



AGENTS OF CHANGE

UTTARAKHAND'S

CIVIL SOCIETY TODAY



Contribution of Civil Society Organisations in Uttarakhand

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Executive Summary

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in India have played a crucial role in driving social, economic, and environmental development, often working tirelessly in the most challenging and underserved areas of the country. This compendium, “Contribution of Civil Society Organisations in Uttarakhand ,” highlights their dedication, resilience, and innovative efforts in addressing the diverse challenges faced by communities.

This compilation aims to document and recognize the contributions of CSOs, showcasing their impactful initiatives and the difference they have made. From fostering education, health, and sustainable livelihoods to promoting women’s empowerment, climate justice, and participatory governance, these organizations have significantly enhanced the development narrative of Uttarakhand.

The purpose of this initiative is twofold. First, it seeks to address the lack of documentation of the outstanding work undertaken by CSOs, ensuring their efforts are acknowledged. Second, it aims to provide a resource for policymakers, academicians, and practitioners to draw insights and learn from the innovative approaches and best practices featured within these pages.

Through a blend of organizational profiles, thematic interventions, and success stories, this compendium showcases how CSOs have leveraged grassroots connections and community participation to drive change. It also reflects on the lessons learned and challenges faced, offering valuable perspectives for the sector’s future efforts.

This initiative is part of Voluntary Action Network India’s (VANI) broader effort to strengthen and promote the positive narrative of and the civil society sector in India. We express our sincere gratitude to the CSOs featured in this compendium for their invaluable contributions and to our state-level partners who have supported this documentation process. We hope this compendium serves as a source of inspiration and knowledge for stakeholders across the development ecosystem.

We thank our core partner and donor organization, IM Sweden, for supporting VANI in this initiative. This document underscores the transformative impact of collective action and highlights the essential role of CSOs in fostering a more inclusive and equitable society.

Harshvrat Jaitli
Chief Executive Officer, VANI

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Adarsh Yuva Samiti

Empowering Communities, Transforming Lives

BACKGROUND OF THE ORGANISATION

Founded in the early 1997s, Adarsh Yuva Samiti (AYS) has been a steadfast pillar of rural development and social change in Uttarakhand for over three decades. Established on the principles of equity, empowerment, and sustainability, AYUS began as a small volunteer group driven by a passion to address the pressing issues of poverty, unemployment, and lack of basic services in underserved communities. Over the years, it has evolved into a professionally managed, impact-oriented organization with programs spanning livelihoods, health, environment, and education.

Legal Status

- AYUS is a registered entity under Societies Registration Act, 1860
- Income Tax exemption under 80G and 12AA
- CSR 1 Registration, Sec135 of the Company Act 2013
- FCRA Registration, foreign contribution regulation act

Target Population

AYUS primarily serves rural and semi-rural populations, with a special focus on marginalized groups including women, youth, smallholder farmers, and socially disadvantaged communities. The organization works extensively in Haridwar, Tehri Garhwal, and adjoining districts, covering diverse demographics from remote hill villages to peri-urban settlements.

Support Entities

The organization has built strong partnerships with government departments, corporate CSR wings, and international agencies. Notable collaborators include NABARD, THDC India Ltd., the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), and various district-level line departments. These alliances provide both financial and technical support, enabling AYUS to scale its initiatives effectively.

Profile of Core Members

AYUS strength lies in its experienced and committed leadership team:

Lakhbir Singh - Chairman

MSW, PG Diploma in Rural Development; 30+ years' experience

A visionary leader steering Adarsh Yuva Samiti's strategic direction with a deep commitment to participatory rural development, inclusive growth, and sustainable livelihood enhancement. Has successfully built partnerships with government agencies, CSR programs, and community-based organizations.

Expert in: Strategic leadership, participatory rural development, and multi-stakeholder collaboration.

Dalmir Singh – Secretary

MSW; 30+ years' experience

A highly respected social development professional with decades of experience in community mobilization, policy advocacy, and grassroots capacity building. Has led numerous flagship programs aimed at empowering marginalized rural communities.

Expert in: Community mobilization, policy advocacy, and grassroots institution-building

Vijay Laxmi – Board Member

M A. Sociology 20+ years' experience

A passionate advocate for women's empowerment, with extensive experience in self-help group (SHG) promotion, microfinance linkages, and rural enterprise development. Has transformed the livelihoods of thousands of women through skill-based initiatives.

Expert in: Women's empowerment, SHG promotion, and rural entrepreneurship.

Nitin Badoni – Administrative & Documentation Manager

MSW; 15+ years' experience

Leads agriculture and livelihood initiatives, including FPO promotion, value-chain development, and farmer capacity enhancement. Known for meticulous program documentation, donor reporting, and monitoring systems.

Expert in: Agriculture & livelihoods, reporting, and program documentation.

Pawan Kumar – Project Manager

MSW; 12+ years' experience

Dedicated to advancing skill development, youth empowerment, and social entrepreneurship. has designed and implemented multiple training programs that link rural youth to sustainable income opportunities.

Expert in: Skill development, youth programs, and social entrepreneurship.

Vipin Kumar – Project Manager

B. Tech; 10+ years' experience

Oversees the integration of technology in rural development, infrastructure projects, and innovative livelihood models. Has pioneered technology-enabled solutions for farmer collectives and rural enterprises.

Expert in: Technology integration, infrastructure projects, and livelihoods.

Angrej Singh – Civil Engineer

B. Tech; 15+ years' experience

Specialist in infrastructure-based community development with strong expertise in project planning, execution, and quality assurance. Has implemented multiple WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) and community infrastructure projects.

Expert in: WASH, infrastructure development, and project management.

Shikha Chauhan – Chief Finance Manager

B.Com; 10+ years' experience

Manages organizational financial systems, ensures donor compliance, and delivers accurate and timely financial reporting. Adept at resource optimization and budget management for multi-project portfolios.

Expert in: Financial management, donor compliance, and reporting systems.

Saurabh Rikhra – Project Coordinator

MBA; 15+ years' experience

Specializes in organizational strategy, partnerships, and fundraising, with a proven track record in health-related community projects. Has mobilized resources for large-scale health interventions and awareness campaigns.

Expert in: Organizational strategy, health projects, and partnership development.

Thematic Engagements

AYUS implements multi-sectoral programs under the following themes:

1 Livelihood and Agriculture Development

- a. Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) training and strengthening
- b. Value addition in crops like Moringa, honey, and millets
- c. Linking farmers to markets and government schemes

2 Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention

- a. Targeted Interventions (TI) project for HIV/AIDS awareness, prevention, and care
- b. Community-based counselling, testing, and linkage to treatment

3 Vocational Training and Skill Development

- a. Tailoring, embroidery, and food processing
- b. Digital literacy for rural youth

c. Entrepreneurship support for women

4 Education and WASH

- a. School sanitation infrastructure improvement
- b. Hygiene awareness programs for students
- c. Teacher capacity-building for life skills education

5 Environment and Sustainability

- a. “Green Drive” plantation campaigns
- b. One Village, One Banyan Tree initiative for biodiversity conservation

Milestones

- 1 . Formation and operationalization of **multiple FPOs**, directly benefiting over 10,000+ farmers
- 2 . Establishment of **vocational training centres** in Haridwar and Sahranpur , training more than 15000+ women and youth
3. Implementation of the **School WASH and Infrastructure Project**, covering 200+ schools with upgraded toilets, handwashing stations, and safe drinking water systems
4. Successful execution of **HIV/AIDS prevention projects** across high-risk populations with measurable reduction in infection vulnerability
5. Plantation of over **50,000 trees** as part of environmental campaigns

Specialization and Unique Characteristics

- 1 Integrated Approach:** AYS combines livelihood enhancement with health, education, and environmental sustainability, ensuring holistic community development.
- 2 Grassroots Leadership:** Programs are community-driven, with local leaders involved at every stage.
- 3 Strong FPO Model:** Demonstrated expertise in collective farming and producer-owned enterprises.
- 4 Sustainability Focus:** Promotes climate-resilient farming, renewable energy use, and biodiversity conservation.

Organizational Impact

Qualitative Impact

AYUS’s interventions have transformed community attitudes toward women’s employment, improved youth engagement in productive livelihoods, and strengthened collective bargaining power among farmers. Health awareness programs have enhanced preventive behaviours, particularly in vulnerable groups.

Quantitative Impact

1. Established more than 400+ Self Help Groups (SHGs).
2. We have a reach of over 500 villages in Haridwar district of Uttarakhand.
3. We have reached over 15,000 children through our child protection efforts.
4. More than 15,000 youth have been successfully skilled through skill development initiative.
5. Constructed more than 4000 individual household toilets.
6. Outreach and Intervention Among 1,500 High-Risk Individuals for HIV Prevention.
7. Successfully delivered 50 awareness training courses on disaster preparedness & management.
8. Facilitated the creation of 200+ Farmer Clubs to promote sustainable farming practices and community development.

Learnings

1. Adaptability: Programs must evolve with community needs and emerging socio-economic conditions.
 2. Convergence Works: Leveraging both government schemes and CSR resources enhances impact.
- Sustainability Mindset: Economic empowerment and environmental protection must go together.

Success Stories

Advocacy Success: School WASH Campaign

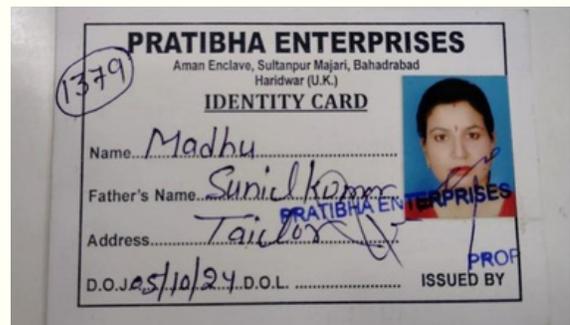
With the support of Godrej, Adarsh Yuva Samiti (AYUS) undertook a transformative WASH (Water, Sanitation & Hygiene) intervention at Government Higher Secondary School, Badhedi Rajputana. Prior to the project, the school lacked adequate sanitation facilities and handwashing stations, causing daily inconvenience for students, particularly girls, and affecting attendance and hygiene practices.



Recognizing the urgent need, a new toilet block and handwash unit were constructed, ensuring safe, gender-friendly, and accessible facilities for all students. Teachers observed that students now feel more comfortable spending the full school day without sanitary concerns, and girls' attendance has notably improved.

Madhu's Journey from Learning to Earning

Madhu, a determined woman from the community, joined the industrial sewing training center run by AYUS with the dream of becoming self-reliant. Through dedicated learning and hands-on practice, she mastered the skills of professional tailoring. After completing her training, Madhu secured a job in a reputed garment company, where she earns a steady income. Alongside her job, she also started her own small boutique at home. Through her boutique, she caters to local customers with custom-made dresses and alterations, steadily building her own client base. Today, Madhu not only contributes to her family's financial needs but also inspires other women in her area to take up skill-based training and start their own ventures. Her journey stands as a shining example of how training and determination can transform lives.



Bhagirathi – A Story of Empowerment through TDF

Under the NABARD-supported TDF project implemented by Adarsh Yuva Samiti, Bhagirathi, a tribal farmer, received training and support for improved farming practices and livelihood activities. With the guidance and resources provided, she adopted better cultivation methods, increased her crop yield, and diversified into vegetable farming. The additional income has helped her support her family's needs and secure her children's education. Today, Bhagirathi Devi is recognized in her village as a progressive farmer and a role model for other women.





Village Development Society

BACKGROUND:

The Village Development Society (VDS) was founded on January 14, 1997, in Haridwar by a group of motivated youth, students, and farmers inspired by Nehru Yuva Kendra. The vision was to support marginalized communities including Dalit's, backward classes, and women by ensuring their legal awareness, health, education, livelihood, and inclusive socio-economic and political participation.

Initial Challenges and Evolution

Initially known as “Nehru Yuva Mandal,” the organization faced scepticism due to its name. This led to its transformation in 2001 into the “Village Development Society.” In 2002, VDS received its first major project—“Kishori-Kishori Initiative”—supported by PFI.

During the early 2000s, VDS faced severe financial challenges. However, with strong team dedication and community support, the organization persisted. In one instance, a female member of the advisory group offered her personal jewellery to help the organization register for essential legal certifications like 12AA and 80G.

BASIC INFORMATION:

- VDS is now registered and compliant with all major regulatory frameworks:
- 12AA, 80G (Income Tax Exempt Initial Challenges and Evolution)
- FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation)
- CSR1 Registration
- NITI Aayog (NGO Darpan Portal)

CORE VALUES:

- Community Empowerment
- Equity and Inclusion
- Integrity and Accountability
- Sustainability
- Respect for Local Knowledge
- Innovation for Social Change
- Gender Justice

MEMBERS: CORE

1. Rajbahadur Saini

Founder Member & Secretary

Rajbahadur Saini holds postgraduate degrees in Rural Development (PGDRD), Human Rights (PGDHJ), and Social Work (MSW). With over 28 years of experience, he has been a driving force behind the Village Development Society. His leadership has been instrumental in advancing community development, adolescent health, and organic farming initiatives across the region.

2. Dr. Mulki Raj

Veterinarian & Traditional Farming Expert

With more than 30 years of experience in veterinary sciences, Dr. Mulki Raj is a key second-line leader of the organization. He also possesses deep-rooted knowledge and practical expertise in traditional and sustainable farming practices, contributing significantly to the society's agricultural programs.

3. URMILA DEVI

Senior Advisor – Women & Child Development

Urmila Devi brings 35 years of rich experience in the field of women and child development. She has played a pivotal role in empowering over 4,900 women through a range of community-driven initiatives, focusing on rights awareness, livelihood generation, and capacity-building

4. Neelam Saini

Nutrition & Women's Entrepreneurship Specialist

With 24 years of experience, Neelam Saini specializes in nutrition and women's economic empowerment. She has led the formation of numerous Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and has over two decades of expertise in capacity-building and enterprise development, particularly in nutrition-based livelihoods

5. Nirdesh Kumar

Community Health, Agriculture & Entrepreneurship Expert

Nirdesh Kumar brings 20–25 years of experience working at the intersection of community-based health, sustainable agriculture, and rural entrepreneurship. He has served as an expert consultant for several renowned institutions, contributing to the design and implementation of impactful grassroots programs.

6. Rajesh Kumar

Community Development & Traditional Agriculture Practitioner

Rajesh has 25 years of experience in community development, indigenous agricultural practices, and enterprise development. His work has been focused on reviving traditional knowledge systems while fostering income-generating opportunities for rural communities.

7. Gaurav Kumar

Farming Innovations & Composting Techniques Specialist

Gaurav has 15 years of practical experience in both chemical and organic farming. Known for his innovative composting methods, he has built a strong rapport at the grassroots level, enabling effective implementation of sustainable agricultural practices.

THEMATIC ENGAGEMENT:

1. Youth Development

VDS works extensively with rural youth to build leadership, life skills, and civic awareness. Through structured engagement with Nehru Yuva Kendra and other youth-focused platforms, VDS promotes volunteerism, skill development, and active participation in community development.

2. Health and Nutrition (Micro Health Initiatives)

The organization promotes health awareness and access through micro-health interventions, focusing on maternal and child health, adolescent health, hygiene, and nutrition. Programs include community health education, capacity building of frontline workers, and linkage with government schemes.

3. Education (Functional Literacy for Women)

Recognizing the transformative power of education, VDS implements adult literacy programs, particularly for women aged 15–50. Initiatives like the “Tara Akshar” program have enabled thousands of women to achieve basic literacy and numeracy, empowering them to participate more actively in decision-making.

4. Climate Action (Soil Health, Organic Farming)

VDS has taken early initiative in promoting sustainable agriculture and climate resilience. Programs include farmer training on organic practices, composting, and soil health management. Collaborations with the Uttarakhand Organic Commodity Board and UCOST have extended the reach to 13 districts

5. Livelihood Promotion and Entrepreneurship

The organization provides livelihood opportunities through skill development, micro-enterprise support, and entrepreneurship training, particularly for women and marginalized communities. Focus sectors include agriculture, handicrafts, and local services.

6. Water Conservation and Sanitation

Water resource management is a core focus, with efforts in rainwater harvesting, water budgeting, and sanitation awareness. VDS promotes community-led total sanitation (CLTS) approaches, construction of eco-friendly toilets, and village-level water security planning.

7. Climate and Soil Health Engagement

Recognizing soil health as a foundational pillar of sustainable agriculture, VDS began its work in this area in 2000-01. In collaboration with the Uttarakhand Organic Board, VDS conducted extensive training programs across 13 districts, reaching thousands of farmers and students with organic farming techniques. The organization also played a vital role in branding and marketing local organic produce in states such as Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Delhi.

Building on this legacy, VDS is now expanding its efforts under the DST/CRRC-supported project to promote soil health management in six blocks of Haridwar. These trainings aim to improve soil fertility, raise awareness about soil health, and empower communities to adopt sustainable farming practices. Simultaneously, VDS is actively promoting organic farming through Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), encouraging a shift toward environmentally friendly agriculture.

Milestones and Recognition

- VDS has functionally literate more than 9500 women aged between 15 to 50 years in Haridwar (from 2017-18 to 2020-21) in the “Tara Akshar” functional literacy program, in which they were made capable of basic reading and writing and solving problems faced in daily life and all those women are living their lives successfully by becoming self-reliant. Village Development Society has been honoured by the District Administration for this project.
- The Village development Society has been honoured for quality implementation of functional literacy program in 2019-20 by Development Alternatives New Delhi.
- In 2023 -24, the Village Development Society effectively disseminated the standards related to the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) in Haridwar district to about 50,000, Gram Panchayat level, Block Development level, District level, various officers, employees, public representatives, farmers, students, for which the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Uttarakhand honoured the Village Development Society.

- Apart from these accolades, the Village Development Society has trained more than 2500-3000 women under various low-cost self-employment schemes. As a result, today they are successfully producing and selling pickles, jam, jelly, jam, millet biscuits, namkeen and jute bags etc., creating sustainable livelihood for themselves and their families.
- According to the survey of NITI Aayog, Haridwar is an aspirational district, in which the problem of malnutrition is mainly found. For this, in the last financial year, the Village Development Society made more than 25000 adolescent girls, women, Asha workers, Anganwadis, students aware of the symptoms of malnutrition in their bodies and trained them in creating nutritious gardening. Due to which 70% of the women have started growing and eating vegetables at home through nutritious gardening.

Organizational Impact

The Village Development Society (VDS) has made a transformative impact at the grassroots level, fostering social, economic, and political empowerment within rural communities. By promoting inclusive participation and community-led development, VDS has enabled villages to take charge of their own progress.

Consistent engagement over the years, VDS has empowered thousands of individuals especially women and marginalized groups—by providing access to education, livelihood opportunities, and sustainable development practices. Its initiatives have strengthened local leadership, enhanced economic resilience, and contributed to a more self-reliant and informed rural society.

MEMBERSHIP:

Vibha Vani India, Nehru Yuva Kendra, Voluntary Action Network India (VANI), FORCES Uttarakhand (Forum for Crèche and Child Care Services – Uttarakhand Chapter), District Health Advisory Committee, Uttarakhand Organic Farming Advisory Committee Uttarakhand State Science and Technology Advisory Committee, Uttarakhand “Tobacco Free Campaign” Advisory Committee, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Advisory Committee, Teesri Sarkar Abhiyan Uttarakhand, State AIDS Control Advisory Committee.

KEY LEARNINGS:

Village Development Society (VDS)

Over the decades, the Village Development Society (VDS) has evolved a robust and context-sensitive learning framework shaped by lived realities, grassroots engagement, and deep-rooted community partnerships. The organization’s journey is marked by its adaptive capacity to learn from every project, every challenge, and every stakeholder interaction.

This learning theory is not academic in nature—it is built on praxis (practice and reflection), where each intervention leads to new insights, and each insight improves future strategies. VDS’s key learnings can be framed within the following foundational principles:

- Community-Centric Approach Builds Trust and Sustainability.
- Adaptability is Critical in Challenging Times.
- Investing in Capacity Strengthens Impact.
- Collaboration Enhances Reach and Influence.
- Thematic Specialization Leads to Recognition.
- Innovation is Essential for Grassroots Relevance.
- Women’s Empowerment is a Transformative Force.
- Evidence-Based Practice Builds Credibility.
- Resilience and Sacrifice Shape Leadership.
- Climate and Environmental Action are Integral to Human Development

SUCCESS STORIES:

Salma, a woman from Uttar Pradesh, was unaware of her HIV status despite her husband's ongoing treatment. A friend, Ruksana, learned about HIV during a community session by an “VDS” ORW (Outreach Worker) in Raipur and informed the ORW about Salma's situation. The counsellor later visited Salma, who shared her health struggles and difficult family conditions.

After counselling, Salma agreed to get tested. Her results came back reactive, and a confirmation test at ICTC Roorkee showed she was HIV positive. She was immediately linked to ART services.

After counselling, Salma agreed to get tested. Her results came back reactive, and a confirmation test at ICTC Roorkee showed she was HIV positive. She was immediately linked to ART services. Today, Salma is healthier, adheres to her ART regimen, and expresses deep gratitude to the Village Development Society TI team for their timely support. Salma, a woman from Uttar Pradesh, was unaware of her HIV status despite her husband's ongoing treatment. A friend, Ruksana, learned about HIV during a community session by an “VDS” ORW (Outreach Worker) in Raipur and informed the ORW about Salma's situation. The counsellor later visited Salma, who shared her health struggles and difficult family conditions. After counselling, Salma agreed to get tested. Her results came back reactive, and a confirmation test at ICTC Roorkee showed she was HIV positive. She was immediately linked to ART services. Today, Salma is healthier, adheres to her ART regimen, and expresses deep gratitude to the Village Development Society TI team for their timely support.



