



# Annual Report

2008 - 2009

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## INTRODUCTION

This year has been one of changes and challenges. A fruitful journey all through. In twelve years of our work, we have been able to impact 96 villages in three districts of Uttarakhand. We work largely in Bageshwar and Pithoragarh districts of Uttarakhand and have just initiated some work in Almora district as well. We plan to expand our work base in Almora district in the coming years. Avani has focussed its attention on creation of rural livelihood opportunities through traditional craft, appropriate technology and farm based activities.

During this year, there has been a change in the responsibilities of the founders. Rashmi Bharti has resigned as the Secretary of the organisation due to personal reasons but will continue to work with the program related activities that she was involved in. Rajnish Jain will now function as the Secretary of the organisation.

As reported earlier, Avani made a strategic planning document with its core team last year. During this year, we have worked on the business plan to implement our projections. The two enterprises of solar products as well as the textile products have both gained strength in the past years. Both these businesses are now registered with the District Industry Centre.

During this year, Avani was invited to present its work and product line at a weaver's fair in Torino, Italy. The products were also part of the Ethical Fashion Show held at the Carousel du Louvre, Paris in October 2008, in collaboration with another group from Delhi, Satya Jyoti. We were also able to present our work at an event organised specially for Avani in the South of France, alongwith organising a sale of our textiles. Our participation in all these events was very fruitful.

The spray drying machine to extract plant pigments for textile dyeing and natural paints has already been installed at Avani. We have made some samples of pigments and are in the process of sampling with them. We intend to market the pigment to generate more income in the villages.

The project that would provide cooking gas to two villages of Almora district through the pine needle gasifier has moved another step in its realisation. We are hoping to involve the MNRE in supporting this project apart from the existing partners.

The filming of the documentary on the impact of Avani's work being made by Catherine Confino's and Michel Coqblin is complete. Part of the expenses were supported through a personal donation of Mr Abhiram Seth, New Delhi and a matching grant by CAF, America.

The construction of the field centre in the village of Chankana was stalled due to unavailability of wood as it is primarily a mud and wood house. We now have the necessary material and hope to finish the building by the end of next year.

We would like to extend a special word of thanks to the all the friends and well wishers who have helped promote Avani's work and provided their invaluable support and contribution in our endeavours.

The table below provides a summary of the activities being coordinated by the six decentralised field centers of Avani.

S.N.	Name of Village	Textiles	Solar Installation	Sericulture	SHG Savings and Credit	SHG working with IGP	Vermi Composting	Biogas	Girl Child Education	Adult Literacy	Pine Needle Collection	Rain Water Harvesting
	<b>DHARAMGHAR CENTRE</b>											
1	Simgarhi	√	√		√	√	√		√			√
2	Saukyura	√	√									√
3	Dharamghar	√	√		√	√						√
4	Mehrodi		√	√	√	√	√		√			√
5	Lamingra		√		√	√	√					
6	Karala	√				√						
7	Dasoli	√										
8	Thuma	√										
9	Dhura	√										
10	Darati	√										
11	Basti			√	√							
12	Dudila				√							
13	Airari				√							
	<b>DIGOLI CENTRE</b>											
1	Mana	√	√	√	√	√	√		√			
2	Digoli	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√
3	Dhoulani	√	√	√	√	√	√					
4	Matkoli	√	√	√	√	√	√		√			
5	Kaligar	√										
6	Nayal	√										
7	Dana		√	√			√					
8	Raitoli			√								
9	Dewal		√	√					√			
10	Silingya		√		√	√						
11	Chantola		√	√	√	√	√					√
12	Aulani	√	√		√	√			√			
13	Simayal	√	√	√	√	√						√
14	Thanga	√	√	√	√	√	√					
15	Rawatsera		√									
16	Bhanyun		√					√				
17	Nargoli			√								
18	Devlet			√		√						
19	Dhanad			√		√						
20	Paithan					√						
21	Dhura					√						
22	Talara					√						
23	Pata Dungari			√								
24	Saniudiyar			√								
25	Doula			√								
25	Kanyagad			√								
26	Letgari			√								
27	Panigad			√								
	<b>TRIPURADEVI CENTRE</b>											
1	Tripuradevi	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
2	Bhandari gaon	√										
3	Raiagar	√										√
4	Bana	√			√	√						
5	Manipur	√										
6	Hasyuri	√			√						√	
7	Borakhet	√		√								

S.N.	Name of Village	Textiles	Solar Installations	Sericulture	SHG Savings and Credit	SHG working with IGP	Vermi Composting	Biogas	Girl Child Education	Adult Literacy	Pine Needle Collection	Rain Water Harvesting
8	Mungraon	√			√	√						
9	Berinag	√			√							
10	Sera Pahar				√	√						
11	Rawalgaon				√	√	√					
12	Sela				√		√					
13	Kanurpani				√							
14	Julagaon				√		√					
15	Pipli				√							
16	Jakheri			√								
17	Syalve			√								
18	Varsayat			√								
19	Hipa	√		√								
20	Jula				√							
21	Salan		√									
22	Gurena Rajwar		√									
23	Bahilkote		√									
24	Seragada		√									
25	Falarao Kharchour		√									
26	Rai			√								
27	Byati			√								
28	Bhingari			√								
29	Balta				√				√			
30	Sainikhet			√								
31	Musalgar			√								
32	Nalli			√								
33	Baisali			√								
34	Kafali			√								
	<b>CHANKANA CENTRE</b>											
1	Chankana	√		√	√	√	√			√		
2	Muni	√										
3	Goda	√										
4	Pungarkholi	√										
5	Lingurani			√								
6	Majhera			√								
	<b>SUKNA CENTRE</b>											
1	Sukna	√	√	√	√	√	√			√		√
2	Ghangal	√	√					√				
3	Baneni	√	√									
4	Rammandir	√										
5	Dhaulani	√										
6	Gwal	√										
7	Golti		√	√								
8	Chak			√	√							
9	Okharani				√							
	<b>GADTIR CENTRE</b>											
1	Gadtir	√										
2	Bhanelgaon	√										
3	Puring	√										
4	Patoli			√								
5	Belkote			√								
6	Puranathal			√								
7	Dangigaon			√								

Following are the details of the activities undertaken by AVANI during the year 2008-09.

## **2. DEVELOPMENT AND DISSEMINATION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES**

### **2.1 Solar Photovoltaics**

We have been working with the dissemination of solar technology in the villages of Kumaon since 1997 and have taken solar lighting to 1767 Families in more than 245 villages and hamlets in these twelve years.

This program continues to be managed through a network of 23 village level solar committees that are self-reliant financially and have trained technicians to repair and maintain the installed systems. This network of samitis continues to facilitate the transfer and handling of funds for other programs like construction of eri cocoon rearing houses for sericulture. This year Rs 2,42,000 has been transferred into the account of the samitis of Thanga, Chantola and Mana for the construction of 23 eri rearing houses.

During this year, we have also collaborated with the Micro Insurance Academy (MIA), Delhi, to analyse community managed enterprises and the factors that make them successful. The representatives studied the solar samitis that form the basis of the solar program and conducted interviews with the beneficiaries. The results of the study will be published by next year.

### **A. Dissemination**

- To strengthen and expand the business of solar lights, we have also initiated the process of certification of three of our solar products. These include
  - o the solar home lighting systems
  - o solar street lights and
  - o solar lanterns

All the necessary equipment for testing the solar products has already been installed at the AVANI electronic workshop. The application will be submitted in April 09. We hope that by next year, we will be certified as a manufacturing unit of solar equipment. Certification will help Avani to access a larger market for its solar products, thereby enhancing the income generation opportunities for the rural technicians.

As part of this process, we have also registered with the "District Industry Centre" under the name of "Kumaon Solar Industry".

We continue to make solar energy affordable for poor families who cannot access government subsidies. To reduce the cost of the system, we have focussed on the development of LED based solar lighting systems.

With the decreased prices, we were able to sell most of the LED based lanterns.

- During this year, AVANI has sold 117 solar lanterns. 112 of these were LED based solar lanterns.
- We have also sold 29 LED based solar torches locally. One LED based solar streetlight was installed at the Ramakrishna Sharda Mission, Pangote, in Nainital district.
- 40 batteries have also been sold in the villages.
- The samitis have provided credit facility to poor families to purchase solar lighting systems. A loan of Rs 10,90,180 has been extended to 182 families so far. Out of this, Rs 8,10,280 has already been recovered during the past six years.
- A loan of Rs 74,700 was also provided from the technology fund for installation of solar powered charkhas and lighting systems. A total of Rs. 32,950 has been recovered till now. Out of this, Rs 12,350 has been recovered during this year.
- The total maintenance fund collected in 23 village samitis until the year 2009 is Rs 32,86,994.
- Nine batteries, of solar systems installed some years ago, have been replaced from this maintenance fund.
- The samitis have contributed Rs 47,800 towards the salary of the solar technicians during this year.
- The solar workshop at AVANI has nine technicians including four women. During this year, the technicians have made 57 field visits in all.
- The details of the fund collected in these samitis are given in table 1 and table 2



Table 1

Name of the Village Samiti	Maintenance Fund collected in 2008-09	Total Fund collected until 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2009	Credit given in year 08-09	Total Credit assistance given until 31 <sup>st</sup> March 09	Recovery of the loan until 31 <sup>st</sup> March 09	Contribution from Samiti towards Salary of Solar Technicians 08-09
Dewal-A	2,100	94,424	0	11,980	7,700	3600
Dewal-B	0	6,270	0	0	0	0
Saukyura	1,700	39,335	0	41,930	23,600	0
Silingya	1,450	1,21,368	0	1,01,830	41,250	0
Mana	2,300	1,16,964	0	95,840	80,580	0
Mehrodi	3,900	2,08,346	0	3,77,370	3,45,100	0
Thanga	1,870	2,67,996	0	2,33,610	1,90,390	0
Uderiya	0	71,315	0	0	0	0
Rawatsera	1,500	85,738	0	5,990	4,200	0
Bhanyun	0	1,73,838	0	0	0	0
Chantola	1900	1,47,826	0	47,920	27,540	0
Simgarhi	0	1,63,130	0	1,25,790	44,800	0
Udiyari	0	50,602	0	0	0	0
Dharamghar	0	9,028	0	0	0	0
Koirali	0	8,206	0	0	0	0
Simayal	3,200	1,77,948	0	47,920	45,120	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,920</b>	<b>17,42,334</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,90,180</b>	<b>8,10,280</b>	<b>3,600</b>

Table 2

Villages covered under Rural Electrification Scheme	Maintenance Fund collected during the year 08-09	Total Fund collected until 2009	Contribution of the Samiti towards salary of Solar Technicians 08-09
Busail	0	2,97,900	0
Gurna Rajwar	1,500	54,380	0
Bahilkote	4,000	53,440	3,700
Hipa	6,150	2,80,350	6,150
Golti	16,500	4,19,610	16,500
Seragada	14,200	3,13,600	14,200
Falrao Kharchor	3,650	1,25,380	3,650
<b>Total</b>	<b>46,000</b>	<b>15,44,660</b>	<b>44,200</b>

The details of items manufactured as well as the income of the solar workshop are given in table 3.

