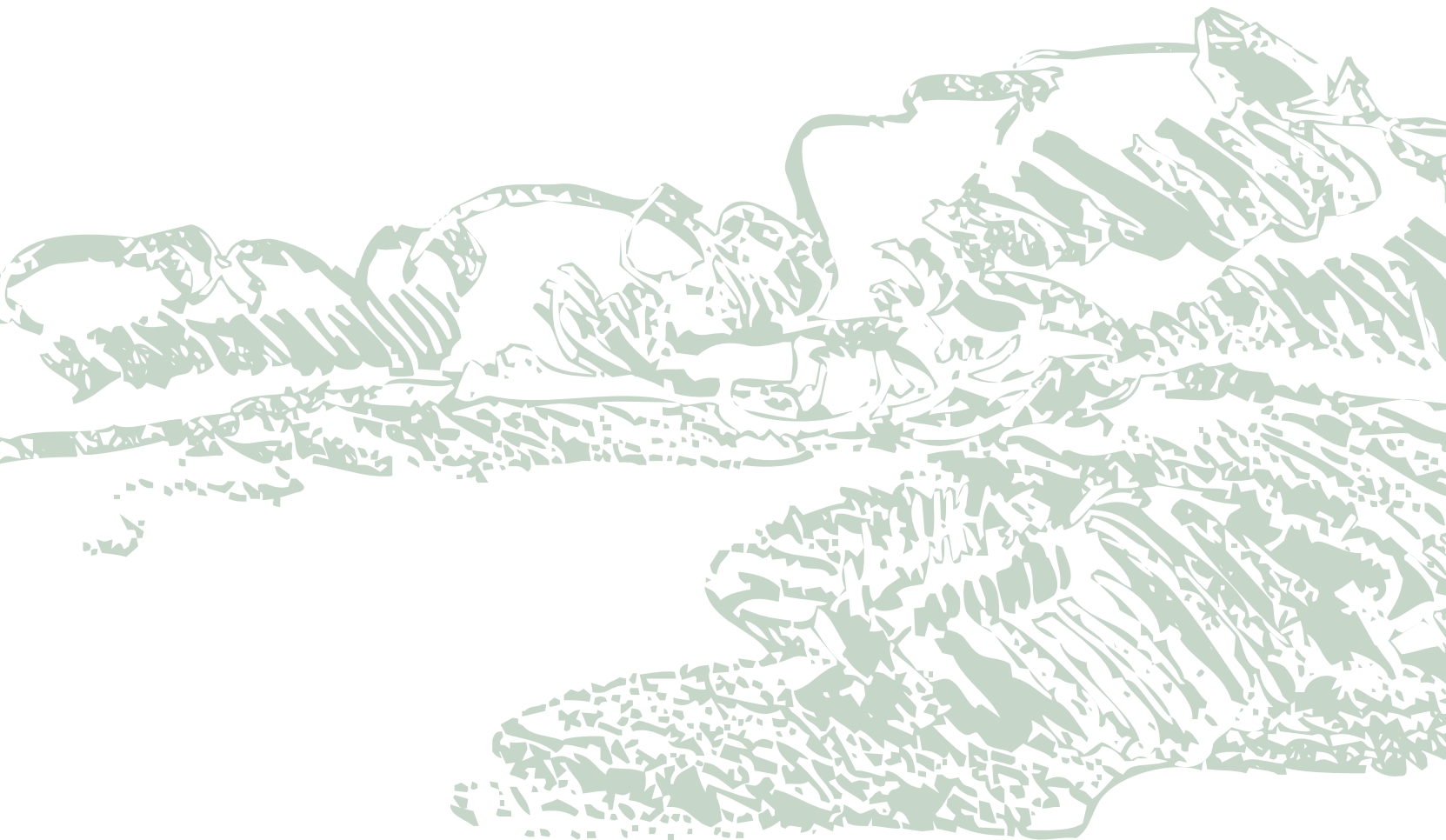


# ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

**Empowering rainfed farmers**  
towards sustainable livelihoods  
through agro-ecology, drought  
mitigation, natural resources  
development and policy advocacy.





