

**Rotary Global Grant  
Project GG2578127**



# **Natural Farming for Sustainable Agriculture in Tribal Villages of Maharashtra**



**Rotary Club of  
Ambernath Industrial Area,  
Maharashtra, India (Host Partner)**

**Rotary Club of Ajjic,  
Jalisco, Mexico  
(International Partner)**

**Om Gagangiri Maharaj Ashirwadit  
Trust (Implementing NGO)  
Palghar & Thane Districts**

Support the transformation of rural tribal communities through natural farming, market training, clean water, and cultural restoration.

**Call to Action! Join us:**

**<https://www.matchinggrants.org/global/project3670.html>**



Tribal Women Delight in Natural Produce

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

- Empowers 300+ tribal farmer families from 34 villages in the Wada and Bhiwandi Blocks of Maharashtra.
- Addresses low income and economic instability by tackling unsustainable farming practices, including chemical dependency, minimal farming education, degraded soil, limited irrigation, poor market access, and health issues from unsafe water—promoting regenerative agriculture and long-term self-sufficiency.
- Strategies include capacity building through natural farming education, creating a demo farm for training, distributing fruit trees and natural farming input kits, training farmers in entrepreneurship, branding, and market linkage.
- Addresses cultural erosion by reviving heritage practices like the Community Tarpa dance and tribal culture storytelling to restore pride and identity.



The sacred Tarpa horn, handcrafted from gourd and bamboo, is cherished by tribal communities.

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## BENEFICIARIES

The beneficiaries are members of the Warli, Malhar Koli, and Thakur tribes—some of Maharashtra's most resilient and culturally rich indigenous communities, deeply rooted in nature and ancestral tradition.

The Warli are known for their symbolic mud-wall art reflecting interconnected village life.

The Malhar Koli, fisherfolk and farmers, hold intimate ecological knowledge.

The Thakur preserve cohesion through oral storytelling and ritual.

Despite marginalization, these communities have upheld their heritage, dignity, and adaptability. Their sustainable lifeways and spiritual bond with the earth make them natural stewards of regenerative farming.



Brewing Natural Fertilizer

# PROJECT ACTIVITIES

1. Register 300 farming families and conduct awareness sessions
2. Establish and equip a Natural Farming Demonstration Farm
3. Distribute 300 water wheels, 225 spray pumps, 300 seed kits
4. Conduct 100+ field visits and continuous farmer training
5. Monthly cultural events and traditional dance programs
6. Set up a Market Collection and Distribution Center
7. Entrepreneurial training on branding, fair trade, and pricing
8. Tree planting drive: 9,000+ fruit/nut trees to 250 farmers
9. Impact tracking: soil tests, yield comparisons, and survival rates
10. Graduation event and Rotary Global Grant final report

Reviving ancient wisdom and fostering resilient livelihoods through natural farming.

## BENEFITS TO FARMERS:

- Grow chemical-free food for their families
- Reduce input costs by using natural, local materials
- Increase income through fair market access and surplus sales
- Improve soil fertility and drought resilience
- Eliminate debt linked to chemical farming
- Gain skills in branding, pricing, and entrepreneurship
- Reclaim ancestral farming wisdom with pride
- Become respected leaders and peer-trainers in their communities



Teaching Low-Cost Water Catchment

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# MEET THE PARTNERS

## HOST PARTNER: ROTARY CLUB OF AMBERNATH INDUSTRIAL AREA

The Rotary Club of Ambernath Industrial Area is a dynamic service club in Maharashtra, India, dedicated to community development through education, health, and sustainable livelihoods. With deep local ties, the club leads impactful projects that uplift marginalized communities and foster lasting change.

Rotary Club AIA will help farmers build sustainable businesses and cooperatives, connecting them to wholesale and retail buyers in Mumbai and Navi Mumbai to expand distribution and income opportunities.



Plants Harvested for Fertilizers, Pest Deterrents, Root Stimulants

## Cultivating Tribal Strength through Natural Farming

### INTERNATIONAL PARTNER: ROTARY CLUB OF AJIJIC

The Rotary Club of Ajijic, Mexico is a vibrant volunteer group creating lasting impact locally and globally. Through service projects and global grants, the club supports education, health, and economic development—while fostering meaningful cross-cultural connections.

Rotary Ajijic will actively support the project through global outreach, fundraising, and visibility within Rotary's international network.

### IMPLEMENTING NGO: OM GAGANGIRI MAHARAJ ASHIRWADIT TRUST

Om Gagangiri Maharaj Ashirwadit Trust (OMGMT) is a grassroots nonprofit in rural Maharashtra, India, empowering tribal communities through sustainable farming, education, and holistic development. With over 15 years of service, OMGMT has helped 300+ families transition from chemical to natural agriculture.

Their work includes tree planting, clean water, women's empowerment, cultural preservation, health education, scholarships, and computer classes—fostering long-term resilience and dignity. As a trusted local partner, OMGMT is well-equipped to lead impactful Rotary Global Grant projects.



# EVALUATION & TRANSPARENCY

## Grant Budget Summary with Totals

Category	Details	INR	USD
Personnel	Project Coordinator, Technical Experts, 4 Volunteers	₹1,182,000	\$13,906
Equipment	Marketing Help Center Equipment, 225 Spray Pumps, 300 Water Wheels, Marketing Vehicle	₹2,858,497	\$33,630
Supplies	Fruit Trees, Organic Fertilizer Kits, Seeds for 300 Farmers	₹2,130,213	\$25,062
Operations	Fuel and Vehicle Maintenance	₹130,000	\$1,529
Publicity	Event PR and IEC Materials	₹50,000	\$588
Project Management	Help Center Admin & Equipment, Admin Costs	₹1,153,000	\$13,564
Monitoring & Evaluation	Soil Testing and Monitoring	₹120,000	\$1,412
Total		₹7,623,710	\$89,691



Dr. Vijay taught by example to visit each hamlet and learn first-hand the needs of its inhabitants, young and old, male and female.

## Growing more than food—reviving land, culture, and livelihood.



Dr Vijay discusses the project objectives & methods with RC Ambernath Industrial Area officers.

Evaluation is led by Dr. Vijay Honkalaskar of IIT Bombay, who oversees the tracking of inputs, tree survival rates, crop yields, and market access. The project incorporates continuous monitoring through surveys, detailed record-keeping, and farmer testimonials to ensure transparency, accountability, and measurable impact.





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**When we join hands across borders, we do more than fund a project—we help communities flourish with dignity, resilience, and hope.**

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**Final Call to Action**

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