



VCF

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018



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VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Background

In August 2015, VCF signed an MoU with the Government of Andhra Pradesh to work on multi-thematic development in 265 Gram Panchayats of Vijayawada Parliamentary Constituency (VPC). The Trusts conducted one of the largest micro-planning assessments in the country that included 265 Gram Panchayats and subsequently developed extensive Village Development Plans (VDPs). The VDPs were presented to executives and decision-makers from various levels of Government including the CM's office, the planning department, and the district administration. The Trusts also took the responsibility of executing the plans for the development of these villages and making them as Adarsa Grams (Model Villages) with the help of Local, District, and State Government departments.

Objective

The primary objective of the project is to employ sustainable processes while implementing the VDPs in all the rural villages (265 GPs) located under Vijayawada Parliamentary Constituency (VPC) through a participatory and collaborative approach. It aims at improving basic amenities and services, social security, and the practice of good governance, to create model villages for replication across the country. By enabling capacity building and showcasing sustainable solutions for existing problems and strengthening of the local institutions in a participatory approach, these 265 villages are expected to be self-sustainable by 2020 through different interventions by the Project.

The project's goal is the comprehensive development of villages, focusing on a collaborative approach with people's participation in coordination with the concerned government departments on:

- Social Development activities
- Human Development Activities
- Economic and Environment activities
- Documenting the needs concerning Infrastructure development and submission to Government.

A Village Development Committee is a committee comprising of members from all areas of social, economic and gender spectrum of the village.

Project Inputs and Approach

In order to reach these goals, the Trusts have deployed 16 Mandal coordinators to expedite all developmental activities initiated in the region.

VCF has planned to develop 265 villages of VPC into Model villages in a phased manner. In the first phase, the Trusts has taken up 80 villages to make them model villages with a variety of developmental activities. The Trusts is planning to scale-up to include the remaining 185 villages in the 2nd and 3rd phases. Further, Mandal coordinators would liaison with various government departments to expedite developmental activities in VPC.

Important Stakeholders in the Project

Various stakeholders were involved to provide valuable inputs to make this project a success. While the District Administration is acting as a catalyst to make this project self-sustainable, Vijayavahini Charitable Foundation, an initiative of the Trusts, is implementing specific activities of the Project. Centre for Peoples Forestry (CPF), an NGO, is playing a crucial role in order to mobilize the community for developmental activities.

Timelines

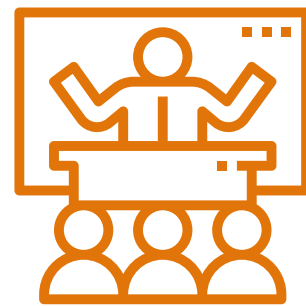
As of now, the Trusts have taken up 80 Gram Panchayats (GP) and are planning to replicate this to remaining GPs for a larger impact. By the end of 2018, the Trusts is planning to facilitate Village Development Committees in all GPs of VPC and eventually shape VPC as a Model constituency by the end of 2021.

Key Achievements



Village Development Committees

One of the key interventions by the Trusts is facilitating the formation of Village Development Committees (VDCs) to ensure the effective and focused functioning of local government authorities towards the development of the village. VDCs act as watchdogs for the program implementation by overseeing all the matters pertaining to the development of the villages. Their key function is to resolve problems with limited resources by taking the right decisions at the right time. VDC formation was facilitated in over 80 Gram Panchayats by the Trusts in the first phase.



Capacity Building Training Sessions

The Trusts have organized capacity building training sessions and field visits for Village Development Committee members to strengthen their awareness of rural development and social advancement. The objective was to present a first-hand understanding of local governance and the process of its improvement to the VDCs. They were intended to understand the importance of community mobilization and better utilization of the state and central government schemes that results in effective, equitable, and sustainable village development. They were further encouraged to develop innovative, technological, and economically sustainable solutions to cater the emerging developmental needs.

VDC members from 80 GPs were taken to Burugupudi by the Trusts for exposure visit which motivated them to participate in holistic developmental activities initiated by the Government and the Trusts.

The project's goal is to implement multi-faceted interventions for the all-round development of villages





Awareness Programs

Creating awareness among rural people is crucial for this sustainable model of development. The Trusts have been conducting many IEC/BCC activities on various themes like zero waste management, personal hygiene, cleanliness drive etc. During the year, the Trusts in collaboration with VDCs and local government bodies have conducted 240 IEC/BCC activities for developing behavior change and awareness generation interventions to ensure better outreach and the sustainability of interventions.

86

Waste management programs

54

Personal Hygiene programs

48

Clean and Green programs

21

Health programs

16

Education programs

15

Nutrition programs



Potable Drinking Water Facilities

Understanding the complex development challenge around fresh water supply, the Trusts focused on improving the access to drinking water and personal hygiene. Despite progressive and decentralized policies of Indian government towards water supply and its security, the vision often fails to get translated into action. Here the Trusts took the responsibility to design solutions according to the contexts and ensure effective execution.

The Trusts realized the determining parameter for the drinking water security lies in the community. The approach that was undertaken here promoted the management and local ownership of drinking water security plans at the community and household levels. Plans introduced were simple which could be implemented, monitored, and managed by the people and local government without much hassle.

An MoU was signed with the Government of Andhra Pradesh to develop the 265 Gram Panchayats of Vijayawada Parliamentary constituency into Adarsa Grams



Infrastructural Development

Despite the hard stance of the government to develop the infrastructure at villages, few gaps are prevailing in terms of basic infrastructure. To fill these gaps, the Trusts initiated a range of developmental activities across the 80 villages through VDCs of respective villages and partnered with Gram panchayats to provide gap funding for the development of physical infrastructure in 80 villages.

For the successful implementation of avenue plantations, the Trusts have provided tree guards and water cycles to the villages according to their requirements. To encourage solid waste management initiatives across the VPC, tricycles have been provided for waste collection.



Initiation of Nutritional Gardens

Gone are the days of imagining Anganwadi centres as small congested shacks where kids are left to a single caretaker and provided with bland meals. As part of the State Government's initiative, the Anna Amrutha Hastham Scheme is being implemented to combat malnutrition and cater the nutritious meal to pregnant women and lactating mothers.

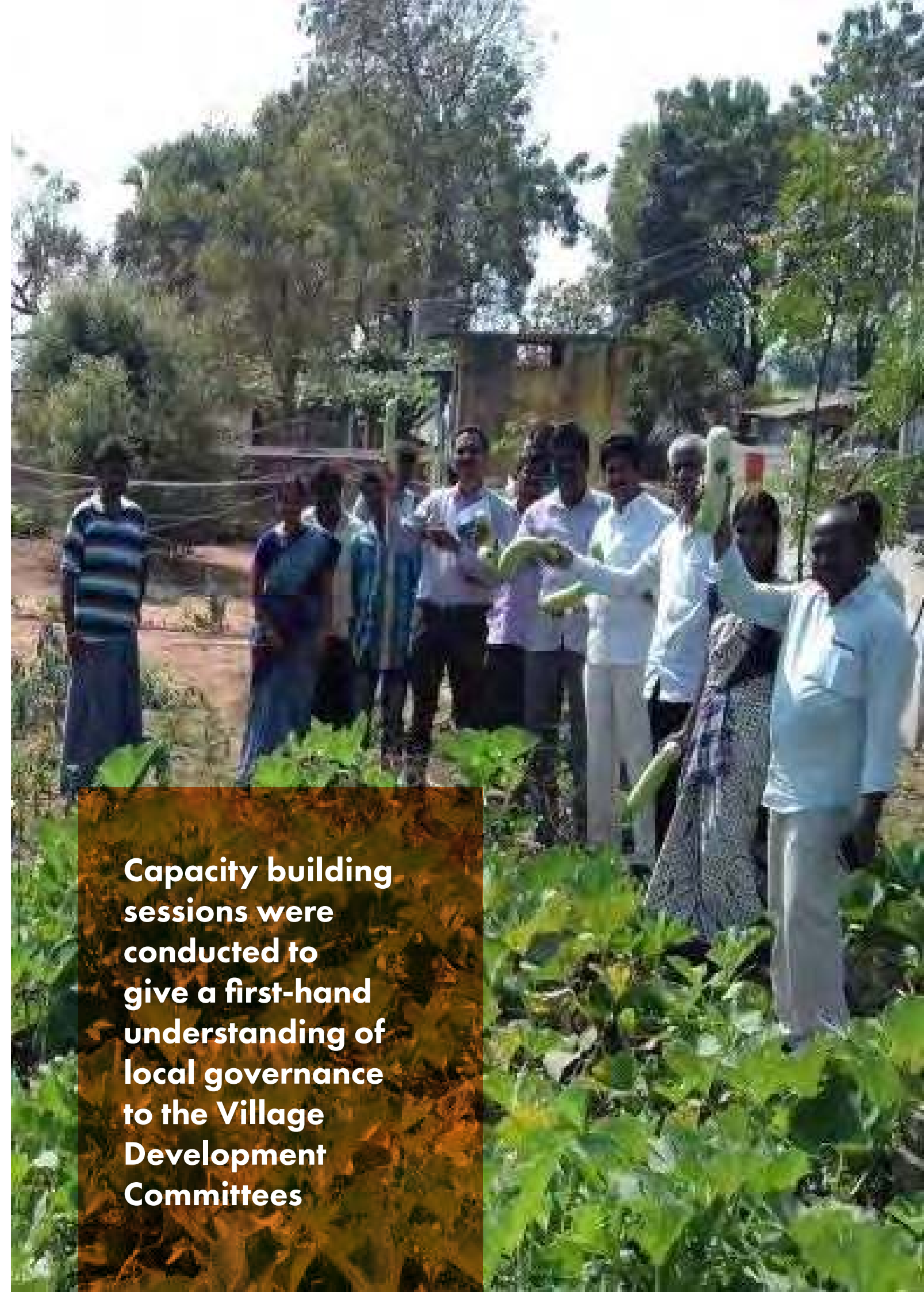
Keeping this in mind, the state government is contemplating to change the anganwadi centers into corporate playschools, where the kids would be seen wearing uniforms and the anganwadi centers would be equipped with colourful interiors. Additionally, the centers would be equipped with Nutri-Gardens too, where vegetables of all kinds would be cultivated.

Though the Nutri-garden initiative is an age-old practice in Anganwadi centers which failed for several reasons, it is now going to make a comeback in the centers across the district. Realizing its role in combating malnutrition among the children and pregnant women, the VCF team has taken up this initiative. The fresh vegetables and fruits grown in these gardens would be used to feed both children and women in respective Anganwadi centers. As of now, a total of 24 Nutritional gardens have been initiated by the Trusts with the help of Anganwadi staff and local village development committees in respective villages.



Monitoring of SWMPC Shed Construction Works

Solid waste management is one of the flagship programs for the government of Andhra Pradesh. The Trusts came forward to facilitate and monitor the SWMPC construction works and have completed 24 sheds to segregate dry and wet waste.



Capacity building sessions were conducted to give a first-hand understanding of local governance to the Village Development Committees

The Story of Jagannadhapuram

Introduction

Jagannadhapuram in Andhra Pradesh is a small village located approximately 20 Km from the Veerullapadu Mandal (tehsil) headquarters. It has nearly 250 households, with most of them depending on agriculture and daily labor for a living. The village had been neglected for many years, and owing to the poor literacy level, the villagers did not reach out to the government to seek any help.

Aim

Until the intervention of VCF in 2015, the people of Jagannadhapuram struggled for basic amenities like drinking water facility, total sanitation, and road connectivity to the district headquarters. The dire situation demanded a rescue in terms of facilities and financial support for the development of the village.

