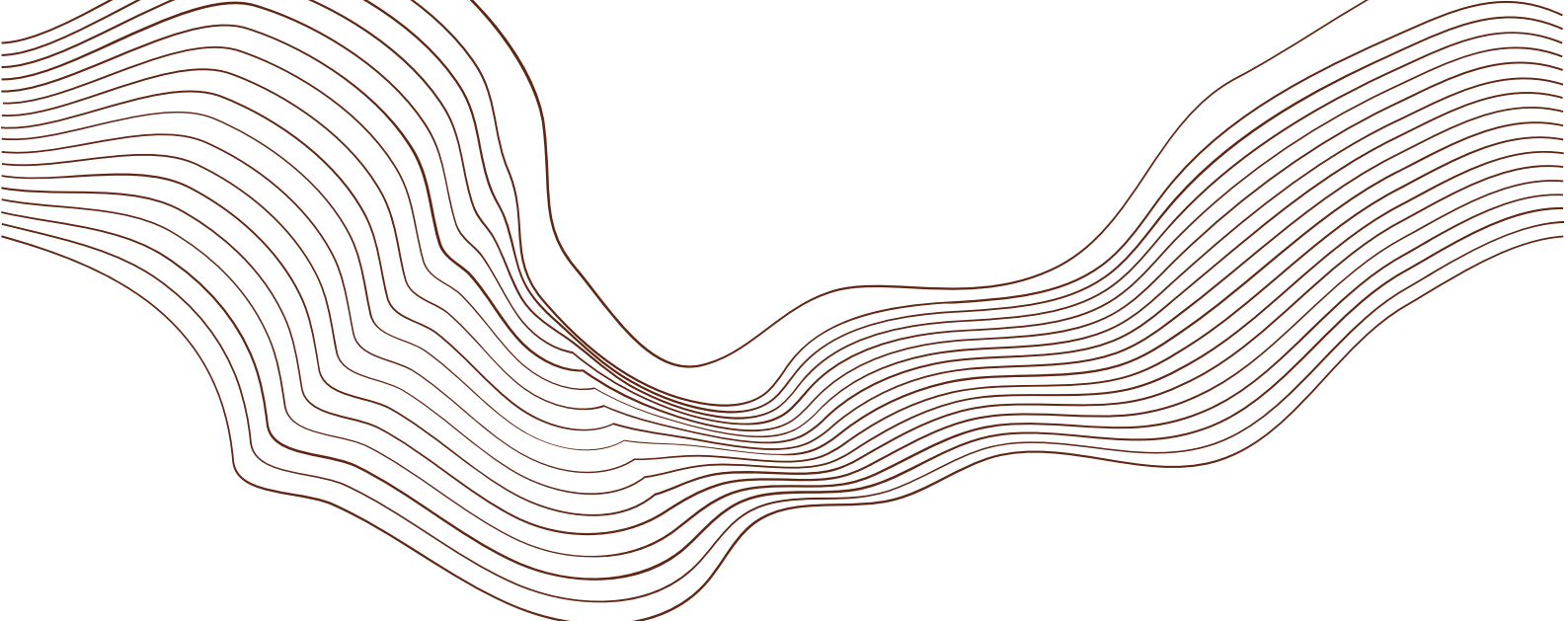


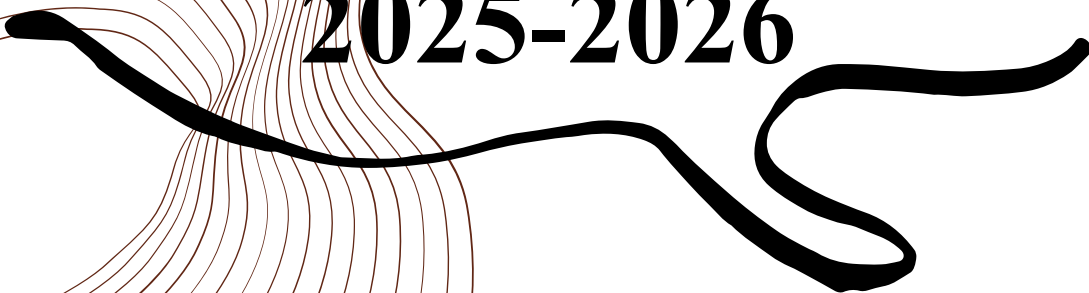


# SRISHTI

(Society for Rural Initiatives in Sustainable and  
Holistic Themes in India)

## ANNUAL REPORT

### 2025-2026



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# OUR VISION

“Rural communities taking the initiative for a holistic and sustainable society”.



