

Annual Progress Report

April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021

Aadarsh Panchayat Bhandari and Humari Paathshaala Project

Sitamarhi, Bihar

Submitted to
PTC Foundation Trust

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SUMMARY

S M Sehgal Foundation in collaboration with *PTC foundation* and *Power Finance Corporation Limited* under their CSR initiative is managing a project *Aadarsh Panchayat Bhandari* in the villages of Manchi, Bhandari and Makhnaha (which all come under the Bhandari Panchyat), since 2018. Community participation is at the core of the project, as true and sustainable development can only be achieved through this.

The project focuses on effective village development through promoting farm mechanization in agriculture and providing farm machinery at subsidized rates, conducting village leadership schools and women leadership schools, organizing Health Hygiene and Sanitation programs and setting up Digital Literacy center. The project is a platform for the village community to voice their opinions and also to make them aware of various government schemes and help them access these services.

The project is divided into 4 parts – Aadarsh Panchayat Bhandari, Hamari Paathshaala, Addendum I and Addendum II. Nearly 10,000¹ villagers are benefiting from various project activities.

PROGRESS OF THE YEAR AT A GLANCE (1 APRIL 2020 – MARCH 31, 2021)

Activity	Achievement for Year
Aadarsh Panchayat Bhandari	
Farm Mechanization – Zero Tillage Machine	Area Covered – 217.08 acres
Reduced Drudgery – Solar Spray Machine	9 machines distributed
Reduced Drudgery – Hand Maize Sheller	Distributed to 159 beneficiaries
Nutrition and Crop Protection Demonstration – Wheat	60 Demonstrations Area Covered – 27.27 Acres
Nutrition and Crop Protection Demonstration – Maize	21 Demonstrations Area Covered – 4.77 Acres
Nutrition and Crop Protection Demonstration – Paddy	47 Demonstrations Area Covered – 21.36 Acres
Nutrition and Crop Protection Demonstration – Mustard	60 Demonstrations Area Covered – 13.63 Acres
Capacity building of Farmers – Field Level	52 Field Days with 924 participants
Capacity building of Farmers – Thematic Training	49 Trainings with 665 farmers

¹ They may be overlap in numbers between villagers who received benefits and also received trainings.

Kitchen Garden	Kits distributed to 344 Families
Village Leadership School (VLS) and Community Meetings	9 VLS set up, having 241 selected villagers. 497 VLS trainings conducted on various themes.
Ward Level Meetings and Planning	102 meetings with 1630 participants
Hygiene and Sanitation session	255 sessions with 1586 participants
Soak Pit	3 units completed
Digital Literacy Centre	2 batches running with 25 students
Experience Sharing and Learning – Stakeholders Meeting	1 meeting with 57 participants
Hamari Paathshaala	
School Construction	Construction of the school building completed, smart class installed, furniture procured, solar system installed in both the schools. Both the schools handed over to the school management.
Addendum I	
Village cleanliness	2 garbage collecting rickshaws, collecting waste from about 350 households daily
Installation of Common dustbins	26 common dustbins installed
Distribution of Bamboo Baskets for collecting organic waste from households	459 units distributed
Sanitation Drives	215 sanitation drives
Rejuvenation and Beautification of 2 village ponds	Contractor for pond construction has been finalized for Machi pond and tender awarded, Temple pond construction in progress

AADARSH PANCHAYAT BHANDARI

Farm Mechanization

Farm Mechanization is the need of the hour. In many villages in India, farmers are still using old and traditional methods of farming which results in high cost and low production.



➤ Zero Tillage Machine

Zero tillage machine helps in the line sowing of the crop and also reduces the cost of cultivation. With the help of four zero tillage machines provided in the Bhandari Panchayat, an area of **217.08 acres was covered for wheat sowing** last year.

Nutrition and Crop Demonstrations

Crop demonstrations were held in the fields of selected farmers in Bhandari Panchayat for **paddy, wheat, maize, and mustard**, to supplement the gap in knowledge and informing the farmers on the benefits of using good quality seed and balanced fertilizers.

➤ Paddy Demonstration

Nutrition and crop demonstration for Paddy was provided to **47 farmers**. The size of one demonstration was 10 *kattha*² (0.45 acre). Micro-nutrients were provided for the demonstration plot i.e., in 10 *kattha* (0.45 acre) (Boron-1000 gm, Zinc-1000gm, Sulphur-2kg and Potash-15kg), along with the necessary pesticides.



➤ Wheat Demonstration

² 1 Acre is equal to 22 Kattha

Nutrition and crop demonstration for wheat was provided to **60 farmers**. The size of one demonstration was 10 *kattha* (0.45 acre) and good quality seed was provided for the entire 10 *kattha* (0.45 acre) i.e., for both the control and demonstration plots (total 20 kg). While micro-nutrients were provided for only the demonstration plot i.e. in 5 *kattha* (0.22 acre) (Boron-500gm, Zinc-500gm, Sulphur-1kg and Potash-7.5 kg), along with the necessary pesticides.



