

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2020-21

Working on sustainable development  
initiatives for rural and urban communities  
in India since 1975



**GEAG ANNUAL REPORT**  
2020-21

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

We would like to sincerely thank Ms. Sabita Kaushal for compiling the Annual Report.

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# Foreword



**Dr. Shiraz A. Wajih**  
President

Yet another year with achievements and challenges due to COVID-19. The heavy floods in our project areas of Gandak and Kosi river basins and large number of migrants returning to villages with their pain, sufferings and health, forced us to respond to these difficult situations by extending helping hand to our community members. This also proved that even the small piece of land in the village is the 'permanent address' of the migrants and in difficult times, a big hope for them and their families. We are grateful to our donors and supporters in such timely need.

Challenges teach lessons and force us to evolve mechanisms to adapt to changing situation. Our teams did their best in these trying times-sometimes even compromising their own health and welfare and managing the continuity of work inspite of lockdown limitations.

We are grateful to our donors and supporters for their contribution enabling us to continue the best efforts for marginalized communities. I am also thankful to our Executive Board for their guidance and value addition in ongoing work. We thank all our well-wishers for their continued encouragement and blessings.

# Abbreviations

<b>ANM</b>	Auxiliary Nurse Midwife
<b>ASHA</b>	Accredited Social Health Activist
<b>ASK</b>	Apna Seva Kendra
<b>AWC</b>	Anganwadi Centre
<b>AWW</b>	Anganwadi Worker
<b>BMZ</b>	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
<b>BSDMA</b>	Bihar State Disaster Management Authority
<b>BSPM</b>	Bal Swasthya Poshan Mah
<b>CAFRI</b>	Climate Adaptation and Finance in Rural India
<b>CCA</b>	Climate Change Adaptation
<b>CDKN</b>	Climate and Development Knowledge Network
<b>CHC</b>	Community Health Centre
<b>CPP</b>	Cow Pit Pat
<b>CRS</b>	Catholic Relief Services
<b>D2D</b>	Door-to-Door
<b>DRR</b>	Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>DST</b>	Department of Science and Technology
<b>EWS</b>	Early Warning System
<b>FRSV</b>	Flood Resistant Smart Villages
<b>FSSAI</b>	Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
<b>GEAG</b>	Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group
<b>GoI</b>	Government of India
<b>GoUP</b>	Government of Uttar Pradesh
<b>GPDP</b>	Gram Panchayat Development Plan
<b>HP</b>	Himachal Pradesh
<b>ICAR</b>	Indian Council of Agriculture Research
<b>IFA</b>	Iron Folic Acid
<b>IGSSS</b>	Indo Global Social Service Society
<b>IIED</b>	International Institute for Environment and Development
<b>LEISA</b>	Low External Input Sustainable Agriculture
<b>LWR</b>	Lutheran World Relief
<b>MHM</b>	Menstrual Hygiene Management
<b>MKSP</b>	Mahila Kisan Sansthaikaran Pariyojana
<b>MNREGA</b>	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
<b>MoEFCC</b>	Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
<b>NABARD</b>	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Government Organization
<b>NHRDF</b>	National Horticulture and Rural Development Foundation
<b>NI</b>	Nutrition International
<b>NIDM</b>	National Institute of Disaster Management
<b>NIUA</b>	National Institute of Urban Affairs
<b>PAT</b>	Panchayat Action Team
<b>PVO</b>	Private Voluntary Organisation
<b>PwC</b>	PricewaterhouseCoopers
<b>RI</b>	Regular Immunization
<b>SHG</b>	Self Help Group
<b>SIRD</b>	State Institute of Rural Development
<b>TAF</b>	The Asia Foundation
<b>TBCF</b>	Trans-Boundary Citizen Forum
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UP</b>	Uttar Pradesh
<b>VDMC</b>	Village Disaster Management Committee
<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
<b>WIFAS</b>	Weekly Iron Folic Acid Supplementation
<b>WIFS</b>	Weekly Iron Folic Acid Supplementation

# The Organisation



Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group (GEAG) is a voluntary organization working on sustainable development initiatives for rural and urban communities in India since 1975, with emphasis on agriculture-based livelihoods, climate change resilience, disaster risk reduction, and health, water and sanitation issues. Learning and adapting, GEAG has come a long way from its modest beginnings four decades back, working on issues relevant in today's fast changing environment, backed by a team that is diverse, experienced and highly motivated.

Over the years, GEAG has conducted numerous capacity building trainings, workshops and programmes for various stakeholders that include women farmers, civil society groups, government officials and professionals. Strengthening its identity as a leading resource institution in the country, GEAG has accomplished several appraisals, studies, researches; giving voice to a large number of vulnerable, voiceless individuals, issues and matters.



## VISION

A society free of inequalities and discrimination that ensures equal rights to all, especially the marginalised sections comprising women, children and poverty-stricken farming communities through equitable distribution of services, resources and opportunities.

