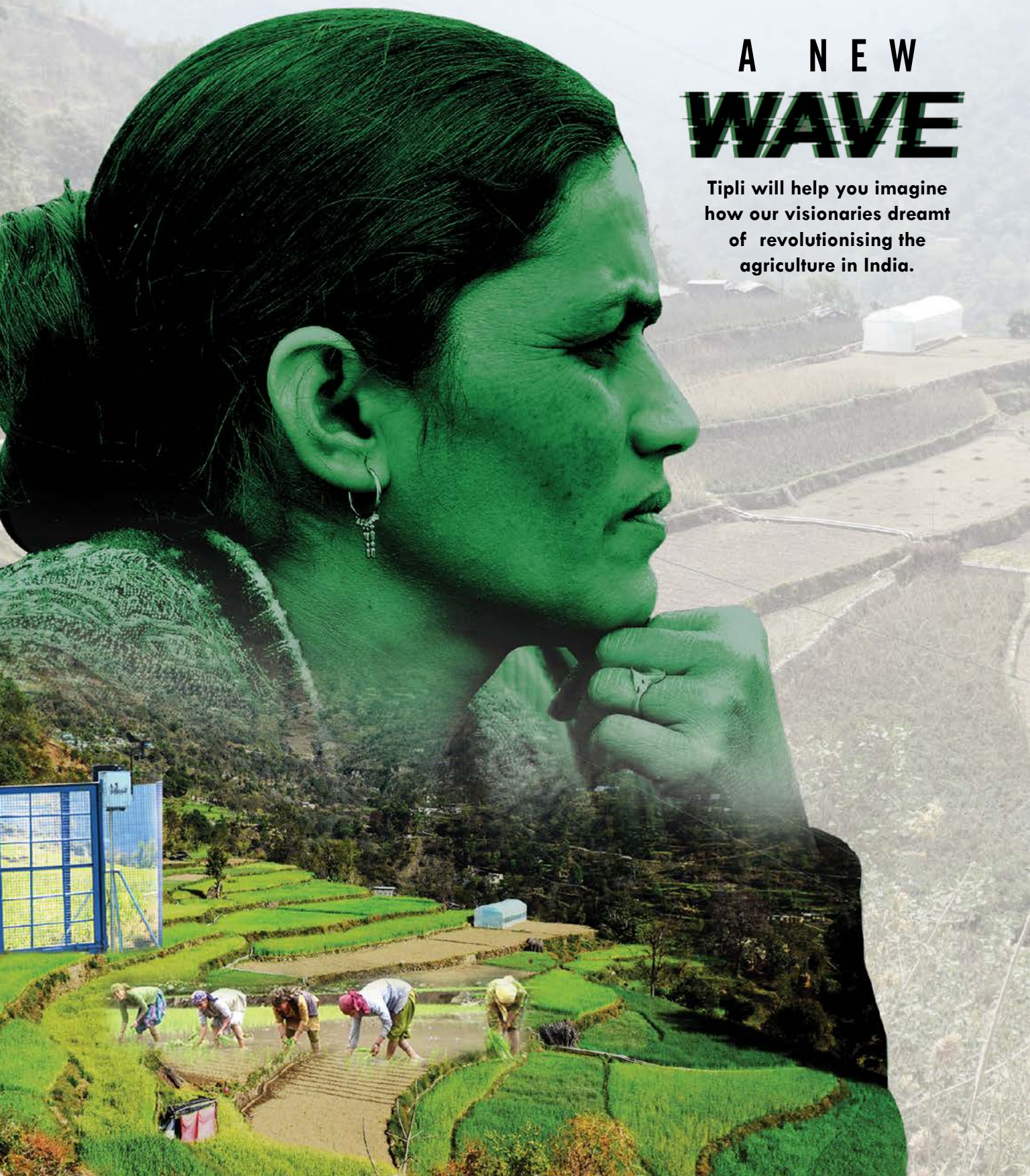


# CASA in Action

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

## A NEW WAVE

Tipli will help you imagine  
how our visionaries dreamt  
of revolutionising the  
agriculture in India.



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With unabated rise in population, the biggest crisis India faces today is unemployment; the rural population is migrating to urban pockets for employment and better lifestyle. India should realize the fact - agriculture is the sector where it has unlimited potential but our approach towards it has been lackadaisical.

The Tipli village in the Gharwal region of Uttarakhand had the potential and resources of agriculture but it lacked modernization in Agriculture. Tipli is well suited for agriculture but climate change has disturbed the cropping pattern. The rainfall is not timely and sometimes there is long dry spell affecting the overall production, hence incurring loss to the farmers.

The village farmers' practiced outdated method of cropping. They had usually grown water guzzling seasonal crops like wheat and paddy, depending completely on monsoon rainfall. And for rest of time fields were empty. Widespread unemployment and poor income in agriculture had forced people to abandon Tipli and move to urban area.

'God's Own Country' Kerala is witnessing one of the worst floods. Thousands of people including women and children have been displaced and spending their days in relief camps. Assam is also making news for the same reason every year. And many other places are also witnessing minor flooding. In fact, India witnessed at least 12 major floods in just a span of 10 years. This must be taken as a warning toward the environmental degradation. Disasters like floods and landslides have become more frequent, more unpredictable, and more untimely. Consequently, displacement of populations has become a scary reality for millions of people across swathes of India. Dependence of Indian economy on the climate sensitive sectors like agriculture, which is already facing multiple stresses, global environmental change could further exacerbate these stresses.

In an effort to help rehabilitate the affected people, CASA is already on the ground with its relief material in Kerala.

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# WORKSHOPS ON WOMEN LEADERSHIP

CASA organised two workshops on women leadership and gender inclusive process to promote gender mainstreaming at the organizational and program level. 40 women related grievances were addressed at the community level, and as many as 50 active women leaders emerged in the operational

areas. There was an enthusiastic gender participation in the village sangam meetings in which women were encouraged to address their issues on the public platform. The women leaders were also motivated to organise women mock gram sabhas to build confidence among themselves.



## Developing youth leadership

Three youth leadership programs on the issues most appealing to them like employment, political participation were organized. Eager youth were informed about welfare programs intended to them apart from some basic knowledge of RTI and importance of skill development.

## Sustainable livelihood for marginalized

To ensure sustainable livelihood through rights and entitlement for the marginalized communities, workshops were organized. Information about the social security schemes for pregnant women, elderly, handicapped, widows, among others was disseminated. Relevant concerns like participation in gram sabha, sanitation were discussed.

## UPDATES FROM SOUTH

During reporting period, 24 programmes were conducted across all the 4 states - Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala - in which 381 women and 298 men leaders participated in the programme. The women participation has been increased.

60 per cent of targeted families/ household claimed entitlements and rights under different schemes and programmes of Government. 26 pro-poor policy level recommendations were accepted by Government at different level. 80 micro plans at the village level were accepted by local panchayats.

