OUTREACH

OUTREACH ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEERS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

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FOREWORD

ENABLING SELF-RELIANCE SINCE 30 YEARS

It is with immense pride and gratitude that I present the Annual Report for the year 2022-23 for OUTREACH Association of Volunteers for Rural Development, a non-profit organization that has now completed three decades of dedicated service to our communities. This year was truly remarkable, marked by several significant achievements that have shaped our journey and propelled us closer to our mission of building a more sustainable and equitable society.

In the year 2022-23, OUTREACH embraced the challenges of an ever-changing world with determination and a commitment to fostering resilience in the face of environmental and social challenges. The impacts of our work during this year have left a lasting imprint on the lives of individuals and communities. The statistics alone are a testament to the dedication and hard work of our team:

1. An impressive 4,434 hectares of land were treated with climate resilience measures, including soil water conservation, social forestry, and sustainable agriculture practices. These measures are not only safeguarding our environment but also enhancing the livelihoods of those who depend on it.
2. Over 10,630 farmers reaped the benefits of climate resilience measures, gaining access to harvested water for irrigation. This is more than just water; it's the lifeblood of agriculture and the foundation of food security.
3. A staggering 6,494 farmers were empowered through integrated value chain development activities, granting them access to vital services through farmer producer organizations. This kind of support is a catalyst for self-sufficiency.
4. In our continuous pursuit of holistic well-being, 1,400 individuals found the means to diversify their income sources through income generation activities, bringing newfound economic stability to their lives.
5. A remarkable 698.91 lakh litres of water storage and harvesting potential were created through the construction of farm ponds, tank rejuvenation, well recharging, and rooftop rainwater harvesting structures in rural areas. Water, a finite resource, has been harnessed with ingenuity to secure the future.
6. In the bustling metropolis of Bengaluru, 10 acres of a lake was rejuvenated, a symbol of urban sustainability and a reminder that even the most concrete jungles can embrace nature.
7. A total of 1,529 children now have access to hygienic sanitation facilities in their schools, ensuring that their education is not hampered by preventable health concerns.
8. In a remarkable feat of environmental responsibility, 81,638 households are now segregating waste, and 14,324 households are actively composting wet waste. This transformation, facilitated by information, education, and communication campaigns, reflects the power of collective action.
9. Lastly, a primary health center in suburban Bengaluru was strengthened, granting access to better-equipped healthcare for 8,000 individuals, reaffirming our commitment to overall well- being.

These remarkable achievements are not just numbers; they represent lives touched, communities uplifted, and ecosystems restored.

This Annual Report is a testament to the dedication of our staff, guidance of the Board, the support of our partners, and the resilience of the communities we serve. As we move forward, we are excited about the possibilities that the future holds. I thank our board members, donor partners and staff for being a part of our journey and for their unwavering support. Together we can continue to create positive change.

Warm regards,

N.D.Tiwari
Executive Director

PROFILE

OVERVIEW OF OUTREACH

OUTREACH Association of Volunteers for Rural Development, a registered nonprofit based in Bengaluru, has been serving Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh for 30 years. Specializing in sustainable livelihoods and Integrated Natural Resource Management, OUTREACH is renowned for its pioneering participatory development programs. It operates training centers in Karnataka and is governed by a diverse board and executive committee. With over 50 professionals skilled in community mobilization, watershed management, agriculture, and more, OUTREACH is empanelled with the Karnataka Evaluation Authority and has conducted policy studies for various government agencies. Key partners include the Karnataka Forest Department, NABARD, Water Aid, and several other funding agencies like Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, European Union, German Agro Action, Ford Foundation etc.

The organization's efforts have earned recognition through awards such as the Karnataka State Award 2009-10 for environmental conservation and the Groundwater Augmentation Award 2011 from the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India, for innovative groundwater practices, including rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge.

PURPOSE

Vision

Vulnerable people/communities have access to and control over social-technological -economic and ecological interventions and benefits therefrom to sustain their lives and livelihoods and are insulated from the climate change impacts

Mission

Vulnerable communities are organised into viable institutions and also vulnerable people to become self-reliant in addressing their social-technological-economic and ecological security needs

JAMES MASCARENHAS

Thirty years ago, the visionary founder of OUTREACH embarked on a mission to empower rural communities, instilling in them the principles of self-reliance. This organization was born from a commitment to advancing the field of Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), contributing significantly to the development and dissemination of PRA methods and approaches.

Affectionately known as "Jimmy," the founder cultivated a participatory work culture within OUTREACH, earning widespread recognition within policy circles. To this day, his legacy continues to illuminate the path for the dedicated staff of OUTREACH, serving as an enduring beacon of inspiration.

Thematic Focus

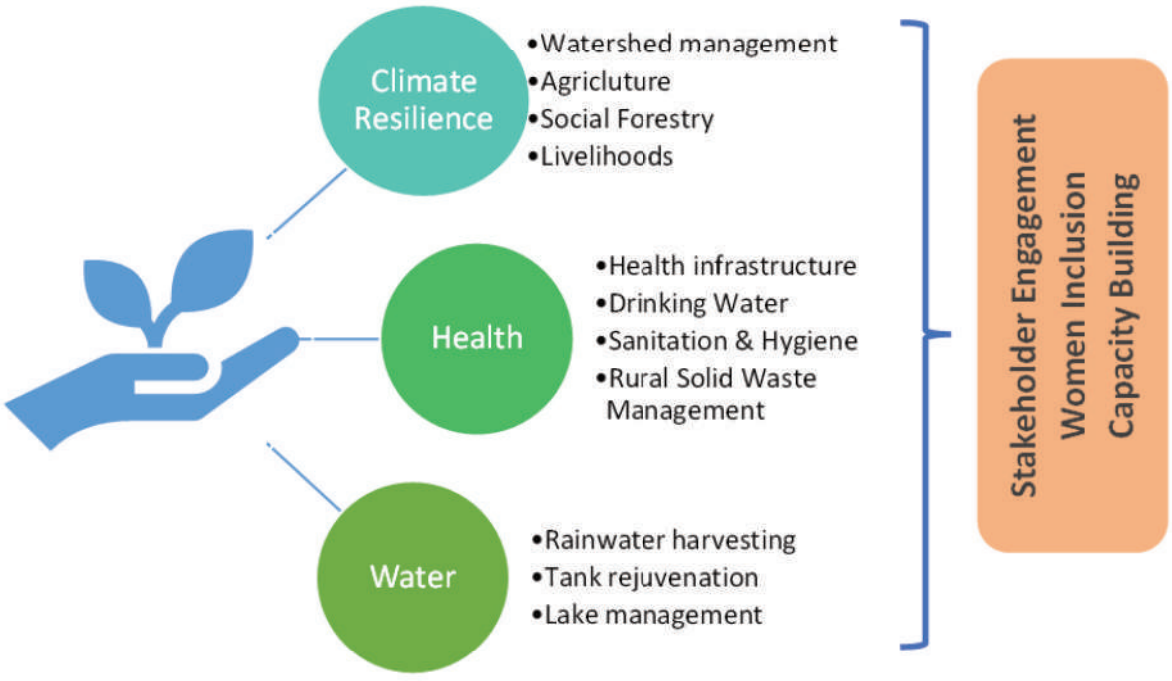
OUTREACH is dedicated to addressing critical issues through three key thematic areas:

Climate Resilience: The organization actively engages in watershed management, promoting sustainable agriculture, and fostering social forestry. These efforts enhance water availability, reduce soil erosion, and provide a supplementary income for local communities. The organization works on livelihood enhancement, creating alternative income opportunities to reduce vulnerability to climate-induced disruptions.

Water Resource Management: OUTREACH focuses on conserving and storing rainwater for various purposes, rehabilitating traditional water tanks, and managing local lakes and water bodies. These initiatives address water scarcity issues, ensure a sustainable and reliable water supply, and support the livelihoods of fishing communities.

Public Health: The NGO strengthens healthcare infrastructure in underserved areas, provides clean and safe drinking water, promotes sanitation and hygiene, and manages rural solid waste. These actions enhance community health, reduce waterborne diseases, and mitigate environmental pollution and health hazards.

