



*Together, we turn local
knowledge
into lasting change.*



ANNUAL REPORT

2025-26

Abhivyakti Foundation

Commons · Food Systems · Agroecology · Local Self-Governance

Giridih, Jharkhand | Working with communities since 1997 | Registered 2002

www.avfindia.org

Inside this report

A year of community-led change across Giridih, Deoghar and the Santhal Pargana

01

Message from the Secretary

Reflections on 24 years and a systems approach

02

Who we are

History, vision, mission, themes and geography

03

2025–26 at a glance

Headline numbers and how we work

04

Programme highlights

Grow+, CEP-III, FINES-NRM, Common Ground, Food Forest & SAARTHI, Gram Swashasan Abhiyan, Aadi Karmayogi Abhiyan, Skill Up

05

Innovation

Ideas and models that travelled from the field

06

Voices & stories of change

In the words of the people we work with

07

Portfolio & partnerships

Our programmes, networks and collaborations

08

Learning & looking ahead

What worked, what was hard, what comes next

09

Thank you

Our team, donors, departments and stakeholders

Dear Friends and Partners



Krishna Kant

Secretary
Abhivyakti Foundation

“

24 years: from spontaneous voluntary action to systemic change around commons, food systems and agroecology.

This year marks a significant milestone in our **24-year journey**, which began with spontaneous voluntary action, grew into well-organised programmes, and is now moving towards systemic thinking and change at the organisational level. Our transformation is evolving around **commons, food systems and agroecology**.

With this approach, Abhivyakti Foundation has secured initial but significant **policy wins in the tribal food-system approach**, bringing the Paharia PVTGs and the Forest Department together in the conservation of commons as a food-producing habitat. This early cooperation has created new hope as well as new challenges. We are confident that the unwavering support of our team, community members, stakeholders and donors will motivate us to find and roll out innovative solutions for ecosystem restoration and landscape development.

It has also been a year of collaboration, built around the Common Ground initiative, the SAARTHI – Just Transition Network, the National Coalition of Natural Farming, proactive facilitation under the Aadi Karmayogi Abhiyan of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, the School Ruar campaigns in the state, and campaigns against child labour and early marriage.

This report outlines our collective steps towards building climate-resilient villages, securing food safety and creating robust community infrastructure. We remain deeply grateful to our community members, field teams, donors and partners for their trust and cooperation, which has always been a driving source of energy for the organisation.

Through our annual reports we wish to update all our stakeholders on our work, including experiences that worked and those that did not, and we invite your views, feedback and continued cooperation. We would be happy to receive suggestions and ideas that can make us more efficient and impactful. We look forward to a more engaging journey together.

Yours faithfully,

Krishna Kant

Secretary, Abhivyakti Foundation

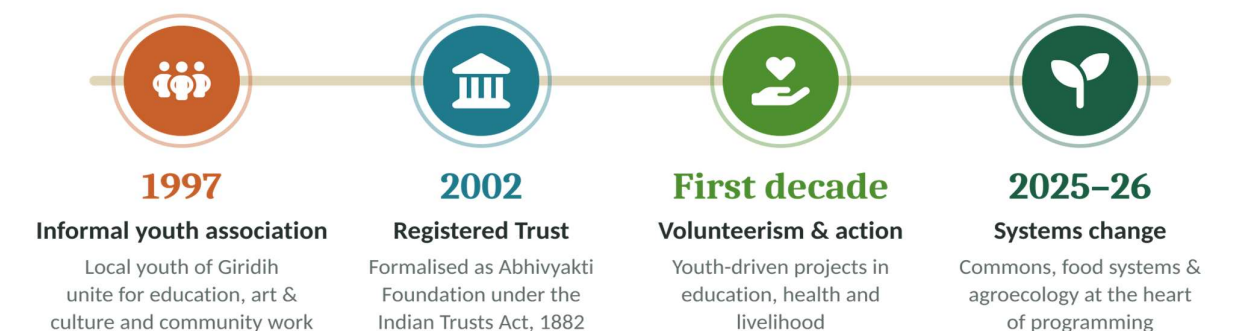


About Abhivyakti Foundation

A local youth movement from Giridih that grew into a systems-thinking development organisation

Abhivyakti began in **1997** as an informal association of local youth in Giridih, working for meaningful change through youth engagement in education, art and culture, and community development. It was formally registered as a non-profit trust under the **Indian Trusts Act, 1882** in **2002** as Abhivyakti Foundation. Its first decade was driven by volunteerism around education, health and livelihood. As expectations from the ground grew, the organisation began to pilot and test organised programmes across six thematic areas — and today brings them together through a systems approach.

OUR JOURNEY



OUR VISION

A self-dependent civil society

with full realisation of, and complete access to, basic human needs, rights and entitlements — without discrimination of caste, creed, sex, faith or religion.

OUR MISSION

Aware people, local resources

To raise awareness and mobilise self-initiatives based on locally available resources, for sustainable development and the right balance across generations.

OUR SIX THEMATIC AREAS



Where we work

Rooted in Giridih, Jharkhand — reaching into Deoghar and the Santhal Pargana



Giridih district, Jharkhand

Our work is concentrated in the forest-fringe, tribal and mica-affected blocks of **Giridih district**, with programmes extending to **Devipur (Deoghar)** — home of Green College — and to the **Paharia PVTG communities of the Santhal Pargana**.