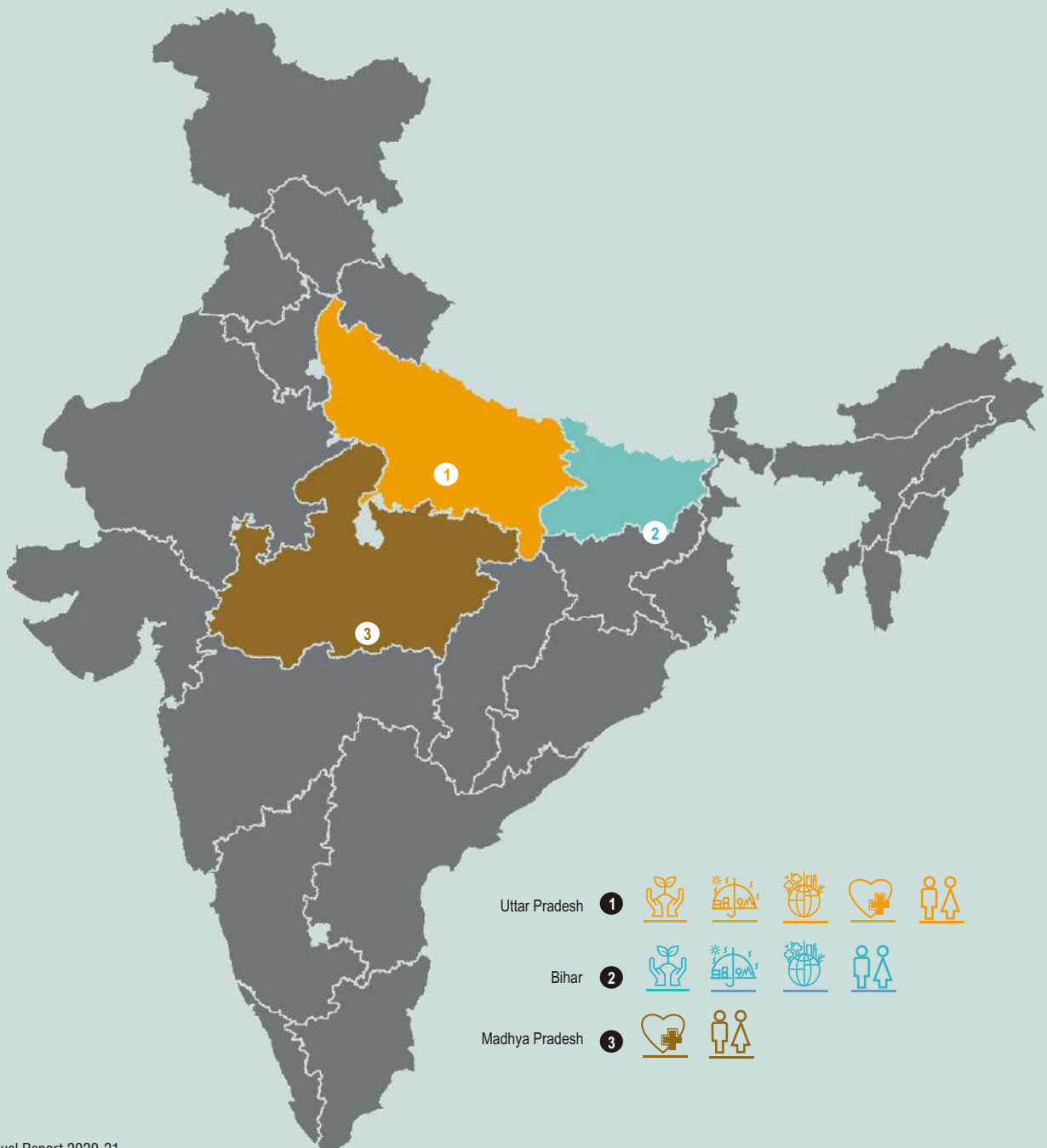


## MISSION

To create enabling environment for deprived communities in order to improve the quality of life with special attention to women and children for inclusive and equitable development.

# GEAG's Footprint

Under the shadow of the COVID pandemic, GEAG continued to move ahead one step at a time, working with fifteen partner organisations on seventeen varied projects across the country, covering eight focus areas that included agriculture-based livelihoods, climate change resilience, water and sanitation, disaster risk reduction, health and gender.





# Technology Innovation for Empowering Marginalized Communities in Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar (Core support Program )

The programme supported by SEED Division, Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology, GoI is being implemented in the districts of Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh and West Champaran in Bihar. A total 18 villages (13 from Gorakhpur and 5 from West Champaran) have been selected, to empower marginalized farming communities in these flood prone areas of Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, and promote technology innovation.

The key objective of the project is to evolve participatory technologies to help small and marginal farmers, especially those belonging to marginalised groups such as Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe, to conserve soil and enhance its productivity for sustained food production. The programme also aims at developing gender-friendly technologies to reduce the drudgery of women in agriculture and support in food production activities.

## Main activities

- ♦ **Evolved technologies and transferred to community:** In the reporting year, a total of 11 technologies were introduced and initiated with the support of small and marginal farmers. These included practices related with farming in waterlogged areas, easy handling of agricultural tools like weeding and hoeing equipment, Groundnut Dehusker and Turmeric Steam Boiler. Besides this, the team promoted organic farming and enhanced their capacity to prepare bio-insect repellent and fungicide-based bio compost. A total 364 farmers benefited from these technologies.
- ♦ **Conducted Skill Development Programme:** Twenty-three trainings programs were organized on different thematic sectors that included agriculture, machinery, composting and resilient agriculture. Through these training sessions, 367 farmers were schooled and benefited.
- ♦ **Strengthened community led institutions into social enterprises:** Three Self Help Groups (SHGs) have reinforced into social-enterprises. They now produce bio-insect repellent, fungicide-based compost and CPP



(cow pit pat) on commercial scale, marketing these products through farmer producer group.

## Outcomes and Impacts

- ♦ Adoption of scientific approach in farming resulted in 30-33 percent reduction in crop loss
- ♦ Resilient farming techniques reduced chemical input cost from market by 38 percent
- ♦ Land protection of 14.8 acres occurred from soil erosion through improved bunding and use of biomass for composting
- ♦ More than 2,000 farmers used weather and agro-advisory in agricultural practices, enhanced their profit margins by reduction in crop losses

- ◆ Nine Agro Service Centres linked with Surbhi Beej Company Pvt. Ltd., and received subsidy worth 12 lakh rupees from Farm Machinery Banks
- ◆ Two SHGs members (model farmers) bestowed awards for significant performance on their lands by national and international organisation

Ram Nivas Maurya, from village Rakhukhor, Gorakhpur, awarded for diversified agriculture related activities by Indian agriculture minister and ICAR Eastern region, Patna (Bihar) on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2020.

Chohadi Devi, of village Pachgawan, awarded 'Earth Day Star farmer' by Earth Day Network (USA based organization) for her innovative work on bio composting and technology development on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2020.

### Resilient farming techniques reduced chemical input cost from market by 38 percent





# Congregational Transboundary Flood Resilience Project

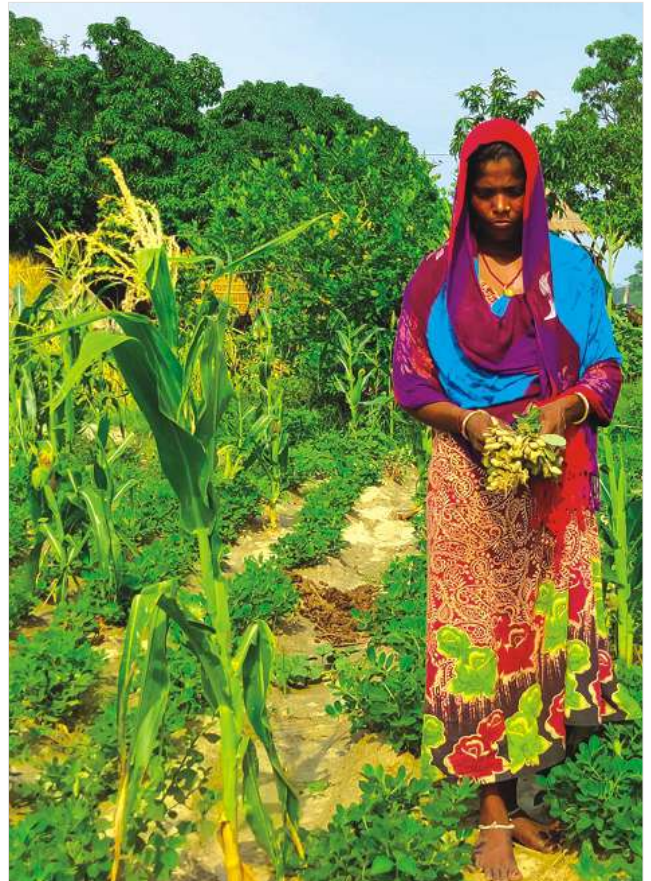
With the support of Lutheran World Relief (LWR), this project aims to improve the resilience and reduce the flood induced vulnerability of the flood prone communities in the trans-boundary settings of the Koshi and Narayani/Gandak river basins of India. Eleven villages from West Champaran and Supaul districts of Bihar fall under its intervention areas.

## Main activities

- ◆ Institutionalized community based Early Warning System (EWS)
- ◆ Formed, strengthened and linked Village Disaster Management Committee (VDMC) to adaptation and DRR related government schemes
- ◆ Aided insurance promotion activities and SHGs strengthening
- ◆ Improved resilient community infrastructures
- ◆ Enhanced flood resilient livelihoods (Community Adopted Climate Resilient Smart Agricultural Practices)
- ◆ Conducted and boosted multi stakeholder consultation and linkage and networking with existent government programs

## Outcomes and Impacts

- ◆ EWS optimised emergency response in all Flood Resistant Smart Villages (FRSV), enhanced preparedness; and thereby increased adaptive capacity and reduced crop losses
- ◆ Independent functioning, improved leadership in VDMC; better linkages and advocacy with government department; linkages with SHGs for resources generation at local level
- ◆ Safety-net options improved communities' economic capital, gave them access to revolving fund, improved insurance and social welfare linkages
- ◆ Disaster resilient community infrastructure like drainage, embankment built
- ◆ Establishment of temporary shelter, raised water tank
- ◆ Utilization of community managed grain and seed bank; Linkages with concerned department
- ◆ Availability of safe drinking water, handpump chlorination, household sanitization
- ◆ 372 farmers improved economic capitals through climate-smart flood-resilient livelihoods and safety-net options by adopting hanging vegetable farming, raised bed nursery, multilayer farming, portable vermicomposting, community boards for information dissemination and low-cost onion storage options
- ◆ 17 villages linked with National Horticulture and Rural development Foundation (NHRDF), Deoria and Laxmi Producer Company, Deoria



**17 villages linked with National Horticulture and Rural development Foundation (NHRDF), Deoria and Laxmi Producer Company, Deoria**

## Promotion of Farmer Producer Organisation

This project that covers twenty-seven villages in district Gorakhpur of Uttar Pradesh, is supported by NABARD, with an objective to enhance incomes of associated small and marginal farmers by ensuring better access to market and to build capacities of community-based institutions like farmers groups, through various livelihoods interventions.

