

2023 - 24

Annual Report



"SVST's Women Empowerment Cell, led by women for women, champions equality, dignity, and nation-building through empowerment."

Swami Vivekanand Seva Trust (SVST)

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Annual Report 2023 – 24

SVST, Hingoli, Maharashtra

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Foreword

SVST is a nonprofit, secular, non-political, and development-oriented organization dedicated to empowering marginalized communities. Our focus areas include poverty alleviation, youth and women's empowerment, adolescent and child development.

Self-sustaining since inception, SVST has leveraged its surplus resources from diverse income-generating activities to drive meaningful social change. Over the past decade, our team has worked tirelessly to bridge the gap between essential services and those in need, honing their expertise and capacity for systematic implementation.

Having established a reliable and sustainable platform, SVST has garnered recognition and acceptance from the communities we serve. Our transparent, accountable, and participatory approach has fostered trust and credibility. We are now poised to expand our impact, seeking assistance from donors, government departments, and other stakeholders to support our development initiatives.

As we embark on this exciting phase of growth, the SVST team remains committed to excellence, striving to become a leading professional facilitator in the development sector, driving lasting change for generations to come.

The Management, SVST

Founder's Statement

Having built our capacity for implementing development projects, we have, for the first time, formally approached donors, government agencies, and departments for support and assistance. We are proud to report that our accountable systems and track record as a facilitator have earned us a positive response.

As we proudly commemorate a decade of dedicated service, SVST reflects on its remarkable journey - from humble beginnings to unprecedented growth. Despite limited resources, our organization has persevered, tackling challenges head-on to create a better life for rural communities.

In addition to our regular developmental activities, we successfully implemented a range of initiatives during the year. These included:

- ▶ Rural Entrepreneurship Development Programs
- ▶ Vocational Training on resource-based activities
- ▶ Training on modern agriculture
- ▶ Training on Vermin/Nadep Composting and biofertilizers
- ▶ Development and promotion of Forestry
- ▶ Design and technology development workshops
- ▶ Skill development training on Bamboo Craft, Leather Craft, and Wooden Craft
- ▶ Capacity building and awareness on watershed management
- ▶ Exposure/study tours for farmer communities

Our ultimate aim is to drive reform and modernization by mobilizing all capacities and establishing economic reform that enables us to play a meaningful role in the national economic arena. We look forward to continuing our partnerships and collaborations to achieve our goals.

We attribute our success to the collective efforts of all stakeholders, whose unwavering support and cooperation - both direct and indirect - have been instrumental in our progress. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of them. We extend our sincere appreciation to all well-wishers, sponsors, and partner organizations that have supported us directly and indirectly through their valuable suggestions, participation, and guidance throughout the year.

Our heartfelt gratitude also goes to our dedicated staff members, whose tireless efforts and commitment have been instrumental in driving our mission forward. We pay our respects to the esteemed members of the SVST board, including the general body and coordination team, for their visionary leadership and guidance.

Special thanks are due to our executives, who have demonstrated exceptional dedication and perseverance in advancing our mission.



SVST Today

Our organization was founded with the mission to drive key development initiatives for underdeveloped and deprived communities in our region. We've always adopted a participatory approach, engaging closely with the community and leveraging their contributions - be it financial, material, or through volunteer efforts. As we grew in reputation and earned the trust of our surrounding communities, our governing body recognized the need to establish sustainable income-generating activities. This would enable us to continue our development efforts without relying solely on project-based assistance.

As a people-centric organization, our commitment to delivering high-quality services remains unwavering. We've implemented various activities aimed at fostering community development, which are detailed in this report. Over time, we've expanded our regular activities to better serve our target audience. We're now confident in our ability to sustain our efforts and collaborate effectively with donors, government agencies, and supporting partners. Social mobilization is a complex, ongoing process that demands meticulous effort and adaptability. By acknowledging the dynamic nature of human behavior, we're better equipped to drive meaningful change.

In rural areas, economic development hinges on boosting production across agriculture, livestock, and cottage industries. Empowering unemployed youth and women is crucial to overcoming the hurdles facing rural economies. To achieve this, we're working to introduce innovative ideas, mechanization, and scientific approaches that meet contemporary standards and demands.

Over the past decade, our focus has remained steadfast on uplifting the poor. We've diversified our activities across multiple developmental fields, operating in rural, urban, and semi-urban areas of Maharashtra.

Program Theme

SVST's Integrated Community Development Initiatives encompass a wide range of areas, including:

- Literacy and Education
- Community Health and Nutrition
- Health, Hygiene, HIV/AIDS, and Disability
- Empowerment of Women, Child Labour, and Development
- Promotion of Local Culture and Traditional Heritage
- Preservation of Local Environment
- Development of Tourism
- Protection of Youth from Drug Abuse and Alcoholism
- Management of Natural Resources
- Water and Water Resources
- Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture, and Floriculture
- Promotion and Development of Youth towards Sports, Career, and Community Development
- Employment Generation utilizing Local Resources
- Natural and Man-made Disaster Response
- Promotion and Development of Model Clusters
- Vocational Training for Income Generation
- Awareness Programs on various Developmental Issues
- Promotion and Formation of Self-Help Groups and Farmers' Groups
- Social Justice, Empowerment, Legal Human, and Consumer Rights

SVST's Core Values: Respect and Empowerment

**Our Farmers, Our Future:
Unlocking Sustainable
Livelihoods for Rural
Communities**



**Unlocking Women's Potential:
Promoting Equality, Harnessing
Creativity, and
Driving Development**



**Shaping the Future: Our
Children, Our Hope,
Our Responsibility**



**Our Girls, Our Pride:
Empowering the Next
Generation of Women Leaders**



**Community-Led Development:
Empowering Social Change
through Collective
Participation**



SVST Partners / Sponsors

We're deeply grateful to our supporting agencies for their invaluable guidance, financial assistance, and kind support over the past few years. Their collaboration has been instrumental in our growth and confidence, empowering us to overcome limitations and achieve more.

We would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the following major supporters of SVST:



We also acknowledge and thank our other valued supporters who may not be listed here. Your contributions, both direct and indirect, have made a significant impact on our journey.

ENVIRONMENT

- Tree Plantation
- Bee Rearing & Honey Production

CHILD DEV.

- Child Welfare
- Child Marriage
- Child Labour
- Cultural Initiative

ART & HANDICRAFT

- Facilitation for artisans
- Design & Skill Training
- Awareness Programs

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WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

- Adolescent Girls Dev.
- Domestic Violence
- Vocational Training
- SHGs Promotion
- Leadership Dev. Training

INCOME GENERATION

- Dairy
- Poultry
- Organic Farming
- Composite Farming
- Vermin Compost

TRAININGS

- NGO Management Training
- Youth Leadership Dev.
- EDP & Skill Dev.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- Agriculture
- Dairy & Livestock Development
- Water & Sanitation
- Watershed Management

RURAL HEALTH

- Health Checkup Camps
- Blood donation camps
- HIV/AIDS
- Disability / Physically Handicapped



SVST's Income Generation Efforts: Paving the Way for Sustainability

To drive sustainable impact and maximize effectiveness, SVST has established specialized departments, each dedicated to addressing specific aspects of community development.

Dairy Unit



JUSTIFICATION:

Recognizing the vital role of livestock in the economy, particularly in rural areas where animal husbandry is a primary economic activity, we have established a demonstration cum production unit. This initiative aims to sustain our services in the long run, fostering the development of small-scale industries that produce milk and dairy products.

By leveraging local resources and fresh milk, this project will generate employment opportunities, enhance income, and promote sustainable livelihoods at the local level. Ultimately, our goal is to contribute to the all-round development of rural communities, empowering them to build resilient, milk-based livelihoods.

NAMDEV DAIRY, SVST

Dairying is a vital source of supplementary income for small and marginal farmers, as well as agricultural laborers. The manure from animals enriches the soil, improving fertility and crop yields. Additionally, gobar gas from the dung serves as a sustainable fuel source for domestic purposes and powering engines for irrigation.

The dairy sector also provides a valuable outlet for surplus fodder and agricultural by-products, which are utilized as animal feed. Furthermore, bullocks supply essential drought power for farm operations and transportation. Dairy farming offers a unique opportunity for year-round employment, even during seasonal agricultural downturns. With the right breed, management, and marketing, dairy farming can be a profitable venture.

At SVST, we pay tribute to the hardworking dairy farmers who provide us with fresh, wholesome milk products. Family-owned dairies take pride in their work, prioritizing environmental stewardship, animal welfare, and community well-being. Our dairy wing has grown significantly, from humble beginnings with just two cows to our current capacity of 50 units. This expansion has enabled us to generate income through milk sales, supporting our development initiatives and employment generation programs for the unemployed.

Poultry Farming



JUSTIFICATION:

Poultry farming has emerged as a highly efficient enterprise in the livestock sector, providing a rapid increase in the supply of essential nutrients like proteins, fats, minerals, and vitamins. The burgeoning demand for poultry products has transformed this activity from a small-scale, backyard endeavor to a full-fledged industry.

To ensure the sustainability of our platform, SVST has developed a demonstration cum production unit for poultry farming. This initiative aims to engage educated, unemployed youth and women, equipping them with the skills to adopt scientific rearing systems and establish successful poultry enterprises. By providing guidance and support, we empower them to become successful entrepreneurs, generating employment opportunities for others in their communities.

