



**Kovel Foundation**

A Trust By The Indigenous People  
For Research On Sustainable Technologies

# **A JOURNEY TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE TRIBAL LIVELIHOODS**

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## **ANNUAL REPORT 2009-10**

***By***

**Kovel Foundation**

**(A Trust by The People for Research on Sustainable Technologies)**

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## About Kovel Foundation

A Trust by the indigenous people for research on sustainable technologies, an apex organization of 250 Girijan Gum Pickers' Associations (GGPAs) spread in 15 tribal concentrated Districts across the State of Andhra Pradesh with its mission to enhancing the NTFP dependent tribal families' quality of life, is established on 28th February 1994 with its headquarters at Visakhapatnam of Andhra Pradesh, India. Its development objective is to increase the incomes of the indigenous people by promoting collectives and building their knowledge, skills and capacities on optimum utilization of forest-based resources by sustainable harvesting, post-harvest management, value addition, marketing besides conservation and regeneration initiatives.

### Vision - 2015

- 15000 NTFP dependent tribal families are organised into self-sustainable institutions and extend technical know-how on sustainable harvest management practices of NTFP and other livelihoods to realize at least an additional annual income of Rs 8000/ family besides women empowerment in Andhra Pradesh
- Kovel Foundation has the identity of National level Training Agency on sustainable harvesting of NTFP with a special focus on Gums & Resins and able to extend comprehensive training to at least 100000 tribal families on this line

### Mission

Enhancing the NTFP dependent tribal families' quality of life

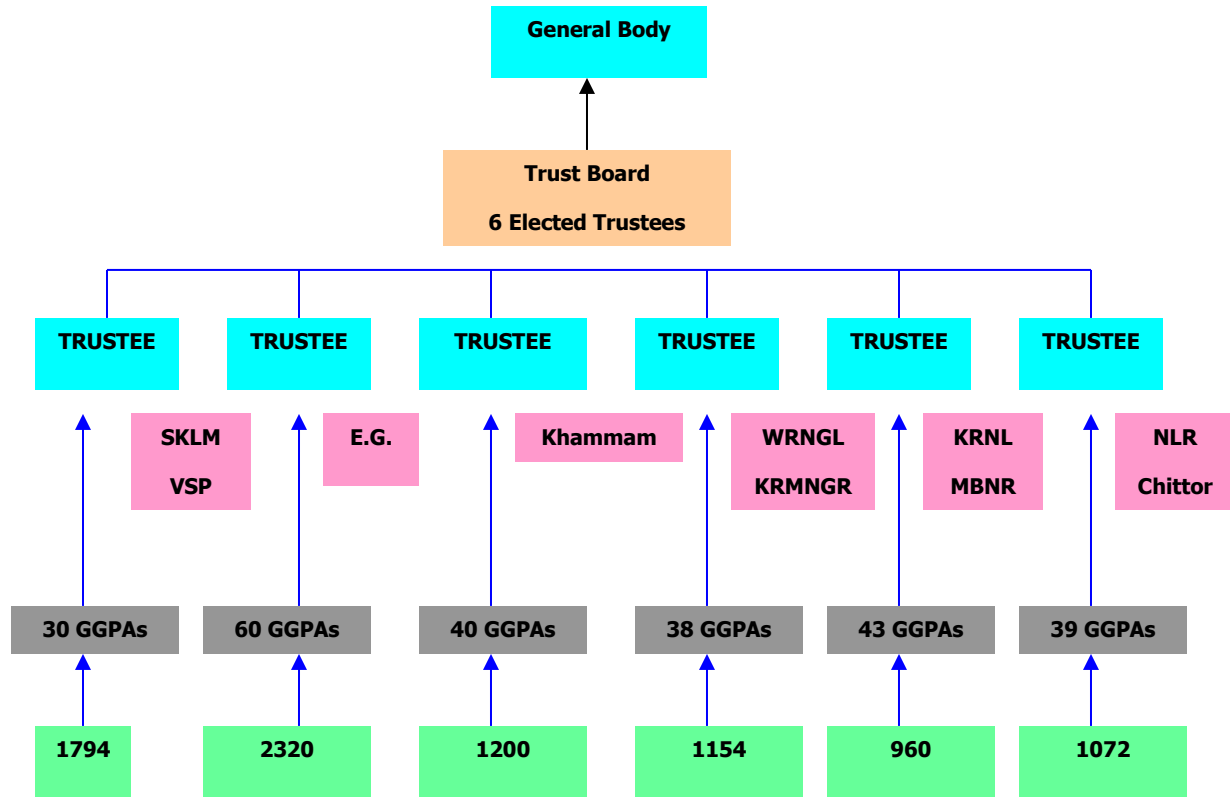
### Approach & Competency

Kovel believes in the capacity of indigenous community, ecological integrity, accountability & transparency as its core values and strategically focusing on institutional building, Research & development, collective marketing, value addition, regeneration of NTFP / Medicinal species and organic farming.

The Trust Board of Kovel Foundation comprises of 6 elected tribal Trustees from the 250 GGPAs, 3 nominated Trustees and two standing invitees (Commissioner, Tribal Welfare and VC & Managing Director, Girijan Cooperative Corporation Limited, Visakhapatnam) who are committed to tribal development. The Managing Trustee through the Chief Executive Officer manages the affairs of the Trust.

Kovel Foundation is first of its kind in the country i.e. owned and headed by Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) dependent tribal communities who form the Board. Hence community ownership and participation has always been on high priority in planning, implementation, monitoring, review and evaluation of the programmes for economic development of tribals.

# Structure



- |        |                 |       |                 |
|--------|-----------------|-------|-----------------|
| SKLM   | : Srikakulam    | VSP   | : Visakhapatnam |
| VZM    | : Vizianagaram  | E.G.  | : East Godavari |
| W.G.   | : West Godavari | WRNGL | : Warangal      |
| KRMNGR | : Karimnagar    | ADLBD | : Adilabad      |
| KRNL   | : Kurnool       | MBNR  | : Mahaboobnagar |
| PRKSM  | : Prakasam      | NLR   | : Nellore       |
| CDP    | : Cuddapah      | GP    | : Gum Pickers   |

# Programs

## Capacity building

### Gum Karaya

#### **Andhra Pradesh**

Gum Karaya (*Sterculia urens* Roxb.) is one of the major NTFPs in terms of providing major source of income for about 10,000 poor and landless tribal families in Andhra Pradesh.

