



**BHARTIYA GRAMIN
ADIVASI VIKAS
SANSTHA**

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

TRANSFORMING LIVES

Annual Report
2024-25



COMMUNITY
EMPOWERMENT



WOMEN
EMPOWERMENT



SUSTAINABLE
LIVELIHOODS



CHILD RIGHTS
& EDUCATION



NATURAL RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

Working with Tribal and Marginalized Communities for Dignity, Justice and a Better Future

Foreword

It is with great pride and a deep sense of responsibility that we present the Annual Report of **Bhartiya Gramin Adivasi Vikas Sanstha (BGAVS)**, Pardi, for the year 2024–25.

The journey of BGAVS reflects a continuous process of learning, adaptation, and expansion. Beginning with community mobilisation, leadership development, and social awareness initiatives, the organisation progressively deepened its engagement in critical areas such as child rights, nutrition, sustainable livelihoods, and natural resource management.

In recent years, BGAVS has further strengthened its interventions by focusing on livelihood enhancement, support to traditional artisans, and food security initiatives. Our work in remote regions like Melghat and among vulnerable communities such as the Pahadi Korba in Chhattisgarh reflects our resolve to reach the most underserved populations. Simultaneously, our long-standing engagement in the urban slums of Nagpur highlights our inclusive approach, addressing the needs of domestic workers, migrant families, and adolescent girls through collective mobilisation and access to entitlements.

At the core of our work lies a culturally sensitive and rights-based approach to development. We recognise that sustainable change can only be achieved by respecting indigenous knowledge systems, strengthening community institutions, and enabling communities to claim their rights and entitlements. Our mission continues to emphasise direct service delivery, capacity building, advocacy, and strategic collaboration with government and civil society.

Today, with our presence across multiple districts of Maharashtra and beyond, strong governance systems, statutory compliance, and enduring partnerships with national and international organisations, BGAVS stands as a resilient institution committed to inclusive and sustainable development.

This year's report captures not only our achievements but also the challenges we continue to address and the aspirations that guide our future. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our community partners, donors, government agencies, and well-wishers whose continued support strengthens our efforts.

As we move forward, we remain committed to deepening our impact and working collectively towards a just, equitable, and empowered society.

Shri Dayaram Kannake

Secretary

Bhartiya Gramin Adivasi Vikas Sanstha (BGAVS), Pardi

About BGAVS

Bhartiya Gramin Adivasi Vikas Sanstha (BGAVS), Pardi is a grassroots voluntary organisation established in 1988 and formally registered in 1990 under the Society Registration Act, 1860 and the Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950. Headquartered at Pardi in Nagbhid Taluka of Chandrapur district, Maharashtra, the organisation was founded by committed tribal and non-tribal social leaders with the objective of addressing the deep-rooted socio-economic challenges faced by tribal communities in central India.

Since its inception, BGAVS has worked consistently for the holistic development of tribal, rural, and other marginalised communities. The organisation's early work focused on tribal-dominated districts such as Chandrapur, Gadchiroli, Amravati, Akola, and Nandurbar, where issues of livelihood insecurity, child malnutrition, limited access to education and healthcare, and weak community institutions were prevalent. Over time, BGAVS expanded its geographical outreach to include the Melghat region of Amravati district, urban slums of Nagpur city, and selected tribal areas in Chhattisgarh.

The organisational approach has evolved in phases. In the initial phase, BGAVS concentrated on community mobilisation, leadership development of tribal youth, women's empowerment, and awareness programmes, including anti-alcoholism initiatives. In the second phase, it strengthened its engagement in child rights and nutrition by implementing 147 crèches across tribal and rural areas of Maharashtra, directly supporting more than 4,400 tribal and vulnerable children, and contributing to a reduction in malnutrition while facilitating their linkage to primary education. Parallely, the organisation implemented natural resource management and livelihood programmes, including work with Pahadi Korba tribal communities in Korba and Jashpur districts of Chhattisgarh.

In the subsequent phase, BGAVS diversified its interventions to include sustainable livelihoods for traditional artisans, cluster-based livelihood development, and food security initiatives. In the remote Melghat region, the organisation supported the welfare and livelihoods of traditional artisans by providing skills training and market linkage. In urban Nagpur, BGAVS has worked for over 15 years with domestic women workers, migrant populations, and adolescent girls, mobilising large collectives, facilitating access to government welfare schemes, and advocating for health, social security, and labour rights.

