

# Agenda 2030 put on Centre Stage again

A review of Ashankur's progress towards realisation of agenda 2030

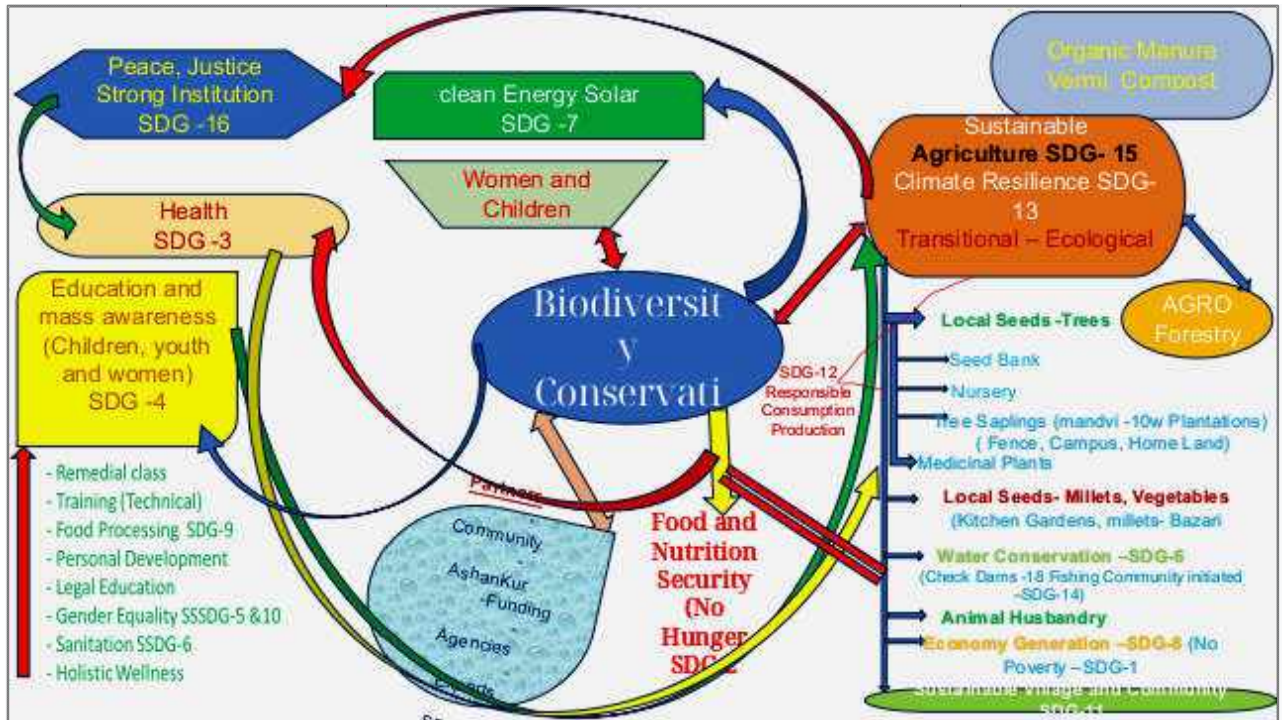


Figure showing Ashankur's approach to the SDGs through its activities

## Consolidation of partnership

(Quarterly Report of the Activities Done During February 2024)



## CONTENTS

S. No.	Content	Page No.
1	<b>Goal and Objectives</b>	3
2	<b>Report of the Seven Days Proceedings</b>	
2.1	Day One (7 <sup>th</sup> February) and Summary Report	4
2.2	Nipani Vadgaon (Ashok Nagar) (8 <sup>th</sup> February)	5
2.3	Bherdapur (9 <sup>th</sup> February)	7
2.4	Baragaon Nandur (10 <sup>th</sup> February)	9
2.5	Non Formal Education (Remdial Classes), Annual Assessment Test of NFE Centre Children at Ashankur Centre on 11 <sup>th</sup> February	10
2.6	Bhokar (12 <sup>th</sup> February)	11
2.7	Taklibhan and Jainpur (13 <sup>th</sup> February)	13
3	<b>Review and Documentation of the Field Visits, Data Compilation &amp; Processing, Reporting (14<sup>th</sup> February)</b>	15
<b>ANNEXURES</b>		
Annexure-1: Proposed agenda for work with Ashankur in February by Dr. Sunil Dubey		22
Annexure-2: Empowering women and citizens through GIS for sustainable ecology and livelihood in Ahmednagar, India, by Amit Daiman		24

# Action Research: Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation

## Relevance of Geo-Spatial tools for real time action research documentation

Ashankur 7<sup>th</sup>-15th February 2024

**Goal:** Upgrading Ashankur's capacity for implementation, monitoring and evaluation in line with the necessity for active engagement with Agenda 2030 and Ashankur's approach to the SDGs.



**Image-1: Spread of GPS readings across Ashankur's Work Area**

**Overall Objective:** Development of approach to upgrade baseline information and data available with Ashankur as the means to identify the future action research agenda that Ashankur will engage for concrete realisation of Agenda 2030 and its manifestation in the 17 SDGs.

**Objective 1:** Testing the validity and robustness of Ashankur's approach to the SDGs.

**Objective 2:** Participatory engagement with women and Children: Testing the response of the remedial class programme with children and the SHG programme with women to a more comprehensive programme related to an integral approach to the SDGs.

**Objective 3:** Testing the relevance and effectiveness of Geo-Spatial tools for real time

engagement with implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Ashankur's work.

**Objective 4:** Development of programme for the next three years (April 2024 to March 2027 as first phase in the realisation of Agenda 2030 for Ashankur.

The previous training focused on placing the work in Ashankur in the Global context so as to give shape to the slogan ***Think Globally, Act Locally - Act Locally, Spread Globally***. In the process of doing this, it was noticed that the previous work done by Ashankur needed to be upgraded to place it in line with the concerns articulated in the first workshop that took place in August 2022 and build on this so that the entire work of Ashankur could be seen in the light of perspective informed by agenda 2030. Accordingly the following was decided -

- a. Spending more time in the field area of Ashankur.
- b. Focus on the programmes related to SHGs, Remedial Classes and the newly introduced fisheries programme.
- c. Developing the approach to create a master list of the biodiversity available in Ashankur region and its reflection at Ashankur Campus and villages where Ashankur is working.
- d. Exploring how Geo-Spatial tools in general, the note cam in particular could help in photo documentation at Ashankur and its application in the future. In this context, how this tool could help in mapping of the land and water use was explored in the villages of Nipani Vadgaon (Ashok Nagar), Bherdapur, Baragaon Nandur, Bhokar, Taklibhan and Jainpur.

