



Annual Report 2023-24

Production to Processing

1. Introduction

Pragati Abhiyan has been working in Tribal blocks of Trimbakeshwar, Peth, Surgana and Igatpuri in Nashik district, Mokhada block of Palghar district and Shahapur block of Thane district of Maharashtra since 18 years. This area being hilly and with poor accessibility the government schemes don't reach them properly. Although they are the neediest population there is a lack of awareness and knowledge among them. The government machinery alone is not sufficient to reach these people and ensure uptake of government schemes by them. Over the years we have identified some key areas which need to be addressed for holistic development of tribal families. We have been mainly focusing on awareness generation and knowledge transfer to tribal people on MGNREGA, PMFBY, and Revival of millets, Bamboo promotion and National Food Security Act. These schemes serve to provide employment security, financial security, food security and an important right which above all provides voice to the suppressed population. Pragati Abhiyan works towards developing solutions that create an enabling environment for the poor to break out of the poverty trap. These solutions are in the form of ensuring effective delivery of existing government programs as well as devising new programs to address communities' needs, and build evidence through research articulating specific changes in policies. Underlying our work is the strong belief that it is ultimately the mandate of the Government to support the poor in their efforts to move out of poverty.

Vision

Empowering people towards creating rural livelihood resources for prosperous sustainable development.

Mission

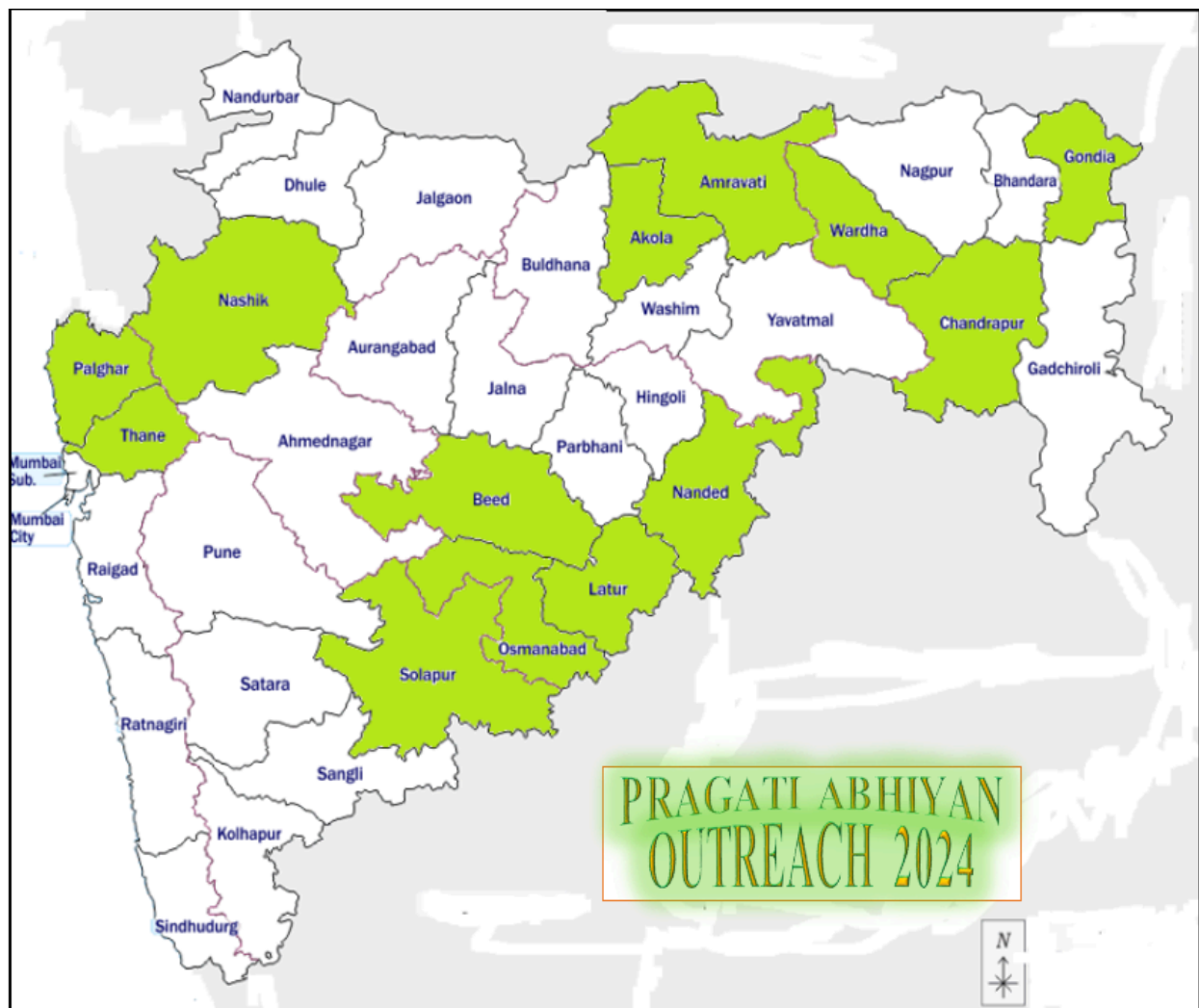
Our mission is to enable poor to break out of the poverty trap