Overcoming Disability through Enterprise

Taiyab, from the village of Raipur (Haridwar), lost mobility in both legs due to polio at a young age. Despite studying up to Class 8 and having a strong interest in learning, his disability created manyess.

His turning point came when he attended an entrepreneurship development program organized in his village. Supported by organizations like Village Development Society, he received training on business planning, budgeting, and market assessment. Using this knowledge, and with financial support from relatives, he raised ₹25,000 and started his tailoring shop on **15/11/2018**.

Today, his business is running steadily, earning him around ₹15,000 per month. He credits the Village Development Society entrepreneurship training program for enabling him to become self-reliant and independent.



Asha Devi: From Learner to Leader

Asha Devi from Hasanpur Madanpur (Haridwar) faced financial hardship. She joined Village Development Society’s jute bag training to support her family. After completing the training, she started making and selling bags from home. Her designs gained popularity, leading her to form a group of village women for collective production. Today, she is a successful entrepreneur, creating jobs for others and transforming her community.





Himalayan Action Research Centre (HARC)

*Empowering Human Resources of the Himalayan Region to
Sustain the Development Process”*

BACKGROUND:

Himalayan Action Research Centre (HARC) is an autonomous voluntary organization, which aims to help the mountain people by working for their holistic, integrated and sustainable development based on the indigenous knowledge, cultural values, and local resources. It was established in 1989 with the mission of “Empowering Human Resources of the Himalayan Region to Sustain the Development Process”. HARC has been serving the cause of people- centered, people-managed, people-controlled and people-owned development process.

It believes that sustainable development and good governance can be ensured only through active and effective involvement of the local community, irrespective of caste, class or gender. The collective and concerted effort is most effective in influencing the planning, implementation and monitoring of the development process.

It strives for empowering the people in ways such that they can take their own decisions regarding their progress and build a stable society that is free of social, economic and gender inequity. HARC has a special focus on women who make a significant contribution to the socio-economic and cultural development of their family, community and nation and yet do not get their due.

BASIC INFORMATION:

- Society Registration Registration No. RENEW0324008657
- FCRA Registration No. 347900048
- DARPAN ID- UA/2017/0165461
- Registration with ministry of corporate affairs Registration No. - CSR00008707

CORE VALUES:

- Holistic, integrated and sustainable development of the mountain people based on their cultural values, traditions and resources.
- Empowering people to take their development decisions themselves and build a stable society that is free of social, economic and gender inequity.

CORE MEMBERS:

Dr. Mahendra Singh Kunwar, founder member and Chief Advisor of HARC, has nearly 45 years of development experience across the Himalayan region. His work has focused on integrated and participatory development, agri-business promotion, development communication, small enterprise development, rural marketing linkages, and appropriate technology. He brings extensive expertise in planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of development initiatives and natural resource management.

Shailesh Panwar, has 22 years of diverse experience in enhancing the livelihoods of rural poor and marginalized communities. His expertise spans from implementing field-level programs to the strategic planning and execution of livelihood improvement projects. He possesses strong general management skills, including managing Producer Companies, conducting value chain analyses, and overseeing market and sector assessments. Shailesh has extensive experience in community mobilization, institutional building, and capacity development of producer groups, producer organizations, and cooperatives—particularly in the areas of entrepreneurship development and business planning. His work emphasizes sustainable, market-oriented solutions to empower rural communities and strengthen value chains.

Jagdmaba Prasad, the Institution Building Expert, has been associated with HARC for the past 15 years, bringing over 23 years of experience in the development sector. He specializes in FPO formation and strengthening, as well as rural livelihood promotion contributed to initiatives aimed at nurturing a love for reading and learning among children.



THEMATIC ENGAGEMENT:

Mountain Livelihood:

Hill agriculture in northern India is a subsistence farming system on scattered landholding in both rainfed and irrigated conditions. HARC believes that so as to ensure the food and economic security of the marginal farmers, we need a shift from subsistence to commercial farming to some measurable extent, focusing climate change. Commercial farming includes temperate to subtropical horticulture, floriculture and market led climate reliance vegetable crops and transfer of technologies as per the landscape of hill region. HARC is working on a demonstration and production plan for varieties of fruits and vegetables resilient to the changing climatic conditions building farmers capacity and skills following sustainable agriculture practices . Agribusiness model suitable to hill regions has also been developed including value chains in different hill crops. The other crops grown are pulses, oilseeds and millets in many cropping systems and as intercrops. HARC is striving for the blending modern technologies in these traditional crops to maximize the yield and ensure seed for future in hill region.

Climate change adaptation:

HARC is working on both the policy responses of climate change i.e. mitigation and adaptation with an objective of livelihood of marginal farmers. By various activities of restoration of ecosystem services HARC addresses the root cause of climate change and with promotion of climate smart agriculture adaptation we seek to lower the risks posed by the consequences of climatic changes. Marginal farmers tend to be more vulnerable to climate risks and team at HARC is working on implementation of new technologies, suitable land management techniques, promotion of climate resilient varieties of crops and water-use efficiency related techniques as an intervention for climate change adaptation. We, at HARC study the climate-related impacts in agriculture and institutionalize farmers to build their capacities toward changing climatic conditions.

Food From Forest:

Forests are the essential part of man: as food, for industries and even for health as it provides us with shelter, livelihoods, water, food and fuel security. Complete Himalayan range is decorated with extremely diversified forests. Deterioration in traditional mountain food systems with a decline in agro-biodiversity has made the community more sensitive to environmental degradation. Therefore, the major goal of Food from Forest is to strengthen the Himalayan people to cope with the effects of socio-economic and environmental changes through nutritional security, high value products, innovative livelihood options and rural income generation strategies through forests.

Generating awareness among the localities regarding the importance of wild varieties of forests is extremely essential for the sustainability and security of the residing species in Himalayan range. Through this HARC is aiming on the health and future of Himalayan forests, by utilizing the bit of wild produces for high value products which will provide the sustainable livelihood and ensure a Nutritional security to marginal people, Sustainable forest management, Protection of natural ecosystem, promoting livelihood resilience by providing food and economical security also to protect and propagate endangered wild species of Himalayan range.

Value Chain and Marketing System Development:

Value Chain and Marketing System Development (VC& MSD) is an core important function to sustain any agri. business. Specifically, in mountain region whereas limited business development services are available and transaction cost is very high so without adopting value chain approach, it is not possible to achieve economic and development goal. Under VC&MSD HARC facilitate target group for the identification and planning core functions of identified value chain and link them with its appropriate support system and rules. Considering mountain resource and geography two broader supply chains i.e. first is the fresh and second one is value-added products evolved and both one requires a very systematic, pre-defined approach to make it market lead and feasible value chain. As an indicative outcome, HARC has been established more than 25 value chains by linking these with local, regional and national level market segments. Our role is to create and enable the environment to sustain the social-economic prosperity of marginal producers.

MILESTONES:

HARC 1st Phase: 1989-1993

- The concept of participatory development and bottom-up planning was not very popular but there was growing demand for decentralized governance mechanism.
- The voices of common man - especially women and other backward classes in the process of development planning and implementation were in periphery.
- HARC tried to develop concept and understanding of people on processes like how to analyze natural, human, and intellectual resources, their problems, needs and priorities.
- These exercises resulted in preparation of village action plans and its implementation by the people.
- Increase awareness among people towards their resources for optimum utilization and conservation.

- Pioneered program on participatory Village Eco-system Planning (VEP) and invited by many government line departments to conduct related trainings and workshops, etc.

HARC 2nd Phase: 1994 – 1997

- During this phase, HARC focused on forming and strengthening community based institutions.
- The other focal point was to motivate and train community based organizations on community resource-based development initiatives.
- Women leadership and their participation in development program enhanced and women forum known as 'Ranwain Mahila Manch' formed to address, raise women's voice and issues at various platforms.
- Trainings on Panchayati Raj, Village Eco-System Planning and Micro planning with elected representatives, government officials and members of civil society organizations.
- Networking and collaboration with academic institutions, extension and research centre, government institutions, civil society organization started to promote resource-based development in the region.
- Agriculture and horticulture initiatives got initial recognition at community level and started getting accepted as better options for sustained livelihood.

HARC 3rd Phase: 1998 – 2002

- HARC reconstructed its strategies and focused more intensively on securing food security and livelihoods of poor people.
- It was also very clear to HARC that farm base interventions required technical inputs, training, demonstrations and strong federations to enable people to opt for agro-eco based diversified income generation opportunities.
- HARC focused on increasing agriculture production and promoted agri-based enterprises.
- HARC's approach to economic development was recognized and the model of SHG Federation and Farmer's Association adopted in community development projects of government of Uttarakhand.
- Emergence of producer's federation to market surplus vegetable, fruit production and collective enterprise by women for increasing income and improving food security.
- Transfer of technology adopted through cadre of barefoot scientist.
- HARC with other networks raised issue of State Women Commission establishment.
- Women Commission came into existence in 2003 and the draft of women policy prepared.

HARC 4th Phase: 2003 – 2006

- HARC focused its interventions on promoting agribusiness through community-based institutions and federation.

- The focus was on increasing and improving quality and quantity of produce along with their diversification.
- Freeing farmers from clutches of middlemen has been one of the major achievements of HARC. This helped to reduce exploitation of farmers to a great extent.
- Women got recognition and social acceptance in trading activity and proved to be good entrepreneurs.
- Development of successful model of collective approach to socio-economic development in the form of Women Farmers' Cooperative and Men Farmers Association.
- Information dissemination played a remarkable part in knowledge building of local communities.

HARC 5th Phase: 2007-2014

- Keeping fluctuations of Climate Change as focal point HARC transformed its activities into three main thematic areas:
- Facilitated strengthening of self-help groups, Farmer's Interest Groups, Women Cooperative, men farmer's Association etc.
- Introduced development communication through digital services as the core methodology to intensify knowledge among marginal farmers.
- Focus on quality check procedures like sorting, grading, packing and labeling were focused upon to play crucial role in further product penetration.
- A common facility centre (CFC) for value addition (processing and drying), quality control and reduction of wastage was established
- A government supported Tissue culture lab established at HARC Naugaon centre to provide disease free seeds and plants to farmers.
- Focused on establishing backward and forward market networks for marginal farmers.
- It started tapping market for high value chain products to enhance income of farmers.

HARC 6th Phase: 2014 onwards

- Expanding its horizon to work in other states for promoting livelihood opportunities.
- Working to promote development communication – a digitally inclusive tool as catalyst to assist in adapting to climate fluctuations.
- Strengthening climate smart agriculture system to mitigate risk by using technical methods.
- Developing climate resilient micro-plans to tap vulnerabilities primarily associated to village ecosystem planning models and advocate its significance with government agencies.

- Strengthen mountain supply chain systems by incorporating high value chain management approach to enhance livelihood opportunities.
- Assist people with emergency and post-disaster relief measures during unforeseen extreme climate events.

ORGANISATIONAL IMPACT:

- Mobilized and promoted more than 35 producers' organization like. Society, Producers Company, Cooperatives etc with coverage of more than 50,000 farmers.
- Since inception till now HARC trained 1,27,578 participants of Voluntary sector, Govt. Department, Community based organization, Panchayat representative, Entrepreneur etc on various subjects like village ecosystem, micro-planning, Panchyati raj etc
- Establish value chain and market-driven approach- HARC has been tremendously working on value chain like vegetables, basil, Malta, flowers etc. By improving its operational constraints. Presently in these value chains, more than 15000 marginal producers are directly engaged and are able to earn additional income.
- Developed 25 clusters level commercial value chain of MAPs, Fruits, Vegetables, Flowers and spices under cluster development approach.
- Under the diversification of crops 42 varieties of 16 fruit crops, 72 varieties of 27 types of vegetables and 6 varieties of 3 flower crops were introduced.
- Develop a pool of delegates of 78 experts, and scientists of different institutes, companies and universities.
- Establish High Technique Tissue Culture Laboratory to promote disease-free seeds and plants for Himalayan communities.
- Established Soil Health Management lab from where more than 12000 soil samples were tested and till date crop-based advisory provided to about 10000 farmers.
- Introduce more than 30 cost-effective rural technology e.g. organic manuring, protected cultivation, water conservation, drip irrigation, solar based water lifting, gravity-based ropeway, beekeeping, soil health management, tissue culture technique, wire staking, grafting, sowing, processing etc
- Promoted traditional crops like kala bhat, lentil, Rajma, perilla etc with approx. 6000 farmers.
- Promoted market-driven value chain of Malta, tulsi, bay leaf, flower, vegetables etc with 17000 farmers.

MEMBERSHIP:

The Central and State Governments have recognized the capacity of HARC, over the years and has been nominated as member of various committees and policies.

Recently, HARC is a Member of State level Executive Committee of Horticulture Mission for North east and Himalayan State (HMENH);

Executive member of Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority, Uttarakhand (CAMPA);

Board Member in State Wildlife Advisory Board of Forest and Environment Department, Uttarakhand; Member of State Steering Committee of Uttarakhand Watershed Directorate, Uttarakhand; Expert member in Project Advisory Committee(PAC) for the project “Centre of Excellence (COE)” for forest-based livelihood in Uttarakhand, etc.

KEY LEARNINGS:

HARC has successfully completed **36 years** of dedicated service in the socio-economic development of marginalized Himalayan communities. Over the years, HARC has worked to address the pressing challenges of **climate change** and **livelihood security** in Uttarakhand, with a special focus on rural communities that have limited access to development resources.

- The fusion of scientific techniques and indigenous knowledge harnessed from local communities ensures sustainable and impactful outcomes under project.
- Capacity building is an ongoing process, not a one-time event. Periodic training, exposure visits, and continuous upgradation of community skills are key tools for the success of any development plan.
- Women are the central drivers of mountain agriculture and play a vital role in advancing developmental initiatives. Without direct access to markets, even the most advanced production techniques cannot justly benefit farmers
- Knowledge management of the community is best tool for long term sustainability and empowerment rather than providing material support. .

SUCCESS STORIES:

Mobile processing unit- Harbinger of growth in remote terrains.

Savitri Devi is a resident of village Banjhabagad; it falls under the Ghat development block located in Chamoli district of district Chamoli. Her husband died in March 2015 after which the responsibility of family with four children has come up on her shoulders. To overcome the financial crises and related problems, she joined women cooperative at common facility centre “CFC” Kaleshwar-Chamoli.



After getting formal membership through cooperative, she also motivates to other women producers to sell their produce to HARC Alakananda Krishi Vyavsaya Bahudeshiya Swayat Sehkarita, the money from which is not enough to fulfil their basic needs. She says that, we were extremely surprised when we saw mobile processing van which came to our village and we thought it was possible for such things to exist. This season, we extracted 1,000 litres of Juice from Malta fruit. Besides extraction of malta she also engaged in malta fruit peeling and earn INR 12,700 additional income. Savitri Devi and other women express their thanks to the HARC for introducing the idea of innovative mobile processing unit in mountain region, which is helping remotely located producers through providing income and skill enhancement opportunity.

Deepmala Devi (36 years) belongs to village Krishna of Naugaon cluster of Uttarkashi district; she states that her husband worked with works in a private sector and his income is not satisfactory to fulfil the family needs. She thought about to work somewhere and helped her husband financially.



She states that with motivation if HARC implemented project in their village i joined as a group member in Jan 2022. I availed improved seed input and cultivation practices related knowledge through the HDFC project and during 2022, I cultivated French bean, tomato,

cucumber in 24 hectareland in different crop season, by adopting just 4 cash crop cycle hardly 80-90 days crop cycle of each, I earn Rs. 85,950/- (which including 15,000 from tomato,24,000 from French beans, 33,750 from Pea and 13,200 from Cucumber). Farm income helps me a lot to full fill my family daily need of health, education and farm input, now I am highly motivated and will increase our level of production more than 2 time in current year by my own.

Generating income from Wild fruits Mrs Guddi Devi, 59 years' old, residing in village Jilasu of Chamoli district she states that though there is an abundant availability of wild fruits like Mango and Bael in the village surroundings, but much of the produce was going waste due to lack knowledge and facilities of value additions. Taking initiative with other women, she discussed the issue with cooperative members and requested their help in finding a solution. At village level. On cooperative insistence she learnt about basic technical know how on these fruit's preservation and



processing techniques available at Cooperative Common Facility Centre (CFC), Kaleshwar. In Current season she earned a net profit of INR 40,000 through selling Mango, Tulsi, and Bael fruits to women cooperative. Considering available quantities and its use for making value added products, now women cooperative is providing service at doorstep in the village through mobile processing unit. Presently more than 45 women' are engaged in collection of these fruits and semi processing activities. These women of Jilasu village are now earning an average income of INR 25,000 to 30,000 (during harvesting season) through selling, semi processing and preservation operations at village level .

Pea crop significantly contributed to farmers income:

In year 2022 under the project intervention, HARC federate 400 farmers under 20 farmers interest group "FIG's, where they were technically guided to produce determinate varieties of Pea (GS10 & Greenwood), in 24 hectares of land. Improved pea crop GS-10 which was demonstrated during last week of December'22 and crop 's harvesting started by March'23 and accomplished last week of May'23. The entire crop period was about 75 -120 days. With the project facilitation of project, harvested crop (pea) were channelized by HARC by linking farmers with bulk marketing channels based in Dehradun, Vikashnagar, and Delhi where farmers supplied their pea crop and fetched better prices. The average price range of the Pea crop availed by the farmers was between Rs. 35 – 45/kg, thus a **total of 2,56,760 kg of Pea crop worth of Rupees One Crore Nine Lacs Eighty-six thousand seven Hundred and Twenty-nine** (Rs. 1,09, 86,729/- produced & sold by all 400 target farmers of 20 Farmers' Interest Groups "FIG". which have significantly contributed in farmers'livelihood and achieving the increasing income goal of the project.

Solar-based water lifting solution creating positive impact on livelihood and water needs of marginal farmers of project area.

In Naugaon valley of Uttarkashi, 80% of the rains are dependent on Monsoons and are confined to two months (July and August). Remaining rainfall is received during winters months i.e., December to February Throughout the rest of the year, water scarcity is a recurring issue, making it challenging to fulfill agricultural water needs. This situation is especially pronounced



in the upper hills due to the unpredictable patterns of monsoon and winter rains, including early and late onsets and closures. These erratic weather patterns have a detrimental impact on crop sowing and production. To address this problem, solar based water irrigation system along with a distribution system was installed by HARC in the Project area Mateda hamlet at Dhari Kafnol cluster of Naugaon block of Uttarkashi district in 2022.

The lifted and harvested water has helped in fulfilling the water requirement of demonstrated crops during the water scarcity period. The major objective of this technique was to increase irrigation area and improve the income level of farmers through production of cash crops. The intervention has the target to increase at least 4 Hectares irrigated land of target 5 villages and motivate farmers to produce commercial cash crops like tomato, French bean, pea etc. specifically in the uncultivated land which was previously not used due to lack of regular irrigation facility.



Around 50 farmers have experienced notable success in cultivating high-value crops such as tomatoes, French beans, and peas. Previously, crop cultivation in Mateda Tok was severely limited due to the lack of water resources. However, with the introduction of the solar water pump, farmers are now able to cultivate a variety of cash crops, transforming their agricultural prospects. Tabulated below is a summary of crop production produced by farmers after installation of solar water lifting irrigation system.

Above is direct impact of created irrigation facility but as an indirect impact now farmers are also able to use excess water for Human and animal drinking purpose which was not possible earlier due lack of water facility in scattered hamlet.

S. No.	Crop	Targeted farmers	Area (In hac)	Production (in Kg)	Total Amount (INR)
1	Tomato	50	2	26,500	15,63,500
2	Beans			5,200	2,13,200
3	Pea			3,000	1,95,000
Total amount (INR)					19,71,700



MACOM MINISTRY (Case Study of CSO)

Macom Ministry is a dedicated nonprofit organization that has been working since 2012 to uplift the lives of marginalized communities, especially focusing on the most vulnerable children living in slums across India. With a strong commitment to social welfare, the organization operates in several regions, including Uttarakhand, Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Himanchal and Uttar Pradesh. The core mission of Macom Ministry revolves around empowering these communities through education, community development, skill-building initiatives, and relief programs. By providing access to quality education, vocational training, and basic relief support, the organization aims to break the cycle of poverty and create sustainable opportunities for growth and development. Through its continuous efforts, Macom Ministry is helping pave the way for a brighter future for countless children and families, fostering a sense of hope and progress in underserved areas.

Heritage of Macom Ministry

1. The heritage of Macom Ministry is deeply rooted in a passion for social justice, community empowerment, and a commitment to creating lasting change in the lives of the most vulnerable populations. Founded in 2012, the organization's journey began with a simple but powerful vision: to offer hope and opportunity to children and families living in the slums and underdeveloped regions of India.
2. Drawing inspiration from a deep sense of compassion, Macom Ministry's founders recognized the urgent need to address the systemic issues of poverty, illiteracy, and lack of basic resources. The organization's early years were marked by grassroots efforts to provide education to underprivileged children, particularly in areas where government resources were scarce or non-existent. Over time, Macom Ministry expanded its reach, focusing not only on education but also on holistic community development—empowering individuals with the skills, resources, and opportunities they need to break free from the cycle of poverty .

3. The organization's heritage is built on values of empathy, integrity, and sustainability. Macom Ministry has consistently believed that true progress comes from working with communities, not for them. The organization's long-term commitment to sustainable development is reflected in its focus on skill development, self-reliance, and fostering leadership within the communities it serves.

