

ANNUAL REPORT

2021-22



RAJMERU SANSTHA

RAMNAGARIA, JAIPUR

RAJASTHAN, INDIA

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.

Foreward

It gives me great pleasure to present the report of RAJMERU for the financial period 2021-2022. 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 2021-2022 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.

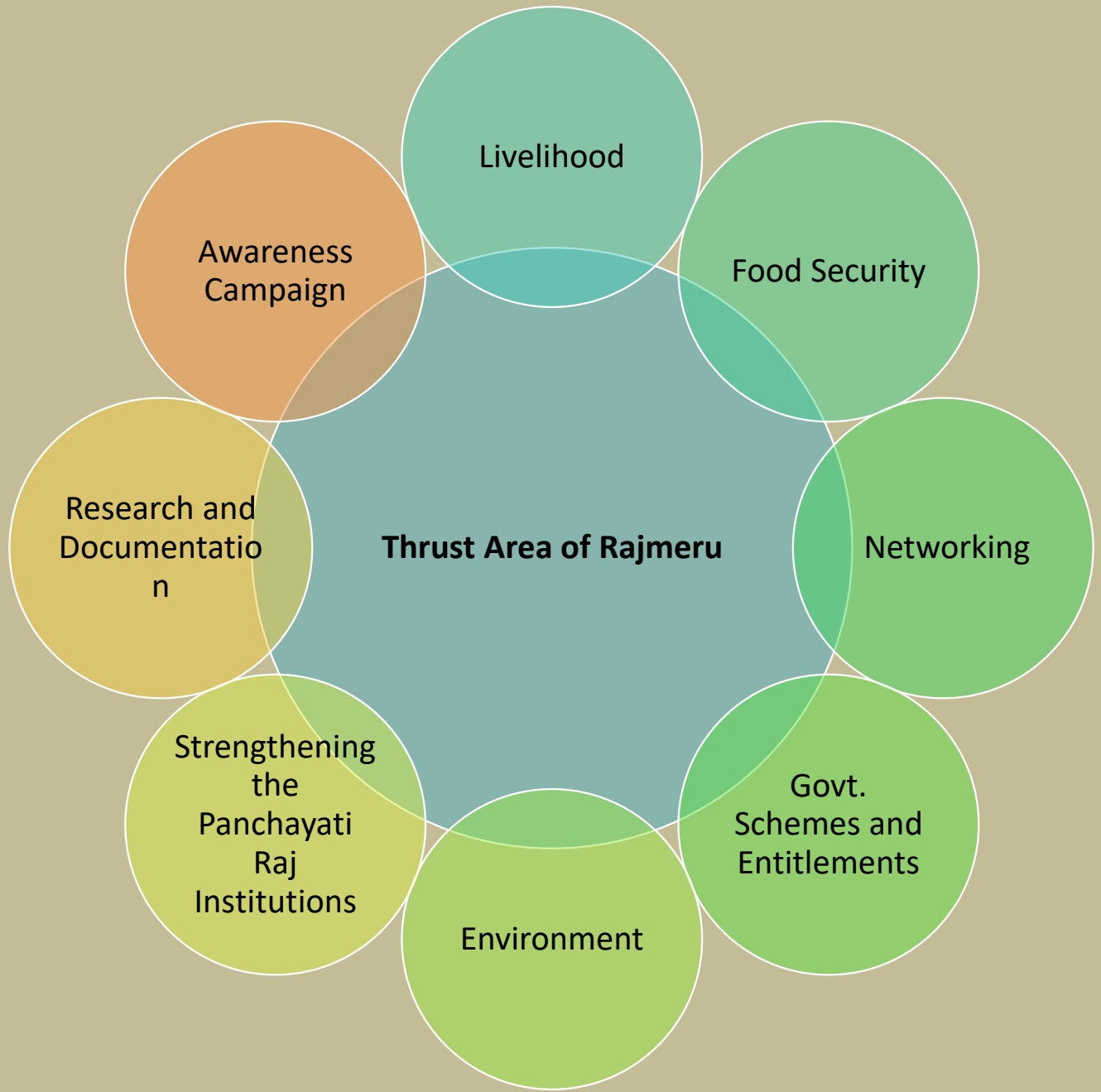
Secretary General

Objectives

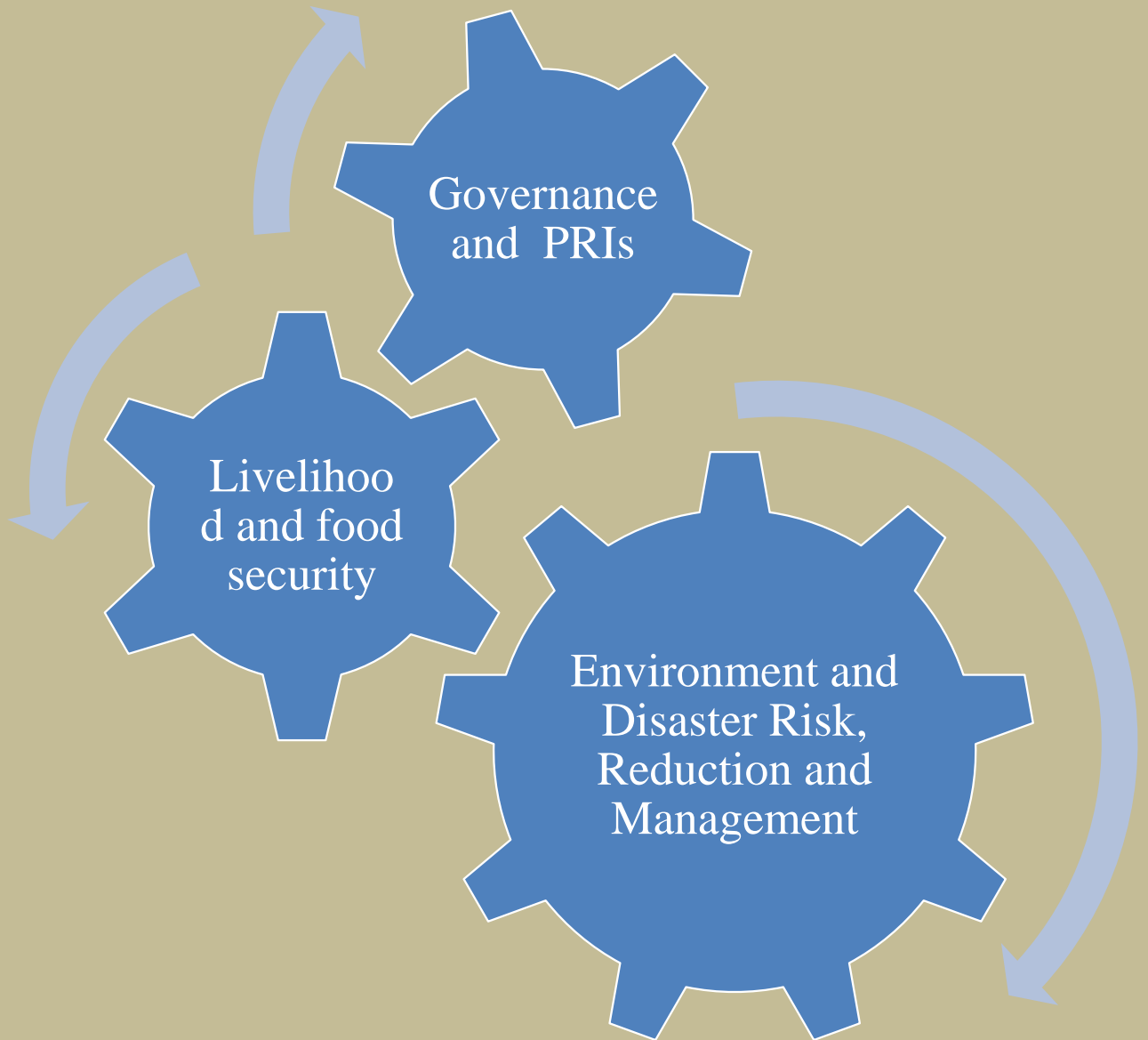
To ensure participative decision making process in terms of social, economic, and cultural life of the people

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



Activities

Rajmeru was supported under Strategic Programme support programme, where following interventions were planned but due to outbreak of the Covid19 and lockdown for months along with restrictions of movement many interventions planned could not be implemented as per the plan in the last half yearly period. But, in this half yearly period we have completed all the planned activities well in time.

