



TURNING THE TIDE

MOULDING THE LIVES OF FISHERMEN ON THE COASTAL BELT OF KUTCH, GUJARAT





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COASTAL GUJARAT POWER LIMITED (A Tata Power Company)
Tunda Vandh Road, Tunda Village, Mundra, Kutch 370 435
www.tatapower.com/cgpl-mundra/home.aspx

Content & Design: The 4th Wheel, Ahmedabad (www.the4thwheel.com)

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INTRODUCTION

The journey of Coastal Gujarat Power Limited (CGPL) of establishing strong community relations with surrounding areas has seen many successes in the last 7 years. The special emphasis the company lays on involving and interacting with varied stakeholders has translated into achieving business and societal development.

One of the key stakeholders of the company's operations is fishermen residing on the coastal belt of Kutch, around CGPL's area of operation.

CGPL is compassionate about this community and began efforts to support and enhance lives of community members from the two talukas in Kutch– Mundra and Mandvi in 2010. They support three villages in these areas and have initiated household surveys and needs assessment exercises using various participatory rural appraisal (PRA) tools in collaboration with distinguished organizations, to understand village community and the issues they face every day.

This publication aims to recognize fishermen stakeholders and the importance they hold in our country. It seeks to showcase development activities and systematic interventions as initiated by CGPL after identifying needs through community consultations. After understanding the potential of fishermen and fishing activity in this region, an integrated and holistic development approach has been adopted in these villages, with a vision of 'lighting up their lives' for generations to come. These initiatives have been taken along with constant community involvement, dialogue, inclusion and incorporation of local indigenous knowledge.

Partnerships have been formed with specialized agencies of local and national repute to undertake development work in these fishermen inhabited villages. A logical framework was conceptualized in relation to identified needs. Stress was laid on designing and forming strong local fishermen institutions for the planning and implementation of various activities in a sustainable manner.

The company observes a difference in the lives of this community with their CSR initiatives and still plans to scale up their efforts with dedication and sincerity. The efforts highlighted in this publication will justify this claim.

The success of each initiative mentioned here is owed primarily to the fishermen community and their willing participation and partnership with CGPL.



OVERVIEW OF THE FISHING INDUSTRY



RELEVANCE OF THE GLOBAL FISHING INDUSTRY

🔄 Food and nutrition

Fish (including shellfish) provides essential nutrition for 3 billion people and at least 50% of animal protein and minerals to 400 million people in the poorest countries.

🔄 Employment and livelihood

Over 500 million people in developing countries depend, directly or indirectly, on fisheries and aquaculture for their livelihoods.

🔄 Exports and contribution to national incomes

Aquaculture is the world's fastest growing food production system, growing at 7% annually. Fish products are among the most widely traded foods, with more than 37% by volume of world production traded internationally.

Aquaculture also known as 'aqua farming' is the farming of aquatic organisms such as fish, and aquatic plants. Farming implies individual or corporate ownership of the fish stock being cultivated, rearing or raising under controlled conditions of aquatic products such as fish, oysters, seaweeds and other aquatic resources in sea, lakes, rivers and swamps and other bodies of water like fishponds, fish pens, and seaweed cultures.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FISHING INDUSTRY IN INDIA

As an occupation, fishing employs more than 14.5 million people in India directly, besides others indirectly dependent on the sector, with women constituting about 75% of the workforce. There are 1,237 seafood exporters operating from 378 seafood-processing plants situated all along the 7,300 km coastline of the country. For communities in fishing villages, fisheries provide not only a source of food and work but also a community and cultural identity.

India is the third largest producer of fish in the world and the second largest producer of aquaculture. With a contribution of 2.9 million tones from marine and 4.2 million tones from the Inland sector, fisheries continue to make a significant contribution to nutritional security of the country. During 1990 to 2007, fish production in India has grown at a higher rate than food grains, milk, eggs, and other food items.

Fish production in India has increased more than tenfold since its independence in 1947. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, fish output in India doubled between 1990 and 2010. Countries importing Indian fish and fish products include Japan, United States of America, European Union (Spain, Belgium, United Kingdom, Italy, France, Germany, Portugal, Netherlands, China, Hong Kong, United Arab Emirates, Canada, Singapore and Thailand). The marine fish harvested in India consist of about 65 commercially important species and groups.

Seafood exports are an important component of food exports, as they constitute more than 70 per cent of the food exports. Indian seafood exports have grown exponentially over the past 5 years. India exported quality seafood worth US \$ 3.50 Billion in 2011-12 and is expected to achieve US \$ 5 Billion in 2014-15.

The contribution of the fisheries sector, at an annual growth rate of 4.5%, is estimated at 1.07% to the GDP.

The sector is a major foreign exchange earner, with revenue reaching Rs.16,000 crore (SEAI – Seafood Exporters Association of India Report, 2012). Fish production has contributed to nearly 3 per cent of India's total export value in 2011-12 (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries report 2011-12).



FISHING COMMUNITIES IN INDIA

According to the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) Census 2010, India has 8,118 kilometers of marine coastline, 3,827 fishing villages and 1,914 traditional fish landing centers in 9 maritime states and 2 union territories. The total marine fisher folk population is about 4 million comprising of more than 8,64,550 families.

Marine fishing is done in oceans and inland fishing is done in lakes or rivers.

| Coastal States and Union Territories | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Gujarat | Tamil Nadu |
| Maharashtra | Andhra Pradesh |
| Goa | Odisha |
| Karnataka | West Bengal |
| Kerala | Daman & Diu (UT) |
| Puducherry (UT) | |

Fishing communities in India are not homogenous, as they belong to different castes. These communities have their distinct social, cultural governance structures and traditional practices, depending on the coast, where they live. At least 2-3 castes are exclusively involved in marine fishing in each maritime State, and are not related to the mainstream agrarian system. Besides the traditional caste-based organizations of fishing communities, they are also organized into various sectors such as the mechanized sector -boat owner associations, trade unions, cooperatives (both State-run and private), associations based on gear type, self help groups, federations etc.

The fishing season in India is mainly for a period of eight

months, from mid-September to mid-May. Alternately fishermen are employed in farm labour, labour on large ships, home based work and repairing of boats and fishing nets, marketing, processing of fish and related products.

Nearly 61% of fishermen families in India fall in the Below Poverty Line (BPL) category. The average family size is observed to be 4.63 and the overall sex ratio among this community is 928 females per 1000 males. Only 58% of the fishermen communities are educated with different levels of education. The overall percentage of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes among the marine fishermen households was 17%.

Why are so many fishermen below the poverty line in India?

- Lack of basic infrastructure
- Few options for alternate occupations
- Weak market linkages and knowledge – inadequate information about market requirements
- Constant health issues
- Poor access to education and health facilities
- Poor access to government subsidies and schemes
- Implementation failure of schemes and related institutions
- Low skill set
- Poor productivity of fish stocks and overcapacity in inshore (not fishing in deep waters – fishing near the coastline) marine fisheries
- Poor storage facilities of fish catch
- Dept traps with local money lenders and middlemen
- High cost of boats, nets, consumer items
- Most of the fishermen are full time involved into fishing – which ranges only to 8 months.

(Source: Agriculture and Rural Development Sector Unit of South Asia Region report – World Bank)



Of the more than 3,000 coastal fishing villages in India, 85 percent are electrified, 80 percent are connected by road, 65 percent have a hospital, and only 42 percent have a bank. Only 6 percent of the fishers have education above secondary level. Fishing communities are characterized by high levels of illiteracy, poor access to piped water and inefficient sanitation services. A survey undertaken to understand the socioeconomic status, migration, income mobility, and expenditure pattern of women employed in fish processing factories and to assess their contribution to the economy of the industry states that women dominate the industry with a male to female ratio of 3:10.

Fishers, fish farmers and coastal inhabitants bear the full force of climate change impacts through less stable livelihoods, changes in the availability and quality of fish

for food, and rising risks to their health, safety and homes. Many fisheries-dependent communities already live a precarious and vulnerable existence because of poverty and their lack of social services and essential infrastructure. The well-being of these communities is further undermined by overexploited fishery resources and degraded ecosystems. The implications of climate change for food security and livelihoods in small island states and many developing countries are profound. There is urgent need to address the myriad of issues facing small-scale fisheries and their communities, if their livelihoods, as well as their important contribution to food security, employment, poverty alleviation and cultural values, is to be secured. Weak organizational base like the lack of well functioning co-operatives, associations and unions also affect the sustainability of the fishing industry in India.

WOMEN IN THE INDIAN FISHING COMMUNITY

Women play an important role in fisheries. They are engaged in a wide range of activities in the fishery industry and in fishing communities all around the world:

- As workers (paid and unpaid) within the fisheries, in pre- and post-harvest activities, including liaison work with institutions and agencies. In many countries, it is mostly women who are engaged in inland fishing and aquaculture.
- As workers in seafood processing plants.
- As caregivers of the family and in maintaining social networks and the culture of the community.
- As workers in non-fisheries sectors to supplement the household income, and the often erratic returns from the fisher.
- As members of fish worker movements and fishers' organizations.
- Nearly 57% of the fisher folk engaged in fish seed collection were females and 43% were males.

(Source: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Report)

DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES FOR FISHING COMMUNITIES IN INDIA

| | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Acts & Policies for the regulation of fisheries sector | ● Gujarat Fisheries Act - 2003 | ● Village Pond Fisheries Policy - 2003 | ● Reservoir Leasing Policy - 2004 | ● Marine Fisheries Policy - 2004 (GoI) | ● Coastal Aquaculture Authority Act - 2005 (GoI) | ● Brackish Water Land Lease Policy - 2007 |
|--|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|

National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) has been promoting and developing fisheries cooperatives after its Act was amended in 1974 to cover fisheries within its purview. The Corporation has formulated specific schemes and pattern of assistance for enabling the fishery cooperatives to take up activities relating to production, processing, storage, marketing, etc. Assistance is provided to fisheries cooperatives on liberal terms treating the activity as weaker section programme. Assistance to fishery cooperatives is provided for the following purposes:

- Purchase of operational inputs such as fishing boats, nets, and engines
- Creation of infrastructure facilities for marketing, transport vehicles, ice plants, cold storages, retail outlets, processing units, etc.
- Development of inland fisheries, seed farms, hatcheries, etc.
- Preparation of feasibility reports
- Integrated Fisheries Projects (Marine, Inland and Brackish Water)

An Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of over 2 million sq km. has been prescribed by the centre, wherein the state has special rights over exploration and use of marine resources including energy production from water and wind of a specific zone. A state's EEZ extends to a distance of 370kms out from its coastal baseline. The idea of allotting nations EEZs is to give better control over maritime territories.

Government organizations working towards improving fisheries in the country include

- South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies
- Kerala Independent Fishworkers Federation (Kerala Swathanthra Malsya Thozhilali Federation)
- Orissa Marine Conservation Consortium
- Association of deep-sea going artisanal fishermen (ADSGAF)
- Gujarat Fisheries Central Co-operative Association Limited
- MPEDA – Marine Products Exports Development Authority
- CMFRI - Coastal Marine Fisheries Research Institute
- Indian Council of Agricultural research
- Central Institute of Fisheries Technology
- Central Institute of Fisheries Education
- Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical and Engineering Training
- Fisheries Institute of Technology and Training (FITT)
- Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai

Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) established in 1947 is a marine fisheries research institute located at Kochi, India. It undertakes research related to fishing techniques/ scientific methods used, handles the National Marine Fisheries database, to monitor fisheries resources of EEZs, research on environmental factors affecting fisheries and provides consultancy to other fisheries department. It is the biggest fisheries research organization in the world.

Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), established in 1972, acts as a coordinating agency with different Central and State Government establishments engaged in fishery production and allied activities. They aim to develop the export of Marine Products and related Industries, develop and improve quality of the products to create value addition in export and improve the existing potential by creating new varieties of the product.



FISHING AS AN OCCUPATION IN GUJARAT

Gujarat State on the western coast of India has the longest coastline (1650 km or 21% of India's coast) and largest area under coastal wetlands among all the maritime states of India. It has two gulfs – Gulf of Kachchh and Gulf of Khambat, out of the three gulfs in country. Its continental shelf occupies 1,65,000 sq km being 35.3% of the Indian continental shelf and the Exclusive Economic Zone is about 200,000 sq. km (9.9% of Indian EEZ).

