

Annual Report

2021-2022



Prakriti

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Index

Sr. No	Chapter	Page No
1.	Introduction	01
2.	Nagpur District Center	
2.1	Planting & Nurturing Of Fruit Trees & Other Tress In Prakriti Campus (Horticulture)	02
2.2	Program To Address Violence Against Women	02
2.3	Annual Conference & Vasudha Smriti Award	03
2.4	International Women's Day	04
2.5	Livelihood Program For Women Farmers	04
3.	Panchayat Sakhi Program	08
4.	Women & Land Rights Program	10
5.	Other Activities	11
6.	Study / Publication / Internship	12
7.	Future Plan	14
8.	Annexure	
A	List Of Donors	15
B	List Of Partners	16
C	List Of Board Members	17
D	List Of Staff	18

Prakriti

Annual Report 2021-2022

1. Introduction:

After battling with Covid since the early 2020 all the program and activities of Prakriti were on low progress mode and some activities couldn't take place. However, as the world is slowly returning to normalcy, here is the progress report of Prakriti's activities carried during the year 2021-2022. This year the program and activities which were on hold, were resumed, also the new programs were introduced and this year also introduced new partnerships.

The Nagpur District Center project is implemented in Nagpur district, it aims at developing demonstration center of horticulture, kitchen garden and Nursery at Prakriti's premises in Lonara. This project continues to help the girls and women victims of violence and injustice. Post Covid, the counselling center attended cases of women who have lost their husband to covid and they are under severe financial and mental stress. The counselling center received cases from nearby rural and urban areas and there are also women seeking guidance over email and phone as in many cases it is difficult for the affected women to travel. So the center tries to provide support to all cases irrespective of their in person presence.

The Panchayat Sakhi program is a now 22 years old and still the program is very relevant rather its relevance is growing as the role and responsibilities of women in decision making keep evolving and thus they need regular training, support and mentoring .So the program reaches to elected women in gram panchayats and through these elected women the program aims to address women's concerns and ensure that programs, policies and provisions made for women are properly implemented.

This year new partnership with **Womanity Foundation** has begun, as Prakriti is implementing a program on women and land rights with the support from Womanity Foundation. In the present times, with climate change, with growing need for sustainable livelihood, with marginalization of women, land as a sustainable livelihood resource is becoming very urgent and important. With the objective of creating awareness among women about land rights and increasing their access and decision making about land, the program is implemented in 30 villages of Nagpur (Rural).

The **Annual Conference** and **Vasudha Smriti Award** function could not take place in the year 2020, so this year in 2021 the annual conference and award function was organised in the month of March. Three women Sarpanch from **Nagpur** and **Gondia** districts were given the Award and their work was really inspiring for the participants of the conference.

In the coming pages, the detail of each program is mentioned and there are few success stories to showcase the impact of the programs carried by Prakriti. This report is also available on Prakriti's website along with more images and video clips.

2. Nagpur District Centre:

Programs under the project Nagpur district center are organized for Nagpur district only. The ongoing activities like counselling center for women affected by violence and injustice, small surveys, training for women farmers etc are some of the activities which continued this year also. Following major activities were carried during the reporting period –

2.1 Planting & Nurturing Of Fruit Trees & Other Tress In Prakriti Campus (Horticulture):

To develop demonstrable plot of vegetables and fruit bearing trees, which will generate revenue in coming times and to train women farmers in horticulture, this activity is implemented by Prakriti in the reporting period

Trees like Jamun, Kawath (Wood Apple), Mango, Chikku, Aamwala, Karvand (Wood Apple), were planted and every fruits were get from these trees. while lime, Sweet Lime, Custard Apple were planted which will bear fruits next year. Besides these trees of Dates, Teak Wood were also planted

Under this program, Nursery shed constructed and plants (saplings) of Lime, Sweet Lime, Kawath (Wood Apple), Mango, Jamun, Teak wood,

Custard Apple, Sapota (Chiku), Anwala, Dates, Karvand, Drumstick.were prepared to develop nursery. Vegetables, Turmeric, Suran, Sapota (Chiku), Guavas etc were the products



2.2 Program To Address Violence Against Women:

Under Nagpur District Center, Prakriti addresses cases of violence against women and it was noticed that during Covid lockdown there is sudden rise in cases of violence against women and girls. Many cases were not even reported to the Police, to the One Stop Crisis Center, to Protection Officer, to Child Protection Officer, as all offices were closed and Police was the only working machinery and were already burdened with Covid management.

