



UPL Ltd believes in contributing to harmonious and sustainable development of society and that a company's performance must be measured not only by its bottom line but also with respect to the social contributions made by the company while achieving its financial goals!

SRSAT

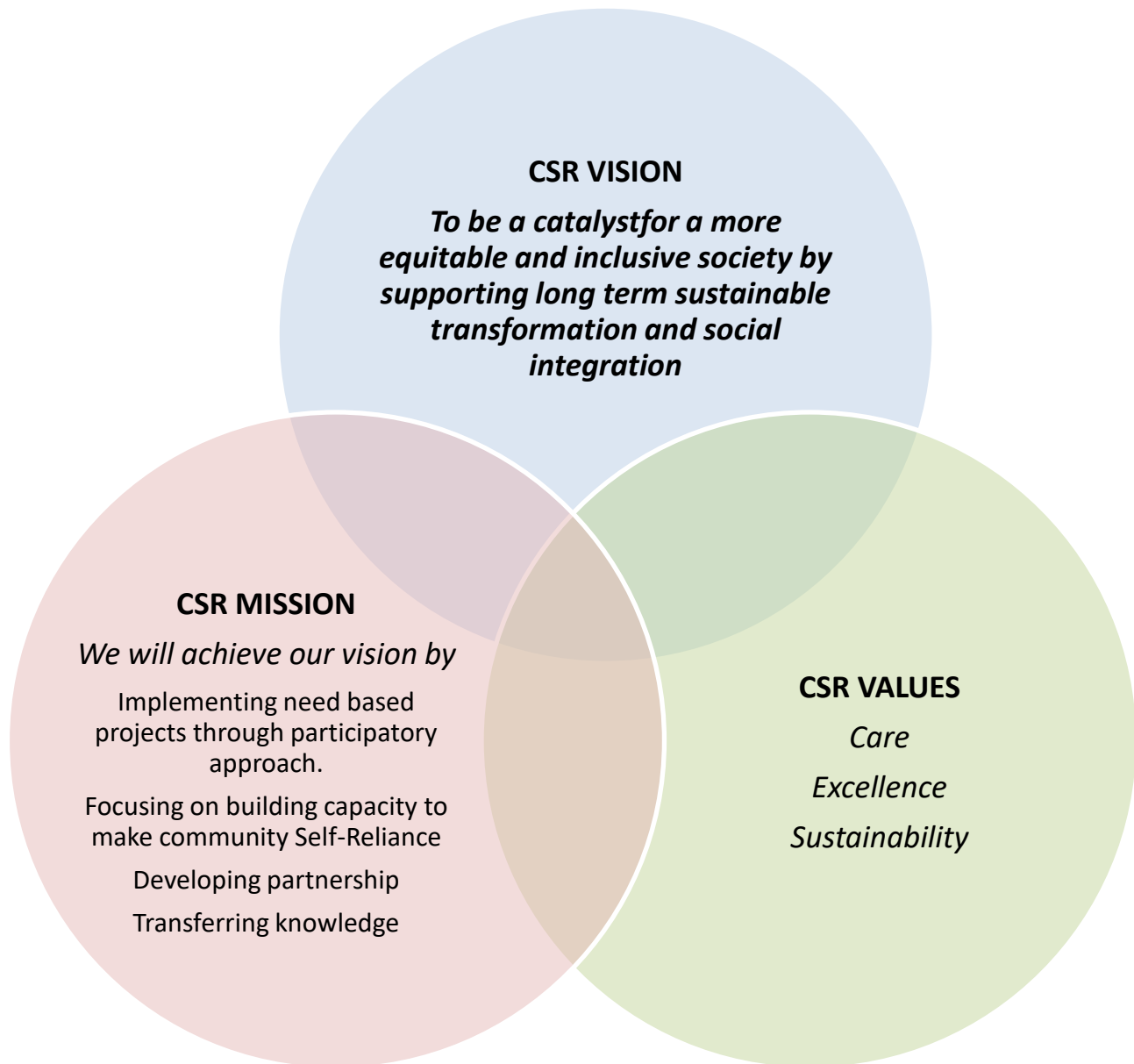
ANNUAL REPORT

2016-17

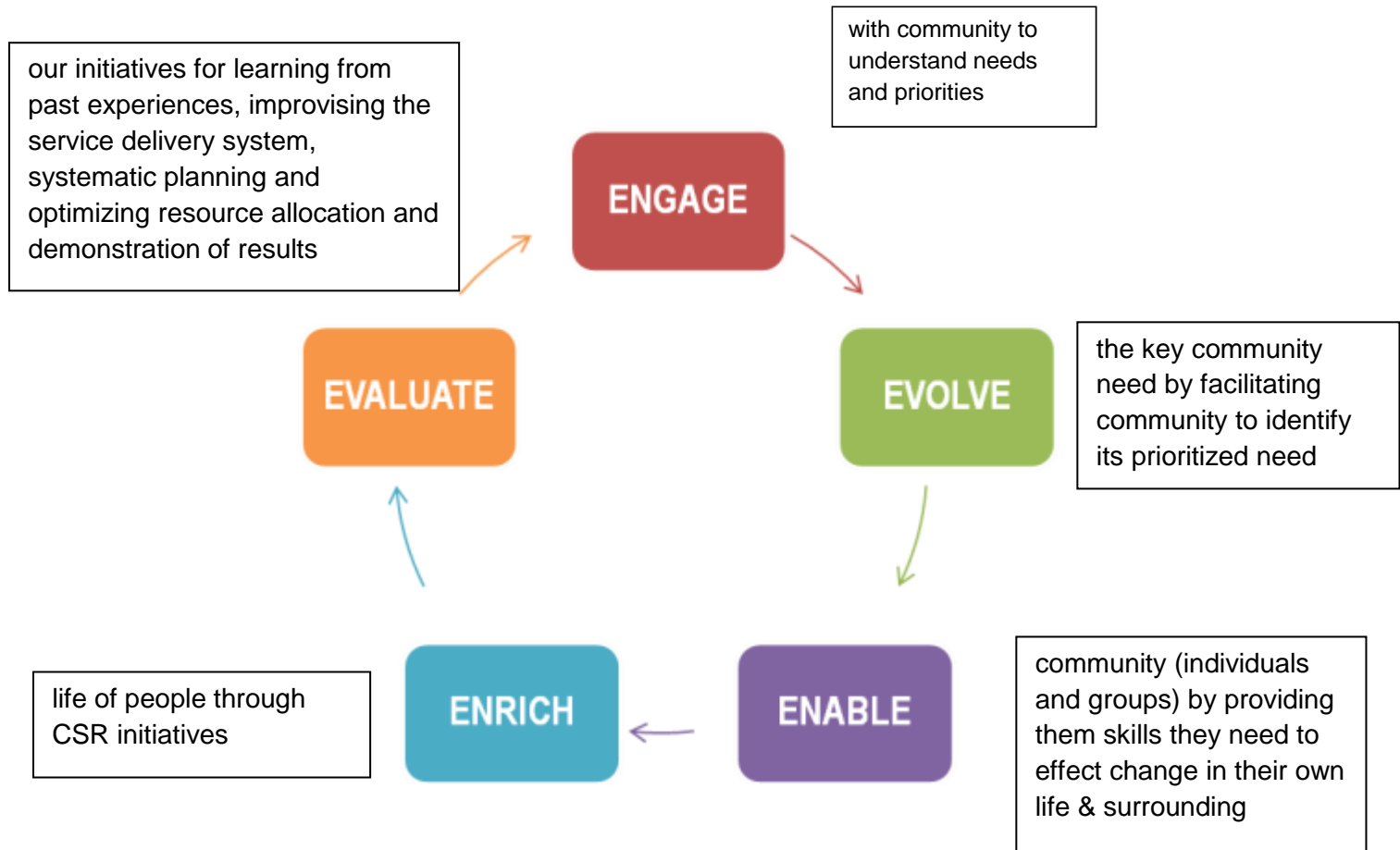
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UPL's CSR



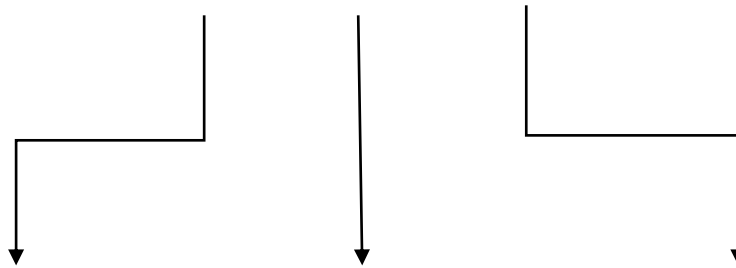
OUR APPROACH



1.0 Agriculture development initiatives: UPL Khedut Pragati Program

Small land holdings, use of traditional farming techniques, high dependence on rain fed irrigation, low use of technology et al have made Indian agriculture a not so profitable venture for the farmers, often forcing them to live a poor quality life , sans hope for growth and development. UPL Ltd is working with the farmers to bring a change in this status quo!

Agriculture Interventions (our approach)



Sustainable Livelihood

It is imperative to raise the agricultural competitiveness of farmers with small land holdings in order to ensure that the sector remains competitive enough to profit the producers.

Capacity Building

It is important to equip the farmers with capacity to positively respond to the changing agricultural environment, through extension support, training on techniques and sharing of best practices. The formation of farmer groups formally organised into an extension structure, assists this process, and can increase group productivity.

Improved Nutrition

To improve the nutritional value of farmer's meals along with improving land productivity. The availability and affordability of diverse and nutritious crops is a challenge adversely affecting the health of the farmer families.

1.1 Sustainable Livelihood from agriculture

UPL Ltd's agri interventions focus on making farming a sustainable and profitable venture for the farmers through the following:

- **Increase in per acre yield of Paddy**
- **Reduction in cost of production**
- **Better natural resource management**

System of Rice Intensification(SRI) is a methodology that encompasses all the above and brings about improvements in land, capital, water and labor simultaneously!

Based on the SRI principle, we have undertaken 2 programs. One is called **UPL AKRSP SRI Project**, which is implemented in partnership with Aga Khan Rural Support Program. Farmers are trained in SRI technology and quality input (seeds and fertilisers) are provided at the appropriate time. Exposure visits to other SRI farms also helps in improving their understanding of the technology.



This initiative was started in the year 2012 and has been instrumental in improving the financial prospects of 1500 farmers in Dang.



Motivated by the results, we decided to take the interventions to more farmers and villages and hence we started **Dang Paddy Development Program** in the year 2013. The program follows the SRI methodology in letter and spirit and is benefitting around 350 farmers today in the Dang district.

