

EMPOWERMENT IN COLLECTIVE ACTION





WHAT WE DO

We work together with rural communities to create sustainable programs for managing water resources, increase agricultural productivity, and strengthen rural governance. Our team's emphasis on gender equality and women's empowerment in each program is driven by the realization that human rights are central to developing every person's potential.

VISION

We envision every person across rural India empowered to lead a more secure, prosperous, and dignified life.

MISSION

Our mission is to strengthen community-led development initiatives to achieve positive social, economic, and environmental change across rural India.



Message from the Chairman

As we approach the completion of a second decade of partnerships with an ever-expanding number of India's rural communities, the Sehgal Foundation team continues to be heartened by the power of collective action to create positive change in the lives of the poor. With ongoing collaboration and support from corporations, government departments, educational institutions, interns, volunteers, and individual donors, community-led initiatives have spread to more than 735 villages in fourteen districts of seven states.

Such partnerships make it possible to scale up, replicate, and combine successful models in agricultural development, water management, and rural governance in more communities. These collaborations inspire and empower villagers to come together to take responsibility for their own further development. As a result, village-level institutions such as *mahila sangathans* (women's collectives), *krishak* (farmer) groups, school management committees, *gram panchayats* (village councils), village and block leadership schools, village development committees, and other local groups and individuals are taking collective actions to create positive changes.

Each month of this 2019 calendar highlights an initiative that reflects the growing empowerment of rural communities as well as the adaptive technologies, research tools, policy initiatives, processes, trainings, and formats that are making a sustainable impact. The examples are inspired by a shared vision that each person deserves a more secure, prosperous, and dignified life, and a commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment. With the help of the foundation's

community radio, programming reaches women and girls who have long been isolated, giving them information and tools to help them take the first steps to use their voices in their families and in their communities. Programs on agriculture, government services, citizens' rights, environmental, and health issues are reaching a larger audience, and programming is shared with other community radio stations across India.

Similarly, the more recent Transform Lives one *school at a time* initiative, with support from donor groups and individuals in several parts of the US and elsewhere, has already demonstrated that a safe and properly equipped school with drinking water and separate toilets for boys and girls results in increased school enrollment, and more girls stay in school. We see that schoolchildren make good use of digital literacy training, life skills education, and awareness of good rural governance to help their families and their communities. The lives of schoolchildren in 640,000 more government schools are in need of similar transformations so they can help create a brighter future for all of rural India.

In keeping with UN Sustainable Development Goals, Sehgal Foundation will continue to seek partnerships to take collective actions to end poverty and promote gender equality and basic human rights. Collective action is the key to empowering communities to achieve positive social, economic, and environmental change across India. Every individual effort makes a difference.

Suri Sehgal
Founder and Chairman



THINGS GET SOLVED WHEN TOGETHER WE GET INVOLVED

Village development committees (VDCs) in village Dholidhoop and Sohnpur, Alwar, Rajasthan, got together and contributed in cash and kind to maintain the water infrastructure and the school renovation interventions so that they continue to benefit from the interventions and ensure their sustainability. The VDC effectively uses the maintenance fund for upkeep and repairs of rainwater harvesting and other components whenever needed as citizens embrace ownership and responsibility.



IMPACT

- More than 28,000 villagers benefited from various water augmentation interventions including 14 check dams, recharge wells, storage tanks, and rainwater harvesting structures.
- As of March 2018, 407 villages had 65 check dams and 83 common storage rainwater-harvesting systems.





DRINK PURE, LIVE MORE

Prince, age twenty-two, is a resident of Vaishali district in Bihar. Prince recalls how most of the hand pumps in his village were marked red by official departments, forbidding people from using water from these pumps. The arsenic, high iron contamination, and coliform presence made the water unfit for drinking until he was convinced to install a *Jalkalp* water filter in his house. The family's dependence on purchased water was reduced considerably along with decreased incidences of ill health in his family.



IMPACT

- More than 16,000 people have access to clean drinking water.
- 920 Jalkalp water filters were installed at the household level.
- As of March 2018, 1,605 water filters serve rural households with safe drinking water.





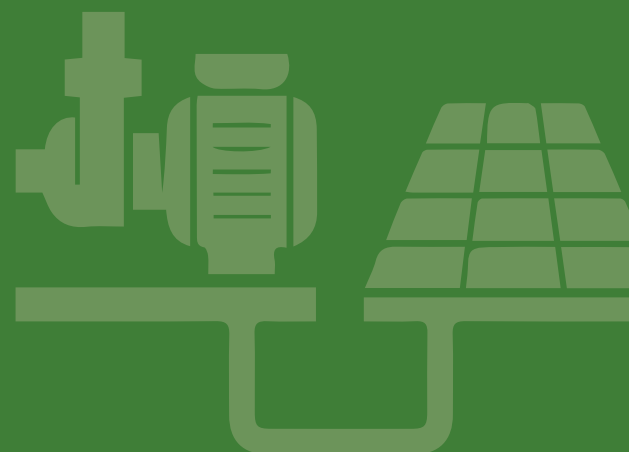
FARMERS FEEL CALM WITH A SOLAR PUMP ON THE FARM

Saroj, a resident of village Sahori, Alwar district, Rajasthan, has been practicing agriculture for about eight years. She is a new user of solar pumps for spraying medicines and fertilizers, rather than using the conventional method, which was painful for her hands and shoulders. Women have been forming groups to buy a solar spray pump to use collectively and use a timetable that allows everyone convenient access to use the pump. Saroj says, “Now we do not have to depend on the men of the house to help us, as the solar spray pump is easy to use and is environment-friendly too. Such initiatives encourage women farmers like us to come together and share inputs and feedback.”



