



# GLOBAL GRANTS COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Use this form to report community assessment findings to The Rotary Foundation when you apply for a global grant.

Assessing the strengths, weaknesses, needs, and assets of the community you plan to help is an essential first step in designing an effective and sustainable global grant project. See the [Conducting Community Assessments](#) handbook for full instructions and helpful tips.

This form will help you report the results of your community assessment, and it's required when you apply for any humanitarian or vocational training team grant. Complete a separate form for each beneficiary community (e.g., school, health care system, or village), using information that is both current and specific to each community. Remember, you can't use global grant funds to cover the cost of doing an assessment, but you can use district grant funds.

## **COMMUNITY OVERVIEW**

Describe the characteristics (such as geographic information, main sources of income, population size, and access to education and health services) of the specific community where this project will take place.



### Village-Level Data Summary

Sr. No.	Village Name	Taluka	Families	Population	Latitude	Longitude
1 <input type="checkbox"/>	Nangarmoda	Jawhar	153	936	19.92387	73.301663
2 <input type="checkbox"/>	Borichaghoda	Jawhar	63	372	19.96512	73.274195
3 <input type="checkbox"/>	Kokada	Jawhar	89	533	19.96785	73.190202
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	Toranshet	Mokhada	48	231	19.91541	73.36095
5 <input type="checkbox"/>	Morkhadak	Mokhada	63	332	19.91356	73.352818
6 <input type="checkbox"/>	Takpada	Mokhada	152	912	19.94369	73.331296
7 <input type="checkbox"/>	Adkhadak	Jawhar	52	312	19.92926	73.20012
8 <input type="checkbox"/>	Nashera	Mokhada	83	511	19.81399	73.420874

9	□	Birsamunda Chauk	Mokhada	22	264	19.91759	73.352063
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### **POPULATION SIZE AND IDENTITY**

- **Total families:** 725
- **Total population:** 4,403
- All families in these villages belong to **Scheduled Tribes (ST)** and are recognized as **100% tribal communities**.
- The social fabric is deeply rooted in traditional practices, collective decision-making, and forest-based livelihoods.

### **Main Sources of Income**

- The families are **entirely dependent on rain-fed agriculture**, cultivating traditional crops such as:

- **Finger Millet (Nagli)**
- **Little Millet (Varai)**
- **Paddy (Bhat)**

- Due to the lack of water for farming during the **Rabi season (winter/dry season)**, villagers are forced into **large-scale seasonal migration** to urban centers for wage labor.
- Forest produce collection (e.g., bamboo, honey, medicinal herbs) supplements household income.
- Women participate in self-help groups (SHGs), small-scale farming, and forest-based activities.
- Youth engage in construction, transport, and informal sector jobs during migration periods.

### **Access to Education**

- Most villages have **primary schools**, but access to **secondary education** requires

travel to Jawhar or Mokhada towns.

- **School dropout rates** increase during migration seasons, especially among older children.
- Girls' education is often interrupted due to household responsibilities and lack of transport.

## **Access to Health Services**

- Basic health services are accessed through **Primary Health Centres (PHCs)** in Jawhar and Mokhada.
- **ASHA workers** and traditional healers provide first-line care in villages.
- Emergency and specialized care requires travel to **district hospitals in Palghar or Nashik**, which is costly and time-consuming.
- Common health challenges include **malnutrition, seasonal illnesses, and lack of maternal care.**

## **COLLECTING COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT DATA**

When you conducted the assessment, who in the community did you speak to? At least two different community representatives and beneficiaries who are not involved in Rotary (such as teachers, doctors, or community leaders) should be included in the discussions.

- Farmer families**, both land-owning and landless, who shared insights on agricultural challenges, water scarcity, and seasonal migration
- Anganwadi Sevikas**, who provided perspectives on child nutrition, women's roles in farming, and seasonal food insecurity
- ASHA workers**, who highlighted health-related issues linked to water availability, migration, and maternal care
- Grampanchayat Members**, who discussed local governance priorities and alignment with village development plans
- Pragati Pratishthan Coordinators**, who are also actively involved in the **Addikarmyogi (Central Government) village development planning process**, ensuring that the farm pond initiative complements broader government strategies

When in the last year did the discussions occur?

