

KABIL¹
Annual Report for the Year 2021-22

CIVID 19 and our Response

COVID-19 devastated life during the first few months of this year. The effect was more severe in comparison to previous outbreaks. Even though our work was not affected during April, various kinds of restrictions were imposed by the government as the infections surged in May. Severe restrictions were there up to August, especially in Assam. We had to change our work time from 7 am to 2 pm. A few colleagues fell ill but fortunately, none was very serious. From September onward, we were able to work at a normal pace.

KABIL's response to COVID

We engaged in COVID response in the two blocks of our operational area in Assam viz. Udalguri and Mazbat in Udalguri district. Considering the scarcity of COVID essentials among the frontline health workers and doctors, we supported them with these essentials. ASHA, ANM, Anganwadi workers, doctors, nurses, and other health staff in PHC, and sub-centres were provided N95 masks, sanitizers, thermometers etc. We also distributed handouts among families through our community cadre, conducted awareness meetings on COVID--19 during field training, and motivated people to go for vaccination.

A bigger initiative was undertaken from September 2022 onward with the help of Azim Premji Foundation in which we worked hand in hand with the district health administration to vaccinate the total eligible population of Mazbat block with both doses of the vaccine. With KABIL's consistent effort, support and dedication of our field volunteers, the health department of Mazbat block was able to complete first dose coverage in 146 villages and second dose coverage in 100 villages. Only those with medical conditions were exempted. One of the most crucial achievements of the team is that it had successfully mobilized reluctant, afraid, and resistant people, especially in hard-to-reach hilly areas and got them vaccinated. KABIL's continuous support and help for mobilization were appreciated by the block and district-level health functionaries of the government.

The 121 surveyors surveyed 24,455 Households covering 91,528 individuals out of which a total of 65,464 above-18 individuals were identified. The surveyors also surveyed 25,946 below-18 individuals who had become eligible for vaccination due to the government's policy change. The team organized a total of more than 296 vaccination camps in all villages under Mazbat Block from 17th of November to 18th of June which administered both 1st and 2nd doses. It was difficult for medical personnel to travel to many remote areas for vaccinations due to bad road conditions. The transportation facility provided by the project along with food made the process a little easy for the health workers.

¹ KABIL is registered under the Societies Registration Act in New Delhi. It is a charitable organisation under the Income Tax Act. KABIL is eligible to receive foreign contributions under the FCRA.

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Vaccination drive at Pawripota

Introduction:

Pawripota village is located 19 kilometers away from Mazbat main town. Pawripota is divided into two parts. In one part around 70% of the people belong to the Hajong tribal community, 20% belong to the Muslim community and the remaining 10% belong to Boro and Assamese communities. In another part around 50% of people belong to the Boro community, 20% belong to Bengali community and the remaining 30% belong to the Assamese and Hajong communities. 60% of people earn their livelihood by farming, 35% work as daily wage earners and the remaining 5% are salaried government employees and local businessmen.

Vaccination drive at Pawripota before KABIL's intervention:

In one part of Pawripota, the first vaccination camp was organised by the government on 25th March 2021 where a total of 11 people were vaccinated. They included the ASHA workers, anganwadi workers and other health workers of the village. In another part of Pawripota, the first camp was organised on 7th September 2021. According to the data received by us and our interaction with the ASHA workers we found that around 60% of the people in both parts of Pawripota had been vaccinated with the 1st dose from March to September. Although 1st dose vaccination was done, the people had a misconception in their mind that the health workers would get incentives for vaccinating per individual. So, the people were reluctant to take the 2nd dose. For this reason and misconception due to other rumours, only 20% of people were vaccinated with the second dose.

KABIL's support in the vaccination drive:

We got an overview of the vaccination status (both 1st & 2nd doses) and level of resistance in the village from the health department officials and other influential people of the village like the VCDC² chairman, ASHA workers, *anganwadi* worker, and *jeevika sakhi*. We also interacted with some people of the village. A meeting was then organised with the VCDC chairman. We informed him about the start of the survey in Pawripota to know the exact number of people who are left and required to be vaccinated. After that, a surveyor started the survey in the first week of February. The survey was conducted in all 256 households in the village. After completing the survey, the list of non-vaccinated and dose 2 overdue people was prepared with the help of BPM (Health) and local ASHAs of Pawripota. Door-to-door vaccination had to be done on around 45 people who were very resistant. Local transport was arranged for some people to get vaccinated. A total of 22 camps were organised in Pawripota for both 1st and 2nd doses. As a result, 100% of people are now 1st dose vaccinated and 99.6% are 2nd dose vaccinated. Only 4 people were exempted under medical grounds after consulting with the concerned ANM and ASHA supervisor of Pawripota.