## Our dharma

Concern for others

Work beyond duty

Pursuit of excellence in work

Reaching as many needy people  
as possible

## Our core values

Compassion, concern, honesty, sincerity, hard work

Equality of human beings, particularly women,  
poor, disadvantaged

Concern for nature, biodiversity,  
ethics of conservation, sustainability

Excellence in execution of activities

Inclusive, participatory in decision making,  
planning and implementation

Transparency in all transactions  
and accountable to all stakeholders



Empowering rainfed farmers

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21





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## Our vision

All people in rural areas lead a respectable and dignified life with economic security, food security, social equity, gender equity, in an atmosphere of democracy, peace, cooperation and community support; and all the people and institutions live as '*Eternal Trustees of Mother Earth*', and follow a culture of simple living and the ethics of conservation.

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## Our mission

We are committed to promoting livelihood security, self-reliance and human dignity for poor farmers, working through their institutions, lead by women and promoting drought-climate resilient agroecology, agri processing and non-farm livelihoods.

We appreciate that we are not alone in this endeavour; that there are several stakeholders like government, CSOs, industries, media, universities, research bodies, scientists etc with whom we join hands and work together for synergic results.

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## Acronyms

ADTS	Agricultural Development and Training Society
AF	Accion Fraterna
AF-EC	Accion Fraterna Ecology Centre
AFYC	Accion Fraterna Youth Centre
AGEEWA	Achieving Gender Equality through Empowerment of Women in Agriculture
AHUDA	Anantapur Hindupur Urban Development Authority
ALP	Alternative Livelihoods Project
AP	Andhra Pradesh
APCNF	Andhra Pradesh Community Natural Farming
APDMP	Andhra Pradesh Drought Mitigation Project
APMAS	Andhra Pradesh Mahila Abhivruddhi Society
APSSDCL	Andhra Pradesh State Seed Development Corporation Ltd
APF	Azim Premji Foundation
ASMS	Apex Sasya Mitra Samakhya
BftW	Bread for the World
CAB	Covid Appropriate Behaviour
CBO	Community-based Organisation
CBP	Capacity Building Phase
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CER	Carbon Emission Reduction
CHC	Custom Hiring Centres
CMSS	Community Managed Seed System
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DPMU	District Project Management Unit
DWMA	District Water Management Agency
EMI	Equal Monthly Installments
ESI	Employee State Insurance
FCN	Fair Climate Network
FCRA	Foreign Contributions Regulation Act
FFS	Farmers Field School
FPO	Farmer Producer Organisations
GHG	Green House Gases
GS	Gold Standard
GSMS	Gram Sasya Mitra Samakhya
HMV	Heavy Motor Vehicle
HNSS	Handri Neeva Sujala Sravanthi
ICRISAT	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics

IFAD	International Fund for Agriculture Development
IWMP	Integrated Watershed Management Programme
KK	<i>karyakatha</i> (village volunteer)
KVK	Krishi Vigyan Kendra
LFA	Lead Facilitating Agency
LMV	Light Motor Vehicle
MACS	Mutually Aided Cooperative Societies
MGNREGS	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
MAS	Mahila Abhivruddhi Society
MPT	Mini percolation tank
MSMS	Mandal Sasya Mitra Samakhya
MSP	Minimum Support Price
NABARD	National Bank for Rural and Agriculture Development
NFB	New Form Bunding
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
OBC	Other Backward Class
PDS	Public Distribution System
PF	Provident Fund
PPC	Primary Processing Centre
RARS	Regional Agriculture Research Station
RDT	Rural Development Trust
RFC	Rainfed Farmer Cooperatives
RMT	Running meter
RNNF	Rainfed Nutri-Natural Farming
RNFPC	Rythu Nestham Food Producer Company Ltd
RySS	Rythu Saadhikara Samstha
SADLP	Sustainable Agriculture and Diversified Livelihoods Project
SC	Scheduled Caste
SHG	Self Help Group
SMG	Sasya Mitra Group
SPMU	State Project Management Unit
ST	Scheduled Tribe
SWP	Solar water pumps
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VWDC	Village Watershed Development Committee
WASSAN	Watershed Support Services and Activities Network
WDC	Watershed Development Committee

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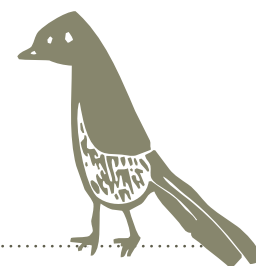
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The year began with the Covid-19 pandemic gripping the world, catching it unawares! It challenged people, institutions, governments, cultures, attitudes, almost every aspect of daily life. Uncertainty, unpredictability and anxiety loomed large.

