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## Preface

### About Sankalpa Rural Development Society (SRDS)

SRDS, a non profit organisation based in Hubli Karnataka, has a dedicated focus of providing abundant water for the needs of farmers and rural communities by innovative methods of rain water harvesting. This core work is supported with an Area Development Model incorporating community involvement to achieve a holistic and sustainable influence on rural stability. Women's Self Help Groups and Farmer Producer Organisations further support the communities.

### Vision:

“Enough water for all”

### Mission:

To end water scarcity in India using an integrated rural development approach to create awareness of the imperative need for Rain Water Harvesting for farmers and communities. We do this through area development, implementation of water harvesting solutions such as bore well recharge, rooftop water harvesting, and farm ponds, as well as women's empowerment through self-help groups, education on financial literacy, and better living.

### Saving Water for a Better Tomorrow:

Sankalpa Rural Development Society's main focus is water. Using the technology developed by Sikandar Meeranaik - the twin ring method of bore well recharge - existing bore wells are utilised to become conduits for recharging the underground water table. As it rains water is stored for the coming dry season.

Water is essential to all life. The challenges facing India are immense - but as we address this using simple technology to restore the rapidly receding water table, we aim to bring prosperity back to the villages. Farmers can fully utilise their land - diversifying and irrigating land to grow a variety of crops. There is food on their table, their children can go to school, and the landless labourers in the area have local access to work. Migration ceases, water quality improves and along with it the health of the citizens... and the community regains strength.

A rural community who has abundant access to water is sustainable and secure.

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.**

## A Message from the CEO

In January 2018 I had the honour of being invited to Iran - to participate in the Energy Globe World Awards - and to my complete surprise - my work through SRDS was chosen for the World Water Award - from over 2300 entries from 182 countries. The opportunity to participate in an international gathering of Environmental Specialists and people passionate about sustainability and the UN Sustainable Development Goals was exceptional for me.

Back in India - as our work progresses we see the outcome of clusters of bore well recharge in a specific area, the cumulative effect having a very good result on the levels of the water table with a subsequent increase in sustainability and stability of that area.



Our team has also increased to handle the additional workload in this year and our office in Gadag provides a hub for our Self Help Group team.

I am honoured to have a team who are dedicated to assisting the rural areas of India in their livelihood and to support sustainable village life.

Our work although spread widely across ten states of India is becoming focussed to build our presence in specific areas - so that the reach of the work can extend beyond the core of rain water harvesting and fully encompass the needs of the community. We are seeking to create hubs where farmers and the local community can rely on the information and resources supplied - and where we can build strong relationships with both with the local community as well as the governing bodies thereby being able to nurture all aspects of the community to create strength and resilience at the village level.

Where there is an abundance of water lies stability and sustainability - and the community can flourish.

Saving water for a better tomorrow.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sikandar Meeranaik'. The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Sikandar Meeranaik

Hubli, Karnataka

## Message from Chief Mentor:

Mentoring mission driven social entrepreneurs such as Sikandar Meeranaik, and his team at SRDS has become a passion of mine. I have seen him grow from early days as a grassroots worker/ budding entrepreneur into the leader and change-maker that he is today,



The work SRDS has done in this past year has made a difference to so many - bringing a consistent water supply to farmers and communities. Not only that but the SRDS team supports the women of the rural areas, with their active involvement in Self Help Groups and micro-finance - It is a great pleasure to have an opportunity to mentor and assist this team and help them to move into a bigger role in the community as they learn and stretch their abilities.

Good work SRDS - I look forward to the coming year with great interest to contribute in building sustainable models of rural development and the expansion of the organisation.

Naveen Jha



## Program 18-19: Water



**BASURAJ, OUR FIELD COORDINATOR - SUPERVISED AND COMPLETED INDIVIDUAL FARMER'S BORE WELL RECHARGE PROJECT AT PANVEL MUMBAI.**

- **Save Indian Farmers** funded 35 Bore well recharge systems project in Tamil Nadu. supervised and completed by Husain and team.
- **Save Indian Farmers** supported 54 bore wells in Anantapur implemented by Akbar and team.
- **Save Indian Farmers** continued their valuable support in the Dharwad District Karnataka with 30 bore wells implemented.