SVST POULTRY FARMING

In order to diversify its income streams and ensure sustainability, SVST initiated a poultry farming project at its head office in Sukli on its own. This project serves a dual purpose:

- 1. Production:** The poultry farm generates income through the sale of eggs, meat, and other poultry products, thereby contributing to SVST's financial stability.
- 2. Demonstration:** By establishing a model poultry farm, SVST aims to demonstrate best practices and innovative techniques in poultry farming to local farmers, entrepreneurs, and the community at large. This demonstration aspect enables SVST to promote knowledge sharing, skills development, and technology transfer, ultimately contributing to the growth and development of the local agricultural sector.

Organic Farming Development



JUSTIFICATION:

As part of our commitment to sustainable agriculture, we have launched an initiative that utilizes scientific methodologies to cultivate organic and seasonal crops. This project serves a dual purpose:

1. Empowering our targeted farming communities with practical knowledge and skills in organic and modern agriculture
2. Generating revenue for the organization, which is then utilized to support various agriculture-based development programs in our operational areas.

SVST COMPOSITE FARMING:

To achieve long-term sustainability and reduce dependence on external support, SVST embarked on income-generating activities that also serve as demonstrations for the community. The organization adopted a multi-faceted approach:

1. Lease farming: SVST took land on lease from farmers in rural areas, promoting collaborative farming practices and ensuring mutually beneficial outcomes.
2. Utilizing own land: The organization also leveraged its own cultivated land at the head office level to initiate various farming activities.

During the reported year, SVST launched a composite farming initiative in Sukli village, covering 6 acres of land. This project involved the cultivation of:

1. Sugar Cane: A cash crop that provides a stable source of income.
2. Vegetables: A diverse range of vegetables were cultivated, catering to local market demands and providing a fresh supply of produce.
3. Banana: Banana cultivation was also undertaken, offering another revenue stream and contributing to the local food security.

The composite farming initiative yielded excellent results, generating a surplus that significantly supported SVST's welfare activities during the financial year. This sustainable approach ensures the organization's continued viability and enables it to pursue its developmental objectives.

Vermin & Nadep Composting (Bio fertilizer) production & marketing

JUSTIFICATION:

Organic Manure Initiative: Promoting Sustainable Agriculture

Our initiative aims to encourage local farmers to adopt organic manure, enhancing soil fertility and reducing the harmful effects of chemical fertilizers. To achieve this, we've established a demonstration and production unit that provides scientific training and showcases the benefits of organic manure.

Our unit produces high-quality organic manure, which is marketed locally through simple packaging and affordable pricing. By making organic manure accessible and affordable, we empower farmers to adopt sustainable agricultural practices, leading to:

- Improved soil health
- Increased crop yields
- A more environmentally conscious farming community

Together, we can promote sustainable agriculture and contribute to a healthier environment.



Vermin Compost Shed



Nadep Compost Shed

Regular Social Development initiatives

The basic aim is to working with the poor and oppressed across the impact areas leads community based sustainable development. Somehow it is not possible to ensure total development of any society without equipping the family and the community. Over the decade, SVST invested the efforts in creating communalities independent. Its grassroots development facilitator worked closely with community. We celebrated several credible community formations that we have had the privilege of partnering. Positive response from the society has given impetus to our various initiatives that have beneficiaries across the social spectrum. SVST stands as a well-structured voluntary body with definite social aims and objectives. It strives to focus on overall social welfare through various initiatives. These activities have been executed with internal and external resources in the respective areas through innovative drives and methods.

AGRICULTURE

Organic Farming & Modern Agriculture

(A mission driven initiative toward sustainable agriculture)

Organic farming is a cultivation method that avoids the use of synthetic pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers. Instead, it relies on crop rotation, natural fertilizers, and plant-based pesticides and herbicides to maintain soil efficiency and fertility. The benefits of organic farming are multifaceted. Research has shown that chemical-based fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides are extremely harmful to the environment and living organisms. Moreover, the production of these chemicals releases destructive emissions into the atmosphere, contributing to climate change.



Conventional agriculture heavily relies on these chemicals, which can damage our ecosystem when they enter the soil and contaminate water supplies. In contrast, organic agriculture aims to produce food while maintaining ecological balance and preventing soil fertility or pest problems. This approach is proactive, addressing potential issues before they arise. Effective soil management techniques also play a crucial role in controlling soil erosion. With these principles in mind, our team initiated organic agriculture development programs.

During the year, we organized various agriculture-based programs, including those sponsored by external partners and others funded through our own resources.

TRAINING ON VERMIN COMPOSTING

Recognizing the alarming state of agricultural land in India, SVST acknowledged the devastating impact of drought and soil degradation. The widespread use of chemical fertilizers, readily available in the market, has led to soil infertility. These fertilizers may provide immediate benefits, such as rapid crop maturity and growth, but they come at a steep cost.

Farmers, driven by the need for immediate financial returns to sustain their livelihoods, often rely on these chemical fertilizers without considering the long-term consequences. Unfortunately, this approach ultimately destroys the land's potential for future agricultural sustainability.

SVST observed that the excessive use of chemical fertilizers in agricultural fields has led to a significant decline in greenery, compromising the ecosystem's delicate balance. SVST addressed the alarming issue of soil degradation and its contribution to global warming. To combat this, SVST collaborated with the agriculture department to develop a sustainable solution. The organization promoted vermin composting, empowering farmers to create their own compost using readily available resources like cow dung and solid waste.

Through training and workshops, SVST encouraged farmers to adopt this eco-friendly practice, initially for their own cultivation purposes. This approach not only enhances soil fertility but also reduces labor intensity compared to traditional composting methods.

The benefits of vermin composting are numerous:

- Improved soil structure due to the slime produced by worms
- Enhanced nutrient retention in soil
- Increased water-holding capacity
- Better water supply for crops
- Increased diversity of microorganisms
- Improved soil's capacity to buffer pH and pollutants



The application of compost has proven effective in restoring soil health. Even small additions of organic matter can have a positive impact on soil properties. By adopting vermin composting, farmers can revitalize their soil, increase crop yields, and contribute to a more sustainable environment.



Increasing soil organic matter (SOM) significantly enhances overall soil quality, influencing various soil functions. SOM plays a crucial role in determining soil structure, particularly in the orientation of clay particles and soil compaction. This, in turn, affects soil regeneration. Composting and vermin composting are highly effective methods for producing organic fertilizers from human excreta. These approaches not only provide a sustainable solution for waste management but also generate a valuable resource for enhancing soil fertility and structure.

SVST initiated a mobilization effort, focusing on farmers' groups and rural communities whose livelihoods depend on agriculture. The goal was to promote the use of bio-fertilizers to protect and enhance the soil's capacity for cultivation. To support this initiative, SVST established its own vermin compost unit, serving as a demonstration, training, and production facility. This unit also functions as an income-generating activity.

In collaboration with ATMA, Agriculture, and Horticulture Department, Hingoli, SVST organized three day-long demonstration cum training programs on vermin composting during this year. These events targeted enthusiastic farmers from villages under Aundha Nagnath and Sengaoon Taluka areas. The training were organized at SVST Training Center, Narsi as follows:

Name of Training	Duration / Date		Venue / Place	No of participants	
	From	To		Male	Female
Vermin Composting	06/09/2022	08/09/2022	SVST Training Centre, Narsi	19	10
	13/09/2022	15/09/2022	Do	24	06
	20/09/2022	22/09/2022	Do	18	09

AWARENESS ON PROMOTION & DEVELOPMENT OF LIVESTOCK

Trend analysis reveals that the poultry and dairy sectors have experienced growth surpassing that of cereal production. Despite India being the largest milk-producing country, the productivity per animal remains below 50% of the global average. This disparity is primarily attributed to inadequate nutrition, low genetic potential for milk production, and insufficient healthcare.



The demand for green and dry fodder exceeds supply, posing a significant challenge for fodder production in the coming years. Notably, expenditure on milk and milk products is rising steadily, second only to cereals. The global livestock market is undergoing significant transformations, with growing concerns over production systems, product safety, and quality assurance. To meet increasing demand, substantial investments are required in feed supply, livestock production, processing, distribution, marketing, and quality control.

The benefits of rising livestock consumption for the poor will depend on various policy, technological, and research choices. To improve market opportunities for the poor, it is essential to prioritize social equity and environmental considerations. Targeted investments in infrastructure, cooperatives, contract farming, and other pro-poor market mechanisms can help. Additionally, public support is necessary for establishing effective health and food safety systems that benefit the poor. To unlock the potential of livestock production for the poor, innovative approaches and strategic research are necessary. This requires a shift in focus from solely production-oriented strategies to market-oriented ones. While scientific breeding, feeding, management, and disease control are crucial, sustainability depends on effective marketing.

To tap into rural markets for livestock products, our production strategy must align with local, domestic, and international market demands. Promoting traditional livestock products with strong market demand and good pricing can be beneficial. However, several prerequisites must be met: Reducing production costs without compromising product quality to ensure economic viability.

With these considerations in mind, our organization conducted three awareness camps in January 2024. These day-long events focused on promoting and developing livestock using modern methodologies and innovative ideas for value addition.

