



AGRO SAMACHAR

July, August, September 2025

The last quarter, from July to September, has been eventful for AGRO RANGERS, with several interactions with the rural youth, SVP partners and donors, and Open House Exhibitions for meaningful collaborations, mentorships and successful business plans. Let's take a glance at the quarter that went by and the work our team has done—the soil we have nourished and lives we have touched through our Regenerative Agriculture practices.

Soil Revival and Restoration

Across India, local farmers, policy makers and NGOs like AGRO RANGERS are redefining agriculture. Regenerative agriculture practices are working on restoring soil health and biodiversity. But the gaps are massive in India, due to degradation of the ecosystem across the country after the Green Revolution.

Soil degradation is a major threat for food and nutrition security in India. Water and wind erosion are the primary reasons for that. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) estimates that 37% of India's land is affected by land degradation. Soil erosion makes India lose 5.3 billion tons of soil every year, making our land barren and uncultivable. Small and marginal farmers are bearing the brunt of soil degradation due to years of excessive chemical usage, and the recent impact of climate changes that have been the death knell for them.

It is time we—the average Indian citizen realised this massive apocalypse standing right in front of us. If the land continues to die and farmers continue killing themselves, then who will provide food for our country?

People seem so disconnected from nature. Children in the cities are growing up without experiencing the sight of trees, farms and the company of nature. Though it may sound all negative and distressing, we still have some hope of reversing the massive damage to our soil and agriculture if we rethink and go back to our roots of living in harmony with soil and nature.



AGRO RANGERS' Journey

At AGRO RANGERS, we work tirelessly on customised agroforestry implementation on degraded farmlands to revive them and bring back life to the soil beneath our feet. Hundreds of farmers stand united in our efforts to cut down chemical fertilizers and pesticides and implement multi-cropping, recognising the symbiotic relationships of crops and trees and uplifting their soil and livelihoods.

I am very grateful to every organisation, individual and foundation that has supported the growth of the AGRO RANGERS' team. From just 2 people to over 15 members today, we work with hundreds of small and marginal farmers across rural Maharashtra in the Shirur and Daund blocks.

Soil regeneration is not only about the farmlands in India, but also about people like you and me who care about it and want to rewrite a better future for the next generation!



SVP India - Pune's Annual Event

On 11th July, we were invited to the SVP India (Social Venture Partners) Pune's annual event, SETU 2025. SVP has played a very critical role in supporting AGRO RANGERS – right from mentoring, connecting to donors and helping us build a sustainable business plan which has started taking shape since we got engaged with the SVP Pune team.

It was an inspiring evening, where we heard from the SVP leadership team about their work and mission. We also had the chance to reconnect with SVP partners who have supported AGRO RANGERS and met many others who showed keen interest in our work in regenerative agriculture with small and marginal farmers across the rural Pune district.

A well-planned walkthrough was organised by the SVP Pune team for all participating NGOs, giving us the opportunity to showcase our work and recent updates to all attendees. Siddhesh Sakore, our founder, and Kunal Dhondge from our team represented AGRO RANGERS at this stellar event.



Open House Exhibition

We participated in the prestigious Open House Exhibition organised by Vigyan Ashram on the 29th and 30th July at Pabal, in memory of the visionary founder Dr. S. S. Kalbag, marking his 22nd memorial anniversary. We proudly showcased our newly launched Rural Technology Action Group (RuTAGe) Smart Village Centre (RSVC) in Dhamari village, established in collaboration with Vigyan Ashram and supported by the La Fondation Dassault Systèmes.

Our aim at the Smart Village Centre is to support small and marginal farmers through sustainable agricultural practices and value-added technology solutions. During the two-day event, our team interacted with students, farmers, educators and sustainability enthusiasts. We also displayed product samples such as dried onion flakes, coriander, moringa powder, and many more. We also showcased crop-specific bio-fertilisers, receiving enthusiastic feedback from visitors. The interactions and appreciation we received have truly energised our team. We are deeply grateful to Vigyan Ashram for providing this platform and to everyone who visited our stall and took interest in our work.

My journey in regenerative agriculture started in a very big way with the internship at Vigyan Ashram and honestly, I can never thank them enough for their support, encouragement and learning they have provided me and my team!



Independence day with YooPune

This year we celebrated Independence Day with the YooPune Apartments Association who invited us to their Farmer's Market. It was a great opportunity for our team to present our work in regenerative agriculture to families who were keen to procure chemical free produce for themselves. The residents welcomed us warmly, purchasing fresh vegetables, grains and pulses which were directly sourced from our farmers who have grown them organically.



Insights for COP30 Brazil

On 22nd August 2025, I was fortunate to meet 45 passionate young people and children at the city consultation for youth and children on climate properties for COP30. The goal of this consultation was to exchange ideas and contribute to the Indian National Youth Statement, slated for presentation at COP30 Brazil in November 2025. This statement is a declaration of India's young populace's aspirations and commitments towards climate and environmental action, underscoring their crucial role in shaping sustainable outcomes.