**SAVE INDIAN FARMERS**

- **Deshpande Foundation** - supported 56 farmers for bore well recharge in Telangana

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

- Rooftop rainwater harvesting was implemented in Bangalore SVS Apartment Building in Whitefield.

*Earlier this complex had purchased tanker water for Rs 1.50 lacs every month - now after our work their money is completely saved by getting enough bore well water.*

- An industrial triple ring bore well recharge through rooftop rainwater harvesting was implemented at an Industrial site in *Hubballi*.



- Our expert **Akbar Meeranaik** worked on several Industrial sites in Tumkur, Bangalore, Anantapur and other parts of Telangana using bore well recharge through roof-top rainwater harvesting.

- In Warda district - **Palagha district Cross Bridge Organisation** supported ten bore wells using roof-top rainwater harvesting.
- A triple ring bore well recharge for roof-top rainwater harvesting was completed successfully in KHB Colony, Vishveshwarnagar, Hubballi by our team member Hussein in March 2019. These were individual houses.
- In total our team implemented 200+ bore well recharge through rainwater harvesting systems in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.

More than 335 hectares of additional farm land has been irrigated through the supply of increased bore well water.



## Program 18-19 : Self Help Groups



To end of financial year 2019, more than **600 Self Help Groups** in Gadag and Dharwad districts were supported with micro-finance by ICICI Bank and Samunnati Finance with more than 5500+ women participants.

A total of 182 Self Help Groups were supported through micro-finance with 2200+ women participants. (re-loan and 2nd and 3rd loan specific to 2018-19.)

The women involved are engaged in many types of entrepreneurial activities.

Purchase of buffalo, milking cows and goats is a frequent investment for them.

Some are producing various foodstuffs - sweets - or snacks to sell in the local market, while others are involved in establishing small 'kirana' shops. Often their family also become involved in their business activities.

Tailoring and stitching is another aspect many women commence with their micro-finance loans.



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





During the visit of our Australian volunteer, Rupa Fitzgerald, she was so impressed with the work of the Self Help Group we visited that she donated a buffalo to one of the villagers who is in charge of the Society who collects the villagers milk.

This will give the lady a better ability to sell her milk for a good price and she will repay SRDS for the buffalo over the next year.

Once again when those funds are returned, they will be donated to another Self Help Group member to purchase another cow or buffalo. This then becomes a recycling fund for assisting the village women to gain independence in their lives.

Thank you Rupa.



The Manasakshi Pattina Sahakari Sangh (Cooperative Society) formed and supported through SRDS - continues to grow and is further supporting the activities of the villagers serving as a savings model to increase financial literacy.

As this Credit Society builds it will also become an avenue for micro-finance credit loans.

SRDS has supported INR 5 lac to **Srusti Mahila Self help group** in Gadag for creating better livelihood. For this, credit goes to **Mr, Khajahusain**, a valued member of our Team.

We sincerely thank **ICICI Bank Hubballi** for supporting these kinds of activities.



3rd December: Self Help Group ladies supported to buy cows - can earn money daily with their dairy work.



January 10th: Mr Badiger one of the Sankalpa Rural Development team gave financial literacy training to one of the self help groups of women in Gadag District.



## Program 18-19: Other



28th August Walmi Agricultural College in Dharwad held an event about the sustainability and cleaning of the lakes and rivers of the Hubli Dharwad District. Sikandar had the opportunity to present his work of rainwater harvesting to the interested audience.

October 2018: Karthikeyan Nachiappan came for internship - to learn about our work for his [Nanneer Water Gallery](#) in Madurai. His feedback and input was very helpful in the short time he was with us.



13th October: we attended a function in Neeralagi village, Gadag District where Sikandar gave a presentation on bore well recharge and we discussed with the farmers their needs for farm ponds and cleaning of their ponds.



Together with Grammalaya NGO, SRDS constructed 350 toilets in villages around Dharwad - thus contributing to achieving ODF status in a number of villages.



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## International Event:

January 26th:  
Sikandar Meeranaik, Shazar Robinson and Dr Terence Love journeyed to Yazd City in Iran for the Energy Globe World Awards Ceremony and shared 5 days with other international guests.







