



ANNUAL REPORT

2019-20

GRAMEEN DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

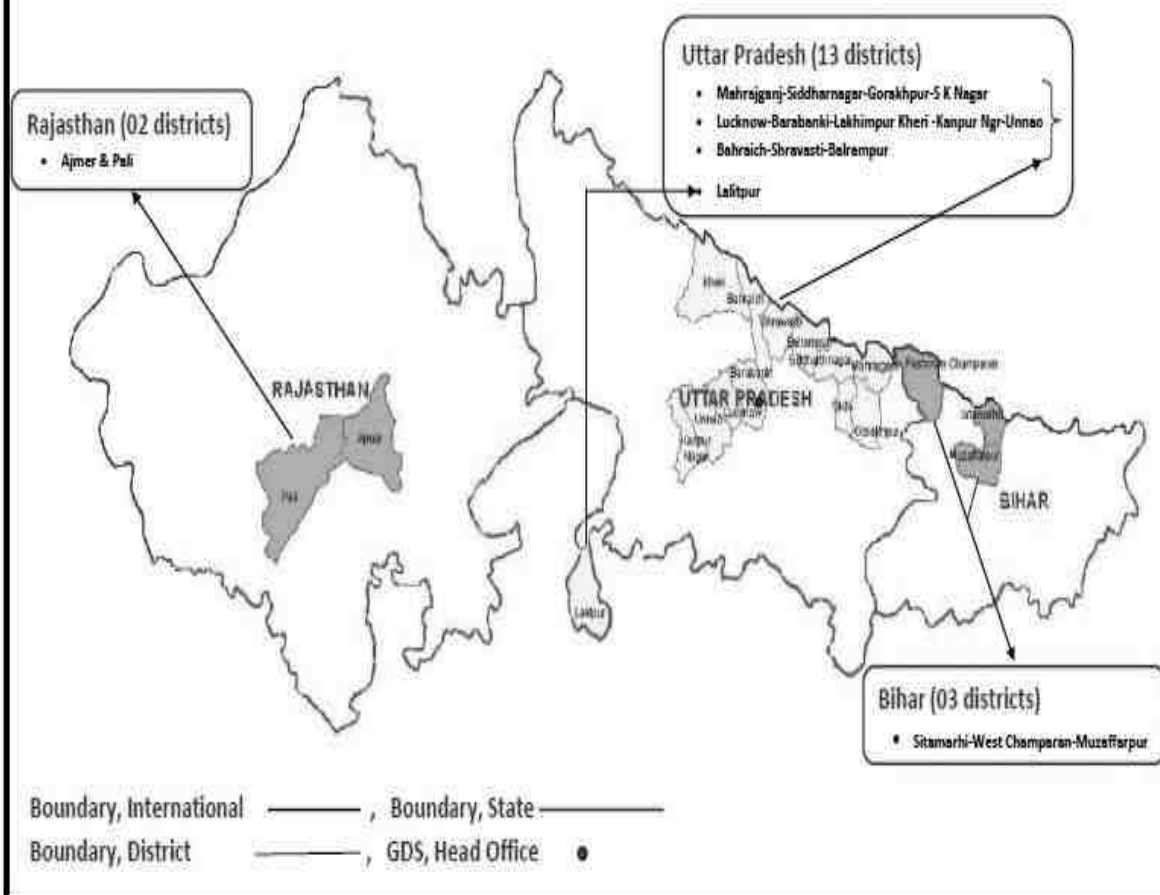
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GDS GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE



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GRAMEEN DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

An Introduction

Grameen Development Services (GDS) non-government development organisation founded in 1993, at Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh), by a group of development professionals, academicians and NGO leaders. It is registered as a society under the Society's Act. GDS is committed to the economic and social empowerment of the socio-economically disadvantaged sections of the society, with promotion and strengthening of the livelihoods of the rural poor being its core sectoral focus.

Presently, GDS is working in UP, Bihar and Rajasthan. During the year 2019-20, the benefits of GDS's interventions reached over 51,000 households, spread over 867 villages from these states.

ORGANIZATIONAL MISSION, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIC APPROACHES

The Mission of GDS is

To create and strengthen sustainable livelihood systems through community-based participatory approaches with techno-managerial inputs to achieve social and economic empowerment for poor and disadvantaged sections living in areas of structural poverty within India.

The organizational Objectives are to

- Create stronger livelihoods with increased income and employment; reduced expenses, risks and vulnerability to shocks
- Promote and strengthen suitable community institutions and strive for integrating development solutions with these institutions and sustainability of impact
- Capacitate the communities to enable them to articulate their justifiable needs, rights and entitlements, and undertake sustained collective actions to the same
- Enhance gender equity- in terms of access and control over resources, women's influence in decision making and ownership, within the household and the community
- Build resilience among communities to manage and overcome the ill effects of disasters through proactive, community based measures and lessen dependence on external support or relief measures, in the event of natural calamities and disasters
- Enhance consciousness and meaningful initiatives towards cleanliness (water, sanitation & hygiene) and nutrition to enable better health and creation & uses of related infrastructures

In order to realize its organizational objectives the strategic approaches that GDS applies are as below:

- GDS believes in the Enabling approach to empowering people. That is, it seeks building such structures, systems, capacities, awareness and knowledge among the target community that enable them to become proactive participants in their own social and economic development processes, in a sustained manner
- Target community focus is poor and disadvantaged sections of the society, especially women
- Prefers to work in poor and backward regions, characterised by structural poverty
- Focuses promoting appropriate community institutions for sustainability. The 'primary level' institutions that GDS promotes, include Self Help Groups (SHGs), Disaster Management Groups (DMGs), Goat Rearers' Groups (GRGs), Water Users' Group (WUG), Producer Groups (PGs). The secondary / higher levels institutions promoted include federations (of SHGs), Primary Producer Companies, etc.
- Network based approach to project implementation
- Need based 'Resource Institution' role
- GDS is mandated to work as humanitarian response organisation, whenever there is a need.

CORE ORGANIZATIONAL VALUES

GDS has identified the following principles, as nonnegotiable *values*, to guide the behaviour and conduct of every person associated with the organization-

- Empathy with the poor and discriminated
- Transparency and integrity
- Professionalism and team work
- Gender Equity
- Participatory Approach

GDS PROGRAMMES AND INTERVENTIONS: THE KEY SECTORS AND THEMES

Translating its organizational mission of promoting and strengthening rural livelihoods into concrete action, following the strategic approach it has determined, has resulted in GDS undertaking interventions, cutting across multiple sectors and themes. The major themes and sectors covered under GDS's programmes and interventions are shown in the diagram below-



OUTREACH

GDS prefers to work in the regions and areas that are characterized by structural poverty. The geographical outreach of GDS is spread over the three North Indian states of Uttar Pradesh (UP), Rajasthan and Bihar. GDS has 11 project offices and through these its programmes and interventions cover 15 districts of these states. During 2019-20, the benefits of GDS's interventions reached out to over 51,000 households from 867 villages in 52 development blocks. The details are as below:

State	GDS Location	Districts	Blocks	GPs	Villages	Households
Uttar Pradesh	Khalilabad	Sant Kabir Nagar	Bankati, Khalilabad & Nath Nagar	25	40	1770
	Pharenda	Mahrajanj	Dhani , Pharenda & Brijmanganj	28	118	6500
		Gorakhpur	Campierganj	14	33	2200
		Siddarthnagar	Jogiya & Uska	12	38	2000
	Palia Kalan	Lakhimpur Kheri	Palia, Nighasan, Isanagar, Dhaurahara; Puranpur (Pilibhit)	49	103	4666
	Lalitpur	Lalitpur	Birdha	28	40	1874
	Shravasti	Shravasti	Sirsiya, Gilaula, Ikauna, Hariharpur Rani & Jamunaha	76	102	12529
	Balrampur	Balrampur	Tulsipur, Sadar, Shreeduttganj, Gaisari, Utraula	36	48	1435
	Bahraich	Bahraich	Jarwal, Kaiserganj, Fakharpur, Tejwapur, Shivpur, Mahasi	47	50	1339
	Unnao	Unnao	Bichhiya, Sikandarpur Karn	13	27	3449
	Lucknow	Barabanki	Nindura, Dewa & Dariyabad	5	10	600
		Lucknow	Lucknow city, Mohanlalganj, Kakori, Gosaiganj & BKT	10	20	1200
Rajasthan	Jawaja	Ajmer	Jawaja	21	49	3229
		Pali	Raipur	7	16	530
Bihar	Sitamarhi	Sitamarhi	Runni Saidpur, Belsand, Parasauni, Dumra, Nanpur, Pupri, Riga & Bajpatti	42	173	8000
3 States	11 Locations	15 Districts	52 Blocks	413	867	51321

At two of its programme locations- Khalilabad and Lalitpur, GDS does not have any project based funding support. Still, GDS maintains its presence at these locations on its own resources so as to keep providing maintenance support to the community institutional bases created there, in order to ensure sustained delivery of services that the communities receive from these institutions. Likewise, at the Jawaja location, project based resource support from external agencies is very small; however, the community institutions here (SHG-federations) have become totally self-sufficient and are continuously providing valuable livelihoods support services to members with the help of a small GDS team.

COMMUNITY BASED INSTITUTIONS

Organizing the target communities into community based institutions is one of the most important operational strategies applied by GDS. The nature of these institutions depends on the nature of the programme intervention (for example, in agriculture / NR based livelihoods interventions, the institutions promoted could include *farmers' clubs*, *producer groups*, *watershed management committees*, *farm machinery bank*, etc.; and, for a disaster risk reduction (DRR) intervention, the institutions would include *village disaster management committees*). Depending on their scope and coverage, the community institutions could be organized at various levels: hamlet / primary level- like self-help groups, goat rearers' groups, etc.; or at secondary level, such as a 'federation' of SHGs or GRGs. There can be much larger / tertiary level institutions as well, like a block – level federation, or a farmers' producer organization (FPO), serving a large community base, spread over a vast area.

The advantages of promoting a community institutional base are many: they create platform for active participation of community in the intervention processes, including decision making, this helps build community stakes and ownership in the programme, and enhances the overall effectiveness of intervention. The most critical outcomes of building community institution bases are that they empower the community ensure sustenance of intervention impacts beyond a project's life span.

The status of community institutions functional under GDS's programmes during the year 2019-20 are as under:

<i>Location</i>	<i>Khalilabad</i>		<i>Mahrajanj</i>		<i>Shravasti</i>		<i>Palia Kalan</i>		<i>Lalitpur</i>		<i>Sitamarhi</i>		<i>Jawaja</i>		<i>Total</i>	
<i>Type of CIs</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Members</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Members</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Members</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Members</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Members</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Members</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Members</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Members</i>
<i>Women's SHGs</i>	151	1770	304	3194	169	2006			150	1824			330	3762	1104	12556
<i>Producer Groups</i>					220	2732									220	2732
<i>Goat Rearer Groups</i>											4	95	63	2500	67	2595
<i>Village Level Institutions</i>													26	365	26	365
<i>Cluster / Apex Federations</i>	4	1770	2	2300	11	1264			2	975			2	3410	21	9719
<i>FPO / PPC</i>			1	1600									1	97	2	1697
<i>WUG/VWMC</i>							21	421							21	421
<i>WASH Committees</i>			15	256											15	256
<i>DMGs</i>			30	450							45	400			75	850
<i>Citizen Forum</i>							1	42							1	42

