

# The Journey Towards Sustainability...



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## ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17



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## President's Message

Society for the Upliftment of Villagers & Development of Himalayan Areas (popularly known as SUVIDHA) has made gigantic strides since its inception in the year 2004. SUVIDHA has been actively engaged in its work of promotion of sustainable agriculture, conservation and utilization of local resources to achieve ecological balance and build sustainable livelihoods. Top priority has been accorded to encourage small and marginal Indian farmers to adopt sustainable organic agricultural practices as an alternative livelihood strategy and sustained rural development.

As we move ahead of another milestone, it gives me great pleasure to share with you some of our experiences, challenges and achievements for the year 2016-2017. SUVIDHA continued its work across many areas of organic farming, alternative source of energy and capacity building programmes to empower the Panchayat representatives in states of Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Uttarakhand.

In Chhattisgarh and Odisha, SUVIDHA has been tirelessly advocating for an organic regulation that meets the needs of small and marginal organic farmers from safeguarding farming to positioning and demonstrating the role of organic farming in mitigating climate change and protecting biodiversity. In Chhattisgarh SUVIDHA's organic farming project is covering 1496 farmers in 3 districts of the state namely, Raipur, Narayanpur and Mahasamund. The project is being implemented with the support of Directorate of Horticulture & Farm Forestry, Government of Chhattisgarh under various schemes of National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY).

SUVIDHA's project on organic farming in Odisha is covering 69 villages in Cuttack, Jajpur, Balangir and Kalahandi districts with the participation of 2660 farmers. To further its endeavour SUVIDHA in 2017 has extended its Climate Project to Odisha to support the marginal and small farmers. SUVIDHA is in the process of registering a project under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) for the promotion of renewable energy resources through Biogas Plants programme.

In Uttarakhand, SUVIDHA partners with rural communities in remote villages to gain benefits of organic biogas production. Under a Gold Standard project registered on 16 February 2016, SUVIDHA took the initiative to construct domestic Biogas units for rural families in three blocks (namely Ramnagar, Haldwani and Kotabagh) of Nainital district in Uttarakhand. SUVIDHA has so far, constructed a total of 1445 Biogas Plant units out of which a total of 810 units have been commissioned. And SUVIDHA plans to cover 10 Lack Rural Women in this Carbon Emmission Reduction Business in next 5 years.

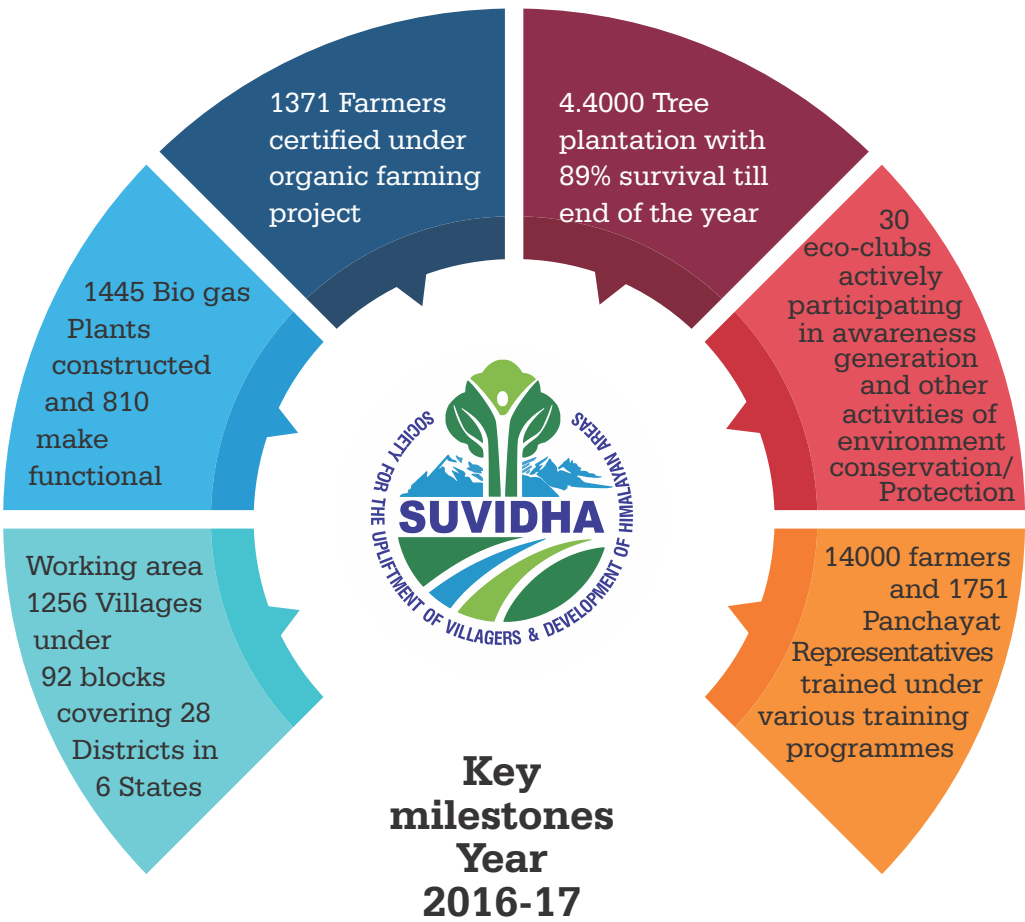
SUVIDHA's concern has been sustainable livelihood development and ecology of hills with an emphasis on agriculture, natural resource management and environment. In the year 2016-17, SUVIDHA successfully implemented a tree plantation program through active community participation in Bhimtal block of Nainital district of Uttarakhand. The initiative was successful in reinforcing the core of SUVIDHA's work.

Strengthening the role of elected leaders in institutions of local governance was also one of the major achievements of the organization. In the year of 2016 - 2017 SUVIDHA trained a total 1751 representatives including panchayat representatives and government officials covering Haldwani, Ramnagar, Bhimtal and Okhalanda development blocks in Nainital district.

Despite all the challenges, with the contributions of dedicated team members of SUVIDHA, we were able to successfully accomplish the targets set for the year. I take this opportunity to convey my sincere gratitude to all the stakeholders, funding partners, service providers, our patrons in India and abroad for their unfailing support and contributions towards the realisation of the vision and collective dreams of the organisation.



Deepak Pandey  
President, SUVIDHA



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# SUVIDHA Uttarakhand

**T**his consolidated report outlines strategic interventions of SUVIDHA in rural areas of Uttarakhand during the year 2016-17. The efforts includes successful implantation of biogas plants to promote them as an alternative source of energy in the villages, plantation of various species to improve fodder cultivation and meet out scarcity of fodder in the villages, formation of eco clubs with school children to sensitize them on environmental conservation and ecological restoration in the vicinity and organized various capacity building programmes for empowerment of three-tier Panchayat representatives on their rights and duties.

SUVIDHA's core activities in the reporting year were concentrated around selected blocks of District Nainital located in Kumaon Division of Uttarakhand.



