



"There is only one business in the world and that is of human wellbeing." -Sadhguru

Annual Report 2014-15





Isha Outreach, the social development branch of Isha Foundation (founded by Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev) has been involved in several path breaking -environmental, educational, health and community revitalization efforts in rural India. - Working primarily in South India, Isha Outreach has become an example of the transformation that human intention and effort can bring about.

One of Isha Outreach's main projects towards development in rural India is the <u>Action for Rural Rejuvenation</u>. The project Action for Rural Rejuvenation (ARR) has been initiated with the aim of boosting the well-being of the body, mind and economy of the people in rural India and thereby uplifting their lives.

For several years, Isha has closely been involved in improving

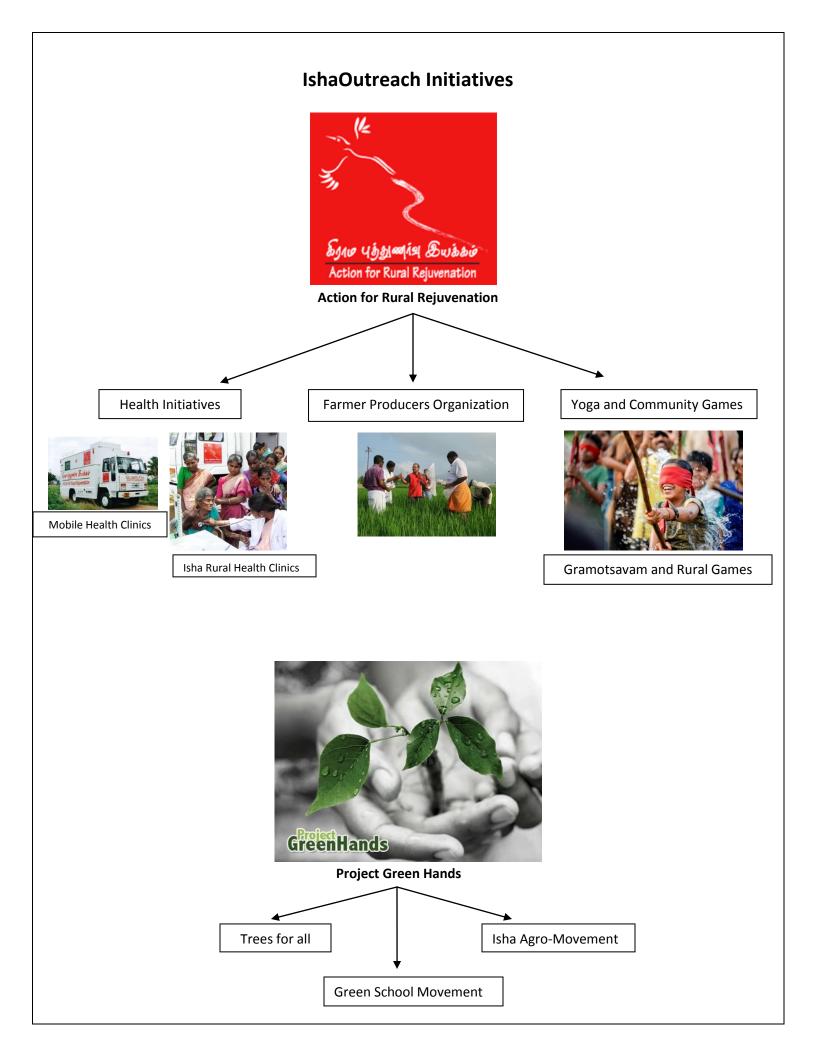
farmers' situations and the general state of agriculture in Tamil Nadu. Since 2013, Isha has been focusing on supporting **Farmers Producer Organisations (FPO)** as a means for small farmers to find better prices for their products and also expand beyond their agricultural role.