Table 3

Item	Manufactured	Sold
Lantern 12 volt	16	5
Lantern 6 volt	180	112
<b>Total Lanterns</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>117</b>
CFL Lamps	26	18
SHS		0
Solar Torch		29
Batteries		40
Panels sold		4

Income from Sale of Lanterns/Lamps	2,27,330
Income from Sale of accessories/repair	37,311
Income from sale of Panels	4,570
Income from sale of Torches	10,900
Income from Sale of Batteries	63,230
Income from sale of Solar Street light	22,000
Other income	37,891
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>4,03,232</b>

## **B. Capacity Building**

In this year, two youths from the villages of Salan and Bhuni were trained as solar technicians.

Four trainees from Karm Marg, Delhi, were trained in both solar technology and solar water heater fabrication at Tripuradevi.

The details of the trainings are given in Table 4.

Table 4

<b>Name of Village/Organisation</b>	<b>No. of Trainees</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Duration</b>
Village Bhuni	1	Solar technology	15-04-08 to 15-7-08
Village Salan	1	Solar technology	16-05-08 to 16-08-08
Students from Karm Marg Delhi	4	Solar technology and solar water heater fabrication	3-6-08 to 19-6-08

## **2.2 Solar Thermal Appliances**

### **A. Solar Water Heaters**

During this year, we have sold one solar water heater. Income from the sale of the solar water heater is Rs 61,200.

Table 5

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Capacity of Solar Water Heater</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Residence	Suyalbari (Nainital)	200ltr.	1

### **B. Solar Driers**

This year, we were able to make solar driers more efficient, compact and affordable. Two solar driers have been manufactured this year with an improved design. These solar driers were installed at the Tripuradevi centre for

drying of dye materials and organic spices. One solar drier has been sold to the Forest Department, Munsyari.

Income from the sale of Solar Drier is Rs. 14,000.

## 2.3 Mechanical Workshop (MW)

The mechanical workshop was kept busy with fabrication work this past year. The workshop received a lot of inputs from various people visiting Avani from different parts of the world. This provided a new perspective and fresh energy allowing the workshop team to learn a lot of new things. The details of the production of the workshop are given below in tables 6, 7 and 8.

Table 6

Items Made for Solar Water Heaters	Total
Solar Water Heater stand	1
Auto cut Tank	1
Insulated Tank	2
Collector Panel	1
Heat Exchange coil Tank	2
Heat exchange Coil	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>

Table 7

Other Items	Total
Slider	1
Smokeless Chulha Tank	1
Sign board	4
Solar Panel Stand	1
Almirah Door	4
Solar Drier	2
Bunk Bed	2
Pine Needle binder	1
Pine Needle cutter Blade	2
Smokeless Chulha	1
Tank cover	3
Table	1
Bukhari	2
Briquette Machine	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>

The workshop has also earned Rs 14,190 in the past year by providing 118.2 hours of electricity for the calendaring machine for textile processing. Out of this, Rs 8,950 was earned through the electricity generated by the Pine needle gasifier.

Table 8

<b>Total Income of the Mechanical workshop</b>	
Fabrication	27,663
Sale of Solar Drier	14,000
Sale and installation of Solar Water Heaters	61,200
Misc. Income	17,180
Calendaring	14,190
Service charge	5,960
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,40,193</b>

#### **A. Research and Development**

In continuation of our work with appropriate technology we did some other research to harness the destructive energy of Pine needles to convert it for creative use.

##### **• Pine Needle Binder**

This year we have developed a pine needle binder to compress pine needles, which is very useful for making check dams to prevent soil erosion. This idea was developed with the help of Mr. S.K. Kala, forest range officer Munsiyari. We have sold one pine needle binder to the forest department.

Income from sale of the binder is Rs 5,700.

##### **• Briquette Machine**

The Pine Needle Gasifier has been operational for the past three years now. To make use of the ash residue from the gasification process, we have developed a machine to make briquettes of this residue by mixing it with cow dung. This technology has been developed with the help of students of the Design Lab affiliated to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

##### **• Smokeless Chulha**

In order to use these briquettes more efficiently, we have also developed a smokeless chulha. This chulha is designed for cooking, water heating and room heating. An insulated water tank is connected to this chulha, that stores water that is heated while cooking which, in turn, heats the room as well.

Income from sale of the smokeless chulha is Rs 5,200.

#### **2.4 Pine Needle Gasifier**

The use of the pine needle gasifier has helped reduce our costs of operation for heavy machines for welding and calendaring. The cost of operating the gasifier is Rs 40 per hour and that of the diesel generator is Rs 74 per

hour. During the past three years the consumption of diesel has decreased substantially.

Table 9

Year	Diesel Generator		Gasifier	
	Consumption of Diesel	Running Hours	Consumption of Pine Needles	Running Hours
2006-07	1022 ltr.	581.48 Hour	920 kg	57.6 Hour
2007-08	378 ltr.	167.9 Hour	700 kg	78.17 Hour
2008-09	280 ltr.	129.08 Hour	2370 kg	181.75 Hour

The project for providing cooking gas to two villages in Almora district with the pine needle gasifier has moved another step forward. We have completed the survey of the villages with the help of a student intern from the University of Twente, Netherlands.

Discussions are now underway with Ankur scientific for the installation of the gasification system and the Forest Department as well as MNRE as partners. It will take another year before we are able to finalise and consolidate all the components of this project to make it functional.

#### **Improvement of the Pine Needle Cutter**

During this year, we have modified the design of the pine needle cutting machine to increase its productivity and decrease the power consumption. Mr Amar Seth from Delhi and Mr Jonathan, a mechanical engineer from USA have helped us with the following improvements:

- The rpm of the motor has been decreased, resulting in one-fourth consumption of power.
- The use of wider blades and decreased distance between base and blade has increased the efficiency of the cutter to 4.5 kg per hour. At present the cutter is producing 12.5 kg per hour as per the consumption of the gasifier.

A new prototype of the cutter machine was also developed with the help of students from Design Lab that is affiliated to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA. The students of MIT have taken up this project for further development.

### **2.5 Biogas**

During this year, one bio gas plant of two cubic metres was constructed in Byati village. We are still not able to take this program to more families as we would like.

### **3. PRESERVING TRADITIONAL CRAFT THROUGH CONTEMPORARY TEXTILES – HANDMADE NATURALLY DYED PRODUCTS**

AVANI has been working with the promotion and preservation of traditional craft for eight years now. We continue to work through six decentralized field centres that also oversee the textile related activities in 43 villages. This activity is now a self-sustaining rural business that provides supplementary as well as alternative livelihood options to traditional as well as newly trained artisans.

During the past year, 308 artisans and dye material collectors from 43 villages and hamlets participated in this program. 92.55 percent of these beneficiaries are women. Out of these 43 villages, we work intensively in 20 and in the rest of the 23 villages we work with individual artisans.

Our work has largely benefitted the traditional women artisans of the Bora Kuthalia community. We have also been working on the essential aspect of the transfer of traditional skills of weaving and spinning to other disadvantaged communities thereby ensuring the promotion of the craft.

To bring more livelihood opportunities in their village, four individuals have already donated land to Avani for the construction of four field centres. Three of these centres were completed a couple of years ago and presently, the construction of the field centre at Chankana village is underway. The construction of this building will largely use locally available materials like mud and wood. The entire structure will be made with earthen blocks. The demonstration of this technique will bring a new dimension to the use of local construction material.

Due to political reasons, the trade routes between India and Tibet from Kumaon have been closed again. This has adversely affected the availability of raw materials like Tibetan sheep wool and pashmina. As a result, we could not provide enough Tibetan sheep wool to the spinners. This change will also affect the market that we have created for the Tibetan wool products.

With the dearth of Tibetan wool, we have intensified our efforts to train the traditional spinners in silk spinning as our work with cultivation of wild silks with local farmers is also gaining strength.

The use of natural dyes for textile coloring, natural paints and also dry pigments has ensured that there is a

greater need for the dye material, leading to increased participation of women's groups in dye material collection. Some of the materials used in dyeing were just thrown away as waste for example, the pomegranate rind. We are now also helping the women's groups to market soap nut powder. Apart from generating income in the villages, this program has also led to the protection and planting of local species like myrobolan, soap nut etc.

A total of Rs 10,33,181 was generated as wages through this program this year. This includes the wages given for production to the 308 artisans who participated in the program as well as the support group in natural dyeing, tailoring and weaving support who also belong to nearby villages.

Our application for the UNESCO Seal of Excellence was not selected for the award this year. However, the jury very much appreciated the promotion of the traditional skill of hand weaving.

The list of villages associated with the textile program is given below in table 10.