➤ Maize Demonstration

Nutrition and crop demonstration for maize was provided to **21 farmers**. The size of one demonstration was 5 *kattha* (0.22 acre) and good quality seed was provided for the entire 5 *kattha* (0.22 acre) i.e. for both the control and demonstration plots (total 1.5 kg). While micro-nutrients were provided for only the demonstration plot i.e., 2.5 *kattha* (0.11 acre) (Boron-250gm, Zinc-250gm, Sulphur-500gm, and Potash-5kg), along with the necessary pesticides.



➤ Mustard Demonstration

Nutrition and crop demonstration for mustard was provided to **60 farmers**. The size of one demonstration was 5 *kattha* (0.22 acre) and good quality seed was provided for the entire 5 *kattha* (0.22 acre) i.e., for both the control and demonstration plots (total 300gm). While micro-nutrients were provided for only the demonstration plot i.e., 2.5 *kattha* (Boron-250gm, Zinc-250gm, Sulphur-500gm, and Potash-2.5kg), along with the necessary pesticides.

Capacity Building of farmers

Famer's trainings become more interesting and fruitful when done on the fields. During "on-field trainings" farmers are practically able to see, discuss and understand the differences between farming systems. Here they are also told the reasons for the differences. This year **52 field level trainings** were organized, in which **924 farmers** participated. These trainings were in the demonstration fields of paddy, wheat, maize and mustard.



Thematic Training of Farmers

To supplement the gap in knowledge and skills, **49 trainings** were conducted where **665 farmers** participated. These trainings were on seed management and seed treatment, fertilizer management and use of micro-nutrients and cultivation practices of mustard, maize, wheat and mustard.



Drudgery Reduction of Farmers

➤ Solar Spray Machine

To reduce the drudgery of farmers who manually spray pesticides in the fields, **09 solar spray machines** were distributed. With the help of solar spray machines now farmers can spray the crops easily and evenly, which help in better protection from pests and provide better crop output.

➤ Hand Maize Sheller

Maize is substantially cultivated in the project villages of Bihar. Shelling of the maize is mostly done by women and it is a task of much drudgery as well as is time-taking. So, hand maize shellers have been provided to **159 beneficiaries** in the Bhandari Panchayat.

Kitchen Garden

To promote the consumption of nutrition-rich vegetables for improving food security, kitchen garden kits having 8 seasonal vegetable seeds, were provided to **344 households**. These households generally do not partake adequate vegetables due to high prices. It also becomes a source of additional cash for the female members of the family.



Improving Village Governance

➤ Village Leadership School (VLS)

Village Leadership Schools provides community based structured training programs that educates villagers about pivotal government programs. Community members also learn how to apply for and claim these rights and entitlements, and how to appeal against any delays and denials to the appropriate government officials. **9 VLS with 241**



participants have been formed in the project villages, which makes villagers aware of selected government schemes and programs. This year **497 VLS** sessions were organized in the project area. In the year these **VLS helped 73 community members** in getting the benefits of different Government Schemes like *Pradhanmantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana*, Old Age Pension Scheme and Handicap Pension Scheme.

➤ Ward Level Meetings and Planning

Ward level meetings are a platform where ward members as well as community members gather to discuss issues in wards and together plan out solutions to problems as well as general improvements. The project team appraises the participants in the ward meetings about the roles and responsibilities of various members on the development of the ward. **102 meetings with 1630 participants** were organized during this year.

Hygiene and Sanitation

The project team in cooperation with the community organized **255 sessions** in the villages to raise awareness about the importance of hygiene and sanitation and keeping the environment and surroundings clean. **1586 villagers** participated in these sessions and also urged fellow villagers to join them in promoting hygiene and keeping their surroundings clean.

Soak Pits

The absence of a proper drainage system results in accumulation of wastewater which affects the environment around it as well the community giving birth to various waterborne diseases like malaria, diarrhoea etc. So, to address the problem, Soak pits have been **installed at 3 households** which works on the simple process of filtration. Soak Pits are cost efficient as well as sustainable as they collect the wastewater and discharge it back to the ground thereby effectively recharging groundwater. It is located underground and provides a feasible solution of waste water treatment. Soak pits are a cost effective and sustainable means to dispose wastewater, and direct it underground.



Digital Literacy Centre

Digital Literacy and e-learning is the most effective way of gaining access to information and opportunities. **2 batches with 25 students** are in progress and shall be completed by April 2021. The idea of digital literacy center is to make the students digitally literate and expose them to power of this technology for their personality development as well help them with their future endeavours. As of now, female students have outnumbered male students, which includes married women as well.



Stakeholders Meeting

On 4 February 2021, a stakeholders meeting was organized at *Rajkiya Buniyadi Vidyalaya Bhandari*. This meeting was attended by School staff of *Rajkiya Buniyadi Vidyalaya- Bahndari & Prathmik Vidyalaya Dyodhi guest house*, Panchayat representatives (*Mukhiya, Sarpanch & ward members*) Sehgal Foundation team, Renowned persons from the Panchayat and nearby Panchayats and community members.



