

## Phase III of Okhamandal Samridhi Gram Pariyojana project launched

*The project co-funded by the Tata Chemicals Society for Rural Development and the Tata Trusts, aims to improve the socio-economic conditions of the farmers in 40 salinity-affected villages of Okhamandal and Kalyanpur blocks of Devbhoomi Dwarka district of Gujarat through various interventions under Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (NRM).*

The launch event was organised on April 28, 2015, at Sabras Bhavan, Mithapur, in the presence of the Chief Guest Mr. Pabubha Manek, MLA of Devbhoomi Dwarka and Kalyanpur blocks of Devbhoomi Dwarka district; Mr. Rajendra Sharviya, DRDA Director; Mr. BB Kathpalia, Vice President, Tata Chemicals Limited (TCL); and Mr. Divyang Waghela, Asst. Development Manager, Tata Trusts.

Around 200 farmers from different villages of Okhamandal were present on this occasion.



(L to R) Mr. Shukla, Executive - TCL; Mr. BB Kathpalia, Vice President – TCL; Mr. Pabubha Manek, MLA of Devbhoomi Dwarka and Kalyanpur blocks of Devbhoomi Dwarka district; Mr. Rajendra Sharviya - DRDA Director; and Mr. Divyang Waghela – Asst. Development Manager - Tata Trusts, unveiling brochures of the project, on the launch of Phase III of the Okhamandal project.

The Okhamandal Samridhi Gram Pariyojana (OSGP) project envisages reaching out to 4,000 households of 40 villages of Okhamandal and Kalyanpur blocks of Devbhoomi Dwarka district of Gujarat through NRM and agriculture-based interventions. In the same cluster, 5,000 households would be covered through drinking water facility and 2,000 households with sanitation facility under the Drinking Water and Sanitation project.

In addition, the Coastal Salinity Prevention Cell (CSPC) would initiate education interventions for children in the age group of 3-14 years across aanganwadis and primary schools in the Okhamandal block, in coordination with the respective departments of the government, with the objective of enhancing learning outcomes and bringing about sustainable change in the lives of children.

### Key objectives of the project:

- Promote NRM-based interventions for salinity mitigation and augmentation of water sources.
- Disseminate sustainable agricultural practices such as adoption of improved package of practices, technological interventions and crop diversification.
- Promote alternate livelihood options for landless population and support non-farm livelihoods.
- Create and promote long-term sustainable community institutions for self-reliance.
- Establish linkages with stakeholders for scaling up of interventions.

**The project approach:**

The approach of the project is to saturate the villages with relevant and appropriate interventions in an integrated manner; wherein clusterisation and institutionalisation approach will be fundamental to the project. The project aims to improve socio-economic conditions of the farmers through various interventions under the agriculture and natural resource management (NRM) in the salinity affected villages and to build a community based institutions for long-term sustainability of the interventions. Further, the key focus under the Drinking Water and Sanitation initiative being implemented through the Coastal Area Development Programme (CADP), funded by the Tata Trusts, is to develop cost-effective and sustainable water supply facilities, either by improvising existing facilities or by setting up new facilities, through community participation, collective action and technical facilitation.

**Key project activities would include:**

- Construction and capacity enhancement of water harvesting structures.
- Promotion of improved agricultural practices through crop diversification, land reclamation, and improved farming practices.
- Promotion of efficient irrigation techniques, drips and sprinklers, for judicious use of water.
- Promotion of alternate non-farm livelihood opportunities such as animal husbandry
- Enhancing market linkages through development and strengthening of farmers producer companies.