## **Annual Report**

## 2002-2003



# Tata Chemicals Society for Rural development

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## 1. Introduction

Tata Chemicals Limited acknowledges that business and society are interdependent and there is a need to balance the interests and needs of many diverse groups in society. To be a responsible corporate citizen is a commitment and this guiding force is also reflected in the mission statement of the company - "Reinforcing our commitment to safety, health, environment and the community around us."



Participatory appraisal in progress

This commitment is further reinforced as a part of the company's SHE policy - "by conducting all operations in a manner that is protective of the environment and health and safety of employees, customers and the community."

Commitment to the community motivated TCL to promote and establish Tata Chemicals Society for Rural Development (TCSRD). The aim of the society is to promote the growth of rural economy, develop facilities for public education and the socio-economic development, welfare and upliftment of the rural communities.

In November 2000, guiding principles being followed for community development were formalized in a community development policy.

#### Community development Policy

Tata Chemicals Limited pledges itself to serve the community by :

- Designing, evolving and implementing sustainable community development programmes in its area of influence, that lead to measurable socio-economic development of the community.
- Involving the beneficiaries in all stages of the process in the true spirit of participatory development.
- Having a focused and transparent beneficiary selection criteria, that provides for equal opportunity, favours the economically weaker sections and promotes enthusiasm.
- Partnering and networking with central and state governments, development bodies and NGOs to implement appropriate community development programmes.
- · Involving the employees in volunteering for community development programmes.

The main focus of the policy is "sustainable and participatory" development. As one shifts more and more towards working in participation with the target beneficiaries, the structure of project implementation changes and ownership of development has started becoming evident.

#### The year 2002-2003

Development projects in Mithapur continued its emphasis on Integrated Watershed Development and its down stream activities. The project completed implementation stage in five villages. The projects are ongoing in three villages and the programme has been implemented in nine new villages. TCSRD was also nominated as a member of the District Watershed Governing Body by the DRDA, Jamnagar.

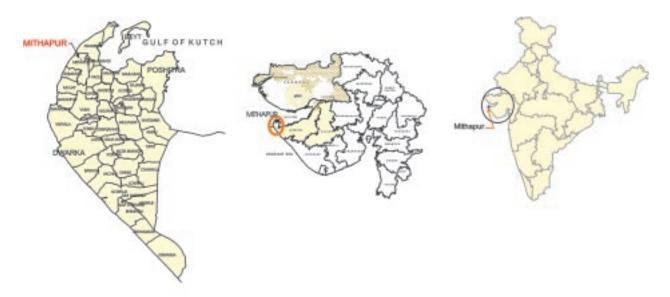
At Babrala, the main focus was agriculture growth with an emphasis on diversification of agriculture. The first target was vegetable farming. Significant achievements were made regarding establishing market linkages and transportation of the produce.

To assess the impact of the community development initiatives a social audit was undertaken by an external agency - TALEEM Research Foundation, an Ahmedabad based NGO. They also helped identify the gaps in implementation so that improvements on the current processes may be done. Based on these inputs the action plans for the five years have been made.

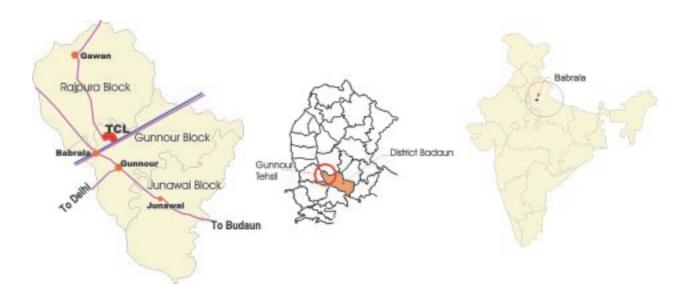
Community initiatives undertaken during the year 2002-2003 are detailed in this report. The projects have been divided into development projects – that give direct economic benefits to the beneficiaries and service projects – that do not give direct economic benefits but nevertheless are important for socio-economic development of the region.

## 2. Area of interest

**Mithapur Region:** Mithapur is located on the western most tip of Saurashtra peninsula in Gujarat. This region of Jamnagar District of Gujarat is one of the most drought prone regions of the country, but still agriculture is the predominant activity in this region. Vaghers constitute the main community in this region, with Lohana, Rajputs, Ahirs, Muslim, Rabaris and Harijans making up the rest. The region consists of 42 villages where developmental work is carried out. Relief work is location specific depending on the need of an area. Most often it is in the districts of Jamnagar and Rajkot.



**Babrala Region:** Located in the Ganga basin, Babrala is a part of Badaun District of Uttar Pradesh. The area of activities includes three development blocks of Rajpura, Gunnaur and Junawai. Yadav's constitute 81% of the population with Goswamis, Muslims, artisan communities like Kumhars, Jatavs, Koris, Telis and other scheduled castes making up the rest. Agriculture is the most important occupation followed by cattle rearing. The Rajpura Block has 67 Gram Panchayats, Gunnaur Block has 58 Gram Panchayats and Junawai has 54 Gram Panchayats.



## 3. Community initiatives in Mithapur

Mithapur region includes the Dwarka Taluka that is located at the tip of the Saurashtra peninsula in the Jamnagar District of Gujarat. It supports a population of nearly 1.2 lakh people. The important towns in this region are the holy city of Dwarka and the Okha port. TCSRD on its own continued the development activities concentrating on both Development Projects and Service Projects.

The main development emphasis in this very drought prone region is watershed development. Other activities though important, are an offshoot of undertaking water conservation and watershed development. Agriculture and Animal Husbandry are both dependent to a large extent on the availability of water. Development of Cottage Industries that are independent of water is the other focus area of TCSRD's development initiative. TCSRD has taken up promotion of traditional handicrafts by providing training, quality control and to some extent marketing of the finished products.