Isha has also been spearheading a people's movement since 2004, to increase the green cover of Tamil Nadu through **Project Green Hands.** Recipient of the 'Indira Gandhi Parayavaran Puruskar' in 2010, India's highest award for the environment by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, the project has planted several million trees since its inception in 2004.

OUR MISSION

We work to mobilize rural populations and marginalized social groups to transform their communities by providing holistic healthcare, building sustainable livelihoods, empowering farmers, and promoting life in harmony with our environment.





Some highlights from the year:

Isha joins 'Clinton Global initiative'. Established in 2005 by President Bill Clinton, the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) — an initiative of the Bill, Hillary, and Chelsea Clinton Foundation — convenes global leaders to forge solutions to the world's most pressing challenges. Isha Foundation is excited to join hands with CGI, whose mission stands in accordance with Isha's own dedication towards creating positive transformations in underprivileged communities, environments and individual lives around the world.



- Six mobile health clinics were functional this year. With over 256 villages being touched.
- This year over 500 farmers participated in an FPO meet at the Isha Yoga Center to discuss the outcome of the past year's efforts, and plan their activities for the next year.
- 526 schools participated in the 'Green School Movement' which is a collaboration of Project Green Hands with schools in Tamil Nadu to involve children in ecological restoration efforts.
- In the 'Trees for All' movement of Project Green Hands, over 28,21,814 saplings were distributed in 2014-15







Saplings being made in the nurseries for distribution

Action for Rural Rejuvenation



Sensing the urgent need to take action against human suffering in rural India, Sadhguru initiated **Action for Rural Rejuvenation** (ARR), a rural revitalization program, in 2003. The program provides a comprehensive approach to improved health, livelihood and community revitalization.

<u>Action for Rural rejuvenation</u> (ARR)'s primary objective is to improve the overall health and quality of life of the rural poor. ARR is a unique, well-defined philanthropic effort, which enhances existing development schemes by supporting indigenous models of health, disease prevention and community participatory governance, while offering primary health care services by allopathic treatment as well as native system (Siddha, Ayurveda) of medicines through its dedicated team of qualified and trained personnel.

Throughout this project, health is viewed holistically, involving a multitude of unparalleled components to create healthier environments and wholesome ways of living, targeting the mind, body and spirit concurrently.





3 Rural Health Clinics serve 342,000 beneficiaries in 287 villages

6 Mobile Health Clinics have treated over 1.5 million patients in 256 villages

Over 2000 medical camps benefited 366,000 people from 4000 villages

Community Care Center for HIV infected people has served 2500 patients

ARR's health initiative is designed to overcome the two main road blocks in rural healthcare – cost and access. One of ARR's innovative solutions has been <u>Mobile Health Clinics (MHCs)</u> – healthcare on the move! MHCs are specially designed all-terrain healthcare vehicles capable of reaching areas otherwise inaccessible to conventional healthcare providers. The mobile units combine a pharmacy, awareness generation units and doctor's office, all built into a truck which tours the villages, staffed by a doctor, nurse, pharmacy assistant, and driver. They bring free, high-quality healthcare and are of invaluable assistance to those who are most vulnerable to disease and infection.

For complicated cases which need further investigation or treatment, the MHCs often refer patients to <u>Isha Rural Health</u> <u>Clinics (IRHCs)</u>. IRHCs are clinics in centrally situated rural locations which serve up to 30-60 surrounding villages and an average of 60 patients daily. They provide communities with 24-hour access to affordable and expert healthcare services.

Mobile Health Clinics



The MHCs offer free primary healthcare and treat the most common ailments such as diarrhea, fever, and cough right at the villagers' footsteps.

This means that a villager does not have to travel all the way to the nearest town or city for treatment – something most of them are reluctant to do. Most importantly, the villagers are treated without having to waste a workday – the loss of which, very often would mean the loss of that day's meals. They also save money as there is no transport charge or fee for consultation and medicines.

