



# RURAL AND ENVIRONMENT DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY (REDS)

Annual Report  
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## Single women welfare programme

REDS is a staunch supporter of women in need of care and support for the needy women who are under vulnerable conditions. Several activities have been continued by REDS to support the single women both towards supporting them financially, and also to create sustainable income for them to enable them to feel secure.



## PENSIONS TO THE SINGLE WOMEN

This activity is to financially support the single women that who have not received pensions from the Government, we have conducted a survey and submitted a list to the government for sanction of pensions to the single women.

In the meantime, with the support of our staunch supporters, who have visited and understood the situation of these single women, we have disbursed a financial support Rs.1000/- per member per month in both Anantapur and Kadiri divisions. The support is extended to a total of 38 Women for a period of one year, i.e., 30 from Ananthapur and 8 from Kadiri.

## CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR SINGLE WOMEN:

With the support of CWS, Secunderabad, REDS organized a Capacity Building Workshop for single women in the IMA hall, Anantapur, on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2019, was attended by a total of 85 women, from 10 mandals of the district. The women were from the categories of (1) Destitute and survival of violence, (2) Suicide committed farmers wives; and (3) Women taking the responsibility of running the family.

The dignitaries in the workshop included Dr. Lakshmi Narayana from CWS, Ms. Kavitha Kuruganti from MAKAAAM, Dr. Prasuna, Ms. Sudha Rani from KVK, Ms. Rajyalakshmi from APSSDC, Mr. Murali from ICPS, Ms. Vimala, and staff members of REDS. This programme has helped the to under about different organizations and departments which are working for the welfare of the women and single women.

- CWS is initiating various programmes for the betterment of women, formation of single women groups, and strengthening of District Level Federation, membership, and converge them into a state level Network.
- Krishi Vignana Kendra is organizing trainings improve technical skills of women in farming, and towards augmentation of their livelihoods to lead their life with self-respect without depending on others.
- APSSDC is providing various skill-based training programmes for educated, under-educated and uneducated women to create employment / livelihood, at free of cost.
- A Federation can access different types of supports like financial support, establishing marketing linkages etc.
- The Rights of the single women with examples from different states like Karnataka, Kerala, and Rajasthan etc. were illustratively explained. They were educated to fight for their Rights which are constitutional, and are their right to enjoy.
- MS. Vanajakshi from Kamarupalli, Ms.Ruksana from Kadiri and Nagamma from Penakacherla shared the problems the single women are facing in the present society. They explained that single women are considered as orphans and if husband dies or deserts the women. They are treated as they are good for nothing.
- ICPS is extending support to women of different age groups starting from pregnant woman to senior citizens (women).
- Information regarding the eligibility criteria to join the children of single woen into the Government Schools / Hostels etc., has also been understood.

- At the end of the programme, Ms. Kavitha Kuraganti has extended a support of Rs.1000/- per month, for those single women who have not received financial support from the government, till date. At the end of the workshop 25 identified women were given financial support of Rs.1000/- each.





## Collective farming – Livelihoods for Single women

Collective farming is a concept of providing support to the single women and women under vulnerable conditions. REDS involved them in farm-based activities. REDS has initiated different activities under this programme.



**PUDAMI THALLI Collective Farming:** This is an initiative taken up by REDS for the benefit of Sing Women. As a part of supporting the single women in Talupur village of Atmakur Mandal in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh an innovative concept of collective farming with single women farmers has been taken up by REDS.

A total of 10 such women were identified and formed into a group. This group was named as “Pudami Thalli Women Farmers’ Group”. An 8 acres of agricultural land was identified as feasible, as the land was left out uncultivated by him for the past several years. This land is taken on lease for implementing this programme. Every woman will be fully dedicating 3 days for the land in one-month period.

Natural Farming Method of agriculture was followed in this land. The tradition of intercropping in this land was also taken up with crops like Maize, greens and vegetables, millets like Ragi (Finger millet) etc. This helps in ensuring food security for these families. The group has also cultivated paddy in this field. The women were trained in the Natural farming techniques – viz., preparation of organic manures and pest repellents. Seed treatment is done with Beejamrutham, mulching the land with dry leaves and spraying of Jeevamrutha etc.

The beneficiaries of the farm will be sharing the produce among themselves for their domestic use, thereby assuring food security for these families.