January 28th: Sikandar shared his work with rain water harvesting with Water Think Tank at Yazd University in Yazd, Iran

## Awards:



Sikandar Meeranayak won prestigious **Energy Globe World award in water category in 2018** and attended award ceremony on 28 January 2019 in Yazd, Iran.

His submission was chosen from 2300 applicants from 182 countries. The Energy Globe World Award is the world's largest environmental award. Wikipedia states: *"The herculean status of the Award often equates it to Nobel Prize."*





## Local Events:



26th January: Republic Day celebrated with Flag Hoisting outside the SRDS office in Hubballi attended by staff, and with honoured guest Naveen Jha.



2-3 February: Deshpande Development Dialogue (Re-Imagining Impact) was attended by the SRDS Team including Sikandar Meeranaik, Umesh Mugali, Dr Terence Love and Ms Shazar Robinson.

Sikandar was congratulated on his Global Energy Award by Jaishree Deshpande and Medha Pawar at the Deshpande Development Dialogue.



Feb 10th 2019 - A Felicitation event was held in Sikandar's native village Kotumachagi (Gadag) and surrounding villages for his tireless service towards rainwater harvesting and his award for Energy Globe Water.



19th February - Sikandar accompanied by Shazar Robinson journeyed for water meetings in Hyderabad and then on to Anantapur to visit completed bore well recharge projects and on to Bangalore for farmer meetings.



March 5th: Team celebration and meeting held at Naveen Jha and Neelam Maheshwari's house - to celebrate the work done over the past year, the award from Energy Globe and the great efforts of the whole team. Team members were recognised for their work with presentations of framed certificates, and shawls. A delicious meal was then enjoyed by all. Thank you to Naveen and Neelam for your hospitality.



Celebrated World Water Day on March 22, on which we initiated our water movement which is essential component of life.

The Independence day celebration was held outside the office in Hubli at SRDS on 15th August. We invited all the Corporation local Cleaning teams to the flag hoisting which was presided over by our mentor Naveen Jha.



Sikandar presented training to farmers in Agriculture University Raichur, Karnataka on rainwater harvesting through bore well recharge projects. There were about 75 farmers present.



## Visits

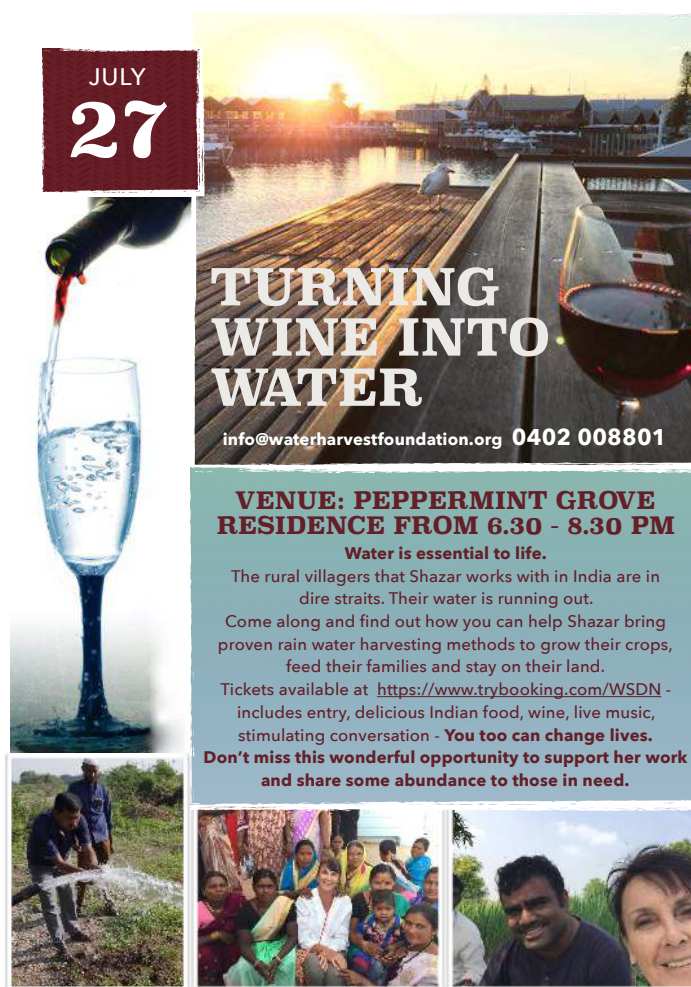
- Deshpande foundation team visited Tadas (Shankar's organic farm) for bore well recharge project.
- Canadian students visited our bore well recharge project to get the concept of direct bore well recharge from the Deshpande Foundation.
- Australian volunteer Rupa Fitzgerald joined us for two weeks and assisted with research for potential CSR funding, Her long experience in accounting was of value to Umesh as they met together and discussed the NGO accounting systems. Rupa also visited one of SHG and donated a buffalo for household livelihood.
- Susan Sadler (Australia) and Feyiah Hadiyah (Israel) visited Hubli - and the projects of SRDS
- Journalists and other professionals visited our bore well recharge sites to know the technology and process of bore well recharge.
- Enhancement visit to villages of Dharwad and Gadag district along with ICICI Bank team.



