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Glimpses of Sikar Programme Area

300 VILLAGES REACHED

84,495 FAMILIES BENEFITED

4,22,475 POPULATION COVERED

(Figures shown in parentheses indicate the achievements during the year, 2018-19; rest of the figures reflect the cumulative achievements over the years)

VILLAGE INSTITUTIONS

- 1,217 Village Institutions established (80)

DIVERSIFIED AGRO BASED INTERVENTIONS

- 6,188 Acres of land brought under horticulture Plantation (250)
- 5,573 Families adopted kitchen gardening (1,000)
- 2,330 Acres of land covered under Vegetables/Mini Drip with Overhead Tank/Cash Crops/Floriculture (265)
- 4,598 Families adopted Natural Farming
- 6082 Acres of Crop Demonstrations of new and high yielding varieties
- 335 Azolla units established
- 319 Farmers’ Clubs, Youth Clubs, Village Development Committees formed (14)
- 144 Onion Storage Units installed
- 138 Grameen Fridge constructed
- 3 Poly Green Shed net established
- 291 Cattle Feeding cum Drinking water systems constructed
- 556 Power operated Chaff Cutter installed (50)
- 6 Honey Bee Keeping Unit Set up
- 9 Agro-product Processing Units established (3)

26,938 Families and 23,903 acres of land benefited under Sustainable Agriculture Practices

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

- 912 Self Help Groups formed
- 12,798 Families benefited
- ₹ 6.26 crore saving (₹ 0.35 crore) accrued
- 2,780 Families benefited under Rural Enterprise
- 3,910 Families benefited under Indigenous Cow
PROMOTION OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCE

- 1553 Bio-gas Plants constructed (80)
- 275 Domestic Solar Light units installed (50)

14,496 women benefited under Self Help Groups, Income Generating Activities, Indigenous Cow, Biogas and Domestic Solar Light programme

SOIL - WATER CONSERVATION AND WATER MANAGEMENT

- 89 Ground Water Recharge through Bore Well/Open Well (51)
- 52 Farm Pond/Percolation Tanks and Check Dam constructed
- 880 Roof Rain Water Harvesting Structures constructed (63)
- 1,287 Acre uncultivable land developed through land levelling (52)
- 3,771 Acre Micro Irrigation Systems established (150)
- 375 Acres of land covered under Watershed Development Project

3,904 Families and 5,058 acres of land covered under Water Resource Development and Soil Conservation Programme

SKILL TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME

- 2,088 Training and Capacity Building Programme organized (168)
- 37 Design For Change (DFC) Projects Completed (25)
- 20 DFC Video Documentary Films uploaded on YouTube
- 185 Families benefited under Neediest Families Upliftment Programme (110)
- 1,236 Members (Senior Citizen and Children) from 495 neediest families benefited

39,027 Families covered under Skill Training and capacity Building Programmes.

OUR PARTNERS

- Local community
- Government of Rajasthan
- Kamalnayan Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
- Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology (MPUAT)
- Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Fatehpur
- Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, Ministry of Youths Affairs and Sports, Govt. of India.
- International Horticulture Innovation and Training Centre, Jaipur
- Lead Bank and Local Banks, Sikar
- Bio-Fuel Pradhikaran (Grameen Vikas & Panchayati Raj Dept.), Jaipur
- ARAVALI • UNNATI
KANIRAM BAJAJ

Kaniram Bajaj was a farmer in the small village Kashika-Baas in Sikar District of Jaipur State of Rajasthan. Though of ordinary means, Kaniramji was a man of self-respect and did not compromise on principles even in adverse circumstances. He was hard working and courageous and would cover vast distance on the back of camel, even standing on one leg. Once he picked up a quarrel with Rajput Thakkur who drew out a sword to settle the matter. But Kaniram did not yield and stood undaunted and unruffled. Eventually, the Rajput accepted his mistake and apologised. This was the stuff Kaniramji was made of. His wife, Birdibai was a pious and devoted lady who bore him three son of whom Jamnalal was second.
Jamnalalji dedicated himself and his resources, without reservation. There is hardly any activity of mine in which I did not receive his full hearted cooperation and in which it did not prove to be of the greatest value. He placed at my disposal his ample possessions. He became a guardian of my time and health and he did it all for the public good.

- Mahatma Gandhi

From an early age, destiny carved out a unique role for young Jamnalal. At the age of five, he was adopted by Shri Bachhraj Bajaj, a wealthy merchant in Wardha. Throughout his life, he was a staunch follower of Mahatma Gandhi who also inspired Jamnalal to initiate Hindusthan Sugar Mills in 1931. Jamnalal was the founding father of the present-day Bajaj Group of Companies.

Freedom fighter, social reformer, humanitarian and a devoted follower of Mahatma Gandhi, Jamnalal Bajaj was born in Kashi-ka-Bas in Rajasthan on November 4, 1889. In 1920, at Jamnalalji’s request, Gandhiji accepted him as his ‘fifth’ son.

In Gandhiji’s own words “Jamnalalji dedicated himself and his resources, without reservation. There is hardly any activity of mine in which I did not receive his full hearted cooperation and in which it did not prove to be of the greatest value. He placed at my disposal his ample possessions. He became a guardian of my time and health and he did it all for the public good.”

He joined in Gandhiji’s programmes and India’s freedom struggle in 1915. He was elected Treasurer of the Congress Party in 1920. Jamnalalji took active part in the Non-co-operation Movement in 1921, the Salt Satyagraha in 1930 and the individual Satyagraha at Nagpur to uphold the honour of our National Flag. He also led the Jaipur Satyagraha in 1939. In all he was imprisoned for over five years.

It was in implementing the Constructive Programme of Gandhiji that Jamnalalji’s contribution was of an enduring nature. As inspired by Gandhiji, he opened the doors of his family temple, the Lakshmi Narayan Mandir at Wardha, to all, including Harijans in 1928. It was the very first temple in India to welcome Harijans. Jamnalalji established the Gandhi Seva Sangh in 1921 and was its Founder-President. It was also Chairman of the All-India Khaddar Board. He was also closely associated with the All-India Village Industries Association, Talimi Sangh and Hindi Sahitya Sammelan. He not only played an active part in establishing and conducting these organizations, but also supported a large number of workers who dedicated themselves to these activities.

Jamnalal made Wardha the centre for Gandhiji’s economic and social development programmes. He established the Satyagraha Ashram in Wardha in 1921. He brought Vinoba Bhave to the Wardha Ashram to nurture it into national institution. In 1936, Gandhiji wanted to shift to a rural habitat. Jamnalal then offered a large piece of his land in Segaoon to build his Ashram, which is known as Sevagram. Bajajwadi in Wardha was like a home for all eminent national leaders visiting Gandhiji. The meetings of the Congress Working Committee were also frequently held there. The famous Quit India resolution was adopted by the Congress Working Committee at its meeting in Bajajwadi in 1942. Jamnalalji was thus the main pillar of strength to Gandhiji. Gandhi himself admitted that “It was an easy thing for me to rely on Jamnalal to carry out my wishes. No one has identified himself so much with every one of my activities as he”.

On 11th February 1942, at the age of 53, Jamnalalji passed away suddenly.
Jamnalal Bajaj, my grandfather, was an inspiring leader who showed the way for a principled life not only to our family but to the nation at large. He prayed to Goddess Lakshmiji for business growth with honesty, underpinned by the wider objective to serve the country. He established strong social values in life emulating Mahatma Gandhi viz politics with principles, wealth with work, pleasure with conscience, knowledge with character, business with morality, science with humanity and worship with sacrifice. His charity knew no boundaries; calculations indicate that his total charities added up to 5 times the value of the wealth which he originally inherited.

Since our Trust was constituted at Sikar 11 years ago, we have designed, owned, executed, monitored and managed sustainable development interventions that have led to improving the quality of lives and economic well-being of the rural community. It is a classic case of a little sapling growing up into a huge tree: a small beginning with 11 villages has now spread out and is implementing development interventions in 300 villages of Sikar District.

Over-exploitation of our natural resources, which continues unabated, has led to a panic situation. Needs and demands are high but the efficient, judicious use of natural resources is not a priority. We share our vision with the community to accelerate their sustainable development through a participatory process and by making successful efforts to address immediate and long-term needs of the community with support of our Trust. I am happy to share that the people of Sikar are coming forward to take charge of their own development through a meaningful development process and need-based interventions.

Women form the core at the family level but are not involved socially and culturally as well as in the economic upliftment process. Bajaj Trust works with the rural women of the area towards empowering them through entrepreneurship development. We have formed 912 Women’s Self-Help Groups (SHGs) with a membership of 12,798 individuals. SHG members have initiated 132 different types of need-based income generation activities; gradually they are getting involved in decision
making, livelihood, farming and other social and economic decisions at both the family and village levels.

Our Sikar area faces multifaceted challenges that include soil erosion, undulating land and sand dunes, desertification, moisture stress, over use of chemical farming, ground water depletion and prolonged dry spells, which can be attributed to climate change. This has the potential of putting the agrarian economy at risk and exacerbating the problem of water and food insecurity. The presence of high levels of fluoride, TDS, salinity, etc. in the available ground water make it unfit for use by the community. Appropriate solutions are to be implemented to render it suitable in terms of drinking, domestic use and for irrigation purposes. The climatic hazards in Sikar are also different in comparison with other parts of the country, i.e., less and irregular rainfall, fog and extreme cold, extreme heat, hailstorm, cyclone storm, etc. We have successfully demonstrated sustainable solutions with community participation to tackle the diverse situation and strengthening the livelihood of the community.

