Cover photograph

Watershed treatment site at Sembaliya village, Khedbrahma taluka, Sabarkantha district (VIKSAT Project Area) under the Sembaliya-Dantiya Watershed Project, supported by the Watershed Development Fund, NABARD.
Towards A Sustainable Future

Annual Report
2007-08

VIKSAT
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During three development decades, VIKSAT has experimented and gained a wealth of experience in the field of natural resource management (NRM) that has enlightened us to further dream, innovate and develop our rural communities more sustainably. Till date, more than 980 People's Institutions have been evolved in our field areas, so has our capacity increased to grow on sustainable NRM.

As this report sets out, new projects and programmes are being succeeded by building trust and our ability to give communities better access to resources and expertise through networking. From the SNEHAL activities supported by CARE conducted in Santalpur, biogas is harnessed for cooking by establishing biogas units for tribal families. 'Shala Praveshotsav', a special campaign drive in June 2007 witnessed a large number of enrolment of children in the schools during the campaign itself. Similarly, awareness efforts were undertaken in Dungarpur district of Rajasthan State, focusing on localising eight Millennium Development Goals, with the support from UNDP.

During this year, many water conservation structures were constructed, which enable us to foresee their positive outcomes on the people's lives in the rural areas. Under the Indo-German Watershed Development Programme of NABARD, the tribals came together in the villages of Khedbrahma for a repeated number of Shramdaan. With the financial support from WASMO, water tanks, farm ponds and village ponds were developed in Bhiloda and Vijaynagar talukas of Sabarkantha district. These ponds have contributed to a growing impact and feasibility for irrigating crops.

Under the Swajaldhara Programme of WASMO, Pani Samitis are formed in Bhiloda to manage drinking water supply in about hundred villages. Horticulture was promoted in Demati village of Khedbrahma taluka under Vadikaran. A large nursery has also been raised at VIKSAT campus, which has in store more than 600 varieties of flowering and foliage plants to re-establish a green link with the people of Ahmedabad.

Several expert, consultancy services were rendered by VIKSAT this year, including training to institutionalise JFM, evaluation of compensatory afforestation work for Sardar Sarovar Project and evaluation of IGNP afforestation project areas in Bikaner and Jaisalmer under Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Project, and evaluation of atta fortification with WFP.

This report provides some information on our programme activities supported by partner agencies and highlights some of our success stories. We dedicate it to the development community and look forward to a continued collaboration with our partners in the coming years.

Dilip Surkar
Director
Chairperson's Message

VIKSAT is one of the earliest institutions under the Nehru Foundation for Development and has been working on a people-centered process of sustainable livelihoods in rural India. It has contributed immensely to the growth of people’s institutions which now number over a thousand. Such institutions have helped to confer the power and economy of scale in rural professions, particularly agriculture, and have thereby ignited a Small Farm Management Revolution.

VIKSAT’s work in the field of renewable energy, particularly the use of Biogas and Biomass, has helped to promote sustainable energy security systems in Santalpur villages under the SNEHAL programme of CARE. The availability of energy has helped to run night classes for adult women, thereby triggering a rural literacy revolution.

VIKSAT’s forestry programmes have undergone evaluation during 2007-08. Its activities in areas like Bikaner and Jaisalmer have helped to promote self-reliance and a swadeshi approach to technology development and dissemination. Mention may be made of the work done in strengthening water security with reference to the needs of farm families. Thus, VIKSAT has integrated education, enterprise development and ecological, social and economic sustainability in a mutually reinforcing manner. VIKSAT has thus become the flagship of our movement to promote Gram Swaraj and thereby achieve Purna Swaraj.

I wish to congratulate the Director and dedicated staff on their achievement in completing VIKSAT’s Bhuj Resource Centre as well as on their accomplishments in making the work of the Ahmedabad Resource Centre professionally stimulating and socially meaningful. I congratulate Mr Dilip Surkar and his team for their labour of love for the cause of improving the ecological and livelihood security of rural communities.

M S Swaminathan
Chairperson
VIKSAT Council of Management
# Contents

1. **Natural Resource Management** 02
   1.1 Joint Forest Management 02
   1.2 Land and Water Management 04
   1.3 Sustainable Agriculture and Livelihood Practices 07
      *Case Study* 10

2. **Strengthening People’s Institutions** 11
   2.1 Building Grassroots Institutions 11
   2.2 Revolving Fund 13
   2.3 Self Help Groups 14
   2.4 Capacity Building 16
      *Case Studies* 18

3. **Community Development** 19
   3.1 Education 19
   3.2 Health 20
   3.3 Social Empowerment and Leadership 21
      *Success Story* 25

4. **Consultancy** 26
   4.1 Evaluation of Compensatory Afforestation Programme 26
   4.2 Evaluation of IGNP Afforestation Project Areas 26
   4.3 Evaluation of Atta Fortification 27

5. **Networking** 28
   5.1 National Environmental Awareness Campaign (NEAC) 28
   5.2 Confederation of NGOs of Rural India (CNRI) 28

6. **Newsletter** 29

7. **Library and Resource Centre** 29

8. **Council of Management** 30

9. **Acknowledgment** 31

10. **Glossary** 32
VIKSAT and Sustainable Development

VIKSAT, set up in 1977, is largely a thrust of standards on natural resource management (NRM). The Centre was initiated as the second activity of Nehru Foundation for Development (NFD), founded by the legendary scientist Dr. Vikram A Sarabhai. Down the line of years, VIKSAT has strived through its endeavours and undertakings towards NRM for a sustainable and improved environment in the society. This drive has been more promising while working with People’s Institutions.

VIKSAT aims, through interaction of Government and Non-Government Organisations and People’s Institutions, for strengthening of People’s Institutions with active participation of men and women from all sections of the community for equitable, gender sensitive, sustainable development and management of natural resources.

In the last 30 years, VIKSAT has worked with people and communities in their local areas towards sustainability of nature and its components. VIKSAT believes, that goal of sustainability in NRM can be achieved only through decisive participation of the communities who constitute the primary stakeholders of the resources. Today, having driven by its mission, vision and belief, VIKSAT has envisaged a wisdom for sustainable development.

So far, seven field offices are set up in five districts of Gujarat State, namely Bhiloda (1985), Sabarkantha; Satlasana (1985), Mehsana; Bhuj (2001), Kachchh; Santalpur (2003), Patan; Khedbrahma (2006), Sabarkantha; and Mehsana (2007) and at Dungarpur district of Rajasthan State (2007).

VIKSAT, in its initial years, worked exclusively for the promotion of afforestation programme with the government agencies, NGOs, village level organizations, academic & research institutions. As links with village communities strengthened, the grassroots insights gained from local areas transformed into Tree Growers’ Cooperative Societies (TGCSs). Later, these TGCSs developed in Kubada village proved a model for the development practitioners.

During 80s, training programmes were carried out on nursery raising and wasteland management. Soon after, the participatory approach in wasteland development was extended to management of degraded forestland jointly by the village communities and the forest department. VIKSAT also extended its professional support to the Gujarat forest department in 1991 in order to operationalise JFM in Gujarat. At this time, the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Gol acclaimed VIKSAT and established it as a nodal agency for NEAC.

In 1993, the NRM Programme was expanded to cover Water Management with the commencement of a four-year research programme on groundwater management in the Kheralu taluka of Mehsana district of Gujarat, as another landmark. During 1994-95, VIKSAT articulated forestry and water management as its two major thrust areas and ascended by consolidating its work through collaborative research and training activities.

1997 onwards VIKSAT extended its focus towards institutionalizing community efforts and moved towards an active and reflective practitioner. With its promotional activities and learnings from sound field practices, gradually VIKSAT turned towards management of forests through networking and alliance building. The forest based people’s organizations like Tree Growers Cooperatives, Van Mandalis and federations were brought under a state level umbrella organization, SAKSHAM. During evolution of SAKSHAM, larger partnership was developed with other organizations working on forestry, community based organizations and forest department. These partnerships further strengthened VIKSAT’s organizational capacity and opened scope to work in larger development arena. It has extended its people’s institutions beyond tree grower’s cooperatives to SHGs, Village Development Committees, Pani Samitis and Watershed committees. Growing partnership with NABARD, ICAR, CARE and Solaris (CSR), VIKSAT has been extending its capacities into larger community development programmes.
1. Natural Resource Management

Dependency on surrounding natural resources is constantly increasing and varies in local areas depending on access to forests, water resources, soil, agriculture and irrigation for the development of the community. For VIKSAT, NRM comprises an idea that broadly summons people together of a community including stakeholders, thinkers, general practitioners and the local people in local regions. VIKSAT helps in extending natural resources and their benefits to community and works for their sustainable use.

1.1 JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT

At VIKSAT, joint forest management - one of the largest core areas involves a range of community interventions that affects the association with forests. This includes both its protection and affirmation of economic activities from them. Along the side, VIKSAT apprehends this association of the communities with forests and practises all its forest management activities while working closely with them. This widely acknowledged community forest management has demonstrated very well in all field areas where VIKSAT has worked, especially Bhiloda taluka of Sabarkantha district.

1.1.1 Capacity Building as a means of Self Reliance of SAKSHAM

SANGathan KSHAmata Manch (SAKSHAM) was formed in 1995 as an informal network of federations of PIs, registered as a Public Trust under the Bombay Public Trust Act 1950. SAKSHAM has representation from 12 taluka level federations across 9 districts out of 12 in Gujarat, with a total membership of 417 JFMICs and 47,510 members, out of which 35,550 are men and 11,960 are women. A total land of 53,209.91 hectares is under protection by its members. The federation has its specified objectives, which these members work for. These federations are involved in promoting forest protection and wasteland development activities. Also, SAKSHAM facilitates the policy advocacy issues on behalf of the village level JFM Committees.

To promote the activities of SAKSHAM federation, Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) funded the project titled ‘Capacity Building as a means of Self Reliance of SAKSHAM, representative body of People’s Institutions under JFM activities in Gujarat’. The objectives of the project include following activities to:

- expand JFM activities within the State,
- support policy advocacy,
- outreach its concepts to the newer areas,
- include new federations under the SAKSHAM network, and
- enhance the capacity of SAKSHAM federation members and explore employment generation opportunities.

Activities to be carried under the project are exploratory visits, training programmes, preparing NTFP database, skilled training on entrepreneurship development, NTFP collection and process, GIS Application: digitalization, data linking and preparing thematic map, quarterly review meeting and publishing newsletter.

1.1.2 Training to Institutionalise JFM

Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Project (RFBP) was implemented in 18 districts covering 26 forest divisions in Rajasthan with the financial aid of the Japan Bank for International Corporation (JBIC), Japan with an objective to restore ecological status of Aravallis, conserve biodiversity, check desertification, improve moisture regime and protect infrastructure. The project also aimed at providing fuel, fodder, timber and NTFPs along with employment generation in the rural areas.
The programme was designed to do training need analysis (TNA), design training modules and impart training for capacity building of different stakeholders and institutionalisation of JFM programme in Rajasthan.