Gujarat has emerged as the biggest producer of marine fish in India in the 1990s and contributed to about 22.5 per cent of the national marine fish production in the 1990s. Between 1961-62 and 1998-99, when the annual marine fish production of India grew by 3.5 per cent, that of Gujarat, according to the estimates of the state fisheries department, grew by 6.37 per cent. There were about 17,000 mechanized fishing vessels on the register in 1998-99, of which over 14,000 were IBM-powered vessels. This seems to be the highest in the country.

As per the data provided by the Commissioner of Fisheries, Government of Gujarat (GOG), the total fishermen population of the Gujarat was 3.61 lakhs, which was 6.04 percent of the country's total fishermen population in 2000-2006. Of the total fishermen population of the state, about 2.41 lakhs are depended on the marine resources while the rest live along the rivers, lakes and backwaters. The major fishing communities of the state are kharvas, kolis in south of Jamnagar, and machieras in northern seaboard of the State.

Although there are about 300 marine species of fish and shellfish in Gujarat (Sehara 1998), the catch mainly comprises twenty-six species. The main fishing centre is Junagadh-Porbandar, which accounts for just 16 per cent of Gujarat's seaboard but 60 per cent of its marine fish production. Kutch, with 25 per cent of the seaboard, which is the longest in the State, contributes to only 12 per cent to the marine fish production.



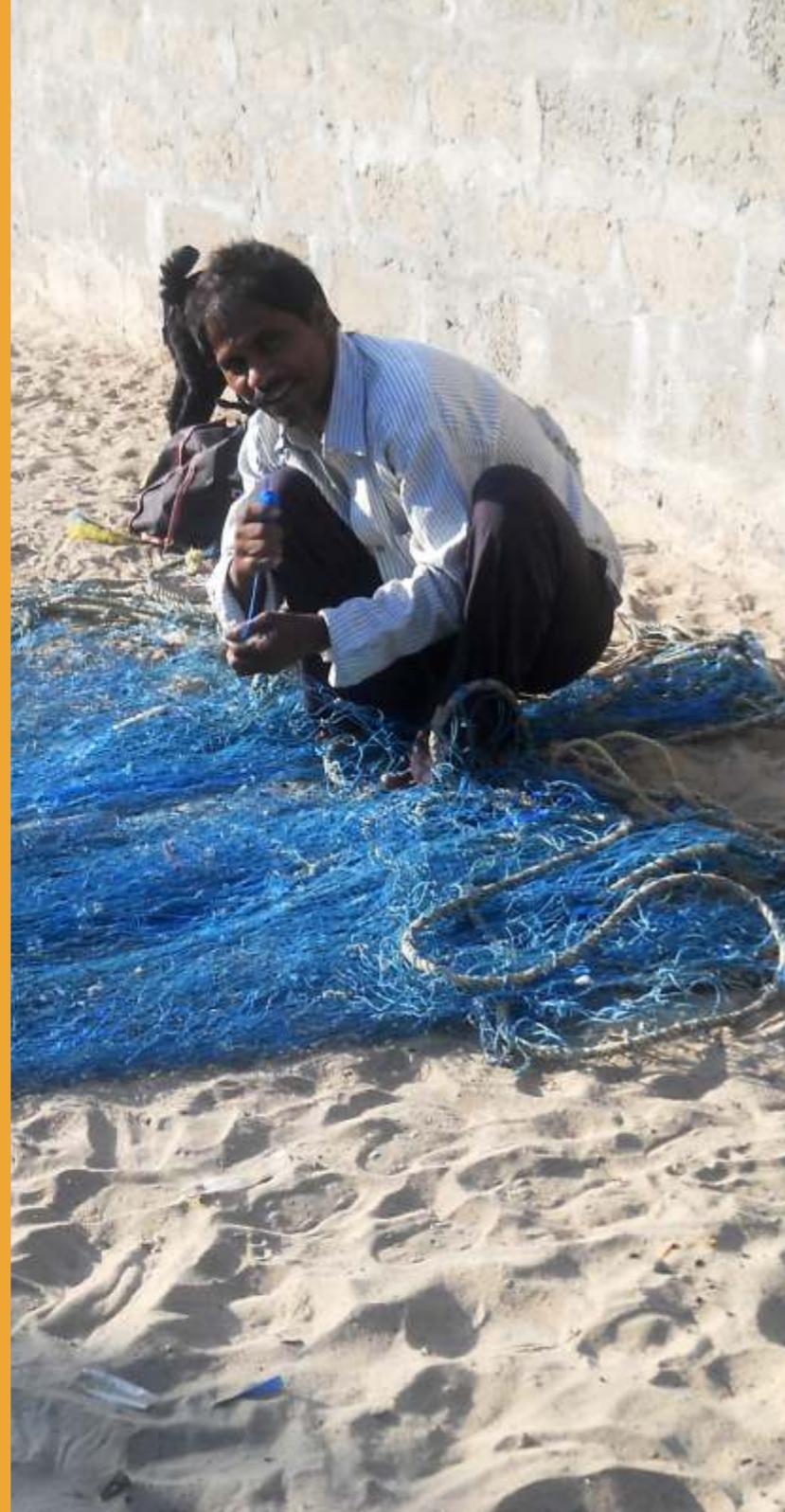
FISHING IN KUTCH

Kutch lies in the northwestern part of Gujarat. It is the second largest district in the country and accounts for the longest coastline of Gujarat, (405 kms or 25.4 % of the state). The district has the largest area under coastal wetlands in the state. The major part of coral reefs and mangroves of the state (894 sq. km) are found in the Gulf of Kutch making it significant at a national level for conservation of marine biodiversity. It is also identified as Marine Protected Area (MPA) for conservation and management by the forest department. Gulf of Kutch provides suitable ecological and environmental conditions and sustains a variety of exploitable species fishes with an annual average catch of 1.4 lakh tons.

Despite the longest coastline and advancement in fishing industry, the fishing sector in the district has not developed well. The reasons are many, including cultural barriers that inhibit local markets. Large scale migration of fishing communities from other districts and states such as Kerala, Maharashtra, etc. take place during the fishing season (August to April). Over Rs. 100 crores worth of fishing activity takes place during the season. Although, the district accounts for about 1/4th of the state's coastline, only about a 10th of the total fish landing comes from the district.

The major fish landing centres in the district as per official records are Jhakau in Abdasa taluka, Modhva, Salaya and Tragadi in Mandvi taluka, Bhadreshwar and Luni in Mundra taluka.

A fish landing centre is the place where fish catch and other aquatic products are unloaded and traded



COASTAL GUJARAT POWER LIMITED (CGPL)

Coastal Gujarat Power Limited (CGPL) is a Tata Power Company operating in Kutch district of Gujarat. CGPL is India's first 4000MW private power project, been in existence since 2007, and is one of the largest green field power projects in India. Super critical technology has been adopted for enhanced efficiency in power generation with the main power generation equipments sourced from Japan and Korea. This project has recorded lower levels of fuel consumption and Green House Gas (GHG) emissions. The Mundra project meets 2% of India's power needs. Consumers in five of India's power starving States benefit from this project.

The company is located in Mundra and Mandvi talukas of the Kutch district. Ambitious growth plans of CGPL are coupled with a commitment to responsible growth. The company has set out to redefine the contours of the Indian Power Sector and is committed to "lighting up lives" for generations to come.

All social development initiatives for surrounding communities of CGPL are undertaken by the Community Relations (CR) department. The purpose of Community Relations (CR) is to align initiatives with the overall Tata Group position on CR, ensure sustainability by creating and conserving sources of livelihood, accomplish a license to operate by taking voluntary steps to reduce or avoid externalities and diligently meet regulatory requirements for projects and operations. CGPL's CR initiatives are strategically aligned to business growth.

High priority is given to senior level management involvement, tangible societal impact, program effectiveness and constant stakeholder feedback.

The CR strategy has been followed to meet compliance, fulfill commitments and follow the performance standards set by funders and project lenders, while proactively addressing the risks and impact of business and responding to the needs of stakeholders through a systematic stakeholder engagement and dialogue. CGPL believes in integrating its business and social values by engaging with stakeholders especially the communities in the vicinity of its business presence. The company is committed to ensure the social well being of the neighboring community.

CR interventions at CGPL follow a structured process of initiating dialogue with opinion leaders of the villages, conducting needs assessment studies and stakeholder

consultations to understand local realities and requirements, building and strengthening institutions in the village, forming partnerships with local Government bodies, NGOs, CBOs, etc. and finally undertaking programs which are of great necessity in these villages, related to health, education, livelihoods, women empowerment and infrastructure.



One of the identified primary stakeholders of CGPL is fishermen residing in coastal villages of the two talukas – Mundra and Mandvi. The outfall channel of CGPL constructed in 2010 is in close proximity to the coastal villages of Tragadi, Modhva and Tragadi bunder, which are primarily inhabited by fishermen. Efforts to support and enhance lives of community members from these villages began in 2010, owing to their close proximity to the outfall channel and the poor social conditions of these villages.

Since 2008, CGPL executives have been involved in understanding the livelihood activities of these villages and have extensively studied the economics of fishing. The team also carried out detailed discussions with the fishermen to understand the economics of the fishing activity and estimated the annual investment required by the fishermen to sustain profitable livelihoods. A seasonality calendar of the fishing activity and mapping of the skills of fishers has also been completed.

For any development work or business decision which affects the community, the company ensures that adequate information is shared with the community, as well suggestions and inputs are encouraged from the village. Before implementing the construction of the outfall channel, the CGPL management held a 40-50 people community meeting in Modhva. The meeting discussed the proposed construction of outfall channel, dumping of dredging spoils and the design of the outfall channel to discuss their views and make arrangements for any inconvenience the fishermen might face. The interaction chalked out the modalities for purchases of fiber boats for the fishermen to cross the outfall channel and hiring of boats till the construction was completed. Senior leadership of the company made regular visits to these villages to hold community feedback interactions. In January 2011, CGPL organized a village meeting at Tragadi where senior leaders visited the village and discussed alternate arrangements of access to the Tragadi coastline till the outfall channel is constructed. CGPL has partnered with Aakar consultancy that assists with implementation of interventions at Tragadi Bunder. CGPL has hosted numerous interactions and consultations with the Sarpanch and other Panchayat Raj Institutions members of these villages to understand community needs and develop trusting relations.



To initiate the relationship with Modhva, CGPL facilitated the formation of a Village Development Advisory Committee (VDAC), where the communities have ownership and opportunity to participate in the planning and implementation of developmental projects and activities. The role of the VDAC is to guide the village to articulate their needs before the company.

Partnerships are very significant in our approach to CR. Since the beginning we have consulted and worked in collaboration with various local NGO's for the fishing community, to understand fishing as an occupation. CR department officials also visited the Fisheries department to understand more information related to socio economic conditions, fish landing centers, obtaining different types of license for fishing and other statutory registrations related to fishermen. To initiate dialogue with local fishermen institutions, CGPL has held meetings and consultations with leaders of Machimar Association in Mandvi, MASS in Bhadreshwar and Tragadi Matsya Udhog Sahkari Mandali. These associations date back to 2009. In 2013 discussions and partnerships have been initiated with the Kutch Fish Producer Company and Fish Marc. CGPL has approached the organization GUIDE for assistance in implementing mangrove plantations, biodiversity and marine conservation. Dialogue with Kutch Nav Nirman Abhiyan to develop technical partnerships for CSR programs in all three villages has been initiated since the establishment of CGPL. There are always discussions with the village leaders on improving social development indicators and infrastructure facilities like better access roads and drinking water facilities.

