

Shirapur Village at a Glance

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I. INTRODUCTION

Shirapur is one of the six villages selected by the Economics Program of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) in 1975 for implementation of its Village Level Studies (VLS). The village Shirapur is the most diversified in case of income and crops among all the villages selected for VLS.

Shirapur village (19°29.45' N, 74°14.9' E) is situated in Mohol taluka in Solapur district (17°10' to 18°32' N and 74°42' to 76°15' E) of Maharashtra state. The village was habituated in the 12th century, and at that time it was situated on the banks of the river Seena. The village is named Shirapur – “Shira” means “enter” and

“Pur” means “flood”. In the rainy season, there used to be heavy flooding in the village. Hence, the villagers migrated to the present place and set up a new village. Presently, the Seena river flows 0.5 km to the West of the village.

Shirapur village is located 27 km to the West of Solapur on the Hyderabad-Mumbai (NH-9) highway and 12 km from Mohol taluka, 450 km from State capital Mumbai and 330 km from Hyderabad. The village is three km off the main highway. The nearest market town is Mohol. The MSRTC bus frequency from Shirapur to Mohol is four times a day, in addition to 10-12 auto-rickshaws that cater to the needs of villagers. The nearest railway station is Vadaval, located 9 km away from the village.





The village has a separate Gram Panchayat. During the 18th century, the Solanki Rajput (Agnivanshi), called Pandhare, were gifted the land covering the present Shirapur village by the Maharaja of Baroda (Fateh Singh Gaikwad). These Rajputs were also called Maratha sects of Chalukya and had 21 clans among them of which Pandhare is one. They are addressed as Raje Pandhare in Shirapur. Even today Pandhare families live in the village but in obscure poverty. Mismanagement of resources and overindulgence in politics led to their downfall. The main occupations of the people are agriculture, livestock rearing and nonfarm work.

II. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND / DEVELOPMENT OF THE VILLAGE

During the last three decades, Shirapur village has progressed in varying degrees, in terms of social, political, economic, technological, institutional and infrastructural, educational and religious advancement.

Social: The old village was established according to the caste system. Maratha and other forward castes lived in the center of the village and other minor and backward castes lived around the forward castes. The scheduled castes (SC) lived outside the village. At that time, people from the scheduled caste were banned from entering the village and the village temple. Nowadays, people of



all castes live together in the new village area. There is no ban on any caste.

There are 25 castes and two religions in the village. The dominant caste is Maratha, which contributes more than 50% to the total population of the village. There are three political groups in Maratha. One group is dominated by Mr Digambar Masalkar, National Congress Party (NCP) Dhoble Gat, who worked as sarpanch for 10 years. The second group is dominated by Mr Prakash Kale (NCP Manohar Dongre Gat) who worked as sarpanch for 5 years. The third group is dominated by Saudagar Sathe (Shivsena). The Shivsena party supports either party in the elections. But the support of the shepherd caste plays an important role in Gram Panchayat elections because of their unity.

In 1989-92, Mr Digambar Masalkar and other members of the Gram Panchayat were elected unanimously. In 1995, the first woman sarpanch (Mrs Sunita Nanawate) was elected, and in 2010, the first scheduled caste sarpanch (Mr Dashrath Sarvagoud) was elected.

Political: The village Gram Panchayat was established in 1951. From 1951-1960 there was a group Gram Panchayat for Shirapur, Morvanchi and Bhambewadi villages. Three members from each of these villages were members of the Gram Panchayat body. Since 1951, the village has had a Maratha sarpanch-8 times, Koshti-1 time, Rajput-1 time, Shepherd-2 times, Gonohali-1 time and Mahar-1 time. In 1995, for the first time, the village had a lady sarpanch. Maratha and shepherd castes are dominant in village politics.

Economic: Almost 80 percent of the villagers depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. In olden times, they grew pigeonpea, sunflower, pearl millet, sesame, etc, in the *kharif* (rainy) season and sorghum, safflower, chickpea and wheat in the *rabi* (postrainy) season. The few who had irrigation facilities grew groundnut and vegetables in the summer. They reared local cows, buffaloes, goats, sheep and poultry. In 1996, a canal





was dug in the village with village manpower. This increased the irrigated area, and owing to percolation of canal water, there is sufficient water in wells. Borewells supply water throughout the year. After 1996, people changed their crops from food grains to cash crops such as sugarcane, cotton and horticultural crops.