4. Over the years, Macom Ministry has earned the trust and support of local communities, donors, and partners, who share its vision of a more equitable and just society. Its heritage is also one of resilience, as it continues to adapt and expand its impact in the face of evolving challenges, from natural disasters to economic shifts, particularly in the regions of Uttarakhand, Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh.

5. Through its rich heritage of compassion, innovation, and community-driven change, Macom Ministry remains a beacon of hope for countless children and families, paving the way for a brighter and more inclusive future.

Targeted Population of Macom Ministry

Macom Ministry focuses its efforts on supporting some of the most vulnerable and marginalized populations in India. The organization's primary targeted groups include:

1. Children from Slum and Underserved Areas:

- **Educational Support:** The organization provides quality education to children living in slums and rural areas, where access to schooling is often limited or non-existent. By focusing on the educational needs of these children, Macom Ministry aims to equip them with the skills and knowledge necessary to break the cycle of poverty and build a brighter future.

2. Women and Girls:

- **Empowerment and Skill Development:** Recognizing the critical role of women in community development, Macom Ministry works to empower women and girls through skill development programs, vocational training, and awareness campaigns. These programs provide women with the tools they need to become financially independent and take on leadership roles within their communities.

3. Youth:

- **Vocational and Skill Training:** For youth, particularly those who have aged out of formal education or who have faced barriers to employment, Macom Ministry offers skill development and vocational training. These programs aim to provide marketable skills in various fields, helping young individuals access sustainable livelihoods and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

4. Families in Rural and Remote Areas:

- **Community Development:** Macom Ministry serves entire families, particularly in rural and remote areas like Uttarakhand, Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh. The organization offers support through health initiatives, awareness programs, relief efforts during natural disasters, and capacity-building activities aimed at improving the overall quality of life.

5. People Affected by Natural Disasters:

- **Relief and Rehabilitation:** In regions that are prone to natural disasters—such as Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh, Macom Ministry focuses on disaster relief, rehabilitation, and post-disaster support to help affected communities rebuild their lives..

Support Entities of Macom Ministry

- Macom Ministry's efforts to uplift marginalized communities would not be possible without the support of various entities that collaborate with the organization. These entities play a crucial role in expanding the reach and impact of Macom Ministry's programs. The key support entities include:

1. Local and National Government Agencies:

- **Collaboration with Government Initiatives:** Macom Ministry works in partnership with government agencies at both local and national levels. This collaboration helps to ensure alignment with public policies, access to government resources, and integration of the organization's programs with larger development goals. Government support also aids in facilitating access to education and health services in underserved areas.

2. Donors and Funding Partners:

- **Philanthropic Contributions:** The organization receives critical financial support from individual donors, foundations, and corporate partners who believe in its mission. These funds help sustain and scale various initiatives, from education programs to skill development projects and disaster relief efforts.

3. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations:

- **Collaborative Projects:** Macom Ministry works alongside other NGOs and community-based organizations to amplify its impact. These partnerships allow for the pooling of resources, expertise, and networks, ensuring that interventions are more comprehensive and sustainable. Together, they tackle larger systemic issues such as poverty, gender inequality, and access to healthcare.

4. International Organizations and Partners:

- **Global Networks for Advocacy and Support:** International agencies and organizations partner with Macom Ministry to advocate for marginalized populations and raise awareness about critical issues like child labor, education, and rural development.
- **International Donors and Foundations:** The organization also collaborates with international donors who share its vision of social equity and sustainable development, ensuring that it has the necessary funding to expand its programs.

6. Profile of Core Members:

S.N	Name of The Core Member	
1	Mr. Lakshman Singh Rawat	Graduate and 17 Years of social work experience
2	Mrs. Shahsi Rawat	Post Graduate and B. Ed and 16 Years of social work
3	Mr. Madhusudan Mahato	B Com, B.Ed. and 25 years of Social work experience
4	Mrs. Radha Sharma	M.Sc. 10 Years of Social work experience
5	Miss Pooja Bhatt	M.Sc. and 12 Years of social work experience.
6	Mr. Abhishek Dayal	Graduate and 8 Years of experience.
7	Mr.Sachin Bhatt	Graduate and 7 Years of experience in social area.

Thematic Engagements:

Macom Ministry focuses its efforts on holistic community transformation by engaging across diverse thematic areas that address the root causes of poverty and marginalization. The key thematic engagements include:

1. Education and Child Development

- Ensuring access to quality education for children from underprivileged backgrounds.
- Running remedial classes, non-formal education centers, and scholarship programs.
- Promoting digital literacy, life skills, and career guidance for youth.

2. Health and Nutrition

- Organizing medical camps, preventive health awareness, and mother–child care programs.
- Supporting nutrition initiatives for malnourished children and women.
- Linking communities with government health schemes and resources.

3. Livelihood and Skill Development

- Providing vocational training, entrepreneurship support, and micro-finance linkages.
- Empowering women and youth with sustainable income-generating skills.
- Promoting self-help groups and cooperative models for economic growth.

4. Community Development and Empowerment

- Facilitating awareness on rights, entitlements, and social justice.
- Strengthening community institutions and local leadership.
- Supporting disaster preparedness, relief, and rehabilitation activities

5. Environment and Sustainability

- Promoting environmental education, afforestation, and water conservation.
- Encouraging climate-resilient practices and sustainable use of natural resources.
- Engaging youth and community groups in eco-friendly initiatives.

6. Special Focus on Marginalized Groups

- Working with street children, orphaned and vulnerable children, widows, and displaced families.
- Advocating for inclusion and dignity of disadvantaged communities in Uttarakhand, Punjab, and Jammu & Kashmir.

Organizational Impact

Macom Ministry's interventions have transformed the lives of marginalized communities across Uttarakhand, Punjab, and Jammu & Kashmir. Through sustained engagement in education, health, and livelihood, the organization has enabled vulnerable families to move from dependency to self-reliance.

- **Education Impact Story:** A street child(Mayank) from Dehradun, once engaged in rag-picking, was enrolled in Macom's non-formal education center. With regular support, he transitioned into mainstream schooling and today pursues higher education, inspiring other children in his community.
- **Women Empowerment Case:** In Punjab,Jalandhar one women her name called Sneha Macom Ministry's skill development program helped widowed women gain tailoring and handicraft skills. These women now run small businesses, contributing to household income and regaining dignity in society
- **Health Transformation Example:** In rural Uttarakhand, a mother-child health initiative significantly reduced cases of malnutrition. Community health volunteers trained by the organization now provide continuous care, improving long-term health outcomes.

These stories reflect not only individual transformations but also a ripple effect of empowerment within families and communities.

Quantitative Impact

Over the years, Macom Ministry has achieved measurable results that showcase the breadth of its outreach:

- **Education:**

Enrolled and supported **5,000+ children** in mainstream education.

Established **30+ community learning centers** and remedial classes.

- **Health & Nutrition:**

Conducted **150+ medical camps** benefiting **25,000+ individuals**.

Provided regular nutrition support to 1,200 malnourished children and 800 mothers.

- **Livelihood & Women Empowerment:**

Trained **2,000+ women and youth** in vocational skills.

Facilitated **150+ self-help groups**, improving access to micro-credit and small businesses.

- **Community Development:**

Reached **10,000+ families** through awareness campaigns on rights, entitlements, and social justice.

Assisted **3,500+ disaster-affected families** with relief and rehabilitation in Uttarakhand and Jammu & Kashmir.





Medical Camp

Relief at Kashmir



Slums Education





Mount Valley Development Association

Background of the Organisation:

Mount Valley Development Association (MVDA) is a civil society actor that works toward improving the quality of life of rural people by promoting livelihood initiatives along with early childcare and girl child education. The idea of MVDA was inspired by the Sarvodaya Movement and its approach in the Himalayas. In the early 90s, poor economic conditions and slow pace of development in the Bhilangna valley of the Tehri Garhwal district compelled MVDA to work for the economic empowerment of the community. The association organises women, youths, and children to form different community-based organisations to link with different government schemes, such as bank linkages, and employment and livelihood schemes. It advocates for effective governance by empowering women to actively participate in local self-governance. The organisation formally came into existence in 1995 and was registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860.

A thirty-year-long journey and still counting, MVDA has always pioneered in designing and delivering services to the local community. Our vision is to be a catalyst of change in supporting the local communities towards the eradication of poverty through sustainable livelihood initiatives, creation of a society firmly rooted in the principles of social harmony, justice and solidarity. Our mission is to improve the quality of life of rural people-especially women and the disadvantaged people in the Garhwal region of Uttarakhand. Our approach in MVDA is towards the fulfilment of our goals through interventions in education with special emphasis on girls, natural resource management and by creating accessibility to existing diversified livelihood options.

Outreach

- 70+ projects completed
- 4 states – Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab.
- 8 Districts
- 19 Development Blocks
- 1820 villages
- Economic upliftment of 45000 families
- 1,30,000 right-holders benefited.
- 650 Self-Help Groups
- 20000 girl child educated in 250+ learning centres

Target Population:

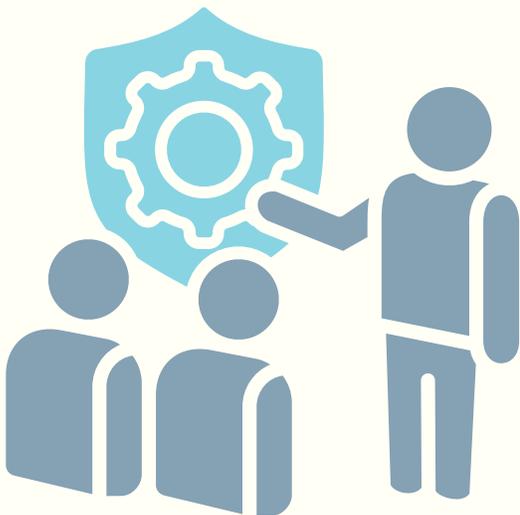
The Mount Valley Development Association (MVDA) primarily serves rural communities in the Garhwal region of Uttarakhand, India, with a focus on:

1. Women & youth, particularly those affected by male migration, by providing skill development and empowerment initiatives
2. **Farmers**, by promoting climate-resilient agriculture and linking them to markets
3. **Children**, especially girls, via the Girl Child Education Programme (GCEP)

Support Entities:

S.NO.	NAME OF PROJECT AND FUNDING AGENCY	PARTNERS NAME	FC/ NON -FC	CSR	DURATI ON
1.	Development of Early Child Care and Education Centres (ECCE) Project	Tata Relief Committee	NFC	CSR	2016-2020
2.	SADP	ITC	FC	CSR	2016-2020
3.	DDPA	ITC	FC	CSR	2016-2020
4.	Agro biodiversity	Bioversity International (FC)	FC	NON CSR	2017-2022
5.	Integrated Approach to Education	Himmothan (Tata Trust)	NFC	CSR	2017-2019
6.	Central Himalayan Livelihood Initiative, Integration of Micro Finance	Himmothan (Tata Trust)	NFC	CSR	2017-2022

7.	Maximising Mountain Agriculture Project	Himmothan (Tata Trust)	FC	CSR	2017-2021
8.	Farming Innovation for Women Empowerment	SOIR (Swedish Org. for Individual Relief)	FC	NON CSR	2017-2020
9.	Market Align Skills Training	American India Foundation	FC	NON CSR	2017-2022
10.	ILSMC	IM Swedish Development Partner	FC	NON CSR	2020-2023
11.	Covid 19 Vaccination Programme	Azim Premji Foundation	NFC	CSR	2021-2021
12.	EY STEAM	EY Foundation	NFC	CSR	2023-2023



2. Profile of Core Members:

Sr. No	Name	Designation
1	Navprabhat Singh	Executive Director
2	Vikas Singh	Operation lead
3	Pooja Rawat	MIS and Documentation Manager
4	Mahaveer Singh Mehra	Finance & Admin Manager
5	Punit Rastogi	Finance office
6	Shailza Chandel	Programme Manager
7	Nawal Deep Bania	Programme Manager
8	Yogendra Singh Rawat	Project Coordinator
9	Kiran Rawat	Project Coordinator
10	Sanjay Bisht	Project Coordinator
11	Ajay Mamgain	Subject Matter Specialist

Thematic Engagements:

- **Climate Resilience and Sustainable Livelihood:** Climate Resilience and Sustainable Livelihood Demonstrations and Farming Procedures MVDA has been actively driving sustainable change in rural Uttarakhand by focusing on climate resilience and promoting sustainable livelihoods. This year, key efforts were centred on practical training, resource management, and innovative agricultural practices to foster long-term sustainability and resilience
- **Education Capacity and Knowledge Building:** Focuses on enhancing educational outcomes through community-driven initiatives that build local capacities. The organisation conducts training for teachers, strengthens School Management Committees (SMCs), and promotes child-centric learning methods. Special emphasis is laid on girl child education and inclusive learning environments. Knowledge-building sessions empower students, parents, and educators.
- **Health, Sanitation and Nutrition:** Educate community members about healthy lifestyles and habits and support them with facilities. Our focus is also on promoting nutrition & raising awareness about physical, mental, and menstrual health while working with the government and like-minded organizations.
- **Collective Enterprise and Institutional Building:** We aim to orient learners, provide necessary theoretical and practical knowledge, and provide employment, enterprises, and entrepreneurship development for women and youth, where the majority come from underprivileged communities.
- **Community Empowerment and Capacity Building Youth and Women:** Empower PRIs, Van Panchayats, and CBOS lead for effective local governance, increased community involvement, and sustainable resource management, fostering holistic development and community ownership.

Milestones:

1995 – 2005

- Total outreach: 11,920 individuals, 60 villages, 1 district, 1 state.
- Partner organisations: 11.
- Right holders: Women and men.
- Key focus areas: Establishment of federations and cooperatives, NRM, agriculture & horticulture, organic farming, WASH, education.
- Major initiatives: Adoption of business models through established cooperatives/federations.
- Engagement: SHG formation, NRM, RCH, policy influencing, and micro-level planning.

2005 – 2015

- Total outreach: 18,900 individuals, 400 villages, 7 districts, 2 states.
- Partner organisations: 17.
- Right holders: Women, men, children, women farmers, Mata Samitis, SHGs, and farmer clubs.
- Key focus areas: Strengthening and expansion of cooperatives, institutional building, organic farming, climate change, skilling, ECCE, education, WaSH, NRM, liaising, and convergence.
- Engagement: FPO formation and management, government convergence, and partnerships with local administration.

2015 – 2020

- Total outreach: 20,000 individuals, 800+ villages, 9 districts, 3 states.
- Partner organisations: 17.
- Right holders: Women, men, children, women farmers, Mata Samitis, SHGs, and farmer clubs.
- Key focus areas: Continued strengthening of cooperatives, institutional systems, organic farming, and climate resilience.
- Engagement: Nurturing cooperatives and FPOs, and strengthening internal systems and processes.

Highlight of Projects:

1. HRIDYA LIC-HFL: Worked with 4000 right holders in 5 Gram Panchayats of Bhilangna district, Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand.

- 10 women farmers' groups were effectively formed in the project villages. In which total of 165 members joined the women farmers group.
- Formation and strengthening of 10 Bal Panchayats, groups of targeted 8 -15 age children of the project area.
- Construction of 25 toilets for marginalised people.
- Demonstration and seed distribution activity was practised with the 500 marginal farmers of the villages of the project area.

Impact:

A) Formation of 10 Women Farmers' Groups (165 Members)

1. Economic Empowerment: Enabled collective decision-making and better access to farming inputs, credit, and market linkages.
2. Skill Development: Women received training in improved agricultural practices and enterprise, leading to increased confidence and productivity.
3. Social Empowerment: Strengthened women's roles in household and community-level decision-making.

B) Formation and strengthening of 10 Bal Panchayats (Aged 8–15)

1. Child Rights and Participation: Enhanced awareness among children about their rights, hygiene, education, and community responsibilities.
2. Leadership Building: Fostered leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills among rural children, promoting active participation in village development.
3. Community Awareness: Improved community engagement on child-related issues like school dropouts and child labor.

C) Construction of 25 Toilets for Marginalized Households

1. Improved Sanitation: Reduced open defecation, enhancing hygiene and health conditions in marginalized communities.
2. Dignity and Safety: Especially improved the safety and dignity of women and girls.
3. Behavioral Change: Promoted the adoption of hygienic practices and increased awareness around sanitation.

D) Demonstration and Seed Distribution for 500 Marginal Farmers

1. Improved Food Security: Access to quality seeds and new techniques increased farm productivity and ensured seasonal food availability.
2. Sustainable Farming: Demonstrations helped farmers adopt climate-resilient and sustainable agricultural practices.
3. Income Enhancement: Potential increase in yields led to higher marketable surplus, thereby improving household income.

2. Girl Child Education is one of the Programs being implemented by MVDA with the support of IIMPACT:

IIMPACT in three districts, i.e., Haridwar, Tehri Garhwal, and Uttarkashi. The vision is to impart education through community-based learning cum remedial centers for the children of the age group 6-14.

Promoting Girl Child Education in Remote Areas: The GCEP aims to improve access to quality education for girls in remote and underserved villages of Uttarakhand, where school dropout rates are high due to poverty, gender bias, and infrastructural gaps. The program works to re-enroll out-of-

4. Holistic Development

- a. The app supports academic growth, life skills development, and personal empowerment, improving confidence, communication, and decision making capabilities .

5. Community Ripple Effect

- a. Empowered girls often become role models , inspiring their peers and siblings , and encouraging communities to invest more in girls education and digital inclusion .

Organisational Impact:

Qualitative Impact:

- Our work under the Himmat Society-funded MMAP project (2016-2022) demonstrates our expertise in introducing advanced agricultural practices and establishing sustainable community institutions.
- Farm machinery worth ₹8 lakhs were distributed through collaboration with the Agriculture Department, showcasing.
- We successfully established a Common Facility Centre (CFC) in Silyara Cluster, providing critical inputs, equipment, and market linkages for local farmers.
- Support to UMANG Swayat Sahakarita in marketing and branding Uttaranjali products, which expanded market access through stalls, exhibitions, and fairs, enabling UMANG to record the highest turnover during this period.
- Introducing advanced agricultural practices and establishing sustainable community institutions.
- We implemented crop intensification practices, promoted local landraces, and conducted baby and mother trials, especially on barley, rice, and barnyard millet varieties.

Quantitative Impact:

- We enhanced productivity by introducing high-yield variety (HYV) seeds, facilitating a 50-60% increase in rice and wheat yields for 518 farmers.
- We implemented System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in 15 villages of the Tehri district and System of Wheat Intensification in 15 villages in Saharanpur, UP.
- Production of rice and wheat increased to 50- 60 per cent with 518 farmers.
- 45 quintals of Basmati rice were collected under Ujjawal Swayat Sahakarita.
- Facilitated spice cultivation and organic farming, with 600 farmers.
- 50 women were trained in grading, processing, and value addition of agro-products, such as Rhododendron juice and garlic pickle, boosting income-generation capabilities.
- 70 farmers benefited from government schemes and availed farm tool bank support (power tiller, tractor, flour mill machine, Rice mill, Chaff cutter machine, chain saw machine) for which approximately Rs. 11,00,000/- was mobilized by farmers to get farm tools with a total value of Rs. 60,00,000.
- Our gender-focused efforts included monthly SHG meetings in 20 villages and leadership training for 40 youth leaders.

- We did seed multiplication and distribution, focusing on resilient landraces like rainfed rice (31 varieties), irrigated rice (23 varieties), amaranth (12 varieties), barley (26 varieties), barnyard millet (15 varieties), finger millet (14 varieties), and kidney beans (21 varieties).
- Worked on Baby Trials for 26 varieties of Barley, Mother and Baby trial for Rice (31 landraces) and Barnyard (15 Landraces) with the guidance and technical support from ICAR NBPGR Bhowali.
- Promoted construction of 800+ Vermi Compost structure, 750+ Nadep Compost, 600+ Bamboo Nadep and 350+ Liquid Compost structure under this initiative.
- Approximately 2000 farmers from 4 clusters registered for organic certification.
- 7 organic producer groups covering 3000 farmers have been registered under organic certifications with UCOB
- Trained village motivators from 60 villages at the UCOB Training Centre in Majhkhali to support organic farming initiatives.

Learnings:

1. Enhanced Productivity Through Scientific Farming

- Use of HYV seeds and adoption of System of Rice and Wheat Intensification (SRI/SWI) significantly improved productivity (by 50–60%), proving the effectiveness of scientific and resource-efficient cultivation methods.
- Demonstrated that even small and marginal farmers can achieve substantial yield increases when provided with the right inputs and guidance.

2. Value of Farmer-Led Collectives

- Initiatives like Ujjawal Swayat Sahkarita enabled effective aggregation (e.g., 45 quintals of Basmati rice), which helped improve marketing, pricing, and farmer confidence.
- Formation of organic producer groups and registration of 3000+ farmers under certification processes boosted both marketability and farmer motivation.

3. Sustainable Farming for Long-Term Resilience

- Promotion of organic practices (e.g., vermicompost, Nadep compost, bamboo Nadep, liquid compost structures) across thousands of farmers shows strong community acceptance of low-cost, sustainable solutions.
- Seed multiplication of resilient landraces helped preserve agro-biodiversity and ensured climate-resilient crops were available for future use.

4. Income Diversification through Value Addition

- Training women in grading, processing, and product development (like Rhododendron juice and garlic pickle) revealed that even small-scale processing can be a profitable and empowering activity, especially for women.
- Highlighted the need for better market access, packaging, and branding to scale value-added efforts.