Table –1

# SUVIDHA's Coverage in District Nainital at a glance

Blocks	Haldwani	Kotabagh	Ramnagar	Total
No. of Villages	58	13	17	88
No. of households (hh)/ beneficiaries	548 (of which 544 are woman headed hh)	337 (of which 334 are woman headed hh)	659 (of which 648 are woman headed hh)	1544
No. of Biogas Plants Built	519	298	628	1445
No. of Biogas Plants commissioned	265	108	437	810



## SUVIDHA's Project “PRAYAS” on Biogas Plants – Nainital District

Clean & Renewable Energy and Environment



SUVIDHA, under the *Emission Reduction Purchase Agreement (ERPA)* with the support of Fair Climate Network along with INDIGO's Passenger Contribution towards clean climate undertook the Biogas plant project for constructing 6,000 Biogas plant units in three years starting from 2016 to 2019 for rural households of Uttarakhand. The objective is to replace the non-renewable fuel wood with renewable biogas energy as efficient methods of cooking thereby reducing GHG emissions that contribute to climate change. Biogas is seen as a clean fuel, and provides a feasible alternative to cooking gas.

The aim is to cut carbon emissions by working on carbon retention and judicious use of natural resources. The project is to address sustainable development of the communities within the project area.

The fuel wood is the only major source of energy for cooking purposes in rural Uttarakhand. In general villagers fulfill their energy need mostly from the forests due to their marginal socio-economic conditions and due to their inhabitation in typical hilly terrain. Here in Uttarakhand agriculture and animal husbandry contributes a significant portion to the state's economy, which usually been carried out by almost each and every household except landless farmers.

Therefore cow-dung is easily available at every household. Biogas provides renewable energy that generates and delivers heat from animal dung which is non-fossil and non-depletable energy sources. Biogas plants play a crucial role in meeting energy needs of villagers in rural and hilly areas. Therefore the objective of the bio gas plant project is mainly to provide clear fuel energy for cooking purposes and also for other



applications for reducing the use of LPG and other conventional fuels in the rural areas of the state.

SUVIDHA was registered under a Gold Standard Project on 16 February 2016 to construct domestic Biogas plant units in rural households of district Nainital in Uttarakhand. The proposal and the final project blueprint was prepared after a comprehensive assessment of energy usages and household surveys followed by many village level discussions and demonstrations. The project is currently being implemented in Corbett



Landscape of Nainital district covering three major blocks situated in plains of Himalaya namely Haldwani, Kotabagh and Ramnagar. A total of 88 villages were identified in these blocks for constructing family sized biogas plants. Uttarakhand has a total area of 53,483 km, of which 86% is mountainous and 65% is covered by the green forest. Nainital district has 72% of forest coverage in proportion to its total geographic area.

Fuel wood collection and consumption are intricately linked to degradation of natural resource management. The non-sustainable extraction of forest resources results in the loss of biodiversity. Fuel wood as an energy source has disadvantages such as contributing to forest degradation, carbon and methane production from burning, and health hazards from household air pollution. The project aims to achieve significant level of reduction in carbon emissions and also benefits for the beneficiaries with Carbon Revenues in three blocks of Nainital district.

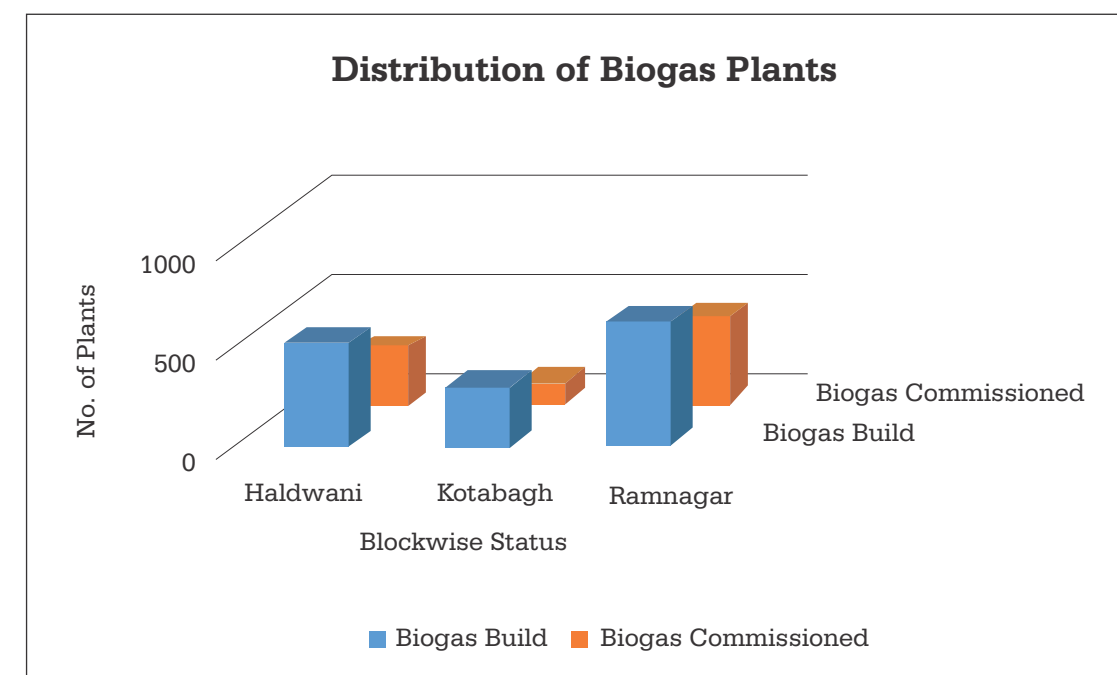
## Climate Change – Adaptation and Mitigation

Climate change affects all sectors of human society. Addressing the effects of climate change is a real challenge not only for the scientists and researchers indulged in researching and exploring the mitigation and adaptation strategies as technical concern but also for common people living in every nook and corner of the globe to develop understanding and awareness to climate change adaptation in order to ensure sustainable development and survival of their lives and the earth.

At the global level the world community agreed to ratify and approve Paris Agreement entered into force on 4 November 2016 held under the United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP 21 or CMP 11 in Paris, France. The participating countries agreed, by consensus, to reduce emissions as part of the method for reducing greenhouse gas. The Paris Agreement aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

### The project is under implementation and the activities mainly includes:-

- (I) Construction of Biogas Plants
- (ii) Awareness Generation on Carbon Emission and Reduction
- (iii) Formation of Biogas Consumer Groups.



**Figure 1:**  
**Distribution of**  
**Biogas Plants -**  
**Blocks in**  
**Nainital District**

Total 1445 Biogas Plant units have been built under the project out of which 810 units have been commissioned. As shown in **Table 1 and clear from fig. 1** that 519 bio gas plants have been built in Haldwani of which 265 have been commissioned, 298 plants built in Kotabagh of which 108 have been commissioned and 628 plants built in Ramnagar out of which 437 have been commissioned.

