

# ANNUAL REPORT

April 2019 – March 2020



**PRESENTED BY :**

**RAJMERU - JAIPUR**



## *Introduction*

RAJMERU, which is a combination of two Hindi words - Raj (Sand) and Meru (Mountain), acts as a viable platform for discussions, sharing information and experiences with a view to facilitate a process of democratic planning and decision making. The organization is dedicated to enable people to ultimately become the stakeholders in all the developmental efforts. Rajmeru strives to form an egalitarian and just society which discusses, negotiates and advocates various issues of common interest at various levels. Rajmeru is a state level organization RAJMERU consists of CSOs, working at different locations in Rajasthan. It has a wide network with more than 200 CBOs and People's Organizations working in the state on varied issues and concerns. RAJMERU after a long deliberation has made a radical shift in its approach and activities taking into consideration the specificities of the geographical terrain of the state, its arid climate and environment. The organization has also initiated its efforts for addressing issues of the poor people through continuous dialogues at the state level. The core issues being dealt with are drought mitigation, livelihood, Natural Resource Management, Local Self-Governance and Poverty including Poverty reduction elements.

## *Foreword*

It gives me great pleasure to present the report of RAJMERU for the financial period 2020-2021. Rajmeru was supported under Strategic Programme support, where following interventions were planned but due to outbreak of the Covid-19 and lockdown for months along with restrictions of movement, many interventions planned could not be implemented as per the plan.

In the current scenario, there have been many changes due to corona virus, there has been a change in the way the government and administration also work. Priorities have changed. The entire focus of the government has been more on protection from corona virus during this time. We also have to change our work strategies due to this COVID-19. There is section 144 is active in Rajasthan so we have changes our work strategies. Emphasis on efforts to increase information dissemination about various schemes and partner organizations participation was given. Rajmeru is committed for the upliftment of the poor and backward classes. None of this would have been possible without the whole hearted support of the Rajmeru members, CSOs, well-wishers and donors. I take this opportunity to thank everyone to make our journey in 2020-2021 a meaningful endeavor.

Chairperson

## Acknowledgement

Rajmeru successfully completed 14 years, and strengthened the bond among CSOs and People's Organizations. Rajmeru worked on issues of livelihood, food Security, water scarcity and its impact on future, disaster management, community capacity building. Awareness programmes, seminars, workshops were organized to address the issues at community and state level. In This year Rajmeru strengthened its networking at state level, and successfully carry forward the work of state level capacity building programme, proper information dissemination at all levels, with the help of CSOs and People's Organizations. Rajmeru is obliged to all whom provided their support and valuable guidance in achieve the goals; none of this would have been possible without their support. Rajmeru is committed for the upliftment of the poor and backward classes, so that they can live a respectable life.

