

# ANNUAL REPORT

2023 - 2024



# Guiding Vision & Values

Pragya India is a non-profit development organization focused on poverty relief, environmental protection, access to healthcare and education, gender equality, social justice, and disaster management. Since its inception, Pragya has been dedicated to transformative change at the grassroots level, particularly in remote and marginalized communities often overlooked in the development process.

Through a combination of grassroots initiatives, scientific and policy research, and advocacy, Pragya enhances the capacities of individuals, communities, and institutions to foster more humane and equitable societies.



Our skill-building programs and economic support initiatives are central to recovery and resilience efforts, benefiting small and marginal farmers, women, and informal workers to tackle multi-dimensional poverty and food security challenges. We also strengthened our youth-led initiatives in climate-smart agriculture, biodiversity conservation, and disaster risk reduction. Continuing our commitment to improving access to quality education, healthcare, safe water, and sanitation, we work with communities and local stakeholders to deliver and advocate for enhanced services.

The organization designs and delivers solutions that address the needs of vulnerable communities in India while conserving natural ecosystems. Pragya brings people together for collaborative action, fostering long-term relationships through sensitive dialogue and sustained engagement. Our work is rooted in community partnerships, empowering communities to create the change they envision and ensure the protection of their environment.

# About Pragya

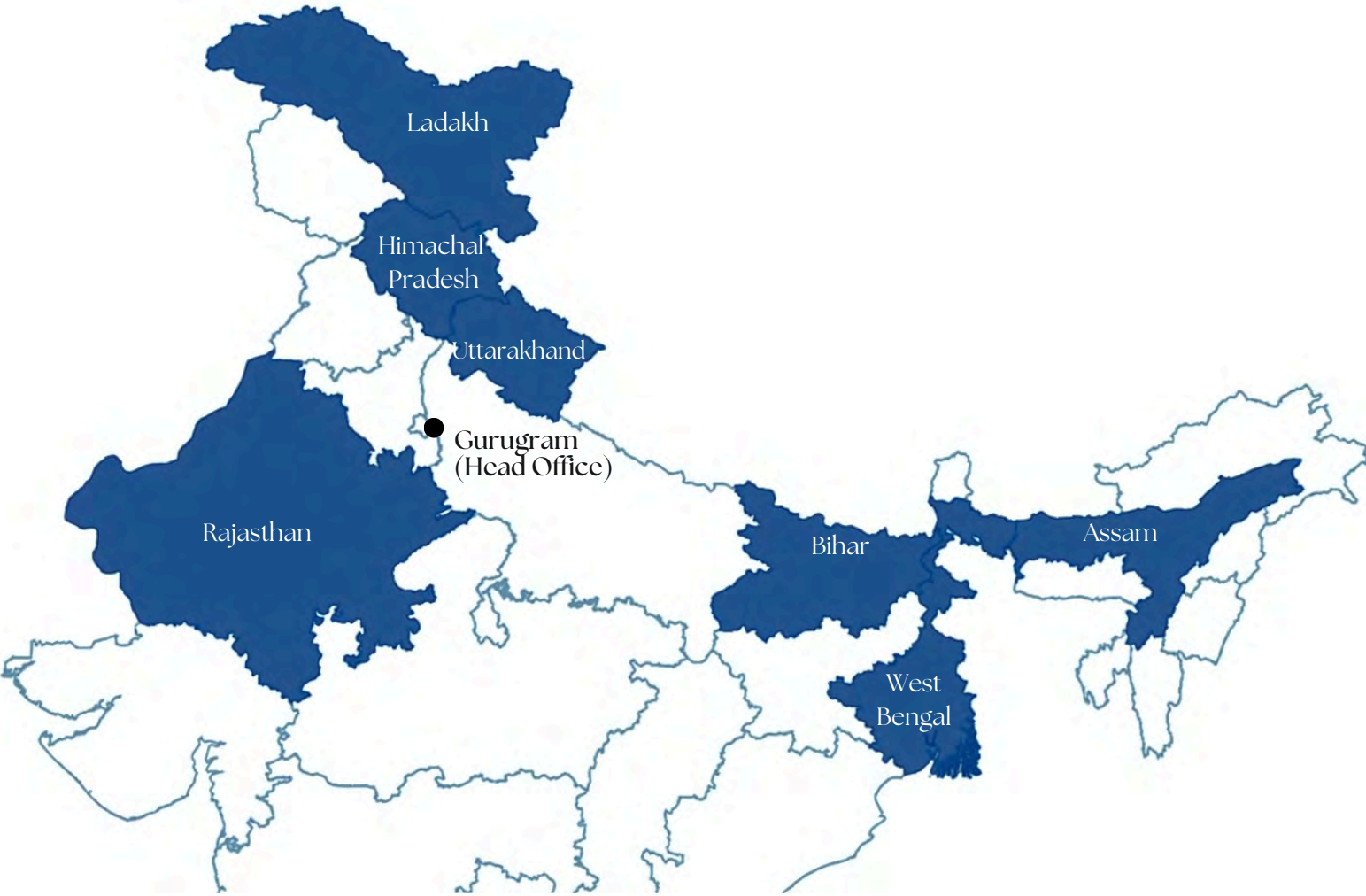
Pragya since its establishment in 1995, has grown substantially, developing expertise in a diverse range of thematic areas including social development, natural resource management, infusion of appropriate technologies, livelihood and enterprise development. We undertake a combination of grassroots development interventions, scientific and policy research and advocacy efforts, guided by the values of cultural sensitivity and ecological integrity. The organization advocates for the well-being of indigenous communities and vulnerable groups and the conservation of fragile natural ecosystems at various international forums.