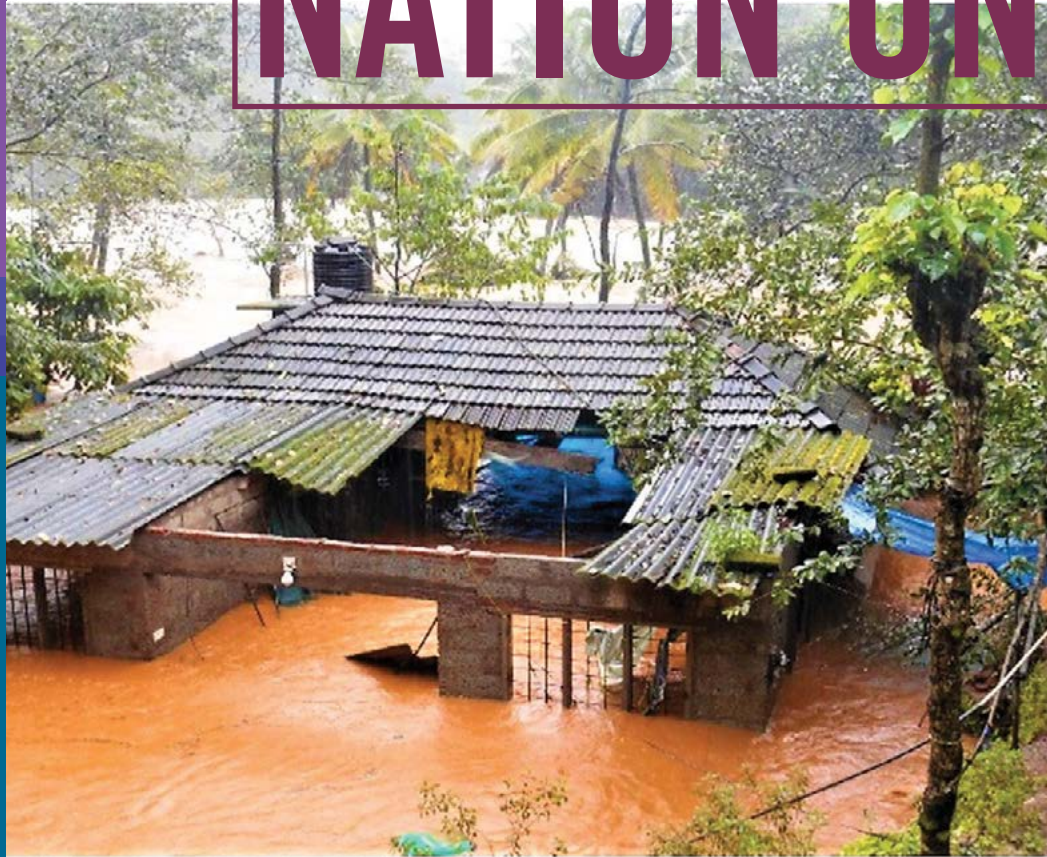
79 peoples' organisations are active at the micro level. 13 State Networks and Platforms approach policy makers at state level. Enhanced knowledge and awareness about different issues and related policies. 150 Youth leaders emerged at micro levels.

## LATEST UPDATE

CASA's organisational development (OD) process will continue for next 10-12 months. CASA has also initiated evaluation of all direct as well as partnership programmes. All these 3 processes are being moderated and anchored by external facilitator.

# Kerala Flood

# NATION UN



**Worst flood in last 100 years, 'God's Own Country' Kerala was ravaged by devastating flood and landslides. The path to recovery could be long**

12 out of 14 districts in Kerala faced unprecedented rainfall and flooding that killed 415 people and sheltered over one million people in relief camps, besides huge economic losses.

'God's Own Country' Kerala grabbed world's attention on August 9 when 35 out of 42 dams were opened after being unable to handle the pressure of unabated rainfall since July, leading to worst flood in the state since 1920's.

The south coastal state suffered huge economic loss as water level inundated many residential, agricultural and commercial properties forcing people to take shelter in relief camps. Two weeks of heavy flooding left people in lurch of fresh food, clean drinking water, clothing and hygiene facilities.

The flood, which has caused heavy loss to Kerala's agriculture and dairy sector, could impact the state's already deficient food production as well as livelihood of lakhs of farmers. The crisis is a timely reminder that climate change is expected to increase the frequency and magnitude of severe flooding across the world. As water recedes in some

Population Affected  
**54,11,712**



Missing People  
**36**



House Damaged  
**22,667**



Villages Affected  
**776**



Lives Lost  
**415**



Relief Camp  
**5,645**

People in Camps  
**1million+**

Source: NDMA Twitter Handle  
25th August 2018

# ITERS FOR KERALA



Left: A house remains inundated in Idukki district of Kerala. Right: A house partly damaged by landslide caused during the disaster in Idukki. CASA/ Joseph Sahayam

places and people returning home, there is an apprehension of outbreak of water and air borne diseases.

In an effort to help rehabilitate the affected people, CASA is providing dry ration, clean drinking water, clothing and blankets to the severely affected people. People living in the temporary shelters are being provided with hygiene kit and water bottles along with non-food items like utensils, mats and blankets. Shelters damaged in the floods are being repaired.

Needless to say, any amount of relief fund is less than sufficient taking view of lives and property lost in the calamity. ■

## CASA PROVIDING RELIEF



7 Severely affected districts



10000+ Families



Dry Ration, Hygiene Kits, Blankets, Utensils, Clothes and Mats



Safe Drinking Water



CASA additional emergency officer Joseph Sahayam distributes relief material in Kerala's Wayanad district.

SCAN TO  
**DONATE  
NOW**



# opinion matters

Given these trend, it is difficult to imagine the world 50 years from now. To what extent we will keep on adapting. We might survive biologically but difficult to develop ourselves in an integrated way.



**Anita Kukreti**  
Project Officer



## ADAPTATION-

With each generation the degradation of environment is increasing. With each passing year we have witnessed more and more degraded air and water quality and disturbing health related issues. But the fact is that each generation perceives the degraded environment in which they are being nurtured as 'normal' and not as 'pretty bad.' We are being surrounded by chaos, dirt, filth, garbage all over and atmosphere full of pollutants. The early days of relating with nature and its gift like water, forest, river has gone away.

The nature's gift has turned into a commodity. Our rivers have become dumping pit for garbage. We are extracting, exploiting and bottling water and putting price tag on water. Excessive sand mining by sand mafias has shown the extent of greed one can exhibit. Water is being used as a weapon against nations by controlling the flow of river. This has

been witnessed recently in conflict between India and Bangladesh over the flow of river Ganga; between India and Pakistan over the flow of river Indus; and between India and China over the tributaries of river Brahmaputra.

The problem goes much deeper where the perception about degradation has not only limited to 'understanding' but it has also impacted on culture, cultural practices, values and approach towards life and lifestyle. The behavioral fallout is evident when children living in polluted place are not able to make out that their place is polluted. They learn about the pollution in the school but have adapted themselves in the polluted atmosphere in order to survive instead of taking a remedial action to solve the problem. They think it is normal and there is nothing wrong about it. We could adapt to all changes in the environment but that doesn't mean that we would do well.