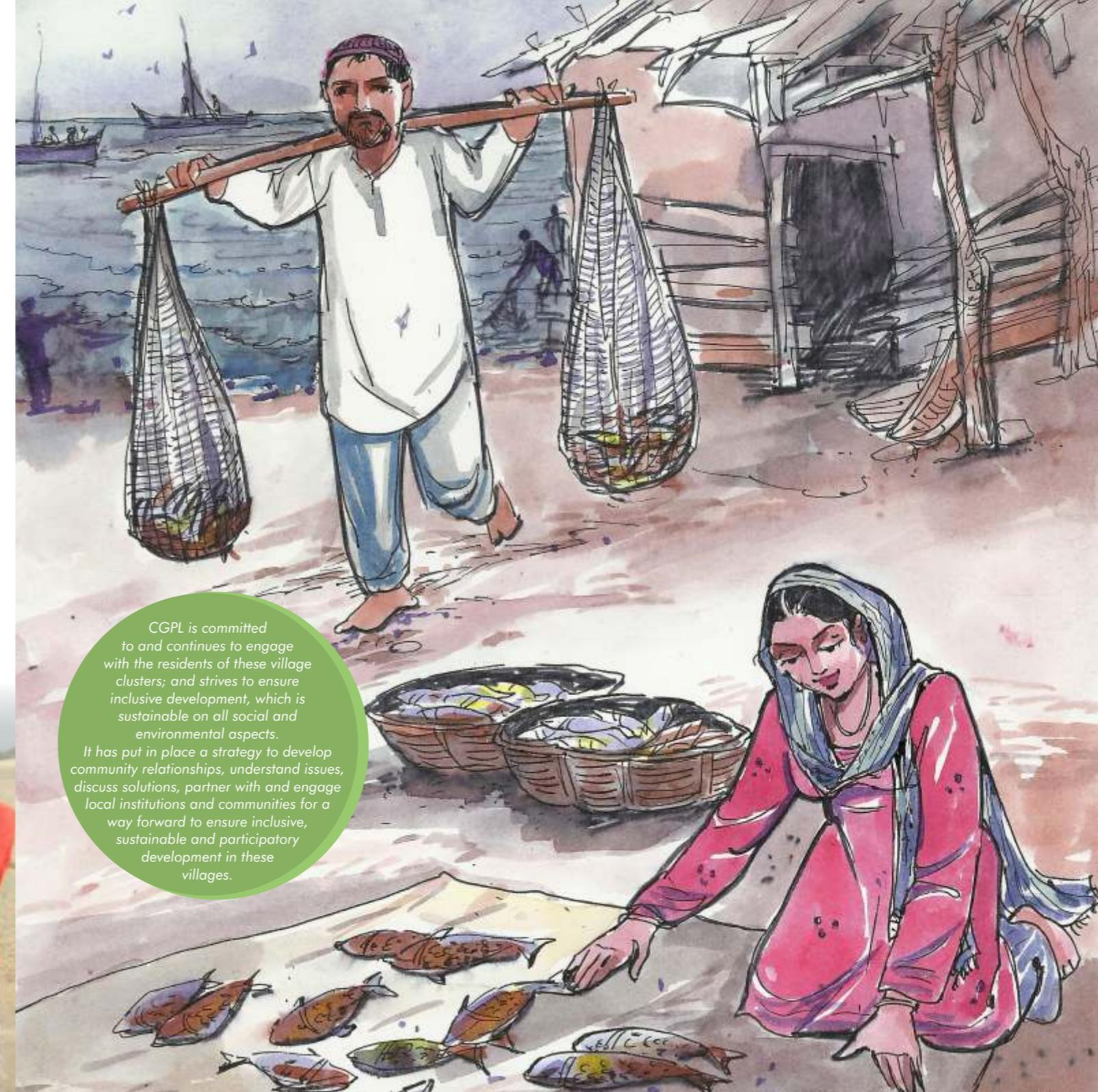
Due attention has been paid to complaints and grievances expressed by MASS (a local fishermen institution) with regard to livelihood concerns of fishermen. Regular meetings have involved institutions like VRTI and other fishermen focused organizations in the vicinity. CGPL leadership has been involved in detailed discussions with MASS members to find solutions to livelihood issues and provide necessary support like livelihood grants and assistance with infrastructure development.

Invitations have been extended to various local leaders and organizations to visit the CGPL site, understand the business operations and discuss grievances with CGPL's top management.

In order to understand social and economic conditions, needs assessment surveys and baseline studies have been undertaken before initiating any development work in these villages

| Year | Studies and Surveys | Village | Organization |
|------|--|----------------|-------------------|
| 2010 | Baseline | Tragadi | VRTI |
| 2011 | Baseline | Modhva | TRIOS |
| 2012 | Livelihood | Modhva | AKRSP (I) |
| 2013 | Livelihood and households | Tragadi | KARMA |
| 2014 | Fish selling cycle and village profiling | Tragadi Bunder | Aakar Consultancy |

CGPL's experience shows that consultative engagement process with representatives of the community is essential to discover deeper social, economic and environmental challenges and opportunities. A structured process of engagement adopted by the company's leadership is an important strategy to assimilate diverse viewpoints that emerge from within the community. Such engagement is the key to develop an agreed vision and value among stakeholders. Engagement with key Stakeholders of CGPL under the architecture of "SAMVAD" is ongoing. The formal process of dialogue with Government, NGOs, CBOs, partner organizations, community members and local leaders has been focused on since the inception of the CR department at CGPL.



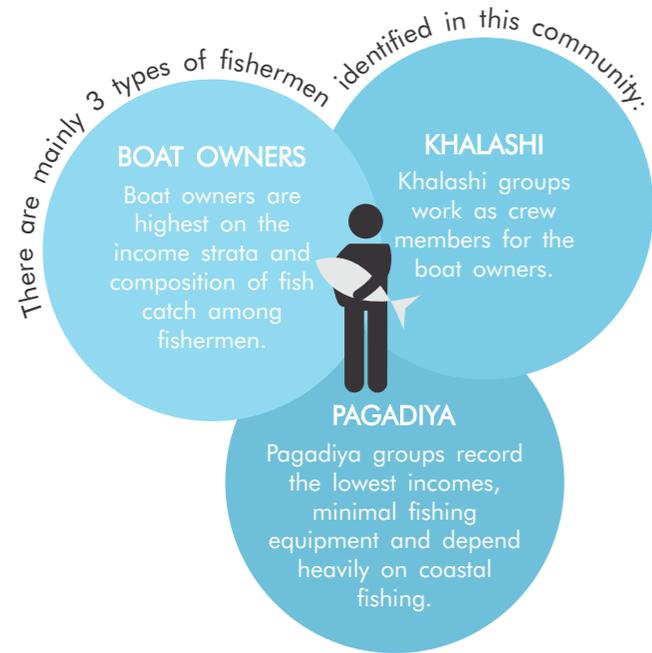
CGPL is committed to and continues to engage with the residents of these village clusters; and strives to ensure inclusive development, which is sustainable on all social and environmental aspects. It has put in place a strategy to develop community relationships, understand issues, discuss solutions, partner with and engage local institutions and communities for a way forward to ensure inclusive, sustainable and participatory development in these villages.

FISHERMEN VILLAGE PROFILES AROUND CGPL OPERATIONS

Modhva and Tragadi villages have traditional fishing communities whereas Tragadi bunder comprises of migrant fishermen who migrate to the *Bunder* for 8 months during the fishing season.

Fishing is the key income generating activity of these villages. In Tragadi however, there are households engaged in agriculture and animal husbandry. Most men from these villages are involved in fishing and the women are involved in selling of the fish.

The profiles of these 3 villages which have a total population of around 5000 people were prepared with the help of our partners AKRSP-I who conducted studies in Modhva, KARMA in Tragadi and Aakar in Tragadi Bunder. These findings are substantiated with the CGPL team's observations and interactions with communities in all three villages over the last few years.



3 main fishermen villages that are supported by CGPL are



| Village | Types of fishermen |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Modhva | Khalashi, boat owners and Pagadiya |
| Tragadi Bunder | Boat owners and Khalashi |
| Tragadi | Khalashi and boatowners |

| FISH CATCH DETAILS | Period | 1st season (August to October) | 2nd season (November to February) | 3rd season (March and April) | 4th season (May to July) |
|--------------------|--------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Catch | Pomfret and Lobster | Surmai, Dahi and Rounce | Pomfret, Surmai, Dahi and Rounce | Slack season for fishermen |

MODHVA

Modhva falls under the Gundiyali Village Panchayat. Modhva is 15 kms away from Mandvi town and 7 kms from Gundiyali village. The village has forest, fodder and custom department owned lands. There are 313 households in the village and there are 65 boats in the village. Of these boats, only 3 are owned entirely by the fishermen and in the case of the remaining boats, the loans are still being repaid. Only ten boats have cold storage facilities and they engage in deep sea fishing. 600-700 people are involved in fisheries, in which 317 have the fishermen cards. Around 350 women are involved in selling fish. Most women sell Danga fish.

625 people - 335 males and 290 women have their voter cards.

The community in the village are known as Vadher fishermen. The village is about 600 years old, has 4 local communities like Masjid Committee, Dargah committee, Hussaini committee, G.E.C. committee, along with the VDAC committee and Self Help Groups (SHGs). There is no Anganwadi since anganwadi worker should have at least passed the 10th grade and none of the females in the village have completed their education till that level.

ACCORDING TO THE PARTICIPATORY RURAL APPRAISAL CONDUCTED FOR MODHVA BY AKRSP(I)

- Male members feel the most important development issues are
 - Fish growth and trade
 - Drinking water arrangements
 - Employment for women
 - Income assurance for 'Pagadiya' fishermen
 - Facility for keeping boats when offshore
- Female members identify the most important development issues as
 - Drinking water arrangements
 - Lavatory arrangement in each house
 - Better housing facilities
 - Community hall
 - Employment for women and men



AKRSP-I obtained the following parameters from the community at Modhva to understand financial status

| LOW INCOME FAMILY | MIDDLE INCOME FAMILY | HIGH INCOME FAMILY |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No access to basic shelter, amenities like light and water, clothing, food and toilets • Unemployed and unable to get regular labor work • Cannot afford to celebrate festivals or fund simple marriages • Are under constant debt | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited income • Lives in a kutcha house • Owns a cycle or a second hand bike • Owns some jewelry • Has access to few amenities in the house | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lives in a pucca house Have enough income to invests in boats and fishing equipment • Relatively regular and good incomes • Owns a two wheeler or a car • More than one earning member in the family • Access to banking • Educated and skilled |

More than 40% fishermen are middle class. Another 40% comprises of poor and 20% are rich.

After discussing with more than 100 fishermen in Modhva, it was found that their annual net income, after deducting the costs, was somewhere in the range of Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 70,000. More than 80 percent of the fishermen are under debt.

STUDIES UNDERTAKEN BY TRIOS SHOWS THE FOLLOWING ISSUES WHICH FISHERMEN FACE, IN GENERAL

High investments in fishing: Investment on fishing nets itself ranges from Rs. 800 to Rs. 25000. Those who fish in motor boats need more quantities of net and the cost comes to approximately Rs.3,60,000 annually, which is a huge burden on the fishermen.

Low returns on fishing: Even though investments on fishing are high, the returns are low and never as per the expectations of the fishermen.

Arrangements for selling of fish: Prices of fish in local markets are low. Access to markets which offer better prices are either unknown to fishermen or inaccessible due to high transportation costs and poor cold storage facilities.

Lack of employment opportunities during off seasons: Despite the low returns from fishing and uncertainty of employment opportunities in these villages, none of the fishermen from Tragadi and Modhva migrate to other villages for any other work. Some of the youth go to the Jakhau coast for fishing.

Environment and industrialization impact on fishing: The impact of climate change and irregular rainfall pattern has also affected their fishing activity. There is a perception that the increasing industrialization along the coast is having an impact on the catch. This has been negated by various fishermen groups but efforts should be made to ensure no negative impacts arise from industrialization in the area.

