

Annual Report 2020-21



[BHAWANA SEWA SANSTHAN]

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About BSS

Founded in the year 2004, Bhawana Sewa Sansthan (BSS) has been striving towards the holistic development of the disadvantaged communities. The NGO, headquartered in Lucknow, the capital of the most populous state in the country Uttar Pradesh, carries out initiatives aimed at inducing positive changes in the lives of people from vulnerable backgrounds.

Development projects carried out by BSS mainly spans across Sustainable Agriculture, Women Empowerment, Health and Skill Development.

The organization takes pride in its team of dedicated social activists and volunteers who work tirelessly to conceptualize, plan and implement development initiatives aimed at empowering the marginalized communities.

BSS has been registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860 vide registration no. 925/2003-04 granted by the Registrar of Societies, Firms & Chits, Lucknow, U.P.

The development initiatives spearheaded by the organization concentrates in Uttar Pradesh districts including Allahabad, Balrampur, Budaun, Bhadohi, Deoria, Gonda, Hardoi, Lucknow, Shravasti, Shahjahanpur, Unnao and Varanasi. Its geographical spread covers both rural and urban populations.

BSS's core competency lies in conducting studies, surveys in rural remote areas, urban slums; implementing development projects and programmes for agriculture, land development; imparting skill development training and capacity building for employment or self-reliance, and extending support to microenterprises.



Our Guideposts

Vision

A Just, Equitable and Sustainable Society through Empowered Communities

Mission

We Collaborate with Communities to Develop Equal Access to:

- Livelihoods
- Health
- Education
- Sustainable Environment
- Opportunities for Growth

Values

An empowered, democratic society is one where

- Children are nurtured in a joyful environment
- Women are equal members of society with complete access to health, education, and socio-economic opportunities
- Women actively participate in decision-making
- Continuous efforts are made to integrate marginalized communities into mainstream society

President's Message



It's my pleasure to present BSS' Annual Report 2020-21. We have been striving to empower the marginalized, deprived and vulnerable sections of the society by co-engaging them in programmes that are in alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This Annual Report will take you through our major interventions under thematic areas Sustainable Livelihoods, Education, Health and Skill Development.

I am delighted to note that BSS continued to co-engage with communities and each stakeholder while responding the widening gap between the rich and the poor.

Several co-organizations and well-wishers are an inspiring spirit behind BSS's working. We take special care to ensure that the federal style of functioning is adopted by the organization, so that the implementation of development programmes is seamless.

Innovative and unconventional approaches adopted by BSS staff to serve the disadvantaged communities are really praiseworthy.

It is a matter of credit for the organization that its activities through various programmes positively impacted a large number of people, particularly those belonging to the weaker sections, leading to improvement in their living standards.

Wishing BSS than a more impactful year ahead!

Ms Shikha Jain

Bhawana Seva Sansthan (BSS) has a number of well-thought-out interventions that engage farmers for enhancing agriculture productivity. Most of these initiatives are concentrated in Allahabad, Balrampur, Budaun, Bhadohi, Deoria, Gonda, Hardoi, Lucknow, Shravasti, Shahjahanpur, Unnao and Varanasi. The organization encourages farmers to adopt modern and scientific agrarian practices that make agriculture a profitable and sustainable venture. It has also been making serious efforts to make farmers shift from traditional farming to organic farming. In this process, it has created several farmer groups that have shunned the use of chemicals in farming, especially in the cultivation of vegetables.

The organization undertakes programmes in collaboration with Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) and National Bank For Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) to promote sustainable agriculture in parts of Uttar Pradesh.

Interventions in association with ATMA

ATMA is a society of key stakeholders involved in agricultural activities for sustainable agricultural development in the district. It is a focal point for integrating Research and Extension activities and decentralising day to day management of the public Agricultural Technology System (ATS). It is a registered society responsible for technology dissemination at the district level.

- **Farm Schools:** Farm schools promote the concept of “learning by doing” and “seeing is believing”. They serve as a powerful medium for capacitating farmers. In FY 2020-21, a total of 187 farm schools were set up in Gonda, Shahjahanpur and Deoria districts. They reached out to **4,675 farmers**, building on their knowledge of traditional and modern agriculture practices. Equipped with various technology-based resource materials and models, these farm schools are a platform for knowledge exchange and information dissemination among farmers.