Program	Date	Place/Location	Participants	
			Male	Female
1 st	10/01/2024	SVST Admin. Office, Hingoli	85	32
2 nd	12/01/2024	SVST Head Office, Sukli, Sengaon	69	43
3 rd	15/01/2024	Office Premises, Wasmat Taluka, Hingoli	78	29

WATER & SANITATION

SVST remains committed to collaborating with government departments, NGOs, and other developmental agencies to drive community development. However, a pressing concern is the reckless exploitation of our most vital resource: water. We're inadvertently destroying its sources, despite lacking a comprehensive understanding of its importance and sustainable utilization. The consequences of our actions will be catastrophic. Future generations will face severe kidney problems due to water scarcity. Industries will grind to a halt, unemployment will skyrocket, and desalination plants will become the primary source of employment. Workers will receive part of their salary in drinkable water, and food will be largely synthetic.

The effects on human health will be devastating:

- Dehydration will lead to wrinkled, emaciated bodies
- Ultra-violet radiation will cause sores and skin cancer
- Gastrointestinal infections and urinary tract problems will become leading causes of death
- Premature aging will occur, with 20-year-olds appearing 40



Scientists will investigate, but the damage will be irreversible. Water cannot be produced, and oxygen levels will decline due to deforestation and lack of vegetation. The intellectual capacities of future generations will be severely impaired. It's essential that we take immediate action to conserve water and protect our planet's delicate ecosystem. Sanitation is the hygienic means of preventing human contact from the hazards of wastes to promote health. Hazards can be physical, microbiological, biological or chemical agents of disease. Sanitation generally refers to the provision of facilities and services for the safe disposal of human urine and feces. Inadequate sanitation is a major cause of disease and improving sanitation is known to have a significant beneficial impact on health both in households and across communities. The word 'sanitation' also refers to the maintenance of hygienic conditions, through services such as garbage collection and wastewater disposal. Around 1.1 billion people globally do not have access to improved water supply sources, whereas 2.4 billion people do not have access to any type of improved sanitation facility. About 2 million people die every year due to diarrheal diseases; most of them are children less than 5 years of age. The most affected are the populations in developing countries, living in extreme conditions of poverty, normally peri-urban dwellers or rural inhabitants.

To address the pressing issues of sanitation, hygiene, and environmental degradation, SVST organizes annual awareness camps to educate people on proper hygiene practices and eco-friendly habits. In rural areas, the lack of sanitation facilities and poor hygiene practices lead to numerous problems. Many families in our operational areas live without access to proper water and sanitation facilities, forcing them to resort to open defecation and bathing. This not only compromises their dignity but also increases the risk of unprotected sex and child marriage.

Given the dire circumstances, the role of NGOs like SVST is crucial in supporting disadvantaged communities. We strive to address common problems and build the capacity of our sister concerns.

During the year, SVST conducted four awareness programs at different locations in Hingoli district, covering Hingoli, Wasmata, Sengaoan, and Kalamnuri Talukas. These initiatives aim to empower rural communities, promote hygiene practices, and create a cleaner, healthier environment.



Activity/Program	Place/Venue	Date	Participants	
			Male	Female
Awareness on water scarcity & its reason	Hingoli Dist. HQ.	10/02/2024	74	38
Awareness on Rain Water Harvesting & its benefits	Wasmata Taluka	12/02/2024	62	35
Awareness on Sanitation & hygiene practice	Sengaoan Taluka	18/02/2024	79	45
Do	Kalamnuri Taluka	22/02/2024	92	103

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

(Capacity Building Training, Awareness, Training & Exposure)

The region faces significant challenges due to the lack of surface water sources and high salinity of groundwater, limiting irrigation and drinking water availability. This scarcity forces many farmers to migrate, affecting the demographic profile of villages. The primary crops cultivated are Jowar (Sorghum) and Bajra (Pearl millet), with some farmers growing rain-fed castor crops during favorable rainfall seasons. Land conservation measures, such as earthen bunds and farm bunds, enable farmers to cultivate a rabi crop of cumin using residual moisture. The scarcity of rain and surface water has reduced fodder and pasture availability for livestock, forcing villagers to rely on animal husbandry and agriculture for their livelihood. During lean seasons, they often migrate to work as daily wage laborers.

The majority of the population depends on common property resources, living in poverty. Their traditional pasture lands have depleted due to over-grazing and drought-like conditions, exacerbating their poverty. Many families supplement their income by producing charcoal, further straining the environment.



Considering these challenges, SVST conducted four capacity-building training sessions for Village Level Committees (VLCs) on watershed management and two awareness generation programs covering villages under Sengao Taluka of Hingoli District, Maharashtra.

Activity/Program	Place/Venue	Date	Participants	
			Male	Female
Capacity Building training on watershed management for VLC members	Sukli Village	25/02/2024	23	12
Do	Shivani Village	27/02/2024	25	09
Do	Pankanergaon	06/03/2024	27	07
Do	Wagjali Vill.	10/03/2024	24	09
Awareness on watershed management & development	Sapatgaon	15/03/2024	72	49
Do	Koutha Village	18/03/2024	59	31

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

SVST encouraged other organizations to join forces in creating a greener, eco-friendly environment in their localities. To achieve this, SVST designed a long-term system, collaborating with key facilitator organizations that promote societal development. Some of these organizations were established by SVST's founder before the organization's inception, while others were promoted by SVST itself. We have identified the following activities to focus on under our environment initiative, with plans to gradually expand our efforts every year and guide our area-specific organizations accordingly.

Tree Plantation

We're proud to have contributed to the planting of thousands of trees through our donations to Trees for the Future. At SVST, we recognize the immense importance of trees in maintaining a healthy environment. By planting trees in our neighborhoods, we're not only improving local air quality but also contributing to a more sustainable planet.

Trees provide numerous benefits, including:

- Producing oxygen and removing carbon dioxide and contaminants from the air
- Social, economic, and environmental benefits

As part of our initiative, we aim to educate and raise awareness among the public about the importance of environmental conservation. It's our collective responsibility to create an eco-friendly environment and understand the factors contributing to environmental degradation. This year, we've planted an additional 1,000 trees in collaboration with local NGOs and our target population, while also promoting general awareness about environmental conservation.



Training on Scientific Bee rearing & Honey production:

Apiculture, or bee farming, involves transitioning bees from their natural habitats to controlled, scientifically-managed environments. This modern approach leverages cutting-edge technology to optimize beekeeping.

Ideal Species for Indian Climate

The Indian bee (*Apis cerana indica*) is exceptionally well-suited for apiculture in our country's climate. Characterized by their small size, golden color, and distinctive white stripes, these bees typically inhabit tree cavities with intricate, parallel chamber structures.

Scientific Bee Farming System

Our apiculture training program focuses on replicating the natural habitat of Indian bees. Bee cages are carefully designed to mimic the parallel chamber arrangement found in tree cavities, ensuring a thriving environment for the bees.

Learn the Art of Apiculture

Join our training program to gain hands-on experience in scientific bee rearing and honey production. Discover the best practices for apiculture and contribute to the growth of this vital industry.

The Importance of Bee Farming

Traditionally, honey is collected from natural sources, often resulting in the destruction of bee hives and the loss of bee lives. This, combined with the widespread use of pesticides in agriculture, has led to a alarming decline in bee populations. As a consequence, crop production has also suffered.

Benefits of Modern Bee Farming

In contrast, modern bee farming methods prioritize the preservation of bee populations and the environment. This approach enables the collection of pure, high-quality honey while maintaining the integrity of the bee hive. By adopting modern bee farming practices, we can increase bee populations, enhance crop production, and promote sustainable livelihoods.

Advantages Over Traditional Methods

Modern bee farming offers several advantages over traditional methods:

- Pure and high-quality honey
- Increased honey production
- Preservation of bee populations
- Environmentally friendly
- Potential for increased crop production

Empowering Rural Communities

Bee farming can serve as a vital source of employment and income for rural communities. By providing training and support, we can empower educated and uneducated youth, as well as women, to engage in bee farming as a sustainable livelihood.



Promoting Eco-Friendly Practices

As a voluntary organization, we recognize the importance of promoting eco-friendly practices and raising awareness about the benefits of natural products. By supporting local resource-based production, we can contribute to sustainable livelihoods and environmental conservation.

Our Initiatives

This year, SVST has provided training to unemployed women and youth on beekeeping and honey production using scientific methods. Our goal is to generate income and employment opportunities while promoting sustainable livelihoods and environmental conservation.

Duration	Date	No of Trainees		Training location
		Male	Female	
1 week	20 th – 25 th Aug, 2023	17	12	SVST Training Centre, Narsi
1 week	20 th – 25 th Sept, 2023	19	09	Do
1 week	20 th – 25 th Oct, 2023	20	11	Do
1 week	20 th – 25 th Nov, 2023	18	10	Do

RURAL HEALTH

(Free Health Checkup Camp)

Recognizing that each individual's body and medical history is unique, it's essential to be aware of the factors that affect our health and well-being on a personal level. The health status of individuals and groups is significantly influenced by social and economic conditions, therapeutic care, and personal health behaviors. Social determinants of health, such as socioeconomic conditions, play a crucial role in shaping the health of individuals and communities. Key factors include:

- Health follows a social gradient
- Stress damages health
- Early development and education have long-lasting health impacts
- Poverty and social exclusion can be fatal
- Workplace stress increases disease risk
- Job security improves health
- Unemployment leads to illness and premature death
- Social support networks improve health
- Substance use is influenced by social settings
- Access to healthy food is a political issue
- Healthy transportation options include walking, cycling, and public transport

Prioritizing sustainable health and wellness is not only vital for our survival but also a rewarding way to live a healthy, fulfilling life. SVST's Community Health Program operates independently in various areas, leveraging partnerships with hospitals and institutions. Our Health Care Program focuses on providing regular health check-ups for people in different locations within our operational area.