The primary reason for the resistant behaviour of the people was some of the rumours regarding covid vaccination. They believed that people might die after two years of vaccination, there would be a

² The full form of VCDC is Village Council Development Committee. A VCDC is equivalent to a gram panchayat.

decline in pregnancy rate, males would become infertile, etc. The misunderstanding of the people that the health workers would get incentives for vaccinating people added to the resistance. Also, around 8% of people were left out because from April to May during Ramzan month the Muslims were fasting.



A snapshot of our field activities during the year

We worked with more than 18,000 net families this year focusing on their livelihood improvement in a climate-smart way. Most of our work was in the three blocks of Udalguri district of Assam viz. Udalguri, Harisinga and Mazbat. However, we could also increase our footprint in Tikamgarh district of Madhya Pradesh.

The financial year 2021-22 was the final year of the 4-year collaborative project between KABIL, Axis Bank Foundation (ABF) and the Assam State Rural Livelihoods Mission (ASRLM) being implemented in Udalguri and Harisinga blocks of Udalguri district in the Bodo Tribal Region of Assam. The Project predominantly focused on deepening the work with the families with whom we had already worked in the last 3 years. Agriculture activities for the year involved interventions in improved paddy, vegetables under the rain shelters during the rainy/rabi season and selective open field vegetables such as cowpea, pumpkin, and bottle gourd. Crop health improvement was also attempted by treating the vegetables with Trichoderma to prevent frequent fungal infection, which results in heavy losses. Summer Paddy was promoted for enhancing the cash income of the families. Livestock activities implemented during the year involved deworming, vaccination, and feed improvisation for pigs, cows, goats, and chickens. Additionally, the construction of new pigsties was also facilitated throughout the project area. We facilitated the excavation of farm ponds for fishery and irrigation for crops through Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). 499 plans for farm ponds got sanctioned for FY 21-22, and these were being implemented throughout the year. We also facilitated

845 plans for the newly introduced *Swanirbhar Nari Atmanirbhar Axom* Scheme (SNANA) under the MGNREGS.

The service provider entrepreneurs (SPEs) incubated by KABIL from among the local community have been recognised by the community and several of them are doing businesses on their own without any support from KABIL. The veterinary department of the government recruited some SPEs as vaccinators. Some others were recruited as Pashu Sakhis by the ASRLM. A few of the SPEs have set up enterprises around the mixing of pig feed.

In the adjoining block of Mazbat, this was the first year of a new livelihood promotion project. The project is being implemented in 4 Village Council Development Committees (VCDCs in short, equivalent to gram panchayats). In addition to Bodo tribal communities, we are working with a significant number of tea tribes there. Tea tribes, who have their origins in central India, work in the tea gardens. Their condition is generally worse than the others. During the year the activities included setting up a project team there, identification of project villages, baseline survey and identification of the first set of project participant families, their exposure visits, and training and initiating livelihood activities around agriculture and livestock.

Our "Ur River rejuvenation project" in Tikamgarh district expanded to five gram panchayats. The project aims at water harvesting for livelihood development in the catchment area of Ur rivulet which in turn would rejuvenate Ur River. Creation of farm ponds using resources from the MGNREGS and supporting farmers in farming and fishery with the conserved water are our main activities there. 54 farm ponds with an outlay of Rs 1.15 crore were sanctioned during the year under the MGNREGS and excavation of 25 of them was under different stages of completion. The ponds which were dug in the previous year were fully utilised this year by the owners for wheat cultivation and fish rearing.

In Karauli district of Rajasthan KABIL supported Gram Gaurav Sansthan (GGS) in creating *Pagaras* (a kind of water harvesting structure that can be used by the community), with resources from MGNREGS.

