



SEHGAL  
FOUNDATION

# Annual Report 2015-16



*Celebrating partnerships to* **empower rural India**



## *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.

## *What We Do*

We work together with rural communities to create sustainable programs for managing water resources, increasing agricultural productivity, and strengthening rural governance. The 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.



## Message from the Chairman

In the face of rural India's many challenges—minimal physical or electronic connectivity, nonfunctioning or lack of essential services like water and power, inadequate health services and sanitation facilities, widespread illiteracy and poor-functioning schools, and so on—Sehgal Foundation's grassroots programs address three of rural India's most pressing and oft-time interrelated issues: water security, food security, and social justice.

Our models in these areas have been tested and proven effective over the years in several hundred villages in Haryana, Rajasthan, and Bihar, along with research and outreach being done in Telangana. Our talented teams understand what works in the field. Our approach is pragmatic and the results speak for themselves.

The Water Management team addresses water security by focusing on collection, storage, conservation, and access to safe drinking water as well as creating structures for wastewater disposal and sanitation. Last fall, a technology innovation the team developed for creating and storing fresh water in saline water areas was recognized at the United Nations Solutions Summit.

The Agriculture Development team addresses food security by focusing on improved crop yields, emphasizing soil health and nutrient management, using good-quality seed, and managing water, pests, and disease. Educating and empowering women farmers are essential in the quest to improve productivity and competitiveness in the farming sector, generate income, create jobs, and promote sustainable agriculture. The research team in Hyderabad continues to seek improved varieties and hybrids that will produce higher yields.

Social justice is the goal of the Good Rural Governance team that promotes effective citizen participation to strengthen governance, democracy, and rule of law. The poor in the villages are often not aware of their entitlements and rightful portions of certain benefits and

are likely to be deprived of their much-needed goods and services. Building the capacities of village-level institutions and educating individual citizens about their legal and constitutional rights, entitlements, and accountability mechanisms result in empowered people who demand their rights and create change in their communities. Empowering women is a transformative goal of each initiative.

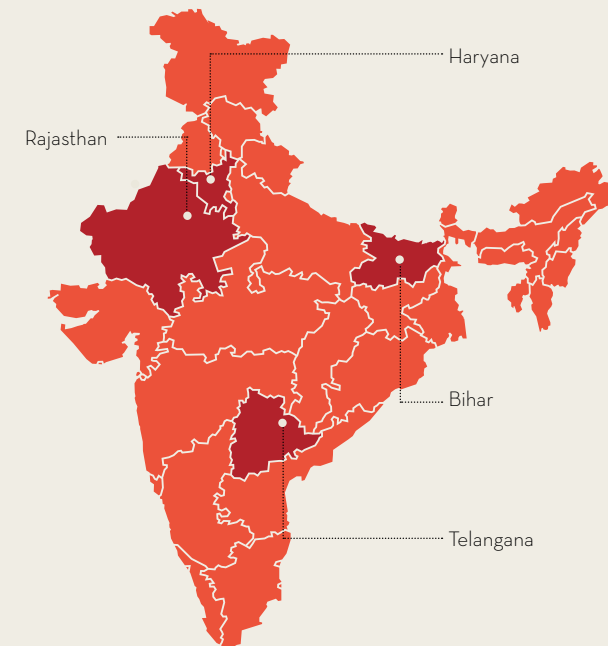
To create a bigger impact and fulfill our mission of strengthening community-led development initiatives to achieve positive social, economic, and environmental change all across rural India requires the models to be scaled up and spread throughout India. Collaborations and partnerships with other civil society organizations, corporations, government agencies, and individuals are key to achieving our vision that every person across rural India is empowered to lead a more secure, prosperous, and dignified life.

In partnerships with organizations such as The Mosaic Company Foundation and Mosaic India Pvt. Ltd., The Coca-Cola Foundation, the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, and many other groups and individuals (see list), Sehgal Foundation programs have directly and indirectly furthered the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to end poverty and promote basic human rights.

We must strengthen our collaborations and partnerships and also work closely with the Ministry of Rural Development to make sure that the models are scaled up. As our partnerships around the globe increase, our programs will reach across the country—and together we will empower rural India.

