

# Building of Community-based, Resilient, and Sustainable Food Security Model

## An Experiment from Madhya Pradesh, India

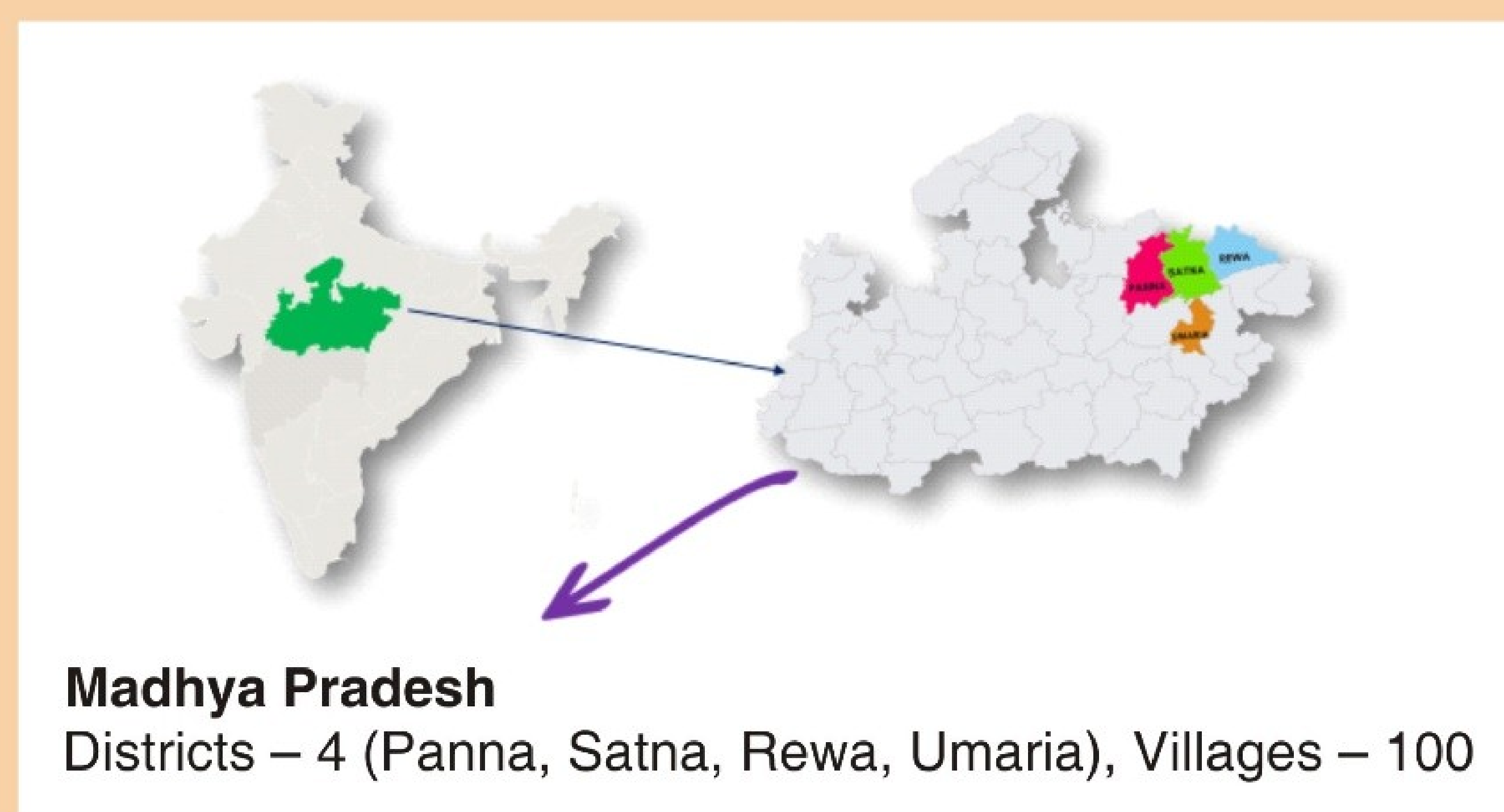
### The Rationale of the Intervention

India's policies and programs dealing with malnutrition largely target the 'Immediate Causes'. The inter-sector constituents, including Public Health, Education, Agriculture, etc., most of the time work isolated and there is a lack of community-based management.

Therefore, Vikas Samvad Samiti (VSS) has emphasized on to develop "A Community-based, Resilient, and Sustainable Food Security Model" with the support of Terre des homes (TDH) and BMZ, Germany since 2016 with the following objectives.

- To develop effective programmatic actions to increase food security and end malnutrition and hunger in India.
- To create a framework to fulfil and monitor the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG-2) 'Zero Hunger'.

### Intervention Area



Madhya Pradesh is a poorer state in India and has a greater challenge of the high burden of malnutrition. The intervention area is prominently inhabited by Adivasi and Dalit communities. Most of them live in the forest area and are day labourers. Forest resources have declined and biodiversity has decreased. Their major agricultural land is infertile. They face the challenge of floods and droughts. The lack of sustainable means of livelihood forces them to migrate.

### Approaches

The model duly draws upon UNICEF's conceptual framework which emphasizes the roots of the manifestation of malnutrition in immediate, underlying and basic causes. It has been developed with a community-centric, right-based, sustainable, climate-resilient and evidence-based approach.



