



IRRAD

Working Together to Empower Rural India

Annual Report 2008-09

Learning lights the way...

Institute of Rural Research and Development
(An initiative of S M Sehgal Foundation)

Vision

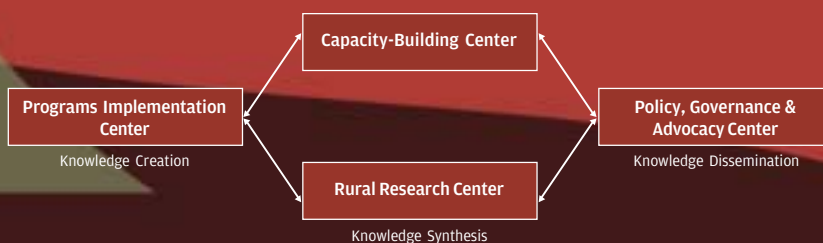
Transforming village despair into grassroots initiative and empowerment that leads to more secure and prosperous lives for the poor.

The ISVD model brings about this vision through education, better health, improved skills, and more supportive governance. As it implements, evolves, and advocates the ISVD model, IRRAD is serving as a premier knowledge institution and learning platform for rural development and poverty reduction in India.

The year 2008 was historic for IRRAD. We established four centers within IRRAD, thus creating a strong organizational framework for its activities:

- The **Programs Implementation Center** serves as a resource cluster to create knowledge, implement programs, and experiment with novel rural technologies and ideas.
- The **Capacity-Building Center** serves to build capacities by training manpower in rural development.
- The **Rural Research Center** undertakes research in areas relevant to rural development, and analyzes and synthesizes the information for dissemination.
- The **Policy, Governance, and Advocacy Center** encourages good rural governance and influences national policies on rural development.

The overall goal of IRRAD is to promote proven interventions, sustainable skills, and knowledge that can make a big impact on rural development and governance.



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Message

We can look back with satisfaction at our accomplishments over the past several years. Our flagship water management program is well established now, having successfully completed 35 check dams, 24 recharge wells, 20 newly dug wells, and several roof-water harvesting structures. Our program in hygiene and preventive health has been similarly successful, with over 2000 latrines and 700 soak pits completed in communities where open defecation and open drains (*nalis*) had been the norm. Each of the other programs—income enhancement, life skills education, and alternative energy—has a long list of achievements to its credit.

By working with communities at the grassroots level we have learned what it takes to kick-start the development process and bring about change in the village mindset. “Our learning journey” that started in the year 2000 in Mewat District must now be shared on a larger scale with other development organizations to have a greater impact and a multiplier effect.

This is why, in the hallmark year of 2008, we established the Institute for Rural Research and Development (IRRAD). IRRAD will serve as a premier knowledge institution and learning platform for rural development and poverty reduction in India. We want IRRAD to light the path of discovery of better ways to help India’s village poor.

However, in today’s always-on world, it’s easy to lose sight of the forest for the trees—to be consumed by the insistent clamor of immediate obligations and tasks. If we focus too much on just the next step in front of us, we risk straying from the longer path that leads to our big goals. To stay on course we need to illuminate the road ahead with the light that comes from learning.

There are no quick solutions for ending poverty and insecurity. While poor villages share many constraints in common, sustainable development requires solutions customized to local needs and capacities, solutions that are understood and implemented by the people they are intended to benefit. In short, it requires knowledge-rich solutions.

To create such solutions, development practitioners need broad knowledge of principles and practices that have succeeded (or failed) in other regions and settings, while realizing that such experiences cannot simply be transferred without modification. These practitioners must learn and adapt, not merely copy.

Learning is also essential for our clients—the village poor—for both personal and community growth. Knowledge builds the confidence, creativity, and agility to overcome obstacles along the way.

I hope this 2008-09 Annual Report provides you with an impression of how we are applying learning principles in practice. We discuss some of the many activities that excite, inspire, and stimulate our own learning. Yet it is a path that, while full of progress, never ends. We will continue to learn as we grow, and we will change as we learn.

Suri Sehgal, PhD
Chairman



FOCUS

Lighting the path ahead...

- Notki Success Stories
- Jyotisar Tourist Complex
- Ghaghas Community Center
- IRRAD Green Building

Notki

Seeing Is Believing

Together with villagers and government officials, we are helping Notki village in Mewat district to develop into an “**IRRAD Learning Village.**” Neighboring villagers, government officials, private sector entrepreneurs, and *sarpanchs* (village mayors) from the region have already started visiting Notki to see for themselves how the transformation of a village is possible through ISVD. Demonstration villages such as Notki, we believe, will inspire corporations and philanthropists to “adopt a village” and foster change across rural India.

Largely as a result of vigorous training and program interventions by IRRAD in recent years, the Notki *panchayat* (village council) and its community members have become inspired, confident, and empowered to drive their own development. They are excited about Notki becoming a development model for other villages. The villagers and their dynamic *panchayat* have identified their development priorities and are committed to sustain the interventions into the future. These interventions include:

- **Infrastructure** – new paved road, solar street lights, taps and drinking water tanks, roof-water harvesting systems
- **Sanitation** – soak wells, toilets
- **Healthcare** – well equipped delivery hut for childbirth and prenatal care
- **Education** – improved school infrastructure (construction of kitchen, boundary wall, toilet blocks, benches), revival of village education committee, appointment of female teachers, increase in female enrollment
- **Horticulture** – model orchard on 4.3 acres (897 plants, 13 species), cost-effective drip irrigation system, planting of 150 trees

Towards an Open Defecation Free Village

One of the most pressing concerns in Notki was the need for improved sanitation. With guidance from IRRAD, the community has adopted the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach to make Notki an open defecation free (ODF) village. The CLTS campaign was triggered by a collective visit to an area where human excrement was most abundant. This area, right next to the local school, must be kept clean out of concern for the children’s health. After discussion among themselves, the villagers decided to make all of Notki ODF.

Within two days of this decision, 35 village households dug latrine pits near their homes, more than doubling the number of latrines in this 160-household village. When the Additional Deputy Commissioner of Mewat district asked the village *sarpanch* who was constructing the latrines, expecting that it was some new government program, he was astonished to hear the *sarpanch’s* proud reply: *Hum bana rahe hain* (We are constructing them).

So far 92 household latrines have been constructed, and Notki is on its way to be the first ODF village in Mewat district. Notki’s example is expected to light a spark that leads to all the villages of Mewat becoming ODF.

Poor sanitation is a problem throughout the region. Jyotisar, a small village in Kurukshetra district, found that the mainstay of the local economy, tourism, was being affected because of poor hygiene in the village. It had only 400 toilets for 978 households. IRRAD encouraged Jyotisar to seek the ODF status and led several awareness drives to involve the community. As a result 354 additional latrines were built, including 261 in 2008 alone.

Because of these successes, the sanitation drive has been extended to all our 17 intervention villages; the total number of latrines subsequently increased nearly 50%, from 1,214 in 2007 to 1,813 in 2008.



Jyotisar



Jyotisar holds religious and mythological significance. It is widely believed to be the site where Lord Krishna recited his teachings (the *Bhagvad Gita*) to the warrior Arjuna. Although Jyotisar attracts about 700 visitors per day, in the past the local population had benefited little from tourism.

Empowering Women and Youth

To increase the villagers' income from tourism, Ministry of Tourism (GoI) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) introduced the Endogenous Tourism Project. The Project is a powerful demonstration of generating synergies among complementary partner agencies for rural development. It began in 2005 through an implementation partnership between IRRAD and the

district administration of Kurukshetra. The district administration constructed an ethnic bazaar (tourist complex), improved sanitation systems, new roads, and other infrastructure, while IRRAD worked with the community in capacity building, developing market linkages and other ISVD activities.

To develop a working platform for local self-help groups (SHGs), a society by

the name of "Kriti Kendra" was established. This society runs the complex with the support of Jyotisar *Gram Panchayat* and benefits the villagers through tourism revenues. IRRAD trained village women in stitching and embroidery. Now they can sell clothes, bags, toys, and other products from this complex. Another group was trained in setting up a food court in the complex, and two village youth

groups were trained as tourist guides. Yet another group was trained in dramatics by experts from the National School of Drama, New Delhi; the drama group, registered as *Jyoti Kala Manch*, now performs plays on development issues to inspire villagers.

Learning new skills to capture tourism services opportunities is lighting the way to prosperity in Jyotisar.