BLOCKS OF ENGAGEMENT

Giridih district: Deori · Tisri · Gandey · Giridih · Gawan · Bengabad

Deoghar district: Devipur

Santhal Pargana: Paharia PVTG habitats (Sundarpahar, Godda)



REGISTERED OFFICE

Himani Bhawan, Besides Barganda Sub P.O., New Barganda, At & P.O. Giridih, PIN 815301, Jharkhand

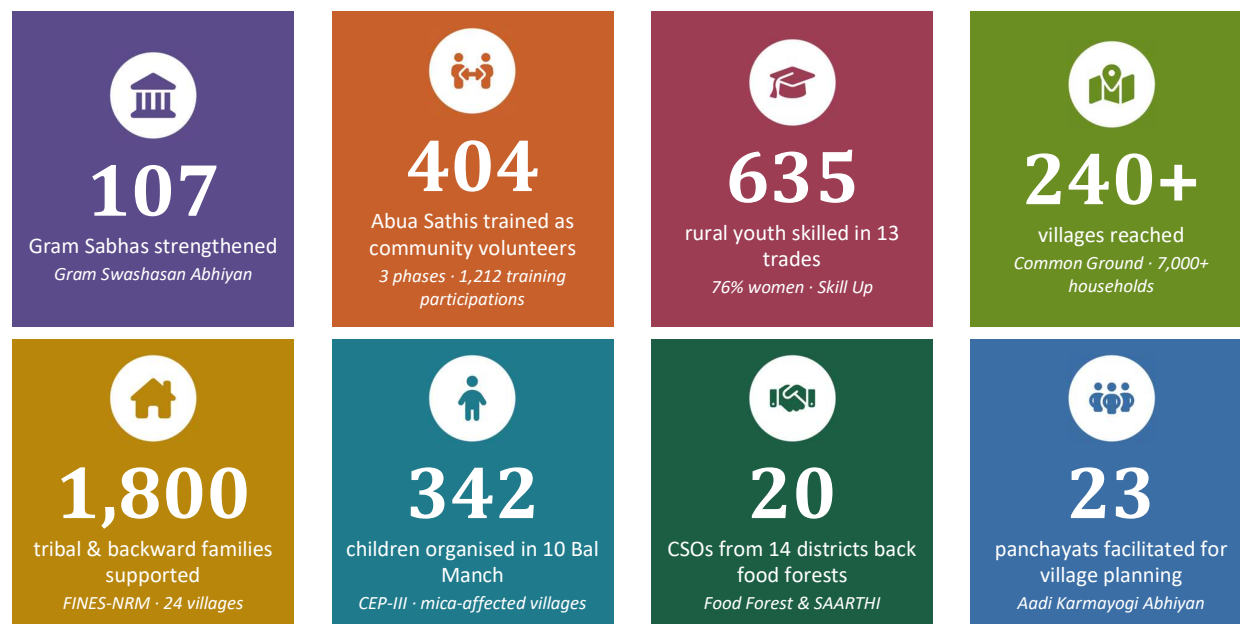
PROGRAMME GEOGRAPHY 2025–26

Programme	Blocks / area	Coverage
TDH	Deori, Giridih	20 villages
Agroecology (The Green Evolution Pathways)	Devipur, Deoghar	35 villages · 6 clusters · 4 panchayats · 918 households (90% women-led)
CEP-III	Gawan, Giridih	10 villages · 3 panchayats · 967 households
FINES-NRM	Gandey, Giridih	24 villages · 1,800 families
Common Ground	Deori, Tisri, Gandey, Giridih, Devipur	240+ villages · 7,000+ households
Food Forest & SAARTHI	Santhal Pargana	Paharia PVTG communities; CSOs from 14 districts
Gram Swashasan Abhiyan	Gandey, Bengabad	10 panchayats · 107 Gram Sabhas
Aadi Karmayogi Abhiyan	5 blocks, Giridih	23 panchayats
Skill Up – Green College	Giridih & Deoghar	635 rural youth trained
Khel Badlao Ka	Giridih & Gandey	36 Schools-Government



Our year in numbers

Headline results from our programmes — each figure belongs to its own project



HOW WE WORK





APPROACH SHIFT THIS YEAR

We moved from awareness-based engagement to structured community-led planning and governance: strengthening local institutions, integrating digital planning tools, building inter-departmental convergence, and helping communities negotiate and plan for their own priorities.





Agroecology Programme

The Green Evolution Pathways: Food to System Transformation

WHERE

35 villages, 6 clusters, 4 panchayats

REACH

918 households (90% women-led participation)

IMPLEMENTED BY

Abhivyakti Foundation

The programme moves farmers from input-based support to systemic transformation, building farmer-led institutions, replacing agrochemicals with bio-inputs, securing seed and water, and linking nutrition-sensitive farming with markets, consumers and government schemes.

