

# Landscapes and Agroecology



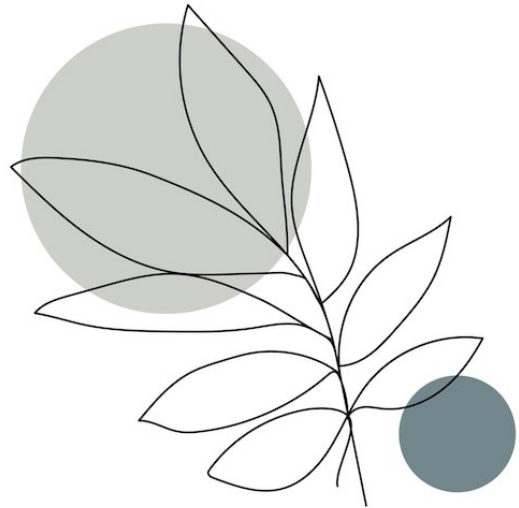
**WASSAN**

**Annual Report  
2023-2024**



# Landscapes and Agroecology

Annual Report 2023 – 24

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# Executive Summary

## ‘LANDSCAPES AND AGROECOLOGY’

The 2023–24 year marks a significant milestone for WASSAN. Over the past two decades, WASSAN has evolved from a focus on **Natural Resource Management (NRM)** as a part of participatory watershed development to an approach to **agroecology** where crops, livestock, birds, fisheries and other production systems are integrated in a landscape. This year, we've taken a major step forward by integrating **Local Circular Economy** models into our understanding of these landscapes resulting in direct livelihood benefits to communities. A key development this year is the integration of **local food systems**, connecting them to the specific agroecology of each landscape. This has further enriched the organisation's perspective on agroecology. This new perspective is now central to all spheres of WASSAN's work.

Throughout this entire journey, our core focus has remained on supporting the **poor, women, smallholder farmers, and rainfed regions**.

This year, our partnership with the **Azim Premji Foundation (APF)** reaches its **10th Anniversary**. In recognition of WASSAN's achievements, APF has provided us with a **Corpus Grant**. The proceeds from this grant giving us the freedom to sharpen our focus and deepen our impact in the communities we serve.

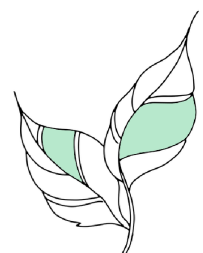
We are also proud to be celebrating the **20th anniversary** of our partnership with the **Ford Foundation**. The **BUILD program** has been instrumental in strengthening WASSAN's institutional capacity, preparing us for a new phase of growth and development for better impacts.

We have titled this year's Annual Report "**Landscapes and Agroecology**" to mark the evolution of our thinking and to give a glimpse of the wide range of initiatives we've undertaken on the subject. The report highlights our work across the organization and our collaborative efforts with both state and central governments to bring prosperity to communities in rainfed regions.

We thank all the philanthropies, donors and other agencies for their support; The state and central government for their collaboration; the communities and their institutions that we are partnering with, for their institutions we are partnering with for their immense contribution to enhancing our knowledge and wisdom.

**RAVINDRA ADUSUMILLI**

*Executive Secretary, WASSAN*



# BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Chairperson

**Shri Jagadananda** is a renowned social activist and civil society leader with significant contributions to governance and grassroots development. He has served as State Information Commissioner of Odisha and is currently the President of National Social Watch (NSW) and Chair of Sa-Dhan. He has also led national networks like VANI and Credibility Alliance, promoting accountability and civil society strengthening. Email: [jagadaj@gmail.com](mailto:jagadaj@gmail.com)



Trustee

**Shri Gagan Sethi**, a Development Educator and Organizational Development expert, is the founder of Janvikas and has been instrumental in establishing several strategic organizations across India. He has served on the NHRC monitoring group for human rights violations during the Gujarat Earthquake and Communal Violence. His expertise spans Human and Institutional Development, gender training, organizational interventions, and strategic planning, with assignments for SDC, GIZ, Christian Aid, and other INGOs. Email: [gaganssethi@gmail.com](mailto:gaganssethi@gmail.com)



Trustee

**Smt Ashwini Kulkarni** belongs to the Civil Society organisation Pragati Abhiyan based in Nashik. She has been associated with rural poverty related programmes for two decades. Pragati Abhiyan works with tribal villages of Nashik district and is also involved in research and policy work. Email: [pragati.abhiyan@gmail.com](mailto:pragati.abhiyan@gmail.com)



Trustee

**Shri. P. Balaram** has over 42 years of experience in community rights, common land development, and participatory water management. He founded *Jana Jagruti Kendra* after two decades with the Young India Project, where he organized agricultural workers for fair wages and social security. He has led programs on watershed development, sustainable agriculture, and community-managed seed systems, and currently serves as a Trustee of WASSAN, Hyderabad. Email: [balramjkdre@rediffmail.com](mailto:balramjkdre@rediffmail.com)



Trustee

**Shri K. Suresh**, associated with WASSAN Group of Institutions for several years. An agriculturist by profession, but his passion is in children's literature. Founded 'Manchi Pustakam', a trust to publish, and promote children's literature and popular science books. Email: [kosaraju.suresh@gmail.com](mailto:kosaraju.suresh@gmail.com)



# Watershed Support Services and Activities Network (WASSAN)

WASSAN (Watershed Support Services and Activities Network) is a national level non-profit organization founded in 1999 and headquartered in Hyderabad, India.

**Promoting ecological security with economic prosperity** for communities in the rainfed regions is the essence of WASSAN's work. It works with a focus on small holder farmers, agriculture workers, poor and women in the marginalized geographies of Rainfed and tribal areas. Community institutions are central to whatever WASSAN takes up.

WASSAN is a networking organisation partnering with over 200 civil society organisations across the country and learning from those experiences. WASSAN works intensely on ground in four states and works through networks in ten others. Their work is concentrated on natural resource management, rainfed agriculture, and agroecological transformation.

We synthesize grassroots experiences into mainstream government programs, improving the quality and effectiveness of public investments in rainfed areas. This involves supporting state and central governments with effective outreach and policy development to scale our work.

## ORGANIZATION VISION

WASSAN's vision is to strengthen Natural Resources Management (NRM) practices through a development, networking and policy engagement. This aims to secure the livelihoods of deprived communities in drought-prone areas. The participatory processes include capacity building, institutional development, networking, and advocacy.

**Core Values:** WASSAN's core values guide its work

- **Equity:** A commitment to reducing all forms of discrimination, with a specific focus on the small holder farmers, agriculture labour, poor, *dalit*, *adivasi*, and women.
- **Participation:** A belief in the knowledge, capacities, and institutions of local people.
- **Collaboration:** Developing synergies through networking.
- **Teamwork:** Striving for quality, innovation, and diversity.
- **Accountability with transparency:** Ensuring clear & open operations.



# ABBREVIATIONS

ASC	Agricultural Service Centre
BRC	Bio Input Resource Centre
CMSS	Community managed Seed Systems
CROPS4HD	Consumption of Resilient Orphan Crops & Products for healthier Diets
CRP	Community Resource Person
CRZBNF	Climate Resilient Zero Budget Natural Farming
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DA&FE	Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment
e-PRA	electronic- Participatory Resource Appraisal
FF	Farmer Families
FISRAP	FOLU India Sustainable Rainfed Agriculture Program
FPO	Farmer Producers Organisation
GP	Gram Panchayat
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Service
ITDA	Integrated Tribal Development Agency
NABARD	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
NF	Natural Farming
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
OMM	Odisha Millets Mission
PDS	Public Distribution System
PFA	Project Facilitating Agency
PVS	Participatory Varietal Selection
RRRC	Rayalaseema Regional Resource Centre
RSA	Resource Support Agency
SHG	Self Help Group
SPPIF	Special Program for Promotion of Integrated Farming in Tribal Areas
SRI	System of Rice Intensification
TV	Traditional Variety
WASSAN	Watershed Support Services and Activities Network
WDF	Watershed Development Fund









## SECTION ~ 1

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# LANDSCAPES AND AGROECOLOGY

Rooted in Participatory Watershed Development as an approach- 'landscape thinking' is an integral approach in WASSAN's work. The evolving understanding of climate change issues and agroecological approaches have enriched WASSAN's depth of knowledge about the multiple manifestations that the ecological and economic systems of the landscape have in the lives of community and social fabric. This reflects in the crop, livestock and other production systems. Over the last 25 years of its work in rainfed eco-economic systems, WASSAN firmly believes in communities' control and stewardship on their landscapes, its production systems and the economy, is the way forward in the rainfed areas.



# AGROECOLOGY AND LANDSCAPES IN THE TRIBAL AREAS OF NORTHERN ANDHRA PRADESH

WASSAN initiated its work in the tribal areas of the northern Andhra Pradesh intensely with the **Comprehensive Revival of Millets Program** supported by the Government of Andhra Pradesh and in partnership with several grassroots organisations. The work further intensified with a collaborative program with the Tribal welfare and Animal Husbandry Departments on **promoting desi-poultry for intensification of the farming systems. Two operational areas emerged in partnership with Sanjeevini in Alluri Sitharamraju (ASR) district and with ARTS and others in Seethampet region of Parvathipuram - Manyam district.**

WASSAN has expanded its partnerships and collaborations in this region. It partners with and supports several grassroots organisations in both ASR and Manyam districts, predominantly tribal populated districts of Andhra Pradesh. WASSAN works closely with **AP Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF) Program** of the Government of Andhra Pradesh; and has research collaborations with KVKs and Regional Research Stations of the ANGR Agriculture University. The corpus grant of Azim Premji Foundation has been one of the core supports for the WASSAN's work in the Northern Andhra Pradesh region.







**NF Cotton Model Plot**  
Name of the farmer : Arika Chinnarao  
Village : Venkataguda (Kaariguda)  
Panchayat : Nallaraiguda  
Mandal : Bhamini





## CSR of HDFC Bank's Parivartan Program

extended investment support for the project "Ecological Intensification of Tribal Economies". This helped us to intensify our work in Manyam-Parvathipuram district which we have initiated few years back. The program, in its second year, targeted **18 tribal Gram Panchayats / 108 habitations** in three Mandals (Seethampet, Bhamini and Veeraghattam) of the district. This year the program could cover **1712 families**.

The initiatives in ASR district touched the lives of about **4000 tribal farm families**.

These field areas have become learning "grounds" for WASSAN team in the areas of landscape level agroecological transformation. WASSAN works in close collaboration with APCNF in these areas.









# AGROECOLOGY AND LANDSCAPES TRANSFORMATION

Ecological intensification of the production systems and strengthening local economy of the tribal areas are one of the core programs of WASSAN. Water resources management, crop systems diversification and intensification, integration of livestock – desi-poultry farms in particular, and promotion of local processing units to strengthen local circular economy, are the key strategies evolved to ecologically strengthen the production landscapes.

## ■ Water Collectives

In Manyam district, Water Collectives covering 182 acres were formed this year; 30 acres of contiguous area in Karraguda village and 100 acres in Chinnagora village were fully established. Access to water was created using solar energy powered lifts covering the entire area through a grid of pipeline and micro irrigation equipments. The once single crop area, frequently suffering from crop losses due to dry spells, is now shifting to double cropped area with some farmers taking up intensive vegetable cultivation. All the farmers vouched to move towards Natural Farming with poly crop systems. Farmers have agreed to collect contributions from next 5 subsequent crop harvests to pay the next FPO, so as to meet repair, maintenance, and replacement costs over time. Institutional norms and systems for sharing water were established. About 80% of work in the similar water collectives of MM Guda (40 ac) and Vamberli (20 ac) and Rasoolpeta (10 ac) was near completion during this year.