The proposed agenda provided by Dr. Sunil Dubey is given in Annexure 1, while the agenda proposed by Amit Daiman is given in Annexure 2. While writing the agenda Dr. Sunil Dubey took care to provide the appropriate hash tags (#) to educate Ashankur staff on the appropriate tag lines that make not only the reporting internet friendly and easily accessible but also relatable to the larger body of knowledge available through secondary sources.

## **REPORT OF THE SEVEN DAYS PROCEEDINGS**

### **DAY ONE (7<sup>th</sup> February) and summary report:**

Prior to the preparation for the field visits and aligning the agenda of Dr. Sunil Dubey and Amit Daiman, the first half was devoted to discussing the understanding behind the preparation of the diagram showing Ashankur's approach to the SDGs. The discussion noted that the Central work of Ashankur namely working with Women and Children was not connected to the SDGs in the diagram. It also noted the desire of Ashankur to root this work in the context of Biodiversity and Conservation which was then connected to the SDGs. The work related to women and children placed on the left side of the diagram, while the work related to land, water, ecology and livelihoods on the right side. Food and Nutrition Security (SDG 2) placed in the centre of the diagram as also Clean and affordable Energy (SDG 7) and Partnerships for the goals (SDG 17). In later discussions, how developments in Clean and



affordable Energy made sustainable decentralised governance and development possible, was taken up in greater depth. How women and children will help bring this about has been made central to approach of Ashankur. This aspect has therefore been explored in greater depth in the days that followed.

In the five days that followed (8-12 and 12-13 February), field visits were made to Nipani Vadgaon (Ashok Nagar), Bherdapur, Baragaon Nandur, Bhokar, Taklibhan and Jainpur. One day (11<sup>th</sup> February) was dedicated to interaction with children and teachers of remedial classes, and one day (14<sup>th</sup> February) was dedicated for review of work done, data compilation and processing and reporting exercise.

### 1) Nipani Vadgaon (Ashok Nagar) (8<sup>th</sup> February)



**Image-2: Google Earth Image of Nipani Vadgaon (Ashok Nagar) Village**

Ashankur had started work in this village since 2004. First of all there were 2 self-help groups in the village as Agri-Science Board. A grant of Rs 4000 was received from Agricultural Department. After that, the science board was converted into a women's self-help group. Initially, public awareness programs were conducted to help raise awareness among the women. In 2007, one women of the group was elected as Sarpanch. After this achievement the issue of how to develop the village was discussed. In 2007, 2008 the population of the village was 7000. The village was encouraged to build toilets. Ashankur

gave loans to 2 groups and loans were also given to many households on behalf of Gram Panchayat. Thus the whole village became 'Hagandari freed' (Open Defecation Free). Then in 2011, 12 people who did not have a place for toilets constructed toilets with the help of land given by the Gram Panchayat. Hopefully, the entire village will become "one house, one toilet". After that there were many epidemics in the village. Because there was only one well and there was a lot of dirt and garbage that used to get mixed in the water and resultantly the water was getting polluted. All the women took a march to the Gram Panchayat and shut off the water supply of that well. Alternatively water was arranged by taking a new well. Because of all this workfaith in Ashankur increased. Savings Group as aftergroup was also formed. In due course of time 11 self-help groups were started in the entire village. They were given training about socio-legal provisions and rights at Ashankur. With those efforts, they opened a ration-shop in Nipani Vadgaon under the name 'Maulikripa Mahila Savings Group'. In 2009, they received a subsidy for vermi composting and sheds from the Agriculture Department. All the women got together and started selling vermi compost. They also started using it for their own farming. Every week on Thursdays, 'farming schools' were held regularly. Department of Agriculture also guided the women SHGs from time to time. A total of 40 women were given agricultural kits.

Ashankur has provided training to women in candle making, soybean processing, soap and liquid soap making from time to time. There are 20 self-help groups in Ashoknagar. By giving similar training to them, women are currently doing home business like beauty parlour, cloth shop, sewing work, indigenous noodles making etc. In September 2023 a total of 300 women were trained in knowing and processing of 25 types of spices. A total of 5 women from Nipanivadgaon have been trained by the Social Welfare Department at Pyrance Bableswar. Today there are a total of 35 self-help groups in Nipani Wadgaon and Ashoknagar.



**Photo-1: Members of the SHG groups of Nipani Vadgaon and Ashok Nagar at the Meeting**

In the meeting with the SDGs held at Ashok Nagar Community hall, Manju Murkute a Manager from the Sugar factory at Ashok Nagar and Dr. Sunita Gaikwad, a college lecturer were the chief guests. Dr. Sunil Dubey while providing the keynote address pointed out the relevance of the traditional food practises as medicinal cure, giving example of ‘battisa’ (composition of 32 types of herbal parts that are given to the mother after giving birth to a child) in relation to health care. He pointed out the exotic plantation done in Ashok Nagar area and explained how the focus on ornamental plants and greenery alone was leading to the plantation to exotic and invasive species which had little or no relevance to the traditional livelihood, nutrition and health practises of the local community which were now being slowly dismantled in favour of market based unsustainable solutions, not only polluting the environment but also causing destruction of local biodiversity base. He asked for the cooperation of the local women present to help photo document the local biodiversity for which the staff members of Ashankur who were being trained by IELA would provide the necessary backstopping support.

While taking into account the points and issues raised by Dr Sunil Dubey, Viren Lobo pointed out that the use of Geo-spatial tools was an attempt to modernise traditional knowledge, filtering out its relevance for the present. Building on the sugar cooperative in the region of which most of those were either members or engaged in sugar cutting work he pointed out the need to develop the natural resource base line in the region so as to better understand how with the help of renewable energy, local value addition could be made possible. Field visits to other regions where SHG groups have set up their own factories to process groundnut into oil, honey, clothing, soap were among the many possibilities which needed to be evaluated in the context of the local biodiversity material available in the region.

