EMPOWERING RURAL INDIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2014–15

CALANDAR

2016
Since 1999 Sehgal Foundation has worked to make a positive difference in the lives of the rural poor who seek and deserve secure, prosperous, and dignified lives. With this commitment and our desire to accelerate the very slow process of development, we moved forward with a dedicated team, learning along the way, shifting gears as needed, and building on our successes. This past year we continued to expand village activities and mobilization drives to empower rural communities in Haryana, Rajasthan, and Bihar. In concert with the extended 15-year celebration, the team took the opportunity to note our achievements, reflect back, and look ahead to evaluate new areas for further development. Foundation teams are studying community development priorities in more districts in Bihar and Rajasthan for opportunities to create meaningful change with partner-donor support.

Empowering rural women is central to our mission for strengthening community-led development and achieving positive social, economic, and environmental change. By focusing attention on the advancement of gender equity, Sehgal Foundation empowers villagers and their institutions to drive change in their communities. To support the growth of women leaders, the Sehgal Foundation team helped organize mahila sangathans (women’s collectives) for women from 100 villages. As the collectives register as societies, open bank accounts, and create a small corpus to fund their activities, groups of women are making positive changes in their villages. Because of this citizen participation, several Mewat villages are on a path to becoming demonstration models. In addition, by training other NGOs, collaborating with government, the corporate sector, and academia, and by participating in shared exchanges within community media networks, we are increasing our impact on other organizations as well as the communities we jointly serve.

With support from government and private donors, the foundation has worked alongside communities to manage water resources, increase agricultural productivity, and strengthen rural governance. Because community ownership is critical to the sustainability of village improvements, the Sehgal Foundation team has helped organize village development committees that operate, manage, and assist with all projects and partnerships to assure that improvements are maintained and that citizens are engaged.

The foundation team was happy to receive a prestigious Millennium Alliance Award in 2014 for the innovation of the pressurized recharge well. This replicable model has significant potential and is being tested in other contexts. The innovation was selected for a “lightning talk” at the United Nations Solutions Summit in September 2015. We were heartened to see that the top six of seventeen UN Sustainable Development Goals—a “universal set of goals, targets, and indicators” for UN members to use in framing their agendas and political policies over the next fifteen years—match the vision, mission, and programs of Sehgal Foundation.

There is plenty of work to be done to meet our goals. Please partner with us to help empower rural communities in India!

**Suri Sehgal**  
Founder and Chairman, Sehgal Foundation
In 2014–15

5,733 sushasan champions were trained in Mewat.

106,803 people were reached in community meetings.

Citizen participation

Village leadership schools (VLS) and block leadership schools (BLS) formed under Sehgal Foundation’s Sushasan Abhi (Good Governance Now!) initiative mobilize citizens to come together as a collective. VLS brings 20–25 people together in each village to impart knowledge and information regarding pivotal government programs and the details of grievance redressal mechanisms. These active and trained villagers, called sushasan champions, work to improve village governance.

January 2016

December 2015

February 2016

New Year's Day

Republic Day
In 2014–15

607 women were active in five mahila sangathans.

Development through collective action

Strengthening Village Level Institutions initiative helped the women in village institutions in Mewat to organize into block-level sangathans (women's collectives). The collectives include members of panchayats (village councils), school management committees, and village health, sanitation, and nutrition committees. The aim of sangathans is to lead the development process in the villages and improve the existing governance situation.
Rainwater is an ultimate and renewable source of freshwater in saline groundwater areas. One of our innovative solutions, creating a freshwater pocket within the saline aquifer through rainwater harvesting, won a Millennium Alliance Award in 2014 and was featured at the United Nations Solutions Summit in September 2015.

In 2014–15, 22 rainwater harvesting systems were constructed in schools, and 14 in households.

Innovative Solutions for Saline Groundwater Areas

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We work with women farmers to become empowered as decision makers. The foundation partners with corporations on two women-centered agricultural projects that focus on improving farm livelihoods. The foundation demonstrates the use of sustainable farming practices, including soil testing and balanced nutrient applications, the use of suitable seed varieties, appropriate seed rate, and pest management, in order to help farmers improve soil health, conserve water, and increase crop yields.
In 2014–15

Radio broadcasts reached 225 villages.

Community radio promotes good governance

*Kanoon ki Baat* (Talk on Law), a radio program series with National Legal Services Authority, helped build awareness about availability of free legal services. Another pilot initiative, *Humara Ration Humara Haq* (Our Ration, Our Right), engaged community radio in five states in a collaboration to broadcast twelve episodes on Public Distribution System informing listeners about the entitlements guaranteed under the National Food Security Act 2013.
In 2014-15

9 research studies were conducted, including baseline surveys, thematic studies, and impact assessments.

