

Going strong, *Krishi Jyoti* project completes ten years

The *Krishi Jyoti* (“enlightened agriculture”) project, a joint effort of S M Sehgal Foundation and Mosaic Company Foundation and Mosaic India Pvt. Ltd., is helping farmers move out of poverty and achieve greater food security in the semiarid villages of Nuh district, Haryana, and Alwar district, Rajasthan. The project builds capacities of farmers to increase farm productivity, promotes water conservation, and promotes education among children in villages by renovating school infrastructure in government schools. Having started its journey in 2008 with two villages in Nuh, the project reached sixty villages by the end of 2017, benefiting more than 40,000 villagers in Nuh and Alwar.



As part of the tenth anniversary celebrations of the project, the government senior secondary school, Milakpur, district Alwar, Rajasthan, was renovated. The school hosts grades 1–12, and has 438 students: 222 girls and 216 boys. Major renovation work included repairs to the boundary wall, ceiling, walls, floors, doors and windows, and kitchen; provision of separate toilets for boys and girls; installation of rainwater harvesting and drinking water systems, and washbasins; plantation, beautification, and leveling of the school playground.

In addition, a check dam, recently constructed in village Danwri under the project, was also inaugurated. The check dam has a catchment area of 0.72 sq kms and a water storage capacity of 13 million gallons. This check dam

will recharge the groundwater table and help increase the soil moisture, benefiting 9,300 villagers.

The celebration events held on March 28, 2018, saw the presence of students, parents, principals, teachers, representatives of local village governance bodies, and dignitaries, including the president and chief executive officer of The Mosaic Company, Mr. Joc O'Rourke; founder and chairman of Sehgal Foundation, Dr. Suri M. Sehgal; Corrine D. Ricard, senior vice president-Commercial; and Ben Pratt, vice president, Corporate Public Affairs, graced the occasion. Also present were Mr. Kevin Kimm, vice president of the Mosaic Company; Mr. Robin Edwin, managing director of Mosaic India Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Shashikant Bhende, country agronomist of Mosaic India Pvt. Ltd.; as well as Mr. Jay Sehgal, trustee; and Mr. Ajay Pandey, CEO of S M Sehgal Foundation.