## DIRECTOR'S OVERVIEW

The year's interventions were coloured by the exigencies of the pandemic. Accion Fraterna Ecology Centre (AF-EC) instinctively prioritised relief to those who had lost livelihood support overnight, post the sudden lockdown. We provided immediate relief, mobilised government support for affected families, initiated Covid-19 rehabilitation, promoted Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB), to minimise the impact of the pandemic on the rural poor.

Covid-19 restrictions, fears, anxieties of staff and communities, projects with urgent timelines, all asking for attention at the same time! The first quarter was the most challenging, as we had to learn and adapt Covid

Appropriate Behaviour—individually and organisationally. It was managing one crisis after the other! About 40 of our staff or their family members were infected. We took care of them. About 20 of our grassroots staff quit the job, fearing infection. The threat of Covid-19 continued all through the year.

When we look back on this extraordinary year, we feel that our investment in people and systems over the last many years has helped us in this difficult time. We networked closely with the government, other NGOs and CSOs against COVID. The result was awareness creation for a population of almost 2,50,000, food relief for 3500 families in distress and rehabilitation of over 10,000 migrant returnees

and poor farmers. Accion Fraterna Ecology Centre received the Covid Warrior (2020-21) award from the state government. This was in recognition of our contribution in fighting Covid-19 in our project areas and in the district.

Under the Sustainable Agriculture and Diversified Livelihoods Project and Natural Farming Project, the Rainfed Nutri-Natural Farming (RNNF) model was a big success. The cropping pattern was altered to enable migrant returnees and marginal rainfed farmers to restart farming and to incorporate subsistence farming to improve household nutritional security. The crops under RNNF yielded a good mix of millets, pulses and vegetables in over 8,000 acres for over 8,000 small



farmers, directly improving nutritional security, which was most needed during the pandemic. Another big successful intervention was multi-vegetable kitchen gardens, covering another 9,000 landless families. They enjoyed a variety of vegetables for four to six months.

The Alternate Livelihoods Project, which is supported by Mrs. Anupama V. Sathya Nadella, could be inaugurated only on 13 September 2020. Implementation began, albeit at a slow pace, as the SMGs were disrupted due to Covid-19 and had to be streamlined.

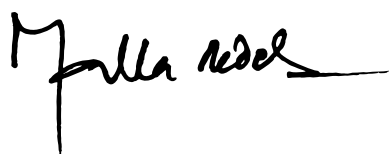
Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) came to the rescue of 2100 groundnut farmers in this distress year, who were willing to sell their produce at a low price of Rs. 5000/- or less, per quintal. The FPOs procured 23,445 quintals of unprocessed groundnut from farmers at a good price of Rs. 6100/- per quintal and later processed, packed and sold it to the AP State Seed Corporation at Rs. 7100/- per quintal.

In spite of the pandemic, AF-EC was able to introduce two brand new technologies for the benefit of small rainfed farmers: hydroponic fodder production using solar power and mobile solar water pumps. They were tested with over 100 farmers and both hold good prospects for replication. The mobile cart for the solar water pump was designed by AF-EC. Both innovations were supported by the Sustain Plus project.

On behalf of the people, staff and the Board of Trustees, I express my heartfelt thanks to Bread for the World, Germany, our core partner, for their understanding and continued support of SADLP. I thank the Government of Andhra Pradesh, particularly Department of Agriculture, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Azim Premji Foundation (APF), International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Walmart Foundation, NABARD, Fair Climate Network (FCN), Agricultural Development and Training Society (ADTS), Rural Development Trust (RDT), Watershed Support Services and Activities Network (WASSAN), Mahila Abhivruddhi Society (MAS), Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), Regional Agriculture Research Stations (RARS) and a number of activists, friends and well-wishers from CSOs, government, practitioners and experts who have been with us in our efforts.

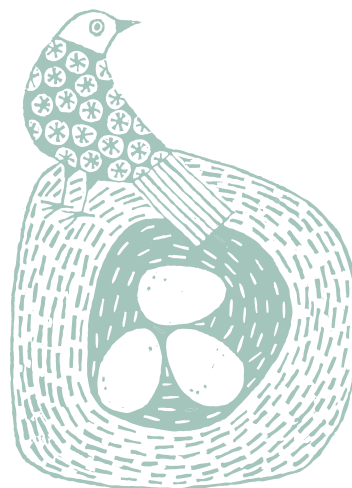
I wish to thank all the people, the SMGs, their federations, Farmers' Mutually Aided Cooperative Societies, Watershed Development Committees and other participating groups, who have worked with us through the year.