# WHAT IS THE LIMIT?

The crux is that we have lost the sense of relating ourselves with nature which actually inspires us, motivate and give us future. We have done so much damage to our planet and very less to protect it. We have mastered ourselves in adapting to the changes in the environment by constructing cyclone aid centers, installation of early warning system, use less water in deserts, build fences to protect against flood, migrate from one place to another and so on. Past experiences have shown that men from Sunder ban Delta have migrated to Kerala and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to work as unskilled laborers in the real estate sector. These people were originally farmers and fishermen who lost their livelihood opportunities after the devastating cyclone.

Knowing the extent to which an

individual, community or country can adapt will be critical for policymakers. A farmer's individual limit is reached when he prefer to give up farming due to recurring draught or intrusion of flood water in his farm and migrate to nearby cities for labor work .This is where his individual adaptation limit has reached but as a community or country it may not be treated as a limit. Many communities are already facing limits to their capacity to adapt.

Economic limit constrain adaptation of low income household and communities. For instance fishing community find it difficult to adapt due to higher cost of boat insurance, repairs, safety measures. Farming communities find it difficult to adapt due to enhanced financial investment for improved crop varieties and

diversification of livelihood. Social limit of adaptation includes value premise of community, knowledge and culture. People perceive, think and interpret about adaptation depending on their world view, values and beliefs. Therefore range of limits may influence adaptation to climate variability by stopping, delaying or diverting the adaptation process.

Therefore it is imperative that policy makers at various levels develop adaptation plans and policies and integrate climate-change considerations into broader development plans keeping in mind the concerns and challenges faced by poor and marginalized section affected by climate variability with an aim to change the course of action-conserving and protecting nature and ecosystem for healthy human existence. ■

## UPDATES FROM **NORTH**

Through this work 200 families of each hamlet in Dhar are benefited.

CASA aims to empower the community of backward section of Bhils and focusses on enhancing agriculture production by making fallow land cultivable, converting mono cropping land in double cropping land and adopting mix cropping for a purpose to provide food security to the villagers.

### **Out of 200 families, 46 are women**

who were benefitted through wage employment during the project.

There was an enormous increase in yield of crops and income of families of the village. The whole Bhil community of marginalised and excluded section were relieved due to this intervention.

# DROUGHT RELIEF PROGRAM IN DHAR, MADHYA PRADESH



CASA partnered with Centre for Advanced Research and Development (CARD) for the first time in the Drought Relief Program in Madhya Pradesh. CARD works for Livelihood Promotion of tribal predominant regions of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh through various Natural Resource Management programs.

It works for tribal people under government programs like Child Fund Project of India, MGNREGA, Watershed program and Agricultural Extension Program.

The drought relief program fosters the development of drought affected regions through developments like construction of wells, pond deepening, loose bolder checks and field bunding.

The hamlets are dominated by Bhil tribe and are very backward. The agriculture productivity is very low with a marginal scope of alternative employment opportunities. Majority of people belong to Schedule Tribe community and have small landholdings with low productivity.

Due to this, majority of villagers migrate for 1/2 months annually during the harvesting months of September-October. The alternative work opportunity for villagers is available in Indore which is at a distance of 90 kms.

Very few number of dug wells and no irrigation facility has led the villagers to completely rely on the rainfall for their crops to grow and also, there is a low fertility in soil which has lessened the scope of productivity. Over 120 peoples are there who were working as a landless and casual labourers with no permanent employment at dairy and grocery shops in nearby Dhar town.

Increased construction of water resources like well and tank is one of the main activity undertaken for the drinking purpose and soil-water conservation activities which has improved water availability for drinking and irrigation for crops. CASA also works toward employment generation among villagers by wage payment.



COVER | STORY

A NEW  
**WAVE**

# techno savy farmers

To try to describe Tipli and leave out technology - as the English say - is like trying to present Shakespeare's play 'Hamlet' and leave out Hamlet himself.



**Isha Banerjee**  
CASA Communications  
@ishabanerjee23

This is a real story of a village that could not be easily Googled nor was ever heard before.

Back in the days when technological developments within agriculture were doing rounds in India, the residents of this small Tipli village believed it to be a kind of advancement was that far from their reach. Of course they were using basic mobile phones and had even heard about computers. They even called satellite in Hindi as "Antriksh-yaan" (spaceship). Close enough!

By the year 2015, the perception towards technology changed for the men and women of Tipli. You enter the beautiful village and you will find a technological instrument 'Weather Recording Station' in the midst of their cooperative farm. "The transition was not easily understood

by ordinary terrace farmers like us but we know everything now," says a Tipli farmer.

Many would call these zealous residents of Tipli "naive" to quote they "know everything." What they really wanted to say was that they are prepared for everything - which they were before traditionally; only this time they believed in the power of data and technology. Looking on the other side, it was also the belongingness of their homeland which was calling them home and that edged these determined middle-aged farmers closer to technology.

According to the 2011 Census data, as many as 2,26,949 farmers left farming and migrated from their birth place. The Census data from 11 hill districts suggest the maximum number of 36,401 farmers

migrated from Almora, followed by Pauri (35,654), Tehri (33,689), Pithoragarh (22,936) and capital Dehradun (20,625).

India's technological revolution picked up in early 2000. Soil Health cards, motors, modern machines, fertilizers and pesticides revolutionised Indian agriculture. Not everywhere!

Tipli is situated on the Himalayan state Uttarakhand's Tehri district where tractors and motorised vehicles were not fully suitable for terrace farming – a prevalent form of agriculture in the mountains.

Farming in hill districts such as Tehri and Pithoragarh still remains mostly rain-fed where land holding is small. On the other hand, the districts which fall in the plains are comparatively prosperous compared to their counterparts in the hills as they have comparatively bigger land holdings and better irrigation facilities.

In sharp contrast to the plains, the farming in hills has become a non-profitable entity for the farmers. Government figures show around 8% decline in farming land — from 7.91 lakh hectares in 2009-10 to 7.41 lakh in 2011-12.

Apart from that, the next big obstacle was the changing weather pattern

induced by climate change. The state went in shock when 2013 massive flooding and landslide triggered by sudden cloudburst paralysed Uttarakhand's economic stability claiming 5,748 lives. Tipli did not bear much of the damage but was preparing for the same or for worst.

As a result the village saw population decline with youth moving out their homeland and settling in main towns in search for work – abandoning agriculture. Decline in population, fewer labour for agriculture and reduction in cattle rearing forced the left-over residents to depend upon chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

It was difficult at first, but the farmers kept on trying. A visit to Tipli will help you imagine how our forefather dreamt of revolutionising the agrarian sector.

Here in Tipli you will hear farmers' stories of homecoming; you will be taught by the farmers to read and analyse rain, wind and soil data; you will observe how farmers are cropping scientifically; you will be taken aback by the aspirations of these sickle-bound farmers who want to make Tipli – an ideal village – for our future to look upto. ■

*Pic: An abandoned home in Tipli. Many residents have migrated to towns leaving their homes behind. CASA/ Arushi Narchal*



# COVER STORY

## Need for Climate Farmer School ??



**Natural disasters, climate change, crop diseases affected terrace farming in Uttarakhand.**



**Agro-meteorological information could not reach farmers on time**



**Information too technical for farmers to understand.**



**Migration was high due to losses incurred**

# 2,26,949

farmers left farming and migrated from their place.