The activities undertaken this year were as follows:

#### **Development projects**

- Watershed and agriculture development
- Self-help groups
- Handicrafts development

#### Service projects

- Education and training
- Health
- Infrastructure development



Dam at Tupni village after rains

**Target Area** 

Watershed development programme is being carried out in 17 villages of Dwarka

Taluka. Agriculture development targets all 42

villages of the Taluka, but during the year

under review, 38 villages participated.

## 3.1 Watershed and agriculture

The region is a severely drought prone area where deficient monsoons have resulted in total crop failures. However, agriculture is still the predominant occupation. Improving the socio-economic status of the people means improving agriculture. Improving agriculture means improving the availability of water.

Watershed development – harvesting of water is the prime requirement of the area. TCSRD has also focused its energies towards this end and after successfully completing watershed development in five villages, it has taken up watershed development in twelve more villages taking the total to 17 villages (the project is being repeated in 2 villages). Other interventions in agriculture and watershed development include promotion of horticulture and demonstration of crops and distribution of seeds.

#### Watershed development

TCSRD has been undertaking various initiatives for the watershed development in the region. This has included well recharge, deepening and desilting of ponds and community wells and repair and construction of check dams.

TCSRD has also been selected as a Project Implementing Agency (PIA) under the Government of India's Desert Development Programme for implementing the Watershed Development project in seventeen villages of Okhamandal Taluka. The funding of the project is through the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), Jamnagar. In the first phase of the project, five villages (Poshitra, Tupni, Beyt Dwarka, Dhinki and Samlasar) were selected; subsequently three more villages (Mojap, Batisa



Dam after rains

and Vasai) were added, with a project duration of five years for each village. Watershed Development programme has been successfully completed in five villages (Poshitra, Samlasar, Dhinki, Tupni and Beyt Dwarka), after which three new villages have been selected.

At present Watershed Development is being undertaken in twelve villages (Mojap, Dhinki, Bhimpara, Batisa, Vasai, Mevasa, Ladva, Hamusar, Bhimrana, Makanpur, Okhamadhi and Beyt Dwarka). In each of these villages participatory appraisals were done to identify the needs of the village, micro-watershed potential and to identify various water conservation sites. Maps of the village and the possible watershed sites were prepared with the help of the villagers.

#### Methodology

The most important aspect of this project is people's participation. In a marked diversion from conventional projects, the management and ownership of watershed structures rests with the villages. This results in a system of ownership, responsibility, and more importantly the participatory environment created becomes a launching pad for further downstream projects.

#### The following steps were followed during the implementation of the project:

- Creating awareness about the project, its objectives and the concept of participation through village meetings, exposure and training programmes.
- Formation of village committee with representatives from each community, including women.
- Conduct participatory appraisals of the possible watershed projects that can be undertaken and prioritizing them as per their feasibility, number of beneficiaries and the cost benefit.
- Training the villagers, especially the committee members in decision-making and project planning through implementation of a pilot project. The villagers make all the decisions from selecting a project, cost analysis, implementation and account keeping. All the activities are carried out under the guidance of TCSRD.
- Construction of water harvesting structures and initiating other downstream activities.

#### **Training**

The first step in the process of watershed development is training. The village level watershed committees are trained for project planning, decision making and implementation of projects through public participation. Under this training, a small project (entry point activity) is taken up and implemented by the watershed committee. 50% of the cost for this is collected as contribution from the village.

#### Water harvesting structures

In each of these villages, small and medium waterharvesting structures are being constructed. During the year under review, one medium dam and eleven farm bunds were constructed; eighteen community ponds were deepened; two check dams were repaired; seven community wells were deepened and eighty-five wells recharged.

As this was the eighth year after starting implementation of the watershed project, some of the dams constructed in the first year were repaired for minor leakages and cracks.



Farmers irrigating their fields with water stored in the dam

"The suggestions of the villagers are incorporated while planning the project and the village people are offered job opportunities on these projects. All jobs that are planned are implemented including those, which are not related to the watershed project."

Bharabha Samiyabha
Dy. Sarpanch and Watershed Committee Member
Mojap

"Construction of farm bund has helped reduce the soil salinity, which has resulted in higher crop yield and increase in availability of water in the well."

Ranabha Dadabha Lalpur

#### Summary of watershed project

Name of work	Poshitra	Samlasar	Tupni	Dhinki	Beyt Dwarka	Mojap	Vasai	Batisa
No. of Medium Dams	5	5	4	5	3	6	2	1
No. of Small Structures	32	40	26	63	48	64	-	42
Afforestation (in Hectares)	6	7	4	1	_	1	0.3	0.2
Entry Point Activity (Training)	1	1	1	1	-	1	1	1
Total No. of Beneficiaries (Households)	149	120	141	122	93	119	28	53
Total Expenditure (in Lakhs)	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	13.00	3.30	2.80
Status of Project	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	In progress	In progress	In progress

#### Agriculture development

The agriculture development programme's main role is to create awareness about different varieties of crops and seeds and to make available the seeds that have proved to be successful in this area. The other objective is to promote horticulture, which acts as a fallback for the farmers during the drought years.

**Distribution of hybrid seeds:** Hybrid bajra seeds of Proagro-7701 were made available to farmers of Okhamandal. 100 farmers of 9 villages have purchased bags of bajra seeds. This programme was jointly organised by TCSRD with Kheti Vikas Agency. This programme has been successfully implemented since the last eleven years. Effort is now being made to link the self-help groups with this programme for ensuring quality seeds for the farmers.

**Horticulture promotion:** In an area where rainfall is erratic, horticulture is an activity, which can act as a buffer. Horticulture has been actively promoted and results from previous years have indicated the success of this approach. This year 2000 saplings were planted in 3 villages.

Crop demonstration: Crop demonstrations are an important means for increasing the awareness of the farmers. Various crops are demonstrated in the farmers' fields and just before harvest a meeting of farmers is arranged for discussion on the suitability of the crop for this region. Every year new varieties and new crops are tried out. The trials are conducted for at least two years in a row so as to provide date that is more authentic. Till date we have conducted demonstration of eight varieties of Bajra, four varieties of cotton, soya bean, castor, chilli, groundnut and vegetable crops.

