



Kovel Foundation

A Trust By The Indigenous People
For Research On Sustainable Technologies



ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17

by

Kovel Foundation

(A Trust by the Indigenous People for Research on Sustainable Technologies)

Introduction

Kovel Foundation (A Trust by the Indigenous People for Research on Sustainable Technologies) has been registered as a trust under Indian Trust Act, 1882, on February 28, 1994 with its headquarters at Visakhapatnam. It is an apex organization of 250 Girijan Gum Pickers Associations (GGPAs) spread over 15 districts of Andhra Pradesh & Telangana and has a strong clientele of 8500 Tribal Gum Pickers as its members. Kovel is unique in its structure wherein, the elected trustees are the local tribals including the Chair-person and the Vice Chair-person. 3 Trustees are nominated from outside to assist in the management of the Trust.

Full legal name of the Organization : Kovel Foundation
(A Trust by indigenous people for Research on Sustainable Technologies)

Date of Registration : 28th February, 1994
Registration Number : 171/B44/94
FCRA Number : 010350070
FCRA Issuing Date : 19th March, 1998
80G Registration No : u/s. 80G (5) (VI) of IT Act 1961

Mission

Improving the quality of forest dependent tribal families in tribal areas (India)

Vision

- Outreach: One lakh families directly in Andhra Pradesh; 5 lakh families indirectly across the country
- Increased incomes of 50,000 families by Rs.50,000 by 2022
- National Demonstration & Resource Centre (NDRC) of Excellence in NTFPs

4 Pillar Program

- Tribal Institutions Development
- Skill Development
- Livelihood Development
- NTFP Training & Knowledge Center

Community Institutions

Kovel has been able to promote a total of about 807 institutions with indigenous communities across the States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana ranging from village level to District level in which the primary producers are the members who are controlling and managing the institutions

Skill building

Training to Health CRPs

as part of revitalizing traditional healing practices in tribal areas for providing primary health care services, one Community Resource Person (CRP) from each cluster has been selected and being placed for extending the primary health care services at cluster level in consultation with federation. A capacity building program for a period of 6 months in



collaboration with Vanantharam Ayurvedic Pharmacy for health CRPs who are being called as "Giri Vaidya Mithra" has been initiated from the month of October that continues every month as per the module up to March 17. The training course also enables the trainee CRPs to work in the field on the aspects they learnt during the phase wise training program.

ZBNF

In the Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) nothing has to be purchased from outside. All things required for the growth of the plant are available around the root zone of the plants. ZBNF method involves locally obtainable natural bio-degradable materials, combine scientific knowledge of ecology & modern technology with traditional farming practices based on naturally occurring biological processes. The principal methods of ZBNF include crop rotation, green manures and compost, biological pest control, and mechanical cultivation. Zero budget farming methods are promoted by agri-scientists like Subhash Palekar.

Keeping the success of the above methods in reducing the input cost and increasing the yield in view, Government of Andhra Pradesh is working towards replication the same across the State closely associating with Mr Subhash Palekar in the process. Kovel Foundation is one of the key partners of Agriculture department in promoting natural farming. With this background, there were series of capacity building programs on ZBNF being conducted wherein, a total of 69 CRPs including key staff and 200 tribal farmers from Kovel have been intensively participated during the reporting year.

NTFP/MAPs

As part of NTFP Development, Kovel was able to reach about 11000 Mahila Kisans across the 4 Districts of Andhra Pradesh to build their capacities on sustainable harvest management and value addition of economically important NTFP/MAPs such as Hill Brooms, Tamarind, Amla, Kalmegh, Guduchi, Sugandhi, Nannari, etc.

Others

Kovel also has conducted capacity building programs for community members, CRPs and CC/CMTs on different themes such as sustainable harvesting of NTFP, use and techniques of PICO Projectors for video dissemination, traditional health care promotion, leadership development, etc.

Food, Nutrition & Livelihood Security

Annapoorna Models

Annapoorna model is an intensive, integrated, adoptable organic farming model for improvement in food and nutritional security. This is a tested model of agriculture development suitable for tribal areas and tribal households. It is planned to be implemented in 1/2 acre area per identified households. This model covers pulses, vegetables, oil seeds, paddy, tubers, leafy vegetables, gourds, creepers, fruit plants, etc so as to take care of food and nutritional security and also to protect soil, water and environment by promoting bio measures. Annapoorna model is meant for 75% food & nutrition security and 25% for enhancing income.



Understanding the potential of food/nutrition security through Annapoorna model keeping the intensity of food insecurity issue that is resulting in malnutrition in women and children thereby various health problem prevailing in the tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana States, Kovel Foundation has been putting efforts towards promoting Annapoorna models in the tribal areas across these 2 States. A total of 450 such models have been established across 4 Districts of AP and 2 Districts of Telangana so far out of which, 24 were established during the reporting period

Agro-Forestry Models

This model is being done on extent of half acre land with intercrops focusing on income generation. A combination of horticulture, NTFP and other species selected based on the farmer preference. In the project area, two kinds of models are being promoted. The first one is with 3 kinds of fruit plants in a block method with intercrop whereas the second method is 3 kinds of fruit plants in a single row with intercrop. The package of practices being followed in both the methods are organic or Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF). The project is motivating the farmers for Soil & Moisture Conservation works either on their own or in convergence with NREGS. A total of 730 Agro-Forestry Models have been established across the districts under the project so far out of which, 219 were established during the reporting period and currently the focus was on fruit plants management and intercrops.