While the above are fixed solar powered pump and grids serving the water collectives, 8 solar *mobile* energy carts/ pumps owned by the

farmers' groups and operated on a rental basis were established. These *solar powered mobile pumps on wheels* can pump water for irrigation from multiple water bodies.

## ■ Multi Purpose Eco Farm Ponds

**151 Farm Ponds** (32 in Manyam and 119 in ASR) were excavated and intensely planted with multiple fruit trees, grasses, pulses, flowers and others using all the available bund-space. Fisheries were introduced as a supplementary production system and the water is also used to provide critical irrigation to small plots around using mobile solar pumps. The farm ponds enable water harvesting, reducing peak runoff and retaining water to percolate and later improve the groundwater. Seen as an ecosystem, each of these eco-farm ponds generated income from Rs.10000 to 20000 annually, in addition to providing household nutrition in terms of fish, fruits and vegetables.

Development of the **119 farm ponds** in Araku was supported by the CSR grant from Coromandel International Ltd.









# SUPPORT SYSTEMS FOR NATURAL FARMING

## ■ PROMOTION OF CROP DIVERSIFICATION

Crop diversification and intensification is one of the key aspects of Natural farming. In addition to trying out various models of poly crops along with farmers, the following were attempted.

- **Diversification and Intensification of  
Cashew Orchards**

The monocrop of Cashew plantations in Man-  
yam district promoted by ITDA at scale have  
become old and due to very poor management  
practices followed, often resulted in low yields.  
250 acres of such orchards were targeted to  
introduce proper management practices and  
intensify the orchards by introducing multiple  
plant species like broom, pineapple, lemon,  
sapota and others. Efforts were also made on  
soil conservation and water retention in these  
plantations. The operations were carried out  
by 10 labour groups and 15 cashew- resource  
persons well-trained in these operations such  
as pruning, trenching, stem pasting, neem cake  
application, etc. The labour groups were  
equipped with Chainsaw and other equipment  
for easy pruning and other operations; this was  
to institutionalise and create market mecha-  
nism to expand the operations beyond the pro-  
ject.

Similar initiatives on cashew orchards intensifi-  
cation were taken up in 200 acres of lands  
that was given to tribals under ROFR/ Forest  
Rights Act.

- **Millets Intensification**

A combination of principles from System of  
Rice Intensification, *Guli Ragi* (a traditional  
practices in Karnataka) and natural farming  
method has been successful in getting higher  
yields in millets without using any chemicals.  
The crop cutting experiments involving farmers  
and researchers have shown very high yields  
i.e. over 10 qt per acre; these practices were  
tried in Ragi (finger millet) and Sama (Little  
millet) crops in about 148 acres.

- **Natural Farming in Turmeric**

Low curcumin content is one of the problems in  
effective marketing of turmeric in this area.  
Turmeric seed with high curcumin content  
(both traditional and improved var) were tried  
in Crop Biodiversity Blocks, selections were  
made by farmers using PVS methods and the  
selected seed is being multiplied. About 20  
tons of seed is procured from the bio-diversity  
blocks and other farmers for replacing  
local seed material. Natural farming methods  
were also promoted in all these plots.

## ■ BIO-INPUT RESOURCE CENTRES

These are enterprises supplying bio-inputs at  
cost to farmers who would not like to prepare  
them by themselves and intends to buy if avail-  
able. Two more BRC units were established this  
year with 18 cattle sheds lined, enabling urine  
collection in an underground sump through  
connected pipelines. The preparation of Jee-  
vamrutam is automated with solar powered  
aerator. The enterprise also prepares other bio-  
inputs. All these BRCs together produced  
8000 litres of Jeevamrutam per month.



## ■ EQUIPMENT HIRING CENTRES (CHCS)

As the landscapes are getting into intensification, the labour requirement issues need to be addressed. These centres are established in each of the four clusters with an array of implements and small machines available for renting out; the equipment are weeders, multi grain thresher, bed makers, graders, chain saw, sprayers, power weeders, oil engines, sprinkler pipes, drag nets, happa nets, paddy reapers and others useful in agriculture, horticulture and fisheries. The list of equipments to be placed was finalised after intensive deliberations with the farmers' groups.

## ■ STRENGTHENING LOCAL CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Due to lack of simple processing facilities, much of the processing, even that of household needs, goes to nearby towns. The Participatory exercises conducted to assess such drain in consumption expenditure led to identification of processing requirement for local consumption and simple grading for marketing. This was led by four GP level Governance Committees – organising meetings in the villages, identifying the entrepreneurs and locations for setting processing hubs. Subsequently rice mills, flour mills, grader and destoner, flour cum rice mills, pellet making mills for poultry feed manufacturing were procured with farmers' contribution; so far 80 such small processing enterprises were established in the four clusters.

## ■ INTENSIVE *DESI* POULTRY BREED FARM ENTERPRISES

Each desi-breed farm enterprise is spread in about half acre of farm land with tree plantations and a poultry shed. The area will be fenced. Desi-poultry birds are reared under foraging system with supplementary feed. The chicks and growers are sold to the households in the village for rearing in the backyards. 4 such farms were established this year provid-

ing support to 305 households who have constructed a small night shelter for keeping over 10 hen units. The breed farm generates about Rs.50,000 to 80,000 income annually, the household backyard poultry generates about Rs.8000 to 10000 annually after meeting the family's consumption needs.

The initiatives have all evolved from several exercises of understanding the landscapes in each cluster and analysing the issues and opportunities along with the community in various platforms created involving SHGs, Gram Panchayats and traditional cultural leaders of the tribal community. Strategies evolved in these discussions and are converted into program design. Much of the strategies are evolved as business/ enterprise promotion with capital subsidisation. Together, these initiatives address various elements of the landscape – the hillocks, the mid lands, the low lands, planning for the ecosystem intensification and realising the economic opportunities.

The support of HDFC-Parivarthan is highly appreciated to make our first inroads into a systematic agroecological transformation of the landscapes. The program area has become a site for exposure and learning visits with visitors coming from all over the country.

“...WASSAN partners with the AP Community Managed Natural Farming program in implementing the SABAL project - Restoring and Protecting Biodiversity in the Eastern and Western Ghats of India through Sustainable Agriculture, supported by UNEP under a GEF project in the Eastern Ghats region anchored by Rainforest Alliance. It is part of a broader initiative focused on sustainable landscape management & transformative agricultural systems in biodiversity-rich regions of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka...”

The experiences in **SABAL project** has further taken agroecological approaches to scale in the tribal areas of ASR District. The program implementation achieved promoting about 20 Desi-Poultry Breed farms and over 1000 night shelters for desi-birds improving their consumption and local sale; this is in convergence with ITDA and Dept of Animal Husbandry. These are in the process of conversion to multi-layer integrated farms.

Water collectives were established in 9 villages covering 84 acres enabling farmers of the collective to go for rabi agriculture while removing climate uncertainties. 1035 water bodies were mapped for integrating fisheries into the landscape and converting into Eco-Farm ponds. Mobile Solar powered pumps were also promoted for integrating irrigation.

Natural farming is one of the key initiatives in this area. 12 Bio-input Resource Centres (BRCs) were established serving farmers in 33 villages

System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in rice (about 100 acres) and the introduction of these principles in Sama (Little Millet) to cover 150 acres in 7 mandals have been quite successful; little millet yields increased to 10 qt per acre as against 3 to 5 qt in the conventional method. Initiatives such as developing local village technicians in coffee processing, mechanising the baby pulpers and formation of Agriculture Service Centres to rent out small farm equipments were taken up successfully within the program landscapes. WASSAN collaborates with over 10 grassroots NGOs and with KVKs and Agriculture University in this program. WASSAN provides support in developing landscape plans in this program.









# AGROECOLOGY AND LANDSCAPES IN THE DRYLANDS OF RAYALASEEMA

The drylands of Rayalaseema, Kadiri (Sri Satya Sai district) and Madanapalle (Annamayya District) regions have been a learning ground for WASSAN in promoting landscape based natural farming / agro-ecological practices that build resilience and enhance livelihoods. These initiatives are supported by the Azim Premji Foundation as Climate Resilient Zero Budget Natural Farming (CRZBNF) program. The programs here are anchored in three Farmer Producers Organisations (FPOs) – Jana Jeevana, Prakruti and Adarsha MACS.

HDFC-Parivarthan program has supported in scaling up some of the successful initiatives under the project **“Sustainable community institutions and market ecosystem for supporting transition to Natural Farming and increase in Real Incomes of small and marginal farmers”** initiated during the year. The project targets 17 Gram Panchayats (114 habitations) in 3 Mandals spread out in the two districts outreaching 6000 farmers.

The program is implemented in three landscapes/ clusters following an approach to establish support systems for transformation to agroecology. Crop diversification and natural farming are central to the approach anchored in 3 FPOs.

Seed Systems, Bio-input Resource Centres (BRCs) and Custom Hiring Centres for renting out farm equipment were established as support systems for the natural farming farmers. Crop Diversity Blocks for selection of Traditional Varieties through Participatory Varietal Selection were established in 36 locations for various crops. ‘Seed Committees’ in the FPOs provide the necessary supervision. Traditional Seeds of diverse crops selected from CDBs were multiplied supplied to 590 acres as a business by FPOs. Six Bio-input Resource Centres (BRCs) established as enterprises producing bio-inputs for natural farming. 2 Agri-Service Centres (ASC)s for farm equipment renting were established.

Strengthening Circular Local Economy is an important design element. 5 post-harvest and 11 primary processing units were established as enterprises. 18 value added enterprises that includes 4 enterprises specialising in Ready-to-Eat (RTE) products were established during the year.

Enabling ease-of-marketing services within the landscapes is another design element. Two Village Trade Centres are established which also serve as procurement centres for marketing by the FPOs. A godown was in the process of construction, sanctioned by the Horticulture department. All these initiatives are backed by intensive training and exposure visits for the FPO members and farmers.

An emerging area of action is vegetable production using natural farming. 59 farmers were initiated into NF vegetable cultivation with poly crops and using inputs from the BRCs. Efforts are also being made for organised marketing to Bengaluru and in local markets.

HDFC-Parivarthan program brought in required infrastructural and institutional investments to the FPOs, enabling them to effectively move forward on the natural farming pathways.

*The CRZBNF* program is a continuous engagement in given landscapes. Poly-cropping systems – some revived from the traditions of the drylands (like Navadhanya) and some evolved through local experimentation along with farmers have been an area of focus. About 626 farmers have tried these in 747 acres in the clusters; these also include diversification of orchards introducing multiple crops. The poly crop models are evolving for different situations / crop systems.

An experiment on forming wage worker groups and leasing of land for intensive vegetable cultivation was tried with 5 groups; on an average each group earned about Rs.32000/-profit. Kitchen gardens were also promoted in 137 households using natural farming methods for safe and healthy vegetable supply for a large part of the year.



Collaboration with MCRC, Chennai supported in improving the rigour of preparing bio-inputs; 62 entrepreneurs were trained by MCRC to produce 8000 litres of *Panchagavya*, 15 of them produced 5000 litres of humic acid and 6 of them produced 40 tons of Biochar. Total of 1307 farmers were outreached in this initiative covering 1747 acres.