I am pleased to share that innovative rainwater harvesting recharge structures have been successfully set up in 27 villages to revive dry bore wells and open wells, which will be helpful for irrigation and dairy development. The Roof Rain Water Harvesting Structure has proved to be a one-time investment and permanent solution to have pure, fresh and safe drinking water at the doorstep throughout the year; no dependency on any external source for drinking purpose. We have successfully demonstrated this intervention in 243 villages in Sikar District.

To strengthen the environment and eco-system, tree plantation of both forestry and horticulture plants is essential. A total of 6,50,217 saplings have been planted in 6,188 acres of land in Sikar area. Along with this, 1,287 acres of undulating land has also been made cultivable. As a result, the area under cultivation has increased appreciably, thereby boosting up farmers’ income.

Improving the deteriorating health of humans, animals and the soil is the need of the hour. Chemical-free natural farming is the solution to overcome the above problem. It has been proved as a low-cost, eco-friendly sustainable solution. Significant results have been achieved with substantial reduction in input cost, increase in quality yields, appropriate price and increased fertility of soil and savings in volume of irrigation water by natural way of moisture retention using locally available resources. Natural farming practices have been adopted by 4,598 families across 223 villages and now these farmers are playing the role as ‘resource farmers’ by sharing their positive experiences and teaching the concept to fellow farmers in adjoining areas.

Farmer-to-farmer bonding is the right way to promote eco-friendly best practices. We truly feel there should be a national network of farmers who would work dedicatedly to spread best practices through trainings, awareness programmes, seminars and exposure visits across the country.

Our Trust has also promoted 1,553 biogas plants and 275 solar lighting systems, which have proved to be cost effective and environment friendly alternative energy resources spread over 282 villages. I feel proud that our communities have successful adopted the biogas programme and honoured for the largest biogas producing Trust among all the districts in Rajasthan State.

We are committed to developing our natural and human resources through participatory approaches for strengthening the socio-economic and environmental situation and seek sustainable development of the community of Sikar District. I would like to extend my heartfelt acknowledgments to the local community and to all the development stakeholders who have supported and joined our journey of bringing prosperity to the people of Sikar District.
Uncontrolled, unregulated exploitation of natural resources like water and land has largely affected the livelihood of the agrarian community of Sikar District in particular and Rajasthan State in general. Bajaj Trust has identified priority issues that include deteriorating ground water, desertification, climate change, excessive use of chemicals in farming, traditional and high-water intensive cropping pattern, low awareness about water quality and usage, and less awareness on small agro-based livelihood. Our Trust, in close consultation with the local community, has identified ecologically sustainable, economically remunerative, socially and culturally managed integrated community development interventions.

Towards this end, we have successfully constructed 992 Roof Rain Water Harvesting Structures, which have proved to be a one-time investment and permanent solution to have pure, fresh and safe drinking water right at the doorstep. With active participation of the local community and leveraging their traditional wisdom in planning, we have established 98 innovative ground water recharge structures. Along with these, 52 waters harvesting structures like check dams, percolation tanks and farm ponds have also been constructed. For efficient and judicious use of available water, 3,771 micro irrigations systems like drip and sprinklers have been established. Significant results have been achieved and farmers are looking forward for larger coverage and replication of the same to revive and strengthen their agro-based livelihood. Also, farmers have their own undulating fallow land which is lying ideal without cultivation. In partnership with farmers, we have developed 1,287 acres of uncultivable land and brought it under cultivation through land levelling intervention. Farmers have initiated cultivation on newly-levelled land. 3,904 families have benefitted with the above interventions covering 5,339 acres of land in 300 villages. There is a huge potential to replicate the above innovative ground water recharge structures through rainwater and through construction of Roof Rain Water Harvesting Structures to permanently resolve ground water depletion and drinking water.
problems. We are keen to collaborate with various development stakeholders like Government of Rajasthan, NABARD, among others for, our work in Sikar District.

Rearing of indigenous cows and locally available biomass-based natural farming is becoming popular among the farming community for strengthening their livelihood. Traditional cropping is also one of the major problems the agrarian community has been facing across the country. Our Sikar District farmers are wisely switching from traditional cropping pattern, to short duration crops, less water-intensive crops, market-oriented diversified cropping pattern along with zero-budget natural farming practices. Continuous awareness, training programmes, exposure visits and demonstrations are an integral and indispensable part of the development process for community awakening.

We are aiming to cover the entire Sikar District under natural farming with the active support and involvement of our resource farmers, who are also willing to share their enriched experiences with fellow farmers in the form of Kisan Pathshala.

Our humble beginnings to promote natural farming have now reached to 4,598 farming families. 12,270 families have shifted from traditional cropping pattern to demand driven cash crops and horticulture plantations. 6,638 families have successfully initiated vegetable farming and kitchen-gardening to fulfil the vegetable requirement of their families and then sell off the surplus in the market, earning decent profit. A total of 26,938 families, covering 16,029 acres of land, have benefited under sustainable agriculture practices.

Farmer Anita Yadav of village Durgapura shared, “My income from 1.6 acres was ₹ 5,760 with input cost of ₹ 3,240 through cultivation of millet. I adopted natural farming and shifted to groundnut, maize and vegetables as intercrops. My income has risen up to ₹ 60,900 from the same 1.6 acres of land, now with an input cost of ₹ 16,200.”

Thousands of our Sikar District farmers have already doubled their income through diversified cropping pattern and adopting natural farming. The need of the hour is to create a national network of these experienced resource farmers who should be made responsible as experts to share their insights across the country to achieve the honourable Prime Minister’s vision of “Doubling the Income of Farmers by 2022”.

Women empowerment programmes aiming to strengthen processes that promote economic development of women, create an environment for social change and increase livelihood opportunities by developing women’s skills have been implemented. 14,496 women are members of the Self-Help Groups and have been involved in setting up of several income generating rural enterprises. A mammoth combined savings of Rs. 6 crore of the women SHGs has helped them identify and initiate 123 different types of rural enterprises, including dal mills, artificial jewellery making, rearing of indigenous cows, etc. and they have realized an additional average monthly income of ₹ 6,500.

Along with socio-economic development, good hygiene is paramount for a healthy and happy society. Taking inspiration from the Honourable Prime Minister, we are in the continuous process to accomplish “Swachh Bharat Abhiyan” in our programme areas through active involvement of the villagers. Our Youth Mandal, Self Help Groups and Farmers’ Clubs are shouldering responsibilities for village cleanliness in our Sikar programme area.

I wish to thank all our villagers, village development committees, team members, village volunteers, youth mandals and all the development stakeholders for their untiring efforts and cooperation to reach out to 300 villages covering 84,495 families and positively impacting the 4.22 lakh population of Sikar District.
Warm greetings!

Unmindful and arbitrary exploitation of natural resources is one of the major causes for adverse climatic situations. The community of Sikar is a victim of the impact of climate change. We are in a co-learning process and our communities are adopting various innovative development interventions to resolve the crisis permanently through participatory approaches.

Our traditional water bodies are lying dysfunctional, drinking water wells have dried up and the quality of water is also deteriorating. Erratic rainfalls over the last few decades have resulted in drying up of our water sources. The ground water table is rapidly depleting as well, with most of the districts being declared ‘dark zones’ where no more wells/tube-wells are allowed to be dug up for irrigation purpose. Salinity and fluoride are major concerns for drinking water and water for irrigation. The situation is so alarming that people have to buy water; they have to shell out ₹ 700 for 5,000 litres of water, which fulfills the need of one family for 8 to 10 days. Poor families suffer the most since they cannot afford to buy water at such exorbitant prices. A long-lasting, sustainable solution is the only way out.

We have done assessment with our local communities, observed local wisdom and interacted with various development stakeholders towards finding a permanent solution for water scarcity. Through community mobilization and strengthening of the village institutions, farmers came forward and demonstrated recharging of ground water by constructing 98 innovative water harvesting structures. Community members are increasingly becoming active and have designed and constructed water recharge structures at the common catchment area of the village, harvesting roof top rain water of the adjoining houses for recharging common well/bore well as well as roof top rain water harvesting at the household level. The results of water recharge interventions are encouraging: it led to reduced high TDS from 2,400 to 1,700 ppm; fluoride content reduced in salt in earthen water pots (Matka); after recharging, the pumping span of bore wells increased up to 1 hour; farmers are now able to cultivate crops after recharging even through dried/abandoned bore wells; the area under irrigation has increased; extra taps could be added in sprinkler irrigation systems (4 to 6 taps); taste in water

After reaping the multiple benefits of natural farming, farmers are now encouraged for taking the next step towards processing and packaging of natural farming products like oilseeds, pulses and spices and selling them in the local market.
quality (salinity) has improved and moisture retention capacity has increased. Existing wells and bore wells are the mouth of the Earth. Recharging them through rainwater is the sensible solution to overcome the ground water depletion problem. Our villagers have proved this and have conclusively demonstrated that such rainwater harvesting potential exists in urban areas as well. All houses/buildings and colonies must have their own bore wells so that the entire roof top rain water and open area rainwater could be easily harvested through these bore wells/recharge structures with appropriate filter mechanism.

