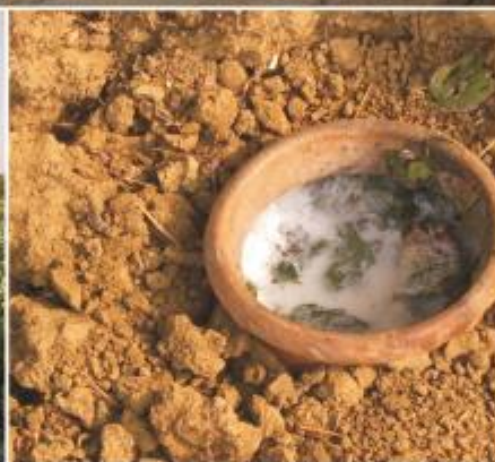


# PARMARTH SAMAJ SEVI SANSTHAN

## ANNUAL REPORT

Reporting Year: 2016-17



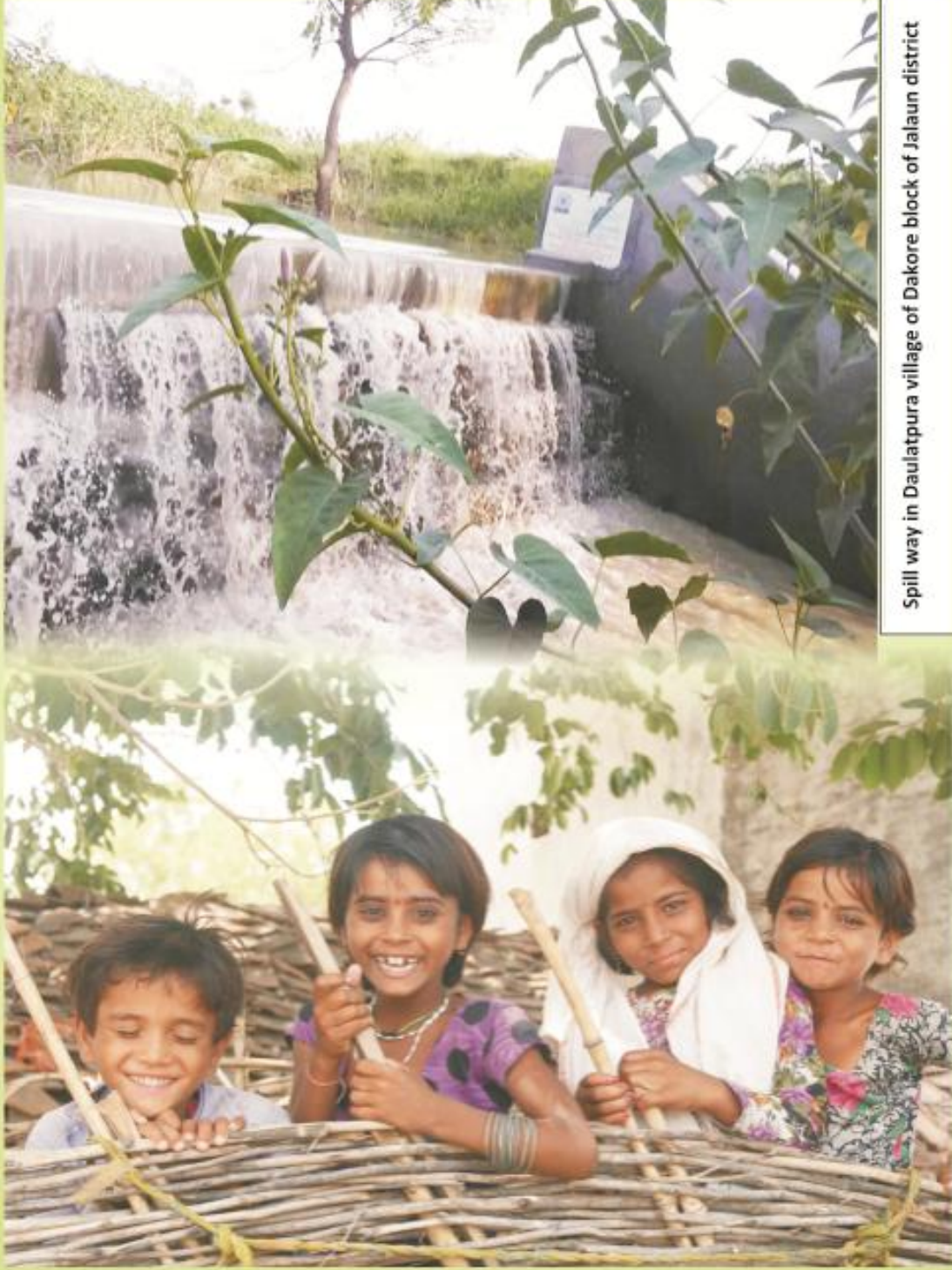
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Spill way in Daulatpura village of Dakore block of Jalaun district

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**Director Desk:**

On behalf of Parmarth, I want to share that we have completed our journey of two decades of working towards social and economic development of the most marginalized communities in the drought-prone and extremely backward region of Bundelkhand. We take pride that today we have strengthened civil society organizations working with great zeal and enthusiasm on the issues of water conservation, livelihood and sustainable agriculture and have created successful models of water conservation. Our efforts reached to 536424 people, covering 6 districts of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

This year the main achievement has been *Jal Jan Jodo* Abhiyan (Water People Alliance Campaign) which raised awareness and strengthened civil society organizations/community towards water conservation. The campaign highlighted and raised issues like Water Security Bill, cross-boundary river disputes, river rejuvenation, revival of water bodies, community control over water and revival of traditional water harvesting systems at various forums.

Parmarth developed models of improved water conservation & management practices and replicated amongst marginalized communities. Our efforts promoted improved agricultural practices & cropping pattern through measures of agro water use efficiency.

The livelihood security of the Dalit/Adivasi with focus on women was assured through the creation of quality and durable community and individual assets under MGNREGA & other government programmes.

We also initiated and deepened our work on child protection and child security along with assuring girl child education and vocational training among the marginalized community.

This all would not have been possible without the support of community, civil society organizations and hard work of our capable team members. We also would like to thank all our partners and supporters whose faith and guidance directed us towards empowering deprived and vulnerable communities for better access to their rights and entitlements.

**Sanjay Singh**  
**Secretary/ Chief Functionary**  
**Parmarth Samaj Sevi Sansthan**

## **Brief description about the organization**

### **Vision**

To contribute in building a society where all people can gain access to basic amenities such as education, healthcare, water & sanitation and livelihood opportunities and where all people can realize their full potential

### **Mission**

Capacity building and empowerment of deprived and vulnerable communities through information, education & organization for their better access to rights & entitlements

Parmarth Samaj Sevi Sansthan (PSSS), a non-governmental, non-profit organisation, registered under society registration act 1860 is working since the last 22 years for ameliorating conditions of society's marginalised and bringing self-sufficiency in two regions of India - Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Parmarth has directly reached out to about four lakh beneficiaries in 497 villages.

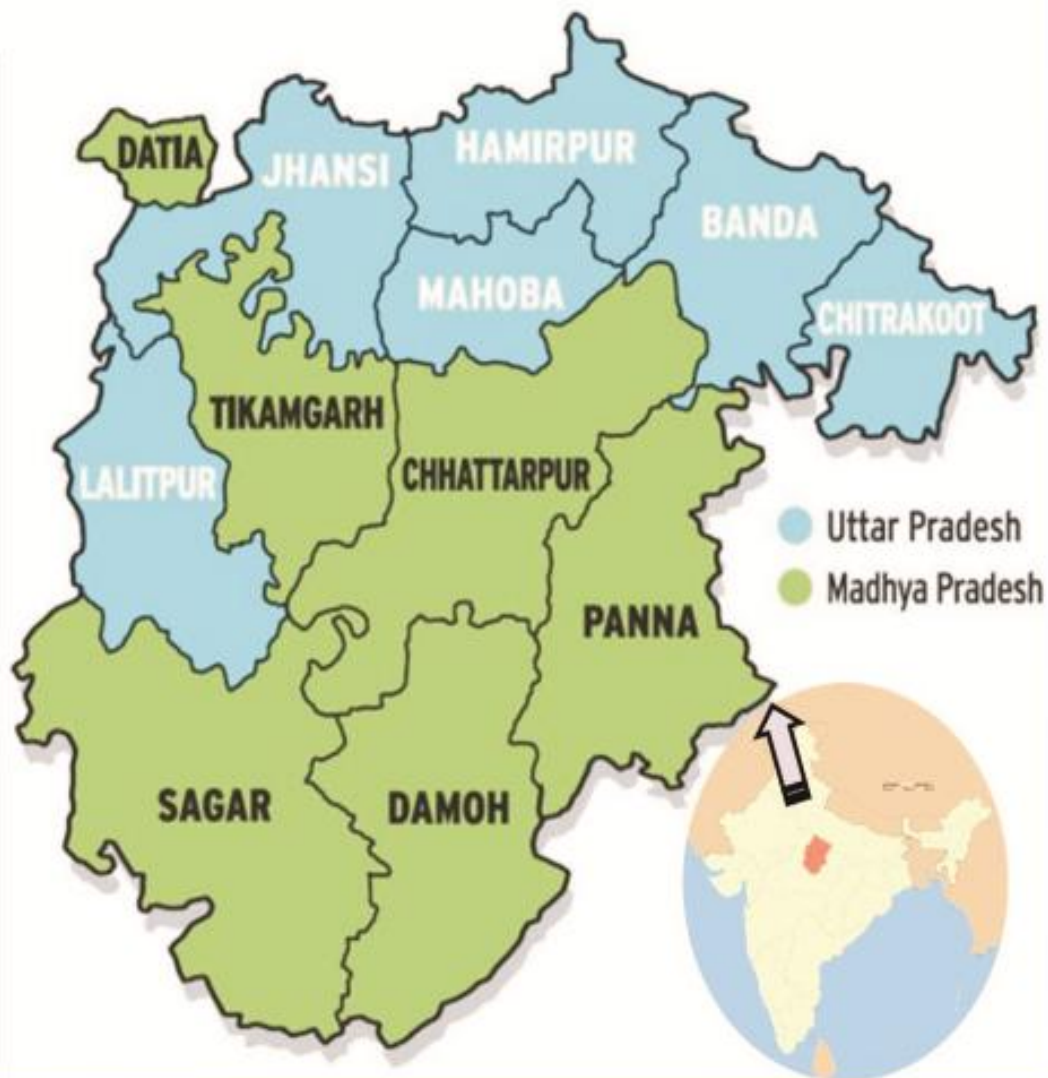
Possessing expertise in the areas of social development, WASH, gender expertise with a proven track record in drought-prone Bundelkhand, the team has successfully implemented 50 plus projects covering Natural Resource Management; Water & Sanitation Rights with a gender & inclusion perspective; Environment Protection; Climate Change, Right to Food; Work and Livelihood; Women and Girls' Rights; Education with special focus on Dalits, Adiwas, Women & Girls and Health & Nutrition. Some long-standing partners are European Union, Welthungerhilfe, NABARD, Hindustan Unilever Foundation, PwC India Foundation, Infosys Foundation, Catholic Relief Service, Rang De, USHA International, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Asia Initiative, Save Indian Farmers & Sarva Siksha Abhiyan.