**a) Training Need Analysis**

The study of TNA covered entire RFD staff including range officers, foresters/forest guards and cattle guards. Methodology for TNA included various activities, such as identifying the training need, designing of questionnaires for various cadres, mobilisation and orientation of survey team, field testing, data collection and data analysis.

**b) Syllabus Development**

On the basis of results of TNA, training syllabus was proposed for different stakeholders and the following training modules were developed:

- Training Module for Village Forest Protection and Management Committees (VFPMCs)
- Training Module for NGOs
- Training Module for Public Representatives (Panch & Sarpanch)
- Training Module for range forest officers, foresters, forest guards and cattle guards

**c) Training Programmes**

Training programmes were conducted for all the different cadres after consulting the Director, Forest Training Institute, Jaipur. The details of trainings conducted for different cadres are provided below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Target group</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Training duration</th>
<th>No. of participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>VFPMCs</td>
<td>December 4, 2007</td>
<td>1 day</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>December 5, 2007</td>
<td>1 day</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Public Representatives (Panch &amp; Sarpanch)</td>
<td>December 18, 2007</td>
<td>1 day</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Field staff of Forest Department</td>
<td>December 19 &amp; 20, 2007</td>
<td>2 days</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**1.1.3 Implementation of Village Micro-plans**

A village micro-plan implementation programme under World Food Programme (WFP) was implemented in Dhuleta and Dhandhasan villages of Bhiloda taluka. Though, these micro-plans were prepared to address the issue of land development, protection and development of forests, women empowerment, improved agricultural practices and better livelihood options available in the villages, the primary focus was on the overall development of the village and forest development. Various activities were listed out by the villagers themselves for micro-plan, which reflected as the immediate need of the people.

The programme activities undertaken for the forest development were:

- Protection, development and management of forest land through Tree Growers Cooperative Societies (TGCSs)
- Nursery Raising
- JFM Training cum exposure visit

**a) Nursery Raising**

In Dhuleta and Dhandhasan, micro-plan for nursery development was established. This concept aimed at increasing the availability of saplings and promote tree plantation (farm forestry) by the villagers on their private land holdings. The requirement of saplings to meet demands of the farmers of both villages had been identified.

**b) Joint Forest Management Training**

To improve the capacity of the members of the TGCSs and to make them aware about various rules and regulations and recent developments in JFM, training programmes were conducted. The focus was on increasing the involvement of women by enrolling them and move women as members.
1.1.4 Vadikaran Project
To promote horticulture farming in tribal area as a value added activity against traditional farming, a proposal for Vadikaran project was prepared as per government promoted schemes. The proposal was sanctioned and the project was implemented on a 5-acre land of ten farmers in Dami village of Khedbrahma in July 2007. In this project 25 saplings of lemon (variety Kagdi) were raised in the field of each farmer. The survival rate in March 2008 was 80%.

Two major limitations were faced by the farmers during the implementation of Vadikaran scheme – i) A large number of farmers had very small piece of land varying from half acre to two acres, limiting their capacity to adopt the horticulture farming. Therefore, most preferred to plant horticulture saplings only on the boundaries of the fields. ii) Free grazing was a great constraint.

1.2 LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT
As one of its main thematic areas, VIKSAT takes up programmes under land and water management, which holds a key to sustainable livelihood for many in the rural regions. The special focus is on managing land and water resources through PIs. VIKSAT has been addressing common but grave problems of depletion of groundwater, droughts etc. through groundwater management (GWM), artificial recharge, rainwater harvesting (RWH) and adaptive strategies for drought.

1.2.1 Watershed Projects
Watershed development is an important approach to improve the social and economic conditions of people dependent on dry land agriculture, rain-fed areas, covering approximately two-third of the agricultural land. In addition to achieving biophysical objectives, contemporary watershed at VIKSAT aims to promote the rural livelihoods of people, especially the poor and disadvantaged.

(a) Watershed Project by Watershed Development Fund (WDF), NABARD
Sembaliya and Dantiya are peculiar tribal villages where the people are living a traditional way of life with low literacy rate and adverse to the outside interventions. Since February 2005, VIKSAT began watershed based interventions in these villages of Khedbrahma taluka in Sabarkantha. Earlier, the steady efforts here, resulted in a successful four-day mandatory Shramdaan by the community in December 2005. This demonstrated strength of developing interest among people in the adoption of watershed projects.

By March 2006, a Watershed Development Committee (WDC), comprising village representatives as per NABARD guidelines was formed to implement the watershed project under VIKSAT guidance and support. This led to approval of ‘Capacity Building Phase (CBP)’ by NABARD under Watershed Development Fund (WDF) covering 97.47 ha of land in April 2006. The net planning for the second phase CBP and opening of bank account of WDCs were completed during this period.

The watershed project measures such as construction of earthen bunds, stone outlets, stone bunds, stone gully plugs and tree plantation were carried out during the year 2006 with the release of first installment of grant by NABARD in June 2006.
following activities were implemented under CBP during the year 2007-08:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Cropland Development (CC)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Earthen Bund</td>
<td>cu m</td>
<td>5051.0</td>
<td>607.13</td>
<td>832.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Stone Outlets</td>
<td>cu m</td>
<td>50.6</td>
<td>8.51</td>
<td>7.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Stone Bund</td>
<td>cu m</td>
<td>456.4</td>
<td>162.31</td>
<td>246.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Grass Seeding</td>
<td>ha</td>
<td>99.17</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Tree Plantation</td>
<td>Nos.</td>
<td>3041</td>
<td>4710</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Stone Gully Plugs</td>
<td>Rm.</td>
<td>214.00</td>
<td>158.2</td>
<td>42.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pasture &amp; Grassland with trees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>WAT</td>
<td>cu m</td>
<td>10.80</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>CCT</td>
<td>cu m</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>23.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Strengthening of Shramdaan activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) Watershed Project by Indo-German Watershed Development Programme (IGWDP), NABARD, Dahod

Another watershed project supported by Indo-German Watershed Development Programme (IGWDP), NABARD, Dahod has begun in seven villages namely Kheroj, Navamota, Bubadia Chhapara, Umbora, Mahudi, Tebda and Tebd. Data collection of land use pattern, population and topo-sheet study etc. were carried out and a report was submitted to IGWDP, NABARD.

After extensive combined efforts of VIKSAT and WDC, the people came forward and voluntarily participated towards the implementation of the project and contributed to Shramdaan in Umbora, Navamota, Bubadia Chhapara and Mahudi villages by putting in their four days of labour work, worth Rs. 63, 040.

**Coming Together - Shramdaan**

Navamota, Kheroj, Umbora, Bubadiya Chhapara, Tebda, Tebd and Mahudi villages are tribal dominated backward areas of Khedbrahma Taluka. These villages were selected for the implementation of the watershed programme. An overwhelming response was received from the community for participating in this integrated soil and water conservation activity to the mandatory Shramdaan Yagna, organised in the initial phase of this IGWDP, NABARD supported programme.

1.2.2 Swajaldhara Programme

Swajaldhara Programme was implemented for establishing decentralized system of Water Supply (WS) in Bhiloda taluka. As a partner NGO of WASMO, VIKSAT's role was to mobilise village communities and promote Pani Samitis in the villages to develop and manage WS Systems, which was central to the programme. This included participation at all levels of planning, execution, maintenance and efficient water distribution including generating resources for the management system. Micro-plans for drinking water supply of 30 villages of five talukas, Bhiloda, Vijaynagar, Dhansura, Modasa and Bayad were prepared with an approximate budget of Rs. 1.97 crores. Action plans were prepared after consulting communities through Gram Sabhas, which were held in about ten villages.

VIKSAT formed Pani Samitis at 106 villages in Bhiloda, where drinking water is supplied through group WS scheme, as there were no responsible community based organisations (CBOs) to take care of assets developed for drinking water supply.

1.2.3 Rain Water Harvesting (RWH)

Water harvesting is one approach towards saving, storing and rejuvenating water bodies. This involves a simple outreach towards sustainable water management using low-cost techniques of harnessing rainwater for agriculture and drinking purposes. VIKSAT has been working for its thematic development.
and subsequently for community mobilisation. Water harvesting has a potential to help people sustain better and benefit from it through agriculture and animal husbandry, as livelihood of farming community mainly depends upon rain and the availability of water from surface and groundwater.

i) Rooftop Rain Water Harvesting
With financial support from WASMO, 12 water tanks were constructed in Bhiloda and Vijaynagar, tribal dominated talukas in Sabarkantha for rooftop RWH. The beneficiaries in this programme were selected from scheduled tribes. About 30% cost was contributed from the beneficiaries in constructing RWH systems. The details of RWH systems constructed are given in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Name of Taluka</th>
<th>Name of Village</th>
<th>No. of tanks</th>
<th>Capacity (litres)</th>
<th>Budget for one tank (Rs.)</th>
<th>Total amount spent (Rs.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Vijaynagar</td>
<td>Dantod</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>27,000</td>
<td>1,62,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Vijaynagar</td>
<td>Biliya</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>27,000</td>
<td>27,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bhiloda</td>
<td>Virpur</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>27,000</td>
<td>54,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Bhiloda</td>
<td>Chorimala</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>27,000</td>
<td>27,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Bhiloda</td>
<td>Jaisinghpura</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>27,000</td>
<td>54,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>135,000</td>
<td>3,24,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ii) Rain Water Harvesting Structures
Under SNEHAL-II Project, implemented in Santalpur taluka, water conservation measures were adopted by VIKSAT. This was mainly done by deepening and renovating village tanks and individual farm ponds. This also contributed to a more focus on water conservation measures. For this, Bamroli, Bawarda and Varnosari villages were identified on the basis of primary survey, technical and social assessment.

a) Development of Farm Ponds: Thirty farm ponds were constructed, ten in each village of Bamroli, Bawarda and Varnosari. Small and marginal farmers were identified as beneficiaries with the help of VDC members. Each beneficiary contributed about 20% of the total cost. The capacity of farm ponds varied from 567.6 cu m to 906.6 cu m (average 743.7 cu m). The details of work done and contribution are shown in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars of Farm Ponds</th>
<th>Name of village</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Contribution (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Varnosari</td>
<td>Bawarda</td>
<td>Bamroli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of beneficiaries</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total earth work completed (cu m)</td>
<td>7366.5</td>
<td>7472.0</td>
<td>7472.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution (Rs.)</td>
<td>Beneficiary</td>
<td>26678</td>
<td>27510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project</td>
<td>130000</td>
<td>130000</td>
<td>130000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>156678</td>
<td>157510</td>
<td>156912</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b) Development of Village Tanks: Having seen the benefiting results of individual farm ponds, the VDC planned and focused on the development of village tanks. After consulting various village groups, suitable sites were identified at Bawarda and Varnosari. The following table shows the details of work and expenditure of each village pond:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Village</th>
<th>Name of the Tank (Talav)</th>
<th>Quantity of work done (cu m)</th>
<th>Total expenditure (Rs.)</th>
<th>Monetary contribution by local community (Rs.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bawarda</td>
<td>Sangasar Talav</td>
<td>12445</td>
<td>3,95,170</td>
<td>8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varnosari</td>
<td>Katodiya Talav</td>
<td>8790.8</td>
<td>2,10,405</td>
<td>11,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>21235.8</td>
<td>1,05,580</td>
<td>19,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
c) Impact of Water Harvesting Structures: After the farm ponds and village tanks were formed, a survey was carried out to study the impact and feasibility on utilization of farm ponds for irrigating Rabi crops in the year 2007. For the purpose, two village tanks and 9 farm ponds were collected. Using Village tanks 60 beneficiaries started lift irrigation using oil engines and irrigated about 411 acres of agriculture land. From the farm ponds, 9 beneficiaries irrigated about 47 acres of land. The following table represents a brief report on its utilization for irrigation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Village</th>
<th>Water stored (cu m)</th>
<th>No. of beneficiaries</th>
<th>Area irrigated (acres)</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Village Tanks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Daldi</td>
<td>223636</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>18 oil engines were used for irrigation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Vamosari</td>
<td>115668</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>4 oil engines were used for irrigating 46 acres of land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>339304</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>411</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Ponds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Vamosari</td>
<td>1644</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3 farmers used the water to irrigate once in 15 acre land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Bawarda</td>
<td>1698</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>4 farmers used the water to irrigate once in 16 acre land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Bamroli</td>
<td>1155</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2 farmers used the water to irrigate once in 16 acre land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4497</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>47</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.3 SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND LIVELIHOOD PRACTICES

