



ABOUT SANKALPA RURAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY (SRDS)

Founded in January 2008 by Mr. Sikandar Meeranaik, an entrepreneur in the field of modern-day rainwater harvesting, we are a non-profit organisation dedicated to providing water for farmers affected by the falling water table and poor monsoon rains in rural India.

Registered under the Karnataka Societies Act 1960, SRDS works across multiple states in the country with the main office located in the city of Hubli. Staffed with experts in the field, we strive to create and spread awareness about rainwater conservation practices and explain why protection and recycling of water is essential to our well-being. Using proven techniques of rainwater harvesting and exclusively practiced innovative techniques, SRDS works to resolve water-scarcity issues for rural and urban communities.

VISION:

“Enough water for all” SRDS dreams of a world where there is plenty of water for everyone.

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.



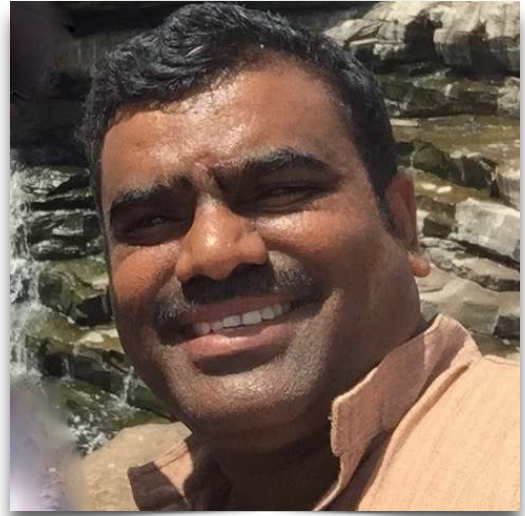
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A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Sankalpa Rural Development Society has been operating since 2008. This year saw our grand 10 year celebration held in Gadag on January 19th. It was a wonderful day and was well attended by farmers and especially by the women's Self Help Groups. We gave many awards and honoured those who had done good work during the year. The celebration was convened by Moulasab BN Nadaf, one of our esteemed board members and presided over by Mr Naveen Jha our valued mentor. Ms Shazar Robinson - our volunteer - consultant from Australia was designated President and supported us in creating the audio visual content for the event. I was especially proud to be able to honour my father and mother at this event as without them and their constant support - SRDS would never have come to this age!



This year has very busy and a time of much movement - especially in our expansion of our team and the areas in which we are operating. Many people have supported us - and their assistance has been most welcome as alone we would not be able to complete our mission and our work. With our main focus continuing to be rain water harvesting - to date we have completed over 1158+ bore well recharge structures in ten states of India.

We continue to educate people as we go - providing exposure visits to the farmers and doing introductory talks in many villages - stressing always the importance of saving water - not only in the agricultural area - by harvesting the rain water and storing it below ground in the aquifer, but also understanding the need of growing crops which are less water hungry and returning to growing those which are higher in nutritional value such as Jawa and millets.

The Deshpande Foundation continues to assist us in the areas of Nizamabad and the Kakatiya Sandbox (70 bore wells) as well as the Hubli area, where we have done 50 bore well implementations.

The 2017 rains in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana were good - and we saw excellent results with the many farmers who had done the bore well recharge. We were able to do many awareness programs and encourage more farmers to implement. In the Gadag area rains were generally fairly good but still there are many areas which are drought ridden so we carried out the Jaladhare Project (see below).

The water work must go on and reach as many farmers as possible. We know from much experience now that 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. And fully dried up bore wells can also be recharged and give water in this way.

In this year 17-18 SRDS has been able to implement 299+ bore well recharge systems. The areas covered have been Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

We finally met our benefactor from Save Indian Farmers, Hemant Joshi who attended a partners meet in the Beed district.. it great to meet face to face and we transferred our technology to others there who are now utilising it in that area. Helpful discussions were done and as there had been good rain in that areas the 15 borewells implemented on farm lands were producing well and those farmers were very happy.



Mahesh Wani also of SIF came and met with Akbar and together they inspected the work in Anantapur area.. he was very happy with that.

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 travelled to Rajasthan in July, where Professor Chandraveera Singh introduced me to one of the Jodhpur parliamentary members and the State Minister, Shambu Singh. I shared our technology with them and we also visited their farm area. They are discussing at government level and intend to come to Hubli to see the results of implementation here.

Together with Shazar (Australian volunteer) we attended the Kakatiya Sandbox and then travelled around Nizamabad then to Anantapur to visit farmers who had already done the implementation. We took the opportunity to visit Protovillage - a model village being developed in a very dry area - including utilising methods of rain water harvesting and bore well recharge. You can see other activities we participated in below.

