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Self-Reliant Initiatives through Joint Action

THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE WOMAN FARMER 2026

WOMEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF CHANGE



ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26

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Self-Reliant Initiatives through Joint Action

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WHO WE ARE

SRIJAN, *meaning "an act of creation" in Sanskrit.*

Established on 27 January 2000 as a charitable public trust dedicated to advancing sustainable and inclusive rural development. SRIJAN works with small and marginal farmers, women and other disadvantaged communities in some of India's most underserved rural regions. Through our work across five livelihood themes, we are striving to enable sustainable livelihoods, strengthen community resilience, and promote inclusive rural development. Alongside field implementation, SRIJAN undertakes action research and knowledge-building initiatives to generate evidence and insights on climate resilience, gender, rural livelihoods, and community well-being, contributing to policy and practice in the rural development sector.



Members of the Ghoomar Mahila Producer Company, Pali- Rajasthan, proudly resting outside their new cold storage unit - a space they own, manage and lead together.



Our VISION

SRIJAN's sustained efforts enable deserving rural families to achieve holistic development and improved well-being.

Our MISSION

To enhance the quality of life of rural communities through sustainable livelihoods, social development, and women's empowerment.

Our CORE VALUES

- INTEGRITY
- INCLUSION
- SENSITIVITY
- PROFESSIONALISM

Message FROM THE CEO

"This year holds a special place in SRIJAN's journey as we celebrate the International Year of the Woman Farmer – an opportunity to recognise, honour and reflect on the extraordinary women who have been at the centre of our work and have shaped the journey of SRIJAN over the years.



Prasanna Khemariya
Chief Executive Officer, SRIJAN

This is not simply a year of celebration for us, but a year of reflection and reaffirmation. Women from rural communities have always been central to SRIJAN's founding philosophy, where we emphasised on strengthening their agency, expanding livelihood opportunities, building resilient institutions, and enabling stable, sustainable incomes that secure the future of their families and communities.

Over the years, we have seen that when women assert greater control over resources, knowledge, institutions, and livelihoods, they not only improve their own lives but also become powerful drivers of change within their communities, contributing to the overall village development process.

RESPONDING TO A CHANGING RURAL LANDSCAPE

Rural India is experiencing profound changes including climate variability, water stress, declining soil health, changing agricultural patterns and increasing economic uncertainties are placing additional pressures on rural livelihoods. These challenges are more critical for women, whose lives and livelihoods are closely connected to agriculture, livestock, water and natural resources, while their access to productive assets, markets and decision-making spaces remains limited and unequal. In this context, strengthening women's agency becomes a fundamental approach in building resilient communities

This understanding continues to shape SRIJAN's work. Whether it is restoring water resources, promoting climate-resilient agriculture, strengthening irrigation systems, developing rural infrastructure, improving livestock-based livelihoods, building collective enterprises or strengthening community institutions, women remain central to the change we seek to create.

"Resilience is strongest when it is rooted in local knowledge, collective action and women's leadership.

TAKING LIVELIHOODS FORWARD

During the year, we continued to invest in strengthening and diversifying rural livelihoods, with a particular focus on women's economic agency. An important dimension of our work has been strengthening women's participation and leadership at multiple levels. SRIJAN has supported women to engage more confidently with Gram Panchayats and other local institutions. As a result, women from our interventions have increasingly raised issues related to water, agriculture, livelihoods, public services and community infrastructure, while engaging with elected representatives and government functionaries to influence local-level development.

1,32,286 women farmers reported increased incomes through the adoption of climate-resilient agricultural practices.

20,886 women transitioned to **Nano-Orchards,** diversifying farm-based incomes and building resilience.

37,242 women farmers are now engaged through **23 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)** across three states.

676 women's collectives engaged during 2025–26, strengthening collective platforms for knowledge-sharing and building financial and livelihood-based institutions.

827 women have been trained as **Pashu Sakhis** (Animal Friends), providing essential animal healthcare services and emerging as rural service providers and livelihood entrepreneurs.

INVESTING IN THE ORGANISATION

While our programme achievements are important, we recognise that lasting impact depends equally on the strength of the organisation behind the work. This year, therefore, we continued to invest in strengthening SRIJAN's internal systems, capabilities and culture.

This year, therefore, we continued to invest in strengthening SRIJAN's internal systems and capabilities. Our efforts across human resources, finance, MEAL, research, knowledge management and organisational processes have been aimed at building an organisation that is more accountable, responsive, learning-oriented and prepared to navigate the challenges ahead.

An important area of our organisational journey this year has been the strengthening of our human resource systems and investment in the capacities of our people. We recognise that the quality, commitment and capabilities of our teams are fundamental to the quality of our work with communities. We facilitated a study with McKinsey to understand overall perspectives of the employees towards the organisation and the key processes that can impact organisational growth.

Our research and learning agenda has also gained greater depth We are increasingly asking not only what we do, but what works, why it works, and how learning from the field can influence practice and policy. The strengthening of our MEAL systems is similarly helping us use evidence and data more meaningfully - not simply to measure activities, but to understand changes in livelihoods, institutions, gender relations and resilience.

These investments may not always be visible in the field, but they are essential to building an institution that can sustain quality, learn continuously and create impact at greater scale.

"Our effort has been to move beyond participation as mere representation towards enabling women to exercise voice, negotiate, influence decisions and take leadership in shaping the development of their own communities.

SRIJAN 2030

A YEAR OF STRATEGIC REFLECTION AND NAVIGATING THE CHANGE TOGETHER

The year has also been significant because of the process of developing and advancing our Perspective Plan for the coming years. The process provided us an opportunity to pause, listen, reflect and collectively ask where SRIJAN needs to go and what kind of organisation we need to become to remain relevant in a rapidly changing development landscape.

SRIJAN 2030 has been shaped through a consultative process across our geographies and teams. Our strategic thinking is grounded in the belief that the next phase of SRIJAN's journey must combine depth with scale, innovation with evidence, and community-led action with stronger systems and partnerships.

We want to deepen our work in geographies where we can create meaningful and sustained change, while also building pathways for our learning and approaches to influence larger systems. We see opportunities to work more closely with government programmes, Gram Panchayats, producer institutions, civil society coalitions, research organisations and other development partners.

At the same time, we recognise that scale cannot be achieved only through larger programmes. It requires capable people, strong community institutions, effective systems and a culture of learning and adaptation. SRIJAN 2030 therefore places equal emphasis on strengthening our own organisational capabilities and the institutions of the communities with whom we work.

The year has not been without its challenges. The development sector continues to experience a changing funding ecosystem, evolving donor priorities, increasing compliance requirements and greater expectations around evidence and accountability. Working with government systems also requires patience, persistence and the ability to continuously adapt to changing priorities and processes. Within SRIJAN, we too have had to navigate organisational transitions while strengthening our systems and ways of working.

These experiences have reinforced an important lesson: organisational resilience is as important as programme resilience. Our ability to respond to change, learn from experience and remain anchored to our purpose will determine how effectively we can serve communities in the years ahead.

SRIJAN 2030 PARTNERS

- Govt. Programmes
- Gram Panchayats
- Producer Institutions
- CSO Coalitions



LOOKING AHEAD

- Women & their institutions
- Climate-resilient livelihoods
- Natural-resource management
- Producer enterprises
- Markets & decision-making

As we move into the next phase of our journey, we will deepen our engagement with rural women and their institutions, strengthen climate-resilient livelihoods, promote sustainable agriculture and integrated natural-resource management, build stronger producer enterprises, and create greater pathways for women to participate in markets and decision-making.

We will continue to explore new partnerships and new geographies, while remaining rooted in the principles that have guided SRIJAN since its inception. We will invest in evidence, research and knowledge so that field experience can contribute to wider thinking and practice s on rural development.

Above all, we will continue to place rural women's agency at the centre of our work. Our aspiration is not simply to deliver programmes for communities, but to work alongside them in building the capabilities, institutions and systems through which they can shape their own futures.

As I look ahead, I extend my deepest gratitude to all the women, families and communities who have placed their trust in SRIJAN; to our partners, donors, government counterparts, well-wishers and collaborators; and every member of the SRIJAN team whose commitment makes this journey possible. Your trust has enabled us to surmount challenges and forge ahead.

This Annual Report is therefore not merely a record of our programmes and achievements. It is a reflection of what becomes possible when communities, institutions, partners and organisations work together with a shared purpose.



Our GOVERNING BOARD

SRIJAN is guided by an experienced and committed Governing Body that provides strategic direction, oversight and support. The Board brings together diverse expertise in rural development, natural resource management, agriculture, gender, finance, governance and community institutions, and helps ensure that SRIJAN remains true to its mission and values.



Their guidance and support enable us to stay accountable, learn continuously and deepen our impact with rural women and communities.



R. Parasuram
CHAIRPERSON



Nivedita Banerji
MEMBER



Mukti Bosco
MEMBER



Narendranath Damodaran
MEMBER



Rohit Bhasin
MEMBER



Dr. Rajeswari S. Raina
MEMBER







Our APPROACH

At the heart of SRIJAN's approach is the philosophy of *Dhyan* (Attention), *Gyan* (Knowledge), and *Samadhan* (Solutions)—identifying critical challenges, generating and sharing knowledge, and co-creating practical solutions with communities. Women and rural households remain central to all our interventions.

SRIJAN focuses on building water-centric and climate-resilient livelihoods with women at the core of its development approach. Through integrated interventions in natural resource, management, agriculture, horticulture, livestock development, women's collectives, and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), we strengthen community institutions, enhance local capacities, and create avenues for sustainable income. By strengthening the capacities of rural women as key agents of change, we promote self-reliance, resilience, social inclusion, and long-term community transformation.





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AREAS OF WORK

CLIMATE ACTION
LAND, WATER, BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

GOVT CONVERGENCE / LOCAL GOVERNANCE
LIAISON WITH ADMINISTRATION, LEVERAGING GOVT SCHEMES

COMMUNITY INSTITUTION WITH MANAGEMENT CAPACITY
ACTIVE PARTICIPATION & REPRESENTATION IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE, MASTER FARMERS, TRAINED LOCAL CADRES

CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE
FARM-BASED LIVELIHOOD, SOIL HEALTH, AGRICULTURE PRODUCTIVITY

RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES
GOAT-BASED LIVELIHOOD, TRADING, VALUE ADDITION, AGRI-INPUTS

LIVELIHOOD CLUSTERS

Dhyan (ATTENTION)
"INFLUENCING LARGER SYSTEMS"

Gyan (KNOWLEDGE)
"TRAINING & KNOWLEDGE BUILDING"

Samadhan (SOLUTIONS)
"FIELD IMPLEMENTATION"

Our STRATEGIC PLAN 2030

DEEPENING IMPACT, EXPANDING REACH

The year 2025 marked 25 years of SRIJAN's journey in advancing sustainable rural livelihoods, strengthening community institutions and enabling community-led development. It was a moment to reflect on our experience and look ahead with renewed ambition. This reflection culminated in SRIJAN's Strategic Plan 2025-2030, designed to deepen impact, expand reach and strengthen resilient rural development.

The strategic planning process was a consultative and co-creative exercise, bringing together SRIJAN's senior leadership and Board, institutional donors, sector experts, regional managers, team leads and frontline implementation partners. Through intensive discussions and stakeholder consultations, we combined lessons from our 25-year journey with field realities to examine our footprint, understand the changing rural development landscape, identify opportunities and recognise systemic challenges. The plan reflects a shared understanding of where SRIJAN is today and where it aspires to be by 2030.



Our VISION

To enable **1.5 million** economically vulnerable small and marginal farmer household in rural and underserved regions of India to achieve economic stability, agency and resilience to climate change by 2030.

The NEXT FIVE YEARS

Translate 25 years of learning into deeper impact, innovation, stronger partnerships and proven solutions at scale-keeping communities at the centre of our journey.

ECONOMIC RESILIENCE
Stronger, more secure rural livelihoods.

SOCIAL AGENCY
Community-led development and institutions

CLIMATE RESILIENCE
Resilience to climate change and ecological stress

Our FOCUS

Our strategic choices are anchored in three interconnected principles.

SUSTAINABILITY
Lasting economic, social and ecological value.

SCALABILITY
Taking proven models and learning to more communities and geographies.

CO-CREATION
Designing and implementing programmes with communities and Partners.



GUIDING TENETS

The planning process was guided by three overarching commitments

CO-CREATIVE & PARTICIPATORY
Voices closest to implementation inform organisational choices.

SHARED CLARITY & ALIGNMENT
A common understanding of the five-year direction and capabilities required.

RELEVANCE & FEASIBILITY
Ambitions responsive to field realities and supported by systems, capabilities and resources.

Our STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The Strategic Plan 2030 is not simply a plan for growth in numbers or geography. It is a commitment to deepen the quality of our work, strengthen community agency, build resilient livelihoods and contribute to systemic change. We will refine programmes, strengthen organisational systems and adapt to evolving realities, while remaining conscious of the vulnerabilities faced by small and marginal farmers, women and communities most exposed to climate change.

THE IMPACT

OUR EFFORTS WILL LEAD TO

- HIGHER HOUSEHOLD INCOME
- BETTER PRODUCTIVITY
- REDUCED MIGRATION
- ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION
- CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRICULTURE
- ENHANCED AGENCY & AUTONOMY FOR WOMEN
- COMMUNITIES PREPARED FOR A CHANGING CLIMATE

From Agency to Measurable Impact

REAL CHANGE LED BY RURAL WOMEN

Over 25 years, SRIJAN has worked alongside women to strengthen their access to land, water, knowledge and collective resources, enabling them to build resilient livelihoods, improve food security, expand economic opportunities and take leadership roles in their communities.

WOMEN AT THE CENTRE OF CHANGE
2,38,617

ENTREPRENEURS	LOCAL GOVERNANCE POSITIONS	MANAGERS (WATER RESOURCES & BIODIVERSITY)
58,638	2,063	3,326



> *"With SRIJAN's training, our women have come a long way. Once unable to step out of their homes, they can now confidently address large audiences anywhere and make their voices heard."*
>
> – Phorenti Meena, Board Member, Maitree Mahila Mandal, Tonk, Rajasthan

WOMEN AT THE CENTRE OF CHANGE 25-26
1,32,286



OUR REACH AND IMPACT (25 years)

8	68	138	5,573	5,64,337
STATES	DISTRICTS	BLOCKS	VILLAGES	HOUSEHOLDS /FAMILIES

OUR REACH AND IMPACT (2025-26)

4	22	47	1,563	70,190
STATES	DISTRICTS	BLOCKS	VILLAGES	HOUSEHOLDS /FAMILIES

Land, Water, Voice

THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE WOMAN FARMER 2026

Women are at the cornerstone of development

When rural women thrive, our lands are healthier, our waters flow stronger, our food systems are more resilient, and our communities are more prosperous.



A Contribution

TOO OFTEN UNNAMED

Across rural India, women farmers nurture the land, conserve water, grow food, care for families, and strengthen communities. Their knowledge, labour and leadership are central to agricultural production, food security and rural economies — yet their contributions are often unrecognised and undervalued.

The International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026 is a call to change this - to recognise, support and invest in women farmers, and to build more equal, resilient and sustainable food systems for the future.

WOMEN GROW OUR FOOD
They sustain agricultural production and food security.

WOMEN CONSERVE OUR WATER
They protect and manage natural resources for future generations.

WOMEN STRENGTHEN OUR ECONOMIES
They create livelihoods, build enterprises and drive rural prosperity.

WOMEN BUILD STRONGER COMMUNITIES
They lead collectives, influence decisions and create a more equitable future.



The Invisible Labour

WOMEN FARMERS KEEP OUR FOOD SYSTEMS ALIVE

Women's agricultural work is frequently undercounted because household-level surveys aggregate income and output without identifying who performs the work.

Across the world, women are the backbone of agriculture, food security and rural economies. Yet their work remains largely invisible - undercounted in data, undervalued in markets, and unrecognised in decisions about land, water, credit and resources.



IN RURAL INDIA

Women are deeply involved in crop production, livestock care, seed conservation and natural resource management.

They manage household work, care for children and the elderly. They are solely responsible for collecting water and fuel.

Despite their critical role, women have limited access to land, credit, markets, extension services and decision-making platforms.

Their unpaid and underpaid labour continues to be overlooked in economic and policy frameworks.