It is well-understood that sustainable agriculture can meet environmental, economic and social objectives. VIKSAT has performed together on the platform of sustainable agriculture and livelihood practices, which concentrate on economic as well as social equity raising sustainable alternatives. Good agricultural practices like micro irrigation systems improve groundwater recharge and the soil quality.

1.3.1 Micro Irrigation System Approaches

A Micro Irrigation System (MIS) was implemented by Gujarat Green Revolution Company Limited (GGRC) in Gujarat in the year 2005-2006. GGRC contributed for the MIS coupled with required equipments and essential agro inputs to the farmers.

VIKSAT conducted a survey for the sample provided by GGRC to evaluate socio-economic impact of the MIS Scheme on the farmers, which included land use pattern, cropping intensity, change in cropping pattern, savings and investment, self sufficiency, savings in water, savings in fertilizer cost, plant protection cost, weed control expenses, labour utilization, power cost, increase in crop production, improvement in crop quality, soil quality, market of produce, net annual income, change in lifestyle, social status and acceptance of MIS by farmers. The survey was conducted in Sabarkantha, Banaskantha, Patan, Kachchh, Mehsana, Ahmedabad, Kheda and Gandhinagar.
1.3.2 Endorsing 'System' Approaches
VIKSAT is working as an outsourcing agency for the processing of MIS applications for Sabarkantha, Banaskantha, Patan and Mehsana since September 2007. The implementation of MIS and its promotion for a planned farming has proved successful. VIKSAT has successfully processed a great number of MIS Applications and taken up the work to the order stage.

For promoting MIS among farmers, VIKSAT played the role of a facilitating agency in manual and electronic documentation of loan applications. VIKSAT received applications from suppliers, approved by GGRC, along with the cost estimation, design and layout, bank approval in case of farmer applied for bank loan, subsidy calculations, issuance of work order, insurance certificate to supplier, resolving disputes and solving queries. By providing rapid and authentic services for quick and hassle free loan, VIKSAT has encouraged thousands of farmers to adopt MIS.

1.3.3 Agricultural Support Livelihoods
Agriculture has been the common chosen occupation in the rural regions particularly by the small and marginal farmers. Even though less is yielded, support practices are still not adopted. Under SNEHAL Project, agriculture-supported activities were promoted to improve productivity of the present livelihoods in agriculture and animal husbandry.

i) Seed distribution: Agriculture was severely affected due to heavy and high intensity monsoon showers throughout Gujarat in 2007. Many crops were washed out due to flooded conditions in Santalpur (629 mm). The fields remained flooded for many days, which accentuated to further decrease in the yield of the survived crops. General survey was conducted in the project villages for seed demand and its status, yield and quality. After consulting with Agricultural University and concerned department were made, seeds of various crops were distributed to 96 beneficiaries. The details are given in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Type of seeds</th>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Kg/acre</th>
<th>No. of beneficiaries</th>
<th>Total seeds distributed (Kg)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pearl millet</td>
<td>GHB-558</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sesamin</td>
<td>GT-2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Green gram</td>
<td>GM-2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Cluster bean</td>
<td>GG-1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Great millet</td>
<td>Malwan</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>40</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>919</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A fund of Rs. 20,000 was revived for the purchase of 400 kg of Jowar seeds (variety Malwan) to Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Group in Charanka village. Having received good monsoons along with the availability of stored water, farmers planned to cultivate cumin on a large scale and demanded for the seed supply. The VDC procured seeds from the Spices Research Centre, Jagudan. Total 6 demonstrations of recent new and latest variety of cumin crop (Gujarat Jira-4, total 150 kg seeds) were made in three project villages under the supervision of VDC and Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Group.
ii) Seed Fair: A Seed Fair was organised at Bamroli village in consultation with SHGs. The members of SHGs were identified as the primary beneficiaries for the activity. About 165 members from 20 SHGs deposited Rs. 4950 towards membership fee, Rs. 30 each in the form of beneficiary contribution.

The chief suppliers of seeds were Radhanpur Cooperative Sangh; Dry Farming Research Centre, Radhanpur; the Agriculture University, Dantiwara; Bamroli Sahkari Sewa Mandali and Gangotri Agro Centre, Radhanpur. The officials from the Agriculture Extension Department also participated in the event and provided guidance.

iii) Agro-Service Centre: The Agro-service Centres are established in five villages for purchasing farm inputs at Charanka, Bawarda, Patanka, Daldi and Varnosari. These centres are run by the Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Group. The purpose of establishing agro-service centres was to provide timely access to basic farm inputs like implements, fertilizers, pesticides and seeds at reasonable rates. About 305 farmers got benefited from these centres.

iv) Arid Fruit Tree Cultivation: For promoting fruit tree cultivation in the region, three farmers were identified from Bamroli and Varnosari villages for growing and cultivating arid fruits like zizyphus, pomegranate and custard apple. Each farmer planted more than a hundred fruit trees in about one acre of land and benefited under the project. Farmers were advised to take timely weeding operations and necessary precautions against termites.

1.3.4 Animal Husbandry
i) Cattle Feed Centre: The cattle feed centres were promoted in four villages, namely Daldi, Patanka, Varnosari and Charanka. The VDC runs the centre at Daldi village, while in the other three villages these are run by the SHGs. A loan of Rs. 2.2 lakhs was sanctioned under the micro-projects (Revolving Fund) with the involvement of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Group in each village. More than 2500 quintals of cattle feed was sold.

ii) Cattle Breed Improvement: Four bulls were purchased under the SNEHAL for Rs. 80,000 (Rs. 20,000 for each bull) as demanded by the Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Groups of the project villages. A village development committee was formed comprising 11 farmers. The committee insured the bulls and agreed to support the farmers in case of any difficulty in managing the bull. VDC and Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Group have taken the responsibility for ensuring proper arrangements for bull.

iii) Cattle Camp: Cattle camps were organized, where diseased cattle were treated for common diseases in cattle like repeat breeder, tuber and skin diseases. Awareness trainings were also conducted, which highlighted on the significance of vaccination of animals, hygiene awareness about animals and government schemes, etc. Total six villages were covered and 17 cattle camps were organised, where more than ten thousand cattle were treated.

iv) Training Programme for Animal Breeders & Farmers: A training programme was conducted for animal breeders and farmers on animal health, vaccination, nutritive food, animal care and hygiene practices during rainy season at Dungarpur, Rajasthan on 28th June 2007 under the project ‘Localising MDGs in Dungarpur for a Sustainable Future’ supported by UNDP. Hygiene practices for animal health during rainy season were also discussed.

1.3.5 Training on Improved Agricultural Practices
A training programme for farmers was conducted on improved agricultural practices, seed treatment, kharif crop preparation and high yield crops at Dungarpur, Rajasthan on 26th June 2007. Information was provided on the selection of good quality seeds and use of vermin compost to about 30 farmers, who had come from the nearby villages. The farmers were taken to Faloj farm and given a demonstration on Jetropha and organic farming.
Shramdaan Leads Wasteland to Cultivable Land

Under watershed project supported by Watershed Development Fund (WDF), NABARD, VIKSAT staff observed great enthusiasm among the villagers. Once while conversing with the villagers, Shramdaan was discussed on common lands and private lands respectively in Semabaliya and Dantiya. But villagers proposed to have Shramdaan on private lands.

As an outcome of Shramdaan, two earthen bunds were constructed in Dantiya and one earthen bund in Semabaliya on private lands. In Semabaliya, 106 men and women turned up for five days' labour work and constructed a talav where water was collected during monsoon in the succeeding year. Later, more earthen bunds, stone bunds and gully plugs were sequentially constructed and free saplings were distributed for the plantation purpose.

During a general discussion at Dantiya, villagers once suggested for construction work under Shramdaan at a farmer's private land. More information was gained for who the farmer was. His name was Bubadiya Punabhai Motibhai, a 50-year old farmer and a tribal Bhil by caste. He was also present in the meeting though he spoke very little. He was living in a kachcha house and he suffered from tuberculosis. He was helped financially for visiting the nearby PHC in Khedbrahma to see a doctor and seek treatment for TB.

His less than half acre land belonged to survey no. 24 in Dantiya. His less fertile land hardly yielding any crop had rendered him poorer. Down the time, he had almost stopped sowing rabi or kharif crops as there was no water. At times he grew tuver (yellow lentils) and maize in his field. Soil erosion in huge amount had led to a trench. This further lessened the prospect of growing anything on the land. After much thought giving, a Shramdaan was conducted on 19 December 2005 for four days and an earthen bund was built at his land. About 219 men and women participated in the Shramdaan and successfully built this 32-metre long bund. The levelling of land was also done during Shramdaan. Next year, heavy monsoon occurred, which could fill the talav completely in Punabhai’s field. As a result soil deposition took place and hence increase in soil fertility was observed. In December 2006, Punabhai sowed wheat in his field, which yielded 200 kg of wheat, his first time ever large production in the field.
2. Strengthening People’s Institutions

A PI is one approach, which VIKSAT has broadly worked upon to identify, assemble, manage and disseminate strength of people for sustainable development. These PIs are formed with the specific objective of empowering local communities on NRM for enabling them for equitable use of resources for their own economic development. Today, people in rural areas, where VIKSAT promoted PIs are successful, have identified their needs and have learnt about all the essentials like planning, assembling, sharing, and disseminating strength of people towards a sustainable development.