# OUR MISSION

“Empowering communities, that will make a self-supporting, sustainable society, Holistic and sustainable society where the vulnerable and marginalized community of the society effectively participates in the development process leading to control over their resources”





## Our Board Members

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**Shubhada Deshmukh**



**Sandhya Edalabadkar**



**Keshav Gurnule**



**Dr. Devaji Tofa**



**Sunita Bagal**



**Dr. Anuja Date**



**Vrunda Vaze**



## Convenor's Message



As I reflect on the past year, I am reminded of the purpose with which SRISHTI was started in 2002. It was a simple but strong belief that communities have the strength and knowledge to shape their own future when they are supported in the right way.

Over the past year, I have seen this belief come alive in many ways. Communities have come together through Gram Sabhas and Gram Panchayats, raising their voices, making decisions, and taking steps towards their rights and development. It is encouraging to see more people becoming aware, confident, and actively involved in shaping their own lives.

Our efforts this year have focused on strengthening this process. Whether it is improving livelihoods, managing natural resources, or helping people access their entitlements, the change is most visible when communities take the lead. This continues to guide our approach.

I have also seen the growing role of women in decision making, the importance of sustainable use of forest resources, and the value of working together as a community. These changes may seem gradual, but they are meaningful and long lasting.

Working in the tribal regions of Gadchiroli in Maharashtra and Mohala Manpur Ambaghar Chouki and Rajnandgaon in Chhattisgarh has been a learning experience. The strength, resilience, and wisdom of the communities continue to inspire us.

As we move forward, I remain hopeful and committed to supporting communities in becoming stronger, more self reliant, and confident in their journey.

With gratitude and hope,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Keshav Gurnule', written over a circular blue stamp.

**Mr. Keshav Gurnule**  
**Convenor**

## About SRISHTI

SRISHTI is a non-profit organisation established in 2002 by Shri Keshav Gurnule with a vision to build strong, community-led institutions in tribal and rural areas. Over the past two decades, SRISHTI has consistently worked at the grassroots level to empower communities to understand, access, and claim their rights and entitlements under various government laws and welfare schemes. The organisation believes that informed and organised communities are the foundation of sustainable and inclusive development.

The core approach of SRISHTI is centred on community mobilisation, awareness generation, and capacity building. It works closely with Gram Sabhas, women's collectives, and youth groups to strengthen local self-governance systems and promote participatory decision-making. By facilitating regular community meetings, trainings, and exposure visits, SRISHTI enables people to actively engage in planning, implementation, and monitoring of development initiatives. Special emphasis is placed on ensuring the inclusion and leadership of marginalised groups, particularly tribal communities and women, thereby strengthening their voice in local governance processes.

A key area of SRISHTI's work has been supporting the effective implementation of important legislations such as the Forest Rights Act (FRA). The organisation has played a significant role in facilitating both Individual Forest Rights (IFR) and Community Forest Rights (CFR), enabling communities to secure legal rights over forest land and resources. This has further strengthened community-led natural resource management, promoting conservation alongside sustainable use of forests.

In addition to rights-based work, SRISHTI focuses on improving access to essential services such as health, nutrition, education, and social security schemes. The organisation actively supports communities in accessing schemes related to pensions, employment (such as MGNREGA), food security, and health insurance. By building awareness and strengthening local monitoring systems, SRISHTI helps ensure better delivery and accountability of these services.

Livelihood enhancement is another critical focus area. SRISHTI promotes sustainable and diversified livelihood practices including organic farming, non-timber forest produce (NTFP) collection and value addition, fisheries, and goat rearing. These initiatives are designed to improve household incomes while maintaining ecological balance. The organisation also supports community institutions in developing market linkages and improving financial literacy, thereby enhancing long-term economic resilience.