In 1999, a small check dam was built on the river Seena, and in 2004 water from the Ujjani dams was directed into the river. Farmers were allowed to take water from the river for agricultural purposes. Due to this, the area under sugarcane cultivation has increased.

The Lokmangal Sugar Factory, the Lokmangal Dairy Processing unit and the Lokmangal Distillery units were established at a distance of about 3 km away from the village during 2000, 2003 and 2010, respectively, which gives employment to the village youth. Nowadays, 115 villagers are working in the Lokmangal units throughout the year. In 1985-86, Shirapur village was linked with NH-9 by a kuchcha road and in 1995 it was linked by a tar road.

Today, 150 villagers are working as drivers on transport trucks in Solapur. They earn Rs 500 per day. Five persons work abroad, namely, the Netherlands.

There is one primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Society, one District Central Cooperative Bank and one private bank that provide loans to the villagers at reasonable interest rates.

Technological: Several improved varieties and hybrids have been adopted in crop cultivation. Some, to quote, are CO 86032, 9805 and 671 in sugarcane; HD-2189, Kalyan Sona and Lok-1 in wheat; Vijay, JG-11 and Virat in Chickpea; Maruti, Asha and ICPH 2671 in pigeonpea; Panchyaganga Export and Jindal in onion; Pinnacle and Mahyco in Maize; G-9 (tissue cultured) in Banana; and Ganesh, Bhagwa and Arakta in pomegranate.

There are six tractors in the village, which are used for ploughing, harrowing, leveling and as a Rotavator



(to chop sugarcane trash into small pieces). However, tractors are not used for sowing and spraying. There are five threshers in the village. Threshers are used for sorghum, chickpea, pigeonpea, wheat, maize and black gram crops. Wages for threshers are given in kind.

In 2009, sericulture plants of 1 ha each were set up by Dyandeo Chavan, Tukaram Chavan and Vishwanath Chavan. Villagers possess HF and Jersey cross bred cows and Murrah and Pandharpuri buffaloes. A poultry farm exists with 2,000 poultry birds.

Infrastructural: Electricity for farms came into Shirapur in 1960-61; today there are more than 1,000 electric motors in the village. In 1984, the first drip irrigation system was set up in the village by Vishwanath L Chavan for his pomegranate crop (Jal Bindu, now called Netafim). Presently, more than 20.25 ha of farm land have drip irrigation sets in the village. This might increase during the current year (2011-12) as the sugar factory is encouraging farmers to purchase drip irrigation sets for use in sugarcane fields by providing them softer loans.

In 1991, the first landline telephone came into existence in the village. Today, there are about 125 landlines and 750 mobile phones in the village. Farmers use





SMS facilities on their mobiles to get information on agriculture, particularly the market price and new seed information. In 1983, the first television set came to Shirapur Gram Panchayat. Today, there are nearly 156 televisions in the village. Farmers watch agriculture-related programs on television everyday. Dish TV entered the village in 1985.

Institutional: The Gram Panchayat was established in Shirapur in 1951. From 1951-60 there was a group Gram Panchayat, and in 1960, a separate Gram Panchayat was established.

In 1972, a post office was set up in the village. The post office has facilities such as post cards, inland letters, Recurring Deposit, Rural Life Insurance, Kisan cards, Registered Post, Speed Post, Value Payable Post and Money Order. There are three post offices, one each at Shirapur, Bhambewadi and Morvanchi villages.

In 1985, a Veterinary Hospital was established in the village. The hospital gives treatment to livestock at a nominal charge of Rs 2 per animal. The hospital authorities conduct health camps and immunization camps every season. The veterinary hospital covers 8 villages. Artificial Insemination facility is also available in the hospital at a cost of Rs 11 per service.

In 1995, a Telephone Exchange was set up. There are currently 125 landlines in the village. The setting up of this exchange in the village has helped to keep the telephone network in the village in working condition.

In 1998, a Primary Health Center (PHC) was set up in Shirapur after it was relocated from another village due to a political crisis. It serves six villages with a total population of 20,000 with the help of two full time doctors, five nurses and ten assistants. They provide basic treatment and vaccination, and conduct door-to-door awareness campaigns on public health issues.

