



**VRUTTI**

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# A YEAR OF TRANSFORMING LIVELIHOODS

VRUTTI LIVELIHOOD RESOURCE CENTRE IN 2014-2015







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## ABBREVIATION

A3P	Accelerated Pulses Production Program
AP	Andhra Pradesh
CEI	Center for Education Innovations
CG	Chattisgarh
CIKS	Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems
DFID	Department for International Development - GOV.UK
DoA	Department of Agriculture
FIG	Farmer Interest Group
FPC	Farmer Producer Company
FPCL	Farmer Producer Company Ltd
FPO	Farmer Producer Organisation
GOK	Government of Karnataka
GPAF	Global Poverty Action Fund
HA	Hectare
HH	Households
HUF	Hindustan Unilever Foundation
ICS	Internal Control System
KA	Karnataka
KNH	Kindernothilfe
MP	Madhya Pradesh
NFSM	National Food Security Mission
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Produce
NVI	National Vegetable Initiative
R4D	Results for Development
RKVY	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana
RTRS	The Roundtable on Responsible Soy Association
SDTT	Sir Dorabi Tata Trust
SHG	Self Help Group
SHM	State Horticulture Mission
TN	Tamil Nadu
AEFC	Agriculture Enterprise Facilitation Centre

# SCALING UP SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD SOLUTIONS

Vrutti seeks to transform the livelihoods of poor and marginalised communities by addressing challenges faced by smallholders. These challenges include limited awareness and access to technology; the absence of business linkages; poor access to quality inputs; and dependence on external inputs, to name a few.

In this report, we give you an overview of the new work that we commenced in the past year, progress on previous programmes, and the recognition we have received for our work on innovative models, research and policy engagement.

## ABOUT US

Vrutti is a centre for sustainable livelihoods enhancing people's well-being. We are **enablers of eco-system solutions** that are transformative to end poverty, marginalisation and create wealth for small-producers and marginalised communities in India and developing nations. We achieve this through innovation, knowledge and transformative actions, while engaging across grass-root to policy levels.

We are here as **there are number of societal problems**, such as poverty and inequity, marginalisation and vulnerability to diseases, disasters, etc., low capabilities and lack of voice of people, and lack of services and opportunities; and these continue to grow. Solutions exist, but are usually isolated, verticalised and hardly converge to create impact or reach scale. We, as **social entrepreneurs**, try our best to facilitate solutions, rather than leaving it to the Government or to the people themselves.

We strongly believe that '**Sustainable Livelihood Approach**' can be a **great lever** to address poverty, marginalisation and inclusive development. It is very important that these approaches are customised to address different forms of marginalisation, people's needs, aspirations and the local context. All our design and work starts with 'People-First and People at the Centre'- empathy-led designs distinct from technical/ scientific designs.

To us, **scale** is about reach and impact at the community... how depth and width that we have contributed to and for how long these benefits sustain. Our solutions should therefore be modelled to take us to the scale. We don't get satisfied with doing it at a few places or with few people. We therefore '**model**' our approaches, '**cost**' them, and '**integrate**' them to be adopted by communities or market or public policy.

We are passionate about **measurement**, critiquing ourselves and improve. We work through result-based planning tools, performance measurement metrics, impact and value for money assessments and use technology where feasible.

