

**We work Together for Livelihood & Dignity
of Deprived Communities**



About Vikas Sahyog Pratishthan

Vikas Sahyog Pratishthan (means Development Collaboration Foundation) is constituted by a collective of 14 voluntary development organizations. These organizations have been working in the rural and urban areas of Maharashtra for the upliftment of poor and deprived sections of society. Vikas Sahyog Pratishthan was formed in 1990, registered as an autonomous body in 1995. The State level platform was intended to provide the space for organizations, groups and individuals to meet, exchange ideas, share experiences, and to take up concerns of the marginalized communities on issues confronting them; both at the micro and macro level.

The organization is based on values of gender justice, ecological sustainability, secularism and democracy and collective upholding of principles of transparency, accountability, participatory working and collective decision-making. The aim is to build people centered democratic processes to promote social justice and sustainable development. We are engaged in various advocacy processes that will enhance capacity of the resource less rural People.

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Origin, Establishment and Legal Status

Vikas Sahyog Pratishthan is established in 1990 to work for deprived communities based on the ideology of Mahatma Gandhi. Jyotiba Phule and Dr. Ambedkar and registered formally in 1995 Under Societies registration Act and Trust Act. VSP is registered under Societies Registration Act, 1960 {Registration number is 439/GBBSD/95}. Mumbai Public Trust Act 1950 {Registration number is F/18691/96}. Foreign Contribution (Registration) Act 1976. {The registration number is 08370697/99}. VSP offers membership to developmental organizations and individuals. The membership is by invitation.

Vision

**A society based on equality,
social justice and harmony with
nature.**

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Mission

‘To facilitate a process of social change with associated voluntary development organizations to create a just and humane society that is sensitive to nature and gender’

TARGET GROUPS

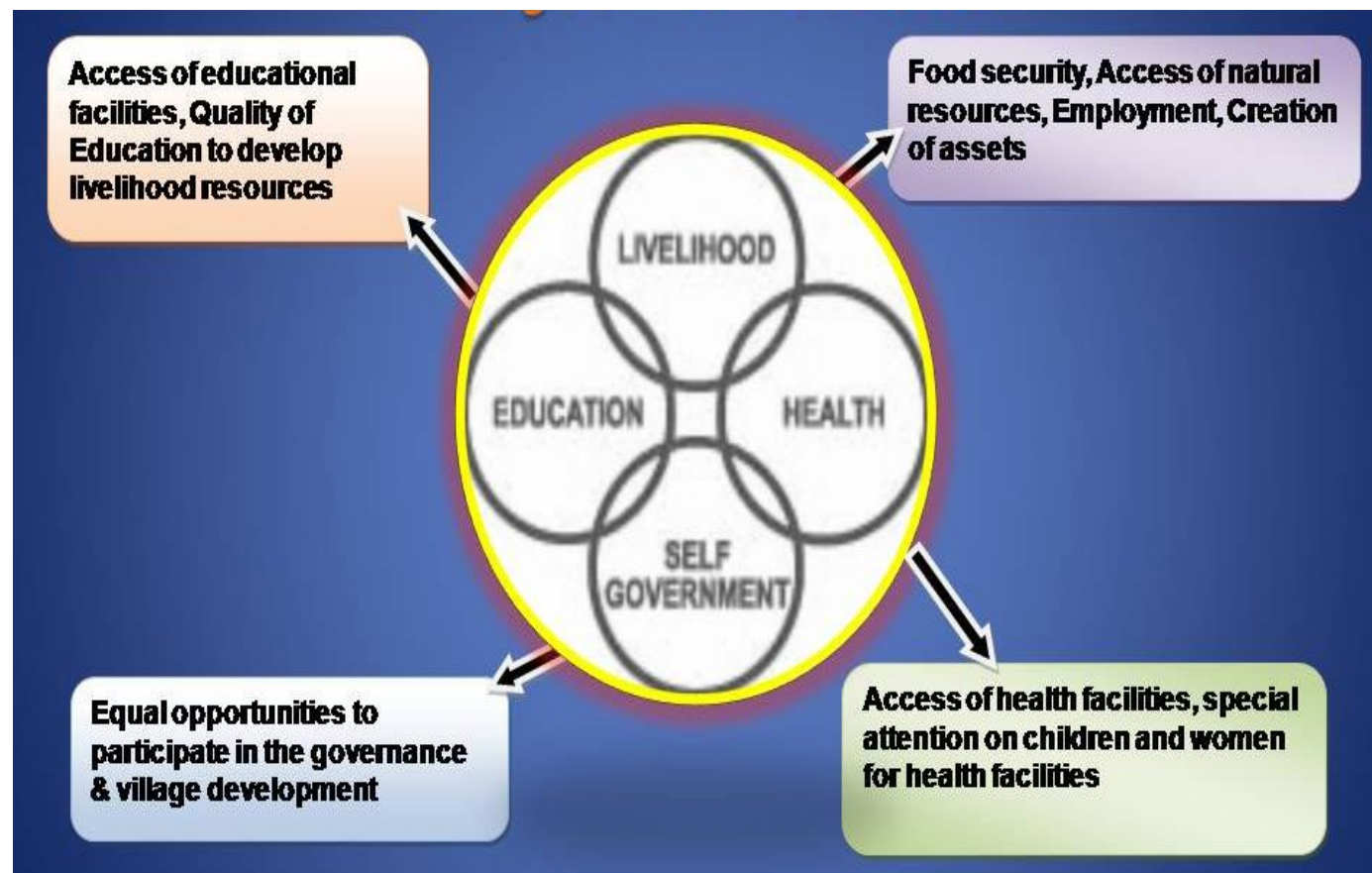
The main target group in the field is various population groups such as Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Backward Classes, Dalit, Women, youth, socially excluded people etc.