Objective

After understanding the concerns of the villagers, a thorough micro-planning was done to prepare a Village Development Plan (VDP) with the community's involvement. Taking the required permit from the authorities, The Trusts began its initiatives and facilitated various developmental activities aiming to make Jagannadhapuram a model village.

Action Plan

The people's VDP specified and verified that most of the villagers practiced open defecation as they couldn't afford the initial investment to construct toilets. The project facilitated construction of 46 model Individual Household Latrines (IHHLs) with all facilities, in a participatory manner. Behavior change communication (BCC) and Community-led Total Sanitation (CLTS) programs were also conducted in the village as there was a need to change the mindset of people. With persistent and consistent efforts, Jagannadhapuram has been declared an open defecation free (ODF) village. Similarly, the project team has ensured the provision of domestic water facility closer to home by building a 200m internal pipeline connection with a tap facility.

A village development committee has also been formed in Jagannadhapuram aiming to mobilize the community to deal with all kinds of issues. The eight-membered team meets once every month to discuss the problems prevailing in the village and proposes the action plans to resolve the issues.

According to Vemu Venkata Ravamma, the village sarpanch, "The Trusts' interventions have made our life easier and smoother. We can now approach the government authorities to seek help through the village development committee. We are so thankful to the Trusts for all these thoughtful initiatives."



Facilitated construction of 46 model Individual Household Latrines (IHHLs) with all facilities.

The community in Jagannadhapuram is backing every step of developmental activity initiated by VCF, the state, and the central governments. The experience of carrying out development projects here has proved that a village can be successfully led towards development only through community mobilization and the active participation of villagers in the program.



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Model Individual Household Latrines (IHLs) constructed with all facilities, in a participatory manner.

IMPACT IN NUMBERS

State	1
District	1
Mandals	16
Gram Panchayats	80
Households	90,000
Population	3,60,000

INNOVATIONS

Azolla Cultivation to improve Milk Production

The Trusts has been focusing on cattle development to improve the rural livelihoods of VPC. With the help of VDC members and community in Chandarlapadu, Azolla cultivation, a proven model by many agricultural scientists which contains high nutrient value than other fodders, is being piloted for better milk yield. Apart from this, it has the nature of fixing nitrogen in rice crop fields which makes Azolla a suitable bio-fertilizer and green manure in rice fields. The blue-green algae grown in symbiotic association with this fern are responsible for nitrogen fixation in the rice crop.

Having acquired positive results in this pilot, the Trusts are planning to replicate this model and expand to the remaining villages that would get benefitted.

Outcomes

- Through entry point activities, basic drain clean material was distributed to few panchayats to clear clogged drains systems in villages. By regular follow up with the sarpanch, drainage cleaning practice was inculcated among the community to reduce mosquito breeding
- Effective and clean utilization of the mini storage tanks and water pipe laying with tap connections has been achieved which were constructed by the project through co-contribution from the Panchayat
- There are about 8 vermicompost units built to individual households at Veerullapadu under MGNREGA, but the units were not in use for a long time. The project supported these households with vermi-worms and capacitated them to use vermicompost units. After converting vermicompost into manure for 2 months, the households are encouraged to sell manure to farmers and generate additional income. The farmers in the GP are now coming forward to use this manure in their fields for cultivation
- With the constant efforts of the Trusts in project villages, Nawabpeta came forward for the construction of water tank for potable water. Initially, they were reluctant to build storage tank but after consistent efforts, Gram panchayat mobilized money from all households and constructed a water storage tank which has benefitted 120 families. This shows how community involvement enhances the growth of that respective village

Constructed 11 mini storage tanks and provided water pipelines to 17 GPs.

Challenges

- Lack of responsibility by VDC members was observed as they are escaping involvement in developmental activities that are initiated by the Trusts and the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Citing various reasons, VDCs are not assuming responsibilities resulting in stunted village development
- Delay in release of funds to beneficiaries/lack of funds is pushing the community to participate more in private wage works than Government-supported wage-based village development activities

Future

After the successful interventions in 80 villages, the Trusts are planning to expand their interventions in remaining 165 villages of Vijayawada rural Parliamentary constituency with the support of local panchayats and state government to make it as a model constituency.



NUTRITION

Background

Nutrition is a core pillar of human development and well-nourished individuals tend to be healthy, productive, learn effectively, and contribute positively to the economy. Only a few challenges being faced by global community are as dreadful as malnutrition in terms of scale, a condition that affects one in three people (according to the Global Nutrition Report, 2017). Undernutrition represents a violation of children's right to survival, development, and the highest attainable standard of health. It is one of the major causes of mortality in children under the age of five, and an undernourished child is prone to death even from common illnesses like diarrhoea and pneumonia. With consistently high levels of undernutrition in the developing world, millions of lives are being lost, and many more millions of children are not growing and developing into healthy adults. Despite increased attention to undernutrition, nutritional deficiencies remain a devastating multifaceted problem affecting infants, young children, adolescent girls, and women. According to the Global Nutrition Report, 2017, about 35% to 50% of under-five deaths can be attributed to undernutrition.

According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) conceptual framework, the basic and underlying causes of undernutrition include the environmental, economic, and socio-political contextual factors, with poverty playing the central role. Poor children are less likely to receive adequate nutrition in the first years of life resulting in irreparable damage affecting a critical stage of physical and mental development, therefore reducing their productivity for rest of their lives and perpetuating the vicious cycle of poverty and hunger.



Introduction

Nutrition

According to National Family Health Survey – 4 (NFS-4), in Andhra Pradesh, 31% of children under age five are stunted, or too short for their age, which suggests a dire case of undernourishment for some time. 17% are wasted, or too thin for their height, which might have resulted from inadequacy in recent food intakes or a recent illness. Taking chronic and acute undernutrition into consideration, one third of the children are underweight. The situation is especially severe in the case of rural children.

Infant Feeding

Although breastfeeding is almost universal in Andhra Pradesh, only 40 % of children under 6 months of age had breastfeeding as their exclusive food source. In addition, only 58 % are put to the breast within the 3 hours of the birth, including 25 % who started breastfeeding in the first hour of life, which means that numerous infants are deprived of the highly nutritious first milk (colostrum) and the antibodies it contains. It is recommended that nothing be given to children other than breast milk in the first three days when the milk has not begun to flow regularly. However, 43 percent of children are fed something other than breast milk during that period. WHO offers three recommendations for infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices for children 6-23 months old: continued breastfeeding or feeding with appropriate calcium-rich foods if not breastfed; feeding solid or semi-solid food for a minimum number of times per day according to age and breastfeeding status; and including foods from a minimum number of food groups per day according to breastfeeding status. However, in Andhra Pradesh, only 6.5 percent of children aged 6-23 months are receiving an adequate diet and overall, only 7.6 percent are receiving an adequate diet.

According to the Global Nutrition Report, 2017, about 35% to 50% of under-five deaths can be attributed to undernutrition.

PRESENT CONTEXT

The new State of Andhra Pradesh has its agenda set to improving the nutritional status of women and children. The government has established Social Empowerment Mission and has embarked on a mission to fight malnutrition on war-footing. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has inaugurated State Nutrition Mission in July 2016 and is committed to creating malnutrition-free Andhra Pradesh. In this context, there is an opportunity to demonstrate at rapid scale improvement in the nutritional status of women and children and arrest malnutrition in all its forms.

Moreover, State level initiatives such as Mana Bhavitha (erstwhile Maarpu Program) signifies the convergence efforts by the Health, Women Development & Child Welfare, Panchayati Raj and Rural Development departments working alongside Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and their federations to bring a quick decline in the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR), and Malnutrition

Aim

The VCF is extending its support to Govt. of India as well as the States in the implementation of the nutrition-related initiatives targeted for building a robust Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) system with a fair and transparent service delivery mechanism to arrest malnutrition, undernutrition in all its forms.

Objective

The objective of ICDS System Strengthening and Nutrition Improvement Project (ISSNIP) is to support the Government of India and participating states to

- Strengthen the ICDS policy framework, systems, and capacities, and facilitate community engagement to ensure a greater focus on children under three years of age
- Strengthen convergent actions for improved nutrition outcomes
- Prevent the leakages in the delivery of services and ensuring proper delivery to the targeted beneficiaries
- Create nutritional awareness among the people and make them utilize the services of ICDS system through Anganwadi centers
- To arrest the malnutrition, undernutrition in all its forms and provide the children an opportunity to grow up to their full potential and live a healthy and productive life in the future

Inputs

The Trusts is extending its support to the Govt. of India and the States in strengthening the ICDS system. The Trusts is constantly advocating with Govt. for better implementation of the project initiatives like fortification of salt, milk, and rice. The Trusts provided fingerprint authenticated biometric devices to prevent leakages in the delivery mechanism. The Trusts is now aimed at the refurbishment of anganwadi centers and the establishment of model anganwadis.

VCF is extending its support to Govt. of Andhra Pradesh for building a robust Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) system.

31% of children under age five are stunted, or too short for their age, which suggests a dire case of undernourishment for some time.

Stakeholders:

VCF' Role

The Trusts has been working with Andhra Pradesh government in improving the quality of life of citizens through multi-thematic interventions since 2015. In general, cooperation between state and non-state organizations on malnutrition has been limited. Nutrition is the joint responsibility of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and National Health Mission (NHM) and they may work together at village level AWCs, but they function as separate independent systems in terms of authority and accountability. With this background, the Trusts started interventions in the area of nutrition. Along with that, the Trusts coordinates between multiple stakeholders of the project including government departments viz. Women Development and Child Welfare, Education and Panchayat Raj.

Other Stakeholders

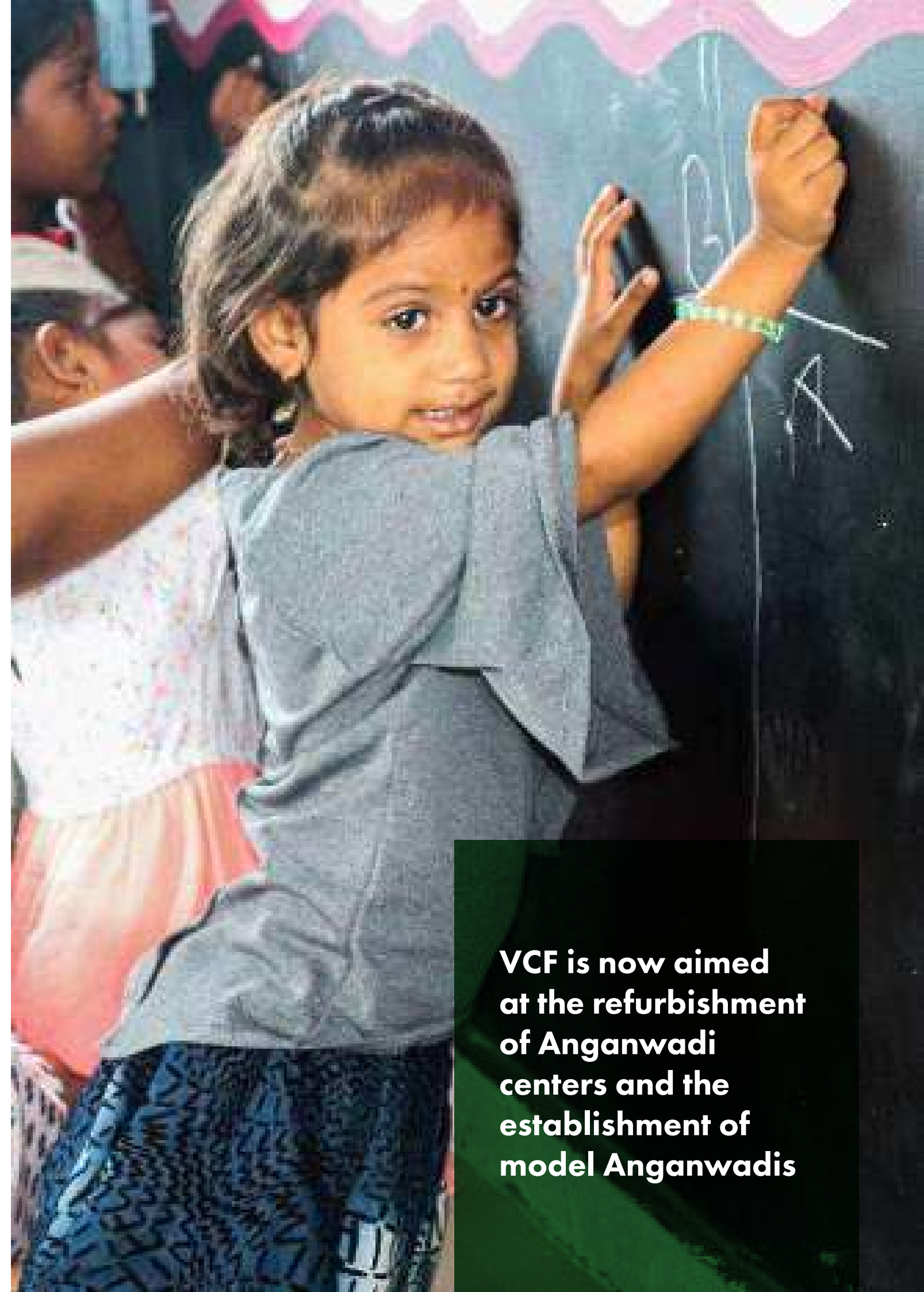
1. Department of Women Development and Child Welfare (DWDCW), Govt. of AP

