

Water to Wealth

25 Years
Journey
of DSC

dsc
Development
Support
Centre



*The **Late Anil C Shah**, founder of Development Support Centre.
He was a thinking person and he always believed in inclusivity and
participatory management and DSC tries to live up to these ideals*

Water to Wealth

A 25 Year Journey of Development Support Centre (DSC)

*Enhancing Rural Livelihoods through participatory
Natural Resource Management, Enterprise Development and
Strengthening people's Institutions*



*The entire Credit goes
to the DSC team and
the Community.*

From Practice to Policy — The Journey of DSC

Anil Shah always wondered why there was no participation among the people whose needs and demands were the same? He always wondered why there was no inclusion. He had retired in 1984 as the Director General of Gandhi Labour Institute (GLI) after a life-long career in the Indian Administrative Service where he was a big votary of the participatory approach for management of natural resources such as water, land and forests. Even then he found that on the ground the participatory approach was practically non-existent. From 1984-94 as the Chief Executive Officer of the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (India) he tried out various approaches to involve communities in natural resource management in different geographical areas of Gujarat.

Development Support Centre (DSC) was started in 1994 with Anil Shah at its helm to promote the participatory approach for sustainable management of land, water and forest resources. DSC helped in designing and implementing the schemes of the government in a participatory manner to ensure that the people played the central role and the benefits reached the last man. Anilbhai felt that while the financial resources could come from the government, all the stakeholders including villagers, facilitating agencies such as NGOs and government officials must be sensitized towards participatory methodologies and attitude and behaviour change by NGOs like DSC.

As they say seeing is believing and between 1995 and 2004, DSC demonstrated the participatory approach for irrigation management in Dharoi Irrigation Scheme in Mehsana district for canal irrigation. And in Dhari block of Amreli district, the watershed programme supported by the Government of India was implemented by DSC in a participatory manner which showed that there could be adequate water even in rainfed areas. These were DSC's learning laboratories, where they still take officials and other villagers to see what can be managed and done with water, with the participation of the community.

For DSC, the primary stakeholders must be at the centre of planning, budgeting, implementation and management of all development schemes and the stakeholder must feel the ownership. While the government schemes were being implemented, DSC started training and explaining to the community the cost of non-development and the necessity of self-sufficiency. Once the villagers showed a willingness to learn and take collective actions, they were also taught technical and financial planning. They were taught to mobilise their own resources and were told that this method would be more transparent, viable and sustainable. Taking the participatory way further, community leaders from within the villages were trained and made into local resource persons and state level farmers were made into co-trainers. This way DSC has developed a cadre of facilitators from within the community, NGO, GO and CSRs through module based training and sensitisation workshops.

Keeping the tail ender in mind, DSC decided to work for equitable distribution of water, seeing to it that the last man was served. They have made an impact improving and enhancing the farmers' livelihood, income and natural resource base and therefore their capacities. For equity among men and women, DSC invited women to attend meetings and air their priorities, problems

and issues. The women showed that they could decide, impact and even lead at all levels, including family, village and at the society level.

Anilbhai also contributed to the Ministry of Rural Development and Department of Land Resources of the Government of India when it made the first set of watershed guidelines in March 1994. This was a 'watershed' moment for the watershed programme, so to speak. It also changed the way the government officer thought, from top down to bottom up because the officers saw that there was a clear role of people in any given programme.

Anil Bhai used the documented experience of DSC to work for policy changes on several issues including participatory irrigation management and watershed management. It obtained more than 60 Govt. Orders in this process, Govt of India modifications in the Hariyali Watershed Guidelines (2003) together with facilities for regular drinking water status in watershed villages was also facilitated by DSC.

After conducting a four-state study of the then Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh in 2009-10 on watershed development funds (people's contribution), it was discovered that a lot of funds for watershed structures lay unused. Instructions for the usage of the available funds were issued by the Government of India in 2011.