Other development issues include :

- Poor infrastructure and approach roads
- Lack of healthcare and drinking water facilities
- Improvements required in the quality of education
- Few social institutional arrangements
- Low awareness and community participation

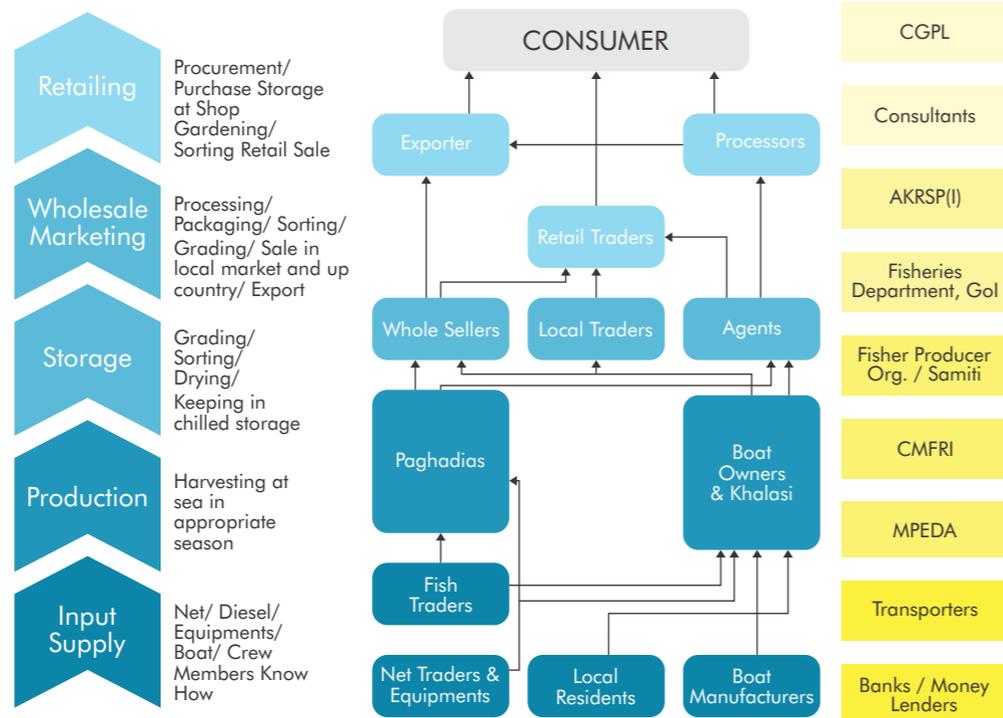


LOW PROFITABILITY FROM LIVELIHOODS AND LIMITED OPTIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

Value Chain Analysis

The study showed that 91% of the quantity is low value fishes like Bombay duck, cat fish, tuna, etc. whereas 9% is high value fishes like lobsters, crabs and pomphret. The fishing season is for seven to eight months, from August to February-March, which means 4-5 months are lean months where fishermen go only for pagadia fishing, Pagadia fishing offers very low remuneration which is often not enough for survival.

80% sale is bonded sale due to lack of credit lock. These fishermen have to sell to specific traders at low value compared to open market value. These fishermen are mostly boat owners and Khalasi. Pagadias who are not bonded to sell to credit linked traders, sell in the open market and the same sale is 20% of the total sale.



TRAGADI

Tragadi has mix population of Hindu and Muslim (Vagher community) which is primarily engaged in animal husbandry, farming or fishing as occupations. The annual income of a family in the village is Rs. 60,000 to Rs. 1, 00, 000. On an average 6 members belong to one family. Most of the family members are involved in fishing. Children at the age of 14-15 years usually quit their school and assist their parents in this occupation. Fisher-women alternatively work as farm labor or engage in animal husbandry during off-seasons.

The village is reported to have 162 households. All the households use community sources of drinking water like wells, tube wells, community taps, etc. and only one household has their own source of drinking water at home. The major expenses of the community are on food, livelihood investments and transportation. People were noted to spend very little on education and health.

The village has an Anganwadi and 2 unregistered village committees. The village has a community hall and fairly well connected transport facilities. There is a non-functional rural health centre; however, Government doctors pay visits to the village, twice a week. There is a primary school in the village.

The study conducted by KARMA Interactive in Tragadi noted the following issues in the village:

- Health issues reported include HIV, arthritis, eye problems and heart disease.
- Saline water issues – which results in serious health problems
- Huge expenses needed to invest in fishing equipment like nets, cold storage facilities, etc.
- Residents have not been able to access state and central Government schemes.



TRAGADI BUNDER

Tragadi Bunder comprises of migrant fishermen. The community with a population of over 700 people belonging to around 100 families is originally from Anjar village in Kutch. The community has been migrating since the last 26 years during the fishing season of 8 months and returns back to Anjar during off-seasons. There is no official panchayat or local institution in this community. However, few senior members take decisions, when need be. Local amenities are scarce and of very poor quality. Children travel to Bhadreshwar, 4kms away to attend school, water facilities are lacking and there exists no health facility in the area.

A survey was conducted by Aakar covering 58 households and 258 fishermen. All of them belong to the Vagher community and fall under OBC. They are a migrant community from Sanghad, Vandhi, Bhadreshwar and Luni. The total population of this area is 520 fishermen comprising of 75 households.

The community migrates for 8 months and goes back to the native place in the non-fishing months. Most of the fishermen surveyed informed that they migrate due to lack

of livelihood opportunities in their native places. All of them stay in huts and none have concrete houses. Out of 58 households interviewed, 3 families do not have access to ration cards. Others use their ration card and buy subsidized grains from Bhadreshwar which is 5kms away.

26 households have goats. No one has cows, chickens or other forms of livestock. Over 42 families have donkeys that they use for transport of fishes, goods etc. All of the family interviewed, have personal boats. 26 families have working nets. Others have old nets that do not work properly. 46 families have small fishing nets that are used for catching 5-6kg of fishes. None of the families have access to icebox for fish storage purposes. Only 5 out of 58 households have weighing scales.

37 fishermen have licenses for Pagadiya fishing (fishing on foot). Everyone has boat and fishermen license. The lowest annual income is Rs. 65,000 and highest annual income is Rs. 1, 50,000.

117 are illiterate. Highest educational qualification is 10th standard and lowest is 1st standard.

In line with the philosophy of being a 'Neighbor of choice', CGPL began engaging with the fishermen in these villages. The overall investment made for fishermen development initiatives in these three villages since 2010 amounts to more than Rs. 8,00,00,000. The return on these investments is already highly positive in terms of societal development. These efforts have shaped the path to progress and improvement in the lives of fishermen residing in Modhva, Tragadi and Tragadi bunder villages.

Efforts undertaken are under the thematic areas of



Environment and industrialization impact on fishing: The impact of climate change and irregular rainfall pattern has also affected their fishing activity. There is a perception that the increasing industrialization along the coast is having an impact on the catch. This has been negated by various fishermen groups but efforts should be made to ensure no negative impacts arise from industrialization in the area.

Other development issues include :

- ⦿ Poor infrastructure and approach roads
- ⦿ Lack of healthcare and drinking water facilities
- ⦿ Improvements required in the quality of education
- ⦿ Few social institutional arrangements
- ⦿ Low awareness and community participation
- ⦿ Low profitability from livelihoods and limited options of employment

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⦿ Efforts undertaken are under the thematic areas of -

- ⦿ Augmenting the rural primary education system
- ⦿ Building and strengthening health care facilities
- ⦿ Enhancing livelihood and employability
- ⦿ Creating social capital and infrastructure
- ⦿ Nurturing sustainability for inclusive growth

SUPPORT ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES FOR FISHERMEN

INVESTING IN IMPROVING THE LIVES OF PEOPLE IN MODHVA

An integrated program in collaboration with Aga Khan Rural Support Program India (AKRSP (I)) was conceptualized for Modhva called Sagarbandhu, which means 'friends of the sea'. The pilot program was initiated with the first step being interactions and capacity building of the community. They were briefed about our partner AKSRP and their work. The livelihood pattern of the village, information on seasonality, fish collection, selling arrangement and work division between men and women within the family was obtained. The existing institutions like Panchayat and other social – religious bodies were identified and its roles-responsibilities were discussed.

The livelihood promotion efforts have been designed by CGPL based on the equation -
Increased Income= Increased production X Increased price from market.
Two other variables, like cost of operation and risk associated with such interventions have also been taken into consideration.

CGPL focuses on helping the community learn new methods of doing better than what they are doing at present. Fishermen are encouraged to learn new ways of dealing with the market (input as well as output). Adequate attention is paid on developing institutional structures to make the process sustainable. This is supplemented with infrastructure support for fishermen.

In 2012, CGPL partnered with Aga Khan Rural Support Program India (AKRSP (I)) to achieve the following objectives:

- Build and strengthen existing Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and SHGs/ Producer groups for undertaking different livelihood activities as well as holistic development of the village.
- Instils strong ownership sentiments towards the development activities taken up amongst the villagers
- Develop processes and procedures of building self-reliant CBOs.
- Develop systems for self-regulation, management and its implementation at CBO levels.
- Facilitate long term planning for development activities in village.

There were severe constraints while developing plans and programs in the community. These included

- Lack of community awareness on collective approaches.
- Different perspectives of community members on needs of the village and development issues
- Exposure levels of fishermen towards modern fishing practices
- Reluctance of fishermen to move from traditional fishing practices
- Heavy debt cycles and bondage of middlemen/local fish suppliers
- Poor communication systems with nearby markets and fishing communities
- Nonexistent and underdeveloped market linkages

However, through consultation with the community and regular meetings with CGPL, government officials, experts, programs were developed. Exposure visits and awareness programs also added strength to the initiatives.

To initiate a relationship with Modhva, CGPL facilitated the formation of a Village Development Advisory Committee (VDAC), where the community has ownership and opportunities to participate in the planning and implementation of developmental projects/activities. All the members of the VDAC are from the village with 3 members from CGPL who facilitate the company - community interactions. Regular meetings are organized to establish a strong rapport with the community including women members. VDAC has helped to gain people's trust and understand local issues better, along with creating developmental programs which are participatory in nature.

After rapport building and interactions it was understood that there was a need to engage in capacity building of the VDAC. This was done using Capacity Building Tool (CAT) as a base. The results suggested the necessity for building VDAC's vision for developing their village and enhancing livelihood options. Hence a capacity building plan was developed for them. Leadership training for the VDAC members had been organized in December at the Sayla training center established by AKRSP. Knowledge on the importance of community institutions, necessity and importance of leadership, roles and responsibilities of a good leader, guidance and direction for understanding work of the project was elaborated on during this session.

Thereafter, the rooftop rain water harvesting model and rain center was established at the Sayla training center provided information on techniques of water harvesting and usage during scarcity and its advantages. Exposure visits were organized to L&T, Ahmedabad and to other construction sites. Along with these, exposure visits to NGOs were also arranged. The members were also taken to fisheries co-operative named Matsyagandha Sarvangi Vikas Sanstha (MSVS) promoted by UTTHAN on the coastal region of Bhavnagar. They gained information on lobster rearing through pit and cage culture. The committee also visited CMFRI, which is a technical research institute to gain information on Government schemes for the fishing community. Also in collaboration with Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan (KMVS), interaction and understanding of Panchayats was organized. Discussions were held on Gram Sabha and its roles, among other topics.



SOME EXPOSURE VISITS INCLUDED

| Exposure Visit Details | Purpose |
|---|--|
| Punjab National Bank | To understand the working of banks and open an SHG bank account |
| AKRSP-I | Lobster fattening |
| Fisheries Department | Sea Weed training to women |
| Fisheries Cooperative – UTTAN | To understand their work and functionalities of fisheries cooperative |
| CMFRI, Veraval | To understand sea farming, shrimp farming etc |
| Salinity Prevention Cooperation - KRSP | To understand how it operates and introduction to water well in village |
| VRTI | Women exposure visit to understand the SHG working of VRTI women, their contribution to the village development etc. |
| GFCC | To get details on fishing equipment, market linkages, prices etc. and government subsidies on the same |
| King Fish Net manufacturing unit, Porbandar | To get details on fishing equipments, market linkages, prices etc. and government subsidies on the same |
| Anandi Foundation | To interact with other fishing community women, understand their work and new initiatives in their village. |
| CSTI | Alternate livelihood, industrial visit |
| NETFish | Shrimp farming and cage culture |
| Agricultural University and dry fish department, Valsad | Shrimp farming and cage culture |

TACKLING THE ISSUE OF SAFE DRINKING WATER AND WATER SCARCITY

CGPL launched another initiative 'SwachJal' after realizing the need of the villagers for safe and clean drinking water in the area. A well was constructed to benefit more than 275 families in the village. The main objective of the project was to provide drinking water to the residents of the area, who used to travel a long distance due to the unavailability of safe drinking water in the nearby area. The Company invited Geo Hydrologist from Water and Sanitation Management Organization (WASMO) for identification of available water points. In addition, indigenous knowledge of the inhabitants was used before finalizing the wells. The entire process of inviting quotations and finalizing the service agency for construction has been done by Village Development Advisory Committee (VDAC). The work progress was monitored by the VDAC members and the committee has come forward with a partnership approach for maintenance and management of the wells. This arrangement has mitigated the water scarcity of the village. Earlier women used to travel around 1km to 1.5 kms to get potable drinking water. This has now been made a thing of the past with this intervention.