### **Outreach:**

The Bundelkhand region in North India is presently known as water-starved terrain. The persistent drought situation in the area has not been addressed by the drought declaration criteria or drought management manual of the state. In such a condition, the burden of fetching and managing water for household chores becomes the prime responsibility of women despite the fact that they have no equitable say in the decision-making process of water management. Against this backdrop, the Parmarth Samaj Sevi Sansthan sought to reduce the vulnerability of the community by securing water through active participation of village level community

The intervention area presently extends to 6 districts across two states of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, covering 50,000 households and more than 4, 00,000 people in 497 villages.

# Bundelkhand Region Map





#### **Legal status**

- Registered under Society Registration Act 1860, Registration No - 624, Dated - 11th January, 1996
- Registered under Foreign Regulation Act (FCRA) -Registration No 136500010, Dated - 7th January, 2000
- Registered under Income Tax Act, 1961 under section 12(A) No. 17/12 A/IT Commissioner-II/Tech/Kanpur, Dated - 25.11.2002
- Registered under Income Tax Act, 1961 under section 80(G) IT Commissioner-II/80-G/124/Tech/Kanpur/923, dated - 17.06.2009
- Income Tax Permanent Account Number: AAATP6454F
- TAN - KNPP01309A
- Registered with Darpan Portal of NITI Ayog with unique ID UP/2016/0099233

#### **Board Members as on 31st March 2017**

- Mr. Narendra Singh , President
- Mr. Ghanshyam Gautam, Vice- President
- Mr. Sanjay Singh, Secretary
- Mr. Bhupendra Gupta, Treasurer
- Dr. Durgesh Pratap Singh, Member
- Mrs. Divya Gupta, Member
- Mrs. Neelam Prabhat, Member
- Mrs. Divya Gupta, Member
- Mrs. Deep Kumari, Member
- Mr.Santosh Kumar, Member
- Mr. Gopal Srivastava, Member
- Mr. Baliram, Member

#### **Our area of intervention-**

- Natural resource management and Water conservation
- Livelihood and Sustainable agriculture
- Climate Change.

- Water Sanitation and Hygiene
- Child Protection and Child Rights
- Education and vocational training with special focus on adolescent girls
- Women empowerment
- Health and nutrition
- Disaster reduction response.

### Our approach

The foundation of our work is based on the approach of collective community mobilization/empowerment through capacity building, participation, and seeking accountability for rights and entitlements. All activities of Parmarth are based on the principle of equity, transparency and sustainability. The strength of Parmarth is its collective mobilization of civil society to create sustainable models of development through strengthened CBOs at local, state and national level.

#### A. Community mobilization and strengthening civil society organizations

Parmarth believes in collective mobilization with the principle of *"Jiski laddai uski aguwai"*. The small and landless farmers, women, tribal, Dalits, and marginalized sections of the society are brought together under a common flagship to seek accountability on the provision of their rights and entitlement.



Over a period of 22 years, Parmarth has initiated several programmes and projects addressing the issues of livelihood, water and sanitation in the Bundelkhand region. Parmarth believes that poverty, water and sanitation, has deepening interdependency and poses challenges to the economic opportunity and sustained economic growth and development. These factors also have impacted women's lives, livelihoods and well-being disproportionately. Therefore, the organization has involved women and youths to identify the problems, and plan programmes according to the needs of the community to address the issues of water and livelihood. The organization has built women's leadership capacities on governance issues.



Parmarth has initiated various community-based organizations such as Aapda Nivarak Manch, PANI PANCHAYAT, Jal Saheli Networks, which are functioning as key stakeholders in taking up the agenda of water management, drought



mitigation and livelihood promotion in the areas. Aapda Nivarak Manch is a people led groups which were started for advocacy on the issues of drought & livelihood. PANI PANCHAYAT was initiated for the promotion of water management. Jal Saheli Networks comprises women water warriors, who are promoting water literacy in the region and taking up the water conservation, protection & management in their respective areas. These CBOs have been involved in initiating various activities such as conservation and creation of water resources, conservation and upgrading of land, agriculture and horticulture development and afforestation, in various villages in the Bundelkhand region. Those community-based organizations also works for preparation of water security plan, ensuring equal distribution of water, maintenance & management of water bodies. These CBOs are also focusing on the promotion of measures related to water use efficiency and water source sustainability. These groups are also involved in advocating with PRI, with local government and media raising the issues of water scarcity and livelihood issues in the region. PANI PANCHAYAT and Jal Saheli Networks have also conducted several social actions and build pressure on block/district administration for execution of water-related issues in favour of the community members.

Name of CBO	Number of members	Issues on which they worked
<b>Pani Panchayat</b>	3572	Water Security, water conservation, water literacy and management
<b>Jal Saheli</b>	424	Women's Right over natural resources
<b>Bal Samuh</b>	3716	Child Rights
<b>Self Help Group</b>	626	Livelihood Allied Group

#### Community mobilization & awareness drive: 18-22 September 2016

With the objective to sensitize & create awareness among villagers about drought resilience cropping practices, techniques & measures related to water conservation, agri-water use efficiency and community coping mechanism for fighting with drought vulnerability, drought mitigation awareness Campaign ( SUKHA MITAO JAGRUKTA ABHIYAAN) was organized in 15 villages of the project areas from 18-22 September 2016. The campaign provided information about ongoing different government programmes/schemes of Drought Resilience, improved agriculture practices & water conservation measures. Women, men and children participated in the rally organized under this campaign. Further, village level meetings were held in which the project team members explained in details about climate change, drought resilience measures



and disaster risk reduction measures. Information was also disseminated through poster, pamphlet, chart, etc on following key issues...

- Climate change
- Drought Resilience Measures & practices
- Climate-friendly farming practices & method
- Measures & practices about soil & water conservation provisions about different drought resilience government programmes/schemes such as *Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna*, *Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojna*, etc

**Impact :**

- Large number of villagers including small & marginal farmers & women members became aware of drought resilience cropping practices, techniques & measures related to water conservation, agri-water use efficiency and community coping mechanism
- Villagers also become aware of improved agriculture practices such as LEISA, SWI / SVI and IPM techniques
- Rapport was built in all 15 project villages
- Total 707 small & marginal farmers showed interest and willingness for practising measures of water & soil conservation and drought resilience farming practices

**Capacity Building training for community leader PRIs member on drought resilience land & water management and improved agricultural practices: 26-31 December 2016**

During the reporting period, a two days training programme was organized in two batches on 26-28 December and 29-31 December 2016 respectively at Sarila. The purpose of trainings were to develop understanding about Drought Resilience, Climate change, land & water management and improved agriculture process among leaders/members of PANI Panchayat and representatives of PRIs bodies and also develop understanding about techniques & measures of water conservation, protection & management.

During training, different measures & techniques of water conservation, protection & management, improved agriculture practices, water harvesting techniques, drought resilience measures and climate change issues were discussed. Representatives of PANI PANCHAYAT and PRIs bodies developed their understanding on the same during the training programme. Details about *Rastriya Suraksha Mission*, *Pradhan Mantri Krishi Beema Yojna* and *Kisan Durgatna Beema Yojna* schemes was also explained to participants during the training programme

**Impact :**

- Total 95 participants representing PANI PANCHAYAT & PRIs bodies from 15 villages of the project areas attended the training programme



- Participants become aware of Drought Resilience and climate change issues in details
- Participants also become aware about important usage of measures related to water conservation, protection & management
- Participants become aware about different government schemes related to agriculture/farming

## **B. Community campaign and advocacy for water conservation**

*Jal Jan Jodo* campaign was launched in 2013, by experts and activists working on water issues from eleven states under the leadership of conservationist and Stockholm Water Prize winner Rajendra Singh. The main objective of the campaign was to connect people on water conservation issues. The campaign believes in participation and ownership of people on the issue of water conservation. The stages of community empowerment included awareness building, creating water conservation models, building legal and policy framework for rights and responsibilities, enforcement of policy and rules through *Satyagraha* and providing stability and sustainability to institutions based on values of equality.

The campaign was supported by more than 1200 small and big organizations (436 CBOs, 609 NGOs, 36 farmers groups and 119 colleges, universities and management institutions). Training for all levels of functionaries were conducted at *Tarun Jal Vidyapeeth*. More than 2000 grassroots activists have been trained on water issues in the last three years. The campaign has an elaborate structure for volunteers at the grassroots level: - *Jal Sevak, Jal Karmi, Jal Prabandhak, Jal-Nayak, Jal Rishi, Jal Sahelis*

*Jal Jan Jodo* campaign carried out *Nadi Yatras* (foot marches along the rivers) joined by thousands of activists. These river walks were very successful in connecting people and in reviving several rivers. The campaign also extensively mobilized voluntary labour contribution by the community-*shramdaan*. This has led, particularly in the times of drought, to the revival of several water bodies.

The campaign highlighted and raised issues like Water Security Bill, cross-boundary river disputes, river rejuvenation, the revival of water bodies, community control over water and revival of traditional water harvesting systems at various Government forums.

### **B.1 Workshop on leadership for Social and Ecological Justice 7-14 April 2016, Tarun Jal Vidhyapith:**

Leadership Development camp for social and ecological justice was organized on 7-14 April 2016. The objective of this workshop was to review drought situation in the country and distress of farmers and explore ways and means to deal with it. The workshop discussed & debated issues related to drought distress of farmers and participants learnt about the work done by Tarun Bharat Sangh under the leadership of Dr. Rajendra Singh on revival of river and water bodies to adapt the impacts of Climate Change.





Many people from different parts of the country demonstrated models of water conversation, water management, movement building on all sides of control over natural resources, leadership building for community work etc. The discussion came to the conclusion, that the time has come for everyone to come together to address the problem of marginalized and deprived communities, farmers, common men & woman in India

#### Impacts:

- Trained CSO's organized 12 workshops on Water Security Act in their respective blocks.
- Training of 50 community leaders from Karauli resulted in the construction of 15 new RWH adding capacity of 500 million liter in the villages with a cash contribution of Rs. 11 lakh approx
- Students of NSS from Tripude Social Work College trained at TJV in November 2016 organized a volunteer camp "Sipna Shodh Shivir" on the River Sipna in Melghat area of district Amravati in Maharashtra.

**B.2 Conduct studies for assessment of member organizations and organized workshop on 9th June 2016 at Lalitpur:**



Identification of likeminded CSOs, NGOs and other volunteers groups working in the project area was done. Two workshops were organized with senior representatives of these identified organizations. An assessment format was also developed by the organization.

CSOs Multi-stakeholders meeting was held at Lalitpur on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2016. The purpose of the meeting was to inform and engage NGOs, CSOs, CBOs, Social Activists, Local Leaders, etc as member organizations in CSOs strengthening programme of Parmarth Samaj Sevi Sansthan & Jal Jan Jodo Abhiyan in the state of Uttar Pradesh. It is expected that the member organization will support in setting up a structure in the district. It emerged during the consultation that the member organization will engage with the campaign and they will support the project agenda. They also shared about the need of a capacity building for the strengthening of their organization. More such consultation meeting will be planned and organized by Parmarth.

### **B.3 Training on Water User Master Plan Preparation:**

To build the understanding of team members and village level volunteers towards tools and methodology of preparation of Water User Master Plan, two days capacity building training on Water User Master Plan Preparation was organized on 14-15 October 2016 at Jhansi. As a result total, 17 WUMP has been prepared



### **B.4 Water User Master Plan Preparation and Implementation; Participatory exercise for plan preparation**

The project facilitated the community level processes for the preparation of water security plan with the community-based participatory processes. The project in support with representatives of PANI PANCHAYAT and Village level volunteers first analyzed the needs and availability of water sources in the villages. Participatory methods were applied for assessing the water availability and needs and gaps between water availability and demands. Participatory tools were also used for mapping the water bodies, problems identification related to Water conservation, WATSAN and Livelihood and prioritization of problems. Further detail analysis was done of the information generated through participatory exercises and planning was done for ensuring water availability in the villages through integrated water resource management. These plans were further shared with the village community in meetings. Final water security plans were





prepared after incorporation of feedback from the community members and further shared in the respective *gram sabha* meeting of the panchayats. During the reporting period, total 17 Water User Master Plan has been prepared.