DSC made major contribution in developing the PIM policy of Government of Gujarat where the Water Users Associations are empowered to decide and collect water charges from the farmers and carry out repair and maintenance of canal system and DSC has helped other states such as Andhra Pradesh to adapt these enabling provisions. DSC also influenced the participatory approaches in World Bank assisted irrigation development projects in India and abroad. The policy advocacy role of DSC has continued even after the passing away of Anilbhai in 2008.

The importance of the community role was highlighted by the Planning Commission when it accepted the DSC's "Bopal Principles" in 2003, for participatory management of natural resource programs, and included those in the XI th Plan Document. The Dharoi PIM project was also highlighted in the 12th Plan Document.

The present chairman Shri Vijay Mahajan took over from Anilbhai in 2006, and since then has been leading the organisation towards PIM Plus and watershed Plus initiatives that were envisioned by him, Anilbhai and the DSC board of ten members, as a next step of DSC to provide viable agriculture based livelihoods.

DSC has more than 110 rural development professionals which is multidisciplinary and works directly with all types of rural communities at 15 locations in 4 states of western India and provides knowledge based support to projects, institutions, people-centric policies and procedures at both central and states in the field of participatory natural resource management and sustainable livelihoods, with a special focus on marginalized and vulnerable sections of the community.

Besides about 150 local youths have joined the DSC team as para professionals at the grass root level. Currently it works directly with about 1.20 lakhs households across 380 villages in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra in both irrigated and rainfed areas. It is directly implementing Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM), Integrated Watershed Development and sustainable agriculture projects in 7 districts of Gujarat, 4 districts of Madhya Pradesh, 2 districts of Maharashtra and 1 district of Rajasthan in collaboration of Government Departments, CSRs and other international and national donor agencies.

DSC plans to add more activities to its basket like climate resilient agriculture, skill development for rural youth and focus more on women-led entrepreneurship.

From Water to Wealth – Laxmiben's Story

How can a farmer living on a mountainous terrain get produce from her three hectares of land, when she cannot store water or the good top soil of her land? How can she get produce from this land and still be hopeful of being a farmer? Laxmiben has proved that not only can she retain the top soil of her land, she can also save money and in her case also be brave and venture forth into unknown territory.

Laxmiben comes from an Adivasi family, which includes her husband Manubhai Khokhariya, two daughters and one son and they live in Dhandhiya village of Meghraj block in the Aravalli district of Gujarat, which abuts the Rajasthan border. People living in the Aravalli region face drought quite often and are dependent on rains basically. The geography of this district makes it very difficult for farmers to work, as it has large areas of shallow top soils, sand and stone. In the monsoon, the steep peaks send water down speedily along with the good top soil.

Laxmiben's family has three hectares of undulating land and has one borewell and one open well, with which she works when the rain gods fail her. It is tough

terrain with the rains ruining the top soil. Thanks to Development Support Centre (DSC), when they implemented a program for watershed management for soil and water conservation in 1998 with the support of the State Government and Central Government. From 1999 to 2004, DSC helped the villagers to form a Watershed Committee. Laxmiben was chosen to be the Secretary of the Committee, since she was literate. The Watershed Committee with technical guidance from DSC carried out works such as farm bunds, gully plugs, check dams and farm ponds, to keep the water from flowing away wastefully. Because of the recharging of her open well due to the check dams, Laxmiben is able to use water from her well even during a dry spell of a harsh summer.

Laxmiben was courageous and joined village meetings with men and has attended about 26 trainings and exposures in watershed management with DSC and learned many useful and new things. And because of her training Laxmiben experimented on her farm and where she used to grow only maize during Kharif, she now grows cash crops such as cotton, groundnut and urad (black gram) along with maize. With DSC's support, she also tried an improved variety of maize and wheat, and also a new crop of groundnut.

