

Gramonnati Sansthan, Mahoba (U.P.)

Annual Progress Report April 2024 – March 2025

Contact: Near Parmanand Chowk, Gandhinagar, Mahoba
(U.P.) – 210427

☎ 9452122128 | ✉ Gramonnatiup@yahoo.com



Background: Empowering Communities for Wellbeing in the Bundelkhand Region :

The Bundelkhand region—stretching across parts of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh—remains one of India's most underserved and vulnerable geographies. Predominantly rural and socio-economically marginalized, the region's population comprises Dalits, landless farmers, women-headed households, and tribal communities who continue to face systemic exclusion from mainstream development. Chronic water scarcity, low agricultural productivity, poor infrastructure, and high rates of illiteracy have deeply affected the overall wellbeing of its people. Women, in particular, face multifaceted disadvantages, including domestic violence, limited decision-making power, and lack of economic independence. According to **NFHS-5 (2020–21)**, over **33% of ever-married women in Uttar Pradesh** have experienced spousal violence—an issue that is further intensified in semi-rural regions like Bundelkhand where social stigma and lack of support services prevail. Although the 73rd Constitutional Amendment mandated one-third reservation for women in



panchayats, real participation remains symbolic in many cases, with male family members exercising de facto control. As per **Census 2011**, districts like Mahoba show a female literacy rate of only **58%**, well below the national average of over 70%. Furthermore, school dropout rates among adolescent girls and prevalence of child marriage remain deeply concerning. Girls and young women with disabilities face even greater barriers to accessing education, safety, and employment opportunities. In such a context, community empowerment is not merely a development goal—it is a necessity. Strengthening local leadership, especially among women and youth, ensuring access to rights and entitlements, and creating inclusive platforms for dialogue and action are essential to dismantle cycles of violence and marginalization. Programs implemented by organizations like Gramonnati Sansthan are vital interventions in this landscape, helping shift communities from survival to self-determined, dignified living. These initiatives are not just about meeting immediate survival needs; they are vital interventions that empower individuals and communities to move towards self-reliance, dignity, and sustainable development. Through targeted efforts, Gramonnati

Sansthan has significantly contributed to enhancing women's political participation across various spheres. Their programs have increased the awareness of women and adolescents about their rights, strengthened their understanding of their responsibilities as active citizens, and enhanced their capacities for effective decision-making. As a result, more women are stepping into leadership roles, influencing policies, and participating meaningfully in governance processes at all levels.

About Us

Gramonnati Sansthan is a voluntary social service organisation based in Mahoba district of Bundelkhand region in Uttar Pradesh, India established in 1983. The work began in a few villages of Mahoba district and since then people-centric developmental activities have been carried out in the villages. It's registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 1976 and the section 12 (A) of the Income Tax Act, 1961. Gramonnati Sansthan is governed by a national Board of Directors, and supported by both Indian and global philanthropies. we have worked across 60 villages in Mahoba district, focusing on empowering the most marginalized—women, Dalits, landless farmers, laborers, and adolescent girls—by connecting them to vital resources, rights, and development schemes.



Mission

Our mission is to empower marginalized and vulnerable communities, with a particular focus on women, adolescent girls, and landless individuals living in rural areas. We are committed to enabling these groups to critically analyse their own circumstances, access essential resources, claim their rights, and actively participate in the mainstream of sustainable development. Through our efforts, we aim to promote access to human rights for adolescents and differently-abled individuals, fostering an inclusive environment where all can thrive. Ultimately, we strive to catalyse positive, transformative, and sustainable change, contributing to a resilient and equitable future for society as a whole.

Our Vision

At Gramonnati Sansthan, our vision is clear and profound: we aspire to create an exploitation-free society where every individual—regardless of their background—has the opportunity to live a life of dignity, fulfillment, and inclusion in the mainstream of development. We are especially committed to uplifting and empowering marginalized groups, including women, adolescent girls, Dalits, and individuals living below the poverty line who are significantly impacted by climate change. Our ultimate goal is to foster a just and equitable society where the values of social justice, equity, and human dignity are at the heart of every initiative.



Our Priority Areas

We focus our efforts across several interlinked areas of development that are crucial for achieving long-term, sustainable change:

- Women and Adolescent Empowerment
- Strengthening the Role of Elected Women Representatives in Local Governance
- Access to Safe Drinking Water
- Organic and Climate-Resilient Farming
- Land Rights
- Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience

Adolescent Girls and Women Empowerment

- Support girls and women, particularly those from Scheduled Castes and landless families, in securing rights over resources to enhance livelihood, food security, and decision-making power.
- Promote the inclusion of women in local village development processes.
- Advocate for women's rights over natural and family resources.



- Build collective voices among women to challenge domestic violence and sexual harassment.

