



Research in Environment, Education and Development Society

Annual Report

2020-21



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About Us

Research in Environment, Education and Development Society (REEDS) is a registered non-profit established in 1992 to work on sustainable rural development. Our focus is on development of sustainable livelihoods for rural and tribal communities through effective management of local natural resources like agriculture, water, forest and livestock. Its core team comprises of experienced development professionals, social scientists, planners, environmentalists and administrators.

Small NGOs and individuals at grassroots have distinctive advantages during the implementation of development projects as they understand the local social structures and have good networks in the local communities. The need for REEDS arises from the fact that most of the time, they lack the connect with professional organizations having technical expertise, project management experience, documentation skills and the ability to reach out to funding agencies for financial support. Many of them cannot collaborate with other NGOs and leverage government programs. This adversely impacts the sustainability of the development projects and in turn, affects the livelihood of community. REEDS envisage bridging this gap and supporting such small development start-ups and leaders who are already working in their native areas on development initiatives.

Vision:

To strengthen the livelihood of rural communities through their empowerment and achieve holistic socio-economic development.

Objectives:

- ❖ To implement development projects in collaboration with local NGO partners and community leaders through technical support, project management techniques and financial arrangements
- ❖ To build the capacities of development professionals and local NGOs towards asset based community driven development model, project management and technical expertise in Natural Resource Management (NRM), agriculture and allied activities, micro-enterprises and other relevant areas
- ❖ To encourage a culture within the funding organizations to view the communities as important elements of social change through effective partnership
- ❖ To enhance the impact of government and private expenditure on the projects and programs to improve local livelihoods and economy at the community level

REEDS started Central India operations from May 2018 from its office in Pune, Maharashtra. This office has recently completed 3 years. The focus of Pune office has been on implementation of Madhya Bharat Vananchal Samruddhi Yojana (MBVSY) in collaboration with “Yojak – Center for Research and Strategic Planning for Sustainable Development”. MBVSY is a flagship program designed by Yojak. The program spans over 5-7 years wherein the first 2 years is dedicated to capacity building of local non-profit organization and then REEDS provides hand-holding support to the same organization for next 3-5 years for program implementation and fund raising.

Geographic Coverage

REEDS predominantly works in blocks with majority of tribal population. Currently it's working in 4 districts across Maharashtra.

Sr. No.	State	Districts	Blocks
1	Maharashtra	Amravati	Chikhaldara
		Nandurbar	Akkalkuwa
		Dhule	Sakri, Shirpur
		Nashik	Surgana, Kalwan

Impact of Covid Pandemic and MGNrega

This year started with nation-wide lockdown imposed by Central and State Govt. The lockdown started from mid-march and continued till Jun'20. All of us have witnessed this pandemic and it's effect on livelihood of marginal section of the society. Thousands of people had to migrate back to their villages since everything was closed down in cities. Even though the Govt. tried to mitigate this by providing village level employment through schemes like MGNrega, it was not adequate in most of the villages in the blocks where REEDS works. Looking at this grim situation, REEDS also decided to start a focused initiative on MGNrega. We started online trainings of all the co-ordinators and also conducted village level workshops to build capacities in doing the annual planning for MGNrega. This pandemic underlined the importance of strengthening rural livelihoods. REEDS has always believed in strengthening the natural resources of village for sustainable livelihoods. MGNrega has great potential to help the village in doing that. Overall the first quarter of this year was very slow due to lockdown with minimal action on the ground. The activities slowly started to pickup from end of June.

Major Initiatives

Following are major initiatives that REEDS has undertaken this year. Most of these initiatives are long term and REEDS will continue to work on these for atleast next 5 years.

1. MBVSY Fellowship Project

MBVSY – “Madhya Bharat Vananchal Samruddhi Yojana” as mentioned earlier is the flagship program run jointly by Yojak and REEDS. Yojak is providing fellowship grant in 3 Clusters – Melghat (Amravati), Molgi (Nandurbar) and Shirpur (Dhule) for this project since Jun'20. The project which was earlier named as “MBVSY Melghat” is now covered under this initiative. “Swami Vivekanand Research and Development Foundation” (SVRDF) from Shirpur block of Dhule District is the local partner selected under this program. In Molgi, a community based organization known as “Molgi Parisar Seva Samiti” has been formed to work with REEDS.

1.1 Melghat, Amravati

REEDS has been working in Melghat region right from its inception in Maharashtra. There are 3 clusters of 20 villages each in Chikhaldara block. REEDS has incubated 3 cluster level organizations known as “Parisar Seva Samiti” meaning “Cluster Service Committee”. Last year these “Parisar Seva Samitis” were formally registered as non-profit charitable trusts. Following are some of the key activities undertaken last year in this project:

- ❖ **Strengthening Parisar Seva Samitis** – Monthly meetings of PSS started from month of July. Annual financial audits were completed. PSS are the local institutions registered by REEDS which are supposed to drive the development efforts. The fellow appointed by REEDS facilitates the monthly meetings and helps them in conducting the activities.
- ❖ **Van Dhan Vikas Kendra:** Chandrabhaga Parisar Seva Samiti completed the online data entry and the application was submitted on the Trifed Website. It has not been approved yet.
- ❖ **Trainings on Organic Farming:** Demonstrations of Jeevamrut and Bio-Char preparations were conducted in 4 villages and around 60-70 farmers participated in these demonstrations. People are slowly realizing the importance of using these low cost and locally available fertilizer alternatives which can enhance the fertility of soil in 3-5 years with regular application. This will help in reducing the cost on agricultural inputs like fertilizers. Along with this information was also given on latest low-cost micro-irrigation technologies like Pepsi Drip and pest management techniques like Sticky Traps etc.



Jeevamrut Demo at Vastapur Village, Chandrabhaga PSS



Bio-char Demo at Malkapur Village, Chandrabhaga PSS



Parisar Seva Samiti Baithak at Semadoh, Davrababa PSS

1.2 Molgi, Nandurbar

REEDS was working last year in Molgi cluster of Akkalkuwa Block through a local organization but this year the strategy was changed and we started working directly with the communities. Local coordinators have been selected to facilitate various activities. A cluster of 10 villages was selected for implementation of this program. Initial study of the villages was conducted to understand the state of natural resources and interventions were planned based on that. Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Nandurbar has been very supportive in this cluster and provided technical support on regular basis.