The demand for KABIL from the Government has increased. The ASRLM invited KABIL to provide design and implementation support for their Integrated Farming Cluster (IFC) project, the District Administration of Udalguri asked KABIL to expand its activities to different blocks and the District Administration of Tikamgarh (Madhya Pradesh) invited KABIL to become their technical support agency. The Bodo Tribal Council invited KABIL to make plans for 13 Scheduled Caste populated villages under the Prime Minister's Adarsh Gram Yojana.

Activities in Udalguri and Harisinga blocks

We worked with 17,050 net families across twenty VCDCs in the two blocks of Udalguri and Harisinga. The major livelihood interventions in agriculture included improving Kharif and summer paddy cultivation, vegetable cultivation as cash crops under rain shelters, introduction and improvement in open field vegetable cultivation, and spreading organic methods of cultivation. Livestock improvement activities centred around improved shelters (creation of pigsties), deworming and vaccination and improved feed. 351 individual farm ponds could be completed this year, for utilisation in irrigation and fish rearing. All these activities involved on-field and off-field training for the families to improve their livelihood competencies. Rs 14.31 Crore worth of funds were accessed by the families for these

livelihood activities. This included Rs 5.26 Crore from government programmes, 0.83 Crore as bank finance and Rs 8.22 Crore from the families' own contributions. Service provider entrepreneurs (SPE) and field assistants groomed by us from among the community actively helped in these endeavours.

Paddy improvement

In the above two blocks, 7,253 families cultivated Kharif paddy in an improved manner with support from the project. They used quality seeds, did seed sorting and treatment before sowing in the nursery, and maintained the appropriate spacing between plants when transplanted. The average area per family under these improved practices was 1.20 acres.



Paddy seed sorting & treatment with Trichoderma viride

Low rainfall during the months of the rainy season led to the emergence of additional weeds. Disease infestations like blasts and blight were relatively higher during this year. The project guided the farmers to handle the challenges.

The project also supported the families to either introduce or increase their cultivation of summer paddy. The farmers who keep their land fallow despite the availability of water were motivated to cultivate summer paddy to increase their cash income. 333 farmers did summer paddy with our support in an area of 242.5 acres. Each family cultivated around 0.66 acres with 4 Kg seeds of NK hybrid variety out of which half of the seeds were subsidised by the project. Farmers were trained in seed sorting, grading, improved nurseries, and transplantation.



Healthy seedlings in the field after transplantation

Vegetable cultivation under rain shelters

Cultivation under rain shelter is a climate-smart, women-friendly, and high-profit activity through which a farmer can grow high-value cash crops such as tomato, king chilly, and leafy vegetables even during the heavy rains and make the vegetables ready for the market early. In addition to higher yield, this also gives better returns from the market. Since 2018-19, we have facilitated more than 3,000 families to construct rain shelters. However, at the beginning of the year, one-third of them were not usable. Advanced age, absence of repair and maintenance, heavy flooding in the previous year, and inappropriate location contributed to their poor state. While we engaged with families whose rain shelters had gone out of use for renovation, we worked with 2,000 families, including 453 families who constructed rain shelters this year, to strengthen their cultivation. Some of the families could earn as high as Rs 25,000 by cultivating vegetables under their rain shelters from a sheltered area of 550 square feet.

For this, we again conducted exposure visits to show examples of successful cultivation. Some of the old rain shelters were repaired. High-quality tomato and king chilli seedlings of appropriate variety were organised by the SPEs. Trainings were conducted for farmers on the new method of cultivation (planting the seedlings in sacs with a carefully chosen soil medium). 30,000 king chilli saplings had to be brought from Guwahati, as the demand was overwhelming in Udalguri. New nurseries of king chilli seedlings were promoted so that more farmers could undertake cultivation.



Mrs Rejika Doimari and her rain shelter

A video link of the intervention is given below:

[Tomato Under Rainshelter_KABIL_ABF](#)

Open field vegetables

We engaged in the promotion of cowpea and bottle gourd cultivation on the trellis, pumpkin cultivation on fallow lands, and Trichoderma treatment of crops for the elimination of usual crop loss every year.



Demonstration training in Mantikiri Village



We helped 3,877 farmers with the cultivation of cowpea, bottle gourd on the trellis, and pumpkin on fallow lands. Many of them did watermelon cultivation earlier but faced huge losses during the last

covid wave because of market crises and weather challenges. We motivated them to cultivate pumpkin, which has a longer shelf life. 2,224 farmers did cowpea cultivation, and 408 farmers undertook pumpkin cultivation. The total area of cultivation was 595 acres Kharif and winter combined. Many farmers (1,335) did Trichoderma application which proved very effective against fungal diseases.



