Celebrating 15 years of empowering rural communities
A country of contrasts, India is home to some of the richest billionaires in the world and millions of extremely poor people. More than 250 million people living below the poverty line in India reside in rural areas. For fifteen years, Sehgal Foundation has focused exclusively on rural India to design, implement, and further refine development initiatives to help communities achieve the Gandhian ideals of self-reliance, economic well-being, and dignified living. At this fifteen-year milestone, we reflect on our eventful journey thus far and our plan for the long path ahead.

Work that Sehgal Foundation began in just four villages of Mewat district, Haryana, has now reached more than 400 villages in the district and expanded into the states of Rajasthan and Bihar. Our grassroots, community-led development initiatives are focused on three priorities: 1) water management—improving the quantity and quality of water for homes, schools, and farms; agricultural development, 2) promoting sustainable farming practices—empowering women farmers and increasing crop productivity, and 3) good rural governance—building awareness and skills of individual citizens and village-level institutions for their active participation in rural governance. Results in these areas have reaffirmed for us that there truly is power in empowerment.

We are inspired by villagers who started this journey with us and have since taken leadership roles in their communities, bringing about further social change. Their sustained achievements reinforce our continuing commitment to this important work. We are further heartened by new legislation at the national level, particularly the corporate social responsibility (CSR) provision of the Companies Act that went into effect in 2014. This landmark law, which requires certain large companies to give a percentage of their profits toward CSR initiatives, has the potential to make a powerful impact in the lives of India’s poor.

We move forward with renewed focus on rural income enhancement, community empowerment, and gender equality as we plan, implement, assess, and improve our programs. Our partnerships with community groups, local leaders, government entities, corporations, other NGOs, as well as national and international organizations and individuals have strengthened our work and widened our reach. As we continue to grow and embrace innovation, we will intensify our efforts, refine our strategies, and expand our partnerships to steadily increase our impact.

I extend my sincere thanks to our existing partners and welcome others to collaborate with us to bring substantial, positive, sustainable change to the lives of the poor. With support from our partners and donors, we envision every person across rural India empowered to lead a more secure, prosperous, and dignified life.

Suri Sehgal
Founder and Chairman, Sehgal Foundation

*The data from April to December is from calendar year 2013.
Empowering rural citizens

Through its Good Rural Governance program, Sehgal Foundation engages communities in improving poor conditions and inadequate public services. The foundation team provides individual citizens and the leaders of village-level institutions with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to become informed, active participants in the development of their communities.

Sushasan Abhi
(Good Governance Now)

Reached 403 Villages
151,133 Villagers
(50.75% women)

3,078 Sushasan Champions prepared through village/block leadership schools
22,971 villagers participated in legal literacy camps for solving local problems

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New Year’s Day
National Girl Child Day of India

January 2015

SEHGLA FOUNDATION

© Mick Minard/REEF REPORTS

15 Years of working with rural communities

31
Tackling water issues in villages

Sehgal Foundation partners with communities in enhancing the availability and quality of water in rural India. Together with villagers, we work to secure adequate water supplies and improve sanitation in schools, in homes, and throughout the community.

February 2015

+ 80,015 villagers trained on better hygiene, sanitation, and water conservation

40 rainwater harvesting systems installed in schools, ensuring water supplies for drinking, cooking, and sanitation

Total outreach approx. 250,000
Sehgal Foundation works with farmers to help them utilize better agricultural practices, including integrated nutrient management to sustain soil fertility and techniques to use water more efficiently. The foundation emphasizes the importance of actively engaging women villagers in agriculture-related decision making, which has been shown to make rural farms more productive.
Good governance through citizen action

Sehgal Foundation’s Good Governance Now initiative engages villagers to take an active role in local governance.

403 villages covered
126,524 villagers reached
18,415 villagers benefited

“After attending training sessions organized by Sehgal Foundation, I understood my rights and responsibilities. The knowledge I gained helped me identify the inadequacies in the village school and take action about it. My complaint made the state education department roll up its sleeves and issue charge sheets to head teachers in 119 schools of Mewat for non-completion of school buildings against allocated funds.”

– Sangeeta
Citizen leader, village Udaka, Mewat district, Haryana

April 2015

SUNDAY  |  MONDAY  |  TUESDAY  |  WEDNESDAY  |  THURSDAY  |  FRIDAY  |  SATURDAY

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29  |  30

Earth Day

Good Friday

New Moon  |  First Quarter  |  Last Quarter  |  Full Moon
Replenishing precious groundwater

Sehgal Foundation helps villages preserve and augment groundwater for today and future generations.