### Main activities

- ◆ Sales and marketing of agricultural inputs that include essentials such as fertilizers, seeds and agri-commodities
- ◆ Value addition of agri-commodities through processes that involve sorting, grading, packaging, storage and processing
- ◆ Liaison with government organizations for access to improved practices and beneficial schemes
- ◆ D2D (door-to-door) input delivery and procurement of farm produce

### Outcomes and Impacts

- ◆ Farmer's capacity enhanced due to reduced inputs, value addition to farm products, improved marketing and healthier profits
- ◆ Easy procurement of farm product, D2D delivery helped farmers cope during COVID pandemic situations
- ◆ Linkages established through collective marketing helped gain better price for farm produce
- ◆ Obtained various license and certification for farmers, such as FSSAI license, seed certification, *mandi* license, GST/TAN
- ◆ Number of shareholders increased to 928, and 4,925 farmers were provided with above mentioned services
- ◆ In the process of establishing Farm Machinery Bank through government linkages



**4,925 farmers provided with services of collective marketing, licenses and certification, easy procurement and D2D delivery**



## Scoping Assessment in Uttar Pradesh

GIZ, on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), partners with the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) in implementing Indo-German Technical Cooperation projects on climate change. The Climate Adaptation and Finance in Rural India (CAFRI) project is part of the action field “Climate Adaptation and Financing” of the programme “Climate and Environment in Rural Areas of India”. In Uttar Pradesh (UP), CAFRI is working with Department of Environment as the nodal partner.

A Scoping Assessment in Uttar Pradesh was undertaken under the same by GEAG, supported by GIZ, India with an objective to identify vulnerable target groups, regions and sectors (at least 3 priority sectors) in the context of climate change impacts and identify adaptation needs. The assessment further aimed at mapping relevant state and centrally funded schemes and departments/ institutions vis-à-vis identified vulnerable sectors and target groups, and develop capacity building strategies to support mainstreaming of climate adaptation in development planning process.

### Main activities

- ◆ Desk review on climate and hazard vulnerabilities in different agro-climatic zones of UP, data mining on climate exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity
- ◆ Understand climate change impacts on different sectors
- ◆ Map relevant government programmes and schemes to link with climate adaptation actions
- ◆ Shared Learning Dialogues with Directorate of Environment, GoUP, Sectoral Experts in different agro-climatic regions of UP, consultations with training institutes such as State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD), GoUP, Panchayati Raj Training Institute and other government departments
- ◆ Data analysis to identify vulnerable agro-climatic regions in UP, priority sectors that need to be taken up for building climate adaptation actions and vulnerable target groups for addressing their adaptation needs



### Outcomes and Impacts

- ◆ Identified vulnerable agro-climatic regions in UP, specifically Bundelkhand, Vidarbha and north-eastern plains
- ◆ Priority sectors identified as Agriculture and allied, Water Resources and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)
- ◆ Vulnerable target groups identified as Women SHGs under *Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana* (MKSP), GoUP and *Panchayati Raj* Institution members with a focus on GPDP addressing three key sectors
- ◆ Final report of the Scoping Assessment in UP drafted and submitted to GIZ India. Based on this, capacity development packages are being developed by GoUP for identified target groups

**Data analysis to identify vulnerable agro-climatic region in UP, priority sectors and vulnerable target groups**

# Develop Capacity Development Package on Climate Change Adaptation for selected target groups in Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh

GIZ, on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), partners with Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) in implementing Indo-German Technical Cooperation projects on climate change. In this context a follow up initiative “Climate Change Adaptation and Finance in Rural India” (CAFRI) as an integral part of the BMZ programme “Climate and Environment in Rural India” was initiated in January 2020 in partnership with MoEFCC. The overall aim of this project is to support partners in reducing climate change risks for vulnerable groups and sectors as well as capacity building of actors (different levels) in the planning, implementation and financing of climate adaptation initiatives at the State level. The project further supports stakeholders at the national and subnational level in policy formulation, preparation and implementation of tools and instruments which address climate change adaptation.

In this context, GEAG along with adelphi, Germany and CTRAN, Odisha, is working on this ongoing project to develop a capacity building package cum tool kit for the target group and associated stakeholders with the aim of mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) into local planning through following processes:

- ◆ Awareness raising and training of stakeholders in participatory, needs-based, gender responsive manner

- ◆ Evidence-based adaptation planning and adaptation project development
- ◆ Engagement with local administration and line departments in priority areas to leverage financing and support implementation process of adaptation-related project

## Main activities

- ◆ Develop Capacity Building Packages for two target groups Women SHGs under *Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana* (MKSP), GoUP and *Panchayati Raj* Institution members with a focus on Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) that address three key sectors of Agriculture and allied, Water resources and DRR
- ◆ Develop Guidance Notes for relevant government departments to implement climate adaptation actions

## Outcomes and Impacts

- ◆ An ongoing project; Several rounds of consultations with Directorate of Environment, GoUP, SIRD and other departments carried out to brainstorm for inputs for capacity development packages





# Building Livelihood Resilience in Small and Marginal Farmers to Combat Hunger

The project focus is to enhance the resilience capacity of local communities in fifteen villages of Mahoba district in Uttar Pradesh. Aided by the Indo Global Social Service Society (IGSSS), community-based organizations learn to adapt drought and hunger proofing measures to build and boost their livelihood resilience.

## Main activities

- ◆ Trained climate volunteers to build capacity on basic understanding of climate change phenomenon to deal better with extreme climate events, as well as improve the community's awareness levels on climate change
- ◆ Trained Panchayat Action Team (PAT) members to understand and appreciate community issues; to work through an integrated approach towards Social Audit Process, Social Analysis and community mobilization, as well as build their capacities on advocacy process
- ◆ Conducted Farmer Field Schools on regular basis in all villages
- ◆ Disseminated climate related essential information to 458 farmers in the intervention villages

## Outcomes and Impacts

- ◆ Improved climate resilient agriculture understanding among farmers; they have adopted resilient practices in their traditional agriculture system
- ◆ Healthy convergence system evolved between felt needs of the communities and line departments
- ◆ SMS-based weather advisory has capacitated farmers by providing climate related information, and they have used this information and gained benefits in terms of reduced input costs and maximized benefits
- ◆ Greater awareness among communities on government related schemes and program



**Climate related essential information disseminated to 458 farmers in intervention villages**

## Core Group Polio Project (CGPP)

With the objective to build effective partnership between private voluntary organizations (PVOs), NGOs and international, national and regional organizations involved in polio eradication, GEAG partners with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to strengthen national and regional immunization system in ten blocks of Mau and Sitapur districts of Uttar Pradesh. The main focus lies in supporting NGO involvement in national and regional planning as well as in implementation of supplementary immunization activity (SIA).

