

NISARG VIDNYAN MANDAL (NiViM), Nagpur

Annual Activity Report for FY 2024-25

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Seed Collection and Sowing Initiative of NiViM to Conserve Local Biodiversity :

Over the past year, our organization has actively engaged in sustainable seed collection and sowing efforts across forests and agricultural landscapes near local villages. This initiative focuses on preserving native biodiversity, supporting agroecological resilience, and strengthening community-driven conservation efforts. By collaborating with local farmers and forest communities, we have not only gathered indigenous seeds vital for ecosystem restoration but also ensured their strategic sowing in degraded landscapes, enhancing natural regeneration.



Mr. Sanjay Saraf ,GM, Ankur seed and Secretary GRAMAYAN addressing to seed collector gathered at NETRAVAN for activities of Seed collection & Sowing for plantation.



Through systematic seed collection, combined with traditional knowledge and scientific insights, we safeguarded native seed varieties, reinforcing climate-adaptive and sustainable agricultural practices. Additionally, targeted sowing techniques—such as direct broadcasting and assisted germination—help facilitate seedling establishment, boosting soil health and habitat restoration. The attached photographs document key moments, from seed identification and collection to sowing and post-sowing monitoring. Each image reflects the

dedication of our team and local stakeholders in reviving biodiversity and promoting sustainable livelihoods.

Looking ahead, we aim to scale these efforts by integrating improved seed sowing methodologies, enhancing germination success rates, and fostering stronger community participation in restoration programs. With continued support and collaboration, we strive to ensure the long-term sustainability of these ecological interventions, reinforcing our broader environmental conservation goals. This activity supported by LASENOR and Ankur seed under their CSR fund provision for voluntary organization efforts. Maximum seed collected from outskirts of forest again sowed in the thorny bushes of CFR land.



CFRMC Gramsabha Meetings and Trainings under FRA-2006:

1. Introduction

This report outlines the progress and outcomes of Community Forest Right Management Committee (CFRMC) Gram Sabha meetings conducted across 40 villages allotted 9,385 hectares of land under the Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006. It also documents the trainings organized at NETRAVAN a Community Resource Centre (CRC) of Nisarg Vidnyan Mandal (NiViM) to implement sustainable management of CFR land, conservation strategies, and livelihood security measures for stakeholders. Trainings for FRA-2006 implementation of CFRMC members and skill development of women for collection and marketing of NTMP supported by LASENOR India Ltd under CSR initiative to empowerment of sustainable livelihood.

2. Overview of CFRMC Gramsabha Meetings

- **Number of Meetings:** 34
- **Villages Covered:** 21
- **Key Discussion Points:**
 - Sustainable forest management practices
 - Conservation strategies for water, wildlife, and biodiversity
 - Strengthening governance under FRA-2006
 - Enhancing livelihood security through resource-based enterprises
- **Major Resolutions Passed:**
 - Establishing village-level conservation & management action plans
 - Implementing agroforestry and biodiversity enhancement measures
 - Strengthening participatory governance mechanisms

3. Training organized at NETRAVAN

- **Objective:** To equip community members with the skills and knowledge necessary for effective CFR management, conservation, and livelihood development.



**Tribal, Women,
Marginal Farmers**

Empowerment for Sustainable Livelihood

Organised by
Nisarg Vidnyan (NiViM) Mandal, Nagpur

Location
Forest Villages of Umred Taluka, Dist. Nagpur

Supported by
LASNOR India Pvt. Ltd., Nagpur

- **Number of Trainings Conducted in FY 2024-2025 : 14**
- **Participants:** Village representatives, forest-dependent communities, women, youth, and local leadership



Mr.G,N Rathod and Mr. Vijay Raising demonstrate a model of livelihood based on NTFP in trainings for steps of implementation of CFR as per FRA-2006 organised at NETRAVAN.

- **Key Topics Covered:**
 - Indigenous knowledge integration in conservation
 - Wildlife conservation and human-animal coexistence
 - Livelihood-based resource utilization (NTFPs, organic farming)
- **Impact & Outcomes:**
 - Enhanced understanding of conservation practices
 - Strengthened capacity for governance and leadership
 - Increased stakeholder participation in conservation efforts
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4. Challenges Encountered & Solutions Proposed

- **Challenges:**
 - Limited financial resources for conservation initiatives
 - Need for stronger linkages with government agencies
 - Resistance in adopting new livelihood approaches
- **Proposed Solutions:**
 - Mobilizing CSR funds and government schemes
 - Strengthening community networks for advocacy
 - Integrating traditional wisdom with modern conservation approaches



CFRMC Gramsabha for MREGS work at village Undari of Surgaon Grampanchayt

6. Conclusion

The CFRMC Gramsabha meetings at villages and training at NETRAVAN have successfully laid a strong foundation for sustainable forest conservation while promoting livelihood security for local stakeholders. Continued engagement and capacity-building efforts will be pivotal in advancing community-led conservation and governance initiatives.