- 3 check dams
- 8 recharge wells
- 13 nallah bunds/gabions
- 170 contour trenches
- 58.5 acres farm bunding
- 147 acres deep ploughing
- 11 soak pits
- 11 soak wells

“Our village largely depends on groundwater. With time, the water level in tube wells dropped, as a result of which our crops suffered and agriculture became unprofitable. However, since the check dam has been built, the water level in my tube well has risen sharply in just 3-4 months. I am hopeful that this will lead to better farm yields.”

- Ramal
Member of Sukkal Khola Jal Prabandhan Samiti (Water Management Committee), village Rawli, Mewat district, Haryana
Increasing farm productivity

Sehgal Foundation promotes sustainable farming practices to increase productivity.

- 12,616 farmers reached
- 2,764 farmers trained
- 3,201 demonstrations on crop nutrient
- 50 demonstrations on animal nutrition
- 109 animals insured
- 270 soil samples tested

“The farm demonstrations helped us understand the benefit of balanced fertilizers. I applied this knowledge in my field, and my millet and mustard yields increased by 35% and 25%, respectively. This increased my annual income from 1.25 lakh to 2 lakh rupees from my four acres of land.”

– Kaasam
Farmer, village Raniyali, Mewat district, Haryana
Strengthening village-level institutions

Sehgal Foundation builds capacities of village-level institutions to become more responsive, accountable, and transparent.

52 villages covered
50,428 villagers reached
1,389 people accessed government programs
377 trainings held

“I used to be a little apprehensive talking to government officials, as I did not know how to read or write. But as I started meeting officials more regularly, my confidence slowly grew. I have never sent my husband or son to execute my panchayat (village council)-related work. I always talk to the concerned authorities on my own.”

- Vimla
Sarpanch, village Sarai, Mewat district, Haryana
Creating water security in dry villages

Sehgal Foundation works to improve water availability in water-stressed villages through rainwater harvesting and storage structures.

9 rainwater harvesting systems
39 bio-sand filters
1 drinking water well platform
22 water management committees
32 trainings/exposure visits
132 awareness sessions

“Our school has no water supply. Earlier, the water was brought in from the village wells or through paid water tankers. The tanker water was unsafe for drinking, and many students fell ill. With Sehgal Foundation’s intervention of rainwater harvesting, we now have access to clean drinking water. This water is also used for cooking and sanitation purposes. Life is easy with good health.”

– Vishal Garg
Junior Basic Training student, village Malab, Mewat district, Haryana
Women farmers grow to be decision makers

Sehgal Foundation helps to foster rural prosperity by empowering women farmers as agricultural decision makers.

3,037 women farmers reached
464 demonstrations on crop balance nutrition
136 soil samples tested
729 women farmers trained
108 demonstrations on animal nutrition
Sustainability fund of Rs. 280,224

“Before, I did not know anything about new farming practices. Now, as a Krishi Sakhi (Farmer’s Friend), I have an identity of my own. People respect me for the knowledge I give them. The men in my family feel proud of me after seeing my contribution to our farming community.”

– Sushila
Krishi Sakhi, village Bhayadi, Alwar district, Rajasthan
Championing rural voices for change

Sehgal Foundation’s community radio initiative Alfaz-e-Mewat (Rural Voices of Mewat) FM 107.8 provides a platform for rural communities to learn from one another, share their concerns, and be entertained. The station broadcasts twelve hours a day, seven days a week to 183 villages in Mewat.

- 11,024 calls received
- 57 radio volunteers
- 22 community events conducted/featured
- 19 special days celebrated

**New Series** cover tuberculosis, rural employment guarantee program, Panchayati Raj (village councils), listeners’ feedback, and more

“I don’t know how to express what I feel. Like men, I also have opinions, but they hardly take the shape of words. Initially, I felt skeptical about the women broadcasters’ training conducted by Sehgal Foundation. After attending the sessions, I feel that I can talk about issues that matter to me. In fact, I can talk about them openly now, even in the presence of men.”

- Bhagwan Devi
  Radio trainee, village Bhadas, Mewat district, Haryana

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**October 2015**

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<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
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<td>International Girl Child Day</td>
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<td>International Rural Women’s Day</td>
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**SEHGL FOUNDATION**
Sehgal Foundation promotes sustainable agricultural practices to enhance crop yields. Its crop improvement initiative helps the organization to advance its mission. It has:

- **70** superior hybrids promoted for further testing from 800 maize top cross hybrids
- **1,030** new top cross hybrids and 156 hybrids selected for Kharif (rainy season) 2014 evaluation
- **283** lines developed through doubled haploid technology
- **5** government trials consisting of 222 hybrids conducted
- **2,799** germplasm accessions in the gene bank

"Sehgal Foundation has been doing commendable work by investing in research and supplying maize germplasm materials, public lines, and pre-breeding materials. They also organize field days, where they invite maize scientists from public and private organizations to select the material in the fields and give them the necessary background information to make best use of the materials in their breeding programs."