## POSHAN ABHIYAN

In response to the Government of India's initiative, REDS collaborated with Women & Child welfare department, conducted awareness campaigns as a part of Nutrition Week and Poshan Abhiyan in the Anganwaadi centers in 20 villages. The entire campaign focussed in creating awareness on nutritional food with specific reference to the intake of millets and pulses in the daily life.



The main objective of this programme is to create awareness among pregnant women, children about nutritious food to protect our health by millets & pulses.

The organization aimed at educating the participants on various Nutritional Aspects and also to promote the healthy foods items by using millets and pulses which are cultivated by adopting the Natural Farming Process.

REDS has set up stalls exhibiting the packets of value added Millets and Pulses along with banners which display the nutritional aspects in these grains. In all these events a slot of allocated to REDS to speak about Food and Nutrition, and the nutritional aspects in the millets and pulses which help in the healthy growth of human beings with specific reference to children and women. It also included educating the participants about the amount of usefulness in controlling several common diseases now prevailing among us, viz., Diabetes, Blood Pressure, Anemia; and it also prevents them. **A brief account of these meetings cum awareness camps is given below**

Place	Details
<p><b>14<sup>th</sup> August 2019:</b> SINGANAMALA A stall, of value added Millets and Pulses, was set up by REDS</p>	<p>Participated in the mandal level programme. This programme was organized by the district authority to distribute seed to the farmers in the Mandal. The chief guest included Mr. Satyanarayana, IAS, District Collector, Anantapur, MLA, Singamala, Mr. M. Sankar Narayana, MLA, Penukonda, Joint Director Agriculture. Other prominent participants included officials from Agriculture Department, and staff of REDS.</p>
<p><b>15<sup>th</sup> August 2019:</b> ANANTAPUR A stall was set up by REDS</p>	<p>on the eve of celebration of Indian Independence day, a grand Independence Day Celebration was organized in the Police Parade Ground, Anantapur. The chief guests included the MP, MLAs of Anantapur and Singanamala, District Collector, Superintendent of Police, Joint Director – Agriculture, Police Force (staff), general public. Staff of REDS and other NGOs. People from different parts of Anantapur District also participated in this event.</p>
<p><b>6<sup>th</sup> September 2019:</b> Kuderu ICDS Office, Kudair mandal</p>	<p>POSHAN ABHIYAN was organized at Kuderu ICDS Office. REDS has set up an exhibition of Millets and Pulses, to educate the participants on the Nutritional aspects with specific reference to including of Millets, Pulses, Greens and Vegetables in their daily food intake.</p> <p>The chief guests included Mr. Subbaraju, Addl. Joint Collector, Mrs. Sudha Rani, Scientist from KVK, Reddipalli, Ms. Sreedevi, CDPO, ICDS, Kuderu. Among the other participants were the Anganwadi workers of Kuderu Project, and Mr. Narasimhulu Naik, Ms. Anitha, Ms. Jaysree, Ms.</p>

Place	Details
	Shahanaz – the staff of REDS, and women representatives of Women FPO promoted by REDS.
<b>11<sup>th</sup> September 2019:</b> 4 villages of <b>Kadiri mandal</b> REDS participated in village-level / Anganwadi centre level meetings	Participated in the village level programmes organized at the anganwadi centres in Somayajulapalli, Veparalla, Samalagondi, Kurumaamidi, villages. Explained about various nutritional aspects.
<b>19<sup>th</sup> September, 2019:</b> <b>TANAKALLU</b> Participated in the Poshan Abhiyan awareness meeting.	Participated in the Poshan Abhiyan programme organized by ICDS in the MPDO complex of Tanakallu mandal. This meeting was attended by the MPDO, MRO, CDPO, Anganwadi workers, ASHA Workers and the staff of REDS.
<b>20<sup>th</sup> September, 2019:</b> <b>ANANTAPUR</b> Organized and participated in the 1000 Days Child Health Care Rally was organized by ICDS in Anantapur.	Participated in the 1000 Days Care Rally organized by ICDS in Anantapur town.  REDS has participated in this rally in which adolescent students have participated in large number holding the Poshan Abhiyan Banners and shouting slogans on their right to have Nutritional Food. The rally concluded at the Clock Tower in Anantapur town. The children were explained about the concept of food and nutrition, constituents of a balanced diet etc.
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> September 2019:</b> <b>ANANTAPUR</b> A stall, of value-added Millets and Pulses, was set up by REDS	Participated in the Mega event to promote Millets and Pulses organized in Kamma Bhavan, where Dr. Khader Vali was the chief guest. He explained about the importance and nutritional values of millets and pulses in the daily diet of the family.
<b>27<sup>th</sup> September 2019:</b> <b>KURUGUNTA - Atmakur mandal</b>	Collaborated with Women and Child Welfare Dept., Medical department, Agriculture department etc. in organizing the Mega Event on Poshan Abhiyan. The chief-guests of the event were Mr. Satya Narayana, District Collector, Anantapur; Mr. T. Prakash Reddy, MLA; Mr. Nagi Reddy, Agriculture Mission Vice Chairman; Mission members Mr. Malla Reddy, and Mr. Rajaram; the Joint Director of Agriculture. Other participants were District Medical Officers, Doctors, ASHA workers, WD & C Welfare Department CDPOs, Anganwadi workers, Ms. Bhanuja Chief Functionary, REDS and Staff members, and several villagers who included single women, women members from the suicide farmer families, pregnant and lactating women. The participants included women from 5 surrounding mandals – i.e., Talapur, Vaddupalli, and Goridindla Kodimi and Kamarupalli.

