheat, Maize, and Green Moong. However, the absence of a reliable electricity supply in her mountainous village compelled her and other farmers to rely on costly diesel engines for irrigation. This not only increased maintenance costs, but also limited crop cultivation to the Kharif and Rabi seasons due to water scarcity.

The project intervention facilitated Mevaben's adoption of improved agricultural practices and high-value crops, addressing her irrigation challenges through the installation of a solar pump, drip irrigation system, and vermicompost unit. With her savings, she invested Rs. 1,40,000 in a solar pump, Rs. 10,000 in drip irrigation, and Rs. 300 in vermicomposting. This shift allowed her to cultivate vegetables like Okra, Cluster Bean, Tomato, and Brinjal during the summer season for the first time. The improved irrigation system significantly reduced costs and enhanced water efficiency, resulting in an income of over Rs. 45,000 from her vegetable produce. Mevaben's experience exemplifies how sustainable practices can lead to increased agricultural productivity and climate resilience, offering a viable path for income enhancement for farmers in similar regions.



Visitors



Mr. Melvin Mathias and Ms. Rasmeet Kaur Bhurji from YOKOHAMA and Ms. Puja Roogta, and Mr. Clifford D'costa from United Way Mumbai visited VIKSAT's Dahej field area on May 17, 2022.



Mr. Prabhakant Jain, Mr. Jaypalsinh and Mr. Naresh from DS Foundation visited VIKSAT's Bhuj field area on June 21-23, 2022.



Mr. Aditya Shukla, Mr. Anand Athalye, Mr. Sanjay Pandya, and Mr. Vishnu from YOKOHAMA and Mr. Akshay More from United Way Mumbai visited VIKSAT's Dahej field area on February 28, 2023.



Ms. Payal Mulchandani from 4th Wheel Social Impact and Ms. Maneesha Sarin from Sustain Plus visited VIKSAT's Kheroj field area on October 10-11, 2022.



A fruitful meeting with Bayer India Foundation was held at VIKSAT's Head Office in Ahmedabad on October 31, 2022.



Mr. Sharman Jha, Mr. Praveen Prakash, and Mr. Rishu Garg from Hindustan Unilver Foundation (HUF) visited VIKSAT's Head Office in Ahmedabad on November 3, 2022.

Media Coverage



Acknowledgment

Major funding and collaborating partners

TATA TRUSTS



Department of Science & Technology
Government of India



Our Bankers

- State Bank of India
- Bank of Baroda
- Indian Overseas Bank
- Bank of India
- ICICI Bank Ltd.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank
- Bandhan Bank
- DCB Bank
- Union Bank of India

Our Auditors

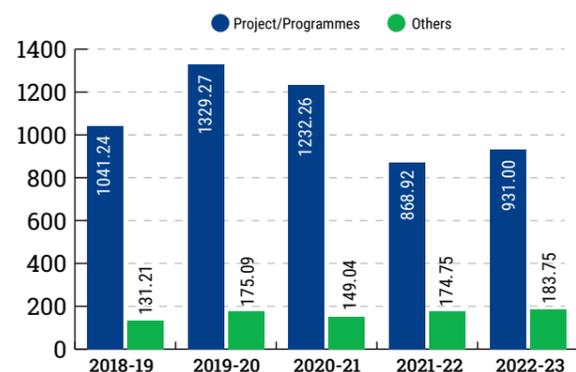
- Yogesh K Dave & Co. Chartered Accountants, Ahmedabad
- Sorab S. Engineer & Co. Chartered Accountants, Mumbai
- Satyam Trivedi and Associates Chartered Accountants, Ahmedabad

Financial Highlights

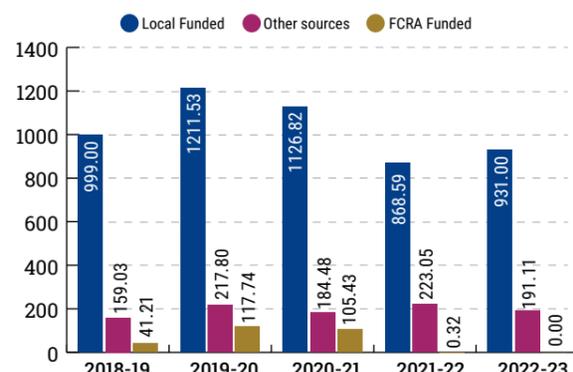
(Rs. In Lakh)

