

SHRAMADANAM SAVES THE CROP AND VILLAGERS FROM DISEASES AND BUILDS UNITY

- A Case Study of Mandalapalli village

Parthenium weed, was spreading the PSND viral disease to Groundnut crop and it was spreading rapidly the entire village and fields of Mandalapalli village in Settur area. This was also causing harm to the human health. This plant spreads very quickly. It's roots are very strong, go deep into the earth and do not allow to come out of



the soil easily. This year when there was heavy rain continuously for two days and the soil become loose. AF staff motivated the villagers to participate in "Shramadanam" (Voluntary labour) for the removal of parthenium plants. First AF staff met some farmers, key leaders of the village and some women.

They explained them the bad effects caused by parthenium plants to the people and to the groundnut crop. People realized that it will cause Asthma, breathing problems and

allergies to human beings. It also absorbs more water and releases poisonous gas.

Thanks to AF which came forward to unite us and build awareness on the damage caused by parthenium to the crops and people. My land was cleaned within one and half hours without spending a single paisa. I understood the strength of unity. I and my family members will help all my villagers to get rid of parthenium.

**B. Hanumantha Rayudu,
Mandalapalli village.**

After that they conducted a door-to-door campaign and a rally in the village with slogans and placards about the bad effects and the damage cause to the other crops. Men, women and youth (nearly 200 members) joined the rally. AF staff gathered all of them at one place and encouraged them to participate in the Shramadanam. From each family at least one member participated in Shramadanam program. AF staff explained them the precautions they should take while plucking the plants. Each member was given caps, gloves and masks which were used during the removal of Parthenium plants..

The group went to the fields of Hanumantha Rayudu and other 3 farmers which are located near by the village and removed the plants continuously for one day. For every 20 acres of land in each field one farm compost pit was dug with a size of 2m. x 2m. x0.6m. and the removed parthenium was filled and later covered with soil. Eventually a weed became a useful bio-fertilizer for the farmers.

The estimated cost of this Shramadanam is Rs.16000/-. All the participating members promised to remove the parthenium plants which are near their households, in farm yards and crop fields with mutual help. They decided to do 'Shramadanam' on every Thursday in the rainy season and eradicate the parthenium weed from the village forever. Mr. Hanumantharayudu and his neighboring 3 farmers are expecting better yields in groundnut crop this year as the crop is not affected by PSND disease due to removal of parthenium weed.