- ❖ **Seed Treatment Trainings and Demonstrations** – With technical support of KVK Nandurbar, about 100 farmers were trained in seed treatment before sowing. After the training 40 farmers were provided with the required material and total area of 30-35 acres was covered under this initiative.
- ❖ **MGNrega:** Online Training was conducted and baseline surveys were initiated in the villages to gather the exact volume of work demand by the laborers. Two-day village workshop was conducted to train the villagers at Kanjala Village, Gram Panchayat officials were also invited for this annual planning process. Mr. Dinesh Patil from Shahada, Nandurbar was the resource person for this training. Later in month of Aug-Sep, village level labor budgeting and annual work planning was done in 5 villages (Sari, Balaghat, Bijripathi, Bijrigavhan and Junvani). This kind of exercise was never done earlier in the villages. This process was new even for the Gram Rojgar Sevaks. Work demand for 72 people was raised online as local GP officials were not ready to accept it and provide a formal receipt. Later on a letter along with this demand was also submitted to Tehsil Office at Akkalkuwa. The Tehsil Office issued a letter to BDO and forest dept. to start the work immediately. In Dec, a letter demanding “Berojgar Bhatta” (unemployment allowance) was also submitted at Tehsil Office. But unfortunately, no work was started by the concerned departments. Meanwhile due to this delay, people who had demanded work also migrated to other places for employment.
- ❖ **Waste Decomposer Demonstrations:** This is another organic fertilizer and plant growth promoter similar to Jeevamrut. 40 farmers were trained on preparation of this culture using a concentrate, around 30 farmers actually prepared and applied it in their farms.
- ❖ **Animal Vaccination Camps:** Request Letter was submitted to the block level office of veterinary dept. for conducting vaccination camps. The camp was conducted in Bijripathi.
- ❖ **Vanbhaji Utsav:** It was conducted for the first time in Bhagdari Village. Overall 30 women participated in this and exhibited more than 25 varieties of forest vegetables, about 100 people visited the festival including some villagers from nearby villages.
- ❖ **Bori Bandhare Through Shramdan (Sand Bag Bunds):** These are also called as Vanrai Dams. All of these were constructed through voluntary movement also known as “Shramdan”. The sand bags required to construct these dams were provided by a local road construction company. A letter was submitted by local “Parisar Seva Samiti” to donate these bags. These dams were constructed at 7 places in villages - Bijripathi, Balaghat, Molgi, Bijrigavhan, Kumbharipada and Malpada-Kathi. This activity was also covered by local media and approximately 35-40 acres of land received protective irrigation from these bunds. This water storage also catered to local livestock. More than 100 people have volunteered to build these bunds and contributed over 500 hours.
- ❖ **Vegetable Nursery:** KVK Nandurbar provided the material for developing vegetable nursery. Seeds of 4 vegetables – Brinjal, Tomato, Chilli and Cabbage were provided. These nurseries were setup in 3 locations – two in Bhagdari village and one in Bijripathi.
- ❖ **Exposure visit to Bhujgao (Dhadgao Block):** 6 farmers from the Cluster visited NICRA project implemented by KVK Nandurbar. The local project co-ordinator Sandip Kadam explained various interventions in micro-irrigation techniques like Rain-Pipe and crop diversification to potato, backyard nutrition garden etc.
- ❖ **Training for Milk Producing Farmers:** Ganapure Sir from KVK, Nandurbar led this initiative helping farmers in and around Molgi who are currently involved in Milk business. A training cum awareness program is conducted every month in different villages. Guidance was provided on various varieties

of fodder, vaccination, importance of technologies like mineral mixture, silage etc. Total of 25 farmers from 5 villages attended the training.

- ❖ **Exposure Visit to Khandbara, Navapur through KVK:** 22 farmers from 3 Gram-Panchayats visited Khandbara to understand various interventions done through Cillage Farmer Producer Company and KVK. Some of the key interventions were onion seed production, vermicompost production at large scale, milk production, vegetable cultivation, backyard poultry, silage (fodder), bee-keeping etc.
- ❖ **Jalkund and Allied intervention:** REEDS also did pilot of this innovative water resource that can support half acre of crop or 8-10 Gunthas of vegetable cultivation. This can be a great support to Tribal families after monsoon season. Jalkund is nothing but a small farm pond with a capacity of 20-40 Thousand Litres. The farmers contributed by digging the pond and REEDS sponsored the plastic lining for the Jalkund. Total 4 farmers have dug out small farm ponds called as Jalkund in this cluster. Three of them cultivated vegetables and one farmer used it to water his Mango saplings during summer season. The avg. earnings in the first 2 months are 6-8 Thousand Rs.
- ❖ **Training on Community Forest Management Plans:** Training program was conducted by Ms. Jui Pethe from REEDS at Balaghat. The program received a huge response and almost 90-100 villagers attended it. People were told about the forest rights, a reading of their CFR certificate was done, a map of their CFR area was prepared on the ground. The event also featured in local newspaper.
- ❖ **Wello Water Wheels:** Water wheel is a 45 litre plastic drum with a handle to pull / push it along the ground. The effort required to pull / push is minimal compared to carrying a headload of 10-15 litres. Nilkamal Wello Water Wheel's unique leak proof durable design helps them carry four times the water in half the time. This "time saved", they can spend cooking, earning and caring for their family. 3 such waterwheels have been provided at Bijripathi, Balaghat and Sari. Approximately 5 families are using these waterwheels on shared basis. It has been very useful for all the users and it saves their time by almost 60-70%. It is also easier to pull the waterwheel than carrying the water over-head. Few more families are interested in buying the waterwheel now. REEDS is planning to upscale this experiment next year.
- ❖ **Mango Flowering Protection:** Half day workshop was conducted at Malpada by Kunde Sir from KVK, he provided guidance on protection of Mango flowering and Vermicomposting. The workshop got good response from villagers, about 70-80 villagers from 5 different villages of MPSS were present for this workshop. Demonstration of the protective spraying of Neem kernel oil and Metarrhizium was recommended to all Aamchur producers. 2-3 farmers from MPSS farmers groups (Balaghat, Bijripathi, Sari, Molgi, Maalpada and Junvani) were urged to participate in this trial of mango bloom protection.