The community assessment discussions for the farm pond project were conducted between **8 September and 1 October 2025**. During this period, **Pragati Pratishtan coordinators** visited all nine villages in Jawhar and Mokhada talukas of Palghar district. The timing aligned with the post-monsoon season, allowing farmers and community members to reflect on water availability, crop planning, and migration challenges before the onset of the Rabi season.

What methods did you use to collect information from community members (such as community meetings, interviews, or focus groups)?

To conduct the community assessment across nine villages in Jawhar and Mokhada talukas, **Pragati Pratishtan coordinators** used a combination of participatory and direct engagement methods between 8 September and 1 October 2025. These included:

- **Individual household visits** to meet beneficiary farmer families and understand their specific challenges related to water scarcity, crop planning, and seasonal migration
- **Field observations and transect walks** to assess terrain suitability for farm pond construction
- **Integration with Addikarmyogi village development planning**, ensuring alignment with broader government priorities.

## **TARGET POPULATION**

Who will benefit directly from the project? List the groups that will benefit (such as schools, hospitals, vocational training centers, cooperatives, or villages).

This farm pond project will directly benefit:

- **45 farmers** (5 farmers in each of the 9 villages) by providing access to stored rainwater for irrigation during the Rabi season, enabling them to cultivate multiple crop cycles and reduce dependence on rainfall.
- These farmers will experience improved agricultural productivity, reduced seasonal migration, and increased income, which positively affects their children's education and family wellbeing.

**Indirect beneficiaries include:**

- **Landless laborers and farm workers**, who will receive **daily wages** by working on the farms of the 45 beneficiary farmers during land preparation, sowing, and harvesting seasons.
- **Women and youth**, who will gain local employment opportunities and reduced pressure to migrate for work.

- **Families of migrant workers**, who will benefit from improved food security, school attendance, and health outcomes due to stable income and reduced displacement.

Describe the process of how the beneficiaries were identified.

The identification of beneficiaries for the farm pond project was carried out through a **participatory and field-based approach** led by **Pragati Pratishtan coordinators** between 8 September and 1 October 2025 across nine tribal villages in Jawhar and Mokhada talukas.

**The process included:**

- **Village-level consultations** with Grampanchayat members and community leaders to shortlist farmers based on land availability, crop potential, and vulnerability to seasonal migration
- **Individual household visits** to assess farming practices, water access, and willingness to adopt farm pond usage
- **Priority given to small and marginal farmers** who cultivate traditional crops like Finger Millet (Nagli), Little Millet (Varai), and Paddy (Bhat), and who lack irrigation during the Rabi season
- **Verification of land ownership and suitability** for farm pond construction through site visits and GPS mapping
- **Community endorsement** during village meetings to ensure transparency and collective agreement on selected beneficiaries

In each village, **five farmers** were selected as direct beneficiaries based on these criteria. Additionally, the project design ensures that **landless laborers and farm workers** benefit through wage employment on these farms, creating a ripple effect across the entire village.

## **COMMUNITY STRENGTHS, NEEDS, PRIORITIES, AND PROJECT DESIGN**

Describe what members of the community said matters to them during the assessment.

During the assessment conducted by Pragati Pratishtan coordinators between 8 September and 1 October 2025, community members across nine tribal villages expressed a strong desire for:

 **Community Strengths**

- **Collective decision-making and cooperation** through Grampanchayats and SHGs
- **Traditional agricultural knowledge**, especially in cultivating Nagli, Varai, and Paddy

- **Willingness to adopt new solutions** like farm ponds to improve water access
- **Women’s leadership** in SHGs and Anganwadi centers, contributing to nutrition and education

### **Community Needs**

- **Reliable water access** for farming during the Rabi season to reduce migration
- **Local employment opportunities** to prevent youth and family displacement
- **Support for women and children**, especially in nutrition, education, and health
- **Infrastructure for irrigation**, including farm ponds and water retention systems

### **Community Priorities**

- **Reducing seasonal migration** by enabling year-round farming
- **Improving school attendance**, especially for girls affected by migration and household duties
- **Creating wage employment** for landless laborers during farm pond construction and farming cycles
- **Aligning with government development plans**, such as Addikarmyogi, to ensure long-term sustainability

Describe the community’s strengths and resources.