The Kovel Foundation in collaboration with the TRIFED, New Delhi and GCC Limited, Visakhapatnam has initiated a program during the year 2006-07 and continued in the current year to impart training to the tribal gum pickers on best practices in each stage of value chain.

Kovel Foundation in collaboration with the TRIFED, New Delhi and Girijan Cooperative Corporation Limited, Visakhapatnam has had a tripartite agreement dated 26th October 07 to undertake a training Project entitled "Training Programme to the Tribal Gum Pickers on scientific tapping and skill up gradation for income generation in the state of Andhra Pradesh". As per the agreed proposal, a total of 2500 Gum Pickers are to be trained in the jurisdiction of G.C.C. Ltd., Visakhapatnam. As far as the roles of each agency are concerned, TRIFED is the central nodal agency for mobilization of required funds through the Ministry of Rural Development (MORD), G.C.C. Ltd is a Nodal Agency whereas the Kovel Foundation is an implementing agency for the said training programs.

#### **Training contents**

Training contents on scientific tapping of Gum Karaya have been organized into two days so as to cover theoretical and practical aspects on scientific tapping of Gum Karaya for creating awareness and skill building for the identified trainee tribal Gum Pickers. During the program, a two days Intensive training program has been organized during which, the theory and practical aspects in terms of identification of tree, technical subject on making the blaze at a specified height, fixing of the polythene liner, scientific collection of gum, separating the foreign bodies, grading, drying and marketing, etc are covered and supplied tool kits and resource material.

During the year, Kovel has imparted training programs on scientific tapping of gum karaya in the State of Andhra Pradesh covering 76 batches and trained 1908 gum pickers under Intensive Training Programs under Ministry of Rural Development (MORD). During the reporting period, Intensive Training Programs for all the 100 batches covering 2498 Gum Pickers have been completed and the Refresher Training Programs are due

#### **Maharashtra**

Kovel Foundation in collaborating with the TRIFED, New Delhi and the MSCTDC, Nashik to build the capacities of the tribal Gum Pickers on scientific tapping, value addition including grading and marketing besides regeneration of the Gum Karaya species.

The following are the details of the training programs being conducted in the State of Maharashtra

Sl. No	Name of the State	No. of Target families	Nature of training	Current status		Cumulative status	
				No. of Batches	No. of GPs	No. of Batches	No. of GPs
1	Maharashtra	1500	ITP	13	413	60	1496

### Medicinal plants

An attempt has been made by Kovel Foundation in collaboration with Girijan Cooperative Corporation Limited, Visakhapatnam and National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Delhi for imparting skill development for tribal families in identification, collection, processing, value addition and marketing of medicinal plants besides developing human resource team from local project sites for transfer of skills and knowledge. This initiative will be continued in the years to come for creating sustainable livelihoods for the dependent tribal families.

During the earlier financial year i.e.2008-09, a total of 23 batches covering 525 tribal collectors were trained on *Emblica officinalis* (Amla) and a total of 868 tribal collectors were trained on Kalmegh (Nelavemu). During the reporting period, a total of 20 batches covering 495 tribal families have been trained on *Strechnos Nuxvomica* (Nux Vomica), *Gymnema sylvestres* (Podapathri leaf), *Decalepis hamiltonni*, *Boswelvia serrata* (Gum Olibanum) in terms of identification, collection and processing of the same.

### STEEP

Title of the Project : Sustainable Tribal Economic Empowerment through NTFP Value Chain Management – (STEEP)

Duration : 3 years (May 09 – April 2012)

Date of Initiation : 1<sup>st</sup> May 09

Project area : 1) Visakhapatnam - 2000 Families  
2) East Godavari - 2000 Families  
3) Kurnool - 2000 Families

Stakeholders : 1) Jamsetji Tata Trust (JTT), Mumbai  
2) Kovel Foundation  
3) 6000 NTFP dependent tribal families from 3

### Development Objective

To empower NTFP collectors in the market place by enhancing their collective bargaining power and analyzing their NTFP livelihood activities using the value chain analysis, and by employing demand-driven approach to secure market linkages and mobilizing complementary services and resources.

### **Immediate Objectives**

- ❑ To facilitate tribal access to and control over the NTFPs market by employing alternative approaches and by strengthening their bargaining power by organising them into NTFP Groups, Cluster Federations and enhancing their marketing skills.
- ❑ To widen market opportunities for NTFPs with good demand in the market shall be identified and the essential technical know-how, tools, etc support should be given enabling value addition for the NTFPs and women should be allowed to participate at all levels of development.
- ❑ To identify, reduce and eliminate structural/cultural and institutional hindrances to tribal's capacity to market their produce/products.

### **Project Strategies**

by

- : 1) *Cluster Approach*- Empowering Tribal  
enhancing their Collective Bargaining Power
- 2) Emphasis on Market

### **Project Activities**

#### **Baseline Survey**

In the project area, the baseline survey is completed in all the 3 locations as per the plan. In case of Kurnool District, it is unfortunate that almost half the filled formats have been destroyed by the floods as they were kept in one of the COs' house. However, the survey is being redone and expected to be completed by next month.

The formats for the survey have been prepared consciously keeping the requirement of the project for a significant period in view and helped us a lot to identify the gaps need to be bridged. And the baseline is indefinitely useful for the project to plan the interventions or future programs with its unique approach and methodology As far as the STEEP is concerned, in the Districts of Visakhapatnam, East Godavari & Kurnool, finalization of the Mandals, Gram Panchayats and villages as per the target families is complete. The following are the details of the survey

<b>No. of Districts</b>	<b>No. of Mandals</b>	<b>No. of Gram Panchayats</b>	<b>No. of Villages</b>	<b>No. of Families</b>
3	12	32	190	8202

Keeping the need for maintaining the data and analysis report of the baseline in a structured manner in view, the project has already on the way for entering data in to the software. The said software has been developed taking the future comparisons into consideration. Data entry is about to complete, and the location wise final report is expected to be completed by the end of January 2010 along with consolidated statements at the project level.

