

The Sehgal Foundation

ANNUAL REPORT 2004 - 05

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From “watch things happen” to “make things happen”

The year 2004 has been a good year for the Sehgal Foundation. We have achieved tangible results in each of our key programs thus strengthening our belief in the “Integrated Sustainable Village Development” model. The quality of life in each of our core villages has improved. Public services are becoming more involved as our partners in health, education and agriculture. The initiative to bring about change in the villages has shifted from the Foundation to the community itself. It is gratifying to see that we have become facilitators more than initiators in our core villages. We are excited to see that the villages are beginning to compete with each other in speeding up the development of their respective village. This shift in attitude from “watch things happen” to ‘make things happen’ has been extremely satisfying.

The Foundation has worked with several new partners this year, all with impressive expertise at the grassroots level. In Haryana, for example, our new project to bring the community closer to government health services through the Panchayats is already showing results. Though the Foundation is an independent NGO working with its own resources, we strongly favour establishing and strengthening government linkages with a view to the future sustainability of our projects. Due to our staff’s continuous trust-building efforts, key government officials are increasingly confident and enthusiastic about the Foundation’s villages. They know they can count on the Foundation for the proper utilisation of their services.

Raising community awareness has been crucial to our initiatives. However we also find that the villagers often know what needs to be done, and only require some assistance to execute their own solutions. We believe the key to success is building upon technically strong yet cost-effective village infrastructure, and ensuring that villagers get the knowledge they need for its maintenance. “Show me how to improve things and I will continue when you may stop” is what we are hearing from the typical villager.

In our core villages, there is evidence of increased participation amongst even those groups who were initially reluctant to participate. Young men are now coming forward to volunteer for community projects. This is a direct result of our strategy to involve young men in various activities through youth clubs and educational trips. In this conservative society, though some women have started expressing leadership qualities, we need to further strengthen the platforms for women.



Suri Sehgal in conversation with village leaders.

Tangible achievements in water harvesting created the greatest enthusiasm amongst villagers, leading to positive coverage in local newspapers. Only after check dams were built could the villagers perceive the huge amount of water that was being wasted. In our Income Enhancement program, the on-farm activities have become increasingly sustainable. Now we need to aggressively strengthen entrepreneurship development through training in technical and business skills.

While we have moved forward this year, we also faced setbacks – predominantly challenges linked to inflexible mindsets. For example, the latrines project is not meeting target expectations, despite addressing various concerns voiced by the community. The reasons for this are multiple – but the key issue being that the adoption of innovation is delayed when the community has a substitute for which they do not have to pay. Preventive healthcare is another area where a challenging mindset shift is needed, one in which we will intensify our efforts. Villagers are used to curative healthcare practices where the physician is seen as responsible for the cure. They need to be re-educated and made aware of how much they can care for themselves. Our experience also shows that it takes about two years of working in a village before the community becomes receptive



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enough for us to address culturally sensitive issues such as counseling adolescent couples and youth on family planning issues.

In our Family Life Education program, we have supported the planning phase of an initiative by UNFPA/UNIFEM¹ to improve the social and economic opportunities for adolescent girls in India. This project will take place in Rajasthan, India, where although it is illegal, about 50% of rural women are married before they are 15 and the average life expectancy of women is 58. We hope to learn much from this study that could be applied to a range of our initiatives, and as it is designed to be shared with the policy makers, it is expected to have a wider impact.

Despite significant accomplishments, the need in India is enormous and rapid large-scale expansion of development work is urgent. As Phase I of developing our multi-disciplinary hands-on model is reaching completion, we are strategically planning Phase II – a cautious but realistic expansion plan to maximize the impact of our successes.

The Foundation's scaling-up approach is through training of Village Champions (VCs) at our Academy of Rural Research and Development (ARRAD), being built at Gurgaon. This year, the process of selecting VCs has been put in place, and the first batch started their six-month training in January 2005. Through VCs, the Foundation will directly implement its expansion in select villages, and its VC curriculum will be available to other organizations.

In 2004, eminent experts from a range of fields have joined our Board of Trustees and we are fortunate to have them guide our program leaders. I welcome our new trustees: Mrs. Nishat Farooq, Mr. Y.C. Nanda, Dr. J. Shukla, AVM Sahni, Mr. Om Thanvi and Mr. Jay Sehgal.

The Foundation is committed to the belief expressed by Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of free India — that the service of India means the service of millions who suffer. It means the ending of poverty, ignorance, disease and inequality of opportunity. Each of Foundation's programs is aimed at fulfilling this dream. We are doing in the villages what India's great leader expressed as a faith.

Since its inception, the Sehgal Family Foundation has supported ecological initiatives to conserve genetic resources. This year it became a founding partner of the United Nations Foundation's program on "World Heritage Biodiversity Program for India: Building Partnerships to Support UNESCO's World Heritage Program". This ten-year project will cover four of the five world heritage sites in India — including Kaziranga, Manas, Keoladeo and Nanda Devi National Parks. Additionally, we provided support to the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) of Mexico for their corn research in India. In 2004, the Foundation actively supported the formation of the India Development Coalition of America (IDCA), USA. IDCA's mission is to foster collaboration among non-profit organizations in the US interested in the development of India.

The Tsunami tragedy of December 2004 shook the whole world, killing some 300,000 people in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, India and Malaysia and leaving millions more without homes or livelihood. The Foundation financially supported the efforts of several non-profit organizations which responded effectively to the disaster and worked diligently to raise resources to help the victims of this tragedy.

I thank our partners, the village leaders, and all the volunteers for their outstanding work and exceptional commitment. The Foundation team has done tremendous work this year as in the past, and I congratulate them as we continue to work together in this challenging but deeply satisfying endeavor.



Suri Sehgal
Chairman



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¹ United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

About the Foundation

The Foundation is pro-poor, pro-women and children, non-political and non-religious.

Our focus is addressing sustainable development in India's village communities (Rural Development). In addition, we are engaged in research in crop improvement at facilities leased from International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad. Both in India and outside India, we support research in conservation of biodiversity and genetic resources.



Our Mission:

- To make a visible difference in the quality of life of rural people through better health, education, skills building and increased income
- To help increase farm productivity by promoting sustainable agricultural practices, and linking the farmer with the market
- To undertake crop improvement research, and support programs in biodiversity and genetic conservation



In 2004, the Foundation has provided support to the following organizations:

- **United Nations Foundation** – Biodiversity Heritage Project, India
- **United Nations Foundation** – “Delay age at marriage” Project, Rajasthan
- **ICREATE**, New York, USA, and Jaipur, India
- **International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)**, Hyderabad, India (On-going)
- **Plant Database Consortium** (On-going), Bangalore, India
- **Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment (ATREE)**, Belmont, USA (On-going)
- **Trees for Life** (On-going), USA
- **Iowa State University**, USA (On-going)
- **Institute of Plant Biotechnology for Developing Countries (IPBO)**, University of Ghent, Belgium (On-going)
- **International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)**, Mexico
- **Khoshoo Memorial Endowment Fund**, ATREE, India
- **Vidiyel Trust**, Vilathikulam, Tamil Nadu, India



- **Aravali Vikas Sangathan (ARAVIS)**, Haryana, India
- **Tata Energy Research Institute**, Delhi, India
- **Pardada Pardadi Educational Society**, Bulandshahar, Uttar Pradesh, India
- **Gandhi College**, Ballia district, Uttar Pradesh

Partner Organizations

The Foundation partners with select organizations. These partnerships vary in nature, depending on the identified need — and can be technical, financial or strategic. The Foundation maintains a broad network of contacts in all key areas, is constantly scouting for innovative rural technologies, and for the organizations doing high quality work in the area of rural development.