# 33,689

farmers in Tehri District migrated

# 65

earthquakes hit Uttarakhand between 1803-2013

# TO TIPLI, WITH TECH

*Climate Farmer School is an idea that germinated from the needs of farmers in the present context of climate change – giving a whole new outlook on how digital revolution could transform agriculture.*



*Residents of Tipli along with agro experts takes samples of their farm soil to measure its fertility and other properties. CASA/ Aranya Ranjan*

Air and soil temperature, soil RH, rain Gauge, wind flow – all this might seem complicated scientific terminologies for most of us but not for these farmers in Tipli Village of Uttarakhand. Not only can they collect such agro-weather information from an instrument called Automatic Weather Recording Station established by CASA in 2014, but they are also capable of decoding these farm data and using the same to increase their agricultural output.

This technological innovation established under Climate Farmer School (CFS) by CASA has brought

experts and scientists closer to the community in mitigating the impacts of climate change. After three years of CFS, it is amazing to see how technology can address the woes of thousands of vulnerable farmers who were once incurring huge losses in productivity due to increasing incidences of disasters, pest attacks and changing weather patterns.

Radiating its benefits to almost 50 surrounding villages, Tipli village is now making its mark among 'technological innovations that are revolutionizing Indian agriculture'. ■

"Drop in chemical pesticides has reduced crop diseases/ pest infections and improved crop growth. Now, more than 60% of farmers are using organic pesticides from their vermi-compost pits. This has in turn encouraged cattle rearing. Many farmers who migrated to cities for better job opportunities due to heavy losses in farming are returning to Tipli & harvesting their land with better knowledge at hand with full support from the CBOs.

Based on the agro-advisory, the farmers apply the knowledge in their farming practices. For example – the farmers here have adopted multi-cropping so that if one crop fails the other crops can survive. Farmers have also planted climate resilient crops that can survive harsh weather conditions.

The beneficiaries have formed Farmers Club in which they hold meetings and discuss their problems for which experts have to be approached in a systematic manner.

*Makani Devi (40)  
Current Sarpanch,  
Tipli Village*

**"WE WITNESSED  
THE CHANGE"**

# AGRO-WEATHER DATA FOR FARMERS

Collect agro-weather info like air and soil temp, soil RH, Rain Gauge, wind flow

Experts roped in to give training to farmer on AWRS instrument's functioning. **TECHNICAL DATA** simplified in **LOCAL** farming terms

Farmers share AWRS readings/data with experts on monthly-basis and give feedbacks to increase production

The daily AWRS reading is displayed in the main town from which other farmers from nearby 50 villages get benefitted



Agro expert Dr. Tejpal Singh Bisht from Krishi Vigyan Kendra holds training sessions in Tipli, CASA/ Arushi Narchal

## EXPERTS BY THEIR SIDE

Ever since CASA with its partner Uttarakhand Jan Jagriti Sansthan's Aranya Ranjan set-up of a Weather Station in Tipli Village in Uttarakhand, prediction of accurate weather conditions required for farming has come out to be very handy for the farmers. These farmers are fighting Climate Change at a micro-level by gaining technical knowledge. And with them is the support from the scientists and experts from government agencies who are working hand-in-hand to mitigate the impacts of weather challenges on their agriculture production.

After establishing the linkage with experts, the farmers are directly keeping in touch with the agency experts to seek help whenever and wherever required. Weather experts are regularly visiting and assisting the Community Based Organisation of Tipli to adapt

newer techniques into their agriculture practices to counter climate change.

The farmers have already collected three-year regular data from the weather station which helps experts to analyse the changing weather impacts on agriculture and what solutions they can propose to mitigate.

"This Tipli village (in Uttarakhand) has emerged as an ideal village and in the coming years we will try that our KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA (KVK) will help the farmers to adapt technological innovations, adapt newer quality of seeds, variety of seeds encouraging farmers. Centre's and state's effort to double income of farmer,s income by 2022...in this direction CASA's and KVK's effort shall be very crucial." Dr. Tejpal Singh Bisht (Subject Matter specialist, KVK). ■

"Due to the uncertainty of the weather in the hill farming, there is an attempt to reduce the stress among farmers through the automatic weather center and climate farmers school. Henvel Valley's Tipli village is known for farming. Since the year 2014, CASA along with Uttarakhand Janjagriti Sansthan this program was being operated by the participation of the farmers. Here the farmers are having the facilities to understand and read about the change taking place in the weather pattern. Now farmers can overcome their farming problems through technological expertise to increase their crop output.

Aranya Ranjan, Founder of Uttarakhand Janjagriti Sansthan and CASA Partner



# ORGANIC DEMAND: FOR THE FARMERS BY THE FARMERS



*A SHG member of Tipli who also oversees the packaging of organic millets at Sammon Shop readies the packets for shipment.  
CASA/ Isha Banerjee*

CASA India with Uttarakhand Jan Jagriti Sansthan helped the locals to set-up a shop called 'Sammon' which is successfully catering to the needs of fresh food grains.

Due to high demand of organic products, the group has now started selling their products in Delhi. The organic millet is produced using only organic manure and free from any chemical pesticides.

Farmer CBOs deposit the profit share into their community banks from which they carry forward the CFS activities – thus establishing sustainability of the project.

**The group is harvesting organic millets besides packaging, selling and promoting in the local market.**

# HOW IT WORKS

## DIGITAL ANEMOMETER

Measures the speed of wind



## WEATHER RECORDING STATION



## RAIN COLLECTOR

Measures rainfall in 1/100th inch increments



## TEMPERATURE/ RH SENSOR

Range -40 to 100°C, 0 to 100%

## DATA LOGGERS

Give readings of air temperature, RH, rainwatch, soil temperature, wind flow

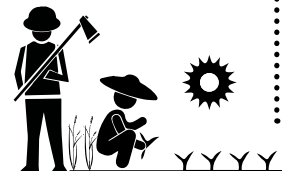


Farmers receive training to read data. Trained farmers then collect air and soil temperature, soil RH, rain gauge, wind flow data everyday.

The Tipli farmers along with CASA have established links with agro and weather agencies to whom monthly data is submitted.

The KVK and MeT experts analyse the data based on the farm inputs. They hold meetings with the farmer CBOs

The farmers adapt cropping strategies based on the inputs provided by the experts.



Farmers also practice organic way to protect their fields from pests and insects.

School students and youth are learning to collect weather info and applying them on crop cycle. In long term technology would attract young ones to this sector again.

The daily reading from instrument is displayed at the main road at Khari Village so that nearby villages in the radius of 10-20 Kms get benefits from the weather data.



## MANY IMPACTS OF FARMER TECH SCHOOL



KVK people are now frequent visitors to this village and they do demo of new agriculture techniques during showing season of each crop.



Farmers have learnt to adapt to unpredictable weather conditions (dry spells during monsoon and hailstorms during winter) to increase production.