As another alternative to water scarcity, CGPL has constructed 10 Roof Rain Water Harvesting System (RRWHS). 10% of the fund was collected from the beneficiary of the RRWHS unit, with the average cost of one unit of RRWHS being Rs. 30,000 to 35,000/-. The execution was divided into five stages of Beneficiary Selection Phase, RRWHS Design Selection for Modhva, Procurement Phase, Construction Phase and Unit Hand-Over to Beneficiary. To decide the design of the RRWHS, details on annual rainfall and dimensions of house roofs were calculated. There are mainly two shapes for RRWHS (Round & Square). It was decided that round shape is ideal for Modhva conditions and a 10 ft diameter X 6 ft height, storage tank capacity of 11,000 liter was constructed along with a plastic hand pump using PVC material for water harvesting accessories. The construction of RRWHS is seen to help the community considerably.

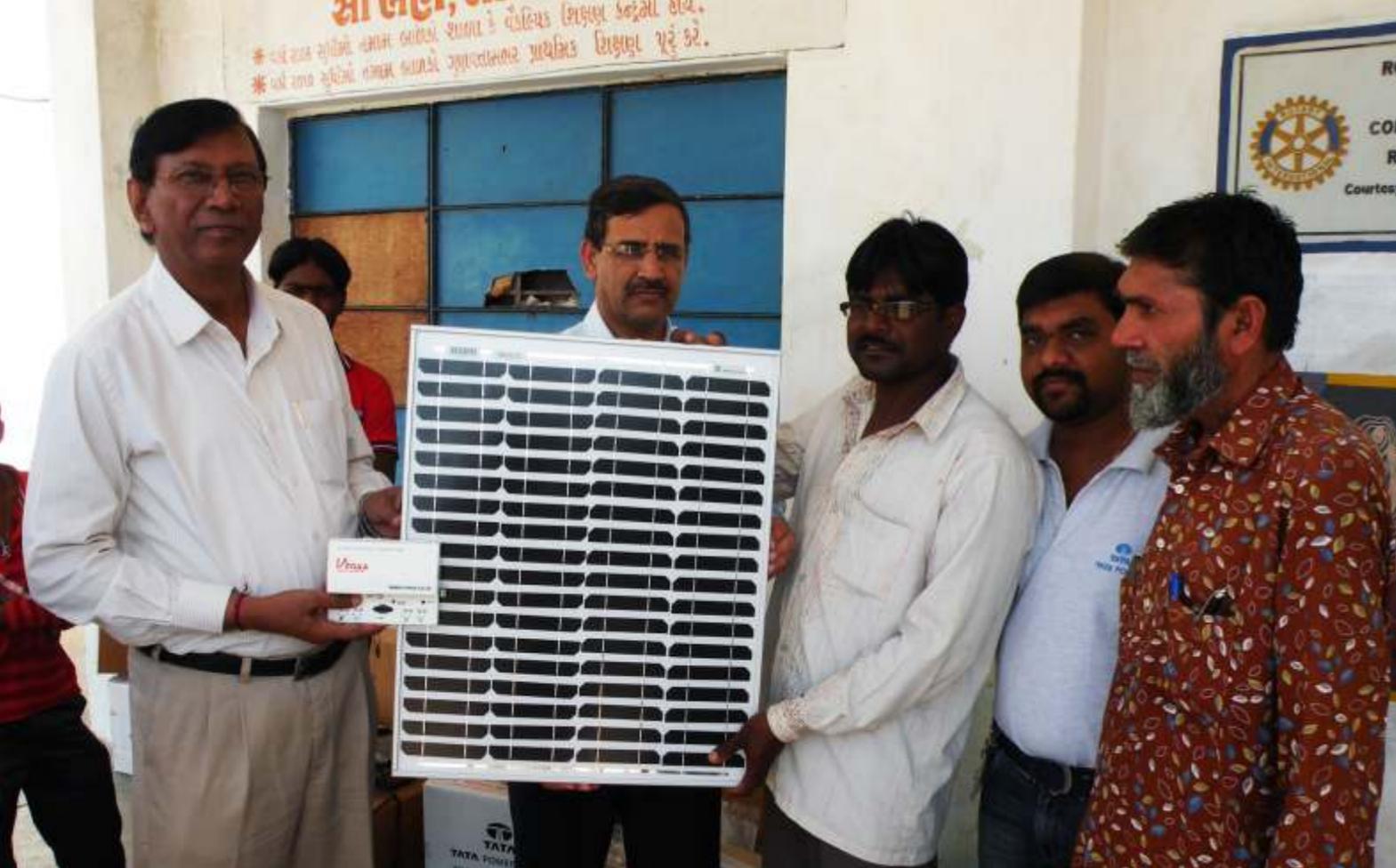
Some observations are:

- The impact of recharge through RRWHS structures is local however implementation on a massive scale will raise the water level remarkably and increase the sustainability of water supply for Provision of hygienic drinking water
- Less pressure to women for providing house hold water
- Optimum utilization of resource (Rain and House roof)
- Energy and time saving water infrastructural facility

BUILDING & STRENGTHENING HEALTH CARE FACILITIES - CONDUCTING REGULAR HEALTH CAMPS

| Date | Camp | No. of beneficiaries |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| February 2011 | Eye camp in collaboration with KCRC | 38 |
| July 2012 | Dermatology camp | 144 |
| September 2012 | School health camp | 133 |
| January 2013 | Gynecology | 125 |
| July 2013 | NetraRaxaAbhiyan health camp | 20 |
| May 2013 | General health camp | 142 |
| | Total | 602 |

School kits are being distributed in Modhva as part of the 'Pravesh Utsav' of the Government since 2010.



SUPPORTING FISHING AS A LIVELIHOOD OPTION

CGPL and AKRSP held several meetings with officials at Kutch district level to get support and understand different types of Government schemes for the fisherman community. The company collaborated with Gujarat Ecological Commission (GEC), which plays a critical role under Forest Department to conserve and manage Coastal Marine resources such as fish, coral-reef and mangroves. They have a huge program on integrated Coastal Zone Management. GEC is also working in Modhva village through the ICZMP project and as part of larger strategy AKRSP and CGPL shared the micro-planning process done in the village.

“Project AkshayUrja Deep” covers 196 boats of Modhva fishermen which is a benchmarking project of installing solar Boat Lights for the livelihood enhancement of fishermen. This arrangement has boosted fish catch quantum as now they can go into the sea thrice for fish catch.

Highlights of Project Akshay Urja Deep

- Total hours of productivity increased by 100%
- Daily fishing hours are doubled i.e from 7 to 14 hours per day
- Increase of income of almost 300% i.e. from 1750/- to 5000/-
 - Increase in income for VDAC by Rs. 750 per system
- Decrease in debt per villagers due to fishing net and solar light provisions
- Savings in buying kerosene of Rs 1000 to 2000 per month per villagers
 - Mitigating risks and health problems
- Increase in livelihood among women and other community members
- Environmental benefits due to replacement of kerosene lamps and electricity generation without pollution
- Creating awareness for the green energy concept and its usage



Along with CGPL, the community also dwelled on the value chain analysis of the traditional fishing business. Fisher folks need to change their nets twice in a season which turns out to be an expensive affair. The fishermen are compelled to take loans with exorbitantly high rates of interest. It was therefore understood that if fishermen could get improvised and better nets then their income would increase manifold. “Livelihood Support” was extended to 467 fishermen of Modhva fishing hamlet to enhance their fish catch by distribution of better fishing nets.



CREATING SOCIAL CAPITAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Construction of roads has greatly improved mobility and infrastructure of the village.

Solar lights have been installed in important places like the crematorium, the beach and on the route back to the village which have been extremely beneficial to fishermen. CGPL and the VDAC members discussed and conducted feasibility analysis for installation of solar lights in the village.

The places were identified with systematic needs rankings and decided by the community themselves. CGPL extended hand holding support in this process.

Investments for construction of a crematorium ground and installation of the pipeline connectivity for Modhva village have also been made.

HIGHLIGHTS OF SAGARBANDHU PHASE I

- Increased ownership amongst the villagers of Modhva for village level development work
 - Assessment of capacity of the CBO, for self-management
- Village Development and Advisory Council to act as an independent agency
 - Formulation of detailed plan envisioning long term development objectives for the village and value chain analysis
 - Initiation of Livelihood activities through VDAC
- Improved & strengthened sense of community solidarity by carrying out various activities with active support of local people, institutions, Government and groups
 - Established linkages with state Governments, local authorities and other recognized institutions for livelihood support of fishermen
- Investments for construction of crematorium ground and installation of the pipeline connectivity for Modhva village have also been made

INTRODUCING A COMMUNITY REVOLVING FUND

Fishermen are heavily dependent on the traditional way of fishing. Boat owners and Khalashi groups take loans from local fish suppliers at the beginning of the season and are compelled to sell their fish catch of the entire season for lower prices to these local fish suppliers. The Khalashi and Pagadiya groups are the most vulnerable to exploitation from money lenders and local fish suppliers with no control over the selling price. With these facts identified by the CGPL team, a need to create access to credit facilities among these groups arose. Since the VDAC is a co-operative, it was decided that CGPL would provide a revolving fund of Rs.6 lac for fishermen to avail of credit facilities to purchase fishing equipment and be freed from the bondage attached with local money lenders and fish suppliers. 22 Khalashi fishermen were selected as beneficiaries for the first roll out of loans. Each fisherman has been given a maximum amount of Rs.30, 000 to take as a loan. A 1% monthly interest is charged to each beneficiary according to the loan amount. In August 2013, studies proved that on an average of 15 days of fishing activity, beneficiaries earned approximately Rs. 448 more than bondage fisherman. Loans have helped in providing investment cash for fishermen, reducing dependence and exploitation. The fishermen has to sell two types of fishes – Pomfret and Lobster to the VDACs based on the current market price and then the VDACs sells them on a higher price in markets. As on December, 2013, of Rs. 6 lac, the loan amount of Rs. 1.22 lac has been repaid by 22 khalashi to VDAC. VDAC has made a profit of Rs. 25000 during the first three months of fish selling and purchasing activity.

INVESTING IN A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR FISHERMEN AT TRAGADI VILLAGE

CGPL through its Project Implementing Agency- VRTI (Mandvi), initiated a holistic development program titled "UTKARSH". Activities under this program included

- Well repairing
- Farm Bunding
- Construction of check dams
- Lokdayro (culture appreciation program)
- Horticulture Demo plots
- Identification of beneficiaries for Janshree
- Pond deepening
- Insurance scheme
- Formation of SHGs
- Demonstration of Drip Irrigation
- Tie & Dye training for women
- Capacity building and training

HEALTH CAMPS IN TRAGADI

| Date | Camp | No. of beneficiaries |
|----------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| February 2011 | Eye camp KCRC | 144 |
| July 2012 | Blood grouping VRTI | 101 |
| September 2011 | Eye camp VRTI | 206 |
| January 2012 | Gynecology VRTI | 150 |
| August 2012 | School health camp CGPL | 102 |
| March 2013 | General health camp | 155 |
| July 2013 | NetraRaxaAbhiyan | 51 |
| | Total | 909 |

In view of supporting Anganwadis under Project "Utkarsh" at village Tragadi, the programme focused on establishing 'Adarsh Anganwadis' and improving the existing facility. Child development has always been a prime agenda for CGPL and in view of the same the team has provided nutritional kits to the children of Tragadi village. This activity was started with the purpose of improving the malnourishment status in the state and region.



BRINGING SAFE DRINKING WATER TO COMMUNITIES

Looking at the major problem of drinking water shortage in the rural areas of Kutch and Mundra, the R.O. plant is installed in the village Tragadi under Drinking water project "SwachhJal". RO plant is installed in getting filtered water as the available water in the village has high TDS levels. The RO plant is capable of filtering 1000ltrs of water per hour. The plant is maintained and operated by the Panchayat water committee.

