



JUNE | EDITION #06

NEWSLETTER

INSIDE CARD: WATER STEWARDSHIP & COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

WATER STEWARDSHIP

A Collective Step Towards Strengthening

June witnessed strong momentum on water conservation and restoration across our project geographies. From pond renovation and check dam strengthening to community mobilisation and sustainable agriculture practices—CARD continues to build climate resilient and water secure communities.



Pond deepening work in progress at Minda village, Sardarpur block



Mahi Riverival – Dhar

In Minda, Golpura and Borkhedi villages, pond deepening are underway and check dam renovation are underway. Well restoration works have also been completed in selected villages. Soil and stone mining is underway, with GIS survey and approved in a special Gram Sabha, reinforcing community ownership in water conservation.



Jal Samrudhi – Shajapur

With support from the Swajari Division, pond renovation work has begun in Bamulya Muchali, Kalapeepal and Dadiya Khedi, villages. This initiative was launched in 2022 and included the formal commencement of these interventions with active participation of Gram Panchayat members and villagers.



ABF Project – Guna

The pond renovation project in Kundal village was inaugurated through a bohomi puja ceremony led by the Gram Panchayat Sarpatu. The initiative will improve water conservation and irrigation, benefiting 22–25 farming families.



LFD–DSR Project – Chhattagarah

Demonstrations of the Seed Drill Machine were conducted in Gateway Machine Kurud block, Dhamtari. Farmers observed first-hand the benefits of seed drill technology, including 15–20% seedling establishment.



BUILDING RESILIENCE TOGETHER

The interactions are more than infrastructure they are a reflection of community participation, local leadership and collective commitment to safeguard our natural resources for future generations.



Pond renovation at Kalapipal village.



Bhoomi puja for pond renovation at Paseezar village, Shajapur.



Strengthening community water structures for long-term impact.



Farmers learning and adopting DSR technology in Chhattagarah.

IMPACT AT A GLANCE



5+

Water bodies renovated / deepened



250+

Farmers & community members involved in water interventions



100+

Hectares expected to benefit from improved water access



15–20%

Seed saving potential through Seed Drill technology

HIGHLIGHTS

OF THE MONTH



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY ACROSS STATES

CARD commemorated World Environment Day on June 5, 2026, with a series of coordinated initiatives across its project locations. In Sikkim, the CARD team spearheaded a cleanliness drive in the Golden Cross area, supported by over 50 volunteers from Cipla. Meanwhile, in Madawara, both school children and farmers participated in a plantation drive at the Government School in Bachharwani, planting fruit-bearing and shade-providing saplings. In Dhar, CARD staff combined a plantation activity with the celebration of a team member's birthday.

Additionally, in Manpur Block, Umaria, HDFC Bank Parivartan and CARD collaboratively organized an Agricultural Tool Distribution Program aimed at promoting sustainable agriculture and environmental conservation. As part of this initiative, ten farmer groups from ten villages were established and received comprehensive training on the utilization and management of agricultural machinery. Following the training, the groups were equipped with two reapers, one rotavator, and one chaff cutter to improve farm productivity and reduce labor costs. The event was honored by the presence of Mr. Anupam Sahay, Director of the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, Mr. Pankaj Tiwari, Manager of HDFC Bank, Mr. Dhananjay Singh, a KVK expert, SADO officials, and more than 150 community members.



CARD IN THE MEDIA



Senior team member Mr. Manoj Mishra shared CARD's experience of implementing the Swachh Bharat Mission on News India channel's "Vikas Ki Raftaar" programme in New Delhi on 6 June. Danik Bhaskar (Guna edition, 13 June) featured our field work, while Hariboomi reported on the distribution of seed drill machines under the LDF-DSR Project in Kurud, Chhattigarh.



FUNDING & SKILLING PIPELINE

- Card continues to track institutional funding opportunities, including a Request for Proposals shared by SBI Foundation.
- MGL Hunar Programme completed assessment of its first Warehouse Associate batch at the CARD Centre, Ratnagiri, with all 16 trainees present.
- ABF Skill Project distributed toolkits to the first batch of Mason trainees in Vinagaon.