Crop demonstration taken up during this year were:-

Cotton: 2 farmers of 2 villages
Bajra: 3 farmers of 2 villages



Farmers discussing the demo crop of Bajra

## 3.2 Self-help groups

Establishment and promotion of self-help groups was initiated by TCSRD as a part of the Watershed Development programme. The initial success of the programme and demand from other villages has taken this programme to 17 villages. Women and child development programmes have taken a new

#### **Target Area**

The programme at present is being done in 17 villages.

dimension during this year with increased small savings, internal lending, economic activity, new group formation and women empowerment.

#### Micro-credit and downstream activities

Primary activity of the self-help groups has been "bachat" or small savings. Currently, 42 groups (32 Mahila Mandals, 10 Yuvak Mandals) are functioning in 17 villages. The membership has also increased over the year. A total of Rs. 5,76,089/- was collected as monthly savings by 739 members; Rs. 1,90,850/- was given as loan for the SHG members and Rs. 2,14,730/- was recovered during this year as loan repayment.

#### Economic activities for women's group

The groups also took up other economic activities to increase their earnings. Groups purchased a thresher, participated in fairs with nasta (snacks) stall, took up production of agarbati, etc.

**Bank loan:** During this year, loan amount of Rs. 60,000/- was made available through Bank of Baroda to two SHG groups (1 Mahila Mandal and 1 Yuvak Mandal) to carry out development activities. An amount of Rs. 24,880/- has already been repaid to the bank.

**SGSY scheme:** 4 new groups were registered under the SGSY programme. DRDA Jamnagar shall issue a revolving fund of Rs. 10,000/- to each of these four groups. Total 9 groups have been registered under this SGSY scheme.

**Community well:** A community well was deepened by the Mahila Mandal of Arambhada on a participatory basis to mitigate the drinking water problem. The mahila mandal was able to



motivate the entire village to participate by offering shramdan. The well is the water source for 70 households.

We now have the facility of internal loans. 5 women members of the group have availed of the loan facilities and started their first year study with the Ambedkar University. The group has also started computer training classes and a total 15 people are being trained.

#### Sarojben Panjriwal, Arambhada

(Sarojben is group secretary and one of the pioneer members who established this group. She too has availed of a loan from the group and is doing her studies under the Open University programme. She also takes keen interest in running the tailoring class.)

The members of Madhusudan Mahila Madal have given a loan of Rs. 4,000/- to me and I have thus been able to purchase a TV set. I participate in all activities of our Mandal and also attended the 8-day food-processing programme. I now prepare my own masalas, pickles and tomato sauce.

Nimooben Hasmukhbhai Chavda

#### **Training**

**SHG training:** To strengthen the concept of Selfhelp Group (SHG) activities among the village women, 11 different training programmes were organized during this year and 241 women and 33 men SHG members were trained. Various issues like group formation, capacity building and enhancing monthly savings were discussed in the training programme.

Mr A M Tiwari, Commissioner, Rural Development, Mr R V Meena, District Development Officer (D D O) and Mr J Sevak, Director, District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) visited Arambhada and Bhimrana and conducted meetings with the SHG groups.



SHG Training Programme

#### Self-help groups

Number of self-help groups : 42 groups

Number of women members : 591 women / 32 Mahila Mandals

Number of male members : 148 men in 10 Yuvak Mandals

Average number of members per group : 18

Average savings per members per year : Rs. 300/-

Average number of loan beneficiaries/group/year : 6-7

Percentage of loan for non-economic activities : 40%

Percentage of loan for economic activities : 60%

Loans availed from banks : 9 groups Rs. 1,70,000/-

## 3.3 Handicrafts promotion

In an area that is richly endowed with the skills of producing exquisitely embroidered handicrafts, the promotion of these handicrafts has been central to providing alternative source of livelihood for the women.

#### **Target Area**

This programme at present is being done in 10 villages.

#### Handicrafts and cottage industries

Traditional handicraft items of Okhamandal are being manufactured by 200 women beneficiaries of Arambhada, Poshitra, Bhimrana, Hamusar, Dhinki, Vasai, Batisa, Varvala, Tupni, and Gadechi.

During this year, handicrafts worth Rs. 1.64 lakhs were sold. The feedback from buyers reflected the good product quality. Efforts were also made to identify new areas for marketing. New product range that includes apparel and accessories are also being added.

The handicraft project is being taken up as a part of a livelihood project supported by the Govt. of Gujarat. These women will be given material worth 5 lakhs which will be the starting point for increasing the output.



Handicraft product

"We attended the 2-day handicrafts training session at Mithapur where we were trained on cutting, designing, stitching of cut pieces etc. We also visited the handicraft showroom where we got to see samples of cushion covers, bed-sheets, purse, wall pieces etc. This training has encouraged us to initiate handicraft activities in our mandal."

Indiraben H Chavda President, Jagruti Mahila Mandal, Bhimrana

## 3.4 Education and training

Learning is a life long process. If one is a resident of rural India, it may just have been sheer luck to have received formal education. One of TCSRD's aim is to improve the education facilities / infrastructure available in the rural areas. But, formal education is not the end of the learning process and

#### Target Area

At present this programme is being conducted in 2 villages.

adults who so desire can receive education at any age. TCSRD also targets the facilitation of this learning process by conducting adult education programmes and other non-formal education activities.

#### Education

**Adult education:** This year, on a request by the rural population, adult education initiative was started at Devpara and Bhimrana village. The classrooms for conducting adult education classes are arranged by the villagers and TCSRD has arranged for study material and a teacher. 40 women from both villages are on their journey towards literacy.

Support to marine life education camp at Sagardam: Necessary infrastructure facilities, including power and water supply, tent material etc. were extended to the Ahmedabad Nature Lovers' Association (ANALA) for conducting marine life education camp for school and college students at Mithapur. During the camp, education sessions and

field visits were organised for the study of marine life and migratory birds. 465 students from Ahmedabad, Anand, Baroda, Bhavnagar and Rajkot attended the camp in six batches.

