



# **Bhartiya Gramin Adivasi Vikas Sanstha**

## **Annual Report 2023–24**

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## 1. Introduction

Bhartiya Gramin Adivasi Vikas Sanstha (BGAVS) Pardi is working in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh since last 33 years on the issues of the tribal and marginalised communities. The organisation has the mandate to work across India. Presently BGAVS is working in the rural and inaccessible tribal pockets of Maharashtra and Chhatisgarh states.

## 2. Legal & Organizational Information

| Field             | Details                                                          |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Organization Name | Bhartiya Gramin Adivasi Vikas Sanstha                            |
| Acronym           | BGAVS                                                            |
| Email / Website   | bgavs@rediffmail.com, ho@bgavs.org                               |
| Contact Numbers   | +91-8766549080, +91-9423401897                                   |
| Head Office       | At Pardi, Tehsil Nagbhid, Dist. Chandrapur, Maharashtra – 441205 |
| Regional Office   | Attadeep Nagar, Manewada Road, Nagpur – 440034                   |
| Country           | India                                                            |
| Jurisdiction      | National level NGO, authorized to operate across India           |
| Establishment     | 1st April, 1988                                                  |
| Registration      | 42/90 (CH), Societies Registration Act 1860                      |
| FCRA              | 083810035 (Valid till 31st March 2027)                           |
| NGO Darpan        | MH/2016/0097742                                                  |
| PAN               | AABTB7008E                                                       |
| 12A               | AABTB7008E24PN02 (Valid till AY 2030–31)                         |
| 80G               | Provisional No. AABTB7008EF20225 (Renewal under process)         |

### 3. Bank Account Details

#### **FCRA Account**

| Field          | Details                      |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| Account Holder | BGAVS                        |
| Account Number | 40161173551                  |
| Bank Name      | State Bank of India          |
| IFSC           | SBIN0000691                  |
| Branch         | Parliament Street, New Delhi |

#### **Local Account**

| Field          | Details                             |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Account Holder | BGAVS                               |
| Account Number | 11368083670                         |
| Bank Name      | State Bank of India                 |
| IFSC           | SBIN0000338                         |
| Branch         | Brahmapuri, Chandrapur, Maharashtra |

## **4. Vision – Mission – Objectives**

**Vision:** The vision of BGAVS is “A cultured healthy dynamic Tribal community”

**Mission:** BGAVS works with tribal communities and the most vulnerable and marginalised. It collaborates with civil society and government departments for the holistic development of tribal communities.

### **Objectives:**

- To create an environment and foundation for tribal children’s development.
- To provide opportunities for tribal youth and women for their development.
- To create awareness and mobilise community towards collective ownership and responsibilities.
- To improve access to healthcare services for tribal communities.
- To promote livelihood sustainability of tribal and marginal communities through natural resource management, skill development, and empowerment via capacity building.

### **Geographical Span**

The organisation is mandated to work in India but has been concentrating in the tribal belts of Central India. At present the organisation works in Maharashtra, in six districts: Chandrapur, Amravati, Akola, Nandurbar, Nagpur, and Wardha. The thematic areas are child development, women empowerment, tribal livelihood, and rights.

## **5. Past Projects of Organisation in Brief**

- **Livelihood Promotion** – Implemented programmes for vulnerable tribal groups in Korba and Kunkuri blocks of Chhattisgarh, with support from TDH, Germany.
- **Youth Leadership Development** – Conducted leadership training programmes in rural and tribal areas of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, supported by the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Government of India.
- **Childcare and Crèches** – Established crèches for children of working women in remote tribal pockets of Chandrapur, Amravati, Nandurbar, and Pune districts of Maharashtra, with support from the Central Social Welfare Board, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India.
- **Water Conservation** – Implemented water conservation programmes in Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh in collaboration with local self-governance institutions.
- **Dalit Empowerment** – Carried out empowerment programmes for Dalit communities and their institutions in Bilaspur & Raipur with support from SWISS AID.
- **Women's Institution Building** – Promoted and strengthened women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs) through awareness, training, and capacity-building, also supported by SWISS AID.
- **Disaster Relief & Rehabilitation** – Extended relief and rehabilitation support to families affected by natural disasters.
- **Health & Covid-19 Response** – Conducted health awareness initiatives and supported communities affected during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- **Youth De-addiction Awareness** – Organized awareness programmes addressing substance abuse among youth.