Pragya (India) is registered as a Trust, is registered with Niti Ayog, Government of India (Darpan ID HR/2017/0150842) and has FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act) certification.

## Awards and Recognition

| Whitley Gold Award for nature conservation | GuideStar India Platinum Certification [GuideStar Number (GSN) 5444] | STARS Impact Award for work of delivery of education to marginalized children | Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC) | Recognised as a Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (SIRO) by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research under the Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India.

# Current Outreach





# Programs



## Protection of women and girls in the Trafficking in Person (TIP) Hotspots in India

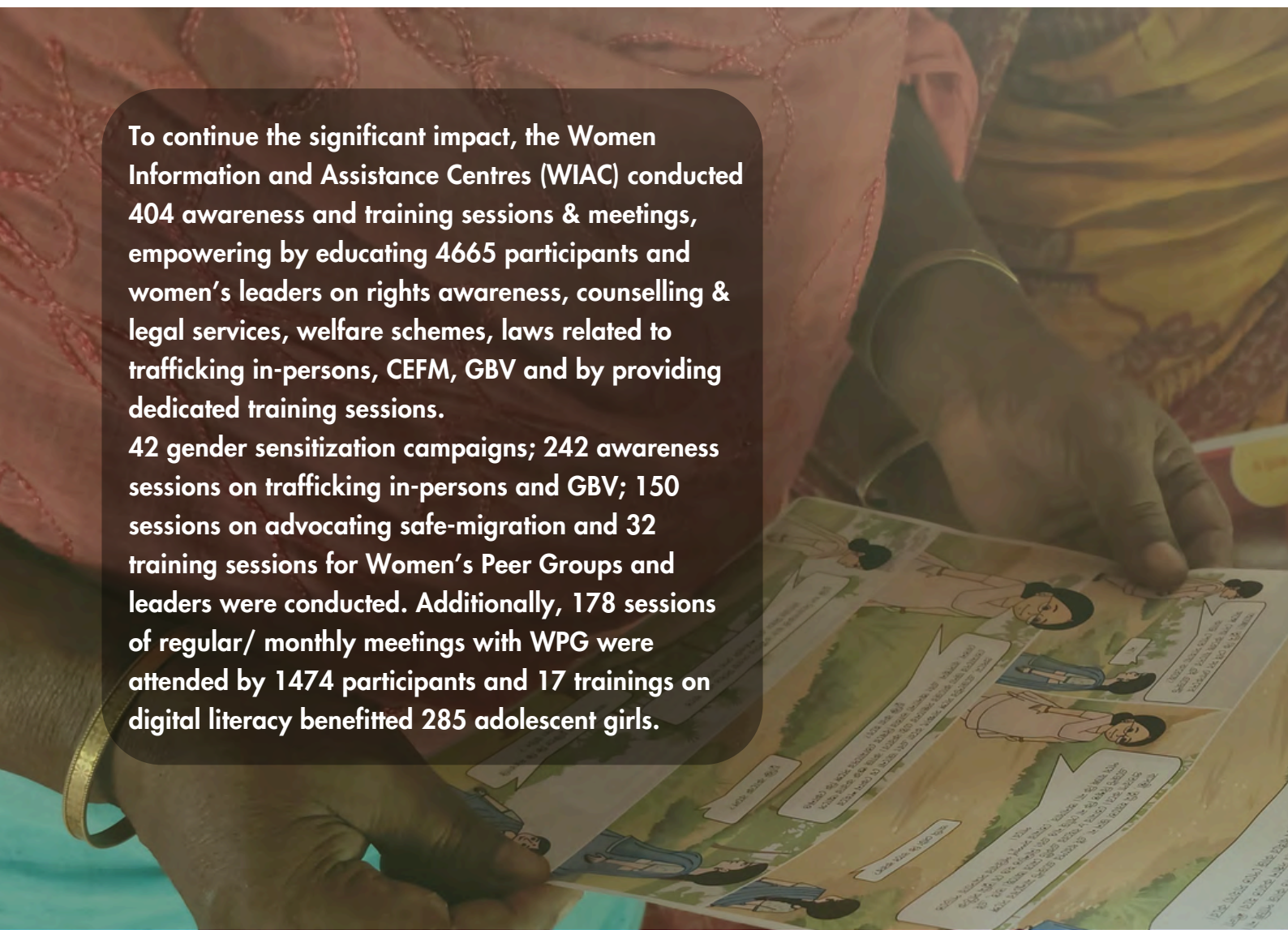
In most of the cases economic vulnerability of the victims of trafficking is exploited by the well organised channels and the victims mostly belong to the most vulnerable groups i.e. tribes and minorities. With this project Pragma has aimed to create a comprehensive approach to addressing root causes and consequences of trafficking. Along with it, other associated issues such as violence against women and Child Early Forced Marriage are also addressed in the identified hotspots of West Bengal.