These thematic areas reflect OUTREACH's comprehensive approach to addressing the interconnected challenges of climate resilience, water resource management, and public health. They contribute to the well-being and sustainability of communities in need.



The Board

Executive Committee

The executive committee played a pivotal role in guiding the OUTREACH's mission and initiatives. Their leadership and strategic vision were instrumental in shaping the organization's efforts. First and foremost, the executive committee provided direction and oversight to the organisation's programs. They ensured that each initiative was aligned with the organization's mission and values. Their guidance helped the organisation stay focused and effective in its outreach efforts. They leveraged their networks and expertise to expand the reach and impact, ensuring that their efforts were well-coordinated and had a broader reach.

Details of the Executive Committee

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Occupation
1.	Mr. J.K.Arora, IAS., Retd.	Chairman	Former Additional Chief Secretary & Development Commissioner, Government of Karnataka
2.	Mr. N.D.Tiwari, IFS., Retd.	Secretary / Executive Director	Former Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Government of Karnataka
3.	Dr. S.C.V.Reddy, Ph.D	Treasurer	Former Director Karnataka State Seed & Organic Certification Agency
4.	Mr. R.M.Palanna, IFS., Retd.	Member	Former Chief Conservator of Forest, Government of Karnataka
5.	Dr. B.R.Hegde, Ph.D	Member	Former Director of Research, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore
6.	Mrs. Sheila Mascarenhas	Member	Social Worker
7.	Dr. Sarasu Esther Thomas, Ph.D	Member	Professor, National Law School
8.	Dr. Pritha Das Gupta, Ph.D	Member	Former Professor of Sociology, Christ University
9.	Mr. D.S.Gaonkar IFS (Retd.)	Member	Former Chief Conservator of Forest, Government of Karnataka

Members of OUTREACH's Executive Committee

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

ITC Mission Sunehra Kal (NRM)

Soil and moisture conservation, integrated agriculture practices, Social forestry and Women Empowerment Project, Mysuru District (Karnataka), 2022-23

Hunsur taluk has been categorized as 'Safe' in terms of groundwater extraction as per the Central Ground Water Board's recent Mapping and Management Plan[1]. The report suggested that the mandatory guideline issued by Government of Karnataka like rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures should be constructed. Groundwater recharge component needs to be made mandatory in the 67,990 ha of non-command area of the taluk, which constitute 99.77 per cent of the total geographical area. Surface water available could be used to recharge the aquifer mainly through percolation tanks, check dams and sub surface dyke structures. Periodical maintenance of recharge structures, including desilting water tanks should also be incorporated in the Recharge Plan.

Currently, approximately 29% of irrigation relies on wells and bore wells, primarily drawing from groundwater sources. However, there is a significant disparity in the adoption of micro-irrigation techniques such as drip and sprinkler systems when compared to the conventional surface flooding method. To address this issue, it is imperative to embrace water-efficient practices, particularly for cultivating water-intensive crops such as Paddy and Tobacco, which collectively cover 38,404 hectares of agricultural land and are heavily reliant on groundwater. The widespread implementation of efficient irrigation methods not only ensures the sustainability of our groundwater resources but also plays a pivotal role in conserving this precious resource for future generations.

In light of this situation, ITC and OUTREACH have partnered to spearhead initiatives focused on preserving soil and water resources, incorporating sustainable farming methods, and fostering social

OUTCOME

637
Lakh litres harvesting potential created through 39 farm ponds & tank rejuvenation

650
Hectares of land protected with soil erosion conservation measures

1522
Hectares of land afforested through social forestry and biodiversity plantations

2263
Hectares of land promoted with sustainable agriculture package of practices

IMPACT

347
Hectares of Command Area Irrigated

47
Women earned additional income through income generation activity

4300
Farmers benefitted

1 Report on Aquifer Mapping and Management Plan, Hunsur Taluk, Karnataka, 2021-22, Central Groundwater Board, South Western Region, Bengaluru, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India accessed at http://cgwb.gov.in/old_website/AQM/AQM-Reports.html

forestry across 76 selected Gram Panchayats in the Hunsur and K.R. Nagara taluks of Mysuru district. Efforts to conserve soil moisture and promote integrated agriculture practices are being concentrated in 49 villages spanning 34 Gram Panchayats within Hunsur taluk. The overarching goal of the project is to harness rainwater through the expansion of water storage capacity in existing tanks and the construction of water harvesting structures. Additionally, it seeks to empower farmers with the knowledge and skills needed to engage in climate-resilient and sustainable agricultural practices.

An integral aspect of this project involves empowering the community by fostering awareness, conducting training programs, organizing workshops, and facilitating exposure visits. These efforts played a pivotal role in directly engaging with more than 1400 individuals through our outreach initiatives. The project's objectives and project-related information were effectively conveyed to the local community through village-level meetings, vibrant wall paintings, and clear signage at project sites.

Enhancing Soil Moisture Conservation

One of the most critical aspects of sustainable agriculture involves mitigating soil erosion and optimizing water utilization. To address these challenges, the project implemented trench cum bunding work across the lands of 345 farmers, covering an impressive 650 hectares of agricultural land. This initiative effectively curbed water runoff and significantly reduced soil erosion.

Furthermore, the project included the desilting of eight existing water tanks, which collected rainwater from a catchment area spanning 63,760 cubic meters. The resulting tank silt, totaling nearly one lakh metric tons, was strategically utilized to enhance the soil quality of 267 hectares of land, benefiting 149 farmers. To ensure equitable access and utilization of these resources, eight Tank User Groups were formed, comprising a total of 72 farmers.

To bolster water management capabilities, the project also oversaw the construction of farm ponds on the properties of 31 farmers. These farm ponds enable the efficient storage of rainwater for crop irrigation.

In addition, efforts were made to promote biomass production on individual lands through the establishment of fodder plantations, covering 200 hectares. This initiative is vital for providing fresh green fodder to livestock, enhancing the nutrient intake of milch animals. Finally, approximately 84 hectares of government-owned wastelands were productively repurposed by planting various indigenous tree species, including honge, mathi, neem, Malabar neemwood (hebbevu), and more. This initiative not only contributes to reforestation but also offers long-term environmental benefits.

Farm pond at Kademanuganahalli village, Hunsur taluk

Holistic Integrated Agriculture Practices

Integrated agricultural practices encompass a range of farming methods and production techniques that balance ecological sustainability and economic viability. One key approach employed in this project is the establishment of Farm Field Schools, which facilitate group-based learning. Through hands-on activities, farmers gain insights into the ecological dynamics of their crops, enabling them to assess, refine, and adopt optimal crop production and protection technologies tailored to their specific locations. This, in turn, leads to increased production, productivity, and income.

Across approximately 764 hectares of farmland belonging to nearly 200 paddy-growing farmers, practical demonstrations were conducted. These demonstrations covered a variety of technologies, including the introduction of new crop varieties and integrated approaches to crop production, drum-seeder sowing techniques, and the

Orientation to farmers on water demand management, Kanagalu village

Demonstration on Drum seeder activity through Farmer Field School at Marallayyana Koppalu village

Exposure visit to Krishi Vigyana Kendra, Sutturu

Orientation on Venturi activity through Farmer Field School at Marallayyana Koppalu village

implementation of alternate-wetting-and-drying (AWD) methods, utilizing water level-checking pipes.

Moreover, for over 2000 farmers engaged in cultivating water-intensive crops like arecanut, coconut, and banana, water demand management practices were advocated. These practices included the application of mulching, the use of ring basins, deploying coconut bucket traps with pheromones, and utilizing venturi fertilizer injectors. These measures collectively contribute to more sustainable and efficient agricultural practices.

Promoting Sustainable Social Forestry

Social forestry involves the management and safeguarding of forests, along with reforestation efforts on barren and deforested lands. Agroforestry, on the other hand, combines the cultivation of agricultural crops with the strategic planting of forestry trees, creating more diverse, productive, financially viable, healthier, and sustainable land-use systems. This integrated approach leverages the collective biodiversity to deliver a range of ecosystem services, including nutrient recycling, natural pest control, local micro-climate regulation, pollination support, hydrological process management, and control of undesirable organisms.