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Primary Area of Focus

Since the inception VSP has been working on the Natural resources and Gender in a networking mode. The policy related matters were addressed through advocacy



and alliances similarly the constructive experiments related to Nature Farming,

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Water Conservation, promoting role of women and youth in village governance, and developing Cooperatives.

To enhance youth involvement in the village governance and productivity capacity building of potential collage - non collage youths are the focus area of interventions in Konkan region. Perspective building, exchange and exposure to the youth in developing livelihood assets and processes have been concentrated in the organizational focus.

Based on theses concerns reflected in the chart the existing interventions are running successfully in the field. The networking and support to the member organizations and stake holders are another major concern reflecting in every intervention of Vikas Sahyog Pratishthan.

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Our Existence & Interventions in Maharashtra



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Our Expertise

VSP is previously working on livelihood and dignity issues of the deprived section in the society and right based issues. Also focusing on developing productivity of land and undertake experimentation to sustain livelihood assets. Based on work area VSP has developed expertise on following issues



- **Agro based training & Experimentation to enhance productivity of Land and other natural resources.**
- **Entrepreneurship development training on allied agricultural activities.**
- **Non Agriculture based entrepreneurship development through cooperative formation and credit organization**
- **Literature development (print & audio visual) and documentation for community learning.**
- **Research & social studies**
- **Institution building (PO/PI)**
- **State level event management & organization**
- **Publication**

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Interventions & Achievements

Program Interventions

As mentioned in the focus areas VSP is intervening on the livelihood aspects and rights based approach so the focused work area are livelihood promotion and alliance building, nurturing campaigns on demanding rights and entitlements and capacitate to the stake holders to achieve qualitative governance, learning and sharing, creating and managing assets of resource less people. During April 2007 to March 2008 following processes and interventions have been undertaken.

A. Livelihood sustainability and Alliance Building.

1. Promoting Cooperatives & Building CSOs:

Promotion of the collective process are our interest and core area, therefore, the intervention on institutionalization in a form of cooperatives and SHGs intervention stated at Buldhaha district with the member organization. Perspective behind the project intervention to promote the collective action and operationlise the management structures for developing resource base at grassroots level. The intervention undertaken in drought prone areas of Buldhana district which backward district declared by government of India. The salinity of the land and less productivity is there therefore it is one of the famous districts for farmer's suicides. the perspective of intervention in this district is strengthen collective process and approach by producing the institutions which can be a source to change the situation in the district.

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The program components in the Buldhana district are :

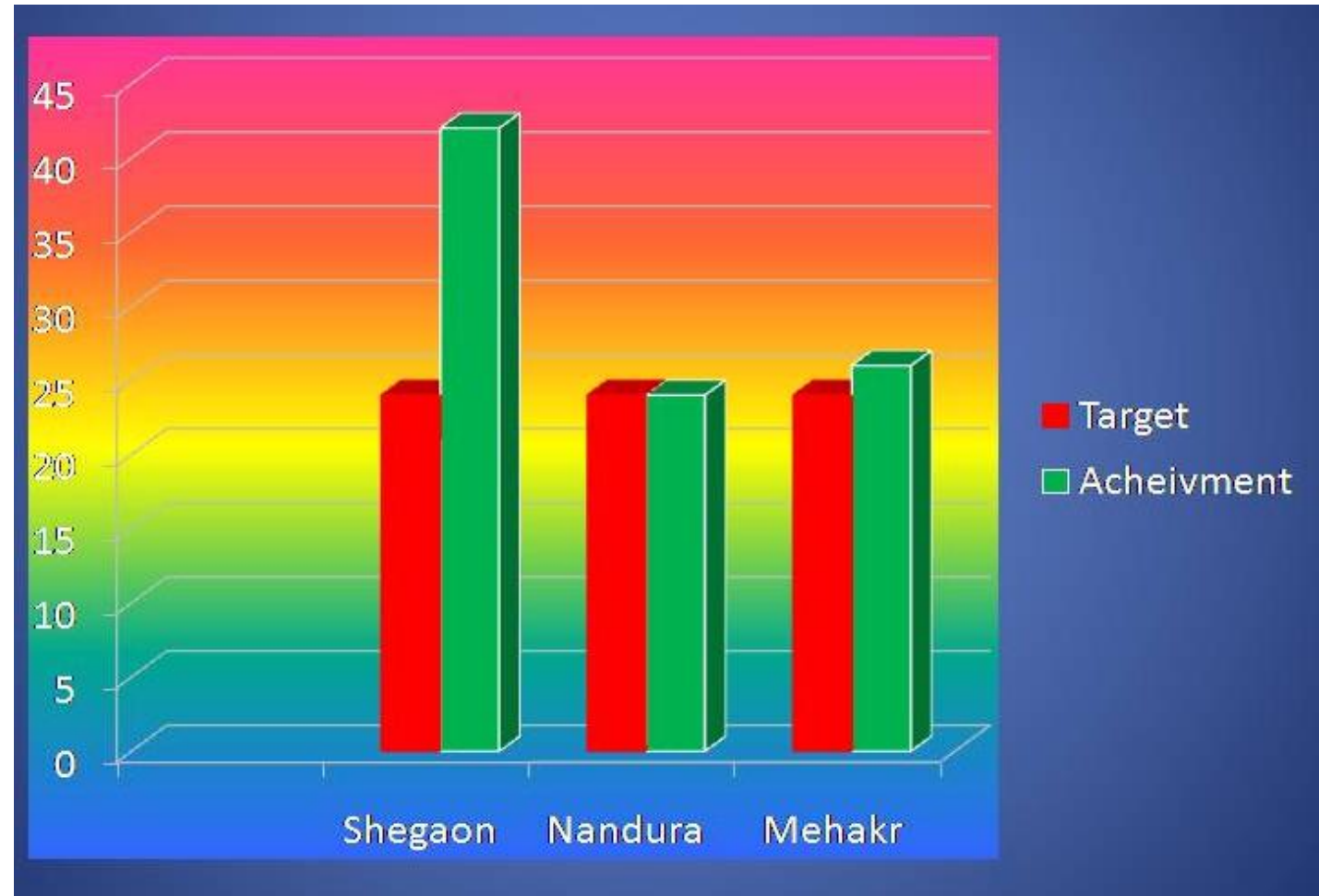
- **Formation of cooperative which can create the assets**
- **Formation of SHGs t for motion and capacitate women's members in developing assets.**
- **Revival of defunct cooperatives & business promotions**
- **Alliance Building of the local civil society organizations to take up the livelihood issues of local communities**