Pumpkin cultivation



Training on Trichoderma application

Individual Beneficiary Schemes through MGNREGS

The creation of individual beneficiary assets (IBS) with resources from the MGNREGS has remained a continuous endeavour of KABIL ever since we started working in Udalguri district. Farm ponds and pigsties were the two assets that we thought were most necessary. While farm ponds would aid in agriculture and fish rearing, the pigsties were much needed to improve the primitive way of pig rearing that is a major livelihood activity in the area. This however was not easy given the State's emphasis on the creation of community assets. Over the last four years, however, we could change the situation.

It is noteworthy to mention that this year the other schemes of Udalguri block were sanctioned only after the IBS schemes had been sanctioned. This is clear evidence of the shift in priority of the MGNREGS administration that we could bring in.

KABIL constantly engaged with block officials, district officials, and the officials of the Bodo Tribal Council in Kokrajhar for sanctioning IBS schemes. There were however great challenges during the year. A total of 499 IBS (all of them farm ponds) under MGNREGS were approved in the Gram Sabhas in 2019-20 with our facilitation. The sanction of the plans by the authorities was supposed to happen in FY 2019-20, but due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and the change in political governance at Udalguri, the sanction of the plan and implementation got delayed. Through continuous persuasion with different stakeholders, we could ensure that the schemes got sanctioned and the implementation took place during this financial year. By the end of this year, out of the 499 schemes, 388 farm ponds have been completed. 53 farm ponds were cancelled, and 58 were in different stages of implementation. Thus, over a four-year period since the financial year 2018-19, we could facilitate the creation of 576 farm ponds in contiguous geography.

Awareness among the communities was generated regarding the IBS schemes through different means. KABIL facilitated the village organisations of the SHGs to submit their plans to the ward member, which were compiled and finalized in the final gram sabhas. We participated in gram sabhas conducted in every VCDC. We engaged with the PRI members for ensuring the quality of the farm ponds (length, breadth, and depth), till the completion of leveling. Monthly meetings with PRI members at the village level and quarterly meetings at the block level were held. Along with the community, we also liaised with BDO and Assistant Engineers, and their support was taken for any difficulty.

Recipients of farm ponds were facilitated for doing cropping around the farm pond area. KABIL has facilitated pond owners to cultivate pumpkin, cowpea, and bottle gourd around the farm pond, and transplant lemon, areca-nut, and banana saplings on the bund.

ASRLM Udalguri and KABIL also jointly engaged in facilitating a new initiative of the Assam Government viz. *Swanirbhar Nari Atmanirbhar Axom* (SNANA). The scheme promotes individual schemes which will be implemented by utilising the MGNREGS. We jointly conducted VO meetings, SHG meetings, and PRI meetings for awareness of the same and facilitated a total of 845 schemes from 20 VCDCs. KABIL and ASRLM had to engage twice for the same because the first SNANA plan was rejected after a new political party came to power in the BTC.



The farm pond of Dipanjali Basumatari

Dipanjali Basumatari is a resident of Sonaialisinga village. She requested a farm pond in the Gram Sabha organized in Sonaigaon in the financial year 2018-19. She was prioritized and her scheme was sanctioned. PRI members implemented the scheme through MGNREGS, while KABIL provided technical expertise for pond creation. With an expenditure of Rs 99,000 the farm pond was completed in February 2019.

Dipanjali has used the water for irrigating her Kharif paddy, and transplanted horticulture crops such as Assam lemon, arecanut and banana plants. Along with that, she has used the bunding of the farm pond for leafy vegetables and other crops. Earlier she was dependent on rain for her Kharif paddy, but now she can arrange protective irrigation for 0.67 acres of her land with the water from the farm pond.

The family has released 34 Kg of fish into the farm pond. At least 150 Kg of fish can be sold this year as per her estimate. That can be sold at Rs 30,000. Besides that, 45 arecanut trees, 18 lemon plants, and 10 banana trees will also give her future income.



