



Towards A Sustainable Future

Annual Report
2015-16

VIKSAT

Nehru Foundation for Development



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Chairperson's Message

Since its inception, VIKSAT has been working towards sustainable development through participatory natural resource management, with people at centre and for interest of the poor and marginalized. The global concern for sustainable development has reinforced the significance of institutions like VIKSAT and its cumulative learning. During the last four decades, VIKSAT has been organizing, mobilizing, capacitating, and building People's Institutions for the protection, management and development of forests, wastelands and water resources. This has helped to strengthen the livelihood security of a large number of rural families.

I am glad that the impact and outreach of VIKSAT is increasing consistently. VIKSAT'S programmes have benefited economically and ecologically large populations from tribal, pastoral, landless and marginalized farmer communities. These programmes offer long term and sustainable contribution to food security, livelihood and social protection of vulnerable communities, especially women and children. Through constant efforts, this year VIKSAT interventions have benefited over 4000 families in the domain of forestry, land development, watershed development, improved agriculture and credit linkage. The organization currently has direct presence in 200 villages in five districts of Gujarat, covering some of the most fragile eco-regions.

Through watershed development programmes, over 3500 ha of land has been treated, with active participation of community members. The installation of micro irrigation systems has promoted the concept of more crop per drop amongst farmers. It is notable that under AART Centre, two new Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO) viz. KALP and SAFE, have been registered and received the necessary licenses. Through these, it is expected to fill the gap of continuous scientific interventions and accessibility of the farmers to agriculture related knowledge. These will function as useful linkage between government and the tribal community to take advantage of the government schemes promoted for their development and welfare. An interesting programme 'Internet Saathi' was launched, where cycle carts with tablets and smart phones are reaching out to villages, for awareness on use of internet for various services.

VIKSAT's loan-based programme is helping pay particular attention to the needs of the disadvantaged sections. Farmers and women have benefited from this. Women have become more empowered through such access to finance. Their increased earnings are contributing to improve their lives. I am happy that VIKSAT has responded strategically, timely and in an integrated manner, striving to address issues like poverty amongst primary producers, poor linkage with markets and financial services. Through the soil and water conservation activities, access to cheap, customized loans under UNPRM programme, capacity building activities through farmers' field schools, crop demonstrations and increasing access to agriculture and technical inputs, VIKSAT has created an environment conducive to farming.

Through the Cluster Development Programme 'Mission 2020', VIKSAT has implemented initiatives focusing on bringing prosperity in tribal households through agriculture demonstrate and improved cropping practices, developing vegetable cluster farming, water resource development; creating and strengthening CBOs and comprehensive conservation measures leading to sustainable land and water management. Through the Project Food, over 1000 wadis have been promoted as an alternative arrangement for enhancing agriculture based economy in tribal areas.

All of this has been possible through the partnerships and involvement of all the stakeholders. VIKSAT should now forge larger partnerships and scale up its activities to further strengthen the people's institutions and to make them self-sustaining. I acknowledge the role of Council of Management for their valuable guidance. My congratulations to the Director and his team for the achievements made by the organization during the year. I appreciate their dedication and hard work, which has enabled VIKSAT to achieve greater heights of excellence and relevance.

M S Swaminathan
Chairperson
VIKSAT Council of Management



From the Director's Desk

The year 2015-16 arrived with lots of hope and at the end of the year; we are happy to let you know that VIKSAT have been able to achieve some more milestones. We have been successful in adding new programs, innovations and partnerships for ensuring better impact in the community. Our teamwork and efforts have helped us gain recognition at national level through programs like Water Educators Training, UPNRM, NEAC, Watershed Development Programme and Internet Saathi.

VIKSAT believes in promoting and strengthening of people institutions with active involvement of community for sustainable development and management of natural resources. We are always dedicated towards sustainable development and mainstreaming of our stakeholders. In continuation to promoting producer company, VIKSAT has promoted more farmer producer organization (FPOs) this year in Khedbrahma, Poshina, Bhiloda & Vijaynagar, Satlasana and Bhuj talukas to take forward the outcomes of Watershed, Wadi and UPNRM projects, with the support of NABARD and other agencies.

VIKSAT took up a new initiative of 'Internet Saathi' programme to reduce the digital gender gap in rural areas of India through its 25 project villages of Poshina tribal area. It has been cumulatively spread out to 90 villages and covering 30,000 women members of Khedbrahma and Posina Taluka of Sabarkantha, with support of Google and Tata Trusts. Since 1986, VIKSAT has been working as a Regional Resource Agency for National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC) in Gujarat and Diu-Daman with various NGOs, organizations, trusts, societies, school, colleges, natural clubs, JFMCs, govt. and non-government departments. This year also, VIKSAT carried out its role as RRA for NEAC successfully.

VIKSAT has continued the efforts of building cadre of WaSH professional by conducting Water Educators Training workshops - one as 'women special' and another for Western Eco-regions of India covering 63 water educators from 9 states of India, with the support of NCSTC, DST, Govt. of India. The consistent efforts by VIKSAT have resulted in completion of the Sembaliya and Navamota watershed development projects and another two projects are at completion stage. The ground breaking ceremony of Aravalli Agriculture Resource and Training (AART) Centre was done. The partnership with Tata Trusts has been growing stronger every year. The Tata Trusts has sanctioned the cluster development programme Mission 2020 with goal of '6000 households irreversibly brought out of poverty with enhanced quality of life while creating new alternatives of livelihood for targeting households' in Khedbrahma block of Gujarat, under Central India Initiative.

We are thankful for the relentless support received from Tata Trusts, John Deere Foundation, CInI, Google, NABARD, MoEFCC, NCSTC, DST, Govt. of India and Gujarat Biodiversity Board for reinforcing our efforts with their encouragement, cooperation and guidance. I urge our long standing supporters to further strengthen VIKSAT's core institutional capabilities and competence as a key resource institution.

I extend my gratitude to the support and guidance provided by our chairperson, Prof. M. S. Swaminathan and all members of Council of Management who have played important role in the development of the organisation. Our achievements have been possible due to the persistent efforts of our team in helping the poor people in most remote regions. With dedication and passion, we hope to continue our efforts and interventions to improve quality of life through sustainable management of natural resources.

Dilip Surkar
Director, VIKSAT

VIKSAT was set up in 1977 with an aim to strengthen the objectives set by Nehru Foundation for Development (NFD) to carry out environment improvement activities. At an early stage of its involvement VIKSAT realized the importance of amends required in its approach to meet the set objectives. Thus, VIKSAT has strived through its endeavor to set interactions with individuals and organizations in environment protection. VIKSAT set its mission as promoting and strengthening People's Institutions for development and management of natural resources. VIKSAT believes that goal of sustainable NRM can be achieved through decisive participation of the communities who constitute the primary stakeholders of the resources.

Over the years VIKSAT has carved its own niche in forestry and water sectors through innovations in water harvesting and bio diversity conservation, joint forest management and community development.

Mission

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

Strategy and Thematic Intervention

VIKSAT addresses the issues pertaining to Natural Resource Management by promoting and strengthening participatory resource management systems. Local communities and concerned government agencies form the important stakeholders in the programmes. VIKSAT has four major thrust areas, namely Forestry and Environment, Land and Water, Sustainable Livelihoods and Institution and Capacity Building.

VIKSAT is pioneer in implementing the historic Joint Forest Management (JFM) programme in the state of Gujarat. VIKSAT efforts changed the face of forest areas in more than hundred villages in Bhiloda, Satlasana and Khavda taluka. This includes both protection of forests and affirmation of economic activities from them. Appreciating and

empathizing with the symbiotic relationship of people with forests, VIKSAT has groomed forest based PIs for sustainable livelihood through forest management.

Working towards securing food and nutrition security, VIKSAT has been making efforts for land and water management for sustainable productivity enhancement and drinking water security by, with and for the community.

VIKSAT has worked at grassroots level with communities in their local regions towards developing models which ensure sustainability of livelihoods through natural resource management. VIKSAT had mobilized financial resources to fund community initiated entrepreneurial actions. Currently, VIKSAT facilitates creation of a favorable economic environment by increasing access to customized, easy and cheaper loans to the community.

The core strategy in the sustainable development and management of natural resources is people's participation that cuts across all the thematic areas of interventions. Due to the persistent efforts, nurturing and capacity building of the PIs, they are capable of functioning independently with minimum external support.



VIKSAT as a Resource Centre

VIKSAT has positioned itself as a Resource Centre in participatory natural resource management. Capacity building of NGOs, government agencies, communities on technical, social and institutional aspects of NRM is becoming forte. VIKSAT also engages in disseminating information through publications, newsletters and by participating in

public forums. The organization also provides a learning platform for other agencies including educational institutions, thus facilitating sharing of experiences and best practices.

VIKSAT at the grassroots

VIKSAT believes in organizing people and building their capacities to take ownership and address issues related to NRM. VIKSAT equips people with information, making them aware of their role as a responsible stakeholder.

Over last three decades, VIKSAT has progressed from being a platform for intellectual discourse, to an agency advocating for people rights vis-à-vis the forests. In the initial years, VIKSAT worked on promotion of afforestation programme with govt. & NGO participation. During the late eighties, VIKSAT was recognized as the nodal agency for the National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC) by the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEFCC). The educational material on drought and land degradation received high acclaim. VIKSAT also gained grounds in research, conducting seminars and workshops on various themes of forestry programme. During early nineties, VIKSAT set the benchmark for institution building and community mobilization.