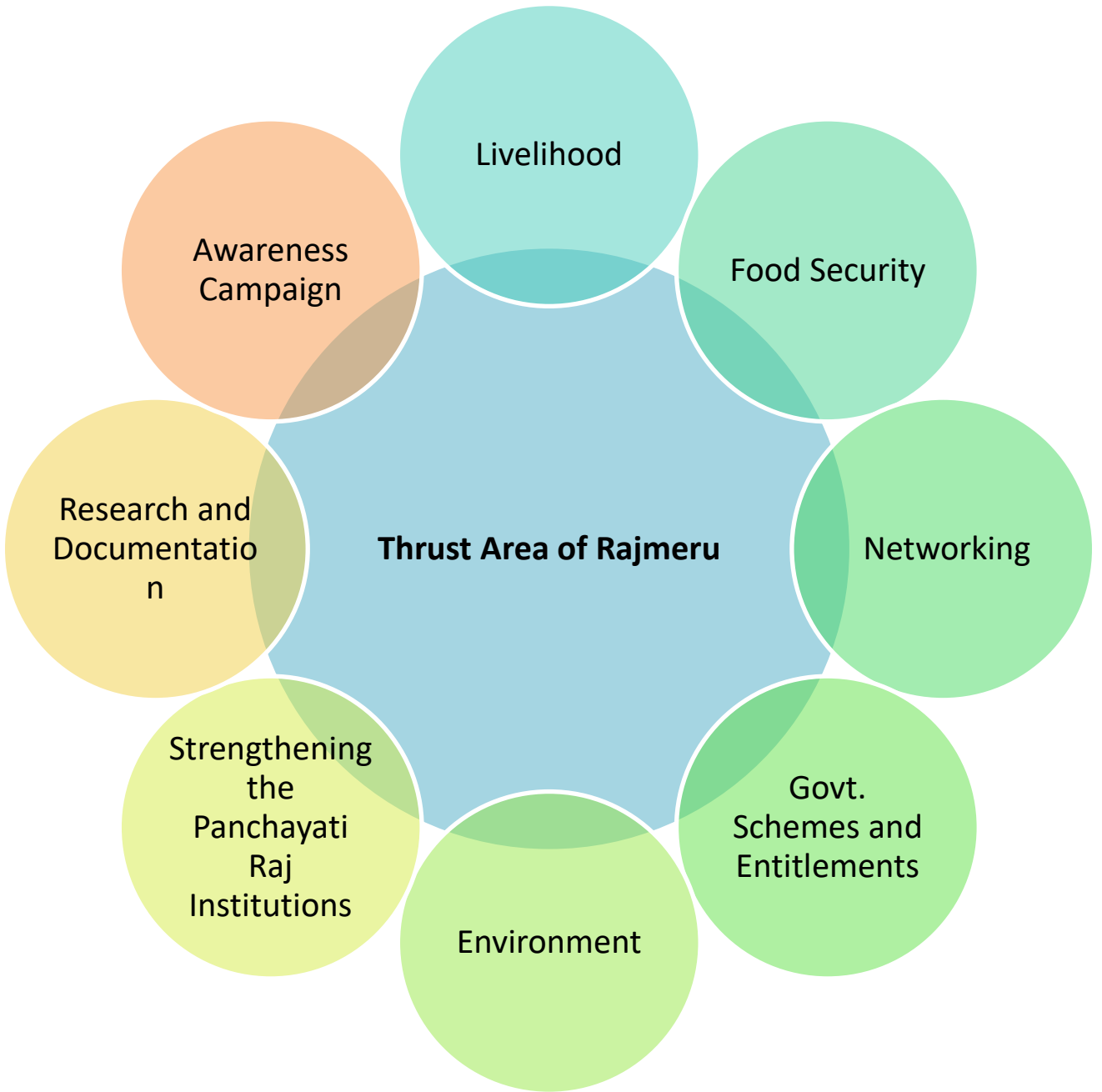
Secretary General

## *Objectives*

To ensure participative decision making process in terms of social, economic, and cultural life of the people

To create a common platform for likeminded individuals and organizations to formulate plans for the welfare of the people.

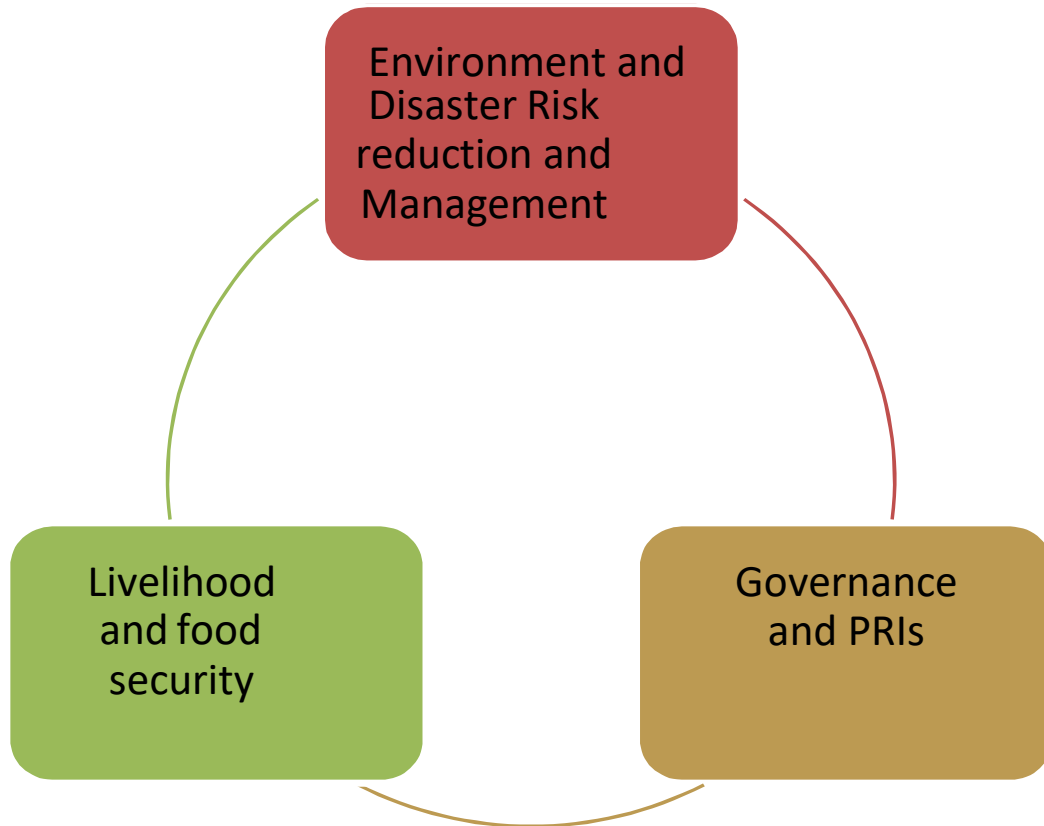
To ensure collective action on need and critical issues along with different stakeholders, government bodies and other concerned departments.