IMPACT

- 402 acres covered through solar irrigation.
- 1,896 acres of area covered under zero tillage.
- As of March 2018, 788 acres irrigated through solar pumps and 2,763 acres area under zero tillage.





SLOW THE FLOW: WATER EFFICIENCY IN AGRICULTURE

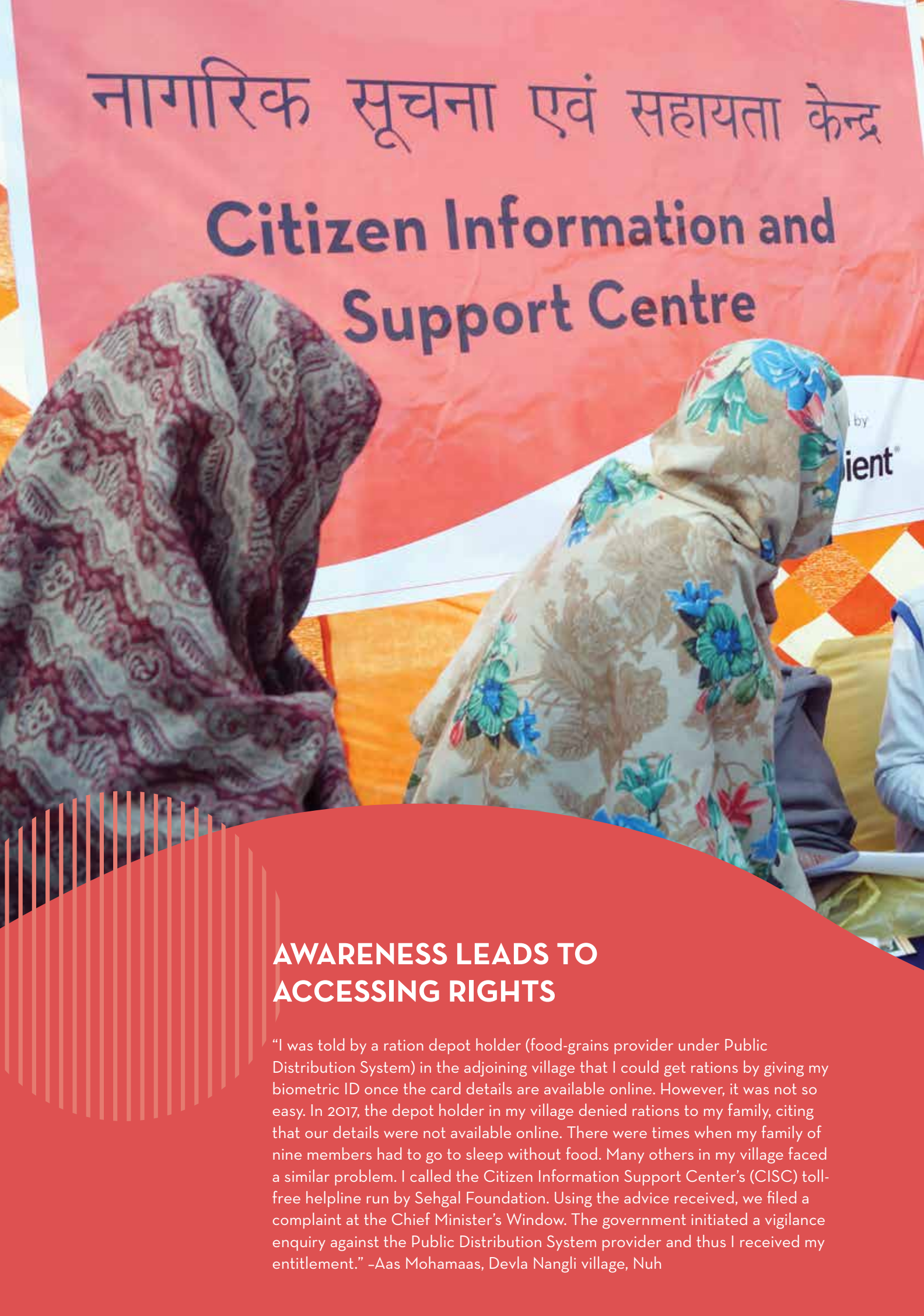
Improving water-usage efficiency in agriculture in Haryana and Rajasthan—both semiarid districts with limited groundwater—is crucial. A majority of farmers in these regions practice flood irrigation without proper field leveling. Water usage is high due to the cultivation of water-intensive crops such as wheat, onion, cotton, tomato, eggplant, etc. To improve water security in the districts, Sehgal Foundation piloted the use of laser levelers to assess the impact on water saving and other benefits. The success prompted the team to take the intervention forward.