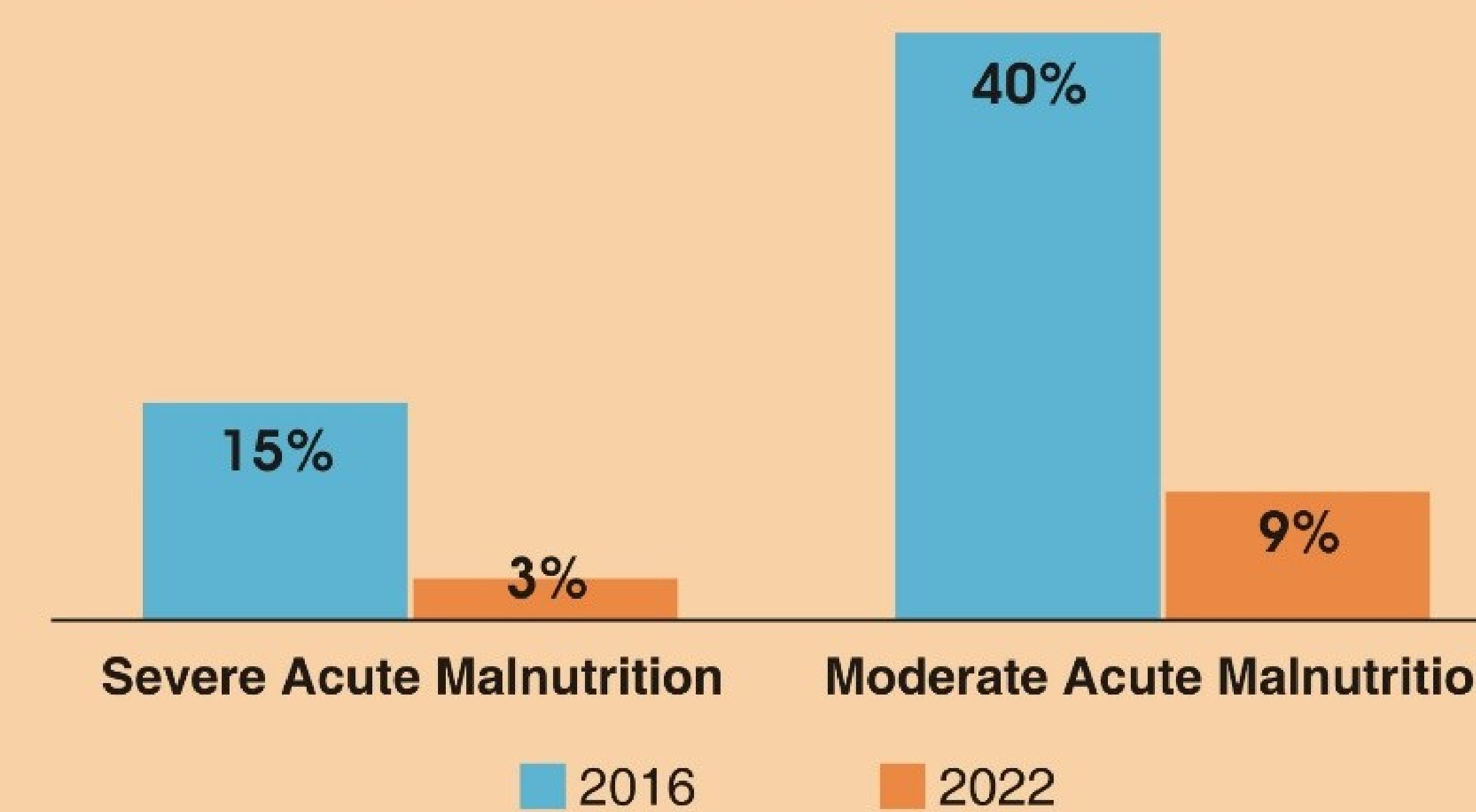
### Key Strategies

1. **Development of Community Leadership** of formed groups of women, youth, adolescent girls, and children in all villages and initiation of the Participatory Learning and Action process.
2. **Strengthening of the Local Food System** through Promotion of Sustainable Agricultural Practices (Formation of Seed Banks and Promotion of Bio-Manure), Nutrition Gardens, Poultry Farming, Rejuvenation of Water Structures and Mapping Biodiversity.
3. **System Strengthening** by Community Monitoring, Social Audit and Capacity Building of Statuary Committees.
4. **Research and Knowledge Building** to conduct situational and policy analysis and impact assessment.
5. **Convergence with Government Departments** for program implementation.
6. **Evidence-based advocacy** to make policy-level changes.

### Outcomes, Learnings and Challenges

- At present, the food security of 6466 families has strengthened.
- Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) has decreased from 40% to 9% and Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) has come down from 15% to 3% in 6 years.
- With an integrated approach, the prevention of malnutrition through community-based resource management is possible.
- The COVID-19 pandemic, large pockets of drought, and heavy rains did hinder the model's processes.

### Prevalence of Malnutrition (Wasting) in the Intervention Area



Source : Periodic Growth Monitoring Survey, Vikas Samvad Samiti

### Significance of the Intervention

- The model addresses the nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive policy agenda and secures effective programmatic actions to strengthen food security and end malnutrition.
- This model creates a framework to fulfil and monitor the SDG-2.
- Learnings of the intervention have been incorporated into the Madhya Pradesh State Nutrition Policy.
- The model is adaptable, scalable and sustainable.

**About Vikas Samvad Samiti (VSS)** : VSS is a civil society organization working for food and nutrition security, sustainable farming, women and child health, community leadership development and the establishment of constitutional values. In India, presently it is working in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Rajasthan.



Copy Right @ Vikas Samvad Samiti

**Authors** : Vishwambhar Tripathi, Sachin Kumar Jain and Ashwini Sopanrao Jadhav  
**Institution** : Vikas Samvad Samiti, A-5, Aaykar Colony, G-3 Gulmohar, Bhopal – 462039, Madhya Pradesh, India.  
Phone : 0755-4252789, E-mail: office@vssmp.org.