Activities of MHC

- -Regular visits to remote villages on weekly basis
- -Frequent medical camps
- -Flood relief camps conducted whenever needed



Achievements this year



#villages touched/week: 256 villages
Total # of visits to these villages: 9538
6 Mobile Health Clinics were functional in 2014.

Patients treated by MHC in the year of 2014-15

Total # of Patients	145832
Male	48471
Female	97361
Paediatrics	23827
Geriatrics	61199

Sharing of an MHC patient

Namaskaram,

My name is Kalliammal and I am 62 years old from 4/390, Sappanimadai, Mathuvarayapuram, Karunya Nagar, Coimbatore (9629155678). I have severe Joint pains and am also hypertensive. Due to my body pain I am not able to move around freely. I am also not able to go to any hospital to get proper treatment.

From Isha they are supporting people like us who are very poor and needy by sending their Free Mobile Clinics. They are treating us and also giving us free medicines. The Ayurvedic oil which is given for body pain is very much effective.

I am less worried about my health now due to this support by Isha Free Mobile Clinic for which I am very grateful.



Isha Rural Health Clinics



Isha Rural Health Clinics (IRHC)s respond to a community's need for affordable and accessible quality health care. There are three IRHC clinics located in Alandurai, Kullappanaickanr and Velayudhampalayam. Each IRHC is equipped with lab, pharmacy and facilities for minor surgery. Each IRHC serves 30 to 60 surrounding villages and treats an average of 60 patients daily. Most of the allopathic medicines are procured in bulk directly from the producer and sold at 50% market price. Master Health Check up at subsidized rate is conducted quarterly, with medicines available at 50% discount, and minor surgery facilities. Apart

from its in-house doctor, the IRHC also has a team of visiting specialists for gynaecology, ENT and paediatrics. What makes these clinics really special is that many among the 10-member staff in each clinic are full-time volunteers.



The Isha volunteers work at the clinic with a dedication and commitment that money can't buy, often living and sleeping within the hospital premises to keep the clinic going 24 hours a day.

Alandurai IRHC 2014-15

Alandural IMIC 2014-15					
Month	Villages	Total	Average	Old	ECGs
	covered	Patients	patients/day	Patients	done
April	55	747	26	534	
May	60	767	26		
June	59	908	30	531	6
July	43	829	27	598	12
August	48	940	30	698	6
Sept	49	913	30	625	18
Oct	48	700	25	503	21
Nov	57	1035	34	766	16
Dec	28	817	26	670	12
Jan	36	705	24	516	9
Feb	36	756	27	638	17
March	35	856	28	539	21

Salem/ Kullappanaickanr IRHC 2014-15

Month	Villages	Total	Average	Total	ECGs
	covered	Patients	patients/day	Investigations	done
April	30	389	15	242	4
May	34	378	14	207	5
June	38	583	23	364	27
July	38	625	23	344	14
August	40	523	20	281	15
Sept	40	578	22	481	25
Oct	43	485	20	371	20
Nov	39	612	23	298	9
Dec	36	559	20	404	23
Jan	32	407	16	214	11
Feb	35	383	17	204	8
March	35	432	16	262	13

Velayuthampalayam IRHC 2014-15

verayumamparayam 1KHC 2014-15					
Month	Villages	Total	Average	Total	ECGs
	covered	Patients	patients/day	Investigations	done
April	76	810	31	60	6
May	82	851	33	47	8
June	75	990	38	52	9
July	81	942	35	61	11
August	76	749	29	58	18
Sept	75	873	34	47	13
Oct	77	942	39	44	9
Nov	85	1429	55	37	7
Dec					
Jan	73	824	33	46	5
Feb	75	689	23	45	8
March	74	695	26	54	8



Farmer Producer Organization



In the last year, Isha has been focusing on supporting Farmer Producer
Organisation (FPO) as a means for small farmers to find better prices for their products and also expand beyond their agricultural role.