#### B.5 Social and executive action, 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 2016

Parmarth Samaj Sevi Sansthan under the banner of Jal Jan Jodo Abhiyan organized rally at Chhattarpur where more than 700 fishermen from Bada-Malhera Block (that is around 90 Km away) participated in order to sensitize the Administration regarding violation of their rights, and conservation of water bodies, and encroachment. After the rally, they

submitted a memorandum to Mr Ramesh Bhandari, the District Magistrate of Chhattarpur on the problems being faced by the group. The community is a much-neglected community and oppressed by upper caste people in many ways. Due to the effort of Parmarth Samaj Sevi Sansthan and Jal Jan Jodo Abhiyan, the community became aware of their rights. Media houses of Madhya Pradesh took these issues seriously and began advocacy to protect their rights. As a result, the Fishery department declared relief measures under Bundelkhand Package for fishermen community.



#### B.6 Irrigation department of Government of Uttar Pradesh intervened in completion of 100 ponds revival

Bundelkhand has a rich history of tanks (Chandela and Bundela tanks) and other traditional water harvesting structures. Bundelkhand has been popular as the region of ponds. Chandela and Bundela were the two major dynasties in the region who took a keen interest in conserving water as a means of livelihood and development of the region. These water bodies always played a major role in addressing the drought situations in the region. The geography of this region allows quick recharge and discharge, so ponds are most suitable for conservation of water. The region had a prosperous tradition of pond culture. Besides fulfilling the daily water requirement, the ponds added to the beauty of the landscape. They also served as a source of livelihood for many families. Now, people and government are realizing about the importance of water conservation & protection as well as maintenance of traditional water bodies.

Since last two years, representatives of Jal Jan Jodo Abhiyan under the leadership of Shri Rajendra Singh, Water Man of India have been regularly sensitizing political and administrative



functionaries in the state of Uttar Pradesh for effective implementation of Drought Mitigation and Water Conservation & Management Programme in the Bundelkhand Region.

Uttar Pradesh is set to revive river and traditional water bodies which dried up some time ago in drought-prone Bundelkhand region. Shri Rajendra Singh Water Man of India shared about the need of River Rejuvenation and Revival of Traditional Water Bodies / Ponds with Shri Akhilesh Yadav, CM, and Government of Uttar Pradesh. Further representatives of Jal Jan Jodo Abhiyan also met with functionaries of Irrigation Department and informed about the processes of community-based water management. The organization is encouraging community members for their engagement in maintenance and management of water bodies in their respective areas.

As a result, Government of Uttar Pradesh announced the revival of 100 ponds in a different part of the region before start of the monsoon. Total of INR 144 crore was allocated for the revival of 100 ponds. Irrigation department took the task seriously due to which 100 ponds revival work are about to be completed in different parts of Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh. Representatives of Jal Jan Jodo Abhiyan have closely assisted in pond revival work in Mahoba & Lalitpur district. Total of 76 hectares of Keerat Sagar traditional water bodies was revived.

Approx 60 mcm additional water will be saved through revival of 100 ponds in the region. Additional 12000 hectares agriculture land areas will receive assured irrigation through these ponds. Bundelkhand has witnessed timely monsoon and it is expected that ponds will be filled with water. Traditional Water Bodies / Ponds were demarcated and accordingly, revival was done in the entire areas. People are highly appreciating this initiative of Irrigation department as it is a long-term sustainable solution towards water source sustainability in the region.

Jal Jan Jodo Abhiyan has been advocating for plantation near water bodies and its maintenance & management under the leadership of local level community-based organizations i.e. PANI PANCHAYAT. Jal Jan Jodo Abhiyan will do regular interventions with the support of Government and the local community.

- Shramdaan Shivir was conducted in Lalitpur (Bhijraouta & Jhawar village)& Tikamgarh (Rastari village)district – 29-30 June 2016
- Shramdaan Shivir was conducted in Alwar (Gopalpura, Madalwas, Paalpur village - old Johar repaired) and Karauli district (new 15 community Johar constructed and 03 Johars have been revived) –Fund was also mobilized through community contribution & CSR projects
- Shramdaan was also conducted in Manikhera village in Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh for pond renovation

#### **B.7 Two days consultation of Civil Society Organizations on election and water issues at Gandhi Bhawan, Lucknow, 17-18 Dec 2016:**

Two-day workshop was organized by Parmarth under the banner of Jal-Jan Jodo Abhiyan to discuss the coming elections and the issues related to water. Representatives from civil society organizations, advocates, and social activists





participated in the deliberations. During the consultation, an election manifesto was prepared to make pressure on political parties during the coming elections in five states and especially in U.P. A Strategy was also drafted for zone Wise Yatra in different districts of U.P. Then the yatra moved to Western U.P., Bundelkhand, Tarai belt, Awadh and Ruhelkhand. After the consultations, Lok Samvad Yatra was started under the leadership of Water Man Mr.Rajendra Singh and Facilitated by senior social activist Mr. Bharat Bhusan. Organizations worked with an objective to create pressure on representatives of political parties to include agenda of water security bill in their manifesto.

#### **B.8 Awareness Yatras :**

**River Walk /Jal Adhikar Samvad Yatra” at Jhansi, Lalitpur, Tikamgarh, Chhatarpur 5th September 2016 – 18 September 2016:**

More than 150 villagers tied Rakhi on the branches of trees for safeguarding environment during launch programme of “Jal Adhikar Samvad Yatra” in Gaowli village of Babina block in Jhansi district of Bundelkhand region on 18th August 2016. Participants took oath to protect the environment and save planet during the launch programme of the yatra. They all decided to protect & safeguard each tree planted by them. The region has been experiencing regular drought and it requires attention towards natural resource management and water conservation & management.

On this occasion, Mr.Sanjay Singh, National Convener, Jal Jan Jodo Abhiyan stated that we have to save each drop of rainwater as water table has gone down and well / hand pumps used are dried during the drought & peak summer season. He told that though this time Bundelkhand is experiencing good rains in the season yet we all have to work to save & harvest water for ensuring long term sustainable solution related to drought & climate variability in the region. People are extracting ground water in Babina, Jhansi without taking any measures of water conservation & management. There is a need to protect and save water. It was clearly communicated to people that this yatra will facilitate mass mobilization for encouraging the people, representatives of PRIs bodies, line department functionaries, youth, and representatives of women & farmers’ groups towards adaptation of ecologically friendly agriculture as well as promotion of measures related to soil & water conservation & agri-water use efficiency.

Jal Jan Jodo Abhiyaan started 10 days long “Jal Adhikar Sanwad Yatra” in Jhansi & Lalitpur districts of Bundelkhand region on 18 August 2016 with the purpose to create awareness about





need of promotion of community based water management and develop relationship between water & community members for their roles<sup>1</sup> in water conservation & management. The other purpose of the yatra was to engage rural cadre/volunteers, women, youth and member organizations of Jal Jan Jodo Abhiyan to ensure participation & say in the processes of natural resource management as well as strengthening of the governance system on drought, livelihood and water issues in the region. The Yatra aimed to seek support and solidarity from larger masses for ensuring implementation of Water Security Laws & River rejuvenation Policy in India.

The Yatra exhibited the strength of CSOs, Dalits, and Women of the areas and created awareness among people about the importance of water conservation, protection & management, agri-water use efficiency, micro irrigation system and improved sustainable agriculture practices.

#### ***JAL-HAL-YATRA, 27 May to 31 May 2016:***

JAL-HAL-YATRA started from Alampura and ended at Mahoba from 27 to 31 May 2016. The objective of this yatra was to create awareness on drought situation and mitigate the drought.

The yatra was supported by Dr. Rajendra Singh water man, Mr. PV Rajagopal land rights activist, Mr. Sanjay Singh national convener of Jal-Jan-Jodo Abhiyan and Dr. Sunilam Ex MLA. More than 100 individual from drought areas took part in this Yatra



#### **Jal Adhikar Samvad Yatra, Rajasthan, 18-28 August 2017**

To sensitize and create awareness on water literacy at village level ,community, civil society, students and PIR bodies, a 11 days *Jal Adhikar Samvad Yatra* was organized in Alwar and Karauli district of Rajasthan. This yatra covered 30 villages of project area and interacted with more than 3000 population.



***Bundelkhand Lok Sambad Yatra” Dialogue with people in Jal Jan Jodo Abhiyan:***



#### **29 December 2016 to 5 Jan 2017**

A 7 days long Lok Samvad yatra was organized by Jal Jan Jodo Abhiyan. During Yatra, interactions and discussions with the village level community were carried out on various issues like Migration, Illegal mining, Agriculture, Water conservation, encroachment and *Anna Pashu Pratha*. People were also sensitized towards water literacy.

During yatra, various issues emerged, out of them, major issue was *Anna Pashu Pratha* (Generally farmers in Bundelkhand abandon their cattle from the onset of summers till the sowing of the next crop. This tradition is called *Anna Pratha* (tradition of leaving the cattle abandoned). These roaming cattle are

harmful in many ways. They fall sick as they do not get sufficient quantities of fodder and water which is another famine for the farmers of Bundelkhand, who are already under severe stress condition due to regular climate hazards.

Farmers who were hoping for a good yield of their crop are now trying hard to protect their crops from animals. In this scary winter, farmers are compelled to stay and sleep in their fields. Since past week 10 farmers have lost their lives due to severe cold conditions.

During interaction with progressive farmers during Yatra in Lalitpur district, they said that both Central & State Governments are using the slogans of rural development but in reality, they are dividing people by selling water of Bundelkhand to Private power plants

Due to successive drought for past three years, farmers could not raise crops and as a result, many families have malnourished female and child members. Kotedar is only interested to give benefit to their close ones, thus deprived community are not getting the benefit of development schemes implemented by Govt.

Rabi crop has been attacked by insects, which is destroying crops of Gram, Pea and mustard.

In Jalaun & Hamirpur Farmers expressed their view that political parties do not have any concrete strategy and blueprint for protecting farming sector in their agenda. There should be a clear action plan for conserving natural resources, debt remission, water rights, and agriculture as well as skill development. They said that they will start communication with representatives of political parties to include these issues in their manifesto. During Yatra, farmers also stated that pond renovation and deepening work must be started now in order to cope with climate changes in the summer season.



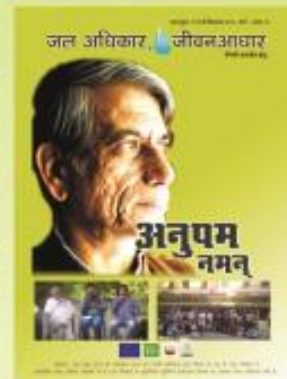
#### **Jal Saksharta Rally in Doula Village 14th Dec. 2016**

A rally was organized by Jal Biradari and Vikas Sanstha in Doula village in Bagpat. Waterman Mr. Rajendra Singh led the rally and addressed the participants. Before the rally, a discussion with school children was held on the importance of water conservation. According to children, the water of the village is being polluted by the community and they have to take the initiative to save it



### B.9 Publication of quarterly newsletter on water and related issues -

Four issues of Hindi Newsletter titled “*Jal Adhiikar, Jeevan Aadhar*” was prepared and 1000 copies of each issue was published and disseminated among leaders of PANI PANCHAYATS / Block level Officials/Development Service Providers. These newsletters were distributed among district and state level government officials and representatives of legislative bodies. It is helping in highlighting the project and Jal-Jan Jodo Abhiyan campaign interventions and water issues with diversified stakeholders on a regular basis.