Table 10

Name of Centre and Associated Villages						
S. No.	Dharamghar Dist. Bageshwar	Digoli Dist Bageshwar	Tripuradevi Dist Pithoragarh	Chankana Dist. Pithoragarh	Sukna Dist. Pithoragarh	Gadtir Dist. Pithoragarh
1	Simgarhi	Mana	Mehrodi	Chankana	Sukna	Gadtir
2	Saukyura	Digoli	Bhandarigaon	Muni	Ghanghal	Bhanelgaon
3	Dhura	Dhaulani	Rai Agar	Goda	Dhaulani	Puring
4	Dharamghar	Matkholi	Bana	Pungarkholi	Ram Mandir	Patoli
5	Karala	Nayal	Tripuradevi			
6	Dasoli	Thanga	Mungraon			
7	Thuma	Aulani	Manipur			
8	Darati (Munsiari)	Simayal	Hasyuri			
9		Kaligar	Borakhet			
10		Dhanad	Berinag			
11		Paithan				
12		Dhura				
13		Talara				

The details of the artisans, wages and sales are listed below in table 11.

Table 11

<b>Artisan Skill</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2007-2008</b>	<b>2008-2009</b>
Spinners	197	211	<b>132</b>
Weavers	51	45	<b>48</b>
Knitters	18	12	<b>20</b>
Tailors	5	7	<b>6</b>
Pashmina Sorters	2	0	<b>0</b>
Natural Dyers	6	6	<b>5</b>
Knitters and Spinners	34	2	<b>0</b>
Knitters and Weavers	8	0	<b>0</b>
Weavers and Spinners	1	5	<b>0</b>
Weaver, Spinner & Knitter	0	0	<b>0</b>
Pashmina Sorter & Knitter	2	0	<b>0</b>
Pashmina Sorter & Spinner	0	0	<b>0</b>
Spinner and Dye Material Collector	18	16	<b>27</b>
Weaver, Knitter and Dye Material Collector	5	0	<b>0</b>
Spinner, Knitter and Dye Material Collectors	5	0	<b>0</b>
Finishing Artisans			<b>8</b>
Weaving support Artisans			<b>3</b>
Total Artisans Trained and Traditional	352	304	<b>249</b>
Trainees	10	20	<b>3</b>
Vocational Trainees			<b>8</b>
Dye Material Collectors	26	21	<b>49</b>
<b>Total No. of Beneficiaries</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>309</b>



<b>Total no. of Villages</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Total Income Generated (wages + stipend)</b>	<b>Rs 5,01,017</b>	<b>Rs 5,17,045</b>	<b>Rs 10,33,181</b> (includes the salaries of the support artisans)
<b>Total Sale (Avani)</b>	<b>Rs 23,46,153</b>	<b>Rs 27,64,590</b>	<b>Rs 26,18,836</b>
<b>Total Sale (Kumaon Earthcraft Cooperative)</b>			<b>Rs 13,53,120</b> (Earthcraft exports on behalf of Avani)

The artisan's collective, Kumaon Earth Craft Self Reliant Cooperative is gaining strength. It now has 75 shareholders. During this year, the cooperative was registered with the 'District Industry Center' in the name of " Kumaon Handloom and Handicraft Industry". This year the "Board of Directors" elected a new President and Treasurer of the Earth Craft Cooperative. Mrs. Deepa Bhouryal was elected as the new President and Ms. Deepa Bora was elected as the Treasurer.

An amendment was made in the MOA of the Kumaon Earth Craft Cooperative. Article 36(A) and Article 36(B) were included in the MOA which allows the Cooperative to appoint a patron for guidance in the management of the commercial and technical aspects of the cooperative.

The Cooperative is now handling all the exports for Avani as well as the production of all hand spun yarn. During this year, the cooperative has produced 122.510 kg of silk spun yarn that has generated Rs 76,459 as wages. The total sale of Kumaon Earth Craft Cooperative is Rs 13,53,120. Out of this Rs 12,84,558 is the sale of finished goods and Rs 68,562 is from sale of yarn.

The community wise breakup of the artisans is given below in table 12:

Table 12

	<b>Women</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Total</b>
Shaukas (ST)	9	0	<b>9</b>
Bora Kuthalia (OBC)	184	16	<b>200</b>
Scheduled Castes	42	3	<b>45</b>
General	51	4	<b>55</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>309</b>

The details of the production are given in tables 13 and 14.

Table 13

<b>Item and Material</b>	<b>Production 2006-2007</b>	<b>Production 2007-2008</b>	<b>Production 2008-2009</b>
<b>Shawls</b> (pure wool, silk & wool, pure silk)	165	445	255
<b>Stoles</b> (pure wool, silk & wool, pure silk)	523	941	815
<b>Mufflers</b> (pashmina, pure wool, silk & wool, pure silk)	750	843	502
<b>Fabric</b> (pure wool, silk & wool, pure silk)	629	293.23	763.46 mtr.
<b>Ponchos</b>	69	15	-
<b>Capes finished on loom</b>	-	-	-
<b>Sarees (5.5m)</b>	6	15	3
<b>Jackets Adults and kids</b> (Tibetan tweed, Merino and silk and wool)	332	142	141
<b>Tailored Capes</b>	36	-	-
<b>Sweaters and Caps</b>	3	64	32
<b>Socks</b>		17 pairs	-
<b>Knitted Toys</b>			50
<b>Neck Warmer</b>			10
<b>Arm Warmer</b>			2
<b>Durries</b>	13	5	-
<b>Thulma and Chutka</b>	45	67	64
<b>Scarves</b>	48	-	-

<b>Cushion Covers</b>	25	73	34
<b>Asans - small hand knotted carpets</b>	64	8	13
<b>Tea Cozy</b>	42	53	-
<b>Namada</b>	6	-	-
<b>Bed Spread</b>	3	-	-
<b>Short Tops</b>		8	-
<b>Kurta</b>		5	-
<b>Trousers</b>		2	-
<b>Capichon</b>		16	5
<b>Long Coat</b>		13	3
<b>Bolero</b>		1	15
<b>Firan</b>		-	1
<b>Tibetan Wool Blanket</b>		3	-
<b>C/W Chutka sample</b>		-	13
<b>Carpet</b>		-	1

Table 14

<b>Spinning</b>	
<b>Particular</b>	<b>Qty kg</b>
Spun wool	413.31
Spun silk	122.510
Total	535.82

### **3.1 Capacity Building**

In continuation of our work of developing capable human resource for the producers' cooperative, we have organized intensive trainings for the supervisory team during the past year.

In this year, three trainees are being trained as managers. One of them has already been placed at the Sukna centre and the other two will be placed at Dharamghar and Sukna respectively.

The former center in-charge of Sukna has been upgraded as a central supervisor. He is currently being trained in computers to aid his work. He visits the field centres every month and assists in the stock tallying, billing and

wage calculations as well as looks after the technical aspect of looms and training of new trainees.

The computers that were installed last year, in the three field centres of Sukna, Digoli and Dharamghar are now functional except in Dharamghar where there was a power problem. The supervisors were trained to operate the computers in Sukna and Digoli and from April 09 they will generate all their reports on the computer.

As a result of good support mechanisms that were established during the past two years, the documentation, information management and stock management have improved considerably. Our systems are now well in place and are functioning smoothly.

The details of the trainings conducted are given in tables 15, 16 and 17.

Table 15  
Skill Development

S. No.	Subject of Training	Duration	Venue	Trainees	Trainer
1	Computer literacy	6-09-09 to 31-03-09	Field centre Digoli	Govind Singh, Lalita Bora, Heera Singh, Manoj Singh, Harish Pant	Renu Bora
2	Computer literacy	Aug 1, 08 to Nov 30, 08	Field centre Sukna	Harish Tamta, Jagdish Singh	Gokul Singh
3	Stock Keeping	From 17-2-09	Field centre Dharamghar	Narendra Singh,	Kamla Rathore
4	Weaving Supervision	8-8-08 to 31-12-08	Sukna centre	Jagdish Bora	Harish Tamta

Table 16  
Issue Based Trainings

S. N.	Subject of Training	Duration	Venue	Trainees	Trainer
1	Health care	10-4-08	AVANI centre Tripuradevi	AVANI Team	Dr S. Srinivasan, Indraprastha Apollo Clinic, New Delhi.
2	Health care		Chankana centre	Villagers of Chankana	Dr. Renu
3	Personal Development	25-12-08	AVANI centre Tripuradevi	18 members of AVANI team	Rajendra Joshi Jagdish Dhapola

Table 17

S. N.	Subject of Training	Duration	Venue	Trainees	Trainer
1	Vocational Training	1-4-08 to 31-3-09	Digoli centre	Deepa Bora Tara Bora	Lalita Bora Harish Pant
2	Vocational Training	1-4-08 to 31-3-09	Dharamghar centre	Tara Mehra, Deepa Arya Tara Arya	Kamla Rathore
3	Weaving	Continue from July 08	Tripuradevi	Gita, Kiran, Nandi	Santoshi Dhapola
4	Weaving	25-7-08 to 31-1-09	Sukna centre	Shanti Bora, Sunita Bora Sushila Bora Chanmpa Bora	Jagdish Bora Harish Tamta
5	Weaving	Continue from 1-1-09	Sukna centre	Saraswati devi	Jagdish Bora
6	Waste management /Spinning	11-1-09 to 25-3-09	Tripuradevi	Babita, Rita,	Ms. Rashmi NID, Ahmedabad
7	Knitted toy making	3-1-09 to 3-1-09	Tripuradevi	12 Participants from the villages of Digoli, Mungraon and Berinag	Ms. Kausar, NID Ahmedabad
8	Button making	6-01-09 to 7-01-09	Tripuradevi	Santoshi, Babita, Govindi, Hansha	Ms. Rashmi NID, Ahmedabad
9	Finishing	17-05-08 31-10-08	Tripuradevi	Prabha Upreti	Santoshi Dhapola
10	Silk spinning	Continue from Nov.08	Sukna, Digoli and Chankana centres	Traditional wool spinners from villages	Harish Pant, Jagdish Bora Kamla Bora Aan singh
11	Tailoring	6-8-09 to 6-10-09	Tripuradevi	Rekha Agri	Sobha Arya

### 3.2 Product Design

Avani continues to make new products with new designs as well as with new materials. The in house designs of Avani continue to grow. Alongwith that student interns from reputed educational institutions like the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad as well as volunteers from different parts of the world continue to come to contribute in the work of Avani.