Interventions for capacity building of the community and strengthening village institutions towards promoting natural farming and water management are continuous processes being carried out by our Trust. Working only with a specific target group is not enough; developing linkages with all stakeholders is indispensable for sustainable development. We are empowering farmers, women, youth and children with various need-based direct programme interventions and connecting them with different stakeholders, i.e., sharing challenges and success stories with Government officials and the District Administration, developing relationships with all service providers in the villages and strategic partnership with Panchayati Raj Institutions, etc. They all play an effective role in issues like harvesting of rain water, efficient and judicious use of available ground water, natural farming, appropriate cropping pattern, green coverage, etc. and get benefits of different government schemes in the villages.

After reaping the multiple benefits of natural farming, farmers are now encouraged for taking the next step towards processing and packaging of natural farming products like oilseeds, pulses and spices and selling them in the local market. Owing to increased health awareness among villagers and city dwellers, they are getting good prices. Realizing the tremendous benefits, as shown by Padmashri Subhash Palekarji, natural farming practitioners have now resolved to make Sikar a chemical free district. Natural farming resource farmers are in the process to set up Kisan Pathshalas wherein they will provide practical training and demonstrations on natural farming to farmers in the surrounding villages with our Trust's support.

The Grain Festival/Kisan Mela turned out to be successful events. They provided a platform to the farmers for building forward linkages, where they gained confidence of direct selling and earned a decent profit. Through collective efforts, farmers are planning to form their own Farmers' Producer Organization (FPO) to further expand their business. I am happy to share that NABARD, as our valued partner, is collaborating to establish and strengthen 5 FPOs in Sikar District.

Wealth ranking exercise in consultation with the local community helped us to identify the neediest families in the villages. To strengthen the livelihood of such families, we extended support to them to initiate various need-based income generation activities like flour mill, goat rearing, tailoring, motor rewinding machine, pottery making, drill machine, performing traditional art (harmonium and Dholak), welding machine, chapatti making stoves, flour grinder machine, retail stores, cow rearing, photo copier machine, portable vegetable trolley, carpenter accessories, low-cost houses for them and giving bicycle for their children to go to school. 185 such families have benefitted in 68 villages.

Design for Change (DFC) is a unique concept and programme under which the school children gain confidence and achieve their dreams. Children from various schools participated in an “I CAN” gathering organized at Sikar. Such 37 success stories/projects have been developed by children and shared with various development stakeholders as well as with other schools. 20 video clips on various projects carried out by school children have been uploaded on YouTube for wider reach. The idea is to bring the problem-solving abilities before a larger audience, viz, women, youth and senior citizens and inspire them to sort out issues through their own DFC.

We are thankful to our various partner organizations like ARAVALI for helping us in developing our ground thought plan for ZBNF studies and NABARD for taking it ahead through different project partnerships. I am happy to mention that the communities have engaged very well in the development process. Hereby I express my sincere thanks to the community of Sikar, Government of Rajasthan, Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur, Nehru Yuva Kendra and Lead Bank-Punjab National Bank for joining us in this inspired journey of co-designing the process of sustainable development.
Overview of the Interventions

The Beginning

Jamnalal Kaniram Bajaj Trust, Sikar, was established in Sikar District in Rajasthan in 1963 in commemoration of the memory of Shri Jamnalal Bajaj and his father Shri Kaniram Bajaj. The Trust was founded on a deep-rooted dedication to contribute significantly towards the social well-being of the less privileged sections in society. Since its inception, the Jamnalal Kaniram Bajaj Trust has been working with indefatigable commitment for the upliftment and betterment of the rural community of Sikar District in Rajasthan. Working in harmony with the rural community, the Trust is gradually marching towards its goal of building an empowered society, progressive socially and economically.

The Programme Area

Since 1963, JKBТ has been steadily progressing towards its goal of building an empowered rural society through its various community need-based interventions in Sikar District, Rajasthan.

Sikar, 'The Door to the Thar Desert', lies in the north-eastern region of the state of Rajasthan. The District comprises 1,192 villages and 343 Gram Panchayats, which fall under 9 blocks, i.e., Laxmangarh, Dantaramgarh, Dhod, Piprali, Fatehpur, Neem Ka Thana, Khandela, Shri Madhopur and Patan.

The population of Sikar District is 26,77,333, including 13,74,900 males and 13,02,437 females. 76.32% of the population i.e. 20,43,427 people live in rural areas (males and females 10,47,469 and 9,95,958 respectively). The sex
Agriculture is the mainstay of the people of the area. Dairy farming is also common among the more progressive farmers. Water scarcity is the major challenge in the region, especially drinking water and water for irrigation. Moreover, the people in the area are not well conversed in water harvesting techniques. Sensing the potential, JKBT has initiated Roof Rain Water Harvesting Structures (RRWHS) with active participation from residents. Another imminent need of the area is the conservation of existing natural water reservoirs. Erosion of sandy soil has, over the years, led to silting of most of these structures. There is a pressing need for the rejuvenation of existing structures as well as exploring new water harvesting technologies, which could fulfill community demands while matching the geo-hydrological conditions of the region.

The Approach

Strengthening the bond of trust through active community participation and involvement was the focus of our work.

The following multi-faceted approach was adopted for designing appropriate interventions:

- Build long-term relationships with the local community based on mutual respect, understanding, affection and trust. Towards this end, individual, group-based and community-level interactions are made regularly to build the foundation for meaningful interventions for long-lasting impact

- Revive the community spirit and empower the community to create new and responsive institutions to meet common objectives. For this purpose, village communities are sensitized to undertake need-based collective actions

- Bajaj Trust to undertake interventions based on realistic, practical and pragmatic needs articulated in unison voiced by the concerned communities

- Community empowerment is at the core of the institution building process and initiatives like safe drinking & irrigation water, sustainable agriculture, etc. encourage socially accepted interactions

- Liaise with various like-minded individuals and institutions for coming together to join hands in sustainable solutions aimed at the human and natural resources development of the area

- Regular capacity building training of Bajaj Trust team for facilitating community based sustainable interventions

ratio is 951 females per 1000 males. (Ref: Census of 2011)

The district experiences extremes in climate, with a very dry summer and intensely cold winters. The average maximum and minimum temperatures are recorded as 48°C and 0°C respectively. An annual average rainfall of 466 mm makes it one of the most water scarce districts of Rajasthan.

Monsoon being scarce, the agriculture is mainly rain-fed. The major crops grown are pearl millet, green gram, moth bean, cluster beans, sorghum, among others, in the kharif season while in the rabbi season, wheat, gram, mustard and barley, etc. are commonly grown. Bore wells are the major source of irrigation in the area. However, rapid withdrawal of ground water from bore wells and frequent deepening of bore wells has led to an alarming depletion of the water table in the region.
The team worked in a focused way to find solutions to the existing problems faced by the local community. Focused Group Discussions (FGD) were held with the villagers to evolve appropriate interventions. The techniques of Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and wealth ranking were applied to understand the present scenario and design relevant interventions. This also helped list out the poor and needy families in a given village. These field exercises pointed out the following problems prevalent in the area:

- Water crisis is a major concern in the area. The situation is alarming due to a high level of ground water exploitation and the area has been declared a ‘dark zone’. This pointed out the need for creating mass awareness and involving the community for adopting appropriate measures. Bajaj Trust undertook efforts for evolving integrated village development plans by building capacities of the village institutions, so that these institutions could lead from the frontlines in execution and post maintenance of water resource development interventions

- Drinking water is contaminated with high salinity (TDS) and fluoride content. A proper treatment solution was sought to make it potable. The community was offered assistance to install roof rain water harvesting structures, community RO water filters and rain water harvesting measures at individual as well as group level
• Reduction in tree coverage/deforestation by humans is a common phenomenon observed everywhere and Sikar is not an exception. Moreover, the community’s negligence in restoring the tree cover is a major concern. This has been magnifying climate change effects, resulting in reduced rain fall and reduction in the total number of rainy days. To minimize the spin-offs of deforestation, Bajaj Trust spiritedly undertook a plantation drive along with the local rural community.

• Human greed for extra Agri production and more money has led to the excessive use of chemical fertilizers, insecticides and pesticides in the farming sector, thus destroying the natural ecosystem and deteriorating soil health and fertility. Bajaj Trust has been promoting indigenous cows and locally available biomass based natural farming practices as a sustainable solution. With this objective, meetings, trainings, demonstrations and exposure visits have been organized at regular intervals for the farmers.

• Marriages and other such household occasions have now become an opportunity to show off, where a lot of hard-earned money goes down the drain. Most of the times, rural families have to borrow money as a loan and get trapped in the vicious debt cycle. The community and youth in particular - needs to be sensitized not to waste money in such a manner and get under the burden of repayment. Bajaj Trust took the lead in the formation of Youth Clubs, thereby sensitizing them to take the initiative to create mass awareness.

A series of visits were organised by Bajaj Trust at the water challenged sites identified by the community. The objective was to plan and implement the interventions designed as a solution, especially for the water resource and Agri development activities. Bajaj Trust provided technical guidance during implementation by the community and carefully monitored each step in the process. Many stakeholders teamed up; ARAVALI, Riverside School, NABARD, Punjab National Bank, Nehru Yuva Kendra and CTAE, Udaipur were the major partners.