## **6. Projects & Programmes Implemented in Year 2023–24**

**In the Financial year 2023-24 following activities organised by the organization.  
The details are given below:**

The work of Bhartiya Gramin Adivasi Vikas Sanstha could be categorised in three stages. The first one is the work in the native districts of Nagpur, Wardha, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli, Amaravati, Akola and Nandurbar which incidentally also has a high percentage of tribal population. The work here is manifold but all integrated towards the development of tribal and marginalized community.

### **6.1 Anti-Alcoholism Campaign – Awareness activities conducted in 20 villages.**

The main hurdle in the tribal development as seen by the organisation was the rampant alcoholism. The organisation works continuously to eradicate the evil. It organises events and through a tribal friendly interface. This year organisation conducted village level awareness activity for community awareness and cover 20 villages under this awareness programme.

### **6.2 Youth Leadership Development – Training in 20 villages and 10 schools; value education sessions.**

Youth leadership training activity conducted in 20 villages and also cover 10 Schools for personality development of students. The value education also conducted in school and villages for participation of youth and students for constructive development activities.

### **6.3 Community Awareness – Meetings in Nagpur urban slums on health and sanitation.**

Meetings are held in the urban slums of Nagpur to build awareness on the issues of health and sanitation among the women and adolescent girls.

### **6.4 Yoga and Sports – Encouraged youth collectives for healthy lifestyles.**

The organisation believes that the triumvirate of organic farming, yoga and sports makes a healthy community. BGAVS encourages the youths to form collectives and carry out the sports activities. It also guides them through yoga classes and helps them to win away from the ills in the society.

## **6.5 Youth Participation in Local Governance – Youths in Chandrapur engaged with governance issues.**

The youths from Chandrapur district meet regularly and discuss the governance issues of their area. These youth are working as a bridge between government and community for the better services for the poor.

## **6.6 De-addiction – Village-level meetings on freedom from alcohol.**

One of the core areas of the organisation is alcohol free tribal community. The organisation with its limited resources, takes meetings in the villages on “freedom from alcohol”. In these meetings, the villagers urge and bring the addict to the meetings.

## **6.7 Women’s Empowerment Projects:**

### **6.7.1 Empowering Domestic Worker Women and Girls for Gender Equality, Supported by AJWS, US**

Bhartiya Gramin Adivasi Vikas Sanstha is implementing the project for the development of teen age girls and married women in ten localities of Ngapur City, in Maharashtra. Following activities have been undertaken in the year 2023-24:

The organization initiated program from year 2023 to work with renewed vigor in the New Year. In this program, domestic workers were interacted with in Nehrunagar, Savitribai Phule Nagar, Rahate Nagar, Ramteke Nagar, Raman Nagar, Panchayat, Shi Plot, Kaikadi Nagar, Siddheshwar Nagar, Rahul Nagar, Vaishali Nagar, Subhash Nagar, Kamgar Nagar, Kailas Nagar, Chandramuni Nagar, Kaushalya Nagar, Junabhatti, Kachipura, Rambagh, Jat, Tarodi, Saraswati Nagar, Kumbhar Toli, Sangam Chad, Pandar Bodi, Ajay Nagar, Ambazari Area, Mukunda Nagar, Sanjay Nagar, Nandanvan, Bhande Plot, Beed, Adivasi Nagar, Prakash nagar, Shahansha Nagar, Rajnagar, Sadar, Kawra Peth, Lalganj, Bangladesh, Shantinagar, Bagadganj, Vakil Peth, Kawla Peth, Ekatmata Nagar, Manewada Slum Area.

Domestic workers sweep, mop, clean dishes, cook, wash clothes and serve children and the elderly. The income they get from this work is small. From this, they get money for vegetables and oil. Now the expenses of children's education, health facilities, water, electricity bills, phone charging, clothes, etc. are not enough. They have to work at home themselves. Due to this, body aches, back pains increase. Headaches start to occur while paying house taxes and other expenses. All this spreads and lives, so family stress increases.

Other help is not provided by the employer for whom they work , such as advance money , weekly leave , sick leave facilities , so they are neglected in other work, time cannot be given, etc. They said during the conversation that some expectations are increasing, such as registration and document provisions.