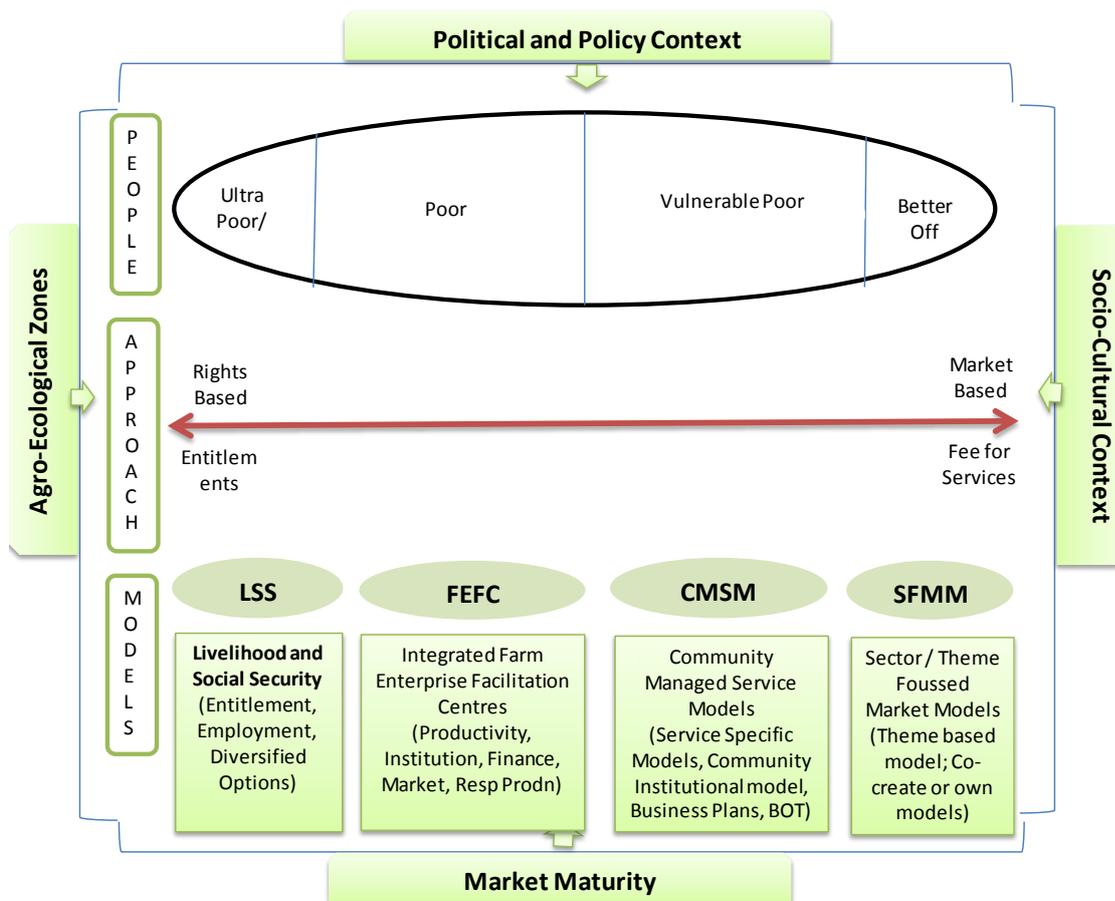
### HOW DO WE TRANSFORM LIVELIHOODS - OUR FRAMEWORK AND MODELS

We work through the following framework that guides our approach to livelihood transformation in any given area, with a given community. This is developed based on our experience on the field and learning from others.

#### Community Partnership for Impact

- **Tribal farmers** of MP and Chhattisgarh
- **Small, Marginal Farmers and Landless** labourers of rainfed areas in Northern Karnataka, Telangana and Tamil Nadu
- **Farming, livestock and fishing communities** in disaster prone coastal areas of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry
- **Women and transgender** who are most vulnerable to HIV/AIDS
- **Communities affected by high fluoride**, arsenic and nitrate water, water borne diseases in Gujarat, Telangana and Karnataka
- **Farming communities** engaging in sustainable agriculture practices in Odisha, Karnataka, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, MP, AP and Chhattisgarh
- **Children in difficult circumstances** and their communities in various parts of India

**Vrutti's Framework and Models for Livelihood Transformation**



**Key Principles**

Family-Centric Solutions, Embedded in Community Institutional Architecture; building a Culture of Entrepreneurship

It brings together the following:

- **Profile of people we engage with** in any location - how different are they given their socio-economic status. In any location we have 'ultra-poor and/or socially marginalised' to 'poor' to 'vulnerable poor' to 'better off'. Each category of people have different needs, resources, aspirations and abilities, and we need to address them differently.
- **Approaches that work best for them** to address their needs and aspirations. The poorest require 'rights-based approaches with their entitlements' and the vulnerable and better off could afford 'market-based approaches with fee-based services'
- **Models of Vrutti that addresses these people with the approaches** - Vrutti has developed four models to engage with variety of profiles, with a right combination of 'rights' and 'markets' - Four types of models detailed here
- **Contextualising these based on the four criteria** - in the external box - i.e. these models need to be customised given the agro-ecological zones, political and socio-cultural scenario, and level of market maturity.

- **Key Principles** - while we do this, the key principles that remain same across are - family-centric solutions, embedded well with the community institutional architecture, and building on the cutlrue of entrepreneurship across the levels (including us!)

# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2014-2015

We set out to achieve what we had envisioned in our strategic plan for 2014 -16.