Green Tendu Leaf Collection in Umred Taluka [FY,2024-2025] :

1. Introduction

This report summarizes the community-led initiative for the collection of green tendu leaves in Umred Taluka, carried out by CFRMC Gramsabha members from 09 villages. The activity emphasizes sustainable forest resource utilization, livelihood security, and conservation-driven economic opportunities under consortium of Vidarbha Livelihood Forum (VLF) by Umred-Kuhi Taluka Gramsabha Mahasangh. It is a federation of a CFRMC Gramsabha formed and supported by Nisarg Vidnyan Mandal (NiViM), Nagpur. Total process of a sale of Green leaves of Tendu conducted by launching open tender for Tendu leaves purchaser (Contractor) as per directives of VL. This process is self-sustaining and creates a source of self-empowerment of Gramsabha members.

2. Overview of Collection Activity

- **Number of Villages Involved:** 09
Includes Davha, Matakazari, Kachchhimet, Deoli (Amgaon), Bhivgad, Jambhlapani,
- **Total Bunches Collected:** 393,870 bunches
- **Average tendu leaves collectors from each village is 25 and earning in season of 10 days is Rs.7342.00.** Hence daily wages per day is Rs.734/-. It is more than double of MREGS work rates /day for one person.
- **Composition of One Bunch:** 70 leaves per bunch
- **Rate Per Bunch:** ₹4.25

3. Economic Impact

- **Total Earnings:** ₹16,73,947
- **Number of Beneficiaries:** 228
- **Community Engagement:** Active participation in sustainable harvesting, ensuring equitable distribution of earnings and adherence to forest regulations.



4. Sustainability Practices

- **Harvesting Guidelines:** Collection was conducted with minimal disturbance to the ecosystem, respecting indigenous knowledge on sustainable harvesting.
- **Forest Conservation Measures:** Ensured replantation and preservation of tendu trees, minimizing ecological impact.

5. Challenges and Recommendations

- **Challenges:** Market fluctuations, pricing negotiations, logistical constraints, and environmental factors affecting leaf quality.
- **Recommendations:** Strengthening value-chain linkages, exploring processing opportunities, improving storage conditions, and advocating for better pricing models.

6. Conclusion

The CFRMC-led tendu leaf collection activity has reinforced the role of community-based forest governance while contributing to local livelihoods. Future initiatives should focus on market diversification and sustainability-driven interventions to enhance benefits for community members.



Go Green project to create Green Horizon of a Bio diversity Conservation as a sustainable model of Agro Ecology by Plantation of 20,000 plus Plants at CFR Gramsabha & NETRAVAN land : (April 2024 – March 2025)

1. Introduction

This report highlights the systematic process undertaken for the plantation of 20,000 plants under CSR initiative for Go Green project of HDFC Bank Ltd across CFR Gramsabha and NETRAVAN land, ensuring ecological sustainability, biodiversity enhancement, and livelihood security for stake holders. The initiative followed a stepwise approach, including land preparation, pit digging, manure application, and final plantation. This project also supported under Green Horizon project to protect the plantation by Chain link fencing and drip irrigation for regular watering as a CSR initiative of WCL

2. Steps of Implementation

Step 1: Land Cleaning & Preparation (March – April 2024)

- **Objective:** To clear land for plantation while retaining soil health.
- **Activities:**
 - Removal of invasive plant species and debris.
 - Levelling of terrain to ensure water retention.
 - Identification of soil types and preparation for plantation suitability.



- **Outcome:**
 - Ready-to-use land, optimized for plantation success.

Step 2: Pit Digging (May – June 2024)

- **Objective:** To create structured plantation pits ensuring proper root growth.

- **Activities:**
 - Marking pit locations in alignment with agroforestry principles.
 - Digging pits with standardized depth and width to accommodate plant species.
 - Natural water harvesting techniques integrated for moisture conservation.
- **Outcome:**
 - 20,000 pits prepared for plantation with ideal spacing and soil aeration.



Land cleaning and soil with manure feeding activity by community participation in pits .

Step 3: Manure Filling & Soil Enrichment (May-June 2024)

- **Objective:** To enhance soil fertility using organic manure and natural supplements.
- **Activities:**
 - Application of farmyard manure, vermicompost, and biofertilizers.
 - Addition of microbial cultures to improve soil biodiversity.
 - Mulching techniques adopted to retain soil moisture and prevent erosion.
- **Outcome:**
 - Nutrient-rich soil prepared to support plant growth.