Technical Partnerships

The Foundation continues to strengthen its technical and knowledge sharing partnership with Development Alternatives (DA), to bring appropriate technologies to villages. Development Alternatives (with Swiss collaboration) is working with the Foundation on a project to bring sweet water to the villages of Mewat where the ground water is saline. Other Income Enhancement technologies from DA are also being deployed.

The Foundation's emphasis in 2004 has been on skills building and entrepreneurship for youth. A partnership project with Rural Development and Self Employment Training Institute (RUDSET) helped bring the knowledge of garment manufacturing, fabrication, mobile phone repair and other skills to the village youth.

We have also joined hands with "I CREATE", Jaipur, a partner organization of the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE), New York, USA. The aim of this project is to develop job creators instead of job seekers through business camps. Through training and encouragement we expect that 25% of the trained youth including women will strike out on their own.

We continue to bring sustainable farming technologies to Haryana farmers through our technical collaboration with International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT). This enabled us to provide nutrient kits for fields whose soil has degraded, along with a better variety of millet. To break the two-crop rotation in this area, groundnut (a legume crop) was introduced as an alternate short duration crop.

Strategic Partnerships

This year the Foundation took a strategic decision to accept three new projects that were offered to us.

The Population Foundation of India (PFI), through Vardaan Consultants, chose the Sehgal Foundation to work with Panchayat Raj members in strengthening the government Primary Health Care system. The project started in May 2004 and is initially scheduled for 18 months.

The Center for Development and Population activities (CEDPA) extended a research project to the Foundation to study the impact of the life skills curriculum on adolescent girls. The research was conducted with about 270 girls across eight of our villages.

The Foundation was invited to expand its work to the village of Jyotisar, Kurukshetra, Haryana, by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) through the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India. This offer matched our need to understand the dynamics of different communities and to fine-tune our "Integrated, Sustainable Village Development" model for replication across regions.

Public and Private Partnerships

Public agencies play a critical role in rural development. We are therefore keen to keep them informed of our activities, and involve them in our projects as much as possible. For this, we held an Advocacy Workshop with the government officials of Gurgaon in September 2004. The officials appreciated learning more about the Foundation's work at the grassroots level and have become proactive partners.

This year the Foundation became a member of the Credibility Alliance, a society whose objective is to enhance good governance in the non-profit sector to further its credibility with its stakeholders. Through this membership the Foundation has increased its networking and policy advocacy opportunities.

The Foundation was one of the case studies for research conducted by the Indian Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR) on the organizational sustainability of NGOs. Through this partnership, we received an invitation to present a paper at the international conference "Researching the Non-Governmental Sector: India and South Asia Perspectives" organized by IIHMR in collaboration with the London School of Economics in November 2004. A paper on "Sustainable Rural Water Management" was presented at this conference by Mr. Lalit Sharma, the Foundation's Program Leader for Water Management.

The College of St. Catherine, Minnesota, USA, conducted research in the Foundation's villages on the "Impact of community based programs on the well-being of rural women in India".

In May 2004, the Foundation applied for Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and expects to be part of this esteemed network in the near future.

Organizing the Community for Sustainable Development

Organizing the community for sustainable development is a challenging process, which usually takes a few years to stabilize. As the overall standard of living and education in the village is enhanced, we expect the community in turn will support the programs that provide them most value. This “virtuous cycle” must set in prior to our leaving the village.

Village Level Institution

The Foundation believes that in case the Panchayat is not adequately active or lacks leadership, a “Village Level Institution” (VLI) must be set up to raise funds and implement development projects. A typical VLI is expected to have representatives from all sections of the community, including women and youth. It implements projects by creating task forces from within the community. Initially, it relies on the Foundation staff to help it get established.

This year, we had mixed experiences with VLIs. The Ghaghas VLI has become more confident and undertook several projects in partnership with the Foundation. In Goela, after initial setbacks, a VLI has emerged after about six months of dormancy. In Agon, the VLI has been registered this year and has yet to take off. The following table is an indicator of the VLI’s relative empowerment and its ability to motivate the community after being set up.



The Status and Progress of VLIs

Village	VLI Status	Total VLI members	Independent Tasks Completed by VLI
Ghaghas	Registered in August'03 & Income Tax exempted	97	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – School boundary wall raised – Water supply pipe leakages sealed – Motivated the community to install soak pits and stand posts with taps – Mobilized the community to pay for solar street lights
Agon	Registered in November '04	31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Community meeting place repaired
Goela	Informal Association	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Village Education Committee revived and an additional teacher employed with 50% salary provided by the community

Village Champion

The driver behind sustainable development in the village, in our view, is the "Village Champion" (VC). The VC provides leadership in setting up the VLI and facilitating its activities. Intensive training on the programs and in community mobilization is provided to the VC by the Foundation. The VC is expected to serve as a trainer and a cheerleader during implementation of the projects.

A typical VC is a literate person selected from these villages. S/he is enthusiastic about the work, compassionate towards the villagers, and committed to the cause of social development. This year, we selected the first batch of six VCs through a systematic process. Their training includes project management, fund-raising and program details. The Program Leaders have prepared a comprehensive draft curriculum for their training, which will be refined after our experience with these champions is assessed.

From Model to Replication

Phase 1 of the Foundation's strategy was focused on the development of the "Integrated, Sustainable Village Development" (ISVD) model. It allowed our Program Leaders to determine costs, timelines, benefits, community psychology, and sustainability issues through intensive work in our model villages.

In 2004, we initiated Phase 2 by adopting four additional villages for the replication of the ISVD model, and to test the concept of "village clusters" for greater sustainability.



The VLI is empowered to motivate the community and the community in turn supports its initiatives

Water Management

The water famine is both a tragedy and a paradox — as India is well endowed with water, and it is a renewable resource. In Mewat, the ground water is depleting at the rate of about 25 cms a year and has become saline in many areas. The rising water salinity is affecting crop yield and limiting the choice of crops that can be grown. In addition, the water quality is significantly below WHO safety standards for human consumption.

Water management has an impressively high cost-benefit ratio. For every 100 rupees spent 400 can be retrieved in just one monsoon. However, no quick fix solution is possible for the water problem and there has to be an ongoing commitment to manage it. In rural India what has worked best so far is “community driven decentralized water management”. Before our intervention, the villagers were unaware of the many ways in which they could themselves improve the ‘in situ’ availability and quality of ground water. Our interventions have made them

aware that constructing rainwater harvesting structures and following different conservation methods can transform their water situation.

Integrated Approach

The methods used in rural water management are: contour trenches, gully plugs, check dams, reviving traditional ponds, recharging wells, injecting wells, soak pits, and deep ploughing with chisel.

Check Dams

Our project at Ghaghas has reversed the depletion of ground water in two years. In 2003, a 1.4 km long earthen check dam was built at the foothills of village Rangala Rajpur (Phase I), to harvest the runoff water from the Aravali hills. In 2004, Phase II of this project was completed. This involved dividing the single large dam into a series of three ponds, one serving as a recharging pond and the other two as storage ponds. One of the storage ponds is used for fishery. Fish seeds were released in this pond in July 2004 and a good fish harvest is expected in 2005.

Overall, the moisture level in the soil adjacent to the series of ponds has improved. Since water from the storage pond is available to irrigate the nearby barren community land, vegetables are now being grown there. The revenue generated from leasing out this land will be used by the Panchayat for village development.