Women Information and Assistance Centres (WIAC) along with extension workers associated with them, are established in each target district to assist at risk women/girls and survivors. These Women Information and Assistance Centres provides vocational training, migration advice and collaborate with the government departments to access welfare services.

Women's Peer Groups run by Group Facilitators trained by Pragma in leadership and counselling skills, are first line of defence in preventing trafficking within these vulnerable communities. They work in partnership with district level government departments, Civil society organizations, social workers and lawyers to seek necessary support.

**To continue the significant impact, the Women Information and Assistance Centres (WIAC) conducted 404 awareness and training sessions & meetings, empowering by educating 4665 participants and women's leaders on rights awareness, counselling & legal services, welfare schemes, laws related to trafficking in-persons, CEFM, GBV and by providing dedicated training sessions.**

**42 gender sensitization campaigns; 242 awareness sessions on trafficking in-persons and GBV; 150 sessions on advocating safe-migration and 32 training sessions for Women's Peer Groups and leaders were conducted. Additionally, 178 sessions of regular/ monthly meetings with WPG were attended by 1474 participants and 17 trainings on digital literacy benefitted 285 adolescent girls.**



## Leadership Next

The tribal zones of southern Rajasthan which is prone to human trafficking has mostly affected the at-risk communities in the state which are economically and socially vulnerable. The objective of this program is to support survivors of human trafficking by enhancing their well-being. The Leadership Next programme trains survivors of human trafficking in leadership and counselling skills, financial and digital literacy to build their capacity for advocacy in survivors collectives and for supporting other survivors with enhanced awareness about trafficking.

Women's Peer Groups (WPGs) are playing a crucial role in supporting vulnerable women and adolescent girls, including survivors of human trafficking, in target village-clusters. Trained survivor leaders within WPGs identify vulnerable women and adolescent girls in each of the target village-clusters. By integrating those at risk, WPGs ensure inclusive support and empowerment. This structure empowers a strong network of advocacy, significantly enhancing community resilience against trafficking threats.