Livestock improvement

In Udalguri, livestock rearing, especially the rearing of pigs, is the major livelihood activity after agriculture. However, rearing practices remain primitive. Since the beginning of our work in Udalguri we have been emphasizing the construction of pigsties, introduction of quality piglets, introduction of Hampshire pigs, improvement in pig feed, and credit linking farmers for promoting improved piggery. We have also been intervening in animal health by facilitating farmers in vaccination against Swine Fever, FMD, HS & BQ, and PPR for preventing mortality of the animals and birds. Alongside, livestock entrepreneurs have been groomed for providing different services.

In the current financial year, we focussed solely on the families with whom we have already worked.

Worm infestation causes less body weight gain for the piglets as the worms stay in the stomach. 5,419 households adopted deworming practices. Animal vaccination camps and door-to-door vaccination were organised in which the livestock entrepreneurs played a major role. Swine fever vaccine, FMD vaccine, HS & BQ vaccine were applied to many animals. Backyard poultry was also vaccinated.



Vaccination of a pig

More than 3,000 pigsties had been constructed by the families and 375 more were added this year. Additionally, 72 farmers extended their pigsties without any project intervention because their business had improved.

In the first two years, one major activity was the introduction of Hampshire pigs. Boars and sows of Hampshire were introduced through the entrepreneurs for breeding and crossbreeding purposes. While the growth and spread of Hampshire were good initially, there were marketing difficulties because of the bigger size of the animals. The outbreak of African Swine Fever in certain places of Assam brought in warnings by the government and restrictions on transport were imposed. Farmers also got scared of esoteric breeds. In view of this, we stopped further promotion of Hampshire and switched over to Ghungroo, a local improved breed. Training on adopting quality Ghungroo piglets was imparted. Throughout the financial year, more than 3,000 families purchased a total of 5,599 Ghungroo pigs.

The introduction of the chelated mineral mixture in animal feed was selected as an activity this year. Godrej pig feed that was initially introduced was comparatively costly, which ultimately led the farmers to revert to their generic rice bran. KABIL introduced the idea of incorporating mineral mixture in the rice bran of the animal. This would increase the quality of the feed leading to better weight gain. A start-up company has been supplying the same at Udalguri, and the entrepreneurs have been the conduit between the company and the farmers. They are channelizing the mineral mixture to the communities in villages at a much lower rate than the market. Nearly a thousand families have used 3.9 tons of mineral mixture in the pig feed for improving animal health.

Leveraging credit for livelihoods

SHGs were expected to leverage credit from banks for the livelihood activities under the project. However, this failed because of different reasons, important among them was the reluctance of public sector banks to lend to the SHGs. In view of this, KABIL explored collaboration with the North East Small Finance Bank (NESFB), a private bank. An agreement between NESFB and KABIL was signed in 2020-21. Since the SHGs could not be involved, and it required the NESFB to set up new systems and processes to lend to the SHGs, it was decided that NESFB would lend to individual borrowers with the facilitation of KABIL. 493 farmers were facilitated to take loans worth Rs 2.08 Cr from NESFB till the first quarter of 2021-22. Further sanctioning was however stopped because of a large number of overdue. The promise of a loan waiver in the election manifesto of the political party which came to power in the assembly elections, and the absence of a loan repayment system with the lender in the new area contributed to this. There were also issues like the failure in watermelon marketing during the COVID crisis and in some cases wilful default.

KABIL worked jointly with the Bank for loan recovery. By the end of the financial year, 416 of the 494 loans disbursed were either closed or regularised (84%). Except for about 20 loans, the rest had a possibility of full repayment.

Meanwhile, in the review meeting with the ASRLM on 17th February 2022 chaired by the State Mission Director, KABIL raised the subject of credit leveraging. The updated figures available with the ASRLM indicated that many SHGs were struggling with the utilisation of loans already disbursed to them by some banks. Additionally, there are SHGs who wanted to take loans for utilizing in agriculture and

livestock activities but were unable to do so because of the unavailability of credit. It was decided in the meeting that while KABIL would facilitate the SHGs in livelihood planning for the utilisation of loans that were already disbursed to them, NESFB would be requested to provide credit to SHGs, which were looking for credit access. For this, SHGs with good loan repayment records would be selected under different village organisations of ASRLM for loans from NESFB. Bank Mitras promoted by ASRLM would be the service providers for the SHGs in filling up the forms, collecting documents and submission of forms to the NESFB. They would be remunerated for their service through the ASRLM system. KABIL would facilitate livelihood planning of activities for loans from NESFB as well as for loans that were already disbursed to the SHGs but remain unutilised. KABIL would provide the trainings needed for loan utilisation. The SHGs and VOs will take a guarantee ensuring repayment of the loan from NESFB.