Rangala Check Dam – series of ponds



The water famine is both a tragedy and a paradox — as India is well endowed with water, and it is a renewable resource.

Water Management

WELLS WITH A DIFFERENCE

RECHARGE WELLS are simple structures to direct the muddy runoff rainwater flowing in the villages to the ground water system. From the recharge well, the wastewater filters through the soil and emerges in potable water wells nearby. In spite of this benefit, it can be difficult to motivate the villagers to build recharge wells, as their positive effects are not visible immediately. In total there are nine recharge wells across four villages and we expect these numbers to increase at a faster pace as the villagers begin to realize their long-term value.

OPEN WELLS are a source of drinking water for the village. These wells are also used for other activities like washing clothes and watering animals. Because of this, the well water can become contaminated. It is best to have platforms around the open wells and channel the dirty water to a soak pit. To date, the Foundation has constructed 29 such wells.

DIRECTING OF PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY INTO WELLS was suggested by the Sarpanch of twin villages, Jaitaka and Akhlimpur. In these villages, the supply of piped water is erratic and there are no taps. This leads to wastage of water and muddy streets. The Sarpanch suggested that channeling of the piped water into wells would create a usable sweet water layer over the denser brackish water in the wells. The Foundation and the community jointly implemented this idea and now the two villages have adequate sweet water. This minor intervention has produced much impact on the lives of the villagers.

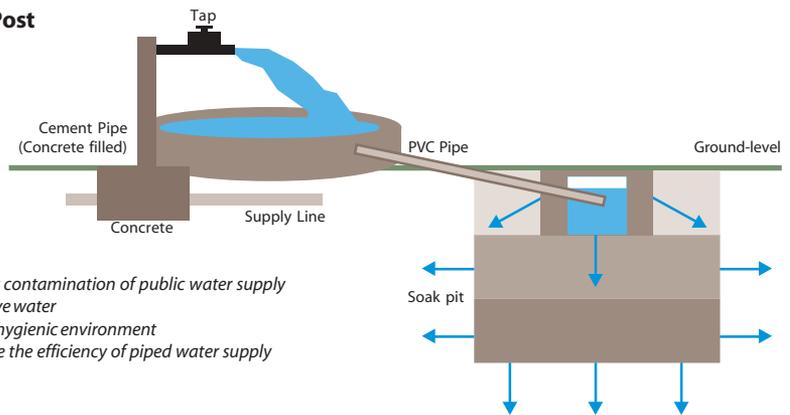


WATER LITERACY CAMPAIGN

Water literacy is about the community making well-informed choices. Local wisdom says, "Where water is running make it walk, where it is walking make it crawl, and where it is crawling make it stop". This sums up the essence of water management in rural India. At every opportunity, we emphasize that rainwater must be percolated into the ground before it picks up contaminants while flowing on the ground surface. Furthermore:

- The VLI is facilitated to conduct a "community water audit" through which it must comprehend the extraction of water from the ground versus its replenishment. This quantitative information is a powerful communication tool to positively influence the community in water conservation.
- Villagers are taught
 - a) how traditional open wells maintain the water balance, whereas the bore wells and tube wells cause the exploitation of ground water
 - b) how by replacing the open public water outlets in the streets with a comprehensive model consisting of a stand post with a tap can lead to clean streets (see diagram below for stand post design). By following this simple intervention, the wastewater flows into an enclosure leading to a soak pit through an underground pipe. This ensures that there is no slush on the streets and women can easily collect water from the tap without having to stand in the mud. In Ghaghas, the Public Health Department has appreciated this initiative and became a partner to promote this activity. To date, a total of 98 stand posts have been built in Ghaghas, Goela and Agon

Stand Post



- Prevent contamination of public water supply
- Conserve water
- Ensure hygienic environment
- Improve the efficiency of piped water supply

- c) how chiseling of the agricultural land before the onset of monsoons results in the percolation of the rain water, thus reducing the number of irrigations needed for a crop

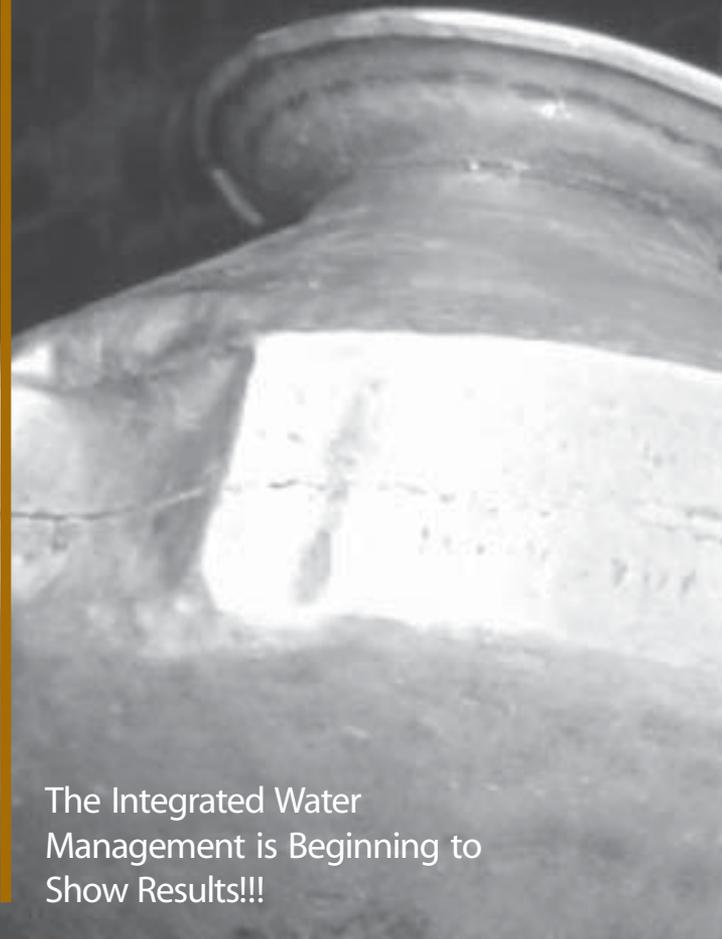
The emphasis on water literacy has proven central to the achievements of the water management program, and is echoed at all venues – Family Life Education centers, Farmer Association meetings, Self Help groups, schools and health platforms.

The Integrated Water Management is Beginning to Show Results

It is heartening to see the significant change that the water program has made in the villages. People are beginning to understand the direct impact of water harvesting and conservation on the prosperity of their village. For example, they are now willing to participate in projects with a long gestation period. The presence of check dams has created scenic vistas in the villages. Water is present throughout the year in the check dam of Rangala Rajpur giving a new look to the previously arid landscape. This is bringing an attitudinal change in the villagers, and people from other villages are realizing the need for water harvesting.

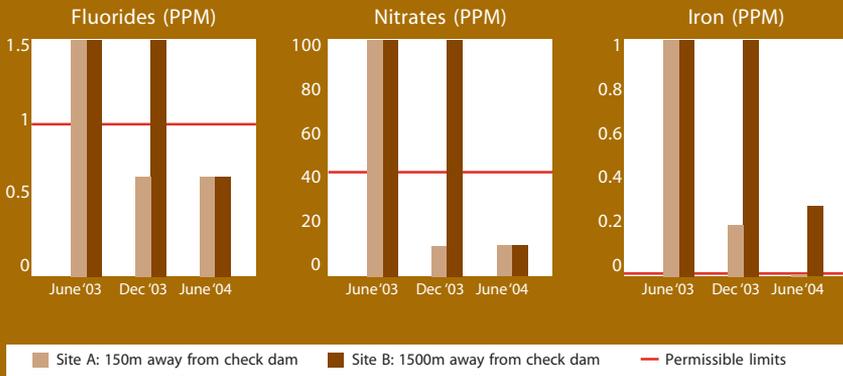
With the interventions in 2003/04, the water level measured during the peak summer month of June, increased by about 1.5 meters in Rangala Rajpur and by 1 meter in Ghaghas. The rise in the water table is measured periodically by monitoring the water levels in selected wells, as shown in the diagram.