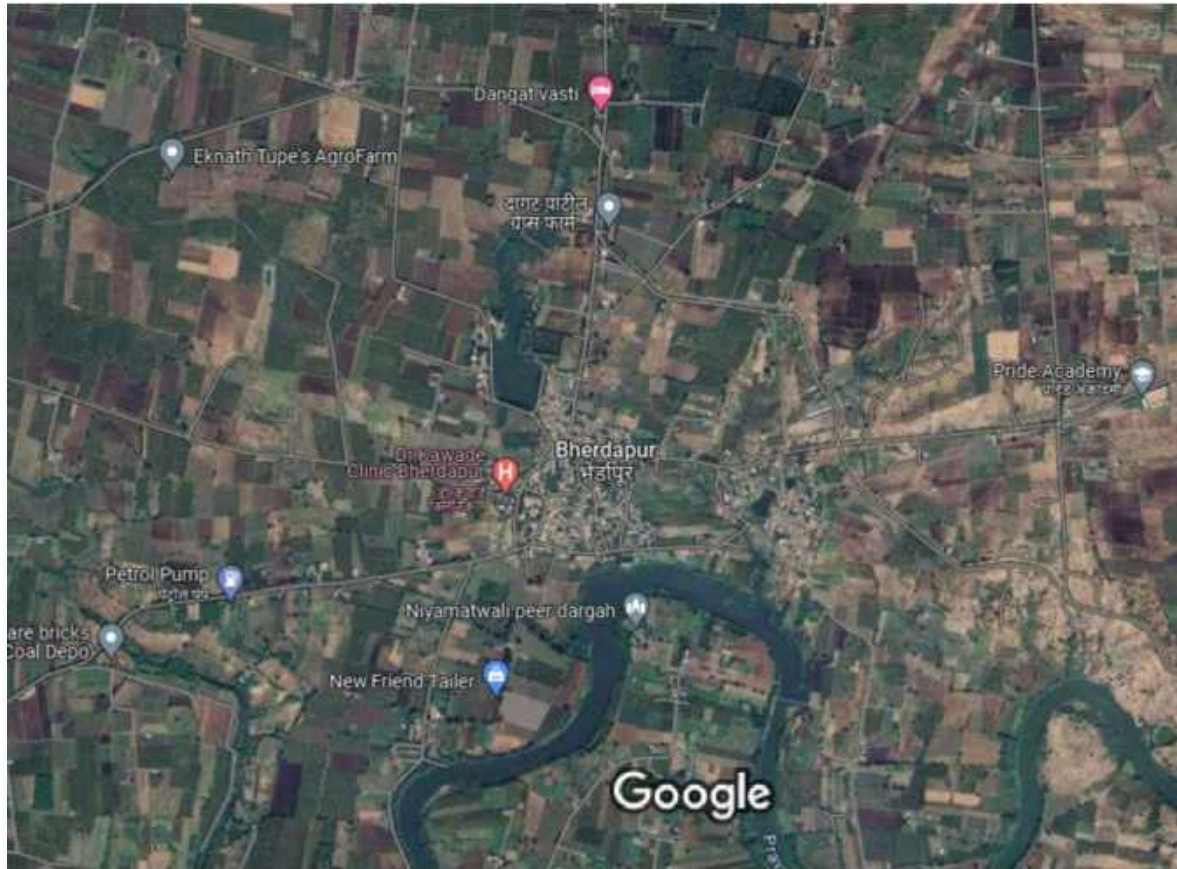
## **2) Bherdapur (9<sup>th</sup> February)**

In Bherdapur self-help group formation started in 2012 with just 2 self-help groups. They also got some financial help related to agriculture from the Panchayat Samiti. These women were taken on an educational trip by Ashankur and several trainings were also given in due course of time. Seeing their participation and their progress, 9 self-help groups have been established there till now. A woman managing the affairs of her self-help group has now become Sarpanch of the village panchayat. Process is going on for formation of 4 more SHGs and therefore sooner a total of 13 SHGs would be existing in Bherdapur.

At the meeting in Bherdapur, Anita Kahandal the Sarpanch, Sonal Kasbe, Panchayat Member and Asha health worker Nirmala Kahandal were present among others. The opportunity was therefore taken to discuss how the issues shared by Dr. Sunil Dubey and the related base line documentation in which the Ashankur staff were being trained in the use of NoteCam app could be used to prepare micro plans which could be approved by the Gram Sabha and put up for funds to the District administration. The relevance of the local biodiversity to build up the health, nutrition and immunity of the local community was also



discussed in depth. Nirmala Kahandal the Asha health worker was also given hands on training in the use of the NoteCam app while she accompanied Ashankur staff in local biodiversity survey after the meeting. During the field visit to understand and document the local biodiversity, exposure to the issues facing wetlands were also shared in relation to the invasion of aquatic invasive species like Besharmi (*Ipomomea carnea*) in the region.



**Image-3: Google Earth Image of Bherdapur Village and the Pravara River**



**Photo-2: Members of the SHG groups of Bherdapur at the Meeting**



### 3) Baragaon Nandur (10<sup>th</sup> February)

Ashankur team had visited this area few times in the recent past. Initial visit was meant to find out the fisher community living in the area and identification of their issues, including the status of fisher women. Ashankur is not operating in this area, but based on a pilot family survey of fisher households during previous visits, Ashankur found that it would be worthwhile to know about these despised people who are even not well recognised and are living in miserable conditions despite contributing significantly in fisheries based economy of Ahmednagar district. Ashankur team planned a meeting with fisher community at Mula Dam. The occasion was used to commemorate the World Wetlands Day and point to the larger issues facing the fish workers in the region which would require them to organise themselves for collective realisation. Since some of Ashankur's staff those present at this meeting had participated in the regional meeting organised by National Platform for Small Scale Fish Workers at Mumbai, it was easy for them to relate to this agenda. Specifically the issue of invasion of Tilapia and its impact on the local fish diversity was discussed in some depth.

