



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2015-2016**



# Preamble

Pragya's work with the most remote and disadvantaged communities in India continued to expand in 2015-16, with the launch of new initiatives focusing on gender equity and welfare services. We worked to create peer groups for psycho-social support for women for addressing healthcare needs, violence prevention and set up infrastructure to address information and referral needs. The organisation deepened its engagement with the states of Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand and Assam by going beyond research & advocacy and taking up direct implementation of developmental programmes in their tribal hilly and forested regions.

As in the past, Pragya continued its efforts for the conservation of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants and promoting renewable energy technologies in remote rural settlements. We worked with disadvantaged population groups such as the migrant worker communities, delivering essential services and facilitating life skills development.

The Pragya team reached out to people in Nepal in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in April 2015. Apart from meeting emergency food and WASH related needs, the team provided support to construct temporary shelter, to restart schools and to reinstate livelihoods. In India, Pragya also continued to work on rehabilitation programmes in flood ravaged villages of Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand. It started capacity building initiatives in Uttarakhand to strengthen early warning and emergency response to the last mile.

## About Pragma

Pragya's Mission is to shape and enable holistic, sustainable development with a focus on vulnerable and neglected communities in India. Our Values of 'Development without Destruction' and 'Empowerment for Enabling Choices' are at the core of everything we do.

The organization was set up with a concern for last-mile communities neglected and marginalized in the development process, and unique ecosystems (frequently the two converge) that suffer the destruction brought about by overuse of resources and inappropriate development. Established in 1995, Pragya (India) is registered as a Trust, and has FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act) certification. Pragya also has Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UNECOSOC), and in this capacity advocates for the rights of the indigenous communities and vulnerable groups that it works for. The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research under the Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India, has also recognized us as a Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (SIRO).

Our thematic interventions facilitate social development, natural resource management and development of appropriate technologies along with livelihood and enterprise development. Research and advocacy work undertaken by us supports the reform of government programs and policies, along with enhanced representation of underserved communities at the national level.





**Pragya Programmes:  
Progress made during the year**



## CONSERVATION & ENERGY:



### **Conserving Medicinal and Aromatic Plants in Fragile Ecosystems**

The Himalayas region houses several species of medicinal & aromatic plants (MAPs), including many rare and endemic species that are highly valued in the pharma and cosmetic industry. These Himalayan herbs are a priority for conservation action, since many of them are critically endangered today, threatened by both anthropogenic impacts and climate change. At the same time, the rapidly growing market demand for the species is also an opportunity for the economic development of farmers in Himalayan villages.



## CONSERVATION & ENERGY:

Pragya is working with communities across two states in the Indian Himalayas to grow incomes for small holder farmers and women's SHGs through the cultivation of medicinal plants as an alternative cash crop and to protect these endangered species from indiscriminate wild harvesting. In 2015-16, the programme enabled small and marginal farmers from BPL families to cultivate *Aconitum heterophyllum*, *Angelica glauca*, *Carumcarvi*, *Picrorhizakurroa*, *Valeriana jatamansi* and other medicinal plants species. The farmers were supported to set up and maintain plantations, nurseries and take part in buyer-seller meets. Additional farmers are expected to join the initiative once the nurseries have generated saplings/seeds for expansion of the cultivation programme. A course on conservation of medicinal plants was delivered through Pragya's resource centre and local schools to empower local youth for undertaking natural resource conservation.



**115 small & marginal farmers supported in cultivating medicinal & aromatic plants**  
**Cultivation and market linkages supported for *Aconitum heterophyllum*, *Angelica glauca*, *Carumcarvi*, *Picrorhizakurroa*, *Valeriana jatamansi* species**



*“Pragya has inspired the villagers to cultivate medicinal plants by making us aware of the value for the medicinal plants in external markets”.*  
**- Manohar Devi, SHG Member, Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh.**

# CONSERVATION & ENERGY:

## Promoting Renewable Energy Technologies in Remote Areas .

The Himalayas is one of the least electrified areas in the entire country with several un-electrified villages. Even in areas covered via the grid, the service is insufficient and of poor quality. Pragya is promoting an appropriate energy strategy for the region through deployment/ demonstration of suitable RE (Renewable Energy) and efficient conversion/utilization (Energy Efficiency) technologies, in keeping with the ecology and culture of the Himalayas, and defined stakeholder roles.