The stakeholder meeting was organised for handing over the school assets and infrastructure developed to the community and also to discuss the sustainability of the project. Elected representatives from the villages shared their experience of working in this project and also the impact of the project as seen by the villagers.

HUMARI PAATHSHAALA

School Construction

To make the government schools of Bhandari safe, healthy and interesting the project team is renovating **2 schools** in Bhandari Panchayat. BALA (Building As a Learning Aid) accreditation is being used – due to which the class rooms, floors, walls, pillars, corridor and outer spaces will be a source of learning. BALA will help in strengthening the language, communication and numerical skills of students through examples as well as increase their awareness towards nature and environment.



Under the initiative “Hamari Pathshaala” Manchi and Bhandari schools will have better classrooms, safe drinking water, toilets, solar panels, and digital literacy classes.



There are 8 new classrooms constructed at “Rajkiya Buniyadi Vidyalaya” in Bhandari along with new toilet block, hand washing cum drinking water platform and smart classes. Also, a solar power system is installed to supply uninterrupted power supply to school and furniture is provided to school.

8 new classrooms are constructed for students so that weather will not be a problem in studies. BALA painting in class rooms and veranda adds more to the classes. Students can learn many things from the wall paintings done in class rooms and veranda. Also, few children friendly learning structure is made in the school premises to let children learn practically.

The school is provided with furniture for students as well as teachers. Desk bench is provided for students of class 1 to 5 and 6 to 8. Chair and table for teachers, chair and table for principal, Almira for school and computer table and chairs are also provided to the school. Child Friendly elements has also been constructed within the school.

A new toilet block is built which have separate toilets for boys, girls and school staff. Water facility is provided in the toilet. It will help students to stay in school.

A smart class is installed in the school to make learning fun and interactive. Smart Classes use digital technology to enhance the learning process. Audio and visual aids will enhance the learning process and make it more fun which can help in increasing the attendance in school. Also, it will be easy and fun for teachers to teach students.



Also, a solar power system is installed in the school which is able to provide uninterrupted electricity to the school. Now the school need not to worry about the electricity.

In primary school, Dyodhi Guest House also, a toilet block is constructed which have separate toilets for the students and teachers. The school is provided with the furniture which includes desk and bench for students, Table and chairs for teachers, Almirah for school and computer table and chairs. This school is also equipped with smart class and solar power system.

ADDENDUM I

Household Waste Management

Household waste management is a serious issue in India including in the villages. Villagers have no dumping points and they throw garbage here and there which affects the environment and the health of the people.

To address this issue, the project team has organized **2 garbage collecting rickshaws** for the Bhandari Panchayat to make door to door visits to gather non-decomposable solid waste like polythene bags, bottles, medicine wrappers and pesticides, and is aggregating them in a safe place.

The 2 rickshaws visit about all the wards of the village. Before the rickshaws started, awareness was generated among the villagers about the different types of waste and disposal of waste.

Installation of Common Dustbins

The market place, common places and empty spaces in the village are often found to be full of filth. To address this issue, the project team has installed **26 common dustbins** in the Bhandari Panchayat. These dustbins are placed at the village market, community places, temples, ponds and intersections in the Bhandari Panchayat. Villagers were made aware of the solid waste management



practices before the installation of these common dustbins. The garbage collecting rickshaws collect the waste material from these common dustbins regularly.

Bamboo Basket for disposal of household organic waste

In villages, people often throw their green waste on streets and fields. So, the project team has introduced bamboo baskets which are placed in pits and are partially underground. Households put their green waste in the bamboo basket which is 4 feet high with a diameter of 2 feet.

A decomposer is introduced into the waste due to which it is converted into compost and can be used in kitchen gardens and fields.

459 bamboo baskets have been distributed to selected families who are now collecting their daily decomposable waste there. This intervention also benefits families who make bamboo products.

Sanitation Drives

To raise awareness on the importance of sanitation and keeping the surroundings clean, the project team together with the community members organized **215 sanitation drives** in Bhandari. The objective of the drives was to gain the participation of the community in practicing and promoting hygiene and sanitation. The community members who participated in the drive urged fellow villagers to join them in promoting hygiene and keeping their surroundings clean.



Rejuvenation and beautification of two village ponds

Rejuvenation of the two village ponds is one of the core element of the project. Technical team from Sehgal Foundation completed the layout of the civil work on site and hence the civil work is in progress.

The tender process for the Manchi pond has also been completed and tender awarded



Conclusion

The PTC, PFC funded project in Bhandari, Belsand, Sitamarhi focusses on all aspects of human development. Along with this rejuvenation of water bodies is also a critical component of the project. We as implementing partners have completed all the activites of the project and have also started discussion about the sustainability of the project.