During this year, three students from NID have created new product designs.

- Ms Neha Lad, created a range of lightweight throws in Tibetan sheep wool using traditional techniques

- Ms Kausar worked with knitting and created a range of knitted toys, caps, mufflers and neck warmers in Tibetan Sheep wool as well as Merino wool.
- Ms Rashmi worked with new designs of mufflers and stoles. She also took forward the work creation of products with recycled yarn as well as standardization of the waste material management.
- Ms. Jessica, A volunteer from U.K. worked with ikat designs in anklets and bracelets. She also made a couple of shawls and stoles with ikat.

### **Recycling of Waste Raw Materials**

For the past four years, we have been recycling our waste raw materials to make new products. This year, special emphasis was given on streamlining the process of waste management. A section has been created that will handle management of the waste raw material that comes from all the field centres, it will be sorted by color and material and then respun into yarn to be either woven or knitted.

### **3.3 Marketing and Branding**

Our market base in export continues to expand.

- This year we worked largely on orders and were able to participate in only two exhibitions.
- We have sold our products through some retail stores as well.
- The total sale this year is Rs 26,18,836.
- Avani was invited by the "Associazione Amici della Scuola Leumann", Torino, Italy, to participate in a fair that focussed on hand weaving and hand spinning. We met a lot of artisans from Europe at this fair and made some good contacts. We were also able to make good sales at this event.
- A special event was organized for Avani in the South of France through Ms Eliette Couston, Ms Catherine Confino and Ms Kito Thomassery where a presentation of Avani's work was made alongwith the sale of textiles. The response was unprecedented and gave us a lot of encouragement.
- The Avani products were also present at the Ethical Fashion Show at the Louvre Carousel, Paris, through Satya Jyoti a trust from Delhi who used our fabrics to tailor high fashion garments.
- Linkages were also established this year to develop marketing channels in Switzerland. It is planned that we would organize an event next year to promote Avani's work and sale of textiles through Ms Francoise Heierli, Berne.

- AVANI was certified for Silk Mark Certificate up to Jan 31, 2009.
- We have also renewed our certification of Handloom and Naturally Dyed with AIACA, New Delhi for the next two years.

The details of exhibitions as well as the retail stores are given in Table 18:

Table 18

Participation in Exhibitions	Export Buyers	Retail stores
Nature Bazaar Delhi Haat		People Tree, Delhi
Concern India, Mumbai	Friends of Tilonia, USA	Nature Shop Aarohi
Associazione Amici della Scuola Leumann, Italy	Dosa, USA	
St Mamert, France	Le Passeur, France	
Ethical Fashion Show, Paris	Textures, France	
	TIKAU, Finland	

### 3.4 Natural Dyeing

The use of local plant based dye materials in textile coloring has created opportunity for income generation to the women's groups with plants that were not of much use earlier.

This has led to protection and plantation of these species like soap nut, myrobolan, pomegranate rind etc. The involvement of villagers in dye material collection is increasing.

The total income generated by the women's group through processing of dye material is Rs 41,691.

We have also procured a Spray drier to extract pigment from plants. This would allow us to market the pigment extract for different applications including textile colorant, food colorant, natural paints etc.

The details of the yarn dyed in the dyeing workshop are given in Table 19:

Table 19

<b>Natural Dyeing</b>	
Particulars	Qty Kg
Merino yarn	259.2
Tibetan yarn	402.5
Silk (tussar, eri, mulberry)	142.4
Pashmina	0
Cotton	1.2
<b>Total Yarn Dyed</b>	<b>805.3</b>
Mufflers	93
Shawls	8
Stole and Scarves	0
Chutka	32
Thulma	20
Cap	13
Fabric	16.03 mtr

#### **A. Research and Development**

We plan to upgrade our existing natural dyeing unit to a documentation, research and training centre. We would also like to have exchanges and training programs with dyers from other parts of India.

We intend to cultivate dye plants at the Avani centre as well as with the farmers as a livelihood option. We have set up a dye extraction facility for value addition to the dye plants. A spray drier machine has been procured for this purpose and will be established soon.

#### **B. Natural Colors for Painting**

We continue to produce a range of natural colors for painting that are non toxic, safe for the children and are plant based. The colors are extracted from turmeric, myrobolan, pomegranate and walnut rind that are grown or collected by women's groups thereby providing income in the villages.

This year we were able to finalise the packaging of the colors with the help of a student intern from NID Ahmedabad. We have sold these colors in the Exhibitions



organized by Concern India Exhibition in Bombay and at the Nature Bazaar, Delhi. The response has been quite good and we have had some wholesale enquiries for these paints.

This year we have sold natural colors worth Rs 7,365.

#### **C. Organic Kumkum**

Kumkum is made traditionally in our hills. It is used during religious ceremonies and on auspicious occasions. The traditional recipe uses turmeric and therefore kumkum has a lot of medicinal properties.

Unfortunately, the traditional Kumkum has been replaced by chemical alternatives that use mercury, and are very harmful for the body. We are training women's groups to make kumkum and to revive this tradition. This year we have produced 22 kg of organic kumkum and marketed it at different exhibitions. We have sold kumkum worth Rs 9,470 in the past year.

We also organized a training program for Kumkum making at Digoli village. A total of 2.5 kg organic kumkum was produced during the training.

#### **D. Appropriate Technology in Textile Processing**

We use rainwater for natural dyeing and washing of the textiles. This water is pre heated in solar water heaters up to 60 deg Celsius thereby conserving fuel. We use soap nut for all our washing and all the wastewater is recycled for irrigation.

### **4. WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT**

#### **4.1 Self Help Groups**

##### **4.1.1 Micro Credit**

AVANI is now working with 38 women's group. This year one new group has been organized in the village of Digoli. Some members of the group from Simayal, have withdrawn their savings. This amount has been removed from our records.

All the groups continue to have regular savings and provide loans amongst the members. Some of these groups are also taking advantage of the "AJIVIKA" Project implemented by another organization "Himalayan Gram Vikas Samiti". The women's groups of Simayal, Aulani and Chantola have received a total cash contribution of Rs 9,000 through this project.

The details of the saving and credit activity of the women's groups are given in tables 20 and 21:

Table 20

Name of group	No. of Members	Meetings held	No. of women present	Deposit up to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 08	Deposit in 08-09	Total Deposit	Loan given last year	Loan given in 08 - 09	Loan Refunded
Lamjhingra	16	10	104	35,396	5,144	40,540	12,000	8,000	18,500
Chantola	10	10	31	14,019	2,523	16,542	0	4,000	0
Simayal	17	9	97	8,258	8,946	17,204	2000	0	0
Mana	12	10	92	30,856	9,261	40,117	23,000	0	5,000
Dhoulani	17	8	91	16,515	4,937	21,452	5,000	7,000	7,000
Mehrodi	14	10	80	14,072	4,045	18,117	4,000	1,0000	2,000
Simgarhi	12	10	91	11,122	2,777	13,899	0	2,000	5,000
Tripuradevi	15	12	120	22,115	8,116	30,231	3,500	11,000	9,700
Digoli	18	11	154	20,631	4,820	25,451	0	25,000	10,000
Matkoli	9	10	68	6,515	1,388	7903	0	0	0
Dharamghar	6	11	94	6,218	884	7102	0	4,000	0
Berinag	23	8	71	31,155	8,536	39,691	0	0	23,000
Chankana	9	9	87	7,112	3,972	11,084	0	0	0
Thanga	13	8	73	25,756	4,364	30,120	8,000	0	0
Sukna	10	11	87	21,203	2,980	24,183	5,000	0	0
Silingya	15	9	78	6,102	3,789	9,891	0	5,500	0
Gadtir	9	10	56	2,170	970	3,140	0	0	0
Mungraon	21	10	89	8,835	3,625	12,460	0	0	0
Hasyuri	8	8	52	3,180	1,858	5,038	0	1,000	0
Rawalgaon	16	11	137	7,449	4,109	11,558	0	0	0
Bana bend	17	5	24	5,403	503	5,906	0	0	0
Sera Pahar	9	12	95	3,560	2,293	5,853	0	0	0
Bana	12	11	107	4,260	3,039	7,299	0	0	0
Sela	14	11	114	5,580	3,581	9,161	0	0	0
Kanurpani	10	11	97	3,560	2,601	6,161	0	0	0
Jula	15	10	107	5,106	3,977	9,083	0	0	0
Banari	8	10	66	2,370	1,475	3,845	0	0	0
Aulani	12	11	101	3,540	8,160	11,700	0	0	0
Pipli	15	11	136	4,460	3,737	8,197	0	0	0
Jyoti Balta	11	0	0	2,663	0	2,663	0	0	0
Pragatisheel Balta	11	0	0	1,624	0	1,624	0	0	0
Chak	14	11	116	2,140	3,418	5,558	0	2,200	0
Basti	9	10	67	1,740	5,644	7,384	0	0	0
Dudila	23	10	147	1,740	5,630	7,370	0	0	0
Okharani	12	10	114	840	2,953	3,793	0	0	0
Airari	17	10	129	1,020	3,601	4,621	0	0	0
Jakheri	12	12	129	720	2,816	3,536	0	0	0
Digoli	20	8	69	0	22,000	22,000	0	12,000	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>3370</b>	<b>3,49,005</b>	<b>1,62,472</b>	<b>5,11,477</b>	<b>62,500</b>	<b>91,700</b>	<b>80,200</b>

Table 21

	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
<b>Total Groups</b>	29	37	38
<b>Total Members</b>	403	499	511
<b>No. of meetings held</b>	156	339	358
<b>No. of women present</b>	1555	3358	3370
<b>Total Deposit in the year</b>	Rs 75,922	Rs 1,16,517	Rs 1,62,472

<b>Total collection of groups</b>	Rs 2,43,131	Rs 3,56,707	Rs 5,11,477
<b>Credit given</b>	Rs 88,500	Rs 61,000	Rs 91,700
<b>Recovery of the loan given by the groups</b>	Rs 32,100	Rs 46,360	Rs 80,200
<b>Total credit given by the groups in the last three years</b>	Rs 1,52,770	Rs 1,95,770	Rs 2,41,200

#### 4.1.2 Income Generating activities with the Self Help Groups

Income generation activities with the members of the self help groups continue. Some training programs and exposure visits for SHG members and AVANI team were organized this year. The details of these visits are given in table 22.

