



## PHOTO STORY NO 7

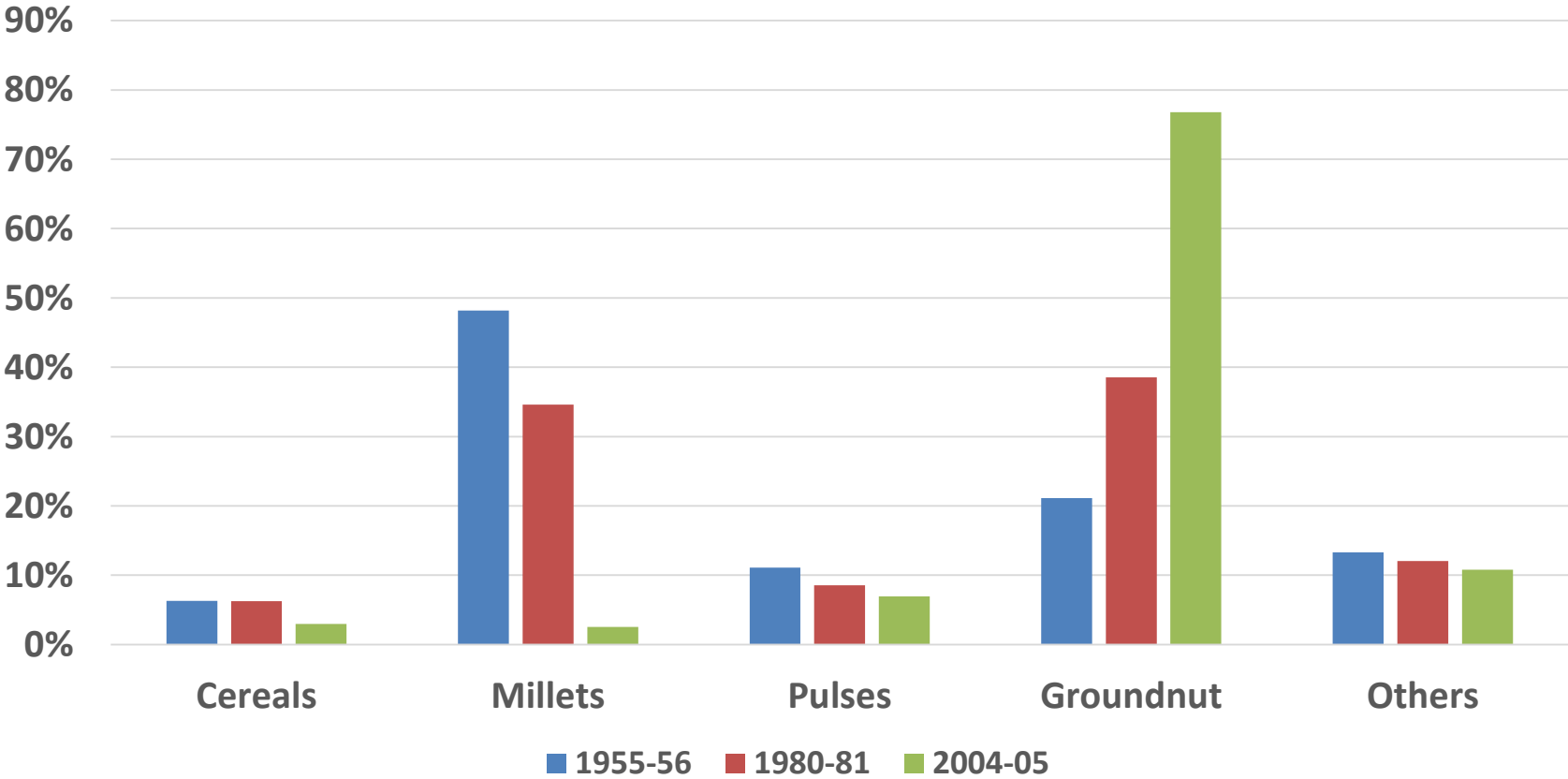
### “ Shared Waters Smart Waters ”