### Suri Sehgal

Founder and Chairman, Sehgal Foundation



**555** villages, **6** districts, **4** states of Bihar, Haryana, Rajasthan and Telangana

Sehgal Foundation published the book *Together We Empower: Rekindling Hope in Rural India* by Marly Cornell, which documented the first fifteen years of the foundation's work in rural India. The book was the winner of an International Book Award (IBA) in the Social Change category, and is being published in India by Gyan Books.



# Reviving and creating village water structures

In 2015-16, the water program has worked<sup>1</sup> in 67 villages, reaching out to nearly 25,000 villagers.



Managing water resources is fundamental to development and key to achieving the sustainable development Goals (SDG) as defined by the United Nations.

*Jaldhara* (stream of water) project funded by Coca-Cola Foundation has been active since 2014 in five villages of samra panchayat in the Thanagazi block of Alwar, Rajasthan. By working together with rural communities, the project helped revive age-old traditions of water conservation and harvesting. Key interventions done under the project have included the construction of check dams, nallah bunds, contour trenches, farm bunding, field runoff overflow structures, plantations for catchment area treatment, recharge wells, and sprinklers.

<sup>1</sup> Activities undertaken in the villages include construction of check dams, roofwaterharvesting,high-pressurizedrechargewells,soak wells, seasawpumps,solarpumps,loosestonestructures,pond development, andwaterliteracysessionsandtrainingprograms.



# Educating women farmers

In 2015-16, the agricultural development program has worked<sup>2</sup> in 116 villages, reaching out to nearly 26,000 villagers.



Agriculture is the mainstay of rural villagers. The agricultural development program focuses on soil health, soil nutrient management, and improved agricultural practices that include the use of balanced fertilizers and good seed.

*Krishi Chetna* (agricultural awareness) project funded by Mistr Hytech Seed International and *Unnat Krishi* (progressive agriculture) project funded by K+S Kali empower and engage women farmers by informing and educating them on better agricultural practices so they have a say in agricultural decision-making. The projects promote progressive farming techniques with the distribution of high-yielding inputs and sharing knowledge, skills and resources to increase farm productivity.

<sup>2</sup> Activities include demonstration, soil testing, animal nutrition kit, animal insurance and vaccination, kitchen garden and awareness generation programs.



# *Joining together for better sanitation*

In 2015-16, the strengthening Village-Level institutions team worked with 122 villages, and reached out to 20,000 villagers.



Community participation is key to sustainability. In collaboration with Maruti Suzuki India Limited, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (national program on sanitation) was implemented through mahila sangathans (women's collectives) in two villages of Manesar, Gurgaon. The team's aim was to ensure participation of the local community in village development, especially on sanitation issues. Forming collectives paved the way as women worked together to understand the value of sanitation systems, monitor them regularly, and started promoting healthy sanitation practices in their villages.



*Adolescents  
develop self-  
confidence*



In 2015-16,  
185 girls completed  
training in Life skills  
education centers in eight  
villages.



Adolescence is a crucial phase of life. Mentoring and support can go a long way the way to help adolescents realize their full potential and contribute as equal citizens in society.

With support from Mr. Kanti Rustagi, the foundation team furnished and conducted training in Life Skills Education centers in five villages of Mewat, Haryana. The centers provide unique opportunities for adolescents to learn, express, share, and become empowered. Vocational training is provided to girls in the form of stitching and embroidery while they also receive guidance and knowledge about their rights as citizens. With increased awareness, adolescent girls develop positive self- esteem, improve their decision-making ability, and expand their aspirations.



# *Research studies assess development needs*

In 2015-16, fifteen research, monitoring, and evaluation studies were conducted to inform and design effective programs.