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.

Transparency is a continuing aim for us both to the farmers we are working with as well as our valuable donors and network. Our commitment to all those who are reliant on us for timely information remains high and we strive to maintain this on a level that keeps everyone concerned satisfied.

We have a great team but continue to see the need for ongoing training so that morale stays high and they are motivated to achieve the goals and objectives we collectively create.

Our aims to conserve water and reduce the impact of overuse as well as support the communities in the rural villages are big - but we believe that if we continue to move forward step by step we can really make a difference to the people's lives that we touch. Water is essential to all our lives - together we can ensure everyone has access to clean water and the needs of agriculture for our food security are well supplied with irrigation requirements.

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.

CHIEF MENTOR'S REPORT



I've always believed in the power of passionate youths solving complex issues that matter the most. On one hand we have innumerable problems and then we are fortunate to have enough number of problem-solvers who, if given an opportunity, are ready to come out of their comfort zones, think big, act right and make a big difference in the lives of many. Sikandar Meeranaik and his effort SRDS is one such bright example.

I've known Sikandar ever since his graduation days and encouraged him to work on his dream and strength of "water for all". I've seen the inception, challenges and the steady growth of SRDS since 2008.

As a Chief Mentor, it's exciting to see the organization's tremendous leap of faith and its journey from just two districts in North West Karnataka to ten states in India. It's heartening that the end-to-end entrepreneurial trait of SRDS has enabled it to work across the country with multiple stakeholders in the best interest of marginal farmers and women from socially backward communities.

I'm happy to be associated with SRDS bringing my expertise on to the table to empower rural communities that SRDS envisage empowering. With growth and recognition comes more responsibility and the team at SRDS is all set to take up new challenges, news assignments and new victory to harvest more water for rural communities and bring wider smiles on the faces of marginalized farmers. More power to the team.

Naveen Jha
Chief Mentor- SRDS

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS 2017 - 18

- January 19th 2018 - Ten Year Anniversary Celebration in Gadag attended by 400+ people



- Continues to support the work of Better Cotton Initiatives Project with Deshpande Foundation in Nizamabad -Telangana and Navalagund.

- More than 450 Self Help Groups in Gadag and Dharwad Districts were supported with microfinance by both the ICICI Bank, 135 by Sanumati and 40 by Micrograam (6000+ women)



- Green Warriors Award from Nature First Eco Village Dharwad.



- Team Training at BAIF in October - facilitated by Ms Shobha Manmoham and Ms Shazar Robinson



- Jaladhare Tanker Water Project supported by Infosys began in March 2017 to supply 17 villages in the Gadag District with drinking water during hot season.



- 14th July Rajasthan meeting with Government representative - Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.



- August 27th 2017 Sikandar invited to Delhi to meet Maneesh Sisordyo - Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Education Govt of Delhi



- Publicity in Telangana Newspaper in December 17, bringing many enquiries for bore well recharge.

- January - Establishment of the Cooperative Society - Manasakshi Credit Cooperative Society. and collected 450+ share accounts. helps to society and gives loans at a very low interest rate. and makes it easier for individuals and small scale entrepreneurs to access loans.



- Implemented 299+ bore well recharge through rain harvesting in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala (As of 31st March 2018)



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 even fully 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 2017-2018 we have worked in 7 states implementing approx 299+ bore wells.

The best way to spread this technology continues to be by word of mouth. Farmers who already had success with the implementation are willing to encourage others - and many exposure visits were made to those. Newspaper and online publicity is also helpful. Because of costs, we cannot travel to any remote areas for less than 5 borewells however if a farmer can interest ten others and they go ahead with the implementation, we offer to do his bore well for free.

Some more wealthy farmers are 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 50 bore wells were recharged in the Hubli Sandbox area. In Telangana - Nizamabad through the DF Kakatiya Sandbox, 70 farmers stepped forward to implement the technology on their dried up or poorly producing bore wells.

Save Indian Farmers supported us to implement 11 bore wells in the Beed District, 70 in Anantapur, 6 in Tamil Nadu and 8 in Madhya Pradesh.



We continue to seek new donors as there are so many farmers who are needing assistance to regain their water supply thus preventing them from having to leave their land behind and seek work in the cities.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS IN GADAG



On the 19th January 2018 SRDS celebrated the 10th Anniversary since its inception.

Held in Gadag, over 400 people attended. Farmers, Women for the Self Help Groups, Well wishers and dignitaries.