GDS INSTITUTIONAL SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES

- **General Body** is the highest decision making body of the society and is responsible for taking decisions on policy matters. Under the GB is the **Executive Council** of GDS that provides strategic inputs and guidance to GDS's operations. In the normal course, EC meets twice every year while the AGM is held annually
- **Issue Based Experts (Focal Point Persons)** have been designated within GDS to provide thematic inputs and trainings and also review the integration of the critical themes adequately in the programmes
- **Gender Core Committee of GDS** consists of 4 members and is authorized to carry forward gender mainstreaming in programmes as well as within the organization. Staff members from all locations are trained and capacitated to deal with the themes and issues related to gender mainstreaming
- GDS has an empowered **Anti-Sexual Harassment (ASH) Committee** with the purpose to adequately deal with the issues of sexual harassment at workplace, if any, both at the head office and at project locations. Its major focus is to build a conducive atmosphere within the organization for women to work and grow
- Subject to availability of resources, GDS organizes **Organizational Retreats/Review, Learnings & Planning Workshops** wherein all team members get together and deliberate on GDS's performance, directions and strategies
- **Performance Appraisal** is carried out on annual basis for each GDS staff member. Based on the individual performance, the better performing members are provided with enhanced/independent responsibilities along with due incentives and promotions. This exercise is carried out as per the guidelines of the HR manual
- Regular **Review and Monitoring Meetings** for ongoing programmes and projects are organized, to monitor the pace and direction of program implementation based on the milestones and action plans and budgets. Accordingly, strategic inputs and feedback are given to the programme team under review by senior program personnel, especially by the Directors, sub-sectoral experts and Finance & Accounts Department. Besides the meetings, regular visits to the field/programme locations are carried by the senior management members (including the accounts team members) for the purpose of monitoring and reviews and on-the-spot inputs/feedback are given to the location teams
- **Daily activity report** is prepared by all categories of staff working at head office and field locations on monthly basis and submitted to GDS HO, Lucknow. It enables an easy desk review of performance of individual staff discharging their duties at frontline or in managerial role
- A **Children & Vulnerable Adult Protection Committee** has been constituted in the organization with the objective to safeguard the interest of children and vulnerable adults within GDS, in accordance with the *GDS Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy*, devised for this purpose
- **Internal & External Evaluations and Reviews** are conducted to strengthen the endeavors of GDS in a transparent manner. GDS openly welcomes external agencies/persons (on programmes and finance), to critically review the strategies, interventions and organizational processes, and share their inputs and observations for the purpose of strengthening systems, programmes and interventions. GDS considers this as a critical aspect of its organization development processes process. Sometimes, such external reviews are undertaken by the funding agencies prior to executing partnership for a particular venture. Also, GDS board members actively provide inputs in the programme strategies
- **Staff capacity building** is an integral aspect of the GDS system. This is done through organizing regular orientation and theme specific trainings and exposures, for the members of GDS staff to inculcate relevant perspectives and skills in them
- **Interacting with supporting agencies and partner NGOs** is undertaken on a regular basis to share the vision, approaches, strategies and the interventions with the supporting partners, particularly in network based initiatives. GDS believes in jointly setting the objectives and intervention design with support partners
- GDS continuously looks for building partnerships with various mainstream agencies including government and donor organizations for convergence as well as for new project interventions.

Initiative is taken to seek partnership with other NGOs based on the nature of a particular project and provide technical support for their organizational development

- **Financial control mechanism** is adequately designed and adhered to in a transparent manner in all GDS offices and programmes. The GDS financial accounting process is centralized and is organized from the head office. The GDS HO takes care to minimize error/lapses with close financial monitoring supporting the achievement of over-all objectives through field interventions. External financial and systems audits are routinely undertaken by the donor organizations, in addition to the regular **internal** and **statutory** audits by the organization.

GDS POLICIES AND MANUALS FOR GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

For facilitating smooth operation of GDS governance and management systems in a professional way, GDS has formulated and documented organizational policies for all critical management systems and procedures. All these policies are reviewed and revised periodically, with the help of competent authorities, to keep them abreast with needs and times. The key manuals and policy documents maintained within GDS are as follows:

- Accounting Policy and Manual
- HR Policy and Manual
- Gender Policy
- Policy on Prevention of Sexual Harassment and ASH Committee.
- HIV/AIDS Mainstreaming policy (HR issues integrated with HR Manual)
- Policy for Protection of Children & Vulnerable Adults.
- Whistle blower policy

THE GDS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

S. No.	Name	Brief Background
1.	Ms. Padmaja Nair, Lucknow President	Masters in Economics with a Diploma in planning and management from the School of Public Policy, University of Birmingham, Ms. Nair has over 27 years experience in the social development sector in program and project planning, water resources development and urban issues, institutional development, capacity building and gender
2.	Dr. J. L. Dwivedi, Lucknow Vice-President	A senior Agricultural scientist, now retired, Dr. Dwivedi was formerly head of the Crop Research Center at Masaudha, under the N. D. University of Agriculture & Technology, Faizabad. Dr. Dwivedi has been closely associated with research on rice production of a number of varieties
3.	Mr. S. K. Dwivedi, Lucknow Secretary	A post graduate in Economics and Rural Development, he has, previously, served with technical institutions and NGOs for 11 years before joining GDS in 1996. Mr. Dwivedi has vast experience of designing and implementing livelihoods and income generation programmes. He is the Executive Director of GDS

S. No.	Name	Brief Background
4.	Mr. Amitabh Mishra, Lucknow Treasurer	MA in Political Science from the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and has seven years teaching and research experience before joining GDS in 1996. He has substantial understanding of issues relating to women's empowerment, livelihoods and community development. Presently he is a Program Director associated with various field projects, and research and documentation processes within the organization
5.	Ms. Nishi Mehrotra, Lucknow Member	Senior Development Consultant with more than 35 years experience in the field of women's rights and child education issues. She is associated with several national and international development agencies and in various committees. She has held key positions as State Project Director in 'Mahila Samakhyas', with BETI Foundation and SHPHP GTZ, New Delhi.
6.	Dr. B. K. Joshi, Dehradun Member	Former Director of the Giri Institute of Development Studies, Lucknow and Vice Chancellor of Kumaon University and well-known academician. He has been an evaluator and consultant to UNICEF and other education programs in India and overseas
7.	Mr. Manoj Sharma, Lucknow Member	Senior development professional with a focus on Microfinance and Institutional Capacity Building, he has held senior positions in SIDBI Foundation for Microcredit before joining Microsave as its founder Director.
8.	Dr. C. S. Verma, Member	A senior researcher and Professor at Giri Institute of Development Studies Lucknow
9.	Ms. Jaya Bisht, Lucknow, Member	A senior development professional and consultant on community institutions, Gender and Women Empowerment. Ms. Bisht is an excellent trainer and currently associated with UP-SRLM as state level master trainer.
10.	Mr. M. S. Singh, Lucknow, Member	Experienced Rural Development professional with expertise in rural marketing and agriculture development.
11.	Dr. Biswajit Sen, Jaipur, Member	Dr. Sen is a well known development professional on the themes of livelihoods and institutional development. He was among the promoters of Pradan, GDS, Nalanda and several other voluntary initiatives. He has also worked in World Bank as its livelihoods consultant

GDS IN THE YEAR 2019-20

Status of GDS's projects and interventions during the year is detailed below.

The following projects continued on their normal course:

- A. Oxfam-Trans Boundary Rivers of South Asia (Sharda Basin) Project
- B. Water Aid-Improving WASH services to transform working and living condition for workers in the apparel sector
- C. Oxfam India's Prepositioned Contingency Stock Management
- D. TCI - TARINA
- E. ITC Ltd Kolkata, Developing Capacity of Block level Government Extension Officials in Domain knowledge and training technique for Agriculture in Bahraich, Shravasti and Balrampur
- F. Tata Trusts- Sustainable service delivery for Migrant at Source

Three new projects were initiated during the year:

- A. CINI-Portable Solar Pump under the Sustain Plus Energy Platform at Shravasti
- B. Tata Trusts - Sujalam Sufalam Phase II - Eastern U. P. Meeting Aspirational District Outcomes in Shravasti, SDTT
- C. AT GRASSROOTS-Promoting Worker Rights in the India-Gulf Migration Corridor in Lucknow / Barabanki

The following projects completed their scheduled durations during the year and were brought to a close:

- A. CRS-Improved Rice Based Rainfed Agriculture Systems Project and Resilient Agricultural systems for small holder (Sitamarhi), in September 2019
- B. TCI supported Sanitation-Nutrition linkage research project (Maharajganj), in November 2019
- C. TCI-Orange Flesh Sweet Potato and Zink Fortified Wheat Research Project (Maharajganj), in November 2019
- D. CMF-Digital Literacy & livelihood Programme in (Jawaja), in September 2019

GDS PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS: 2019-20

This section provides details on the various programmes and projects implemented by GDS in the year 2019-20. This section is organized *location-wise* and discusses the progress made under all project interventions undertaken at a particular GDS location. Please note that some of the locations may have multiple projects while others could be single-project locations.

1. SHRAVASTI

Bordering with Nepal, the Shravasti District is located in floodplains of north-eastern Uttar Pradesh. It is amongst the most backward districts in UP and is included as one of the 8 'aspirational districts' in UP identified by the *NITI Aayog* of Government of India, on the basis of a composite index of socio-economic development indicators. The district is criss-crossed by rivers and streams and is flood-prone. The northern parts of the district are adjacent to the Himalayan foothills and fall in the *Terai* agro-climatic zone. Agriculture is the predominant source of livelihoods in the district but is unable to provide sufficient livelihoods opportunity to the district's work force; hence a large number of people are forced to go out to distant places as *migrant* labour in search of gainful employment. The district is characterized by high population density and more than 94% farmers fall in the categories of small and marginal farmers. An interesting feature of the district is that it has considerable number of the *Tharu*, a scheduled tribe community.

GDS initiated its developmental endeavours in the district in 2012, when it began a Tata Trusts supported project in the Sirsiya block of the district. Since then, it has implemented myriad interventions on agriculture based livelihoods promotion, women's empowerment and beneficial migration.

During the year, the projects implemented at the location were as follows:

A. Sujalam Sufalam (SS) Project - Phase II

The first phase of the *Sujalam Sufalam*, a Tata Trusts' supported agriculture development project, was implemented from 2015-18. GDS proposed to upscale the interventions in selected 95 villages spread over 73 village Panchayats in two blocks, Sirsiya and Gilaula, of the district. The second phase of the project, which began in April 2019, has covered 9766 small and marginal farming households (59.9% of them being OBCs and 26.3% SC/ST) in the two blocks during the year. These households belong to 53 villages spread over 45 GPs. The goal of the project is *doubling the farm based annual income of target farming households over a period of 5 years*.

The key achievements made under the project during the year are-

- Building computerized profile database of all 9766 farmers with all basic information
- 2076 farmers adopted high value crops (HVCs) cultivation in 248 acres, with 75% of them adopting one HVC
- Machan (trellis) based vegetable cultivation was undertaken by 171 farmers in 12 acres during the summer season. As this is emerging as a high



income generating strategy for the farmers, it has good potential for scaling up across other agriculture seasons as well as among more farmers

- Groundnut cultivation was promoted among 355 farmers, in 47.3 acres, for the first time in the *Zaid* (summer) season and this also has a good potential for increasing the farmers' income. No crop cultivation was undertaken by these farmers during the summer season earlier
- Onion crop cultivation was done by 1325 farmers (63.8% of the total farmer adopting HVCs) in 199 acres. It was the most popular crop cultivated under the HVC promotion intervention
- A total of 6222 farmers participated in the project's various crop interventions and 52% of these farmers did at least one crop, with the project's technical support
- 15 farm machinery centres were initiated with the project's facilitation. These centres provide small farm implements support to the target farmers
- Under the project, improved packages of agricultural practices (PoPs) were adopted by 5604 farmers in 5255 acres in cultivation of their key staple crops (paddy, wheat and pulses). For paddy and wheat crop cultivation, only technical inputs were provided, while for pulses cultivation, partial support for critical inputs was also provided
- A total of Rs. 1.75 Crore was mobilised as 'contribution from other sources' in undertaking project interventions. Approximately 57% of this was from government and other stakeholders and the rest from the community
- For water resource management and enhancing irrigation water use efficiency, eight solar water irrigation pumps were installed with support from the district agriculture department. Besides, renovation of 12 village ponds was also facilitated through convergence with the MNERGS of Government of India
- 200 producer groups (PGs) and 169 SHGs, with membership of 4616 women, were organised. All 169 SHGs are linked with the UPSRLM and have been inducted for promoting project interventions.

As per the initial estimates, an average increase of 20% in the agricultural income of farmers who participated in project interventions is registered, in comparison with the base-line income level.

B. Portable Solar Pump (PSP) Project

As a supplementary project to SS, the PSP project was started in December, 2019 with support from CINI under their *Sustain Plus* platform, aiming at promoting clean, reliable and affordable energy for improving the agriculture sector livelihoods. Responding to the farmers need for low cost irrigation, installation of 07 portable solar water irrigation pumps has been facilitated under the project, through convergence with government scheme. The installation sites are located in seven revenue villages, with seven SHG groups, and the initiative is expected to benefit 76 farmers. During this pilot phase, 90% of the total cost is being provided by the funding agency and remaining 10% is mobilized beneficiaries. It has been decided to install portable (instead of fixed) solar pumps keeping in mind the distance of farmlands from the habitations. The baseline survey findings revealed that crop cultivation in summer season was negligible due to high irrigation cost in these villages, resulting in low crop intensity.

