



ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021 



driving the change!



FROM THE FOUNDERS' DESK

“**Life is what happens while you are busy making other plans**”
John Lennon

The financial year ending March'21 was nothing short of a roller coaster ride and by far the toughest we have faced so far. The year began with a country wide hard lockdown leading to a scary and a super confused situation. Hopes of reopening soon faded once the cases started increasing and we had two choices – to wait and watch or to proactively find a positive way out of the situation. We realized that we would not be able to travel and made a list of things to do to continue functioning and implementing our projects without us going physically. The lockdowns also meant that our communities rushed back to the village from their odd labour jobs in urban locations and would have to survive without any income. This meant that while we cannot go physically, our field team must work efficiently to provide support to the communities and scale up our operations wherever possible. We saw another silver lining in these challenging times – all our community members were available in the village and had time for strategic discussions about their lives and how together we can co-create change and development.

We quickly trained our field staff on using digital skills and built their capacity through this. We gave them the confidence of working independently and created frameworks to enable them to take decisions on the feet when such situations arise. The kharif (monsoon) season was approaching soon and usually our communities grow rice and millets and keep entirely for self-consumption. While this gave them adequate sense of food security, they did not earn any income. We had piloted with SRI (system of rice intensification) and SMI (system of millet intensification) in 2019 with outstanding results. SRI/ SMI is known to improve the yield of the rice and millets by 80% - 150% that allows them to keep enough for self-consumption while having enough to sell and earn money. We decided to scale this up to enable farmers earn an income from the kharif crop as a solution to covid induced crisis. All this was done while ensuring complete safety for the staff. Continuing with the focus of making our communities resilient through sustainable agriculture, we incubated a group of young boys in farming for the Rabi season (winter crops). They earned a decent income, lot of confidence and importantly created a demonstration effect propelling us to engage more with the youth.

In January we launched the nutrition project supported by Virat Kohli Foundation which involves providing nutritious snacks to children in the age group of 6 months to 6 years. 5000 children across 105 Anganwadi's (kindergarten) are supplied with tasty high protein nutritious snacks daily in a one-of-a-kind mega logistics exercise. The happiness and satisfaction on the faces of the children was worth the effort.

Our indigenous communities are in the line of fire of climate change and in the past few years the incidence of extreme weather events have increased drastically, while in the past 7 years we have converted over 1800 acres of land into a green oasis through mixed multi cropping and agroforestry, we created a model to grow food forests on a large single piece of land. This model will come to life in the later part of the year.

While reiterating our commitment to eradicating poverty and creating a better life for the tribal indigenous communities of Maharashtra, we feel happy to showcase our work through all odds and multiple challenges.



Dr Sarika Kulkarni
Founder and Trustee



Girish Kulkarni
Co Founder and Trustee

VISION

Making a better world for less fortunate, underprivileged tribal communities.

MISSION

To drive holistic change in the lives of the tribals by creating local opportunities and enabling them to lead an honourable life in their own villages. To minimize migration and create self-sustaining systems for the community to work and live in happiness and peace.

ABOUT US

Raah Foundation was founded by Dr Sarika Kulkarni, a PhD in management, professor, and a writer turned entrepreneur turned development professional, and Girish Kulkarni, an alumnus of IIT Bombay and IIM Ahmedabad, in 2011. Raah Foundation has an integrated outcome-focused and impact-driven bottom-up approach to tribal development.

Raah Foundation works towards the holistic development of tribal communities of Jawhar and Mokhada in Palghar District, Maharashtra.

Jawhar and Mokhada are located 140 km from Mumbai along with the Sahyadri mountain range in the northern part of the Western ghats in Maharashtra. They are home to the indigenous tribals from Warli, Kokna, Katkari and Mahadeo Koli tribes. However, years of neglect and deprivation have made Jawhar & Mokhada untouched by any form of development or growth. They lag on various social parameters, such as child mortality, infant mortality, number of anaemic women, absence of any sustainable income opportunities, low education levels forcing them to migrate for most of the year. This causes them to perennially live engulfed in the vicious circle of poverty & helplessness. When Raah Foundation started working with the tribals, it became evident that water underpins all the social problems. If year-round water sources were created, communities could hugely benefit and confidently move towards a virtuous cycle of growth & prosperity.

Raah Foundation takes an integrated and holistic approach to tribal development.

Our interventions include:

- Water Conservation (Projects that involve building check dams, wells etc. to create additional sources of water)
 - Climate Smart Agriculture • Climate mitigation and adaption
- Livelihoods (Women micro-businesses – grocery shops, dry fish selling, vegetable vending, food stalls etc.)
 - Supporting Traditional Art (Patchwork and Warli Art)
 - Health (Focus on malnourished children).

Raah Foundation is registered as a Trust with Charity Commissioner of India. Raah Foundation also has 80G, 12 A and FCRA and is fully compliant with the laws governing trusts.