- **Krishak Goshtis:** Krishak Goshtis intend to provide detail information regarding management based on weather, soil and, water for increasing crop productivity. BSS engaged with experts and scientists from Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) to conduct Krishak Goshtis. A total of **57 Krishak Goshtis** were organised in FY 2020-21 that witnessed participation of

5,700 farmers from Gonda, Shahjahanpur and Balrampur districts.

- Exposure Visits:** In order to encourage farmers to adopt new crops and scientific agrarian methods, the organization takes farmers on regular exposure visits. Such exposure visits are organized to agriculture institutions-in Uttar Pradesh and outside. Exposure visits in the state were conducted to Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences, formerly Allahabad Agricultural Institute; Deen Dayal Upadhyay Pashu Chikitsa Vishwavidyalaya; Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), Lucknow; Ganna Shodh Sansthan; Gau Anusandhan Mathura and Narendra Dev University of Agriculture & Technology. The exposure visits within the state reached out to **1,381 farmers**.



Exposure visits, outside Uttar Pradesh, were conducted to Indian Agriculture Research Institute, PUSA, New Delhi and Govind Ballabh Pant University Of Agriculture & Technology, Uttarakhand. In FY 2020-21, the organization reached out to **265 farmers** through exposure visits outside the state.



- Farmer training:**

Several training programmes on development of biocompost, organic farming, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Seed treatment, increasing productivity of crops etc are organised for farmers by Bhawna Sewa Sansthan. The main objective behind organising such training programmes is to make farmers aware about sustainable farming

practices, which, in turn, would help them make optimum use of their resources. These trainings are conducted by experts from universities and agricultural research institutions. Resource materials that would help farmers in agriculture are also given away during the programmes. Within the state, such training programmes were conducted at Ganna Shodh Parishad (Shahjahanpur), Narendra Dev University of Agriculture & Technology, Gau Anusandhan Mathura and Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology

and Sciences, formerly Allahabad Agricultural Institute. These training programmes reached out to **7,230 farmers** of Shravasti, Gonda, Shahjahanpur and Balrampur.

Outside UP, the training sessions were held at Govind Ballabh Pant University Of Agriculture & Technology, Uttarakhand and benefitted **130 farmers** from the above mentioned districts.

- **Food Security Groups:**

To ensure household food and nutritional security, BSS facilitates the formation of Food Security Groups (FSG). It provides them training support and enables them to emerge as “Model Food Security Hubs” through establishing kitchen garden, backyard poultry, goatery, animal husbandry & dairying,



mushroom cultivation, etc. In FY 2020-21, the organisation catalysed the formation of **62 FSGs comprising 930 women** across Gonda and Shahjahanpur.

- **Capacity Building for Adoption of Technology:**

BSS encourages women to learn innovative agriculture methodologies and sustainable income generation activities. A total of **131 SHGs (1,964 women)** were constituted as part of this effort in Gonda, Shravasti, Balrampur and Shahjahanpur districts.



- **Kisan Kalyan Mission:** BSS reaches out small and marginal farmers regularly to apprise them about the welfare schemes that could help them in agriculture. As part of this effort, BSS reached out to **500 farmers** at Dadraul block, Shahjahanpur.

- **Kisan Samman Divas:** BSS felicitated **600 progressive farmers** at KVK, Niyamatpur, Shahjahanpur.



- **Mission Shakti:** In its effort to empower women, BSS carries out a number of programmes that focus on making women self-reliant. Under this initiative, **750 women** were covered in Dadraul block of Shahjahanpur.

Interventions in association with NABARD

- BSS undertakes a number of initiatives supported by NABARD, which is entrusted with matters concerning policy planning and operations in the field of credit for agriculture and other economic activities in rural areas in India.
- The organization is actively involved in mobilising farmers and building their capacity to collectively leverage their production and marketing strength. BSS ensures end-to-end support in terms of providing access to on-time quality inputs such as seed, fertilizer and machinery; strengthening extension services, building farmer capacities and facilitating access to fair and remunerative markets including linking producer groups to marketing opportunities.
- **Farmer Producer Organisation:** The concept behind Farmer Producer Organizations is that farmers, who are the producers of agricultural products, can form groups. Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO) help in overcoming the problems of unorganized small farmers who lack access to resources and services. The role of FPO is to act as an aggregator for member farmers including from inputs to output which will enhance the economy of scale and bargaining power of member farmers. In case of unsold Lots, Logistics arrangement is to be made by FPO/FPC. BSS reaches out to FPOs engaging farmers in collective farming and address productivity issues emanating from small farm sizes.

