

Aadarsh Panchayat Bhandari and Hamari Paathshaala Project

2018-2020, Sitamarhi, Bihar



SEHGAL
FOUNDATION

Power Finance Corporation Limited under their CSR initiatives is funding the two projects Aadarsh Panchayat Bhandari and Hamari Paathshala in Bhandari Panchayat, Sitamarhi, Bihar.

About PTC Foundation

PTC Foundation Trust (PFT), is a non-profit trust formed by PTC India Limited (PTC) to carry out the CSR activities of the PTC group companies and has been engaged in undertaking a wide range of CSR activities with focus on women empowerment, girl child education and their empowerment, health and sanitation, skilling youth and farmers, all from socially and economically disadvantaged communities, rural and agriculture development activities. The programs are also aimed towards promoting renewable energy (solar power), supporting differently abled persons, public health and hygiene and empowering farmers towards livelihood improvement.

About S M Sehgal Foundation

Founded in 1999, S M Sehgal Foundation (Sehgal Foundation) is a public charitable trust in India (a rural, grassroots implementing NGO) that operates in about 1,022 villages across ten states, reaching more than 2.5 million people. Sehgal Foundation's mission is to achieve positive social, economic, and environmental change across rural India by addressing critical issues concerning food security, water security, local participation and sustainability with a focus on the empowerment of women and children.

PROJECT FOCUS



Power Finance Corporation Limited in partnership with PTC Foundation and S M Sehgal Foundation is implementing Aadarsh Panchayat Bhandari and Hamari Paathshaala projects to improve lives of people living in three villages of Bhandari Gram Panchayat, Belsand block, Sitamarhi, Bihar, since 2018. Sitamarhi district, ranked 78th among aspirational districts of Niti Ayog, needs such projects for faster development of the district.

Shri Arun Kumar Verma (Ex Joint Secretary, Ministry of Power, Government of India) has provided guidance and facilitated convergence of several public institutions for overall development of Bhandari Gram Panchayat.

INAUGURATION OF PROJECT

Dr. Arun Kumar Verma (I.F.S), Joint Secretary, Ministry of Power, Government of India and Dr. Ranjit Kumar Singh (I.A.S), District Magistrate, Sitamarhi inaugurated the project on 27th October 2018. Shri Amar Prasad, Director of PTC Foundation, Dr Vikas Jha, Principal Lead, Local Participation and Sustainability, S M Sehgal Foundation, Shri R. Murahari, General Manager, Power Finance Corporation Ltd., Mukhiya of Bhandari Panchayat and community leaders were also present on the occasion.



FARM MECHANIZATION: ZERO TILLAGE



Machines help in the line sowing of crops and reduces the cost of cultivation. Four farmers were provided with zero tillage machines with which an area of 297 acres was covered.

A farmer saves roughly Rs 3015/- per acre on wheat sowing.

FARM MECHANIZATION: POTATO PLANTER

The manual sowing of potatoes is one of the biggest problems for farmers as the labor costs are high. Potato planters sow the potato seeds in fields in less time and at a much lower cost. Two farmers were provided with potato planter machines.

A farmer saves roughly Rs 4500/- per acre on potato sowing.



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 inform the farmers about the benefits of using good-quality seed and balanced fertilizers. Crop demonstrations and nutrition information were provided to 104 farmers for paddy, 180 farmers for wheat, 114 farmers for maize, and 35 farmers for mustard.

The yield of crops increased roughly by 20-25 percent per acre.

ON-FIELD CAPACITY BUILDING OF FARMERS

Seventy-seven field trainings, with participation of 1,776 farmers, were organised on the control and demonstration of farming systems for Paddy, Wheat, Maize and Mustard.

Thematic Training of Farmers

To supplement the gap in knowledge and skills, 96 trainings on seed management and seed treatment, fertilizer management, and use of micronutrients and cultivation practices of Mustard, Maize, Wheat, and Mustard were conducted, and 1,791 farmers participated.



DRUDGERY REDUCTION OF FARMERS



To reduce the drudgery of farmers who manually spray pesticides in the fields, 24 solar spray machines were distributed. Shelling of the maize is mostly done by women and the task entails much drudgery and is time-consuming. Hand maize shellers were provided to 231 households.

GREEN MANURE

Seventeen compost units were installed for making high- quality compost. The decomposer used in these compost units, takes only 40–50 days to prepare good compost out of cattle dung and other reusable organic waste materials.



KITCHEN GARDEN



To promote the consumption of nutrition-rich vegetables for improving food security, kitchen garden kits having 8–10 seasonal vegetable seeds, were provided to 844 low-income households. These households generally do not purchase and consume adequate vegetables due to high prices.

BEEKEEPING: A LIVELIHOOD OPTION

Twenty-nine families were provided with bee boxes along with equipment including safety kits and two honey extractors, which will provide an opportunity to increase their sources of income.



POTTERY: A LIVELIHOOD OPTION



Twenty electric pottery wheels were distributed to potters in the village, which will help them to produce more pottery to sell, thereby increasing their income. The income of potters doubled as they can make more products with electric pottery wheels.

