

OCTOBER 2021

VOL 1

PRABODHAN

MPSM'S MONTHLY BULLETIN



TOGETHER WE GROW

A FEW WORDS...

It has not been an easy journey through the Pandemic. All of a sudden life came to a stand still with a lot of uncertainties about another day in life, about a tomorrow - job, education, medical facilities and above all, the very sustenance of life. But nothing could stop Maharashtra Prabodhan Seva Mandal (MPSM) from reaching out to those in need, especially people living on the margins. MPSM reached out to more than **8000 families** in the remote tribal areas, working along with the government administration, distributing dry ration kits, providing symptomatic and preventive medicine and counseling care through its **4 Mobile Covid-19 Care Units** (MCCU) in the 4 talukas of Nashik - Peth, Surgana, Trimbakeshwar and also Nashik. Besides, MPSM reached out to more than **1500 students** in their respective villages helping them keep in touch with their learning and keep going through the trying times with hope and confidence. MPSM reached out to farmers having no access to agricultural inputs, distributing seeds for monsoon sowing, saplings for plantation, vegetable seeds for kitchen gardening (parasbaug), and so on.

The joy of connecting with people in times of trials and struggles gave a sense of joy and purpose to us at MPSM. With the confidence that THIS TOO SHALL PASS we carry on with our mission of reaching out to the unreachable by taking our services to doorsteps. Together we walk, together we grow and together we shall overcome the Pandemic and uncertainties of life.

A BIG THANK YOU to all of you for your constant support and encouragement. Your presence is our strength.

Joel Noronha, SJ
Director, MPSM.



ABOUT MPSM

Maharashtra Prabodhan Seva Mandal (MPSM) is a Not-for-Profit Organization under the Bombay Jesuit Management, committed to Rural and Tribal Awakening ("Prabodhan") through Sustainable Agroecology, Education, Health, Community Organization and Capacity Building, Economic growth through livelihood programmes and natural resource development and management.

OUR VISION

"We aim at enhancing the quality of life of small and marginal rural farming communities for self-reliance."

OUR MISSION

"We are dedicated to promote Asset Based Integrated Rural Community Development through agroecological activities, education, microfinance, revival, restoration and promotion of tribal indigenous herbal health practices, human and natural resource development, women advance and leadership programs and tribal entrepreneurship, research, training and development."