Last and most important, I thank our Board of Trustees and our personnel for working with passion in pursuing the organisation's goals and objectives.



**Dr. Y. V. Malla Reddy**

Director, Accion Fraterna Ecology Centre  
Ananthapuramu  
12/05/2021



# Challenge to farming in Ananthapuramu

## **Ananthapuramu District, in the rain shadow area of the Deccan plateau, is highly drought prone.**

It receives an average rainfall of 550 mm, as against a state average of 996 mm, which is the second lowest in the country, after Jaisalmer, situated in the heart of the Thar desert, in Rajasthan. 85% of land is chronically drought-prone. Even so, the economy is essentially agrarian with very little industrial development. Agriculture is primarily rainfed.

Approximately 1 million hectares of land is under cultivation and supports the main livelihood of about 0.7 million farming households. The last 30 to 40 years of groundnut mono-cropping

has depleted soil productivity. The combination of drought and soil degradation has made agriculture a gamble for farmers. There have been only two good crops in the last 20 years, 18 years being drought ravaged.

**Climate change** is aggravating the situation every year. All this severely affects small, marginal farmers and farm labour, who constitute approximately 90% of rural households.

**The farmer's response** has been to seek an alternative to farming. Wage employment has become the major source of income for rainfed farmers. Most farmers are from marginalised communities like Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Other

Backward Castes (OBC). They are at the bottom of the social pyramid and have high vertical economic dependency. The trends show that more and more rainfed farmers are abandoning farming and resorting to wage employment.

**Youth** are often under-educated and unemployed. Women have historically been discriminated against. Today it is these rural women and youth who are emerging as leaders and change agents. They create hope that they would resolve the problems affecting the region.





# Accion Fraterna Ecology Centre

Accion Fraterna Ecology Centre (AF-EC) was founded in 1982 by Father Vincent Ferrer, the founder of Rural Development Trust (RDT), which works on poverty alleviation in Ananthapuramu.

Since farming is a mainstay of the community, AF-EC was formed to work with the rural poor on agriculture, environmental development and livelihoods enhancement.

## Interventions

AF-EC's aim is to achieve livelihood security for the rain-dependent farmer and farm labour. AF-EC has been working on drought mitigation, climate change resilience, natural resources development, regenerative agriculture and diversified livelihoods since 2007, to achieve this objective.

It follows a participatory approach, working with community-based organisations and the women leaders representing them.

AF-EC implemented large-scale watershed development programmes from 1986 till 2007 in 300 villages, enhancing the income of 60,000 farmer and farm labour families. AF-EC's watershed development work, which included land reclamation, top soil conservation, rainwater harvesting, restoring the water regime in surface and groundwater, changing land use from annual crops to perennial tree crops and improving the productivity and sustainability in agriculture, had a significant impact on the quality and availability of natural resources. These programmes formed the underpinning for many new agriculture and watershed development policies and programmes, including MGNREGS.

# 1982

## Milestones

1982

### Community organisation

Awareness of government schemes and social mobilisation for collective action

- Exclusive focus on dalits and tribals; improving awareness on government programmes addressing poverty, illiteracy and health; mobilising communities to enable them collectively solve their problems instead of depending on big farmers and money lenders.

1986

### Upward social mobility

From farm labour to farmers

- SCs and STs working as semi-bonded farm labour for big farmers, usually owned some virgin land, which was not easily cultivable. AF-EC helped dalits and tribals reclaim and develop this land to mainstream them into farming as an enterprise.

1995

### Landscape level ecological improvements

Watershed development

- Shifted to integrated micro-watershed development following ridge-to-valley treatment to improve natural resource endowment of the landscape, covering all farmlands and also common lands in a village.

2007

### Sustainable agriculture perspective

- Shifted focus to long-term goals of sustainable agriculture. Watershed development was continued with funds from NABARD, IWMP and MGNREGS.

2008

### Livelihoods diversification of households

- Initiated vocational trainings for household livelihood diversification in order to reduce dependence on agricultural income alone. Under-educated youth were provided skills training to be financially self-reliant.

# 2020

2010

**Consolidation of drought mitigation and climate resilience components in the face of climate change**

- ▶ Expanded and intensified the scope of sustainable agriculture, particularly with drought mitigation practices and climate-resilient cropping systems.