1.1.1 Review and planning meeting of Leaders

1. A review and planning meeting with Rajmeru leaders was held on 3rd March, 2022 where planning for structure of Rajasthan Coordination hub was discussed with staff members and planning for different stakeholders of Coordination Hub was discussed in the meeting.
2. A review and planning meeting of Rajmeru was held on 27th of March, 2022 was held, where total 8 members participated to discuss the progress so far and planning for the future. In this meeting office bearers of Rajmeru and other members also discussed the Agenda of meeting for 28th and 29th March, 2022.

Rajmeru leadership has visited frequently to Jaipur office for required feedback and follow ups on issues in this time interval.

1.1.2 Regional/State Level Consultation on Thematic Issues-

A. Regional Consultation done at Udaipur on 12th and 21st October 21 with different stakeholders that has been described as follows:

This workshop was organized in Udaipur, where 20 CSO representatives participated in the workshop, where Participants from different districts of this southern part shared that this part of Rajasthan is mainly dominated by tribal community where Udaipur, Banswara, Sirohi, Pratapgarhand Dungarpu are all hilly districts of this area. In this area mainly Bhil, Damor and Garasiyatribes live who are mainly depend on forest and agriculture for their livelihood. As this area is also facing severe impact of Changing Climate has impacted forest and agriculture livelihood both. Participants discussed that if I want to move towards sustainable livelihood, then we need to change the traditional methods and mindset of the people where they have to think about doing adopting mix kind of occupation e.g. promoting agro-forestry, promoting forest produces and its marketing etc.

Following Key recommendations emerged with this regional workshop:

- Traditional Agriculture needs to be promoted.
- Agriculture and Forest produces needs to have marketing linkages.
- Organic Farming needs to be promoted and linked with Nutrition.
- Agriculture need to be looked with scientific approach.
- Innovation in Seed and Soil Conservation need to be promoted.
- Agriculture and Animal Husbandry looked with an integrated perspective.
- Impact of Climate Change on Agriculture need to be studied and integrated.
- MNREGA work/Activities need to be integrated with Agriculture
- Role of Women in farming need to be studied and evaluated as Co-worker.
- Farmers need to get more support from Govt. with knowledge, MSP and Market linkages.

B. Regional Consultation done at Jodhpur on 23rd October 21 with the stakeholders that has been described as follows:

This workshop was organized at Jodhpur, where 23 representatives from CSOs participated in this workshop from different districts of Western region. Participants shared that Due to lack of rain, people here are not able to do much farming and area faces dry spells. Poor and marginalized communities face challenges of food and livelihood insecurity as their increased dependency on staple food and animal husbandry practices that also get disturb due to severe drought situation sometimes.

After a day long discussion on various issues, following key recommendations & Imp suggestions emerged as mentioned below:

- Discrimination with poor and marginalized:
There is a need to be plan strategically so that Rajmeru can help CBOs and People's Organizations in working towards discrimination against poor and marginalized community and try to get more and more employment for them and help them by focusing on the work that is done for their livelihood strengthening in a way that they can live their life with dignity. Different livelihood options could be promoted through Govt. schemes such as poultry, goat rearing and dairy etc.
- Health & education:
There is a need to work on promotion of Education among poor so that discrimination can be stopped and everyone can stand on their own feet and help in making some special kind of identity in the society along with awareness of their own health and nutrition as well.
- With deaf and dumb girls:

There is an especial focus need be given to People with Disability (PWD) including deaf and dumb children about all kinds of schemes and help them in connecting with the schemes.