The programmes at VIKSAT, have always promoted, nurtured and capacitated a number of such PIs in four districts of Gujarat. Till date, 980 PIs are established at different village levels including TGCSs, SHGs, VDCs, WDCs and Pani Samitis in Bhiloda and Khedbrahma (Sabarkantha district), Satlasana (Mehsana District), Santalpur (Patan district) and Bhuji (Kachchh district) regions of the Gujarat State. This has touched the lives of 24,087 people directly and has certainly improvised thousands more indirectly. Over a period, these institutions have gained knowledge and capabilities to handle the issues of NRM at a larger scale and this has resulted in the formation of five taluka level federations extending the reach of local TGCSs and SHGs. Two state level institutions have also been formed, namely Sangathan Kshamata Manch (SAKSHAM) for JFM Committees and Sabarmati Stakeholders Forum (SSF) for Sabarmati River basin water management.

2.1 BUILDING GRASSROOT INSTITUTIONS

VIKSAT has undertaken the networking activities amongst its various PIs, which have flourished at several village levels. The association has helped connecting stakeholders, practitioners and local leaders across existing boundaries of households, villages, talukas and districts. VIKSAT believes in achieving the goal of sustainability through decisive participation by the local capacities and networking.

2.1.1 Village Level Institutions

i) Tree Growers’ Cooperative Societies (TGCSs)

Today, there are 96 TGCSs established in 96 villages of Bhiloda and Satlasana. In 1984, VIKSAT pioneered in setting up these PIs and organized them well and even formulated TGCS bylaws approved by the Registrar of Cooperatives. These registered societies are successfully involved in forest management and forest based entrepreneurial activities in Sabarkantha district and land and water management activities in Mehsana district.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Institution</th>
<th>People’s Institutions formed by VIKSAT (as on 30 June 2003)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Village level institutions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Tree Growers Cooperative Societies (TGCSs) | 96
| Male | 11644 |
| Female | 3719 |
| Total | 15363 |
| 6 villages (Bhiloda-77, Satlasana-19) |
| Self Help Groups (SHGs) | 457
| Male | 1335 |
| Female | 4609 |
| Total | 5944 |
| 98 villages (Bhiloda-26, Satlasana-34, Bhuji-19, Khedbrahma-10, Santalpur-9) |
| Village Development Committees (VDCs) | 5
| Male | 52 |
| Female | 9 |
| Total | 61 |
| 5 villages (Bhuji-3, Santalpur-2) |
| Pani Samitis | 421
| Male | 1901 |
| Female | 807 |
| Total | 2708 |
| 289 villages (Bhiloda-131, Bhuji-78, Satlasana-65, Santalpur-30) |
| Watershed Development Committees (WDCs) | 6
| Male | 54 |
| Female | 12 |
| Total | 66 |
| 6 villages (Khedbrahma-6) |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Institution</th>
<th>People’s Institutions formed by VIKSAT (as on 30 June 2003)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taluka level Federation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Shri Gadhwaada Jal Jameen Sangrakshan Sangh Ltd., Satlasana | Federation of 23 TGCSs
| Male | 2102 |
| Female | 1017 |
| Total | 3119 |
| 23 villages out of 73 villages in Satlasana taluka, Mehsana district |
| Shri Gadhwaada Lek Van Kalyan Sahkari Sangh Ltd., Bhiloda | Federation of 76 TGCSs
| Male | 9542 |
| Female | 2702 |
| Total | 12244 |
| 77 villages out of 168 villages of Bhiloda taluka, Sabarkantha district |
| Shri Gadhwaada Mahila Vikas Sangh, Satlasana | Federation of 102 SHGs
| Male | 0 |
| Female | 1800 |
| Total | 1800 |
| 27 villages out of 73 villages of Satlasana taluka, Mehsana district |
| Bhiloda Taluka Mahila Bachat and Dhiran Sangh, Bhiloda | Federation of 65 SHGs
| Male | 0 |
| Female | 766 |
| Total | 766 |
| 26 villages out of 168 villages of Bhiloda taluka, Sabarkantha district |
| Shri Satlasana Yuva Vikas Sangh, Satlasana | Federation of 89 Youth SHGs
| Male | 935 |
| Female | 0 |
| Total | 935 |
| 25 villages out of 73 villages in Satlasana taluka, Mehsana district |
| Sangathan Kshamata Manch (SAKSHAM) | Federation of 12 taluka level institutions covering 407 TGCSs/ JFMCs
| Male | 41847 |
| Female | 17231 |
| Total | 59078 |
| 9 districts out of 11 forest districts of Gujarat |
| Sabarmati River Basin Stakeholders Forum (SSF) | * Agriculture Core Group
* Industry Core Group
* Ahmedabad Urban Stakeholders’ Forum
* 12 Stakeholders’ Sub-groups
| Male | 6 districts in Sabarmati River Basin in Gujarat |
ii) Self Help Groups
So far, 457 women-specific and youth-specific SHGs are formed in about 98 villages of five talukas of Bhiloda, Bhuj, Khedbrahma, Satlasana and Santalpur. This has come to benefit more than four thousand women and a thousand men. The women SHGs have learned to gain control over their resources, start enterprise activities, earn well and save money for their untimely needs. Also, with their effective savings and credit activities, members of these SHGs now avail loan from grameen and nationalized banks.

iii) Village Development Committees
Initially at Bhuj, Village Development Committees (VDCs) were formed for facilitating the implementation of rehabilitation programmes in its villages post 2001 earthquake. Now, similar committees are promoted at Santalpur also and are guiding well in the development activities of the villages.

iv) Pani Samitis
Pani Samitis are set up under village Panchayat to implement 'Water and Sanitation' (WATSAN) and Sector Reform Programme in Gujarat. Till date, 421 have benefitted people residing in 289 villages of Bhiloda, Bhuj, Satlasana and Santalpur districts. A Pani Samiti is responsible for entering into agreement with the concerned funding agency, collecting people's 10% contribution, depositing it in the bank account, preparing the village action plan and finally implementing the plan in the village.

Access to drinking water is made available in 101 villages of Bhiloda taluka with the guidance of WASMO and 'Water and Sanitation Department' under Swajalldhara Programme. Each village has its Pani Samiti with 11 members under the Panchayat for ensuring:

- a continuous water supply to the local people
- a check on quality of water supplied

The members of Pani Samitis are equipped with water testing kits and are trained for testing the quality of water supplied. They are explained the available sources of water in their villages. In total, 101 Pani Samitis are formed in each village under different schemes under the project. More information about these samitis is given in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Name of Scheme</th>
<th>No. of villages</th>
<th>No. of Pani Samitis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hathmati Youth Yojana</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Lusdiya Youth Yojana</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Meshwo Youth Yojana</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pocket Yojana</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Villages covered under TGCS</td>
<td>49</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Others</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>106</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

v) Watershed Development Committees
The Watershed Development Committees (WDCs) are formed in six villages (Dantia, Delvada, Sembaliya, Umbarva, Ambasar and Chhocchar) of Khedbrahma taluka of Sabarkantha district, Gujarat and Nayavas of Kotada taluka of Udaipur district, Rajasthan. The financial support was received from NABARD. These committees are formed for facilitating the implementation of the watershed project through local people's efforts. There is one Main Watershed Development Committee (MWDC) and five Village Watershed Development Committees (VWDCs) with a total membership of 66 men and women.
2.1.2 Taluka Level Institutions
At present, there are five taluka level federations in Satlasana and Bhiloda districts, which are prepared to take up collective and networking activities like, planning and formulating project proposals, mobilising funds from government departments and banks, motivating, and supporting sustainable development, resolving conflicts, etc. Bhiloda Taluka Lok Van Kalyan Sahakari Sangh Ltd. is a registered institution clustering TGCSs guiding on NR based development of the tribal community.

The five taluka level institutions are:
1. Shri Gadhwada Jal Jameen Sanghrakshan Ltd. – a federation of TGCSs
2. Bhiloda Taluka Lok Van Kalyan Sahakari Sangh Ltd.- a federation of TGCSs
3. Shri Gadhwada Mahila Vikas Sangh – a federation of SHGs
4. Bhiloda Taluka Mahila Bachat and Dhiran Sangh – a federation of SHGs
5. Shri Satlasana Yuvak Vikas Sangh – a federation of SHGs

2.1.3 State Level Institutions

a) SAngathan KSHAmata Manch
SAngathan KSHAmata Manch (SAKSHAM) is the state level forum of PIs that gives a platform for voicing local communities, who work in their own areas by being a part of village level PIs. These state level federations from 9 districts of Gujarat are involved in promoting forest protection and wasteland development activities. Also, SAKSHAM is involved in facilitating policy advocacy issues on behalf of the village level JFM committees.

b) Sabarmati Stakeholders’ Forum
The Sabarmati Stakeholders’ Forum (SSF), was evolved during 1998-99 by assembling 12 various stakeholder sub-groups from agriculture, industry and domestic drinking water (both urban and rural) sectors. These groups are subsequently engaged in addressing issues like irregular irrigation, industrial water supply, agricultural and industrial pollution at local level. The SSF consists of three core groups: Industry Core Group, Agriculture Core Group, and Urban Core Group.

2.2 REVOLVING FUND
VIKSAT promoted PIs in villages and talukas need some sustainable funding support to promote NRM based livelihood related activities or other sustenance in their respective areas, namely agriculture, water, forestry and non-farm sector enterprises. The availability of revolving fund for such enterprises also helps in sustaining the enthusiasm leading to women's participation. In the past, VIKSAT has provided such loans, which the communities have successfully returned reflecting their high credibility.

2.2.1 Revolving Fund from SDTT
Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Mumbai has given a fund of Rs. 50 lakhs to VIKSAT to meet various financial needs of village level institutions and taluka level federations of Satlasana and Bhiloda talukas. The Revolving Fund Management Committee (RFMC) has been constituted for the effective and efficient utilization of this RF. The meeting of the committee is held once every quarter in a year. This fund is often revolved for carrying out numerous activities for strengthening PIs, working in our field areas. The fund also provides support for village development activities with a focus on NRM and livelihood activities.

i) Establishing outlet for organic goods
A Revolving Fund of Rs. 2 lakhs was provided to Shri Gadhwada Jal Jameen Sarankshan Sangh, Satlasana for buying organic products worth Rs. 1.5 lakh from Maxima Company. Shri Gadhwada Mahila Vikas Sangh, Satlasana gave RF for giving loans to the members of women-specific SHGs.
ii) RF in Bhiloda Taluka Lok Van Kalyan Sahakari Sangh
Bhiloda Taluka Lok Van Kalyan Sahakari Sangh, a federation of 76 TGCSs in Bhiloda taluka has provided loan to its members for carrying out various activities. A total of Rs. 12.2 lakhs was revoked, which was mainly used for purchasing cattle especially buffaloes, cattle feed, fertilisers, etc.

iii) RF in Bhiloda Taluka Mahila Bachat and Dhiran Sangh
A fund of Rs. 93,562 was revoked among the members of 65 SHGs, grouped under Bhiloda Taluka Mahila Bachat and Dhiran Sangh. This amount was used for buying buffaloes and manufacturing washing powder by the members. Total amount was recovered till March 2008.