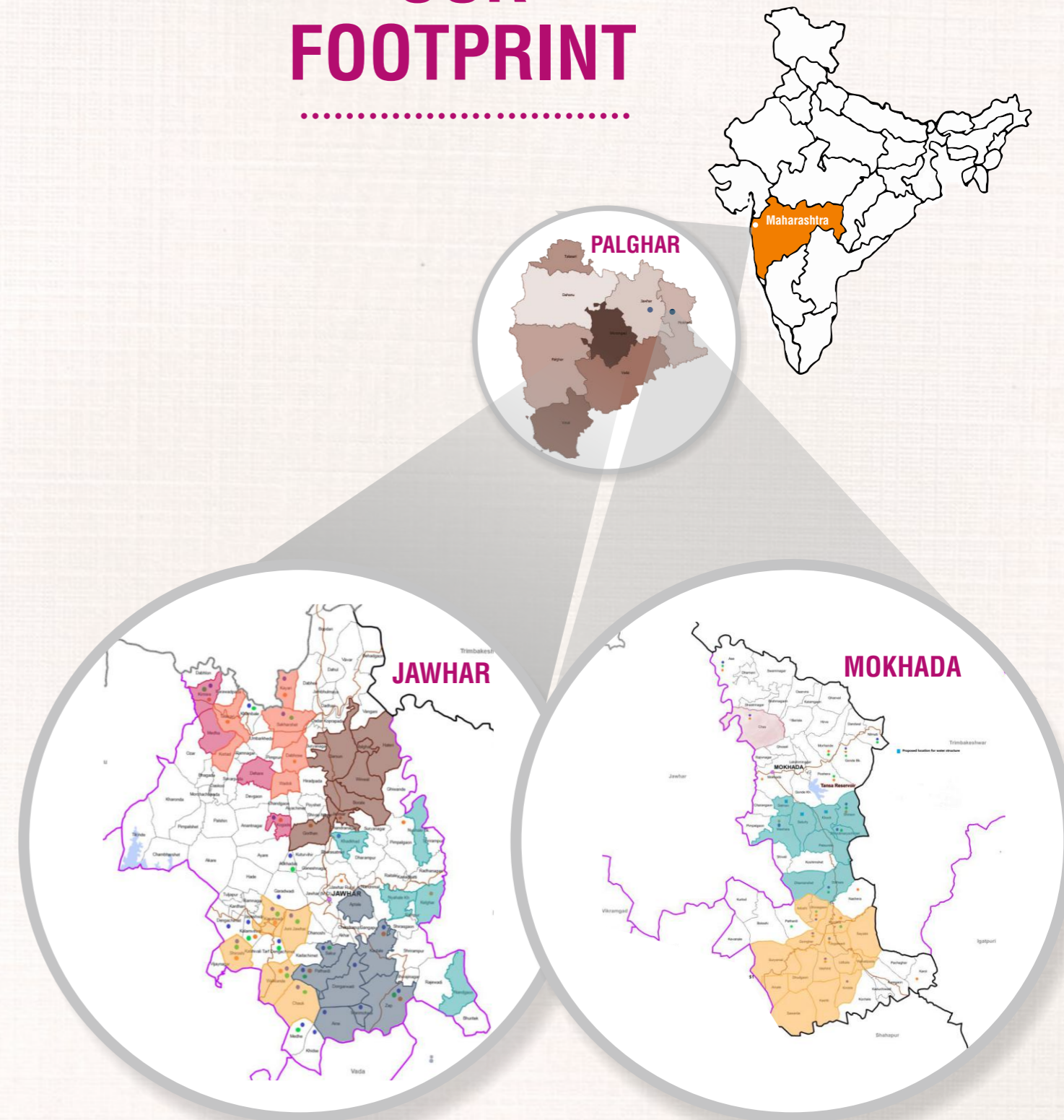
WHAT WE DO

HOLISTIC TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT (IN JAWHAR & MOKHADA BLOCKS OF PALGHAR)

All social problems are intertwined and need an integrated approach. Raah Foundation works on the following core pillars of development.



OUR FOOTPRINT





COVID-19 RELIEF

COVID-19 pandemic and situation in rural tribal areas were desperate in absence of any cash income from casual labour and hardly any food stocks left with them. To tackle the crisis and to allay the vulnerable community, we designed humanitarian aid which was complementary to what the district administration had been doing. While the district administration gave rice, wheat, tea and sugar; Raah Foundation designed family security parcels (1 parcel per family) consisting of food items like pulses, legumes, oil, salt, spices, and biscuits, hygiene items like dental powder, bathing and washing soaps.

Over 4000 parcels have been distributed to as many families with the parcel being adequate for 2 month period. This included 150 artists across Maharashtra from Raigad, Solapur and Palghar district.



MASKS TO THE FRONT LINE FORCE

600 N95 masks were distributed to the frontline force like Anganwadi and ASHA workers, sanitation workers and the Police force. 200 face masks and hand soaps to the poor tribals from Pasunda village in Mokhada block.



DIWALI 2020 FOOD DISTRIBUTION

We curated a Diwali goodies box of sweet and savoury items like Chakli, Shev, Besan Ladoo and Shankarpale which is favourite among all age groups. These were distributed on the 10th of November to most underprivileged villages; Khoch and Chaas of Mokhada Block. It was our pleasure and proud moment to distribute the goodies to 300 families.



LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES

As cities closed, our teams worked hard to create livelihood opportunities for underprivileged women. Around 5000 Masks made by the women were marketed to corporates and through Raah Creations. This enabled women to survive in challenging times.





A COMMUNITY DRIVEN APPROACH TO MAKING VILLAGES WATER POSITIVE

Raah Foundation takes a cluster approach to making tribal villages water positive since the objective is to make villages water positive by not only improving the ground water table but importantly availability of water throughout the year.

The implementation of rural development projects is inherently complex, and it is necessary to ensure that there is stakeholder participation from planning to management to ensure sustainability.

MALHAR SAMITI, GUARDIANS OF THE VILLAGE WATER

We begin the process of forming Malhar Samiti in the planning stages. Women make up fifty per cent of this committee to ensure the inclusion of challenges women face and their perspectives in water management.

The committee members are trained extensively in the art and science of water management. As guardians of village water, Malhar Samiti ensures project sustainability. A representative, community-based water management committee, Malhar Samiti, provides effective water management and build capacities at a community level to take all water-related decisions. Tracking water levels regularly and managing water to create sustainable communities in a participatory manner is the primary purpose of this Samiti.