The Department of Women Development and Child Welfare of Govt. of AP is working for the development and welfare of women and children. Through the ICDS system, it is working to ensure the health and nutrition of pregnant/lactating women and children aged below 6 years.

Timelines

The Integrated Nutrition Program 'Making It Happen' has been planned to give support for the Govt. for a period extending from January 2018 to May 2019. The ISSNIP project has been planned to complete the training through Incremental Learning Approach covering 21 modules.

VCF provided fingerprint authenticated biometric devices to prevent leakages in the delivery mechanism



VCF is now aimed at the refurbishment of Anganwadi centers and the establishment of model Anganwadis

Progress to Date

The Trusts provided support to the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh in various initiatives to strengthen the ICDS system and arrest malnutrition. Some of the initiatives are

1. ICDS System Strengthening and Nutrition Improvement Project (ISSNIP)

The Trusts extended support to Women Development & Child Welfare Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP) in strengthening ICSD system. Under the ISSNIP program, it is envisaged to come up with a system where the program functionaries will become more effective by learning to plan and execute each task correctly and consistently through a capacity building method, called Incremental Learning Approach (ILA). Such a system is envisaged to use the opportunities in the form of existing supervisory interactions (meetings) at different levels (district/block/sector/ sub-center), through which practical and guided learning may be accomplished. This system promotes an approach to build incrementally on small amounts of learning at a time until all skills, understanding, and actions have been put into regular practice by the functionaries.

FLOW DURING A MONTHLY IL CYCLE

The cascade of monthly interactions that are expected to methodically bring about predictable change in outcomes is conceptually as follows:

State level Master Trainers (SLMTs)

→ District Resource Group (DRG)

→ Block Resource Group (BRG)

→ Block level platforms involving ANM/ and LS platform

→ HSC/Sector meetings

→ AAW/ASHA

→ Families in the community

At each level, the interactions are two-way: the facilitators/supervisors obtain data and feedback which they take back as appropriate to the preceding higher level. Thus, the content and pace of each cycle is informed by the experience of past cycles.

Capacity building is an important aspect which needs to be focused on, to ensure successful implementation of ISSNIP. VCF started with capacity building activities under ILA in Krishna district and gradually rolled it out in two other districts: Guntur and SPSR Nellore districts. The ILA training will be provided to the State Resource Group (SRG), District Resource Group (DRG), Block Resource Group (BRG) and at Sector level. All 21 modules will be covered as part of ILA training. VCF is contributing for the logistics required for the trainings, such as printing of modules, training materials, charts, reporting formats, etc.

Coverage

SL. No.	Name of the district	No. of Projects	Block Coordinators	Supervisors	AWWs
1	Krishna	21	20	159	3812
2	Guntur	23	23	187	4405
3	Nellore	17	16	154	3774
	Total	61	59	500	11991

Incremental Learning Approach (ILA) is put in place to improve the capacities of the ICDS program functionaries to become effective practitioners

The Training has been provided on the following module-wise issues/topics

- Importance of Incremental Learning Approach
- Use of Home-Visit Planner
- Ways to identify anaemia in women and its prevention
- Importance of observation of breastfeeding and the difference between breastfeeding of sick new-born and weak new-born
- Identification and care of weak new-born
- Effects of anaemia on children and adolescents and Prevention of anaemia in children and adolescents

2. Technical Support Unit with Department of Women Development and Child Welfare, Government of Andhra Pradesh

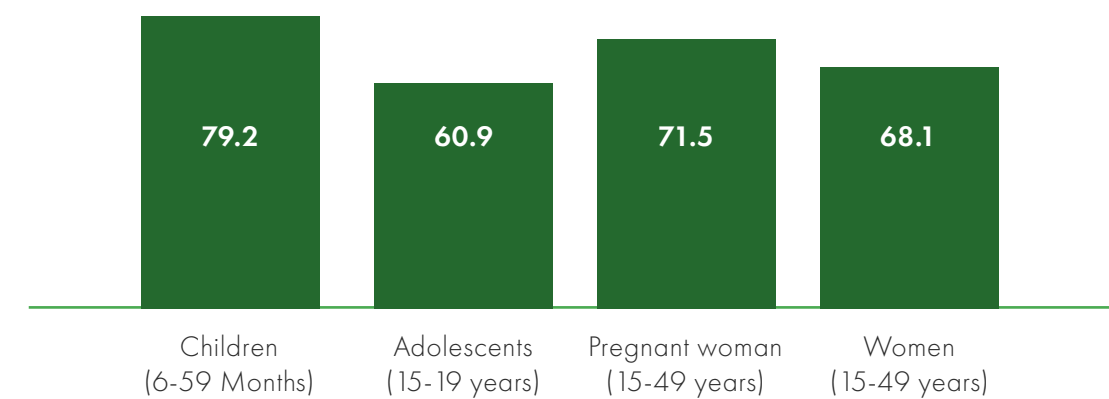
The Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP) is committed to accelerating the reduction of all forms of malnutrition in Women and Children and therefore, has decided to set up a State Nutrition Mission, to deliver evidence-based nutrition services at scale and with equity. The State Nutrition Mission will focus on multi-sectoral approaches, combining nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions to effect a more holistic sustainable response to improve child nutrition, with a priority focus on those districts that have the highest burden of stunting in terms of both prevalence and number of children affected. As a commitment towards improved nutrition and systems strengthening, VCF has set up a Technical Support Unit (TSU) with necessary human resources. TSU provides inputs to the department from time to time on the implementation of state nutrition mission. One of the major components of TSU is advocacy of best practices in and around the country. VCF advocated for the usage of fortified foods in ICDS.

2.1. Advocacy of Fortified Food Usage in Government Programs

Micronutrients are essential to sustain life and for optimal physiological function. Micro-Nutrient Deficiencies (MNDs) exist globally, with pregnant women and children under five at the highest risk. Iron, Iodine, Folate, Vitamin A and Zinc deficiencies are the most widespread MNDs. One of the solutions to control and prevent these micronutrient deficiencies is Fortification. Food Fortification is an effective intervention to deliver vitamin and mineral-rich food to large populations. Technology to fortify food is simple to use, easy to implement, and cost-effective. Fortification provides a sustainable solution with no requirement of a change in consumption patterns.

Iron deficiency is the most common nutritional deficiency in the world today. Iron is instrumental in blood formation and a lack of it often causes blood hemoglobin levels to plummet leading to a condition known as anaemia.

Prevalence of Anaemia in Andhra Pradesh



Prevalence of Anaemia

VCF started with capacity-building activities under ILA in Krishna district and gradually rolled it out in two other districts: Guntur and SPSR Nellore districts

One of the solutions to control and prevent these micronutrient deficiencies is Fortification. Food Fortification is an effective intervention to deliver vitamin and mineral-rich food to large populations. Technology to fortify food is simple to use, easy to implement, and cost-effective. Fortification provides a sustainable solution with no requirement of a change in consumption patterns.

2.2. Usage of Fortified Rice in Government Programs

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) developed specifications for fortified rice after expert consultation including strong clinical evidence from the National Institute of Nutrition in Hyderabad and St. John's Research Institute in Bangalore. Recently, AP Ministries of Agriculture and Information Technology, Panchayati Raj, and Rural Development invited and discussed with VCF to explore and support rice fortification. Providing critical nutrients through staple foods such as rice is also aligned with AP's State Nutrition Mission 2016-2026.

In the initial phase of the project, VCF along with technical agencies is supporting Government of Andhra Pradesh in implementing the usage of fortified Rice in 3 districts: Krishna, Guntur and East Godavari in Mid-day Meals and ICDS program.

Other areas of support under TSU include Concurrent monitoring of Anna Amrutha Hastham scheme – One full hot cooked meal for pregnant and lactating women and supporting department in the implementation of Kishori Vikasam Scheme - an awareness program for adolescent girls on health, nutrition and counselling. Along with the support, TSU is assisting the department in providing critical gap analysis documents and required suggestions in terms of ICDS systems strengthening.

Micro Nutrient Deficiencies (MNDs) exist globally, with pregnant women and children under five at the highest risk. Iron, Iodine, Folate, Vitamin A and Zinc deficiencies are the most widespread MNDs

ANAEMIA AMONG CHILDREN AND ADULTS



52.9%

(<11.0 g/dl)

PREGNANT WOMEN

15-49 yo



60.2%

(<12.0 g/dl)

NON - PREGNANT WOMEN

15-49 yo



58.6%

(<11.0 g/dl)

CHILDREN

6-59 months



60%

ALL WOMEN

15-49 yo



26.9%

(<13.0 g/dl)

ALL MEN

15-49 yo

4. Integrated Nutrition Program in Andhra Pradesh 'Making It Happen'

One of the major initiatives taken under the Nutrition domain is multi-thematic integrated nutrition program called 'Making It Happen'. The program would serve as a model for Anganwadi Centers for improved health and well-being of the children and women in 3 project districts viz. Krishna, Guntur and SPSR Nellore. Below illustration explains major components of the program.

Food Fortification
– the process of
adding essential
micronutrients
to staple foods
is an effective
intervention to
deliver vitamin and
mineral-rich food to
large populations



MULTI-SECTORAL NUTRITION COORDINATION CELL

Governance and System Strengthening



Girl child education



Engaging PRI Institution



Converging with
agriculture & health

— REAL TIME MONITORING SOLUTION —

SUPPLY

Capacity Building

AWC
strengthening

Activating services

ECCE

DEMAND

Hygiene & sanitation

Maternal nutrition

IYCF

Major Components of the Program:

- To **ensure better infrastructure** through repairing & painting the building, constructing toilets & kitchen (if food being prepared within the AWC), and ensuring water supply
- To **improve the delivery of services** through activating Village Health Sanitation Nutrition Day (VHSNDs), ensuring food safety in the meal. Promotion of fortified salt and oil would be done to enrich the micronutrients. VHSNDs require coordinated actions with the Department of Health and Family Welfare (DHFV) and the Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD) at state, district and block levels to plan, implement and monitor the programme
- To **improve early childhood care and education (ECCE)**: Pre-school education kit, notebooks, uniform, toys, and dolls would be made available working with the government

AWCs as Model Community Owned Centers

The Project demonstrates that investing in the requisite infrastructure of AWCs and motivated, well-trained functionaries could quickly attract and retain their respective customer/beneficiary base. Trends already indicate that those AWCs which have been adopted by or are closely monitored by Local PRIs have increased their coverage, off-take, and quality of care significantly. Coupled with investments on the infrastructure side – upgradation, trained personnel, supply chain management of inputs and investments on social structures around ownership, inclusion, and empowerment would see the creation of community-based facilities that eventually become centers of convergence for multiple services demanded which would be monitored by the communities themselves.