2014

**Climate change mitigation by reducing carbon emission practices**

- ▶ Initiated biogas project under Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) in order to generate Carbon Emission Reductions (CERs) which benefit farmers and also mitigate climate change.

2016

**Alternative livelihoods and market value chain enhancements for farmers**

- ▶ Added a component of alternative and supplementary livelihoods for rural women and youth in non-farm sector.
- ▶ Enabled communities' access to government programmes and schemes with the potential to enhance market gains for agri-produce. This was done via Farmer Producer Organisations.

2017

**Promotion of low chemical input, natural farming projects**

2018

**Initiation of agriculture value chain development project**

**2020**

**Development of agro-ecological landscapes through rainfed farmer cooperatives**



# Core principles and approach



1. Participatory approach to development, lead by women and their institutions, actualising their potential and availing all opportunities—government, banks, NGOs, private sector.
2. Developing agroecology rainfed farming systems and practices to be chemical free, low external input, drought-resilient, food secure, regenerative and remunerative to rainfed small and marginal farmers.
3. Promoting natural farming, to be sustainable in terms of income for farmers, food security, public health, agro-biodiversity and farm-ecology. The focus is to reduce dependence on chemical-intensive inputs in irrigated farms.
4. Diversification of family livelihoods into new off-farm, non-farm and skill-based sectors with particular focus on women and undereducated youth.
5. Augmenting farmers' income by processing, value addition and marketing and by promoting farmer-owned social enterprises.
6. Demonstrating effective agroecology rainfed farming systems and practices to policymakers, CSOs, research bodies and other farmers and lobbying for their scaling up across the state.
7. Representation to policy forums for favourable and eco-friendly policy environment, in general, and for farmers, particularly on issues concerning rainfed agriculture, drought mitigation, climate change.

# Community organisation

Community participation is key to Accion Fraterna's work. Investment in participation and awareness outreach on universal issues has resulted in implementation success through collective stakeholder action.

## Development by women, not women's development

Community-based organisations are lead by women and are strengthened at all levels to enable participatory development processes. The women, representing approximately 18,000 households, are organized into informal and formal institutions and federated at village, *mandal* and project levels. Women membership in CBOs is 88% at present.

Collective action and collaboration, horizontally and vertically, has enabled target communities and their institutions voice their concerns, realize their entitlements

and access government programmes effectively. These institutions are gradually moving towards self-management and self-governance. The CBOs, over 900 in number, and their federations are now able to bargain and negotiate with government agencies on issues that concern them. The thrift and credit activity in SMGs has augmented financial resources at their disposal, leading to investments in livelihoods and increased self-reliance. The participatory process has created women leaders at all levels. This is evident from their increasing participation in governance of local bodies, voicing of concerns, accessing government programmes and realising their entitlements. These CBOs are nurtured to be the voice of the poor and marginalised.

## Karyakarthas (village volunteers) as facilitators

To strengthen SMGs and women leadership, AF-EC introduced a village volunteer system. A young educated woman (called *karyakartha*) from the CBO of the village is briefed on the vision, mission, objectives and activities of AF-EC. *Karyakarthas* go to field with an understanding of sustainable agriculture, drought mitigation and natural farming so that they can promote these practices with the community. They help women lead collective action. They also help build solidarity among women leaders.





As on 31st March 2021, 210 women *karyakartha* are facilitating SMGs and GSMS in their respective villages.

local self-government through panchayats etc. Women leaders organise events like International Women's Day, Constitution Day, FPO *Maha sabhas* and *Gram sabhas*.

### **Emergence of women leadership**

More than 1,000 women in the project area are taking up leadership roles, not just in SMGs and FPOs, but also in



# Special events

Events, especially global events, are viewed as opportunities to get across a key message, using locally relevant and universal messaging and exemplars.

## Constitution Day

*Know your Constitution.  
Know your rights.*

When the Prime Minister called for a two-month long themed celebration of *Know your Constitution*, leading up to the Republic Day in 2021, Accion Fraterna, used the opportunity to educate wage seekers on their rights and entitlements under MGNREGS.