The responsibilities of the Malhar Samiti includes water budgeting, water accounting and lay down rules and regulations for water governance in a participatory manner. The Samiti also works on creating a water usage priority matrix and protocols to ensure judicious water usage.

Malhar Samiti builds capacities of villagers to identify and address community problems, monitor the maintenance of public infrastructure, and conserve natural resources for holistic village development.



Watershed Development





Project Malhar Open Well at Nandgaon

THE PROBLEM

- Open well is the primary source of drinking water for the village. In the absence of an open well, women and young girls had to walk for miles daily with heavy pots of water on their heads. Spending 6 - 8 hours on this arduous task means that they cannot study or take on activities to earn them an income.
- There was an old well which was in dilapidated state with water storage capacity of only 7 ft. The well walls had caved in making the well unusable and putting the villagers at high risk particularly the children and cattle.
- The villagers walked 1 km in sweltering heat to the neighbouring hamlet to fetch water from a well in that village.
- The well was already catering to over 100 odd families, with an additional 150 families, furthermore from Nandgaon, drawing water from it, by January both villages faced water scarcity.

THE RAAH INTERVENTION

The existing structure was demolished and a new well of 18ft (diameter) x 30 ft (depth) constructed at Nandgaon.



WHEN
Q4 January – March
2021

WHERE
Jawhar

PEOPLE IMPACTED

4000
VILLAGERS



IMPACT

781 households = 3650+ people (Families - 350 Families from Nandgaon1 + 375 from Nandgaon2) + 56 from Bandryachiwadi).

Approx 1000 children from a nearby Ashram Shala, as well as a Public Health Centre can use water from this well, if there they face any disruption in water supply.

The pressure on the well in the nearby village reduced. This reduced the problem of water scarcity in that village too.

The women and young girls have more time to pursue other activities.

Issues of mental and physical health due to the fear of not having water is reduced.

Better hygiene.



Project Malhar Borewell recharge at Bhokrichapada

THE PROBLEM

- In a region where the water sources dry up. Borewells are looked as a solution by the community who face dire water problems.
- The challenge, is that recklessly drawing water from below the ground can deplete ground water and cause long term harm to the soil and water source.
- A borewell at Bhokrichapada had dried up. This borewell had been an important source of water post-monsoon. Its depletion meant that post-monsoon, the villagers lost an important source of water

THE RAAH INTERVENTION

Our approach is to facilitate solutions through simple infrastructure that enables recharging of the borewells and the ground water table would mean better soil quality and a sustainable solution for the water needs in post-monsoon months.

Recharging the borewells, using scientific methods, enables the water starved villagers access to water, while ensuring that the depleted water gets repleted again.

We began the intervention of recharging depleted borewells, by sensitising the community on the importance of recharging the borewell.

With experts guidance, and community involvement, we began the process of creating a recharge structure next to an existing borewell, to channel rainwater that has been naturally filtered to recharge the aquifers and enhance the ground water table.

WHEN
Q4 January – March
2021

WHERE
Jawhar

PEOPLE IMPACTED

200
VILLAGERS



IMPACT

200 villagers are benefitted by this recharge structure.

The awareness development and involvement of the community in building the structure gives them a sense of ownership and responsibility for its maintenance.

The ground water gets recharged.

Soil quality in and around gets better maintained.





Project Malhar Check Dam at Sakur

WHEN
**Q4 January – March
2021**

PEOPLE IMPACTED
925

WHERE
Jawhar

VILLAGERS



THE PROBLEM

- Sakur is a village in Jawhar with more than 850 people. Water scarcity starts as early as October/November, making the tribal communities extremely desperate. Most men migrate to urban areas searching for livelihoods while women stay back, spending 50% of their time fetching water.
- The existing dam, located in the centre of Akhar and Sakur village, was in dilapidated condition.
- The silt accumulated in the backwater storage area over the last 15 years and the dam's wall leakages had reduced the water holding capacity of the dam to 30-40%

THE RAAH INTERVENTION

Raah Foundation, through Project Malhar, worked on revitalizing the dam by strengthening the foundation and anchoring the foundation and the wing walls in hard rock, removing the leakages and thickening the wall, increasing the height by 6 inches and most importantly, desilting the backwater area to increase and enhance the water conservation capacity.



IMPACT

The dam conserves 8 million liters of rainwater, providing relief to the water- starved community and improves the groundwater table as the percolated water recharges the aquifers.

.....

The increased water capacity caters to the washing, bathing needs of 800 people from Sakur and 125 people from Akhar.

.....

Villagers from Sulepada and Pathardi can also use the water from this dam.

.....

In addition to this, 80 cattle from Sakur will have water to drink throughout the year, and 13 farmers will have ample water for year-round farming.

.....

A private well of villager Janu Dambali will be recharged and will have access to water year round as it is right in the dam area.

.....

This is a complete game changer for the local people as it has the potential to completely solve their non-drinking water needs.



STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Son of soil returns!

Born in the tiny hamlet Dhumpada in Jawhar, Tukaram Dhum inherited around one and a half acres of land in which rice, nagli (finger millet), varai (barnyard millet), Urad dal (split and skinned black gram) was grown. The harvest size being small, the crop produced was used mainly for self-consumption.

After his father passed away, the responsibility of his family was on his young shoulders. Without the guidance of his father for farming, Tukaram, at the age of 21, had to migrate to nearby blocks and work on construction sites for livelihood. For a young man born to the soil, this was a difficult life.

Attending a 2005 BAIF program to curb villager migration, Tukaram was inspired to get into agriculture and pursue farming full time. The desire to live with his family and children in the village motivated him to work hard and save money to buy an electric motor and pump, along with 250 saplings of Mogra (Jasmin). Even this was not enough.