AGRICULTURE SERVICE CENTRES helps in making farm equipment available to small holders without purchasing them. An attempt was made this year to promote such four centres by organising wage labour groups to manage the rental services.

WATER COLLECTIVES for securing rainfed crops is an integral strategic element in achieving drought resilience in these drylands. An initiative in this regard resulted in 42 farmers having access to groundwater sharing water for protective irrigation saving 158 rainfed farmers.

LIVESTOCK is an important component of the dryland ecosystems. The initiatives on reducing desi-bird mortality by trained vaccinators within the Gram Panchayat covered around 1400 birds. Promotion of intensive Desi-poultry breed farms with multi-layer plantation is one of the strategic elements of landscape level natural farming promoted by WASSAN. This year, these efforts were continued with 9 families with focus on evolving a model with minimal investments.. Other initiatives include working around live-sheep markets and calf-rearing centre to augment supply of bullocks as an enterprise.

**NUTRITION & CIRCULAR ECONOMY:** Can the nutritional requirements at the community level in a landscape spin-off local enterprises? WASSAN has been in the forefront of promoting millets in crop systems and its consumption.

An initiative to close the link through promoting women enterprises was initiated. These enterprises process millets using Millet mixies which were developed, sold and provided maintenance service by WASSAN.

## ■ RAYALASEEMA REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTRE (RRRC)

Jana Jeevana FPO, supported by WASSAN made good progress in its business development. The need to expand such institutional and business development services to various FPOs formed under various programs in the region led to the evolution of RRRC. 15 FPOs were identified for further support. Discussions with MYRADA in developing its training campus in Kadiri to initiate structured capacity building support led to initiating RRRC in its campus. A collaboration agreement was made with MYRADA in this regard for 10 years. WASSAN's office would also be shifted to the RRRC campus renovating two office Blocks under the agreement.

Thus, there is substantial progress move forward in the landscape based agroecology programs in Araku, Manyam districts in the tribal areas and Satya Sai and Annamaya districts of Andhra Pradesh. These initiatives are supported by the Azim Premji Foundation and HDFC-Parivarthan program.









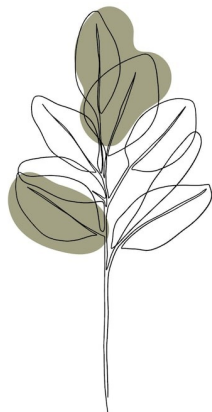




# MALNUTRITION FREE GRAM PANCHAYATS

Human Nutrition is an important part of 'One Health' and can be a potential driver for agroecological transformation as it starts at home. An initiative taken up in GPs where Sarpanches took leadership to make their GPs Malnutrition-free in 5 years by bringing in **diversity in the farms and in plates (more colours in the plate) and 25% rice replacement with Millets**. It was implemented in 29 villages of B Kotthagudem and KB Asifabad, Vikarabad districts of Telangana targeting children, adolescent girls, women, differently-abled persons, patients with lifestyle diseases like diabetes, blood pressure, etc. This program was in its initial stages where in planning tools were developed for situation assessment and several programs were taken up with Anganwadi workers and the Gram Panchayats.

This program titled **"Regenerative Landscapes for Community Based Food Systems"** was taken up as an internal capacity building initiative under the BUILD grant of the Ford Foundation.









# ENGAGING WITH THE PASTORAL SYSTEMS IN TELANGANA

Pastoral systems and communities are essential part of rainfed landscapes; its ecosystem services and livestock economy. WASSAN facilitated formation of a Breeders' Association that resulted into the registration of the first indigenous cattle breed for Telangana- 'Poda Thurpu' cattle. An in depth scoping exercise of the pastoralism in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh was carried out.

The engagement with pastoral communities in Telangana was carried out as an internal learning exercise under the BUILD program. Formation of a Pastoral Youth Network with identified young pastoralists in 7 mandals was initiated following a field survey. Along with

the Breeders' Association, CONARE, a field partner and Centre for Pastoralism, strategic support was extended for pastoralists to access Community Forest Rights to access grazing areas. WASSAN collaborated with the **"Living Lightly"**, a curated exhibition on pastoralism in India anchored by **Centre for Pastoralism**.

The team has supported in the operationalisation of the Pastoral Census under the Livestock Census, 2024. Developing a module on training for Para-legal workers to access Community Forest Rights was also initiated with CfP.









# FOLU INDIA SUSTAINABLE RAINFED AGRICULTURE PROGRAM (FISRAP)

FOLU India Sustainable Rainfed Agriculture Program (FISRAP) was supported by IKEA foundation. WASSAN continued this program into Phase 2 in Vikarabad (Telangana), Sri Satya Sai (AP) and Gadchiroli (Maharashtra) districts. The programme focused on strengthening farmer enrolment, building capacities on sustainable and regenerative practices, and setting up ecosystems support systems such as seed banks, bio-resource centres, and custom hiring centres.

A cadre of 95 champion farmers were identified who were trained as CRPs to support scaling up of the initiatives. 230 farmers were enrolled to practice Integrated Farming Systems,

bio-input use/ production, ploy cropping and practicing Natural Farming. BRCs and Seed Banks were set up in Vikarabad and Sri Satya Sai district each covering 120 to 300 farmers. A five members delegation visited Ethiopia for cross learning. Positive response was obtained from the respective District Administrations for scaling up of several of these initiatives piloted in the program.

These outcomes of the program provided strong evidence on ground that regenerative agriculture, when implemented systematically, can improve livelihoods, strengthen rural economies, and build resilience in rainfed regions.









# REGENERATIVE, PRODUCTIVE AND CLIMATE RESILIENT LANDSCAPES

WASSAN in collaboration with Rainmatter Foundation and RRA Network started a first of its kind initiative to co-create an ecosystem of services at scale enabling landscape level transitions for regenerative and climate resilient agriculture. The program started in January 2022 with support from Rainmatter Foundation.

The program entailed complementary areas of work- a) working with communities to design and execute regenerative landscape transitions across different bio-regions; b) identify/pilot and build upon solutions that enable regenerative transitions and have potential for scaling up; c) build collaborative platforms (pool thematic expertise and provide backend support) that facilitate access to a supportive ecosystem – essential for landscape-wide transitions into regenerative systems at scale. At the level of a landscape, such a supportive ecosystem may include access to protective irrigation, diverse seeds, bio-inputs, suitable farm tools, local processing, vaccination services, quality feed and many more.

The program was taken up in Kantasole Gram Panchayat (Dumariya Block) in East Singhbhum district of Jharkhand in partnership with Kalamandir, Wardha in Maharashtra with Dharamitra and in Sakri Gram Panchayat in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh.

Used Participatory tools such as **e-PRA** – using Google Earth for understanding landscapes, **Fasal Chakra**– to profile the crop systems, their seasonality and practices across different land types in the landscape and **Basket of needs**– to understand the local economy to plan for local Circular Economy Initiatives.

Facilitating an understanding of the landscape ecosystem and economy and identifying the critical issues in growth and ecosystem regen-

eration along with the community in these Gram Panchayats led to several initiatives. Discovering that the GP was spending about one crore rupees annually on vegetables coming from outside. The root cause was traced to the lack of rabi irrigation which led the farmers to initiate irrigation development in Kantasole. Promoting natural farming in paddy to remove chemicals in their ecosystems and integrating desi-poultry were the other initiatives that had taken off.

In Panjara Gram Panchayat in Maharashtra the joint analysis with the community led to a GP wide water resource planning resulting into community pursuing revival of the Water Users Association, repairing damaged pipelines and advocating these with the irrigation department. In Sakri GP in Himachal, the wild life conflict became the major pain point; follow up action led to the Gram Panchayat meeting the District Collector for promotion of solar fences. These were some of the initiatives the communities had taken up, among many.

The program resulted in developing a framework of analysis with participatory tools to engage with the community to identify the major issues in the landscape restoration and strengthening local economy. The framework evolved provided tools for landscape planning in other programs of WASSAN.





SECTION ~ 2

# SCALING UP OF LANDSCAPES AND AGROECOLOGY INITIATIVES

23

| Landscapes and Agroecology

Rajkumar Gavhale..



# JIVA

## Agroecology Program of NABARD

JIVA-Agroecology program was launched in 2022. WASSAN had contributed to its evolution, development of the concept and program design and guidelines. It was the first public investment program on landscape based agroecological transition launched in 10 states with 24 organisations. Overlaid on the WDF-Watershed and TDF programs JIVA comprehensively invests on the farmers' behavioural transformation, ecosystem support services and strengthening local economy.

WASSAN took the responsibility of being national **Resource Support Agency (RSA)** for the JIVA program funded by GIZ. This year being the Pilot phase of the program, much efforts went into orienting the actors in the program. Structured landscape-agroecology modules were developed for training using Google Classroom. ePRA and Fasal Chakra are the participatory planning tools evolved and the Facilitating Agencies teams were trained in these tools and using open source GIS- QGIS, Google Earth Pro etc., for spatial agroecosystems analysis of the landscape.

Crop diversification, soil health improvement, management of pests and diseases, support services such as seed systems, BRCs, farm equipment rentals were the subject areas covered in addition to farmer led extension systems. Following these, training programs were organised by WASSAN with the support of GIZ for the NABARD DDMs and RO officials and supported them in the appraisal of the DPRs.

This was followed by in-person training for PFAs in South and North India partners for four days supported by GIZ. These participatory trainings were focused on preparation of detailed DPR for JIVA main phase. Ecosystems analysis, understanding landscapes and linkages between various elements of ecosystems, identifying the constraints and action plans were the focus of these deliberations.

These in person training was followed by field visits and on-field training. About 25 such field based trainings were conducted in 11 states for 24 PFA partners. These trainings were backed up by resource material / knowledge products shared with the PFA teams on various subjects; this includes an operational manual of JIVA program. WASSAN also provided inputs for the MEL system to be developed by GIZ. The WASSAN team also coordinated deployment of external Farmer Resource Persons from APCNF into JIVA projects.







# JIVA - AGROECOLOGY AND WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT

WASSAN supported NABARD in the design and operationalisation of JIVA-Agroecology program across the country. JIVA is an epitome for next generation of Watershed Development program designed on agroecology principles.

JIVA program is being implemented by WASSAN in the Mallaigudem Watershed, Ashwaraopet in Telangana. The Watershed Development Program was completed earlier under WDF-program of NABARD spread out in 1274 ha with 570 household. The pilot phase of JIVA program of NABARD is being implemented by WASSAN in the Mallaigudem Watershed, Ashwaraopet in Telangana. The Pilot Phase of JIVA taken up in Mallaigudem served as a benchmark and learning ground for developing operational modalities of the JIVA program. Intensive efforts in mobilising farmers for natural farming, developing and piloting locally relevant poly-crop models introducing over 10 crops of millets, pulses etc., in the main crop of groundnut in 28 ha with farmers, introducing natural farming practices in Cotton, groundnut, Palm-oil plantations and others, System of Rice Intensification and soil health improvement practices of Pre-monsoon Dry Sowing (PMDS) and other NF practices were taken up. Eco-

farm ponds, promotion of Desi-Poultry breed farms, NF vegetable cultivation, paving cattle sheds for collection of urine, and several other components were introduced in the farming systems.

A Bio-input Resource Centre (BRC) with automated Jeevamrutam unit has been successful as an enterprise supplying bio-inputs to NF farmers. Further seed systems to provide seed materials and rental service of farm equipments were developed as an ecosystem of support services to farmers, thus enabling their NF transformation process.