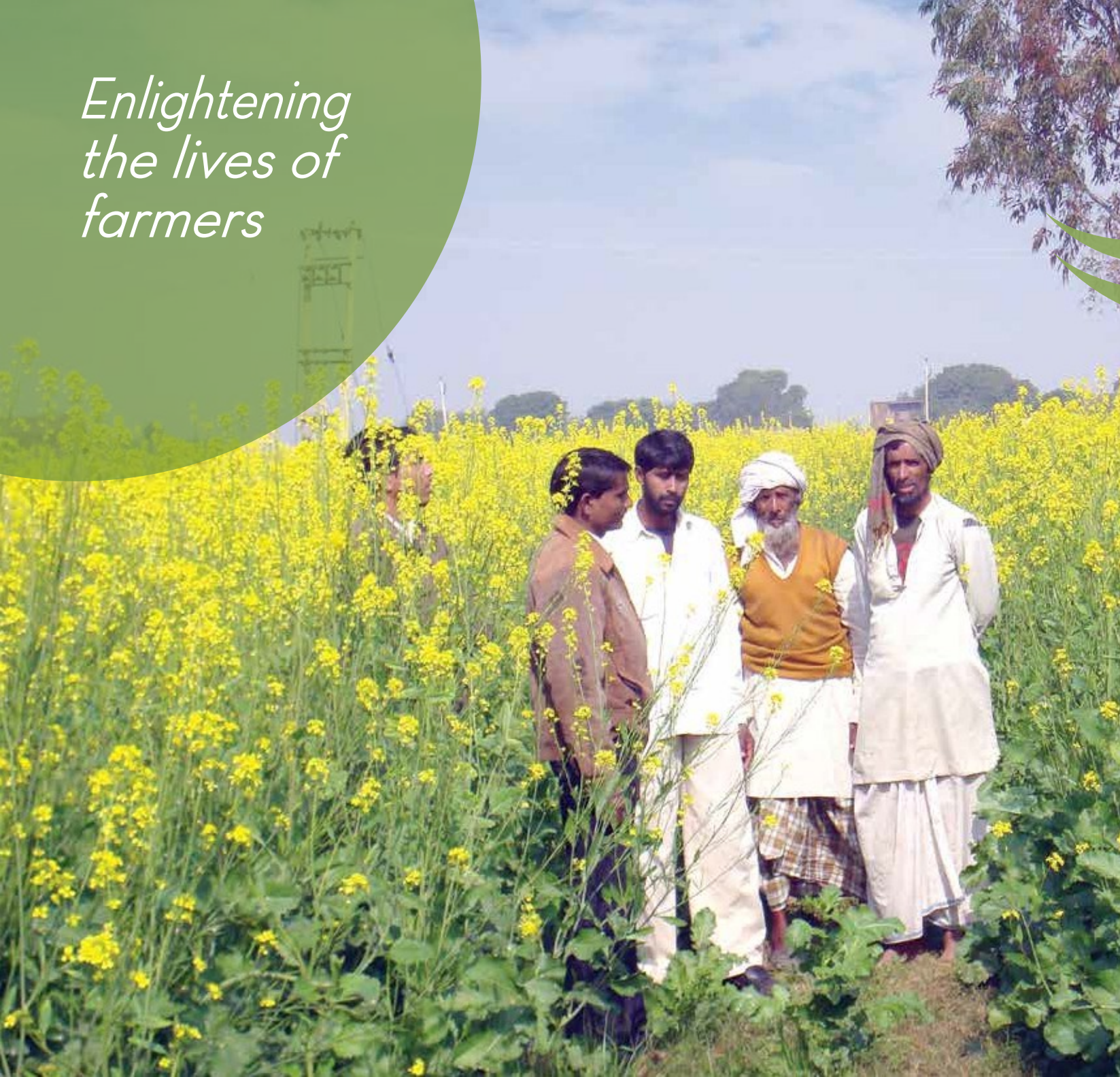


Sehgal Foundation's Rural Research team conducts studies that inform development work and help in effective program design. In 2016, with support from NITI Ayog (formerly known as the Planning Commission) the center released a study on "identifying Backwardness of Mewat region in Haryana: a Block-Level analysis," which examines the level and typology of development in Mewat district. The study features multidimensional aspects of development across block in the district in order to suggest appropriate strategies for development of Mewat, Haryana.



# *Enlightening the lives of farmers*

In 2015–16, the Krishi Jyoti project worked in 34 villages, reaching out to 1,372 farmers with better agricultural practices.