IMPACT

- 431 acres of laser leveling were done.
- 373 acres of short-duration pigeonpea were adopted by 610 farmers for crop diversification.
- Six salt-tolerant varieties of wheat and mustard were promoted among farmers.
- As of March 2018, 640 acres of laser leveling were done and 473 acres covered with drip and sprinkler irrigation.



A photograph of two women, seen from the back, looking at a large poster. The woman on the left wears a sari with a red and grey pattern. The woman on the right wears a sari with a beige background and blue and green floral patterns. The poster has a red background with text in Hindi and English. The Hindi text at the top reads 'नागरिक सूचना एवं सहायता केन्द्र'. Below it, the English text reads 'Citizen Information and Support Centre'.

नागरिक सूचना एवं सहायता केन्द्र

Citizen Information and Support Centre

AWARENESS LEADS TO ACCESSING RIGHTS

“I was told by a ration depot holder (food-grains provider under Public Distribution System) in the adjoining village that I could get rations by giving my biometric ID once the card details are available online. However, it was not so easy. In 2017, the depot holder in my village denied rations to my family, citing that our details were not available online. There were times when my family of nine members had to go to sleep without food. Many others in my village faced a similar problem. I called the Citizen Information Support Center’s (CISC) toll-free helpline run by Sehgal Foundation. Using the advice received, we filed a complaint at the Chief Minister’s Window. The government initiated a vigilance enquiry against the Public Distribution System provider and thus I received my entitlement.” –Aas Mohamaas, Devla Nangli village, Nuh



IMPACT

- 4,610 calls were received at the CISC, and more than 1,656 people availed their benefits after receiving the information.
- More than 5,400 people participated in four legal literacy camps organized during the year, and about 3,000 people received support to file applications and register their complaints and grievances.
- As of March 2018, 16,723 calls were received at the CISC and 42,498 villagers participated in the legal literacy camps.



STRONG CITIZENS BRING SOLUTIONS

As part of digital literacy and life skills education centers, students in villages Sakras and Nawli, Nuh, led immunization drives breaking the long-held myths about immunization. Mothers believed that children fall ill and vaccinations cause severe body pain and fever in infants. Due to this false myth, many mothers were afraid to have their infants immunized. A door-to-door immunization campaign carried out together with the local health department led to the immunization of many infants in these villages and brought drop-out infants back onto the immunization cycle. *Mahila sangathans* exemplified collective action by solving diverse village problems involving water and sanitation, closing down of liquor shops, monitoring of midday meal preparation and *anganwadis* in schools, and mobilizing communities to maintain and sustain water infrastructure in villages.



IMPACT

- More than 1,000 students graduated from 27 digital literacy and life skills education centers in Nuh and Alwar.
- 201 mahila sangathan members were trained.
- 2,533 Village Level Institution (VLI) members were trained and 52 poor-functioning VLIs (school management committees, village health sanitation and nutrition committees) were revived.
- As of March 2018, 6,504 members of village-level institutions trained on their roles and responsibilities and 901 mahila sangathan members were trained.