During the year, development interventions were spread across 80 villages of 4 blocks viz, Dhod, Dataramgarh, Laxmangarh and Piprali.

**Dhod Block**

Dhod Block is one of the worst hit areas with very less availability of water for agriculture. This is the outcome of a depleted water table as a result of over exploitation of water for irrigation. This sorry state of affairs is still continuing and the water table is going down, practically every day. Awareness meetings were continuously organized at the village level, along with demonstrations of Roof Rain Water Harvesting Systems (RRWHS) and use of drip irrigation systems in 20 villages. Trainings and demonstrations of natural farming practices were frequently organized for reducing the use of chemical fertilizers in farming. The Youth Clubs, Farmers’ Clubs and resourceful farmers were actively involved in promoting natural farming practices.

**Piprali Block**

The rural area of Piprali has been facing the problem of availability of safe drinking water. The water available has high salinity, TDS (1,700-2,600 ppm) and fluoride content. The water is even not suitable for agricultural purposes. Chemical farming and a depleted water table are two major
causes for deteriorating quality of water, which is not potable. Village meetings were facilitated involving Youth Mandals and farmers to come up with ideas to resolve the existing problems. The sites were identified and common water recharge structures were constructed as per the watershed catchment area, along with construction of roof rain water harvesting systems to increase the availability of safe water for consumption.

Dataramgarh Block

Rain-fed irrigation, due to unavailability of ground water, has resulted in declined agricultural income in Dataramgarh Block. The area also faces scarcity of ground water for drinking purpose. The problem is so acute that the community buys water from neighbouring villages at the rate of ₹ 350 - 500 for 5000 litres, which is just sufficient for 15 days for a family. The situation gets aggravated in the summer season. The Trust created awareness among the community to harvest every drop of rain with the construction of Roof Rain Water Harvesting System and water recharging structures.

Laxmangarh Block

Laxmangarh block is a geographically unusual terrain marked by undulating agriculture fields leading to reduced income for the farmers. The temperature ranging from -3° C in winter to 49° C in summer adds to the misery. Besides, a high level of TDS (1,700 to 2,500 ppm) and fluoride make the available water unsafe for consumption. Moreover, the water table is also declining due to excessive continuous withdrawal. The average depth of tube wells is up to 350 - 400 Ft. Thus, the community is on the verge of a health and economic catastrophe. Taking serious cognizance of the situation, we took efforts for finding appropriate solutions.

To resolve the problem, Jamnalal Kaniram Bajaj Trust initiated some interventions and supported 68 families for construction of Roof Rain Water Harvesting Structures, 24 community based rain water recharge structures for recharging existing bore-wells and open wells in this particular block.
Swachchha Gram Campaign

Youth Mandalswere involved in creating awareness and undertaking cleanliness drives in Singodara, Paldi villages of Laxmangarh Block, Malio Ki Dhani, Bajor villages of Piprali Block, Chudoli Ki Dhani, Mordunga villages of Dhod Block and Shesham, Chidasara villages of Dataramgarh Block. Awareness camps were organised and shramdan activity was arranged. Publicity material was developed and prominently displayed during campaigns. Hygiene initiatives in public places like streets, corners (nukkad), school premises, etc. were taken up and villagers were sensitized for ensuring cleanliness at all times.

Children Manifesto for 10th Democratic Election in Rajasthan was organized by FXB India Suraksha, Jaipur and UNICEF. The 26 children who participated in the programme were from Up- Primary School Pratappura Dataramgarh and Sen. Sec. School, Paldi, Laxmangarh.

During the ‘feel’ process of the Design for Change initiative, children felt that their voice should also be heard by the political parties and get drafted into policy. So, they systemically developed an approach plan and drafted a manifesto focusing on the following points:

- There should be a special class on self-defence techniques for girls
- Education should be free for girls up to 12th Standard
- A First Aid Kit should be provided in every school
- Sports material for all indoor/outdoor games should be available in the school
- Every school enrolling girl students should have a lady teacher
- The rural girl students going for higher studies should get free bus pass

The children courageously shared their manifesto with the leaders of various political parties as well as the incumbent district administration. They also voiced out their manifesto in front of the public in one of the political programmes organized at Jaipur. The political parties were quite impressed and promised to incorporate the
manifesto in their agenda. The children were further elated when the district administration incorporated most of their demands.

**Organization of Experience Sharing Workshop**

An experience sharing workshop was organized at Village Ramsinghpura of Piprali Cluster in the presence of Chairman Shishir Bajaj and Government officials. Total 1,170 farmers participated in this workshop. and shared the benefits of key interventions viz tree plantation drive, natural farming, water recharging structures, drip irrigation systems and roof rain water harvesting systems. Considering the overwhelming response, 3 more workshops were organized at Harsh, Malio Ki Dhani and Chudimiyan villages where 350 to 400 villagers participated in each event.

**Exposure Visits of NGOs for the Farmers to the Bajaj Trust Programme Area.**

50 farmers of the Foundation for Ecological Security (FES), Bhiwada and 10 farmers of Arpan Seva Sansthan, Rajsamand visited the farmers adopting natural farming practices. They also had a close look at the different water recharging structures created at the village level; it was indeed a learning experience for them. The Deputy Director, Horticulture and several other senior Government officials appreciated the community initiative during their visits to the programme area.

**Children’s Annual Function**

Children who participated in the Design for Change initiative shared their stories with Government officers and members of various village institutions during their school annual day.
Formation of Farmer Interest Groups (FIG) and Participation in District Fair

14 Farmer Interest Groups with a membership of 150 farmers were formed and linked to the Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) Yojna of the Department of Agriculture. The principal objectives were retrieving benefits of assorted schemes like seed support, support for drip irrigation systems, support for water storage systems and support for similar agriculture technologies. 70 more FIGs will be formed and linked with the ATMA scheme in the next year. Farmers adopting natural farming participated in the District Fair organized by ATMA and demonstrated techniques like herbal pesticide formulations, automatic Jivamruti system under natural farming, mini drip irrigation system for vegetable cultivation along with display of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials.

Chetan Ram at village - Bagadi, Laxmangarh demonstrated automatic Jivamruti system under natural farming, mini drip irrigation system for vegetable cultivation along with display of Information.

Promotion of Water Recharging Structures

Awareness meetings and demonstrations of various water recharging structures were conducted at the village level. 98 water recharging structures have been constructed in participation with the rural community, which includes 18 community water recharge structures built at a watershed drainage point of the village, 36 collective roof rain water recharging structures and 44 individual roof rain water recharging structures.

Recharging of rain water into the ground water table has had multiple positive effects. It resulted in reduction of TDS from 2,400 ppm to 1,700 ppm and reduction in fluoride contents as noticed with reduction in salt deposition around earthen pots, thus improving water quality and water taste. Farmers reported increased availability of water for irrigation by an extra 1 hr. of pumping. The area under irrigation has also increased.

The total construction cost of ₹ 1,50,000 incurred for the community water recharging structure work was shared between the community (₹ 1,05,000) and Bajaj Trust (₹45,000). Similarly, the total cost of ₹ 50,000 spent for collective roof rain water harvesting structure has an equal share of the community and

Establishing Farmers’ Producer Organizations

A workshop on the concept of Farmers’ Producer Organization (FPOs) was organized for members of Sikar District Farmers’ Committee in collaboration with NABARD. It was decided to form 5 FPOs, with 800 to 1,000 farmers as shareholders in each entity. It was also discussed that these FPOs would develop business plans for processing and marketing of oil seeds, grains, pulses, vegetables and dry food products.

celebrations. A total of 400 children participated in the event, which was enlivened by colourful cultural programmes. All the schools that participated in DFC were felicitated for their achievements.
Bajaj Trust. An individual unit of roof rain water recharging to the bore well/ open well cost ₹ 5,000, out of which the community contributed ₹ 4,000 and Bajaj Trust supported with a contribution of ₹ 1,000.

**Mandoli village**

Rain water running over the street has been collected in a recharging structure constructed at the drainage point of the watershed catchment area admeasuring 4,55,000 sq.m. A water recharging structure with a depth of 69 meters was constructed. The rain water running over the streets has been diverted in this recharge structure. In the last monsoon, this structure has recharged 2,04,750 Cubic Meters of water to the ground. Thus, the villagers found a long-lasting remedy for reducing the water crisis.

**Resolving Water Crisis in a Sustainable Way**

Richhpal, a resident of village Sihot Chhoti. Acute water crisis is an issue the villagers have been consistently facing. The borewell in the area has very little water and the average ground water table has gone down to 270 Ft. Bajaj Trust advised Richhpal and his neighbours to recharge the bore well and also construct a roof rain water harvesting system for drinking purpose. Richhpal constructed a RRWHS of 25,000 litre capacity. After the RRWHS got filled, the excess water at Richhpal’s place and his 4 neighbours' roof water was diverted for recharging the bore well.

During the year, the village received an annual rainfall of 450 mm. The total catchment area is 6,572 sq.ft. which harvested 2,87,400 litres of water for recharging.

The collective decision of families for harvesting each drop of rainwater falling on the roof tops of surrounding houses enabled villagers to meet their water requirement.
Harvesting every drop of rain water for fulfilling annual requirement of drinking water through Roof Rain Water Harvesting Structure (RRWHS) and recharging existing borewell for increasing the ground water table.