Step 4: Plantation Implementation (July – August 2024)

- **Objective:** To ensure successful plantation with optimal survival rate.
- **Activities:**
 - Selection of indigenous plant species suited for the local ecosystem.
 - Plantation drives conducted with community participation, including women and youth.
 - Immediate post-plantation care, including watering, shading, and pest management.



- **Outcome:**
 - 20,000 plants successfully established, contributing to forest regeneration.

3. Challenges & Solutions

- **Challenges:**
 - Unpredictable weather fluctuations affecting soil conditions.
 - Need for consistent watering and protection from grazing.
- **Solutions:**
 - Installation of water conservation techniques like drip irrigation.
 - Community-led monitoring & chain link fencing to survival enhancement.



4. Conclusion & Future Steps

The plantation initiative marks a significant step in CFR land management, forest conservation, and livelihood enhancement. Future actions include regular monitoring, additional soil enrichment programs, and community-led sustainability measures to ensure long-term ecological benefits. Activity of plantation supported by HDFC Bank Ltd and Drip Irrigation, Chain link fencing supported by WCL under CSR initiatives of both esteemed institute.



Plant Distribution Activity in Celebration of World Environment

Day 2024 Date: June 5, 2024 Venue: Laxmi bhavan Square , Nagpur

Introduction :

On the occasion of World Environment Day, 5th June 2024, a meaningful initiative was undertaken to promote greenery and environmental consciousness among urban nature enthusiasts. Jointly organised Nisarg Vidnyan Mandal (NiViM) & Indian Water Resource Organization (IWRO), a plant distribution drive was arranged to encourage sustainable living and ecological restoration in urban spaces.

Activities Overview :

The event marked the beginning of the initiative by offering a plant to Mrs. Hema Deshpande, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Nagpur by Dr. Vijay Ghugey ,Founder .



Dr.Vijay Ghugey conferred a plant to Mrs.Hema Deshpande , R.O, MPCB to launch an event.

This symbolic gesture emphasized the importance of tree plantation in urban areas to combat pollution and enhance green cover.

The function was further graced by distinguished guests, including Mr. Pravin Mahajan, Secretary, Indian Water Resource Organization (IWRO) Mr. Ajay Mahajan, President, Nisarganand Gram Vikas Foundation and Mr. Bhagwandas Rathi, Individual knowledgeable who actively participated in the plants distribution drive. Their presence reinforced the shared commitment towards creating a sustainable and eco-friendly urban environment.

Objectives

- To encourage nature lovers in urban areas to adopt sustainable practices.
- To enhance green cover and contribute to environmental conservation.
- To spread awareness about the significance of tree plantation in urban spaces.
- To inspire collective efforts towards a greener future.

Impact and Outcome

The initiative successfully brought together individuals passionate about environmental preservation. The distribution of plants served as a step towards fostering a culture of ecological responsibility, ensuring long-term benefits for urban biodiversity and climate resilience.

Conclusion

The World Environment Day 2024 celebration was a significant step in promoting the importance of plantation for **Green Generation**. Through collaborative efforts, the event not only highlighted the need for sustainable practices but also reinforced the power of community-driven environmental actions.



Prani Kalyan Ashram, NETRAVAN (Nisarg Vidnyan Goshala):

Organization: Prani Kalyan Ashram, NETRAVAN (Nisarg Vidnyan Goshala) **Established:** 2010

Location: NETRAVAN, Khapari (Davha), Taluka Umred, District Nagpur **Registered With:**

- Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), New Delhi – 2010
- Maharashtra Goseva Aayog (MGSA), Pune – 2025

Introduction

Prani Kalyan Ashram, under the aegis of NiViM, has been working tirelessly towards Animal Welfare & Threatened Species Conservation (AWTSC) with a primary focus on the protection of indigenous breeds of Indian cows. The AWTSC network is also committed to the conservation of wildlife, fauna, and avifauna, ensuring ecological balance and biodiversity preservation.

Key Activities and Achievements (in FY 2024-2025)

1. Indigenous Cow Breed Conservation :

- Strengthened the **AWTSC network** to promote indigenous cow protection.
- Engaged farmers, cow lovers, and Gopalak in sustainable cow-rearing practices, encouraging them to keep cows at their premises for lifelong care.
- Facilitated local breed registration and genetic conservation efforts.



2. Expansion of Goshala Initiatives :

- Enhanced infrastructure and care at **Prani Kalyan Ashram, NETRAVAN**, providing a safe habitat for cows.
- Increased outreach and advocacy for ethical cow management and animal welfare practices.
- Collaborated with stakeholders to improve shelter conditions and veterinary care.

