

## Ashis Panda – Asha Fellowship – Proposal – 2018 Update (Second Phase – Third Year)

### Background

I have been living and working with Adivasi Bhil farmers in Dungarpur in all for about 8 years since 2008. During this period, I have been supported by Asha for 3 years (2009-10, 2010-11 and 2014-15), for a total of about Rs. 9 lakh spread over 7 years, towards a monthly stipend and work expenses.

### Plan and budget for second phase (2016-19)

Based on my overall plan for the next 5-10 years, I seek support from Asha towards the following two work components for the next 3 years:

1. A stipend of Rs. 300,000/- per year starting in 2015 and increased to ~355,000 in 2018-2019 towards the overall leadership and coordination role and work I will do via Sambhaav. The scope of work which I will broadly lead and be responsible for is covered in the Sambhaav Plan and Budget document.

Note that a stipend for me has been budgeted for as per the formal role I will play in Sambhaav, in their Work Plan and Budget for 2015-18. If Asha commits support towards this, I will not take the stipend from Sambhaav, if and when Sambhaav's Plan and Budget are approved by the donors Sambhaav has sent the proposal to.

2. Work / programme expenses of about Rs. 400,000/- per year, towards the part cost of continuing work on water conservation and related work, in Dungarpur in 5-10 villages (the other part being the cost contributed by the participating farmers).

Note again that the work planned in Dungarpur and its budget has been included in Sambhaav's Work Plan and Budget for 2015-18 as well. If Asha commits support towards this, I will not use funds from Sambhaav for the same purpose.

	2018-19
Stipend (For Sambhaav Regional Role) (Rs.)	346690
Work / Programme Expenses (For work in Dungarpur) (Rs.)	404470
<b>Total</b>	<b>751160</b>

(\*Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.)

### SUMMARY OF WORK UPDATES FROM APR 2017 – MAR 2018

The following summarizes the work over the past year as well as plans going forward for the 2018 year.

#### Local work in Dungarpur

My work in Dungarpur is focussed on conserving soil and water by building / reviving ponds, in collaboration with the Vagad Mazdoor Kisan Sangathan (VMKS), which is a community-based organisation of adivasi farmers and labourers in Dungarpur district founded and working in the district since 1997.

6 new ponds were built in this period and 1 new pond built in 2016-17 was repaired. The new ponds were built in Rampur (3), Lolakpur (1) and Kodyagun (2) villages, while the new pond built in Dolvar last year was repaired. The photos of the ponds (process + results) is available here: [https://drive.google.com/open?id=1VmUtX7Dab8In8wIY0Eqc4Uc9AdWsr\\_Sr](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1VmUtX7Dab8In8wIY0Eqc4Uc9AdWsr_Sr).

For the coming year, there is already a list of villages (Eg.: Doja, Selaj, Nareli etc) who are ready to take up new work, though I will continue to take up exploratory visits to newer villages based both on direct requests and those that come up in the district-level and other forums of the VMKS.

### **Regional work in Rajasthan**

My work in the rest of Rajasthan is through Sambhaav, and focuses on supporting local teams working on soil and water conservation with farmers and pastoralists in Alwar, Jaipur, Dausa, Nagaur, Jaisalmer and Barmer districts, through on-ground visits, meetings and overall coordination with local team members.

Some work done during this period entirely through locally raised contributions from farmers and pastoralists and with support from Government programmes raised through the Gram Panchayats is listed below region-wise.