A Typical Day

MULTIPLE ROLES, ENDLESS RESPONSIBILITIES

Rural women juggle multiple roles every day in the fields, at home, and in their communities. Their time, energy and knowledge keep farms, households and rural economies running, yet much of this work remains unpaid and unrecognised.

> *Women do nearly 70% of the agricultural work, from sowing to harvesting, while also managing the household and caring for their families. Yet, their contribution remains largely unrecognised.*
>
> **- Shafaq Khatoon,**
> CRP, Chitrakoot

Early Morning	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
• Collecting water • Fuel collection • Preparing food • Caring for children and elderly family members	• Field preparation • Sowing, weeding harvesting • Livestock care	• Continued farm work • Managing household chores • Processing and storing produce	• Fetching fuel • Cooking • Supporting children's education • Community responsibilities

Persistent Gender Gaps

Women own a small proportion of agricultural land

They have limited access to credit, insurance and formal financial services

Their participation in markets and value chains remains low

They are under-represented in decision-making at household, community and policy levels



From Invisibility to Agency

WHEN WOMEN REALISE THEIR OWN STRENGTH

For many rural women, years of unpaid work, social norms and limited opportunities lead to one common feeling their work does not count. But when women come together, share their experiences and build collective strength, they begin to see their own knowledge, skills and leadership.

This shift from invisibility to agency is at the heart of SRIJAN's work.

> *Earlier, I used to feel that I wasn't really doing anything... merely taking care of the household. I thought teaching was just a way to pass the time."*
>
> – **Sarla Yaduvanshi,**
> Teacher & CRP, Chhindwara



WHY WOMEN FEEL INVISIBLE

- Unpaid work at home and on farms is not recognised
- Social norms limit education and mobility
- Limited access to land, credit, markets and information
- Low confidence and fewer opportunities to speak in public or decision-making forums

A TURNING POINT

Through Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and community institutions, women find safe spaces to meet, learn and support each other. They share their challenges, discover their strengths and realise that their knowledge and experience are valuable. Many women who once felt they "did not do anything" now see themselves as farmers, entrepreneurs, leaders and change-makers.

Voices of Change

FROM HESITATION TO LEADERSHIP

When women gain knowledge, confidence and collective strength, they begin to participate in community decisions, engage with local governance and assert their rights. Their voices are shaping solutions on land, water, agriculture and livelihoods - for their families and for stronger rural communities.

> *"Earlier, we would remain silent. Today, we speak up. We even engage with District Collectors and Ministers. We know our rights—and we stand up for them."*
>
> **- Sukhmanti Baiga**
> Former President, Cluster Level Federation Krishi Sakhi, Chhattisgarh

WHAT CHANGES WHEN WOMEN ORGANISE

- Stronger confidence and self-belief
- Greater participation in gram sabhas and local governance
- More access to land, water, credit, markets and livelihood opportunities
- Recognition as knowledge-holders, farmers, entrepreneurs and community leaders

> *"Today, nearly 90% of our women have become self-reliant. Those who once depended on moneylenders are now free of debt. In fact, when the men in their families face financial difficulties, it is the women who step forward to support them through the federation. Joining the group and SRIJAN's support have transformed our lives. We have not only become financially independent but have also broken the barriers of untouchability and brought our communities closer together.*
>
> **- Kajori Devi**
> Board Member Maitree Mahila Mandal, Tonk, Rajasthan



Different Women, Different Realities

MANY LANDSCAPES MANY VOICES A SHARED DETERMINATION

Rural women's lives, livelihoods and aspirations are shaped by their regional environments, social identities, cultures and access to resources. There is no single story - their experiences differ across geographies, communities and ecosystems. Yet, they share a common determination to build better lives for their families and stronger communities.



Different geographies. Different challenges. Stronger women.



MP & UP
BUNDELKHAND

Resilience in a Harsh Landscape



In Bundelkhand, women from *Ahirwar, Pal, Lodhi* and *Bundela* communities face chronic water scarcity, uncertain livelihoods and deep-rooted caste and economic barriers. Despite these challenges, they continue to cultivate their land, care for their families and find new ways to adapt.

- Severe water insecurity
- Rain-fed agriculture and low productivity
- Caste and economic marginalisation
- Distress migration and limited livelihood opportunities

"Water scarcity has always been the biggest struggle of our lives, but we have never given up farming.

-A woman farmer from Bundelkhand

RAJASTHAN

Identity, Voice and New Possibilities



In southern Rajasthan, *Garasiya* women, along with *Jatav, Gurjar* and *Meena* communities, navigate rugged terrain marked by water insecurity, limited services and social exclusion. Their distinct cultural identity and strong collective traditions are a source of strength and voice.

- Scarce and seasonal water sources
- Marginal landholdings and climate variability
- Social and cultural marginalisation
- Livestock and non-farm livelihoods are vital for survival

"Earlier, our voices went unheard. Today, we come together and speak up for our rights."

- A Garasiya woman from Rajasthan

CHHATTISGARH

Forests, Livelihoods and a Changing Climate



In Chhattisgarh, *Baiga, Gond* and *Oraon* women depend on forests, land and non-timber forest produce (NTFPs) for their livelihoods. They face declining forest resources, reduced livelihood opportunities, and increasing climate pressures, along with challenges in nutrition, health and access to services.

- Declining access to forest resources
- Reduced income from NTFPs and livelihood options
- Nutritional vulnerabilities and health challenges
- Increasing climate pressures on agriculture and natural resources

"The forest is our life. But it is no longer what it used to be. We must learn new ways of living and earning."

-A Baiga woman from Chhattisgarh

Our Response

FROM LIVED REALITIES TO STRUCTURAL CHANGE

SRIJAN works with rural women to address the interconnected challenges of water insecurity, climate vulnerability, low productivity, limited access to resources and decision-making. Through community-led actions and strong local institutions, we create enabling conditions for women to lead sustainable and resilient livelihoods.

> *"When we have water, we can grow food, rear livestock and care for our families. We no longer spend our days walking for water - we can now work on our farms and earn an income."*
>
> — **Bhuri Devi,** Farmer, Bundelkhand

Water Security

Restore and conserve water resources for people, farms and ecosystems.

Climate-Resilient Agriculture

Promote sustainable and diversified farming systems.

Sustainable Livelihoods

Strengthen livestock, nutrition gardens and multi-layer farming.

Women's Collectives

Build and support SHGs, FPOs and community institutions.

Influence and Governance

Enable women's participation in local decision-making and policy processes.



Key

INTERVENTION AREAS

Water Security and Natural Resource Management

- Create and restore water-harvesting structures such as tanks, *dohas* and field bunds.
- Improve groundwater recharge and water availability.
- Reduce the time and burden of water collection for women and girls.

Women's Collectives and Enterprises

- Form and strengthen women's collectives and FPOs.
- Build leadership, financial literacy and entrepreneurial skills.
- Support collective enterprises and market access.

Climate-Resilient Agriculture

- Support natural and climate-resilient farming practices.
- Promote soil health, crop diversification and improved inputs.
- Strengthen farmers' knowledge through trainings and peer learning.

Community Institutions and Local Governance

- Enable women's participation in gram sabhas and local bodies.
- Build leadership to influence decisions on land, water, agriculture and forest resources.
- Strengthen linkages with government schemes and policy forums.

Livelihood Security

- Support kitchen and nutrition gardens.
- Promote multi-layer farming and horticulture.
- Strengthen livestock-based livelihoods (goat rearing and backyard poultry).
- Enhance income opportunities through value addition and market linkages.





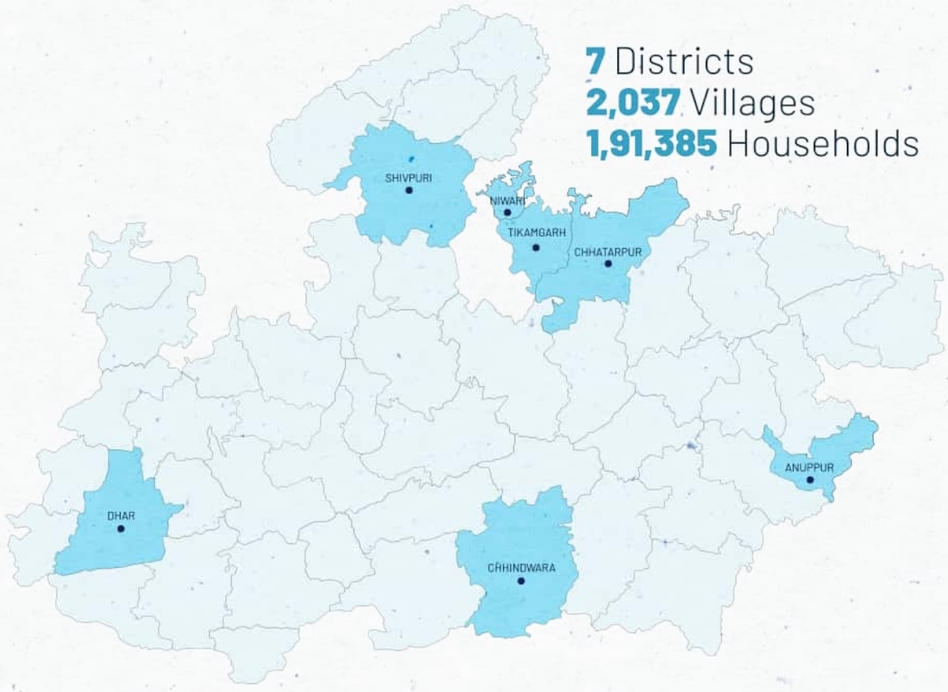
Members of Radhe Radhe Mahila Utpadak Samooh,
Women Producer Group (WPG) formed in 2023, Niwari, Madhya Pradesh

MADHYA PRADESH

A SOCIALLY & ECOLOGICALLY *Contested Terrain*

In a land where water is scarce, women's resilience turns challenges into opportunities for stronger livelihoods.

Madhya Pradesh boasts diversity in both its terrain and its communities. Covering varied agro-climatic landscapes, our work spans the arid, drought-prone lands of Bundelkhand and the undulating, forested belts of Southern Madhya Pradesh. Across all landscapes, livelihoods are linked to water, land, and forests - with women at the centre of all three.



7 Districts
2,037 Villages
1,91,385 Households

SRIJAN'S JOURNEY IN MADHYA PRADESH

In 2002, our interventions originated in Jaisinagar - with a single focus on water. Our interventions focused on securing access, control and management of water to strengthen rural livelihoods. Water became the foundation for the first-generation interventions of SRIJAN.

What began with water, gradually transitioned into several holistic projects covering livelihood development, community institution-building, and greater agricultural productivity. Our work now spans **seven districts** - Anuppur, Niwari, Chhatarpur, Shivpuri, Chhindwara, Tikamgarh and Dhar.



BUNDELKHAND'S WATER HISTORY AND RESILIENCE

Tikamgarh, Niwari and Chhatarpur

These districts are located in the **Bundelkhand belt** - where water has remained a bone of contention since time immemorial.

The area is home to **traditional Chandela and Bundela tanks** dating back to the **9th to 12th centuries**

These **tanks** were left derelict due to institutional neglect and colonial disregard. But once formed a vital part of the region's water **heritage.**

ACCESS, EXCLUSION AND A CYCLE OF VULNERABILITY

Access to, ownership of, and governance over water resources were major obstacles.

Communities relied on rain-fed agriculture, livestock and forests for their livelihoods.

Small and marginal farmers had limited access to irrigation and productive assets.

Recurring droughts, water scarcity and reduced viability of agricultural lands pushed them into a vicious cycle of poverty.

SOCIAL EXCLUSION AND LIMITED OPPORTUNITIES

Anuppur, Shivpuri, Chhindwara and Dhar

In a highly feudal and caste-ridden area, the issue became more pronounced for marginalised communities. The communities - *Pal, Lodhi, Khuswaha, Ahirwar* and *Sahariya* - all struggled with the unavailability of livelihood options. Their landlessness or small landholding size, climatic stress, and poverty led to distress migration. As the men migrated to cities in search of work, the women left behind toiled in the fields.



AGRICULTURE BECAME INCREASINGLY FEMINISED

With little to no returns, the combination of poverty, social exclusion, limited land ownership, inadequate access to water and services, and dependence on informal labour restricted women's economic and social agency. Their contribution to household livelihoods remained substantial, yet their participation in decisions related to land, income, assets, and community resources was often limited.



Heavy workload

Time spent on water collection, farm work and household chores deepened women's time poverty.



Limited decision-making

Women's participation in decisions related to land, income, assets and community resources was often limited.



Low return

Agriculture became increasingly feminised with little to no returns despite women's substantial contribution.



Nutritional vulnerabilities

Women from marginalised tribal communities also faced nutritional vulnerabilities. Food insecurity disproportionately affects women and children.

TRIBAL LIVELIHOODS AND ECOLOGICAL PRESSURES

Further south, tribal households form the majority. The *Gonds* and *Korku* have traditionally depended on forests alongside agriculture. As deforestation escalates and the climate crisis worsens, their ecological base and traditional knowledge systems are eroding. Women, the primary collectors of water, fuel, and forest produce, experience this loss first.

Water is at the heart of livelihoods in Bundelkhand - yet access, ownership and governance remain a challenge for communities.



BUILDING RESILIENCE THROUGH SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

Our interventions help manage a sustainable trend in agricultural practice.The promotion of farmer producer companies and increased community institution building have further enabled women to have a greater sense of autonomy.



Sustainable agriculture

Promoting climate-resilient agricultural practices.



Stronger institutions

Farmer producer companies and community institutions enhance women's agency.



Greater autonomy

Women have a greater sense of control over their livelihoods.

OUR COMMITMENT

In Madhya Pradesh, SRIJAN works alongside rural women to strengthen food security, improve nutrition and build secure, climate-resilient livelihoods. Through initiatives such as nano orchards and multi-layer farming, women are gaining greater access to agricultural resources and production, while ensuring a fairer share of the produce for their families. In a region where resources are scarce, contested and unequally distributed, our work goes beyond improving livelihoods. It is about enabling women to exercise greater control over these resources and have a stronger voice in the decisions that shape their lives.

SRIJAN took us to Lucknow and Nashik to see how women were practising horticulture and growing fruit even with very little water. We learnt everything, from preparing the fields and planting saplings to looking after the trees, and brought those learnings back to our own farms. Since fruit trees take two to three years to bear fruit, we grow vegetables, leafy greens and even flowers in between the trees. This gives us an income while we wait for the trees to bear fruit.

One of the best things they teach at SRIJAN is getting along and maintaining harmony with one another. This is very important for us.

Saroj Kushwaha,

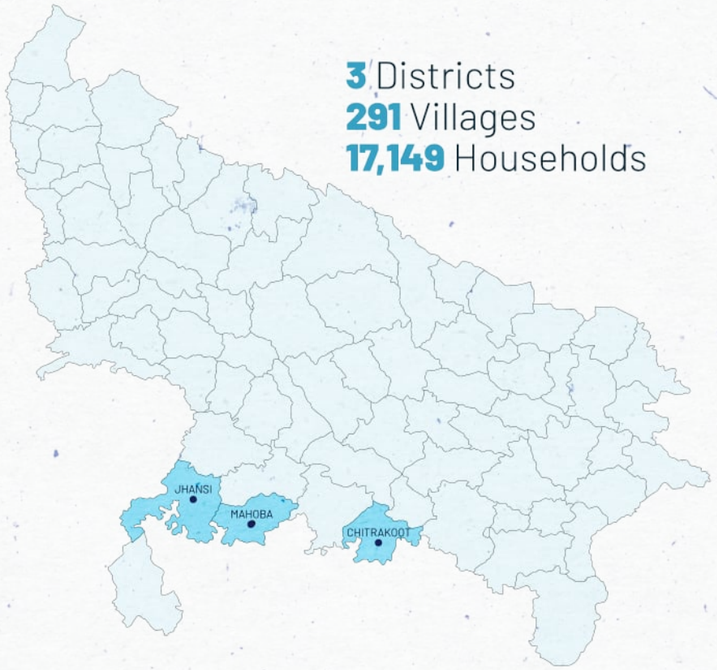
Entrepreneur, Farmer & Community leader, Tikamgarh, Madhya Pradesh

UTTAR PRADESH

Arid Lands, Constrained Resources.

In Bundelkhand, water is scarce, and the burden of its collection falls disproportionately on women.