Meeting of domestic workers, a meeting of activists was held. A three- day camp was held at Lonara Pragati, Nagpur from 16 to 18 August 2023 to prepare for the annual plan. 27 women participated in this along with the activists. The following topics were discussed. An introduction, identification, preferences, meeting, tools, understanding and understanding other, exchanging views on the current socio-economic situation of two domestic workers . Discussing the rights of three domestic workers, deciding on the work report and actions for the four-year period, etc.

**A three-day camp was organized in accordance with the above four objectives, and the program was planned accordingly, which are as follows:**

1. Registration of domestic workers with the Domestic Workers Welfare Board.
2. Visit the settlements of domestic workers and hold meetings at the settlement level.
3. Conduct training camps on sexuality and gender issues.
4. Discussing the Domestic Workers Act.
5. Conduct training camps for single domestic workers and discuss the same to understand the situation of single women in other states.
6. Conducting local and inter-state study tours.
7. Organizing cultural programs.
8. The camp concluded after deciding on programs such as holding a national convention on the issues of single women, communicating with the public representatives at the state government level, submitting a statement, etc.

**6.7.2 Street Vendors PM Self Fund:** A meeting was held on 26th August 2023 in the presence of Neetatai Gotamare of the Nagpur Municipal Corporation Social Welfare Department at the Nehrunagar Cha Samaj Mandir in Nagpur. 30 women have registered their participation, out of which 15 women filled the form for the Street Vendor Scheme and the other women received blank forms from which they will benefit from the scheme later.

#### **6.7.3 Meetings with Police Commissioner, Labour & WCD Departments:**

**a) Statement to the Police Commissioner:** A family in Atharva Nagri, Nagpur, had kept a girl in their house for twelve years as a domestic worker. For twelve years, the girl had become the mistress of the landlord. A meeting was held with the Police Commissioner on September 4, 2023, against the injustice done to her and to him. A representation was submitted to the Police Commissioner for action.

**b) Women and Child Welfare Department:** A meeting was held between the Assistant Labour Commissioner and the Women and Child Development Officer on 12 September 2023. The domestic worker registration form was given to the Labour Office and the Women and Child Development Officer was also met and asked about the documents of the children and information regarding child care cases. After that, a meeting was held with the officials of the Silk Directorate. Information was obtained about Kosasilk and Tasar.

#### **6.7.4 Leadership Development Training:**

September 30, 2023, a one-day leadership development training camp was held at Shakya Muni Auditorium. The camp was concluded at Nehrunagar Nagpur. 47 women participated from the settlements of Rambagh, Vaishali Nagar, Bhande Plot, Nehrunagar, Savitribai Phule Nagar. Initially, a song was presented. It started with the song "Khara to Ekchi Dharma Jagala Prem Arpave". After that, introductions were made, name, address, education, good and bad experiences were told. After that, Sujata Bhongade played a game. It was a balloon game. The trainees were given colorful balloons and asked to inflate them. Then they were made to blow them up. They were told not to let the balloons fall on the ground.

The game was played for half an hour. Then questions and answers were given. What are the colors of the balloons? How do you recognize them? How did you feel when you learned from it? When asked, the answer was that if everyone plays as a team, the fun in the game increases. Do you remember how to blow balloons? Some did not have balloons in their hands. Some blue balloons on the balloon. This shows leadership skills.

Leadership develops. Information about the settlement was asked. Some told it openly. Some brought it in a hoarse voice. Some did not speak. There was no confidence. Some spoke confidently.

The communication was open. Roads, tap water, lines, toilets, electricity connections, kindergartens, anganwadis, sanitation, vehicles. There is no garden in the settlement. There is no health facility. Therefore, the society does not seem beautiful.

Therefore, there was a discussion about the facilities that are not there, works and work. After that, personality aspects, leadership, communication skills were discussed and the camp was concluded.

This seminar was organized by Dhanwate National College of Mass Communication, where activists of the Domestic Workers' Union participated to listen to a lecture on the topic of democracy and constitution. The seminar concluded on October 3, 2023.

#### 6.7.5 Participation in State & National Gatherings:

**Maharashtra State gathering on Violence** this was a gathering of women and transgenders against hate and injustice. Sujata Bangale and Shobha Tikkade participated. 63 organizations were women's committees. The gathering was held on October 4th and 5th, 2023 in Panvel, Mumbai.

School materials were distributed to the sons and daughters of **single women due to Corona**. On November 10, 2023, a program was held at Bhishekari Niwas Grih Ghat Road Nagpur. Materials were distributed to 48 sons and daughters.