Table 22

S. N.	Subject	Venue	Participants	Duration	Resource person	No. of Participants
1	Bee keeping	AVANI centre Tripuradevi	AVANI team	11-5-8 to 13-5-08	Mr. Leo , Mr. Murthy, Keystone Foundation, Tamil Nadu	8
2	Chicken coops Rearing	AVANI centre Tripuradevi	Villagers from Chantola, Varsayat, Belkote, Syalve and Byati	13-06-08	Bansi Lal	19
3	Exposure visit	Vivekananda Parvatiya Anusandhan Sansthan, Almora	SHG Members from 14 villages and AVANI team	4-8-08 to 5-8-08	Vivekananda Parvatiya Anusandhan Sansthan, team	25
4	Marmalade Making	AVANI centre Tripuradevi	AVANI team	8-1-09	Ms. Rashmi Bharti	4
5	Kumkum Making	Field centre Digoli	SHG Members from four villages	24-01-09	Harish Pant	34

The women's groups have been cultivating improved varieties of seeds from Vivekananda Parvatiya Krishi Anusandhan Sansthan in Almora for the past two years. Due to some technical problems the crop was not good. To overcome these problems, an exposure visit was organized to Vivekananda Parvatiya Krishi Anusandhan Sansthan from 4-08-08 to 5-08-08. 17 SHG Members from different villages and 8 members of

AVANI team participated in this exposure visit. The participants learnt about:

- Diseases of crops and their remedies
- Kurmula (white grub) control
- Drip irrigation
- Polyhouse construction and production techniques
- Agricultural engineering etc.

Turmeric cultivation and dye material collection are emerging as good income generation activities in the villages. Bee keeping and chicken rearing has also been initiated.

- 361 kg of turmeric and 500 lemons have been purchased by AVANI for making kumkum. The income of the members is Rs 13,642.
- 15 kg of turmeric was also purchased from the AVANI farm.
- 475 kg of processed dye material and 100.43 kg of soap nut powder has been purchased from villagers by AVANI for natural dyeing and washing of textiles and natural paints. The total income generated is Rs 41,691.
- Three polyhouses were constructed in the villages of Saniudiyar, Mana and Sukna.
- 465 chicken coops were provided to the villagers. A soft loan of Rs 11,625 was also given to purchase the chicken coops. Rs 10,000 has been recovered so far.
- We also tried making marmalade from oranges (maltas) this year. A total of eight bottles of marmalade were made. We hope that with more precise production, we will be able to make very good quality marmalade for marketing.

A training for bee keeping was also organized at the AVANI centre with the Keystone Foundation, Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu. During the training the participants learnt about:

- Species of Bees
- Techniques of Bee Keeping
- Method of harvesting
- Method of multiplication of colonies
- Harvesting time etc.

Two colonies were established after the training and two more were increased through multiplication. Now there are four colonies at the Tripuradevi centre. 2.5 kg of honey has been harvested from two boxes.

## **4.2 Girl Child Education**

At present we are supporting eight girls from 7 villages. Support has been withdrawn from two of the girls as they did not pay enough attention to their studies and failed in their examinations. Another girl got married after the 10<sup>th</sup> standard. We are planning to provide support to some more girl children in the year 2009-10.

Donations received during the year 2008-09                      Rs 80,055  
Total expenses on books, dress and tuition fees Rs 51,532  
(including the expenses of running the school at Balta village)

## **4.3 Adult Literacy**

Despite the obvious benefits of literacy we feel that the community has not accepted this initiative, as it should have. So we have postponed this program for some time. However we hope to create more enthusiasm for this program that can have a far reaching impact on women's empowerment. We continue to subscribe the magazines like Pitara and Uttara for the neo literates. The artisans and other villagers are using the rural libraries.

The computers installed last year in the villages of Sukna and Digoli are now functional. Training programs have been conducted in both the centres and now the supervisors are able to operate the computers. We are planning to teach computers to other people in the village as well. Due to some power problem at Dharamghar centre the computer classes could not start in this centre. We hope in the year 2009-10 we will be able to start computer classes in the villages.

Details of computer training given below in table 23:

Table 23

<b>S. N.</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Trainees</b>	<b>Trainer</b>
1	Computer Literacy	6-09-08 to 31-03-09	Field centre Digoli	Govind Singh, Lalita Bora, Heera Singh, Manoj Singh, Harish Pant	Renu Bora
2	Computer Literacy	Aug 1, 08 to Nov 30, 08	Field centre Sukna	Harish Tamta, Jagdish Singh	Gokul Singh

## **5. RAINWATER HARVESTING AND WASTE WATER RECYCLING**

The Avani centres at Tripuradevi, Digoli, Sukna and Dharamghar continue to sustain themselves largely on rainwater. The field centres together collect almost

1,00,000 litres of rainwater for their daily needs. At Tripuradevi, we survive on rainwater for about 7 months a year. We are able to fulfill our requirements of water for the kitchen, natural dyeing, textile processing, daily needs for 35 people. For the rest of the months, we still need to bring water from 5 kms away by truck.

Table 24

<b>RWH Tanks at the AVANI Centre</b>	QTY 2006-07	Qty 2007-08	Qty 2008-09
Total No. of Tanks	4	4	4
Total storage capacity	3,25,000	3,25,000 litres	3,25,000 litres
Total stored water during the monsoon	7,60,000 litres	12,00,000 litres	9,35,000 litres
Daily consumption of water	5,000 litres	5,000 litres	5,000 litres
No. of days rain water was used	152 days	240 days	187 days
Saving in terms of expenses in bringing water by truck from 5 kms	Rs 38,000	Rs 60,000	Rs 56,100

### • Waste Water Recycling

The wastewater recycling plant at Tripuradevi centre has been functional for a year now. The plant is recycling about 2000 ltrs of wastewater per day. This recycled wastewater has allowed us to grow more vegetables this year on our farm. The recycling plant is also a good demonstration for villagers, others organizations and government departments. Some of the government officials have also visited this plant.

## 6. ORGANIC FARMING

To demonstrate the different methods of organic farming, the small farm at Avani has been working with the use of biogas slurry, vermicomposting and other methods of regenerating the soil.

During this year,

- Three vermicompost pits were made at the Avani centre at Tripuradevi that produced 1,000 kg of compost.
- A drip irrigation system was also installed at the Tripuradevi farm.

- All these techniques helped us to increase the productivity of the farm. The income from the farm has increased to Rs 24,973 in the past year.
- During this year, we have also grafted 53 improved varieties of peach, apricot, plum and pear trees on the AVANI farm.
- The dairy at the Tripuradevi centre has also been functioning better than the past years. The hard work of the farm team has paid off this year.
- At the village level, 35 more farmers have made vermicompost pits on their land. Five farmers were able to produce 500 kg of vermicompost last year.

The details of the production of the farm are given below in tables 25 and 26

Table 25

Particular	Seed cost Rs	2006-2007		2007-2008		2008-2009	
		Production	Income Rs	Production	Income Rs	Production	Income Rs
Ugal	310	23 bur	115	26 bunches	156	153 bunches	1071
Methi	115	50 bunches	300	207 bunches	1449	201 bunches	1407
French Beans	50	34.23 kg	785	5 kg	112	17.75 kg	462
Garlic	150	2.5 kg	100	1.4 kg	112	5.5 kg	220
Tomato	190	32.5	975	12.5 kg	306	11.25 kg	260
Banana	0	151 pieces	302	106 pieces	306	243 Nos.	466
Radish	292	Leaves 257 Bunches Root 17.55 kg	1,438	Leaves 168 bunches Root 20.4 kg	1452	Leaves 295 bunches Roots 42.05 kg	3076
Ladyfinger	0	-	-	4.85 kg	110	0	0
Capsicum	10	-	-	-	0	3.7 kg	104
Cucumber	155	22.35 kg	344	15 kg	300	71.35 kg	1150
Green Chilly	10	8.9 kg	362	2.45kg	98	0.5 kg	20
Pumpkin	50	131.75 kg	1,748	78.7 kg	1102	133.7 kg	2141
Maize	75	66 no.s	330	90	300	90 Nos.	270
Ginger	0	17.85 kg	714	20 kg	800	50 kg	2000
Arbi	0	Leaves 4 bunches root 37 kg	615	Leaves 25 bunches Root 26.4 kg	623	Leaves 5 bunches Root 21.25 kg	370

Gourd	10	0	0	73	1164	2.5 kg	50
Turmeric	0	0	0	119.4	3752	15 kg	450
Sweet Karela	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coriander	472	Leaves 303 bunches	750	784 bunches	3001	853 bunches	3412
Lai	75	Leaves 206 bunches	1,648	451 bunches	2743	184 bunches	1104
Spinach	235	Leaves 101 bunches	606	330 bunches	2092	314 bunches	1942
Malta	0	50 no.s	100	294	588	290 Nos.	580
Citrus	0	25 no.s	125	107	505	311 Nos.	933
Torai	50	8.45 kg	228	0.5kg	12	5.25 kg	105
Peas	150	0.9 kg	16	25.75kg	545	34.45 kg	799
Brinjal	60	1 kg	24		0	49.75kg	995
Geethi	0			2kg	40	1.25 kg	25
Halan	0			12 bunches	72	0	0
Gobhi	120			10 kg	140	22.2 kg	315
Turnip	0			2.5 kg	40	0	0
Potato	220					55 kg	440
Amaranthus	0					65bunches	390
Onion	10					7 bunches	70
Gram	20					1.25 kg	50
Mustard	0					18 bunches	144
Bottle Gourd	10					9 kg	152
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,839</b>		<b>11,625</b>		<b>21920</b>		<b>24,973</b>

Table 26

Particulars	Qty	Rate Rs	Income Rs
Milk (Lt)	1,337.99	18	24,083
Vermicompost (kg)	1,000	8	8,000
Biogas slurry (Basket)	260	3	1080
Total income from production of above items			33,163
Expenditure on Khali and grass			10,085



## 7. SERICULTURE – CULTIVATION OF WILD SILKS OF ERI, MUGA AND OAK TUSSAR

We continue to integrate new farmers in the cultivation of eri, muga and oak tussar silks. The cultivation of wild silks of eri and muga has been taken up in fifteen more villages this year. Some new farmers were also integrated in the program from villages where we are already working.