Integrated Farming Cluster (IFC)

IFC initiative is formulated by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India for the aspirational districts. In Assam, ASRLM is the anchor for the initiative. The initiative at Udalguri aims to create an integrated farming cluster of 300 families in every block. These 300 families will be supported by multiple agriculture and allied activities. ASRLM has approached KABIL to guide them for the Integrated Farming Cluster at the district level in addition to implementing the IFC at Udalguri block. KABIL has supported ASRLM in different ways. It has conducted field visits at selected villages of ASRLM and made an activity basket for interventions in such villages. It has drafted the proposals for Udalguri and Nagaon districts, imparted training on project objectives to field cadres of ASRLM, etc.

Linkage with other government organisations

Like the previous year, KABIL remain engaged with Veterinary Department this year too. Some of the livestock facilitators have become vaccinators of the Department. They are actively engaged in the community by conducting vaccination camps. Veterinary Department supplied 2500 doses of FMD vaccine to the entrepreneurs. The local Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) supplied seeds to farmers at our request.

Service Provider Entrepreneurs (SPEs)

SPEs are young women and men from the local community. They were recruited and groomed by the project to become entrepreneurs. They sell quality inputs and render services to families so that the latter can do a livelihood activity in a more profitable way. Examples include the supply of saplings, breeding services for pigs, sale of piglets, vaccination of animals, preparation of organic manures and supply, technical support etc. During the first 3 years, KABIL incubated 47 SPEs for both agriculture & livestock activities. 29 among them were Livestock SPEs, while 19 were Agriculture SPEs. At the end of this year, we take a stock of their status.

7 of them had very less incentives from KABIL; they were taking self-initiative for income from the community. They can be called fully established entrepreneurs. 10 of them are still drawing incentives from KABIL, but also has some income from the community. 4 of them do not earn from the community but are engaged with the project and they draw incentives from KABIL. 15 of them are not in touch with KABIL but are independently doing business. The remaining 15 are inactive as service

providers to others but they do their own livelihood activities in a better way using the training received.

A few livestock SPEs have established a chain of business for mineral mixtures in Udalguri. These SPEs have established a good chain of business along with extension volunteers and village organisations so that the pig-rearing families can utilize the same for pig feed. Some livestock SPEs have been selected as vaccinators by the Veterinary Department. Some of them have been shortlisted for Pashu Sakhi under ASRLM.

Rupati Baglari, entrepreneur

Rupati Baglari is a marginal farmer and now a service provider entrepreneur (SPE). She is from village Boramjuli under Amjuli VDC, Udalguri district. Her family member consists of her husband and a son. She is also the secretary of Somaina Self-help group under Santi Village Organization.

Before coming in touch with the Project, she was engaged in daily household activities and rearing 1-2 pigs in a traditional way. An important source of cash income for the family was 0.5 acres of a tea garden. The family also cultivated paddy on her 1 acre of land. Additionally, her husband worked as a daily wage worker by working in loading/unloading tea bags in vehicles, for transporting tea leaves to tea factory sites.

In 2018 she got to know about the project through SHG meetings. In 2019, she appeared in the entrepreneur selection process. she got selected and was trained by the project as a livestock entrepreneur for promoting improved pig rearing practices among farmers of her locality.

Before she took up improved piggery as a primary source of income, she did not have a pigsty, no orientation about improved breed, feed, deworming, or vaccination.

She received 2 Hampshire piglets - one sow and a boar - from the Project in 2019 as a seed grant to establish her breeding unit. She invested Rs 20,000 to construct a 3 chambered pig breeding unit.

After establishing the breeding unit, she started discussing with her communities the improved piggery rearing practices such as improved pig breeds, pig feed, deworming, vaccination, cleanliness, and hygiene. Though her primary activity was piggery, she was engaged also in other activities such as vaccination and veterinary support of ruminants such as goats, cattle as well as poultry.