A new beginning for Suresh Gaeen!

Life was no bed of roses for Suresh Gaeen, a farmer from Divdiyavan village in Waghai Taluka, where he lives with his family (wife and 2 children). Suresh's family lived on a meagre annual income of Rs 48,000 which was derived from farming on his 3 acres land and the 2 buffalos and 4 cows he had. Suresh like other farmers in his village was growing Paddy in the traditional method which consumed 8-10 kg seeds per acre of land. The cost of weeding and fertilizers was also high. With the average production per acre being 700 kgs, farming was not a very profitable proposition for Suresh. However, like many other farmers in Dang, Suresh had resigned to his fate, till the date he attended a meeting on SRI technology organized by the UPL team. Suresh recalls how he got introduced to the SRI technology and the finer nuances of growing more Paddy per acre of land.

Multiple training sessions at the UPL Center for Agriculture Excellence, meetings with officials and exposure visit to other SRI farms opened the door for him. He recalls that the SRI booklet and Amritpani pamphlets by AKRSP (India) team were really helpful. The financial support from UPL further paved the way for Suresh to adopt the SRI technology.

With the new technology, Suresh saw 35-40 tillers per plant which was much more than the traditional method. The seed requirement also reduced by 40% thereby decreasing the cost of production. Suresh mentions that weeding has also become easier with the cono – weeder. At the same time, production of Paddy grain increased to a whopping 1250 kg per acre (which was 550 kg more than the traditional method). The size of the grain was better which fetched him a better price (Increase of INR 25 per 20 kg of grain).

Suresh feels proud that other farmers in his village look up to him as a progressive farmer and pay more respect now. The increase in purchasing capacity has helped in making life more comfortable for Suresh and his family. Suresh and hundreds of other farmers who have adopted the SRI technology are living a better quality of life today!

1.2 Capacity Building

Our agri intervention strives to build the capacity of the farmers through the following:

- Dissemination of knowledge and best practices
- Application of lab technology to farmers land
- Promoting allied activities (ex- animal husbandry)
- Institutional and infrastructural support

All the agricultural interventions are driven through the farmers group known as **UPL Pragati Sheel Farmers Group**. Orientation programs, exposure visits and trainings are organized keeping in mind the interest of these groups.

The backbone of the Capacity Building Program is the Farmers' Training School now known as UPL Khedut Niyojaniy Kendra. This Kendra was started in the year 2000 and training programs are organized throughout the year for the benefit of the farmers.



In 2016-17, 22 training programs were organized, benefitting 623 farmers.

Till date, more than 13,000 farmers have benefitted by the various trainings and exposure visits at the UPL Center for Agriculture Excellence. Looking at the needs of the training programs, we constructed a new training center at the farm, well equipped with all modern amenities.

UPL Centre for Agriculture Excellence was inaugurated by Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (Independent Charge) GOI and Shri Rajjubhai Shroff, CMD, UPL Limited.

Capacity building initiatives in Ankleshwar/ Jhagadia and Vandri

Activity	Output/Outcome
On farm and off farm agriculture trainings like crop base, IPM (integrated pest management) INM (Integrated Nutrients Management), technological and horticulture training.	588 farmers from 39 villages attended and learnt from the training
Exposure visit to UPL Centre for Agriculture Excellence, KVK Netrang and Pragatisheel farmer's farm	230 farmers from 11 villages became aware of new practices
Visit to Krushi Mela organized by Govt. of Gujarat	18 farmers attended the same
Demonstration of cash crops and vegetable cultivation	15 programs organized
Distribution of Orchard graft to farmers under WADI model	1278 grafts given to 94 farmers across 6 villages
Installation of Mandap System for creeper and climber crop	5 farmers have adopted the system
Installation of Micro Irrigation system	6 farmers are benefitting from the system
Promoting the use of Rotavator for multiple plowing of farm and big spire pump	2 farmers have adopted the system
Agriculture training on crop base and Orchard farming to Vandri cluster	228 farmers from 3 villages learnt from the training
Distribution of Orchard graft to farmers of Vandri cluster	1348 grafts distributed to 92 farmers
Land leveling done on farms of Vandri cluster	25 farmers have levelled their land
Started Animal husbandry AI (artificial insemination) center in Nava kanshiya village	Farmers from 20 villages are impacted positively
Artificial insemination done on animals	390 animals covered

Capacity building initiatives in Dang and Valsad:

Activity	Output/Outcome
1 check dam was repaired at Kutarnachya village in Ahwa, Dang	This will increase the life of the structure and will benefit 25 farmers directly and 50 farmers indirectly.
Provided agri inputs, field level demonstrations, vermin bags distribution and trainings through the BAIF promoted Farmer Cooperatives in Kaprada block of Valsad district	1000 farmer families from 16 villages will benefit from this initiative



Vapi Agriculture Development Project: This initiative was started in 2016 to take the agri development interventions to Vapi area. We formed 10 Pragatisheel Farmers Group across 10 villages. 208 farmers have become members of these groups and benefitted from initiatives like trainings on land levelling and exposure visits to the UPL Centre for Agriculture Excellence.

AdarshMitra Project

AdarshMitra is a joint initiative of CSR and the marketing team to impart knowledge to the village youth about importance of farm mechanization. In phase 1, the project was carried out in states of Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab.