The learnings from the implementation in Mallaigudem, provided material for training modules, exposure visits etc. It serves as a benchmark and learning ground for developing operational modalities and the process design of various components of the JIVA - National program of NABARD.

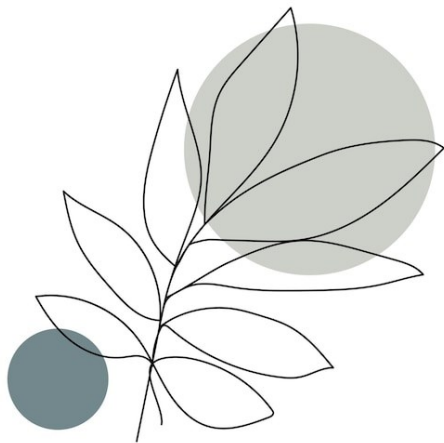




# Natural Farming Transitions in Tribal Landscapes

The program anchored by the **Odisha ST&SC Development, Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare Department** was conceptualised with background work carried out for two years. The program though well conceptualised, did not move forward.

There has been major shift in the approach of WASSAN towards landscape based agroecology transformation. Hands on experience gained in the field programs in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Odisha helped in designing scale-up programs in the mainstream.















SECTION ~ 3

# LANDSCAPES AND CROP SYSTEMS



# Odisha Millets

## Mission (OMM)

Millets are hallmark of the rainfed areas! Domesticated over hundreds of years by rainfed farmers in their rainfed landscapes, millets fill in several niches in crop cycles and crop systems across the topography, balances human nutrition and helps survive climate vagaries. Revival of millets in a landscape need to be integral to the crop, food and economic systems within a landscape. This integral design with administrative Block as a unit evolved over several programs of WASSAN; Launched in 2017-18 by the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment (DAFE), Govt. of Odisha, Odisha Millets Mission (OMM) epitomised the framework and at scale! (<https://milletsodisha.com>)

WASSAN is the Program Secretariat for the OMM supporting Government of Odisha in its design and facilitating implementation. The Odisha Millets Mission (2023-24) consolidated its place as a global model for millet promotion, balancing nutrition, climate resilience, and farmer livelihoods. Its multi-stakeholder approach involving farmers, SHGs, NGOs, academia, and government has turned Odisha into India's leading millet state. With sustained procurement, farmer incentives, SHG enterprises, and global partnerships, OMM is shaping a 10-year roadmap for millet-based sustainable agriculture that is both inclusive and future-ready.

As the Program Secretariat, WASSAN's role and contribution has expanded with the expansion of the project; this year marked by an expansion of the Mission into introducing millets into the PDS (Public (food) Distribution System) and setting up a mechanism for its procurement at MSP; a longstanding policy ask for people working in the rainfed areas!









## Objectives

- Strengthen millet cropping systems and expansion through incentivising and supporting farmers
- Conserve and promote **millet landraces along** with natural farming methods of agronomic practices.
- Establish **seed systems** and improve productivity of millet-based cropping.
- Increase millet household consumption by **25%** over baseline.
- Promote **post-harvest enterprises** and millet-based processing.
- Ensure millet inclusion in **PDS, ICDS, MDM, and SSD hostels**.
- Strengthen millet markets and exports.
- Promote **equity for tribal farmers** with targeted incentives, with a focus on women.

The International Convention on Millets (ICM) has brought in international recognition to millets. Release of four landraces as varieties for mainstream had brought several policy breakthroughs – setting up a protocol for evaluating Traditional Varieties for larger multiplication, instituting a Landraces Varietal Release Committee within the Agriculture Department and field level investments in identification, evaluation, selection and building grassroots capacities in these processes of multiplication of (TVs) Traditional Varieties – were coveted policy achievements internationally. WASSAN's OMM team with the support of the Working Group on Seed Systems for Rainfed Areas of the RRA network anchored in the organisation celebrates this achievement! This is made possible by the proactive support and encouragement of the Agriculture Department of Government of Odisha.

## Programme Achievements

### 2023–24

#### PRODUCTION & AGRONOMY

- **1,43,643 hectares** of millets cultivated under improved agronomic practices.
- **2.47 lakh farmers** engaged.

Diversification of millets from ragi to others such as little millet, foxtail, kodo, sorghum, barnyard, bajra.

#### SEED & BIODIVERSITY

- **Participatory Varietal Trials (PVT):** conducted in **88 blocks**.
- **Four landraces released as Varieties:** Kundra Bati, Laxmipur Kalia, Malyabanta Mami, Gupteshwar Bharati.
- **132 millet landraces** conserved at agro-ecology centres.

Initiatives for **GI tagging of Bati Mandia**.

#### Organic & Sustainable Practices

- 400 ha covered under **organic certification** in 4 districts.
- Promotion of **bio-inputs** (Jeevamruta, Neemastra, Handikhata, etc.) across 17 districts.

Seed Village Programme initiated for certified seed production.

#### Farmer Incentives & Support

- Incentive support raised to **₹26,500/ha** (up from ₹14,500).
- Support period extended from 3 to 5 years. Over **₹63.13 crore** disbursed as incentives since inception.

#### Procurement & Marketing

- Direct procurement through PACS, SHGs, FPOs under MSP.
- **4.5 lakh quintals of ragi** procured in 2023–24 from **42,523 farmers**.  
MSP for Ragi: **₹3846/quintal**.



## NUTRITION & FOOD SECURITY

### • RAGI LADDOO PROGRAMME

- o 1.8 lakh children served in Keonjhar & Sundargarh (ICDS & SSD hostels).
- o Covers **62,000 Anganwadi children** and **86,115 preschool children**.
- o Introduced millet-based recipes in hostels, schools, prisons, and tourism outlets.
- o **Millet Shakti trademark** launched for branding SHG/FPO millet products.

**Centralised bakery unit** established in Bhubaneswar for millet-based value-added products.

This year also saw emergence of partnership between the Mission Shakti, spearheading women SHGs in Odisha & WASSAN for SHG enterprise promotion.

- Nearly **2,700 millet-based enterprises** (cafés, outlets, tiffin centres, processing units).
- **₹4+ crore turnover** achieved by SHG-run millet businesses.
- **Capacity building:** training in recipe innovation, machinery handling, book-keeping, packaging.
- A unique program on addressing the issues of Single Women households has been initiated this year in three districts (Koraput, Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh ), marking a beginning of policy uptake on this gender and inclusion backed up by public investments. The program engaged with 1,628 single women farmers establishing 11 enterprises by March 2024. The aim of this initiative is to achieve financial independence & social acceptance of single women farmers.

This year also saw several national and international events organised –

- **INTERNATIONAL Convention on Millets ICM)** – 32 sessions, global participation.
- Drafted the **Bhubaneswar Declaration** (10-year policy roadmap for millets).
- Celebrated **Mandia Dibasa** statewide.
- Showcased in **COP28, G20, and global conferences**.

Wide urban outreach: cafés, kiosks, recipe festivals, media campaigns.

Several Partnerships & Collaborations evolved during the year which also symbolises the Multi-Actor Platform nature of the OMM Program Secretariat:

- **National/International:** FAO, ICAR, IIMR, CSIR, APAARI, ICRISAT, WFP, Columbia University.
- **State Departments:** Tourism, Sports, School & Mass Education, Health, Mission Shakti.
- **Institutions:** Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP), Startup Odisha, APEDA (exports), SCSTRI.
- **Urban Integration:** BMC, BDA, OTDC, Hotels & Restaurants Association.
- **Exports:** First millet consignment exported to **UAE**.

“Thanks to the Government of Odisha, OMM has been a great ‘policy learning and action’ opportunity for WASSAN. More than anything, OMM demonstrated how policy frameworks can accommodate decentralised, landscape action anchored in communities and their local ecosystems and economy.”







A photograph of two young children sitting on the ground, eating from metal plates. The child in the foreground is wearing a blue and white striped shirt and is focused on eating. The child in the background is wearing a blue shirt and is also eating. The ground is a light-colored, textured surface. The image is partially covered by a dark blue overlay on the right side, which contains white text.

## INITIAL COVERAGE

30 blocks in 7 districts,  
now scaled up to  
177 blocks  
in all 30 districts  
(2023–24) with  
with an approved budget  
of Rs. 2687.45 crores  
(2023-24 to 2026-27)



# National Program on Evolving Seed Systems for Traditional Varieties (TVs)

Evolving seed systems that meet diverse needs of a landscape – land types, soil, moisture regimes, crop mixes etc., is a challenge as neither the markets nor the government caters to the needs of such diverse, locally adapted seed requirements. Traditional Varieties are best suited for this purpose. WASSAN has been invested on this agenda of mainstreaming TVs and building scientific capacities on ground to evolve such localised seed systems; termed *Community Managed Seed Systems (CMSS)*. The program is internally resourced from the Azim Premji Foundation corpus grant.

WASSAN works closely with and is the technical anchor of the Working Group on Seed Systems of RRA network. This year 2023–24 was a landmark year in terms of the spread of the initiatives and in fostering largescale partnerships across the country.

Overall the partnership was spread across 66 organisations in Rajasthan, MP, UP, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Odisha, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Nagaland.

Trainings were aligned with crop stages for real-time learning, combining hands-on field-work and technical sessions for CSOs, CMSS fellows, and farmers. Such training were taken in four phases – Phase 1 focusing on orientation on agri-diversity and TVs, introduction to Crop Diversity Blocks (CDBs), CMSS and on participatory exploratory tools like Fasal Chakra, Four-Cell Analysis and *Passport Data* collection. Phase 2 was focused on maintain CDBs and natural farming based package of practices.

Phase 3 was mostly on field based data collection and Phase 4 focuses on Participatory Varietal Selections, Crop Cutting Experiments etc.

A total of 54 CSOs identified potential TVs, planned 160 CDBs, of which 140 were established, across 12 states. Out of the 140 established CDBs in 2023, 68 were well-maintained –two replications, complete characterization data, and more TVs under natural farming (NF) practices; others have partial data or faced issues like poor germination.

About 17 in-person training sessions and workshops were held this year across 13 regions, engaging 279 participants from 182 organisations in 14 states; and 104 participants in the online training. 13 CMSS Fellows (farmers championing the cause of TVs across the country were identified and trained in various exercises to extend field support).

Getting local TV accessions from gene banks (95 from NBPGR and 224 from ICRISAT) and reviving them in the local landscapes through the community initiative and enabling them to select well performing TVs through PVS was a good achievement this year. The TVs in the CDBs were characterised and documented with experienced Farmer Resource Persons providing oversight ensuring consistency; the collected data was uploaded in the web based seed portal developed by WASSAN.

Efforts to establish seed systems for TVs involves extensive technical guidance. State Agriculture Universities, ICAR institutions actively participated in key activities like stage specific crop monitoring, PVS and Crop Cutting Experiments. Strategic collaborations were established and MoU signed with institutions like BC Krishi Vidyalyay (West Bengal) and UAS-Dharwad (Karnatka) for evaluation trials, while partnerships with ICAR-CTCRI, ICRISAT, and ICAR-NBPGR facilitated germplasm exchange and joint research initiatives. Further, a series of state-level workshops were conducted, in 2023 (6) and in 2024 (4), across three states, focusing on integrating TVs into mainstream



agricultural practices. Policy engagement efforts extended to both **state and central governments**, with WASSAN and MANAGE jointly proposing a national scheme to the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (MoA & FW) for *"Promoting community-based seed systems for TVs"*. Additionally, UAS-D and WASSAN submitted a proposal to the Karnataka Department of Agriculture on enhancing seed systems for sustainable and resilient farming. Strengthening these efforts, a collaboration with the National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) led to the organization of a national-level workshop, highlighting the role of TVs in reviving agro-biodiversity and fostering climate-resilient agriculture.