RADIO OPENS THE MINDS: STORYTELLING IS MAKING ITS MARK WITH LISTENERS

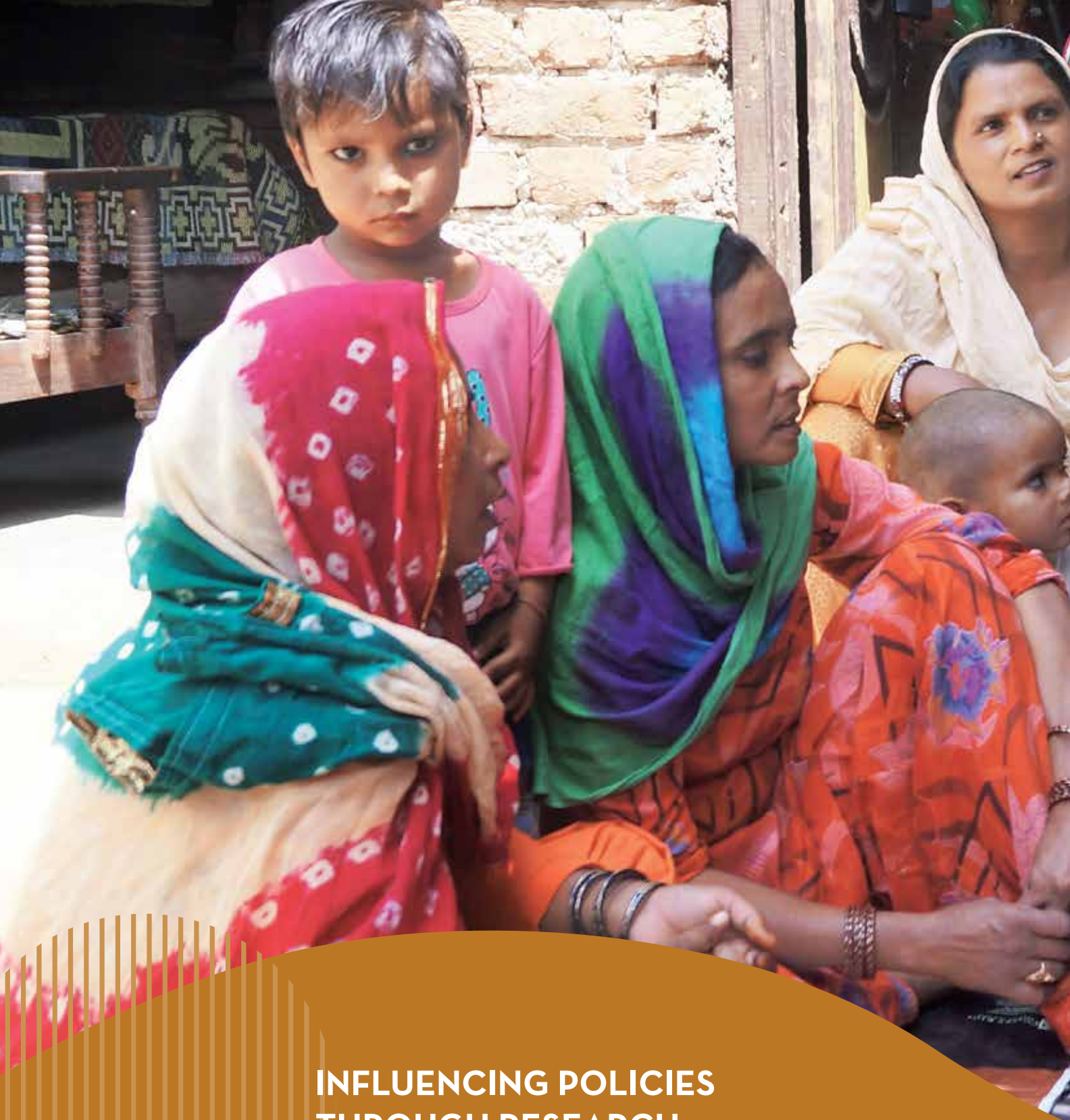
Even a sensitive topic can be best communicated through the medium of the story. Storytelling makes it [the instance] relatable while protecting the identity of the person concerned. Establishing and maintaining a connection with the audience is paramount, without which the radio cannot be successful. Arousing curiosity in the minds of the audience and taking them on a journey of a character they have never met is an art, and storytelling captures this beautifully, provided the nuances of this art—such as the links between the story and the interest and concerns of the audience and a well-modulated voice—are mastered.” – Fakat, a community radio presenter.



IMPACT

- Thirteen hours of programming were broadcast per day.
- Thirty-one days of national and international topics were covered with special radio programs.
- More than 6,000 live and recorded calls were received on radio, at least 20 percent from women.
- The radio station had a presence in the Global Women Conference in Beirut, Lebanon, for the series on adolescents: *Kuch Tum Kaho Kuch Hum Kahan*.





INFLUENCING POLICIES THROUGH RESEARCH

The Development Research and Policy Initiatives (DRPI) team continued to expand the scope of research work at Sehgal Foundation to influence desired policy with knowledge obtained and created at the grassroots. The DRPI team conducts thematic research in the areas of food security, water security, and social justice and disseminates policy insights to peers and partners as well as participating in contemporary development discourse. This past year, the DRPI team pursued a wide array of rural research issues including agricultural productivity and information management behaviors of farmers, the state of drinking water and sanitation, water availability and rural livelihoods, primary education, and the impact of international networks on rural development.



IMPACT

- Research linkages were made by fostering partnerships with seven reputable institutions.
- Fourteen individual or joint submissions were made to enhance outreach of Sehgal Foundation's work in development including the Statement to 56th Commission for Social Development titled "Strategies for Eradicating Poverty to Achieve Sustainable Development for All," which was then published in six official United Nations languages.





DIGITIZING DATA COLLECTION

“Collecting data using tablets is easy and more accurate. I was introduced to the internet after I started working on a tablet. Now I can comfortably work on MS Office, Excel, and with social media tools, including Whatsapp and Youtube. From a layperson who did not even know to use mobile devices optimally, I know a lot today.”