It was a refreshing event, and my heart was happy to see so many enthusiastic young people keen on working for environmental causes and understanding the implication of the same on human lives.



Training Workshop for Farmers at Dhamani Village

Our team at AGRO RANGERS, conducted an all inclusive training program for farmers in the Dhamani Village On 25th Aug. A total of 31 eager participants attended the workshop. Our aim was to provide farmers with practical knowledge on sustainable agriculture practices, helping them to use tools and practices that would be sustainable in the long run and improve productivity and soil quality.

The main focus of the workshop was to empower the farmers with knowledge on Agroforestry, its method, benefits and practical know-how.

The farmers learnt about techniques that were eco-friendly with the use of organic bio fertilisers improving soil health and reducing the usage of chemical fertilisers.

We conducted a live demonstration, where we tested the soil on one of the farmer's land. We were able to show the process of soil analysis and explain that these soil results can guide them on how to manage soil nutrients which would lead to better yields. We also distributed sample biofertiliser (PSB) to the farmers for them to immediately put it to use and incorporate what they had learnt in the workshop.

The practical experiment with the bio fertilisers improved the understanding of adopting eco-friendly techniques and built their confidence and interest in incorporating agroforestry.



Celebrating Ganesh Festival

Ganesh Chaturthi was celebrated without much fan-fair in an eco-friendly manner this year. The Ganesh idol was handmade with natural soil and water from our AGRO RANGERS farm. We were able to show our reverence and devotion to Ganesha and commitment to protecting our soil by employing sustainable practices.

During the 10-day celebration, the idol was the centrepiece of our devotion and a constant reminder of our promise.

On the day of the immersion, we dissolved the idol in water, leaving us with memories of the festival and helping give back to nature without any destruction, contamination or pollution to our soil. We also planted a sapling in the Ganesh idol soil to symbolise giving back what we borrowed in its unadulterated form. It also denotes Lord Ganesh's blessings taking root in our soil and strengthening the work that we do. This way we were able to honour tradition, the planet and our soil.

Every time we look at this tree, it will remind us that our celebrations can be joyous and environmentally responsible and friendly.



Training Workshop for Farmers in Selu (Parbhani)



A training workshop for farmers was conducted on 29th August, for 119 eager and enthusiastic participants at Late Wamanraoji Kadam Bordikar Seva Sanstha's College of Agriculture, Selu, located in Jintur, Parbhani district. There was a mix of local farmers and college faculty members who showed keen interest in the experiences we had to share about enhancing soil health, organic products replacing chemical-based fertilisers and sustainable agriculture.

Participants learned about our approach to working directly with farmers, promoting sustainable agriculture, livelihood diversification and climate-resilient practices.

The workshop was extremely engaging with participants enquiring about tree plantation techniques, past farmers' engagement learnings and long-term benefits of agroforestry practices. The sessions ended with participants highly motivated to try out new organic practices they learned during the workshop.



Plant a Tree Campaign

I am pleased to share that in September 2025, we launched our Plant a Tree campaign on our social pages. With a donation of ₹1000, we invite everyone to plant a fruit tree on a small and marginal farmer's land. This donation will provide 3 years care for the tree's lifelong survival and restore soil health and provide a small income to the farmers.

We encourage everyone to plant a tree on a special occasion like a birthday or wedding or in the memory of someone you dearly love. The AGRO RANGERS team will provide the geolocation and yearly photos of the trees so the donors can track the growth of the tree and see it benefit the environment. A visit to the plantation site can also be arranged. We have received a good response for this initiative, and I really hope many more will join us in our efforts to restore habitats and farmlands across Maharashtra.



IIT Bombay Students Visit AGRO RANGERS

We were excited to host a group of students from IIT Bombay, who were accompanied by the Vigyan Ashram team at AGRO RANGERS Pune on September 22nd. We began our interaction with a guided tour of the AGRO RANGERS premises and were happy to answer their questions on agroforestry, soil revitalisation techniques and new-age farming.

The main highlight from their visit was that they got to see many of our soil conservation techniques and tree plantation up close. They enquired about the hardship our farmers are facing with climate change and degrading soil and what solutions could be provided. We shared some of our innovative strategies and support we were providing on the lines of sustainable agriculture.

The students wanted to know more about soil management and crop rotation which lead to a healthy discussion around eco-friendly farming practices that we were already following. They also got an idea of how small steps can make a large impact on the environment and the overall crop productivity.

This visit not only gave us an opportunity to impart knowledge but also inspire young minds with hands-on experiences in our domain of sustainable agriculture. It enabled us to bridge the knowledge gap between theory and live application of natural and organic agricultural practices, inspiring the students to think beyond basic and towards agricultural innovation.