Place	Details
	Household Indent was prepared for supply of Millets at 50% subsidy plan. During this meeting itself REDS has supplied the same to 82 families - with 8 types of items in both flour and grain forms. The balance of 50% cost was borne by the organization.
<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019:</b>  <b>KUMMARAVANDLAPALLI</b>  Kadiri mandal  A stall, of value-added Millets and Pulses, was set up by REDS</p>	<p>Participated in the event organized in the Gramasachivalayam,</p> <p>Dr. P V Sidda Reddy, MLA Kadiri; Sri Satyanarayana ADA&amp; Special Officer; Sri Ramesh MPDO Kadiri; the MRO; and Ms. Bhanuja Chief Functionary, REDS, were the chief guests for this meeting.</p>
<p><b>11<sup>th</sup> October, 2019:</b>  <b>TALAPUR</b> (Atmakur Mandal) &amp;  <b>KADIRI</b> town</p>	<p>Organized a rally on Poshan Abhiyan and the International Girl Child Day was also celebrated, Information related to 1000 days of Poshan Abhiyan was explained to them.</p> <p>A Rally with the school children organized by REDS in Talapur village. The school Headmaster Mr. Sai Prasad, and the teachers Ms. Sreedevi, Mr. V. Nagabhushanam, Mr. Venkatesulu, and the staff of REDS along with school children, women farmers and a few parents have participated in this event.</p> <p>Rally was organized in Kadiri Girls High School explaining the same theme.</p>
<p><b>14<sup>th</sup> October, 2019:</b>  <b>BATHALAPALLI</b> - Kadiri mandal; Participated in the VO meeting</p>	<p>Explained about Nutritional aspects and use of millets and pulses to V O leaders, SHG leaders and Animators coming from 16 SHGs.</p>
<p><b>15<sup>th</sup> October, 2019:</b>  <b>ANANTAPUR &amp; in KADIRI</b></p> <p>Participated in the Rythu Bharosa programme</p>	<p>Participated in the Rythu Bharosa programme organized in the Arts College Exhibition Grounds of Anantapur, and in Kadiri town which was organized in the Agriculture Research Station, Kadiri.</p> <p>The chief guests included Sri Anantha Venkatarami Reddy, MLA, Anantapur and Sri. Vennupusa Gopal Reddy, MLC, Anantapur. Among other prominent invitees were Mr. Venkataprasad, Agriculture Officer; Mr. Gurumurthy, Special Officer; Staff from Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and other line departments from Anantapur.</p>
<p><b>19<sup>th</sup> October 2019</b>  <b>RDT stadium</b>  <b>ANANTAPUR</b>  Participated in the Nyaya Seva Shibiram.</p>	<p>Participated in the Nyaya Seva Shibiram, organized in the RDT Stadium, Anantapur and set up a Millets and Pulses stall. Among the chief guest were the District Collector, Anantapur; the District Judge, Anantapur; and the Joint Collector,</p>