Training programme on understanding the cause of water crisis and construction of water recharge structures at village Shot Chhoti.
Converging Govt. Schemes

Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and wealth ranking exercises helped to converge relevant government schemes for the needy families. Various schemes, viz, the Pradhan Mantri Aavas Yojana, Mukhya Mantri Jal Swavlamban Yojana, Apna Khet Apna Kaam, support to young girls under Shubh Shakti Yojna and Pension Yojana were converged for 689 families residing in 59 villages.

Neediest Family Support Programme: Livelihood Generation Initiative

The poorest of poor families were identified with PRA and wealth ranking exercise and 110 families were financially supported in this year for setting up their own enterprises like flour mill, goat farming, tailoring shop, motor rewinding machine, pottery making with traditional wheel, drilling machine, support for purchase of musical instruments for performing local art (harmonium and dholak), welding machine, chapatti making stoves, stationary shop, dairy business, photocopier shop, vegetable vending and carpenter accessories, etc. A few of them received monetary support for construction of low-cost houses and some others received bicycles for their children to attend school. The active involvement of youth and Village Development Committee (VDC) members in extending the help was indeed a positive move.

Traditional artist Mangial was supported for purchasing musical instruments, viz, Harmonium, Dholak, Manjeera, Chimta, etc. He has improved his earning to ₹12,000 per month as his family is now able to perform in household ceremonies, festivals and cultural events.
Achievements and Outcomes

- 1,399 Neediest Families benefitted under various assistance drives
- 89 Ground Water Recharge Systems established through open well/bore well
- 2,088 Capacity Building Programmes organized
- 319 Farmers’ Clubs, Youth Clubs and Village Development Committees (VDC) formed
- 300 villages covered
- Communities were sensitized to execute, monitor and manage their prioritized needs

Manjudevi of village Basadi Kala received supported for setting up a tailoring business by purchasing a sewing machine. She stitches ladies’ suits, school uniforms, etc. and earns ₹ 5,000 per month.

Sunil Kumar of village Ranoli received financial assistance to start a livelihood with an Electrically-operated Edge Sharpening Machine in his village. Now he earns ₹ 10,000 per month.
Promotion of Natural Farming

4594 Families adopted natural farming
Bajaj Trust regularly guides and supports farmers for adopting natural farming; we also assist them to upgrade their skills, gain relevant knowledge and boost their confidence. The resource farmers are involved in spreading the movement within and outside the district by sharing their valuable experiences at the various platforms. They also provide field support to the new farmers for adopting natural practices. Moreover, the farmers are joining hands for the collective marketing of naturally grown produce. Towards this end, NABARD has extended support in the formation of Farmers’ Producer Organizations.

**Diversification of Cropping Pattern**

The use of natural formulations creates a micro climate favourable for the growth of earthworms. Various formulations commonly used are Beejamruit, Jeevanruit, Ghan-Jeevatruit, Dashparni Ark, Nimashtra and Brahmashttra. The movement of these earthworms makes the soil porous, which improves the efficiency of water recharging. The result is increased moisture retention, which led to reduction in the irrigation cycle from 12 watering to 7 watering in wheat crop. Straw mulching, soil mulching and live mulching helped in increasing moisture retention that resulted in a reduction in the number of irrigation cycles, thereby conserving ground water appreciably.

45 resource farmers have adopted practices of natural farming over the years. Different models of intercropping have been demonstrated, i.e., Millet with Green Gram and Sesame, Maize with Kachara (Cucumis melo - fruit: kakadri in Hindi, Kachra in Marwari) and Drumstick and Groundnut with Maize, Sesame and Ladyfinger in the kharif season. In the rabi season, the pattern shifted to Gram with Mustard and Barley, Wheat with Fenugreek, Gram and Coriander and Mustard with Fenugreek and Gram.

Sohani Devi lives in the village Bhukran Ka Bas. She used to cultivate wheat in 0.40 acre of land and her net profit was ₹ 7,950 with, input cost of ₹ 1,050; the yield of wheat was 5 qt.

She was guided to grow onion crop as a seed plot with the use of mini sprinkler systems. She harvested 80 Kg of onion seeds (sold @ ₹ 900 per Kg). The cost of cultivation was ₹ 9,500 from 0.40 acre of land, which raised her net profit to ₹ 62,500. Now she is inspiring and guiding her friends to emulate her success by shifting their cropping pattern from traditional to market-oriented cash crops.
Anita Yadav living in village Durgapura adopted natural farming over 1.6 acres of land. She cultivated Groundnut, Maize and Ladyfinger as intercrops in kharif with an input cost of ₹ 16,191. She earned a net profit of ₹ 60,909 from 1.6 acres of land.

Earlier, her net profit from same piece of land with cultivation of millet was ₹ 5,760 at an expenditure of ₹ 3,240.

Rameswarlal, a resident of village Pardoli chhoti, adopted natural farming practices for growing wheat over one acre of land. Earlier, the net profit from this piece of land under wheat cultivation was ₹ 22,500 at an expenditure of ₹ 6,750 (30%). (Yield 12.5 q; sold @ ₹ 1,800 per q.)

After intervention, the wheat yield was the same but there was reduction in expenditure (₹ 5,500; 22 %) and he received higher market rates for naturally-grown produce. (Sold @ ₹ 2000 per q.). He thus enjoyed ₹ 6,750 more net profit from, the same acreage of land.
Sultan Singh of village Sihot choti adopted natural farming practices over 0.4 acre of land in the rabbi season. Earlier, he was cultivating wheat and earning a net profit of ₹ 5,400 by incurring an expenditure of ₹ 1,400.

He changed his cropping pattern and cultivated peas in the rabbi season at an input cost of ₹ 5,500 over 0.4 acre of land and watermelon over 0.2 acre of land in the summer season at an expenditure of ₹ 5,100. He earned a net profit of ₹ 20,500 from peas and a net profit of ₹ 14,900 from watermelon cultivation. He thus enjoyed an income rise of ₹ 30,000 and got an extra season for farming.

Ranlal of village Ranoli was generating a net profit of ₹ 4,192 from 0.3 acre of land at an input cost of ₹ 1,220 for cultivation of mustard. (Yield 1.64 qt; sold @ ₹ 3,300 per qt.) Post intervention, he earned a net profit of ₹ 31,000 from the same piece of land at an expenditure of ₹ 6,000 by cultivating beetroot and garlic (Garlic 2 qt. sold@ ₹ 3,500 per qt.; Beetroot 20 qt sold @ ₹ 1,500 per qt.).
Nemichand Sharma has adopted horticulture plantation. His net income was Rs. 4.08lakh from his 9 acres of land in first year of harvest which will indeed increased successive years.

**Horticulture Development**

Deforestation and reduction of the tree cover have negatively impacted the weather, which has led to lower rain fall and lesser number of rainy days. To counter the adverse effects of climate change, Bajaj Trust involves village institutions for plantation of new saplings of various forestry species. These plantation drives are taken up every year. Moreover, we have created awareness within the farming community about growing horticultural plants on their fields. Till now, 6,50,217 saplings of fruit plants like lemon, mango, bael, chikku, orange, amla and pomegranate have been planted over 6,188 acres of land benefiting 12,467 farmers in 282 villages.

The Trust created several video films (documentaries) and developed highly effective IEC material, which were used during village meetings for creating mass awareness.

A demonstration of pit digging, watering and post maintenance of plantations had also been organized during village trainings. During the year, along with forest tree plantation, Bajaj Trust initiated plantation of medicinal herbs including Drumstick, Guggul, Shatavari, Brahmi Amla, Ashwagandha and Tulsi over 21 acres of land owned by 11 farmers.

Training was provided to a team of 132 resource farmers and youth about the right techniques of plantation. This group worked spiritedly for active community involvement in the plantation drives. Similarly, Youth Mandals from Dhod, Mordunga, Chudimiyani, Malio Ki Dhani and Anokhu villages played a lead role in covering public places like school premises, government institutions, railway yards, pathways, common land and village streets under the tree plantation. Moreover, the villagers also shouldered the responsibility of maintaining the plantations.

**Inspiring Role Model for Farmers**

Nemichand Sharma of village Disnau brought 9 acres of his barren land under horticultural plantation 4.5 years ago. Switching over to natural farming, he has developed a mixed orchard of kinnu, sweet lime, lemon and indigenous ber. He incurred total expenditure of ₹ 72,150 over 4.5 years. This year, most of the plants were at fruiting stage. He harvested 31.25 qt of kinnu, 9 qt of sweet lime, 14 qt of lemon and 50 qt of ber. His net income was ₹ 4,08,850 from his 9 acres of land in the first year of harvest, which will indeed increase in successive years.
Sishram of village Paradolibadi is another success story, who shifted his traditional cropping pattern to horticulture plantation using a drip irrigation system; his orchard comprises lemon, sweet lime and kinnu over 2.5 acres of land.

Harlal Singh of village Khivasar was growing chilli and brinjal earlier under chemical farming, for which his expenditure used to be ₹ 21,600 and ₹ 5,880 respectively for 1 acre of cultivation. The harvest of chilli and brinjal used to be 40 qt and 14 qt respectively and he was earning a net profit of ₹ 64,120. After shifting to papaya crop, he earned ₹ 1,97,950 with the harvest of 135 qt of papaya at an expenditure of ₹ 44,500. He thus enjoyed a whopping rise in his income by ₹ 1,33,830.
Promoting Micro Irrigation Systems

With a view to optimize Agri productivity in the face of declined water availability in the area, the Trust is promoting micro irrigation systems. Establishment of drip and sprinkler irrigation systems along with soil mulching techniques by the farmers for fruits, vegetables, and cereal crops has improved the soil moisture retention capacity as well as soil fertility.