SANCTION OF 2 NEW PROJECT VILLAGES UNDER DAJGUA IN MANDLA



14 new homestays will be developed in Kumha village and Chiraidongri village in Mandla district, Madhya Pradesh over the course of next year—strengthening rural tourism and local livelihoods.

FIELD STORIES

Voices from the Ground, Change in Action



DSR SEED DRILL DEMONSTRATION EMPOWERS FARMERS

Farmers in Gatapar village, Kurud block, Dhamtari district, Chhattigarh witnessed a live demonstration of the Seed Drill Machine on 17 June under the LDF—DSR Project. The session showcased how seed drill technology ensures 15–20% seed savings, better soil contact and more even germination compared to traditional broadcasting methods.



WATER CONSERVATION GATHERS PACE ACROSS PROJECT GEOGRAPHIES



Water conservation efforts accelerated across CARD project areas in June, with pond renovation, check dam restoration, well rejuvenation, and soil conservation works progressing in Dhar under the Mahi River Revival Project, while pond renovation activities commenced in four villages of Shajapur under the Jal Samvardhan Project.



RURAL TOURISM: FROM SOLAR LIGHTS TO HOMESTAYS



In Babaeha village (Mandlia), six solar street lights were installed and the village's first homestay became operational, allowing visitors to experience the Narmada riverbank and the nearby hot water spring. Meanwhile, Kursha village—newly sanctioned under the DAJGUA project—will develop 14 homestays over the next year, strengthening the region's rural tourism potential.

POND RENOVATION INAUGURATED IN KUNDAL

Under the ABF project, the pond renovation project in village Kundal was formally inaugurated with a bhoomi puja ceremony conducted by the Gram Panchayat Sarpanch, following selection of the site through the Gram Sangathan process. On completion, the renovated pond is expected to directly benefit 22–25 farming households by improving rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, and irrigation availability.

BUILDING SKILLS FOR MULTI-LAYER AND AGRI-TECH FARMING

40 beneficiaries of the Livelihood theme under the CARD ChildFund International project took part in an exposure visit on Multi-Layer Integrated Farming at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Dhar, gaining hands-on exposure to vegetable cultivation, vermicomposting, orchard development, and poultry farming under the guidance of KVK Senior Scientist Mr Mandloi. In Dhamtari, Chhattisgarh, a Kisan Pathshala on 17 June demonstrated seed drill machines to farmers in Gatapar village, highlighting 15–20% seed savings and more even germination compared to traditional broadcasting.

STRENGTHENING SELF-HELP GROUPS AND LOCAL ENTERPRISE

In Pechi village, Chachaura block (Guna), CARD revived a dormant Self-Help Group through regular training and mentoring. With NRLM-linked support, members established enterprises including a beauty parlour and grocery store, strengthening rural livelihoods. In Mohla, a millet-based bakery unit and retail outlet were inaugurated under the HDFC Bank Parivartan Programme, promoting nutritious millet products while creating new market opportunities for local producers.

PROJECT PROGRESS

Strengthening Systems, Expanding Impact

Across themes and geographies, CARD continued to advance initiatives in education, child development, women's empowerment, livelihoods, and capacity building—creating stronger systems for sustainable development.



CRECHE PROGRAMME EXPANDS IN DHAR

Under the Shishughar (Creche) Programme, implemented with support from the Azim Premji Foundation, CARD inaugurated its 12th creche centre in Dhar on 24 June, followed by the 13th centre at Imlivan on 27 June. A five-day pre-service training in early June equipped caregivers from 12 new creches with skills in childcare, nutrition, and centre management ahead of their launch.



Construction underway for the new creche centre in Jamunia village, Dhar.



Children enjoying learning and play at Shishu Ghar, Dhar.