5. Effective Resource Mobilization and Government Convergence

- Mobilizing ₹11 lakh from farmers to access ₹60 lakh worth of equipment through government schemes demonstrated successful facilitation and trust-building between institutions and farmers.
- Showcased the importance of linking community efforts with government schemes to optimize resource use.

6. Empowering Women and Youth Strengthens Social Fabric

- Monthly SHG meetings, youth leadership training, and involving 50 women in enterprise training led to greater community ownership, improved participation, and increased gender equity in farming decisions.

7. Knowledge Transfer and Scientific Support Are Crucial

- Collaboration with institutions like ICAR-NBPGR Bhowali for Baby and Mother trials reinforced the importance of technical guidance for in-situ conservation and scientific farming.
- Training of village motivators from 60 villages ensured that knowledge was localized and could be continuously disseminated, reducing dependency on external trainers.

8. Certification and Documentation Lay the Foundation for Market Expansion

- Registration of 2000 farmers for organic certification positions communities for entry into premium organic markets, paving the way for branding, traceability, and better incomes.
- Also emphasizes the need to build robust record-keeping systems and quality control mechanisms.

9. Knowledge Transfer and Scientific Support Are Crucial

- Collaboration with institutions like ICAR-NBPGR Bhowali for Baby and Mother trials reinforced the importance of technical guidance for in-situ conservation and scientific farming.
- Training of village motivators from 60 villages ensured that knowledge was localized and could be continuously disseminated, reducing dependency on external trainers.

Field Success Stories:

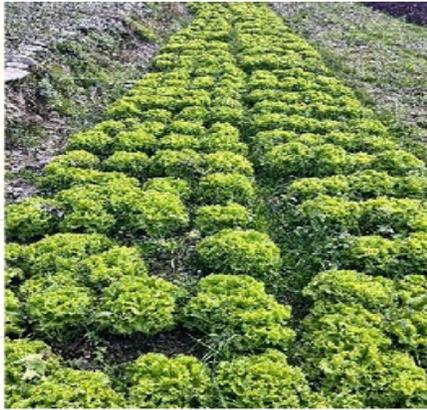
From New Thinking to New Harvests:

Gulab Singh, a dedicated farmer from Kyar village in Solan district, Himachal Pradesh, has been actively engaged in agriculture for the past 25 years. His journey began with the cultivation of traditional crops like wheat and maize. Over time, observing the changing market trends and profitability, he gradually shifted towards high-value horticultural crops such as tomatoes and capsicum.



Encouraged by the good returns from these cash crops, Gulab Singh further diversified his farming practices to include a wider variety of profitable vegetables. He consistently participated in training programs organised by the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) and Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni. These platforms provided him with valuable insights into improved cultivation techniques, crop management, and market-oriented farming.

Over the last 2–3 years, Gulab Singh has shown a keen interest in cultivating exotic vegetables—a subject that has been increasingly emphasised in university training sessions. While he has the enthusiasm and motivation to explore this new area of farming, limited access to technical knowledge and hands-on guidance has so far constrained his ability to implement exotic crop cultivation on a larger scale.



Nonetheless, with his progressive mindset, willingness to learn, and years of farming experience, Gulab Singh is well-positioned to adopt innovative agricultural practices and contribute to the growing trend of diversified, market-driven farming in the region.

Turning Point: Gulab Singh's Journey into Exotic Vegetable Farming

The year 2024 marked a transformative chapter in the life of Gulab Singh, a seasoned farmer from Kyar village, Solan district. The turning point came when Mount Valley Development Association (MVDA), in collaboration with HDFC Bank's Parivartan initiative, began implementing a sustainable agriculture and livelihood enhancement project in the region.



During the initial baseline survey and farmer interactions, MVDA collected detailed data on local agricultural practices and challenges. It was during these discussions that Gulab Singh shared a strong desire to venture into exotic vegetable farming. Despite his interest, he expressed concerns about his limited technical knowledge and lack of proper guidance, which had held him back from pursuing this new farming avenue.

Recognising his motivation, MVDA facilitated specialised training sessions in partnership with scientists from Krishi Vigyan Kendra and the horticulture university. These sessions focused on exotic vegetable cultivation, covering aspects such as crop selection, ideal agronomic practices, sowing schedules, and market trends. Gulab Singh received farm input support under the project, including seeds of high-value exotic vegetables like green and red lettuce, Bok choy, parsley, and others.



With continuous guidance and field support from the MVDA team, Gulab Singh successfully transitioned into exotic vegetable farming. Unlike traditional cash crops, which offered only two cropping cycles annually, exotic vegetables enabled him to grow four seasons per year on the same plot of land. Additionally, the market value of these vegetables remained significantly higher, especially when sown and harvested at the right time.

This shift has had a direct impact on his income. Earlier, cultivating traditional cash crops fetched him an annual income of ₹1–2 lakh per bigha. Today, through exotic vegetable farming, he earns ₹3–3.5 lakh per bigha annually, demonstrating a substantial increase in profitability and sustainability. Gulab Singh’s journey exemplifies how the right support, timely training, and market-aligned innovation can empower farmers to not only adopt modern practices but also thrive in them, turning challenges into new opportunities for growth.

Conclusion

The intervention by MVDA with support from HDFC Parivartan proved to be a game-changer for Gulab Singh. With timely training, technical guidance, and input support, he was able to overcome knowledge barriers and successfully transition into exotic vegetable farming. This shift not only increased cropping cycles from two to four per year but also significantly enhanced his income, from ₹1–2 lakh to ₹3–3.5 lakh annually per bigha. The intervention strengthened his confidence, reduced dependency on traditional crops, and set a model for other farmers in the region. It showcases how need-based, targeted support can lead to sustainable livelihood transformation.

Safeguarding the Community boundaries, Transforming Lives – The Story of Bhald Village, Thaladhar:

Background:

Bhald village, nestled in the Thaladhar region of Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand, is a small rural settlement where the majority of households rely on agriculture and livestock for their livelihood. Like many communities in the Himalayan foothills, the villagers of Bhald have traditionally cultivated their land with dedication and resilience. However, their proximity to forested areas and the absence of protective infrastructure have made farming increasingly unsustainable.



A major challenge faced by the community is the frequent destruction of crops by stray cattle and wild animals such as wild boars, monkeys, and porcupines. With no secure fencing in place, farmlands remain exposed—forcing farmers to guard their fields at night and endure constant stress during the growing season. These intrusions result not only in severe crop losses but also lead to tensions between neighbours when livestock stray into adjoining fields, further straining social cohesion.

Women and children in particular face heightened safety concerns due to this situation. Their movement is often restricted, especially during early morning and evening hours, due to the threat of animal encounters. The recurring failure of crops and the continuous risk to personal safety have led many families to reconsider farming altogether.

As agricultural returns diminish and input costs rise, farming has become an unviable occupation for many. A growing number of households have either abandoned farming completely or resorted to seasonal migration in search of alternate sources of income. Even those who continue to cultivate their land find it difficult to earn enough to cover the basic costs of production, leading to a cycle of economic vulnerability.

This deepening crisis has not only eroded the primary source of livelihood in Bhald but also threatens the long-term socio-economic stability of the community.



Turning Point:

The turning point for Bhalad village came when Mount Valley Development Association (MVDA) intervened and took a proactive role in understanding the community's challenges. Recognising the recurring agricultural losses and growing distress among the villagers, MVDA, with support from LIC Housing Finance Ltd. (LIC HFL), initiated a strategic intervention aimed at restoring livelihood security. As a key step, a 1-kilometre protective fencing wall was established around the village's agricultural zone. This intervention was designed not merely as a physical barrier but as a vital enabler for reclaiming lost livelihoods. The primary objective was to safeguard farmlands from stray cattle and wild animals, ensuring that crops could grow undisturbed and farmers could invest in their land with renewed confidence. The fencing project brought a significant sense of security to the villagers, especially women and elderly farmers, who previously hesitated to work in the fields due to safety concerns. As a result, community members began returning to their farmlands, and farming activities slowly resumed. This revival marked a shift not only in agricultural productivity but also in the villagers' morale and outlook toward self-reliance. MVDA's timely and community-centric intervention has helped reinstate agriculture as a dependable source of income for Bhalad's residents, reducing their dependency on seasonal migration and contributing to the overall resilience of the village.



Conclusion: A Path Toward Resilience and Renewed Livelihoods

The fencing intervention in Bhalad village, facilitated by MVDA with support from LIC Housing Finance Ltd., has proven to be a transformative step in addressing long-standing agricultural challenges. By securing farmlands from stray animals and wild intrusions, the initiative has not only restored confidence among farmers but also revitalised agricultural practices that had been on the verge of collapse. This intervention has brought tangible improvements in the lives of the villagers—enhancing crop security, reducing nightly field vigils, and minimising conflicts over grazing. Women, who earlier faced safety concerns and restricted mobility, now actively participate in farming alongside their families. The protection of farmland has led to increased cultivation, better yields, and a gradual revival of farming as a sustainable livelihood. Most importantly, this initiative has rekindled hope. Families who had once considered abandoning agriculture are now returning to their roots, investing time and effort back into their land. Seasonal migration has decreased, and the village is witnessing a shift towards self-reliance and resilience.

Farmers Embrace Change: Shift in Sowing Time and Adoption of Hybrid Varieties Transform Agricultural Practices

Background:

Mr. Chain Singh, a seasoned farmer from Chohra village in Himachal Pradesh, has been engaged in agriculture for over 30 years. His primary focus has been on cultivating high-value vegetable and cash crops such as tomato, capsicum, French beans, and cauliflower. In recent years, he has also diversified into growing broccoli and other niche vegetables, which have provided him with promising returns.

Despite his extensive experience, Chain Singh faced challenges related to the availability of high-quality seeds and limited access to technical knowledge. These issues often affect productivity and profitability. However, with growing awareness and exposure to improved farming techniques, he has shown keen interest in adopting better seed varieties and enhancing his technical understanding to further improve his agricultural outcomes.

Mr. Singh's journey reflects the determination of mountain farmers who are ready to innovate and adapt for sustainable growth in agriculture.

Turning Point:

During a monthly group meeting organised by Mount Valley Development Association (MVDA) in Chohra village, the issue of poor seed quality and limited technical knowledge was raised by Mr. Chain Singh, a veteran farmer with over 30 years of experience in vegetable farming. In response, the MVDA team facilitated a technical training session for farmers, conducted by agricultural scientists, focusing on best practices for cultivating vegetables, particularly broccoli.

One key technique shared during the session was the strategic adjustment of sowing time. Farmers were advised to either slightly advance or delay sowing to secure better market prices and protect crops from potential weather-related damage.

Motivated by this guidance, and with support from MVDA in the form of quality broccoli seeds, Mr. Chain Singh decided to sow his crop 15–20 days earlier than the usual period. This decision proved to be a turning point in his farming practice. As a result, he was able to secure a significantly higher market rate for his broccoli produce and successfully avoided damage from early morning dew, a common challenge in the region. This case highlights how timely technical support and adaptive practices can lead to enhanced crop quality, increased income, and greater resilience among mountain farmers.

Conclusion:

The experience of Mr. Chain Singh exemplifies the transformative potential of targeted technical interventions and access to high-quality agricultural inputs in enhancing farm productivity and profitability. By implementing scientifically guided adjustments, such as optimising sowing time, he successfully mitigated climatic risks and capitalised on favourable market conditions. This case underscores the critical role of structured capacity-building, timely extension support, and knowledge dissemination in strengthening the resilience and economic viability of smallholder farmers in mountain ecosystems. It reinforces the need for continued collaboration between development organisations, scientific institutions, and farming communities to drive sustainable agricultural growth.



Shalom Children's home

BACKGROUND:

Shalom Children's home was established on 2006 in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, with a vision to uplift marginalized communities, particularly women, through education, empowerment, and sustainable rural development. Since its inception, the organization has been deeply committed to addressing the socio-economic challenges faced by rural families in remote and backward regions of Uttarakhand. Guided by the principle of inclusive development, the Sansthan has focused on women's empowerment, livelihood promotion, child education, Healthcare, natural resource management, and community capacity building. Over the past three decades, the organization has emerged as a trusted grassroots institution, working closely with women's groups, farmers, and youth to promote self-reliance and collective growth. By initiating programs on skill development, vocational training, women's self-help groups, and awareness campaigns, society has played a pivotal role in enhancing opportunities for women to participate in decision-making processes, thereby strengthening their role in society. Alongside, the organization has also worked extensively on health awareness, child nutrition, and environment conservation, ensuring holistic rural development. Today, with its long-standing experience and strong community base, We Continue to strive for its mission of building an equitable society where women and rural communities can live with dignity, security, and self-sufficiency.

BASIC INFORMATION:

- Shalom Children's Home is now registered and compliant with all major regulatory frameworks:
- 12A, 80G (Income Tax Exemption)
- FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation)
- CSR1 Registration
- NITI Aayog (NGO Darpan Portal) Udyam registration
- E Anudan.

CORE VALUES:

- Integrity and Accountability
- Community Empowerment
- Equity and Inclusion
- Sustainability
- Gender Justice
- Respect for Local Knowledge
- Innovation for Social Change

CORE MEMBERS:

Nitendra Singh Bohra – President (M.A. Sociology)

- With more than 12 years of experience as a social scientist, he has been a driving force behind the Shalom Children's Home. His leadership has been instrumental in advancing community development, adolescent health, and women empowerment initiatives across the region.

Pankaj Singh – Vice President (Master's in Social Work)

- He is a social activist focused on rural development, with more than 5 years of experience. He possesses deep-rooted knowledge and practical expertise in the region.

Jahgat Singh – Secretary (Postgraduate in Social Work)

- He is a social scientist with more than 25 years of experience and has excellent communication skills with the people of his work region.

Sundar Singh Kholiya – Co-Secretary (M.Com)

- With more than 10 years of experience as a social activist, he has been a great support for our team and organization.

Vijay Dwivedi – Treasurer (M.Tech)

- With a passion for empowering women and uneducated people, Vijay Dwevedi has recently joined our organization with 2 years of experience in social work.

Mohit Chand Khandori - Auditor (M.com)

- With an experience of 10 Years in our organization, Mohit chand khanduri is an expert auditor having real knowledge of the working principles of the NGO's.

Issac Kumar - Member (Intermediate)

- He is working as a member with us since 2006, he now has a experience of more than 19 years as a social worker.

Thematic Engagements:

Education (Functional Literacy for Women)

- Recognizing the transformative power of education, Shalom Children’s Home, implements adult literacy programs, particularly for women aged 15–50. Initiatives like the “Literacy india” program have enabled thousands of women to achieve basic literacy and numeracy, empowering them to participate more actively in decision-making.

Livelihood Promotion and Entrepreneurship

- The organization provides livelihood opportunities through skill development, microenterprise support, and entrepreneurship training, particularly for women and marginalized communities. Focus sectors include agriculture, handicrafts, and local services.

Water Conservation and Sanitation

- Water resource management is a core focus, with efforts in rainwater harvesting, water budgeting, and sanitation awareness. Our organization promotes community-led total sanitation (CLTS) approaches, construction of eco-friendly toilets, and village-level water security planning.

Youth Development

- Shalom Children’s Homework extensively with rural youth to build leadership, life skills, and civic awareness. Through structured engagement with Nehru Yuva Kendra and other youth-focused platforms, Our Organization promotes volunteerism, skill development, and active participation in community development.

Health and Nutrition (Micro Health Initiatives)

- The organization promotes health awareness and access through micro-health interventions, focusing on maternal and child health, adolescent health, hygiene, and nutrition. Programs include community health education, capacity building of frontline workers, and linkage with government schemes.

Organizational Impact

The Shalom Children’s home has made a transformative impact at the grassroots level, fostering social, economic, and political empowerment within rural communities. By promoting inclusive participation and community-led development, society has enabled villages to take charge of their own progress.

Through consistent engagement over the years, Society has empowered thousands of individuals especially women and marginalized groups—by providing access to education, livelihood opportunities, and sustainable development practices. Its initiatives have strengthened local leadership, enhanced economic resilience, and contributed to a more self-reliant and informed rural society.

Milestones of Shalom Children's home:

- **2006** – Establishment: The organization was formally registered in Kanpur, with the vision of uplifting women, children and promoting rural development.
- **Early 2007** – Women Self-Help Groups: Initiated the formation of self-help groups (SHGs) for rural women, enabling them to save collectively and access micro-credit facilities.
- **2008** – Literacy Campaigns: Launched women's literacy and adult education programs in remote villages of Chakrata dehradun.
- **2009** – Health Awareness Programs: Started maternal and child health awareness drives, focusing on nutrition, immunization, and safe motherhood.
- **2010** – Skill Development: Introduced vocational training for women in tailoring, handicrafts, and small-scale entrepreneurship to enhance income generation.
- **2012** – Livelihood Promotion: Expanded work into sustainable agriculture practices, medicinal and aromatic plant cultivation, and livelihood enhancement projects for women farmers.
- **2013** – Disaster Response: Actively supported rural women and families affected by Uttarakhand floods, providing relief and rehabilitation support.
- **2016** – Partnerships & CSR Initiatives: Collaborated with government schemes, NGOs, and CSR partners to scale up women empowerment and rural development programs.
- **2021** – Digital Empowerment: Began digital literacy and online skill training programs for rural youth and women.
- **2023** – Expanding Outreach: Reached over 150 villages across Uttarakhand with initiatives in education, women's empowerment, health, and sustainable livelihoods

Success Stories:

From Housewife to Entrepreneur

Geeta Devi, a resident of a small village in Tehri, had limited income and struggled to support her children's education. Through the organization's Self-Help Group program, she received training in vermi compost. Geeta started small businessd for vermi compost for her community, which soon turned into a regular source of income. Today, she not only runs a small unit of organic shop but also trains other women. Her children are now attending school.

Organic Farming in herberpur area.





Swati Gramodhyog Sansthan

Background

Social Welfare & Training Initiative is a registered voluntary organization based in district Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand. We have been working for social cause for the past 32 years. Swati Gramodyog Sansthan is a non-political and non-profit voluntary organization committed to community development in Pithoragarh district since 1992. The organization is primarily focused on women's empowerment, animal husbandry, and sustainable management of natural resources including water, forest, and land.

Vision

To bring change in behaviour and thoughts of people and to build up the innate capacity of people, so that they can participate in utilizing their natural resources in a sustainable manner. Finally leading towards socio, economic and cultural development.

Basic Information

- CSRI Registration
- NITI Aayog (NGO Darpan Portal)
- TAN No.
- 80G
- 12 AA
- MSME

Core Values

- Meetings and Discussions with people
- By motivating people
- Giving training and organizing exposures for the people
- Linkage and convergence of SHG's
- Promotion and replication of scientific agriculture techniques

(The targets of various activities are Women, SC/ST, BPL families)

- Promotion of programmes for the socio-economic development of people.
- Women empowerment

- Basic education to children to enhance their knowledge about their surroundings, tradition, their environment and natural resources.
- To create self-employment opportunities for the youth through proper management of resources.
- Promotion of age-old knowledge and practices (handicraft & Ayurveda practices).
- Protection of environment.
- Sustainable management of natural resources (land, water, forest).
- Livelihood promotion through Agro- Horti and Non farming development.

Target Population

SWATI is working to promote livelihood and for this we are working with the people around agriculture. Villages are inaccessible with their hilly terrain and the prime source of income of people is agriculture and animal husbandry. People use the age-old traditional practices, they work hard but their efforts go in vain, and the result is unproductive.

These conditions have arisen due to the improper utilization of land and water resources, lack of knowledge, skill, implementation of modern scientific techniques in agriculture, improved varieties of seeds.

The SWATI team is trying to solve this problem by the establishment of a demonstration and resource center that is providing training for the farmers on the modern scientific agricultural practices and is working in the direction of replication of these practices.

According to this we are cultivating pulses that are low volume and high value crops and vegetables production through polyhouse technique. Using polyhouse, polytonal technique, farmers are growing off-season vegetables that are fresh and nutrient rich. SWATI is promoting the following activities-

Proper use of scattered lands

Use proper irrigation techniques to manage water properly.

Promotion and replication of organic farming.

Development of pulse and vegetable cultivation.

Providing technological and marketing support for the farmers.

Livelihood promotion through microcredit.

