



# Building Water Secure Gram Panchayats

A community-led solution for climate  
resilience and sustainable development

## What is the Water Secure Gram Panchayat programme?

The Water Secure Gram Panchayat (WSGP) programme empowers rural communities to tackle climate-exacerbated water and livelihood challenges. It promotes resilient institutions, fosters government collaboration, prioritises community ownership of resources, and emphasises social and gender equity.

Gram Vikas' WSGP programme will enable 1000 Gram Panchayats in Odisha to achieve natural resource security and climate resilience, benefitting:

**1.5 million people by 2026**  
**6 million by 2030**

## Features of a Water Secure Gram Panchayat

- Households have access to safe drinking water and sanitation.
- Land and water resources are managed effectively.
- Producer collectives enable improved production and increased incomes from farming and allied occupations.
- Technology and data are leveraged for better use of physical and natural resources.
- Vulnerable households have access to institutional mechanisms for social protection and participate in development processes.
- Women, youth, and children contribute to and influence local development decision-making.

## Rationale

Over half the rural population in Odisha depends on natural resources for food and income, with water as the lifeline. Solving grassroots water challenges is essential for resilient communities and sustainable development. The 6750 Gram Panchayats, the closest level of governance to 37 million rural people in Odisha, have to be at the forefront of this change. The WSGP programme demonstrates a hyper-local approach of empowered communities and local governments leading climate adaptation, contributing to seven Sustainable Development Goals.





# Challenges to natural resource security in Odisha

Odisha's rural communities face complex, intertwined challenges affecting long term quality of life, worsened by water insecurity.

## Changing Climate

Natural resources are strained due to climate change, which severely impacts livelihoods and resilience.

## Barriers to Health and Well Being

Unsafe water, poor sanitation, and environmental pollution create health risks and degrade the environment.

## Limited Markets and Technology

Inadequate access to markets, technology, and knowledge leads to the adoption of unsustainable production practices.

## Gaps in Local Governance

Insufficient collaboration between citizens and local governments hinders effective development responses.

## Inequity and Exclusion

Women, youth and marginalised groups have limited opportunities to shape development outcomes.





# How will WSGP address the challenges to water security?

The WSGP addresses challenges to water security through a focus on four pillars of action.

## Sustainability

Communities and local governments gain the knowledge and tools needed for sustainable natural resources management through the WSGP's focus on water science and technologies.

## Safety

Healthy communities rely on safe water. The WSGP prioritises safe water as a foundation for health, focusing on contamination prevention, community knowledge, and empowering women and children as leaders for long-term well-being.

## Prosperity

Economic prosperity depends on sustainable water use. The WSGP supports producers in optimising water use, building resilient livelihoods, and adapting to climate challenges, emphasising the crucial role of women in livelihood security.

## Equity and Resilience

The WSGP promotes water equity and resilience by ensuring equitable access to water and natural resources, engaging women, youth, and vulnerable groups in decision-making, and strengthening citizen-government collaboration.





# WSGP innovations set to scale

## Water Passbook

A community-driven decision support system using site-specific water data for informed, sustainable water management.

## Weather and Crop Advisories

Localised weather stations and expert analysis provide farmers with tailored, climate-smart data for informed decision-making.

## Source-Based Water Sustainability

Protecting and developing water sources through hyperlocal mapping, aquifer understanding, and community-driven water security plans.

## Gram Vikas Saathi

Empowering youth as social entrepreneurs, enabling social protection and resource access for communities.

## About Gram Vikas



Gram Vikas is a rural development organisation partnering with Odisha's marginalised communities since 1979 to drive sustainable change, impacting over 5 million lives across 8000+ villages.

Gram Vikas' MANTRA approach provides a framework for mobilising communities towards Water Secure Gram Panchayats. Its five principles ensure sustainability and equity: 100% inclusion, cost-sharing for ownership, community responsibility in management, equitable participation for women and marginalised groups, and built-in financial mechanisms for long-term service.