The Tree Growers Cooperative Societies (TGCSs) developed in Kubada village became a model for development practitioners. The Joint Forest Management programme of the Govt made the path for VIKSAT to reposition itself as an agency

providing professional support to the Government of Gujarat. VIKSAT started developing training modules for NGOs and forest department. VIKSAT was gaining prominence for its community building work towards promotion and protection of the forests. The pioneering work of institution building continued during the response of the organization to address natural calamities like drought and earthquake. Capacity building of the PIs for efficient and sustainable management of groundwater, physical interventions for soil treatment, land management and water conservation were initiated by developing rapport with the local communities. By the turn of the millennium, on one hand, VIKSAT was developing acumen in planning and installing Rain Water Harvesting Systems in urban localities, while on the other, the need to address issues related to sustaining NRM based livelihoods was increasingly gaining grounds. VIKSAT had already organized women into SHGs and operating revolving funds and financing micro enterprises in the villages. By the end of the first decade of the new millennium, VIKSAT had started a more structured system of facilitating access to livelihood based finance through peoples' institutions like SHGs and Farmers' Clubs (FCs).

With the ever increasing challenges faced in sustaining the natural resources and the livelihoods, VIKSAT is constantly in the process of change, adapting the strategies and interventions to help the communities help themselves in the best possible manner.



A. National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC)

National Environment Awareness Campaign is the campaign to bring the environment awareness on the identified theme at the National level. It was launched by Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEFCC), New Delhi in 1986. 34 Regional Resource agencies are appointed in the country for the implementation and monitoring of programme at the national level.

VIKSAT is Regional Resource Agency for Gujarat, Diu and Daman from 1986. Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India conducts the National Environment Awareness Campaign every year. Non-Governmental organizations, School, Colleges, Nature Clubs, Education and Training Institutions, actively involved in the field of environment education and awareness participate in the campaign and spread awareness through various programmes like seminars, workshops, rallies, padyatra, Jatha, competitions, street play, puppet show, meetings, folk media and folk dance.

The National Environment Awareness Campaign focuses on a specific theme every year so that the participating organizations from all over the country can spread environmental awareness on a particular theme.



The National theme even for the year 2015-16 was "Combating Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought". These included various sub themes such as Adopting sustainable land management practices, Restoration of degraded lands, Waste land Development, Soil Pollution, Prevention of varied types of soil erosion, Rainwater Harvesting, Organic Farming, to prevent desertification through

afforestation and traditional ways to drought mitigation. Various NGOs, organizations, Trust, Societies, schools, colleges Nature clubs, JFMCs, govt and non govt. departments participated in the programme. Total 1027 proposals were received from Gujarat, Diu and Daman U.T. from which 786 proposals were sanctioned by Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change.



Total 83.54 lakh grant was received for the implementation of the programme. Out of the 786 Organizations 612 were NGOs, 49 were Community based organizations (CBOs) and 256 were educational institutes.

Three state levels workshops were organized to brief with them with the subject and spread the message at the local level.

As mentioned in the following table the participating organizations carried out various awareness programme at the local level so as to bring awareness on the theme.

| Activities carried by the participating organization | |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Awareness Programme | Camp, Workshop, Exhibitions, Elocution, Essay Writing and Drawing completion, Rallies, and Folk media |
| Action Programme | Plantation, Mangroves Plantation, Vermicompost, Earthen Bund, Documentation of Traditional Practices, Compost Fertilizer, Bio-fertilizer and Bio-pesticide, Best Practices for the use of drinking Water, Bori Bundh Plantation, Demonstration of Organic Farming |
| Resource material prepared | Handouts, flyers, leaflets, brochures, handbills, stickers, charts, posters, banners, booklets |

B. People's Biodiversity Register (PBR)

The increasing concerns about dwindling biological resources led to the convention on Biological Diversity in 1992. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was negotiated and signed by 193 parties at the Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro in Brazil in June 1992. India became a Party to the convention in 1994. The main objective of the convention is conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of the components of biodiversity, fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

To understand the provision of the CBD, and to deal with extensive pressure on our biological resources, Government of India has enacted Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and biological Diversity Rules, 2004.



In accordance with the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, the National, State & Local level mechanisms have been provided for implementation of the act. At the National Level, National Biodiversity Authority has been established by Gol and at the State Level, State Biodiversity Boards are established by the State Government. Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) are constituted at village level by local bodies. BMC are formed with the purpose of promoting conservation, sustainable use and documentation of biological diversity including preservation of habitats, conservation of land races, folk varieties & cultivars, domesticated stocks and breed of animals & microorganisms and chronicling of knowledge relating to biological diversity.

The preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) involved the active support and cooperation of a large number of people who need to share their common as well as specialized knowledge. One of



the first steps for preparing a PBR is to organize a group meeting to explain the objectives and purpose of PBR.

Different social groups in the village need to be identified for purpose of data collection from those groups. In an urban situation, spots where biodiversity are important need to be identified for the purpose of the study and documentation. The documentation process includes information gathered from individuals through detailed questionnaire, focused group discussion with persons having knowledge and published secondary information.

PBR are prepared by the BMCs with the support of Technical Support Group (TSG). Technical Support Group is appointed by the State Biodiversity Board so as to facilitate BMCs in preparing PBR of the village. VIKSAT has been appointed as TSG for facilitating BMCs in preparing 25 PBRs of which 12 were prepared in Satlasana taluka of Mehsana district and 13 were prepared in Bhiloda Taluka of



Aravalli district. On completion, the 25 PBRs were submitted to Gujarat Biodiversity Board.

C. Celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity 2015

VIKSAT in association with Gujarat Biodiversity Board (GBB) organized State Level Workshop on "Biodiversity for Sustainable Development" to mark the celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity 2015 at CEE, Ahmedabad for the representatives of NGOs, Technical Support Group, Govt. Departments, Biodiversity Management Committee members, academicians, researchers, judiciaries, Bio industries, Pharmaceutical companies, students and individuals. About 350 participants participated in the state level workshops.



Shri Bachubhai Khabad, Hon'ble Minister of State Fisheries, Forest & Environment, Government of Gujarat was the distinguished Chief Guest of the function. Shri Bachubhai Khabad inaugurated the workshop by lightning the lamp. The other dignitaries on the dais who graced the occasion were Dr. C. N. Pandey, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & Head of Forest Force of Gujarat, Dr. J. A. Khan, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Chairman, Gujarat Biodiversity Board, Gandhinagar, Shri B.K.Sinha IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests, Member Secretary, Gujarat Biodiversity Board, Gandhinagar and Shri Dilip Surkar, Director, VIKSAT.

During the workshop topics like Strategic Goals of Biodiversity for Sustainable Development, Importance of Biodiversity for Sustainable Development, Presentation on documentation studies, biodiversity in the Reserved Forest Area etc were discussed. Besides the technical sessions, exhibition and stalls were setup for the widespread of the theme.

Due to this workshop participants got the substantial information on various aspects of Biodiversity. And it also sensitized the participants and tried to create awareness on the conserving and protecting our rich biodiversity for sustainable future.



D. Research Study: A Study on Dependency on Gujarat's Forest Dwellers

Gujarat Forest Research Foundation, Gandhinagar (GFRF) is an autonomous body established by the Government of Gujarat. The Institute carries out various researches on Forestry. GFRF assigned VIKSAT to carry out study on 'Dependency of Gujarat's Forest Dwellers'. The main attempt made by the research was to quantify forest dependency in the State and to understand various patterns and trends of forest dependency. The forest dwelling communities depends on forest for a wide range of goods and services like food, fuel wood, medicine, timber etc. The main objectives of the study were:

- To study the need of the forest dwellers from the forest resources
- To know the need of the forest dwellers on the basis of forest cover i.e. Dense, Moderately Dense Forest, and Degraded /Open Forest.
- Assessing the socio-economic impact of forest dwellers due to forest resource.

As per the old demarcation, research work was carried in 26 districts of Gujarat State which covered 35 forest divisions. 200 villages were chosen for the sample survey of the study in which 1018 household were covered.

Table: Details of survey area

| Sr. No. | No. of Households surveyed | No. of villages | Forest Category |
|--------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | 448 | 64 | Dense Forest |
| 2 | 405 | 81 | Moderately dense Forest |
| 3 | 165 | 55 | Degraded/open Forest |
| Total | 1018 | 200 | |

During the survey work, the fact was revealed that the total requirement of timber wood for village is received from the forest area. In South Gujarat people are residing near the dense forest area and they majorly depend on forest for satisfying their day to day need like fuel wood, fodder, timber and vegetables. The mahuda oil is extracted and is used for cooking purpose. The study concluded with the following key findings:

- Dependency on forest for subsistence and sustenance needs is high and ubiquitous. Such dependency is better defined in terms of natural association of human society with their surroundings for various tangible and intangible benefits. The pattern of dependency is mostly shaped by regional, cultural and traditional association of people with forest.
- The study highlights a clear pattern of dependency that varies with the type of forest. This was found that people in higher proportions and also for higher numbers of forest produces are dependent on forest in the dense forest areas. The proportion drops uniformly when moved from dense to open and then to degraded forest areas.
- There is a huge demand and supply gap for various goods and services that has been traditionally accessed from forest by forest dwelling

communities. The dependency of forest is directly associated with availability of such goods and services. This means that provided more availability of more goods and services, more people are likely to depend on forest. More than half of the people can meet only 25% and less of the requirements for various needs viz. fodder, fuel wood, farm implements, etc.