The tribal communities across the nine villages in Jawhar and Mokhada talukas possess several strengths and local resources that form the foundation for sustainable development:

### **Community Strengths**

- **Traditional agricultural knowledge:** Farmers are skilled in cultivating indigenous crops like Finger Millet (Nagli), Little Millet (Varai), and Paddy (Bhat), which are well-suited to local soil and climate.
- **Strong social cohesion:** Villages operate through collective decision-making, with active participation from Grampanchayats, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and youth volunteers.
- **Women’s leadership:** Anganwadi Sevikas, SHG members, and ASHA workers play key roles in nutrition, health, and livelihood activities, contributing to community resilience.
- **Willingness to adopt new solutions:** Farmers and local leaders have shown openness to innovations like farm ponds, solar irrigation, and improved farming techniques.

## Community Resources

- **Land availability:** Selected farmers have cultivable land suitable for farm pond construction and expansion of irrigation.
- **Labor force:** A ready pool of farm workers and youth available for daily wage employment during pond construction and farming cycles.
- **Government linkages:** Active participation in the **Addikarmyogi village development planning process** ensures alignment with central government schemes and access to technical support.
- **Basic infrastructure:** Most villages have primary schools, Anganwadi centers, and road connectivity, which support outreach and monitoring.

Describe any challenges and gaps in the community's behaviors, skills, and knowledge.

During the community assessment, several behavioral, skill-based, and knowledge-related challenges were identified that affect the long-term sustainability of livelihoods and development efforts in the nine tribal villages:

### Knowledge and Awareness Gaps

- **Limited awareness of water conservation techniques** beyond traditional rain-fed farming; many farmers are unfamiliar with the long-term benefits of farm ponds and micro-irrigation systems.
- **Low exposure to government schemes and entitlements**, especially among women and elderly community members, due to literacy barriers and lack of access to information.
- **Limited understanding of market linkages** and post-harvest practices, which restrict income potential even when crop yields improve.

### Skill Gaps

- **Lack of technical skills** in farm pond maintenance, soil-water management, and sustainable agriculture practices.
- **Limited capacity for record-keeping and planning**, especially among small and marginal farmers, which affects their ability to track inputs, yields, and costs.
- **Youth migration** has led to a gap in local skill-building, as many young people leave before acquiring or applying agricultural or vocational skills in their own villages.

### Behavioral Challenges

- **Seasonal migration patterns** are deeply entrenched, making it difficult for families to commit to long-term agricultural planning or community initiatives.

- **Gender norms** often limit women’s participation in decision-making related to land, water, and farming, despite their active role in agriculture and household management.
- **Dependency on external aid or short-term relief** in some cases, rather than long-term planning or collective investment in infrastructure.

What issues will the project address, and how does the community currently address those issues?

The farm pond project aims to address several interconnected issues faced by tribal communities in the nine villages of Jawhar and Mokhada talukas:

#### **Key Issues Addressed by the Project**

- **Water scarcity during the Rabi season**, which prevents year-round farming and forces families into seasonal migration
- **Loss of income and food insecurity**, especially among small and marginal farmers who rely solely on rain-fed agriculture
- **Interrupted education**, particularly for children whose families migrate during the dry season
- **Limited local employment**, which affects youth and landless laborers

#### **How the Community Currently Addresses These Issues**

- **Seasonal migration** to urban centers for wage labor is the most common coping strategy, but it disrupts family life, education, and health
- **Borrowing from informal sources** during lean months, which leads to debt cycles
- **Cultivation of only one crop cycle (Kharif)** due to lack of irrigation, limiting food and

Provide the specific details of the project design and how it will solve these issues.

The project involves the construction of **farm ponds in nine tribal villages** of Jawhar and Mokhada talukas in Palghar district. These ponds are designed to harvest and store monsoon rainwater, enabling year-round access to irrigation for small and marginal farmers.