Strive to enhance rural livelihood resources through capacity building of the people, with the people, through evidence based advocacy for good governance in the implementation of rural development programs while upholding democratic principles and constitutional values leading to a campaign for rural progress.

Alignment with SDGs



Pragati Abhiyan Outreach



2. 2023-24 at a glance

This year has been marked by significant advancements and impactful initiatives across various programmes. One of the major accomplishments was the initiation of steps towards establishing finger millet processing centers, aimed at enhancing the value chain. The FINE project, however, concluded in several blocks as it neared its end, reflecting the project's lifecycle. A notable highlight was the state-level finger millet convention, which provided a pivotal platform for sharing insights and forging connections to initiate the Maharashtra Millet Mission. This convention played a crucial role in shaping future strategies for millet promotion in the state. In the realm of bamboo initiatives, there has been considerable progress. The organization, in collaboration with the Maharashtra Bamboo Promotion Foundation, achieved new milestones by working with five bamboo Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). This collaboration not only fostered growth in bamboo-related activities but also led to a groundbreaking development where farmers made their first sales of bamboo to FPOs, generating their initial income from bamboo production. Furthermore, research conducted in partnership with DAISY provided a comprehensive understanding of the status of finger millet in the Mangaon block of Raigad. Overall, the year has been characterized by meaningful advancements and productive collaborations, setting a strong foundation for continued growth and development in the coming year.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



3.1 ANAVIKA (Adivasi NAgali VIKas Karyakram)

Key Activities

1. Organized state level millet consultation



A State Level Consultation on “Designing the Pathway of the Maharashtra Millets Mission” took place at the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics in Pune on June 24, 2023. Over 90 participants attended, including government officials, CSO representatives, researchers, academicians, journalists, entrepreneurs, members of the Working Group on Millets of the RRA Network (WGoM), and other stakeholders.

2. Exposure visit for women farmers

A visit was organized for Finger Millet farmers from seven different blocks to Harsul in Trimbak, Nashik. The objective was to showcase a Finger Millet field cultivated using modern agricultural practices. Over 90 participants of MSRLM

women groups attended, including farmers from Peth, Surgana, Trimbak, Kalwan, Shahapur (Thane district), and Mokhada (Palghar district) in Maharashtra. During the visit, the modern package of practices was explained to the participants.



3. Finger Millet FPO formation and registration

Farmers' groups are being strengthened through guidance on various aspects of group management. Three FPOs have been planned. Mazghar FPO Barhe was registered in February, while the other two FPOs are in the process of registration. Several meetings were conducted to organize the farmers and form the FPOs.