The installation of PSP units has been delayed by the supplier due to countrywide COVID-19 lockdown in March, 2020. It is worthy to note that 28 farmers decided for groundnut cultivation in during the *Zaid* season in expectation to get low cost irrigation through PSP, hence, the intervention is proving instrumental in motivating the farmers for adopting summer crops. In all, 27 meetings were conducted with 7 SHGs and their entrepreneurs for mobilization & collectivization purposes. A sum of Rs. 178,600/- has been mobilized from the SHGs as their contribution.

C. Developing Capacity of Block Level Government Officials and Domain Knowledge & training Techniques for Agriculture Project (Shravasti)

In partnership between ITC-NITI *Aaagyog*, Grameen Development Services (GDS) has been implementing the project, since 2018, with the goal of enhancing farmers' incomes through knowledge and skill upgradation for lowering input cost and increase in yields.

The strategy adopted for the purpose is two-folds:

- Building the capacity of the government agriculture department functionaries on improved agricultural technologies and practices along with on soft skills like determining baseline benchmarks and assessing /documenting the impact of programmes and government schemes
- Capacity building of block level agriculture extension workers as master trainers with the aim that they would replicate it at GP levels through village resource persons (VRPs)
- Direct knowledge and skill enhancement of farmers on improved technologies/practices through Farmers Field Schools (FFS) at the village level for demonstrating the efficacy of the technologies being promoted

GDS has closely coordinated with ITC and Government bodies to ensure that the programme is implemented smoothly. Close interaction with the DM, CDO and DD (Agriculture) has enabled effective coordination in meeting the requirement of the project in facilitating the Government's involvement in trainings and other farm led interventions.

The project is being implemented in all 5 blocks of the district. During the reporting period there has been positive progress made at agricultural sites with technical support given. There are 50 villages selected, 10 in each block, covering around 1260 FFS farmers.

The overall impact of the program has been –

- In our FFS sessions, the knowledge of farmers' has increased on crops, POPs, government scheme (agriculture and horticulture related) and how to apply and access relevant schemes provided by the Government
- Many farmers have adopted new and more efficient technologies like zero tillage sowing in the Rabi season wheat crop after understanding the concept of zero tillage technology
- Many farmers have adopted paddy line transplanting methods and have an understanding of line transplanting benefits. Improved technical knowledge about new agriculture practices has been introduced also through Training of Trainers and by resource persons from VIKSAT, Ahmadabad
- Farmers have access to Agriculture schemes like P.M.F.B.Y, KCC, P.M.K.Samman Nidhi Yojana, Soil Health Card, NADEP composting, micro irrigation facilities and various other subsidies
- Most farmers have adopted mixed cropping system like sugarcane with vegetable.

A summary of progress against main deliverables is as follows:

Indicator	Progress 2019-20
Master Trainers Trained	17
Village Resource Person (VRPs) trained MTs	45
Farmer training meetings by VRP	135 (Millennium FFS-108 + ATMA & NFSM-27)
Farmers Trained by VRPs	20684
Farmers registered for Farmer Diary	1263 (Rabi Season and Kharif seasons)
FFS promoted	50
Farmer coverage through FFS (principal & student farmers)	1263 (Principle 50 & student 1213)
Demo Plots	100 (50 each- Rabi & Kharif Season)
Area covered under demo plots (Wheat)	52.48
Area covered under demo plots (Paddy)	53.16 hectare
Other Village farmers exposed to FFS	3217
Scheme Mapping Survey	5017
Value Chain study on select commodity	Potato
Report on improvements in Champions of Change (COC) Dashboard	26.29%

D. Migrant Support Programme (MSP)

Migration to places outside the district and state, in search of employment, is a major source of livelihood in the rural areas of the district. The key features of this migration are that it is 'cyclical', short duration and an overwhelmingly male phenomenon. Issues that most of the workers out-migrating face, like- they have low or no awareness of their rights and entitlements; they lack job skills; they are dependent on others for employment, make them vulnerable to risks, while their family members, left behind in the village suffer with other problems. Keeping this in mind, GDS is implementing a three year project on migration with support from the Tata Trusts in 30 GPs of Sirsiya block of Shravasti district through layering the interventions under this programme over other on-going interventions.

The project area has been divided into two clusters (of 15 GPs each) and each cluster is served by an entrepreneur based 'migration resource center' (MRC), called *Apna Seva Kendra* (ASK). These centers serve as platforms for facilitating the labour worker households avail a range of benefits related to social security schemes (pensions, insurance, health, PDS, housing, BoCW schemes, etc.). The centres also help the households in their financial inclusion and in accessing to government schemes for livelihoods strengthening (agriculture MSP realization, vocational skill training, etc.).

The key services provided during 2019-20 are as follows-

Sr.No.	Services Details	Services Details	Achievement till 2018-19	Achievement in the current year (2019-2020)	Cumulative Achievement
01	Social Security (including BoCW)	New Registration with BoCW	1180	1458	2638
		Renewal of Registration of BoCW	137	310	447
		Child benefit scheme	01	02	03
		Solar energy support scheme	0	12	12
		Chikitsa Yojana benefit in labour accounts	123	188	311
		No. of life Insurance	109	33	142
		No. of old age pension	92	37	129
		No. of widow pension	30	29	59
		No. of Indira awas/PM Awas/on line registration	40	0	40
		No. of Ration Cards	263	189	452
		No. of Aadhar cards	179	58	237
		No. of PAN Cards	247	285	532
		Medical Service Scheme/ Ayushman	230	1652	1882
		Ujjawala Yojana	0	07	07
		PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojna	213	511	724
		Shram yogi Maan Dhan Yojna	04	40	44
		Sukanaya Samridhi Yojana	0	01	01
		Other Lokvani services	329	264	593
02	Financial Inclusion:	Opening of Bank Accounts	1056	74	1130
		Funds deposited in the bank accounts of Migrants	0	48	48
		Funds disbursed from the migrant bank accounts	0	503	503
03	Entitlement Documents (Please include other useful services delivered to people by MRC/CSC)	Caste Certificate	131	175	306
		Income Certificate	126	247	373
		Domicile Certificate	54	265	319
		Khatauni	209	586	795
		Kisan Panjikaran	0	129	129
		Death Certificate	1	3	4
		Driving License on line application	7	21	28
		Counseling for legal advising	02	4	06
		Counseling for legal advising	7155	4930	12085

The major achievements of the project during 2019-20 include, linking of over 1600 worker households with the government health scheme, *Ayushman Bharat*, and facilitating over 400 households avail the MSP for paddy crop.

2. BALRAMPUR

Balrampur is a Nepal bordering district in the upper Rapti Basin. The district is well drained by the Rapti and *Budhi* Rapti rivers alongwith a large number of streams emerging from the Himalayan foothills, just north of the border. It is a low lying region hence flooding and waterlogging are perennial problems. The economy of the district is agriculture dependent and sugarcane is an important crop. Balrampur is ranked among the most backward districts in UP in terms of various development indices, and is one of the four districts identified as aspirational district by the NITI Aayog, GoI, in the floodplains of Eastern UP.

GDS's direct interventions in Balrampur began in 2015 when, with Tata Trusts' support, it initiated a three-year agriculture development project in the Tulsipur block of the district. Beginning in the same year, the Tata Trusts also supported a women's literacy project in the district. Both these projects came to an end in 2018 and were able to attain tangible outcomes. In the light of the impacts attained under these projects and the potential of the area for meaningful development interventions for improving the socio-economic status of the poor, GDS negotiated with ITC Kolkata for a new agriculture development project under ITC's NITI Aayog initiative.

The ITC supported project started at three GDS locations: Bahraich, Balrampur and Shravasti, in 2018 and the year 2019-20 was the second year of the project.

A. Developing Capacity of Block Level Government Officials and Domain Knowledge & training Techniques for Agriculture Project (Balrampur)

The objective and methodology of the project is described in the previous section (on Shravasti).

The project covers all five blocks of the district and directly reaches to 46 villages and over 1800 farmers through FFSs.

The progress made under the project during the year is as below:

Indicator	Unit	Target	Progress in the 2019-20
Master Trainers Trained	Nos.		18
Village Resource Person (VRPs) trained MTs	Nos.		79
Farmer training meetings by VRP	Nos.	300	272
Farmers attending trainings by VRPs	Nos.	10000	24294
Farmers registered for Farmer Diary	Nos.	200	200
Farmer Field School (FFS) promoted directly by ITC			
FFS promoted	Nos.	50	50
Farmer coverage through FFS (principal & student farmers)	Nos.	1250	1435
Demo Plots	Nos.	50	50
Area covered under demo plots (Wheat)	Ha.	25	10.415
Area covered under demo plots (Paddy)			16.5
Other Village farmers exposed to FFS	Nos.	1	423
Other Activities/Tasks by ITC			
Scheme Mapping Survey	Nos.	25	50
Value Chain study on select commodity		Potato	Ongoing
Report on improvements in Champions of Change (COC) Dashboard	Nos.	1	1

The technologies demonstrated through FFSs included 'balanced inputs use with line sowing' for paddy crop and the 'zero-till' method for wheat cultivation. It is reported that the farmers are showing keen interest in the zero-till concept.

3. BAHRAICH

Bahraich, another Nepal bordering district where GDS works is also amongst the most backward districts in the state as per the Niti-Aayog criteria and is included in the list of aspirational districts by the Aayog. There are 14 community development blocks in the district. The river Ghaghra flows by the district and causes floods and erosion during the monsoon season within its catchment area.

Consequently, the Kharif crops are often badly affected along with loss of lives and assets. The level of industrialization is very low in the district and agriculture is a major source of employment. This is a prominent sugarcane growing area. There are some agriculture based industries in the district comprising of sugar mills, oil mills/expeller units, dairy etc. Since long ago, the district is known for pulses production. The average land holding size is 0.74 Ha, and only 49.6% of the cultivated land is irrigated.

GDS began active in the district in 2012 when it initiated a network based agriculture development project supported by the Tata Trusts. One of the GDS network partners implemented the project in the Kaisarganj block of district, with GDS's technical and handholding support. In 2018, GDS directly entered in the district, when it included the district for implementation, alongside Balrampur and Shravasti, for implementation of the following ITC supported agriculture development project.

A. Developing Capacity of Block Level Government Officials and Domain Knowledge & training Techniques for Agriculture Project (Bahraich)

The objectives and methodology of the project has already been described above in the section on Shravasti. The project is being implemented in five development blocks of the district and directly reaches 50 revenue villages from these blocks.

The progress of the project on select performance indicators is as below:

Indicator	Progress 2019-20
Master Trainers Trained	128
Village Resource Person (VRPs) trained MTs	154
Farmer training meetings by VRP	108
Farmers Trained by VRPs	25702
Farmers registered for Farmer Diary	1339
FFS promoted	100
Farmer coverage through FFS (principal & student farmers)	1339 (50 principal and 1289 student farmers)
Demo Plots	100
Area under demo plots (Wheat)	41 Acres
Area under demo plots (Paddy)	20 Acres
Other Village farmers exposed to FFS	112
Scheme Mapping Survey	4779 households
Value Chain study on select commodity	Banana crop
Report on improvements in Champions of Change (COC)	24.9%
Dashboard	

4. LAKHIMPUR KHERI

Enriched with the existence of rivers and lush green vegetation and sharing a long border with Nepal on the north, Lakhimpur Kheri is one of the districts located within the Terai low lands at the foothills of the Himalayas. The district is traversed by Sharda River, and occurrence of floods and water logging are the major problems that affect the district. There are 15 community development blocks in the district. Agriculture is the mainstay of livelihoods in the district and sugarcane is an important crop cultivated here.

GDS, with the support of Oxfam India, is implementing water governance since 2017. The project, *Trans-boundary Rivers of South Asia (TROSA)*, has under its scope the entire Sharda River basin, from the point of its origin at the India-Nepal-Tibet tri-junction to the point it merges with the Ghaghra River at the Bahraich-Lakhimpur border, after completing its course of about 500 kilometers. As its name suggests, it is a 'trans-boundary' project and involves communities on the both sides of Nepal – India border. GDS manages the project from its project office located at the Palia town of the district. Besides working in the entire river basin, the project has selected 21 villages from Palia block for direct implementation of some of the project's interventions.