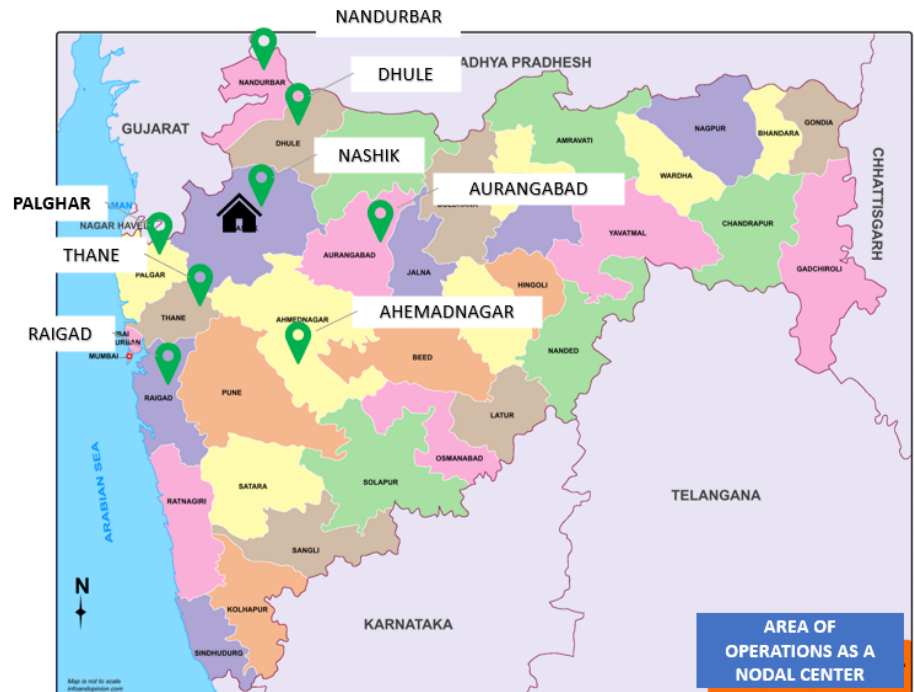


MPSM'S AREA OF OPERATIONS

MPSM has been working for more than 55 years primarily with traditionally marginalized Adivasi farming communities in the remote rural areas of Nashik and Palghar districts with extension programs in Thane, Raigad, Dhule, Amravati, Ahmednagar, Nandurbar, and Aurangabad districts of the Maharashtra State.



map source: www.infoandopinion.com



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BREAKING THE WALL OF IGNORANCE

Our Education Program is committed to an ongoing research on understanding methods and techniques of learning of Adivasi children and accordingly design and develop teaching aids and learning modules. Through these experiments we have been making concerted efforts to improve quality of Tribal Education through support classes in padas (hamlets) and villages.



ACTIVITIES OF SUPPORT CLASSES 2021-2022

- Training of:
 - a) Teachers (**15**)
 - b) Computer Instructors (**15**)
- Meetings with:
 - a) Parents – Quarterly (**08**)
 - b) Home/Family Visits (**183**)
 - c) Gram Panchayat members along with Gram Sevaks (**02**)
 - d) School Management Committee and Patents (**02**)
- Promotion of Kitchen Garden (Parasbaug) for nutritional sufficiency:

882 families covered under the initiative (with a packet each to a family containing 10 varieties of vegetable seeds)

We are running a total of **61** classes in 2 districts of Maharashtra, benefiting **1,525 tribal children** who otherwise do not have a better source of educational support. Many villagers have mentioned that our classes have helped their children to cope with the gap that happened in education due to COVID-19.

Working in:
Harsul, Peth, Trimbakeshwar and Surgana Blocks of Nashik and Mokhada Block of Palghar District of Maharashtra.





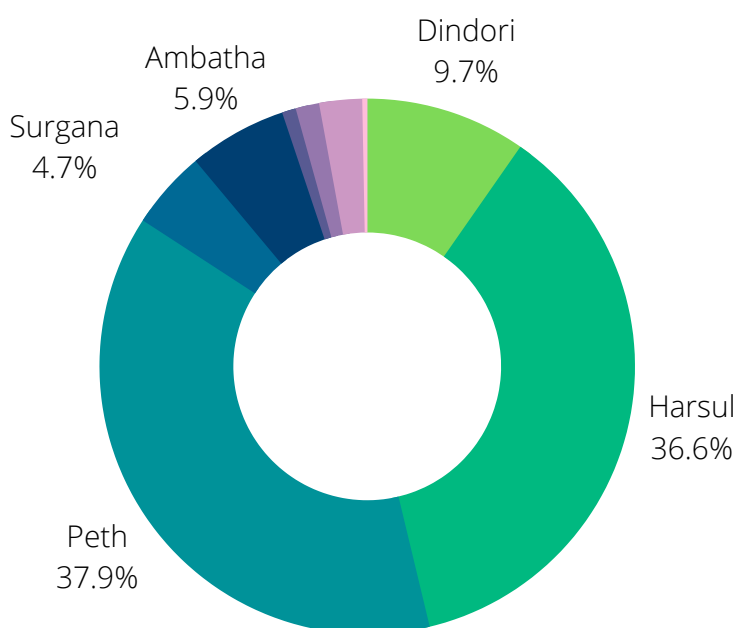
THE GREEN DREAM

VANIKARAN

The project aims at the reforestation and biodiversity enhancement of areas MPSM is working in; every year, we distribute more than one lakh saplings of wild fruits and other native species, including bamboo and teak.