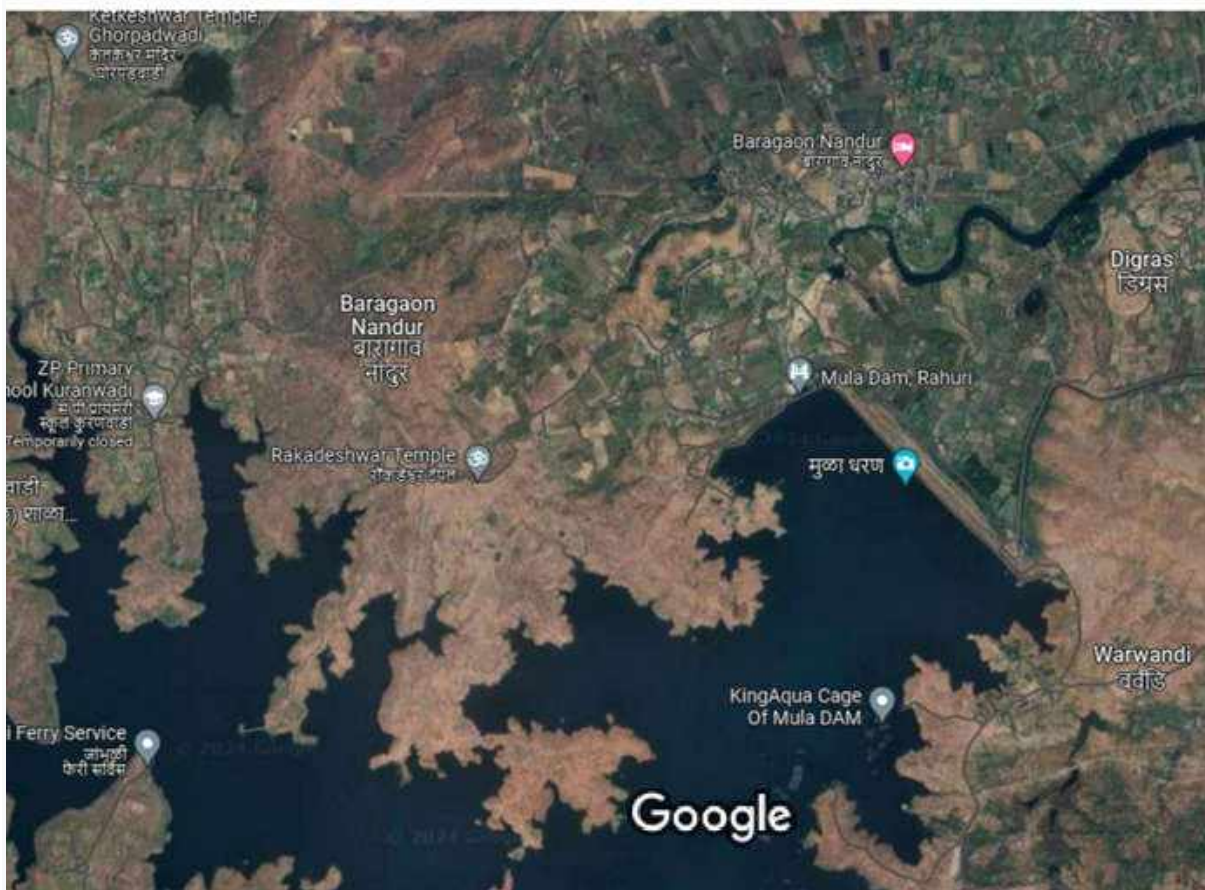


Image-4: Google Earth Image of Baragaon Nandur Village and the Mula Dam



**Photo-3: Meeting with Local Fisher Folks and Commemoration of World Wetlands Day at Mula Dam, Baragaon Nandur**

#### **4) Non Formal Education (Remedial Classes) (Annual Assessment Test of NFE Centre Children at Ashankur Centre on 11<sup>th</sup> February)**

The children and teachers of the remedial classes came to Ashankur Campus for the annual assessment tests. As an innovative activity, a science exhibition was also organised in which children brought and displayed their science based models. It was for the first time that the teachers of the remedial classes also guided and helped their children in making these science models. The skills of the children were assessed in the science exhibition and oral/written tests were conducted in general knowledge, English, and Maths. The oral test in GK was also organised in an interesting quiz form in which children were sequenced in groups to sit on the stage and answer a set of questions one by one; this way all children of class 1 to 4 were given opportunity to face their peers and answer the questions with confidence.

Based on the observations made by us during field visits and assessment in the science exhibition a discussion was held with the teachers of the remedial classes as to how the tremendous potential they showed could be better realised.

Summary data of the remedial classes is given hereunder -

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>NFE Centre Village</b>	<b>Teacher Incharge</b>	<b>Total Registered Children</b>
1	NFE Bhokar (Market yard)	Mrs. Shraddha Dhandawate	23
2	NFE Bhokar (Jagtap Basti)	Mrs. Lanka Mate	24
3	NFE Bhokar (Indira Nagar)	Miss Tanuja Ramdas Perkar	26

4	NFE Deolali Pravara	Mrs. Christina (Hema) Makasare	26
5	NFE Rajuri	Miss Priyanka Pratap Jagatap	17
6	NFE Sutgirmi	Mrs.Sameena Nadem Shaikh	13
7	NFE Khandala	Mrs. Alka Nikam	26
8	NFE Haregaon (D'quarters)	Miss Vishaka Ravindra Dhanedhar	25
10	NFE Nipani (Near Govt. School)	Mrs. Priyanka D Chopade	25
11	NFE Khokar	Mrs. Krupali V Chakranarayan	26
12	NFE WADALA	Mrs.Sonali Sonawane	13
13	NFE Mandvi	Miss. Savita Wagh	20
14	NFE Ghogargaon	Miss Nikita Popat Shirsat	13
9	NFE Nippani	Mrs. Kalyani Somvanshi	12
15	NFE Deolali	Mrs.Archana Pandit	Temporarily Stopped



**Photo-4: children and Teachers of the Remedial Classes at Ashankur Center**

#### **5) Bhokar (12<sup>th</sup> February)**

Ashankur was established in Bhokar village in 2001-2002 and the institute was inaugurated on 7th January 2003. Initially, Ashankur built a small office and training hall and started rearing cows, goats and at the same time started training for tailoring and nursing. Ashankur gathered 10 to 15 women from that settlement and in 2003 the first self-help group named 'Stree Shakti' (Women Power) was formed and that group was convinced of the importance of small monetary savings. This subject was quite new for women. They decided to hold their self-help group meeting on the 4th of every month and started coming



to Ashankur Center for the meeting. Ashankur started giving different trainings to the women along with help in management of their saving group. After that, two new savings groups (Bachat Gat) were formed in the village and more information on different subjects of their interest and benefit was inculcated through various training and orientation programs. Public awareness songs were taught to women from 2003 to 2024. Currently Ashankur is working with 44 savings groups in Bhokar. So far Ashankur has given different types of training to women. It includes vocational and legal, agricultural, health, food processing personal development, medicinal plant training, organic farming, different types of extracts, goat rearing, poultry rearing, cow rearing, cheese making, different products from milk, different crops, agricultural school, register keeping, vermi composting, tree grafting, mushroom culture, tailoring, computer and nursing etc.

At the meeting with women members of SHGs on 12<sup>th</sup> February, in the presence of the Sarpanch issues and plans similar to those discussed at Ashok Nagar and Bherdapur were discussed. Concretely the following were proposed -

- a. Removal of invasive weds like Besharmi (*Ipomoea carnea*), Edha Babool (*Prosopis juliflora*), Ghaneri (*Lantana camara*) etc from the banks of the local pond,
- b. Movement to control use and disposal of plastic,
- c. Setting up of a programme for health care and nutrition based on the local biodiversity available.