In the context of this project, forestry trees were actively promoted not only on individual farmers' lands but also in areas where tobacco curing processes are adopted. A mix of tree species, particularly those suited for fuel production, was encouraged across 1031.32 hectares of individual farmer-owned land and 323 hectares of land surrounding individual curing facilities. These efforts had a positive impact on 1616 farmers, contributing to the broader goal of sustainable land management and ecosystem enhancement.

Promoting social forestry on common lands in Maraduru village

Empowering Women in the Community

Women from an important segment of the labour force and the economic role-played by them cannot be isolated from the frame work of development. Women entrepreneurship development is the instrument of women empowerment[2]. The project provided crucial financial backing to empower 47 women belonging to four self-help groups. They received interest-free loans to establish a collective enterprise focused on coco peat production. Over the course of four months, these dedicated women actively participated in this venture, each earning an impressive average income ranging from Rs. 12,000 to Rs. 15,000 for the season.

Coco peat unit operated by SHG women in Marallayyana Koppalu village

Their initiative involved sourcing raw materials locally, processing them, and subsequently selling the finished coco peat products to local farmers who use them in plant nurseries. This enterprise not only bolstered the women's income but also served as a valuable means of supplementing their livelihoods, fostering financial independence and sustainability.

Har Ghar Tiranaga campaign with farmers in Bannikuppe village

2 Balasundaram, Nimalathasan & Absar, Mir & Akhter, Sadia. 2010. Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship Development in Emerging Economies: An Overview. Conference. International Conference on Knowledge Globalization.

Reliance Foundation

Improving the Self-reliance and Resilience of Rural Communities in Bidar District, Karnataka, India

The pursuit of sustainable development is an imperative that resonates across the globe, encapsulated within the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)[3]. In this context, this project has aligned its vision with several key SDGs, including No Poverty (SDG 1), Zero Hunger (SDG 2), Good Health & Well-being (SDG 3), Gender Equality (SDG 5), and Climate Action (SDG 13). This alignment underscores OUTREACH's commitment to addressing multifaceted challenges and creating resilient, thriving rural communities. This report succinctly details the progress across three thematic areas in Bidar district: Climate Resilience for Sustainable Development (CR4SD), Integrated Value Chain Development, and Diversifying Rural Incomes Via Employment (DRIWE).

Climate Resilience for Sustainable Development (CR4SD)

In the pursuit of enhancing the resilience of rural communities in the face of climate change, the Climate Resilience for Sustainable Development (CR4SD) component focuses on several key interventions. Efforts to integrate climate adaptation measures into the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) involved 18 mass awareness events and seven training sessions to enhance stakeholders' understanding of climate resilience. To ensure widespread understanding of water resources, participatory exercises were carried out in 54 villages and climate resilient plans were prepared. These were displayed in the form of wall paintings in the villages. Campaigns focused on national priority programs were conducted. Extensive efforts were made to capacitate functionaries and stakeholders in the realm of Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) principles and practices through training sessions, exposure programs, and workshops. Additionally, 23 hands-on training sessions and three demonstrations specifically targeting extension cadre and functionaries were organized to provide practical insights into CSA techniques.

OUTCOME

54
Climate Resilience Plans for Villages

36
Water Resource Management Plans for Villages

900
Women are skilled to take up income generation activities

511
Nutrition Garden established in households and public places

IMPACT

1350
People accessed financial support for diversifying livelihood

1300
Farmers Benefitted from integrated value chain development

Significant strides were made in water resource management through 28 hands-on training sessions with the local community. Participatory exercises were carried out in 36 villages to develop water resource management plans and these were displayed through wall paintings, fostering awareness of water resources. Local functionaries were equipped with skills through five training sessions, enabling them to support water resource development.

3 https://sdgs.un.org/goals

Awareness of balanced nutrition was actively promoted in 36 villages through a series of events. Nine villages received hands-on training to manage nutrition gardens, which serve as resources for promoting balanced diets. To ensure diverse and nutritious food options for households, Reliance Nutrition Gardens (RNGs) were established in 450 households and 61 Anganwadi centers, Gram Panchayats (GPs), schools, and other public places, serving as demonstration sites and encouraging replication.

Participatory rural appraisal exercise in Allapur village, Aurad taluk

Stakeholder training on Climate Change adoption in Balatha village, Kamalanagar taluk

Integrated Value Chain Development (IVCD)

Under the theme of Integrated Value Chain Development, the project has made significant strides in enhancing agricultural practices and promoting sustainable productivity.

This integrated approach bore fruit as five producer groups were able to access services from Farmer Collectives, encompassing various aspects of training, support, information dissemination, and linkages within the agricultural value chain. As part of the initiative to enhance agricultural productivity, a total of 14 awareness generation programs were executed, aimed at improving production practices and introducing new agricultural

Workshop on FPO Market Network Linkage for members of Bidar Krishika Producers' Company Limited at Bidar

Reliance Nutrition Garden at Khanapur village, Aurad taluk

Tur dal field demonstration at Bembra village, Kamalanagar taluk

technologies. Additionally, eight digital outreach programs conducted, disseminating knowledge on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) to a wider audience through digital platforms. Furthermore, 18 demonstrations and the establishment of Farmer Field Schools (FFS) served as platforms for location and crop-specific CSA practices on 405 hectares, helping raise awareness and build capacity of 405 farmers at the grassroots level. Five producer groups have effectively utilized farmer collectives to access a range of services, including training, exposure, workshops, and support, bolstering agricultural value chain connections. Approximately 900 farmers have benefited.

Leveraging digital platforms, these programs disseminated valuable information and best practices, equipping farmers with the tools needed to improve their agricultural methods. The project recognized the power of collectives in agricultural development.

Diversifying Rural Incomes Via Employment (DRIWE)

Under the DRIWE initiative, a multi-pronged strategy was employed to enhance livelihoods and income diversification among stakeholders. The project began by capacitating stakeholder functionaries with the necessary knowledge and skills to support livelihoods and income diversification efforts. A total of 71 functionaries were trained, enabling them to guide and facilitate income-generating activities effectively. The project placed a strong emphasis on empowering Self-Help Groups (SHGs) with 33 village-level training, mentorship, and handholding support in diversified livelihood options and entrepreneurship. Financial linkage camps played a crucial role in disseminating information on access to financial resources to over 100 SHGs, empowering them to invest in their chosen income-generating initiatives. To kickstart income generation activities, 14 training sessions and 4 activity-based skill development programs were conducted, focusing on enterprise management. These sessions equipped 900 individuals with the knowledge and skills required to initiate and manage various income-generating ventures in agriculture, allied sectors, and entrepreneurship.

Job fair programme at Bidar

The project recognized the importance of involving men in skilling and non-farm employment opportunities. This was achieved through 2 job fairs, livelihood linkage camps, and networking with various line departments and employment offices. These initiatives helped men explore alternative avenues for income generation.

In summary, the project supported by Reliance Foundation has made substantial progress in spreading awareness about climate resilience and building capacities of all stakeholders, enabling farmers to access farmer collective services and supporting women and men in understanding the opportunities to diversify their income sources.

Tailoring programme for SHG members at Hippalagaon village, Kamalanagar taluk

Department of Agriculture, Government of Karnataka

Promotion, Handholding and Guiding Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) in Bidar and Bagalkot Districts, Karnataka, India

Conserving A Producer Organisation (PO) is a legal entity formed by primary producers, viz. farmers, milk producers, fishermen, weavers, rural artisans, craftsmen[4]. Organising small and marginal farmers as Farmers Interest Groups (FIGs), Farmers Producers Organisation (FPOs) and Farmers Producers Company (FPCs) endows them with bargaining power and economies of scale. It provides a platform for increased accessibility and cheaper availability of agricultural inputs to small and marginal farmers and in establishing forward and backward linkages in supply chain management. This initiative has triggered mobilization of farmers for aggregation across the country with ultimate aim of sustainable business model and augmented incomes[5]. In keeping with this purpose, OUTREACH promoted 10 FPOs in drought-prone areas of Bidar and Bagalkot districts since it is essential for building resilience, improving resource management, and empowering farmers to confront the harsh realities of climate change. These organizations not only help farmers survive droughts but also thrive in the face of adversity, fostering sustainable agriculture in these vulnerable regions.