HDFC BANK PARIVARTAN REVIEWS PROGRESS IN MANPUR, UMARIA

Mr Suresh Mewada, Senior Project Manager from CARD's Head Office, conducted a two-day observation visit (2–3 June) under the FRDP project with HDFC Bank Parivartan, reviewing Smart Class and sanitation infrastructure at Samarkoini School, poultry and vermicompost units, and cattle, goatry, and nursery units across several villages. Later in the month (11–13 June), HDFC Bank Parivartan CSR Manager Mr Vikas Kumar Gupta carried out a three-day field visit to Manpur, assessing solar pump installations, the Custom Hiring Centre's agri-tool usage, and seed bank functioning, alongside a review of records and a meeting with the field team.



EXPOSURE VISIT OF ICDS CENTRES



CARD Sikkim team organised an exposure visit of 14 ICDS Centre under 4 Project GPU – (Taza, Amba, Tarpin and Central Pendam). The program was organized with the objective to provide a practical learning from the high performing ICDS Centre –Rongli Bazar and imbibe their successful model into their own routine operation. Therefore, the visit was successfully conducted with the active participation from all the AWW and under the guidance of Rongli Supervisor–Mrs. Chimi Bhutia Ma'am, also the entire team of Rongli Bazar ICDS.

CRP ORIENTATION IN SIKKIM



The Community Resource Person (CRP) Orientation Programme held in Sikkim strengthened the capacity of CRPs to facilitate community mobilisation and inclusive development initiatives.

PROJECT PROGRESS

CARD SIKKIM TEAM ORGANIZES AN EXPOSURE VISIT FOR 14 ICDS CENTRES



The CARD Sikkim team arranged an exposure visit for 14 ICDS Centres as part of four project GPUs: Taza, Amba, Tarpin, and Central Pendam. This program aimed to provide practical learning opportunities from the high-performing ICDS Centre at Rongli Bazar, allowing participants to incorporate their successful model into their regular operations. The visit was carried out successfully, with active participation from all Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) under the guidance of Rongli Supervisor, Mrs. Chimi Bhutia, and the entire team from Rongli Bazar ICDS.



EXPOSURE VISIT ON MULTI-LAYER INTEGRATED FARMING

On 11 June 2026, a group of 40 beneficiaries participated in an exposure visit at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Dhar, organized under the Multi-Layer Integrated Farming initiative by the CARD ChildFund International Project. The visit provided practical knowledge on multi-tier farming systems, vegetable cultivation, vermicomposting, orchard development, and poultry farming, alongside insights into market linkages to boost profitability. Guided by Senior Scientist Mr. Mandloi, participants learned about technical aspects, while Mr. Harsh Bhatore, FC-Programs at CARD, highlighted the benefits of such farming practices in enhancing farm productivity, diversifying income sources, and increasing annual household income for farmers.

SKILL TRAINING REACHES NEW TRAINEES

Under the ABF Skill Project, a toolkit distribution ceremony was held in Vinagaon for the first batch of Mason trade trainees, attended by CARD's project and cluster coordination team, equipping participants with the tools needed to put their new skills to work.





PROJECT PROGRESS

COTTON VALUE CHAIN AND AGROFORESTRY PILOT IN UMARBAN

On 9 June, Mr Sumit Wadhvani, Director of Michael Heals Natural Products (MHNP), visited the RPLC-DGBP project area in Umarban to discuss progress and cotton procurement targets with project staff, followed by detailed discussions with farmers in Randa, Dholiwadi, and Umarban on the cotton sale and procurement process. On 13-14 June, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) team, led by Dr Bhushan Lal and Mr Nikuj Jammu, reviewed the TNC Agroforestry Pilot Project sites and earlier plantation areas, and discussed the action plan for the upcoming phase with farmers and CARD staff. On 23 June, teams from H&M and IDH visited the RPLC project village Sulivaydi to review work carried out under the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP), agroforestry plantations, common land soil and water conservation work, and the village's Bio Resource Centre, including discussions with SHG women on bio-input preparation.