- The dependency pattern is also characterized by absence of alternatives. This was found that respondents holding larger agricultural lands depend less on forests. In normal conditions nearly 34% of respondents were found to be dependent on forest for their day to day needs. However, this proportion jumps to 61% in case of drought conditions.
- No significant use of forest for economic gain, except collection of a few seasonal and marketable NTFPs which includes timru leaves, mahua flower & seeds, bamboo and honey. Very few numbers of forest based enterprises found that exploit forest products economically or manufacture any value added product of forest produces except traditional basketry and charcoal making. Direct economic contribution of forest in terms of share to annual income is 25% & more for 15% of respondents and for the rest, it is less than 25%.



Natural Resource Management (NRM) and its role in land-based livelihoods have to be given high level of importance and an active commitment in international policy, especially in a globalized world. This will provide all countries the freedom to securely adopt nature-inclusive policies, the need of the hour for addressing climate change concerns and its anticipated impact on food security of poor and marginal communities.

The importance of watershed as a unit of land, water and resource management has increased in the context of climate change. Watershed provides a micro level tool at grassroot level for negotiating impacts of climate change through sustainable and equitable management of land and water resources and use of appropriate technology and practices.

VIKSAT has been working in Khedbrahma tribal belt since 2005-06 especially in watershed, improved agriculture, institution building and livelihood sectors towards enhancing livelihood resilience of tribal community in Khedbrahma block of Sabarkantha district of Gujarat. The major programmes in project area towards to enhancing livelihood resilience and improving quality of life in 25 tribal dominated villages of Khedbrahma and Poshina talukas of Sabarkantha district, through soil moisture conservation work, agriculture based intensive livelihoods promotion, agriculture development and building required institutional structure and systems. All the programmes are complementing each other and build over on watershed programmes.

A. Watershed Development Programme

In 2005, VIKSAT initiated watershed based interventions with Sembaliya Watershed Project in Poshina tribal area with support from NABARD under WDF programme and further extended it to three more watershed projects, with support of IGWDP-NABARD. The Project Area includes 17 villages of Khedbrahma block of Sabarkantha district in Gujarat and one village of Kotda block of Udaipur district in Rajasthan. The patient and consistent efforts by VIKSAT have resulted in completion of the Sembaliya and Navamota projects and currently two projects-Ratanpur and Matarwada are in Full Implementation Phase (FIP) stage.

- During the year 2015-16, total 412.2 hectare land area was treated while cumulatively since project initiation, about 3619.67 hectare of land has been treated including CBP and FIP under the watershed development projects. The community members participated actively and offered *Shramdaan* (contribution of voluntary labour) worth Rs. 7.45 lakh under the watershed projects. The cumulative maintenance fund of Rs. 13.57 lakh was collected under the watershed project.

- The Navamota watershed project was completed in this year. So far, watershed treatment measures have been undertaken in 753.38 ha of land, of which 18.53 ha was covered in the current year.

- The Ratanpur and Matarwada watershed project has entered into fourth year of the FIP. So far, watershed treatment measures have been undertaken in 618.12 ha and 694.02 ha of land of which 154.79 ha and 238.88 ha were covered in Ratanpur and Matarwada respectively in the current year.

Table: Physical achievement in agriculture land under watershed development programme 2015-16:

| Sr. No. | Area Treatment Activities | Total |
|---------|---------------------------|-----------|
| 1 | Farm Bund (FB) | 39722 cum |
| 2 | Stone Outlets (SO) | 425 No. |
| 3 | Stone Bund (SB) | 705 cum |
| 4 | Stone Gully Plugs (SGP) | 2142 rmt |

- Drainage Line Treatment (DLT): Under the watershed projects, 1 gabion and 1 check dam were built as part of DLT work and 8.1 ha command area were developed through these structures in project villages. This structure helped in increasing water level in nearby wells and brings additional area under irrigation during Rabi and Summer seasons.

- During the year 2015-16, 8 VWC meetings and 1 general body meeting were conducted for involvement of the local community in planning and implementation of watershed project activities in relation to the peoples' development priorities. In these meetings, 95 people from 12 villages participated.

B. Micro Irrigation System for Sustainable Agriculture Livelihood (MISSAL) Programme

During reporting year, 6 drip irrigation systems were installed in 5.43 ha land area and covering 16 farmers under micro irrigation system. The cumulative 38 MIS were installed in 35 ha land area and covering 97 farmers in project area under MISSAL programme. 17 New MIS farmer groups got approval from the GGRC, Gujarat covering 56 farmers and 16.03 Ha land area. Out of 17 MIS group 10 farmer groups received the material from the Jain Irrigation System Ltd (JISL) and installation of drip irrigation is started in 4 MIS group field in the project villages.

20 farmers group showed their interest and submitted application to VIKSAT for installation of drip irrigation system. The survey of verified beneficiaries will be conducted in the next year.

During the reporting year, seven meetings were held between staff of Jain irrigation System Ltd, and VIKSAT team members at VIKSAT Field Office, Kheroj for follow up of submitted applications, survey work and installation of MIS.

A campaign through loud speaker and rally was organized on 11 March 2016 in the project villages to orient and aware farmers on involvement in MISSAL and MARCH programmes, adoption of drip irrigation system, importance and benefits of MIS and activities of AART centre. During the campaign rally the activity banner of MISSAL and MARCH programme and pamphlets on FPO were distributed to farmers.



A training programme was conducted on orientation and awareness on drip irrigation system and package of practices of agriculture and vegetable crops and four exposure cum learning

visit was organized for farmers and beneficiaries of MIS of project area. In these programmes, 123 farmers participated. The training and exposure visit programme helps farmers to know about Micro Irrigation System and its benefits, importance, operation and maintenance of drip system, agriculture and vegetable crop cultivation practices and interaction with progressive farmer.



Under the agronomy support, vegetable seeds of Cluster Bean and Okras, Carbendizem for seed treatment, Zinc sulphate as a micro nutrient and Imida for sucking pest management were provided to 12 beneficiaries of MIS programme. Liquid fertilizer like 19:19:19, 13:0:45, N:P:K culture, MOP culture, Micro Mixer (Gh4) was provided to 2 MIS beneficiaries to be used in the Onion, Tomato and Fennel crops.

81 MIS beneficiaries cultivated agriculture crops and vegetable cultivation under the drip irrigation system. In Kharif season 2015-16, farmers cultivated Cotton Seed Plot (50), Maize (27), Cotton (9), Castor (4), Chilly (4), Fennel (1), Tomato (1) and 30 farmers cultivated mix crop with Maize, Cotton, Pigeon Pea and Black Gram under drip irrigation system. In Rabi season 2015-16, farmers cultivated Wheat (51), Onion (4), Fennel (1), Tomato (1) and



8 farmers cultivated mix crop with Wheat, Fennel, Gram and Tomato crops under drip irrigation system. 33 farmers not had sown the crop in Rabi season due to standing crop in the field.

In summer 2016, 18 farmers cultivated Green Gram, Maize, Bajra, Okra and Cluster Bean crops under drip irrigation system in project villages. Due to less irrigation of water the remaining farmers of MIS did not cultivate the crop in summer season. The process of documentation and collection of data is in progress.



Three annual review and monitoring visits were conducted by representatives of JDF and UWM at project area to review the progress of MISSAL and MARCH programmes, on-going project implementation progress status and way forward , project documentation & communication plan and project Financials. During the visit, they also interacted with beneficiaries to learn about the impacts of MIS programme.



C. Multipurpose Agriculture Resource Centre for Holistic Development (MARCH) Project

The MARCH project aims at enhancing productivity, food security and income through sustainable use of natural resources by making commercial and specialized services available to

the project area. VIKSAT has formed Aravalli Agriculture Resource and Training (AART) Centre as core People's Institution for all the people's institutions formed in the project area under MARCH programme. AART aims at filling the gap of continuous scientific interventions and accessibility of the farmers to agriculture related knowledge and providing inputs in over 20 surrounding villages and more than 4000 farmers.

Under AART Centre, two FPOs i.e KALP (Khedut AART Livelihood Promoting Producer Company Ltd.) for Kheroj cluster and SAFE (Sabar AAART Farmer Enterprise Producer Company Ltd.) for Delwada cluster were promoted. Both FPOs have been providing trainings, technical guidance and facilitating farmers' interactions with agriculture and animal husbandry scientists and providing agriculture inputs like seeds, bioculture, insecticide and pesticide as well as other inputs on time and at reasonable price. It strives to work as a useful linkage between government and the people so that tribal community can take best advantage of the government schemes promoted for their development and welfare.

An exposure visit to Farmer Producer Organization for Board of Director (BoDs), leaders and programme staff was carried out during 19 - 22 January 2016 at ASA Barwani, MP with support of JDF. The objectives of the visit were to understand the operational structure, role of BoDs, business enterprises, benefits/services realized by members and various activities carried out by Nimard Farmer Producer Company, Ozhar, MP. Participants interacted with MDs and CEO on role of professionals, various challenges and better practices being practiced by FPC, etc. SHG leaders were excited on seeing SHGs as a FPC member which would help them also to convince for increasing members in programme area .

11 meetings of management committee, BoDs and Annual General Meeting of SAFE and KALP FPOs were organized at AART centre in Delwada and Kheroj for review, planning of the work, FPO registration, certificate for seed, insecticide and pesticide, fertilizer and future strategy for AART centre. In these meetings, 113 management committee members and BoDs participated. In the meetings, approval of all shareholders for Board of Directors and technical and executive directors for

FPOs, to place and adopt articles of association of the company; increase in authorized share capital, appointment of Chairperson, CEO and Auditor and account opening of FPOs in Dena Bank, Lambadiya were discussed and finalized.