The main objective behind constituting an FPO is to ensure better income for the producers through an organized system of their own. Small producers do not have the large marketable surplus individually (both inputs and produce) to get the benefit of economies of scale.

Small farmers as individuals face diverse challenges such as poor income, limited or no access to the right inputs, inadequate knowledge of modern farming techniques, and a lack of direct market access, among several others. In many underdeveloped

or developing countries, several small farmers primarily produce for their subsistence and sell small quantities of the harvest when they face a need. These farmers often approach farming as a way of life rather than a business opportunity, which severely limits them from achieving the full potential of their farms. However, with the right support and guidance, they can bring about a tremendous transformation in the agriculture and food sector. BSS encourages farmer producer organisations to mobilise farmers in large numbers, build their capacity, and leverage their collective strength to enhance production capabilities and marketing opportunities.

FPOs are an interface between small farmers and the external world by providing forward and backward linkages, giving them required voice, market access, bargaining power, economy of scale and better prices. In FY 2020-21, BSS facilitated the formation of 2 FPOs (Shaheed Bhumi Basmati Producer Company Limited and Herbal Biotech in Shahjahanpur and Budaun respectively.

- **In-situ Management of Crop Residue:** To spread awareness about crop residue management, hoardings were put up and wall writings were carried out at 314 locations in Gonda and Shahjahanpur districts.

- **Capacity Building for Adoption of Technology:** BSS promotes new agro-technology among farmers. It exposes farmers to innovative projects so that get familiarize with new agriculture technologies and can later adopt them for making



farming both sustainable and profitable. In FY 2020-21, the organization reached out to 100 farmers under this initiative in Shahjahanpur and Budaun districts.

- **Group Leadership Training Programme:** In its attempt to inculcate leadership skills among women, BSS organized a Group Leadership Training Programme in Shahjahanpur district. A total of 100 women attended the leadership programme.
- **Financial literacy Camp:** For financial inclusion of small farmers, BSS conducts financial literacy camps. The camps provide education on financial planning, responsible borrowing, proactive and early savings, debt counseling etc. The financial literacy efforts encompass basic issues like the need for saving, making use of bank services, linking borrowing with repayment capacity, timely repayment etc. In FY 2020-21, **115 financial literacy camps** were organized in 15 blocks of Shahjahanpur district. A total of **4600 farmers** were covered under this initiative.
- **Block Level Bankers' Committee:** It is a **forum for achieving coordination between credit institutions and field level development agencies** at the block level. A total of **50 farmers** of Kanth block (Shahjahanpur) were engaged as part of this initiative.

Nai Roshni Scheme

Women constitute one of the major target groups of BSS. The organization has always believed in cultivating partnerships with women for the sustainability of its programmes. In



its existence of over a decade now, BSS has been engaging with women at multiple fronts to create better communities.

The scheme aims to empower and instill confidence among minority women by providing knowledge, tools and techniques for interacting with government systems, banks and other institutions at all levels. The scheme, initiated by Ministry of Minority Affairs, is being implemented by BSS in Lucknow.

In FY 2020-21, the organization conducted skill training programmes for minority women in different parts of Lucknow. The training was conducted in five batches comprising a total of **125 minority women**.

National Mission of Sustainable Agriculture (NSMA)-Soil Health Card

NSMA aims at making agriculture more productive, sustainable, remunerative and climate resilient by promoting location specific integrated /composite farming systems; soil and moisture conservation measures. A total of **12,060 farmers** were covered under the Soil Health Card scheme that focuses on providing soil fertility status to farmers.



Corpus Fund Activities

Apart from the above mentioned programmes, BSS carried out a number of interventions for the holistic development of the communities. These interventions spanned across domains like health, agriculture, women empowerment, Disability Rights, Environment etc. The corpus fund activities mainly covered awareness programmes on COVID-19, menstrual hygiene, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, dengue, WASH, pisciculture, sericulture, soil conservation, medicinal plants etc.
