

# ANNUAL REPORT

2018 - 2019



PHOTO: Pragma



# PREAMBLE

Pragya works with the last mile, vulnerable communities in India and has continued delivering programmes to address their needs in 2018-19- in education and health, in water and sanitation, in livelihoods and access to markets. In the last year we have deepened our work with the particularly marginalised and improved the lot of women and children, small and marginal farmers, and the displaced and impoverished migrant families. We are proud that our programmes have helped women's assertion against violence and girls' access to education. We have helped smallholder families adopt cash cropping including cultivation of high-value medicinal plants, increase their agricultural incomes and gain livelihood security. We have engaged strongly with youth in our client communities and helped them to take up roles to build their societies and drive social change in them, while developing their economies.

We have also progressed on our mission to address environmental concerns in ecologically fragile zones in the country, in particular, to mitigate the increasing adverse effects of climate change. Our programming in this domain has facilitated communities to undertake biodiversity conservation and green development actions. We have promoted sustainable technologies and associated green and climate smart livelihoods, including around renewable energy and ecotourism. Pragya has also stepped up its work on ecosystem based disaster risk reduction, building community awareness, risk governance and resilience, and facilitating a range of mitigation and preparedness measures.

As we step into the 25<sup>th</sup> year of our programming, we look forward to work with continuing dedication and commitment and to move the needle on the issues we work on and further the cause of sustainable and equitable development.

# ABOUT PRAGYA



Pragya's mission is to shape and enable holistic, sustainable development with a focus on vulnerable and neglected communities in India. In all our programmes and advocacy efforts, we uphold the core values - 'Development without Destruction' and 'Empowerment for Enabling Choices'.

We take a practical and culturally-sensitive and ecologically sustainable approach to development. Our work is grounded in long-term community partnerships where communities engage in creating the change they want to see, and ensure that their environment is protected. 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.

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. We are recognised by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research under the Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India, as a Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (SIRO). Pragya has GuideStar India Platinum Certification [GuideStar Number (GSN) 5444].

# CURRENT OUTREACH



Pragya works across India with a **central coordination office and field offices in 7 northern states** for project implementation in:

- marginalised rural areas
- urban slums & peri-urban settlements



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

# LIVELIHOODS & FOOD SECURITY

PHOTO: Pragya



- **130 local youth** have been trained on advanced agronomy for delivering agri-extension services to farmers
- **20 Local Agri-Clinics** set up in Uttarakhand, Assam, Rajasthan and Bihar
- **11,550+ farmers** are being reached through agri-extension services

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.

At Pragya we believe empowering farmers, including the rural youth with the access to tools and knowledge for climate adaptation is key to our zero hunger future. We concluded our five year long initiative that worked with local youth, small farmers, especially women in the Himalayas to enhance their agronomic capacity, to adopt improved technologies and be better able to adapt to climate change. Over the 5 years of implementing this project, we could observe a marked shift in farm productivity ranging between 30% to 100% as a result of the Agri-extension services. We documented lessons learnt from this initiative through a multi-stakeholder participative process.

The Pragya team is currently focused on fine tuning and replicating the initiative in additional districts in the Himalayas as well as in the plains and foothills across 4 states with special emphasis on high value cash crops. Soil testing and crop advisory at Local Agri-Clinics, farmer field-schools, AV based trainings, are helping farmers find solutions to specific agricultural issues in their farms. In the flood prone plains, Pragya is also working to diversify livelihoods by building capacity and linkages for crafts based livelihoods.



# ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

PHOTO: Pragya



- **240 monitoring sites** selected, ensuring representation of various habitat types (forests, grasslands, riverbanks, open scrub, rocky slope etc) and stream and tributaries
- Media campaigns have had an outreach to **1,70,000 people**

The storehouse of biodiversity in our forests and mountains is under increasing threat. Climate change is adding its impacts in the form of increasing desertification, changes in weather patterns and frequent natural calamities.

Pragya continued its efforts for the conservation of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants through promoting sustainable cultivation and promoting responsible trade of the plant material. The team expanded its efforts to enhance uptake of high value medicinal and aromatic plants in the plains by farmers.

We enhanced our outreach for promoting renewable energy technologies in remote rural settlements in the Himalayas. Remote villages, pastoral settlements, rural enterprises and community centres benefitted from the renewable energy installations.

The Pragya team continued to work with youth trained as Young Himalayan Conservationists to conduct biodiversity and habitat monitoring, maintaining local biodiversity registers. They were supported in taking up evidence based advocacy for conservation actions at village and district level. These initiatives are aimed at improving resilience of degraded ecosystems and in turn reducing the vulnerability of local communities to disasters. Focused campaigns were organised using a vibrant mascot depicting local endangered bird species, and through community radio programmes.