Over the years, SRISHTI has contributed to the emergence of confident and self-reliant communities that actively participate in governance, assert their rights, and work collectively towards their development. Increased participation of women in Gram Sabha processes, strengthened community institutions, and improved access to entitlements are some of the key outcomes of its work.

With a strong commitment to equity, sustainability, and community ownership, SRISHTI continues to work towards creating inclusive development models that are rooted in local knowledge and driven by the aspirations of the communities it serves.

## Thematic Area

The organization works thematically in areas including education, livelihoods, health, women's empowerment, environmental sustainability, agroforestry, and conservation of natural resources such as soil, water, and air, along with broader rural development initiatives.



**Environment and Natural  
Resources**



**Livelihood**



**Health**



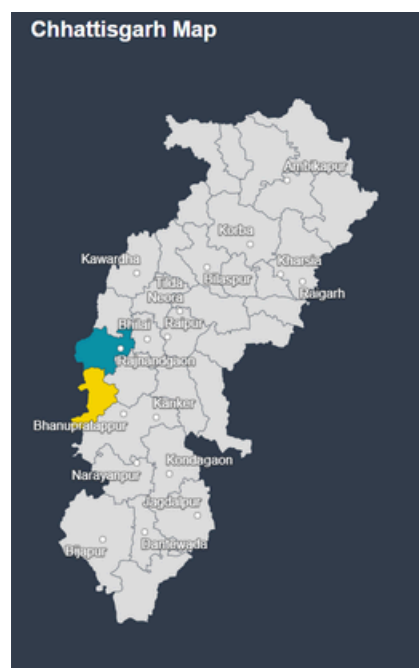
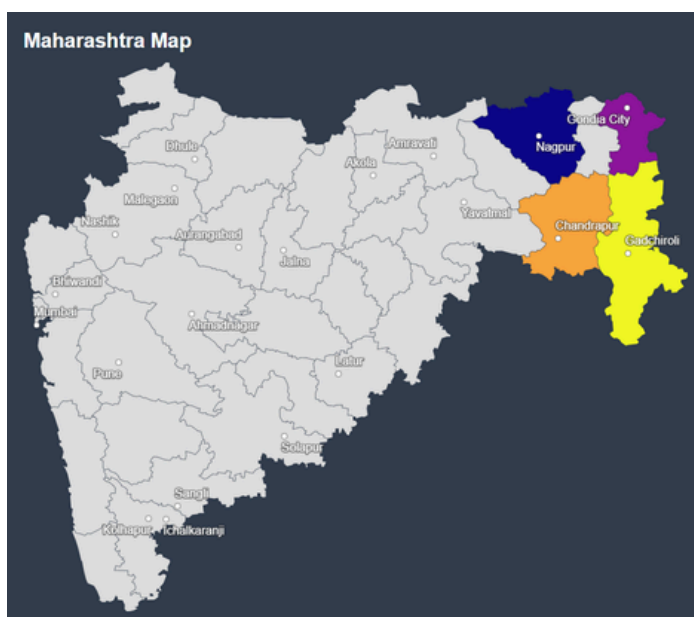
**Women Empowerment and  
Entrepreneurship**



**Education**

## Geographic Coverage

Currently, SRISHTI operates in the tribal regions of Gadchiroli, Gondia, Chandrapur and Nagpur district in Maharashtra and Mohala Manpur Ambagarh Chowki and Rajnandgaon district in Chhattisgarh. Its core focus lies in facilitating the recognition of rights of rural and tribal communities over natural resources, strengthening livelihood security, and promoting sustainable resource management. Capacity building of community institutions and enabling them to effectively implement various government acts and schemes remain central to the organization's work.





# Forest and Land Rights

SRISHTI places strong emphasis on securing forest and land rights for tribal communities, recognizing land as a critical source of identity, livelihood, and dignity. In forested regions like Gadchiroli district and Rajnandgaon district, unclear land tenure often limits access to development benefits. Through its interventions under the Forest Rights Act 2006, SRISHTI supports communities in claiming and managing their rightful access to forest resources. The organization works closely with Gram Sabhas to strengthen community-led governance and ensure sustainable resource use.