# AGRICULTURE

## AGRICULTURE ENTERPRISE FACILITATION CENTRE (AEFC)

The Agriculture Enterprise Facility Centre (AEFC) model was initiated in two tribal blocks in Madhya Pradesh, Budhni and Bankheri of Sehore and Hoshangabad districts, and Kanker district of Chhattisgarh. Men and women from each community organised themselves into self-help groups that became part of farmers' groups; these groups then became part of clusters under the Agricultural Producers' Company. The block-level Agriculture Enterprise Facility Centre is run by farmers' groups or federations and a local civil society organisation. Within the AEFC, lead farmers are known as Agri-Business Development Service (BDS) providers. This local cadre provides need and fee-based quality business development services, adding value to agriculture as an enterprise.

Under AEFC we have already registered 3 FPCs (2 in Budhani and 1 in Bankhedi) and 1 FPC in Chhattisgarh. The 3 FPCs of Budhani and Bankheri have already received cumulative loan of Rs 45 Lakhs from FWWB. We have also submitted a loan proposal under PODF to NABARD for Narmadanchal FPC in Budhani.

Using various models of social enterprise, we aimed to provide livelihoods for 100,000 smallholders' families. We also aimed to raise the annual income of small and marginal farmers from Rs 10,000 to Rs 50,000 per acre per annum. In the past year, 50 per cent of enrolled farmers have benefited from the reduced cost of cultivation and 40 per cent farmers have benefited from improved seed usage

## PRODUCTION AND CERTIFICATION OF SEEDS

Our in-house seed production in Sehore district of Madhya Pradesh is aimed at mitigating problems of low seed rate, low yield due to poor quality of seed, reduced incidence of pest and insect attacks, better size of grain, reduced number of hollow seeds in the seed lot and increased profits. Vrutti also trains farmers in seed production techniques, production of foundation seed, certification of seed and so on.

In Sehore district, we took up seed production in the villages of Jahajpura and Ninore. Farmers were organised into two societies, Vijayasun and Mekalsuta; the societies helped other farmers in sowing foundation and breeder seeds, in getting these seeds certified through the Seed Certification Agency, and in selling the bred seeds to farmers in the villages. The bred seeds generated more revenue than the local variety because of their quality and high-yielding nature. Vrutti's work resulted in higher production of seeds, lower seed rate, better seed quality of wheat, fewer attacks by insects and pests, reduced incidences of diseases, easy linkages with the market and seed agencies, high profits in comparison to previous years. We are also working with certification agencies to register these societies and help them sell seeds outside their home villages, leading to a further increase in revenue.

## SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS FOR WADI TRIBALS

Since April 2012, Vrutti has been working with 500 Gound tribal families in Hoshangabad district of Madhya Pradesh under NABARD's Tribal Development Fund (TDF). The project aimed to provide sustainable livelihoods for tribal families by developing orchard based integrated farming systems (called Wadi) and promoting sustainable participatory livelihood programmes, both Wadi and otherwise. Plantation activity was carried out and completed in all 500 WADIs, 300 smokeless chullahs were distributed to 300 WADI members as were 300 water storage drums and 100 solar lantern

We promoted horticulture, offered ways to improve agriculture, developed water resources, undertook soil and water conservation. Alongside this, we aimed at empowering tribal families, and women in particular, by equipping them with knowledge and skills. Finally, we supported activities that led to the development of tribal markets, and to improved processing and marketing of products manufactured by tribal families and communities.

## BUILDING AND SUSTAINING FARMER PRODUCERS' ORGANISATIONS

Vrutti has been working to build and sustain Producer Companies in different geographies in the country under different schemes and project, either implementing under Vrutti's own initiatives or in partnership with other partner organisations. Some of the major initiatives under implementation are the SFAC's FPO programme where Vrutti plays the role of a Resource Institution and has directly implemented formation of FPOs in MP, Chattisgarh, AP and Karnataka, under DFID and Hivos funding in Tamil Nadu in partnership with an NGO - CIKS, and under Small Grant Facility in partnership with Hivos and IFHD in Orissa, AP, Karnataka, Telangana, AP, TN, Karnataka and Kerala. Vrutti has currently promoted 55 farmers producer organisation in six states, covering about 93 500 farmers; Out of 55 producer organisation, 21 producer organisation have been registered under producer companies act, few registered under Mutual aided cooperatives act and the others are in the process of getting registered.