**6.7.6 Constitution Day on 26 November 2023** On the occasion of Constitution Day, clothes, sarees, and shirts were distributed to 300 people through a program at Adivasi Nagar Prakash Nagar Vasti, Nagpur.

#### 6.7.7 Nationwide Meetings & Mahapanchayat of Domestic Workers:

**Maharashtra State Domestic Workers Coordination Committee** was held at Shramshakti Bhavan, Pimpri Chinchwad, and Pune. 60 representatives of various domestic workers' organizations from Maharashtra participated. The meeting was held on December 1, 2023. Three representatives of the organization participated.

**Discussion and Decision Nagpur Winter Session** Raising the issues of domestic workers Increasing the registration of domestic workers Increasing the honorarium from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 12,000 Appointments Registering them Establishing a tripartite board Amending the Domestic Workers Act Fixing minimum wages Providing pension and social security etc. Issues were discussed. A representation was submitted to the Minister of Labour on 15 December 2023. After that, a representation was given to the Minister of Labour Akash Fundkar.

Study tour On behalf of the Bhartiya Gramin Adivasi Vikas Sanstha , we visited the **Amhi Amchya Arogyasathi Organisation** at Erandi Kurkheda district Gadchiroli on 16th to 17th December 2023. Along with that , we visited the forest Navegaon dam We were taken to the institute's herbal garden for our health , easy production of rice husk , self-help group work and forest rights and how the Gram Sabha is run were understood . Satish Gogulwar and Shubhada were also guided by Deshmukh . Etiyadoh and Navegaon dams were seen, 40 women and girls participated.

**Nationwide Meeting of Domestic Workers:** A meeting of domestic workers across the country was held in Nagpur on 22-23 January 2024. Subhash Patankar, Shivba Mallik Bibi and Malligamma Vipul Pandya, Geeta and 32 organisation members were present.

**Discussion was held on the Maharashtra Domestic Workers Act and the Central Act.**

Increase in maternity leave and financial assistance, immediate assistance of ten thousand rupees in case of death, and Subhash Bhatnagar discussed the construction sector and the Central Act, and the formation of a new labor federation was discussed.

**Mahapanchayat of Domestic Workers** On 24th January 2024, a Mahapanchayat of Domestic Workers was organized at Maitri Bouddhav Vyara in Rambagh, Nagpur. This Mahapanchayat was held in the presence of Sujata Abhangade, Roshni Gambhir, Kanta Mandava, Surekha Dongre, Kavita Wasnik. 150 women participated in this Mahapanchayat. In the Mahapanchayat, it was said that domestic workers have to work to run the house and run the family.

**6.7.8 Single Corona women exposure programs and exposure visit:**

**a) Corona Single Female:** A meeting of single women was held on February 9, 2024 at the Die Arch Auditorium, Mure Memorial Hospital Nagpur. This participation was taken in view of the ongoing study of single women in the Corona epidemic. How much trouble did the patient have to endure? The family were in a very confused state. There was a problem with medicine, there was no hospital space, employment was closed, the market was closed, and transportation was closed. Many people did not attend this meeting and faced difficulties. The burden of the crisis fell on the single woman because the man had left the house. It was difficult to face it. A meeting was held, single women spoke, tears were shed, and then the visiting ideas were presented. They were given the strength to stand on their own feet and they were told about the scheme through the officials of the Food Supply Department, Skill Development Department, Mahatma Phule Development Corporation, Annabhau Sathe Corporation, and Backward Classes Corporation. Information was given about the training scheme of the Maharashtra Entrepreneurship Development Board, so a lot of support was given to single women. Sujata Bhongade delivered the closing speech. 153 single women participated in the program.

**b) Single Corona women exposure visit:** Ugam Rural Development Institute in Hingoli Nanded Latur Naldurg Beed District Visits were made to organizations and organizations in the district. Rukmini Nagpure met Manisha Tokle and was invited to the Nagpur conference. The tour was conducted from 15 to 20 February 2024. Sujata Bhongade Vilas Bangale Archana Bhagat Roshni gambhir was accompanied by Anil Gambhir. Corona Single Women Workshop a Nationalist Corona Single Women Workshop was held in Nagpur on behalf of the Bhartiya Gramin Adivasi Vikas Sanstha on 15 to 16 March 2024. A separate report has been sent that 60 representatives from all over the country participated.