## Activities

- Facilitated filing of Individual Forest Rights (IFR) and Community Forest Rights (CFR) claims
- Conducted awareness campaigns and Gram Sabha meetings
- Supported documentation, mapping, and verification processes
- Trained community members and CFR committees on rights and governance
- Provided guidance on Records of Rights (RoR)



| Indicator                                        | Achievement    |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Community Forest Rights (CFR) Claims             | 26             |
| Individual Forest Rights (IFR) Claims            | 181            |
| Gram Sabhas Strengthened                         | 150+           |
| Households Reached Through Awareness Activities  | 9,000+         |
| Households Covered in Maharashtra & Chhattisgarh | 6,453          |
| Forest Area Secured Under Community Rights       | 6,770 Hectares |



## Sustainable Livelihoods

Livelihood insecurity remains a major challenge in remote tribal areas where dependence on natural resources is high. SRISHTI promotes sustainable and diversified livelihood options aligned with local ecology and traditional knowledge. By strengthening agriculture, forest-based livelihoods, and allied activities, the organization aims to enhance household incomes and reduce vulnerability. The approach focuses on community participation and improved access to schemes like MGNREGA.

### Activities

- Promoted organic and climate-resilient farming practices
- Supported goat rearing, poultry, and fishery initiatives
- Strengthened value chains of Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP)
- Facilitated access to MGNREGA and other livelihood schemes
- Conducted skill development and income generation training



| Indicator                                           | Achievement         |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Households Adopting Sustainable Farming Practices   | 500+                |
| Individuals Engaged in Fishery Activities           | 5,300+              |
| Individuals Trained in Sustainable Honey Collection | 250+                |
| Honey Collected                                     | 5,000 kg            |
| Increase in Income from NTFP & Agriculture          | 30%                 |
| MGNREGA Employment Generated                        | 15,000+ Person-Days |
| Self-Help Groups Engaged in Livelihood Activities   | 28                  |



# Water and Natural Resource Management

Water and natural resources are central to rural livelihoods, especially in tribal regions where agriculture is rain-dependent. Challenges such as erratic rainfall and land degradation impact productivity and income. SRISHTI promotes community-led natural resource management with a focus on water conservation and sustainable land use. Through participatory planning and Gram Sabha involvement, the organization ensures equitable and long-term management of resources.

## Activities

- Facilitated construction of farm ponds, check dams, and bunding structures
- Promoted soil and moisture conservation practices
- Supported village-level natural resource planning
- Strengthened Gram Sabha role in resource governance



| Indicator                                      | Achievement |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Water Conservation Structures Created/Restored | 21          |
| Increase in Irrigation Coverage                | 25%         |
| Households with Improved Water Availability    | 4,315       |



## Health and Nutrition

SRISHTI continued its efforts to improve health and nutrition outcomes among vulnerable communities through awareness generation, capacity building, and community-based health interventions. During the year, more than **210 village-level health and nutrition awareness sessions** were conducted, reaching community members with information on maternal health, child nutrition, hygiene, and preventive healthcare practices. In addition, two cluster-level health camps were organized to improve access to essential health services.



To address malnutrition among children, **80 nutrition kits were distributed to children identified with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM)**. Capacity-building efforts included 48 training sessions for frontline workers, enhancing their knowledge and skills in health, nutrition, and community outreach. Furthermore, 276 Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Committee (VHSNC) meetings were facilitated to strengthen community participation in health planning and monitoring.



The programme directly benefited **1,048 families, including 219 adolescent girls, 55 lactating mothers, 62 pregnant women, and 351 children**. Through these interventions, SRISHTI contributed to improving awareness, strengthening community health systems, and promoting better nutrition and health outcomes among vulnerable households.



# Education and Child Protection Initiative

Education is a powerful catalyst for social transformation, particularly in rural and tribal communities where access to quality learning opportunities remains a challenge. During the year, SRISHTI continued its efforts to strengthen educational outcomes and ensure the safety and well-being of children through its Education and Child Protection Programme implemented across 20 villages in two blocks. The initiative covered 25 Zilla Parishad (Z.P.) and Ashram Schools and focused on improving learning outcomes, promoting life skills, enhancing digital education, and creating awareness on child protection.