**5 training sessions conducted for training survivor leaders on safe migration, digital safety & digital literacy, counselling support and regulatory framework, participated by 123 survivors. 22 consultation meetings were organized with survivor for designing leadership training programs. 179 members attended 15 WPG formation meetings facilitating dialogue on issues and challenges faced by women & adolescent girls in the villages; followed by 131 regular meetings with 1135 WPG members for creating a strong & informed community of survivors catalysed by their leaders. Additionally, 51 one-to-one meetings involving 174 WPG members and survivors emphasized on open dialogue with respect to issues & challenges and advocacy of women's rights and awareness of existing legal and institutional framework.**

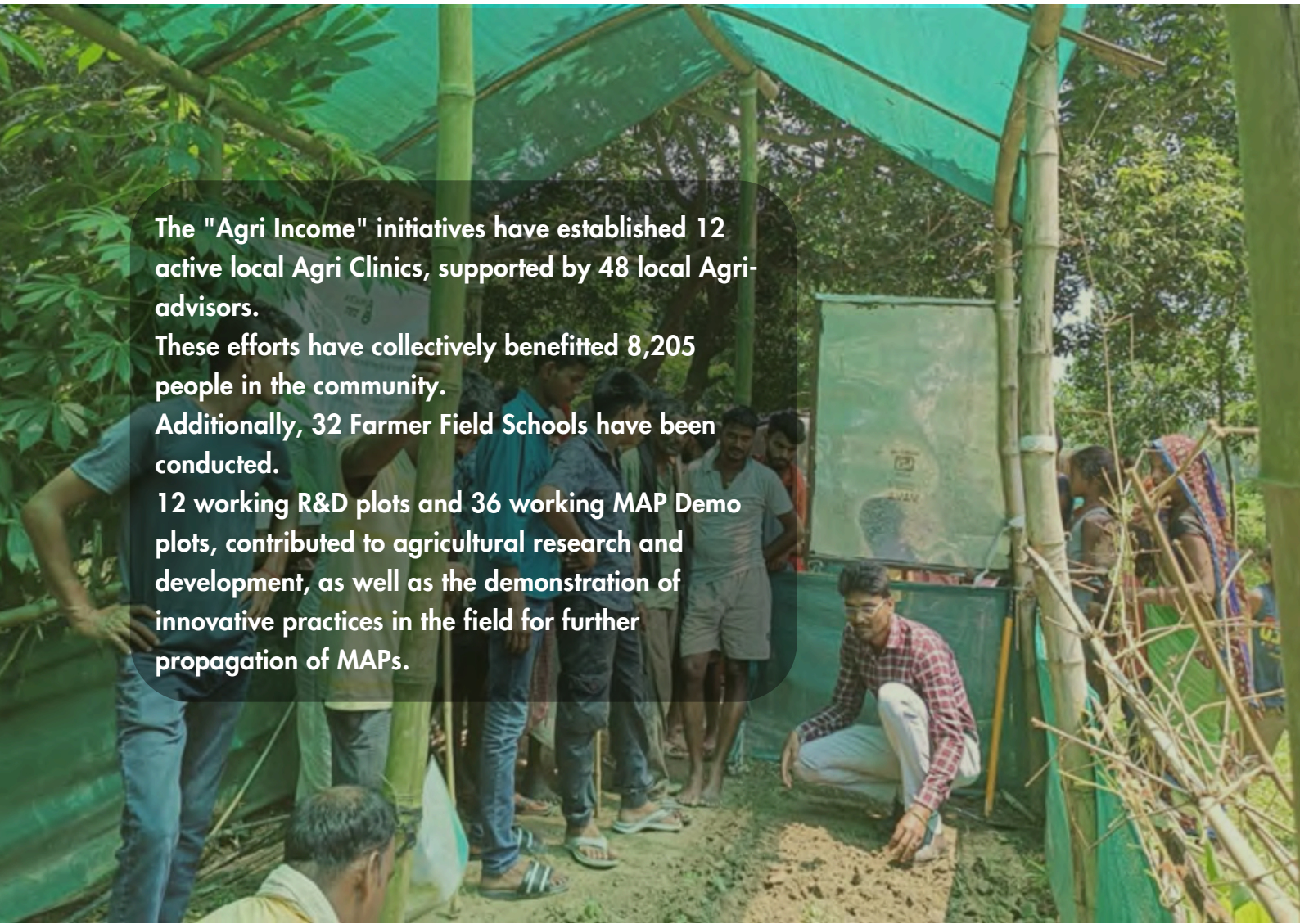
# Agri Income

Over the past decades Medicinal and Aromatic Plants which have been a mainstay of Pragma's focus. Remote and marginalized Himalayan communities largely depend on subsistence farming, has been increasingly stressed by climate change and a general lack of knowledge and resources to improve agricultural output.

Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFB) along with Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) found in these regions have been gaining popularity over the years resulting in largescale illegal harvesting.