### Some Key Highlights

- In Karnataka, Vrutti has facilitated and supported FPOs to sell their produce - total about 17,000 quintals worth of Rs.8.33 crore; the commodities include - Paddy, sunflower, Bengal gram, Soy and Cotton. It has also facilitated credit of more than 3 crores through various financial institutions.
- In Tamil Nadu achievements with regard to APC business operations and provision of services have been significant during this reporting year.
  - Till march 2015, 123 tonnes of paddy seeds, 11 tonnes of groundnut seeds, 50 tonnes of neem cake, 15 tonnes of vermicompost, 15 tonnes of Dhal and 25 tonnes of cattle feed have been traded through APC, benefiting about 10,000 households including non-shareholders.

- The total turnover through business operations by these two producer companies till March 2015 has been Rs. 1,73,00,000 and the net profit is Rs. 1,37,070). The honorarium and incentives for VABDSPs have been paid by these APCs since July 2013.
- For the working capital requirements for business operations, the project has facilitated to avail loans for the APCs to the tune of Rs. 30,00,000 from FWWB, Rs. 70,00,000 from NABFINS and Rs. 17,00,000 from PACCS. The impact of APCs can be seen from the fact that it continues to mobilize financial resources for business operations, take care of its operational expenses and moving towards financial sustainability.
- **One of the key achievement of this year** is that both the companies have availed credit facility to the tune of Rs. 1,22,20,853 (under credit guarantee scheme of NABARD-SFAC, the first of its kind in the country.
- These FPOs are already functional and have started functioning as business entities, some of them with sizeable turnover. The operations of each of the FPOs have already begun with some collective action of getting inputs organized for the farmer members at competitive prices, some initial discussions on operating their collective business with some amount of commitment to work together. The formalities of registration of the FPOs under the Producer Companies Act has been initiated in many cases, many of them have got the names of the FPOs approved by the Registrar of Companies of the respective areas and so the process of incorporation of the companies are expected shortly. In many cases the work relating to mobilization of share capital, finding suitable location for establishing the office for each of the FPOs have begun.
- **Adoption of sustainable agriculture practices/techniques:**
  - 50% of the farmers (2671) who trained on SRI method of paddy cultivation are now adopting this technique (5% fully and 95% customized practices), leading to reduced cost of production and increased productivity
  - 439 shareholders under the GPAF Project with CIKS have accessed AMFC services during the reporting period, resulted in average 20% yield increase
  - About 924 farmers have moved either fully or partially from inorganic cultivation practices to NPM practices; 1238 farmers received paddy foundation seeds; 322 farmers have got new improved varieties of groundnut seeds and increased their average yield by 10-15% over conventional varieties
  - About 3266 farmers have adopted/used soil fertility improvement products such as vermicompost, bio-fertilizers, neem seed powder, pancha kaviyam, green manure seeds etc. and bio-control measures such as pheromone traps, yellow sticky traps, water traps, and bio-pesticides

### Some unintended Positive Outcomes

1. In the GPAF Project funded by DFID in partnership with CIKS- Facilitation of market linkages for milk (which is not one of the project packages) has helped about 100 households increasing their income on an average by Rs. 600 per month; this has also resulted in local milk vendors offering better price for milk
2. Moderation of market price for agricultural inputs by local traders - provision of farm inputs such as seeds, fertilizers etc. by APCs at comparatively lower prices have influenced local traders to reduce their price for the same as they couldn't compete with APCs
3. Agriculture, which once was considered as arts and science is now being looked at as a business venture 'agribusiness' at farmer level, groups level and even organization level.
4. The APCs have now become 'learning sites' for other FPOs and Civil Societies and attracted many such organizations such as Inba Seva Sangam, Reliance Foundation, Bedroc, Dept. of Agri. marketing, Sittilingi etc.
5. The women and landless participation in governance of APCs have ensured their access to critical services and equitable distribution of benefits to all

## RESPONSIBLE SOYA CULTIVATION INCREASES RETURNS

Vrutti worked with 10,288 farmers small and marginal soy farmers in Madhya Pradesh to enhance their profitability through sustainable farming practices.

During the Kharif season, 75 per cent of the cultivated area in Bankheri and Budhni comes under soya cultivation. Vrutti aimed to demonstrate Good Agricultural Practices in soya cultivation; establish a peer learning system among lead farmers; build a community-based network of progressive or lead farmers who would use the AEFC as a producer company; help farmers become more aware of social, gender and environmental sustainability and put in place a soya certification system. We conducted 160 demonstrations of good practices with lead farmers, established internal control systems and appointed managers. This fulfills a key requirement for certification of producers on the Round Table Responsible Soya (RTRS) criteria and development of a value chain. The value chain development programme has been funded by Sir Dorabji Tata Trust and Solidaridad under its SOYPSI and Farmers' Support Programme (FSP).