3. Training & Community Awareness :

- Conducted multiple training sessions on the value-added use of cow dung (Gomay) and cow urine (Gomutra) to create organic manure, insecticides, and pesticides for natural/organic farming.
- Developed innovative cow-based products to enhance community use and promote sustainable agricultural practices.
- Organized hands-on workshops for farmers, helping them adopt eco-friendly alternatives in farming.



Impact and Future Initiatives

The year 2024 marked significant progress in advancing **animal welfare, ecological conservation, and sustainable farming practices**. Moving forward, NiViM aims to:

- Expand the reach of the **AWTSC network**, strengthening farmer participation.
- Develop newer methods for organic farming using cow-based derivatives.
- Enhance local conservation efforts for wildlife, fauna, and avifauna.
- Strengthen collaborations with government and private agencies to promote sustainability and biodiversity conservation.

Conclusion

Through its unwavering commitment, **Prani Kalyan Ashram, NETRAVAN** continues to lead impactful initiatives in animal welfare and environmental conservation. The contributions of farmers, stakeholders, and conservationists remain integral in shaping a more sustainable future.



Implementation of Natural/Organic Farming Project By Nisarg Vidnyan Mandal (NiViM) Project Year: [August 2024 to March 2025]

1. Introduction :

Nisarg Vidnyan Mandal (NiViM) initiated an organic farming project across Jambhlapani, Murzadi, Khairee, Deoli (Amgaon) a four villages in the vicinity of Deoli (Amgoan) to reduce reliance on chemical fertilizers and promote sustainable agricultural practices among marginal farmers. Through sensitization programs, training sessions, and community-led initiatives, farmers were empowered to adopt indigenous crop cultivation and prepare organic manure, fostering long-term ecological balance and livelihood security. This project is supported by Bharat Agroecology Fund (BAF) under financial assistance by Global Green Grant (GGG) London, U.K. .Initial stage of this project is 15 months only to create awareness and initiation of action for organic farming.

2. Objectives:

- **Minimize the use of chemical fertilizers** by promoting eco-friendly alternatives.

- **Form farmer groups** to facilitate knowledge exchange and collective decision-making.
- **Conduct training sessions** on organic manure preparation and sustainable farming techniques.
- **Distribute indigenous seeds** to encourage biodiversity and resilience in local farming systems.
- **Strengthen market linkages** for organically grown produce, ensuring economic sustainability.

3. Implementation Strategy

- **Awareness Campaigns for Mobilization & Group Formation:** Conducted village-level discussions, reinforcing the importance of sustainable practices. Organized self-help farmer groups to discuss organic farming benefits and collective farm management.



- **Training Programs:** Conducted workshops on composting, vermiculture, and natural pest control methods at village and cluster levels in project area Villages.



- **Seed Distribution & Indigenous Crop Promotion:** Provided seeds of traditional, region-specific varieties, lean seed distributed to 30 farmers of project area in convergence with Oil seed Research Centre, Nagpur Agriculture College, Dr Panjabrao Deshmukh Agriculture University to enhancing soil fertility and crop resilience.
- **Field Demonstrations by exposure visit & Follow-up Support:** 03 Exposure visits are organized at three different places to show a crops pattern, market situation for need assessment to Established model farms showcasing the effectiveness of organic techniques .



crops observation and Demonstration of pesticide preparation at Farm Field School

4. Key Achievements

- 52 farmers successfully adopted organic farming methods.
- 90 acres of farmland transitioned to chemical-free cultivation.
- 21 training sessions conducted, reaching a diverse farming population.
- Market opportunities identified for organic produce, improving farmer incomes.
- Strengthened local agricultural biodiversity through indigenous crop promotion.

5. Challenges Encountered

- Resistance from farmers accustomed to conventional practices.
- Limited initial market demand for organically grown produce.
- Need for continued follow-up and additional training sessions.

6. Future Roadmap

- Expand awareness campaigns to more villages.
- Strengthen market linkages for organic produce.
- Introduce organic certification support for farmers.
- Enhance financial assistance programs to ensure smooth project scalability.

7. Conclusion

The implementation of this **Natural/Organic Farming Project** has fostered a paradigm shift towards sustainable agriculture, enhancing ecological resilience and farmer well-being. Continued efforts in training, sensitization, and market development will ensure long-term impact, strengthening the foundation for chemical-free farming in the region.

Gratitude to Our Funding Partners :

We extend our sincere thanks to our CSR partners HDFC Bank, LASONER India Pvt. Ltd., Western Coal Field Ltd (WCL), the Forest Department, the Directorate of Agro Tourism, Government of Maharashtra, and the Rotary Club of Green Nagpur for their generous support and belief in our mission. We are equally grateful to the many **individual donors** whose financial and social contributions have strengthened our journey. Your partnership empowers grassroots change and fuels our collective vision for a more inclusive and sustainable future.