- Dr Terence Love (mentor and advisor) met Sikandar and Shazar in Iran - for the Energy Globe World Awards and subsequently travelled to Hubli for a field visit to SRDS and the work.

## Seminars & Fundraisers

- Seminars and training programs for farmers on Water conservation, importance for groundwater recharge and Rainwater harvesting through direct bore well recharge were held in University of Agricultural Sciences Raichur, Bangalore Rural Districts and at various institutes at different platforms.
- The fund raiser program (Turning Wine into Water) held in Perth, Australia successfully collected AUD 8000 (4 lakhs INR) with 80+ people attending the program. This was arranged by Shazar Robinson with the support of her colleagues and the Water Harvest Foundation. Held in a private home in an exclusive suburb of Perth, many kind people donated beautiful items for the Silent Auction and participants were given a glass of wine donated by Piero Vineyard and Shazar prepared Indian food. She presented a short slide show and talked about the rainwater harvesting work done by SRDSPublications



**JULY  
27**

**TURNING  
WINE INTO  
WATER**

info@waterharvestfoundation.org 0402 008801

**VENUE: PEPPERMINT GROVE  
RESIDENCE FROM 6.30 - 8.30 PM**

**Water is essential to life.**

The rural villagers that Shazar works with in India are in dire straits. Their water is running out.

Come along and find out how you can help Shazar bring proven rain water harvesting methods to grow their crops, feed their families and stay on their land.

Tickets available at <https://www.trybooking.com/WSDN> - includes entry, delicious Indian food, wine, live music, stimulating conversation - **You too can change lives.**

**Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to support her work and share some abundance to those in need.**





## Message from a Volunteer

This year was as usual very busy!

I was privileged to be able to spend 2 months in Hubli between August and October .. then returned again in early January. This trip was broken up by our invitation to Iran to the Energy Globe world awards.

Dr Terence Love chose to join us for this journey - and we met up in Yazd - it was exciting to accompany Sikandar on his first overseas journey - and even more so when completely to our surprise his work was chosen as winner for the World Water Award. We didn't stop smiling for days!



We were very well taken care of by the whole team from the Energy Globe Awards people and the hospitality in Yazd was superb. Even a first hand look at the deep tunnels that previously supplied all the water for this very ancient city in the desert. Back in India this global recognition has had an expanding effect on our work here at SRDS and we have been able to reach even more farmers as a result.

I was interviewed in Australia on radio twice and on July 29th held a fundraiser Turning Wine into Water - a very successful evening raising in excess of 4 lacs for the support of the farmers and their water supply.

Deep thanks to Dr Ruth Cullity who opened her home and her heart to us.

Together with Sikandar we have driven driving long distances to visit farmers, and potential donors.

It has been both challenging and expansive. We have reached 200+ farmers by implementing the recharge system on their bore wells - thus impacting the lives of very many more people - their families and the communities around them. It is estimated that annually we have harvested 45 crore litres of water stored in the aquifers.

I am very grateful to be able to continue the work with SRDS - Sikandar and his excellent team.

**Shazar Robinson (Water Harvest Foundation Australia)**



## Message from Dr Terence Love - Mentor - Advisor.

“It has been wonderful to see Sikandar and SRDS go from strength to strength, and to be appreciated for their sustainability work at the highest levels. Their ability to build on their successes and develop new fields of work is impressive”



## Our Generous Donors

We continue to be supported by many generous donors -

Save Indian Farmers - thank you for their generous support of our work. Through your assistance many farmers now have a reliable and sustainable source of water for their crops.