This year, SVST organized two free health check-up camps in Sengao Taluka, Hingoli District, on March 17th and 22nd. A team of expert health practitioners examined a total of 297 individuals, including 152 males, 96 females, and 49 children. Our health initiative aims to promote a health-seeking behavior among families and children through regular awareness programs and health-care promotion activities. We collaborate with sister NGOs and the Department of Health & Family Welfare to organize health check-up camps in various locations, providing free basic and preliminary medicines to patients. Building on this success, we continued to conduct free health check-up camps throughout the financial year, delivering essential health services and promoting healthy habits among our target groups.

Awareness on HIV/AIDS

Adolescence is a critical life stage, marked by significant physical and emotional changes. As young people transition from childhood to adulthood, they face unique health challenges. During this period, females are more likely to struggle with body image and self-esteem issues, which can lead to eating disorders and other serious health concerns. In contrast, males are more prone to substance abuse, depression, self-mutilation, and suicidal tendencies. If left untreated, these issues can result in long-term mental and physical damage. It's essential to address these health concerns proactively to ensure the well-being and resilience of young people.

Achieving overall wellbeing requires a strong sense of self, a supportive network, and opportunities for personal growth. However, many factors that contribute to illness, such as genetics or environmental conditions, are beyond our control. Fortunately, various avenues exist for improving our health, including traditional and modern medicines. Despite this, numerous barriers prevent people from accessing proper healthcare, including healthy sanitation and hygiene. These obstacles often stem from poverty, geographic location, disability, or social stigma surrounding illness. Sexual health, particularly regarding the transmission of diseases like HIV/AIDS, remains a contentious issue. The education, prevention, and treatment of HIV/AIDS are pressing concerns. To address this, we observed World AIDS Day on December 1, 2023, by organizing an awareness program that targeted 95 males, 61 females, and 75 school children.

Empowering Lives: Our Efforts in Disability Inclusion

This year, our organization continued to prioritize the well-being and inclusion of individuals with disabilities. Recognizing the importance of creating a supportive and accessible environment for all, we aimed to promote equality, dignity, and opportunities for people with disabilities through our initiatives. Our efforts focused on providing essential support to those in need, including:

- Trike rickshaws for 8 differently abled and needy individuals
- Hearing aids for 11 persons
- Organizing awareness programs and accessibility improvements in 4 taluka areas namely Hingoli, Sengaon, Wasmat & Kalamnuri.

We firmly believe that every individual deserves equal opportunities and respect, regardless of their abilities. Our organization remains committed to advocating for the rights and inclusion of people with disabilities, and we look forward to continuing our efforts in the years to come.



CHILDREN DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Child Welfare and Development

SVST is committed to promoting the development and welfare of children. Since its inception, the organization has undertaken various initiatives to support destitute children, combat child labor, and promote education.

Key Initiatives

1. Educational Support: SVST provided essential educational materials, such as uniforms and umbrellas, study materials, school bags to underprivileged children, ensuring their continued access to education.
2. Re-Enrollment in School: The organization facilitated the re-enrollment of children who had dropped out of school, giving them a second chance at education.
3. Awareness Programs: SVST conducted awareness meetings, targeting mothers and children, to educate them on child rights, protection issues, and the importance of education.



Awareness Meeting on Child Rights and Protection

On October 25, 2023, SVST organized an awareness meeting at Sukli Village, attended by 58 mothers and 53 children.

The program focused on:

1. Child Rights: Fundamental freedoms and inherent rights of every child, regardless of their background.
2. Needs and Rights: The interconnectedness of meeting children's needs and realizing their rights.
3. Child Protection Issues: Addressing child labor, child marriage, trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, abuse, neglect, and juvenile justice.

By empowering mothers and children with knowledge on these critical issues, SVST aims to create a safer, more supportive environment for children to thrive.

Combating Child Labor: Awareness and Rescue Efforts

Our organization continued its crusade against child labor, spreading awareness about the gravity of this crime. We visited various institutions to identify instances of child labor and rescued several children from exploitative situations.



Key Achievements:

1. Rescue and Rehabilitation: We rescued children from cruel employers and admitted them to schools, covering their education expenses up to Class X.
2. Street Children Rehabilitation: We identified street children and enrolled them in schools, providing a platform for education and happiness.
3. Awareness Campaigns: Our staff conducted awareness drives to educate the society about the illegality and consequences of engaging children in labor.

By combating child labor and providing education, we aim to empower vulnerable children and enrich their lives.

Combating Child Marriage and Domestic Violence

Child marriage is a pervasive issue that perpetuates domestic violence against women. Research indicates that early marriage can lead to increased stress, adjustment problems, and a higher risk of abuse.

Recommendations and Initiatives

To address this critical issue, SVST recommends:

1. Stringent enforcement of laws: Ensure that provisions protecting women from domestic violence are strictly enforced, and perpetrators are held accountable.
2. Comprehensive review of laws: Review and revise laws related to abuse and harassment of women to address current trends and requirements.

Awareness Campaign

On January 17, 2024, SVST organized an awareness campaign at its head office, engaging:

- Community members
- Religious leaders
- Non-governmental organizations
- Women's organizations
- Social activists

The event drew 267 participants (123 males, 89 females, and 55 children). By raising awareness and promoting collective action, SVST aims to prevent child marriage and domestic violence, ensuring a safer and more equitable society for women.

Cultural Initiative for Children

(Fostering Environmental Awareness and Personal Growth)

As part of its commitment to nurturing young minds, SVST celebrated World Environment Day on June 5, 2023. The organization conducted a series of engaging competitions for children from surrounding villages, including:

- Song and music performances
- Sports activities
- Debates
- Quizzes
- Drawing and art contests
- Essay writing competitions

These events encouraged children to showcase their talents, build confidence, and develop their decision-making skills.



Children's Conference and Environmental Awareness

In the evening, SVST hosted a children's conference, where the following topics were discussed:

1. Eco-friendly environment: Children learned about the importance of preserving the environment and received tree saplings to plant in their homes.
2. Global Warming: The causes and impacts of global warming were explained, empowering children to take action.
3. Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH): Children understood the significance of proper WASH practices and their role in maintaining a healthy environment.

By combining cultural initiatives with environmental awareness, SVST inspired children to become responsible stewards of the planet and confident individuals.

EMPOWERING WOMEN

Empowering Adolescent Girls: Our Development Initiative

Adolescent girls in India face numerous challenges that hinder their social and economic growth. Despite the Indian government's efforts to address these issues, many girls remain isolated in their households and communities, lacking voices, options, and opportunities. In rural and urban slum areas, girls are disproportionately affected by poverty, lack of education, and limited access to healthcare. One of the most pressing concerns is the high rate of undernutrition among Indian girls. In Maharashtra, for instance, approximately 40% of children suffer from undernutrition, with a staggering 66% of these undernourished children being female.



Our organization is committed to supporting the growth and development of adolescent girls in India. Through our Adolescent Development Initiative, we aim to empower girls to overcome the challenges they face and reach their full potential. Our initiative focuses on addressing the critical issues affecting adolescent girls, including education, health, nutrition, and social empowerment. We work closely with local communities, schools, and healthcare providers to create a supportive environment that encourages girls to participate, learn, and grow.

Through our program, we provide adolescent girls with access to:

- Education and life skills training
- Health and nutrition services
- Social empowerment and leadership development
- Mentorship and support from positive role models

During this year, we organized various programs for adolescent girls, providing them with access to education, life skills training, health and nutrition services, and social empowerment opportunities. Our programs aimed to equip adolescent girls with the knowledge, skills, and confidence they need to succeed in life and become active contributors to their communities. By investing in the development of adolescent girls, we believe that we can create a brighter future for themselves, their families, and their communities.

To address the economic needs of adolescent girls, our initiative aims to provide vocational training that improves their economic conditions, as well as those of their communities. This program fills a critical gap for girls with limited social networks, enabling them to achieve economic empowerment. By doing so, we also aim to increase the age of marriage, which research has shown to have a positive impact on the economic benefits for girls.

Building on the program's successes, our team will standardize its strengths to further enhance its effectiveness. This will involve establishing specific criteria for selecting facilitators and recognizing community achievements. To better reach girls with low literacy levels or those who speak local, tribal dialects, we will develop supplemental materials.

The program's scope will also explore the creation of a parallel initiative for boys, promoting a more inclusive approach to empowerment. Additionally, our curriculum will incorporate asset-building and basic financial education to supplement the economic benefits for girls. Overall, this program is a groundbreaking initiative that advances the empowerment of adolescent girls in our operational areas, promoting a brighter, more equitable future.

Topic of the program	Venue	Duration		No of participants
		From	To	
Adolescent Health - What adolescents need to grow & develop in good health, who needs to meet the needs & fulfil the rights of adolescents & What is the way to do	SVST Training Centre, Narsi	20/03/2024	22/03/2024	31
Sensitizing adolescent girls and making them aware of their issues and for providing a platform for collectivizing	Do	25/03/2024	25/03/2024	34
Vocation Training on Fruit Processing for Adolescent girls	Do	27/03/2024	31/03/2024	28

AWARENESS ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

As part of our ongoing commitment to promoting women's empowerment and social sector development, SVST conducted a series of awareness camps in rural areas. In November and December 2023, we organized five daylong camps in five villages under Hingoli and Sengaon Taluka of Hingoli District. These camps aimed to address the pressing issue of violence against women in rural areas. Through interactive sessions and community engagement, we raised awareness about the importance of women's rights and the need to prevent violence.



