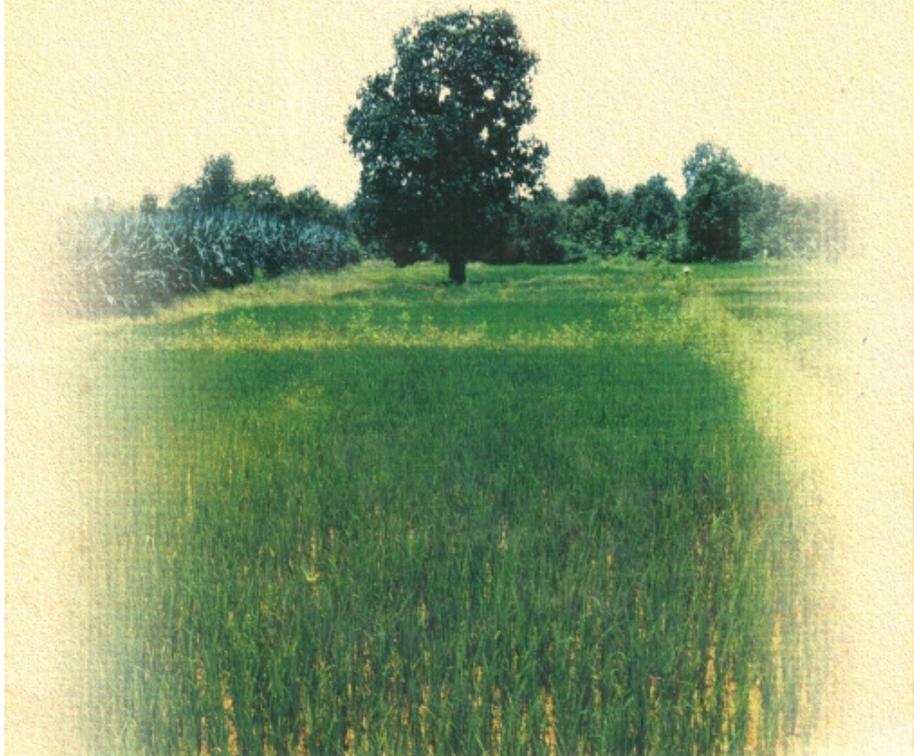


**AGRICULTURE AND SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY**

Vyavasayaka mariyu Sanghika
Abhivrudhi Samstha



Activities and Achievements

Community Organization and Social Capital Building

As an entry point for all its development work, ASDS organized tribal women into 112 self-help groups in VR Puram Mandal. In 2000, ASDS supported these groups to collectivize themselves as a federation, entitled 'NATWAN SANGHAM'. In Koya language, 'Natwan' means 'woman.' Today, the sangham is self-managed with a 23-member core committee and has a total membership base of 1,000 women. The notable achievements of Natwan Sangham are :



- 161 sexually exploited women are identified for rehabilitation through livelihood promotion activities. 20 of these women filed petitions in the Mobile Court of Bhadrachalam seeking justice against their non-tribal exploiters. 12 of these petitioners won the cases and now each one is getting Rs. 1,500 per month as 'Manovartha' from their exploiters
- 2 petitions under 1/70 Act are pending in the Court on land issue
- Implementation of bio-intensive gardening program in 7 villages
- Promotion of traditional crop cultivation that ensures food security in 2 villages
- 20 women are running back-yard poultry units, each consisting of 6 Giriraja birds (1 Cock and 5 Hens)
- 12 houses were constructed for widows and disabled women in Annavam, Ummadivaram and Thammaipeta villages
- In Gulletiwada village 20 women were benefited from leaf plate manufacturing unit
- Tailoring unit in ASDS, Rekhapally organizes 6-month training in tailoring and embroidery to tribal women on an ongoing basis

Agriculture

- With ASDS support, so many small and marginal farmers have undertaken 117 acres of wasteland development. They were also provided with agricultural equipments and 855 KGs of seeds. Currently, on an average, each family is earning an additional income of Rs. 6,000 per annum
- After floods during 1986, small and marginal farmers in 4 villages were supported in removal of sand and ploughing 99 acres of their lands. They were also provided with 495 KGs of seeds