With Sadhguru's guidance and vision, Isha has been closely involved in improving farmers' situations and the general state of agriculture in Tamil Nadu for many years. In the last year, Isha has been focusing on supporting **Farmer Producer Organisation FPO**) as a means for small farmers to find better prices for their products and also expand beyond their agricultural role.

Isha, as a facilitating agency is working closely with farmers of the Velliangiri Uzhavan Producer Company Ltd. in Coimbatore district to create a more sustainable and beneficial situation for them. **Today the organization includes 791** farmers.

On April 10th, over 500 farmers participated in an FPO meet at the Isha Yoga Center to discuss the outcome of the past year's efforts, and plan their activities for the next year.



In the last year, Isha has connected experts with farmers, allowing them to benefit from expert advice and knowledge. Dr E.Vadivel, former Dean (Horticulture) Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Mrs. Seemanthini Khot, former President, Suzlon Foundation and Mr. N Muthu Velayutham, Founder of Covenant Centre for Development, Madurai have shared their experience and know-how with the FPO.



This company is supported and facilitated by Small Farmer Agribusiness Consortium [SFAC], Department Agriculture, of Government of India. It is registered under Company Act 1956. We began the operations in 2013. November, Current enrollment of shareholders stands at 791 spread among 61 villages in Thondamuthur Block, Coimbatore district, Tamilnadu, India. Agriculture is the main occupation of this region. VUPCL provides technical support, credit support and marketing support for the

farmers.

Vision

Improve the socio, economic conditions of small and marginal farmers by capacity building, increase production & agro marketing.

Mission

Reduce production cost of cultivation through input linkage of FPO, increase productivity through training in new technologies and proper marketing linkage for increasing income & ensuring sustainable development.

How we do it:

The problem



Farmers are faced with problems like, delayed harvesting, high labour wages, etc. So, farmers depend on middle men to actually sell their produce. Because of this they are unable to directly get the profits of their produce. They are not aware of the actual market price and therefore, easily exploited by mediators.

Other issues:

Farmers are not aware of Fertilizers and Pesticides in their own locality at a nominal cost.

They have difficulty getting advice or counselling for their field related issues.

They are not aware of bio inputs preparation and utilization.

They do not know about new technologies and other recent agricultural updates.

Solution



How is VUPCL helping the farmers?

It is facilitating enough professional labour teams and supplying professionals regularly to the farmers to solve harvest, loading and unloading problems.

Farmers are spending reasonable expenses for their harvesting because of labours arranged by VUPCL.

VUPCL is giving daily information on the current market rate of agricultural products, with emphasis on coconut and Arecanut.

It links farmers directly with local and international buyers, thus releasing them from the middle man dependency.

It reduces the additional expenses of the farmers like, brokerage

commission, transport, loading & unloading wages, etc.

VUPCL is operating **input shop** since 2014. The Input Shop offers Organic & In-organic fertilizers and Pesticides at reduced cost to the farmers. Bio inputs, Coconut and Neem cake, Seeds and other agricultural related inputs are available in this shop.

VUPCL is motivating member farmers towards organic cultivation.

Skill development programs and agriculture trainings are frequently organized for the farmers particularly in yield improvement and marketing.

VUPCL is organizing exposure visits to the lead farmer's agricultural fields for the member farmers.

Overall benefits



- Coconut farmers are harvesting & selling their products without any difficulties
- Compared to outside mediators, farmers are getting more profit by selling their products through VUPCL
- Arecanut farmers have been benefitted through VUPCL, as it arranges proper buyers for their product. Due to this, farmers get immediate and exact payment for their products
- Farmers have gotten knowledge on scaling up coconut yield, value added products (Coconut oil) and organic farming through several exposure visits
- Farmers are solving their field difficulties immediately by VUPCL's proper counselling
- Farmers are availing all types of organic & in-organic fertilizers and pesticides at nominal cost in their locality
- Production quality has improved through organizing various trainings
- Farmers have become aware of the benefits of Rain water harvesting