#### **Training**

Training in food preservation: Two training programmes, each of 5 days duration on food processing and preservation were arranged at village Vasai. 38 village women were given training for preparation of various food items. This programme was organised in collaboration with Dist. Horticulture Dept., Jamnagar, who arranged for an expert teacher.



Training on food processing

## 3.5 Health

Health care is an important aspect in the overall socio-economic development of an area. Tata Chemicals has been operating a mobile clinic for providing health care services in the 42 villages of Okhamandal since the 70's. Over and above this, TCSRD has also taken up other health care programmes to provide health care services at the doorstep of the rural population.

First aid training programme: 43 youth volunteers both male and female from 6 villages (Surajkaradi, Devpara, Batisa, Dhinki, Arambhada and Bhimrana) underwent a three day training on handling first aid cases. After the completion of this training, first aid kits were given to volunteers so that first aid and health emergencies could be treated at the village level. Villagers are encouraged to use this facility by paying a token amount.

Mid wife training: Continuing the previous years programme, 15 Traditional Birth Attendants (TBA) or dais of 6 villages were trained by Tribhovandas Foundation, Anand, to handle difficult delivery cases. 20 sets of safe delivery kits were distributed among these TBAs. Till date, 20 TBAs from 6 villages have been trained and are now providing their services to the rural areas.

#### **Target Area**

Health care programmes are being conducted in 6 villages.



First aid training programme

## 3.6 Infrastructure projects

Infrastructure development is important for the overall development of an area. In an area which was ravaged first by the cyclone in 1998 and then by the earthquake in 2000, building good earthquake resistant "pucca" houses is a priority. TCSRD has continued previous years' efforts in building houses for the rural poor.

#### Target Area

Infrastructure projects have been taken up in 12 villages

**Sardar Awas Yojna (Low cost housing project):** Sardar Awas Yojna (Low Cost Housing project) sponsored by Govt. of Gujarat is being implemented by TCSRD. A total of 28 houses each costing Rs. 40,000/- were constructed

during this year in 7 villages. The total expenditure incurred was Rs. 11.20 lakhs. The fund of the project is received from Dwarka Taluka Panchayat. For the construction of these houses, TCSRD extended technical and manpower support and has supervised the construction work to make this venture a success.

The houses constructed under this project have facilities of a living room with an attached bathroom and latrine. The Taluka Panchyat selected the beneficiaries that are from low-income groups, and allots a free plot of 25' x 36' size to beneficiaries.

Almost all beneficiaries are from landless families or from the backward community. The beneficiaries are motivated to participate and they contribute their labour for excavation work and painting work. Till date TCSRD has constructed 81 houses.



SP Awas at village Lalpur

As no civil contract is given and the beneficiaries are involved at every stage of construction, the houses built are felt to be more durable and cost effective

"TCSRD has assisted me in the construction of a new house under the government's 'Sardar Awas Yojna' scheme. The payment system was good and there was no need to keep visiting the Taluka office for payment."

Beneficiary of low cost housing - Khetabha Khimabha of Tober

## 4. Community initiatives in Babrala

The Babrala region includes three development blocks Gunnaur, Rajpura and Junawai of the Badaun District of Uttar Pradesh. The main development emphasis in this region located in the Ganga basin is agriculture. This is the main occupation and the emphasis of TCSRD's interventions. The most important agriculture development programme targets agriculture growth and diversification of agriculture. The other important project related to agriculture is improvement of land fertility. The land reclamation project targets this aspect and every year includes additional areas for reclamation. Animal husbandry is the next important occupation and therefore is of equal importance. Cattle health care, breed improvement, fodder and dairy extension have been targeted during the year.

The region also has the dubious 'distinction' of being the least progressive and has very high fertility rate and maternal and infant mortality rates. Looking at these aspects, TCSRD initiated the intensive family welfare project. TCSRD also took up implementation of UNICEF and supported the Child's Environment Projects. The projects undertaken during the year are:

#### **Development projects**

- · Agriculture development
- · Animal husbandry development
- Self-help group

#### Service projects

- Education and training
- Health
- Infrastructure development



Village Water code workshop

## 4.1 Agriculture development

Agriculture is the main occupation of the population in the Babrala region. This has led to this area being referred to as 'harit (green) pradesh'. The main crops grown in this region are bajra and maize in Kharif and wheat in Rabi seasons. Other crops grown are mentha, vegetables, sugarcane etc. TCSRD's agriculture development programme targets at all the identified issues for improving agriculture in this region such as: the lack of knowledge and exposure

#### **Target Area**

33 villages from three development blocks of Rajpura, Gunnour and Junawi in the Babrala Region. Concentration in 8 villages – Pawari, Noorpur, Baghou, Mehua, hasan Ganj, Kail, Pavsara, Sihawli and Pathakpur.

to modern agricultural practices, low finances and low returns from small landholdings.

#### Agriculture development

Through the years, TCSRD has taken up many projects for the development of agriculture in this region. Most of the projects undertaken in the previous years were evaluated and reviewed. This led to including the consolidation of the land reclamation project carried out during previous years. The other interventions targeted improving the fertility of soil, improving yields and increasing the awareness levels of the farmers. The projects undertaken during this year are:

- > Land reclamation
- Consolidation of land reclamation
- > Farmers awareness programmes
- > Agriculture growth programmes

Land reclamation: Land reclamation project has been undertaken since the establishment of TCSRD. This region, which for most part is very fertile, has some pockets called 'Usar land' that is severely saline. These "usar' patches reduce the overall productivity of land. TCSRD set about identifying such patches and undertaking their reclamation. This reclamation process involves land levelling, bunding, application of gypsum, leaching of salts and green manuring with Dhaincha. This project deals with converting unproductive alkaline / saline soils to fertile soils.