Post monsoon, as rainwater dried up, Jawhar faced severe water scarcity and with few water bodies, farming became impossible. Along with the other farmers in the area, he migrated to seek work outside the villages.

In 2017, his life began taking a turn when under Project Malhar, an intervention of Raah Foundation, a check dam in the village was repaired. The project was carried out with the help of local citizens and the Gram Panchayat. The check dam stored rainwater, making it available beyond monsoon season. Further, the water percolated into the land, increasing the groundwater. Water was now available for his farming needs throughout the year. This changed Tukaram's life as he could now look at farming for his primary income. He did not have to migrate to the city, and he could live with his family.



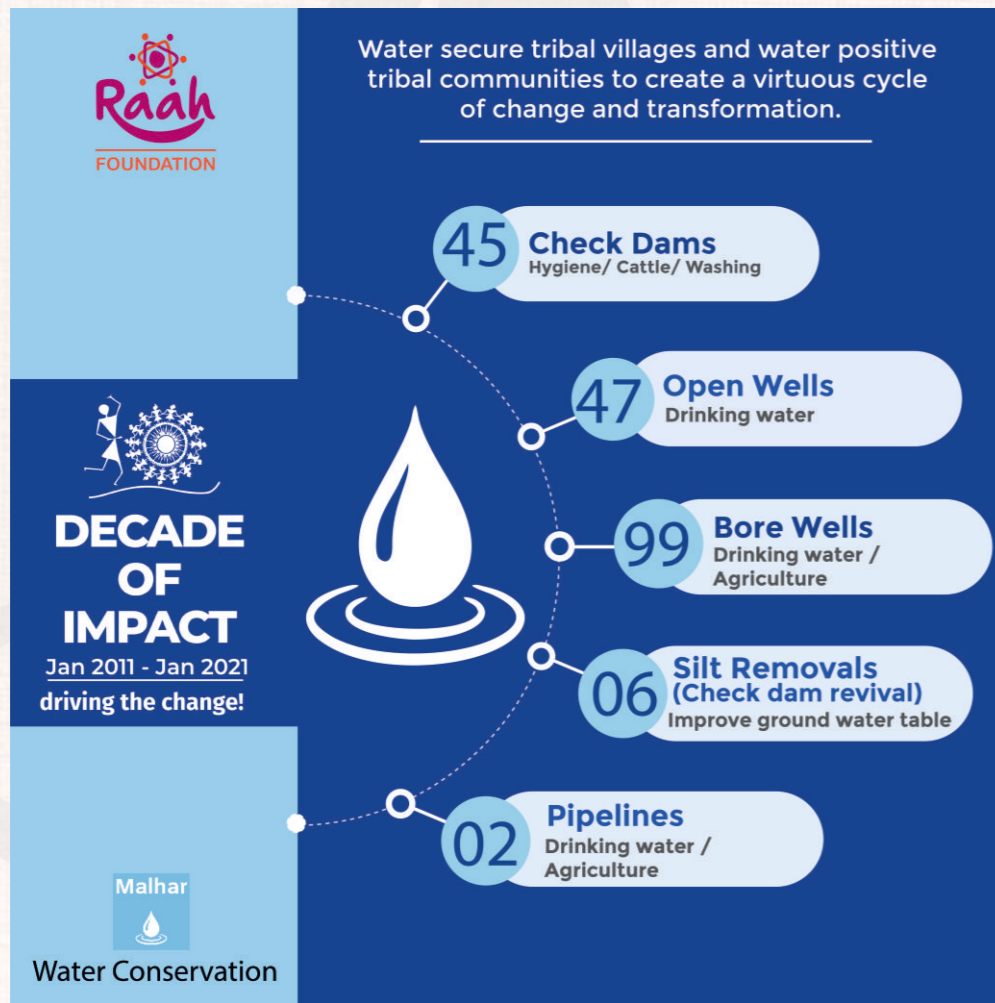
Name: Tukaram Dhum
Age: 35
Hamlet: Dhumpada
Village: Kasatwadi
Block: Jawhar



WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT

building check dams, wells etc. to create additional sources of water

Raah Foundation has built/repared over 45 check dams, 47 open wells, 99 borewells, 6 silt removals and 2 pipelines. Of this, the open wells and bore wells with recharge structures are used exclusively for drinking purposes. Water from the check dam is used for irrigation, bathing, washing and for cattle. The water capacity that we have created is given below.



The direct efforts of Raah Foundation have created a water capacity of 907.5 million litres per year, ensuring water security for 30,000 from tribal community and 6500 cattle. They can now live with dignity in their own village and not migrate to the cities because of the scarcity of water.





DECADE OF IMPACT

Jan 2011 - Jan 2021

driving the change!

2011

- Raah Foundation registered.
- Women entrepreneurship program in Marathi launched.

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

- Started entrepreneurship development program in Nagpur.

- Built 15 check dams, 4 open wells and 4 bore wells.
- Raah Foundation becomes tribal focused organisation with an approach to enabling sustainable livelihoods.
- Jawhar and Mokhada identified as areas needing intervention for stopping migration and bettering the lives of the tribal community.

- Built 15 check dams, 4 open wells and 4 bore wells.
- Started program with Warli artisans
- Started Raah Creative Designs LLP, a social business revive warli art that are made by tribal women
- Started fabric art program with tribal women to revive the glory of patch work art.

- Built 9 check dams, 8 open wells and bore wells in Jawhar.
- Launched Urja program for supporting women start micro businesses.
- Launched Krishi -a farming school for training tribal farmers.
- Launched Soukhya – health program to identify and treat malnourished children and anaemic women.
- Received prestigious Sabera award for Rural transformation and agriculture program.
- Invited to first ever Women Economic Forum held at Reykjavik, Iceland.

- Built two check dams in Jawhar as a pilot to address the water problems .