AART Centre provided materials like seeds, bioculture, insecticide and pesticide to 6017 farmers of the project area at affordable rates. The farmers saved a total of Rs. 1,11,918 (average Rs. 20 per farmer) in the current year and cumulatively Rs. 4,03,705 compared to local market price. The turnover of AART Centre was Rs. 23.74 lakh through services provided to farmers.

AART Centre provided saplings and seeds for vegetable cultivation to more than 602 farmers under Kharif season - Chilly and Brinjal; Rabi - Onion and Summer - Cluster Bean, Okra and Chilly, to farmers who have cultivated more than 75 acre area under vegetable cultivation. The impact of awareness created by AART Centre shows result in the project area and farmers have raised demand for seeds and taking the benefits of activities of AART centre.

Bhumi Pujan of AART Centre

On the occasion of International Women's Day, Bhumi Pujan of AART centre, experience sharing workshop (Samvad) and launching programme of Internet Saathi was organized at Kheroj village of Khedbrahma block, Sabarkantha district on 8 March 2016. More than 1200 women SHG members, 100 community leaders from 23 project villages attended the programme. Shri M. Nagarajan (IAS), District Development Officer, Sabarkantha, Shri Netabhai Solanki, Deputy President, Jilla Panchayat, Sabarkantha, Smt. Kubarben Solanki, President, Taluka Panchayat, Khedbrahma, Shri Rajesh Dave, Deputy General Manager, NABARD and In-charge, PMU, IGWDP, Gujarat, Shri Anil Parmar, Senior Manager and

Ms. Sukanya Bhattacharjee, United Way of Mumbai, Shri Bharat Patel, DDM, Sabarkantha, Shri Abhishek Bhandari, LDM, Dena Bank, Sabarkantha, Dr. G J Patel, Programme Coordinator, KVK, Khedbrahma, Shri Virendra Vagani, CInI and Shri Dilip Surkar, Director, VIKSAT and VIKSAT team attended the programme.

The bhumi puja was done at the auspicious hands of District Development Officer, Sabarkantha and all the dignitaries. He also launched 'Internet Saathi' programme by giving key to Internet saathis. This programme is implemented through SAFE Producer Company Ltd. Other agencies were also called for exhibiting their best products namely Bayer Crop Sciences, Jain Irrigation, Mahyco seeds, etc and VIKSAT promoted FPO mainly SAFE and KALP also exhibited their activities and sold vegetable produce during the programme.



Two Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) were formed under AART viz. KALP (Khedut AART Livelihood Promoting Producer Company Ltd.) registration no. of CIN U01132GJ2015PTC085171 dated 26 November 2015 for Kheroj cluster and SAFE (Sabar AAART Farmer Enterprise Producer Company Ltd.) with registration no. of CIN: U01132GJ2015PTC085164 dated 24 November 2015 for Delvada cluster were registered under pursuant to sub-section (2) of section 7 of the Companies Act 2013 and rule 8 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rule, 2014 with the support of John Deere Foundation and NABARD. In each FPO, 7 Board of Directors (BoDs) were selected in which 5 BoDs represent the people's institute of project area and 2 BoDs as VIKSAT representative for the management of FPOs.

The certificates for the seed and fertilizer for KALP and SAFE were received. KALP having seed License No: 223/15-16 and SAFE having seed License No : 224/15-16 provided by Deputy Director

Agriculture, Sabarkantha dated 8 March 2016 and valid up to 7 March 2019. KALP having Fertilizer License No: 191/15-16 and SAFE having fertilizer License No : 192/15-16 provided by Deputy Director Agriculture, Sabarkantha dated 17 March 2016 and valid up to 16 March 2019.

D. Cluster Development Programme Mission 2020

The major goal of the programme is '6000 households irreversibly brought out of poverty with enhanced quality of life while creating new alternatives of livelihood for targeting HHHs'. VIKSAT initiated by implementing the thematic initiatives focusing on bringing prosperity among tribal households through agriculture, demonstrating and scaling up of improved cropping practices, developing vegetable cluster farming, water resource development; creating and strengthening community based organizations & comprehensive conservation measures leads to sustainable land and water management.

1. Improved Agriculture Development Activities

The campaign in the project villages was done to create mass awareness among the community about the project objective and programme activities under ELRT and cluster development programme. 72 awareness meetings were organized. In these meetings, 1829 participants were received, out of which 327 were male and 1502 were female participants.

161 training programmes on POP of agriculture and vegetable crops and importance of micro nutrients were organized. In these programmes, total 4975 farmers participated from programme villages. In the training, technical knowledge on land preparation, seed selection, seed treatment, Seed sowing, fertiliser management, weeding, irrigation, insect- pest and diseases management, etc. were given to farmers.



3 exposure visits were conducted to Cotton Research Centre (CRC), Talod, Sabarkantha, high tech nursery at Prantij, Sabarkantha and field of progressive farmers of Sabarkantha district and internal exposure for vegetables for SHG leaders and farmers were organized under ELRT programme with support of Tata Trusts and CInI. In these programmes, 107 farmers from project villages participated.



Implementation of improved agriculture practices in agriculture crops

Improved agriculture practices in Kharif, Rabi and Summer crops were planned with 1780 HH, 1442 HH and 140 HH respectively in the project villages. The technical guidance and critical inputs like seed treatment materials were provided from the project. The hand holding support through village extension worker was provided to farmer for adoption of PoP in crops. The details of improved agriculture demonstration are as follows:

| Sr. No. | Name of the Crop | No of farmers | Planted Area (Acre) | Productivity Qtl/Acre) |
|---------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Black Gram | 30 | 8.55 | 6 |
| 2 | Castor | 77 | 31.65 | 6.82 |
| 3 | Cotton | 220 | 73.5 | 8 |
| 4 | Cotton seed | 1425 | 474.56 | 3 |
| 5 | Cotton with intercrop | 399 | 133.91 | 8 |
| 6 | Fennel | 129 | 38.15 | 8.38 |
| 7 | Green gram | 3 | 0.42 | 2.92 |
| 8 | Maize | 862 | 259.6 | 12 |
| 9 | Maize with intercrop | 809 | 361.95 | 7 |
| 10 | Pigeon-pea | 84 | 35.57 | 8 |
| 11 | Chick-Pea | 19 | 3.33 | 9 |
| 12 | Wheat | 1369 | 520.19 | 1315 |
| 13 | Green gram | 120 | 33.47 | 6.25 |
| 14 | Brinjal | 3 | 0.53 | 77.5 |
| 15 | Chilly | 59 | 13.85 | 75 |
| 16 | Onion | 383 | 60.76 | 112.5 |
| 17 | Tomato | 22 | 4.44 | 125 |
| 18 | Creepers | 8 | 1.73 | 60 |
| 19 | Okra | 16 | 2.69 | 65.35 |



The Hi-tech nurseries and demonstrations of trellis vegetables was implemented to promote the high value agriculture and to fulfil the demand for quality seedlings for vegetables to assure farmers disease free, high vigour planting materials on which farmers can rely for best results in terms of quality and yield. The installation of 7 Hi-Tech nursery structures and 10 trellis (Mandva) system were completed in the respective farmer's field. 343 Farmer Field School (FFS) were organized in two stages during crop duration of agriculture crops. These included 12 FFS on Green Gram, 06 FFS on Green Gram and vegetables, 103 FFS on Maize, Pigeon Pea and Black Gram, 92 FFS on Cotton and Cotton seed plot, 48 FFS on Wheat and Gram, 12 FFS on Fennel, 6 FFS on Castor, 30 FFS on Onion and 34 FFS on vegetable crops were organized with the support of Tata Trusts. In these FFS programme, cumulatively 10,392 farmers from the project villages participated .



6 visits of Expert Resource Person (ERP) from KVK, Khedbrahma and CInI were conducted for provide handholding support and technical guidance on pest management and package of practices on agriculture and vegetable crops in the programme area.

6 staff development programmes were conducted for programme staff and community resource persons. The programmes was mainly based on pre-season technical training on agriculture crops, Micro credit and livelihood planning, exposure cum learning visit on Farmer Producer Organization and planning and roll out of CDP programme.



Cotton Seed Production Programme

The cotton seed plot cultivation is prominent crop under the Kharif season in project area. One time migrant labourers in areas of Saurashtra and South Gujarat, learned the techniques of seed multiplication of cotton seed. VIKSAT initiated cotton seed multiplication programme with direct linkages with company and main distributor to prevent the exploitation of farmer, break the cycle and assurance and better price of final produce.

During the year, 100 cotton seed plot of 0.1 Ha were provided to farmers under agreement. The inputs, foundation seed and training was provided to selected farmers.

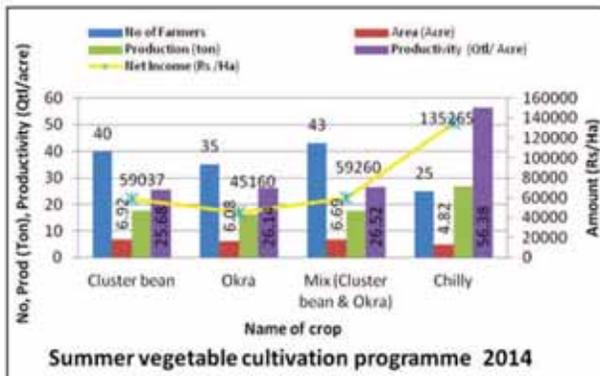
A visit of Dr. Jagdishbhai Patel, Cotton Research Station, Talod was organized in cotton seed plot and cotton fields at project villages. The purpose of visit was to identify the gaps in practices of cotton seed plot and cotton crops.