We have successfully implemented the project with 10288 farmers for which internal audit process is already over. We were in process to go for the full RTRS audit by external agency for all the farmers but due to non-availability of advance buyers for RTRS credits we were not able to go through. We will be still be conducting RTRS surveillance audit of all the 3029 farmers who were audited last year .

With support from Solidaridad under the Solidaridad Soy Farmer Support Program and with the aim to ensure sustainability of soybean in India Farmer Support Program (FSP) initiated in 2013, ICT is also introduced to cover a mass instantly through information, awareness about pest and disease preventive measures, weather

information and .market prices through customized IVRS and SMS Also to measure soy yields and analyse the impact of package of technology a scientific base Mobile App is developed and introduced in field

## BETTER COTTON INITIATIVE INCREASES RETURNS

The Better Cotton Initiative is working to address some of these challenges in the Cotton Supply Chain. This project is in partnership with Solidaridad. The Better Cotton Initiative exists to make global cotton production better for the people who produce it, better for the environment it grows in and better for the sector's future. BCI aims to transform cotton production worldwide by developing Better Cotton as a sustainable mainstream commodity. To achieve this mission, BCI works with a diverse range of stakeholders across the cotton supply chain to promote measurable and continuing improvements for the environment, farming communities and the economies of cotton-producing areas.

Vrutti is supporting Farming Communities engaged with the Better Cotton Initiative in Maharashtra ( Nagpur) and Madhya Pradesh (Chhindwara ) in the North and Tamil Nadu ( Madurai) and Karnataka ( Gulbarga ) in the South respectively .

A new project has been signed to provide extension services on BCI among 8000 farmers in 2 blocks of Chhindwara (Sausar and Panduna) in partnership with Solidaridad. It is a one year project and gets extended yearly. The project will start April onwards. Along with it there is also a plug in project from HUF to promote soil and moisture conservation activities with the same farmers as in BCI. This project is also in partnership with Solidaridad.

## WATER

Vrutti has been working on creating equitable models of water governance in three agro-ecological zones in Gujarat, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Vrutti have also been supporting nine comprehensive pilot projects across various states in India as part of the Revitalising Rainfed Agriculture (RRA) Network. Our work on water aims at making farmers and water users the focus of the conservation and development of water resources. We seek to link them with local authorities, and facilitate a dialogue between the local community and governing bodies.

### INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (EU-IWRM)

The Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) project aims at creating a people and panchayat led equitable water governance model in three agroecological zones in Gujarat, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. The project, supported by Gender and Water Alliance, Development Support Centre, Youth for Action, Swasti and the European Union, seeks to improve water supply through the development and management of water resources. We formed people's institutions called Sujal Samitis to achieve improved water supply in participating villages. Sujal Samitis involve the local community, identify issues related to water, and ensure that in the long-term, the village takes ownership of its water resources. The Sujal Samitis comprised people from the village, ASHA workers, anganwadi workers, selfhelp groups and panchayat members.

The project reached 27,000 households across 57 villages, and 57 Sujal Samitis were formed.

### WATER EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY IN AGRICULTURE SUPPLY CHAIN

Vrutti is implementing - A partnership program of Hindustan Unilever Foundation (HUF) and Solidaridad "Water Efficiency and sustainability in Agri Supply Chain" initiated with the objective to enhance water efficiency by promoting certain water use efficiency farm techniques, stakeholders' engagement and policy advocacy. It is a plug in program in Solidaridad's four major commodity programs soy, sugarcane, cotton and tea commodities.

The duration of the project is 33 months and was initiated in April 2014.

We working on creating awareness for 20,000 farmers on water conservation through technological intervention. The program is spread across three districts of Sehore, Dewas and Hoshangabad.