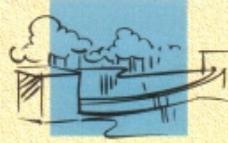


Watershed Development

- 27 watersheds, covering 13,500 hectares of land, are being implemented in Thirumalayapalem and VR Puram mandals. Ground water level raised on an average by 4.7 meters in these areas, as per the Survey done by the Ground Water Department
- 18,168 days of wage employment was generated under food for work program in 14 water sheds and 35 metric tonnes of rice was distributed for the same
- Farmers in the command area are doing cultivation twice a year and are experiencing per acre incremental yields of 10 quintals of paddy and 3 quintals of jowar



- Landless poor in the command area are organized into 283 SHGs that have a cumulative thrift of Rs. 12 Lakh, while the program provided a revolving fund of Rs. 10 Lakh
- In all, the watersheds improved the livelihoods of 1,618 families in the command area and 2,804 landless families
- With improved livelihood options in watershed areas, migration rate is decreased from 20 to 3 percent
- Strengthening of 20 Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in 5 villages to adopt sustainable agricultural practices, like non and/or integrated pest management, organic farming, wasteland development, vermin-composting, etc.



Community Forest Management

- 19 Vana Samrakshana Samithis in Dummugudem and VR Puram mandals are being supported for Community Forest Management
- VSSs have re-planted 380 hectares of forestland. The returns on this program is estimated to be Rs. 80 Lakh
- Through their share in Beedi Leaves Marketing, 5 VSSs in VR Puram mandal earned a share of Rs. 4 Lakh
- 14 VSSs in VR Puram Range are federated into Local Vana Samakhya (LVS) to discuss the issues and concerns of constituent VSSs. Ms. Sode Venkamma of this LVS is being elected on the Executive Committee of State Vana Samakhya
- In collaboration with the Girijan Coopeative Corporation, Velugu, AP Forest Department and other NGOs, ASDS is organizing training programmes for NTFP Collectors, on themes like value addition in NTFPs, marketing process, etc. GCC has requested ASDS to monitor the programme at Bhadrachalam Division level.
- With the involvement of 11 trained volunteers in procurement and marketing of NTFPs, the marketing of NTFPs was raised from 70 percent during 2003 to 81 percent during 2004



Tribal Rights

- In collaboration with Sakthi, an NGO based in East and West Godavari Districts, ASDS collected Land Records (Adangal) from 16 Mandals. Based on the information from these records, it organized the tribal communities to get back their 125 acres of land from non-Tribals' occupation



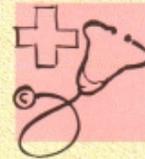
Livelihoods Promotion

- Mulberry and Sericulture Program, backed up by a Demo Plot, for 20 farmers in Thulasipaka area
- Honey Bee unit benefited 20 farmers in Thulasipaka area
- Social Forestry and Nursery Raising in Rekhapally
- Farm Forestry / Block Plantation Program in 2 villages
- Bamboo Crafts Manufacturing unit in Gulletiwada
- Veterinary camps were organized in 5 villages for disease control and prevention amongst livestock, cattle, small ruminants and backyard poultry



Health

- Intensive IEC Campaign on mother and child health, communicable diseases and institutional services was conducted, covering 40 tribal habitations
- In collaboration with the government, 15 Family Welfare camps were organized and 525 cases were sterilized
- In VR Puram mandal, 64 Community Health Workers are placed in so many villages and Kalajatha (Folklore) Teams covered all these villages were covered for health communication. In all these villages, all the children are covered by total immunization program
- 19 villages in VR Puram mandal were covered by Prevention of Malaria Program
- 45 new cases of Tuberculosis and 26 defaulters were identified and followed up for treatment compliance