The average yield of Cotton seed plot was 5.05 Qtl / Ha. The highest production of Cotton seed plot was 10.62 Qtl/Ha in Changod village and lowest production was 1.03 Qtl/Ha in Dantiya village. The farmer got an average income of Rs. 2,17,150/ Ha.

Results of summer vegetable cultivation programme

The vegetable crop promotion on commercial basis was started in project villages under ELRT project supported by Tata Trusts and under Watershed projects with support of IGWDP- NABARD. Under the summer vegetable cultivation programme, 143 farmers have cultivated the vegetable cultivation in project villages. Each demonstration was carried out in 0.1 Ha (10 Gunta) plot. The graph shows the results of summer vegetable cultivation as follows:



Result of Kitchen Garden

Under the Kitchen garden programme, 430 women farmers cultivated Kitchen Garden in 4.3 ha of land in the project area with the support of NRTT & SRTT and IGWDP-NABARD. The result shows that 80% women farmers utilized vegetable production in their household level from the kitchen garden plot. The average yield of Cluster bean (19 kg), Okra (14 kg), Chilly (10 kg), Brinjal (13 kg) and Cow pea (11 kg) were taken by women farmers in the project villages under the kitchen garden. The vegetable produce was used at average 28 days at household level. Some women farmers also shared with their relatives and sold the vegetables at average Rs. 306 within villages. The programme helps to enhance food and nutritional security and additional income of households.

Results of Summer Programme

Under the summer programme 2014, total 170 farmers were involved in summer cultivation. The details of improved agriculture demonstration are as follows:

| Sr. No. | Name of the Crop | No. of Plots (Actual) | Variety | Area covered (Acre) | Productivity (Qtl/ Acre) | Production Qty (ton) | Average yield (Qtl / Ha) |
|---------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Green Gram | 165 | Gujarat-2 & Gujarat-4 | 83.73 | 2.92 | 24.36 | 7.32 |
| 2 | Cow pea | 5 | GC-5 variety | 5 | 2.78 | 1.39 | 6.955 |

Results of Maize seed varietal trial plots

Under the varietal trial programme, the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT), Hyderabad has provided seeds of 6 well performed varieties in Central India out of 52 variety varieties (which tested last year), about 100 grams of each variety for each plot for field trial.

In addition to this, 4 popular varieties including Open Pollinated Variety (OPV) of Maize were taken under trial plots. The varietal trials of improved maize varieties were carried out in 10 plots of 0.5 acre in villages of project area. The main purpose of varietal trials is to try out different varieties that are

most suited to our conditions and region. The result shows that variety no. CAH1552 and CAH 1581 are well performing under CIMMYT variety and composite variety in trial plots. The variety shows 90-95% yield as compared to the local check (Pioneer- 3441) maize variety. 10 demonstrations on Green Gram crop in Matarwada village were provided by KVK, Khedbramha and Anand Agriculture University (AAU), Anand. In these demonstrations, each farmer was given the kit consisting of 4 kg seed of GM-4, Sulfur - 5 kg, Trichoderma VD - 500 gm and PSP culture - 500 ml. 52 demonstrations on impact of micro-nutrient on



Cotton, Maize and castor crops in Ratanpur, Changod, Matarwada and Navamota villages were provided by AAU.



6 planning and monitoring visits were made by CInI team members for the review of programme, technical support and annual planning. A visit was made by Dr. Ajit Dhutt, Agriculture Advisor, SRTT, Mumbai for review of the Kharif programmes and ongoing programmes in Khedbramha cluster and another visit was made by Shri Pathak to Ganer, Gunbhakri, Ratanpur and Dantiya villages for site verification for water resource development.



5 first year students of PG Programme in Food and Agribusiness Management (PGP-FABM) of IIM, Ahmedabad and B. Sc. (Agriculture) students from SDAU, Dantiwada visited VIKSAT field area for

focus group discussion with farmers to understand the value chain for vegetables, cottonseed and maize, how they approach government regarding their problems and exposure visit to VIKSAT to know about its programme activities and role of NGO in development.

2. Strengthening of People's Institutions

People's Institution is the larger approach, for which VIKSAT has broadly worked upon to identify, assemble, manage and disseminate strength of people for sustainable development. VIKSAT has formed three distinct forms of institutional spaces during interactions with the community for increasing the participation & involvement of each stakeholder. 4 Village Watershed Committees (VWC) comprising 52 members, 227 SHGs comprising 2996 women members, 21 Farmers Clubs (FC) comprising 2014 members, 4 women federations including 92 SHGs, 12 Village Organizations (VOs) & two cluster level federations under Farmers Producers Company (FPC) namely KALP for Poshina cluster and SAFE for Kheroj Cluster were formed. Self Help Groups form the basic institutional backbone of the cluster development programme. These groups, at the village level, form the Village Organization, & intensive engagements were taken up with these groups for roll out of the various activities in the villages.

During the year, 135 SHGs with 1738 members were formed till the March 2016. The books of accounts and cash box were introduced in newly formed SHGs. The total monthly saving of all the groups was Rs. 1,72,070. As on 31 March 2016, the total cumulative saving was Rs. 1815400. The 23 SHGs were linked with the bank and all of them have received bank loan of Rs. 4,74,000. 53 SHGs have applied for the State Rural Livelihood Mission (Mission Mangalam) linkage in form of Revolving Funds and Cash Credit.

3614 meeting of SHGs and 88 federation meetings were conducted by SHG programme staff. During the meetings, emphasis was placed on the implementation of SOP of SHGs and VOs, participation in various training & FFS programmes on agriculture and institution development, planning of programmes, experience sharing of agriculture, women day celebration, preparation of annual work plan & application for WRD activities. In the cluster/federation meetings, emphasis was



given on review of SHG, preparation of annual work plan, review of work of VEW, stipend of VEW, review of loan applications and WRD applications, recovery of federation loan and issues of SHG, review of project work, discussion on revolving fund and new SHG formation were discussed. 3 awareness meetings were organized for the formation of SHG clusters at project villages. In these meetings, limitation of SHGs, importance of Cluster, activities of cluster and management structure were discussed. In the programme, 136 members participated.

Table: Training programmes and exposure visit conducted during 2015-16

| Programme | No. of Programmes | No. of Participants |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Orientation and management of SHG for SHG members | 27 | 775 |
| Training programmes on self grading | 2 | 43 |
| Training programmes on Record Keeping of Farmer Club for secretary of Farmer club | 1 | 30 |
| Training programmes on record keeping and account keepings for SHG leader, CRP and programme staff | 06 | 159 |
| Training programme on Income Generation Programme (IGP) for BPL SHG members | 01 | 41 |
| Training programme on 'Leadership Development' organized at Shakti Pathika Asharm, Ambaji for SHG leaders and village extension workers | 03 | 114 |
| Exposure visits on Institution Building (SHG, Cluster and Federation) organized at PRADAN, Abu Road, and IBTADA, Alwar, Rajasthan | 02 | 132 |
| Training programme on 'Leadership Development' for Village Organization (VO) leaders | 01 | 34 |
| Training programme on Cluster Need and Importance for Cluster Leaders | 02 | 63 |
| Total | 45 | 1391 |

The self-grading was carried out in 28 SHGs to understand the status of SHG and prepare future plan to improve the SHG. The initial exercise was conducted by Grading committee with the help of programme staff.

Credit and livelihood planning was carried out in 137 (8 done in the earlier QPR) SHGs to understand their family's portfolio (Expenditure-Income-Surplus-Loans-Repayment, Available Resources, Risks etc.) and prepare short/long term goals and way out to achieve goals. The credit and livelihood planning exercise helped SHG to understand the member's credit need and planning of livelihood activity in the next season.

20 monthly meetings with programme staff and VEWs were organized for review and planning of programme activities. During the meetings, the review of programme activities done in last month, progress against the Annual Work Plan (AWP), challenges faced during the implementation and planning of programme activities in next month according to AWP and preparation of next year AWP 2016-17 with all programme staff and village extension worker were carried out.

3. Increase area under irrigation to strengthen agriculture

Access to irrigation is an important pre-requisite for enhancing the income from high value crops and also for intensification of the agricultural interventions. During the year, field level planning of possible interventions, sites for construction of check dams, lift irrigation schemes, etc. were carried out across the project villages.

96 applications for the irrigation resource development activity were received from the members of SHGs of project villages. After the technical feasibility of received applications done by programme staff, 58 farmers groups were selected for the irrigation development activity in which well deepening (51), well strengthening (02), under laying pipe line (01) and check dam (2) activities were completed in the project villages with the support of Tata Trusts and IGWDP-NABARD.

213 applications for the irrigation resource development activity were received from the members of SHGs of project villages. After the technical feasibility of received applications, 162 farmers groups were selected for the irrigation

development activities like well deepening (100), well strengthening (22), small lift irrigation scheme (25) and under laying pipeline (15).