Refurbishment of Anganwadi Centers:



Inauguration of Model Anganwadi Center by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh

In this regard, Hon'ble chief minister of Andhra Pradesh Mr. Sri Chandra Babu Naidu made a visit to the model Anganwadi center in Penumaka of Guntur District and inaugurated the center which has been supported by VCF.

Key Achievements

- The Trusts got the approval to establish a Take Home Ration (THR) factory in Andhra Pradesh and got in-principle approval from the Govt. to establish a Special Purpose Vehicle/Entity (SPV/SPE) to look after the management of the Take Home Ration (THR) plant.
- Integrated Nutrition Program called 'Making it Happen' was launched which aims at making model anganwadi centers through the refurbishment of anganwadis. The first model anganwadi center was started at Penumaka village, Guntur district.
- For the first time in India, the Fingerprint authenticated Aadhaar-based biometric devices were used in the delivery of Anganwadi services to the beneficiaries in Prakasham district, to prevent leakages in delivery.
- Introduced Double Fortified Salt and Fortified milk in ICDS centres across the state of Andhra Pradesh. Around 2 million people are benefitting from this initiative.

Outcomes

- Introduced Double Fortified Salt and Fortified milk in ICDS centres across the state of Andhra Pradesh. Around 2 million people are benefitting from this initiative.
- By the end of the ILA training, around 11991 AWWs in 3 districts will be completed capacity building training in the form of 21 modules, be able to work efficiently in preventing leakages in the delivery of services.

Introduced Double Fortified Salt and Fortified milk in ICDS centres across the state of Andhra Pradesh. Around 2 million people are benefitting from this initiative

Future

- Refurbishment of anganwadis must be done to make the 'Make it Happen' initiative successful
- To complete ILA training for all the anganwadi workers in Prakasam districts covering all the modules. Transform them as the catalysts in the effective delivery of anganwadi services to the right and targeted beneficiaries
- To closely work with The India Nutrition Initiative (TINI) to set up the THR production plant and establish a Special Purpose Vehicle to manage the THR plant





RURAL PROSPERITY MISSION

Background

On 20 June 2017, VCF entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Andhra Pradesh Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (AP-SERP), to enhance the livelihood opportunities and incremental incomes of 71 lakh households in the state of Andhra Pradesh. To successfully deliver the objects of the MoU, VCF appointed Vijayavahini Charitable Foundation (VCF) to execute the Andhra Pradesh Rural Prosperity Mission (RPM) on their behalf as the Lead Knowledge Partner, in collaboration with SERP. VCF is a not for profit, section 8 company initiated by VCF to implement various livelihoods interventions in AP and across other states.

Introduction

Being an autonomous society of the Department of Rural Development to facilitate poverty reduction in the state, SERP has been appointed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh as the nodal implementation agency of the Mission. The World Bank through the AP Rural Inclusive Growth Project (being funded to SERP) is a Financial and Strategic partner to this program.

The Rural Prosperity Mission will improve economic indicators of poor households by building on SERP's expansive social mobilization architecture of 71 lakh SHG members across all 13 districts of Andhra Pradesh. In this context, VCF, AP SERP, and other partnering agencies will nurture innovations, leverage new-age technology, tap emerging growth sectors, engage with private sector & social enterprises and build internal technical capacities to enhance rural livelihoods in Andhra Pradesh.

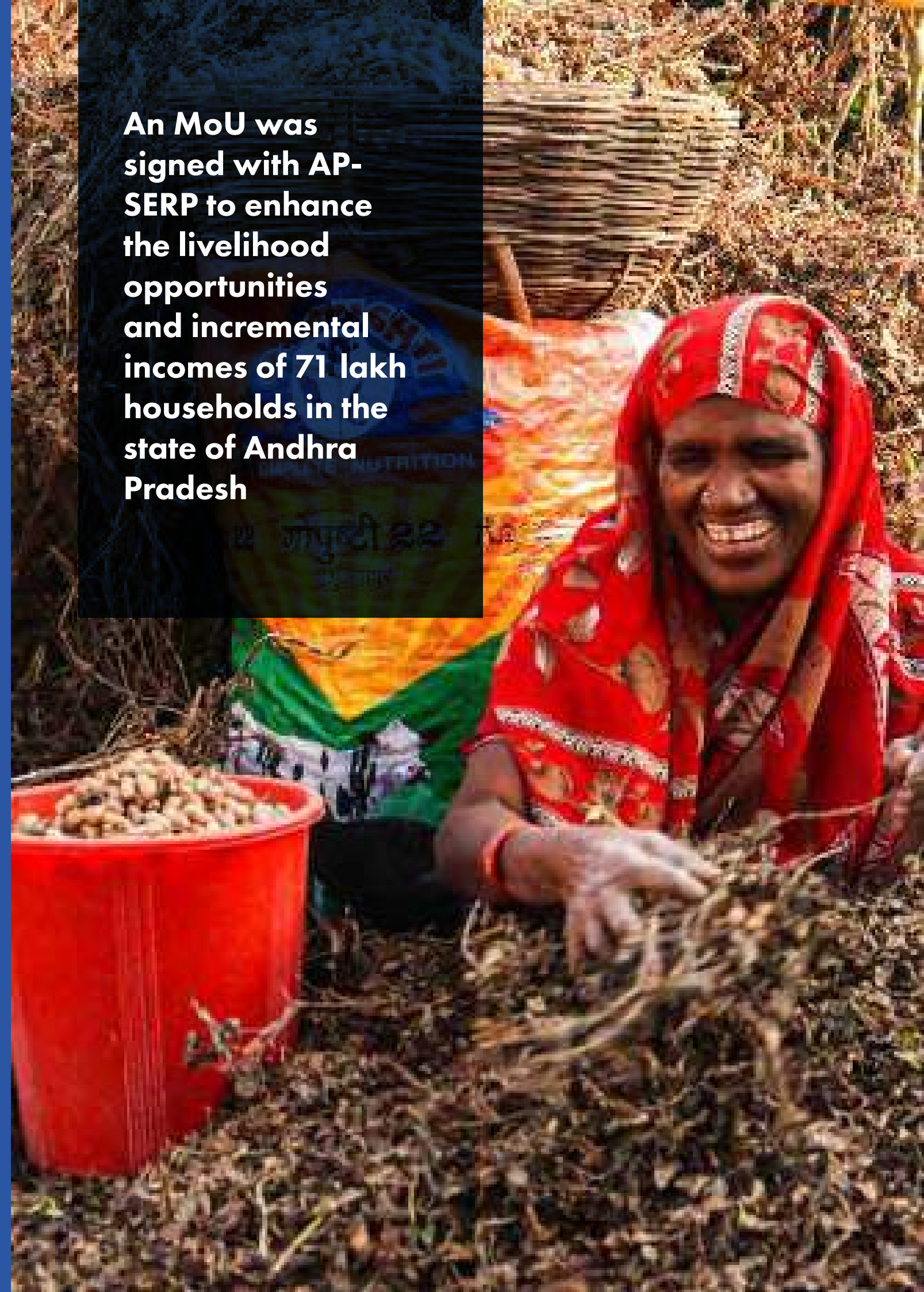
Aim

The project aims at income enhancement of the SHG households and providing the farmers an opportunity to diversify their livelihoods through multi-layered livelihood interventions, as depicted

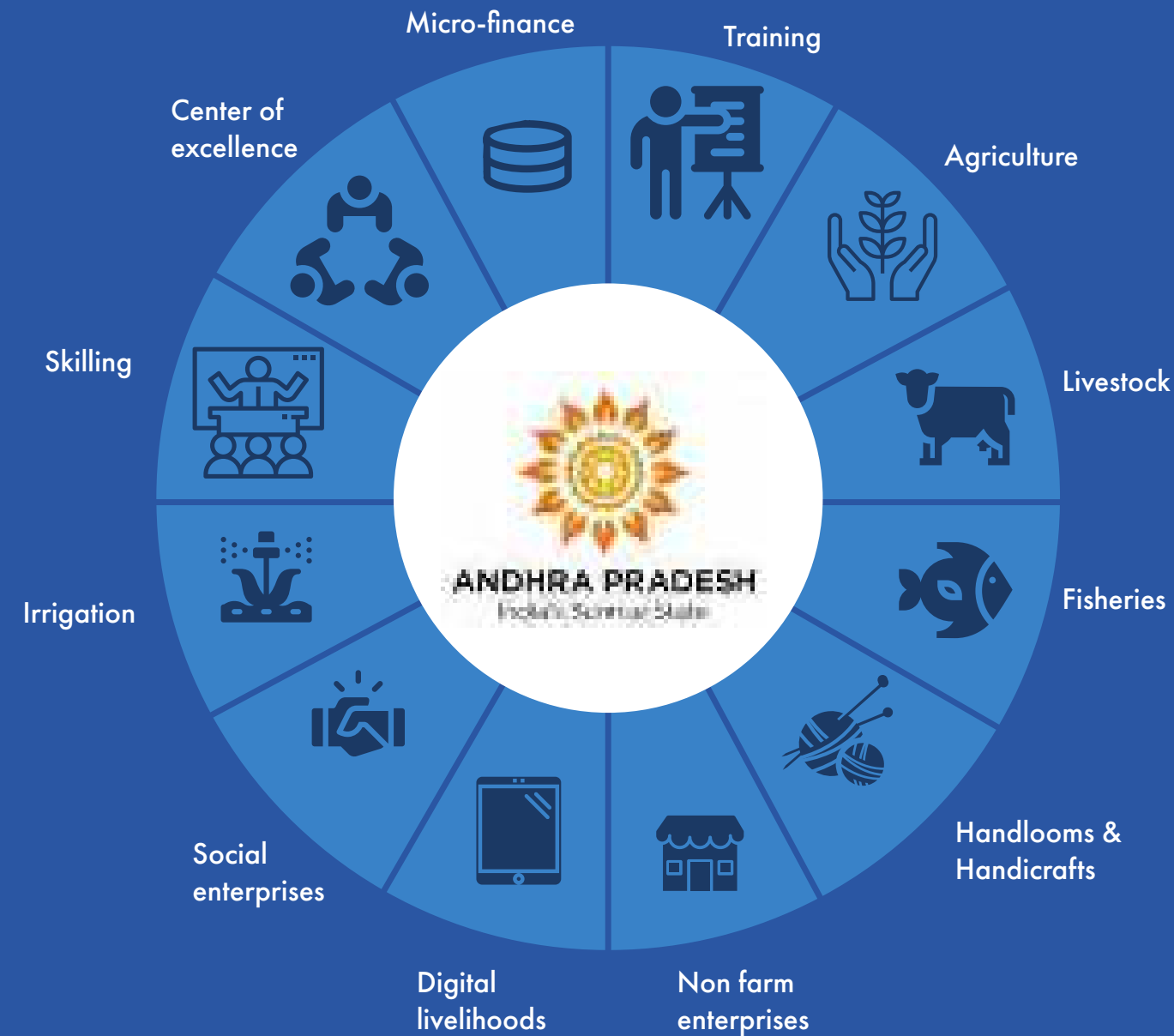
Objective

- To sustainably increase the income levels of the SHG members in an irreversible manner
- To improve and strengthen the existing livelihoods and promoting new livelihood opportunities to the households by integrating technology, best practices along with the convergence of resources
- Promoting multi-thematic interventions at the household level to achieve the goal
- To demonstrate pilot models, facilitate the exchange of knowledge through workshops/studies
- To support effective training, monitoring and documentation of the interventions
- To facilitate the establishment of Centre of excellence in various domains for replication of best practices

An MoU was signed with AP-SERP to enhance the livelihood opportunities and incremental incomes of 71 lakh households in the state of Andhra Pradesh



Inputs



VCF' /VCF's role

The Trusts provides advisory support in key sectors for developing program strategies, providing program implementation guidance, bringing in-house partners and monitoring results. The Trusts directly or through its network accumulates knowledge of sectors and provides on-ground implementation support and technical assistance across livelihood sectors as per the need. This would include program designing, developing field manuals and training modules, conducting staff training sessions, carrying out capacity building activities, provide handholding support, and monitor performance. The Trusts will deploy technology platforms and conduct training sessions to ensure that implementation teams can provide efficient program delivery on-ground. The Trusts is assisting the state in establishing Centers of Excellence by providing the technical knowledge and expertise, through which extensive capacity building exercises can be carried out for both the communities as well as the program teams.