The FPOs can undertake various activities and services for the benefit of its members such as procurement of inputs, disseminating market information, dissemination of technology and innovations, facilitating finance for inputs, aggregation and storage of produce, primary processing like drying, cleaning and grading, brand building, packaging, labeling and standardization, quality control, marketing to institutional buyers, participation in commodity exchanges and export.

During the year, the FPOs mobilised and facilitated 5194 new farmers to become members of FPOs, of which 18 per cent are women. The activities of the FPOs can be majorly segregated into input and output business.

OUTCOME

10
Farmer Producer Organisations Promoted

225
Farmer Interest Groups Promoted

5194
Farmers facilitated to become members

IMPACT

238.52
Lakh rupees turnover from Input business carried out by FPOs

28.16
Lakh Rupees Output business carried out by FPOs

FPO members' field visit to farm pond at Malegaon tanda village, Aurad taluk

4 https://www.nabard.org/demo/auth/writereaddata/File/FARMER%20PRODUCER%20ORGANISATIONS.pdf
5 www.sfacindia.com

Input Business

FPOs procured agricultural inputs such as seeds of maize, jowar, groundnut, sunflower, red gram and soyabean, fertilizers like DAP, urea, micro nutrients etc, pesticides, at discounted rates due to their collective purchasing power. These inputs were distributed to their members, ensuring cost savings and quality control. This fostered economies of scale, improved access to modern farming technology, and increased productivity for individual farmers.

FPOs can negotiate better deals with suppliers, reducing input costs for their members, thus ensuring cost efficiency. They can ensure the quality and authenticity of agricultural inputs, safeguarding farmers from substandard products. FPOs streamlined the procurement process, ensuring timely access to inputs, which is crucial for agricultural success. The FPOs provided guidance and training on the appropriate use of inputs, optimizing their impact on crop yields.

Output Business

FPOs also facilitated the collective sale of agricultural produce such as maize, soyabean, red gram and bengal gram. They aggregated the harvest from their members, managed storage and transportation, and negotiated with buyers to secure fair prices. This addressed the challenges faced by individual farmers in marketing their products and reduced dependence on middlemen. FPOs helped farmers access larger and more profitable markets, expanding their selling options. This was enabled through directly linking FPOs to corporate buyers. They negotiated better prices due to the bulk volume they offer, ensuring higher returns for their members. Collective marketing helped spread the risk associated with fluctuating market conditions.

The input and output businesses of FPOs are instrumental in improving the overall economic well-being of farmers. They empower farmers by ensuring cost-effective inputs, efficient marketing, and fair prices, ultimately contributing to sustainable and profitable agriculture in the regions they serve.

FPO members' meeting at Bagdal village, Bidar taluk

Watershed Development Department, Government of Karnataka

Watershed Development for Drought Proofing Program (WDDP), Bidar District, Karnataka

Approximately 52.31 lakh hectares of land are available in Karnataka for scientific watershed treatment, organized on a watershed basis. In light of this, the Watershed Development for Drought-Proofing program was devised with several key objectives in mind: to boost the income of rainfed farmers, efficiently manage natural resources, strengthen local community-based organizations, offer livelihood opportunities to those without assets, enhance the region's green cover, and improve access to fodder, fuel, and groundwater in the project area.

Starting in the 2019-20, this program has been actively carried out in 29 districts across the state, specifically targeting 100 drought-prone areas with low groundwater levels. The program encompasses an area ranging from 3,000 to 5,000 hectares. To achieve these goals, a comprehensive approach is employed, incorporating Land Resource Inventory (LRI) techniques and integrating efforts with the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY). Execution of the program is entrusted to watershed committees led by the Gram Panchayat President[6].

In the preparatory phase of this project, OUTREACH was engaged in mobilizing the watershed community, capacity building and preparing the detailed project report for Ayeshapura Yadalapura Nala sub watershed in Bidar taluk, Bidar district. The initial phase of this project focused on mobilizing the watershed community, enhancing their capacity, and compiling a detailed project report for the Ayeshapura Yadalapura Nala sub-watershed within Bidar taluk, Bidar district. These efforts spanned eight villages across three Gram Panchayats: Yadlapur, Kamthana, and Kolara.

OUTCOME

3

Executive Committees formed and strengthened to take up responsibility of watershed management

IMPACT

5000

Hectares drought prone land being treated with watershed approach

To raise awareness about the project's purpose and the importance of watershed management, community outreach programs like Gram Sabhas and Jathas were conducted. Furthermore, executive committees were established to shoulder the responsibility of planning, executing, monitoring, and ensuring the sustainability of the project post-completion. Training programs were conducted to empower community-based organizations such as self-help groups, farmer user groups, and executive committees. These programs aimed to enhance their understanding of watershed management practices and equip them with the skills necessary to actively manage the assets created under the project.

The WDDP program represents a comprehensive effort to address critical issues in drought-prone areas. The collaboration with local organizations and rigorous capacity-building initiatives demonstrate a commitment to long-term success in these vulnerable regions.

6 Annual Report 2020-21, Watershed Development Department, Government of Karnataka.

Gram Sabha at Kolar village, Bidar taluk

SHG training at Yadalapur village, Bidar taluk

FPO campaign at Bakchodi village, Bidar taluk

WATER

WaterAid Sweden

Conserving Every Drop: Towards building a Water Positive Future, Water access and replenishment in and around Bengaluru, India

Conserving water in Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Karnataka state, India, is of paramount importance due to a myriad of pressing factors. The region faces acute water scarcity exacerbated by rapid urbanization, population growth, and unpredictable monsoons. According to the Hydrogeological report of Hoskote Block, 2020-21[7] published by Atal Bhujal Yojana, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR), Government of India, the stage of ground water extraction is 136 per cent which indicates over exploitation. As per the Groundwater Directorate's Assessment report, 2022[8], despite good rainfall in the previous year, the groundwater levels in Bangalore rural district has gone down, especially in Hoskote taluk where the average groundwater level fell by four meters compared to December 2020. On the other hand, it is reported that Hoskote taluk has 54,593 ha (non-command) which is worthy of recharge, thus indicating the potential for rainwater harvesting and replenishing groundwater. As a response to this situation, WaterAid Sweden and OUTREACH collaborated to promote improved harvesting of rainwater and revival of traditional water bodies for both storage and recharge through holistic and participatory approach steered by communities' collective commitment in selected 10 Gram Panchayats.

OUTCOME

17.10
Lakh litres harvesting potential through 5 rooftop rainwater harvesting structures

21.81
Lakh litres water harvesting potential through 6 abandoned dug well recharge

21.02
Lakh litres water storage potential through 2 field pond restoration

IMPACT

31.91
Lakh litres water storage/ harvesting potential created

6330
People benefitted. 48% are Women

7 https://atalbhujal.karnataka.gov.in/storage/pdf-files/HGR%20final/Hoskote_Updated.pdf

8 Dynamic Ground Water Resources of Karnataka as on March 2022, Ground Water Directorate, Minor Irrigation And Ground Water Development Department, Government Of Karnataka and Central Ground Water Board South Western Region, Bengaluru. February 2023. accessed at www. antharjala.karnataka.gov.in

Ensuring Year-round Drinking Water Availability in Target Villages

Ensuring water security in regions like Hosakote Taluk can be achieved through a multifaceted approach that includes rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharging. By channeling rainwater to field ponds and abandoned dug wells, communities can significantly enhance their water resilience. These practices not only conserve rainwater for agricultural and domestic use but also help replenish groundwater aquifers.

A Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) was carried out in 10 Gram Panchayats comprising 81 villages to map and evaluate water resources, water usage practices, and water conservation awareness, aiming to improve the village's water situation. Mass awareness was created through campaigns, wall paintings and street plays. Addressing the growing water stress, focus was laid on implementing rooftop rainwater harvesting structures in schools. This initiative not only raised water conservation awareness but also engaged schoolchildren. Despite pandemic-related delays and initial community unawareness, five structures were successfully completed within a year. Stakeholders, including the Local Government (Gram Panchayat), contributed 10% of the structure's cost, with school teachers and School Development and Monitoring Committee (SDMC) members committed to its operation and maintenance.

Two field ponds were restored despite challenges posed by unpredictable heavy rainfall. Two user committees, comprising active community members, were formed, and they were educated on field pond operation and maintenance. The community enthusiastically supported the initiative, by contributing to silt transportation. As planned, six abandoned dug wells were restored for recharging on the lands of small and marginal farmers. The farmers willingly contributed to the project's cost and committed to maintaining the structures post-completion.

Recharge abandoned dug well, Alagondanahalli village

Empowering Women and Youth as Sustainable Leaders

Creating awareness and providing training to local communities, particularly women and youth, is crucial for the sustainable management of water resources in Hosakote Taluk and similar regions. During the year, 1109 women and youth have been trained on water security and maintenance, rain water harvesting and importance of recharging pits. These efforts empower communities to actively participate in water conservation initiatives and build a sense of ownership over their local water sources. Women, often responsible for household water management, benefit from training in efficient water use and conservation practices, leading to better household water security. Youth engagement not only ensures the transmission of knowledge to future generations but also fosters innovation and fresh perspectives on water management.

Facilitating the Adoption of Best Practices by Government and Stakeholders

Government officials play a pivotal role in policy formulation and implementation. Around 120 government staff including officials of elected representatives of Gram Panchayats, ASHA workers, Anganwadi teachers, officials of Forest department, Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Schem (MGNREGS), Atalbhujal Yojana etc. were trained and urged to adopt best practices demonstrated in the project. By equipping them with the knowledge of best practices in water conservation, they can facilitate the replication of successful models and the integration of sustainable water management practices into local policies and initiatives. This collaboration between communities and government authorities is integral to achieving comprehensive and lasting water conservation outcomes in Hosakote Taluk and beyond.

The initiatives were implemented strategically and supported by community participation, this approach has the potential to significantly increase water availability, benefiting both the community and the environment and foster a more sustainable and secure water supply for the region.

Roof top rainwater harvesting at Government Lower Primary School, Tiruvaranga village

Operation and Maintenance Committee Meeting at Guguttahalli village

Pond restoration at Guguttahalli village

Roof top rainwater harvesting at Government Pre-University College, Devalapura village

Lake Rejuvenation with CSR Support

Technical Support and Implementation of Lake Rejuvenation and Management Interventions

The urgent need for revitalizing and managing Bangalore's lakes is essential to combat various environmental and urban challenges. In the year 2021-22, the Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority identified 207 lakes in Bengaluru, falling under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagar Palike, Bangalore Development Authority, Karnataka Forest Department and Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited[9]. Some of these once-pristine lakes are now facing pollution, encroachment, and neglect due to rapid urbanization and population growth. Restoring these lakes is crucial for enhancing the city's environmental quality. Properly managed lakes serve as natural sponges, reducing monsoon-related flooding and recharging groundwater. Furthermore, rejuvenated lakes provide green spaces, support biodiversity, and enhance the well-being of residents. By adopting a comprehensive approach to lake restoration and sustainable management, Bangalore can preserve its natural heritage and create a more resilient, ecologically balanced urban landscape for future generations.

With this background OUTREACH engaged in providing technical support through preparing detailed project reports for lake development and also engaged in actively revitalizing a lake through deweeding, thus facilitating rejuvenation of the lake bodies and biodiversity.

Defence Research and Development Organisations (DRDO): Preparation of Detailed Project Report for Maylina Byrasandra Lake, C.V. Raman Nagar, Bengaluru

The creation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Maylina Byrasandra Lake's revitalization and development, spanning roughly 15 acres, followed a systematic approach. It aimed to rejuvenate the lake, unlocking its ecological, recreational, and economic potential. The process began with an assessment of the lake's current state, involving its size, water quality, ecology, and historical significance. Engaging stakeholders was crucial, including discussions with local authorities, the community, environmental experts, and potential funders.

Feasibility studies assessed technical, economic, and environmental viability while identifying constraints and risks. Clear project objectives were set, covering water quality, biodiversity, recreational spaces, and tourism. Site analysis examined topography, hydrology, soil conditions, pollution sources, and threats. Detailed design plans were crafted, encompassing strategies for water quality improvement, shoreline protection, landscaping, wetlands, and trails.

OUTCOME

3
Lake rejuvenation and management plans have been prepared

57
Acres of lake area has been studied and DPR prepared for rejuvenation

IMPACT

10
Acres of lake area has been deweeded

9 https://ktcda.karnataka.gov.in

Cost estimation included construction, materials, labor, and contingencies. Environmental impact assessments ensured compliance and ecological impact mitigation. Legal approvals and financing sources were secured. A project timeline and implementation plan with responsibilities were established. Monitoring, evaluation, and risk management systems were integrated. Communication plans ensured stakeholder engagement, leading to the DPR's compilation for review and approval.

BOSCH : Preparation of Detailed Project Report and Technical Support for Tank Bund strengthening of Sheshagiri Halli Lake, Bidadi

Preparing a detailed project report and providing technical support for strengthening the tank bund of Sheshagirihalli tank in Bidadi town, spanning 32 acres, was a significant initiative aimed at safeguarding the local environment and ensuring the sustainable utilization of water resources. This project involved a comprehensive approach, combining engineering expertise and environmental consciousness to fortify the tank bund's structural integrity. By bolstering the bund, the risk of breaches and consequent flooding was minimized, safeguarding nearby communities and farmlands. Additionally, this initiative supported the conservation of the aquatic ecosystem within the tank and promoted responsible water management practices. Technical experts, environmentalists, and the local community worked together to ensure that this project not only strengthened the tank bund but also contributed to the overall ecological balance of the region, enhancing the resilience of Bidadi town to environmental challenges.

Project team discussing with Gram Panchayat members

View of Sheshagiri Halli lake before intervention

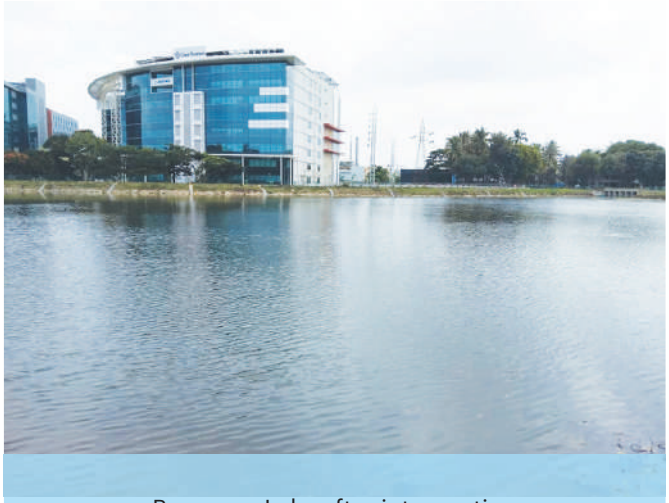
Lake bund formation in progress

Bagmane Group : Deweeding as a Lake Management Intervention for Bagmane Tech Park Lake, C.V. Raman Nagar, Bengaluru

Eutrophication of freshwater ecosystems, particularly lakes have manifested in numerous problems and one such unavoidable outcome is the excessive weed growth, which has drastically altered the structure and overall functioning of the lake ecosystems around the globe. Deweeding has come up as an important management tool to eradicate aquatic weeds along with removal of huge nutrient loads from lake ecosystems. (Rather et.al, 2020)[10].