- Built/ repaired 11 check dams, 10 open wells and bore wells in Jawhar.
- Started work in Mokhada.
- Selected as one of the 50 promising rural social businesses in the handicraft sector by Harvard South Asia Institute and Tata Trust.
- Given a grant to start a studio by Harvard South Asia Institute & Tata Trust to promote warli art.
- Case Study on Raah Foundation's Warli Art program published by Harvard Business school.
- Felicitated by world CSR congress as an emerging NGO.
- Received coveted FCRA approval from the Ministry of Home Affairs to enable Raah Foundation to accept donations in foreign currency.

- Registered Raah Foundation as an 501© organisation in USA to facilitate giving tax benefit to American donors.
- Signed an MOU with Puri Foundation to adopt Zap for holistic transformation over a three year period and create a better world for over 4500 tribals of Zap.
- Constructed 7 dams, 7 open wells and 8 bore wells.
- Starting a tailoring school for women from Malvani slum of Malad, Mumbai.
- Signed an MOU with APPI to adopt three villages and make them water positive for a period of three years.

- Experimented successfully with spine gourd cultivation to improve income of farmers.
- Scaled up intensification (rice & millets) to enable farmers to earn an income from kharif crop.
- Started the process of forming Farmer Producer Organisation formation to enable farmers to get a good value for their produce.

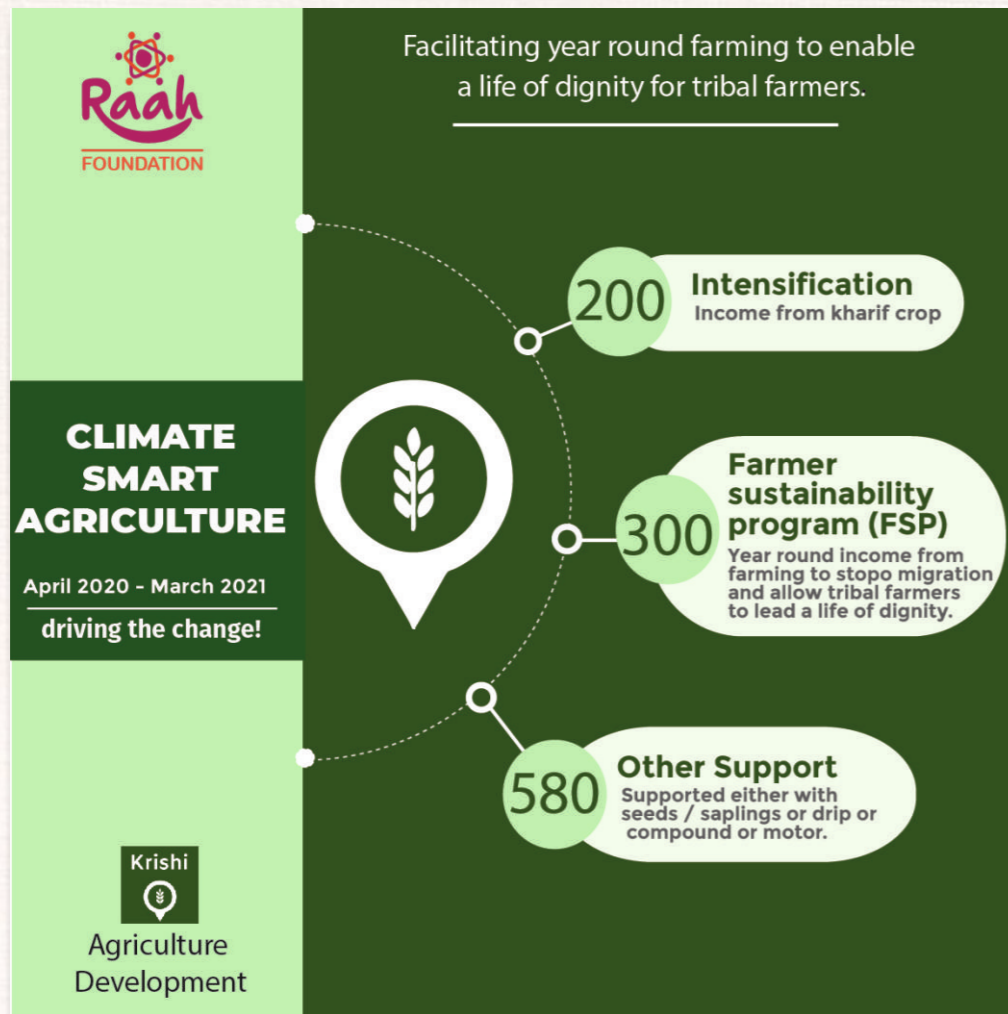


Krishi | CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE

Krishi- Facilitating year-round farming to enable a life of dignity for tribal farmers.

Raah Foundation has helped, enrol over 243 farmers in the program for compact farming and provided saplings of fruits and vegetables especially for the monsoon season.

Distributed vegetable kits consisting of Okra, chillies, cucumber Flat green beans, brinjal and ridge gourd and bitter gourd to over 1100 families from across 19 villages and enrolled 152 farmers for SRI/SMI method of intensification.





Project Krishi

This financial year started under the pandemic induced lockdown, creating multiple challenges and obstacles for our work. Typically, the dry months of March - June are the peak period of implementing Project Malhar (making tribal villages water-secure). Unable to carry out any activities in this period, we decided to turn the adversity into an opportunity and focus on scaling up Project Krishi (farmer sustainability project).

THE OPPORTUNITY AMIDST THE CRISIS

One of the other opportunities we saw in this adversity was the availability of all the tribals throughout this period. Usually, during March/ April, they would have migrated to nearby cities for casual labour work and come back during rains to grow rice and ragi for self-consumption. Our field staff led from the front - holding meetings with tribal farmers to explain the various programs under Project Krishi that would help them earn better livelihoods through farming in their village.