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Success in developing collective approach and interventions

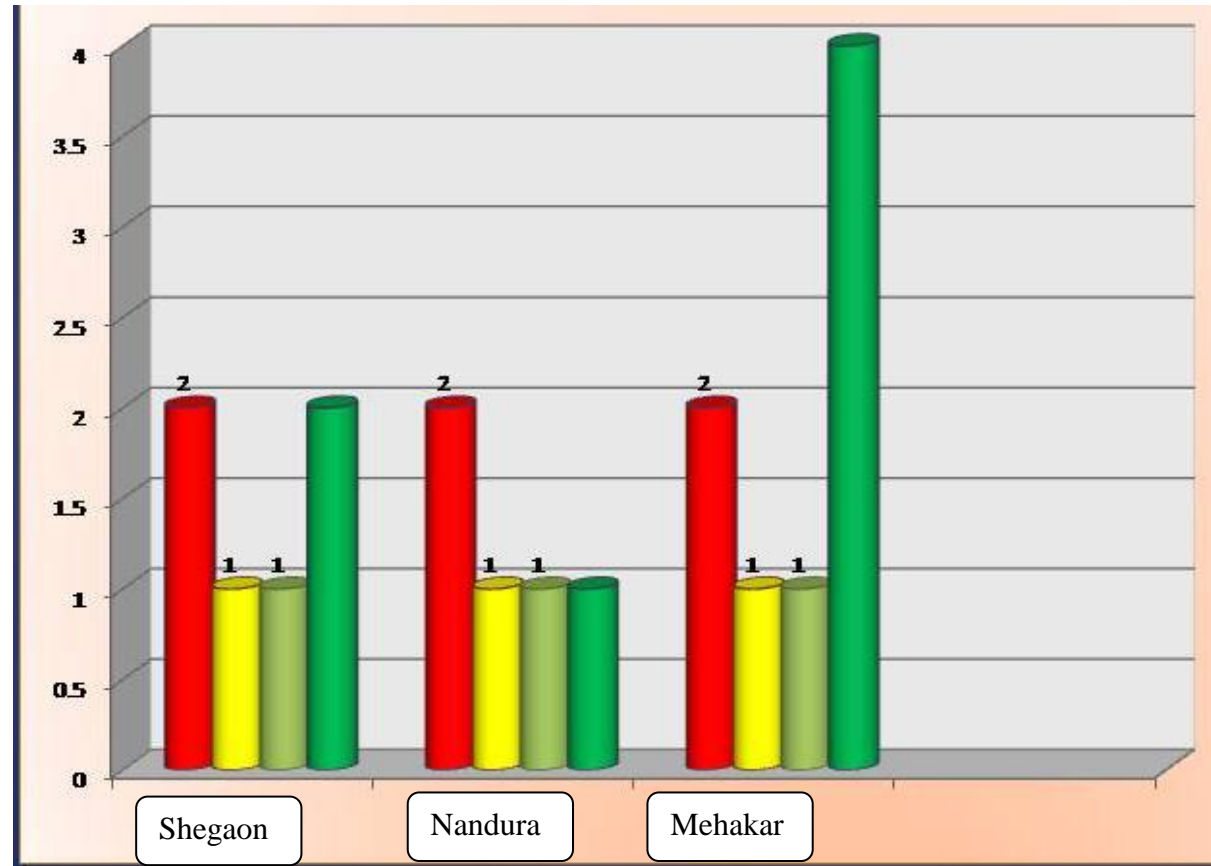
Institutionalization of Self Help Groups