In Prakriti's field area there were heinous cases of crime against women and girls. In one village **Kusumbi**, where Prakriti work, there was case of rape of minor girl by the neighbouring boy and she became pregnant, and child was delivered by this very young mother and the child was given to some adoption agency. Now the girl stays with her parents who work as laborer and are very weak. This incidence has shaken the girl so much that she don't go to school, don't able to speak to unknown people. Since the incidence took place during covid lockdown, no proper attention was given to her case, and then she approached to Prakriti for help and guidance through one of Prakriti volunteer. The girl and her parents need counselling and the girl need to be rehabilitated. Presently her case is sent for consideration under Manodhairy Scheme for monetary relief and other relief measures will also be taken.

When this case surfaced, it was learnt that there are three more such cases in the same village in last one and half year.

Besides Prakriti's field areas, cases of domestic violence and atrocities also come to Prakriti office for guidance and help. One such case had come from **Bhandara District**, who needed immediate shelter and legal aid, so she was referred to One Stop Crisis Center, similarly other cases from different locations also approach for seeking advice and support.

Last year the Central Government has announced scheme titled as **Mahila Shakti Kendra**, which will act as apex agency at district and block level to ensure that all schemes meant for women's welfare reach to them. The task of selection of personnel for **Mahila Shakti Kendra**, was assigned a joint committee, having representation of NGO working in the area of women's empowerment. Thus on behalf of **Prakriti**, **Suvarna Damle** was invited as member of this selection committee, and on behalf of the committee, **Ms. Damle** presented the report of selection committee to District Collector Nagpur, who heads this committee.

2.3 Annual Conference & Vasudha Smriti Award:

Prakriti's annual conference and Vasudha Smriti Award function could not take place in February 2021 due to Covid pandemic, thus this year the Conference was organized on **12th March 2022** at Prakriti Campus, where **Ms. Abha Pande, Member, State Commission For Women, Ms. Sonali Shah, Senior Judge, Nagpur District Court** were the chief guests.

Three women sarpanch, **Smt. Sunita Nimbarte, Smt. Kirti Aahake and Smt. Bandana Adhikari** were awarded with **Vasudha Smriti Award** during the conference. Vasudha Smriti Award is given every year in the memory of Prakriti's Late Chairperson Dr. Vasudha Dhagamwar to three women sarpanch for their work in the field of village development and women empowerment. This year's awardees were from Gondia and Nagpur district and never had any experience of contesting election or had political background. Despite all odds these



Annual Conference & Vasudha Smriti Puraskar

three women did their best to implement novel schemes for their village and also presented their vision of development.

Post the award ceremony three sessions were conducted for the participants. The first session was on General legal awareness, conducted by **Mr. Noor** of **Multiple Action Research Group (MARG)**. In other two sessions **Smt. Kumari Bai** shared her experience of strength of women's collective in demanding forest rights and Ms. Sarita and Ms. Shalu shared their experience of fisher women's collectives.

The conference was attended by women from field workers, women from the field areas, sarpanch, NGO representatives, college students etc.

2.4 International Women's Day:

Each year on the International women's day, Prakriti plan to take up emerging issue for discussion. Last year it was Shakti Sudhar amendment bill with respect to curb growing sexual violence against children. This year the topic was Financial Inclusion, safety norms for internet banking and how women can make use of banking facilities.



International Women's Day At Prakriti

awareness program they attended for the first time.

This program was organized in association with **Reserve Bank Of India, Nagpur Branch**. The RBI representatives discussed various tricks used by fraudsters and women are very much dependent on their family members for banking, so they are fall easy prey. The officials presented how one should be vigilant and also satisfied the queries of the participants. The participants appreciated the content of the program and shared that this kind of

2.5 Livelihood Program For Women Farmers:

Nagpur is one of the fastest growing district and the land sharks are trying to grab the land of farmers and the farmer community is reeling under distress for several years and they want to sell off their land. However women from the farmers' families want to save their land, as it is the only source of livelihood for them. As men are migrating in search of employment to urban areas, farming is more and more become women centric. Though women put their time and effort in farming activities, but they are not allowed to take decisions. So to improve leadership of women in farming this project of Agro-Bio diverse farming (Swavlambi Sheti) is introduced among small and marginalised women farmers from three districts of Vidarbha region, Nagpur, Yavatmal and Akola.

