



Towards A Sustainable Future

Annual Report
2016 -17

VIKSAT

Nehru Foundation for Development

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Chairperson's Message

Over the four decades of its existence, VIKSAT is strongly continuing on its mission of taking proactive steps to conserve the environment and promote sustainable development by advocating interaction among community and people-based institutions to ensure sustainability. Following the 2015 SDG process and the establishment of global goals for sustainable development, role of implementation, research, and community-based organizations like VIKSAT has become paramount.

VIKSAT has consistently worked towards the welfare of tribal and marginalized population in the state of Gujarat through its various agriculture and sustainable livelihood-based programmes and projects. The organization's ability to create context specific opportunities for its small-scale, tribal, and pastoral farmers is a result of its keen interest in listening and understanding the issues faced by the community. Through such interventions, VIKSAT has been able to impact over 4000 families and have a direct presence in over 200 villages in five districts of Gujarat, focusing on various natural resource management areas, such as watershed development, land development, agriculture and animal husbandry, and socio-economic areas, such as credit linkages, establishment and functioning of FPOs, and creating digital literacy among women.

VIKSAT's Cluster Development Programme focusing on bringing 6000 households irreversibly out of poverty through enhanced livelihood opportunities, this year, experienced various training and exposure visits under the improved agriculture and development activities. VIKSAT also took-up new partnership with Suzlon Foundation for sustainable developmental programme in Kachchh. VIKSAT's integration of the FPOs in the larger context of its various projects has led to easier access to agricultural inputs, sale of products and linkages to market, access to information, and created livelihood opportunities within its communities for both men and women. I am glad to mention that these developmental activities are created in close association with the People's Institutions in the community. This consistent promotion, formation, awareness on the importance of SHGs, and Village Organizations, and their active participation, will lead to a long-term and self-sustaining development model of the community.

VIKSAT's water resource management and development has brought additional 468 acres of land under irrigation, benefitting a cumulative of 1,130 households. Under their micro irrigation system programme newer farmer groups have taken up drip irrigation, courtesy the diligent awareness programs, information dissemination through farmer meetings, installation demonstrations and orientation programmes. This emphasis on water, soil and moisture resource management was also promoted through loan-based UPNRM programme which focused on providing loan and financial assistance to disadvantaged sections within the community. This integration of environmental conservation and optimal utilization of resources with addressing socio-economic conditions has led to a socio-economically and ecologically conducive scenario for farming among the less advantaged sections of the society. This year saw success stories from various women farmers under this programme. VIKSAT has also taken another firm step towards gender empowerment by focusing on eradicating the online gender gap in three of its field offices and expanding the Internet Saathi programme with support from TATA Trusts and Google, initiated in 2015-16.

All of this has been possible through the partnerships and involvement of all the stakeholders. VIKSAT should continue to build on these larger partnerships and scale up its activities to further strengthen the people's institutions, to make them self-sustaining. I acknowledge the role of the Council of Management for their valuable guidance. I appreciate the dedication and hard work of the VIKSAT team members and the management, 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 2016-17 saw new opportunities of expansion of the existing ones and introduction of new projects for VIKSAT. We have successfully forged new partnerships and built on existing collaborations to scale-up our projects. Our dedicated team of professionals has helped VIKSAT maintain its spotlight at the national level through programs like UPNRM, NEAC, Watershed Development Programme, and Internet Saathi.

VIKSAT's firm belief and active implementation of projects keeping the community at the centre, has led to further strengthening of the existing People's Institutions. The presence of the SHGs and VOs in the project area has assisted the organization in providing direct and efficient access to information and facilities required by the farmers, such as exposure visits, farmer field trips, credit, to a large group of people, effectively. The FPOs, another form of PIs, in Khedbhrama, Poshina, Bhiloda, Vijaynagar, Satlasana and Bhuj have given access to markets, and inputs for agricultural purposes to the farmers, making the ancillary activities surrounding farming more systematic. This promotion and strengthening of PIs has helped us achieve positive results in our Watershed, Wadi, UPNRM programmes.

VIKSAT took-up a new initiative of "Kachchh Sustainable Development Programme" in 26 villages of four talukas of Kachchh district with support of Suzlon Foundation. Apart from successful implementation of the loan-based UPNRM programme for improving women's access to credit, 2016-2017 also saw the expansion of the Internet Saathi Programme, promoting gender equality and empowerment through improving access to internet. VIKSAT fulfilled its target of training Internet Saathis in 90 villages where close to 33,013 women members have availed the benefits of internet. Saathis were trained to reach out to rural women and educate them on how to access internet, provide basic benefits of using the internet for their day to day activities, and help them achieve digital literacy. VIKSAT also continued its role as the RRA for NEAC and conducted various environmental awareness programmes during Vanmahotsav and World Environment Day celebrations.

VIKSAT has steadfastly worked towards the betterment of the marginalized and tribal sections in the State. VIKSAT's Cluster Development Programme is a testament to that sustained effort, where new and improved agricultural practices, trainings, and methods are being introduced to the farmers for improving their socio-economic standing and providing them with better sources of income. The adoption of NABARD's Wadi model in around 1000 households is also another example of VIKSAT's commitment towards achieving a holistically sustainable model of agriculture for small scale farmers.

We are thankful for the partnerships and support received from TATA Trusts, John Deere Foundation, CInI, Google, NABARD, MoEFCC, NCSTC, DST, Govt. of India, and Gujarat Biodiversity Board for aiding our efforts with their encouragement, co-operation and guidance. I would like to urge our long-standing supporters to further help strengthen VIKSAT's core institutional capabilities and competence as a key resource institution in the field of localising SDGs and sustainable natural resources management.

As our organization completes its fourth decade, I would like to extend my gratitude to our Chairperson, Prof. M. S. Swaminathan and to all the members of the Council of Management for their guidance, mentoring and encouragement, which has played a vital role in development of this organisation and its contribution to the society. Our achievements have been possible due to the consistent efforts of our team members helping the disadvantaged sections of the society in the most remote regions of our State. With the dedication and commitment, we shall to continue our efforts and interventions with the communities to improve their quality of life through sustainable management of natural resources and work towards achieving the SDGs.

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.



National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC)

National Environment Awareness Campaign focuses on creating awareness on environmental issues based on predetermined theme identified at the National level. It was launched by Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEFCC), New Delhi in 1986 and conducts the National Environment Awareness Campaign every year. VIKSAT is Regional Resource Agency for Gujarat, Diu and Daman since 1986.

In the year 2016-17, the theme was 'Swachh Bharat Mission, Ganga Rejuvenation and River Cleaning'. These included sub themes such as Solid Waste Management, Plastic Waste Management, Recycling of Solid Waste, Domestic Hazardous Waste, Disposal of Sanitary Napkins and Diapers, Cultural Importance of Rivers Conservation, Rivers as Source of Aquifer Recharge, River Pollution, Water Quality of Rivers, Rivers and Health of General Public, Ghat Cleaning and River Front Development, Native Vegetation / Indigenous Plantation and Revival of River, Household Waste & River Pollution. During the year, 817 proposals were received from various NGOs, organizations, trusts, societies, schools, colleges, nature clubs, JFMCs, governmental and non-governmental departments from Gujarat, Diu and Daman Union Territories.

World Environment Day Celebration

World Environment Day (WED) celebrated on 5th June every year, is the United Nation's flagship campaign for raising awareness on emerging environmental issues from marine pollution, human overpopulation, and global warming, to sustainable consumption and wildlife crime and encouraging action for environment protection and preservation. Every year, WED is celebrated in Nehru Foundation

for Development (NFD) Campus in collaboration with CEE. The theme of WED 2016 was 'Zero Tolerance for the Illegal Wildlife Trade'. Many environment-based activities, games, competitions, exhibitions, demonstration, workshops, audio-video (AV) shows, night camps, adventure activities were carried for the public. The programme was chaired by Shri Bharat Pathak and Dr. Vijay Kaushal & Ms. Yatri Baxi, an environmentalist.

During the 2016-17 workshops, a movie titled 'Home', a 2009 documentary by Yann Arthus-Bertrand, was screened for the participants who represented NGOs and educational institutes, social workers, reformers, students, and many others. Around 120 participants were attended in the programme.

Van Mahotsav Celebration

Van Mahotsav is an annual tree planting festival celebrated in monsoon. People celebrate Van Mahotsav by planting trees or saplings in homes, offices, schools, colleges. The planting of trees during the festival helps conserve soil, avoid deterioration, provide alternative fuel, increase production of food resources, help create shelter-belts around fields to increase productivity, provide food for cattle, offers shade and decorative landscapes, and one of the best ways to reduce pollution and in the long run prevent global warming.

VIKSAT celebrated Van Mahotsav on 22 July 2016 by planting saplings of various tree species. Shri Kartikeyabhai Sarabhai, Managing Trustee of NFD and Shri Bharatbhai Pathak, Director VIKSAT initiated Van Mahotsav 2016 by planting Ashok/Seeta Ashok (*Saraca asoca*) and Pipalo (*Ficus religiosa*) saplings in the campus. 45 more plants of various species were planted in the campus by 50-60 programme staff members of NFD, CEE and VIKSAT.