Another seminal work was on *"Participatory development of Seed quality standards in Traditional Varieties"*; workshops were organized at Karnataka, Odisha, West Bengal and developed the seed quality standards for Ragi, Okra, Green gram, Bitter gourd, Amaranths, Bottle gourd, Ridge gourd and Spinach based on Farmers' perception.

## CROPS4HD: Consumption of Resilient Orphan Crops & Products for Healthier Diets

WASSAN is as a partner in this SWISSAID anchored multi-country project engages in development of seeds related systems, policy processes for scaling up. CROPS4HD program seeks to improve food security and nutrition of smallholder farmers, especially women, through sustainable use and conservation of farmers' varieties/landraces, neglected and underutilized species respecting agroecological approaches.

WASSAN works closely with the RRA Network & CROPS4HD programs aligning and complementing the overall work on Traditional Vari-

ties. This year's efforts resulted in the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Empowerment, Govt of Odisha suggested to develop a collaborative action on reviving the potential crops and to connect them with the markets. Odisha University of Agrl Technology (OUAT), agreed for characterisation and evaluation of NUS crops that showed promise in the projects' mother and baby trials in the project.

In a jointly organised workshop with NRAA, its CEO suggested to develop flexible protocols for decentralised, farmer managed seed system. UAS-Bangaluru has agreed to characterise and document the identified NUS crops. A major contribution however, was that Govt of Odisha approving Alternate seed systems for landraces.

With several such achievements, the program is well poised to achieve multiple objectives during the program period.

















# NATURAL RESOURCES AND RAINFED LANDSCAPES

WASSAN emerged in the context of the then new paradigm on 'Participatory Watershed Development' where local communities were brought into centre stage in planning for, development of, and managing their landscapes as a principle in public policy guiding investments in rainfed areas. This has been the approach of the organisation.

This approach on the centrality of the communities in managing their landscapes in watershed development also expanded to integration of various production systems and aligning them to the natural resources development within the landscape. This has been the central focus of the Revitalising Rainfed Agriculture network (RRA Network).

## Special Program for Promotion of Integrated Farming in Tribal Areas (SPPIF)

The **SPPIF** program is an articulation of the above approach evolved from the earlier experiences of WASSAN and partners in Malkangiri district and other programs in Odisha. The SPPIF program is an initiative by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment (DA&FE), Odisha. Clusters of villages comprise contiguous patches covering about 100 hectares each are taken up for development over four-year period. The scheme covers over 600 Farmer Families (FFs) and 250 hectares of land across 2-3 patches within a Gram Panchayat.

The program was built upon an unique model of convergence. Integration of various production systems, including Agriculture, Horticulture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Agroforestry, is facilitated within these clusters by coordinating and converging with different departmental schemes. For the SPPIF scheme budget, funds have been provisioned under the RKVY Scheme and the State Plan to fill critical gaps or support activities not covered by existing schemes in convergence mode.

The program is intended to make farming in rainfed areas profitable, sustainable, and nutrition-sensitive with a focus on women's empowerment, climate resilience, and convergence in government schemes. WASSAN is the State Professional Agency supporting its implementation at the state and district levels. The program is implemented by Facilitating Organisations on ground supporting the FPOs. The program covers 300 GPs in 9 districts covering 75,000 ha benefitting 180,000 farm families.

In the current year the program covered 17,890 acres supporting 14213 farmers in crop diversification. Seed multiplication with Participatory Varietal Selections, Seed Village programs managed by FPOs with certification from OS-SOPCA. 36 Bio-input Resource Centres managed by SHGs were established supplying bio-inputs to the farmers in the clusters. 105336 multi-purpose trees were planted in the clusters under the Adarsh Bagicha- an Agro-Forestry program; 4490 farmers were covered under vegetable production and 6074 farmers adapted Trellis method.

Under the livestock initiatives, Integrated Chick Production Units were promoted as 'Desi-Poultry Entrepreneurs' which generated an average income of Rs.40,000 to 45,000 each on an investment of Rs.1.50 lakhs (financial assistance of Rs.1.28 lakhs per unit) on night shel-



ters, chicks, vaccination etc. 178 such units were promoted this year. 15 broiler rearing units were also promoted under deep litter system and 32 goat rearing units were also supported. Promotion of duck rearing, azolla cultivation, enriching crop residue and promoting perennial and seasonal fodder cultivation were other initiatives taken up.

Characterisation, conservation and registration of *native animal breeds* is another initiative promoted. These include Narayanpatna Goat in Koraput, Maraguda Goat of Nuapada, Pony horse of Malkangiri and Dharmagarh sheep of Kalahandi.

The water bodies in the clusters were mapped and fisheries production was encouraged with financial support. A total of 20.69 lakh fingerlings were stocked in water spread area of 716 acres belonging to 1677 farmers. The fish harvested was around 700-850 gm weight and sold locally at an average price ranging from Rs.150-180 per kg. 42 Nano-fish feed mixture (NFFM) units were promoted with financial assistance of Rs.1.50 lakhs per unit to supply fish feed in the clusters. Across all these enterprises 158 qt of fish feed was produced and sold.

FPOs are the implementing partners in the SPPIF program supported by NGO Facilitating Agencies; 31 FPOs were associated with the program in this year. With various production systems and enterprises getting rooted in these clusters, the FPOs are also expanding their business. These FPOs were supported to develop their business plans; FPO support grant was released to 13 FPOs.

## Mapping of Landraces and Forgotten Foods

This was taken up in the program to detail out the local biodiversity and identify foods that have nutritional and food culture values. This was taken up in collaboration with the Odisha Bio-diversity Board and to be included in the Peoples Biodiversity Registers. SPPIF team identified 11 potential crops/agro-forestry species from the five different cluster sites of Malkangiri, for further processing to develop value-added products and recipes with IHM (Institute of Hotel Management) referring to the tribal food culture and nutritive value.









## SPPIF-SETU Program

This program was taken up as a special program in SETU area of Chitrakonda Block of Malkangiri district covering 9 Gram Panchayats. A total of 800 ha area has been covered with the intercropping and crop diversification with sunflower, green gram, black gram, horse gram, red gram, sesame and groundnut. Extending protective irrigation through Water Collectives to secure crops against dry spells is one the program areas of the SETU program. 350 acres (122) farmers were secured through these water collectives taken up in 5 GPs. 100 farmers established Trellis, about 1000 shelters were supported for goats, cattle and desi-poultry birds; 6 desi-chick enterprises were also promoted.

## Jiwi- Daah-Hasa: Jharkhand High Impact Mega Watershed Development Program

WASSAN had contributed to the design and evolution of this project supported by BRLF and Government of Jharkhand as its Project Management Unit. A major contribution was in evolving the planning framework that use Google Earth sheets for participatory planning, digitising the data from these physical exercises, planning with Mobile Application and web-based compilation of plans. This in effect reduced the time in doing paperwork, minimised the need for technical knowledge in design and seamlessly integrated the planning with web-based databases; all using open source software.

WASSAN developed the entire schema and software for the program. It is continuing the support through maintenance the web portal and mobile applications during the year.

WASSAN also taken responsible of implementing the project in two Blocks in West

Singhbhum district – Anandpur (intensive) and Godri (extensive) Blocks. Watershed Development and Integrated farming plans are prepared through participatory processes, approved by the Gram Panchayats and integrated into the shelf of works of MGNREGS.

The program was in 6 Gram Panchayats out of the total 7 GPs. WASSAN completed preparation of watershed DPRs for all the project area (49 villages and 15657 ha area) which were approved in Anandpur Block. In total 11050 schemes (of Rs.59.32 cr) were prepared and entered into the shelf of works of MGNREGS. Watershed DPRs (28 villages) covering 8069 ha were completed in the extensive Block-Gudri. From the watershed plans work codes were generated for works of value Rs.13.58 crores to be included in the shelf of works and about 143 works were completed physically. For these works a total of Rs.2.89 crores was mobilised of which Rs.2.68 crores were from MGNREGS; these have impacted 1221 households in the Block. Of the total 523 schemes with an expenditure of Rs.4.15 cr were implemented.

Growing fish in the water bodies developed by MGNREGS was successfully carried out along with other livelihood interventions. About 88 ponds were stocked with fingerlings of 670 kg with farmers' investing the total amount of Rs.2.41 lakhs. Following intensive training and field visits to Odisha, 172 farmers started millets cultivation in 78 acres; this has increased household consumption of ragi and little millets. A total of 118 farmers taken to vegetable cultivation with Machan system (trellis) covering 7.6 acres of land in total.

A structured training of 62 Mates and 68 PRI and PFT members was carried out, in addition to trainings organised on vegetables, fisheries and others.

Along side the mobilisation and implementation of community for productive watershed works under MGNREGS, the team has held several discussions with the traditional Adivasi institutions and their leaders to initiate a Block level campaign on the development.













## Transforming livelihoods of poor in agriculture through innovative technologies and collective approaches

BfdW supported an implementation project in 24 villages in Srikakulam District and 5 villages in Bapatla district in Andhra Pradesh and 17 villages and one FPO in Telangana. The project was to promote various technologies in water management, soil fertility development and convergent actions on climate risk reduction. The activities included, among others, customisation of drip and sprinkler systems for low yielding borewells, repair and reviving lift irrigation schemes in the saline areas, improving water quality for drinking water, renovation of tank irrigation systems, groundwater recharge and building capacities of the communities in these aspects.

## Participatory Watershed Development

Watershed development programs had been the lifeline for natural resources management in the Rainfed Areas. Since, its inception WASSAN had been intensely engaged with the agenda. The longstanding partnership with NABARD in the Watershed Development Fund continued; it has been a learning ground for WASSAN.

WASSAN continued implementation of three WDF-watershed projects in Asifabad (Kumram Bheem Watershed Project) and Salpalaguda Watershed. The Kumrambheem watershed moved to FIP-1 with the approval of the watershed plans. These watershed development projects are in the tribal areas of Telangana state. Climate Proofing Projects were also taken up on the completed WDF projects where sustainable and climate resilient agriculture practices and diversification to include fisheries, desi-poultry etc., were promoted overlaying on the soil and water conservation works completed in the watershed projects. An SHG millet value added enterprise group evolved as a successful business preparing various millet based products and supplying to government departments and selling outside; it has a turnover of about Rs.7.00 lakhs.





# COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS AND LANDSCAPES

Building upon the foundations of the participatory watershed development, community institutions are at the centre of action in all programs of WASSAN; both in the design of mainstream programs or the direct implementation of programs.

WASSAN's work with SHGs, FPOs, local governance institutions and the Gram Panchayats from the basis for any action. WASSAN has promoted and supported multiple FPOs in its programmes. WASSAN has promoted and supporting some FPOs in its program areas. Jana Jivana FPO in Nallacheruvu Mandal of Satyasai district and Araka an FPC promoted by three Mutually Aided Cooperative Societies in Telangana and several formed as a part of the Watershed development programs have been in operation since some years. Kodiki FPC in Araku, with total Adivasi membership is coming to shape in Araku area of ASR district in Andhra Pradesh.

