# Calendar 2023

## ACCELERATING OUR IMPACT



### 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. Our team's emphasis on gender equality and women's empowerment in each program is driven by the realization that human rights are central to developing every person's potential.

### Vision

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

## ACCELERATING OUR IMPACT

As India celebrates 75 years of independence as *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*, I recall the days of partition and the evolutionary journey of the people as well as the country's recognition of its glorious history, culture, and achievements. I resonate closely with the Mahotsav theme of dedication to the people of India who have not only been instrumental in bringing India thus far, but also hold within them the power and potential to uplift the spirit of *Aatmanirbhar Bharat* (self-reliant India).

I believe that people should always come first.

This self-reliance within the communities sets the base for all our work in rural development through the S M Sehgal Foundation, which I founded together with my wife, Edda Sehgal, back in 1999, with a vision to see every person across rural India leading a secure, dignified, and prosperous life.

As a rural development organization, I feel proud to see ourselves as contributors to sustainable development and positive social change in rural communities. We partner with communities to create opportunities and build resilience in addressing the world's most pressing issues: water security, food security, local participation, and any information asymmetry that keeps India from realizing the sustainable development goals.

We lead by example and in an open, transparent, and participatory manner, and demonstrate a proven track record in engaging with the communities on rural development solutions that create lasting impact.

S M Sehgal Foundation's work based on a community-led approach leads to lasting impact and sustainability. Several village-based institutions and citizens with increased awareness are driving social change at the grassroots. Active village



development committees and institutions maintain the physical and social capital created in the villages even after we complete projects and trainings in the villages. That's the power of empowerment!

Suri Sehgal Founder & Chairman





## January 2023

### HARYANA

19,000 CROP DEMONSTRATIONS
3,464 ACRES OF LASER LEVELING
6,900 STUDENTS TRAINED IN DIGITAL
AND LIFE SKILLS 35 SCHOOLS TRANSFORMED

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● NEW MOON ● FIRST QUARTER ● THIRD QUARTER ● FULL MOON





Irfan lives with his seven-member family and owns 2.5 acres of inherited agricultural land in district Nuh, Haryana. The land was saline with limited irrigation facilities, and produced low yields owing to the primitive package of practices (PoP) in millet. He was one of the farmers who took part in the demonstration of cultivating millet, using modern practices in 0.5 acres of his land. In the new PoP, for higher crop yields farmers were trained to include micro and macronutrients in the soil, which had been damaged due to excessive use of urea and DAP. Irfan was astonished to see a major increase in yield in the demonstration plot versus the control plot where he used his traditional methods. Since then, he has adopted the modern PoP for the entire field.





## February 2023

### RAJASTHAN

80 SCHOOLS TRANSFORMED WITH RAINWATER HARVESTING STRUCTURES
82 CHECK DAMS/MINI CHECK DAMS
3,100 STUDENTS TRAINED IN DIGITAL AND LIFE SKILLS 40 PONDS

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● NEW MOON ● FIRST QUARTER ● THIRD QUARTER ● FULL MOON





Neelam is a twenty-year-old girl residing in village Lily in Alwar, Rajasthan. Neelam's family of five owns 1.25 acres of land. Her father is only able to earn fifty to sixty thousand rupees per annum, which is inadequate for the family. They sometimes have no grain available even for their food.

This difficult situation ignited Neelam's spirit to enhance her knowledge and achieve some skills to financially contribute to her family's income. She gained new confidence and exposure from the digital and life skills training along with her younger sister. She aspired to be a government primary school teacher, for which she enrolled in the two-year Basic School Training Certificate Course, and is now in the final year of this course.



## March 2023

### **BIHAR**

4,307 COMMUNITY MEMBERS TRAINED

**1,464** COMMUNITY TRAININGS ON WATER MANAGEMENT AND WASH PRACTICES

**2,912** *JALKALP* AND *MATIKALP* WATER FILTERS INSTALLED

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	February 2023
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● NEW MOON ● FIRST QUARTER ● THIRD QUARTER ● FULL MOON





Suman Jaiswal from district Muzaffarpur, Bihar, is a member of the Women's Leadership School (WLS) run in her village. She had never heard of the term "gender equality" before. Learning about the concept of gender equality from the WLS trainings, she asked her husband to help her with household chores, to which he was receptive.