### Main activities

- ◆ Improved coordination between frontline workers like ASHA, ANM, AWW and CMC for improving vaccination coverage
- ◆ Engaged influencers to motivate communities to improve coverage of SIA and RI vaccination
- ◆ Organised interpersonal communication sessions with caretakers (0-5 years old children & pregnant mothers) for childhood immunization on regular basis
- ◆ Formed Community Action Groups that include *pradhan*, ASHA, ANM, AWW and other community influencers
- ◆ Conducted awareness drive for regular immunization (RI) on regular basis

### Outcomes and Impacts

- ◆ Increase in routine immunization coverage and booth coverage
- ◆ Quality of mothers' meetings improved over the period
- ◆ RI became government's priority, and additional RI camps organized in project area
- ◆ Reduction in families who were openly resistant and refused vaccination
- ◆ Decline in number of missed houses and missed children



**Decline in number of missed houses and missed children during RI**

## Mission Gaurav, Migrants Support Program in response to Covid-19

Migrants across the country faced chaos and unpredictability during the COVID-19 crisis, and were affected in a disproportionate manner, both economically and socially. The Mission Gaurav project, under the aegis of Tata Trust, aims to enhance community resilience from COVID-19 through mass awareness and doorstep facilitation in accessing government scheme benefits. The focus of this initiative is to ensure that immediate support is available to community in form of food security, cash transfers and livelihood linkages. There are 587 intervention villages from Gorakhpur district in Uttar Pradesh under this project.

### Main activities

- ◆ Established *Apna Seva Kendra* (ASK) where people get information on government schemes and register themselves easily online as per their requirement
- ◆ Held Awareness Camps on COVID-19 under the programme for community
- ◆ Carried out household survey of migrant families and baseline data of family recorded through hard copies and Delta App
- ◆ Conducted regular meetings and follow-up with concerned government officials

### Outcomes and Impacts

- ◆ 62,277 migrant families applied online/offline for government schemes
- ◆ Of these 31,014 approved and benefitted under medical facility, MNREGA, PM *Matritva Vandana* scheme, *Janani Surksha* scheme
- ◆ Program brought awareness, hope and ease of facilities in the life of migrant families



**31,014 migrant families approved and benefitted under medical facility, MNREGA, PM *Matritva Vandana*, *Janani Surksha* scheme**



## Adolescent Nutrition Programme, Uttar Pradesh

GEAG is the implementing agency to support this program in collaboration with the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, supported by Nutritional International (NI). It is implemented in 253 blocks of twenty districts spread across eight divisions of Uttar Pradesh. NI has been assigned to work by GoUP in these districts, by providing technical and operational support to the concerned departments and other stakeholders.

### Main activities

- ◆ Support the WIFS program through timely facilitation, distribution, review and monitoring of supply of IFA blue tablets
- ◆ Organise various trainings/orientation on different topics for functionaries in project districts
- ◆ Carried out training of teachers on Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) in Chandauli district
- ◆ State level TOT conducted in January 2021 wherein 10 locals (from Chandauli) were trained, who further orientated 532 teachers
- ◆ Identified and oriented batch of 10 counsellors, who visit schools/AWCs to create awareness among adolescent girls on MHM
- ◆ BSPM rounds organized in state (June and December 2020) as supply of vitamin A was ensured, and successfully facilitated in twenty intervention districts
- ◆ Conducted Knowledge Assessment and counselling on WIFS and Vitamin A supplementation program, that included information on diet diversity and COVID-19 issues

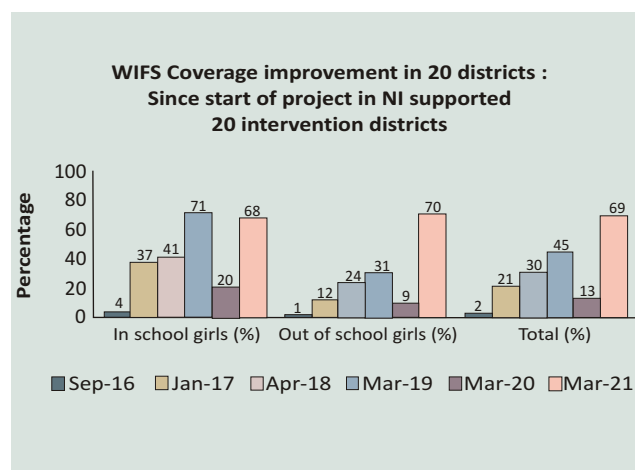


ICDS and Education department bettered from 21, 19 and 21 blocks respectively in September 2016 to 250, 245 and 239 blocks as of March 2021

### Outcomes and Impacts

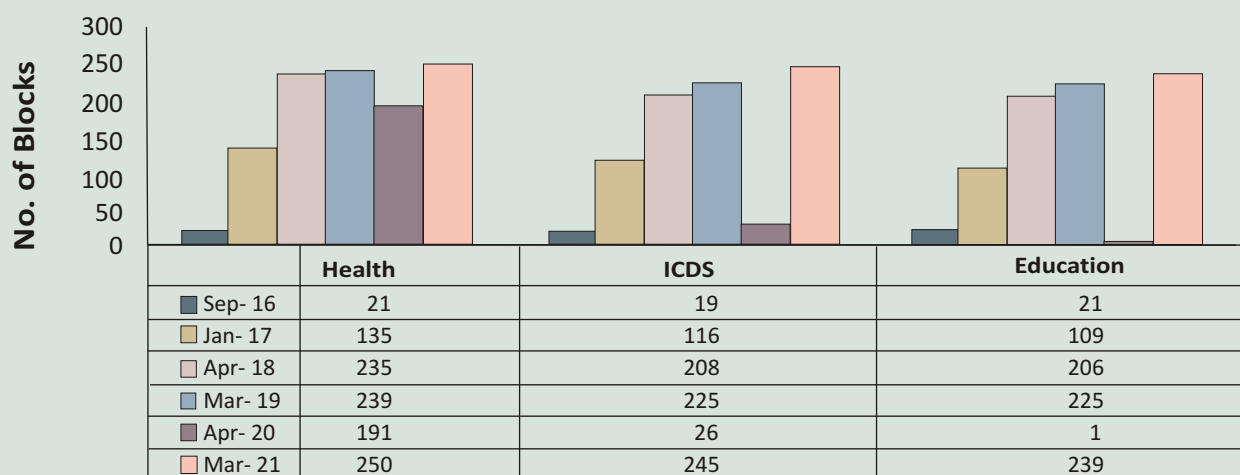
#### Adolescent nutrition intervention (WIFS program)

- ◆ Increase in coverage from 2 percent (September 2016) to 52 percent in March 2021
- ◆ Coverage in schools increased to 64 percent and in out-of-school girls to 69 percent
- ◆ Improved distribution mechanism from district to block and block to service delivery points
- ◆ Enhanced data recording and reporting observed. Out of total 253 intervention blocks reports of health,





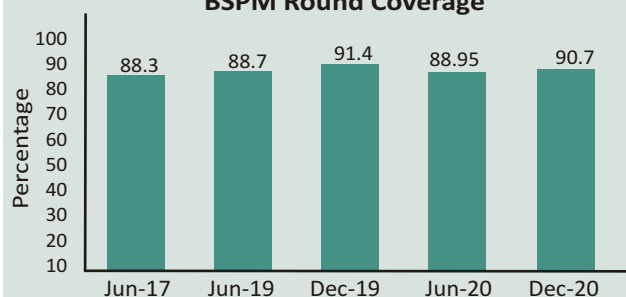
**WIFS Report submitted by departments, Blocks (N-253)**