As a part of the Odisha Millets Mission several FPOs were promoted / supported by the Facilitating NGOs on ground. Though they are engaged in millets related value added business, not much efforts were made on strengthening them within the project implementation. WAS-

SAN collaborated with Friends of World Women Banking (FWWB) in September 2023 to support 31 FPOs in 8 district of Odisha (Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Mayubhanj, Nuapada, Kalahandi, Raygada, Koraput and Malkangiri) to improve their systems and processes (finance, operations and governance) and build their credit lines based on business plans. These were selected in response to an expression of interest of the FPOs in; the program was named "Sahajog ru Samruddhi" (SrS).

Following a detailed scoping study and base line data collection, the first phase FPOs were trained in business plans and action plans for rabi marketing were prepared. FPOs were linked to small market opportunities to start with the credit line extended by FWWB.

This program was taken up as a part of the BUILD program to bring focus, learning and expertise within WASSAN on strengthening the FPO ecosystem.













SECTION ~ 4

# NETWORKING, PLATFORMS & SCALING UP



WASSAN is a networking organisation with a belief in collectives. Networking is also a strategy of the organisation to synthesise issues, innovations and approaches, scale out innovations and contribute to policy development. WASSAN anchors the Network hub of the Revitalising Rainfed Agriculture (RRA) Network actively contributing to network building and also, anchors the Secretariat and program of the National Coalition on Natural Farming (NCNF). These two are large scale pan-India networks active in over 15 states across India.

Taking the grassroots process innovation and participatory approaches that are anchored in community institutions, to scale is what mainly contributes to the evolution of large scale government / mainstream programs. WASSAN supports the state and central governments in developing such programs and also takes active role in its management. WASSAN works with several state governments and the Government of India. The AP Drought Mitigation Project in AP, Odisha Millets Mission, Special Program on Integrated Farming Systems, JIVA-Agroecology program, Jiwi- Daah-Hasa mega watershed development program in Jharkhand, National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) are some of the large scale engagement of WASSAN with Government. In all these programs WASSAN has contributed to and created space for over 200 grassroots civil society organisations in all and provides support in various aspects of program design and delivery.

## Revitalising Rainfed Agriculture Network (RRA Network)

*'Millets to Millions : People's Convention on Millets'* organised by the RRA Network in partnership with several organisations across the country and National Rainfed Areas Authority (NRAA), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Government of India in NAAS Complex in Delhi on February 24-25, 2023 was a landmark event in this year of International Year on

Millets (IYOM). Over 700 participants from over 28 states with a blend of community champions, farmers' collectives, CSOs, researchers, processing machine developers, food systems enthusiasts, conservationists etc., attended the program deliberating on ways of inclusion of millets in public diets to address issues of malnutrition, establishing decentralised support services for localised millet food systems, millets in local agroecology and climate resilience.

The event blended policy discussion with cultural celebration—featuring **traditional songs, dances, seed displays, diverse millet cuisines**, and sales of millet-based products—highlighting the rich cultural traditions associated with millets.

Sri. Manoj Ahuja, Secretary of Agriculture, Sri. Nanda Kumar, ex-Secretary Agriculture and Dr. Ashok Dalwai, CEO of NRAA responded to the summary of the recommendations of the deliberations in the plenary. *Millets- from farm-to-plates as an approach for comprehensive investments on millets* and expanding the agenda of millets as a *10 years national program* in continuation of the IYOM were the key suggestions.

RRA Network had taken up several initiatives in the event of IYOM; oriented teams from State Rural Livelihoods Missions from 7 states in collaboration with NRLM, supported JSLPS of Jharkhand Government to develop a strategy for intensification of millets in the food systems, also supported the Agriculture Department of Jharkhand in developing a draft strategy and guidelines for a State's Millet Mission.

The Working Group on Seed Systems of the Network opened up partnership with 90 grassroots organisations in building capacities on a scientific approach to indigenous seed systems development involving Crop Diversity Blocks (CDB), participatory varietal selection and multiplication. Farmer Resource Persons having experience in seed conservation were identified and trained in the methods to support CSOs taking up this work. Over 121 landraces were tried out in these CDBs.



RRA Network also supports national networks it has promoted such as NCNF and IBBN on Bio-char. Working towards Odisha Rainfed Agriculture Mission (ORAM) is another initiative taken up supporting the Department of Soil and Water Conservation of Odisha Government. Planning exercises were taken up in some of the districts. The Maharashtra RRA Network worked with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs of the state in facilitating rainfed agriculture programs in 20 Gram Sabhas. Efforts were on in Bundelkhand region to initiate programs with the District Administration.

Reviving diverse traditional crop systems is an area of action taken up by the Working Group on Crop Systems of the RRAN. The Karnataka chapter of the work intensified its work on promoting 'Akkidi crop System' traditional to the drylands of AP and Karnataka.

Working Groups on livestock and Working Group on Cropping Systems evolved during the period. RRAN also initiated its collaboration with MAKAM on issues of women. The Network

Hub's programs of RRA Network were supported by GFCF.

## National Coalition for Natural Farming: (NCNF)

Agro-ecological transformation in India has become a popular farmers' imagination in the form of 'Natural Farming'. Government of India also announced a larger program to promote Natural Farming in the country in the form of National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF). Natural Farming in India is seen as a solution for multiple crises that the country is facing – climate change, health, land and soil degradation, crop diversification, removing the chemical load in food systems and reducing the cost to farmers and such others.

Network Hub of the RRA Network anchored in WASSAN played a key role in convening various actors and champions working in different aspects of natural farming together to synthesise knowledge, experiences and sharing them widely to strengthen natural farming. WASSAN









anchors the NCNF Secretariat and its programs. The programs such as collectivising civil society partners across 6 active states, scale of Bio-input resource centers, research on natural farming, etc were supported by AgroEcology Fund, ATE Chandra Foundation, SWISSAID and India Climate Collaborative.

NCNF team has organised several workshops, training and convenings during the year at the national level and in various states. State level convening of natural farming enthusiasts were organised as State Chapters. A workshop on 'Systems Approach for Nutritional Security in Rural India' was organised along with Vikas Samvad and WHH in Delhi. In collaboration with the RRA Network - NCNF team initiated Traditional Crop Systems documentation in few states. Training programs were organised in several states for Community Resource Persons and in several states monthly convening of state chapters for planning NF promotional programs were organised. State wise location specific curated repositories of knowledge on agroecology was taken up by the state chapters.

NCNF worked in close collaboration with the state governments. In Rajasthan, it has worked along with the Panchayat Raj Department to include Natural Farming in the Gram Panchayat plans institutionalising natural farming at the local government level. In Jharkhand the team engaged with the Government in the promotion of NF in 'Agri-Smart' villages. 39 organisations were training in Jharkhand on natural farming. Odisha team organised several training programs and an innovative program using 'Community Radio' for wider dissemination of the natural farming related aspects.

A major result of the systematic efforts in promoting Bio-input Resource Centres (BRCs) resulted in the partners establishing 300+ BRCs in their program areas supplying bio-inputs required for natural farming. A study on the functioning of the BRCs was also taken up with the support of ATECF. The BRC manuals in English were translated to Hindi and a Master Trainers Course was also organised.

NCNF had established formal relationship with two Central Government institutions - MANAGE and NCONF (National Centre for Organic

and Natural Farming). NCNF also established formal relationship with the Gujarat Organic/ Natural Agriculture University to facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity building efforts in Gujarat.

NCNF partnered with MAKAM to bring a focus on women farmers in natural farming. A Women Farmer Leadership Workshop was organised in Bhopal during National Women Farmers' Day, with participation from over 60 women farmers. Focused efforts were made in Gujarat to organise basic and intermediate training on Agroecology for women farmers. A 15 days training courses on Agroecology were designed and improvised while implementing the training. A workshop on Reviving millets ecosystem through decentralised approach was organised for Rajasthan and Gujarat partners in October.

Over 6500 farmers were engaged with the partners in Madhya Pradesh on natural farming activities such as soil nutrition management, pest and disease management, multi-cropping, mulching, establishment of BRCs, and community seed banks, contributing to the widespread adoption of sustainable agricultural practices and the promotion of ecological resilience.

NCNF has brought champions, researchers and various organisations working on natural farming together and strengthened its collaboration with various state governments and national institutions during the year.

## Technology Services & Landscapes

Agroecological transformation necessitates building technology absorption / innovation capacity in the communities. In natural resources management, production, processing and also, in consumption and value chain development technology plays an important role. Several initiatives unfolded in this regard this year as a part of building Ecosystem Support services for agroecological transformation in partnership with and support from Rainmatter Foundation.



# Millet Mentor: Evolving a Support Ecosystem for End-to-End Services to Millet Entrepreneurs

Millet Mentor is an initiative crafted to offer **comprehensive technical and business support services** to decentralized small-scale millet processing units (clients), these units are mainly operated by Community-based organisations (FPOs, SHGs etc) and/or socially responsible private enterprises.

Based on the lessons from a pilot initiative, which included designing capacity building modules, conducting on-site trainings and developing resource material, Millet Mentor was formally inaugurated in February 2023, at the People's Convention on Millets for Millions at NASC Complex, New Delhi.

Millet Mentor has taken a shape this year in partnership with SELCO Foundation. The team outreached to 14 partners in Gujarat and Rajasthan and 24 partners of RRA Network in Maharashtra and another 24 CSOs in Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal in different outreach programs along with the Working Group on Millets of RRAN. In June Millet Mentor provided first consultation to NABARD Assam on machine selection for setting up a foxtail millet processing unit as part of millet cultivation in the ongoing NABARD project being implemented in 20 districts. A two-day community-oriented millet processing workshop was held in Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh, with 32 participants from 14 different CSOs from the northern region; it's an on-site demonstration at Sehat Ka Bardana, a community-managed minor millet processing unit primarily processing Kodo millet. Millet Mentor team developed several manuals and publications related to millets processing which were launched at the Mighty Millet International Conference at MSSRF Chennai. A learning workshop was organised with SELCO Foundation and RRAN in Mysore for managers and decision-makers on community-oriented small millet processing followed by a two-day

workshop in Hubli for unit managers and operators, which included hands-on practical training at the Bibi Fatima SHG-run Millet Processing Unit near Dharwad and a visit to the Millet Processing Unit at SKDRDP in Dhar-masthala.

A process audit for 'Manyam Grains' processing unit in Anakapalle, Andhra Pradesh, identified gaps and inefficiencies in the processing setup. Millet Mentor recommended machine servicing, including the relining of the rubber sheller for the dehuller, and established new standard operating procedures (SOPs), including a new batch reporting process. In October, Millet Mentor collaborated with Well Labs as knowledge partners for an online platform.

The initiative also participated in a Business Lounge panel session on "Startups Guide to Disrupting the Food Industry with Millets" at the International Convention on Millets organized by the Odisha State Government in Bhubaneswar. Additionally, Millet Mentor participated in an exhibition stall, providing space for millet processing machine manufacturing partners to display their machines.

In December 2023, Partners meeting for Millet Mentor collaborators was organized in Bangalore with SELCO. Twenty-one organizations from across the millet value chain participated in the event to develop Millet Mentor as a platform and establish a common minimum understanding and deliverables for the Millet Agenda moving forward.