Supporting Organisation

- Department of Science and Technology
- Central Wool Development Board, Jodhpur
- NABARD, Dehradun
- Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Dehradun
- Directorate of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Uttarakhand
- Statistics Department, Pithoragarh

- Ministry of MSME
- Uttarakhand Gramya Vikas Samiti
- UWCDS

Core Members

Sl. NO	Name of Member address	Father/Husband	Address	Designation	Occupation/ source of income
1	Mr. Rajendra Singh Bisht,	Kalu Singh	Dhatchula Road Bisth Cottag, Pithoragarh	President	Social Work
2	Mr. Gajendra Singh Bisht	Prem Singh	Vill. Devtola, P.O. Siltham, Pithoragarh	Vic President	Social Work
3	Km. Kamla Mahar	Gopal Singh	Vill. Naini Saini P.O. Naini Saini, Pithoragarh	Secretary	Social Work
4	Smt. Vartika Bisht,	Shyam Sundra Singh Bisht	Bisht Cottage Darchula Road, Pithoragarh	Treasurer	Social Work
5	Mr. Bhawan Singh Dhami,	Kesher Singh Dhami	Near Panda Farm Basty, Dharchula Road, Pithoragarh	Member	Social Work
6	Smt. Kamala Bisht	Bhagwan Singh Nagi	168 Dola, Devtola, Pithoragarh	Member	Social Work
7	Mr. Rakesh Punetha,	Ram Datt Punetha	Simalgar Bazar P.O. Pithoragarh	Member	Social Work
8	Km. Parwatti,	Arjun Ram	Bagarihat Titiri, Pithoragarh	Member	Social Work
9	Smt. Swati Gupta	Varun Gupta	Bhatkot Ward, Near Siltham, Pithoragarh	Member	Social Work

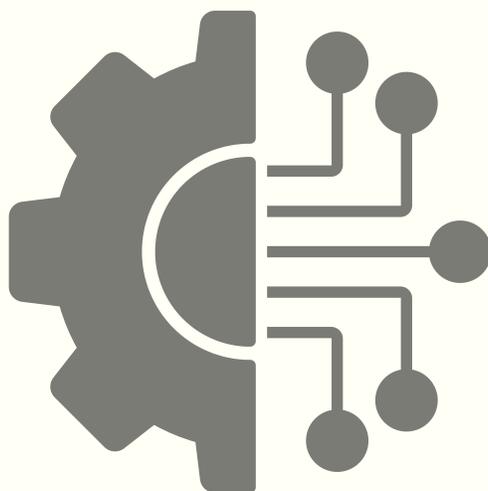
Thematic Engagement :

SWATI has so far conducted about a dozen of project; Bal Vikas, Technology Intervention, India Mahila Samekit Vikas Yojna, Conservation of Medicinal Plants, Health and Literacy for Women, Off Season Vegetables Cultivation, Swajal, Community Based Economic Development, Joint Forest Management, sanctioned by various Government as state Government Department. SWATI has expertise in German Angora Rabbit rearing for wool production. These projects under proposal can well be handled by SWATI to develop Angora wool village in hilly district of Uttarakhand. SWATI has close interaction with DRDO, ICAR, DBT and DST and so far, has been provided facilities /technology/ trainings from these departments.

The prime objective of the organization is to extend sustainable development of hill areas and to uplift the dwindling socio-economic status of hilly populace through proper utilization and conservation of its natural heritage.

The focus area of the organization is creation of livelihood opportunities at village level with target points being awareness creation, literacy, Health and Hygiene, sentimental aspects etc. So far SWATI is engaged in various developmental activities for viable income generation such as Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal husbandry, Polyhouse cultivation, Use of natural resources like land and water management in district Pithoragarh. SWATI acts as per plan of action in proposed areas with due consideration of location specific problem related to either gender which can easily be adopted. SWATI has implemented numerous projects in various villages with active operation and missionary zeal.

SWATI carries out all programs as per plan of action in proposed areas with due consideration of location specific problems related to either gender or agro- geographical which can easily be adopted. Programs are undertaken in integrated manner. Mobilization and motivation through training programs and income generating programs for rural community especially for women are main theme of our work.



Milestones –

S.N.	Activities	Support Agencies	Major Achievements
1	WATER MANAGEMENT		
	Drinking water, Sanitation, Naula and Dhara sudhar, Chal Khal, gool construction, check dam etc.	PMU, Nainital. (Department Of Forest) Department of Science & Technology Uttarakhand Sevanidhi Almora, Indo German Social Society (IGSSS New Delhi) CECI (Canadian Fund)	Construction of drinking water scheme in Five GPs and 19 villages. There are about 23750 people getting potable water. 1400 latrines have been constructed. Chal khal recharging the water source of Naula Dhara. 250 households are benefitted.
2	FOREST MANAGEMENT		
	Formation of Van panchayat, Formation of micro-plan, Formation of forest nursery, Plantation. Protection of Environment	Department of Forest (PMU, Nainita) Ministry of Environment, New Delhi	Formation of 250 micro-plan and 150 forest nursery and plantation in 150 villages.
3	LAND MANAGEMENT		
	Soil Testing, Organic farming, Promotion of Fodder grass, Introduction of new seed varieties of ICAR Almora among farmers, exposures, Formation of Kisan club for capacity building of farmers, Promotion of age-old practices and knowledge of agriculture. Production of off-season vegetables.	NABARD, Dehradun. Department of Science & Technology. CECI. Canadian Fund.	About 1000 farmers produce organic yields. About 500 families are their own vermin compost producers. 5 Self-reliant cooperatives are still running. One outlet is being run by Mahila Paryas cooperative in the main market. 50 Poly houses are running successfully. 5000 farmers have adopted SRI technique. There are 45 active Farmers clubs.

4	Animal Husbandry Awareness camp, Health Camp, Training.	NABARD. Dehradun Central Wool Development Board, Jodhpur.	German angora rearing units (20) are running. Finished goods are being sold from rural
5	SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT		
	<p>Women empowerment, Health, Education also tools of our organization through which we have achieved all the targets. Our staff is expert in PRA tools, motivation and mobilization. Our organization is doing income generating activities through SHG, Cooperative, Federation. Skill development training</p> <p>Employment generation for youth.</p> <p>Prevention of Domestic violence.</p> <p>Resource person to local institutions</p>	<p>Department of Women & Child, Dehradun. NABARD CECI (Canadian Fund)</p> <p>NIESBUD (MSME, New Delhi)</p> <p>ICDS (Service provider)</p> <p>Deptt. Of Panchyati Raj (U.K.)</p>	<p>About 800 SHGs have been made and now we are forming 500 SHGs.</p> <p>One cooperative is making and selling Agarbatti sticks, and another cooperative is producing and selling Angora wool products.</p> <p>35 women have been given the protection under D.V.act.</p> <p>400 women are being given medical facilities under HIV AIDS project.</p> <p>About 875 youth have been given training in different skills in 35 batches [25 trainees per batch] and 405 are entrepreneurs.</p> <p>Imparted training to Pradhan, VLC and BDC. Members 2500 In distt. Pithoragarh.</p>



Activity	Methodology	Funded by	Beneficiaries
Polyhouse Technique	Field training Exposure, setting up of polyhouses	NABARD	40 Families.
Power Triller	Awareness & Technical training.	NABARD	Mahila Prayas Cooperative, 3 kissan club
Vermicompost	Training through Demo, Construction of Vermi Compost Pits.	NABARD	Kissan club, SHGs
Rearing of German Angora Rabbit	Training & setting up units.	Central Wool Development	20 Families.
Wool Processing, knitting.	Training.	Central Wool Development	100 Beneficiaries.
Mobile Repairing	1 to 3 months practical training.	Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship	90 Beneficiaries.
Fashion Designing	1-to-3-month training.	Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship	60 Beneficiaries.
Cosmetics & Beautician	1 month training.	Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship	180 Beneficiaries.
Computer & hardware	1-to-3-month training.	Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship	60 Beneficiaries.
Computer Accountancy	1-to-3-month training.	Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship	60 Beneficiaries.
Agarbatti & Candle making	10 days training.	Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship	120 Beneficiaries.
Ajeevika project (ILSP)	3 years project	Uttarakhand Gov.	700 families ,11 out lets, 3000
Spices and fruit juice industry established	5 yrsars	MSME	500 women
Polihouse project	3 years	UWCD U.K.	10 families 100 families

Specialization and Special characteristics-

Pithoragarh is a boarder district of Uttarakhand, it consists of 8 blocks which is so backward. Our organisation implemented various project in different blocks and villages, but we found our economy and asset are women. Women are very poor in health condition and without proper knowledge, so we are interest to work on women empowerment either in economy field or health field. We are quite capable to work with women sector. We have women team and groups to execute project. There are 12 registered cooperatives and so many SHGs working on our project.

Women empowerment, Health, Education also tools of our organization through which we have achieved all the targets. Our staff is expert in PRA tools, motivation and mobilization. Our organization is doing income generating activities through SHG, Cooperative, Federation. Skill development training Employment generation for youth. Prevention of Domestic violence. Resource person to local institutions

Organisational impact-

- Constructed drinking water schemes in five Gram Panchayats and 19 villages.
- About 23,750 people now have access to potable water.
- 1,400 latrines have been constructed.
- Chal Khal structures are recharging the water sources of Naula and Dhara, benefiting 250 households.
- Formed 250 micro-plans and established 150 forest nurseries with plantation activities in 150 villages.
- Around 1,000 farmers are producing organic yields.
- 500 families are producing their own vermicompost.
- Five self-reliant cooperatives are actively functioning.
- Mahila Prayas Cooperative runs one outlet in the main market.
- 50 polyhouses are operating successfully.
- 5,000 farmers have adopted the SRI technique.
- 45 active farmers' clubs are functioning effectively.
- 20 German Angora rearing units are operational.
- Finished wool products are sold through rural outlets, HAATs, and exhibitions.
- About 800 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have been formed, and 500 more are currently being established.
- One cooperative is producing and selling agarbatti sticks, while another is producing and selling Angora wool products.
- 35 women have been provided protection under the Domestic Violence Act.
- 400 women are receiving medical facilities under the HIV/AIDS project.
- Under skill development training, about 875 youth have been trained in various skills across 35 batches (25 trainees per batch).
- 405 trainees have become entrepreneurs.
- Training has been imparted to 2,500 members of Pradhan, VLC, and BDC in Pithoragarh district.





The main objective of this project was to reduce the maternal mortality ratio and infant mortality rate, while promoting institutional deliveries. Swati Gramodyog Sansthan worked in 30 villages under this project, launched by the Department of Medical Health and Family Welfare, Dehradun. The primary goal of this project was to reduce maternal and child mortality rates and increase awareness and access to health facilities in the area.



Uttarakhand livelihood promotion project implemented from 2016 to 2021 our organisation impact was seen in two blocks of Pithoragarh Under this project We supported 6000 families ,11 out lets, 900 SHGs/PG/VPG. This is a business model. It is on progress .



Swati Gramodyog Sansthan has experience in working with the Government of Uttarakhand on various projects, including the Intervention and Targeted Project for HIV/AIDS in Pithoragarh district, which was implemented from 2012 to 2016 and benefited 400 women

The organization was awarded the Best Performance Award by the then Health Minister, Mr. Surendra Singh Negi, for its outstanding work in the project implemented by the Uttarakhand State AIDS Control Society, Department of Medical Health and Family Welfare, Government of Uttarakhand.



Additionally, Swati Gramodyog Sansthan was honored with the Indian Achievers Award in 2010 by the Indian Achievers Forum, New Delhi, for its outstanding social work.

Swati Gramodyog Sansthan launched a project in October 1997, initiated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. Under this project, the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) was implemented in 2005. The NRHM was launched to achieve the goals of the National Health Policy 2002.

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लोक चेतना मंच

विरासत: लोक चेतना मंच एक गैर-लाभकारी, गैर-सरकारी स्वैच्छिक संगठन है जो पर्यावरण चेतना पैदा करके, ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य, और आजीविका जैसी मूलभूत सुविधाओं में सुधार और प्राकृतिक संसाधनों के सामंजस्यपूर्ण उपयोग के लिए साझेदारी में काम करके पहाड़ी लोगों की सेवा के लिए समर्पित है। स्वर्गीय सरला बहन के दर्शन से प्रेरित होकर, लोक चेतना मंच की स्थापना 14 जनवरी 1984 को समाज के सभी जागरूक वर्गों के लोगों द्वारा की गई थी, जो अल्मोड़ा और पिथौरागढ़ (उत्तराखंड) जिलों के दूरदराज के पहाड़ी गांवों की सामाजिक-पर्यावरणीय स्थितियों का पता लगाने के लिए लंबी जागरूकता पदयात्रा करने के बाद हुई थी।

लक्षित समुदाय: हिमालयी राज्यों, उत्तराखंड, हिमाचल प्रदेश, मेघालय, आसाम के लगभग 2000 गाँवों के 20 हजार वंचित समुदाय के बीच शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य, पर्यावरण संरक्षण, जैविक कृषि को बढ़ावा देते हेतु एवं समुदाय स्तर पर आपदा न्यूनीकरण हेतु कार्य किया जा रहा है।

पार्टनरशिप: G. B. Pant Institute for Himalayan Environment and Development, GOI, World Bank, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board, International Institute for Environment & Development, England, Welt Hunger Hilfe, Bread for the world (BFTW) and Azim Prem Ji foundation.

थीमेटिक एरिया: 1984 में अपनी स्थापना के बाद से ही एलसीएम पहाड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था के मूल आधार 'वन' को मजबूत करने का लगातार प्रयास कर रहा है। लोक चेतना मंच ने सामुदायिक भागीदारी के माध्यम से वृक्षारोपण के क्षेत्र में कई हस्तक्षेप किए हैं, वन पंचायतों को मजबूत करने की वकालत की है, मौजूदा आजीविका प्रणाली में सुधार किया है, गांव स्तर की संस्थाओं की क्षमता निर्माण की है। पिछले 34 वर्षों के दौरान लोक चेतना मंच ने कृषि वानिकी परियोजना को सफलतापूर्वक लागू किया है। लोक चेतना मंच ने अल्मोड़ा जिले के द्वाराहाट ब्लॉक में ग्रामीण स्तर पर आजीविका के नए संसाधनों का सृजन करने तथा पर्यावरण संरक्षण में अभूतपूर्व योगदान दिया है।

मील का पत्थर: वृक्षारोपण गतिविधियों में हमारी प्रतिबद्धता के कारण, लोक चेतना मंच के अध्यक्ष को पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय द्वारा राष्ट्रीय पुरस्कार 'इंदिरा प्रियदर्शिनी वृक्ष मित्र 1997' से सम्मानित किया गया।

विशेषज्ञता: पारंपरिक बीजों को पारंपरिक तरीके से संरक्षित करने और उसे जनोपयोगी बनाने हेतु लोक चेतना मंच पिछले 10 वर्षों से कार्य कर रहा है। फलस्वरूप वर्तमान में 7 गाँवों में 32 प्रकार के बीजों का भण्डारण और संरक्षण किया जा रहा है। नैनीताल झील को कवक मुक्त बनाने और उसे पीने योग्य बनाने हेतु वर्ष 2017 में विशेष कार्य किया गया।

संस्थागत प्रभाव: लोक चेतना मंच के विशेष प्रयास से पारिस्थितिक संरक्षण, ग्रामीण अर्थव्यवस्था को मजबूत करने और सामाजिक समानता बनाने में विशेष प्रयास किया है. यह पहल जन संगठनों की क्षमता निर्माण, नेतृत्व को बढ़ावा देने और महिलाओं, युवाओं और आर्थिक रूप से वंचित समुदायों सहित हाशिए पर खड़े समूहों के सामने आने वाली चुनौतियों का समाधान करने पर जोर देती है. और हमेशा वंचित समुदाय के अधिकारों के पक्ष में कड़ी रहती है. लोक चेतना के द्वारा सरकार के साथ समन्वय के पश्चात्, और लगातार एक साल तक की गयी एडवोकेसी का ही परिणाम है कि हरिद्वार जिले के बहादुराबाद ब्लॉक के रसूलपुर गाँव के 291 परिवारों का पक्का मकान बन पाया.

सामूहिकता से बंजर पड़े खेतों सामूहिकता को फिर से हरा भरा किया

अपने स्वाभाव से ही मेहनती होते हैं, लेकिन साल भर की मेहनत के बाद जब उनके हाथ कुछ नहीं पहाड़ी आता तो वो धीरे धीरे खेती से विमुख होते जाते हैं. कुछ ऐसा ही हाल टिहरी जिले के नरेन्द्रनगर ब्लॉक का एक पंचायत है चिडियाली. सिंचाई की उचित व्यवस्था ना होने के कारण और जंगली जानवरों के आतंक के कारण यहाँ के लोगो ने खेती करना कम कर दिया था. इस क्षेत्र के पीपली गाँव के पूर्व प्रधान और सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता श्री फूलदास ढोंढयाल ने लोलोग क चेतना मंच द्वारा आयोजित सब रीजनल बैठकों में क्षेत्र में कम होती खेती पर चिंता जाहिर की. संगठन की महिलाओं ने भी चिंता जाहिर की कि अगर सभी ऐसे एक एक करके खेती छोड़ते गये तो पूरा का पूरा क्षेत्र बंजर हो जायेगा. ऐसी ही एक बैठक में सभी सदस्यों ने कहा कि अगर उन्हें कोई ऐसा चक मिल जाये जहाँ वे सामूहिक रूप से खेती कर सके तो इसके लिए प्रयास किया जा सकता है. उस बैठक में महिला मंगल दल चिडियाली की महिलायें भी शामिल थी. उन्होंने प्रस्ताव रखा कि ऐसा एक चक(जमीन का बड़ा टुकड़ा) उनके गाँव में उपलब्ध है. वर्ष 2023 में परियोजना की सहायता से चिडियाली गाँव को सामूहिक खेती के लिए पॉवर वीडर दिलवाया गया.



कृषि विभाग ने खेती के लिए बीज उपलब्ध कराया. समूह की महिलाओं ने खूब मेहनत की. फसल अच्छी हो रही थी लेकिन फसल काटने से ठीक पहले आवारा पशुओं ने खेत पर हमला कर दिया और रातों रात पूरी फसल को चौपट कर दिया. महिलाओं ने फिर से इस बारे में गाँव में चर्चा की. इस बार हिमकॉन संस्था ने मदद की और रोजमैरी के 10000 पौधे उपलब्ध कराये. गाँव के पुरुषों को चूँकि रोजगार के सिलसिले में बाहर ही रहना पड़ता है इसलिए रोजमैरी के पौधो को लगाने की जिम्मेदारी गाँव की महिलाओं ने अपने ऊपर ले ली. सबसे पहले उन्होंने खेतों के पास बने क्षतिग्रस्त गूल(नहर) का मरम्मत करवा दिया | मनरेगा के माध्यम से महिलाओं ने खेत को समतल किया. खेतों को समतल करने में ही महिलाओं को 57 हजार की धनराशी भी मिली. प्राप्त आय से महिलायें आशान्वित और उत्साहित हुयी.

उन्होंने पॉवर वीडर स्वयं चलाने का प्रशिक्षण लिया.खेतों में उसे चलाने का अभ्यास शुरू कर दिया. पहाड़ों में ये प्रचलन है कि महिलायें फसल लगाने से लेकर निराई गुड़ाई, देख रेख, फसल को काटने-माड़ने और उसे साफ़ करने की जिम्मेदारी महिलाओं की होती है लेकिन एकमात्र हल चलाने की जिम्मेदारी पुरुषों की होती है.पॉवर वीडर को जब खेत में उतारा गया तो महिलाओं ने इसे चलाने का प्रयास किया. थोड़ी मशक्कत के बाद महिलाओं को इसे चलने में आसानी हुयी. और प्रकार पॉवर वीडर के आने से पुरुषों की एकमात्र भूमिका भी अब महिलाओं के कंधे पर आ गयी है.बारी बारी से महिलाओं ने पॉवर वीडर की सहायता से पूरे खेतों को समतल बनाया. फिर रोजमैरी का पौध लगाया.



पौधो की देखभाल करने के बारी लगाई गयी. समय समय पर पानी की सिचाई की गयी. अब पौध तैयार है. इसके विपरण के लिए हिमकॉन संस्था से बात की जा रही है ताकि पूरी फसल एक साथ बिक जाए. इस पौध की कीमत 350 रु प्रति किलो है.रोज़मेरी में जीवाणुरोधी गुण होते हैं जो त्वचा के उपचार में मदद करते हैं। इसे अपने स्कैल्प और बालों की देखभाल की दिनचर्या में शामिल करने से त्वचा की चोटें ठीक हो जाती है जिससे स्कैल्प स्वस्थ रहती है.साथ ही,यह जड़ी-बूटी डर्मेटाइटिस, एक्जिमा और मुंहासे जैसी त्वचा संबंधी स्थितियों का भी इलाज कर सकती है.स्वास्थ्य की दृष्टि से रोज़मेरी प्लान बहुत लाभकारी है. रोज़मेरी का कॉन्टिनेंटल खाने में भी बहुत महत्त्व है.इसके प्रयोग से भोजन का स्वाद भी बढ़ जाता है.बंजर होते पहाड़ में यदि चिडियाली गाँव का ये सामूहिक खेती सफल होता है तो ना ये सिर्फ पहाड़ों की आर्थिकी को मजबूत करेगा बल्कि पलायन को भी रोकने में मदद करेगा.



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Mr. Lakhbir Singh
Chairman, Adarsh Yuva
Samiti, Haridwar

Introduction – Building Rural Prosperity through Sustainable Livelihoods

Rural India is rich in resources and human potential, yet continues to face persistent challenges unemployment, low farm productivity, inadequate skills, and limited access to markets. While many initiatives address these issues in isolation, few integrate them into a holistic model that combines agriculture, skill development, and entrepreneurship with strong community participation. This profile highlights the journey and leadership of **Mr. Lakhbir Singh**, Chairman of **Adarsh Yuva Samiti**, Haridwar. Since founding the organization in 1997, he has dedicated himself to creating opportunities for farmers, women, and youth. His approach blends traditional wisdom with modern solutions, fostering self-reliance, dignity, and inclusive growth in rural communities.

Thematic Engagement – From Marginalization to Market Empowerment

When **Adarsh Yuva Samiti** was established in *Dandi Ibrahimpur*, Bahadradab block in 1997, rural migration was high, farm incomes were low, and youth were increasingly disconnected from agriculture. Farmers lacked access to quality inputs, women had minimal livelihood opportunities, and traditional skills were underutilized. Schools struggled with inadequate infrastructure and poor sanitation, villages lacked safe waste management systems, and women had limited platforms for collective action

Mr. Singh's Four Pillars for Change:

1. **Skill Development for Employment** – Establishing industrial tailoring and handicraft training centres to equip women and youth with employable skills.
2. **Market Linkages & Entrepreneurship** – Forming Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to enable collective input procurement, standardization, branding, and direct sales.
3. **School WASH & Infrastructure Development** – Renovating rural schools with proper toilets, safe drinking water, secure boundaries, and child-friendly learning spaces to improve attendance, especially among girls.