This year, 40 Ha. reclamation in collaboration with

DRDA and 50 Ha. reclamation in the three neighboring villages were completed. Both these projects were started in the year 1999-2000. Additionally, 20 Ha. of reclamation work started taking the total to 55 Ha. of land reclamation in progress. The work done during the year was as follows:



Land Reclamation

- 1. Land leveling, bunding and ploughing
- 2. Application of gypsum

- 57 farmers 20 Ha.
- 30 farmers 9.87 Ha.

"We were explained in detail about the process of land reclamation in a common gathering in the village. We have started work as per these guidelines. We have cleared the grass, ploughed the land and spread gypsum on the land. The land was then filled with water. After this process we have again ploughed the land. The fertility of the land has improved and we are thankful to TCSRD for helping us improve this."

Chotelal, Paysara village

**Consolidation of land reclamation:** This project was initiated based on the feedback from the previous land reclamation projects, which gave indications of the need to consolidate with additional application of gypsum. This year 36 farmers from 3 villages availed the opportunity.

#### Land reclamation

Sr. No.	Name of Village	Area in Ha. (Target)	Achievement in ha.	No. of beneficiaries	Status of projects
1	Kail and Noorpur	50	50	111	Completed
2	BC - 1	50	50	99	Completed
3	BC - 2	24	24	34	Completed
4	Baghou, Mehua, Pawari	16	19	38	Completed
5	Pawari, Mehua, Noorpur Baghou (SRY)	40	46.92	119	Completed
6	Mehua, Baghou, Pawari	50	50.24	127	Completed
7	Mehua, Baghou, Pawari, Pavsara	35	50	146	85% Completed
8	Kail, Noorpur, Baghou, Mehua, Pawari, Sihawall, Pathakpur, Pavsara	20	20	57	85% Completed
	Total	285	310.16	731	

Farmers motivation and training: Information and technology dissemination aims at increasing the awareness levels of the target beneficiaries so that they are able to adopt agriculture growth measures. Information dissemination

is done through training programmes, visit to agriculture fairs and by conducting meetings for the farmers. Two training programmes are conducted every year – one before Kharif season and one before Rabi season. 75-80 farmers from the nearby villages attend these three-day training programmes in which the farmers are introduced to modern farming techniques. In the training programme, agriculture experts from Pantnagar Agriculture University also participate. Farmers are also taken for visits to Kisan Melas at the Pantnagar Agriculture University. Every year two batches of 50 farmers visit these kisan melas. This year 163 farmers from 21 villages participated. During this year, 137 farmers from 12 villages were also taken to the Rabi and Kharif kisan fair at Pantnagar and Meerut for exposure to the new techniques.



Farmer's training programme

"In this training programme, we learnt about agriculture and related topics such as increased productivity of crops, preparation of fields, seeds, balanced fertilisers, appropriate time for interculture, animal husbandry etc. The topics were limited to the Kharif season. We feel that the same group should be considered again for training in September for the rabi crops to complete the training. If possible, kindly arrange to actually show the farm implements during the training."

#### Rajveer Singh, Pathakpur village

**Agriculture growth programme:** Aiming to achieve increased agriculture productivity, the agriculture growth programme advocates the use of best agriculture practices. Agriculture growth programme involves adopting a multipronged strategy where the farmer is exposed to a number of options that he can adopt. Everywhere the stress is on putting into practice what is learnt in the training sessions.

The strategies advocated were:

- Introducing the use of high quality high yielding new varieties.
- > Ensuring that farmers adopt agriculture growth measures in their standard rabi crop by using High quality seeds, balanced dose of fertilisers, timely irrigation, modern pest and weed control measures, modern sowing techniques so that proper crop spacing is maintained for optimum growth, advocating vegetable growing in small landholdings.

The farmers who opted for the mini kits were provided with foundation seeds so that they could produce quality seeds for use in the next crop.

**Wheat:** In this programme, after soil analysis, certified good quality seeds are made available along with right amount of fertilisers, micronutrients and plant protection chemicals. Sowing is done by using seed cum fertiliser drills instead of the traditional broadcasting method.

As the cost of these inputs are obviously higher than the traditional methods, the project is devised with the intention of demonstrating that the cost difference between traditional farming and modern farming is more than made up by the increase in yield.

The cost difference between traditional farming and modern techniques is given as an interest free loan to the farmers, to be repaid after the sale of the produce. Seeing the results and 100% repayment by farmers continuously every year for the last 4 years, the programme has been extended.

In this year number of beneficiaries were as follows: 157 farmers from 2 villages. The loan recovery during the year was 99%. 30% increase in output has been noticed in the fields of farmers who have made use of all technologies.

"The population of our country is more than 10 crores, we have to adopt hybrid seeds because of the continuously increasing population and cultivating land has become smaller. The farmer has to take advantage by utilizing such hybrid seeds or good quality seeds and finally get good crops as well as profits."

Rajveer Singh, Pathakpur village

Vegetable: To increase the income from small land holdings, farmers are motivated to grow vegetables. This year 11 farmers from 4 villages have participated in the vegetable growth programme. Pea crop has been planted in 3.01 acres. The results were encouraging. The next crop of Lauki, Torai, Karela and Bhindi has been taken up by 22 farmers and is planted in 4 acres of land. Contact with various markets for establishing market linkages was done. Some farmers from these villages were taken to the mandis and interaction with other vegetable-growing farmers was arranged. The hindering factors are being identified so that these gaps can be filled up to take the project forward.



Promotion of vegetables

#### Agriculture growth programme

Agricoi	tenore grown programme									
Sr. No.	Activity	No. of villages	No. of beneficiaries							
1	Minikits containing high yielding varieties	-	-							
	a) Kharif (Bajra, Urad)	-	-							
	b) Rabi (wheat)	-	-							
2	Agriculture Growth Programme – Wheat Crop	2	183							
3	Agriculture Growth Programme – Vegetables (Loki, Torai, Karela, Bhindi and Pea)	5	33							
	Total	7	216							

## 4.2 Animal husbandry projects

The predominant caste in the Babrala region is Yadav, which has traditionally been a livestock rearing community. Almost all households here own at least one or two heads of cattle. Therefore, animal husbandry development programmes are an important means of increasing and supplementing the household incomes.