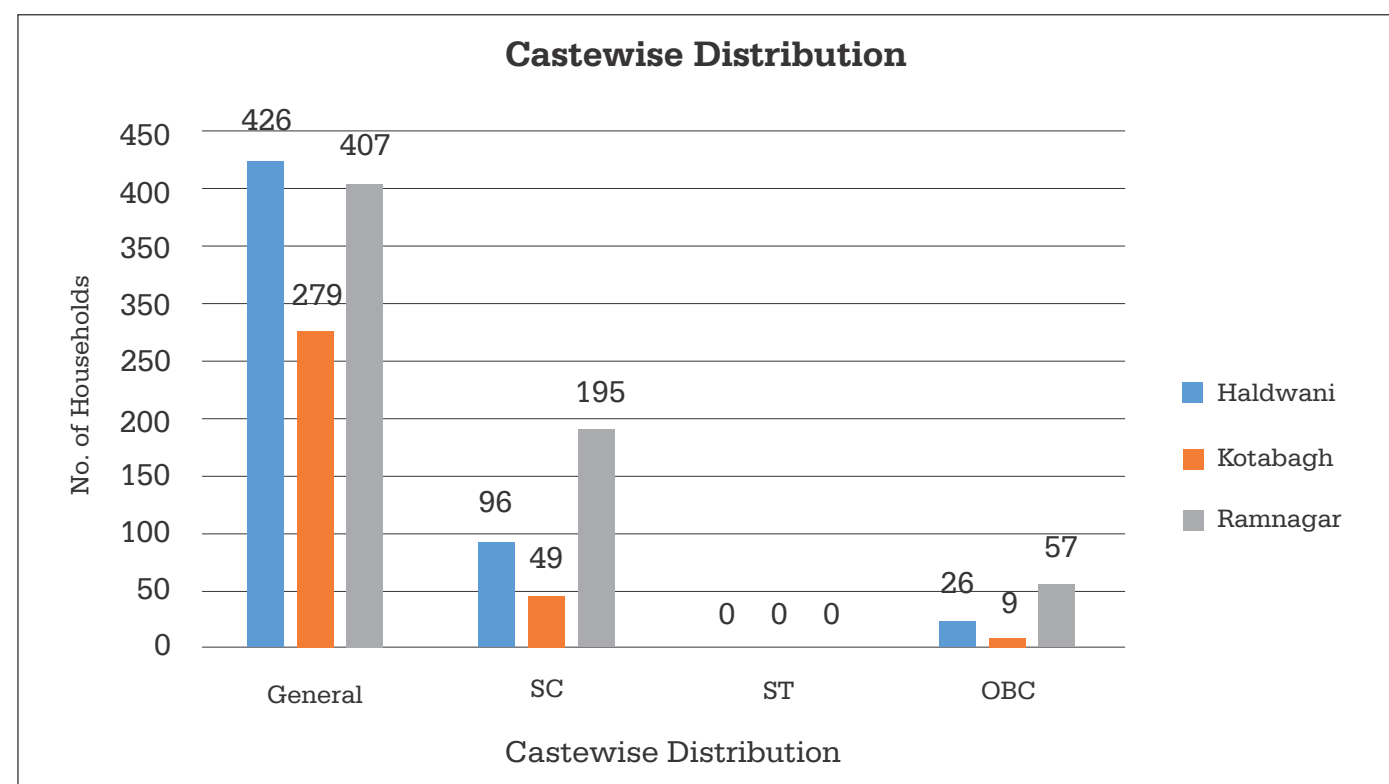
Gender and Caste wise distribution of data has been provided in Table 1 and explained in fig.2 clarifies that 58 villages covered in Haldwani block where 519 biogas plants

benefitted 548 families/ households among them 544 are woman headed households and remaining 4 are man headed. However, 426 households belong to general category, 96 households are scheduled caste whereas 26 households belong to other backward class (OBC). There is no scheduled tribe household found among these beneficiaries. Similarly in Koatabagh total 298 biogas plants implanted covering 13 villages benefitted 337 families/households, here 334 families are woman headed and only 3 families/households are headed by man. The caste distribution shows that 279 households are from general category but 49 families belong to scheduled caste and only 9 families belonged to the other backward

class (OBC). In Ramnagar block total 628 biogas plants implanted in 17 villages benefitted 659 families/households, out of which 648 families are headed by woman and 11 headed by man. Total 407 families belong to general caste, 195 families from scheduled caste, whereas 57 families belong to other backward class (OBC). Thus, altogether 1544 families in 88 villages of three blocks in the rural areas in Uttarakhand were availing substantive socio-economic benefits through deployment of clean energy technology in the form of biogas plants. Out of which 1526 are woman headed families/households and only 18 families availing the services of bio gas plants are headed by man. Total 1112 families belong to general category, 340 families from scheduled caste and 92 families belong to other backward class (OBC).

The project interventions being done by the organization to the community at grassroot level is a step ahead towards people-centered sustainable village development by providing an eco-friendly low-cost affordable technology in the form of biogas plant. It provides clean gaseous fuel for cooking and lighting purposes with minimum efforts by village women. It has reduced the cooking time thereby spare more time for women folk to take-up certain income generating activities will ultimately leads to their economic empowerment. It has reduced the





**Fig.2 – Caste wise distribution of beneficiaries**

consumption of the wood thereby saved time of women for collecting fire woods from the forests. Besides reducing the consumption of wood as a fuel in rural households, use of biogas plants in Uttarakhand provides further social economic benefits to the local



communities. Being inexpensive, affordable and eco-friendly technology it contributes not only in reducing emission of gases causing global warming but also helps in improving the living and health standards of village communities. The intervention demonstrates the significance of the use of appropriate small-scale innovations for climate-change adaptation and sustainability.

Uttarakhand faces a massive migration problem of males and mainly of the youths from these regions to the urban centers and consequently ever increasing number of uninhabited villages. Due to men's migration women are left at home. Women had to walk long distances to collect the firewood, fodder for domestic animals and water. The project has a positive impact on women's

lives in rural areas as it greatly reduces the drudgery of fuel wood collection for women who are extensively dependent on the fuel wood from forest. Freeing energy and time for a woman in such circumstances assists other activities like taking better care of her family,

other income generating activities or facilitating education of her girl child by reducing her domestic workload. In addition to that use of the dung in biogas plants generate a waste as a by-product Digested slurry which can supplement the use of chemical fertilizers or even a better fertilizer than raw cow dung. The slurry from the biogas plants is useful for organic farming in the state. The application of slurry improves the physical, chemical, and biological characters of the soil.

Therefore biogas plant technology as an alternative renewable energy source has the potential to significantly reduce the pressure on natural forest ecology and thereby contribute towards global warming mitigation.

**S**UVIDHA in its endeavor to change lives of women in hills has consistently strived to bring a socioeconomic revolution. While SUVIDHA helps SHGs to link with the banks to get loans for inter loaning, it also facilitates in enhancing the portfolio of the livelihood opportunities for the poor families of marginal and small farmers.

This program is running in the mountains of Munsyari Block of Pithoragarh District of Uttarakhand under the aegis of Uttarakhand Women and Child Development Society. These women SUVIDHA is working with are the groups which were highly affected by the natural disaster of 2013-14.

