

## Women's initiative solved the poor farmers' seed problem

- A case study of Manirevu village.

The farmers of Manirevu village were having acute scarcity of Groundnut and Red gram seed. They had to purchase seed from the town market or from the middlemen. They had to pay a high price. Moreover, there was no guarantee of quality. AF staff noticed this problem and motivated the representatives of the existing 20 women groups (SHGs) from the two Village Organizations called 'Sai' and 'Sailatha', to establish a seed bank in the village itself which could also be a seasonal livelihood opportunity for them.



Later AF staff and group leaders organized a meeting for the farmers and discussed with them, and identified the farmers in need of seed, particularly the poorest farmers. They were formed in to a seed user group. The V.Os.(Village Organisations) are village level federations formed by the leaders of all women SHGs in the village which are organized by DRDA, a State Level Government Agency. The VO provided Rs.3,00,750/- credit to the group for starting a seed Bank. (The group purchased 23,200 kgs. Of Groundnut and 400Kgs. Of Red gram from the co-operative society).AF's agriculture officers helped them to buy good quality of seed. Then they supplied the entire seed to 48 needy poor farmers of Manirevu for a fair price. The planning and implementation of this activity was monitored by the Village Organizations. As a result:

**"Thanks to AF for motivating the Sanghas to establish a seed bank. This helped us to get good quality of seed for low cost. The poor farmers, like us were able to overcome the seed shortage. Also we are expecting to get a high and quality yield comparative to the previous year. Thanks to Sai & Sailatha Gramykhya Sanghas and the village organisation for taking part in this process".**

**- Small and poor farmers,  
Manirevu village.**

- The needy farmers got quality seed, for a fair price and in time, on credit.
- They could repay the credit after the crop is harvested and sold.
- The group also made a reasonable profit from this activity.

The farmers would have faced the following consequences in the absence of the seed banks:

- Falling prey to the money lenders
- Inability to diversify the crops with food crops
- Inability to sow the crops in time
- Decreased returns on investment

The women groups representatives in the Sanghas expressed their happiness for gaining reasonable profit in this process, while fulfilling the seed needs of poor farmers in the village. The farmers were immensely happy as they got good quality seed at a fair price in time on credit. They were happy to repay the credit.