Strengthening development through participatory research

Sehgal Foundation’s Rural Research team engages rural communities in studies on evidence-based impact assessments that are used as practical tools to measure and evaluate outcomes, assess learning, inform future actions, and determine potential for additional development and policy research.
Information Communication Technology for Good Governance

Sehgal Foundation uses information communication technology tools to help bridge the information gap among villagers. The Citizen Information and Support Center (CISC) set up in Nuh, Mewat, enables citizens to access information on key government programs. Villagers call on a toll-free phone number to ask questions, learn about formalities for accessing entitlements, and receive information about the functions and contact information of local government offices and administration.

In 2014–15

The CISC responded to the 1,764 calls received and provided further support to 406 villagers seeking guidance.

July 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
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</tbody>
</table>
Accessing water

Sehgal Foundation is working to improve access to water by augmenting groundwater levels with the help of check dams, contour trenches, nallah bunds, dug well recharging, pressurized recharge wells, and pond development. Trained village water committees and user groups, with women participants, effectively manage water resources and maintain the structures for long-term sustainability.

**IN 2014-15**

29 recharge wells and 6 check dams for water augmentation were completed.
In 2014–15

222 water literacy sessions were held.

Developing low-cost technologies for safe drinking water

Each year many lives are lost due to waterborne diseases like diarrhea and pneumonia. The stainless steel biosand filter developed by Sehgal Foundation removes biological contamination, iron, and suspended impurities from water to make it safe for drinking and other uses. The filter can also be adapted for arsenic removal. It has no operation and maintenance cost and works under the force of gravity without using any form of energy.
Our donors make a difference

Sehgal Foundation, based in Des Moines, Iowa, USA, is a 501(c) (3) tax-exempt private foundation that was established in 1998. The US team works with communities in Iowa and other states to support the work of S M Sehgal Foundation in India. We thank all our donors for supporting us to make a positive difference in the lives of rural people. The pages ahead present a comprehensive list of donors, alongside our institutional partners.

In 2014–15

Individual donors’ contributions supported water improvements in five villages.

October 2016

Gandhi Jayanti 2

International
Rural Women’s
Day 11

Dusshera 10

Deepavali 17

First Quarter new Moon 30

last Quarter Full Moon 23

International
Day for Eradication of
Poverty 17

International
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Crop improvement research for higher yields

Sehgal Foundation crop improvement research unit housed at ICRISAT, Hyderabad, is recognized as a Scientific and Industrial Research Organization by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

In 2014–15

- Evaluation of hybrids and inbred lines continued to progress at target locations for yield and combining ability respectively. Screening of public lines and breeding material for leafy diseases is continued in the hot spot location.
- Kasetsart University of Thailand and Sehgal Foundation signed a memorandum of understanding on the exchange of germplasm.

October 2016

November 2016

December 2016

Children’s Day
Promoting sustainable agricultural practices

Sehgal Foundation helps to foster rural prosperity by empowering small landholder farmers to help them identify and utilize sustainable agricultural methods and access available government subsidies. Our projects provide training to improve soil health, conserve water, and increase crop yields to create overall improved productivity and farm income. The training also emphasizes livestock management, including complete nutrition, vaccination, breed improvement, and insurance for farm animals.

In 2014–15

3,277 crop demonstrations and 176 livestock nutrients demonstrations took place.
These grants and other income (interest and office space rental) were used for water management (25%); agricultural development (7%); rural research (7%); good rural governance (20%); communications and resource mobilization (7%); crop improvement research (11%); general administration (8%) and maintenance of office buildings (15%).

ABRIDGED BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31 MARCH 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>Amount (`00)</th>
<th>Amount (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed assets</td>
<td>312,027</td>
<td>5,517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans and advances</td>
<td>11,387</td>
<td>673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td>71,514</td>
<td>1,017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income and expenditure account balance</strong></td>
<td>359,108</td>
<td>6,501</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Liabilities**
- Corpus fund: 1 (`00)
- Current liabilities: 49,196 (`00)
- Income and expenditure account balance: 345,191 (`00)

**Total**
- 395,108 (`00)
- 6,501 (`00)

**ABRIDGED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>Amount (`00)</th>
<th>Amount (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Self Generated Income</td>
<td>38,256</td>
<td>629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian sources</td>
<td>15,061</td>
<td>248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International sources</td>
<td>142,042</td>
<td>2,337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>195,359</td>
<td>3,214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditure</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>119,790</td>
<td>1,971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>32,995</td>
<td>543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>28,587</td>
<td>670</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>181,372</td>
<td>2,984</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>(Deficit)/Surplus</strong></td>
<td>13,987</td>
<td>(5,880)</td>
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</table>

**Expenditure during FY 2014-15 US$ 2.5 Million (Rs 153 Million)**

**Financials 2014-15**

In FY 2014-15, the Sehgal Foundation, USA, grants to S M Sehgal Foundation amounted to US$ 1.96 million (Rs 118,830,671). S M Sehgal Foundation also received funding from other organizations amounting to US$ 539,210 (Rs 32,773,108).