## Key Reach and Coverage

| Particulars                    | Achievement |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Villages Covered               | 20          |
| Blocks Covered                 | 2           |
| Z.P. & Ashram Schools Covered  | 25          |
| Students Reached               | 2,500+      |
| Teachers Oriented              | 75          |
| Life Skills Education Sessions | 120         |
| Child Protection Workshops     | 30          |
| Online Learning Beneficiaries  | 800         |
| Community Awareness Meetings   | 20          |

## Life Skills Education

SRISHTI conducted a series of structured Life Skills Education sessions for adolescent boys and girls to foster confidence, communication, leadership, decision-making, emotional resilience, and gender sensitivity. Interactive learning methods such as group discussions, role plays, and experiential activities enabled students to develop essential skills for personal growth and future success.



### Key Achievements

- 1,500 adolescents participated in life skills education sessions.
- 120 school-based sessions were conducted.
- Increased confidence and active classroom participation among students.
- Formation of student leadership groups in selected schools.

## Child Protection and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse

Ensuring a safe and supportive learning environment remained a key priority. SRISHTI organized awareness programmes on child rights, child protection, and the prevention of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) for students, teachers, parents, and School Management Committees. The sessions focused on safe and unsafe touch, reporting mechanisms, child protection laws, and available support services.

### Key Achievements

- 2,000 children sensitized on child safety and protection.
- 75 teachers trained to identify and respond to child protection concerns.
- 30 child protection workshops conducted across schools.
- Enhanced awareness among parents and community members regarding child rights and safety.



## Aspirational Districts Initiative

As part of its commitment to reaching vulnerable children in underserved regions, SRISHTI expanded educational and child protection interventions in four Aspirational Districts of Maharashtra—Gadchiroli, Nandurbar, Dharashiv (Osmanabad), and Washim. Through school-based campaigns, awareness drives, and stakeholder engagement activities, the programme promoted access to education, child safety, and community participation in creating protective environments for children.

## Online Education Support

To address learning gaps and strengthen foundational competencies, SRISHTI provided online educational support to students of Classes 5 to 7. The programme focused on English language development, Mathematics, Science, and digital learning skills. Through interactive online classes, digital learning resources, and periodic assessments, students received continuous academic support beyond the classroom.

## Key Achievements

- 800 students benefited from online learning support.
- More than 300 online classes were conducted.
- Improved learning outcomes in English, Mathematics, and Science.
- Enhanced digital literacy and technology adoption among students.

## Impact

The Education and Child Protection Programme contributed significantly to improving learning opportunities and creating safer environments for children in rural and tribal communities. The initiative strengthened life skills among adolescents, increased awareness of child rights and protection, improved digital literacy, and enhanced access to quality education. By integrating education, child protection, and life skills development, SRISHTI continues to empower children and young people to become confident, informed, and responsible members of society.





## Women Empowerment and Leadership Development

Women play a critical role in community development, natural resource governance, and livelihood security. Recognizing this, SRISHTI continued its efforts to strengthen women's leadership, economic participation, and decision-making capacities across rural and tribal communities. Through interventions focused on Community Forest Resource Management Committees (CFRMCs), Gram Sabhas, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and women-led fisheries enterprises, the programme empowered women to become active agents of change within their communities.

### Key Reach and Coverage

| Particulars                          | Achievement |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Villages Covered                     | 120+        |
| Women Reached                        | 5,000+      |
| SHGs Strengthened                    | 120         |
| CFRMC Women Members Trained          | 500+        |
| Women Fisheries Groups Supported     | 27          |
| Capacity Building Sessions Conducted | 75          |
| Women Leaders Developed              | 200+        |

### Strengthening Women's Leadership in Community Forest Governance

SRISHTI worked closely with women members of Community Forest Resource Management Committees (CFRMCs) to enhance their participation in forest governance, conservation planning, and decision-making processes under the Forest Rights Act. Capacity-building initiatives focused on strengthening women's knowledge and leadership in sustainable resource management and community governance.