From 2019 to 2021, her pig breeding unit produced 38 piglets. Out of these, she has sold 29 piglets, while 5 piglets were castrated, and 4 sows have been kept for breeding purposes.

She got an income of Rs 1,35,000 by selling 29 piglets, and Rs 1,51,500 by selling 5 fattened pigs including her breeding sow and boar. At present, she has 5 sows, 2 boars and 16 piglets on her farm. The current value of the livestock on her breeding farm is approximately Rs 2,25,000 lakhs.

Looking at her success and her acceptance in the community, her husband left working as a daily wage worker and started assisting her in her work with the community. After getting the assistance of her husband Rupati's reach increased. She along with her husband has vaccinated nearly 5,000 animals and poultry birds across 3 VDCs namely Odala, Amjuli and Ambagaon. She has earned Rs 1,50,000 from the community through vaccination and first aid for livestock.

Seeing her entrepreneurship, KABIL also trained her in nursery promotion, and seedling promotion of tomatoes, king chilli, papaya, and paddy. The Project has supported Rupati and her husband in nursery raising, and improved practices of cultivation and plant disease management. This year, she has produced 11,000 seedlings of tomato, 3,000 seedlings of papaya and 500 seedlings of king chilli. She has earned an income of Rs 55,000 from selling tomato seedlings, Rs 75,000 from selling papaya seedlings and Rs 5,000 by selling king chilli seedlings to the community.

Rupati is planning to extend her pigsty and establish a poultry farm next year.

Evaluation of activities at Udalguri and Harisinga

This was the final year of the project supported by the Axis Bank Foundation at Udalguri and Harisinga blocks. An external agency engaged by Axis Bank Foundation has completed the fieldwork for the end-term project evaluation. Their report is awaited. Meanwhile, In February 2022, we undertook a rapid assessment of the income enhancement of the families due to project interventions. 139 households were selected on a random basis from among 1,920 families with whom the project could make three or more livelihood interventions during the last four years. Their responses showed that 82 families (59% of the respondents) earned a gross agricultural income between 1 lakh and 1.49 lakhs during the last year. 20 families (14%) earned between 1.5 lakhs and 1.99 lakhs. 35 families (25%) earned between 0.5 lakhs and 0.99 lakhs.

Activities in Mazbat block

We expanded our activities to the adjoining Mazbat block in January 2021. For all practical purposes, this was the first year of our new livelihood promotion project there. Mazbat is the easternmost block of Udalguri district and is home to Bodo, Assamese, Nepali, and tea tribe communities. The block is almost devoid of any urban habitation and many villages are remote. Agriculture and livestock are the primary sources of livelihood for most of the residents of Mazbat.



The project is being implemented in 5 VDCs. In addition to Bodo tribal communities, we are working with a significant number of tea tribes there. Tea tribes, who have their origins in central India, work in the tea gardens. Their condition is generally worse than the others. During the year the activities included setting up a project team there, identification of project villages, baseline survey and identification of the first set of project participant families, their exposure visits, and training and initiating livelihood activities around agriculture and livestock.

KABIL surveyed 2,472 families in the VDCs of Rangapani, Merabil, Gelabil, Naoharua, and Lamabari. We held many meetings with the community, SHGs, and their VOs. Several exposure visits were organised for potential farmers who would erect rain-shelter and construct low-cost pig sties. For the VDCs of Rangapani, Merabil, Gelabil, Naoharua and Lamabari 25 Service Provider Entrepreneurs (SPEs) were selected.

By the end of the year, we reached 1,458 households through different interventions in livestock and agriculture. KABIL could reach 575 families with interventions in organic nutrient management in agriculture. 185 families have erected their rain shelters. They are raising leafy crops such as *lai saak*, mustard, spinach, radish, also king chilli and tomato. 250 new pig sties have been constructed by villagers with facilitation from KABIL. We imparted training on Improved livestock rearing to 901 households.

Activities in Tikamgarh, Madhya Pradesh
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Our "Ur River rejuvenation project" in Tikamgarh district expanded to five gram panchayats. The project aims at water harvesting for livelihood development in the catchment area of Ur rivulet which in turn would rejuvenate Ur River. Creation of farm ponds using resources from the MGNREGS and supporting farmers in farming and fishery with the conserved water are our main activities there. 54 farm ponds with an outlay of Rs 1.15 crore were sanctioned during the year under the MGNREGS and excavation of 25 of them was under different stages of completion. The ponds which were dug in the previous year were fully utilised this year by the owners for wheat cultivation and fish rearing.