Mr Naveen Jha was Chief Guest of Honour (CEO Deshpande Foundation) and the function was presided over by Moulasab BN Nadaf one of our esteemed board members. President for the occasion was Ms Shazar Robinson from Water Harvest Foundaton Australia.

Chief Guests were - Krishnamurti Naidu Vice President of Micrograam Bangalore, Chief Area Manager of ICICI Bank Mr Venkat Anil.

Many awards were given to staff, farmers and those who had done well with Self Help Groups.

We showed success stories through video and many people shared their experiences. The day was a wonderful success. Thanks to all who participated and helped on the day.





SAVING RAIN WATER FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

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

With our technology not limited to rural use, we also offer the service to organisations such as schools, industries and housing complexes. These organisations pay in full for the work done and that money is then put back into SRDS to assist with administration and training costs. In this 2017-18 period we did the following work:

- Law University Hubli implemented roof water harvesting three borewells.
- Seed farm Hiriyur 7 borewells
- Bangalore - South City Apartment borewell recharge in June 2017 roof water harvesting 9 borewells.
- In Andra Pradesh - Tirupathi Yoga Ashram - 3 bore wells.
- Xcel Food India Pty Ltd Hubli 3 borewells.
- KenAgritech Hubli 3 borewells



- Satya Sai Baba Trust Mandya District School 4 borewells
- Satya Sai Baba Trust Gulabarga education institutions 7 bore wells.

SELF HELP GROUPS AND MICROFINANCE

We are supported by both Micrograam and ICICI Bank to develop Self Help Groups - 600+ with 5,550+ women given loans through ICICI Bank and Micrograam in the Gadag and Dharwad Districts to finance their small business.



These ladies have had the opportunity to carry out these businesses and through their activities have enhanced both their own lives and that of their families. In fact the whole village benefits when the ladies are given the chance to become self sufficient and to earn their own money. Rural India is benefited greatly by the work done with micro-finance and the valued assistance from our partners.



EMERGENCY DRINKING WATER BY TANKER FOR DROUGHT STRICKEN VILLAGES

Continued low rainfall created great hardships in many villages throughout the Gadag Dharward Districts with extreme lack of drinking water requiring emergency measures. Once again, 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 provided drinking water by tanker to 17 villages. This was the second dry season we have facilitated this service by Infosys Foundation and Deshpande 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.

Through intensive survey SRDS identified the villages where the need was greatest. Following this a clean water source needed to be found, tested and certified. Tanker - tractor drivers were located and employed and the tankers sanitized before supplying the water - and both the water source and the tankers needed to be tested regularly.

A clear schedule of water delivery was made and it was monitored by the use of smart cards for those receiving the water. This allowed us to collect data and control the water supplied very efficiently.