Place	Details
A stall, of value-added Millets and Pulses, was set up by REDS	Anantapur, where REDS also participated by setting up a stall to educate the participants on Nutritional aspects.
<b>26<sup>th</sup> October, 2019:</b> <b>KADIRI</b> Awareness meeting was held during the GB meeting.	Participated in the General Body Meeting of the FPO which was organized in the Market yard premises. Information about food grains that are available, the negative impact of various chemical fertilizers and pesticides, how these chemicals are impacting on the human bodies, harming the environment around us. Through distribution of nutrition related reading material, REDS has provided them with information on healthy food – the constituents of healthy food – micro-nutrients, mineral and vitamins etc.
<b>6<sup>th</sup> November, 2019:</b> <b>MALLAIAHGARI PALLI,</b> Kadiri mandal Participated in the VO meeting	Participated in the General Body Meeting of the FPO which was organized in Mallaiahgari palli village. Pamphlets and other literature related to food and nutrition were distributed to the participants. Information related to Food and Nutrition, and the importance of proper diet in the development of human body – both physically and mental was discussed.
<b>7<sup>th</sup> November 2019:</b> Masanampeta, Kadiri mandal Participated in the VO meeting.	Participated in the VO meeting which was organized in the village. Explained about the importance of Millets in their daily food intake and their nutritional values towards the healthy growth – both physically and mentally.
<b>12<sup>th</sup> November 2019:</b> <b>Kadiri</b> Participated in the VO meeting	REDS participated in the VO meeting which was organized in the Municipal Office, Gandhi Nagar in Kadiri. This meeting was attended by the women members of the VO. REDS participated in this meeting and explained the participants about Poshan Abhiyan, and the concept of taking of nutritional food.
<b>14<sup>th</sup> November, 2019:</b> <b>KUTAGULLA,</b> Kadiri mandal – participated in the school level meeting	Participated in the School meeting and explained about the nutritional aspects of Millets and Pulses to the students, and also about the importance of taking nutritional food.
<b>20<sup>th</sup> November, 2019:</b> <b>KOLEPALLI</b> in Kadiri mandal Participated in the College level meeting.	Poshan Abhiyan campaign was organized in SV Junior College at Kolepalli in Kadirimandal. The Principal and the lecturers of the college were present along with the REDS staff and students of the college. The students were explained about the nutritional values in their daily intake and the concept of balanced diet.





## A PUBLIC DIALOGUE: On “Child Trafficking Free India”

As a part of prevention and abolition of **Child Trafficking** a Public Dialogue was conducted by REDS, on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2020. This was organized in collaboration with **Kailash Satyarthi Foundation**, in IMA Hall, Anantapuram

The objective of this programme was to focus on the action need to be taken to ensure a “Child Trafficking Free India”. It was a part of the Nation-wide Public Dialogue to focus on the issues of Child Trafficking and Child Abuse & Rape Free India. It is also aimed at focusing on the Present Situation, Prevention and Implementation of Acts related to Children and women.

The participants included Intellectuals from different parts of the District, Survivors of trafficking, victims of abuse, Students, Advocates, women farmers, single women, Activists, Police, and staff of REDS from Anantapuram and Kadiri.

Ms. Bhanuja, Chief Functionary of REDS, inaugurated the event and explained about the Human trafficking, Child Abuse issues taking place in the society these days. She also briefed on the rescue operations carried out by REDS, in convergence with the line departments. Loopholes in the Laws & Acts which need to be rectified were also discussed during this event.



Mr. Venkaiah, representative of APCRAF, Vijayawada explained about activities to create awareness among the public on child related issues, child Rights, and about various Laws and Acts to safeguard the Rights, Security & Protection of children and women; and about the lapses in the implementation part. He also appreciated the efforts of Kailash Satyarthi Foundation (KSF) to do advocacy with elected representatives in parliament and Assembly, against violence on women.



Mr. Ramanajneyulu, A.S.P., and Ms. Savitri, from AIDWA, focused on several issues which are leading to the activities like trafficking, in Anantapur district, in general, and in Kadiri area, in particular. They also insisted about Human values and the responsibility of parents, and teachers, in teaching the children about the morals, value and traditions right from their childhood days.



Ms. Ramadevi, one of the survivors of trafficking, narrated her own sufferings – from getting married at an early age of 12 years, being cheated by a woman from her own village, trafficked to Bheewandi, sold, tortured and harassed to enter into the flesh business. She also explained about her rescued by REDS Team in coordination with the line departments. She explained that she had a lot of sufferings, before she got united with her family.