The high concentration of nitrates, fluorides and iron in water in Ghaghas and Rangala Rajpur has been diluted to the extent that the quality of water is almost at par with WHO acceptable safety standards. The graph below (Site A) shows the high concentration of nitrates and fluorides reduced to permissible limits, within a period of 6 months after the 2003 monsoon. However for this effect to reach Site B it took another 6 months. In the case of iron, in a period of one year the concentration was reduced to zero at Site A, which is the permissible limit, whereas at Site B the concentration of iron is still 0.3 though it reduced from the baseline which was 1. These results are encouraging and will continue to improve in successive seasons due to the interventions, which are now in place.

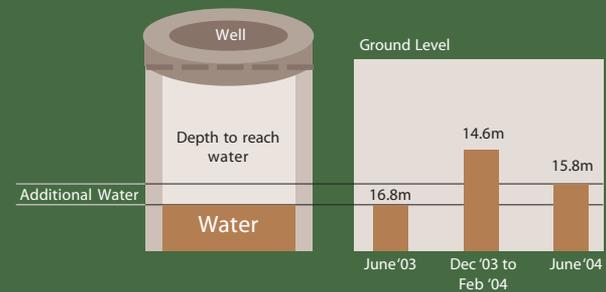


The Integrated Water Management is Beginning to Show Results!!!

Improvement in water quality Ghaghas, wells



Increase in ground water level, Ghaghas



Water Management

Salinity to Sweetness – Case Study

The village Karheda has 375 households, a population of about 2400 and a land area of 1200 acres. The water table in this village is just two meters below the ground, but the water is severely saline and useless. This makes the village entirely dependent on the erratic public water supply. There are times when Karheda does not get water for several days at a stretch. In a year this amounts to having no water supply for about 120 days (8,640 kiloliters of unmet need). The alternate source of drinking water is a well that is about two kilometers away. Women and young girls walk to this well three times a day to draw water into pitchers and carry them on their heads. Therefore there is a critical need for having sweet water available in the village.

The Foundation's water team studied Karheda to see if sweet water could be made available within the village and ease the drudgery of women. In April 2004, the Foundation presented a pilot proposal to the community – to insulate a piece of land with polysheets inserted vertically several feet into the ground, and direct the monsoon run-off water to this insulated area. Since sweet water is lighter in density than the saline water, it would float over the brackish groundwater and could be drawn out with a hand pump.

The community appreciated the plan and showed keen interest to jointly implement it. The villagers collected food grains, oil seeds and cash from each household amounting to Rs.12,000, as part of their contribution. But since it was an experimental project, the Foundation did not want to burden the villagers in sharing the cost. This was explained to the community and they were advised that their contribution would be used for other development activities in their village.

Unfortunately, this pilot proposal — though technically sound — did not work because the soil kept collapsing into the trenches thus preventing the insertion of polysheets. It was a day of low spirits for the earnestly participating villagers and the water team. But the villagers were not ready to give up and we were soon discussing an alternative plan. The episode convinced us that the villagers may be poor but they are willing to take risks and charge ahead if they see potential benefit.

New Strategy

After this setback, the potential long-term solution of recharge wells was explained to the Karheda community.

The Foundation agreed to contribute the concrete well lining and the community was asked to provide the labor for the excavation and laying of the filtering material such as broken stone and grit. Nasiruddin, a resident of the village, was the first one to start constructing a well, followed by five others. He built a small hump across a natural rainwater stream to divert water to his recharging well. By mid-September, all the wells had sweet water about one meter below the ground-level. This success prompted the villagers to seek other development programs from the Foundation. In response, we agreed to provide a dedicated Village Champion to Karheda to lead the ISVD programs.

Photographed by Jan Dirk Geertsema



By mid-September, Nasiruddin's well had sweet water about one meter below the ground-level...

Income Enhancement

The Income Enhancement program focuses on agriculture and entrepreneurship. It facilitates the setting up of mutually beneficial working relationships between appropriate parties to generate means of supplementing the villagers' income. In 2004, the Foundation continued promoting crop diversification, inter-cropping, integrated pest management, raised bed cultivation, chiseling, drip irrigation, and vermi-composting. In order to promote chiseling, the Foundation introduced a scheme of cost sharing with the farmers. About 400 acres of land was covered under this scheme. Though the results vary from crop to crop, all farmers reported higher production and better quality of produce. Furthermore, the number of irrigations needed to grow the crops was significantly reduced. The use of chiseling is thus spreading fast as a positive agricultural intervention in the neighboring villages.



Women's Self Help Groups

Self Help Groups (SHGs) are a proven tool to economically empower women and increase their participation in the family and community. Almost all indicators of our Self Help Groups (SHGs) are positive. Over 95% of the members are saving regularly. There is no default in loan repayment, and the share of productive loans *versus* consumption loans is steadily increasing.

The SHG women are receptive to new ideas, as they have directly benefited from the Foundation's activities. They become keen to improve conditions in their villages and are trained by the Foundation on various development issues. These women spread positive messages among other women in the community.

The following table illustrates the overall performance of SHGs, facilitated by the Foundation and its partner ARAVIS*.

	Foundation	ARAVIS
No. of SHGs	7	15
First SHG started	February, 2003	September, 2002
Total Members	96	156
Total collection	Rs. 92,000	Rs. 187,200
Bank loan	Rs. 31,000	Rs. 72,800
Total loaning	Rs. 123,000	Rs. 260,000
Productive loans	Rs. 57,000	Rs. 255,000

*Aravali Vikas Sangathan (ARAVIS) is our implementing agency in 5 villages.



Group Entrepreneurship

The Agon women's SHG was formed in 2003, and they decided to start a group enterprise. With training from the Foundation they set up a nursery for growing Gliricidia (a green manure) and Pongamia (a biofuel). Each woman took turns guarding the nursery, and in three months the saplings were ready for sale. The Foundation purchased this produce and marketed it at subsidized rates in several villages as per its promotional plan.

The SHG made a profit of Rs. 117,480. Out of this the ten women members shared Rs. 80,000 among themselves, they kept aside Rs. 10,000 for their SHG fund and will use the remaining Rs. 27,480 to rent land for another nursery. These women, who are mostly landless laborers, have planned other group enterprises so that they can have income through out the year.



Income Enhancement

Taaza Sasta Turant

Just two years ago, the farmers were not quality conscious, and had little or no knowledge of market parameters. The Foundation facilitated setting up farmers' associations which were partnered with a corporate distributor in the city, to allow farmers access to urban customers.

The success of the farmers' associations (see graph below) resulted in the buyer organization, Safal (Mother Dairy Fruit and Vegetable Division) setting up a local collection centre in the village Goela called "Taza Sasta Turant" in February 2004. Now, instead of going through Safal's centralized facility, the vegetables can reach the retail market directly after quality screening at the local centre. This allows the farmers to use or sell the rejected produce in the local market while it is still relatively fresh. "Taza Sasta Turant" is in its pilot phase but is designed to become a much-needed sustainable farmer service center, providing consultancy services and authentic farm inputs.