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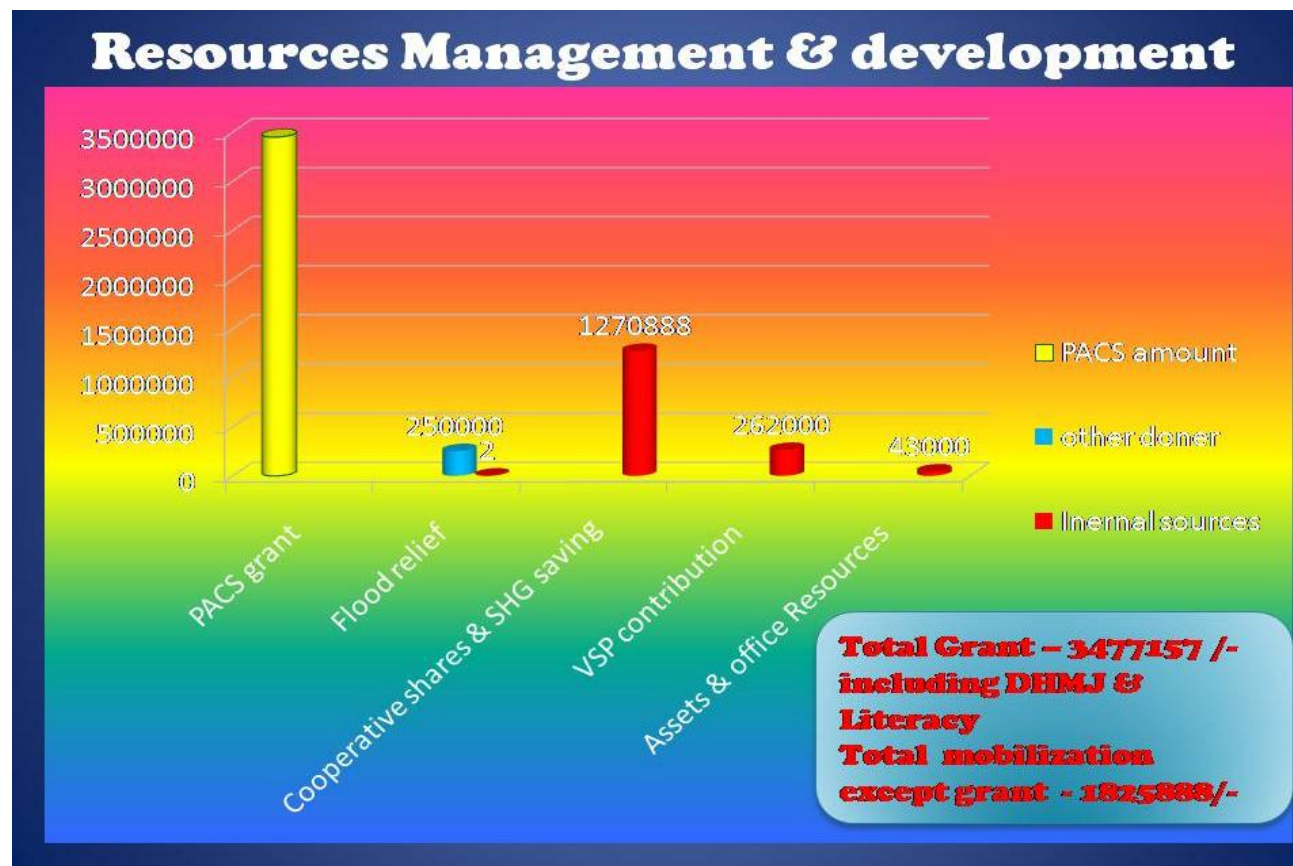


Formation And Instructional Building of The Cooperatives



- Revival of defunct cooperatives
- New cooperative
- Achievement

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Networking and reach out through out the project

- Networking established with the 21 CBOS & NGOs in Buldhana district as well as Vidharbha region.
- Formation of 92 SHGs which promoting entrepreneurship based on local natural resources.
- Revival of 6 defunct cooperatives & formation of 7 cooperatives

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New Intervention through the project

“Reclaiming Livelihood & Food Security in drought prone Buldhana district”:

As a next phase of the project “Strengthening Cooperatives for Sustainable Livelihood in Buldhana district the new intervention started in Buldhana district which is based on developing food security options for the rural resource less peoples. The focus of the intervention is developing productivity and regeneration of the available assets and capacity building of the stake holders in Buldhana. This intervention commenced in collaboration with the local organization Yuva Rural Association, Nehru Yva Mandal & Savitibai Phule Mahila Mandal.

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B. Campaigning on Right Based Approach & Farmers Issues

Vikas Sahyog Pratishthan and its partner organizations are very sensitive towards farmers and farming issues in Maharashtra.

Save the Farmers Campaign:

As a part of campaign promotion “Save the Farmers Campaign” is implemented in Konkan region in collaboration with the local partner Shramik Sahyog, Sanvad, Sahil & Snehsmaruddhi Mandal in three blocks of Ratnagiri District. The focus of the campaign was the advocacy and strengthening people’s voice for feasible and effective agricultural policies. The significant achievements of this campaign are follows:

Awareness & opinion Building

- Intervened in Ratnagiri district on the farmer’s issues and advocacy.
- Expansion of the specific activities in 40 villages from Sangameswar, Chiplun & Guhagar blocks.
- Two rallies on the farmers issues has been organized in which 1450 people were participated, approx. 10000 people have been received messages of save the campaign issues.
- Media has taken note of the efforts taken and campaign perspectives and given publicity to the campaign activities the 27 press release on the activity issues has been published in local news paper and electronic media.

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- Approx. 40000 people (farmer, activists, students, youths, women's) are associated with the campaign.
- 40 exhibitions organized to advocate the campaign issues and create awareness. The special posters and other material published for the exhibition.

Helping farmers to work together on deteriorating livelihood in farming: From the perspective of women and small landholders on the issues of cultivators and farming reached out to the farmers and village leaders in 40 villages (of Chiplun, Sangmeshwar, and Guhagar talukas). The information material, publications were circulated to 4200 families in awareness programs and informal contacts. The 4 public rallies were undertaken that have highlighted the message of low cost farming methods in which 1450 people participated. The training was organised for the village representatives to prepare them as an animator on the farmer's issues.