Suman also made efforts to no longer discriminate among her children on the basis of gender. She is happy seeing this change within herself.



# April 2023



### **UTTAR PRADESH**

1,280 CROP DEMONSTRATIONS700 KITCHEN GARDENS 84 SOAK PITS AND93 SOAK WELLS 47 PONDS/FARM PONDS

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● NEW MOON ● FIRST QUARTER ● THIRD QUARTER ● FULL MOON





Mamta, a twenty-eight-year-old woman residing in district Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, set up a home garden that has given her family an assured supply of nutritive vegetables such as okra, spinach, pumpkin, gourd, and others. Now they don't need to buy vegetables from the market. She sells the surplus vegetables to other women, earning extra income.

"I feel very happy with the homegrown vegetables that help my family attain good nutrition and well-being."



## May 2023



## MAHARASHTRA

706 CROP DEMONSTRATIONS5 DRINKING WATER ATMS 17 RECHARGEWELLS 15 CHECK DAMS

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● NEW MOON ● FIRST QUARTER ● THIRD QUARTER ○ FULL MOON





Villagers across Sillod and Phulmbari block in Aurangabad, Maharashtra, are no longer worried about having access to potable water. Water ATMs are now set up to provide safe drinking water to the community in five villages. The pricing, the villagers say, is reasonable. Operated through a card metering system, water is available around the clock at a flexible price of Rs 5 for 20 liters, along with the re-use of wastewater. The water management committee operates and manages the drinking water system benefitting a population of 5,000.



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June 2023



### MADHYA PRADESH

1 CHECK DAM 7 PONDS 4 RECHARGE WELLS 2,116 HOUSEHOLDS REACHED

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● NEW MOON ● FIRST QUARTER ● THIRD QUARTER ● FULL MOON





For Samar Singh, the construction of the pond in his village smoothed the way for providing timely and adequate irrigation to his crops. The water level in his well was previously at about 55 feet deep and now it has risen up to 45 feet! Watershed interventions in district Gwalior helped increase the water levels in villages. The agricultural community mainly depends on the groundwater for irrigation, and the replenishment of the depleting water table with pond construction and rejuvenation creates surface water storage.



# July 2023



## **HIMACHAL PRADESH**

2 PONDS 22 MILLION LITERS OF WATER HARVESTING CAPACITY **361** HOUSEHOLDS REACHED **25** COMPOST BEDS

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● NEW MOON ● FIRST QUARTER ● THIRD QUARTER ● FULL MOON





In district Solan, villages Mhasi Palasi and Nikoowal have a water lining through water storage structures that together create 22 million liters of water harvesting capacity that help farmers in agriculture and also increase groundwater levels in the area.

Satish Busar, a long-time resident and one of the many beneficiaries shares that the construction of the Nikoowal pond has helped us overcome problems of accessing irrigation water for our crops in the past. Now that we have water in the pond, we can meet much of the requirements for irrigation and drinking water for the livestock. Nikoowal and the neighboring villages will benefit greatly from this.



August 2023



### **ANDHRA PRADESH**

2 COMMUNITY TANKS DESILTED AND
REJUVENATED 5 CHECK DAMS
6 RAINWATER HARVESTING

STRUCTURES IN SCHOOLS

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● NEW MOON ● FIRST QUARTER ● THIRD QUARTER ● FULL MOON





Check dams have been constructed in villages of Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh, on Chitravathi and Kushavathi rivers of Chilamathur Mandal. The area falls under the rain shadow zone, receiving much less rainfall with predominantly rain-fed agriculture. Due to acute water shortages, the local farmers struggling to take even one good crop in kharif season are now engaging in two or more crops per season with higher yields and profits. The households previously dependent on tanker water supply for six to eight months now rely on public water supply sources that are recharged and yield good water.

