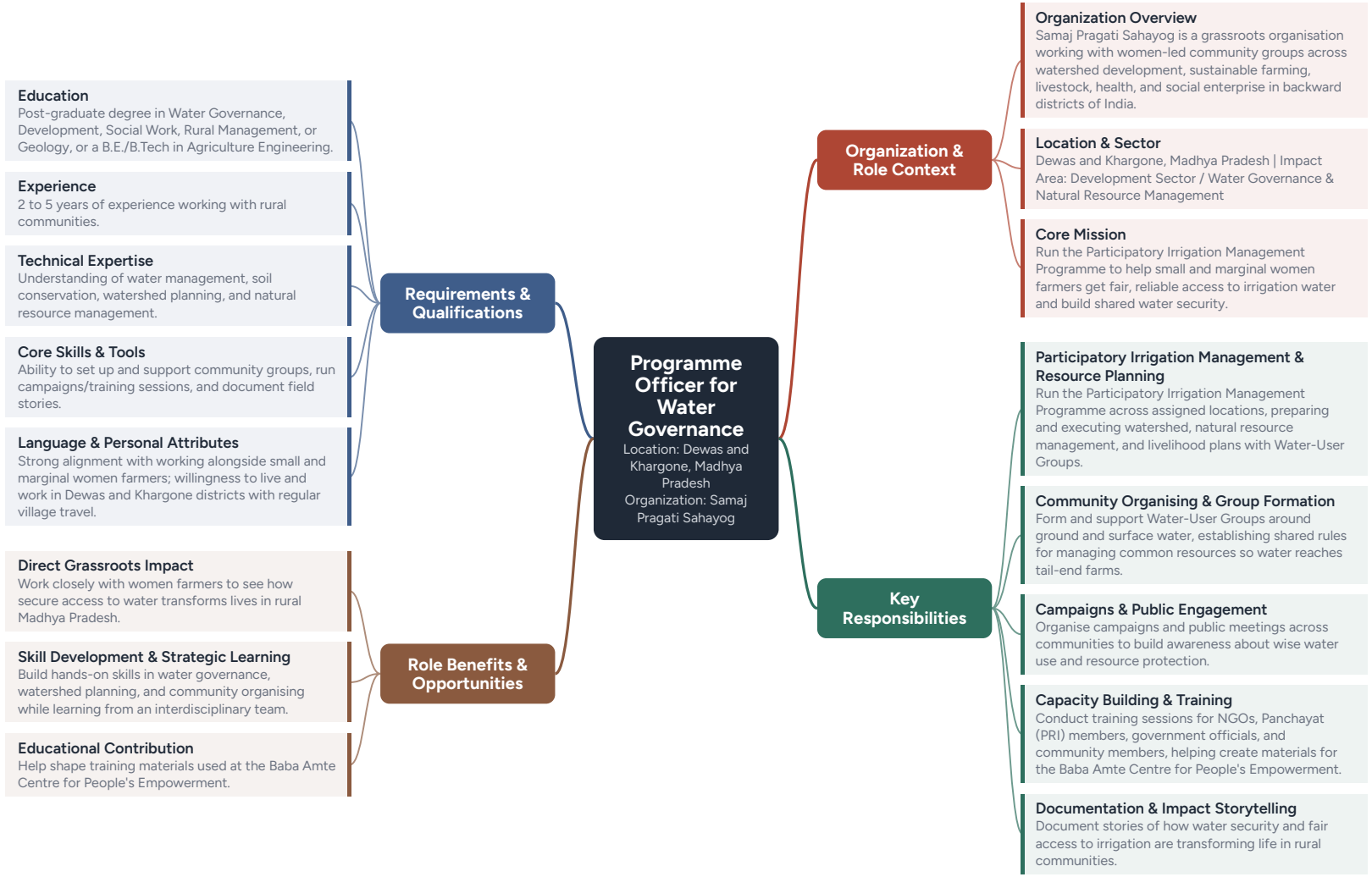
Samaj Pragati Sahayog

Programme Officer – Water Governance in Madhya Pradesh | Samaj Pragati Sahayog

Dewas, Khargone, Madhya Pradesh · full-time · mid level · Competitive

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Skills this role needs

Participatory Irrigation Management	Water-User Group Facilitation	Watershed and NRM Planning	Community Mobilisation	Training and Capacity Building

Job description

Samaj Pragati Sahayog

Samaj Pragati Sahayog is a grassroots organisation that works with women-led community groups in some of the poorest and most neglected districts of India. Its work covers savings and credit, watershed development, sustainable farming, helping farmers sell their produce together, livestock, skills training, social enterprise, health and nutrition, public education, research and community media. The organisation follows a path of development built on fairness, care for the land and water, and giving real power to the people who have been left furthest behind. This role sits within Samaj Pragati Sahayog's Participatory Irrigation Management Programme, which helps farmers, especially women farmers at the far end of the canal line, manage and share irrigation water fairly.