Role of Stakeholders

The Trusts collaborated with various govt. organisations as well as NGOs for the successful implementation of the program. Various stakeholders involved in the project are mentioned below.

a. Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP)

SERP shall be solely responsible for leading the implementation of agreed strategies with stakeholders at the last mile on time. SERP shall ensure smooth convergence with related Line Departments of the Government such as the Agriculture Department, Animal Husbandry Department etc. to access relevant schemes for implementation as a part of this initiative. SERP through Andhra Pradesh Rural Inclusive Growth Project (APRIGP) shall provide financial support to partner management costs and implementation costs. SERP will mobilize the farmers to participate in the Trusts' initiatives and provides the financial and marketing support to the FPOs.

b. The World Bank

The World Bank is the financial and strategic partner in implementing the APRIGP program and provides the financial support to the FPOs.

c. Government Departments

Various Government departments are involved in the different projects for scheme convergence, training, and field support. Some of the government departments, institutions being engaged with are:

- Integrated Tribal Development Agencies
- Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry
- Irrigation, Rural Development, Fisheries

Departments

- Tel Aviv University, Israel
- Sri Venkateshwara Veterinary University
- YSR Horticulture University
- Acharya NG Ranga Agriculture University

Universities

- Indian Institute of Horticulture Research
- Indian Institute of Spice Research
- KVK, Mango & Cashew research stations

Research Stations

d. Resource/Partner Organizations

Expert resource organisations were brought on-board within the project for specialised support services. They are being either funded under the APRIGP project of SERP or engaged by VCF.

Partner (SERP)	Expertise	Partner (TT)	Expertise
Syngenta Foundation India	Agri Entrepreneurship	Vrutti	Cashew Marketing
Kheyti	Greenhouse	ICSD	Cashew and Goatry
BAIF	Small ruminants	CCD	Farm Ponds
BREADS	Field support on Nutrition	Industree	Apparel & Embroidery
ASI	Agri-market readiness	Open Source Fisheries	Inland Fisheries

Timelines / Stages



Rural Prosperity Mission aims at income enhancement of the SHG households and providing the farmers an opportunity to diversify their livelihoods through multi-layered livelihood interventions



Progress status

1. Agriculture

1.1. Agri-Entrepreneurship

Syngenta foundation India has been brought on-board for the project to implement the Agri –Entrepreneur program on September 22, 2017. It is proposed that 100 Agri Entrepreneurs will work with 200 farmers each. Through this program, the farmer benefits from cheaper agri-inputs, better access to cheap credit, and strong linkages to markets, and access to agricultural extension. The 45-day training of these 100 Agri entrepreneurs is being conducted by NIRD. In total, 52 Agri-Entrepreneurs completed their training in three batches. Syngenta Foundation trains them in Agronomy and extension management through Agriculture Technology Assistant training. While increasing incomes of the farmers through one-step at a time, the objective is to be able to become a one-stop solution for all the Agriculture needs of the farmers in those 3-4 villages.

SERP FPOs have supported in the mobilization of candidates for the AE program from each FPO. Syngenta Foundation India will screen the candidates from each FPO and select suitable candidates amongst them. The 25 AEs who have been deployed on the field registered 4,452 farmers. All the 100 AEs will be deployed on the field before the Kharif season to provide services to the farmers.

1.2. Kheyti Tech Private Limited

Kheyti, a social enterprise, is piloting a model on greenhouses - known to give better yield with fewer resources while providing end to end services to the farmers. They have done a successful pilot in Telangana with 30 farmers. SERP has agreed to Kheyti's proposal to roll out the model to 100 farmers in AP for a pilot.

Based on the learnings from conversations with thousands of small farmers affected by these environmental challenges, Kheyti has currently conceptualized the Greenhouse in a Box (GIB) 462m², a low-cost, modular greenhouse bundled with services. Designed for small and marginal farmers, the GIB fits in 1-2% of their land, protects crops from environmental risks, and grows 7 times more food using 90% less water. Recognizing that small farmers face risks at every step, Kheyti works with partners to bundle financing, insurance, inputs, training, advisory and market linkages, creating a seamless path out of poverty. Farmers use the GIB to earn assured incomes of Rs. 4000-6000/month after loan repayment, a 100% increase in average income. After the loan period, Kheyti estimates farmers can earn about Rs. 10,000 per month from this small-sized greenhouse.

SERP has signed an MoU with Kheyti Tech Pvt Ltd in January 2018 to construct 100 greenhouses in Chittoor with end to end services for the farmer. SERP state team has issued an official circular in February 2018 instructing the district teams to mobilise farmers for the pilot project with Kheyti. Kick-off meetings with the farmers have been organised in Kuppam and Rama Kuppam. Soil testing has been completed for 30 farmers and SERP is facilitating the loan provision for these farmers along with subsidy of Rs. 80,000 from the Horticulture department.



VCF accumulates knowledge of sectors and provides on-ground implementation support and technical assistance across livelihood sectors

2. Horticulture

2.1. Cashew Value Chain Development

Cashew farmers experience several hardships in cashew cultivation due to variation in climate, rainfall and due to severe insect pest incidence, resulting in significant loss of yield. In cashew, several insect pests attack during various stages of the crop and cause moderate to heavy loss of the crop yield depending on the level of insect pest population. In this context, the Trusts in collaboration with ICSD, conducted a training session on plant protection management and implementation in the field for 5 cashew value chain Farmer Producing Organizations (FPOs) in ITDA- Rampachodavaram by involving all key stakeholders in SERP staff (DPM, APM, FPO staff) and VCF staff (program coordinators and LFFs). An exposure visit to best cashew orchards in Devipatnam block was conducted to get the hands-on experience on implementation of a package of practices such as canopy management and pest control. A couple of progressive farmers were brought on-board who explained the challenges and issues faced while they are implementing the cashew value chain development project. Additionally, ICSD conducted a scoping study to know the methods in practice to harvest the cashew nut and found that plucking of cashew is the common practice followed by farmers. Thereupon, ICSD conducted training programs across the 3 GPs of Rajavommangi, FPO BoD & FPO staff to explain the value of sun drying, grading techniques (based on colour and count) and storage.

Activity	No. of people (staff & farmers) covered	Status
Plant protection management	800	Completed
Exposure visit to the best cashew orchards	60	Completed
Pre- & post-harvest management and aggregation strategies	800	Completed

Identifying markets for agriculture products including cashew nuts is often considered a critical element in the efforts to increase farm income and reduce post-harvest losses, as market prices have been volatile for this commercial crop. Understanding this, VCF along with the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) started focusing on bettering market linkages to increase the incomes of cashew farmers.

Cashew is cultivated in four districts, namely Vizianagaram, Vishakhapatnam, East Godavari, and Srikakulam. There are 16 FPOs formed by SERP for cashew with a total membership of approximately 23,000 farmers, through which the cashew interventions, predominantly cashew marketing is facilitated. In this context, VCF employed Vrutti, for technical support and monitoring, to promote marketing of cashew by 16 FPOs in 4 districts of Andhra Pradesh. Following, discussions were held with Olam, regarding modalities to be adopted in cashew procurement season and Agriculture marketing department issued a circular to AMC officials to give an exemption on market Cess. VCF focused on FPO sensitization on marketing in 16 FPOs in collaboration with SERP nodal district officers, and the establishment of fair-trade centres. Cashew workshops were conducted in collaboration with ITDA- POs of Rampachodavaram, Seethampeta, and Parvathipuram along with all line departments. VCF is also negotiating with Equity Financing bodies to provide credit-linkages to the FPOs through the reliable and affordable source of financing to meet their working capital, infrastructure development and other needs.

To further the incomes of cashew farmers, VCF is planning to set up a cashew apple processing centre. To give context, cashew apple is a swollen stalk of the tree fruit with a juicy yellow or red pulp that has a strong sweet taste. During the preparation of a cashew nut, the nut is first separated from the apple on the farm after which it must be dried, transported to a processing centre, steamed, shelled, peeled, graded and packaged. In this process, despite the potential of cashew apple as edible food, it is neglected upon harvesting and discarded eventually. However, there is an immense scope to increase and diversify incomes of farmers by exploiting the potential of the cashew apple.

Conducted a training session on cashew plant protection and ways to enhance yield that benefitted 800 farmers in improving their farming practices

2.2. Spices Value Chain

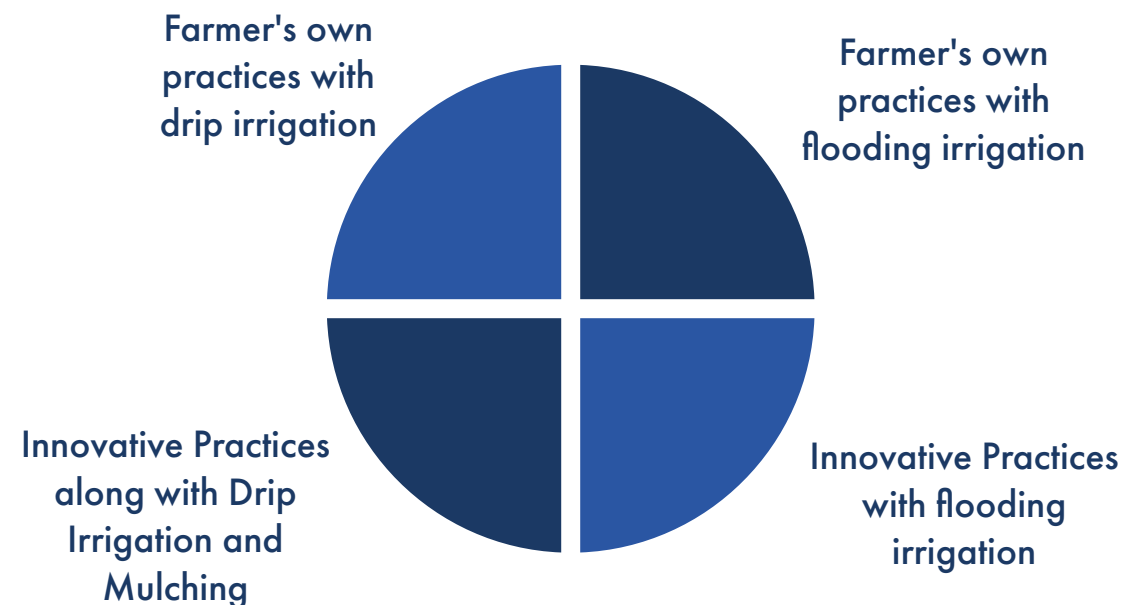
Capacity building training session on best practices of turmeric, black pepper, and long pepper was conducted for 6 FPO members in February with combined efforts of SERP-AP, VCF, Spices Board and ICAR. More than 220 progressive farmers cum FPG leaders participated for 3 days training and assessment event. Also, a buyer-seller meet was organized by the GCC and Spices Board at Vizag in which nearly 30 farmers participated. Traders from several states attended the meet and saw various produces that farmers fetched directly from their fields for display. Later, a proposal for installation of boiler/streamer and polishing machines for turmeric was approved by ICAR. And an exposure visit was facilitated for the selected turmeric farmers to a local NGO named Girijan Vikasa in G. Madigula to give farmers an exposure to turmeric processing.