#### Training and mentoring support covered:

- Community Forest Rights (CFR) governance
- Sustainable forest management
- Biodiversity conservation
- Record keeping and financial management
- Leadership and public speaking skills
- Participation in Gram Sabha decision-making



## Key Achievements

- Increased representation of women in CFRMC leadership positions.
- Enhanced participation of women in Gram Sabha meetings and community resource planning.
- Improved capacity to manage community forest resources and forest-based enterprises.
- Strengthened women's role in decision-making related to natural resources and livelihoods.



## Strengthening Self-Help Groups (SHGs)

SRISHTI supported women-led Self-Help Groups to improve financial literacy, collective action, and access to livelihood opportunities. Through regular training and mentoring, women strengthened their savings practices, improved financial management skills, and gained better access to government schemes and social security programmes.

### Key training areas included:

- Financial literacy and bookkeeping
- Entrepreneurship development
- Access to government welfare schemes
- Digital literacy and online transactions
- Leadership and group management

## Key Achievements

- Strengthened the functioning of SHGs across intervention villages.
- Improved savings habits and financial management practices among women members.
- Increased awareness and access to government programmes and entitlements.
- Enhanced confidence, leadership, and collective action among rural and tribal women.



## Women in Fisheries Initiative

To promote livelihood diversification and economic independence, SRISHTI supported women-led fisheries enterprises in 27 villages. Women received training in scientific fish farming practices, pond management, feed management, harvesting techniques, and collective marketing strategies.

The initiative encouraged women to participate in an economic activity traditionally dominated by men, thereby enhancing their income-generating opportunities and strengthening their role in household and community decision-making.

## Key Achievements

- Formation and strengthening of women fisheries groups.
- Improved technical knowledge of fish farming and aquatic resource management.
- Increased livelihood and income-generation opportunities through fisheries-based enterprises.
- Enhanced participation of women in local markets and producer collectives.





## Economic Empowerment and Livelihood Development

SRISHTI facilitated women's access to sustainable livelihood opportunities linked to natural resources and local enterprises. The programme promoted skill development, entrepreneurship, and collective enterprise development in sectors such as:

- Fisheries
- Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) processing
- Agriculture and kitchen gardens
- Bamboo-based enterprises
- Small-scale rural businesses

Through training, mentoring, and institutional support, women acquired practical skills, strengthened their entrepreneurial capacities, and improved their ability to manage income-generating activities.

### Impact

The Women Empowerment and Leadership Development Programme contributed significantly to strengthening women's leadership, enhancing livelihood opportunities, and increasing their participation in local governance institutions. Women emerged as active decision-makers within Gram Sabhas, CFRMCs, Self-Help Groups, and livelihood collectives, contributing meaningfully to community development and natural resource management.

By investing in women's leadership, economic empowerment, and institutional participation, SRISHTI continues to promote inclusive development, gender equity, and sustainable resource governance across rural and tribal communities.





## Team Capacity Building and Organizational Development

SRISHTI believes that a skilled, knowledgeable, and motivated team is fundamental to achieving sustainable development outcomes in rural and tribal communities. During the reporting period, the organization continued to invest in strengthening the capacities of its staff, community facilitators, and field coordinators through structured training programmes, exposure visits, technical workshops, and knowledge-sharing initiatives. These efforts enhanced the team's ability to effectively support community institutions, facilitate participatory development processes, and deliver high-quality programme outcomes.

| Particulars                            | Achievement |
|----------------------------------------|-------------|
| Staff Members Trained                  | 35+         |
| Capacity Building Programmes Conducted | 15          |
| Exposure Visits Organized              | 2           |
| Technical Training Sessions            | 20          |
| Knowledge Sharing Meetings             | 12          |
| Partner Organizations Engaged          | 10+         |

### Strengthening Technical and Digital Capacities

SRISHTI invested in strengthening the technical and digital competencies of its staff through regular training programmes covering Community Forest Rights (CFR), Natural Resource Management, livelihood development, women's empowerment, climate resilience, monitoring and evaluation, and community institution building. The organization also enhanced staff capacities in digital data collection, GIS and GPS mapping, AI-based applications, Microsoft Excel, and reporting systems to improve programme planning, monitoring, and documentation.