Deshpande Foundation - who have supported us since the outset - continue to assist us in many ways - not only financially but also with timely and useful advice.

Gamalaya NGO with whom we have collaborated on assisting the drive to make India ODF and together with them have constructed many toilets.

ICICI Bank who's generosity for our micro-finance projects with the Self Help Groups have given so many women the chance to rise out of poverty and into independence.

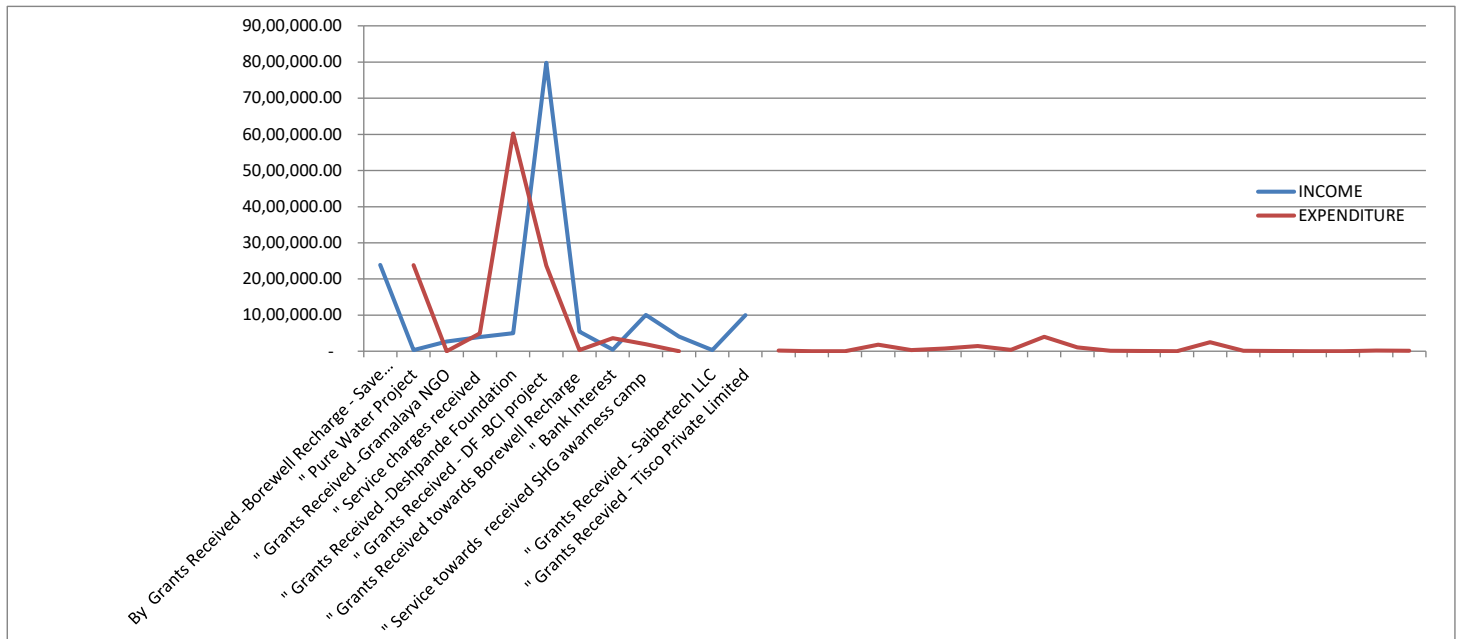
Samunnati who have also assisted with the financing of the women - and provided seed capital to those who otherwise would be unable to obtain a loan.

and Water Harvest Foundation - giving support through mentorship and time as well as spreading awareness of our work.

Thank you all.. without your help SRDS work would not happen.



## Financial Information and Transparency



### 2018-2019 FINANCIAL GRAPH

Our audit report is available on line at our website on <https://srdindia.org>. All potential donors or existing donors are welcome to inspect our accounts when required. SRDS maintains a transparent and fully open system available to all who need to reassure themselves that our dealings are fully above board and legal.



SOME OF OUR DEDICATED TEAM

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