I. Watershed Development Programme

Natural Resource Management (NRM) and its role in land-based livelihoods has been given paramount role in international policy, especially in a globalized world. This will provide all countries the freedom to adopt nature-inclusive policies, addressing climate change concerns and its impact on food security of poor and marginalized communities.

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 of Khedbrahma block of Sabarkantha district of Gujarat. To achieve this objective, the major programmes in the project area focus on soil moisture conservation work, agriculture based intensive livelihoods promotion, agriculture development and building the required institutional structure and systems. All the programmes complement each other and are built over on the foundation of the watershed programmes.

- 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, Navamota, Ratanpur and Matarwada watershed projects.

Since project initiation, cumulatively 3619.67 hectare of land has been treated including CBP and FIP under the watershed development projects.



- 8 VWC meetings were conducted for involvement of the local community in planning and implementation of contingency plan activities under watershed project in relation to the peoples' development priorities. In these meetings, 70 people from 8 villages had participated.



- Under contingency plan of watershed programme, the work done included a vegetable collection centre, construction of 6 onion storage facility having storage



capacity of 10-12 qtl each (1 - 1.2 Tn), 2 solar pump systems and 84 small agricultural equipment at group - FPO level (wheel hoe, seed drill, etc.) in Ratanpur and Matarwada watershed projects.



II. 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 HHS”. VIKSAT initiated this programme by implementing its thematic initiatives focusing on bringing prosperity among tribal households through agriculture, demonstrate and scale up of improved cropping practices, develop vegetable cluster farming, water resource development, create and strengthen community-based organizations, and comprehensive conservation measures leading to sustainable land & water management with the support of Tata Trust, BRLF and CInI.

Improved Agriculture Development Activities:

- 158 training programmes on PoP of agriculture crop and 113 training programmes on vegetable crops were organized for 4494 and 3327 women farmers respectively from programme villages. Similarly, 14 training programmes on PoP of agriculture

interventions were organized for 367 SHG leaders. In the training, technical knowledge on land preparation, seed selection, seed treatment, seed sowing, spacing, fertiliser management, weeding, irrigation, insect-pest and disease management, etc. were given to farmers.

- 9 exposure visits on agriculture, animal husbandry, hi-tech nursery and vegetable cultivation for SHG members were organized at village level; SDAU, Dantiwada and Centre of Excellence (CoE), Vadrad, Sabarkantha district for 448 farmers, SHG members, CRPs and programme staff. 5 internal exposure visits to vegetable farms and nurseries for new farmers was organized in project villages. 204 women farmers participated.

- 272 Farmer Field Schools (FFS) were organized in two stages during Kharif, Rabi, and summer seasons for agriculture and vegetable crops. In these FFS programme, 7608 farmers participated from the project villages. The FFS helps farmers to follow up action on practices, identification and solving of problems and group learning by discovery, experimentation and observation.



Improved Practices

- Plant nurseries grown in soil less media entails the hi-tech nurseries. 7 such hi-tech nurseries were established for providing healthy, disease-free planting material/saplings at reasonable price to the farmers. These nursery entrepreneurs raised a total of 3.5 lakh saplings of vegetable crops in soilless media of plug nursery. These saplings were supplied to more than 350 farmers for sowing in 0.05 to 0.10 hectares of area. The nursery entrepreneur received an average income of Rs. 50,000 from selling of quality saplings.



- 10 farmers installed trellis (mandva) system and cultivated creeper vegetables (bitter gourd) in their fields of project villages. From the vegetables, average of Rs. 6000 - 7000 income was received by the farmers.



Results of Maize seed varietal trial plots

- Under the varietal trial programme, the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT, Hyderabad) provided seeds of 65 drought and water-logging tolerant varieties under Climate Resilient Maize in Asia programme for two field trials in Tebdi village. The Indo-American Company, Hyderabad provided seeds of 2 well performing hybrid maize (yellow) varieties INDAM-1202 (12C002) and INDAM-1122 (11C022) in central India. About 20 kg of

each variety was sown in the field trial in 15 plots in 2.1 ha land area with average of 0.1 to 0.2 ha in 8 villages in the project area. The CIMMYT varieties chosen by the farmers were CAH1511 and ZH161036. The results showed that variety number ZH114250 and CAH1516 were performing well as per area and cob respectively in trial plots. The varieties showed 126-136 % increase in yield per hectare as compared to the local maize varieties.

Results of Kharif 2016 agriculture

- Under the Kharif programme, a total of 3735 farmers were involved. The data of Kharif crop was collected during the season and data of each farmer was recorded in register. The details of result & improved agriculture practices are as follows:

Loan activities	No. of Farmers	Planted Area (acre)	Productivity (Qtl/acre)
Black gram	335	63.3	7
Brinjal	21	2.12	31
Castor	88	24.21	7
Chilly	160	18.95	30
Cotton	205	80.06	8
Cotton Seed	3428	1174.52	3
Cotton with Intercrops	341	129.32	8
Creepers	56	10.53	24
Fennel	17	3.7	12
Maize	1983	626.44	12
Maize with Intercrop	1955	887.57	7
Okra	16	3.39	31
Pigeon Pea	282	56.73	10
Tomato	25	3.72	50

- 5 Expert Resource Person (ERP) visits were conducted for agriculture and vegetable crops in the programme area for providing support and technical guidance on pest management and package of practices on agriculture and vegetable crops to Staff, CRP & farmers.

Increased area under irrigation to strengthen agriculture

Natural resources of land and water are and would remain primary rural livelihood anchors as over half the 'main workers' remain in agriculture. There is little occupational diversity in villages and very few working age people have skills useful in cities. Increasing natural resource productivity is thus critical to enhance livelihoods and reduce poverty in villages; it is an imperative for our food, water and ecological security. Access to irrigation is an important pre-

requisite for enhancing the income from high value crops and also for intensification of the agriculture interventions.

During the year, 598 HHs benefitted under irrigation/WRD programme, which would help in bringing 468 acres of land under irrigation. The intervention of water resource development helped bringing in additional 194 acres area under irrigation. Cumulatively, 1130 HHs benefitted under irrigation/WRD programme and it has helped in bringing 891 acres of area to be brought under Rabi 2016 irrigation.

- 72 well deepening, 6 well strengthening and 16 underground pipeline laying work was completed. The 94 well development works would help 343.08 acres of land, ensure 70 acres additional area to be brought under irrigation and 462 HH will be benefited.
- 10 small Lift Irrigation (LI) projects were completed which would benefit 136 HHs in 125.23 acres of area.



- During the period, specific activities like soil and moisture conservation and treatment activities were carried out in over 24.86 hectares on agricultural land and cumulatively on 1365.77 hectares.
- There were total of 240 applications received from the SHGs/VOs for implementation of well deepening (122), well strengthening (24); underground pipelines (49), small lift irrigation schemes (36) and drip irrigation scheme (9) in the project villages for implementation in 2017-18. Out of these, 219 applications went through site verification, technical feasibility and finalized the following: well deepening (110), well strengthening (24); underground pipelines (49), small lift irrigation schemes (36) and drip irrigation scheme (9) and dialogue with SHGs group regarding the implementation and community contribution under water resource development activities.



- The implementation work of WRD activities like well deepening (15), well strengthening (01), underground pipe lines (5) and small lift irrigation scheme (3) was initiated in the project villages.
- 2 ERP visits of Shri C. S. Pathak were conducted for technical support on small LI planning, designing, site selection, and verification in the programme area.
- An exposure-cum-learning visit on convergence with MGNREGA in the ongoing programme implemented by ASA in Madhya Pradesh, for 48 staff members of DRDA, Taluka Panchayat, Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat and VIKSAT members. The objective of the visit was to develop a roadmap for village level convergence under MGNREGA for Sustainable Livelihoods in Poshina and Khedbrahma tribal blocks, role of PRIs and other local institutions.
- 2 training programmes-cum-exposure visits on Operation and Maintenance of small LI scheme was organized at Sadguru Foundation and Kheroj for 50 members of small LIS.

Solar Power System

In Poshina Tribal area, VIKSAT has installed 2 solar pumps in Ganer and Ratanpur villages covering 15 HH and 13 acres with the support of IGWDP-NABARD and GGRC, Gujarat to promote the renewable energy in the project area.



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

The MISSAL project aims to develop sustainable livelihood options through provision of micro irrigation technology and agronomy support services in Poshina tribal area of Khedbrahma taluka of Sabarkantha district. The MISSAL project will target more than 300 farmers and 110 ha land area under drip irrigation system in project villages. Irrigation solution created by this project would support farmers in diversifying from single cropping pattern to double cropping pattern since micro irrigation system would enable farmers to optimize usage of irrigation water. Micro irrigation system along with agronomical services would support farmers in increasing productivity and sustain farming as livelihood option.