This program started with pre sowing selection and orientation of women farmers and during the Kharip crop cycle following training inputs were given.

- Concept of Swavalambi Sheti (Bio-Diverse Organic Farming-BDOF) and its unique features
- Type of soil, improving soil health and importance of soil testing and relation between nature of soil and crops
- Seed preservation techniques, pest management
- Exposure to Central India Cotton Research Institute, other plots where organic farming is taken

- The first training was held at Prakriti campus in Lonara on **19th August**, in which women farmers from FIVE villages participated in this training programme. In the beginning the concept of Swavalambi Sheti was explained to the participating women farmers, it was explained to them that in bio diverse organic farming the farmer make optimum use of what is available locally, from seeds, to manure, to pesticide and implements.

The basic objective of BDOF is to improve the soil quality and promote food security. PPT and printed material was given to the participants. Women farmers also exhibited their farm products mostly vegetables in this training program. Women



Training Program Of Women Farmers Are In Progress

expressed that since the male members of their family are switching to other jobs and they- women are progressively accepting the farming responsibility, however they feel that they are dependent on the male members for all small and big decision about farming, as women do not have necessary knowledge and skills required for farming. Some women also reflected that their husbands, don't listen to their suggestions and thus women's role is restricted to weeding and other tedious manual work in the farm. Some women farmers who are already practicing BDOF also shared their experience in this training program.

- On **15th September** the training program was held, The theme for this training was **Soil Health, Soil Testing and Techniques to Improve Soil Quality**. **Ms. Madhuri Khadse** from **Yavatmal**, who is a farmers along with a group of women farmers from **Ralegaon** block of Yavatmal provided the above information about soil to the participating women farmers. The women farmers from Yavatmal shared that they used the farming implements generally used by men, for the first time and though it was difficult for them as beginners, but they developed confidence that they can do it and also looked for easier and women friendly implements. It was discussed in the training that women friendly implements are available at **ChetnaVikas, Wardha** and if women farmers' are interested, then bulk order can be placed and for the coming kharip season, the implements will be available.
- On **22nd-23rd October**, two day residential training on Gender was organized by women farmers in the month of **October**. **Ms. Sunita Bagal** conducted this training. The objective of this training was to discuss how Gender and Gender based discrimination affect women socially, economically politically. Participating women farmers agreed to the fact that "Men in their family are the decision makers and they do not encourage women to take decisions" Like other many sectors, agricultural sector too is male dominated and thus when women wanted to half / one acre plot for bio-diverse sustainable farming, it was not an easy task for them. The training helped women farmers to understand that agricultural implements are also designed for men, the market, the schemes all have "male farmers" as the user/beneficiary. The need for more stake of women in farm related decisions was advocated at the end of the training.

- **Review Meeting of Women Farmers Involve in Bio-diverse organic Farming** –This experimental program has been started for last 1 year with women farmers in 4 villages of Nagpur district. Other women in the village are looking at these women with high hopes. This is because the use of chemical fertilizers has depleted the farm lands and hence the cost of crops seems to be increasing day by day. In order to welcome the low cost of income generation, farmers



Meetings & Trainings Are In Progress

as well as men were invited to inform as many people as possible. **Ms.Niranjana Maru** and **Mr. Suresh Kashti** from **Chetna Vikas Wardha** and **Suvarna Damle, Executive Director** of **Prakriti** guided the participants. Awareness Meetings & Workshops Are In Progress

Total 90 women farmers from three districts participated in this program. In Akola and Yavatmal districts, the participants were mostly farm widows and the project really helped them to rejuvenate their farming and boost their confidence in farming.