A total of 12 villages are the part of this program namely Sainrathi, Bedu Meher, Dekuna, Bhandari Gaon, Jarthi, Samkot, Dekuna, Dhaami Falyati, Chaami meskot, Naamik, Tintia and Nachni ( Nai basti )





Following are the details of the SHG Groups

Villages name	SHG Groups	Total members
Timtia	Jai Durga Maa SHG	16
Naya basti ( Nachni)	Santoshi Maa SHG	11
Naamik	Vikas SHG	19
Naamik	Uthaan SHG	15
Naamik	Heera Mani Glaciers SHG	20
Sainraathi	Jai Maa Bhagwati SHG	8
Kimkhet	Jai Bajrang Bali SHG	7
Bedu Meher	Jai Shree Ram SHG	13
Bhandari Gaon	Kalika Maa SHG	14
Bhandari Gaon	Bal Chand Devta SHG	20
Khoyam Jharthi	Shree Nauling Devta SHG	15
Khoyam Jharthi	Jai Maa Hokra SHG	15
Khoyam Jharthi	Nanda Maiyaa SHG	18
Dhaami Falyati	Jai Maa Santoshi SHG	9



Following are the details of the training in the villages

TRAINING PROGRAMES UNDER LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT		
Villages name	Traning Provided	Beneficiaries
Timtia	Weaving Training	22
Sainraathi, Khimkhet , Bedu meher	Handloom Training	49
Naamik	Handikraft and Bamboo item making	40
Jharti and Naya Basti	Sewing training	60
Bhandari Gaon	Kumaon Food Center ( KFC )	

# Tree Plantation Drive for People's Participation in Bhimtal Block of Nainital District

In the year 2016-17, SUVIDHA in collaboration with TATA Motors Ltd. implemented a massive tree plantation program through active community participation in Marchiya Jaala hemlet of Bhorsa village in Bhimtal block of District Nainital. Bhorsa and its nearby region has greatly dependent on dairy activities for their livelihoods. District Nainital is known for its rich livestock resources. Therefore the village Marchiya Jaala

proposed initiative. Along with the site visits a series of community meetings were organized, which includes preparatory discussions with the Biodiversity Committee members as well as the local villagers. A structured awareness generation and information dissemination drive was also conducted in Bhosra village to make the community aware towards the objective of the initiative.



Bhosra was chosen as the most appropriate site for the intervention with a common consensus of team SUVIDHA and TATA Motors ltd. with active participation of Van Panchayat Samiti members. A number of site visits have been conducted by the team members for the selection of plantation sites, the detailed assessment of village and to get acquainted with the local scenario, its climate and available resources best suited for chosen different species for the plantation under the

The initiative was also supported by the fact that crop-livestock integrated farming has been the major source of livelihood for the inhabitants of mountain and the local eco-systems. Dairy farming constitutes as one of the most important dimensions of diversified agriculture and it is also considered as the most attractive long term economic activity for livelihood generation in this region particular. Therefore one of the objectives of the intervention was also to improve the





availability of fodder through improved fodder cultivation practices or by improving the productivity of fodder trees. In the mountain agriculture system trees, agricultural crops, shrubs and herbs grow and complement with each other. Trees are instrumental in offering a fertile basis for most of land based-ecological processes. Trees grow faster and also act as carbon sinks and thus alleviating the "Greenhouse Effect".

A total of 5 hectares land area was taken up for tree plantation with a target of planting 4000 saplings of different species of fodder, fruit and medicinal plants. Keeping in mind the mountain and the local eco system, species of saplings were selected according to their suitability to the project area. After a careful assessment different plant species like Chyura, Kanol, Kweral, Tejhatta, Bheemal, Amla, Reetha and Bael etc., were used for plantation purposes. These plants not only nourish fodder for animals but also have a multitude of uses for local inhabitants. Tree saplings were distributed to local villagers for planting in designated lands and a successful community friendly plantation drive was carried out with active participation of village community.

Under the project activities Low Density Polyethylene (LDP) lined Tanks were constructed to support the nursery raising saplings of fodder, fruit and medicinal plants along with Chaals Khaals or small ponds or recharge pits. Besides that SUVIDHA along with the community members also worked on creating Fire lines (Fire Breaks), a method to create fire resistant barriers (streets, paths) by removing forest litter all along the forest boundary to prevent fire breaking into the plantation area from one compartment of forest to another.

A numbers of community level meetings with the village community members including members of Eco Club, Bhorsa were organized to secure their active participation in post planting care phase for the monitoring, maintenance and long survival of the planted saplings. The meetings were intended to ensure that the expected outcomes of the tree plantation initiative are achieved well in time.

Altogether 15 meetings, discussions, awareness generation programmes were organized during total tree plantation drive to achieve the target of the joint project initiative of SUVIDHA & TATA Motors Ltd.



# Eco Clubs Education for 'Clean and Green Environment' in Nainital and Udham Singh Nagar Districts

Environment  
Conservation

“It is said children are born naturalists. They explore the world with all their senses, experiment in the environment and communicate their discoveries to those around them.”

31/05/2009





School eco club is one of the strong platforms to communicate environment conservation and protection messages among the future generation. To make most of the curiosity and sensibility for the nature in Children and spread strong message of global climate change, SUVIDHA took the initiative to reach out to school children in different schools and colleges to form 'Eco Clubs' in various city locations in Nainital and Udham Singh Nagar districts of Uttarakhand. Despite emphasis on the importance of 'learning to live sustainably,' environment remains a peripheral issue in the formal schooling system. The objective of SUVIDHA's initiative was to create a 'clean and green consciousness' and create

In light of the above 10 Eco-Clubs have been formed in Government Senior Secondary Schools located within municipal boundaries and out skirts of the cities of District Nianital and Udham Singh Nagar as shown in **table-2**. At the initial stage Eco Club started with an initial membership of about 15 students who were declared as 'Green Ambassadors'. The initiative was launched with the mission to try and reach as many people as possible, in local communities in neighborhood schools, colleges, relatives and friends to spread the awareness and importance of 'Clean & Green Environment'. To mark the occasion T-shirts were distributed to the members of the 'Eco-Club'.



awareness of biodiversity conservation among schoolchildren through various innovative methods. Eco-Club establishes a focal point as it helps students to promote, monitor and operate all environmental activities and programmes in the school and thus, creating a sustainable campus. It also empowers students to explore environmental concepts and actions beyond the confines of a syllabus or curriculum.

Table –2

Details of School Eco-club

S No.	School Name	Eco Club formation date	No. of students in Eco Club
1	Government Senior Secondary School Bhorsa (Bhimtal, Nainital)	03/11/2016	15 (9th and 10th Class)
2	Government Inter College Amiya (Bhimtal, Nainital)	08/11/2016	15 (11th Class)
3	Government Inter College Baghwala (U.S. Nagar)	10/11/2016	15 (9th and 11th Class)
4	Government Girls Inter College Dauliya (Halduchaud, Nainital)	11/11/2016	15 (9th Class)
5	Government Inter College Narayan Nagar (Kusumkheda, Nainital)	11/11/2016	15 (10th and 11thClass)
6	Government Inter College Barhani (U.S. Nagar)	12/11/2016	15 (11th Class)
7	Government Girls Senior Secondary School, Shantipuri (U.S. Nagar)	15/11/2016	15 (9th and 10th Class)
8	Government Senior Secondary School Turka Gauri (U.S. Nagar)	15/11/2016	15 (9th and 10th Class)
9	Government Girls Inter College Fazilpur Mahrulla (U. S. Nagar)	16/11/2016	15 (10th Class)
10	Government Girls Inter College Dhaulakheda (Haldwani)	25/11/2016	15 (11th Class)





# Representatives and Functionaries of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Nainital District and Pithoragarh Districts

Capacity Building and Training

“The Indian Independence must begin at the bottom and every village ought to be a Republic or Panchayat having powers.”  
– Mahatma Gandhi

The organization has been selected to conduct Capacity Building & Training (CB&T) programmes to empower three-tier Panchayat representatives in selected districts of Uttarakhand. In the initial phase, four development blocks of Nainital district were selected to impart training programmes under Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Empowerment Campaign of Panchayati Raj Department. The training programmes were organized under the guidance of District Panchayati Raj Officer, Nainital and in close coordination and supervision of Assistant Development Officer, Panchayats in respective blocks being a nodal officer nominated for the trainings.