Tribal farmers do not earn any income during the Kharif season (monsoon). They grow rice and ragi(finger millet) - their staple diet - primarily for self-consumption and do not earn any income. Most of them migrate post-harvest as severe water scarcity from November onwards does not allow the tribal farmers to stay back and do year-round farming.

WE BEGAN WORKING TOWARDS TWO OBJECTIVES

- Creating income opportunities for farmers in the monsoon season
- Creating opportunities through year-round farming that is sustainable and uses water judiciously




Krishi

Climate Smart Agriculture



IMPROVE YIELD OF THE STAPLE CROP OF RICE AND RAGI THROUGH THE METHOD OF INTENSIFICATION (SRI/SMI).

Improve yield of the staple crop of Rice and Ragi through the method of intensification (SRI/SMI). This will enable farmers to keep one portion of the produce for self-consumption while selling the other portion and earning an income.

The 152 farmers enrolled in the program were extensively trained in the SRI/SMI method and provided two kg rice grains of Daftari variety as seeds for SRI (System of Rice Intensification). A similar technique was used for millets as well.



EARNING AN EXTRA INCOME WITH MONSOON VEGETABLES

The soil in Jawhar is conducive to growing monsoon vegetables like Bitter-gourd and chillies. These vegetables also have a good market in nearby cities and are always in high demand. The farmers collectively can sell these vegetables to the wholesale market and earn a good income.

Raah Foundation provided the farmers participating in this initiative with vegetable seeds and the know-how on growing them. Over 10 kgs of vegetable seeds were provided to 26 farmers.



IMPACT

An overall increase of 50 to 60 % in yield over the traditional method will significantly contribute to the nutritional food security of a very vulnerable community with small landholdings. For the farmers adopting SMI, there will be enough millets and rice available for household consumption for the whole year. The yield increase will also generate a surplus for sale.

.....
The increasing prices of millets give better returns to the farmers.



IMPACT

Farmers who participated in the program earned an additional income of approx. **Rs 15,000 over a three-month life cycle).** This has boosted the farmer's confidence, who have decided to look at farming with a renewed vigour and energy. They have now realised that farming has the potential to give them a decent income and a life of dignity in their villages without having to migrate.



KITCHEN GARDEN

Growing vegetables to improve health indicators

Raah Foundation distributed a vegetable kit consisting of saplings of Okra, Chillies, Cucumber, Flat green beans, Brinjal, Bitter Gourd, Ridge Gourd and Bottle Gourd to over 1100 families from across 19 villages.

Raah Foundation provided tribals with guidance on the nuances of the kitchen garden. By August, the seeds grew into plants and creepers and soon were full of different vegetables, which the tribal households were consuming with great enthusiasm. Children at home, due to lockdown, are helping their parents pluck the vegetables and are enjoying a unique experience.



COMPACT FARMING

The small hold farmers typically have one acre of arable land through which they earn their livelihood. The farm produce is just barely enough to fulfil their own needs. Income needed for any other family need is met through working as labour in nearby cities.

Increasing livelihood through agriculture from that land needs a different approach. A combination of short-term, mid-term and long-term earning planning using nature's cycles as a guide.

Compact Farming, as an approach, uses a variety of plants in nature to build an economy generating strategy for the same land. The advantage of this is that while the trees and flower plants have a long life of 15 years, most of the fruit trees have medium life and the vegetables are seasonal. So this is a good balanced portfolio approach that can be sustainable over the long term and allows some flexibility to change some part of the plantation over time depending on demand and other conditions.



THE RAAH WAY – DRIVING THE CHANGE

.....
 This requires a capital investment of about Rs 30,000 per farm on average. Farmers have agreed to invest 1/3 of this while the rest would be a grant from Raah Foundation. Over 243 farmers enrolled in the program that started in July. Each farmer was provided with saplings of fruits (50 - 60 saplings of cashew and mango trees) and 150 papaya; 250 saplings of jasmine flowers to be grown on a small plot of 1 - 1.5 acres. To conserve water, these would be fully drip irrigated. Farmers were trained on planting and care of the sapling and the regular maintenance as they grow. With this, the farmer has the potential to boost the economic status of his small land and eventually lift him out of poverty.

.....
Such a compact plantation can give an annual target income of approx Rs 30,000/- increasing up to Rs 70, 000 in 4 years and Rs 1,50, 000 plus in 7-8 years.



STORIES FROM THE FIELD

For the last 15 years, Avinash migrates to Thane district and works on a construction site for around 1.5 months. On earning some money for his family's expenses, he returns to his village to be with his family. Once the money is exhausted, he goes back to the construction site. Working on daily wages means that when there is no job, there is no earning, and the situation for him and his family becomes dire.

He approached Raah Foundation for help to get out of this circle of poverty. The team from Raah Foundation visited him to understand his challenges in agriculture. He learnt that the organisation can not only support him to buy high-quality seeds and saplings but will also provide supplementary support that he may need if he has to review farming as a full-time occupation.

He enrolled himself on RF's FSP in October 2020. Under FSP, Raah Foundation supported Avinash in building a compound around his farm to prevent stray animals from eating the vegetables. He was provided 350 saplings of jasmine, 300 saplings of brinjal, 400 saplings of chillies, and 500 saplings of tomato plants along with seeds of flat beans, okra and radish for his 1-acre plot. He contributed 30% in the expenditure for procuring the compound, high-quality seeds and saplings as per the directive of FSP.

He planted the saplings and seeds in November. He and his family worked hard on his farm, nurturing the newly sown seeds and saplings. The harvest started from January onwards. The farm-fresh, organic produce was sold in the local market and weekly markets in the neighbouring hamlets.