This project is being implemented in 6 districts across the 2 states of Assam in north-eastern region and Uttarakhand in the Himalayas. The aim is to focus on 1200 most marginalised villages across these 6 districts.

The primary focus of this project are smallholder farmers including women and unemployed youth. The objective is to improve farm productivity and income by introducing MAP as a cash crop in these regions which are suited to its agro-climatic conditions. This is achieved through agriculture advice, extension services, information on products and technologies and access to post harvesting facilities as well as market support.

A group of people, including men and women, are gathered under a green net structure, likely a demonstration plot for medicinal and aromatic plants. One man is crouching in the foreground, possibly demonstrating a technique. A whiteboard with a map is visible in the background.

The "Agri Income" initiatives have established 12 active local Agri Clinics, supported by 48 local Agri-advisors.

These efforts have collectively benefitted 8,205 people in the community.

Additionally, 32 Farmer Field Schools have been conducted.

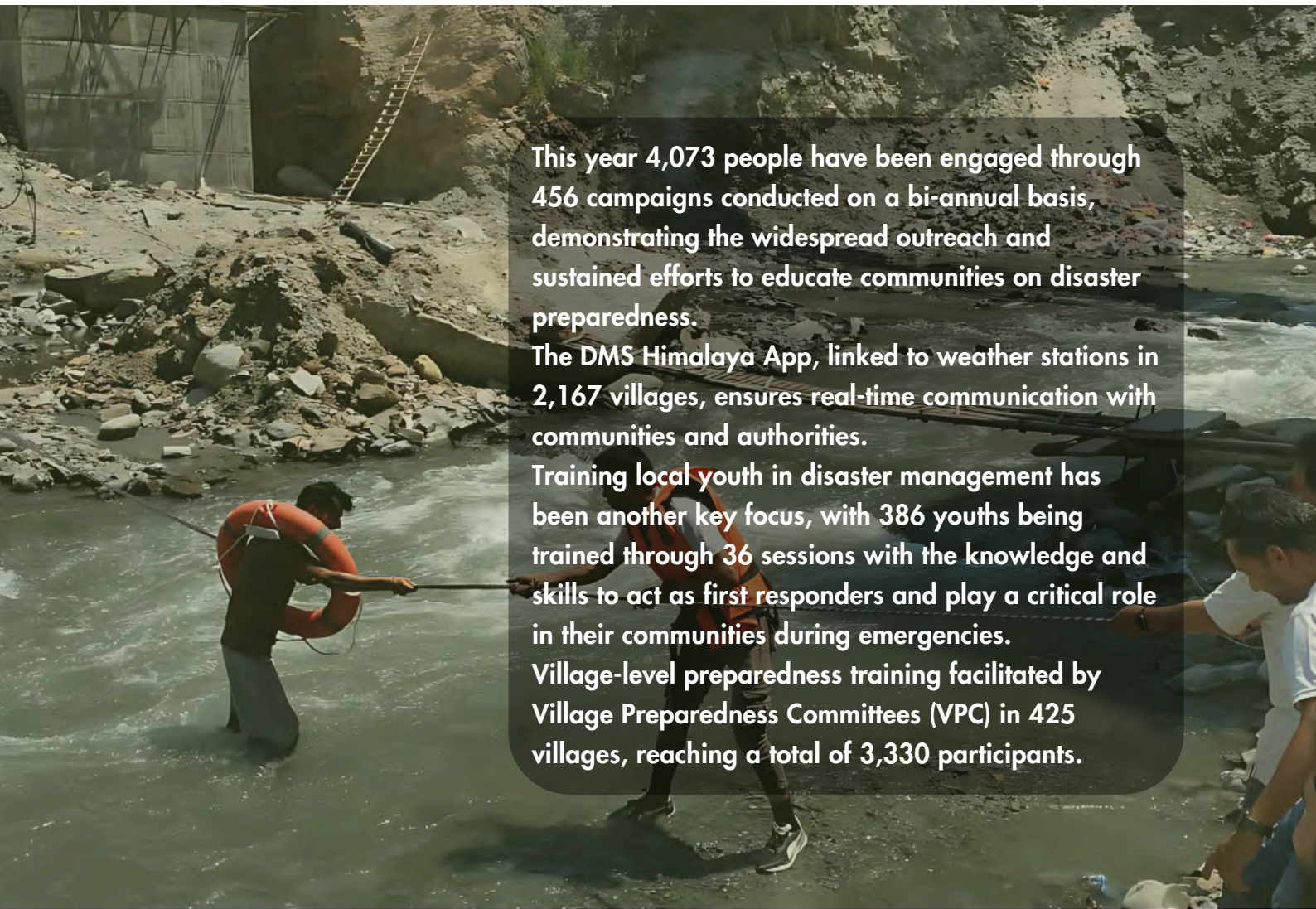
12 working R&D plots and 36 working MAP Demo plots, contributed to agricultural research and development, as well as the demonstration of innovative practices in the field for further propagation of MAPs.