Harmony within the community has led to better distribution of drinking water. With an aim to improve the harmony among the community, the company has constructed a platform for storage tank with distribution pipelines. Initially the company started this initiative by providing a syntax tank of 5000 liters, later on it was observed that the tank was destroyed and damaged by

the community members. After several community dialogues the company was able to convince people for proper use of the resources. Regular engagement and awareness has become a normal phenomenon to make people understand wastage of water and proper use of the same. Presently the location of water tank is within 500 mtrs of the farthest hut of the community.

Mundra region suffers from deforestation, loss of soil fertility, water scarcity and salinity. Extensive work has been done relating to watershed management with community participation. Recharge of the water has helped in raising the water table in the area. Investments in well recharges have large payoffs in yield improvements and poverty alleviation through income generation and environmental sustainability.

CATERING TO INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

During a stakeholder meet held with fishermen community members, leaders from MASS i.e. convener, general sec, president, members, and Village heads from Tragadi it was requested by the stakeholders to the company to provide an access road to Tragadi Bunder. The company accepted the request of the fishermen leaders and provided a permanent access to the migrant fishermen as well as local fishing community from Tragadi village.

LIVELIHOOD ENHANCING INVESTMENTS

Horticulture demo plots have been set up for 10 farmers at Tragadi. Drip demonstration model was done at Tragadi village which turned out to be a successful model for our stakeholders. CGPL tried to increase the profitability from farming, in order to improve lives and build sustainable projects.

Milk collection center established by CGPL buys milk and sells large quantities of milk to Bidada village for higher prices. With this establishment and linkage of 'Sarhad' dairy established with CGPL, the price of the milk has increased and better fat rate is offered to the cattle owners. This establishment works in a cooperative mode and is managed by the 11 member team. The milk collection center at Tragadi enables employment of 52 beneficiaries.

108 women members of SHGs have been trained in leadership skills and accounting along with exposure visits for embroidery to Kasab and Bhujodi retail centers.

40 women of Tragadi village have been given skill development trainings in tie and dye. In the Bal Sakhi Kendra (Adolscent group training) 28 girls have been given training on sewing, basic reading and writing.

The fishermen of village Tragadi engage in fishing along the coast of Tragadi (near the outfall channel). The survey of fishermen in Tragadi village was carried out and it was found that 162 individuals have been doing fishing along the creek for the past several years. Based on the concern of the community, representation by Sarpanch and other representatives was made to the company.



After a series of negotiations with the affected community and consultation carried out by VRTI and various associations affiliated to fishing community, it was finalized that a Livelihood support grant of Rs. 1,00,000 will be disbursed to 90 fishermen on a one time basis and a concrete road of approximately 5 km will be provided to the village which will connect the Tragadi village road to the newly built outfall channel bridge to mitigate the travelling distance.

The scrutiny criteria for arriving to the 90 beneficiaries (out of the 162 surveyed) were made full proof by the support of local self-government and the community and disclosed to the community before commencement of disbursement. As most of the beneficiaries were not having any bank account, a team visit from The Mandavi Mercantile Co-Operative Bank Ltd. was arranged, in co-ordination with the community, at the disbursement site to facilitate immediate opening of account for the beneficiaries. All together 76 saving accounts were opened. The respective beneficiaries were briefed in advance for bringing all necessary documents for smooth opening without any

A NEW BEGINNING FOR FISHERMEN IN TRAGADI BUNDER

- CGPL is providing uninterrupted drinking water to the communities of Tragadi Bunder during the fishing season [avg. 10,000 liters/day]. To ensure livelihood among these communities the water supply contract is being provided to the local fishermen from Tragadi village. Since RO plants cannot be installed in the village, 2 water tanks have been constructed in Tragadi Bunder and community members are supplied with R.O. water twice in a week.
- In the absence of basic resources and facilities at Bunder the company ensures basic healthcare facilities for the migratory fisher folk. During the season the company has conducted Gynecology camps, malaria camps, children health camps, hemoglobin check up camps, skin disease camps and general health camps, etc. along with the distribution of medicines to ensure good health and hygiene. The recent camp under Project Arogya was held at a temporary settlement of fishermen covering 140 beneficiaries comprising of 83 children & 57 adults.

hassle and delay. The CEO of the Mandvi Mercantile Co Operative Bank Ltd, Mr. Bharat J. Shukla appreciated the efforts put in by the company which signifies the greater cohesion between company and the individual beneficiary for their better future. He quoted – “Bringing beneficiary and the bank on a common platform which can also motivate the individual to initiate small and petty business for their livelihood enhancement. The pay order was account payee only ensuring that the amount is going to the correct and appropriate person strengthened the process. It may also bring more people to understand the process and procedures of bank, as it felt earlier that a opening of bank a/c is always cumbersome and lengthy.” The beneficiaries consisted of a total of 26 persons below the poverty line (BPL). All 90 beneficiaries belong to OBC.

FISHMARC has been given Rs. 50,00,000 to disperse among 136 fishermen of Modhva and Tragadi, under a micro finance program to extend credit and improve their income status.

- Health camp at Tragadi Bunder has benefited 531 people. To provide better access to sanitation and maintaining the health and hygiene of the fishing community the company assessed the need for providing basic sanitation facilities, as open defecation culture was prevailing among the community. In order to stop the open defecation the company provided three mobile toilet units and placed it at the temporary settlement of fisher men. Consultative approach of the company has helped in executing this activity in the month of October 2012 with a partnership approach. Presently the maintenance of the units is being done by the fishermen themselves.
- The access to reach the bunder was strengthened by providing a cross over bridge through which the fishermen can directly reach the bunder. As the company believes in a collaborative approach the company has invited the MASS and other fishermen for verification of the constructed asset, which was satisfactorily accepted by the

fishing community. It was observed during the interaction at Bunder that the complete value chain of the fisher folks depends upon the traders; (who normally provide them funding support and buys the fish from fishermen). They were not able to reach up to the sand dunes to collect fish, hence the company made further extension of the access and connected the road to the sand dunes where now the traders can reach easily and conduct transactions. The connectivity up to the sand dunes has helped the fisher folks of the bunder in spending less money and labour for transportation to catch fish.

In January 2014, CGPL partnered with Aakar consultancy to carry out fishermen interventions in Tragadi Bunder. Meetings were arranged with the community members to create a rapport and mutually decide the interventions required in the community. A household survey and survey of fishermen has been conducted by Aakar to understand the seasonal changes in fish catch, details of types of fishing, total income etc.

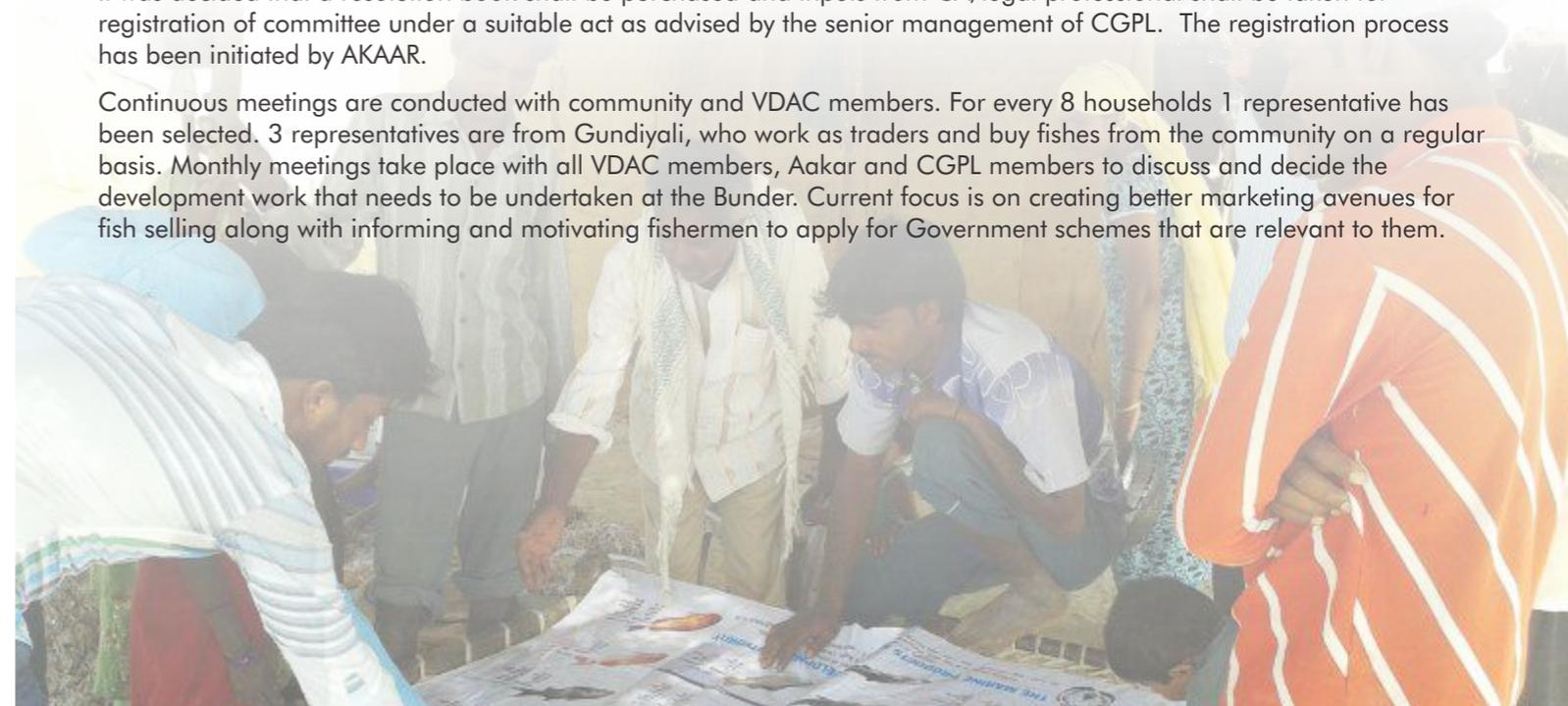
VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE AT TRAGADI BUNDER

A meeting has been held with fishermen for identifying members and forming the VDAC at Tragadi Bunder. Approximately 50 fishermen from different groups participated in the discussion and a 15 members committee was identified. Another meeting finalized the name of the VDAC as “EKTA Machimari Vikas Samiti” and nominations for the President and Vice President were accepted.

Being a diverse migrant group, with a lot of differences among the fishermen community and committee members, each group hesitated in finalizing the president and vice president for the committee. The discussion centered around two names which were opposed by MASS members stating that the leaders should be from fishermen community. Being a catalyst in the whole process CGPL agreed to the suggestion and advised the group to rethink on the same. The meeting concluded without finalizing the name and it was decided that for the next 6 months the committee will work with all 15 members and the decision for president and vice president will be taken up later.

It was decided that a resolution book shall be purchased and inputs from CA/legal professional shall be taken for registration of committee under a suitable act as advised by the senior management of CGPL. The registration process has been initiated by AKAAR.

Continuous meetings are conducted with community and VDAC members. For every 8 households 1 representative has been selected. 3 representatives are from Gundiyali, who work as traders and buy fishes from the community on a regular basis. Monthly meetings take place with all VDAC members, Aakar and CGPL members to discuss and decide the development work that needs to be undertaken at the Bunder. Current focus is on creating better marketing avenues for fish selling along with informing and motivating fishermen to apply for Government schemes that are relevant to them.



In partnership and consultation with the community following activities are done:

☞ Creating fishermen information centre(FIC)

An information center is set up which serves as a community interaction and information exchange medium. Monthly meetings are conducted through FIC with the community to inform them regarding current fishermen schemes, details of traders, upcoming events etc.

☞ Education initiatives

Children from Tragadi Bunder have to go to school at Bhadreshwar which is 3-4 kms away. Hence, Aakar has started taking up tuition classes in the vicinity and teaches basics to students from 1st to 8th standard. The aim is to improve learning levels. These classes are run for 2 hours every day and 70 children currently attend these classes.

Mid-day meal has been started in the informal school in co-ordination with local Panchayat, Government and BRC. Currently, home-made food is provided to the children. However, a proper kitchen will be constructed, beginning next academic year.

Educational kit is provided to 70 children from the learning session which comprises of slate, pen, rubber, colors and books etc.