FPO Outcomes

Total Number of farmer members	791
Number of small and marginal farmers	577
Number of BODs (Board of Directors)	10
Number of Cluster Groups	19
Total Cultivation Areas	3752.29
Coconut Facilitated	1625906 kgs/Amount – 49015926
Coconut mattai (Husk) facilitated	Amount – 2993655
Arecanut facilitated	57493 kgs/Amount - 1832476
Input shop turn over	5800560
Trainings organized	49
Farmers Trained	1422

VUPCL's Future plans



- Promotion and training for Coconut yield improvement
- Introduce Spokes and hub Model Establish
 Value addition Coconut Oil unit
- Provide transportation facility, on rental basis
 (Goods vehicle) for small farmers
- Establish new outlet shop at Isha
- O Join as a member in Mega agri business consortium
- o Impart knowledge on **Organic manure production** to the farmers
- Train the farmers on increasing vegetable yield

Training Conducted Coconut Yield development & Disease control Training



This program was organized by the FPO at Isha yoga center on 27th April 2014. *Dr.B.Shanmuga Sudaram, Professor, Kerala Agri University*, gave this training to the participants. 200 farmers attended in this training session.

Success story – Coconut farmer (2014-2015)

My name is V.Kittusamy, living in Iruttupallam village, Thondamuthur block. Here, 60% of the farmers are involved in coconut cultivation. I am also involved coconut cultivation. Velliangiri Uzhavan Producer Company Ltd. (VUPCL) is functioning here since 2013. I am one of the members in this company.

Before this company, we sold our Coconuts through middle man (Buyers) only. After this company's intervention, we came to know how we were being exploited by the buyers. We didn't know about the actual coconut market rate. We believed the actual market price mentioned by buyers was correct. For example, if actual market rate Rs.15 per nut, buyer told us Rs.13 per nut. They bought our coconuts only on counting basis. One load will consists of minimum 18000 to 20000 nuts. Buyers have arranged their own labours for coconut counting. We were not able to follow the counting. So, would easily cheat us on the coconut numbers.

Here, I would like to share my experience in the coconut business. Once I had

28000 nuts and I approached VUPCL for coconut business. On the same day, my regular buyer came to my farm and compelled me to continue coconut business with him. I felt pity for him and gave 14000 nuts to him and remaining 14000 nuts sent to VUPCL. The next day I got money from both VUPCL and buyer and I was really shocked. Compare with buyer I got Rs.11,326 excess amount through VUPCL's business. On that day I realized how we were being cheated by the buyers. Thereafter, I market my coconuts only through VUPCL. VUPCL is sending actual coconut market price to the coconut farmers daily. It helps the farmers a lot. VUPCL renders needful services to coconut farmers like, organize trainings, arrange exposure visits, etc. Thank you VUPCL!

ARR - Yoga and Community Games

ARR ensures the holistic development of villagers through yoga, sports and wellness programs which enable and inspire the rural populace to take ownership of their life situations.

Community games improve self-esteem and health while fostering a healthy spirit of competition and community.

Yoga programs provide villagers with holistic practices enabling a proactive approach to well-being.

Participants have reported regular practice of these simple, easy-to-grasp methods has cured chronic diseases e.g. ulcers, asthma, allergies and depression in addition to



freeing many villagers from alcohol and tobacco addictions thereby improving their overall sense of wellbeing and joy.

Rural Sports

"Even the simplest form of sports can bring playfulness into your family and your neighbourhood, into our villages and towns, and make India a playful nation. A ball can change the world." —Sadhquru



Vision

A society where people are full of joy and enthusiasm, thus feeling inspired to play an active role in the transformation of their communities.