- **Climate Friendly Agriculture & Crops:**

In Western part of the Rajasthan most of the crops depend on the rain water and agriculture has to suffer if there is no rain and impact of the Climate Change Crisis has further deepen the problem and overcome this problem a proper adaption is required through promoting Dry Land farming and cultivation of crops need less water growing to strengthen their livelihood of poor and marginalized community in the area along with the options of low water intensity crops in the desert region.

- **Plantation for Livelihood and Environmental**

Tree plantation not only help in Environmental restoration but this can earn income for poor and marginalized communities from business like nursery, and growing plants for staple food and

- **Marketing of the same.**

Participants shared during the meeting about women's oppression, it also happens to poor women more as they are weaker and they have not even got the opportunity to come up strongly on common platform to raise their issues and most of the time they are victim everywhere like in schools, public places and at home even.

(C) The meeting was held on 28-29 March 2022 at Rajmeru office, Jaipur. Aim of the meeting was to resolve the problems and issues faced by poor and marginalized communities at local level and promote a self-functioning system-Coordination Hub at state level. These are the following agendas discussed in the meeting.

Agenda

- Introduction and welcome of all the Participants with brief introduction of Rajmeru Sanstha.
- Discussion on the problems faced by People, every Participants shared their experiences with their region's specific problems; also they have shared solution (which they have adopted) for specific issues. Also Participants have taken part in the discussion- How we overcome the other local issues faced by similar People's organization.
- Discussion for building a self functioning system (Coordination Hub) to Co-Ordinate and resolve the issues. All the attendees shared their opinion about Co-ordination Hub and gave their feedback.
- Presentation on the Strategy and Structure/ Operation of the Secretariat of Coordination Hub by Mr. Dinesh Chandra vyas. He shared that what will be the structure of the Coordination Hub, what will be roles and responsibilities of an individual member of Co-ordination Hub, How Co-ordination Hub will be operate and how can we achieve our goals through this Coordination Hub System.

Recommendation

- For the boosting the growth of Small People’s Organization, we need to build a Coordination Hub to resolve their problems and guide them with suitable solution.
- Co-ordination Hub should be Self functioning, so all the People’s Organizations work with sustainability and if they need any support and Guidance to smooth their day to day work than Coordination Hub will support them.

.1.1.3 Field level Meeting-

As per planning, all the meetings have been completed. Seven meetings have been completed in the current period.

- Meeting in kalyanpura village of Kapasan block at Chhittorgarh district on 6th October 21 on “Prashasan Gaon Ke Sangh Abhiyan” where leaders from Mewar Jan Adhikar Manch (A Local People’s Organization helped people to develop a micro plan for their village through using PRA techniques, where this was focused on-
 - A Need of Anicut (Small Water Harvesting Structure) to resolve the issue of water crisis in the village.
 - Plantation in the village.
 - Infrastructure of ICDS (Aanganwary) center.
 - Proper Drainage system in the Village.
- A field level meeting has been done by Ms. Bindiya Goswami Jagdamba Mahila Viaks Manch Toksi, Swaimadhopur for an introductory meeting and future planning on 23/2/22 at.
- A field level meeting has been done by Ms. Bindiya Goswami at Ramdev Jan Chetana Manch, Kuchaman City for an introductory meeting and future planning on 24/2/22.
- A field level meeting has been done by Ms. Bindiya Goswami and PremlataRathore for an introductory meeting and future planning at Manch in Dechu, Shergarh Jodhpur on 25/2/22.
- A field level meeting has been done by Ms. Bindiya Goswami and Marwar Vikas Manch and Thar Vikas Manch for an introductory meeting and future planning on 10/3/22 and 11/3/22 respectively with 21 participants each.
- A field level meeting has been done by Ms. Bindiya Goswami at Kundla vikas Manch for an introductory meeting and future planning on 15/3/22 with 31 participants.

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