### B.10 National level networking and advocacy on revival of traditional water bodies

In early March 2016, Government noted that nearly a quarter of the country or more than 250 districts were facing drought condition. Approximately 33 crore people were affected by drought in the country. Farmers committed suicide, people fought amongst each other on water issues and animals died due to non-availability of water and fodder. The food crisis was looming large due to crop failure, unseasonal rains and hailstorms that led to the loss of farming produce, and livelihood options had shrunk in the drought-hit villages.



Rally on Jal Adhikar in Delhi

In this context, Parmarth provided support and solidarity during national level workshop *Jal Satyagrah*, held at Jantar Mantar on 5th May 2016. 560 community members from our intervention area participated in this national level Water Convention and witnessed collective action for building pressures on policy makers for implementation of water security bill which calls for community ownership of the water. In total, more than 4000 people across the drought-hit zone from 13 states of the country confidently voiced for the enactment of water security law in India at Jantar Mantar. People started the foot march, Jal Satyagraha from Rajghat and marched up to Jantar Mantar, New Delhi in presences of water practitioners, CSO representatives, women groups, farmer groups, Jal Saheli and Pani Panchayat. People demanded that immediate action should be taken by the government for conservation, protection and management of water bodies as long-term solution for drought mitigation and climate variability in the country.

Observing the drought vulnerability and water crisis at ground level, NWC team prepared a charter of demand in consultation with drought-affected people. 05 representatives from Jal Satyagraha team shared charter of demand to representatives of PMO, New Delhi. Key demands were:

- Water Security Act and River Rejuvenation Draft bill, 2016 to be passed
- Identification and demarcation of river and water bodies to be done on priority
- Distress migration due to water crisis to be controlled and prevented
- MGNREGA fund to be used for river rejuvenation and revival of water bodies
- Intervention with a clear plan within 60 days of conservation, protection and management of water bodies.

It was also decided during Jal Satyagraha that a Drought Yatra would be conducted from Latur to Bundelkhand to understand the situation of people in the drought and through it to create an enabling environment in the country for mitigating it.



### C. Natural Resource Management and Water Conservation

Water is the core natural resource and key for the sustenance of life and livelihoods. Sixty-nine percent of India's population lives in rural areas and are dependent on water for irrigation, domestic needs, cattle needs and others livelihoods needs. Deterioration in quantity and quality of water due to erratic rainfall, loss of vegetation, over-exploitation of groundwater and indiscriminate





use of chemical fertilizers/pesticides affects the health and livelihoods of the dependent communities and thus increases their vulnerability and poverty. In order to address issues around water holistically, the Integrated Water Resource Management project for poverty reduction and sustainable development was undertaken by the organization. In the past, the organization has established community-based decentralized model of Integrated Water Resource Management in Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh. The organization has encouraged community members to participate in the preparation of the water user master plan and ensure its execution through their respective panchayat & government department.

Parmarth facilitated the application of irrigation promotion management in support of small & marginal farmers and enhanced water Use Efficiency Practices among Community Members. This helped in improving the social and economic status of the poorest and socially excluded community members. Today, the community with support from Parmarth has developed successful models of water conservation -

- ***Creation, revival and efficient use of water bodies***

Parmarth facilitated community level processes for introduction of integrated water management mechanism by developing new water bodies, renovation of existing traditional water bodies such as pond, check dam, well etc and plantation of fruit plants and shade-giving plants with basic approach of community participation and their involvement in



starting from planning, to implementation,



monitoring and maintenance of the newly created structures / water bodies etc. The need of water structures has been identified during meeting of respective PANI PANCHAYAT. The further technical survey was done and approval of the activities was taken from panchayats.

The team members along with representatives of *Pani Panchayat and jal saheli* identified sites in 6 districts for the creation of water structures and check dam

construction. 10 Check dams were constructed and repaired which benefitted 372 Families. This assured irrigation in 259 hectares of agriculture field.

Creation of water bodies contributed in increasing the groundwater table as well as recharged 94 existing water resources in the surround areas. It also helped in ensuring better access to safe drinking water availability as well as assuring the irrigation water facilities in farming. It further led to ensuring the livelihood and food security of deprived community

The organization has supported the repair and maintenance of 196 hand pumps in the intervention areas. Organization identified non-functional hand pump with the support of Jal Saheli and members of Pani Panchayat. It further ensured the availability of drinking water among 1465 families. Pani Panchayat prepared a resolution for repair and maintenances of a

non-functional hand pump in their areas and supported the repair and maintenance of these hand pumps. Jal Saheli played important role in repair and maintenance processes of the hand pump by organizing training on repair and maintenance.

The organization facilitates community level processes and ensures participation of community members especially women for transparent and effective implementation of the construction of new structures. The project has supported in developing the community monitoring system led by Jal Sahelis and Pani Panchayat towards proper management for utilization and maintenance of these structures. Further, Water User Associations were formed of all the households that directly benefited from the water sources. These WUAs took responsibility for the proper usage of water (such that no HH exploited it or was left out) and maintenance of the structures. This was monitored overall by the Pani Panchayats.

**Earthen Bund Construction**–Total of 03 earthen bunds of 360 meter was constructed in which 02 earthen bunds constructed in Pawa village and 01 earthen bund was constructed in Rajpur village. The purpose of construction of these earthen bunds was to conserve & protect water bodies as well as harvest rainwater. The other purpose was to check the soil erosion and increase soil productivity. Earthen bund construction further contributed to assuring irrigation in 60 acres of agriculture land of 41 farmers

S.N.	Type of water harvesting structures	Units	Number of farmers benefited	Irrigated area	Water storage Capacity (cub. Mtr)
1	Check Dam	10	301	372.94	162726
2	Earthen Bund	2	41	60	
3	Stop Dam	8	67	39.1	77680
4	Earthen Dam	9	237	877.02	194975
5	Farm Pond	10	48	27.89	41545.9
6	Irrigation Well	29	27		
7	Outlet	14	239	255.891	185524.1
8	Pipe Spillway	3	328	209.409	2901632
9	Pond Deepening	3	172	107.4	47000
10	Farm Pond	10	48	27.89	41545.9

#### • *Emergency Drought mitigation efforts through community participation*

Drought does not only result in a shortage of water for





agriculture but even there is an acute shortage of drinking water. Women face the burden of fetching water from far distances. Hence, Parmarth provided 5 Water Cart in 5 villages, which helped in reducing the stress and work burden of women in fetching drinking water from far away sources. This was a great relief for women and saved their time and energy and now these women are using their time in participating in community development efforts in their village. The Pani Panchayat has been instrumental in facilitating the increased pace of realization of government drought relief programme for beneficiaries in project villages. The activities undertaken for drought relief include the creation of water bodies, water tanker supply, drought duty, and also running community kitchens.

- **Community Kitchen**

The organization started running the community kitchen for serving two times cooked meal to most drought-affected individuals/families in the villages. The organization has contributed in setting up community-led processes for running and managing the community kitchen, where community members are supporting in preparation of meals as well as



managing fuelwood. The purpose of starting of running the community kitchen is to reach out among most needy and deprived individuals/families and address their immediate needs of food. The organization is running 10 community kitchens in the district of Tikamgarh and Chhatarpur district. These kitchens provide two times cooked meal to 400 individuals including elderly, disabled, women, etc in their respective villages. (Nadiya, Jagatnagar, Pnachampura, Gor, Taparan, Kaudiya, Hatheri, Panya, Baron and Sewar). Community Kitchen support is also continued in 15 villages of Lalitpur (Kadesara Khurd, Bhadauna, Rajawan, Gugar, Tindra, Chandrapur, Budawani, Rameshpura, Karenga, Moto) Hamirpur (Jalalpur, Birpur, Newly Basa) & Jalaun (Haidalpura, Teehar) districts and addressing the food needs of the most marginalized and affected families / individual. Total 484 individuals are directly eating cooked meal two times in a day in their respective community kitchen. This provides a cooked meal to malnourished children, elderly, disabled, lactating & pregnant women. The community members are running it voluntarily by making food and managing contribution for fuel.

- **Water Tanker Supply**

To address the acute shortage of water crisis in villages in project areas, the organization started providing support for ensuring availability of drinking water to villagers through Water Tankers. Nine villages where water crisis was at peak were selected by the organization. Total 2172 beneficiaries benefited by getting safe drinking water through tankers. The organization facilitates



community level processes for meeting the needs of poor and socially excluded groups in the villages. The members of PANI PANCHAYAT and Jal Saheli have been managing the proper distribution of drinking water in these villages and ensuring access among poor & socially excluded groups with dignity.

- ***Revival of Traditional Water bodies i.e. Chandela Tank***

Members of pani panchayat & jal saheli placed demand related to the revival of traditional water bodies with district & state level functionaries. As a result of their efforts, 20 traditional water bodies were revived with the support of panchayat and related state government department (Minor Irrigation Department and Rural Development Department).

- ***Well Construction***

30 drinking water and irrigation community well constructed through convergence in 10 villages in our intervention areas. It ensured availability of drinking water among 200 families as well as assured irrigation in additional 200 hectares of agriculture land of small & marginal farmers in the areas.

- ***Ponds Deepening***

The organization is not only working for addressing the immediate needs of the drought-affected families in the areas but also making efforts towards providing long-term community driven solution for drought mitigation. Pond deepening carried in Bangay villages of Jatara block of Tikamgarh district provided wage work to 60 people. 5 tractors were also engaged in pond deepening work. Ponds deepening will contribute to recharging of water as well as meeting the water needs for irrigation & domestic usages for the people.

- ***Dug well Deepening***

The organizations also provided support for deepening of dug well for recharge of surface water. Dug well-deepening work was undertaken in Bangay (02), Mastapur (03) and Panchampura (01) villages of Jatara block of Tikamgarh district.





- ***Fodder & drinking water for animals***

The livelihoods of the people, as well as the livestock, are in adverse condition due to acute drought since three years. In this acute drought condition, many cattle are dying due to the water crisis. Parmarth Samaj Sevi Sansthan made efforts to lower the death rates of cattle in several villages of project areas. Parmarth made successful efforts to make water available for animals in 02 villages of Tikamgarh district, which provided safe water to 70 animals from Mastapur & Kaudiya village. The organization has also filled up ponds with water in 06 villages (Bijdua in Jalaun district and Newly Basa, Barguwa, Dharaupur, Gwali & Inderpura in Hamirpur district) for meeting the water needs for animals. Animals were dying due to non-availability of water & fodder in the region. Water availability in the ponds ensured availability of water to animals.

The organization is also supporting community-led processes for repair & maintenance of hand pump for ensuring access to drinking water. The organization is also building pressure on district administration and Gram Panchayat for leveraging resources for drought mitigation in the region. The organization is supporting the processes of state government in the revival of traditional water bodies in the region. The organization under the banner of Jal Jan Jodo Abhiyan has been constantly approached by Political & administrative functionaries for tracking the progress of the drought mitigation work of the state.

#### **Livelihood and Sustainable Agriculture**

Bundelkhand is drought-prone region, and with times, the depth and the magnitude of its detrimental effects on livelihood are increasing. Agriculture is the main source of livelihood in the region but the scarcity of water in



this semi-arid region along with poor soil conditions yields low productivity and further aggregates



problem of food security.