As part of its efforts towards creation and capacity building of energy supply value-chain for the Himalayas, Pragya trained 46 youth in the Himalayan states of Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh in Renewable Energy technologies to take up the role of Rural Technopreneurs. They were supported with dealership arrangements and tie-ups with financial institutions and linked to Tech Hubs set up under the programme to serve as demonstration units. Awareness drives were conducted by them to generate a demand for RE products and services among communities in the target area, including 40 SHGs. Of these, five SHGs who were the first to take up RE-based appliances were also assisted in the implementation of biomass budgeting for household energy use and supplementation through plantation of Salix/Poplar in community wood lots. Exposure visits were conducted to the community-managed renewable energy micro-grids and solar pumps set up under the programme to propel peer-to-peer learning and uptake in the region.



46 Himalayan youth trained and facilitated to act as Rural Technopreneurs promoting renewable energy uptake  
2 Eco-Tech Hubs for Demonstration of Renewable and Efficient Energy appliances/equipment



*“Due to 2 kilowatt of solar and wind hybrid energy system installed in our village, the children are excited that they can now study under light bulbs”.*

- Sher Singh, Panchayat Member, Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh.

## DISASTER MANAGEMENT :



### Response to earthquake in Nepal

A devastating earthquakes of magnitude 7.8 that struck Nepal on Saturday 25th April 2015, and over 140 aftershocks of above 4.0 magnitude rattled the country. Over 8,622 people were confirmed dead and 2.8 million people affected. Pragya obtained necessary approvals from CBDT, Ministry of Finance, Govt of India, to help out in this unique challenge facing the neighbouring country.



## DISASTER MANAGEMENT :

Pragya team reached out to 7,146 earthquake-survivors in the worst-hit locations of Dhading, Sindhupal chowk, Gorkha, Nuwakot, Kavrepalan chowk and Kathmandu districts with emergency aid, including food, medical supplies, basic shelter and hygiene kits. The existing on ground presence of Pragya Nepal helped us to promptly respond to the emergency and undertake rapid relief operations based on essential understanding of accessibility and procurement channels amidst continuing aftershocks and incessant rains. We focused on remote and neglected communities. We replenished the medical supplies in 2 major hospitals, and conducted medical camps in remote districts to provide treatment to the ill and injured. Tents and school supplies helped reinstate After the initial relief phase, our efforts focused on needs assessment and options appraisal for long-term rehabilitation support to disaster-affected communities which identified shelter, livelihoods, water & sanitation, education and social protection for women as the most urgent immediate needs, with disaster preparedness identified as another critical need for long-term support.



**7,146 earthquake survivors reached across 5 districts**  
**5,789 kgs of food grains, 1,266 hygiene items, 2,117 packs of baby food, glucose, ORS** distributed as well as blankets tarpaulins, ground sheets, ready-to-eat food, medicines and surgical supplies, Galvanized Iron Sheets for temporary shelter



*"My village is very far from Kathmandu. You have to walk for 2 hours to reach here. We are at loss of words to express the gratitude as PRAGYA has come so far to help us".*

**- Som Raj Tamang, Salleni village, Sindhupal chowk District, Nepal**

# DISASTER MANAGEMENT :

## Rehabilitation and preparedness measures

Rural communities in the Indian Himalayas are affected by extremely high levels of disaster risk. Geological instability, climate change and deforestation have contributed to a significant increase in high-magnitude, rapid-onset natural hazards in the last 3 decades. The devastating floods in Uttarakhand in June 2013, and in Jammu & Kashmir in September 2014 caused enormous loss of life, destroyed land, crops, livestock, equipment and buildings, pushing huge numbers of families into poverty.