Objectives

- Reaching all the villages in Tamil Nadu as part of the rural rejuvenation program
- Employing sports & games as an inspirational tool to encourage community participation in developmental activities
- Reviving the traditional rural sports and games



Methodology

-Sports Chosen:

- Volley Ball Men; Throw Ball Women;
- Traditional games all group of people during events/

tournaments

-Establishing a network of locally motivated trained sport coaches -Mobilizing community and introducing Games

- Meeting the village influential people
- Creating health awareness programs
- Training in yoga practices
- Inspiring them to play games
- Making them experience the joy of playing through games

-Motivating and Developing sports skills

- Preparing courts
- Organizing male and female sports teams
- Coaching the teams through weekly sessions

-Ensuring the continuity and honouring the talents

- Organising/ Supporting the happenings of tournaments from village to district level organized by community leaders
 - Organising Gramotsav celebration

Impacts

- Improvement of health and reduction of addictions
- Enhanced self-esteem and empowerment especially among women
- Improvement in conflict resolution & problem solving skills
- Development of leadership skills and attitude
- Improvement in family and social relationships
- Fostering united community spirit beyond gender, caste and social differences
- Increasing receptivity for development programs
- Pride & joy of playing our traditional games and culture

This year Games hosted by Kaliyur village

A tiny village, Kaliyur near
Satyamangalam, which is about sixty
kilometers from Coimbatore, serves as a
massive hub and a grouping place for all
nearby villages to come out and play. This
year on Mattu Pongal day, over sixty
villages from the surrounding areas, came
together here to participate in the rural
games which went on till the next morning.



It is amazing to see how even ladies stay overnight without any concerns about safety. The event includes snacks throughout the day and annadhanam for all – all coming from the corpus.

A volleyball committee has been formed here. The committee takes up fundraising on a yearly basis and collects close to one lakh rupees every year. There is often a surplus of funds post the committee activities involving organizing the yearly festival. Once, the funds were used for replacing the village temple roof. Another time they were used for setting up a village library. Whatever still remains as surplus is used for handing out micro loans for villagers in need.

Rural Olympics

What makes the Rural Olympics unique is that it is conducted in an atmosphere of celebration rather than competition. Various aspects of Tamil Nadu's unique and ancient culture are highlighted and the whole event has a feel of a huge village festival. Most heartening of all, is the presence of women – both young and old – competing in the competitions. Special "Women of the Match" awards are also distributed for each throw ball match just as "Man of the Match" awards are given for volleyball matches. Cash awards and the Rolling Trophy are given to the victorious teams.



An integral part of ARR's work is to raise the spirit of the rural people and infuse a new sense of life and enthusiasm in them. Sports has always been used extensively by ARR in its rural upliftment activities.

Encouraging community participation in sports has been an effective means to bring in a sense of oneness among people irrespective of caste or religion. Additionally women, children and the elderly also eagerly participate in the games. This creates a great sense of bonding among all members of the community. ARR's Rural Olympics is the perfect platform to effect this change across thousands of communities in the state of Tamil Nadu.

People share:



Nagamani, 75 yrs old, Kolappalur Village – Gobichettipalayam

"My life began with throw ball!"

Now 75 years old, Nagamani has been playing throw ball at Gramotsavam for the past 12 years. She says her life began with throw ball. Such has been her enthusiasm that now she has a daughter, daughter -in-law and granddaughter playing on the Kolapulur village team, which has been a 3-time winner and 3-time runner-up in Gramotsavam over the years.

"For the last three generations, there was a major family feud among the cousins of our family. However, participating in Isha's yoga and community games initiatives has helped us break the ice, overcome our enmity and bury all the bitterness of the past! Thanks to Isha, we are now one big extended family and we celebrate all family and village festivals together, just like our forefathers used to." - Chellakumar, Anna Nagar

Sitting in the middle - He is an old man of around 50 who is not interested in playing, but he is the main force behind organising these matches. Whenever a tournament is planned in Kaliyur, the players just let him know the dates, the duration and number of people playing and visiting. When he started to tell his strategies and work plan of what is needed to organise a match, we dropped all our prejudices that his simple face evoked. He further shared, "I have seen these boys



before they started to play, they were always fighting, doing nonsense – now how wonderful they have become. And, this is my reward for taking on this organisation!"