Parmarth worked on the issue of livelihood for Landless and Small & Marginal Farmers with focus on Dalits & Women group as they are the worst affected due to drought and climate variability.

The main goal was to combat the effects of drought, hunger and food insecurity for small and marginal farmers in 6 districts of Bundelkhand region. Parmarth strengthened Community based organizations to adapt and continue drought resilient, hunger reducing measures. The members of Pani Panchayat and Jal saheli assured the availability of food livelihood to the most marginalized people in their villages. Various approaches like capacity building on sustainable agriculture, creating water structure for irrigation, importance on use low water yield seeds, multiple cropping and MGNREGA were tools used to assure food security to the poorest of poor.

Similarly, Parmarth also worked towards community-based intervention for negating the impact of drought among Dalits / Adivasi and Socially excluded groups in Lalitpur district

The livelihood security of the Dalit / Adivasi with focus on women was assured through the creation of quality and durable community and individual assets through conservation under MGNREGA & another government programme. This improved financial services and built means of sustainable livelihoods of the Dalit / Adivasi with focus on landless families through JLGs / SHGs / Federation.

The organization has promoted social cohesiveness approaches within the community for bringing all of them at a common platform of PANI PANCHAYAT to discuss on water and livelihood issues. The organization has also engaged all sections of society in the processes by ensuring their representation in community-based organization i.e. PANI PANCHAYAT. The organization has particularly organized women members into



SHGs and engaged them into local con-textual need-based income generation activities for their social & economic empowerment. Observing the government apathy and laid back attitude of PRIs bodies, the organization has coordinated and liaison with block & district level officials and also involved members of PRIs bodies during planning processes, which ultimately contributed in increased access over water & livelihood specific government programmes/schemes among eligible families. The rate of realization over developmental & welfare schemes also increased in favour of eligible individuals/families. The community led village development plan was legitimized during respective gram sabha meeting and further it was implemented through Panchayat. The project addressed the issues of water scarcity through the promotion of water harvesting structures in the areas, which has not only ensured access over water resources for agriculture and domestic use but it also contributed in increasing water table of the areas. To minimize the adverse effects of climate change and drought, the project has promoted practices of improved agriculture (SRI / SWI / SVI, LEISA, IPM, etc) and increased in productivity by the



promotion of micro irrigation system, usage of less water-intensive & quality seed. The organization has also assured irrigation facilities through creation of rain water harvesting structure.

The organization is also working towards long-term sustainable solution for drought mitigation by the revival of traditional water bodies, construction of water harvesting structures and surface water recharging with community-based participatory approaches.

The organization is also approaching block & district officials and building pressure for effective implementation of MGNREGA, National Food Security Act, PDS, MDM, ICDS and drought compensation package in favour of eligible families.

#### **Training on LEISA & improved agricultural practices: 17<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

The project conducted participatory training for farmers about techniques of LEISA & improved agriculture practised on 17th November 2017 at Block Auditorium of Sarila Block and provided inputs about benefits of use of LEISA & SWI/SVI methods in farming. Inputs were also provided about the organic method of seed treatment, sowing techniques, etc to all participants. The understanding was enhanced among participants about SRI / SVI methods of farming and all have shown their willingness and further adapted the SWI/SVI methods in wheat and vegetable cultivation. Inputs on Seed treatment through organic method, Wheat and Vegetable sowing method through SWI/SVI method and difference between traditional and SWI/SVI method were also provided and successful cases of the demonstration were shared with the participants.

##### **Impact :**

- 40 farmers including representatives of PANI PANCHAYAT were trained
- 07 farmers started using methods of SVI / SWI in the project areas
- 19 farmers started using methods of Jeeva Amrit & Amrit Pain in their farming

#### **Demonstration of LEISA and improved agriculture practices, Nov 2016**

To enhance the crop yield with low input cost, the organization provided support for demonstrations of Gram cultivation with 19 farmers and SWI demonstration with 43 farmers in the project area with the process of selection of seeds and creation of nursery. Field level team members facilitated community level processes for identification of farmers on the basis of indicators & willingness for adaptation of the methods. On field level, technical inputs were also provided to identify farmers for demonstration. During demonstration agenda for improved agriculture practices, how to make & use organic manure in wheat crop was also introduced. These demonstrations were held in the month of November 2016

##### **Impact:**

- 62 demonstration model on SWI / LEISA were developed
- 119 farmers become aware and sensitized towards promotion of improved agriculture practices and LEISA methods of farming



### Grain Bank Formation

The Bundelkhand has been facing continuous drought for the last one decade. The situation over the years has aggravated the problem of starvation in the region especially among the poorer sections of the communities. To address this grave situation, Parmarth has worked extensively to develop, promote and strengthen community-based food security mechanisms in the field areas. Parmarth started the work of setting up Grain Banks in the 15 villages of Talbehat and Sarila block of Lalitpur and Hamirpur district respectively with the following objectives:

- To save people from the clutches of money lender (*Saahukaar*).
- To promote community-based food security mechanisms.
- To protect people from various forms of exploitation.
- To make available food supplies to the communities in time of need, without any discrimination.

As an initial support to the Grain Bank, Parmarth provided 3 quintal grain to each the Banks. Parmarth assisted the communities in formulating the Grain Bank by-laws and in developing its managerial systems that have evolved over the years. Parmarth has also supported these grain banks by providing storage container. During the reporting period, 815 kg of grain from 146 community members has been contributed in these grain banks. The Grain Bank is managed collectively by the members who elect a President, Secretary and a Treasurer from among themselves for one year and works with the support of other Grain Bank members.





#### **Kitchen Garden Establishment:**

Many women members of the village community in the project area developed kitchen gardens in 49 villages of intervention area, in which they grew vegetables, fruit plants, medicinal plants and important agroforestry plants. The kitchen gardens are being irrigated from wastewater of hand pumps diverted by means of small channels. To address impurity and contamination of this water, a junction system has been provided at the inlet of kitchen garden and water is let in only when it is in a usable form. The vegetables grown in the kitchen garden are used for own family needs and in a few cases also sold in the market in case of surplus. At initial level discussion was made in the meeting of Pani Panchayat about Kitchen Garden. After mutual consent of all member of Pani Panchayat, sites for kitchen garden were finalized. Community is now able to access green vegetable and enhances their understanding towards reuse of wastewater from domestic sources



#### **Impact:**

- 178 new kitchen gardens have been established in 49 villages of intervention area.
- 304 families are able to access timely green vegetable and their food security level enhanced

#### **Formation of seed Bank :**

Bundelkhand has been a traditionally natural resources-rich region. In the past, this region had dense forests and witnessed good agricultural practices. Despite limited irrigation facilities, the inhabitants of the region used such seeds for crops which gave enough produce to meet the foodgrain requirements of the people all the year round. However, in the greed for more products and with an increased emphasis on cash crops, slowly and gradually, people in the region have forgotten their traditional seeds. Now, with the region experiencing a decade-long drought, the farmers are able to get only minimal produce from land and traditional seeds that required less water have become almost nonexistent.



In this backdrop, Parmarth initiated the process of establishing Seed Banks in their field area through community-based support for collecting and preserving traditional, local seeds. The objectives with which the Seed Banks were set up are as follows:

- Collection of drought resilience traditional seed



- To provide seed among poor & marginalized small & marginalized farmers of the project areas
- To promote practices of usages of less water-intensive seed in the project areas
- Seed Banks sensitized the communities in order to protect them from the private seed companies.

The meetings of Pani Panchayat discussed over seed bank establishment. All members gave their consent and laid down norms and by-laws of functioning of Seed Bank in support villagers. Community members started collecting and preserving traditional seed. During the reporting period, Seed Bank was started in 15 villages. 6.54 Quintal of seed collected by community members and 121 small and marginal farmers benefited by seed support. Pani Panchayat took initiative for management, implementation and ownership of seed bank



#### **Promotion of Micro-irrigation drip & sprinkler support**

In order to promote micro-irrigation tradition in the intervention area, farmer groups from the village Newlibasa were supported.

Organisation provided 2 Sprinkler sets (120m pipes and 10 sprinkler nozzles), to each beneficiary groups. Through the Sprinkler set, cultivation of gram and pea was done on 16 acres of land of 13 farmers. This reduced the amount of water consumed in irrigation by more than 40% and produced 30% more production. Pani Panchayat will ensure regular and efficient use of sprinkler sets by beneficiary groups.



#### **MGNREGA Mobilization –**

#### **Demand Generation Campaign / Application Drives**



The project conducted Demand Generation Campaign for getting job work under MGNREGA schemes. MGNREGA act is a demand-driven program in which the job card holders have to place an application to *panchayat rojgar sewak* and Gram Pradhan for getting wage work under MGNREGA. The project team members conducted village level meeting and informed villagers for placing an application for demanding wage work. The team members approached women and Dalits groups and contributed in the preparation of an application for getting wage work under MGNREGA. The team members also approached Panchayat Rojgar Sewak and Gram Pradhan and requested for the opening of work under MGNREGA. In this direction, the project has contributed in submitting applications of 560 job card holders including women & Dalits groups for getting wage work. The project launched special demand generation campaign in the project areas. This has also contributed to generating interest among community members towards the assertion of rights & entitlements under MGNREGA and other drought mitigation program. The project conducted 16 social actions and 02 meta-legal actions at tehsil and district level for demanding entitlements under MGNREGA. A total of 365 job card holders received wage work for the period of 30-35 days. The work was mainly related to water & soil conservation such as binding, earthen bund, etc.



#### **Advocacy for realization of Government Drought Relief Programme**

Leaders of PANI PANCHAYAT and Jal Saheli played a facilitation role in increasing the pace of realization of government drought relief programme in transparent ways in the project areas. Total 3000 families received Drought Relief Packages in the project areas. Members of PANI PANCHAYAT and Jal Saheli played important roles in placing application, doing follow up and ensuring implementation in favour of the drought-affected families in the region. They confidently placed their demand to panchayat, block & district level offices for the establishment of a new hand pump and repairing of non-functional hand pumps in the project areas. Total 42 new hand pumps were established and this ensured safe drinking water availability among 3555 families in 05 villages. Total 10 hand pump were rebored/repared in the project areas and ensured safe drinking water availability

#### **Climate Change**

Lalitpur district of Bundelkhand is a tribal belt where people face acute crisis of natural resource deprivation and loss of livelihood opportunity along with threat of their identity and violation of their rights



Parmarth worked towards protection of the ecological environment by improving the socio-economic conditions and resource of poor families on a sustainable basis through land-based activities with its focus on restoring the soil nutrition and productivity. We intervened to enhance the forest coverage area in order to cater the needs of fuelwood, timber, manure and fodder and ensure the health and nutritional security of the people. Our efforts also helped to empower rural women and reduce drudgery

Parmarth successfully implemented Tribal Development in the Talbehat Block in Lalitpur Districts with the tribal community in the 34 villages of 26 Panchayat. The main aim was to convert families living in low poverty line to above poverty. The goals of these interventions were –

- To protect the ecological environment by improving the socio-economic conditions & resources of poor families on a sustainable basis through land-based activities.
- To restore the soil nutrition & productivity
- To cater the needs of fuelwood, timber, manure and fodder
- To ensure health and nutritional security of the people
- to empower the rural women and reduce drudgery

Parmarth established community-based organizations called “Village Resource Committee” in 32 villages. To discuss the various issues of tribal community, monthly meetings were organized by the committee on a monthly basis in each village. In this reporting period, 39 monthly meetings were organized with the participation of 76 female and 312 male members. During the monthly meetings, discussion were also held on ensuring more intensive leadership role of VRC in driving water, irrigation facilities, WADI maintenance & Management, sanitation and livelihood specific agenda in the areas. The discussion was also held on the different schemes and planning was done for getting the entitlements.