## Key Issues

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As described in the context analysis part of the proposal key issues and thematic areas for intervention emerging are as follows:



## DETAILS OF ACTIVITIES

### *1. Sustainable Agriculture in Rajasthan*

Under the demo activities, one display has been set up as model activity. Thus one demo for demonstration activities have been installed through 7 organizations in Rajasthan. These demos have been put up by those organizations. They have their own resources and by applying Demonstration, they can enhance their capabilities by giving training to the farmers there.

**1.1 Soil Testing (Soil health cards/Soil Profiling) :** Under this activity, farmers have been motivated to get soil tested so that the farmer could use manure and fertilizers as per the requirement in his field. It will be helpful to avoid the loss of crops due to use of more fertilizers. So that the fertility of the land remains equal. For this activity, a total of 150 soil samples have been tested.

**1.2 Soil Conservation (Mulching) :** Mulching is done in order to increase the availability of water in crops and to prevent evaporation of water. Mulching is also useful to prevent the growth of weeds. Crop residue or plastic foil is used for mulching. A total number of 50 mulching demo has been prepared during this period.

**1.3 Liquid manure (Amrit pani, Jeevamrat)/IMO :** In order to promote organic farming and to make farmers aware about Jeevamrit, Jeevamrit was prepared for Demonstration in different regions (East, West, South) of Rajasthan. Through these demonstrations, people could know about Jeevamrit, so that they can understand its benefits and are moving towards adopting organic agriculture. Under this activity, in all the three regions of Rajasthan, a total of 150 demonstrations of Jeevamrit have been installed.

**1.4 Kitchen Gardens with bamboo trellis system :** Under this activity, it was decided that the process of kitchen garden will be adopted by 175 farmers. Through the kitchen garden, the family's edible vegetable can be produced at that place by using the empty space around the house. Waste water can be used properly in the kitchen garden. This leads to the use of empty land and waste water. Along with this, vegetables are also produced for consumption of the family. Due to which the nutrients for the family are also supplied for good health. In case of high production of vegetables, income can also be obtained by selling vegetables. This leads to economic benefits for the family. Under this model activity, we have installed the demonstration of 175 kitchen gardens.

**1.5 Seed Treatment (Beejamrit) :** Through this activity, farmers were motivated to sow seeds by treating them. For this, farmers were explained about the method of seed treatment in an organic manner. This method greatly reduces the cost of crop



cultivation. In order to increase the farmer's habit of using Beejamrit, we have completed 125 demonstrations of Beejamrit.

**1.6 Mixed Cropping :** Through this activity, emphasis was placed on sowing of mixed crops with the objective of reducing the adverse effects of climate and weather. The advantage of mixed cropping is that sowing two or three crops simultaneously can produce at least one crop in adverse weather conditions. A total of 125 demonstrations were implemented under the program so that sowing of mixed crops can be encouraged.

**1.7 Azolla Units :** Azolla is a useful animal food for those who do animal husbandry. The use of Azolla increases the amount of milk in the milch animals. With its use, the health of animals is also good. The cost of installing an Azolla unit is not high. A total of 75 Azolla units were set up in different regions of Rajasthan with the aim of promoting the Azolla unit and increasing its use in cattle ranchers. So that cattlemen can use and benefited from it.