79

master trainers trained under SIFS (40% women)

39

Farmer Field Schools formed, with 45 demonstration plots

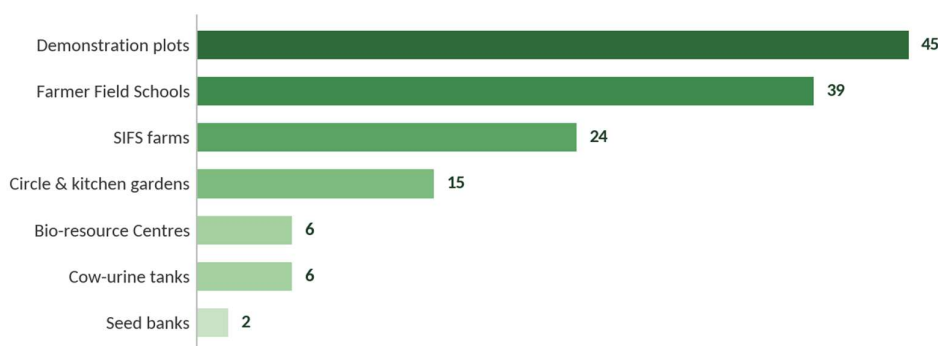
₹15 lakh

leveraged through 19 government linkages for 735 farmers

861

urban, semi-urban and rural consumers engaged

FIELD INSTITUTIONS & MODELS ESTABLISHED (NUMBERS)



Water & land

2 check dams, 2 small ponds and renovation of a 15-acre pond improve irrigation and groundwater recharge. Low-cost matka (pitcher) irrigation in Putarjor and Ghaghi saved nutri-garden crops in dry spells.

Farmer institutions & knowledge

24 SIFS farms, 39 Farmer Field Schools and 45 demonstration plots; 79 master trainers trained; FPO mobilisation and registration under way; ComCare app training for real-time monitoring.

Seed, bio-inputs & agroforestry

2 seed banks conserve 3 local varieties; 2 crop diversity blocks; 2 agroforestry sites of 3 acres each. 6 Bio-resource Centres run by 6 entrepreneurs promote Neemastra and biochar over agrochemicals.

Nutrition, livestock & livelihoods

9 circle gardens, 6 circular kitchen gardens and keyhole gardens; 6 cow-urine tanks and vet camps in 2 villages; vermicompost, goat, duck, poultry and azolla; murmura, floriculture and strawberry income options.

"Earlier we depended on chemical inputs. Now, with Neemastra and biochar, our soil feels alive again." Farmer, Ghaghi village



Figure 2 Check Dam



Figure 1 Circle Garden



Sustainable Development for Children in 6 States of India

Child safeguarding and child participation in mica-scavenging villages, Deori block

WHERE

20 villages, Deori block, Giridih

PERIOD

Year 1: Apr 2025 – Mar 2026

SUPPORTED BY

Bread for the World

This three-year programme, supported by **Tdh Germany and Misereor**, focuses on building **child agency and their active participation with stakeholders** to ensure child protection in 20 villages of Deori block, Giridih district, Jharkhand. The region depends heavily on mica scrap (dhibra) scavenging, and families live in abject poverty that constrains the growth opportunities of local children.

The project builds the agency of children and their active collaboration with panchayats, line agencies and mica supply chain actors to create an enabling environment for child safeguarding. It phased out in 20 villages across 2 panchayats of Deori block in March 2026.

It is a comprehensive development initiative for mining-affected areas of India. Its main objectives are to **eliminate child labour**, strengthen child protection and child participation systems, improve health, nutrition and environmental conditions, promote alternative and decent livelihood opportunities, and strengthen community participation in the governance of the mining sector.

Mining-affected areas face serious challenges: child labour, school dropouts, unsafe livelihoods, health problems and environmental degradation. With these in mind, the project followed a **rights-based and participatory approach**, ensuring active participation of children, women, youth, mining workers, community-based institutions and local self-government bodies at every stage, so that interventions are sustainable, inclusive and community-owned.



Aadi Karmayogi Abhiyan

Community-led planning and grassroots governance — Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India

DISTRICT

Giridih, Jharkhand

BLOCKS

5 blocks

PANCHAYATS

23 panchayats

Abhivyakti Foundation proactively facilitated bottom-up village development planning, strengthening **local leadership and community participation**. Communities set their own priorities for **water, forest, livelihoods, health, education and infrastructure** — with special emphasis on women, youth, frontline workers and local institutions.

FROM MOBILISATION TO VILLAGE VISION



Participatory tools

PRA exercises, transect walks and village-level meetings gave every community a structured way to read its own resources and needs.



Village Vision Plans

Communities prepared Village Vision Plans to guide bottom-up development and feed into local planning.



Inclusive participation

Women, youth, frontline workers and local institutions were brought into planning and decision-making.



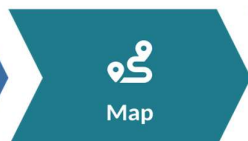
Adi Seva Kendras

New centres for grievance support, scheme facilitation and coordination with departments — strengthening convergence between villages and government.



Mobilise

Community mobilisation & village meetings



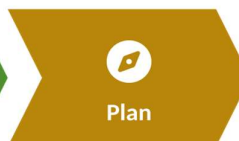
Map

PRA exercises and transect walks



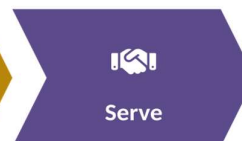
Prioritise

Water, forest, livelihoods, health, education, infrastructure



Plan

Village Vision Plans prepared



Serve

Adi Seva Kendras: grievances, schemes, coordination



Khel Badlao Ka

Sports for Quality Education

WHERE

Giridih & Gandey blocks, Giridih district, Jharkhand

REACH

36 government schools • 5,000+ children

FOCUS

School retention, child marriage & child labour prevention

Khel Badlao Ka uses sports and physical education to build life skills, confidence and community harmony among children and adolescents, keeping them in school and reducing their vulnerability to child marriage and child labour, with a new archery club opening a pathway for rural and tribal youth.

