

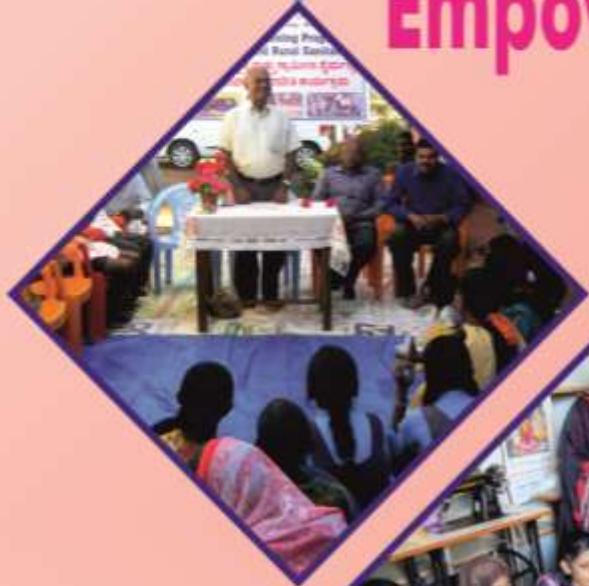
# SHRAMIK ABHIVRUDHI SANGH

(Jana Jagaran)



## Empowering the rural masses

## ANNUAL REPORT



# 2019-20

<b>Contents of Annual Report: 2019 - 2020</b>		
<b>SL. No.</b>	<b>Titles</b>	<b>Page</b>
1.	Brief background of SAS	5
2.	SAS and its staff	6
3.	Integrated Rural Development	6
4.	Overall objective and specific objective of the project	7
5.	Women Empowerment	7
6.	Empowerment through SHG Movement and related activities	7
7.	Concept Self Help Group	7
8.	Achievements through Self Help Groups	7
9.	Formation and Animation of New SHGs	8
10.	Monthly accompaniment of SHGs	8
11.	Thrift and Credit Situation of SHGs	9
12.	Personality Development of New SHG Members	9
13.	Training in Book Keeping and Financial Management	10
14.	Training in Capacity Building	10
15.	International Women's Day	11
16.	Organic Farming	11
17.	Organic Farming Exposures Visits	11
18.	Awareness and Training on Government Entitlements	12
19.	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act	12
20.	National Rural Livelihood Mission	12
21.	Federation of Self Help Groups	12
22.	Village Level Federation	13
23.	Gram Panchayat Level Federation	13
24.	Taluka Level Federation	13
25.	District Level Federation	14
26.	IRDP Activity photos	15-18
27.	Action 2: Functional Vocational Training	19
28.	FVT Target group	19
29.	FVT Teachers' Personality Development	20
30.	FVT Students' Personality Development Program	20
31.	Distribution of Learning Material	21
32.	Annual Gathering of FVT Students	21

33.	Role of the Project Staff	21
34.	SAS's wider Out-Reach	22
35.	Human and Material Resources	23
36.	Means of Verification	23
37.	Case Studies	23-40
38.	Organization Building of Nomadic Shepherd Community	41
39.	Location, Personnel, other details of the Project	41
40.	Detailed description of implemented measures/activities	41
41.	Central level Training for SAS Staff at KSWDC Bengaluru	41
42.	Region wise cooperative leaders' training	42
43.	Central Level Networking by leaders of NK Fed Men and Women	44
44.	Net working with NGOs/Govt Institutes	45
45.	Capacity Building of Women at Regional level	46
46.	Capacity Building of North Karnataka Women Federation Leaders	47
47.	Visit to Research Stations, training centers and sheep farms	48
48.	Capacity building of field Staff	49
49.	Motivate the shg cadres to sustain the growth and expansion	49
50.	Training in Production Ethno Veterinary Medicines	50
51.	Formation of new shepherd cooperative societies	50
52.	Income Generation Activities : Value Addition to Wool	51
53.	Seed Ram Production	51
54.	Fattening of Weaned Lambs	51
55.	Goat Breeding	52
56.	Cow/Buffalo breeding for Income Generation	52
57.	Fodder Production	52
58.	Project's contribution to other development activities	53
59.	How is the impact monitored and assessed	54
60.	Problems/Risks the and ways of tackling same	55
61.	Case Studies	56-57
62.	Summarized appraisal and self-assessment	58
63.	Photos-Organization Building of Nomadic Shepherd Community	60-63
64.	Biogas Plants cum Toilet units	64
65.	Project location, analysis of the present situation and problems	64
66.	Target group	66

67.	Project preparation	66
68.	Targets with indicators	67
69.	Measures and instruments used to achieve the objectives	71
70.	Process and impact oriented project monitoring	76
71.	Implementation schedule	77
72.	Viability of the project measures	78
73.	Implementation risks	78
74.	Conclusion - biogas plants cum toilets	79
75.	Case Studies	80-108
76.	Report of Internal Monitors of Biogas Program	109
77.	Photos- visit to Biogas plant and Xavier Farm	116
78.	Student Sponsorship -'Mahadevi Project'	117
79.	Xavier Farm	117
80.	Conclusion	118



Reg. No. DR/SOR/17/84-85

## Shramik Abhivrudhi Sangh

20, Milkman Street, Camp, Belgaum-590 001. Karnataka, INDIA.

Tel. +91 831 2431978, 2425609

e-mail: shramik@dataone.in, shramikindia@gmail.com

Website: www.shramik.in

### ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

#### Brief background of SAS

*Shramik Abhivrudhi Sangh* popularly known as *Jana Jagaran* is a registered Society under the Karnataka Societies' Registration Act. It is a voluntary, non-profit organization working for the integral development of the socio-economically disadvantaged, under privileged and marginalized sections of society. It is a social action wing of the Goa Jesuits. Its area of operation presently consists of Belagavi and other Districts of North Karnataka and Kolhapur District of Maharashtra. It works for the rights of people to sufficient and nutritious food, good health, education, employment and a dwelling place in a clean and healthy environment with opportunity to participate in the decisions making process that affects their lives. It perceives the root causes of poverty and injustice in terms of denial of opportunities to the vast majority of people for their political, social and economic development. Hence its development strategy is to use the available resources for the empowerment of the common masses of people and bring about lasting improvements in economic, social and cultural spheres. It works with all people of good will irrespective of their religious, caste and political affiliations.

All its initiatives are for creating the conditions necessary for strengthening the village communities and enabling the rural population to remain in their villages and for preventing rural exodus to cities. Its strategy is awakening and empowering the poor to assert their rights and gain confidence and power to take control of their lives.

It believes that at the heart of 'sustainable economic development' is the 'human' development, involving investment in resources and time, harnessing the energies and aspirations of the people and developing in them skills and capabilities which enable them to develop and contribute to the wider community. To achieve that SAS provides the overarching inspiration, guidance and vitality and initiates field activities. Since the last 41 years the SAS has been implementing a number of initiatives for Integral Rural Development with highly satisfactory outcome.

The General Body of SAS meets once a year. It scrutinizes/monitors all the activities and accounts of the society. It gives policy directions and financial advice. Its Governing Body meets four times a year along with the secretary and some of the staff to review the ongoing initiatives of the society and to plan new initiatives.

SAS's Secretary implements all the projects with the help of project coordinators. He meets the project coordinators and other staff of the organization at least once a month and reviews the progress of the implementation of each of its initiative and takes corrective measures whenever necessary. He also visits the stakeholders and collects firsthand information on what actually happens in the field.

### **SAS and its staff**

Over the years SAS staff transformed themselves from service providers to organization builders. SAS story is one of teamwork, high motivation and dedication and commitment of its staff. SAS makes a difference because all the players honestly and sincerely try to 'walk the talk'. SAS staff sees themselves as educators, organizers, and leaders who lead by serving. They take special care to respect the sentiments and the culture of the people. They find time to share people's burdens and joys. They help people to form their own organizations in order to bring positive changes in socio-economic and cultural spheres and to create a just social order.

### **Integrated Rural Development (Jan to Dec 2019)**

The target group of this project is women and rural households. They are mostly farmers. They are victims of illiteracy, general socio-economic backwardness, inadequate and inefficient finances and marketing services. The size of their land holdings is very small and are often over-manned resulting in low productivity of labor. Their agricultural practices are neither economically nor environmentally sustainable. They are not able to make use of modern agricultural practices hampered by ignorance of such practices, high costs and small land holdings. Irrigation facilities are inadequate and dependent on rainfall. Many of them are indebted. The two components of the project: Women Empowerment and Functional Vocational Training are for these households. The geographical extension of the project is limited to Belagavi District, Karnataka, and the adjacent Chandgad block (taluka) of Kolhapur District, Maharashtra, India.

The people of the target area are mainly subsistence farmers and farm workers. Their situation worsens year after year due to vagaries of nature and subsequent crop failures and lack of remunerative prices. It is difficult to make a living from agriculture and related activities.

Belagavi district is in the state of Karnataka, India. The city of Belagavi is the district headquarters. By the 2011 Census of India, Belagavi has a population of 4,778,439 of which 24.03% are urban, making it the second most populous district in Karnataka. The district has a population density of 356 inhabitants per square kilometer. Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 13.38 %. Belagavi has a sex ratio of 969 females for every 1000 males, and an effective literacy rate of 74.04 %. Kannada is the main language spoken in this district.

The district has an area of 13,415 square kilometers, and is bounded on the west and north by Maharashtra state, on the northeast by Bijapur District, on the east by Bagalkot District, on the southeast by Gadag District, on the south by Dharwad District and Uttara Kannada District, and

on the southwest by the state of Goa. Belagavi has Temperature of 38 C Max and 12 C Min.; Rain fall is 808 mm; MSL: 2463 ft above.

### **Overall objective and specific objective of the project:**

The overall objective of the project is to help people of the project area build strong local communities that are capable of playing an active role in the planning and implementation of programs for creating socio-economic, political and cultural conditions that enable people to have access to basic necessities of life in a clean and healthy environment by using local resources in an eco-friendly manner.

The specific objective is to plan and implement two complementary activities in the field of Women Empowerment and Functional Vocational Training.

### **Action Plan to realize the Specific Objective:**

#### **Action 1: Empowerment through Self Help Group Movement and Related Activities**

##### **1.1 Concept Self Help Group:**

Self Help Group (SHG) is a holistic program of micro-enterprises covering all aspects of self-employment, organization of the rural poor into small groups for their capacity building and to demand their due rights. SHG is self-governed, peer controlled, informal group of people with the same socio-economic background and having a desire to collectively work for the betterment of the village. The core values of the group are self-help, self-reliance, and concern for social justice, and mutual help. SHG responds to the social, economic, psychological needs of its members. It empowers them to fight for their rights and to fight against socio-economic injustices. Organization and empowerment of rural women speed up the process of socio-economic development. As an isolated individual, a woman is powerless. However, by coming together as a group, they initiate and take forward the process of societal transformation.

##### **1.2 Achievements through Self Help Groups:**

SAS was able to achieve the target set in the project for Self Help Groups and in fact, reached out to more people than envisaged in the project.

- SAS successfully formed and animated SHGs of women/men in the age group of 18 to 65 from low socio-economic strata of society distributed mostly over Belagavi, Khanapur, Gokak, Bailhongal, Ramdurg and Hukkeri and Chandgad and Gadhinglaj revenue blocks.
- Direct beneficiaries of new SHG formation in 2019 are 963 women and 15 men - organized into 63 SHGs as on 31-12-2019. The target was 40 SHGs with 600 members.
- Direct beneficiaries of the accompaniment of old and new SHGs and formation of SHG federations were 978 old and new SHGs with 15735 members as on 31-12-2019.
- Indirect beneficiaries were 15735 members\*4 family members = 62940 persons and the general public across 8 revenue blocks.

### 1.3 Formation and Animation of New SHGs:

SAS staff formed and animated 63 new SHGs (62 Women+ 1 Men) from January to December 2019 (57.7%) more than the target. The constant support and guidance of SAS and its staff made that possible. The formation of SHGs proves that the rural poor welcome whole heartedly the initiatives of SAS and they trust and have confidence on SAS and its staff.

<b>Shramik Abhivrudhi Sangh (Jana Jagaran)</b>			
<b>New Self Help Groups as on 31-12-19</b>			
	<b>SHGs</b>	<b>Members</b>	<b>Total Savings</b>
Women	62	963	1953216.00
Men	1	15	25465.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>1978681.00</b>

The SHG movement has made a lasting impression on the lives of the women associated with SAS. The achievements through SHGs, on lives of its members and on the groups can be listed as below:

- **Economic Development:** The SAS inculcated among SHG members the habit of saving and banking. The group members took loans to meet unexpected expenses and for income generation activities. They gained economic prosperity through loan/credit. All SHG members have personal saving bank accounts and receive amounts from the government's poverty alleviation schemes directly into their bank accounts. Most of the women had never interacted with a bank before they joined SAS's SHG movement.
- **Social Development:** The SAS transformed the SHG members that they trust each other with their hard-earned money and they respect and socialise with others, irrespective of their class and caste. SHG members have the collective wisdom in organising and managing their finance and distributing the benefits among themselves and they reach out to those in difficulty. They take up social responsibilities particularly related to women, children and the development of their villages. They have a forum that supports them and provides them space for holistic development.
- **Personality Development:** SHG members have enhanced their confidence and capabilities. They have a feeling of oneness and a platform to support each other. The traditional attitude that women have to be confined within 'the four walls of their houses' is changing rapidly. They leave their houses to attend seminars and training programs. They engage in off-farm income generation activities. They come forward to learn new skills. They stand as one body to assert their rights. They have widened their social horizon with many friends from rural and urban areas. They command greater respect within the family and outside.

### 1.4 Monthly accompaniment of SHGs:

SAS staff monitored every month the old and new SHGs consisting of 978 groups with 15,735 members. They conducted during the year 10,430 group meetings with the participation 137,898



persons. During those meetings they looked into their accounts and bookkeeping methods; provided them with new inputs of socio-economic and political issues and issues that affected them as women. SAS staff accompanied them in their struggles and in their success.

### 1.5 Closure of SHGs:

At the beginning of the project year 2019, SAS guided 974 SHGs, but for various reasons SAS discontinued its guidance for 59 SHGs by the end of 2019, after helping them to settle their accounts amicably. The reasons varied from SHG to SHG. Members of 9 old SHGs felt that they are becoming very old and that they should have all their savings in their hands to use in their old age. Members of 15 SHGs mentioned that they found it difficult to actively participate in the SHG meetings due to their responsibilities and changed situations. Members of 18 SHGs said that they could manage their SHGs by themselves without the assistance of SAS. Members of 17 SHGs felt that they have achieved much through their SHGs and that now their children are grown up to manage the households and so they desired to wind up their SHGs. SAS has told them at the outset that they were the owners of their SHGs and SAS would accompany them and guide them only if they wanted it. Thus being true to its word, SAS helped those 59 SHGs either to wind up their SHGs or to take them forward without SAS's guidance.

<b>SHGs as on 31-12-2019</b>					
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Old SHGs</b>	<b>New SHGs</b>	<b>SHGs Closed</b>	<b>SHGs on 31Dec2019</b>	<b>SHG members on 31Dec2019</b>
Men	4	1	1	4	60
Women	970	62	58	972	15675
<b>Total</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>15735</b>

### 1.6 Thrift and Credit Situation of SHGs:

Members 978 SHGs (15735 persons) engaged in savings, availed loans from their groups and banks for their various needs including income generation initiatives. Their total savings was the sum of Rs. 239,087,601/- as on 31-12-2019.

### 1.7 Personality Development of New SHG Members:

The Government of India and various State Governments have been implementing various programmes for rural development. However, rural poverty and unemployment persist in the country. The problem is becoming more acute from year to year. The government allots a huge amount towards poverty alleviation schemes. But often the target population has difficulty in accessing such schemes. The SHG movement, to some extent, helps the target population to become aware of such schemes and to benefit from them. The members of the new SHGs are from similar social and economic backgrounds. They come together and save a small sum of money regularly and also learn to access benefits from the government and also take loan for banks. Because of their SHGs, they have easy access to money in times of financial crisis. Many of them take loan from their groups to start income generation activities or to meet the

expenses of marriage, hospitalisation, repair to the house, etc. SAS conducted personality development and capacity building exercises for the newly formed SHGs. Some the topics covered are: SHG concept and how to run the SHGs well, SAS and its role, responsibilities of each SHG member in group building, multiple benefits of SHGs. SAS conducted 8 days program with the participation of 569 members from 53 new SHGs from 36 villages. Those training and the monthly follow up meetings were instrumental in the healthy development and day to day management of the SHGs.

### **1.8 Training in Book Keeping and Financial Management:**

The newly formed SHGs usually get special care and extra attention until they can maintain their account independently. The group leaders and representatives attend special training program in bookkeeping and maintaining the accounts.

The training included topics such as SHG accounts and records, practical training in account keeping, and how to manage accounting problems. The leaders further received inputs on importance of all the members' attendance at the monthly meetings, participation of the members in the decision-making process, monthly savings by SHG members, and making money available on a priority basis to the neediest SHG members.

The SHG leaders were guided to open a savings bank account in the name of the SHG, in the branch of the nationalized bank closest to them, and to deposit in the bank account the amount leftover after disbursing loans to the SHG members. They got practical training to maintain basic records such as minutes book, attendance register, loan ledger, general ledger, cashbook, bank passbook and individual passbooks. SAS conducted 3 days' training with the participation of 110 SHG leaders from 55 SHGs across 31 villages.

### **1.9 Training in Capacity Building:**

As the years pass by SHG members need motivation and guidance to access the government schemes and demand their rights. Sometimes they lose interest and zest to demand their rights. SAS regularly conducted capacity building training for the old SHGs and made sure of maximum participation from each SHG. SAS staff assured that all the SHG members participated in the capacity building training at least once in three years. At times the training was conducted in the same place but different SHGs from different villages participated in the program.

The capacity building training provided inputs on entitlements and poverty alleviation schemes of the government and the current issues. The participants got inputs on Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Right to Education (RTE), National Food Security Act (NFSA), etc. They got inputs on government's poverty alleviation schemes, bank loans and subsidy for various income generation activities. The current issues were the safety of women, girl child and people of low caste origin, information on relief available to victims of natural calamity (recent floods) and the process and documentation required for applying for such reliefs. Those sessions motivated and

strengthened the SHGs to avail various government facilities which were specially meant for them. The training helped them to become active and made them to own up responsibility for their development and the development of their villages.

The capacity building trainings were conducted with the help of audio-visual aids, group discussions, talks, experience sharing, role plays, and awareness songs. SAS staff fruitfully conducted 27 capacity building trainings with the participation of 3468 members from 275 SHGs from 61 villages.

### **1.10 International Women's Day:**

International Women's Day is celebrated globally on 8 March. The day commemorates the inspiring role of women around the world to secure women's rights and build more equitable society. SAS had planned 6 separate IWD celebrations but could conduct only two. Karnataka State election was held in April 2019 and public gatherings were banned for 45 days prior to the election. That affected some of the activities of SAS. SAS managed to organize 2 IWD celebrations for 95 members of 8 SHGs.

### **1.11 Organic Farming Training:**

SAS through the various training programs introduced both men and women farmers to organic farming. Most of the farmers were aware of organic farming; but due to the influence of modern farming which extensively used chemical fertilizers and pesticides, they had lost confidence in organic farming. The SAS helped the farmers to go back to the traditional methods of farming and assured them that in the long run organic farming would be profitable and healthy. The training made use of video clips, street plays and action songs to communicate the ill effects of chemical fertilizers and insecticides. During such trainings successful organic farmers shared their experiences of how organic farming has benefited them. Some of the training programs were conducted in collaboration with government agencies that gave special incentives to those who took up organic farming. SAS organized 9 days training on organic farming with the participation of 614 men and women who showed interest in organic farming.

### **1.12 Organic Farming Exposures Visits:**

SAS organized exposure visits to organic farmers. That was another method to motivate SHG women to go back the traditional methods of organic farming. SAS interacted with the farmers involved in organic farming in Belagavi district and selected few farmers to whom the women from the SHGs could be taken for exposure visit. The major concern while selecting the organic farmer was that he should be able to share his experience in the local language and show his farm and his experiments to the SHG members. The SHG women personally interacted with the organic farmers and discussed their difficulties. They also learnt how they could make organic pest controls. The exposure program helped the women to build their confidence and motivated them to switch to organic farming. SAS organized 7 exposure visits with the participation of 462 SHG members.

### **1.13 Awareness and Training on Government Entitlements:**

Due to poverty a large section of society is unable to fulfill even the basic necessities of life. Government of India launched several poverty alleviation programs in order to benefit the poor. But the success of such programs would greatly depend on the participation of the poor and the needy. SAS tries to make the target population aware such programs and guides and organizes them to access such benefits. During 2019 SAS organized 12 days awareness and training program with the participation 2870 members from 113 SHGs coming from 23 villages.

### **1.14 Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)**

The basic objective of MGNREGA is to increase the livelihoods security of the people in rural areas by guaranteeing 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to a rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. It bestows a legal right and assurances to the rural population to demand work in their chosen locality with just wages promised by the government. The MGNREGA is inclusive at the most basic level in economic terms because it targets those who are willing to engage in arduous physical work for a daily wage, in other words, the poor and needy sections of society. It tends to be socially inclusive as well, that is, involves women, SCs and STs as workers and provides them with equal wages irrespective of their gender or caste. Thus, the participation of women in MGNREGA is a harbinger of social change and it will lead to a decline in distress migration and improvement in food consumption among poor families. Under SAS's guidance in 2019, 14,647 people from 61 villages applied for work and 7,369 people worked for 711,807 man-days and received wages of rupees 184,358,013.00. SAS also guided 4132 persons to obtain labor cards and 2,289 persons to get job cards under MGNREGA.

### **1.15 National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)**

National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) aims to reduce poverty by enabling the poor households to access gainful self-employment and skilled-wage-employment opportunity. Government launched NRLM in order to eradicate poverty through sustainable measures and inclusive growth for socio-economically excluded poor people mainly from rural areas.

SAS motivated SHGs to apply for benefits under NRLM. SAS helped them to collect documents such as identity proof, Aadhaar cards, SHG records, bank passbooks in order to avail the benefits from NRLM. SAS helped 433 SHGs to apply for the benefits. As a result 76 SHGs from 59 villages received rupees fifteen thousand each as revolving fund. The government has promised interest-free loans and subsidies for income generation activities and funds for sustainable economic developments.

### **1.16 Federation of Self Help Groups:**

One main objective of promoting SHG federations is to overcome the inherent limitations of small and informal groups like the SHGs with limited resources, capacity, and negotiation and bargaining powers, and an inability to deal with the outside world (the government, mainstream institutions, markets, etc). The SHG federation is expected to address many of the issues and

challenges faced by the SHG movement and ensure the sustainability of the SHGs. Some other objectives are inter-group rotation of funds, accessing loans and grants from banks and other institutions, promoting leadership skills and governance among SHG members, and developing poor people's own institutions.

The SHG federation members have reported in general, multiple benefits such as increased income, improved housing, and enriched health access, better children's education, and improved sanitation, better access to energy, improved food security and improved social status. Empowerment related benefits include improved decision making power in the household on financial and livelihood issues, improved social mobility, improved social status, widened spaces for expressing views and better wages under the employment act.

### **1.17 Village Level Federations:**

SAS organized meeting at Village Level Federations of SHG and discussed issue pertaining to their daily lives. Inputs on MGNREGA, NRLM and upcoming State elections were the regular topics. The outcome of those meetings can be recorded as revolving fund assistance from NRLM, regular work under MGNREGA and weekly credit of wages in their personal bank accounts, election of state leader of their choice and awareness on laws and regulation affecting women and poor sections of society. SAS federation meetings also improved the SHGs linkages with institutions such as banks, government departments and other resource agencies for receiving funds and subsidies. SHG members expressed that federations were complementary to their growth and progress. They realized the unity and the power to demand their just rights and benefits allotted to them by the Government. SAS organized 18 days village level federation meetings for 2219 participants from 168 SHGs belonging to 19 villages.

### **1.18 Gram Panchayat Level Federations:**

The village-level Federations are further strengthened by the Gram Panchayat level federations. In these meetings, federation members are further instructed on the MGNREGA and NRLM. The federated members discussed the difficulties in availing the benefits and ways to solve it. SAS staff guided and networked with various government offices and institutes to solve their problems. Thus there was a positive response from the federated members in benefiting the government schemes. Participants also were motivated on organic farming and asked to encourage their respective SHGs for organic farming. These meetings were conducted in the location where surrounding SHG members could meet and discuss the issues affecting to their locality. SAS organized 11 training programs for 802 participants from 170 SHGs of 18 villages coming under 14 gram panchayats.

### **1.19 Taluka Level Federations:**

SAS strengthened the SHG federation with the Taluka level meeting twice in the project year 2019. The selected representatives of each taluka met in the taluka places and planned the activities and reported the outcome. The Major topics covered were information on MGNREGA, NRLM and relief to the flood victims. The participants discussed these issues and carried on

with the work of motivating the SHGs in their vicinity. They also made sure that the flood-affected people received food; clothing and financial assistance announced by the government to construct new houses or repair the damaged houses. SAS organized training across 8 days for 271 participants from 135 SHGs of 135 villages and 85 gram panchayats.

### **1.20 District Level Federation:**

District level Federation functions as the backbone to all the federation activities of SAS. Besides ensuring the sustainability of SHGs, this body is seen as a potent instrument that can socio-economically empower the SHGs and their members. This federating process, by way of vertical integration, brings in several benefits as it tries to address the felt needs and shared values of members and the society at large. The fruitfulness of federations is achieved through the bottom-up process, which is democratic and economically sound in their integration and functioning. SAS organized 2 days program for 40 participants of district-level federation members. They were from 40 SHS, 40 villages, and 40 gram panchyats.

# Integrated Rural Development Programme activity photos

## Empowerment of Women



Village level Federation at San Hosur



Village level Federation at Dod Hosur



Gram Panchayat Federation at Garlgunji



Gram Panchayat Federation at Karambal



Hukkeri Taluka level Federation



Bailhongal Taluka level Federation at CN Nesargi



Khanapur Taluka level Federation



Belgaum District level Federation at ROC



Organic Farming visit at Handignur



Kitchen gardening training at Gugrenatti



Environment day celebration at Devgiri



Organic Farming Visit at Hunsewari

# Integrated rural development programme Shg capacity building and organic farming



Organic Farming visit at Ambewadi & Hunsewari



Organic Farming visit at Watere



PMKVY(SKILL INDIA) training at Gugrenatti



SHG Capacity building at Nagurda



SHG Capacity building at Kuntinagar



SHG Capacity building at Mavnoor



SHG Capacity building at Mavnoor



SHG Capacity building at Paschapur



SHG Capacity Building at Hiremunolli



SHG Capacity Building at Torangatti



SHG Capacity Building at Bidarbhavi



MGNREGA at Koundal



# Integrated rural development programme SHG and FVT photos



MGNREGA awareness at Markatti



MGNREGA at Nesargi



MGNREGA at Nesargi



NRLM awareness  
at chivattugundi



NRLM awareness  
at Mekkalmaradi



NRLM awareness at Anigol



International Women's Day  
at ROC



International Women's Day at ROC



Personality Development-FVT  
at ROC



Personality Development-FVT at ROC

# Functional Vocational Training activity photos



Personality Development - FVT at ROC



Annual Gathering- FVT



Annual Gathering- FVT



Annual Gathering - Cultural programme - FVT



Annual Gathering - Cultural programme - FVT



Personality Development-FVT



## **2. Functional Vocational Training:**

Functional Vocational Training aimed at the overall development of adolescent rural girls with emphasis on enhancing their personal growth and income-generating capacity. The program helped them to pick up life coping skills and prepared them to face their future with courage, self-confidence and a sense of self-worth. SAS did that by training them in garment-making skills. The training incorporated value education, sex and family life education and other life coping skills. A grown-up girl in a poor rural family is a cause of worry and tension for the parents. They want to give her away in marriage at the earliest. The Functional Vocational Training program kept these girls meaningfully engaged for another year and automatically postponed their marriage and gave them the golden opportunity to be better prepared for their marriage and the future.

The students enhanced their personality and income generation capacity. They had the opportunity to sing, dance, speak; and they learnt garment making skills - cutting-stitching, embroidery, painting, knitting, and the like. Teachers were trained in leadership qualities and group building techniques. Through a process of animation and awareness building, both the teachers and the learners were sensitized about gender discrimination. They were helped to critically examine and challenge traditional attitudes and practices regarding women's right, health, education, employment, mobility, women's status in family and society. They were given inputs on health, hygiene, nutrition, marriage and family life, sexually transmitted diseases and socio-cultural taboos that affect girl children and women and ways to tackle them. The program enabled 641 young rural women, to have better self-appreciation and to face their life and future with courage and confidence.

The FVT centers which began in June 2018 wound up their program in March 2019. The new centers began in June 2019 and will function for 10 months i.e., till March end 2020. It functions 6 days a week; one day in a week is a holiday – the day is fixed by the center to suit its need. Training is for 3 hours daily for 6 days a week. The timing of the center is chosen by each center to suit the convenience of the students. Exam is conducted at the end of the 10th month to assess students' skills. The details of centers that began in June 2019 are as below:

**2.1 FVT Target group:** Persons from low socio-economic strata of society

**Direct beneficiaries:** a) 60 rural women whom SAS trained and approved as trainers.

b) 641 girls who are trained.

**Indirect beneficiaries:** a) Families of the 60 trainers.

b) Families of 641 girls.

The details of FVT students background such as caste, education, marital status and age group is listed out in the following tables.

## **FVT Centres and Caste Background:**

<b>FVT Centers, and Learners and their Social Background 2019</b>						
<b>Teacher</b>	<b>Center</b>	<b>S C</b>	<b>S T</b>	<b>OBC</b>	<b>Other Students</b>	<b>Total</b>
60	63	78	119	88	356	641

## **FVT Students' Educational Status:**

<b>FVT Students' Educational Status 2019</b>				
<b>Illiterate</b>	<b>1-7 Class</b>	<b>8-10 Class</b>	<b>11 Class &amp;</b>	<b>Total</b>
4	59	335	243	641

## **FVT Students' Marital Status:**

<b>FVT Students' Marital Status 2019</b>			
<b>Unmarried</b>	<b>Married</b>	<b>Widow</b>	<b>Total</b>
414	226	1	641

## **FVT Students' age Factor:**

<b>FVT Students' Age Status 2019</b>				
<b>Below 18</b>	<b>18 to 21</b>	<b>22 to 25</b>	<b>25 +</b>	<b>Total</b>
134	311	120	76	641

## **2.2 FVT Teachers' Personality Development:**

SAS staff organized personality development program for SAS staff through out the year. Over the years SAS has experienced, that if the FVT staff is well trained with life coping skills and issues then the overall development of FVT students is easily achieved. SAS staff in the summer months worked out a syllabus for every month that the FVT teachers need follow. Based on the syllabus, the teachers were trained to handle the issues and the teachers discussed the same with the students. The academic year (June 2019) started with 63 centers managed by 60 teachers and the teachers and students belonged to two language groups: Kannada and Marathi. Thus, in some months to overcome the language limitation, SAS conducted separate training program for the Marathi and Kannada teachers. Thus, there was no language barrier and the matter easily reached the targeted beneficiaries - FVT Students. SAS conducted 17 days training program for all the FVT teachers.

## **2.3 FVT Students' Personality Development Program:**

SAS staff invested time and energy in building the capacity of the FVT students through personality development programs. The programs included instructions and sharing on health, personal hygiene, laws related to marriage, and sessions to build self-confidence through public speaking. The FVT students were given a chance to come on the stage and perform a dance,

street play, sing song and share their personal experiences. Though these programs 481 (75%) of 641 students dared to face a public gathering and speak with courage. SAS organized 6 days Personality Development program for 598 FVT students.

#### **2.4 Distribution of Learning Material:**

SAS supplied the learning materials such as scissors, needles and threads to each student. Most of the students are poor and cannot purchase the basic learning aids. Along with the distribution of material, students are given an opportunity to come on the stage to share their personal experiences or put up a cultural item like dance, song or mimicry. This activity helps to build up their confidence level and many of the FVT students come on the stage and hold a mike in their hand for the first time in their lives. SAS organized material distribution across 7 days for 641 students from 63 centers. On these occasions the students put up some cultural program.