Sr. No.	Location	Training Session
1	Dabawali – 1	3rd and 4th March
2	Abohar	8th and 9th March
3	Sirsa	15th and 16th March
4	Mansa	18th and 19th March
5	Hissar	21st and 22nd March
6	Bathinda	24th and 25th March
7	Fatehabad - 1	27th and 28th March
8	Ganganagar	30th and 31st March
9	Hanumangarh	2nd and 3rd April
10	Malout & Muktsar	5th and 6th April
11	Jalandhar 1 & 2	8th and 9th April 11th and 12th April
12	Dabawali – 2	11th and 12th April

More than 2,500 candidates registered and more than 1,000 candidates went for advance training. The initiative was highly appreciated by the villagers and the government bodies.



Vandri Cluster development project: Walking the last mile....

Vandri is a never heard of land for many even in the district where it is located (Narmada). Being one of the remotest villages in the district, Vandri is cut off from the world like not many. With hardly any infrastructural facilities, health centre or supporting institutions, Vandri is a land where no development has dared to happen.

100% of its inhabitants belong to the Scheduled Tribe and are completely dependent on rain fed agriculture for sustenance. However, the village topography is unsuitable for farming; the average rainfall in the region is 1100 mm on an average. Water management systems are nonexistent and hence water cannot be stored for irrigation. The production of milk is also very low and only suffices the family's requirement. Quality of life in Vandri is very grim. For the survival of their families, farmers are forced to migrate to neighbouring cities for sustenance.

UPL Ltd has decided to walk this last mile and reach out to the residents of Vandri to make life better for them. We started with community meetings, understanding the needs and strengths of the villagers, prioritizing them and forming community based organizations to carry forward the development task.

The following areas were identified for intervention:

1. Water Resource Development and Management
 - a. Building Check Dams, Nala plugging and Bori bund
 - b. Stone bunding, Farm bund etc.
2. Land development through land levelling and improving the fertility of soil
3. Agriculture Development
 - a. Provide better quality agri inputs like seeds, fertilizers etc

- b. Provide knowledge and skills through trainings, exposure visits, demonstrations etc
4. Formation of community based organisations like Farmers Group, Women SHG, Youth Group
5. Promotion of Micro irrigation system

We have already completed the following work in Vandri:

- One check dam has been built
- Two group wells were constructed
- Land levelling has been done in the field of 25 farmers

All the initiatives are implemented with active involvement of village level committee -“The Yahamogi Khedut SewaSahakariMandali Limited” .



1.3 Improved nutrition for the farmers and their families

A majority of the agriculture interventions focus on improving the productivity of land, neglecting the gloomy state of farmer's health and nutrition. UPL Ltd took up this challenge to improve the nutritional value of farmer's meals along with improving land productivity.

Dang Moringa Development Program and UPL BoriBagicha is a step in this direction.

Moringa (commonly known as Drumstick in English) is a vegetable with the highest nutritional value among many types of food. It is a great source of vitamins A, C, iron, potassium, protein and calcium. We distribute high quality Moringa seeds to interested farmers and help them with plantation. Various meetings are conducted where the benefits of eating Moringa are taught.

Similarly, we promote plantation of **BoriBagicha** and Kitchen gardens. BoriBagicha is a technology where vegetable plants are grown in plastics bags requiring minimum space. These light weight bags are portable and hence very convenient for kitchen gardening.

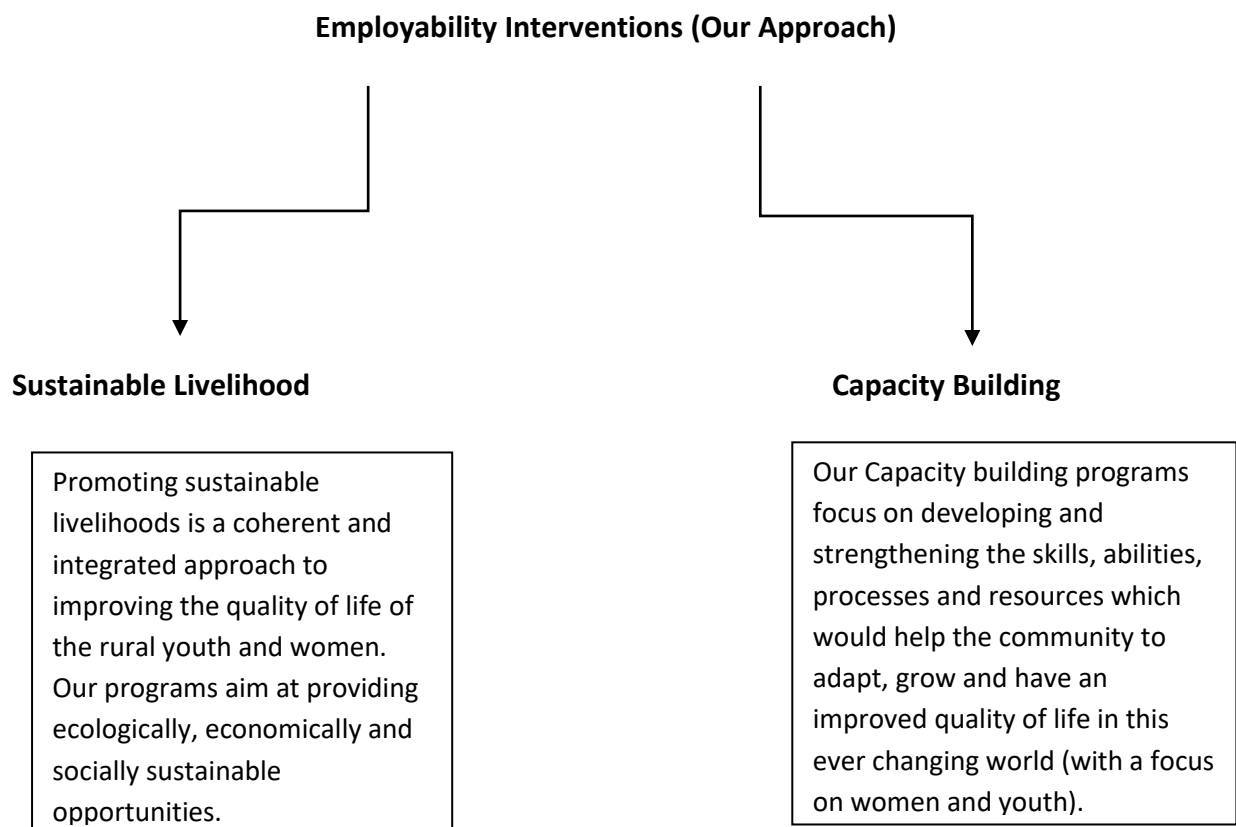
This program has a twin objective of supplementing nutritional value of tribal homes in Dangs and slowly becoming an alternate source of income too! Seeds of vegetables (belonging to the Cucurbita family having high nutritional value) are distributed to the farmers and training is imparted on the up keep of the kitchen garden.