2.2.2 Revolving Fund from MSSRF
VIKSAT has been managing a fund of Rs. 10 lakhs endowed by the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai since last five years. This fund is being revoked among SHG members in Bhuj. The members of these SHGs are employed by undertaking activities like manufacturing washing powder, embroidery & stitching, bandhani work, weaving, pottery work, animal rearing, sale of vegetables, spices, clothes etc. These members are granted loans with no interest since 2003. Till now, 29 SHGs in 14 villages are benefited and a fund of Rs. 21 lakhs is revoked among the members. The activities undertaken and the profits generated have made these women self-reliant, which has also enabled them to return the loan in time.

2.2.3 Revolving Fund under SNEHAL Programme
A fund was revoked among various community groups in 6 villages under the SNEHAL Programme for facilitating numerous activities and simultaneously enhancing their livelihood opportunities for a sustainable living. This was also aimed at reducing migration pattern and enhancing employment generation in the households, particularly for women. This was strategically done with keeping in mind the skill of an individual. The loan given was specifically planned in two categories — one for women groups for buying buffaloes and the other for any mixed group for choosing activity of their own choice and skills.

An amount of Rs. 8.3 lakhs was provided as loan to the members of 20 groups in six villages of Santalpur taluka. The names of these villages are Varnosari, Charanka, Daldi, Bawada, Patanka and Bamroli. Out of these 20 groups, 17 were women-specific groups while 3 were agro-specific youth groups. The other 23 mixed groups including 9 SHGs were also benefited by availing a total loan of Rs. 10.4 lakhs.

2.2.4 Micro Projects
Total 106 Micro Projects under 14 categories were implemented under the SNEHAL Project. The charcoal marketing activity emerged as one of the main alternatives for meeting livelihood needs and enhancing income generation among vulnerable groups. A total of six micro projects related to production of charcoal and its marketing were approved. The related groups were also supported in planned marketing of charcoal. Other major projects included loan for purchasing buffalo, establishing biogas plants, cattle feed centres, agro-service centres, fodder banks etc.

2.3 SHG PROMOTION PROGRAMME
Formation of SHGs works as a network to encourage involvement of men, women and youth and their active participation in the community development. An SHG facilitates in cultivating a group, and helps in organising development activities within the group. VIKSAT is carrying out promotion of SHGs since last many years for socio-economic empowerment of women. Currently, activity and programme assistance is being sourced from NABARD, CARE and state government under its ‘Swashakti’ Project.
These groups have successfully delivered more than 70 percent of their savings as loan to its members and thereby earned dual benefits of saving interest and low interest loans. More than 42 percent of the loan amount has been recovered within the year making available for further lending. The groups are developing maturity in loan management with satisfactory improvement in loan making and recovery than the previous year. The major loan demands among the SHG members in the year observed were - household needs, medicines, food stocking, educational expenses for children, social and cultural ceremonies and small business activities.

2.3.1 SHGs under ‘Swashakti’ Project

There is a constant encouragement for savings and credit activities, as this brings the first marked shift for strengthening women socially. Other distinct shifts are easy access to loans, grading and linkage, leadership quality etc., which all together help in all round community development. There are women-specific SHGs and youth-specific SHGs, formed in Bhiloda, Satlasana and Bhuj. Regular meetings help group members to share a feeling of homogeneity. At the same time, it also helps in enhancing knowledge on the following issues during general discussion among the members:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field office</th>
<th>No. of SHGs</th>
<th>No. of members</th>
<th>Savings (Rs.)</th>
<th>Bank accounts opened</th>
<th>Internal loan granted (Rs.)</th>
<th>Recovery of internal loans (Rs.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satlasana</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>1180</td>
<td>517</td>
<td>1697</td>
<td>3298820</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhuj</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>294820</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhiloda</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>500532</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>1969</td>
<td>2171</td>
<td>2486</td>
<td>4094172</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- objectives of group formation
- rules, regulations and bye laws of SHGs
- member-wise savings and loan situations
- discussion about grading and linkage
- availing loan from Revolving Fund
- recovery of bank loan and Revolving Fund
- need for empowerment and community development

2.3.2 SHGs under NABARD

VIKSAT has been promoting SHG formation in Satlasana taluka of Mehsana district since 2002. The objectives are simple yet encouraging women towards networking, participation and empowerment. Under a project with financial support from NABARD, VIKSAT intends to form 250 SHGs in 5 regions, namely Bhiloda, Bhuj, Satlasana, Varahi and Khedbrahma (50 each). So far, a target of 228 SHGs is being achieved including 173 women-specific and 55 youth-specific SHGs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Region</th>
<th>No. of SHGs</th>
<th>No. of members</th>
<th>Savings (Rs.)</th>
<th>Bank accounts opened</th>
<th>Internal loan granted (Rs.)</th>
<th>Recovery of internal loans (Rs.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhuj</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>464</td>
<td>142355</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhiloda</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>481</td>
<td>18750</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satlasana</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>820</td>
<td>722</td>
<td>1542</td>
<td>253310</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khedbrahma</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>115416</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varahi</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>49255</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>2228</td>
<td>781</td>
<td>3009</td>
<td>579086</td>
<td>219</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.3.3 SHGs under SNEHAL
Under SNEHAL Programme in Santalpur, VIKSAT arbitrated in facilitating the activities within and among the SHGs. There were 22 SHGs with a total membership of 270 persons. The net saving by the groups members was Rs. 2.2 lakhs with an intra-loaning amount of Rs. 1.2 lakhs. Regular meetings were held to discuss following issues:
- encourage savings and regular deposits in bank account
- facilitate intra-loaning practices and recovery of loan amount
- promote insurance of cattle through Revolving Fund
- help in functioning of adult education centre for women

Generally, after 6 months of formation of an SHG, intra-loaning begins within the group for various purposes. It was observed that 46% of the total loan was taken for agriculture and animal husbandry.

The activities promoted within the group through savings and intra-loaning suffused a good level of confidence specially among the women members. During analysis of the outcomes of these activities, it was observed that:
- Women play a critical role in securing family livelihood, as they are better performers and managers of money than their male counterparts.
- Women prefer to avail loan from bank without mortgaging their land or jewellery.
- Inclination towards acquiring literacy and participation in village level institutions like Panchayat, dairy etc. is observed.

2.4 CAPACITY BUILDING
VIKSAT recognises local level decisions and determination of the local people for understanding surrounding environment, livelihood potentials and gender sensitive customs. Capacity building involves all stakeholders to first participate and understand all these attributes together at grassroots level. Further, it equips individuals have access to information, identify their needs and trains them to perform effectively by enhancing their capacities.

This is done through conducting meetings, one to one interactions, workshops, trainings, rallies, awareness programmes, exposure visits and various other ways to learn on networking and working together. These are specifically planned according to the groups formed in the community.

2.4.1 Capacity Building of SHGs
There were many training programmes conducted for SHG members, the ensuing leaders at village levels. These members are acquainted with the objectives, basics, formation procedures, record keeping, and opening of bank account. This is done primarily for an SHG to function well and to be maintained by its members themselves. Within six months, these members are well versed with the intra loaning process, preparing progress report and grading of SHGs etc.
2.4.2 Capacity building of VDCs
Village level cadre (volunteers) played a front role in coordinating and establishing linkages with VDCs under SNEHAL Programme. Right from the start of project they were actively involved in training, implementation, monitoring and feed back of the various activities of the project. Review of monthly work was done and planning for next month was discussed with volunteers and health workers. Discussion on active participation in trainings and awareness activities, implementation of project activities, planning for cattle health camp etc. was held.

About 29 Gram Sabhas were held, where information about proceedings of programme activities was shared with Sarpanch & Panchayat members, VEC members, Anganwadi workers and village community. The meetings were conducted with individual groups, where specific planning was done for the selection of families & beneficiaries, contribution of labour or cash, sites of ponds or wells, Manta day, cattle camp, marketing of charcoal, seed distribution, etc. This invited the direct interaction with the village community and raised awareness about all SNEHAL activities and their progress. This way more people were involved including important stakeholders like teachers, Anganwadi workers, Gram Panchayats members. Each played an important role in facilitating the programme activities.

2.4.3 Training Programmes for Women SHGs

For capacity building and empowerment of women, various training programmes were carried out during SNEHAL Project. The women-specific SHGs were interacted and trainings were imparted to the members on entrepreneurship development, skill development, leadership development, orientation, cluster formation, accounting and organising social forums like ‘I am Powerful’, and other women forums. About 22 such special programmes were organised, where about more than two thousand women participated.

2.4.4 Leadership Development Training
A training programme was conducted on 29th February 2008 with the specific objective of leadership development in women. About 42 women participated in this training programme at Zikdi village, Bhuj. The other objectives included:

- develop leadership qualities in women members of SHGs
- increase management skills through leadership development in women
- encourage women take leadership at local level and participate in village activities
- acknowledge women about how to express their problems

A similar kind of training programme was conducted in February 2008 in Khedbrahma for the members of SHGs. The programme had NABARD officers to have an open discussion with the women and explain them about the formation and significance of SHGs.
2. Case Studies from SNEHAL Project - Santalpur

Cattle Feed Centre at Daldi Village

Daldi village is located about 20 kms from Santalpur taluka in Patan district. It is located near Rann of Kachchh. The saline nature of soil makes it prone to drought affecting its more than a thousand population. Here, Thakores, Muslims and Harijans are dominated by the Ahir community. Primary source is rain-fed agriculture while animal husbandry is secondary. However, unavailability of access to good quality cattle feed obstructs the overall milk production. About 600 litres of milk from the village is supplied daily to the Banas dairy.

Under the SNEHAL programme VIKSAT started its activities in Daldi village by establishing Village Development Committee (VDC). A cattle feed centre is started by VDC with financial grant of Rs. 72,800 and support form VIKSAT. VIKSAT gave training and exposure to the VDC members for operating the cattle feed centre successfully. Initially the VDC purchased cattle feed from Radhanpur and sold to the villagers. Lately, the VDC brought good quality cattle feed from Morbi. Today, the VDC provides cattle feed to villagers on regular basis. This has resulted in an increase of 20% more milk production. Profit earned from this activity was Rs. 40,913 during the project period. Now, The VDC has planned to expand its activity in the neighboring villages too.

Katodiya Gains, Cumin Profits

At Varnosari village of Santalpur taluka, Thakores are in a majority (80%) in comparison to Rabaris, Darbars and Harijans. Here, agriculture and animal husbandry are major sources of income. Under Drought Relief Programme (DRP) in 1987, Katodiya pond was dug by the government. But this pond did not prove much useful to the villagers as there was no west weir constructed due to the limitation in DRP.

VIKSAT started its activities in Varnosari under the SNEHAL Programme supported by CARE in 2006. A village level peoples’ institution ‘Village Development Committee’ (VDC) was formed and a village micro-plan was prepared by both VIKSAT and VDC. Under the same, repairing and rejuvenation task of Katodiya pond was undertaken on priority basis. For the same, VIKSAT released a grant of Rs. 2 lakhs to VDC and began the construction of west weir and repaired earthen bund as a micro project in the first phase. After the very first rain happened, villagers in Varnosari were ecstatic on using the stored water for agriculture.