A. Trans-boundary Rivers of South Asia (Sharda Basin) Project

Aiming at facilitating increased access to and control over the river (Sharda) basin water resources on which livelihoods of vulnerable and marginalized communities depend, the TROSA project strives to improve the water governance policies and practices of the key stakeholders (state, private sector, basin communities) through generating awareness among the stakeholders, including the civil society actors, to influence policies. Organizing the basin communities (especially the women and youth), in village level groups, as well as in larger, trans-boundary platforms, to undertake advocacy and campaigning, is an important component of the project.

As advocacy at trans-boundary government levels in the two countries (India & Nepal) is a major challenge, the project has resorted to intensive engagement with the communities in the two countries with the idea to bring the communities together and jointly raise their voices on common water governance issues.

The key achievements of the project, at the basin and local levels, during 2019-20 have been as follows:

- A state level workshop *Strengthening Community Based Water Governance and Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) in the Sharda River Basin* was organised on June 17 – 18, 2019 at Lucknow which was attended by water experts and participants from the Government, Oxfam India and Oxfam Nepal. Oxfam India and GDS have been engaging with the different water user groups in different Panchayats to educate them on water governance in the Sharda River Basin in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Major components of community based early warning, water contamination and healthy livelihood practices are some of the major areas on which the organization has been advocating.



The Sharda River which is vulnerable to not only hydrological hazards, is also one of the most deprived when it comes to the socio-economic vulnerability and marginalization. Pertinent issues of Water governance like water availability, water quality, flood early warning and riverine livelihood could be improved if a properly organized Community Based Water Governance (CBWG) institution with a statutory status could be organized addressing fundamental community needs in the Sharda/Mahakali Basin

- A Trans-Boundary water cooperation exchange visit in Nepal, with their riparian communities and social groups was organized on June 7-8, 2019, which to understand the grassroots level water governance issues
- A trans-boundary *Citizen's Forum*, named *Mahakali Jal Jeevika Manch* was formed in the month of June 2019 wherein riparian communities, including fisher-folks, from both countries participated and discussed their livelihood and river related issues. Early warning and water contamination issues were placed on higher priority
- An awareness campaign was held in November 2019 in the Sharda River Basin in collaboration with the Srinagar CWC station. This activity was done through GDS initiatives and brought forth the importance of cleaning the river and waste management during riverine festivals like *Sawan Mela*
- A joint field visit by Oxfam India, Oxfam Nepal, GDS, NEEDS and with technical support from CHIRAG was organized in October 2019. It helped in identifying the potential water quality sampling sites in the basin, with their coordinates. This has provided clarity to all the team members who are now confident of the proper handling of the water testing instruments
- The project team continually worked on strengthening the volunteer network at basin level, from Banbasa (Champawat) to Mahsi (Bhairsi). The process involved capacity building of volunteers and youth groups on themes like citizen science and EWS (Early Warning System). The outreach of the Oxfam organized broad network, Water Governance Collective Action Network (WGCAN) was expanded by bringing into its fold a large number of volunteers, community members and PRI representatives from the basin villages
- The CSO network promoted under the project was further expanded by incorporating six more CSOs (total members: 12). The volunteer network also added 440 new members and youth and now include 3352 persons
- A consultation on 'Stock Taking of Risk Informed Trans Boundary Water Governance' at Lohaghat in Champawat Dist of Uttarakhand was held. This was a joint effort of India and Nepal on trans-boundary water governance and the main objective of this activity was to review the policies connected with water and ascertain the gaps that existed in reality and thereafter document the findings for the next level of advocacy. India and Nepal CSO's and community drew up a 'Lohaghat Declaration' as a commitment for enhancing the water rights and entitlements for the basin riverine community and
- 34 interface and coordination meetings were organized during the year with district administration and PRIs. TROSA team effectively used the WGCAN platform for disseminating COVID-19 awareness message to the basin communities of the entire Sharda/Mahakali basin in March 2020
- Advocacy and liaison with different key stakeholders is a key activity of the TROSA project. In order to get to the TROSA objectives, it is important that consistent remapping of major issues, like water pollution and water use discrimination is carried out with through regular dialogues with key stakeholders in the basin. During the year, a series of inter-stakeholders deliberations for this purpose was organized. Many of these exercises were held at the grassroots (village and Panchayat) levels. The result of this effort has been that many basin communities made efforts to raise their water related rights in their villages and GPs. Communities are now able to place such issues in their village level development problems in the Gram Panchayat development plan. An important event under this has been conduct of the *Mahakali Samwad*,



on 2nd Feb 2020, in Mahendra Nagar (Nepal) when the community representatives, leaders and CSOs from sides of the border participated and discussed, especially the trans-boundary dimension of water governance, and suggested ways for preparing the strategy for influencing the existing policies and practices

- Strengthening and capacitating volunteer networks and youth members on the *Citizen Science* approaches was a given special attention during the year. Now the volunteer networks and groups have been equipped / enabled to collect water samples from vulnerable spots and test the water and share the results
- A two days consultative and participatory workshop on '*transformative leadership* in the riparian communities' was organised in Palia for generating awareness on various social welfare schemes and services of government. The participants deliberated on how to integrate their water related issues and plans into the GPDP
- In 21 direct intervention villages of Palia, the *citizen science* and GPDP related work was carried out, during the year, in a campaign mode. This process involved making critical reviews of GPDPs, to identify gaps on water issues and submitting the PRIs suggestions for improvement. This process with proactive community participation was carried out under the aegis of the Sharda Nadi Nagrik Manch.

Case Study - Members of Village Water Management Committee create awareness on water conservation

In the present time, the shrinking water resources have led the women in the Village Water Management Committee (VWMC) to spread mass awareness within their community to conserve water.

Gram Panchayat Bhanpuri falls within the Sharda River basin and a VWMC constituted here with equal responsibility of men and women folk who meet at regular intervals to discuss their concerns about clean drinking water, present status of water resources, declining availability, the quality of surface and ground water and the causes for their contamination.



The members say that climate change causing untimely rain and damage to the ecosystems through exploitation has resulted in rivers, aquifers and canals to dry up.

The quality of drinking water has deteriorated and this has caused several hazards to both human and animal lives.

The VWMC has been taking out rallies within their communities to spread understanding on the issues of water and how it affects their day to day lives.

5. MAHARAJGANJ

For GDS, the Maharajganj location has been a veritable ‘field laboratory’ for experimenting with and refining development interventions. GDS began working at the location in 2001 when it initiated a community based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) project in two blocks of Maharajganj district. In the course of almost two decades since then, GDS’s programmatic interventions have reached out to cover over 20,000 households from the villages located in the lower Rapti basin, spread over the districts of Maharajganj, Siddarthnagar and Gorakhpur. The major GDS interventions undertaken here cover a wide range of sectors and themes- DRR; agriculture and livestock based livelihoods development; women’s empowerment and literacy; microfinance; water and sanitation; and, nutrition security.

The programme area, located in the Rapti river basin, is characterized by flood plains and low lands, and highly prone to floods and water logging. In every monsoon season, large areas in the programme area are flooded and adversely affect agriculture livelihoods of the households, mostly marginal and small farmers, having landholdings of one acre or less. Floods and water logging not only affect the Kharif season agriculture but also, at times, disrupt timely sowing of Rabi crops.

During 2019-20, progress under various interventions at the location is given below:

A. Project Technical Assistance and Research in Indian Nutrition and Agriculture (TARINA)

Initiated in December 2015, the Technical Assistance and Research for Indian Nutrition and Agriculture (TARINA) project aims at promoting nutrition security through the agricultural pathway. Funded by the Tata Trusts and BMGF, and led by the Tata–Cornell Institute for Agriculture and Nutrition (TCI) of Cornell University (USA), the objectives of the project include making agriculture interventions nutrition sensitive, and undertaking evidence based policy advocacy for better availability and accessibility of diversified foods to the rural poor in India.

The role of GDS has been the field implementation of the project’s approaches and strategies and it was carried out in 50 villages and with over 4000 households at the location. The scheduled duration of the four year project came to an end in November 2019; however, it received a one-year extension from December 2019. In the fifth year, the strategic orientation of the project has been shifted from field implementation to propagating the project’s lessons and products through sharing and advocacy efforts for wider replication.

The key achievements of the project during the year have been the following:

- Promoting cultivation of diversified non-staple crops (pulses, vegetables and oil seeds) to ensure availability of adequate micro-nutrient rich food to add to the calories from staples, has been one of the key interventions under the project. The crops promoted under this include pulses like chickpeas, pigeon peas, green gram, and lentil; mustard and groundnut (oil crops); and vegetable cultivation through the *Machan* (trellis) method. During the year, progress was as under-

Crop	No of Villages	Farmers	Acres
Green Gram	20	149	17.1
Pigeon pea	30	234	60
Chickpea	56	938	97.75
Total Pulses		1321	174.85
Oil seed Groundnut (Kharif season)	24	456	60.5
Oil seed Groundnut (Zaid season)	133	5579	542
Total Oil seeds		6035	602.5
Grand Total		7356	777.35

Cumulatively, over the four year project period; this intervention has reached over 4000 households. As per the project mid-line survey, the number of households having undertaken crop diversification, in the project villages, has increased by 56% between 2016 and 2019



The summer groundnut harvest

- Under the 'reducing seasonal food deficit and ensuring better availability of diversified foods' intervention, the project has focused on promotion of kitchen gardens. During the year over 600 additional households started kitchen gardens. The cumulative number of households practicing kitchen gardens is now around 1800 households. The number of such families in the project villages has increased from 8% to 18% between 2016 and 2019
- Promoting women's leadership in agriculture towards building nutrition sensitive food system-through enhanced participation of women in agriculture centric community institutions (SHGs and FPOs) has been a major intervention of the project. The 151 SHGs, promoted under the intervention, were provided with technical and institutional capacity building support during the year. The project promoted cadre of 40 women agriculture extension workers called Krishi Sakhis played an important role in the process. Besides, women's participation in the project supported FPO, *Lehra Agriculture Producers Company Limited (LAPCL)*, has increased substantially as over 800 women farmers joined the company as shareholders during the year



Women participating the LAPCL Annual General Meeting

- Promoting positive nutrition behaviour change through ‘Social and Behaviour Change Communication’ (SBCC), another important intervention of the project, was carried on as per its schedule. Approximately 3000 women and their households have gone through this process which comprises of rigorous trainings on eight modules. The outcome of this intervention is visible: in the programme villages, the ‘diet diversity score’ (out of 16 food groups) increased from 6.6 to 7.6 for households, and from 6.0 to 7.4 for women, between 2016 and 2019, as per the mid-line survey conducted under the project
- Promotion of bio-fortified micronutrient rich crops to address micronutrient deficiencies has been carried out under the project. In this intervention, the focus has been promoting two micronutrient rich crop varieties- ‘orange fleshed sweet potatoes’ (OFSPs – rich in Vitamin-A) and Zn-fortified wheat. Both these varieties have seen successfully introduced in the project field area. During the year, the project specifically emphasized on upscaling of OFSP and in the Rabi season, cultivation of the crop was undertaken by over 400 households in about 38 acres, an area almost twice as much as was in the previous year. For wider propagation of OFSP in East UP, the project organized a workshop in August 2019 in Gorakhpur in which 36 NGOs, many of them working on agriculture development, participated. The project has also worked on developing recipes of OFSP-based food items for popularizing its consumption, with active participation of the community. The result of this exercise has been in the form of a recipe booklet, which has been printed and distributed widely



A happy OFSP farmer

- In its fifth year, with the focus on sharing project generated knowledge, two project-promoted crop packages- OFSP and summer groundnut cultivation have been identified for wider propagation. The strategy is to upscale these crops through mainstream institutions and programmes in the areas of agriculture development and nutrition promotion.

TARINA Case Studies

I. **Name:** Aarti, age 36 years

Village: Rajnagar, **Block:** Brijmanganj, **District:** Maharajganj (UP)

Aarti, her husband Jaishree and their two children, daughter Nisha and son Rajan are from Rajnagar, a village in the Brijmanganj block of the Maharajganj district. They are a marginal farming household, owning about 0.6 acres of land wherein they grew only the two major staple crops of the region- rice and wheat. The family was depended on the markets for their vegetables, pulses and oilseed requirements. Aarti recalls, this not only put strain on the family

budget, but also compelled them to often go without consuming many essential ingredients of food.