- 24 new farmer groups received approval from the GGRC, Gujarat. The drip irrigation installation took place in 29 MIS groups covering 92 beneficiaries and 28.34 ha of land with the support of JDF, GGRC and Jain Irrigation System Ltd. Cumulatively 67 MIS were installed in 63.34 ha of land area, covering 189 farmers in project area under MISSAL programme. The GGRC has conducted 23 trial runs of installed MIS and cumulatively conducted 25 trial runs. 21 new MIS beneficiaries' technical surveys, biometric, document collection and submission to Jain and Netafim Irrigation System Ltd were completed and submitted for further action in GGRC, Gujarat. The duplication of farmers is a challenge for installation of MIS, so before collection of documents, VIKSAT reviews the application of the beneficiaries.

- 19 meetings were held with programme staff of Jain and Netafim Irrigation System Ltd, and VIKSAT team members at VIKSAT field office in Kheroj for review and progress, visits to the farmer's field for follow up of submitted applications, document submission, installation of MIS and trial run of installed MIS and orientation training programme.



- One campaign through loud speaker and rally was organized on 29 April 2016 in the project villages to orient and create awareness among 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 the farmers.

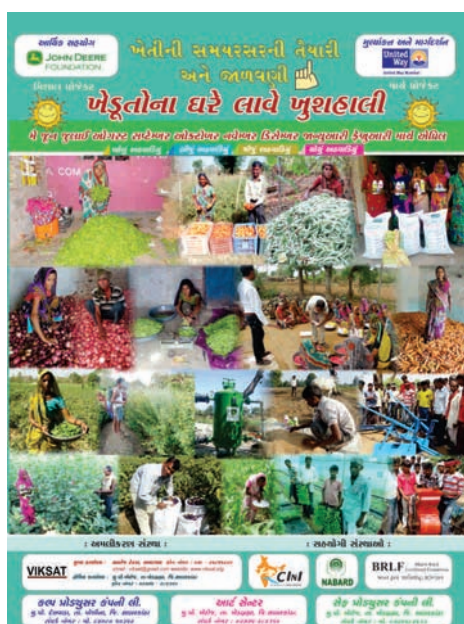
- 13 training programmes on Orientation and Operation and Maintenance of MIS and 4 exposure-cum-learning visits on drip irrigation system and vegetable cultivation were organized for 385 farmers and beneficiaries of MIS. These activities were helpful to the farmers for gaining information on MIS and its benefits, operation and maintenance of drip irrigation system, package of practices of agriculture and vegetable crops and also included interactions of participants with progressive farmer.



- The agronomy support was provided to 151 beneficiaries of MIS in Rabi and summer season. Under agronomy support, the saplings of chillies, brinjal, tomato, bottle gourd, cabbage, cauliflower in Rabi season and cluster bean and okra seeds, and micro nutrients and liquid fertilizers like 19:19:19, 13:00:45, N: P:K, 00:00:50, Trichoderma and Imidacloprid, etc. were provided to 151 beneficiaries of MIS programme.

In 2016-17, in Kharif season, 210 farmers cultivated Cotton Seed Plot, Maize, Cotton, Castor, Chilly, Fennel, Tomato and mix crop with Maize, Cotton, Pigeon pea & Black gram under 32.88 acres of area in drip irrigation system. In Rabi season, 174 farmers cultivated Wheat, Onion, Fennel, Tomato and mix crop with Wheat, Fennel, Gram and Tomato crops under 43.89 acres area in drip irrigation system. In summer season, 36 farmers cultivated Green gram, Brinjal, Cow pea, Tomato, Maize, Okra and Cluster bean crops under the drip irrigation system in 11.8 acre area.

- An 'Agriculture Crop Calendar' was prepared as per major crops and requirement of project area under MISSAL & MARCH programmes with guidance from KVK and agriculture experts. It was formally inaugurated in workshop on UPNRM programme, VIKSAT Resource Centre, Ahmedabad on 19 December 2016 in august presence of Shri Kartikeya Sarabhai, Director, CEE; Shri Sunil Chawala, General Manager, NABARD, Dr. R A Serasiya, Director, Horticulture Dept., GoG; Shri Nageshvar Rao, DGM, NABARD and Shri Bharat Pathak, Director, VIKSAT. The crop calendar will be helpful to the farmers of project area for stages of crops, planning of agriculture activity and identifying the diseases in respective crops and information regarding pesticide and insecticide.



IV. 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 promoted two Farmer Producer Organization (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 in the project area under Aravalli Agriculture Resource and Training Centre (AART) with the support of John Deere Foundation and NABARD. FPOs aim at filling the gap of continuous scientific interventions and accessibility of the farmers to agriculture related knowledge and providing inputs in over 25 surrounding villages and more than 6000 farmers.

- 24 meetings of Board of Directors of SAFE and KALP Producer Companies were organized at AART centre, Kheroj and Delwada to review and plan activities, new enrolment of shareholders, collect share capitals, engagements with private company for cotton seed plot, business of aggregation and procurement of agriculture produce like Black Gram, Pigeon Pea, vegetables and purchase of agriculture inputs, etc. In these meetings, a total of 190 management committees and BoDs participated.
- SAFE and KALP producer companies have received the certificate of license of seed from Bij Nigam, Gujarat, licence of fertilizer from the Indian Farmers & Fertilizer Dealers Association (IFFDA), Ahmedabad and Mandi licence from Agriculture Producer Market Committee, (APMC), Khedbrahma for carrying out business in input selling and aggregation of agri produce.

- FPOs' stalls were exhibited under the Soochana Diwas Programme, Vibrant Gujarat Programme, Gandhinagar and Women Day celebration programme for promotion of programme activities and selling FPO products. The programme staff shared the pamphlets on Package of Practices of agriculture crops; information on services provided by FPOs, enrolment forms and also sold seeds and vegetables in the stalls.

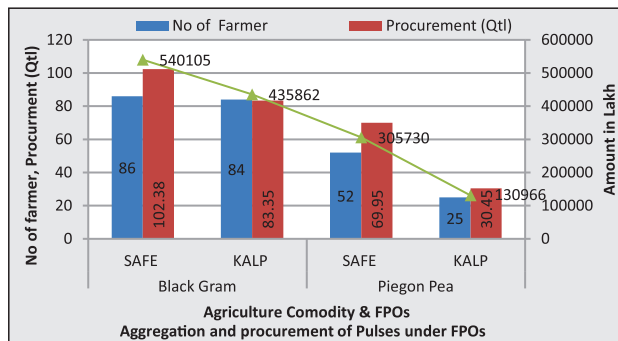


- 8 Training programmes on FPO and its role and business planning were organized for 179 BOD and VO leaders. In these training programmes, Need and Importance of FPO, Structure, Roles and Responsibility FPO and its Leaders, Membership, Shares fee, Business Plan, Process of Procurement, Aggregation of Pulses, Fair Average Quality (FAQ) parameters, Maintenance of Records, Pricing Policy, Methods to Increase Shareholders, Capital Shareholding, Turnover and Profit Making under the Commodity Procurement, were discussed.



- FPOs have provided the agriculture inputs like seeds, bio culture, insecticide and pesticide to 5314 farmers of project area at affordable rates through outlet centre. The farmers saved a total of Rs. 2,60,044 (average Rs. 49 per farmer) in the current year and cumulatively Rs. 6,63,749 compared to local market price. The total turnovers of FPOs were Rs. 15.10 lakh through services provided to the farmers.

- SAFE and KALP FPOs initiated the procurement and aggregation of agriculture produce namely Black Gram, Pigeon Pea and Vegetables with the support of CInI, Tata Trust and JDF. The technical backstopping support to FPO and VIKSAT was provided by Arya Collateral Warehousing Services Pvt. Ltd. for setting up of procurement centres and the warehouse management. The procurement was done through three centres: AART centre - Delwada, Kheroj and Lambadiya.



The procurement of 18.5 tonnes of Black Gram, 10.04 tonnes of Pigeon Pea and 3.54 tonnes of vegetable cultivation was carried out. The procured Black Gram and Pigeon Pea produce was handed over to ARYA for warehousing management.

Doordharshan DD Girnar, Gujarat took note of VIKSAT's efforts on farmer producer company namely SAFE for Kheroj cluster and documented the aggregation and procurement of pulses and input supply activities in Poshina tribal area of Khedbrahma. The documentary of the FPO was telecast on DD Girnar under the Krushi Darshan programme.



- VIKSAT-initiated wheat, green gram and vegetable seed production was established as a pilot in the Poshina tribal area who have a skill for cotton seed production KALP & SAFE FPOs to produce quality seeds, seeking the support of government and private seed companies. In Rabi 2016-17, 24 farmers took up programme of wheat seeds production in 24.8 acres of the land. In Summer 2016-17, 31 farmers took up programme of seed production in 15.75 acre of the land, which included 10 acres for Green gram and 5.75 acres for vegetable (okra and bitter gourd). At the rate of expected production, these seeds will serve about 1000 farmers and 500 acres. The seeds will be certified by competent certification authorities and help the small and marginal farmers for replacement of local seed with quality seed at affordable rates compared to multinational companies.