### Secondary data collection

As it is planned in the project, secondary data has been obtained from different sources like GCC Ltd., Indira Kranthi Patham (IKP), Forest Department, Mandal Revenue Office, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDA), etc. the following are the details of the secondary data collected.

- Division wise and Branch wise statistics of NTFP procurement for 5 years
- District wise geographical & demographic details
- Maps
- Details of Self-Help Groups (SHG)
- Details of Job cards under NREGS

### Established District Offices

Each office in the project area is fully equipped with the requirements like computer, two-wheeler, telephone, internet, minimum furniture, racks, files, etc. As far as the location is concerned, samples of potential NTFP and medicinal plants are being collected and displayed in the office for educating the field staff, CRPs and other important visitors on the background and interventions of the project.

Regarding Kurnool District, the headquarters has been shifted from Nandyal to Atmakur during the month of December as it could be the centre point for majority of the clusters after expanding the project area to the other part of Chenchu belt according to the recent development which was happened keeping the NTFP potential and dependency of tribal in view.

### Project orientation

As it was mentioned during the earlier report, orientation to the target community on the project background and possible interventions has been initiated very early that was during baseline survey itself. In addition to this, the team has continued organizing project orientation again after finalizing the Mandals, Gram Panchayats, villages and target families as per the plan. However, it is surely not one-time activity and is a continuous process as the facilitation for the proposed interventions goes on. The details are as follow

<b>Name of the Location</b>	<b>No. of Mandals</b>	<b>No. of Gram Panchayats</b>	<b>No. of Villages</b>
Visakhapatnam	3	8	117
East Godavari	4	13	49
Kurnool	3	4	15
<b>3 Locations</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>181</b>



### Formation of CIGS and identification of CRPs

It was mentioned earlier that the Community Resource Persons are being identified from the same village involving target families during the formation of the Common Interest Groups in the 3 Locations of STEEP. The following are the details of the location wise CIGs being formed and the identified CRPs as well.

Location	No of clusters/Sub	COs	CIGs	CRPs
Visakhapatnam	5	5	100	100
East Godavari	5	5	100	100
Kurnool	6	6	100	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>300</b>

### Capacity building programs

Keeping the immediate need for organizing training programmes for the target families on scientific harvest management of NTFP under STEEP, the project has organized capacity building programmes for the Cluster Organizers and Community Resource Persons as well since they are the main team for organizing the village level training for the CIGs.

In the project area, capacity building programmes for the CIGs has been continuing simultaneously after forming each CIGs in each location. After training the communities about the scientific harvesting and value addition of NTFPs like Gum Karaya, amla, Clearing Nut, Nux vomica, etc majority of them are realizing the importance of following the methods for conserving the resources.

The following are the location wise details of trained COs and CRPs

Location	COs	CIG	CRPs
Visakhapatnam	5	100	100
East Godavari	5	100	100
Kurnool	6	100	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>300</b>

### **Shandy monitoring**

As far as STEEP is concerned, monitoring of the shandies is significant as the whole mechanism is circled around market. Identifying issues and exploitation levels in case of marketing of particularly NTFP with regard to tribal areas is possible mainly in two levels viz. household/village level where middle men's role is high and shandy place where large scale buying and selling happens by both GCC and private traders as well. Keeping this in view, the project has put monitoring of shandies in high priority to know the issues prevailing in the market so they can be addressed at village or household level to appraise at appropriate levels to solve or at least to reduce the same.

In the project area, GCC organizes procurement centers called shandy on a fixed day in the week in the tribal area where GCC also runs Domestic Requirements Depots (D. R. Depot) for the tribals. Apart from GCC activities, it is just like the weekly local super market for the tribals as they get most of their weekly requirements there.

The Cluster Organizers have started visiting the shandies on prescribed days in the project area to observe and monitor the marketing activities in the three locations.

### **Market Situation analysis**

These are NTFP-abundant area and here NTFP collection and selling is an important source of livelihood. Though we cannot directly assume that NTFP is the primary source of livelihood as agriculture also plays an important role for realizing substantial income to the families but income which comes from the NTFP collection and selling cannot be under estimated.

In addition to the monitoring of shandies every week, the project has felt that there is a need to undertake an internal study to analyse the current situation so as to develop specific strategy for intervening focusing on tribal empowerment in the market place. The following are the outcome of the said study

#### ***Existing Situation***

Collection of NTFPs has been a good source of revenue for the state and is an important source of livelihood of tribal people. To save them from exploitation by traders, the Government of Andra Pradesh has put restriction on NTFP trading which allows the tribal to sell unprocessed NTFP to GCC only. Now GCC bids for the collection and people get a minimum support price for the items collected but still there are some gaps. GCC is one of the agencies which work specially in the field on NTFPs and has various locations through the state of Andra Pradesh for the procurement of the NTFPs collected by the tribal people. GCC also gives a commission of one percent to the groups who collect the quantities in bulk and sell to them.

In the recent years, the availability of NTFP in the areas has decreased considerably and people are now shifting to other livelihood options like out-migration, NREGS and other labour related activities which fetch an extra income apart from the regular selling of agriculture items. Tribal generally grow the agriculture items mostly for self-consumption and less for selling.

Regarding the marketing related issues in the state GCC is the major player. GCC after collection of the NTFPs from the tribal people either process some items itself like honey, tamarind etc... or sell it to traders through auction process which takes place at Hyderabad level. There are some gaps in the procurement of the NTFPs, so the middle men play a very crucial role in this gap to make huge profits and sometime exploit the tribal people.