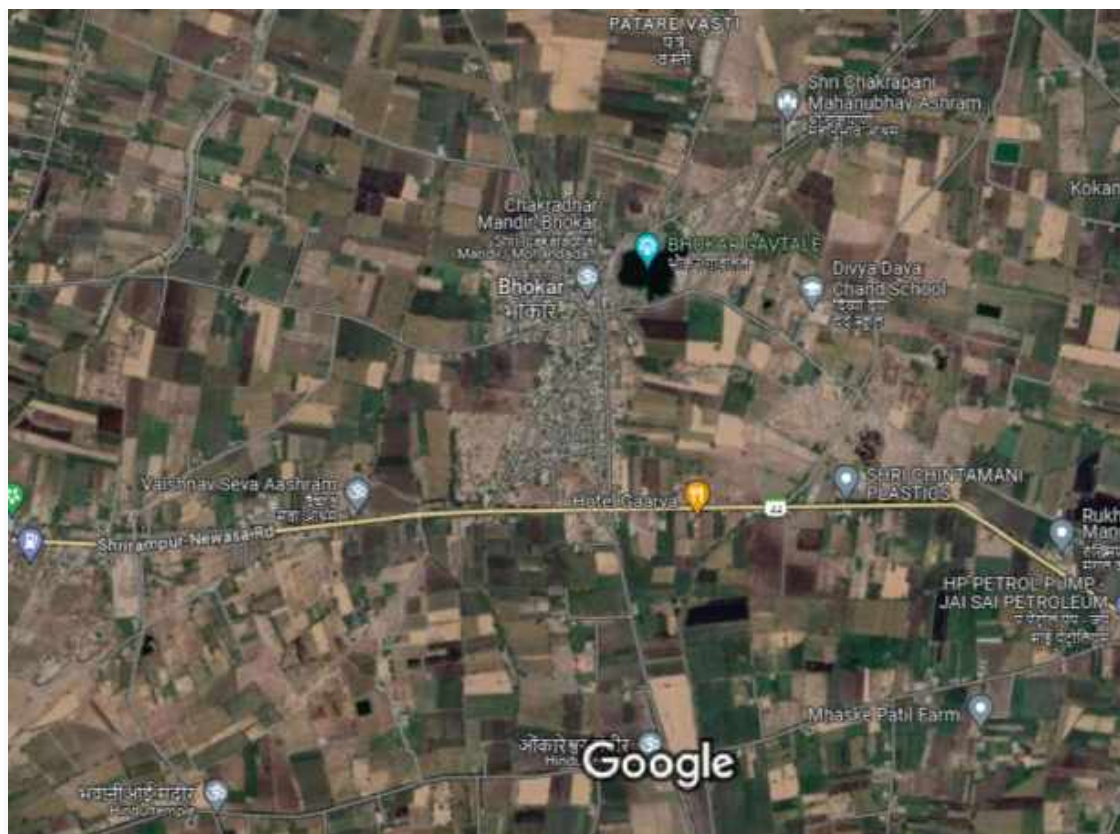


Image-5: Google Earth Image of Bhokar Village



**Photo-5: Meeting with women of Self Help Group at Bhokar Village**

#### **6) Taklibhan and Jainpur (13<sup>th</sup> February)**

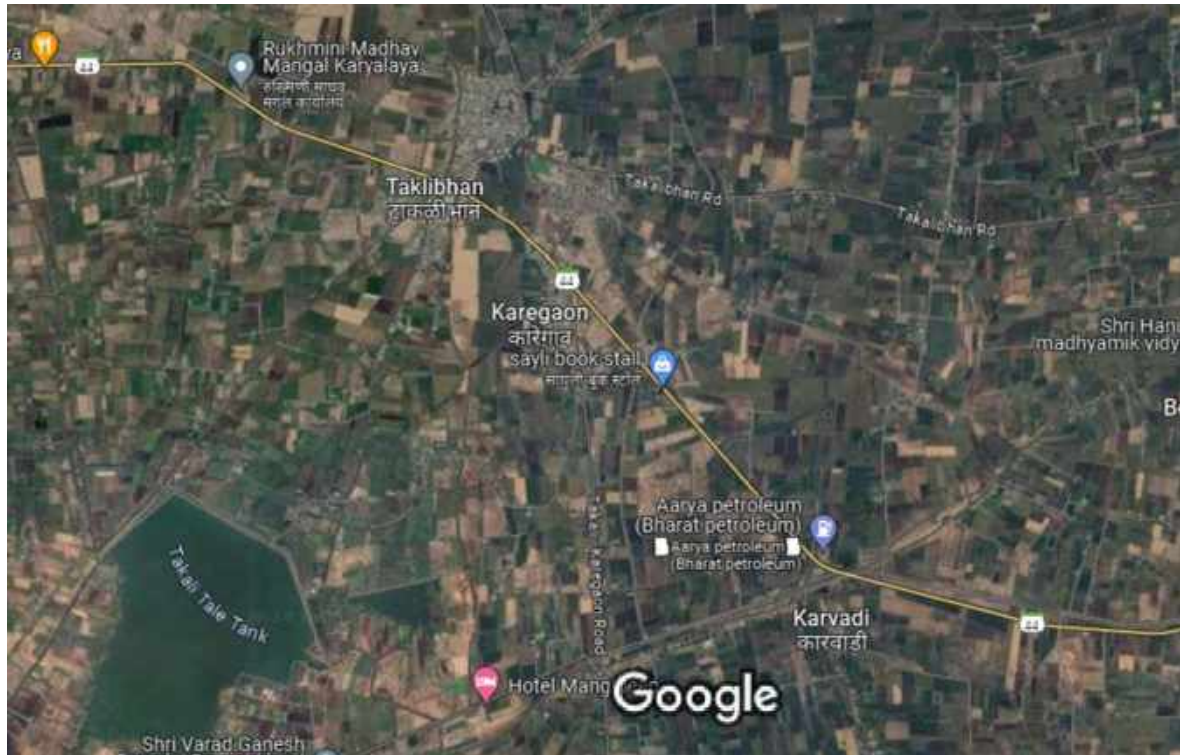
Three teams were made, two teams stayed at Ashankur center for data processing and reporting practice and the third team went for visit of wetlands and meeting with the fisher community.