The response from the community was overwhelming, with enthusiastic participation from local residents. The camps have sparked a sense of ownership and responsibility among community members, who are now playing a vital role in finding solutions to address violence against women. Our research also explored respondents' perceptions of domestic violence against women. The forms of domestic violence reported by respondents included:

- Physical abuse: beating, torturing, and sexual abuse
- Emotional abuse: scolding, insulting, suspecting character, and mental harassment
- Psychological abuse: repeated quarrels and rude behavior by family members

Instigators of Domestic Violence:

Respondents identified the principal instigators of violence in their families, highlighting the role of external factors in perpetuating domestic violence.

Defining Physical Violence

For the purpose of this study, physical violence is defined as any intentional action by a perpetrator that causes physical harm to a woman. This definition encompasses common forms of physical violence against women, including:

- Slaps, beating, pushing, and kicking
- Throwing injurious objects
- Beating with canes or burning with rods
- Sexual abuse and coercion

These forms of physical violence are prevalent in our country, and understanding their dynamics is crucial to addressing domestic violence against women. Our specific initiative during this year as below table:

Topic of the program	Venue /Place	Date	No of participants	
			Male	Female
Awareness on Domestic Violence	Sukli Village	22/11/2023	78	53
Awareness on gender equality	Hingoli	27/11/2023	24	48
Awareness on protection of women & their rights	Warud Samad	30/11/2023	40	66
Do	Sarkali	04/11/2023	45	69
Awareness on gender equality	Ghota	05/11/2023	52	63

VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR WOMEN

Empowering Rural Communities

Our organization's vocational training wing, led by female workers, provides rural poor women with regular, trade-based vocational training. This initiative aims to generate sustainable income and employment opportunities at the local level.

Courses and Training

We offer free courses in cutting/knitting, doll making, and fruit processing at our training center. This year, 60 women (30+30) received training from our professional staff and guest resource persons from relevant departments and agencies. Our short-term courses (15 days) are designed to be flexible and participatory.

Training Programs and Outcomes

In July and August 2023, we conducted two consecutive programs on fruit processing and doll making. Our trainees appreciated the supportive learning environment, and many have since started working with our organization or launched their own ventures. We also facilitated bank linkages for some trainees to establish their own production centers.



Seminar and Get-Together

On November 11, 2023, we organized a daylong seminar for successful entrepreneurs trained under our program. The event, held at our training center in Narshi, brought together resource persons, organization representatives, and trainees to share experiences, provide constructive feedback, and celebrate achievements. The seminar concluded with a get-together lunch.

WOMEN SHG MANAGEMENT

Women SHG Management: Empowering Disadvantaged Women

To bring about lasting change among socially and economically disadvantaged women, SVST adopts a step-by-step approach. We believe that empowering these women to think, plan, and implement their own development is key to sustainable change.

Training and Capacity Building

During this financial year, our team conducted six training sessions, each spanning two days, for women SHG members from surrounding villages. Thirty members from each selected SHG participated in these programs, which were well-received by the community.



Expert Guidance and Support

The trainings were successfully conducted with the help of experts from relevant departments and reputed NGOs in the region. These sessions equipped our women members with the skills and knowledge necessary for professional and systematic management.

Outcome and Impact

Through these trainings, we have empowered women SHG members to take charge of their own development, leading to improved management and decision-making capabilities.

Topic	Duration		Venue / Place	Participants
	From	To		
SHG bookkeeping, accounting & group dynamism management, internal lending & credit management	10/09/2023	11/09/2023	SVST Training Centre, Narsi	42
	14/09/2023	15/09/2023	Do	33
	19/09/2023	20/09/2023	Do	29
	24/09/2023	25/09/2023	Do	35
	27/09/2023	28/09/2023	SVST Head Office	38
	02/10/2023	03/10/2023	Do	32

WOMEN LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Empowering Community Development

SVST recognizes the inherent potential of women to drive community development. To harness this potential, we organize women leadership training programs uniformly across all targeted areas. This approach ensures the program's effectiveness, viability, and sustainability.

Our Methodology

We emphasize women's participation in all programs and activities, adopting a Resource-Based approach when working with women's groups. SVST maintains peace and equality in the villages, transcending caste and creed boundaries.

Building Confidence and Capacity

Through regular training and capacity-building programs, we empower women to develop themselves. This process instills self-confidence, enabling women to take their rightful place in families and society. Activities are tailored to the development and maturity level of each group, fostering active participation and partnership in planning, implementation, and benefit-sharing.



Training Outcomes

This year, we conducted a weeklong training on Women Leadership in Community Development at our Narshi Training Centre. Forty-eight women leaders from surrounding villages participated in the training, held from October 10th to 15th, 2023. The program yielded multiple, tangible, and lasting results, benefiting both members and the broader society.

OTHER DEVELOPMENT TRAININGS

(Management): Capacity Building Training for NGO functionaries:

As part of our mission to empower communities, SVST has been developing and supporting various youth and women's groups as sister concerns. We provide need-based training and guidance to help them become independent NGOs.

Training Objectives

Our training programs focus on building capacities in motivational skills, personality development, NGO management, bookkeeping, accounting, project design, and strategic planning. We aim to equip participants with the skills and knowledge necessary to implement development programs effectively.

Recent Training Program

This year, we conducted a three-day training program for NGO functionaries in our operational areas. The program covered essential topics, including:

- NGO skills and checklist
- Starting an NGO: logistics and management
- Strategic planning and project development
- Financial management: grant-writing and budgeting
- Building networks: community and government relations
- NGO public relations: media and advocacy



Community Needs and Objectives

The training program was designed to address the gaps in running an NGO smoothly, as identified by community leaders. We recognize the importance of community work, leadership, and development in bringing about social transformation. Our goal is to build the capacities of NGO functionaries, enabling them to contribute effectively to community development.

Date of training	No of Participants	Location of the programs
15 th – 17 th April, 2023	58	Hingoli Dist. HQ
07 th – 09 th May, 2023	65	Nanded Dist. HQ
22 nd – 24 th May, 2023	63	Latur Dist. HQ

Empowering Youth Through Leadership Development Training

SVST recognizes the importance of investing in the next generation of leaders. To achieve this, we conducted a comprehensive 3-day leadership development training program for members of local Youth Clubs.

Objectives:

Our mission is to engage and develop diverse young people to positively impact their communities. The training program focused on:

- Creating a safe space for youth to express themselves
- Fostering open communication among young people
- Building multicultural bridges
- Enhancing leadership development among young people



Methodology:

Through interactive sessions, group discussions, and creative activities, participants explored cultural, racial, and social issues. The training also provided opportunities for leadership development, guidance on education and career paths, and creative expression through music, dance, and drama.



Outcome:

By empowering young people with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to take initiative, we aim to create a positive impact in their communities. Our training program is designed to have a lasting impact, enabling young leaders to drive systematic development in their communities over the long term.

Date of training	No of Participants	Location of the programs
18 th – 19 th May, 2023	32	Sengaon Taluka
27 th – 28 th May, 2023	37	Kalamnuri Taluka
09 th – 10 th July, 2023	27	Aundha Nagnath Taluka
20 th – 21 st July, 2023	22	Wasmat Taluka

Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP)

The Significance of Entrepreneurship in Economic Development

Entrepreneurship plays a pivotal role in driving economic growth and development. Entrepreneurs serve as catalysts for innovation, industrialization, and job creation, ultimately contributing to a nation's economic progress.

The Importance of Entrepreneurship Development Programs (EDPs)

EDPs are essential for empowering entrepreneurs to initiate and sustain economic development. These programs enable entrepreneurs to:

1. Create employment opportunities: EDPs facilitate self-employment and generate jobs for others, helping to alleviate unemployment.
2. Mobilize capital: Entrepreneurs mobilize resources, promoting capital formation and industrial development.
3. Foster balanced regional development: EDPs encourage entrepreneurship in industrially backward areas, reducing economic disparities.
4. Utilize local resources: Entrepreneurs exploit local resources, promoting efficient use and development of these resources.
5. Improve per capita income: EDPs contribute to increased productivity, employment, and wealth generation, ultimately enhancing per capita income.
6. Enhance standard of living: Entrepreneurs produce high-quality goods and services, improving the standard of living for consumers.
7. Promote economic independence: EDPs enable entrepreneurs to develop import substitutes and export-oriented businesses, reducing dependence on foreign countries.
8. Prevent industrial slums: Dispersal of industries through EDPs helps prevent overburdening of civic amenities and environmental degradation.
9. Reduce social tension: EDPs provide opportunities for self-employment, reducing unemployment-related social unrest.
10. Facilitate overall development: Entrepreneurs create a ripple effect, driving industrialization, innovation, and economic growth.



Entrepreneurship Promotion and Development

As part of its ongoing efforts to foster entrepreneurship, SVST continued to provide training and support to aspiring entrepreneurs. Upon completing the Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP) training, participants received guidance to establish their own ventures.

Key Achievements

- SVST has successfully promoted 421 entrepreneurs in a sustainable manner since its inception.
- In the current financial year, SVST conducted two trade-based & one General Management EDPs in October 2023 and January 2024, targeting unemployed youth and women in Hingoli District, Maharashtra.
- Each program spanned two weeks, providing participants with comprehensive training and mentorship.
- Additionally, SVST organized a Rural Entrepreneurship Development program for educated, unemployed youth and women, motivating and training 25 participants.