The year concluded with two training sessions; a five-day hands-on technician training was organized at the Transfarm Technology workshop in Ponduru, Andhra Pradesh, where six technicians from three millet processing units were trained on the working principles of millet processing machinery, spare parts management, and basic maintenance and repairs. This was followed by a four-day residential operations training for managers and operating staff of millet processing units in Anakapalle, Andhra Pradesh. Ten participants from five organizations attended this training on millet







ganizations attended this training on millet processing, unit setup, unit operations, documentation, maintenance, and safety. Practical hands-on sessions were conducted at Manyam Grains Pvt. Ltd.

In January 2024, Millet Mentor participated in the Network for Conserving Central India (NCCI) Millet Roundtable to discuss millet post-harvest and processing challenges and introduced the initiative to 17 regional organizations. Engagement with NABARD FSDD HO for collaboration was initiated, and the first workshop was hosted at Koraput for selected queries from the ICM event in Bhubaneswar.

By February 2024, engagement with Pragati Abhiyan began to set up three decentralized FPO-managed millet processing units in Nashik in partnership with RRAN & Millet Mentor. In March, 9 DRE (Decentralized Renewable Energy) solutions were implemented in millet processing units in Odisha. Stakeholders workshop on Systems Thinking for Millet Mentor was conducted.

In partnership with SELCO Foundation, Millet Mentor is taking a shape as an important support system nationally for organisations and entrepreneurs venturing into the arena of millets.

## Innovation Guild: Strengthening Innovation Capacity of Villages

Large numbers of innovations that make life easier, efficient and environmentally sustainable for small holder farmers and families in rural areas do not reach them. Innovations emerge from passionate small innovators who are often not backed up by the resources required for such outreach. At the same time many potential problem solving and exciting innovations remain as YouTube videos, glass curtained by huge transaction costs involved in accessing them by small holders.

**‘Innovation Guild’ (IG)** as a platform for Innovators and Village Level Entrepreneurs; and others will bring together the necessary ecosystem that connect villages in remote geographies of India with innovators and their innovations across the country. *It is an attempt to build local ‘innovation capacities’ across villages at scale.* The IG Platform has emerged in partnership with the Rainmatter Foundation and taking shape as a pan India platform.

Innovation Guild (IG) was formally launched through an online workshop on 2nd October, 2023. The workshop saw participation of 100+ CSOs, network partners, innovators, and other key stakeholders. The process of IG is as follows:

- One arm of the IG extends technical training to prospective Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLE) identified by the local CSOs/ FPOs/ Gram Panchayats and connects them to the IG platform. VLEs can buy the equipment to run it as rental service/ be a local vendor for the equipment/ a service provider to the innovator for repair and maintenance.
- the other arm on boards innovators having relevant rural innovations.
- VLE-Innovator interactions are organised virtually with a frequency as ‘Demo-Days’ where the innovators show cases their technologies to number of VEs across the country.
- IG supports the VLEs who wants to try out the innovations in their village by facilitating the link with the innovator, extending training on that particular innovation

The platform website is in the process of development ([www.innovationguild.in](http://www.innovationguild.in)) with the objective of creating an online database where CSOs can onboard Village Entrepreneurs (VEs), and innovators can list their products. VLEs from 6 different organizations have been onboarded, and 10 new innovators have listed approximately 21 different products.

IG is establishing collaboration with several ITIs, machinery training institutions of the Government of India and other training centres for



the needs of the innovators, enabling VEs to serve as local mechanics for agricultural implements. In collaboration with an ITI, Anantapur, IG conducted one training session in which 11 VEs were successfully trained. Two onboarded VEs visited the innovator to test the product and requested a two-month testing period in their fields. The next two VEs purchased the implement immediately after the demo day.

End-user finance or financing the VLE enterprise is critical in the ecosystem. IG has initiated discussion with RangDe to provide end-user finance for scaling up the innovations.





# RESEARCH AND POLICY ENGAGEMENT

WASSAN is institutionally mandated to be a bridge between the civil society and the government; taking grassroots innovations to scale by supporting government in the design of public investment programs, and building capacities of the grassroots organisations in effective facilitation of such programs with community organisations.

## Program Secretariat for Odisha Millets Mission and SPPIF

In pursuance of this mandate, WASSAN has taken responsibility of the Program Secretariat for the Odisha Millet Mission and Special Program on Promotion of Integrated Farming System of the Odisha Government. WASSAN team supports the program design, capacity building, monitoring and implementation of state level initiatives in these two publicly funded large programs in addition to coordination and reports. This work has continued in Odisha during this year.

## PMU for National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF), Government of India

Government of India announced the National Mission on Natural Farming in 2022-23 in pursuit of converting 7.5 Lakh Ha land to natural

farming to begin with. WASSAN has been engaged with the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare supporting in various forms on developing the design of the program elements.

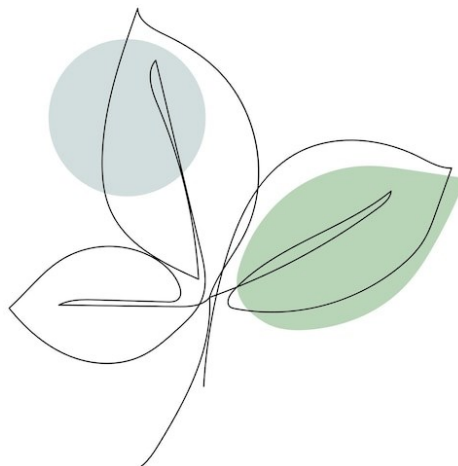
WASSAN was invited by the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Government of India in 2023 to anchor the Program Monitoring Unit (PMU) of the NMNF. Through the PMU, WASSAN's role in 2023-24 was to support the Department in synthesising the diverse understandings of natural farming and support the scheme design and implementation processes at the Ministry level; a team was positioned in Krishi Bhavan for the purpose.

In addition to the above, the key activities coordinated by the NMNF team in 2023-24:

- Facilitate the preparation of study material for Master Trainers, Community resource Persons, Krishi Sakhis etc.
- Development of training posters, modules and materials for farmers, community resource persons, etc.



- Training of 70,000 Krishi Sakhis as para-extension workers for natural farming and soil health
- Training of 475 scientists and farmers as master trainers
- Initiation of field study by 5 State Agricultural Universities on the impact of natural farming
- Workshop with philanthropies and donors to enable investment for Natural Farming clusters in India
- Coming from grassroots, the space of PMU in the Government Departments provided immense understanding of the policy making process and provided opportunity to take the learning from the field to policy development processes.





## Economic and Empowerment Impacts of Millet Processing and Value Addition Enterprises by Women SHGs in Tribal Areas of Odisha (E2IMPART).

E2IMPART is an action research program led by the Natural Resource Institute, University of Greenwich, UK aimed at documenting evidence on the impact of gender-responsive capacity building training and support services focusing on the millet processing and value addition in assisting WSHGs to set up sustainable millet-based enterprises in tribal areas of Odisha.

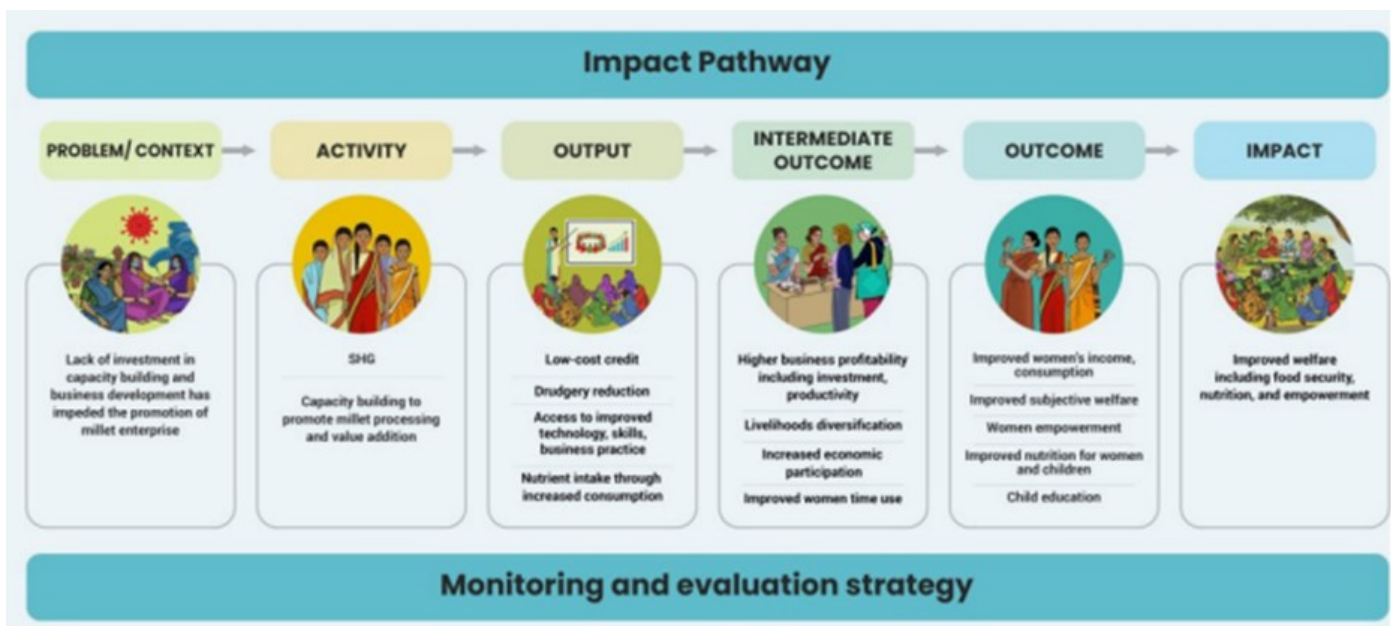
The study targets 170 women SHGs randomly selected from 10 Blocks out of the 14 Blocks of Koraput district in pairs from 85 villages. From each pair one women SHG owning a

thresher supported by the OMM was selected and the other acting as control.

Exposure visits for 24 SHGs, Training of Trainers for 38 cadres from 10 different Blocks were organised. The master trainers provided training to 1082 members from 115 SHGs (baseline listed) and for 235 women out-of-baseline. Women from Semiliguda and Koraput Block also visited CFTRI (Mysore) to learn about millet processing and value addition. Based on the lessons from demonstrations of grader and huller machines, feed back was given to the Government for integration of the modifications suggested. These were carried out through an exercise of **Participatory Machine Development**.

Additionally nutrition profiling and standardisation of recipes was done for Ragi feni, Laddu, Chhatua and Rose Cake. Endline survey of the project was also completed in 7 Blocks involving 1155 participants. The project also generated process standardisation for various enterprises.

The following figure depicts the theory of change used in the project.



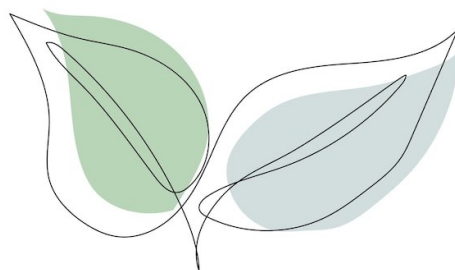


# Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development (REWARD)

The World Bank's REWARD program is operational in Odisha (7 districts) and Karnataka (21 districts) for the period 2001-2006. It is intended for supporting next phase of watershed development programs by bringing in better scientific and data driven approach. WASSAN is partnering with a consortium of organisations (MANAGE, ICRISAT, National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) and NRAA) to evaluate the program for developing '**National technical standards on community participation in planning, execution and maintenance for improved watershed management**' – an-

chored in National Rainfed Areas Authority (NRAA) based on the key results of the program. The role of WASSAN in the consortium is to review the approach/ protocols/ methodologies, tools and equipment's used, criteria for analysis, process of data interpretation being adopted by the implementing states.