PROMOTION OF GOATERY AS BUSINESS

For the promotion of goatery as a business, women from low-income families were provided training by a qualified veterinarian on best practices in goat rearing, including feed and nutrition, seasonal diseases, and medicines. After the successful completion of the training program, eight families were provided with goatery units for their livelihood.

A family is likely to earn Rs. 20,000/- per year by selling goats.



ANIMAL HEALTH CAMP



To provide free quality health services for cattle and to increase cattle owners' awareness on effective cattle management, four animal health camps were organized in Bhandari Panchayat. In these camps, health examinations and treatment of 930 cattle were completed.

DIGITAL LITERACY CENTER

Digital literacy and e-learning in MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and internet use are the most effective ways of gaining access to information and opportunities.

Four batches with eighty students completed the course from the center in 2019–2020.



PARTICIPATING IN VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT



The organization of 204 ward-level meetings with 4,997 participants brought villagers together to discuss issues in wards and plan out solutions together. Regular training in nine village leadership schools were provided to 241 community leaders on the provisions of key government programs.

SOAK PITS AND SANITATION DRIVES

In cooperation with the community, the project team organized 352 sessions (with 3,781 participants) to raise their awareness about hygiene and sanitation and went on to mobilize villagers for 246 sanitation drives. These have reduced incidences of diseases in the families.

Soak Pits: Wastewater Management

Soak pits are a cost-effective and sustainable means to dispose wastewater, and direct it underground. Thirty soak pits were constructed at the households and four families constructed soak pits on their own.



BAMBOO BASKETS: SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT



For promoting solid waste management at the household level, the project team introduced bamboo baskets, which are placed in pits and are partially underground. Households put their green waste in the bamboo basket, and a decomposer converts the green waste into compost. Bamboo baskets were given to 506 families. Two garbage-collecting rickshaws make door-to-door visits to gather non-decomposable solid waste.

HAMARI PAATHSHAALA

To make the government schools of Bhandari safe, healthy, and more interesting for learning, the project team is building and renovating two schools in Bhandari Panchayat. BALA (Building as a Learning Aid) accreditation is being used so that the classrooms, floors, walls, pillars, corridors, and outer spaces will be added sources of learning. BALA helps in strengthening language, communication, and numerical skills of students with examples and increases their awareness of nature and the environment.





Under the initiative Hamari Paathshaala, the two schools have better classrooms, safe drinking water and toilets. The schools have solar systems for uninterrupted electricity supply and television sets with e-learning modules on all subjects in Hindi and English medium.

CONVERGENCE WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Convergence with key stakeholders such as government departments, public sector units, and community-based organizations is important for greater impact of the project. On 14 September 2019, a stakeholders meeting was organized in Bhandari that was attended by officials from Power Finance Corporation (PFC), Rural Electric Corporation (REC), National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC), Khadi & Village Industries Corporation (KVIC), Block Officer Belsand, PTC Foundation, and about 600 community members. Collaboration in the implementation of projects for greater impact was worked out during the meeting.



PROJECT PROGRESS: SEPTEMBER 1, 2018–NOVEMBER 30, 2020

Achievements	Numbers
Aadarsh Panchayat Bhandari	
Farm mechanization: zero tillage machines	4 machines distributed; 296.3 acres covered
Farm mechanization: potato planters	2 machine distributed; 2.77 acres covered
Drudgery reduced: solar spray machines	24 machines distributed
Drudgery reduced: hand maize shellers	231 beneficiaries
Crop nutrition: protection demonstration wheat	180 demonstrations; 81.81 acres covered
Crop nutrition: protection demonstration maize	114 demonstrations; 5.90 acres covered
Crop nutrition: protection demonstration paddy	104 demonstrations; 47.27 acres covered
Crop nutrition: protection demonstration mustard	35 demonstrations; 27.5 acres covered
Beekeeping livelihood option	29 farmers received units
Pottery livelihood option	20 households received units
Capacity building of farmers at field level	77 field days: 1,776 participants
Capacity building thematic training of farmers	96 trainings: 1,791 farmers
Composting (green manure)	17 farmers received units
Kitchen garden	844 families received kits
Promotion of Goatery as a business	8 families received units
Animal health camps	4 camps; 930 cattle examined & treated
Village Leadership School (VLS) and community meetings	9 VLSs set up with 241 selected villagers. 603 trainings conducted

Ward-level meetings and planning	204 meetings with 4,997 participants
Hygiene and sanitation sessions & drives	352 sessions; 3,781 participants 246 sanitation drives for clean villages 46 common dustbins installed 2 rickshaws; household waste collected
Soak pits: liquid waste management	30 units completed
Bamboo baskets: solid waste management	506 units distributed
Exposure visits	2 visits with 54 goatery beneficiaries
Digital Literacy Center trainings	4 batches completed with 80 students
Experience sharing: learning stakeholder meetings	2 meetings with 1,800 participants
Hamari Paathshaala	
School construction	Civil construction work; 2 schools
Rejuvenation of 2 village ponds	Pond work in Bhandari started
Campaign on Gram Panchayat Planning Development	February 2020 campaign covered all villages of Belsand block in Sitamarhi district.

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WE EMPOWER
RURAL INDIA



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