Ongoing Support

SVST's commitment to entrepreneurship development extends beyond training programs. The organization provides ongoing support to entrepreneurs, including:

- Guidance on setting up and managing ventures
- Development of bookkeeping and accounting systems
- Linkages with financial institutions for expansion and growth



By fostering entrepreneurship and providing sustainable support, SVST aims to empower individuals, promote economic growth, and contribute to the development of the community.

Trade	Duration		Venue / Place	Participants	
	From	To		Male	Female
Two wheeler repairing	10/10/2023	24/10/2023	SVST Training Centre	28	00
Steel fabrication	28/10/2023	11/11/2023	Do	30	00
General/Management	15/01/2024	29/01/2024	Do	22	11

Post-Training Support and Handholding

Following the successful completion of classroom and practical training, participants received dedicated handholding support from experienced Trainer Motivators. This guidance enabled trainees to establish their own units, leveraging credit linkages and connections to government schemes for development and employment generation.

Impact and Outcomes

The Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP) has demonstrated significant impact, empowering rural educated and semi-educated youth and women to:

- Achieve self-sufficiency
- Build confidence through entrepreneurship
- Explore their potential, entrepreneurial abilities, and leadership qualities

The ultimate goal of the EDP initiative is to foster rural entrepreneurship, enabling participants to evolve into professional businessmen and model entrepreneurs in the near future.

ART & HANDICRAFT INITIATIVE

Awareness (Preserving Traditional Art and Handicrafts in Maharashtra)

Maharashtra's rich cultural heritage is embedded in its traditional art and handicrafts, particularly in rural areas. However, these timeless traditions are slowly fading due to neglect, modernization, and lack of awareness. SVST recognizes the importance of preserving these crafts and empowering artisans.

Initiatives for Artisan Empowerment

To uplift the quality of artisans and promote traditional crafts, SVST has:

- Provided exhibition and market platforms
- Organized training sessions
- Facilitated exposure visits
- Linked artisans with government agencies, such as the Development Commissioner (Handicraft) and the Ministry of Textile

Artisan Identity Card Initiative

SVST has successfully obtained Artisan Identity Cards for artisans, recognizing their skills and providing them with official acknowledgment.



Challenges Faced by Artisans

Despite their innate artistic talent, many artisans struggle to make a living due to economic backwardness. Some are forced to work as daily wage laborers or rickshaw pullers, undermining their artistic potential.

Artisan Mobilization

To address these challenges, SVST organized three awareness camps in Hingoli district, Maharashtra, targeting artisan families. The camps, held on December 5, 12, and 20, 2023, covered crafts like leather, pottery, and wood, engaging a total of 247 artisans (147 males and 100 females). By revitalizing traditional crafts and empowering artisans, SVST aims to preserve Maharashtra's cultural heritage and promote sustainable livelihoods.

Training for Handicraft Artisans

(Empowering Artisans through Handicraft Training)

Handicraft development is a vital focus area for SVST. Since its inception, the organization has been dedicated to promoting local resources and integrated development of artisan communities in various crafts and trades.

Objectives

SVST aims to:

1. Empower artisans: Enhance their control over their lives and resources.
2. Streamline traditional handicrafts: Preserve and promote cultural heritage.
3. Foster personal and professional growth: Enable artisans to establish themselves and drive positive change in their communities.

Initiatives

To achieve these objectives, SVST:

1. Provides training and capacity building: Enhances artisans' skills and knowledge.
2. Facilitates perspective building and advocacy: Empowers artisans to assert their rights and interests.
3. Promotes professional development: Supports artisans in accessing markets, finance, and other resources.

By empowering artisans and promoting handicraft development, SVST seeks to bring about transformative change in rural communities, shifting the focus from needs to rights.

Empowering Artisans: Unlocking Community Potential

Artisans are a community's greatest asset, and natural resources offer opportunities for dignified livelihoods. Our NGO recognizes the importance of developing traditional crafts in a systematic, sustainable manner.

Objectives

1. Modernize traditional crafts: Introduce user-friendly systems for artisans' all-round development.
2. Establish a model craft sector: Develop an organized, systematic approach to craft development.

Strategies

1. Awareness programs: Conduct regular awareness programs for artisans' families.
2. Training programs: Organize skill and design workshops in collaboration with handicraft development institutions, government departments, and expert artisans.



Key Initiatives This Year

Our organization conducted a series of skill and design workshops/training programs on various crafts, including:

Name of program	No of artisans trained		Duration/Date	Location of the training
	Male	Female		
Skill development workshop on Leather Craft	34	00	10 th – 19 th Nov, 2023	SVST Skill Dev. Training Center, MIDC, Hingoli
Skill development workshop on Wood Craft	22	10	20 th – 29 th Dec, 2023	Do
General training for artisan promotion towards ID cards, linkages, further expansion of their units, etc.	38	18	25 th – 27 th Nov, 2023	Do

1

Certificate Course on Insecticides Management (CCIM) under NIPHM, Hyderabad

2

Diploma in Agriculture Extension Services for Input Dealers (DAESI) under MANAGE, Hyderabad

3

Agriculture Technology Management Agency's (ATMA) Programs under ATMA, Hingoli

4

District Level Farmers Training Institute under ATMA

5

Gaalmukt Dharan Gaalyukt Shivar Yojana under Soil & Water Conservation

6

Nodal Training Institute (NTI) under MANAGE, Hyderabad

7

Jalyukt Shivar Abhiyan (JSA) under Directorate of Agriculture, Govt. of Maharashtra

8

Vasundhara Soil & Water Testing Laboratory under Agriculture Department, Govt. of Maharashtra

9

Seeds Cluster Development Program under Agriculture Department, Govt. of Maharashtra

10

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDUGKY) under Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India

11

Biological Input Laboratory under Agriculture Department, Govt. of Maharashtra

PROJECTS

Certificate Course on Insecticides Management (CCIM)

(Sponsored by National Institute of Plant Health Management (NIPHM), Hyderabad)

Course Overview

The Certificate Course on Insecticides Management (CCIM) is a comprehensive 12-week program designed to equip participants with in-depth knowledge and practical skills on effective insecticides management. This 40-hour Input Dealer Training Program aims to establish a network of knowledgeable dealers who can provide expert guidance to farmers, gardeners, and agricultural professionals.

Course Objectives

1. Enhance knowledge: Equip participants with a deep understanding of insecticides, their uses, and safety protocols.
2. Develop practical skills: Provide hands-on training on the safe selection, application, and handling of insecticides.
3. Promote sustainable agriculture: Foster sustainable agricultural practices and enhanced food safety.

Course Curriculum

The comprehensive curriculum covers key topics, including:

1. Pest behavior and ecology
2. Identifying common pests and their characteristics
3. Selecting suitable insecticides for different crops and environments
4. Safe storage, handling, and disposal of insecticides

Training Methodology

The program employs a combination of:

1. Interactive sessions
2. Hands-on training
3. Real-life case studies

Program Impact

Upon completing the program, dealers will:

1. Possess in-depth knowledge of insecticide products, regulations, and best practices.
2. Become trusted advisors in their communities.
3. Contribute to sustainable agricultural practices and enhanced food safety.



This program aims to achieve a dual impact: enhancing the professional growth and expertise of dealers, while promoting the safety and productivity of the farming community.

During this financial year the organization covered the following batches.

Batch	Venue	Date			No of Participants
		Commencement	Completion	Examination	
4 th	SVST Training Center, Narsi	02/07/2023	17/09/2023	17/09/2023	40

Diploma in Agricultural Extension Services for Input Dealers (DAESI) Program (Sponsored by National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad)

Program Overview

The DAESI program is a comprehensive 48-week training initiative designed to equip input dealers with expertise in agricultural extension services. This specialized program enhances participants' knowledge and practical skills, enabling them to provide informed advice on agricultural inputs and become effective extension agents.

Program Structure

1. Classroom Training: 40 days of intensive training covering essential topics, including:

- Modern agricultural practices
- Pest management
- Input selection and usage
- Soil health
- Crop production
- Sustainable farming techniques

2. Exposure Visits: 8 hands-on learning experiences at farms, research centers, and agricultural organizations, demonstrating real-world applications of agricultural extension techniques and input usage.



Program Objectives

1. Enhance Professional Development: Empower input dealers to contribute to sustainable agricultural practices.
2. Improve Advisory Services: Enable input dealers to provide informed advice on agricultural inputs.
3. Support Sustainable Agriculture: Promote environmentally friendly farming practices.

Certification and Impact

Upon completing the program, participants receive a diploma, recognizing their expertise in agricultural extension services for input dealers. This certification enhances their professional development, enabling them to better serve the farming community.



Program Implementation

During the latest financial year, our organization successfully implemented the DAESI program, achieving remarkable results. We continued to organize this course, furthering our commitment to promoting sustainable agricultural practices and empowering input dealers.

Batch	Venue	Date			No of Participants
		Commencement	Completion	Examination	
3 rd	SVST Training Center, Narsi	11/09/2022	25/08/2023	11/01/2024 12/01/2024	40
4 th	Do	26/11/2023	Continued	--	40

Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) Program

(Sponsored by ATMA, Hingoli District, Maharashtra)

District Level Farmers Training Program

In partnership with SVST, ATMA successfully conducted a comprehensive District Level Farmers Training Program in Hingoli, benefiting 2,000 farmers across five blocks: Hingoli, Sengaon, Aundha Nagnath, and Kalamnuri.

