



Empowering Marginalized for Five Decades



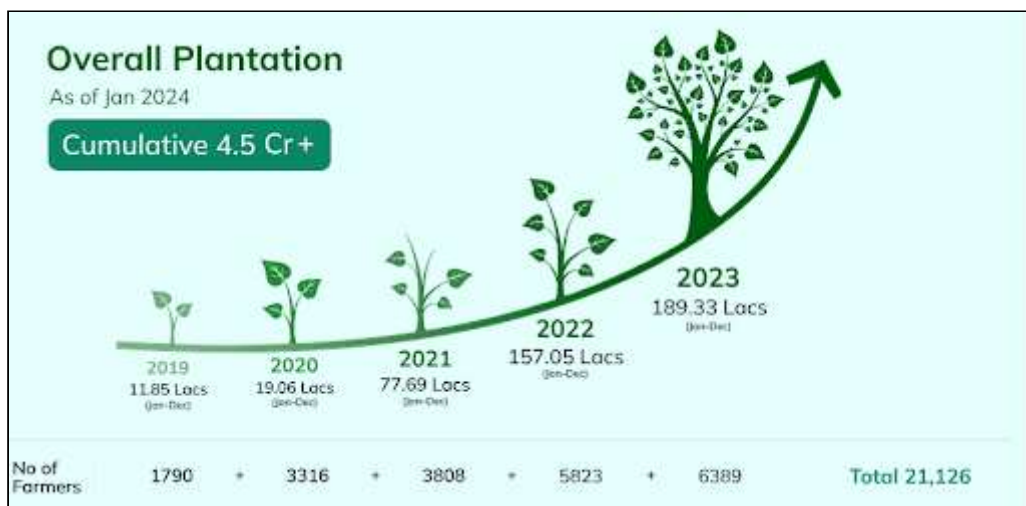
Farmers make up close to 50% of organized labor in the Indian economy to provide food for the rest of the country; yet they are the most marginalized communities in India. [As per National Crime Records Bureau \(NCRB\) Dec'23 report](#), one farmer dies by suicide every hour in India.

Mayank Gandhi, an urban planner by profession who played active role in Anna Hazare's movement for India Against Corruption (IAC) movement was inspired by Gandhi's words that "The soul of India lives in its villages" and his personal belief that the only way India can become a global power again would be if rural India were empowered. In 2013, he sold his house in Mumbai and started [Global Vikas Trust \(GVT\)](#) to work in some of the worst-hit villages of Marathwada, Maharashtra with high rate of farmer's suicides. GVT is dedicated to transforming the farming economy

Their mission focuses on changing cropping patterns, planting fruit trees to fight climate change, combining traditional and modern farming techniques, and providing expert-led training programs to enhance farmers' prosperity.

IDS has partnered with **GVT** in their initiatives to increase farmers' incomes fourfold, targeting an income of Rs 1 lakh per acre, thereby lifting them out of poverty. With the IDS grant, GVT plans to optimize crop selection, analyze and identify high-yield, remunerative crops suitable for various regions, develop comprehensive, data-driven training programs tailored to the specific needs of farmers, and implement precision water management techniques that have significantly improved water use efficiency, to name a few.

IDS was privileged to host Mayank Gandhi, in Chicago on June 20th, 2022 where he shared his personal stories, what led him to start GVT and what impact it has made in the farming community. Over the past seven years, GVT has planted 4.5 million fruit trees across Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, operated in 4,100 villages, positively affecting local communities, assisted 21,000 farmers in increasing their incomes by 4 to 8 times, and implemented water conservation projects that regenerated 2,500 million liters of water.





Mayank Gandhi speaking to IDS at Schuamburg IL - June 14th, 2024

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SDG #1 : No poverty,

SDG #2: Zero Hunger

and

SDG #13 : Climate Action



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