4. **Village Sanitation & Women's Empowerment** – Building household toilets, promoting hygiene practices, and forming women-led SHGs to strengthen social capital, leadership, and income generation.

Challenges Addressed:

- Lack of awareness about sustainable and profitable farming practices.
- Weak bargaining power and market isolation of small farmers.
- Limited exposure to value addition and market trends.

Opportunities Leveraged:

- Collaboration with CSR programs and government schemes such as the Tribal Development Fund (TDF).
- Rising demand for nutrition-oriented crops.
- Youth interest in entrepreneurship when supported by skills and market access.

Background of the Sector Leader – A Life Rooted in Grassroots Change

- Born and raised in Haridwar district, Mr. Lakhbir Singh grew up in an agricultural environment and experienced first-hand the hardships faced by small farmers, low productivity, poor returns, and limited opportunities. These experiences shaped his vision to create change within the community.
- In 1997, along with like-minded youth, he founded Adarsh Yuva Samiti to address the interconnected challenges of livelihoods, education, and empowerment. Over the years, he has built strong partnerships with government agencies, NABARD, CSR foundations, and NGOs. His leadership is characterized by field engagement, participatory planning, and long-term mentorship, earning him respect both locally and within the broader development sector.

Case Studies – Transformative Interventions in Action

Case Study-1

Government Upper Primary School, Roshanabad – A Transformation Story

Under the guidance of Mr. Lakhbir Singh, Chairman of Adarsh Yuva Samiti (AYUS), and with support from ITC Mission Sunehra Kal, Government Upper Primary School Roshanabad underwent a remarkable transformation in 2016–17. Before the intervention, the school faced severe challenges — no boundary wall or main gate, lack of toilets and clean drinking water, unsafe conditions due to stray animals, unhygienic classrooms, and dusty grounds causing health issues for both teachers and students, especially girls. These issues led to low and irregular attendance, with girls being disproportionately affected.



Through AYUS's efforts, new sanitation facilities, safe drinking water, a secure boundary, and improved infrastructure were established. A Child Cabinet was formed to promote hygiene habits like handwashing, daily bathing, and wearing clean clothes. As a result, attendance surged from 378 in 2016 to 510 in 2021–22, with near gender parity.



Case Study-2

IHHT (Individual Household Toilet)

Under the leadership of Mr. Lakhbir Singh, Chairman of Adarsh Yuva Samiti, and with support from ITC Mission Sunehra Kal, 153 needy families in Shyampur village, Bahadarabad block, Haridwar, received household toilets — making 20 Gram Panchayats in the block open-defecation free. One such beneficiary, Mrs. Kamla Negi, lived with her husband and five daughters near Rajaji National Park, where open defecation posed both health risks and danger from wild animals. Due to financial hardship, she struggled to contribute to the toilet construction cost, but with her husband's determination and the project's support, a toilet was built for her family.

Today, Kamla Negi's family uses the toilet regularly, and she has also joined a women's self-help group. The transformation reflects Mr. Lakhbir Singh's vision of improving rural sanitation, women's dignity, and community health, for which the project was honored by the Swachh Bharat Mission.

Case Study 3

When There is Will, there is Way – Krishana SHG,
Kangari

Under the leadership of Mr. Lakhbir Singh, Chairman of Adarsh Yuva Samiti, and with support from ITC Mission Sunehra Kal, Krishana SHG was formed in Kangari village on 14 July 2017 with 11 women from economically weaker backgrounds. Earlier dependent on moneylenders charging exorbitant interest, the group was organized to access formal banking, savings, and livelihood opportunities.



Initially trained in handmade silk-thread jewellery, the SHG later expanded into spice grinding and marketing, investing ₹70,000 with business plan support from ITC Mission Sunehra Kal and securing a ₹2,00,000 bank loan for machinery. At its peak, they employed sales staff and gained recognition in local markets.

When COVID-19 lockdown disrupted their spice trade in March 2020, the women swiftly shifted to mask-making, selling over 5,000 masks. Their journey reflects Mr. Singh's vision of empowering rural women through SHGs, skill development, and resilience-building — proving that “when there is will, there is way.”

Lessons Learned – Trust, Skills, and Market Access

Key Takeaways:

- Trust Building – Change begins when communities believe in the vision and capacity of the initiative.
- Skill + Market Linkage – Training is sustainable only when paired with strong market access.
- Women as Catalysts – Women’s economic empowerment triggers broader community transformation.
- Recommendations:
 - Expand digital literacy for farmers and rural entrepreneurs.
 - Scale up TDF livestock and Poly House models to other regions.
 - Promote climate-smart agriculture to protect incomes against environmental risks.

Future Directions – Scaling Impact Across Regions

Mr. Singh envisions Adarsh Yuva Samiti as a regional hub for integrated rural development.

Future include:

1. Establishing more Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) to increase collective bargaining power and market penetration.
2. Setting up multi-crop processing hubs for spices, pulses, and herbal products.
3. Leveraging e-commerce platforms for direct farmer-to-consumer sales.
4. Promoting Self-Help Groups (SHGs) for women’s economic empowerment and leadership development.
5. Implementing tribal development programs to enhance livelihoods, preserve cultural heritage, and improve access to education and healthcare.
6. Strengthening WASH (Water, Sanitation & Hygiene) and school infrastructure, ensuring safe drinking water, gender-friendly toilets, and healthy learning environments.
7. Developing “Smart Schools” with digital classrooms, modern teaching aids, and child-friendly facilities to bridge the rural education gap.
8. Collaborating with research institutions for innovative and sustainable farming solutions.

For Mr. Singh, rural development is not just about increasing incomes—it is about restoring self-worth, opportunity, and resilience in communities. His leadership continues to inspire grassroots change-makers across Uttarakhand and beyond, creating a model for holistic and inclusive rural transformation.

1. Honoured by the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, COVID-19 relief,



2. Honoured by the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, recognized for Swachh Bharat mission work



3. Honoured by the Governor of Uttarakhand, recognized for Agriculture Sector work





Creative Attempts in Rural Development

INTRODUCTION

Creative Attempts in Rural Development Society” acronym CARD is a nongovernmental organization. Since 1999 it’s working for community with community. CARD is working for betterment of downtrodden society. To achieve the objectives of organization we start work mostly on public concern issues and follow it till today. The team of CARD knows about the different problems community is facing. Lack of awareness; lack of basic amenities such as health & education, discrimination on basis of gender, race, age, class; poverty, inactive and insensitive structural facilities, no employment opportunities and poor political will, make the situation very painful. The increased graph of violence and injustice has been noticed by the organization which is constantly emerging parallel to the employability. Group of youth joined the Himalaya Nadi Ghati Sanrakshan Abhiyan and after a short time the youth group started a new journey of social services with the name of group CARD.

Challenges

- **Rights based** - Child rights, Women rights, Peoples rights, Education, Health, Climate Change, Forest rights
- **Service Delivery** - Vocational training, Entrepreneurship, Health and educational gap arrangements, Access of basic need structures
- **Management** - Natural resources, Water conservation, Climate Change, Traditional knowledge, Disaster
- **Technical aspects** - Technically strengthening organizations working on social issues. Over the years of working with community the team of CARD gets experience, identity and how to combat the problems.

Thematic Engagement

• Child Rights

We started works for child education and health (to establish child rights) in remote and bordering region of District Pithoragarh. During this program organisation conducted different activities such as reactivation of health-related services, formation of village level groups, child groups, adolescents' groups, co curriculum activities in schools, health camps etc.

Challenges – to centric child in topics

Achievements – After withdrawal of program for long time the formed groups worked with self-sustainability.

• Women Empowerment

Gender based discrimination and violence against women was raising day by day, CARD be partner of various movements against the violence, conducted livelihood improvement programs with women, kishori Shakti yojna in working area. In this bordering area women and girls' protection have become one of the major issues for police and for voluntary organizations. Women and girls trafficking and child marriages cases have been reported in our office almost every day. There is no single day when such cases do not report in newspapers. The education level of the community is very low and found economically very poor. Some classes of communities are very much dominating and directly and indirectly involve in trafficking like activities.

CARD started awareness among community regarding trafficking and micro to macro level meetings with all stakeholders, organise padyatra in bordering region in 2006 to 2014. After this in 2015-16 we start a protective shelter home for trafficked victims.

In 2022 CARD started Child Care Institute for adolescent girls, this was a donation-based program, we run it till March 2025 and then CARD decided to withdrawal this program due to negative approach of govt. agencies and fund crises.

Challenges – fund, traditional customs, nexus of traffickers, lack of awareness, poverty, support of stakeholders.

Achievements – we could save more than 400 lives state government honoured CARD with the Sustainable Development Goal Award



- **Sanitation**

Under housing and sanitation CARD constructed more than 1000 IHHL and 4 sanitation complexes in schools. We worked in District Nainital, Udham Singh nagar, Uttarkashi of Uttarakhand and Bijnor of UP.

- **Climate Change**

How to mitigate the adverse impact of climate change, CARD execute a mix program of forest rights and conservation of traditional farming system, seed conservation, water conservation along with river study. This program executed in district Champwat, Nainital and Udham Singh nagar of Uttarakhand.

- **Public Health**

Most of community need access of health nearby and under they could afford it. Our health facilities are sick themselves. Common peoples are facing very uncomfortable. We requested some funding resources and one of them ready to support to health issue. CARD supported 3 community health centres in Uttarakhand, one of them is Roorkee civil hospital and other are Gopeshwar and Karnprayag CHC's.

गोपेश्वर में अब दूरबीन विधि से हो सकेंगे आपरेशन



संवाद सचिवी, उत्तराखण्ड • गोपेश्वर: संवेदनशील जनता को नैतिकता के साथ ही जिला पब्लिक स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी के अग्रणी पत्रिका के माध्यम से आधुनिक चिकित्सा उपकरण लाने से अब आसानी हो रही है। इससे अब मरीजों को अग्रणी चिकित्सा के लिए नहीं लाने पड़ेंगे।



जिला पब्लिक स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी एवं उपायुक्त चिकित्सा अधिकारी के अग्रणी पत्रिका के माध्यम से आधुनिक चिकित्सा उपकरण लाने से अब आसानी हो रही है। इससे अब मरीजों को अग्रणी चिकित्सा के लिए नहीं लाने पड़ेंगे।

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संस्था ने अस्पताल को दीं तीन मशीनें

रुड़की। सिविल अस्पताल रुड़की को एक सामाजिक संस्था ने 50 लाख रुपये की तीन मशीनें दी हैं। इन मशीनों का इस्तेमाल ऑपरेशन के समय किया जाता है।



कार्यक्रम में विधायक प्रदीप बजा, सहायक मजिस्ट्रेट दीपक सेठ के अलावा एनजीओ के अधिकारी व अस्पताल स्टाफ भी मौजूद रहा। सिविल अस्पताल रुड़की में शिपिंग कारपोरेशन ऑफ इंडिया कॉर्पोरेशन सामाजिक संस्था कार्ड ने तीन महत्वपूर्ण मशीनें दी हैं। विधायक प्रदीप बजा ने कहा कि सामाजिक संस्थाओं की ओर से दिए जाने वाले यह सहयोग देश व समाज के लिए बेहद महत्वपूर्ण हैं।

Case Studies and Examples

Working on different subjects with a very large part of society, the selection of events from it is quite difficult task. In the beginning, the community -based organizations which were formed, are even today upon contemporary issues, it is a success. On women's issues 15 % of the out of total women trained, are doing their employment. The victim's lives in shelter home of the institution got mainstream education and took vocational training; it is also successful that 4 girls are self-reliant by starting their own work. Every field has some successful stories and some failures to learn.

Lessons Learned

Every task gives something new to learn every day, it also teaches success and teaches failures. Working on all subjects, I learned that the results of working together with partnership are better. For every better work, the pro people advocacy of policy and programs is necessary, and this work cannot be done on the strength of any organization alone.

Background of the Sector Leader

Subhash Pangaria was born in a simple pahadi family. Postgraduate in Economics and Social Work (MSW), in collage he formed a group of students named “Yuva Manch”, this group organised different activities in various school campuses. After completion of education, he joined theatre group “Kala Manch” and organise street plays for years. He raises public concern issues through these plays and other gatherings. In 1997 he adjoins with conservation movement of Himalayan heritage, natural resources and culture (Himalayan nadi ghati sanrakshan abhiyan). During this campaign he deeply known about the practical problems of rural community. Since 1999 when the CARD emerge, he started pro people advocacy of issues and policies.

Future Directions

Work which CARD started in its journey of 26 years need to work much more but with new strategy and modus operandy. We must plan with integrated activities, with the changes in the world, many new methods have come into existence, and an organised action plan will have to be made to explain them.



Institute for Development Support (IDS)

Climate Change Perception and Adaptation: Kot Village

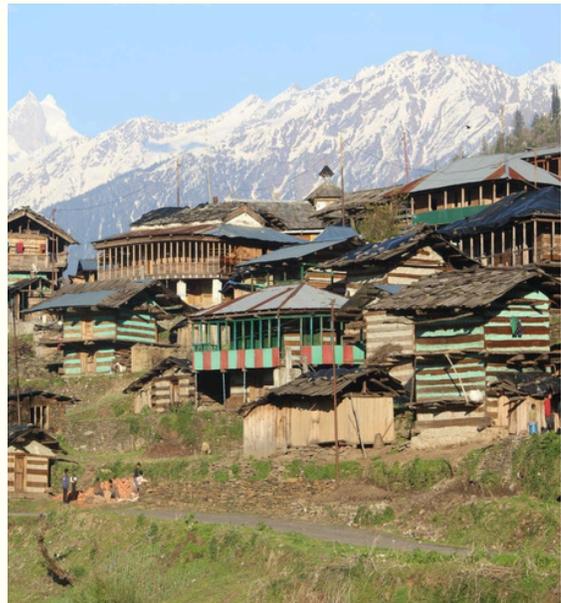
Kot is a village in the Mori block of Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand state, situated at an altitude of approximately 2000 meters above sea level. Due to its cold climate throughout the year, the maximum temperature in summer reaches 30-32 degrees Celsius, while in winter, snowfall leads to up to 6 inches of snow accumulation in the village, with temperatures dropping below zero. Surrounded by snow-capped peaks, waterfalls, and forests of deodar (*Cedrus deodara*), Burans (*Rhododendron arboreum*) Baanj (*Quercus leucotrichophora*), kail (*Pinus wallichiana*), moru (*Quercus floribunda*), and kharsu (*Quercus semecarpifolia*, Kot is a remarkably beautiful and picturesque village in the region.

Institute for Development Support (IDS) has been working for several years, not only in Kot village. But also, in 45 villages in the region to promote Girl Child education. To ensure qualitative progress in girls' education, 58 girls' educational centers are being operated across these 45 villages, where 1700 girls are enrolled. Additionally, life skills sessions for adolescent

girls are being regularly organized. The operation of these education centers has not only improved elementary education but has also led to significant enhancements in the knowledge and skills of adolescent girls.

Apart from girls' education and empowerment, IDS is also engaged in documenting and raising awareness about climate change, mitigation, and adaptations to climate change in the region. A senior team from the IDS, including anthropologists, social experts, and environmental specialists

conducted focus group discussions, observations, and field visits to interact with villagers and document their perceptions, understanding, and methods of adapting to the changing environment due to climate change. To raise awareness about climate and sustainable development, IDS has researched and developed a series of radio episodes on 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs), which are broadcast regularly through Doordarshan, Dehradun.



Kot Village



Peopls' Perception: Climate Change

As part of this series, a detailed account of the climatic changes observed in Kot village and surrounding areas and how the villagers are coping, has been presented below.

1. The villagers clearly state that until a few years ago, 2 to 3 feet of snow would accumulate in the village and surrounding areas during winter, remaining for at least 2 months. Snowfall would begin in November and continue until March. Almost every year, snow would fall and accumulate for 1 to 2 weeks continuously, forming glaciers that recharged springs and water sources for an extended period. During the rainy season, rainfall was steady and sometimes lasted for weeks, and even in summer, people wore woolen clothes. However, now the monsoon rainfall has become erratic, often causing landslides. Winter rainfall and snowfall have significantly decreased with barely 6 inches of snow accumulating in the village, and the snowfall period is now limited to January and February. In summer, people have started wearing t-shirts. Last year, the heat was so intense that people felt the need for fans.

2. Due to erratic rainfall, water flows rapidly down slopes instead of percolating, leaving little water to recharge sources. Reduced snowfall and the absence of glaciers have significantly lowered the discharge of water in the village's natural water sources. Decreased winter rainfall and snowfall have reduced moisture in forests, leading to a sharp increase in forest fire incidents during summer, rapidly depleting valuable natural resources.

3. When snowfall was abundant, villagers built multi-story wooden houses to protect themselves from the cold. The ground floor housed cows, oxen, and buffaloes, the first floor was for sheep and goats, and the top floor was for the family. Keeping livestock in the same house was important as their body heat provided warmth to the upper floors. However, now livestock are kept in separate shelters, and due to rising temperatures and a shortage of timber, houses made of brick and cement are being constructed.



New variety of apple

4. Due to the scarcity of natural resources, villagers have completely abandoned sheep and goat rearing and wool-based industries dependent on it. Previously, each family owned at least 50 and up to 300 sheep and goats. In winter, these animals were taken to the plains for grazing, spending 6 months in the plains and 6 months in high-altitude pastures. Similarly, buffaloes were reared more

commonly than cows in the villages, but due to a lack of fodder, people have stopped rearing buffaloes entirely, adopting cow rearing instead, with a significant decline in the overall number of livestock.

5. Several crops suited to cold climates, such as fafra, kuttu (*Fagopyrum esculentum* Moench), cheena (*Panicum miliaceum* L), chaulai (*Amaranthus hypochondriacus*), local variety of potato known as Tumdi also have either ceased to be grown or have seen adverse effects on their productivity.

6. Farmers have stopped planting the Royal Delicious variety of apples, suited to cold climates, as it requires sufficient snowfall and chilling days.

7. In forests of valuable cold-climate species like deodar, banj, and burans, the less useful pine (cheed) species, typically found in warmer valleys, is rapidly spreading. Pine contributes significantly to forest fires and their spread. The encroachment of pine into deodar, banj, and burans forests is a significant indicator of climate change.

8. Due to the depletion of natural resources, wild animals such as monkeys, langurs, and bears have started entering villages in search of food, damaging farmers' crops and increasing human-wildlife conflict.

Adaptation: Climate Change

Local communities are adapting to climate change in various ways, as explained through the following details:

Transformation of Agriculture and Economy: Villagers have transformed their agriculture and livestock-based economy into cash-oriented farming, particularly focusing on horticulture. Under horticulture, crops like potatoes, peas, garlic, and *bhangjeera* (*Perilla frutescens*), along with apples, have become the primary sources of the local economy. As mentioned earlier, due to the unsuitable climate for the Royal Delicious apple variety, farmers have either stopped new plantations or faced adverse impacts on its yield. Instead, they have shifted to planting various spur varieties such as Red Spur, Starkrimson, Golden Spur, Red Chief, and Oregon Spur, enabling large-scale apple production. These spur varieties can be easily grown at relatively lower



altitudes and warmer climates, up to 1,000 meters. Farmers in Kot and surrounding areas earn an annual income ranging from ₹1 lakh to ₹50 lakh per family through apple sales.

Shift in Potato Cultivation: Potatoes, the second major source of the local economy, have also been affected. The local Tumdi variety has seen adverse impacts on its yield. Farmers have adopted the Kufri variety, which can be easily cultivated at lower altitudes and in warmer climates. Families sell potatoes worth ₹20,000 to ₹50,000 annually.



Adoption of Bhangjeera Cultivation: While climate change has had negative effects, it has also proven to be a boon in some cases. One such example is the adoption of bhangjeera (*Perilla frutescens*, also known as beefsteak plant) by farmers.



This wild plant, whose seeds are highly flavorful, is used to make chutneys, spices, tempering for pulses and vegetables, was considered a destructive weed in Uttarakhand villages as it spread in fields, displacing cereal crops. Once established in a field, it was difficult to eradicate due to its self-seeding nature. Its use was limited to domestic consumption in hill villages.

Bhangjeera traditionally grew in warmer regions, with only a few plants found in high-altitude forests due to low yields in cold conditions. Villagers note that over the past decade, rising temperatures in the villages have led to increased wild bhangjeera yields. With growing market demand and high market prices, farmers have now started cultivating it systematically.

It requires minimal labor, no fertilizers, or pesticides, and is neither eaten nor damaged by wild animals, thus easily preventing human-wildlife conflict. This three-month crop has become a boon for the villages, providing substantial income per family.



3. Adoption of Fuel-Efficient Technology: Typically, winters across the country bring intense cold, but in Uttarakhand's high-altitude areas, snowfall increases the severity of the cold. Villagers rely entirely on firewood for fuel. In high-altitude villages, snowfall disrupts electricity supply, and people collect wood from forests to survive the winter. The high demand for firewood has adversely impacted forests. In villages within the boundaries of the Govind Pashu Vihar National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary, established in 1995 as a wildlife sanctuary and later converted into a National park, cutting or collecting firewood is prohibited under regulations. To reduce firewood consumption, locals have adopted a simple technology called hamam for heating water and cooking. This is a cylindrical container made of iron and tin with a central pipe fitted with a mesh and bottom. Husk, Wood, or dry grass is burned inside the pipe, and cold water is filled in the outer container. Remarkably, within 12 to 15 minutes, 35 liters of boiling water is ready. The system allows continuous input of cold water on one side and extraction of hot water from the other. Additionally, food can be cooked on the stove at the top. Compared to traditional stoves, which take 30-40 minutes to heat 35 liters of water, the hamam does so in one-third the time and within one-third the fuel. It not only heats water but also cooks food and warms homes simultaneously.