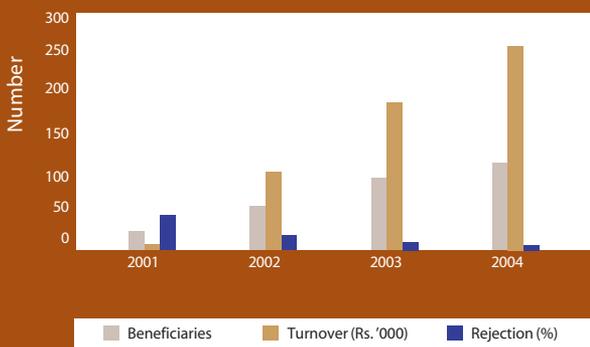


A Little More Income – case study

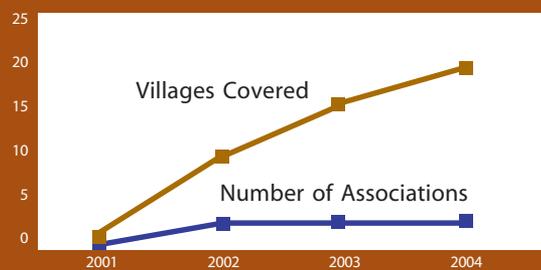
Ghanshyam Sharma, 22, and his brother Amar Chand from Agon, had been working in Ferozpur Jhirka in a welding shop for 4-5 years, each earning Rs. 3,000 per month. The Foundation conducted an orientation workshop for the village youth, in which Sharma and his brother participated. After attending the workshop, they were encouraged to join RUDSET (an institute for vocational training) and learn to set up their own business. They then attended the 15 day training in fabrication and welding. With the help of RUDSET and the Foundation, Sharma submitted a project proposal to the local Syndicate bank and got a loan. Now they are the proud owners of "Sharma Welding Workshop" earning about Rs. 6-8,000 per month. They plan to pay back the loan and expand their work.



Performance of Farmers' Associations



Coverage



Rural Health

The villagers' health greatly impacts on all the Foundation's initiatives — the challenge for this program is to make health a priority for the villagers, and encourage a shift from dependence on curative health to preventive care. The VLI has completed the groundwork for setting up health committees in villages. The priority for next year will be the training of the community health volunteers. Training will focus on how to identify common diseases and their prevention, and when to direct patients to competent health care providers. Each village health committee will be responsible for planning, implementing and monitoring health projects, working closely with the auxiliary midwife nurse (ANM) and assisting access to family planning services.

Reproductive and Child Health

AWARENESS SESSIONS ARE HELD ON:

- Safe motherhood and care of the newborn.
- Annual refresher courses for dais' (mid-wife) where traditional methods are combined with contemporary modifications.
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases, HIV/AIDS.
- Advice to participants includes:
 - Tetanus toxoid vaccine must be given to mothers before the birth of the child and not afterwards
 - Oxytocin should not be injected indiscriminately for easy labor because it causes uterus prolapse
 - Colostrum must be given to neonates because it boosts the child's immunity
 - Menstrual hygiene is necessary for prevention of reproductive tract infections

FAMILY PLANNING

The Foundation endeavors to reduce the fertility rates in this region from 5.5 to the national target of 2.1. With this in mind, family planning sessions were initiated with male youth aged 15 to 35 in Ghaghas and Agon. After their initial hesitation, the young men had many questions and wanted to know more about the various methods of contraception, their usage and side effects.

Although some of the young men are interested in family planning, they face multiple economic and social constraints derived from religious beliefs, prevalent cultural norms, and parental pressure. The same constraints also reinforce pervasive gender discrimination against women. Not surprisingly, young married men have virtually no sense of responsibility when it comes to the reproductive health of their wives. Next year, the Foundation plans to undertake aggressive work on family planning with young married couples.



Curative Partnerships

Our focus in 2004 was on creating and strengthening links between the community and available health services. As a result, more villagers are now approaching the primary health centers, asking about the immunization of their children, and expectant mothers have started attending the ante-natal care clinics regularly.

Government-run health camps periodically organized in the vicinity of villages have proved to be a success. Through the camps, villagers can be referred for surgery free of cost. The Foundation ensures that the villagers know when these camps will be held, so that they can avail the services.

Suspected cases of tuberculosis are regularly referred to the Government Directly Observed Short Course Treatment (DOTS) centers for examination, and upon positive diagnosis their treatment is followed up by the ANM. Many eye diseases are reported from the community, including cataracts, refractive errors, infections and allergic diseases. The Foundation uses the 'Reach In' approach for eye care, establishing linkages with specialists in charitable institutions.

In Ghaghas, the Foundation assisted the Panchayat in applying to the State Health Department for setting up a sub-center in the village. In Goela too, attempts are being made to revive the health sub-center which is defunct due to bureaucratic procedures and frail infrastructure.



Rural Health

Promoting Health

Our health program aims to educate villagers about basic hygiene, sanitation practices, nutrition, and communicable diseases. The communicable diseases addressed include - *Gastrointestinal disease, Acute Respiratory Tract Infections, Vaccine Preventable Diseases, Tuberculosis, Malaria*. Health awareness sessions are held regularly with the Family Life Education center – girls and male youth, women from the

Self Help Groups, and school children. Malnutrition and anemia is widespread in women and children. Women need to know about what constitutes a balanced diet and how to cook nutritious, locally available food for their families within their limited budgets. The following table reflects the training provided to trainers and community awareness sessions held in various villages in 2004.

Health Training and Awareness Sessions at a Glance: 2004

Topic	Type of Group Trained	Number of Participants	Resource Persons
Revised National Tuberculosis control program - DOTS Strategy	PIT	13	Dr. D. Parashar, District TB Officer, Gurgaon
Male participation in reproductive health and family planning	PIT & Youth	43	Dr. P. Sai Kumar, MD Community Medicine (Volunteer)
How to conduct baseline survey	PIT & Youth	23	Dr. Harshit Sinha, Vardhan Consultants for Population Foundation of India (PFI)
Fluorosis management & prevention	PIT	5	Dr. Archana Mandal, Sehgal Foundation
Hygiene and sanitation	Women & adolescent girls	95	Dr. Archana Mandal
Effective management of PHCs by PRI	PIT, volunteers, PHC staff & PRI members	152	Dr. Harshit Sinha
Safe delivery practices & immunization schedule	Midwives, RMPs & PIT	18	Dr. Archana Mandal
Nutrition	SHG women	33	Dr. Archana Mandal
Diarrhea management & prevention	PIT	5	Dr. Archana Mandal
Pulse polio	PIT	5	Dr. Archana Mandal

PIT: Project Implementation Team (Sehgal Foundation trainers); PFI: Population Foundation of India; PHC: Primary Health Center; PRI: Panchayati Raj Institution; RMP: Registered Medical Practitioner



Village Cleanliness and Sanitation Drives

Most of the diseases prevalent in rural India are due to lack of sanitation and poor quality of drinking water. Ground water gets contaminated from field defecation and excess use of pesticides and fertilizers — causing gastroenteritis, jaundice, diarrhea, typhoid, and other diseases. Part of the problem is that the villagers are often unaware of the issues, and do not appear to mind the build up of public garbage or want to change the latrine habits to which they are accustomed. A cleanliness drive is an integral part of the Foundation's activity. It includes promoting soak pits, stand posts with taps, latrines, street sweeping and garbage disposal.