Instead of mono cropping they have now shifted to multi-cropping in the same part of land.

# COVER STORY

Change in the weather pattern had completely disturbed the cropping pattern but after installation of weather station, we get to know about weather behavior in advance, it helps in taking all possible measures to protect the crops.



## THE AGRO-TECH HAMLET

When an automatic weather recording station was installed in a small hamlet Tipli of Uttarakhand, locals had no clue what technology had to do with farming. It took days, months for the farmers to realize the importance of the device. The weather station has brought back the lost confidence of farmers and they are motivated to engage in agriculture again.

Tipli has become an ideal village for agriculture; the model of Tipli can be replicated across the country. The farmers are no more scared of unpredictability of weather. They are trained to operate the weather station, now they practice farming in accordance with the collected data. One such example of technological revolution in agriculture is the middle-east country Israel. It must be inspiring for an Indian farmer to know how Israel, as a small country where half of the land is desert and the rest arid, improved their agricultural productivity manifold through the introduction of micro irrigation system of drip farming.

The rapid progress of Israel in agriculture can be credited to

collaboration between scientists, extension services, farmers and agro-industries. These four essentials grouped together to modernize agriculture into an industry that is globally appreciated for its efficiency and productivity.

The development in Tipli is also been the result of close association between CASA, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Agriculture University and local farmers. CASA taking the cue of weather station from Nepal, installed it in the village. With the involvement of above organizations, agriculture experts and scientist started visiting the place. They shared their expertise with the farmers and taught them how to deal with adverse climatic conditions. The farmers say, "We are also alerted with SMS from the meteorological department of KVK."

Tipli, located on the high terrain has always been vulnerable to animals. The wild pigs and monkeys used to destroy the cultivated crops in the field. KVK introduced a small technology called micro-hydel. The instrument works on the principle of generating electricity from water.



**Md. Mahfooz Alam**  
Intern - Communications  
@mahfooz\_md



The generated electricity is used to light up the fields. These lights keep the animals away.

When enquired about usefulness of micro-hydel by CASA reporters, the farmers confirmed, "Lights do keep away animals and crops are no more damaged by them."

India being one of the largest mobile users, this technology should be used. The land, climatic condition and crops vary with different locations. If the information about the soil moisture and temperature is precisely obtained, the farmers can grow the most favorable crops accordingly. This would not only increase the productivity but also check further probability of loss.

Weather recording station has been a great success in Tipli, the unabated migration stopped in Tipli and the people who had already left Tipli started to come back. They are back to their fields and are practicing horticulture, rearing cattle etc. Phoordas says, "There is about 2% population who is returning back to Tipli and hopefully all the migrated people will eventually come back." The use of science and technology to mitigate adversity created by climatic change and find solution to all agricultural woes makes Tipli a model agricultural hub for the whole country. It explains that technological innovation in agriculture has answers to all the farming crisis. ■

*Tipli just recently installed micro hydel station that generates electricity for its farm to prevent crops from animal attacks.*



## HOW OTHER COUNTRIES DO IT



In Israel there is **CropX**, an agro-analytics company that uses wireless sensors with a mobile app to create an automatic irrigation system for crops based on soil moisture and temperature.

Surface irrigation, such as flood or furrow, is the predominant form of irrigation in California for agronomic crops. Water advance model and sensor system can reduce tail runoff in irrigated alfalfa fields.

These methods tend to be less water efficient due to excess deep percolation and tail water drainage (i.e., runoff) (Walker 1989). Because of the potential for greater water usage and loss, surface-irrigated crop production has come under severe scrutiny and is the target of many agricultural water-use efficiency programs in the United States, particularly in California.



## UPDATES FROM EAST

Survey starts on State Disaster Reduction Management (SDRM) in Odisha that will help build community's capacity in disaster preparedness.

Review and planning meeting exercises in progress at CASA India Resource Centre in Gamharua at Gumla district in Jharkhand. The team spearheads CASA's livelihood programs in Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal serving 120 villages.

## REVIEW AND PLANNING MEETING



CASA 70 years in India  
People Helping People

unicef  
for every child

### State Level Training of Trainers cum Consultation for Finalization of Training Module on Child Protection in Emergency (CPiE)

Date: 26th June 2018 to 30th June 2018  
Venue: Hotel Hindustan International, Kolkata



CASA India, with support from UNICEF India West Bengal, is organising a five-day state level training program on 'Child Protection in Emergencies' in Kolkata that will include finalisation of modules and practical training sessions on child protection in emergency.

CASA has recently entered into a partnership with UNICEF to work together in the areas of Child Protection. The training module will be reviewed, discussed and finalised, following which it will be recommended for inclusion in the State Government Departmental

plan. The module will also be translated into regional languages. The participants will also be given a chance to go through practical training sessions during the program. The program was attended by Department of Disaster Management & Civil Defence, Department of Women and Child Development, District Child Protection unit along with NGO representatives. The pool of trainers will have to conduct sessions (as and when required) primarily in the districts of Malda, Murshidabad, Purulia and South 24 Parganas of West Bengal.

## STATE LEVEL TRAINING ON CHILD PROTECTION IN EMERGENCY

CASA's  
vermi-compost  
boost helps  
Kosi Flood victim  
to start afresh





# manipur floods

June 2018 was a grave month for Manipur, a state in the north east of India. Extensive rainfall caused havoc in the city resulting in raised water level of major rivers flowing particularly in valley areas. The floods busted enormous houses, schools, commercial centers and agricultural lands in many villages particularly in two districts, Imphal East & Imphal west. A portion of the Imphal riverbank collapsed at Bashikhong evoking a panic situation among the people.

The flood affected 1.75182 lakh of population, 7 people were dead and 146 local villages with 12500 houses were damaged. With countless households affected, thousands were stranded with absolutely no shelter and food. The continuous rain from 11th to 13th June

2018 destructed the entire valley rooting immense damage and loss of property including their livelihood.

CASA-India with a local voluntary organisation, Action for Women in Development (AWID) initiated the process of assessing the vulnerabilities of the people and responding to the urgent needs in their affected areas of operation.

101 relief camps were set up in and around the capital with 15100 inmates residing in the camps.

The efforts went beyond just providing immediate relief but also comforting them to cope up with the situation helping them lead sustainable lives thereafter. ■

## OUR RESPONSE



19 Villages



1000 household given immediate relief



Dry Ration Kits for affected families



Rice, Dal, Mustard Oil, Salt, Sugar, Tea Leaves per family

Akhilesh Kumar is a small farmer who lives with his family in Trivenigunj block of Supaul district in Bihar. Being Graduated in Hindi medium, he supports his guardians, maintaining economic stability in the family but his responsibilities increased after his parents turn in-capable of holding family requirements. He now has to look after his two sisters and one brother. When Akhilesh was tirelessly working to meet his family requirements, Kosi flood struck the state in 2008 fetching a huge loss to lives and properties. Akhilesh's family has lost all kind of assets and their land also turned inefficient due to craters in the field. The economic condition of the family worsened.