Output/outcome	Moringa Plantation	BoriBagicha
Location	Ahwa	Ahwa, Vapi , Ankleshwar
No. of farmers	19	928



2.0 Employability and Entrepreneurship

In the absence of quality education and employable skills, a majority of the working population gets into unskilled employment for sustenance. The quality of life remains low due to the low income levels. Women too face multiple socio cultural boundaries which limit their choice for financial independence and growth.



2.1 Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods

Capabilities, assets and activities, together form the backbone of any livelihood. To improve the capabilities of the youth in the region we have taken up various programs under the umbrella of Skill Development Initiative.



S R Shroff Aajivika Trust (SRSAT) is a Non-Profit Organization promoted by UPL Ltd. The Trust has promoted and manages 4 skill development centres known as UPL Niyojaniy Kendra, in 3 districts of Gujarat namely Makarpura (Vadodara), Savli (Vadodara), Ankleshwar (Bharuch) and Halol (Panchmahal).

The word “Niyojaniy” means employable. The To provide comprehensive skills training on industry specific skills like welding, fitting, etc. so that the participants can be successfully employed in industries. These centres offer short duration, typically 3-6 months, practical oriented programs, with a focus on Fabrication, Chemical and Electrical sector.

The following table gives the program outcome in the 3 years.

Year	Candidates trained	Candidates placed
2014-15	80	60
2015-16	380	215
2016-17	357	204

ITI Partnership in PPP (Public Private Partnership) mode: UPL Pragati has partnered with ITI Surat (Women) and ITI Amod in Chemical Sector of Bharuch district. The objective is to share our technical knowhow and capabilities with these institutes and help them become world class organizations. With this intervention, we introduced new trades in the institutes, provided technological innovations such as simulators to create better impact of training.



2.2 Capacity Building

Our Capacity Building programs aim at equipping individuals (with a strong focus on women) with the understanding, skills and access to information, knowledge and training that enables them to perform effectively. We have taken up multiple interventions to build capacity of the youth and women!

Our flagship program **UPL Udyamita** has been started in partnership with UMA (Utkarsh Mahila Mandal, an NGO working actively in Dang district). The objective is to form and strengthen Self Help Groups and promote entrepreneurship through these groups.

We are currently working in the following areas:

- A. Umergam and Pardi Taluka of Valsad District
- B. Ankleshwar and Jhagadia Taluka of Bharuch District

Initiatives undertaken	Output/Outcome in Valsad	Output/Outcome in Ankleshwar
No. of SHGs formed	44	44
No. SHG members	626	515
No. of villages covered (Block/District)	24 in Pardi and Umergam block	9 in Ankleshwar and Jhagadia block
Cumulative savings (Amount in INR)	15,75,400	15,92,772
No. of SHGs who have started inter loaning	42	26
No. of SHGs with financial linkage	31	13
No. of trainings organized on record/book keeping	44	8
No. of SHG/ individual members involved in income generation activity	31 SHGs /234 Individual members	41 SHGs /206 Individual members
No. of trainings organized on income generation and financial inclusion	55	26



A new life for Jagruti Patel and countless other women!

This is the story of Jagruti Patel, who like many women in rural India are living a dignified life, thanks to the UPL Udyamita program. Self Help Groups or SHGs have become a household name impacting the lives of women and the society at large.

Jagruti was not born with a silver spoon in her mouth, nor did she acquire much knowledge and skills during her growing years. Married to a small farmer in Kubhariya village of Pardi Taluka, Jagruti had resigned to her fate, which had given her a meagre income of Rs 1500- 2000 per month to live on. Life was difficult till the day Jagruti got introduced to Dhyey Utkarsh Group. She came to know about the SHG concept and the benefits associated with the same. She promptly decided to become a member and in 2014 embarked on a new journey (starting with a saving of Rs 100 per month).