Abridged Balance Sheet	31 March 2022	31 March 2023
Reserves & Other Earmarked Funds	635.18	574.31
Balance of Project Grants	10.22	10.60
Sundries & Suppliers	21.13	41.71
Total	666.53	626.62
Assets	31 March 2022	31 March 2023
Immovable and Movable Properties	290.41	287.57
Investments in Approved Securities	0.00	0.00
Bank Account and Cash/FDR etc.	208.34	200.68
Advances and Other	167.78	138.37
Total	666.53	626.62
Abridged Income and Expenditure Account	31 March 2022	31 March 2023
Income	31 March 2022	31 March 2023
Projects and Programmes Income	854.11	385.09
Income from Other Sources	223.05	191.11
Subtotal	1077.16	576.20
Income through Convergence/Co-finance	14.81	545.91
Total	1091.97	1122.11
Expenditure	31 March 2022	31 March 2023
Projects and Programmes	854.11	385.09
Own Projects and Programmes	13.31	4.09
Staff Salaries	131.07	124.39
Establishment and Administrative	23.7	21.86
Amount transferred to other Earmarked Fund	19.98	37.50
Subtotal	1042.17	572.93
Expenditure through Convergence/Co-finance	14.81	545.91
Total	1056.98	1118.54
Surplus / Deficit	34.99	3.27
Total	1091.97	1122.11

Expenditure of the last 5 Years (Rs. in lakhs)



Source of Funds during last 5 Years (Rs. in lakhs)



Council of Management

Chairperson

Shri Kartikeya V Sarabhai

Founder Director

Centre for Environment Education, Thaltej Tekra Ahmedabad - 380054

Ms. Pallavi Patel

Director, CHETNA

SUPATH - II, B-Block, 3rd Floor, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad - 380013

Shri Himanshu Upadhyay

Corporate Communication & CSR Expert

Dr. Vikram Sarabhai Marg, Ahmedabad - 380015

Members

Shri Pradeep Khanna

PCCF (Retd.),

Gujarat Forest Department, Gandhinagar - 382020

Dr. Omkar Jani

Principal Research Scientist

Gujarat Energy Research & Management Institute (GERMI), Gandhinagar - 382007

Shri Ratan C. Jain

Advisor (Groundwater)

Gujarat Water Resource Development Corporation Ltd., Ahmedabad - 380009

Shri D N Surati

Secretary & CAO

NFD, Thaltej Tekra, Ahmedabad - 380054

Dr. D.V. Rangnekar

BAIF (VP Retd.) / Advisor MP Rural Livelihood Programme

Vastrapur, Ahmedabad - 380015

Prof. R Parthasarathy

Director

Gujarat Institute of Development Research, Gota, Ahmedabad - 380060

Shri Atul Pandya

Director

Sabarmati Ashram, Preservation & Memorial Trust, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad - 380009

Member Secretary

Shri Dilip Surkar

Director

VIKSAT

Thaltej Tekra, Ahmedabad - 380054

VIKSAT
Head Office

VIKSAT
Nehru Foundation for Development

Thaltej Tekra, Ahmedabad - 380054

(M) 09499756360

contact.viksats@gmail.com

Field Offices

KHEROJ

Lambadiya Road, At & Post: Kheroj, Khedbrahma, Sabarkantha - 383270

(M) 09499846360

viksats.kheroj@gmail.com

BHILODA

Opp. N.R.A. Primary School, Govindnagar, Opp. S.T. Bus Stop, Bhiloda, Aravalli - 383245

(M) 09499756360

viksats.bhiloda@gmail.com

KUKMA

Near BMCB City, Kukma Lakhond Road, Kukma, Bhuj, Kachchh - 370105

(M) 09499756360

viksats.bhuj@gmail.com

AKHOD

Tekra Faliya, At & Po. Akhod, Vagara, Bharuch -392130

(M) 09499756360

viksats.dahej@gmail.com

As per the requirement of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, there is an Internal Committee which has been constituted in accordance with the provisions of section 4 of the said Act, to provide protection against sexual harassment of women at workplace and for the prevention and redressal of complaints of sexual harassment and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto. During this year, no complaint of Sexual Harassment was reported at VIKSAT. VIKSAT has included the brief introduction of the provisions of the above Act as part of its orientation programme for the new joiners. The Anti Sexual Harassment Policy is in place.

VIKSAT was set up in 1977 as an activity of Nehru Foundation for Development (NFD) to take proactive steps to conserve the environment. VIKSAT has been working with communities towards developing models of sustainable natural resource management and imparting skills related to institution building, resource generation, management, and networking. VIKSAT works in five thrust areas, namely, Institution and Capacity Building, Land and Water Management, WaSH (Water Sanitation and Hygiene), Sustainable Livelihoods, and Environment and Climate Change.



VIKSAT
Nehru Foundation for Development
Thaltej Tekra, Ahmedabad - 380 054.
Email : contact.viksat@gmail.com

www.viksat.org

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