From Struggle to Strength: The Impact Story of Macom Ministry



Introduction-

Macom Ministry is a dedicated nonprofit organization that has been working since 2013 to uplift the lives of marginalized communities, especially focusing on the most vulnerable children living in slums across India. With a strong commitment to social welfare, the organization operates in several regions, including Uttarakhand, Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Himanchal and Uttar Pradesh.

1. Education and Child Welfare

- Ensuring access to quality education for underprivileged children.
- Running non-formal education centers, remedial classes, and scholarship support.
- Promoting child rights, digital literacy, and personality development.

2. Health and Nutrition

- Conducting free health camps, preventive health awareness, and maternal–childcare initiatives.
- Addressing malnutrition through supplementary nutrition programs.
- Linking communities with government health services and insurance schemes.

3. Livelihood and Skill Development

- Vocational training in tailoring, handicrafts, computer skills, and small trades.
- Promoting entrepreneurship and micro-finance for self-reliance.
- Supporting youth and women to build sustainable livelihoods.

4. Women Empowerment

- Organizing self-help groups (SHGs) and cooperatives.
- Building leadership skills among women for decision-making and community participation.
- Providing counseling, capacity-building, and income-generation opportunities.

5. Community Development & Social Justice

- Awareness campaigns on rights, entitlements, and civic responsibilities.
- Strengthening grassroots leadership and local governance participation.
- Facilitating disaster relief, rehabilitation, and resilience-building in calamity-prone areas.



6. Environment and Sustainability

- Promoting eco-friendly practices, tree plantation, and water conservation.
- Educating communities on climate resilience and sustainable farming.
- Engaging youth in environment-friendly initiatives

7. Special Focus on Marginalized Groups

- Supporting street children, orphaned and abandoned children, widows, and displaced families.
- Advocating for inclusion, dignity, and equal opportunities.
- Providing shelter, education, and psychosocial care for the most vulnerable.

Background of the Sector Leader

The vision and direction of Macom Ministry are deeply rooted in the personal journey of its founder and leader Mr. Lakshman Singh Rawat who has dedicated his life to serving marginalized and downtrodden communities. Coming from a background of close association with the struggles of poor families in Uttarakhand, Punjab, and Jammu & Kashmir, he witnessed first-hand the challenges of poverty, lack of education, and limited access to health care. These experiences became the foundation of his passion and commitment to community development.

Motivated by the belief that every individual deserves dignity, opportunity, and hope, he began his journey by initiating small educational and welfare activities for children in need. His compassion for the disadvantaged, particularly orphaned children, widows, and disaster-affected families, inspired him to expand these efforts into a structured movement—Macom Ministry.

Over the 13 years, his leadership has been characterized by perseverance, empathy, and an unwavering faith in community-driven solutions. He has championed thematic areas such as education, health, women empowerment, and livelihood, ensuring that interventions are both people-centered and sustainable. Today, under his guidance, Macom Ministry stands



as a testimony to the power of vision, resilience, and heartfelt service. His journey reflects not only personal dedication but also the collective empowerment of thousands of lives touched through the organization's work..

Case Studies and Examples

Rukhsana Akhter lives in Beirn, Srinagar. She comes from a very poor background and for many years, she and her family struggled to meet even their basic needs. Life was difficult, and every day was a battle to survive. Everything changed when she received our support. With the help she received, Rukhsana was able to start her own Kashmiri handloom work. She put her skills, hard work, and determination into the business, and slowly things began to turn around. Today, Rukhsana's life and the life of her family look very different. Her handloom work has given her a stable income, improved their living conditions, and brought hope to her household. She is now able to provide for her children's education and meet her family's needs with dignity. Rukhsana's story is a beautiful example of how a little help can create a big change. She is not only earning a livelihood but also inspiring other women in her community to work hard and move forward in life



Future Directions

Macom Ministry is committed to expanding its impact and addressing emerging needs of marginalized communities in Uttarakhand, Punjab, and Jammu & Kashmir. Building on past achievements and learning, the organization envisions the following future directions:

1. Strengthening Education Initiatives

- Establishing more non-formal education centers and community schools for underprivileged children.
- Introducing digital classrooms and e-learning platforms to bridge the rural–urban education divide.
- Expanding scholarship and mentorship programs for higher education and skill-based careers.

2. Scaling Health and Nutrition Programs

- Launching mobile health clinics to reach remote and underserved areas.
- Partnering with government and private hospitals for specialized care and referral systems.
- Expanding maternal–child health and nutrition programs to reduce malnutrition and preventable diseases.

3. Expanding Livelihood & Women Empowerment Projects

- Creating skill hubs for vocational training in modern trades such as IT, renewable energy, and handicrafts.

4. Community Resilience and Disaster Preparedness

- Developing community-based disaster response and resilience plans.
- Training volunteers in emergency relief, rehabilitation, and psychosocial support.
- Strengthening infrastructure for disaster-affected families through housing and livelihood support

5. Environment & Climate Action

- Scaling up afforestation, water conservation, and eco-restoration initiatives.
- Promoting sustainable farming, organic practices, and climate-smart agriculture.
- Engaging schools and youth in climate action campaigns.

6. Advocacy and Policy Engagement

- Strengthening advocacy for the rights of children, women, and marginalized groups.
- Collaborating with government agencies to influence policies on education, health, and social protection.
- Building networks and alliances with like-minded organizations for collective impact.

7. Organizational Growth and Capacity Building

- Enhancing staff capacity through training, leadership development, and exposure.
- Strengthening monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) systems for greater accountability.
- Mobilizing resources through partnerships, CSR collaborations, and donor networks.

Mr. Lakshman Singh Rawat
Dehradun Uttarakhand





Climate Resilience and Sustainable Livelihood Demonstrations and Farming Procedures

Introduction

MVDA has been at the forefront of promoting climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods in rural Uttarakhand, addressing both ecological vulnerability and agricultural decline. Through a combination of practical demonstrations, community engagement, and innovative farming techniques, MVDA has empowered local farmers to adopt eco-friendly practices, revive indigenous crops, and adapt to climate variability. Amid challenges such as declining land use, dependency on rainfed agriculture, and frequent natural disasters, the organization has prioritized regenerative practices like composting, protective cultivation, and seed-based ecological restoration. By integrating traditional wisdom with modern approaches, and strengthening market linkages, MVDA's initiatives are not only improving agricultural productivity but also fostering long-term environmental stewardship and community resilience.

Thematic Engagement

Climate Resilience and Sustainable Livelihood Demonstrations and Farming Procedures MVDA has been actively driving sustainable change in rural Uttarakhand by focusing on climate resilience and promoting sustainable livelihoods. This year, key efforts were centred on practical training, resource management, and innovative agricultural practices to foster long-term sustainability and resilience. Key Activities and Achievements: Demonstrations and Farming Practices: 260 demonstrations were conducted on Integrated Pest and Nutrient Management (IPNM) and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for crops like millet, spices, vegetables, and pulses. Farmers gained vital knowledge of organic practices and Indigenous crops, Farmers were trained in eco-friendly techniques to reduce chemical inputs and adopt organic alternatives, improving crop yields and promoting conservation.

Key issues and challenges:-

1. **Declining Agricultural Land Use :-** Over 7.7 lakh hectares of agricultural land, only about 3.4 lakh hectares is under regular cultivation (2021-22).
 - a. Abandonment rate: Over 50% of cultivable land in mid- and high-hill areas is left fallow due to migration and declining productivity. Uttarakhand Economic Survey (2022)
2. **High Dependency on Rainfed Agriculture:-** Over 90% of the net sown area in hilly regions is rainfed, making it highly vulnerable to erratic rainfall. Only 12% of the total agricultural land is under assured irrigation. Department of Agriculture, Uttarakhand; ICAR Report (2020)

3. Frequent Natural Disasters-: Landslides: Over 66% of Uttarakhand is landslide-prone (as per Geological Survey of India). Flash floods: Between 2010–2020, Uttarakhand witnessed over 15 major flash flood events affecting farming communities. NDMA (2021); Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology

4. Depleting Water Resources-: Over 50% of natural springs in Uttarakhand are either drying or seasonal. Average discharge of key springs has declined by 30–40% in the past 2 decades. People’s Science Institute; NITI Aayog Composite Water Management Index (2021)

5. Out-Migration from Hill Regions-: Over 3.8 lakh people have migrated from over 1,700 villages in the past decade, creating 734 ghost villages. Agriculture is cited as a non-remunerative source of livelihood in over 65% of cases of migration. Uttarakhand Migration Commission (2020)

6. Climate Variability Impacts:-Temperature Rise: Average temperature in the Himalayan region has increased by 1.5°C over the last century, with a sharper rise in the past 30 years. Rainfall Variability: A 30% decline in winter rainfall has been recorded over the past two decades, affecting rabi crops. IMD Reports; ICIMOD (2021)

7. Post-Harvest Losses:- 25-30% post-harvest losses occur annually due to lack of cold chains and storage infrastructure, particularly for perishable crops like fruits and vegetables. NABARD District Credit Plans; NITI Aayog (2021)

Insights into the strategies adopted to address those challenges-:

- **Promotion of Indigenous Crops:** 1,044 farmers are now promoting local indigenous crops to diversify income and seed production. Over 70 indigenous crop seeds were collected, reviving traditional crops and preserving sustainable agricultural practices.

- **Value Addition and Market Linkages:** Collection centres were set up, and farmers were trained in marketing, branding, and collective farming to enhance the agricultural supply chain. Focus was placed on value addition for high-demand crops, targeting the urban market to diversify income streams and strengthen market linkages.

- **Introduction of Protective Cultivation Structures** To mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on crops, particularly during the sowing period, We introduced protective cultivation structures to create a controlled farming environment. These structures enable farmers to grow vegetables, herbs, and other crops more effectively by shielding them from extreme weather conditions. Through this initiative, farmers learned how to minimize crop wastage and enhance productivity, while their efforts in sustainable agriculture became a source of inspiration for the wider community.

- **Construction of Compost Pits** MVDA demonstrated the construction of 28 compost pits to promote organic waste recycling and improve soil health. 28 farmers were trained to produce organic manure, helping them sustainably to meet their agricultural needs. To ensure a steady supply of organic manure, We provided ongoing support and guidance to the farmers, fostering environmentally friendly practices and enhancing soil fertility.

- **Ecological Restoration – Beej Bombs Initiative** Creating seed bombs helps restore degraded land by reintroducing native plant species, which boosts biodiversity, improves soil health, and enhances green cover for long-term ecosystem recovery. Scaling Impact: Over 2 years 15,000 Beej Bombs were planted in Uttarakhand. with the help of students, women farmers volunteers and members of SHGs. Environmental & Community Impact and Long-term Vision: This initiative restores ecosystems, increases green cover, and actively involves local communities in the distribution and monitoring of resources. With a focus on reclaiming degraded lands, boosting biodiversity, and empowering communities in conservation efforts, it aims for lasting ecological and social transformation.

Background of the Sector Leader

The sector leader has had a dedicated journey in the field of rural development and environmental conservation. Motivated by a deep-rooted passion for sustainable farming and community empowerment, the leader has worked tirelessly to bridge the gap between traditional agricultural wisdom and modern climate-resilient practices. Their journey began with grassroots-level engagement, driven by the belief that empowering farmers and restoring ecosystems are key to building resilient communities. Over the years, their commitment to promoting indigenous crops, organic farming, and ecological restoration has transformed many rural landscapes and lives. Their vision continues to inspire both their team and the larger community to embrace sustainable development with determination and hope.

Case Studies and Examples

The Agro-Biodiversity programme implemented by Mount Valley Development Association (MVDA) in collaboration with Bioversity International and supported by the UN Environment-GEF-funded project aims to mainstream the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity in Tehri Garhwal district, Uttarakhand. Focused on enhancing the livelihoods of 33 women across five villages, the initiative promotes the conservation and rejuvenation of wild and cultivated spices and condiments through community empowerment. Key objectives include strengthening resilience in agriculture, improving access and benefit-sharing mechanisms, and using



participatory approaches to maintain crop diversity. MVDA's deliverables include conducting baseline and nutritional surveys, identifying 15 champion farmers to promote traditional landraces such as China 4 (paddy), Harshil Rajma, Lal Mandua, and white Amaranth during the Kharif season, and undertaking baby trials for 26 barley varieties during Rabi. The programme also carried out mother and baby trials for 31 rice and 15 barnyard millet landraces with technical support from ICAR-NBPGR Bhowali, along with organizing capacity-building training and exposure visits to strengthen farmer knowledge and adoption of biodiversity-rich solutions.



2. Transformation of Gulab Singh through Project Intervention

The Challenge: Gulab Singh, a farmer from a rural area, faced multiple challenges affecting his agricultural productivity. High costs and limited availability of quality seeds, irregular weather patterns, hailstorms, and a lack of access to government schemes and advanced farming knowledge limited his yields and income. His dependency on traditional farming methods and limited crop diversity further restricted his earnings.

Our Intervention: To address these issues, the project provided Gulab Singh with high-quality seeds for exotic vegetables like Broccoli, Bok Choy, and Lettuce varieties, along with essential organic and inorganic fertilizers, pesticides, and fungicides. Regular training sessions were conducted on high-yielding practices, soil management, irrigation techniques, and pest control. The team also carried out continuous crop monitoring and provided personalized farming guidance to ensure effective adoption of modern techniques.



The Result:

Post-intervention, Gulab Singh transitioned from traditional cash crops to high-value exotic vegetables, enabling him to grow crops four times a year instead of two. His annual income increased significantly from ₹1–1.5 lakh to ₹3–4 lakh. Beyond financial gains, he emerged as a progressive farmer and role model in his village, mentoring other farmers on advanced farming techniques and contributing to community-wide improvements in agricultural productivity and livelihoods.

Lessons Learned

Working in the thematic area of climate resilience, sustainable livelihoods, and women's economic empowerment offered several important lessons. First, community participation is critical interventions that succeed when local knowledge, needs, and timing (like agricultural seasons) are respected. Second, capacity building is essential; while many individuals like Sunaina Devi have skills, targeted technical training can significantly enhance their earning potential. Third, small, strategic support, such as providing a sewing machine or training in market linkages, can lead to major transformations in rural livelihoods. Lastly, institutional collaboration working closely with self-help groups, Panchayats, and community leaders strengthens project ownership and long-term impact.



Future Directions

- Strengthen Skill Training: Along with basic support, offer continuous technical and business development training tailored to local needs (e.g., stitching men's clothes, value addition in agriculture).
- Flexible Planning Around Local Calendars: Project activities should align with farmers' cropping cycles to ensure greater participation.
- Expand Market Access: Help rural entrepreneurs connect with broader markets through digital platforms, urban tie-ups, and farmer-producer companies (FPCs).
- Peer Learning and Mentorship: Encourage successful beneficiaries to mentor others, creating a ripple effect within the community.
- Sustainable Financial Models: Promote micro-credit linkages and small revolving funds within groups for self-sustained growth.
- Replication through SHGs and Federations: Use existing self-help groups as vehicles to spread and scale up successful models across nearby villages-

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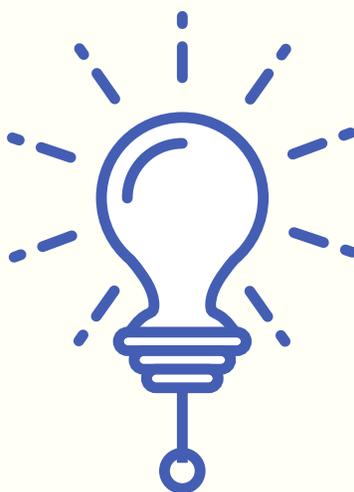
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Introduction: Reimagining Agriculture through Organic Practices

The modern agricultural landscape has seen immense growth in productivity, yet this progress has come at a steep cost deterioration of soil health, rising chronic diseases, environmental damage, and farmer distress. In this context, organic agriculture has emerged not merely as a technique, but as a holistic approach toward restoring ecological balance and ensuring sustainable livelihoods.

This article explores the life and leadership of RajBahadur Saini, a pioneer of the organic farming movement in Uttarakhand. His deep-rooted commitment to preserving soil health and farmer well-being has influenced policies, built networks, and shaped the organic ecosystem in the region.



Thematic Engagement: Addressing Soil, Health, and Sustainability Crisis

Between 1990 and 2000, Saini observed a disturbing trend—where once only one family member would fall ill occasionally, now entire families suffered from chronic illnesses. He linked this pattern with the increased use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Farming fields, once alive and fertile, were showing signs of fatigue. Crops were vulnerable, pests were mutating, and new diseases were impacting not only agriculture but also livestock.



In response, during his tenure with the Uttarakhand Organic Commodity Board (2002–2009), Saini initiated comprehensive awareness campaigns in Haridwar district. His approach was rooted in three pillars:

1. **Training & Capacity Building:** Hundreds of farmers, officers, and staff were trained in preparing vermi-compost, bio-pesticides, and liquid manures.
2. **Formation of Certified Organic Farmer Groups:** Each village identified model organic farmers, who were provided with handholding support for certification, technical knowledge, and organic input production.
3. **Market Integration:** He worked to connect these groups to markets by standardizing packaging, branding, and promotion, enhancing both credibility and profitability.

The strategy wasn't just about switching inputs—it was about changing mind-sets. Villagers began to debate the effects of chemical farming vs. organic practices, and the organic movement became a grassroots revolution.

Background of the Sector Leader: From Journalism to Grassroots Transformation

Raj Bahadur Saini's journey into the development sector was shaped by his academic grounding—M.A. in Political Science, PGDRD, PGDHJ, and MSW—and his early career as a journalist from 1993 to 2000 at Amar Ujala and Dainik Jagran. Journalism sharpened his sensitivity toward public issues, but it was his father, a deeply spiritual and environmentally conscious farmer, who instilled the core values that define his life's work.

His father would say, "We can recreate machines, tools, even houses—but we can never recreate living soil." He would not allow anyone to disturb plants or trees after sunset, believing that they, too, deserve rest. These sentiments deeply impacted Saini's philosophy and shaped his transition from journalism to sustainable agriculture advocacy.

Case Studies and Examples: From Village Models to State-Level Impact

The cornerstone of Saini's work was the creation of a state-level organic manure processing and distribution centre in Bhagwanpur, in partnership with UOCB. This centre collected manure from certified farmers across the region, graded and branded it, and sold it to institutional buyers in Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh.

Key highlights of this initiative:

- **Turnover Growth:** From an initial ₹8–12 lakh annual turnover, it grew to over ₹80–90 lakh between 2005 and 2008.
- **Farmer Federation Ownership:** The operations were managed by a farmers' federation in Haridwar, ensuring profits were distributed among members.
- **Organic Vegetable Sales:** The model was further extended to include organic vegetables, creating new markets and income sources.
- **Local Stores:** Village- and block-level organic input stores were set up. Unsold materials were brought back to Bhagwanpur, ensuring zero waste.

This ecosystem model became a template for replication in other districts and states.



Lessons Learned: Leadership, Participation, and Continuity

Saini's reflection offers an honest insight: organic programs thrive when led with passion and continuity. As soon as leadership becomes passive or exists in the field, community ownership may not be enough to sustain momentum. The organic movement requires not only structure but also a living spirit of guidance and encouragement.

Another key insight: efforts must go beyond training. They must include economic viability, long-term mentorship, emotional conviction, and policy alignment. The movement is not only about agriculture but about restoring a cultural connection with the land.

Future Directions: Scaling Organic for Global and Local Impact

Today, the ideas seeded by Raj Bahadur Saini have blossomed into an expansive thematic area. Organic agriculture is no longer limited to a few experimental farms, it is a national and global priority, linked with SDGs, climate action, and soil health movements.

Key future trends include:

- Microbial inoculants and bio-input entrepreneurship
- Carbon farming and regenerative practices
- Tech-enabled traceability and certification
- Youth-led agri-enterprises and farmer producer companies

Saini believes that every element—from soil fertility to packaging—presents an employment opportunity. Organic farming is no longer just a technique—it is an industry, a value system, and a necessity for planetary survival.





Jagat Singh
Secretary. Shalom Children's home

Introduction-

Shalom Children Home was founded in 2006 with a deep commitment to uplift orphaned, poor, and destitute children by giving them the gift of education and hope for a better future. What began as a small initiative with a day-boarding school providing free education has now grown into a movement of change. Over the years, Shalom Children Home has reached more than 8,000 children, empowering them with knowledge, discipline, and values that enable them to break the cycle of poverty. The organization believes that every child deserves the right to learn, dream, and live with dignity. Through dedicated efforts, Shalom Children Home not only focuses on academics but also nurtures children's holistic development, including health, nutrition, and moral support. Many of these children, who once had no access to schooling, are now pursuing higher education and becoming responsible citizens. Today, Shalom Children Home stands as a beacon of hope for vulnerable children, transforming lives through education, compassion, and care.

Background of the Organization:

Heritage: In its early years, Shalom Children Home began as a day-boarding school offering free education to children who otherwise had no access to schooling. Along with academics, the initiative also addressed the children's basic needs such as nutrition, health, and emotional support. Over time, the organization expanded its reach and strengthened its approach, focusing on holistic child development.