During this year WASSAN has conducted 'process studies' both in Karnataka and Odisha to explore the community engagement and use of the planning tools in each phase of the watershed development. Together with MANAGE, WASSAN facilitated consultative workshops in the initial stages of the project to understand the approach, process and methodologies related to hydrology and Land resource inventory. WASSAN team also prepared draft National Technical Standards (NTS) for community engagement in each phase of the watershed development. The work is in progress.





SECTION ~ 5

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# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



## MAHESH, VIRENDER & SRIRAM

Chartered Accountants

6-3-788/36&37A, Ameerpet, Hyderabad - 500 016.

Tel: 040 – 23401738, 23401739 Email :mvshyd@yahoo.com

### AUDITORS REPORT

We have audited the accounts of **WATERSHED SUPPORT SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES NETWORK**, a registered Trust having its office at Plot No.685 & 686, Road No.12, Narasimha Swamy Colony, Nagole, Hyderabad – 500 068 for year ended 31.03.2024. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

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

- a. We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of audit.
- b. The Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account dealt with by the report are in agreement with the Books of account.
- c. In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the statements together with the schedules attached thereto and read with the Accounting Policies and Notes thereon give:
  - i. In case of the Balance Sheet of the State of affairs of the Trust as at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2024.  
and
  - ii. In case of the Income and Expenditure Account the Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ended on that date.

for Mahesh, Virender & Sriram  
Chartered Accountants  
Firm Reg. No.001939S

(B.R. Mahesh)

Partner

M.No.18628

UDIN No.2401362813KHNTx5870



Place : Hyderabad

Date : 20.09.2024



<b>Watershed Support Services And Activities Network (WASSAN)</b> <b>Plot No. 685 &amp; 686, Road.no.12, Narasimha Swamy Colony, Nagole, Hyderabad 500 068 - Telangana</b> <b>CONSOLIDATED</b> <b>BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31-03-2024</b>			
PARTICULARS	Annex	2023-2024	2022-2023
		Amount Rs	Amount Rs
CORPUS FUND	1	1,00,00,05,008	1,00,00,05,008
GENERAL RESERVE	2	8,97,34,657	5,69,32,177
RESTRICTED FUND	3	15,75,45,007	15,30,43,468
<b>SOURCES OF FUNDS</b>		<b>1,24,72,84,672</b>	<b>1,20,99,80,653</b>
FIXED ASSETS	4	3,44,35,116	2,37,18,355
CURRENT ASSETS	5	1,21,28,49,556	1,18,62,62,298
<b>APPLICATION OF FUNDS</b>		<b>1,24,72,84,672</b>	<b>1,20,99,80,653</b>

Vide our report of even date  
for Mahesh Virender & Sriram  
Chartered Accountants(Reg.No 001939S)

for Watershed Support Services and Activities Network(WASSAN)



(B.R.Mahesh)  
Partner  
(M. No. 18628)  
Place: Hyderabad  
Date: 20.09.2024

UDIN: 24018628BKHN TX 5870



(A.Ravindra Babu)  
Executive Secretary





(K.Suresh)  
Chairperson





<b>Watershed Support Services And Activities Network (WASSAN)</b> <b>Plot No. 685 &amp; 686, Road.no.12, Narasimha Swamy Colony, Nagole, Hyderabad 500 068 - Telangana</b> <b>CONSOLIDATED</b> <b>INCOME &amp; EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31.03.2024</b>			
PARTICULARS	Annex	2023-24	2022-23
		Amount Rs	Amount Rs
<b>INCOME:</b>			
Grant Income during the year	1	5,43,347	1,35,31,476
<b>Other Income:</b>	2		
Bank Interest - FC		21,02,508	23,09,069
Bank Interest - NFC		7,65,29,106	31,93,324
Project Receipts Credited to General Reserve		26,80,097	
		<b>8,18,55,058</b>	<b>1,90,33,869</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE:</b>			
General and Admin exp - FC		34,64,597	
General and Admin exp - NFC		4,24,13,101	13,98,497
Soil Protection and Rehabilitaton for food Security		16,36,260	40,94,731
Written Off the Fixed Asset		1,43,807	
Depreciation		16,33,458	11,88,970
		<b>4,92,91,223</b>	<b>66,82,197</b>
Surplus for the year (Transfer to Balance Sheet)		<b>3,25,63,834</b>	<b>1,23,51,672</b>

Vide our report of even date

for Mahesh Virender & Sriram

Chartered Accountants(Reg.No 001939 S)

(B.R.Mahesh)

Partner

(M. No. 18628)

Place: Hyderabad

Date: 20.09.2024

UDIN: 24018628BKHN TX 5870



for Watershed Support Services and Activities Network(WASSAN)

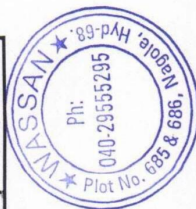
(A.Ravindra Babu)  
Executive Secretary

(K.Suresh)  
Chairperson





<b>Watershed Support Services And Activities Network (WASSAN)</b> <b>Plot No. 685 &amp; 686, Road.no.12, Narasimha Swamy Colony, Nagole, Hyderabad 500 068 - Telangana</b> <b>Consolidated Depreciation statement for the year ending 31.03.2024</b>									
Annex - 4									
SI No	Name of the Asset	Rate	W D V as on 01.04.2023 Amount(Rs)	Additions Amount(Rs)	Deletion Amount(Rs)	Total Amount(Rs)	Depreciation Amount(Rs)	W D V as on 31.03.2024 Amount(Rs)	
<b>Foreign Contribution</b>									
1	Furniture	10%	1,78,085			1,78,085	17,809	1,60,277	
2	Office Equipment	10%	75,053			75,053	7,505	67,548	
3	Land at Hyd	0%	13,97,500			13,97,500	-	13,97,500	
4	15.6KW Solar Compact System	40%	2,28,577			2,28,577	91,431	1,37,146	
5	Office Building Nagole Hyd	5%	10,15,147			10,15,147	50,757	9,64,390	
	<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>28,94,362</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>28,94,362</b>	<b>1,67,502</b>	<b>27,26,860</b>	
<b>LOCAL Contribution</b>									
1	Furniture & Fixtures	10%	96,027	14,38,024	96,027	14,38,024	1,43,802	12,94,222	
2	Office Equipment	10%	47,779		47,779	-	-	-	
3	Land at Parigi	0%	14,29,241			14,29,241	-	14,29,241	
4	Land at Hyd	0%	14,87,252			14,87,252	-	14,87,252	
5	Building A/c - Parigi	5%	12,71,606			12,71,606	63,580	12,08,026	
6	Building a/c - Nagole	5%	1,64,21,631	-		1,64,21,631	8,21,082	1,56,00,549	
7	UPS	10%	70,455	51,000		1,21,455	12,146	1,09,310	
8	Land at Nagole	0%	-	93,18,689		93,18,689	-	93,18,689	
9	Computers	40%	-	10,63,367		10,63,367	4,25,347	6,38,020	
10	WIP Hyd	0%	-	1,86,683		1,86,683	-	1,86,683	
11	WIP Parigi	0%	-	4,36,263		4,36,263	-	4,36,263	
	<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>2,08,23,993</b>	<b>1,24,94,026</b>	<b>1,43,807</b>	<b>3,31,74,212</b>	<b>14,65,957</b>	<b>3,17,08,255</b>	
	<b>Grant Total</b>		<b>2,37,18,355</b>	<b>1,24,94,026</b>	<b>1,43,807</b>	<b>3,60,68,574</b>	<b>16,33,458</b>	<b>3,44,35,116</b>	





**Watershed Support Services And Activities Network (WASSAN)**  
**Plot No. 685 & 686, Road.no.12, Narasimha Swamy Colony, Nagole, Hyderabad 500 068. - Telangana**

	Receipts		2023-24		2022-23		Payments		2023-24		2022-23	
			Amount Rs	Amount Rs	Amount Rs	Amount Rs			Amount Rs	Amount Rs		
To	Opening Balances											
	Cash at Bank- Foreign - Annex 1		51,77,396		20,63,520		Grants Expenditure					
	Cash at Bank- Local - Annex 2		1,73,28,060		68,13,006		Foreign sources expenses - Annex 3		9,20,04,691		8,37,47,635	
To	Grants Received						Local sources expenses - Annex 4		33,26,30,713		22,81,14,554	
	Foreign sources - Annex 3		7,37,20,129		8,08,65,098		Rent Deposits-Annex 5		91,200		3,19,850	
	Local sources - Annex 4		29,25,15,057		21,20,99,314							
To	Interest Received - 06						Deposits & Advances-Annex-07					
	Interest Received on Foreign grants		17,16,232		17,28,670		Fixed Deposits from Foreign sources		2,67,04,930		4,54,04,930	
	Interest Received on Local grants		7,19,91,879		38,36,532		Fixed Deposits from Local sources		10,46,74,637		1,10,09,01,821	
To	Fixed Deposits Released-Annex-7						Closing Balances - Annex -08					
	Fixed Deposits Released in Foreign sources		4,57,88,460		4,96,17,434		Cash at Bank- Foreign		76,79,396		51,77,396	
	Fixed Deposits Released in Local sources		10,44,58,665		12,29,17,708		Cash at Bank- Local		4,89,10,311		1,73,28,060	
To	Income Tax Refund		-		5,12,514							
To	Interest on Income Tax Refund		-		5,00,899							
To	Corpus Fund - APPI		-		1,00,00,00,001							
To	Rend Deposit Refund		-		39,550							
			61,26,95,878		1,48,09,94,246				61,26,95,878		1,48,09,94,246	

for Watershed Support Services and Activities Network(WASSAN)

UDFX: 2401868B BK14N TX 5870

## Executive Secretary

**Chairperson**



K. Siveth



# SECTION ~ 6

# DONORS



## (a) Government / Multi-lateral Institutions



कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण विभाग  
DEPARTMENT OF  
**AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE**



NATIONAL RAINFED AREA AUTHORITY



Implemented by  
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## (b) Philanthropies / Foundations/ CSR/ Others



**FORD  
FOUNDATION**



**Azim Premji  
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**AGROECOLOGY  
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**WELT  
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**WORLD  
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**The  
Food and Land Use  
Coalition  
India Country Platform**

**GLOBAL  
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## (c) Universities



**UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE**



**UNIVERSITY OF  
GREENWICH**



**WATERSHED SUPPORT SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES NETWORK  
(WASSAN)**

Plot No. 685, Street No. 12, Narasimha Swamy Colony, Nagole,  
Hyderabad—500 068, Telangana

Email: [mail@wassan.org](mailto:mail@wassan.org) | Website: <https://www.wassan.org>



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2023-2024**

LIST OF WEBSITES

**Revitalising Rainfed Agriculture Network (RRA Network)**

<https://www.rainfedindia.org>

**Rayalaseema Water Initiative (RWI)**

<https://rayalaseemawaterinitiative.in/>

**Shree Anna Abhiyan (Odisha Millets Mission)**

<https://milletsodisha.com/>

**National Coalition on Natural Farming (NCNF)**

<https://nfcoalition.in/>

**Innovation Guild (IG)**

<https://innovationguild.in>

**Millets Mentor (MM)**

<https://app.milletmentor.org/>

**Jiwi Daah Hasa**

<https://jiwidaahhasa.in/>