### Key Outcomes

- Enhanced technical knowledge across programme teams.
- Improved support to Gram Sabhas, CFRMCs, SHGs, and community institutions.
- Strengthened digital literacy and data management capabilities.
- Improved programme monitoring, reporting, and documentation quality.



## Leadership Development and Cross-Learning

To strengthen organizational effectiveness, SRISHTI conducted leadership and management development workshops focusing on project management, communication, stakeholder engagement, problem-solving, and team coordination. Staff members also participated in exposure visits, learning exchanges, and interactions with development practitioners to gain insights into innovative approaches in rural development, natural resource management, and community-led governance.

### Key Outcomes

- Improved leadership and management capacities among staff.
- Enhanced coordination, accountability, and stakeholder engagement.
- Greater exposure to best practices and innovative development models.
- Increased application of learning in field-level interventions.

## Knowledge Management and Learning Culture

SRISHTI continued to foster a culture of continuous learning through regular review meetings, knowledge-sharing sessions, peer learning, and documentation of best practices. These efforts strengthened organizational learning and enabled the effective dissemination of field experiences across programme areas.

### Key Outcomes

- Strengthened organizational learning systems.
- Improved documentation and knowledge sharing.
- Enhanced collaboration among programme teams.
- Increased adoption of best practices across interventions.

## Impact

The capacity-building initiatives significantly enhanced the technical expertise, leadership capabilities, and operational effectiveness of the SRISHTI team. Strengthened staff capacities contributed to improved programme quality, better community engagement, stronger institutional support, and more effective implementation of development initiatives across rural and tribal communities.



## Knowledge Exchange and Exposure Visits

Over the years, SRISHTI has emerged as a recognized learning centre for Community Forest Rights (CFR) implementation and community-led natural resource governance. The organisation's sustained efforts in strengthening Gram Sabhas, facilitating Community Forest Resource (CFR) rights recognition, promoting sustainable forest management, and enhancing forest-based livelihoods have attracted the interest of development practitioners, civil society organisations, researchers, and institutions from across India.



During the reporting period, SRISHTI hosted a series of exposure visits and learning exchanges focused primarily on the implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA), Community Forest Rights governance, community institution strengthening, and sustainable livelihood development. More than 120 representatives from various organisations visited SRISHTI's intervention areas to understand field-level processes, community engagement strategies, institutional mechanisms, and best practices adopted by Gram Sabhas and Community Forest Resource Management Committees (CFRMCs).

Organisations that participated in these exposure visits included Foundation for Ecological Security (FES), Abhivyakti Sanstha, Vasundhara, Gram Mitra Samaj Sevi Sanstha, Centre for Good Governance and Policy (CGP), Delhi, VGTYS Uttarakhand, Sanjeevan Gujarat, Manthan Yuva Sanstha, Jharkhand, and Tata Trusts, among others.

The exposure visits provided participants with opportunities to interact directly with Gram Sabha leaders, CFRMC members, women's groups, and community representatives. Field demonstrations highlighted processes related to CFR claim preparation, forest resource management planning, bamboo and NTFP-based livelihood initiatives, convergence with government schemes, biodiversity conservation, and community-led decision-making systems. These visits served as valuable platforms for mutual learning and knowledge sharing. Participants gained practical insights into successful FRA implementation models, while community institutions associated with SRISHTI received recognition for their achievements and innovative practices. The exchanges also fostered collaboration among organisations working in similar thematic areas and contributed to the wider dissemination and replication of effective community-based forest governance approaches across different states of India.

Through such knowledge-sharing initiatives, SRISHTI continues to strengthen its role as a resource organisation, promoting community-led development and supporting the broader movement for forest rights, democratic local governance, and sustainable rural livelihoods.



## Case Stories

### Saving a New Life Through Timely Community Support

A Case from Chipari Village, Kurkheda Block, Gadchiroli

Reshma Ramesh Gawale, a young tribal woman from Chipari village in Kurkheda Block, was married in 2024 and soon became pregnant with her first child. During the seventh month of her pregnancy, she experienced severe bleeding and was admitted to the Dadapur Health Sub-Centre, where she received treatment and was later discharged after her condition stabilized.