2.3. Productivity enhancement in Horticultural demonstrations

VCF in association with Tel Aviv University-Israel and Irrigation system providers are conducting a demonstration of productivity enhancement in horticultural crops on a pilot basis. Three interested farmers were selected to cultivate the crops as per the demonstration. Primarily three crops (Okra (Bhendi), Brinjal and Tomato) have been selected for the demonstrations and cost-benefit analysis has been carried out from the farmer's previous practices with the three crops. The standard package of practices for the three crops are prepared which are to be followed by the farmers in the experimental plots of demonstrated farms. The demonstration was started initially with cultivating Okra (Bhendi) crop in Anumanchipalli village of Jaggaiahpet Mandal, Krishna district which has been monitored with the help of an App developed by Tel Aviv University team. Training was given to all 16 coordinators (who are working in 265 villages under Vijayawada parliamentary constituency) on App based monitoring system and monitoring surveys are being conducted at field level.

Capacity building training session on best practices of turmeric was conducted for more than 220 farmers which are proven to improve the yield and reduce the cost of cultivation

Productivity Enhancement in Horticulture Demonstration



2.4. Vegetables and Fruits value chain

An exposure visit has been organized for nearly 80 progressive vegetable farmers and FPO staff of five FPOs to the National Horticulture Fair held at Indian Institute of Horticulture Research, Bangalore during 15th – 17th March 2018, where the farmers were exposed to new technologies, cultivation practices and varietal improvements available in the market to increase the crop yield. Based on the interaction of FPO farmers with the IIHR scientists and directors, the IIHR agreed upon supplying good quality seeds directly to the farmers to enhance their crop yields.

An exploratory visit was carried out with Traidcraft to the Ramabhadrapuram vegetable FPO on 28th March 2018 which is one of the highest vegetables producing clusters that is planning to tie up with More supermarkets for marketing and establishing a collection centre.

The feasibility study to set up a dehydrated fruit production unit in Reddigudem village, Krishna district has been conducted. Two groups have been mobilised and a workshop was conducted to give members the necessary information about the technology. The members would be further shortlisted to form one group with eight members and one leader.

2.5. Collective Marketing

Based on plans to provide support to FPOs for marketing their produce, a pilot was initiated around Nannari roots from the ITDA Srisailam region. The ITDA team was able to mobilize SHG groups in Chenchu area of Srisailam ITDA to collect, sort and grade the Nannari roots from forest area. The first batch of 500 Kg Nannari roots was sold to a buyer in Chennai, fetching an amount of ₹450/kg for the group. Thus, the VCF intervention helped the SHG group earn a total value of ₹2,25,000 and the marketing channel is established for the group's entire production capacity. Moving forward, plans are being made for capacity enhancement through the plantation.

3. Animal Husbandry

3.1. ABS India Pvt Ltd

The Trusts has facilitated the on-boarding of ABS India, in providing the improved breeding technology called "Sexed semen technology". This was the first time an innovative technology was being introduced for the artificial insemination for buffaloes in AP. This was carried out as a pilot for 18 FPOs in Krishna, Guntur & Visakhapatnam districts. Additionally, the Trusts facilitated a training programme for 18 veterinary doctors for the "specialized sexcel technology", which also provided a platform to discuss the latest tools, techniques available for artificial insemination.

Sexed semen technology is expected to improve genetic and phenotypic breed characteristics of over 2500 animals (non-descriptive breed) in the districts

3.2. Herdman App – A product of Vetware Pvt. Ltd

Identifying the need for an efficient animal identification/data management system for the ABS pilot project and for the upgradation of the outdated animal identification system present in the state, multiple systems were screened and Herdman was selected for their notable work with the Government of Maharashtra & large dairy cooperatives in the country. They would work in the same districts as ABS and help in the monitoring of the project. The products of two partners now would go hand in hand during the implementation process in the districts of Krishna, Guntur & Visakhapatnam. VCF facilitated the on-boarding of the partner Training has been provided for the field staff on the usage of the app and sourcing of tags. Also, the monitoring of activities till date is being done through the app. As this is a new technology being implemented, an online forum was created to facilitate discussions between the technical partners and the field staff. Together, this couple now demonstrates a potential for innovative cattle breed development and cattle management model that could be showcased in the state, which resulted in 250 inseminations till date.

3.3. Goatery Interventions

An exposure visit has been carried out to the Lakhpati Kisan CINI small ruminants' development project, which started in February 2016 in Nandurbar district, Maharashtra. Numerous approaches were followed in this project like buck entrepreneur, complete monitoring of the health camps to understand the impact, improved infrastructure and management practices, implementation of local healing practices, innovative goat calendar, raising fund from various sources for the program, improved awareness methodologies like goat calendar, providing IEC materials, improved marketing practices like rearers-buyers common meeting, etc. All these practices are being monitored at a central level MIS system to understand the impact and to monitor the increase in income levels of the goat farmers. The key learnings from this model would be implemented in the Lakshadhikari Rythu project at Rampachodavaram TPMU in AP.

A discussion with senior Veterinarian from ICSD Dr. CK Rao was conducted with the Livestock & field team of VCF to draft the roadmap for small ruminants' development project in Rajavommangi Mandal under Lakshadhikari Rythu. As per this plan, initial awareness activities with the community was organized during the first week of April, following which health camps and grounding of animals had been planned. A workshop was organized by The Goat Trust at NAARM Campus, Hyderabad. The key takeaway from the Goat Trust model was the Pashu Sakhi for Goats - an entrepreneurship model which works on a fine balance between women empowerment and Livelihood (Goat rearing). Although the Pashu Sakhi model has been tried by various government institutions before, it has been a failure due to lack of institution building. The Goat Trust addresses this problem by keeping a 50:1 ratio of villagers to Pashu Sakhis and extensive training module spread over one year for Sakhis, input improvements through feeder setup, artificial insemination for goats, first aid trainings for Sakhis and Micro-nursery, market linkages (Pashu haats), live weighing, and credit linkages through SHG channels.

3.4. Study of Embryo Transfer Technology & In-vitro fertilization for cattle – JK Trusts model

An exposure visit was carried out to JK Trusts, Pune to study the embryo transfer technology and in-vitro fertilisation for cattle. They are well versed in Ovum Pick Up & In-Vitro Fertilization (OPU-IVF) Technology for Indian cattle and boast two state-of-the-art ETT & IVF labs with mobile cattle ETT & IVF vans. Using this, they have set up 2142 Artificial Insemination (AI) centres, and created an impact on around 123 districts of 11 states covering over 21,500 villages with a reach of about 2.2 million farmers. Their methodology is to select elite animals to extract embryos and then transfer those embryos to animals possessing lower genetic capacity for faster genetic improvement.

4. Tribal Livelihoods - Lakshadhikari Rythu (a pilot project of Lakshpathi Kisan model in AP)

“Lakshadhikari Rythu” is being piloted among 1500 households (SHG/FPG members) in Sarabavaram, Lododdi, and Badadanampalli GPs of Rajavommangi Mandal, ITDA Rampachodavaram, East Godavari district, AP. These GPs are inhabited majorly by Tribes (Konda Reddy & Konda Dora), and boast abundant cashew plantations with the potential for diversification of livelihoods. Based on the interests expressed by the community and prevailing gaps pertaining in livelihoods and available resources, the following activities were planned to enhance the income levels of each household to 1.2 lakh per annum.

- Capacity building to Cashew Farmers on a package of practices and handholding support in managing their FPGs & FPO, in collaboration with SERP, KVK & Horticulture Department
- Setup of model cashew farms and demonstration of Intercropping in irrigated cashew farms
- Promote goatery among SHG-VO members through improved health services
- Support market linkages, feed, and health management of backyard poultry (KVK, SERP, and ITDA)
- Grooming GP level animal healthcare service provider (youth) to service the health management of poultry, small & large ruminants, in collaboration with AHD
- Promotion of homestead vegetable nursery at households of SHG members
- Capacity building of youth Groups to practice vegetable & fruit cultivation in fallow lands
- Technical and monitoring support on box beekeeping, in collaboration with KVK & ITDA
- Demonstration of bamboo cage culture and aquaculture in the farm ponds

The pilot was launched on 9th December 2017 at Rajavommangi Mandal. A baseline survey was conducted in the pilot Gram Panchayats utilising the expertise of an external agency.

Initiated collaboration with NABARD for taking up the implementation of Maa thota program in ITDA Rampachodavaram area, in convergence with Lakshadhikari Rythu pilot project among 1000 tribal farmers to develop orchards that would enhance their incomes by diversifying their plantations.

- Conducted capacity-building activities to project team, SERP team (CCs & VO), FPOs & FPGs on the project objectives, cashew pest management, pre-& post-harvest methods of cashew.
- Facilitated formation of youth groups through motivational meetings and creating awareness on package of practices on vegetable & fruit crops. In the process, five youth groups have initiated zero tillage methods in cultivating Hill brooms, Water Melon, Moringa (drumstick), pudina in each plot of 1 acre of fallow lands.
- SHG members were capacitated on practice of garlic seed development and raising pudina through nurseries at village level for intercropping during kharif season.
- The SHG members were capacitated on backyard poultry management practices by forming common interest groups, involving the resources of WASSAN.
- Created awareness among the tribal farmers on the use of Custom Hiring Centres (CHC) at panchayat level. In the process, the ITDA PO has sanctioned 3 CHCs for three pilot panchayats.
- Successful discussion with NABARD for taking up the implementation of Maa thota program in ITDA Rampachodavaram area, in convergence with Lakshadhikari Rythu pilot project among 1000 farmers in a phased manner.
- Successful meeting with District Forest Officer (DFO), to collaborate in implementation of Lakshadhikari Rythu initiative by allocation of forest land in the fringe to raise fodder- stylo hamata (paddock system) for the livestock reared by villagers in pilot villages.
- Capacity building to team on Lakshpathi Kisan models implemented by CINI: A visit to CINI facility in Keonjhar-Odisha, Deogarh-Jharkhand & Maharashtra was made for exposure to a success model executed by CINI team of Tata Trusts to enhance livelihood opportunities.

5. Others

5.1. Non-farm sector

To come up with a pragmatic model of empowering SHG women across the State, the VCF has focused on enhancing the income of 10 lakh households involved in Non-Farm based activities, which is regarded as one of the most potential and neglected domains in the livelihood projects. A major focus of the team is to get organisations onboard with the potential to deliver training sessions to the targeted beneficiaries and provide business skills to the entrepreneurs, which would result in the increased income. Moreover, VCF is also planning to set up some new model enterprises in the state that could utilise the local resources, and therefore providing a two-fold benefit to the community.