In Uttarakhand, Pragma continued to deliver livelihoods rehabilitation programme to build local economic capacity and enable communities in to mitigate the impact of the floods through livelihoods diversification. The team provided training, equipment and market links to women's self-help groups engaged in handicrafts / cloth-weaving and spice processing enterprises. Flood ravaged farm households were supported to set up greenhouses for vegetable farming. In both Uttarakhand and Jammu & Kashmir, Pragma continued to implement programmes for improving access to safe water and sanitation in flood-ravaged villages through installation of toilets, water storage and filtration units and conducting awareness sessions on hygiene. In Jammu & Kashmir, we provided support to the rural communities for winter clothing, sleeping bags, heaters and other essential items to help them through harsh winters. Building on its strong understanding of local context and on its experience of working with disaster-affected communities, Pragma launched its 'DMS-Himalaya' initiative aimed at participatory disaster risk governance, to provide tools and capacity building inputs to grassroots actors for improving early warning and relief need communication.

**7,838 people including 3,025 children benefitted from installation of toilets and water filtration units**

**Livelihood support to 420 families through setting up greenhouses for vegetable farming, crafts production centers and spice processing center**

*"It was the first of its kind; the villagers have received items like Pheran and Mattresses which the flood-affected people needed the most during harsh winters".*

**- Manzoor Ahmad Najar,  
Anantnag District, Jammu &  
Kashmir**

## EDUCATION:



### **Improving Access to Education and Learning Levels in marginalized communities**

Migrant labourer in the Indian Himalayas represent some of India's most disadvantaged people: affected by extreme poverty, living and working in unhealthy and dangerous conditions, and with very little access to basic services or rights. The remote, frequently mobile nature of migrant groups prevents them from accessing local services and markets, particularly state education. Pragma is delivering education services for children of migrant road and dam workers, focusing on basic literacy and numeracy, digital literacy and co-curricular activities and basic functional literacy module for adults.



## EDUCATION:

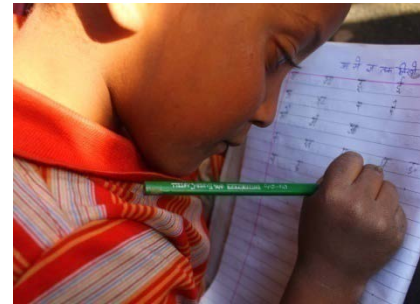
Mobile Education Units equipped with innovative teaching aids and ICT facilities deliver regular sessions for out-of-school children and for supplementary education for school-going children. Pragma team also liaises with school authorities to facilitate enrolment of these children in formal schools.

Pragma continued to provide services to 12 migrant communities in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand states, with local teachers trained by District Institute for Education and Training (DIET) specifically for this purpose. Regular learning assessments, practice sessions and review sessions are built in to track and sustain the progress made during the sessions. The physically arduous and long hours of work that the workers endure pose barriers to conduct the sessions and progress is slow. The Pragma team continues to adapt the timings, mode of delivery and content to adapt to the needs of the workers.



**697 people including 183 children served through 2 Mobile Education Units**

**85.7% children and 60% adults in target groups attained basic literacy**



*“Earlier the children continued to mumble alphabets, numbers and words in barely audible voices. But now it is heartening to see that they are gradually picking up everything while playing around with the learning toys”.*

**- Preeti Bhandari, MEU Teacher, Chamoli District, Uttarakhand**

## HEALTH & WASH:



### *Improving Maternal & Child Health and nutrition*

Poverty and adverse societal norms deprive a majority of women in India of access to adequate and nutritive food and sanitation facilities. Backward areas and remote parts of the country, display the worst indices, as the problems are compounded by lack of essential health services. Pragyahas been working since 2006 on improving the nutritional and health status, and to address the water & sanitation needs of communities in the tribal, border, hilly, forested districts in India, with a special focus on women and children.

## HEALTH & WASH:

Pragya deployed a community-based health & nutrition surveillance mechanism across nine Indian states to empower rural women, grassroots health workers to respond effectively to nutrition & health needs of adolescent girls and women in the reproductive age. Rural nutritionists have been trained and are monitoring nutrition levels of women and children. Pragya team also strived to build agronomic capacity of women and enable them for household production of nutritive crops towards dietary diversification, and meeting calorific and nutritional requirements. Women's SHGs have been engaged with, trained in area-specific nutrition farming packages, soil improvement techniques, food budgeting to prevent seasonal hunger. Pragya continued to work with village level Water & Sanitation Councils (WSCs) in six states to set up and maintain sanitation facilities and water filtration units.