–Mohd. Jamshed, field coordinator

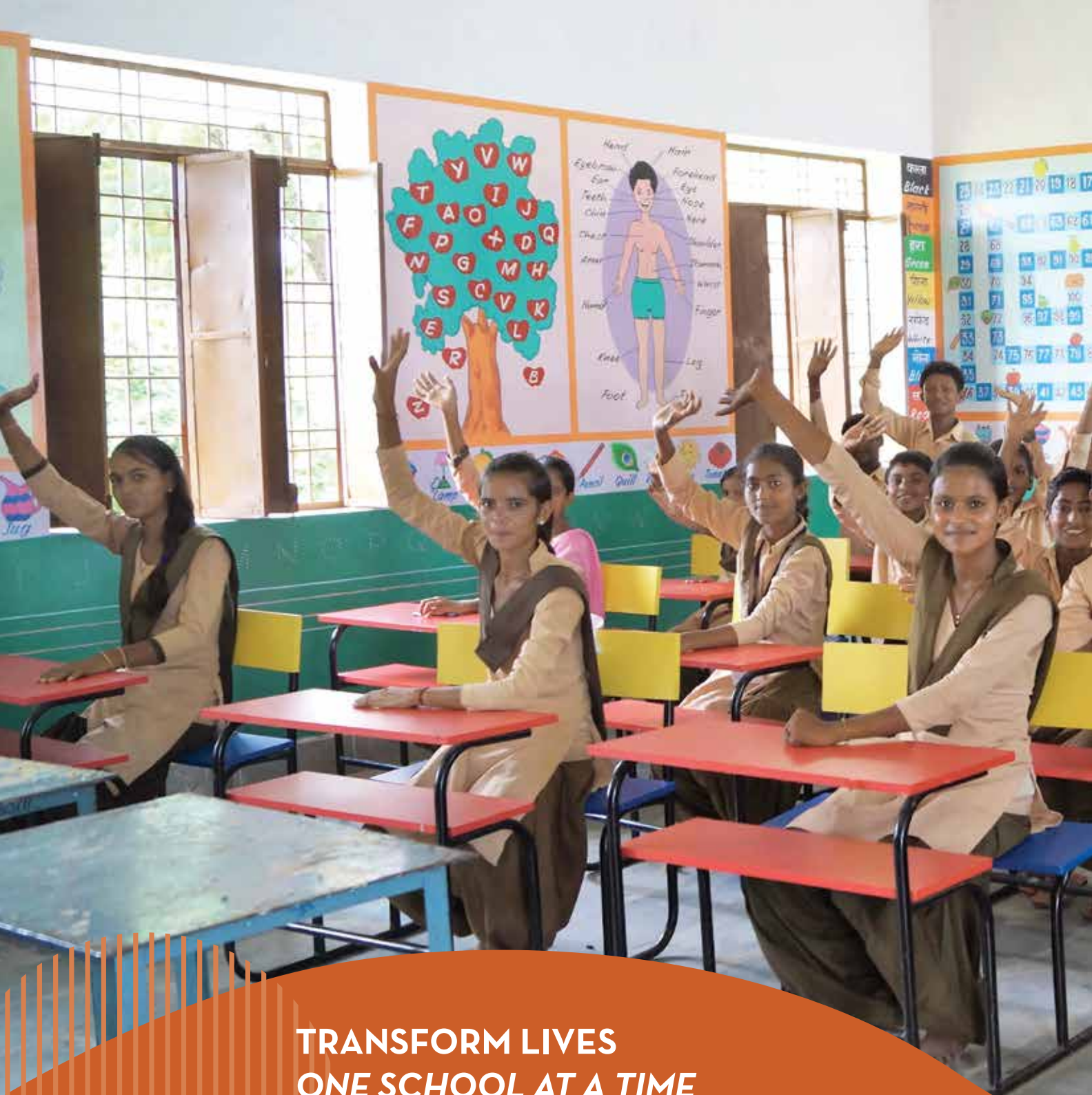
The Research, Monitoring, and Evaluation (RME) team switched to paperless mode for data collection in field surveys. The team has successfully completed one year of digital data collection, which helps in many ways, including more accurate and real-time data gathering, eliminating the scope of manual data entry interface, and it is more user-friendly and less time-consuming.



IMPACT

- Nineteen studies including needs assessment, baseline, and evaluation studies.
- Five research papers were written and presented at national and international conferences and seminars.
- Key research themes included transforming girl-child education through participation of women teachers, the role of gender in typology of migration and its impact on women's empowerment, gender gaps in rural farming, adaptive strategies and vulnerability of climatic risks.
- A scientific compendium on Co-optimizing solutions in water and agriculture: Lessons from India for water security was published along with World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).
- Seven blogs and articles written by the RME team were published in popular magazines and web portals.





TRANSFORM LIVES ONE SCHOOL AT A TIME

Students from village Indragarh school, Alwar, Rajasthan, used *nukkad natak* (street play) for spreading the message of water conservation. Girls have always been affected the worst by water scarcity. Their digital literacy skills via the internet helped them to know how water is a grave problem worldwide and the efforts being done to tackle the issue. This inspired them to take an initiative regarding water literacy in their communities, which resulted in later inspiring many others students in other training centers to follow suit. The lives of schoolchildren are being transformed as their dilapidated and unsafe rural government schools are renovated and repaired to become secure and stimulating learning environments that meet students' basic needs for safety, clean drinking water, separate bathrooms for boys and girls, and the vital life skills education and training in digital literacy and good governance awareness. The result is a more promising and brighter future for all students, and especially for the girls who are becoming empowered to use their voices and make decisions in their homes and their communities.