8,992

sports participation days since August 2025

72

sports volunteers trained; sports clubs formed

36

schools provided with sports material

+11%

improvement in regular attendance (baseline 52.03%)

KHELO JHARKHAND & ASMITA PARTICIPANTS: 109 CHILDREN



Sports for every child

Regular sessions in Kho-Kho, Kabaddi, Football, Volleyball and athletics, supported by sports material provided to all 36 schools.

Events & talent pathways

1 block-level and 6 cluster-level Khel Melas organised; 53 boys and 56 girls took part in the Khelo Jharkhand and ASMITA sports events.

Teachers, volunteers & clubs

Sports and nodal teachers trained; sports clubs formed and 72 sports volunteers trained; archery club formed and potential students identified.

Community impact

Parent-teacher and community meetings have raised awareness of underage marriage and child labour. More families are choosing to delay marriage and keep children in school.



Community Empowerment Programme – CEP III

Holistic development for mica-dependent communities, Gawan block

WHERE

10 villages • 3 panchayats, Gawan, Giridih

REACH

967 households • 4,948 people

FOUR PILLARS

Education • Health • Livelihood • Entitlements

CEP-III contributes to **fair, responsible and sustainable mica supply chains free from child labour**. By tackling the roots of vulnerability — schooling, health and nutrition, livelihoods and social protection — it reduces families' dependence on mica scavenging and creates safer, healthier communities.

342

children in 10 Bal Manch

1,202

child participation days celebrated

366

households at health camps

305

scheme forms filed via Jan Suvidha Kendras



Education

342

Bal Manch members • 5 libraries • 50 irregular children regularised



Health & Nutrition

366

households at health camps • 50 of 51 children improved

967

households
4,948 people



Livelihood

30

households given enterprise support • +₹2,200/month on average



Social Entitlements

305

scheme forms submitted via 10 Jan Suvidha Kendras



Schools that retain children

10 SMC trainings, 5 community libraries, 4 remedial classes and 2 balwadis; 50 irregular children regularised, 2 dropouts readmitted, 20 scholarships.



Health & hygiene

50 of 51 malnourished children improved; ANC/PNC corners in 3 Anganwadis; 11 menstrual-hygiene sessions reached 426+ girls and young women.



Earning and saving

30 households started enterprises (+₹2,200 a month on average); 17 youth trained as electricians earn ₹1,500–2,000; 10 financial-literacy trainings for 349 households.



Entitlements at the doorstep

10 Jan Suvidha Kendras and 1 kiosk saved families long trips and lost wages: 305 scheme forms, 117 document services and 4 linkage camps (136 applicants).





FINES-NRM Initiative

Food, Income, Nutrition & Environment Security through Sustainable Natural Resource Management

WHERE

24 villages, Gandey & Giridih blocks

REACH

1,800 vulnerable tribal & backward families

SUPPORTED BY

GIC Re

FINES-NRM combines **traditional resource preservation with climate-resilient agriculture**, dietary diversification and access to state welfare — restoring land and water assets while opening new income pathways for families facing poverty, food insecurity and seasonal migration.

20.1

acres of barren land made cultivable for 23 families

10

solar-powered water towers installed

400

women farmers now save their own seed

1,120

people guided to government schemes

LAND AND WATER ASSETS RESTORED (ACRES)

Agroforestry footprint (cumulative) **50+ acres**

Water-efficient sprinklers **42 acres**

Irrigated via ahars & ponds **34.9 acres**

Barren land made cultivable **20.1 acres**

Under protected agroforestry (this year) **15 acres**



Water security

5 new ahars built and 2 ponds renovated: year-round irrigation for 106 farming families. 14 handpumps repaired — safe water for 290+ households.



Climate-resilient farming

21 sprinkler systems linked via PMKSY; 3 women-run plant nurseries; 125 farmers and 36 women trained in nutrition-focused farming.



Nutrition & livestock

94 nutrition PLA sessions; seed kits for 600 families and 350 backyard gardens; cow-urine collection centre, machan goat sheds and bio-pesticides.



Youth for biodiversity

12 school climate events and a 4-day Jungle se Jeevan exhibition engaged 733 students and 357 community members against forest fires.





Common Ground Initiative

Community-led governance, ecological conservation and livelihoods

WHERE

Deori, Tisri, Gandey, Giridih & Devipur

DISTRICTS

Giridih and Deoghar, Jharkhand

FOCUS

Jal · Jangal · Jameen

The year marked a **transition from mobilisation to stronger local institutions, collective planning and community ownership** of natural resources and local governance — through village meetings, panchayat consultations, awareness campaigns and convergence platforms.