#### **2.5 Annual Gathering of FVT Students:**

SAS made it possible for the FVT students come to Belagavi and to display their talents and to perform on the stage at St. Paul's High School auditorium. They rarely get a chance to come to Belagavi and to be on the big stage before a large audience. Two days program – one for Kannada speaking people and another for Marathi was conducted. Total of 700 people participated the program. Besides participating in the cultural program, the students got inputs on 'Current Indian Scenario' and on the importance of honoring the values enshrined in the preamble of the Constitution of India. In participants in these events were, the FVT students, their Teachers and the SAS staff and few special invitees. The outcome of the event was praiseworthy. The shy and timid students whom SAS enrolled in June in FVT centers had progressed unimaginably and became by December 2019 courageous and self-confident with zest to face the challenges of life.

### **3. Role of the Project Staff:**

The greatest blessing that SAS has is its staff most of whom come from the communities that SAS serves. They get joy and satisfaction in serving their brothers and sisters and neighbors. They spare no effort in reaching out to the poor and needy in their area of operation. Often they affirm: *"We are proud to work with a NGO that walks the talk. The respect we get, because we are part of SAS is more than what can be gained with all the money in the world. We are proud that the fruit of our hard work is benefitting the most deserving households."* SAS staff are sustained and enriched by being with the poor and by sharing in their struggles, joys and hopes.

SAS and its staff, over the years, transformed themselves from service providers to organization builders. SAS movement is a story of teamwork, high motivation, dedication and commitment of its staff to the marginalized and underprivileged. They enjoy freedom - the luxury of doing what they enjoy doing. Each of them has beautiful experiences of empowering people, of building harmonious communities of diverse peoples, religions, languages and cultures based on values of

peace, justice and love with access to basic necessities of life in a clean and healthy environment as envisaged in SAS's objective. They move from village to village forming and animating SHGs, conducting functional vocational training, helping people to avail of government entitlements, spreading awareness on MGNREGA, and the like. Often each staff is an institution involved in multiple initiatives. Each one lives a purposeful life, knowing that the ultimate purpose of life is 'to serve and not to be served'.

The training that SAS staff provides to the SHGs brings about positive changes in the group management and operations. They became aware of the various options available to them. The staff guided the groups with personality development exercises, monitored their thrift and credit activities; assisted them in the process of group building and sustenance; initiated them into kitchen garden/organic farming; created awareness on issues affecting women and children and their village; created linkages with bank and mobilized finances/ subsidies from the government; initiated income generation activities; accompanied and guided federations of SHGs. They also trained motivated and helped members of SHGs to participate actively in the federation process at Village, Panchayat, Taluka and District levels. They formed and animated new shgs and incorporated them into the federations. They further enhanced their saving and lending activities, income generation, and personal and social skills.

They assisted in the selection of the guides for the FVT centers. They helped them to motivate and enroll students, to make arrangement for the space needed to conduct the FVT centers, and for the equipment and teaching learning materials, and accompanied the teachers and students on a regular basis. They also invested time and energy to enhance their own personality, and their social and organizational skills.

SAS succeeded in implementing all the project activities because of the whole hearted support of its staff. In the beginning of every month the staff met together and planned the next month's activities and reviewed the previous month's activities. During the year SAS organized staff program across 16 days.

#### **4. SAS's wider Out-Reach:**

'The Two Actions' elaborated above are in partnership with ASTM, but at the same time they are part of the larger outreach of SAS. They fit in well with other development initiatives for the socio-economic advancement and empowerment of SAS's target population. Presently, SAS is engaged in a wide range of initiatives all geared to helping the weaker sections of society to improve their economic situation and grow in self-confidence and self-esteem. The result is an integrated and sustainable approach to rural development, each activity contributing to the overall goal. SAS's ongoing initiatives are women empowerment through SHG movement, functional vocational training for rural women, support to traditional shepherds, environmental concerns through organic farming and non-conventional energy (solar and biogas), and rural sanitation. This integrated approach focuses on enabling individuals and social groups to work with their own communities and other stakeholders to improve their socio, economic and cultural conditions through their active participation, organization and networking.

## 5. Human and Material Resources:

SAS has a team of three Jesuit priests and 32 social activists. In addition there are many field activists and volunteers on part-time basis. SAS gets the services of trainers and resource persons as required. It has training centers in Belgaum, Nesargi and Machhe. It mobilizes facilities in the villages for conducting meetings. It has audio visual gadgets for facilitating teaching, learning, and awareness building. It has capacity to mobilize finances for staff remuneration and for its various field activities. It has the necessary transportation facility for materials and personnel.

## 6. Means of Verification:

SAS's financial and activity report and documentation, its data bank of reports from project coordinators and supervisors and field activists and beneficiaries, reports of the visits by SAS's board members. Feedback from the target groups and the general public, records of the SHGs, records of the financial transitions of the groups, and the records of SAS serve as monitoring and verification tools.

## Conclusion:

Since last many years Action Solidarité Tiers Monde (ASTM), 55, av de la Liberté, L-1931 Luxembourg, has been SAS's partner for its "Integrated Rural Development Program" which mostly deals with women empowerment through SHG Movement and FVT Centres. Fr. Thomas Chenakala, Mr. Parashuram Rangi, Mr. Anthony Jacob, Mr. Yeshwant Bandhurge, Ms Sunanda Anandache, Mr. Piraji Mahut, Mr. Yellappa Badarwadi, Ms Shoba Dodamani and Ms Yallavva Pawadi functioned as the coordinators and supervisors of the project and Fr. Santosh Vas took care of office work.

## Case Studies



### 1. Mahadevi Nagappa Patil - SHG

I am Mahadevi Nagappa Patil from Nesargi village. I am 45 years old. My education is 7th class. My caste is Lingayath. We are five members in the family. I have two sons. They study in a college. My husband goes for collie work.

In the year 2013, we formed a SHG of 25 members in my village. Our total saving is twenty-five hundred thousand rupees. My saving in the group is eleven thousand rupees. After joining the group I participated in many awareness

raising programs and enhanced my knowledge and awareness about socio-economic realities. I got inspiration and motivation from the training organized by SAS to start an income generation activity.

After much discussion with my husband and children, I have decided to buy a buffalo. In our area, it is easy to rear buffaloes. I took a loan of rupees thirty thousand from our SHG and purchased a milking buffalo. The buffalo provides 5 litres of milk a day and I sell the milk to different households in the village at 40 rupees a litre and earn 200 rupees a day.

In the training programs, SAS explained to us MGNREGA and its benefits for the poor. I applied for the job card and now I work under MGNREGA. I could avail all these benefits since I am a member of a SHG guided by SAS. Through the capacity building programs, I have grown in self-confidence and general knowledge. I hope for better things to come in the future after the completion of my children's education. My husband supports and encourages me. We are a happy family today.

## 2. Sheela Parasaram Honayak – SHG Member



Sheela Parasaram Honayak is 30-year-old and from Mavanoor village. She has no formal education. She has three school-going children. Her husband is unskilled labourer and goes to Belagavi town for work. They are poor and do not have any other source of income other than their meagre wages. Sheela joined Vijay Laxmi SHG and became its active member. A few months ago her husband met with a bicycle accident and his eyes were damaged. He was losing his eye sight and Sheela had no money for his treatment. She approached her SHG for a loan of rupees ten thousand to meet her husband's medical expenses at 12% interest whereas the moneylenders charged 36% interest. Her husband underwent eye operation and his sight has improved. She is grateful to her SHG for giving sight to her husband. She is happy that she is a part of a SHG under SAS's guidance. The SHG reached out to her in her crisis.

## 3. Shoba Tukaram Hosamani – SHG leader



Shoba Tukaram Hosamani, aged 47, resides at Khangoan village of Belagavi Taluka. She completed her 10 years of schooling. She belonged to the Other Backward Class (OBC) group. She has five school-going children.

Shoba joined *Saraswati* SHG twelve years ago. She was a shy and introvert person. She was scared to speak in public. She was worried at the thought of what people would think about her. She had no self-confidence and courage; she had a very



poor self-image of herself.

She used to attend the SHG meetings regularly and participate actively in the capacity building and personality development sessions conducted by SAS. Over the years she gained self-confidence, courage and became sociable. She became the leader of her SHG and stood for the Panchayat Elections. She won the elections and has become an active member of her Panchayat. She is in the forefront to develop her village and she implements very effectively the various schemes meant for the poor. Her village faced a water shortage problem and the village had no piped water. She convinced other *panchayat* members and laid the pipelines for water supply to each household. She is happy with her achievements. As she looks back she takes pride in affirming that it is SAS that made the difference and made her what she is today.

#### 4. Gangavva Madivalappa Gauri – SHG



I am Gangavva Madivalappa Gauria, aged 35. My village is Yerdal. I studied up to the 10<sup>th</sup> class. I belong to Lingayath caste. I have three children. I joined *Mukthi* SHG five years ago. I regularly attend the capacity building and personality development training of SAS. I have become more self-confident and courageous.

I learnt about IGA and women who have become self-sufficient with it. I took twenty-five thousand rupees loan from my SHG and purchased *Roti* making machine and started making *Rotis*. I sell a *Roti* for three rupees. In festival and marriage season I get many orders. I employ three more women from my SHG to work with me. Thus the *Roti* making IGA has not only helped me but also three more members of my group. It is a profitable activity. I paid back the loan of twenty-five thousand rupees and later I took a loan of rupees seventy thousand for my children's education and for developing my farm. Earlier I was worried about repaying the loans, now I am confident that I can clear the loan within a year. My economic condition improved due to the *Roti* making IGA. I am grateful to my SHG and SAS for helping me to live a dignified life.

#### 5. Baby Deepak Mensey – SHG



I am Baby Deepak Mensey, aged 39. I am from the Hindu Maratha community. I have completed 10th years of education and wanted to study more, but my parents got me married at a young age. I stay in Machhe and I have two school-going children.

I was given in marriage to Uchgoan village but we did not have any income there. We purchased a small plot in Machhe and built a house. My husband went to the local industrial estate for work. We had taken a huge amount of loan to purchase the land to build the house. My husband was worried about the repayment of the loan and the money lenders continuously harassed my husband to pay

back the amount. Due to all these tensions, he committed suicide.

I was lost! The full load repaying the loan, daily household expenses and the cost of educating my children fell on me. I was a member of *Vidyashree* SHG and I had a small saving. But that amount was nowhere compared to the loan we had taken. SAS staff and SHG members gave me the idea of selling *Sarees* from house to house and they supported me. I took the challenge and borrowed money from my SHG for the *Saree* business. I went from house to house and village to village selling *Sarees*.

I learnt the tricks of the trade. I purchased Sarees in the wholesale market and I learnt the knack of convincing the customers and keeping my profit margin high while selling. Over the years I have managed to repay the loan of money lenders as well as of SHG. Now I manage to live comfortably with a lot of peace and contentment of achieving something great in my life. I am ever grateful to SAS staff and my SHG members for supporting me when I needed it most.

## **6. Laxmi Kallappa Balekundri - SHG member**

My name is Laxmi Kallappa Balekundri, aged 38. I live in Kadoli. I have completed 10 years of schooling. I am married and have three school-going children.

Our basic occupation is farming and in the offseason we go for wage labour. I am a member



of *Kasturba* SHG since the last nineteen years. We are sixteen members in our SHG and our common saving is the sum of six hundred nineteen thousand two hundred rupees. I am the leader of my SHG. I have come up in life due to my involvement in my SHG and by accessing many of the poverty alleviation schemes of the government.

I took a loan from my SHG and set up a wheat grinding machine. I work under MGNREGA and I have a job card and a labour card. Now I have become a *Kayak Bandu* under MGNREGA and I lead a group of 25 women. I have also made a health card under *Ayushman Bharat Yojana* of the government. I have received a scholarship for my children's education since I have a job card and since I worked more than 90 days under MGNREGA. I have also motivated my SHG members to apply for all these schemes of the government and to do work under MGNREGA.

I owe my progress to SAS staff and their constant personal guidance. The SAS staff showed me the way to government schemes and showed me how to access them. They did not come with me to any of the office but they showed the way and stood behind as my support. I am ever grateful to them for making me what I am today.

## **7. Laxmi Ambruth Patil - Organic Farming**

Laxmi Ambruth Patil is 50 years old and belongs to Hindu Maratha Community. She was born in Chapgoan village and given in marriage to Bidarebhavi village. She has two sons.

Her friends and relatives had a low opinion about her and her village. Her village was poor with hardly any development. Her contact with SAS motivated her to do something different. She gathered some women of her village and started SHG under the guidance of SAS.



Later in the year 2016, she opted for Organic Farming with financial assistance from SAS. She grew vegetables without using chemical fertilizers and pesticides for her home consumption and also sold organic vegetables to manage her household expenses. She encouraged her SHG members to start organic kitchen gardens and many opted for it.

Now she finds in herself and her village positive changes. There are 7 SHGs in her village under the guidance of SAS. Many of those SHG members started organic kitchen gardens. Her friends and relatives, who looked down upon her once, now appreciate her and the changes taking place in her village. They are willing to give their daughters in marriage to her village - Bidarebhavi. She succeeded in changing people's perceptions through the SHG movement and the organic kitchen garden initiative.

#### **8. Pornima Iranna Patil – Organic Farming**

I am Pornima Iranna Patil aged 29. I studied up to the 12<sup>th</sup> class and I belong to the Lingayat community. I stay in Gejapathi. I belong to *Kalika Devi* SHG guided by SAS. I am an active member of the SHG. I attended the training program of SAS and I gained a lot from it.



In 2017, training in organic farming was conducted in our village. I was part of it. I still remember the video presentation about the ill-effects of chemical pesticides and fertilizers on human health. In the video, I saw how in Kerala children were born deformed and in Punjab many people suffered from cancer due to the excessive use of chemicals in the fields. I was shocked at the same time sad; and that motivated me to opt for organic farming. Some members of my SHG received financial assistance from SAS for starting organic farming but I started organic kitchen garden with my own resources. Last two years

I grew tomatoes, bitter guards, brinjal, green chilly, Ivy Gourd, carrot and leafy vegetable for my home use. I cook tasty vegetables and my family members appreciate the food. I continue to do it. I am happy that I am protecting my household from the bad effects of chemical pesticides and fertilizers. I appreciate the effort of SAS to **spread** awareness on organic farming.

#### **9. Srimathi Chandrappa Turmandi - Organic Farming**

My name is Srimathi Chandrappa Turmandi. I am from Hanabaratti village. My age is 45. I belong to the Jain community. We are 6 members in the family. I have two sons. One of them is married. Both my sons work in the field. We have five acres of land. In the year 2010, we started

a SHG named *Pathmavathi* with 12 members. Total savings of our group is rupees three hundred and seventy-five thousand and my personal savings is sixteen thousand.



I participated in many training programs organized by SAS. One such training was about organic farming. During the training, we were told about the negative effects of chemical fertilizers and pesticides on our health and environment. SAS motivated us to switch to organic farming or at least to maintain an organic kitchen garden. I was inspired to start an organic kitchen garden for our home consumption. I received rupees two thousand as incentive. I used that amount to buy seeds and organic manure and to prepare the land for the cultivation. I used only organic manure and organic pesticides. I produced a variety of green vegetables. I used it for home consumption and sold some. I earned forty thousand rupees from the sale of vegetables. That was a big reward and I am very happy the new initiative. I am grateful to SAS for motivating me for this venture.

#### **10. Mahadevi Hanumanthagouda Patil – Organic Farming**

I am Mhadevi Hanumanthagouda Patil, aged 47. I am from Mekkalmaradi village. I studied only till the 5<sup>th</sup> class. My caste is lingayath. I have three children. I am a member of Krishnaveni SHG since three years. After joining the group I profited a lot from the training programs organized by SAS. I got courage and self-confidence from these trainings. Moreover, I got a clear understanding of what organic farming is and its benefits.



I realized the harmful effects of pesticides and chemicals fertilizers on human health and on the environment. I was motivated to do organic farming and I was helped with 2000 rupees to start the process. I used the money to get seeds and to prepare the field for the cultivation. I planted variety of vegetables in the field. I got good income from the organic initiative. I got enough vegetables for home consumption and sold vegetables in the local market. My neighbours were impressed with my initiative and they also started cultivating vegetables organically for their home consumption.

#### **11. Sharavva Ganapati Mahut – Organic Farming**

Sharavva Ganapati Mahut, aged 74, resides in Guramatti village of Bambarga Panchayat. She has two sons - one works in a company and the second works with SAS. Both are married and have school-going children.

Sharavva listened to her son's motivational talk on organic kitchen gardens. She decided to try it in her backyard. She purchased turmeric and cultivated them in her kitchen garden. She used

organic manure and natural pest controls. The growth of turmeric is praiseworthy. The leaves have grown up to 5 foot which means the rich harvest of turmeric is awaited. Usually, turmeric leaves grow up to two to three feet length. She has planted green chilly, flower plants, ginger and pumpkin. She and her husband manage this kitchen garden and are very happy with the outcome. Neighbours and villagers marvel at the produce of her organic kitchen garden.



She is happy with her son; she experimented with what he taught and it yielded abundant fruits. She hopes that many more households would go for organic farming and save our mother earth and eat healthy food.

### 12. Parvati Bairanath Kotekr – Organic Farming

My name is Parvati Bairanath Kotekr. I am 62, and I live in Kattanbhvi village. I am a member of Laxmi SHG and I have gained a lot of knowledge from the SHG meetings. SAS staff also motivates us for Organic Farming.



I thought of growing a kitchen garden in my backyard. I realized turmeric grows well in our climate conditions and has multiple uses. Thus, I planted turmeric along with other vegetables for our home consumption. I implemented the knowledge and methods I learnt from SAS's training sessions. I used organic methods in planting, in caring for the plant and used organic manure and organic pest controls. The turmeric grew well and I sold the leaves worth five thousand during Nagara Panchami, Ganesh, Dasura, and Deepawali festivals. I am sure to earn another five thousands rupees by selling the turmeric roots. I have also lemon grass with which I make tea. Thus I have saved the expenses on tea leaves for the last six months. I have also grown flat beans, pumpkins and marigold flowers. All of these bring me some income. When I look back at the last six months, I have invested nothing other than my time and I earn a good income.

I am grateful to SAS for imparting to me the knowledge about organic farming. My family members are very happy with the organic initiative and enjoy tasty and healthy meals.

### 13. Akkavva Gopal Patil – Organic Farming

I am Akkavva Gopal Patil aged 42 and I belong to the Jain community and stay at Hiremunavali. I have no formal education. For our livelihoods we did farming. Over the years I came to believe that without the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers farming was not possible.



I am part of *Kamadenu* SHG started by SAS five years ago. The SAS staff guided and discussed with us matters pertaining to the betterment of our village and the quality of our lives as women in society. I

attend the capacity building sessions and it did a lot of good to me. In one of the sessions, SAS discussed on health and related it to the food that we ate. The modern agricultural products were highly contaminated with residues of chemical pesticides and fertilizers and caused serious health problems. SAS suggested Organic Farming as an alternative. SAS also gave us some incentive to start organic farming and organic kitchen garden. I was not convinced yet in order to protect our health and life I gave it a try half-heartedly.

I have been managing an organic kitchen garden since the last 2 years. That changed my belief about farming. Now I know from experience that farming is possible without the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers. Only by using organic manure I grew Ladies Finger, French Beans, Radish, Tomatoes, Turmeric and other leafy vegetables. I cooked such organic vegetable for home consumption and also distributed to them to my neighbours free of cost. Last two years, I have not purchased any vegetables from the market. That way I not only saved some money but also earned the goodwill of my neighbours. All of us enjoyed the taste of organic vegetables. My neighbours too have organic kitchen gardens. I am grateful to SAS for introducing me to organic farming and for changing my thought process.

#### **14. Mallavva Chennabasayya Poojeri – MGNREGA**

I am Mallavva Chennabasayya Poojeri from Yerdal, aged 52. I am a member of *Strishakthi* SHG. I have no schooling. I belong to the Lingayath community. I go for coolie work for my livelihood. I joined SHG 18 years ago and I am the representative of my SHG. We have 15 SHGs in our village under the guidance of SAS.

Last few years, SAS supervisors were speaking about Employment Guarantee Act, job cards, labour cards and works under MGNREGA. Due to the constant motivation and support of SAS around 150 women from my village came forward to work under MGNREGA. We met the Panchayat Development Officer (PDO) and applied for job card to start the work. After the official procedure, 100 women got work under MGNREGA. We cleaned the water ways and deepened check dams in the village so that we wouldn't face water shortage in summer.



I am very happy to say that I took the lead to bring these people together. Along with women, men also joined the workforce. Husbands and wives worked together. It was a wonderful and meaningful experience for all of us. Our wages were deposited in our bank accounts - Rs 259 per person, per day. We completed 75 days of work and we have another 25 days' work left to complete the target. I function as "*Kayak Bandhu*" (promoter of work/leader) under MGNREGA. I have developed my leadership qualities and received good support and cooperation from both men and women. I could

do all these works because of my self-confidence and courage which I built up through SAS's SHG movement.

### 15. Nutan Rajendra Patil - MGNREGA

I am Nutan Rajendra Patil. I am aged 40 and belong to Hindu Maratha community. I am educated up to the 10<sup>th</sup> class. I live in Khanapur and I have a son and two daughters.



Mine was an arranged marriage with a school teacher's son in Goa. I thought that he was well educated and had a good job like his father. But I was cheated. He had neither education nor job. Soon after the marriage, my father in law sent us to Kaundal village of Khanpur taluka. I thought there we might have a decent house with the minimum comforts of life. But to my dismay, I found a dilapidated house without electricity, furniture and cooking facilities. I had to start from the scratch to build my home. I worked in others fields for daily wages. To my great fortune I joined a SHG under the guidance of SAS. I took a loan from the SHG and helped my husband to set up a fruit stall in Khanapur town. Later, I started working under MGNREGA and earned better wages and

become a *Kayak Bandu*, which gave me better wages and status.

In spite of everything, I managed to educate my children and I have big dreams for them. My association with SAS and its SHG movement helped me to die to my past and to live with lot of positive energy. SAS thought me to convert problems into opportunities. Every dark cloud has a silver lining - an indication that the sun is behind it!

### 16. Suresh Ballappa Kalluri – IGA

Suresh Ballappa Kalluri is 36 years old and has studied up to the 10<sup>th</sup> class. He lives in Guramatti. He belongs to the Hindu Lingayat community. After completing his basic education, he worked with the watershed project of SAS. Later he went to Karjat near Mumbai, to work as a supervisor in a differentially enabled children's hostel. He was not happy with his salary. He was married and has a daughter and found difficult to make ends meet. He came back to his village and started looking for opportunities.

His mother was in SAS's SHG movement. She had a saving of hundred fifty thousand rupees with her SHG. He requested his mother to take a loan from her SHG and help him to buy a



truck. SHG gave her four hundred thousand rupees as loan, which he gave to her son. He took another loan of nine hundred thousand rupees from the bank and purchased a truck for transporting goods. He drives the truck and earns up to rupees fifty thousand a month. He is paying back the loan from his mother and from the Bank with interest. Now he supports his family and saves something for the future. He is very happy that he is self-employed and earns his livelihoods in a dignified manner. He said that he was able to do this only because of the loan that his mother got from her SHG.

### **17. Mallavva Bhimappa Melmetti - Government Schemes**

I am Mallavva Bhimappa Melmetti, aged 45 from K. Hosur village in Gokak Taluka. I have no schooling. My caste is ST. I go for coolie work. I have one and a half acres of land. I have two children.



In the year 2000, I came to know about SAS and SHG concept. I collected 14 members and started *Dhanalaxmi* SHG. The speciality of our SHG was that all of us were poor and belonged to ST category. We meet on the 22nd of every month. Our total group saving is the sum of eight

hundred and fifty thousand rupees. I gained a lot of courage and confidence from SAS capacity building and personality development training.

I made it a habit to visit government offices to know about various schemes meant for ST and women. I visit the Women and Child Development, Taluk Panchayat and Gram Panchayat Offices regularly. My group received a revolving fund of 54,940 rupees from the department of Women and Child Development and rupees 15,000 from NRLM (National Rural Livelihood Mission). I contacted the local MLA and got a loan of rupees two hundred thousand without any interest for income-generating activities from the SC /ST development office. This last amount has to be repaid in instalments. We used the money for cultivating our land, purchasing milk animals and for meeting other household needs. I am very happy with my achievements and grateful to SAS for all the information and guidance rendered to us in order to reach such heights. We were considered low caste people but now our economic status improved and we feel equal to other caste people of our village.

### **18. Kamalavva Yemanappa Kelgeri – Federation Leader**

I am Kamalavva Yemanappa Kelgeri aged 65 and I come under the SC category. I have only two years of schooling. I do coolie work. I have two children. I am a member of *Mariamamma* SHG. It was established in 2000. Our total saving is Rs. 952,673/-. I am also a member of our Taluka Level SHG Federation.

I usually participate in all the training programs of SAS and as a result I see a lot of changes in me. I am critically aware of what is happening around me and in the world at large. I share with



my group members the topics that we discuss in our federation meetings. I visit *panchayat* very often and learn about new government schemes and programs. I motivate our members to work under MGNREGA. I make sure that we maintain proper records in our SHG. Recently a member from our group took a loan of one hundred thousand rupees and died after a few months. Her husband refused to pay back the loan to the SHG. Then we showed him the documents signed by her and her son. After verifying the signatures he started to repay the amount. That vividly demonstrated to us the importance of keeping proper record of the SHG.



We and our households have developed economically and socially, thanks to the SHG movement. We easily take loan from our SHG to meet our unexpected expenses. We also gain a lot of general knowledge from our regular monthly meetings.

We are grateful to SAS for guiding and directing us.

### 19. Manda Bapu Desai – IGA

Manda Bapu Desai, 60 years, belongs to Hindu Maratha caste. She is educated up to class 10 and resides at Shivaji Nagar, Khanapur. She lives with her son, daughter in law and grandson. Her husband was a retired army man, who had borrowed money to build a house, but had a heart attack and died in 2002.



Manda had lost all her hope; and was contemplating suicide along with her son in 2002. Her she changed her mind when she came in touch with SAS staff who encouraged her to start a SHG group. With the help of her SHG she could pay back the house loan and take care of her son. *Dhanalaxmi* SHG which she started in 2002 had 14 members who were distressed in life and were facing many socio-economic hurdles. In the initial stages they saved Rs. 50 per month and gradually increased their savings. Now they save Rs. 200 per

month and each person's personal saving is above Rs 30,000/-.

After participating in the capacity building activities organized by SAS, she decided to put a small shop with SHG loan of rupees fifty thousand. She managed her shop well and added to her business a Xerox machine. She has a daily business of over Rs. fifteen hundred and on an average an income of rupees fifteen thousand a month. That is a big amount compared to the Rs.150 daily wages of the rural women.

Her son Rohadas, who was working in a factory for a small amount of salary has given up his job and helps her in the shop. As she is ageing, she is happy with her son's support. As she

reminisces her past she proudly asserts that the best part of her life has been the starting of *Dhanalaxmi* SHG. The SHG movement made a huge difference in her life and in the lives of hundreds of women who achieved socio-economic emancipation in a male-dominated society.

## 20. Mahadevi Hanamanth Nalforoshi - IGA

Mahadevi Hanamanth Nalforoshi is 40 years old and belongs to Scheduled Tribe community. She stays in MK Hubali. Her husband is a truck driver. She is a member of *Vaibabha Laxmi* SHG.



She actively participates in the capacity building training conducted by SAS. In one of such training, she learnt about different income-generation possibilities. She decided to start a cloth shop to cater to the needs of her village and the neighbouring villages. She narrowed down to selling only ladies clothes. Women in villages are usually shy and do not purchase clothes from shops where men are present. She rented a room for rupees three thousand per month. She borrowed rupees forty thousand from her husband and sixty thousand from her SHG as initial working capital. It took few months for the sale picked up. In a normal month her profit is around Rs. ten thousand and in festive and marriage season her profit goes up to fifteen thousand a month. She has paid back her SHG loan with interest.

The broad smile on her face says she is very happy with her IGA. She has become economically independent and her social status in the village has gone up. She owes all these changes to SAS and its staff who guided her.

## 21. Mallavva Basappa Hanbar - IGA

I am Mallavva Basappa Hanbar, aged 46. I have no formal education. I belong to Hindu Hanbar community and reside in Kamsinakoppa village. I have two grown-up sons. I belong to *Girija Devi* SHG. My husband goes for coolie work. We own an acre of land, but we hardly get any income from it.



I regularly attend the capacity building programs and the personality development training of SAS. In those meetings, they gave us ample examples of how rural women have become self-employed with income-generating activities. I too thought of taking a risk and purchasing a *roti* making machine. I took rupees twenty thousand loan from my SHG and started the business of supplying *rotis* in the village and also for various functions. In a month earn rupees five thousand but during festival and marriage season I get about rupees ten thousand a month.

This activity has made me and my son self-employed. Earlier my son was unemployed, but now he takes a lot of interest and brings orders and raw material for the production of *rotis*. Together we manage this small business and earn enough for our household needs. I am grateful to SAS and my SHG for guiding me and supporting me.

## 22. Arathi Vittal Kothal – IGA



I am Arathi Vittal Kothal aged 45 is from Deshnur village. I have no formal schooling. I am a member of *Amrutha* SHG since five years. I have two children and I belong to Lingayath community. I actively participate in capacity building and IGA training programs. After joining SHG, I have developed self-confidence and courage.

I thought of becoming self-employed and self-reliant by starting an IGA. I realized the need for a tractor in our village. I took a hundred and fifty thousand rupees loan from my SHG and the remaining amount from the bank. My husband and son drive the tractor. Farmers regularly hire our tractor for fieldwork and to carry farm produce to the market. Now my household has a monthly income of about thirty thousand rupees. I started repaying the bank

and SHG loans in instalments.

I am a happy person now. I have provided job to my husband and son. They are self-employed and happy. I am grateful to SAS and my SHG for guiding and supporting me.

## 23. Mahadevi Prakash Patil - IGA

I am Mahadevi Prakash Patil, aged 40, from Deshnur village. I am an illiterate woman. My caste is Lingayath. I have three children. They go to school. I am a member of a SHG for last five years. I have grown a lot in my knowledge and awareness after joining the group.



My husband put up a poultry shed but did not have enough money to buy hatchlings. I took a loan of Rs. fifty thousand from my SHG to support the poultry farm. It takes only 90 days to grow a chicken and sell it. Every month we sell the grown-up chicken and earn up to fifteen to twenty thousand profit. I have started repaying

my SHG loan. I also work in the poultry. I have planted fruit trees and cultivate vegetable around the poultry farm. We are happy with this initiative. I am grateful to SAS for all the support and guidance.

## 24. Mahadevi Raju Ozi – IGA

Mahadevi Raju Ozi is 50 years old and she studied up to the 10<sup>th</sup> class. She lives in Narasingpur village of Hukeri taluka. She has two college-going children. Her husband works in a private factory for rupees nine thousand a month. She found it difficult to manage the household expenses with so little an income.



She is a member of *Akka Mahadevi* SHG. She took a loan of rupees a hundred and twenty thousand from her SHG and put up a cloth shop in her house. She also works as *Kayaka Bandhu* under MGNREGA. Her cloth shop has many customers from the neighbouring villages. Her monthly income is above rupees ten thousand. She pays back her SHG loan and interest regularly. She is happy with her achievement. Her daily expenses and the expenses of her children's education are taken care of now. She also has many customs and has learnt the ways to deal with customers and attract more. She owes her personal and economic development to SAS Capacity

building activities.

## 25. Mhadevi Nagappa Hulikatti - IGA

I am Mhadevi Nagappa Hulikatti, aged 40. I had 10 years of schooling. I belong to Hindu Lingayat community and stay at Dastikoppa village. I am part of *Bhyagyashree* SHG which is 12 years old. Unfortunately I am childless and I always felt there was something wrong with me. Even my husband was not happy with me. I had become an introvert and sadness filled my life.



SAS staff encouraged me to put up a grocery shop in order to earn my living and also to meet the needs of my village. There were around 800 households in my village. I took a loan from SHG and started the grocery shop. As months

passed, the shop picked up sales. I sell grocery items worth rupees 4 to 6 thousand a day and have a saving of Rs. twenty five thousand a month. My husband also helps me in the shop.

Now I interact with a lot of people. My earlier sadness of being childless has vanished. My husband accepts me and treats me well and now there is a lot of joy in living. Now I feel that there is nothing less in me. I am a normal person like all the others. I am grateful to SAS for accompanying me and helping me to discover my true self.

## 26. Latha Yellappa Gurav - FVT Guide

My name is Latha Yellappa Gurav. I am 32 years old and I studied up to 12<sup>th</sup> class. I live in Topinkatti with my mother in law and two children. My husband works in Pune and sends money for our household expenses.