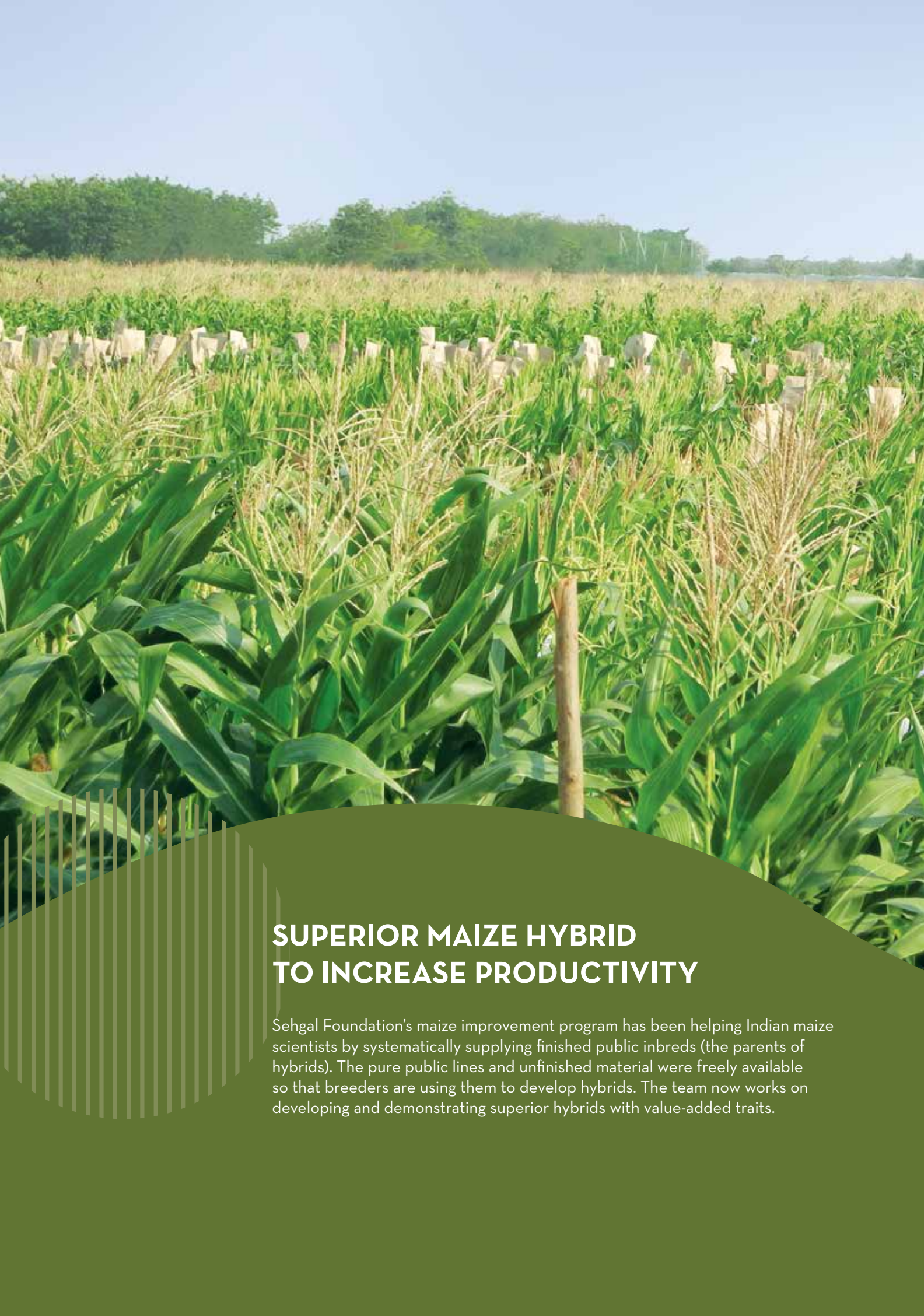


IMPACT

In the completed schools, school management committees are active and involved, student attendance has increased, girls want to stay in school longer and postpone marriage, and all students are more motivated and empowered. Their training has positively impacted their families as well as their communities.

- Fourteen schools renovated.
- The lives of more than 4,000 schoolchildren have been transformed.
- Children are assisting their families with their newfound skills.





SUPERIOR MAIZE HYBRID TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY

Sehgal Foundation's maize improvement program has been helping Indian maize scientists by systematically supplying finished public inbreds (the parents of hybrids). The pure public lines and unfinished material were freely available so that breeders are using them to develop hybrids. The team now works on developing and demonstrating superior hybrids with value-added traits.



IMPACT

- 1,000 hybrids were evaluated in target areas during rainy season.
- 700 new doubled haploidy (DH) lines were developed.
- 200 new germplasm accessions were acquired from International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) as a member of the International Maize Improvement Consortium.
- Acting as a voluntary center, the team conducted five CIMMYT trials and three IIMR trials.
- 67 DH lines moderately tolerant to tursicum leaf blight were screened and identified.





MEDIA FOR DEVELOPMENT

One of most lucrative investments is in people. The Sehgal Foundation team engaged with members of the media both locally and nationally highlighting the foundation's work and individual stories of empowerment. Foundation staff have worked tirelessly for grassroots development and the major initiatives and innovations featured in the media have inspired others and helped to build visibility and linkages with new like-minded individuals and organizations. The foundation's communication tools, including the monthly English newsletter, *Connect*, the quarterly Hindi publications, *Vikas Patrika* and *Sushasan Patrika*, as well as other information, education, and communication materials, the Citizen Information and Support Center (CISC), and community radio have all helped to accelerate the pace of development.

A media highlight was an episode on the founders, Dr Suri Sehgal and Mrs Edda Sehgal, as part of Zee TV's documentary series, *Those Who Made It*.



IMPACT

- More than 200 articles were published in print and online about Sehgal Foundation, and the organization received coverage on at least ten television segments.
- CISC received more than 4,600 calls from citizens seeking information on various government programs and seeking redressal, and more than 1,600 people received support from the center.