Through the course of time, Jagruti became interested in starting an enterprise. She had attended many training programs on entrepreneurship (organized by UPL team) and had been on a number of exposure visits. Jagruti learnt the nuances of business and decided to start selling Papad (an Indian snack) which was made by her group members. She took a loan of Rs 7,000 from the group and started her business. She went door to door selling Papad and also sold some quantity through the village shops. Jagruti realised that the profits she received in this business were not rewarding enough. So she decided to start her own manufacturing. In one of her exposure visits, Jagruti had seen a Papad making unit and she had learnt the finer nuances from there. Confident of starting her own unit, Jagruti employed 2-3 SHG members too. Jagruti has displayed the traits of a good businesswoman, never compromising on quality. Villagers swear by the quality of her Papad and today she gets orders to the tune of 15- 20 kg per day. This helps her in earning a monthly income of Rs 5000- 8000.

Jagruti has become a confident woman now. She takes care of her business dealings, performs banking operations, gives her opinion in village meetings and is effectively contributing to the growth of other women too! Jagruti is on a path that only leads to success through hard work, dedication and confidence!

Skill Based Entrepreneurial Development Program is another capacity building initiative which has been giving positive results. This is a holistic program that incorporates all the components of entrepreneurial development. To improve the effectiveness of the program, we have included both technical and life skills aspects. This program provides trainings to set up both farm and non - farm based enterprises.

Around 800 participants have got trained under this initiative till date!



Enterprise	Training Focus	Duration of training	Number of training programs	Number of Participants
Stitching and Tailoring	Selection of raw material, efficient use of tools, pattern making, designing etc.	3 Months	1	21
Poultry Rearing	Knowledge of breed selection, production system, management practices and cost of production	2 days	6	117
Agriculture Inputs	Selection of seeds, chemicals, costing, marketing and packaging	1 day	3	68

UPL Goatery Project: Initiated in 2016-17, this project aims at providing an alternate means of income generation to the poorest of the poor. Goat husbandry is ideally suited for this group because of short gestation period, low capital investment, low cost of maintenance and growing demand for its milk and meat. Around 40 families have been covered under the project. Goats were distributed to the target group of women and training programs were organized to provide guidance for animal rearing, vaccination, de-worming, and improvement in feeding standards, weight monitoring and record keeping.



Light Bulb Centre – Skills for a brighter future @ Mumbai

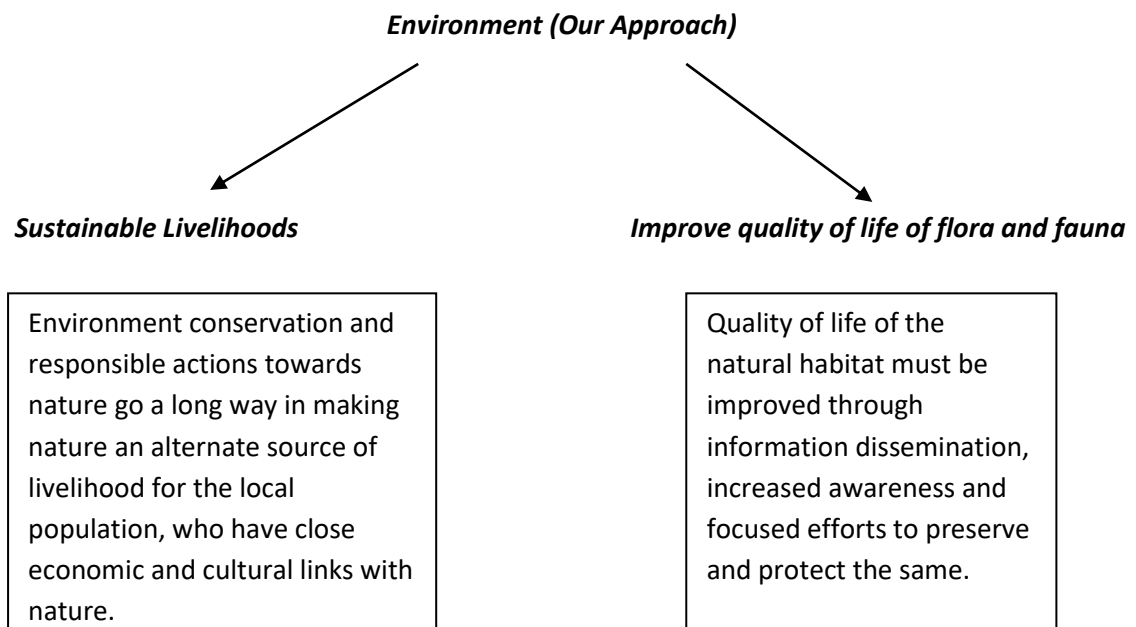


In 2016-17, we worked closely with our Partner Agency (Enriched Learning Solution) to bridge the education to employment gap of the youth in Mumbai. The project aimed at providing key workplace skills to college students belonging to the economically challenged communities. A number of training programs were organized on themes like performing in interviews, developing confidence, communication skills etc. 231 students benefitted from the above training programs.

3.0 Environment and Nature Conservation

UPL Vasudha

Depleting forest lands, high levels of pollution (air, water and noise), decreasing sensitivity towards nature and irresponsible actions have been disturbing the ecological balance in the region which can have long term repercussions.



Eco Clubs: Children are the flag bearers of our future. They must be made sensitive towards the environment and responsible towards actions which impact the surrounding. The objective of this program is to make the young generation conscious about the importance of nature preservation and conservation and inculcate good practices amongst them.