The organisation's vision is rooted in a culturally sensitive understanding of tribal development, recognising the limitations of externally imposed health, education, and economic models. Its mission emphasises working with the most vulnerable and marginalised tribal groups through direct service delivery, advocacy, capacity building, and collaboration with government departments and civil society organisations.

Today, BGAVS operates across multiple districts of Maharashtra—covering more than 120 villages in Chandrapur, Amravati (Melghat), Akola, and Nandurbar—and continues focused interventions in urban slums of Nagpur. With strong leadership from experienced tribal and

social development professionals, robust governance systems, statutory compliance (including 12A, 80G, and FCRA registrations), and long-standing partnerships with national and international donors, BGAVS stands as a credible and experienced organisation dedicated to inclusive, rights-based, and sustainable tribal development.

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	AABTB7008EE2020601
80G	No. AABTB7008EF20225

VISION

“Tribal society, self – reliant in agriculture based food production and livelihood, to take collective steps to conserve their ecology by - ensuring sustainability”

MISSION

Strengthening of grassroots level community-based organizations (CBOs) of tribal communities with a significant role of women in its decision making, functioning and benefit sharing will be the foundation of the organizational interventions to achieve the goals reflective in the vision statement.

OBJECTIVES

1. To promote education and protect the rights of children through adopting strategies that align with local culture, environment and indigenous knowledge that enabled them to protect their ecology & livelihood.
2. Strengthening, grassroots level community based organizations, to enable them to take up challenging responsibilities of ecological conservation, sustainable livelihood and better coordination with important stakeholders like government agencies, Panchat Raj Institutions.
3. To improve the skill and knowledge, especially affordable technology and digital access to have enhanced livelihood options in the changing socio – economic circumstances.
4. To improve the access of health care services to tribal families including mental health on the priority area.
5. Capacity development of the tribal families to take up climate resilient interventions for agriculture-based food production, ecological conservation that mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

BGAVS is registered to operate across India; however, its primary focus has been on the tribal regions of Central India. Currently, it implements development programmes in six districts of Maharashtra—Chandrapur, Amravati, Akola, Nandurbar, Nagpur, and Wardha. Its interventions are centred on child development, women's empowerment, sustainable tribal livelihoods, and the promotion and protection of tribal rights.

AWARENESS PROGRAMMES

As part of its commitment to holistic community development, **Bhartiya Gramin Adivasi Vikas Sanstha (BGAVS)** implemented a series of awareness and capacity-building programmes during the financial year **2024–25** across its operational areas in Maharashtra. These initiatives focused on promoting healthy lifestyles, strengthening youth leadership, enhancing community participation, improving health and sanitation practices, and addressing social issues such as alcoholism and substance abuse. The programmes were primarily implemented in the tribal and marginalized communities of Nagpur, Wardha, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli, Amravati, Akola, and Nandurbar districts.

The details of the major awareness initiatives are presented below:

Anti-Alcoholism Campaign

Recognising alcoholism as a major obstacle to the social and economic development of tribal communities, BGAVS continued its sustained efforts to promote de-addiction and healthy living. During the year, village-level awareness campaigns were organised in **20 villages**, engaging community members in discussions on the adverse impacts of alcohol consumption on families, health, livelihoods, and community well-being. These campaigns encouraged collective action towards creating alcohol-free villages.

Youth Leadership Development

BGAVS conducted **Youth Leadership Development Programmes** in **20 villages** and **10**

schools to nurture responsible and socially conscious young leaders. The programmes focused



on personality development, communication skills, leadership qualities, community participation, and civic responsibility. Value education sessions were also organised to instil ethical values, teamwork, and a spirit of volunteerism among students and rural youth.

Community Awareness on Health and Sanitation

To promote better health and hygiene practices, BGAVS organised awareness meetings in the urban slum areas of **Nagpur**. The sessions primarily targeted women and adolescent girls, covering topics such as personal hygiene, sanitation, menstrual health, disease prevention, nutrition, and the importance of maintaining a clean living environment.

Promotion of Yoga and Sports

BGAVS believes that physical fitness and positive engagement are essential for building healthy and resilient communities. During the year, the organisation encouraged youth groups to participate in sports and recreational activities while also promoting yoga as a means of improving physical and mental well-being. These initiatives provided constructive opportunities for young people and helped steer them away from harmful social practices.

Youth Participation in Local Governance

The organisation continued to strengthen youth engagement in democratic processes by facilitating regular interactions among young leaders in **Chandrapur district**. These forums enabled youth to discuss local governance issues, understand government schemes, and act as a bridge between communities and public institutions, thereby improving access to services and encouraging active citizen participation.