Oak tussar rearing in the village of Basti continued in the second consecutive year. It was an important achievement for us that we were able to produce oak tussar cocoons at a very crucial time when there was a great scarcity of oak tussar cocoons even for dfls.

During this year, 156 new farmers in the 25 villages have planted 17.82 acres of muga food plants (*Litchia polyantha* and *Michelis bombacina*) and 48 acres of Eri food plant (*Castor*). 6,000 saplings were provided by the farmers from their nurseries for the plantation in the year 2008-09.

Seven farmers have established seven nursery beds in Chankana and one nursery was established at the AVANI centre. These nursery beds will provide approximately 6,000 saplings for the plantation for the year 2009-10.

A total of 8 rearing houses have been constructed this year. A total of 27 eri houses have been constructed until now.

The list of newly integrated villages and farmers is given in tables 27 and 28:

Table 27

Name of the village	No. Of Farmers		Area covered		Total Farmers	Total Area (Acre)
	Eri	Muga	Eri	Muga		
Nalli	6	0	3	0	6	3
Baisali	2	0	1	0	2	1
Simayal	6	0	3	0	6	3
Dola	1	0	0.5	0	1	0.5
Devlet	1	5	0.5	2.12	6	2.62
Dhanad	1	3	0.5	1.2	4	1.7
Kafali	2	2	1	1	4	2
Lingurani	7	8	3.5	1.84	15	5.34
Borakhet	2	2	1	0.24	4	1.24
Majhera	1	3	0.5	0.6	4	1.1
Patadungari	6	0	3	0	6	3
Kanyagad	4	0	2	0	4	2
Latgari	1	0	0.5	0	1	0.52
Panigad	2	0	1	0	2	1
Jula	2	3	1	1	5	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>30.02</b>

List of new farmers in old villages:  
Table 28

Name of the village	No. of Farmers		Area covered		Total Farmers	Total Area (Acre)
	Eri	Muga	Eri	Muga		
Musalgar	1	0	0.5	0	1	0.5
Mehrodi	7	0	3.5	0	7	3.5
Bayati	3	1	1.5	0.12	4	1.62
Varsayat	11	9	5.5	4.06	20	9.56
Chak	7	4	3.5	0.44	11	3.94
Belkote	6	0	3	0	6	3
Chantola	0	7	0	2.72	7	2.72
Chankana	3	8	1.5	1.38	11	2.88
Jakheri	1	0	0.5	0	1	0.5
Baneni	4	3	2	0.6	7	2.6
Dana	6	2	3	0.5	8	3.5
Matkoli	3	0	1.5	0	3	1.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>9.82</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>35.82</b>

## 7.1 Training and Cocoon rearing

During this year, cocoon rearing was conducted with 23 farmers in 12 villages. 800 dfl eri worms were reared with 20 farmers in 11 villages and 50 dfl muga worms were reared in one village. This year also, we faced a lot of problems with timely supply of eggs during the appropriate season. For the autumn crop 2008-09 we asked for 800 dfls but were provided only 300 dfls and that too after one month's delay. The advent of the rainy season led to very poor survival of the worms.

### **Total production of cocoons**

Eri cocoons 102 kg

Muga cocoons 1,785 Nos.

**Total income generated through cocoon production Rs 7,395.**

Subject	Venue	Duration	Participants	Participants from
Eri Cocoon Rearing Training	Silk Training Institute, Directorate of Sericulture, Prem Nagar, Dehradun	21-12-08 to 24-12-08	Heera Singh Manoj Bora Suraj Kumar Diwani Ram Kishan Singh Mohan Ram Bhagat Ram	Mana, Aulani, Simayal, Byati and Dana

## Oak Tussar Rearing

Oak tussar rearing was started in the year 2007-08 in the village of Basti but due to heavy rains and diseases of the worms, we could not achieve expected results. With this learning, we pre treated the rearing homes and took care extra care during all stages of the rearing.

400 dfls of oak tussar worms were reared in this year. The results are very encouraging for us. We produced 24,000 oak tussar cocoons in Basti. Another important aspect of this rearing was that we were able to produce oak tussar cocoons at a very crucial time when there was a big scarcity of oak tussar cocoons due to diseases, even for making dfls.

17,000 oak tussar cocoons of the best quality have been given to RTRS Bhimtal for the making of dfls. These dfls have been sent to different parts of the country for the summer crop of 2009-10. RTRS Bhimtal, has already started rearing cocoons with these dfls. The cocoon shells have been returned to AVANI for spinning in the villages. The total income generated through the oak tussar cultivation is Rs 14,500.

We were also invited to participate in a "Krishak Karyasala" organized at RTRS Bhimtal. Four farmers from Basti along with the representative of AVANI, participated in this workshop.

Table 29

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
<b>Total Farmers - Eri</b>	50	39	96
<b>Total Farmers - Muga</b>	63	40	60
<b>No. of nursery beds established</b>		14	8
<b>Total Area of Plantation</b>	75.6 Acres	59.5 Acres	65.84 Acres
<b>Total Income</b>	Rs 3,670	Rs 5,544	7,395

### **Krishak Karyasala, Tripuradevi**

To establish communication amongst the farmers and to help them understand the post cocoon process, a Krishak Karyasala was organized at Tripuradevi on 31st of March, 2009. A total of 78 farmers from 20 villages participated in this Karyasala.

The main objectives of this Karyasala were as follows.

- To encourage interaction amongst the farmers from different villages
- Technical know how for sericulture
- To make the farmers aware about the post cocoon process
- To enhance the understanding of sustainable local livelihood options

### Events organized during the Karyasala

- Visit of weaving and natural dyeing workshop at the Tripuradevi centre
- Demonstration of vermicomposting and waste water recycling techniques
- Film show about cocoon rearing
- Tool distribution to farmers

List of tools distributed to farmers is given in table 30:

Table 30

Farmers	Tray	Basket	Stand	Pickaxe Big	Pickaxe small	Spade	Trowel	Pump	Net	Chaloni	Cutter
Eri	200	200	50	50	50	50	50	50	-	-	-
Muga	-	200	-	63	63	63	63	-	64	200	63
Total	200	400	50	113	113	113	113	50	64	200	63

## 8. HEALTH CARE

### 8.1 Health Insurance

We continue to work with the office of the Development Commissioner Handicrafts, for the health insurance of the artisans. By next year we should be able to increase the number of artisans who have been insured.

### 8.2 Health Camps

In continuation of our small initiative with health care, a few discussions were organized with visiting doctors and patients were linked to other subsidized and reliable health care facilities.

- Two health camps were conducted during this year.
- An discussion on post natal care was organized in Chankana and at AVANI from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> July 2008. Dr. Renu from Bangalore facilitated the discussions.
- We are also guiding the patients to take advantage of free or subsidised health care offered by institutions like - Aarohi, an NGO in Naintal district and the Srivastav Clinic in Kalika, Ranikhet.
- Two people from Rawalgaon and Mehrodi got their cataract operation at a camp organized by Aarohi. One of the AVANI team members volunteered to take them to Aarohi and brought them back after the operation
- An artisan from Avani was operated for gall bladder stone at a subsidized cost at the Srivastava Clinic, Kalika. Another boy from Bana village was operated for

a cyst on his knee that would have crippled him in a few years time. This operation was also conducted at a highly subsidized cost.

We are also planning to establish a natural birthing centre in Digoli, that is three hours away from the nearest road head and 20 kms by road from the nearest hospital. We will take the assistance and advice of Ms Shahaf Goffer, a midwife from Israel who is working with a natural birthing centre in Goa and has offered to help us set up the centre in Digoli.

We are planning to set up this centre through individual donations. A donation of Rs 16,000 has already been collected for this purpose.

Table 31

S.N.	Duration	Venue	Doctor	No. of Patients examined
1	8-4-08 to 10-4-08	AVANI Tripuradevi	Dr. S.Srinivasan Indraprastha Apollo Clinic, New Delhi	49
2	22-05-08	AVANI Tripuradevi	Dr. S.Srinivasan Indraprastha Apollo Clinic, New Delhi	36

## 9. WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTATIONS

We were able to present the work of Avani in various for and addressed a large diversity of audience. This has generated a lot of interest and positive support for the organization. During the past year we made presentations at the following places:

Date	Venue	Organisers
30 <sup>th</sup> Sept. '08	Cascina dei Frutase, Cumiana, Italy	Mr Bruno and Ms Milena Zaro
4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> October, '08	La Mazade, St Mamert, France	Ms Eliette Couston
5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> January, 09	Invasive plants in the Tropics: Ecology, Management and Livelihoods	ATREE, Bangalore.

## 10. STUDENTS AND VOLUNTEERS

This year three students and 5 volunteers from different institutions spent time at our centre. The students were from the following institutions.