***Sarita Vairale** is a farm widow from **Shelu Bazar** village of **Akola** district. Her husband committed suicide and since then her farm is managed by her brother in law, and he used to give her little crop yield. It is very difficult for Sarita to manage expenses of the family as she has two grown up children. When Sarita was motivated to join this program, she used to say that since her brother in law does all the farming and take decisions, Prakriti team should speak to him instead of Sarita. When Prakriti team contacted her brother in law and asked about the sowing, and status of the crop etc, he decided to hand over the agriculture land to Sarita. This way Sarita got her land and she with the help of her 15 year old son goes to the farm and does all by herself. Though the untimely and excessive rains caused loss to Sarita and many other women in the project, but Sarita could get good Tur harvest and she is more than happy that her land is in her possession now.*

***Arpana** is a widow and is mother of Two teen age son. Her husband died of TB about a year ago and she has spent few lacs on his treatment and for this she also sold some part of her land. She used to work under MNREGS last year and her elder son did odd jobs to support the family. However this year she did not get employment under MNREGS and her son lost his job due to pandemic and they had extremely difficult times . In such resource crunch, she could not think of cultivation, however when she learnt about this project she approached Prakriti team and with the support for seed and manure she is now farming on one acre of land on rental basis. Half acre is devoted to tomato and other cultivation while half acre plot is utilized for bio-diverse model of farming . The cheer and relief in her eyes is very assuring .*

In this livelihood program there were three partners, Prakriti, Prerana Gramvikas Sanstha and SOPPECOM. Prakriti and Prerana implemented the program in Nagpur, Akola and Yavatmal districts respectively, while SOPPECOM helped in research and documentation. Chetna Vikas, Wardha was the knowledge partner in this program

Besides the above three districts, **Hingoli, Parbhani and Beed** were three other districts from Marathwada region who also implemented this program independently. Since the program was same, joint meetings and trainings were also conducted. Thus a joint consultation was held at Pune in the month of February, to discuss the learnings, the obstacle and the impact. Overall, the impact of the program was good as it not only encouraged small women farmers' decision making , but showed them way to reduce input cost, improve output and ensure food security.



Women Farmers Attending Consultation On Organic Farming

Padma Bhusari, Nagpur

Padma belong to small cotton grower farmer family, and farming is mostly looked after by husband, who also work in a nearby factory. After the land division, Padma and her husband got one and half acre of land, which is not enough to sustain the family so Padma's husband found a job in a factory. Padma was aware of economic constraint and used to work as farm laborer, besides being an elected member of gram panchayat. Padma was connected with Panchayatsakhi program of Prakriti and thus when asked if she is willing to be a part of bio-diverse and chemical free farming, she immediately said YES...

Padma also motivated another five women farmers of her village to join in this kind of farming practice. When Padma got seeds and first training, she was not very confident as this was for the first time that she on her own took to farming. Her husband was not supportive to Padma's plan of sowing variety of seeds in such small plant. Initially Padma tried to convince him, but no success... so Padma told her husband that divide the one and half acre plot in two parts, draw a line and then Padma will do farming on her plot. Her husband never expected such strong determination from Padma, so he immediately agreed to the plan. Padma is happy and satisfied that she could do farming on the basis of training and she also got seeds and fencing. Being first time, there were some deviation from the sowing plan and untimely heavy rain impacted the first harvest of Moong. But Padma says –she is better prepared for the next season and that she has learnt from her mistakes. Her husband is also happy that farming is largely managed by Padma and that he doesn't need to take more leaves.

3 Panchayat Sakhi Program:

This program is implemented to empower elected women in Gram Panchayats. This program is implemented in 40 Gram Panchayats of Nagpur district. Panchayat Sakhi are the elected women representatives, who are inducted in the program and are mentored, trained and motivated to increase participation of women in their gram panchayats. The program on one hand train the Sakhis and also engage directly with the elected women of the panchayats. There are many schemes, programs and policies for welfare and empowerment of women at village level. However in the absence of strong women leadership, the funds remain unused, the benefits of the schemes don't reach to the potential beneficiaries and women's issues are not heard. The Panchayat Sakhi program exactly targets these areas through its Sakhis and through the elected women members.

The program covers 40 Gram panchayats, about 180 elected women and thousands of women voters, who are also the members of the Gramsabhas and Gramsabha committees.

When the program was launched in 40 Gram panchayats, it was observed that elected women, both Sarpanch and members both were not motivated enough to participate in panchayat work, nor they aware of their responsibilities. Their presence was restricted to attend monthly meetings or



Activities Under Panchayat Sakhi Program Are In Progress

any such meetings and signing wherever they had

been asked to sign. Even the Panchayat Sakhis had no motivation nor did they have enough information, skills to discharge their duties. So starting with Panchayat Sakhis the program slowly reached to other elected women members of the panchayats. Following role for Panchayat Sakhis was envisaged:

- Ensure participation of all elected women in panchayat work
- Facilitate Gramsabha and women's participation in gramsabha. Also activate Gramsabha committees for collective decision making.
- Ensure funds allocated for women are utilized and policies, programs and schemes for women are properly implemented.
- Support, help and guide women members of panchayat.