Eco or Vasudha Clubs have been formed in schools and students participate in environment related activities through these clubs.

District	No. of Eco Clubs	No. of students
Ankleshwar/Jhagadia	15	1800
Vapi	50	3258

Initiatives undertaken by the Eco Clubs:

Activity Undertaken	Output - Ankleshwar/ Jhagadia	Output- Vapi
Distribution of saplings	7380 saplings	1000 saplings
Exposure visits were organized to UPL Centre for Agriculture Excellence and Zandu's Medicinal Garden in Vapi for school students	320 students got aware about medicinal plants and farming	1049 students and 48 teachers benefitted from the exposure visits
Plantation of BoriBagicha in schools	Children from 8 schools got aware about the concept and benefits of BoriBagicha	10 schools participated in the same
Developed medicinal/ ornamental garden in schools	Not undertaken	Children from 9 schools got aware about medicinal and ornamental plants through the garden
Awareness programs like drawing competitions, elocution, quiz etc organized	477 students from 15 schools got sensitized about nature and its importance	1685 students from 30 schools benefitted
Interactive session with students and screening of film on environment	22 sessions were organized across 15 schools	1815 students from 25 schools participated and learnt
We celebrate various days like World Forestry Day, World Water Day, World Environment Day, World Ozone Day with students and the community every year.		



Green Ganesha Workshops

UPL Ltd in association with Parisar Asha took the environment initiative to school children in Vapi and Mumbai through the Green Ganesha Workshops. This year the programme was implemented in 21 schools in Mumbai, sensitizing 2520 children about the ill effects of POP idols. The materials used extensively for the creation of Ganesha idols create havoc in the environment. Hence a need to use more ecofriendly Ganesha idols. This initiative creates awareness within the society to stop this idol humiliation & environmental pollution. This workshop also provides joy and satisfaction of creating Ganesha from ecofriendly shadu clay and acts as a stress buster for the participants.



All these workshops were held in different schools in Mumbai over a period of one month.

Children were extremely happy to attend these workshops. They were hugely benefitted by the short interactive sessions during the workshops, where they were educated about the environmental pollution caused due to POP idols and toxic colors. At the end of each session, a bubbly crowd left with their creative geniuses and a pledge to put an end to this environmental humiliation and work towards the restoration of their Mother Earth with the same devotion and dedication with which they usher their dear 'Bappa' every year.

Sarus Conservation Project, Vadodara

Gujarat is home to a vulnerable, resident species of Cranes called Sarus Cranes. These are found in Ahmedabad, Anand, Baroda and Kheda districts. Sarus Crane (*Grus antigone*), a resident species is known to use wetlands and agriculture fields and live in association with human beings. The major threat to Sarus crane in India is habitat loss and degradation due to draining wetland and conversion for agriculture, construction of roads, housing colonies, and railway lines. More recently, many deaths have been recorded due to collision with power lines. The long-term conservation of the species that inhabits human surroundings outside protected areas requires community protection initiatives and education and awareness programs in the major breeding, foraging and roosting areas.

UPL Ltd has decided to work on their preservation through the Sarus Conservation Project.

This project was initiated in the year 2015 with multiple objectives:

- To assess the status of Sarus crane's presence in selected districts of Gujarat
- To identify and understand their preferred habitat
- To gauge the various threats these birds face and work towards eradicating these threats

Assessing status of Sarus Cranes: All the interventions in this program are based on the surveys and documentation done on the status and number of Sarus cranes in the region. (Congregation sites, nesting sites, numbers etc).

Awareness generation amongst students and farming community: Our awareness generation program focuses on students and farming community. They are imparted information on Sarus cranes, its habitat and importance through documentary in Gujarati. Posters, pamphlets, slide shows, lectures, posters and presentation talks are organized in the crane breeding areas. Drawing competition, spot quizzes and movie screenings are also done to spread awareness amongst the students.

Rural Sarus Protection Groups: These are community based groups who work towards a common objective of Sarus Protection. All the conservation efforts are driven through these groups.



Activities undertaken in 2016-17:

Activity Undertaken	Output/Outcome
<p>Awareness generation programs:</p> <p>Bird watching trips</p> <p>Nature education camps</p> <p>Wild life week programs</p> <p>Community Meetings</p> <p>Training workshops</p> <p>Interactive sessions</p> <p>Lectures and talks</p> <p>Movie screenings</p> <p>Drawing competitions, rangoli making competitions, quizzes and more.</p>	<p>650 villagers (including farmers and others) from more than 20 villages have been made aware by the initiative</p> <p>This led to reporting of 15 nests from agriculture fields and successful fledging of 28 juveniles</p> <p>1705 students and 89 teachers from 30 schools were made aware through these activities</p>
Workshop for Rural Sarus Protection Groups	12 Rural Sarus Protection Groups comprising 35 volunteers were formed and trained in documentation, handling of injured birds and linked with state forest department for future support and sustainability
Surveys were undertaken in all the tehsils of Kheda and Vadodara to study distribution of Sarus crane and their nesting and breeding success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forty six wetlands in Kheda, Anand and Vadodara district were documented during the surveys. The study documented 500 Sarus cranes from Kheda district of Gujarat. Three winter congregation sites were identified. 120 Sarus cranes were sighted in one flock in Limbasi (highest sightings till date by the team). Eight summer congregation (April, 2017) sites were identified. 170 Sarus cranes were sighted at the Gobrapura Lake. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During 2016-2017 nesting season, 26 nests were documented. 36 chicks hatched out. <p>Major congregation sites and important breeding sites were documented too</p>
Recognition program organized for Rural Sarus Protection group members	56 members (volunteers / farmers / teachers) from 23 villages were recognized with appreciation certificate and T-shirt
1000 posters and 4000 leaflets were prepared in local language and Hindi for distribution during awareness programs	The community was informed about Sarus cranes breeding cycle, their role in agriculture, threats to the species and conservation measures to be taken for the survival and protection of species