## DMS Himalaya

The Himalayan region has been relentlessly struck by a series of natural calamities over the years affecting millions yet have little disaster resilience in terms of early warning and relief. These are ecologically sensitive areas and are highly vulnerable to climate change. Because of limited resources and extreme geography of the region, the members from last mile Himalayan communities are often the first line of defence in case of natural disasters.

The DMS Himalaya is a community-centric disaster reduction and response model designed to enhance safety in both pre-disaster and post-disaster scenarios. Disaster Response Teams (DRTs) trained by Pragma play a crucial role in both pre- and post-disaster interventions. Before disasters, DRTs issue early alerts using data from weather stations and local observations, relayed through the DMS Himalaya App to communities and authorities in real time. They conduct village-level interventions to prepare residents, hold training sessions with stakeholders, and establish communication channels with local Points of Presence (PoPs) like police or army outposts. Post-disaster, DRTs are the first responders, aiding in evacuation, medical support, and supply distribution. They collaborate with government agencies and other first responders to ensure coordinated efforts. Through these actions, DRTs ensure communities are well-prepared for natural disasters and can recover more quickly when they occur.



**This year 4,073 people have been engaged through 456 campaigns conducted on a bi-annual basis, demonstrating the widespread outreach and sustained efforts to educate communities on disaster preparedness.**

**The DMS Himalaya App, linked to weather stations in 2,167 villages, ensures real-time communication with communities and authorities.**

**Training local youth in disaster management has been another key focus, with 386 youths being trained through 36 sessions with the knowledge and skills to act as first responders and play a critical role in their communities during emergencies.**


**Village-level preparedness training facilitated by Village Preparedness Committees (VPC) in 425 villages, reaching a total of 3,330 participants.**

## Agri Extension Phase 2

Smallholder farming households in Bihar and Rajasthan face severe social and economic marginalization. They mostly belong to vulnerable caste groups and tribes and are unable to generate any significant surplus or value from the limited land and resources they possess.

Moreover, the project focuses on the agriculture and marketing of high-value cash crops, with a particular emphasis on medicinal and spice crops. It is working to enhance farmers' knowledge of agronomy by introducing improved agricultural methods and technologies. Additionally, the project is building farmers' capacity to effectively market their produce and establish strong linkages with distant markets and large buyers, ultimately improving their income and market reach. Other priorities include introducing farmers to sustainable and climate smart agriculture by improving agriculture methods.

To achieve this, extension services are provided by trained Agri-Advisors, Local Agri-Clinics and government and other agriculture support institutions. Along with training sessions on regular intervals there are 4 Crop Advisory Kiosks giving expert advice and problem-solving sessions to farmers.



The "Agri Extension" program has provided extension services through 8 Agricultural Advisors (AAs), benefiting 2,354 individuals.

The program also established 300 Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAP) Advisory kiosks.