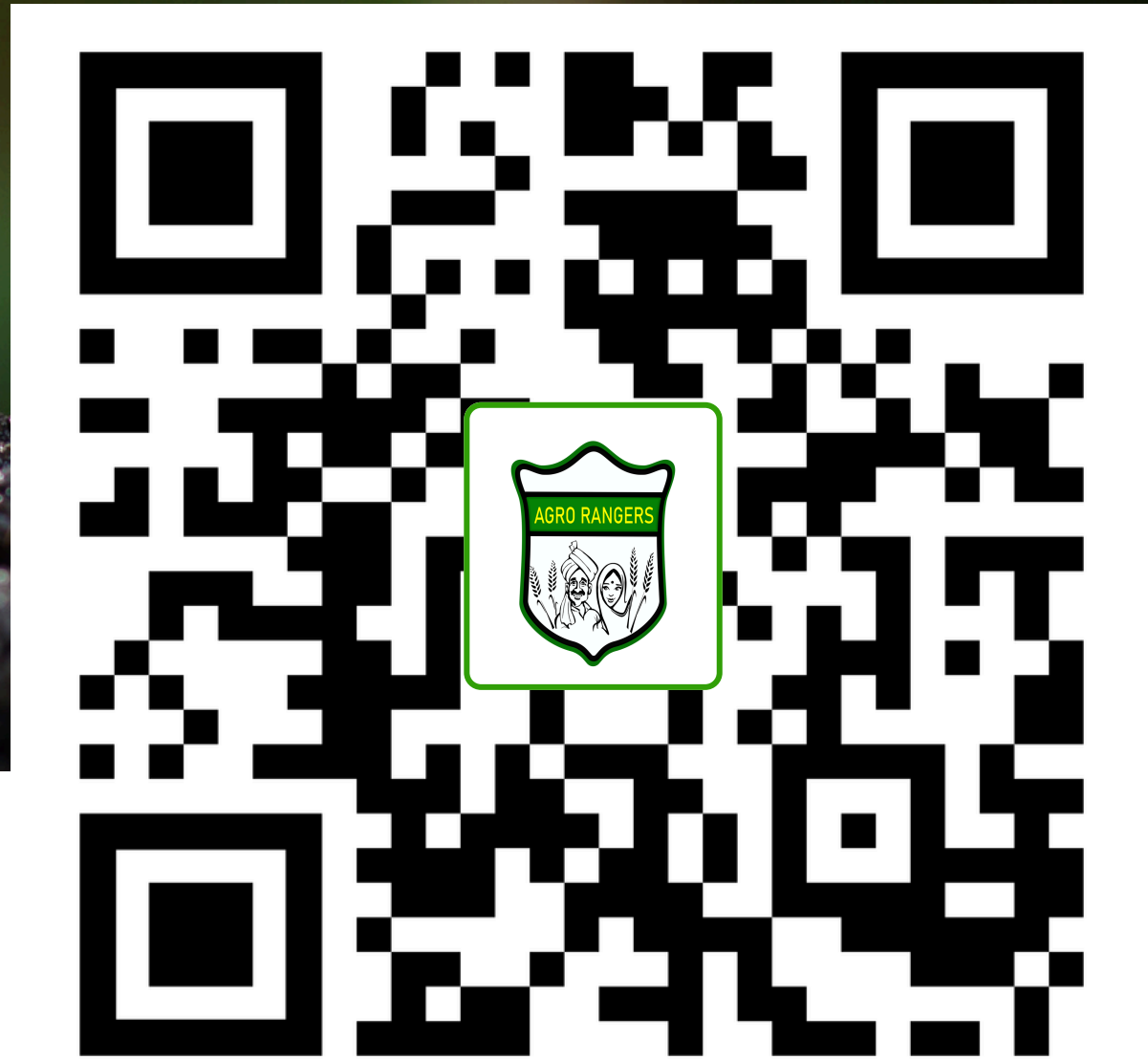
Plan to Scale Rural India

The past quarter also saw the AGRO RANGERS management team engaged in building the NGO plans for scaling our impact and creating business structures that will support the growth of AGRO RANGERS in the coming years. We will soon come up with an exciting fellowship program for rural youth, and I can't wait to tell you all about it as soon as we are ready for launch. Our work takes us into the heart of India – small villages where simple people live with small dreams. The purity and innocence of rural life always motivate me to push ahead despite the massive challenges we face in our daily work. There is hope for India as we have like-minded people working together to make a change in our society. Indian youth are leading the way!

A glimpse of our voice across media platforms:

- Ahead of this year's #IUCNcongress, discover the unique voices that make up a collective, united by a shared purpose and a vision for a better future.
- Featured on Gaon Connection - India's biggest rural media platform with Neelesh Mishra – DD National documentary





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We are grateful to all partner organisations and supporters for their continuous support to AGRO RANGERS and for assisting us.

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