Shri P. Swaroop (IAS), Collector, Sabarkantha and Shri Harsh Vyas (IAS), DDO, Sabarkantha & other govt. officials addressed women members in experience sharing workshop (Samvad) and celebration of International Woman Day at Ganer village. In this programme, 1300 women members of SHGs participated.

Smt. Ramilaben B. Bara, Chairperson, Gujarat Tribal Development Corporation (GTDC), Gujarat visited on 31 December 2016 for small lift irrigation schemes and FPO programme. She interacted with programme beneficiaries at Ratanpur and Choliya villages of Khedbramha cluster. She was accompanied by Shri H. D. Patel, Executive Engineer, Irrigation Dept. (State), Himmatnagar and other government officials.



“Trellis Wadi: New Model for Vegetable Cultivation & High Income”

A Case Study

Smt. Rakhamiben Popatbhai Terma, a woman farmer from Dantiya village is a member of Pragati SHG. She lives with her husband and four children (three girls and a boy). Her agriculture land measures about 0.60 hectares (ha) and is her family's sole source of livelihood. She has established a trellis system. Under this, she has grown bitter gourd and intercropped with cluster bean. Last year she had grown green gram in 0.1 ha area and received income of Rs. 5600. This year, she gained approximately 4.25 quintal production of cluster beans and nearly 2.2 quintal of bitter gourd from the small piece of land (10 gunta). She sold at an average price of Rs. 30 - 35 per kg. She received income of Rs. 14,875 from cluster bean and estimated Rs. 7700 from bitter gourd. She received a total of Rs. 22,575 from the vegetable crops. Her income increased fourfold as compared to last year.



A woman farmer, Smt. Manjuben Bherabhai Bumbadiya from village Dantiya, is a member of Jai Ambey SHG. She lives with her husband and five children. She owns 2 acres of agriculture land which is her family's sole source of livelihood. She established the Hi -Tech nursery of 4000 saplings capacity under Mission 2020 with support of CInI. Under this, she has raised 33,547 saplings of chilly, brinjal, and tomato. Within two months, she earned an income of Rs. 37,206 from selling the saplings to vegetable cultivators in nearby villages. This income helped her in repayment of loan. She planned saplings of chilly, brinjal, cabbage and cauliflower for the next season.



“Vegetable Seed Production is Better Option than Cotton Seed Production”

Seed production has always been considered as an important economic activity for farmers practicing rainfed farming. The cotton seed plot cultivation is prominent crop under the Kharif season in project area and nearly 70-80 % farmers were involved.

This year, most of cotton seed production companies reduced their seed production and area under the seed plot cultivation by nearly 50%. Considering the current experience with cotton seed production and returns, VIKSAT initiated vegetable seed production and piloted during Kharif 2016 with direct linkage with MAHYCO seed company, with assured buyback at the rate of Rs. 350 per kg for okra and Rs. 1000 per kg for bitter gourd.



Under this programme, okra and bitter gourd seed production programme was taken up with 10 and 23 farmers, respectively. 13 okra and 10 bitter gourd seed production farming programme took place in plot size of around 0.25 acre in the project villages. The comparative study of vegetable cultivation over the cotton seed plot showed that vegetable cultivation was a better option as the vegetable seed production completed in 5 months whereas cotton seed production takes 8-10 months. The vegetable seed production plot allows for one more additional Rabi crop to be grown.



The comparison showed that bitter gourd seed production had 19% more net income over the cotton seed plot and additional one crop was grown. The net income by vegetable seed plot will increase by 17-40 % over cotton seed production. Also, less labour and time is consumed in vegetable seed production as compared to cotton seed production. The details of cotton seed plot and vegetable cultivation as follows:

Sr. No.	Name of the Crop	Area (acre)	Yield (kg)	Rate/ kg	Gross Income	Cost of Cultivation (Rs.)	Net Profit (Rs.)
1	Okra seed plot	0.25	65	350	22750	11080	11670
2	Cotton seed plot	0.25	70	450	31500	16680	14820
3	Bitter Gourd Seed plot	0.25	33	1000	33000	14604	18396

The details of major visits during the year are given in the following table:

Sr. No.	Date	Name of Persons	Organization	Purpose of the Visit
1	10 June 2016	Mr. Ruchir Pareek, Ms. Jyoti Jha	Consultant Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC)	Concurrent monitoring of the ongoing field visits of CInI - Tata Trust supported project in Khedbrahma Block of Sabarkantha District
2	25 July and 14 Sept 2016	Mr. Prasanna, Mr. Joginder Ralhan	Arya Collateral Warehousing Services Pvt. Ltd	Field visit, programme activities of VIKSAT, and interaction with BoDs of both companies and programme staff, assessing the potential for activities and explaining their services
3	12 Aug 2016		RNT Associates Pvt. Ltd. Company	Visit to programme activities of VIKSAT and interaction with BODs of both companies, programme staff, and VO for understanding the requirement and business plan
4	20 Sept 2016	Dr. Seetharam. K, SPS	CYMMIT, Hyderabad	Field visit and data collection on performance of CIMMIT maize crop varieties
5	29 Nov 2016	Mr. V C Bodana	TDO and In-charge PA, TSP, Khedbrahma	Visit to small LI scheme and Hi-Tech Nursery programme activities in Ratanpur village
6	21- 22 Nov 2016	Dr. S M Khanorkar	Maize Research Station, Godhra	Field visit and data collection on maize crop varieties, production, preference to those varieties, minimum market price etc., farmer perceptions as part of CYMMIT survey in the project villages
		Mr. Atul Kulkarni	CYMMIT, Hyderabad	
7	15 Dec 2016	Mr. Max & Mr. Himanshu	Sistema Biobolsa, Mexico	Assessment of potential for biogas and demonstration of advanced technology

Convergence with Government agencies

- 24 demonstrations on pigeon pea crop (Anand Safad-3 variety), one demo of GTHH 49 cotton variety and, 20 demonstrations on cow pea crop (Gujarat-6) in project villages provided by KVK, Khedbrahma and Sardar Krushinagar Dantiwada Agriculture University (SDAU), Dantiwada, were carried out.
- 21 water storage tanks (Capacity: 24,000 lit) were constructed to ensure the summer irrigation in 10 - 20 guntha of land, with the help of drip irrigation system for promotion of Wadi and vegetable crops with the support of Horticulture Dept. Himmatnagar.
- 59 farmers were linked with Tribal Area Sub-plan Dept. of Khedbrahma and Horticulture Dept., Himmatnagar for the vegetable cultivation in the project area of Khedbrahma.
- 20 Biogas (Capacity: 2 MT) plants were installed in Khedbrahma and Poshina project areas for the first time to promote renewable energy and organic manure for sustainable agriculture with the support of Gujarat Agro, Himmatnagar. This will help reduce pressure on fuel wood, and slurry could be used in the fields to improve soil fertility.
- The World Biodiversity Day was celebrated at Kheroj on 22 May 2016 to create awareness on conservation of biodiversity among the community with 33 participants.

- The World Environment Day was celebrated at Kheroj on 4 June 2016 to develop awareness on conservation of environment among the community. 54 community members participated.

V. Kutch Sustainable Development Project

VIKSAT initiated the Kutch Sustainable Development Project (KSDP) in 26 villages of Abdasa, Nakhatrana, Mandvi and Lakhpat talukas of Kachchh district with the support of Suzlon Foundation from June 2016. The project area covers more than 9404 households with a total population of 45860.

VIKSAT adopted a holistic approach to address the area specific needs in the project villages. VIKSAT has promoted Village Development Committee (VDCs) to involve the communities in the development process, which will build-up their assets - human, material, social and financial in the project villages. The planning & design of the activities as per the need of the area and the involvement of the community & VDC in every stage of the development process is the crux of the programme.

Survey and Baseline: In all project villages, the survey and baseline study were taken up to obtain information on village, school information, cataract cases, listing of trees/seed broadcasting etc.; species planted; mapping of households which have no electricity supply and mapping of persons with special ability.



Enhancing Social Capital - Social Empowerment

VDCs were formed in 25 villages for Implementation of programme to involve communities in the development process, to build up their assets—human, material, social and financial in the project villages. The VDC's were strengthened through organizing 44 VDC meetings, 10 training programmes and 5 exposure visits for VDC members under KSD programme.

Education and WaSH in schools:

The primary schools in the project villages covering 4532 students including 2496 boys and 2036 girls benefitted through the School Awareness Programme, sports kit, and WaSH Education Corner activities. In 3 primary schools, the improvisation of school facilities under School Repairs and Toilet Construction activities were carried out. Fitting of existing RO machine and water storage for clean drinking water in primary school of Balchod Nani village was carried out.



Enhancing Human Capital - Health and Education

6 health camps were organized in the project villages to improve access to preventive and curative health services in which 358 patients were examined and

treated during the health camps. Village meetings in all 26 villages, 18 campaigns and community awareness programmes and 26 Village Notice Boards were set up to improve the awareness and education about the programme activities.