When the TARINA project's nutrition-gender BCC interventions were initiated in her village in 2017, Aarti became an ardent supporter of the same. She regularly attended the sessions and made sincere efforts to put into practice the lessons and insights she received from the exercise. She particularly remembers the lessons she learnt on the role a 'balanced' diet plays in building good health, especially of children and women, and also the importance of inclusion of various food groups (vegetables and fruits, pulses, oilseeds, dairy products, etc.) into making their diets balanced.

Aarti was so highly motivated from her participation in the BCC sessions that she made it a point to involve her in the other TARINA project interventions which were undertaken in her village, in particular, women's empowerment and leadership promotion, promotion of crop diversification and backyard nutrition gardens. Aarti joined an SHG promoted under the project in her village. She also has established a 'nutrition garden' in her backyard and has taken to cultivation of pulses (chickpeas, pigeon peas, *moong*) and oilseeds (groundnuts, mustard) on a regular basis. She now gets a regular supply of fresh vegetables almost through the year from her 'nutrition garden', and does not have to spend much on pulses. Based on quick estimates she made with the assistance of the project team, her household made a saving of approximately INR 20000 to 22000 over the last one year by meeting their vegetables, pulses and oilseeds requirements through home production of these commodities.

Aarti feels that there has been a distinct improvement in the wellbeing of her family and attributes this to her exposure to the nutrition BCC intervention.



Aarti in her 'nutrition garden'

II. *Bhola, age 49 years*

Village Gulhariya, GP Rampur, Block Dhani, District Maharajganj

Bhola and his family (comprising his wife, two daughters and three sons) own about 0.5 acre of agricultural land. Until a few years ago they cultivated mostly wheat and rice and were barely able to make the two ends meet. In 2017 the TARINA project, under its crop diversification intervention, initiated the summer (*Zaid*) season groundnut cultivation in Gulhariya village. Bhola attended the meetings and decided to undertake groundnut cultivation in 0.1 acre of land. The result was encouraging! Bhola was able to harvest about 125 kilograms of groundnuts, approximately half of which (60 kilograms) he sold in the Dhani bazaar at INR 45 per kilo for INR 2700. The remaining produce he consumed.



Bhola of Gulhariya

Bhola repeated this process in 2018 in about 0.2 acres and again with good results. With his confidence in the crop established, Bhola, in 2019, expanded his summer groundnut cultivation to one acre, the land for which he leased at INR 6000 (per year). Bhola harvested a yield of 1140 kilograms and made a net income of INR 33000. Bhola is really happy with what he considers as substantial increase in his household income from his agricultural activities. He has taken up the task of mobilizing farmers for summer groundnut cultivation as a mission!

B. The Sanitation-Nutrition Project

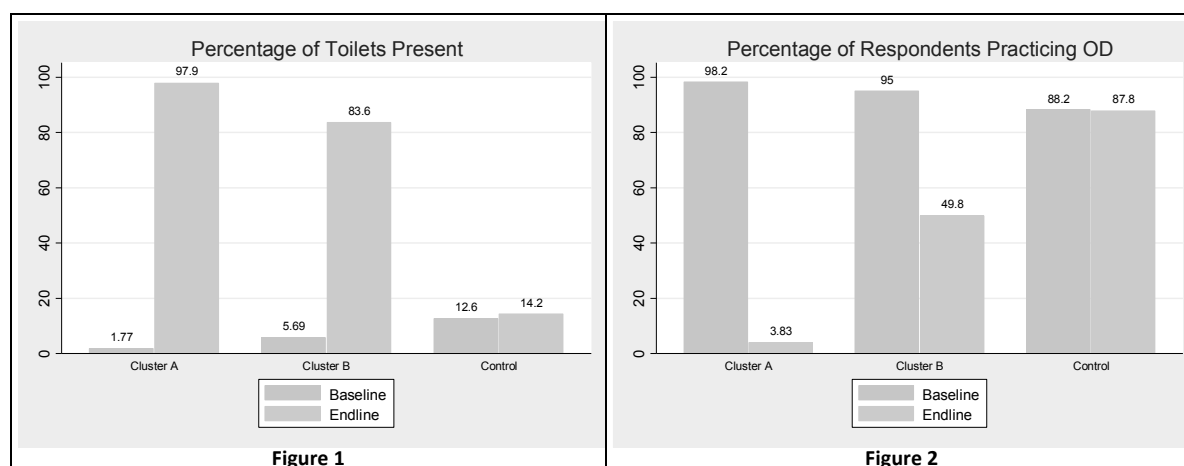
This 33-months field-research based project, supported by the Tata-Cornell Institute (TCI) of Cornell University (USA), and facilitated by a Cornell University research scholar, was a three year intervention, implemented in the GDS's TARINA project area in Maharajganj District of Eastern Uttar Pradesh (UP).

The objective of the project was to assess the effectiveness of 'social behaviour change communication' (SBCC) approach towards bringing sustainable change in the sanitation and hygiene behaviour of the rural communities. This was considered important as a growing body of research in India suggested that lack of proper sanitation and hygiene was one of the key causes of India's chronic malnutrition problem. And, since the widespread practice of open defecation (OD) was considered to be one of the major contributors to the poor sanitary and hygienic environment in the country, it was logical to deduce that there was a direct correlation between the practice of OD and India's problem of malnutrition.

The project studied the impact of hygiene SBCC application on the 'open defecation' (OD) behaviour. The SBCC method used for the research was based on the 'community led total sanitation' approach. The project was implemented in a set of 15 villages that were divided into three clusters (named A, B, and C) of five villages each. The research design was composed of two treatment arms and one control arm. The two treatment arms (clusters A and B) were presented with the option of toilet construction where each household would get one toilet. The project covered 75% of the cost and the rest was borne by the households. Additionally, *one* of these clusters (cluster A) received a community-level behavior change intervention before the decision to get the toilet built is made. The third cluster (cluster C) received no intervention and was treated as 'control' for the project.

The project came to an end in November 2019. In the concluding months of the project the major activities have been- extensive research data collection on toilet usage and OD patterns in the all the three clusters; construction of 50 more toilets in cluster B, to fulfill the demand that emerged after BCC was carried out in this cluster, post-toilet construction; and, awareness building and sensitization of women on menstrual hygiene and general hygiene in the cluster B villages. The project was formally closed in November 2019.

The data is being analyzed by Cornell University researchers. The initial results on the ‘availability of toilet facility’ and OD pattern are shown in the following diagrams:



It emerges out that toilet coverage increased from about 2% to 98% in cluster A and 6% to 84% in cluster B (Figure 1), while in the control villages the ownership of government constructed toilets increased from 13% to 14%. Open defecation decreased from 98% to 4% in cluster A and from 95% to 50% in cluster B (Figure 2). It remained about the same in the control group. The intervention ‘witnessed a near-universal gain in toilet coverage and a decline in open defecation in cluster A’.

C. OFSP and Zinc-Wheat Research Project

Another Tata Cornell Institute (TCI) supported field-research based project undertaken at the location involved testing the cultivation potential in the project region of different varieties the two bio-fortified, micronutrient rich crops: OFSP and Zinc-fortified wheat. The research component of the project was supported by a Cornell University research student. The project started in 2017 and came to an end in November 2019.

Sweet potato has traditionally had a minor place in the Indian food systems and it is traditionally consumed on religious occasions, and people are not even aware of OFSP, the bio-fortified variety of sweet potato, which is being promoted globally as ‘super food’- as it is a highly rich source of minerals and vitamins, especially, vitamin A. The intervention focused on building awareness in the community on cultivation and consumption of the crop. The methodology adopted involved awareness building through structured training modules and FFS on the agricultural aspect of the crop. The OFSP research was carried out in 15 villages. During this year, lab testing of the Beta-carotene content in the root-tubers and leaf of the OFSP varieties promoted under the project.

The Zn-fortified strains of wheat have been developed by ICAR to mitigate zinc deficiency problem in India. The cultivation of these strains is being propagated in the country by ICAR and the Harvest Plus initiative of CGIAR. The research on this crop involved a comparative study of the performance of Zn-fortified varieties in the project area *vis a vis* the traditionally grown varieties. During the

year the activities undertaken in this project were: soil testing for Zn level in the farm plots that were included in the research; lab testing of the Zn content in the grain, and flour and bread made from the Zn-fortified wheat grown under the project.

D. GDS Promoted Community Institutions

In implementing various projects and interventions over the last two decades, GDS promoted and capacitated a large number of community based institutions at the location. Apart from primary and secondary level community groups, institutionalization of community groups at a higher / 'apex' level emerged has been carried out for sustainability of intervention impacts. These apex level institutions include:

- **Lehra Agro Producer Company Limited (LAPCL)**

Registered as primary producers company (PPC) under Companies Act 1956 (amendment 2002) under the ownership of its small and marginal farmer shareholders, the business of LAPCL provide quality agri-inputs to the farmers in Maharajganj and adjoining districts.

During the year the company expanded its ownership base to 1601 farmers by inducting approximately 900 new shareholders- mostly women farmers. The company further strengthened its governance and management systems and elections to the board of directors were conducted. During 2019-20, the turnover of the company was Rs. 54.88 Lakh.

- **Grameen Vikas Trust (GVT)**

As an apex level community based institution, *Grameen Vikas Trust* provides credit and institutional sustenance services to over 250 SHGs from the area. Through these SHGs, Trust is engaged in thrift and credit services.

- **Grameen Pashudhan Vikas Trust**

Started in 2009, the *Grameen Pashudhan Vikas Trust* is an institution of the paravets promoted for providing support services to livestock based livelihoods in the area. The major services provided include artificial insemination (AI) for breed improvement, healthcare support like vaccination and deworming, awareness building on improved rearing practices through organizing camps. AI is the key service provided by this institution with an annual coverage of around 6000. The institution is run on revenue lines and is totally self-sustained.

6. UNNAO

Kanpur-Unnao is home to one of the largest leather industry clusters in India. Historically, this industrial cluster has emerged in the 19th century in the Jajmau area of Kanpur on the banks of the River Ganga. Over the last two decades, owing to space constraints and environmental concerns, satellites of the main cluster emerged in Unnao district, across the river.

The industry has been undergoing crisis in the recent times mainly because of the 'environmental concerns' it purportedly causes- including the pollution of the river. This has been a key cause for the cluster to fan out of Kanpur and into Unnao. The focus of GDS intervention in this industry however is

confined to the health problems of workers and their households associated with the industry, especially those caused by water, sanitation and hygiene related issues.

Initially GDS was thinking of covering both Kanpur and Unnao under its leather industry project intervention, however, because of operational convenience it was decided to work in the Unnao location only.

A. Improving WASH Services to Transform Working and Living condition for Workers in the Apparel Sector Project

This WaterAid India supported project as a research project that aims at strengthening the 'business case' for WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) for industries. Although, the business case for WASH is strong globally, but at the micro level (that is, at the industrial unit level), the evidences are largely anecdotal. The larger aim of the project, therefore, is to generate robust evidence to demonstrate how WASH investments in their value chains can benefit the business units through positive impact on productivity. This would help to generate more corporate investment in WASH.

The role of GDS in the project is to carry out the field part of the intervention; the research part is being done a research agency organized by the donor organization.

The specific objectives of the project are as below:

- To ensure improved access to safe drinking water & sanitation facilities at work place & settlements.
- To Improve hygiene behaviours of the leather industry workers through capacity building
- To facilitate systems and processes for safe and hygienic work environment, and to foster decent work and economic growth
- To facilitate the research component of the project in the field

The project is being implemented in 03 leather tanneries/factories and 27 villages spread over two blocks of Unnao district. The outreach of the project is 10000 persons- the leather industry workers and their household members.