OUR GREEN WARRIORS

With the help of the Education Department of MPSM, we have come up with the concept 'Green Warriors', where we are giving saplings to our NFE classes students. Each child gets 1-2 saplings with one kitchen garden (vegetable seeds) kit for the family for taking care of their nutritional needs. Our Green Warriors are playing a significant role in the awareness we are trying to create.



Block wise Distribution of saplings in year 2021

This year we have distributed a total **105457** saplings of forest and fruit trees - Teak, Bamboo, Cashew, Jamun, Mango, Jackfruit, Bahava, Behada, Chinch, Shevari, Ashoka, Hirda, Kadunimb, Khaya, Kanchan, Ramfal, Shevga, Mahua, Karanj, Aonla, Tetu, Saptaparni, Sitafal, Gulmohar - native as well as improved species aiming local biodiversity enhancement and recreation.

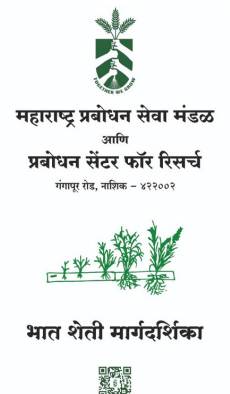
ACTION THROUGH RESEARCH INNOVATION

PCR is currently focussing on enhancing the growth of crops using organic inputs and also studying the effect of the inputs on the soil microflora. Currently, we are focussing on the aquatic fern - Azolla. And studying the benefits it has on the growth of paddy and on the health of animals and birds when administered as feed and fodder.



PRABODHAN CENTER FOR RESEARCH (PCR)

Redefining Development through Innovative Research



CREATING ENTREPRENEURS, CHANGING LIVES

ENHANCING LIVELIHOODS SECURITY FOR THE RURAL WOMEN IN MAHARASHTRA THROUGH SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME - The Project is envisaged based on a clear understanding that the locations need a comprehensive, long-term and systematic approach for ensuring livelihoods security for the small and marginal farmers and landless families, with a focus on socio-economic empowerment of rural women.



THIS PROJECT CONTAINS

- 3** BLOCKS: TRIMBAK, SURGANA AND PETH
- 30** Villages
- 5410** Women and Households
- 28** Village organizations
- 383** Producer Groups
- 13** collective Enterprises
- More than **400** Individual Enterprises

ACTIVITIES OF THE SEASON

- Farmer Field Days
- Farmer Field Schools
- Agricultural Front Line Demonstrations for Kharif Crops (FLDs)
- Review meetings of Village Organizations (or Village Executive Committees - VECs)



IT IS ALL ABOUT FARMERS WHO DECIDED TO JUMP INTO BUSINESS



Supported by NABARD and MPSM, HIMAI Adivasi Farmer Producer Company, registered on the 25th of May 2018, today has:

- **1037** farmer base
- **37** Tribal villages covered in Dindori Tehsil of Nashik
- **400+** farmer shareholders.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SEASON

- Rice seed sale
- Cashewnut procurement
- Fruit saplings distribution (Mango, Chikku, Custard Apple, Lemon, Coconut, etc.)
- Forest (Teak, Bamboo and other native species)
- Shares collection
- Demonstrations on Sustainable Agriculture
- Farmers participation in Azolla Demo Experiments
- Developing bamboo clusters



THEY FOUGHT FOR WATER

The project is in progress, which has installed a complete domestic water distribution system with an in-house service connection in Vadamal-Berwal, a tribal village in Surgana Tehsil of Nashik District. This project will provide water at the doorstep of **123** families of **700** village population for drinking and other household needs. It was a fight for their right because fetching water was a nightmare for the village women from a slope of 2 kilometers, waiting for their turns through the night.



WATER DISTRIBUTION PROJECT - VADMAL

Hirabai, a village woman, shares, "I have been doing this my whole life. I don't want the same life for my daughter! Till when are we supposed to struggle like this? We need to walk almost 2 km for 2-3 pots of water. I can't explain the situation in summer; we migrate for water. Otherwise, who would like to leave their home and roam like Nomads!"