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR CLUSTER AND FIELD TEAMS

On 16 June, a Cluster Level Federation (CLF) training was held at the CARD office, Chachaura, focused on organisational management and leadership – covering record-keeping, institutional strengthening, decision-making, and a strategic framework for the CLF's coming months. The same week, CARD Dhar organised a one-day training for PRI representatives, SHG members, and the community of Borkhedi under the Harit Bharat Fund – Mahi River Revival project, covering improved agricultural practices, the role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in long-term sustainability, farmer-producer organisations, and SRLM schemes, with contributions from SRLM and KVK Dhar resource persons.



RENOVATION OF WATER STRUCTURES UNDER JAL SAMRUDDHI AND ABF PROJECTS

In the villages of Bamuliya Muchhali, Kalapeepal, and Dadiya Khedi, pond restoration, deepening, and renovation projects were successfully initiated in collaboration with the Swaraj Division, with foundation ceremonies led by village heads and council members.

Additionally, in the village of Batwada, Block Chachoda, District Guna, a significant step towards water conservation, agricultural development, and rural livelihood enhancement was marked by the commencement of a pond restoration project under the ABF initiative, inaugurated with a foundation ceremony by the village head. The event was attended by representatives of the village council and beneficiaries, all pledging their support for the project's successful implementation. The initiative is expected to increase the pond's water storage capacity, directly benefiting approximately 35-40 farmers. The fertile soil excavated from the pond is being used by farmers in their fields, enhancing natural soil fertility and improving crop production. This leads to better irrigation facilities and fertile land, resulting in a positive increase in farmers' income and livelihoods. The project represents an effective effort towards conserving water resources, promoting sustainable agriculture, and empowering rural communities.



GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP

Field Engagements, Stronger Partnerships

Leadership visits and partner engagements in June reinforced collaboration, reviewed progress and inspired teams to drive greater impact on the ground.



LEADERSHIP VISIT STRENGTHENS MAHI RIVER REVIVAL WORKSITES

On 18 June, CARD's leadership reviewed ongoing water conservation works under the Harit Bharat Fund – Mahi River Revival project in Minda and Golpura villages, Sardarpur block, including pond deepening, recharge pit construction, check-dam deepening, and well restoration, with farmers also constructing field bunding (paka medh) alongside. Senior leadership inspected each structure on site, offered guidance, and suggested additional works to strengthen the project's impact – reflecting the organisation's hands-on approach to ensuring quality and accountability in field implementation.



CHAIRMAN REVIEWS COTTON VALUE CHAIN AND AGROFORESTRY WORK IN UMARBAN

On 19 June, CARD's Chairman, Dr Vivek Sharma, visited the RPLC-DGBP and TNC Agroforestry project areas in Umarban from the CARD Head Office, Bhopal. He held detailed discussions with DGBP and TNC Agroforestry (Phase 3) project staff on progress and cotton procurement targets, before visiting Sulivaydi village with CARD Dhar's Mr Manoj Mishra and Mr Abul Hasan Qureshi to review the TNC Agroforestry Pilot Project's selected villages and common land sites. The Chairman interacted directly with farmers and Umarban staff, reviewed earlier plantation sites, and provided guidance on the action plan and implementation strategy for the upcoming agroforestry and DGBP project phases.



AFP WATERSHED PROJECT REVIEW – DHAR



Mr. Shishir from Azim Premji Foundation representative visited CARD's Dhar watershed project to review water conservation and land development activities, interact with farmers, and discuss future plans with the project team.



AXIS BANK FOUNDATION REVIEW – MADHYA PRADESH



Mr. Vishal from Axis Bank Foundation visited Borakha Kheda to review project progress, inspect key watershed and livelihood interventions, interact with community members, and assess the impact of ongoing development activities.



HDFC PARIVARTAN REVIEW – UMARIA AND LALITPUR



HDFC Bank Parivartan CSR teams visited project areas in Umaria and Lalitpur to review ongoing development interventions, interact with beneficiaries, and assess project progress. The visits provided valuable inputs for strengthening implementation and long-term sustainability.