In 2004, the headquarters of the District Central Coop-Bank was relocated to Shirapur from Khuneshwar

village. It serves 20 villages, mainly in terms of providing loans (short, medium and long term).

Houses in the old part of the village are made of stone, mud and have mud roofs. Nowadays, most of the new houses are constructed using bricks and RCC roof. The village is linked to the nearest taluka and district by tar roads. Tap water facility is also available for drinking purposes.

Educational: Education facilities are available from pre-primary to Standard 10 in the village. Students go to Mohol or Solapur to attend college.

A primary school was established on 31 December 1885. Up to 1960, this school was controlled by a school board. After 1960, it came under the control of the Zilla Parishad. Today, there are nine classrooms, nine teachers and classes from 1-4, each having two divisions. The school has a playground, toilet, drinking water and computer facilities.

The high school was established on 9 July 1972 by a Brahmin from the village. In the first 3-4 years, the school functioned in the Hanuman temple. Then the Founder President gave his own house in which to conduct classes and land for a playground. In 2008, the school committee constructed its own school building. Now there are 8 classrooms, 1 staff room, Headmaster's office, a mini assembly hall, playground, toilet, computer room, laptops and Internet facility in the school.

Religious: There are 25 castes and 2 religions in the village. Hindus celebrate Makara Sankranti, Gudhi Padwa, Gokulashthami, Mahashivarathri, Ekadashi, Diwali, Dassera, Shiv Jayanthi, Ahilyadevi Jayanthi and Ambedkar Jayanthi. Muslims celebrate Id, Ramzan and Moharrum festivals. Muslims participate in Hindu festivals and Hindus also participate in Muslim festivals. Muslims participate in Hindu programs such as Bhajans and *Kirtans* (religious lectures) also.



III. BASIC STATISTICS OF THE VILLAGE

A) LOCATION/ACCESSIBILITY

- Village: **Shirapur**
- Taluka: **Mohol**
- District: **Solapur**
- State: **Maharashtra** 5.PIN: **413213**
- GPS values: (a) Latitude: **19°29.45' N** (b) Longitude: **74°14.9' E** (c) Altitude(m): **459**
- Nearest town: (a) Name: **Solapur** (b) Distance from village (km): **30**
- Nearest State Highway: (a) Number: **SH 74** (b) Distance from village (km): **12**
- Nearest National Highway: (a) Number: **NH 9** (b) Distance from village (km): **3**
- Name of the Village Panchayat in which the village falls: **Shirapur**
- Details of the Sarpanch/Village Panchayat President:
 - Name: **Dashrath Banappa Sarvagoud**
 - Cell No.: **9604868773**
 - Tel(Off): **02189-247557**
- Details of the Gram Sevak/Agricultural Assistant:
 - Name: **Bhalachandra A Gund**
 - Cell No.: **9763988290**
 - Tel(Off): **02189-247557**

B) DEMOGRAPHY (as on 1 September 2007)

- Population (No): **2,518**
- Households (No): **546**
- Voters (No): **2,148**
- Farmer accounts/Khatas (No): **875**
- Classification of population:

Category	No.	Farm Size*	No.	Religion	No.	Caste	No.	Literacy	No.	Gender	No.
SC	347	Landless	872	Hindu	2429	Maratha	1,205	Illiterates (<4)	1,166	Male	977
ST	24	Marginal	499	Muslim	89	Shepherd	483	Literates (4-10)	1,131	Female	895
OBC	899	Small	470			Mahar	217	Matriculates	131	Children	646
Gen	1,248	Medium	393			Holer	101	Graduates	67		
		Large	284			Muslim	89	Post-graduates	22		
Caste Group-wise Population (%)										Literacy Level-wise Population (%)	
						Wadar	74	Doctorate	1		
						Koshti	42				
						Lohar	37				
						Ramoshi	35				
						Barbar	26				
						Others	209				
Total	2518		2518		2518		2518		2518		2518

*<0.1 ha=Landless; 0.1-<1 ha=Marginal; 1-<2 ha=Small; 2-4 ha=Medium; >4 ha=Large.