I was alone at home and used to feel lonely since children went to school and I had no work other than taking care of them. In our village, SAS initiated a FVT centre and Mandu Umesh Bedrolkar accompanied the students. In August 2019, she died of heart attack. In that tragic situation, I volunteered to accompany and train the students. Over the months I learnt how to make teaching interesting and I discussed with the students the monthly topics that were given to us during our monthly meeting at Belagavi.

Now I am confident and with good teaching skills. My feeling of loneliness has disappeared and I am fully engaged with the students, and I have no time to worry and fret about unnecessary things. I learnt to appreciate that it is more important to learn new skills and make friends more than make money. I am grateful to SAS for believing in me and for entrusting me with the pleasant task of training and guiding young FVT students. SAS has taught me to live a purposeful life.

Now I am confident and with good teaching skills. My feeling of loneliness has disappeared and I am fully engaged with the students, and I have no time to worry and fret about unnecessary things. I learnt to appreciate that it is more important to learn new skills and make friends more than make money. I am grateful to SAS for believing in me and for entrusting me with the pleasant task of training and guiding young FVT students. SAS has taught me to live a purposeful life.

## 27. Poornima Nagesh Badiger - FVT Guide

I am Poornima Nagesh Badiger aged 36. I studied up to the 10<sup>th</sup> class and I got trained under Job Oriented Course (JOC) as a fashion designer. I stay in Hosa Kadorolli. I lost my husband after 18 months of marriage and I was 6 months pregnant. I had lost interest in life, but I lived on for my daughter.



I came back to my parental home after the death of my husband. In 2007 I attended the JOC and started to stitch at home, but did not have many customers. I was struggling to make ends meet. In the year 2012, I came to know about SAS and came in contact with SAS staff, Seeing my life conditions and qualification, they suggested

I start a FVT centre in my village. I accepted the offer and during the last seven years I have trained seventy girls.

I grew in self-confidence and found a reason to live, and I have access to finances to live a comfortable life. I get from SAS Rs. 24 thousand for managing the FVT centre. Besides, now I have a flourishing fashion design career. I earn around Rs. forty thousand during marriage and festival season and about Rs. ninety thousand during the rest of the year.

My daughter is studying in the 9th class and I have big dreams for her. I am very happy in life and I have the satisfaction of teaching every year a batch of 10 girls garment making skills and enabling them to stand on their feet. I am grateful to SAS for constantly guiding me and supporting me to become a better person. I benefit every year from the personality development and skill development trainings organized by SAS. What I am today what I am due to my contact with SAS and its staff.

## **28. Ganga Shankar Gurav - FVT Former Student**

Ganga Shankar Gurav, 30 years, belongs to OBC (Other Backward Community), with 10 years of education. She lives in Aunjuwad, Khanapur. She lives with her husband and two school-going children. Her husband lost his job five years ago and the family had trouble making ends meet.



In those circumstances, she came across a SAS staff in one of her relative's house. There she learnt that women also can contribute to the family income and need not depend only on their husbands' income; that both husband and wife need to work to support the family. The Functional Vocational Training of SAS offered her an opportunity to pick up garment making and life coping skills. She joined SAS's FVT centre and became an expert in stitching ladies dresses.

Initially, she did not have any customers. SAS staff suggested to her to sell her products at the weekly market at Khanapur. As the months went by her sales increased. Now she sells dresses worth Rs. 10000/- a month by going to the weekly markets in nearby villages. She also cycles from village to village and house to house to sell clothes and dresses and thus she doubled her monthly sales to Rs.20000/-. It is not common in Indian villages for a woman to cycle. She has broken the myth that cycling is for men only!

Reminiscing her past she said that after her marriage she was not accepted by her in-laws due to her dark skin colour and the couple was not accepted in their ancestral home. They rented a room and lived by themselves. Once she become self-employed and started to earn money, she found acceptance from her in-laws and they even visit her in her one room house. She shared with tears in her eyes, "I have no words to describe the joy of being accepted by my near and dear ones". Her life situation changed thanks to SAS's FVT Centre and the guidance given by SAS staff.

### **29. Kavita Vishwanath Sambannavr - Former FVT Student**

I am Kavita Vishwanath Sambannavr aged 25. I have education to the 10<sup>th</sup> class. I belong to Lingayat community from MK Huballi. I am a married woman and mother of 2 girl children. My husband goes for daily wage labour and does not have a regular job.



I attended last year Functional Vocational Training conducted by SAS. After the training, I started stitching from home. I converted a small room in my house to a workshop. Now I am able to earn rupees six to eight thousand per month. I take care of my household expenses and support the education of my children. Even my husband helps me with the stitching work in his free time.

I am happy with my financial condition now. Earlier I did not know how to meet the expenses and I used borrow money from others. Now, because of the training I got in the FVT Centre, I can manage on my own with enough income to support and family needs.

### **30. Arathi Ashok Beedkar –FVT Former Student**

My name is Arathi Ashok Beedkar. I am 18 years old. I belong to Maratha community and I live near Nadgad. We have a house but no fields or ancestral property. I have 3 siblings and mother living with me. I lost my father when I was in the 9<sup>th</sup> class due to sickness. I have studied up to the 12<sup>th</sup> class. I was interested in college studies but our poverty robbed me of my future dreams.



I came to Nilji village. There I stayed with my relatives and did my 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> class. After completing the 12<sup>th</sup> class, I joined the FVT centre of SAS. I learnt fashion design, cutting and stitching, glass painting and embroidery and picked up other life coping skills. I overcame stage fear, sang songs and danced on the stage and also shared my experience boldly. I also learnt the ways of dealing with customers and about laws that

project women and children.

Now I am back in my village and I have started stitching from home. I support my mother in the house works and earn some income for the family. I take care of my siblings' studies. Now we are able to meet our basic needs. SAS has helped me to stand on my feet and support my family. I hope to educate my siblings and get good jobs for them. I am grateful to SAS for making me economically independent.

### 31. Gauramma Ramesh Koladur - FVT Student

My name is Gauramma Ramesh Koladur. I am 25 years old and I have completed the 10th class. I belong to SC caste and live in Tumariguddi village.



I wanted to study further but my parents stopped my schooling and got me married at the age of 18. In my husband's house, I was not allowed to go out and mingle with anyone. I was within the four walls of my house. My mother in law is a member of a SHG and SAS staff once visited my house. They spoke to me in the presence of my mother in law and showed the possibility of joining the FVT course. I was keen on improving my skills and status.

I discussed the matter with my husband and persuaded him to allow me to attend the classes and finally he did.

It was a different world altogether. Initially, I was a bit reluctant to participate fully in the class as well as in the personality development programs. As months passed by, I overcame my inhibitions. I changed the way I looked at myself and made use of all the opportunities to come out of myself. I attend the classes regally. I sang and danced on the stage in front of a large crowd. I have shared my personal experience boldly. I also speak with my husband and in-laws with respect and without fear. I am well respected in my in-law's house. After completing the course, I intend to purchase a sewing machine and become economically independent. I have changed, thanks to the personal accompaniment and selfless service of the FVT guide and SAS staff.

### 32. Jothi Manjunath Sutar - FVT Former Student

I am Jothi Manjunath Sutar, aged 23, and educated up to the 12th class. I reside in Kednur along with my husband and in-laws. My husband goes to Belagavi city for carpentry work. I was alone at home and I heard about SAS's FVT classes in the villages. I inquired about it and met FVT guide Archana Abhijit Deshpande. I enrolled myself in the 2017-18 batch and completed my training. Later I purchased a second-hand sewing machine and started stitching cloths from home. I get many orders these days and I am happy that I earn some money. I have also started going for further skill development training in fashion design conducted at Belagavi city



I manage a SHG under the guidance of SAS. I have learnt good account-keeping methods from SAS staff. I am happy and grateful

to SAS for guiding me to become economically independent. I have enhanced my personality and have become bold and free.



### **3- Organization Building of Nomadic Shepherd Community [1<sup>st</sup> Aug 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> Jul 2019 through Jana Jagaran (JJ) a unit of SAS]**

#### **Location of the Project/ Area of operation:**

Eleven Districts of North Karnataka divided into 4 zones (1. Belgaum and Bagalkot, 2. Haveri, Gadag, and Dharward, 3. Koppal, Raichur, Bellary and Bijapur, 4. Chitradurg and Davanagere) These are covered by different Village Level Workers, Self Help Groups of the listed districts constitute the regional federation of women and all these three regions combined to form an Apex Federation of women based at Belgaum. That also includes the leaders of GPs, Leaders of Shepherd's co operative societies and their federation at Belagavi and Bengaluru and the District Central Co operative Banks.

#### **3.1. Detailed description of implemented measures/activities**

##### **3.1.1.Planned: Central Level Training**

SAS conducted 7days networking sessions at Bengaluru, with the involvement of 33 persons. SAS staff brought to the notice of MD of KSWDC the erratic distribution of NARI suwarna Seed Rams. The team discussed with him the lack of interest shown by the KSWDC staff for the amalgamation of Mahila Cooperatives of SAS's project area. They informed that the fodder seeds distribution was not uniform and that training for the shepherds was conducted in Bangalore whereas most of the shepherds were in interior places of North Karnataka. Along with KSWDC, SAS staff visited Krishi Mela to study various inputs for shepherding activity and IAHVB for early release of mycoplasma vaccine.

#### **Outcome**

Dr. Jambagi informed that an additional budget of Rs. 20 million would take care of the distribution of NARI Seed Rams. The Mahila Shepherd cooperatives of Dombal and Annigeri were cleared for amalgamation and the certificates would be issued. The fodder seeds distribution would be improved as Rs.15 million were available for additional distribution. The tents, nets, raincoats etc., were purchased at the cost of Rs. 40 million and distribution started. Training for the rural shepherds would be provided in the next few months with an outlay of Rs. 2 million. The Krishi Mela was highly educative for SAS staff; interactions with various breeders, equipment manufacturers and the service providers gave firsthand information to staff on modern sheep and goat breeding practices. Besides, they resolved the issues mentioned above. The Staff organized the whole program in coordination with the officials of Karnataka Sheep and Wool Development Corporation and the staff of Gandhi Krishi Vignyan Kendra which had organized the Krishi Mela.

### **3.1.2.Planned: Region wise cooperative leaders training**

SAS conducted 19 region wise shepherd cooperative leaders training for 281 leaders with the help of 45 Resource Persons at 16 different places.

#### **The Process**

The Lakkiahalli cooperative informed that the fodder seeds distribution is not complete due to shortages. The Budragunte shepherd cooperative informed of the erratic distribution of NARI suwarna seed rams in his area. Dr.Veeranna of Chitralingeshwar cooperative enquired on the fate of Rs.8500 million from National Cooperative Development Corporation. Mr. Shivappa of Krantiveer Sangolli Rayanna cooperative society of Kallolli village wanted to know the ways in which he could provide housing for spinners and weavers. Mr.Akkbar of Mudakeshwar shepherd cooperative society of Mangalur wanted to know about the relief measures to tide over the fodder and water shortages in his cooperative area. Mr. Hanumant of Mudakeshwar shepherd cooperative society of Mangalur wanted allocation of government land to his shepherd cooperative, he wanted to know about the procedure for allocation. Mr. Maruti of Mayammadevi cooperative informed that the cooperatives of Kannal, Arsinkere and Mangalur did not receive the grants of Rs. 5 lakhs. He wanted steps to be taken by networking. Mr. Durgappa of Arasinkere cooperative presented a list of 200 sheep for which shepherds did not receive death compensation from Gangavati, Kustagi, Baganal and Kinnal. Mr. Sidray Hosmani of Kalidas cooperative was not finding buyers for his 25 seed rams; he requested the cooperative leaders' help in this regard. Mr. Kavereappa enquired whether the cooperative was in a position to supply fodder seeds and feed concentrate to his members. Mrs. Netravati of Padmavati Mahila cooperative society wanted to know from other cooperative leaders about various programs that were implemented in their area. Mr. Nagendrappa of Krishna Cooperative wanted to know the procedure of allocation of some of the schemes from which cooperative societies had benefited. Mr. Deepak of Davangere cooperative wanted to know whether the KSWDC could provide feed concentrate to his members in the drought season. Mr. Shankar Hadimani of Ankalgi cooperative society wanted additional loans from DCC Bank of Vijayapura to be sanctioned to his members. To establish a new sheep market at Sirguppa, Mr. Kenchappa of Shri Krishna cooperative wanted the cooperative leadership to take up the issue with the government of Karnataka. The issue of non-cooperation by APMC staff was brought out by Mr.Balappa Daddi of Keruru cooperative society for further discussion and suitable action. Mr. Gajanan Kagnekar of NK shepherd cooperative Federation enquired about the delay in auditing of the accounts. The issue of not releasing death compensation for more than 578 beneficiaries of Gangavati shepherd cooperative was raised by Mr. Malappa Herawade. The issue of out break of Anthrax in the district of Raichur, Ballary, Koppal and Davangere was brought out by Mr. Mahadev of Birlingeshwar cooperative society of Gangavati. Many shepherd leaders raised the issue of shortage of therapeutic medicines in various veterinary hospitals. The issue of recovery of bank loans during drought season was discussed and a representation was made to the Government of Karnataka. The leaders undertook the review of the functioning of various shepherds cooperative and the benefits they accessed from various departments. The process of formation of women's cooperative, its impacts on the SHG women and the problem faced with live-weight marketing was discussed and proposals submitted for networking.

## **Outcome**

SAS team brought to the notice of the cooperative leaders that fodder seeds to the tune of 750 kilo gram were already supplied for each cooperative and that more stocks were expected. The NARI seed rams were being distributed as budget for the same were from KSWDC. KCSGRF was expecting a loan of Rs.8500 million to take the shepherding profession to new heights in the State of Karnataka. All the government officials and members of various shepherds' cooperatives had lobbied for the sanction of this fund. Kallolli Society had done exceedingly well in supporting the spinners and weavers. They took steps to acquire fund allocation for housing the spinners and weavers. They also agreed to start pygmy account for the 60 women and provide loan of Rs.30000 each for seed ram production. The shortages of fodder and water was effectively handled by the DC of Koppal and many members of the shepherd cooperative society received feed concentrates in the area of Mangalur shepherd cooperative society. The Kinnal cooperative has identified 100'x100' vacant land and submitted proposals to the Tahasildar and the DC of Koppal. They might succeed in getting land for developing their cooperative with facilities for storage, spinning, weaving and blanket making by their members. The grant of Rs. 5 lakhs to Kinnal, Bagnal, Arasinkere, and Mangalur was taken up with the KSWDC by the networking team. Mangalur which had not completed 3 years had to wait. The other three would receive the grants shortly.

Even after efforts to satisfy the veterinary authorities the death compensation proposals for nearly 200 sheep from the Koppal area were rejected by Assistant Director KSWDC Koppal due to incomplete post mortem reports. The proposal was once again submitted by the networking team to the MD of KSWDC for review. The Kalidas cooperative society of Mabnur had sufficient funds and informed that they were prepared to buy all the 25 Seed Rams and market directly to the farmers. The shepherd cooperative of Maldur informed its members that they had sufficient fodder seeds for distribution, but that they were not yet ready to purchase and distribute the feed concentrate. To the query of Mrs. Netravati of Padmavati Mahila cooperative society on various schemes that were available to the society members, Mr. Vasant Jaglar explained the benefits from Devaraj Urs Scheme for sheep rearing, housing and for the spinners and weavers. He also shared about money that Zilla Panchayats, the Textile Department provided under Mudra Scheme to the cooperatives. He also shared about schemes for carding machines, shearing machines, etc., and for sheep death compensation and Rs.5 lakh grant to cooperative societies. The KSWDC distributed sufficient fodder seeds. Feed concentrates were available only under NDRF scheme operated by Deputy Commissioner. Various cooperative leaders planned to meet the DC of their area with their requests. The cooperative loans were provided to the tune of Rs.70 million in the district of Vijayapura. Mr.Birappa Jumnal shared that additional loans were possible on a case to case basis. The President of Sirguppa Cooperative Society decided to move a proposal to the President of APMC to establish a sheep market in Sirguppa which had a large sheep population. The President of Kerur shepherd cooperative obtained all permissions for marketing of the sheep in the Kerur sheep market and was preparing for its formal inauguration.

The NK shepherd cooperative Federation completed three years and was preparing various activities with the support of KSWDC and the Textile Department. The outbreaks of Anthrax,

Blue Tongue and Mycoplasma in the District of Raichur, Ballary, Koppal, Chitradurga and Davangere were affectively controlled by networking with the KSWDC and IAHVB officials. The leaders of the shepherd cooperative gave a very positive assurance to carry on their developmental activities even after SAS phased out its project. They affirmed that the societies were stable and competent to carry forward various initiatives started by SAS.

To counter the shortage of therapeutic medicines to treat sheep and goats, the cooperative leaders successfully mobilized their respective ZPs for budget allocation. The members of shepherd cooperatives were pleased that the loans up to Rs. 2 lakhs were waved off by the government of Karnataka. They could get again fresh loans from the banks. The leaders of the shepherd cooperative societies appreciated the information provided by SAS's VLWs after the visit to *Krishimela* Bangalore, CFTRI Mysore, Fodder Research Centre Hesargatt, Central Grassland Fodder Research Institute Dharwad, Fodder Seeds Distribution Centre Dharwad and IAHVB Bangalore.

The cooperative leaders appreciated the efforts of SAS staff in establishing 3 Women's Cooperatives and also its efforts for marketing of sheep at Harpanhalli, Malebennur and Kerur. The impact of all these measures was - it educated the shepherd cooperatives to handle various issues and network successfully in their respective cooperative areas, districts and at the state level. The knowledge of various projects under operation, the success stories and interaction with various government agencies and research stations were highly appreciated and the cooperative leaders understood the difficulties faced by the members and appreciated their resilience and courage. The cooperative leaders took initiative and assimilated the information and the topics discussed in the training sessions. The issues were well prepared and presented in a systematic and organized manner; they conducted the training with high discipline and documented the proceedings. They had immense respect and gratitude for the initiatives taken up by SAS and had very high regards for the collaboration.

### **3.1.3. Planned: Central Level Networking by leaders of NK Fed Men and Women and Leaders of Shepherds cooperatives with Government and Non-Government Organization**

SAS conducted 5 Central Level Networking sessions with Government Officials with 33 Leaders across 5 days.

#### **Process**

The issues of outbreak of blue tongue and anthrax in the district of Koppal, Raichur and Ballary, and making available 10+1 unit sheep scheme for general category also. Proposal made for death compensation for the sheep to migratory shepherds. Provision of houses to the shepherds, proposal for special schemes for women cooperatives. These were taken up with the Minister of Animal Husbandry Mr. Venkatrao Nadgowda and MD of KSWDC Dr. Jambagi; Also the issue of ET and PPR vaccinations, the status of modern abattoir, production of mycoplasma vaccine, distribution of Tents, Nets etc., by Dr. Baig. The inputs on Income generation activities by Dr. V. Krishnan in charge Central Poultry Research Institution and Dr. Mahesh Central livestock breeding farm Hesargatt; and Dr. Pandya Central Fodder Research Institute were very

informative and adaptable. Also the interaction with Dr.Suchindra Deputy Head of Central Food and Technological Research Institute Mysore on various government projects pertaining to sheep and goat, poultry and other value added products.

### **Outcome**

The above pending issues were amicably presented and the Ministry of Animal Husbandry and the KSWDC looked at them favorably. The networking team was satisfied by the assurance given by the officers. The networking team also learnt of various schemes undertaken by Central Poultry Research Institutes, Central Livestock Breeding Farm & Central Fodder Research Institute Hesaragatt. These could be effectively used by our beneficiaries. The CFTRI Mysore provided demonstration of modern abattoir and various poultry and livestock products and its value additions. The networking team realized and experienced the importance of central networking process as the way to present and resolve issues through the ministry of animal husbandry and other officials. The minister wrote a letter to Dr. Jambagi MD of KSWDC to take prompt and suitable action and marked a copy to Dr. Baig.

### **3.1.4. Planned: Networking with NGOs/Govt Institutes @ Regional Level by shg women & men and leaders of shepherds cooperatives**

We conducted 8 Regional Level Networking sessions with Government officials with the participation of 74 women and 76 men across 7 power centers.

### **Process**

The issue of water contamination with fluorides was taken up with panchayat official of Udavalli of Hiriyur taluka; Misappropriation of MNAREGA funds and construction of toilets with GP officials; Problem faced by villages of Venkatapur of Ramdurg Taluka due to land disputes; The issue of unemployment of the youth with Udpudi sugar factory near Salapur; Solving the water and fodder shortages in the villages of Kinnal, Bagnal, Bijkal, Hanamanal and Mangalur by networking with various government officials; Solving the issue of revolving fund for shgs by coordinating with gram panchayat officials at Dombal; Work under MGNREGA with a representation to the GP officials of Dombal and Narayanpur; Solving the problem of fluoride in drinking water by coordinating with the President of GP at Dombal; Efforts by the shepherd's cooperative Yargatti to market sheep in the sheep market of Yargatti and the issue of not getting the post mortem certificates by the shepherds at rural veterinary dispensary; Efforts by Mabnur shepherds for the right of passage through the village road and issue of outbreaks of anthrax, bluetongue and worm infestation; Release of community grazing lands in the villages of Pur, Sanganal and Kinnal of Kustagi taluka; Allocation of 10+1 unit taken up with the Assistant Director of Koppal; issues of distribution of de-wormers, and housing loans were also taken up with the concerned officers.

Other issues such as establishment of abattoir, production of mycoplasma vaccine, pending death compensation, etc., were taken up by Dr.Baig with the Minister of Animal Husbandry. The deliberations with Dr.Tippeswamy regarding allocation of subsidies for housing in the villages

of KK Hatti and others of Hiriyur taluka and also the issue of considering non shepherding people for seed ram subsidy were taken up.

### **Outcome**

The various officers from Gram Panchayat, office of District Commissioner, officers of KSWDC, officials of sugar factory, and the Minister of Animal Husbandry and the department of Women and Child Development, APMC, collectively resolved the issue of fluoride water contamination, provided jobs under MGNREGA, facilitated the construction of toilets, survey of village properties, employment to the youth in the sugar factory, tiding over shortage of fodder and water crisis and providing revolving fund to SHGs, post mortem certificates of the sheep, control of outbreaks of anthrax and blue tongue, release of encroached community grazing lands and help to women shg members to access 10+1 sheep units and provision of seed ram subsidy, housing loans, etc. The Minister of Animal Husbandry gave his assurance to tackle the issues presented to him by networking team.

The shepherd leaders realized the strength of networking and the methodology of submitting various memorandums and learnt the art of negotiation. The shg leaders and their members were extremely happy with the results. The networking team took the full responsibility of studying and selecting the various issues with the help of SAS's VLWs. They deliberated on each issue before preparing a memorandum. They were personally asked to practice and present the facts before the officers which they did very successfully.

### **3.1.5. Planned: Capacity Building of Regional Level Women SHG Federation Leaders**

SAS conducted 12 trainings for 324 leaders with the help of 32 resource persons at 9 different places.

### **Process**

The following topics were part of the Capacity Building exercise: The issue faced by Ajjanatti and other villages due to excess of fluoride in the water and issue of lack of toilets were taken up with the GP officials; Saraswati shg of Ajjanatti took up the issue of provision of work MGNREGA. Provision of revolving fund to the shgs and issuing of job cards under MGNREGA were taken up with the GP of Dombal. The problem of drinking water shortage at Bachanal was taken up with the GP officials. Provision of loans to PKPS (Primary Agricultural Cooperative Society) at Menadhal, The issue of death compensation of sheep at Sattigeri village, The issue of atrocities on SC/ST women in Venkatapur village and skill development, employment generation were other issues. Dr. Z Baig presented his experience during his visit to Vietnam and focused on establishment of small clusters of goat farms. Mr (Dr) George Arakal and Mr Emmanuel Monis of Andheri Hilfe interacted with the members of Annigeri shgs and women shepherd cooperative.

### **Outcome**

The SHG leaders took up each issue and after the deliberations formed respective groups to network with various officials of GP, Women and Child Welfare Department, Department of

Animal Husbandry, KSWDC, and officials of ZP, and to report back on the outcome of the networking sessions.

The shg and cooperative members appreciated and understood the role played by Andheri Hilfe in transforming the lives of shepherding community in North Karnataka. The success stories narrated by various leaders further motivated the group. The visit of Dr. Baig to Vietnam gave a window of opportunities for establishment of small goat units. The women benefitted from various schemes and improved their income generation and took up health related issues and established women shepherds' cooperatives at their own strength. The impact of the training and various measures taken to tackle the issues faced by shgs were highly commendable and created self-confidence, organizing and networking capabilities among the leaders. Whenever they succeeded or achieved something, they became more confident and assertive in redressing various problems faced by them. The leaders of shgs took personal interest in the identification of various issues faced by the self help groups. And they devised various methods and identified the issues for networking.

### **31.6. Planned: Capacity Building of North Karnataka Women shg Federation**

SAS organized 3 North Karnataka Federation Women Leaders' Training for 96 leaders with the help of 11 Resource Persons.

#### **Process**

Mrs. Fakiravva the leader of Venkatapur village presented the problem faced by villagers due to improper marking of the properties. The issue of allotment of houses was taken up by Mrs. Hema Katagi of Dombal village and issue of eviction by house owners from the gifted land at Narayanpur village by Mrs. Netravati. The issue of delayed amalgamation that affected the mahila cooperative of Annigeri and Dombal's to access various benefits from KSWDC. Mr. Marigowdar and Mrs. L. S. Gungol of ZP and WCWD provided awareness on various schemes available from National Rural Livelihood Mission and Women and Child Welfare Department. Mrs. Soumya Upari and Mr. Anthony Jacob of SAS created awareness on socio economic policy and development of leadership. Mrs. Kasturi Tarlatti reviewed the progress of the work of various shgs of the federation through a face to face dialogue with shg leaders.

#### **Outcome**

The survey work of Venkatapur village was successfully conducted and all the properties marked. Mr. Kalappa MLA and the PDO Mr. Shamsuddin facilitated the allotment of houses to SC/ST shg women. The eviction from the households from a gifted land was resolved after the intervention of deputy commissioner of Gadag Mr. N.G. Hiremath. The awareness on various schemes by National Rural Livelihood Mission and schemes through women and child welfare department gave a window of opportunity to select various programs and benefits offered by these departments.

The education on socio economic policy and leadership development by SAS resource persons was highly informative and worth implementing. All the leaders were motivated after hearing of the achievements of different groups.

The training became one of the important forums for exchange of ideas, identification of issues and planning of networking sessions throughout the project area. The women experienced success after thorough planning of the networking sessions and gained confidence that they could repeat similar activity wherever possible to redress almost all the issues with their own capabilities and strengths. This was very good news for SAS which was at the consolidation phase of the project. It was commendable that the selection of the venue for the training, invitation to various leaders, selection of various points of the agenda were all planned and carried out by the leaders of the regional federation with very little assistance from SAS staff.

### **3.1.7. Planned: Visit to Research Stations, Training Centers and Sheep Farms**

The SAS team visited modern sheep breeding farms at 5 different places and a sheep markets with 34 participants with the support of 7 resource persons.

#### **Process**

Visited Kanakshree goat farm at Durdundi and observed various goat breeds and their characteristics from the owner Mr. Akshay; also visited Badigwad goat farm and interacted with its owner Mr. Sidram on farm management, health care and marketing of Boer, Shirohi, Soujat and Usmanabadi breeds of goats. Visited mini slaughter house at Baglur village near Bengalur and examined the internal organs of the slaughtered sheep. Studied the marketing strategy of various shepherds at Amingad Sheep Market, differentiated slaughtering and breeding animals and interacted with influential farmers. They studied various breeds of sheep and goats and interacted Dr. Mr. Nimakar, Dr. Mrs. Chanda Nimakar and Dr. Mr. Qureshia on the development of NARI suwarna breed, artificial insemination practices and various breeding programs undertaken by them. Visited Somanath Jodpi sheep farm at Hangarga village and collected data on the breed and its management and fodder crops. Interacted with a large scale goat producer - Mr. Farooq at “*My Goat Farm*” in Mandya. Examined his flock, weighed the animal and documented his feeding, breeding and marketing practices.

#### **Outcome**

Our VLWs had a good exposure and learning on various breeds of sheep and goats, the stall feeding practices, the fodder production and preservation technology, breeding methods of sheep and goat on large scale. The visit to the mini slaughter house was highly informative and the knowledge of marketing various animals at Amingad sheep market and the interaction with various shepherds, transporters, and the middleman were also informative. At Phalton the Nimakar Agricultural Research Institute provided information on development of NARI suwarna breed and various practices such AI and management and breeding of various sheep and goats.

At Hangarga village the stall fed Jodpi sheep farm and also the *My Goat Farm* at Mandya gave the VLWs an opportunity to handle, examine and weigh various animals and observe various practices undertaken for the establishment of sheep and goat breeds.

Capacity building of VLWs through visit to various farms and breeding units gave sufficient information to carry forward and implement those ideas in the field. VLWs took full charge of organizing and planning the visits. They documented various operations in the sheep farms,



abattoir and research station. That would be very useful for the further dissemination of knowledge on modern sheep and goat husbandry.

### **3.1.8. Planned: Capacity Building of Field Staff**

SAS conducted 13 meetings across 32 days with the 104 staff/day attendance with the help of 13 Resource Persons.

#### **Process**

The staff trainings were highly instrumental in planning and executing of various project objectives. Right from preparing a monthly tour program and planning of various training and networking sessions were thoroughly discussed and the extent of participation of various shepherds groups such shgs, regional federations, cooperatives and role of regional and central networking teams were worked out. The VLWs presented their observation on the utilization of various government projects by the beneficiaries and the issues they faced. They also planned to interact with various government agencies in order to prepare a ground for fruitful networking and implementation of various government schemes. SAS also discussed and documented various success stories and the status of various income generation activities.

#### **Outcome**

SAS achieved most of its project objectives such as training, networking, and visits to research stations and documented each project activity for reporting to various stakeholders. All the monthly meetings and training were well conducted as a result the field programs had good outcome. SAS achieved a high degree of professionalism in its project implementation and in accessing benefits from various government schemes to our shgs and shepherd cooperatives. SAS monitored the functioning of shgs, shepherd cooperatives, regional federations and various networking sessions and saw to the successful completion of the consolidation phase. All the VLWs took active part in their development along with the project coordinator and the research officer.

**3.1.9. Planned:** To motivate the shg cadres to sustain the growth and expansion of the self-help groups so as to constantly bring about socio-economic, cultural, political and overall development of the shepherding community.

During this reporting period SAS added 18 SHGs of women with the membership of 226 and 3 SHGs of men with the membership of 48 a total of 21 SHGs and 274 members.

SAS's effort was to constantly expand the shgs and their functioning. It provided the shgs the motivation and support needed from time to time to develop and grow socially, politically and economically in various fields with their own initiatives and organizational capacities. SAS had put in place number of CBOs, trained the cadres and made them functional to access various government schemes and incentives and to utilize the local inputs for a successful and dignified profession.

SAS added 21 SHGs of Men and Women with a membership of 274 members and cumulatively SAS had 1461 shgs of men and women with a membership of 19906.

The above shgs had total savings of Rs.90.11 million. They obtained bank loans to the tune of Rs.11.million. They lent Rs.110.4 million to the members and earned an interest of Rs. 22.8 million. Overall impact of OB process was a strong socio economic base.The shgs had good overall development and the support of their respective leaders and SAS's VLWs.

### **3.1.10. Planned: Training in Production Ethno Veterinary Medicines at SHG Cluster & Cooperative Society Level**

SAS conducted 28 trainings for Ethno Veterinary Practices at 26 different places for 170 men and 669 women and produced 17 medicines.

There was good number of shg cadres that showed interest in getting trained in ethno veterinary practices. Wherever a group of such persons approached the local shg, the leadership took initiative and organized a camp for 20-30 members with the help of the vlws who supervised the collection of medicinal plants and the making of various medicines. All those SHGs which were trained earlier were using the ethno veterinary knowledge in treating their ruminants. Many simple diseases of sheep and goat and other livestock were treated by the shg members.They found that ethno veterinary medicines were effective and easy to make.

### **3.1.11. Planned: Formation of new shepherd cooperative societies in the project area**

During the period SAS formed 4 new shepherd cooperative societies in 4 different villages of the project area out of these one was Women Cooperative.

The SHG members of Badanatti, Kallur, Barmasagar, approached the VLWs for assistance to organize a shepherd cooperative in their villages. VLWs conducted initial surveys to ascertain the feasibility and later supported them with documentation and filing of their application. The local cooperative officer helped people to register the cooperatives and later to get them amalgamated into KSWDC Bengaluru.