AND THEY ARE NOT SCARED OF TREATMENT ANYMORE

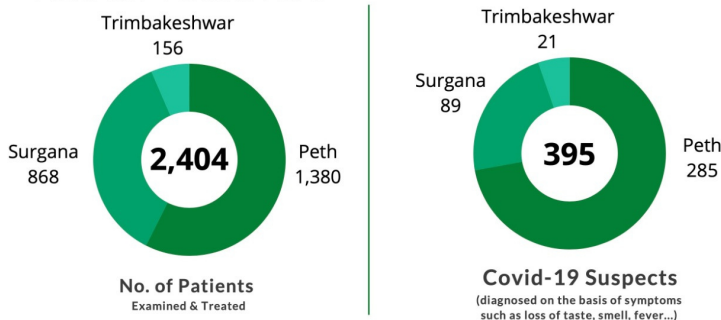
*"We do not have corona virus here".
"You are the ones who are bringing the virus because you are wearing masks".
"Dare you give us injections". "Have you been sent by the government?"*

Well, these were some of the reactions of the villagers as they saw us covered with surgical head cap, mask, face shield, gloves and aprons. Some would even close their doors at our sight. While the government medicos were beaten and driven away in some villages, we were fortunate enough not to meet similar fate. Indeed, the reason for this resistance was FEAR. But the story changed soon.



MPSM's MCCU PHASE 1 Summary

26 APRIL - 25 MAY 2021



Follow-ups of Covid-19 Suspects

216

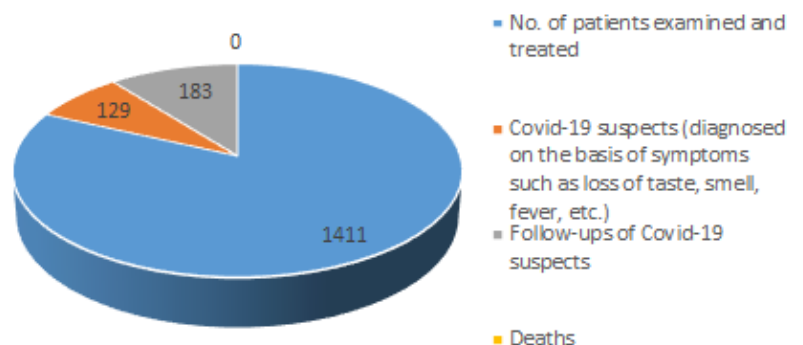


Deaths

1

The second wave camps started on 26th Apr 2021 and continued thereafter in many forms through different approaches, reaching out to more than **45+** Gram Panchayats and Villages in the 3 talukas (blocks) of Peth, Surgana and Trimbakeshwar. We had **3800+** patients visiting our camps out of which **500+** were suspected cases.

PHASE-II OF MCCU



AND THE FOREST REJOICED

NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS (NTFPs): ENHANCING LIVELIHOOD SECURITY FOR THE TRIBAL COMMUNITIES IN WESTERN MAHARASHTRA THROUGH SUSTAINABLE FOREST-BASED ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT (NELFED)

The research project has a two-pronged approach. On the one hand, it focuses on the increased production, consumption, management, value-addition, and marketing of NTFPs as a development strategy to improve the livelihoods and quality of life of forest-dependent adivasis. On the other hand, it aims at the revival, restoration, and enhancement of local biodiversity and forest ecosystem from the point of view of the sustainability of tribal life and natural resources.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SEASON

- Farmer Field Days.
- Demonstrations of organic farming package of practices.
- Tribal Enterprise Group (TEG) formation.
- Training programs on Capacity Building of Groups.
- Formation of Village Executive Committees.
- **1200** households



ARANYOTSAVA-THE FEAST OF JUNGLE

Is a big umbrella programme, under which we are celebrating different seasons in the jungle. First in the line was Ranbhaji Utsava at Surgana, where we celebrated the traditional culinary knowledge of adivasis and forest plant species of nutritional importance.





Come... Be a Change Agent



Contact us

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