5.2. Backyard Poultry

The Trusts is committed to distributing the potential revenue from the poultry business existing across the state to the marginal communities by promoting Backyard Poultry Farming. It is expected that a low input livelihood opportunity when combined with best practices would enhance the income of 3000 households alongside existing 20 mother poultry units across Andhra Pradesh.

The focus has been on capacity building of households and the introduction of genetically improved bird. With the employment of efficient management practices, the idea is to ensure high survival rate and optimum growth rate of the bird. Along with providing direct livelihood to the SHG women, the Trusts is also looking to empower at least 30 entrepreneurs who would play an active role at various levels of the proposed livelihood model.

VCF is looking to empower at least 30 entrepreneurs who would lead the Backyard poultry livelihood model



5.3. Irrigation

SERP aims to facilitate grounding of 10,000 bore wells under NTR Jala Siri scheme and The Trusts has been involved in streamlining the process flow. The Government has sanctioned NTR Jala Siri Phase II programme in the Financial Year 2016-17 for small and marginal farmers where additional groundwater recharge is available in the State. The beneficiary must have less than 5 acres of landholding with no other existing irrigation source and the beneficiary could be an individual or a group of farmers as long as the prescribed criteria is met and adhered to the framework of the Andhra Pradesh Water, Land, and Trees Act, 2002.

A Single Window Clearance portal is being developed for the NTR Jala Siri approval. A meeting with TCS, NTR Jala Siri team, SERP and VCF team was conducted at SERP office where the design and insights were recommended by the Trusts. The recommendations were clearly communicated to the software vendor which was followed by a brief feedback and later a mutual agreement was achieved. The vendor is currently working on the new design and the progress would be communicated to NTR Jala Siri team.

5.4. Centre of Excellence

The Centre of Excellence (COE) would be the hub for innovation, verifying proofs of concepts, and further scaling them up to reach the large magnitude of people. Centre of Excellence for several livelihood interventions with the collaboration of Tel Aviv University started with the visit of a specialist team from Israel. Five experts from Israel on Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Overall Program design visited multiple field locations and interacted with officials of Andhra Pradesh during winter of 2017. The visit incorporated interactions with government research facility, scientists, livelihood entrepreneurs, extension & administrative services officials, farmers, beneficiaries of several government schemes & market players to assess the ground reality. The visit covered various agriculture, horticulture & aquaculture crops across the states, along with prime research and processing facilities for the same. The visit helped in understanding the grassroots realities of agricultural practices, support services and scope of advancement and further, 'Arete Advisors' were engaged as the consulting agency to establish Centre of Excellence.

5.4. Box- Bee-keeping

The Trusts, with the objective of enhancing the incomes of farmers and diversify the livelihoods, started box-bee keeping initiative. The Trusts engaged with KVIC to supply the boxes to farmers and further provided technical and monitoring support by collaborating with 'Back 2 Village' organisation. Proposal to pitch the project for 1000 farmers in Kadapa and Kurnool is prepared and talks have been initiated with ITDA, Srisailam to work on 'Pilot Model' of Bee-Keeping Project. Thirty individuals have been identified as beneficiaries from Allagadda and Chagalamarri mandals of Kurnool district.

5.6. Skill Development

The Trusts in partnership with AP SERP and Industree has kicked off a project to increase the incomes of 5,000 rural women in AP to Rs. 10,000/- per month, by conducting trainings in tailoring and embroidery and setting up the producer companies. On approaching Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC) to fund the trainings, VCF was requested to take-up skilling of additionally 5,000 more people in sectors like construction, healthcare, agriculture etc. In order to bring about a convergence between the activities being carried out by Trusts through SERP and APSSDC, and to lay out the terms of the agreement, an MoU has been signed with APSSDC on 25th Feb in Vizag during the CII Summit organised by the Govt. of AP.

This Skill development project is planned to be carried out in multiple sectors listed below:

S. No.	No. of people (staff & farmers) covered	Status
1	Agriculture	Introducing new farming techniques, new crops, and better post-harvest management methods.
2	Textiles	Tailoring and Hand embroidery
3	Construction	Electrician, Barbendry, Masonry, Scaffolding, Painting etc.
4	Healthcare	X-Ray Technician and Emergency Technician

An ideal Philanthropy-Public-Private (PPP) convergence would bring in expertise from all the corners. This project aims to bring the partners together to work on enhancing livelihoods of rural households and to subsequently increase their incomes:

- APSSDC (Funding partner): APSSDC would look after administration and funding part.
- VCF through VCF (Knowledge Partner and Advisor): The Trusts, through Vijayavahini Charitable Foundation (VCF), would act as the nodal agency, coordinating with APSSDC, the skilling partners & SERP to ensure that the program objectives are met. VCF would identify training partners, design the program, and communicate with partners from time to time, to ensure smooth rolling out of the project and monitoring its progress.

- SERP (Mobilisation partner): SERP would be responsible for mobilizing the candidates for trainings.
- Third Parties (Implementing Agency): Various skill-training agencies would work on providing trainings to the individuals and would assist them in placements/earnings.

After successful completion of training program, 10,000 trainees are expected to be placed in respective sector jobs or be self-employed, thus driving the economy ahead in the identified sectors.

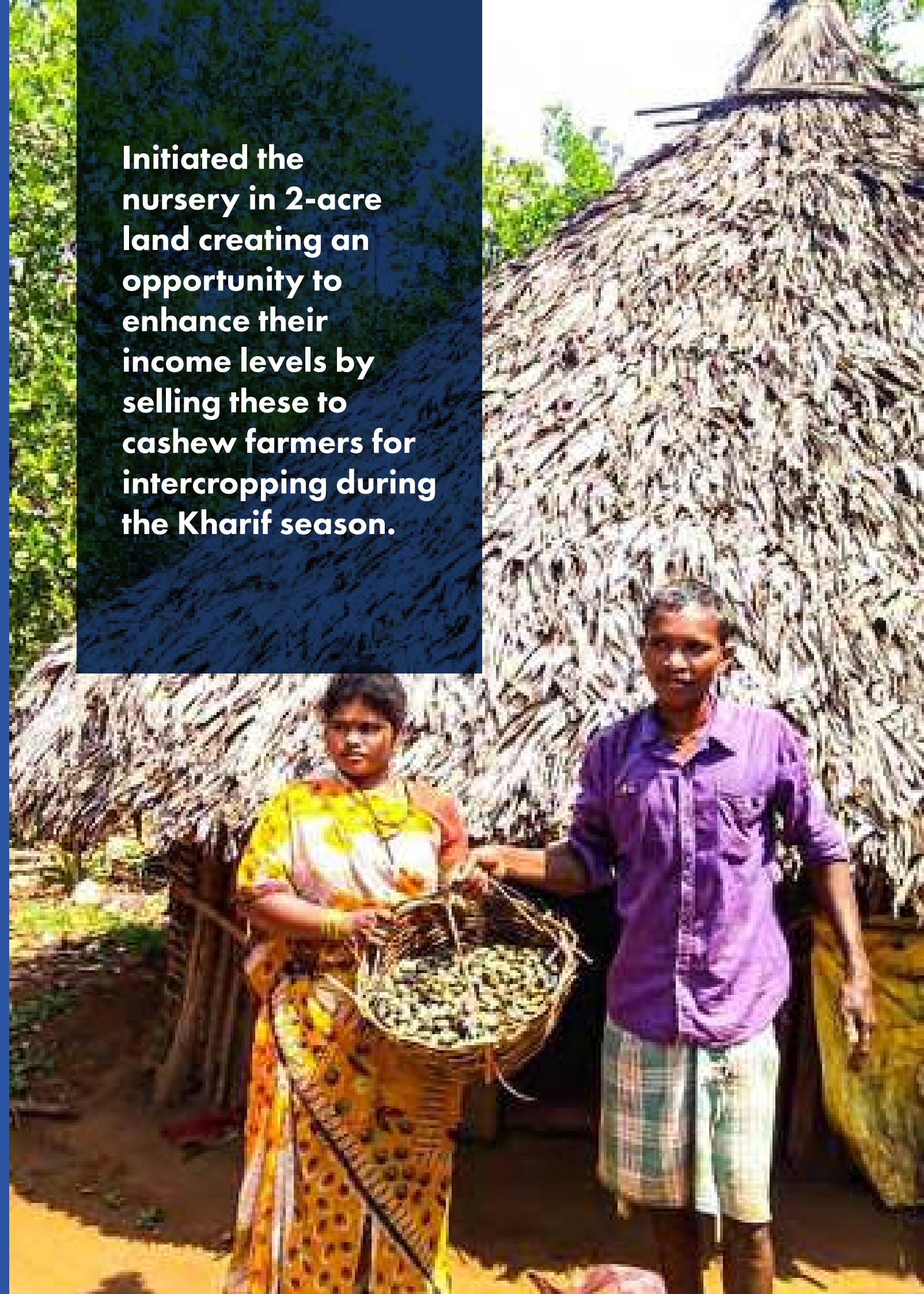
5.7. Maharashtra Visit under Poverty Action Room under CM, MH

A Field visit to five low Human Development Index (HDI) districts was conducted to assess the livelihood prospects in the districts. Several meetings with the line department officials and community were done in this process. Major livelihood pathways were identified and submitted for further planning. Socio-economic data and loan debt scenario are being analysed. SHG structure, mobilization status, social inclusion, economic inclusion & financial inclusion work is being assessed from the details given by different departments. Assessments based upon current, past, and planned interventions in these two districts are being done. Replicable model from the AP unit is being identified.

Key Achievements

- Conducted capacity-building activities to project team, SERP team (CCs & VO), FPOs & FPGs on the project objectives, cashew pest management, pre-& post-harvest methods of cashew.
- Facilitated formation of youth groups through motivational meetings organized for creating awareness on the package of practices on vegetable & fruit crops. In the process, five youth groups have initiated zero tillage methods in cultivating Hill brooms, Watermelon, Moringa (drumstick), pudina in each plot of 1 acre of fallow lands.
- SHG members were capacitated on the practice of garlic seed development and raising pudina through nurseries at the village level. They have initiated the nursery in 2-acre land creating an opportunity to enhance their income levels by selling these to cashew farmers for intercropping during the Kharif season.
- The SHG members were capacitated on backyard poultry management practices by forming common interest groups, involving the resources of WASSAN.
- Created awareness among the tribal farmers on the usage of Custom Hiring Centres (CHC) at the panchayat level. In the process, the ITDA PO has sanctioned 3 CHCs with equipment required for agriculture, for three pilot panchayats.
- Successful discussion with NABARD to take up the implementation of Maa Thota program in ITDA Rampachodavaram area, among 1000 farmers in a phased manner. The convergence of Maa Thota with our Lakshadhikari Rythu pilot project in Rajavommangi Mandal, East Godavari district, would complement the multi-layered income enhancement interventions for the benefit of tribal livelihoods.

Initiated the nursery in 2-acre land creating an opportunity to enhance their income levels by selling these to cashew farmers for intercropping during the Kharif season.



- Successful meeting with District Forest Officer (DFO), to collaborate for the implementation of Lakshadhikari Rythu initiative by allocating the forest land in the fringe to raise fodder- stylo hamata (paddock system) for the livestock reared by villagers in pilot villages. Further, allocation of forest development works (plantations, water conservation & harvesting works) to VSS members/youth from pilot villages; promotion of raising fodder such as Stylo hamata, Buffel grass & Anjan grass inside the forest to improve palatable fodder available for wild animals and to reduce movement of wild in village vicinity for green fodder in agriculture lands; promote construction of saucer ponds in forest area to create drinking water facilities to wild animals by pumping water from Hydraulic Ramp pump, to reduce the wild animals' movement to lakes around the villages.
- Capacity building session to team on Lakhpati Kisan models implemented by CINI: An exposure visit to CINI facility in Keonjhar-Odisha, Deogarh-Jharkhand & Maharashtra was conducted by CINI team of VCF to enhance livelihood opportunities including advanced irrigation techniques, introduction of modern cash crops and its value chain formation, and livestock-based income generation. The intervention is strongly linked with community participation and sustainable extension services. Formation of Poly-house based nursery, usage of advanced seeds, SRI techniques, Funding and Lending mechanism, and women empowerment programs were observed during the visit.