Ghaghas

Serving the Needs of a Village Cluster

The Community Center attracts and benefits villagers from Ghaghas and the surrounding area. The Center hosts activities such as health camps, training events, and village meetings, provides space for training courses and information dissemination, and offers access to computers and assistance in using them.

ACTIVITY HUB

The Community Center is an activity hub for our Project Implementation Team, which holds community meetings and team-building workshops. Our team also provides ISVD training at the Center to Village Champions (role-model catalysts drawn from the villages).

RESOURCE CENTER

Kisan Mitras (farmer's friends) disseminate agricultural information at the Farmers Resource Center (FRC) in the Community Center at Ghaghas. The *Kisan Mitras* also organize *Kisan Gosthees* (farmer meetings/training events) to spread new agriculture technology.

DEMONSTRATION FARM

The Demonstration Farm in the Community Center showcases agricultural innovations such as vermicomposting (worm culture), raised-bed cultivation, drip irrigation, and intercropping.

TRAINING CENTER

Here village youth learn marketable skills such as electrical, computer, and mobile phone repairs. In addition, "training of trainers" is conducted to help villagers understand and benefit from government programs. Development training is also provided to *Panchayati Raj* Institutions (PRIs) and groups interested in community mobilization.



IRRAD Green Building

IRRAD Green Building has been built as per the highest standards of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) set by US Green Building Council.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- 35 kW photovoltaic solar panels
- Energy-efficient heating, cooling, and lighting

WATER CONSERVATION

- Rainwater collected for reuse (400-cubic meter tank) and groundwater recharge
- Zero-runoff site
- Grey and black wastewater recycling

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Reuse of excavated soil to make bricks on site
- Construction materials requiring low energy consumption
- Minimum use of traditional burnt bricks
- Virtually aluminum-free building

BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

- Landscaping with indigenous species in need of protection and propagation
- Wood from Indian certified and controlled teak forests and rapidly renewable bamboo and rubber trees



A woman wearing a white headscarf and a patterned dress is operating a hand-operated water pump. She is holding the handle of the pump, and water is flowing out of the spout into a yellow bucket. The background shows a rustic building with a thatched roof and a brick wall. The overall scene is set in a rural environment.

PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTATION CENTER

Applying learning to practice...

Building skills and capacities of villagers and local governments to implement ISVD is central to IRRAD's strategy and is led by the Programs Implementation Center. The Center develops human and infrastructural capacities by putting ideas into action in five main areas critical to empowering the rural poor:

- Water Management
- Income Enhancement
- Life Skills Education
- Rural Health
- Alternative Energy

Water Management

Out of 503 villages in Mewat district, only 63 have access to fresh groundwater, most of which is found in pockets at the foothills of the Aravalis (the oldest hill range in Asia). Other groundwater pockets in the area are mostly brackish, and they are spreading, thus shrinking the fresh groundwater pockets. Furthermore most fresh groundwater pockets contain unhealthy levels of nitrates, fluorides, chlorides, and iron. The affected communities are largely unaware about this or about proper wastewater disposal, and consequently suffer from a high incidence of waterborne diseases.

To address this problem, IRRAD has been working to find knowledge-based solutions. In the village Karheda, IRRAD introduced an innovative model combining recharge wells and roof-water harvesting to create new freshwater pockets within saline aquifers. In other villages such as Ghaghas, check dams, recharge wells, deep chiseling of soil, and roof-water harvesting have been employed to halt advancing saline groundwater and dilute the concentration of chemical contamination. Other interventions by IRRAD to improve village water quality include soak wells and soak pits for wastewater recycling, bio-sand filters for safe drinking water, and new taps for more efficient and equitable water distribution.

Activities in 2008 emphasized training and continued expansion of proven techniques, such as the use of check dams, which are very effective at collecting rainwater from the hills and recharging clean groundwater supplies. The table below shows the water-harvesting potential of three check dams constructed by IRRAD in the foothills of the Aravali Hills of Mewat:

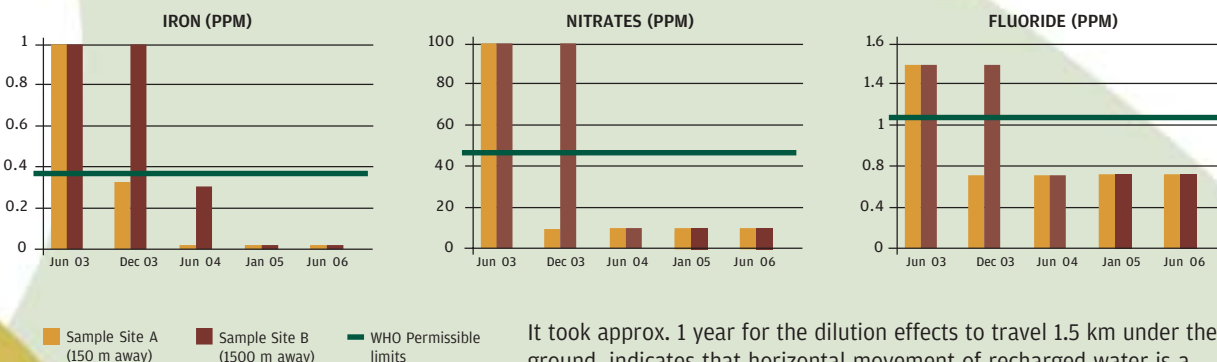
Village	Storage Area (sq. meters)	Annual Rainwater Harvesting (kiloliters)
Rangala Rajpur	38,850	582,750
Ghaghas	48,000	1,296,000
Kotla	26,000	507,000

Here is what one villager from Karheda said about water management improvements introduced by IRRAD:

“There has been no diarrhea in our household in the last few months ever since we adopted the roof-water harvesting and bio-sand filter. Earlier there were white spots in the containers used for storing water, but now there are none.”

Ghaghas village in particular is a success story that illustrates the potential of the check dam approach. As shown in the figure below, groundwater quality (as measured by iron, fluoride and nitrate levels) has improved dramatically since 2003 in a large area around the dam site:

Improvement in Quality of Groundwater



It took approx. 1 year for the dilution effects to travel 1.5 km under the ground, indicates that horizontal movement of recharged water is a slower process.





Water Management

United by Water

Since the 19th century a large, nonfunctional water dam had stood near the village Bhond. Nothing was being done to it because the government was concerned that a nearby heritage monument would be damaged if the site were disturbed. IRRAD intervened between the village and the government to foster a harmonious solution by designing the check dam to restrict the run off storage

to a safe distance from the heritage monument. Funding was secured from the Mewat Development Agency, materials and labor were contributed by village groups, and the dam was safely renovated. It is expected to prevent further decline of the water table in the area. The villagers eagerly await the next rains to fill the reservoir and thus recharge the groundwater needed to quench the thirst of the people.

Several other check dam projects from 2008-09 illustrate the community commitment of villages working with IRRAD:

Project	Total Project Cost	Contribution from the Community
Bhond check dam	Rs 1,000,000	Rs 105,000 towards the cost of stone, labor
Kotla check dam	Rs 450,000	Rs 25,000 cash contribution
Rangala Rajpur, Balmiki Chaupals	Rs 400,000	Rs 5,500 in the form of labor
Raniyala dam	Rs 100,000	Rs 40,000 towards masonry costs
Recharge wells	Rs 133,891	Rs 45,600
Hand pumps	Rs 50,017	Rs 11,800

Highlights

- Check dams to conserve fresh water increased from 23 in 2007 to 30 in 2008, with 4 new dams in Raniyala, 2 in Bhond, and 1 in Kotla
- Recharge wells increased from 38 in 2007 to 45 in 2008
- Culverts constructed to harvest rainwater runoff
- Soak pits and soak wells increased from 502 in 2007 to 609 in 2008
- Water taps increased from 242 in 2007 to 264 in 2008; 10 new taps in Dingerhedi, 5 in Goela, 6 in Jaffrabad, and 1 in Raniyala
- Roof-water harvesting systems constructed in 26 households
- Bio-sand filters installed in 40 households
- School children trained to explain the importance of safe drinking water to their parents
- A paper (Saline Groundwater Pockets in Mewat: Prevalence, Challenges and Solutions) citing IRRAD’s work in Mewat was accepted as a book chapter in *Water and Health*, organized by the South Asia Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resources Studies (SaciWATERS) and to be published by SAGE.