#### **Project Design Details**

- **Farm Pond Construction:** Selected farmers in each village receive support to construct scientifically designed farm ponds on their land, with dimensions tailored to local terrain and water catchment potential.

- **Post-Construction Utilization:** After construction, farmers use the stored water to cultivate **vegetables, seasonal crops, and fruit trees**, significantly increasing their agricultural productivity.
- **Income Growth:** With access to irrigation, farmers are now able to grow multiple crop cycles and high-value produce, resulting in **substantial increases in household income** and reduced dependence on migration or daily wage labor.
- **Sustainability through Local Governance:** Each farm pond is **registered with the respective Grampanchayat** and linked to the **Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)** for long-term maintenance and repair support.
- **Community Employment:** The construction phase generates **daily wage employment** for landless laborers and youth, reducing seasonal migration and strengthening local livelihoods.

### **How the Project Solves Community Issues**

- **Reduces seasonal migration** by enabling Rabi-season farming and creating local employment
- **Improves food security and income** through diversified cropping and fruit cultivation
- **Supports education** by allowing families to stay in the village year-round, reducing school dropouts
- **Empowers women and youth** through local livelihood opportunities and reduced vulnerability
- **Ensures sustainability** by integrating with government schemes and local governance structures

This design not only addresses immediate livelihood challenges but also builds a foundation for long-term **economic resilience, self-reliance, and community ownership**.

Describe the long-term plan for the project (such as oversight, financial responsibilities, and expected behavior change) after Rotary's involvement ends.

The long-term sustainability of the farm pond initiative is ensured through **farmer ownership, local registration, and behavior change**:

### **Oversight and Maintenance**

- After construction, **each farm pond is maintained by the beneficiary farmer**, who is responsible for regular upkeep, desilting, and water management.
- To ensure future repair support, **each pond is registered with the local Grampanchayat under the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee**

**Scheme (MGNREGS).** This enables farmers to access government-funded labor and resources for major repairs when needed.

- **Pragati Pratishthan coordinators** will continue to provide technical guidance and help farmers navigate scheme linkages and agricultural support services.

### **Financial Responsibilities**

- Farmers will use income from increased crop yields and fruit cultivation to cover routine maintenance costs and reinvest in their land.
- No financial burden is placed on the Grampanchayat; the farmer remains the primary custodian of the pond.

### **Expected Behavior Change**

- **Reduced seasonal migration** as farmers earn stable income through year-round farming
- **Improved school attendance**, especially among children who previously migrated with their families
- **Greater gender inclusion**, with women participating in farming decisions and SHG-led livelihood activities
- **Enhanced technical literacy**, as farmers adopt water management, crop planning, and record-keeping practices
- **Strengthened self-reliance**, as farmers take ownership of infrastructure and long-term planning

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (FOR ALL ENVIRONMENT AND WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE PROJECTS)**

What are currently the greatest environmental threats to local land, air, water resources, and the ecosystem?

Based on recent field assessments and community feedback from Jawhar and Mokhada talukas in Palghar district, the most pressing environmental threats are:

### **Water Resources**

- **Rapid Runoff:** Due to hilly terrain, heavy monsoon rainfall quickly runs off without percolating into the ground, leading to water scarcity during dry seasons.
- **Groundwater Depletion:** Excessive reliance on borewells and lack of recharge systems have led to severe depletion of groundwater levels.
- **Siltation of Water Bodies:** Traditional water sources are heavily silted, reducing surface water retention and availability.

### **Land and Soil**

- **Soil Erosion and Degradation:** Deforestation and sloped landscapes contribute to significant erosion and loss of topsoil.
- **Shift to Chemical Farming:** Increasing use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides is degrading soil health and reducing long-term fertility.
- **Lack of Irrigation:** Most farmland is rain-fed, with no irrigation during the Rabi season, limiting land productivity and cropping potential.