**6.7.9 Empowerment of Women in New Slum Area of Nagpur City:** This programme was sanctioned by GLOBAL GREENGRANTS FUND for Capacity Building of Domestic women workers in New Slum area of Nagpur City as per the previous learning of the organization on the issue of domestic women workers. This project was sanctioned in February 2024 for the next 12 months. Bharatiya Gramin Adivasi Vikas Sanstha Chandrapur Organisation works for the rural and urban poor community. The main objective of the organisation is to work for the empowerment and welfare of Dalit tribal workers, women, youth and children. There are a total of 450 slums in Nagpur city and the workers working in the unorganized sector live in those slums. In them, domestic workers, construction workers, rickshaw drivers, hawkers, porters, garbage collectors live. The Organisation is working to empower these workers socially, economically and educationally. Year During the period 2022 to 2023 and the year 2023 to 2024, the organization has worked on an experimental basis in ten urban settlements (Basti). Through this program, an attempt was made to reach 1000 women in ten settlements. This included meeting domestic worker women, making them members of the Maharashtra State Domestic Worker Welfare Board, creating awareness, providing information about the Domestic Worker Act, providing information about government schemes, holding meetings, assemblies, camps at the settlement level. During February and March the organization conducted the awareness activity in each slum area for their participation for planned activities and 3 awareness programme conducted for the women and girls about the health, hygiene and awareness about Government Scheme.

## **7. Livelihood & Environmental Projects:**

### **7.1 Crop raiding by wild animals and losses in and around the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Study Project**

***- Supported by Global Greengrant Fund***

- Crop Raiding by Wild Animals and Losses in and around the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (Supported by Global Greengrants Fund) – Study conducted in 40 villages, surveying 400 farmers. Findings revealed widespread crop loss due to wildlife raiding, with recommendations for policy changes, community participation, and improved compensation mechanisms.

#### **Introduction:**

The human and wild-life conflict is intensifying in and around the protected forests all over the country. However, the impact of wildlife raiding on crops is an under-studied issue.

The pressing objective of this study was to understand the overall impact of wildlife raiding on the farmers in the landscape of the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve as a test case, to build a case for a larger study on the crop losses that farmers endure round the year and the relief provided by the state and central governments in such an eventuality. So far, the only instrument of policy and support from the State is the provision of compensation of loss of crops and human lives.

Crop raiding by wild herbivores close to protected forests is turning grave all over the country. It can potentially undermine the conservation efforts apart from heaping losses on an already beleaguered peasantry on account of yield reduction among other things.

However, the issue is as old as the co-existence of people and wild life. Albeit the intensity of the crop losses has assumed gigantic proportions in the recent past, turning it into a serious livelihood problem for farmers whose income depends on agricultural produce.

In this year-long study, we chose to focus on ten villages each in four tehsils contiguous to the buffer of the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve, one of the most important tiger projects in India, in the Chandrapur district that forms a sub-region within the larger central India landscape.

Idea was to understand the crop raiding incidence as a factor in aggravating the prevailing distress among farmers, the degree of acknowledgement within the policy circles and suggest, if any, intervention measures to reduce the burgeoning losses among the peasantry.

This is a typical study that followed quantitative methodology to assess the gravity of the issue so that a bigger pan-India study could be undertaken at some point to draw the attention of various stakeholders for its mitigation. The study however chooses the peasantry as the core framework.

This project was sanctioned in September 2022 and work started from October 2022. The study is completed during the year 2023-24

- Village wise meeting conducted with community regarding the problems.
- Local youth groups established at village level to support the study team.
- The following villages selected and completed the survey and analysed the data for study related work.

Chose 40 villages and nearly 400 respondents belonging to all social categories, age groups and land size, an ecumenical group for a sample survey. (See the Questionnaire Attached as one of the annexures) But the study was largely qualitative in nature based on interactions and FGDs.

We chose the following villages for the survey:

- 1 – Chimur: Murpar, Minjhari, Shedeshwar, Sonegaon, Urkumar, Pitichuha, Gadgaon, Bandar, Kholdoda, and Alesur. (The latter three are though in Nagpur are part of Chimur landscape)
  - 2 – Sindewahi: Ladburi, Kinhi, Murmadi, Aaboli, Ramala, Devala, Minjhari, Antargaon, Khatgaon and Bhendala.
  - 3 – Bhadravati: Chaprala, Chalbardi, Kudrala (Kondhali), Gorja, Mangli, Pirli, Dhamni, Morwa, Jena and Pevra.
- Warora: Pandhartala, Dahegaon, Surla, Bodkha, Mahalgaon, Giroli, Sakhara, Kem, Salori, and Bhendala.