Under the selected activity, 10 new well developments were completed which would help 27 acre additional area to be brought under irrigation. The irrigation resource development work is in progress with 34 well deepening, 9 well strengthening, 3 pipelines and 3 small scale LIS in the project area. Cumulatively, 266 Hhs are being benefitted under irrigation/WRD programme which would help in 190 acre additional area to be brought under irrigation. Three diesel based Lift Irrigations are also under progress which would be benefitted to 25 HHs in 21 acre area. Details of major events conducted at Khedbrahma cluster are as follows :

- Khedut Shibir on Micronutrient on 7 April 2015 at Changod, Khedbrahma with the support of KVK, Khedbrahma and AAU, Anand.
- Strategic Partnership of Tata Trusts and the Tribal Development Dept., Govt. of Gujarat launch workshop on 2 July 2015 at Himmatnagar, Sabarkantha organized by CInI, Ahmedabad.
- Visit of District Collector and District Development Officer to program villages of Khedbrahma cluster 16 July 2015 at Ratanpur, Khedbrahma.
- District-level workshop cum training on village level MGNREGS convergence for Sustainable

Livelihoods under Mission 2020 on 16 September 2015 at Himmatnagar, Sabarkantha organized by CInI in collaboration with District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), Sabarkantha.

- Kishan Goshthi programme on Micro nutrient importance, Rabi crops and govt. schemes. on 9 February 2016 at Kheroj, Sabarkantha with the support of KVK, Khedbrahma and AAU, Anand.
- Experience sharing workshop (Samvad) and Women's Day celebration on 8 March 2016 at Kheroj (Khedbrahma). More than 1200 women SHG members, 100 community leaders and district officials participated.
- Launching of Internet Saathi programme - 30 Cycle cart with 120 tablets and smart phones for awareness on internet uses on 8 March 2016 at Kheroj, Khedbrahma. The DDO, Sabarkantha inaugurated and launched the programme.

E. Consultancy for Field Survey and Evaluation

VIKSAT has done consultancy of Field Survey of Evaluation studies of National Safai Karmcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) scheme in five district of Gujarat and Concurrent Socio Economic Evaluation of Agricultural Diversification Project 2013-14 in fourteen districts of Gujarat covering 3000 beneficiaries and village survey of 250 villages for NABCONS, Gujarat.



A. Financing Agriculture Sustainability and Allied Livelihood (FASAL)

During this year, the project 'Financing Agricultural Sustainability and Allied Livelihood (FASAL)' is in its second phase of the UPNRM project which started in 2012, with the support of NABARD.

The project has created a reliable and economical credit support for the poor especially those who have remained out of the financial inclusion. FASAL has been instrumental in safeguarding the interest of poor from the exploitation by money lenders. The weaker sections of villagers have been saved from the vicious cycle of perennial poverty due to depleting farm production for want of appropriate and timely financial support. These phenomena led to increase in the underutilized or unutilized farming land with the passage of time; leading to poor becoming poorer year by year. FASAL aims to break these phenomena by extending financial support for NRM based livelihood activities to the needy one.

Immediate Objectives

- To provide easy and economical credits for the NRM based livelihood activities
- To improve opportunities for employment and increase in earning capabilities for the weaker section of the society
- To improve production capabilities of land leading to increase in food supply
- To expand the coverage area under the project to reach out to the remotest areas; which requires financial support for their survival

Loan Status

As per the priority of the UPNRM programme the loans provided under the project FASAL are divided into two categories viz. NRM core activities and NRM supplementary activities. The following table shows the status of loan disbursement under these categories.

The given table shows that around 65% loans were disbursed under the core NRM categories and around 35% of the loans disbursed under the supplementary loan categories. From the total borrowers, 492 borrowers accessed loans during the reporting period. All these borrowers belonged either to the SHGs or Farmers Club. The loan category shows that trend continues for taking loan

| Loan activities | No. of loan borrowers | Loan Amount Rs. |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Agro inputs | 8 | 2200000 |
| Biogas | 73 | 1799000 |
| Cattle feed | 3 | 850000 |
| Cattle shed | 22 | 1930000 |
| Crop loan | 136 | 6851000 |
| Fodder storage | 6 | 430000 |
| Food security | 34 | 340000 |
| Freeing mortgage land | 4 | 320000 |
| Irrigation system | 21 | 1248000 |
| Land development | 14 | 588000 |
| Milch animal | 99 | 3897000 |
| Vermi compost | 60 | 1499000 |
| Miscellaneous | 12 | 1310000 |
| Total | 492 | 20775000 |

for NRM activities. 15% loan was distributed for core NRM activity like biogas, 12% loan was distributed for vermicompost activity.

After several exposure visits and interpersonal interaction, people started appreciating advantages of biogas and vermicompost activity. Jagruti SHG of Vejpur village of Bhiloda Taluka started a small scale business of selling of vermicompost in their own village and surrounding villages. After agriculture activity, purchase of milch animal was an important livelihood option for people. Due to well established dairy business at the field level, people were more confident to earn from milch animals.

For this reporting period, total Rs. 38,97,000 was distributed to buy milch animals. Though a small percentage, but 3% people have given importance to land development activity. SHG women members have started doing farming on undulated barren land after doing land development



activity. Women continued giving importance to irrigation activity and loan amount of Rs. 12,48,000 was distributed to 21 women members to carry out activities like laying water pipelines, diesel engines, well deepening, etc. Water security certainly gave rise to their agriculture production. Women became more empowered though such loan distribution pattern. Their increased earnings contributed to improve their lives.

Table: Loan Recovery status

| District | Loan amount | Recovery | Outstanding recovery |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Kachchh | 7179000 | 6673990 | 505010 |
| Mehsana | 13915000 | 11860330 | 2054670 |
| Patan | 34878000 | 29359708 | 5518292 |
| Sabarkantha | 17499970 | 14347121 | 3152849 |
| Total | 73471970 | 62241149 | 11230821 |

In Kachchh region, people gave most priority for crop loan. Food security was the second priority area and third was land development. In Mehsana district, maximum loan was taken for purchase of milch animal. This was followed equally by biogas construction and establishing irrigation system. In Patan district, people gave priority to crop loans, milch animal purchase and food security. After exposure visits, people started taking interest in biogas and vermicompost activities. In Sabarkantha, first priority area was purchase of milch animal, biogas was second, followed by vermicomposting and irrigation system at third place. Outstanding recovery amount is Rs. 1,12,30,821 as loan recovery is on regular basis.



Due to regular recovery from the field, only about 15% recovery remains from the field area. Recovery made is - 93% from Kachchh district, 86% from Mehsana district and 85% from Patan district and 82% from Sabarkantha district.

This is a result of awareness programmes and follow up with SHG and farmers clubs members on regular basis.

Total 201 PIs benefited from loan, including 168 SHGs and 29 FCs. Counting repeat loans, total 502 institutions benefited.

Biogas for efficient energy management

VIKSAT has been making efforts to promote biogas in its project area, but SHG members were reluctant to take it up by taking loan as in past, many attempts were made by government under grant projects but mostly failed. However, due to continuous capacity building activities, exposure and goodwill created by VIKSAT, the SHG members finally got prepared to take up the activities. After success of these activities, more demand is coming and it is expected that in the coming months this would be major success of the project intervention.



Vermicompost for promotion of organic farming

Demand for organically grown crops is on the rise, both in domestic niche markets and in export markets. VIKSAT promoted SHGs and farmers clubs are strong in production of manure for certain high quality crops. SHG women are producing vermicompost at the door step and selling it at price of Rs. 5 per kg in surrounding villages.

Managing water for sustainable agriculture

Irrigation is a major factor of agricultural productivity. However, irrigation facilities does not mean only lifting water. The change of practice in irrigation is also necessary for bringing more land under irrigation, water use efficiency and conservation of water. The loans under the irrigation facilities were provided for developing facilities that leads to water saving, water use efficiency and conservation of water. The activities have included deepening and repairing of dug well,

pipeline, drip irrigation and water storage facilities. Total Rs.12.48 lakh was disbursed for irrigation facilities.



Dairy- contributing to white revolution

Dairy is said to be lifeline of Gujarat with well-established institutional mechanism, infrastructure and marketing structure. The cooperative structure federated under Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) and the milk produced is marketed under the brand 'Amul'. North Gujarat, where the FASAL project is being implemented is the largest milk producing area; the Mehsana district cooperative alone collects more than 10 lakh liters of milk every day. In Mehsana district dairy is even has a larger share of economy than agriculture. Further, dairy is sector predominantly controlled by women workforce. Since the project is mostly grounded on the women SHGs, mostly sought for buying milch animals. However, with continuous capacity building activities, exposure and guidance the women have moved beyond just buying milch animals but have also started to invest in supporting activities like fodder, water and feeds. A loan amount of Rs. 38.97 lakh was disbursed for milch animal finance and cumulatively Rs. 19.30 lakh was disbursed for development of cattle sheds.

Increasing agriculture area through land development

Land development is a major NRM activity for improvement of production, productivity and soil fertility of lands. Since land development does not provide direct income and payback period is long, banks are not keen to finance such activities and the farmers are also not interested much for the same. However, capacity building activities helped the women farmers in understanding importance of land development and its long run benefits. A total

amount of Rs. 5.88 lakh was disbursed for land development activities which includes land leveling, removal babul from the land, gypsum coating, etc.

New initiative - Vegetable Nursery

The project is not only making it easier to access finance for rural livelihood but also helping in building confidence in the community to take up new NRM based livelihood initiatives. Among such initiatives two recent steps of SHG members are remarkable. SHGs have shown interest in raising nursery for vegetable seedlings like onion, chilly and tomato. SHGs has grown 3 lakh seedling for onion, 1.5 lakh seedlings for chilly and 5 thousand seedlings for tomato. Women earned substantial amount as they sold saplings to WADI project area.