Now we have regular contacts in 40 villages, the villagers of these villages participate in the initiatives. 180 women and youth are trained to act as animator. These contacted people take up role in articulating their issues and works together for better alternatives.

Training the farmers on adopting sustainable agriculture practices:

Low cost farming field demonstration training conducted for 261 farmers (98 male & 163 female) for feasible and low cost production systems. The exposure tour was organised to study the innovative experiments undertaken by farmers itself within Ratnagiri district.

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Due to these above inputs 20 farmers have started practicing nature farming technique. Thus yield is free from chemical fertilizers, pesticides and base on local biomass use.

- Material development for carrying campaign message with key actors: A booklet titled “Shetkari Wachva Sheti Wachva” (Save Farmers Save Farming) was published base on the experiences of grassroots activists. Booklet covered articles such as overall challenges in front of farming, land holding issues, women status, biomass utilisation etc. Copies were circulated to Government officials, MLA (Member of Legislative Assembly), Media representatives, village leaders, farmer’s etc. Total 8000 Calendars were printed to publicise message of campaign with farmers, the 8000 flyers were published and disseminated through public events and individual contacts.
- Highlighting farmer’s issues through vernacular media: With our inputs the representatives of local newspaper have played a very supportive role. In a district we have nurtured contacts with 32 journalists that help us in publicising the efforts initiated under the project. The relationship developed through individual contacts, involved them in the activities conducted for farmers such as advocacy meeting with Agriculture University, sharing the literature that was published under the project, Sharing of studies undertaken by VSP (such as analysis of a move to promote Jetropha plantation), a special workshop was organised in collaboration with ‘Ratnagiri Zilla Patrakar Sangh’ (district Press Club) in which 35 representative of print and electronic media participated. To

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highlight challenges 2 press conferences (1 district, 1 taluka level) were conducted.

The media representatives assisted farmers in advocacy meeting (such as meeting with journalists, authorities). 35 press reports has been published in newspapers (such as Pudhari, Lokamat, Sakal, Ratnagiri Times) that have highlighted the events, on the occasion any program under the project senior correspondents have written articles on farmers issues, one of the local newspaper 'Lokmat ' covered a series of article on contract farming base on a study undertaken by VSP.

- Collaboration with Taluka level Agricultural Departments: Liaison work was done with Chiplun and Sangmeshwar Taluka Agriculture departments. The authorities were contacted for the assistance in the programs organised for the farmers, they helped to document the innovative farming effort, and afterwards the Chiplun Taluka agriculture officer took a lead to host a collaborative workshop. In this joint workshop 45 agriculture department representatives participated.

The authorities have requested assistance from VSP experts to guide in sustainable agriculture practices, and they have agreed to provide Agriculture Material, tools & instruments in concession rate to 100 farmers.

- Lobbying work with Dapoli Konkan Krushi Vidyapith (Agriculture University): This Agriculture University has very good research and experiments but those are not reaching to the villagers. To make a dialogue on the issue and to

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emphasise on sustainable methodology a delegation of farmers was taken to the Vice Chancellor and their senior staff. In this exchange journalist, local agriculture experts were involved.

After this delegation the Dapoli Konkan Krushi Vidyapith has started the outlets of low cost farming tools at their centres. University officials have provided the agricultural implements ('Villa' a cutter to cut crops) for the 100 farmers on a concession price that were distributed to farmers in the villages.

Land Rights Campaign in Satara district

The land rights campaign especially land rights of the women from deprived sections and destitute women's. Under this campaign the alliance building and advocacy efforts have been taken to address the land issues in context to right based perspective. Some of the significant achievements are follows:

- Alliance building of the marginalized people in a form of 17 agriculture clubs in Katav, Man and Phaltan blocks & addressed issues of drought, women's land rights, migration issues and other livelihood related issues.
- 5 block level public meetings conducted to discuss employment and migration issues in Satara district.
- The district level Jan Hakka Parishad conducted at Phalatan to advocate the livelihood and migration issues.

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- 4 press conferences and a media workshop conducted with the media persons and social activists from Satara district.
- The study report on information about Satara district and Land holding and using pattern as well as status / process of the land acquisition process, migration and other issues affecting livelihood of the villagers has prepared.
- 5 Advocacy meetings with the community leaders, policy makers and district level officials to address legal issues of land titles and policy implications

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Wada Na Todo Abhiyan:



As a part of state wide campaign partner VSP has taken responsibility of Konkan region to intervene on the campaign issues. The advocacy events on farming issues as well as advocacy on the livelihood, Education & Employment issues. The senior staff of VSP has played important role in national and state level processes. Mr. Mohan Surve is playing role

as a convener of National; Livelihood TAG group & Mr. Anant Kadam is playing role as a state livelihood TAG convener.

Economic Justice Campaign:

Based on right based perspective VSP participated in state wide campaign on economic justice & livelihood which is promoted by member organization Yuva Rural Association in Konkan region. The focus of the campaign was on agriculture policies and livelihood of deprived communities. The first phase of mobilization is completed and the execution of the proposed activities scheduled from the month of April 2008;



C. Gender & Women's Issues

We Can (End violence against women)

To promote community actions against gender based violence against women the regional campaign is implemented in Konkan region in Raigad, Ratnagiri & Sindhudurg district. The focus of the campaign was to convince and activate the volunteers as a change Makers to promote campaign to ending the all kind of violence against women's. Through the campaign 10000 youths, 4500 women and general population was convinced for the played role as change makers. 42 alliance partners have supported to achieve the target.