Enhancing Physical Capital: Basic Civic Amenities Improvement Programs:

19 Cleaning of drinking Water Tanks were done which benefitted 4294 families, to improve quantity and quality of drinking water and 5 Dustbins were provided per village in the project villages for improving the cleanliness.



Dr. Jasmine Gogia, Head- CSR, Sustainability and Occupational Health, Suzlon Foundation visited programme activities in Vanku village and handed over the sports kit to primary school and VDC members.

I. FASAL Programme

The Financing Agriculture Sustainability and Allied Livelihood (FASAL) programme completed its second phase of Umbrella Programme for Natural Resource Management (UPNRM) in December 2016 with support of NABARD.

Over the years, decrease in farm production and depleting natural resources had led the villagers in the project districts: Kutch, Patan, Mehsana, Aravalli and Sabarkantha, to become victims of poverty. This was further aggravated by lack of appropriate and timely financial support, leading to an increase in the underutilized or unutilized farmlands with the passage of time.

FASAL aimed to break this phenomenon by providing reliable and economic credit support especially to those who have remained out of every form of financial inclusion programme and scheme. The focus of the loans and grants has been for NRM-based livelihood activities such as agricultural production, animal husbandry, and natural resources management related activities in the villages of the project districts. The success of the programme can be attributed to the fact that 100 per cent of the loans have been recovered from Satlasana field office, while various SHGs and FCs have continued to work independently even after the end of the second phase of FASAL. This demonstrates the advantage of capacity building and developed self-reliance because of this programme.

Loan Status

The loan allotment during the FASAL UPNRM Phase-II for the 81 villages in the above mentioned five districts was capped at total of Rs. 7,39,66,970. Radhanpur and Bhiloda field offices saw the majority loan allocation for this programme; with Rs. 3,49,28,000 and Rs. 1,64,78,970 respectively. Loans and grants were provided for cumin production as well as kits for organic cumin production in Radhanpur field office. Other activities focused in these areas were animal husbandry and allied activities, food security, land development, irrigation systems and biogas.

100% loan recovery has been achieved from Satlasana field office which accounted for 18.77% of the total loan disbursement. Majority of the loans in this area were used for activities related to animal husbandry and allied activities, followed by irrigation systems, land development, release of mortgaged

lands and biogas. The loan allocation also saw majority women beneficiaries amounting to 89.52% of the total allocation. On further analysis of the data on loan allocations, it was found that women from OBC followed by ST caste categories benefitted the most with major loan allocations.

Loan activities	No. of loan app.	Sanctioned loan amount (Rs.)	% of loan app.
Agro inputs	22	5968970	1.4
Biogas	128	2859000	7.9
Cattle feed	11	2759000	0.7
Cattle Shed	49	3235000	3.0
Crop Loan	452	29070000	27.9
Fodder storage	27	727000	1.7
Food security	112	1115000	6.9
Freeing mortgaged land	23	1256000	1.4
Irrigation system	109	5365000	6.7
Land Development	69	2574000	4.3
Milch Animal	513	15936000	31.7
NRM based Enterprise	2	320000	0.1
Vermicompost	62	177000	3.8
Miscellaneous	40	2605000	2.5
Total	1619	7,39,69,970	100

Over the two phases of the FASAL programme, the NRM activities for loan and grant allotment were divided into NRM Core Activities and NRM Supplementary Activities. NRM core activities, included agriculture, land development, irrigation, horticulture, agri-equipment and bee keeping while the NRM supplementary activities included, livestock (milch and other animals), livelihood support infrastructure, NRM enterprises and MARCH project. Overall, agriculture, animal husbandry/livestock followed by land development/irrigation sectors saw the most loan disbursement in the five districts. Within these sectors, activities related to milch animals, cash crop, irrigation facilities, cattle shed, food security and biogas was found to be the priority for the people.

The disbursement of the loans under the FASAL UPNRM Phase-II was completed in the 2015-16 fiscal year. The 2016-17 mainly was the loan recovery period.

Impact of UPNRM Program

Biogas for efficient energy management: In year 2014-15, VIKSAT along with SHG members was successful in installation and implementation of biogas for efficient energy management. There was

an increase in demand for similar activities. In 2016-17, SHGs were mostly involved with maintenance and proper functioning of the biogas plants that had been installed earlier. Biogas is majorly used for cooking purposes. The waste sludge from biogas plants is being used directly as manure on the field. In areas of Satlasana, Samrapur village, waste sludge from biogas plant has also been successfully used for vermicomposting.

Vermicompost for promotion of organic farming:

VIKSAT promoted SHGs and FCs are strong in vermicomposting for chosen high quality crops. In Bhiloda and Satlasana, 15 new vermicompost plants have been independently installed without the help of loans from the programme. SHG women are producing vermicompost at their doorstep and selling it at the price of Rs. 6-10/kg in surrounding villages in Wadi project area and in agriculture festivals and events such as agriculture exhibition at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar.

Dairy - Contributing to white revolution:

A total loan amount of 2.26 crores was disbursed for allied animal husbandry sectors such as cattle feed, cattle shed and fodder storage which included Rs. 1.5 crore for milch animal finances during the entire Phase-II of the FASAL programme.

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. The

farmers, therefore, also showed their disinterest because of this reason. However, capacity building activities helped the women farmers in understanding importance of land development and its long-term benefits. A total amount of Rs. 25.74 lakh was disbursed during the Phase-II of the project for land development activities which includes land levelling, removal of Babul from the land, gypsum coating, etc.

Vegetable Nursery:

Raising vegetable nursery project was taken up by the SHG members in 2015-16. Women SHGs have raised nurseries for vegetable seedlings of onion, chillies, brinjal, and tomato. Through this nursery project, they have earned substantial income by selling the saplings to WADI project area.

Training and Capacity Building:

Capacity strengthening of the community is an important aspect of any development activity aiming for sustainability. This allows the community to own, operate, and manage the activity or programme themselves. VIKSAT undertook several training programmes and exposure visits for the community, SHGs and FCs as well as for their team members, such as:

- Basic training
- Refresher training for SHG members
- Account Record Keeping training
- Leadership training
- Technical training
- Exposure trip at Bij Masala Sanshodhan Kendra
- Krishimela, Radhanpur

Vegetable Nursery: A Key to Alleviate Poverty

A Case Study

Seven members of JLG Ashirwad Swa Sahay Juth were provided assistance in installation of the nursery under the UPNRM-Additional Grant Support Programme. They also received assistance in the form of demonstration and training on operations and management of the nursery such as type of bed preparation - raised beds, flat beds, seasonal nursery, seed treatment, precaution and maintenance of Shed Net nursery, weeding, use of bio-pesticides.

The group had taken 0.20 ha land at the rate of Rs. 25,000/year near their home and grew chillies, tomatoes and brinjals. A total expenditure of Rs. 1,13,000 was made and within 35-40 days the women earned a net income of Rs. 1,27,000 by selling 1,60,000 saplings at the rate of Rs. 1.50/ sapling. This Shed Net Nursery has now helped the JLG members gain good skills and techniques of raising nursery beds and are now determined to raise seasonal vegetables such as Kharif - Brinjal, Chilli, Tomato; Rabi - Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chilli, Onion, Fennel; Summer - Tomato and Brinjal



Vegetable and Cash Crop Cultivation

A Case Study

Bhavanaben Chaudhari, a resident of Shabdalpura village, received a loan of Rs. 50,000 through the UPNRM programme, which she invested in vegetable and cash crop cultivation, especially cumin.

She produced 600 kg of cumin in her one acre land and earned Rs. 69,000 annually. She also received loan of Rs. 2,20,000 for pomegranate production with drip irrigation system. Her total income per year is Rs. 1,49,000.

Integrated Dairy Activity

A Case Study

Jomniben Thakor, a 37 year old resident from Limgamda village from Patan district, received loan of Rs. 30,000 under the UPNRM programme. She used it to purchase a buffalo, which helped her sell milk and ghee to nearby villages. Her monthly income from this economic activity amounts to Rs. 15,000.

Through this programme, she also benefitted from receiving training on construction of a biogas unit, which allowed her to move to smokeless cooking stove and save herself Rs. 300, an investment on LPG. She also learnt to produce vermicompost using cow dung and produced 200 kg of organic manure for her farm. The programme helped her carry out sustainable farming and helped her use her money wisely.

Enhancing the Livelihood of Poor with Cattle Shed, Biogas and Vermicomposting

A Case Study

Benbaben Chauhan, a member of the Gurukrupa Mahila Swasahay from Samrapur village, took a loan of Rs. 50,000 under the UPNRM-FASAL project supported by NABARD and installed cattle shed for two milch animals (buffaloes). Under this programme, she underwent training for management of milch animals - better nutrition and housing. This allowed her to invest in proper housing for her milch animals which resulted in good productivity and also saved the wastage of fodder. The average milk production increased to 1.5 lit/day. This allowed her to gain an average additional income of Rs.18,000/year due to cattle shed.