De-addiction Awareness Campaigns

As part of its long-standing commitment to creating alcohol-free tribal communities, BGAVS organised village-level **De-addiction Awareness Meetings** throughout the year. These meetings encouraged families and community members to support individuals struggling with alcohol addiction, while promoting behavioural change, community counselling, and collective responsibility towards building healthier and addiction-free villages.

These awareness initiatives collectively contributed to strengthening community institutions, empowering youth and women, promoting healthier lifestyles, and fostering greater social responsibility across BGAVS's intervention areas during **2024–25**.

DOMESTIC WORKERS' WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

Domestic workers constitute one of the largest yet most vulnerable segments of the informal workforce in India. Predominantly women from economically weaker, marginalized, and migrant communities, they often work under insecure conditions characterised by low and irregular wages, absence of social security, lack of legal protection, discrimination, exploitation, and limited recognition of their contribution to the economy. Despite performing essential care and household services, domestic workers have historically remained outside the ambit of formal labour protections and welfare mechanisms.



Recognising these challenges, **Bhartiya Gramin Adivasi Vikas Sanstha (BGAVS)** initiated the **Domestic Workers' Women Empowerment Programme** to organise, empower, and protect domestic women workers through collective action, leadership development, social security, skill enhancement, and policy advocacy. The organisation has played a pioneering role in mobilising domestic workers' organisations and advocating for the establishment and revival of the **Maharashtra Domestic Workers Welfare Board**, which provides access to welfare schemes, identity cards, social security benefits, and livelihood support. During 2024–25, the programme continued to strengthen community institutions while enabling women workers to claim their rights, access government entitlements, and improve their socio-economic status.

Programme Objectives

The Domestic Workers' Women Empowerment Programme aims to improve the dignity, security, and quality of life of domestic workers through the following objectives:

- Organise domestic women workers into strong community-based organisations for collective representation and leadership.
- Facilitate registration of domestic workers with the Maharashtra Domestic Workers Welfare Board to improve access to social security and welfare schemes.
- Promote awareness of labour rights, legal entitlements, gender equality, and protection against violence and exploitation.

- Build leadership capacities among women to participate effectively in decision-making processes at community and institutional levels.
- Enhance livelihood opportunities through vocational skills, entrepreneurship development, and financial literacy.
- Strengthen access to government welfare schemes related to health, education, social protection, pensions, food security, and women's development.
- Advocate for improved implementation of welfare policies and stronger institutional support for domestic workers at district and state levels.
- Foster solidarity, mutual support, and collective action among domestic workers to address social and economic challenges.

Programme Outcomes

The programme made significant progress during 2024–25 by strengthening both institutional mechanisms and community ownership.

- A comprehensive household survey covering **525 domestic workers** across six urban settlements helped identify priority needs and informed programme planning.
- **1,655 domestic workers** were successfully registered with the **Maharashtra Domestic Workers Welfare Board**, enabling them to access various government welfare schemes.
- **1,178 women** became members of the Domestic Workers' Organisation, strengthening collective representation and community mobilisation.
- **Eight Basti Committees** were established with elected women leaders to address issues related to welfare, livelihoods, health, education, and community development, while two additional committees are under formation.
- Hundreds of women accessed welfare benefits, including utensil kits, social security schemes, food security, pension programmes, health cards, child welfare schemes, and other government entitlements.
- Leadership development programmes, stakeholder consultations, employer sensitisation meetings, Women's Day celebrations, and exposure visits enhanced women's confidence, negotiation skills, and civic participation.
- Vocational skill development programmes in beauty services, tailoring, paper bag making, and entrepreneurship equipped women with alternative income-generation opportunities.
- Regular engagement with district authorities and state-level forums strengthened advocacy for the effective functioning of the Maharashtra Domestic Workers Welfare Board and revival of pending welfare schemes.

- Community surveys also highlighted gaps in early childhood services, leading to advocacy for new Anganwadi and vaccination facilities in underserved settlements.

Programme Impact

The Domestic Workers' Women Empowerment Programme has emerged as an important platform for advancing the rights, dignity, and socio-economic empowerment of domestic women workers in Maharashtra.

The programme has significantly improved women's awareness of labour rights and government welfare schemes, resulting in increased enrolment in social protection programmes and greater financial security for vulnerable families. Organised community structures have enabled women to collectively negotiate their concerns, engage constructively with government institutions, and participate more actively in local governance processes.

Leadership development initiatives have nurtured a cadre of confident women leaders who are now addressing issues related to health, education, domestic violence, social security, and community development within their settlements. Skill development and entrepreneurship training have expanded livelihood opportunities, contributing to improved household incomes and economic resilience.