### Vitamin A Supplementation (BSPM)

- ◆ Improved coverage of BSPM in both rounds in 20 project districts; from 88.3 percent (June 17) to 88.95 percent (June 20) and 90.7percent (December 2020)
- ◆ Improved monitoring and quick responsive corrective measures
- ◆ Improved monitoring by district and block level government officials from health and ICDS departments

**BSPM Round Coverage**



- ◆ Improved data recording and reporting through timely submission of report from the block and district levels

**WIFS coverage increased from two percent in September, 2016 to to fifty two percent in March, 2021**

**BSPM in both rounds in 20 districts improved coverage from 88.3% in June, 2017 to 90.7% in December, 2020**

## Adolescent Nutrition Programme, Madhya Pradesh

To address nutrition deficits in a planned, timely manner during the critical adolescent period is a pre requisite for the future health and well-being of any society. GEAG partnered with Nutrition International for the Adolescent Nutrition Program in Madhya Pradesh, with the aim to improve coverage and consumption of Weekly Iron Folic Acid Supplementation (WIFAS) and promote nutrition counselling and education. This was carried out among both in-school girls and boys and out-of-school adolescent girls in the age group of 10 to 19 years, covering 149 Blocks in 26 districts of Madhya Pradesh.

### Main activities

- ◆ Supported state/ district officials in re-establishing WIFAS program through schools
- ◆ Acceptance of GEAG recommendation to include adequate budget allocation for adolescent health and nutrition interventions in the annual health plan/NHM by district officials
- ◆ Issuance of timely directives to procure adequate WIFA supplies by the district authorities
- ◆ Uninterrupted IFA Blue supply to schools and *anganwadi* centres by districts
- ◆ Carried out supportive supervision of Health, Education and WCD department to ensure service delivery quality of adolescent health and nutrition education with help of existing supervisory staff
- ◆ Strengthened capacity of district and block level officials for planning, implementing, monitoring and reporting systems for WIFAS program in intervention districts
- ◆ Shared gender-sensitive BCI materials on adolescent health & nutrition education previously developed by NI, with state governments youth/peer groups for distribution at a larger scale



### Outcomes and Impacts

- ◆ Timely issue for purchase of IFA Blue for adolescents
- ◆ All twenty-six focussed districts had sufficient stock of IFA Blue tablets throughout the year
- ◆ Madhya Pradesh was at the top position in the *Anaemia Mukh Bharat* Index 2020-21 national ranking, in spite of the dire conditions prevailing due to COVID 19

**Madhya Pradesh ranked 1st in the *Anaemia Mukh Bharat* Index 2020-21**

## WASH Program for Artisan Communities in India

With the objective to support artisan communities to access water, sanitation and hygiene; this project is run across fifteen villages in Bhadohi district in Uttar Pradesh, supported by the John Lewis Foundation. The focus is to develop new skills that will generate income, improve health and enhance the livelihoods of these communities; and support schools attended by the children of artisan workers with access to better water, sanitation and hygiene education which will allow students to be healthier, stay in school longer, and take control of their own futures.

### Main activities

- ◆ Identified water point restoration according to baseline finding
- ◆ Retrofitted rainwater harvesting structures
- ◆ Carried out water quality field testing in all intervention villages
- ◆ Capacity building of frontline workers and volunteers on water resource management and water quality control testing
- ◆ Created and strengthened existing committees for operation and maintenance of existing systems
- ◆ Trained on Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) with follow-up sessions for adolescent girls at school level
- ◆ Conducted community hygiene campaigns
- ◆ Established water, sanitation and hygiene clubs and training in schools
- ◆ Undertook technical support intervention to government institutions

### Outcomes and Impacts

- ◆ Women and men practice handwashing with soap before meals and after using toilet



- ◆ People trained in waste management benefit from new source of income
- ◆ Women reported increased knowledge of good MHM behavior
- ◆ Improved awareness on women's rights and legal provisions to address violence
- ◆ Students practice good hygiene behaviors
- ◆ Girls' participation in awareness/ training programs increased

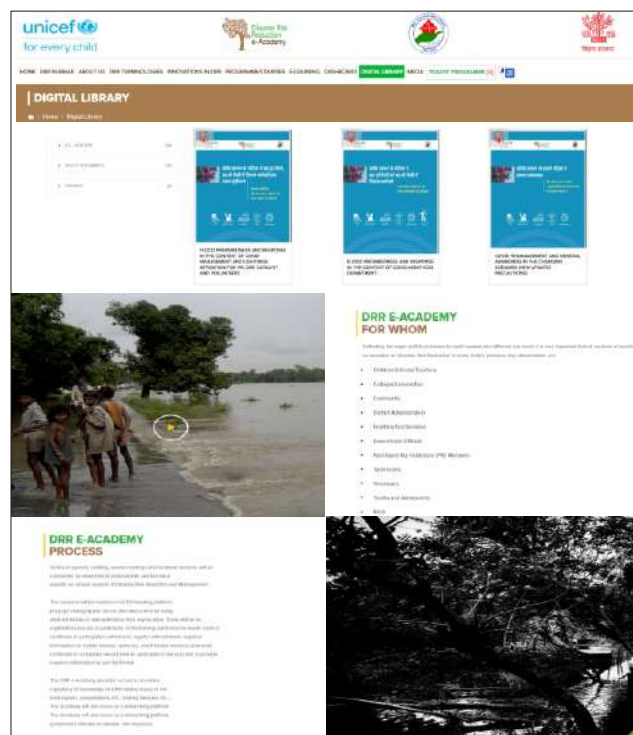
**Increased knowledge of good MHM behavior, women's rights and legal provisions to address violence amongst women**

# Technical Support for COVID 19 Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction in Bihar

The main objective of this program across Bihar, with focus on Gaya and Sitamarhi districts, is to support the state government on adoption of techno-managerial approach, to continue the program implementation of DRR in times of pandemic COVID-19. It aims to develop the risk profile of a district (for reflecting the usage of research-oriented approach for vulnerability reduction by collaborated efforts of all line departments) and role-based guidelines for state field functionaries (VDMC, *Gram sabha*, ASHA etc.) to enhance disaster resiliency in their respective domain amid the COVID pandemic. This program, with the support of UNICEF, Bihar, also lays stress on the capacity building of youth through e-courses on DRR & CCA.

## Main activities

- ◆ Development of Resilient Village Program and other disaster preparedness related documents in context of COVID preparedness integrated DRR
- ◆ Technical assistance to BSDMA in establishment and functioning of DRR e-Academy (An academy required in wake of COVID-19 for training of DRR stakeholders through online mode and to broadcast the digital library comprising of all global and local level materials required for enhancing understanding on DRR)
- ◆ Development of booklets on COVID preparedness integrated DRR for ASHA & ANM, AWW, community and children
- ◆ Development of e-learning portal & e-course materials for youth on integrating DRR & CCA with development and understanding of COVID precautionary measures
- ◆ Technical assistance to Gaya administration for rolling out risk- informed departmental plans for improving vulnerability indicators and implementation of needed actions



## Outcomes and Impacts

- ◆ Established and operationalized DRR e-Academy in wake of COVID-19 -that led to zero hindrance in execution of DRR program by BSDMA in state, even in times of COVID
- ◆ Developed COVID preparedness, integrated DRR documents for field functionaries & communities of Bihar
- ◆ Developed e-learning portal and e-learning courses for youth
- ◆ Revised risk profile of Gaya
- ◆ Trained NGOs and *gram panchayat* representatives in eight districts for developing risk informed Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDG) and implementing Resilient Village Programme (RVP)

**Established and operationalized DRR e-Academy;  
Developed e-learning portal and e-learning courses  
for youth**



## Developing Resilience Capacity of Flood affected Communities

The objective of the project is to develop resilience among the vulnerable and marginalised communities of both *Dhoom Nagar* and *Koiripatti* villages in West Champaran district of Bihar. In partnership with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) India Foundation, this program covers a total of 5,536 households in its intervention area.