She also took an initiative to install a biogas plant for cooking fuel by using the Farm Yard Manure (FYM), from her milch animals for the biogas plant, and saving 2 - 3 hours of her time searching wood for fuel and preparing food for her family. She received Rs. 14,000 as subsidy for biogas from Govt. of Gujarat. She took up requisite training for maintenance of the plant with the help of the programme. She continued to reuse the slurry from the biogas as a raw material for vermicomposting. She studied the process and got trained in its operations and management and established a vermibed in October 2015. One tetra vermibed [10 ft x 4 ft x 3 ft] yielded her very good quality vermicompost - 600 kg in 60 days. She sold 2000 kg at the rate of Rs. 8/kg and earned Rs.16,000. Looking at the success of vermicomposting, she increased the number of vermibeds from 1 to 5, harvested 5000 kg in 8 cycles on her 2 acre farm of which she used 2000 kg on her land and sold the rest 3000 kg for Rs. 24,000. The money earned from this venture is used for her children's education.

II. Facilitating Organic Orchard for Tribal Development - Project FOOD

Project FOOD is implemented under Wadi Programme of NABARD. In Gujarati, 'Wadi' means orchard. This alternative model of agriculture has proved to be useful for enhancing agriculture-based economy in tribal areas. This form of alternative model makes use of diversified cropping system of growing food crops, grains and vegetables in between fruit trees. The recurring investment in fruit crops is less and it reduces the impact of risk of crop failure. It is known that the income from wadi is at least three times more than cereal crops in the same areas of land.

VIKSAT's Wadi Model which started in 2013, now covers 1002 acres of land achieving the target of covering 1000 acres. This area was covered in three different phases, with Phase I covering 75 acres, Phase II covering 428 acres and finally Phase III covering 499 acres. This involves 7 villages from Bhiloda and 18 villages from Vijaynagar blocks of Sabarkantha district. The Wadi model is based on the economics of fruit and vegetable crops and income generation over time under suitable climatic and soil characteristic of the concerned area. The model has five components:

1. Fruit Crops:

Out of one acre of land, fruit crop is grown on 0.75 acre of the land with recommended spacing. As a result, a total of 45 fruit plants were planted. In Bhiloda and Vijaynagar, the fruit crops grown were: Mango, Lemon and Pomegranate. The production of pomegranate and lemon starts from the third year while production of mango starts from the fourth and fifth year. Of the 75 acres covered in Phase I, 50% of the trees have started fruiting with a harvest amount of average 10 - 15 kg per plant. 200 -300 kg mangoes per wadi have been harvested with an average of Rs. 30 per kg. This has allowed the farmers to take home an average income of Rs. 6000 - 9000. This income will increase consecutively every year with continued production.

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 ensuring their food security. Intercrops generally used in wadi are pulses and vegetable crops which do not interfere with production of fruits. In this wadi model, pulses – black gram, green gram, etc. are grown by farmers in Kharif season which adds nitrogen in the soil through nitrogen fixation activity of

these leguminous crops. While in Rabi and summer season, vegetable crops, mainly Brinjal, Chillies, Tomato, Onion, Garlic, Okra, Cluster bean, etc. are cultivated by the farmers.

The yield of vegetable crops starts from 45 - 60 days of planting the crops. In Rabi and summer seasons, farmers earn an average of Rs. 15,000 – 25,000 from vegetables in wadi on an average rate of Rs. 25 - 30 per kg. In this year, VIKSAT provided good quality vegetable saplings of chillies (var. Pennar), onion (var. N-53) and tomato (var. 1389] as a intercrop in wadi in 10-15 guntha of land.

3. Creeper and tuber crops:

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 with the help of a structure called mandap which is at a height of 2-3 mt, allowing the creeper vegetables to grow. The creeper vegetables provided under the project are low value, high yielding and highly consumed gourd, bitter gourd, bottle gourd and valore.

The creeper vegetables have longer shelf life and can be sold easily in the local market. Through cultivation of creeper vegetables, a farmer can earn Rs. 10,000 - 15,000 during the crop period. Turmeric crops need longer time for maturation and only one harvest can be had in a year. A farmer has earned an average income of Rs. 12,000 - 15,000 from these crops. A total of Rs. 22,000 - 30,000 was earned from the production and sale of creeper and tuber crop in the Wadi model.

4. Supplementary Activities:

The project supports farmers at individual level for crop diversification, improving natural resource bases in turn improving income. It also supports some interventions addressing certain social issues with hopes of creating conducive environment for overall rural development. The supplementary interventions of the project included water resource development, soil conservation measures, health programme including maternal and child health care and women development.

Chandubhai Bhanaji Kharadi, a resident of Zinzudi village, adopted one acre land to practice the Wadi Model of sustainable and diverse farming system under NABARD's Tribal Development Fund's Wadi Programme. He cultivates 45 fruits plants on his one acre land including turmeric, pulses - black gram and green gram intercrop, and creeper vegetables, and other vegetables such as chillies, onion and garlic, under the Mandap system. Chandubhai's annual income amounted to Rs. 22,000 -25,000 annually from cultivating only cereal and cash crops such as maize, wheat and cotton. However, the adoption of the Wadi system increased his annual income to Rs. 73,000. This increase in annual income allowed him to comfortably invest the surplus amount in house renovation.

Manilal Dhulaji Gameti, a resident of Kanadar village, took interest in investing in Wadi model after attending the awareness meeting called by VIKSAT and visiting farms of other farmers who had adopted Wadi project through Lokseva Trust at Vandsa. Manilal's annual income amounted to Rs. 18000 - 25000 prior to his adoption of the WADI model. However, since the adoption of the Wadi model, his annual income has increased to Rs. 56,000. Similarly Ramkishor Alkhaji Damor, a resident of Masota village, increased his annual income from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 87,000 by adoption of Wadi model in one acre land.



I. People's Institutions

VIKSAT as an implementation, research, and community-based development institute was working on the thematic groups of Land & Water Conservation, Sustainable Livelihoods; laid its foundation on strong implementation of People's Institutions (PIs) and their interactions. With its consistent efforts these various kinds of People's Institutions (SHGs, TGCS, FCs, VDCs, WDCs) gradually acquired the ability to function independently with minimum external support.

The PIs are formed by empowering the local communities on natural resource management to equip them with the necessary know-how, technical or otherwise, for equitable use of resources for their own economic development. For instance, today people in rural areas have identified their needs and have learnt about the essential processes like planning, book keeping, money management and conflict resolution.

i. Self Help Groups

Till date, VIKSAT has touched the lives of 10,691 people through 731 SHGs in Bhiloda, Bhuj, Satlasana, Khedbrahma, and Radhanpur areas. These SHGs have actively participated in numerous loan and finance-based activities and agriculture and rural development projects and programmes.

Sr. No.	Field Office	No. of SHGs	No. of Members
1	Bhiloda	110	1680
2	Bhuj	42	630
3	Kheroj	349	4886
4	Radhanpur	80	1145
5	Satlasana	150	2350
Total		731	10691

ii. Farmer Producer Organization

Building on the successful implementation of the Cluster Development Program, ELRT, Wadi, UPNRM programmes & continuing VIKSAT's aim of improving livelihood of tribal communities by strengthening PIs such as Self Help Groups (SHGs), Farmers Clubs (FCs), Village Development Committee (VDCs), Village Organizations (VOs), Village Watershed Committees (VWCs), VIKSAT established Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in 2015 and 2016. FPOs were established with an aim to provide quality, affordable agricultural inputs at the farmers' doorstep; provide market accessibility; better price range for their produce; and other technical services for enhancing their agriculture productivity.

VIKSAT in collaboration with NABARD, promoted five FPOs namely Khedut AART Livelihood Promoting Producer Company Ltd. (KALP) and Sabar AART Farmer Enterprise Producer Company Ltd. (SAFE) in Delvada and Kheroj respectively in 2015. Similarly, Gadhwada Farmer Producer Company Ltd. (GFPC), Bhanavas; Hatmati Kisan Agro Producer Company (HKAPC), Zinzudi, and Kutch Agriculture Livelihood Producer Company Ltd. (Kutch KALP) were established in Satlasana, Bhiloda and Bhuj Project area respectively in 2016. Each of these FPOs is connected with a number of women SHGs and FCs in their areas which were formed and strengthened by VIKSAT through its previous programs.

The five FPOs cover total of 3389 members across the five field offices of VIKSAT. These have members including 1786 women, 2378 small scale farmers (SF) and 958 marginalized farmers (MF). These FPOs are also a good example of representation of the tribal and socio-economically weaker sections of the society with almost 2747 of its members belonging to the SC/ST category. Till date, KALP has mobilized 1.1 lakh INR, SAFE has mobilized 1.00 lakh INR, HKAPC has mobilized 0.775 lakh INR, GFPC has mobilized 1.00 lakh INR, and Kutch KALP has mobilized 5.00 lakh INR as a share capital.