A mini sprinkler irrigation system saves water up to 60% to 70% while a drip irrigation system saves water up to 80%. This water conservation enabled them to take one more crop, thus improving their income. 2,156 farmers in 243 villages have benefited, effectively covering 5,351 acres of land under drip and mini sprinkler irrigation systems.

Laxman Lal successfully demonstrated vegetable crops and is now inspiring neighbouring farmers.

Before intervention, Laxman Lal of village Bhirana earned a net profit of ₹49,572 from 3.6 acres of land with a harvest of 36 qts. of wheat at an input cost of ₹11,628.

After installation of a drip irrigation system, he shifted from wheat crop to ridge gourd. He harvested 180 qts. of ridge gourd at an expenditure of ₹2,45,700 and earned a net profit of ₹3,84,300 (sold at ₹3,500 per qt.)
Manbhari Devi and Pradeep Kumar’s family prospering with a revitalized farming system.

Manbhari Devi of village Rasheedpura used to grow wheat over 1.2 acres of land. The yield was 12 qt of wheat at an expenditure of ₹2,450 and her net profit was ₹17,952.

After establishment of the drip irrigation system, she changed her cropping pattern to high value chilli crop. She harvested 240 qt. of chilli at an expenditure of ₹1,51,200 over the same piece of land. Her net income got a boost of ₹2,80,800 (sold @ ₹1800 per qt.).

Pradeep Godara increased his income with cultivation of watermelon and cucumber.

After establishment of a drip irrigation system, Pradeep shifted his cropping pattern to market-oriented crops, i.e., watermelon and cucumber over 1.8 acres of land. He harvested 75 qt of watermelon and 40 qt of cucumber with an input cost of ₹13,500 and ₹11,400 respectively. He earned a net profit of ₹61,500 through the sale of watermelon and ₹40,500 with the sale of cucumber. Thus, his net earnings from 1.8 acres increased to ₹1,02,000.

Earlier, he could cultivate carrots over 0.8 acre of land with a harvest of 30 qt and used to earn a net profit of ₹30,000 at an expenditure of ₹6,600. The rest of the land was lying barren due to less water availability. The drip irrigation system thus brought more area under irrigation.
Ramesh Kumar of village Ramsinghpura was able to cultivate only 1.25 acres of his land with flood irrigation. His cost of cultivation with chemical farming was ₹ 6,885 and yield of wheat was 13.5 qt with a net profit of ₹ 16,065.

After he established a mini sprinkler irrigation system and adopted natural farming practices, he could bring 2.5 acres of land under cultivation with an input cost of ₹ 7,938. His wheat crop yield increased to 27 qt and he earned a net profit of ₹ 48,762.

**Promoting Micro Irrigation Systems**

Switching to natural farming and using a mini drip sprinkler irrigation system, Govind Singh of village Sewa is cultivating garlic, onion, coriander, fennel and cabbage over 0.08 acre of land, thus saving ₹ 4,200 on cultivation cost as compared to chemical farming. He consumed 168 Kg. of vegetables out of a total harvest of 352 Kg. His net profit was ₹ 10,400 with the sale of rest of the produce.

Small and marginal farmers and landless families could not grow vegetables for household consumption because of absence of irrigation facilities. We offered assistance and guidance to such families for adopting the vegetable cultivation model supported by a mini drip irrigation system with overhead tank. 265 families residing in 69 villages have adopted this model over 24 acres of land. They cultivated vegetables like chilli, tomato, potato, carrot, radish, ladyfinger, brinjal, spinach, coriander, bottle gourd, ridge gourd, bitter gourd and fruits like pomegranate, lemon, bael, papaya, bet etc. has been cultivated in their courtyard using natural farming practices. They earned a net income of ₹ 43,634 from the sale of surplus vegetables.

The easy availability of fresh vegetables right at the door
step improved the nutritional intake, which has resulted in substantial reduction of medical expenses for these families. Many farmers from adjoining districts have visited these families to emulate their success and NABARD has also supported 100 families to replicate the vegetable cultivation with a mini drip system.

Naresh Yogi of village Paidi, who owns 0.8 acre of land, used to harvest 45 Kg of millet at a net profit of ₹ 585. After establishment of a mini drip irrigation system with overhead tank, he cultivated chilli at an input cost of Rs. 895. He thus earned an incredibly high net profit of ₹ 11,355 with the harvest of 3.5 qt of chilli.

Achievement and Impact

- 26,938 Families have successfully adopted natural farming practices
- 28,961 Acres of Land covered under various agricultural interventions
- 292 Villages covered
- 50% cost of cultivation reduced. Naturally grown agriculture produce specifically cereal crops, pulses and vegetables received 30% higher rates in comparison with chemically grown produces.
- 80 Farmers adopted mixed and intercropping practices.
- Farmers who have adopted natural farming practices shared their encouraging experiences at various forums, meetings and seminars as well as with higher officials of Dept. of Agriculture, Rajasthan.
- Organized 20 trainings and 80 demonstration on natural farming practices for 460 farmers specifically for growing indigenous seed varieties like gram, wheat, barley, lentil, fenugreek, mustard etc. as intercrop and mixed crops. Farmers reported increased yield and income with indigenous seed of varieties.
- JKBT team participated as resource person in various trainings organized under “Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojna” by Dist. Agriculture Dept.
- District Collector appreciated the Farmer Mela initiatives that was led by Natural farming committee of Sikar District.
- 376 farmers across 76 villages were given non-woven sheets to protect their 972 acres of crop affected by severe cold. They were also trained to use moon grass to protect crops from severe cold in a simple and natural way.
- We helped 138 farming families residing in 108 villages to install Grameen Fridge for preserving perishable agricultural produce like vegetables, milk and fruits.
- The Trust assisted 144 farmers from 62 villages to install Onion Storage Units for hygienically storing onions till they get profitable rates in the market.
Resolving Drinking Water problem through construction of Roof Rain Water Harvesting Structures (RRWHS)

Sikar District is a water-challenged region, which is experiencing erratic and uneven rainfall during the rainy season. This has compounded the problem of safe drinking water and water for irrigation across the district. While the water table has gone down to 350 to 550 feet, the increased level of chemical contamination (fluorides, salinity and High TDS) in drinking water has reached hazardous levels. The problem becomes sever in summer and most of the hamlets have to purchase water at the rate of ₹ 20 per 20 litre of filtered water jar while shelling out ₹ 500 to ₹ 700 for a water tanker of 5,000 litre capacity.

Bajaj Trust, in collaboration with the local community, has designed an innovative intervention of Roof Rain Water Harvesting Structure for resolving the drinking water problem. RRWHS with dimensions of 10 ft. diameter and 10 ft. depth with 15,000 litre water storage capacity have been constructed. Hand pump is installed along with the RRWHS for withdrawal of water. The unit is connected by PVC pipes (having filter system at inlet) with the rooftop to receive rainwater. The unit cost of construction of a RRWHS is ₹ 50,000, of which Bajaj Trust supports 30% whereas the rest of the cost is contributed by beneficiaries.

880 families residing in 243 villages were supported for construction of RRWHS, making the safe drinking water available at their doorstep. This one-time investment resolved the drinking water problem permanently for these rural families.

Premaram of village Mandoli resides on the outskirts of the village. His open dug well could not support the requirement of drinking water for his family. He used to fetch it from a distant source. Construction of a RRWHS had resolved the problem and drudgery of fetching the water He diverts excess rain water for recharging the open dug well.

Similarly, construction of a RRWHS has also resolved the problem of scarcity of water for Santosh Devi’s family, who is a resident of village Bhairopura.
Land levelling: Converting undulating fallow land into productive land

Undulating and uneven lands is one of the major problems being faced by the farmers in the area. The farmers who received land from government under settlement schemes are the most vulnerable. This has adversely affected their farming income, as these lands are not cultivable and also prone to soil erosion due to high speed winds and surface water runoff. The resource poor farmers could not afford the cost of land levelling. These farmers have been offered support to level their lands with the help of tractors and land levelling machines.

Lands with a gradient of 4% and more have been selected for the intervention. The selected piece of land has been partitioned into chunks of 100 m area each. First half of the part is cut and the lifted soil is filled in the remaining half and levelled. The cost of land levelling is ₹10,000 per acre, out of which Bajaj Trust supported 20% and remaining cost was contributed by the beneficiaries.

As a result of land levelling, uncultivable waste land has been brought under cultivation. Farmers are now growing crops like millet, barley, pulses (gram, green gram, moth bean), fenugreek, groundnut, wheat and vegetables on this land and enjoying the increased income. The yield of groundnut crop in the kharif season is 7 qt., which fetched a net profit of ₹16,800 per acre.

An impact assessment study has been carried out to promote the intervention in the region. The encouraging results of the interventions were shared with various development stakeholders for replication of the intervention with appropriate modifications.
Step-1
Community meetings to create awareness on land leveling and its benefits.

Step-2
Technical survey of undulating land with the involvement of the community.

Step-3
Execution of land leveling work through tractors on the undulating land owned by the farmers.