Soak pits are initially introduced to homes that are closest to the three or four main village streets, so that their domestic water does not flow into these streets. Islami Begum, resident of Agon says, "The street facing our main entrance used to be dirty, filled with stagnant water, and a breeding ground for mosquitoes. My six children often slipped in it and came home crying. Now it is a blessing to have a soak pit in front of the house — my kids can play in this area while I don't have to worry about their safety." With this kind of enthusiasm, we had expected the adoption of soak pits to happen quickly but unfortunately by the end of 2004 only about 20% of homes have soak pits. We believe that after a critical mass is reached, we should witness an exponential growth. It seems we need to benchmark such critical mass data for all the interventions in order to make our "Integrated, Sustainable Village Development" model replicable.

Once the village streets are dry, it is easier for the VLI to hold discussions with the community on the importance of keeping them clean. Two sweepers per village have now been hired in Ghaghas and Goela, for which the villagers and the Panchayat contribute collectively. Building on this, the Foundation is planning to introduce a more elaborate environmentally-friendly garbage disposal and recycling system.

Latrines are a key step in the promotion of public health. Low cost sanitary latrine technology is available to hygienically detoxify the waste in a contained area twenty feet above the ground water level. The Foundation first introduced these latrines to the villages in 2003. We built demonstration models in the community centers and Family Life Education centers. Our field staff promote the benefits of latrine use at all its forums. However, latrines are not yet popular with the locals. This is partly due to the villagers' unsatisfactory experiences with technically flawed latrines that were previously provided by other organizations. As Ghukan a villager of Agon, explained, "Latrines get clogged and smell — we are better off in the open fields." This made us realize that we have to raise awareness on the key technical aspects when installing new latrines.



Nasru gets a new life – case study

Kamlesh, a Project Implementation Team member from the Foundation, was on a door to door visit to inform the families of Chehalka about the Family Life Education classes, when she came across Naseeruddin (Nasru), 33, a frail and very ill looking young man. A poor laborer with a large family of eight children to feed, Nasru earnestly requested help for his persistent cough and fever, from which he had been suffering for the past three months. Nasru said he had not been able to earn a living and his family had not had a decent meal in days. Kamlesh, who had been trained in health issues, suspected that he had tuberculosis. She acted quickly and personally took him to the Primary Health Center, filled in the necessary forms and got a sputum examination done. Her speculation was proved correct. Nasru was diagnosed with tuberculosis and was put on treatment immediately. Kamlesh also met his wife and explained about the care he would need during his treatment.

A month later, when Kamlesh visited Chehalka, Nasru came to meet and thank her. She was amazed to see the difference in his appearance in such a short period. While still undergoing treatment, he was well enough to resume work (a hard labor of cutting stones) and was earning Rs.100 to 125 per day. Today, whenever Kamlesh visits Chehalka, Nasru is always there to greet her with folded hands and a blessing.



Family Life Education



The Foundation's Family Life Education program addresses the issues of literacy, gender sensitization and skills training that will help youth to have a better quality of life. Workshops popular with the young men of the youth clubs include sessions on personal goal setting, having a positive attitude about their village, the value of taking on community responsibility, and applied problem solving. The curriculum includes information on socially sensitive issues like reproductive health, which are discussed only after a rapport has been established between the instructor and the students.

So far 684 girls have passed out from the FLE centers. Each batch of girls goes through a six-month curriculum. The following table indicates the year wise coverage:

Number of Girls completed the FLE courses, in model and cluster villages

Year	Girls
2002	187
2003	293
2004	204
Total	684

Our results show that the girls have started adopting better hygiene habits and are participating more actively in community projects. This year, 204 girls completed the FLE course across six villages (see table below).

Number of Girls completed the FLE course, by 2004

Village	Girls
Ghaghas	43
Agon	37
Pathrali	22
Sondh	22
Jafarabad	10
Chehalka	26
Kansali	32
Bhadas	12
Total	204

Camps for Girls

We conducted four life skills curriculum camps of 14 days each in four villages. This is for girls who cannot attend the six month FLE course. 104 adolescent girls attended this intensive training. The selected girls were literate, and camps were held in their respective villages during their school summer vacation.

A pre- and post assessment of the curriculum was carried out by having each girl respond to a hundred questions. The post training results show significant improvements in – attitudes towards gender equity and higher age at marriage, the ability to set goals for their lives, communication skills, knowledge of reproductive and child health, legal rights, and increased confidence.

Curriculum for Parents

The need to have a curriculum for parents was first voiced by the FLE youth, as their parents take decisions in all aspects of their lives. The Foundation too realized that working systematically with parents would significantly increase the impact of the youth FLE program. The basic intention behind the parents' curriculum is that they support their adolescent children in taking decisions regarding their own lives – such as age at marriage, choosing the number of children to have and gender equity issues.

The process of developing a curriculum involves four sequential steps – preparation of draft lessons; testing the lessons practically with the target group (i.e. pre-testing); refining the curriculum based on the pre-test; and formalizing the lessons into a print format to be used as a manual for future training.

The first two steps of the parents' curriculum have been completed this year. The pre-testing was conducted at all our model villages and comprised of 10 sessions on the following topics:

- Introducing my family
- Role of a man and a woman in society
- Need for literacy
- Care of a newborn
- Partnership in marriage
- Knowing yourself
- Age at marriage
- Population Education
- Unity and Team building
- Fighting against social evils in our society

Village Education Committees revived for Schools

Until now, the Foundation's relationship with local schools had been limited to imparting life skills training to senior students. In 2004, new initiatives were taken. The Village Education Committee (VEC) in Ghaghas was revived to improve the quality of schools. Shortage of teachers is a perpetual problem, and the Foundation has provided funds for two teachers for one year. Because of this basic provision, the school for Ghaghas children has become an exciting place that students are eager to attend. They participate in competitions, engage in active learning through play and singing, and senior students are taking remarkable interest in community projects like polio drives. Parents-teachers meetings have been introduced to increase the parents' involvement in their child's education. We envisage that in future the villagers, through their VLI, will themselves sustain the salaries of two teachers.



Aiesha's Courage – Case Study

Aiesha is the fourth child of a very poor family of eleven, living in Ghaghas. She had never been to school. In the Foundation's Family Life Education classes she learned to read and write fluently, and to sew garments. When she was sixteen, her father had arranged her marriage to a young man from a nearby village. Within two weeks of the marriage, her young life was in distress when she found that her husband was mentally ill with a violent temper, and often physically abusive. She also experienced her father-in-law's perverted misbehavior. When she complained it to her husband, she was sent back to her parents' home.

Thanks to her newfound education, Aiesha could choose to stay with her mother. She uses her sewing skills to earn extra income for the family and helps in bringing up her younger siblings. Now, Aiesha earns Rs.1500 per month by tailoring clothes and working as a substitute instructor in the FLE centre. The Foundation also assisted her by buying an embroidery machine. She is filing for a divorce, and is enthusiastic about joining fifth grade in a government school to pursue formal education.



Founders

Dr. Suri Sehgal

Chairman of Board of Trustees

Dr. Suri Sehgal holds a PhD in Plant Genetics from Harvard University, and a diploma in business management from Harvard Business School. He is founder and chairman of Maize Technologies International, Austria and Misr Hytech Seed International, Egypt. He is founder and former chairman of the Proagro Group of Companies, India.