### Main activities

- ◆ Created a flood resilient ecosystem plan that includes an ecosystem plan and drainage improvement works
- ◆ Conducted farm-based interventions through improved general awareness on resilient farming practices and promotion of resilient farmers
- ◆ Enhanced capacity building by promotion of fodder management, soil testing and development of IEC material
- ◆ Shared early weather forecast information and agro-advisory through information dissemination and feedback on early weather forecast
- ◆ Carried out COVID-19 situation & flood focus activities that include community level orientation on COVID prevention measures, orientation on safe drinking water during floods, chlorination of handpumps, deworming and vaccination campaign for livestock and household sanitization

### Outcomes and Impacts

- ◆ Reduced crop losses in waterlogged situations
- ◆ Farmers confident to conduct and adopt resilient farming practices like hanging vegetable farming, raised bed nursery, multilayer farming, portable vermicomposting, community boards for information dissemination and low-cost onion storage
- ◆ Twenty selected lead farmers have adopted these practices, enhanced their net gains and shared their experiences with other vulnerable farmers
- ◆ Better understand and appreciate food processing and marketing at individual level such as making mixed pickles, mushroom pickles, sugarcane vinegar, goat farming, etc.



**Twenty selected lead farmers adopt resilient farming practices, enhance their net gains and share their experiences with other vulnerable farmers**

# Synergizing Political, Economic and Gender Dimensions for Sustainability of River Ecology and Resources in the Context of Water-Energy-Food Nexus in Kosi Basin

The project supported by The Asia Foundation focusses on synergizing political, economic, gender dimension for sustainability of river ecology and resources in the context of water-energy-food nexus of the Kosi basin lying in Bihar. It pays special attention on identifying multi-layered and nested contestations from divergent (and often conflicting) interests of the stakeholders and addressing these towards a collaborative leadership and cooperation amongst mapped stakeholders.

## Main activities

- ◆ **Institutional Mapping** of formal and non-formal institutions of the basin working at local, district, state and national levels was done. A total of thirty institutions were noted and their roles and responsibilities, degree of influence, and stake were comprehended for advocacy on maintaining river ecology, sustainability of natural resources, addressing the interests of women living in Kosi basin and livelihood of people directly dependent on resources of river basin.
- ◆ **Trans-boundary multi-stakeholders' dialogues** to bring together representatives of communities on both sides of India and Nepal border, living in the Kosi basin, to share their experiences related to problems and challenges arising due to disturbance in river ecology with special focus on gender and food-water-energy nexus; identify common and collaborative actions which can help communities on both sides of border; and share the experiences related to problem solving of local challenges, innovations, and adaptive actions to 'live with river ecology'
- ◆ **Formation of Trans- Boundary Citizens Forum (TBCF)** and develop their capacity to undertake advocacy with their respective local governments for taking up the issues related to river ecology and their rights of livelihood.



- ◆ **Documentation of Case Studies and Issue Briefs** for collating ground experiences and needed advocacy
- ◆ **Experience and Knowledge Sharing Webinar** on "Ecological Disruptions in Kosi Basin: Political Economy and Community Perspective" was organized by GEAG with the support of TAF on 18th September

## Outcomes and Impacts

- ◆ Trans-Boundary Dialogue with representation of communities from India and Nepal held around three important issues pertaining to what has been the impact of Kosi project on the lives and livelihoods at the household and village levels, the differential impacts on women and impacts on water and food linkages
- ◆ Champions from communities with practical experience and developed understanding and capacities were developed to initiate community dialogues in different parts of the basin

**Trans-boundary multi-stakeholders' dialogues take shape with representation of communities from India and Nepal**

## Rejuvenation and conservation of waterbodies to enhance groundwater recharge and support various ecosystem services in the urban environment

The project aims to rejuvenate and conserve water bodies in the Gautam Buddha Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh, for groundwater recharge and ensuring the flow of related ecosystem services in the environment. Working with HCL Foundation, project activities are implemented through active people's participation and involvement of district authorities. These include demarcation of water body and its bio-fencing, restoration of water quality, enhance groundwater re-charge, plantation of trees and shrubs on their embankment, improve awareness and participation of people living in vicinity, treat wastewater before it enters the waterbody, run behaviour change campaigns and build awareness among other government stakeholders and local institutions, and engage them in advocacy at various levels.

### Main activities

- ◆ Identified, demarcated traditional water bodies which are redundant, ecologically non-functional and need to be rejuvenated and protected
- ◆ Rejuvenated seven water bodies, restored its water quality and aquatic life, and were needed, initiated livelihood activities in water bodies
- ◆ Planted trees and shrubs on embankment to check erosion and encroachment
- ◆ Cleaned, de-silted and dredged ponds as per need
- ◆ Designed interventions for larger catchment area to check in-flow of waste and removed obstructions in water re-charging
- ◆ Involved local communities and build community to support and monitor conservation of water bodies and sustain it in the long run
- ◆ Build awareness among government stakeholders and local institutions, engaged them in advocacy at various levels



### Outcomes and Impacts

- ◆ Seven ponds (nearly 3.75 ha) rejuvenated in village Dungarpur Rilka
- ◆ 1,133 households in village Astauli, Dungarpur Rilka and 300 quarters in Gautam Buddha Nagar Police Line, directly/indirectly benefitted from ecosystem services provided by rejuvenated waterbodies
- ◆ Cleaning, de-silting, dredging and introducing local vegetation over in 7 ponds
- ◆ Formed and trained village level, community led *Taal-Talaiya Sanrakshan Manch*
- ◆ Ten HCL volunteers selected and trained
- ◆ Soil and water quality analysis of all ponds done on a quarterly basis
- ◆ Formed Police Boys and Girls Club who regularly visits waterbodies area and maintain it after consultation, and are involved in many environmental activities for nature conservation
- ◆ Social mobilization activities around environment education carried out by club
- ◆ Slogan writing on pond facing wall related to environment awareness completed in villages Astauli and Dunagrpur Rilka