We ventured into the **Bundelkhand** region of Uttar Pradesh in 2019, covering **Chitrakoot, Mahoba and Jhansi.** Like Bundelkhand in Madhya Pradesh, these districts also suffer from climate stress. Undulating land, erratic monsoons, little groundwater and rain-fed agriculture define this belt. The area is populated largely by smallholder farmers.



3 Districts
291 Villages
17,149 Households



Undulating terrain

Erratic Monsoon

Small Farm-holdings

Rain-fed agriculture

HISTORICAL WATER HERITAGE

While Mahoba is known for its Chandela-era tanks, the Jhansi region is somewhat better irrigated by the Betwa River - albeit unevenly. Chitrakoot, in the Vindhyan hills, has more forest cover. It is home to the Kol community, which is classified as a Scheduled Tribe in Madhya Pradesh and a Scheduled Caste in Uttar Pradesh.

GROUND REALITIES

The communities here face deep-rooted obstacles. **Landlessness, rain-fed agriculture,** and low farm productivity push families to migrate. As elsewhere, women bear the brunt. During the dry summer months, the groundwater levels decline, increasing the time and labour women spend collecting water.

Distress migration

Low farm productivity pushes families to migrate

Greater burden on women

Women spend more time collecting water during dry months

Women manage fields alone

With men migrating, women run fields and guard crops against stray cattle

Few assets, little say

Women own few assests and have limited participation in decisions

AGRICULTURE, GENDER AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION

With men migrating, women run fields alone, often without land in their names, and guard crops against stray cattle. Many also collect forest produce and fuel or engage in low-paid labour. Yet they own few assets, have little say in decisions, and are constrained by mobility norms. Together, these factors reinforce cycles of **poverty, vulnerability, and social exclusion.**





RESTORING WATER, STRENGTHENING LIVELIHOODS

As dependence on agriculture was the pressing issue, we focused on restoring traditional water bodies. Through the **BIWAL (Bundelkhand Initiative for Water, Agriculture and Livelihoods)** initiative, we expanded our engagement in this belt.

OUR CONTINUED ENGAGEMENT

Our presence deepened with holistic village development programmes – working alongside small and marginal farmers, especially women. We continue to revive traditional water structures in this belt and to improve water access. We consistently enable women to participate in initiatives that strengthen their skills and capabilities. By doing so, we wish to challenge the existing social order - and promote a more just and equitable distribution of resources.

Our group was formed in 2009 with the support of SRIJAN. In those days, we did not even know how to sign our names or what a meeting was. If a woman went to attend a village meeting, men would beat her with sticks. There was no respect or dignity for women. I worked in the fields, managed the household and raised my five children all on my own.

Today, things are different. I believe a woman can do anything with a little support. SRIJAN showed us the way and helped us become confident and self-reliant. I can say this with my hand on my heart.

Karmi Bai,

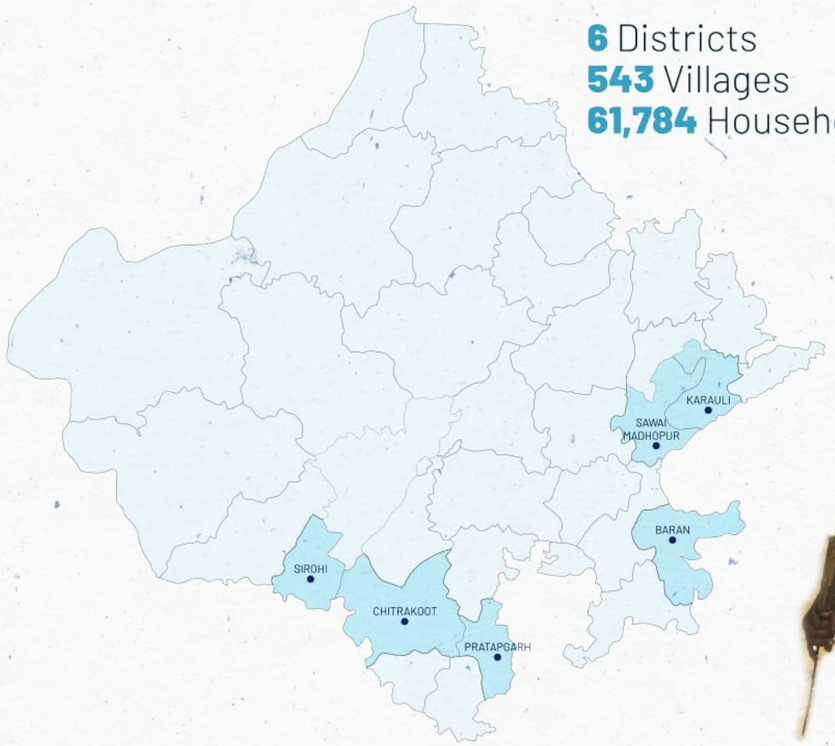
Board Member, Ghoomar Mahila Producer Company Limited, Pali, Rajasthan

RAJASTHAN

Hills, Ravines & Resilience

In a land of rugged hills and deep ravines, women show remarkable resilience.Their strength and leadership turn challenges into opportunities for more just and sustainable livelihoods

All six districts we cover - Sirohi, Udaipur, Pratapgarh, Sawai Madhopur, Karauli, and Baran - present different landscapes. They fall into two main clusters: the hilly, tribal South and the Chambal and Vindhyan East.



6 Districts
543 Villages
61,784 Households



OUR JOURNEY IN RAJASTHAN SINCE 2002

We have been active in Rajasthan since **2002**, beginning in Duni tehsil, Tonk district. What started as community-level livelihood work slowly transformed into an integrated model of building strong women institutions and enabling smallholders to move from subsistence towards more resilient and sustainable livelihoods.

WOMEN'S COLLECTIVES LEADING CHANGE

Two women's collectives in Rajasthan — **Ghoomar Mahila Producer Company Limited** in Pali and **Maitree Mahila Mandal Samiti in Tonk** — have evolved into strong, independent federations. What began as self-help group initiatives has grown into sustainable institutions that provide platforms for collective action, enterprise development and women's leadership. Today, the women independently manage these institutions, creating livelihood opportunities and driving change in their communities.



GHOOMAR MAHILA PRODUCER COMPANY LIMITED, PALI

Formed by women from self-help groups in Pali, Ghoomar Mahila Producer Company Limited has built a strong foundation for collective enterprise. Through skill development, business initiatives and market linkages, the women have strengthened their entrepreneurial capacities and taken charge of managing the organisation independently. Their efforts continue to expand livelihood opportunities for women in the region.

- Women-led and managed
- Livelihood enterprise
- Stronger market linkages
- Growing financial independence

MAITREE MAHILA MANDAL SAMITI TONK

Established by women from self-help groups in Tonk, Maitree Mahila Mandal Samiti has emerged as a platform for women's leadership and collective action. The members have initiated income-generating activities, developed their entrepreneurial skills and built the capacity to manage the organisation sustainably. Their journey demonstrates how strong women's institutions can contribute to lasting social and economic change in their communities.



- Women as leaders
- Income-generating activities
- Institution managed by women
- Sustainable and resilient livelihood

When women come together, they not only improve their own lives, but also create lasting change in their communities.

COMMUNITIES

Water & Unequal Access

The Bhil, Garasia and Sahariya communities in southern and southeastern Rajasthan face a combination of historical, socio-economic, and geographical vulnerabilities.

Marginalisation, limited access to resources and ecological pressures continue to restrict opportunities for women and their communities in southern Rajasthan.

BHIL COMMUNITIES

In the hilly, tribal south, *Bhil* communities face geographical isolation, low literacy, poverty, and limited access to decision-making power. Their opportunities for education, healthcare and stable employment remain severely constrained.

GARASIA COMMUNITIES

In Pali, *Garasia* tribal women have always been pushed to the margins of society. Seen as being 'sub-human' their geographical isolation and socio-economic marginalisation have increased discrimination against them, limiting their access to education, healthcare and livelihoods.

SAHARIYA COMMUNITIES

Historically dependent on forests and wage labour, many *Sahariya* families experience landlessness or insecure access to land, food and livelihoods, low and irregular incomes, indebtedness and limited access to basic services.

LIVELIHOODS UNDER PRESSURE

Many households depend heavily on rain-fed agriculture, wage labour, livestock and forest resources, which makes their livelihoods highly sensitive to drought, erratic rainfall and declining natural resources.



Rain-fed agriculture



Wage labour



Livestock rearing



Forest resources





KARAULI'S DANG REGION

In Karauli, our work covers the Dang region — a landscape characterised by ravines, the Aravalli Range and stretches of flat terrain. Located along the Rajasthan–Madhya Pradesh border, the region extends along the Chambal River. Despite its rich natural landscape, this resource-constrained belt offers limited livelihood opportunities for local communities.







Declining groundwater levels

Over the years, the groundwater level has steadily fallen



Borewell challenges

The hard terrain makes in more susceptible to borewell failures



Greater burden on women

The burden of this water crisis inevitably falls on women

DIVERSE COMMUNITIES, UNEQUAL ACCESS

This belt is heavily stratified by community - *Gurjars*, the *Meena* tribe, and *Jatavs* live here. The caste stratification leads to an unequal distribution of natural resources.

WOMEN BEAR THE BRUNT

Across these six districts, one thing remains constant. Women carry most of the burden - managing farm, livestock and household work. Land is usually held in men's names, so women have little control over assets or decision-making. Food insecurity and poor nutrition fall hardest on women and children.



OUR COMMITMENT

It is in this context that SRIJAN works alongside women and smallholders to build institutions, secure livelihoods and enable just reform. By strengthening women's agency and collective action, we aim to create more equitable access to natural resources and resilient livelihood across Rajasthan.

Stronger women's institutions, secure livelihoods and just create lasting change across Rajasthan.

RAJASTHAN | MAITREE MAHILA MANDAL SAMITI



Kajori Devi

Geeta Devi

Members of the Maitree Mahila Mandal (est. 2009)
in front of their federation office,
Duni, Tonk, Rajasthan

SRIJAN | ANNUAL REPORT 2025 - 2026



Poornima Kushwaha
Pashu Sakhi and leader of Radhe Radhe Mahila Utpadak Samooh, signing the register after a group meeting, Niwari, Madhya Pradesh

CHHATTISGARH

Beyond The Last Road

In the dense forests and winding, hilly roads of Chhattisgarh, we first came across tribal communities in 2012. These communities - spread across Koriya and Bagicha - have different cultures, traditions and languages. Both locations lie in northern Chhattisgarh. While Koriya lies on the northern plateau, Bagicha lies in the Jashpur hills of the north-east.

The terrain is uneven, farms are small, and much of the land supports only a single rain-fed crop. Households collect tendu leaves, mahua, sal seeds and other forest produce - combined with subsistence farming and wage labour. As forest produce becomes scarce, women's labour intensifies.



2 Districts
207 Villages
14,241 Households

DIVERSE COMMUNITIES, UNIQUE CULTURES

In Koriya, we met the *Oraon*, *Gond*, and *Baiga* communities, while in Bagicha we became acquainted with *Pando* and *Bhil* tribal groups. This area was distinctly different from those where we had worked before, with challenges of its own.

Oraon | **Gond** | **Baiga** | **Pando** | **Bhil**

GEOGRAPHICAL ISOLATION AND LIMITED ACCESS

Remoteness and geographical isolation create obstacles, communities face limited infrastructure, low literacy, and inadequate access to markets, healthcare and educational facilities. These forms of exclusion are particularly pronounced among girls and young women.



Remote and hilly terrain

Limited infrastructure and connectivity



Low literacy level

Fewer opportunities for girls and young women



Inadequate healthcare access

Long distances to health facilities



Limited market access

Fewer opportunities to sell produce and earn income

CHALLENGES FOR GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN

Distance from schools, household responsibilities, limited family resources and social norms restrict girls' mobility and access to education. Early marriage and pregnancy further interrupt education and expose adolescent girls to health and social vulnerabilities.

These communities have rich cultures, deep knowledge of forests and resilient traditions, yet they remain some of the most underserved.



Building LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE

Despite their strength and determination, tribal women and girls in Chhattisgarh continue to face multiple and intersecting challenges that limit their opportunities and well-being.

Limited access to education

Distance from schools, household responsibilities, limited family resources and social norms restrict girls' mobility and access to education

Early marriages and adolescent vulnerabilities

Early marriages and pregnancies interrupt education and expose adolescent girls to health and social vulnerabilities at a young age

High food insecurity and limited dietary diversity

Food insecurity and limited dietary diversity affect women's nutrition and well-being. Adolescent girls and young women are particularly vulnerable to anaemia

Anaemia among adolescent girls

Adolescent girls and young women in these areas have high rate of anemia, highlighting the importance of dietary diversification

Few livelihood opportunities

Families depend on subsistence agriculture, wage labour and seasonal migration leaving little to invest in girls' education and development

Limited exposure and decision-making

Young women have limited exposure to markets, skills, training, formal institutions and wider social networks, restricting their opportunities pursue independent livelihoods and participate in community decision-making



Geographical isolation, low literacy and limited access to markets. healthcare and education continue to hold back the potential of tribal women and girls.

WOMEN AS LEADERS AND CHANGE-MAKERS

Despite the challenges they face, these tribal women have not backed down. Many are now vocal, active members of local governance institutions - raising issues of water, nutrition and education.

Tribal women in the region now actively participate in local governance, confidently voicing their concerns on issues that directly affect their lives, including water, nutrition and education.





OUR INTERVENTIONS

Our work in Chhattisgarh addresses these specific issues. Through agriculture and horticulture-based interventions, we aim to provide more reliable incomes and livelihoods to families - with less dependence on distress migration.

Agriculture interventions

Supporting climate-resilient and sustainable agriculture to improve productivity and food security

Horticulture development

Promoting kitchen and nutrition gardens, fruit trees and diversified crops to enhance dietary diversity and incomes

Strengthening women's agency

Enabling women to participate in local governance, access institutions and make decisions

Reducing distress migration

Creating more reliable livelihoods and incomes so families are less dependent on seasonal migration



In this way, the land becomes a source of nutrition, income and resilience for young girls, women and their communities.



The Pashu Sakhi programme has given me recognition and a way to earn a living. Today, people in my village trust me and come to me for help. I feel happy that I can serve my community and proud that I can support my family financially.

— Awanti Kindo, Pashu Sakhi, Bagicha



Pashu Sakhis Saroj Paikra & Aiwanti Kindo exchanging notes on the care of young goats, Bagicha, Chhattisgarh.

THEMES

STRONGER ECOSYSTEMS GREATER LIVELIHOODS

Through integrated and sustainable solutions, we work across agriculture, natural resources, livestock and market systems to create lasting change for women and their communities.



Integrated Natural Resource Management



Climate-Resilient Agriculture



Horticulture



Livestock



Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)

INRM

(INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

SRIJAN's work in Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM) is rooted in the belief that healthy and productive natural resources are the foundation of sustainable rural livelihoods.

We take a landscape approach that combines land, water, soil, vegetation and biodiversity conservation. Through community-led planning and collective management of water resources, we help restore ecosystems, improve water security and create more productive and resilient rural landscapes.

IMPACT OVER 25 YEARS

More than **15,000**
Water-harvesting structures constructed

472
Villages covered

1,23,108
Families reached

1,95,089
Hectares of land treated



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS (2025-26)



2,449
Water-harvesting structures developed



20,088
Households benefitted



1,038
Hectares of total area treated



6,536
Hectares of area brought under irrigation

OUR APPROACH

Creating Water Potential

Check dams, earthen dams, farm ponds, wells, desiltation of tanks, *dohas* and soil moisture conservation

Driving Water Security

Community engagement, GIS mapping and digital tools, crop planning, and effective water governance through village institutions

Restoring Biodiversity

Plantation, agroforestry, community-managed green cover and *tapovans* (mini forests)

INTERVENTIONS IN ACTION



Check dams and *doha* structures for water harvesting and groundwater recharge



Field bunding and land levelling to reduce runoff and improve soil health



Desiltation and revival of traditional tanks and ponds



Community-led plantation and *tapovans* to restore biodiversity

IMPACT ON PEOPLE AND LANDSCAPES

Improved soil health and productivity

Enhanced water availability and irrigation

Greater climate resilience in agriculture

Stronger community institutions and stewardship

Healthier ecosystems for future generations

CLIMATE-RESILIENT AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is central to the Indian economy, particularly in rural areas - being a major source of livelihoods and contributing to India's GDP. However, the growing impacts of climate change have made agricultural production increasingly uncertain.