Ms. Meena, and Mrs. Alivelamma, a few participants have faced different types of trauma from the society have also shared their experiences with the gathering.

Mr. Rangaiah, Member of Parliament, Anantapuram constituency, promised to put these issues for discussion in the parliament to ban such of those apps that negatively influence the youth and increase crimes. He assured that he will do every effort towards welfare of senior citizens, pensions for them, and widow pension also. He expressed his concern that human trafficking is the most inhuman issues these days. He said that the vulnerable community are easily trapped in the hands of traffickers. Grama Sachivalayam will be very useful to prevent trafficking and also can create awareness among the people in the villages, promote and strengthen the vigilance committees in the villages. He requested to report any such cases in the local police station so that timely and stringent action can be taken against the culprits. He also spoke about the “Jogini System” which is prevailing in some part of Kalyanadurgam and Rayadurgam Mandals, where the women are treated as Community property, and deprived of their Right to lead a respectful and selective life. He emphasized that serious efforts should be put to change the society in this regard.



Dr. Subhramanyam, DCPO – ICPS, and Mr. Krishnamachari, District Coordinator, Childline 1098, Anantapur explained that the government of Andhra Pradesh is very keen towards the safety and security of women and children. In this context he explained about DISHA act it was far med by AP govt we all know about POCSO act, and Nirbhaya acts. He explained that the existing One Stop Centre is now termed as DISHA centre.



Mr. Ramachandra is a trainer in the DM & HO office, Anantapur. He has got an excellent insight about several medico-legal cases, PCPNDT Act, and about the social attitude. He also focused on the declining ratio of girls due to gender scanning, followed by abortions, if the child in the womb is confirmed as a girl child. He warned that sex-determination tests are illegal for which the persons and/or institutions involved have to face severe legal actions.



Ms. Balasundari, Advocate, explained about the procedural aspects to take legal support from the Police as a part of supporting the well-being of the children. She systematically explained the process of filing a case – i.e., FIR, Charge-sheet, submission of Medical Reports and also about the court procedures.



To conclude the event, all the honorable guests and other intellectuals expressed their anguish about the conditions of the vulnerable communities who are severely affected due to trafficking, and the later on consequences. They all called on to intensify efforts to impart awareness about child trafficking, abuse to build a Rape Free India.



## Zero-Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF)

ZBNF programme is aimed at cultivating the fields adopting to Natural Farming and Organic Farming methods, wherein the farming inputs can be brought down to zero or without any cost inputs.



**Zero-Budget Natural Farming** is being implemented by REDS in Talapur cluster of Atmakur Mandal, and Muthyalacheruvu Cluster of Kadiri mandal.

As a part of this programme 5 panchayaths, viz., Talapur, Vaddipalli, Kodimi, Kamarupalli and Kurugunta are covered covering a total of 5 villages. In case of Muthyalacheruvu cluster, 3 panchayths, viz., Muthyalacheruvu, Eguvapalli, and Brahmanapalli are covered covering a total of 22 villages.

In Talapur cluster there are 7 VOs with 181 SHGs formed whereas there are 9 VOs in Muthyalacheruvu cluster having 174 SHGs.

In **Talapur** cluster, the programme is focusing on 1873 covering a total land of 8327 acres. Out of this a total of 459 farmers are adopting to ZBNF technique of farming covering 403.50 acres. The programme has evolved 102 seed to seed farmers and 357 partial farmers. Total PoP families in the cluster are 223.

In **Muthyalacheruvu** cluster, the programme is focusing on 769 covering a total land of 1467.43 acres. Out of this a total of 492 farmers are adopting to ZBNF technique of farming covering 570.10 acres. The programme has evolved 99 seed to seed farmers and 393 partial farmers. Total PoP families in the cluster are 68.

Different methods farming like 5-Layer method was implemented in both the clusters. In case of Talapur cluster 8 farmers have been involved in 5-Layer method of farming whereas in Muthyalachruvu 4 farmers have taken up this farming.

As a part of the programmes, trainings to Cluster team staffs, active farmers, master farmers, VFF/CFF Leaders and local exposures were done. A total of 74 Pico-Projection were done in Talapur cluster, and 51 in Muthyalacheruvu cluster.