Training and Capacity building

Achieving sustainability is an ultimate goal of any development activity. Capacity strengthening of the community is an important aspect for this. It is important that community themselves own, operate and manage the activity or programme. NABARD ensures this in its every programme by laying a component of an accompanying measure. Taking an advantage on this component, VIKSAT undertook several training programmes and exposure visits for the community and as well as for their team members. Beside exposure visits and awareness meetings following training were provided to SHG members and to the members of the farmers clubs:

- Basic training
- SHG refresher training
- Record keeping training
- Leadership training
- Technical training





Exposure visit to Krishi Vigyan Kendra: 12 members of VIKSAT visited Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Ambheti in Valsad district. Team also visited Vansada area to see Azolla cultivation, Mandva, fodder cultivation, and weather station. They also visited Kuntli village and saw paddy demonstration, Azolla cultivation, and usage of agri equipment, fodder cultivation, demonstration of vermicompost and bio gas activity. From there, team brought improved variety (G10) of grass. It gave very good result in the VIKSAT field area. Community appreciated its high yielding quality and it also lasted for longer duration. They also visited Lok Seva organisation where they had an opportunity to see vegetable creepers.

Participation in Programmes

- Ms. Vandana Pandya participated in the 4th National Seminar on Micro Finance held during 16-17 October 2015 at Bankers Institute of Rural Development, Lucknow.
- Ms. Dipika Patel from VIKSAT, Bhiloda and Ms. Mittal Leuva from VIKSAT, Kheroj participated in regional workshop on SHG building during 19-20 August 2015.
- Ms. Dipika participated in training programme on 'Engaging NGOs as BC' during 28-30 September 2015 at Himmatnagar, dist. Sabarkantha.

Convergence

The FASAL project is making it easier to get affordable and hassle-free finance especially for the activities for which formal sector banks are reluctant to finance. VIKSAT is also making effort for convergence with different agencies so that borrowers can get maximum benefits from such activities. The following convergence is being done with Gujarat Agro-industries Ltd. There is a subsidy of Rs. 14000 for APL beneficiaries and Rs. 17000 for BPL beneficiaries for construction of biogas under MNRE scheme. The scheme is being implemented in Gujarat through Gujarat Agro-

industries Ltd. But the subsidy is reimbursed to the beneficiary only after completion of the construction work and only if the biogas is functional. People are reluctant and cannot afford Rs. 24000 to construct a biogas. VIKSAT has facilitated the process of convergence and provided loans for construction of the 54 biogas against which Gujarat Agro-industries Ltd. has reimbursed an amount Rs. 8.91 lakh as subsidy.



B. Facilitating Organic Orchard for Tribal Development - Project FOOD

Project FOOD is implemented under Wadi Programme of NABARD. In Gujarati, Wadi means 'a small fruit orchard'. The Wadi is an alternative arrangement for enhancing agriculture based economy in tribal areas. Due to very low landholding and fast division of lands year by year, it has been becoming difficult for tribal families to get food from agriculture lands for the entire year. This has been forcing tribal population to migrate to other areas. Wadi is a concept of diversifying from low yielding cereal crops to high value fruit and vegetable crops. The recurring investment in fruit crop is less and it involves lesser risk of crop failure. The increase in income from wadi is at least three times more than cereal crops in same area of land.

Wadi is a proven model and has been implemented for more than two decades in Maharashtra and southern part of Gujarat. NABARD has been promoting the model with financial and technical assistance. The model has successfully brought thousands of tribal families out of poverty and has remained successful in reducing migration. In the last few years the model was revised, with organic farming process in place of conventional chemical input based farming.

In 2013, VIKSAT took up a project for developing wadis in 1000 acres of land covering 25 villages - 18

from Vijaynagar and 7 from Bhiloda blocks of Sabarkantha and Aravalli district. It aims to support the tribal farmers for seven years, right from plantation to market linkage, value addition and achieving the stable period production and income. In the third year (2015-16) of the Wadi project, 524 farmers from all 25 villages were enrolled. The project target of 1000 acre was achieved by covering 1027 wadis.

The Wadi Model is based on the economics of fruit and vegetable crops and income generation over a period of time suitable to climatic and soil characteristic of the particular area. The model has five components:



1. Fruit Crops: Out of one acre of land, fruit crop is to be grown on 0.75 acre of the land with recommended spacing. As a result in this model, total 45 fruit plants are planted. Looking at the characteristic of Bhiloda and Vijaynagar area's soil and climatic situation, The fruit crops grown are suitable to this area viz. mango, lemon and pomegranate. Mango is planted at 10 m x 10 m spacing while pomegranate and lemon are planted at 6 m x 6 m spacing. Production of pomegranate and lemon starts from the third year while production of mango starts from the fourth year. Thus, the production commences from the third year onwards and every successive year adds additional production from other crops. Thus, the model reduces the usual gestation period of 2-3 years required in orchard development.

2. Intercrop: While growing fruit crops, the distance between two rows of plants for mango crop is kept 10 m x 10 m while that for lemon and pomegranate is 6 m x 6 m. This allows the farmers to grow intercrop of staple food which ensures their food security. Intercrops can be cultivated till the time when fruit crops mature and start yielding optimum

production. Even after maturity of the fruit crops, some limited quantity of production can be gained from intercrops. Intercrops generally used in Wadi are pulses and vegetable crops which do not harm the growth of fruit crops.

In Wadi model, pulses - black gram, green gram etc. are grown by farmer in Kharif season so nitrogen is added in soil through nitrogen fixation activity of the crop. While in Rabi and Summer season, vegetable crops mainly brinjal, chilli, tomato, onion, garlic, okra, clusterbean, etc. is cultivated by farmers. Yield of vegetable crops starts from 45-60 days of planting the crops. So, in Rabi and summer season farmer earns an average Rs. 10000 - 20000 from vegetables as a intercrop in Wadi. During the year depending on the variety of vegetable and care and management by farmer.

In this year 2015-16, good quality vegetable saplings of Chilli (Pennar variety) and Onion (N-53 variety), Tomato (1389 variety) were provided to the beneficiaries as a intercrop in Wadi in 10-15 guntha of land.



3. Creeper and tuber crops: A double vegetable farming is promoted under the project. Ginger and turmeric are grown on the ground as these crops can grow under shade. Creeper vegetables are sown between the rows of ginger and turmeric. A structure called mandap is prepared at height of 2-3 m so that creeper vegetables can easily spread across the mandap. The creeper vegetables provided under the project include low value but high yielding and highly consumed Gourd, Bottlegourd, etc. and Valore as well as high value, high yielding but less consumed Bittergourd. The creeper vegetables have longer shelf life and can be sold easily in the local market. Through cultivation of creeper vegetables, a farmer can easily earn Rs. 10,000-15,000 during the crop period. Ginger and

Turmeric need longer time for maturation and only one harvest can be had in a year. A farmer can earn Rs. 8000-12,000 from these crops.

4. Forest plants: Forest plants are grown along the borders of an orchard to create a live barrier to check wild and domestic animals from entering it. Further, to protect the orchard fencing can be easily created within 2-3 years by filling the gaps between forest plants with dry branches, bamboo or babool branches. In the long run, these wood yielding forest plants can also give good economic return.

5. Supplementary Interventions: The project supports the farmers at individual level for crop diversification and improved income. It also supports in improving the natural resource base to do so and some interventions in social issues in order to create a conducive and environment. The supplementary interventions of the project are:

Water resources development: Pot drip irrigation is provided for fruit plants in the initial 3 years of plantation as protective irrigation. Facilities required for irrigating the orchard, like pump set and pipelines are also provided to needy farmers if so required. VIKSAT promoted low cost gravity based drip irrigation units in 10 wadis. The design is developed site specific, costing is Rs. 15,000-18,000 including water tank (250-500 lit capacity). It showed very good result, particularly survival and better growth of fruits plants during summer season when there is very less water available for irrigation.

Soil conservation measures: To increase access to water in project area, necessary soil conservation activities are undertaken which include bunding,

tree platforms, a combination of the two and trench-cum-bund based on field level requirements.

Health Programme: Some basic problems faced by tribal families are related to malnutrition, illness and inaccessibility to health care. Under the project, the community health programme focuses on Maternal and Child Health Care (MCH) as well as primary and preventive health care. The participants are educated on sanitation and hygiene. The local youth, especially women, who are called Village Health Guides (VHG) are trained in diagnosis and treatment of common illnesses whereas serious cases are referred to appropriate facilities.

Women Development: There has been an increased emphasis on women's participation in the programme. To this end, major activities taken up are promotion of SHGs, income generation activities, drudgery reduction along with awareness generation about reproductive health and development aspects. The income generating activities included fruit and forest plant nurseries, vegetable cultivation, produce collection, vermicomposting, Bio-pesticide preparation etc. In order to reduce drudgery of women, three major interventions have been made: smokeless stoves, use of bearings in the traditional grinding stones and pedal thresher for paddy. In this year, the vegetable saplings - chilli, Onion and Tomato were raised by the Jagruti Swa Sahay Juth of Vejpur village and VIKAS Swa Sahay juth of Virpur village. They availed Rs. 10000 loan under UPNRM program supported by NABARD and around total 3.0 lac saplings raised by them were provided to Wadi beneficiary during the rabi season.



A. Water Educators Training

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) are central to achievement of many developmental goals. Therefore, it is necessary to build the capacities of the NGO officials/field workers associated in this area are able to communicate WASH effectively and bring about behaviour change in a sustainable manner. VIKSAT in cooperation with NCSTC, Govt. of India launched WaSH Educators Training (WET) program to reach out to individuals, NGOs and communities committed to this field and teach and improvise them in their work towards WaSH.