Seed Treatment Demonstration at Bijripathi Village, Molgi Parisar



Vaccination camp at Bijripathi Village



MGNrega Workshop - Sharing the annual plan with villagers



Balaghat Village – Transect Walk for MGNrega Planning



Bori Bandhara at Balaghat through Shramdan, Molgi Cluster



KVK Training for Milk Producing Farmers – Molgi Parisar



CFRMP Workshop at Balaghat, Molgi Parisar



Tribal Family from Bundesari Village with the Water-Wheel

1.3 Shirpur, Dhule

REEDS has partnered with Swami Vivekanand Research and Development Foundation (SVRDF) as mentioned above. SVRDF is a local non-profit and has been working in Shirpur Block of Dhule from more than a decade. A cluster of 5 villages was selected for implementation of this program. Initial study of the villages was conducted to understand the state of natural resources and interventions were planned based on that.

- ❖ **MGNrega:** Online Training was conducted and baseline surveys were initiated in the villages to gather the exact volume of work demand by the workers. The survey was conducted in 12 villages in the months of July and Aug'20. In month of Oct, 2 Days Workshop was organized by SVRDF at Khairkhuti village. The event was very successful with about 100 participants from the cluster which included Sarpanch, Gramsevaks, Rojgar Sevaks, Krushi Sahayak and Forest Guards etc. The additional collector of the district for MGNrega – Mr. Govind Danej was the chief guest of the event. It got good coverage in local media as well and now we are getting response from the other villages in the cluster for preparation of annual plan of Nrega. Work demand for 200 people from Vakwad and Durbadya villages was submitted to Tehsil Office in Shirpur.

- ❖ **Formation of Farmer Groups for ATMA:** Facilitation was done to register two farmers groups under ATMA agency. These groups were formed in villages Saver and Tande.
- ❖ **Trainings by KVK Dhule:**
 - **Online Custard Apple training:** The training was conducted on Zoom and 10-12 farmers attended it. Guidance was provided on the best practices for Custard apple pest management and harvesting etc.
 - **Livestock Management Training:** An awareness cum training program was held on 5th Mar in Boradi on Improved Livestock Management with help of KVK Dhule. About 40-45 farmers attended the program. KVK Head Shri Dinesh Nandre Sir and Shri Chaudhari Sir (Veterinary Science Expert) provided guidance to farmers. Focus was more on poultry and goat farming. We are working with them to do some fodder demonstrations.
- ❖ **Natural Resources Baseline Assessment:** Participatory Study to assess the state of Natural Resources is developed by REEDS, the template helps in collecting basic information on natural resources of the village. Pilot of this process was done during field visit at “Juna Dhabapada”, New Boradi and Samradevi Pada, Gurhadpani Village. Discussion was held with 10-12 villagers on the demographics, local festivals, agriculture, water, forest and employment (distress migration). This information will be analyzed and used now for planning further interventions. Findings of the assessment: The pilot assessment revealed that at Juna-Dhabapada, most of the households have goats and less than 15% farmers have irrigation facilities. So Goat farming could be a good starting point for work in this area. For Samradevi, good amount of forest is still remaining, so CFR initiation and MGNrega could be the starting points for work. Overall this entire area has heavy migration for work.



MGNrega sample survey, village Saver (SVRDF, Shirpur)



MGNrega Workshop at Khairkhuti, Shirpur Cluster



KVK Training on Livestock Management at Boradi

2. Sankul Gramoday Yojana

Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram (VKA) is a well-known non-profit organization in the country and it has its wings spread across most of the states of India. It is dedicated to holistic development of tribal communities with special emphasis on education and health related interventions. VKA's Maharashtra state office approached REEDS to help them in building community level institutions and provide technical support to manage and strengthen the local natural resources. The objective

of the program was to build capacities of local community to design and plan for sustainable livelihoods through Natural Resource Management. Since REEDS has partnered with Yojak for implementation of development projects, REEDS was on-boarded and MOU was signed between REEDS and VKA for a period of 3 years. REEDS is expected to support VKA in building local cluster level institutions and handhold in sustainable management of natural resources. Total 4 clusters were identified for this program. All these clusters have predominantly tribal population.

- 1) Ragatvahir Cluster, Surgana Tehsil, Nashik District
- 2) Koswan Cluster, Kalwan Tehsil, Nashik District
- 3) Pimpalner Cluster, Sakri Tehsil, Dhule District
- 4) Ravlapani Cluster, Taloda Tehsil, Nandurbar District

- ❖ **Field Visits to aid in activity planning:** Field visits are done on regular basis by REEDS. Meetings of local Gramsamiti and farmer groups are conducted. Domain experts are engaged for capacity building of various target groups.
- ❖ **Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK):** Central Govt launched a scheme known as Van Dhan Vikas Kendra for tribal communities who gather minor forest produce for livelihood. Shabari Adivasi Vitta Va Vikas Mahamandal is the state nodal agency appointed by Govt. Three such VDVks have been sanctioned in this project – Ragatvahir, Koswan and Baripada. REEDS has helped all these VDVks to do online data entry of the VDVk members and submit the proposals online on Trifed Portal. The Baripada VDVk received 5 Lakhs as working capital which had to be returned to Shabari in 6 months. Baripada VDVk distributed these funds to 10 VDGs (Van Dhan Gats) which procured Moha Flowers. Total 4,854 Kgs of Moha flowers were procured at the rate of 50 Rs/Kg and sold in the month of Dec'20 at avg rate of 70 Rs/Kg. Total gross profit of around 56,200 Rs was earned by this VDVk. In Ragatvahir, a pilot of VDVk was done with the help of seed money provided by VKA (40,000) and local youth SHG (35,000). This group procured 2.5 tons of Moha flowers at 30 Rs/Kg and sold them in Nov at 58 Rs/Kg. Even after loss of about 200 Kgs in storage, they almost doubled the investment. This profit was again used to buy couple of small machines like Rice Thresher which are rented to the local farmers. This will save drudgery and time for farmers and also reduce post-harvest losses.
- ❖ **MGNrega:** REEDS had introduced Nrega awareness and demand submission through a training conducted at Ragatvahir and Koswan in month of Aug'19. After that the local team was continuously following-up with GP to fulfil the work demand. This has resulted in a major work that happened during the lockdown period (April, May 2020) in Ragatvahir. About 60-70 job card holders got work and payment of 4 lakhs of was disbursed through Nrega during Apr'20 to Jun'20 period. One of the families got as much as 29,000 as Nrega payment. This has helped in developing a very positive attitude among other workers in the village. Later in the year, a workshop was organized at Guhi village by the Gram-Panchayat, REEDS provided a resource person to them. The workshop was very successful with more than 100 villagers attending it. Work demand was also submitted in Ragatvahir and Mohagao Villages. In Dec'20 and Jan'21, a road construction work was done through MGNrega at Ragatvahir. About 40 people got work for

3 weeks. There was an issue with the way measurements were done, the designated technical officers did not visit the site on regular basis and did not explain the method of measurement to workers. The village team is still following up with administration for the reduced payment. A demand was also submitted to do the re-measurement of entire work and then make additional payments to workers. The actual estimate of the road was 6 Lakhs and payments of about only 60,000 were made to the workers.

