



Soil Ecosystem: The Hidden World Beneath Our Feet

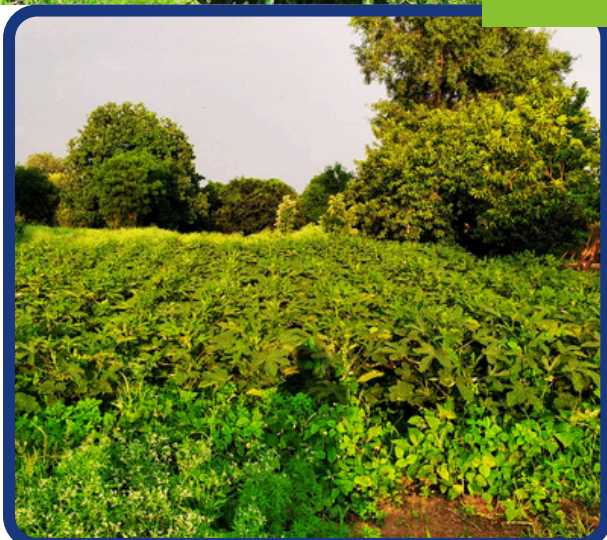
Soil is a complex ecosystem teeming with life. From microbes to multicellular flora and fauna, soil is home to a diverse community of organisms. Soil organisms play a crucial role in maintaining soil health. They decompose organic matter, recycle nutrients for plants, and help regulate the soil's structure. Healthy soils also act as carbon sinks, absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and helping to mitigate climate change impacts.

Deforestation, overgrazing, pollution, heavy use of fertilizers and pesticides and climate change pose significant threats to the soil ecosystem. Clearing forests leads to soil erosion and loss of biodiversity. Excessive grazing can compact the soil and reduce its water-holding capacity. Chemical pollutants can contaminate the soil, harming organisms and reducing its productivity. Rising temperatures and changes in precipitation patterns can disrupt soil ecosystems and affect their ability to function properly.

SUVIDHA is committed to protecting and restoring degraded soil ecosystems. We are actively working to:

- **Implement regenerative agricultural** techniques to help maintain soil health and biodiversity.
- **Plantation** to restore degraded soils and improve their carbon sequestration capacity.
- **Promote organic and chemical free farming** to reduce the load of pesticides and herbicides and protect soil organisms.
- **Educate farmers** about the importance of soil health and provide them with the knowledge and tools they need to adopt sustainable practices.

By understanding and adopting practices that benefit the soil biome, we can ensure the long-term health and sustainability of our planet's ecosystems.



HIGHLIGHTS

Gram Seva (SBI Foundation):
Promoting Maternal and Child Health

Learnwell (CONCOR): Transforming
Government Schools in Bageshwar,
Uttarakhand

Celebrating Van Mahotsav: SUVIDHA
Plants Seeds for a Greener Future

H2OPE (Hyundai Motor India Foundation):
Awareness Workshop in Health, Hygiene
and Water Conservation in 100
Government Schools.

Sangam (LIC HFL): Addressing Turmeric Leaf Discoloration and Enhancing Farmer Adoption of Bio Inputs

Farmers in 5 villages of West Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya were facing a concerning issue with their Lakadong turmeric crops. Their lush green plants were inexplicably turning pale, causing significant distress among the farming community. The field team, during their regular monitoring visits, realized that the crops were suffering from leaf bleaching due to nutrient deficiencies and sought expert advice from **Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) specialists**. After careful analysis, the experts confirmed the diagnosis and recommended tailored solutions to address the nutrient imbalance.

To address this widespread issue, **a comprehensive training program was conducted in five villages.** Farmers were educated on the significance of bio inputs and their proper use including application techniques, timing, dosage, and integrated pest management.

To reinforce the training and ensure widespread adoption, the team distributed bio inputs to the farmers. **Over 200 farmers received organic fertilizers**, compost, and other natural soil amendments. This not only provided immediate relief to the affected crops but also encouraged the continued use of bio inputs in future agricultural practices.

By empowering farmers with knowledge and resources, the team played a crucial role in mitigating the leaf discoloration crisis and promoting sustainable farming practices in the region.



Gram Seva (SBI Foundation): Promoting Maternal and Child Health

SUVIDHA's dedicated medical attendant played a crucial role in improving the health and well-being of the community during two recent medical camps at the Wellness Centre in Kiri, Chamba, Himachal Pradesh. The focus was on providing essential antenatal care and child immunization services.

During these camps vital health screenings, including monitoring blood pressure, sugar levels, and hemoglobin (Hb) levels were conducted to identify potential health concerns early on and ensure timely interventions.

For children, oral polio and Vitamin A drops, as well as rotavirus vaccines, were administered to protect them from preventable diseases.

These efforts are a testament to our commitment to promoting maternal and child health and ensuring a brighter future for the community.



HRDP MP 2.0 (HDFC Parivartan) Inauguration Ceremony followed by Funder Visit



Inauguration of Holistic Rural Development Program, Maheshwar, Madhya Pradesh

On 30th August, an inauguration ceremony for the Holistic Rural Development Program (HRDP) Project was held at Sardar Patel University, Maheshwar. The event was attended by esteemed dignitaries, government officials, HDFC Bank Parivartan representatives, and 170 farmer members.