Program Objectives

1. Enhance farmers' skills and knowledge in key agricultural sectors.
2. Boost productivity and income.

Training Program Highlights

The program covered five critical areas:

1. Dairy Farming: Modern livestock management, milking practices, and animal health.
2. Turmeric Processing: Post-harvest methods, drying, curing, and packaging.
3. Sericulture: Harvesting and processing techniques for value-added products.
4. Goat Farming: Breeding, disease management, and nutrition.
5. Poultry Farming: Poultry management, nutrition, vaccination, and biosecurity.

Activity	Program Location/Venue		Date		No of Farmers
	Taluka	No of Villages	From	To	
Dairy	Hingoli	3	12/05/2023	14/05/2023	150
Turmeric Processing		2	25/05/2023	26/05/2023	100
Goat Farming		3	10/06/2023	12/06/2023	150
Poultry		2	15/06/2023	16/06/2023	100
Dairy	Sengaon	2	25/06/2023	26/06/2023	150
Turmeric Processing		2	25/06/2023	26/06/2023	100
Sericulture		2	29/06/2023	30/06/2023	100
Goat Farming		2	15/07/2023	16/07/2023	100
Poultry		2	20/07/2023	21/07/2023	100
Dairy	Aundha Nagnath	2	22/07/2023	23/07/2023	100
Sericulture		2	27/05/2023	28/07/2023	100
Goat Farming		3	10/08/2023	12/08/2023	150
Poultry		3	15/08/2023	17/08/2023	150
Dairy	Kalamnuri	3	25/08/2023	27/08/2023	150
Sericulture		2	30/08/2023	31/08/2023	100
Goat Farming		3	10/09/2023	12/09/2023	150
Poultry		2	15/09/2023	16/09/2023	100

Impact and Outcomes

By empowering farmers with knowledge and skills in these critical areas, the program aims to enhance agricultural productivity, improve livelihoods, and contribute to the overall development of the farming community. The District Level Farmers Training Program empowered 2,000 farmers, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, improving economic conditions, and enhancing the agricultural landscape of Hingoli.

Training Approach

The program's unique blend of theoretical knowledge and hands-on experiences equipped farmers with practical skills to implement new techniques, leading to better outcomes in their respective sectors.

Project Highlights

Throughout the year, our organization carried out a range of development activities under this project, building on earlier successes. These initiatives further strengthened our commitment to supporting farmers and promoting sustainable agriculture in Hingoli.

Organic Farming Initiative under ATMA

A targeted initiative on Organic Farming was launched across two selected blocks, covering 10 villages, under the Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) program.

Key Highlights

1. Farmer Empowerment: 20 farmer groups (SHGs) were formed in each village, empowering local farmers to adopt organic farming practices.
2. Village Coverage: The initiative covered 10 villages across two blocks, promoting organic farming and sustainable agricultural practices.

By fostering farmer groups and promoting organic farming, this initiative aims to enhance farmers' livelihoods, improve environmental sustainability, and promote eco-friendly agricultural practices.

Name of Block/Taluka	Name of villages	No of FSHG formed
Sengaon	Pankanergaon, Sukli (Bk.), Wagjali, Ajaygaon, Shivani (Bk.)	5 FGs
Hingoli	Belwadi, Katti, Navalgovan, Bhandegaon, Narsi Namdev	5 FGs



Organic Farming Program: Promoting Sustainable Agriculture

The program aimed to promote sustainable agriculture, enhance soil health, and reduce dependence on chemical fertilizers. Comprehensive training covered various aspects of organic farming, emphasizing natural methods to cultivate crops, enhance soil fertility, and minimize environmental impact.

Key Training Components

1. Organic Fertilizer Preparation: Participants learned to prepare and apply organic fertilizers, such as Jaivic Khat (Organic Compost).
2. Vermin Compost Units: Farmers were taught to create, manage, and utilize vermin compost units.
3. Parasbagh (Compost Pits): Training included creating compost pits for organic waste recycling and soil enrichment.

Outcomes and Impact

By the end of the program, farmers acquired knowledge on:

- Cultivating crops using organic methods
- Producing their own fertilizers
- Distributing vermin compost units within the community

This initiative is expected to lead to:

- Improved crop yields
- Healthier soils
- Reduced chemical usage
- Better livelihoods for farmers

Ultimately, this program contributes to sustainable agricultural practices in the region, promoting eco-friendly farming methods and enhancing environmental sustainability.



Training	Name of village Covered	Date	No of Participants (FSHG Members)
Vermin Composting	Pankanergaon, Sukli (Bk.), Wagjali, Ajaygaon, Shivani (Bk.)	20/12/2023	30
Composite Farming	Belwadi, Kadi, Navalgovan, Bhandegaon, Narsi Namdev	05/01/2024	30

District Level Farmers Training Center

In 2024, the Swami Vivekanand Seva Trust (SVST) in Hingoli achieved a significant milestone by receiving approval from the Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) to establish a District Level Farmers Training Center.



Objective

The center aims to provide specialized agricultural training programs to farmers from across Maharashtra, enhancing their skills and knowledge in modern agriculture.

Training Programs

The comprehensive training programs cover a range of topics, including:

1. Crop Management: Best practices for crop selection, planting, and maintenance.
2. Soil Health Improvement: Techniques for enhancing soil fertility and structure.
3. Pest Control: Integrated pest management strategies for minimizing crop damage.
4. Irrigation Techniques: Efficient water management practices for optimal crop growth.
5. Sustainable Farming Practices: Methods for reducing environmental impact while maintaining profitability.

Additional Training Programs

1. Organic Farming: Principles and practices for chemical-free farming.
2. Water Conservation: Strategies for efficient water use and management.
3. Value-Added Agriculture: Techniques for enhancing crop value through processing and marketing.
4. New Agricultural Technologies: Introduction to innovative farming practices and tools.

Benefits and Impact

This initiative benefits farmers from diverse backgrounds, providing them with:

1. Hands-on training
2. Expert guidance
3. Exposure to cutting-edge agricultural practices

By participating in these programs, farmers gain the skills needed to:

1. Improve crop yields
2. Enhance farm profitability
3. Contribute to sustainable agricultural development

Training Record

During this financial year, SVST organized a remarkable number of training programs, inviting experts from concerned fields and departments.

Training/Topic	Venue	Date	No of Participants
Crop Management	SVST Training Center, Narsi	13/06/2023; 22/06/2023 & 25/09/2023	108
Soil Health Improvement	Do	06/04/2023; 11/04/2023 & 16/04/2023	119
Pest Control	Do	13/08/2023; 16/08/2023 & 18/08/2023	132
Irrigation Techniques	Do	11/10/2023; 16/10/2023 & 21/10/2023	121
Sustainable Farming Practices	Do	06/11/2023; 13/11/2023 & 16/11/2023	115
Organic Farming	Do	09/12/2023; 13/12/2023 & 16/12/2023	131
Water Conservation	Do	11/01/2024; 16/01/2024 & 21/01/2024	132
Value-added Agriculture	Do	26/01/2024; 28/01/2024 & 30/01/2024	121
Modern Agricultural Technologies	Do	11/02/2024; 14/02/2024 & 17/02/2024	117

Gaalmukt Dharan Gaalyukt Shivar Yojana: (Community-Based Tank De-Siltation Program)

The Swami Vivekanand Seva Trust (SVST) implemented the Gaalmukt Dharan Gaalyukt Shivar Yojana, a community-based tank de-siltation program, in Wasmata Taluka, Hingoli, Maharashtra. Sponsored by the Department of Soil and Water Conservation, Government of Maharashtra, this initiative aimed to restore water bodies, enhance agricultural productivity, and provide drinking water.

Key Achievements:

1. Coverage: 600 farmers from Sendursana villages under Wasmata Taluka, Hingoli District, benefited from the program.
2. Area Restoration: The project successfully restored 220 acres of land in the project area.

Program Impact:

The Gaalmukt Dharan Gaalyukt Shivar Yojana has:

1. Improved Water Security: Restored water bodies ensure a reliable source of water for irrigation and drinking purposes.
2. Enhanced Agricultural Productivity: De-siltation of tanks and canals has improved water flow, leading to better crop yields and increased agricultural productivity.
3. Community Engagement: The program promoted community participation, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility among villagers and farmers.

By implementing this program, SVST has demonstrated its commitment to supporting rural communities and promoting sustainable agricultural practices in Maharashtra.

National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) Collaboration

The Swami Vivekanand Seva Trust (SVST) has been appointed by the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad, as a Nodal Training Institute (NTI) to organize agriculture development training programs at its training center in Limbada (MIDC), Hingoli, Maharashtra. This partnership aims to empower rural youth and promote sustainable agricultural practices.

As part of this initiative, SVST organizes various training programs under the DAESI scheme, focusing on agriculture development and dairy farming as a sustainable source of income. These programs will be conducted at regular intervals, targeting youth groups who want to develop their skills in the farming sector.

By providing training and capacity-building programs, SVST and MANAGE aim to promote sustainable agricultural practices, enhance farm productivity, and improve the livelihoods of rural communities. This partnership is a significant step towards achieving these goals and promoting rural development in Maharashtra.