Between 2007 and 2015, Laxmiben became the spokesperson of the "Khet Utpadan Ane Aavak Vikas Karyakram" of DSC. Between 2015 and 2018 she got involved in the marketing of agri inputs-outputs through Krushidhan Farmers Producer Company Ltd promoted by DSC. In 2011-12, post watershed, DSC promoted Integrated Water Resource Management activities and Laxmiben joined the Sujal Samiti, which manages demand and supply of water for all purposes in her village.

Getting good quality seeds on time was always an issue, so DSC encouraged Krushidhan Farmer Producers Company to produce seeds and these research variety seeds are bought from agricultural research stations and handed over to Krushidhan member farmers for multiplication. The company then buys the multiplied seeds back and cleans and grades it, packs it and sells it to the farmer as certified seeds. Laxmiben and other farmers benefited with increased production of wheat and groundnut after using these seeds. Recently in 2018, Krushidhan opened up a procurement centre in Meghraj town where she sells pulse and cotton.

Laxmiben says "My family's net earnings from agriculture has increased from Rs 21,000 per annum earlier to Rs 69,000 now." Things have improved so much that she and her family have moved from hut to a pucca three-bedroomed house. Two buffaloes, one cow and two bullocks are additions along with a bike for her son. She has also done drip irrigation on one hectare of land.

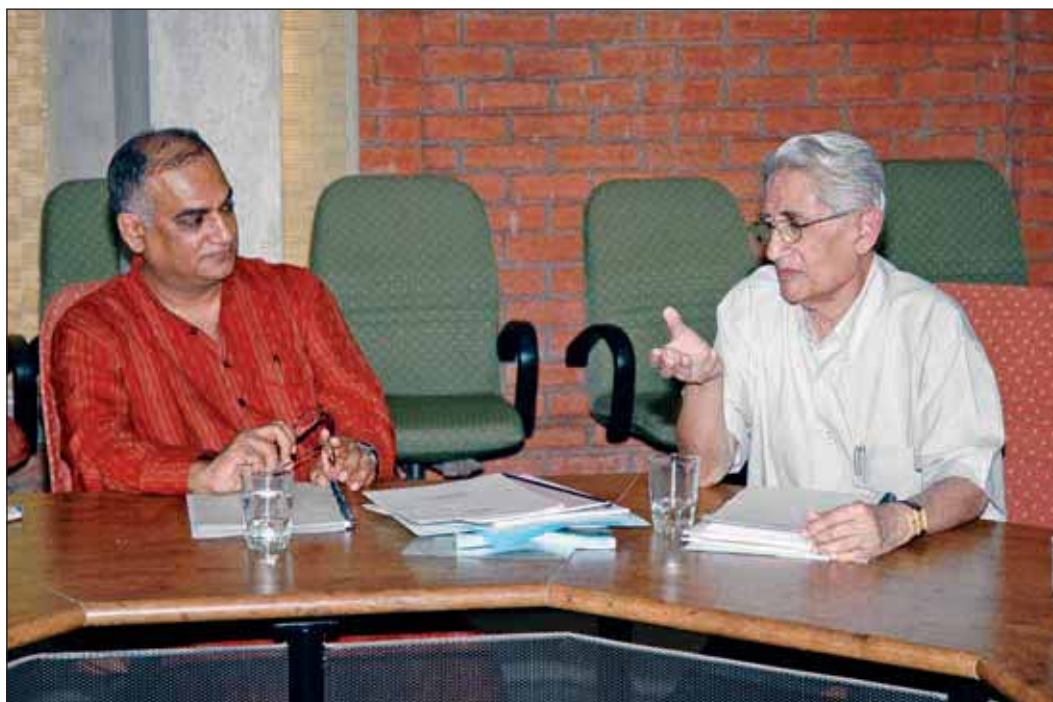
Going to a money lender has stopped and Laxmiben has savings of Rs 18,000 in her bank account and she now confidently takes a loan of Rs 1.2 lakh using her Kisan credit card. Laxmiben is a board member of the Krushidhan Farmer Producers Company at the state level and is also the brand ambassador for the Krushidhan since she appears in ads. Laxmiben plans to contest for a Sarpanch post as she says "to win for the sake of her village and its future." She is an active Board member of Sangam saving and credit cooperative federation.