- ❖ **Forest Vegetable Festival (Vanbhaji Utsav):** During the months of September and October all the tribal communities consume lot of forest vegetables which are unknown to people living in urban areas. There are as many as 70 to 80 various edible species of vegetables which are consumed by tribal families during monsoon which are a rich source of nutrients and minerals. These have been part of local diet for hundreds of years but due to depletion of forest areas and migration of younger generation, the knowledge and use of these vegetables is also on decline. To revive this tradition, REEDS promotes this festival in all it's clusters during month of Sep, Oct. Younger generation is motivated to participate in the festival. Along with the recipe, all participants are supposed to write about part of that plant used and any specific medicinal / other property of that plant. This festival was organized in 3 clusters of VKA project viz. Pimpalner, Koswan and Ragatvihir. This festival is a great platform for tribal youngsters to know about this rich tradition which has a strong link with their nutrition. More than 100 women participated across these locations and about 500 people visited overall.



Training on Goat Rearing at Mohagao, Pimpalner Cluster



Desilting work in pond at Ragatvihir through Narega



Vanbhaji Utsav – Ragatvihir, Nashik



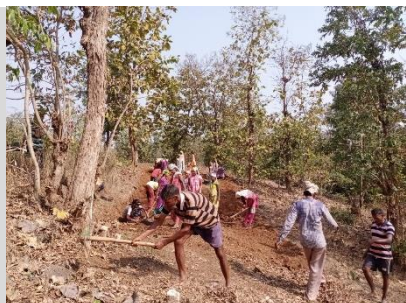
MGNrega work demand submission at Mohagao, Pimpalner Cluster



MGNrega workshop at Guhi, Ragatvihir Cluster, Nashik



KVK Training and distribution of seeds at Mohagao, Pimpalner Cluster



MGNrega Road Work at Ragatvihir, Nashik



KVK Training on Goat Farming, Pimpalner Cluster



VDVK Awareness and Planning Baithak, Koswan

- ❖ **Micro-enterprise of Maize Thresher:** In Koswan cluster, maize is one of the major crops but the village did not have an automatic thresher. The villagers either did the threshing manually which was very laborious process or had to spend money on transport to get it done. An automatic thresher was introduced last year through a revolving fund of 21,000 Rs at 0% interest. The SHG was able to process 480 Quintals of Maize and earned 11,585 Rs in the first year. They have returned the first installment of 10,000 Rs to VKA. The money has been deposited in Gramsamiti bank account and will be utilized for such small enterprises in future.
- ❖ **Trainings by KVK:** Following trainings were conducted by KVK Dhule in Pimpalner Cluster
 - Training on Goat Rearing: 15-20 farmers attended this 2 hour training in Mohagao Village
 - Training on Rabbi crops was conducted and improved seeds of Jowar and vegetables were provided for demo plots to 10 farmers
 - Critical Inputs provided for vegetable cultivation (Tomato, Beans, Bitter gourd) demonstrations regarding varietal and cultivation practices. Demonstration plots of improved fodder species like Hybrid fodder Jowar, Hybrid Napier, etc.
- ❖ **Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) Trial:** Assisted natural regeneration (ANR) (also termed managed regrowth) is the human protection and preservation of natural tree seedlings in forested areas. Seedlings are, in particular, protected from undergrowth and extremely flammable plants such as Imperata grass. Though there is no formal definition or methodology, the overall goal of ANR is to create and improve forest productivity. ANR trial was commenced in Mohagao. The villagers did Shramdan to identify naturally grown saplings in the pre-identified forest patch to fix protective nets for 25 saplings. It has been decided to monitor these for one year and then go ahead with the remaining 175 nets.
- ❖ **Hon. Governor Shri. Bhagat Singh Koshiyari visits Baripada:** This visit happened on 4th Feb'20 at Baripada Village in Pimpalner Cluster. Baripada has set an example with it's approach to sustainable development. The village has numerous awards including UNDP's international award for Bio-diversity. Hon. Governor visited the village to understand the development approach and forest conservation work done by the community. He also visited the forest along with villagers. He urged other villages to follow similar approach and become "Atma-Nirbhar".



Hon. Governor Shri. Bagat Singh Koshyari during his visit to Baipada Village

3. Bamboo Nursery Project | Maharashtra Bamboo Promotion Foundation

Maharashtra Bamboo Promotion Foundation (MBPF) has sanctioned a joint project to REEDS and Community Forest Resource Management Committee (CFRMC), Kaldar (Village in Sakri Block, Dhule) to setup a bamboo cocoon nursery at Village Kaldar with a capacity of 4000 saplings. Bamboo plantations are not successful for multiple reasons including open grazing, forest fires, foraging by wild animals, etc. to avoid failures, experts recommend plantation of taller and older plants. A nursery which raises such older and taller bamboo plants from smaller ones is called a 'Cocoon Nursery'.

Cocoon nurseries raise small (2-3 feet) bamboo plants for a year till plants attain a size of 8-10 feet, develop mature rhizomes and healthy root network. Mature rhizomes and good height of plants makes deep planting possible. Deep planting of tall bamboo plants proves effective in adverse conditions like drought, forest fires, feeding by goats and other smaller browsers. Deep planted (1.5-2 feet) rhizomes are also well protected from foraging by wild bores. All this increases the success of bamboo plantation done using plants from Cocoon Nursery. The land for this nursery has been provided by CFRMC and entire project will be implemented by CFRMC with technical support from REEDS.

The erection of poly-house for this nursery was completed. Procurement of saplings has been delayed due to lockdown.

4. FPC Support Program

More than 400 farmer producer companies have been created in Maharashtra under the Maharashtra Agriculture Competitiveness Project (MACP) during years of 2014-17. Most of these companies are struggling today to survive as they don't have adequate working capital and expertise for day to day operations and marketing. In this scenario, most of these companies need professional support to raise the required working capital and marketing of processed agri-produce. REEDS is supporting 7 such FPCs – one from Dhule and 6 from Nandurbar for fund raising. We had submitted revised DPRs of all these 7 FPCs to Shabari Mahamandal, Nashik in Oct'19.