This time to Taklibhan and Jainpur, where fish workers dependant on the Pravara and Godavari rivers and Tel Tank reservoir were interacted with to understand how Ashankur could fit in and deepen Ashankur's engagement with Fish workers of the region, particularly with fisher women who were not under access by Ashankur till date. The purpose of this visit was to consolidate the work related to fish workers in the region and understand the specific issues facing the fishers of Takalibhan. Issue of invasion of Tilapia and its impact on the local fish diversity was also discussed.



**Photo-6: Meeting with Local Fisher Folks and Commemoration of World Wetlands Day at Taklibhan**





**Image-6: Google Earth Image of Taklibhan Village and Tel Tank Reservoir**



**Image-7: Google Earth Image of Jainpur Village and the Godavari River**

At Jainpur village, Ashankur team was guided to conduct river bank survey to understand the wetland ecology of a river. Several species of local importance were identified and many species having potential invasive nature were also identified. The invasive pathways of terrestrial and aquatic invasive plants were explained along with demonstration of their occurrence and distribution along the river bank. Issues similar to those raised in Baragaon Nandur and Takali Bandh were also discussed with Ashankur staff



in depth. A consolidated report of the region is being prepared along with the GPS readings on NoteCam app.

One team that stayed at Ashankur center worked on preparing a brief overview of the work done so far and its representation on Google Earth map. Apart from reporting purposes, the exercise was used to identify the gaps in use of tools and techniques by Ashankur staff so that more focussed inputs can be provided by the IELEA team in general and Dr. Sunil Dubey and Amit Daiman in particular.

Another team that too stayed at Ashankur center used the time to develop the report for the remedial class centres which has been placed in excel format.

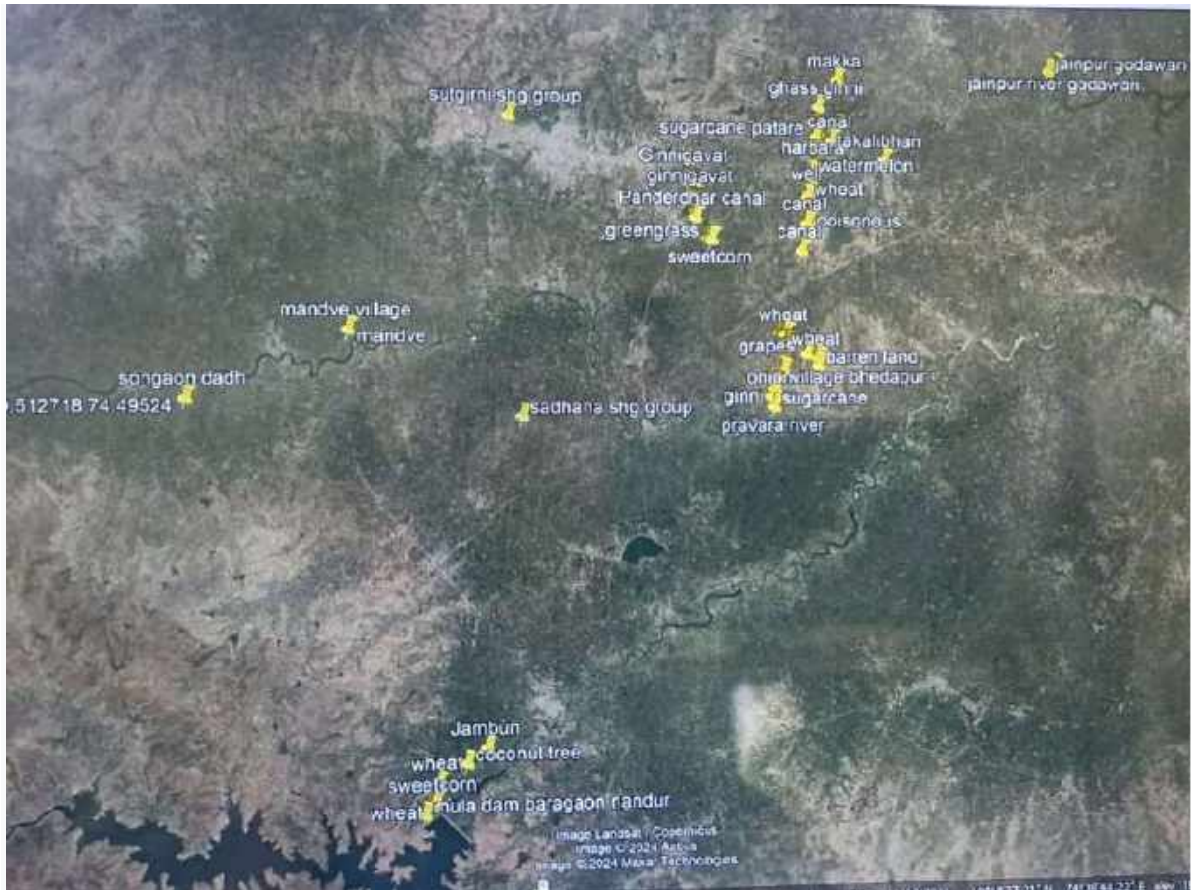
### **7) Review and Documentation of the Field Visits, Data Compilation & Processing, Reporting (14<sup>th</sup> February)**

On the last day (14<sup>th</sup> Feb), apart from a brief presentation of the overview and discussion on the same, the master format for preparation of the biodiversity inventory of the region was discussed. How this data would help to record invasive species, Rare, Endangered and Threatened species (RET), Medicinal species was also shared.