CASA formed Nav Jagriti which arranged an entitlement awareness programmes for dalits, minorities and marginalised people who were highly affected by Kosi flood in 10 villages of Trivenigunj block. Nav Jagriti initiated the establishment of vermi

compost pit in the village of Trivenigunj, for which the selection meeting was organised where Akhilesh Kumar has been selected on account of good agricultural practices for the support. Despite his losses he was luckier than some as he was the owner of sufficient land which has led the construction of ver-micompost pit on his field. The construction was formulated by Nav Jagriti who provided materials and labour along with the timely follow up on construction field.

When Trivenigunj was pleading under the effects of flood, vermi compost pit proved to be a glare in the lives of people. Its advent has minimized the utilization of chemical fertilizers which ultimately reduced the expenditure incurred in farming. The fruitful result of vermi-compost pit has led the distribution of more than 300kg of vermicompost in the market with a severe increase in income. ■



# CASA Initiative child labour free zone

Anusha and Rama,  
the Unbiological  
Sisters, as they  
were known, dust  
their school bags to  
resume school after  
3 years. Sun burns,  
deep bruises,  
rough wounded  
hands and sore  
blisters had ripped  
out a part of their  
childhood just  
like a bandage,  
ripped from a fresh  
wound.



**Nidhi Joshi**

Intern - Communications  
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“We still have those scars on our hands,” Anusha grieved. The thorny cotton plant pricked their tender hands during the pollination process – a nine hour daily wage labor prevalent in the cotton-producing belt of Andhra Pradesh.

Teachers at CASA Bridge School were glad to have Anusha and Rama back in class.

The smell of new books made them nostalgic. Behind their beautiful smiles, the two “best friends” had a similar story to tell.

Bearing the burden of responsibilities on their petite shoulders at a very young age, the two had to drop out of a government school. Instead, they were “forced” to reserve their day for a long tedious routine in chilli and cotton fields, earning a meager daily wage of Rs 100.

With a family of six, Anusha helped her parents (daily wage labourers) repay the loan of her sister’s marriage. Rama’s side of the story remains gruesome. Her father was left impaired after an

unfortunate accident and was doomed unfit for physical labor.

The girls would start their day at 5 AM preparing to cover a distance of 40 km. “We travelled by overloaded public autos and every time on our way back we could see our schoolmates returning from their evening classes,” Rama said.

The nine hour arduous labour work left scars not only on their hands but on their hearts as well. Deep cuts on their palms, heads burning in heat and the wrath of owners broke them down a little each day.

“Rama had severe joint pain and I started catching frequent typhoid fevers. We had to work anyway,” Anusha sighs.

“There were days when I fainted on the field due to hunger and stress, Anu often covered it up for me,” Rama cried while speaking to the reporters.

Resuming school after a gap of three long years was not easy. At the age of 15, now they are happier and enjoy their studies. The Bridge Course Centre (BCC) is giving them all the comfort



# BRIDGING BACK TO SCHOOL

Anusha (in purple dress) and Rama Devi (in red floral print) spent some leisure time together dancing to Telugu superhit songs at CASA Bridge School in Andhra Pradesh. *CASA/ Arushi Narchal*

that they need while studying. "We are excited to be back in school", they say cheerfully.

"I want to become a nurse and serve my village. There are many people like my father that are suffering", says Rama Devi. She aims to turn her life around and help people.

While, Anusha's favourite subject is English and she wants to teach children when she grows up. "I want to help the other children like me, I want to teach them and

lend support and courage," she says.

Hand in hand, they walk their way back home from the bridge school, just like before.

It is an extraordinary story of friendship and courage. The Unbiological Sisters are an inspiration to all the children going through hard times. Anusha and Rama were one of the thousand children facing child labour, but today lead a life of hope and aspiration. ■

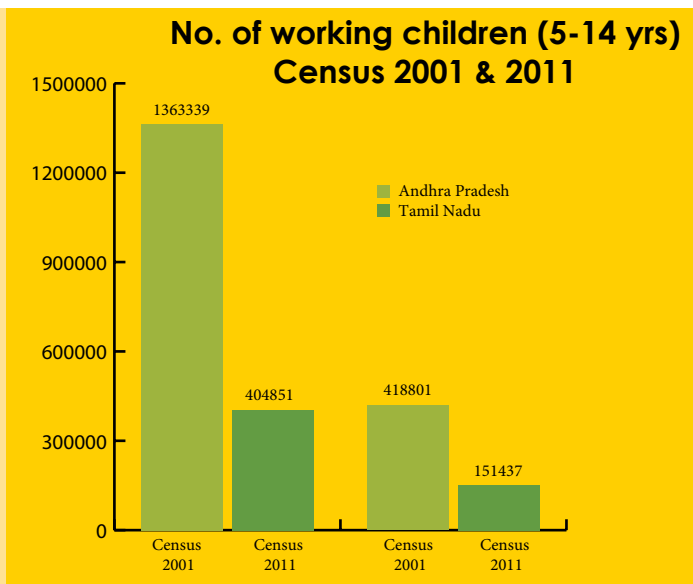
Top 3 states of Child Labor according to Census 2011