Five seminars were organized in the five *mandals* of Kalyandurgam, Kundurpi, Settur, Dharmavaram and Beluguppa, covering 1,500 wage seekers, with the support of government officials concerned with MGNREGS. The seminars aimed to educate and provide a platform for stakeholders to talk to each other on the following fronts:

- Know citizen rights and responsibilities under the Constitution
- Understand wage seeker rights and entitlements under MGNREGA
- Afford a face-to-face dialogue between wage seekers and the senior officers of MGNREGS, including the District Collector
- Highlight last mile issues and demands of wage seekers and submit them to be redressed

The District Collector, Revenue Divisional officers and MGNREGS officers participated, interacted with the wage seekers. Some issues relating to MGNREGS, were escalated to higher authorities.

“I am delighted such an interface between officers and wage seekers has been organised. Such meetings not only educate and empower wage seekers; they will also ensure accountability among officers.”

**Mr. Anil**, Assistant Project Officer of Dharmavaram *mandal*



### Constitution Day

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Five Seminars were organized in the five *mandals* of Kalyandurgam, Kundurpi, Settur, Dharmavaram and Beluguppa, covering 1500 wage seekers, with the support of government officials concerned with MGNREGS. The seminars aimed to educate on the following fronts:

- Know citizen rights and responsibilities under the Constitution

**Mrs. Vannuramma**, a MGNREGA wage seeker from Yerraborepalli village, said, *"I have informed the project officer about not being provided payment slips for wage payments. Also I brought to their notice that work tools like crowbar, spade, baskets were not provided this year and the payment for sharpening the work tools is not done. He noted my complaint and assured me that it will be resolved immediately."*





## Women festivals

In 30 years, the International Women's day celebrations have become 'women festivals'. *"I look forward to Women's Day celebrations. This is our festival. We plan and organise it ourselves. We forget all our problems and have fun all day. This brings a sense of solidarity among the women. It is also a good learning opportunity for us,"* said **Jayamma**, the GSMS convenor from Gangavaram village in Beluguppa mandal.

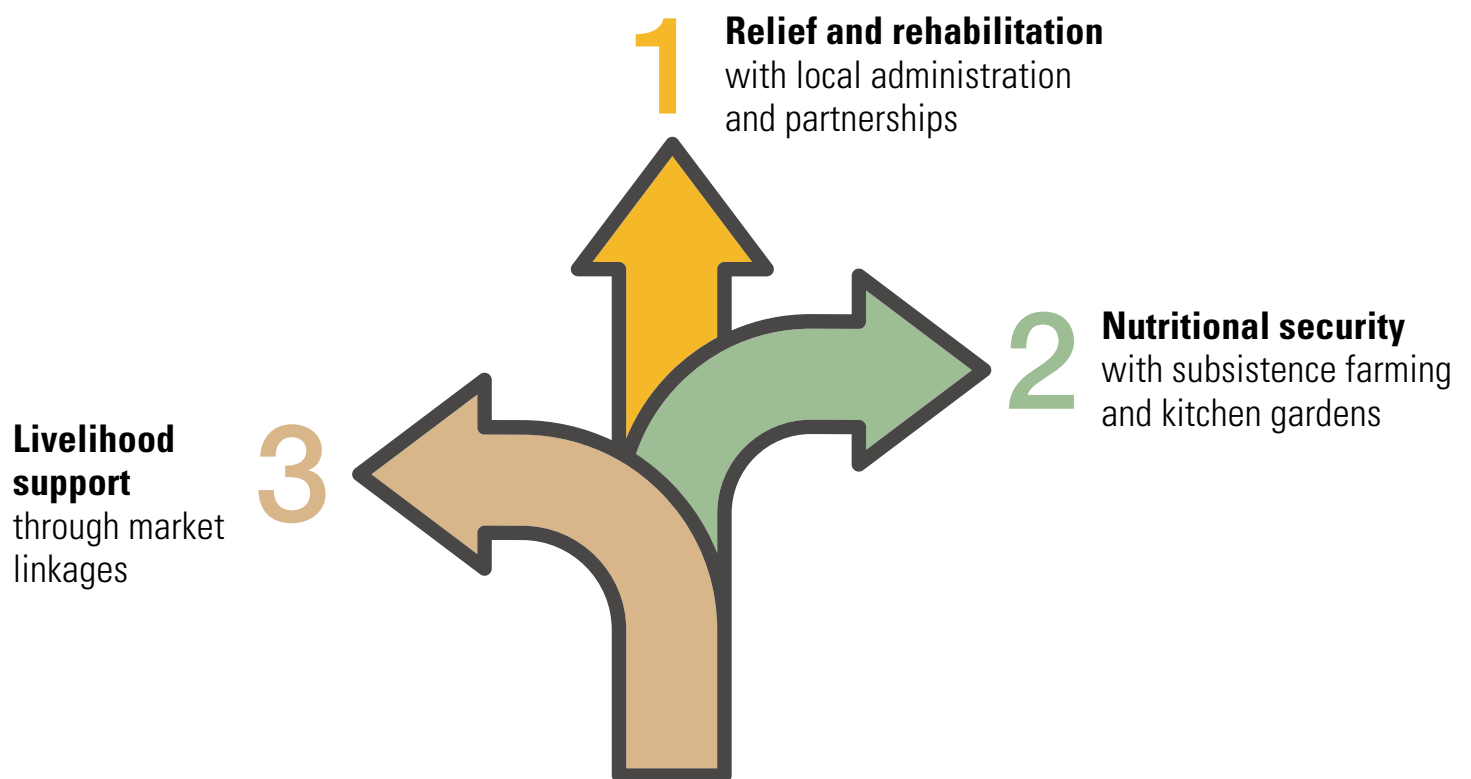
This year, on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021, AF-EC, with CBOs like *Mandal Sasymitra Samakhyas* and Farmer Producer

