



SUVIDHA's Double Decade of Empowerment

SUVIDHA, the Society for the Upliftment of Villagers & Development of Himalayan Areas, is celebrating its 20 years (Double Decade) of establishment on 8th April 2024.

SUVIDHA embarked on its journey by partnering with small and marginal farmers in Uttarakhand to promote and adopt organic farming, recognizing agriculture as the backbone of rural India. Expanding our horizons, we introduced organic farming projects in agriculture and horticulture across various states, aiming to enhance farming practices and augment the income of these farmers.

Responding to the urgent need to address climate change, particularly its disproportionate impact on rural and vulnerable communities, SUVIDHA ventured into climate change mitigation efforts. Evolving our focus, we integrated holistic rural development, prioritizing themes such as women empowerment, promotion of alternate livelihoods, natural resource management, and education.

SUVIDHA has extended its reach to **22 states**, impacting over **1.10 lakh farmers**. We were able to get **1,65,592 acres of land converted into certified organic farms**, and established **25 rural enterprises** under the brand **Gaon Originals** and these enterprises accrued **revenue exceeding 5 crores**. We were also able to establish **350 smart schools** benefitting more than **90,000 students**, empower **25,000 women**, and generate over **1.5 lakh carbon credits**. Today, SUVIDHA leverages technology as a cornerstone of our operations, enabling us to magnify our impact in rural communities and contribute to holistic rural development.

As we look ahead, SUVIDHA remains committed to continuing our efforts to bring positive change to rural communities.



“CEO - NOTE “

As we celebrate SUVIDHA's 20th anniversary, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the journey we have embarked on together. Your unwavering support and collaboration have been instrumental in driving positive change and advancing our mission of creating a more equitable and sustainable future. Here's to our continued partnership and the impactful work that lies ahead as we strive to make a lasting difference in the lives of communities across India.

SBI Gram Seva: Inauguration of Prerna Centre

Under the efforts of skill enhancement and providing livelihood opportunities to rural women, the Prerna Centre (Sewing and Tailoring centre) has been inaugurated on March 7th, 2024. With two batches scheduled daily, accommodating 15 trainees in each batch, the centre's six-month training program aims to empower women with a spectrum of skills, from traditional crafts to modern entrepreneurship.

The Prerna Centre serves as a hub for economic revitalization for five villages. The trained women will be facilitated in market linkage to sell their finished products and paves the way for sustainable development.

Each skilled woman emerges not only with newfound skills but also with a vision for a brighter, more prosperous future. Through the Prerna Center, women are not merely trained—they are empowered to lead, driving positive change within their communities and beyond.



Gyandeeep (Mahindra & Mahindra) Award Distribution of Intra School Competitions

An Award Distribution Ceremony took place on 20th February 2024, across five Government Schools in Udham Singh Nagar: Bakhpur's Government Higher Senior Secondary School, Sahdaura's Senior Secondary and Upper Primary Schools, Fauzi Matkota's Inter College Schools, and Darau.

The event honored participants of debate and essay competitions, with prizes and certificates bestowed upon those securing first, second, and third positions. In total, 141 children received recognition during the program.

The competition saw the engagement 216 students in the essay competition focusing on "Environmental Conservation and Pollution Control," while 66 students engaged in a debate competition on the topic "Benefits and Drawbacks of the Internet."

The competition aimed to encourage them to articulate their thoughts confidently, fostering a culture of open dialogue and critical thinking. Moreover, it sought to prepare them for active participation in various school-level activities, nurturing well-rounded individuals equipped with communication and analytical skills.



HRDP Assam and Madhya Pradesh (HDFC Parivartan) Transformative Interventions for enhancing Communities and Agriculture



A mini stadium at Village Bedeti Tea Estate, Behali Block, Biswanath Chariali, Assam, has been renovated to address challenges such as stray animals disrupting youth playtime. A 400-meter boundary wall was constructed to ensure safety, along with 100 ground benches for spectators. The ground was levelled to professional standards for a top-notch playing field, and a player's dressing room was also established. These enhancements benefit 200 players, fostering community and sportsmanship among youth.



A new market shed house was constructed in Biswanath Chariali, Assam, to alleviate challenges faced by vendors during extreme weather (scorching summer heat and heavy rainy seasons). The shed includes construction of 10 spacious stalls, in addition to renovation of 20 existing stalls and a boundary wall surrounding the market shed. Over 30 shopkeepers and 200 households benefit from this infrastructure, fostering economic growth and prosperity in the region.

In Maheshwar, Madleshwar, Indore, and Khargone districts of Madhya Pradesh, an integrated intervention combining floriculture and drip irrigation has revolutionized farming. 40 farmers across 40 acres have adopted marigold cultivation, diversifying their agricultural activities and enhancing profitability.

Previously, long-season crops required extensive storage and faced financial challenges due to high input costs. Shifting to shorter-cycle flowers has reduced input costs, increased returns, and promoted sustainable farming.