**Impact:**

- With the participation of 76 females and 312 males, 246 monthly VRC meetings were organized.
- VRC members took the responsibilities for monitoring of the WADI maintenance in their respective villages and also develop their knowledge on meetings of farmers' production groups.
- Understanding and reach of the tribal community towards their entitlements under different government scheme increased the demand for toilet construction under SBA and work demand under MGNREGA.



❖ **SHG Strengthening**

For empowering the women community of the tribal community SHG was formed in



almost all the villages of the project area. In this reporting period, the focus was given for the participation of women in the income generation activities. 36 monthly meetings of different SHG were organized with the participation of 316 women members. The women groups are regularly depositing their savings into the bank accounts. The focus was also given on empowering the women for their entitlements.

#### **Impact–**

- 80 % of SHG depositing their savings timely into their accounts.
- More than 35 % of SHG started conducting their meeting by themselves.
- 4 SHGs developed the business plans for the income generation activities and started implementing it.
- Linkage with local Market through buyers.

#### **❖ WADI Maintenance**

For providing better support for the growth of WADI, regular inputs were taken from the agriculture Experts and scientist of different institutes and the follow up of th important suggestion were regularly done by the farmers and monitored by the Parmarth team members. *Thala*, pesticides and irrigation were supported to 308 WADIs and temporary and permanent protection was also supported. Pit digging was done for plants replacement in 200 WADIs.

Some of the activities taken up for the proper and regular WADI maintenance are as follows:

- Staking of the plants
- Spraying of pesticides
- Use of biofertilizers in the WADI plots
- Promotion of SVI approach in the field
- Promotion of Intercropping in the field
- Social fencing of WADI for the safety

#### **Impact–**

- Enhanced farmers involvement towards WADI maintenance, VWSC members and SHG members are playing wider role for maintenance and taking care of WADI
- Maintenance work is done in 308 WADIs of 19 villages.

#### **❖ Intercropping**

With the objective to increase the livelihood of WADI users intercropping were promoted in 100 WADIs. During this tenure, vegetable cultivation is promoted. More than 70% of



WADI Beneficiaries are promoting vegetable cultivation along with pulses and other crops in their fields. This will lead to the increase of income of the tribal community. Beneficiaries were supported by seeds and manure and regular follow up were undertaken.

#### ❖ Farm Bunding –



To conserve the soil & water for the preparation of land for intercropping farm bunding was done on the plot of WADI. The bunding will help in increasing the humidity in the soil which will result in an increase the productivity of the field and proper growth of the plant.

During the reporting period, 775 meters of farm bunding was completed in 06 farmer's WADI plots

#### Outcome –

- 775 RM farm bunding was completed with the 20% contribution from the beneficiaries.
- Soil erosion reduced and moisture level increased; which enables better growth of plants.
- WADI safety ensured through farm bunding.

#### ❖ Promotion of kitchen Garden:

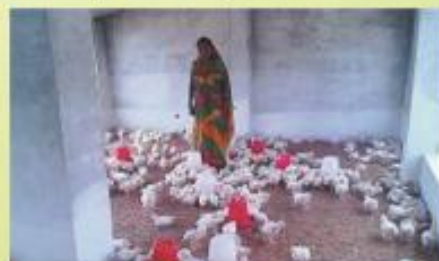


50 tribal women members of self-help group and VRC developed Kitchen gardens near their houses. The self-help group members planted varieties of vegetables like tomato, brinjal, pumpkin, Chilli, Lauki, Turai etc. Kitchen Garden promotion at household's level has not only contributed in the management of wastewater but it is also contributing in addressing nutrition security of the families. It is contributing in the promotion of water use

efficiency measures through wastewater management. More than 450 Kitchen gardens were established till now which is supporting the tribal community in availing the nutritious food and balanced diets to their families.

#### ❖ Poultry Farm:

With the objective to increase the collective business and increment in the income of tribal





communities by the members of self-help groups, business Plan was developed for the poultry farm by the Ujala Self Help Group. The technical inputs and trainings were provided by Parmarth for these members to increase the understanding about the poultry. Also, market linkages were established in Jhansi. Two SHGs are running the successful poultry farm. New slots of chicks were plotted in the poultry farms by the SHGs.

#### ❖ **FPO Formation:**

Parmarth is focusing on marketing, linkage and Farmers Producer Organization formation. These groups were provided capacity building training and exposure and skill development sessions. Cluster-wise meetings were organized among the WADI beneficiaries; where discussion on the activities of FPO was done. Some of the discussion during these meetings is:



- Strengthening farmer capacity through agricultural best practices for enhanced productivity.
- Ensuring access and usage of quality inputs and services for intensive agriculture production and enhancing cluster competitiveness.
- Facilitating access to fair and remunerative markets including linking of producer groups to marketing opportunities through market aggregators.

#### **Impact–**

- Farmers enhanced their understanding towards marketing and networking.
- Enhanced understanding to prepare business plan
- Project staff also influenced and increased their understanding about components of FPO.

#### **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**

Two-thirds of India is drought-prone: In 2017, 425/706 district across 19 states were declared drought affected, with consequential social, health and economic implications on women, specifically their access to WASH. Bundelkhand region (13 districts spread across Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh) is one of the most backward regions with poor WASH coverage.

Successful WASH programming in drought-prone regions is possible through women led approaches that work on the principle of leaving “No one behind”.

The specific government of India’s drinking water and sanitation programmes for rural and urban India exist, but given the diversity, and increasing occurrence of disasters like droughts

and floods, the challenges are daunting. Water quality is a serious problem due to biological and chemical contamination, including fluoride and arsenic. Reports predict a 50% gap between demand and supply of water by 2030.

Parmarth's philosophy is based on values of equity and inclusion, keeping women at the centre of all endeavours, leading to the creation and sustained usage of WASH infrastructure. Sustainability forms the core of all the work and includes interventions such as water source strengthening, operation and maintenance and behaviour change.

The main emphasis of the WASH-related intervention has been on creating, developing and strengthening local capacities at the village level. This year, right from the beginning, through a participatory process, Village Water Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) were set up in all the villages. This community-based institutional mechanism has built a cadre of non-partisan, gender inclusive youth groups to plan implement and monitor personal hygiene, sanitation and water conservation concerns in their respective villages. The local level decision-making process has been participatory and transparent. Monthly meetings to consolidate the activities of previous months and plan for the future have been an essential mechanism to monitor the project activities. The information shared during VWSC meetings were about norms, provisions and eligibility criteria for accessing social security schemes, MGNREGA, Swachh Bharat Mission and other government programmes.

**Child Health Clubs:** In each village, one health club has been formed with the strength of more than 12-15 children. The thirty health clubs with member strength of about 377 have been playing a critical role in promoting sanitation and hygiene practices within the school and in their communities. The project team has organized about 22 meetings with overwhelming participation of 372 children in total. The meetings were held every fortnight. The health club activities have seen its impact over the years. Through these clubs, students were made aware of the hygiene and sanitation issues and were empowered to participate in decisions that concern WASH. The children's attitude and behaviour towards sanitation issue have changed to a large extent.



**Child Cabinets:** Child Cabinets have been formed in 30 villages which comprise active children of the respective schools. The cabinet has been playing a major role in involving the students in day-to-day school activities. The cabinet consists of a Pradhan Mantri (Prime Minister) who has seven Mantris (Ministers) and helpers from senior classes. The various cabinet ministers are *Shiksha Mantri, Pehchaan Mantri, Vichaar Mantri, Swachhta Mantri, Khel Mantri, Swastha Mantri, Sanskriti Mantri, Swaagat Mantri and Paryavaran Mantri*. The Child Cabinet meetings



are facilitated solely by children. The ministers are elected by the voting process. Children who are good in studies and regularly attend school are elected as ministers. The ministers role and responsibilities include planting trees, keeping their surroundings clean, maintaining discipline in school, checking hygiene of students, encouraging students to participate in sports or cultural events, arrangements for cultural programmes, checking WASH facilities in school i.e. availability of soaps for hand washing, fetching water, providing water for drinking water or clean toilets, ensuring that garbage is dumped in a specified area only and other related concerns. 29 child cabinets were set up and 2830 children have become members of the cabinets in the project villages.

Teachers and School Management Committee (SMCs) have also been participating in the meetings and providing all guidance and support desired by the child cabinets to function and carry out their responsibilities.

The Child Cabinets have been mainly formed for creating awareness among children on WASH issues and for empowering them with a leadership quality and a sense of responsibility. This helps them to highlight the problems impacting them and for creating awareness about their rights and encouraging them to take action. Formation of Child Cabinets in schools has been an opportunity for children to speak out on issues of WASH which impact them, for e.g. lack of drinking water or functional toilets in the schools. The cabinets have not only empowered children but also increased their understanding about their own rights and are shaping their personality.

**Village Water & Sanitation Committee (VWSC):** Water is a natural resource and everyone has the same right to access it. To ensure better management of water resources; to promote access and control of community over resources and to lead collective efforts in resolving the community water, sanitation and health issues, village level CBOs have been established as “*Jal Swaccha Samiti* or VWSC” with prioritization on women & SC, ST women.



One Village Water and Sanitation Committees were formed in every project village. The committee comprises of all village households as members of the general body. It further has an executive committee of 15 – 30 members representing all sections of the community in the village. Youth from the communities have been proactively participating as members of VWSCs. Gender wise 63% (474) males and 37% (278) females are members in VWSCs.

The members were selected through a voting process and interested individuals who have been taking an active part in community-related decisions or voicing their opinion were selected as



members. The project-led instituted committees also regulated the official Village Water Supply and Sanitation Committee and the Village Health & Sanitation Committees formed by the Government. Government functionaries like WARD members, ICDS workers and ASHA workers were also part of these committees.

Successfully operational since the last three years, the committees have contributed in planning, execution and monitoring of activities, including developing the Village Water User Master Plan. The committees engaged in developing Community Water Use Master Plans at village and Gram Panchayat levels with the objective of identifying, conserving and rationally using water resources. Water budgeting was also done accordingly.

Overall 739 committee meetings were held and about 15,687 people participated over a span of three years. Every VWSC meets once in a month to take stock of the actions undertaken and plan for the future action plan. The meetings have proven to be very effective and an important democratic engagement tool. Meeting registers were also maintained which record the proceedings on the agenda of the meetings. The initiatives taken by the committee are either funded by Project Holders, Panchayat or self-funded by the community itself.

In the VWSCs meetings, the project objectives and goals were discussed by the facilitators. Awareness was created among members about health and hygiene issues, keeping the surroundings clean, construction and usage of toilets, safe drinking water, repairing of water sources, and construction of drainage. In the meetings, micro-planning related to water, sanitation and other concerned issues were done. During the meetings, the project facilitator explained in detail about the WASH agenda, need of construction of soak pit, technical aspects of toilet construction, hand washing practices, safe drinking water availability, provisions, norms & eligibility of government schemes, etc.

The members encouraged villagers to construct toilets in their homes. Villagers were also motivated to prepare kitchen gardens near the washing area and increase use of *matka filters*. The role of female members was to talk about hygiene issues with women.

Regular community meetings, household visits and participatory planning process have been instrumental in bringing forth the desired change.