Income Enhancement

Better Livelihood through Better Agriculture

Agriculture is the primary livelihood activity for most of Mewat. However, current farming practices often suffer from major shortcomings such as inefficient crop rotation, inappropriate use of fertilizers, and high incidences of disease and pests. By introducing improved agricultural practices that allow farmers to boost productivity at less cost, and by helping them to establish direct market linkages, IRRAD helps them to enhance their income and thus their quality of life.

IRRAD conducted surveys in nine villages in 2008 to assess soil condition and farmer behavior. The soil survey, the first of its kind in the district, revealed generally low nutrient levels, prompting IRRAD to assist with corrective measures. The behavior survey conducted later indicated that improved agricultural methods were adopted by the farmers. The results of the surveys are shown in the tables:

Micronutrient status (percentage of all samples)

Element	Low	Medium	Sufficient	High
Nitrogen	90	10	0	0
Phosphorus	94	6	0	0
Potassium	94	6	0	0
Zinc	99	0	1	0
Copper	47	0	52	1
Iron	84	0	16	0
Manganese	75	0	25	0
Boron	76	0	1	23
Sulphur	65	33	0	3
Organic carbon	94	6	0	0

Source—IRRAD Survey 2008

Income Enhancement

Farmer Behavior	2007	2008
Chisel plowing (acres)	70	109
Raised bed farming (acres)	112	208
Pulse crop promotion—pigeon peas (acres)	79	148
Horticulture (acres)	111	80
Intercropping (acres)	231	288
Micro-nutrient application (acres)	441	960
High-yielding dairy cattle (no. of buffalo or cows)	2	30
Drip irrigation (acres)	19	15
Vermicompost units (nos.)	85	75
Field demonstrations (nos.)	0	41
Farmer meetings (nos.)	124	138
Exposure tours (nos.)	48	83

All Figures relate to CY



New Agricultural Initiatives

EFFECTIVE MICROORGANISM (EM) COMPOSTING

EM is a concentrate of bacteria, yeast, and other beneficial microorganisms used for more rapid and easy composting of agricultural waste compared to vermiculture. A total of 86 EM units were established in 2008, producing about 200 metric tons of organic manure. The use of EM is on the increase because of its significant benefits.

DAINCHA

Daincha (*Sesbania bispinosa*) has traditionally been used as a green manure crop for adding nitrogen and organic matter to the soil. Modern commercial applications of *daincha* include using its seeds as cattle feed to increase milk production, its fiber in ways similar to that of jute or hemp, and its wood as smokeless fuel. IRRAD is fostering an agri-enterprise model in Mewat to produce energy-efficient, smokeless, briquettes from *daincha* wood that can be sold in high-value markets such as hotels, kilns, and cloth-ironing operations.

LIVESTOCK

IRRAD builds farmers' capacities to raise high-quality dairy animals. Goats are the dominant species in the foothills of Aravalis and many herders are dependent on these animals for their livelihoods. IRRAD provides education on balanced nutrition, timely vaccination, insurance, and earning higher income. During 2008 IRRAD facilitated the vaccination of 7,000 animals and arranged insurance coverage for 137 animals. To increase first-aid services to animals, 28 youths were selected from three blocks of Mewat district for six months of paraveterinary training in collaboration with the J. K. Trust Gram Vikas Yojna.



Life Skills Education

Lack of opportunities constrains the aspirations and self-confidence of village youth. IRRAD's Life Skills Education Program strives to counter this cycle of defeatism by teaching essential life skills on how to connect to livelihood opportunities beyond the village and how to tap supportive resources that can help them in their quest for a better life.

Personality Development Workshops

A training program on personality development was conducted for young men between the ages 16-20 years in Dingerhedi and Jaffrabad villages of Taoru block in 2008. The workshop made them aware of their self-worth and the possibilities for change. The 20-day program included topics such as self-exploration, personality, values, feelings, gender awareness, family, puberty, and health; the importance of education, village governance, and the environment; and the functioning of institutions (banks, post office, police, education and agriculture departments). Participants role-played scenarios such as how they might convince a village family to enroll their children in school and how to have their children vaccinated.

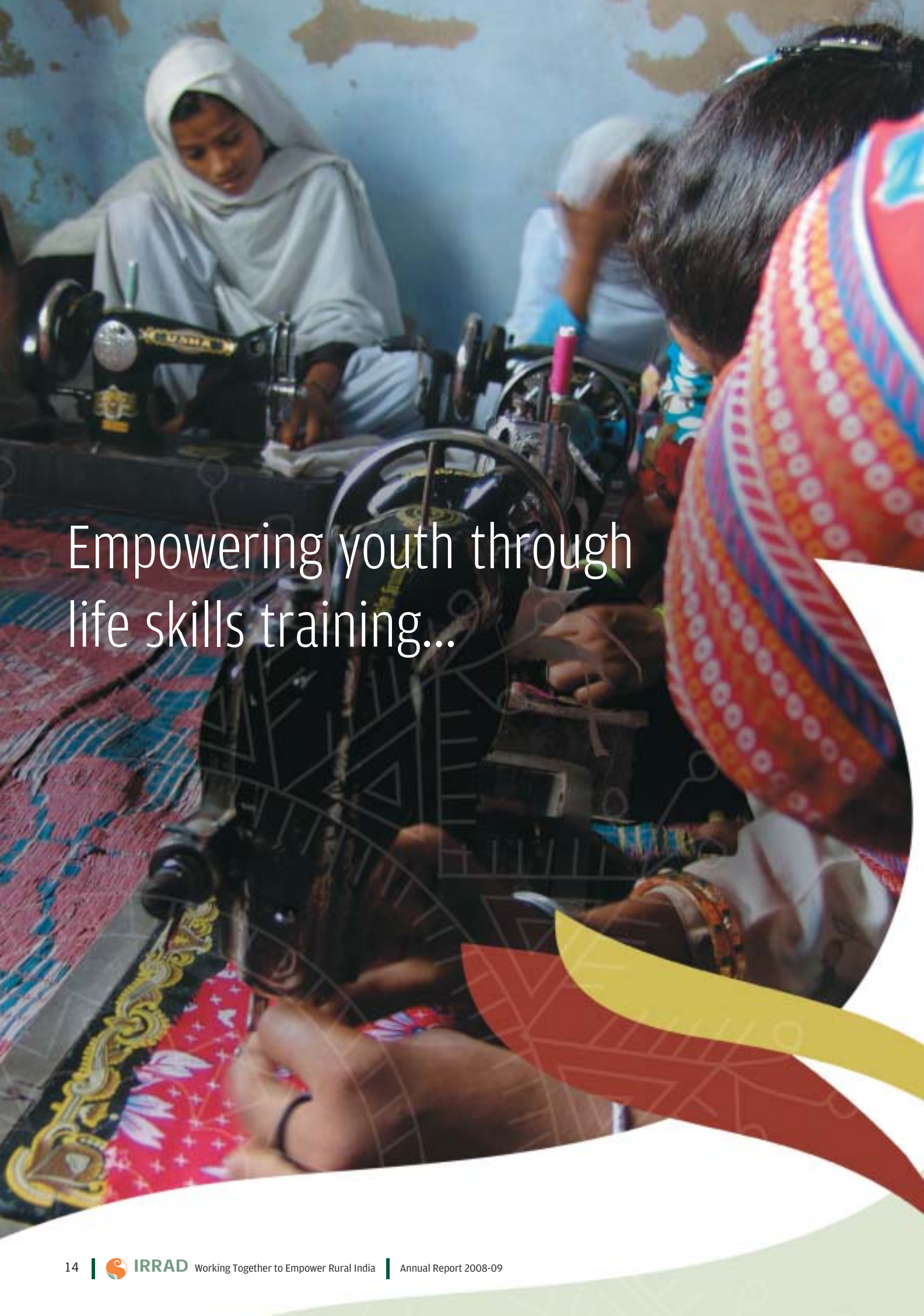
Taruni Program

In rural Haryana, female adolescents lack educational opportunities and are made to assume subordinate roles at home. This limits their self-confidence, self-esteem, and employable skills. To address these issues, IRRAD has established Life Skills Education Centers in the villages. These centers help girls acquire basic literacy and life skills through the *Taruni* Program, which also provides girls with a platform to express themselves and gain a sense of importance as individuals. The program has gained popularity over time, enrolling an additional 499 girls in 2008 to bring the total number to 1,969.