- National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad
- The Design Lab, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA
- University of Twente, Netherlands

## 11. VISITORS AT AVANI

	Indian	Foreign	Total
<b>Visitors</b>	18	34	52
<b>Volunteers</b>	-	5	5
<b>Students School/college</b>	15	-	15
<b>Govt. officials</b>	5	-	5
<b>Diploma students</b>	3	-	3
Total	41	39	80

## 12. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS DURING THIS YEAR

Hunnarshala, Gujarat  
National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad  
Kumaon Artisans Guild, Ranikhet  
Aarohi, Nainital  
Ascent, Baroda  
Vivekanand Krishi Anusandhanshala, Hawalbagh  
Pant Nagar Agricultural University, Pant Nagar  
Crafts Council of India, Delhi  
The People Tree, Delhi  
The Weaver's Wheel Network, Goa  
Barefoot, Goa  
Shramik Bharti, Kanpur  
AIACA, New Delhi  
Silk Mark Organisation of India, Bombay  
Dastakar, Delhi  
The Central Silk Board, Bangalore  
Department of Sericulture, Dehradun and Haldwani  
Regional Tussar Research Station Bhimtal  
Friends of Tilonia, USA

Le Passeur, Decoration, France  
University of Twente, Netherlands  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA  
Associazione Amici della Scuola Leumann, Italy.  
"Agriturismo" Cascina Dei Frutasé, Italy.

### **13. OUR INSTITUTIONAL DONORS**

1. The Volkart Vision India, Switzerland
2. The Volkart Foundation, India
3. The Ford Foundation, New Delhi
4. Basic Needs, UK
5. The Central Silk Board, Bangalore
6. The Directorate of Sericulture, Dehradun and Haldwani
7. CAF, America

### **14. INDIVIDUAL DONORS 2008-09**

1. Mr Abhiram Seth
2. Mr. Shailesh Kumar, S.V. Charitable Trust, New Delhi
3. Mrs. Moena Ray Dehradun
4. Ms. Pamela Topley, Pune
5. Ms. Pamela Chatterjee, Kausani
6. Ms. Shanti, Pune
7. Swami Samvado, Pune
8. Mr. Kishore Vora, Pune
9. Ms. Bharti Sanghavi, Pune
10. Mr. Rajiv Vora, Pune
11. Ms. Gita Patkar, Pune
12. Mr. Tapan Basu, Pune
13. Dr. Usha Malkhani, Pune
14. Ms. Catherine Confino, Kausani
15. Mr. C.T. Vora, Pune
16. Ms Alessandra L'Abate, Goa

### **15. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONTRIBUTION AND SUPPORT BY INDIVIDUALS**

Mr Amar Seth, New Delhi  
Dr S Srinivasan, Delhi  
Dr Renu, Bangalore  
Ms Catherine Confino, France  
Mr Michel Coqblin, France  
Ms Alessandra L'Abate, Italy  
Mr Bruno and Ms Milena Zaro, Italy  
Mr Mathieu Coubat, France  
Ms Eliette Couston, France  
Ms Kito Thomassery, France

## 16. CASE STUDIES

The main emphasis in these case studies is the empowerment that happens when people have the opportunity and space to grow.

Even people who have not had the chance to study, take charge of their lives when they get the opportunity. To empower people from remote villages, disadvantaged families to explore their talents and then to stand on their feet has been a great learning for all of us in this journey.

We have only mentioned a few case studies, but there are many others that are worthy of note.

### Case Study 1 GEETA MEHRA

Name	Educational Qualifications	Year of Joining Avani	Started work as	Presently Working as	Acquired Skills
Geeta Mehra  25 yrs	8 <sup>th</sup> standard	2004	Weaving Trainee	Skilled weaver of shawls in silk and wool	Has learnt the weaving of silk and wool and has become a skilled weaver  Capability of warping, drafting and weaving of Almora pattern design



Geeta Mehra belongs to village Basti that is 6 kms from nearest roadhead and it takes her one hour of walking to reach the Avani centre everyday. She spent her childhood in the village and completed her education up to 8<sup>th</sup> standard in the from her village. She got Married at the age of 16. Her

married life was not pleasant. Her husband and in-laws always ignored her. After she gave birth to a baby girl, the situation turned from bad to worse for her.



Difficulties in her marital home saw Geeta moving back to her parent's house accompanied by her 25-day-old baby. Initially, she had hoped that her husband would come to take her back. However, when that didn't happen, Geeta and her mother, went to her husband's house. But the situation continued to be tough, and when Geeta realized there was no hope for change, she took a decision of moving back to her parent's house. Since then, Geeta has been financially supported by her parents.

Geeta lived with her parents for close to five years. Though her parents took good care of her, Geeta was always hesitant about asking them for money and additional help. Geeta felt that the only way to lead her life with dignity was to earn her own livelihood, but 'how' and 'where' were important questions. While she was looking for an outlet, Geeta met Kamla Rathore who was working as a weaver at the Dharamghar field centre. On accepting Kamla's invitation to come and visit the centre, Geeta felt that this was the right place for her. She integrated herself as a weaving trainee in this centre and within a few months was one of the most hardworking and good weavers of the centre. She also taught herself warping and drafting of the typical Almora pattern shawls.

She has been working as a skilled weaver for the past five years and earns Rs 1,500 to Rs 2,000 per month. After joining Avani, Geeta has assumed full responsibility of herself and her daughter. Geeta's daughter is now in the fifth grade. Geeta is able to provide for all of her daughter's needs; right from books, school fees to her clothes and toys. Geeta has also started to maintain a savings account in the post office where she deposits Rs 200 per month. She has also installed a solar home lighting system at her house with her own income.

## **Case Study 2**

### **Laxmi devi**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Educational Qualifications</b>	<b>Year of Joining Avani</b>	<b>Started work as</b>	<b>Presently Working as</b>	<b>Acquired Skills</b>
Laxmi Devi 35 yrs	Illiterate	2004	Weaving trainee	Skilled weaver of shawls in silk and wool	Has learnt the weaving of silk and wool and has become a skilled weaver Learnt basic reading and writing skills after joining adult literacy classes at the Tripuradevi centre



Laxmi Devi belongs to village Beladagar, Berinag. Laxmi's father is an unskilled mason and she is the eldest of his three daughters. Due to financial constraints, Laxmi was never sent to school. Instead, she was married off at the tender age of 11 years, to a man who worked as a tailor in the village. Laxmi

was never treated respectfully in her marital home. Even after she gave birth to a son, the in-laws continued to ill-treat her. Distressed with the family situation, Laxmi and her husband decided to leave the house and live with Laxmi's father in his home.

Laxmi's husband continued to work as a tailor. In the course of time, Laxmi gave birth to two more children. All was well for Laxmi, until one day when her husband left for the city in search of a job. It has been twelve years since then, but Laxmi's husband is yet to return. Laxmi has no knowledge as to the whereabouts of her husband or as to whether he is even alive. Thereafter Laxmi continued to live at her maiden home along with her three children.

However, as her children grew up, expenses increased and there came a time when Laxmi's father was not able to support her any more. He was getting old and was therefore unable to earn a substantial income. In search of a job that would provide her with a steady income, Laxmi came across Avani's weaving centre at Tripuradevi in 2004.

After six months of training, Laxmi began weaving on her own. She picked up the skill very quickly and has grown to become a skilled weaver. She is able to weave silk and wool shawls and stoles and sarees too. Today she earns close to Rs. 1,400 to 1,700 per month and fulfills the requirements of all of her three school going children. In fact, one of her daughters has been sponsored by Avani for her education through the Girl Child Education Programme. Laxmi's sister also works at AVANI as a solar technician.

Laxmi's eagerness to learn brought her to join the Adult Literacy programme at the Tripuradevi Centre and today Laxmi has acquired basic writing skills. Apart from providing for her children, Laxmi gives some money to her parents and saves Rs 100 per month in her account with the Post Office.

### Case Study 3 LALITA ARYA

Name	Educational Qualifications	Year of Joining Avani	Started work as	Presently Working as	Acquired Skills
Lalita Arya  21 years old	8 <sup>th</sup> standard	2003	Knitter	Skilled weaver of silk and wool	Has learnt the weaving of silk and wool and has become a skilled weaver. She is one of our best weavers.  Capable of warping, drafting and weaving of Almora pattern design



Lalita belongs to Mungraon village in the Pithoragarh district. Her father who she says is working with a private company has neither returned home in the last eight years nor taken any financial responsibility of the family. Lalita has studied upto the 8<sup>th</sup> standard.

The family never had any financial stability, which is when Lalita thought it best to earn a living which would help her become independent as well as be of some support to the family.

Lalita joined the Tripuradevi centre soon after it was established. She had a good hand at weaving and within a few months was one of the most hard working and good weavers at the centre. Lalita also learnt warping and drafting of the typical Almora pattern shawls.

Lalita has been working at the Tripuradevi centre for the past six years and earns almost Rs 1,800 per month. She has contributed substantially to bringing back financials stability to her home. From her salary, about Rs 1,500 she gives to her mother and the rest she deposits in a Savings Bank Account. Proud to be financially independent, she exclaims that she recently purchased a LPG Gas connection for her home and a Mobile phone for herself.

## Case Study 4 ANULI DEVI

Name	Educational Qualifications	Year of Joining Avani	Started work as	Presently Working as	Acquired Skills
Anuli Bora 32 yrs	Non Literate	2003	Weaving trainee	Skilled weaver of silk and wool	Has learnt the weaving of silk and wool and has become a skilled weaver



Anuli Devi belongs to Sukna village of Dist. Pithoragarh. Sukna is a 40 minute walk from the nearest road head. Anuli's father is a daily wage labourer and earns an inconsistent and insufficient income. Due to poor financial conditions, Anuli

never went to school. Married at the age of 17, Anuli had much trouble with her in-laws. In spite of working hard in the fields and at home, Anuli wasn't kept well by her husband and she had to struggle even for her basic needs like clothes and food.