Core Objectives

- Disseminate development-related knowledge in rural areas on topics such as technology, health, and environmental sustainability.
- Foster inclusive social development through education, awareness, and empowerment programs.
- Support and uplift underprivileged communities through targeted training, capacity building, and livelihood initiatives.

Gramonnati Sansthan: Major Programs and Collaborations for 2024–2025

S. No	Program Name	Partner Organization	Year Started	Coverage Area
1.	Meri Panchayat Meri Shakti (MPMS)	CREA, New Delhi	2018	15 panchayat in kabrai block, Mahoba UP.
2.	Women Gaining Ground (WGG) Empowerment of differently-abled, women, youth	CREA, New Delhi	2021	15 panchayat in Kabrai Block , Mahoba Mahoba UP.
3.	Livelihood Enhancement Project	Azim Premji Foundation	2021	7 villages in Kabrai and Charkhari blocks Mahoba UP.
4.	Agricultural Technology Management (ATMA)	Agriculture Dept., Mahoba	2009	Mahoba – 4 Blocks: Kabrai, Charkhari, Panwari, and Chaitpur ..

1. Meri Panchayat Meri Shakti (MPMS): Empowering Elected Women Representatives at the Panchayat and Ward Level

Supported by: CREA, New Delhi

Coverage Area: 15 Panchayat in kabrai block, Mahoba UP.

Implementing Organization: Gramonnati Sansthan, Mahoba, UP.

Meri Panchayat Meri Shakti (MPMS): Strengthening the Role of Elected Women Representatives in Local Governance

The Meri Panchayat Meri Shakti (MPMS) initiative was launched in 2017 with 10 gram panchayats and has since grown significantly under the leadership of Gramonnati Sansthan. The initiative has successfully engaged and trained elected women representatives in 135 gram panchayat villages across Mahoba district in UP.

Currently, the project is being actively implemented in 15 gram panchayats of Kabrai block, where women representatives are being supported to enhance their leadership, governance participation, and community engagement. With each new financial year, the project expands by enrolling a fresh cohort of 15 panchayats, while continuing to work with previously enrolled ones. This approach ensures sustained mentorship, continuity of learning, and long-term impact by building a network of confident and capable grassroots women leaders.

The project focuses on empowering elected women at the ward and panchayat levels by enhancing their leadership capabilities, deepening their understanding of local governance structures, and equipping them to become active change makers in their communities. Training sessions have covered critical themes such as voter awareness and mobilization, roles and responsibilities of panchayat committees, gender-sensitive planning, and effective utilization of government schemes related to health, sanitation, livelihood, and social protection.

In addition to capacity-building workshops, several interface meetings were conducted between women representatives and local government officials to build confidence and facilitate direct dialogue. The project also supported the formation of informal peer networks among women representatives to encourage collaboration, mentorship, and knowledge exchange. Exposure visits and hands-on sessions were organized to familiarize them with best practices in governance and public service delivery.

Through these continuous efforts, the MPMS initiative has helped transform many elected women representatives into visible and vocal leaders who are actively advocating for women's rights, addressing community-level issues, participating in gram sabhas, and playing a crucial role in local decision-making processes. The initiative continues to inspire a growing number of women to not only occupy seats in the panchayat system but to lead with confidence and purpose.



2. Women Gaining Ground (WGG) -Empowerment of differently-abled, women, youth

Supported by: CREA, New Delhi

Coverage Area: 7 villages in Kabrai and Charkhari blocks

Implementing Organization: Gramonnati Sansthan, Mahoba, UP.

Under the project Women Gaining Ground (WGG)-Empowerment of differently-abled, women, youth Supported by: CREA, New Delhi, significant positive changes have emerged in the lives of women, adolescent girls, and young women with disabilities in Mahoba, district UP, Particularly in areas where Gramonnati Sansthan is actively engaged. Through the organization's continuous efforts in leadership training, rights-based awareness, and community mobilization, there has been a noticeable shift in how women perceive their roles in local governance and development processes. Increasingly, women are asserting their voices in panchayats and taking a proactive interest in government welfare schemes. They are no longer passive beneficiaries but informed citizens who understand their rights and are prepared to demand them.



What is particularly encouraging is the growing leadership among young women with disabilities. With Gramonnati's support, many of these young women have begun exploring income-generating opportunities independently—some through self-employment and others by accessing vocational programs. They have also taken bold steps to engage directly with local administration, raising concerns, seeking support, and ensuring their voices are heard in policy discussions. Their participation in gram sabhas and community meetings marks a transformative moment, not just for themselves but for others around them. These young leaders are becoming powerful role models, inspiring other women and girls to challenge social norms, speak up, and pursue their aspirations with confidence.