Training Curriculum

The training covered modern dairy farming techniques, including:

1. Optimal livestock management
2. Milking procedures and hygiene
3. Feed and nutrition management
4. Disease control and prevention



Additional Focus Areas

Participants also learned about best practices for:

1. Maintaining dairy farm hygiene
2. Maximizing milk production
3. Leveraging innovative dairy farming technologies, such as automated milking systems and improved breeding techniques.

Overall Impact

This training program aimed to enhance the livelihoods of rural youth and farmers by providing them with the necessary skills and knowledge to improve their dairy farming practices, ultimately contributing to the growth and development of the dairy sector.



Residential Training Program: Empowering Youth in Dairy Farming

The residential training format provided an immersive learning experience, offering hands-on exposure to real-world dairy farming practices. Expert trainers, experienced dairy farmers, and case studies shared valuable insights and practical knowledge, enriching the learning experience.

Program Outcomes during this year

Upon completing the program, 60 youth (30 in each batch) acquired:

1. Valuable skills in sustainable dairy farming practices
2. Deeper understanding of optimal dairy farm operations
3. Knowledge to increase income through improved dairy farming practices

By empowering these youth, the program aims to contribute to the growth and development of the dairy industry, while also improving the livelihoods of rural communities.

Jalyukt Shivar Abhiyan: Empowering Stakeholders for Water Conservation

The Jalyukt Shivar Abhiyan is a flagship program of the Government of Maharashtra, launched in 2014 to make Maharashtra a drought-free state. The program focuses on watershed management, water conservation, and sustainable water management practices.

Comprehensive Training Program

A 5-day Comprehensive Training Program under Jalyukt Shivar Abhiyan was conducted to empower key stakeholders to drive water conservation efforts in rural Maharashtra. Sponsored by the District Superintendent Agriculture Officer (DASO) of Hingoli, Latur, and Nanded districts, the program aimed to:

1. Promote sustainable water management practices
2. Empower key stakeholders to drive water conservation efforts



Program Highlights

- 5-day training program conducted across 15 villages in Hingoli, Latur, and Nanded districts
- Target beneficiaries: Sarpanch, Gramsevak, Talathi, Anganwadi Sevika, and progressive farmers
- Led by: Water Conservation Department, Government of Maharashtra

Training Curriculum

The program focused on:

1. Water conservation methods
2. Soil and water management techniques
3. Best practices for enhancing water retention

Key topics included:

1. Water harvesting structures and check dams
2. Desilting of ponds and recharging water sources
3. Rainwater harvesting and groundwater level improvement

Hands-on Training and Community Engagement

Hands-on sessions, site visits, and discussions on community engagement strategies complemented the training. Participants received tailored training to contribute effectively to their community's water management efforts.

Impact and Outcomes

By empowering these stakeholders, the program aimed to:

1. Promote sustainable water management practices
2. Improve water availability
3. Address water scarcity issues in rural Maharashtra

Soil & Water Testing Laboratory

The Vasundhara Soil and Water Testing Laboratories, established by Swami Vivekanand Seva Trust (SVST) in 2017-18, plays a vital role in promoting sustainable farming practices in Hingoli. Sanctioned by the Joint Director Agriculture, Latur, Maharashtra, this laboratory provides accurate soil and water testing services, enabling farmers to make informed decisions about soil management and optimization. By analyzing soil samples for 12 key parameters, including pH, EC, nutrient content, and trace elements, the laboratory helps farmers identify nutrient deficiencies, soil pH imbalances, and salinity issues. Based on test results, customized recommendations are provided for soil amendments, fertilizer application, and organic composting. Additionally, the laboratory offers horticulture soil testing and borewell water testing, further supporting farmers in optimizing their agricultural practices. By empowering farmers with data-driven insights, the Vasundhara Soil and Water Testing Laboratories contributes to sustainable agriculture, improved crop yields, and enhanced livelihoods for rural communities.



Seeds Cluster Development Initiative

The Swami Vivekanand Seva Trust (SVST), Hingoli, has partnered with the Seed Certification Department, Parbhani, and Seed Cluster to revolutionize agricultural practices in the region. This collaborative initiative focuses on sourcing, processing, and distributing high-quality certified seeds to farmers, ensuring the adoption of superior planting material for enhanced crop yields and productivity.

Key Components of the Initiative

1. Breeder Seed Procurement: SVST sources breeder seeds from the renowned Karampalli Research Center in Telangana, including high-quality turmeric and onion breeder seeds.
2. Seed Distribution: These certified seeds are distributed to farmers to boost production of high-demand crops, improving their livelihoods and contributing to regional food security.
3. Foundation Seed Processing: SVST processes foundation seeds from farmers, ensuring high standards of seed quality and maintaining the integrity of the seed value chain.
4. Certified Seed Supply: The trust supplies certified seeds to government agencies, local farmers, research stations, and other stakeholders, promoting the adoption of best agricultural practices.



Ensuring Seed Quality and Certification

The seed certification process, overseen by the Seed Certification Department, guarantees that seeds meet stringent quality standards. This rigorous process enhances productivity, reduces crop failure risks, and empowers farmers to make informed decisions about their agricultural practices.

Impact and Benefits

By providing access to certified seeds, this initiative supports farmers in adopting best agricultural practices, leading to:

1. Improved Crop Yields: Enhanced seed quality and certification ensure higher crop yields, improving farmers' productivity and income.
2. Higher Income: Increased crop yields and improved quality lead to higher incomes for farmers, enhancing their livelihoods and contributing to regional economic growth.
3. Greater Food Security: By promoting the production of high-quality crops, this initiative contributes to greater food security in the region, ensuring that communities have access to nutritious and sustainable food sources.

Conclusion

The Seeds Cluster Development Initiative, led by SVST in partnership with the Seed Certification Department and Seed Cluster, fosters a sustainable agricultural ecosystem in Hingoli and surrounding areas. By promoting the adoption of certified seeds, this initiative supports farmers, contributes to regional economic growth, and ensures greater food security for local communities.



Biological Input Laboratory:

(Empowering Sustainable Agriculture)

The Swami Vivekanand Seva Trust's (SVST) Biological Input Laboratory in Hingoli, Maharashtra, is a pioneering initiative promoting sustainable agriculture in the region. Sanctioned by the Agriculture Department, Hingoli, this laboratory produces and supplies biological inputs, enabling farmers to reduce their reliance on chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Specialized Biological Inputs

The laboratory specializes in producing the following biological inputs:

1. Trichoderma: A beneficial fungus controlling soil-borne diseases and improving soil health.
2. Vermi Compost: An organic fertilizer made from earthworms, enhancing soil fertility and structure.
3. Metarhizium: An entomopathogenic fungus used for controlling pests.
4. Azotobacter: A nitrogen-fixing bacterium improving soil fertility by increasing nitrogen availability to plants.

Empowering Eco-Friendly Farming Practices

These biological inputs are produced using high-quality standards and distributed to farmers, empowering them to adopt eco-friendly farming practices. This initiative is part of SVST's commitment to:

1. Promoting sustainable agricultural practices
2. Enhancing farm productivity
3. Supporting the local farming community in Hingoli and surrounding regions

By providing access to biological inputs, SVST's laboratory is contributing to a more sustainable and environmentally conscious agricultural ecosystem in the region.

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) program

Implemented by the Swami Vivekanand Seva Trust (SVST), has been a game-changer for rural youth in Maharashtra. By providing vocational training in sectors like agriculture, retail, hospitality, construction, and manufacturing, the program has empowered 280 candidates from four districts - Washim, Nanded, Jalna, and Yavatmal - with the skills needed to secure better employment opportunities.



The program's focus on hands-on experience and industry-relevant training has paid off, with SVST facilitating 200 placements in reputable companies and organizations. This not only enhances the livelihoods of the candidates but also contributes to community economic development.

DDU-GKY is a flagship program of the Ministry of Rural Development (MORD), aimed at promoting rural livelihoods and reducing poverty. The program's success in Maharashtra demonstrates its effectiveness in bridging the skill gap and providing rural youth with the tools for better futures.

Key Highlights of DDU-GKY:

- Vocational Training: Covers sectors like agriculture, retail, hospitality, construction, and manufacturing
- Hands-on Experience: Ensures industry-relevant training to improve employability
- Placements: SVST facilitated 200 placements in reputable companies and organizations
- Empowerment: Enhances rural youth skills, contributing to poverty alleviation and sustainable development in rural Maharashtra



Conclusion and Future Outlook

As we reflect on the past year, we are proud of the significant strides made by Swami Vivekanand Seva Trust (SVST) in empowering rural communities and promoting sustainable development. From providing Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) to over 60 rural households under the Jal Jeevan Mission, to training 280 rural youth in vocational skills under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) program, our initiatives have demonstrated a profound impact on the lives of rural individuals and communities. Additionally, our Biological Input Laboratory has promoted eco-friendly farming practices, while our partnership with MANAGE has enhanced agricultural practices through the distribution of high-quality seeds. As we look to the future, we remain committed to our mission of empowering rural communities and promoting sustainable development, and we are excited to continue making a positive difference in the lives of those we serve.

Acknowledgement

We express our deepest gratitude to all the stakeholders who have supported us in our endeavors. We acknowledge the valuable contributions of:

- The Government of Maharashtra and the Ministry of Rural Development for their guidance and support.
- Our funding partners for their generous support.
- Our dedicated team members and volunteers for their tireless efforts.
- The rural communities we serve for their trust and cooperation.

We also appreciate the collaboration and support extended by various organizations and institutions. Together, we have made a positive impact on the lives of rural communities, and we look forward to continuing our journey together.

