About Us

Trust Community Livelihoods (TCL) is a not for profit organization. TCL is working to create a just, equitable and sustainable society through direct interventions and consultancies in livelihoods in rural and urban areas in India. TCL focuses on promoting community based livelihood of poor in rural and urban spaces through women’s community Institutions.

TCL has its own projects and also works with other NGOs to facilitate extension of its learning and experiences through hand-holding support leveraging outreach in the process. Capacity building and institutional development are inalienable part of its support to the agencies it works with. At present TCL is focused in underdeveloped northern districts of Uttar Pradesh, viz. Bahraich and Shravasti.

The VISION of TCL is to “Have a responsible society that works to empower poor, creates equal opportunities for dignified life through optimal use of natural resources, and sustainable institutions and environment” in less developed regions of India. It is our belief that household well being leads to societal well being.

TCL is registered with Income Tax under 12 A and 80G.

Intervention Themes

- Livelihoods Promotion: Agriculture based livelihoods through Sujlam Suflam Project
- School Improvement Programme focussing on government primary schools
- Migration Source Project: Promotion of financial inclusion and providing other services
- Internet Sathi and digital literacy
- Women self-help group based community institution promotion
- Entrepreneurship and livelihood promotion through SHGs
- Nutrition – Back yard nutrition garden

Total outreach through various programs is to about 100,000 families in 10 blocks of Bahraich and 2 blocks of Shravasti, Uttar Pradesh.
Agriculture Based Livelihood Promotion

The agriculture based livelihood promotion focuses on replacing the traditional crops with high value crops, achieving higher productivity of regular crops, reducing input costs and promoting enterprise in agriculture. The focus of the program are small and marginal farmers. The activities taken up are:

- **Banana cultivation** – this is a new high value Tissue culture crop introduced in the area by TCL.
- **Chili cultivation** – is new high value crop for the area and is very suited for marginal farmers that have family labour.
- **Lentil and pigeon pea** - have seen decline in production in Bahraich over the years. TCL has introduced new varieties and package of practices to increase productivity. In Lentil the increase is nearly 100%.
- **Onion** - it is new high value crop introduced in the area.
- **River Bed Farming** – is done by small and marginal and migrant farmers on shifting beds of rivers. TCL is working to increase productivity and reducing costs, introduced eco friendly package of practices, supported for aggregation and marketing.
- **Nursery enterprises** – shade nets have been introduced to produce healthy and disease free saplings of good varieties of chili and other vegetable as small enterprises.
- **Reducing cost of cultivation** – have introduced bio fertilizers and pesticides to reduce cost of cultivation.
- **Solar and micro irrigation** – introduced to reduce the cost of cultivation and reduce carbon footprint. Sprinklers and drip irrigation is being promoted to conserve water.
- **Value Chain Activities** – TCL has engaged in value chain activities. The major activities initiated are aggregation and collective marketing of maize and lentil, Input Supply, Farm Machinery Bank, Dal Mill, and Dal Mot Factory.

Migration Source Project (MSP)

The Objective of Migration Source Project is to create platform for Financial Inclusion cum Migration Resource Centre (MRC) known as Apna Sewa Kendra (ASK).

The ASK platform would provide comprehensive services of savings, remittances, insurance and pension services. The platform of would be used to provide other non financial services required by migrants like registration, entitlements as construction worker, etc. TCL running this project in four blocks of Bahraich and Shravasti with 150 GPs saturating four blocks – Risia & Phakarpur (Bahraich), Harihapur Rani & Jamunaha (Shravasti).

The Key Issues we are focusing on:

- Financial literacy - savings, credit, banking
- Financial inclusion – safe keeping of money, remittances, use of digital technology
- Women headed households: erratic money flow, security and education of girls
- Identity: Adhaar card, PAN Card etc.
- Access to government scheme
Education of Children

TCL has initiated School Improvement and Learning Programme (SLIP) with support of TATA TRUSTS in Bahraich with 50 government Primary Schools 25 schools each in Risia and Kaiserganj Blocks.

TCL works in the schools with the existing teachers to improve the learning levels of children through creative and interesting methods of learning and teaching aids and materials. Extensive use is made of games, and use of child centric poems and stories. The emphasis is on improving proficiency of children in language and mathematics.

TCL simultaneously works with School Management Committees (SMC) to galvanize them and make them aware of their roles and responsibilities in monitoring.

Internet Sathis

Internet sathi Project is to promote digital literacy and internet education among women in rural areas. TCL implemented this project in 5 blocks of Bahraich – Nawabganj, Mahasi, Huzurpur, Tejwapur and Vishveshwarganj. We have trained 112 women as internet Sathi who trained about 67,200 rural women to use smart phones and internet for accessing information, education and entertainment. Through this program women’s resource group has been prepared and now they are engaged in different activities like conducting survey etc. this programme helped in increasing women’s mobility, women became more vocal and now do not hesitate in talking to different people in community and they also help other community women in giving information about different type of medicines, finding good seeds and manure for agriculture, and increasing their skills through internet.
Community Institution Building

The key community institution being promoted by TCL is women SHG centric tiered structure. Women SHGs are formed at the village level. These are aggregated at the village to form Village Organization (VO). The VOs are formed into Federation. The collective economic activities are taken up by SHGs and the Federation.

Up till now more then 115 groups have been formed. The SHG group formation activity is supported by NABARD. The groups are being credit linked to the banks under SHPI Program. NABARD also supporting TCL under E Shakri program for digitalization of SHGs. TCL is also working with groups formed by UP State Rural Livelihoods Mission.

SHGs have started aggregating the agriculture produce of member and other villagers and are trading as a collective to increase business and income.

Key Donors of TCL are TATA TRUSTS, FREND and NABARD.

OUR MISSION

"To promote and partner with community institutions in natural resource management, agriculture and allied activities to enhance livelihood security of poor and marginalized households. It would complement the livelihood activities with education, health and nutrition, etc. to enhance their well-being."