Promotion of sustainable agricultural practices enhances farmers' income.

*Krishi Jyoti* (enlightened agriculture), supported by Mosaic India Pvt. Ltd. and The Mosaic Company Foundation, works with farmers to enhance farm productivity and income so farmers can achieve a more secure and prosperous life. The holistic project integrates water management and educational components. Key interventions have included the construction of water augmentation structures for increased water availability, and promoting education and a healthy school environment to children, which entails, at a minimum, the provision of potable water, decent sanitary facilities, and a safe building.



# *A village school gets drinking water and toilets*

In 2015-16, facilitating the construction of 1,012 toilets promoted good sanitation practices.



Non-functioning toilets and the lack of drinking water in schools affect education adversely. Without these, children (especially girls) miss out on basic education.

In collaboration with Charities aid Foundation India and CEB India Pvt. Ltd., the team implemented a project to promote hygiene and sanitation in government primary and middle schools in the village of Utton, Mewat, Haryana. Building the capacities of the school management committee to work toward development needs of their school helped to create a better learning environment. a toilet block with six urinals, four toilets, and two hand-washing stations were constructed along with two drinking-water systems that benefits 266 schoolchildren and four teachers.



*Promoting  
co-learning  
through radio*



In 2015-16, eight new program series were featured in the thirteen-hour daily transmission from Alfaz-e-Mewat, which also included 93 live studio discussions with experts.



Community radio, Alfaz-e-Mewat (rural Voices of Mewat) FM 107.8, provides a platform for highlighting the voices of the most isolated and vulnerable populations. This past year, radio programs focused on health and education among other themes. As part of the UNDEF FREE/DEM initiative supported by Ideosync Media Combine, the team worked together with community members to produce a fourteen-episode series on the right to education. With support from the department of science and Technology, Government of India, the radio team is working on a 365-episode series on women's health and nutrition.



## *Ensuring water availability in saline water areas*

In 2015-16, a total of nine schools were provided with high-pressure recharge wells.



Safe drinking water is a right for all and is foundational to development.

In order to address the critical need of water security, the foundation team developed an innovative technology that serves as a lifeline for schools that previously had no water sources. In collaboration with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and industry (FICCI), the team implemented pressurized recharge wells in four village schools of Mewat, Haryana that ensure water availability in those saline water areas. The high-pressure recharge wells extend well above ground and deep within the saline groundwater table, creating freshwater pockets in saline water zones and providing access to clean water for drinking and sanitation purposes. Earlier, the project was also funded by Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.



# Spreading the message of good rural governance



In 2015-16, a total of 2,783 training sessions in the form of village and block leadership schools were held for 6,250 *sushasan* (good governance) champions in Mewat, Haryana



Development can be fast tracked by ensuring effective citizen participation in governance. Sehgal Foundation's Good Governance Now! initiative reaches out to villagers to make them aware of government policies and programs specifically meant for them. With the aim of making Good Governance now! an all-India movement, the foundation team organized trainings for staff and volunteers of Swades Foundation, Raigad, Maharashtra; Indian heritage research Foundation, Rishikesh, Uttarakhand; and SOS Children's Village, New Delhi, and V. M. Salgaonkar College of Law, Goa. In addition, the team shares its learning by organizing conferences and seminars. The foundation team also organized voter awareness campaigns for rural citizens in Mewat, haryana. Topics discussed included the duties of citizens in elections, their right to vote, do's and don'ts in elections, the code of conduct (aachar sanhita) for elections, and the process of elections.



# *Strengthening seed research*

In 2015-16, over 1,000 hybrids were tested, 180 inbreds were developed using Doubled Haploidy (dh); fifteen exotic accessions were collected; fifteen Tursicum Leaf Blight (TLB) disease tolerant lines were identified, and twenty-nine inbreds were fingerprinted.