Sometimes it is also beneficial to the community as there is a significant price differential between the price of NTFP received from GCC, traders from the open market give better prices to the tribal people. Few big traders have official way to do it but other what is called as Chillara Vyapari (petty trader) illegally purchase the goods and sell it at the nearby big mandis.

This price differential is one of the major reasons of the fact that GCC have not been able to tap the market fully. Also, the GCC collection centres are not available in remote villages where the chances of getting NTFP is very high. The traders here take the advantage, they can also react to the price fluctuations in the market to woo the NTFP collectors which cannot be done by the GCC.

### ***NTFP potential & market exploitation***

The major NTFPs which are available are Gum karaya, Hill broom, Honey, Seeded tamarind, Adda Leaf, Nuxvomica, Marking Nuts, Clearing Nuts, Myrobalons etc...for which GCC is the official sole player in the market but apart from these there are very high value NTFPs available to name a few is like Gloriosa Superba, Nelavemu, Nela Tadi, Nela Gumadi, Sathavari , Duradagondi etc.... which are not collected by the GCC. Traders who have a very good and close market linkages collect and source it to the buyers with or without value addition. Regarding value addition not much emphasis is given but few items like tamarind is encouraged by GCC to be deseeded and amla is collected by the GCC as dry. But the method followed for drying of the amla is sometimes wrong as the way some traders also giving some instructions for the value addition tips to the tribal people but majority of the time, they purchase in the raw form add value at their premises which helps them to fetch more prices. The channel of private traders and can be termed as unorganized channel. There is no organized way of procurement, and distribution of these products in the open market. This channel is highly affected by the fluctuations in the demand. A number of sub-agents procure the NTFPs from the collectors and sell it to private traders who in turn, sell it to the wholesaler, manufacturing units or final consumers.

In case of few items like palm fiber which is a high potential item specially in East Godavari traders have a very good personal relationships with the tribal family members and at the time of the need, they give advances also for their health, marriage, festivals etc. There is a need to work out a strategy for new interventions as palm fiber purchasing is in the hands of these traders who in turn add value and transport it to export market i.e. Kakinada through trucks.

The NTFP situation in the state can be changed and community can realize better prices if proper intervention can be done with proper planning, implementation and monitoring.

### **Promotion & Strengthening of women SHGs**

As it is planned in the project strategy, the COs have been attending the regular weekly/monthly meetings of Self-Help Groups, Village organizations which are the federation of SHGs and Mandal Samakhyas to share and explain what is being done in the project area to appraise the need for effective collaboration at field level thereby effective implementation of project interventions.

Apart from that, the project is clearly focusing on two issues viz organizing the unorganized tribal women into new or existing SHGs and identification of defunct groups in the project area to stream line the groups through meetings in the village level besides close monitoring of thrift activity. In all the three locations, the efforts have been started by streamlining one SHG in each to start with.

### **NTFPs potential mapping**

As it is planned in the project regarding promotion of marketing new NTFP/Medicinal plants to add more income to the NTFP basket of poorest of poor tribal families, the team is putting efforts to identify the resources through mapping, interacting with community, potential NTFP / medicinal plants in terms of marketing and economics as well and also through consultations which are going on with agencies like GCC Ltd., and other such agencies besides sharing required market information with the target families.

Apart from this, the scientific harvesting practices along with value addition techniques besides the adversity of crude methods of harvesting are being taught to the NTFP dependent families especially for the NTFPs which are being procured right now by GCC and other traders to ensure sustainable harvesting and conservation of the resources.

### **NTFP samples collection**

As it is planned in the project level meeting, the District offices should have a display of NTFP & Medicinal plants which are important in terms of quantity and dependency of the poor & marginal tribal families as far as the District or region is concerned. As part of this, the District teams are concentrating on collecting samples of the same and collected samples of Gum Karaya (three grades), Gum Kondagogu (three grades), Myrobalons, Maredu tubers, palleru teega, etc and would be continued in the forthcoming months as per the season and availability. The season wise calendar for NTFP is enclosed as **Annexure -2**

### **Regeneration (under STEEP)**

Tapping of gum karaya trees from the wild source has been taking place for many years but efforts for regeneration of the species is almost non-existent. Due to lack of plantation initiatives, the number of gum trees for tapping has come down to half thereby deprived of resources for poor people livelihoods.

In the project area, the tribal families are dependent on collection and selling of various NTFP and medicinal plants. Among the Gums, there is a prominent species namely Gum Karaya (*Sterculia urens*) which can be taken up plantation as it fetches comparatively high income among all other NTFP and medicinal plants for promotion of significant livelihoods for the dependent families.

### **Gum Karaya nurseries**

As part of promoting Gum Karaya plantation in the project area, the efforts are on establishing nurseries of Gum Karaya plants which would be planted in the next year in each District as these specific plants need to be nurtured a minimum of 1 year in the nursery unlike most of the other plants. The following are the details of nurseries and survival of seedlings

<b>Name of the Location</b>	<b>Place of the nursery</b>	<b>No of saplings</b>	<b>Survival</b>
Visakhapatnam	Pinakota	5000	3200
	Gulli	5000	2260
East Godavari	Tallapalem	15000	10298
	Peaddapally	10000	4200
	Korumilly	5000	3100
Kurnool	Ahobilam	15000	800
	Sivapuramgudem	10000	1700
<b>Total</b>		<b>65000</b>	<b>25558</b>

### *Gum Karaya plantation*

In the project area of Ahobilam in Kurnool District, a total of 970 Gum Karaya saplings have been distributed to 53 poorest of the poor tribal families and planted in their own lands, forest area and Vana Samrakshana Samithis' (VSS) area as per their convenience.

Regarding Visakhapatnam District, a total of 97 families have been identified among whom a total of 4850 Gum Karaya saplings have been distributed and planted in the own lands of tribals. The District team has been closely monitoring the activity from marking, pit digging, panting and besides regular follow up.

### **Convergence with line departments**

As part of the convergence, the project is trying to involve the personnel at different levels from the line departments like GCC, IKP, Forest department, ITDA, etc during the Training of Trainers programmes of Cluster Organizers (COs) and Community Resource Persons (CRPs) during the period besides paying visits to concerned department offices from time to time.