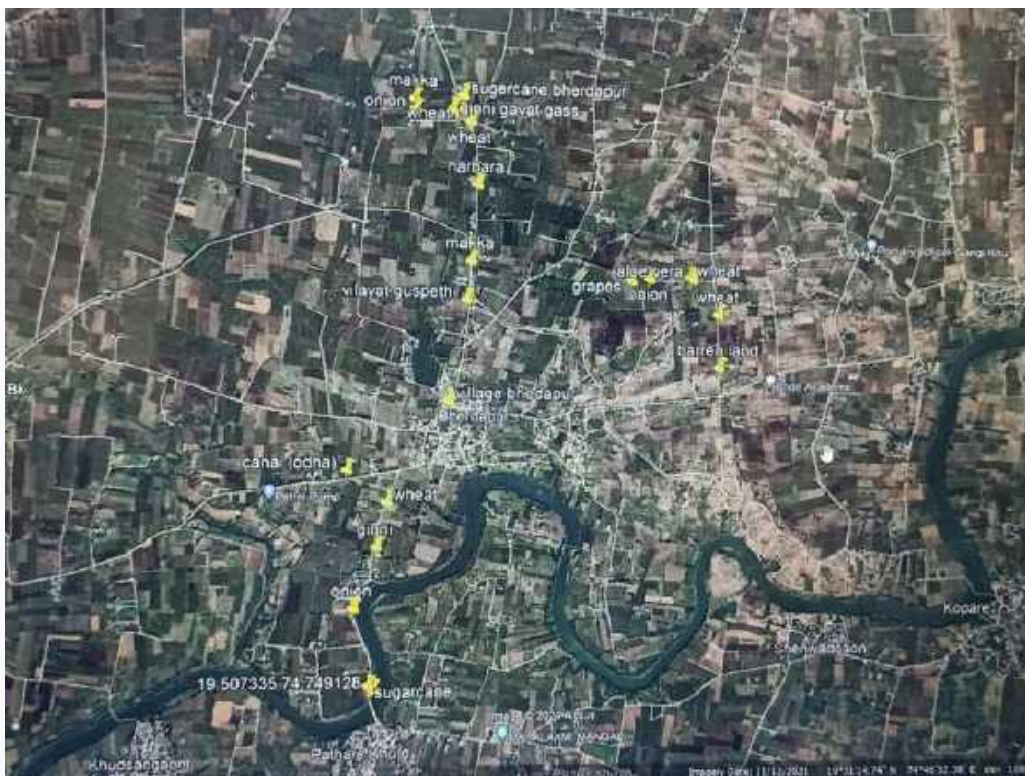


**Photo-7: Ashwini Outlining the Framework Emerging as a Result of the 5-Days Field work**

As can be seen from the image-8, the need for proper tools to mark locations with different colours so that the different aspects studied can be properly seen still needs to be learnt. Given the limited time available with Ashankur staff and the local community this is being done in stages in action research mode.



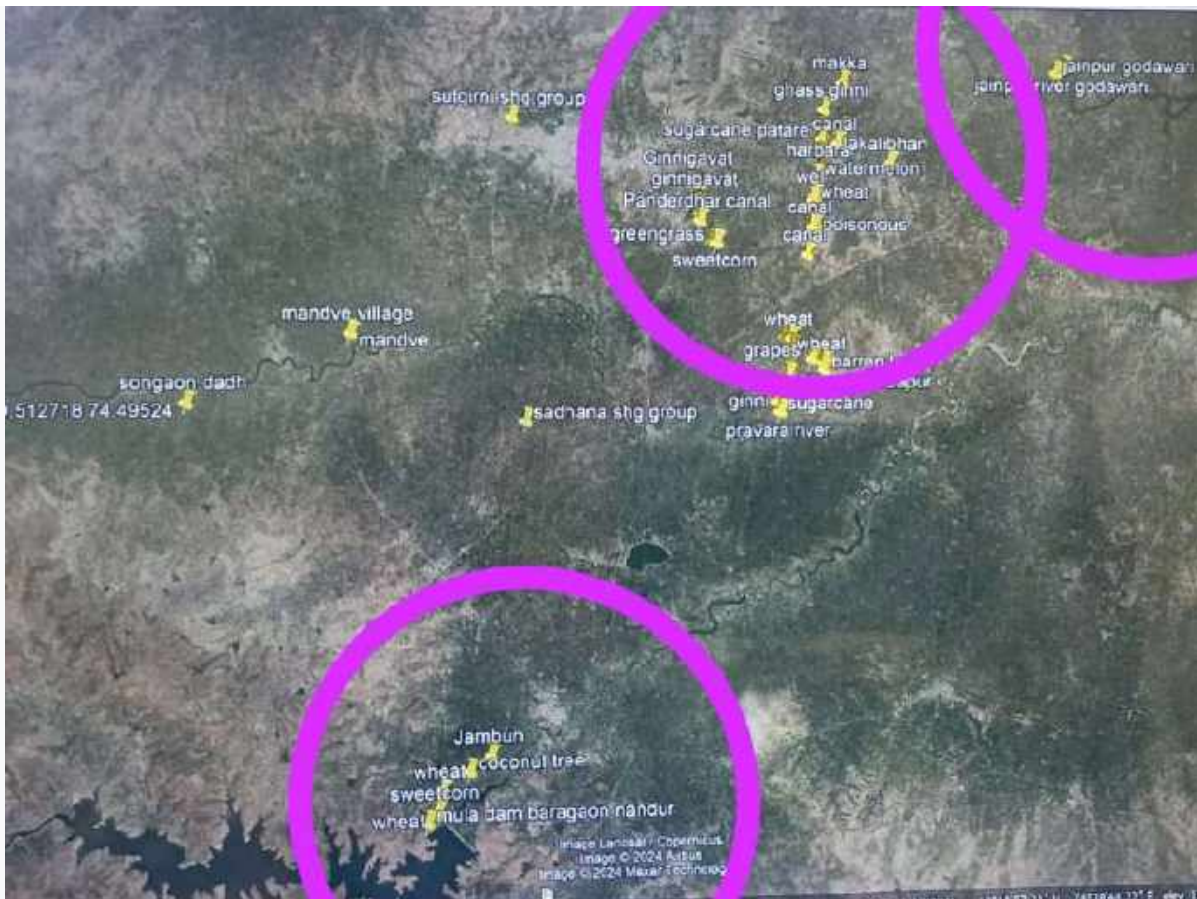
**Image-8: Google Earth Image of Field Data Collection Sites Where Ashankur Team Visited during Field Visits**



**Image-9: Google Earth Image of Geo Tagged Locations in Bherdapur Village**



As done for Bherdapur village (see image-9), such geo tagging has been done in all the field areas visited. The specific village level maps along with primary and secondary information collected will be prepared over the next quarter which will then become a monitoring and evaluation tool for evaluating the progress made in each village. To start with, given the limited resources, a few villages will be taken up for in-depth study which will provide the basic module on which Ashankur can upgrade its overall documentation of the work done.



**Image-10: Google Earth Image of Locations (In Circles) Where Meetings with Fisher Community were Held**

In the figure-10, tools have to be learnt to better mark the study area and related issues. This is being shown here as the way to study a particular theme (in this case fisheries and fish workers) and relate it to the larger geography and ecological issues on which Ashankur is working is being learnt. A sample of the Photo documentation of the biodiversity being studied is given below.