#### **Target Area**

Animal husbandry development programmes were mainly taken up in 14 villages with a concentration on Pawari, Mehua Hasan Ganj and Baghou

Here, the intervention is three pronged, viz., Breed improvement, health care and improvement in type and quality of fodder. During the year under review, special emphasis was given to animal health care. Projects undertaken this year were:

- Anti-sterility camp
- > Health care and vaccination
- Pashupalak Mitra
- > Dairy extension
- Green fodder demonstration and extension

**Anti-sterility camp:** To improve the breed quality of the cattle and to provide expert treatment to the cattle in the area an anti-sterility camp was organized. The camp was conducted in collaboration with the District Animal Husbandry Department and the veterinary department of Pantnagar Agriculture University. 40 cattle belonging to 40 farmers benefited by this camp.

Health care and vaccination programme: A good healthy animal ensures better returns to its owner. The general health care of the animals in the surrounding villages is provided special emphasis. Routine vaccination of the animals is done so that the cattle population around is healthy and productive. Due to regular vaccination camps, the incidence of both HS and FMD has reduced drastically in this area with only a few stray cases being reported. Due to this sustained health care effort the overall productivity of the cattle has gone up. During this year 8250 animals owned by 1913 households from 14 villages were vaccinated for HS and 3942 animals owned by 948 households from 15 villages were vaccinated for FMD. This programme is conducted in collaboration with the Block Veterinary doctors and with beneficiary contribution.



Vaccination camp is in progress

**Pashu palak mitra:** To improve the availability of health care in the villages it was decided to train 4 educated unemployed rural youths as 'Pashu Palak Mitra' (Paravets). The training was for duration of six months and was provided through the District Animal Husbandry Department. Three youths have successfully completed their sixmonth training and are now providing first aid to the animals in their villages. An AH first aid kit was also provided to these "Pashu Palak Mitras' so that they are well equipped to provide their services.

**Dairy extension:** 47 women from 7 villages who were interested in dairying activities visited PCDF Daulatpur, MBD and Dairy and Poultry farm at Pantnagar University to understand the process involved in dairy activities.

Green fodder demonstration and extension: Continuing the previous year's programme which aimed to supply cheap and nutritious fodder for improving the economics of animal husbandry, two fodder grasses were promoted during this year. Seeds of improved varieties of fodder grasses; berseem (*Trifolium alexandrium*), and oat were made available to farmers of three villages. This year 157 farmers from 3 villages participated in the berseem fodder and oat fodder projects respectively. Most of the beneficiaries are small and medium farmers.



Fodder demonstration

#### Animal husbandry programmes

Sr. No.	Activity	No. of villages	No. of beneficiaries
1	Sterility Camp	11	40 Animals / 33 HH
2	HS Vaccination	14	8795 Animals / 1913 HH
3	FMD Vaccination	14	3940 Animals / 954 HH
4	Pashu Palak Mitra	2	3
5	Fodder Extension	3	142 Farmers
6	Dairy Extension	2	village

## 4.3 Self-help groups

Setting up of self-help groups is an important step towards capacity building of the community. When the SHG is of women members it is even more significant as this directly leads to their empowerment.

### Self-help groups

The record of credit for rural or urban poor especially for women is dismal. Banks regard women as poor credit risks since few own assets (landed property). In all credit schemes, women have to overcome traditional customs and practices, which relegate them to inferior social, economic and political status. The aim of establishing self-help groups is to empower the economically weaker sections, especially women and bring about their economic independence.



Self-help group (SHG) training

**Mahila mandals:** During the year 9 new mahila mandals and self-help groups were established and they set up their bachat samittees. This has taken the total to 34 groups with a membership of 470 women and 35 men. Total Savings are Rs. 1,95,033/- and Rs. 1,10,800/- was given as revolving loans. These women are also being exposed to important aspects of farming, kitchen gardening, facts on nutrition etc. Bank CCL of Rs. 25000/- each was given to 12 groups. Approval of bank CCL for 9 groups was obtained. 4 groups have submitted their dairy project to banks for second loan. 9 training programmes were conducted on capacity building for leadership, teamwork etc. The project is being undertaken under the auspices of the "Swaran Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojna".

#### 4.4 Education and health

Education and health care service activities that are vital for the socio-psychological development of people are an important component of the community development programmes. TCSRD has from time to time undertaken health care camps for the rural population.

#### **Target Area**

Health care and education programmes are conducted in all three development blocks of Junawai, Rajpura and Gunnour.

#### **Education**

In the Babrala region, TCSRD has not as yet given any major thrust to formal education, though repair and construction of schools have been taken up. The main thrust has been on vocational training targeting the educated rural youth so that their employability / income generation capability increases. Sports has also been promoted with formation of cricket clubs in two villages. TCSRD provided these clubs with complete cricket kits.

**Vocational training programme:** After evaluation of last year's motor rewinding, house wiring and diesel engine repair training, 12 out of 14 trainees requested to start a vocational training in Hindi and English typing. So the training in typing has been started from 1st October 2002. 21 young people have been trained in this project from 11 villages of Gunnour, Rajpura and Junawai Blocks.



A tailoring and stitching class is in progress

**Training in tailoring and stitching:** Every year two batches of 25 students are trained in tailoring and stitching. This training programme is for a duration of six months. This year 50 students from 4 blocks completed their training. Till date 336 women have been trained by TCSRD.

Sports: Cricket kits were given to the youth of village Kail to improve their skills in playing.

#### Health

Health issues are important in an area, which has the 'distinction' of being one of the least progressive areas in terms of health care and has high infant and child mortality, maternal mortality and high fertility rates. This year these issue have been targeted with initiation of projects on rural sanitation, Intensive Family welfare Project and water and sanitation based Child's Environment Project.