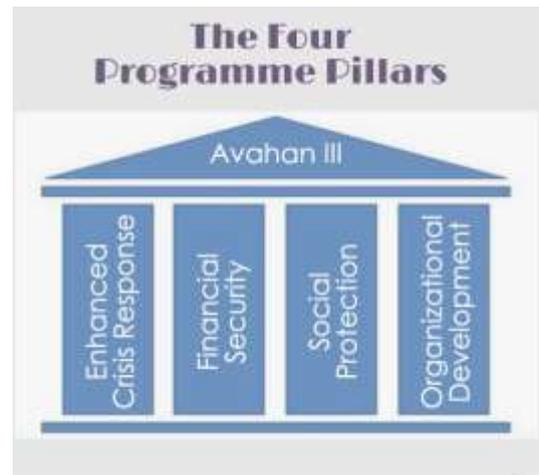
# FINANCIAL SECURITY

## AVAHAN PHASE III

The Avahan India AIDS Initiative, funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) focuses on HIV prevention among key population (female sex workers, men having sex with men, transgendered people and people who inject drugs). The programme has worked in seven States (Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telengana ,Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur and Nagaland) of India that had recorded high HIV prevalence.

Swasti is leading the program in the 5 states of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telengana ,Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra in its Third Phase which started in 2014.

There are 4 programme pillars under the Avahan Initiative Phase III.



Vrutti is leading efforts under the financial security pillar in all the states in the south. We are working with 87 Community organisations & 1.65 lakh Key Populations in 5 states i.e Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telengana, Andhra Pradesh, and Maharashtra

The key results expected is that KAPs face lesser financial crises and are able to access formal financial systems, products and services effectively. Priorities under this area include:

- Financial literacy
- Appropriate institutional models for increasing access

Financial Security operational strategies include

- Ensuring Base FS package across all COs and its members
- Assessment and finalising FS Facilitation Model and a CO level plan:
- Nuanced field support to COs to access financial security(FS):
- Continued scanning environment for new FS products and opportunities:

A few highlights of the work that has been done include

- FS Assessment completed in 57 out of 87 COs;
- Financial Literacy Flipbook- draft is ready
- Sub K (BASIX)- Piloting for BC to be done in Mumbai, Pune and TN
- Developed posters for HelpDesk in COs on AABY, PMJDY, Sukanya Samridhhi Account, Kisan Vikas Patra and NPS in English
- Empanelling COs with LIC for AABY and NPS in Tamil Nadu (10 COs) and Pune (2 COs) have started and Aastha Parivaar empanelled with LIC for AABY and NPS

- Application to RBI for Depositor Education and Awareness Fund (Financial Literacy) to act as a resource agency
- Training on SHG Management to leaders of SHGs in Tamil Nadu have started (4 COs completed)
- Orientation to CO leaders and staff on products and services - AABY, Sukanya Samrudhi, NPS
- Accounts streamlining in un-registered co-operatives (5 co-ops) in AP/TS have started
- New products scanned and shared - Sukanya Samrudhi, PMSBY, PMJBY and APY

# COMMUNITY

## SWATHI JYOTHI

Swathi Jyothi empowers sex workers, particularly street-based sex workers, by providing financial security. Street-based sex workers can usually neither provide documents nor comply with procedures to access banking and non-banking financial services.

Swathi Jyothi was established as a cooperative in September 2007 by and for women in sex work. We promote and support the project with Swasti, a health resource centre working in collaboration with Swathi Mahila Sangha, a collective of women in sex work. Over last eight years, Swathi Jyothi has enabled around 7900 members to save money. They access affordable individual and group credit for their personal, household or enterprise needs and get insurance. Vrutti has provided support in developing a concept, strategic direction and also provided technical support to manage the cooperative and continue the support.

As of February 2015, Swathi Jyoti had 7792 members. It had ₹ 12.35 million in savings and a total disbursement of ₹ 116.665 million.

Currently work is proceeding on increased use of Technology as an interface with member (s) as also to streamline operations - using mobile and handheld devices; Computerization of all branches; ATM

The cooperative has been awarded:

- Best Urban Community Micro Enterprise for 2012 by Citi Micro Enterprise Awards
- Best Cooperative of the Year - 2012 for women empowerment by the Karnataka Federal Cooperative, Bangalore.

## KNH COMMUNITY FARM

Vrutti is currently implementing a project Integrated Farming and Eco-friendly Agriculture for Economic and Environmental Security for Children and Marginal Communities. The project purpose is to develop a Community-led Resource Centre for Integrated and Sustainable Farming in Coastal Eco-System in Tamil Nadu. The project components include developing a community farm with organic agricultural practices which will have demonstration units and commercially viable enterprises. The project will organize trainings for children, youth, women from Nagapattinam District and staff and community leaders from Child Focused Child Development (CFCD) Projects and Children Movement for Climate Justice (CMCJ) Projects of KNH.