IRRAD also administers the TARA Akshar Literacy Programme in three villages in Mewat. The Taruni and TARA Akshar programs prepare girls to enter into and succeed in the formal public school system, including intensive sessions for parents on how to support their children in the quest for a better life.

Scholarship Program

In 2008, IRRAD introduced a two-year scholarship program to sponsor high-school level education for needy but talented and deserving students in rural villages. Both girls and boys are eligible but preference is given to girls because of their more disadvantaged status. Eight scholarships were awarded in 2008.



Empowering youth through
life skills training...

Life Skills Education

Vocational Training

Though most villagers are engaged in agriculture, they often need supplemental income from other sources. With this in mind, vocational training was established at the Ghaghas Community Center. The first batch of 40 students has already graduated from this course, and 45 more, including 10 girls, are currently enrolled. The success of this program prompted us to add courses in electrical work and mobile phone repairs.

“We can now see better livelihood opportunities for ourselves. My father had a general store earlier, but after I learned mobile phone repair I suggested to him that he revamp the business. Now the mobile phone repairs make the larger chunk of our business.”

Shahid, Student, Village Chila , Mewat

Vocational Training Project: Courses and Enrollment, 2008

Course	Students graduated	Students enrolled
Computer	40	45
Electrician	8	10
Mobile repair	25	30
Tourist Guide training (Jyotisar)	3	10
Street Theater training	20	30

Natural Leaders

Sudesh, Santosh, Sanjogita, Usha, and Mamta had never thought of life beyond homemaking. When IRRAD approached them in May 2005 about forming a Self-Help Group, they were understandably skeptical. But, after discussing their concerns, they decided to give it a try. Now they play a major role in improving their village. They formed a drama group, or *Nukkad Natak*, to spread awareness of the value of education in the community. They performed street plays on literacy in May 2008 in the village Bhore Saidan, which were very well received, and have since expanded their repertoire on important social issues. These talented women also produce garments and handicrafts, and they run a community kitchen in the village.

“I was restricted at home and never went outside. If I had to move around the village, I wore a veil. But now things are different. I am doing good work and am proud of the fact that I got my elder son admitted to Kurukshetra University from my income.”

Sudesh, SHG Leader, Village Jyotisar



Rural Health

The Rural Health Program promotes health consciousness in reproductive and child health, hygiene and sanitation, and the utilization of health care services in village communities. It builds linkages with health service providers, and facilitates access to government health assistance schemes.

Waste-Wise Jyotisar

Jyotisar, a village dependent on tourism, had a poor record of cleanliness and waste disposal. Under the Endogenous Tourism Project sponsored by the government and the UNDP-IRRAD promoted activities such as clean-up drives and awareness campaigns with district officials, media, and university students, resulting in significant improvement in the cleanliness of the village.

World AIDS Day

IRRAD observed World AIDS Day (December 1, 2008) in three locations in Mewat district: Goela village (Taoru block), Santhawadi village (Nagina block) and Pathkhori village (Firozpur Jhirkha block). More than 150 youths across these three villages participated in events such as a video screening in Goela, street plays in Santhawadi, and a role-playing game in Pathkhori.



New Initiatives

Baby shows were organized in Firozpur Jhirkha and Nagina blocks to honor mothers who had ensured immunizations and other regular health and hygienic care for their infants, and mothers of multiple children who had spaced childbirth.

12 *Swasthya Sakhis* from Firozpur Jhirkha and Taoru blocks of Mewat district were given Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) Training by the government, and seven succeeded in becoming ASHA workers under the National Rural Health Mission Program.

Delivery Hut Established

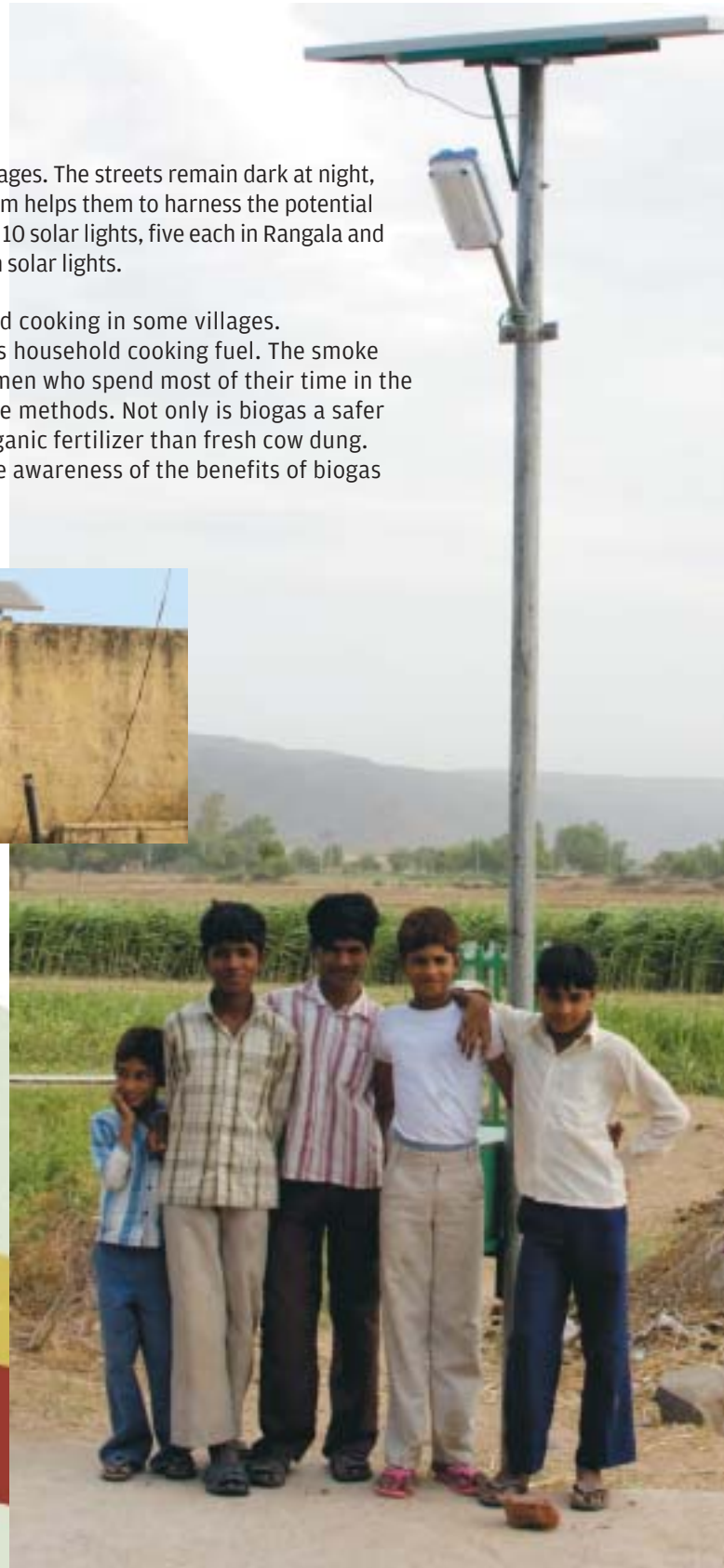
In Notki, IRRAD has established a delivery hut model with two rooms, one for checkups and the other for delivery. The government provides essential supplies in the form of delivery kits, along with other medical equipment and condoms.

A full-time auxiliary nurse midwife is deputed from the government to manage the activities of the delivery hut.

Alternative Energy

Villages face the problem of erratic power supply and chronic outages. The streets remain dark at night, forcing people to stay indoors. IRRAD's Alternative Energy Program helps them to harness the potential of renewable resources. For example, in 2007-08, IRRAD installed 10 solar lights, five each in Rangala and Notki villages, primarily to demonstrate that streets can be lit with solar lights.

IRRAD has also demonstrated biogas technology for household cooking in some villages. Most households use cow-dung cakes or agricultural wastes as household cooking fuel. The smoke from burning these fuels is a health hazard, especially for women who spend most of their time in the kitchen. Biogas is derived from dung using simple, inexpensive methods. Not only is biogas a safer and more efficient fuel, but also its residue makes a better organic fertilizer than fresh cow dung. A model biogas plant has been set up in Goela village to create awareness of the benefits of biogas and to encourage wider adoption of this proven technology.





CAPACITY-BUILDING CENTER

Building confidence, creativity, agility...