- ❖ REEDS participated in an online review meeting held by Shabari Mahamandal and presented the DPRs. The committee gave a preliminary approval but the funds are not disbursed yet. Only one FPC from Sakri Block of Dhule – Deshbandhu FPC has received the funding. There was a big

program held at village Baripada in Feb'21. Hon. Governor of the state visited Baripada and a MOU was signed between Shabari and Deshbandhu FPC. The work on this project is in progress.

- ❖ Online Zoom meeting were conducted with all the FPCs during months of Aug-Sep and they were provided guidance on legal compliances and taking a field trial of the machines. They were advised to process atleast 20-25 quintals of respective crops so that the machinery will be tested and any issues in the operations could be addressed. However the trials did not happen because 4 out of these 7 FPCs did not have MSEB Electricity Connection.
- ❖ Finally, the proposal submitted to Shabari Mahamandal for Deshbandhu FPC has been approved. Hon. Governor of Maharashtra, Shri Bhagat Singh Koshiyari visited Baripada on 4th Feb and the MoU was signed between Shabari Mahamandal and Deshbandhu FPC. Overall cost of the project is 1.98 Cr which contains a grant of 1.28 Cr for machinery, shade construction and other support. Now REEDS will sign an MoU with Deshbandhu FPC to provide handholding support to implement the project over next 2 years. Meeting with Directors of the FPC was held during field visit and they were informed about the budgetary provisions in the MoU, project timelines, roles and responsibilities etc.



Hon. Governor Shri. Bhagat Singh Koshiyari and Shabari Mahamandal MD Shri. Nitin Patil handing over the signed MOU for Deshbandhu FPC's Chairperson Shri. Chaitram Pawar

5. Consulting Services

1) Cillage Based Area Development Project (CADP):

REEDS has been approached by partner organization Dr. Hedgewar Seva Samiti, Nandurbar to help them in planning, monitoring and documentation of Cillage project funded by Rajiv Gandhi Science and Technology Commission. REEDS has developed the annual progress reports of the project and also designed a baseline survey for the Farmer Producer Company that has been registered as part of this project. REEDS also developed a Business Plan for Cillage FPC and organized a training of it's Board of Directors at Yuva Mitra Training Center in Sinnar, Nashik.

2) MGNrega Training for Gujarat NGOs:

Baroda based NGO partner – Shashwat Vikas Prabodhan Parishad had approached REEDS to conduct a MGNrega training on development of village level plans. Multiple sessions were conducted on Zoom in month of June to Aug. About 10-12 NGOs from Gujarat participated in this training. Ms. Seema Kakade from Pune was the resource person from REEDS panel of various domain experts. Objective of this training was to build the capacities of these NGOs in MGNrega and process to develop an “Integrated NRM” Plan for the village. These NGOs selected a village to pilot this program and facilitated this process.

3) FPC Proposals for NABARD:

NABARD had approached HSS (REEDS Partner NGO in Nandurbar) to support another 4 FPCs in Navapur block. These FPCs have been registered during consolidation and withdrawal phase of watershed project implemented by Gayatri Foundation. REEDS made a one-day field visit to meet the directors of these FPCs and understand the work done since registration. It has been observed that all these FPCs need to be revived with revised business planning. REEDS has developed 4 proposals to build the capacities of these FPCs over a period of 3 years. The proposal was submitted by HSS to NABARD.

Other Highlights

- ❖ **Capacity Building Workshop for PSS and Co-ordinators:** Yojak and REEDS jointly organized a 3 day workshop in Jan’21 at Nandurbar. Two PSS members from each cluster and the co-ordinators attended this workshop. Overall 35 people attended this workshop. This was the first time in last 2 years that all the entire team of REEDS including co-ordinators from all the clusters came together. The workshop was organized to share knowledge among the team members, build their capacities in institutional development and also understand technical interventions from KVK. Dr. Gajanan Dange, President, Yojak conducted sessions on strengthening “Parisar Seva Samiti”, role of Sankul-Sanyojak (Co-ordinator) and other stakeholders in this PAN-India development initiative known as “Madhya Bharat Vananchal Samruddhi Yojana”. The last day was dedicated to field visit of KVK Farm and technical sessions by KVK experts. The workshop was successful and everyone went back with a lot of positive energy.



Dr. Gajanan Dange addressing participants



KVK Farm Visit



KVK SME – Kunde Sir addressing participants



Impact So Far

Over past 3 years, REEDS has been working with tribal communities to strengthen their livelihoods. Through various interventions, summarized below, it has touched lived of more than 1000+ small farmers and landless people.

Sr. No.	Activity / Intervention	Outcomes and Impact
1	Van Dhan Vikas Kendras	Submission of 8 VDVK proposals, 4 sanctioned by Trified, 2 VDVKs have already made a revenue of 10 Lakhs, Over 500 tribal families received better price for their minor forest produce like Mahua Flowers
2	Employment Generation through MGNrega	500+ Workers, 6500+ person days of employment and payments of 15 Lakh+ credited directly to worker's bank accounts

3	Demonstration of Small Water Harvesting Structures – “Jalkund”	Pilot implemented with 4 farmers, additional income of 5000-6000 in first 2 months
4	Farm Implement Banks	Formation of 5 Farm implement banks to spread awareness about drudgery reducing implements, over 100 farmers have used these implements already
5	Inspiring Communities for Voluntary Actions	Celebration of Forest Vegetable Festivals in 10 Villages, construction of sand bag bunds which secured water for 30-40 acres of land and for local livestock
6	Backyard Poultry Farming Demonstrations	Participation of 25 farmers in the pilot, many farmers have started this as additional income generation activity
7	Water Resource Planning and Development	Capacity building of 20+ villages in “Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM)” based village planning under MGNrega, Development of Detailed Project Reports based on Integrated Watershed Management Approach
8	Trainings of improved agriculture and livestock management	Over 1000+ farmers have benefitted through trainings organized with help of Krushi Vigyan Kendras and online trainings during Covid
9	Capacity Building for Forest Management Plans	Trainings conducted in 5 Villages
10	Empowerment of Farmer Producer Companies	Providing hand-holding support to 8 FPCs, training of the board of directors, development of business plan, DPR for one of the FPCs has been sanctioned with a financial support of 1.95 Cr from Shabari Mahamandal

Stories of Change

Story # 1: Struggle To Get Our Rights Acknowledged!!