**21.5%**  
**2.18 Millions**  
in Uttar Pradesh

**10.7%**  
**1.09 Millions**  
in Bihar

**8.4%**  
**0.85 Millions**  
in Rajasthan

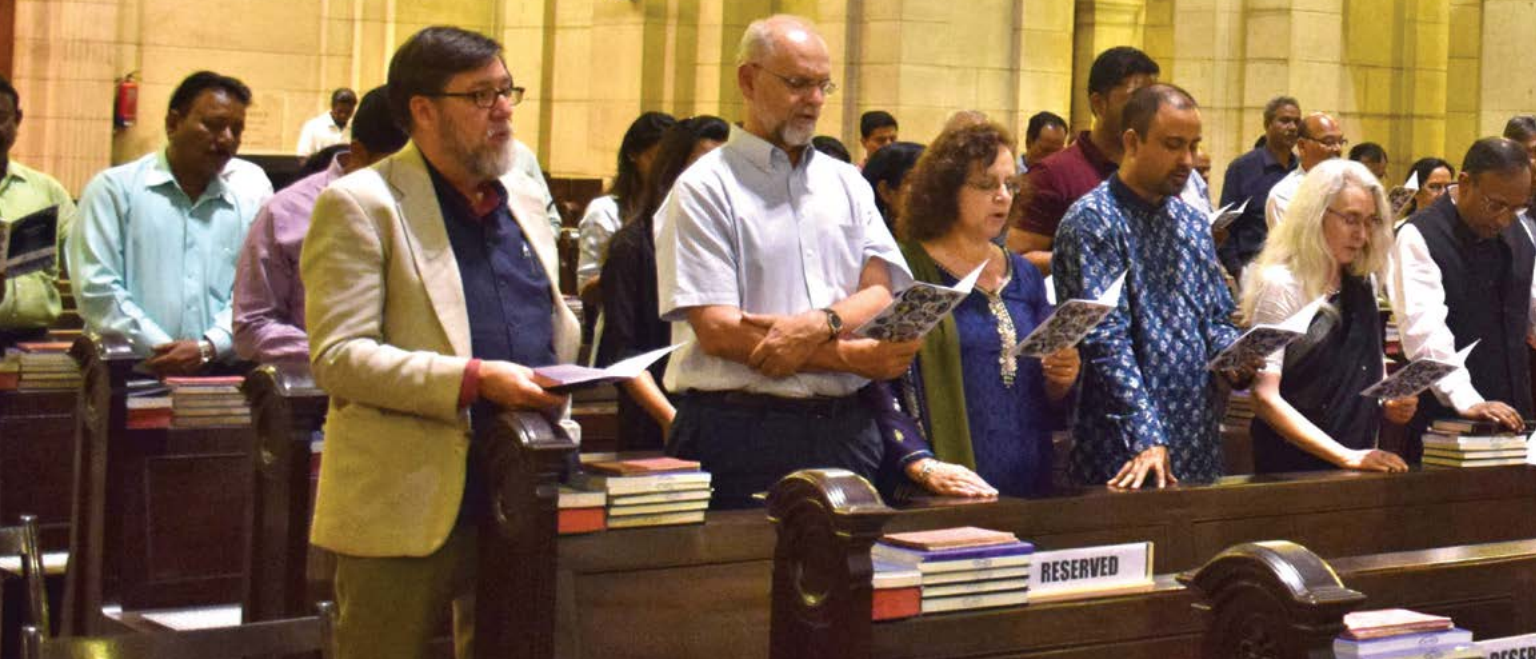
Source: Census 2011



**CASA runs Bridge Schools for drop-outs and child labours in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh**

**We also run Supplementary Education Centers to coach and tutor under privileged students**

# CASA COMPLETE



CASA marked its 70 year heritage by dedicating the day to the communities of rural India which worked hand-in-hand with CASA in their march for development and dignified lives. CASA marked the thanksgiving event at Cathedral Church of the Redemption located in the heart of central Delhi. The event held in March 2018 was attended by CASA veterans and board members who have dedicated their lives to social work.

Former Director of CASA 85-year-old Major J.K. Michael was also present with his family members. Mr. Michael served as the Director of CASA for 24 years and was

succeeded by Dr. Sushant Agrawal in 2001. Members from CASA's partner organisations were also present.

CASA Chairperson The Most Rev. Suneel Bhanu opened the event with his thanksgiving prayer followed by treasurer His Grace Dr. Yakob Mar Irenaios.

Dr. Agrawal addressed the gathering by giving a brief on how Church Auxiliary for Social Action was formed as an immediate relief committee to help victims during Indo-Pak partisan. "Today, CASA has grown into a premier humanitarian and developmental organisation with its base in 26 states working in 10,000+

villages, reaching out to 6.3 million people and we are moving towards a new beginning," he said.

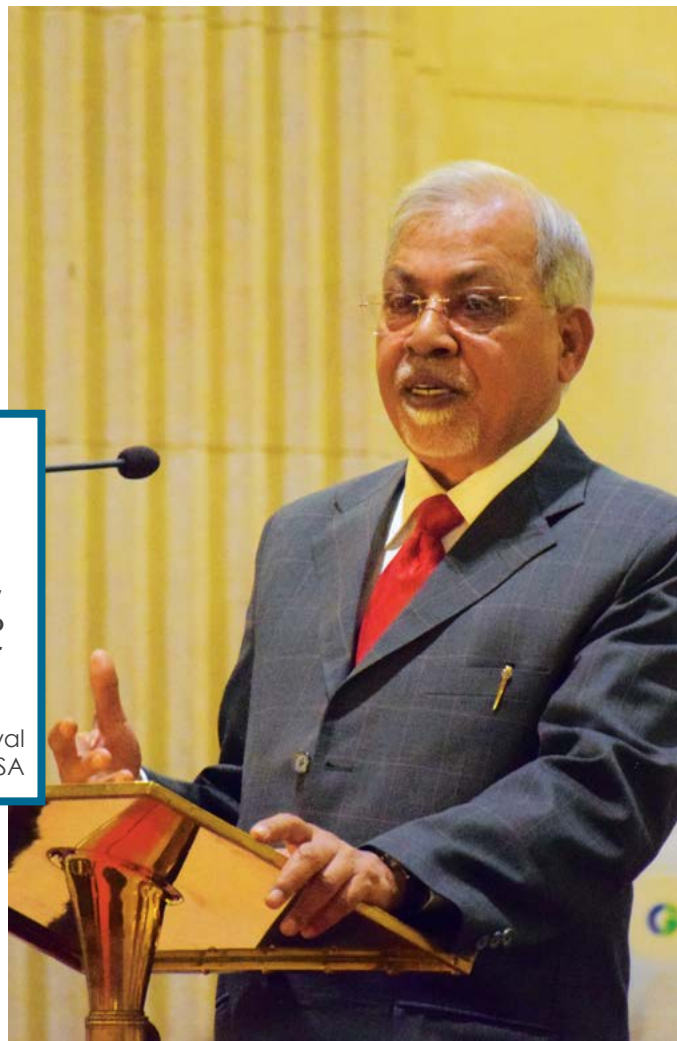
Dr. Agrawal added: "I thank my predecessor Major Michael for all the contributions he made to take CASA to its heights. And I thank our member churches who helped us sway through difficult times. But most importantly I thank our dedicated CASA staff who work day and night tirelessly to achieve visible development and humanitarian work with the communities on the ground." Senior management along with other CASA staff were present for the three hour long celebration followed by dinner.

# TES 70 YEARS



“ Besides reaching out to the millions of poor and the marginalised communities, we need to make ourselves constantly relevant in the current context. We have come past 70 years of memorable work but now the time has come where we need to change our approach to serve better and reach out to more people.

Dr. Sushant Agrawal  
Director - CASA



From L to R: CASA staff taking part in devotion, His Grace Dr. Yakob Mar Irenaios and Director Dr. Sushant Agrawal with Hon'ble Minister of Tourism Alphons Kannanthanam, Major J K Michael Ex-Director received by Nimal Singh, His Grace Dr. Yakob Mar Irenaios and Director receive MCCI Representative for India.

World  
Environment Day  
5th June  
#BeatPlasticPollution

A synthetic material that will not be destroyed for 500 years is not easy to deal with. The garbage crisis in the mountain ranges is becoming even worse. It's time we start worrying!



**Shreyansh Shrivastav**  
Intern - Communications  
@shreyansh309



When hiker Sahil Khatri - now 29 - first set his journey towards the upper reaches of Himalayas, he was astounded to see how a beauty so unaffected for decades was marred with plastic.

His native state Himachal Pradesh is "at the mercy of plastic wastes" brought by unrestricted and unmonitored tourist boom. The mountain state alone produced an estimated 1004 tonnes of plastic waste in 2014-15. (Refer to the graphic).

Sahil observes that the "problem is not restricted to plastics alone but the lack of awareness among people."