Project Green Hands

'Help Us Grow a Greener Tomorrow'

Project GreenHands (PGH), a grassroots ecological initiative established by Isha Foundation, has grown out of a deep concern for the rapidly changing ecology in Tamil Nadu and beyond.

Drawing extensively on community involvement, the project aims to create awareness about the role of green cover through hands-on participative experience.

We intend on enabling the rural millions who struggle with desertification, malnutrition and poverty, to enjoy sustainable levels of self-sufficiency in harmony with living systems.

What are we doing?

Each strata of our society is being mobilized into united action and have pooled their resources towards planting and propagating millions of saplings.

Thus, working hard to reverse the environmental destruction wehave catalysed the effortless destruction of limiting social divisions.

Ongoing Projects

Trees for All
Green Schools
Isha Agro Movement

Since its inception in 2004, nearly **19.9 million saplings** have been planted in Tamil
Nadu and Pondicherry.

Objectives -

- To produce and distribute 3.3 million saplings through 51 nurseries established across Tamil Nadu under the model 'Trees for all'
- To train 22,500 school children from over 450 schools in Trichy district to produce 800,000 saplings by establishing nurseries in schools under the 'Green School Movement' model.
- To produce and distribute 200,000 saplings for agro-forestry plantation in farmlands as part of 'Trees for Life' model.

TREES FOR ALL

Our Progress

What began as a volunteer run grassroots project 9 years ago has now evolved into a professional and sustainable initiative and enjoyed a concomitant increase in knowledge, experience and expertise. This natural evolution has expanded the variety and quantity of saplings we can produce and prompted an expansion of our nurseries throughout Tamil Nadu.

28,21,814 saplings distributed in 2014-15 against a target of 27 Lakh saplings



GREEN SCHOOL MOVEMENT

Our Progress

PGH's 'Green School Movement' model is executed in collaboration with the education department to involve children in ecological restoration efforts and to create eco-consciousness among school children. By involving them in sapling production and plantation, children get to learn hands-on about each phase of the process - from sowing the seed, filling the pockets, watering and nurturing the plants, to planting the saplings. Through this model, children learn to become more aware of nature's processes and begin to relate to trees as life.

Particulars		
Number of schools		526
Saplings produced		9,03,487
Planted in school	ols	44,696
Distributed to students		7,06,993
Distributed to p	ublic	1,51,798
Students directl involved in sapl		
production	23,670	
Students involves sapling distribution		1,13,376

Implemented in Salem district in association with the TN Education Department –





ISHA AGRO MOVEMENT

Our Progress

More than 50% of Tamil Nadu's population subsist on agriculture. But decades of expensive and unsustainable inputs e.g. hybrid seeds, fertilizers that require more irrigation, pesticides that pollute water sources - have upset a once harmonious way of life and driven small farmers into debt.

Through group discussions, practical sessions and monitoring visits our experts teach small farmers how to re-establish traditional farming methods using an appropriate and sustainable choice of saplings, reducing external inputs, optimizing crop design for water conservation, managing pests and increasing yield.

Small farmers can now maintain agriculturally productive eco-systems with the diversity, stability and resilience of natural eco-systems.

Isha Agro Movement provided consultancy for farmers in 406 acres of land.



Isha Foundation, founded by Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, is a volunteer-run, international non-profit organization dedicated to cultivating human potential. The Foundation is a human service organization that recognizes the possibility of each person to empower another - restoring global community through inspiration and individual transformation.

Isha Foundation is operated by over 2 Million volunteers from more than 150 city-based centers spread worldwide. The Foundation is headquartered at Isha Yoga Center, set at the base of the Velliangiri Mountains in southern India, and at the Isha Institute of Inner Sciences on the spectacular Cumberland Plateau in middle Tennessee, USA.

Together with its active and dedicated volunteer base, the Foundation's activities serve as a thriving model for human empowerment and community revitalization throughout the world.