Beyond individual benefits, the programme has strengthened social cohesion and created a sustainable community platform that now reaches more than **1,655 families**. It has also positioned BGAVS as a leading civil society organisation advocating for the recognition, welfare, and rights of domestic workers while contributing to the revival and strengthening of the Maharashtra Domestic Workers Welfare Board. The programme has therefore laid a strong foundation for ensuring dignity, social justice, and long-term socio-economic empowerment for one of the most neglected segments of the informal workforce.

EMPOWERING DOMESTIC WORKERS: BUILDING DIGNITY, LEADERSHIP AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Domestic workers constitute one of the most vulnerable segments of the urban informal workforce. Predominantly women from economically disadvantaged and marginalized communities, they often face low wages, insecure employment, absence of social protection, poor working conditions, and limited awareness of their legal rights and government entitlements. Recognising these challenges, **Bhartiya Gramin Adivasi Vikas Sanstha (BGAVS)** has been implementing a comprehensive programme to organise, empower, and strengthen domestic workers through awareness, capacity building, institutional development, and access to social security.

Following successful pilot interventions during 2022–24, BGAVS expanded its initiatives across **ten urban settlements (bastis) of Nagpur** during 2024–25. The programme focused on mobilising domestic workers into collective platforms, facilitating their registration with the Maharashtra Domestic Workers Welfare Board, promoting women's leadership, improving livelihood opportunities, and linking vulnerable families with government welfare schemes. A dedicated **Domestic Workers Resource Centre** at Manewada further strengthened community outreach by providing information, counselling, and support services.

Programme Objectives

The programme was designed to empower domestic workers through an integrated approach with the following objectives:

- Organise domestic workers into community-based institutions for collective representation and leadership.
- Increase awareness of labour rights, domestic workers' legislation, gender equality, occupational health, and social security.
- Facilitate registration with the Maharashtra Domestic Workers Welfare Board and improve access to welfare schemes and government entitlements.
- Strengthen women's leadership through Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Basti Committees, and community resource persons.
- Enhance livelihood opportunities through vocational skills, entrepreneurship development, and exposure visits.
- Promote health, sanitation, mental well-being, adolescent health, and community awareness among women and their families.
- Build partnerships with government departments, employers, and other stakeholders to improve the working and living conditions of domestic workers.

Programme Outcomes

The programme achieved significant milestones during the reporting year by strengthening community institutions and improving access to social protection.



- More than **1,100 domestic workers** were registered with the **Maharashtra Domestic Workers Welfare Board**, enabling them to access various government welfare schemes.

- **Twenty Self-Help Groups and women empowerment groups** were formed and strengthened, creating sustainable platforms for leadership, savings, and collective action.
- Awareness meetings reached over **700 domestic women workers**, while specialised consultations on workers' rights and challenges engaged around **300 women**.
- Health and gender awareness programmes benefited approximately **300 adolescent girls**, improving awareness on reproductive health, hygiene, and personal well-being.
- Information on welfare schemes reached nearly **1,000 domestic workers**, increasing enrolment in programmes such as Samman Dhan Yojana, Ladki Bahin Scheme, Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Scheme, Ramai Gharkul Yojana, and utensil distribution schemes.
- Stakeholder consultations involving government officials, employers, and domestic workers strengthened dialogue on workers' rights and improved coordination among service providers.
- Exposure visits and entrepreneurship programmes broadened participants' perspectives while enhancing livelihood opportunities and leadership capabilities.
- Through these combined interventions, the programme directly and indirectly reached **over 2,000 domestic workers' families**, extending benefits beyond individual workers to their households and communities.

Programme Impact

The programme has contributed significantly to enhancing the dignity, confidence, and socio-economic security of domestic workers. Organised women's groups have emerged as effective community institutions capable of advocating for workers' rights, accessing government services, and addressing local development issues.

Greater awareness of legal rights and welfare schemes has resulted in increased registration under the Domestic Workers Welfare Board and improved utilisation of social security benefits. Women have become more confident in negotiating wages, seeking better working conditions, and demanding fair treatment from employers.

The establishment of the Domestic Workers Resource Centre and the development of local women leaders have created a sustainable community support mechanism that continues to provide counselling, information, documentation support, and linkages with government departments.

The programme has also strengthened BGAVS's engagement with local governance institutions and government agencies, contributing to improved policy dialogue and stronger institutional support for domestic workers. Overall, the initiative has empowered women economically, socially, and institutionally while improving the quality of life of thousands of vulnerable families.