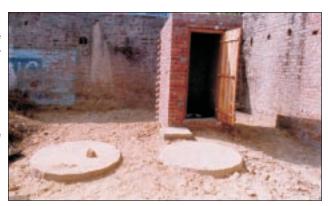


An eye camp in progress

**Eye camps:** As has been done every year, an eye camp (Neshulk Netra Chikista Shibir) is conducted in collaboration with Gandhi Eye Hospital – Aligarh. In this region there are no qualified eye doctors treating the rural poor. All patients with eye ailments have to travel a distance of 65 km up to Aligarh town. This involves not only the cost of travelling, doctors and the hospital fee but also the expenses of lodging and boarding, that is very expensive for the rural poor. This year, 696 patients registered from 175 villages. Out of these, 159 were operated for cataract and others were given general treatment. The programme was a huge success.

**Rural sanitation programme:** Through the years, construction of low cost latrines had been taken up in the nearby villages. According to the rural people, low cost latrines have a very short life and what they required was a permanent solution. Based on people's inputs a model latrine was constructed and based on this design the rural sanitation programme was restarted. The programme was for all households with benefits varying according to the economic status of the household i.e. the poorer households got more benefit.

The beneficiaries were free to add on features so that the finished latrine would be as per the individual household's need. 33 latrines were constructed in three villages during the year.



Low cost latrine

Child's environment project: The child's environment project is a UNICEF-DFID funded project that targets improving the child's environment by focusing on water and sanitation issues. The project is divided into four phases. The first phase of the project is the preplanning phase. The activities in this phase are: conducting baseline survey to find out the current situation, participatory appraisal of the villages, health and sanitation awareness programmes, capacity building of the village watershed committees and incorporation of female members to ensure 50%



Sanitation awareness rally

representation, formation of mother's group and training of village level resource persons. TCSRD implemented phase one of the project in 58 Gram Panchayats (GP) (96 villages) of Gunnaur block. Of these GP's, 12 GPs were selected for the second phase and the rest of the GPs went directly to the fourth phase of withdrawal or operations and maintenance.

Phase II of the project focused on preparing comprehensive Gram Panchayat Environment Plans for improving the water and sanitation situation in these villages. These plans focused on ensuring clean drinking water, ensuring disposal of household waste, appropriate use of water resources, disposal of waste water, capacity building, water and sanitation programme for rural schools. Gram Panchyat Environment Plans in 12 villages and Phase IV of withdrawal in 46 villages was successfully completed. UNICEF-DFID team

reviewed the project in Dec. 2002 and was extremely satisfied by the performance. UNICEF postponed the implementation phase scheduled to start from Jan 2003 to the new financial year.

Intensive reproductive health and family welfare project: During the year, mobile service provided prophylactic and curative service to 48 villages of Gunnaur block, every month. The services included antenatal care, postnatal care, immunization and family planning options. 76 volunteers from these villages were given training and provided with a first aid kit each. 70 dais were also trained and given dais kits. IEC activities targeted children, women and general public in tot school. Rallies stressing on immunization was taken out from school in all the villages (48 schools) School programmes (talk / Quizzes) have been completed in 25 villages, women's group meetings in 15 villages and puppet shows in 10 villages. Video films were



Training on family welfare

shown in 40 villages. Apart from this, contraceptive counseling is a regular feature. Extension of poster campaign to each and every mohalla is now being carried out. The percentage increase in antenatal coverage is from 33% to 66%.

## 4.5 Infrastructure projects

Improving infrastructure is an important goal as this raises the living standard of the rural population. The infrastructure projects also act as entry point activities and help establish relationship for undertaking further activities. This is also the most visible activity and benefits not just one individual but the whole community.

TCSRD has taken up many infrastructure projects in the past which include, building schools, constructing Primary Health

Center and constructing approach roads and internal brick paved tracks. Infrastructure projects undertaken this year were:

- > Mahila chikitsalya
- Brick paved tracks
- Water supply

Mahila chikitsalya at Babrala: On a request by the "Babrala Vikas Samiti" construction of a new building for the 'Gendadevi Mahila Chikistsalya" was taken up. The construction of the Gendadevi Mahila Chikistsalya at Babrala was completed and handed over to the PHC. This PHC will benefit the women patients in Babrala town.

**Brick paved tracks:** The villages surrounding the fertiliser plant at Babrala had very poor approach roads and internal roads. In the beginning, brick paving of these roads were taken up in collaboration with CAPART. After the completion of this programme, TCSRD in collaboration with rural residents has continued the task of brick paving. At present



Inauguration of Mahila Chikitsalya

99% of the internal roads in three villages have been paved. Before starting construction, areawise meetings were conducted seeking participation of the rural community. The residents thus motivated, decided to take up earthwork for leveling the roads. TCSRD then completed the brick laying on the prepared surface. During this year 1.176 kms of new brick paved tracks were constructed in 3 villages. This is one of the most essential requirements of this region.

Infrastructure projects, though mainly concentrated in the three villages around the fertilizer complex and in the Babrala town, have now been extended to cover ten villages of the three blocks.

Target Area

## **Brick paved tracks**

Village	Length of brick paved tracks in metres							
	1995-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003				
Mehua Hasan Ganj	3095.4	942.55	998.00	-				
Mehua Majra	612.15	147.16	-	-				
Nagalia Kazi	1002.00	-	-	-				
Baghou	885.40	-	496.90	224.00				
Baghou Madhiyan	1087.52	335.25	-	107.00				
Lodhi Nagla	370.40	-	33.00	-				
Pawari	4273.20	663.60	883.50	423.55				
Dadpur	-	-	252.00	-				
Kail	46.00	-	322.00	558.00				
Kail Madhiyan	-	149.50	120.00	-				
Noorpur	1988.00	249.50	538.20	-				
Sirora Kazi	402.00	-	-	-				
Isampur Danda	498.00	-	210.00	-				
Pavsara	-	205.40	-	-				
Pathakpur – I	-	238.00	125.00	-				
Pathakpur – II	-	-	178.00	-				
Bhakta Nagla	-	-	94.30	-				
Bengali colony – II	-	-	292.00	-				
Bhakrauti	200.00	-	-	-				
BRSBS College	118.00	-	-					
Total	14578.07	2930.96	4542.90	1312.35				

**Water supply:** 9 connections were taken in village Baghou Ki Madaiyan. Survey has been completed of villages Mehua and Pawari. The project proposal and village panchyats resolution was prepared and the same has been submitted to UP. Jal Nigam. Work is on for designing the system.