The project has community outreach and is mobilizing communities in the locality. These communities are being trained in various aspects of organic agriculture, farm management and their institutions strengthened to take over and manage the farm after the project period. The project extends credit to communities to start enterprises in agriculture and allied activities including credit for purchase of milch animals. The project partners with St. Joseph's Development Trust for community outreach. The project has support from CIKS and SOFA in managing the community farm.

## OTHER INITIATIVES

Vrutti is also engaged in grant management and support of two of the major initiatives of the Catalysts Group, i.e. Centre for Education Innovation and Community of Evaluators - South Asia. It also hosts the RRA Network & is the Fund manager for the Small Grant Facility (SGF) a HiVOS Initiative

### SMALL GRANT FACILITY (SGF)

The Small Grant Facility (SGF) seeks to mobilise and strengthen small producers into sustainable and marketworthy organisations. With Friends of Women's World Banking (FWWB), Caspan, Technoserve and India Foundation for Humanistic Development (IFHD) as implementation partners, SGF has a presence across India.

Vrutti is the **fund manager** for this million-acre initiative with 500,000 small producers, started by HIVOS. Through SGF, we seek to identify, evaluate and communicate with small producers' organisations, who will then use the grants to become self-reliant enterprises. SGF aims to cover at least 23 facilitating organisations by December 15.

Vrutti is also providing **Technical Assistance** to the organisations shortlisted to be supported by this programme. Currently Vrutti supports 5 such organisations in Tamil Nadu (1) , Karnataka (2) and Orissa (2) . Another 5 have been shortlisted for the final round which are being considered for support.

### CENTER FOR EDUCATION INNOVATIONS

Currently Vrutti / CMS is the India Partner & acts as the India hub for the Centre of Education Innovations, a global network run by the Results for Development Institute, US with funding support from the Department for International Development, UK. CEI looks to increase access to quality education for the poor by identifying, analyzing, and connecting non-state education innovations.

CEI gave us an opportunity to dwell deep into education sector. It helped us to link up with innovating institutions, meet donors, funders, understand successes, challenges and create platforms to interact.

#### Highlights of Year Two

In Year 2 we took forward the work of Identifying new profiles, analysing the work in the education sector in India and connecting the different players to each other through various events.

- A total of 53 programs that were profiled across the 4 thematic areas; Affordable private schools, Technology in Education, Youth Employability and Public private partnership.
- 4 Learning Sites were established across these 4 areas as well. The institutions chosen were Graduate Finishing School- Dharwad (Youth Employability), Nightingale Public Schools-Bidar (Affordable private schools), Sikshana (Public Private Partnership) and E-Vidyaloka (Technology in Education).
- 3 workshops on Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE). Active partner of the Sunday camps in Bangalore.
- Apart from these various connect events and learning sessions were held across Hyderabad, Mumbai, Bangalore, Bhopal and Dharwad
- One major connect event hosted by CEI India in partnership with Samrudhdhi Trust and Lets do Some Good Foundation was the CSR NGO connect event held in Bangalore on Dec 13, 2014 which saw participation from 40 different organizations.

## COMMUNITY OF EVALUATORS - SOUTH ASIA

The Community of Evaluators, South Asia (CoE- SA) was born out of a need to professionalise evaluation in South Asia and improve the quality of evaluation. The CoE, constituted in October 2008, was a pioneering attempt to promote evaluation in the region. It was headed by evaluation practitioners from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka as part of a project titled "Advancing Evaluation Theory and Practices in South Asia - Building a Community of Experts".

The International Development Research Centre, Canada, (IDRC) technically and financially supported the project till December, 2014. The first phase of CoE was hosted by the Association for stimulating know how (ASK) from 2008 to 2011.

In 2011, Vrutti /Catalyst Management Services (CMS) decided to host the CoE for a period of three years, with financial support from the IDRC.

### Highlights of Year Two

- Registration as a Section 25 company, with a PAN Card and an operational bank account
- An MoA, AoA, and operational guidelines for smooth functioning
- Regular board meetings, held once a month. A total of twenty meetings have been held
- A fully functional dynamic website
- A membership count, upwards of 520
- 20 events, held across 12 locations with 11 partners spanning different thematic areas.
- Evaluation Conclave 2013

- An active google group to share information regarding monitoring and evaluation with other members. These include jobs, newsletters, events and blog posts.
- CoE newsletter
- CoE publication with Sage. 'Making Evaluations Matter'
- Four face to Face meetings

The Goal of the CoE was to promote and enhance the quality of the theory and practice of evaluation in South Asia and to contribute to the same from a global perspective.