His total earnings from the vegetables in April was approx Rs 60,000. The income from full-time farming enabled him to set off his loan for water pumps in less than a year and also took care of his daily expenditure.

Now Avinash does not want to migrate and despises the idea of being away from his farm. He wants to explore various other crops in the coming years and declares himself a free-willed full-time farmer!

Name: Avinash Dudhad
Age : 36
Hamlet : Vikaswadi
Village : Khoch
Block : Mokhada





Project Adikala

Traditional Art Revival and Rejuvenation

How do you bring traditional indigenous art close to people when the art itself is being lost?
How do you make that art relevant to the urban lifestyle?

Warli Art is one of the oldest traditional art forms from Maharashtra. A tribal indigenous art form, using geometric shapes to tell stories from their lives, Warli Art, unfortunately, has been on a decline as artisans could not commercialise this unique art form. Also, geometrical shapes made them easy to screen, print and copy, leaving the original artisans behind.

WARLI ART STUDIO, JAWHAR
Harvard South Asia Institute and Tata Trusts chose Program Adikala as one of the 50 rural livelihoods in the handicrafts sector. We received a grant for starting the Warli Art studio. Warli Art studio located at Jawhar has become a fulcrum for all original artisans from Jawhar & Mokhada.

In 2020- 21, we worked with 25 artisans, honing their skill in Warli Art and providing market linkages to their niche bespoke handmade and hand-painted products through our affiliate Raah Creative Designs.



IMPACT
Our Warli and fabric art artists had a great year. Their paintings on greeting cards, bags, trays had an overwhelming response from different quarters.
A big feather in the cap was painting Christmas greeting cards for a corporate client in London. "Christmas Special" tote bags, trays, face masks, wine bottle bags. Diwali Special products like Rangoli boards, Eco-friendly lanterns, warli painted silk masks, fabric torans.



Adikala

Traditional Art Revival and Rejuvenation





COLLABORATION WITH CHANDON INDIA

To create awareness among the consumers about Warli Art, Chandon India launched two Limited Edition Gift Boxes – Limited Edition Gift Box with a stopper and Limited Edition Gift Box with a flute. With the aim to create awareness and revive a culturally inspired art form of the Warli Tribe, Chandon India in collaboration with Raah Foundation, introduced the #SAVEWARLI program by way of launching, Limited Edition Gift Box designed by a local Warli Artist.

Like Chandon India, Warli also finds its home in Nashik, Maharashtra which houses the largest tribe found on the northern outskirts of Mumbai in Western India

Designed by one of our Warli artist Prakash Pithole from Jawhar, Palghar District of Maharashtra, the design of the gift box is inspired by one of Chandon's value - 'Everyone Is Welcome At Our Table'. The Chandon Warli Limited Edition Gift Box with a stopper makes for a perfect way to seal and store a bottle of Chandon, thus addressing the part consumption storage concern.

On every purchase, part of the proceeds was donated for a three-month program designed by Raah Foundation to help upskill five women in Warli Art.

On the launch of the #SAVEWARLI program, Sophia Sinha, Head Of Marketing, Moët Hennessy India said, "We are elated to launch this program in collaboration with Raah Foundation which does extensive work with tribal communities in India. Like Chandon, Warli also finds its roots in Nashik and the intertwining similarities between the two have led to the creation of this culturally inspired limited edition gift box. With this, our aim is to educate consumers about Warli Art and seek their support to revive and sustain this art form. This is indeed a first of its kind gift box which is designed in order to lend a voice to a local cause."

The craftsmanship involved in Warli Art and the inspiration it draws from nature and its surroundings resonates with Chandon, thus making this an exciting amalgamation.

Warli Painted face masks have become a rage in Mumbai and our artisans have earned a decent income during Covid by painting Warli characters on these masks.





Project + Soukhya

Raah Foundation works on eradicating malnourishment in the tribal areas of Jawhar and Mokhada. It aims at improving nutrition and health status by reducing rates of acute malnutrition in target communities with a focus on women, infants & young children and other at-risk groups of the population through an integrated, environmentally sustainable approach.

We organized capacity building workshops for the grassroots level functionaries on various topics related to health and nutrition and demonstrated low-cost healthy recipes. This helps in refreshing the knowledge of the functionaries, so they are better able to assist in improving the community members' health and nutritional status. Nutrition education programs include household care practices, including hygiene-sanitation, feeding practices and health-seeking behaviours through the promotion of positive behaviour change.

We undertook screening of women and children to understand better the health problems prevalent in the area, which would be an input for future prioritization. Asha and Anganwadi workers were trained in nutrition for pregnant and lactating mothers.



Addressing malnourishment among children



Project Bloom

As initiative supported by

VIRAT KOHLI FOUNDATION

In January 2021, we launched Project Bloom, an initiative supported by Virat Kohli Foundation, to bridge the nutrition deficit of tribal children.

Healthy and Nutritious snacks are distributed every day of the week to 5000 children under six years of age across 103 Anganwadis in Jawhar & Mokhada.



FOR CHILDREN BETWEEN 2 TO 6 YEARS

- Rice and wheat puff chivda,
- Bananas Qty 2
- Rajgira Ladoo
- Nachni Ladoo
- Peanut Chikki

FOR CHILDREN BETWEEN - 6 MONTHS TO 2 YEARS

- Nachni Biscuits
- Bananas Qty 4
- Nachni Ladoo
- Peanut butter ladoo

The snacks are designed to meet approximately 1/10th of the calorific requirement of the children in the age group of 6 months to 2 years. The snacks are altered between sweet and savoury to keep the children interested in the snacks. The Anganwadis feed the children the snacks. The vehicle sponsored by Pushp Hari Foundation ensures the timely delivery of the food to over 100 anganwadis across Jawhar and Mokhada.