Training programme on Farmer Producers Organization (FPOs) and management for Board of Directors and CEOs of the producer companies promoted by VIKSAT was organized at Sajjata Sangh, Ahmedabad from 18 - 20 July 2016. In this training programme, 47 no of BoDs, CEOs and programme staff were participated. The main purpose of the training was to help them to understand the management of FPO, role and responsibilities of BoD as well as CEO in the management of FPO, Business of farm products, business model and business plan.



II. Strengthening of People's Institutions

People's Institution (PI) is the larger approach of VIKSAT and it has broadly worked on it to identify, assemble, manage, disseminate knowledge, and strengthen people for sustainable development. VIKSAT has formed various institutional spaces during interactions with the community for increasing the participation and involvement of each stakeholder. SHGs form the basic institutional backbone of the cluster development programme. These groups, at the village level, form the Village Organizations (VOs), and intensive engagements were taken up with these groups for roll out of the various activities in the villages.

- During the period, 135 SHGs with 1738 members were formed and the books of accounts and cash boxes were introduced in newly formed SHGs. In Khedbramha project area the total monthly savings of all the groups are Rs. 1,72,070. As on 31 March 2016, the total savings are Rs. 18,15,400.

Out of these, 23 SHGs have been linked with the bank and all of them have received bank loan of total Rs. 4,74,000. 53 SHGs have applied for the State Rural Livelihood Mission (Mission Mangalam) linkage in the form of Revolving Funds and Cash Credit.

- 73 awareness meetings were organized in the project villages to provide information about the project objectives, importance of PI, formation of new SHGs and programme activities in the villages; with the support of Tata Trusts, BRLF and CInI. The awareness meetings helped in encouraging participation and involvement of women in SHGs. In these meetings, 1899 participants including 427 men and 1472 women participated.



- 66 SHGs completed the self-grading exercise and 33 SHGs audit exercises were carried out for

understanding the status of the SHGs, increasing transparency and building trust among the members. The demand generation and credit planning exercises were carried out in 253 SHGs. The purpose of the exercise was to collect input demands from the SHG members and plan for the input purchasing and timely availability of inputs to SHG members at their door step.

- VIKSAT has promoted the village organization at village level to take lead role in development process and strengthen the SHGs through providing the handholding support to SHG members at village level and provide the platform to the SHGs to share their issues and gain resolutions. Till date, VIKSAT has promoted 21 Village Organizations in the programme area for sustainability of People Institutions.

Training Programme	No. of Prog.	No. of Parti.
Orientation Training on SHG & its management for SHG members	52	1328
Training programme on record keeping for SHG President, Secretary, CRP & local volunteers	7	213
Refresher Training programme on record keeping for SHG President, Secretary, CRP and local volunteers	5	-
Training programmes on Group Dynamics & Leadership Development for SHG leaders	8	447
Training programme on Income Generation Programme (IGP) for SHGs members organized by Dena Rural Self-employed Training Institute (RSETIs), Himmatnagar	1	25
Training programme on Bee Keeping for SHGs members organized by Horticulture Dept, Himmatnagar & Arya Gramodyog Sansthan, New Delhi and sponsored by National Bee Board	1	26
Training programme on Auditing of SHG records for selected members	1	14
Training programmes on concept seeding, need & importance of VO for SHG members	8	220
Orientation & training programmes on Village Organization and its management for VO members	4	159
Training cum Exposure visits on VO organized at People Education & Development Organisation (PEDO), Dungarpur for VO leaders, CRPs, and programme staff	4	170
Local exposure visits cum training programmes on importance of SHG & vegetable cultivation at successful model SHGs & vegetable farmers in project villages for new SHGs & remaining women members	8	412

- 17 VO meetings were organised to discuss planning and demand of activities for coming year of 2017-18. In these meetings, 748 women members participated. VIKSAT programme staff facilitated the VO meetings and tried to understand participants' thoughts and views, how they would participate in project implementation, what are the prototypes that could be used to increase their income in sustainable manner, etc.

- 19 monthly meetings with programme staff and VEWs were organized for review and planning of programme activities. During the meetings, the review of programme activities carried out in the previous month, progress against the Annual Work Plan (AWP), challenges faced during the implementation, planning of programme activities for the next month according to AWP, and preparation of AWP 2017-18 with all programme staff and village extension workers, was carried out.



- 16 monitoring visits were done by CInI team members for reviewing the ongoing programme activities against the AWP, field visiting programme activities, meeting with stakeholders, providing technical support and reviewing progress of procurement of pulses programme and planning of AWP 17-18

- 7 training programmes on VOs, TOT on participatory training techniques, programme planning and management, orientation of flagship programmes of rural development, SHG MIS and demonstration on Sakh Darpan and Institution Development: Experiences and road map ahead were organized for programme staff.

- 3 exposure-cum-learning visits on Institution Building and Farmer Producer Company (SHG,



Cluster, Federation and FPO) and Water Resource Development under Suki Baliraja Initiative (SBI) in Vidharbha Region of Maharashtra at Narsinghpur and ASA Mandla (Madhya Pradesh) and SBI Team of Tata Trust, Amravati & Yewatmal and Kamalnayan Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation (KJBF), Wardha, Maharashtra and MYRADA, Gulbarga, Karnataka and Yuva Mitra, Sinner, Maharashtra respectively were organized for programme staff.

III. Internet Saathi Programme

An invocation was called upon by the Govt. of India to connect the country's rural areas with Internet under the 'Digital India' project, launched by the Prime Minister on 1 July 2015. Regardless of that, Google India and Tata Trusts took up the task to connect the women in Indian villages to the Internet, through its 'Internet Saathi' Programme. VIKSAT has initiated the Internet Saathi programme in 25 project villages which then expanded to the nearby villages in the project area. The programme has been implemented through SAFE Producer Company. 31 Internet Saathis in 90 villages (including 51 villages of Poshina and 39 villages of Khedbrahma talukas) of Sabarkantha district were trained, with the support of Google and Tata Trusts.



The Internet Saathis have covered and trained 33,013 women members on various uses of the smart phones and the Internet. They now use it to access services such as agriculture, cookery, modern techniques related to their work, healthcare, educational resources etc. It helps women members in gaining hands-on information related to daily work, agriculture, tailoring, pest and diseases on crops and education, etc.

- Under the Internet Saathi Programme, 'Soochana Diwas' was celebrated on 13 December 2016 at Mota Baval, Khedbrahma to create awareness among women and farmers on the uses of internet to get information related to work, cashless services, demonstration on banking services, information on

government schemes, and skill development programmes. 200 women and farmers participated.



Digital Literacy: Key to New Avenues for Women's Livelihood

A Case Study

Nirmaben Gamar of Chochhar village from Poshina block of Sabarkantha district depends on tailoring for her livelihood. She makes clothes and sells them in her village and other nearby villages. She has benefited from the programme. First, she learned about the uses of smart phone and tablet. Afterwards, she gained hands-on training on using the internet. She looked for the new designs for making bags and cutting cloth on the internet. She learned the skill of making hand bags, pouches and cutting of designer clothes through videos on YouTube. She has made samples hand bags and tablet covers and will be making more bags in coming days.



Kailashben: Role Model for Digital Literacy in Tribal Area

A Case Study

Ms. Kailashben Shakabhai Taral, Mota Baval village of Khedbrahma block of Sabarkantha district lives with her parents and is dependent on agriculture. She also worked as community resource person under CDP programme and as an Internet Saathi in her village. First, she learned about the uses of smart phone and tablet and then trained 2,394 women members on uses of smart phones and internet in 3 villages. She also learned to make decorative wall hangings with the help of videos on YouTube and then also trained women from her village on making such wall hangings.