**Seven ponds covering an area 3.752 hectare rejuvenated in village Dungarpur Rilka**

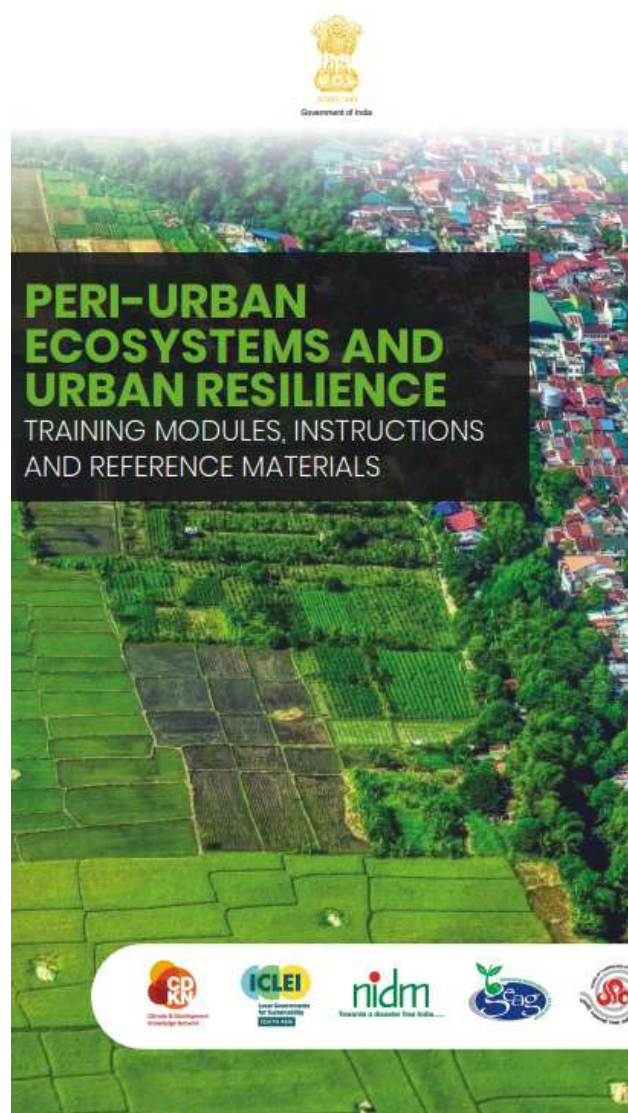


## Peri-Urban Ecosystems for Urban Change Resilience : *Addressing Knowledge and Capacity Gaps*

This Knowledge Partnership Project with Climate & Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), aims at assessing the knowledge needs and capacity gaps on linkages and inter-complementarity between peri-urban ecosystems and urban resilience and find pathways to address these through existing research outcomes and practice-based experiences. The peri-urban ecosystems play crucial roles in providing livelihood security to the marginalized communities inhabited in the fringes of the cities and contributing to urban resilience in cities through its provisioning, regulating, supporting and cultural services, and this project works on *addressing their* important contribution in urban resilience, pan-India.

### Main activities

- ◆ **Develop Knowledge Compendium and Capacity Toolkit:** GEAG associated with the Division of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Risk Management, Policy and Training of National Institute of Disaster Management, Govt of India to develop the Knowledge Compendium and Capacity Toolkit on peri-urban ecosystems for urban resilience, which were printed and published. The Knowledge Compendium is a compilation of case studies from pan-India to supplement/support the urban-peri-urban connect; GEAG documented nine case studies in it.
- ◆ **Peer-reviewed paper:** A peer-reviewed Paper on “Mainstreaming Peri-Urban Ecosystems for Urban Resilience through Policy-Planning Framework: An Opportunity Analysis for Indian Cities” was developed and submitted to Journal “CITIES An International Journal of Urban Policy and Planning” of Elsevier.
- ◆ **Knowledge Sharing and Launch Event of Knowledge Products on Peri-Urban Ecosystems for Enhancing Urban Resilience:** GEAG in collaboration with the NIDM, GoI and School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal organized a Launch Event to unveil the Knowledge Products developed as part of the CDKN-



KBP project on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021. The knowledge products were released by Maj. Gen. Manoj K Bindal, Executive Director, NIDM, GoI, Mr Tom White, DRR Chief, UNICEF India, Prof Anil Gupta, Head-ECDRM, NIDM, and other dignitaries from GEAG, ICLEI South Asia, UNICEF, UNEP Geneva IIED UK and so on.





## Outcomes and Impacts

- ◆ GEAG with support of NIDM was able to better mainstream the knowledge generated in this process to capacitate policy planners, relevant officials in government ministries and other stakeholders for policy mainstreaming
- ◆ GEAG's collaboration with planning institutions such as SPA helps faculty and students (future city planners) in mainstreaming ecosystems-based resilience in their course curriculum, practical understanding of environmental planning and so on.
- ◆ GEAG developed alliances with institutions and organisations like CANSA, IIT Madras, NIUA, Management Development Institute, Gurgaon, HCL Foundation and so on, through which learnings/experiences emerging from the project are being disseminated for larger advocacy.

**Knowledge compendium and Capacity Toolkit on peri-urban ecosystems for urban resilience, were printed and published**

## LEISA India

The main objective of this project that runs across nineteen states across the country, supported by a resource organisation AME Foundation, is to facilitate knowledge sharing on sustainable agriculture to readers, especially in the Hindi speaking belt areas; to compile and contextualise farmers experiences and learnings in booklets, and to disseminate knowledge by sharing these sustainable practices documents and publications with voluntary organisations, research scholars and social activists.

### Main activities

- ◆ English publication of LEISA, India, publishes success stories, accounts and field experiences of small and marginal farmers and women farmers, who work on sustainable agriculture, organic farming and climate resilient farming
- ◆ Few of these are translated to Hindi and published through LEISA, India, Hindi edition magazine
- ◆ A quarterly publication, it boasts of 4-5 write ups on basic, fundamental issues rooted in local activities or the latest innovations



Uttar Pradesh	Bihar	Uttarakhand	Jharkhand	Chhattisgarh
Madhya Pradesh	West Bengal	Gujrat	Rajasthan	New Delhi
Punjab	Haryana	Himachal Pradesh	Orrisa	Karnataka
Tamil Nadu	Goa	Jammu & Kashmir	Maharashtra	

### Outcomes and Impacts

In the reporting year, April 2020- March 2021, a total of four editions were published which had an audience reach of 2,287 people.

## Publication, Social Media and Networks

GEAG publishes training modules, policy briefs and research articles/ reports to accelerate the reach of its work and learnings to a wider, larger audience, and to enhance the impact of its work on issues across which it works.

### GEAG and Social Media

In a bid to connect further and communicate better, GEAG has built on this platform to reach to a global audience. Greater visibility, better outreach, enhanced connections and instant communication; all of this has helped GEAG share details of its work, publications and achievements on the digital platform, as well as stay duly engaged with new audiences, practitioners, policy makers and interested forums.

### Outcomes and Impacts

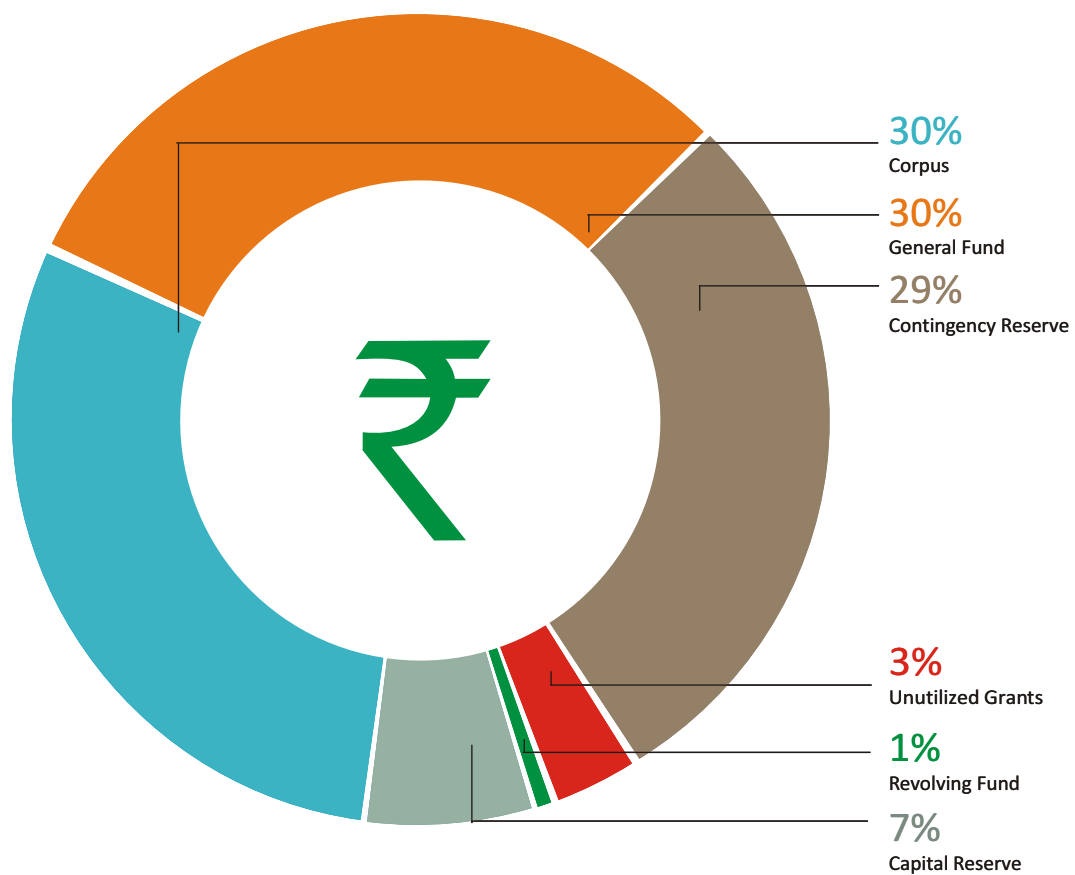
- ◆ Promotion of events and happenings reach a larger audience
- ◆ Increased visibility and dissemination of experiences and knowledge
- ◆ Enhanced opportunity for positive interaction
- ◆ Connect and engage with new, like minded audience, groups and individuals
- ◆ Greater reach for shared impactful stories/publication