**Image-11: Geo Tagged Image of Javas (Flax) Crop**



**Image-12: Geo Tagged Image of Khorpad (*Aloe vera*)**





Image-13: Geo Tagged Image of Alas/Erand (*Ricinus communis*)



Image-14: Geo Tagged Image of Khakan (*Salvadora persica*)





**Image-15: Geo Tagged Image of Pravera River Bank Heavily Invaded by Edha Babool (*Prosopis juliflora*)**



**Image-16: Geo Tagged Image of Taklimool / Bhangari / Bhandira (*Clerodendrum* species)**





Image-17: Geo Tagged Image of Khirni (*Manilkara hexandra*)

No.	Photo	Name	Use	Village Name	Location
1		Ricinus Plant	Ricinus communis, the castors bean or castor oil plant, पर पे फेड खेती के लिये फायदेसीर नहीं.	Bherdapur	19.538219 N 74.754611
2		Agri-gandha	Biofencing, खेतों के बाजूमे लगानेसे कोई भी जानवर अंदर नहीं आ सकता है और ये सालर मोटा पौधा की तरह उपयोगी है .	Bherdapur	19.532289 N 74.7549.11
3		Khirni	Medicinal Tree दान दई खतम हो जाता है . बुखार मे उपयोगी , पीटाया कम कारने के लिये उपयोगी .	Bherdapur	19.515106 N 74.749325

Image-18: Sample of Excel Sheet showing Geo Tagged details of species photographed



**Proposed Agenda for Work with Ashankur in February 2024**

**by Dr. Sunil Dubey (to be assisted by Mr. Amit Daiman)**

**Duration:** 07<sup>th</sup> February to 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024)

**Agenda-1. Orienting People towards Identification and Documentation of Local Biodiversity and Related Issues for Safer Life and Sustainable Livelihood through Conservation and Utilization of Biodiversity Resources in Ahmednagar district, India.**

**Objective:**

- I. To develop consciousness among the local community towards distribution, status and issues of local biodiversity so that people can sustain safer life with adequate biological resources and sustainable livelihood through conservation and utilization of biological resources.

***# Ecological Consciousness***

**Agenda-2. Assessment and Documentation of Alternative Classrooms Run by Ashankur in its Activity Villages and Suggest Ways & Means for Extending Better Support in Formal and Non-formal Education in Ahmednagar district, India.**

**Objectives:**

- I. To assess the functionality of alternative classrooms run by Ashankur, their data documentation & reports and suggest measures for improvement.
- II. To explore the possibilities of including field-base experiential learning and relevance to the local issues in alternative classroom program.
- III. To explore the possibility of linkage between women's program and school program.

***# Educational Transformation***

**Agenda-3. Organise the small scale fish workers community and their empowerment along with identifying & addressing the issues of fisheries resources in Ahmednagar district, India.**

**Objectives:**

- I. Survey and assessment of small scale fish workers community.
- II. Organizing them for the purpose of making their union and their empowerment.
- III. Identification and addressing the ecological issues related to fisheries resources.

***# Awareness, Empowerment & Mainstreaming***

**WORK PLAN -**

1. Preparation of field visits, study of data & information available at Ashankur (Day-1):

- Study of the related information available at Ashankur, discussion with the staff and designing of work plan for systematic field visits.

## **2. Field Visits and Data Collection (Day-2 to Day-4):**

- Visits to villages to observe and understand the status of biodiversity and its documentation with the help of village volunteers.
- Identification of different ecosystem types occurring in the visited villages and categorization of species diversity inhabiting different ecosystem types.
- Identification and documentation of plant species that are found in the area and their various categorisations. (e.g. categorisation of plant species habit-wise and animal species class-wise. further categorisation according to the identified characteristics viz. medicinal plants & their ethnomedicinal values; species providing source for fodder, timber, fiber, food; species that are listed among threatened in the international and national lists; invasive species etc).
- Geographical information of species occurrence & distribution through GPS Apps.
- Photo documentation of species (preferably through NoteCam app / SWMaps
- Information and data collection of alternative classrooms.

## **3. Data compilation, analysis and interpretation (Day-5):**

- Concerned staff of Ashankur and selected volunteers from local community work on data compilation, analysis & interpretation at Ashankur center.
- Identification of the ecological scenario and required measures.
- Identification of the issue and avenues related to AGENDA-2 and its objectives.

\* This will be a pilot exercise to train the Ashankur staff and local volunteers for assessment & documentation of the biodiversity so that they can carry out similar work and prepare report for more villages/regions afterwards.

## **4. Visit to fishermen community settlements and market areas (Day-6 & Day-7):**

- Visit to identified villages where local fishermen community lives and conducting meeting with them.
- Documentation of the fisheries resources available in the local water bodies, species, their availability, factors affecting them and market economy.
- Identification of key persons from the fishermen community and their orientation about various constitutional provisions, acts & rules concerning them.
- Identification of key issues related to local fishermen community and the fisheries resources and designing strategy to address and deal with them.

## **5. Collating the Information and Data and Designing of Follow-up Mechanism (Day-8):**

- Ashankur staff and identified village volunteers work on data & information arrangements, designing of follow-up mechanisms and set targets and activities for the next quarter.



## **Empowering Women and Citizens through GIS for Sustainable Ecology and Livelihood in Ahmednagar, India**

**Jointly by Amit Daiman and Sunil Dubey**

### **Objective**

To integrate community knowledge into ecosystem assessment using GIS, empowering women and citizens to address critical ecological and livelihood issues in Ahmednagar, India.

### **Goals**

- Identify and select at least four villages in Ahmednagar for the initial data collection.
- Develop a comprehensive training program for women, focusing on data collection using mobile GPS devices, arrangement of data, analysis and interpretation through simpler means.
- Orientation & training of individuals those having proficiency in IT tools, in GIS tools and techniques.
- Create informational materials and guidelines for further field investigation.

### **Work Plan**

#### **1. Field Data Collection Phase (Three days):**

- Collect data on water wells, water depth, water harvesting systems, cropping patterns, and other relevant assets using GIS technology.
- Foster community involvement through active participation in data collection, encouraging knowledge sharing.

#### **2. Data Analysis and Assessment (4<sup>th</sup> Day - Future Plan):**

- Analyze the collected data to identify key ecological and livelihood issues.
- Develop comprehensive guidelines based on the findings for future investigations and interventions.
- Prepare a presentation summarizing the data collected, key issues identified, and proposed guidelines for sustainable practices.
- Conduct a workshop to introduce GIS and GPS concepts, emphasizing its importance in addressing ecological and livelihood issues especially use of Google Earth.

#### **3. Follow-up and Continuous Support:**

- Establish a system for ongoing support and collaboration with local communities.

By integrating community knowledge and utilizing GIS technology, this groundbreaking project aims to empower women, enhance community involvement, and promote sustainable practices for a more resilient and ecologically balanced Ahmednagar.