Out of the 4 cooperatives, Dombal is exclusively for Women.The new 4 cooperatives were happy with the support of SAS. All of them are receiving various benefits from KSWDC and the department of Animal Husbandry. These societies have accrued share capital of Rs.0.35million and can provide services to 0.1 million sheep and goats. Cumulatively SAS guides 177 shepherds' cooperatives out of which 3 are women cooperatives and the total membership is 41865; and their share capital is Rs.24 million. They have the capacity to serve 4.72 million sheep and goats.

The shepherd cooperatives are strong and stable in the project area with various income generation activities and they help the shepherds to access various benefits from the banks,

KSWDC and department of animal husbandry. Their leaders constantly interact with SAS's shgs and participate in the networking sessions.

### **3.1.12. Planned: Income Generation Activities of Value Addition to Wool**

SAS supervised 14 SHGs from 9 villages and 19 shepherd cooperatives from 18 villages in wool value addition.

The VLWs, the shg leadership and the leaders of the shepherd cooperatives were constantly motivating 117 spinners and 80 weavers from the SHG sector and 750 spinners and 365 weavers from the cooperative sector to continue their activities with innovation. In some places efficient *charakas* (spinning wheels) were used. The cooperatives approached the textile department and accrued benefits such as subsidies on wool, sale of blankets, and funding for construction of buildings, purchase of spinning and weaving equipment, carding machine and shearing machines to benefit the shepherd spinners and weavers. The textile department was also approached for the sanction of houses to the wool workers.

The spinners and weavers of the SHGs produced 5245 blankets valued at Rs.7.5 million; similarly 19 cooperatives provided livelihoods for 750 spinners and 365 weavers and produced 8825 blankets valued at Rs.14.12 million.

### **3.1.13. Planned: Promotion and production of seed rams as Income Generation Activity by shgs for the preservation of native breeds of Deccani Sheep and local goats.**

During the reporting period 624 members of 307 shgs from 139 villages reared 645 Seed Rams valued of Rs. 0.97 millions.

The incentives of Rs.3000 provided by the KSWDC for rearing a seed ram gave a further stimulus towards seed ram production initiative. And as there was good demand for the seed rams, people took their own initiative to produce high quality rams for breeding purposes. SAS vlws helped the shg members in accessing the subsidy amount.

All the knowhow of seed ram production was systematically disseminated to various shgs in order to help with good quality seed ram production for improving the progeny of local sheep and goats. Many sheep breeders approach the shgs and offer handsome prices for seed rams reared by the shgs.

### **3.1.14. Planned: Income Generation Activity - Fattening of weaned lamb by the shg women**

During the year 1651 members of 597 shgs from 244 villages fattened 2137 lambs valued at Rs.12.82 million.

It was usual practice for the women to visit the sheep flocks in their own village or go to the nearby sheep markets to buy healthy lambs aged 3.5 to 4 months by investing Rs. 3000 to 4000 per lamb. They fattened the lambs for a period of 3 to 4 months and made a profit of Rs.3000 to

4000. They procured fodder locally and provided feed concentrates made of local grains and other feedstock.

The income of SHG women was far better due to the program. The income was used for providing good education to their children, better nutrition and health care to the members of the household and for further investment in income generation activities, e.g., purchase of cows/buffaloes.

### **3.1.15. Planned: Improvement of livelihoods through goat breeding.**

During the reporting period 1745 members of 835 shgs from 326 villages reared 2429 goats valued at Rs.20.64 million.

The women had good knowledge for selecting very good goats from the local breeds. They looked for goats that had twinning and triplex delivery characteristic while purchasing goats. Presently some of the shg women have the knowhow to rear breeds such as Usmanabadi, Shirohi, Betal, Jamanapari, and Soujat. These are expensive goat breeds costing Rs.12000 to 25000 each, whereas the local breeds from Belagavi area costs between Rs. 7000 to Rs.8000.

The shg women have very good contacts with the local banks to obtain loans without much difficulty. Due to their prolific breeding and good disease resistance, goats' population is increasing in the project area. It is a common site to see a small flock of goats in the rural households.

### **3.1.16. Planned: Scaling up the income of shg members through cow/buffalo breeding.**

During the year 1053 members of 717 SHGs from 284 villages bred 1077 cows and buffaloes with Rs.30000 as the average price of a cow/buffalo. Many of the SHG women took up dairy farming by purchasing a cow or buffalo from the profits generated from lamb fattening, goat breeding and seed ram production. The local milk cooperative (KMF) made them its members and gave training and facilities such as health care, feed concentrate, fodder seeds and artificial insemination. It also purchased the milk in its collection centers in the villages. All its inputs and services were highly subsidized. The milk supply gave money on a weekly basis; the shg women found it convenient to maintain the animals as all the inputs were provided by the cooperatives. SAS SHG members reared 1077 cows/ buffaloes valued at Rs.32.03 million during the project year under report.

### **3.1.17. Planned: Production of Fodder as IGA by shg members to improve the nutrition and productivity in their animals.**

79 members from 36 villages utilized 866 kgs of African Tall (maize) Sesbania, Morengia seeds for the production of fodder.

SAS's seed distribution was of very small quantity compared to the 750 kilo grams of fodder seeds distributed to each shepherd cooperative and to various veterinary institutions in the state free of cost. That brought lot of awareness among the livestock owners about production and conservation of fodder resources. The fodder plants and seeds were exhibited in the *krishi melas* and fodder research institutions. Private shops also sold varieties of seeds to commercial sheep and goat farms and dairy units. The government provided loans and subsidies to dig bore wells and to conserve water through farm ponds. Fodder had become a commercial crop for all practical purposes.

The fodder is a priority for shepherds and the dairy farmers; many land holders cultivate and market fodder. Conserving the fodder by converting it into hay and silage was common. The livestock rearers were fully convinced that without a continuous supply of fodder they could not carry on the livestock breeding.

### **3.2. The project's contribution other development activities in the target area**

#### **The project contributed the following:**

- ✚ Supply of 660 NARI suwarna seed rams worth Rs. 20 million from the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services and KSWDC to the Shepherd cooperatives.
- ✚ Additional fodder seeds worth Rs. 15 million were distributed.
- ✚ Allocation of Tents, Nets, Solar Lamps and Raincoats worth Rs.40 million.
- ✚ Promotion of Deccani sheep, Shirohi, Boer, Betal, Jamanapari, Kenguri, Bannur, Yalagu at *krishi mela*.
- ✚ Promotion of Darper Sheep and Shami Goats by private farms.
- ✚ Release of mycoplasma and blue tongue vaccines.
- ✚ Possibility of loan from National Cooperative Development Corporation worth Rs. 8500 million to Karnataka Cooperative Sheep and Goat Rearers' Federation.
- ✚ Grant from Textile Department for purchase of transport vehicles, and for sheep shed, training centre and housing for spinners and weavers.
- ✚ Supply of feed concentrates under National Drought Relief Fund at Koppal District.
- ✚ Allocation of vacant plots to shepherds' cooperatives.
- ✚ Marketing of sheep by shepherd cooperatives at Kerur, Harapanhalli and Malebennur.
- ✚ Provision of loans for sheep and goat farming scheme under Devaraj Urs Backward Classes Development Board.
- ✚ Supply of carding machine, shearing machine and spinning and weaving equipment from the Textile Department.
- ✚ Proposal for establishment of new sheep markets at Sirguppa.
- ✚ Supply of rations (civil supplies of the government) through shepherd cooperatives in various districts.
- ✚ Special budget allocation by Karnataka Sheep and Wool Development Corporation for the technical training of rural shepherds.
- ✚ Loan waiver scheme of up to Rs. 2 lakhs for the shepherd spinners and weavers.
- ✚ Special Veterinary Teams mobilised to control Blue Tongue and Anthrax in the State.

- ✚ Free training facilities at Central Poultry Breeding Farm at Hesaragatt.
- ✚ Sanction of additional budget of Rs. 15 million under *Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojane* for additional 10+1 sheep/goat units.
- ✚ Allocation additional of Rs.15 million for de-wormers under natural calamities relief fund.
- ✚ Resolved the issue of community land encroachment in many districts.
- ✚ Resolved the issue of water contamination with fluorides.
- ✚ Provision of toilets, street lights and roads through the efforts of SHGs.
- ✚ Providing employment for the youth in the cooperative of sugar factory.
- ✚ Provision of MGNREGA work to various beneficiaries.
- ✚ Establishment of 3 cooperative societies exclusively for women shepherd.
- ✚ Dr. Baig's visit to Vietnam and support to small goat farm units.
- ✚ Survey of village properties to carry on infrastructural work.
- ✚ Visit to modern abattoir, commercial sheep/goat farms, Research Stations and Sheep Markets.

### **3.2.1. How is the impact monitored and assessed**

The project had the following monitoring system to ensure proper implementation of each activity and to monitor the progress of the project:

Dr. Baig was the Project Coordinator for the Project of Organization Building of Nomadic Shepherds' Community in North Karnataka. He assisted and accompanied his staff to the project area. He utilized at least two days in a month to review and evaluate, and to document the field data. Budget allocations and the status of various activities were analyzed and compared with the months targeted and achieved objective. The monitoring and evaluation was a continuous process. Fr. Joe also did field visits and had direct contact with the stake holders and assessed project implementation in relation to project objectives. The funding partners, other NGOs and Government officials and managing committee members also visited some of the stakeholders.

Fr. Joe met the project coordinator and other project staff at least once a month and reviewed the progress and the stages of implementation of each initiative and took corrective measures whenever necessary. He also visited the stakeholders and collected first-hand information on what actually happened in the field.

The project staff carried out on day to day basis the project activities, meeting and training for beneficiaries. Every month, during the staff meeting, they reported on the outcome and presented the data collected in writing and planned the next month's activities. Staff also did case studies with photos of the beneficiaries to illustrate the outcome.

Annual Planning: The project staff, along with Fr. Joe, met at the beginning of August to plan and 'calenderize' the project activities (training, meeting, networking and lobbying, awareness raising programs with the beneficiaries for the new project year (Aug 2018 to Jul 2019). In that meeting,

an internal evaluation was done of the project implementation in the current year and measures were suggested for improvements in the new project year.

Reports of various trainings: The staff filled in the data sheets of the programs conducted in the field and such sheets were filed as database in the project office. The data sheets had space for noting down the outcome of the activities in figures and as narrative.

Project Reports and Feedbacks: SAS prepared and submitted six-monthly and yearly reports to AHB and got feedback on the same.

The Managing Committee of SAS met every quarter and took stock of the various initiatives of SAS and their implementation and offered Fr. Joe suggestions and guidance. The General Body of SAS held every year its Annual General Body Meeting and examined and passed its Annual Audited Financial Report and Activity Report and authorised Fr. Joe to submit the same to the concerned Government Authorities and Funding Partners. It also looked into the policies of SAS and assessed its overall performance and when needed did course corrections and policy changes.

### **3.2.2. Problems/Risks the and ways of tackling same**

The loans taken by shepherds, spinners and weavers from the cooperative were a burden; the waiver up to Rs.2 Lakhs from the State Government was a big relief. The shepherd cooperatives and the members along with SAS had lobbied with the state government in this regard. The cooperatives were located in small office spaces without any area or building for the storage of wool and other equipment such as *charaka*, shearing machine, carding machine, etc. The allocation of space to some cooperatives was a big relief. It was the outcome of sustained efforts by the cooperative leaders. There was not much revenue for the shepherd cooperatives to function; SAS's lobbying to allow shepherding cooperative to market the sheep in the sheep markets was a very good income generation measure. The shortage of NARI suwarna seed rams was solved by representation to the department of Animal Husbandry and the release of Rs.20 million for 660 NARI rams in order to solve the problems of NARI breeding. The loans at a cheaper interest rate were made available to the shepherds below poverty line through Devaraj Urs Backward Class Development Board. They could access Rs. 1 lakh each for the purchase of sheep and goats. To improve their income generation some shepherd cooperatives had applied for distribution of rations (under fair price shop). Some of them were allocated such fair price shops. Most of the trainings for the shepherds were conducted in the cities and it was difficult for the shepherds to attend. SAS's representation resulted in the allocation of separate training budget for the rural area.

The KSWDC and KCSGRF were short of funds to take up extensive shepherding activities in the State. The representation by various shepherd bodies resulted in an outlay of Rs.8500 million from the National Cooperative Development Corporation. The shepherds were facing severe outbreaks and heavy losses due to mycoplasma and blue tongue, consistent lobbying made vaccines available in sufficient quantity.

The spinners and weavers were without houses for many years. The textile department started to provide housing loan, loan for transport vehicle, sheep shed, training centres, etc. The spinners and weavers were carding the wool by hand and were using ordinary scissors for shearing sheep. Representation to the textile department resulted in providing modern carding machine, shearing machine and spinning and weaving equipment. Due to popular demand from the shepherds and farmers the *krishimela* at Dharwad, Bengaluru and Bagalkot were conducted annually. The outbreak of Anthrax and Blue tongues were controlled due to strong networking efforts of SAS and shepherd leaders. Some of the encroached community grazing lands by the farmers were made available for grazing due to the lobbying and networking of the regional federation. There were many disputes in the village of Venkatapur as the properties were not surveyed properly. The efforts by shgs helped in marking their properties and taking up building construction and infrastructural projects.

## Case studies

### Case Study 1.



**Name of the Person:** Mrs. Netravati, age 42, is the leader of Adishakti SHG Narayanpur and also President Padmavati Women Shepherd Cooperative Society Dombal. She is a house wife married to Mr. Mudakappa Gundikeri a shepherd having 13 acres of land and also a member of Dombal Gram Panchayat. Mrs. Netravati owns 30 sheep and 6 Seed Rams. Her three children are well educated one has completed Bachelor of Engineering, the second Bachelor of Commerce and the third ITI Course. The village is proud of

her achievements and grateful to her for the constant support she gives to all the villagers and especially to the members of 13 shgs of her village Dombal, Narayanpur and Mundargi. She joined in the activities of SAS, 10 years ago, at the invitation of our ex VLW Mr. Shivanand Bandi. Since then she has been constantly involved in supporting all the initiatives of SAS by actively participating in our zonal federation training and NK training programs. She achieved the status of a great leader due to those programs. She and all the members of her group, and 13 other SHGs benefited from the SHG movement: 15 Shepherd families with the allotment of houses; 200 households with ration cards, 300 persons with health cards, 75 persons with job cards under MGNREGA, death compensation for 250 sheep and goats, 15 shepherds with loan from the Devraj Urs Backward Class Developmental Scheme for sheep rearing with a loan of Rs.50000 each - with Rs.10000 as subsidy. She helped minority Muslim community to obtain scholarships of Rs.10000 each for their school going children and Rs.50000 interest free loan for sheep rearing and so on. She is a highly respected and admired leader of the newly formed Padmavati Shepherds Cooperative Society which is exclusively for women shg members. VLW Mr. Padeppa Gudennavar helped them a lot to set up that cooperative society. That has membership of 160 women and the share capital of Rs.160000. The members are already receiving 10+1 units, tents,



nets, de-wormers, fodder seeds and other benefits from the KSWDC and the Department of Animal Husbandry. She has successfully conducted 3 Ethno Veterinary Camps which benefitted more than 95 SHG members. She has big plans for the youth and the young educated girls. She wants to see them self-employed in sheep and goat rearing, horticulture, sericulture and other farming and off farm projects.

## Case Study 2.

**Name of the Person:** Mrs.Vimalaxi, age 26 years, is a well-known figure in the village of Sigihatti. She is from a shepherd's family and is married to Mr.Rajkumar a shepherd who owns 4 acres of land and 100 sheep. They have two children aged 5 years and 2 years. Hers is a typical



shepherd household growing up with a lot of enthusiasm to excel in their life. Vimalaxi is a leader of Akkamahadevi SHG Sigihatti. She joined SAS's SHG movement 10 years ago as a young girl. She studied and married in her village itself. Our VLW Mr. Krishnamurthy supported her to become an excellent leader by involving her in various leadership programs including the zonal and central federation trainings. She had a good exposure to various skills in organizing and conducting the local shg programs, ethno veterinary programs and participated in ZP activities. Due to her dedication and commitment the Women and Child Welfare Department appointed her as an Anganwadi (pre-school) Teacher. She constantly motivated the village population to adopt scientific methods and modern education and practices. She has helped 10 members of her shg under Bhagalaxmi Scheme (a

deposit in the girl child's name that becomes Rs.1 lakh by the time she attains 18 years of age). She helped 10 members of her shg to obtain "Matrushree" Scheme (Rs.5000 for confinement for first and second child of BPL card holders from SC/ST category). She helped 4 women members under "Matruvandana" Scheme (Rs.5000 for first confinement only for general category). She was instrumental in getting Rs.500 per month under widow pension for 12 shg members and for 10 senior citizens pension of Rs500 per month. Getting toilets, new BPL cards, voter IDs, School admissions, etc., for the poor households is part of her routine activity.

She is young and energetic; and promoted education especially of girl children; kept a watchful eye on school drop outs and on the functioning of mid-day meal scheme. She encouraged hygiene among village women and organized health camps and ethno veterinary trainings for the villagers. She is constantly in touch with GP officials and Animal Husbandry Department to access various schemes for her shg members and also for other villagers. Due to her efforts the village roads, electricity and water facility have improved. Her objective is to make her village self-sufficient and vibrant with education and people's say in local governance.

### 3.2.3. Summarized appraisal and self-assessment

The consolidation phase of the project went on smoothly with regards to decentralising of Training, SHG Formation, Regional Networking, Training in Ethno Veterinary Practices, etc. All the IGAs were strictly supervised by our staff and the leaders of regional federation and shepherds' cooperatives.

The project objective of Organization Building of the Shepherding Community was a success. SAS accompanied the community in its socio-economic, cultural and political development in a systematic and organised fashion. Various activities taken up by the community leaders in the areas of education, health care, and development of skills among both the genders of the community are worth recognition. The modernisation of management practices, health care, and productivity among the animals are praise worthy. The overall prosperity of the shepherding community is due to SAS's planned Community Building Process of many years. The shepherd leaders and SAS's local staffs continue the process. They motivate the sheep farmers to form breeders' associations to exert pressure on the local officials to access the benefits of various schemes/entitlements of the government- KSWDC, KCSGRF and the Textile Department.

The SHGs, Regional and NK Federations and the Shepherds' Cooperatives are taking forward the movement - the organisation building process, modern management practices, establishment of stall fed sheep and goat farms and introduction of pedigree sheep and goats with modern nutrition and marketing facilities. SAS foresees a bright future for the shepherding community: self-driven and self-sustained with their organizational strength. The strong leadership which has emerged will keep up the good rapport that SAS built between the government institutions and the community. The government of Karnataka has become sensitive to the needs and aspirations of the shepherding community. The various programs and projects under taken by the government for poverty alleviation show results in the form of higher income generation, better bank finances and service delivery by the department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services - fulfilling the objectives to achieve which SAS strived all these years. There is over all development in the socio-economic and educational sector giving the shepherding community members an opportunity to excel.

SAS's efforts at "Organization Building of Shepherds' Community", has developed into a mega platform for protecting the rights and the livelihoods of the shepherding community of Karnataka. The status of the shepherd today is far different from yester years. Today he is a confident person, empowered with awareness of his rights and capacity to access various government programs. He behaves in a dignified manner and approaches the government and its officials and bureaucrats with a new found identity and courage.

The exposure of the common shepherd and the leaders to various training programs, seminars and meetings at various levels added to their knowledge and skills for lobbying and networking. The SHG women became the backbone of the organization. They confidently entered the leadership platform. They had a high representation in *gram panchayats*. They skillfully managed various traditional and non-traditional income generation initiatives. They were instrumental for the

improved education of shepherd children. With women empowerment, atrocities on women, children, menace of alcoholism, dowry, child marriage, and bonded labor diminished.

SAS's efforts at forming and animating a large number of shepherds' SHGs and forming their federations, lobbying and networking with other stakeholders and incorporating the registered shepherds' cooperative societies into the organization building dynamics resulted finally in registering the State level "Karnataka Sheep and Goat Shepherds' Federation Ltd." In future this organization would take over and further strengthen the various initiatives which SAS set into motion.

SAS did this work in partnership with **Andheri-Hilfe**, Mackestrass 53, 53119 Bonn, Germany. Andheri-Hilfe assisted SAS for the last 20 years. This partnership greatly enhanced SAS's capacity to reach out shepherds across Karnataka State. The work has made a great impact on the shepherd community. SAS is immensely grateful to **Andheri-Hilfe** for its generous support. The support from the government and all the other stakeholders played a very positive role. The contribution of Dr Zafrulla Baig, the program coordinator and other project personnel was immense.

It is needless to say that there is a lot more to do. The newly emergent community based organization – "Karnataka Sheep and Goat Shepherds' Federation Ltd" will, hopefully take forward the work to further heights along the 'trail-blazed' by SAS. SAS will continue being a catalyst, the inspiration.

SAS phased-out Project I-14-13/04 by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019. SAS is confident that the Community Based Organizations (CBOs) of shepherds that SAS built up over the years would sustain and take forward the movement on their own. Besides, Dr. Z. Baig, who coordinated the project, has registered a private limited company, with the support of retired veterinarians and others, to act as a permanent support system for the Shepherds of Karnataka and other parts of India. Those who have been with SAS as Village Level Workers also have plans to engage meaningfully in their traditional profession and to continue the community service.

#### **3.2.4. Measures/activities planned for the future**

In her mail dated Jan 14, Ms Barbara Hillebrandt of AHB inquired whether SAS would need some further support from AHB after the end of the above phase of Project I-14-13/04. That prompted Fr. Joseph Chenakala, S.J. the project holder, to retain Mr. Sanjay S. Upari the Research cum Documentation Officer of the project (now with the designation of **Social Activist**) for the period August 2019 to July 2022 in order to accompany the shepherd community as a one-man-army, providing outside support to the CBOs of shepherds.

# Photos of Organization Building of Nomadic Shepherd Community



Basavva Karigar of Mayammadevi shg, Chunchanur



Bhagalaxmi shg of Lokur Goat farming



Bhagyama of Saraswati shg Ajjanatti



Blanket making at salapur Co-op



Blankets for sale at Salapur Co-op



Sumangala of Hemavati shg Dambal, Buffalo Breeding,



Siddavva of Hemavati shg at Damba, Cow Breeding



Shoba of Laxmi shg at Chikoppa, Dairy Farming



Devamma of Saraswati shg Ajjanatti



Dr. Baig at new stall feeding shed at Kendur



Dr. Baig doing post mortem of sheep at Balgur Farm



Dr. Mahesh -Fodder Seeds distribution at Jagaloor coop



Durgamma of Bhimambhika SHG of Kanakgiri



Durgamma of Renukadevi shg Tavargere



Fodder Guinie grass at Research Centre, Hesargatt

## Photos of Organization Building of Nomadic Shepherd Community



Maize fodder at Kendur



Fodder production at Hangarga sheep farm



Gayatamma of Vinayak shg Yalladkere



Renuka of Hemavati shg at Dombal, Goat Beeding



Manjula of Hemavati shg at Dambal, Goat breeding



Durgadevi shg of Bendigeri Goat breeding



Gouramma KK Hatti Kariyamma shg



Herbal leaves for EVTraining at Bendigeri



Kamalamma of Vinayakshg Yalladkere



Kariyamma of Kariyammdevi shg Sigihatti



Kariyamma of Mahalaxmi shg Ajjanati



Kariyamma of Vinayak shg Yalladkere



Kenchamma - Hattilakkamma shg KK Hatti



KM Insemination



Krushi Honda, Mallappa of Salapur Co-op society at Salapur

## Photos of Organization Building of Nomadic Shepherd Community



Renuka of Durgadevi shg  
Bendigeri



Mahadevi of Durgadevi shg  
Bendigeri



Laxmakka of Saraswati shg  
Ajjanati



Mallikarjun of Ginigera  
Fodder Nepier



Parasappa, blanket making  
at Bannikoppa co op



Production of Ethno Vet Medicines  
at Bendigeri



Latama of Vinayak shg  
Yalladkere



Ratnamma of Saraswati shg  
Ajjantatti



RP Mrs. Soumya addressing  
on NK Women Fed Trng



Sanjay Upari on Co op Society  
Trainig at Jaglor



Sanjay Upari on Kanakdas co-op  
visit to Bannikopp



Seed Ram at Sanganal by  
Hanumavva Bhovi of Laxmidevi shg

## Photos of Organization Building of Nomadic Shepherd Community



Spinning at banikoppa coop  
Mr Ravi.



Lamb Fattening by Gangamma  
of Laxmidevi shg, Sanganal



Mariyamam of Hatti Lakkama  
SHG KK Hatti



Mallamma of Rajrajeshwari SHG  
of Tavargere



Sumitra of Hatti lakkamma shg  
KK Hatti



Shivanand Pujeri of Salapur  
Blanket making



Seed Ram Lakkavva of  
Valmiki shg Itigatti



Sharavva of Durgadevi shg  
Bendigeri



Somanath sheep Farm ,  
Hangarga



VLW Krishnamurthy in  
his own flock



SHGwomen discussing on various issues  
at Salahalli



VLW Padeppa explaining  
about Ethno leaves

## **4. Biogas Plants cum Toilet units**

**4.1.1 Project title:** “Enhance livelihoods of poor rural households, especially of women, and reduce greenhouse gases through biogas plants cum toilets in 4 Taluka of Belagavi District/ Karnataka” - Project No. I-590-07/16.

**4.1.2 Location of the Project:** Belagavi District of Karnataka, India - Belagavi, Khanapur, Bailhongal and Hukkeri Revenue Blocks of Belagavi District.

## **5. Project description**

### **5.1 Project location, analysis of the present situation and problems**

The project location and analysis of the situation during the project period was as presented in the project proposal. Some changes in the analysis are narrated below.

We had added Hukkeri and Bailhongal taluka in the project under the assumption that we had sufficient contact in those taluka through our earlier interventions. But while trying to motivate households to accept biogas unit linked with toilet, we realized that our contact in Bailhongal taluka was not sufficient. Due to draught conditions the households in the taluka did not have sufficient water; besides, households were not ready to overcome personal and cultural bias and use biogas from toilet linked unit for cooking. Besides, *Swchha Bharat Abhiyan* (Clean India Movement) gave rural households highly subsidized toilets. Many households got them, even though they did not intent to use them. They accepted it in order to become eligible for government entitlements. Many households of Bailhongal taluka failed to grasp the numerous benefits of a biogas plant cum toilet unit. 15 households in Bailhongal taluka were not transparent with us. Though they were very eager to have a biogas cum toilet unit and promised to use both the facilities, after the construction of the unit 14 households used only the toilets and one house hold used only for cooking but did not use the toilet. Those who used only the toilets did not charge their units with the cow dung as required because they were not interested in cooking on biogas but wanted the toilet. This was a very disheartening experience for us. *Once bitten twice shy* – that made us extra cautious while selecting beneficiaries from Bailhongal taluka. Our interaction with households (in Baihongal taluka) made us realize how difficult it was to change the mindset of people and their traditional irrational beliefs and practices. In spite of all our efforts to accompany the beneficiaries with various inputs and hands on training from the time of initial motivation and selection to the completion of the unit construction they failed to respond to our satisfaction. At the end of 2018 there was an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Decease in cattle in Bailhongal area. Some of the households for whom we constructed biogas plant cum toilet units lost their valued cattle. The beneficiaries who had not charged their units prior to the outbreak were afraid to handle cow dung due to the FMD in cattle, but later some of them charged their units. At the end of the project period we had 14 beneficiary households, who refused charge their units with the initially required cow dung. Our efforts during 2018 and our continued efforts in 2019 also failed and we realized that they wanted to use the toilet but not interested in biogas as cooking fuel. We hope that sometime into the future they would change. We would continue to interact with them.



In the project proposal we had written, *“SAS helped people to get rid of cultural and ritual bias. In the early 90’s when SAS introduced biogas from toilet linked units as cooking gas, people had reservation against it, especially because of the toilet. Slowly, SAS made people realize that no one cooked on gas but only on fire and fire was the ‘sacred purifier’. Since there was no direct contact with human excrements, people began to accept biogas plant linked to a toilet...”* But our dealings with households in Bailhongal taluka and to a lesser extent in Hukkeri taluka made us realize that we had to do much more conscientization work among the people before they overcame their prejudices.

Due to the above factors we had to request AHB/BMZ to allow us to construct most of the units of the project in Belagavi and Khanapur taluka where because of our earlier intervention, households were better motivated and were eager to have biogas plant cum toilet units. And we were happy that AHB/BMZ allowed us to construct more units in the old project area.

In order to respond to the changing scenario and unforeseen challenges we had to make some changes in Project No. I-590-07/16, after informing the funding partner. Some of challenges were: Severe drought conditions, water shortage, government control over sand, and highly subsidized toilets. Government also provided liquid petroleum gas (LPG) cylinder and stove free of charge, under its Ujjala Scheme to poor households. But unfortunately, the government had no scheme to refill the cylinder for free. So many households were back to open ovens that burnt inefficient traditional fuel – cow dung cakes and agricultural residues and wood. In addition, we realized that our earlier contact in the new areas were inadequate - households had less confidence and experience with our work, and they had serious difficulties in accepting biogas units linked to toilets. Because of age old caste, and ritual practices people abhorred and loathed coming in contact with human waste. People feared to cook on biogas, to eat what was cooked on biogas, to handle biogas manure and to use it in their fields, more especially when it was from a toilet linked unit. We had managed to make a breakthrough in Belagavi and Khanapur taluka. We had underestimated the hold of traditional believes and practices on people of Bailhongal and Hukkeri taluka. From our experience of working in Hukkeri and Bailhongal taluka in 2016 and 2017, we came to the realistic conclusion that we would not achieve the project target there in the next couple of years. It would take us a long time to change the mindset of the people. We had to develop, with a lot of patience and humility, deeper and intense personal contact with people there. In 2019 we had torrential rains and floods across Belgaum district. That also came in the way of implementing the project activities.

But we did not want to be losers instead we intensified our efforts. In spite of all the hurdles (since we know that “Biogas Plant cum Toilet Unit” was an eco-friendly, permanent solution to pressing human and environmental problems), we continued to work on the mind set of people. It was in that context that we decided to focus more on the old target area, where people were ready, water and building materials were more easily available. At the same time, we continued to make effort to work on the mind set of people in the new area and we felt confident that at a later stage we would be able to reach out to many households in Bailhongal and Hukkeri with our biogas plant cum toilet initiative. During the project period we built 600 units across 48 villages of Bailhongal and Hukkeri taluka (Bailhongal: 125 units and 11 villages; Hukkeri 475

units and 37 villages). Thus, we are happy to state that we managed to construct 25% of the sanctioned units in the new area (600 out of 2400).

AHB/BMZ's consent that we could concentrate on the old target area helped us to a great extent to face the difficulties caused by demonetization, digitalization and restrictions on cash transactions. Treating the subsidy that we received on behalf of the beneficiaries from the government as local contribution was helpful for the accounting. But from Indian Financial Year 2017-2018 government stopped giving subsidy for units built with foreign assistance. So later, cash contribution from the beneficiaries was accounted as local contribution and their contribution in kind (getting water for constructing and curing of the unit, assisting the masons, cow dung for the initial charging of the unit, etc.) did not figure in the accounts.

In order to comply with the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (2010), the local contribution was accounted separately. But in order to meet BMZ requirement, the local contribution in cash was included in the BMZ project account while preparing and finalizing the project ASA. The above matters were favorably considered and the changes were approved by AHB/BMZ.

## **5.2 Target group**

The target group of the project was as described in the project proposal. But we asked for change in the number of units in the new target area. The project proposal envisaged that 10-15% of project beneficiaries, i.e., 220-360 households to be from villages of the previous BMZ-funded project. But due to the many difficulties that we faced in constructing units for households of Hukkeri and Bailhongal taluka, we requested AHB/BMZ to allow us to concentrate on the old target area (villages of Belagavi and Khanapur taluka) and our request was granted. That change helped us to complete our target and to construct another 75 units over and above the target. It enabled households from Belagavi and Khanapur taluka, who could not benefit from the earlier project and also those who got motivated due to the earlier project, to have a biogas plant cum toilet unit on their own. The end result: 25% units in new target area and 75% in the old.

## **5.3 Project preparation**

Project preparation was as described in the project proposal. But the ground reality faced by us in Hukkeri and Bailhongal taluka made us to make certain course correction regarding the target area. As stated in the project proposal, SAS was well-established in the project area (Belagavi district) through different poverty reduction measures. Due to its many years of good track record in rural development and person oriented approach, SAS had high level of acceptance among the target villages and households. There was great demand from the poor rural households in Belagavi and Khanapur taluka for biogas plant cum toilet units. But our analysis regarding the preparedness of households from Hukkeri and Bailhongal taluka to accept biogas plant cum toilet units was not realistic.