Functional Literacy Program for Illiterate women's

Intervention on literacy activities was started to enhance the capacities and role of illiterate women members in the SHGs and Village governance. Based on the study in Buldhana district 40 % of the women's are illiterate and who are the member of the SHGs. Due to lack of literacy they were facing limitation in taking leadership. Therefore functional literacy program has been designed and implemented in Nandura, Shegaon & Mehakar blocks of Buldhana district. Out of 550 enrolled women 440 women's have successfully completed the program and they are coming forward to take leadership.

The gender training programs and material development undertaken for wider awareness and opinion building on the gender and domestic- gender based violence.

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शक्य आहे ...
महिलांवरील अत्याचाराचा अंत**



**आम्ही महिला अत्याचारांच्या
विरोधात आहोत.... तुम्ही ?
मौन सोडा, हिंसेच्या विरोधात बोला**



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शक्य आहे ...
महिलांवरील अत्याचाराचा अंत**



**माझा विश्वास आहे की आपण
स्वतः लिंगभेदावर चालत आलेल्या
महिला - पुरुषांच्या भूमिका बदलू
शकतो**



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हि निर्मिती आहे ! याला लिंगभावाने
पाहू नका! कदाचित हाच आपल्या
जीवनाचा आधार असू शकेल!

शक्य आहे महिलांवरील अत्याचाराचा अंत



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शक्य आहे ...
महिलांवरील अत्याचाराचा अंत



मी या अभियानात सामिल आहे आणि
आशा करते की आपण सर्व महिला -
पुरुष मिळून महिलांवरील अत्याचार
थांबवू शकतो !



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शक्य आहे ...
महिलांवरील अत्याचाराचा अंत

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Publications and Reference Material



VSP has its own interest for developing resource material for dissemination and references of the members and stake holders. The forms of materials are flyer, calendar, booklet, posters & website etc.

Program related material is published separately for widen dissemination such as campaign posters, banners, flyers, brochures has been produced in interesting form, the secretariat has developed the skills of designing & printing material therefore the in house production system in functioned in the main office at mumbai.

The secretariat has supported many members and field organizations to develop their presentations websites and brochures in which the quality of content and designing was the base of the support. Yuva Rural Association, Gramin Yuva Pragatik Mandal, Shramik Sahyog & Sanvad has taken services from the staff members

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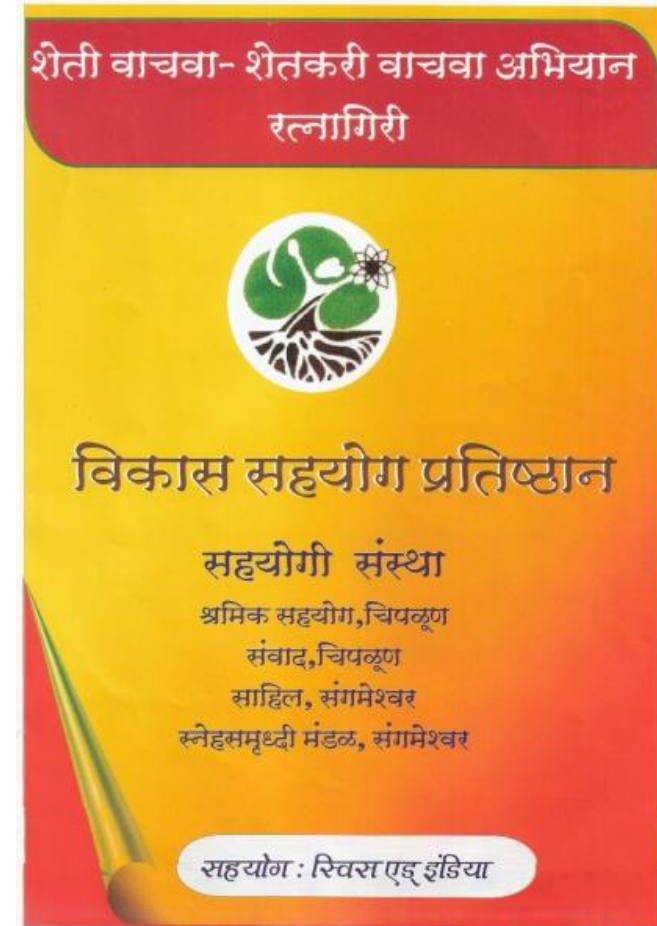
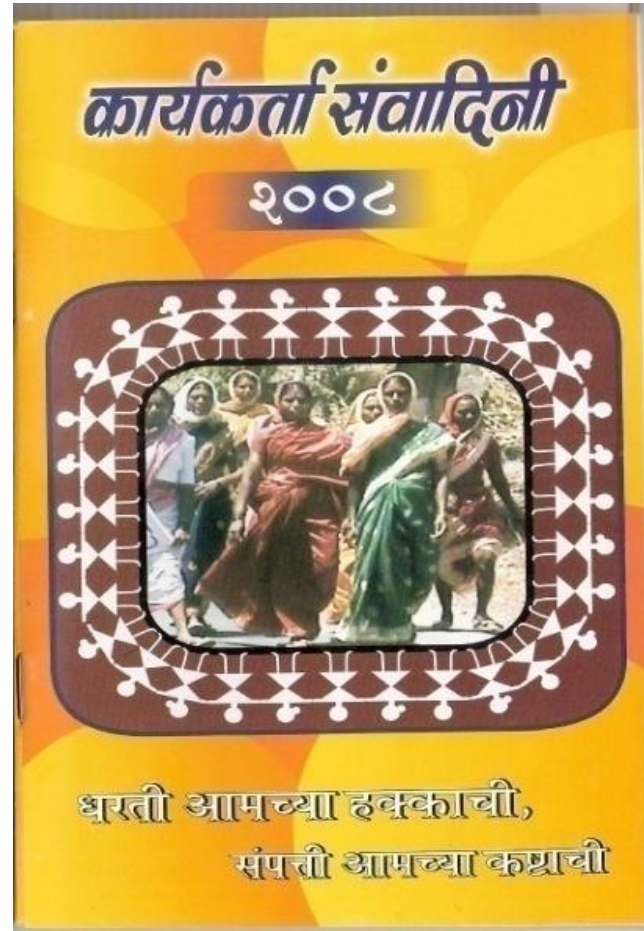
The website