As a way to increase recreation and entertainment for children, monthly movie screenings are organized at the FIC.

☞ Evacuation of fishermen community

Arrangement of food, shelter and transport was provided to the migrant fishermen community at Tragadi Bunder and Kutdi Bunder due to heavy floods in the area. More than 450 fishermen were evacuated and accommodated at the Tunda Primary school with the help of Tunda panchayat. Buses were provided to drop them at Mundra so that they could reach their homes.

☞ Women empowerment activities

Dialogue is ongoing with women from Tragadi Bunder to start saving through SHGs. Partner NGO Aakar facilitates exposure visits to other SHGs and organizations to strengthen the women SHG member base at the Bunder. Monthly meetings are conducted with women to provide them with information on SHGs, its role and how it can help the community. Some women have shown keen interest in creating SHGs. Steps towards involving more women and creating groups will be undertaken in the upcoming months.

☞ Water facilities

Water facilities are provided by CGPL on a daily basis to the community which is a great relief to them. Everyday 15,000 litres of water is provided to the community.

☞ Cultural programs

With the help of community youth members, cultural programs are organized in Tragadi Bunder. Famous qawwal group Soukat-E-Mustafa performed the traditional qawallis to motivate and sensitize the diverse fisher community for better community bonding. The platform was also used to give information about the opening of the Fisheries Information Centre at Tragadi Bunder, arrangement made at the Bunder, information regarding better fish catch, daily newspaper, access\ knowledge of government schemes and CGPL's commitment for the betterment of the community.





ONGOING EFFORTS

INSTALLATION OF TWO FISH BREEDING CAGES IN THE OUTFALL CHANNEL

CGPL has decided to increase their CR efforts to help these communities and support their livelihood by taking up a project related to fisheries in participation with the local community under the technical guidance of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI). The team from CMFRI had visited the site, checked the parameters required for fish culture, later endorsed that the water is fit for Fish culture. The team CMFRI had also invited the Team-CGPL for an exposure visit at the site, where the organization has taken up the pilot project at Verawal. To carry out the entire activity, CMFRI guided CGPL team for construction of the cages and it was decided that presently two cages would be installed in the Outfall channel. An operational guideline along with Dos and Don'ts was also prepared to make this pilot as successful as possible. It was also thought to start the pilot with the fish variety named as Cobia (*Rachycentron Canadum*) and the quantity of the fishes was also suggested. This project will improve productivity from fishing by introducing new methods of fishing for the fishermen of these villages.

CGPL EMPLOYS LOCAL CONTRACTORS FOR DEVELOPMENT WORK IN THE FISHERMEN VILLAGES

The recent contract awarded to a local was for the installation of the supply of drinking water in Tragadi bunder. The structured social process is followed where requirements are informed to the VDAC, briefing and information sharing is done with the community, resolution is passed through the VDAC, projects are initiated in collaboration with community members and then tenders and quotations by local contractors are screened for implementation. For any request made by the VDAC or community members, an official request letter is to be submitted to CGPL for record keeping purposes.

SAGARBANDHU PHASE 2

With growing success and community's ownership of Sagarbandhu phase 1, Sagarbandhu phase 2 was started in May 2013 in order to reach out and benefit as many fishermen as possible. CGPL renewed the partnership with AKRSP(I) and other partner NGOs in the locality to take this project forward. The project has now extended to Tragadi village.

The highlights of Phase 2 include:

- Increasing ownership among the villagers of Modhva and Tragadi for development work, by building and strengthening local institutions.
- Formation and supporting SHGs, VDAC/Producer Company for livelihood activities in both villages through various capacity building measures.
- Developing infrastructure for creating better living conditions and enhancing livelihood profitability.
- Marketing shed for sale of fish to reduce drudgery of women and aid in building their skill level capabilities.
- Convergence with ongoing Government schemes.
- Providing technical inputs for better fishing practices resulting into higher prices from the high quality fish catch.
- Developing fishing infrastructure for fishing as an occupation and diversification of livelihood options through fish ponds, along with some pilots of shrimp farming pond and cage fishing.
- Initiation of livelihood activities through the VDAC.
- Creation of Livelihood Enhancement Fund in the VDAC/Producer Company with the equity from the community.
- Formation of producer institute of the fishers and establishing linkages with Government institutions and markets.

PARTNERSHIP WITH FISHERIES MANAGEMENT RESOURCE CENTRE (FISHMarc)

FISHMarc based in Kerala, is an NGO comprising of recognized sectoral experts with decades of experience in cooperative institution building among marine fishing communities. It has been supporting local organizations like Kutch Nav Nirman Abhiyan, Setu at Bhadreshwar and Ujjas Mahila Sangathan.

CGPL's Project with FISHMarc seeks to protect and enhance the livelihoods of the traditional marine fishing communities of Kutch through strengthening and scaling up operations of the cooperative institution of fish workers. Hence FISHMarc engages with Kutch Fish Producing Company Limited based at Bhadreshwar by offering handholding support to strengthen the local fishermen institution.

Some of the work under the partnership includes

- Providing basic infrastructure facilities including space for handling and storage of fish, computerized fish trade and management system, improved sanitation facilities and process for fish quality improvement.
- Setting up a credit fund for regular lending to the fishing units along the lines of the current credit program.
- Social mobilization, Capacity building, and training for fishing communities for enhancing their abilities in running the cooperative organization on the one hand and engaging effectively and consistently with the market on the other.
- Initiatives towards better resource management from the perspective of long term sustainability of the fisheries.
- Attempts in improvements in fisheries management including improvement in fishing methods and practices with the active involvement of the fishing communities.
- Specific efforts to bring in more and more fishing families into the cooperative institution through sustained advocacy initiatives.
- Reliable information support made available for developing intervention strategies for fishing areas along the Kutch coast.

The outcomes perceived from the project are as follows

Development of an organisation that markets their produce establishes fisher folk's control over the fish catch. This enhances their capacity for a better bargain in the market place.



Increasing incomes are sure to reflect in the quality of lives of the fishing communities as already seen in the existing model.

The capacity building component addresses the lack of genuine leadership within the communities at present. The capacity building component is expected to change this scenario by systematically developing a leadership for the cooperative organisation. Special efforts would be made to bring up women to leadership positions.



The project is to be implemented by Fisheries Management Resource Centre (FISHMarc), in partnership with Setu at Bhadreshwar and Ujjas Mahila Sangathan, a federation of women's collectives.

The efforts towards improved resource management could lead to a re-orientation of the fishing communities towards better fisheries management, and along with other initiatives has the potential to contribute towards sustainability of the resource base.

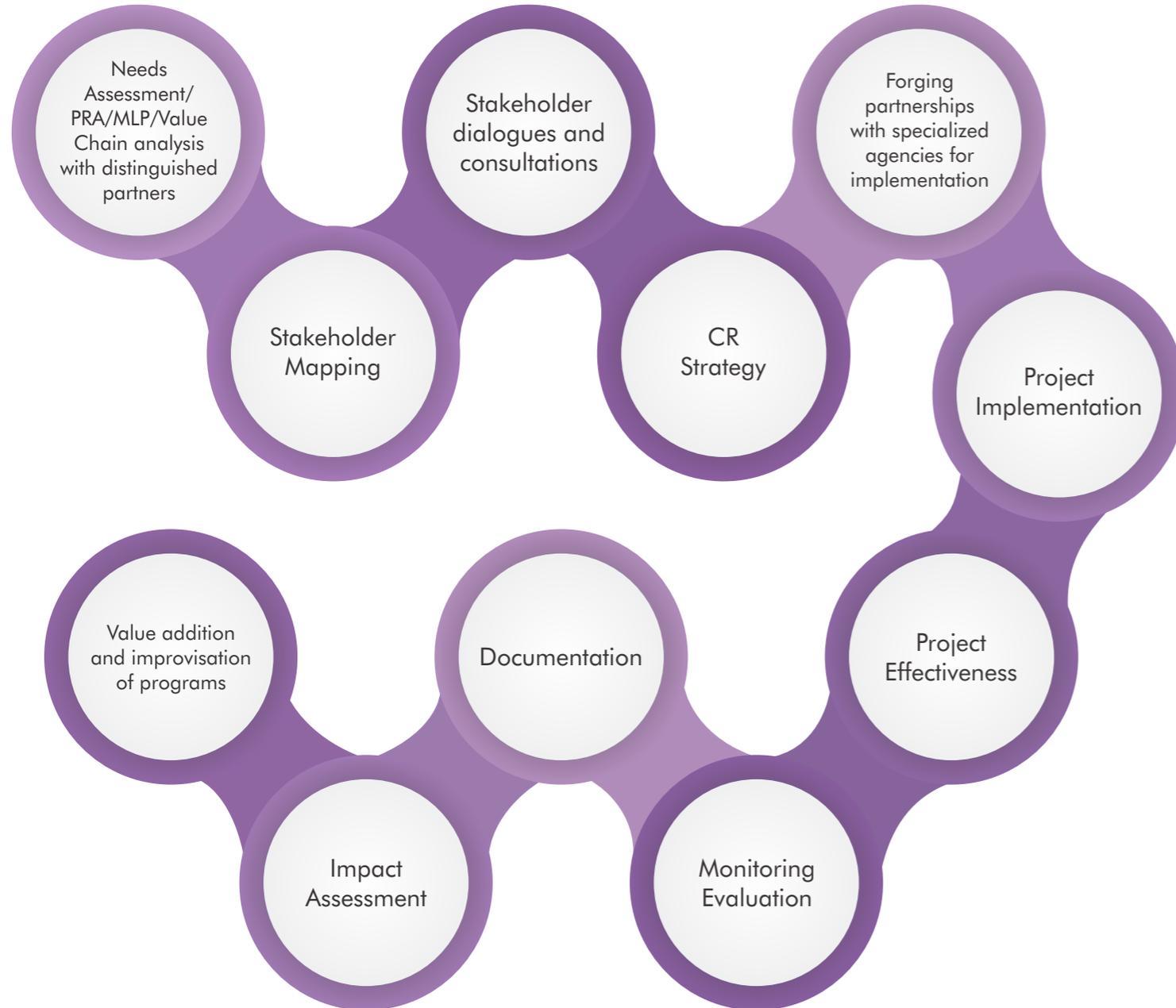
IMPACT MITIGATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN IN MODHVA AND TRAGADI

Under CGPL's Impact Mitigation and Community Development Plan (based on Baseline Social Impact Assessments), future efforts will resolve health, sanitation and educational needs of the local people. Investments will be made to increase community's access to better quality social services and livelihood options.

- CGPL partnered with RDRC and shall provide drinking tap water in Modhva. A survey has been conducted by RDRC to understand pipe lines in Modhva, number of stand-posts, bore expenses, pump house expenses and requirements for the renovation of existing pipelines.
- Flour mill is constructed in Modhva for the community as per the consultation with VDAC members and requirements expressed by the community. A survey has been conducted by Paschim Gujarat Vij Company Limited (PGVC) to provide electricity for the flour mill.
- VDAC members and fishermen from Modhva are given training on brackish shrimp farming from Marine Products Exports Development Authority (MPEDA) – Valsad. According to Gujarat Fisheries department, the fishermen will need to have a certification in order to get legal permission for shrimp farming. This is the first step to get certificate to start shrimp farming and improve the earning capabilities of many fishermen in the vicinity.
- Meetings have been held with VDAC members to create the Village Development plan for the year 2014-2015. The focus is given on livelihood training, infrastructural development and upgrading education level in schools.
- AKRSP-I has initiated communications with Tragadi village fishermen community and sarpanch to map out needs and related interventions to be initiated in the village. Regular meetings are held and a study is conducted to understand the income level and livelihood of the community.