Many a times, a legal paper just isn't enough to induce the feeling of ownership of an area. This is especially true when a community is forbidden its right to its resource area for more than one and a half century. Forest dwelling communities have suffered this historical injustice starting in the British rule and extending well upto 60+years post-independence.

Forest right act 2006, corrected this injustice and acknowledged rights of the FDC to protect, conserve and manage forests lands traditionally used by them. Mahugav, a Janjatee village in tribal belts of Dhule district, claimed and received Community Forest Right (CFR) of 250+Ha of forest, earlier owned by state forest department, through the same act.

In spite of the changed ownership status the state forest department continued to take communities for granted and undertake activities on these CFR lands according to their 10 year working plans without any prior community consultations. Mahugav CFR was no exception to this. Forest Department planned Afforestation program in the Mahugav CFR area with area closure for cattle grazing.

They undertook GPS marking activity to confirm the same. The villagers were nervous with this action of the forest department; they held an emergency gram sabha, consulted all villagers and decided that they could not allow the entire grazing area to be closed down at one time as their cattle (an important livelihood source) would starve to death.



They made a resolution of the GS and then began written consultation with the forest department to deny any activity in the CFR area without the prior consent of GS. REEDS played a major role in educating communities about their rights in the CFR area and how they could be established through proper channels.

Villagers of Mahugav have not just opposed afforestation activities planned without community consultations but suggested for sharing current forest dept working plan of the CFR area for their comments.

Forest department was forced to acknowledge this communication by the village and assured that none of the activities will be planned without prior consent of the communities.

Many a times, its not only about being granted rights but making others acknowledge them which is more important!

Story # 2 : Best Technologies Are Those Which Make Life Easier!!

We have all learnt in school that water is essential for drinking, cleaning and cooking. In the post covid times, basic hygiene practices has come up as another essential application of this valuable resource. Similarly, water for small-scale food gardens is critical to sustain marginal farm families in remote areas like that of Satpuda Hills. Fetching water is the most drudgery-stricken livelihood activity after fuelwood collection in the drought prone Satpuda Hills of Nandurbar district. Collecting water occupies up to 30-40 % of an individual's productive time of the day especially during peak summer months.

'Water becomes so scarce in our area. All people depend on a handful of springs during summers. To me summer means walking



up and down along the hill in the morning and late afternoons, innumerable times to get sufficient water for our daily needs.'

'I have to spend 1.5 hours in the morning and 1.5 hour in the afternoon everyday to collect water. The road also has a considerable inclination. I am so exhausted after getting all the water, I think I can drink all of it!'

These are the feelings of women and sometimes men facing water distress.

Water Wheel is a very simple design of water pitcher with a 45 liters capacity. It is sturdy enough to be rolled on the ground and does not need to be carried. It considerably reduces drudgery and time consumption associated with water fetching.

The need for water wheel is now even more than it was in the pre-COVID times. It is an essential tool for communities without direct to door water supply facilities.

REEDS believes that technology must be applied to reduce wasteful drudgery and improve productivity of humans. REEDS acts as a medium to look out for and demonstrate such locally relevant technologies and test them in local scenarios. Once found effective, the local communities have enough discretion to invest in locally appropriate technologies through various means.

In BundeSari Hamlet of Village Sari, "The water wheel carries as much water as 4 pots could carry. So I need to make only 3 visits to the well throughout the day. It has reduced my rounds to half. I can also bring some water for my plants and this way, my family will eat vegetables for more duration than any other year!"

'I think we villagers will contribute and buy a few of these water wheels collectively so that many more people can benefit from this ground breaking design'

A couple from Bijripathi village: 'We bring our water from a perennial spring in which is about 0.5 km from my home. Being located in the hill, the road is steep and lonely. Many a times my young kids also accompany me to spring. The waterwheel not only reduced the number of my trips to the spring but it has also reduced the efforts and now I can also pay attention to my kids on the way!'



Story # 3: From Distress to Progress: One Step at a Time

Distress migration is an unavoidable fact of remote, backward areas of Maharashtra. Molgi area in Akkalkuwa Taluka, Nandurbar district, is no exception to this dire strait. Tribal farm families migrate from their native villages to cities in search of employment soon after the harvest of monsoon crops to return only before the next monsoon/ sowing season. Such migration is associated with serious social issues

including malnourishment, monitory exploitation, impropriety, etc. The severity and duration of migration can be reduced if migrating farm families can be supported with irrigation for a post-monsoon crop.

Unfortunately, hilly undulating terrains, deforested and eroded landscapes are very difficult and expensive to irrigate. Groundwater is difficult to reach/harvest; surface flowing water is very ephemeral. Wherever it is perennial, lift irrigation is very expensive to install and maintain. Under such circumstances, rainwater harvesting (RWH) can prove to be a boon, especially the cheap and low-maintenance RWH structures.

‘Jalkund’ is a RWH structure appropriate for undulating lands, smaller landholdings and limited investment capacity. It is basically a small-sized farm pond, not more than 5*4*2 M³ dimensions excavated on the highest elevation of the farm plot. The pit collects approximately 40,000 Liters of rain water in monsoon. The pit is lined with a UV stabilized plastic lining called ‘Geomembrane’. The stored water can have multiple applications including irrigating crops with proper micro-irrigation system.



1) Digging the Pit for Jalkund



2) Laying out the plastic lining and pitching



3) Jalkund filled with water, ready for irrigation

Communities in distress don't always need sympathy and pity; sometimes, only a small handholding or knowledge support can be enough to make a positive impact. REEDS inspired the ‘Jalkund’ idea amongst the farmers groups of the landscape and announced its support for the lining if families contributed through excavation of the pond.

4 families from Molgi, Ukhallipada, Balaghat and Junvani pioneered into this venture. They spent a week toiling to dig out 6 feet deep ponds and scraping surfaces for projections and sharp edges. Kunds with the plastic linings can support, 1 hectare of fruit orchard for 8 months or half an acre of vegetable crop for 1 season or 1 protective irrigation to traditional rabbi crops like gram or bajra on 0.25 A of land. Pioneer farmers have planted a variety of crops using this water and the results of these will be visible in the coming days.