**Beneficiary Details of the Women Gaining Ground (WGG) Project
Gramonnati Sansthan, Mahoba (2021-2025)**

S. No.	Activity Name/Group	Duration	Direct Beneficiaries	Indirect Beneficiaries
1	Women Collectives	2021-2025	375	1125
2	Young Girls	2021-2025	375	1220
3	Peer Groups of Young Girls	2021-2025	750	—
4	Disabled Women	2021-2025	68	—
5	Elected Women Representatives / Women Panchayat Heads	2021-2025	48	—
6	Engagement with State-Level Government and Non-Government Officials	2021-2025	62	—
7	Engagement with District-Level Officials	2021-2025	77	—
8	Number of Girls in Sports Training	2021-2025	210	—
9	Cross-Learning by Girls	2021-2025	13 Training Sessions	130 Participants
10	Self-Training for Girls	2021-2025	4 Training Sessions	40 Participants
11	Leadership Training for Girls	2021-2025	40	—

12	Leadership Capacity Building among Girls	2021-2025	120	—
13	Women in Leadership Roles	2021-2025	75	—
14	Girls in Computer Training	2021-2025	7	—
15	Cases Raised on Issues of Violence Against Women	2021-2025	275	—

Total Women Beneficiaries: 5,042

3. Livelihood Enhancement Project

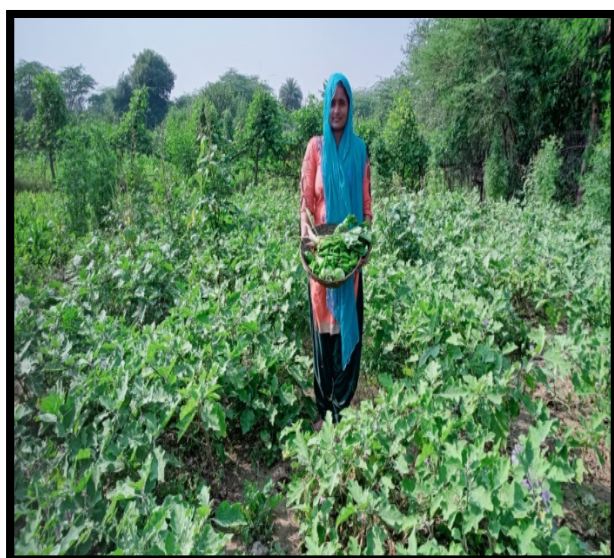
Supported by: Azim Premji Foundation

Coverage Area: 7 villages in Kabrai and Charkhari blocks, Mahoba district, Uttar Pradesh

Implementing Organization: Gramonnati Sansthan, Mahoba, UP.

Project Overview

The Livelihood Enhancement Project is being implemented by Gramonnati Sansthan in 7 villages across the Kabrai and Charkhari development blocks of Mahoba district. The project is aimed at empowering rural women farmers and adolescent girls through sustainable agriculture practices, improved access to services, and community-based livelihood development. A strong focus is placed on promoting organic farming, capacity building, and connecting beneficiaries to



government schemes and entitlements.

Project Locations

- **Total Villages Covered:** 7
- **Charkhari Block:** Sabua, Kanera, Bamhoura Beldaran
- **Kabrai Block:** Chandpura, Mirtala, Tindouli, Dhikwaha
- **Target Beneficiaries:** 700 women farmers and 175 adolescent girls
- **Indirect Beneficiaries:** 1,000 families (including approximately 1,000 women and 2,000 adolescents)

Objectives

- To organize women farmers and improve their access to rights and resources
- To develop skills and knowledge related to agriculture, land, and water management
- To promote income enhancement through organic farming and natural resource management
- To foster linkages with government and non-government service providers



Key Activities and Achievements

Village-Level Community Meetings

Meetings were held with women farmers in all seven villages to raise awareness about the benefits of organic farming, soil testing, and post-harvest residue management.

Training on Organic Compost and Pest Control



Women farmers were trained to prepare organic inputs such as Beejamrit, Jeevamrit, Ghanjeevamrit, and natural pest repellents using local resources. As a result, many women began producing organic compost in their own villages.

Vegetable Farming Training and Seed Distribution

140 women received seeds of 10–11 seasonal vegetables along with training on organic cultivation techniques. This contributed to income growth and inspired other women to adopt organic vegetable farming.

Seed Support for Demonstration Plots

Seeds were provided to 210 women during the Kharif season and 105 women during the Rabi season. This resulted in a 25–30% reduction in input costs and a 10–15% increase in income.



Nutrition Garden Training

Adolescent girls were trained on setting up home nutrition gardens to combat malnutrition, anaemia, and other health issues. Seeds were also distributed for this purpose.

Seed Production Training

One woman from each village was selected and trained to manage a community seed unit, covering aspects of seed collection, preservation, and distribution.

Exposure Visits to Government Departments

Women farmers participated in exposure visits to the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments where they received information on schemes such as the PM Solar Yojana, Soil Testing Program, and others.