240+

villages in 5 operational blocks

7,000+

households reached

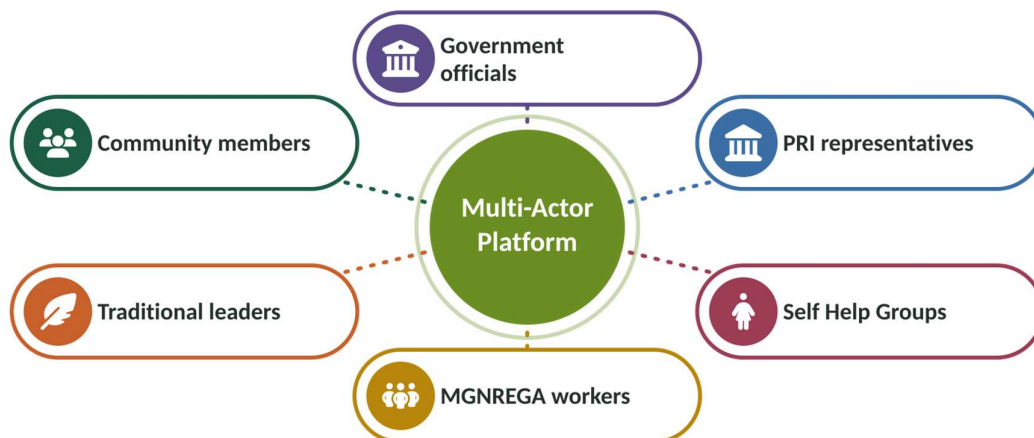
400+

women active in governance & conservation

350+

participants in Jungle Se Jeevan exhibitions

MULTI-ACTOR PLATFORMS (MAPS), DEORI AND GANDEY



Forests under community care

Community Forest Management workshops with the Forest Department in Tisri and Deori: FRA, biodiversity, human-wildlife conflict. Villagers pledged to prevent fires and plant trees.



Jungle Se Jeevan

Exhibitions on indigenous foods and forest produce in four Giridih blocks; women-led SHGs showcased NTFPs and explored value addition and markets.



Digital village planning

DPRs prepared through digital resource mapping and the Common Connect App for village plans and GDPD integration.



Entitlements via convergence

Jan Suvidha Kendras linked families to pensions, ration cards, scholarships, housing and MGNREGA works.





Food Forest & Just Transition

Food Forest Initiative for Paharia communities, agroforestry and food-system transformation with SAARTHI

COMMUNITIES

Paharia PVTGs, Santhal Pargana

COLLECTIVE

20 CSOs from 14 districts

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

SAARTHI – Just Transition Network & Common Ground

Food forests treat the commons as a **food-producing habitat** that serves both climate and nutrition. This year the initiative moved from study to dialogue to policy — and travelled into a statewide campaign for a diverse, climate-resilient local food system.

20%

local food species advised in departmental afforestation

20

CSOs from 14 districts resolved to back food forests

5

panchayats in the Just Transition dialogue at Giridih

1

campaign launched: “Abua Mandi – Abua Nutum”

FROM STUDY TO POLICY: THE FOOD-FOREST PATHWAY



A policy win

The Dept. of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of Jharkhand issued an advisory to the Dumka regional forest office to integrate 20% local food species in afforestation.



Food System Dialogue, Ranchi

16 March 2026: “Safe Food – Our Choice as a Producer, Consumer and Enabler” led to the Abua Mandi – Abua Nutum campaign.



Just Transition Yatra & dialogue

We hosted the Yatra’s night halt at Giridih, and convened Mukhiyas, PRI members and CSOs from 5 panchayats to map climate and transition issues.



Learning from Kotagiri

Exposure visit with SAARTHI members to Keystone Foundation: community enterprises, producer collectives and certification systems.



Consultation and sharing workshop



Exhibition of local food diversity, Sundarpahar



Gram Swashasan Abhiyan

Strengthening grassroots governance, rights and community leadership

WHERE

10 panchayats, Gandey & Bengabad, Giridih

DURATION

March 2023 – February 2026

SUPPORTED BY

Azim Premji Foundation

Over three years, communities that were once passive recipients of development schemes became **active decision-makers and rights claimants**. The project strengthened Gram Sabhas, grew youth and women leadership, preserved tribal culture and opened access to services.

107

Gram Sabhas strengthened

74

Gram Sabha Secretariats activated

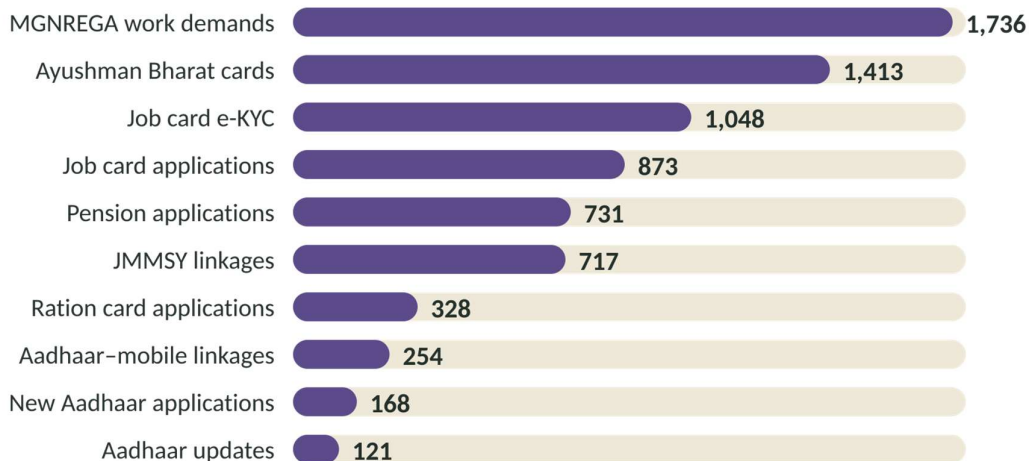
100

youth leaders trained;
~1,000 youth engaged

38

Forest Rights Committee members on Odisha exposure visit

ACCESS TO RIGHTS AND ENTITLEMENTS FACILITATED



Forest rights & land justice

CFR and IFR claim processes facilitated across villages; 30 Dalit youth leaders trained on land rights and constitutional values.