From a modest beginning, Shalom Children Home has now empowered more than 8,000 children through education and care. Many of its beneficiaries have successfully transitioned into higher studies and meaningful livelihoods. Today, the organization stands as a trusted community institution, continuously evolving to meet the changing needs of vulnerable children while staying rooted in its founding principles of love, service, and transformation through education.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Production and productivity for all targeted crops for women.
- Income of women from commercialization of their produce and processed products.
- Operating women farmer organizations.
- Number of Women Entrepreneurs and Enterprises established.
- Number of women refers to Health Facilities for the services.
- Number of laws and policies protecting the rights of women.
- Number of institutions with capacity to coordinate the women's economic empowerment project.
- Numbers of women with trained for cyber crime and social media.

Vision: Bringing hope, healing, and transformation through the skill development

Mission: To identify, equip, and trained the community leaders to grab the opportunity for skill, serve their communities, and developed the India

Profile of Core Members:

- 1- Mr. Nitendra Singh Bohra. Social activist and post graduate.
- 2- Mr. Vijay dwevedi. Master trainer and social scientist post graduate
- 3-Mr. Himanshu Master in social work and master trainer of SHG
- 4-Mr. Issac PHD and social expert in child education.
- 5- Mr. Mohit Khanduri Graduate and social worker for the rural area.
- 6- Mr. Pankaj Kumar. Master in social work and youth skill trainer.
- 7- Mr. Sundar singh Kholiya Graduate in water sanitation expert.



Milestones:

The mission expanded beyond children to include women empowerment and community development initiatives. Key milestones include organizing health and sanitation awareness drives, ensuring safe practices in marginalized communities, and conducting regular health check-up camps for both children and women. Shalom Children Home has also promoted women-led farming initiatives, encouraging women to engage in sustainable agriculture, medicinal and aromatic plant cultivation, and livelihood programs that enhance their family income. Special emphasis has been placed on training women in hygiene management, self-reliance, and leadership, making them active change-makers in their villages. Each of these milestones reflects the organization's commitment to holistic growth empowering children with education and women with dignity, health, and economic opportunity.

Organizational Impact:

Qualitative Impact: The impact of Shalom Children Home goes far beyond numbers—it is reflected in the transformed lives of children and women who once faced hopelessness.

Many children, who had never stepped inside a classroom, are now confident learners, pursuing higher education and even securing respectable jobs. For example, a child once working on the streets of Dehradun is today completing college and supporting his family, breaking the cycle of poverty. Similarly, young girls who once faced social neglect have grown into empowered women, equipped with education and skills to stand independently. The organization's focus on health and sanitation has also created visible change: communities that once struggled with poor hygiene practices are now aware of cleanliness, safe drinking water, and preventive healthcare. Women's farming initiatives have not only provided livelihood but also restored dignity—women who earlier depended entirely on others for survival are now contributing to household income through sustainable agriculture. These stories illustrate how Shalom Children Home has not just provided services but has ignited hope, confidence, and self-reliance in the lives of marginalized communities.

Quantitative Impact- Since its founding in 2006, Shalom Children Home has created a measurable impact in the lives of children and women across Uttarakhand. The organization has provided free education to over 8,000 children, many of whom were orphaned, abandoned, or from extremely poor families. Alongside schooling, more than 5,500 children have received free meals, uniforms, and healthcare support, ensuring their overall growth. Health initiatives have reached nearly 12,000 beneficiaries through medical check-ups, Sanitation drives, and awareness programs. In addition to children's welfare, Shalom Children Home has empowered women through skill-building and livelihood programs. More than 600 women have been trained in sustainable farming practices, including the cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants, which has helped increase their household income. Around 1,200 women have directly benefited from health, hygiene, and sanitation awareness workshops, leading to improved family and community well-being. These statistics reflect the wide scope and scale of Shalom Children Home's interventions, making it a significant force in driving education, health, and empowerment for marginalized communities.



Success Stories:

Field-Related Success: over the years, Shalom Children Home has successfully implemented several initiatives that have become models of change in the community. One notable success has been the establishment of free day-boarding education centers in Dehradun's slum areas, where hundreds of street children have transitioned from begging and labor to classrooms, receiving not only education but also meals, uniforms, and medical care. Many of these children are now continuing their studies in mainstream schools. Another significant field success is the Women's Farming Initiative, where rural women were trained in the cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants. This program not only improved their agricultural skills but also generated sustainable income, reducing financial dependence on male family members. Similarly, health and sanitation drives in villages have shown visible outcomes, with reduced cases of waterborne diseases and greater awareness about hygiene practices among women and children. These successful projects highlight Shalom Children Home's ability to bring about lasting transformation through practical, community-driven initiatives.



हिमालय पर्यावरण जड़ी-बूटी एग्री संस्थान

कल के लिए जल अभियान

जल संकट की चुनौती के समाधान का सफल अभियान

वर्ष 2021 में हिमालय पर्यावरण जड़ी-बूटी एग्री संस्थान, जाड़ी, उत्तरकाशी द्वारा जल संरक्षण के लिए "कल के लिए जल" अभियान शुरू किया गया। संस्थान के पिछले अनुभवों के आधार पर यह स्पष्ट हुआ कि जब तक लोगों को जल संरक्षण के लिए भावनात्मक रूप से नहीं जोड़ा जाता, तब तक वह प्रयास सिर्फ एक कार्यक्रम तक सीमित रह जाता है अभियान के अंतर्गत जनपद उत्तरकाशी के साथ राज्य के अन्य जनपदों में विभिन्न गतिविधियाँ की जा रही हैं, जो इस प्रकार हैं:

1. जन्मदिन एवं प्रियजनों की याद में जल कुंड एवं तालाब का निर्माण
2. एक विद्यालय, एक जल स्रोत
3. प्राकृतिक जल स्रोत पूजन
4. देहरादून में स्थित तालाबों, कुओं को अतिक्रमण से मुक्ति आदि
5. जल उत्सव कार्यक्रम एवं "कल के लिए जल" उत्सव यात्रा
6. जल वर्ष 2025

जन्मदिन एवं प्रियजनों की याद में तालाब का निर्माण

अभियान के अंतर्गत आम एवं खास लोगों को भावनात्मक रूप से जल संरक्षण के लिए प्रेरित किया गया। लोगों को उनके जन्मदिन एवं प्रियजनों की स्मृति में श्रमदान कर कच्चे जल कुंड एवं तालाब बनाने के लिए प्रेरित किया गया। अभियान की शुरुआत जनपद उत्तरकाशी के विकासखंड भटवाड़ी के चामकोट से की गई। चामकोट गाँव में संस्थान कोविड-19 के दौरान से कार्य कर रहा है, जिसका लाभ संस्थान को अभियान के विस्तार में मिला।

सफल कहानी

चामकोट के जलस्रोतों का पुनरुद्धार: सामूहिक कार्रवाई और महिला नेतृत्व ने कैसे एक गांव को बदल दिया" उत्तरकाशी ज़िले के भटवाड़ी विकासखंड में बसा चामकोट गाँव लगभग 70 परिवारों का घर है। समुदाय मुख्य रूप से अपनी आजीविका के लिए कृषि और पशुपालन पर निर्भर है। हालाँकि, पिछले कुछ वर्षों से चामकोट को पीने के पानी की गंभीर समस्या का सामना करना पड़ रहा था, जिसने न केवल उनके जीवन के तरीके को बल्कि गाँव की स्थिरता को भी खतरे में डाल दिया है।

समस्या और इसकी उत्पत्ति

चामकोट में पानी की कमी कई वर्षों से बढ़ती चिंता का विषय रही है। गाँव के प्रधान श्री श्यालिक राम भट्ट के अनुसार, यह समस्या तब और बढ़ गई जब सरकार ने जोशीयारा से धरासू पावर हाउस तक एक सुरंग बनाई, जो सीधे गाँव के नीचे से गुज़रती है। हालाँकि यह सुरंग इंजीनियरिंग का एक चमत्कार थी और इस क्षेत्र के लिए एक आवश्यक विकास कार्य था, लेकिन इसका अनपेक्षित परिणाम गाँव के पारंपरिक जल स्रोतों का भारी ह्रास था।

परिणामस्वरूप, इनमें से कई जल स्रोत, जो कभी पूरे गाँव को पानी उपलब्ध कराते थे, गर्मियों के दौरान सूखने लगे और महीनों तक पानी की कमी बनी रही। इससे पीने के पानी की भारी कमी हो गई, जिससे ग्रामीणों का दैनिक जीवन अस्त-व्यस्त हो गया।

पानी की कमी के प्रभाव दूरगामी थे। धान की रोपाई, जो हर जून में होती थी, में देरी हो गई या उसे पूरी तरह से छोड़ना पड़ा। स्थिति इतनी विकट हो गई कि कुछ परिवारों को बेहतर जीवन स्थितियों की तलाश में मातली और उत्तरकाशी जैसे नज़दीकी शहरों में पलायन करने के लिए मजबूर होना पड़ा।

गाँव न केवल जल संकट का सामना कर रहा था, बल्कि सामाजिक-आर्थिक संकट से भी जूझ रहा था, क्योंकि इसकी आबादी लगातार घटती जा रही थी।

जाड़ी संस्थान पिछले कई वर्षों से गाँव में कार्य कर रहा था। संस्थान ने समुदाय के साथ बैठकर वर्षा के पानी को जंगल में ही रोकने का फैसला किया, ताकि प्राकृतिक जल स्रोत पुनर्जीवित हो सकें। कई बैठकों और चर्चाओं के बाद, गाँव एक समाधान पर पहुँचा — पानी के तालाबों का निर्माण करना, जो जलाशयों के रूप में काम कर सकें और उपलब्ध पानी को इकट्ठा व संरक्षित कर सकें।

हालाँकि, इस विचार के लिए जनशक्ति और संसाधनों दोनों की आवश्यकता थी। संस्थान के पास संसाधन तो नहीं थे, परंतु एक मजबूत विचार अवश्य था। विचार को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए संस्थान ने 70 परिवारों को मिलाकर गाँव में गंगा सखी संगठन का गठन किया।

समर्पित गाँव की महिलाओं को जोड़कर बना यह गंगा सखी संगठन इस संघर्ष में एक महत्वपूर्ण मोड़ साबित हुआ। गाँव में लगातार 7 महीने के प्रयासों के बाद लोग इस नतीजे पर पहुँचे कि वर्तमान और भविष्य में जल संकट की चुनौती के समाधान के लिए सामूहिक प्रयास ही सबसे प्रभावी रास्ता है।

संस्थान के द्वारा गंगा सखी संगठन के हर सदस्य को अपने परिवार जनों के जन्मदिन एवं जो परिवार के सदस्य इस धरती पर नहीं है उनकी याद में कच्चे तालाब बनेंगे और गाँव के मंदिर में हर सदस्य ने 50- 50 जल कुंड बनाने का संकल्प लिया। की हे धरती मां आज तक हमने हमारे परिवार के सदस्यों ने जितने जल का उपयोग किया उसे तालाब जल कुंड बना कर पुनः आपको लौटा रहे हैं।

गंगा सखी संगठन

श्रीमती महेंद्री देवी को संगठन का अध्यक्ष चुना गया। उन्हें कई बैठकों और प्रशिक्षणों में भेजा गया ताकि वे बेहतरीन तरीके से नेतृत्व कर सकें। उनके प्रेरणादायी नेतृत्व में महिलाओं ने इस चुनौती को सबसे पहले स्वीकार किया।

उनके साथ बैठकर यह रणनीति बनाई गई कि जब जल कुंड बनाने का काम शुरू होगा, तो प्रत्येक सदस्य परिवार सहित मिलकर कार्य करेगा। जैसे — एक दिन एक परिवार मिलकर 10 जल कुंड बनाएगा, तो अगले दिन दूसरा परिवार उसी प्रकार कार्य करेगा।

इसके साथ ही संगठन का एक जमा खाता भी पास के मातली कस्बे में स्थित बैंक में खोला गया, जिसमें प्रत्येक सदस्य 50 रुपए मासिक बचत करता है। इस बचत की राशि का उपयोग दैनिक खर्चों के साथ-साथ बच्चों की शिक्षा में भी किया जाता है।

बना डाले 3500 जल कुंड

यह कार्य आसान नहीं था। मई और जून के लगातार दो महीनों तक महिलाओं ने अन्य ग्रामीणों के साथ मिलकर कड़ी धूप में श्रमदान किया। पारंपरिक विधि का उपयोग करते हुए कुल 3,500 जल कुंड और तालाब बनाए गए। जलग्रहण क्षेत्रों में रणनीतिक रूप से स्थित इन तालाबों को वर्षा जल को इकट्ठा करने और संग्रहीत करने के लिए डिज़ाइन किया गया था, ताकि गाँव के नीचे स्थित प्राकृतिक जल स्रोत पुनर्जीवित हो सकें।

जुलाई तक उनके प्रयास रंग लाने लगे। जैसे ही मानसून की बारिश आई, बारिश के बहते पानी से जल कुंड और तालाब भरने लगे, और अगस्त तक वे पानी से लबालब भर गए। यह ग्रामीणों के लिए आशा और राहत का दृश्य था, क्योंकि ये तालाब अब जीवन रेखा के रूप में दिखाई देने लगे।

एक टिकाऊ भविष्य

महिलाओं के नेतृत्व वाली गंगा सखी संगठन और पूरे चामकोट समुदाय के प्रयास इस बात का एक शानदार उदाहरण हैं कि कैसे सामूहिक कार्रवाई, लचीलापन और अभिनव सोच सबसे कठिन चुनौतियों को भी पार कर सकती है। दृढ़ संकल्प और स्वैच्छिक श्रम के माध्यम से बनाए गए ३,५०० जल कुंडों और तालाबों के निर्माण ने न केवल गाँव के पेयजल संकट को हल किया है, बल्कि इसकी कृषि में भी नई जान फूँकी है और इसकी जनसंख्या में कमी की प्रवृत्ति को उलट दिया है। यह मामला केवल तालाब बनाने के भौतिक कार्य के बारे में नहीं है; यह बदलाव लाने में एक समुदाय, विशेष रूप से महिलाओं के सशक्तिकरण के बारे में है। यह दर्शाता है कि कैसे टिकाऊ, स्थानीय समाधान पर्यावरण और समाज — दोनों पर गहरा प्रभाव डाल सकते हैं। चामकोट की कहानी दृढ़ता, सहयोग और अंततः विजय की कहानी है — एक ऐसा गाँव जिसने संकट का सामना किया और पहले से कहीं अधिक मजबूत, अधिक एकजुट और अधिक लचीला बनकर उभरा।

कल के लिए जल अभियान मन की बात का हिस्सा भी बना संस्थान के इस सफल अभियान को भारत के प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी की मन की बात में भी स्थान दिया गया। मन की बात से पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय द्वारा जल कुंडों और तालाबों का स्थलीय निरीक्षण किया गया।

राज्य के अन्य जनपदों में भी प्रेरित हुए लोग

- अभियान से प्रेरित होकर उत्तरकाशी निवासी प्रज्वल उनियाल ने अपने पिताजी स्व श्री संदीप उनियाल की पुण्य स्मृति में 10 तालाब बनाए।
- राष्ट्रीय समाचार पत्र दैनिक हिंदुस्तान के प्रधान संपादक श्री प्रताप सोमवंशी ने उत्तरकाशी में अपने जन्मदिन पर कच्चे तालाब बनवाए।
- वर्ष 2025 में पद्म भूषण डॉ अनिल प्रकाश जोशी ने अपने जन्मदिन पर 6 अप्रैल को शुक्लापुर में जल कुंड बनाए
- इसके बाद उत्तरकाशी के कुराह गांव की महिलाओं ने लगभग 2 हजार जल कुंड श्रमदान कर तैयार किए।
- लगभग दो दर्जन से अधिक गांव में लोगों ने वा विभिन्न संगठनों ने 1 हजार से अधिक जल कुंड बनाए।
- देहरादून में मुख्यमंत्री श्री पुष्कर सिंह धामी के जन्मदिन पर दुधली के जंगल में बड़ा तालाब बना
- अभियान से प्रेरित होकर शिक्षक श्री चैत राम सेमवाल द्वारा जनपद टिहरी के का कांगड़ा गांव के जंगल में स्व विपिन रावत जी की पुण्य स्मृति में 10 कच्चे तालाब बने। सिलसिला जारी है लोग दिन ब दिन जुड़ते जा रहे हैं।

वर्ष 2023 में जनपद उत्तरकाशी में जल उत्सव मनाया गया ।

कल के लिए जल उत्सव यात्रा ज्यादा से ज्यादा लोगों को जल संरक्षण से जोड़ने के लिए जनपद देहरादून के लाखामंडल से उत्तरकाशी तक जल उत्सव यात्रा की गई, जिसमें 80 से अधिक गांव, कस्बों में बैठक, नुक्कड़ सभा, पानी की चौपाल की गई।

जनपद उत्तरकाशी में जल उत्सव कार्यक्रम मानने के लिए जिला प्रशासन को प्रेरित किया गया। तत्कालीन जिलाधिकारी श्री अभिषेक रुहेला एवं मुख्य विकास अधिकारी श्री गौरव कुमार आईएएस के साथ कई दौर की वन टू वन बैठक की गई, परिणाम स्वरूप जिला प्रशासन के निर्देश पर विभिन्न विभागों, ग्राम पंचायत एवं स्वैच्छिक संगठनों ने एक साथ 1 लाख अड़तीस हजार जल कुंड, खंती श्रमदान कर बनाए गए।

जल उत्सव कार्यक्रम का शुभारंभ 5 जून 2023 को तत्कालीन मुख्यविकास अधिकारी श्री गौरव कुमार आईएएस एवं अभियान के प्रणेता द्वारिका प्रसाद सेमवाल ने ग्राम अलेथ से किया गया।

जल वर्ष २०२५ पर की जा रही गतिविधियों की प्रेरणा

जल वर्ष २०२५ - जीवन रेखा बचाने का वर्ष, इस वर्ष को जल वर्ष के रूप में मनाया जा रहा है। निरंतर पंचायतों, स्कूलों में जल संरक्षण कार्यक्रम आयोजित किए जा रहे हैं।

जल वर्ष २०२५ के अवसर पर एक विद्यालय एक जल स्रोत कार्यक्रम शुरू किया गया। विद्यालयों को जल स्रोत गोद लेने के लिए प्रेरित किया गया। गोद लिए गए जल स्रोतों की छात्र-छात्राओं के द्वारा सफाई की जा रही है, वाटर डिस्चार्ज नापा जा रहा है, तथा जलस्रोत के जलागम क्षेत्र में छात्रों एवं शिक्षकों द्वारा अपने जन्मदिन के निमित्त जल कुंड बनाए जा रहे हैं।

अभी तक निम्नलिखित विद्यालयों ने जल स्रोत गोद लिए — उनका विवरण:

1. एंजेल्स इंटरनेशनल एकेडमी मातली उत्तरकाशी
2. राजकीय इंटर कॉलेज कंडारी उत्तरकाशी
3. राजकीय इंटर कॉलेज कमद उत्तरकाशी
4. रेणुका जूनियर हाई स्कूल मातली उत्तरकाशी
5. राजकीय इंटर कॉलेज गालुड़धार टिहरी गढ़वाल
6. राजकीय उच्चतर माध्यमिक विद्यालय कांगड़ा टिहरी गढ़वाल
7. राजकीय इंटर कॉलेज कोट बिशन बुढ़ाकेदार
8. राजकीय इंटर कॉलेज मनसूना रुद्रप्रयाग
9. राजकीय इंटर कॉलेज कुनिगाड़ चमोली
10. राजकीय इंटर कॉलेज कवा एट हाली उत्तरकाशी

जल पूजन नदी, तालाब, धारे पनियारे, नोला पूजन कार्यक्रम - नई पीढ़ी हमारी पुरानी संस्कृति को जाने, जल संरक्षण से भावनात्मक रूप से जुड़े, जल को सम्मान दे इसलिए जल पूजन कार्यक्रम पृथ्वी दिवस से शुरू गया। नई पीढ़ी को ये बताने का प्रयास किया जा रहा है अगर किसी को भगवान को देखना है तो जल के रूप में देखो, प्राण वायु को देखो जिसे आज सबसे ज्यादा गंदा किया जा रहा है, घरों में जिस तरह से पूजा स्थल को साफ सुथरा रखा जाता जो सम्मान मंदिर, मस्जिद, गुरुद्वारा, इबादतगाह, चर्च को दिया जाता है वही सम्मान जल स्रोतों, नदियों तालाबों, कुओं को दे इसके लिए जल पूजन कार्यक्रम शुरू किया गया।

तालाब कुएं, जोहड़ों को अतिक्रमण से मुक्ति हमारे द्वारा राज्य में जितने भी तालाबों कुएं पर अतिक्रमण हुआ है उनकी मुक्ति के लिए सरकार से पैरवी की जा रही है, जनवरी एवं फरवरी 2025 को हमने मुख्यमंत्री जी के साथ साथ नीति आयोग के उपाध्यक्ष श्री सुमन के बेरी से भी मुलाकात की गई, बराबर पैरवी का नतीजा है अप्रैल दूसरे सप्ताह में मुख्यमंत्री जी ने प्रथम चरण में देहरादून के तालाबों की पहचान एवं सत्यापन के आदेश जारी किए हैं।

द्वारिका प्रसाद सेमवाल

सचिव

हिमालय पर्यावरण जड़ी-बूटी एग्री संस्थान, जाड़ी, उत्तरकाशी

प्रणेता

कल के लिए जल अभियान, बीज बम अभियान एवं गढ़ भोज अभियान