Training need assessment (TNA) was carried out prior to design the sessions and the training contents as per the standard training module set by the Panchayati Raj Department, Government of Uttarakhand. The TNA included the literacy standard, knowledge level and the operational skills of elected representatives and the functionaries of panchayat institutions as per the local self-governance requirement benchmarks.

The objective of the training module was to strengthen panchayati raj institutions in current democratic scenario of government and administration in Uttarakhand and India as well. Another objective was to capacitate panchayat representatives with a focus to women elected representatives to an extent that they are able to cope with pace of developing local self-governance in multi-dimensional way and take active part in

**Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) have been considered as an effective vehicle for people's participation in administration, planning and democratic process at the local level. The passage of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 conferred constitutional status to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). 29 subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution have been identified for devolution to the PRIs. The Indian government has recognized and approved the Capacity Building & Training (CB&T) of elected representatives and support functionaries of PRIs as a major intervention strategy to strengthen the PRIs and make them effective units of local governance.**

Table –3

Details of training programmes

Block	Month	Total Training	Total Participant		
			Member of Gram Panchayat	Gram Panchayat Vikas Adhikari	Total
Haldwani	November	4	227	3	230
	December	8	430	7	437
Ramnagar	November	4	250	7	257
	December	3	145	1	146
Okhalkanda	November	3	151	5	156
	December	4	221	4	225
Bhimtal	November	2	120	4	124
	December	4	205	11	216

quick decision making process of planning and development of their respective area. Also able to discharge multiple duties as desired in 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act. The overall goal was to create and promote enabling environment for Panchayati Raj Institutions in Uttarakhand.

A total of 15 main master trainers from the organization, 7 officials from the state government as a resource person, 39 subject

Altogether 32 (three day each) training programmes were organized having 1751 participants including panchayat representatives and government officials, covering Haldwani, Ramnagar, Bhimtal and Okhalanda development blocks in Nainital District.

Training sessions to a large extent were able to clarify and capture the limitations and constraints being faced by PRI functionaries to



specialists from various schemes and line departments, 16 panchayat representatives and 11 Gram Pachayat Development officers were identified for conducting these training programmes. This way a strong cadre of trainers, resource persons and subject specialist were created for these training programmes.

All the tools and techniques used during the training sessions were entirely participatory, where each and every participant has taken active part by contributing/sharing their live experiences/problems they are facing along with raising queries to the trainers and the subject specialists during the sessions. The major heads of the trainings were provisions of 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, Uttarakand Panchayati Raj system and rural development programmes/schemes, decentralized planning and social economic development etc.



perform their key tasks. The outcome of the training was assessed at the end of each training programme by asking a set of small questions pertains to their roles and various departmental schemes shared with them during the training sessions. It was very much prominent from their responses and feedback that the participants were well equipped with the knowledge and information provided to them during the three days training programmes.

With the sustained proactive initiatives taken by the government of Uttarakhand for empowerment of PRIs and continuous capacity building interventions by the organization it is hoped that by conducting such Capacity Building & Training (CB&T) programmes, it will be possible to determine the effectiveness of training programmes as well as increase the efficacy of people's governance.



“ *Organic agriculture is a system of farm design and management to create eco system, which can achieve sustainable productivity without the use of artificial external inputs such as chemicals, fertilizers and pesticides.* ”

**(National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP)**  
Ministry of Commerce, Government of India)

# Organic Farming



# Organic Farming Mission: Chhattisgarh

The State government, Chhattisgarh accords top priority to agriculture and promotes sustainable agriculture in the State, which has minimum impacts on the environment. In order to fully utilize the huge potential for organic farming in the state, Chhattisgarh government launched 'Organic Farming Mission' in September 2013 in three districts viz. Bastar, Bilaspur and Ambikapur. The mission was further extended in the fiscal year 2014-15 to cover 12 districts of the state. The mission envisages promoting organic farming in the selected districts and building market linkages for the organic produce of farmers. Under the mission, technical and economic assistance is being extended to farmers for farming of crops, pulses, oil seeds, vegetables and flower-fruits through organic method based on geographical condition, climate and soil quality in each district.

## SUVIDHA's interventions in Organic Farming Project: Chhattisgarh

The project “**Promotion of Diversified Organic Farming in Horticultural Crops**” under National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) is being implemented by the SUVIDHA with support of Directorate of Horticulture & Farm Forestry, Government of Chhattisgarh. The total coverage in terms of area is NHM 175/ha, NHM 500/ha, NHM 200/ha., RKVY 250/ha and RKVY 500/ha with a total area of 1625 hectares benefitting 1496 farmers in 3 districts of Chhattisgarh namely, Raipur, Narayanpur and Mahasamund as shown in **table -4 and table-5**. The main objective of the project is to encourage small farmers to

adopt organic agriculture as a possible alternative for the diversification of production. The strategic intervention involves large-scale demonstration of low cost farming techniques viz. organic farming with the help of various bio fertilizers and bio pesticides. The project strategy also examines the issue of certification and related laws, regulation required for products to be certified as 'organic', 'biological', or 'natural.' SUVIDHA's organic farming project was launched in February 2014 in the state which covered the period from April 2014 to March 2017. The targeted communities in the project are predominantly small and marginal farmers in these districts. Major horticulture crops cultivated during Rabi season namely, Beans long, Bitter gourd, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Pumpkins (Fresh), Okra/Bhindi, Onion and Tomatoes were taken up for cultivation under this program.

Tabel-4: Detail of Organic Programmes

Schemes	No. of Farmers	Organic Farming Area (Ha.)	No. of Village	No. of Block	District
NHM 175 Ha. Schemes	125	175	2	1	Raipur
NHM 500 Ha.. Schemes	526	500	22	2	
NHM 200 Ha. Schemes	234	200	6	1	
RKVY 250 Ha. Schemes	246	250	6	1	Narayanpur
RKVY 500 Ha. Schemes	365	500	15	1	Mahasamund





Table-5 Registration of Farmers

S. No.	District	Block	No. of Village	No. of Farmer	Registered Area (In Ha.)	Name of ICS	Registered with C.B
1	Raipur	Arang	2	125	175	Organic Grower Group Raipur (Under NHM Scheme)	Vedic Organic Certification Agency
2	Mahasamund	Bagbahara	15	365	500	Organic Vegetables Grower Group- Mahasamund (Under RKVY Scheme)	
3	Narayanpur	Narayanpur	06	246	250	Organic Vegetables Grower Group- Narayanpur (Under RKVY Scheme)	

Various steps involved in implementation of the project:

Training of the Trainers

was one of the prior most steps to update knowledge and skills of the farmers and prepare master trainers so that they are able to take up documentation part in future even after expiry of the project.

Soil health was properly managed

and trainings on efficient use of FYM, Vermi compost, BD compost were provided to the farmers along with advised to keep the crop residues in their field, so that they can decompose and recycle the nutrients in the soil.