4. Three processing center set up done

Three finger millet processing center locations Kothambi(Trambak), Sasune(Peth) and Barhe(Surgana) finalized for millet processing center. Machines purchased from Bhavani industries.

5. Crop cutting experiment

A total of 1523 farmers took part in a crop-cutting experiment across seven project blocks. The primary goal was to identify the best plants and store seeds for the next agricultural season while also measuring the yield of the Finger Millet fields.



3.2 FINE (For Improvement in MGNREGA)

Key Activities

1. Kam Mango Abhiyan

In an effort to boost person-days and provide employment under MGNREGA, a Kam Mango Abhiyan was held in the Sangola block, with 72 participants in attendance.



2. Trainings at field level

CRPs and Pragati Abhiyan staff organized training sessions directly in the field for volunteers and laborers, with the goal of highlighting the importance of filling Form No. 4 and obtaining receipts. The queries of the participants cleared during training.



3. Visit to government institutions

CRPs have made visits to block-level government offices to address various concerns. Among the significant challenges faced by laborers is the receipt of wages in their bank accounts, with some experiencing issues due to Aadhar card and mobile number linkage.



4. Capacity building of CRPs and Project closure meeting

All CRPs attended the meeting, which focused on sharing their experiences from the past two years in their roles. A letter of appreciation was presented to the CRPs for their outstanding work on MGNREGA over the last two years.



3.3 Promoting Bamboo

Key Activities

1. Bamboo Trainings to Village volunteers

Two-days training program on May 17th and 18th, 2023, which was attended by 40 farmers from Trimbakeshwar, Igatpuri, Surgana, Shahapur, Peth, and Mokhada blocks. The main objective of the training program was to empower individuals interested in bamboo cultivation by providing them with a comprehensive understanding of bamboo cultivation techniques, its various uses, and the economic and environmental benefits associated with it. The program also aimed to train individuals as "Bamboo Mitra" (Friends), who would act as trainers to promote bamboo cultivation in tribal areas.



2. FPO Bamboo Project Coordination

Pragati Abhiyan coordinated with Cosmos FPO in Surgana (promoted by Yuvamitra), Mavlikrupa FPO in Surgana, Peth Taluka Bamboo Fed FPO, Krishi Unnati FPO, Trimbakeshwar (promoted by Palladium-NAFED), and Peth Adivasi Agro FPC (promoted by a group of farmers). The project spanned from December 2023 to June 2024. Key activities included skill building for bamboo Mitra, bamboo cutters, and FPO directors, data collection of scattered bamboo, facilitating the cutting of scattered bamboo, and supporting the business activities of these FPOs.



3.4 Research Projects

1. ICT for FINGER MILLET WITH DAISY

The research focused on two blocks: Mangaon from Raigad district and Surgana from Nashik district. The study aimed to explore the sources of information on finger millet, as well as differences in cultivation practices, usage, and socioeconomic status. Data was collected from 200 farmers in each block. Surveyors received three days of training on the survey tools and using Survey CTO before conducting the survey. The research was led by Dr. Aparna Krishna from IIT Dhanbad.



2. ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION

Engineering students from K K Wagh conducted an electricity consumption survey in Nashik district, with technical assistance from Pragati Abhiyan, who helped prepare the interview schedules.

4. Publications

ANAVIKA report published at Gokhale Institute, Pune. This report is about the finger millet initiatives and the result of productivity enhancement.



Detailed Reports FY 2023-24

1. ANAVIKA

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KHNggD8DCnatw8YZ9hrWxyl6ZEPNyLrk/view?usp=drive_link

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Y3fi-hJERVwFq5tS98jRGuBohEqf-V-f/view?usp=drive_link

2. FINE report FY 2023-24

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_eUeNvn_Bj32vlcW3HxqWgaThc_Ki4Xt/view?usp=drive_link

3. Bamboo Report FY 2023-24

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EMhjRbD4U6yv-O_k0yr0aWInAIWo_mYWC/view?usp=drive_link