Ward/ Grama Panchayat: **Sanapa village**  
District: **Anantapuram**  
Year: **2016**

Agency and Person who adopted the Ward/  
Village: **Accion Fraterna**  
Facebook/ Website:

**Cropping Pattern in Anantapur District was very diversified and most appropriate for climate - rainfall pattern and frequent droughts. Over a period of time, this diversity in agriculture reduced and only groundnut crop dominated the agriculture...**

**Shifts in Cropping Areas in Anantapur (As % of Cropped Area)**



**Along with this dominant monocropping, cost of cultivation and risk also increased. Groundwater became scarce....**

**It is important to diversify crops for a viable agriculture. Sharing of water resources is an important step in that direction. Villagers of Sanapa village demonstrated various ways of sharing water by cooperating with each other....**

**This is the story of Sanapa, where cooperation is becoming a norm...**





**“I drastically reduced area under groundnut. I almost completely switched over to red gram for last three years. It hardly requires any water. Last year, I got two lakh rupees profit from my red gram crop. After seeing my experience, many of our farmers have started diversifying crops now.... Though this year (2016) has worst and longest dry spell (75 days) in the last 50 years, some of these farmers are doing well....” Balaraju is jubilant with his decision and splendid results. A rare testimony from a farmer in Anantapuram district, Andhra Pradesh.**

**Farmers in Sanapa village, Atmakur mandal, Anantapuram district are discovering their roots. Balaraju is riding the wave.....**

**“Initially, there was a great deal of disagreement and none of us were ready. But Accion Fraterna organized series of meetings at village.... Five of us came forward and agreed to pool our bore wells and share groundwater with other farmers, who do not have bore wells. We all made cash contributions – 2500 Rs/acre, which is a mandatory condition. We developed a grid of bore wells, pipelines and established outlets for easy sharing of groundwater. We also discussed several new ways of understanding water and a culture of cooperation in the village....”**

**Balaraju shares his experiences of bore well pooling and how a new process of water management got triggered in the village.**





## **Sharing Water – Cooperation is the New Mantra...**

**27 bore well owners came forward and shared groundwater with 60 neighboring farmers, who do not own bore wells. These 60 farmers who are completely dependent on monsoon/ rain benefited from this water sharing arrangement and could protect their crops, during 2016.**

**The farmers who own bore wells realized that there is a social obligation with them and they should share water with others, who do not have access to water.**

**“I offer to share groundwater with farmers in my neighborhood and they are happy about it. I do not charge anything for this. I am proud of doing this. There are several others who are like me in the village now...” –Rajasekhar Reddy, a young farmer is in the frontline, who is sharing water with others.**



**Accion Fraterna made arrangements for facilitating water sharing in the village - pipes, sprinklers, drips, motors/ pumps, tankers, on “custom hire” basis. Several farmers joined this collective experiment – where water is shared with each other and no one is sacrificing.**



**Under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. About 80 farm ponds were constructed during 2016. About Rs 40 Lakh worth investment is made under this initiative in this village, during 2016.**

**Many of these tanks got filled at least once during the monsoon. Though the monsoon was a failure this year (2016), some of these farm ponds could harvest rainwater, during the scanty rains. These farm ponds have tremendous impact on the groundwater and also on crop survival.**





# Demonetization of Agriculture

Accion Fraternal attempted to revive the tradition of barter system in agricultural labor. Sanapa village has Sasya Mitra Sanghas (Friends of Farmers). Each group would have 12 male and 12 female members. These members save money on monthly basis and use the savings for small credits. Interested women among these groups organized themselves into labor groups. Each group would have 10 women members. These members work for each other and take up labor work in the lands of all members. Typically, all these members are farmers and cash payments for labor is neutralized for each season. Each member contributes 9 days of labor in others land, while remaining 9 members work in her field for a day.



This revived trend is helping them to rekindle kinship and cooperation among the villagers. This is beyond money. The social capital is yielding interest and everyone is willing to strengthen these relationships.