Financials 2017-18

In FY 2017-18, the Sehgal Foundation USA grants to S M Sehgal Foundation amounted to US\$ 1,868,400 (Rs 121,228,597). S M Sehgal Foundation also received funding and donation/contribution from other organizations and individuals amounting to US\$ 1,662,098 (Rs 108,036,363) and US\$ 39,825 (Rs 2,588,595) respectively. To date the total grants from Sehgal Foundation, USA have been \$26,549,381 (Rs 1,337,868,451).

These grants and other income (interest and office space rental - net of expenses for leased space) were used for water management (29%), agricultural development (18%), rural research (6%), good rural governance (22%), communications and resource mobilization (6%), crop improvement research (10%), and general administration (9%).

Abridged Income & Expenditure Account for the Year Ending March 31, 2018

Amount In '000

Particulars	Current Year Amount (Rs)	Current Year Amount (US\$)	Prev. Year Amount (Rs)	Prev. Year Amount (US\$)
Income				
Self-generated Income				
Rent, Interest and Other Receipts	54,190	834	59,886	924
Grants				
Indian Sources	55,971	861	7,413	114
International Sources	2,36,745	3,642	1,48,386	2,288
Total	3,46,906	5,337	2,15,685	3,326
Expenditure				
Program	2,23,306	3,435	1,77,045	2,730
Management*	23,896	368	19,168	296
Others (Depreciation)	21,440	330	23,362	360
Total	2,68,642	4,133	2,19,575	3,386
Deficit/Surplus	78,264	1,204	(3,890)	(60)

Exchange Rate INR 65/US\$.

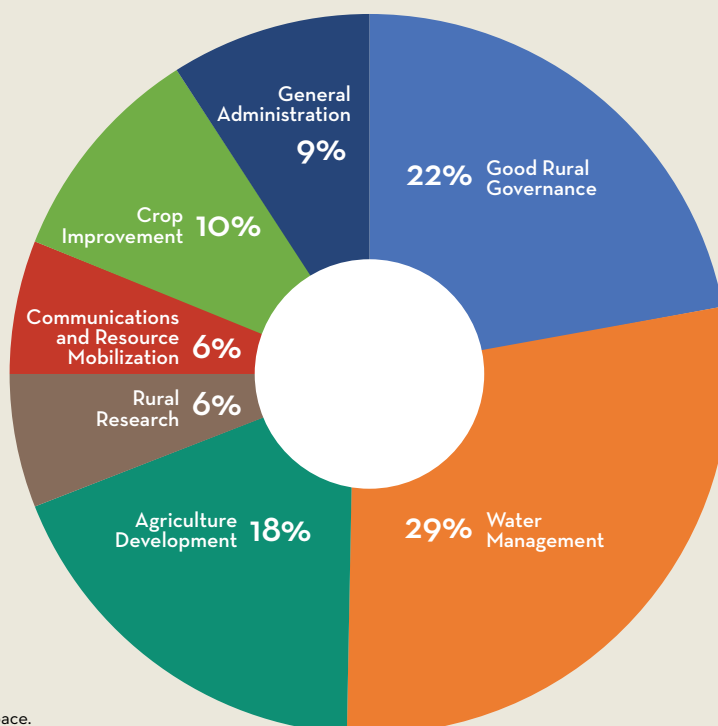
* Includes building maintenance expenses for the leased space.

Abridged Balance Sheet as on March 31, 2018

Amount In '000

Particulars	Current Year Amount (Rs)	Current Year Amount (US\$)	Prev. Year Amount (Rs)	Prev. Year Amount (US\$)
Assets				
Fixed Assets	2,66,154	4,095	2,71,404	4,186
Loans and Advances	6,194	95	1,496	23
Current Assets	1,66,026	2,554	1,42,573	2,199
Total	4,38,374	6,744	4,15,473	6,408
Liabilities				
Corpus Fund	1	1	1	1
Current Liabilities	37,746	581	93,109	1,436
General Funds	4,00,627	6,162	3,22,363	4,971
Total	4,38,374	6,744	4,15,473	6,408

PROGRAM EXPENSES DURING
FY 17-18 US\$ 3.48 MILLION
(Rs 226 MILLION)*



*Excluding building maintenance expenses for the leased space.

Cumulative program information (As of March 31, 2018)

GOOD RURAL GOVERNANCE

- **17,384** sushasan (governance) champion volunteers and village information and support group members have been trained.
- **42,498** villagers participated in legal literacy camps.
- **16,723** callers used the Citizen Information and Support Center toll-free helpline.
- **119** village-level health and sanitation committees were revitalized.
- **241** school management committees revitalized.
- **5,562** members of village-level institutions were trained on their rights.
- **3,771** children were trained in digital literacy and life skills education centers.
- **11,691** toilets were constructed under the Swachh Bharat (Clean India) Mission.
- **1,200** sanitation ambassadors were trained at the village level.
- **40** schools are benefiting from renovation projects that create stimulating learning environments for children in schools.
- **513** villages were reached.