Just two weeks later, Reshma went into premature labour and delivered a baby girl at Purada Primary Health Centre. The newborn weighed only 1.3 kilograms and required urgent specialized care. Mother and child were referred to the District Hospital in Gadchiroli, where they remained under treatment for fifteen days. However, due to the family's poor financial condition and the inability to manage food and other expenses during their stay, they returned home without completing the treatment.

During a routine follow-up visit, SRISHTI field staff identified the critical condition of the newborn, whose weight had further declined to 1.1 kilograms. Understanding the seriousness of the situation, SRISHTI immediately initiated counselling with the family and coordinated with frontline health workers, including the Medical Officer of Purada PHC, the Community Health Officer, ANM, and ASHA worker. Despite repeated counselling, the family remained reluctant to return for treatment due to financial and logistical concerns.



SRISHTI then engaged village leaders and community representatives, helping them understand the health risks faced by the mother and child. Through persistent efforts and collective community support, the family finally agreed to seek further medical care. With coordination from the health department and support from SRISHTI, Reshma and her baby were admitted to Kurkheda Rural Hospital, where they received immediate attention and specialized care. Today, both mother and child are safe and under regular medical supervision. The baby continues to gain strength and weight, and the hospital has ensured continued care until she is fully out of danger.



This case demonstrates the critical role of SRISHTI in strengthening community health systems and ensuring that vulnerable families are not left behind. Through timely identification, continuous follow-up, effective coordination with health institutions, and mobilization of community leadership, SRISHTI helped prevent a potentially life-threatening situation and ensured access to essential healthcare services for a tribal mother and her newborn child.

The case highlights how community-based interventions, strong partnerships with public health systems, and persistent field-level engagement can save lives and improve health outcomes in remote tribal areas.

### **Vihirgaon Village Takes Charge of Its Forest Future**

Vihirgaon, a village of 1,191 people in Gadchiroli, has transformed its relationship with forests through community rights. For years, villagers secretly collected firewood and forest produce, fearing fines from forest guards. This changed in 2022 when they learned about their Community Forest Rights over 252 hectares of land - rights they'd actually held since 2011 but never knew how to use.

With help from SRISHTI, the village:

- Formed a forest management committee with equal women's participation
- Started legally selling tendu leaves, doubling their income compared to old rates
- Created a 10-year forest conservation plan approved by the district

#### **Key Changes:**

- Women now actively participate in forest decisions for the first time
- The village saves 5-10% of forest income for community development
- Families earn extra ₹15,000-20,000 yearly from sustainable forest products



"The forest isn't just trees - it's our children's bank," says one female member. Before, they feared the forest department; now they protect these woods as their own.

Challenges remain - implementing their forest plan requires slow government approvals. But Vihirgaon shows how tribal communities prosper when they understand their rights. Their next goal? Use forest funds to build water sources so no one has to migrate for work.

## The Story of Parsavihir - A Single Family Village's Journey with Forest Rights

Parsavihir, a unique village in Gadchiroli's Dhanora block, is home to just one family of five members who manage the entire village and its forests. The family, led by 50-year-old Waralu Kolhu Uike, lives in a traditional mud house surrounded by dense forests. Their life changed in 2011 when they received Community Forest Rights (CFR) over 143 hectares of land under the Forest Rights Act.

Before getting CFR, the family struggled to make ends meet. They depended on small-scale farming and forest produce but earned very little. After securing forest rights, they gained legal control over resources like medicinal plants, bamboo, and tendu leaves. With guidance from SRISHTI, they learned sustainable harvesting and selling techniques, which increased their income.



The family used their earnings wisely improving their home, saving money, and investing in better farming tools. They also joined government schemes like MGNREGA, which provided jobs in water conservation and tree planting. Women in the family, who earlier had limited opportunities, now contribute equally to decision-making and income generation.

Parsavihir's success shows how even one family can transform their lives with forest rights. The Uike family not only improved their own situation but also protected the forest for future generations.

Today, Parsavihir is a model for sustainable living. The family trains others in forest management and plans to expand their efforts. Their story proves that with rights, resources, and determination, even the smallest communities can thrive.



## Our Funding Partners



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*Inspiring courage.*

## Our Knowledge Partners



Foundation for Economic and  
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**Sathi**







## Connect with us

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