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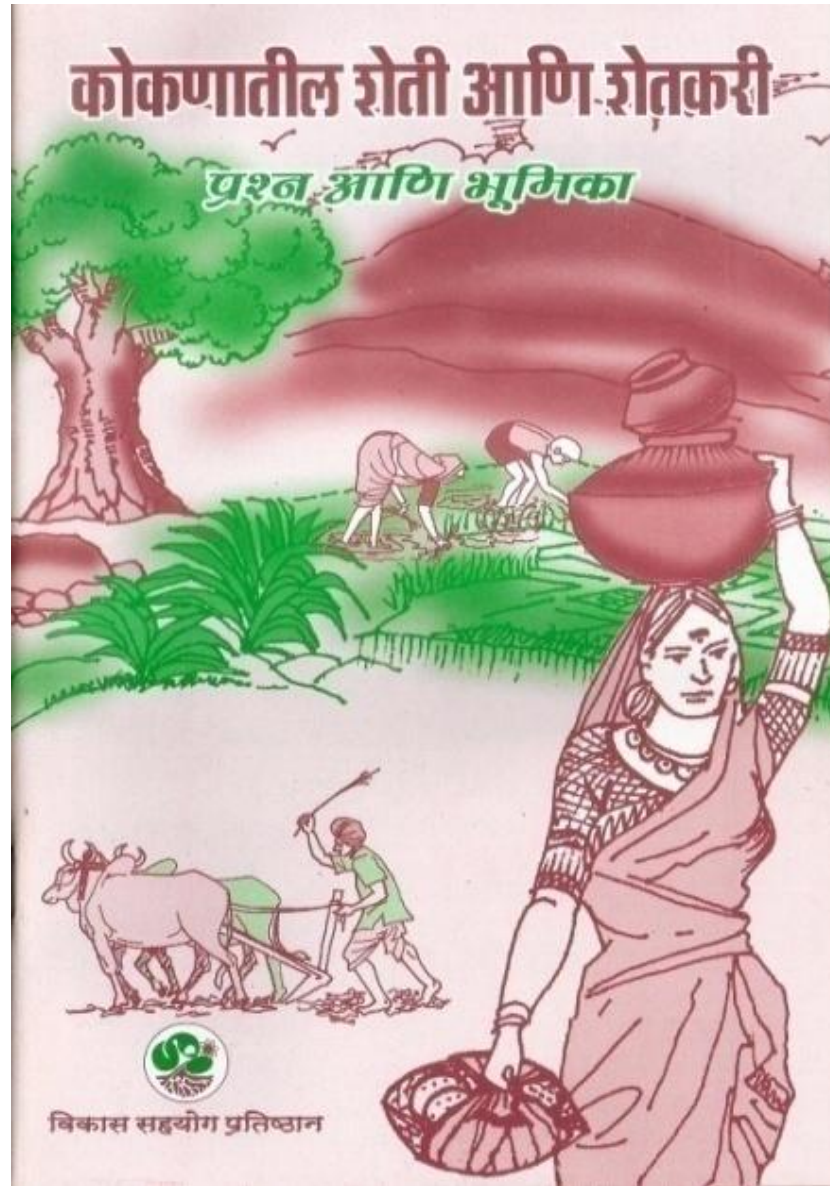


Publications, Books and Pamphlets



The diary for activists and flyer for save the famers campaign .

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The konkan regional issues have been articulated in the booklet “Kokanatil Sheti Ani Setkari, Prashana Ani Bhumika” (Agriculture issues in Konkan region & Farmers, issues & Positions) by the local activists and representatives of the member organizations, Mr. Rajan Indulkar, Shriram Belvalkar, Mehendra Indulkar, Sunita Gandhi & Vijay Kadam has taken initiative to articulate the booklet.

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Films & Audiovisuals

**शेती जगविण्यासाठी
शेतकरी जगण्यासाठी**

कोकणातल्या शेतक-यांना, बेरोजगारांना अनेक पर्याय उपलब्ध करून देवू शकणारी कोकणातील शेती. पण आज ही शेती अनेक प्रश्नांच्या चक्रव्यूहाने अडकली आहे. कोकणातील छोटे शेतकरी, अल्प भूधारक पृथ्वीहीन यांच्या कसण्याच्या आणि जगण्याच्या जणू दिशाच हरवल्या आहेत. अशा परिस्थितीत शेतक-यांच्या शेतीचा विचार त्यांच्याच अंगाने करून त्याला परवडतील, सहन करता येतील असे प्रयोग मांडणारे शेती वाचवा शेतकरी वाचवा हे अभियान कोकणात विकास सहयोग प्रतिष्ठान तिच्या सहयोगी संस्थांच्या मदतीने राबवत आहेत. शेती वाचली तरच शेतकरी वाचणार आहे ही संवेदनशील जाणीव असलेल्या या अभियानाने शेती, जमीन आणि पर्यावरण जपणारे नैसर्गिक शेतीच तंत्र मांडलेले आहे. सोबतच शेतक-याला जगण्यासाठी बागुगुंड्यासारखे प्रयोगही कोकणातल्या शेतीचे आणि शेतक-यांचे प्रश्न आणि त्यावर पर्याय मांडणारे शेती वाचवा शेतकरी वाचवा हे अभियान, त्याचे विविध मुददे, कार्यकर्ते, प्रयोग कल्पांचे अनुभव, ते मांडत असलेले पर्याय शेतकरी जगण्यासाठी शेती जगविण्यासाठी या माहितीपटात एकत्र गुंफलेले आहेत.