Key Learnings

Implementation of the programme generated several valuable insights that will guide future interventions:

- **Awareness is the foundation of empowerment.** Most domestic workers lacked knowledge of their rights, welfare schemes, and available support services. Systematic awareness-building proved essential before introducing other programme components.
- **Community-based institutions create sustainable change.** Formation of Self-Help Groups, women's collectives, and local leadership structures significantly improved participation, ownership, and long-term sustainability.
- **Training must be practical and participant-friendly.** Hands-on demonstrations, visual learning methods, local language communication, and participatory approaches were more effective than conventional classroom sessions.
- **Flexible implementation improves participation.** Conducting meetings during convenient hours and within the community increased attendance among women with demanding work schedules.
- **Documentation support is critical.** Assistance in obtaining identity documents, bank accounts, and registrations greatly improved access to government welfare schemes.
- **Peer leadership builds trust.** Trained domestic workers acting as community resource persons were highly effective in mobilising women, resolving issues, and sustaining programme activities.
- **Continuous follow-up is essential.** Regular counselling, refresher training, and institutional support are necessary to ensure long-term behavioural change, sustained access to entitlements, and stronger collective action.

These learnings have reinforced BGAVS's strategy of combining **community organisation, women's leadership, social security, skill development, and policy advocacy** to build a more dignified, secure, and empowered future for domestic workers and their families.

CAPACITY BUILDING OF MARGINAL FARMERS AND RURAL WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

Agriculture remains the primary source of livelihood for a majority of rural households in Chandrapur and Wardha districts. However, marginal farmers continue to face numerous challenges, including declining soil fertility, increasing cultivation costs, limited access to quality inputs, climate variability, and inadequate market opportunities. Rural women, despite their significant contribution to agriculture and household livelihoods, often have limited access to financial resources, institutional support, and income-generating opportunities.

To address these challenges, **Bhartiya Gramin Adivasi Vikas Sanstha (BGAVS)** implemented the **Capacity Building of Marginal Farmers and Rural Women Empowerment Programme** during 2024–25. The programme was implemented in **15 villages of Nagbhid Block, Chandrapur District, and 35 villages of Seloo Block, Wardha District,**

with a focus on promoting sustainable agriculture, strengthening rural livelihoods, and empowering women through community institutions and financial inclusion.

Programme Objectives

The programme aimed to strengthen the resilience and livelihoods of marginal farming households through sustainable agricultural practices and women's economic empowerment. The key objectives were to:

- Promote organic and climate-resilient farming practices among marginal farmers.
- Enhance farmers' knowledge of seed treatment and improved crop management techniques.
- Encourage diversified and multi-cropping systems suited to local agro-climatic conditions.
- Promote horticulture development and facilitate farmers' access to government agriculture schemes.
- Strengthen Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) through capacity building, financial literacy, and bank linkage.
- Support women in initiating small-scale income-generating activities and accessing government livelihood programmes.

Major Programme Interventions

During the reporting year, the following key activities were undertaken:

- Organised awareness programmes and practical demonstrations on **organic farming techniques** and **scientific seed treatment** to improve crop productivity while reducing dependence on chemical inputs.
- Promoted **multi-cropping systems** based on local geographical and climatic conditions to enhance farm resilience, improve soil health, and diversify household income.
- Conducted awareness programmes on **horticulture development**, encouraging farmers to adopt fruit and vegetable cultivation while facilitating access to relevant government schemes.
- Organised orientation programmes for **Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** on bank linkage, financial management, entrepreneurship, and government livelihood schemes to strengthen women's economic participation.
- Facilitated capacity-building initiatives for women to establish **small income-generating activities (IGPs)** and improve household incomes.

Programme Outcomes

The programme directly benefited **500 marginal farmers** and **110 Women Self-Help Groups** across the intervention villages. Farmers gained improved knowledge and practical skills in

organic farming, seed treatment, diversified cropping, and horticulture, enabling them to adopt more sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural practices.

Women Self-Help Groups enhanced their understanding of financial management, institutional credit, bank linkage processes, and government support programmes. Many SHGs became better equipped to access financial services and initiate livelihood activities, thereby strengthening household income and women's participation in local economic development.

Programme Impact

The programme contributed to improving the capacity of marginal farmers to adopt sustainable farming practices while reducing production costs and promoting environmentally responsible agriculture. Diversified farming systems and horticulture promotion have laid the foundation for enhanced farm productivity, improved nutritional security, and increased income opportunities.