**160 women's SHGs engaged in Nutri-Dense Farming**

**342 nutri-gardens set up in villages; 15 school nutri-gardens to supplement mid-day meals**



*"After the trainings, we have sown spinach, cauliflower, onion, carrot, radish, potato. We have begun cultivating vegetables to meet the nutritional needs".*

**- Punchok Lhamo, Farmer, Leh District, Jammu & Kashmir**



## POVERTY & FOOD SECURITY:



### *Food Security in Isolated Rural Communities*

In the rural hinterlands of India, farm-based livelihoods of small-scale mixed farming dominate and food insecurity is chronic. Climate change has also been causing decline in agricultural productivity, whilst limited access to markets prevents farmers from generating enough income to feed their families adequately. Pragma has been addressing food security concerns in the remote Himalayan region, where food production is constrained by the terrain and severe climatic conditions, and the problems are compounded due to weak infrastructure and poor or no access to extension services.

## POVERTY & FOOD SECURITY:

Pragya has been developing grassroots capacities for extension services and setting up shared facilities for improving land productivity and crop yields and facilitating post-harvest processing to enhance farm incomes. Local youth trained as Agri-Advisors(AA) are providing agri-extension services to farmers in three states. Local Agri-Clinics(LAC) equipped with soil testing kits & weather instruments, educational films are helping farmers adopt climate-smart agriculture. A digitized crop advisory has been developed by Pragya to advise farmer on suitable crops and farm management practices. Agri-Business Centers equipped with post-harvest equipment are facilitating value-addition at local level to increase agri-revenues.



**50 Youth Agri-Advisors  
providing extension services**

**458 farmers trained on  
advanced agronomy; 156  
farmers have been assisted in  
joining cooperatives**



*"The trainings focused on adjusting time-schedules for farm operations, drought-resistant crop varieties and efficient irrigation. I have set up farm R&D plot to experiment on suitable crops towards reducing climate risk."*

**- Nirmal Chand, Farmer,  
Lahaul&Spiti District, Himachal  
Pradesh**

## RIGHTS & GENDER EQUITY:



### *Empowering the Hinterlands*

Lack of awareness in the tribal communities, especially among women regarding their rights, which results in nominal representation in democracy; hence their concerns remain unheard. Deep-rooted gender norms lead to low literacy levels, poor reproductive health, low economic capacity of women and their low participation in decision making. Over the past decade, Pragya has been working to improve awareness and capacity of migrant labourers, marginalized tribal communities and state and civil society actors to facilitate inclusive development with specific focus on women empowerment.



## RIGHTS & GENDER EQUITY:

Pragya continued to facilitate legal literacy and rights awareness of migrant road and dam construction workers and conduct advocacy meetings with employers and other stakeholders. Pragya team created and is providing intensive training and handholding to Women's Peer Groups to bring about a supportive environment to eliminate gender-based violence. Empowerment Centres have been set up, which along with local Mentors for Inclusive Development would design and facilitate awareness and attitude change campaigns. The network of women leaders, mentors and empowerment centres are equipped to facilitate regular documentation of infrastructural lacunae, gaps in services, discrimination and grassroots multi-stakeholder collaboration for local level action planning for inclusive governance. Pragya team carried out consultations with state and civil society representatives of other tribal-dominated districts across India to integrate their learning's for its implementation model on primary prevention of violence and inclusive gender sensitive development.



**100 Women's Peer Groups created for psycho-social support**

**Consultations with 110 tribal-dominated districts on inclusive gender sensitive development**



*"Every Sunday we conduct meetings and discuss about the issues around violence against women. We use the awareness materials as we discuss."*

**- Mamta Kumari, Women's Peer Group Member, Lohardaga District, Jharkhand**

## RESEARCH & ADVOCACY EFFORTS BY PRAGYA

Founder Trustee of Pragma Ms. Gargi Banerji anchored the editorship and peer review for the special issue on “Gender, Governance and Agriculture” of The International Journal of Agricultural Resources, Governance and Ecology that captured learnings and good practices from nine developing countries. She was joined by other eminent panelists discussing ‘Emerging markets, emerging solutions’ at the Philanthropreneurship Forum hosted at Paris, France in December 2015.