As the first phase resulted in good experience, the VDC planned to raise the height of west weir and deepen pond to increase the storage capacity before monsoon arrived. The construction was helped in the form of labour contribution by the villagers worth Rs.11,500 and Rs.15,000. VIKSAT provided Rs. 2 lakhs to the VDC for accomplishment of this task.

After the second rain, the cumin was cultivated in 35 acres of land and the crop was irrigated using five oil engine pumps by 15 beneficiaries. As a result, a high yield of 6620 kg of cumin was obtained. The approximate market price of this cumin yield is about Rs. 8.25 lakhs. This had a surprising impact on the migration pattern in the village, people developed faith in raising crops of more profits and also built up a rapport with the VDC for their further village development activities.
3. Community Development

Essentially community development is about bringing social and economic development in different approaches of people’s lives including both men and women. Broadly, these approaches involve empowerment, education, health, outreach and detached work at times to realize community development. Viksat, in continuation with its various activities running for management of natural resources, agriculture and livelihoods, supports communities in various ways to improve their economic, social and cultural conditions.

3.1 EDUCATION

Special educational activities were undertaken with teachers, parents and community members under Snehal, where main focus was on creating awareness for existing services and linking them with the service providers.

i) Education Awareness Camp: Education awareness camps were organised for village education committee (VEC) members in four villages, namely Patanka, Varnosari, Daldi and Varahi. More than a thousand members participated and learned about the relevance of education in overall development of community. People were made aware about the existing status of literacy and improve village education level by increasing attendance of girls and boys in the schools. Girl education was especially emphasised during the camps.

ii) Exposure Visit of VEC: During September 2007, an exposure trip to Fatepura in Vijapur taluka of Mehsana district was organized for VEC members of Varnosari and Daldi villages. This visit emphasized on building proper understanding of roles and responsibilities.

iii) Trainings for VEC: Three training programmes were organised for VEC members at Patanka, Charanka, Bawarda, Daldi and Varnosari with special emphasis on:

- to understand role and responsibilities of VEC
- to spread relevance of education and enhance fresh enrolment
- to increase awareness among parents and avert dropping out of students from schools
- to increase participation of parents in the cultural programme in schools

iv) Shala Parveshotsav: The Education Department started a special drive programme for enrolment of children in schools in June. This admission campaign began in Bamroli, Daldi, Charanka, Patanka, Bawarda and Varnosari. Focus was on children of age group between 5-6 years, who were eligible to start formal education and children of age group between 6-14 years, who were either dropped out from the schools or those who never had any opportunity for primary education. The role was to sensitize parents for getting their children enrolled in schools and motivate them. Total 179 children were enrolled during the Praveshotsav, out of which 87 were girls.

v) Adult (women) Education: Special attention was given for increasing literacy level among adult women population as this was found as a major gap in achieving the expected results of the project interventions. Female literacy rate is mere 27% in the six project villages of Daldi, Varnosari, Bawarda, Bamroli, Charanka and Patanka. In total, 201 women were educated under the programme. Literary classes were conducted by the volunteers in the guidance of VEC, local teachers and the project staff. The education centres were equipped with all essential instruments and teaching materials.

vi) Survey of Dropout Children: A survey was carried out in the project villages to find out the reasons for children dropping out from the schools. The graph has shown that 43% of dropping rate was due to irregular attendance in the school. The maximum irregularity was observed in Daldi village.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dropout Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Irregularity</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migration</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House work</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study at other village</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raising Younger Siblings at home</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.2 HEALTH

3.2.2 Health Watch under SNEHAL

An intensive programme on health was designed and implemented for generating awareness among women and children for better health concerns. To enhance the understanding and availing health services in the villages, meetings were organized with the target groups, FGDs and consultations with the key stakeholders.

i) Vaccination for Pregnant Women

Vaccination camps were organized for pregnant women in all six project villages. A liaison with health department was set up and regular interactions with SHGs were established to encourage SHG members for availing vaccination and health services. About 84% pregnant women attended the vaccination camp on the ‘Mamta Diwas’ and availed necessary vaccination and gathered information on nutritious diet. Pregnant women and lactating mothers were explained the importance of immunization, significance of family planning, hygiene and proper nutrition, govt. schemes such as Chiranjivi Scheme, Janani Suraksha Yojana etc.

ii) Vaccination for Children

Interventions made for vaccination resulted in 60% of vaccination of children against 44% of vaccination of children, which was before the project implementation. In total, 980 children were vaccinated against many diseases, while a few did not turn up because of migration, children going to fields along with their parents, etc. Infants were also weighed and the mothers were advised on the significance of breast feeding and early food given to 6-month old babies for a good physical and mental growth.

iii) SHG Meeting on Health Issues

Women SHGs were formed for addressing economic issues and special meetings were organised with these groups for linking them with the health service providers. This was specially promoted to use this platform in a multi dimensional manner. During the project period, 10 special meetings were organized with these groups in all six project villages.

iv) Meeting with Adolescent Girls

Total ten meetings were organised with the adolescent girls for creating awareness towards personal hygiene and building proper understanding of the health issues and problems arising particularly during transition age.

v) Street Plays and Cultural Programmes

As per plan for health component of the project, street plays and cultural events were held on health issues in the villages. Folk artists performed bhawai and enacted through play and drama to raise awareness on healthcare, sanitation, nutrition and curative & preventive health measures.
vi) Gram Sabhas for Raising Awareness
Seven Gram Sabhas were organised with 233 participants in all six project villages. The issues discussed in these assemblies were - importance of breast feeding, family planning, health issues and government programmes like Chiranjivi Scheme and Janani Suraksha Yojana. These programmes were supported by film shows on diseases caused due to fluoride in water and others.

3.2.3 MDGs in Health
The three health-specific Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are MDG 4, MDG 5 and MDG 6, which broadly talk about to reduce child mortality, improve maternal health and combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria & other diseases respectively. These three MDGs address the need for personal hygiene, cleanliness, safety for pregnant women, health of infants, use of mosquito nets against malaria, condoms for HIV/AIDS and many other precautionary measures to combat diseases.

Under ‘Localising MDGs in Dungarpur for a Sustainable Future’ supported by UNDP, a workshop was conducted on HIV/AIDS Awareness – ‘HIV/AIDS and You’ in Dungarpur, Rajasthan on 20 September 2007. The workshop reflected on causative aspects of HIV/AIDS, modes of transmission, sexual practices in migrant labourers, stages of progression, prevention & treatment and the social aspects. The participants included 65 truck drivers, factory workers, daily-wages labourers, migrant labourers etc.

3.3 SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT AND LEADERSHIP
Empowering rural community endorses and ensures active participation of people in social empowerment and development. VIKSAT has believed in PIs as one progressive approach to promote social empowerment and mainstream both rural women and rural youth. The constant experiments in our field areas include a gender sensitive approach while designing interventions and focus on initiating and sustaining development and welfare activities for rural communities.

Four Gram Panchayats were selected for creating awareness among people about MDGs in Dungarpur district under the project. In total, 13 villages were selected under two Panchayat Samitis, namely Bichiwada and Dungarpur and four Gram Panchayats – Dewal Khas, Pal Dewal, Pal Wada and Metalli. Concurrent meetings were held at various village levels and individual levels with Sarpanchs, Gram Sachivs, Patwaris, school principals, school teachers, Anganwadi workers, ANMs etc. The main subjects of discussions included education, 100 days' employment under NREGA, safe sex and need to keep away from HIV/AIDS.

3.3.1 Sensitisation of Stakeholders
During the project, sensitisation of stakeholders held a great importance for delivering the correct message for achieving MDGs. Both Panchayat and women were considered as important stakeholders in these villages. While Panchayats possessed great influence over the village community, womenfolk was the most marginalised section in households as well as in the social order.
Gram Panchayat is conceived as the prime stakeholder for easy identification of problems in the village and a good rapport build up with the villagers. Discussions were held with Panchayat members and their suggestions were simultaneously embodied in charting out the activities. Some of the key actionable points discussed with these stakeholders were:

- Ensure access to basic amenities like water, separate toilets for girls, etc. in schools
- Discrimination free environment between girls and boys and discourage caste-wise discrimination
- Equal wages for men and women
- Ensure that PHC or any other health facility is accessible to all sections of the community
- Make government health workers accountable to community welfare or village development activities
- Provision for safe drinking water and sewage system

b) Women as Critical Stakeholders

Women as critical stakeholder is a policy like no other. This idea strengthened more while interacting with women in the project villages in Dungarpur district. These women had much willingness to earn and live a better life. Their strength to participate in households and neighbourhood was enhanced by making constant interactions with them. Three local female volunteers were trained to communicate with local women in local dialect ‘Vagadi’. Maternal health issue was kept as one priority while interacting with them. Simultaneously importance of a girl’s education was conveyed with much emphasis. It was also noted that women took a great interest and almost undertook the task of eliminating some continuous social models. In a way, these meetings resulted in raising awareness about MDGs, some of them were:

- Promote girls’ education
- Discourage early marriage and early pregnancy
- Promote institutional delivery or delivery by trained dais
- Avail health care facilities during pregnancy like regular checkup, free iron tablets, etc.
- Encourage only two children and keep minimum 3-year difference between two children
- Promote breast feeding and vaccination
3.3.3 Campaigns & Interactive Activities

i) School Campaign for Dropout and left out children
The migration pattern in Dungarpur district has affected children who were going to schools or have willingness to go to schools. Under MDG-I i.e. primary education to all children, parents were encouraged to send their children to schools. Special focus was given on dropout and out-of-school children. Tribal population was made aware of the importance of the education and special attention was paid to girl child education. ‘Education is the right of all the children’ was the slogan of the campaign.

ii) Campaign towards Green Village
For sustainable green and clean environment, there was a campaign for Green Village, which helped generating awareness among villagers for plantation to extend forest cover. Growing of fruit bearing trees was also suggested as an alternate livelihood option.

iii) HIV/AIDS Campaign
Awareness on HIV/AIDS was generated in villages, schools and Panchayats in Dungarpur. Awareness camps were organised at three schools in Pal Dewal, Pal Wada and Dewal Khas with Panchayat representatives, Anganwadi workers, students and teachers. In these awareness camps, rural communities including students and youth were made aware about HIV/AIDS, its diagnosis, symptoms, precautionary measures and treatment.

iv) Nukkad Natak
Street plays were organised in Ganeshpur, Ramgarh, Tatiya, Hathai, Savgarh and Khempur villages of Dungarpur on 18th and 19th October 2007. A population of 5000 was covered under this programme. The main motive behind these plays was to entertain community members and simultaneously educate them about social issues issues, such as early marriage, female foeticide, sterilisation, population control, HIV/AIDS, addiction to liquor, sending children to schools, staying away from addiction, safe sex etc. While some of the issues were played through stories, children were encouraged through enactment to go to school.

v) Night Chaupal and Bhajan Sandhya
Night gatherings such as Chaupal and Bhajan Mandlis were held at Renga Phalla and Bhojato ka Oda villages on June 6, 2007 and August 1, 2007. There were large gatherings of men, women and children. A puppet show was also held. The purpose was to connect people with government schemes and make them understand various issues, such as poverty alleviation, education, health, women empowerment, environment sustainability and other development issues.