Anuli remained with her husband for six years, in the course of which she gave birth to a baby boy. But the situation remained unchanged, Anuli moved out of her marital home and returned to her maiden home with her son. Though her parents took care of her, Anuli felt that the only way to lead her life with dignity was to have a source of livelihood. Initially Anuli started working as a laborer in the village. But the income was insufficient. She was unable to leave the village in search of more work, because her son was very young. Upon hearing about a weaving centre being established in Sukna, Anuli joined the training programme in 2003. It has been six years since Anuli first joined AVANI's community centre in Sukna. Anuli is far happier now that she is financially independent and is able to take care of her son on her own. Though her brothers live separately, Anuli's parents are not very worried, as their daughter - Anuli - earns enough to help them live comfortably as well. Anuli also manages to complete her household chores everyday, after which she spends the rest of her time at the weaving centre. She is hardworking and her work is neat. It earns her about Rs. 1500 to Rs. 1700 per

month, enough to run a household and pay for her son's schooling and daily requirements. In fact, Anuli has even saved enough money to buy a solar home lighting system for her house.

### **Case Study 5** **MANJU BORA**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Educational Qualification</b>	<b>Year of Joining AVANI</b>	<b>Started work as</b>	<b>Currently working as</b>	<b>Acquired skills</b>
Manju Bora  21 yrs old	5 <sup>th</sup> standard	2004	Finishing Trainee	Weaver of stoles and mufflers in silk and wool	Learnt the finishing of products very quickly and efficiently. Has learnt to weave stoles and shawls with silk and wool. Can also do reeling and warping



Manju Bora hails from Mana village near Digoli, a three hour walk from the nearest road head. Manju had a hip dislocation because of a fall she had when she was young. This stunted her physical growth, making her look rather short for her age and made her walking very awkward. Her physical constraints caused her to be rather shy and reclusive. For her the dreams of an ordinary village girl are far fetched.

Manju joined Avani five years ago, when Harish Pant, the centre head and field worker at our Digoli centre suggested to her mother that she be sent to work at the centre. Initially apprehensive about the experience, Manju soon blended in with the other girls working

at the centre. She started with the task of finishing woven products, which included making tassels, checking the product for mistakes in weaving, etc. Manju grasped the skill very quickly and had a fine eye for errors. Manju also learnt reeling and to fill bobbins. Once the centre was equipped with more weaving looms, Manju was trained to weave.

Since she has a small built, Manju is unable to handle shawls of a large width, but as regards the other textile products, Manju has groomed to become a skilled weaver. Her work with eri and muga is particularly commendable. Manju is happy about having taken this step towards working at the Digoli centre. She earns 1,000 to 1,500 rupees every month, which is enough to look after her own needs and even make for a little saving.

### **Case Study 6** **Meena Kumari**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Educational Qualification</b>	<b>Year of Joining AVANI</b>	<b>Started work as</b>	<b>Currently working as</b>	<b>Acquired skills</b>
Meena Kumari  23 yrs old	Vth Standard	2002	Solar Trainee	Solar Technician	Can assemble solar lanterns, repair and maintain solar equipments and do electrical fittings She maintains the solar power plant at the Avani centre and oversees the power distribution as well.





Meena Kumari, a native of Raiangarh village, that is about 3 kms from the Avani centre at Tripuradevi. She could study only upto the fifth grade as she comes from a rather poor financial background and her family could not be sent for further schooling. Her family doesn't own any land and her father as a Daily Wage labourer earns an inconsistent

income. Meena's older sister was married, but her parents still had the responsibility of looking after two daughters and themselves. Having heard of Avani through her friends and other women in the village, Meena approached AVANI, where she was recruited as a solar technician trainee.

Meena reminisces having no knowledge of what electronics even meant, when she first joined as a trainee. "All I knew was that anything electrical could give me a shock," narrates Meena, who today works confidently on live wires as well. Meena began with learning how to make a solar lanterns and then went on to be trained to install, repair and maintain different types of solar equipment. For a girl, who was once shy of talking to boys and the thought of stepping out of her village on her own scared her, the job opportunity as a solar technician meant more than just earning a living. "I have visited over ten villages today on assignments of fixing solar panels for various homes," says Meena, who confidence was boosted when she found that she was capable of doing what was supposedly a man's job, with equal proficiency.

After Meena joined AVANI as a solar technician, she even encouraged her sister to join here. "I realized the difference between 'asking for money' and having 'money of your own.' I am not accountable to anybody as regards my money and I can use it the way I like," relates Meena.

Today Meena earns Rs. 2250 per month. The first thing she did after she started earning was to fund her sister's children's education. "I didn't get an opportunity to study higher, but

no other kid in family should be denied the opportunity," she says with a definite tone.

Apart from handling the expenses of the children, Meena even funded her own wedding with a small loan from the organization. Unlike many others, Meena continues to work even after being married. Her in-laws and her husband are in full support of her wanting to earn and run the household.

### Case Study 7 Kedar Singh

Name	Educational Qualification	Year of Joining AVANI	Started work as	Frequently working as	Acquired skills
Kedar Bhauryal  34 yrs	XII Standard	1998	Solar trainee	Solar Technician and Construction supervisor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can repair and maintain solar equipment and do electrical fittings</li> <li>• Can supervise and carry out construction projects</li> </ul>





One of AVANI's oldest recruits, Kedar Bhauryal from village Aulani in the Bageshwar District joined AVANI soon after clearing his XII standard exams. An offer to be trained in Tilonia, Rajasthan for fixing and installation of solar equipments enticed Kedar to join AVANI. Kedar who began working with AVANI on a salary of Rs. 660, today earns close to Rs. 5,200.

As an employee of the solar department Kedar grew to be a skilled technician. He can fix and repair solar equipments and also trains and guides new recruits in resolving circuit issues. Kedar, then worked with the village communities to

organise solar committees in the villages and conduct their meetings. He also learnt about basic accounting procedures on being involved in regularizing the solar committee maintenance funds and creating solar committee accounts in the bank.

Kedar volunteered to take over the construction work on the AVANI campus and its centres when there was a need. Since then he has coordinated and supervised the construction of two of the community centres - Sukna and Dharamgarh and is in the process of completing the centre at Chankana.

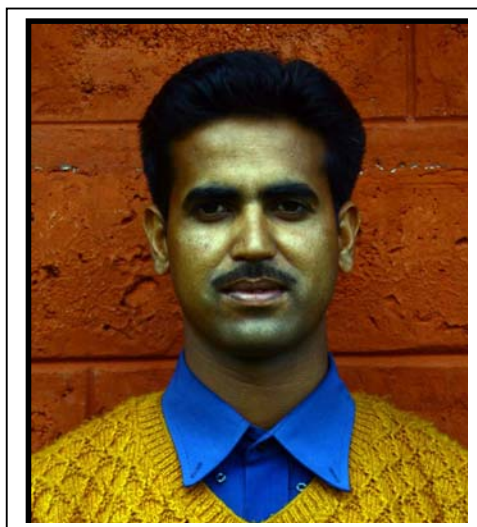
Kedar recollects contributing to the family expenses with his salary. "I was financially independent and I helped the family as and how I could," says Kedar. "I even saved enough to finance my own wedding." Kedar says that the exposure he has got with working at AVANI is tremendous. Besides meeting and interacting with a lot of people from different countries, he also discovered many qualities within himself.

Once upon a short-tempered and restless young boy, on joining AVANI Kedar learnt to deal with several different people. "My tolerance and patience has improved tremendously," reveals Kedar. Kedar's parents are glad that the job opportunity at AVANI came knocking at the right time. "I was in my youth, which was being wasted away. I was always wandering here and there and had no inclination to work," he recollects. Kedar is happy that his work was always challenging, keeping him away from addictions and bad company. "I wanted to work in the hills because the plains are uncomfortable and dirty. Home is close by and work and good health are in plentiful, I don't know if I would have the same anywhere else," he says. Kedar has been

involved in a multitude of activities with AVANI. He has also represented the organization at several exhibitions.

### **Case Study 8** **Kailash Upadhyay**

Name	Educational Qualification	Year of Joining AVANI	Started work as	Frequently working as	Acquired skills
Kailash Upadhyay 28 years	BA Part I	2002	Farmer	Sericulture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can rear silkworms for production of silk cocoons</li> </ul>



Kailash Upadhyay belongs to Kheti village, which is 2 kilometers from Raiagar. Like all other boys of his age, Kailash was on the look out for a job after clearing his XIIth Standard exams even as he enrolled into Degree College. Kailash learnt about AVANI from some other people in his village. Initially Kailash was recruited to work on the farm at the AVANI campus in Tripuradevi. In the process Kailash learnt to cultivate different kinds of fruits and vegetables and was trained to manage the farm and farm products.

Kailash was later sent to the Sericulture Department, Haldwani for training in rearing of silk worms. Kailash has learnt to rear Eri silkworms. He has also undertaken training of several farmers in the villages, teaching them how to rear the silk worm and fetch fodder for it, thereby helping them earn an additional income. He is also organizing the cultivation of host plants for the Eri silkworm in different villages.

Kailash is today earns close to Rs. 4000. He is looking after his own needs and also contributes to the family expenses as and when required.

## 17. SUMMARISED FINANCIAL REPORT

Presented below is the summarised financial report of Avani for the year 2008-2009.

### Income & Expenditure

#### Income

Sales	3,062,336.00
Other Income	888,854.00
Grants (Indian)	1,931,936.00
Closing Stock	4,598,757.00
FCRA Grants	6,369,502.04
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,851,385.04</b>

#### Expenditure

Opening Stock	4,615,433.00
Grant & Other Expenses	5,264,408.56
FCRA Expenditure	3,370,924.00

Unutilised Grants	
Local	33,167.00
FCRA	2,998,578.04
Income for the year	568,874.44

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,851,385.04</b>
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### Balance Sheet

#### Sources of Funds

Capital Fund	9,428,666.76
Utilised Grants for Fixed Assets	13,030,055.00
Unutilised Grants	3,310,804.91
Current Liabilities	1,356,591.99

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27,126,118.66</b>
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#### Application of funds

Fixed Assets	14,868,206.89
Cash/Bank	2,214,630.17
Grant Receivables	70,100.00
Closing Stock	4,598,757.00
Other Current Assets	5,374,424.60

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27,126,118.66</b>
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