In response to this changing climate landscape, SRIJAN is placing greater emphasis on climate-resilient agricultural practices, enabling small and marginal farmers to better withstand climate-related risks, sustain farm productivity, and secure their livelihoods.

IMPACT OVER 25 YEARS

4,39,085

Farmers reached



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS (2025-26)

44,547 acres	75,118 farmers	66,713 farmers	52,481 farmers	72 BRCs	966
Area covered under agriculture	Farmers benefitted through Climate-Resilient Agriculture	Kharif	Rabi	Bio-Resource centres	Master Farmers Developed

OUR STRATEGY

SRIJAN's agricultural strategy is built around two major pillars - **Optimisation** and **Diversification** - with a focus on climate-resilient practices and natural farming.

1 OPTIMISATION

Enhancing productivity and farm resilience

Productivity Enhancement
Through improved package and practices

Input Sufficiency
Bio-formulations and seed improvement

Soil Health
Increase carbon content and soil microbial population

Bio-resource Centres (BRCs)
Demonstrations, custom hiring and knowledge dissemination platform

Resource Cadre
Master farmers for effective extension services

2 DIVERSIFICATION

Building resilient and diversified farm systems

Climate-resilient Crops
Suitable for local agro-climatic zones and climate risks

New Varietal Diversification
Early and late varieties

Farm Diversification
Integration of livestock and agroforestry

Diverse Cropping Systems
Improve soil health, enhance pest management, boost biodiversity and reduce dependence on chemical inputs

Promotion of Natural Farming
Strengthening Bio-Resource Centres (BRCs)

IN ACTION



Training on climate-resilient practices with support from KVKs, agricultural institutions and ICAR



Promoting soil health and natural farming through Bio-Resource Centres (BRCs)



Strengthening women's access to credit, technology and scientific information



Diversified cropping systems to enhance resilience and secure farm incomes for the future

HORTICULTURE

Horticulture plays a significant role in the Indian economy. It is no longer a supplementary branch of farming in India; rather it has emerged as one of the most dynamic and economically significant sectors in the country's agricultural landscape.

In most villages where we work, farmers are largely small and marginal. To achieve long-term income security amidst climate adversities, SRIJAN has widely popularised the concept of Nano-Orchards, supporting farmers to cultivate fruits, vegetables and other high-value crops suited to local climate, water availability and soil type.

IMPACT OVER 25 YEARS

67,431
Households covered under horticulture

11,816
Orchards promoted



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS (2025-26)

565
Acres covered under orchards

2,257
Orchards

5,642
Vegetable Plots

724
Multilayer Plots

OUR APPROACH

1 NANO-ORCHARDS

The model comprises 80–100 plants in half an acre, including at least two fruit crops (such as lemon, papaya, guava or mango) intercropped with seasonal vegetables. Its design is based on landholding, water availability and soil type.

2 MULTILAYER FARMING

The model integrates fruit trees, seasonal vegetables and other crops to optimise land use, enhance biodiversity and improve incomes. It is suited to local climatic and soil conditions and tailored to the needs of small and marginal farmers.

KEY CROPS PROMOTED

Lemon | Mango | Papaya | Guava | Chilli | Seasonal vegetables

IMPACT ON WOMEN AND COMMUNITIES

- Higher and more diversified income
- Increased savings and small investments
- Support for children's education
- Greater financial independence and decision-making ability
- Stronger confidence and self-esteem



LIVESTOCK GOAT-BASED LIVELIHOOD

Goat herding has been a key livelihood alternative for many rural Indian communities. Goats are small, strong animals that can survive under relatively demanding environmental and dietary conditions. They improve household food security, nutrition and risk reduction, and are an important component of integrated agricultural systems.

For many small and marginal farmers, goats offer a viable and affordable source of supplementary income. With the right support-better animal health services, improved feeding and management practices, and community-based systems-goat rearing can become a more reliable and sustainable livelihood, helping households build resilience and meet their needs, even in times of climate-related stress.

IMPACT OVER 25 YEARS

63,732
Households covered

827
Pashu Sakhis trained



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS (2025-26)

21,250
HH supported through goat-based livelihoods interventions

733
Animal health camps organised

46,984
Goats dewormed

47,907
Goats vaccinated

8,456
HHs covered under improved shed practices

423
Pashu Sakhis trained

OUR INTERVENTIONS

Animal Health Services

Regular health camps, deworming, vaccination and timely treatment to reduce mortality and improve herd health.

Improved Feeding and Management

Support on fodder development, feed management and better housing practices.

Community-based Support Systems

Promoting and strengthening Pashu Sakhis for last-mile support and service delivery.

Improved Shed Practices

Support to households to adopt better and climate-resilient shelter and hygiene practices.

IN ACTION



Regular animal health camps in villages.



Deworming and vaccination to keep herds healthy.



Improved shed practices for safer and healthier livestock



Pashu Sakhis - community champions for better animal health and care

IMPACT ON WOMEN AND COMMUNITIES

Additional and more stable household incomes

Improved livestock health and reduced mortality

Greater resilience to climate-related risks

Strengthened women's leadership and agency

Healthier households and strong communities

FPOs
(FARMER PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS)

STRONGER WOMEN'S COLLECTIVES
From Production to Prosperity

Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) are collective groups which enable farmers to pool their resources, negotiate better prices, access new markets, receive training and improve collective decision-making. In this manner, FPOs assist in improving livelihood opportunities and enhancing the quality and productivity of agricultural output.

Since 2006, we have been actively promoting FPOs in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. With growing membership, higher turnover and diversified commodity portfolios, our FPOs are becoming stronger, more inclusive and commercially sustainable, creating better opportunities for farmers and their communities.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS (2025-26)

23
FPOs

38,206
Shareholders

₹12,98,67,000
Annual Turnover

OUR INTERVENTIONS

Strengthening farmer institutions and creating effective market linkages are among our core areas of intervention. Through women-led Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), we work to build stronger, more inclusive institutions that enable farmers to pool resources, procure inputs collectively and manage different stages of the value chain more efficiently. By placing women at the helm of these enterprises, we strengthen their role in economic decision-making, improve their access to markets and resources, and build sustainable, farmer-led institutions.

IN ACTION



Aggregation of farm produce for member farmers



Value addition and processing to enhance market opportunities



Training and capacity building for FPO members



Linking with buyers and markets for better price realisation

Driving Growth and Market Expansion

It is a matter of great pride to see the FPOs supported by SRIJAN, both independently and in partnership with other organisations, grow and thrive. Their strong turnover growth reflects the impact of diversified agricultural value chains, strengthened market linkages and collective efforts to build sustainable farmer institutions.

3x Turnover growth
KARMATH KISAN PRODUCER CO LTD
Dhar, Madhya Pradesh

2Cr+ Annual Turnover
KEN BETWA MAHILA FARMER PRODUCER CO LTD
Tikamgarh, Madhya Pradesh
Highest in the portfolio

18% Increase in Turnover
BUNDELKHAND KRISHAK BHARTI AGRO PRODUCER CO LTD
Hamirpur, Uttar Pradesh
In partnership with
Yuva Kaushal Vikas Mandal (YKVM)

Looking Ahead: We remain focused on strengthening buyer linkages, processing, financial access and farmer training to ensure sustained growth and long-term viability for the women led Farmer Producer Organisations.

BIWAL

BUNDELKHAND INITIATIVE FOR WATER, AGRICULTURE AND LIVELIHOOD

The **Bundelkhand Initiative for Water, Agriculture and Livelihoods (BIWAL),** launched in 2019, is a collaborative programme aimed at reviving traditional water bodies , thereby improving water security, enhancing agricultural productivity and conserving biodiversity across the Bundelkhand region. Implemented across 11 districts of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh — Banda, Lalitpur, Mahoba, Chitrakoot, Jhansi, Hamirpur, Tikamgarh, Niwari, Chhatarpur, Panna and Damoh — the initiative is undertaken in partnership with CARD, YKVM, Haritika, Arunodaya and ABSS.

Working closely with local communities, BIWAL addresses the specific needs and challenges of small and marginal farmers. Its approach focuses on strengthening farm-based livelihoods, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, improving access to and management of natural resources, and building farmers' resilience to the growing impacts of climate change.

IMPACT SO FAR

329
Tanks restored and rejuvenated

2.7 BL
(Billion litres)
Water potential created



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS (2025-26)

576
Hectares of land treated

1,211
Water holding structures

1,16,514
Households impacted

1.77 BL
(Billion litres)
Water recharge potential created

5
Implementing partners

OUR INTERVENTIONS

Water Conservation
Creation of *doha* structures and other water-harvesting measures to improve rainwater retention and groundwater recharge

Sustainable Agriculture
Promoting climate-resilient practices to enhance farm productivity and reduce vulnerability to climate risks

Biodiversity and Integrated Natural Resource Management
Strengthening ecosystems and improving access to natural resources for long-term livelihood security

Community-led Approach
Working with local communities to plan, implement and manage interventions

IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES

Improved water security

Higher agricultural productivity

More stable farm incomes

Greater resilience to climate risks

Healthier ecosystems and stronger rural communities



Women farmers of Karish Baba Village Development Committee (VDC) harvesting bajra, Keladevi, Karauli, Rajasthan

STORIES OF CHANGE 1

THE WOMEN OF LAKHANGUA VILLAGE IN MADHYA PRADESH ARE TURNING FROM FARMERS TO TRAINERS

From knowing very little about farming to becoming a Master Farmer, Jyoti has come a long way and has gone on to train over 88 fellow farmers in climate-resilient framing practices.

A new wave of change has swept through the Lakhangua village in the Bijawar block - Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh. The fields remain the same but the hands that once tended them are changing the story of this village. Located in the interiors of Chhatarpur District in Madhya Pradesh, the block is predominantly inhabited by communities belonging to the Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), and Other Backward Communities (OBC), including the *Gond, Lodhi, Yadav, Kushwaha, Ahirwar* communities. Agriculture, collection of Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP), wage labour and seasonal migration sustain livelihoods in Lakhangua. When the farming season ends, men migrate to different cities for work while women are bound to stay behind looking after their families.

Since 2022, we have been working alongside the community specifically with women supporting them to address poverty. Poverty here is simply not about earning less; it's about the dependency on agriculture, uncertainty of the next harvest, ever-changing climate situations, and migration.

We firmly believe that when women have access to technical knowledge and practical skills, they are better equipped to strengthen their economic agency and build independent livelihoods.

THE VILLAGE AT A GLANCE

LOCATION:
Lakhangua Village, Bijawar Block, Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh

COMMUNITIES:
SC, ST and OBC (*Gond, Lodhi, Yadav, Kushwaha, Ahirwar*)

LIVELIHOODS:
Agriculture, NTFP collection, wage labour and seasonal migration

CHALLENGE:
Men migrate for work; women manage farms and households





JYOTI
KUSHWAHA

From Farmer to Trainer

JYOTI'S JOURNEY

The story of Jyoti Kushwaha, a 36-year-old woman and a Master Farmer, reflects this belief.

Through a series of training sessions and community meetings, we equip farmers with the knowledge and skills needed to adopt climate-resilient farming practices. These include improving soil health, preparing and using natural fertilisers and bio-inputs, and adopting sustainable irrigation methods such as solar-powered pumps.

These training sessions are conducted at our Bio-Resource Centres (BRCs). Located at the heart of our intervention villages, each BRC is established on an agri-entrepreneur's premises and equipped with the necessary tools and resources to facilitate the preparation of organic bio-inputs. They also serve as local learning hubs where farmers can access technical guidance and practical support.

Jyoti has been associated with SRIJAN for the past three years and is also a member of a Self-Help Group (SHG). Having undergone training as a Master Farmer, she has adopted climate-resilient farming practices on her own agricultural land. She has also established a BRC at her home, where she prepares organic fertilisers and natural pesticides for use on her crops. The results have been encouraging, reinforcing her confidence in climate-resilient framing practices and enabling her to put her newly acquired knowledge into practice.

There was a time when Jyoti would earn her living through tailoring. Today, when people in her village have questions about farming, natural inputs or preparing bio-fertilisers, they come to her. *"Jyoti Didi ye batado"*- (Jyoti didi, please tell us this.)"

> *"I feel happy when people come to me and say, 'Jyoti Didi, please tell me this' or 'Jyoti Didi, please explain that.' It makes me feel that I am able to teach people about farming and that they are learning from me "*

Jyoti speaks with pride about how members in her community now look to her for guidance on farming practices. She smiles when she talks about this change.

For Jyoti, being called "Jyoti didi" is more than a form of address. It is a reflection of the trust she has built within her community.

Over the past few years, she has not only diversified her own income, but she has supported other women in her villages to increase their cash incomes. Jyoti has learnt to multi-task, she earns through agriculture, runs a general store and also operates and manages the day-day-functions of Bio-Resource Centre (BRC).

At the BRC, she prepares and sells bio-inputs, climate-resilient framing products providing farmers with sustainable alternatives to conventional agricultural inputs. Her journey has also led her to become a Master Farmer, enabling her to share her knowledge and experience with other farmers.

Till date Jyoti has conducted training sessions in three nearby villages where she has trained over 88 people in climate-resilient framing practices. During these sessions, she does not simply tell farmers what to do. She explains how natural and biological inputs work, demonstrates how they can be prepared and shows farmers how they can be used on their own farms. Stepping into the role of a trainer brought a new sense of self-confidence. She now walks from door to door with a warm smile and a new identity for which she has worked hard and inspires others to learn from her experiences.

Jyoti also prepares organic manure through the BRC for use on her own farm. This has helped her reduce her farming costs by approximately ₹12,000. Additionally, organically grown vegetables and crops sell faster in the market, allowing her to receive better prices for her produce. So far, a total of 106 farmers have been associated with the BRC. This includes farmers who purchase organic products as well as those who have received training through the centre. After deducting production costs and other expenses, she earns an estimated annual net income (profit) of ₹20,000–22,000.





IMPACT SO FAR

88+
FARMERS TRAINED

106
FARMERS ASSOCIATED WITH THE BRC

₹12,000
REDUCTION IN FARMING COST

₹20,000 – ₹22,000
ESTIMATED ANNUAL NET INCOME(PROFIT)



SUKHWATI
DHURVE

Farming Beyond Fear

SOWING CHANGE, REAPING CONFIDENCE

2

A SHIFT FROM TRADITIONAL TO CLIMATE-RESILIENT AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES ARE LEADING TO IMPROVED SOIL AND BETTER HARVESTS

LOCATION:
Keriya village, Chourai block,
Chhindwara district,
Madhya Pradesh

In the undulating terrain of Keriya village, in Chourai block of Chhindwara district, Madhya Pradesh, 44-year-old Sukhwati Dhurve has long depended on farming to support her family. With around 2.5 acres of agricultural land, she primarily cultivates maize and wheat, much like many other farming households in the village. Agriculture has been the mainstay of the community for generations, shaping their livelihoods and way of life. However, with rainfall patterns becoming increasingly erratic, alternating between prolonged dry spells and sudden heavy downpours, cultivating these crops has become increasingly challenging, making each farming season uncertain.

Because Sukhwati did not have reliable irrigation methods available and lacked proper knowledge, she depended heavily on rain and used whatever seeds and chemicals were available her produce was deteriorating even the quality of the produce was also degrading. Every season felt like a risk. She recalls,

> *We used to farm with fear that the crop might fail, that we would earn nothing, and that there would be less food on the table."*

She often spent a significant amount on seeds, fertilisers and pesticides, yet the returns were uncertain.

> *Farming is our only means of livelihood. Somehow, I save money to buy what I need for farming, but I still live with the fear that the crop may fail."*

Earlier, Sukhwati followed traditional methods. She would broadcast or scatter random hybrid seeds by hand, which led to uneven growth and wasted resources. Her typical harvest was around 15 quintals per acre, but even that was never guaranteed.

Under considerable financial burden she was spending nearly ₹14,900 per acre on seeds, fertilisers, and pesticides. After all that hard work and expense, her net profit was stuck at around ₹61,100 for her entire 2.5-acre farm, barely enough to keep her household running, let alone save for the future.



15
Quintals per Acre



₹14,900
per acre on seeds, fertilisers, and pesticides



₹61,100
net profit (for 2.5-acre farm)

THE TRANSFORMATION

During the Kharif Season, we intervened and provided Sukhwati with improved maize seeds (NK6802) along with a seed treatment kit. This kit included three bio- inputs: Trichoderma, Azotobacter, and PSB (Phosphate Solubilising Bacteria), which she used in her crop.