DVD VCD

विकास सहयोग प्रतिष्ठान,
प्रस्तुत

**शेती जगविण्यासाठी
शेतकरी जगण्यासाठी**

Duration 46min

The video documentation of Save the Farmer Campaign 23 minutes

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THE NEW STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS, PERSPECTIVE AND INTERVENTIONS

In the context of future direction for VSP the members have articulated the Strategic Choices. Such choice would decide the form of organization envisaged and then accordingly methodology, responsibilities.

The General Body of Vikas Sahyog Pratishthan given directions to undertake Strategic Planning process and it was suggested that to request Mr. Gagan Shethi from Janvikas, Ahmadabad to facilitate the strategic planning process.

The direction of the processes was given as mentioned in follows:

The Strategic Choices for the Organizational Form

To build visibility and recognition there is a need to develop certain image for this collective. The image is to be developed in terms of focus of working areas, priority programs, services etc. Thus the organisation has to make choices.

The following strategic choices were articulated for VSP

1. VSP as a FORUM V/s. ORGANISATION
2. PUBLIC DOMAIN V/s. PRIVATE DOMAIN
3. BOARD DRIVEN V/s. MANAGEMENT DRIVEN

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Decisions about the Strategic Choices for VSP

- 1) *VSP as a forum Vs. Organisation*
- 2) *VSP as an organization*

It was felt that VSP has two characteristics to act as a forum and as an organisation.

VSP as a forum: VSP is a network organisation base on shared common values and common thread of working for sustainable development processes. The work area is base on the presence of members in the field.

VSP as an organization: As a registered organisation there is scope to undertake an independent project that also helps to build organizational sustenance. This also gives an opportunity a scope to build comprehensive and integral models of interventions.

The VSP will act as a FORUM and as an ORGANISATION. This collective in a form of forum would be working on priority issues, but in certain case the organization would be involved in tailor-made programs. Thus the prominent character of VSP would be of a FORUM (i.e. around 80%) and as an ORGANISATION (i.e. around 20%)

2. *Public domain VS. Private domain*

The main intention is to operate in a PUBLIC DOMAIN but also it was a realization that operating in PRIVATE DOMAIN is essential.

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Public domain: A mechanism and approach would be more open and inclusive. Membership would be broadened and the groups would be involved base on their focus of work.

Private domain: A form of organization where few people from core processes would hold its nucleus processes. Thus still the some representatives that have evolved as key holders would steer the affairs of the organisation.

It means the VSP would act more as an open and inclusive organisation thus it would act more in PUBLIC DOMAIN (i.e. around 80%). While working organisation also requires its own private space and the core group would take care of it. Therefore the VSP would also recognize its PRIVATE DOMAIN (i.e. around 20%).

3. *Board Driven Vs. Management Driven*

The organisation will have a balance of being of

Board Driven and Management Driven.

Board driven: The Governing Board has overall legal responsibility and it governs the overall functions.

Management driven: The Management is involved in day to business. It's leadership and core team influences the mission and operations of organization

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To undertake follow up and drafting the strategic plan and preparatory process following team has been formulated the members names are follows:

1. Mr. Rajan Indulkar
2. Ms. Vaishali Patil
3. Mr. Mohan Surve

The team has been started their work on strategic planning process.

The Visionaries

No.	Name	Designation	Organization
1.	Lata P.M	President	Individual
2.	Sujata Babar	Secretary	Abhivyakti
3	Lalit Babar	Treasurer	ASVSS
4	Datta Patil	Member	Yuva Rural
5	Vaishali Patil	Member	Ankur Trust
6	Shubhangi Kolge	Member	Sahil
7	Avil Borkar	Member	GYPM
8	Mohan Surve	Executive Director	

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The Staff Members

Name	Designation	Responsibility
Mr Mohan Surve	Executive Director	Direction to the programs and organization development
Mr. Anant Kadam	Program Manager	Program coordination and management
Mr. Rahul Khadase	Regional coordinator	RLFS in Buldhana district
Ms. Sunita Gandhi	Regional coordinator	Konkan regional programs
Mr. Vijay Kadam	Program Coordinator	ASK & Save the Farmers Campaign
Mr. Ashok Bhosale	Regional coordinator	Western Maharashtra programs
Ms. Nayana More	Documentation coordinator	Documentation & Personnel
Mr. Rakesh Bhowad	Accountant	Account & Finance
Ms Prajakta Savant	Resource mobilize	Resource mobilization

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Our Supporters

Poorest Area Civil Society:

Strengthening Cooperative for Sustainable Livelihood in Buldhana district

Swiss Aid:

Human Rights & Advocacy in Ratnagiri District

Action Aid:

Asserting Land Rights for Livelihood & Dignity in Drought Affected Talukas of

YUVA Rural Association: Vikas Anubhav Konkan Region

YUVA Rural Association: We Can Konkan Region

Sir Dorabji Tata Trust : Reclaiming Livelihood & Food Security of Drought Prone Buldhana District