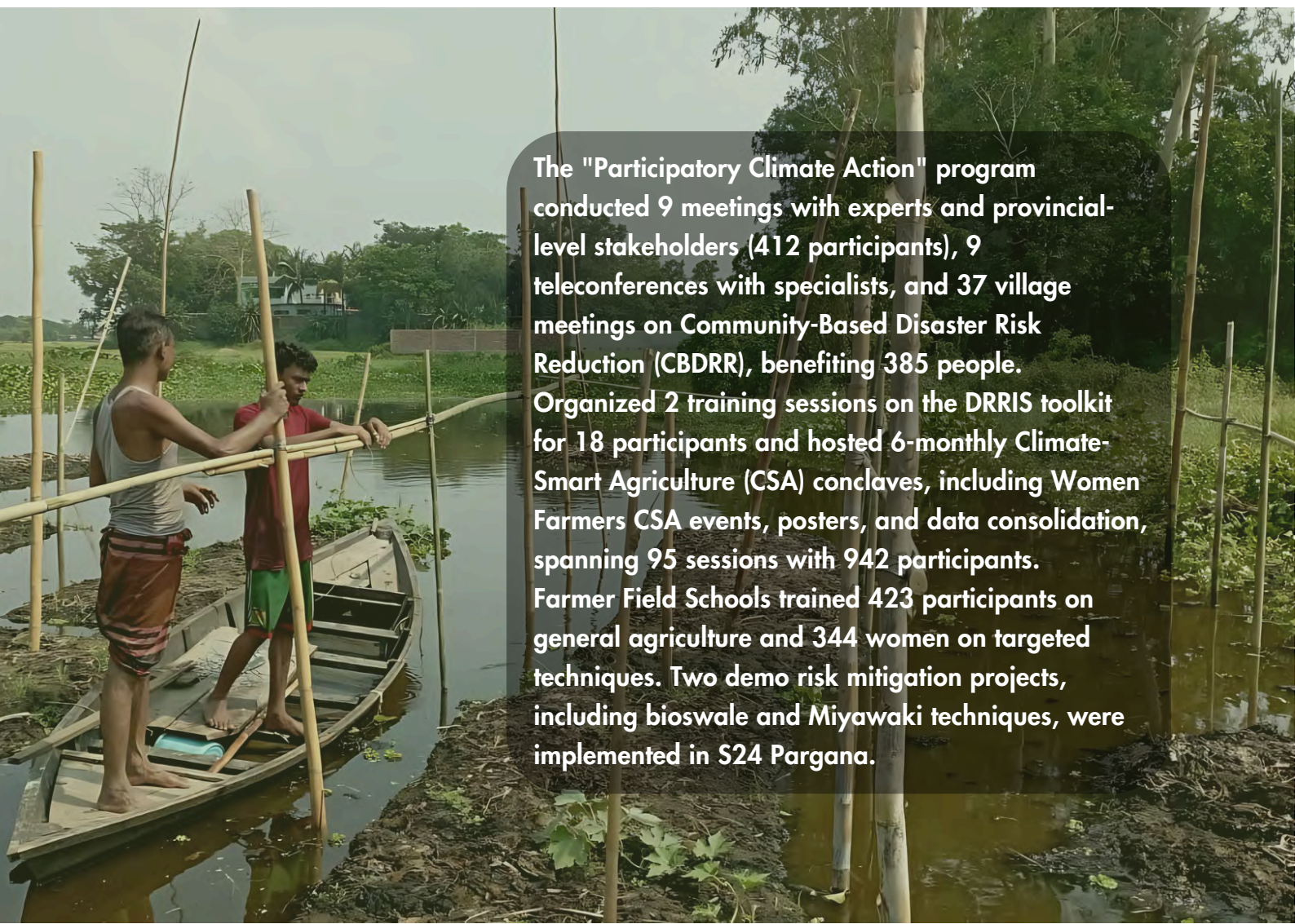
A total of 58 monthly training sessions focused on agronomy, including the cultivation, post-harvest processing, and marketing of MAP and cash crops, have reached 1,794 participants, with sessions conducted at Farmer Field Schools and on a six-monthly basis. The program has identified 400 sites for progressive farmers and engaged 400 early adopter farmers, setting up 4 Early Adopter Demo Plots. Additionally, a state-level workshop was held to train AAs as Market Coordinators for farmer market linkages, with 152 participants benefiting from the session.

# Participatory Climate Action for Vulnerable Brahmaputra-Ganga Basin

The Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) basin, home to over 600 million people and rich biodiversity, faces severe climate and anthropogenic impacts. It is highly vulnerable to natural disasters, compounded by poverty and livelihood insecurity. Women and girls face heightened vulnerability to climate change, especially during disasters, due to limited assets, restricted mobility, and gendered roles.

The project is building climate-resilient communities, promoting climate-smart farming, supporting women's resilience, and fostering climate-attuned development. It collaborates with community members, local authorities, CSOs, and academic institutions. A disaster management training kit and workshops have strengthened capacities of communities and governments, focusing on climate risk governance, disaster leadership, and response.

In farming, ICT-based resources and advisories promote climate-smart agricultural practices, providing farmers with weather updates, crop advice, and agro-technological solutions.