Improved Maize Seeds

(NK6802)

Seed treatment kit with three bio-inputs

Trichoderma	**Azotobacter**	**PSB** (Phosphate Solubilising Bacteria)

Moreover, multiple awareness & training sessions were also conducted in different locations within Chhindwara and Chourai on climate-resilient farming practices with farmers. Farmers like Sukhwati were really keen on participating in these sessions and learned about various methods of improved farming.

She learned to treat her seeds before planting to prevent the risk of seed-borne diseases for which she switched from scattering seeds to line sowing, ensuring better spacing and giving each plant room to flourish. Most importantly, she learned how to manage water using a sprinkler system and raised-bed planting, which protected her crops from both drying out and getting drowned. Now she was no-longer relying on traditional practices of farming, she started making informed decisions about how to sow, nurture, irrigate and harvest her crops. Gradually, the changes began to bear fruit, not just in the form of improved harvest but also with improved financial returns.

With the use of Trichoderma, she suppressed destructive fungal activity and protected her crops from root-rot infections. Furthermore, the integration of Azotobacter revitalised the soil by boosting its microbial ecosystem. Together, these sustainable practices dramatically mitigated pest issues and drove a powerful increase in her overall production.

Even when the weather turned harsh, her new water management techniques kept her loss negligible for both drought and excess rain. Her production jumped from 15 quintals per acre to 20 quintals per acre. Even though the market price per quintal was a bit lower that season, her total income went up because her costs went down and her yield went up.

Today, the results in Sukhwati's field speaks volumes. She has seen a direct increase in her income of ₹6,600. With her personal savings, she bought her own sprinkler system. Now her story has transformed and she says

> *"Now I am confident that my crops will not be ruined."*







STORIES OF CHANGE

3

Enhancing Soil Productivity

THROUGH POND DESILTATION IN MARKAPURA VILLAGE (KARAULI DISTRICT)

In Markapura village, district Karauli, Rajasthan the desiltation of community ponds has brought a new lease of life to farmland. By restoring water storage and spreading nutrient-rich silt across their fields, farmers have improved soil fertility, moisture retention and crop productivity. Led by the community, this effort has strengthened local water security, reduced farming costs and given smallholder farmers, especially women, greater confidence in their livelihoods.

Population
522

Households
89

Women
~43%

Dominant community
Meena

KEY CHALLENGES



Dependence on rainfall



Silted ponds with reduced storage capacity



Low productivity leading to migration and daily wage labour

The village falls in a semi-arid region characterised by undulating terrain, small hills, shallow soils, and rock formations. Agriculture is the primary occupation, with farmers cultivating *bajra* (Pearl Millet) and paddy in the Kharif season while wheat and mustard in the Rabi season.

The village depends heavily on rainfall and a single community pond—*Markapura ka taal*—for irrigation. Some farmers own small private ponds which, over the years, have accumulated silt and their water storage capacities have been reduced. With most of these marginal households owning less than one hectare (around 0.93 hectare), the agricultural productivity remained low, leaving the farmers with no option other than migration and working as daily wage labour.

The community pond was silted over the years, reducing its water-holding capacity and leading to scarcity during the peak summer months. Moreover, women farmers, who bear the dual burden of farm work and household responsibilities, found it especially challenging to secure sufficient crop productivity from their small landholdings. *Bajra* during Kharif and wheat in Rabi season could barely meet the families' consumption and livelihood needs.

A COMMUNITY-LED INTERVENTION

SRIJAN formed a Village Development Committee (VDC) to mobilise farmers and strengthen community participation in managing local resources. During VDC meetings, women raised the need to desilt *Markapura ka taal*. After collective discussions, the community identified this as a way to address both water scarcity and declining soil fertility.

The intervention had two key benefits: increasing the pond's water storage capacity through desiltation for Rabi irrigation and using the nutrient-rich excavated silt to improve soil depth and moisture retention in farmers' fields.

Our team conducted site assessments and prepared designs and cost estimates based on individual farmers' requirements, site conditions, and soil availability in the ponds. Implementation plans were finalised for each farmer to ensure that the work aligned with approved demands and site-specific needs.

To ensure transparency and optimal resource utilisation, a limit of 150 tractor-trolley loads of soil per farmer was established in consultation with the community, with all participants agreeing to the arrangement. The team subsequently completed the necessary application formalities and identified vendors to facilitate implementation.

Under the cost-sharing arrangement, we bear the cost of loading soil into tractor-trolleys, while farmers cover transportation expenses. This approach promotes shared responsibility, encourages community participation, and strengthens farmers' ownership of the intervention.

COST-SHARING ARRANGEMENT



Project Support

Loading of soil into tractor-trolleys



Farmers' Contribution

Transportation expenses



IMPLEMENTATION IN ACTION



1,703
Trolleys of silt removed from *Markapura ka taal*



2 More ponds desilted (through liasoning with the local government body)

Gradually, the soil-desiltation work was completed and about 1703 trolleys of silt were removed from Markapura Ka Taal and applied to the agricultural fields of 15 farmers. Alongside this two more ponds were desilted due to the continuous liasoning with the local government body.

Through the entire soil desiltation activities, a total of 18 farmers were benefited, and approximately 4. 75 hectares of land were treated collectively.

The farmers took a lead role in this intervention and closely monitored the work throughout its execution. Each farmer transported nearly 100 trolleys of silt to their fields, enriching about 0.25 ha of land each. The total cost incurred was ₹5,30,232.20, of which ₹2,39,693.40 was supported through the project, while ₹2,90,538.80 was contributed by the farmers themselves.

INTERVENTION AT A GLANCE

18
Farmers Benefited

4. 75 hectares
of land treated collectively

₹5,30,232.20
Total cost incurred

₹2,39,693.40	₹2,90,538.80
Project support	Farmers' contribution

Additionally, the farmers collectively renovated the bund of the *Markapura ka taal* (community pond), which had weakened over time. The excavated silt was reused to repair and strengthen the bund, leading to an estimated increase of approximately 3,500 cubic meters in the pond's water storage capacity. This enhanced water availability is expected to significantly improve irrigation access and crop productivity, especially for farmers cultivating wheat in the late sowing period.

~ 3,500
cubic metres increase in water storage capacity

After the soil desiltation, the depth and fertility of the soil increased significantly. The desilted soil was rich in nutrients, reducing farmers' dependence on external manure and lowering input costs. This year, farmers shared that they did not apply any manure to their fields, yet the productivity of the *bajra* crop was noticeably higher compared to the previous year. The crop roots developed more robustly, leading to an overall increase in productivity per bigha of land.

LASTING IMPACT

This collective intervention has brought a visible and lasting change in the lives of farmers in Markapura. The increased soil depth and improved structure enhanced the land's capacity to retain moisture, protecting *bajra* crops from water-logging during heavy rainfall in the Kharif season. While many neighbouring fields experienced crop damage, farmers—especially women farmers with small landholdings—reported significantly lower losses and greater confidence in their cultivated crops. Encouraged by the nutrient-rich silt, many more farmers decided not to use chemical fertilisers on their one *bigha* of wheat land this year, trusting the soil's improved fertility to sustain productivity for the next two cropping seasons. The intervention has not only reduced input costs and labour requirements but has also strengthened community ownership over natural resources, laying a strong foundation for sustainable agriculture, water security, and improved livelihoods in the coming years.



When the Water Stopped

HOW A CHECK DAM REPAIR BOOSTS WATER SECURITY AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY IN MADHYA PRADESH

4

A check dam is an important source of irrigation for villages that depend on agriculture, as it helps store rainwater and recharge groundwater, ensuring water availability during dry spells. It provides a supplementary source of water for crops when rainfall is insufficient, reduces dependence on erratic monsoons, and helps farmers maintain agricultural productivity and protect their livelihoods.

Every summer, the farmers living in Bilt village of Niwari district, Madhya Pradesh, find themselves at the mercy of a relentless sun and dwindling water sources. As temperatures rise and water sources begin to dry up, irrigating fields becomes increasingly difficult. For small and marginal farmers who depend on agriculture for their livelihoods, the lack of reliable water often means lower crop yields, financial uncertainty, and limited opportunities to grow a second crop.

For years, a check dam constructed by the government in 2005 served as an important source of irrigation for farmers in the village. However, after years of exposure to natural forces, the structure became damaged and could no longer retain water for long. Water that could have supported crops during the dry months flowed away, leaving nearby farmers struggling to meet their irrigation needs.

With limited funds available for repairs, the structure remained damaged despite farmers' efforts to seek support from the local government.



Damaged check dam
(constructed in 2005)



Drying water sources



Difficult irrigation, lower crop yields and limited opportunities to grow a second crop

During a field visit, the SRIJAN team noticed that the embankment had weakened over the years, leaving it vulnerable to a possible breach, particularly during periods of heavy water flow. With no proper spillway or adequately maintained slope to regulate the overflow, continuous water pressure was gradually washing away the soil, further weakening the structure. Cracks in the headwall had become another source of concern, allowing water to seep through, while the apron had also suffered damage. To add to these challenges, years of silt accumulation had considerably reduced the pond's water storage capacity. Together, these issues threatened the structure's stability and its ability to retain water.

Discussions with local farmers revealed that around 20 farmers with agricultural land near the

structure were directly affected by the loss of this irrigation source.

Over the past decade, farmers have experienced increasingly erratic monsoons and unpredictable water flows. The existing check dam was unable to retain water, causing it to drain away during the off-season. As a result, farmers faced water shortages, which affected crop yields and made it difficult to meet irrigation requirements, particularly during the periods when rainfall was scarce.

The community identified the renovation of the check dam as a practical solution. Restoring the structure could help retain rainwater for longer, support groundwater recharge, and improve water availability during the dry season.

After consultations with farmers and village representatives, our team coordinated with local PRIs and obtained the necessary no-objection certificate from the Sarpanch to proceed with the renovation.

The work began on 3 June 2025, with a total estimated budget of ₹1.1 lakh. Of this amount, ₹78,524 was allocated for construction materials, including cement, sand, boulders, and stone dust, while ₹28,000 was allocated to be spent on skilled labour. Local workers and masons were engaged, allowing the community to participate directly in the restoration process.



3 June 2025
Work began



≥1.1 lakh
Total estimated budget



₹78,524
Allocated for construction materials



₹28,000
Allocated for skilled labour



The damaged sections were removed, the foundation was reinforced, and a new concrete base was constructed to improve the structure's durability. The renovation was completed in June, before the arrival of the monsoon.

With the arrival of the monsoon, the renovated check dam began retaining water, improving water availability in the surrounding area. Observations of nearby wells indicated a rise in groundwater levels, suggesting that the restored structure was contributing to groundwater recharge.

For the 20 farmers directly associated with the intervention, improved water availability created new possibilities for irrigation. Farmers who had previously struggled to maintain even one crop could now explore growing multiple crops and diversifying into vegetables.

Reliable access to water can help reduce the risks associated with rain-fed agriculture, improve crop productivity, and provide opportunities for additional income. The benefits also extend beyond the fields immediately surrounding the check dam, as improved water storage and groundwater recharge can support other households in the village.

For Bharti Kushwaha, whose field lies close to the structure, the change has been particularly meaningful.

"My field is near the check dam. When it was damaged, I faced difficulties irrigating my crops. Now that it has been repaired, I no longer face the same problems in watering my fields."

The renovation of the Bilt check dam demonstrates how restoring existing natural resource management structures can help communities address persistent water challenges. For small and marginal farmers, water security is closely linked to crop choices, productivity, household income, and resilience to unpredictable weather.



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SRIJAN | ANNUAL REPORT 2025 - 2026

From 55 Hours to 15

HOW SPRINKLER IRRIGATION HELPED SARITA DEHARIYA INCREASE HER FARM INCOME

5

Named after the *chhind* (date palm) tree, Chhindwara is a land where nature, culture, and rural livelihoods intertwine. Home to over 1.7 million people, the district is shaped by its agricultural roots and rich tribal heritage, with communities such as the *Gond*, *Pardhan*, and *Bharia* being inhabited from years, the communities livelihood is majorly dependent on agriculture.

86%
of annual rainfall falls during a few monsoon months

93%
of available groundwater is under extraction (semi-critical category)

Despite its natural beauty and agricultural potential, Chhindwara faces a persistent challenge: water scarcity. Although the district receives a reasonable amount of rainfall, nearly 86% of it falls during a few monsoon months, leaving the rest of the year relatively dry. Groundwater resources are also under increasing pressure, with extraction levels reaching nearly 93% of available reserves, placing parts of the district in the semi-critical category. For smallholder farmers, this means uncertain irrigation, lower productivity, and limited opportunities to improve their incomes.

Nestled in the rural landscape, Loniya Maru is home to 250–300 households whose lives are closely tied to the land. Sarita Dehariya, a 40-year-old farmer, faced these challenges firsthand. She lives with her husband, Brajmohan Dehariya, 51, and their two children, both of whom are pursuing graduation. The family depends on its three-acre farm for its livelihood and hopes for a better future.

Although the family had access to a well, irrigating their fields remained a major challenge. Without suitable equipment or technical knowledge, moving water across the farm was an exhausting and time-consuming task. A single irrigation cycle required nearly 55 hours of labour, often involving hired workers and additional expenses. Each cycle cost approximately ₹1,400, with irrigation expenses adding up to nearly ₹4,400 over the season.

Despite the time, effort, and money invested, the results were disappointing. Water could not be distributed evenly across the field, affecting crop growth and limiting the family's cultivation options. Sarita primarily grew maize and black gram, but low yields meant that the family continued to face high farming costs and modest returns.

"We worked hard, but most of our efforts went into managing water. Even after investing so much, the harvest was never enough,"

A turning point came during the Kharif season of 2025, when SRIJAN supported Sarita with a sprinkler irrigation system. Designed to distribute water more uniformly across the field, the system helped her irrigate the farm more efficiently while reducing dependence on labour-intensive methods.

The difference was significant. The time needed for irrigation fell from 55 hours to just 15 hours, saving 40 hours per irrigation cycle. Irrigation-related expenses were virtually eliminated, while the sprinkler system helped conserve nearly 40% of water. In a region where groundwater resources are under pressure, this improvement made every irrigation cycle more efficient.



SARITA
DEHARIYA

Sprinkling Change, Growing Prosperity

Earlier
55 hours
Irrigation time per cycle

→

Now
15 hours
Irrigation time per cycle

=

40 hours
Saved per cycle

Nearly
40%
water conserved

Irrigation-related expenses
virtually eliminated

BETTER HARVESTS, HIGHER INCOMES

With less time and effort spent on watering the fields, Sarita could focus more on managing her crops and exploring new cultivation options.

Improved irrigation translated into healthier crops and better productivity. Sarita's maize yield increased from 7 quintals to 15 quintals per acre. Better water management also enabled her to diversify beyond maize and black gram, allowing her to cultivate wheat and mustard. Her wheat yield reached 14 quintals per acre.

HIGHER YIELDS FROM HER FIELDS

Maize yield (per acre)	7 quintals (earlier) →	15 quintals (now)
Wheat yield (per acre)	– →	14 quintals (now)

The ability to grow additional crops created new opportunities for the family. Instead of being limited by the difficulties of irrigation, Sarita could make better use of her farmland and explore ways to increase its productivity.

The improvement in farm productivity was reflected in the family's earnings. Sarita's income increased from ₹21,600 per acre to ₹59,250 per acre, generating an additional ₹37,650 per acre.

Earlier
₹21,600 per acre
→
Now
₹59,250 per acre

₹37,650 additional per acre

The higher income has helped her family strengthen their savings, support their children's education, and cultivate additional land. What began as a solution to a daily irrigation challenge has opened up wider possibilities for the family's financial security and future aspirations.

HIGHER SAVINGS

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

CULTIVATING ADDITIONAL LAND

"Earlier, most of my time went into getting water to the crops. Now irrigation is easier, the crops are healthier, and our income has improved. We can finally think about the future with confidence."

Today, Sarita's farm tells a story of how appropriate irrigation technology can help smallholder farmers make better use of their resources. A task that once demanded long hours of labour and considerable expense has become faster, more efficient, and less costly.