## 5. The way ahead

The way ahead for community development initiatives by Tata Chemicals Limited has been charted out based on the feedback from the extensive Participatory Rural Appraisals (PRA) and contact programmes conducted in the villages during the current year. Five-year plans (2003-2008) have been prepared which detail the different projects and activities to be undertaken.

The future course in Mithapur is for not only continuing the watershed project, but also initiating **watershed plus** projects. These projects would look at water harvesting methods that ensure maximum utilization of water such as promotion of low cost drip irrigation and innovative structures such as subterranean dams. A focus on **drinking water** would include projects such as roof rainwater harvesting. A target for covering 1000 roofs has been planned for the coming year.

The focus will also be for **livelihood projects** that are not agriculture based. The plans are to increase the current **handicrafts project** which benefits 200 - 500 women in Okhamandal. Other livelihood project mainly targeting men would benefit another 500 households.

At Babrala, sustainable development being the key consideration, **Integrated agriculture growth programme** has been chalked out which aims at integrating all aspects of agriculture and animal husbandry. At the core of all activities would be the concept of village committees, mohalla groups and **self-help groups**. These groups will serve as medium for implementation of projects and would also be part of withdrawal strategies of the projects.

**Rural education and capacity building** is another area of focus. Vocational training, adult education and enhancing current education would be the main areas of interest. In addition, other service activities like health, infrastructure development and rural energy will be geared up for the overall development of the area.

Tata Chemicals not only has a separate Community Development department that is engaged in community initiatives, but also has a very robust employee volunteer programme in which the employees participate in development activities. Tata Chemicals feels that development needs to be undertaken jointly by all stakeholders, the government, various NGOs, the community itself and the management and employees of corporate bodies. This participatory development is the only way in which all can work towards ensuring a better future for the new generation.

# 6. Summary of expenditure

	Expenditure / contribution in Rupees million							
Projects	2001-2002				2002-2003			
	TCSRD/TCL	Funding agencies	Benef- iciaries	Total	TCSRD/TCL	Funding agencies	Benef- iciaries	Total
Agriculture, Watershed and Land Reclamation	0.93	0.55	0.52	2.00	2.83	1.02	0.64	4.49
Animal Husbandry Development	0.15	0.05	0.06	0.26	0.19	0.00	0.06	0.25
Rural Infrastructure and Rural Energy	1.63	1.16	0.97	3.76	0.87	0.56	0.26	1.69
Education and Health	0.15	0.26	0.00	0.41	1.55	1.71	0.07	3.33
Vocational Training, Cottage Industry	0.27	0.02	0.17	0.46	0.51	0.26	0.01	0.78
Relief Work	0.05			0.05				
Misc. Exps.					0.61	0.09	0.03	0.73
Total	3.18	2.04	1.72	6.94	6.56	3.64	1.07	11.27

## 7. Acknowledgements

## Partners in development

District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) - Jamnagar District

Council of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART)

Kheti Vikas Agency - Jamnagar

District Horticulture Department - Jamnagar District

Tribhuvandas Foundation - Anand

District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) - Badaun District

Population Foundation of India - New Delhi

District Animal Husbandry Department - Badaun District

U P State Power Corporation

UNICEF - India

G. B. Pant Agri. Univ. of Tech. - Pantnagar

S. V. B. P. Agri. Univ. of Tech. - Meerut

St. John's Ambulance Association

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#### The team

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#### **Volunteers**

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Anil Jadav
Anil R Thaker
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Ashok Thakur
B D Tank

B D Tank
B G Modhvadiya
B J Bhayani
B K Acarya
B L Samani
B S Patel
Bhagavan
Bhanu Babu
Bharat Bhusan
Bharat Kawa
Bhaskar Gopal
Bhavesh Mehta

Bhavin Pdval
Bhavin Shah
Bhupat Bhurabha
Bupat Bhurabha
C B Patel
C G Gajjar
C J Joshi
C M Diwedi
Chatan Popat
D A Sharma

D D Kumta

D K Kakad

D Krishanan D L Kanani

D N Padwal D N Verma D O Bhayani Dabhi Bhikubhai Darshna Radia Dayabhai Alabhai Dayaram Bhambhlia Delip Kotecha

Delip Kotecha
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Ghela Karshan
H A Chudasama

H L Dhada H N Viramgama H P Pota H S Vyas Hanif Karajia Harish Gosai Hiralal Parmar Hiren Patel Hitesh Patel I L Momin J C Gohil

J K Ramoliya

H D Jam

J M Dhokai J P Nandani J S Doshi J S Suminia J Singadia Jahagir Khan Jayantibhai Laljibhai Zala

K J Faldu K M Chauhan K M Pillai K P Thakur K V Rawal Kanaji Kavan Purohit Ketan Pandya

Khimji Kachra Ghedia Khitish Fanse Kishor Vithllani L D Jethwa L D Singadia M A Bharmal M G Goshwami M H Gokani M I Dave

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Mahendra Bhatt

Mahesh Khalpada Mahesh Madaviya Mala Pabachand Mangu Chavda Manish M Vyas Manish Shah Manish Thakkar Mayur Bhudh

Mayur Bhudh Mohan Bachu Nakum Murgesh Babu N B Solanki N B Zankhariya N C Datta N D Ladva N G Makawana N K Joshi N P Patel N R Kapadia N S Subrmanium N T Bhayani

Narendra Takodra

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Vakharia

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Virjideva Sagathiya

Vivek Singh Y A Momin Yogesh Voralia

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Ashok Kr. Choudhry Ashok Kumar Prajesh Ashok Kr. Gupta Ashutosh Sharma

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C S Parshad
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D Mahaptra
D D Chaturvedi
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