PROCESS FOLLOWED



OVERVIEW OF INVESTMENTS

EDUCATION

- MODHVA
 - School kit distribution
- TRAGADI
 - Learning camp with the help of Pratham
 - School kit distribution
 - Teacher training program
- TRAGADI BUNDER
 - Learning sessions for children
 - Mid day meal
 - Movie screenings
 - School kit distribution

INFRASTRUCTURE

- MODHVA
 - Construction of road, shore leveling, village entrance gate
 - Construction of wells
 - Construction of Flour mills
 - Construction of training centres
 - Solar Street lights at the shore
 - Construction of Roof Rain Water Harvesting System
- TRAGADI
 - Check dam
 - Drip Irrigation
 - Farm bunding
 - Pond deepening
 - Grass cutter distribution
 - Well recharge
 - Horticulture plots
- TRAGADI BUNDER
 - Roads near the village
 - Solar street light
 - Shore leveling

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

- MODHVA
 - Formation of SHGs
 - Introducing revolving fund for women
 - Tie and dye training to women for alternate income generation
 - Shrimp pickle training for alternate income generation
 - Exposure visit for women to NGOs, other fishermen community, fishing markets etc.
- TRAGADI
 - Tie and dye training to women
 - Embroidery training
 - Formation of SHGs and disbursement of internal SHG loans
 - Bima yojna for women
 - Adolescent girls training program
 - SHG training
- TRAGADI BUNDER
 - Meetings with women to form SHGs
 - Medical support through free medicines

HEALTH

- MODHVA
 - Eye checkup camp, skin disease camp, Gynecology camp, general health camp, school health camps with
- TRAGADI
 - Eye checkup camp, gynecology, general health camp, school health camp etc
 - R.O. plant installation with 1000 Litre Per Hour Capacity
 - Nutritional kit distribution to Anganwadi workers
 - Free cataract operations and medicines through health camps
- TRAGADI BUNDER
 - Bhujoy Sarvoday Trust
 - Free cataract operation and medicine through health camps
 - Water facilities through well recharge, construction of wells
 - Health camps on gynecology and general health camp.
 - Nutritional midday meal daily at Tragadi Bunder school
 - Free cataract operation and medicine through health camps
 - Mobile toilets for women

LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT

- MODHVA
 - Formation of Village Development Committee
 - Exposure visits
 - Revolving fund
 - Solar boat light
 - Net distribution
 - Fish selling kit distribution
 - Training to fisher folk on alternate and scientific fishing methods such as shrimp farming etc
 - Livelihood support to fishermen through micro-financing
- TRAGADI BUNDER
 - Net distribution
 - Boat light distribution
 - Formation of Village Development Committee
 - Formation of Fishermen Information Centre
 - Livelihood grant to fishermen worth Rs. 1 lakh each – 162 members
 - Net and boat light distribution
- TRAGADI
 - Livelihood grant to fishermen worth Rs. 1 lakh each – 162 members
 - Net and boat light distribution

OTHER INTERVENTIONS AT TRAGADI BUNDER

- Cultural events at Bunder
- Evacuation of fishermen during flood

COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE AND CONSULTATIONS

The CGPL Management and Community Relations Department meets stakeholders on a regular basis. Some important meetings and consultations conducted during the year are as follows.

VDAC MEMBERS – SINCE 2008 (MONTHLY MEETINGS CONDUCTED)

- Plant visits to understand the working and functioning of the plant
- Discussions on the proposed construction of outfall and design
- Identify needs in the community and gauge the progress of the infrastructure available, women empowerment work, educational initiatives etc.
- Identify fishermen for interventions such as SHGs, revolving fund, RRWHS, boat light distribution, net distribution etc

SARPANCH CONSULTATIONS IN TRAGADI AND GUNDIYALI

- Rapport building and identifying stakeholders
- Assessing the livelihood pattern of the fishermen community
- Discussion on alternate access routes to the Tragadi coastline
- Identifying fishermen for interventions such as solar boat light distribution, fishing nets to the fishermen.

TALKS WITH OPINION LEADERS IN TRAGADI BUNDER AND MODHVA (WEEKLY)

- Initiating the Village Development Committee to create a key committee for interactions.

MASS CONSULTATIONS

- Understand the local fishermen status and suggestions on how it can be improved
- Formulate a fishermen development plan for Tragadi Bunder
- Select institutes and fishermen for exposure visits
- Cultivation of Mangroves at the CGPL outfall site



ABHIYAN, SAHJEEVAN, GUIDE AND UJJAS, MACHIMAR ASSOCIATION MANDAVI, ANANDI FOUNDATION (PERIODIC MEETINGS)

- Consultations on fishermen programs and involve local stakeholders for getting opinions for fishermen interventions.
 - Exposure visits for fishermen in other fishermen community at Veraval, Jakhau etc.

VRTI

- Tragadi survey and launching of Project Utkarsh.
- Project Utkarsh activity planning related to programs on infrastructure, health, livelihood, education, women empowerment etc.

AKRSP-I

- Conduct studies on the fishermen community such as PRA and Value chain analysis to understand the current status of the fishermen.
- Rapport building with the community at Modhva and draw out a development plan in consultation with the community.
- To implement fishermen related interventions in the space of infrastructure, health, livelihood, women empowerment and to regularly consult the local opinion leaders.

AAKAR

- Rapport building with the fishermen community at Tragadi Bunder
- Understand fishing culture, community background, current earning and educational status, markets for fishing etc.
 - Consult local community for devising fishermen interventions programs for Tragadi Bunder.
 - Implementation of fishermen development interventions at Bunder.

GOVERNMENT

FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

- Understand licensing and other statutory registrations for the fishermen.

CMFRI

- For exploring possibilities of alternate fishing methods such as cage culture, shrimp farming etc.
- Learning programs and exposure tours for fishermen to understand new fishing concepts, meet experts and other communities that implement new fishing techniques.

GANDHINAGAR FISHERIES COMMISSIONER

- Permission to equip fishermen with boat light and fishing nets.

BRC, MANDAVI

- Initiation of the midday meal scheme at Tragadi Bunder.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p>“We have been coming here since twenty five years. We've lived here for eight months. This is the best sea shore around here. Tragadi is at number one right now. Earlier, the businessmen used to do nothing but now CGPL looks after us. CGPL is in our neighbourhood, which is a good thing. It is beneficial and there is nothing wrong about it. They are providing us with many facilities like roads, water, health centres, schools, etc. Now we have a “<i>madrassa</i>” open, under the Aakar Company, and our children are given a proper religious upbringing. First we had to spend 5000 rupees for fifteen days' worth of water. So imagine the cost if we stay for eight months! Now, we get water for free. This shore has the best benefits compared to all others.”</p> | <p>Buddha Ismail, Village: Sanghad (Fisherman at Tragadi Bunder)</p> | <p>“I have lived here for 8 months. We come here in August and get a lot of fishes like Silver Paplet, Aal, Bombay duck, Prawn, Phaphti, Surmay and Rawas. It is better here than Bawdi, Veera and Bhadrewar. Better in the sense that fishing is better here. The loan will be repaid soon. TATA has given facilities like road, water and solar light. The programmes implemented like children movies, Kawali, and Naat programmes were great. Education is important for our children's future. We would like to continue with education, Kawali and women's programmes.”</p> | <p>Siddiq Hussain, Tuna vandi (Fisherman, Tragadi Bunder)</p> |
| <p>“I've been here for eight-nine months. CGPL has given us light, battery and water. It is better here, in Tragadi compared to Bhadresar, Veera, Bawari. I also feel that I will be able to pay back most of my loan by the end of this year.”</p> | <p>Siddiq Haji, Village: Tuna vandi (Fisherman, Tragadi Bunder)</p> | <p>“Water facilities, solar lights, culture programmes by CGPL are great and we are grateful for them. We have been living here for 8 months. Things here are better; people have it tough in other shores. We want better boilers to improve the quality of our prawns. The system for drying fishes also needs improvement.”</p> | <p>Rehmabai, Village: Vandi tuna (Fisherwoman, Tragadi Bunder)</p> |
| <p>“We and our children are greatly satisfied with water facilities from CGPL. We really liked the women's Majlis and Qawali and would love it if it is more frequent and regular. It has become easier to sort fish at night with the solar lights. We are happy with the health camps. Water is no longer scarce and has been adequate in the last year.”</p> | <p>Haneefabai, Village: Modhwa (Fisherwoman, Tragadi Bunder)</p> | <p>“The solar lights have helped us save kerosene and improved our working conditions. It is better here than Veera, Bawdi, Randh, Lunirandh and Mundra. We would like if they gave us better health facilities. The children movies, Kawali, and Naat programmes were great.”</p> | <p>Aadam Abhla, Village: Sanghad (Fisherman, Tragadi Bunder)</p> |
| <p>“We are getting all the facilities we didn't get before. The company is giving us water, roads, solar lights and health camps. The Madrasa and everything else is working out great. Fishing here is better than the other 6-7 shores around here. There are eight shores here - Veera, Kolsavari, Bawari, Bhadresar, Loni, Bhajuna Bandar, Kotari and this one – Tragadi and we are at number one. This year I will be able to save money to repay the loan. This time we got less Boomla but we got a lot of Nakri and so everything worked out well. So everyone in this shore has only benefited. No one has suffered any losses.”</p> | <p>Sultan Buddha Ismail, Village: Sanghad (Fisherman, Tragadi Bunder)</p> | <p>“I have been living here for 8 months. The other shores are in bad shape. We get better fishes here. There is Tuna Takaravaru, Bawari, Veera, Bhadresar, Luni. We get more here than them. CGPL is providing very good and regular water facilities. They have given us other services like solar lights, Batteries. Solar lights save kerosene and we can sort fishes even at night. We can also watch TV now.”</p> | <p>Aadam Haji, Village: Tuna vandi (Fisherman, Tragadi Bunder)</p> |
| <p>“CGPL company has given us water and light. We get as much water as we need.”</p> | <p>Niyamatbai, Village: Vandi (Fisherwoman, Tragadi Bunder)</p> | <p>“I've lived here for 8-9 months. We are grateful to CGPL. Our loan of Rs. 51,000 will almost get repaid. Tragadi is the best, and all other shores like Luni, Bhadreshwar, Bawdi, Veera, Randh have failed.”</p> | <p>Hasan Ibhla, Village: Sanghad (Fisherman, Tragadi Bunder)</p> |
| <p>“I've been here for 6-8 months. CGPL gives us first, drinking water, second, roads and third, solar lights, We are grateful to CGPL for providing education for our children. We did fishing in Vandi before this, it was our native village. Why would we come all the way here if it wasn't better than there?”</p> | <p>Noor Mohammed Haji, Village: Tuna vandi (Fisherman, Tragadi Bunder)</p> | <p>We have been coming here every year for 8 months since 22 years. And this year has been great compared to Veera, Bhadreshwar, Bawdi, Juna Bandar and Luni. Most of us have almost repaid our loans. We have gotten solar lights, Water, Roads from CGPL. Solar lights are good and make it easier to sort fishes. We are very happy with the Madrasa, school and light.”</p> | <p>Kasam Ibrahim, Sanghad (Fisherman, Tragadi Bunder)</p> |



END NOTES

The actions taken by CGPL for the fishermen community aims to help the traditional marine fishing communities of the northern coast of the Gulf of Kutch, Gujarat. The problems of poverty due to inability to attract good prices for produce and a near total absence of support systems due to the peculiar geographies and the nature of fishing shall be catered to by CGPL.

The need to support the traditional fishing communities in engaging with the market effectively and consistently for ensuring sustainability of their livelihoods in the context of industrialisation of the Kutch coast is felt by CGPL.

The projects envisage a new development path for fishermen in the area along with strengthening and expanding cooperativisation of the traditional marine fishery of Kutch. The existing producer collective's achievements in terms of realisation of better prices for the various species and the corresponding increase in returns to the members have been substantial. Prices of main species have gone up from 80% to 300%. Benefits are not limited to the members alone. As the merchants are forced to offer competitive prices, the entire fishing community is benefiting.

Traditional fishing communities live without access to safe drinking water and health services, and education for their children. Fishing being a relatively capital intensive livelihood, the fishing families take advances from money lenders and merchants, which limits their ability to get reasonable prices for their produce. Over the years this has evolved into a highly exploitative system where the fishing families continue in poverty and dependence without capacities to engage with the markets.

While this is the plight of the fishing communities in the region concerned here, the working cooperative model has already got immense acceptance among the fishing communities of the area. The model needs strengthening and expansion, covering more areas within Kutch, for increasing the impact of the intervention. CGPL's efforts in the direction of improving lives of fishermen have come a long way. We constantly assess and analyze our interventions, striving to make changes to achieve our ultimate goal of fishermen's holistic development in the region.