Her experience demonstrates how access to suitable irrigation systems, combined with the right support, can help farmers conserve water, improve crop yields, diversify cultivation, and increase their incomes. In water-stressed farming communities such as Chhindwara, such interventions can make an important difference—not only to agricultural productivity but also to the confidence with which farming families plan for their future.





From Seasonal Migration to Year-Round Livelihoods

6

HOW WATER CONSERVATION IS TRANSFORMING FARMING IN A MADHYA PRADESH VILLAGE

On the banks of the Sind River lies Shivpuri district in Madhya Pradesh, home to a population of 1,726,050 people. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes constitute 18.63% and 13.20% of the district's population, respectively. Despite receiving an annual rainfall of 800–1,100 mm, the district faces persistent agricultural challenges due to uneven terrain, erratic rainfall, poor groundwater recharge, and limited livelihood opportunities. For farmers who depend on seasonal streams and rain-fed cultivation, access to irrigation remains uncertain, particularly during the rabi season.

SHIVPURI DISTRICT AT A GLANCE

1,726,050
population

Scheduled Castes
18.63%
Scheduled Tribes
13.20%

Annual rainfall
800–1,100 mm

In Khaniyadhana block lies Amarpur Devra village, comprising 138 households spread across four hamlets—Mahanpur, Kamalpur, Janakpur, and Sundarpur. The village covers 158.72 hectares and receives an average annual rainfall of 918 mm. Scheduled Tribes account for 57.82% of the village population, while Scheduled Castes make up 22.17%.

Sundarpur, one of the village's four hamlets, is home to just 15 households and around 80 people, predominantly belonging to the *Sahariya* tribe, classified as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG). Families here face a combination of environmental and socioeconomic challenges, including poverty, undernutrition, unstable employment, and limited access to essential services. Poor groundwater recharge, undulating terrain, and unpredictable rainfall have further weakened traditional livelihoods, often forcing families to migrate seasonally in search of work.

Agriculture remains the primary source of livelihood in Sundarpur. With an average landholding of approximately 2.5 acres, most households depend on rain-fed kharif cultivation. Limited irrigation restricts rabi farming to small patches of land, where mustard, groundnut, gram, and wheat are the principal crops.

Among the farmers facing these challenges was 35-year-old Sima Adivasi. Owning three acres of land, she balanced agricultural work with household responsibilities while relying on farming and seasonal migration to support her family. Recurring water shortages disrupted cultivation each year, leaving her uncertain about crop production and limiting her ability to make full use of her land.





SIMA
ADIVASI

Beyond the Monsoon.

A turning point came when Sima joined the Thakur Baba Women Producer Group and connected with SRIJAN. With their support, she constructed a farm pond with a storage capacity of 739.6 cubic metres, along with a water-harvesting structure to capture and store rainwater.



To improve soil and water conservation, 425 running metres of field bunding were developed across 2.5 acres of her farmland. These bunds help reduce soil erosion and retain moisture in the fields. A solar pump was also installed, providing a reliable and climate-friendly means of drawing water for irrigation.



Together, these interventions changed how Sima could use her land. Improved water availability enabled her to cultivate during the Zaid season, in addition to the Rabi and Kharif seasons, thereby increasing the area under cultivation. The farm pond also created an opportunity to diversify her livelihood through fish farming.

Today, Sima reports an increase of ₹8,400 in her annual income, an 18% growth from her previous income of ₹44,750, driven by improved agricultural production. Fish farming provides an additional ₹25,000–30,000 per season, helping her build a more diversified and resilient source of income. As part of this effort, eight dohas (small water-harvesting structures) were constructed, each measuring 20 metres in length, 5 metres in width, and 2 metres in depth. Together, these structures provide a storage capacity of 703.3 cubic metres. Although constructed on Sima's land, they have also benefited 12 additional households.

INCOME GROWTH

Earlier
₹44,750 Annual income
→
Now
₹53,150 Annual income

₹8,400 increase (18% growth)

Fish Farming
25,000–30,000 per season

8 Dohas constructed

703.3 cubic metres storage capacity

12 additional households benefited capacity

For SRIJAN, however, Sima's progress highlighted a larger challenge. Water scarcity and land degradation affected many Sahariya households across Sundarpur, and supporting individual farmers alone would not be enough to address these shared concerns. SRIJAN and the community therefore adopted a phased approach to integrated natural resource management, focusing on water harvesting, soil conservation, and improved moisture retention. Before the intervention, farmers could access sufficient water to cultivate only 0.5 to 1 acre of land. Following the intervention, the area under cultivation nearly doubled, allowing them to cultivate 1.5 to 2 acres. The aim was to strengthen agricultural productivity and create more reliable livelihood opportunities across the hamlet.

In addition, two farm ponds with a combined storage capacity of 1,520.7 cubic metres were established in partnership with Sahariya families. These ponds help improve water availability for agriculture while also creating opportunities for

fish farming as an alternative source of income, generating an estimated ₹25,000–30,000 annually. Improved access to water also creates the possibility of reducing dependence on seasonal migration by making farming more productive and reliable.

For households that once struggled to grow crops beyond the monsoon season, these changes represent a significant shift. Better water storage, soil conservation, and access to irrigation have opened up opportunities to cultivate more crops, diversify incomes, and make better use of available land.

In a region where rainfall is uncertain and livelihoods remain vulnerable, conserving every available drop of water can make a meaningful difference. By combining local participation with natural resource management, SRIJAN and the Sundarpur community are creating opportunities for more productive farming, diversified incomes, and greater livelihood resilience among Sahariya families.

2 farm ponds established

1,520.7 cubic metres combined storage

25,000–30,000 estimated annual income from fish farming capacity



Growing Up Against Social Stigma

7

HOW GAYATRI CHALLENGED SOCIAL STIGMA TO BECOME A PASHU SAKHI AND EARN HER OWN LIVING

It's unfortunate that even today a society measures a woman's character by the presence or absence of a man in her life. Single mothers, unmarried daughters, and divorced women are some of the labels that women are subjected to. From what they wear to where they go and whom they meet everything is under scrutiny. Such incidents of judgements are not only based on social expectations; they are the way of restricting and controlling women's agency over their own lives.

Gayatri, a young girl from Bacchauda Prithvipur, Niwari, village, Madhya Pradesh narrates her story and shares the pain of what all she went through only because she has lost her father at a very young age. Her mother raised her alone enduring repeated lewd comments from fellow community members, specifically young men. Growing up Gayatri witnessed these incidents very closely, being overwhelmed to understand the reason for this constant bullying.

Today, after completing her training as a Pashu Sakhi (community-based para-veterinary worker), Gayatri has earned recognition and respect in her village for her knowledge and contribution. Yet her transformation raises a troubling question: Why did society need to see her achievements before recognising the dignity that she and her mother always deserved?

To earn a living, Gayatri's mother worked as a cook in a nearby school and also enrolled Gayatri in school so that she gets an education. Gradually, Gayatri found her best friends in books and developed keen interest in activities. She loved spending time at school and always made sure to complete her homework on time. Every evening, she would help her mother pack her schoolbag and prepare her uniform for the next day. These small things became a part of her everyday practice.

Relatives and neighbours started pressurising Gayatri's mother for her marriage. Her mother, however, was filled with apprehension. Having raised Gayatri alone, she worried about how her young daughter would manage this new phase of life. She wondered whether everything would work out for Gayatri and whether she would find the support and understanding she needed.

Gayatri eventually agreed to marry, but only after the arrangement was made with her husband to live with her at her mother's home. For Gayatri, this meant she could embrace married life while continuing to care for the woman who had raised her.

A new chapter began when we introduced the Women Producer Groups (WPGs) concept to the village. Gayatri's mother joined first and encouraged her daughter to participate. Together, they became active members, regularly attending meetings, training, and exposure visits. All the women participating learnt the techniques and use of bio-inputs for farming and adapting to the various climate-resilient farming practices. This built a platform where women like Gayatri would learn and build their skills and knowledge. Alongside farming practices, we also oriented women on the significance of managing livestock and started training women on being a Pashu Sakhi.

Gayatri enrolled in a residential training programme in Jatara. For the first time, she stepped beyond the boundaries of her village to learn, interact, and develop new Skills keeping



aside all the prejudice and stigma she has been attached to since her childhood.The transformation was profound. After completing her training, Gayatri returned as a confident community resource person. She began conducting door-to-door awareness campaigns on livestock health, promoting vaccination and scientific animal husbandry practices. She supported village-level training and worked closely with farmers to improve livestock care and productivity.

Today, Gayatri is recognised across her village as a trusted para-veterinary service provider. From depending on her husband for financial support, she has progressed to earning ₹10,800 through the services she provides to farmers. Beyond earning respect and recognition, she has also gained financial independence. Reflecting on this change, she says:

"Earlier, I had to ask others for money whenever I needed to get something done. Today, I no longer have to depend on anyone financially to meet my needs."

From a young girl whose future was constrained by social stigma and limited opportunities, Gayatri has emerged as a knowledgeable, confident, and self-reliant professional. Her journey is not only a story of personal transformation but also a reflection of what becomes possible when women are provided with opportunities, support systems, and the confidence to lead. Today, she stands as an inspiration for other women in her community, proving that resilience, when combined with opportunity, can overcome even the deepest social barriers.









From Market Challenges

STRENGTHENING FARMER COLLECTIVES THROUGH VALUE ADDITION

8

INTERVENTION AREAS

Mandrayal and Sapotara blocks

Karauli, recognised as an Aspirational District by NITI Aayog, is home to indigenous communities such as the *Gujjar, Meena* and *Bairwa*. The district has a sex ratio of 858 females per 1,000 males, with 18.48% of its population residing in urban areas. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes constitute 25.29% and 19.82% of the population respectively. Located in the eastern floodplains of Rajasthan, the intervention areas of Mandrayal and Sapotara blocks have long faced challenges arising from limited natural resources, weak market connectivity, and poor access to nearby mandis such as Hindaun City and Gangapur City.

For years, small and marginal farmers in the region depended heavily on middlemen to sell their produce. Limited awareness of prevailing market prices, the absence of storage facilities, and inadequate market access often resulted in distress sales and low returns. The situation was particularly challenging in the upper ridge villages, locally known as the Dangs. Characterised by shallow soil depth and low water availability, these villages experienced constrained agricultural productivity. Yet, these very conditions also contributed to a unique strength: the cultivation of mustard with comparatively higher oil content, largely due to the minimal use of chemical fertilisers.



Recognising both the challenges and the untapped potential of the region, SRIJAN, initiated livelihood interventions in 2019. As engagement with farming communities deepened, one aspiration emerged consistently—farmers wanted better market access, fair prices for their produce, and opportunities to move beyond raw commodity sales through value addition.

Responding to this need, the Dang Vikas Farmer Producer Company (FPO) was established, creating a significant shift in the region's agricultural landscape. The collective institution enabled farmers to aggregate their produce and engage directly with markets, strengthening their bargaining power and reducing dependence on intermediaries.

A major milestone in this journey was the establishment of a central processing unit in Mandrayal. Equipped with solar-based systems, cold-pressed and machine-pressed mustard oil extraction units, along with filtration and storage facilities, the unit has enabled farmers to value-added products. This shift has opened new opportunities for income generation while enhancing local ownership over the value chain.

Today, farmers are no longer compelled to sell their produce at low prices. Instead, they are realising better returns and benefiting from diversified income streams. The FPO, led by rural women and supported by a strong base of 2,450 women shareholders, has emerged as a promising community-owned enterprise. With a paid-up capital of ₹12.25 lakhs, the organisation has demonstrated encouraging financial progress. To date, it has processed 3,512 litres of mustard oil, of which 3,247.25 litres have been sold in local markets. In addition, 6,729 6,350 kg already sold.

The FPO has also explored diversification opportunities. Through sesame oil trials and



groundnut processing—using raw material sourced from other Farmer Producer Companies—it has produced approximately 1,262 litres of oil. Collectively, these efforts have generated revenue of ₹3.71 lakhs and contributed to an annual turnover of ₹23.56 lakhs, reflecting steady progress towards financial sustainability.

Further strengthening this journey has been the introduction of the brand "*Mitti Se*", which has enhanced product visibility and created a distinct identity for Karauli's farmers in local markets.

The transformation unfolding in Karauli reflects the power of collective enterprise. What was once a region marked by weak market linkages, low price realisation, and dependence on intermediaries is steadily evolving into an ecosystem driven by value addition, improved market access, and farmer ownership. The Dang Vikas FPO has become a critical bridge between longstanding challenges and emerging opportunities, demonstrating how community-led institutions can build resilience, strengthen local economies, and create sustainable livelihood pathways for small and marginal farmers.





The Power of Choice

WHEN FARMERS GAIN A VOICE, THINGS BEGIN TO CHANGE

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Chhatarpur district, where Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes constitute 23.00% and 4.18% of the population respectively, is characterised by predominantly rural livelihoods, with only 2.64% of the population residing in urban areas. In this landscape, agriculture remains central to household incomes and food security. Yet for many wheat farmers in the Badamalhara region, producing a good harvest was only part of the challenge. Securing a fair price for that harvest was often far more difficult.

23.00% SC population | **4.18%** ST population | **2.64%** Urban population

JAMNA BAI'S STORY

Among them is Jamna Bai from Bhojpura village. Like many women farmers in the region, she worked tirelessly on her family's farm but had little influence over how and where the produce was sold. Once the wheat harvest was ready, the family largely depended on local traders and commission agents to purchase their produce. The prices offered were often accepted without negotiation, as farmers had limited access to market information and few alternative buyers.

For wheat farmers across the Badamalhara region, this was a familiar reality. Producing a good crop was only one part of the challenge; securing a fair price for that crop was often far more difficult. Most farmers relied heavily on local commission agents (Adatiyas), which weakened their bargaining power and limited their ability to negotiate.

Concerns around transparency were also common. A wheat bag weighing around 61.3 kg could sometimes be recorded as only 60 kg for payment purposes, directly affecting farmers' incomes. The challenge was therefore not simply about price it was about limited choices, limited information, and an unequal marketplace.



Recognising these challenges, Bada Malhera Krishak Producer Company Limited (BKPCL), with support from SRIJAN, established Village Level Collection Centres (VLCCs). The objective extended beyond procurement. The initiative aimed to create a transparent, accessible, and farmer-friendly market system closer to villages, enabling farmers to engage with markets with greater confidence and control.



Through the VLCCs, farmers gained access to transparent weighing systems, information on wheat quality parameters, and regular updates on mandi prices. They could compare rates offered by different buyers, sell produce closer to home, and make informed decisions about where and when to sell. For farmers like Jamna Bai, this was the first time they had a meaningful choice in the marketplace. Reflecting on the change, she shares

"Earlier, we had to sell our wheat at whatever price the traders offered. Now, through BKPCL, we know the mandi price and have another place to sell our wheat. We can also speak openly with traders about weighing and price."



The impact of this intervention became visible during the wheat procurement season when BKPCL procured 202.32 quintals of wheat through its village-level collection system. The FPO announced a transparent procurement rate of ₹2,230 per quintal, providing farmers with an alternative market channel. The effect extended beyond the FPO itself. Faced with increased competition, local commission agents raised their purchase price to ₹2,275 per quintal to remain competitive.

Yet the most meaningful outcome cannot be measured in procurement volumes or prices alone. For farmers like Jamna Bai, the transformation lies in the confidence to question, compare, and negotiate. The presence of BKPCL has shifted the balance of power, replacing dependency with informed decision-making. What farmers gained was not merely access to another buyer, but the dignity and assurance that come from having a choice. In Badamalhara, that choice is gradually reshaping the relationship between farmers and markets, creating a more transparent and equitable future for rural communities.





A Harvest of Hope

HOW MARIGOLDS CHANGED SUDHA'S FARMING JOURNEY

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Niwari, the smallest district of Madhya Pradesh, lies in the Bundelkhand region. The district has a population of 4,04,807, of which nearly 20% lives in urban areas. Scheduled Castes constitute 24.57% of the population, while Scheduled Tribes account for 4.51%. Agriculture remains the primary livelihood for most households, yet erratic rainfall, porous soils, recurring droughts, soil erosion, and limited livelihood opportunities make farming both risky and uncertain.

In Sakera village of Prithvipur block, these challenges were a part of everyday life for Sudha Kewat, a 42-year-old farmer managing a six-member household. With three acres of land and a husband who often worked as an unskilled labourer in nearby Jhansi, Sudha largely managed farming and livestock responsibilities on her own.