Besides the elected members, there are functionaries at panchayat level and this machinery is supervised by the block and district level officials. Thus it is important to involve the officials and office bearers of block and district level. The district and block officials were given information about the program and they extended their support by participating in workshops and trainings organized for the Panchayat Sakhis and for the elected members. The officials included the additional CEO of Nagpur Zilla Parishad, BDO, MNREGA block and district officials. Like the officials, support from office bearers of block and district level were also

drawn for the strengthening of the program. The president of block and members of district body always provide help and support to the program. The concept of Panchayat Sakhi program is appreciated by both officials and office bearers as despite being elected to the post, women members need lot of training, mentoring and support to strengthen their leadership.

*Varsha is a deputy sarpanch and Panchayat Sakhi of **Gumgaon Gram Panchayat**. Though she holds an important post, however she was not aware of the funds, schemes, functioning of panchayats etc. Being a small panchayat, they always receive small funds as their population size is small, but the whole village was troubled in rainy season when the water surrounds the village and commuting becomes very difficult as the low height bridge is submerged in water.*

*Gumgaon also has Manganese mines operated by **Manganese Ore India Limited (MOIL)** this water logging was chiefly caused by the mines and thus the mines must compensate the trouble created by their operation. The villagers have been asking the MOIL to resolve their problem, however they kept assuring them. Varsha when joined as PS, learnt many things and her daring, leadership and communication skills improved and as a result she can finally mobilize resources from MOIL to restructure the bridge.*

As mentioned in the above paras, training, mentoring, workshops are regularly organized for elected women. During such events, **Prakriti** provide them copies of the schemes, policies, provision and also update them as how to make use of these allocations for the village. As a result the elected women feel motivated to work. Some of the elected women while sharing their experience, mentioned that now they take along Prakriti's notebook to panchayat meeting and take notes of the meeting, the Secretary and other male members are amazed to see these women taking notes and also make fun of them... but these women members don't feel bothered and keep taking the notes. Also unlike earlier times, they don't sign without seeking satisfactory answers. This is a welcome change, however it will take more time and efforts to influence all women members.

All gram panchayats now receive direct funds sanctioned by the finance commission for the development of infrastructure of the village. Similarly there are many other schemes and funds which are directly received by the panchayats. However the women members are not much aware of these resources and when they demand some work then they mostly receive the answer that the funds are not available. With Panchayat Sakhi program, all elected women members are made aware of the funds at their panchayat level and they were given a task to find out the funds received and Own Source Revenue (OSR). When PanchayatSakhis and elected members collected this information about funds, they felt happy to see the size of funds available and the unused funds.

***Lakshmi, Sarpanch of Isapur Gram Panchayat**, could mobilise some million rupees by auctioning the RetiGhat. Initially she was very happy that she could get this big money. However even before the money is received, the members and villagers posed many demands before her like construction of a temple, construction of road etc. Now Lakshmi is unable to satisfy everyone's demand. She now feel that mobilising resources alone is not sufficient, but putting the money to right use is equally important.*

The Panchayat Sakhis feel empowered as they progressing and collecting experience. Monthly review and planning meeting, mentoring, field based support, exposure, training take care some of the activities conducted for Panchayat Sakhis during the reporting period. **Padma, Manisha, Sangeeta, Surekha** were very calm and reluctant in the beginning of the program. Now they have become active, and vocal and never miss any panchayat meeting or any government function. Infact in Padma's gram panchayat, the sarpanch has developed serious health problems and as a result she is not able to attend to gram panchayat work, so it is Padma who is available for all support. This transformation in their personality is beneficial for the panchayat, for the women and for Padma's family as well.

During the covid lockdown the Panchayat Sakhis provided timely support and help to the covid affected persons, they also monitored the health and hygiene and motivated villagers for vaccination.