The Capacity-Building Center's main goal is to build human capacity by training people in rural development for IRRAD as well as for other development organizations. Training follows a two prong approach combining 1) classroom instruction through development modules and 2) on-site, practical training in the field with the Programs Implementation Center.

IRRAD provides training at all levels, from grassroots social workers to management-level staff, including those representing:

- Donor agencies
- Mother and individual NGOs
- Government agencies
- *Panchayats*
- Schools, urban and rural, and academic institutes
- Corporations

Training

Scope of Training

Training is provided by a professionally qualified team from IRRAD and a panel of external experts. It is conducted in collaboration with other training institutes and government agencies when required, and can be customized to suit a client's specific needs. The following areas are emphasized:

- Rural development issues, including water management, agriculture, life skills education, rural health, alternative energy, governance, community mobilization, research methodologies
- Leadership and team building
- Environmental education
- Corporate social responsibility training for corporate staff



Training Facilities

IRRAD has two training centers, one at the head office in Gurgaon and one at the Community Center at Ghaghas. Gurgaon has excellent facilities, including classrooms, interactive training rooms, an auditorium, a library, and a cafeteria. The facility at the Community Center provides training in ISVD at the grassroots level and in job skills.

Training Highlights

The following trainings were completed for prospective village champions (VCs) and a team from Pardada Pardadi Education Society:

- Community mobilization
- Rainwater harvesting
- Reproductive and child health
- Literacy
- Managing the Life Skills Education Center

Comprehensive training on water issues—water harvesting and conservation, safe drinking water, the environment, and waterborne diseases—was provided to two NGOs: Chinmaya Organization of Rural Development (CORD) and Navjyoti India Foundation. Safe water management training was also given to school children in six villages.

Team-building and leadership training was organized for IRRAD's field and management teams through Advance Business Consulting, Netherlands.

As the various programs in ISVD were implemented at the field level, Training of Trainers on various ISVD components was undertaken at the Ghaghas Community Center.



RURAL RESEARCH CENTER

Being the knowledge base...

IRRAD's Rural Research Center builds a base of understanding and insight that guides IRRAD's other centers towards effective implementation of their programs. The Research Center helps IRRAD to identify priorities and opportunities, spark innovation, and monitor progress.

Learning in Action

The strategy of the Rural Research Center revolves around strengthening the activities of the other centers and establishing IRRAD as a globally recognized think tank through effective and targeted research and linkages with academia, research institutes, and other organizations. The Research Center's activities are organized into three main themes:

- **Impact Assessment**

Evaluating the direct impact of the ISVD model and using the results to provide research direction for the various programs within the model

- **Poverty and Livelihood Dynamics**

Studying IRRAD's overall research needs, identifying new clusters, discerning poverty indicators not addressed by current programs, undertaking need-based studies

- **Research Innovation**

Establishing linkages between IRRAD and national and international academia and research institutes, as well as generating external funding, for innovating research projects in line with IRRAD's vision and mission.

Before interventions are planned for a village, need assessments are conducted to help formulate an effective and targeted strategy. During and after implementation, interventions are assessed. Successful and replicable models are disseminated through internal and external publications, workshops, and conferences.

Highlights

BASELINE SURVEY OF QUALITY-OF-LIFE INDICATORS

In 2008 IRRAD conducted a socioeconomic baseline survey and analysis of nine villages in which it works—eight in Mewat and one in Kurukshetra district. We found significant differences between districts and villages for indicators relating to poverty and health. Kurukshetra district, as represented by the village of Bhore, exhibits an overall higher standard of living.

Literacy levels in Mewat district are generally low, especially among women. In contrast, Bhore village of Kurukshetra district has attained high literacy levels for both women and men. (Figure 1)

Among other quality-of-life indicators, we found that the utilization of health care services was very low in Mewat district. More than 95% of households reported home delivery of infants rather than at a medical facility. In contrast, 98% of Bhore village women who bore children utilized prenatal care services and 36% delivered their babies in medical institutions. (Figure 2)

The availability of water and sanitation facilities is critical to villagers’ health. In the villages of Mewat, more than 90% of households lack a toilet. The situation is better in Bhore village, where one out of three households has a toilet. (Figure 3)

AGRICULTURAL BASELINE MEASUREMENT

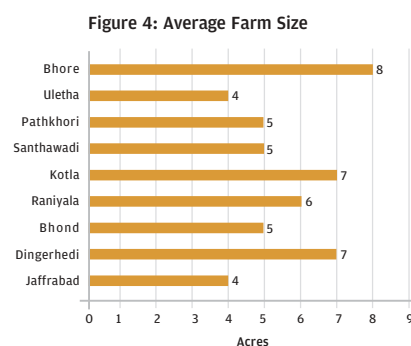
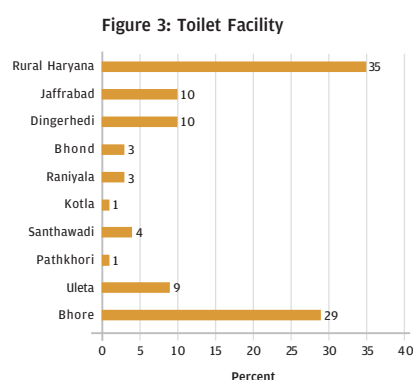
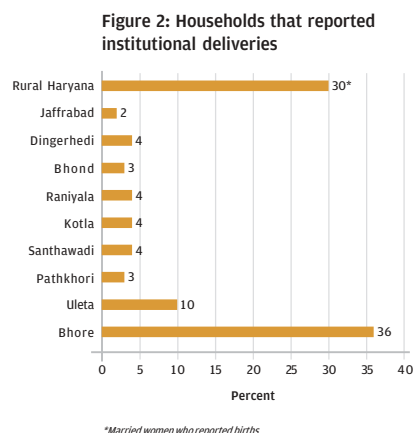
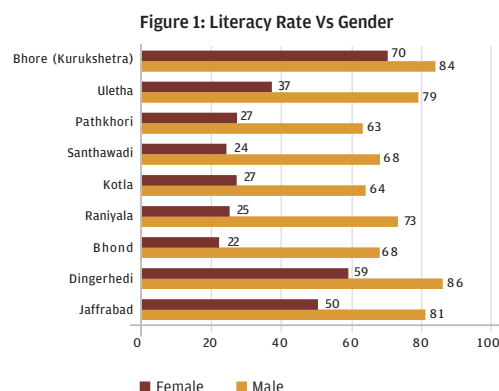
The main occupation of poor villagers across Haryana state is agriculture. Our survey found that average farm size in Bhore village is larger (8 acres), but fewer villagers own land (one-third of households), as compared to the eight villages in Mewat. Larger land holdings could reflect greater specialization in farm management as a profession by a smaller group of people in the better-off district of Kurukshetra. (Figure 4)

In 2008, IRRAD undertook an agricultural baseline survey in two Mewat villages, Santhawadi and Notki, in partnership with Mosaic Fertilizers. The survey collected agricultural data such as farm income, crop economics, seeds, field preparation and fertilizer use. A fundamental parameter measured was the average productivity of the major crops grown in Haryana:

	Crop yield (quintal/acre)*		
	Wheat	Mustard	Bajra
Haryana	17	6.24	7.37
Notki village	15.8	10.8	8.2
Santhawadi village	14.2	5.5	5.5

*1 quintal = 100 kg

The major sources of income for both villages were found to be agriculture, labor, and truck driving. Average landholding size and agricultural income in Notki village are below the overall average for Haryana, while exceeding the average in Santhawadi. On average, Notki farmers farm less than two acres of land, earning less than 2000 rupees per month. In both villages, soil testing is rare and fertilizer use is erratic and often in excess of government-recommended quantities.





POLICY, GOVERNANCE, AND ADVOCACY CENTER

Creating awareness...

The Constitution of India promises a dignified and decent life for all. IRRAD's Policy, Governance, and Advocacy Center helps bring this promise to fruition by empowering the rural poor to influence and take advantage of government policies and practices intended to serve their needs. The specific objectives of the Center are:

- To prepare rural people to exercise accountable, responsive and transparent local governance and policies
- To help rural India voice policy and governance concerns through appropriate forums
- To create a vibrant platform for discussion and advocacy on issues of rural governance and policies

Training

Training in Rural Governance 2008-09

Rural governance is one of the flagship programs of the Center, which is conducting a year-long training on the topic. The goals of this training are to (1) prepare selected panchayati raj institutions (PRIs) and villagers to effectively participate in rural governance; (2) achieve transparent, accountable, and responsive rural governance; and (3) encourage and help rural citizens to take advantage of rural policies to their benefit. Complementing the training program, the Center organizes panel discussions on governance and policies and fosters partnerships with like-minded organizations.