The Ecotech Desk at Pragma undertook a research study to assess the energy demand for households and key commercial sectors (Agriculture/Tourism) in Himalayan states. Pragma also conducted a multi-stakeholder workshop on “Accelerating Renewable Energy Deployment in Rural Himalayas” to share the results of the study and to collate recommendations for achieving a robust nexus between various stakeholders to increase the uptake of RE/EE technologies.

Pragma team showcased its innovative community anchored education information system DEISPI at the Digital Innovation for Child Literacy Summit & Showcase at Melbourne, Australia in April 2015. The team was invited to showcase its model at World Humanitarian Summit Global Consultations at Geneva, Switzerland in October 2015 and submitted a statement recommending seven strategic shifts in the humanitarian sector.



# HOW WE DO IT

## Our Human Resources

Team Pragma consists of a group of dedicated professionals from diverse disciplines including management, law, engineering, economics, agri-business and public health. United by the common goal to aid holistic and sustainable development of the most difficult and least addressed regions and their inhabitants, our staff is adept at engaging and empowering local communities through its various programmes. Regardless of where they might be deployed, they spearhead conservation and development work with Pragma's trademark innovative, business-like, issues-focused and target-oriented approach.

## Existing Operations

Pragma straddles the application & policy research and project implementation worlds in the development sector. It has a diverse portfolio. It carries out its operations from its head office in Gurgaon (NCR) and through an extensive network of Field Offices across seven states in India. Conceptualization of thematic area-specific programmes is undertaken by the Programs team based at the head office with inputs sourced from local communities via our field staff. The field-office staff in consultation/coordination undertakes the on-ground implementation of these programmes with thematic experts based in the head office.

All of Pragma's projects are anchored strongly with local communities. Our interventions build capacities of local people so that they can manage their cultural and natural heritage and address their development goals. Endogenous systems and organizations are also created to help address people's needs and minimize their dependence on external support. A dedicated Research & Advocacy team in Gurgaon carries out research activities, brings out publications, and shares information on the needs and problems of the backward areas that we work to deliver development services to. Communication & Engagement professionals interact with institutions and the wider public to develop a wider base of support for our work.

# Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet

Balance Sheet as on March 31, 2016		Income and Expenditure Account for the year (Ended March 31, 2016)	
<b>Sources of Fund</b>	<b>Amount (in INR)</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Amount (in INR)</b>
Capital Fund	11,141,746.49	Grants and donations	43,022,282.91
Unspent Grant	<b>14,234,628.44</b>	Interest and other income	<b>467,221.49</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,376,374.93</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>43,489,504.40</b>
<b>Application of Funds</b>	<b>Amount (in INR)</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Amount (in INR)</b>
Fixed Assets	13,498,773.17	Grants and donations	40,781,167.98
Investments	9,619,837.00	Interest and other income	40,000.00
Current Assets (A)	4,780,715.76		1,997,455.31
Current Liabilities (B)	<b>2,522,951.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>203,659.62</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,376,374.93</b>		<b>43,022,282.91</b>



## CHALLENGES AND WAY AHEAD

For 20 years, Pragma has been delivering development goods and services to some of the country's poorest and most disadvantaged people and helping to protect fragile and vulnerable ecosystems. The organisation has grown substantially since its inception, developing into an award-winning leader in its field, with some 70 staff members and a network of field offices spanning 7 states. As well as continuing to support communities in the Himalayas, Pragma India now also works with indigenous groups across lowland areas of northern, central and north-eastern India; its programmes include interventions focused on equitable social development, environmental change, and natural hazards.

As the march towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) begins in earnest, Pragma will be engaged with the most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities in India, addressing the most persistent and intractable issues they face, and seek to bring about transformative change towards protecting biodiversity and adapting to climate change. The challenge is to continue to innovate, adapt and replicate solutions that address gaps in services for agriculture, health, sanitation, energy, education and skill building. The organisation's work will be aligned with the SDGs' commitment of "Leaving No One Behind" as it seeks to address conservation challenges, inequality and multi-dimensional poverty in rural, pre-urban and urban settings.



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