



ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

**Sankalpa Rural Development Society
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SAVE WATER FOR A BETTER TOMORROW - RURAL, INDUSTRIAL AND URBAN INSTALLATIONS

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Sankalpa Rural Development Society has been operating since 2008.

We have many people to thank as we move into our ninth year of working with rain water harvesting. Without our support network and generous donors our impact would have been much smaller and the influence on our surrounding environment very much less.

Special thanks goes to the ongoing assistance that we receive from the Deshpande Foundation and in particular Mr Naveen Jha.

Now as we move into the summer of 2016 much of India faces continuation of difficult times with drought and lack of water in many of our rural agricultural areas. Farmers persist in drilling more and more bore wells in the vain hope of finding water. Many of those bore wells produce no water - and those that do, fail rapidly. The ground water storage is being depleted daily with no thought of renewing these precious stores.

Our work has many challenges - first to convince the farmers to take up the technology of bore well recharge, and then to implement that in a timely and cost effective way. We find that the results are much better if where possible the farmer contributes 50% to the implementation.

In order to keep costs down we continue to innovate. In these times sand is becoming very costly and difficult to source. A twin ring technology has now been developed that does not need sand for filtration - and can be implemented both in the rural sector as well as industrial and urban roof top rain water harvesting projects.

Fundraising and keeping existing donors informed and up to date with our use of their funds is of prime concern for us and we are working hard to keep all our activities well documented with a transparency that any interested persons may easily access. We have updated our website and regularly post on social media so our followers can see progress.

The challenges are formidable but SRDS is committed to realising the goals that we have set. We need assistance from of all our donors and pledge the support of each of our employees in this work.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sikandar Meeranaik'.

Sikandar Meeranaik

Hubli, Karnataka

SAVING WATER FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

Sankalpa Rural Development Society's main focus is rainwater harvesting. As it rains we store water for the coming dry season. Using the technology of bore well recharge - the rainwater is stored in the perfect place - under the ground in nature's tanks - the aquifer.

The results of rain water harvesting are far reaching - water is essential for human kind's survival - when water is in abundant supply we can live full and productive lives. With the main focus on the rural lands, SRDS brings water to farm lands - restoring the flow of even dried up bore wells thereby allowing the farmers to fully crop their land often with two crops per year - and to diversify into different crops, such as vegetables or even silkworm production.

With better technologies such as drip irrigation and other more productive methods of farming, the individual farmer can regain pride in agriculture.

Water shortage creates a myriad of problems in the rural areas - ultimately resulting in migration of farmers to the cities in search of work. When water is available - migration ceases, children are able to go to school, better housing can be built, access to health care is improved, and the availability of work for landless labourers is increased.

Communities in the rural area are strengthened with the increase in availability of water. There are 120 million farmers in India. It is said that unless the farmers prosper - India cannot



prosper. Water is at the heart of the matter. SRDS attends to the heart - through water.

SAVE WATER FOR A BETTER TOMORROW - RURAL, INDUSTRIAL AND URBAN INSTALLATIONS

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS 2015 - 16

- Implemented 148+ bore well recharge through rain water harvesting in 5 states thus bringing water for agriculture and drinking water to villages



- Supported the work of Better Cotton Initiatives Project with Deshpande Foundation in Nizamabad -Telangana and Navaleagunda.
- Hans Foundation - bore well recharge of 5 bore wells through rain water harvesting from rooftop of school buildings in UP.



- Jaladhare Tanker Water Project supported by Infosys began in March 2016 to supply 26 villages with drinking water during hot season.
- Successfully implemented Hyderabad apartment rooftop rain water harvesting.
- With the support of Satya Sai Baba Trust we did 6 borewell recharge in Mumbai area.
- Bharat Earth Movers Limited - in Kolar District - implemented 2 borewells.
- Self Help Groups supported ICICI Bank - 200 in Gadag - Dharwad Districts.
- With support of Microgram gave 6 lac loans to 45 women small entrepreneurs.

SAVE WATER FOR A BETTER TOMORROW - RURAL, INDUSTRIAL AND URBAN INSTALLATIONS

BRINGING WATER TO DRIED UP BORE WELLS.

The core of our work is with the farmers - first exposing them to the technology of recharging poorly producing or dried up bore wells by implementing rain water harvesting systems and then encouraging them to partner 50-50 with us to recharge their bore wells.

During this period 2015-2016 we have worked in 5 states implementing approx 150 bore wells.

Farmers came forward to adopt our technology after seeing the success of those who had already implemented the recharge systems and also word of mouth and from finding us on our website. Some more wealthy farmers were able to pay the whole cost of implementation and others contributed 50% of the costs in either materials or labour. SRDS maintains a policy of farmer contribution as we have found that the success rate of the work is greatly enhanced in this way. The farmer feels ownership of the project when they have contributed to it rather than a 'hand out'.

With the assistance of Deshpande Foundation 74 bore wells were recharged in the Hubli Sandbox area. In Telangana - Nizamabad through the Kakatiya Sandbox, 55 farmers stepped forward to implement the technology on their dried up or poorly producing bore wells.

Satya Sai Baba Trust supported the implementation of 6 borewells in Maharashtra in the Mumbai area. While the Hans Foundation support allowed us to implement 5 previously dried up bore wells at a school.

In Nasik District 7 borewells were implemented in 3 villages also with the assistance of the Hans Foundation. Previously these villages relied on tanker water from the Government for drinking during the hot season.

We also dug one bore well and implemented a recharge system in the Peth Taluk.

The Bharat Earth Movers Limited in the Kolar District Karnataka - a drought prone area .. had dug 200 bore wells in a 4000 acre area with only 20 giving a poor supply of water. We implemented 2 bore well recharge on their property - however as there has been very scanty rain since then in that area to date there has been no good result. This is the major challenge of the bore well recharge work - if there is no rain - recharge cannot happen.