DSC has worked with around 1.20 lakh households like those of Laxmiben in 25 years in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.





The first Governing Board meeting of DSC held in a rental premise in Ahmedabad in 1994. L-R, Mr. Sashidharan, Mr. Anil Shah and Mr. Anandpura



The current Chairman, Vijay Mahajan, taking charge of the DSC Board from the Founder Chairman, Shri Anil Shah in 2006



Mr. Sachin Oza and Mr. Mohan Sharma being felicitated by the Governing Board for their long term contribution to the institution of DSC



The full quorum of the DSC Board, in its 60th GOB meeting held at AMA in 2016, chaired by Shri Vijay Mahajan



The DSC Team revisits during the annual strategy and planning meeting



DSC Team meeting in a tribal village in Meghraj taluka of Sabarkantha, Gujarat



*The DSC Board members visiting the field in Malendi village,
Mhow block Indore district, MP*

*Thalota Piyat Mandali receiving Anil Shah
Gram Paritoshik Award*



*Shri Anna Hazare, handing over the Anil Shah
Gram Paritoshik Award, 2006*

*Mrs. Induben Shah, wife of Anilbhai and Ashish Shah, son of
late chairman Anilbhai at the Anil Shah Gram Paritoshik Awards, 2006*



Dr. Tushaar Shah, Sr. Eminent Researcher on water, delivering Anil Shah Memorial Lecture, 2015



Mr. Robert Chambers, conducting Attitude & Behaviour Change workshop for senior Govt. Officers

International training for Govt. officials of Ghana Republic, held in Ahmedabad in 2016





*Rainfed area where villagers are dependent only on rains.
67% of the geographical area of the country is rainfed*



*Whereas 33% area of the country is under irrigated agriculture, having
irrigation facilities but yet the productivity remains stagnant*



*The DSC team provides knowledge based support to the community for participatory management of
natural resources in both rainfed and irrigated area - A local resource person in Meghraj, Gujarat explaining water shed planning map*



The DSC team approaches all sections of the village community and tries to understand their issues and then helps them get probable solutions



Print and audio visual material used for awareness creation and capacity building



Seeing is believing. Capacity building process starts with exposure visits to successful examples of collective actions taken by other villagers



The team does household contacts for rapport building and situation analysis



The villagers are helped to decide actions to be taken up with cost estimates



Active youngsters participating in preparing work plan



DSC encourages communities to work out cost of non development that they have been incurring due to lack of collective action



A tribal community decided to take up Watershed Development project for conserving rain water and top soil at Alirajpur district MP



The women have been given priority by securing drinking water through the year through watershed projects



The villagers wanted to increase ground water table by these watershed activities



Mass awareness programs conducted for fostering community participation in collective actions



Ridge area treated on the hill top near village Jamgod, Dewas district, MP for rain water conservation



Village Institutions are formed for implementation of physical activities



A tiny farm bund constructed to protect cultivated land and to arrest rain water from flowing away



Contour trench filled with rain water



The water user group member constructed gabion on his land to prevent soil erosion



A small barrier has been built on the hill top to protect precious land from degrading



Desilting of old water bodies in Junnar taluka, Maharashtra revived the water bodies



Village Sujal Samiti members visiting the water harvesting construction site to ensure the quality of the construction



The Local Resource Person taking measurement of the completed structure



Impact of watershed work in village Khamundi, Junnar taluka, Maharashtra



The district Watershed Cell technical officer visiting the completed structure, in Dewas, MP

The IWMP project in Mhow block provided water security to about 50 surrounding tribal households in Badhiya village who had no source of water during summer



Gully treatment improved conservation of rain water for downstream villages





Series of checkdams on the river transformed the landscape in Malendi village, Mhow. Hundreds of acres of new land were brought under irrigation



Rain water stored in a farm pond on a hill top. It will provide water for grazing animals till next monsoon



