



**SATPUDA FOUNDATION**

**MAY 2018**

**IUCN PROJECT IN MELGHAT-YAWAL AND PENCH-BOR CORRIDORS**

**Team:**

**Mandar Pingle** – *Conservation Officer*

**Anirudh Kawishwar** – *Assistant Conservation Officer*

**Nilesh Telang** – *Field Assistant*

***Highlights:***

- *Assisted 14 youths from Pingali, Bhingara and Zari in appearing for driver's license test*
- *Assisted members of Rani Durgawati self-help group of Bidgaon in marketing of scented candles*
- *Provided information on training in poultry farming to villagers; assisted 7 youths to apply for training*
- *Provided information to farmers on benefits of mushroom farming in Telgaon and Lohgad*
- *Trained one farmer from Umri village in Azolla fodder supplement cultivation technique*

On May 1, Anirudh celebrated Maharashtra Day in Bhingara village where a shramdhaan programme was organized by Paani Foundation, a non-profit organization working for water conservation across Maharashtra state. Anirudh and his team of 30 volunteers from Bhingara village participated in the shramdhaan programme. During the programme, the volunteers prepared water conservation structures like TCM, mud nallah bunds etc. These structures will help in improving ground water level by harvesting rainwater during the monsoon.



*Villagers of Bhingara preparing water conservation structure*

In May, Anirudh assisted 4 youths from Pingali and 7 youths from Bhingara villages to appear for driving license test at Regional Transport Office (RTO), Jalgaon (Jamod). These 11 youths were trained in driving 4-wheelers earlier through a one-month programme organised by us in their villages. The successful candidates will receive their driving licenses next month via postal service. Anirudh also assisted 3 youths from Zari to appear for driving license test at RTO, Akot.



*Driver training candidates at RTO, Jalgaon after completing their test*

On May 23, Anirudh visited Bhingara village to inform villagers about government schemes that can be beneficial for the villagers. Anirudh explained the details of these government schemes to the villagers and answered their queries. He also provided list of documents required to avail the benefits of these schemes to villagers.



*Anirudh providing information on various government schemes in Bhingara village*

During the month, Nilesh organized regular meetings with members of Rani Durgawati self-help group (SHG) from Bidgaon village. The members of this group were provided training in making scented candles earlier in a programme organised by us.

During the meetings, Nilesh provided the SHG with inputs to improve the quality of their candles. He also helped them to maintain their accounts properly. Nilesh also assisted the group in procuring more raw materials.

On May 14, Mr. Roshan Ladekar, co-coordinator for National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Saoner Panchayat Samiti, visited Bidgaon and met the members of Rani Durgawati self-help group. He provided information on benefits of NRLM schemes and ways to avail the benefits. He also provided information regarding loans for starting micro enterprises.



*Nilesh assisting SHG members in account keeping during a meeting in Bidgaon village (left);  
Candles prepared by the members of Rani Durgawati SHG (right)*

Rural Self Employment Training Institute, Nagpur is organizing a 10-day residential training programme on poultry farming in June. Nilesh informed youths and farmers about the programme. He provided forms and also helped 7 candidates from Telgaon and Lohgad villages to apply for the training programme.

During the month, Nilesh organized meetings with farmers from Telgaon and Lohgad to provide information on mushroom farming. Nilesh informed the farmers that they can substantially improve their earning by adopting mushroom farming. He provided information on various products that can be prepared from mushrooms and how this can help them improve their income.



*Farmers from Telgaon get information on mushroom farming*

On May 30, Nilesh trained Mr. Vinod Ghugal from Umri village in Azolla fodder supplement cultivation. Nilesh procured the Azolla culture from Mr. Umrao Mahajan of Telgaon village who was trained earlier by our team. Mr. Ghugal will be able to use the Azolla fodder supplement after a week of preparing the tank. He intends to use Azolla fodder for his cows in order to improve the quality of milk.



*Azolla cultivation tank prepared by Mr. Vinod Ghugal of Umri village*

On May 10, a leopard had killed a goat of Mr. Jeevan Murkute, resident of Nandapur village near Temburdoh. Nilesh assisted Round Officer Mr. Rewatkar and Forest Guard Mr. Bhosale in the panchnama process. Later, Nilesh and the Forest Department staff spoke with the villagers and advised them to avoid venturing in the forest to avoid conflict with wildlife. They also advised the villagers to avoid taking their cattle for grazing inside the forest and urged them to tie the cattle in closed sheds at night.

During the month, Nilesh provided a copy of Government Resolution dated 12 April 2018 regarding plantation drive under the aegis of Social Forestry to Gram Panchayat of Telgaon, Lohgad, Umri, and Bidgaon villages. The scheme aims to provide financial aid to farmers through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme for plantation along farms and their borders. The farmers can plant saplings of various trees like teak, sandal wood, bamboo, neem, mango, citrus species etc. The farmers will be provided financial assistance if they ensure survival of 75 per cent of the saplings for next 3 years. These saplings will be provided to the farmers from nurseries set up by Forest Department and Agriculture Department at subsidized rates. Nilesh provided detailed information to the Sarpanches of respective villages.