Work for employment generation under MNREGA is another area, where Panchayat Sakhis effectively contributed. Learning Labor budget, suggesting work to be included into Shelf of proposals

4. Women And Land Rights Program –

Prakriti has been working on economic empowerment of women and securing sustainable livelihood for rural women in Nagpur, Chandrapur and Akola districts for some years. In Akola district the women with whom Prakriti work are widows from suicide affected farmers families. While working on these issues, Prakriti team realized that Land plays a very crucial role in the lives of women from agrarian households and also from non-agrarian household, as the main source of livelihood for women is farming. So when this program on women and land rights was launched, by **Womanity Foundation**, Prakriti was approached and the discussion was started in December 2020. Later, the call for proposal was given and after rounds of scrutiny and dialogue, finally FIVE partners were selected from different states of India and Prakriti is one of the five partners and the program was rolled in December 2021

The program is implemented in 30 villages of Nagpur rural and has the following objectives:

- A) To create awareness about land rights of women
- B) To increase access, decision making and control of women over land

The project implementation team has three members, while women leaders are also identified from the targeted villages. The project implementation team in the months of January and February made frequent visits to the villages and collected the needed information. They also identified the women leaders. In February, the selection and orientation for women leaders was organized and each leader was oriented about the objective and outcomes of the project.

Here are some of the salient observation with regard to the status of women and land rights in the identified 30 villages of Nagpur district:

- There is 30 to 40% decrease in farm based livelihood of women (in terms of days of a work per farming season) This primarily is due to decrease in agriculture , and low agricultural output .
- Most of women feel farming is most sustainable and safe source of livelihood

- Mostly land is owned by male members of the family and women have minimal knowledge about their land rights.
- Only widows were found having land on their names, after the death of their husband
- Women want to safeguard the land and do not consider it for monetization, however male members consider land as an asset for monetization.
- Over the years, due to fragmentation the land per household is reduced considerably resulting in low agricultural output per household.
- There is no awareness about common land and at no village any project or activity of land based livelihood activity was found.

The functionaries at the village level, like the Gramsevak, Patwari, etc are not very supportive and sometime due to lack of support from authorities and work pressure also delays the documentation process. Thus the project also aim at sensitizing the machinery and involving Gramsabhas in support of women's land rights. During the reporting period, small meetings with SHG women, panchayat members and women victims of violence and injustice were conducted. Womanity foundation organised virtual meeting of its partners in the month of January, where the partners had the opportunity to introduce their work in general and land rights related work in particular.



Meeting With Women Leaders

5. Other Activities

- In corona pandemic related lockdown, there was severe damage to humans and to our economy. Maharashtra state topped Indian state with respect to Corona cases. Nagpur was one of the six districts which were affected the most in the second wave, between March-June 2021. Many young men succumbed to Corona, and their wife, parents and children affected severely. As these men who succumbed to Corona, were also the bread winner of the family, with their loss, the family was in deep trouble. The state and district administration has taken certain steps to provide relief to such widows, and a task force has also been formed. In this connection a state wide survey of Corona widows was undertaken and Prakriti took the responsibility of conducting the survey in Nagpur district. This survey is conducted with the initiative and supervision of **Dr. Neelam Gorhe, Deputy Speaker of Maharashtra State Legislative Council**. Though limited samples were to be collected in this state wide survey, but Prakriti aims to reach out to all corona widows in its project villages in Nagpur Rural.
- **Delhi Public School, Nagpur** branch has organized a webinar on Women's equality on 26th August. Prakriti was invited as resource person for this webinar. On behalf of Prakriti, **Ms. Pratibha** and **Ms. Monika** participated and explained the concept of Women equality and how the same is focussed in the various activities and programmes of Prakriti.

- **Mahila Kisan Adhikar Manch, Maharashtra** has identified two women leaders from the districts of Maharashtra having its active members and these women leaders are given training on various subjects so that they can help other women of their work area. From Prakriti, **Smt. Archana Keche** and **Smt. Lakshmi Gajbhiye** are attending these trainings. These trainings started from August 2020 and will be completed in October, 2021. Lakshmi Gajbhiye was invited as speaker in the zoom meeting organized at State level, titled as “Chavadi Savitirichi”. In this meeting women leaders across Maharashtra shared their positive work experience during corona lockdown.
- At MAKAAAM, national a theme group on farm suicide has been constituted; from Prakriti **Ms. Suvarna Damle** is member of this group. On line meeting of the members of this group was held on **11th August**, and review of status on farmers’ suicides in the states of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telengana and Karnantaka was taken by the members and it was decided to have dialogue with women’s commission, NABARD and Ministry of WCD to act on what is committed during the national meeting held in New Delhi in January 2020.
- In 2019-2020, Prakriti has proposed names of few women volunteers to be inducted as Paralegal volunteers in the District legal Services authority. These PLV s have done good work during corona lockdown which was published in the Nagpur edition of Time of India.
- In the month of September **Ms. Bharati Vitankar** and **Pratibha Ukey** participated in online training of photo story conducted by **Chambal Media**. A Photo Story of Prakriti’s journey since its foundation was created. Here is the link of the photo story <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1W1qOvrky0xfnGh8OsPGx-2EeJAchURKk/view?usp=sharing>
- Representatives of Chetna Vikas organization alongwith elected members from Wardha district visits to Prakriti’s Panchayat Sakhi Program in December. They interacted with project team, Panchayat Sakhi and elected women members with whom Panchayat Sakhi work.