The Watershed and PIM programs provide local employment - A couple is going to make their contribution



The villagers closed the gates of check dam to harvest water after monsoon on Lodhari River- Integrated Watershed Development Project, Dewas, MP



Village children playing with water inside checkdam during hot summer. This river used to get dry before in summer



Bhujal jankar takes daily water level reading to study ground water recharge rate in watershed area



An open well in village Malendi is fully recharged due to increased water table, thanks to soil and water conservation treatment in nearby river



Farmers identified that at some places, the canals got heavily silted and therefore its water carrying capacity was reduced



The unlined sections get eroded due to flood and improper maintenance causing tail end deprivation



Reason for doing work in canal irrigated areas is that while dams have good amount of water, tail end farmers still do not get canal water



Sometimes canal water over topping causes damage to distribution network



Re-construction work under progress by Water User Association in Rangpur village, Mehsana district



The Kiyadar Irrigation Co-operative became role model for both Gujarat and MP as they showed highest level of participation in cash and kind



Women farmers raising their voice in their WUA in Mazam Project, Modasa taluka Gujarat



Washing ghat constructed for women by women with support of Irrigation Department, Gujarat



Women farmers using the washing ghat



The WUAs formed their branch canal level federation and brought back the water conveyance capacity to its original level



The Government agreed to transfer the management of renovated canal to the Water Users Association



An example of farmer managed irrigation - The Chairman of branch canal federation of Dharoi project reviewing the irrigation progress in the project at Mehsana, Gujarat



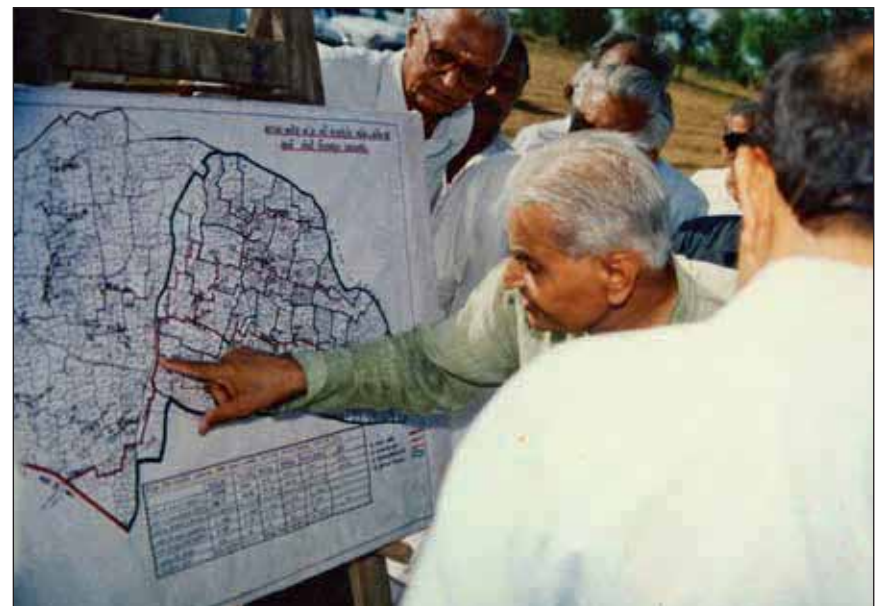
Project level Irrigation Planning Meeting in Dharoi Irrigation project, Gujarat where almost 200 WUAs participate in decision making



Every drop of water counts-volumetric structure fixed by WUA on their canal for measuring water used for irrigating their land



Farmers are putting forth their irrigation demand and advance water charges to the Secretary at their WUA office in Thalota village, Mehsana district, Gujarat



The WUA management committee reviews irrigation progress on a daily basis to make sure that all farmers get timely water



Replication of PIM in other states - The farmers from MP on exposure visit to a successful WUA in Mehsana district, Gujarat