The programme also strengthened women's leadership and economic empowerment by enhancing the capacities of Self-Help Groups and improving their access to financial institutions and government livelihood schemes. As a result, women are increasingly participating in household financial decisions, entrepreneurial activities, and community development initiatives.

By integrating sustainable agriculture with women's empowerment, the programme has contributed to building more resilient rural livelihoods and strengthening the socio-economic well-being of farming families across the intervention areas.

Key Learnings

Implementation of the programme generated several important insights for future interventions:

- Practical demonstrations and farmer-to-farmer learning are highly effective in promoting the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices.
- Climate-resilient farming practices, including organic farming and multi-cropping, are increasingly being accepted by marginal farmers when supported through continuous technical guidance.
- Strengthening Women's Self-Help Groups remains one of the most effective strategies for promoting financial inclusion, entrepreneurship, and community leadership.
- Linking farmers and SHGs with government schemes significantly enhances the sustainability and long-term impact of development interventions.
- An integrated approach combining agriculture, livelihoods, financial inclusion, and women's empowerment delivers greater and more sustainable development outcomes than implementing these components in isolation.

BAMBOO CRAFT CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (SFURTI SCHEME)

Bamboo craft is one of the oldest traditional occupations practiced by tribal and rural communities, providing an important source of livelihood and preserving indigenous craftsmanship. However, traditional bamboo artisans often face challenges such as inadequate infrastructure, outdated production techniques, limited access to finance, weak market linkages, and low income opportunities. Recognising the need to revitalise traditional industries, the **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India**, launched the **Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI)** to strengthen artisan-based enterprises through a cluster development approach.

Bhartiya Gramin Adivasi Vikas Sanstha (BGAVS) was entrusted with the implementation of the **Bamboo Craft Cluster Development Programme** under the SFURTI Scheme on **17 February 2021**. The programme aims to strengthen the livelihoods of traditional bamboo artisans by providing modern infrastructure, skill enhancement, enterprise development, financial inclusion, and market access. The cluster comprises **945 bamboo artisans**, predominantly belonging to tribal and other socially disadvantaged communities, who are being supported to transform their traditional skills into sustainable and profitable rural enterprises.

Programme Objectives

The Bamboo Craft Cluster Development Programme aims to promote sustainable livelihood opportunities for traditional bamboo artisans through an integrated cluster development approach. The major objectives of the programme are to:

- Strengthen traditional bamboo-based livelihoods through modern infrastructure and technology.
- Organise bamboo artisans into a sustainable producer-owned institution for collective production and marketing.
- Enhance artisans' technical skills through advanced training and capacity-building programmes.
- Promote entrepreneurship, value addition, and product diversification in bamboo crafts.
- Facilitate financial inclusion by linking artisans with banks and institutional credit.
- Improve market access through exhibitions, branding, and business development support.
- Ensure long-term sustainability through the establishment of a Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO)/artisan-owned enterprise.

Major Programme Interventions

During the reporting year, BGAVS implemented a series of strategic interventions to strengthen the Bamboo Craft Cluster and improve the livelihoods of traditional artisans.

A comprehensive profiling exercise was completed for all **945 bamboo artisans**, and their details were digitised and uploaded to the Government portal, creating an authentic database for future programme support and convergence with government schemes.

Exposure visits were organised to **Burhanpur, Gulai Mal (Khandwa), and Betul** to provide artisans with opportunities to learn innovative bamboo product designs, improved production techniques, and successful enterprise models. These visits broadened their technical knowledge and inspired product diversification.

Capacity-building and skill upgradation programmes were conducted in **three training batches**, equipping artisans with advanced production techniques, quality improvement measures, and business management skills. Practical training sessions on modern bamboo processing equipment enabled artisans to adopt improved production technologies that enhance efficiency, product quality, and productivity.

To ensure continuous technical support, a cadre of **Master Trainers** was developed from within the artisan community. These trained resource persons now provide regular handholding support, technical guidance, and mentoring to fellow artisans.

Financial inclusion was promoted through interface meetings between bankers and artisans, facilitating awareness of credit facilities and enterprise financing opportunities. Simultaneously, all major infrastructure components of the cluster—including the training centre, raw material storage facility, common facility centre, and machinery installation—were completed, creating a modern production ecosystem for the artisans.

A significant milestone was the registration of the **Artisans' Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO)** to ensure professional management of production, procurement, marketing, and long-term sustainability of the cluster.

Programme Outcomes

The Bamboo Craft Cluster Development Programme has substantially strengthened the institutional and production capacities of the bamboo artisan community.