Moreover, the implementation of drip irrigation on 25 acres has addressed water scarcity issues and ensured efficient water management, transforming rainfed fields into irrigated ones. This comprehensive approach has boosted farmers' incomes and sustainable agriculture in the region.

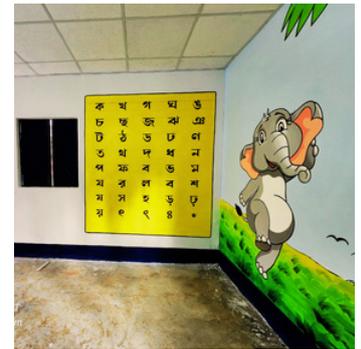


Renovation of 40 ICDS Centres (HDFC Parivartan) in North East

In a transformative initiative across Udalgiri, Karimganj in Assam, Agartala in Tripura, and Shillong in Meghalaya, 40 Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Centers underwent comprehensive renovation. The centers were identified based on their dilapidated infrastructure, lack of basic facilities, and substandard learning environments.

The intervention revitalized the physical structures of the ICDS buildings and enhanced the overall learning atmosphere. Renovations included improvements to flooring and fall ceilings, the provision of quality matting and mattresses, introduction of BaLA painting to stimulate young minds creatively and integration of smart TVs for audio-visual learning. marked a significant stride towards

The intervention is impacting 1572 children approximately, providing them with a conducive environment for holistic growth and modernizing educational methodologies.



ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

Celebration of International Women's Day



SUVIDHA celebrated the International Women's Day on 8th March across five of our project locations: Sirmaur, Khargone, Chamba and Nainital Districts of Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

We believe in recognizing and honouring the incredible contributions of women both within our organization and in the communities we serve. The Women's Day celebration aimed at celebrating the inclusivity, resilience, strength, and achievements of women who play pivotal roles in driving the progress of the communities.



The festivities were held in conjunction with our holistic projects, including HRDP, KRC Springshed Development, SBI Unnati and Gram Seva projects, which are aimed at fostering sustainable development, natural resource management, generating livelihood and empowerment in rural regions. During the celebrations, distinguished chief guests were invited to honour and celebrate the women in rural communities for their invaluable contributions. Women from diverse backgrounds came together to share their stories, experiences, and aspirations.

Partner Visit in Chamba- SBI Gram Seva

In a notable event on March 13th and 14th March 2024, representative of SBI Foundation visited Kiri, Lagga, Banjal, and Sarol Gram Panchayats of Chamba District, Himachal Pradesh as part of the SBI Gram Seva project.

During the visit, the focus was monitoring and assessing the impacts of education interventions like remedial classes, smart classes and drinking water facilities on student learning. Additionally, the effectiveness of initiatives for promoting agricultural sustainability was evaluated. The assessment also covered renovated community toilets, pathways, Panihar, and irrigation tank sites to gauge their impact on improving local infrastructure and quality of life. Furthermore, the upgraded medical equipment at the Community Health Centre was inspected to assess its potential for delivering improved medical services to the local community.

This visit showcased SBI's holistic approach to rural development, emphasizing education, agriculture, healthcare, and infrastructure, ultimately empowering these communities towards a brighter future.



New Beginnings: Initiating Transformative Ventures

- 'Empowering Mithila's Artisans: Preserving Heritage and Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods' funded by Wurth Electronics, being implemented in Madhubani District of Bihar.
- 'Project LearnWell: Transforming Rural Education' funded by Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR), being implemented in Garur Block, Bageshwar District of Uttarakhand
- 'Sustainable Agro- Economic Development through Lakadong Turmeric and Ginger Value Chain Enhancement' funded by LIC HFL and implemented in Laskein Block of West Jaintia Hills in Meghalaya
- 'Augmenting Clean Drinking Water Facility in 100 Selected Government Schools', funded by Hyundai Motor India Foundation and implemented in Gadchiroli District of Maharashtra

2024: Excellence Award in Natural Resource Management by HDFC Bank Parivartan



SUVIDHA is honoured to receive the esteemed HDFC Parivartan Excellence Award for our commitment to Natural Resource Management activities.

The initiatives encompass a wide range of activities including the construction of Stock/Gabion Dams, rejuvenation of ponds and micro reservoirs, renovation of wells, social forestry, and other water conservation interventions.

This recognition validates our efforts in preserving precious natural resources and empowering local communities to thrive in harmony with their environment.

At SUVIDHA, we believe that recognizing and appreciating the hard work of our dedicated team members is essential to fostering a culture of excellence and motivation. Through our **Employee Recognition Program**, we celebrate outstanding individuals from different programs and skill sets who consistently go above and beyond.



Komal Kumar Songar

Subject Matter Specialist
HDFC-HRDP, Maheshwar



Sundar Singh Rawat

Head-Finance &
Accounts, Head Office



Rinki Devi

Remedial Teacher Lagga
SBI Gram Seva, Chamba