REDS has developed 98 Lead / Active farmers in Talapur cluster, and 32 in Muthyalacheruvu clusters. Similarly, 43 Master farmers in Talapur and 17 in Muthyala cheruvu clusters are developed. A total of 11 CRPs are developed in Talapur cluster whereas 5 are developed in Muthyalacheruvu cluster.

Dry sowing was taken up in the fields of 15 farmers in Talapur cluster, whereas in the fields of 6 farmers in Muthyalacheruvu cluster. The type of mulching material used is groundnut shell, paddy husk, Leaves of Bajra leaf etc.

Livelihood support Fund (LSF) was received by 6 groups in Muthyalacheruvu cluster.



Opening of Information Center: Muthyalacheruvu

## Other Activities, Celebrations and Events

REDS, in association with AID is working on the issues of families of farmer suicides in both Anantapur and Kadapa districts. The main objective of this programme is to support and educate the farmers so that they can get all the benefits and entitlements they are supposed to get from different welfare schemes and programme initiated by the Government. During the period under reporting documents of 51 farmers have been submitted in the agriculture office for getting benefits under Rythu Bharosa scheme.

In the past, Tangedu Kunta village of Obuladevara Cheruvu mandal 405 farmers who have been cultivating the Sothriyam lands have been issued with LEC cards. However, during this year, the bankers have refused to give any agricultural loan and have not even renewed the existing loans which were taken during the previous year. Therefore, so the villagers were called to the Anantapur District Collector's Office and submitted their memorandum to the district collector requesting for the renewal of bank loans.

Ex-gratia due from the years 2014 to 2019 for families in which the incident of farmer suicides have occurred. An ex-gratia of Rs.5,00,000 for the old cases, and Rs.7,00,000 for the new cases has been sanctioned.

REDS helped the farmers in the preparation of 13 requisite documents seeking ex-gratia. The farmers have filed petitions in DLSA, Anantapur and requested the District Collector, and the Judge of DLSA to investigate the cases and do justice to them. A meeting was also conducted in this regard, and the District Collector, Anantapur assured due action for the grieved and eligible candidates.

The Agriculture Department is coordinating with farmers in the Atmakur zone towards the Rejuvenation of the millets and pulses. A total of 100 farmers have got benefitted under this programme during Rabi sowing season, as they were supplied with Ragi (foxtail millet) and Andukorra seed.

Similarly during the Khariff season, a total of 269 farmers were benefitted with the supply of 6 varieties of Millets being taken-up for sowing in 484.7acres of land.

**Community Managed Seed System (CMSS):** In Anantapur district, 80 percent of farmers are dependent on rainfed farming, and the main crop is groundnut. REDS coordinated with the government department to ensure that quality groundnut seed is supplied to the farmers at 75% subsidy so that the farmers will get benefitted. This seed was again supplied to the farmers, through REDS promoted FPO, for sowing in their lands.

**Promotion and strengthening of FPO:** As a part of strengthening the FPO and to ensure that the members feel the ownership of the FPO membership fee was made as a mandatory aspect. As on the time of reporting a membership fee of Rs.11,660/- was collected from 106 members of Talapuru, Vaddupalli and Goridindla, @ Rs.110/- per member.

The BoDs of the FPO were trained on the aspects of strengthening its activities and attain financial stability.

Nutritional Kits, basing on the choices the families, have been prepared and kept ready for sale in the FPO Office. These kits included – Jowar Flour, Ragi flour; Korra rice, Sama rice, Arika rice, Udara Rice,



Andu Korra rice. The combination of the kits was sold to the families when they come to purchase them.



**Awareness meeting and trainings:**

Awareness meeting was organized in PHC campus on **and** camps on different land based activities, Agricultural entitlements

and livelihoods in Kurugunta village on 27.09.2019 with 200 participants i.e., FPO members, ASHA & Anganwadi workers, 70 pregnant women, Align Departments etc.,



chief guests Hon'ble dist collector, Vice Chairperson- AP State Agri Mission, local MLA etc., awareness on Millet and nutritious food, ICDS services, Millet cultivation & processing etc., Awareness given on 'Poshan Abhiyan' by Align Depts. Demo on Millets food preparation. Representation given to Dist collector, MLA and Vice Chairman on Issuance of processing units and place and also exgratio for families to suicide committed farmers.