TRAINEES, FORMAT, AND CONTENT

The selected trainees include representatives of PRIs, village leaders, women from the local community, grassroots social workers, members of IRRAD's village-level staff, and other conscientious citizens.

The training program involves practical field work supplemented by fifty days of classroom training. The curriculum includes:

- Developing a perspective on rural governance
- Functioning of PRIs and roles of different stakeholders
- Understanding of functionaries, institutions, and mechanisms of rural governance
- Understanding various government schemes and programs and the tools for ensuring their effective and transparent implementation

IMPACT OF THE TRAINING

A review of the training outcomes indicates that the trainees are confident that through their effective participation they can change governance for the better. They feel they are important people engaged in an important activity and that they are empowered as owners of the system—that government functionaries are appointed to work for their welfare, and their views matter to those functionaries. Trainees also feel that they have been successful in using the Right to Information Act in combating corruption, opacity, and arbitrariness.

The training began to pay off quickly. Public food distribution has improved in all six villages where our trainees are working. Ration depot managers have cooperated in freeing the distribution system from corruption and other problems.

“Thanks to trainee interventions, for the first time all card holders are receiving fair shares of food rations.”

Notki Villagers

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

The Center is organizing a series of four panel discussions to complement the training and put the spotlight on the need for good rural governance. These panels aim to involve the wider society, gain a broader input of expertise, and foster discussions on urgent issues leading to policy advocacy. The first panel discussion took place in 2008, discussing the overarching issues. Panels comprise 4-6 eminent representatives from civil society, various levels of government, business, education, media, and other relevant arenas; participants in the discussions include the trainees, panchayat members, media, and other invited guests, as well as IRRAD staff, trustees, and board members.

Support Centers

Communications

The communication team raises awareness of IRRAD's achievements across India and worldwide through print and electronic media. It also uses a range of community interactions, including special events, meetings, and publications to share knowledge at the grassroots level.

IRRAD Green Building Inauguration

IRRAD's new campus was inaugurated by the Honorable Governor of Haryana, Dr. A. R. Kidwai, on December 2, 2008. The event gave IRRAD an opportunity to showcase its work in the villages and its green initiative to promote sustainability. The event was heavily covered by the media, including 33 national dailies (Hindi and English), seven TV channels, and web media.



Jyotisar Tourist Complex Inauguration

Because of its rich cultural heritage, Jyotisar is one of 31 sites selected by the Ministry of Tourism and UNDP to promote alternative models in rural tourism that support sustainable livelihoods for local inhabitants. The "Kriti Kendra" Tourist complex was inaugurated on December 23, 2008. Kriti Kendra has been positioned as a tourist stopover offering authentic rural flavor with a modern touch.

IRRAD's Newsletters

IRRAD's quarterly newsletter *Vikas Patrika* (in Hindi) gives regular updates on institute activities. Villagers regularly contribute articles, and the leadership case studies have motivated people to come forward and be recognized for their work. IRRAD's communication team launched an English-language electronic newsletter, *IRRAD Connect*, to share the latest news about IRRAD's activities with interested audiences across the globe.

To subscribe, email a request to smsf@irrad.org

Highlights

- Case studies published: 19
- Articles and papers published: 8
- Articles in national dailies: 36
- Coverage in electronic media: NDTV 24X7, Aaj Tak, MH1, Haryana News, Sahara Samay, CNEB
- Awards received: “Lifetime Achievement Award” to Dr. Suri Sehgal by NRI Institute; “Best Water NGO 2008-09 for Revival of Rural Water Resources” by *Water Digest* Magazine and UNESCO
- Website revamp: IRRAD website revised to better reach and serve its audiences
- Organized a conference with India Development Coalition of America (IDCA) in January 2009 in New Delhi on “Strategies to Alleviate Poverty and Mitigate Climate Change”
- Organized two panel discussions on “Rural Governance” and “Strengthening Public Distribution System and Mid Day Meal Schemes in villages” as part of year-long training program on rural governance
- Memberships: IRRAD became a member of the Indian NGOs National Network, the Indian Adult Education Association, and the UN Global Compact
- Visitors and volunteers: IRRAD attracted many visitors to see and learn about our development activities in Mewat, as well as volunteers who joined the team to help.

Resource Mobilization

The goal of the resource mobilization team is to catalyze effective partnerships with people and organizations committed to bringing positive change to the lives of the marginalized and vulnerable rural poor. In addition, the team intends to promote the concept of “adopt a village” to donor organizations, philanthropists, and corporations.

Mewat Development Agency

The Mewat Development Agency (MDA) has selected IRRAD to execute water management projects in several villages. MDA has also awarded us a special consultative status for all infrastructural development related to water in the district. In 2008 we received grants under two schemes:

- Ongoing community development scheme for 2007-08: An infrastructure development project at three sites for groundwater recharging, including upgrades to an existing check dam at Kotla and construction of new check dams at Bangali Khola, Kotla, and Bhond
- Integrated Watershed Development Program: An area development project at Rangala Rajpur for activities related to water resource management, including enhancement of rainwater harvesting capacity; construction of a *kuchha* (gravel) road to school, *balmiki chaupal* (community center), and culverts; and measures to reduce soil erosion

Mosaic Fertilizers

IRRAD has formed a partnership with Mosaic, a leading international fertilizer company, to enhance agricultural productivity in Mewat. Mosaic is contributing knowledge, training, and resources in five intervention areas: Soil health, agricultural advice, seeds & fertilizer, irrigation, and market linkages.

Crop Improvement

The Sehgal Foundation, the founding body of IRRAD, also supports plant breeding research, both within and beyond the Foundation, to enhance the food security of the rural poor while simultaneously enabling farmers to increase their incomes.



Support for International Public Research

ICRISAT

The Sehgal Foundation and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), a non-profit international agricultural development organization headquartered in Hyderabad, joined hands to create a US\$4 million endowment fund to provide support for strategic plant breeding research. The Foundation has also provided funds for biotechnology research, the ICRISAT-coordinated private-sector hybrid-parent breeding research consortium, and the construction of a 14-hectare lake on the ICRISAT campus for rainwater harvesting.

ICRISAT research develops pearl millet breeding lines tolerant to the dreaded downy mildew fungal disease, and sorghum lines able to withstand shoot fly attacks and grain mold fungi. The improved lines are made freely available to public- and private-sector plant breeders who use them to develop commercial hybrids and varieties for farmers to use.

MAIZE RESEARCH

Maize (corn) has become a very important crop in India over the past decade, with over 19 million metric tons now produced for human consumption, animal feed and industrial use. The Foundation supports four maize improvement projects for India that are being implemented by a sister international research institute, the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) headquartered in Mexico.

The Foundation also conducts its own maize breeding effort at the ICRISAT campus to enhance the diversity of maize germplasm and its capacity for hybrid breeding. The Foundation freely distributes this diverse germplasm to public- and private-sector scientists who agree not to restrict its free distribution to others. The Foundation's program has received recognition from India's Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Focus

- Collection and characterization of maize germplasm still in the public domain, and its classification into heterotic groups using both classical and biotechnological tools

- Generation of diverse and hybrid-oriented pre-breeding germplasm
- Development of inbreds from diverse genetic backgrounds with good performance and excellent combining ability
- Identification of maize germplasm sources resistant to insects and diseases
- Using modern biotech tools to understand genetic diversity of global maize germplasm
- Distribution of inbred lines and pre-breeding germplasm to public- and private-sector scientists
- Capacity-building of maize scientists by supporting and organizing training courses on breeding techniques.

Highlights

The Foundation was one of the main sponsors of a training course on "Maize Breeding for Drought Tolerance" in Kenya and the 10th Asian Regional Maize Workshop in Indonesia. Foundation scientists presented papers at the maize workshop and at the National Symposium on "Quality Protein Maize" in New Delhi.