When SRIJAN began mobilising women in the village, a Women Producer Group (WPG) was formed to identify deserving beneficiaries and explore livelihood opportunities suited to local conditions. During discussions on floriculture, the group members immediately thought of Sudha. Although she had experience growing traditional marigolds around her home for decoration, she had never considered flowers as a commercial enterprise. Recognising her keen interest in flower cultivation, the WPG unanimously recommended her for the floriculture Initiative.

With support from SRIJAN, Sudha received quality marigold seeds along with hands-on training in nursery preparation, seedling transplantation, spacing and planting techniques, nutrient and irrigation management, intercultural operations, pest and disease management, and post-harvest handling. She also adopted climate-resilient framing practices such as the application of Ghanjeevamrit and Jeevamrit to improve soil health and crop productivity.

In September, she established her nursery and transplanted seedlings after 25 days on a 1,600-square-metre plot. By maintaining proper spacing and carrying out timely pinching operations to encouraging branching and flowering, she was able to significantly improve plant growth. Her first harvest began on 29 November, followed by seven to eight rounds of harvesting over the season. Between November and February, Sudha harvested 365 kilograms of marigold flowers, which she sold in the markets of Prithvipur and Jhansi. Demand remained strong due to the presence of prominent religious destinations such as Achhrumata Temple near Prithvipur and Orchha Temple near Jhansi. In addition to loose flowers sold at ₹50–60 per kilogram, she also prepared and sold garlands priced between ₹10 and ₹15 each.

Within just four months, floriculture generated an additional income of approximately ₹19,500 for her family. Beyond the earnings, the initiative demonstrated that small-scale diversification into high-value crops can provide women farmers with a viable and less labour-intensive alternative to traditional cultivation.

Reflecting on her experience, Sudha says:

"Selling flowers has earned us more profit than wheat cultivation. It also requires less labour."

Today, Sudha success is inspiring other women in Sakera village to explore floriculture as a supplementary livelihood. Her journey illustrates how access to knowledge, quality inputs, and community-based institutions can help rural women transform traditional farming practices into profitable enterprises, creating new pathways for income and resilience in drought-prone regions.



SUDHA KEWAT

Flowers to Income

Growing Better, Naturally

HOW A CHHATTISGARH FARMER IS GROWING MORE FOOD WHILE MOVING AWAY FROM CHEMICAL FERTILISERS

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Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur (MCB), formed on 9 September 2022, is a predominantly tribal and forest-rich district in the north-eastern region of Chhattisgarh. Spread across 4,226.83 sq. km, the district is home to 3.81 lakh people, with a population density of 100 persons per sq. km. The district records a sex ratio of 965 females per 1,000 males. Scheduled Tribes constitute nearly 47.43% of the population, with *Gond, Baiga, Pando* and *Cherwa* among the major tribal communities. Nearly 2,500 sq. km of the district is under forest cover, and an average annual rainfall of about 1,154 mm supports agriculture, forest-based livelihoods and mining activities. Despite these natural resources, many smallholder farmers continue to face challenges such as declining soil fertility, high input costs and dependence on rain-fed agriculture.

For 32-year-old Sunita Sahu of Semariya village, these challenges were a part of everyday life. Farming on her family's 2.5 acres of land, she cultivated paddy during the Kharif season and wheat and vegetables during Rabi. Like most farmers in her village, she depended on hybrid seeds and chemical fertilisers such as DAP and urea, investing significant amounts every season in the hope of securing better yields.

However, the returns rarely matched the investment. Years of chemical-intensive cultivation had gradually reduced the health of her sandy soil. Moisture retention was poor, cultivation costs continued to rise, and productivity remained largely stagnant. Vegetable cultivation was restricted to household consumption, offering little opportunity to supplement the family & income.

A turning point came in 2024 when Sunita joined the Anmol Women Producer Group (WPG), established under SRIJAN's Community Institution Building (CIB) initiative. The group created a platform where women farmers could share experiences, discuss challenges and collectively explore new farming practices.

Through the group, Sunita was introduced to SRIJAN's Climate-Resilient Agriculture (CRA) initiative. Around the same time, she found inspiration within her own family. Her sister-in-law, Parvati Didi, a trained Pashu Sakhi and Master Farmer, had already adopted climate-resilient framing practices and was actively encouraging other farmers to do the same. Seeing Parvati prepare Jeevamrit and Ghanjeevamrit at home and witnessing the results in her fields convinced Sunita to try a different approach.

Under the CRA programme, Sunita received quality seeds for both Kharif and Rabi seasons and was trained on a package of climate-resilient practices. These included the preparation and application of organic bio-inputs such as Jeevamrit, Ghanjeevamrit, Neemastra and Handi Dawa; line sowing techniques to improve plant spacing and nutrient efficiency; and irrigation practices suited to the area rain-fed sandy soils.

To demonstrate the benefits of these practices, a 0.5-acre plot was established on her farm using Mangala Moti, a fine-quality paddy variety provided through the programme. The results were encouraging. From the demonstration plot alone, Sunita harvested approximately 4.6 quintals of paddy, a significant improvement compared to conventional cultivation practices previously followed on the same area. The healthier crop growth and improved field performance strengthened her confidence in climate-resilient farming.

The benefits continued into the Rabi season. With technical support from SRIJAN, Sunita cultivated potato and pea crops on her vegetable plot. For the first time, production exceeded household requirements, enabling her to access local markets. She sold 10 quintals of potato at approximately ₹20 per kilogram and 150 kilograms of peas at around ₹30 per kilogram, generating an additional income of nearly ₹24,500.

Alongside increased earnings, Sunita has begun reducing her dependence on purchased chemical fertilisers. While the savings are still accumulating, she expects the financial benefits to become more visible with each passing season as she increasingly relies on farm-made organic inputs.

Her journey illustrates how community institutions, peer learning and climate-resilient agriculture can help smallholder farmers improve productivity while reducing costs. For a farmer who once struggled with declining soil health and limited returns, the shift towards sustainable agriculture has opened new possibilities for income, resilience and long-term soil regeneration.



SUNITA SAHU

Soil to Prosperity



Members of Hanuman Ji Village Development Committee (VDC)
Gadi ka Gaon, Karauli, Rajasthan

RESEARCH

Rooted in Community Voices

SRIJAN's Research Vertical has grown steadily over the years. What started with sporadic research endeavours is now being moulded into a sustainable research ecosystem. Over the past year, we have had the chance to learn from our shortcomings, build on previous research, and explore new dimensions. Since the very beginning, we have aimed to generate actionable, field-based insights for better programme implementation and field support. For us, research is not a pursuit driven merely by secondary sources. All our studies share one common principle - that of strengthening community voices in knowledge systems.

We consistently seek to emphasise indigenous wisdom and the realities of marginalised communities through our studies.

Fundamental to our approach is the belief that research is a participatory process – not one that takes place in silos. With our communities, we learn, build on what they know, and explore multiple perspectives and realities.







A NEW CHAPTER: RESEARCH ON CLIMATE AND WOMEN'S HEALTH

In December 2024, we were awarded a research grant by UNFPA, MIT Solve, and IE University. This study focused on the impact of the worsening climate crisis on the reproductive and sexual health of young lactating mothers - marking the first time SRIJAN ventured into the domain of SHR as an organisation. The findings were striking.a



Worsening climate crisis affecting the health of young lactating mothers



A study with *Gond* and *Korku* communities of Mokhed, *Chhindwara* and the *Bharia* (PVTG) in Patalkot, Madhya Pradesh



Key findings: neglect of healthcare practitioners, absence of proper SRHR facilities, and the need for tribal-specific healthcare policies

TAKING OUR LEARNINGS TO A GLOBAL PLATFORM



11th World Conference on Women's Studies (WCWS)

Last year, we had the opportunity to present our study at the 11th World Conference on Women's Studies (WCWS), held by the International Institute of Knowledge Management (TIIKM) in Bali, Indonesia, from 29th to 30th May 2025.

The conference brought together researchers, academics, policymakers, and development professionals from 30 countries. Through this opportunity, we presented our findings at an international forum and gained recognition on a global stage.



UNFPA Advocacy Webinar

In June 2025, we presented our research at a UNFPA advocacy webinar, where SRIJAN represented India alongside participants from Egypt, Ghana, Uganda, and Uzbekistan.

Our contribution was framed around a pertinent question: What did you find about how rising temperatures are affecting pregnant women's health in rural India, and how well are frontline health workers prepared to address it?

These engagements strengthened the credibility and visibility of our research globally.

Our research seeks to generate actionable insights for better programme implementation, while amplifying the voices and knowledge of the communities we work with.

GENDER, WATER
and Resource Governance

Rural women's work and lives are closely connected to natural resources—water, land and forests. Despite their immense contribution, women continue to have limited bargaining power and rights over these productive resources. Understanding their participation in the management and governance of resources is essential to strengthening their agency and building more equitable and resilient communities.

When women have a voice in the governance of natural resources, communities build greater resilience, equity and shared prosperity.

OUR FOCUS AREAS

Through our research, we seek to understand rural women's roles and participation in resource governance, as well as the factors that influence their access to rights, resources and entitlements.



Women's agency

Understanding women's decision-making power in the management of natural resources



Bargaining power

Exploring the gaps in rights over productive resources and the factors that limit women's control



Community participation

Studying women's involvement in local institution and collective action for resource governance



Equitable access

Addressing social exclusion and inequities in access to water, land and other natural resources

STUDY ON WATER MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

This year, we undertook a dedicated study titled 'Locating Gender in the Management and Governance of Water Resources' in the Tikamgarh district of Bundelkhand (Madhya Pradesh) and the Karauli district of Rajasthan. Conducted among mixed-caste communities, the study examined how water access, governance and local power dynamics shape women's lives.



KEY FINDINGS



Socially divided water access

Water access is shaped by social hierarchies. In Rajasthan, upper-caste communities such as the *Gurjars* enjoy preferential rights over water resources, converting caste capital into hydraulic power and charging lower-caste communities 'water rent'.



Systemic exclusion

For *Jatav* (SC) communities, structural exclusion and power politics continue to deepen existing inequalities, limiting their access to water and decision-making in resource governance.



Role of local governance

The study highlighted the need for more inclusive governance systems, where women, especially from marginalised communities, have a stronger voice in decisions related to water management and access.

LAKHEPUR: A COLLECTIVE APPROACH TO WATER MANAGEMENT

In Lakhepur village, a different story emerged. Here, community-led efforts demonstrated how collective action can transform water governance. Women's participation in local institutions and user groups has been key to building and maintaining water structures, improving water access for all and reducing time and labour, especially for women.





LOOKING AHEAD

Community-Led Research

Guided by our theory of change, our research will continue to centre the voices and experiences of rural women. In the coming year, we will build on our learnings to explore new, questions, deepen our understanding and generate actionable insights that strengthen our programmes and contribute to more equitable and resilient communities.

Research is most meaningful when it emerges from the lived experiences of communities and helps strengthen their voice, agency and choices.

KEY AREAS OF UPCOMING RESEARCH



Women-elected representatives (WERs)

We will study the role and participation of women-elected representatives in panchayati raj institutions (PRIs) in tribal hamlets of Chhattisgarh, and how they are shaping local governance and community priorities.



Women's land rights and food security

To understand landownership patterns, our research will explore women's rights over land and whether these patterns influence women's food security and their bargaining power within households and communities.



Awareness of government schemes

We will conduct a pan-SRIJAN survey to understand individuals' awareness of government schemes and whether these have reduced women's drudgery and time poverty.

COMMUNITY-LED RESEARCH AND FEEDBACK LOOPS

We work with communities, building on their knowledge and indigenous wisdom, to explore multiple perspectives and realities. Findings from our studies are shared back with communities and local institutions, creating a feedback loop that informs programme design, strengthens local action and amplifies community voices in wider policy discussions.



Learn from communities → **Generate insights** → **Share and validate findings** → **Inform programmes and policy**

FUTURE RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Our research will continue to examine the interlinkages between climate change, natural resources, gender and governance. We aim to explore how these factors shape women's lives, livelihoods and decision-making, and to generate evidence that supports more inclusive, equitable and resilient development pathways.



Climate change and its impacts on rural women



Water governance and community institutions



Gender, agency and decision-making



Sustainable livelihoods and resilient communities

Together with communities, academic partners and policymakers, we will continue to generate knowledge that supports more inclusive, equitable and resilient futures for rural women and their communities.



ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Our research engagements with national and international academic institutions. conferences and knowledge platforms have strengthened the credibility and visibility of our work. We will continue to collaborate with academic partners, researchers, policymakers and development professionals to contribute to evidence-based solutions that advance women's rights and resilience.





Women from Durgapara and Sardih Village Development Committees (VDCs) sharing a rare moment of rest, Bagicha, Chhattisgarh

LIFE @ SRIJAN

People, Purpose and Possibilities

Diverse people.
Shared purpose.
Stronger futures for rural communities.

At SRIJAN, the way we work matters just as much as the work we do. Integrity, Inclusion, Professionalism and Sensitivity are more than just our core values; they shape how we work with each other, build partnerships and engage with rural communities. These values also guide how we build our own team, creating a workplace where people feel respected, supported and encouraged to grow.

OUR VALUES GUIDE US

Integrity

We are honest transparent and accountable.

Inclusion

We value diverse perspectives and create equal opportunities.

Professionalism

We bring commitment, quality and continuous learning to our work.

Sensitivity

We work with empathy and respect for people and their realities.

Over the past year, we focused on bringing the right people on board, retaining talent and helping our teams find their feet and do their best work. We continued to make our HR processes more technology-enabled and fostered a work culture that encourages continuous learning, professional development, and growth at all levels of the organisation.

Our team brings together diverse expertise in agriculture, engineering, management, horticulture, finance, gender studies, sociology, computer science and other fields. This multidisciplinary strength enables us to draw on diverse perspectives, enrich our approach, and respond more effectively to the evolving needs of the communities we work with.

OUR PEOPLE

We call them "SRIJANITES"

With each passing year, our team at SRIJAN continues to grow. This year, we reached 227 employees, up from 201 last year. We have also seen a steady rise in the number of women in our team over the past five years. Our gender ratio currently stands at one woman for every three men. While there is still ground to cover in achieving greater gender balance, we are committed to creating an enabling work environment where more women can join SRIJAN, grow in their roles, navigate new opportunities, and progress into leadership positions.

227

Employee Strength
(up from 201 last year)

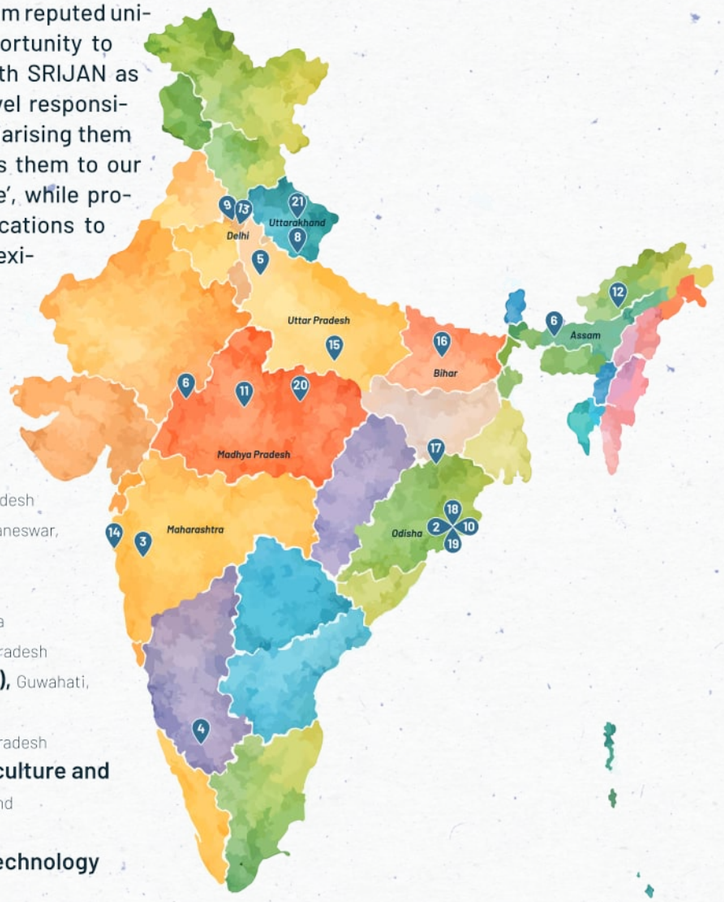
1:3

Gender Ratio
(one woman for every three men)

It is inspiring to see how our SRIJANites traverse new responsibilities, build their skills, and grow in confidence over time.