Culture as strength

A Tribal Cultural Festival with 204 participants; 10 Village Cultural Repositories document oral histories, customs and indigenous knowledge with 30 traditional leaders.



Citizen-government interface

Regular panchayat-level meetings between traditional leaders, PRIs and officials improved accountability and responsiveness.



Youth as change agents

Youth groups took up child marriage, education, sanitation, migration and access to schemes in their own villages.



Figure 3 Community Meeting-Aam Sabha

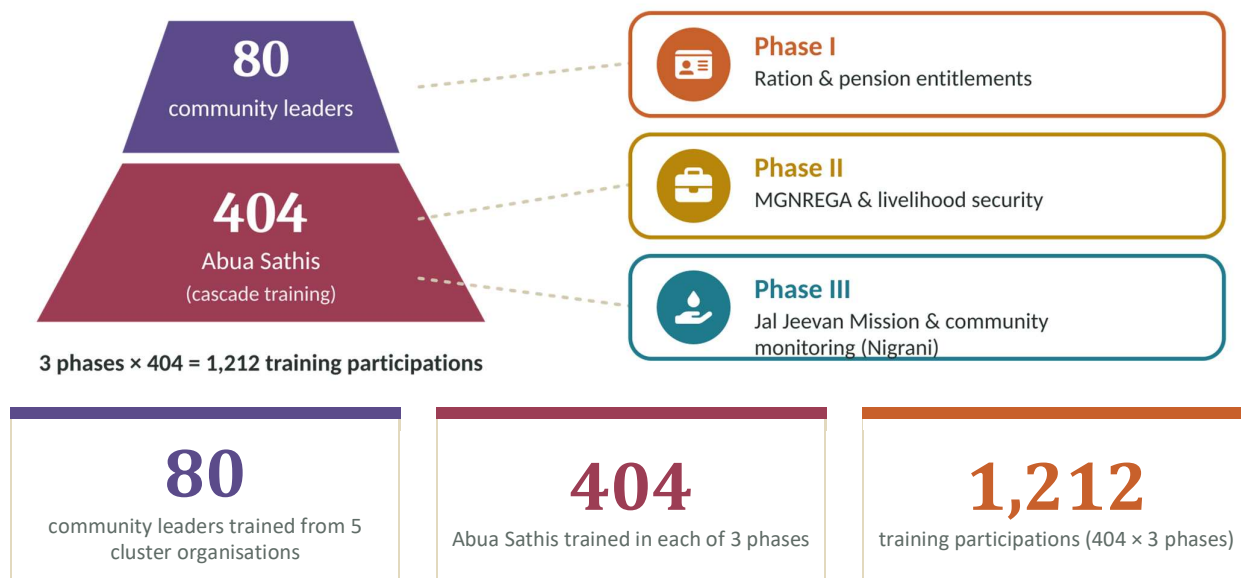


Figure 4 Awareness Campaign

The Abua Sathi Initiative

Building a cadre of informed volunteers who sustain development beyond the project period

Abua Sathi is a **cascade model of community leadership**. Eighty community leaders from five organisations of the Abhivyakti Cluster were trained first; they then built the capacity of 404 community volunteers across three thematic phases — each tackling an issue that shapes vulnerable households' daily lives.