A District level convergence meeting was organized on 20<sup>th</sup> March 10 at Rampachodavaram in East Godavari location with the line departments viz GCC, ITDA, Forest Department, NREGS, IKP, etc which are also working for the benefit of poorest of the poor tribals to discuss the possibilities for collaborative efforts to make the project implementation effective so as to reach the aim. District level Personnel from the said departments have participated where about 360 tribal participants from about 45 habitations were appraised the issues.

### Sustainable Agriculture - Non-Pesticide Management

Kovel Foundation in collaboration with Indira Kranthi Patham has been working on promotion of sustainable agriculture by adopting Non Pesticidal Management approach in Devarapalli, Paderu and Ananthagiri Mandals of Visakhapatnam District. The basic objective of the project is to reduce the dependency on chemical fertilizers and pesticides by utilizing locally available bio resources for pest and disease management

Kovel Foundation is one of the partners in sustainable agriculture project being supported by IKP in 4 clusters, 20 villages, 3230 acres and 986 farmers in the 3 Mandals. The following are the details of project coverage during the reporting period.

Sl. No	Name of the Mandal	Name of the cluster	No. of farmers	NPM Acres	Sasya Mitra groups
1	Ananthagiri	Pedabidda	214	775	11
		Pinakota	216	666	11
2	Paderu	Paderu	284	869.5	10
3	Devarapalli	Devarapalli	272	920	12
		<b>Total</b>	<b>986</b>	<b>3230.5</b>	<b>44</b>

Farmers have been organized into Sasya Mithra Groups, organising Farmers Field Schools (FFS), Extending technical and institutional support on promoting NPM practices. The project is also focusing on capacity building programmes to the field functionaries and farmers by undertaking seasonal trainings and exposure visits to improve their capacities, knowledge and skills.

The farmers are showing keen interest towards using low/no cost inputs in managing the crops from pest and disease attacks and realizing the positive impact that is going to be created economically and environmentally in the years to come towards sustainable agriculture development.

The following are the major activities done during the year

- Facilitated SRI paddy in 30 acres
- Crop models with mixed cultivation, border crops, trap crops, etc have been promoted by facilitating 162 farmers
- Promoted bund plantation of Custard Apple and Pongam with 112 farmers
- Conducted series of capacity building programs during Kharif & Rabi seasons covering all the 986 beneficiaries on NPM methods, roles of NPM sub committees and FFS, etc

## Sustainable Agriculture - RNGO project

Under NPM, the primary focus is on replacing the external inputs with the local knowledge, management skills, labour, and effective utilization of natural products and processes locally available. The farmers understand the pest biology and life cycle and modify the crop management practices to keep the insect population under check, from reaching a pest status. Kovel Foundation has been collaborating with 3 Mandal Mahila Samakyas (MMS) covering 4 clusters, 20 villages, 951 farmers and 3370 acres in Ananthagiri, Paderu and Devarapalli Mandals in Vishakapatnam district. The major crops in the project area are Paddy, Redgram, Black gram, Rajmah and Vegetables, etc.

Kovel Foundation has been working as Resource Agency for development of 8 organic resource villages. The following are the objectives

- To build capacities of CBOs in rain fed NPM/Organic agriculture towards reducing the usage of chemical pesticides and fertilizers
- To ensure convergence of diverse activities for developing resource villages consisting all the NPM/Organic and NPM plus activities
- Preparation of Herbarium specimens and botanical garden with botanicals and medicinal plants

The following are the details of resource villages

Sl. No	Name of the Mandal	Name of the Village	No. of farmers	No. of Acres	Major crops
1	Ananthagiri	Pedabidda	49	165	Paddy, Redgram, Black gram, Nigerseed
		Kantipuram,	36	177	Paddy, Redgram, Blackgram, Nigerseed
		Pedakota	42	118	Paddy, Cashew,
		Mallam peta	29	80	Paddy, Redgram
2	Paderu	Lagisapalli	44	141	Paddy, Rajmah, Beans
		Kadeli	47	188	Paddy, Rajmah, Beans
3	Devarapalli	Sammeda	50	174	Paddy, vegetables
		Ballipuram	35	174	Paddy and vegetables
		Total	332	1217	

### **Details of the activities done**

- Distributed 157 vegetable Mini Kits and promoted kitchen gardens
- Facilitated 48 farmers to develop 36X36 models
- Mobilized 93 farmers to prepare NADEP compost individually
- Facilitated the farmers to prepare 2950 Kgs of Ghana Jeevamritham
- Organized Capacity Building programs for staff and farmers as well in a phased manner as and when it was required
- Raised and distributed 10712 bio-mass plants in nurseries and distributed to the beneficiaries
- Promoted SRI Paddy in 4 acres
- Prepared Herbarium with 51 important crops, vegetables and medicinal plants which are used for preparing extracts and bio-fertilizers under NPM
- Video film was made on paddy, NADEP compost, Herbarium, etc
- Developed 3 organic resource farms viz Pedabidda, Paderu and Sammeda
- 8 cattle shed linings have been developed in 3 resource villages namely Lagisapalli & Kadeli in Paderu Mandal and Pedabidda in Anantagiri mandal
- PGS groups have been formed with 200 farmers covering approximately 554 acres

### **Guduchi VCA & Training Manual**

With an objective to increase the incomes from the NTFP basket to the poorest of the poor tribal families, the efforts have been initiated in the recent past to promote marketing of various forest produce including medicinal plants which have got significant market potential and not been marketed earlier. However, conservation of these particular species again becomes a concern as there is a threat to the species to be declined in number as well as density as there is every chance for the collectors to follow destructive practices for want of technical know-how and general awareness.