## REVITALISING RAINFED AGRICULTURE NETWORK

Vrutti is currently hosting the Secretariat of the RRAN.

The Revitalising Rainfed Agriculture Network (RRA Network) is a growing network of over 60 civil society organisations, research institutions, policy makers, donor agencies and individuals advocating for a differentiated agricultural policy and support system for rainfed areas in India. The network is established to focus on improving the status of rainfed agriculture in India as there is a very high link to the level of poverty and the status of rainfed agriculture. The Revitalising Rainfed Agriculture (RRA) Network has been supporting nine action research Comprehensive Pilots across through its network of NGO partners across India

Vrutti's role is currently limited to "To house and establish enabling mechanisms and systems for the Secretariat of RRAN to deliver its roles and functions to the RRAN". The scope of the support of Vrutti is limited to Secretarial Functions and not the functions related to the membership mobilization, policy advocacy, and other coordinating functions that are undertaken by other arms of the Network.

Vrutti has been facilitating the contracting of the CEO and other Secretariat staff as per the decisions of the Strategic Leadership Group (SLG) of RRAN, orienting them on the organizational procedures, contracting any outsourced agencies under the Secretariat. Apart from this, we have facilitated the auditing and statutory reporting as required under this contract.

## OTHER ENGAGEMENTS

In order to keep abreast of the latest happenings and knowledge being created across the sector our colleagues have been

- Attending Training programmes
- Attending Conferences and workshops
- Consulting with various stakeholders
- Conducting Workshops and Conferences

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS TRAINING PROGRAMMES, CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

Our team members attended the following Training programmes, Conferences and workshops

- Livelihood Asia Summit at Delhi organised by ACCESS Development Services
- National Workshop on Farmer Producer Organisations organised by ASA (Action for Social Advancement) and SFAC (Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium) on 19th December, 2014
- Monitoring and Impact Evaluation Workshop organised by World Bank in Delhi
- Capacity Building Workshop by NABARD and BIRD on FPO Functioning, Dehradun
- Capacity Building Workshop on SROI Training (MP)
- Organisation - Business Opportunities and Challenges
- India Wash Summit organised by Water Aid in New delhi.
- International training of trainers on Integrated Water Resource Management organised by the Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation from the Mon 16 June 2014 till Friday 4 July 2014.
- Global Action Against Poverty Workshop in Ahmedabad organised by the Head Held High Foundation and supported by amongst others Yunus Center, TISS, Tata Trust, Deshpande Foundation etc
- EU Partners workshop at Bihar
- Beyond the Pipe: Sustainable Scale in Community SafeWater Solutions organised by the Safe Water Network in association with the Merck Foundation, PepsiCo Foundation, BHEL and Pentair, held its third annual International 'Beyond the Pipe' Forum in Hyderabad, India, October 10, 2014.
- 'Managing Water for Sustainable Water Supply, Sanitation and Irrigation Services' at NIMSME, Hyderabad during 18-19 July 2014 organised by CWS - SuGWM and was financially supported by the European Union, Bread for the World and NABARD.
- Aquatech India Exhibition 2014 organised by India's leading water technology event Water Asia
- Capacity building workshop on Farmer Producer Organisations being organised by ICRISAT in Hyderabad

- Capacity building on best practices on Cattle Management conducted by Godrej Agrovvet Ltd.
- Capacity Building Workshop by SFAC on Business Planning

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS TRAINING PROGRAMMES, CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED

Conducted

- Workshop on Producer Organisations financially supported by SFAC, NCDEX and Origo Commodities in Hyderabad
- (IIM A-CIIE)-ICCO Workshop on Business Orientation and Business Modelling for Producer Companies in IIM Ahmedabad
- Workshop on FPOs: Paving the way for a secure future, Training of Trainers at the NABARD Office in Bangalore

#### PUBLICATIONS

- Article in LEISA -Collective action, multiple benefits a case of a social enterprise model. It was published in June 2014 Issue
- Vrutti supported Krishikabandhu Farmer Producer Company Ltd. featured as a case study "Developing Climate Resilience In Karnataka" in Krishi Sutra 2 Success stories of FARMER PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS
- Contributed to the Policy paper on Financing for Farmer Producer Organisations which was published by ACCESS funded by UNDP
- Article Poverty reduction through sustainable agriculture. It was published in the June 2014 Issue of LEISA
- Contributed to the State of India's Livelihood Report 2014 published at the Livelihood Asia Summit by Oxford University Press