The crop improvement research team located at ICRASAT, Hyderabad, is driven by a commitment to identify elite maize germplasm that helps scientists in public and private sectors to evolve efficient hybrids and varieties of maize to increase productivity. Toward that, more than 10,000 seed samples have been supplied to maize scientists. Research collaborations have been established with international Wheat and Maize improvement Center (CIMMYT, Asia) and Kasetsart University, Thailand, to augment its efforts. The Crop improvement team is continuously engaged in the evaluation of hybrids of different levels at Hyderabad and other target locations, derivation of inbred lines using conventional as well as modern technique of DH using inducer line, collection and cataloging of new germplasm, their screening against TLB, and DNA fingerprinting of lines using advanced molecular technology of Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) to assay their genetic diversity.



A young boy with dark hair, wearing a blue shirt, is drinking water from a stainless steel biosand filter. The filter is a large, cylindrical, polished metal container with a white handle on top. The boy is leaning over the filter, holding the handle with his hands and drinking from the spout. The background shows a dry, hilly landscape with some trees and a clear blue sky.

## *Promoting safe drinking water technologies*

In 2015-16,  
157 households adopted  
biosand filters in Mewat, Haryana;  
Alwar, Rajasthan; and Samastipur,  
Bihar.



Safe drinking water is a concern faced by many communities today. Seghal Foundation's adaptive Technologies team partnered with The Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST), Canada, a pioneer in the design of the precast concrete biosand filter. The foundation team further adapted and innovated the model to come up with the new stainless steel biosand filter that better suits Indian conditions. Its light weight makes the filter more portable on village roads and hilly locations. The integration of germicidal properties of copper removes 100 percent of the biological impurities and zerovalent iron technology removes arsenic from water.



## FINANCIALS 2014-15

In FY 2015-16, the Sehgal Foundation, USA, grants to S M Sehgal Foundation amounted to US\$ 0.96 million (Rs 63,682,381). S M Sehgal Foundation also received funding from other organizations amounting to US\$ 1,141,241 (Rs 75,698,529). To date the total grants from Sehgal Foundation, USA have been \$ 23,135,472 (Rs 1,113,036,908).

These grants and other income (interest and office space rental) were used for water management (29%); agricultural development (9%); rural research (6%); good rural governance (17%); communications and resource mobilization (8%); crop improvement research (12%); general administration (12%) and the maintenance of office buildings (7%).

\*Conversion rate for FY 2015-16 is 1 US\$ = Rs 66.33

### Abridged Income & Expenditure Account for the Year Ending 31 March 2016

Amount In '000

Particulars	Current Year Amount (Rs)	Current Year Amount (US\$)	Prev. Year Amount (Rs)	Prev. Year Amount (US\$)
<b>Income</b>				
Self-generated Income				
Rent, Interest and Other Receipts	58,639	884	38,256	629
<b>Grants</b>				
Indian Sources	26,344	397	15,061	248
International Sources	1,03,242	1,557	1,42,042	2,337
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,88,225</b>	<b>2,838</b>	<b>1,95,359</b>	<b>3,214</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Program	1,46,096	2,203	1,19,790	1,971
Management	20,678	312	32,995	543
Others	26,890	405	28,587	470
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,93,664</b>	<b>2,920</b>	<b>1,81,372</b>	<b>2,984</b>
<b>Deficit/Surplus</b>	<b>(5,439)</b>	<b>(82)</b>	<b>13,987</b>	<b>230</b>