### **Impact**

- As a result of this intervention, the villagers developed leadership qualities.
- Demand for toilet construction has increased and almost 80% of the households have got toilets constructed in their homes.
- Hand washing practices have changed to a large extent and villagers now use soap for hand washing, keep their surroundings clean and as a result, fewer people fall sick.
- The villagers have understood the project's importance and support it whole-heartedly.
- Villagers approach the VWSC committee for taking suggestions or getting other



problems resolved such as availing old age pension schemes i.e. Vridhha Awastha Pension Yojana.

- Water availability problems have been addressed to a great extent i.e. tanker water has been supplied during summer, mini water supply has been installed or repaired, hand pumps were repaired, platforms and soak pits were constructed around hand pumps, pipelines were extended to areas where there was no water supply, water recharge wells and sanitary wells were constructed.
- Model eco-toilets were built and the wastewater was diverted to kitchen gardens.
- Tree gardens were prepared by villagers.
- The community was sensitized and started raising issues before government officials. As a result toilet construction demand increased and a total 875 toilets were constructed in project village through panchayat convergence.
- The community also started using toll-free numbers of the government for handpump repairing.
- 30 hand pumps were repaired to resolve the problems related to scarcity of drinking water & about another 30 hand pumps repairing was undertaken through Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) in Mastapur, Bhourkhari, Bhourgarh, Paniyari, Panchampura, Baro, Sewar, Panaya, Pratappura, Bamhori khurd, Maunpura, Pagras pura villages.
- 2 mini water supply points were installed apart from making the dysfunctional mini water supply systems operational.

#### **Repairing and Renovation of Water Supply Schemes**

4 Mini water supply schemes which had become defunct due to lack of maintenance and negligence were revived. The mini water supply is being accessed through hand pumps or piped water supply. With four functional mini water supply units, 1970 people (1101 males and 869 females) of 434 households are now accessing water for their daily needs.

The defunct Mini Water Supply unit in Mastapur was unable to meet the needs of the people due to drought. There was requirement for another such unit with a deeper and larger bore. However, the PHED & Panchayat refused to do so. After consultation with PSSS, VWSC met the District Magistrate of Tikamgarh and organized a public hearing. Several demonstration and consultation with range of departments especially the PHED finally resulted in the installation of a new unit with 300 M depth. This has been a great example of community mobilization to secure rights to water. Another mini water supply was repaired in Pratappura of Bada Malhera Block.

S No	Village	Mini Water Supply	Household	Villagers
1	Nadiya	Water Tank Yadav Mohalla (2000 litre)	34	157 (Male- 89   Female- 68)
2		Water tank Ahirwar and	47	243 (Male- 137

		Paal Mohlla (2000 litre)		Female- 106)
3	Pratapura	Mini Water Supply Scheme Repairing (350 meters)	120	542 (Male- 319 Female- 223)
4		Water Tanki (7000 litre)	65	297(Male- 163 Female- 134)
5	Mastapur	Mini Water Supply Scheme Repairing (300 meters)	168	731 (Male- 393 Female-338)

#### **Creation for Sanitary Well Protection**

The selected dysfunctional dug wells in the project villages have been covered to ensure that the water available is clean for drinking purpose and there is no contamination. The wells are covered at the top to prevent contamination. Water from the dug wells is drawn through hand pumps and motorized system to reduce drudgery. Around 933 villagers in 220 families i.e., about 55 families in Paniyari village and 165 families in Bhourgarh village are driving benefit and it has also reduced the incidence of waterborne diseases.



#### **3.2.2.3 Recharge Well and Bore Well**

The groundwater has depleted rapidly. In the project villages, the dug wells and borewells have dried up due to excessive use of groundwater for agricultural purpose. Parmarth focused on creating groundwater recharging system by converting bore wells and dug wells into recharge wells. The VWSCs have taken the lead in identifying such dried wells. The technical team of PSSS prepared the ground plan. A cylindrical earth excavation was undertaken around the dug/ bore well. In case of bore well, perforation was done around the PVC pipe and it was wrapped with nylon nets. The excavated area was filled with sands and brick like a soak pit. Water from nearby catchment area was channelized into the bore well or dug well. The intervention led to recharging groundwater by converting four borewells in Nandanpur village, two borewells in Tapran village and one in Baro village into recharge wells. In the villages of Sewar, Jasguwakala and Jagatnagar, the wells are also converted into recharge wells.

##### **Initiatives**

Recharge well in Jagatnagar village with a catchment area of 10 acres was restructured to improve its efficiency so as to directly benefit 65 families of SC community.

#### **3.2.2.4 Roof Top Rainwater Harvesting**

Three rainwater harvesting structures were created in the Middle School of Panya village, Primary & Middle School & Panchayat Bhawan in Futwari village and Middle school & Gram Panchayat Bhawan in Bhourgarh village. These rooftop structures are channelizing rainwater into a soak pit through a pipe to recharge the groundwater table.



### 3.2.2.5 Soak Pit Construction at Water Sources

In the project villages, the drainage around hand pumps have been in very poor state of affairs. Water logging, mosquitoes breeding & waste strewn around were the common site and was leading to the contamination of water. The villagers have been using these water sources for all purposes. With the active participation of VWSC representatives, 32 soak pits were constructed around the hand pumps. The soak pit is a covered, porous-walled chamber that allows water to slowly soak into the ground. It not only recharges the ground water with the waste water but also helps in maintaining cleanliness around the hand pump by providing a proper drainage system. 3852 families are now able to access safe drinking water in hygienic condition due to these hand pumps linked soak pits.



### WASH Water Treatment at the Household Level and using it for Kitchen Gardening

The wastewater from the households was efficiently utilized by diverting the discharged water into the kitchen gardens set up at the backyards. The intervention was also aimed at providing increased access to nutritious diverse food to create a healthy community and enhancing households' income. It also contributed in environmental benefits from recycling water & waste nutrients, maintaining or increasing local biodiversity and decreased risk through diversification. On-field, training was given to villagers for developing kitchen gardens. Observing the results of these kitchen gardens, other households had also shown interest to start kitchen gardens. The local and seasonal vegetables are being grown. With the very enthusiastic response from the communities, 157 kitchen gardens were set up which directly benefited 737 families. The kitchen gardens are set up in eight villages as shown below:



S No	Villages	No of Kitchen Gardens
1	Panchampura	22
2	Nadiya	32
3	Tapran Gour	13
4	Paniyari	24
5	Bhourgarh	18
6	Jagatnagar	12

7	Bhourkhari	17
8	Mastapur	19

### 3.2.3 Pieces of training on Handpump Repairing

The major reason of dysfunctional hand pumps was mainly due to substandard drilling, washer or fulcrum failure. The accessibility of the technicians or engineers through water supply department to address the problem takes longer than expected. The project identified this as an important area to provide a solution. VWSC members were selected to be trained in hand pump repairing. Therefore, two days of training on handpump repairing was organized on December 17 & 18, 2016 with 42 participants. The training focussed on maintenance of water sources, drinking water utility, hand pumps anatomy, repairing techniques followed by field demonstration on repairing the hand pump in Tapran village.

### 3.2.4 Water Testing Trainings and Monitoring of Water Quality

The portability of water is equally important as is the accessibility of water. Contaminated drinking water is the cause of various diseases in the community. It was important to test the quality of water and treat it as per the contamination identified. With this purpose, water testing training were conducted. The training was designed for the community members to enable them to test their drinking water sources. The economical, leak-proof, field-ready water testing kits called *Jal Tara* which can test 14 parameters including physical (pH, Temperature, Turbidity, Hardness), chemical (Arsenic, Chloride, Fluoride, Iron, Nitrate, Residual Chlorine, Dissolved Oxygen, Phosphorous, Ammonia) and biological parameters (Coliform Bacteria, Benthic Diversity) were made available to these trained community members.



Following the training, the water testing was done for 1097 water sources of 20 villages of the project area. Eight microbiologically contaminated water sources were completely disinfected. Water hardness in three water sources was high due to excess calcium and magnesium. These test reports were submitted to PHED department and prompt action was taken by the department to chlorinate the water sources.

In the VWSC committee meetings, the communities were informed about water contaminants and how much dosage of it could be harmful to the users. The community was also told about how to do crude testing using detergent soap at their household level.

The training has given the confidence, adequate tools and built community capacities to check the quality of the water they drink. The trained community members are now providing the testing facility to the community.



### Introduction of Water Filter at Household Level- *Matka filter*

*Matka Filter* has been a very innovative, economical, scalable, low maintenance and simple technology based filter to provide safe and clean water to the villagers. The project staff organized overwhelmingly series of 20 such pieces of trainings to the community, VWSCs and child cabinet members. With the increased number of trainings 885 beneficiaries had access to potable water.

The selected villages had excessive iron and bacteriological contamination in drinking water. These earthen pitcher filters were the suitable alternative solution for the area. A modified *Matka filter* (earthen pitcher) which had the advantage of following a local technique along with providing safe drinking water was developed. This specially designed earthen pitcher filter is made out of locally available clay, sand, charcoal and brick. Thus, this initiative also contributed in certain ways to enhancing opportunities in local livelihoods.



Activity	Planned	Achieved	Beneficiaries
Low-cost Water filter installation and maintenance training	2	20	885

The villages and beneficiaries of *Matka filter* are listed below:

1. Panchampura - 94	11. Panya - 62
2. Lakhepur - 38	12. Nayakhara - 32
3. Padwar - 51	13. Ranipura - 37
4. Nadiya - 30	14. Tapran Gaur - 48
5. Bihar - 36	15. Bhourgarh - 28
6. Jagatnagar - 72	16. Nandanpur - 43
7. Dara - 28	17. Tapriyan - 39
8. Ranipura - 34	18. Kuwarpura - 46
9. Baro - 55	29. Paniyari - 24
10. Sewar - 48	

- **Gandhi Jayanti- Swachha Bharat Abhiyan:** To sensitize the community and enhance their awareness towards water conservation and personal hygiene practices, a sanitation rally was organized on October 02, 2016 to commemorate Gandhi Jayanti in Mastapur Village of Tikamgarh district. The programme focused on the importance of toilet usage

and for maintaining cleanliness in the village. The community was also sensitized about the construction of model toilet, hand washing and wastewater treatment. The rally had the participation of 88 adults and 112 children from the community.

- **World Hand Wash Day (WHWD):** A global hand washing day dedicated to increasing awareness and understanding about the importance of hand washing with soap as an effective and affordable way to prevent diseases and save lives was observed on Oct 16. Global Hand washing Day is an opportunity to design, test, and replicate creative ways to encourage the rural community to wash their hands with soap at critical times like before taking food, after using the toilet, after finishing field works, etc. On October 2016, the hand washing day was celebrated in three villages i.e. Bhorgarh, Panya & Pratappura of Tikamgarh and Chhatarpur districts. A rally was conducted in which 418 villagers were sensitized about the model toilet, hand washing and wastewater treatment. In October 2016, two awareness rallies and four awareness meetings were organized in Mastapur, Panchampura, Baro and Sewar villages with the participation of 512 participants. Slogans, pamphlets and posters were used as a tool to focus on hand washing, hygiene practices and use of potable water. Awareness meeting were also organized in primary schools and children were informed about hand washing tools. The Anganwadi representatives, ASHA, village representatives, teachers and students actively participated in the activities. At the end of the event, **Sanitation Chair Race** was also organized in the schools and winners were awarded.
- **International Women's Day (IWD):** International Women's Day was observed on March 8 to spread the message of women's empowerment. In the celebrations at Mastapur village, Women and girl students participated in a rally and also conducted a meeting on water-related issues, water scarcity and its impact on women and solutions.

