

# TNS INDIA FOUNDATION



## Annual Activity Report

### TNS INDIA FOUNDATION 2015-16

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## Board of Directors

Sr. No	Name	Occupation	Designation	Office address	Email id
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## About TNS India Foundation

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TNS India Foundation is a section 25 company founded in 2012, which works with small and marginal communities, underprivileged youth to develop business solutions to poverty by linking people to information, capital and markets. We conduct the activities under the following areas:

- **STRENGTHEN AGRI VALUE CHAINS:** We enable smallholder farmers to grow high-value products, engage with private-sector companies, and sell to profitable markets.
- **FOSTER SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP:** We provide business training and skills development to people in poor communities who want to create sustainable enterprises.
- **PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** We increase incomes in target communities and in turn further catalyze economic and social development.
- **SUPPORT GENDER-INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES:** We integrate custom support for women into our programs to expand their capacity and opportunity for sustainable livelihoods.

TNS India Foundation collaborates with development organizations and grant-making foundations to execute large-scale, multi-year programs, with staff deployed at the frontlines. We also associate with companies to directly implement customized Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs based on our core areas of expertise.

## Activities under Local Economic Development program in Davangere, Karnataka

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In partnership with Cargill, TNS India Foundation had launched a 4-year Local Economic Development (LED) program to improve the livelihoods of small scale farmers. Through the program, we plan to create a model for sustainable and scalable economic development in the villages in Davangere, Karnataka. Following are the activities undertaken in that program:

### Farmer Registration and Trainings

A total of 1,311 farmers were registered under the program and the same were trained on agricultural best practices including importance of soil sampling and testing. Of these, 724 farmers got their soil tested and based on these reports farmers are being advised on fertilizer usage for their crops.

Demonstration plots on existing crops and new crops were developed to showcase best agriculture practices that are ongoing. In the month of February 2016, pulses were sown in 41 acres as demo plots in collaboration with Agriculture and Horticulture Research Station (AHRIS). For pulses, it was noticed that growing green gram and cowpea has been successful, but black gram did not do well.

For the ease in trainings, farmer groups were formed based on their interests and crops grown. These groups will be capacitated as a small unit of business, and will be able to aggregate their demand and produce. This parameter will be measured at the end of the project.

### Training on Entrepreneurship / Youth Employability

The program has set up Cargill Agri-Fellows (CAF) component to empower young men and women by training them in the best agricultural entrepreneurship practices, which will enable them to set up their own agro-based enterprises.

Under this CAF component, a first batch of 14 have attended the accredited training from University of Agriculture Sciences, Dharwad and are undergoing an apprenticeship program with us.

### Kitchen Garden Development and Training on Financial Management and Health & Nutrition for Women Farmers

Our experience on field indicates that many households in rural areas may not be able to meet their daily nutritional requirements owing to factors such as:

- Cost
- Quality of vegetables available in the market
- Awareness
- Lack of access

For this, a total of 508 women were registered under this program. By February 2016, 116 kitchen gardens were set up by the women. After the onset of monsoons, 64 women have re-sown their existing kitchen gardens. Women have quoted that they save about INR 400-500 per week on vegetable by undertaking this activity.

This has also led to them consuming fresh vegetables that are free of pesticides and also do not lack nutrition.

## **Community Development**

The community was fully engaged in the activities taken up in schools and Anganwadis. Village Gram Panchayat (GP) and School Development Managing Committees (SDMCs) have been motivated to contribute for school and Anganwadi development in their own way.

- 8 toilets were constructed in schools and 12 baby toilets in the anganwadis
- 8 water purification systems were placed in schools and 12 in the anganwadis
- 8 libraries were supported as a part of the program and learning material was provided in 12 anganwadis

## **Visits by Stakeholders**

Cargill chairman and global CEO, Mr. David Mac Lennan, visited the project in January 2016. In a program organized at Government Lower Primary School, Belludi, the school children welcomed him by singing a song and a group dance performance. Mr. Lennan inaugurated a water filtration unit installed under the project intervention. He also presented books and learning material to the school and the Anganwadi which were received by Block Education Officer (BEO) and Child Development Project Office (CDPO) of Harihara block. Later in the day, he visited two farmer kitchen gardens and himself planted a mango and sapota tree.

## Activities under Youth Employability Project (YEP) in Mumbai

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The Youth Employability Program (YEP) is a partnership between TNS India Foundation and JP Morgan to help urban youth from low socioeconomic and disadvantaged backgrounds bridge the opportunity gap to find careers in the formal sector.

### Student Trainings

- The training consisted of three modules. The first, Personal and Professional Effectiveness, focuses on soft skills such as goal setting, communication, and time management. This module was taught mostly in Hindi. The second module, Job Seekers, uses video-based curriculum developed by British Council and focuses on job hunting and professional skills. This module is taught in English. We also developed many English fluency exercises to accompany the British Council curriculum. Halfway through the first year of YEP, the team developed a third curriculum module based on the findings of student surveys, focus groups, interviews, and student assessments. The module teaches employability skills exclusively through role-play scenarios and fluency-building experiential learning activities. This module was only partially rolled out in the first year.
- In total, we conducted trainings with 37 Batches at 12 colleges, with 1269 students graduating from the program. Over 80% of the participants were female. The average attendance for our trainings was over 90%. Several colleges reported attendance rates for YEP classes greatly exceeded that of normal classes. Although not officially one of our training outputs, the team also facilitated having 110 students receive vocational training from industry partners at no cost to the students.