- Classification of households:

Male headed (No): **482**

Female headed (No): **64**

Category	No.	Farm Size*	No.	Religion	No.	Caste	No.	Main occupation	No.	
SC	80	Landless	224	Hindu	529	Maratha	250	Farming	174	
ST	4	Marginal	103	Muslim	17	Shepherd	104	Agril.labor	159	
OBC	202	Small	96			Mahar	47	Non-agril.labor	43	
Gen	260	Medium	75			Holer	24	Caste occupation	11	
		Large	48			Wadar	19	Others**	159	
Farm Size-wise Households (%)								Main Occupation-wise Households (%)		
						Muslim	17			
						Koshti	10			
						Barbar	8			
						Ramoshi	8			
						Lohar	6			
						Others	53			
Total	546		546		546		546		546	

*As defined in B(5). **Including salaried, moneylenders, middlemen, service sector, etc.

C) LAND USE PATTERN (2009-10)

1. Distribution of Geographical Area:	
Particulars	Hectares
Agricultural land	1314.1
Forest + Grazing land	50.2
Land used for roads, buildings and non-agricultural purposes	11.6
Land occupied by water resources (tank, river)	27.4
Canal and canal side road	13.6
Gram Panchayat land	13.0
Pond	4.6
Bunds and others	37.4
Total Geographical Area	1472.4

2. Cropped Area	
Season	Hectares
Kharif	43.0
Rabi	526.5
Summer	1.0
Annual/Perennial crops	158.1
Gross Cropped Area	728.7
3. Irrigated Area	
Season	Area (ha)
Kharif	18.2
Rabi	263.2
Summer	1.0
Annual/Perennial crops	158.1
Gross Irrigated Area	440.6

D) LAND RESOURCES

1. Soil distribution

Soil type	% area
Deep Black	55
Medium	30
Shallow	15

2. Irrigation sources (as on 1 December 2010)

Sources	Total No.	Working No.	Approx. depth (m) of working wells	Irrigable area (Ha/year)
Bore wells	450	275	91.5	324.0
Open wells	58	42	16.7	232.8
			Approx. land area covered (ha)	
Ponds	1	1	4.0	0
Tanks	1	1	0.8	0
River	1	1	281.4	374.6

3. Rainfall (Jun 09-May 10): (a) Quantity (mm/year): Normal: **550** Actual (2009-10): **881**
 (b) No. of rainy days: Normal: **32** Actual (2009-10): **54**

E) CROP PRODUCTION (2009-10)

Kharif		Rabi		Summer		Annual/Perennial Crops	
Crops	Area (ha)	Crops	Area (ha)	Crops	Area (ha)	Crops	Area (ha)
Pigeonpea	4.9	Wheat	49.0	Groundnut	0.8	Pomegranate	2.6
Onion	10.4	Chickpea	7.6	Chilli	0.20	Banana	7.0
Maize	23.2	Sorghum	468.6			K. Lime	4.3
Chilli	1.2	Tomato	0.4			Mulberry	0.8
Pearl millet	0.2	Brinjal	0.6			Grapes	0.8
Soybean	1.1	Bhendi	0.2			Ber	2.2
Mataki	1.0					Papaya	0.9
Paddy	0.4					Sugarcane	139.3
Sunflower	0.4						
Total	43.0		526.5		1.0		158.1

F) ASSETS (as on 1 June 2010)

1. Productive Assets:

Livestock		Heavy Machinery	
Type	No.	Type	No.
Cow (indigenous)	45	Tractor	6
Cow (exotic)	219	Thresher	5
Buffalo	189	Cart	55
Bullock	111	Auto	10
Sheep	55	Truck	8
Goat	716	Van	3
Poultry	2,200	Jeep	1
Pigs	15	Flour mill	5
He-buffalo	4		
Young Stock	302		
Milk sale (lt/day)	850		

2. Consumer Assets:

Type	No.
Television	156
Refrigerator	14
Air-Conditioner	2
Washing machine	1
LPG connection	115
Dish Antenna	26
Motorbike/ Scooty	196
Car/Jeep	6
Truck/Bus	8
Computer	10
Pick up van	2
Tempo	1
Cable connections	120
JCB	1

3. Buildings:

Type	No.
Houses-Pucca	310
Houses-Kuchcha	201
Houses-Thatched	35
Cattle sheds	140
Irrigation pump houses	2

G) BASIC NEEDS (as on 1 December 2010)