This intervention has already been visited by nearby farmers and they have appreciated the concept and are sure of its utility.

It is important that concepts like ‘Jalkund’ must be taken up by both private and Govt funding organizations / departments like CSRs, Tribal Development Ministry, Rural Development Ministry etc. Jalkund intervention is an easy to implement technology, appropriate for remote, tribal communities.

Communities can clearly take up considerable share of self contribution in form of excavation labor and be supported in kind mostly for the plastic lining. Operation and Maintenance is bare minimum and only includes

1. Appropriate lining installation
2. Safe removal and storage of lining after the Kund is emptied.
3. Keeping livestock away from these structure

Media Coverage

Here's the local media coverage of various activities and interventions by REEDS with help of local partner organizations and community institutions:

<p style="text-align: center;">लोकमत</p> <h3 style="text-align: center;">भगदरीला वनभाज्यांचा महोत्सव</h3> <p>लोकमत न्यूज वेटवर्क</p> <p>वाण्यांघोरे : भगदरी येथे वनभाजी महोत्सवात ३० महिलांनी वनभाजी २५ प्रकारच्या वनभाज्यांचा वेगवेगळे पदार्थ व भाज्यांसह सहभागी झाल्या होत्या. भगदरी येथील सांस्कृतिक भवनच्या भज्य प्रांगणात कार्यक्रम घेण्यात आला.</p> <p>या वनभाजी महोत्सवात गावातील महिला व पुरुषांनी सहभाग घेऊन कार्यक्रमाचा आनंद घेतला. सगळ्या माध्यमातून रान भाज्यांचे महत्त्व जनतेच्या काळात खुपच महत्वाचे असल्याचे लोकांना समजावे म्हणून गावातील प्रमुख व्यक्तींनी या कार्यक्रमाचे आयोजन केले होते. आयोजकांनी वन भाजी सभेतील नियम दाखलेल्या महिलांच्या वक्षिस स्वरूप खाडी व पुष्प देऊन गौरव केला. या महोत्सवात जयलालित जर्बसिंग पाडवी या मुलीने तयार केलेल्या भाजीने प्रथम क्रमांक पटकावला. कार्यक्रमाचे आयोजन चंद्रसिंग पाडवी, मंगलसिंग पाडवी, सुरेंद्र पाडवी यांनी केले होते. कार्यक्रमाचे सूत्रसंचालन मनोहर पाडवी तर प्रारंभिक प्रमोशन पाडवी यांनी केले. दिवसेंदिवस खाड होत असलेल्या रासायनिक शेती आणि त्यातून खालावत चाललेले मानवी आरोग्य व परिसरातील न सुटणारा कुपोषण सारखा प्रश्न आणि मानवी जीवनाला असलेला धोका लक्षात घेता लोकांनी रेडिओ शोर्टकट आरुख कल वाढवला पाहिजे. म्हणून आयोजकांनी या सभेचे आयोजन केले. जेणे करून वन भाज्यांचे महत्त्व वाढून आरुख शरीरात राग प्रतिकार शक्ती वाढवण्याला मदत होईल.</p> <p>या वेळी कंजाला गावात होणाऱ्या रान भाज्या सभेचे स्वरूप व महत्त्व पटवून दिले. नाच पावरा यांनी आपल्या सेंट्रिय शेतीतील पिढीचे महत्त्व व मानवी आरोग्यावरील त्याचे वायदे पटवून दिले. गुळी पेटे यांनी आयोजकांचे आणि सभेत भाग घेतलेल्या सर्व महिलांचे कौतुक करून सभेव्यवयी मार्गदर्शक सूचना पुढील पिढीला दिल्या. तसेच सभेत प्रथम गेल्याम्यटी आपली भूमिका कव अखाडी हे स्पष्ट केले.</p> <p>अॅड.भगदरीसिंग पाडवी यांनी माह फुलले मानवी जीवनातील महत्त्व आणि आपले अनुभव सांगून मार्गदर्शन केले.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Hello Nandurbar Page No. 3 Oct 14, 2020 Powered by: erelego.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">लोकमत</p>  <p>भगदरी येथे आयोजित वनभाज्या महोत्सवात महिलांनी २५ प्रकारच्या वनभाज्यांचे वेगवेगळे पदार्थ तयार केले होते.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Hello Nandurbar Page No. 3 Oct 14, 2020 Powered by: erelego.com</p>
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Vanbhaji Utsav, Bhagdari Village, Molgi Cluster, Nandurbar

शिरखडकर, डा. एच. एस. पुन्हा एकदा, तरुणामध्य सवय सहकाय लामल.

खैरखुटी येथे मनरेगा कार्यशाळेची सांगता

शिरपुर

येथील स्वामी विवेकानंद रिसर्च अँड डेव्हलपमेंट फाउंडेशन व पुणे येथील रिड्स संस्थेतर्फे खैरखुटी येथे एकात्मिक नैसर्गिक साधन संपत्ती आराखडा या विषयावर दोन दिवसीय मनरेगा कार्यशाळा नुकतीच पार पडली.

रोहयोचे उपजिल्हाधिकारी गोविंद दाणेज यांनी कार्यशाळेचे उद्घाटन केले. महाराष्ट्र ग्रामीण रोजगार हमी योजनेतून मृदू व जलसंधारणाची कामे च्यावीत असे आवाहन करून त्यांनी योजनांचे एकिकरण, मनरेगाची वैशिष्ट्ये, शासन निर्णयांविषयी माहिती दिली. गट विकास अधिकारी युवराज शिंदे यांनी माझे कुटुंब-माझी जबाबदारी अभियान, मनरेगाचा आराखडा तयार करण्याची प्रक्रिया याबाबत मार्गदर्शन केले. सहायक वनसंरक्षक अमित्रराज जाधव, तालुका कृषी अधिकारी अनिल निकुंभे, सांगवी विभागाने वनक्षेत्रपाल आनंद मे श्राम, जिल्हा परिषद सदस्य योगेश



बांदल, सरपंच सावित्रीबाई पावरा, पंचायत समिती सदस्या कमलबाई पावरा, उपसरपंच रमेश पावरा उपस्थित होते. डेढाबाद येथील एनआयआरडीचे पंचायत राज व ग्रामीण विकास तज्ज्ञ साधन व्यक्ती दिनेश पाटील यांनी मनरेगातून स्थानिक, सामूहिक, नैसर्गिक संसाधनांचा वापर करून साधता येणारा शाश्वत विकास, मनरेगाच्या सामूहिक व वैयक्तिक योजना, साधनसंपत्ती नैसर्गिक आराखडा तयार करण्याची पद्धत, लेबर बजेट आदिबाबत मार्गदर्शन केले. स्वामी विवेकानंद संस्थेचे अध्यक्ष विनोद माळी यांनी प्रारंभिक,

वरुळ विद्यालया

डॉ.कलाम यांना अभिवादन

(पान १ वरून)याप्रसंगी स्काऊट शिक्षिका मंगला पाटकर, डी. ए. जाधव, एस. जे. पाटील, एस. के. पाटील, बी. जी. पिंजारी, एन. एस. डिवरे, ए. बी. महाजन, डी. एन. माळी, बी. एस. बडनगर, बापू पांढरी, पारस जैन आदींनी पुष्पांजली अर्पण करून भावपूर्ण विनम्र अभिवादन केले.