- A comprehensive digital database of **945 bamboo artisans** was successfully created and integrated with the Government's online system.
- Three rounds of skill enhancement programmes significantly improved artisans' technical competencies, product quality, and production efficiency.
- Modern production infrastructure, machinery, and common facilities became fully operational, providing artisans with improved working conditions and enhanced productivity.
- Master Trainers were developed to ensure continuous capacity building and knowledge transfer within the cluster.
- Financial literacy and institutional linkages improved through interactions with banking institutions, facilitating greater access to formal financial services.

- The registration of the Artisans' FPO established a sustainable institutional framework for collective enterprise management, procurement, and marketing.
- Artisans actively participated in district, state, and national exhibitions, expanding market opportunities and increasing the visibility of bamboo products.

Programme Impact

The programme has transformed the Bamboo Craft Cluster into a vibrant rural enterprise ecosystem, enhancing both the livelihoods and confidence of traditional artisans. The adoption of improved production technologies, modern infrastructure, and advanced skills has significantly enhanced artisans' productivity, product quality, and competitiveness in the market.



The formation of the Artisans' FPO has strengthened collective entrepreneurship by enabling artisans to access raw materials, financial services, marketing opportunities, and institutional support through a common platform. Participation in exhibitions at district, state, and national levels has increased market exposure, improved customer outreach, and created new income opportunities for artisan families.

Beyond economic benefits, the programme has contributed to preserving traditional bamboo craftsmanship while creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for tribal and rural

communities. The continuous technical guidance and post-project support provided by BGAVS have ensured that the cluster remains self-sustaining and capable of generating long-term socio-economic benefits for the **945 traditional bamboo artisans**.

Key Learnings

Implementation of the SFURTI Bamboo Craft Cluster has generated several important lessons for future livelihood interventions:

- A **cluster-based development approach** is highly effective in strengthening traditional artisan enterprises by integrating infrastructure, skill development, finance, and market linkages.
- **Continuous capacity building and technical handholding** are essential for enabling artisans to adopt modern production technologies and diversify their products.
- Exposure visits and peer learning significantly enhance artisans' confidence, innovation, and entrepreneurial outlook.
- Establishing a **producer-owned institution (FPO)** is critical for ensuring long-term sustainability, collective marketing, and improved bargaining power.
- Modern infrastructure combined with improved market access substantially increases the income potential and competitiveness of traditional artisans.
- Sustained post-project mentoring and institutional support are essential for ensuring that traditional livelihood programmes continue to generate economic and social benefits beyond the project period.

The Bamboo Craft Cluster Development Programme has emerged as a successful model for revitalising traditional industries by integrating skill development, enterprise promotion, institutional strengthening, and market-oriented livelihood development, thereby contributing to the economic empowerment of tribal and rural artisan communities.

नवराष्ट्र

मेळघाटच्या बांबू राखीची विदेश वारी

अमरावती, ज्युरो. मेळघाटात बनलेली बांबूची राखी आता देशातील विविध राज्यांसह परदेशातही लोकप्रिय झाली आहे. वैहारच्या बांबू हस्तकला कलाकारांनी बनवलेल्या या राख्या पूर्णपणे इको-फ्रेंडली आहेत. या वर्षी आदिवासी कारागिरांनी 6 नवीन आकर्षक डिझाईन्सच्या राख्या तयार केल्या आहे. राखाबंधनापूर्वी देश-विदेशातील शहरांमध्ये या राख्या पोहचवल्या जात आहे.

भारतीय ग्रामीण आदिवासी विकास संस्थेला सूक्ष्म, लघु आणि मध्यम उद्योग मंत्रालयाच्या (भारत सरकार) स्फुटी योजनेअंतर्गत बांबू क्राफ्ट क्लस्टर प्रकल्प मिळाला आहे. हा प्रकल्प धारणीच्या लवादा येथे सुरू करण्यात आला आहे. त्याद्वारे 945 स्थानिक कलाकारांना बांबूपासून साहित्य बनवण्याचे प्रशिक्षण दिल्या गेले. कारागिरांना व स्थानिकांना रोजगार देऊन स्वावलंबी बनवण्याचे हे मोठे यश आहे. बांबू ही एक अशी कला

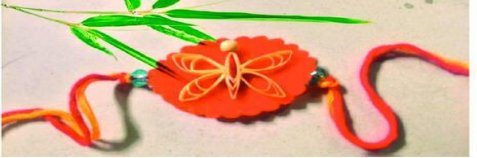
आदिवासींनी साकारलेल्या राख्यांचे 6 आकर्षक डिझाईन, रोजगाराची संधी