The "Participatory Climate Action" program conducted 9 meetings with experts and provincial-level stakeholders (412 participants), 9 teleconferences with specialists, and 37 village meetings on Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR), benefiting 385 people. Organized 2 training sessions on the DRRIS toolkit for 18 participants and hosted 6-monthly Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) conclaves, including Women Farmers CSA events, posters, and data consolidation, spanning 95 sessions with 942 participants. Farmer Field Schools trained 423 participants on general agriculture and 344 women on targeted techniques. Two demo risk mitigation projects, including bioswale and Miyawaki techniques, were implemented in S24 Pargana.

## Research and Advocacy

Pragya's research and advocacy initiatives foster sustainable development, support vulnerable populations, and drive systemic change. Guided by rigorous research, these initiatives address root causes and specific needs of target communities. From mapping vulnerabilities in trafficking-prone areas to assessing climate challenges in the Himalayas and Brahmaputra-Ganga basin, Pragya's work is grounded in community-specific insights.

Collaborating with academic and government partners, Pragya integrates interdisciplinary knowledge into its programs, with oversight from a Research Advisory Panel that aligns interventions with global best practices. Partnerships with leading institutions like the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Ministry of AYUSH, and National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), as well as various state and district administrations, exemplify its commitment to cross-sector expertise.

Pragya emphasizes innovation and adaptability, developing scalable, community-centered models such as Women Information and Assistance Centres and the DMS Himalaya App, which combine real-time data with support networks. ICT-enabled training centers and Capacity Building Hubs promote digital literacy and skill-building, while case studies and toolkits contribute sector-wide knowledge, reinforcing shared learning and capacity-building.

A participatory approach underpins Pragya's work, fostering continuous learning and equipping communities with the skills to respond to emerging challenges. By integrating lessons learned, Pragya ensures its interventions remain effective, inclusive, and contextually relevant.

## Our Human Resources

Our Pragma team comprises dedicated professionals across a range of disciplines including management, social work, law, environmental science, engineering, soil science, disaster management and communications. Together we work towards achieving holistic and sustainable development for the last-mile communities in the remote Himalayan mountains, deserts, flood plains and coastal zones as well as urban slums in India. Our staff members devote their time towards empowering local communities so that they can take charge of designing and adopting sustainable solutions for sustainable development. The team implements programmes in both the conservation and development spheres through innovative approaches and engages with key local stakeholders to strengthen ongoing initiatives and build local capacity and stewardship.

## Existing Operations

Pragma implements developmental programs and undertakes participatory action research and policy advocacy. Recognising the inter-linkages and cross-cutting nature of various sectors, the organisation has evolved over the years to adopt a diverse portfolio. The operations are guided by the headquarters at Gurgaon (Delhi NCR) and executed on the ground by a network of competent Field Offices across eight states and union territories in India.

The Pragma team implements programmes in partnership with local communities, anchoring key grassroots services and knowledge-sharing processes with the community members themselves. The Pragma interventions enhance competence and confidence of communities to sustainably adapt to climate change, withstand disasters, nurture their cultural and natural heritage and strive towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The programmes establish and strengthen various grassroots structures to respond to local needs and enhance self-reliance.

Pragma India is headquartered in Gurgaon and operates 17 field offices strategically positioned across seven states. Pragma's thematic Programs teams based at the head office lead the implementation and provide technical inputs for thematic area-specific programmes. It has dedicated Research, Communication and MIS teams to anchor participatory research, documentation and evidence management, and build awareness of the critical issues and appropriate solutions. The field-office teams undertake the grassroots implementation of programmes assisted by the Monitoring and Coordination Team based in the head office.

# Statement of Account and Balance Sheet

Balance Sheet as on March 31, 2024		Income and Expenditure for the year ended March 31, 2024	
<b>Sources of Funds</b>	<b>Amount (in INR)</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Amount (in INR)</b>
General Fund	18,039,211	Grants and Donations	51,474,987
Unspent Grant	8,502,609	Interest & other income	475,518
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,541,820</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>51,950,505</b>
<b>Application of Funds</b>	<b>Amount (in INR)</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Amount (in INR)</b>
Fixed assets	14,213,104	Direct project cost	57,359,806
Investments	2,402,990	Administrative cost	2,438,868
Current Assets (A)	10,259,325		
Current Liabilities (B)	333,599		
Net Current Assets (A-B)	9,925,726		
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,541,820</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>59,798,674</b>



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