Empowerment of Women Panchayat Representatives

Elected women panchayat members were oriented on the importance of full voter participation and their roles in local governance. They were also encouraged to engage with panchayat committees and development planning.



Livelihood Support Project
Gramonnati Sansthan, Mahoba
Beneficiary Details (2021-2025)

S. No.	Activity	Time Period	Total Women Beneficiaries
1	Distribution of vegetable seeds for kitchen gardens to adolescent girls	2021-2025	588
2	Distribution of vegetable seeds to women farmers	2021-2025	610
3	Distribution of machaan (trellis) to women farmers	2021-2025	58
4	Support for compost units	2021-2025	49
5	Distribution of goats	2021-2025	48
6	Distribution of poultry birds	2021-2025	105
7	Distribution of Kharif season seeds	2021-2025	980
8	Distribution of Rabi season seeds	2021-2025	420
9	SCI method: Vegetable seed and material distribution	2021-2025	115
10	Soil testing and nursery registration	2021-2025	144

Total Women Farmers Benefited: 3,117

4. Agricultural Technology Management (ATMA)

Supported by: Department of Agriculture, Mahoba

Coverage Area: 4 Blocks – Kabrai, Charkhari, Panwari, and Chitapur, District Mahoba, Uttar Pradesh

Implementing Organization: Gramonnati Sansthan, Mahoba, Uttar Pradesh

Under the ATMA scheme, Gramonnati Sansthan has been actively working across four blocks of Mahoba district **since 2009**, and the initiative is **still on-going**. The project aims to promote sustainable and organic agricultural practices among women farmers, landless women, and marginalized communities. It focuses on capacity-building through community meetings, staff training, organic farming techniques (such as SCI, mulching, and composting), seed preservation, livestock-based livelihoods, and linkages with government departments.



Special emphasis was placed on empowering women through the formation of Youth Clusters, regular trainings, exposure visits, and the creation of seed and fertilizer units. Efforts were also made to improve nutrition and income through kitchen gardens and the promotion of indigenous seeds and low-cost agricultural methods.

The project not only reached its direct beneficiaries but also inspired neighbouring farmers and communities to adopt organic practices, enhancing the overall agricultural ecosystem in the region.

Objectives

The ATMA (Agricultural Technology Management Agency) project aims to empower farmers through knowledge transfer, practical exposure, and direct engagement with agricultural research institutions. The key objectives are:

- To provide information about government department schemes.
- To educate farmers on methods of preparing organic fertilizers.



- To promote the integration of agriculture with animal husbandry and horticulture.
- To encourage the cultivation of low-water-requirement crops and promote water conservation.
- These objectives are designed to bridge the gap between agricultural research and rural practice, fostering a more informed and sustainable farming community.
- To educate farmers about advanced sowing techniques for various crops by leveraging the expertise and resources of the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK).
- To provide comprehensive information on improved crop production methods, including best practices, soil management, input use, and pest control, as demonstrated at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra.
- To raise awareness among farmers through exposure visits to the KVK, enabling them to observe and understand modern agricultural practices in real-time.
- To facilitate direct interaction between farmers and agricultural scientists, allowing farmers to ask questions, discuss challenges, and receive scientific guidance tailored to their local conditions.



In the Headlines: Gramonnati's Journey of Rural Transformation



www.naitikawaz.com

राष्ट्रीय हिन्दी दैनिक

नैतिक आवाज

आज: 2024 | अंक: 09 | पृष्ठ: 12 | ₹2.00 | पृष्ठ: 12 | बतौर: 09 जुलाई 2024

इनसाइड स्टोरी | स्टोरी जो कबरे पर रोने लखर सदा, मिटती बरत. P-02 | कबरे पर कान फीकागिरि से 50 ले दो चुका. P-04 | केन्द्रीत की खिात पर केंद्रे से 50 ले दो चुका. P-04

कबरई व चरखारी के आधा दर्जन गांवों में मोटे अनाज के बीज का वितरण कार्यक्रम संपन्न

महोबा। बीते 6 जुलाई 2024 को कबरई एवं चरखारी विकासखंड के ग्राम-तिंदौली, चंद्रपुर, मिरतला, सबुआ, कनेरा, बम्हौरी बेलदारन के 20 किसानों को श्रीअन्न (मोटे अनाज) (ज्वार रागी) के बीजों का वितरण किया गया। यह बीज ग्रामोन्नति संस्थान महोबा के सहयोग से कृषि विभाग द्वारा आजीविका संवर्धन परियोजना के चयनित ग्रामों के 20 किसानों को दिलाया गया। जिसमें ग्रामोन्नति संस्थान की तरफ से महेश चंद चौरसिया, महेश राजपूत उपस्थित रहे।

In the Headlines: Gramonnati's Journey of Rural Transformation