3.3.4 Information Sharing & Dissemination

i) Need Assessment Survey at Khavda Taluka
VIKASAT in collaboration with Corporate Social Responsibility Unit of Solaris Company Limited (SCL) has expanded its outreach by area and volume of operation in Khavda taluka. As groundwork for this expansion, a need assessment survey was undertaken to understand local problems of the region. The issues covered under the survey were like ground water, farming and animal husbandry, options for employment and livelihoods, political approach etc. In the first phase of need assessment in 4 Panchayats, 10 villages and 14 colonies were covered.
Even though survey research methodology was applied, a participatory approach was taken for data collection process. Gram Panchayats were well informed and explained about survey, its requirements, relevance and benefits. After initial process in the select villages, the Sarpanch made announcement in Gram Sabha and explained the need of a regional development programme. Local leaders were asked to come forward and communities were appealed for their full hearted participation in the survey through organizing video shows, video films explaining different themes like 'Ekta No Vagdo', 'Uditi Umangni Damri' and Swacchta Nu Mahatava' were showed. Accordingly, a need assessment report was prepared and a future intervention plan was worked out.

**ii) Area Development Programme**

Along with the need assessment survey certain entry point activities were also introduced in the area. These activities included two demonstration plots, farm bunding, west weir, formation of five youth SHGs, etc.

**iii) Developing Community Health Programme**

People live in scattered colonies in Western Khavda region, therefore, access to regular health services is difficult for the community. This is mostly attributed to either absence of doctor or vacant post not being filled. Also, the local community here, does not prefer to visit a doctor and often remains a victim of T.B., cough, malaria etc.

As part of community health programme, a small centre is run by VIKSAT with financial support from SCL, where medicines are provided free of cost to the villagers. Two local volunteers are trained to assist in dispensing Ayurvedic medicines. This small centre is run at VIKSAT’s field office and works 24 hours. In addition, two health volunteers are provided with first aid kit to provide emergency services to people in Khavda as well as in nearby villages during night and on public holidays. Total 3 units at Khavda, Sumrapor and Tuga have started distribution of medicines. Along with first aid treatment, the treatment for common general diseases and special kind of deadly diseases is also made available to the local community.

Apart from curative intervention, information about precautionary measures taken against various diseases is also given via video shows and posters. The following table gives the quantitative information about the community health programme.

**iv) Mahiti Kendra**

A Mahiti Kendra under SNEHAL Project is established at Bamroli village for spreading awareness among people about health, education, agriculture, animal husbandry, livelihoods and various government schemes. With the idea of more and more people advantaging from the kendra, it was mutually decided to shift it from Bamroli to Varahi. Mahiti Mitra of kendra, volunteers and project team have designed and executed awareness raising and information dissemination programme in the project villages and have also planned to extend it to the neighbouring villages. Various aid materials and audio video equipments were used in these programmes.

**v) Computer Literacy**

Shri Satlasana Yuvak Vikas Sangh, a federation of 83 youth SHGs in Satlasana has started a computer centre. This centre is set up with six computers. Two instructors give training and impart knowledge to make youth more familiar with the computers. This has enabled youth to have access to computer, training and the opportunity to use ICT for livelihoods. VIKSAT plans to open such centres in its other field areas too. The main objectives to open the centre is to:

1. enable young boys and girls in Gadhwada familiar with computers  
2. raise IT knowledge among poor families of Gadhwada
Kakkuben and her Biogas Kitchen

Kakkuben is 39 and lives with her husband Thakore Samadhbai and three children in Vamosari village. Out of her six children, two daughters are married. Her one married son lives nearby in another house with his two children. Her husband grows barley and castor in fields, and she works with him and helps him in sowing and harvesting crops.

Kakkuben is one of those 16 beneficiaries who were selected for establishing biogas units in their houses. The selection was done after completion of village level assessment carried out in 6 villages of Santalpur of Patan district under the SNEHAL Project. Initially 10 families were selected and taken to Patan district where biogas units were functioning well, where they were exposed to the functioning and its maintenance of a biogas unit. A special training was also conducted for these families for understanding the operation of these units. 18 members participated in the training and 20 members went for the exposure trip. Finally, 16 units were installed in the household premises of the selected families with the help of Gram Vikas Samiti of Vamosari village.

She is unlike other village women, who cooks food on biogas without harming her eyes and saving her utensils from getting blackened. Her new gas stove is placed adjacent to chulha, which she used earlier. She has an added bonus too, she and her children no more wander in search of fuel wood and save time and energy, which is used elsewhere now. Kakkuben owns one cow and two buffaloes and their dung is enough to cook food for 5 to 6 people everyday. Each morning, she mixes two parts of cow dung and one part of water equating to a total of 9 kg and leaves it to ferment in the biogas plant installed in her house. And it produces biogas (methane), which is piped into her kitchen. During rains, she covers it and protects it from getting wet and does not let water accumulate near around it.

The leftover slurry obtained is richer than any ordinary manure and makes a fantastic organic fertiliser for her crops. This proves to be a high quality fertiliser, has no odour and gives 30-40% more crop yield. Also, the crop can be sold at a better price as ‘organic crops’. She has joined an SHG, and after becoming its member she has learnt to write her name ably.

A subsidy of Rs. 2800 was received for each unit from the government, which enabled to install six more units in the village. A cash contribution of Rs. 15000 was also collected from these families. Each biogas unit has the capacity of 3 cu. m. A muddle of 75 kg of cow dung and 75 litres of water was required to instigate each unit. Care was taken in site selection for not having any tree, toiler or well adjacent to it and also that sunlight fell directly on the unit.

A cash prize of Rs. 415 was awarded to each family in Vamosari by the Ahmedabad-based Gujarat Agro Industries Cooperative Ltd. & Energy Division. This was for the first time in Santalpur that biogas units were installed. Villagers from a nearby village Jajam village, 6 kms away from Vamosari came to see the success story of the units installed in Vamosari. They were inspired so much that 10 biogas units are now installed in Jajam too.
VIKSAT has been dispersing its knowledge and expertise gained in various thematic areas through different means. VIKSAT’s strengths in thematic areas are extended to external agencies through consultancy services. These short term assignments have helped in accruing knowledge from diversified areas and contemporary projects executed by other agencies.

4.1. EVALUATION OF COMPENSATORY AFFORESTATION PROGRAMME

VIKSAT undertook the evaluation of the compensatory afforestation work under Sardar Sarovar Project (irrespective of year of plantation) and also under other developmental projects during the year 2000-2001 to 2004-05. An MoU was signed between VIKSAT and the Chief Conservator of Forest (Central), Ministry of Environment and Forests at Regional Office, Bhopal.

The evaluation work was completed in Kachchh, Panchmahal, Bharuch, Narmada, Surat, Sabarkantha, Mehsana, Kheda and Ahmedabad districts during the previous year. Next year, it was completed in Vadodara and Chhota Udepur districts. Plantation details were collected form these districts to facilitate the sampling. As per data collected, compensatory afforestation was done in 9105 ha of land under Sardar Sarovar Project and in 8991 ha of land under other developmental projects.

As per the terms of reference, 10% of the total plantation area was to be surveyed on sampling basis. The plantation area included forest land, forest ranges and non-forest land under different projects. The evaluation was based on total number of species thriving at the time of survey, protection measures taken, survival rate, selection of species in relation to soil and climate suitability and overall growth of the plants. During 2007-08, the pending task of evaluation was carried out from about 800 ha of forest land area from 40 forest sites of Vadodara and Chhota Udepur divisions. Entire data was compiled and a report was prepared and submitted to the funding agency.

4.2 EVALUATION OF IGNP AFFORESTATION PROJECT AREAS

For evaluation of project activities of IGNP areas in Bikaner and Jaisalmer under Rajasthan Forestry and Bio-diversity Project (RFBP), VIKSAT took up the assessment study. In Rajasthan 9.32% of total geographical area of the state was undertaken by RFBP to restore the ecological status. The project included 16 districts in Aravalli Hills and two districts i.e. Bikaner and Jaisalmer in IGNP areas.

There are certain models designed for afforestation of the IGNP areas, such as canal side plantation, block plantation, plantation along water courses, sand dunes stabilization and pasture development.

The major objectives of these models included various activities, such as to protect infrastructures like canals, railway lines, roads, agricultural fields, human settlements from drifting sand in IGNP area; conserve gene-pool and improve bio-diversity of flora and fauna; augment the availability of fuel wood, leaf fodder, grass, timber, fruit and minor forest products; generate employment opportunities to the rural/tribal population and improve socio-economic condition; elicit people’s participation for institutionalisation of JFM; and check soil erosion and thereby improve infiltration of water and hydrological balance.
The evaluation study addressed the following objectives:

- evaluate response of sites as per prescribed treatment models of plantation activities in terms of quantifiable parameters viz. survival rate and growth characteristics of plantations raised
- review current practices for planning, implementation and maintenance of plantations in relation to critical factors, bring out relative strength and weakness of present practices, and recommend necessary remedial measures
- assess the efficacies of various plantation components
- evolve a viable strategy for long-term protection and management of plantation assets and suitability of plantation programme including designing an appropriate monitoring mechanism
- bring out overall impact of plantations on bio-physical and socio-economic environment of the region.

Methodology applied for the study included collection and analysis of both quantitative and qualitative along with technical and non-technical data. Also interaction with the officials of forest department at different levels was established. Field data was collected from samples taken from the total sites where plantation was done for three consecutive years of 2004, 2005 and 2006.

### 4.3 EVALUATION OF ATTA FORTIFICATION PROJECT

A pilot project was introduced by the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affair with the assistance of World Food Programme (WFP) in November 2006 to supplement iron and folic acid to food grains. This was based on the findings of the 3rd National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3), which revealed prevalence of anaemia in rural Gujarat backed by the facts that 84% of children in the age group of 6-35 months, 62% of pregnant women and 59% of women are anaemic.

Under the project, 446 chakki wallahs from 260 villages of 7 talukas of Surendranagar district were given technical training for proper fortification of grains like wheat and pearl millet. VIKSAT evaluated the project, which aimed at following two objectives:

- To assess the ability of chakki wallahs to fortify grain properly
- To determine the acceptance of atta fortification in general population and willingness of the consumers to pay for fortified atta

Methodology used for the evaluation included both quantitative and qualitative methods. Survey research methodology and focus group discussions (FGDs) were adopted for collection of quantitative data and qualitative data respectively. An exhaustive guideline was adopted for conducting FGDs.
5. Networking

VIKSAT has developed a nexus with NGOs and CBOs with its one vital approach of establishing and promoting PIs. The high and multiplier effect of networking has enabled in sharing of VIKSAT’s learning experiences. VIKSAT is the Secretariat of the SSF and SAKSHAM and facilitates dialogue among the stakeholders. In the same series VIKSAT has continued to develop a network of active NGOs and other institutions involved in NRM activities and environment education.