WHAT ABUA SATHIS NOW DO IN THEIR VILLAGES

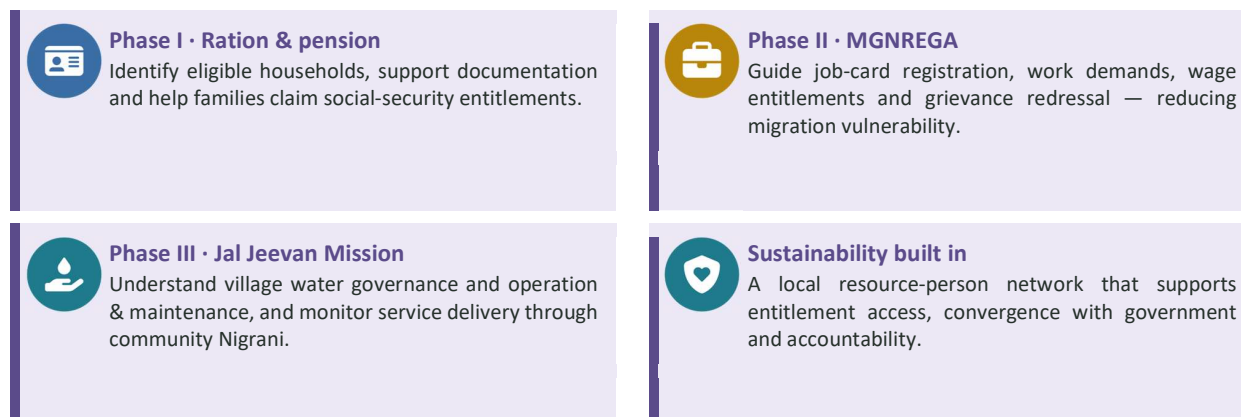


Figure 5 Block Level Interface Meeting



Figure 6 Abua Sathi Training



Figure 7 Monitoring Visit by Nigrani Samiti



Skill Up – Green College

Building skills, confidence and livelihood pathways for rural youth

WHERE

Green College, Devipur (Deoghar)
& Giridih

WHO

Rural youth, especially women & vulnerable groups

APPROACH

Skills + enterprise + life skills



482

women • 76%



153

men • 24%



15

persons with disabilities

635

rural youth trained

76%

of participants are women

60

trainees started income-generating activities

13

market-linked livelihood trades

Agri-based trades

Goat rearing • Poultry management • Fish & duck rearing • Pig rearing • Food processing • Natural farming • Lac cultivation • NTFP

Non-agri trades

Amanat & land surveying • Tailoring • Beautician • Emergency Medical Lab Technician • Driving • Electrician & solar installation



From learning to earning

60 trainees began businesses in food processing, goat rearing, fish & duck rearing, tailoring, poultry and beauty services.



Life skills for confidence

Every trainee joined sessions on life skills, financial and digital literacy, entrepreneurship, nutrition and gender sensitisation.



Exposure & networks

Visits to producers, institutions and markets built marketing and finance linkages and turned skills into business ideas.



Inclusion first

15 persons with disabilities trained, and women-led enterprises gained confidence and visibility.



Green College, trainees with banner



Food processing training



Training on goat rearing

Ideas that grew from the field

Practical models, tools and platforms that communities and partners can adopt

Innovation at Abhivyakti rarely starts in a lab; it starts when a small farmer, a front-line worker or a village youth group runs into a problem. These eight models were tested or scaled in 2025–26.



Biochar micro-model

A small-scale biochar preparation model designed so that small farmers can raise the organic content of their soil.



Bio-Input Resource Centres

Local production of bio-inputs such as Neemastra, Brahmastra, Jeevamrit and Beejamrit improves plant health and cuts chemical use for a safe food system.



Multi-Actor Platforms

Officials, PRIs, SHGs, MGNREGA workers and traditional leaders sit together to resolve livelihood, migration and forest issues.



Jan Suvidha Kendras

Village-level assisted form-filling replaces long trips to block offices, incomplete documents and lost daily wages.



Digital resource mapping

DPRs prepared with digital resource mapping and the Common Connect App link village needs to GDP.



Abua Sathi cascade

80 trained leaders built a network of 404 community volunteers who sustain entitlement access and monitoring.



Village Cultural Repositories

Ten repositories record oral histories, customs and indigenous knowledge for transfer between generations.



Food as a campaign

Jungle Se Jeevan exhibitions, women-made Abua Swad products and the Abua Mandi – Abua Nutum campaign put local food back on the table.



06 VOICES & STORIES OF CHANGE

In their own words

Skills, confidence and a louder voice in village decisions



STORY OF CHANGE

Shushma Devi

Food Processing batch - Kumharlalo, Giridih

Shushma began with little confidence and no experience of earning on her own. Through practical sessions, digital and financial literacy classes and mentorship, she built both technical and business skills. Within months she was preparing value-added food products at home and selling them locally with her group under the name Abua Swad.



STORY OF CHANGE

Suruchi Devi

Poultry Management batch, Green College

Suruchi started her poultry enterprise in January 2026 with the confidence and know-how she gained in training. Within six months she had raised and sold two units of 500 chicks each — one broiler batch and one local-breed batch — earning ₹12,000, with 300 birds from the second unit still to sell. Her progress is inspiring neighbours to see poultry farming as a viable livelihood.

VOICES FROM THE GROUND



“Through Green College I learned a trade, gained confidence, and started earning from home. It has changed how I see my future.”

Shushma Devi · Food Processing trainee



“The exposure visit showed us how skills can become real business opportunities. It motivated us to begin our own work.”

Manvel Hasda · Lac Cultivation trainee



“Earlier we only attended village meetings. Today we speak, question, and participate in decisions affecting our village.”

Anil Kumar · Youth Leader, Tarajori Panchayat



“Our traditional knowledge is now being documented and shared with younger generations. This has increased pride in our culture and identity.”