### Mentoring

- In this component, mid-level employees from J.P. Morgan conducted engagement visits with students in the YEP and provided coaching on mock interviews, CV writing and Group Discussion preparation. They also provided valuable insight into corporate culture and developing career expectations.
- J.P. Morgan only began operating the component in April but managed to have 34 volunteers from inside the company provide mentorship for 424 students before the end of the school year.

### Counseling

- At the beginning of the project the YEP employed two dedicated counselors who provided aptitude testing and one-on-one counseling sessions for all students in the program.
- Under this system 310 students received counseling services. However, this model proved logistically infeasible with too much time spend in transportation between campuses, and too little access to the counselors for students.
- The team pivoted away from this system in November to pursue a model in which the YEP Trainers, who were already regularly available at all colleges as part of the “placement cells” for the corporate linkages program, would receive training in providing counseling services.
- In May, the team contracted with Edusharp to provide the training in counseling services to our staff.
- Aptitude testing was also outsourced to Edusharp, which conducted online aptitude tests for approximately 366 students by the end of the year.

### **Community Mobilization**

Community mobilization was included as an independent output/outcome on the insistence of the donor who felt that lack awareness around employability skills is one the contributors to the employment gap, and this can be addressed through holding information sessions. During our mobilization efforts, it had 2549 students attend information session (target was 2500). There was no plan in place for assessing the impact of these sessions.

## Activities under Barmer Unnati Program in Rajasthan

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For the construction of Khadins in Barmer district, a partnership between TNS India Foundation and NABARD was formed to help farmers to enhance their agriculture production and productivity.

The immediate objectives of the Khadin structures are as follows:

- To conserve rain water in the land to increase the soil – moisture
- To promote the runoff managed agriculture system and secure the kharif crop
- To control soil erosion and maintain the fertility of the soil
- To increase the ground water recharge and also establish the vegetation

Following activities were conducted under this program:

### Farmers Meeting on Khadin Concept and Site Selection

- Farmers meetings were held in the 2 villages of Narnaniyoki Dhani & Hariyali where there is lack of irrigation facility
- A total of 39 farmers participated in the farmer meetings
- The farmers meeting was conducted to share the concept of Khadin structure and its importance in rainfed farming
- They were informed that the water collected through these structures can ensure the soil moisture during kharif season and thus can ensure and protect the kharif crop

### Training on Khadin Concept & Construction Process

Training on Khadin concept and construction process was held for the newly selected farmers from the selected villages. The sites for construction were finalized in accordance discussion with the farmers and the beneficiaries. A training was also organized to impart the concept and construction process of Khadins. 18 farmers from Narnaniyoki Dhani and Hariyali attended the training. Following topics are covered in the training:

- What is a Khadin structure and why this structure is suitable for Barmer
- How Khadins are beneficial for rainfed farming and under low & erratic rainfall conditions
- How it saves the crop during dry spell and under drought conditions
- Role of Khadin in enhancing the production and productivity from rainfed farming
- Role of farmers in the construction and their contribution
- Cropping during rainy season
- Post maintenance



### **Construction of Khadin Structures**

The following steps are followed during the construction process of Khadin structure:

#### Step 1: Agreement with the farmer ensuring the contribution

The farmers agreed to the terms and conditions decided in the farmers group meeting before start of the construction process. The farmers land was being verified for it to be free from any type of litigation and the farmers signed a document ensuring their contribution. Following were the contributions required from the farmers:

- The farmer will clean the bushes before giving the layout by the team
- Fine dressing the soil while earthwork construction is in progress through machinery
- Thorn pitching on the embankment to prevent soil erosion during summer
- Ensuring water availability at the site and providing unskilled labour for masonry surplus spillway construction.

All other items in construction such as earthwork payment, material & mason cost with proper technical guidance and regular super vision was be provided by the team from the project.

#### Step 2: Construction Layout:

Before the embankment construction, field layouts were drawn in each individual farmer's field considering the following points:

- Slope of the land
- Catchment area from where runoff is generated and expected amount of runoff
- Water storage area and depth expected after each storm and maximum permissible storage
- Determining the position of the spillway

#### Step 3: Earthen Embankment Construction and Fine Dressing:

The construction of earthen embankment was done with the help of Machinery followed by manual dressing and compaction by the farmers. During this month, all the 15 Khadin structure earth work was completed with find dressing. The thorn plant pitching is in progress by the farmers to prevent the soil erosion by wind during the summer season.

#### Step 4: Masonry Spillway Construction:

The earthwork followed by spillway construction in consultation with the farmers. Masonry spillways are constructed based on the topography of the land to escape the excess runoff during heavy rain safely. Emergency spillway provisions are also provided in each spillway to remove excess water from the standing crop.

### **Visits by Stakeholders**

Two visits were made by DDM, NABARD, Barmer to the work site during the construction and after construction with the PMC interacted with the farmers group.

## Financial Summary (All amounts in INR)

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**TNS India Foundation**  
Unit 6, Neeru Silk Mills, Mathuradas Mills  
Lower Parel (W), Mumbai 400013

Liabilities	Amount	Assets	Amount
<b>Shareholders' Funds</b>		<b>Non-Current Assets</b>	
Share Capital	100,000	Tangible Assets	-
Reserves and Surplus	8,932,484	<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>		Cash and Equivalent	9,955,815
Long Term Provisions	-	Short-term Loans and Advances	41,067
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		Other Current Assets	-
Outstanding Dues	1,394,656	Trade Receivables	502,470
Other Current Liabilities	9,512		
Short-term Provisions	62,700		
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,499,352</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>10,499,352</b>