ECO-FRIENDLY CHULHA

Raah Foundation implemented a pilot for installing eco-friendly chulhas (traditional rural cooking stove) in 8 homes. These chulhas designed by a group of IIT alumni reduce the firewood used by a third and, importantly, throw the smoke out of the hut. This has an enormous positive benefit on the health of women and children as inhalation of smoke is essentially eliminated. We plan to scale this up significantly.



TESTIMONIAL

“

माझ्या झाप ग्रामपंचायतीत राह फाऊंडेशन ही संस्था एकात्मिक विकासांतर्गत 2018 पासून कार्यरत आहे. यामध्ये पाणी सकारात्मक आणि टॅकरमुक्त गाव, शाश्वत शेती, महिला सक्षमीकरण, आंगणवाडीतील बालकांसाठी पोषक आहार, आंगणवाडी दुरुस्ती, कचरा व्यवस्थापन, पर्यावरणपूरक चूल अश्या अनेक सामाजिक विषयांवर अत्यंत मोलाचे काम केले आहे. यामुळे गावातील जीवनमान सुधारले असून ग्रामस्थ अत्यंत सुखी आहेत. यासाठी राह फाऊंडेशन संस्थेचे मनःपूर्वक अभिनंदन आणि धन्यवाद!

एकनाथ दरोडा

सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता, झाप ग्रामपंचायत

“

Our CSR committee gave us the mandate to work with the most underprivileged communities and find sustainable solutions to the worst problem they face. Hence working with Raah Foundation was but obvious because of their professionalism, outcome focused and impact driven approach. They help us fulfill our CSR's vision and we continue to work with them year on year.

Kanchan Pednekar

Corporate Donor

“

I started supporting Raah Foundation since 2014, after reading about their "Water Wheels" project in parts of Rural Maharashtra. Since then, I have been a keen follower of the stellar work which Dr. Sarika and her entire team is doing. I hope to be a volunteer on some of their projects someday soon. Keep the great work going Raah Foundation! And I promise to keep the support going!

Nishant Jha

Individual Donor

“

गेली कैक वर्षे आमच्या गावात पाण्याचा तुटवडा आहे आणि त्यामुळे गावात खूप हलाखीची परिस्थिती आहे पाण्याची काहीतरी सोय व्हावी यासाठी ग्रामपंचायत, अनेक सेवाभावी संस्था सगळ्यांकडे मागणी करत होतो पण कोणाकडूनही प्रतिसाद मिळाला नाही. यंदाच्या उन्हाळ्यात राह फाऊंडेशनमार्फत आमच्या गावात बंधारा तयार झाला. व्यावसायिक दृष्टिकोन आणि आदिवासी बांधवांना पाण्याचा समस्येतून बाहेर काढण्याचा ध्यास यामुळे अत्यंत वेगाने झालेला हा बंधारा मजबूत आणि उत्कृष्ट दर्जाचा आहे. आज आमची पाण्याची समस्या हा इतिहास जमा झाली आहे. यासाठी राह फाऊंडेशनला समस्त कोगदाग्रामस्थांकडून मनःपूर्वक धन्यवाद!

महादू भोये

ठाकेचापाडा, ग्रामपंचायत कोगदा, जव्हार येथील ग्रामस्थ.

“

I resonate deeply with tribal communities - their simple living, being happy with the little they have, their art forms, songs, dances and most importantly, living in harmony with nature. Rapid urbanisation has left the tribals severely shortchanged in terms of loss of forest cover and consequent of water scarcity, soil erosion and often displacement from their villages with inadequate compensation. I feel their pain and have been supporting organisations that alleviate their pain in any manner. I have known the founders of Raah Foundation for several years and have visited Jawhar and Mokhada and seen the positive impact that they have made to the lives of tribal communities. I will always continue to support Raah in all their endeavors as they feel the same pain as I do and are working very hard to tilt the scale to balance the injustice meted out to our dear tribal brethren.

Sarayu Kamat

Individual Donor

AWARDS



Year	Conferring organisation	Category	Type	Project
2019	Grant Thornton SABERA	Contribution towards Social Impact under the category of "PARYAWARAN (Environment)		Integrated Development
	Aqua Foundation Excellence award	NGO-Revival of Rural Water Resources		Malhar
2020	Dialogue Palghar CSR summit	Village Development for providing drinking water to 45 villages		Malhar
	Grant Thornton SABERA	Contribution towards Social Impact under the category of "SASHAKTIKARAN (Enablement)"		Malhar
	Aqua Foundation Excellence award	Women in water		Urja
	International Leadership Development Council (ILDC) and Academy of Management Professionals (AMP)	Women Excellence award 2020 Exemplary contribution in the area of Social Entrepreneurship		Malhar
	CMO Global	Global w.o.w. Achievers		Raah Creations Exemplary contribution to the society
2021	Indian Achievers Club	99 Women Achievers of India 2021	Yet to receive	Exemplary contribution to the society

OUR PARTNERS



REACH OUT TO US

Change and development is a collaborative effort. Our journey of over a decade has been possible because of the support of government, institutions, organisations, corporates, communities and individuals.

The journey has just begun, and there is much that needs to be done to make the lives of those underprivileged. Join hands with us in Driving the Change.

Dr Sarika Kulkarni
Founder and Trustee

Contact: +91 98694 40237
sarika@raahfoundation.org

Sonia Rishbood
Head- Operations

Contact: +91 93200 19195
sonia@raahfoundation.org

www.raahfoundation.org <https://www.linkedin.com/company/raahfoundation/>
<https://www.facebook.com/RaahFoundationMumbai> @raah_foundation