The WUA revived control gates for rotational supply of water to all farmers



Villagers desilting canal under MGNREGS in Man project, Dhar district, MP



Desiltation of canals by WUAs in Man Project, MP



The farmers cleaning the obstructions built up during on going irrigation in Man project, Dhar, MP



The power of collective action when farmers carried water to tail end by all means



The MP farmers decided to adopt good irrigation management practices of Gujarat



Recapacitating canals for better water supply-Canal reshaping work under progress in Jobat irrigation project, MP



A happy farmer of Man project command area after receiving water in the canal



About 15000 tribal and other tail end farmers started receiving water after PIM interventions, in Man and Jobat projects, Dhar district, MP



A canal operator releasing water to farmers as per their turn in rabi season in Man project, Dhar district, MP



The Govt. Engineers providing support to WUAs



Farmer leaders and Govt. officers conduct joint plan-review meeting in Jobat project and Man project, Dhar district, MP



Employment for prosperity-The villagers of Ali village Kukshi block excavating water channels under MNREGS



The Government renovated the main canal system after seeing community actions on minor canals in Man and Jobat irrigation projects, MP



The WUA Management Committee on canal patrolling during rabi season in Man project MP



Shri O P Rawat, the then Vice Chairman, NVDA, Govt. of MP, joined the WUA leaders in monitoring of canal construction work in Man project, MP



Demand side management of water is necessary after supply of water, and farmers have to learn to manage



Farmer adopted improved irrigation method and saved about 40% water



Field channel constructed in MP project for reducing the wastage of water at farm level



System of Rice and Wheat Intensification helped the farmers in saving lots of water



DSC encouraged marginal farmers to adopt drip irrigation technology on small lands



A proud tribal farmer installed drip in his field for saving precious water which he got in his well due to watershed works



Results of best practices in agriculture. The wheat plant obtained from System of Wheat Identification (SWI) field seems more healthy compared to plant from control plot



Farmers in Junnar taluka, Maharashtra adopted mulching and drip system in their fields for more yield of crop per drop of water



A lead farmer sending his soil sample for laboratory testing in MP



A couple farmer working together, giving root treatment with organic input to chilly seedlings for transplanting



Beyond water-Farmer livelihoods are affected by number of factors other than water, like increasing cost of cultivation, reduced yields, and net incomes



A tribal family is producing vermicompost to reduce chemical impact on their farm, Alirajpur district, MP



Farmers doing wheat seed treatment with organic inputs



A farming couple applying vermicompost in place of chemical fertiliser on a cotton field



A farmer giving tips to women farmers for production of home made -natural-pesticide



Para agriculture professional interacting with farmer in MP



A farmer with his ready to harvest wheat crop. Bumper production from new variety made it a more lucrative crop



A farmer protected his crop from wild animals through low cost solar fencing in Gujarat



Vestibai with her husband Amarsingh on her field



A proud farmer demonstrating high yield from System of Wheat Identification



A happy farmer harvesting marigold flowers which gave him three times more income



Training at VSI Pune for sugarcane farmers



Farmers visiting KVK-Jhabua, MP



Kisan Club members learning good practices from lead farmer



Visit to a grape farm at project village in Pune district, Maharashtra



Cattle vaccination camp in tribal villages of Kukshi block, MP



A low cost soybean grader given to women enterprise group as part of farm tools and equipment library in Mhow block MP



Women farmers ready to sell their water melons to buyers in Modasa taluka, Gujarat



A farmer couple with fresh spiny gourd under crop diversification program



The Technical Expert monitoring honey bee colony before harvesting



Farmers packing sweet corn for selling under contract farming in Meghraj, Gujarat



A woman farmer with harvested spiny gourd (kantola) under crop diversification program



A woman farmer with fresh and jumbo sized radishes harvested in her backyard kitchen garden in MP



Women farmers preparing bio fertiliser from cow dung and agriculture waste



All women vermicompost producer group in front of their vermicompost production unit