Role

As Programme Officer for Water Governance, you will help small and marginal women farmers in Dewas and Khargone get fair and reliable access to irrigation water. You will work alongside farming communities to form groups that look after ground and surface water together, plan its careful use and protect the soil, so that water reaches the last farm on the line as well as the first. The role brings together community organising, planning, training and storytelling to build lasting water security for rural families.

Responsibilities

- Run the Participatory Irrigation Management Programme at assigned locations in Dewas and Khargone.
- Promote fair and sustainable use of ground and surface water, and build shared rules for managing common resources like groundwater.
- Set up Water-User Groups around ground and surface water and support them to work well.
- Prepare and carry out watershed, natural resource management and livelihood plans with Water-User Groups.
- Organise campaigns and public meetings to spread awareness about using water wisely.
- Conduct training and empowerment sessions for NGOs, Panchayat (PRI) members, government officials and community members, and help create training material for the Baba Amte Centre for People's Empowerment.
- Document stories of how water security is changing lives in the community.

Requirements

- A post-graduate degree in Water Governance, Development, Social Work, Rural Management or Geology, or a B.E./B.Tech in Agriculture Engineering, is preferred.
- 2 to 5 years of experience working with rural communities.
- Understanding of water management, soil conservation, watershed planning and natural resource management.
- Ability to set up and support community groups and to work closely with small and marginal women farmers.
- Confidence in running campaigns, public meetings and training sessions for community members, NGOs, Panchayat members and government officials.
- Ability to document community stories and help write training material.
- Willingness to live and work in Dewas and Khargone districts of Madhya Pradesh, with regular field work in villages.

Benefits

- Work closely with women farmers and see how secure access to water changes lives in rural Madhya Pradesh.

- Build hands-on skills in water governance, watershed planning and community organising.
- Help shape training material used at the Baba Amte Centre for People's Empowerment.
- Learn from a grassroots team whose work spans farming, livestock, health, education and community media.

Apply

Check your fit for the role and receive the apply link in your mailbox

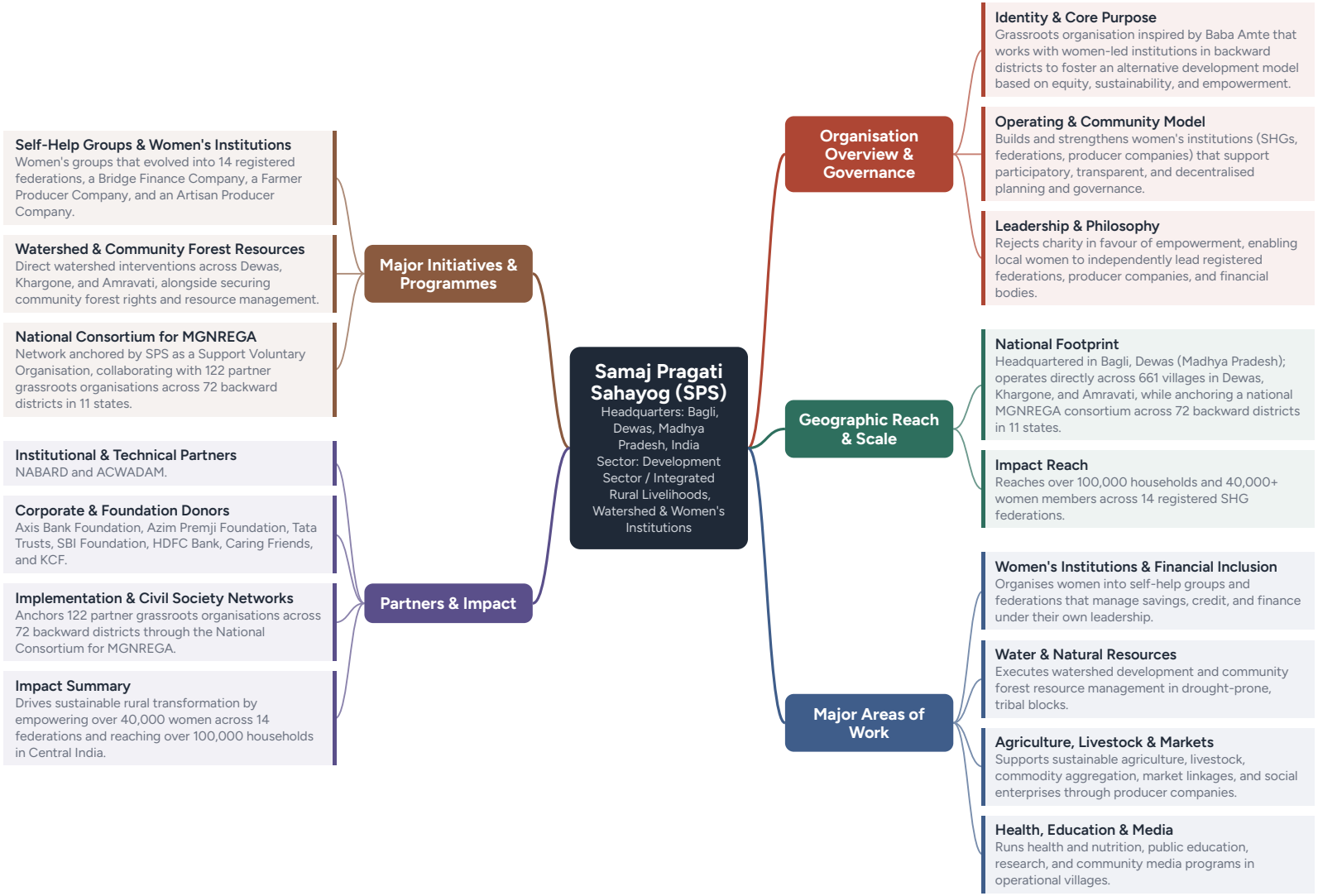
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About the organisation