During the ceremony, we introduced new schemes for farmers and showcased the progress made in our project area. We also highlighted the importance of sustainable agriculture, women empowerment, and community development.

Partner Visit and Observations

Mr. Mrityunjay, representative from HDFC Bank Parivartan visited the project area, assessing the progress of the interventions and interacting with the beneficiaries. He visited the Handloom Training Centre, Biogas Units, and farmers involved in vegetable cultivation in Samraj Village. His valuable feedback on scaling up the project's impact has empowered the project team.



H₂OPE (Hyundai Motor India Foundation): Awareness Workshop in Health, Hygiene and Water Conservation in 100 Government Schools.

A groundbreaking initiative to promote health, hygiene, and water conservation among students was launched in **100 government schools in Gadchiroli district, Maharashtra.**

Through interactive workshops and engaging activities, the initiative successfully raised awareness about the importance of these vital issues. To equip schools with the necessary tools for ensuring safe drinking water, digital pH-TDS meters were provided. By instilling lifelong habits in young minds, this initiative aims to create a healthier and more sustainable future.

Beyond workshops, discussions were held to emphasize the significance of safe drinking water and the dire consequences of consuming contaminated water. These discussions highlighted the importance of protecting public health and preserving natural resources.



Unnati (SBI Foundation) Comprehensive Training on Women Entrepreneurs

Significant strides were made in empowering women entrepreneurs in Solan and Sirmaur Districts, Himachal Pradesh.

Targeted skill development and enterprise-building training sessions were conducted to equip women with **technical knowledge, Business management, Entrepreneurial mindset and Networking opportunities**. By mastering essential financial management skills, these entrepreneurs were better equipped to manage their businesses effectively and achieve financial stability.

To ensure the project's ongoing success, a capacity-building program for project staff was also implemented. This program focused on leadership and teamwork, fostering a strong foundation for future growth and development.



ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

Celebrating Van Mahotsav SUVIDHA Plants Seeds for a Greener Future



SUVIDHA's commitment to mitigating climate change and promoting sustainable livelihoods is evident in our dedication to tree planting initiatives. Van Mahotsav, a nationwide tree-planting festival, provided the perfect opportunity to expand our efforts.

During the monsoon-soaked month of August, we planted a variety of fruit and forest species saplings across our project locations, **Chamba in Himachal Pradesh, Meerut, Bijnor, and Bahraich in Uttar Pradesh, Bhagalpur and Banka in Bihar, Almora in Uttarakhand and Joharat in Assam**

A total of **1,140 farmers** benefited from these tree-planting initiatives. By planting fruit-bearing trees, we are providing farmers with a sustainable source of income and the saplings planted in community forest will help in water and soil conservation and enhance the biodiversity of the region.

Learnwell (CONCOR)

Transforming Government Schools in Bageshwar, Uttarakhand

SUVIDHA, in partnership with **Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR)**, is embarking on a transformative journey to revolutionize education in Bageshwar District, Uttarakhand.

Our Project LearnWell aims to create a conducive learning environment for rural students by equipping schools with modern amenities.

A Primary and a Junior High School in Garur Block have received significant upgrades, including improved infrastructure, sanitation facilities, BaLA Painting, smart classrooms, and solar power.

The schools are being revitalized with new infrastructure, and the students and teachers are expressing great enthusiasm for the project.



SUVIDHA's Management Team Undertakes Field- Based Monitoring and Strategic Review

The senior management team recently conducted a field visit to key project locations in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The purpose was to provide direct support to project teams in implementing initiatives effectively, especially during the crucial inception phase.

Holistic Rural Development Program, Maheshwar, funded by HDFC Bank Parivartan

Mr. Ashish Srivastava, Director Program and Operations, visited Maheshwar location under the project for the inauguration ceremony of the project. He also visited the agricultural interventions (chilli and maize cultivation) and the newly established Handloom Training Centre to provide insights to the project team for greater impact. Additionally, he emphasized on the strengthening of Farmer Producer Groups (FPOs).

He also visited the intervention of Phase I Project, i.e., Handloom Centre and some of the beneficiaries involved in handloom production, to assess the operation and sustainability post project withdrawal. It has been a year since the project was completed but the Handloom centre is still functional and creating income opportunities for the women folk.

Augmenting Water Efficiency for Resilient Farming, funded by Hindustan Unilever Foundation (HUF)

Mr. Ashish also visited Badaun to establish a strong project foundation. He oversaw the establishment of new project offices and provided thorough orientation to the team, ensuring they are well-equipped to implement the project effectively. To begin the initiative, he convened a virtual meeting with key partners and the project team, generating enthusiasm and commitment for the project's success.

PROSPER (Holistic Rural Development Program) project, funded by Mankind Pharma

Dr. Prakash Singh, Additional General Manager, visited project sites to provide hands-on support to the team in community mobilization and the formation of Village Kind Committees (VKCs). Dr. Prakash facilitated meetings, shared best practices for VKC formation, and assisted in mobilizing farmers for orchard development and providing them with fruit saplings.