## GEAG's Balance Sheet : 2020-21

A major part of the GEAG's income which flows into the organization is in the form of funds and grants from Multilateral Organizations, Government Agencies and Grant making bodies.



This year, GEAG has registered itself for undertaking CSR activities and the registration number is CSR00000748.

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## Executive Board Members

**Dr. Shiraz A. Wajih**

President

Ex. Associate Professor, MG.PG. College  
(Gorakhpur University), Gorakhpur,  
Uttar Pradesh, India

**Mr. J.K. Srivastava**

Vice President

Rtd. Bank Officer  
Gorakhpur,  
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**Ms. Nivedita Mani**

Secretary

Research and Communications  
GEAG,  
New Delhi

**Dr. Dharmvrat Tiwari**

Joint Secretary

Gorakhpur University,  
Gorakhpur  
Uttar Pradesh, India

**Dr. Suman Sinha**

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Fisheries Department, Govt. of U.P.  
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Gorakhpur University, Gorakhpur,  
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**Mr. Arvind K. Singh**

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Rtd. Deputy Director  
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**Dr. P.S. Roy**

Nominated Member

Ex. Director

Indian Institute of Remote  
Sensing, Hyderabad, Telangana,  
India

**Dr. Neelima Jerath**

Nominated Member

Provost, DB University  
Punjab,  
India

**Ms. Seema Bhatt**

Nominated Member

FAO India

Masters in Environmental Studies,  
Yale University, USA

# GEAG Team Members

## Head Office: Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh

<b>Bijay Kumar Singh</b> Project Coordinator	<b>K.K. Singh</b> Project Coordinator	<b>Vijay Kumar Pandey</b> Project Coordinator	<b>Ajay Kumar Singh</b> Project Coordinator	<b>Raj Kanti Gupta</b> Publication Coordinator
<b>Archana Srivastava</b> Project Coordinator	<b>Kailash Chand Pandey</b> Climatologist	<b>Raja Ram Yadav</b> Coordinator- Accounts & Administration	<b>Satendra Singh</b> Programme Manager	<b>Sanjay Kumar Singh</b> Accountant
<b>Nikhata Sultana</b> Programme Assistant	<b>Sandeep Kumar Sharma</b> Cluster Coordinator	<b>Tauqueer Azam</b> Cluster Coordinator	<b>Rishabh Kumar Srivastava</b> Facilitator	<b>Anil Nishad</b> Facilitator
<b>Ram Surat</b> Supervisor	<b>Amarjeet Sahani</b> Supervisor	<b>Ajay Kumar</b> Office Assistant	<b>Ram Ratan Sahani</b> Office Assistant	<b>Nazruddin Ali</b> Office Volunteer
<b>Haider Ali</b> Office Volunteer	<b>Nandu Kumar</b> Driver	<b>Angad Kumar</b> Driver		

## Project Office: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

<b>Gyaneshwar Srivastava</b> Project Coordinator	<b>Vidya Verma</b> Divisional Coordinator	<b>Mohd. Rizzwan</b> Divisional Coordinator	<b>Alok Dwivedi</b> Divisional Coordinator	<b>Aprajita Singh</b> Divisional Coordinator
<b>Brij Nandan Tiwari</b> Programme Coordinator	<b>Anju Pandey</b> District Resource Person	<b>Satyendra Singh</b> District Resource Person	<b>Amjad Ansari</b> District Resource Person	<b>Jitendra Dwivedi</b> District Resource Person
<b>Abhishek Singh</b> Associate Facilitator	<b>Chandan Vishwakarma</b> Associate Facilitator	<b>Avnish Ram Tripathi</b> Associate Facilitator	<b>Nanhaku Saroj</b> Associate Facilitator	<b>Lalmani Verma</b> Office Assistant

## Project Office: Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

<b>Ramesh Menon</b> Project Coordinator	<b>Deo Kumar Dubey</b> Divisional Consultant	<b>Mirza Rafik Baig</b> Divisional Consultant	<b>Ashish Purohit</b> Divisional Consultant	<b>Yogesh Sharma</b> Divisional Consultant
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## Project Office: Bagha, Bihar

<b>Ravi Prakash Mishra</b> Project Coordinator	<b>Bijay Prakash</b> MIS Coordinator	<b>Mamta Verma</b> Accountant	<b>Satendra Kumar Tripathi</b> Project officer	<b>Shiv Prakash Yadav</b> Field Supervisor
<b>Nirala Thakur</b> Field Supervisor	<b>Prem Shankar Singh</b> Cluster Coordinator			

## Project Office: Mau, Uttar Pradesh

<b>Shamsher Ali</b> District Mobilization Coordinator	<b>Amit Kumar Singh</b> Block Mobilization Coordinator	<b>Surya Prakash</b> Block Mobilization Coordinator	<b>Runa Khan</b> Block Mobilization Coordinator	<b>Geetanjali Prajapati</b> Block Mobilization Coordinator
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## Project Office: Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh

<b>Suyog Srivastava</b> District Mobilization Coordinator	<b>Sayed Shahroz Hasan</b> Block Mobilization Coordinator	<b>Shahnawaz Khalid</b> Block Mobilization Coordinator	<b>Sana Khatoon</b> Block Mobilization Coordinator	<b>Ritesh Kumar Tripathi</b> Block Mobilization
<b>Kshama Devi</b> Block Mobilization Coordinator	<b>Purnima Mishra</b> Block Mobilization Coordinator			

## Project Office: Mahoba, Uttar Pradesh

<b>Ram Kumar Singh</b> Project Coordinator	<b>Lallu Singh</b> Animator
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## National Liaison Office: New Delhi

**Nivedita Mani**  
Coordinator- Networking and Liaison





Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group (GEAG) is a voluntary organization working in the field of environment and sustainable development since 1975. Ever since its inception, GEAG has been actively engaged in implementing several development projects addressing livelihood issues of small and marginal farmers, particularly women, based on ecological principles and gender sensitive participatory approach. Besides this, GEAG has accomplished several appraisals, studies, researches at the micro and macro levels as well as successfully conducted a number of capacity building programmes for various stakeholders including women farmers, civil societies groups and government officials etc.

GEAG has established its identity in North India as a leading resource institution on sustainable agriculture, participatory approaches, methodologies and gender. Acknowledging its achievements, GEAG was awarded with the Lighthouse Activity Award by UNFCCC in 2013. GEAG also holds the Observer status to Green Climate Fund.



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