Samaj Pragati Sahayog

Rural Livelihoods and Watershed Development

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About Samaj Pragati Sahayog

Samaj Pragati Sahayog (SPS) is a grassroots organisation that works with women-led institutions in some of the most backward districts of India. Its work covers financial inclusion, watershed development, sustainable agriculture, commodity aggregation and markets, livestock, skill development, social enterprise, health and nutrition, public education, research and community media. SPS describes its path as an alternative model of inclusive development based on equity, sustainability and the empowerment of the most disadvantaged sections of society. It takes inspiration from the life and work of Baba Amte, who rejected charity in favour of empowerment. The base of its approach is building and strengthening women's institutions that support participatory, transparent and decentralised planning and governance. The self-help groups it promoted have since formed registered federations and producer companies that run as independent institutions led by local women.

> *Headquarters: Bagli, Dewas, Madhya Pradesh, India*

Major Areas of Work

- Women's institutions and financial inclusion: Organising women into self-help groups and federations that manage savings, credit and finance under their own leadership.
- Water and natural resources: Watershed development and community forest resource work in drought-prone, tribal areas.
- Agriculture and livestock: Sustainable agriculture and livestock support to strengthen rural livelihoods.
- Markets and enterprise: Commodity aggregation, market links, skill development and social enterprise through farmer and artisan producer companies.
- Health, education and media: Health and nutrition, public education, research and community media work in the villages where it operates.

Major Initiatives and Programmes

- Self Help Groups: Women's groups that form the base of SPS's work and have grown into registered federations, a Bridge Finance Company, a Farmer Producer Company and an Artisan Producer Company, all led by local women.
- Watershed: Watershed development in the drought-prone, tribal blocks of Dewas, Khargone and Amravati districts where SPS works directly.
- Commodity Aggregation: Aggregation of members' produce and connections to markets.
- Community Forest Resource: Work with communities on securing and managing community forest resources.
- National Consortium of Civil Society Organisations for MGNREGA: A network anchored by SPS as a Support Voluntary Organisation, through which it has worked with 122 partner grassroots organisations in 72 of India's most backward districts across 11 states, mainly in the Central India Adivasi belt.

Impact

SPS states that the institutions it promoted have over 40,000 women members through its SHG federations and that its initiatives reach over one lakh households. Its own outreach figures list 661 villages across nine blocks in Dewas and Khargone districts of Madhya Pradesh and Amravati district of Maharashtra. It reports that its self-help groups have formed 14 registered federations.

Partners

Axis Bank Foundation, Azim Premji Foundation, Tata Trusts, SBI Foundation, HDFC Bank, NABARD, ACWADAM, Caring Friends and KCF.

SPS suits people who want to work at the grassroots in tribal Central India over the long term. It is based in the remote hinterland of Bagli, so most of the work happens in villages with women's federations, farmers and producer companies rather than in an office. Its range of work, from watershed development and agriculture to finance, markets, health and community media, gives a close view of how integrated rural development works on the ground. Its role as anchor of a national MGNREGA consortium also links field work to policy and to a wide network of partner organisations. It is a good fit for people who are comfortable with rural postings and want to build community institutions rather than deliver charity.

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