उत्पादने विक्रीसाठी ग्रामीण मार्ट

बांबू कारागिरांनी बनवलेल्या वस्तू शिष्टपणाची व्यवस्था स्थानिक पातळीवर आहे. लवकरच रुरुल मार्ट सारखे प्लॅटफॉर्म तयार केले जातील. बांबू कारागिरांच्या पारंपारिक कामाला चालना देण्यासाठी स्फुटी योजनेअंतर्गत लवादा गावात बांबू क्राफ्ट क्लस्टर प्रकल्प कार्यरत आहे. या माध्यमातून कारागिरांना नियमित रोजगार उपलब्ध करून दिला जात आहे. आधुनिक यंत्रांवर कारागिरांना काम देऊन अधिकाधिक उत्पादनांची निर्मिती केली जात आहे.

— सहदेव शनवार, प्रकल्प समन्वयक बांबू क्राफ्ट क्लस्टर लवादा अमरावती.



आकर्षक बांबू उत्पादनांना मागणी

बांबूपासून बांबू ट्रे, बांबू मल्टी टेबल्स, बांबू वॉल वॉच, बांबू पेन स्टॅंड आणि बांबू दिवे इत्यादी अनेक प्रकारच्या वस्तू बनवल्या जात आहेत. या उत्पादनांची मागणी आता इमपाट्याने वाढत आहे. ज्यासाठी स्थानिक बांबू कारागिरांना नवीन प्रकारच्या डिझाईन्सचे प्रशिक्षण देऊन प्रशिक्षण देण्यात आले. आता येथे वेगवेगळी उत्पादने साकारली जात आहेत. ज्यांना सर्वत्र मागणी आहे.

आहे की अशिक्षित लोकही ती फार कमी वेळेत शिकू शकतात. आणि काम अगदी

सहज करू शकतात. मेळघाट हा परिसर चारही बाजूंनी डोंगरांनी वेढलेला आहे.

स्थानिक पातळीवर कोणत्याही प्रकारचा कारखाना किंवा कंपनी नसल्यामुळे येथील लोक दरवर्षी पुरेशा रोजगाराच्या सोळात इतर शहरांमध्ये स्थलांतरित होतात.

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PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

BGAVS firmly believes that sustainable development is best achieved through strong partnerships, collaborative action, and shared commitment. During the year **2024–25**, the organisation continued to strengthen its strategic alliances with national and international development partners, government institutions, corporate agencies, and civil society organisations to enhance the scale, quality, and impact of its programmes.

We gratefully acknowledge the continued support and collaboration of our valued partners, including the **American Jewish World Service (AJWS), USA, Global Greengrants Fund (GGF)**, various **Ministries of the Government of India**, Government of Maharashtra departments, district and local government bodies, Panchayati Raj Institutions, financial institutions, and partner NGOs. Their technical guidance, financial assistance, institutional cooperation, and policy support have been instrumental in implementing initiatives across the sectors of sustainable livelihoods, women's empowerment, tribal development, natural resource management, child rights, and community institution building.

The organisation also worked closely with local communities, Self-Help Groups, Farmer Producer Organisations, community-based institutions, academic and technical organisations, and grassroots leaders to ensure participatory planning, effective implementation, and long-term sustainability of development initiatives.

These enduring partnerships have significantly strengthened BGAVS's institutional capacity, expanded its outreach to vulnerable communities, and enabled the organisation to deliver meaningful and sustainable development outcomes. BGAVS expresses its sincere gratitude to all its partners and stakeholders for their continued trust, cooperation, and shared vision of creating inclusive, resilient, and empowered communities.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BGAVS expresses its sincere gratitude to all those who have contributed to its journey of serving tribal and marginalized communities during the year 2024–25. We deeply appreciate the unwavering support, trust, and collaboration extended by our donors, development partners, government departments, local self-governments, civil society organisations, volunteers, and well-wishers.

We are especially grateful to the community members, village institutions, women's groups, youth, farmers, artisans, and grassroots leaders whose active participation, commitment, and ownership have been the cornerstone of every initiative undertaken by the organisation.

Our heartfelt thanks also go to our dedicated staff members, field teams, and volunteers, whose tireless efforts, professionalism, and compassion have enabled us to reach some of the most vulnerable communities and create meaningful and sustainable change.

Together, these partnerships and collective efforts continue to strengthen our mission of promoting equity, dignity, sustainable livelihoods, and inclusive development for tribal and marginalized communities. We look forward to continuing this shared journey towards building stronger, more resilient, and empowered communities.