Internal monitoring, and discussions with the project staff and beneficiaries revealed: That 14 (0.56%) households did feed the plant and did not get biogas for cooking and manure for fields, but they used the toilet; One household did not use toilet, but used biogas for cooking; That 44

(1.77%) households (of Khanapur and Hukeri taluk) were out on migration for about 3-4 months in a year for making bricks. During that period they rarely came to their houses. Another 148 (6%) of the total households (2475) due reasons like natural calamity (flood), damaged gas pipe, water in the gas pipe, leak in the burner, clogged outer chamber/manure pit, sale of cattle, etc., did not have sufficient gas for cooking at any given time of the year.

The above figures were the outcome of an extensive survey conducted by the staff, local supervisors and internal monitors of SAS during the last quarter of the project. They visited all the units and households included in this consolidated report. Taking all the above facts into consideration they came to the conclusion that at any given time about 7% of the households were not using the units as envisaged by the project. SAS constructed 75 (3%) more than the sanctioned units (2400). It built 65 biogas plants (about 3%) of 3m<sup>3</sup> size. Thus, when one took all such factors into consideration, the actual deviation from the targeted outcome would be less than 7%. But, all the same SAS reduced 7% and claimed 93% success while reporting under **5.4. Targets with indicators.**

## 5.4 Targets with indicators

### 5.4.1

#### Overall aims (Impact):

The project contributes to:

- Improving the livelihoods of poor rural households in Belagavi district in a sustain-able way.
- Increasing gender equality (reduction in workload, safety, health).
- Safeguarding the environment through the protection of forests and the reduction of greenhouse gas through conversion of cow dung and human excrements to biogas.
- Improving the soil fertility through the availability of high quality organic manure.

### 5.4.1.1

#### Project objectives (Outcome):

- 2400 poor rural households which were cooking with wood and dung prior to the project, cover 80% of their energy needs for cooking with biogas.
- 2400 poor rural households which did not have access to a toilet prior to the project, use their own toilet which is connected to their biogas plant and are contributing to better hygienic conditions in their village. (Note: In 2018 and 2019 BMZ sanctioned 200+200 additional units and with the amount that was still available with SAS, it built another 75 additional units. Thus 2475 households benefitted from the project.)

### 5.4.2

#### Sub-objectives (Output)

#### Indicators

### 5.4.2.1

Biogas plant cum toilets producing at least 2m<sup>3</sup> biogas daily is built for 2400 households. Households are aware of how biogas plants are

#### Actual

Poor households use wood, farm residues and cow dung for cooking and do not have a toilet. They are unaware of the

#### Target (as on 31 Dec20 19)

295 units in 2016  
695 units in 2017  
795 units in 2018  
690 units Jan 2019 to Mar 2020

used, managed, maintained and locally repaired.	biogas plant cum toilet technology.	<b>Total: 2475</b> out of which 93% (2302) units function very well. <sup>1</sup> Thus 2302 households at the end of the project period cook on biogas and use toilets. They know how biogas plants work. They manage, maintain and use them with ease. <sup>2</sup>	
<p>1. Outcome of Internal Monitoring, and Discussions with the project staff and beneficiaries in March 2020.</p> <p>2. About 7% households did not use/did not use to our satisfaction their units that at any given time.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>During the construction process through the methodology of hands on training SAS demystified the household biogas technology. Ritual barriers to cooking on biogas were overcome to a great extent through awareness and through the personal accompaniment of SAS staff. 99.94% households cooked on biogas from units linked with toilets. The training helped them to handle prejudices and irrational beliefs. On an average about 7% of beneficiaries were not making good use of their units for one reason or another. 0.06 % (14) households, after the construction of the unit, did not cooperate with us to charge their units with the necessary feedstock. Those households use the toilet. SAS staff would continue to convince such beneficiaries to feed the units and use the gas for cooking.</p>			
<b>5.4.2.2</b>	The workload of 2400 women and their children (especially girls) is reduced by 4 hours a day (0.5 hours are used for handling of the biogas plant every day).	Women and children spent on average 4.5 hours a day on collecting firewood, farm residues and cow dung and on starting and maintaining the fire and cleaning of soot covered pots.	Women, men and children of 2461 (99.94%) households who used biogas for cooking reported considerable reduction in their work load, more leisure time and time for productive activities.
<p>The households experienced that biogas reduced indoor air pollution caused by smoke and soot from burning fuelwood in traditional ovens. Besides the time saved on gathering fuelwood and the time spent on cooking was greatly reduced. That was not only because of the time spent on starting and feeding a fire, but also because of the better heat efficiency. Many of the women interviewed by SAS reported that cooking took only an hour, compared to the two hours or more when there was no biogas. Moreover, they used the time they previously spent on cleaning soot-blackened utensils in more productive ways. They had around four hours of extra time a day for themselves and their children. They pointed out that gathering and stocking fuelwood took considerably longer time than collecting and mixing dung. Women and grown up girls were happy that they had extra time for leisure, learning and other productive activities. All of them agreed that access to a clean toilet was the greatest blessing. It saved time, dangers and the shame of open defecation. Many</p>			

of those who got LPG cylinder under *Ujjwala* scheme preferred biogas which was totally free. Under *Ujjwala* scheme they got only one cylinder free after that they had to buy it. LPG gas was very costly for a poor household.

An extract from: [https://energypedia.info/wiki/Benefits\\_for\\_Biogas\\_Users](https://energypedia.info/wiki/Benefits_for_Biogas_Users):

*“A critical shortage of energy, primarily of firewood, is reflected less in the market prices than in the time the households - especially women and children - need to collect fuelwood. The time commonly spent for collection varies from several hours per week to several hours per day. In many countries, firewood collection is the single most time consuming activity for a housewife. The open fire has to be attended almost permanently, in particular if low grade fuels like cow-dung or straw is burnt. Additional work is caused by the soot of an open fire - clean, shiny pots are a status symbol in many cultures. Compared to this, the time needed to operate a biogas plant is normally low so that in most cases a considerable net saving can be realized.*

*A financial evaluation of this time-saving is not easy. If the additional time can be used for productive purposes, the wages or the value of the contribution to production can be calculated. Frequently there are - in the short run - no suitable employment opportunities for women or children.*

*Even if there is no income generating utilization of time saved, there is a benefit to the individual and the household which provide a convincing argument. The utilization of biogas saves time but also makes cooking more comfortable in comparison to the traditional methods; smoke and soot no longer pollute the kitchen. Especially in the morning rush, a biogas flame is much easier to start than an open fire. Again, it is a question of life quality.”*

**5.4.2.3**

The sanitary and hygienic conditions in 150 villages improve notably.	Due to lack of access to toilets villages were polluted and water was contaminated by human excrements.	2474 (100%) households from 269 villages used their toilets and kept them clean. The cleanliness in those villages improved.
---	---	--

The hygiene in the kitchen, in the house and surroundings improved; women and children and other family members enjoyed better health; all of them were very happy to have their own toilet; they used it and kept it clean. They enjoyed and relished the sense of dignity and liberation that they were free from their dependance on open defecation.

According to the Integrated Environmental Impact Analysis, 4% more non-biogas users had respiratory diseases than those who owned biogas plants. We observed that biogas plant improved health conditions in the homes: Homes were more hygienic. Dung cakes were no longer stored in the houses. Flies or other vermin, the vectors for contagious diseases and sickness in humans and animals alike, were reduced. Wood, farm residues and cattle dung were very polluting fuels. Households/villages were saved from high levels of carbon monoxide, particulates and unburnt hydrocarbons. Linking toilets to the biogas plants, besides increasing biogas production, prevented contamination of villages and water by faeces and urine. The household and the village got education in hygiene during the construction of the biogas plant. Interview with household members/villagers acknowledged reduction of diseases caused by parasites in alimentary tract. Biogas plant was an ideal and permanent solution for disposal of organic waste and night

soil and it directly contributed to better hygiene. The anaerobic digestion process destroyed a wide range of pathogens—*E.coli*, *Schistosoma*, *Shigella*, Hookworms, Dysentery-causing Bacilli, Tapeworm and Roundworm, Spirochetes, Typhoid, Paratyphoid, etc. That greatly reduced the incidence of water-borne infectious diseases and parasitic infections and related medical expenses. Each biogas plant cum toilet unit eliminated the need for latrine pit, and noxious odors and thereby substantially improved the hygiene condition in the village. The streets and periphery of villages that had a number of biogas plant cum toilet units were free of human faeces. All in all SAS’s intervention improved sanitation, health and hygiene of the villages.

2.4.2.4	2400 households reduce their wood cutting and thereby protect the surrounding forest.	Per household and day 6 kg of firewood were burnt for cooking.	2461 households cover about 80% of their energy needs for cooking with biogas and in doing so save 1752 kg of firewood per year (4312 tons for 2461 households).
---------	---	--	--

Biogas and forest: Deforestation, degradation and conversion of forest land for agriculture and settlement have put tremendous pressure on forest resource in rural area. Thousands of tons of firewood got consumed for cooking and heating purposes. Biogas proved to be an alternative source of energy for cooking and heating. The BMZ funded project No. I-590-06/12 of SAS installed 2185 biogas plants attached with toilets and thereby contributed to forest conservation and reduction of carbon emission. The said project had a great impact on reducing pressure on forests. The beneficiaries accepted biogas plants due to: (1) Scarcity and difficulty in collecting and storing firewood. (2) Biogas technology was convenient and easy, time saving and smokeless. (3) It had the added advantage of a hygienic toilet. (4) Funding from BMZ and SAS’s involvement and other social factors helped them to make the decision.

Under the BMZ funded project No. I-590-07/16, 2462 households use biogas for cooking purposes. Earlier, all of them were using firewood as the main source of energy for cooking. After the installation of biogas about 75% of households do not use any firewood for cooking. The other 25% households used 80% less firewood per month. The study of beneficiary households showed an impressive reduction in firewood usage and vividly demonstrated the contribution of biogas to forest conservation.

Under BMZ Project No. I-590-07/16 (2016-2019), 2461 households covered about 80% of their energy needs for cooking with biogas and in doing so saved 1752 kg of firewood per year (4312 tons for 2461 households).

5.4.2.5	Biogas manure is being used as organic fertilizer. Chemical fertilizer is being replaced by biogas manure in those households buying chemical fertilizers.	Cow dung and harvest residues were burnt for cooking and were lost as organic fertilizer. Some household had expenditures on chemical fertilizers.	2461 households used biogas manure (10 m tons per household and year) as organic fertilizer on their fields and saved costs for chemical fertilizer which was replaced by biogas manure.
---------	--	--	--

It is difficult to convert the value of biogas organic manure into cash value. Similarly it is difficult to calculate the value in cash saved on chemical fertilisers. The beneficiaries are aware that biogas manure improves soil and that they get better yields through the use of biogas manure. Biogas manure has worked as an incentive for initiating organic farming. The project intervention benefitted the environment and the mother earth and also human and other lives due to the replacement of harmful chemical fertilizers.

SAS's Internal Monitoring, discussions with the project staff and beneficiaries and the many case studies revealed beyond doubt that the project contributed to improving the livelihoods of poor rural households in Belagavi district in a sustainable way; in increasing gender equality of women, e.g., in the area of reduction in work-load, safety, health, leisure, educational opportunity, human dignity; in safeguarding the environment through the protection of forests and the reduction of greenhouse gas through conversion of cow dung and human excrements to biogas; and in improving the soil fertility through the use of high quality biogas manure.

As the major benefit of biogas technology, the households felt that biogas cum toilet unit improved their standard of living. Biogas was most valued for its time saving work efficiency. Most women expressed great satisfaction, particularly with the cooking aspects of biogas, indicating that biogas was quicker, easier and safer for cooking than cooking on open oven with firewood and for the additional benefit of a hygienic toilet. A large number of beneficiaries became aware of the role of biogas in the conservation trees/forest and environment. Many of them pointed out improvement of family health as a significant benefit. They backed this up by stating that biogas was smokeless and did not require constant attention or blowing to keep the fire burning. Some pointed out that introduction of biogas resulted in behavior changes of the individuals regarding general cleanliness in the residence, improvement in the toilet habits which ultimately minimized family health problems, indirect savings on health related expenses, and additional time for women/girls in pursuing their education and leisure time activities. Many women stated that there were positive changes in family relations after the adoption of biogas. Males in the households corroborated it by saying that many men and other elderly women started to assist in the kitchen because of the ease in cooking on biogas. That benefitted women and girls and also led to improved relations and team work in terms of gender mainstreaming at household level.

The calculation basis for the indicators was SAS's longstanding experience and observation and that had been vindicated by a participatory impact study conducted in May 2015 and on SAS's internal monitoring, discussions with the project staff and beneficiaries, and the many case studies done during the project (I-590-07/16) period – 2016 Jan to 2020 March.

## **5.5 Measures (activities) and instruments needed to achieve the objectives**

### Awareness building and selection of beneficiaries

In the villages selected for the project, the local supervisors along with village elders and representatives of self-help groups visited the beneficiary households and explained the project to them in order to motivate them and also to respond to their questions and doubts regarding the project. Details of the project such as targets, selection criteria, finances and own contribution, implementation schedule and the like were explained to them. The poorer households were

visited and encouraged to take advantage of the project and benefit from it. SAS's experience in the earlier projects showed that the target households were not able to attend formal training sessions. Hence, SAS discontinued the earlier practice of conducting village level meetings. The outcome of such meetings was poor in terms of cost-benefit ratio. Instead, SAS put greater stress on training and equipping its field staff to become more efficient in motivating and accompanying the rural households.

SAS discovered in the process that personalized home visits of potential beneficiary households and interaction with all the household members were very effective. The informal approach and involvement of all family members proved conducive for proper discernment and decision making. Later, it also resulted in speedy implementation of the decision. The persons who imparted awareness and educational inputs were the masons and local supervisors, along with the SHG/local community leaders. To make their informal person to person approach more effective, the project coordinator and supervisors concentrated on giving them more inputs on biogas technology and other capacity building exercises. They understood the concept and tried their best to create greater awareness in the beneficiary households and to accompany them in actualizing their unit and its manifold benefits.

In the villages of Hukkeri and Bailhongal taluka the project team faced *cultural resistance to prepare their meals on 'gas from dung and human excrement'* from the target households. Some of them shuddered at the thought of connecting their burner with a toilet linked biogas unit. Even SAS's effort to win over them by exposing them to a neighbor or to a family in a neighboring village who already had a biogas plant cum toilet unit did not bear fruit. People feared to cook on biogas, to eat what was cooked on biogas, to handle biogas manure and to use it in their fields, more especially when it was from a toilet linked unit. It took time for people to understand that cooking was done not on gas but on the fire produced by igniting the gas. It was clearly demonstrated to them that once gas was ignited there was only a blue flame –*fire, the holy and sacred purifier of all impurities.*

It would take SAS a long time to change the mindset of the people. It underestimated the hold of traditional beliefs and practices on people. SAS staff was very much disheartened that in spite of their numerous visits and interaction with the fourteen (14) households of Bailhongal, they refused to do the initial charging of the unit with cow dung and to feed the unit. Naturally, there was no gas for cooking and they were not at all interested in biogas as a cooking fuel. But they were interested in using the toilet and the biogas digester served as a safety tank for the human excrement. Another household (1) of Bailhongal taluk charged the plant, fed it every day with the cow dung and used the biogas for cooking, but they did not use the toilet attached to their unit. Initially, when SAS shared with them the project and its requirements, they were very enthusiastic and agreed to all the terms and conditions. It was only when the construction was over that SAS realized that they had taken it for a ride. Their intention was to get a modern toilet and in the other one case modern coming facility. The biogas served as digesters for their toilets/cooking gas. They knew that, if they were to say the truth, they would not have got the toilet/biogas. SAS hopes and waits for the day when those households would use all the benefits (gas, toilet, manure, etc) from their biogas cum toilet units. Fourteen of them were happy to have



and use their toilets and to be free from the curse of open defecation and one household is happy to have biogas gas for cooking and to forego the use of their toilet.

In Belagavi and Khanapur taluka too initially the cultural resistance was very strong. Slowly people's mind set changed. The younger generation convinced their elderly parents. The toilet was directly connected to the plant's digester through a separate pipe. Hence, there was no direct contact with the human excrements. Many families, especially women, accepted the biogas plant because they saw it as the best solution to their sanitary and cooking fuel problem.

After the family visits the project personnel (local supervisors) prepared a list of households that wanted the facility and met the selection criteria and other requirements. The project supervisors/coordinator examined the list, along with the local supervisor, and confirmed the beneficiary list with necessary correction.

To ensure comprehensive and in-depth training of beneficiary households, SAS gave detailed inputs to all its functionaries on all the important aspects needed for the optimum use of all the benefits offered by the biogas plant cum toilet unit. SAS's project supervisors and coordinator also supplemented the efforts of the other personnel. All the awareness building measures were conducted in an informal and friendly atmosphere. Other SAS staff used SAS's SHG platform to share BMZ project details.

In 2019 during the months of August and September there was unprecedented torrential rains and flood in different parts of Belagavi district and other districts of North Karnataka. Some of the households for whom SAS had built the biogas plant cum toilet units lost their houses due to the rains and flood. Such households had to relocate themselves and their cattle. In the process they could not use their biogas cum toilet units for some days.

#### Training for project staff, masons, animators and selected beneficiaries as multipliers:

Monthly, around 20 persons - local supervisors, project staff, masons, SHG members, village elders and few beneficiaries attended the trainers' training. The training helped the stakeholders to understand better the logistics of the project, e.g., project area, criteria for the selection of villages and beneficiary households, target with its time line, material and finances, quality and quantity of materials, plant design and selection of construction site, motivation and training of beneficiaries, contribution of the beneficiaries, rapport with the village elders and government officials at the panchayat and district levels, and all other related issues.

The training specifically helped them to further develop their capacity to motivate beneficiary households. Training topics were: BMZ project no. I-590-07-16 and its objectives; Contacting potential beneficiary households and sharing with them the project details; Tackling biases and cultural/ritual barriers; Curing and initial charging of the unit; Maintenance of gas pipe, connections and biogas stoves; Increasing biogas manure production by adding biomass (farm residues and other organic waste and earth worms) to the spent slurry pit; Use of biogas manure as valuable organic fertilizer for kitchen garden and agriculture; Impact of biogas plants on the ecosystem; Mitigation of greenhouse gases; Contribution of biogas plant cum toilet units for a clean and hygienic homestead and village; and Technical details of construction and maintenance of biogas plant cum toilet units.

SAS had trained many masons earlier for constructing *deenabandhu* model biogas plants. The project gave those masons opportunity to refresh their knowledge and skills and also to introduce others to the technique of biogas plant cum toilet unit construction. SAS had at its service local supervisors from the project area who had been trained and familiarized with the construction and maintenance of biogas plants. During 2019 SAS took the help of three women (the wives of our staff) as local supervisors. That facilitated the problem of women staff travelling to the remote villages. Their husbands took them to the areas/villages where they worked and also brought them back; thus they killed two birds with one stone. Women local supervisors were helpful in establishing better rapport with grown up girls and the women folk. Staff of SAS who worked in other initiatives of SAS also assisted in promoting biogas plant cum toilet units.

#### Construction of biogas plants cum toilets

The *deenabandhu* model biogas was developed and field tested in the 80's by AFPRO (Action for Food Production) which played an active role in the field of natural resource management. *Deenabandhu*, due to its cost-effectiveness and its efficiency in gas production, was the model certified and promoted by the Indian Government. Its technology was simple and well-engineered. To run a 2m<sup>3</sup> size plant the dung of 2 cows (20 kg per day) was sufficient and human excrement from the toilet was an additional input. Cow dung and easily digestible biomass were mixed with water and released into the digester. Kitchen waste and other biomass were also fed into the digester. The toilet was connected with a separate pipe to the digester. On top of the digester dome a nozzle was provided to pipe the gas to the biogas burner in the kitchen. The gas pressure was regulated with a valve. The pressure was always low and there was no risk of explosion or fire hazard. The spent slurry flowed into the outer chamber and from there into the waste pit. The pit was emptied once or twice a year and the biogas manure was used for agriculture. The unit was normally built next to the kitchen.

The initial Project Target was 2000 biogas plant cum toilet units. But due to availability of additional funds AHB/BMZ sanctioned us 400 additional units (200 in 2018 and another 200 in 2019). Thus the target for 1<sup>st</sup> project year was 400 units, but SAS managed to construct only 295 units during the 1<sup>st</sup> year (2016). During 2017 SAS constructed 695 units. The target for 2018 was 600+200 units and SAS constructed 795 units by end of Dec 2018. The target for 2019 was 400+200 units and from Jan 2019 to Mar 2020 SAS constructed 690 units. As SAS presents this consolidated report at the end of March 2020 it is very happy that it managed to construct 2475 units (23.75% units more than what was originally planned and 3% more than the sum total of the units officially sanctioned). The average family size was of 6 persons. A 2m<sup>3</sup> gas plant was able to cover the daily cooking energy needs of the family. Gas production was a continuous process and gas was available daily and throughout the year. So SAS proudly shares in the joy of 2475\*6=14850 family members whose lives were made comfortable and dignified with access to a decent toilet and ecofriendly biogas for cooking.

The project coordinator, in consultation with the project supervisors and the local supervisors, assigned trained masons to carry out the construction work. The masons constructed the plant as per the design with the support of the local supervisors, who organized the supply of construction materials and coordinated the involvement of beneficiary households, masons and

unskilled workers. SAS put great emphasis on quality of construction and the use of quality materials in the specified quantity. Therefore the units built by SAS would have a life expectancy of 20-30 years and more. *Deenabandhu* model required hardly any repairs. Units that were used continuously required minimum maintenance. The units constructed and commissioned by SAS some 28 years ago are still functioning efficiently.

The chief executive of SAS who coordinated the project made available the finances (for materials, labor, and other needs). The materials were purchased in the local market. Good quality materials were used. Most of the materials (bricks, river sand, stone chips, cement door frames with doors, roofing sheets, toilet pans, traps, connecting materials, etc.) were locally produced, locally gathered, owned and marketed by members of the farming community, rural wage-workers and artisans and small businesses. The project holder purchased such materials from such small rural enterprises and communities.

With the changes in material and labor cost, a biogas plant cum toilet unit had a mean cost of Rs. 44870 of which Rs. 33870 was for materials. Unskilled labor costed Rs. 5500. The remuneration of local supervisor per unit was Rs.1500; and Rs. 4000 per unit for the mason. The beneficiaries gave Rs. 5000 cash as local contribution and partly took care of the digging of the pit and supply of unskilled labor, water, curing of the unit, cow dung for initial charging, and other unexpected expenses. SAS took care of additional expenses on unskilled labour and the like. Contribution in kind from the beneficiaries and from SAS was not accounted in the project.

#### Training of the beneficiaries

SAS involved the beneficiary households in the construction of their biogas plant cum toilet units. From the beginning of the construction to the commissioning, the local supervisors and masons interacted with the beneficiaries and explained to them the process of plant construction and maintenance, initial charging of the plant and its day to day feeding, and use of biogas manure for farming. Through the project, SAS made great effort to enlighten the beneficiary households about the numerous benefits of a biogas plant cum toilet unit including the positive effects of the biogas plant cum toilet units on maintaining a clean and hygienic homestead and village and a healthy ecosystem. But it was not very easy to convince beneficiaries from new villages and new project areas. Here, SAS had to deal with traditional irrational beliefs and practices of beneficiary households. SAS was conscious of the difficulties involved in the changing the mindset of people and it was quite happy with the results achieved.

The local supervisors also informed the beneficiaries how they could avail of the post plant construction services of SAS through its local staff, masons, volunteers and SHG members. They also instructed the beneficiaries on proper use of the gas burner. The unit was user friendly. None of the household experienced any difficulty in managing their unit. The beneficiaries' intense involvement in the construction process and the knowledge of how the unit functioned demystified the biogas technology and freed almost all of them from cultural and ritual biases.

Project supervisors, local supervisors and masons were in regular contact with beneficiary households and catered to their needs. In fact, all of them resided in the project area. SAS learnt from experience that personal interaction and information sharing with individual households

during construction phase was the most effective training method. The beneficiaries also had easy access the SAS's chief executive, who coordinated the project.

#### Claiming subsidy from the Government and treating it as local contribution

The government disallowed subsidy for the beneficiaries of biogas plants constructed with foreign assistance from the Indian Financial Year 2017-18. But SAS received arrears of subsidy from the earlier units in Feb 2019. SAS used part of that towards local contribution in the current project year. SAS was in away happy to be free of the tiresome, tedious, time consuming and challenging procedure for claiming the subsidy on behalf of the beneficiaries. To match the local contribution as per the project, cash contribution from the beneficiaries and also amount from SAS's Biogas Fund was used.

### **5.6 Process and impact oriented project monitoring**

The local supervisors, who motivated and identified the beneficiaries and supported and monitored the construction process in the villages, reported weekly to the project supervisors on the progress of project implementation. The project supervisors regularly visited the construction sites and reported every month to the project coordinator. The project coordinator too visited the construction sites and interacted with all the stake-holders. The project coordinator conducted monthly meetings with the project staff and others. During such meetings, he monitored the progress of the project and planned the work ahead (targets, resources, difficulties) and updated the list of beneficiaries. The office staff and driver also reported regularly to the project coordinator. The board members of SAS, (project coordinator was part of it), met every three months in order to review all the ongoing projects of SAS and to plan for the future. The project coordinator with the help of the supervisors arranged a couple of meetings for the SHG groups in the villages. During such meetings the project coordinator shared details of BMZ project with them and invited SHG women and their households and also other households that were in their contact with them to take advantage of the BMZ project.

During the whole construction and commissioning phase the project staff monitored the work. Most of the beneficiaries had access to the project staff and the coordinator in person or through phones to share their positive experiences and also problems. Even after completion of the project many beneficiaries stayed in contact with SAS. SAS documented some such informal feedback from beneficiaries for the better under-standing of the project process and project impact. The documentation that SAS did on each of the beneficiaries also served as a good monitoring and reporting tool.

#### Internal project assessment also was in place:

The project coordinator, supervisors, local supervisors, masons, beneficiaries and other staff of SAS working in the project area participated in the assessment. Two SAS staff, who were not part of the project, spearheaded the internal assessment. They were paid for their services with the earmarked amount. Since they enjoyed the trust of the beneficiaries and also of the project staff, they gave an objective assessment. They also helped the project staff in motivating and following up the beneficiary households.

The project implementation involved lot of travel by the project coordinator and the project staff - to visit the villages, beneficiaries, potential beneficiaries and building sites and to check on the supply of building materials. To facilitate the travel, the project purchased two Jeeps, one in 2016 and another in 2018, and a motorbike in 2018. The project budget had provided the finances needed. Those and other vehicles of SAS were used for the project. Necessary budget allocations were in place for transport, vehicle maintenance and fuel costs. Provision was made to cover the travel expenses of the project personnel too. Besides, BMZ approved an additional proposal for the project year 2018 and enhanced the project budget to build 200 additional units, to buy a Jeep and a motorbike, and to compensate increased costs for diesel, petrol and vehicle maintenance as well as travelling costs of the staff (2018 & 2019). The additional proposal also sanctioned an additional staff from 01.07.18 onwards. Additional costs in 2019 was to be covered from the reserve fund. (Reference Barbara's email dated 7<sup>th</sup> Aug 2018). Similarly, for 2019 too BMZ enhanced the project target by another 200 units.

The Jeep sanctioned under the additional proposal was purchased on 21.12.18 at the cost of Rs.1026860/- and the Motorbike was purchased on 27.12.18 at the cost of Rs. 67624/-.

The Jeep sanctioned under the original proposal was purchased on 22.02.16 at the cost of Rs. 976481/-. The Printer sanctioned under the original proposal was purchased on 02.04.16 at the cost of Rs. 13764/-.

Provision was made in the budget for administrative costs - office supplies, electricity, telephone and internet bills, documentation, hospitality and the like.

Infrastructure in the form of an office, rooms and equipment for training and facilities for storage of materials were provided by SAS; and the costs involved in the preparation of the project was entirely met by SAS.

## **5.7 Implementation schedule**

The project period was 48 months, from 01.01.2016 up to 31.12.2019. During 2016 we constructed and commissioned 295 units. During 2017 we constructed 695 units and in 2018 we constructed 795 units. Thus at the end 2018 we completed 1785 units, across new and old villages of Belagavi and Khanapur taluka and villages of Hukkeri and Bailhongal taluka. During the 1<sup>st</sup> half of 2019 we constructed 300 units. But due to the unseasonal torrential rains from July to October 2019 the construction work did not progress as per our plans. Besides, due to the availability of additional funds we got clearness from AHB/BMZ to construct 400 (200 in 2018 and 200 in 2019) additional units. Towards the end of November we realized that we would not be able to complete the project by 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2019. Hence we requested AHB/BMZ to allow us to extend the project till 31-03-2020 and the request was granted. From 24<sup>th</sup> March India was on lockdown in order to prevent the spread of COVID19. The lockdown continues. Fortunately SAS was able to complete the target of BMZ Project No. I-590-07/16 before the lockdown started. For the time being the work on biogas plant cum toilet unit stands suspended. But SAS was able to do considerable work on the new BMZ project (No. I-590-08/20) during the months Jan 2020 - Mar 2020.

As envisaged in the project proposal, the project (No. I-590-07/16) was implemented in different villages at the same time. All the project activities, e.g., awareness building/ selection of households, capacity building of the project staff, construction of biogas plants cum toilets, informal training of beneficiary households, documentation about the beneficiaries, went on simultaneously. Though, the ideal was to construct all the units in one village at one stretch, the logistics did not work out that way. SAS had to construct the units as and when the households got ready. The non-availability of sand due to government restriction on sand excavation and transport came in the way of project implementation. Due to the unprecedented rains and floods in 2019 in Belagavi district the project measures could not be implemented with the same intensity.

### **5.8 Viability of the project measures**

To make sure that the unit gave many years of trouble free service, SAS involved the beneficiary household in all the stages of construction and commissioning of the unit. The households that seriously wanted a unit and had cattle to provide the needed dung and fulfilled the other requirements were selected. The households, especially women, were very keen on having a smooth functioning unit which gave them sufficient gas for cooking and a clean and safe toilet. All the family members used the toilets and kept them clean. Women encouraged all the family members to use the toilets because of the extra gas from human excrements. The unit required hardly any maintenance due to high quality work, both in terms of materials and construction. During the construction phase, experienced staff monitored all the project measures. The outcome was that over 93% units built by SAS functioned well to the great satisfaction of the beneficiaries and other stakeholders. Unfortunately, as per our study and observation, there were at any given point of time about 7% of households which did not take full advantage of all the benefits offered by the biogas plant cum toilet units for various reasons. Among them we had 14 beneficiaries who did not want biogas for cooking, but they used the toilet facility. One household used the gas for cooking, but did not use the toilet.

The project was part of the overall development initiatives of SAS in the target area. Through other integrated rural development initiatives and poverty alleviation measures, (e.g., Women empowerment through SHG movement, Natural Resource Management and Functional Vocational Training) SAS was in constant contact with the target villages and the beneficiary households. SAS had the necessary technology, finances and personnel for follow up action. SAS's strength was and is its committed staff, volunteers and SHG leaders. They are from the target group and they reside in the target area.

### **5.9 Implementation risks**

SAS did not expect and did not face any risks in implementing the project. During the last many years it never had any problem. The vast majority of the beneficiaries used their biogas plant cum toilet units with great satisfaction and diligence. SAS had the necessary expertise to implement the planned measures. During the last BMZ-funded project it constructed 71% additional units - the project was for 1275 units, but the actual outcome was 2185 units. That

could be achieved due to the efficient work of the project staff and availability of finances needed through additional grant and favorable Euro/Rupee exchange rate. In the project under report, SAS's original target was 2000 units. But SAS constructed 2475, i.e., 475 (23.75%) additional units due to additional financial support from AHB/BMZ and contribution from SAS and beneficiary households .