STEPPING INTO SRIJAN

Every year, we welcome young talent from reputed universities and offer graduates an opportunity to embark on their professional journeys with SRIJAN as trainees and gradually take on project-level responsibilities. Their induction goes beyond familiarising them with organisational systems; it introduces them to our ethos, core values, and 'Theory of Change', while providing hands-on exposure to our field locations to help them understand the realities, complexities, and depth of our work on the ground.



Prime Universities
from Which Our Trainees Were Recruited

1. **Aligarh Muslim University,** Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh
2. **KIIT School of Rural Management,** Bhubaneswar, Odisha
3. **MIT,** Pune, Maharashtra
4. **Azim Premji University,** Bengaluru, Karnataka
5. **Shiv Nadar University,** Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh
6. **Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS),** Guwahati, Assam
7. **College of Horticulture,** Mandsaur, Madhya Pradesh
8. **Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology (GBPUAT),** Pantnagar, Uttarakhand
9. **Jamia Millia Islamia,** New Delhi
10. **Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT),** Bhubaneswar, Odisha
11. **Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM),** Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
12. **North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology (NERIST),** Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh
13. **Delhi School of Social Work,** New Delhi
14. **Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS),** Mumbai, Maharashtra
15. **Govind Ballabh Pant Social Science Institute (GBPSSI),** Allahabad Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh
16. **Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University (RPCAU),** Pusa, Bihar
17. **National Institute of Technology (NIT),** Rourkela, Odisha
18. **Xavier Institute of Management (XIM),** Bhubaneswar, Odisha
19. **Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM),** Bhubaneswar, Odisha
20. **Xavier Institute of Development Action and Studies (XIDAS),** Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh
21. **Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University (HNBGU),** Srinagar, Uttarakhand



LEARNING ON THE GROUND

From Classrooms to Communities



"Living in the village helped me understand the realities, build meaningful connections and see development from the community's perspective."

- Trainee, SRIJAN

1. TRAINEE INDUCTION AND ORIENTATION

47
Trainees onboarded
(20 women and 27 men)

Introduction to SRIJAN's ethos, core values and Theory of Change

Familiarisation with policies, processes and ways of working

Exposure to field locations to understand realities and complexities of our work

2. VILLAGE IMMERSION

Our new recruits and trainees embark on an immersive field orientation journey. They travel to our field locations, live alongside the communities we work with, and experience their everyday realities up close. These first-hand experiences help them walk in the shoes of the communities they serve, understand their challenges, and develop solutions that truly respond to people's needs.

3. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

We acknowledge our employees' contributions through a transparent and supportive performance management system. Regular feedback and conversations help team members reflect, set clear goals, and identify opportunities for growth.

Goal setting and regular feedback

Recognition and continuous growth

Stronger individual and organisational performance

4. THEMATIC TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

We invest in regular training and capacity-building sessions for our employees and new joinees to strengthen their knowledge and skills.

"The immersion helped me see life from the community's perspective and shaped the way I approach my work."

- Trainee, SRIJAN

5. POSH TRAINING

We conducted training on the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) to ensure a safe, respectful and inclusive workplace for all.



6. LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We supported our team members to take on new opportunities and strengthen their leadership and professional skills through targeted development programmes.

34 LEADERS
supported through leadership development programmes

18 STAFF MEMBERS
completed professional development programmes



A WORKPLACE BUILT ON CARE, FAIRNESS AND GROWTH

Supporting People. Strengthening Possibilities.

At SRIJAN, we believe that a supportive and inclusive workplace enables individuals to do their best work and create a greater impact together. We continue to invest in policies, systems and initiatives that prioritise our employees' well-being, ensure fairness and create opportunities for learning, growth and meaningful engagement.

> *"SRIJAN gives me the space to learn, contribute and grow while staying true to my values. It's a place where people care about each other and about the change we want to create."*
>
> - SRIJANite

EMPLOYEE WELL-BEING AND SUPPORT

We provide health and insurance support to ensure the well-being and security of our employees and their families.

Employee insurance
Health and insurance support tor all employees.

₹ 4.5 lakh
in maternity and dependent insurance claim supported during the year.

Support for families
Ensuring care and security for our employees and their loved ones.

ORGANISATIONAL HEALTH INDEX (OHI)

Our Organisational Health Index (OHI) this year is 78, placing us in the Top Quartile among nonprofit organisations, with strong scores in leadership, strategic clarity, and financial discipline.



EMPLOYEE WELL-BEING AND SUPPORT

We reviewed and strengthened seven key HR policies to ensure a safe, fair and inclusive workplace for all.

- Code of Conduct
- Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH)
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Leave and Flexible Work Arrangements
- Health and Insurance
- Learning and Development
- Performance Management

> *"The organisation's policies and processes make me feel valued and supported - both personally and professionally."*
>
> - SRIJANite

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

We invest in creating a positive and collaborative work environment through regular team interactions, cross-learning opportunities and platforms for open dialogue. These initiatives help build stronger relationships, foster a sense of belonging and keep our teams motivated and connected.





ANNUAL RETREAT 2026

Our Annual Retreat 2026 brought together 200 team members, under the theme: 'Aligning People, Purpose and Priorities towards Perspective Plan 2030'. Held at Ramnagar, Uttarakhand, it provided a valuable space to celebrate our journey, strengthen collaboration and reaffirm our shared purpose for the years ahead.

Great Place To Work. Certified 2026 INDIA

5 YEARS IN A ROW

We are proud to be certified as a Great Place to Work® for the fifth consecutive year, a testament to the trust, respect and inclusivity we strive to build every day.

BUILDING THE ORGANISATION FOR 2030

People. Partnerships. A Stronger Tomorrow.

As we look towards 2030, we are investing in our people, systems and culture to build a stronger, more inclusive and future-ready organisation. Our focus is on creating an enabling environment where individuals can grow, contribute meaningfully and find purpose in their work, while we collectively strengthen SRIJAN's ability to deepen our impact and expand our reach.

> *"SRIJAN has given me the flexibility to balance my personal and professional responsibilities while continuing to grow in my career."*
>
> - SRIJANite

SUPPORTING PARENTS AT WORK

We recognise the importance of family and provide support to help our employees manage their personal and professional responsibilities.

Maternity support
Financial support through insurance claims and a caring work environment during and after maternity leave

Support for dependent family members
Insurance support for dependent family members, ensuring greater security for employees and their families

Parental support
Encouraging and supporting both women and men in their parenting journey through thoughtful policies and a supportive culture

FLEXIBLE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

We offer flexible working arrangements to support a healthy work-life balance and enable our teams to be productive, motivated and at their best.

Flexible Work options

Support for personal and family responsibilities

A culture of trust and mutual respect

ENCOURAGING GROWTH AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

We provide opportunities for our people to build their skills, take on new responsibilities and grow in their careers.

Learning and skill development

Opportunities To take a new roles and responsibilities

Mentoring and supportive leadership

Exposure to diverse projects and partnerships

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK AND PERSPECTIVE PLAN

To prepare for the next phase of our journey, we developed a Strategic Development Framework and Perspective Plan with the support of Sattva Consulting. This process helped us reflect on our strengths, identify areas for growth and chart a clear path for building a stronger, more resilient and future-ready organisation by 2030.

SATTVA
Delivering High Impact.

Focus areas of the Perspective Plan

Learning and skill development

Build systems and processes for greater efficiency and scale

Deepen partnership and collaborations

Mentoring and supportive leadership

Create a more inclusive and equitable workplace





SRIJANITES at their Annual Retreat 2026,
Masai Mara Resort, Jim Corbett, Uttarakhand

OUR FUNDING PARTNERS

in 2025 - 2026

We are grateful to our funding partners for their continued trust and support. Their partnership enables us to advance resilient livelihoods, strengthen women's agency and build more equitable and sustainable rural communities.

I. INDIAN CONTRIBUTIONS

Corporates and CSR

- Aditya Birla Capital Foundation
- Aseem Infrastructure Finance Limited
- Axis Bank Foundation
- Axis Bank Limited
- Bengal Finance and Investment Pvt. Ltd.
- Brookfield Advisors India Private Limited
- Capri Foundation
- Capri Global Capital Limited
- Elevar Digital Infrastructure Private Limited
- HDFC Bank Limited
- IndusInd Bank Ltd
- InterGlobe Foundation
- Mahindra and Mahindra Limited
- NIIF Infrastructure Finance Limited
- Reliance Foundation

Indian Philanthropies

- Ashish Ramesh Chandra Kacholiya
- Ashraya Hastha Trust
- Azim Premji Foundation
- Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation
- Delhi Premier Rotary Service Foundation
- Noble Communication
- Sata Vikash India Private Limited
- Saytrees Environmental Trust
- Smt. Bhagwani Devi Basudev Jhunjhunwala Trust
- SUGS LLOYD Limited
- The J R D Tata Trust
- VKGM INFRASTRUCTURE PRIVATE LIMITED

II. FOREIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

- Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- Fidelity Asia Pacific Foundation
- Gates Foundation
- IDH Sustainable Trade Initiative
- Standard Chartered Bank
- The Fishin Company
- The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, India
- Walmart Foundation
- Wildlife Friendly Enterprise Network (WFEN)
- World Wide Fund for Nature-India

Community pond rejuvenation,
Sonpur, Bagicha, Chhattisgarh

CONVERGENCE & COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

The Power of Joint Action

Sustainable and inclusive development is possible when communities, government institutions and development partners come together with a shared purpose. Guided by our philosophy of *Dhyan–Gyan–Samadhan*, we focused on mobilising and leveraging resources beyond our own programme investments, while strengthening community participation and ownership.

During FY 2025–26, we facilitated a convergence of ₹32.64 crore from various government schemes and institutional resources, while mobilising ₹10.99 crore in community contributions. These collective resources strengthened interventions across key areas such as livelihood enhancement, agriculture and horticulture development, natural resource management, and rural infrastructure creation.



₹32.64Cr

Convergence

Government schemes and institutional resources



₹10.99Cr

Community Contributions

Community participation and ownership

Beyond the financial contributions, this approach reflects a deeper commitment to collective responsibility. By connecting communities with public institutions, leveraging existing schemes and encouraging local contributions, SRIJAN is helping create durable assets, expand livelihood opportunities and strengthen community institutions.

We see convergence and community contributions not merely as financial leverage, but as expressions of joint action, local ownership and self-reliance — the foundations of sustainable rural transformation.



FINANCIAL REPORT

Investing in Resilient Communities

SRIJAN BALANCE SHEET
as at 31st March 2026

SELF - RELIANT INITIATIVES THROUGH JOINT ACTION [SRIJAN]

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2026

Amount in ₹

Particulars	Note		As at 31st March, 2026	As at 31st March, 2025
SOURCES OF FUNDS				
CORPUS FUND	1		**34,84,25,154**	*32,79,50,365*
OTHER FUNDS AND RESERVES				
Capital Assets Fund	2		**87,45,266**	*85,07,722*
Restricted Project Funds	3A		**19,03,29,073**	*27,71,60,596*
General Reserve Fund		11,48,66,336		*12,22,21,244*
Specific Fund	3B	18,80,197		*18,80,197*
Consultancy Project Fund		30,26,834	**11,97,73,367**	*16,58,192*
Total			**66,72,72,860**	**73,93,78,316**
APPLICATION OF FUNDS				
PROPERTY PLANT& EQUIPEMENT - Funded by Donor's	4			
Assets under possession of SRIJAN		71,80,798		*63,36,279*
Assets in possession of Community		15,64,468	**87,45,266**	*21,71,443*
PROPERTY PLANT& EQUIPEMENT - Own Assets	4.A		**17,06,954**	*14,91,112*
INVESTMENTS	5		**47,76,78,239**	***58,54,61,708***
CURRENT ASSETS (A)				
Cash and Bank Balances	6	16,03,66,732		*11,01,05,166*
Loans and Advances	7	17,44,411		*16,16,979*
Other Current Assets	8	3,70,28,668		*5,31,17,585*
Grant amount receivable	3A	50,75,354		*1,25,66,778*
		20,42,15,165		***17,74,06,508***
CURRENT LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS (B)				
Current Liabilities	9	82,58,518		*1,75,03,876*
Provisions	10	1,68,14,246		*1,59,84,858*
		2,50,72,764		***3,34,88,734***
NET CURRENT ASSETS (A-B)			**17,91,42,401**	***14,39,17,774***
Total			**66,72,72,860**	***73,93,78,316***
Significant Accounting Policies & Notes on Accounts	21		-	

The accompanying notes to accounts referred to above form an integral part of these financial statements.

As per our report of even date attached

For Thakur, Vaidyanath Aiyar & Co.
Chartered Accountants
FR No. 000038N

Anil Kumar Aggarwal
Partner
M.No. 087424
Place: New Delhi
Date: 27th June 2026

For and on behalf of Board of Trustees of
Self- Reliant Initiatives through Joint Action (SRIJAN)

(Prasanna Khemariya)
Chief Executive Officer

(R. Parasuram)
Chairperson

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
For the Year Ended 31st March, 2026

SELF - RELIANT INITIATIVES THROUGH JOINT ACTION [SRIJAN]

Statement of Income and Expenditure For the Year Ended 31st March, 2026

Amount in ₹

Particulars	Note	For the Year Ended March 31, 2026	For the Year Ended March 31, 2025
REVENUE			
Restricted Grants and Contributions	11	63,12,69,138	*59,64,18,970*
Donations & Unrestricted Grant	12	2,01,73,918	*2,54,48,728*
Professional Income	13	96,42,257	2,92,21,218
Interest Income	14	4,41,65,208	4,14,83,670
Recovery of Overheads Costs from projects	3A	2,37,46,577	1,82,58,904
Amount Written Back		15,60,218	-
Other Income		6,63,855	35,751
Total		**73,12,21,171**	**71,08,67,241**
EXPENDITURE			
Livelihood Promotion Activities	15	47,81,02,178	32,18,01,815
Grant to other NGO		2,89,41,044	*4,16,41,697*
Expense Against Professional Income	16	82,85,703	2,95,47,835
Livelihood Programme Support	17	14,36,92,303	*12,82,10,365*
Livelihood Consultancy and related expenses	18	2,65,59,029	*2,34,05,137*
Livelihoods Support Cost	19	5,55,70,365	*3,10,53,611*
Purchase of Fixed Assets from Donor's Fund	4	29,16,453	16,92,749
Overhead Recovery Cost charge to project	3A	2,37,46,577	1,82,58,904
Administration Cost- General	20	2,57,27,346	1,95,15,424
Depreciation on Fixed Assets from Own Fund	4	72,359	42,530
NGO & other Balances Written off		23,83,654	*30,99,994*
Grant Debit Balances-Written Off	3A	60,61,611	*23,55,553*
Total		***80,20,58,622***	***62,06,25,614***
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR CARRY FORWARD		**(7,08,37,451)**	**9,02,41,627**
Total		**73,12,21,171**	***71,08,67,241***
APPROPRIATIONS			
Balance Brought Down			
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		**(7,08,37,451)**	**9,02,41,627**
Transferred to / from :			
Capital Assets Fund		-	-
Restricted Fund (Including Interest allocation Rs. 1,87,37,863)		**(7,93,40,098)**	***7,42,34,612***
Consultancy Project Fund (including Interest allocation Rs. 12,088)		**13,68,642**	**(1,53,769)**
General Reserve Fund		**(1,33,40,784)**	**(25,10,310)**
Specific Reserve		-	-
Corpus Fund- Interest		**2,04,74,789**	**1,86,71,094**
Funding Agencies Wise Receipt & Payment	18		
Restricted Fund Balances	19		
Natural Head Wise Income & Expenditure A/c	20		

The accompanying notes to accounts referred to above form an integral part of these financial statements.

As per our report of even date attached
For Thakur, Vaidyanath Aiyar & Co.
Chartered Accountants
FR No. 000038N

Anil Kumar Aggarwal
Partner
M.No. 087424
Place: New Delhi
Date: 27th June 2026

For and on behalf of Board of Trustees of
Self- Reliant Initiatives through Joint Action

(Prasanna Khemariya)
Chief Executive Officer

(R. Parasuram)
Chairperson



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www. srijanindia.org

SELF-RELIANT INITIATIVES THROUGH JOINT ACTION

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