Keeping the above issues in view, Kovel Foundation, a trust by the indigenous people for research on sustainable technologies has taken initiative to analyze the value chain of Guduchi (*Tinospora cordifolia*) which is one of the important medicinal plants from source to marketing so would enable to design a training module with all the above said specifications at the end to impart capacity building for the collectors to ensure sustainable harvesting. This would be an effort towards conservation before the destruction takes place

#### **Objective**

- To study and develop a value chain analysis (VCA) of *Tinospora cordifolia*
- To develop a Training module on sustainable practices of harvesting and post-harvest management of Guduchi that will contribute to conservation
- Promotion of micro enterprise through collective marketing

#### **Study area**

Though the species of *Tinospora cordifolia* spread across the forest cover in Kovel's operational area in Visakhapatnam District, it is decided to take a sample of three villages from three different Gram Panchayats or locations in Anantagiri Mandal where the dependency of tribal on NTFP as a livelihood source is medium compare to the other agency and sub-plan Mandals as well. The following are the details of the three villages



Sl. No	Name of the village	Gram Panchayat	No. of households
1	Chinthalapalem	Pedakota	14
2	Gummanti	Pinakota	20
3	Chinthapaka	Pinakota	32

An ecological study also has been conducted in the study area by selecting a total of 9 quadrates 3 in each village to assess the density of different species which are available in the area. The said study has been completed and submitted to the Keystone Foundation in the month of August 10.

### SKI – DFID - IPAP project

Kovel Foundation has been one of the partners of Skill share International, New Delhi. In collaboration with Skill share International, Kovel has been implementing a new project entitled “Sustainable Tribal Economic Empowerment” (STEP).

Kovel Foundation aims to enhance the livelihoods of needy tribal community by analyzing their livelihoods with special reference to NTFP besides natural resource conservation which ultimately leads to sustainable empowerment

The purpose of this partnership is to address the needs of tribal poor tribal families with special focus on women who would be placed on the front as active participants in the entire chain by organizing them into SHGs and cooperative for collective initiatives. The project duration is for 5 years and being implemented in Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram Districts covering 1000 NTFP dependent families.

The expected outcomes of the partnership are

- Institutionalization of SHGs and MACSs as self-sustainable enterprises to promote alternative marketing channels controlled and managed by women besides other social development activities
- Value chain analysis and market research to understand the situation and enhanced capability of client community as per the needs
- Increased awareness among the service providers and general public on low health and human development indicators among tribals arising from marginalization

The activity is started with undertaking a baseline survey to identify the clientele families during the earlier financial year

The following are the details of the activities done during the report period

#### Strengthening of SHGs

- Concentrating on streamlining and strengthening of existing 56 SHGs, which are not able to do regular saving and not maintained the book keeping in most of the cases.
- The project is able to organize two new SHGs and focusing on non SHG members to be part of either existing SHGs and/or new SHGs.

### **Focused on Women Empowerment through MACS**

- Women are the members, SHGs are the primary groups.
- Women leadership development.
- To increase the Bargaining Power in the market place,
- Women managing the institutions thereby control over money and processes.

### **Formation of new MACS**

- Tribals have been organized into Gangammathalli Girijana Mahila MACS in Vizianagaram District.
- Mobilized 264 members from 27 SHGs from 27 villages.
- Mobilized Membership fee and Share Capital of Rs.29,040/-.
- Opened Joint Bank Account in the name of Field Coordinator and MACS president.
- Transferred Rs.50,000/- towards Revolving Fund from the project.
- Initiated Collective Marketing of Tamarind, Soapnut, Myrobalons etc.
- Total turnover in the MACS is Rs.9,600/-.
- Planning for procurement of Tamarind & Soapnut for next quarter.

### **Strengthening of existing 2 MACS**

- 2 MACS have been strengthened by trainings and regular BOD meetings .
- 2 MACS Bank Accounts have been jointly operated in the name of field coordinator and MACS president.
- One MACs has already initiated Collective Marketing of Myrobalans, Dry Amla, Marking Nuts etc.
- Total turnover of Adivasi Girijana Mahila MACS is Rs.31,000/-.
- Marketing Planning is on for Adavibidda Girijana Mahila MACS.

### **Management Training for MACS Members & Board**

- 4 Trainings was given to 360 members from 3 MACS on Principles and Management of MACS.
- Formed Procurement Committees and trained them on Book Keeping , Quality Control and Weighment process.
- Training was given on NTFPs on seasonal basis.
- Training was given on Value Addition of NTFP s – ex. Amla.

### **Capacity Building**

- Skill up gradation on scientific collection and value addition of NTFP workshops were organized for all the 3 MACSs and a total of 275 members participated

### **Advocacy**

- Data collection on MH NREGS Job cards is going on.
- Conducted 7 Awareness meetings on MH NREG Act.
- Convergence with MDO offices.
- Average 35 to 45 man days have been created.
- Ex. Kothapeta village 17 families, 17 cards, generated Rs.78,200/- @ 4,600/- per family through NREGS

- 24 Volunteers (CRPs) have been identified and one day project orientation was given and provided bicycles for all.
- 50 Para legal workers have been identified and one day project orientation was given training is yet to be given by expert.
- Liaisoning with Forest Department for creation of awareness on Forest Rights Act and facilitation for applying Claims.
- Conducted orientation programme to community by Kovel Volunteers on NTFPs, NTFP prices, Market Channels, Value Addition and other Govt. programmes in regular monthly village meetings.
- Village level Issues have been taken up and mobilized them to resolve.

### **Medicinal Plants Research and Documentation**

#### **Process**

- Interaction with community
- Identification of Tribal Doctors
- Orientation meeting with Tribal Doctors
- Collection of information on plants and method of medicine preparation
- Collection of samples
- Documentation analysis

#### **Work done so far....**

- 22 herbal doctors have been identified from 14 villages and data collection is going on.

#### **Health**

- 21 Community Health Workers are delivering services in the project area.
- Conducted 1 day orientation programme on Project with 30 CHWs and 2 ANMs.
- Sensitized the available services of **104** and **108** for accessing Medical Services.