Financials

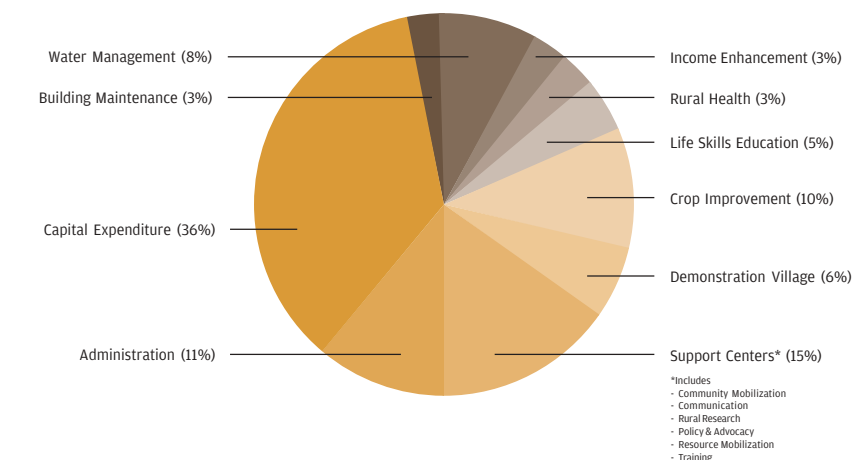
Abridged Balance Sheet as on 31st March 2009

Particulars	Amount in Rs.	
	Current Fin. Year Amount	Prev. Fin. Year Amount
Assets		
Fixed Assets	249,957,106	231,052,290
Loans disbursed	25,069	43,355
Deposits and Advances	2,373,993	2,317,651
Current Assets	58,655,371	18,732,490
Income & Expenditure A/c. Balance		
Total	311,011,539	252,145,786
Liabilities		
Corpus/Endowment fund(s)	1,000	1,000
Current liabilities and provisions	6,845,998	2,418,647
Income & Expenditure A/c. Balance	304,164,541	249,726,139
Total	311,011,539	252,145,786

Abridged Income & Expenditure Account for the Year Ending 31st March 2009

Particulars	Amount in Rs.	
	Current Fin. Year Amount	Prev. Fin. Year Amount
Income		
Self Generated Income	6,842,467	2,811,672
Indian Sources	4,518,921	505,000
International Sources	113,167,948	136,032,217
Total	124,529,336	139,348,889
Expenditure		
Program	44,421,174	32,264,289
Management	12,668,443	9,230,247
Others	13,001,317	3,260,164
Total	70,090,934	44,754,700
Deficit/Surplus	54,438,402	94,594,189

In FY 2008-09, the Sehgal Family Foundation grants to S M Sehgal Foundation amounted to US \$2.4 million. S M Sehgal Foundation also received funding from Mewat Development Agency (Rs 4,051,781) and UNDP (Rs 920,000) for Water Management projects in Mewat and Endogenous Tourism Project in Jyotisar, Kurukshetra, respectively. These grants were used among programs in Water Management (8%), Income Enhancement (3%), Rural Health (3%), Life Skills Education (5%), and Crop Improvement (10%); Demonstration Village (6%); Support Centers (15%); Administration (11%); Capital Expenditure (36%); and Building



Maintenance (3%). The major capital expenses incurred were for the construction of the IRRAD campus.

The Board

FOUNDERS



Suri Sehgal
Chairman of Board of Trustees

Suri Sehgal holds a PhD in Plant Genetics from Harvard University, and a diploma in Business Management from Harvard Business School. He is the founder and chairman of Misr Hytech Seed International, Egypt. He is the founder and former chairman of the Proagro Group of Companies, India, now owned by Bayer of Germany.



Edda Sehgal

Edda Sehgal is a co-founder and trustee of the Sehgal Family Foundation, USA, and the Sehgal Foundation, India. She served on the board of the Proagro Group of companies, India, and of Global Technologies, Inc., USA, from 1990 to 1998.

TRUSTEES

Jayshree Balachander holds a Masters in Public Policy (Development Studies) and a degree from the Woodrow Wilson School for Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, USA. Since 1992, she has been active on health, nutrition, human resource development, and education issues as part of the World Bank's South and East Asia Team.

Kamal Bawa, PhD, is a distinguished Professor of Biology at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, USA. He is an evolutionary ecologist and a conservation biologist. He is the founder-president of the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Bangalore.

Nishat Farooq retired as Director of State Resource Centre, Delhi, which houses the National Nodal Centre for Gender Planning. Currently, she is a member of the National Book Promotion Committee of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Amitabh Kundu, PhD, is Professor of Economics at the Centre for the Study of Regional Development and Dean of the School of Social Sciences at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He has been nominated as a member of National Statistical Commission in 2006.

Jan Leemans, holds a PhD degree in chemistry from the Free University of Brussels, Belgium. He is a founding member of the steering committee of the Institute of Plant Biotechnology for Developing Countries, Ghent University, Belgium. He is the former (1984-1999) research director of Plant Genetics, now Bayer CropScience, Belgium.

Y C Nanda retired as the Chairman of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development following 38 years of experience in the rural banking and central banking industries. He is a member of the National Commission on Farmers.

Air Vice Marshal (Retired) S Sahni is the Vice President of the NGO Development Alternatives. A recognized expert in water management and rural employment development, he was appointed to the government's National Wasteland Development Board, 1991-94.

Raj Paroda, PhD, is an agriculturist with significant contributions in the field of crop science and towards strengthening the national agricultural research systems in India as well as in Central Asia and the Caucasus. He served as Chairman of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research from 1998 to 2001 and was Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research from 1994 to 2001.

Rajat Jay Sehgal, Executive Director and Managing Trustee of the Sehgal Foundation. Previously, he worked as a Senior Programming Analyst in a leading private sector company in the USA, and as the Director of Information Technology for Proagro Seed Company Ltd., India.
Email: jay.sehgal@irrad.org

Raman Sehgal is a management graduate from Asia Institute of Management-Manila, Philippines. He is currently the Managing Director and member of the board of directors, Misr Hytech Seed International, Egypt, and member of the board of directors of Hytech India.

Jagadish Shukla, PhD, is Professor and Chairman of Climate Dynamics in the School of Computational Sciences at George Mason University and President of the Institute of Global Environment and Society, USA.

Consultants

M D Asthana, Consultant, has 37 years of experience as a member of India's premier central administrative service, the Indian Administrative Service, in the fields of public administration, good governance and public policy.
Email: md.asthana@irrad.org

Ryan Clutter, IT Consultant, holds a degree in computer science from Grand View College, Iowa, USA. He has worked as a senior network engineer at a leading US mortgage company, as well as at a regional US hospital prior to becoming a consultant for IRRAD.
Email: r.clutter@irrad.org

Ellora Mubashir holds a PhD in Biochemistry from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. She was Manager of Biotechnology Regulatory Affairs at Proagro Seed Company (now Bayer Crop Science). Subsequently she was Program Leader, Communications, at Sehgal Foundation, for five years. Presently, Ellora contributes as consultant to IRRAD's Capacity-Building Center.
Email: Ellora.mubashir@gmail.com

Mark Winslow, Consultant, holds a PhD in Plant Breeding from Michigan State University, USA. He specializes in new initiative development for the international agricultural research centers of the CGIAR System. He assists the foundation with external communications.
Email: m.winslow@cgiar.org

The Team

RURAL DEVELOPMENT (Gurgaon)

B Valentine Joseph Gandhi, Group Leader, Rural Research Center. With over 9 years of interdisciplinary quantitative & qualitative research experience, as well as project management and teaching/training experience, at both field & policy levels. He holds a PhD in Economics & Sociology from IIT Bombay. Email: v.gandhi@irrad.org

Anjali Godyal, Program Leader, Life Skills Education. Holds a Rural Management Degree from the Institute of Rural Management, Anand, Gujarat, & has completed an internship in Business Cluster Development and SHGs. Email: a.godyal@irrad.org

Ramesh Kapahi, Director, Finance & Administration, holds a master's degree in finance and marketing from Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute of Management, Delhi. He worked as an internal auditor for 16 years before joining the Foundation. Email: r.kapahi@irrad.org

Pawan Kumar, Program Leader, Income Enhancement, holds a master's degree in Forestry, Science Policy and Management from Oxford Forestry Institute, Oxford University. He has 13 years of experience in Agricultural interventions and expertise in natural resource management. Email: pawan.kumar@irrad.org

Anjali Makhija, Group Leader, Capacity-Building Center, holds a master's degree in social work, Delhi School of Social Work. She has 15 years of management and training experience while working with various NGOs in the area of education, health and community development. Email: anjali.makhija@irrad.org