Education

- 100% enrollment of 5-14 year olds in formal schools in 5 villages
- 58 tribal girls completed Residential Bridge Course in Rekhapally of which 17 children were admitted into Ashrama Schools in Sunnavrigudem and Somulagudem
- Nutrition supplementation (bulgar and oil) is provided to school children in villages
- Education Committees of youth were organized and strengthened to oversee the ASDS education activities in all the villages



Sode Santha Narrates her Road Map to Sarpanch

Gundugudem is an interior village, away by 8 KM from the VR Puram Mandal Headquarters. ASDS adopted this village for watershed development program and ever since has been conducting social capital building programs. As a part of the Watershed Program, ASDS organized landless labor in the command area into SHGs. During its interactions with these groups, ASDS found ever-lasting dynamism and leadership qualities in Smt. Sode Santha and encouraged her to become SHG group leader. Despite she being an illiterate, with her single-minded devotion to the SHG activities, like rendering thrift and credit services to the members, organizing monthly meetings, discussing issues of concern at not only at the group level but also at the village level, accessing the benefits of governmental schemes and programs, etc., she had immensely contributed to the development of her group. As a Group Leader she had also played a pivotal role in the village development. In the process, she had won the hearts of people not only in her community, but also those in the government departments.

Having seen her commitment to the village development, the SHG encouraged her to contest for the post of Sarpanch during August 2001 elections and she did so. She won the election and became the Sarpanch of China Mattapally Gram Panchayat. On her election, she reaffirmed her commitment by 'being with people and working with people.' While remembering her escalation from being a wage laborer to Sarpanch, Ms. Santha attributes her success to the many awareness and training programs conducted by ASDS.



ASDS, a not-for-profit, non-governmental, rights-based development organization, has been striving to empower the marginalized tribal communities in agency areas of Chintoor and VR Puram mandals of Khammam District, Andhra Pradesh. Moved by the pathetic situation and inhumane living conditions of tribal communities in remote and forested villages, Mr. V. Gandhi Babu and other like-minded individuals came together to set up the ASDS in 1985. Since then the team has been trying to translate its dreams into reality with an indomitable will. For the team, every passing moment has been a lesson for its hope for future where 'equity and dignity to tribal lives is a norm.' ASDS primarily works with 'NATWAN SANGHAM,' a tribal federation of 112 grassroots women groups and individuals, on wide-ranging issues, encompassing agriculture, education, gender, health, natural resources management, etc., for holistic development of tribal communities.

Despite the phenomenal successes in several spheres of human endeavor: economic, social, cultural, political, scientific and technological, marginalized tribal communities continue to reel under inhumane living conditions, feel helpless and powerless under discriminatory socio-economic and political systems. The challenges of poverty, of hunger and malnutrition, of disease and death, of unequal distribution of wealth, of unfair sharing of resources, of the lack of opportunity affect their basic securities. ASDS, therefore, shares the following vision and mission; the sources of its spirit and those guide its basic orientations in the development path

Vision

Equity, dignity and improved quality of life on a sustainable basis is the social reality for empowered tribal communities

Mission

Community organization and social capital building of tribal communities to exercise their rights to fight against discrimination, dehumanizing poverty, oppressive class and caste system, violation of basic human rights and eco degradation.

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Deccan Development Society, Hyderabad

Indian Environment Society, New Delhi

Indian Institute of Health and Family Welfare, Hyderabad

Gramya, Secunderabad

Governmental and Semi-Governmental Organizations

Department of Science and Technology, GoI, New Delhi

National Afforestation and Eco Development Board,

Ministry of Environment, GoI, New Delhi

AP Forest Department, GoAP

District Rural Development Agency, Khammam

Integrated Tribal Development Agency, Bhadrachalam

CAPART, GoI

*While expressing our heartfelt thanks to our supporters,
we welcome contributions, suggestions, concepts and critiques from all,
who share its philosophy and concerns.*

STATUTORY REGISTRATIONS

APSR ACT 1860 ; Regd No 7/85
FCRA 1976 V/S 6(1)(a) 010250100



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