5.1 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS CAMPAIGN (NEAC)
National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC) is a programme sponsored by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India, New Delhi from last 22 years. VIKSAT is the Regional Resource Agency for Gujarat and Diu and Daman from 1986. Every year, the MoE&F conducts the campaign on an identified environmental theme. VIKSAT facilitates the NEAC programme through a selection of group of non-government organizations, education and training institutes, nature clubs, professional associations, scientific bodies and community organizations to create awareness through seminars/workshops, camps, padyatras/rallies, Jatha, competitions, festivals, street theatre, folk dramas, folk dances, puppet shows, science fairs and preparation of educational resource material addressing environmental issues.

The NEAC programme focuses on a specific theme every year so that the participating organizations from all over the country can spread environmental awareness in a specific and ideal way of focusing on one subject. Theme selected for the year 2007-08 was ‘Bio-Diversity Conservation’. This included conservation of wetland, medicinal plants, biodiversity as an indicator of environmental quality, role of community in biodiversity conservation, biodiversity and pollution abatement.

5.2 CONFEDERATION OF NGOs OF RURAL INDIA (CNRI)
CNRI is an apex body of NGOs of rural India with the specific objective of strengthening, coordinating and facilitating organizational working at the grassroots level for an integrated development of the rural India and to emerge as a think-tank as well as a consultative body at the national and international level. It is registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. Its activities started from March 2005 onwards.

VIKSAT is the State Secretariat of CNRI for Gujarat State Chapter from February 2006 with its headquarter at New Delhi. Shri Dilip Surkar, Director, VIKSAT, is the president and Shri Vijay Kaushal is the Executive Director of the Gujarat Chapter. Presently, there are fifteen NGOs as the lifetime members of this network.
6. Newsletters

NIYATI

With a view to scale up natural resource conservation activities, VIKSAT has been publishing a bi-monthly Gujarati newsletter since April 1994. NIYATI provides a common platform and a medium of knowledge. It is circulated to organisations and individuals in Gujarat including schools, farmers' cooperatives, NGOs, grassroots organisations, academic, training and research institutions.

SANCHAR

SANgathan SamaCHAR (SANCHAR) is another networking medium, which is published quarterly by VIKSAT, being the Secretariat of SAKSHAM. It is being published in Gujarati since January 1996 and disseminates information on numerous issues related to the functioning of People's Institutions in Joint Forest Management. The newsletter has a great outreach, which covers member-federations, government officials, NGOs and individuals. The circular helps in identifying SAKSHAM as a state level forum and facilitates in its networking activities. The newsletter carries concise reports of activities of SAKSHAM and highlights issues related to gender, equity and policy advocacy.

7. Library and Resource Centre

VIKSAT has a rich library with a collection of over 3200 books and audio-visuals. The library and its information services are available for the VIKSAT's network members, other organisations, scholars, researchers and other individuals. The books, reports, slides, video films, exhibits, posters and other training aids on various aspects of natural resources prove as a source of learning and resource centre.

Last year, students and individuals from MS University, Baroda and NIRMA University, staff of various NGOs, such as CEE, Winrock International, and institutes like MICA, GITCO and CEPT visited VIKSAT library to collect information on NRM, rainwater harvesting, policy documents and others. The resource centre has been strengthened during the year by adding to it new books on agriculture, bio-diversity, water, globalisation, land degradation, medicinal and aromatic plants.
8. Council of Management

Prof. M. S. Swaminathan  
(Chairperson)  
Chairman, M S Swaminathan Research Foundation  
Third Cross Street, Taramani Institutional Area  
Chennai - 600 113

Shri V. B. Eswaran  
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New Delhi – 110 057

Shri Chandiprasad Bhatt  
Dasholi Gram Swarajya Mandal  
Gopeshwara, Chamoli  
Uttarakhand – 246401

Shri Kartikeya V. Sarabhai  
Managing Trustee  
Nehru Foundation for Development  
Thaltej Tekra  
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Ms. Indu Capoor  
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Vile Parle (E)  
Mumbai – 400 057

Shri Kiran Desai  
Centre for Environment Education  
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Shri Pradeep Khanna  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)  
Dr. Jivraj Mehta Bhawan  
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Ms. Madhu Sarin  
48, Sector – 4  
Chandigarh – 160 001

Executive Director  
Vikram A. Sarabhai Community Science Centre  
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Ahmedabad - 380009

Shri Dilip Surkar  
(Member Secretary)  
Director, VIKSAT  
Nehru Foundation for Development  
Thaltej Tekra  
Ahmedabad – 380054

As on 31 March 2008
VIKSAT extends its thanks to all the institutions and individuals who have contributed to and worked with us in development action. We are grateful to the government departments, funding agencies, donors, our NGO and CBO partners for having stayed with us and supporting our efforts.

We acknowledge their significant support during the year 2007-08 and hope for their continued cooperation in the coming year. Some of the partners, with whom we worked constructively, are as follows:

**Government of India**
- Ministry of Environment and Forest, New Delhi
- National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board

**State Governments**
- Community Information Centre, Dungarpur
- Department of Agriculture, Dungarpur
- Department of Education, Dungarpur
- Department of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Dungarpur
- Department of Tribal Area & Development, Dungarpur
- District Administration, Dungarpur
- District Panchayats of Sabarkantha
- District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), Mehsana
- District Water and Sanitation Department
- Gujarat Forest Department
- Indo-German Watershed Development Programme, NABARD, Dahod
- Micro Irrigation Department, Govt. of Gujarat
- MoE&FP Regional Office, Bhopal
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Ahmedabad
- Public Private Community Partnership Cell (PPCP), Dungarpur
- Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Department, Dungarpur

**Funding Organisations**
- British Geological Survey (BGS)
- CARE India
- Gujarat Green Revolution Company Limited (GGRC)
- Gujarat Women’s Economic Development Corporation (GWEDC)
- Humanist Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries (HIVOS), Bangalore
- Indo-German Social Service Society (IGSSS)
- International Development Research Centre (IRDC)
- Kachchh Nav Nirman Abhiyan (KNNA), Bhuj
- Murugappa Morgan Thermal Ceramics limited
- Rajasthan Forest Department
- Sankalit Advasi Vikas Project Office, Khedbrahma

**CBOs**
- Bhiloda Taluka Mahila Bachat and Dhiran Sangh, Bhiloda, Sabarkantha
- Sangathan Kshmata Manch (SAKSHAM), State Level Federation, Gujarat
- Shri Gadhwada Jal Jameen Sanrakshan Sangh, Satlasana, Mehsana
- Shri Gadhwada Mahila Vikas Sangh, Satlasana, Mehsana
- Shri Satlasana Yuvak Vikas Sangh, Satlasana, Mehsana
- The Bhiloda Taluka Lok van Kalyan Sahakari Sangh, Bhiloda, Sabarkantha

**Non-Government Organizations**
- Centre for Environment Education (CEE), Ahmedabad
- Centre for Health Education, Training and Nutrition Awareness (CHETNA), Ahmedabad
- Development Support Centre (DSC), Ahmedabad
- Nehru Foundation for Development (NFD), Ahmedabad
- Vikram A Sarabhai Community Science Centre (VASCSC), Ahmedabad

**Institutions**
- Centre for Ecological Science, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
- Institute for Plasma Research (IPR), Ahmedabad
- Institute for Social and Environmental Transition
### Glossary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Compensatory Afforestation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBP</td>
<td>Capacity Building Phase</td>
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<tr>
<td>CEE</td>
<td>Centre for Environment Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHETNA</td>
<td>Centre for Health Education, Training and Nutrition Awareness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNRI</td>
<td>Confederation of NGOs of Rural India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FGD</td>
<td>Focus Group Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>GGRC</td>
<td>Gujarat Green Revolution Company</td>
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<tr>
<td>GWEDC</td>
<td>Gujarat Women’s Economic Development Corporation</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICDS</td>
<td>Department of Integrated Child Development Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>IGNP</td>
<td>Indira Gandhi Nahar Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>IGWDP</td>
<td>Indo-German Watershed Development Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JFM</td>
<td>Joint Forest Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDG</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goal</td>
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<tr>
<td>MIS</td>
<td>Micro Irrigation System</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSSRF</td>
<td>M S Swaminathan Research Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MoE&amp;F</td>
<td>Ministry of Environment and Forest</td>
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<tr>
<td>NABARD</td>
<td>National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEAC</td>
<td>National Environment Awareness Campaign</td>
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<td>NFD</td>
<td>Nehru Foundation for Development</td>
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<td>NFHS</td>
<td>National Family Health Survey</td>
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<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-governmental Organisation</td>
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<td>NREGY</td>
<td>National Rural Employment Guarantee Yojana</td>
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<td>NRM</td>
<td>Natural Resource Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>PI</td>
<td>People’s Institution</td>
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<tr>
<td>RF</td>
<td>Revolving Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>RFBP</td>
<td>Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>RRA</td>
<td>Regional Resource Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>RWH</td>
<td>Rain Water Harvesting</td>
</tr>
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<td>SAKSHAM</td>
<td>SAngathan KSHAmata Manch</td>
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<tr>
<td>SANCHAR</td>
<td>SANGathan SamaCHAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHG</td>
<td>Self Help Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>SDTT</td>
<td>Sir Dorabji Tata Trust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNEHAL</td>
<td>Sustainable Nutrition, Education, Health and Livelihood</td>
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<tr>
<td>SRTT</td>
<td>Sir Ratan Tata Trust</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSF</td>
<td>Sabarmati Stakeholders Forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TGCS</td>
<td>Tree Growers Cooperative Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNA</td>
<td>Training Need Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations Children's Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>VDC</td>
<td>Village Development Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>VEC</td>
<td>Village Education Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>VFPMC</td>
<td>Village Forest Protection and Management Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>WASMO</td>
<td>Water and Sanitation Monitoring Organisation</td>
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<td>WATSAN</td>
<td>Water and Sanitation</td>
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<td>WDC</td>
<td>Watershed Development Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>WDF</td>
<td>Watershed Development Fund</td>
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<td>WFP</td>
<td>World Food Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WS</td>
<td>Water Supply</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## VIKSAT Field Offices

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Email: viks.satlasana@gmail.com

**VIKSAT Field Office, Bhuj**  
Near BMCB City, Lokhand Kukma Road  
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District: Bhuj (Kachchh)  
Ph: 02832-271555/699062  
Email: viks.bhuj@gmail.com

**VIKSAT Field Office, Mehsana**  
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Near Ambaji Temple  
B/h College, Nagalpur  
Mehsana - 384 002

**VIKSAT Field Office, Dungarpur**  
Rajmandir Empire  
Adarshnagar  
Dungarpur - 314 001  
Rajasthan

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### VIKSAT Campus, Ahmedabad

![Image of VIKSAT Campus, Ahmedabad](image)

**1978**  
![Image of VIKSAT Campus, Ahmedabad in 1978](image)

**2008**  
![Image of VIKSAT Campus, Ahmedabad in 2008](image)
“In nature, left to itself, control is maintained through an ecological balance. Order is not imposed from above, but arises through interaction of each unit with its environment in a dynamic equilibrium.”

Dr. Vikram Sarabhai

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