### **Ecosystem and Biodiversity**

- **Wildlife Intrusion:** Reduced forest cover has led to wild animals entering villages and damaging crops.
- **Pressure on Forest Resources:** Communities depend on bamboo, honey, and herbs for supplemental income, placing stress on local ecosystems and biodiversity.

### **Air Quality**

- **Generally Good Air Quality,** though seasonal burning of crop residues and forest biomass may cause localized pollution.

### **How the Project Will Protect the Environment**

The farm pond initiative directly addresses these environmental threats by:

- **Promoting Soil and Water Conservation:** Farm ponds retain rainwater, support standing crops, and reduce erosion through better land preparation and moisture retention.
- **Reducing Runoff and Recharging Groundwater:** Stored water helps stabilize the groundwater table and supports multi-season farming.
- **Lowering Pressure on Forests:** Year-round farming reduces dependence on forest-based income, helping protect biodiversity and reduce wildlife intrusion.

This project aligns with sustainable development goals by improving land productivity, conserving water, and strengthening ecological balance in tribal regions.

List any cultural practices that are relevant to the project (such as agricultural techniques or traditions).

### **Cultural Practices Relevant to the Project**

The farm pond initiative is deeply rooted in the agricultural and cultural traditions of the tribal communities in Jawhar and Mokhada talukas. Several local practices are directly relevant to the project's design and implementation:

#### **Traditional Agricultural Techniques**

- **Rain-fed farming:** Most farmers rely on monsoon rains to cultivate traditional

crops like *Nagli* (Finger Millet), *Varai* (Little Millet), and *Bhat* (Paddy), which are adapted to local soil and climate.

- **Mixed cropping and intercropping:** Farmers often grow pulses, vegetables, and millets together to maximize land use and ensure food security.
- **Use of organic inputs:** Many households traditionally use cow dung, compost, and ash as natural fertilizers, though this is declining with the rise of chemical inputs.

### Land and Water Stewardship

- **Sacred groves and forest protection:** Certain patches of forest are protected due to spiritual beliefs, reflecting a deep respect for biodiversity and natural resources.
- **Customary water-sharing norms:** In some villages, informal systems exist for sharing water from wells or ponds, guided by mutual understanding and community consensus.

### Gender and Labor Traditions

- **Women's role in agriculture:** Women are actively involved in sowing, weeding, harvesting, and post-harvest processing. Their participation is crucial to the success of any farming intervention.
- **Community labor (Shramdaan):** Collective labor for land preparation or water conservation is a respected tradition, often mobilized during festivals or community events.

### Seasonal and Ritual Practices

- **Agricultural festivals** like *Pola*, *Hariyali Amavasya*, and *Diwali* mark key points in the farming cycle and are linked to sowing, harvesting, and thanksgiving.
- **Seed preservation rituals:** Some families follow traditional methods of storing and blessing seeds before the monsoon, reflecting the cultural value placed on self-reliance and food sovereignty.

What positive and negative environmental changes do you expect to result from the project?

### **Positive Environmental Changes**

The farm pond initiative is expected to bring several long-term environmental benefits to the tribal villages of Jawhar and Mokhada:

### Water and Soil

- **Improved surface water availability:** Farm ponds store monsoon runoff, making water available for irrigation during the dry Rabi season.
- **Soil conservation:** Standing crops supported by irrigation reduce erosion and

improve soil structure and fertility.

### **Ecosystem and Biodiversity**

- **Fruit tree plantation:** Farmers are planting mango, guava, papaya, and other fruit trees around their ponds, enhancing biodiversity, attracting pollinators, and contributing to ecological balance.
- **Reduced pressure on forests:** With year-round farming and increased income, communities rely less on forest produce, helping preserve native vegetation and reduce wildlife intrusion.

### **Sustainable Agriculture**

- **Diversified cropping:** Access to irrigation enables farmers to grow vegetables and multi-season crops, improving food security and reducing dependency on single-season farming.
- **Climate resilience:** Improved land and water management practices help communities adapt to erratic rainfall and temperature changes.

### **Negative Environmental Changes**

- **None expected:** The project is designed to be eco-friendly, farmer-led, and aligned with local terrain and cultural practices. There are no anticipated negative environmental impacts.