Kitchen Gardens

A vegetable seed kit consisting of 11 varieties have been provided to every MK in the project area to address food and nutrition security. All the vegetable kitchen gardens have been grounded either at the backyard or in the field areas based on the available space. Care has been taken to promote ZBNF/Organic practices so as to reduce vegetable cultivation cost on one hand and for ensuring good quality of vegetables on the other. The project team stressed the need of vegetable consumption by the households during livelihood group meetings and household visits and marketing for surplus vegetables at village level and shandy level as well. This activity has resulted into a significant benefit for the MKs as they are able to consume fresh and organic vegetables and also marked reduction in the cost. Efforts are on to motivate MKs and federations to collect and preserve vegetable seeds for future use so as to make a sustainable activity by the federations. A total of 11000 tribal families in Kovel operational area have been given the said kits and established the kitchen gardens.

Millet Revival

It is known that Kovel is focusing on tribal livelihoods which significantly include Agriculture and horticulture into the fold wherein forest dependent tribal communities are the key stakeholders. As part of promoting sustainable agriculture, Comprehensive Revival of Millets Program has been given priority keeping the kind of potential millets have got in terms of providing nutritious food security especially during lean season for food in the tribal areas in view. With this background, Kovel is so far able to cover a total of 1425 tribal families in Visakhapatnam and East Godavari Districts covering 1500 acres in promoting millets such as Ragi, foxtail millets, Samalu, Bajra, Jowar, etc.



Maathota

It was known that Kovel has promoted Maathota which is a mix of Horticulture and NTFP plantations coupled with intercropping of various food and cash crops for addressing the food insecurity issue on one hand and income security on the other. This intervention also aimed for land development, water resource development and Soil & Moisture Conservation. A total of 1000 Acres covering 1000 tribals farmers have been developed. Apart from the regular support with regard to plantations, other support like capacity building programs, supply of Smokeless Chullahs to reduce women's drudgery and to improve their health, marketing support for the yield which has started from the plantations, etc has been provided to the client families.



Tasar based Livelihood promotion

An initiative for tribal economic empowerment has been taken up in 5 Districts of both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana States covering 5900 tribal families who are small and marginal farmers dependent on forest based livelihoods in general and Tasar based livelihood in particular. Though they have been rearing Tasar culture traditionally, their income levels are minimal as all the intermediate steps in the value chain were not being taken up by them.



As part of Tasar based livelihood interventions, Kovel has been mobilizing and organizing women into a community based activity group, developing a cadre of Para professionals from tribal rearers, providing technical know how in basic & commercial seed production, private grainages, providing required equipment, etc. For supplementing Tasar rearers' income, they were supported with Kitchen Gardens and capacity building on sustainable agriculture to reduce expenditure and create additional income as well.

MAPs cultivation

Promotion of MAPs cultivation is another unique feature in the agro-forestry models wherein it is included fruit plantation in the same as part of nutrition security. The number of plants being planted in each Agro Forestry Model is ranging from 44 to 65 based on the size of the plot. Mango, Sapota, Mosambi, Guava, Pomegranate, Amla, Drumstick, Papaya, Lime, Banana and Curry leaf are the types of fruit plants given to each model and the Medicinal plants are Premna (*Premna integrifolia*), Bilwa (*Aegle marmelos*) and Syonaka (*oroxylum indicum*).



Marketing initiatives

As part of promoting business initiatives, community collectives are being supported with technical and institutional support from Kovel Foundation. Though all the Cluster/District federations had plans for business involving those products which are available in their Districts, Demonetization process of Government of India has adversely affected the groups' plans to do so. However, about 2 Tons of Kalmegh has been collected and procured by the collectives during the year.

Strengthening of Healers Network

Kovel has been identifying traditional healers from indigenous communities across the State of Andhra Pradesh with an aim to collect database along with documenting their traditional knowledge. As an effort to organize the healers at different levels, Kovel has formed a Network with them in Viskhatnam District and efforts are on forming similar Networks in other Districts and the State as well.

TBRs

Kovel in collaboration with the Andhra Pradesh State Biodiversity Board has taken up a study to prepare database on tradable bioresources along with their economic valuation and associated traditional knowledge in Visakhapatnam, East Godavari and Kurnool Districts of A.P. three final reports have been submitted during the reporting period.

Conservation & Regeneration

It is Kovel's mandate that conservation and regeneration are to be kept as one of the core agenda points in the light of working with forest, indigenous communities and forest based livelihoods. In



this regard, Kovel with or without outside funds will undertake initiatives like raising of NTFP nurseries, developing conservation models for important species of different categories such as endangered, highly economic, medicinally important, etc. As per the annual plan, Kovel continued raising nurseries in Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, Chittoor and Kurnool Districts wherein NTFP in general, Gum Karaya and certain Medicinal plants in particular have been raised. The plantation of the plants raised during the earlier financial year has also been

successfully completed in all the locations aiming the own lands of tribals especially keeping the issue of ownership on the trees in view. The following are the details of Nurseries raised during the reporting year

Sl. No	District	Place	Particulars
1	Visakhapatnam	Kasipatnam	MAPs Nursery with 41000 plants
2	Visakhapatnam	Bangarammapeta	NTFP Nursery with 34300 plants
3	East Godavari	Thallapalem	Gum Karaya & MAPs Nursery with 52000 plants
4	Visakhapatnam	Bangarammapeta	Tribal Livelihood Resource Center
5	Visakhapatnam	Kasipatnam	MAPs Resource Farm for Pilots
6	Chittoor	Melachuru	Gum Karaya & MAPs Nursery with 19000 plants

NTFP Training & Knowledge Center (TKC)

This program pillar focuses more on field base action research and improvement of technological aspects related to the conservation, livelihoods, regeneration and documentation of the same and some of the components under the same are developing resource material related to NTFP/MAPs besides other tribal livelihoods, gums & resins desk for information dissemination for the wider society, undertaking R & D project/s on Solar technology for NTFP/MAPs processing/value addition and undertaking studies / surveys for developing appropriate strategies.