**Supply of Cows:** As a part of creating alternative income generation for the beneficial families with the support of ISKON, 13 families have received Desi cows. These cows are taken care by the owners of the animals.

**Setting up of Seed Bank & NPM Shop:** A Seed Bank was set up in Kurugunta village with 26.08 quintals of 13 varieties of Millets and pulses

seeds. The worth of the seed made available is Rs.128975. In addition to this an agriculture Resource center is being set up in Talapur village

**Setting up of NPM Shop:** In the month of January two NPM shops are started one each in Talapur and Kurugunta village. This shop also serves as a Seed Bank.

**Support to Economically poor farmers:** Towards promoting farming in the fields of poor farmers, and to reduce the input costs in agriculture, Millets and Navadhanya seed was supplied to 44 members on subsidized price.

From the seed bank, 88 farmer members, coming from 3 villages, i.e., Talapur, Vaddupalli and Goridindla were supplied with Millets and Navadhanya seeds. This seed was supplied to them at 50% subsidized rate.

**Promotion of Kitchen Garden:** Awareness was given to Landless women on kitchen gardens and their importance. As a part of promoting kitchen gardens, 106 members from 3 villages, i.e., Talapur, Vaddupalli, and Goridindla, were supplied with kitchen garden kits containing 10 varieties of seed.

In addition to this awareness camps were conducted to the High School Children & teachers on Nutritious food, health & hygiene, distributed 2 sets of vegetable seeds to them on free of cost. Awareness on Health and Hygiene on anemia, ICDS services and education with collaboration of line Departments

On 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020 a training was organized on Natural Farming concept and the advantages of natural farming techniques. Taking up of Kitchen Gardens using Natural Farming techniques was also explained in detail. A total of 80 kitchen garden sets were supplied to the women farmers of 4 villages.

**Food Security to the vulnerable families:** As a part of Food Security every month we are providing kits comprising of Value addition millets grain & flours on subsidized prices

**Millets Grading & Dal machines installation:** Mobile Millets grading machine was purchased, and its extending its services as per the requirements in this area.

**HORTICULTURE PROMOTION: An initiative for sustainable income by SAYTREE FOUNDATION:**



Say Trees is an agency working on plantation and in the promotion of horticultural plantation for the support of small and marginal farmers so that they can make a sustainable income generation. In collaboration with REDS, the foundation has supplied a total of 42,000 fruit bearing plants, of 8 different varieties. These plants were supplied to farmers in Talapur,



Vaddupalli, Kamarupalli, Kodimi and Kurugunta villages, for plantation in their landholdings. The plants are planted and are grown with ZBNF concept, i.e., without using any chemical fertilizers and pesticides. REDS has also promoted water saving techniques by Programme. The plant varieties included Sweet Orange; Guava; Jamoon; Anjoor;

Mango; and Sapota.

## DEVELOPING BIODIVERSITY BLOCKS: A programme to revive the local seed varieties



Among the 8 FPOs promoted and successfully run by REDS, Anantha Rural Women Farmers Producers Mutual Cooperative Society Ltd. Kurugunta is one of the most successful one. As a part of developing Biodiversity blocks, the agricultural field, which is taken on lease and being cultivated by 10 single women is selected for implementing the activities.



The main objective of biodiversity field is to revive the seeds of the natural agriculture.

Passport data has been prepared for the seeds collected by the farmers in the district and we have graded and packed the seeds. Later arranged for a demonstration at the single women's farm at BDB plot in Kurugunta. The programme was named as 'Vittana Panduga' (Seed Festival) which was attended by AF



Ecology Center Director and State Agriculture Mission members Mr. Malla Reddy, State Agriculture Mission members Mr. Rajaram, ZBNF DPM Mr. Lakshmanayak, REDS Director Bhananuja, farmers and FPO members.

Each acre of land was divided into 72 bits, and the selectively collected 60 varieties of seeds were sown in the BDB plot. Plant varieties like drumstick, Ridge-guard, , pumpkin etc., were planted on the gutter, and the border crop like Black sorghum and sajja (Bajra).



The BDB members were given trainings on the usefulness of the BDB and about how to prepare passport data for seeds from farmers. They were also trained in four-wheeled concept of farming which is the basic pillars of natural agriculture. Similarly, preparation of Bhijamrutam, Jeevamritam, were also demonstrated to the trainees.