Representatives of Chetna Vikas Visited Panchayat Sakhi Program

6. Study / Publication / Internships:

- A joint study by AIIMS and IISER Bhopal on impact of government schemes and programs on mental health of farmers, Prakriti team was involved to share experience with respect to “Mental Health Program” and status of women farmers in Vidarbha and Nagpur. It is a global study focusing resource poor countries. At present data is being compiled and the final report findings will be shared in world economic forum.

- A story on suicide among women farmers was published in [Article-14](https://www.article-14.com/post/-climate-change-makes-the-hard-life-of-india-s-invisible-women-farmers-harder-61f0c2328a5be) <https://www.article-14.com/post/-climate-change-makes-the-hard-life-of-india-s-invisible-women-farmers-harder-61f0c2328a5be> by a Pune based journalist. Women farmers from Nagpur and farm widows from Akola district featured in this story



- A study was conducted by Intern from **Azim Premji University** on “**Land, Caste and Gender**” based on the experience from field area of Nagpur district center. Two set of samples were drawn for the purpose of this study –
 1. Those who owned land and
 2. Those who do not own land

Following are the major findings of this study

- ✓ There were families that were neither historically or socially landless, but sold their land due to time and other family demands such as debt, family marriages, alcoholism, and at times disease.
- ✓ Many landless families relied on rented land to feed their families. Only a few families possessed cattle and relied on their milk for income.
- ✓ When it came to migration, I didn't come across a single home where a member had travelled outside of the state, or even the district.
- ✓ Despite the fact that a few families possessed a Job Card, the hamlet as a whole did not take advantage of the MGNREGA.
- ✓ In comparison to males, women in the community were more educated and enterprising.
- ✓ In many cases, the rural women were better educated than the males in their households. Many males in the hamlet are unemployed, and women juggle more tasks (both within and outside the home) than men.
- ✓ On the farm, hiring labour is a fairly simple and straightforward operation. Contrary to popular belief, the majority of marginal farmers (women farmers) work as labourers on other people's farms.
- ✓ The unease that comes with remaining away from family is the main cause for people's apprehension about moving outside of the state for job. This is compounded by the fact that, even after working abroad, the money earned there is frequently comparable to the money earned in their town - when they are with their family.
- ✓ Additionally, several participants advised that the government try to increase job possibilities. A few interviewees also mentioned how preparing young people for professional occupations may influence the way young people saw life in general.
- ✓ This is compounded by the fact that, even after working abroad, the money earned there is frequently comparable to the money earned in their town when they are with their family.

7. Future Plan :

As is mentioned in the report, this year Prakriti for the first time started program exclusively for small land holder women farmers on livelihood promotion and the program is well received. This program has also connected Prakriti with other livelihood/ agriculture groups across the state and nation. So Prakriti plan to strengthen this program by adding additional land based livelihood options like rearing animals, poultry, kitchen garden etc. In the coming times, it is planned to reserve the seeds, reach out to more small women farmers, associate with government agriculture programs and revive belief in food security through farming.

The **Panchayat Sakhi** program is always evolving and holds lot of scope for expansion, scaling up and replication as the PRIS and elected women across the nation need support, guidance, and capacity building. Prakriti has good experience of implementing this program for many years and thus there are offers to replicate the program in other new districts. In the coming year the program will be implemented in more districts and more women elected members will be trained so that their leadership is strengthened.

With more small women farmers showing interest in **Swavalambi Sheti(Agro- bio diverse farming) , Prakriti** plan to make this program sustainable by preserving seeds for next crop, exchange of seeds, converging with MNREGS, etc Through this program Prakriti is also connected with other NGOs, networks working on similar issues in Maharashtra and other parts of the nation.