**The separate detailed report prepare by the project team and consultant submitted the organization. The Findings of the study report and recommendation chapter is given below:**

### **FINDINGS:**

- Nearly a 100 per cent of the 400 farmers we surveyed for this study suffered crop losses due to raiding animals, mostly herbivores, in 40 villages of the four tehsils of the Chandrapur district around the TATR, and their losses ranged from 25 per cent minimum to a hundred per cent, in both Kharif and Rabi seasons. This is undoubtedly now a major crop loss factor. For paddy this would mean a loss of about Rs 15,000-20,000 in a crop cycle per acre, and for other crops, Rs 10,000-20,000 an acre.
- The State's conservation efforts are creating a conflict between humans and animals, with both being squeezed from all sides due to expanding infrastructure development.
- Chandrapur district has 32 operational open-cast and underground mines, mostly extracting coal, iron ore, limestone, and other sundry minerals, a barrage of power projects, the largest being the Chandrapur Super Thermal Power Projects, an ordinance factory that has been in existence on the western edge of the TATR for over 60 years now, and construction of a large major canal of the Gosekhurd irrigation project besides expansion and widening of roads. The new infrastructure and development projects lines mines have ripped apart the ecology in the entire micro-landscape leading to a fractured landscape and turning the TATR into some kind of a large zoo interspersed with the human habitation. The Gosekhurd irrigation project's major canal has disrupted the flow of the wildlife from west to eastern parts of the landscape.
- Farmers' coping mechanisms now rest on the solar-powered fencing systems to compound their farms and safeguard to some

extent, their crops, mainly during the harvest.

- Farmers find the current compensation process cumbersome and do not seek compensation given that they find the returns puny as compared to their efforts to file for compensation. As a result, there the data on the actual crop losses are under-represented and is just a percentage of the overall economic loss in the region nay the state.
- The conflict has turned bloodier in the recent years particularly in the south Chandrapur forests, the only remaining contiguous belt of forest for the dispersal of large carnivores and mushrooming herbivores and their free movement between and to the other forest patches. The tehsils of Mul, Saoli, Sindewahi, Nagbhid and Bramhapuri are now the out- migration districts due to prevailing agrarian distress, ecological erosion, and human-man conflict.
- This is also a district with high potential to involve village communities in the ongoing conservation and forest management efforts, but since the State's focus is largely on the tiger and tourism, the intrusion of other major stakeholders such as the hotels and resorts, processing industry that requires the minor forest produce for their products, and mine operators, both the public sector and private players, has exacerbated the crisis and isolated the local communities turning them against the very forests they are part of.
- The capital investment and health costs in protection of crops is unprecedented. We saw health costs spiraling on account of lack of sleep during the harvest period, because that's when the people go to their farms to keep night vigil, and work round the clock.
- The conservation process within and outside the TATR remains a knee-jerk reaction with no long-term scientific strategy to deal with the inevitability of development and policy focus on conservation and management of the existing forest resources. There's very little focus on the growing losses of crops among the farmers due to the onslaught of the herbivores.
- Women suffer the most, both mentally and physically. We found all-round the year, the conflict has had terrible costs on women, particularly the health aspects.
- The overall consequence of the issue on farm economy is debilitating. Not only are the crop losses mounting, but the labour economy has taken a hit since the farm labour are reluctant to work on the farms surrounding the forests because the lurking carnivores and herbivores and incidence of accidents and animal attacks on humans in the fields intensifying.

