



SEHGAL
FOUNDATION

An Overview of **S M Sehgal Foundation**



ABOUT US

The mission of S M Sehgal Foundation (Sehgal Foundation) is to achieve positive social, economic, and environmental change across rural India by addressing the most critical needs for food security, water security, local participation and information asymmetry, with a focus on the empowerment of women and children. Sehgal Foundation operates across ten states, in about 1,000 villages so far, reaching more than 2.5 million people.

A dedicated team of experts and field workers create and help to implement sustainable programs by working alongside rural communities to better manage their water resources and access safe drinking water, increase their agricultural productivity, strengthen and articulate their vision for village development, positively transform the lives of schoolchildren, and bridge the information divide. A core pillar in every effort is local participation as it allows for representation along with inclusion of local knowledge and practices thereby leading to more equitable and sustained outcomes.

Sehgal Foundation has been well-recognized for more than two decades for the quality, innovation, and integrity of its work, and has received numerous awards, including Best Water NGO by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Gol; NGO of the Year at the CSR Summit and Awards by UBS Forums; Water Digest Water Award for Best NGO—Rural Drinking Water Solutions Provider; and winner of the National Community Radio Awards by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Sehgal Foundation holds Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and is accredited with the Conference of the Parties to UNCCD.

TOGETHER
WE EMPOWER
RURAL INDIA

PROGRAMS

Sehgal Foundation has five main program areas: Water Management, Agriculture Development, Local Participation and Sustainability, Transform Lives *one school at a time*, and Outreach for Development. These programs are supported by skilled research teams that engage in participatory research, impact assessment, and interactive dialogues to determine informed actions to achieve sustainable results.



WATER MANAGEMENT encourages communities to harvest and store rainwater for direct use and/or replenish groundwater by building and restoring infrastructure in villages. The program supports revival of traditional water bodies, construction of water storage infrastructures, and safe disposal of wastewater. Safe drinking water for all is promoted with innovative low-cost, sustainable technologies and promotion of WASH behavior changes. Creating awareness about the need for water conservation and building the capacities of local citizens and village-level committees result in better management and long-term sustainability of their water resources.



AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT promotes sustainable livelihoods by building the capacities of farmers, including women producers, on improved agricultural practices and new technologies that increase crop yields, conserve water, and improve soil fertility. The teams work with small-holder farmers in rain-fed and irrigated areas to facilitate adoption of improved and advanced agricultural practices that include soil health management, climate smart interventions, crop production management, input-use efficiency, small farm mechanization, crop residue management, water-efficient irrigation techniques, horticultural development, livestock management, and the use of information and communication technology (ICT) in agriculture.



LOCAL PARTICIPATION AND SUSTAINABILITY creates awareness among the communities about the value of participation in making local institutions vibrant and improving the last mile delivery of government programs. It incorporates local knowledge and choices in village development programs for inclusive and sustainable development. It builds capacities of village-level institutions to identify and address community problems, monitor the maintenance of public infrastructure, and conserve natural resources for holistic village development. It further creates awareness about important health and sanitation issues, and promotes usage of digital technologies to widen the reach and benefits of government programs to the communities.



TRANSFORM LIVES *one school at a time* provides schoolchildren access to drinking water, better sanitation facilities, a safe and conducive learning environment, and digital and life skills awareness trainings. Building the capacities of School Management Committees, Village Development Committees and other villagers creates greater engagement in the functioning of schools. Parents, teachers, and children are encouraged and inspired to increase enrollment and reduce dropouts in rural government schools, especially for girl children.



OUTREACH FOR DEVELOPMENT facilitates participation and positive social change in rural communities by creating awareness and sharing knowledge. Working together with the village communities, it strengthens and promotes opinion favorable to the attainment of institutional goals towards rural development. Reliable and timely information is shared in an easy-to-understand manner to stimulate dialog and engagement that positively influences behavior changes. By providing a platform to grassroots communities to voice their views, people are encouraged to identify important issues affecting their lives and work together to resolve them. Last-mile outreach activities bridge the large information divide using print, audio, visual, and interactive formats, and accelerate social change, by bringing the local voices and their concerns to the forefront.





NEED

India has about 18 percent of the world's population and only 4 percent of the world's water resources. For an agrarian country like India, water is a vital driving force with a direct bearing on its agricultural productivity and sustainability. However, unregulated extraction and non-replenishment has drastically reduced groundwater and deteriorated its quality. The crisis has further worsened due to climate change, which causes erratic and intense rainfall. In addition to depleting aquifers, another crucial challenge for India's agricultural development is to ensure that small and marginal farmers are able to gain adequate remuneration from farming and contribute to the country's increasing demand for food. Less-efficient traditional farming practices in India limit farmers from realizing the full potential of their landholdings.

Furthermore, Government, Corporates, Civil Society Organizations, among others, invest crores of rupees on programs to develop rural India. However, last mile delivery challenges due to gaps in knowledge and inadequate participation at grassroots level renders these programs ineffective. Members of village-level institutions are also constrained by poor awareness, insufficient skills and limited resources, and therefore struggle to lead development activities in villages.



PARTNERSHIPS

Sehgal Foundation's partners in the corporate, government, academic, and social sectors, and on the ground in rural communities are key to the success of its vital rural development initiatives. By cultivating strategic partnerships with organizations and individuals who share the vision of more secure, prosperous, and empowered rural communities, critical challenges facing rural communities are addressed, and the most effective solutions are scaled up to expand to more rural communities across India. Together we empower rural India!



GEOGRAPHIES

As of October 2020, Sehgal Foundation is present in rural regions of the following states in India:

1. **Andhra Pradesh**
Anantpur district
2. **Bihar**
Begusarai district
Buxar district
Darbhanga district
East Champaran district
Muzaffarpur district
Samastipur district
Sitamarhi district
Vaishali district
3. **Haryana**
Faridabad district
Gurugram district
Mahendragarh district
Nuh district
Palwal district
Rewari district
Rohtak district
Kurukshetra district
4. **Karnataka**
Kolar district
5. **Madhya Pradesh**
Gwalior district
Morena district
6. **Maharashtra**
Aurangabad district
7. **Punjab**
Fatehgarh Sahib district
8. **Rajasthan**
Alwar district
Barmer district
Bharatpur district
Jodhpur district
Karauli district
Pali district
9. **Telangana**
Medak district
Medchal-Malkajgiri district
Siddipet district
10. **Uttar Pradesh**
Gautam budh nagar district
Meerut district
Prayagraj district

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