### **5.10 Conclusion**

In the project implementation SAS had to face many challenges. Due to the prevailing draught conditions, the rural households had to look for livelihoods; due to recent torrential rains many of them lost their houses. So they were busy with their livelihoods and reconstruction of their houses. Naturally, the construction of biogas plant cum toilet unit was not their immediate priority. Many people who lost their livelihoods went to work under MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act). There was government control over the extraction and transport of sand. The '*Clean India Movement*' offered free toilets for many rural households. SAS did not construct a unit for households that had toilet under the '*Clean India Movement*'. Free LPG gas connection and one free cylinder under the *Ujjwala Scheme* of the government created false hope in many people that in future they would manage their cooking with LPG. Then there was the demonetization and digitalization and restriction on cash payments. All such issues adversely affected the project and SAS had to extend the project period up to 31-03-2020. Many households who still did not have a unit were convinced that biogas plant cum toilet unit was the best option before them to solve effectively the problems of open defecation, access to clean energy for cooking, and for addressing the hazards created by air pollution, chemical fertilizers and pathogens from human excrement and emission of greenhouse gases. SAS is convinced of the numerous benefits (though SAS still finds it difficult to precisely quantify them all) of its biogas plant cum toilet unit intervention.

The assumption of SAS regarding the acceptance of biogas plant cum toilet unit by households in Hukkeri and Bailhongal taluka was to some extent misplaced. Hence, SAS had to concentrate again on the old target area - Belagavi and Khanapur taluka. SAS also had to spend more than the anticipated time and energy to motivate beneficiary households and to accompany them to see that they took full advantage of the units constructed for them. In spite of the various hurdles, SAS completed the project with great success. SAS is extremely grateful to AHB/BMZ for their generous financial support and constant guidance and accompaniment.

## Case Studies 2019

### Case 1:

**Beneficiary's Name:** Nago Kallappa Patil, **Village:** Uchawade, **Talukka:** Khanapur, **Construction:** 2016, **Size:** 2, **Supervisor:** Demanna, **In the Photo:** Nago Kallappa Patil,

Sr. No	Family Members	Relation	Age	Education	Cast	Occupation
1	Nago Kallappa Patil	<b>Beneficiary</b>	60	Nil	Hindu	Farming
2	Laxmi Nagoba Patil	Wife	50	Nil	Hindu	House Wife
3	Mahadev Kallappa Patil	Brother	55	Nil	Hindu	Farming
4	Yamanna Mahadev Patil	Sister-in-law	45	Nil	Hindu	House Wife
5	Parashuram Mahadev Patil	Nephew	25	10 <sup>th</sup>	Hindu	Farming
6	Sarita Nagoba Patil	Daughter	16	10 <sup>th</sup>	Hindu	Student



Nago Kallappa Patil is a regular farmer for the village of Uchawade in the Khanapur taluka. He has not had any education, but whatever he learnt he picked up from his family through life experiences. He and his brother live together along with their family. In spite of not being educated, they tried their best to give their children some basic education. But it was very difficult to make ends meet. They own a farm land of 3.5 acres.

Earlier, they heavily depended on fire wood and cow dung cakes for cooking. They had to go at night in the forest to collect fire wood in order to escape the forest guards. During the day they worked in the farm. When firewood was not available they had to buy wood. But the smoke emitted from wood and cow dung cakes was very injurious to their health. They would fall sick very often. They also practised open defecation since there was no toilet available. Many years ago they had lost a relative who was bitten by a poisons snake while defecating in the field. They also spent money to buy manure for the fields. As there was no much money in the house, Nago's nephew, Parashuram stopped going to school after completing his 10<sup>th</sup> standard.

In the year 2016 they saw some of their neighbours setting up biogas plant cum toilet units. At first they were very prejudiced about using biogas to cook food. But then they realised that it was very safe and economical, so the next time one of the SAS supervisors visited the village to set up a new plant they inquired about the advantages and disadvantages of having a unit for themselves, and they finally decided to have one.

Now it has been almost 3 years since they are using biogas for cooking. They are fully dependent on it. Since they have 10 cattle, there is plenty of feed stock. They have a hygienic toilet attached to their biogas plant. They all happily use the toilet too. They say that SAS's project has been a blessing for their family. Now they have a lot of privacy while defecating. And since most of the village folks have toilets, the surroundings also are clean. The family says that they enjoy better health now. People in the village too are healthier. The use of bio gas did away with the dangers of kitchen smoke. The biogas manure proved to be a great blessing for their fields and crops. Their family income has increased since the installation of the biogas plant cum toilet unit. Sarita Patil, their daughter, does not miss a day in school. Sarita loves her school and her studies;



she is a very hard working student. She wants to do well in her studies and later get a good job and help her family. Nago's family is very grateful to SAS/AHB/BMZ for making a difference in the lives.

### Case 2:

**Beneficiary' name:** Shekawwa Bassappa Naik, **Village:** Godikop, **Taluka:** Khanapur  
**Constrution:** 2016, **Size:** 2, **Supervisor :**Demanna, **In the photo:** Shekawwa Naik

Sl.no	Family Members	Relations	Age	Education	Caste	Occupation
1	Shekawwa Bassappa Naik	<b>Beneficiary</b>	50	Nil	ST	House wife
2	Bassappa Hanumant Naik	Wife	55	Nil	ST	Farmer
3	Hanumant Bassappa Naik	Son	25	ITI	ST	Son



Bassappa Naik the husband of Shekawwa is a farmer and he narrates his story: "Our village is located in the interior of the jungle. Transport is also rarely available for access to the close by city and other villages. The villagers suffer a lot due to lack of sanitation. Our only income is from farming. SAS came to our village and made us aware about the biogas plant cum toilet unit. Initially I thought that people would make fun of us but slowly things began to unfold.

Today all our animal waste is fed into the biogas plant. My wife and my family members are happy that we have access to our own toilet and that we don't depend on open defecation. That has been a great relief. Cooking on biogas freed us from our dependence on fire wood. Earlier my wife faced a lot of problems in getting the fire wood. Cooking on fire wood was a great torture for her. She burnt her hand on several occasions and her eyes were affected from the smoke. Now all those problems have been solved. The biogas plant was installed much before our village had access to electricity. Thanks to SAS for making us aware of new things and for caring about us. Our neighbors were also inspired after us to have such facilities in their houses. The manure from the plant gave a boost to our crops. All in all we have benefitted in many ways from our biogas plant cum toilet unit.

### Case 3:

**Beneficiary name:** Ashok Somoppu Medar, **village :** Hiremunvalli, **Taluka :** Khanapur  
**Construction:**2017, **Size:** 2, **Supervisor:** Demanna, **In the Photo:** Ashok Somappa Medar

Sl.no	Family Members	Relations	Age	Education	Caste	Occupation
1	Ashok Somappa Medar	<b>Beneficiary</b>	62	_	ST	Bamboo craft
2	Komalava Medar	wife	45	4 <sup>th</sup> std	ST	House wife
3	Manjudar Ashok Medar	Daughter	22	BA TY	ST	Student
4	Somshokar Ashok Medar	Son	20	Bsc FY	ST	Student

Ashok Somappa Medar hails from a small village in Khanapur taluka. Besides taking up the traditional farming occupation he ventured into bamboo-craft. He finds it difficult to sustain his family. The only means to cook their food was the use of fire wood. It was also difficult for his wife and children to find secluded places nearby for toilet purposes. Sanitation was very poor and he wanted a change in his house.



SAS staff came to their village and made the villagers aware of the biogas plant cum toilet facilities and how such a unit would be beneficial to them. Initially it was not clear to them whether they would be able to manage it. Once the biogas was installed it gave a great boost to their lives. His family members had no longer the worry of going out for toilet purposes. The dependence on firewood for cooking was over. The house also became clean without the stain from the wood smoke. Cooking became much faster and their kids could pack their tiffin and go to school in time. Installation of biogas plant cum toilet unit provided cooking fuel and prevented the methane from dung and human excrements going to the ozone. It added to their family income, and gave them a better status in the village. Women and children lived with greater dignity and they became more concerned about the environment and importance of saving trees.

#### Case 4:

**Beneficiary:** Lalita Shekappa Hublikar, **Village:** Muglihal, **Taluka:** Khanapur, **Construction:** 2017, **Size:** 2, **Supervisor:** Demanna, **In the photo:** Lalita Shekappa Hublikar

Sl.no	Family Members	Relations	Age	Education	Caste	Occupation
1	Lalita Shekappa Hublikar	<b>Beneficiary</b>	28	8 <sup>th</sup> std	other	House wife
2	Shekappa Rudrappa Hublikar	Husband	38	6 <sup>th</sup> std	other	Farmer
3	Sandeep Hublikar	son	7	Anganwadi	other	Student
4	Saunderya Hublikar	Daughter	4	---	other	-----



Lalita Shekappa Hublikar is a mother of two kids. Her house is situated beside a road. When SAS staff visited her house, she lit the gas and the smile on her face conveyed all her happiness to the visitors. She narrates, “Stuck with poverty it was difficult to manage life. We had to struggle even to get the bare necessities of life. Every single day my husband and I had to go to jungle and collect fire wood. We had no money to buy manure for our fields. Above all after a whole day’s work I had to cook on the firewood for the family. That was very tiresome and consumed a lot of my time.

In installation of the biogas plant cum toilet unit came to my rescue. I was freed from the shame of open defecation; I no longer needed to wait for the dawn and the dusk to answer the nature’s call. The headache of collecting and storing firewood and of making, drying and storing cow dung cakes, the problem of maintaining a fire and the troublesome kitchen – the nightmare is over! Now I cook with ease and joy and save a

lot to time. My children get their meals on time. We get a lot of biogas manure for our fields and save the money spent on fertilizers. I never imagined that the introduction of biogas cum toilet unit would make such a big difference in my day to day life. I am very grateful to SAS and others who partner this wonderful work.”

#### Case 5:

**Beneficiary:** Rudrappa Basappa Munvalli, **Village** :Hire Angroli, **Taluka** :Khanapur, **Construction:** 2017, **Size:** 2, **Supervisor:** Demanna , **In the photo:** Kustari Rudrappa Munvalli.

Sl.no	Family Members	Relations	Age	Education	Caste	Occupation
1	Rudrappa Basappa Munvalli	<b>Beneficiary</b>	50	---	other	Farmer
2	Kustari Rudrappa Munvalli	Wife	45	10 <sup>th</sup> std	other	House wife
3	Shweta Rudrappa Munvalli	Daughter	21	2 yr nurse	other	Student
4	Sukunanda Rudrappa Munvalli	Son	16	10 <sup>th</sup> std	other	Student
5	Aheskake Rudrappa Munvalli	Son	14	9 <sup>th</sup> std	other	Student



Rudrappa Munvalli lives with his family in a village known Hire Angroli. He has a big family. He has to cater to his children’s education and look after the household. He didn’t have a toilet and that impacted especially his wife and daughter. He had animals whose dung was used for manure. His wife spent a lot of time in the kitchen cooking and cleaning. He and his household were keen to improve their

situation. His wife and daughter wanted a toilet at any cost. It was at this juncture that SAS intervened. The household accepted whole heartedly the idea of installing the biogas plant cum toilet unit. SAS reached out to them and now they are the proud owners of a biogas plant cum toilet unit.

The family was eager to enumerate the manifold benefits they reaped. The list of benefits was something like this:

- ✚ provides a modern hygenic toilet
- ✚ removes the shame of open defecation
- ✚ makes the rural kitchens smoke free
- ✚ roads and open spaces in the village is free of human excrements
- ✚ provides efficeint cooking fuel
- ✚ makes cooking easy
- ✚ reduces pollution in the kitchen and in the environment
- ✚ improves the health of women and children
- ✚ reduces felling of trees for cooking fuel
- ✚ provides organic manure for agriculture
- ✚ reduces greenhouse gas emissions

- ✚ saves the time wasted in the collection and storage of firewood
- ✚ saves time spent on cooking and cleaning
- ✚ improves living standards of the households
- ✚ reduces global warming
- ✚ effective and convenient way of sanitary disposal of human excrements
- ✚ increase in crop due to bio-fertilizer
- ✚ improves the sanitation and hygiene of the household and the village
- ✚ conserves trees and forest reserves and a reduces soil erosion
- ✚ improves living conditions in the village

The women of the family stressed how it freed them from the same, embarrassment, and dangers to which they were exposed due to open defecation. The access to a family toilet added to their self-image, self-respect and status. The family is happy that all the animal waste and human excrements digested in the biogas plant is available and utilized in their fields and they get better crops without the use of chemical fertilizers. Rudrappa's wife was happy that her kitchen remained clean since it stopped using firewood. Rudrappa's household was instrumental in inspiring his neighbors to want a biogas plant cum toilet unit. Initially the people in the village had vague ideas about a biogas plant cum toilet unit but they were fully convinced when they saw Rudrappa and his household making the best use of the facility provided to them. People of Hire Aangoli are happy with SAS for its biogas plant cum toilet unit intervention.

#### Case 6:

**Beneficiary:** Yallappa Demanna Mitagar, **Village:** K Bagewadi, **Taluka:** Khanapur, **Constrution:** 2017, **Size:** 2, **Supervisor:** Demanna, **in the photo:** Yallappa Demanna's wife

Yallappa Demanna is a farmer who lives with his wife and two sons in Bagewadi Village in Khanapur Taluka. Yallappa has one acre land in which he cultivates sugarcane and *chilies*



seasonally. It was difficult for him to manage his fields as sometimes there were crises in farming. With his savings and some help from his relatives and loans he built a small house that was just sufficient for his family. One of the major difficulties that he faced now was the lack of a toilet. As many others in the village, his entire family would wait for the

dawn or dusk to relieve themselves. Yellappa was under great pressure to have a toilet for his household.

Yellappa came in contact with the SAS staff and was quite fascinated to learn about the biogas plant cum toilet unit project. He was quick to accept the new technology and to have a biogas plant cum toilet unit installed. He is very happy with his unit. It gives his household the badly

needed toilet which with 24\*7 access. They are happy with the biogas manure and use it effectively. Earlier they were totally dependent on firewood to meet their cooking needs but now they cook all their meals on biogas and with great satisfaction. Yallappa recalled the days when he felt sad to see his wife engulfed with the kitchen smoke. The family was grateful to SAS and its staff for reaching out to them.

#### Case 7:

**Beneficiary name:** Prakesh Narayan Tolgekar, **Village:** Bargoaon, **Taluka:** Khanapur, **Construction:** 2018, **Size:** 2, **Supervisor:** L D Patil **In The photo:** Reuka Tolgekar

S.No	Family Members	Relation	Age	Education	Caste	Occupation
1	Prakesh N Tolgekar	Beneficiary	55	Nil	Hindu Maratha	Driver
2	Renuka Tolgekar	Wife	50	Nil	Hindu Maratha	Farmer
3	Prabhakar Tolgekar	Son	25	10	Hindu Maratha	
4	Manuj Tolgekar	Son	22	BCA	Hindu Maratha	



Renuka is a leader of the self-help group and is responsible for motivating others to make use of the facilities provided by SAS. Despite her daily works, she also finds time to make others aware of their rights and government entitlements. She even motivates others to have a biogas plant cum toilet unit. She narrated to us the benefits of the biogas plant cum toilet unit.

*“I don’t know where to begin with. My husband is a JCB driver and he is away from home from dawn to dusk. He is a hardworking man and I try my best to support him. Before we got the biogas cum toilet unit, I had to go to the forest to collect firewood. All my efforts went in vain when it rained. The rain would soak the wood, and very often, there was more smoke than fire”.*

*“Things changed when SAS came to us with the offer of the biogas plant cum toilet unit. They constructed a unit for us and that solved most of our problem. I no longer go in search of firewood as I have enough biogas for all my cooking. I cook food for my family with ease and my kitchen is free of smoke and clean and I enjoy better health. But what I enjoy most is the fact that we have a toilet now. That has freed us from the curse of open defecation.”*

#### Case 8:

**Beneficiary name:** Laxmi Ganapati Gurav, **Village:** Sanhosur, **Taluka:** Khanapur, **Construction:** 2017, **Size:**2, **Supervisor:** L D Patil, **In The photo:** Laxmi Ganapati Gurav

S.No	Family Members	Relation	Age	Edu	Caste	Occupation
1	Laxmi Ganapati Gurav	<b>Beneficiary</b>	68		Other	Brick Making
2	Sattur Gurav	Son	38	10th	Other	Brick Making
3	Alka Sattair Gurav	Daughter in law	32	7th	Other	Schooling
4	Sadhna Suttar Gurav	Grand Daughte	17	10th	Other	Schooling
5	Sakshim Suttat Gruav	Grand Daughte	15	9th	Other	Schooling



Laxmi Ganapati Gurav is an elderly lady from Sanhosur. Despite her age, she helps out in the family business of brick making and also renders her assistance in cooking the food for the family. She narrates to us how the ‘Bio Gas Plant cum toilet Unit’ has benefitted her.

Pointing out to the black stains on the wall Laxmi says, *“The use of firewood has done more harm than good. The smoke has left behind black stains on the wall. Not only did it affect the walls, but also our health. We found it often difficult to breathe; our eyes burnt and watered. It was often frustrating when the firewood was wet and humid. Then it produced more smoke than fire.”*

*“The toilet has benefitted us a lot. It was easy for me to nurse my late husband as there was toiled in the house itself. Even though I am sad at his demise, I am happy that I nursed him and kept him clean. The toilet made it easy.”*

#### Case 9:

**Beneficiary name:** Laxmi Satappta Patil, **Village:** Garlgunji, **Taluka:** Khanapur **Construction:** 2018, **Size:** 2, **Supervisor:** L D Patil, **In the photo:** Laxmi Satappta Patil

S.No	Family Members	Relation	Age	Education	Caste	Occupation
1	Laxmi Satappta Patil	<b>Beneficiary</b>	45	7 <sup>th</sup>	Other	Farming
2	Satappta Patil	Husband	52		Other	Farming
3	Pankaj Patil	son	23	B.A.	Other	Schooling
4	Shushma Patil	Daughter	20	B.Com	Other	Schooling
5	Shubham Patil	son	18	ITI	Other	Schooling



Laxmi Satappta Patil is a lady from Garlgunji, who along with her husband, earns her living through farming and brick making. Her family is totally dependent on the biogas for their daily cooking.

*“We were dependent on firewood, as it was the only means of cooking. We would ignore the fact that there was plenty of smoke as we had no other choice. But ever since the installation of the biogas plant cum toilet unit we cook all our meals on biogas. If anything goes wrong the SAS personnel are at our service. ”Cooking is one thing that has benefitted us a lot but along with that, we are blest with a toilet. I am very grateful to SAS’s L D Patil for helping us constantly.”*

### Case 10:

**Beneficiary name:** Basavva Dhanaji Hundre, **Village:** Topinkatti, **Taluka:** Khanapur, **Construction:** 2018, **Size:** 2, **Supervisor:** L D Patil, **In The photo:** Priyanka and Pratiksha

S.No	Family Members	Relation	Age	Education	Caste	Occupation
1	Basavva Dhanaji Hundre	<b>Beneficiary</b>	42	Nil	Maratha	Farmer
2	Dhanaji Hundre	Husband	50	Nil	Maratha	Daily wage
3	Pashuram Hundre	Son	27	10 <sup>th</sup>	Maratha	Studying
4	Priyanka Hundre	Daughter	21	B.Com	Maratha	Studying
5	Pratiksha Hundre	daughter	16	10 <sup>th</sup>	Maratha	Studying



Basavva, her husband and her son are the earning members of the family. Her two daughters are studying and during vacation, they help out in the field and cook food too. The children who are educated are grateful for the installation of the biogas plant. We were welcomed by Priyanka and Pratiksha, the two daughters of Basavva.

*“Firewood has been a problem here. There are very few trees in the neighborhood. It is only after a lot of struggle and waste of time, we manage to get a handful of sticks for the kitchen. When it rains, the wood gets wet, and cooking becomes difficult.”*

*“Bio-Gas has been a great blessing. We don’t have to pay for the gas and it is quite safe to use. We used to use the LPG cylinder, but now it is rarely used. Open defecation was a great shame and dehumanizing. Now we feel lucky and happy that we have a toilet. A big thanks to SAS”.*

### Case 11:

**Beneficiary name:** Laxmi Ramchandra Tipannavar, **Village:** Ghastoli, **Taluka:** Khanapur, **Construction:** 2016, **Size:** 2, **Supervisor:** L D Patil, **In The photo:** Laxmi Ramchandra Tipannavar

S.No	Family Members	Relation	Age	Educ	Caste	Occupation
1	Laxmi Ramchandra Tipannavar	<b>Beneficiary</b>	45	nil	Maratha	Farmer
2	Ramchandra Tipannavar	Husband	50	nil	Maratha	Farmer
3	Shiva Tipannavar	Son	20	10 <sup>th</sup>	Maratha	



Laxmi Ramchandra Tipannavar is from Ghastoli village. After a lot of hard work and sacrifice, they managed to build a decent house. Though they have built a modern house, they still use biogas for their cooking. *“This thing (Bio-gas)” says Laxmi, “was our companion when we lived in our old small house. It fed us and made our life easy. I am so grateful for this intervention that, I will continue using it in our new home.” “It saves us a lot of money and time. All our meals are cooked on biogas. I and after me my children will continue to use it. The biogas cum toilet is really great.*

### Case 12:

**Beneficiary name:** Phondu Bhikaji Patil, **Village:** Chapgaon, **Taluka:** Khanapur, **Construction Year:** 2018, **Size:** 2, **Supervisor:** L D Patil, **In The photo:** Phondu Bhikaji Patil

S.No	Family Members	Relation	Age	Education	Caste	Occupation
1	Phondu Bhikaji Patil	<b>Beneficiary</b>	55	2 <sup>nd</sup>	others	Farmer
2	Gita Phondu Patil	wife	50	Nil	others	Farmer
3	Hanuman Patil	Son	20	12 <sup>th</sup>	others	Farmer
4	Satish Patil	Son	18	ITI	others	Studying
5	Manuj Patil	Son	15	8th	others	Studying



Phondu Bhikaji Patil is a farmer from Chapgaon village. He along with his wife and the eldest son work in the field and two of his sons are studying. Phondu and his household make the optimum use of the manifold benefits of the biogas plant cum toilet unit.

Phondu says, *“The reason why I choose biogas over other means is that produces no smoke; it’s cheap; it’s not dangerous. I can collect firewood during the summer, but what about the rainy season? It was difficult for me and my wife to manage on firewood. But now, with the help of biogas, I no longer worry about cooking. My wife or my eldest son mixes the cow and feed the plant. We are lucky that we have enough feedstock. Having the biogas digester in our backyard is another blessing. We get gas for free and also plenty of enriched biogas manure. But the greatest advantage of the unit is the toilet. We no longer have recourse to open defecation. Disposal of the night soil is very easy; it is converted into ‘golden manure’. It is so natural and very eco-friendly.”*

### Case 13:

**Beneficiary:** Padma Nagendra Uchugaonkar, **Village:** Lokoli, **Taluka:** Khanapur, **Construction:** 2017, **Size:** 2, **Supervisor:** L D Patil, **In The photo:** Mahadevi Uchugaonkar

S.No	Family Members	Relation	Age	Educ	Caste	Occupation
1	Padma Nagendra Uchugaonkar	<b>Beneficiary</b>	80	Nil	other	
2	Maruti Uchugaonkar	Son	50	7 <sup>th</sup>	other	Farmer
3	Mahadevi Uchugaonkar	Daughetr-in-law	55	10 <sup>th</sup>	other	Farmer
4	Jyoti Uchugaonkar	Grand-daughter	21	B.Com	other	studying
5	Mahesh Uchugaonkar	Grand-daughter	16	10 <sup>th</sup>	other	studying



Padma Nagendra Uchugaonkar is an old lady from Lokoli village. She is looked after by her son and daughter-in-law. Their family makes very good use of the biogas as compared to others in the village. It was her daughter-in-law who explained to us how biogas benefited them.

*“It was often frustrating to light a fire when the firewood was wet; there was more smoke than fire in the kitchen. But with biogas there is no smoke at all. We do all of our cooking on biogas. Now, we no longer need firewood. Our toilet is of great help to our entire family. We are blessed. We are free from the shame of open defecation. We are very grateful to SAS for reaching out to us.”*



#### Case 14:

**Beneficiary:** Venkappa Shivanappa Birje, **Village:** Nagurdawada, **Taluka:** Khanapur, **Construction:** 2016, **Size:** 2, **Supervisor:** L D Patil, **In The photo:** Lata Birje

S.No	Family Members	Relation	Age	Educ	Caste	Occup
1	Venkappa Shivanappa Birje	<b>Beneficiary</b>	65	5 <sup>th</sup>	other	Farmer
2	Rammaka Birje	Wife	60	Nil	other	Farmer
3	Narayan Birje	Son	45	12 <sup>th</sup>	other	Farmer
4	Nanda Birje	Daughter in law	40	10 <sup>th</sup>	other	Farmer
5	Uttam Birje	Grandson	24	12 <sup>th</sup>	other	Student
6	Mayauri	Grand daughter	22	Eng Stu	other	Student
7	Shivaji Birje	Son	40	PUC II	other	Farmer
8	Lata Birje	Daughter in law	36	PUC II	other	Farmer
9	Ganesh Birje	Grandson	14	9 <sup>th</sup>	other	Student
10	Riha Birje	Grand daughter	11	6 <sup>th</sup>	other	Student



Venkappa Shivanappa Birje is a farmer from Nagurdawada who is looked after by his two sons and their wives. They stay together and the cooking of the entire family is done on one stove. Recently, he met with an accident and is recuperating. It was his daughter in law who spoke to us about the use of biogas.

*“We do all the cooking on biogas; there is no problem of smoke; that is a great relief. We get biogas for free and we know that it very safe and very effective and convenient. My sister-in-law and I cook for the entire household yet there is no shortage of gas. Occasionally, when we have many guests we use LPG gas otherwise, the biogas is sufficient for cooking the meals for the ten of us.”*

*“Earlier we used kerosene stoves for cooking. But kerosene was expansive and not easily available. All of are very happy to have our own hygienic toilet. How wonderful our lives would have been, if we were to have the biogas plant cum toilet unit earlier! But I guess that everything has its time.”*

#### Case 15:

**Beneficiary:** Gurappa Kachappa Naik, **Village:** Alloli, **Taluka:** Khanapur, **Construction:** 2017, **Size:** 2, **Supervisor:** L D Patil, **In The photo:** Shoba Naik

S.No	Family Members	Relation	Age	Education	Caste	Occupation
1	Gurappa Kachappa Naik	<b>Beneficiary</b>	65	nil	other	Farmer
2	Rukmani Naik	Wife	60	nil	other	Farmer
3	Khacha Naik	Son	35	4 <sup>th</sup>	other	studying
4	Shoba Naik	Daughter in law	30	6 <sup>th</sup>	other	studying
5	Kajal Naik	Grand daughter	14	9 <sup>th</sup>	other	studying
6	Ashmita Naik	Grand daughter	12	7 <sup>th</sup>	other	studying
7	Sangati Naik	Grand daughter	10	3 <sup>rd</sup>	other	studying
8	Devyani Naik	Grand daughter	7	1 <sup>st</sup>	other	studying
9	Vitthal Naik	Grandson	5		other	



Gurappa Kachappa Naik hails from Alloli, a village in Khanapur taluka. He has recently undergone an eye operation. By profession, he is a farmer and he has passed on the skills to his son. Due to his age and ailment, it is his son who looks after the farm. His daughter in law helps his son with the farm work. His daughter in law Shoba spoke to us about the benefits of their biogas plant cum toilet unit as she is the one who normally cooks for the family.

*“Before we installed the biogas unit we used firewood and farm residues for cooking. Cooking on such inefficient fuel was very time consuming and troublesome. The smoke and carbon particles not only blacked the kitchen and the house but also created a lot of health problems for the women and children who spent a considerable time in the kitchen. Fire wood was not easily available unless we bought it in the market. Getting and storing fire wood was always a difficult task. The other major problem that the women faced was that of open defecation. It was dehumanizing and embarrassing and at times dangerous due to uncivil men and stray animals and even snakes. After the construction of the biogas cum toilet unit that problem is solved once and for all. Besides living a healthy and dignified life it keeps our village roads and surroundings clean. We use biogas manure for our crops and we get better yields. Due to biogas the cooking has become very easy and I save a lot of time. When I compare our days before and after the introduction of biogas, I see that we have benefitted in many ways because of this one intervention. We are very grateful to SAS for this. Now I positively encourage many rural households to have a biogas plant cum toilet unit.”*

#### Case 16:

**Beneficiary:** Madhuri Maruti Patil, **Village:** Nagurda, **Taluka:** Khanapur, **Construction:** 2017, **Size:** 2, **Supervisor:** L D Patil, **In The photo:** Madhuri Maruti Patil

S.No	Family Members	Relation	Age	Education	Caste	Occupation
1	Madhuri Maruti Patil	<b>Beneficiary</b>	38	10th	Hindu Maratha	Farmer
2	Maruti Babaji Patil	husband	48	12th	Hindu Maratha	Farmer
3	Yogest Patil	Son	17	10th	Hindu Maratha	studying
4	Meenakshi Patil	daughter	19	12th	Hindu Maratha	studying



Madhuri Maruti Patil is a lady from Nagurda village. She helps her husband in farming and also cooks the food for the family and takes care of other household chores. Since 2017 the family solely depends on biogas for their daily cooking.

Madhuri narrated: *“There are two main gains from our biogas plant cum toilet unit. We get free gas for our cooking and we have a hygienic toilet. These two aspects have made a huge difference in our life. We no longer have to spend time to collect firewood and face the unpleasant encounters with the forest guard. We are free from the curse of open defecation. Building a toilet is an expansive affair. Hence it was not in our thoughts. But dependence on open defecation was humiliating and dehumanizing. Thank God that we have cooking fuel and toilet - two great blessings. Besides, we enjoy many other benefits: clean vessels and clean house, smokeless kitchen, better health, ease and speed in cooking the family meals,*

*better and hygienic surroundings, manure for the fields, the list is long. We are very grateful to SAS for their care and concern.”*

### Case 17:

**Beneficiary name:** Kavita Sandeep Patil, **Village:** Buttewadi, **Taluka:** Khanapur, **Construction:** 2017, **Size:** 2, **Supervisor:** L D Patil, **In the photo:** Kavita Sandeep Patil

S.No	Family Members	Relation	Age	Education	Caste	Occupation
1	Kavita Sandeep Patil	<b>Beneficiary</b>	30	7 <sup>th</sup>	Hindu Maratha	Farmer
2	Sandeep Patil	Husband	38	10 <sup>th</sup>	Hindu Maratha	farmer
3	Yogesh Patil	son	12	7 <sup>th</sup>	Hindu Maratha	studying
4	Suresh patil	son	11	5 <sup>th</sup>	Hindu Maratha	studying

Kavita Sandeep Patil is a married to Sandeep Patil of Buttewadi village. She works in the field with her husband and at also find the time to manage the household activities. She is quite active socially; she enquires about the various poverty alleviation schemes of the government which could benefit her and others in the village. She spoke about how the biogas plant cum toilet unit constructed by SAS benefitted her.



*“Burning of firewood inside the house leaves a black stain on the wall. Breathing becomes difficult and the eyes hurt. Secondly, hunting for firewood during the rainy season is troublesome. To add to this, we used to use neighbor’s toilet.”*

*“All these problems ceased when we installed a biogas cum toilet unit. We know that the construction of the unit is a costly affair. SAS, through its BMZ project, made it possible for us by subsidizing it very heavily and by seeing to the entire construction process. We have been using the unit since 2017. Till today we have no problem regarding cooking. There is no smoke and we cook all our meals on biogas. Having access to a clean toilet I consider the greatest blessing.”*

### Case: 18

**Beneficiary’s name:** Mangal Suresh Devatge. **Village:** Waghwade. **Taluka:** Belagavi, **Construction:** 2017. **Size:** 2, **Supervisor:** Ningappa. **In the photo:** Mangal, Gajanan, Suresh and case workers (extreme left: Persius and Ningappa.)

Sr. No	Family Members	Relation	Age	Education	Caste	Occupation
1	Suresh Ganpat Devatge	Husband	65	Nil	Maratha	Farmer
2	<b>Mangal Suresh Devatge</b>	<b>Beneficiary</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Maratha</b>	<b>House Wife</b>
3	Gaganan Suresh Devatge	Son	27	10	Maratha	Service
4	Praveen Suresh Devatge	Son	25	7	Maratha	Farmer

Mrs. Manga Suresh Devote, the Beneficiary of the biogas plant at her house, is very satisfied with it. This satisfaction is mainly due to the various benefits she enjoys by installing the biogas

plant. When we asked her whether all the meals are cooked on biogas, she replies with a big smile, “yes.”