We celebrated the following events with much fan fare throughout the year with the target community:

1. World Wetland day
2. World Biodiversity Day
3. Wildlife Week
4. World Forestry Day
5. World Environment Day

Sarus in his fields and heart too!

Chhota Bhai is a farmer from Vastana village in Kheda block. He is a real life hero for the Sarus cranes. He grows Paddy and Wheat on his land. Sarus cranes have been regularly visiting his fields since some time now. Though Chhota Bhai never cared for the birds earlier, he didn't harm them either. It was sometimes in 2015 that he got to attend some of the awareness programs conducted by UPL's CSR team in his village. He became fascinated by the wonderful bird and decided to do something. He became a regular in all the meetings and programs on Sarus Conservation and soon became a member of the Rural Sarus Protection Group in his village. He underwent various training programs and workshops on Sarus conservation. Along with his knowledge, his love for the bird grew too. He has been instrumental in providing information on nesting's, pairs, congregation sites etc. He actively spreads awareness about the bird and convinces his fellow farmers not to disturb the breeding pairs in the nesting season. Chhota Bhai has been responsible for successful fledging of 5 juveniles from 3 nests in his farm land and others. He is a true hero indeed!

UPL Social Forestry Project @ District Bharuch

Social forestry means the management and protection of forests and afforestation of barren and deforested lands with the purpose of helping in the environmental, social and rural development. The government has been trying to increase forest areas that are close to human settlement and have been degraded over the years due to human activities. Under Social Forestry the community is encouraged to plant trees in village common land, government wasteland and Panchayat land. Social forestry also aims at raising plantations by the common man so as to meet the growing demand for timber, fuel wood, fodder, etc., thereby reducing pressure on traditional forest areas. Social Forestry also formally recognises the local communities' rights to forest resources and encouraging rural participation in the management of natural resources.

Through this initiative, UPL Ltd. aims to involve community participation, as part of a drive towards afforestation and rehabilitating the degraded forest and common lands.

Social Forestry in Ankleshwar, Jhagadia and Vagra block: UPL Ltd is working with the Gram Panchayat in the above mentioned areas for social forestry project in the community

land which has not been used for long. In this project, we are constructing bore wells, setting up solar system water pumps and micro irrigation systems to ensure continuous irrigation and thereby growth of the plants. A MOU has been signed with the community regarding the upkeep and management of the forest.

Mangrove Plantation in Vagra block: Under the initiative, we planted 1, 20,000 Mangrove plants spread across 60 acres of land in Vagra block. Mangroves not only help in preventing soil erosion but also act as a catalyst in reclaiming land from seas.



UPL Social Forestry Project Summary

S. No.	Plantation Location / Area	No. of Plants	Area in Acre
1	Tree plantation at village school of Ankleshwar	8710	19.80
2	Tree plantation at village school of Jhagadia	4675	10.63
3	Horticulture plantation on farmer's land in Ankleshwar and Jhagadia	1445	5.78
4	Horticulture plantation on farmer's land in Vandry village	4756	19.02
5	Trees plantation in Gauchar land	29150	61.5
Total		48736	116.72



Moving ahead

2016-17 has been a rewarding year. Together with the community and our partners, we achieved what we had set out for and more. However, we at UPL believe that development must become a self sustaining virtuous circle, which moves on its own with minimal external intervention. Our approach in future will be to make all our programs self sustaining. The previous years have already set the tone for the same. A lot of groundwork has already been done. Community based organizations have been set up in the villages, youth and women are getting equipped everyday and synergistic partnerships have been formed with likeminded individuals and organizations.

The coming year will see a lot of consolidation of efforts. We will be focussing on strengthening our programs through working on the needs and strengths of the community and our partners. We intend to work on clusters as units of development. These clusters will be treated as self sustaining units which will see focussed efforts for all round development. Farmers, youth and women will form the vehicles of growth.

We will establish more linkages and work with spirited partners to reach to a wider audience. The experience of working with Global Parli Project and Unnati was very enriching and fruitful. Such synergies create a lot of value for all stakeholders and hence need to be expanded.

At the micro level, we will continue our efforts with renewed vigour. Group level enterprises have not yielded expected results in the past and hence more emphasis will be given to form individual level enterprises for SHG members. More youth will be trained in employable skills with emphasis on agri and allied activities. Social forestry will receive a lot of attention in Vasudha with focus on planting and upkeep of trees on community land.

The coming years will bring a lot of promise for change and responsibility to deliver the same with the community. All stakeholders will realise their roles and play their parts to the optimal. Together we can bring the change and we will!

WE WELCOME YOUR FEEDBACK ON OUR PROGRESS AND THE CHALLENGES WE FACE.

Send your feedback to- rishi.pathania@uniphos.com