For providing relief, legal support and temporary shelter the One Stop Crisis center (OSC) is functioning, besides there is dedicated police department to address domestic violence issues. Despite these facilities affected women and girls approach Prakriti to seek support and help. In the past few years, there is increase in cases registered by husbands against their wives over martial disputes. **Prakriti's counselling center** is located in rural area and women can easily approach the center anytime during the working hours. Gender sensitive approach, free counselling and proper documentation of each case are the reason that why women or family members prefer Prakriti. As the counselling center is run without any kind of support from outside, there are limitations to the functioning of the center. However, considering the need of the center, **Prakriti** will continue to run the center.

Students, researchers, research institutions, academic institutions approach for the placement of their students. Students and PhD scholars too approach Prakriti for collecting data and to learn from **Prakriti's** experience. So the programs implemented by Prakriti and its impact and outcome provides learning for the students and researchers. There is discussion going on in Prakriti to create learning spaces in the organization. These learning spaces will be helpful for the outsiders and for those who are associated with Prakriti and wish to align their knowledge and skills with **Prakriti**.

In its journey of Prakriti, since 1990, there have been many friends, patrons, well-wishers, supporters, funding partners, donors without whom this long journey would not have possible. The women community, for whom Prakriti work is its biggest strength and reason to work. Through this report Prakriti express its honest gratitude to all the donors, well-wishers, friends and patrons.

8. Annexure :

A. List of Donors

- **R.G. Manudhane Foundation For Excellence**
- **SOPPECOM - Society For Promoting Participative Ecosystem Management**
- **Womanity Foundation**
- **MAKAAM- Mahila Kisan Adhikar Manch**
- **Schlumberger India Technology Center Provate Limited**
- **Urmi Pandit Charitable Trust, Nagpur**
- **Shri. Sunil Chavan, Mumbai**

B. Partners

- 1. Guild of Services, New Delhi**
- 2. Multiple Action Research Group, New Delhi**
- 3. Aamhi Aamachya Aarogyasathi**
- 4. Society for Promoting Participative Ecosystem Management**
- 5. Chetna Vikas**
- 6. Mahila Kisan Adhikar Manch**
- 7. All India Institute of Local Self Government**
- 8. MASUM**
- 9. Tata Institute of Social Sciences**
- 10. Azim Premji University**
- 11. Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj University**
- 12. IISER, bhopal**

C. List Of Board Members –

Sr. No	Name	Designation
1.	Dr. Shri. Rajeev Kulkarni	Chairperson, Prakriti
2.	Shri. Subhash Gogate	Vice Chairperson, Prakriti
3.	Smt. Shobha Sakharwade	Secretary, Prakriti
4.	Smt. Suvarna Damle	Executive Director, Prakriti
5.	Shri. Ravinder Kumar Sharda	Treasurer, Prakriti
6.	Dr. Smt. Rajni Patni	Member, Prakriti
7.	Dr. Ms. Jahnvi Andharia	Member, Prakriti
8.	Shri Saravan Kumar	Member, Prakriti
9.	Ms. Sunita Bagal	Member, Prakriti

D. List Of Prakriti Staff –

Sr. No	Name	Designation
1	Ms. Pratibha Ukey	Project Coordinator
2	Ms. Monika Gadve	Project Coordinator
3	Ms. Vaishali Haste	Project Coordinator
4	Ms. Pradnya Mandpe	Asst. Project Coordinator
5	Ms. Pooja Ledange	Asst. Project Coordinator
6	Ms. Bharati Vitankar	Administrator
7	Mr. Rahul Mandpe	Accountant
8	Ms. Shilpa Namjoshi	Coordinator
9	Ms. Shalini Wankhade	Social Worker
10	Ms. Vandana Sakhare	Office Assistant
11	Ms. Leena Patle	Office Assistant
12	Mr. Dharmaraj Sidam	Driver
13	Ms. Savita Thakur	Helper
14	Mr. Hemraj Kove	Helper
15	Mr. Nagorao Kadu	Watchman
16	Mr. Baban Nakhale	Watchman
17	Mr. Rangrao Fuljhele	Watchman
18	Mr. Madan Dahake	Watchman
19	Mr. Prakash Dhoke	Watchman
20	Mr. Chandrakumar Wasnik	Gardner