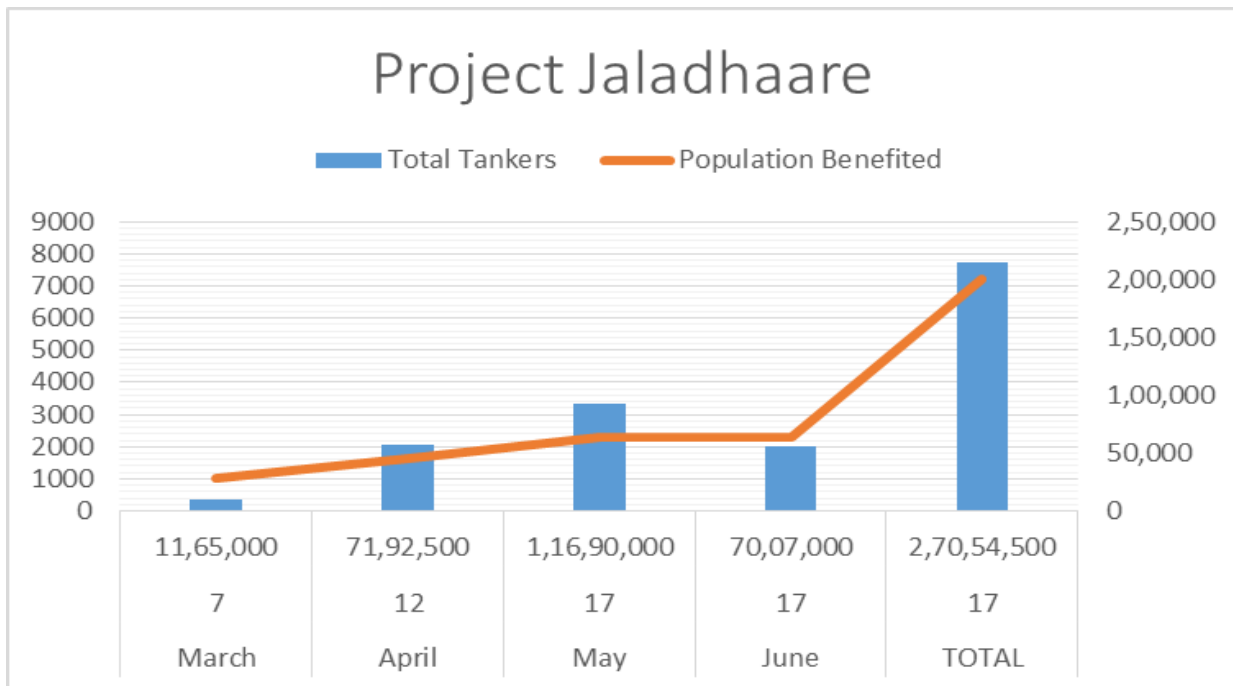


We are grateful for the support that we received in implementing this program and we learned a lot about working both with the local people, the suppliers and those who delivered the water. Rapid action and consistency were important strengths that we found at this time. We also understood through the implementation of this program the absolute need for good documentation, transparency on all sides and strong written agreements. It also strengthened SRDS resolve to work not just for the conservation of water but also in other aspects of it as well.

Key Accomplishments:

Water Supplied:

During 1st March to 30th June 2017 the program has catered on an average of 2.24 Lakh liters of safe drinking water through 64 tankers in 17+ villages of Gadag Districts every day. Month wise specific data is as below:



Water test and cleanliness of carriers:

In collaboration with Aquasafi, another partner of Jaladhare, water samples from 37 sources were tested scientifically at authorized labs and 30 of them were certified to use for drinking purpose.



Gadag's smart way to get potable water

Barcoded Jaladhare cards provided to each family of the drought-hit district is ensuring systematic distribution of free potable water

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TWEETS @deepthisMirror

#Gadag

Sankalpa Rural Development Society that works on rain-water harvesting through the recharge of borewells has launched a unique programme in Gadag district to distribute drinking water. Every household here is given a 'Jaladhare' smart card, based on which potable water is provided to them.

Speaking to Bangalore Mirror, Sikandar Meeranaik, CEO of the society, said the initiative was launched because scanty rainfall in the last two years has rendered the district drought affected, making the provision of drinking water a big challenge. People have till now been collecting water from ponds and lakes that have gone dry this year.

"We collaborated with Infosys Foundation to fund the project. Deshpande Foundation is providing the Jaladhare smart cards. Our aim is to reach out to 26 villages of the district. This is probably the first time that drinking water is provided through a barcode scanning system. This way, we are able to keep a track on how much water is supplied, at what time and who the beneficiary is. This helps the funding agency as it brings transparency to the programme," he said.

Last year, the programme was tried out in a village in Dharwad on a pilot basis and is now being implemented in Gadag district. To explain how exactly the project works, Meeranaik said, "We need a consent letter from the gram panchayat that the village is in need of drinking water and one member of each family is

willing to provide their Aadhaar card to which the Jaladhare card is linked. We have realised that most water sources are contaminated. Initially we faced objections from villagers as they were reluctant to give their Aadhaar card details.

But once they realised it was being used only to provide quality drinking water, they are co-operating."

The project was launched in villages including Hallikeri of Mundaragi taluk and Lakalakatti of Rona taluk on March 15. It will gradually be extended to other villages. "Five villages of Mundaragi taluk are currently benefitting from the scheme," he said.

Tankers, each carrying 3,500 litres of water, reach distribution points every day at 7 am where water is supplied till 10.30 am, and again in the evening from 5-7. Two volun-

teers from each village help the society in the distribution. Tanker drivers too have been trained to help.

Every family is given up to 10 pots of water each day. Should there be a function or guests visiting a house, an additional five pots of water is provided on request. Every detail is well documented.

"The water is tested and certified as fit for drinking before it is distributed. Out of 30 samples that were sent for certification, only 10 made the cut.

To avail the facility, Aadhaar card is mandatory in addition to a consent letter from the gram panchayat. Only one Jaladhare card is given per family.

We have given away 6,000 such cards till date, and are willing to extend the facility to other parched districts too," he added.

TOILET PROJECT



During 2017-18 SRDS worked with Gramalaya NGO - they funded the construction of toilets in the Dharwad District and SRDS selected the villages through our local network. Morab Village had been declared by the Government to be Open Defecation Free (ODF) however on our survey it was clearly demonstrated to be incorrect.