Mrs. Edda G. Sehgal

Trustee

Mrs. Edda Sehgal is a co-founder and trustee of the Sehgal Family Foundation, USA and the Sehgal Foundation, India. She was born in Breslau, Germany and immigrated to the United States in 1962 to pursue liberal art studies. Mrs. Sehgal served on the Board of the Proagro Group and of Global Technologies Incorporated, USA from 1990 to 1998.

Trustees

Mr. Arvind Bahl was a senior Executive and a member of the Board of Directors of Proagro Group of Companies from 1990-1999. He was instrumental in setting up the Foundation in its initial years.

Mrs. Nishat Farooq has retired as Director of State Resource Centre (SRC), Delhi, of which the National Nodal Centre for Gender Planning was also a part. Currently she is member of the National Book Promotion Committee of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Mr. Y.C. Nanda has 38 years of experience in rural banking and central banking. He retired as the Chairman of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). Presently he is a full-time Member of National Commission on Farmers.

Air Vice Marshal (Retired) S. Sahni is the Vice President of Development Alternatives, and has expertise in water management and rural employment generation. He was appointed to the Government's National Wasteland Development Board during 1991-94.

Mr. Jay Sehgal, is the Executive Director of the Sehgal Foundation. Prior to this he worked as a Senior Programmer Analyst in a leading private sector company in the USA and in Proagro Seed Company Ltd., India, as the Director of Information Technology.

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

Mr. Om Thanvi is the Executive Editor of JANSATTA, a Hindi daily of the Indian Express Group and is also the Secretary-General of Editors Guild of India. He has been associated with many NGOs working in the field of rural development and education.



Our Team

GURGAON (RURAL DEVELOPMENT)

Ms. Anjali Makhija, Group Leader—programs and program *Family Life Education*, holds a Master's degree in Social Work, Delhi School of Social Work. She has 13 years of experience in the area of health and integrated community development.
Email: anjali.makhija@smsfoundation.org

Dr. (Ms) Archana Mandal, program leader *Rural Health*, graduated from Maulana Azad Medical College, Delhi and specialized in Community Medicine from Lady Hardinge Medical College, Delhi. She is a specialist in the training of health functionaries.
Email: a.mandal@smsfoundation.org

Mr. Ramesh Kapahi, *Financial Controller*, holds a masters degree in Finance and Marketing from Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute of Management (LBSIM), Delhi. He worked as an Internal Auditor for 16 years before joining the Foundation.
Email: r.kapahi@smsfoundation.org

Dr. (Ms) Ellora Mubashir, program leader *Communications*, holds a PhD in Plant Biochemistry from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. She was the Manager of Biotechnology Regulatory Affairs at Proagro Seed Company, India prior to joining the Foundation.
Email: ellora@smsfoundation.org

Mr. B.R. Poonia, program leader *Community Organisation*, holds a Master's degree in Rural Sociology from the University of Udaipur, and has over 28 years of experience in community development. Prior to joining the Foundation, he was employed at CARE-India for 14 years.
Email: br.poonia@smsfoundation.org

Kevin O'Brien Doctor in Philosophy

Born in Bradford, England on September 21, 1958
Died suddenly in Ghent on April 18, 2004.

This was the end ... of our friend; a man of whom we may say that of all of whom we met at that time he was the wisest and justest and best.

Plato, on the death of Socrates

Kevin was an integral part of the Sehgal Foundation and will always be missed.

Mr. Rajesh K. Sinha, program leader *Income Enhancement*, holds a Management degree from the Institute of Rural Management, Anand, Gujarat. He has held various private sector positions in sales, procurement, rural advertising and credit promotion.
Email: rajesh.sinha@smsfoundation.org

Mr. Lalit Mohan Sharma, program leader *Water Management and Infrastructure Building* is a graduate civil engineer, holds a Masters 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@smsfoundation.org

Ms. Veena Sehgal, full time volunteer *Communications Program*, holds a Master's degree in Personnel Management from Osmania University, Hyderabad and a diploma in Public Relations from Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan, Hyderabad.
Email: veena.sehgal@smsfoundation.org

Mr. 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 the Foundation. He has eleven years of experience in IT.
Email: r.clutter@smsfoundation.org

HYDERABAD (CROP IMPROVEMENT)

Dr. M.D. Gupta, Technical Director, holds a PhD in Genetics and Plant Breeding from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Delhi. Dr. Gupta has 30 years of experience in plant breeding and seed enterprise management.
Email: m.d.gupta@cgjar.org

Dr. Amritendu Misra, Senior Scientist Maize Breeding, holds a PhD in Genetics and Plant Breeding from Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswa Vidyalaya, Kalyani, West Bengal. Dr. Misra has 14 years of experience in maize breeding.
Email: a.misra@cgjar.org

Mr. Rajeev Taggar, Scientist, holds an M.Phil. degree in plant sciences from Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra. Prior to joining the Foundation he worked with Nunhems Seeds Pvt. Ltd. in the areas of plant genetic transformation and marker assisted breeding (MAB).
Email: rtaggar@cgjar.org

Mr. B. Mallaiiah, Plant Pathologist, holds a Master's degree in Plant Pathology from Acharya N.G.Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad. Prior to joining the Foundation, he has worked in A. N. G. R. Agril University, Hyderabad and the Department of Agriculture, Government of Andhra Pradesh.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION TEAM – GURGAON

The Project Implementation Team (PIT) is the Foundation's immediate interface with the village. It comprises of staff from the local area of operations. The PIT have multiple roles including community mobilization, identifying and training village volunteers, facilitating projects and awareness generation.

PIT Staff

Zafer Hussain
Kamlesh
Mahipal Singh
Jaan Mohammed
Goverdhan Sharma
Sarveshwari Mishra
Sushil Bala

Razia
Tahir Hussain
Urmila Gupta
Mohammed Siddique

Responsibility

Field Facilitator – Nagina and Ferozepur Jhirka Block
Field Facilitator – Goela Block
Field Facilitator – Jyotisar, Kurukshetra
Community Organizer
Water Management
Agriculture, Water Management and FLE boys Youth Club – Goela
FLE centers – Nagina and Ferozepur Jhirka. Rural Health – Ferozepur Jhirka.
Rural Health, FLE in schools, women's mobilization – Ghaghas.
Programs for men and male youth – Agon
Rural Health, FLE in schools, women's mobilization – Agon.
Infrastructure Building

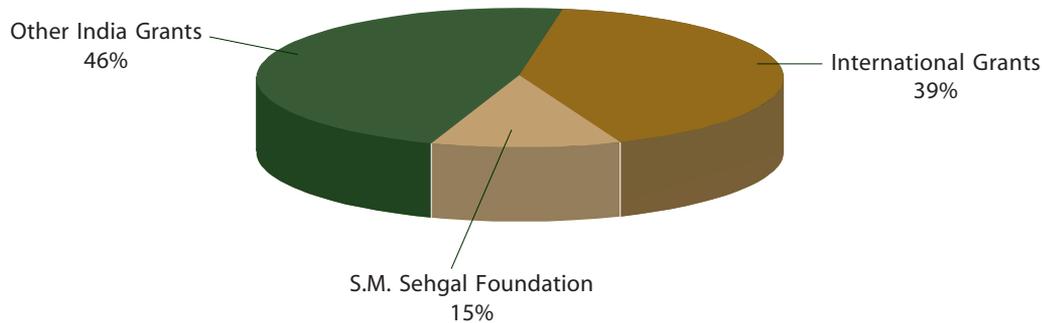
Use of Funds

Since 1999 the total grants of the Sehgal Family Foundation amount to approximately US \$ 14.9 million. Of the total grants, US \$ 2.27 million were used by the Foundation for its development activities in India. Other direct grants to organizations working in India account for US \$ 6.85 million. Grants to US and other International organizations account for the remaining US \$ 5.8 million.