## We thank our individual and group donors

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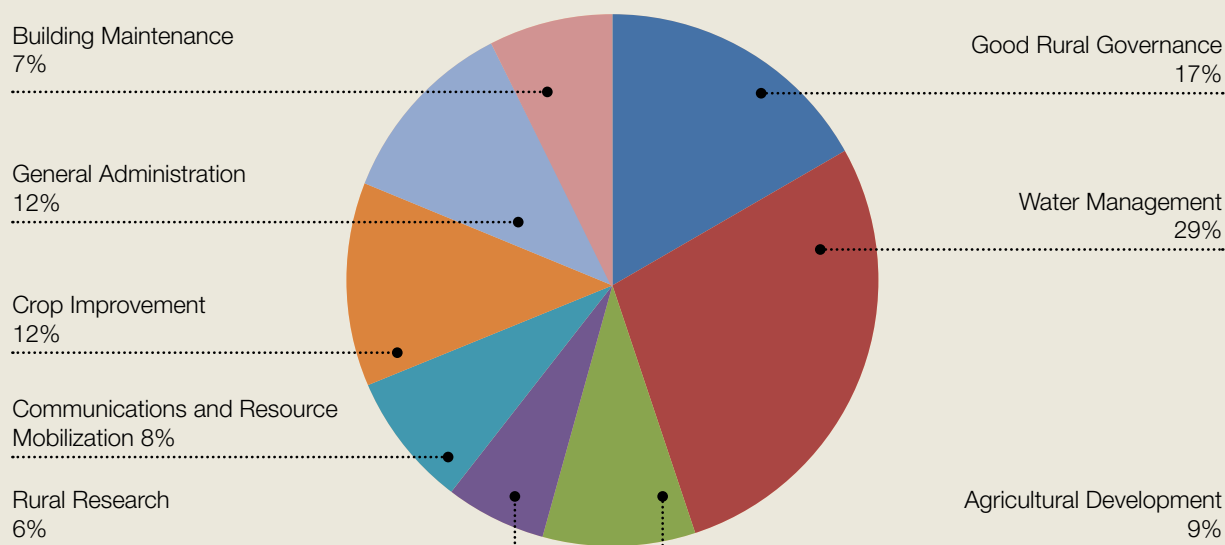


## Abridged Balance Sheet as of 31 March 2016

Amount in '000

Particulars	Current Year Amount (Rs)	Current Year Amount (US\$)	Prev. Year Amount (Rs)	Prev. Year Amount (US\$)
<b>Assets</b>				
Fixed Assets	2,90,709	4,383	312,207	5,137
Loans and Advances	3,017	46	11,387	187
Current Assets	1,07,011	1,613	71,514	1,177
Income & Expenditure A/c. Balance				
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,00,737</b>	<b>6,042</b>	<b>395,108</b>	<b>6,501</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Corpus Fund	1	1	1	1
Current Liabilities	69,889	1,054	49,916	821
Income & Expenditure A/c. Balance	3,30,847	4,987	345,191	5,679
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,00,737</b>	<b>6,042</b>	<b>395,108</b>	<b>6,501</b>

## Program Expenses During FY 15-16 US\$ 2.49 Million (Rs 166 Million)



Subhash and Seema Kshetrapal  
 Abhijeet Kataria Kumar  
 Praveen Kumar  
 Shyamli and Ajit Kumar  
 Suresh Kumar  
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 Karthik Yenumula  
 Amy Yost



# Partnerships

Partnerships at a Glance (April 1, 2015–March 31, 2016)