Deweeding Bagmane Tech Park Lake from aquatic weeds in Bangalore city was a critical endeavor aimed at restoring the ecological balance and recreational value of these water bodies. The lake had grappled with the rampant growth of invasive aquatic weeds like water hyacinth and water lettuce, which not only degraded water quality but also disrupted local ecosystems. Comprehensive deweeding efforts were initiated in the 10 acres (approximately) lake, involving the physical removal of weeds through methods like mechanical harvesters and manual labor. These initiatives also employed bio-control measures, using natural predators like certain fish species to keep the weed growth in check. Such deweeding endeavors played a vital role in improving water quality, restoring aquatic habitats, and preserving these lakes as vital urban green spaces. They were collaborative efforts that engaged local authorities, environmental organizations, and concerned citizens, highlighting the importance of ecological conservation within the bustling city of Bangalore.

Bagmane Lake before intervention



Bagmane Lake after intervention

10 Mohmmad Irshad Rather, Abdul Rehman Yousuf and Ummer Rashid Zargar. Deweeding as a Lake Management Intervention– A Critical Analysis. Journal of Himalayan Ecology and Sustainable Development, Volume 15, 2020.

HEALTH

ITC Mission Sunehra Kal (CDP)

Sanitation and Primary Education Project in the NAG/ CAAP villages in Mysuru and Hassan Districts, Karnataka 2022-23

Establishing and maintaining proper sanitation facilities stands as a cornerstone for fostering a safe and healthy environment in rural areas. The significance of ensuring safe sanitation facilities and practices, both at the individual and community levels, cannot be overstated. Such measures are indispensable in mitigating adverse effects on health, the environment, and the overall economy[11]. The Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) rekindled the emphasis on sanitation in rural areas, leading to Karnataka's declaration as Open Defecation Free (ODF) in 2018. Today, the Swachh Karnataka vision transcends toilet construction, focusing on sustaining safe sanitation practices and effectively managing solid and liquid waste in rural regions.

At the heart of the Swachh Karnataka vision, OUTREACH's project in Hunsur and K.R. Nagar Taluk, Mysuru, plays a pivotal role across 75 Gram Panchayats, facilitating an array of impactful interventions. The comprehensive initiative includes raising community awareness about sanitation through outreach programs, focusing on hygiene and health to foster a deep understanding of the importance of sanitation. Moreover, the project ensures the establishment of sanitary facilities in schools and anganwadis, essential centers of learning and community engagement, where children and communities can experience firsthand the benefits of proper sanitation.

A critical component of this initiative is the cultivation of sanitation practices among children, from a young age. By encouraging households to engage in waste segregation at the source, the project is actively promoting responsible waste management practices at the grassroots level, reducing environmental impact. Lastly, working closely with Gram Panchayats, the project promotes effective waste management practices at the local governance level, creating a holistic approach to sanitation and waste management in these rural areas. These combined efforts contribute to a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable future for these communities.

OUTCOME

20
Schools and anganwadis have access to sanitation infrastructure

81,638
Households practice waste segregation

9.62
Metric tons of wet waste composted by households

64.28
Metric tons of dry waste handled by Gram Panchayats

IMPACT

1,529
Children have access and used toilets in schools and anganwadis

14,324
Households compost wet waste. Use it for nutrition gardens and agriculture

11 Karnataka State Rural Sanitation Strategy, 2020. Karnataka Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Department, Govt. of Karnataka

Community development and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

In adherence to Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) guidelines, the project diligently undertook a series of essential activities, pivotal in the post-Open Defecation Free (ODF) phase. These ODF plus initiatives play a crucial role in the ongoing enhancement of rural sanitation.

As part of this initiative, the project oversaw the construction of four school toilets and three anganwadi toilets, marking a significant milestone in the improvement of sanitation facilities for both children and the broader community. Furthermore, the project invested in the creation of vital infrastructure, including the installation of six drinking water systems, six hand wash platforms, and the construction of a protective compound wall in schools. These endeavors not only improved hygiene but also ensured greater accessibility for all.

In its commitment to raising awareness and fostering a sense of responsibility toward sanitation, the project organized essay and drawing competitions in 15 schools, actively engaging children in important discussions about sanitation. Simultaneously, the project was dedicated to capacity building, strengthening various committees, including 22 Child Cabinets, 29 School Development and Monitoring Committees, and 67 Solid Waste Management Committees within Gram Panchayats. Through targeted training programs on water, sanitation, and hygiene, these committees gained the knowledge and tools required to drive positive change within their respective communities.

Additionally, the project hosted two Taluk-level training sessions for Panchayat Development Officers and elected representatives from Gram Panchayats, with a focus on effective solid waste management. These collective efforts embody the holistic approach of the project, working in tandem with the SBM(G) guidelines to comprehensively advance sanitation and hygiene in rural areas.

Girls using the toilet in Government Higher Primary School, Kattemalalawadi village

Hand wash platform in Government Higher Primary School, Dharmapura village

Toilet in Anganwadi, Machabayanahalli village

Rural Solid Waste Management

The Karnataka State Policy on Sanitation and Waste Management[12] sets a visionary goal: to achieve 100% biodegradable waste segregation at source and processing in all Gram Panchayats within the state by March 2022. In line with the Karnataka State Rural Sanitation Strategy, primary door-to-door waste collection is entrusted to the Gram Panchayats' personnel, who may receive support or facilitation from community-based organizations.

The rural context is particularly conducive to composting because the predominant solid waste generated in villages is biodegradable in nature. Significantly, extensive efforts were undertaken to promote awareness among 98,870 households within the project area, encouraging them to segregate waste at its source. Moreover, proactive measures were taken to support 30 temples in these villages with waste segregation by providing drums and promoting the composting of organic waste. In addition, a segregation unit was also established within one of the temples.

This comprehensive approach underscores the commitment of OUTREACH in advancing sustainable sanitation and waste management, aligning with the strategic vision set forth by the State Policy.

Rural Solid Waste Management Workshop at Bannikuppe village

Waste Collection in Moduru village

SDMC Strengthening Training Program at Dharmapura

12 Karnataka State Policy on Sanitation and Waste Management . February 2020. Karnataka Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Department, Govt. of Karnataka

Concern India Foundation

Strengthening of Primary Health Centre in Karnataka

According to the Human Development Report 2022[13], Karnataka has made significant strides with respect to demographic advancement, at the same time, there is lot to be desired in ensuring better health status in comparison to southern states bordering Karnataka. One of the major challenges in achieving health is the inequity in health both in terms of health care and provision.

The state-owned rural health care facilities in India, commonly known as Primary Health Centers (PHCs), or Public Health Centers, are fundamental components of the government-funded public health system. They serve as the most rudimentary units of the healthcare system and are often the initial point of contact for ensuring the health of the community. A robust and accessible PHC system helps alleviate the strain on hospitals by assisting people in managing their health issues within the community.

In circumstances where access to healthcare facilities is challenging, strengthening PHCs becomes imperative in delivering equitable healthcare to the community. Beyond standard medical treatment, PHCs focus on activities such as infant immunization, anti-epidemic initiatives, birth control programs, pregnancy and related care, and handling medical emergencies. Furthermore, they provide the day-to-day care required to preserve, protect, or restore health efficiently. Unfortunately, many PHCs and sub-centers in urban and rural areas are in dire need of refurbishment. The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with suggestions from researchers that it may persist, underscores the pressing need for more robust and empowered health centers.

The ongoing project is centered at Mallasandra Primary Health Center (PHC) in Hoskote Taluk, Karnataka. This PHC serves a population of approximately 8,000 people in the Mallasandra, Naduvatti, and Bhaktarahalli areas. On a daily basis, the PHC receives around 50 to 60 patients.

OUTCOME

3

Health centres (1 PHC and 2 sub centres) have access to basic medical equipment

IMPACT

10

People have access to a better equipped PHC

The primary objective of the project is to refurbish and equip the health center to better serve the community. This includes ensuring the availability of essential medical equipment at the center, ultimately reducing the patient load on district hospitals.

During the year, discussions were held with various stakeholders, including Gram Panchayat members, medical officers, representatives of self-help groups, and Asha workers, to gain insights into the current situation and develop an implementation plan with their valuable input and active involvement. A monitoring committee, comprising the aforementioned stakeholders, is in the process of being established to oversee the project's progress and conduct regular reviews.