*"We were informed by the Agri-Advisor about prediction of heavy rainfall on 16th -17th April. We created makeshift structures with tarpaulins on our fields to prevent rain from damaging the wheat crop we had just harvested. We shared the information with other farmers in the village. 80% of the households took precautions based on the predictions and we were able to avoid the damage to our crops."*

**Kavita Joshi**  
**Salang Village, Uttarkashi**  
**Uttarakhand, INDIA**





# EDUCATION

PHOTO: Pragya



- **14 Coach and Counsellors (C&C) for Girls** delivering education to **905 out-of-school girls**
- **41 district level stakeholders** participate up in networks for Championing Girls' Education and Ensuring Protection for Girls
- Village level peer groups benefitting **626 girls** under effective leadership of trained Peer Communicators
- **298 youth** possess higher vocational skills and increased employability

Despite the progress made over the years, the extent and quality of education provision across India remains extremely inconsistent. Significant numbers of children drop out of school and fail to complete their basic education. Pragya continued to operate 'School on Wheels' to provide access to educational services that children of migrant road workers and children in remote rural settlements are deprived of. The ICT and science lab equipped vans provide them with essential education, and thereby improve their prospects for a future away from the menial and hazardous work of their parents. Learning level assessments indicated steady improvement in cognitive and reading abilities of the children.

We continued to work with peer groups of adolescent girls and trained Councillors to bring girls provide alternate education and back to school. We held sessions to sensitise parents on socio-economic and cultural factors that keep girls away from school and prevent them from attaining basic literacy or continuing their education. We conducted campaigns using cycle rallies, puppet shows and audio-visuals and held village level discussions and pledge ceremonies and conducted sessions for gender sensitization of school staff and school management committees. We engaged with relevant government and civil society stakeholders in the district who constitute the multi-stakeholder networks for Championing Girls' Education and Ensuring Protection for Girls. These efforts are supplemented by our vocational skill building programme in the districts of Rajasthan.

# EQUITY FOR WOMEN & MARGINALISED GROUPS

PHOTO: Pragma



- **3147 women's peer group members** in 100 villages across 5 states resisting gendered nature of violence and discrimination
- **10 Socio-Legal Kiosks(SLK) and helplines** providing support to register cases, mediation/counseling and legal assistance/referral
- **90 local mentors** from the community executing campaigns to gender-sensitise the communities

In India, across the communities we worked with, the traditional gender norms and the patriarchal structure of society result in different forms of violence against women and girls – in the family and in public spaces.

Pragma continued to work with women's peer groups, trained mentors and local leaders to empower women to access support for addressing and preventing Violence against Women (VAW). The initiative seeks to propel a social transformation towards gender equitable attitudes and to catalyse a stronger response to VAW from local protection and support institutions. We registered increase in membership of peer groups. The groups had transitioned from dialogue to action oriented groups and were actively standing up to protest against and to prevent rights abuse and violence. They have been leveraging the support networks to prevent and take action against violence faced by women and girls in their communities, and were stepping out to participate in various activities including village level decision making.

Local mentors delivered stronger campaigns against harmful cultural practices and traditions, also effectively engaging men and boys. We worked with elected local representatives to build their capacity on gender responsive planning and budgeting. State and non-state agencies from target districts and at national level were brought together to draw out lessons learnt and propel uptake of the primary prevention methodology piloted by Pragma.



*“There were times that made me realise the value of having peer support. I joined the group because should I ever face any further challenges and don’t have answers that I am looking for, I have a group of women to discuss my problems with and to find solutions together. People don’t want to talk about emotional abuse. As a trained counsellor, I look out for the signs and ask questions.”*

**Talamai Soren**  
**Lamba Basti village, Kishangunj**  
**Bihar, INDIA**





# WATER, SANITATION AND HEALTH

PHOTO: Pragma



- **3,322 community members** benefitted through health camps
- **1,477 beneficiaries** reached through health awareness sessions
- **6631 people** reached through road safety awareness events; **39,830 people** reached through awareness broadcasts on radio

Pragma adopts a comprehensive approach to water and sanitation security for communities that lack these basic amenities, encompassing safe and adequate drinking water, appropriate sanitation facilities, and hygiene education. We continued to deliver basic health check up services and set up safe water facilities for vulnerable communities in remote Himalayan cold desert villages and in flood ravaged villages in the Brahmaputra valley in Assam. We also worked with Community Health Workers to conduct health and nutrition surveillance across three states.

Pragma team worked towards strengthening the integrated Emergency Trauma Response Network being piloted along a high altitude highway, comprising a series of coordination points, comprising traffic control points, police outposts and youth groups. These coordination points were supplied with specialist equipment and trained for first response / emergency extrication of victims from vehicles, and linked with the region's hospitals and medical facilities. In consultation with local government, we compiled emergency response guidelines, are operating critical care ambulances. We worked to upgrade hospitals and medical facilities along accident-prone routes, and building capacity of medical staff to provide emergency care to accident victims through certified training in Advanced Trauma and Life Support.

