



Progress Report

April 2023- January 2025

The Revitalising Rainfed Agriculture Foundation is a philanthropic organisation based at Ahmedabad and registered as a section 8 Non-Profit Company 25th April, 2023. Born out of the Revitalising Rainfed Agriculture Network, its purpose is to support the rain-fed networks, movements and a variety of other stakeholders to ensure the country's food and nutritional security as well as sustainable economic growth of rainfed regions that have been historically deprived of investments.

The Foundation has been fortunate to receive contributions in its inception and formative stage from a variety of individuals and entities. In particular, we are heartened to note that a number of these contributions have been from smaller organisations that constitute the backbone of any network. It shall stand as a reminder to the Foundation that it has to operate on the principle of equity: recognising the value that every member brings to the network.

These contributions, which total Rs. 14,63,655 as of 31st Jan, 2025, have enabled the Foundation to articulate its role, direction and programmatic framework. In line with its role – to channelise domestic resources towards strengthening the rain-fed agenda in India – it has also been able to define the outline of its governance and organisation structure.

During this period the Foundation has initiated its strategic communication, especially reaching out to domestic institutional philanthropic donors as well as the members of the RRAN. This process of outreach and conversations have helped us to put together the journey of RRAN and the need for the Foundation in context of this journey. We attach a presentation outlining the same for your reference. (as enclosed)

One of the stated aims of the Foundations is to support capacity-building efforts and it has started to co-fund these activities. It funded two such workshops in the last financial year and plans to do so before the close of this financial year.

All the contributions received till date have been in the form of general donations. Further, the RRAN network has generously supported the time of individuals who have worked for the Foundation. As a result, only Rs. 1,05,851 (one lakh five thousand eight hundred fifty one rupees only) has been spent and the balance of Rs. 13,57,804 (thirteen lakhs fifty seven thousand eight hundred four rupees only) remains unutilised. The Foundation intends to use these general donations to meet its basic administrative and compliance expenses, to support

its communication efforts and the balance as reserves over the remainder of this and the next financial year.

Our initial contributions have therefore served as the institutional funding that any set-up needs in its initial years. Your support has been very valuable in this regard. Going forward it plans to leverage your support to now mobilise programmatic funding. The Foundation is currently in the process of developing its plan across its three programmatic pillars of 'Addressing rain-fed issues', 'Strengthening networks' and 'Building body of knowledge'. This plan would determine the future resourcing of the Foundation.

In particular RRA Foundation shall work on the following three objectives:

- Make **the rainfed agricultural landscapes of India ecologically and socially resilient** through integrated farming systems and agroecological approaches.
- **Improve the nutritional security** for vulnerable indigenous tribes and marginalized farmers.
- Provide living wages and **stable and dignified livelihoods** to economically-deprived agrarian communities by supporting sustainable agricultural practices.

Key Initiatives

Revitalising rainfed Agriculture Foundation key initiatives are to engage in rigorous networking, to shift the focus of public policy towards sustainable, integrated resource management in rainfed agriculture. By leveraging partnerships with private sector stakeholders and philanthropic organisations,

I. Addressing Rainfed Issue (direct grants to partners or other CSOs)

- A. **Reducing Risk and Building Resilience** for small and marginal farmers in rainfed regions through implementation of scalable climate resilient solutions in different agro-climatic zones..
- B. **Transforming Food System and Ensuring Nutrition Security** through establishing support system services for agroecological farming (Bio resources Centre, seed system, crops system, livestock, fisheries etc), ecosystem support services for local processing, consumption and creating local value chain.
- C. **Building Capacities for collective & Cohesive Action** - by building capacities of Civil society organisations, Community based organisations, youth and women leaders etc for
 - a. Build cadres in rainfed areas (youth, women etc.)
 - b. Build grassroot facilitators to support community based organisations (CBOs), local enterprises and Panchayati Raj Institution (PRIs)
- D. **Supporting State capacity** by engaging with various state departments like agriculture, tribal welfare, rural development in order to support in designing appropriate programs relevant for rainfed agriculture.

II. Network-building

Capacity-building is one of the important tools to strengthen various stakeholders of the network for the agenda pursuit. To enable the same, networks support various stakeholders to get access to resources, bring collaborations with other networks, research bodies, institutes working towards building resilience, reducing risks and gaining remunerative incomes of rainfed communities.

III. Body of knowledge

RRA Foundation aims to fill the knowledge gap to influence the public policy for rainfed areas by compiling evidence from ground. Foundation will support researches, documentation of ground practices of various rainfed area communities for influencing public policy that are inclusive of cultural and regional practices.

The past 18 months have seen slow but determined progress. Since one of the critical roles of the Foundation will be to allocate public resources on a sustained basis, we have been careful at this early stage to put in place certain core principles, aims and safeguards as well as mechanisms aligned to them.

Once again, we thank you for your support and your patience. We are keen to receive your feedback, particularly with regard to our organisational direction and programme pillars (as enclosed). We expect to move forward with our programmatic work by the second half of FY 25-26 and would hope that we are able to update you on a more regular basis thereafter.

ANNEXURE Action taken in the year 2023-24 / Activities undertaken till date

1. Addressing Rainfed Issue- Building Capacities for collective & Cohesive Action

A workshop on "**Understanding Rainfed Agriculture Agenda Session**" was organised on 25th & 26th November 2024 facilitated by Dr. Sabyasachi Das will be organized with 19 participants from organizations across Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh.