Based on initial assessments, essential medical equipment such as blood pressure apparatus, delivery tables, ECG machines, pulse oximeters, labour cots, refrigerators, and more have been procured to refurbish and equip the center. Infrastructure strengthening activities are scheduled for the upcoming year.

13 Human Development Report, 2022, Bridging the Gap towards Sustainable Well-being, Human Development Division, Planning, Program Monitoring and Statistics Department, Government of Karnataka

TRIUMPH TALES

From Conventional to Experiential: Impact of Farmer Field Schools in Hunsur's Agriculture

Mysore District, a central hub of agricultural activity in India, heavily depends on farming for economic sustenance. This case study delves into the profound impact of Farmer Field Schools (FFS) led by ITC/ MSK and Outreach in Hunsur Taluk, Mysore District, shifting away from conventional extension programs towards group-based experiential learning. The FFS primary goal is to equip farmers with field-specific knowledge, enabling them to optimize crop production and protection techniques.

FFS groups were formed in 49 villages, comprising 588 farmers, introducing innovations like short-duration paddy varieties, water-saving techniques, and drum seeder technology. The arrangement for FFS includes coordination with experts, training materials, field visits, and demonstrations. Exposure visits to institutions like KVK, Suttur, facilitate mutual learning.

Participating farmers in FFS reported numerous advantages, translating into substantial outcomes. Labor costs significantly decreased due to the adoption of technologies like drum seeders and alternate wetting and drying (AWD), requiring only one person for efficient paddy sowing. This also led to enhanced crop uniformity and eliminated continuous seed drilling, reducing production costs. Moreover, seed rates and thinning costs dropped substantially, and crops matured 7-10 days earlier than traditional methods. Drum seeders proved easy to use, promoting increased plant density, root anchorage, and reduced pest and disease incidence.

These positive outcomes have bolstered FFS's success. Paddy crop productivity in the region significantly improved, and the successful trial of drum seeder technology prompted plans for wider adoption. AWD technology led to a 30% reduction in water use while maintaining robust yields, promoting sustainable water management. Farmers now demand more technology and knowledge sharing. FFS has empowered farmers, enabling them to make informed decisions and engage more effectively with extension and research systems.

Drum seeder demonstration in Saligrama village

Farmer Field school on fertilizer application in Kanagalu village

Farmer Field School in Saligrama village

Guguttahalli Village Pond Restoration: A Transformation Tale

Guguttahalli's long-neglected pond, hidden beneath years of silt, faced oblivion. The younger generation had no knowledge of this relic, concealed under thorny undergrowth. Chikkamuniappa, a 60-year-old farmer, recalled, "Only the very old people can tell you about the pond." An agency, surveying at the Gram Panchayat's request in March-April 2022, identified it as a prime candidate for rejuvenation. A feasibility study revealed the potential for benefits - improved water tables, a reliable source for water and cattle, and fertile silt for farms.

This 4.5-acre pond, partially encroached by a neighbor, had 1.5 acres meticulously desilted. 440 loads of silt were extracted, benefiting local farms. Subramania, a farmer who used the silt, celebrated a bountiful tomato crop. Beyond individual gains, a downstream bore well secured adequate water for the RO plant, benefiting the whole village. The pond's restoration bolstered underground water reserves, helping seven bore wells. A community committee ensured post-project maintenance and operation, increasing the pond's water holding capacity to 1700 cubic meters, recharging underground water, and benefiting seven bore wells.

Today, Guguttahalli thrives with abundant water. The committee's commitment to maintenance and post-monsoon desilting ensures a sustainable future. This case study highlights the transformative power of community-driven efforts, promising a water-rich future for Guguttahalli and its neighbours.

Guguttahalli village pond before intervention

Guguttahalli village pond after intervention

FINANCE

Financial Status

A Year of Noteworthy Growth

The year concluded on a highly positive note, marked by remarkable growth, with a substantial increase in our overall turnover compared to previous years. In the fiscal year 2022-23, our turnover surged from 18 percent in 2021-22 to an impressive 46 percent. This significant upturn can be attributed to our relentless efforts in identifying and addressing the needs of communities while effectively mobilizing funds. Notably, our turnover figure now stands close to pre-COVID levels.

A noteworthy development in the past year has been the surge in receipts from foreign donors, soaring from 11 percent in 2021-22 to a substantial 31 percent in 2022-23. This surge underscores the growing recognition and trust placed in OUTREACH's activities and accountability by foreign donors.

It is also worth highlighting the considerable reduction in administrative expenses, which have dropped from 21 percent in 2020-21 to a mere 13 percent in 2022-23. This reduction can be attributed to the cost-efficient measures we have implemented and the optimal utilization of our existing human resources. We have also engaged subject experts for specific outputs when required, further enhancing our cost-effectiveness.

In terms of thematic expenditure, our organization has directed a heightened focus on projects related to the crucial need of the hour, water. This is evident in a significant 13 percent increase in expenses dedicated to this theme, reflecting our commitment to addressing this pressing issue.

In recent years, our reliance on government funding has shown a consistent decline, dwindling from 28 percent in 2020-21 to a mere 4 percent in 2022-23. Meanwhile, there has been a notable increase in the grants provided by foreign donors and corporate foundations. Contributions from individuals and construction companies, among others, have seen a decrease, underscoring the need for intensifying our efforts to generate income from internal sources. This strategic shift is essential to ensure the long-term sustainability of our organization.

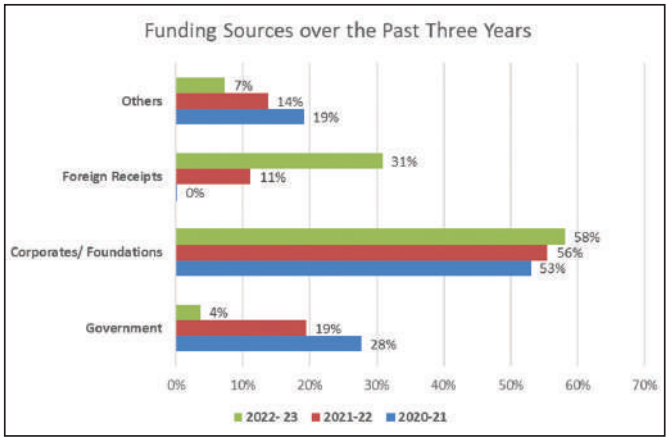
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

46
Percent increase in Turnover

20
Percent increase in foreign receipts

8
Percent more expenditure on Water related Projects

5
Percent decrease in administration expenses



Details of Income and Expenditure

The total income during the year is Rs. 457.61 lakhs, while the expenditure is Rs. 408.25 lakhs. In strict adherence to standard accounting principles, any unutilized grants have been carried forward to the following year, meticulously accounted for under the respective donor or sponsor accounts. The in-country income constitute 69 per cent, while the foreign receipts constitute 31 per cent of the total income.

Total Income = Rs. 4,57,61,286

In-Country Support	Amount	Percent
Donor Agency		
Agriculture Department WDD - FPO - Bagalkot & Bidar	8,62,860	3%
Karnataka Sheep & Wool Development Corporation Ltd	61,500	0%*
Agriculture Department WDDP - Bidar	4,95,355	2%
Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Mission GOK (RGCY Program)	2,53,820	1%
ITC Limited	2,16,10,026	68%
Reliance Foundation	32,54,000	10%
Lotus Antennas & Microwave Technologies Pvt Ltd - DRDO Lake Development Program	3,73,729	1%
Premium Building Management LLP - Lake Development Program	5,94,000	2%
Concern India Foundation	3,15,462	1%
BOSCH Limited	4,50,000	1%
Other Receipts (Donation / Office Building Rent / Bank Interest on SB, Term Deposit Accounts, Education Training, Interest on Income Tax Refund, Income from sale of assets etc.)	33,50,923	11%
Total Indian Income	**3,16,21,675**	**100%**

Foreign Support	Amount	Percent
Donor Agency		
WaterAid - Sweden	47,39,071	34%
Other Receipts (Income from Sale of Assets, Interest on SB, etc.,)	94,00,540	66%
Total Foreign Income	**1,41,39,611**	**100%**

* Decimal has been rounded off.