**1.8 Skill and Capacity Building Training :** Under the Sustainable Agriculture Development Program, trainings for adoption of best/innovative practices in the field of Sustainable Agriculture has been organized for farmers to increase their interest in organic farming and to develop the efficiency and capacity of the farmers. A total of 7 trainings were decided to be conducted through 6 different organizations.

**1.9 Use of weather information through mobile application :** In this technological age of information and technology, one can forecast the weather through the mobile app. For this, various apps have been made which give accurate forecast information about weather (Ex – Accuweather). For the purpose of making people aware about weather forecast, 6 trainings were given through 6 different organizations in all three areas, so that people will be able to use the mobile app. this knowledge will be very helpful for farmers.

**1.10 Waste De-compost :** In order to promote organic farming and to make farmers aware about waste, waste de-compost was prepared for Demonstration by a partner. This is to promote waste management so that farmers can understand its benefits and are moving towards adopting organic agriculture. For this 25 demos were prepared.

## ***2. Climate Resilient Farming Study:***

A study is being conducted with the aim of listing the potential impact of climate change on agriculture and animal husbandry or the effect of climate change on the livelihood of people in the proposed activity area. The evaluation report is yet to come.

## ***3. Capacity Enhancement Training :***

A two days training on the subject of “**Weather based advice and organic agriculture**” was organized on **5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019** under the joint aegis of Rajmeru and Madhyanchal Forum. The training was conducted at the STR Training Center of Rajasthan Agricultural

Research Institute, Durgapura, Jaipur. There were 44 delegates from 25 different organizations working in 18 districts participated in this training program.

On the first day of training, organic farming and weed management were explained in detail through subject matter experts and on the second day, detailed information was provided about climate change and weather-based advice with the help of weather based mobile app etc.

#### ***4. MNREGA Study***

In addition to the Sustainable Agriculture Development Program, an study regarding execution of MNREGA scheme has been done. This MNREGA study has been conducted to know what the deficiencies in the scheme are, What are the deficiencies in the plan. Through this study, data of 3-3 panchayats of different districts of Rajasthan were collected. Currently the data entry work of this study has been completed and the work of analysis is yet to be done. The conclusion of this study will be shared with all forums after the analysis is completed.

#### ***5. Networking & Liasoning***

Rajmeru in association with CBOs and local people forums is continuously liasoning With various Government Departments at Regional, State and National level on issues of people concern like Right to Food, Scarcity of Water, Changing Climate and problems pertaining with these, existing drought conditions and relief for poor rural people by making joint strategies and presenting the clear picture of problems faced by the people. These efforts are advocating the policy matters related with water policy, agriculture policy, relief measures of the State, so that the existing drawbacks can be checked and pointed out to the policy makers.

#### ***6. Meeting of Network Partners***

One physical meeting of the network partners was organized where structural issues related Rajmeru functioning were discussed. The new framework of working under current approved budget was discussed with Partners, where this was reiterated again that People's organizations will take lead in Collective Actions at various levels and role of Rajmeru will be of an Advisor or facilitator in this whole process. This was also decided that other members who were not present in this meeting will be communicated telephonically. People's Organizations in respective areas of partners will be contacted and coordinated towards the new framework of functioning, where their key leaderships are active in taking up the collective actions in collaboration at various levels.

#### ***7. Result / Outcome***

Various exhibits set up under the program have been observed by the farmers. Through these exhibits, an attempt has been made to give a message that the adverse effects of climate can also be reduced by sowing mixed crops. Production has been started through a total of 175 demos of kitchen gardening for health. With this, farmers have started getting fresh and organic vegetables at their home. The soil health is revealed due to the testing of soil and manure and fertilizers are being given accordingly. To increase the interest of farmers towards organic farming, the training given to them has positively impacted the

farmers and interest of farmers has increased in organic farming. Through a total of 75 demos of Azolla unit, Ajola production has started and its use has impacted the production of milk of milch animals.

Through various training, efforts have been made to increase the capabilities of the people, which is creating the thinking of farmers towards organic farming and People's participation in sustainable agricultural development is increasing.

## **8. Conclusion**

As the impact of various demonstrations under the Sustainable Agriculture Development Program, the interest of farmers is increasing towards organic farming and the interest of people towards smart agriculture is increasing. There is a need to work more in this direction.



## Photographs

- Kitchen Garden



- Mulching (Soil Conservation)



- Azolla Unit



- Capacity Enhancement Training