#### **Livelihoods**

- Focused on NTFP based livelihoods like Amla, Gum Karaya, Myrobalan, Marking Nuts, Soap Nuts and etc. through Value Addition.
- Farmers for LAC cultivation has been identified and submitted to IKP for Trainings and to provide Tool Kits.
- Collaboration with TRIFED for skill building programmes on Gum Tapping, processing and tool kits were provided to them for 240 members.
- Shandy Monitoring is also in place to support NTFP collectors in terms of Grading, Prices and Quality Control.

## NABARD

Kovel Foundation is going to implement Maathota program with support of NABARD, Hyderabad in which NTFP and Horticulture plantation viz Mango, Amla, Gum Kondagogu, Gum Karaya, Jackin, etc in tribal own lands. Mixed crops in the plantation also would be promoted under this program. The Maathota program would be implemented in Ananthagiri Mandal of Visakhapatnam in 1000 Acres covering 1000 poorest of the poor tribal families. A survey was undertaken to identify the beneficiary families and a total of 200 acres have been taken during the first phase plantation in which the pit digging is going on currently.

## WASSAN & CSA

Kovel Foundation has been collating with two organizations viz WASSAN & CSA which are based at Hyderabad for preparing an action plan for development of land, water and perennial biomass under NREGA for 50 villages in tribal areas during the financial year.

### **Steps and procedures for preparation of action plan**

- Orientation of community regarding the proposed strategy and approach for development of farming system
- Preparing a list of families associated with the above village / habitation. These families may be categorized into four groups namely (i) those which are residing in the above village and also having land in the above village, (ii) those which are residing in the above village but their land is located in other village, (iii) those which are residing in other village but having land in this village and (iv) those which are residing in this village but do not have any land either in this village or even in other village(s)
- Collection of family particulars with respect to number of adults and children with each family
- Collection of patta books of families under group I and III and arranging them as per alphabet order.
- Entering the information regarding land particulars with above families (in alphabet order)
- Collection of a revenue map / cadastral map of the village (from the office of MRO) and preparing an enlarged copy of it on the paper (as well as on the ground)
- Preparing a resource map of the village on the enlarged copy of above revenue / cadastral map. For this purpose, the following items may be particularly indicated on the map (i) private patta land under irrigated condition (including land under drainage course and diversion structure), (ii) private patta land under rainfed condition, (iii) 'D' patta land, (iv) land occupied by the families but belonging to revenue department and/or forest department). Afterwards, each family may be located on the map through its code number. Besides this, main features like habitation, drainage courses, approach roads; etc may also be located on the above map.
- Dividing the entire village area into 6-8 parts of about 20-30 acres each. Preparing the list of concerned families in each part and carrying out field visits with concerned farmers for net planning in smaller groups.
- Assessing the existing and proposed land use system as well as intervention for development of land, water and perennial biomass in the concerned fields / families
- Tabulating family wise information in the concerned formats as per the enclosed framework
- Preparing a consolidated statement about the village with respect to existing and proposed land use system; proposed interventions including budget estimate (as per enclosed framework)

- Sharing family wise as well as consolidated information with the community at the village level
- Organizing an exposure visit of innovative families to successful experiences in case the above experiences have not been considered while working out the proposals
- Revising the proposal in the light of above exposure visits
- Submitting the above proposals to Gram Panchayat for sharing it in Gram sabha meeting before sending it to the MDO for preparation of designs and estimates as per the compute software.

During the reporting period, the data collection from the villages and computerization is completed. The report is to be finalized in the month of May 10

## **CWS**

Kovel Foundation is collaborating with Centre for World Solidarity (CWS) for providing “Technical and institutional support to gum pickers in Thummalacheruvu Gram Panchayat of Ashwapuram Mandal, Khamma District”. The following are the details of services, including methodology and activities to be provided by Kovel Foundation

- Providing on-site technical support and training / capacity building of gum pickers’ groups in the Panchayat, in scientific and sustainable methods of gum collection, storage, processing and value addition
- Planning and facilitating visits of the some of the gum pickers’ group members to areas to expose them to best practices, in terms of picking quality gum and institutional innovations
- Introducing better tools and equipment to these groups and training them on proper use of the same

## **Period of contract**

From 1<sup>st</sup> March 10 to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011

## Regeneration

### **NTFP - EP**

The Kovel Foundation is one of the India partners of NTFP – EP (Non-Timber Forest Products – Exchange Program) which is a collaborative network of non-government organizations and community-based organizations working with forest-based communities to strengthen their capacity in sustainable management of natural resources and NTFP livelihood development in South and Southeast Asia based at Manila.

The Network is supporting the Kovel Foundation to develop NTFP nursery where economically and ecologically important NTFP species like Gum Karaya, Myrobalans, N.M. Bark, Nux Vomica, Pongam, Clearing Nuts, etc.

This initiative in pursuit of the overall objective to create sustainable income source for the dependent tribal families in future ensuring community ownership on the trees by promoting plantation in their own lands besides sensitizing them on the necessity and technical know-how through (i) creating awareness on the need of NTFP plantations among the NTFP collectors; (ii) rising NTFP nurseries with various economically viable NTFP species involving the community; (iii) building capacities of the target families on regeneration techniques; and (iv) promoting plantation of the NTFP species in tribal own lands as well as in forest areas

## Events

### **Akshara workshop on VCA – STEEP & SKI**

Keeping the importance of Value Chain Analysis and market study of 15 major NTFP, a study was given to Akshara Network, Hyderabad which has completed the task and submitted the final report to Kovel.

It is known that the project has outsourced an agency called Akshara Network for Development support services of Hyderabad for developing Value Chain Analysis of important NTFP/Medicinal plants as far as the STEEP area in all the 3 locations is concerned. During the 1<sup>st</sup> level of workshop being organized by Akshara under this assignment, the project team was given critical inputs on how to develop a value chain analysis.

On 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> of September 09, there was a next level workshop on NTFP Value Chain Analysis conducted at Hyderabad by the external resource agency called ‘Akshara Network for Development Support Services’, Hyderabad where in a team of three Resource Personnel have facilitated the whole project team to give feedback on the draft report prepared. During the 2 days’ workshop, the gaps in the report were discussed in depth to finalize the report.