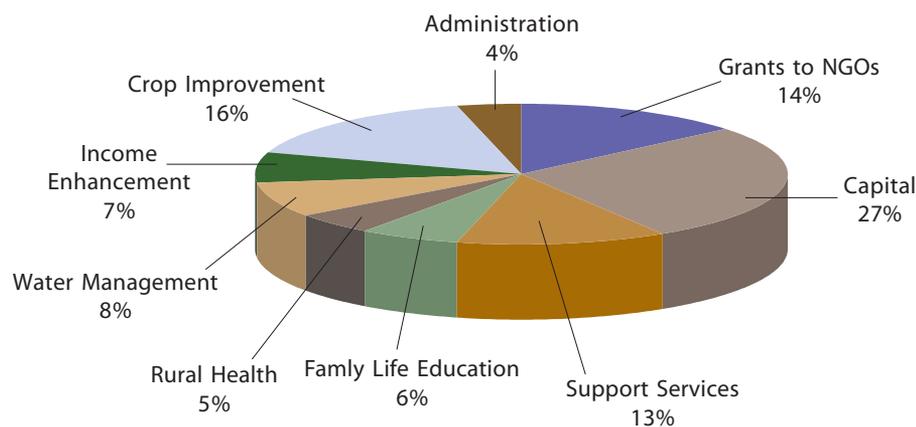
In 2004 total Sehgal Family Foundation grants amounted to US \$ 2.4 million, of which US \$ 595,600 were used by the Foundation in India. Other grants to organizations for work in India totaled US \$ 315,000. Grants to organizations in the US and elsewhere totaled US \$ 1,450,135.

In 2004 grants to the S.M. Sehgal Foundation, India covered US \$ 595,600 of which expenses for programs in Water Management were 8%, Income Enhancement 7%, Rural Health 5%, and Family Life Education 6%, Crop Improvement 16%. Support Services accounted for 13% of total expenses, Grants to other NGOs 14%, Administration 4% and Capital expenditure 27%. The major Capital expenses incurred this year were for the Foundation's training institute, ARRAD and the Community Center at Ghaghas.

Sehgal Family Foundation Grants 1999-2004
\$14.9 million



S.M. Sehgal Foundation Expenses, 2004
\$595600 (Rs. 26.9 million)





Events – 2004

January

- Construction of Twin Tank check dam started, Ghaghas.
- Construction of recharge well completed, Ghaghas.
- Training of Village Level Institution (VLI) members started, Ghaghas.
- Organized a conference and a learning journey on rural development, with NRI Home Coming group.
- Village leaders mobilized to meet government officials to address their water and electricity problems, Goela.

February

- Youth club started, Ghaghas.
- Two wells constructed, Karheda.
- Taza Sasta Turant centre started, Goela.
- Vermi compost units set up, Agon and Ghaghas.
- Panchayat and the community began efforts to revive the Primary Health sub-center building, Goela.
- VLI prepared a development plan, Ghaghas.

March

- First Press Conference held, to release the Annual Report: 2003-04.
- Tap Campaign started, Agon and Ghaghas.
- Two Self Help Groups (SHG) started, Agon.
- Youth Club started, Agon.
- Constructed a 'meeting place' with water storage tank underneath, Goela.
- Vermi compost units set up, Goela.
- Panchayat building repaired and converted to Community Center, Goela.

April

- Started CEDPA project on testing the effectiveness of their revised FLE curriculum.
- Revival of Village Education Committee to improve the functioning of the government school, Ghaghas.
- Construction of platforms for wells completed, Agon, Ghaghas and Karheda.
- Held meeting with community leaders of all villages to discuss the Village Champion concept, Nagina.
- The Foundation accorded "designated organization" status of Institute of Rural Management, Anand.
- Fish seeds released in the Rangala check dam.

May

- Started initiatives to make Primary Health Centres (PHC) and Community Health Centres more effective.
- Cricket kit was donated to Agon Youth Club.
- SHG literacy classes started, Ghaghas.
- Introduced solar lights, Agon and Ghaghas.
- Drinking water tank constructed at the entrance to Ghaghas.
- VLI formed, Agon.
- Chisel re-introduced through a new scheme.

June

- Capacity building of the Foundation's health team on "effective management of Public Health Centers" organized by Population Foundation of India (PFI), Delhi.
- Construction of cushion chamber in check dam completed through shramdan (voluntary labor) and cash contribution of villagers, Rangala Rajpur.
- Rejuvenation of a pond completed, Agon.
- First roof water harvesting demonstration, Karheda.
- Impact Assessment of Income Enhancement Program by a student from IRMA, Anand.

July

- Youth were mobilized to construct the temporary Guler-wala check dam, Ghaghas.
- Visit to Nazar Nawaz Trust, Gurgaon, for linkages in ophthalmic care.
- Started baseline data collection in 16 villages, PFI project.
- Participated in a study on organizational sustainability of NGOs conducted by Indian Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR), Jaipur.

August

- Vetiver plantation started on the earthen check dam, Rangala Rajpur.
- Foundation's Income Enhancement team visited rural development organizations to learn various technologies, at Pune and Anand.
- Plantation of trees on common lands started, Ghaghas and Agon.
- Integrated Pest Management training for farmers, Goela.
- VLI members of Ghaghas and Rangala participated in water pilgrimage to Gujarat.

September

- Trustees meeting held at India Habitat Center, Delhi.
- Advocacy workshop with government officials held in Gurgaon on "Working Together to Empower Rural Haryana"
- Started a partnership project with United Nations Development Program (UNDP) at Jyotisar, Kurukshetra.
- Six recharge wells constructed to reduce the severe water salinity problem, Karheda.

October

- Adopted four new villages.
- Eye camps with Nazar Nawaz Trust, at Ghaghas, Agon and Goela.
- Organized malaria survey with PHC officials, Rangala Rajpur.
- School boundary wall raised, Ghaghas.
- Grant to Pardada Pardadi Educational Society for construction of an additional classroom in their school, Bulendshahar.
- Signed agreement with ICREATE to promote entrepreneurship in villages in 2005.
- Presentation at India Development Coalition of America (IDCA) conference, Chicago, USA.

November

- Agon VLI registered.
- First orientation workshop with Village Champions.
- Six days training of Panchayati Raj members and the PHC staff, PFI project.
- Grant to Chandran Gramin Vikas Sansthan for electrification of Gandhi College.
- Paper presented on water management in international conference, Jaipur.
- Four Village Champions selected.
- "Poor man's Drip Irrigation system" installed in Community Centers, Ghaghas, Goela.
- Youth attended residential training program on tailoring held at RUDSET Institute, Gurgaon.

December

- Four days training for youth on setting up libraries by State Resource Center (Delhi), at Ghaghas.
- Completed testing of Parents Curriculum, at Ghaghas, Agon, Goela.
- Skill training on mobile phone repairing and solar energy at RUDSET (Gurgaon), for youth of Ghaghas and Agon.
- "Dai and Registered Medical Practitioners training" for Goela, Ghaghas and Agon, held at Nagina.
- Participatory Rural Appraisal training to Income Enhancement team, Jyotisar.
- Income Tax exemption was granted to Ghaghas VLI.

THE SEHGAL FOUNDATION- Working together to empower rural India

The Sehgal Foundation

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