During the reporting year, 2 training programmes for WaSH Educators (WET) were conducted. The first batch of WET programme, WET-2015 as a Women special batch was conducted during 18 - 27 August 2015 and had 30 participants from Gujarat, Rajasthan, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh. The second programme, WET - 2016 focusing on the Western eco-regions of India was conducted during 26 February - 4 March 2016 and had 33 participants from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Haryana. The



training programme was conducted by VIKSAT and supported by NCSTC, Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India.

The programme helped to develop a cadre of water educators equipped with the understanding of sustainable management of WaSH issues which act as a rich resource for the society and benefit the people through innovative, need specific, sustainable and replication interventions. The water educators were able to engage community with the issues, to observe methods of science in investigations and to find scope for more dialogue, debate, consensus and dissent.



B. Internet Saathi Programme

The usage of the internet among women in India is lower than most countries in the world. Only one-third of India's online users are women. Google's 'Internet Saathi' initiative was started in May 2015 in partnership with TATA Trust to reduce the digital gender gap in rural areas of India. The initiative is part of Google's 'Helping Women Get Online' campaign, which focuses on training women and larger communities in rural India to explore various uses and benefits of the Internet. The *Saathis* then impart training to the rural community, in their own and neighbouring villages. Through Internet Saathi, it is aimed to bridge the technology gender divide, which currently puts women in rural India at further risk of getting marginalized in the society as the world around them benefits from getting online.

In Gujarat, a pilot programme was started in Dahod, Kodinar, Junagadh district and Khedbrahma, Sabarkantha district. In Khedbrahma cluster, the Internet Saathi programme was launched formally on occasion of International Women Day on 8 March 2016 at Kheroj. The program campaign was initiated through cycle cart rally in villages of VIKSAT project area to spread message about the programme in the community.

With the support of Google, PMG Asia and Tata Trusts, VIKSAT initiated Internet Saathi programme in 25 project villages followed by nearby villages of project area. The programme was implemented through SAFE Producer Company Ltd. 31 Internet Saathis in 90 villages (51 villages of Poshina and 39 villages of Khedbrahma talukas of Sabarkantha district) have trained more



than 33,000 women members through this initiative. Each Internet Saathi is provided with cycle cart housing 2 mobile & 2 tablet devices and training material. The Saathis were trained to reach out to rural women and educate them on the basic benefits of using the internet. Additionally, they also reached out to other villagers with web-based information to make them digitally literate.

Through the programme, women were trained to explore and learn various uses of smartphones, internet and use it to access services such as agriculture, cookery, modern techniques related to their work, healthcare, educational resources, etc. All Internet Saathis individually trained women and used the platform of CBOs in the project villages. In order to drive broader access and continuity in usage after the training, internet-enabled devices like tablets and smartphones were also made available within the community centres, self-help group meeting places, agriculture training programmes and awareness meeting. This helped the women members to explore hands-on the new searches related to daily work, agriculture, tailoring, pest & diseases on crops, education etc.



VIKSAT extends thanks to all the institutions and individuals who have contributed to and worked with us in development action. We are grateful to the government departments, funding agencies, donors, our NGO and CBO partners for having stayed with us and supporting our efforts. We acknowledge their significant support during the year 2015-16 and hope for their continued cooperation in the coming years. Some of the partners, with whom we have been working, are as follows:

Major Funding Partners

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
- Collectives for Integrated Livelihood Initiatives (CInI)
- Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT)
- Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT)
- Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC), GoI
- John Deere Foundation (JDF)
- John Deere Water (JDW)
- United Way of Mumbai (UWM)
- Ford Foundation
- Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
- Gujarat Forest Department (GFD)
- Gujarat Forest Research Foundation
- Gujarat Biodiversity Board (GBB)
- KFW- IGWDP (Indo German Watershed Development Programme)
- Global Environment Facility - Small Grant Programmes (GEF-SGP)
- NCSTC, Department of Science and Technology, (DST), GoI

Our Banker

State Bank of India
Dena Bank
Indian Overseas Bank
Bank of India

Activity Partners

- DRDA, Banaskantha
- DRDA, Mehsana
- DRDA, Sabarkantha
- DRDA, Kachchh
- Center for Environment Education (CEE)
- Vikram A. Sarabhai Community Science Centre (VASCSC)
- Hathmati Kisan Agro Producers Co. Ltd. Bhiloda
- Gadhwada Farmers Producers Co. Ltd. Satsana
- Kachchh Heritage, Art, Music, Information and Resources (KHAMIR)
- Society for Promotion of Wastelands Development (SPWD)
- Paryavaran Edutech
- KVK, Khedbrahma
- Kutch Nav Nirman Abhiyan (KNNA)
- Kutch Agriculture and Livelihood Producer Co.Ltd. - Kutch, Bhuj
- Sardarkrushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University (SDAU)
- Sustainable Rural Enterprise (SURE) Co. Ltd.
- Aravalli Agriculture Resource and Training Center (AART)
- AFC, Mumbai
- Google, India
- Intel
- KALP Co. Ltd, Delvada, Poshina
- SAFE Co. Ltd, Kheroj, Khedbrahma

Abridged Balance Sheet

(Rs. in Lakhs)

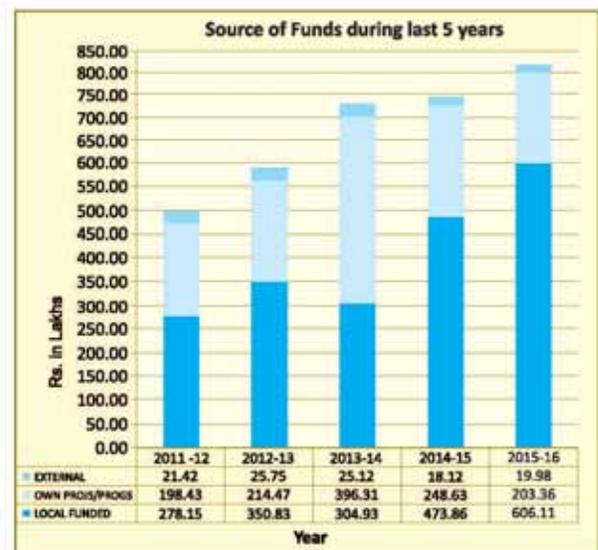
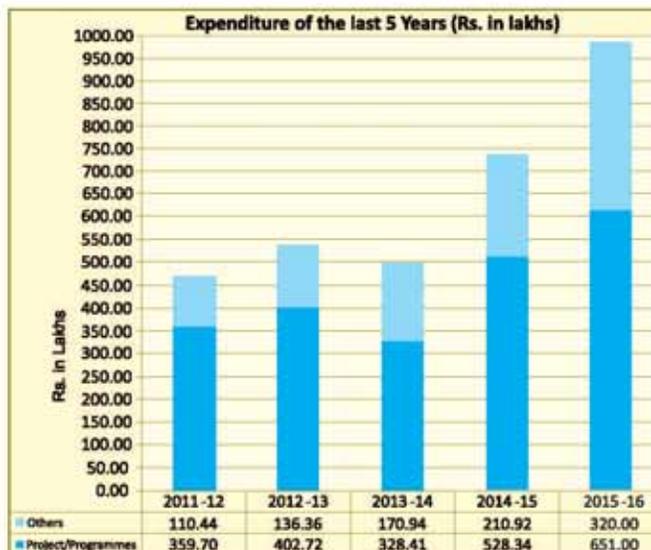
| Funds & Liabilities | 31 March 2015 | 31 March 2016 |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Endowment Fund Account | 60.00 | 44.00 |
| Reserves & Other Earmarked Funds | 857.00 | 548.00 |
| (Inclusive of accumulated surplus/deficit) | | |
| Balance of Project Grants | 236.00 | 241.00 |
| Sundries & Suppliers | 5.00 | 163.00 |
| Total | 1158.00 | 996.00 |

| Assets | 31 March 2015 | 31 March 2016 |
|------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Immovable and Movable Properties | 198.00 | 201.00 |
| Investments in Approved Securities | 249.00 | 249.00 |
| Bank Account and Cash/Fdr etc. | 283.00 | 271.00 |
| Advances and Other | 428.00 | 275.00 |
| Total | 1158.00 | 996.00 |

Abridged Income and Expenditure Account

| Income | 31 March 2015 | 31 March 2016 |
|--------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Projects and Programmes Income | 511.00 | 651.00 |
| Income from Other Sources | 234.00 | 177.00 |
| Loan receipt | 254.00 | 194.00 |
| Total | 999.00 | 1022.00 |

| Expenditure | 31 March 2015 | 31 March 2016 |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Projects and Programmes Expenditure | 508.00 | 651.00 |
| Staff Salaries | 152.00 | 185.00 |
| Establishment and Administrative Expenditure | 76.00 | 61.00 |
| Amount transferred to other Earmarked Fund | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| Loan disbursement | 266.00 | 194.00 |
| Total | 1005.00 | 1094.00 |
| Surplus / Deficit | -6.00 | -72.00 |
| Total | 999.00 | 1022.00 |



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VIKSAT

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

With head office in Ahmedabad, VIKSAT has five field offices in five districts of Gujarat, viz. Bhiloda in Aravalli, Kheroj in Sabarkantha, Satlasana in Mehsana, Kukma in Kachchh and Radhanpur in Patan district.



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www.viksat.org

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