RAIN WATER HARVESTING USING ROOF TOP HARVESTING FOR INDUSTRY, SCHOOLS AND URBAN DWELLINGS



In Hyderabad we implemented bore well recharge on an apartment building - they invested Rs 1,70,000 in the work. Previously the summer before they were spending Rs 1200 per day on tanker water. Now they have enough water from the bore well recharge system. They are very happy with the result.

HANS FOUNDATION UTTAR PRADESH



Bore well recharge was done on 5 bore wells for a school - Here they were needing to walk 6 kms to get drinking water. They had 5 borewells supplying only a little non-potable water - and after only 3 days rain, the good water came and they no longer had to walk to get water. The cost of implementation came to 5 lacs.



SELF HELP GROUPS AND MICROFINANCE

We are supported by both Micrograam and ICICI Bank to develop Self Help Groups - 200 through ICICI Bank in the Gadag and Dharwad Districts and Micrograam has supported 45 women to finance their small business.



Our team meeting in the Gadag Office to present their work with SHG's.

The stories of women becoming independent and self sufficient are many.

One of our ladies has supported her son in his work. He used to travel 25 kms daily to work as a labourer in a barber shop - his mother borrowed Rs 30,000 to make a barber shop for him in their village. Now he is working close to home and doing well.



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EMERGENCY DRINKING WATER BY TANKER FOR DROUGHT STRICKEN VILLAGES

Drought has created great hardships in many villages throughout the Gadag Dharward Districts. With the assistance of Infosys, and the guidance of the Deshpande Foundation, in March of 2016 the Infosys Jaladhare program was commenced. In that summer season we organised and provided drinking water by tanker to 26 villages.

Government tanker water supply is very often inadequate and many villagers are suffering severe water shortage as their normal water supply sources have dried up.

SRDS identified the villages where the need was greatest. Then a good source of water was found, tested and certified. The tankers needed also to be sanitized before supplying the water - and both the water source and the tankers needed to be tested regularly. Water was supplied to the selected villages at designated spots and times.

In March 12 villages were supplied with a total of 10,85,000 litres and a total of 310 tankers. 35,200 people benefited from this supply. In April the number of villages was increased to 26.

We are grateful for the support that we received in implementing this program and it gave us good experience in implementing programs in a rapid action mode. It also strengthened SRDS resolve to work not just for the conservation of water but also in other aspects of it as well.



OPEN IDEO CHALLENGE

In March 2016 we joined the Open IDEO Water and Sanitation Challenge. We presented our solutions of bore well recharge through rain water harvesting. Although we were subsequently not successful in winning the challenge, this opportunity to participate gave us a chance to connect with many other organisations in the field. This included the Save Indian Farmers Organisation in the USA - with whom we made an agreement at a later date to collaborate and work together.

Initial contact was made with IDEO at the Deshpande Foundation Development Dialogue in January 2016.

A MESSAGE FROM A VOLUNTEER

I have been very fortunate to join the team at SRDS after meeting Sikandar in Lonavala 2 years back. Coming from Australia - itself an incredibly dry land with many water challenges, I see the huge need for the work that SRDS is doing here in India. It is a privilege to work with them on this rewarding and very much needed service to the farmers of India.

With a constant effort being made to stretch all resources that are available, as well as maintaining and keeping accurate records for the donors, and running back and forth across hundreds of kilometers by train, bus and all forms of transport available - Sikandar and SRDS serve as many farmers as possible.

As I came into the organisation, I looked to join hands with them and support in all ways that were possible. Some fundraising has been done through the networks I have internationally as well as a total upgrade to the website to make it more accessible to all and easy to navigate.

Congratulations are due to Sikandar and to the organisation he heads as the demands on their time and energy are immense and he and his team step up to take more responsibility each day for spreading the word of water harvesting and implementing as many bore wells as possible thereby bringing water to the farmers and their families.

Thanks Sikandar for inviting me into your great team!



Shazar Robinson
Water Harvest Foundation Australia.



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

We thank all of our generous donors especially **The Deshpande Foundation** without whose support SRDS would simply not exist! From the outset of our work they have supported us both financially for implementation of the bore well recharge as well as acting as mentors and advisors. Their support is of great value to SRDS and we wish to say simply to Naveen Jha Sir and he team - thank you.

The **Kakatiya Sandbox** team have assisted us greatly as well in the Nizamabad - Kakatiya Sandbox area. It was also of great value to participate in the inaugural Kakatiya Development Dialogue where participants were taken on a field visit to better understand our work. Our stall was well attended and we met many people who were interested in our work.

Infosys and **Deshpande Foundation** have provided invaluable assistance to bring drinking water to drought stricken villages .. with their help we were able to assist 26 villages to have water. We are most grateful for this opportunity to work with them.

The **Satya Sai Baba Trust** has continued to support us with financing bore well recharge projects in Maharashtra State. We are very grateful for their ongoing support.

The **Hans Foundation** has helped us to give the children at school fresh drinking water.

Both **Micrograam** and **ICICI Bank** have been very generous with support of the women in our SHG's and offering them loans for small business.

Water Harvest Foundation Australia has given assistance to implement 3 borewells and also has provided voluntary assistance from November 2015 to March 16 for administration and documentation.



FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND TRANSPARENCY

Detailed Accounts with schedules & Audit Report are available at the Office. Also available online at <https://srdindia.org>. We hold the 80G and FCRA certificates.

CONTACT DETAILS

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<https://srdindia.org>

https://www.youtube.com/my_videos?o=U

<https://www.facebook.com/SankalpaRuralDevelopmentSociety/>



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