"Since the check dam is in place, the level of water in my bore well is showing visible improvements. We have water in our bore wells for eight months now." - T. Sreenivasulu, Koduru.



September 2023



### KARNATAKA

58 ACRES COVERED UNDER MICRO-IRRIGATION 5 FPOS WITH 3,924
FARMER MEMBERS CAPACITATED
169 FARMER INTEREST GROUPS
5 TANKS DESILTED AND REJUVENATED

### **SUNDAY** MONDAY **TUESDAY** WEDNESDAY THURSDAY **SATURDAY** August 2023 **FRIDAY** S Μ S 14 15 16 17 18 22 23 24 25 26 • JANMASHTAMI 28 29 30 31 October 2023 S Μ W F S 9 10 11 12 13 14 16 17 18 19 20 21 23 24 25 26 27 28 30 31 $\bigcirc$

● NEW MOON ● FIRST QUARTER ● THIRD QUARTER ● FULL MOON





Masthi Venkatesh Iyengar Horticulture Farmer Producer Company Ltd. (FPO) was registered in 2016, in village Rajenahalli, Malur Taluka of Kolar, Karnataka. When formed, the FPO had 650 members and thirty farmer interest groups (FIGs). With a small input business in the five years since the FPO's inception, only 150 new members had joined. Of the 150, only ninety members had paid their share capital amount. The mobilization of farmers in FPOs led to an increase of eighty-five members in just four months, totaling 885 members, each with a paid share capital. Farmers call it a new beginning for their FPO.



## October 2023



### TELANGANA

200 KITCHEN GARDEN UNITS SET UP
740 CROP DEMONSTRATIONS
25 WOMEN FARMER CLUBS FORMED
4 SCHOOLS TRANSFORMED

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● NEW MOON ● FIRST QUARTER ● THIRD QUARTER ○ FULL MOON





Forty-year-old Rajamma is a single parent and practices agriculture in her father's three-acre land. She gained immense knowledge and empowerment being a part of the Women Farmers Club Narsampalli. At the farmers club, she learned about nutrient management and says, "I have used bio manure as well as waste decomposer as an organic pesticide in my field, as a result of which I have a good yield at a comparatively lower cost, since my expenditure on buying chemical fertilizers reduced."





## PUNJAB

200 ACRES FARMLAND
PREVENTED FROM STUBBLE BURNING
540 HOUSEHOLDS CONNECTED TO
DRAIN FOR BETTER SANITATION
POND

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● NEW MOON ● FIRST QUARTER ● THIRD QUARTER ● FULL MOON

November 2023





In Chunni Kala village in district Fatehgarh Sahib, Punjab, farmers are reaping benefits of using the super seeder machine used for paddy. Also, the crop residue burnt in the largest scale, is in the case of paddy, one of the causes of air pollution. The machine does three operations simultaneously, such as ploughing and mixing the crop stubble into the soil, from its front side; and simultaneously sowing the wheat from its rear end. The substituting of the traditional method with the super seeder saves the farmer INR 1,500 per acre and about two hours of time per acre. In addition, the fertility of the soil is increased through the addition of organic carbon, due to the mixing of the crop stubble into the soil.



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December 2023



### **OUTREACH IN 11 STATES**

over **3.6** million people reached across **1,689** villages and counting **10,000** students trained in digital and life skills **225** villages access community radio **116** schools transformed

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NEW MOON 🌓 FIRST QUARTER 🌓 THIRD QUARTER 🔵 FULL MOON





Sabir tunes into Alfaz-e-Mewat daily to listen to the agricultural program called Tohfae-Kudrat: Jal, Jungle, Zameen (gifts of nature-water, forests, and land). Information on laser land leveling caught his attention, and he was prompted to find out how he could reap the benefits of this technology.

His one-acre field sown with wheat crop yielded much more than before after laser leveling. In the past, his family members came forward to help at the time of irrigation; however, since Sabir resorted to laser leveling, his produce has increased, and irrigating the fields is much more convenient and easily manageable by one person.





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