The key activities undertaken in the year 2019-20 are as below:

- *Baseline of 3400 families of workers in community and workplace:* With the help of the samples of profiling data which was provided by GDS, the research organization associated with the project developed the baseline survey format and after training and pilot testing of the tool as well as surveyors, the survey team completed the data collection from worker households in the community; data collection of at the factory is to be done early next year
- *Mobilization of tanneries:* This involved a rigorous process of building rapport with the owners / management of the tanneries chosen for intervention. Subsequently, an assessment of water and sanitation facilities at the units was done and gaps identified, and a plan for repair and maintenance of these facilities was worked out jointly with the tannery management
- *Assessment of drinking water quality in the project villages and handpump restoration:* Water quality of 76 handpumps from the project villages was done by the team and the results were shared with the community. Under this activity, 26 handpumps have been restored to improve the quality of water they provide



- **WASH SBCC exercise with workers and their families:** The social behaviour change communication (SBCC) modules were designed based on the baseline observations. The SBCC sessions were then organized both at the tanneries and in the project villages. For extending the outreach under this exercise, village level volunteers have been selected and capacitated. During the year, 86 BCC sessions on *hand washing* (2408 persons) and 35 on *menstrual hygiene management* (MHM) (560 women) were organized. Street plays were used as one of the tools for this purpose



- For safe MHM, a campaign *Meri Saheli* was organized in the project villages with women and adolescent on use of sanitary napkins. Under this, 17 women, called *Meri Saheli* were mobilized to operate sanitary pad depots in villages to ensure its regular availability at affordable price
- **Construction of 'community managed toilet' block:** One of the major 'hardware' interventions under the project during the year, was construction of one CMT block in village Garhi. This community owned and managed facility serves the water and sanitation needs of 16 families



The CMT at Garhi Village

- *Construction / upgradation of sanitation blocks in two tannery units:* Based on assessments of the WASH gaps in tanneries, the need to repair the toilet blocks in one tannery and to construct new toilet block in the second tannery emerged. The project constructed 11 toilet units, three hand washing units, one urinal unit and one drinking water stand post in one tannery. In second tannery, five toilets, one bathroom and two hand washing units were constructed



Sanitation Block in Tannery

7. LALITPUR

GDS interventions in Lalitpur district began in 2006 when it initiated a DFID / PACS supported project in Birdha block of the district on the themes of women's empowerment and natural resources based livelihoods development. Situated in the UP Bundelkhand region, Lalitpur was at that time of the most backward and poor districts in India. For about a decade, GDS has intensively worked here on the issues of empowerment and women's rights; community institution promotion; land improvement through soil and moisture conservation approach; agriculture development; and, goat rearing based livelihoods strengthening. GDS interventions, carried out in 45 villages on the Birdha block have made deep impacts in the lives and livelihoods of the communities it targeted. Since 2016 GDS does not have any support for project based at this location, yet GDS has continued maintaining a small team here to support the community institutions to ensure the continuation of the benefits the community derives from these institutions and also through linking with mainstream programmes and schemes.

Status of Community Institutions (year 2019-20)

- SHGs- 150 GDS promoted SHGs, with 1824 members, are functional
- 02 SHG-federations, with 95 member SHGs (975 members)
- 127 SHGs pay service charges for the maintenance support received from the federation workers
- The SHGs maintain a corpus of Rs. 37.22 Lakh of which Rs. 17.84 Lakh is outstanding credit

Key achievements during the year

- 103 SHGs have been linked with UPSRLM and have received 'revolving fund' support
- 41 SHGs have also received resource support from UPSRLM for livelihoods activities

- Wheat (300 quintals) and pulses (field peas, lentil, etc - 18 quintals) seeds mobilized from the agriculture department have benefited over 800 community members get better yields in 600 acres



Wheat crop of Khilan Devi, Village Jakhlon

8. KHALILABAD

Khalilabad was the first field location of GDS where it began working in 1995. This was the original social development ‘field-laboratory’ where GDS experimented with and perfected its development approaches and strategies that helped GDS grow and attains the status of a premier development institution that it became.

From 1995 till 2012, Oxfam Novib (The Netherlands) was donor organization that supported GDS to work on the themes of women’s empowerment; women’s literacy and rights based education; group based business promotion; rural entrepreneurship development; agriculture and livestock based livelihoods promotion, etc. During this period GDS promoted a vast network of community based institutions in the form of Self-help groups and their federations represented. In 2012 there were 17 cluster level SHG federations over 800 SHGs (out of the 1400 SHGs promoted) that were spread over all the development blocks of Sant Kabir Nagar district along with three blocks of the neighbouring Gorakhpur and Basti districts. The community institutions were at the core of the sustainable model of community institutions which still exists in some way even after withdrawal of GDS from the field operation at this location. GDS withdrew from these interventions in 2012.

From 2009 till 2016, GDS implemented a Tata Trust supported project ‘Safe and Beneficial Migration’ at this location, as the source location of the project; and, between 2014-16 GDS undertook a WaterAid supported WASH focused project. Since 2016, after these projects completed their tenure, GDS does not have a direct field implementation programme. Currently, a humanitarian warehouse being maintained with the support of Oxfam India is the only venture that has helped GDS maintains a presence at this location. Four cluster-federations with 106 SHGs still maintain links with GDS.

Humanitarian materials warehouse

Oxfam India supports GDS in maintaining a humanitarian materials warehouse so that the response time in providing relief to disaster victims in North India is prompt. The warehouse is located at NH 24, at Khalilabad. The warehouse maintains a ready stock of emergency shelter and water/sanitation related relief materials (worth, approximately Rs. 40 Lakh) sufficient for 3000 families at all times.

9. JAWAJA

GDS has been working in the Ajmer District of Central Rajasthan since 2005 when it undertook a Government of Rajasthan / UNDP supported on strengthening natural resources based livelihoods through SHGs promoted under government initiative in the district. In this low rainfall, drought-prone region, the main source of livelihoods is labour migration, followed by animal husbandry and agriculture. In the event of the male members of the family migrating to distant places for employment, the burden of managing the household in villages falls on the women. GDS's interventions at this location, therefore, have been designed keeping the agency of women in the centre. These intervention have included promoting / strengthening women's institutions (around the theme livelihoods services provision); women's leadership and technical skills promotion; goat based livelihoods; and agriculture development. The most important achievement of GDS's endeavours here is the emergence of strong and self-managed institutions of women. Since 2016, GDS has not had any sustained project based resource support for this location, except for a few small, short-duration projects. Presently, most of the most of the activities undertaken here are through the community institutions.

During the year 2019-20, GDS outreach has been to 3762 households in 65 villages of 28 GPs spread over Jawaja (Ajmer dist.) and Raipur block (Pali dist.) but the high focus has been in Jawaja block. Of the total households, the major constituent were OBCs to 94.6%. Since its landing in Rajasthan, GDS has implemented a number of projects at this location but the initiatives taken during the year 2019-20 are delineated in brief as follows;

A. Livelihood Promotion for Self-Help Groups Members

On cessation of external support, the agriculture based livelihood activities were taken up solely by Suraj and Ujala Mahila Mahasangh (women federations) in 2019-20 covering 1627 women farmers from 30 villages in Kharif season and 1085 farmers in Rabi season. As mentioned earlier, the agriculture produce was hardly available to feed their families only for 4-5 months in a year and the key purpose of promoting selected crops has been to enhance production at low cost to ensure food security of the family for more period. The activities for crop promotion in duo agriculture seasons were as mentioned below;

- *Crop cultivation in Kharif & Rabi seasons* – During Kharif season, maize cultivation was done by 700 farmers while 827 farmers adopted green gram and black gram cultivation. In Rabi season, 1085 farmers adopted wheat cultivation. In addition, vegetables were grown by 100 farmers. For providing quality vegetable plants, individual nursery casting was done by 20 farmers. Demonstration of black/green gram was held in 6 villages and wheat crop in 4 villages.
- *Capacity building of Krishi Sakhi & women farmers* – Before onset of each agriculture season, technical sessions on crop PoPs were conducted for all 30 Krishi Sakhis and they, in turn, could make share the crop related information with the farmers. Thus, FFS sessions on PoPs were



conducted for 1358 women farmers in Kharif season and 1085 farmers in Rabi season. Consequently, seed treatment was practiced by 1085 trained women farmers. The context specific PoPs (use of agri-chemicals & fertilizers) were prepared on the basis of soil testing.

- *Crop management & harvesting* – After crop establishment, 30 FFS sessions were organised for 1285 women for crop protection, weeding etc. in Kharif season while 25 sessions for 1045 women farmers in Rabi season. 30 trainings on crop produce storage skills were organised for 1272 women.
- The increase in crop productivity was; 47% in maize, 60.2% in black gram and 59.9% in green gram in Kharif season. The increase in wheat productivity was 43.9%.
- The average increase in net income ranged between 66% – 87% being highest for maize crop and lowest for wheat crop.



B. Facilitating Digital Literacy in Rural India with a Focus on Women

Livelihood promotion and empowerment through facilitating digital literacy among poor women has been at the crux of above project implemented in 45 villages of Jawaja block of Ajmer district with the joint support of Tata Trusts, Google and CmF for the period ending September 30, 2019. The target beneficiaries were girls and women living in these villages. Using of smart phone and internet to explore various livelihood options and skills was emphasized to enhance their knowledge about various govt. welfare schemes, safe use of internet, household skills and exploit potentials



to earn revenue to meet their family expenses. In previous phases, women & girls from more than twenty eight thousand families in 151 villages were covered under the intervention. During the project period of 6 months in 2019, the following activities were conducted;

- 15 Internet Saathi (IS) were identified and trained about basic skills of operating smart phone, internet surfing, downloading data etc. All 25 Internet Saathi were trained by Google India/Tata Trusts and IS Card was distributed to them.
- In all, 10500 individual beneficiaries including 8000 women and 2500 girls from all 45 villages were trained in support with Internet Saathi.
- During field level orientation, the women through using smart phone & internet learned about govt. schemes; linkage with food security programme, MNERGA, widow & old age pension, schemes for labour welfare, agriculture, education department etc. and how to get benefit from these schemes.
- Learning about income generating activities including sewing skills, painting, toy making, goat rearing skills, improved agriculture and vegetable growing was emphasized during individual orientation by Internet Saathis.
- Progress review was made on monthly basis jointly by representatives from GDS, Google India, Tata Trusts and CmF to identify issues & constraints and impart appropriate solution with them.

Continuation of Internet Saathi was one of the key challenges as frequent drop outs were made by them, hence, upscaling the spread of skills was somehow affected many times but despite all these challenges, the intervention proved to be instrumental in linkage of rural community with government schemes and also promoting individual entrepreneurship in the rural area.

C. Community based organizations (Women SHGs & Federations)

As one of the successful sustained model of women empowerment through organizing them in their groups, the network of women led community based institutions at primary level (SHGs & VOs), secondary level (federations) and apex level (PPC) was strengthened and owned by the women in Jawaja block of Ajmer district and Raipur block of adjoining Pali district in Rajasthan. Now, this 3-tier community institution system is completely managed by the member women without any external support and only strategic guidance to some extent is provided by GDS local team. In other words, it emerged as learning hub for those engaged in CI promotion.

The network of CIs has three way approach; (1) Strengthening CIs, (2) Livelihood promotion – agriculture & goat-rearing, and (3) addressing social issues. Currently, 330 SHGs with 3762 members have representation in Suraj, Ujala and Raipur federations. There were 9 Vikas Sakhi (VS) in Suraj, 5 VS in Ujala and 3 VS in Raipur federations volunteering their services for facilitating the implementation process in the field. In nutshell, the following major activities were taken up by the CIs during the reporting period;



- Strengthening of Community Based Institutions:** During the year, 18 new SHGs; 11 in Suraj Mahila Mahasangh & 7 SHGs in Ujala Mahila Mahasangh were inducted. Thus, 190 SHGs were linked with Suraj women federation and 140 SHGs with Ujala women federation. Out of these SHGs, 185 SHGs in Suraj federation and 115 SHGs Ujala federations continued paying their membership fee to respective federation regularly. There were 26 VOs in the area. Suraj federation managed aggregated procurement and supply of food grains and other grocery items to 250 families. So far, credit support to 184 SHG members amounting Rs. 89.6 Lakh was given

by Suraj federation for education, marriage of girls, unleashing of mortgaged jewellery and goat rearing by SHG members. Similarly Ujala federation provided credit support of Rs. 53.4 Lakh to 151 SHG members. 1605 families were helped to realize their entitlement worth Rs. 7.82 Lakh under various govt. welfare schemes

Under goat rearing, 7 breeding bucks and 40 goats were provided by Ujala federation and services de-worming and vaccination of goats were also provided to 1000 families and 1500 families by Suraj federation.

- II. *Credit support from Banks* – So far, 451 SHGs were sanctioned cumulative loan of Rs. 18.6 Crore from local branches of Banks. This year, 96 SHGs were sanctioned loan of Rs. 284.75 Lakh as given in the table. The respective federations facilitated the bank linkage for credit support to its member SHGs in campaign mode.