WATER MANAGEMENT

- **65** check dams, **42** village ponds, **183** recharge wells, **52** nallah bunds, **1,850** soak pits, **163** soak wells, **83** common storage rainwater harvesting systems (community and household) were constructed.
- **2,261** water awareness and literacy sessions, trainings, and community meetings were held.
- **102** schools were provided with rainwater harvesting systems for safe drinking water.
- **1,605** water filters were installed.
- **17** high-pressurized recharge wells were designed to store freshwater pockets in villages with saline aquifers in school.
- **407** villages were reached.

AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT

- **2,147** training sessions were held on modern agriculture practices.
- **19,200** demonstration plots were created.
- **640** acres of laser leveling were done.
- **1,727** kitchen gardens provide nutritional food for families.
- **473** acres of drip and sprinkler irrigation were used.
- **788** irrigated area through solar pumps.
- **2,763** acres of land are under zero tillage.
- **269** villages have been reached.

Funding partnerships at a glance (April 1, 2017–March 31, 2018)

Partnering Organization	Project / Title	Duration
National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR)	Cooperation and consultation for joint training programs on rural development, co-organizing events, conducting joint research studies, project implementation, and promotion of Sehgal Foundation's rural technologies through Rural Technology Park at NIRDPR campus	Three years (June 2017–2020)
National Informatics Centre (NIC), Ultratech Seed Ltd.	Digital corridor project in Nunthakal village, Medchal district, Telangana	One year (August 2017–July 2018, extended)
Coca-Cola India Foundation	<i>Jaldhara IV</i> : Integrated water management for water security in select villages of Karauli district, Rajasthan	Two years (October 2015–September 2017)
Coca-Cola Foundation, USA	<i>Jaldhara V</i> : Construction of check dams and rejuvenation of traditional tanks in Anantapur district, Andhra Pradesh and Kolar district, Karnataka	Two years (January 2018–December 2019)
DCB Bank	Groundwater development in two villages of semi-arid Alwar district, Rajasthan	One year (March 2017–March 2018)
	Water for Schools in Nuh	One year (March 2017–March 2018)
	Rainwater harvesting in three government schools of Anantapur district, Andhra Pradesh	Nine months (March–November 2018)
Gateway Distriparks	Better Sanitation for Schools	One year (March 2017–March 2018)
	Water for Schools in Nuh	One year (March 2017–March 2018)
Department of Science and Technology, Govt.	Promoting community health by addressing incidences of waterborne diseases in select villages of Bihar	Three years (January 2017–December 2019)
NGC Network India Private Limited	Rainwater harvesting for a government school in Nuh	Four months (March–June 2017)
HDFC Bank	<i>Parivartan</i> (holistic rural development) in Nuh and Rewari	One year (October 2017–September 2018)
PTC India	<i>Gram Utthaan</i> -Integrated Village Development	Three years (January 2018–January 2021)
Bayer CropScience Limited	<i>Samagra Krishi</i> : Improving agriculture productivity and livelihood support to small and marginal farmers through agriculture diversification	Two years (December 2015–December 2017)
India Development and Relief Fund	<i>Jaagruk Krishak</i> : Agriculture development	Three years (June 2017–May 2020)
K+S Kali GmbH	<i>Unnat Krishi</i> : Empower rural women farmers by adopting sustainable farming practices for income enhancement in rural areas of district Alwar, Rajasthan	Five years (2013–18, grant extended)
PI Foundation	<i>Kaushal Krishak</i> : Mobile agri clinic for delivering doorstep extension services	26 months (April 2017–May 2019)
Mosaic Fertilizers India Pvt. Ltd., The Mosaic Company Foundation, USA	<i>Krishi Jyoti</i> : Agricultural development, capacity building of farmers and other stakeholders, water management, and school renovation in Alwar, Rajasthan, and Nuh, Haryana	Ten years+ (2008–2018, grant extended)
Fluor Daniel India Private Limited	Renovation of government school to provide a healthy and safe learning environment for children	One year (June 2016–May 2017)
Maruti Suzuki India Ltd	<i>Swachhta hai to Swasthya hai</i>	Two years (June 2016–August 2018)
Nourish International	Life Skills Education Project	Two years (June 2015–May 2017)
Sapient	<i>Gram Uday</i> : Strengthening Community-Led Development in Nuh	14 months (April 2017–May 2018)
Gartner	Develop villages to develop India - Integrated Village Development	One year (March 2018–March 2019)
Charities Aid Foundation and Oracle	Bridging the Internet literacy gap and promoting life skills education among rural schoolchildren in Nuh district, Haryana	One year (April 2016–April 2017)
ZS Associates	<i>Meri Paathshaala</i> : Government school renovation	Four months (May–August 2017)
UNDP	Mobilization of women and girls in Nuh district of Haryana for skill development	21 months (June 2016–Jan 2018)
Lady Bamford Charitable Trust	<i>Saksham</i> : Good Rural Governance and Sanitation	One year (June 2017–May 2018)
Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance Company Limited	<i>Samarth Vitya Vani</i> : Financial Literacy through Radio	Nine months (September 2017–June 2018)
CREA	Program series on adolescents exploring gender and gender roles through community radio Alfaz-e-Mewat FM 107.8	Six months (September 2017–March 2018)
University of IOWA	Better Sanitation for government school in village Satputiaka, Distt. Nuh, Haryana	One year (April 2017–March 2018)

We thank our individual and group donors

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