लोकमत



अक्कलकुवा तालुक्यातील जुनवाणी गावाजवळ श्रमदानातून बांधलेला वनराई बंधारा.

(छाया : किशोर मराठे)

जुनवाणी गावाजवळ श्रमदानातून वनराई बंधारा

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क वाण्याविहीर : अक्कलकुवा तालुक्यातील जुनवाणी गावाजवळील नाल्यावर पाळीव प्राण्यांना पिण्यासाठी पाण्याची सोय व्हावी या उद्देशाने श्रमदानातून वनराई बंधारा तयार करण्यात आला.

जुनवाणी गावाजवळ बाहगोऱ्या देवस्थानाच्या पायथ्याशी श्रमदानातून वनराई बंधारा तयार करण्यात आला आहे. जनवाणी व सरी

(खालपाडा) या गावासह परिसरातील पशुपालकांना आपल्या जनावरांना तसेच जंगली प्राण्यांना पिण्यासाठी पाण्याची सोय व्हावी व जनावरांची भटकती होऊ नये या उद्देशाने हा वनराई बंधारा तयार करण्यात आला. यामुळे जुनवाणी, खालपाडा गावातील प्राण्यांचा पाण्याचा प्रश्न सुटणार आहे. या कामासाठी कृषी विज्ञान केंद्राचे जयंत उत्तारवार व मोलगी परिसर सेवा समितीचे

मार्गदर्शन लाभले.

वनराई बंधारा बांधण्यासाठी जुनवाणी गावातील शेतकरी ओल्या इरमा पाडवी, दमण्या पाडवी, रायसिंग पाडवी, ढोण्या महाराज, रामजी पाडवी, वाहण्या पाडवी, उदेसिंग पाडवी, चंद्रसिंग पाडवी, रामा वसावे, धीरसिंग वसावे, नोबल्या गुरुजी, नितीन पाडवी, राज्या पाडवी, वेस्ता पाडवी यांच्यासह ग्रामस्थानी श्रमदान केले.

Hello Nandurbar
Page No. 4 Feb 26, 2021
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MGNrega Workshop at Khaikhuti Village, Shirpur Cluster, Dhule

लोकमत

कृषी विभाग व ग्रामस्थांच्या सहकार्याने वनराई बंधारा

बिजरीगव्हाण ग्रा.पं.च्या देवबारी पाड्यात उपक्रम

■ लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

वाण्याविहीर : अक्कलकुवा तालुक्यातील बिजरीगव्हाण ग्रामपंचायतीतील बालाघाट गावाच्या देवबारी पाड्यात दौलापाई काट येथे ग्रामस्थांच्या सहकार्याने वनराई बंधारा साकारण्यात आला.

यंदा रब्बी हंगामातील पिकांना पाणी देता यावे. या संकल्पनेतून गावातील शेतकऱ्यांनी दुसरा वनराई बंधारा साकारला. बिजरीगव्हाण ग्रामपंचायतचे लोकनियुक्त सरपंच रोशन दिनकर पाडवी, आत्मा कृषी विभाग पुरस्कृत बाबा कोळाजा पुरुष शेतकरी गटाचे अध्यक्ष कालुसिंग बाहारा वसावे, मोलगी

परिसर सेवा समिती, रिड्स पुणेच्या जंगल व जैवविविधता अभ्यासक जुई पेठे, स्वस्तिक इन्फ्रॉ लॉजिक प्रा.लि यांच्या मार्गदर्शनाखाली वनराई बंधाराचे काम पूर्ण करण्यात आले.

वनराई बंधारा साकारण्यासाठी गावातील शेतकरी कालुसिंग बाहारा वसावे, स्वरूपसिंग आपसिंग वसावे, हान्या ओल्या तडवी, रमेश आपसिंग वसावे, लक्ष्मण फुलसिंग वसावे, रामसिंग आपसिंग वसावे, किसान हान्या तडवी, गणेश मालसिंग तडवी, दशरथ फुलाजी वसावे यांनी श्रमदान केले.

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News on Vanrai Bandhara, Bijrgavhan, Molgi Parisar

Bori Bandhara at Junvani Village, Molgi Cluster, Nandurbar



मोहगाव : येथील जंगलात नैसर्गिकरितीने उगवलेल्या झाडांना श्रमदानातून जाळ्या लावताना गावकरी.

मोहगावला श्रमदानातून दोनशे झाडांना जाळ्या

वासऱा : मोहगाव, ता. साक्री गावात गेल्या २ ते ३ वर्षांपासून जंगल व्यवस्थापनाचे कार्य सुरू आहे. यासाठी गावकऱ्यांनी एकत्रित येऊन जंगलात जी नैसर्गिक झाडे उगवले आहेत त्याची निगा राखण्यासाठी रिड्स संस्था पुणे यांच्या सहकार्याने जंगलातील झाडांना श्रमदानातून २०० जाळ्या लावल्या. या वेळी रिड्स पर्यावरण तज्ञ जुई पेठे, संकुल समन्वयक उमेश देशमुख, राजाराम गायकवाड, रमेश गावित, लक्ष्मण महाले, मूल्या गावित, सुरेश चौरे, आत्माराम गायकवाड, विशाल गांगुर्डे, उत्तम गावित, बाबुराव चौरे, दिनेश महाले आदी गावकऱ्यांसह तरुणांनी पुढाकार घेत श्रमदान केले.

ANR Demonstration through Shramdan at Mohagao Village, Pimpalner Cluster, Dhule



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