Step-4
Post-survey measurement of quantity of levelled area.

Step-5
Converting undulating land into fertile land

Before land levelling, Omprakash of Bhairopura was harvesting 10 qt. of millet from 1.5 acres of land and the cost of cultivation was ₹ 3,980. His net profit was ₹ 8,020. After land levelling, he harvested 12 qt. of guar (cluster bean) crop with cost of cultivation at ₹ 11,500 and earned a net profit of ₹ 37,700.
Watershed Development Project - Disnau, Laxmangarh, in Collaboration with NABARD

A Watershed Development project in collaboration with NABARD was initiated over 1,349 hectares of land in Laxmangarh Block, with 52% NABARD, 32% Bajaj Trust and 16% community contributions. This year, 170 hectares of land has been covered under the project capacity building phase. Also, activities like strengthening of village watershed committee, training and exposure visits, moisture conservation tasks like raising farm bunds, drip irrigation, soil mulching, land terracing, plantation, etc. have been taken up.

Construction of Farm Ponds, Percolation Tanks and Check Dams

52 different water harvesting structures like farm ponds/percolation tanks and check dams have been constructed covering 480 acres of land benefiting 146 families in 6 villages. These interventions resulted in increased crop productivity by 8-10 %, conservation of soil moisture and developing the green cover.

3904 Families & 5058 acres of covered under soil and water conservation programe
Exposure visits of Village Watershed Development Committee (WDC) to various interventions of Bajaj Trust like water recharge structures, tree plantation, natural farming demonstration plots, water storage structures, farm ponds, etc.
Promotion of Dairy Farming Through Indigenous Breed of Cow

The indigenous cow provides A-2 type of milk, which is highly nutritious as compared to the milk of cross breed cows like HF and Jersey. Besides, the dung and urine of indigenous cows are important sources of inputs required for promoting natural farming. Therefore, it is necessary to propagate this message among the farming community and consumers. Also, women play a major role in dairy farming.

Bajaj Trust, along with 120 resource farmers, has been making efforts to create awareness among the agrarian community about the importance of the indigenous breed of cows. The resource farmers also helped to purchase 313 cows of indigenous breed from Nagaur, Sanchor and Gujarat areas reared by the families spread over 42 villages. 3,910 families have been supported for rearing of indigenous cows covering 226 villages.
Sanjay Yadav of village Durgapura has initiated dairy farming through indigenous breed of cows. He gets 18 lit. of high quality milk every day for 150 days of a year. He solds at the rate of ₹ 50 per lit. he earn 1,35,000 in a year. He incurs total cost ₹ 33,200 toward maintenance of dairy and earns net income of ₹ 1,01,800 per year. Besides 300 lit. of milk has been available for household consumption and has reduced the family’s expenditure over health.

Bajaj Trust has created awareness on the importance of rearing of indigenous cow breed among the villagers with the help various experts and resource persons. The following 3 activities have been undertaken for strengthening dairy-based livelihood:

1. Promotion of indigenous cows
2. Promotion of improved Cattle Feeding cum Drinking System
3. Promotion of Power operated Chaff Cutter
Parmeshwari Devi of village Poora Chhoti has developed dairy farming with indigenous breed of cow. She gets a total of 1,050 litres of milk in 150 days per year, i.e., 7 litres per day. Total expenditure incurred was ₹ 6,200 per annum. She sold 600 litres of milk at the rate of ₹ 45 per litre and earns a net income of ₹ 20,800 per year. The rest of 450 litres of milk was consumed in the family.

**Improved Cattle Feeding cum Drinking System**

The Cattle Feeding cum Drinking Water System has proved extremely useful in maintaining good health of cattle by supplying fodder and water at prescribed interval of time. Delighted with its benefits, the farmers renamed it as “Automatic Pashu Than”. The system is facilitating cattle health, avoiding fodder waste, enabling regular availability of water, reducing drudgery and increasing milk production.

291 families residing in 168 villages were supported for installation of Cattle Feeding cum Drinking Water System. The intervention is spontaneously promoted among a large number of farmers in Sikar as well as outside the district.

**Promotion of Chaff Cutter**

Mahendra Kumar of village Bhairopura began to share the work of preparing the feed for cattle with his wife and children.
Sajna Devi and her daughter happily use the chaff cutter, which reduced their drudgery and also made sufficient fodder available to the cattle at their feeding intervals.

Families had to invest 2 hours daily for cutting of fodder grass by hand. The chaff cutter has not only reduced the manual work but saved valuable time as well, which can be utilized for other productive work at home. 556 families among 204 villages were helped for purchasing the Chaff Cutter unit.
Women Empowerment Through Self-Help Groups, Rural Enterprises and Skill Development

Promotion of Self-Help Groups and Rural Enterprises

Bajaj Trust has formed 912 SHGs and extended efforts for their socio-economic empowerment. During the year, 142 Self-Help Groups have been linked with banks for credit. 536 SHG members of villages comprising Harsh, Raiwasa, Sangarwa, Nathawatpura, Dudhwa and neighbouring hamlets have come forward to form an exclusively women’s FPO. They proposed an enterprise of processing and marketing of desert fruit products. (Ker, Sangari, Khipoli, Kachchhaam, Kachari, Aomla, Deshiber etc.) 95 SHG members have established income generating activities like bag making, scenery painting, bandhej, Rajputi dresses, bangles, pottery etc. and earning ₹5,500 to ₹9,000 per month.

89 women members from Raiwasa, Harsh, Singarwat, Losal, Kheenvasar and other villages have upgraded their skills and are confidently working as resource persons for developing women-led entrepreneurship. These women are earning ₹6,500 to ₹10,000 per month as resource person.

SHGs’ leaders discussing on kitchen gardening, indigenous cow based natural farming, income generating activities etc., in Poora Chhoti and neighbouring villages.
Experience sharing workshop for various interventions and income-oriented activities being carried out by women SHG members at village Losal Chhoti.

132 types of income generation activities/rural enterprises have been established by 2,780 SHG members, which includes Manihari, Shringar Shop, Readymade Garment, Pottery, Basket Making, Billiya Making, Fancy Item, Grocery Shop, Embroidery, Bandhej, Pickle Making, Leather Work, Wooden Toys, etc.

Sadaa Kanwar of village Sami was provided help for setting up a grocery shop; she has been earning ₹8,500 month.
Setting up of Processing Unit

SHG members of several villages have established processing units of various locally demanded items like til-patti, moongfali-patti, pickle, flour packaging, noodles and namkeen making, etc. They have developed linkages with local shop keepers and customers for marketing of their products. They are also expanding their business in the neighbouring villages. During the year, Durgamata SHG of village Sami and Laxmi SHG of village Pratapura have established a Mini Dal Mill and Papad-making enterprise.

It was a proud moment for Anita her two sisters when they opened a tailoring centre at home, pitching in with a financial support of ₹ 6,500 per month for their parents suffering from cancer.

Kanta Kumari of village Bhairopura used to work on daily wage basis in one of the beauty parlours at Laxmangarh, earning ₹ 1,500 and spending ₹ 400 on travelling. After she participated in the skill training session, she became confident and opened her own beauty parlour in the village. Now, she earns ₹ 2,500 per month in the off-season and ₹ 6,000 to ₹ 8,000 per month during the wedding season.
36 women participated in tailoring and food processing trainings organized at village Mohanpura. 5 of the young participants had opened stalls for sale of juice, lassi, spices and other food items in the Yatra and Fair at Jeenmata and earned ₹ 4,000 per person for 4 months. 16 trainees from villages Jeenmata and Khatushyam initiated their enterprise and are earning ₹ 7000 to ₹ 9000 per month.

138 skill training sessions on sewing and tailoring, computer abilities, cemented mould making, pickle papad-mangodi, soap making, food processing, etc. were conducted, benefiting 2,622 youth from 69 villages. This year, skill trainings were conducted in Chudimiyan, Disnau, Sihotchhoti, Sewa, Raghunathgarh, Piprali, Sami and Khandi villages in collaboration with Neharu Yuva Kendra and Punjab National Bank. The participants in tailoring training were later assisted to develop forward linkages for supply of readymade clothes and Rajpooti dresses. The participants in computer training were helped to get employment in coaching institutes, hospitals and government departments as computer operators.

Achievement and Impact

- 912 Self-Help Groups formed
- 12,798 memberships covered under SHGs
- ₹ 6.26 Cr. savings accrued
- ₹ 94 lakh internal lending took place
- 142 Self-Help Groups strengthened
- ₹ 78 lakh credit availed by 142 SHGs through banks
- 2,780 rural enterprises established
- ₹ 6,500 average rise in monthly income through rural enterprises
- 84 women emerged as a resource persons in rural entrepreneurship
- Enhanced skills, knowledge and level of confidence
- 2,622 youths trained through 138 Skill Development training
- 272 villages covered
- 123 types of need-based rural enterprises initiated
Non-availability of cooking fuel and good quality manure for agriculture is a chronic problem in the rural pockets of Sikar. The problem has been magnified with increasing deforestation and periodically rising price of LPG cylinders, which has become unaffordable for the rural poor families. On the other hand, unavailability of good quality organic manure has resulted in increased use of chemical fertilizers, leading to increased input cost of farming. Biogas technology has proved to be a sustainable source of fuel and good quality manure for agriculture.

