



ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

**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. Now in our tenth year of operation our expansion is moving rapidly.

We have been supported by many organisations and people in the past year without whom we would not be able to do the valuable work of rain water harvesting - our main focus. It is only through this support we are able to expand our influence, and spread the word about the importance of water conservation.

The Deshpande Foundation has continued to provide an umbrella of assistance that stands us in good stead year after year and through the assistance of Mr Naveen Jha and his great team we continue to thrive and grow.



Although the 2016 monsoon rains were good in many places, giving plenty of water to the fields and crops, there are many areas which are drought ridden. In a recent interview Dr Rajendra Singh stated that “as much as 72 percent underground water aquifer is overdraft. And 54 percent of the country is literally "stressed", which means the areas are facing severe drought - the discharge (of water) is more than the recharge.”

The water work must go on and reach as many farmers as possible. With only three decent rains needed to fill the holding pond of the bore well recharge system - the farmer will find enough water for his crops the following dry season. Even with scanty rain the recharge system will work.

In this year 16-17 SRDS has been able to implement 160+ bore well recharge systems. The areas covered have been Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Maharashtra and Karnataka.

Our new technology of the Twin Ring Method is proving to be very successful. Due to the shortage and high expense of sand for filtration in many areas, this method eliminates the need for sand and allows us to reduce the overall cost.

This past year has seen a lot of travel both around our state and further afield. I was invited to Delhi to receive an award. And together with Shazar Robinson we did a ‘road trip for water’ travelling over 2000 kms through Karnataka, Maharashtra and Telangana to spread awareness of our work and rain water harvesting. Through the help of a crowdfunding campaign SRDS has purchased a new vehicle which will make future travel much easier. We are planning another awareness road trip in the near future.

The challenges of educating the farmers about the pressing need to recharge their bore wells and to take up the work of implementation continue. As we do not freely give the technology but charge the farmer 50% of the costs, this requires farmer participation and we have found this to be more successful.

We are also working hard to keep our valuable donors and network updated and to answer requests from farmers for the work in a timely manner. We are fully committed to realising the

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goals we have set and to ensuring our donors are well informed about the work that is done with their assistance.

Our team is also of great value to us and we work regularly with them both individually and in team meetings to keep morale high and to assist their motivation for their work.

As we move forward although the task we have set ourselves sometimes appears to be immense - we continue - as little by little people are waking up to the understanding that they must act now to conserve water - and each small success gives us hope for the future.

Saving water for a better tomorrow.



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.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS 2016 - 17

- Implemented 160+ bore well recharge through rain water harvesting in 6 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.
- Jaladhare Tanker Water Project supported by Infosys began in March 2017 to supply 27 villages with drinking water during hot season.
- With the support of Satya Sai Baba Trust we did 10+ borewell recharge in Maharashtra and Karnata.
- Self Help Groups supported ICICI Bank - 250 with 2500 women in Gadag - Dharwad Districts.
- With support of Micrograam gave 20 lac rupees loans to 200 women small entrepreneurs.

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 2016-2017 we have worked in 6 states implementing approx 160+ 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'.

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With the assistance of Deshpande Foundation 9 bore wells were recharged in the Hubli Sandbox area. In Telangana - Nizamabad through the Kakatiya Sandbox, 70 farmers stepped forward to implement the technology on their dried up or poorly producing bore wells.

Satya Sai Baba Trust supported the implementation of 10+ borewells in Maharashtra and Karnataka.

Save Indian Farmers supported us to implement 11 bore wells in the Beed District, and 20 in Anantapur.

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

Excell Food Industry implemented roof top rain water harvesting to their bore well.

Tarihal Hubli we implemented 3 bore well recharge.

Ken Agritec Hubli also implemented 3 bore well recharge systems using roof top rain water harvesting.

SELF HELP GROUPS AND MICROFINANCE

We are supported by both Micrograam and ICICI Bank to develop Self Help Groups - 200 with 2,500 women through ICICI Bank in the Gadag and Dharwad Districts and Micrograam has supported 200 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.

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 2017 the Infosys Jaladhare program was commenced. In that summer season we organised and



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provided drinking water by tanker to 27 villages. This is the second dry season we have facilitated this service by Infosys Foundation.

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.

This year we implemented a smart card system to record who had received water. This allowed us to collect data and control the water supplied very efficiently.

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.



A MESSAGE FROM A VOLUNTEER

I have continued travel from Australia to be involved with SRDS - working directly in Hubli from August 2016 - March 2017 - the work is challenging but very rewarding. I can't think of anything I would rather be doing than the privilege of contributing to the valuable work that they are doing.

Sometimes it feels as if we are simply doing a drop in a very big ocean of need - but when we continue to see each individual farmer as a link in a chain which stretches to the huge reservoir of water under the ground we can understand how the true value of this work.

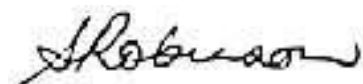
Our network is growing - we receive many requests via our website and other communications from farmers all over the country - as more and more farmers see the results of the recharge work the demand for our services grows.

An essential part of our work is to accurately track and maintain all records related to our donors assistance. This task also grows as has our team in this past year. However good people are always needed in the field and we hope to attract more to join our already strong team. Without committed field personnel we achieve nothing.

I am very proud to have been able to support SRDS in the purchase of a new vehicle as the travel demands increase constantly and this was a pressing need. The funds were raised by a crowdfunding campaign and I sincerely thank the many friends, family and colleagues from my extensive international network for the contributions they made large and small to our new vehicle.

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!
Blessings on the water of the world.



Shazar Robinson
Water Harvest Foundation Australia.



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

We thank all of our generous donors especially **The Deshpande Foundation** who continues to encourage and support our work daily. They have been most generous from beginning of our work .. both with funding for implementation of the bore well recharge as well as their invaluable mentoring and advice. Thank you Naveen Jha Sir .. you and your team are great!

The **Kakatiya Sandbox** team have continued to assist us greatly as well in the Nizamabad - Kakatiya Sandbox area. We again participated in the Second 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.

The Jaladhare Project bringing drinking water to drought stricken villages has given us the opportunity to organise and implement this service. **Infosys** and **Deshpande Foundation** gave us much help and we were able to assist 27 villages to have water. It was a great opportunity to step up and work on this vital project.

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

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 purchase our new vehicle as well as provided voluntary assistance for administration and documentation.



FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND TRANSPARENCY

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

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