- Dr. Vilas L. Chidley
  Advisor, Nongwoo Seed India Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru
Strengthening development initiatives through research

Sehgal Foundation engages in theoretical and empirical research to address rural development issues and to evaluate and refine its programs. Key research in 2013 included:

• Need assessment in villages of Haryana and Rajasthan to identify relevant interventions
• Midterm monitoring of Sehgal Foundation’s projects in water, agriculture, and communications
• Roundtable discussion on “Gaps in Gender Perspectives in Research and Action”
• Participation in national and international conferences to present research work
• Research projects completed for the NGO Ibtada and the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development

“As an intern with Sehgal Foundation, I had a close view of how the research team measured indicators of success and identified gaps in programs, enabling organizational initiatives to effectively reach rural communities and make a considerable positive difference. It also evaluates the work of other NGOs and does collaborative studies with the government. It helps in reaching out to grassroots communities in a better way, in terms of policy decisions and operations.”

– Bhawna Mangla
Former intern, studied at TERI University
FINANCIALS 2013-14

In FY 2013-14 (April 2013 - March 2014), the Sehgal Foundation (USA) granted to S M Sehgal Foundation US$ 1.63 million (Rs. 94,702,440). S M Sehgal Foundation also received funding from other organizations amounting to US$ 751,953 (Rs. 43,613,251).

These grants were used for water and agriculture projects (25%), good governance (10%), strengthening village-level institutions (8%), crop improvement (9%), rural research (7%), communications and partnerships (9%), general administration (13%), and building maintenance (19%).

ABRIDGED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2014

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<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
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<th>Current Year</th>
<th>Prev. Year</th>
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<td>Amount (US$)</td>
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<td>Self Generated Income</td>
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<td>Rent, interest, and other receipts</td>
<td>39,114</td>
<td>673</td>
<td>40,215</td>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<td>Indian sources</td>
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<td>275</td>
<td>9,392</td>
<td>174</td>
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<td>International sources</td>
<td>106,837</td>
<td>1,842</td>
<td>54,399</td>
<td>1,007</td>
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<td>161,927</td>
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<td>Program</td>
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<td>1,722</td>
<td>79,851</td>
<td>1,479</td>
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<td>Management</td>
<td>36,914</td>
<td>636</td>
<td>23,342</td>
<td>432</td>
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<td>Others</td>
<td>31,027</td>
<td>535</td>
<td>33,966</td>
<td>629</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>167,807</td>
<td>2,893</td>
<td>137,159</td>
<td>2,540</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Deficit)/Surplus</td>
<td>(5,880)</td>
<td>(103)</td>
<td>(33,153)</td>
<td>(614)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

OPERATING EXPENSES FY 2013-14: US$ 2.36 MILLION (Rs. 137 MILLION)
FOUNDERS

SURI SEHGAL

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 M/s Syngenta Seed, Egypt, and Syngenta Seed, India. He is also the Founder and Chairman of the Sehgal Foundation, USA, and S M Sehgal Foundation, India. Suri is the former President of Pioneer Overseas Corporation and Vice President Pioneer Hi-Bred International, now owned by DuPont. He is the Founder and Chairman of Proagro Group of companies, India, which were acquired by AgrEvo-Hoechst Schering in 1998, and are now owned by Bayer of Germany. He served on the board of Crop Design, a Belgian biotech company, now owned by BASF of Germany.

He served as a Trustee of International Tropical Agriculture, a CGIAR international center in Belgium, now a Bayer CropScience Company. He is the Founder and Chairman of Proagro Group of companies, India, which were acquired by AgrEvo-Hoechst Schering in 1998, and are now owned by Bayer of Germany. He served on the board of Crop Design, a Belgian biotech company, now owned by BASF of Germany.

EDDA G. SEHGAL

Edda is a Co-Founder and Trustee of the Sehgal Foundation, USA, and S M Sehgal Foundation, India. She was born in Brazil, Germany, and immigrated to the United States in 1952 to pursue liberal arts studies. She served on the Board of the Proagro Group and of Global Technologies Incorporated, USA, from 1990 to 1998.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND COUNCIL OF ADVISORS

BOARDS OF TRUSTEES

Ganesh Balchander, Director, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment, Bangalore, India, and Member of Curriculum Board of the Consilience Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). He also served as a Vice-President at Citibank, New York. Kornel Rawy, Distinguished Professor of Biology, University of Massachusetts—Boston, and Founder-President of the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment. Ben Sehgal, Member of the board of directors of the Sehgal Foundation, USA, and a Board Member of the William L. Brown Center at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, USA. Rajat Jyot Singh, Executive Vice President of the Sehgal Foundation, USA, and a representative of the S M Sehgal Foundation, India. Suhag P. Wani, Regional Theme Coordinator (Watersheds), Global Theme on Agro-Ecosystems, ICRISAT, Regional Theme Coordinator (Asia) and Principal Scientist (Water-Related), Global Theme on Agrosystems, ICRISAT.