Challenges

1. Lakshadhikari Rythu

Delay in the supply of implements on subsidy by the government has led to non-practice of cashew pest management. Stakeholders from Government are fully engaged in government surveys and data collections, causing a delay in participation for Lakshadhikari Rythu program which is vital in implementation and scaling-up.

2. Horticulture

- Institutional level issues: Lack of timely availability of agriculture equipment such as power sprayers, power pruners, power weeder, digital weighing machine and small tractors. A proper channel needs to be established to support the farmers to take up agricultural operations at the right time.
- Lack of access to formal credit system resulting in the exploitation of farmers by the traders (money lenders). The farmers were compelled to sell the produce to traders to repay their loan instead of selling produce to FPOs and obtaining a better price. Hence, there is a dire need to provide the farmers the formal credit facility at the right time through official govt. channels like banks and cooperative societies.
- Non-availability of bulk buyers for vegetables produced in FPOs. Need to create a marketing channel so that the produce is sold at the right time and avoid crop wastage due to delay.
- Seasonality of interventions.

3. NTR Jala Siri

- The involved departments and parameters are high. Every department has its internal bottlenecks, which in turn delays the whole process. Thus, a single window clearance system would still face subsequent delays unless and until individual departmental issues are fixed.

Future Possibilities

- The 100 Agri-entrepreneurs trained by Syngenta would be providing farm-advisory services to 20,000 farmers. Facilitate the agri-entrepreneurs in setting up their enterprise like input shops and provide necessary support in availing subsidies and licences.
- To facilitate the construction of 100 greenhouses in Chittoor, with the help of SERP and Kheyti
- Foster the construction of the farm ponds and stream diversions proposed in Anantapur district and support the farmers in providing critical irrigation to their crops.
- Demonstrate model cashew farms for show casing best package of practices in cashew value chain and create market linkages with the help of SERP.
- Plan the activities for the turmeric value chain development in ITDA Paderu, with focus on the introduction of new variety of turmeric for productivity enhancement and reduction of crop duration, and better post-harvest technologies.
- Carry out further demonstrations on productivity enhancement in the horticulture crops with the implementation of best package of practices in the experimental plots and close monitoring of the farmers.
- Follow-up with the Dept. of Animal Husbandry about the status of Sorted semen artificial inseminations and analyse the results for planning further scale-up.
- Under Lakshadhikari Rythu project, the team is planning various interventions in a layered approach like model cashew farms, millet cultivation, SRI Paddy, backyard Poultry, Goatery, tarpaulin fishponds etc.
- Distribution of bee boxes to the identified beneficiaries of beekeeping from Kurnool and provide them technical and monitoring support. The team is also exploring possibilities of pitching the project to 1000 beneficiaries in Kadapa & Kurnool.
- Follow-up with APSSDC regarding the initiation of the project and the modalities to be adopted in on-boarding the training partners.

An innovative, eco-friendly, and low-cost solution towards enhancing incomes of tribal farmers

While grounding the Lakshadhikari Rythu project with multi-layered livelihood interventions, it was observed that farmers leave their lands fallow after the Kharif Season due to the lack of irrigation facilities. The causation for problem starts from the issues with electric supply as there is no proper grid connection which results in intermittent service. So, farmers have been relying on diesel-driven pumps for extracting the water and channelling it to distant fields. However, these diesel-driven pumps create severe service gaps because of frequent repairs, maintenance issues, and technical defects, and thus, leading to huge operational costs. Therefore, a reliable and cost-effective supply of irrigation water is the need of the hour in many ITDA areas. The Team of VCF working on the field found the existence of many water streams flowing from hills in the project area. They explored various feasible technologies to tap this water and reduce electricity or diesel dependence for farmers. Of all screened technologies, Hydraulic Ram Pump proved to be the simple and cost-effective solution which uses the water hammer effect from built-up water pressure.

The experiment on ram pump by VCF was set up at the check dam at Lododdi village, Rajavommangi Mandal, East Godavari district, AP. Series of trials were made by exploring and modifying the design and parts sizes to increase the flow. It was observed that when the moment of inertia was generated through 4-inch inflow in the unit, there was an outflow of 1.25-inch water with 25 PSI pressure. The pump was operational for 24 hours continuously pumping water to a height of 30 feet and the water from the outlet could be carried up to a distance of 3km. The farmers were suggested that the water from the outlet could be collected into farm ponds and water tanks so that timely irrigation to crops could be provided.

Mr. Kopuri Jogireddy, a farmer from Loddodi village is cultivating paddy in Kharif season. Until now, he gets lower crop yields because of poor availability of water and said, "I am now thinking of cultivating 2-3 crops per year as sufficient water can be supplied from Ram Pump with low cost and zero maintenance". Like him, many farmers in the village are willing to utilise the ram pumps to cultivate crops in the Rabi season as well and thus fulfilling the dream to become Lakshadhikari.

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Nursery raising by SHG women

To enhance the incomes of tribal SHG women in rural areas, VCF took an initiative on Nursery raising in Lakshadhikari Rythu pilot GPs: Sarabhavaram, Lododdi, and Badadanampalli Gram panchayats. In the nursery, intercropping was undertaken where three crops viz. Garlic, Mint and Hill Broom were being cultivated. Intercropping was taken up so that Hill broom is cultivated on the boundaries of the nursery to protect the nursery as a fence and to prevent animals from eating the crop. VCF would supply the seeds for nursery and bear the cost of cultivation. It would also provide the training on capacity building, technical and monitoring support in the cultivation process, and marketing the produce as well. The nursery management should sell the plants to farmers at a particular price decided, irrespective of the market price which would ensure the supply of plants to farmers at a reasonable price to take up intercropping in their cashew fields. As intercropping is done in the farm utilising the maximum space available and the crops being demanding in nature, the management or SHG women could earn additional incomes when compared to an earlier situation where they cultivate a single crop like paddy/tobacco/cotton.

Mrs. Latha Venkayamma, a progressive SHG woman farmer involved in nursery raising, earlier used to cultivate paddy in the field. When she was asked about the initiative, she said that "When I was cultivating paddy, I used to get very low income because of animals that would frequently enter the field and eat the crop. I am expecting that Hill broom cultivation on the boundaries of the farm could prevent animals eating the crop. Also, garlic odour prevents animals from eating the crop. By raising nurseries through intercropping, I believe it would bring additional incomes for myself as well as other group members. It is beneficial for us if VCF could provide a demonstration of the preparation of organic manure."

Zero Tillage Cultivation by Youth Groups

As a part of the Lakshadhikari Rythu intervention, to diversify the livelihoods of the tribal people and to reduce the migration of tribal youth, the Trusts decided to conduct a pilot on Zero Tillage method of cultivation. For this pilot, youth groups are established in every village with each group consisting of 10-20 people. They would be trained in low-cost cultivation and high-income agriculture. Some fallow land in the village would be taken and four crops viz. Watermelon, Drumstick, Mint, and Garlic be grown simultaneously. 250 pits were prepared per acre with a spacing of 5mX3m. In every pit, along the four corners, Watermelon is sown, in the centre-Drumstick is sown, in the centre for ½ metre-Mint is sown and the remaining ½-metre-Garlic is sown. In this way, four crops would be cultivated simultaneously using zero tillage method. The youth group members would market the produce in the nearest markets where they could obtain a better price. Thus, additional income could be generated for the members and subsequently migration could be reduced which eventually helps in achieving sustainability of agriculture and national food security.

Mr. Ramaraju, a youth group member from Sarabhavaram Gram Panchayat, was occupied in agriculture. He has been cultivating paddy and cashew in his farmland. He said "Our incomes from agriculture are meagre for our livelihoods. My friends migrate to cities for employment before one month of every festival to earn some additional income for festival expenses. Through this zero-tillage method, I feel we can earn additional income. Now I feel that the youth group initiative will certainly reduce the migration. I wish the youth group could act as a communication point to address any kind of issue in the village."



Balance Sheet 31.03.2018

SL. No.	Particulars	As at 31.03.2018	As at 31.03.2017
I	EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
1.	Funds and liabilities		
	a) Share capital	11,000	-
	b) Reserves and surplus	-	-
	c) Grants for capital assets	2,241,499	-
2.	NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
3.	CURRENT LIABILITIES		
	a) Trade Payables	1,681,230	-
	b) Other current liabilities	39,791,879	-
	c) Short-term provisions	44,663	-
	TOTAL	43,770,241	
II.	ASSETS		
1.	NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
	a) Fixed assets		
	Tangible Assets	2,079,027	-
	Intangible Assets	162,472	-
2.	CURRENT ASSETS		
	a) Cash and cash equivalents	3,96,05,997	
	b) Short-term loans and advances	17,33,258	
	c) Other current assets	1,89,487	
	TOTAL	14,02,20,201	-

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 31.03.18

SL. No.	Particulars	As at 31.03.2018	As at 31.03.2017
I	Grant utilised	29,789,694	-
II	Total Revenue	29,789,694	-
III	Expenditure		
	a) Program cost	26,889,151	2,68,99,151
	b) Administrative Cost	27,152,302	27,12,302
	c) Depreciation	1,78,241	1,78,241
	Total Expenses	2,97,89,694	
IV	Excess of Income over Expenditure before exceptional and extraordinary items and tax(III)	-	-
V	Exceptional items	-	-
VI	Excess of Income over Expenditure before extraordinary items and tax (V-VI)	-	-
VII	Extraordinary items	-	-
VIII	Excess of Income over Expenditure before tax(VI_VII)	-	-
IX	Tax expense 1. Current Tax 2. Deffered Tax	-	-
X	Excess of Income over Expenditure for the period	-	-

Cash flow statement for the year ended 31.03.18

SL. No.	Particulars	As at 31.03.2019	As at 31.03.2018
	Cash flow from operating activities		
	Excess of income over expenditure	-	-
	Adjustments for Non-Cash Items:		
	Depreciation	1,78,241	-
	Excess of Income over expenditure before working capital changes	1,78,241	-
	Changes in working capital	39,594,997	
	Adjustments for increase/decrease in operating assets		
	Short term loans and Advances	-1,733,258	
	Other Current Assets	-189,487	
	Adjustments for increase/decrease in operating liabilities:		
	Trade payables	1,681,230	-
	Other Current Liabilities	39,791,879	-
	Provisions	44,633	-
	Cash generated from operations	39,773,238	
	Income Tax Refund	-	-
	Net cash flow from/used in operating activities(A)	39,773,238	
	Cash flow from investing activities		
	Purchase of Fixed Assets	(2,419,740)	-
	Net cash flow from/used in investing activities(B)	(2,419,740)	
	Cash flow from financing activities(C)	11,000	
		-	
		2,241,499	
	Net increase in Cash and cash equivalents (A+B+C)	39,605,997	
	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		-
	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	39,605,997	
	Reconciliation of Cash and cash equivalents with Balance sheet:		
	Cash and cash equivalents as per Balance Sheet	39,605,997	
	Less: Bank balances not considered as Cash and cash equivalents as defined in AS 3 Cash flow statements	-	-
	Net Cash and cash equivalents (A+B+C)	39,605,997	