Total Expenditure = Rs. 4,08,25,207

Purpose/ Item	Amount	Percent
Climate resilience	2,10,36,689	52%
Water	51,33,457	13%
Health	90,28,191	22%
Staff training/ Policy Analysis/ Consultancy	1,37,057	0%*
Infrastructure / Capital	1,94,966	0%*
Administration / Interest on Loan	52,94,848	13%
Total Expenditure	**4,08,25,207**	**100%**

* Decimal has been rounded off.

Overall, our organization's remarkable growth, increased international recognition, and strategic cost-efficiency measures in the past year demonstrate a strong commitment to our mission and the communities we serve. We look forward to building on this positive momentum in the coming years, as we continue to make a meaningful impact in addressing the pressing needs of our communities.

R&B
RAJAGOPAL & BADRI NARAYANAN
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

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Block 2, Bangalore – 560011
080 – 2656 2409 | 0987
info@rnbca.com
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AUDITOR'S REPORT

OUTREACH ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEERS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT: BENGALURU

We have audited the attached Balance Sheet of Outreach Association Of Volunteers For Rural Development, Bengaluru as at March 31, 2023 and also the Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended on that date which is in agreement with the Books of Accounts maintained.

1. (A) We further report :

i) These financial statements are the responsibility of the AOP/Trust. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

ii) We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in India. Those Standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by the above association, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

(B) Subject to 2(A) above:

i) We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit.

ii) The Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account dealt by this report are in agreement with the Books of Accounts.

RAJAGOPAL & BADRI NARAYANAN CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS BANGALORE

R&B
RAJAGOPAL & BADRI NARAYANAN
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

iii) In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the said accounts read with the Notes relating to Significant Accounting Policies give true and fair view, in conformity with the Accounting Principles generally accepted in India:

a) In the case of Balance Sheet, of the Statement of Affairs of the Outreach Association of Volunteers For Rural Development as at March 31, 2023 and

b) In the case of Income & Expenditure Account, of the Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ended on that date.

For RAJAGOPAL & BADRI NARAYANAN
Chartered Accountants

PLACE : Bengaluru
DATE : 13.09.2023

M.S.RAJAGOPAL
Partner
M.No.020244
Firm Reg. No.003024S

UDIN: 23020244BGUNGN8561

RAJAGOPAL & BADRI NARAYANAN CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS BANGALORE

OUTREACH ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEERS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT
CONSOLIDATED

BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2023

	Note No	March 31, 2023 ₹	March 31, 2022 ₹
Funds Employed			
Unrestricted Funds			
Corpus	1	2,17,77,444	2,16,59,914
General Fund	2	1,45,98,428	1,16,06,646
Designated Funds			
Educational Training Fund	3	-	63,61,821
Revolving Fund-Livelihood Promotion	4	1,69,26,410	1,79,09,801
Jimmy Memorial Fund	5	1,44,091	1,49,481
Revolving Fund-DDP		2,50,000	2,50,000
Restricted Funds			
Donors Account	6	1,85,73,167	1,09,47,640
Loans (Liability)			
Secured loans		3,24,498	5,18,570
Unsecured loans		12,00,000	-
TOTAL		**7,37,94,037**	**6,94,03,873**
Application of Funds			
Fixed Assets	7	2,62,66,561	2,80,94,022
		2,62,66,561	**2,80,94,022**
Long term Investments			
Current Assets, Loans & Advances			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	8	3,49,38,790	3,00,42,231
Deposits (Other than with banks)	9	7,75,756	7,75,756
Receivables-Livelihood Promotion		1,43,52,884	1,43,52,884
Loans & Advances	10	22,69,765	21,74,368
		5,23,37,195	**4,73,45,239**
Current Liabilities & Provisions			
Other Current liabilities	11	48,09,716	60,35,388
		48,09,716	**60,35,388**
Net Current Assets		**4,75,27,478**	**4,13,09,851**
TOTAL		**7,37,94,037**	**6,94,03,873**

As per our report of even date
For RAJAGOPAL & BADRI NARAYANAN
Chartered Accountants
Firm Registration Number: 003024S

M S RAJAGOPAL
Partner
Membership No: 020244

Place : Bangalore
Date : 13.09.2023
UDIN: 23020244BGUNGN8561

For and on behalf of the Governing body of
OUTREACH ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEERS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

N D TIWARI
Executive Director

Dr. S C V REDDY
Treasurer

OUTREACH ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEERS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT
No.205, HBR Layout, 2nd Block, 1st Stage Extn., 80 Ft. Road Bangalore-43 T: 35003509 35003510

OUTREACH ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEERS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT
CONSOLIDATED

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

	Note No	March 31, 2023 ₹	March 31, 2022 ₹
INCOME			
Grants Received		3,30,09,823	2,16,22,972
Donations Received		80,000	1,45,473
Educational Training Income		15,974	-
Rental Income		20,05,512	19,90,332
Interest income		7,10,012	6,80,837
Other Income		93,05,913	84,543
Interest on Income tax Refund		63,506	51,628
TOTAL		**4,51,90,740**	**2,45,75,785**
EXPENDITURE			
Programme Expenses	12	3,53,35,393	2,07,10,210
Administration Expenses -HO	13	48,10,313	39,70,736
Interest on Bank of Baroda Loan		26,128	37,226
Assets Writteen Off		5,85,411	-
Depreciation	7	11,61,395	13,53,620
		4,19,18,640	**2,60,71,792**
Surplus/ (Deficit)		**32,72,100**	**(14,96,007)**
TOTAL		**4,51,90,740**	**2,45,75,785**

As per our report of even date
For RAJAGOPAL & BADRI NARAYANAN
Chartered Accountants
Firm Registration Number: 003024S

M S RAJAGOPAL
Partner
Membership No: 020244

Place : Bangalore
Date : 13.09.2023
UDIN: 23020244BGUNGN8561

For and on behalf of the Governing body of
OUTREACH ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEERS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

N D TIWARI
Executive Director

Dr. S C V REDDY
Treasurer

Governing Body

Throughout 2022-23, the governing body of OUTREACH NGO played a pivotal role in strengthening the organization's overall functioning. Their leadership and support were instrumental in several key aspects. The governing body provided clear strategic direction and oversight, ensuring that OUTREACH remained aligned with its mission and goals. They ensured that the NGO operated in accordance with legal and ethical standards, promoting transparency and accountability in all activities. This helped build trust among stakeholders. The governing body's commitment, leadership, and expertise were crucial in facilitating OUTREACH's effective functioning during 2022-23. Their collective efforts contributed to the NGO's success in creating positive change within the communities it served.

Details of the Governing Body

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Mr. J.K.Arora, IAS., Retd.	Chairman
2.	Mr. N.D.Tiwari, IFS., Retd.	Secretary / Executive Director
3.	Dr. S.C.V.Reddy, Ph.D	Member
4.	Mr. R.M.Palanna, IFS., Retd.	Member
5.	Dr. B.R.Hegde, Ph.D	Member
6.	Mrs. Sheila Mascarenhas	Member
7.	Dr. Sarasu Esther Thomas, Ph.D	Member
8.	Dr. Pritha Das Gupta, Ph.D	Member
9.	Mr. D.S.Gaonkar IFS (Retd.)	Member
10.	Dr. Nandita Ray, C.A, Ph.D	Member
11.	Dr. Gladys Sumithra, Ph.D	Member
12.	Mr. Chiranjivi Singh, IAS., Retd.	Member
13.	Dr. S.N.Rai, IFS., Retd., Ph.D	Member
14.	Dr. R.S.Deshpande, Ph.D.	Member
15.	Mr. B.K.Singh IFS (Retd.)	Member
16.	Mr. H.Guruswamy	Member
17.	Dr. R.Indira, Ph.D	Member
18.	Dr. R.G. Gollar, Ph.D	Member
19.	Mr. G S Pradeep Kumar	Member
20.	Mr. S. Manohar Rao	Member

Contact us

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Gratitude to our Bankers