Biogas technology was quite new in the area in 2010-11, when it was being introduced. Exposure of the villagers to the biogas plants installed by 11 families, who heartily reaped the benefits of the technology, resulted in its auto replication. Now, 1,553 families are using biogas as cooking fuel. The benefits of biogas technology are manifold: The eco-friendly fuel led to reduction in indoor air pollution. Besides, it has become a source of good quality compost immensely useful for agriculture. Maharana Pratap University for Agriculture and Technology (MPUAT), Udaipur, has recognized JKBTA as the biggest biogas promoting organization in Rajasthan State.

Considering the overwhelming response from the community, Bajaj Trust also provides support for maintenance of biogas plants. In this regard, skilled masons as well as required accessory replacements have been made available to them at a call. Farmers’ Clubs, Youth Mandals and SHGs members have been actively canvassing for replicating the intervention.

Bio-Fuel Authority & Rural Development and Panchayatiraj Department of Govt. of Rajasthan collaborated with Bajaj Trust for promotion of biogas plants in the district. Unit cost of a biogas plant is ₹ 23,500; Bajaj Trust provides support to the tune of ₹ 3,300, Govt. share is ₹ 12,000 while the remaining ₹ 8,200 is contributed by the beneficiary.
Sharmila Devi Jakhad of village Rahnava shared the benefits in terms of ease in cooking, availability of good quality manure for farming, and saving money on purchase of LPG cylinder. Besides a saving of ₹ 1,000 per month, the family has been helping conserve nature by protecting trees.

Surendra Kumar of village Lamiya shared that the use of a biogas-operated lamp helped him to continue studies during frequent power outages.

Biogas has reached remote areas facing the problem of availability of LPG. Aasha Devi residing in village Bosana opined that construction of a biogas plant has resolved her fuel wood problem and got rid of LPG for cooking. Now, biogas fuel is available right at her kitchen platform for 24 hours throughout the year.

**Achievement and Impact**

- 1,553 Biogas Plants constructed
- 275 Domestic Solar Lights installed
- 283 villages covered
- ₹ 4,500 rupees saved by each family per annum on fuel-wood
- ₹ 15,000 saved as expenses on chemical fertilizer per plant (10 metric tonne slurry per plant) in a year
- 2 hours saved daily in cooking
- 605 biogas-owned families have saved expenditure on LPG cylinder and saved ₹ 21.28 lakh. (Saved ₹ 3,517 per LPG holder family after biogas)
- 948 families stopped use of fuel wood to the tune of 2,370 tonnes and saved ₹ 35.55 lakh
- 1 hour saved daily on fuel collection, thereby reduced drudgery as well
- ₹ 350 per month saved on electricity bill after installation of Solar Lighting System
Family of Girdharilal of village Shesham has been enjoying the benefits of Solar Lighting System in terms of ease of work, ease of cooking and ease of study for their son

**Solar Domestic Lighting System**

275 neediest families among 90 villages were supported for setting up a domestic solar lighting system. The state receives sunlight almost throughout the year, which describes the huge scope of capturing solar energy. Solar lighting system has demonstrated the benefits in terms of facilitating education of children and allowing rural families to extend their work into the late evening hours.

Youth Mandals of Ramsinghpura Village have helped 70 families for installing Solar Lighting System and 10 families in availing financial support from Bajaj Trust. Similarly, youths of Maliyon Ki Dhani installed solar lighting system at the Village Knowledge Centre and on the streets as well. The unit cost is shared between Bajaj Trust (₹ 1,940) and beneficiaries (₹ 6,560).
Family of Basanti Devi residing in village Chudimiyan is a single woman living with her children in the dark with no electricity connection before she was helped for having a Solar Lighting System.

1553 Biogas plants constructed

275 Domestic solar light units installed
Grooming & Nurturing a Powerful, Progressive and Sensible New Generation through ‘Design for Change’

37 Designs for change projects completed
37 DFC video documentary film completed on ‘YouTube’

These school children have demonstrated and accomplished wonderful projects on their own by adopting Design For Change concept. Similar potentials is there among youth, women and elderly people to resolve their problems through DFC.

Design for Change is a global movement that aims to create powerful, progressive and sensitive children by boosting their confidence and making them believe in themselves that they can achieve what they desire.

Design for Change offers an opportunity to children to express their own ideas for a better world and put them into action. Children as well as adults learn through the Design for Change challenge that 'I Can' are the two most powerful words. Feel, Imagine, Do and Share are the four steps which facilitate the process of empowerment.

Children are pursuing brilliant ideas to bring the desired change. Children have successfully rolled out 37 projects such as the Dowry System in Rural Communities, Save Birds for the Environment, Save Trees In Less Water Using a Plastic Recycled Bottle, Developing Playground for Various Games, Village Cleanliness Drives, Road Safety Measures, Addiction-free School and Society, etc. They have been challenging youth, women and elderly people in particular - “We kids did it, now it’s your turn.”
During the year, 25 DFC projects were rolled out by children with amazing successful stories to share with society; some of these are Tree Plantation in school premises and around the village, Save Water - Demonstrating with fitting taps to arrest water leakage, Education for all - Helping children from poor families to continue education, creating Drinking Water Facility for travellers, Improving the nutritional quality of the midday meal with kitchen gardening, Diverting waste water to plantation, Installing dust bins for keeping the surroundings clean, Learning self-defence techniques by girls, creating the facility for Safe Drinking Water, New plantation on barren common land and Making Sports Kits available to villagers.
Save Nature, Save Earth: School children prepared hanging nests with sticks and used earthen pots for keeping water and food for the birds to protect them from the severe summer heat in village Durgapura.

**Achievement and Impact**

- 24,759 children actively participated in the DFC Movement
- 119 schools actively involved in the DFC Movement
- 37 DFC projects successfully implemented by children
- 25 DFC Projects uploaded on YouTube

“I was not shy and nervous about interacting in the English language. But participation in DFC helped me build my confidence. Now, myself, my teachers and my parents are happy with me.”

- Mamta Kumari, Class 9th, Govt. Sen. Sec. School, Rahnava

“Usually, elders do not believe in the potential and capabilities of children. But Bajaj Trust believed and helped to achieve their dreams with DFC.”

- Sitaram, School Teacher, Choudhary Bal Niketan, Durgapura.
Financial Progress 2018-19

Source of Fund Year 2018-19 INR 11.31 Crore
- JKBT Contribution INR 1.78 crore
- Community Contribution INR 2.36 crore
- Govt. & NABARD Contribution INR 7.17 crore

Fund Utilization Expenditure Year 2018-19 INR 11.31 Crore
- Programme Expenditure INR 10.81 crore (95.57%)
- Training and Capacity Building INR 0.14 crore (1.20%)
- Administrative Expenditure INR 0.36 crore (3.23%)

Programme Expenditure Total INR 10.81 Crore
- Water Resource Development and Management INR 8.25 crore (76.28%)
- Agriculture and Horticulture Development (Natural Farming) INR 0.86 crore (7.94%)
- Animal Husbandry Development INR 0.04 crore (0.41%)
- Human Resource Development and Institutional Building INR 1.66 crore (15.37%)
Board of Trustees

Shishir Bajaj, is Chairman of the Trust. After completing his MBA from New York University in 1974 with finance as major subject, he joined the Bajaj Group of companies in 1974 and has shouldered the responsibility as Chairman of Bajaj Hindusthan Sugar Limited from 1999 to 2014. He also did Owner President Management Program from Harvard Business School in 2000. Bajaj Group’s flagship company Bajaj Hindusthan Sugar Limited is today the number one sugar producer in India and 5th largest in the world and the largest producer of Ethanol in India. He is also a promoter of Bajaj Consumer Care Limited which manufactures Bajaj Almond Drops the second largest Hair Oil Brand in India.

Smt. Minakshi Bajaj, is a Trustee of the Trust. She has obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree from Calcutta University and is a Director of A N Bajaj Enterprises Private Limited.

Kushagra Nayan Bajaj, is a Trustee of the Trust and has been shouldering responsibility as Chairman cum Managing Director of Bajaj Hindusthan Sugar Limited since 2014. He is also Chairman of Bajaj Consumer Care Limited since 2007. Kushagra Nayan Bajaj has obtained Bachelor of Science in Economics, Political Philosophy and Finance from the Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA. He earned his Master of Science in Marketing from North Western University, Chicago, USA. He is moving force behind the social responsibility initiatives of the Trust.

Apoorv Nayan Bajaj, is a Trustee of the Trust and the Executive President of Bajaj Consumer Care Limited. He has a Bachelor’s degree in Commerce from University of Mumbai. He travels extensively in programme area to help and guide the programmes of the Trust. Socio-economic and spiritual development of the community is his passion.

Smt. Vasavadatta Bajaj, is a Trustee of the Trust. She has done her B.Com. in the year 1997 and additionally she has also done one year Pre-school Teacher’s Training in 2001.

Ramvallabh Agrawal, is a Trustee and also Secretary, Rajasthan Khadi Gramodyog Sanstha Sangh, Bajaj Nagar Jaipur. He is President of Sikar Jilla Gramodaya Samiti, is an active member of the Trust.

Dr. Pushpa Porwal, with specialization in child and maternity care, is a Trustee. She has been closely associated with People’s Welfare Society since 1972-73. She has been fully devoted to Shekhawati Zanana Hospital, Sikar since 1997.

OUR TEAM

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