STRONG PARTNERSHIPS, SHARED VISION



Our partners walk with us on the journey of change. Together, we co-create solutions and build resilient communities for a better tomorrow.



ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH & WELLBEING SIKKIM



MARKING WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY



On **5 June**, CARD Sikkim organised a cleanliness drive in the Golden Cross area with the active participation of **more than 50 Cipla** volunteers, reflecting the team's commitment to environmental sustainability and community welfare in the region.



STRENGTHENING LOCAL ENGAGEMENT

CARD Sikkim's environment day observance built on its ongoing work strengthening school infrastructure and health facilities across project villages, reinforcing community-level awareness around hygiene, sanitation, and shared environmental responsibility.



NIKAHAY SIBIR CAMP

Team Sikkim supported the NCD and Nikahay Sibir Camp organized at Tarpin GPU with medical and testing kits. Since, the camp was organised in the joint effort of District Tuberculosis Control Team, Rhenock CHC and Tarpin SHG group.



The health camp showed a successfully participation of **23**



The short awareness on TB elimination and prevention was done by DTO- District tuberculosis office Dr. Sandhya Rai and their team.



HANDOVER AND INAUGURATION PROGRAM FOR TRAUMA CENTRE SUPPORT AT PHC RONGLI



A handover and inauguration program for the material support to the Trauma Centre at PHC Rongli took place today, on **June 22, 2026**.

The event was honored by the presence of several distinguished guests:



Mr. Promod Nayak
Site EHS Head,
Cipla Sikkim



Mr. Nima Wangdi Tamang
Member Secretary,
Pollution Department



Mr. Madan Mani Dhakal
CMO Pakyong

The program underscored the significance of establishing the Trauma Centre at PHC Rongli, highlighting how the support from CARD and Cipla has greatly enhanced its services.

STORIES THAT ECHO

Voices of Change. Journeys of Resilience.



Across villages and communities, people are taking charge of their futures — restoring natural resources, building livelihoods and creating lasting change.



Water Brought Hope Back to Our Fields



The pond in our village had sited up over the years and water would not stay even after the rains. Through the Jal Samruthi project, the pond has been renovated. Now, water remains throughout the season and our wells have recharged too. We can irrigate our crops on time and the yield has improved. This pond has not just brought water, it has brought hope back to our village.



Pond renovation is improving irrigation availability and supporting better livelihoods.



From Skills to a Stronger Future



Earlier, we depended only on daily wage work. After joining the SHG and getting training in stitching and handicrafts, we started making products together. Now, we have regular orders and our income has increased. We feel more confident and are supporting our families. The SHG has taught us that together, we can build a better future.



SHG enterprises are empowering women with skills, income and confidence.



Seed Drill Saved Time, Seed and Labour



We used to broadcast seeds earlier, which required a lot of labour and more seed. After the Kisan Pathshala training, we started using the seed drill machine. It saves 15–20% seed and the germination is much more uniform. Now, we are finishing sowing on time and the crop is healthier. This machine has made our farming easier and more profitable.



Seed drill technology is reducing costs and improving productivity for farmers.

Real change begins when communities believe in their potential and come together to create a better tomorrow.



From the Editors' Desk

Dear Readers,

It is always a pleasure to reconnect with you through the stories that emerge from our fieldwork. These narratives continue to shape our journey, reminding us that our efforts gain meaning when they are shared and reflected upon within our communities.

In this edition, we bring together voices and experiences grounded in our ongoing work, thoughtfully woven around this month's theme. With a focus on water stewardship, we highlight CARD as a critical resource in conservation. We delve into the innovative practices and community-led projects that are making a difference in water conservation.

Thank you for continuing to be a part of this journey—through your time, your attention, and your engagement with these stories. Your presence encourages us to keep documenting and sharing what truly matters.

We hope you find this edition meaningful and continue to join us, month after month, as we bring you closer to stories from the field.

Warm regards,
The Editors



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Come volunteer, visit us, or simply reach out. We'd love to connect!

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