Loan from Banks during 2019-20		
Bank	No. of SHGs	Amount of loan (Rs. in Lakh)
ICICI	62	188.30
BoB	19	57.00
BRGB	15	39.45
Total	96	284.75

- III. *Income & Expenditure of federations*- Total income generated by federations through various sources amounted Rs. 14,35,740/- while the total expenditure was Rs. 7,81,594/- during 2019-20. The whole honorarium to VS & KS is paid by these federations. Now, the federations have managed all their expenses at their own and no external financial support is required for federation management.

D. *Women owned FPO -GAPCL, Jawaja*

Founded in year 2009, GAPCL under the facilitation of GDS, GAPCL Jawaja is a registered profit making business enterprise wholly owned by women involving them as primary producers and shareholders of the Company to enhance their economic potentials for self reliance and empowerment. It has its legal status. It was the first kind of women owned business enterprise in this region. Now, the Company continues its business operation without any external financial support but some technical guidance was still required to fully imbibe the business approach and marketing skills.

10. SITAMARHI

It was in 2007, GDS arrived in the Runni Saidpur block of Sitamarhi district of Northern Bihar for field testing of a community-based flood mitigation model it has developed at another location (Maharajganj in Uttar Pradesh). This intervention took place in this highly flood-prone region located in Bagmati River basin with the support of Oxfam Novib. The problem of flooding is perennial and it severely affects the Kharif season agriculture, especially the cultivation of rice- the major staple food in this region. In the rare instance when floods are not severe, there is a possibility of emergence of drought like conditions that may also badly impact the rice crop productivity. Because of these factors, the focus GDS interventions at this location, therefore, has been on strengthening agriculture livelihoods; and disaster risk reduction.

In the year 2019-20, GDS has implemented the following projects -

- IRRAS – II directly supported by CRS
- IRRI supported research project on draught tolerant rice varieties
- Harvest Plus –Better crop better nutrition

The whole GDS approach was woven around the above context through various interventions of the above Projects which are summarized below:

A. IRRAS-II : Resilient agricultural systems for smallholder farmers in rain-fed areas of Bihar

Started in 2016 with the funding support from BMGF through CRS, New Delhi the second phase of IRRAS project continued this year also covering about 10,000 farmers from 50 villages in two blocks; Runni Saidpur & Belsand of Sitamarhi district. The project had already entered into its renewed phase in December, 2018. The project activities ended on September 30, 2019. The key strategic objectives were; increasing productivity from rice based cropping system for small farmers in stress prone area and disseminating stress prone agriculture technologies at scale through public & private stakeholders. These agriculture technologies included promotion of STRVs & improved Rabi varieties, DSR & zero-tillage Rabi crop sowing, chemical weeding, plot specific fertilizers dose and validation of mature stress tolerant technologies. Besides, crop demonstrations were undertaken at three levels; on-station, on farm and at villages with farmers.

The followings were some important activities conducted during 2019-20;

- *Private Service Providers*: Training on seed drill calibration was given to 10 PSPs but only 5 PSPs provided services to 263 farmers covering total land area of 86 Ha and earned average per PSP income of Rs. 53,328/- while 6 PSPs out of 27 trained for use of agri-chemicals covered 259 farmers with land area of 69.5 Ha and earned average per PSP income of Rs. 6,516/-. The average per PSP income declined if compared to last year. Hence, this approach enabled sustainable model of local entrepreneurship in agriculture promotion.
- 681 persons participated in 34 goat rearing FFS sessions held in each 10 villages in every month to learn & practice improved goat rearing practices. In addition, 108 farmers' meeting were organised and participated by 1880 farmers to discuss season agriculture issues.
- Sharing of experiences among stakeholders including NGO, government, community and other institutions was made among 110 participants during Kharif and Rabi seasons for review and planning with them in each season.
- IRRAS stall was displayed at 12 important occasions for dissemination through IEC materials.
- The assets lying with project was handed over to community groups in 6 villages though meetings were held in 20 villages.

B. Crop and Natural Resource Management with Short Duration Drought Tolerant Rice Varieties for Drought Prone area in North Bihar

In year 2017, GDS took up trials on newly released short duration drought prone rice varieties Sahbhagi Dhan, DRR42, DRR44 & local variety with best management practices in the upland area of villages in Sitamarhi district under EC-IFAD program. These newly released short duration varieties demonstrated in 2017 and appreciated by farmers due to its yield and quality grain, trials of the same varieties established for validation & evaluation in 2018 according the suggested protocol by IRRI under EC-IFAD program. GDS had made its best efforts in establishing trials. While IRRI directed only for 2 replications for each experiment; the first trial on varietal & 2nd trials are based on practices. Some key observations are as under;

- 7 demos on varietal were established. The yield of DRR-44 variety was found to be highest; 18-19 quintals/acre among when compared to all three varieties. Thus, the result of trials shows that DRR 44 rice variety has been established. The farmers prefer DRR 44 than DRR 42 rice variety for quality of grain.
- The production of DRR-42 variety sown through puddle method was higher than Un-puddled method. Veena-11 & DRR-44 varieties performed better than puddled transplanting.

- 63 IEC events (meetings, exposures, field day etc.) were organized for all stakeholders including farmers to create awareness for up-scaling of stress tolerant varieties (STVs) with improved techniques of crop establishment among the farmers. 9 thousand farmers could be benefitted with other IEC activities including demos, video shows, workshops and meetings.
- Now, the farmers have started producing Sahbhagi Dhan variety of rice seed at their own.

C. Better Crop Better Nutrition

With focus on improving the nutritional value of staple foods that poor people are already taking and bio-fortification in conventional breeding to developing crop richer in appropriate minerals and vitamins, this BMGF supported project was started in 2018 involving 36 stakeholders of different expertise in the state of Bihar and Odisha. For fulfilling the above objectives, the scientist developed some bio-fortified varieties of wheat like BHU-31,



BHU-25, BHU-06 and WB-02 with the content of zinc through genetic changes. For demonstration of these varieties, supply of 54.4 quintals of wheat seed varieties; BHU-31, BHU-25, BHU-06 and WB-02 was made by *Harvest Plus* and distributed among 394 farmers in 3 blocks during first year followed by 300 seed kits each containing 10 kg of wheat seeds to 78 farmers in second year. The following observations were made about these wheat varieties;

- On harvesting of wheat crop in demo plots in the presence of group of farmers during grand harvest event, it revealed that the BHU-31 was the highest yield variety and BHU-25 being the tallest variety with highest straw production.
- Though the lowest yield was found in case of WB-2 in Runni Saidpur but it ranked highest while grown in sandy soil texture in Shivanagar.
- Orientation to 1187 farmers supplied with seeds was done on monthly basis to make them aware about inter-cultural practices at all significant stages of crop growth.

Thus, all the above projects were successfully implemented at Sitamarhi district and completed the assigned the task with achievement of all objectives envisaged to arrive at logical end. On completion of project period, GDS continued its strategic contemplation to go ahead with its endeavors in future.

11. LUCKNOW

Since its inception in 1993, GDS organizational operations are centrally guided from its head office located at Lucknow. A team of senior management functionaries along with the accounts department of the organization is based in the head office and provides appropriate guidance and support to the field project locations and interventions.

GDS has also undertaken some field interventions in and around the city of Lucknow. Between 1996 and 2003 a microfinance field project was implemented in the slums and in villages in the vicinity of the city. From 2009 to 2016 Lucknow also served as the 'destination location' of the Tata Trust supported 'Safe and Beneficial Migration' project.

Since 2017 at the Lucknow location GDS is implementing a project that is addressing the issues of international labour migration from India. The details of this project are as below:

Project Promoting Worker Rights in the Indo Gulf Migration Corridor

In 2017, GDS with the support of Association for Stimulating Know How (ASK) and Verite, USA started working on a project to promote safety and rights of workers going for employment to Gulf Countries, mainly Bahrain, Oman, Sultanate of Saudi Arabia, Qatar and United Arab Emirates. The majority of these migrant workers is uneducated, uninformed and lacking in basic life skills, but has a strong attraction to go to Gulf Countries for better remuneration and resultant savings.

The process of Indo Gulf Migration has been largely dependent on 'agents' or brokers, not recognized by the government. Despite charging exorbitant fees they do not provide proper documents including visas, making migrants vulnerable to harassment and sometimes arrest at the destination in Gulf countries.

The project, therefore, focuses at the following –

- a) Safety of those travelling for employment to the Gulf
- b) Building awareness of correct Government procedures and networking with departments like Protector of Emigrants (PoE), NRI Cell, Migration Resource Centre & registered agents authorized by the Government
- c) Educating aspiring migrants on visa, insurance and other travel formalities
- d) In the event of grievances/distress in Gulf countries, linking migrants to the PoE
- e) To resolve issues relating to passports
- f) To build the capacities of migrants on safe migration through 'Pre departure trainings' and imparting knowledge on dos and don'ts

During the year, the project has engaged with more than 1800 aspiring and returnee migrants in the districts of Lucknow and Barabanki. The process followed has been to impart pre departure trainings and then follow up with the trainees.

The project team has held more than 25 meetings with the Panchayats and to support the migrants more than 36 interactions were held with different recruitment agents. A very stable rapport has been built with the office of Protector of Immigrants (PoE) and very encouraging support has been received in verification of visas and extending help to migrants stranded in Gulf countries. Many such cases have been documented for future reference.

The impact of the program has been to bring awareness in the migrant community. As an organization, GDS has also gained recognition for providing support and giving reliable information in matters of Indo Gulf migration. Migrants have now become aware about the functioning of PoE Office, Migration Resource Centre (MRC) and also the Government registered recruitment agents and non registered /illegal agencies.

The PRI members, through regular interaction, have become aware the concept of safe migration and workers too have appreciated and realized the importance of Pre-departure training. They have also learnt how to approach typical problems when in their destination.

GDS Partnership during 2019-20

- Tata Trusts, Mumbai
- Tata Cornell Institute of Cornell University, USA
- Oxfam India
- Catholic Relief Services, New Delhi
- Sustain Plus Energy Platform (CINI)
- Jal Sewa Charitable Foundation (WaterAid India), New Delhi
- AT Grassroots, Gurgaon
- International Rice Research Institute, Manila, Philippines
- UNICEF, New Delhi
- ITC, Kolkata
- Centre for Micro Finance, Jaipur

Voluntary Disclosures by Grameen Development Services for the Year 2019-20

A. GDS Registration Details:

Sl. No.	Registration	Details	Valid Up to
1.	Registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860	2026/ 1992-93 dated 26.02.1993 renewed on 25/02/2013	25.02.2023
2.	Registered under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976/2010	136550091 dated 22.04.1997 renewed for next five year on dated 24.05.2016	31.10.2021
3.	Registered under section 12A of the Income Tax Act, 1961	18/1995-96 dated 11.10.1995	Life time
4.	Registered under 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961	834/114/लक/आ.आ./लख/12-13/192/90dated 20.03.2013	Life time
5.	Permanent Account Number (PAN)	AAATG2067M	Life time
6.	Tax deduction Account Number (TAN)	LKNG03807G	Life time

B. Remuneration paid to Executive Council members' during the Year 2019-20

Sr. No.	Name	Position held	Type of payment	Amount
1.	Mr. S. K. Dwivedi	Secretary & Executive Director	Salary	742710.00
2.	Mr. Amitabh Mishra	Treasurer & Program Director	Salary	692085.00

Distribution of staff according to salary levels and gender break-up

FULL TIME			
Remuneration Levels	No. of team members		
	Male	Female	Total
Up to Rs. 5000	0	0	0
Between 5001-15000	27	05	32
Between 15001-25000	11	02	13
Between 25001-50000	20	01	21
Between 50001-75000	02	01	03
Total	60	09	69
PART TIME			
Remuneration Levels	No. of team members		
	Male	Female	Total
Up to Rs. 5000	118	12	126
Between 5001-15000	0	0	0
Between 15000-25000	0	0	0
Between 25001-50000	0	0	0
Total	118	12	126

C. Details of international travel by GDS personnel during the year

Name of the Member with Designation	Travelled to	Purpose of visit	Expenses borne by
Amitabh Mishra, Programme Director	International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Los Banos, Philippines	Post Production Study Visit	IRRI, India