## **Smart Agriculture.... A new culture**

**Farmers experimented with new improved agronomical practices in red gram crop that have implications on water requirement. They increased the distance/ spacing between two rows of red gram crop and reduced the number of rows per acre. This arrangement not only reduced the water demand, but also helped to improve the yields of the crop.**

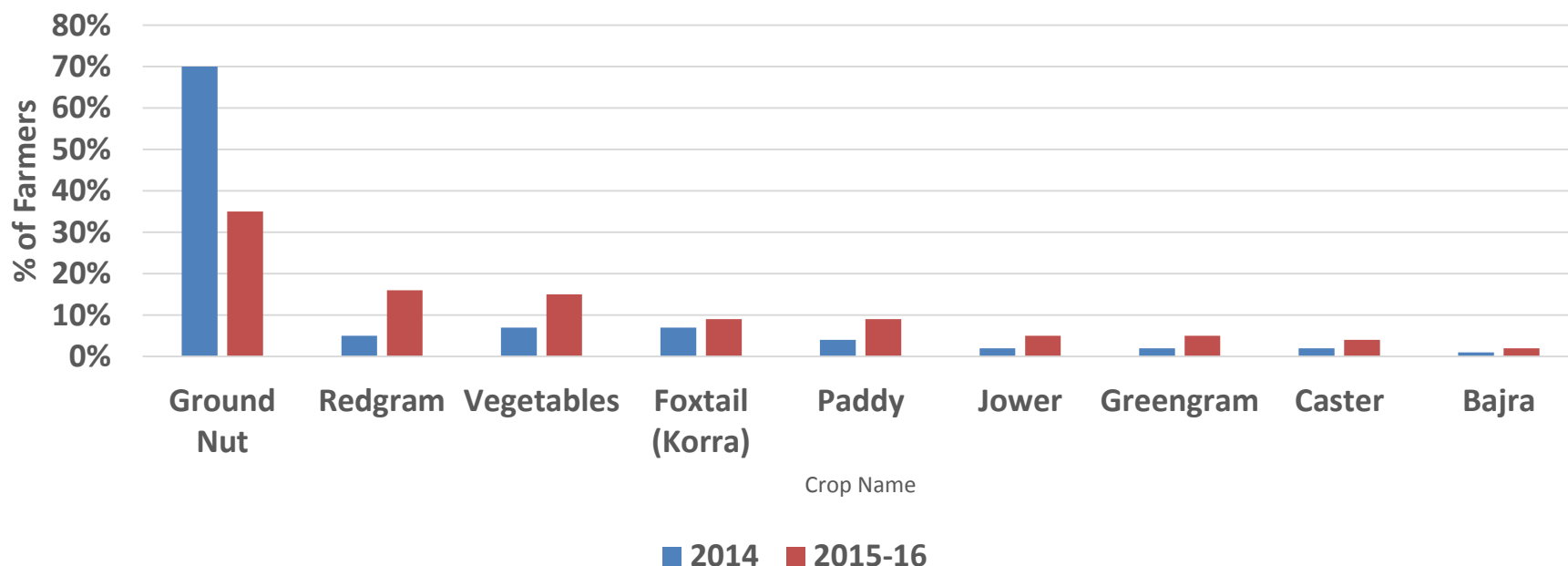


**Red gram crop was not completely cut after first harvest. After the first harvest, the branches are trimmed and irrigation is provided once again. These trimmed plants started flowering again and pod formation took place. The crop duration increased and the same crop (plant) could be harvested twice or thrice. This reduced the cost of cultivation and increased the income, from the same investment.**

“We learned to share waters and minimize risks in rain-fed agriculture... We are sharing labor with each other.... We are also sharing agricultural equipment’s... We evolved new norms and culture of cooperation in the village..... Smart farmers cooperate with each other...” reiterates Balaraju. With a spirit of cooperation and experimentation, the villagers of Sanapa are changing the landscape of the their village and bringing back the diversity in agriculture....

Figures speak this change. A conclusion that you cannot agree more.

Changes in Cropping Pattern in Sanapa Village % of Farmers and Crops



Documented  
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