COUNCIL OF ADVISORS

Nishat Farooq, President and Executive Director, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, and a member of the National Commission on the Status of Women. She is a member of the National Board for the Promotion of Human Rights and the National Commission on the Status of Women, and an independent consultant for UNESCO, NTSUJ (Japan) and NGOs.

Amstabh Kumbh, 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. Navtej Lohara, is the former Research Director of Plant Genetic Systems, now Bayer CropScience, Belgium. He was a Board Member of Hoechst AgriBio, Germany; of Honey, The Netherlands; of CropDesign, Belgium; and of the Flemish Institute for Biotechnology, Belgium. Takafumi Matsui, Professor Emeritus at the University of Tokyo and Director of the Miyazaki Biotechnology Research Center at Chiba Institute of Technology. Raman K. Sehgal holds a M.B.A. from Allahabad University, India, and a Master’s degree in Biotechnology from the University of Amsterdam, Netherlands. K. Venkatesh, an Associate Professor at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

Shyama Shankar is a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, and a lead expert in agricultural economics in India. She is currently the Managing Director and a Member of the board of directors of M/s Syngenta Seed, India. A member of the board of directors of M/s Syngenta Seed, India.

Bhupesh Singh, an Associate Professor at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. Manjula Sinha, an Associate Professor at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

CONSULTANTS

M.D. Arif, a retired Indian Administrative Service officer who has worked in the fields of public administration, good governance and public policy. He served on the Board of the Council for Social Development from 2002-04.

Elhona Husebek, Freelance Communications Specialist.

Ajay Kumar Pandey, Associate Professor and Executive Director (Clinical Programmes) at Jindal Global Law School.

TEAM

RURAL DEVELOPMENT (GURUGRAM)

Sonali Birje, Senior Research Associate

Hema Chugh, Accountant

Praksha Dur, Accounts Officer

Amrit Goyal, Group Leader, Projects

Debika Goswami, Program Leader, Governance and Policy Advocacy

Arundhati Grover, Program Leader, Communications

Sumita Guru, Associate Scientist, Rural Research

Bhakti Hansare, Research Associate, Rural Research

Vikas Jha, Group Leader, Governance and Policy Advocacy

Gomesh Kapali, Director, Finance and Administration

San Kapoor, Manager, Resource Mobilisation and Partnerships

Shiva Kapoor, Assistant Program Leader, Capacity Building

Charu Khanna, Communication, Communications

Pawan Kumar, Program Leader, Agricultural Development

Aparna Mahapatra, Director, Resource Mobilisation and Partnerships

Arijk Mahipal, Group Leader, Capacity Building

Pradeep K. Mehta, Group Leader, Rural Research

Prafull Mohapatra, Project Leader, Agricultural Development

Pooja M. Murarka, Director, Communications

Nirmal Harward, Program Leader, Governance and Policy Advocacy

B.R. Prasada, Program Leader, Capacity Building

Jayaprakash Prasad, Administration Manager

Pramodkumar S. Patil, Special Assistant to the CEO

Kuldeep Chaudhary, Water Management

Nikh Saxena, Senior Scientisit

Jane E. Schukoske, Chief Executive Officer

Hari Bhargavan Sharma, Documentation Consultant, Rural Research

Lail Molon Sharma, Director, Adaptive Technologies

Manoj Sharma, Manager, Information Technology

C. Shekhar, Manager, Accounts

Summit Sivan, Projects Associate

Sarabha Sood, Research Associate

Sarabha Srivastava, Assistant Program Leader, Capacity Building

Amal Sunhar, Research Associate

SUPPORT TEAM (GURUGRAM)

Ram Bahadur, Kulkinder Chandel, Arvind Kumar, Jeetendra Kumar, Ruma Khan, Lakshai Singh, Sharma Singh, and Surender Singh

CROP IMPROVEMENT (HYDERABAD)

Y. Venkatar, Scientist

S. V. Manjunatha, Scientist

T. Chandrahar, Special Project Scientist, Biotechnology

SUPPORT TEAM (HYDERABAD)

K. Chandrasekhar, Syed Chowdhry, V. Raghu, G. Shuvaran Kumar, K. Pandu, C. Venkatesh, and K. Venkatesh

FIELD TEAMS

Sahild Foundation field teams work in Mewat (Haryana), Alwar (Rajasthan), and Samastipur (Bihar).

Turn in on November 2014