The workshop Objectives were:

- To familiarize participants with rainfed agriculture and its 10 propositions.
- Conduct a village-level assessment exercise focusing on natural resources, livelihoods, and challenges.

- Discuss differences between irrigated and rainfed systems and explore agro-economic innovations.
- Develop strategies to integrate RRA propositions into organizational practices.

Key Activities:

- Icebreaker activity exploring regional terms for rainfed agriculture.
- Group exercise: "Know Your Village" focusing on resources, livelihoods, and challenges.
- Discussions on the Green Revolution, pastoral census, and agro-economic innovations like fisheries, poultry, and farm tools.
- Introduction to Vinay Mahajan's dohas and their relevance to rural contexts.

Key Learnings:

- Comprehensive understanding of rainfed agriculture and its role in rural livelihoods.
- Skills to holistically assess village ecosystems.
- Insights into integrating RRA propositions for impactful interventions.
- Awareness of agro-economic innovations for sustainable practices.

Feedback Highlights:

- Participants found the session transformative and engaging.
- Suggested extending the session to 3–4 days for deeper learning.
- Recommended creating an online certificate course on rainfed agriculture.
- Proposed regular follow-ups through quarterly or half-yearly meetings.

Network Building

The "Networking and Leadership Building Session," facilitated by Mr. Gagan Sethi on 27th–28th November 2024, brought together 23 participants from diverse organizations across Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh. The session focused on understanding role and relationship hierarchies, colonization and decolonization, and the importance of networking, interdependence, and co-dependence. Participants engaged in interactive activities, including nature-inspired lessons from Kingdom Animalia to foster empathy, group exercises to explore diverse dynamics in network building, and collaborative design of inclusive and resilient network models. Insights from research papers and a psychometry test helped participants discover personal strengths and apply these to leadership challenges. The session enhanced participants' understanding of equitable networking, the significance of diversity, and tools for creating sustainable networks. The workshop was widely appreciated for its engaging format, though participants suggested incorporating more practical examples in the future. Support materials provided included flashcards, research compilations, personal power surveys, and session PPTs.

Fundraising initiatives

Fundraising Appeal

Revitalising Rainfed Agriculture Foundation is a product of Revitalising Rainfed Agriculture Network for bridging the gap of investment in rainfed areas. RRA Foundation is dedicated to raising Indian funds to support the rainfed agriculture agenda across India.

To kickstart the fund-raising drive for RRA Foundation, we sent an appeal request to our partners to demonstrate their solidarity and shared vision for revitalising rainfed agriculture in India, RRA Foundation calls upon to make a donation, small or large. The appeal request created an indicative one-time contribution for different categories of CSOs based on the value of equity

Categories	Criteria	Amount in INR
A	Yearly revenue > 100 Cr	5 Lakhs
B	Yearly Revenue between 50 Cr to below 100 Cr	2 Lakhs
C	Yearly Revenue between 20 Cr to below 50 Cr	1 Lakh
D	Yearly Revenue between 10 Cr to below 20 Cr	50 Thousand
E	Yearly Revenue between 3 Cr to below 10 Cr	10 Thousand
F	Yearly revenue between 1 Cr to below 3 cr	5 Thousand
G	Yearly revenue below 1 Cr	2 Thousand

In the year 2023-24 RRA Foundation received donations from 21 partners and raised a total of 13,65,000 rupees (Thirteen lakh sixty five thousand rupees only).

List of partners with their respectable contribution to the Foundation

Org. Donations		Individuals Donations	
Organisation / Institution	Amount	Individuals	Amount
PARMANTH	10000	Meena Kumari	500
Desert Resource Centre	5000	Devinder Kumar Sadana	10,000
Yuva Rural Association (YRA)	20000	Kala Devi	500
Abhivyakti Foundation	5000	Som Krishan	500
Sahaja Samrudha	10000	Mansuk Gudia	2,000

Samaj Pragati Sahayog	50000	Rajeev Gupta	1,100
Seva Mandir	50000	Samadhan Ashok Bangale	1000
Action in Rural Technology and Service (ARTS)	20000	Bhavik Amit Shah	555
Satvik - Promoting Ecological Farming	5000	Aniket Likhar	1000
UYRDC	5000	Tasnim Fatehi	10000
Action for Agricultural Renewal in Maharashtra (AFARM)	25000	Maharani Din	2000
RTDC	5000	Shirish Bhalchandra Joshi	10000
SwitchOn Foundation	50000	Deepak Singh	1000
Pragati Abhiyan	5000	Parmar Minal Dalpatbhai	2000
Centre for People Forestry (CPF)	5000	Bakka Reddy Chila	500
SAHJEEVAN	20000	Sabyasachi Satyaranjan Das	5000
IDEAL	20000	Sakshee Jaimini	1000
Professional Assistance for Hill Area Development	5000	Ravindra A.	100000
WASSAN	1000000		
	1315000		148655
		Total	1463655

Onboarding of Payment Gateway

Payment gateway services were on boarded for maintaining transparency and for better use friendly experience for donations. DanaMojo provides a convenient and efficient mechanism to collect donations and engage donors thereby providing experience to the donor to make them repeat donors engaged to the cause of the organisation.