We could show the Government the reality - we did 1040 toilet construction in 9 villages in the Dhaward District and now these are declared truly ODF.

Deshpande Foundation also developed an App to give the GPS for each toilet constructed - with a monitoring dashboard to track progress toward the goals of Swach Bharat.

Through this work SRDS supported the Karnataka government in its aims to achieve an Open-Defecation Free (ODF) India by 2020.

MANASAKSHI COOPERATIVE SOCIETY

To educate the villagers and rural people for saving investment - and providing a possibility for them to save and at a later to date to be able access loans in a more flexible way than through the banks.

We collected 4,20,000 from the public through our SHG and rural network to commence the Cooperative society through 390 people within 2 blocks of the Gadag. It was very easy to raise these funds from the community through our existing network.

The Society was registered on 19th January 2018 at Gadag - Registration No. 48280/2017-18.



A MESSAGE FROM AN ADVISOR



It has been very fulfilling to be associated with SRDS through this past year. I was able to spend approx 5 months working directly with them in Hubli, travelling also a lot with Sikandar and seeing and documenting the good work being done. While in Australia I continue to work closely with SRDS - and make efforts to fundraise there as well for the rain water harvesting through our organisation Water Harvest Foundation.

I have found the bore well recharge work to be highly effective

and have been working to promote this and spread the word as much as possible.

My involvement is a commitment to put my hand to whatever I am able to do... from supporting the online presence of SRDS through their website, as well as keeping the facebook page updated and current, to documenting and telling the success stories of the many farmers who have been helped.

It is extremely rewarding to see the results of the work - both in the provision of water for agriculture and villages - as well as the heart warming work done with the women in the villages helping them to gain independence and self worth in their chosen entrepreneurial efforts.

One of my strengths is building the network of supporters and telling the stories of the farmers and villagers. I have had a wonderful time travelling on the road with Sikandar - seeing a side of India that is rarely seen by people from other lands.



The network continues to grow and I am also busy answering requests for more information that come in daily from our website.

I am very proud to support SRDS in their work - and in turn I am supported by my mentors and friends in Australia - and others internationally. Many are learning of the work of SRDS and through that, the importance of caring for our water on the planet - through my friends, family and colleagues.

It is never enough.. but we must go on one foot after the other and continue daily in our efforts to educate everyone about the importance of caring for our precious water - one drop at a time.

Let us all stand behind this work... in small ways and big - if you can donate funds to help the work that's great - but perhaps your contribution is different - reminding others to turn off taps, fixing those dripping taps, picking up the garbage that litters our streets and our beaches and water ways so that it does not enter those invaluable arteries that refresh and regenerate our lands. Whatever you do to support the water work, please take it on as the priority which it is - and work with full heart to respect and honour the waters of our lands.

Once again I offer congratulations to Sikandar and his dedicated team who are working tirelessly to continue the work of rain water harvesting. Together let us continue and implement as many bore wells as possible in the coming months so the land becomes saturated with the life giving water and the farms and their custodians can grow the food to feed their families and us all.

Thank you Sikandar for giving me the opportunity to work with you and SRDS.

Blessings on the water of the world.



Shazar Robinson - Water Harvest Foundation Australia.



Message from Dr Terence Love -
our Australian mentor

"It is an honour to provide technical support to Sikandar and his colleagues at SRDS. The benefits they achieve for Indian farmers and communities are important."

Dr Terence Love PhD

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.

We specially extend thanks to our mentor Naveen Jha Sir .. your support is of great value to us.

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

Save Indian Farmers continues to support us in diverse areas - 11 bore wells in the Beed District, 70 in Anantapur, 6 in Tamil Nadu and 8 in Madhya Pradesh.

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 17 villages to have water. It was a great opportunity to step up and work on this vital project.

Both **Micrograam** and **ICICI Bank** have assisted us greatly with support of the women in our SHG's by providing funds for their small business loans. Many of the women are doing very well in their work, with a great variety of enterprises.

Together with **Gramalaya** we have constructed 1040 toilets in 9 villages in the Dharwad District. Thanks to their support India gets closer to being ODF.

Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund have again generously donated a grant to us through Deshpande Foundation for bore well recharge.

Water Harvest Foundation Australia continues to assist with voluntary assistance for administration and documentation as well as some incidental funds for trainings and administration costs.

AND NOT TO FORGET OUR WONDERFUL TEAM



SAVING RAIN WATER FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

OUR ESTEEMED DONORS



FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND TRANSPARENCY

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

CONTACT DETAILS

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