In Karauli district of Rajasthan KABIL supported Gram Gaurav Sansthan (GGS) in creating *Pagaras* (a kind of water harvesting structure that can be used by the community), with resources from MGNREGS.

In Tikamgarh, 33 new plans were included in the online portal taking the total to 54 schemes that have received administrative/ financial sanctions for implementation. The estimated cost of all these schemes is Rs 1.15 Crore. Work on 25 schemes started. KABIL ensured the quality construction of tanks by training 4 community resource persons (CRPs) to facilitate implementation work. In addition, the installation of an information board of IBS schemes is a major hallmark, which was not in practice earlier.

March to June 2021 was the peak time for labour work in MGNREGS. However, travel restrictions were imposed by the state government due to the second wave of Covid-19 from April 14 to May 31, 2021. A Code of conduct was imposed for more than 2 months because of the by-election and panchayat election. This slowed down the progress of work.

Change in the officials also caused a slow-down. Zila Panchayat CEO and Sub-Engineer were transferred followed by Zanpad CEO and Accredited Engineer. Kabil had to rebuild rapport with the new officials. We shared various official documents to convince Zanpad CEO for the continuity of the partnership. Moreover, Gram Rojgar Sahayak (GRS) of 4 panchayats were transferred and replaced by new GRS.

In April 2021 Government introduced a new theme named CTR (Catch The Rain) to conserve rainwater through MGNREGS. This forced the district officials to delete most of the schemes from MGNREGS portal. 3 schemes which had received technical sanctions were deleted from the portal in this process. These, however, were included again later. Old plans prepared in 2019 had to be modified due to a change of guidelines. KABIL had to re-verify the beneficiaries by collecting additional documents. All these took our substantial time and energy.

KABIL collaborated with Manjari foundation who has started its operation in April 2021 by promoting SHG. Manjari plans to help farmers for livelihoods by using the newly created tanks.

KABIL also collaborated with the Fisheries Department of Tikamgarh district to support to beneficiaries of field tanks. 25 new schemes were forwarded to Zanpad CEO through Fisheries dept.

Highlights of work in Tikamgarh:

1. The relationship with MGNREGS officials like DPO, MIS, APO, AE and Sub-Engineer and panchayat level stakeholders like Sarpanches and GRS has strengthened, which is central to the partnership. Zila Panchayat and Zanpad CEOs are now seeking support from KABIL.

2. KABIL supported the Junior Engineer in preparing estimates of all 54 schemes in SECURE portal and also supported in preparing estimates of other schemes in 8 Gram Panchayats.
3. KABIL started working in 3 new panchayats. This has taken our work to 5 Panchayats
4. The awareness about the Individual beneficiary schemes (IBS) among the target community members has increased substantially and so is of the district and block officials.
5. We supported the implementation of 12 farm bunding schemes impacting 29 acres of land under CTR.
6. Identified 51 new beneficiaries who are keen to have field tanks.
7. KABIL supported 5 farm pond beneficiaries in fishery activity under convergence.
8. KABIL also took initiative and supported in completion of the 2 pending IBS works of 2019-20.

Glimpses of work in Tikamgarh:



Excavated tank - Owner: Kamlapat Lodhi, **Cost:** 0.64 Lakh, **Village:** Katera khera, **Panchayat:** Jaswant Nagar



Field tank of Bablu Thakur, Rajju raja **Cost:** 3.33 Lakh, **Village:** Rourai, **Panchayat :** Rourai

Governance of Kabil: There are nine members in the Governing Board including the Executive Director of Kabil, who acts as the Ex-officio secretary to the Governing Board. Governing Board met four times and the General Body met once during the year.

Staff of Kabil: KABIL currently has 22 full-time staff on its rolls. 12 of them are in the professional category and the rest ten are associates. In addition, 3 experts work on a retainer basis. An Operation Management Group (OMG) was set up consisting of seven staff members with an objective of developing organisational ownership and group-based management action to take the organisation forward. This also serves as a consultative and learning forum for staff. An experienced Organisational Development (OD) consultant engaged with the group.

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