Program	Partnering Organization	Project / Title	Duration
WATER MANAGEMENT	The Coca-Cola Foundation, USA	<i>Jaldhara III</i> - Integrated Water Resources Management for improved livelihoods and food security in select villages of Alwar, Rajasthan	Three years (December 2013–December 2016)
	The Coca-Cola India Foundation	<i>Jaldhara I</i> - Community Water Conservation Project Management-To recharge groundwater and build a mass of motivated and informed community over the issue of water conservation in Nagina block in Mewat, Haryana	Four years (April 2011–September 2015)
	Department of Science and Technology, Government of India	Rainwater-based community-managed sustainable solution for selected water scarce villages of Mewat, Haryana	Three years and seven months (July 2012–Feb 2016; Grant was extended)
	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) representing Millennium Alliance - United States Agency for International Development (USAID), United Kingdom Department of International Development (UKAID), Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, ICICI Foundation, Innovative Change Collaborative (ICCo), WISH Foundation	Pressurized recharge wells: Ensuring water availability in saline water select villages in Mewat, Haryana	Three years (November 2014–November 2017)
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT	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 empower rural women farmers	Three years and continuing (2013–2017; Grant was extended)
	Misr Hytech Seed Int. S.A.E/NGO partner Ibtada	<i>Krishi Chetna</i> : Agricultural development and water management in Alwar, Rajasthan	Two years (June 2014–May 2016)
	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 Mewat, Haryana	Seven years and continuing (2008–2017; Grant was extended)
	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)	Pilot project for augmenting productivity of lead crops (mustard and wheat) through sustainable agricultural practices in Mewat, Haryana	Three years and eight months (September 2012–May 2016)
	Bayer CropScience Limited	Improving agriculture productivity and livelihood support to small and marginal farmers through agriculture diversification in East Champaran, Bihar	Two years (December 2015–December 2017)
COMMUNICATIONS	Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA)	Community Learning Programme (CLP) through community radio, Alfaz-e-Mewat FM 107.8	Six months (January–May 2015)
	National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC), Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India	Science for women's health and nutrition, <i>Sehat Ka Paigaam</i> series through community radio, Alfaz-e-Mewat FM 107.8	Fifteen months (December 2015–March 2017)
	National Skill Development Corporation	<i>Hunar hai to Kadar Hai</i> , radio series on Mission Skill India through community radio, Alfaz-e-Mewat FM 107.8	Four months (March–June 2016)
	Ideosync Media Combine	<i>Bhavishya Ka Chunav</i> a radio series on Right to Education under the FREE/DEM initiative	Six months (January–June 2016)
STRENGTHENING VILLAGE-LEVEL INSTITUTIONS	Nourish International	Promoting Swachh Bharat Mission through village councils in two villages of Mewat, Haryana	One year and continuing (June 2015–May 2016)
	Charities Aid Foundation India and CEB India Private Limited	Promoting hygiene and sanitation in government primary and middle schools, Utton Mewat, Haryana after Utton	Eight months (August 2015–March 2016)
	Maruti Suzuki India Limited	<i>Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan</i> through Mahila Sangathans in two villages in Manesar, Gurgaon	Fourteen months and continuing (July 2015–March 2017)
RURAL RESEARCH	York University, Canada/Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)	Living with Climate Change: mapping experience and adaptation in select locations in India	Two years (August 2013 to July 2015)
	Jindal Steel and Power Limited, TRB Mines, Tensa, Sundargarh, Odisha	Situational Analysis Study (SAS) of the Project Villages of Jindal Steel and Power Limited's TRB Mines in Tensa, Sundargarh, Odisha	One month (July 2015)
	Research Division, NITI Aayog, Government of India	Identifying Backwardness of Mewat, Haryana: A Block-Level Analysis	One year and three months (March 2014– June 2015)



## FOUNDERS

### SURINDER (SURI) M. SEHGAL



Surinder (Suri) M. Sehgal, PhD, leading international crop scientist; chair of the Board of Trustees of S M Sehgal Foundation and

Sehgal Foundation, USA; founder and chair of Misr Hytech Seed, Egypt, Hytech Seed, India; founder of the William L. Brown Center for Economic Botany at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St Louis, Missouri, and emeritus trustee of the Garden.

### EDDA G. SEHGAL



Edda G. Sehgal, educated at Hohenstaufen Gymnasium, Goppingen, Germany; trustee of S M Sehgal Foundation in India and Sehgal

Foundation, USA; and founder, with Suri Sehgal, and board member of Proagro Group, India, and Global Technologies Incorporated, USA (1990–1998).

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**Bhamy Shenoy**, PhD, activist with Mysore Grahakara Parishat, Pratham, and other NGOs.

**Raman K. Sehgal**, MBA, managing director and member of the Board of Directors of Misr Hytech Seed International, Egypt, and member of the Board of Directors of Hytech Seed, India.

**Gensuke Tokoro**, professor (special appointment) at the Institute of Innovation Research of Hitotsubashi University (2008–2014); president and CEO of NAI, Inc. and Kyoto Biopharmaceuticals, Inc.; and board member of Institute for the Study of Panspermia and Astroeconomics.

**S. K. Vasal**, PhD, plant breeder and geneticist from CIMMYT, World Food Prize laureate, and recipient of Dr. M. S. Swaminathan Award for leadership in agriculture.

## Team

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### CROP IMPROVEMENT RESEARCH (HYDERABAD)

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**Ganesh Bapurao Patil**, MSc, special project scientist

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### FIELD TEAMS

Sehgal Foundation field teams work in the districts of Mewat, Haryana; Alwar, Rajasthan; and Samastipur, Bihar.





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