AART	: Aravali Agriculture Resource and Training Centre
APMC	: Agriculture Producer Market Committee
AWP	: Annual Work Plan
BRLF	: Bharat Rural Livelihood Foundation
CDP	: Cluster Development Programme
CEE	: Centre for Environment Education
CRP(s)	: Community Resource Person(s)
DRDA	: District Rural Development Agency
ERP(s)	: Expert Resource Persons
FAQ	: Fair Average Quality
FFS(s)	: Farmer Field School(s)
FPO	: Farmer Producer Organization
GFPC	: Gadhwada Farmer Producer Company Ltd.
GGRC	: Gujarat Green Revolution Company
GTDC	: Gujarat Tribal Development Corporation
HH(s)	: Household(s)
HKAPC	: Hatmati Kisan Agro Producer Company
IFFDA	: Indian Farmers & Fertilizer Dealers Association
IGWDP	: Indo German Watershed Development Programme
JFMCs	: Joint Forest Management Committee(s)
KALP	: Khedut AART Livelihood Promoting Producer Company Ltd.
KJBF	: Kamalnayan Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation
KSDP	: Kutch Sustainable Development Project
KALP	: Kutch Agriculture Livelihood Producer Company Ltd.
LIS	: Lift Irrigation Scheme
MARCH	: Multipurpose Agriculture Resource Centre for Holistic Development
MGNREGA	: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.
MISSAL	: Micro Irrigation System for Sustainable Agriculture Livelihood
MoEFCC	: Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change
NABARD	: National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
NEAC	: National Environment Awareness Campaign
NFD	: Nehru Foundation for Development
NRM	: Natural Resource Management
PI	: People's Institutions
PoP	: Package of Practices
SAFE	: Sabar AAART Farmer Enterprise Producer Company Ltd.
SBI	: Suki Baliraja Initiative
SDAU	: Sardarkrushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University
SHG(s)	: Self Help Group(s)
SMC	: School Management Committee
UPNRM	: Umbrella Programme on Natural Resource Management
VDC(s)	: Village Development Committee(s)
VO	: Village Organization
VWC(s)	: Village Watershed Committee(s)
WDF	: Watershed Development Fund
WED	: World Environment Day
WRD	: Water Resource Department

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 2016-17 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
- Suzlon Foundation

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
- Gadhwa Farmers Producers Co. Ltd. Satlsana
- 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

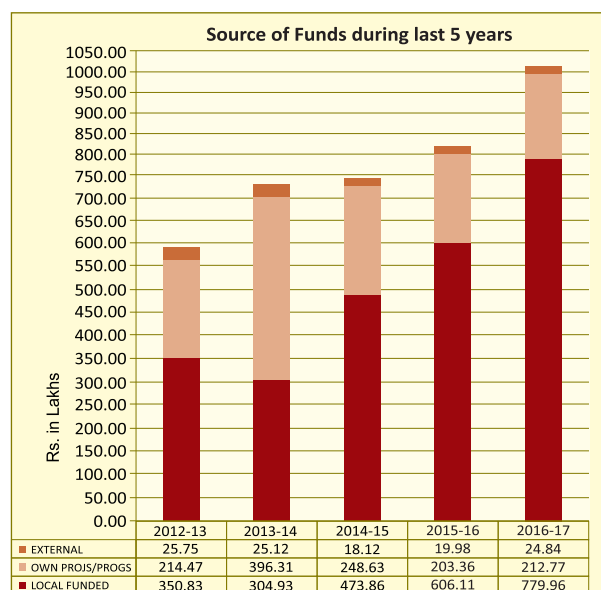
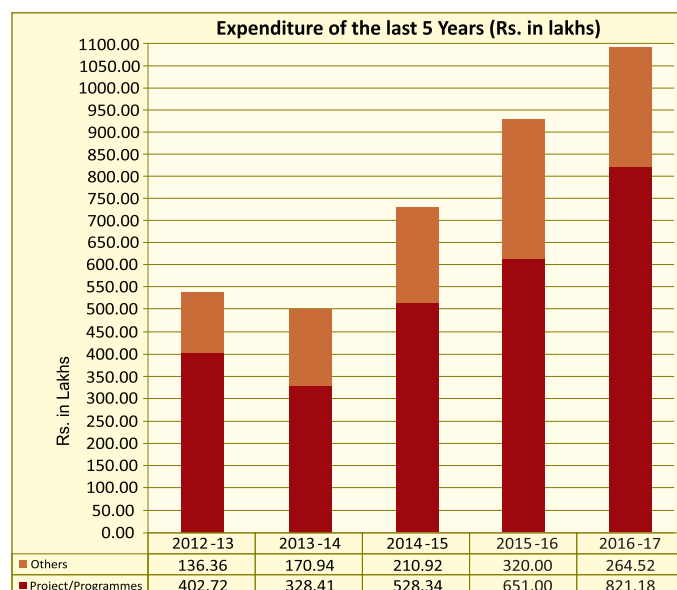
Abridged Balance Sheet

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Funds & Liabilities	31 March 2016	31 March 2017
Endowment Fund Account	44.00	0
Reserves & Other Earmarked Funds	548.00	404.16
(Inclusive of accumulated surplus/deficit)		
Balance of Project Grants	241.00	76.57
Sundries & Suppliers	163.00	241.02
Total	996.00	721.75
Assets	31 March 2016	31 March 2017
Immovable and Movable Properties	201.00	212.47
Investments in Approved Securities	249.00	205
Bank Account and Cash/Fdr etc.	271.00	120
Advances and Other	275.00	184.28
Total	996.00	721.75

Abridged Income and Expenditure Account

Income	31 March 2016	31 March 2017
Projects and Programmes Income	651.00	821.98
Income from Other Sources	177.00	195.59
UPNRM Loan receipt	194.00	0
Total	1022.00	1017.57
Expenditure	31 March 2016	31 March 2017
Projects and Programmes Expenditure	651.00	821.18
Staff Salaries	185.00	187.3
Establishment and Administrative Expenditure	61.00	39.17
Amount transferred to other Earmarked Fund	3.00	0
UPNRM Loan repayment	194.00	7.97
Total	1094.00	1055.62
Surplus / Deficit	-72.00	-38.05
Total	1022.00	1017.57



Chairman

Prof. M S Swaminathan
M S Swaminathan Research Foundation
3rd Cross Street, Taramani Institutional Area,
Chennai - 600 113

Members

Shri Pradeep Khanna
PCCF (Retd.)
Gujarat Forest Department
K-20, Sector - 20, Gandhinagar 382 020

Dr. Omkar Jani
Principal Research Scientist
Gujarat Energy Research & Management Institute (GERMI)
1st Floor, Energy Building, Pandit Deendayal Petroleum
University, Raisan Village, Gandhinagar - 382 007

Prof. Rita Kothari
Associate Professor
IIT Gandhinagar
Vishwakarma Government Engineering College Complex,
New C.G. Road, Chandkheda, Ahmedabad - 382 424

Shri Kartikeya V Sarabhai
Director
Centre for Environment Education
Thaltej Tekra, Ahmedabad - 380 054

Dr. D.V. Rangnekar
BAIF (VP Retd.) / Advisor MP Rural Livelihood Programme
4, Shobhana Apartment, Nehru Park
Vastrapur, Ahmedabad - 380 015

Prof. Deepti Bhatnagar
Organizational Behaviour
Indian Institute of Management
Vastrapur, Ahmedabad - 380 015

Ms. Vijayalakshmi Das
Managing Director
Ananya Finance for Inclusive Growth Pvt. Ltd.
101, SAKAR I Building, Opp. Gandhigram Station
Ashram Road, Ahmedabad - 380 009

Ms. Pallavi Patel
Director
CHETNA
SUPATH - II, B-Block, 3rd Floor, Opp. Vadaj Bus Terminus,
Ashram Road, Ahmedabad - 380 013

Prof. Indira Hirway
Director
Center for Development Alternatives
E- 71, "Akash"
Nr. Chief Justice Bungalow, Bodakdev,
Ahmedabad - 380 054

Shri Kiran Desai
Senior Programme Director
Centre for Environment Education
Thaltej Tekra, Ahmedabad - 380 054

Shri T K Balappan
Secretary
Nehru Foundation for Development
Thaltej Tekra, Ahmedabad - 380 054

Shri S. C. Sharma
1001, Jivabhai Towers
Sandesh Press Road
Ahmedabad - 380 054

Member Secretary

Shri Dilip Surkar
Director
VIKSAT, Nehru Foundation for Development
Thaltej Tekra, Ahmedabad - 380054

VIKSAT Offices**VIKSAT**

Nehru Foundation for Development
Thaltej Tekra, Ahmedabad - 380 054
Phone: + 91-79-26856220,
Tele Fax: + 91-79-26852360
Email: viksatsat@gmail.com
Web: www.viksatsat.org

VIKSAT Field Office

Opp. N.R.A. Primary School
B/h Bhuvneshwari Guest House,
Govindnagar, Opp. Bhiloda Opp. S.T. Bus Stop
Bhiloda - 383 245, Dist.: Aravalli
Phone: 02771-233970
Email: viksatsat.bhiloda@gmail.com

VIKSAT Field Office

Near BMCB City
Kukma Lakhond Road
Kukma, Bhuj - 370 105, Kachchh
Phone: 02832-271555, 699062
Email: viksatsat.bhuj@gmail.com

VIKSAT Field Office

Nr. Old Water Tank
Limdi Chowk
Satlasana - 384 330
Dist.: Mehsana
Phone: 02761-253158
Email: viksatsat.satlasana@gmail.com

VIKSAT Field Office

C/o Radheshyambhai Sadhu
2, Shivshakti Society, Masali Road
Radhanpur, Dist.: Patan
Phone: 02746-276058
Email: viksatsat.santalpur@gmail.com

VIKSAT Field Office

C/o Parmar Arkhabhai, Nr. Dashama Temple
At & Post: Kheroj
Ta: Khedbrahma, Dist.: Sabarkantha 383 270
Phone: 02775-284360
Email: viksatsat.khedbrahma@gmail.com

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.



Designlab, VASCSC 2019

www.viksat.org

VIKSAT

Nehru Foundation for Development

Thaltej Tekra, Ahmedabad - 380 054

Tel: +91 79 26856220, 26852360

Email: viksat@gmail.com