Talk of Triund Trek 10 years ago and not a single soul could have guessed its location in Himachal. Years later in the social media hegemony, every Instagram lover

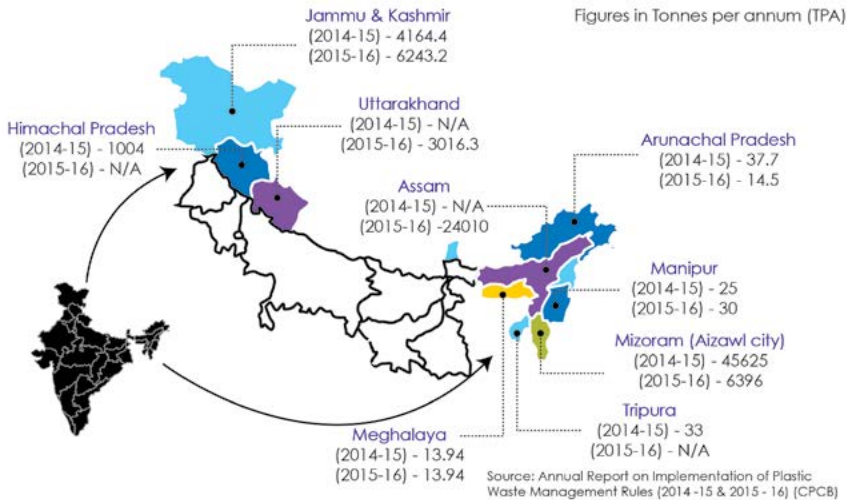
would want a photograph of them sitting on the snow tip of Triund with #hashtag #SippingTea; in return leaving tonnes of garbage on their way.

Sahil adds that back in 2004, he found a variety of wildlife species along the trail but all that has changed now.

"Tourists come from already polluted metropolitan cities and display the same destructive behaviour in the mountains. They throw plastic bottles, play loud music scaring away the wildlife. The animals are often injured due to the glass bottles along the trail," Sahil says.

Being a certified professional from Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering, Sahil speaks up about the spread of urban culture in the region. "Trips to mountains





India hosted this year's World Environment Day with theme #BeatPlasticPollution

According to the World Environment Day Website, "Every year up to 13 million tons of plastic leak into our oceans where it smothers coral reefs and threatens vulnerable marine wildlife."

have become a fashion trend these days but not everyone respects nature. People consume alcohol and party as if it were a nightclub. Such practices should only be restricted to the cities."

Tourist hotspots like Leh and Ladakh (desert mountains in J&K) are also the prime victims of littering. Soda cans, plastic bottles, plastic wrappers are found across the regions. Sahil says "there are some unexplored treks that are difficult to reach and relatively cleaner than the more accessible trails."

While Triund was sitting on a ticking time bomb of garbage crisis, a British national in India, Jodie Underhill tried to combat the issue by forming an NGO 'Waste Warriors' gathering young volunteers to start a weekly waste collection drive from Triund.

Being the harbinger of clean environment, the organization is devoted to battling the garbage problem in the hills of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh and spread awareness among people.

In an exclusive conversation with CASA, Avinash Pratap Singh, the COO of Waste Warriors said that "the footfall of tourists makes Triund a hotspot for waste accumulation. Waste Warriors work to educate and spread awareness among

people and prevent malpractice of littering to ensure sustainable ways for waste management."

The team has been significant in spreading awareness related to degradable and biodegradable wastes. "We have provided garbage bags to the shopkeepers in our areas for waste segregation. We have also installed dustbins to prevent littering," says Avinash.

The importance of waste segregation and clean surroundings could only be understood by asking a simple question: Are we ready to give away a mountain of plastics to our future generations? ■

Edited by: Nidhi Joshi  
Intern (Communications)

Sahil Khatri, during one of his treks in Himachal

Source: Sahil Khatri's Facebook Page



The plastic that ends up in the oceans can circle the Earth four times in a single year and it can persist for up to 1,000 years before it fully disintegrates.

# #BeatPlasticPollution WASTE WARRIORS: AN INTERVIEW

CASA Intern  
Shreyansh Shrivastav  
talks to Avinash  
Pratap Singh,  
COO, Waste Warriors  
about their battle  
against plastic waste  
in the hills



Volunteers participating  
in a routine clean up drive  
in Triund

Source: Waste Warriors Facebook Page



A wall depicting God with a message to stop littering - an effort by Waste Warriors to spread awareness

Source: Waste Warriors Facebook Page

**Q: Waste Warriors is an organisation dedicated towards cleaning India, especially mountain regions. We would like to know more about the nature of your journey.**

**A:** Our co-founder Jodie Underhill came to India from UK in December 2008 as a tourist. She was really bothered by the garbage situation in the region. Jodie's first mass clean up in McLeod Ganj(Himachal Pradesh) in 2009 was attended by over 100 people and it proved to her she wasn't alone in her efforts. Volunteers were recruited to segregate and sort the waste from the chai shops and guest houses and also to clean the hiking trail.

**Q: Your efforts are mostly concentrated on the mountain regions. Is there any specific reason for that?**

**A:** Our founder witnessed the waste problem in this region firsthand and decided to do something about it. We have worked in both urban and rural regions of Himachal, Dehradun and Corbett(Uttarakhand). In the end, we are trying to make a waste management plan which is replicable in both rural and urban areas.

**Q: Tell us more about your Waste Management Consultancy Programme. Also, what type of training do you provide the locals about waste management?**

**A:** We offer consultancy programmes to organisations which want to become waste sustainable. We audit the kind and quantity of

waste they generate and how they can reduce it. We help devise a system for them to collect and process their waste and advise them on the chain of waste management.

**Q: What methods do you employ for the segregation and collection of wastes?**

**A:** It is very manual and we don't use any machinery. We have set up 4 waste collection centres in Dehradun. All the waste is brought to our segregation centre via a truck and then our employees manually segregate it.

**Q: How do you use art to highlight your cause?**

**A:** Our initial idea was just to make the city walls look pretty. Then we realised that the people actually observe and read what is written on the walls. So we started adding messages about waste and compost management. This type of activity has helped in creating awareness among the people.

**Q: Are you aligned or planning to align with any government body? Does the government provide aid?**

**A:** We partner with a lot of Government organisations to organise conferences and educational programmes. We work together in the advocacy for banning plastic etc. We have also worked with Nagar Nigam for the collection and composting of waste. The Pollution Control Board also reaches out to us for assistance regarding public awareness.



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Recent years have been the warmest in recorded history. Frequent occurrence of natural disasters are taking away lives and homes from many. Do we have a plan B?

**GRAMMY WINNER**  
Exclusive interview with Tabla Maestro Sandeep Das with CASA

**mail us at**

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**WHY YOU SHOULD SUBSCRIBE TO  
CASA IN ACTION?**

The society is divided between haves and have nots. We as social workers fight the injustice at the village level and bring some real visible changes to the ground. The rural population who can't be heard needs a VOICE. And we bring the VOICE to you. *CASA in Action* makes sure that the first hand stories reaches you. We bring you on ground reports, breathtaking case stories and our intervention at the rural level. Why do you need to read about them?

**BECAUSE EVERY INDIVIDUAL MATTERS  
AND EVERY STORY MATTERS**