GDS Audited Annual Accounts for the Year 2019-20

GRAMEEN DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2020

As on 31.03.2019 Rupees	Annexures	As on 31.03.2020 Rupees
SOURCES OF FUNDS		
CORPUS		
503,576.14	As per last account	503,576.14
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT		
3,542,179.09	Balance as on 01.04.2019	3,876,663.28
334,484.19	Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure	278,844.73
		4,155,508.01
CAPITAL RESERVE		
4,281,121.00	Balance as on 01.04.2019	4,194,895.00
740,897.00	Add: Cost of assets purchased out of grant funds	756,391.00
(60,265.00)	Less: Depreciated value of assets sold/ discarded	288,388.00
(766,858.00)	Less: Depreciation on assets purchased out of grants	776,064.00
		3,886,834.00
UN-UTILISED GRANTS		
17,067,232.86	Balance as on 01.04.2019	4,122,381.44
29,134,529.72	Add: Grants received	44,844,072.00
266,057.00	Add: Interest earned	295,381.00
(41,176,986.83)	Less: Grants utilized	42,576,268.77
(582,970.70)	Less: Onward grants to partners	-
(585,480.61)	Less: Grant Returned	269,516.30
363,853.56	Add: Grants receivable as on 31.03.2020	12,746.00
		6,428,795.37
60,000.00	REVOLVING FUNDS	60,000.00
13,121,369.42	Total	15,034,713.52
APPLICATION OF FUNDS		
FIXED ASSETS		
13,719,232.37	Gross Block	13,757,866.37
(7,500,823.37)	Less: Depreciation	7,892,201.37
		5,865,665.00
CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS & ADVANCES		
363,853.56	Grants receivable	12,746.00
320,617.56	Loans and Advances	284,156.50
6,483,128.80	Cash and Bank Balances	9,685,240.02
		9,982,142.52
(264,639.50)	Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES	813,094.00
13,121,369.42	Total	15,034,713.52
ACCOUNTING POLICIES & NOTES TO ACCOUNTS		
Annexures 'I' to 'VII' form integral part of the Balance Sheet		

[Signature]
Treasurer

[Signature]
Secretary

[Signature]
President

per our report of even date

[Signature]
A.K. Goel
FCAI-Mem. No.: 071257
Partner

for and on behalf of
AJAY GOEL & CO.
Chartered Accountants
(FRN: 002107C)

Lucknow: October 16, 2020

UDIN: 20071257AAAAB H2656

GRAMEEN DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2020

2018-19 Rupees	Annexure	2019-20 Rupees
INCOME		
Grants		
(Grants received are accounted as income to the extent utilized during the year)		
Grants from Foreign Donors		
	"I"	
4,199,359.05	Balance as on 01.04.2019	3,403,627.17
20,841,093.72	Add: Receipts during the year	23,827,493.00
(74,640.35)	Less: Grant returned	10,534.00
248,801.56	Add: Amount receivable as on 31.03.2020	12,746.00
(3,652,428.73)	Less: Un-utilised balance as on 31.03.2020	3,336,223.79
		23,897,108.38
Grants from Indian Donors		
	"II"	
12,867,873.81	Balance as on 01.04.2019	718,754.27
8,293,436.00	Add: Receipts during the year	21,016,579.00
(510,840.26)	Less: Grant returned	258,982.30
115,052.00	Add: Amount receivable as on 31.03.2020	-
(833,806.27)	Less: Un-utilised balance as on 31.03.2020	3,092,571.58
		18,383,779.39
357,000.00	Grants-in-kind received during the year	50,000.00
498,651.00	Interest from banks and others	502,228.02
590,918.00	Receipts against training and services rendered	428,957.64
2,000.00	Sale Proceeds of grant assets	7,000.00
-	Profit on Sale of Assets	4,346.00
12,104.00	Miscellaneous receipts	15,214.00
1,100.00	Membership fees	1,100.00
42,955,673.53		43,289,733.43
EXPENDITURE		
Programme Expenses		
	"I"	
21,639,853.25	- out of grants from foreign donors	23,989,481.38
19,537,133.58	- out of grants from Indian donors	18,586,787.39
		42,576,268.77
582,970.70	Onwards Grant to partners	-
357,000.00	Grants-in-kind utilized	50,000.00
481,177.81	Other organisational expenses	369,390.93
23,054.00	Depreciation	15,229.00
42,621,189.34		43,010,888.70
334,484.19	EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	278,844.73

ACCOUNTING POLICIES & NOTES TO ACCOUNTS

Annexures "I" to "VII" form integral part of Income and Expenditure Account



Treasurer



Secretary



President



per our report of even date

A.K. Goel
(CAI Mem. No.: 071257)
Partner
for and on behalf of
AJAY GOEL & CO.
Chartered Accountants
(FRN: 002107C)

Lucknow : October 16, 2020





UDIN: 20071257AAAAB H2656

GRAMEEN DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2020

Previous Year Rupees		This Year Rupees
	OPENING BALANCE	
81.50	Cash in Hand	81.00
19,325,429.75	Balance with Scheduled Banks	6,483,047.80
	RECEIPTS	
29,134,529.72	Grants	44,844,072.00
498,651.00	Interest earned	451,866.02
1,100.00	Membership fee	1,100.00
576,527.00	Receipts against trainings and services rendered	490,092.00
12,104.00	Miscellaneous receipts	-
2,000.00	Sale of assets	42,000.00
109,534.00	Refund of TDS from IT Department	58,393.00
81,000.00	Refund of Security (Net)	8,500.00
-	EPF & ESI	50,414.00
3,757.60	Advances refund (Net)	17,372.20
30,419,203.32	Sub Total	45,963,609.22
	PAYMENTS	
	Expenses on development projects	
2,699,120.75	Trans Boundary Rivers of South Asia (Sharda Basin) Project	3,415,292.96
1,548,718.30	Disaster Risk Reduction in the Indian states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Odisha	-
641,750.60	Promoting Worker Rights in the India-Gulf Migration Corridor	31,893.02
	Promoting Worker Rights in the India-Gulf Migration Corridor	725,637.00
2,897,175.90	Improved Rice Based Rainfed Agriculture Systems Project and Resilient Agricultural systems for small holder	1,265,493.18
1,499,211.30	Improving WASH services to transform working and living condition for workers in the apparel sector	6,198,310.94
136,300.00	Improved Crop management and Strengthened Seed Supply System for Drought-prone Rainfed Lowlands in South Asia	170,375.00
2,469,880.24	Community-Led Total Sanitation	1,116,735.97
754,895.00	Research Project on Sanitation – Nutrition Interlinkage	382,112.00
3,802,060.50	GDS-TARINA	8,082,359.11
1,583,170.70	Orange Flesh Sweet Potato and Zinc Fortified Wheat Research Project	1,092,700.00
	Portable Solar Pump under the Sustain Plus Energy Platform	1,064,246.20
107,850.00	Stress Tolerant Rice for Africa and South Asia (STRASA)	-
3,857,430.95	Water Window- Nepal India Transboundary Resilience	-
527,099.80	Oxfam India's Prepositioned Contingency Stock Management	539,223.00
3,266,780.89	Technical Assistance and Research for Indian Nutrition and Agriculture (TARINA) Phase 2	-
3,756,142.35	Developing Capacity of Block level Government Extension Officials in Domain knowledge and training technique for Agriculture in Bahraich, Shravasti and Baitampur	5,820,322.80
	Sujalam Sujalam Phase II - Eastern U.P. Meeting Aspirational District Outcomes in Shravasti	10,858,357.79
1,205,167.00	Sustainable service delivery for Migrant at Source	1,030,048.50
6,525,938.34	SUJALAM SUJALAM Initiative – GDS network	-
1,002,097.45	Empowerment through Literacy for the Women of Eastern Uttar Pradesh	-
1,084,406.20	Livelihood Promotion for Self-Help Group Member	87,775.30
231,052.00	Digital Literacy & Livelihood Programme in Ajmer, 2019-20	566,279.00
2,019,612.55	Technical Assistance to district administration in the implementation of the Resilient Village Programme and C.M School Safety Programme in Sitamarhi district	42,047,161.77
583,969.47	Onwards Grant to Partners	-
422,599.86	Other Organisational expenses	384,158.93
585,480.61	Unspent Grant Returned	269,516.30
32,413.00	Income Tax deducted at source (Net)	42,757.00
21,232.00	Advances to staff and others (Net)	17,904.00
43,261,585.77	Sub Total	42,761,486.00
	CLOSING BALANCE	
81.00	Cash in Hand	-
	Fixed Deposit with Bank	4,000,000.00
6,483,047.80	Balance with Scheduled Bank	5,685,240.02
		9,685,240.02

Annexures 'I' to 'VII' form integral part of Receipts and Payments Account.

 Treasurer
 Secretary
 President


per our report of even date
A.K. Goel
(ICAI Mem. No. 071257)
Partner
for and on behalf of
AJAY GOEL & CO.
Chartered Accountants
(FRN: 0021070)
Lucknow : October 16, 2020
UDIN: 20071257AAAAB H2656

Consolidated Financial Statements: 2019-20

HEAD OFFICE	
<p align="center">Grameen Development Services, B 1/59, Behind Kendranchal Colony, Sector-K, Aliganj, Lucknow- 226 024, UP Phone- 0522 – 4075891, Email- ho@gds.org.in, & dwivedi.sk@gds.org.in Website: www.gdsindia.ngo Contact Person: Mr. S. K. Dwivedi, Executive Director, Mobile: 09415110759</p>	
Project Locations and Offices	
<p>Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh Grameen Development Services, House No.-2, Ward No.-3, Sonauli Road, Pharenda, Maharajganj- 273155 Phone-0552-222306, Email- maharajganj@gds.org.in Contact : Mr. Ramjee Rai Mobile: 790539 2743</p>	<p>Lalitpur, Uttar Pradesh Grameen Development Services, C/O Mr. Rana Ravindra Pratap Singh 318, Civil lanes (Behind Zila Praishad), Lalitpur, Pin-288403 Contact Person: Mr. Gopal Bhandari Mobile: 8604437547</p>
<p>Lakhimpur Khiri, Uttar Pradesh Grameen Development Services, C/o Shri O P Mishra Indra Nagar (Tehra Shahri) Opp. Power House, Palia Kalan, Lakhimpur Khiri (U.P.)- 262904 Contact Person : Mr. Chandan Divedi Mobile: 9628819145</p>	<p>Sant Kabir Nagar, Uttar Pradesh Grameen Development Services House no: 318, National Highway-28 Near Nedula Chauraha, Khalilabad. Sant Kabir Nagar -272175 Contact Person- Mr. Jagdish Mishra Mo: 9451356169 Email- khalilabad@gds.org.in</p>
<p>Shravasti, Uttar Pradesh Grameen Development Services Plot no 26, Near Roadways Bus stand Keshavpuram, Bhinga, Shravasti (U.P.) - 271831 Contact Person : Dr. Mandvi Dikshit Mobile: 09431813152 Email: shravasti@gds.org.in</p>	<p>Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh: Grameen Development Services, Veer Vinay Chauk, Moti Sagar, Opposite Pathik Hotel, Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh Contact Person : Mr. O P Rai Mobile: 6393168944 Email: balrampur@gds.org.in</p>
<p>Unnao, Uttar Pradesh Grameen Development Services C/O Mr. Gyanendra Pratap Singh MIG-387, Sector-B, PD Nagar Unnao (UP) – 209 801 Contact Person : Ms Shalini Verma Mobile : 74 598 61881</p>	<p>Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh Grameen Development Services C/O Mr. Kapil Dev Mishra Mohalla Saraswatinagar In fornt of Ojha Vidhayak Office, Jaiswal Gali, Daflipurwa, Bahraich (UP) – 271 801 Contact Person : Mr. B. S. Rajawat Mobile: 6260514219</p>
<p>Muzaffarpur, Bihar C/O Shri Nageshwar Prasad Singh Bihar Niketan, South East of Law college Gunnipur Muzaffarpur-842002 Contact Person: Mr. Vivekanand Sarkar Mobile: 7908892978 Email- muzaffarpur@gds.org.in</p>	<p>Ajmer, Rajasthan: Grameen Development Services 12 Quarter, NH-8, Udaipur Road Vill. & PO- Jawaja (Ajmer) – 305 922 Contact Person: Mr. Shivraj Vaishnav Mobile: 09460111003 Email: shivraj.vaishnav@gds.org.in</p>