The practice of mulching is followed in the project area.

Orientation of the

farmers, where a numbers of meeting sessions, thereafter practical training sessions were conducted at the village level to impart knowledge to the farmers on organic agriculture. District wise details of trainings have been shown in **table- 6**. The objective of the program was to sensitize and reorient the mindset of the people towards organic farming. The participants were exposed to different aspects of organic farming technologies.



Table 6 Training Details

Schemes	No. of Participants	No. of Villages	No. of Block	District
NHM 175 Ha Schemes	281	2	1	Raipur
NHM 200 Ha. Schemes	1204	6	1	
NHM 500 Ha. Schemes	526	22	2	
RKVY 250 Ha. Schemes	502	6	1	Narayanpur
RKVY 500 Ha. Schemes	660	15	1	Mahasamund



Farmers training on on-farm input management and facilitation for composting units:

crop protection training, training on soil health management, post-harvest management and integrated pest management as shown in **Table 7** were conducted in different districts in the year 2014-15 and 2016-17.

Table- 7 The detail of the trainings programs

Schemes	2014-15		16		2016-17		Total		Village	Block	District
	Trainings	Participants	Trainings	Participants	Trainings	Participants	Trainings	Participants			
NHM 175 Hect. Schemes	28	765	24	750	20	594	72	2109	2	1	Raipur
NHM 200 Hect. Schemes			234	1404	57	1204	291	2608	6	1	
NHM 500 Hect. Schemes							342	4991	22	2	
RKVY 250 Hect. Schemes			46	1034	55	1327	101	2361	6	1	Narayanpur
RKVY 500 Hect. Schemes	0				37	716	37	716	15	1	Mahasamund



On farm Inputs Management was given to the farmers as per the table-8

Table-8 List of available on-farm input units in the project areas

Schemes	Liquid Manure unit	BD Heap / CPP	Villages	Block	District
NHM 175 Ha. Schemes	125	40	2	1	Raipur
NHM 200 Ha. Schemes		156	6	1	

**Crop Protection/Production Activity:** The effective Crop protection measures were given for prevention of pest, disease and weed problems through optimization of the cropping system as a whole. Also engaged two Input manufacturing companies in the project areas to demonstrate the effects of their products on the crops. Table 9 contains the details of inputs supplied to villages below:t as shown in **Table 7** were conducted in different districts in the year 2014-15 and 2016-17.



Table- 9 Village wise details of inputs supplied

S. No.	Inputs	Raipur				Narayanpur		Raipur		Mahasamund	
		NHM 175 Ha. Schemes		NHM 200 Ha Schemes		RKVY 250 Ha. Schemes		NHM 500 Ha. Schemes		RKVY 500 Ha. Schemes	
		No. of Village	No. of Inputs	No. of Village	No. of Inputs	No. of Village	No. of Inputs	No. of Village	No. of Inputs	No. of Village	No. of Inputs
1	Bio Pesticide Drum	2	125								
2	Bio Dynamic Preparation	2	750	6	234	6	246	22	526		
3	Monas	2	750	6	468	6	492	22	1052	15	365
4	Amulya	2	750	6	468	6	492	22	1052	15	365
5	Paci-N-Power	2	750	6	468	6	492	22	1052	15	365
6	Neem Oil	2	750	6	468	6	492	22	526		
7	K-Power	2	750	6	468	6	492	22	1052	15	365
8	Vam- Power	2	750	6	468	6	492	22	1052	15	365
9	Tricho- Power	2	750	6	468	6	492	22	1052	15	365
10	Azo- Power	2	750	6	468	6	492	22	1052	15	365
11	Phospo Power	2	750	6	468	6	492	22	1052	15	365
12	Bio Zyme	2	625	6	468	6	492	22	1052		
13	Neem Extract	2	750	6	468	6	246				
14	Agro Boost	2	125	0		6	246				

Project Impact of 'package of practice' for crop protection

Earlier farmer used to purchase high cost chemical inputs but now this cost has lowered to minimum due to increased use of organic and biological inputs. It has been observed that it considerably reduced infestation of Helicoverpa spp. and Spodoptera spp. to lower levels. Infestation of thrips was found to be low. It also shows high cost benefit ratio with regard to chemical inputs. Study from project area in Raipur District on three variety of brinjal crops was carried out to identify the cost benefit ratio on organic and conventional (based on chemical inputs) farming. Results of the study are shown in **Table-10 below:**

Table 10: Comparative Performance of Brinjal Varieties under different cultivation systems

Variety	Organic Cultivation			Conventional Cultivation			Chemical Cultivation		
	Yield Q/Ha	Net Profit (Rs in Lac)	B:C Ratio	Yield Q/Ha	Net Profit (Rs in Lac)	B:C Ratio	Yield Q/Ha	Net Profit (Rs in Lac)	B:C Ratio
Teispuri	240	2.15	2.48:1	250	1.55	2.41:1	235	2.1	2.20:1
Usha Madhuri	260	2.2	2.29:1	270	2.6	2.79:1	282	2.35	2.25:1
Srabani	175	0.975	2.69:1	185	1.65	2.47:1	200	1.75	2.40:1

Market Intelligence

Under the project several activities were initiated for the market intelligence component as marketing of agricultural produce is the major challenge for farmers and other stakeholders. The activities were focused on the development of linkages between market and the organic farming project areas. The training exercises included exposure visits of farmers, participation in trade fairs and the promotion of F.P.O (Farmer Producer Organization). SUVIDHA has already started field visits for farmers based on the prior assessment and action plan.





### Steps continued

**Season Long Training on ICS for compliance to Organic Certification Standards and Procedures:** Farmers were provided long duration practical trainings during Rabi & Kharif seasons to adopt and develop practical skills in organic farming practices. Small farmers were made aware of ICS compliance mechanism and encouraged to become member of the group covered by group certification. ICS known as Internal Control System is aimed to regulate the functioning of any group for organic standards and certification procedures. The details of the ICS training are given in **Table-11**

**Table 11: farmer trainings at the village level on ICS**

Schemes	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		Total		Village	District
	No. of Farmer Trainings	Total Participants	No. of Farmer Trainings	Total Participants	No. of Farmer Trainings	Total Participants	No. of Farmer Trainings	Total Participants		
NHM 175 Hect.	28	765	24	750	20	594	72	2109	2	
NHM 200 Hect.			21	456	18	589	39	1045	6	Raipur
RKVY 250 Hect.			46	1034	55	1327	101	2361	6	Narayanpur



**Experts Visit:** Experts from various organization and officers from Directorate of Horticulture Raipur were invited to visit the project areas. The objective was to ensure monitoring of the implementation of the programme. Meetings were arranged for the interaction of farmers with experts and officials to develop a better understanding on the concept of organic farming and cultural practices in Chhattisgarh. **Table 12** shows the details of the visit:

**Table 12: Details of expert visits in the project areas**

Schemes	No. of Visits	Name of Expert	Block	District
NHM 175 Hect. Schemes	8	1. Mr. Gulfishan Kuraishi (Expert Organic farming) Directorate with team, 2. Mr. Anil Singh (DDH Raipur), 3. Mr. Deepak Pandey (President, SUVIDHA), 4. Mr. Agarwal (JDA Agriculture), 5. Mr. Ratrey (ADA Agriculture), 6. Mr. Omkar (Agriculture Expert VOCA), 7. Mr. Avanish Saran (CEO Zillapanchayat Raipur), 8. Mr. Baghela ji (DDH Raipur)	Arang (2015-16)	Raipur
NHM 200 Hect. Schemes	9	Same as above	Arang (2015-16)	
RKVY 250 Hect. Schemes	4	1 Mr. Abhay Onkar ( Agriculture Expert ) VOCA, 2 Mr.Chouhan (Assistant Director of Horticulture Chhattisgarh)	Narayanpur (2016-17)	Narayanpur



# Organic Farming Mission: Odisha

Odisha is predominantly an agrarian state which is situated in the east coastal region of the country extending from 17°05'2" to 22°04'5" N latitude and from 81°04'5" to 87°05'0" E longitudes. Agriculture and animal husbandry is the mainstay of majority of its population. The marginal and small farmers constitute more than 90% of the farming population who either own or rent a piece of land for cultivation. 64 % of the working population is engaged either directly or indirectly in agriculture sector. Because of the endemic poverty, they generally cultivate their crops with little inputs and hence crop production is low. Agriculture plays a critical role in state's economy and therefore, development in the field of agriculture holds the key to the economic development of the state. In 2017 the government of Odisha took a decision to draft an organic farming policy to provide support for growth of the organic sector and marketing of organic products. The Government has already taken steps to promote organic cultivation by implementing Parmarika Krushic Vikash Yojana and Millet Mission in Odisha.

## “Adoption and Certification of Organic Farming Under VIUC, NHM and OAIC Scheme (2100Ha)”

SUVIDHA's initiative on organic farming in Odisha aims at the promotion and adoption of



eco-friendly agricultural practices to meet the objectives of sustainable agriculture in the state. The project started in 2013-14 with support of Odisha Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bhubaneswar and with the financial assistance of Directorate of Horticulture, Bhubaneswar under National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and Rastriya Krishi Vikash Yojna (RKVY) Vegetable Initiative for Urban Cluster (VIUC) Schemes, where SUVIDHA is a co-implementing partner. The project intends to convert 2100 Ha. of land area to organicfarming from conventional agriculture with participation of 2660 farmers from 69 villages located in 7 Blocks of Cuttack, Jajpur, Balangir, and Kalahandi Districts. The table below shows the details of the project:

Table- 13 – Odisha Project Brief

Sl No	Scheme	District	Block	No of Villages	Allotted in FY 2013-14	
					Area (Ha)	Farmers
1	(RKVY)VIUC	Cuttack	Banki, & Dompura	3	50	62
2	NHM			28	1000	1301
3	(RKVY)VIUC	Jajpur	Rasulpur	2	50	63
4	NHM	Kalahandi	Kesinga	13	250	308
5		Balangir	Titlagarh	6	150	214
6			Muribahal	8	200	249
7			Saintala	9	400	463
				69	2100	2660

The organic farming programme mainly focuses on the following two components –

- (i) Adoption of organic farming
- (ii) Inspection and certification of organic products





Various steps involved in implementation of the project:

**Training of the Trainers** was given on documentation processes, NPOP, NOP guidelines, record keeping and filling up farmer's diary in the Ist phase and participants were trained on the practical or field aspects of the programme viz. preparation of bio-dynamic composts, preparation and use of liquid composts, pest and diseases management and post-harvest management in the IInd phase. These participants later become Master Trainers on organic farming to follow the documentation process after expiry of the project. The below **Table-14** shows the details of training organized in the year 2016-17.

Table-14 – Training of the Trainers on Organic Farming in Odisha

Sl No.	Date	Place	No of Attendance	Training Provided By (Experts)
				Mr. Tarini Prasad Mishra, State Co-ordinator SUVIDHA & Mr. Pradeep Kumar Dhal, District Co-ordinator, SUVIDHA
2	2/29/2016	Titlagarh Office, Bolangir	19	Mr. Rajesh Kumar Behera, District Co-ordinator, SUVIDHA
3	3/29/2016	Titlagarh Office, Bolangir	12	Mr. Janmejay Nayak, Trainer ATMA
4	3/30/2016	Titlagarh Office, Bolangir	12	Mr. Janmejay N ayak, Trainer ATMA



**Farmer's Trainings:** Various training sessions on production and protection techniques to be used by the farmers in the project location areas were facilitated considering knowledge of new techniques and technologies along with physical resources are essence of success of such project.



**On- Farm Input Management:** Trainings on on-farm input management was given to the farmers at periodic intervals to increase their knowledge and better understanding on the subject. The **table-15** below shows the subjects covered under the training sessions including number of beneficiaries in targeted districts:

Table-15 On farm Input Management

District	Block	On farm Input Management		
		Topics Discussed	No of Beneficiaries	No of Participants
Cuttack	Banki	Preparation of Vermi Compost, Panchagvya, Panchamruta, Sura Sara Mahosadhi,Liquid manure, Liquid Compost, Egg Tonic, Panchapatri Arka and Vermi Wash etc.	419	1567
	Dompara		944	3612
Jajpur	Rasulpur		63	254
Kalahandi	Kesinga		308	1153
	Titlagarh		214	823
Balangir	Muribahal		249	988
	Saintala		463	1811
			2660	10208



**Soil Health Management:** Improving soil health is essential to maximize profitability. Therefore, the Soil Health Management was well covered in various training sessions organized for the farmers in targeted districts. The **table-16** shows the details of training programmes conducted on Soil Health Management:

**Table- 16 – Detail of training programmes organized in soil health management**

District	Block	Soil Health Management		
		Topics Discussed	No of Beneficiaries	Total Attendance
Cuttack	Banki	Soil Treatment Applications of Bio Organic Crop Routation Deep Ploughing Fertilizers, Preparation of Vermi Compost, BD Compost and Cow Pet Pat	419	1513
	Dompara		944	3592
Jajpur	Rasulpur		63	248
Kalahandi	Kesinga		308	1186
Balangir	Titlagarh		214	843
	Muribahal		249	974
	Saintala		463	1831
			2660	10187

**Crop Protection Activity:** Plant protection is one of the major issues in organic farming. A comprehensive integrated strategy for organic farming has been taken into account for mechanical, cultural and biological control. Trainings on such methods were given periodically to the farmers. **Table-17** shows the issues covered along with number of beneficiaries in the targeted districts:

**Table- 17 – Detail of training programmes on crop protection activities**

District	Block	Crop Protection Activity		
		Topics Discussed	No of Beneficiaries	No of Attendance
Cuttack	Banki	Seed Treatment Application of cow urine, liquied manure, tricoderma ect.	419	1589
	Dompara		944	3563
Jajpur	Rasulpur	Nursrey Raising Application of Neem Oil, Agro Boost & Liquied Manure	63	232
Kalahandi	Kesinga		308	1164
Balangir	Titlagarh	Transplanting Application of Tricoderma, BD Compost, CPP, Vermi Compost, Liquid Manure, Agro Boost, Bio Fertilizer, Neem Oil ect	214	812
	Muribahal		249	963
	Saintala		463	1821
			2660	10144

**Block Level Trainings:** Various Block level training programmes were also organized as per the requirement with an objective to create awareness about organic farming among the farmers and to facilitate the process conducive for a switch over to sustainable farming from intensive farming.