#### **Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) Exercises and Follow-up Meetings**

The CLTS exercises with a number of participatory steps were conducted to motivate villagers to construct toilets and regularly & hygienically use them. To sensitize the village level community towards sanitation and hygiene practices, 48 CLTS exercises were conducted in selected villages with the participation of 3214 villagers. These exercises were done in Sevar, Bhorgarh, Jasgavankala, Padwar, Mounpura, Bamani, Kunwarapura, Lalhepura, Futwari, Bihar, Padwar, Ranipura villages in Tikamgarh & Chhatarpur districts of the Madhya Pradesh. The programme enhanced the villagers understanding through demonstration about the ill effects of open defecation, water-borne diseases and also on the benefits of toilet usage. As a result of these exercises, defunct hand





pumps were given to PHED department for repair and maintenance, toilets were constructed and members of VWSC committee regularly followed-up with project team members for construction & regular use of these toilets

#### **CLTS follow up meetings**

The follow-up meetings were also conducted in the villages where CLTS exercises were done which led to motivating villagers to construct toilets. 2354 toilets were constructed through the facilitation of PSSS team for 11368 people including 44% females.

#### **Sanitation awareness training to students, teachers and school management committees**

The project team has conducted follow up sessions on hand washing practices in 12 villages with 934 children. The importance of hand washing in checking water born diseases and other health problems was highlighted in the sessions. It was heartening to learn that children who have received orientation in their schools through PSSS intervention have started practising hand washing with soap and have also have been motivating their family members for washing their hands

In the schools through child cabinets and health clubs, 28 hygiene and sanitation programmes were organized involving 3716 children.

#### **Technical Support on Low-Cost Technologies i.e. Model Low-Cost Eco Toilet**

Parmarth envisioned the creation of low-cost demonstrable models of toilets along with training on sanitation practices. In the model eco toilet, two alternative pits were connected to a toilet. The black water (and in some cases grey water) was collected in the pits and allowed to slowly infiltrate into the surrounding soil. The solids get sufficiently dewatered over time and can be manually removed with a shovel and reused on-site like a compost to improve soil fertility. To prevent groundwater pollution, the wastewater was diverted to the kitchen garden to efficiently utilize the water. A bathroom was also constructed along with the model toilet. Twenty model toilets have been constructed, which is benefitting 106 families' members (male - 59 and female- 47).



The villages of Tapriyan, Nandanpur, Bamni, Ranipura, Surajpura Khurd, Baro, Panchampura, Padwar, Bhourgarh, Ranikhera, Kuwarpura, Paniyari, Mastapur, Nadiya, Jagatnagar, Tapran Gor, Panya, Jasguvankala, Panyari and Bhorkhari were selected to construct the model toilets. These models toilet design has been also shared with the district administration and panchayats.

S no	Water, Sanitation and hygiene	Number (structures/ beneficiaries)
1	WASH and nutrition training	28
2	Roof Top Water Harvesting Structure	02
3	Mini Water Supply	02
4	Borewell recharge	5
5	Sanitary Well Protection	02
6	Converting Well to Recharge Well	02
7	Toilet construction	1647
8	Soak pits	05
9	Water testing	41 sources
10	Kitchen garden	202
11	Community-led total sanitation practices ( CLTS )	12 Villages

### Child Protection and Child Rights

The Drought epidemic in Bundelkhand region results in high rate of migration of poor people for livelihood. Most Men from villages migrate for livelihood leaving behind only women, elderly and children in the village. There is no food security for the women and children and this results in children leaving education and falling in the trap of child malpractices like child labour and child abuse. Hence, to ensure child protection and needs of these vulnerable children Parmarth launched CHILDLINE Project in Jhansi city for children in need of aid and assistance. Parmarth conducted 703 outreach programmes for these children. Parmarth worked on the protection of the rights of vulnerable children like street children, child labourers, cases of child abuse and abandoned and missing children. Parmarth not only responds to the emergency needs of children but also link them to services for their long-term care and rehabilitation. Till now it has reached out to over 328 Children across Jhansi through such calls.

### Education and Vocation Training

#### Girl child Education *Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya*

The organization has been implementing district administration project for drop out girls' children in Jalaun district of Uttar Pradesh. The purpose of the project is to provide education facilities for girls' children belonging to SCs, STs, OBCs, minority communities and families below





the poverty line. 75 % enrollment is reserved for girls from SC, ST, OBC and minority and the other 25 % to girls from families below the poverty line.

PARMARTH is running this KGBV residential school with the objective to ensure access and quality education to the girls of disadvantaged groups of society. 100 girls student are studying in Kasturba Gandhi Residential School, which is running at Jalaun. Students are coming from surrounding villages and urban locations. Girls student are receiving a quality education for the 6-8 standard of school education. The students are also receiving Vocational Skill Training in Tailoring & Stitching trade. They are also getting computer education.

#### **Vocational Training for adolescent girls and women:**

Parmarth started Usha stitching centre with an aim to work with the adolescent girls to develop their inherent latent potentialities, which would bring about a holistic development for the society at large. This is a community-based initiative with the aim of empowering village women to become entrepreneurs and teach sewing and stitching within the precincts of their homes. This programme is necessarily "inclusive" in character, thereby implying that the programme is implemented for the economically poor irrespective of caste, class, religion or creed. Parmarth is running 96 Usha Silai Schools .



There is an increased demand from the community about starting Silai Schools in the nearby villages and hence we have now also started the Satellite Silai Schools (SSS). Under the SSS model, Silai Schools would be started by any women knowing sewing and stitching (preferably a learner from the existing Silai School) in the neighboring village. They would teach others and build capacity of women as per their needs. There are 30 running Satellite Silai Schools .

#### **Women Empowerment**

Bundelkhand has been dominant by feudal and patriarchal culture which has made women the worst sufferers in this backward region. Parmarth from the beginning believed in participation of women in socio, economic and political development. Parmarth developed and strengthened model of Mahila Samuh at village and block level. The members of these groups have led various women empowerment programmes in the villages.



In all the programmes of Parmarth , women have been in the forefront. The village development plan is made with at least 50 % of participation of women . Parmarth runs reflect centres through which adult women can learn to read and write and later replicate the learning in their day to day work.



The brunt of the water crisis in Drought conditions in summers is also faced most by the women as they have to travel and fetch water for drinking, cooking and household purpose. Mahila Samuh identified places where there was no water and repaired the hand pumps as well as got new hand pumps installed in their villages. Earlier, long hours for fetching water, made women exhausted and tired. Now, due to efforts of community members, the women do not have travel long distance for water.

Parmarth also build capacity of women through trainings to participate actively in governance by participating in Panchayat elections. The *Panchayat* members were also trained on gender issues and it was assured that women have full participation in planning the development activities of their village.

Livelihood for small women farmers was enhanced by giving them priority in providing irrigation facility and seeds through seed banks. Cases of violence against women were also successfully handled by women samuh. Campaign on violence against women was carried to create awareness and plan action plan for women suffering from domestic violence. Parmarth also assured that The PCDPT act and Dowry Prevention Act were implemented properly at the grass root level

## Health & Nutrition

### Care & Support of malnourished children

The organization conducted health & nutrition camps in villages and created awareness about preventive health care measures among community members. Sanitation and Hygiene issues were also discussed in these camps. The organization identified malnourished children and shared information on nutritious food intake during the meetings.

The organization identified malnourished children in the project areas with the support of local village level Anganwadi workers. It was observed that many infants are malnourished. It was also observed that malnourished infants were not receiving proper attention from their respective Anganwadi center. The drought condition in the region further aggregated the problem of malnourishment as the families' members were facing problems in livelihood. In this situation, the project has provided nutritional kit to 65 malnourished children in project villages. (Nutritional Kit - ground nut, 2.5 kg of molasses, milk butter, 2 kg pulses of moong, 1 kg of soyabari (ghee), dry fruit, etc). This immediate support





helped in addressing the nutritional need of malnourished children during drought period to respective families.

The organization has also been implementing Target Intervention Project in Jalaun district of Uttar Pradesh. The purpose of the intervention is to reduce incidences of HIV / AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases (STI) among the high-risk groups (HRGs). The organization has covered 280 Female Sex Worker (FSW) and 394 Intravenous Drug Users (IDU) towards social mainstreaming. The organization has also created awareness on the issues of safe sex, prevention of HIV/AIDS, etc. FWS /IDUs are using the curative measures consistently in the project areas. HRGs have also received benefits from social security schemes. The organization has conducted health camps and created awareness about nutrition and maternal & newborn childcare agenda in the project areas.



#### **Livestock promotion:**

Livestock is an important source of livelihood in the Bundelkhand Region of India. Livestock rearing is contributing to household income, employment and nutritional security. Farmers are adopting a mixed farming system (crop-livestock) to counter frequent crop failures. Among livestock, goat is most common and is reared by more than 75 percent households, irrespective of landholding size or caste. Besides assured income, employment and nutrition, goat-rearing support crop production by providing cash for the purchase of critical inputs in financial distress and risk aversion in case of crop failure. Therefore, the goat has one of the most inclusive growth rates among livestock. In the mixed species grazing system, goats browse on plants which are less preferred by other livestock species and thus add flexibility to the management of livestock. Therefore, goat-rearing is sustainable even in fragile environments of Bundelkhand region.



In this regard, Parmarth is making a social impact through low-cost microcredit to the small and marginal farmer. Under this programme, the organization has supported 126 small and marginal farmers or women for goat rearing. This support contributed to increasing the socio-economic condition of the target community.

### **Association for Democratic Reform**

Numbers of activities were undertaken for bringing the community closer to the election issues. These activities range from committee formation and planning to establish linkages with the government officials and various civil society organizations for their support at various level of community awareness.

A district-level committee in each of the districts has been formed. The role of the committee was to hold monthly meetings on the election process and to suggest on good practices to be followed by the voters in the elections.

There were regular meetings held at the districts to plan, review and strategize the awareness raising programme in the district.



A Youth Workshop was also organized on election reform. The participants were briefed about the rights of a citizen as a voter. The training covered the issues of election code of conduct, information on the use of ethical practices, use of IEC material; slogan writing, etc. Many activities like *pad yatra*, awareness rallies, slogan shouting, street plays, wall paintings, hoardings, radio station convention and signature campaign were organized to raise awareness among the voters.

### **Partnership**

- European Union
- Welthungerhilfe
- NABARD
- Hindustan Unilever Limited
- Indo Global Social Service Society
- Catholic Relief Service
- Action Aid
- Infosys India Foundation
- PwC India Foundation
- Asia Initiative
- Save Indian Farmers
- USHA International



- **Rajiv Gandhi Watershed Mission, Madhya Pradesh**
- **Sarv Siksha Abhiyan**

#### **Networks and Collaboration**

- Jal Saheli Networks – Community based organization with membership drive
- PANI PANCHAYAT – Community based organizations working on water conservation, protection and management issues for promotion of livelihood and ensuring long-term sustainable means of livelihood issues
- Public representatives - Citizen Action Forum
- Right to Food Campaign, India - “Right to Food, Work & Nutrition Security Network
- Jal Jan Jodo Abhiyaan - Jal Jan Jodo Abhiyan provided leadership in taking forward the agenda of water conservation, protection & management in different parts of the country. PARMARTH SAMAJ SEVI SANSTHAN provides secretariat support and it has strong presence in Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh & Madhya Pradesh.
- Human Rights Law Network
- Association for Democratic Rights / U.P Election Watch
- Gender at Work

#### **Publication and Media**