These initiatives were supplemented by road safety campaigns across the region, using local media and art in schools, villages, marketplaces.



# DISASTER MANAGEMENT

PHOTO: Pragma



- **800 local youth** trained on early warning and relief information systems
- **80 weather stations, river staff gauge** installed for regular monitoring of environmental parameters to benefit **339,000 people** across 841 villages
- **75% community beneficiaries** were able to identify safe shelters for specific types of disasters


In August 2018, Kerala experienced one of the most severe floods in almost a century. Pragma team reached out to the most needy and distressed of the flood-affected population, and provided essential food supplies, toiletries and cleaning supplies /disinfectants and household supplies such as water purifiers and mosquito nets to 1282 people from 290 families. We also provided assistance to over 30 children and infants in the form of baby food to meet their essential nutritional requirement.

Pragma also reached out with essential relief to flood ravaged villages in Assam and landslide affected migrant workers' camps in Uttarakhand.

As in the past, we continued to work with trained local youth Disaster Response Teams to pilot a dynamic, citizen-led disaster management system, designed by Pragma specially adapted to the last mile. We worked to conduct refresher trainings on search and rescue, first aid, school level disaster management planning and mock drills. We noted an increase in disaster related awareness and preparedness at the village level in comparison to baseline records.

The team is also fine tuning and testing a digital platform for regular reporting of environmental parameters and real-time needs assessment and data relay post disaster.





*"My house got completely washed away in the flood. Along with the house, I lost everything I owned. Being a daily labourer, I will find it quite difficult to build a house from scratch and get all the essentials. I am really thankful to Pragya for doing such noble work and helping people like me after this heartbreaking disaster. ."*

**Vijayan M.B.**  
Chandravanu Village, Idukki  
Kerala, INDIA



# RESEARCH & ADVOCACY

PHOTO: Pragma



Pragma team carried out two independent baseline research on status of small and marginal farmers across 4 Indian states. We have also identified and liaised with key technical support agencies across these states to strengthen capacity building, extension services and market linkages for smallholder farmers.

Pragma hosted a national level workshop to review the good practices and lessons learnt from its initiative on ensuring food security for farmers in the Himalayas to elicit recommendations and explore multi-stakeholder collaboration for strengthening agri-business linkages.

Based on data collected through the 10 district level Observatories on violence against women and girls, Pragma shared a comparative analysis with national level stakeholders at a national level workshop on “Primary Prevention of Violence against Women of Ethnic Minority Communities”. The event brought together experts from academia, CSOs, UN agencies to identify effective strategies for multi-stakeholder collaboration and attitude change campaigns towards prevention of violence against women particularly in ethnic rural communities.

Pragma worked with Health Poverty Action (UK) on a collaborative multi-country research on drug policy and its effect on economy, health, psycho-social well being of communities. We collaborated with Philanthropy University / University of California, Berkley (USA) to develop an online course on Fundamentals of Project Management.

# HOW WE DO IT

## Our Human Resources

Team Pragya consists of a group of dedicated professionals from diverse disciplines including management, sociology, engineering, economics, agri-business and health. United by the common goal to aid holistic and sustainable development of the last mile communities and endangered ecosystems, our staff is adept at engaging and empowering local communities through its various programmes and creating solutions for sustainable, eco-friendly development. Working in remote high altitude Himalayan villages, in the flood prone plains in northern India or arid lands in the west, and in the resource constrained slums at the heart of national capital region, they spearhead conservation and development work with Pragya's trademark innovative, business-like, issues-focused and target-oriented approach.

## Existing Operations

Pragya 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. Pragya India now numbers about 50 staff at its Head Quarters in Gurgaon, with staff also located across its 13 field offices. 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 Pragya'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, 2019		Income and Expenditure for the year ended March 31, 2019	
Sources of Funds	Amount (in INR)	Income	Amount (in INR)
General Fund	1,18,81,151	Grants and Donations	13,18,07,656
Unspent Grant	5,68,09,030	Interest & other income	18,32,993
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,86,90,181</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>13,36,40,649</b>
Application of Funds	Amount (in INR)	Expenditure	Amount (in INR)
Fixed assets	1,25,12,692	Direct project cost	12,90,48,116
Investments	3,96,06,152	Administrative cost	33,30,209
Current Assets (A)	1,99,16,667		
Current Liabilities (B)	33,45,330		
Net Current Assets	1,65,71,337		
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,86,90,181</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>13,23,78,325</b>





83, Sector-44 Institutional Area  
Gurgaon 122003 Haryana, India.

Ph. No: +91 124 4947000

Email: [pragyain@pragya.org](mailto:pragyain@pragya.org)

Website: [www.pragya.org](http://www.pragya.org)