This family has a 1.5 acre field where her husband goes to work. Her sons also help in farming. Mrs. Manga cooks food for them. Earlier, cooking was mostly done on fire wood. So, someone had to go to collect wood from the forest. With the installation of the biogas plant, the trouble of collecting firewood is completely over. When we asked her about other benefits of the biogas, she said that they were very

happy to have a toilet which they did not have earlier. She shared that the biogas cum toilet unit has helped them to save a lot of time and has been a great asset to their family. The installation of that unit has been instrumental in bringing a lot of awareness among the surrounding households. When we were with Manga Suresh Devote, four persons came to us and showed their interest in having a biogas plant cum toilet unit for their households.

### Case: 19

**Beneficiary’s name:** Nago Janu Karwat. **Village:** Kaulapurwada. **Taluka:** Khanapur. **Construction:** 2016. **Size:** 2, Supervisor: Ningappa. **In the photo:** Malahshri Karwat.

Sr. No	Family Members	Relation	Age	Education	Caste	Occupation
1	Nago Janu Karwat	Beneficiary	60	Nil	OBC	Farmer
2	Dondhubhai Karwat	Wife	58	Nil	OBC	House Wife
3	Vittal Karwat	Son	32	8	OBC	Farmer
4	Malashri Karwat	Daughter-in-law	27	5	OBC	House Wife
5	Sanjana Karwat	Grand daughter	6months	Nil	OBC	



We visited the village Kaulapurwada, which is situated in the northern border of Khanapur taluka. The people there belong to a community, locally known as the *dongar gowli*. Mr. Nago Janu Karwat lives in this village. His family consists of five members. They have a small piece of land for cultivation. Since they are situated in the interior area they are deprived of many necessities of life.

They have recently got water connection to their village. We can see in the above table that they are also deprived of basic education. The household members are illiterate with no education and skill training. At present Vittal Karwat, Nago’s son is the only one who works. Mr. Nago works a little in his field, but because of his old age he is not able to contribute much. His wife and daughter-in-law helps in the house work.

The installation of the biogas plant has helped them a lot. The daughter-in-law gladly affirmed that because of the biogas she is able to manage her house work well. Since she has a daughter who is six months old, she feels that biogas cum toilet unit is of great importance to her. She says that she doesn’t have to go to the forest to collect fire wood or depend on open defecation; she

and her child do not breathe the smoke and polluted air in the kitchen due to the burning of inefficient cooking fuel; cooking has become very easy; she enjoys some free time.

The household is very happy to have their own biogas plant cum toilet unit as it has been of much help to them and they are positive that it will be a great support for them in the future too. They expressed their gratitude to SAS and the BMZ/AHB project that transformed their lives.

#### Case: 20

**Beneficiary's name:** Sonappa Krishna Patil. **Village:** Ambewadi. **Taluka:** Khanapur. **Construction:** 2016. **Size:** 2, Supervisor: Ningappa. **In the photo:** Sonappa and Vandana.

Sr. No	Family Members	Relation	Age	Education	Caste	Occupation
1	Sonappa Krishna Patil	<b>Beneficiary</b>	53	4	Maratha	Farmer
2	Vandana Sonappa Patil	Wife	45	Nil	Maratha	House Wife
3	Bhumika Sonappa Patil	Daughter	21	B.Com	Maratha	Student
4	Madhavi Sonappa Patil	Daughter	19	11	Maratha	Student
5	Suraj Sonappa Patil	Son	18	10	Maratha	Student



Mr. Sonappa Krishna Patil lives with his wife Vandana and his three children – Bhumika, Madhavi and Suraj. He is a farmer who owns a small piece of land. They have two cows and three buffaloes.

His children are studying and his wife looks after the house. The installation of the biogas has helped this family in a great way. The wife of Mr. Sonappa shows gratitude for the installation of the biogas since she has to do the cooking. She mentioned to us that prior to the installation of the biogas unit the cooking was done on the *chula* (open oven) with firewood and dried dung cakes. Biogas has helped her in cooking very well, and fast. Otherwise she had to go to the forest to collect the firewood. Another benefit she mentioned was that of smokeless kitchen because of the biogas. Earlier when using firewood, a lot of smoke was produced and it disturbed her and affected her health. Cooking on inefficient fuel took a lot of her energy and time.

They also have a LPG gas cylinder. They said that they hardly use it because of the cost. Since they are poor, the biogas which is free of cost has been of great help to them. The installation of the biogas plant cum toilet unit has made a tremendous difference to their life. *“My kids are studying and when they come home from school they are really famished and I can serve them some warm food. Thanks to the biogas, cooking has become faster and easier. We are very grateful to SAS/BMZ for helping us have the biogas cum toilet unit.”* says Mrs. Vandana.

#### Case: 21

**Beneficiary's name:** Pratiksha Prakash Patil. **Village:** Sangargali. **Taluka:** Khanapur. **Construction:** 2016. **Size:** 2, Supervisor: Ningappa. **In the photo:** Pratiksha Prakash Patil.

Sr. No	Family Members	Relation	Age	Education	Caste	Occupation
1	Prakash Chudappa Patil	Husband	45	10	Maratha	Farmer
2	Pratiksha Prakash Patil	<b>Beneficiary</b>	38	10	Maratha	House Wife
3	Prajyot Prakash Patil	Son	15	9	Maratha	Student
4	Prajwal Prakash Patil	Son	10	4	Maratha	Student



Pratiksha Prakash Patil and her family live in a cottage surrounded by the family farm – vegetables, cashew trees, mango trees. The family of four belongs to Sangargali village of Khanapur Taluka. Pratiksha and her husband, Prakash Chudappa Patil, have two young sons, Prajyot and Prajwal. Prajyot is in Class IX and Prajwal is in Class IV. The biogas plant was installed in 2016 by SAS. Since then family has been eased out of some

domestic difficulties like lack of firewood. The family is extremely satisfied and happy with the new found help in the gas plant.

The couples, themselves educated up to Class X, are desirous of their children's progress in education. In spite of the demands of agrarian life they send their children to school. Besides working in the family farm land, Pratiksha has an added burden of household chores. Due to unavailability of firewood and high cost of LPG she used to struggle to cook the family meals. Her older son, Prajyot, would also be dragged into the problem as he had to help his mom in collecting firewood from the jungle. This came in the way of his school life.

Today things are much different. The family doesn't have the same problems thanks to the biogas plant. The family doesn't have to worry about firewood anymore. Pratiksha's household chores are lighter comparatively. She can devote more time to other concerns like attending to the needs of her younger son. She also expressed that the gas plant has been a blessing in many ways – having a toilet at home, managing kitchen waste and animal waste, and a cleaner house, and surrounding. When we interacted with her, she was extremely courteous and grateful. Her calm, smiling face and demeanor tells it all.

#### Case: 22

**Beneficiary's name:** Bhujang Gundu Patil, **Village:** Badas I, **Taluka:** Belagavi, **Construction year:** 2017, **Size:** 2, **Supervisor:** Ningappa. **In the photo:** Laxami Bhujang Patil.

Sr. No	Family Members	Relation	Age	Education	Caste	Occupation
1	Bhujang Gundu Patil	<b>Beneficia</b>	55	7	Maratha	Farmer
2	Laxami Bhujang Pati	wife	47	Nil	Maratha	House Wife
3	Sanket Bhujang Patil	Son	22	12	Maratha	Farmer
4	Mahesh Bhujang Pati	Son	20	10	Maratha	Farmer



The beneficiary Mr. Bhujang Gundu Patil's family consists of four members. They live in Badas I, which is a village at the border of Belagavi. It is quite an interior place too. They have 2 acres of land and they are also involved in the cashew nuts trading.

The Beneficiary's wife Mr. Laxami Bhujang Patil expressed her gratitude towards SAS for giving them the

biogas plant. She shared her experience of her biogas plant cum toilet unit. She was very grateful for it to SAS and the BMZ project. She mentioned that earlier they had a lot of difficulties to get fire wood. She said that they had to walk long distances to collect fire wood and because of the use of fire wood the kitchen used to get filled with smoke, which made it difficult for them to breath. *"With the help of SAS we were able to install a biogas plant,"* she says. Due to that her cooking and other kitchen work has become very easy and she gets lot of time to do other household and field work.

All of the members of the household are very satisfied with the installation of the biogas and they are grateful for it since it makes their life much more relaxed and comfortable.

### Case: 23

**Beneficiary's name:** Shalan Pandurang Kotikar, **Village:** Bailurwada. **Taluka:** Khanapur, **Construction year:** 2018. **Size:** 2, **Supervisor:** Ningappa, **In the photo:** Pandurang Kedri Kotikar.

Sr. No	Family Members	Relation	Age	Education	Caste	Occupation
1	Pandurang Kedri Kotikar	Husband	42	Nil	Maratha	Farmer
2	Shalan Pandurang Kotikar	<b>Beneficiary</b>	36	Nil	Maratha	House Wife
3	Hanumant Pandurang Kotikar	Son	22	12	Maratha	Constr worker
4	Pareshram Pandurang Kotikar	Son	17	11	Maratha	Student



Mrs. Shalan Pandurang Kotikar is the beneficiary. The Kotikars are farmers and they make their living by selling their produce from the field and by daily wage labor. They have three animals - two buffaloes and one cow.

The Beneficiary's husband Mr. Pandurang Kedri Kotikar told us how biogas has helped them. He mentioned that the installation of the toilet along with the biogas was one of the plus points, because now they did not go out in the open for the nature call. The toilet gave them the privacy they badly needed. He mentioned that the slurry which comes out of the outlet of the biogas plant was of much importance as manure

for their farm. He was quite content that the biogas was free and that the unit was useful in many ways – provided cooking gas, hygienic toilet, and enriched organic manure. Besides, it enhanced the health, especially of women and children and helped to save trees and keep the homestead and the village clean. It contributed to the income of the household.

He also mentioned that it made it easier for his wife to cook as she did not had to go to collect firewood and that they had a smoke free house and kitchen. They thanked the SAS for taking the initiative of building the biogas plant cum toilet unit for them.

#### Case: 24

**Beneficiary's name:** Sitaram Pawanu Birje. **Village:** Bailur. **Taluka:** Khanapur. **Construction year:** 2016. **Size:** 2, **Supervisor:** Ningappa, **In the photo:** Sitaram Pawanu Birje.

Sr. No	Family Members	Relation	Age	Education	Caste	Occupation
1	Sitaram Pawanu Birje	<b>Beneficiary</b>	69	7	Maratha	Farmer
2	Suwarna Sitaram Birje	Wife	55	3	Maratha	House Wife
3	Krishna Sitaram Birje	Son	40	12	Maratha	Farmer
4	Radhika Krishna Birje	Daughter-in-law	30	12	Maratha	House Wife
5		Granddaughter	2months	Nil	Maratha	
6		Granddaughter	2months	Nil	Maratha	



Mr. Sitaram Pawanu Birje stays in the village of Bailur in Khanapur taluka. His family consists of six members. Since he is aged he could not recall the names of his grandchildren. Bailur comprises of the Maratha community and the people in the village are relatively well to do.

Mr. Sitaram is rebuilding his house. He expressed his feelings of gratitude for SAS and BMZ for installing the biogas plant cum toilet unit for his family. He says that at this point of time when they are rebuilding their house the unit has been of great help. Since the house is under construction they are staying in a small room where the cooking also takes place. Earlier they used the *chula* (open oven) for cooking food and that was cumbersome and time consuming. Earlier they spent a lot of time in gathering and storing firewood and

their kitchen and house were full of smoke. Now, with the use biogas, there is no need of gathering and storing firewood and the problem of smoke too is solved. Now everyone in the family enjoys better health and the little babies in the house have healthy air to breathe.

#### Case: 25

**Beneficiary's name:** Durgappa Ningappa Gudumkeri, **Village:** Santibastwad, **Taluka:** Belagavi, **Construction year:** 2018, **Size:** 2, **Supervisor:** Ningappa, **In the photo:** Durgappa Ningappa Gudumkeri.



Sr. No	Family Members	Relation	Age	Education	Caste	Occupation
1	Durgappa Ningappa Gudumkeri	<b>Beneficiary</b>	65	Nil	S. T.	Farmer
2	Irrawa Durgappa Gudumkeri	Wife	60	Nil	S. T.	House Wife
3	Bharma Durgappa Gudumkeri	Son	40	M. S. W	S. T.	Pvt service
4	Nagava Bharna Gudumkeri	Daughter-in-law	36	Nil	S. T.	House Wife
5	Ujwal Bharna Gudumkeri	Grandson	11	7	S. T.	Student
6	Aditya Bharna Gudumkeri	Grandson	4	Nil	S. T.	



Mr. Durgappa Ningappa Gudumkeri is the resident of Santibastwad village. His family consists of six members. They have 2.5 acres of field. They have ten animals - four cows, three buffaloes and three goats.

He recently built his house in his field because he found he found it unhealthy to live in the village that was too congested. His family earns its living by selling the produce from the farm and his son works in an NGO. Since they are settled on their farm away from the village they have more space for themselves and plenty of fresh air to breathe. The biogas plant cum toilet unit is built close to his house on the farm. Thus he has the added advantage that he can use straight away the slurry from the biogas unit as manure for his crops. The installation of the biogas plant cum toilet unit has helped his household to save a lot of time which they use for their farm activities. The family gratefully acknowledged the contribution of SAS and felt happy that son of the family also was engaged in social work through another NGO.

#### Case: 26

**Beneficiary's name:** Bharmani Ramaji Patil, **Village:** Rankunde, **Taluka:** Belagavi, **Construction:** 2018, **Size:** 2, **Supervisor:** Ningappa, **In the photo:** Bharmani Ramaji Patil.

Sr. No	Family Members	Relation	Age	Education	Caste	Occupation
1	Bharmani Ramaji Patil	<b>Beneficiary</b>	57	2	Maratha	Farmer
2	Prabawati Bharmani Patil	Wife	35	4	Maratha	House Wife
3	Mamtesh Bharmani Patil	Son	18	11	Maratha	Student



The beneficiary Mr. Bharmani Ramaji Patil lives with his wife and son. They have a few cattle and 1.5 acres of agricultural land.

He has built a new house and is very happy now, that he has a biogas unit. Earlier it was a routine life for him and his wife. They had to go to collect fire wood, which he expressed was not easy. They had to literally cover long distances into the forest to collect firewood.

Another thing which he is grateful for is the toilet facility which he can use at any time. Earlier it was very difficult for them to go out at odd hours for open defecation. He mentioned that biogas provided them with smoke free kitchen and also

with a lot of enriched manure for the field. The installation of the biogas plant cum toilet unit has life easy for his wife too. Now she enjoys being in the kitchen and also finds some time to take care of the cattle and to assist her husband on the farm.

#### Case 27:

**Beneficiary:** Rajaram Devdas Balekundri, **Village:** Mannur, **Taluka:** Belagavi, **Construction Year:** 2017, **Size:** 2, **Supervisor:** Yallappa, **In the photo:** Rekha Balekundri with her children

Sl.No	Family members	Relation	Age	Education	Caste	Occupation
1	Rajaram devdas Balekundri	<b>Beneficiary</b>	46	10 <sup>th</sup>	ST	Tiles fitting
2	Devdas Balekundri	Father	70	--	ST	Farmer
3	Lata Balekundri	Mother	65	--	ST	Farmer
4	Rekha Balekundri	Wife	40	10 <sup>th</sup>	ST	Housewife
5	Ritika Balekundri	Daughter	9	3 <sup>rd</sup>	ST	Student
6	Rupesh Balekundri	Son	8	2 <sup>nd</sup>	ST	Student



Rajaram Balekundri, the beneficiary says that he is very happy with his biogas plant cum toilet unit. He hails from Mannur village. He shared that the unit helped him and all his family members in numerous ways. He added that the women in his household were particularly happy because now they did not have to walk long distances to collect firewood. Since they are poor, they could not afford to

get LPG cylinders. The biogas initiative of SAS helped them a lot in terms of financial benefits. With regards to his other family members, they too have benefitted from it. They enjoy good health as there is less smoke and pollution in the house. His aged parents and the women folk are delighted that they have easy access to a toilet.

Rajaram is a mason by profession. He has to support six members of his family and he has just two animals. They live a hand to mouth existence. Thanks to the SAS they are now able to adjust with regards to the expenditure. Now they don't have to spend for cooking fuel and get some money from the sale of biogas manure. The family has a hygienic homestead and surroundings because open defecation in the village has been reduced considerably. He concluded by saying that the biogas plant cum toilet unit was a very valuable asset and a god sent blessing.

#### Case 28:

**Beneficiary:** Renuka Prabhakar Gawade, **Village:** Bekinkeri, **Taluka:** Belagavi, **Construction Year:** 2017, **Size:** 2, **Supervisor:** Yallappa, **In the photo:** Renuka and her daughter Rohini with neighbour's children

Sl.No	Family members	Relation	Age	Education	Caste	Occupation
1	Renuka Prabhakar Gawade	<b>Beneficiary</b>	45	12 <sup>th</sup>	ST	Farmer
2	Prabhakar Gawade	Husband	55	12 <sup>th</sup>	ST	Farmer
3	Radhika Gawade	Daughter	22	B. Com	ST	Student
4	Rahul Gawade	Son	20	12 <sup>th</sup>	ST	Student
5	Rohini Gawade	Daughter	19	BA	ST	Student

Renuka, the beneficiary lives with her husband one son and two daughters. Being a farmer, they depend solely on rain for their farming. They work really hard to keep their family together and see that their children get a good education. They own four animals. She says that they used to find it very difficult to meet both ends meet but despite all these hardships they lived a contented life. Only recently in 2017 with the initiative of SAS they were able to construct a bio gas plant cum toilet unit and all of them were amazed by its performance.



Some of the benefits that they narrated: they no longer cook on firewood; there is no smoke and pollution in the house; they enjoy the luxury of a clean toilet; they cook with ease and great joy; they have biogas manure for their fields; they enjoy good health. Renuka says that it is a great blessing and that it saves a lot of her time compared to earlier times and

that now she has time for some recreational activities as well. Her children can concentrate fully on their studies. She is extremely glad to own a biogas plant cum toilet unit of her own and is deeply grateful to SAS for all the services rendered and especially for giving them the biogas cum toilet unit.

#### Case 29:

**Beneficiary:** Shobha Yeshwant Hebbalkar, **Village:** Attiwad, **Taluka:** Belagavi, **Construction Year:** 2016, **Size:** 2, **Supervisor:** Yallappa, **In the photo:** Bharat Hebbalkar

Sl.No.	Family members	Relation	Age	Education	Caste	Occupation
1	Shobha Yeshwant Hebbalkar	<b>Beneficiary</b>	40	--	ST	Farmer
2	Yeshwant Hebbalkar	Husband	50	--	ST	Farmer
3	Shanta Hebbalkar	Grand mother	70	--	ST	Housewife
4	Bharat Hebbalkar	Son	22	12 <sup>th</sup>	ST	Electrical
5	Mahesh Hebbalkar	Son	18	10 <sup>th</sup>	ST	Student
6	Shalani Hebbalkar	Daughter	20	B. Com	ST	Student



Shobha lives with her husband, grandmother, two sons and a daughter. They own four acres of agricultural land that her husband inherited from his parents. But their village Attiwad has water scarcity and they depend on rainfall for cultivation. Since they come from a poor background, they were not able to have a toilet. Then SAS came along, saw their plight and explained

to them the benefits of having a biogas plant cum toilet unit and they decided to have one built.

She went on to say that they faced a lot of hardships earlier. The women had to go to answer the nature call either before dawn or after dusk. That was a great challenge for them and hence the installation of the biogas plant cum toilet has done them a whole lot of good. The blue flame from the biogas is a sign of hope to all in that family and more importantly they are now able to live a hygienic life thanks to the toilet. It has solved and saved them from a lot of problems be it financial, physical or mental. Their social status among the other villagers has increased as well. She says that all her family members are grateful to all those instrumental in providing them this wonderful asset.

### Case 30:

**Beneficiary:** Rekha Shankar Rutkute, **Village:** Jafarwadi, **Taluka:** Belagavi, **Construction:** 2017, **Size:** 2, **Supervisor:** Yallappa, **In the photo:** Shankar Rutkute with wife and daughter

Sl.No	Family members	Relation	Age	Education	Caste	Occupation
1	Rekha Shankar Rutkute	<b>Beneficiary</b>	38	7 <sup>th</sup>	ST	Housewife
2	Shankar Rutkute	Husband	55	B com	ST	Farmer
3	Sandeep Rutkute	Son	19	12 <sup>th</sup>	ST	Student
4	Nandini Rutkute	Daughter	17	10 <sup>th</sup>	ST	Student
5	Maruti Rutkute	Father	75	Nil	ST	Farmer
6	Shobha Rutkute	Mother	65	Nil	ST	Farmer

Shankar Rutkute, the head of the family spoke on behalf of the family. At the outset, he was excited to share about the benefits he got from his biogas plant cum toilet unit. He says that it is useful for everyday purposes. It also has multiple uses which add to the joy of the owner. With regards to hygiene, he says that now they can all have hot water bath and the cold weather is longer a problem as they have the biogas plant. They heat their bath water on biogas. The women in the household also benefit a lot from it. They cook all the meals on biogas with great ease.



They no longer need to collect and store firewood and dung cakes. The kitchen is free from harmful smoke and their eyes don't water and they enjoy good health. The cooking activity takes lesser time as compared to cooking food on firewood.

For the past two years now, no one has any health problem and no trouble at all. It is because of the fresh air they breathe. The maintenance cost of the unit is zero hence it makes it all the more desirable. They see it as a lifelong asset. The school going children have their tiffin boxes in time and they leave home early and reach to school on time. For all these things he is very grateful to SAS and really appreciates all the work SAS does for the poor people like him. He wishes that many more people take advantage of this eco-friendly intervention.

### Case 31:

**Beneficiary:** Irangouda Shivangouda Patil, **Village:** Agasga, **Taluka:** Belagavi, **Construction:** 2017, **Size:** 2, **Supervisor:** Yallappa, **In the photo:** Irangouda Shivangouda Patil & his wife

Sl.No	Family members	Relation	Age	Education	Caste	Occupation
1	Irangouda Shivangouda Patil	<b>Beneficiary</b>	34	7 <sup>th</sup>	ST	Farmer
2	Savita Patil	Wife	24	10 <sup>th</sup>	ST	Housewife
3	Ningangouda Patil	Brother	36	PUC	ST	Farmer
4	Jayashree Patil	Sister in law	26	9 <sup>th</sup>	ST	Housewife
5	Gangava Patil	Mother	65	Nil	ST	Housewife
6	Shivangouda Patil	Son	6	Nil	ST	Nil
7	Shreyagouda Patil	Daughter	4	Nil	ST	Nil



Irangouda Patil owns a small piece of land where he cultivates rice and groundnuts. He too, like many in his village does not have any irrigation facility like tube well or open well. His farming depends solely on rain water. He owns 2 cows and 2 bulls. Being a big family consisting of 7 members and just 2 earning members, he says they find it difficult to have 2 square meals a day. Also, the women in the house had to walk long distances to collect

firewood and hence the upbringing of the children suffered.

But all this changed after they installed the biogas plant cum toilet unit. Now the women have more time at their disposal and hence can take better care of his children. Now none of them have any time restrictions to answer the nature call as they have their own toilet. Besides, the women of the house are now more than happy to cook on the biogas stove. They have more leisure time and can now eat hot meals together as one family. Overall, they save time and money and contribute to the care of environment and the mother earth. He says he is grateful to God for all these benefits he received. Now all the members of his family are happy.

### Case 32:

**Beneficiary:** Gangu Manohar Dodashenatti, **Village:** Kednur, **Taluka:** Belagavi, **Construction:** 2017, **Size:** 2, **Supervisor:** Yallappa, **In the photo:** Gangu Manohar Dodashenatti with husband

Sl.No	Family members	Relation	Age	Education	Caste	Occupation
1	Gangu Manohar Dodashenatti	<b>Beneficiary</b>	55	Nil	ST	Farmer
2	Manohar Dodashenatti	Husband	63	Nil	ST	Farmer
3	Pareshuram Dodashenatti	Son	28	10 <sup>th</sup>	ST	Farmer
4	Yellapa Dodashenatti	Son	25	PUC	ST	Army
5	Tannu Dodashenatti	Daughter in law	21	10 <sup>th</sup>	ST	Farmer



When we visited this house, the members warmly welcomed us as they were really happy and grateful for the help they received from SAS. Ms Gangu the beneficiary is 55 years old: as a child she had experienced a lot of hardships. She had to overcome them all to be where she is today. She is very happy that they have installed a biogas plant cum toilet unit. It has proved to be highly advantageous to her and she feels confident that it would be of benefit to her children and grandchildren.

As she narrates that after her marriage she had to cook using firewood but now she uses the biogas stove and that saves her a lot of time, energy and her eyes and lungs are also saved from the smoke. The other family members too benefitted a lot from the unit. Now they have hot water for bath, manure for their fields and the homestead and

surroundings are clean. They maintain the places where they eat, sleep and rest wholesome. Gangu's life has changed for the better and she is proud that she is contributing to a greener and cleaner environment. Her children also have more spare time at their disposal and they spend quality time together as a family.

### Case 33:

**Beneficiary:** Savitri Bhairu Anandache, **Village:** Honga, **Taluka:** Belagavi, **Construction:** 2017, **Size:** 2, **Supervisor:** Yallappa, **In the photo:** Savitri Bhairu Anandache

Sl.No	Family members	Relation	Age	Education	Caste	Occupation
1	Savitri Bhairu Anandache	<b>Beneficiary</b>	70	Nil	ST	Farmer
2	Bhairu Anandache	Husband	76	7 <sup>th</sup>	ST	Farmer



Savitri Bhairu Anandache, did not have sufficient place to construct a biogas plant cum toilet unit. So, the SAS supervisors in consultation with the masons built the unit for them inside their house with the manure pit outside. This family had got separated from the other household members. They had spent all their earnings previously and now in their

old age they found it difficult to survive. All they wanted was food. Therefore, when SAS built the biogas plant cum toilet for them, they were greatly overjoyed. Savitri even went on to say that now they can die in peace.

Before this as her husband was working on the small piece of land that they owned, she used to go to help him at times. But it became very difficult for them because after working in the field they had to go to collect wood. Ever since they got biogas for cooking they stopped worrying. They have 2 cows so they get plenty of gas and in addition to that they also get manure for their field. Being old, now they have some time to rest and they have their meals on time without having to worry about the availability of firewood. They sleep early and get up late. Their unit gives them sufficient gas for cooking all their meals and for heating their bath water. They also save a considerable amount of money. Savitri says that the biogas cum toilet unit is the best things that has happened to her in her life.

### Case 34:

**Beneficiary:** Rama Shivrai Khasgonati, **Village:** Mannikeri, **Taluka:** Belagavi, **Construction:** 2017, **Size:** 2, **Supervisor:** Yallappa, **In the photo:** Bhagyashree Khasgonati with her children

Sl.No	Family members	Relation	Age	Education	Caste	Occupation
1	Rama Shivrai Khasgonati	<b>Beneficiary</b>	50	Nil	Maratha	Farmer
2	Lagmaga Khasgonati	Wife	42	Nil	Maratha	Housewife
3	Maruti Khasgonati	Son	28	6 <sup>th</sup>	Maratha	Vendor
4	Bhagyashree Khasgonati	Daughter in law	27	PUC	Maratha	Housewife
5	Amruta Khasgonati	Grand daughter	6	Nil	Maratha	Nil
6	Mantan Khasgonati	Grand son	5	Nil	Maratha	Nil
7	Kiran Khasgonati	Grand son	3	Nil	Maratha	Nil



In this house we spoke to Bhagyashree, one of the daughters in law, as the other elders were not present in the house. She says that she wants to give the best of education to her children. But they neither have a toilet in the house nor gas for cooking. Most of her time was spent either in cooking food for the family or in collecting firewood. Most often her children were with

her in the kitchen, so they breathed in harmful kitchen smoke and damaged their health. But after SAS built a biogas plant cum toilet for them, things have taken a turn for the better. Now all the members of the family are able to maintain a proper hygiene and enjoy good health.

She narrated that they didn't have much money left as recently they had built a new house; so the biogas cum toilet was a great blessing for them. She is very happy that she and her children no longer need to go out at night to answer nature's call as they have a toilet. Now she has more time and pays attention to things which she neglected in the past. She says that even though she hasn't put her children to school she makes some time to teach them something at home. Now they can sleep peacefully, and for this they are grateful to all those who contributed in making her dream a reality.

### Case 35:

**Beneficiary:** Fakirawwa Jakappa Jakkanavar, **Village:** Shabandar, **Taluka:** Hukkeri, **Construction:** 2018, **Size:** 2, **Supervisor:** Yallappa, **In the photo:** Jakappa Jakkanavar with daughters in law and grand children

Sl.No	Family members	Relation	Age	Education	Caste	Occupation
1	Fakirawwa Jakappa Jakkanavar	<b>Beneficiary</b>	62	Nil	ST	Farmer
2	Jakappa Jakkanavar	Husband	68	4 <sup>th</sup>	ST	Farmer
3	Irappa Jakkanavar	Son	40	Nil	ST	Farmer
4	Baswani Jakkanavar	Son	38	7 <sup>th</sup>	ST	Farmer
5	Chandru Jakkanavar	Son	28	10 <sup>th</sup>	ST	Farmer
6	Kasturi Jakkanavar	Daughter in law	32	Nil	ST	Housewife
7	Laxmi Jakkanavar	Daughter in law	30	7 <sup>th</sup>	ST	Housewife
8	Rajeshri Jakkanavar	Daughter in law	25	7 <sup>th</sup>	ST	Housewife
9	Krishna Jakkanavar	Grandson	15	9 <sup>th</sup>	ST	Student
10	Vinay Jakkanavar	Grandson	12	6 <sup>th</sup>	ST	Student
11	Nagini Jakkanavar	Granddaughter	10	4 <sup>th</sup>	ST	Student
12	Nandini Jakkanavar	Granddaughter	8	2 <sup>nd</sup>	ST	Student
13	Nikita Jakkanavar	Granddaughter	5	LKg	ST	Student
14	Sanvi Jakkanavar	Granddaughter	3	Nil	ST	Nil
15	Rakshita Jakkanavar	Granddaughter	1	Nil	ST	Nil

We were greeted warmly by Fakirawwa Jakappa Jakkanavar's family which consisted of 3 generations living under one roof. The generation gap in the family was obvious. We spoke to the head of the family - Jakappa Jakkanavar and he told us that the biogas plant cum toilet was built by SAS in the year 2018 with some contribution from the family. The benefits which he sees are mainly the saving in fuel wood and the ease in cooking their meals and the availability of a clean toilet. Being a large family, they have around 10 animals. So there is no shortage of



cow dung as feedstock for the biogas plant. With the installation of the biogas plant they get plenty of organic manure for their fields.

He further adds that in the past one year they have not spent a single rupee for the unit's maintenance and they can save about 32000/- rupees a year which they used to spend on cooking gas. Everyone in the family acknowledged that the biogas plant

cum toilet unit has been a miracle intervention and a great boon to the family and a great asset that saved their money and time and freed them from the shame of open defecation.

### Case 36:

**Beneficiary:** Nagavva Rannappa Durgayi, **Village:** Mangutti, **Taluka:** Hukkeri, **Construction:** 2018, **Size:** 2, **Supervisor:** Yallappa, **In the photo:** Nagavva Rannappa Durgayi and her husband

Sl.No	Family members	Relation	Age	Education	Caste	Occupation
1	Nagavva Rannappa Durgayi	Beneficiary	60	Nil	ST	Housewife
2	Rannappa Durgayi	Husband	66	7 <sup>th</sup>	ST	Farmer



This couple has found delight in their biogas plant cum toilet unit since last one year. Nagavva talked to us very enthusiastically about her new house and her biogas plant cum toilet unit. She said that she was very happy with the recent developments in her life. Earlier she, along with her husband was part of a joint family. Recently her children moved out with their families to other places. It was good

because their old house lacked space and facilities and their life was becoming very difficult. After the children moved out, they renovated the house and made it smaller for the two of them. Earlier before the installation of the biogas plant she felt suffocated and often suffered from ill health. She remembered the days when she had to get up early to finish her morning rituals and bathing and cooking. She also said that it was a torture for her to cook on firewood. The smoke filled her eyes and lungs and she had problem with her eyes and a nagging cough that disturbed her sleep.

But after the installation of the biogas plant she says that she gets good sleep. She cooks all her meals with ease and comfort on the biogas stove. Looking back she has a sigh of relief and says that now everything has changed for good. The toilet has put an end to the shame of open defecation. She took us around her house and said that she and her husband now enjoyed a very peaceful life. They had more time to earn their livelihoods and also time to relax and enjoy the evening of their life in each other's company.