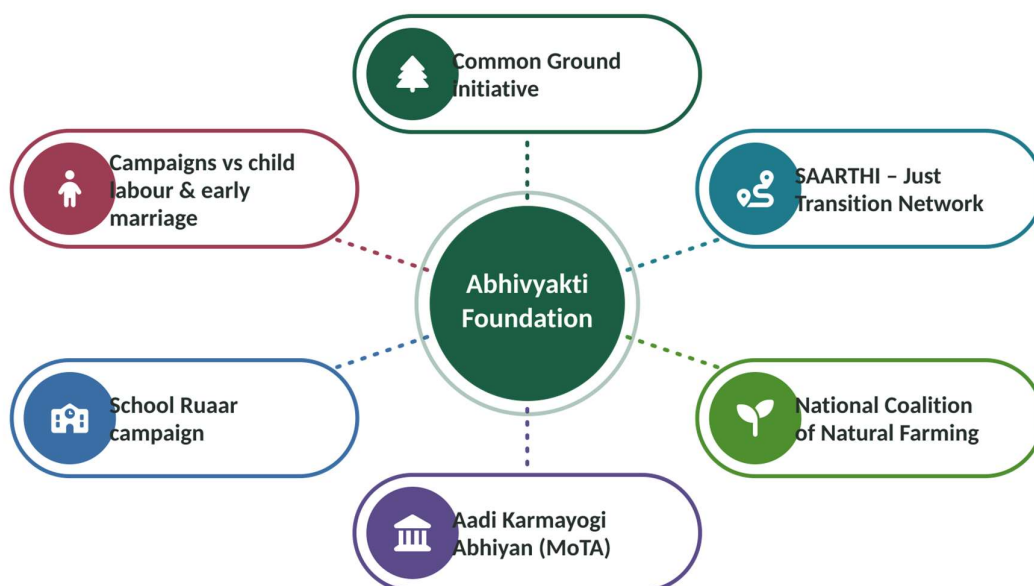
Traditional Leader · Bengabad Block

07 PORTFOLIO & PARTNERSHIPS

Programmes and collaborations

Stronger together: networks, coalitions and campaigns that multiply local action

Programme	Focus	Status
TDH	Nutrition security, child and youth agency, green livelihoods (20 villages, Deori)	Year 1 completed, Mar 2026
CEP-III	Education, health & nutrition, livelihoods and social protection in mica-affected Gawan	Ongoing
FINES-NRM	Natural-resource restoration, climate-resilient agriculture and nutrition	Ongoing
Common Ground	Community governance, forest rights, ecological restoration and livelihoods	Ongoing
Food Forest Initiative	Food forests with Paharia communities in the Santhal Pargana	Ongoing
Green Evolution (SIFS–CLIM)	Pathways to sustainable food-system transformation	Ongoing
Gram Swashasan Abhiyan	Gram Sabhas, rights and community leadership; Abua Sathi cadre	Ongoing
Sustainable Development for Children in 6 States of India	Child safeguarding and child participation in mica-scavenging villages (20 villages, 2 panchayats, Deori)	Phased out, Mar 2026
Skill Up – Green College	Vocational skills, enterprise and life skills for rural youth	2025–March 2027
Khel Badlao Ka	Sports for quality education	Aug 2025–March 2027



08 LEARNING & LOOKING AHEAD

What worked, what was hard, what next

We share the experiences that did not work as openly as those that did



What worked

- **Continuous handholding** beat one-time awareness; it built local ownership.
- **Linking governance with culture** raised community pride and collective action.
- **Regular interface meetings** improved accountability of officials.
- **Technical skills + enterprise + life skills** kept youth engaged and earning.
- **Cascade models** (Abua Sathis, FFS facilitators) extended reach cheaply.
- **Children and youth** adopted new ideas faster than adults.



What was hard

- **Trust took time:** communities and PRIs were initially sceptical of the project team.
- Women still find the **five food groups** hard to recall, so we link them to home, field, pond and forest sources.
- **Half of the new nutrition gardens struggle** on degraded land and scarce water.
- Anganwadi screening was uneven for lack of measuring tools.
- Elders warn that **indigenous food species** are disappearing.



Looking ahead

- Extend **Gram Sabha activation** to new villages; strengthen Forest Rights Committees and FRA implementation.
- Set up **Panchayat Help Desks** and Gram Sabha Sachivalays.
- Promote **social accountability** and citizen monitoring.
- Deepen **Green College** as a rural skilling and enterprise ecosystem: market linkages and access to finance.
- Take food forests, ecosystem restoration and landscape development to the next level with the Forest Department and CSO networks.



OUR BELIEF

Sustainable development becomes possible when communities are informed, organised and empowered to lead local governance and natural-resource management. Abhivyakti Foundation remains committed to ecological resilience, democratic participation and community-led rural development.

WITH GRATITUDE

Thank You

Every change in this report was made possible by people who believed in it — our team, our donors, government departments and, above all, the communities.



Our Team

- Programme, project and field coordinators and support staff who walk the last mile
- Abua Sathis, LANN volunteers and FFS resource farmers
- Children's and youth group leaders who lead from the front



Our Donors

- Bread for the World · Welthungerhilfe
- Terre des Hommes Germany · Misereor
- GIC Re · Public Health Institute
- Responsible Mica Initiative · Azim Premji Foundation



Government Departments

- Dept. of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of Jharkhand and the Forest Department
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India
- Panchayati Raj Institutions, Mukhiyas, school education, ICDS / Anganwadi and health services



Stakeholders & Partners

- Communities of Giridih, Deoghar and the Santhal Pargana
- Gram Sabhas, SHGs, SMCs and Bal Manch
- SAARTHI – Just Transition Network, Common Ground, National Coalition of Natural Farming, Keystone Foundation and Abhivyakti Cluster partners

REACH US



Himani Bhawan, Besides Barganda Sub P.O., New Barganda, Giridih 815301, Jharkhand



avfoundation@gmail.com · rupam.grd@gmail.com



9801331700 · 7004336207



www.avfindia.org



Website



Facebook



LinkedIn