- Type of food (# of households): (a) Vegetarian: **110** (b) Non-vegetarian: **436**
- Type of clothes: (a) Men: **Pyjama, Shirt, Dhotar, Nehru Sadara** (b) Women: **Sari**
- Type of houses: (a) Pucca: **310** (b) Kuchcha: **201** (c) Thatched/Tents: **35**

H) INFRASTRUCTURE (as on 1 December 2010)

- Village electrification: **Yes** No. of houses with access to electricity: **420**
- Tar/metal/cement road to village: **Yes**
- Is there a tar/metal/cement road inside the village? **Yes** Length of road (km): **1.1**
- Public transport facility:
Public/private bus facility to village: **Yes** No. of trips/day from town to village: **2**
Other modes of travel available? **Yes** Modes available: **Auto / Jeep / Tum Tum / Truck**
- Drinking water facility: **Yes** Sources: **Open well (3), Hand pump (14)**
Tap connections available? **Yes** No. of connections: **250**
- Public toilet/urinal facility: **Yes** No. of units: **3**
- Public health facility: **Yes** No. of PHC: **1** Private Doctors: **2**
- Veterinary health facility: **Yes**
- Banking facility: **Yes**
No. of PACS: **1** Private Bank: **1** Cooperative Bank: **1**
- Educational facilities:

Level	Number of schools	Enrolment (Number)	
		Male	Female
Pre-primary (Anganwadi)	2	72	62
Primary (Standard 1-4)	1	116	110
Secondary (Standard 5-10)	1	180	162

11. Agricultural input shops:

Input	Available in village?	If no, nearest available place	Distance from village (km)
Seed	No	Lamboti	3
Fertilizer	No	Lamboti	3
Pesticide	No	Lamboti	3
Machinery - Purchase	No	Mohol	12
Machinery - Custom hiring	No	Mohol	12

12. Agricultural output market:

Weekly shandy in the village? **No**

No. of wholesale traders/commission agents in the/visiting the village: **Nil**

13. Storage godowns/warehouses: **No**

14. Other business units (number):

Grocery shop: **16**

Hotel/Canteen: **9**

Meat shop: **2**

Blacksmith: **4**

Mason: **2**

Motorcycle repair shop: **1**

Barber shop: **6**

Cement Shop: **2**

PDS Shop: **1**

Flour Mill: **5**

Pan shop: **3**

Goldsmith: **2**

TV/Radio mechanic: **3**

Money lenders: **2**

Banjo Party: **1**

Photo Studio: **2**

Kerosene shop: **2**

Chilli/spices grinding shop: **3**

Carpenter: **1**

Cobbler: **1**

Cycle repair shop: **3**

Tailors: **9**

Mandap Decorator: **3**

15. Other institutions (number):

SHG/Sakhi Mandal: **16**

Dispute Resolution Committee: **1**

Drama Mandal: **1**

Cooperative Canal Irrigation Committee: **6**

Milk Dairies: **2**

Youth Club: **3**

Community Hall: **6**

Post Office: **1**

Bhajan Mandal: **2**

16. Place of worship (Number.):

Temple: **15**

Mosque: **1**

I) GOVERNMENT WELFARE PROGRAMS / POLICIES (as on 1 December 2010)

1. Government programs recently implemented / ongoing and beneficiaries:

S.No.	Name of the Government Program	Beneficiaries
1	Indira Awas Yojana	78
2	Mid-Day Meal	585 students
3	Jatiya Prasuti Sahaya Yojana (pregnant women)	26
4	Shravanbal Yojana	10
5	Public Distribution System (Ration Card Holders)	BPL-105, Antyodaya-86, APL-330
6	Scholarship and Economic Assistance	125 students
7	Subsidy for Toilet Construction	8
8	Crop Insurance	10
9	Family Planning	24
10	Self Help Groups	160
11	Annapurna Padhakam	4
12	Subsidy to Dig Well (for BPL households)	2

About ICRISAT



The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) is a non-profit, non-political organization that conducts agricultural research for development in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa with a wide array of partners throughout the world. Covering 6.5 million square kilometers of land in 55 countries, the semi-arid tropics have over 2 billion people, and 644 million of these are the poorest of the poor. ICRISAT and its partners help empower these poor people to overcome poverty, hunger, malnutrition and a degraded environment through better and more resilient agriculture.

ICRISAT is headquartered in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India, with two regional hubs and four country offices in sub-Saharan Africa. It belongs to the Consortium of Centers supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

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