**Facilitation of Compost Unit:** Farmers were encouraged to have their own vermin compost units for managing soil fertility at desired level. They were provided with vermin beds in respective locations. At the village level progressive minded farmers were identified and given the responsibilities to culture the earthworms in order to produce vermicompost and supplying it to other farmers of the area. The practice was considered helpful for the villagers which was also aimed to provide entrepreneurship opportunities to the farmers.

**Market Facilitation:** Several activities were initiated for the market intelligence component during the reporting period. The activities were focused on developing market linkage for the project areas:





Market linkage being important component of the project plan, the organic grower groups were encouraged to sell their products through veggie carts. The details provided in **table-18**

Table-18 Marketing of organic produced

Sl No.	District	Location	Name of the Shop	Managed By	Volume of Sale (Rs)
1	Cuttack	Pathapur, Banki	Baba Biswonath Vegetable Shop	Bijay Ketan Beura	247,987
2		Mahanadi Vihar, Cuttack	Organic Fresh Vegetable Outlet	Amarendra Nayak	386,412
3	Jajpur				
3	Kalahandi	Badmal, Balangir	Organic Fresh Vegetable Outlet	Rajesh Kumar Behera	562,764
4	Bolangir				
6	Bolangir	Bandhupala, Titlagarh, Balangir	Farmer Support Center	Rajesh Kumar Behera	34,345



**External Inspections:** External inspections were carried out by the Inspectors and Auditors from SGS and Vedic Organic Certification Agency (VOCA). The ICS were thoroughly inspected and the reports were duly submitted. The **Table-19** shows the details of external inspections carried out during the reporting period:

Table-19 – details of External Inspections

Sl No.	District	Block	ICS Name	Name of the CB	Date of Inspection	No of Villages Covered	No of Farmers Interacted
1	Jajpur	Rasulpur	Jaivik Krishi Kishan Samuh	VOCA	2/22/2016	2	7
		Dompara	(Under RKVY Scheme)	VOCA	2/21/2016	3	10
2	Cuttack	Dompara & Banki	Jaivik Krishi Kishan Samuh - Cuttack	VOCA	2/23/2016	10	33
			Jaivik Krishi Kishan Samuh - Cuttack - A	SGS	2/15/2016	9	22
			Jaivik Krishi Kishan Samuh Cuttack - B	SGS	2/16/2016	6	19
3	Kalahandi	Kesinga	Jaivik Krishi Kishan Samuh - Kalahandi	SGS	2/11/2016	11	36
4	Bolangir	Saintala	Jaivik Krishi Kishan Samuh - Balangir	VOCA	2/17/2016	8	32
					2/18/2016		
		Muribahal & Titilagarh	Jaivik Krishi Kishan Samuh - Balangir- A	SGS	2/1to 2/2016	11	22

**Experts' Visit:** The visits of qualified experts on organic farming from various organizations were organized to the project field areas to examine aspects of organic farming viz, the crop condition, value chain management and post harvest management and to provide information and knowledge on organic farming technologies. The below table-20 contains the details of experts' visits in selected districts in the reporting period:

Table- 20 – Expert's Visit

Sl No.	District	Block	Date	Name of the Expert
1	Bolangir	Saintala & Muribahal	3/29/2016	Sri. R K Das Mohapatra, DDH, Bolangir
2	Cuttack	Banki	3/14/2016	Mr. Santosh Samal, Consultant
3	Jajpur	Rasulpur	3/15/2016	Mr. Santosh Samal, Consultant
4	Cuttack	Banki	3/16/2016	Mr. Santosh Samal, Consultant
5	Cuttack	Banki	3/16/2016	Mr. Santosh Samal, Consultant

Table-21 – Farmer's Capacity Building

Sl No.	Name of the Event	Location	Duration	
			From Date	To Date
1	Cooperative Festival	Dehradun		
2	Krishi Mahotshav	Balangir	2/13/2016	2/14/2016
3	Loka Mahotshav	Titlagarh, Bolangir	2/7/2016	2/7/2016
3	Krishi Unnati Mela	New Delhi	3/19/2016	3/21/2016

**Certification:** The **Table-22** contains the details of certificates that organic growers groups obtained under the project activities from accredited organic certification bodies:

Table- 22 Details of Organic Grower Group Certification

District	Scheme	ICS Name	CB Name Certification Body	No of Farmers	Area in Ha	Status of Certification
Jajpur	RKVY(VIUC)	Jaivik Krishi Kishan Samuh (Under RKVY Scheme)	Vedic Organic Certification Agency	125	100	Organic Status has been received
Cuttack		NHM	Jaivik Krishi Kishan Samuh Cuttack	Vedic Organic Certification Agency	494	400
	Jaivik Krishi Kishan Samuh - Cuttack - A		Société Générale de Surveillance (SGS)	452	350	Organic Status has been received
	Jaivik Krishi Kishan Samuh Cuttack B		Société Générale de Surveillance (SGS)	355	250	Organic Status has been received
Kalahandi	NHM	Jaivik Krishi Kishan Samuh - Kalahandi	Société Générale de Surveillance (SGS)	308	250	Organic Status has been received
Bolangir	NHM	Jaivik Krishi Kishan Samuh - Balangir	Vedic Organic Certification Agency	463	400	Organic Status has been received
	NHM	Jaivik Krishi Kishan Samuh - Balangir- A	Société Générale de Surveillance (SGS)	463	350	Organic Status has been received
				2660	2100	



In addition to the above mentioned efforts various advertising programmes and campaigns have also been successfully carried out for the promotion of organic farming. Online documentation and data up-gradation work for 2100 Ha. covering 2660 farmers for Rabi and Kharif season has been completed under the portal managed by APEDA.



## Local Stakeholders Counseling (LSC) Odisha



Since its inception in the year 2004, Society for the Upliftment of Villagers & Development of Himalayan Areas (SUVIDHA) has been actively engaged in the promotion of sustainable organic agriculture and conservation of natural environment and bio-diversity across rural India. To further this endeavour SUVIDHA is in the process of extending its Climate Project to the eastern Indian state of Odisha to support the marginal and small farmers with large majority of them depending on agriculture as their principal means of livelihood. The objective is to provide and promote alternative energy sources based on suitable and cost efficient technology to the rural communities in the state.

In this direction SUVIDHA has been working towards registering a project under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) for promotion of renewable energy resources through Biogas Plants programme in Odisha. SUVIDHA conducted a local stakeholders counseling session for the proposed CDM project activity at Dompara in Banki- Dampara Tehsil in Cuttack district of Odisha on 4th July 2016. Dompara is located 34 Km towards west from District headquarters Cuttack. As many as 2500 people from surrounding areas participated in the meeting. The participants also included local civil society groups and local government schools. Information related to the program and all the queries regarding cost, technology, sources of information and benefits of having biogas plants were taken up and discussed in details with the experts on Biogas technology present at the meeting.

This Local Stakeholders Counseling (LSC) process is an important and final requirement of the project design document phase which is conducted prior to submitting the project for validation and registration. Stakeholders include individuals, communities, or other groups, such as NGOs, who may be affected by the project. Project Design Document (PDD) is the central component in the CDM project cycle and a summary of the comments/ results received from the stakeholders documented during the session are included in the document which helps to formulate the final PDD.