## Recommendations:

- The state, the centre, and the civil society – the three principal stakeholders – along with local communities through the Panchayati Raj Institutions and local organisations should switch to the **landscape management**, combining protected, non-protected and non-forest areas within the entire micro and macro landscape and frame their policies accordingly. The permissions to the development projects should be approved only after studying the landscapes in order to negate or minimize their impact on both, the humans, and the forests including their flora and fauna.
- In the long term, as the development imperatives clash with conservation needs, the conflict between humans and wildlife would only intensify – a landscape approach is the only alternative.
- Chandrapur needs a no-new-mine approach for now; any further permissions around the TATR will lead to devastation of jungles and irreparable damage to the landscape.
- The State needs to allow the communities to take back the closed mines and help them regenerate the biodiverse forests with the help of experts – this should be a long-term plan.
- Crop compensation, since it's the only instrument available with the state to provide relief to the farmers, should be eased up in process, standardized, and used pro-actively to keep the farm economy sustainable. The burden of conservation should not be passed on to the people, but be borne as a State policy by the government in the interest of wildlife and local communities that are currently in a desperate situation.
- The state and central governments should evolve a plan for a large-scale community participation in conservation. TATR landscape provides an opportunity for a major departure from the approach chosen until now, and make people equal partners in the process big time.
- Chandrapur district must evolve alternative livelihoods plan for farmers around the TATR through the district planning and development council so reduce the dependence on farming as the sole livelihood option.
- The implementation of the Forest Rights Act has been slow in the district and particularly around the TATR; this needs to be seen as an instrument to bring about a well-regulated community participation and engagement tool to reduce the conflict.
- The governments currently listen to the NGOs working in wildlife conservation area, but there is no voice of the people in the making

of policies pertaining to the forest conservation and management; the government needs to involve the NGOs working with tribals and general people so that the approach strikes a balance between the people and wildlife not as antagonistic entities but as twin engines of sustainable co-existence.

## **7.2 Bamboo Craft Cluster Development Programme (SFURTI Scheme):**

Government of India started the SFURTI scheme for the traditional artisans. It is a scheme for

- Infrastructure Support for the traditional rural and tribal artisans
- Promotion of Rural Industries and Rural Enterprises
- It is a Scheme of Funds for Regeneration of Traditional Industries
- Organising the Rural Artisans in the Cluster Approach
- Micro and small enterprise-Cluster Development Programme

BGAVS has got the Bamboo Craft Cluster Development Programme from the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises Government of India on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021. There are 945 Bamboo Artisans in the cluster from tribal and backward communities of the area.

Primary survey of the artisans engaged in Bamboo craft was conducted. In the year 2023-24 following programme and target completed.

- i. 945 Bamboo artisans details profile prepare and uploaded in Government web site.
- ii. Conducted study tour of artisans for learning of new articles preparation from bamboo. This study tour conducted at Burahanpur, Gulai mal Khandwa and Betul.
- iii. Capacity and Skill upgradation training conducted in 3 batches for targeted artisans.
- iv. Conducted interface meeting with bankers and artisans for financial linkages.
- v. Practical training conducted on use of new and advanced equipments for production of Bamboo articles.
- vi. Master trainers trained for continues supports to artisans.
- vii. All infrastructure activities completed like construction of training centre, raw material storage, machinery installation ect. The cluster fully ready for use of artisans and support.
- viii. The artisans FPO registered for sustainable development of project management of activity for artisans and marketing support.
- ix. The artisans participated in various state level, district level and national level exhibition from this activity. The confidence built up for promotion of bamboo related activity regarding promotion of artisan's livelihood.
- x. The follow-up support giving by the organisation for sustainability artisans FPO and project sustainability for income enhancement of targeted traditional artisans.

### Capacity Building of Marginal Farmers and Rural women empowerment Programme:

The organisation has conducted this programme in 15 villages of Nagbhid Block of Chandrapur District and 35 villages of Seloo block of Wardha District. The following activity done during the year.

- A. Awareness and Demonstration for organic farming and Seed Treatment.
- B. Multi Cropping activities as per the geographical area.
- C. Horticulture programme and government schemes for marginal farmers.
- D. Orientation of Women Self-help group for bank linkages and small IGP activities and government schemes for women SHG.

**Under this programme organisation cover 500 marginal farmers and 110 Women Self Help groups.**

### 8. Partnerships & Collaborations

BGAVS acknowledges the support from its partners and donors including AJWS (US), Global Greengrants Fund, Government of India ministries, local government bodies, and collaborating NGOs. These partnerships have been crucial in extending outreach and achieving impactful results.

### 9. Acknowledgements

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our donors, partners, government departments, volunteers, and community members for their unwavering support and collaboration in the mission of empowering tribal and marginalized communities.

## 10. Annexures

### Activity Photographs:









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*“A Cultured Healthy Dynamic Tribal Community”*