We thank our individual and online donors.
Partnerships at a Glance (April 2014 – March 2015)

**Agricultural Development**
- K+S Kabi GmbH Fertilizers (India) Pvt Ltd
- Misr Hytech Seed Int. Ltd., S.A.E. and NGO partner
- Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of Egypt, and Mosaic India Private Limited and The Mosaic Foundation in the Netherlands
  - December 2015–December 2016
- Agricultural Development and Water Management in Alwar
  - May 2012–May 2013
- Aajeevika
  - February 2014–February 2015

**Communications**
- Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA)
  - January-May 2015
- Department of Advertising and Visual Publicity
  - January-February 2015
- India: Turist, Life skill education centers
  - January 2015
- Karnataka Badi Foundation
  - January-February 2015
- Mewat: Project to develop water supply
  - January 2015
- Rural Development (NABARD)
  - January 2015
- Surinder (Suri) M. Sehgal
  - January 2015
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- FORTUDES TRUSTEES

**FOUNDER TRUSTEES**

**SURINDER (SURI) M. SEHГAL**
- M. Sehgal, PhD, is cofounder and chairman of Board of Trustees of S M Sehgal Foundation, founder and chair of Mir Hytech Seed, Egypt, Hytech Seed, India, and Sehgal Foundation in the US; founder of William L. Brown Center for Economic Botany at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Missouri, and emeritus trustee of the Garden.
- He served 24 years as president of overseas operations and pioneer, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, in executive positions at Plant Genetic Systems, Belgium, Hoechst Schering AgroVio, Germany, and as founder, with his wife Edda, in Proagro Inc, in India.

**EDDA G. SEHГAL**
- Edda G. Sehgal, educated at Hohenstaufen-Gymnasium, Goppenstein, Germany, is cofounder and trustee of the Sehgal Foundation USA and S M Sehgal Foundation in India. With her husband Suri, she cofounded and served actively on the board of Proagro Inc and of Global Technologies Incorporated, USA, from 1990 to 1998.

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**BOAND OF TRUSTEES**
- Kamal Bawa, PhD, distinguished professor of biology, University of Massachusetts-Boston, and founder-president of the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment.
- Ganesan Balachander, PhD, director, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bangalore, India, and member of Consortium of Board of the Cumulative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).
- Ben Sehgal, PhD, member of the board of directors of Sehgal Foundation, USA, and board member of the William L. Brown Center at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Missouri, and member of Trustee of the Garden.
- Rajat Jay Sehgal, executive vice president of Sehgal Foundation and managing director of Hytech Seed India Private Limited; former managing trustee and executive director of the Sehgal Foundation.
- Suhas P. Wani, PhD, regional theme coordinator (Asia) and principal scientist (Water) at the Global Theme on Agro ecosystems, ICRIAS.

**COUNCIL OF ADVISORS**
- Nisar Feroze, director, retied, State Resource Centre, Delhi, which included the National Nodal Centre for Gender Planning, member of the National Book Promotion Committee, Ministry of Human Resource Development, in-charge of the UNESCO, NCUE, and JNMI (India) and NGOs.
- Ashish Kanda, PhD, chairperson of the Technical Advisory Committee on Housing Start-up index at RBI and Committee to Estimate Shortage of Affordable Housing, Government of India, former member of National Statistical Commission Government of India, former dean, School of Social Sciences, JNU, and former director, National Institute of Urban Affairs, Indian Council of Social Science Research and Gujrat Institute of Development Research.
- Jan Leemans, PhD, professor of Urban Studies at Wageningen University, the Netherlands, and director, the Flemish Institute for Urban Affairs.
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- Anil Bhair, president, CII, Chief Minister, Delhi, which included the National Nodal Centre for Gender Planning, member of the National Book Promotion Committee, Ministry of Human Resource Development, in-charge of the UNESCO, NCUE, and JNMI (India) and NGOs.
- Raman K. Sehgal, MD, former president and geneticist from CIMMYT, World Food Prize laureate, and recipient of Dr. M. S. Swaminathan Award for Leadership in Agriculture.
- B.R. Pratap, former president, Akshaya Patra Foundation, member of the Board of Directors of Global Technologies Incorporated, USA, and founder-vice chairman of Global Technologies Incorporated.
- Devaki Bhawan, PhD, director, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bangalore, India, and member of Consortium of Board of the Cumulative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).
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