### **Purpose**

The core purpose of the study is to identify and prioritize the key 5 NTFPs in each of three districts (viz., Visakhapatnam, East Godavari and Kurnool Districts), undertake a detailed value chain analysis for them and also carry out the market study for them. Of these, there may be some common NTFPs, which may come across in all the districts while some of the NTFPs may be location specific.

## **Methodology**

Value chain analysis for important NTFP collected by most of the households in the community was the focus of the study. Value chain analysis was conducted for a total of 17 NTFPs in 6 tribal villages in three districts of Andhra Pradesh. Over group discussions and individual interviews, the study team tried to understand the important NTFP collected, seasonality of NTFP produces, availability and accessibility of NTFP produces, roles of men and women in pre-collection, collection, post collection, value addition stages and marketing of these produces and best practices. Importance of NTFP collection as a livelihood activity was understood while discussing other livelihood activities. The important methodology followed during the study is organizing large group discussions, interviews with families, focused group discussions, individual discussions, etc.

The following are the commodities for which the VCA was done by Akshara

1. Adda Leaves
2. Amla fruit
3. clearing Nuts
4. Gum Karaya
5. Mahua flower
6. Marking Nuts
7. Myrobalons
8. Naramamidi bark
9. Nelavemu
10. Nux Vomica
11. Pongam seed
12. Rock-bee honey
13. Sara pappu or Chironji seeds
14. Sharbat gaddalu
15. Soap Nuts
16. Tamarind and
17. Thippateega

## **Bio - Diversity festival**

The Chief Executive Officer and the Project Coordinator Ms N. Hemalatha have been a part of the Bio-diversity Festival conducted by Keystone Foundation, Kothagiri, the Nilgiris, Tamilnadu from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> October 09. the Project Coordinator has made presentation about the Guduchi case study on the 1<sup>st</sup> day that followed by interactions. On the second day the team has arranged an exhibition on Eastern Ghats bio-diversity with special reference to NTFP and medicinal plants in the Keystone campus for which Kovel team has got 2<sup>nd</sup> prize among the 25 stalls and certificates for the same. And on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day the same exhibitions have been organized at the Public Garden, Kothagiri town which was inaugurated and visited by the District Collector, The Nilgiris.

### **Exposure to NTFP interventions**

The team which has participated in the Bio-diversity Festival has also requested Keystone for arranging an exposure to the NTFO interventions like value addition units of Amla, Wild honey, wax, spices, brooms, etc which are controlled and managed by the tribal community. Next two days followed by the Bio-diversity festival, the team has had an exposure to the said at Hasanur besides a 'Natural Interpretation Center' developed by Keystone Foundation.

### **SKI Stakeholders meeting**

The Annual stakeholders meeting organized by Skillshare International, New Delhi at SOVA, Korraput, Orissa which the CEO and the Accountant have participated in during the month of September 2009 as it was decided during the earlier stakeholders meeting and made presentation on the progress of the Sustainable Tribal Empowerment Project being implemented.

### **Adi Shilp 2009**

TRIFED, New Delhi has organized a national level exhibition cum sale program called 'Adi Shilp 2009' for promotion of tribal products and handicrafts across the country at Hyderabad for 10 days during the month of November 09. the Kovel Foundation was invited to arrange an NTFP exhibition in the program on the inaugural day for which Ms N. Hemalatha and Mr Ravi have participated.

### **Visitors from American consulate**

There was a visitor Ms Juliet Wurr, Public Affairs Officer from American Consulate to Kovel Foundation along with her colleague Salil Khadar earlier the month of October 09 to know the work of Kovel Foundation and also visited the medicinal plants garden.

### **Madhu Ramnath visit**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2009, Mr Madhu Ramnath, National Director, NTFP – EP India has visited Kovel Foundation and interacted with all the staff of Kovel at central office. He discussed the potential of NTFP and issues prevailing particularly in terms of harvesting and post harvesting. He also has visited the medicinal plants garden at the central office.

### **Mr Henk visit**

Kovel has collaborated with Share people, an organization based at one of the European countries i.e. Netherlands for developing a Business plan for Kovel for next 5 years. With this background, during the month of March 10 (4<sup>th</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> March 10) Share People has facilitated a visit to Kovel by Mr Henk who is a Development Economist and has got very good experience in cooperative development. The resource person in support with the staff of Kovel at different level has developed the Business plan for Kovel for next five years besides visiting field areas to interact with the tribal families and to understand the livelihood portfolio of them.



### **AU – Seminar**

The CEO and Mr T. Lakshmana Rao have participated in a workshop organized by Andhra University, Visakhapatnam on traditional practices of medicinal plants in the tribal area to share the experiences and made a presentation along with the other participants

### **Maathota exposure to Vikasa**

On 4<sup>th</sup> February 2010, a team from Kovel Foundation has participated in the exposure visit to Maathota (horticulture plantation program) being implemented by Vikasa, Chodavaram with support of NABARD, Hyderabad. The participants have come from 7 organizations working in and around Visakhapatnam District. Vikasa has made a presentation at their field office, Dumbriguda on what is Maathota program and what is going on. Afterwards, field visit to Anthriguda and another village and nearby Maathota plantation sites was arranged to interact with the beneficiaries / VDCs

### **Insurance to GPs & HH**

During the financial year 2009-20, Kovel Foundation has facilitated an Insurance coverage program for the trained Gum Pickers and Honey harvesters with the financial support by Girijan Cooperative Corporation Ltd., Visakhapatnam. A total of 2000 Gum pickers and 1000 Honey harvesters were covered under the program. A Mrs Chevuri Pamuletamma whose husband (Chevuri Ankanna) of Harinagaram village in Kurnool District was died on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2009 has got a sum of Rs 100000 through the coverage with continuous follow up by Kovel Foundation.

### **Trust Board meetings**

On 5<sup>th</sup> of October, the regular quarterly meeting of Kovel's Trust Board has been held wherein all the team members of STEEP participated and make presentation. The trustees have interacted with the team regarding the interventions that are being planned in the project and given input wherever required