### Case 37:

**Beneficiary's name:** Ashok Baburao Shelke, **Village:** Navage, **Taluka:** Belgaum, **Construction Year:** 2013-14, **Size:** 2M<sup>3</sup>, **Supervisor:** Demanna, **In the Photo:** Kiran Shelke and Latha Shelke.

Sl. No	Family Members	Relation	Age	Education	Caste	Occupation
1	Ashok Baburao Shelke	Beneficiary	60	SSLC	Martha SB	Farmer
2	Lata Shelke	Wife	52	SSLC	Martha SB	Farmer
3	Jyothib Shelke	Son	27	Engineering	Martha SB	Student
4	Ganpat Shelke	Son	25	SSLC	Martha SB	Farmer
5	Kiran Shelke	Son	22	BCA	Martha SB	Student



The beneficiary is Ashok Shelke. His household has five members – he, his wife and three sons. Ashok and wife work in their farm. Their elder son is an engineer and works in Andheri (Mumbai). The middle son completed his SSLC and he works in the farm and helps his parents in the farm work. The youngest son is a student of BCA (Bachelors in Computer Application) and whenever he gets time he too helps his parents on the farm. After 10 am in the morning till late into the evening, there is no one in the house as they are all occupied with their work.

The family constructed a biogas plant cum toilet unit in the year 2013-14. They do not remember the exact month. The size of the biogas plant is 2m<sup>3</sup>. Before constructing the biogas plant, they faced issues such as lack of time for the household work and farm work and lack of time for children to study. Since their farm is located far away, by the time they are back from the farm they are very tired; and collecting fire-wood for cooking their meals, from the forest and the fields was really an exhausting task. Often they had to spend their hard earned cash and buy fire-wood. They also faced health issues like eye problem, breathing problem and cough and the curse of open defecation.

Since the construction of the biogas plant many such problems have been reduced or rather, totally absent. Their work load too is considerably less as now they don't have to collect/buy fire-wood; and the cooking time also is reduced. Now they are able to spend more time on their farm and increase their income.

### Case 38:

**Beneficiary's name:** Nagappa Omana Badgankar, **Village:** Navage, **Taluka:** Belgaum **Construction Year:** 99, **Size:** 3m<sup>3</sup>, **Supervisor:** Demanna.

Sl. No	Family Members	Relation	Age	Education	Caste	Occupation
1	Nagappa Omana Badgankar	beneficiary	54	4	Hindu Maratha	Farming
2	Laxmin Badgaonkar	Wife	47		Hindu Maratha	Farming
3	Satiri Badgaonkar	Son	28	10	Hindu Maratha	Service
4	Ellappa Badgaonkar	Son	25	9	Hindu Maratha	Farming



This household consisted of 7 brothers and their families - an extended family where each brother owned a room. Nagappa Omana Badgankar is one of the seven brothers. The family's major occupation is farming and supply of milk to different diaries. Four brothers were doing only farming, while the other three were mainly into supplying milk and taking care of their livestock.

Nagappa's family consisted of him, his wife and two sons. The couple worked in the fields and looked after their cattle. Their eldest son was educated up to the 10<sup>th</sup> class and worked in a company a few kilometers away from their village.

The household had a biogas plant installed in their backyard twenty years ago by Shramik Abhivrudhi Sangh. Before the installation of the plant the family members used fire-wood for cooking. Since they did not have access to toilets, they depended on open defecation. The installation of the biogas cum toilet unit totally transformed their lives. The unit spared them from the course of open defecation and the smock filled kitchen. They have been using this facility since the last 20 years without any problem. They hardly spent anything on the maintenance of the unit. They have sufficient gas for cooking and organic manure for their agriculture.

### Case 39:

**Beneficiary's name:** Surekha Hirachand Navgekar, **Village:** Navage, **Taluka:** Belgaum, **Construction Year:** 2013-2014, **Size:** 2m<sup>3</sup>, **Supervisor:** Demanna, **In the Photo:** Komal Navgekar with her small children.

S. N	Family Members	Relation	Age	Education	Caste	Occupation
1	Surekha Navgekar	Beneficiary	44	-	Lingayat	Farming
2	Hirachand	Husband	48	-	Lingayat	Farming
3	Sagar Navgekar	Son	25	10	Lingayat	Farming
4	Komal Navgekar	Daughter in	22	10	Lingayat	Farming
5	Vikas Navegekar	Son	22	10	Lingayat	Farming
6	Akshata Navgekar	Daughter in	20	10	Lingayat	Farming



The family of the beneficiary Surekha Navgekar consists of six members. All the members of the beneficiary household are very happy with their biogas plant cum toilet unit. Since the year 2014 they are enjoying the manifold benefits provided by the unit. They cook all their meals on biogas. All of them use the toilet and they consider the biogas plant linked toilet a very great blessing. The beneficiary and her daughter-in-laws are delighted that they save a lot of time due to biogas cooking and enjoy better health and leisure. Another thing that they shared is that the gas is produced in their backyard and piped to the kitchen and that they have 24\*7 gas throughout the year. They no longer need to collect and store fuel-wood, and make cow dung cakes and dry and store them. Prior to the installation of the biogas plant cum toilet unit they were anxious of the rainy season because they had to walk through wet and water logged fields to find a place to

answer nature's call; they had a lot of difficulty in starting a fire for cooking and in maintaining it. Now, all such worries and tensions are over.

The beneficiary household's main occupation is farming. Their agriculture land consists of five pieces of land spread out in five different places. The household owned 2 buffalos and 2 bulls. So they have sufficient feedstock for their biogas plant. And their family of six people manages to cook all their meals on biogas and also to heat water for bathing. Earlier a lot of cow dung was used for making cow dung cakes for cooking fuel purpose. And that meant that they had less cow dung manure for their agriculture. With the installation of biogas plant they get plenty of enriched organic manure for their fields with the result that their agricultural produce and income has improved remarkably.

Their success story has made many more households in the village to come forward for the construction of biogas plant cum toilet units. They gratefully acknowledge that if it were not for Shramik Abhivrudhi Sangh they and many others of their village would never have discovered the 'miracle' of biogas plant cum toilet unit and the manifold blessings it provides a rural household.

#### Case 40:

**Beneficiary's name:** Vishnu Dattu Sutar, **Village:** Navage, **Taluka:** Belgaum, **Construction Year:** 2010-11, **Size:** 2m<sup>3</sup>, **Supervisor:** Demanna, **In the Photo:** Vandana Vishnu Sutar

Sl.	Family Members	Relation	Age	Education	Caste	Occupation
1	Vishnu Dattu Sutra	Beneficiar	50	8	OBC	Carpenter
2	Vandana Vishnu	Wife	42	10	OBC	House wife
3	Rajesh Vishnu Sutar	Son	24	B.Com	OBC	Student
4	Shubham Vishnu	Son	22	B.Com	OBC	Student



In Navage village there are nearly 150 biogas plants cum toilet units. As part of the case study, the household of the beneficiary Vishnu Dattu Sutar was interviewed. The household consisted of four members. Their main occupation is carpentry work. Rajesh and Shubham, the sons in the household, are well educated. They completed their B.Com and are undergoing training in Army.

The family has been using the biogas plant cum toilet unit since the year 2011. It has benefited them a lot. They said that the unit required hardly any maintenance. They get sufficient biogas for cooking all their meals. There is no shortage of biogas even during the rainy season. They get a lot of biogas manure which they use for their farming operations. They have stopped the practice of making and storing cow dung cakes and also the practice of collecting and storing fire-wood.

Earlier the family faced lots of trouble walking over a kilometer to collect the firewood and also for finding a safe place for answering the nature's call. The biogas and toilet intervention helped them to live a dignified life and also to make it possible for them to live an easy and healthy life in many ways. They are aware of the great contribution of biogas plant cum toilet unit to the preservation of a healthy environment and also for enhancing the livelihoods of poor rural households, and easing the heavy burden, especially of women and girl children and in solving the great problem of open defecation. The beneficiary household is very happy and comfortable with their unit and they are very grateful to Shramik Abhivrudhi Sangh for enabling them with such a wonderful asset.

#### Case 41:

**Beneficiary's name:** Yellappa Tippana Talwar, **Village:** Navage, **Taluka:** Belgaum, **Construction Year:** 2013-14, **Size:** 2m<sup>3</sup>, **Supervisor:** Demanna, **In the Photo:** Laxmi Talwar with BSW students

Sl. No	Family Members	Relation	Age	Education	Caste	Occupation
1	Parshuram Talwar	Father	46	-	SC	Farmer
2	Laxmi Talwar	Mother	41	7	SC	House wife
3	<b>Yellapa Talwar</b>	<b>Beneficiary</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>TIT</b>	<b>SC</b>	<b>Service</b>
4	Maruthi Talwar	Brother	18	10	SC	Student



The beneficiary is Mr Yellappa Talwar of Navage village, Belgaum. His mother Mrs Lakshmi Parshuram Talwar was interviewed and she gave the information included in the case study.

Mr Yellappa Talwar's household consists of four members. Mr Parshuram Talwar is aged 46 and Mrs Lakshmi Parshuram Talwar is aged 41 years. They have two sons - Yellappa and Maruti. Yellappa Talwar, aged 23 years has completed his ITI and is currently working as a technician at the Belgaum bus depot and earns Rs.6000 per month and Maruti Talwar, aged 18 years, has passed SSC. Their father Mr Parshuram has no schooling. He works as a daily wage earner and gets as daily wage around Rs.150 to 200 a day. Mrs Lakshmi Talwar has studied up to seventh standard. Depending on her work Mrs Lakshmi gets a daily wage of around 125 to 150 on the days she works. Mr and Mrs Parshuram and Lakshmi are Hindus and belong to the schedule caste category.

Before 2014 the family depended on open defecation. Mrs Lakshmi said that the women used to go to defecate very early in the mornings. In the year 2014, they were inspired by their neighbor who had got the toilet and the biogas plant unit. Finally, due to the accompaniment of SAS staff, they constructed a biogas plant cum toilet unit in their backyard. One and half year ago they renovated their hut and made it a well-built concrete house. They were able to renovate their house by taking a loan of Rs.7000 from the SHG and Rs. 100,000 from a credit society and more help from some known people either in cash or kind. Currently their pending loan is the sum of Rs. 400,000.

Some of the benefits expressed by Mrs Lakshmi with regards to the biogas plant and the toilet: that they are very happy with the toilet; that they don't have to go in the open; that due to the biogas they don't have to walk 5 kilo meters to collect 30 kgs of wood just for three days cooking as they previously used to do; that now cooking has become easier and it saves the time and energy of the entire family. She also said that the intervention saved them a lot of money which they invested into purchasing two bulls and a buffalo. They get better yield from their land due to the biogas manure.

## **Report of Internal Monitors of Biogas Program**

Dear Fr Joe and Team, thank you for assigning Santosh Vas and Self to do an Internal Impact Monitoring of the on-going Project No. I-590-07/16: “Enhance livelihoods of poor rural households, especially women, and reduce greenhouse gases, through biogas plants cum toilets in 4 Taluka of Belagavi District, Karnataka. It was a great privilege and opportunity for us, Santosh and Tom (hereafter referred to as the monitors) to do the internal impact monitoring of the said project. In order to fulfill that task the monitors used the following study/evaluation techniques:

- ✚ Field visit /observation – visit to villages where the project was implemented,
- ✚ Interaction with the beneficiaries – informal and homely, and
- ✚ Interaction and dialogue with supervisors and coordinator of the project.

### **1. Field visit /observation**

The monitors visited 370 biogas cum toilet units across 30 villages of the project area during the year 2019. The project coordinator (Joe), project supervisors (David, Shankar and Laxman), other project staff (Agatha and Ningappa) and the local supervisors (Demanna, Joseph, Ashok, Yallapa, Sangeeta, Jaishree and Mahadevi) and masons, village elders and SHG leaders collaborated with the monitors and assisted them in looking at 370 (15%) biogas plant cum toilet units built by SAS between Jan 2016 and Mar 2020 and in interacted with the beneficiaries in a homely way.

### **2. Benefits observed and spoken about**

The project beneficiaries were the poor rural households as per the project criteria. Women, girls, children and men in beneficiary households enjoyed multiple benefits due to the project intervention. SAS succeeded to a very large extent to change the mindset of the poor households and motivated them in creative ways to accept the concept of biogas plant cum toilet unit. Gradually they became more and more receptive to that innovative concept and technology and came forward to improve the quality of their lives and to have a healthy and clean environment. They understood the seriousness of damage to forest and human lives and environment due to burning of firewood, crop residues, and dried cow dung cake, etc., in their kitchen. They were happy to find a realistic and lasting solution to their cooking fuel crisis and their most embarrassing and dehumanizing dependence on open defecation. It was a heart-warming experience to listen to the narratives of women, and grown up girls about difference in the

quality of their lives after the installation of the biogas plant cum toilet units. The monitors have listed below the gist of what they gleaned from their interaction with the beneficiary households.

- ✚ Smokeless Kitchen – Their kitchen became smokeless and hygienic. They were free from the pungent smoke emanating from their open ovens on which they burnt inefficient wood and other biomass.
- ✚ Their kitchens and utensils were clean and sparkling.
- ✚ They were free from the routine of collecting, drying, and storing firewood and other means of fuel for cooking. They narrated how difficult it was to gather and carry head loads of wet and dry wood from distant and vanishing jungles. When they went for firewood collection to the forest area they were scolded and abused and assaulted by the forest guards and their axes and choppers were confiscated. There was frequent fight between husbands and wives in the households on the issue of getting firewood. It was a tedious, time consuming process to get fire wood for daily cooking. During the monsoon season the situation was further worsened. They got wet and damp wood and it was difficult to dry the same. It tested one's patience and endurance to start and keep the fire going. It was difficult to predict when the cooking will be finished. Biogas proved to be free and efficient cooking fuel 24\*7 - day and night. It saved lot of money and time and it was very convenient to use. Cooking on biogas was very comfortable and it took much less time, compared to the firewood cooking. Women and children, in fact the family, had more leisure time and time for each other which resulted in better family life - husband wife relation, and good rapport among children and parents.
- ✚ Cooking with biogas reduced drastically the cutting of shrubs and trees for firewood and it enhanced the green vegetation in the hills and valleys; it put an end to making, drying, sorting and burning of cow dung cakes.
- ✚ User friendly toilet - Toilets were linked to the biogas digester. They saved the money that would be spent on septic tanks. The women and girl children considered access to their own clean and hygienic toilet during day and night the greatest blessing. It freed them from open defecation. The toilet in the backyard brought with it a sense of freedom and dignity; privacy for personal hygiene and to answer nature call; no more worry about stray dogs and pigs, snakes and insect bite.
- ✚ The household biogas digester was the most effective device for safe and hygienic handling of night soil and organic wastes. The biogas cum toilet unit intervention improved the hygienic conditions in their homestead and in their village. And definitely it had a very positive impact on the health of the people.
- ✚ The intervention visibly and positively resulted in the empowerment of rural women and girl children. They had enhanced their status in the family and in society. Their self-image and self-esteem got a tremendous boost.
- ✚ It provided enriched organic manure for their fields and it proved to be an incentive for maintaining organic kitchen gardens and for doing organic farming. The usage of biogas manure increased the crop yield and enhanced soil structure. Many households had kitchen gardens that supplied them vegetables for their home consumption.
- ✚ The intervention made a difference in the “*quality of life*” of the beneficiaries - good self-image and human dignity, experienced emotional growth as healthy individuals and families; enjoyed better health.

- ✚ Young school and college going girls got more time for study. They were better groomed to face their peer group on an equal footing. Mothers needed little or no support from their daughters for cooking and other household chores. Meals were ready in time and children could carry their lunch packet to school; men and women could start their agricultural operations earlier than before and wind-up late. Even men and elderly parents volunteered to step into the kitchen.

It was unbelievable that the biogas cum toilet intervention could impact them to that extent. The monitors felt enthused by listening to the beneficiaries' narration of the small wonders that happened in the lives of so many people due to the biogas cum toilet units.

### **3. Other observations**

The units were specially visited during the three month period (Dec 2019 to Feb 2020) in view of preparing this report (the monitors used to be in touch with the beneficiaries and project staff and project villages at other times too). At the time of the visit the construction of a few units was not complete, e.g, fixing of toilet pan and connecting the toilet to the biogas digester, plastering of the unit; and some units though commissioned did not have their outer chamber covered with the slabs, though the cast slabs were there close by. The monitors came across two households that used only the toilet facility. In a number of cases the gas pipes had longer than the required length and the extra pipe was rolled up. A few of the completed biogas plants were not charged even after few months of their completion. Such households had not gathered sufficient cow dung for the initial charging. Equivalent of one tractor load of cow dung was required for the initial charging of the unit. The beneficiaries promised to get their unit charged in the near future, but they seemed reluctant to get some extra cow dung from outside. Few beneficiaries charged their units with less cow dung and more water with the outcome that the unit did not produce sufficient gas. That had to be corrected by adding more cow dung to achieve one to one ratio of water and cow dung. Improper initial charging would adversely affect gas production. The project staff should 'walk the extra mile' to ensure that the initial charging of the unit was done properly.

As per the project design SAS constructed for individual households biogas cum toilet units. Individual ownership worked well for the maintenance, care and proper use of the unit. However there were families in the villages without having sufficient place to construct a biogas plant cum toilet unit. There were also the landless and those who had no cattle. Could SAS reach out to such households? SAS had a history of reaching the unreachable in varied rural contexts. Hence the monitors suggest that SAS should think of constructing common biogas plants with a number of toilets for such people. SAS could do it by networking with the panchayat and government departments. As pioneers in the field of construction of biogas plants linked to the toilet wouldn't it be possible for SAS to construct common biogas units linked to many toilets for men and women in many villages? That would further improve the cleanliness and hygiene of the villages.

All the local supervisors needed to work with broader vision. They should realize that they were contributing to the comprehensive development of poor households and to a healthy and

ecologically sound society and God's creation. That realization would help them to do their work with greater devotion, love and compassion. Then, their work would be worship! Supervisors should be enabled to visualize the overall impact of the project on the wider society and creation. The friendly nature, availability, loves and patience of the supervisors is very commendable and well appreciated. Overall, the monitors got, by visiting the villages, a very positive feeling about SAS's achievements at ground zero of the project. The expression of joy and sense of achievement seen on the faces of beneficiaries vouched for the remarkable success of the project and its immense impact on the rural households.

#### **4. Being Pro-active**

When the monitors noticed that the slabs cast for covering the outer chamber were lying around, they made the beneficiary aware of the dangers and got the outer chamber covered there and then. There were 2 toilets with broken doors. The monitors brought that to the notice of the project coordinator who immediately made arrangements to get the doors replaced. The families were using the toilet after putting a cloth curtain for privacy.

Two beneficiaries who used only the toilet facility gave their reason for not cooking on the bio gas fuel. They said that when they shared cooked food with their relatives and coworkers, they refused to eat with them and taunted them by saying, "*They eat food cooked on shit gas*". The monitors tried to convince them once again of the fact that after igniting the gas one cooked on fire. It was not possible to stop others from taunting. But one could have the courage of his conviction and could live by it. They felt consoled that they shared their genuine problem and that SAS had the patience and SAS respected their sentiments.

The beneficiaries gave a clear picture of the overall impact of the biogas cum toilet units on them. Theirs was a very positive narrative. They were very hospitable and welcomed the monitors with warm and spontaneous smiles. They were proud to have the unit and very eager to take the monitors to the biogas cum toilet units and to their kitchen and demonstrate their biogas burners by igniting the gas. One could read a great sense of satisfaction and gratitude on their faces. They were eager to share their story - how they lived a dignified life and improved their socio-economic conditions due to the project.

#### **5. Interaction with the project coordinator and Staff**

The project coordinator, supervisors, local supervisors, masons and some SHG members and elders from the community participated in the monitoring. The project staffs' assistance made the monitors' task easy. Without their assistance it would have been difficult to identify the beneficiaries and their biogas plant cum toilet units. The monitors, being part of the SAS, enjoyed the trust and confidence of the beneficiaries and the project staff. The other staff of SAS working in the project area also supported the project as if it were their own project. There was healthy and positive support and collaboration between them and the biogas project staff. They too walked the extra mile to help the project. They helped in identifying the potential beneficiaries and in motivating them and in publicizing the project among the people with whom they worked.



## 6. Challenges

Motivating and empowering the Scheduled Caste (SC) Scheduled Tribe (ST) households: Motivating and empowering the SC/ST households in order to give them the benefits of the project was a great challenge. The SC/ST had been historically excluded from formal education and the developmental process due to their oppression under caste system by dominant castes. The post-independence Constitutional commitment to social equality and social justice marked a watershed. Along with guaranteeing equality of citizenship, the state assumed the primary responsibility for compensating for centuries of discrimination, exploitation and marginalization and provided special support to SC/ST.

Thus SC/ST became not just a sociological but an administrative category of population identified by the Constitution of India for compensatory discrimination and special protection to bring them into the mainstream society. Special state institutions were set up for their advancement and various legislations, social policies and programs were drafted which were geared to their economic and political development and achievement of equal social status. That in a way seems to have created in the community a false 'identity'. They seem to believe that they are entitled to the benefit of various legislations, social policies and programs as their right, even when they fail to play a proactive role to take advantage of them. They seem to consider themselves a 'privileged group' that should be given everything *ex gratia*. So even a socially committed NGO like SAS found it difficult to change their mind set. Some of the units built for them earlier were not used. Some of them refused to charge/feed regularly the biogas plant with the necessary cowdung. Did they expect SAS to do it for them? SAS have to make special effort to further motivate and empower them to take maximum advantage of the project.

Overcoming the deep rooted cultural and ritual prejudices of the people: Because of age old caste and ritual practices, many households in Hukkeri and Bailhongal taluka refused to have anything to do with human waste. They were not ready to cook on biogas, to eat what was cooked on biogas, to handle biogas manure and to use it in their fields, more especially when it was from a toilet linked unit. When SAS tried intensely to promote toilet linked biogas units among the households of Bailhongal and Hukkeri taluka, it realized that people had deep rooted prejudices. SAS had underestimated the hold of traditional beliefs and practices on people. It will take SAS a long time to change the mindset of the people. The monitors appreciate and congratulate SAS for reaching out to new areas and new villages with the biogas cum toilet unit intervention. It would have been easier to construct toilets and biogas plants separately without linking the one to the other. But SAS chose to go off the beaten path in spite the cultural and ritual prejudices of the people. The focus of SAS was not just to introduce a new technology but also to make people more rational and scientific in their outlook and behaviour and SAS succeeded in that to a large extent.

Other challenges: SAS had to face challenges due to the draught conditions and migration of rural households for livelihoods. Then, there was government control over the excavation and transport of sand; the 'Clean India Movement' with its offer of almost free of cost toilets, free LPG cylinders for poor households, the demonetization, digitalization and restriction on cash payment. All those things adversely affected the project implementation.

## **7. Complaints**

Gradual decrease in the flow of Gas: Four percent (15) beneficiaries complained of decrease in gas supply. At times it was due to coiled or looped gas pipes. The monitors explained to them how water from biogas got collected in the pipe and blocked the free flow of gas. The monitors straightened the pipe and that simple exercise normalized the flow of gas. The beneficiary was advised either to cut off the extra pipe or to stretch the pipe to avoid loop in the gas pipe from the dome to the burner.

Complaint about the stoves/burners: Five percent (18) beneficiaries complained about their burners. They had not cleaned the burners regularly; some burner-holes were blocked with spilled food and carbon particles. The monitors demonstrated to them how to clean the burners and maintain them in good condition and advised them to get the burners serviced once in a while.

Lack of sufficient gas for cooking: Some beneficiaries complained of shortage of gas for cooking. In such cases they had failed to follow certain discipline expected of them - allowed loops in the gas pipe; did not clean the burners regularly; failed to empty the manure pit as they got filled; used detergents to clean the toilet; failed to feed the digester with sufficient cow dung; failed to check and prevent leaks in the valves and pipe line; failed to keep the one to one ratio of water and dung while mixing the dung; used lots of water in the toilet leading change in ratio water in the digester. SAS had trained the beneficiaries on these aspects.

## **8. Observation**

The monitors carefully observed SAS's meticulous construction process of biogas plant cum toilet unit - its dome, outlet tank, in put tank, and the toilet. The quality of materials used for the construction was excellent. The units were constructed by trained masons with many years of experience and expertise in the construction of such units. Almost 100% of the outlet tanks of the completed units were covered with concrete slabs. That ensured high level of safety against animals and human beings falling into the biogas digester. Beneficiaries kept their surroundings clean. The flow of slurry from the outlet tank indicated that the plant was working very well. Almost all the beneficiaries made good use of the manifold benefits of the unit. Even very poor families short of the required space were accommodated by constructing the plant in a compact manner. In such cases toilet was constructed over the dome/digester. SAS's trained masons used their expertise to make it possible. The monitors examined the accessories such as the GI pipe at the dome, control knob, gas pipe, stove/burner and its knobs. SAS provided good quality accessories and the plumping/fitting too was done well. The beneficiaries acknowledged that SAS's work and materials were of superior quality. The stove and the kitchen area were generally kept clean.

## **9. Self-assessment**

The monitoring exercise was a good learning experience for the monitors. It was a marvelous experience to see the actualization of biogas cum toilet units in real village settings for poor rural families in four taluka of Belagavi District. The biogas cum toilet unit installation was one of

the best things that could happen to a rural family. Congratulations to the staff of SAS who implement the project; for the wonderful work they had been doing. It was not easy to motivate and convince the rural households to opt for a greener, safer and dignified living. The monitors visited units even in very remote villages. The units built in such remote villages and for poor households witnessed to the commitment of SAS to reach the unreachable; kudos for stretching out to new areas and new villages with this extraordinary, eco-friendly project. SAS focused not just to introduce a new technology but to make people more rational and scientific in their attitude and behavior. It would have been impossible to change the mindset of a group or individuals without SAS personnels' persistent accompaniment of them. The monitors happily affirm and underscore that SAS's achievement had been phenomenal.

## **10. Conclusion**

There was joy and a sense of satisfaction on the faces of SAS staff. They did their work with devotion and dedication. They walked the extra mile to reach the unreachable - remote villages and households with no approach road. They motivated and installed units for SC/ST households too. They faced many odds - scarcity of sand, theft of the construction materials by anti-social elements and problems in transporting materials to the sites, drought and flood conditions. SAS had to supply additional material and labor to complete the construction of some units. Some beneficiaries gave up half way through the construction and it involved a lot of effort to get them back. Some of them failed to provide cow dung for the initial charging. Such factors delayed the commissioning of some plants. In some cases SAS took care of cow dung, water and labor for the initial charging of the unit. SAS did it with a benevolent spirit. It was not easy to be with people at the frontiers. But for the most part SAS had the support of the beneficiaries and village elders. The project was implemented meticulously under the guidance of J Chenakala. SAS ventured to do what others don't even dream. The project transcended the consideration of caste, creed and race. It was a boon to women and children from the poor section of society. It was a blessing to our mother earth. The project achieved its overall aim: Improved the livelihoods of poor rural households in a sustainable way; increased gender equality; safeguarded the environment through the protection of forests and mitigated greenhouse gas emission; improved soil fertility with the use of high quality biogas manure.

(Submitted by Thomas Chenakala and Santosh Vas, Belgaum, March 2020)

## Visit to the Biogas plants



## Produce of Xavier Farm, Santibastwad



## **Student Sponsorship -‘Mahadevi Project’**

Mahadevi Project initiated in 2004 has completed 16 years. During that period it helped 301 students with their professional studies, brought joy and gave wings to the dreams of the students and to their families. SAS reached out with gratuitous educational assistance to many students and to many others with interest free unsecured loans to meet the expenses of their education and professional courses. Being true to its objective Mahadevi Project continues to be a project with a conscience, responding to a genuine social cause and social responsibility. During the financial year 2019-2020 SAS helped 20 students with interest free loans and 61 others with gratuitous assistance. During the 2019-2020 financial year SAS spent the sum of Rs 1,292,500/- and it received the sum of Rs. 95,100 as returns from the students who were helped earlier.

It is heartening to see the youngsters after their studies handling responsible jobs and taking care of their families. Many have made the best of their studies and took up jobs in different parts of India, while a few braved the odds and went abroad. Initially Mahadevi project helped students who wanted to do General and BSc Nursing, but later it helped students in other fields like fashion design, catering, hotel management, course in merchant navy, sea man and teacher’s course, degree/diploma in electrical, electronics and civil engineering, bachelors and masters degree in various other disciplines.

SAS is happy that Mahadevi Project has been instrumental in shaping the lives of many and in opening a window into their future.

## **Xavier Farm**

Nestled along the outskirts of Machhe and Santibastwad villages, Xavier Farm is an ideal place to experience the marvels of nature and to learn with Nature. Xavier Farm is managed and developed partly under the aegis of SAS. Jesuit staffs of SAS reside there by night and also supervise the farm activities. During the day, they are engaged in the other Integral Rural Development Initiatives of SAS.

Covering over an area of 35 acres, Xavier Farm engages in ecological agriculture, horticulture and dairy management. The day-to-day care of the farm is entrusted to three husband and wife pairs. The farm nurtures many varieties of trees; cultivates sugar cane, maize, potatoes and sweet potatoes, fodder grass and a variety of vegetables. There are also mango, jackfruit, coconut, banana, papaya and medicinal plants. The fruits are ripened naturally without the use of chemicals. SAS’s Farm Project provides shelter and perennial livelihoods for three households and wage labour for persons from the neighboring villages. The farm supplies fresh milk to a number of institutions and households at reasonable rates. The cow dung serves as feedstock for the biogas plants, which supply biogas for cooking to all the families that reside in the farm and rich biogas manure for farming activities. *“On Care for Our Common Home (Laudato Si’)”* is an appeal from Pope Francis addressed to "every person living on this planet" for an inclusive dialogue about how we shape the future of our planet. Xavier Farm Project is part of SAS’s concern for the *‘Care our Common Home’*. The farm has been the venue for various meetings, training, exposure and outings for schoolchildren and families from Belagavi. SAS uses the facilities in the farm for conducting training for the participants/beneficiaries of SAS initiatives

in the area of Women Empowerment, Functional Vocational Training, Organization Building of Nomadic Pastoralists, Organic Farming, and Training in Herbal Medicines for human and veterinary use. The Xavier Farm also facilitates the field visits of students of Masters in Social Work, representatives of NGOs and funding partners who come to SAS for a lived-in exposure cum experience in the field of Integral Rural Development.

## **Conclusion**

SAS does its work among the shepherds in partnership with Andheri-Hilfe, Mackestrass 53, 53119 Bonn, Germany. Andheri-Hilfe assisted SAS for the last 20 years in that work. That partnership greatly enhanced SAS's capacity to reach out to shepherds across Karnataka State. The work has made a great impact on the shepherd community. SAS is immensely grateful to Andheri-Hilfe for its generous support. The support from the government and all the other stakeholders played a very positive role. Since last eight years, SAS constructed biogas plant cum toilet units for rural households in partnership with BMZ/Andheri-Hilfe, Mackestrass 53, 53119 Bonn, Germany. That partnership greatly enhanced SAS's capacity to reach out to large number of poor households in the rural areas of Belagavi District. SAS is immensely grateful to BMZ/Andheri-Hilfe for their generous support. The contribution of SAS staff has been admirable. There is a lot more to be done to fully actualize the tremendous potential of biogas plant cum toilet units in order to overcome the crisis of cooking fuel and CH<sup>4</sup> emission and management of night soil in Belagavi and other districts of Karnataka and other parts of India.

Since last many years Action Solidarité Tiers Monde (ASTM), 55, av de la Liberté, L-1931 Luxembourg, has been SAS's partner for its "Integrated Rural Development Program" which mostly deals with women empowerment.

As SAS presents its annual report for 2019-2020, we express our deep and sincere appreciation and gratitude to our funding partners and Goa Jesuit Provincial and the Province, the Jesuit Community of St Paul's Belagavi and the Catholic Diocese of Belagavi, for their generous support to SAS over the past many years. We are also grateful to the Government machinery and its functionaries at various levels. The unstinted loyalty, hard work and dedication of our office and field staff, continue to be our strength at all times. May God bless them all, our partners, friends, benefactors, and well wishers!



Joseph Kurian Chenakala  
For S A Sangh

August 2020

2019-2020



**Shramik Abhivrudhi Sangh  
(Jana Jagaran)**

20, Milkman Street, Camp, Belagavi - 590001. Karnataka, INDIA.  
Tel: 0831-2425609, 2431978.  
e-mail: [shramik@dataone.in](mailto:shramik@dataone.in), [shramikindia@gmail.com](mailto:shramikindia@gmail.com)  
[www.shramik.in](http://www.shramik.in)