Women farmers busy in sorting harvested chilly on their terrace



A woman enterprise group purchased grader machine to rent to local farmers



Groundnut seeds are ready to sell to farmers by Krushidhan Farmer Company



Women enterprise group busy at their nursery and vermicompost production unit



*Flour mill opened by women enterprise group
in Kukshi block, MP*



*Wheat seeds produced under seed multiplication program in Gujarat by
Krushidhan Farmer Producer Company are ready for sale.
The company has produced more than 200 tons*



Women enterprise group in Kujad, Ahmedabad with their solar vegetable dryer



Women enterprise group busy in weighing and packing of vermicompost in Dedasan village, Mehsana district



Women group taking charge of marketing of flowers with the support from Farmer Producer Company



Village women providing farm implements on rent to local farmers in Mhow block, Indore



A woman farmer busy in harvesting vermicompost produced by her in her farm yard



Providing other source of income. Poultry unit developed by women self help group in Alirajpur district, MP



Annual general meeting of Krushidhan Farmer Producer Company at Himatnagar, Gujarat



About 1000 shareholders attending annual meet of their Producer Company at Himatnagar



Farmers purchasing agri inputs from Krushidhan Farmer Company during marketing campaign



Groundnut procurement on Government MSP by Krushidhan Farmer Producer Company in Amreli district, Gujarat



The Board of Directors meeting in Narmada Valley Farmers Company, Manavar-Kukshi, MP



Farmers weighing groundnut for procurement by Krushidhan Company



The Krushidhan markets the products prepared by women enterprise groups in Gujarat



Input and Output supply shop opened by Krushidhan Farmer Company at Meghraj block for tribal farmers



Home made bio fertilizer and natural pesticide ready for sale by Krushidhan Farmer Producer Company



A senior couple holding share certificate of farmer producer company in MP



Cumin seeds and mustard seeds ready for sale - produced by women enterprise groups and marketed by Producer Company



Krushidhan provides cleaning facility to farmers for better price realisation before they sell their products to local buyers



Women have more cash in hand- thanks to collective entrepreneurship, Kukshi block, Dhar district MP



39-Information dissemination of Govt Schemes through Grameen Sushashan Pariyojana in tribal areas of Gujarat and MP



One of the women SHGs distributing internal loan to needy members in Kukshi block MP



Krushidhan (KPCL) is a Primary producer Company promoted by DSC for backward and forward marketing of agriculture by farmers in Mehsana, Sabarkantha, Araavali, Ahmedabad and Amreli districts



Janapav Mahila Vikas Samiti, Mhow is working for about 300 women belonging to poor economic background. They federated them in to SHGs and then apex level Society for economic and social development activities



DSC had promoted more than 130 Water users Associations for managing canal Irrigation, who work for achieving efficiency, equity and sustainability in canal irrigation.



NVFPC is a primary producer Company promoted by DSC for backward and forward marketing of agriculture by farmers in Kukshi and Manavar blocks of Madhya Pradesh



DSC promoted watershed development program in about 50,000 hectare area for sustainable management of land and water resources



Adamjati-is a Primary Producer Company promoted by DSC for backward and forward marketing of agriculture by tribal farmers in Alirajpur district, MP



DSC Foundation

DSC Foundation is a company registered under section 25 of Compnay Act by DSC for policy research and development consultancy services to the nation, it is headquartered at DSC campus Ahmedabad



Gujpro Agribusiness Consortium Producer Co. Ltd.

GujPro is Gujrat Consortium of farmer Producer Companies, head quartered at DSC Campus Ahmedabad to promote farmer led agri business in the state



Sajjata Sangh

A network of NGOs engaged in participatory management of Natural Resources

SAJJATA SANGH is a NGO network promoted by DSC for facilitating network activities and promoting synergy among NGOs in Gujarat



DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT CENTRE

Near Government Tubewell, Bopal, Ahmedabad-380 058

T: +91-2717-235994/5/8 | Fax: 235997

E: dsc@dscindia.org, dscbopal@gmail.com

W: www.dscindia.org