Pooja O Murada, Director, Communications, is a postgraduate in communications and carries over 13 years of work experience. She has held leadership positions and worked in the area of brand management in advertising, information technology, healthcare and development sectors. Email: poojamurada@irrad.org

Ajay Pandey, Director, Policy, Governance and Advocacy, is a lawyer and a human rights practitioner. He has 14 years of experience of working with voluntary organizations. He holds an M. Phil. Degree in International Law from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and an LL.M. degree in Clinical Legal Education from Vanderbilt University, USA. Email: ajay.pandey@irrad.org

B R Poonia, Program Leader, Community Mobilization, holds a master's degree in rural sociology from the University of Udaipur, and has over 29 years of experience in community development. Prior to joining the Foundation, he was with CARE-India for 14 years. Email: br.poonia@irrad.org

Payal Sahu, Program Leader, Rural Health, holds master's and PhD degrees in social work and has a one-year diploma in Child Education & Applied Psychology (D.C.Ed., A. Psy.) She has 7 years of experience in the social development sector. Email: payal.sahu@irrad.org

Niti Saxena, Associate Scientist, Rural Research Center, a master in Human Development from Lady Irwin College, Delhi University. Her expertise is working with children with special needs and has contributed to the concept of ECCD through her writings. Email: niti.saxena@irrad.org

Lalit Mohan Sharma, Group Leader, Program Implementation Center, is a graduate civil engineer, holds a master's degree from Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, and a postgraduate diploma in construction management. He is a Fellow of the Institution of Valuers. Email: lalit.sharma@irrad.org

Shweta, Group Leader, Resource Mobilization. She has 9 years of experience with national and international NGOs as a Grants Manager and was involved in appraising, building capacities and monitoring the work of its partner NGOs in the field of poverty alleviation and women rights. She holds a Post Graduate Degree in Child Development from Lady Irwin College, University of Delhi. Email: shweta@irrad.org

CROP IMPROVEMENT (Hyderabad)

J N Hanumantharya, Sr. Scientist, Corn Breeding, holds a master's degree in Seed Technology from University of Agriculture Sciences, Bangalore. Prior to joining the Foundation, he worked as a Maize Breeder with Proagro Seed Company, Ltd., for a period of 15 years. Email: jn.hanumantharaya@cgiar.org

Murali D Gupta, PhD, established the Foundation's crop improvement project in July 2002 at the ICRISAT campus and had been its Technical Director until May 2007. He is now associated with the Foundation as an honorary Technical Advisor. He has 34 years of experience in plant breeding and seed enterprise management. Email: m.d.gupta@cgiar.org

Mukesh K Dhillon is a Special Project Scientist, Entomology in the Foundation-ICRISAT collaborative project on development of insect-tolerant maize and sorghum germplasm. He holds PhD and M.Sc.(Ag) degrees from CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar. Email: m.dhillon@cgiar.org

N Mallikarjuna holds PhD and M.Sc.(Ag) degrees in Plant Pathology from University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bangalore. Prior to joining the Foundation, he worked on maize diseases for six years at UAS, Agricultural Research Station, Nagenahalli, Mysore. Email: na.mallikarjuna@cgiar.org

S P Deshpande, Visiting Scientist, Biotechnology, holds a PhD in Genetics and Plant Breeding from Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani. He has received hands-on-training in biotechnology while working at ICRISAT, Patancheru. Email: s.deshpande@cgiar.org



The Team

SUPPORT TEAM

Pankaj Gaur – Accountant

Aditi Jha – Program Associate, Policy, Governance and Advocacy Center

Arti Manchanda – Communications Associate

Navneet Narwal – Program Consultant, Policy, Governance and Advocacy Center

Jagdish Prasad – Administration Manager

C S Shekhar – Accounts Officer

INTERNS

Kanika Oberoi

June-July 2008

A Delhi University B.Sc. Statistics student, Kanika conducted a statistical analysis of all intervention villages of Mewat and comparison of Mewat district vis-a-vis Haryana state as a whole.

Molly O'Keefe

June-August 2008

A student intern from the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, George Mason University, USA, Molly conducted a study on community conflict resolution in villages of Mewat.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION TEAM MEMBERS AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES

Mubarik Hussain – Facilitator, Nagina Block

Nasir Hussain – Facilitator, Firozepur Jhirkha

Kamlesh – Facilitator, Taoru Block

Mahipal Singh – Facilitator, Kurukshetra Block

Jafar Hussain – Specialist, Liaisoning

Kunti Gupta – Specialist, School Program

Urmilla – Specialist, Life Skills Education

Mohammad Siddique – Specialist, Water Management

Sarveshwari Mishra – Specialist, Income Enhancement

Jaan Mohammed – Specialist, Community Mobilization

Shaheen – Specialist, Rural Health

Partners

IRRAD engages in strategic partnerships to build strong synergies. We are constantly seeking to collaborate with outstanding organizations that can help us make a greater impact on the lives of the rural poor.

IRRAD continues to strengthen its knowledge base and expand its village interventions by working with organizations such as:

- The Mewat Development Agency (MDA)
- Mosaic Fertilizers
- Development Alternatives
- The Centre for Development and Population Activities
- Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospitals
- Pardada Pardadi Educational Society
- Dharma Vana Arboretum
- International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)

IRRAD also collaborates on policy analysis with organizations including:

- The Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi
- Transparency International
- The Centre for Social Research, New Delhi
- The Haryana Institute of Rural Development, Nilokheri
- The Times Foundation, New Delhi
- Relevant government departments at district, state, and national levels.

Partnerships with government agencies advance the implementation of government schemes at the grassroots level. They also provide IRRAD and its village partners an opportunity to advocate the needs of rural India in important policymaking forums.

Area of Work

Mewat and Kurukshetra Districts of Haryana



Events 2008-09

- Panel Discussion on Mid-Day Meal and Public Distribution System at IRRAD.
- Panel Discussion on Rural Governance: Problems and Challenges at IRRAD.
- Mewat Development Agency (MDA) assigned Premier Organization status to the Foundation for implementing water projects in Mewat.
- IRRAD facilitated the implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) for the first time in Mewat for creation of water infrastructure and agricultural activities.
- Setting up of Notki as a demonstration village having all interventions aimed at a clean green village.
- Inauguration of IRRAD Green Building by the Honorable Governor of Haryana, Dr. A. R. Kidwai.
- Capacity enhancement of existing check dams and provision of new check dams at Bhond, Bangali Khola, Kotla and Pathkhori under NREGA.
- Inauguration of Kriti Kendra, Tourist Complex in Jyotisar built under UNDP-Gol Endogenous Tourism Project. The Deputy Commissioner inaugurated the tourist complex.
- Conducted a soil study in Mewat to assess the micronutrient level in collaboration with Mosaic fertilizers.
- Five demonstration plots set up at district block level to demonstrate interventions under the Income Enhancement program.
- Initiation of a new vocational trade course, mobile phone repairing, for village youth at Ghaghas community center.
- Observance of International Development Days in villages. Republic Day and Independence Day celebrated for the first time in many villages.
- A workshop on rice cultivation was organized by Rice Research Institute, HAU, in Kurukshetra; 82 farmers participated.
- Two training sessions conducted by the horticulture department in Taoru, attended by 35 farmers and 6 female SHG members.
- Daincha project started with identification of 13 beneficiaries and procurement of seeds. Out of this group, six farmers visited the projects by Development Alternatives (DA) in Jhansi and learned about briquetting, roof tile installation, brick and char formation.
- A five-day teacher training course was conducted.
- Scholarship program was introduced to sponsor the school education of deserving students in our villages.
- Two training sessions on right to information (RTI) organized by the field teams in Kurukshetra and Taoru, resource persons were invited from Parivartan.
- Two street plays on Environment Day were held in Learning Villages Notki and Ranjwala.
- Training on business enterprise development conducted for self-help group Kriti of Jyotisar by UNDP resource person. The Kriti group took possession of a shop near the temple complex that was allotted to them by the government to sell their wares.
- Kriti Group sent for an exposure visit to Hyderabad to learn about business enterprises.
- Impact assessment of Life Skills Education program launched by the Rural Research Center.

Photo Courtesy: IRRAD communication team, Megan Peyton



IRRAD

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(An Initiative of S M Sehgal Foundation)

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