Organisations organised International Women's Day celebrations at *mandal* offices. The events were planned and organised by women leaders in eight locations. About 3,500 women participated in the event.

The rallies and processions have served to sensitise people on discriminatory practices rooted in culture: inequitable relations, lack of respect, domestic violence, discrimination of girl children in education and health, early marriage for girls, high workload etc. The event included games, dancing and singing, sharing experiences, highlighting

the achievements of women leaders present. Senior women officers from the government were invited to share their journey to their position in government office. The speakers lauded women achievers from different fields.

**Sarala**, a young widow from Kalagalla village said, *"I participated in three games and won two prizes. I sang a song. I felt appreciated by all. I felt as if my school days have come back."*



**Accion Fratera's three-pronged  
response to Covid 19**



# Response to Covid-19

The surge of Covid-19 and the sudden lockdown in March 2020 had created panic all over the country. Public transport and economic activities were abruptly suspended.

People were asked to remain home. The stranded migrant wage seekers, stranded passengers, destitute and orphans suffered immensely. It was not just a health crisis: it was a multi-dimensional one, striking on social, cultural and economic fronts. Poor people lost livelihoods. Daily wage earners, street vendors and petty businesses were especially badly affected. Farmers could not sell their *rabi* harvest. Lack of transport, market restrictions, labour shortage and strict restriction on movement badly affected the rural economy. There was chaos all over.

Rural Ananthapuramu, being backward and resource poor, was badly hit. A number of people were infected, hospitalised and quarantined. Many of those infected were unwilling to disclose their condition due to fear of being cast

out or shunned. They suffered quietly. Some went to private hospitals for treatment at alarming costs! Some families were broken: physically, economically and psychologically, because all earning members were infected and hospitalised. In some cases, children were left with no one to care for them! Those who 'recovered', suffered prolonged after-effects and were unable to go to work. A large number of families that had migrated to cities like Bengaluru, returned to their homes in the villages. They survived the lockdown with food rations provided by the government through PDS, and through wage employment from MGNREGS.

**Ganghadar**, who was working as a daily wage labourer for a municipal contractor in Bengaluru returned to his village, Avulenna, in Beluguppa *mandal*, during the peak of the Covid-19 lockdown. He said,

“The contractor said that he could not pay during lockdown period. We had no means to survive in Bangalore. We secretly hired a vehicle and travelled a circuitous route all night and reached the village by morning. We had to manage a few policemen on the way.”





## Relief and rehabilitation

**AF-EC responded quickly to the situation. Primary activities revolved around food rations, health consumables and awareness outreach on Covid Appropriate Behaviour to prevent spread of infection.**

AF-EC, in coordination with local district administration and some other voluntary organisations, set up a phone helpline to reach out to and identify families of stranded migrant workers from other states. They were provided a month's food rations and linked to the government for accommodation in government-run shelter homes.

Migrant workers belonging to Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha made use of the helpline. *"There is no work and so no income. We are out of rations and gas for cooking. There is nothing to eat. We have been starving. Please help,"* lamented **Sanjay** on the helpline.

He is one of the five youth from Bihar who was working at a stone quarry near Bathalapalli. Sanjay and his friends were immediately provided food and health consumables.

Most of the stranded wage seekers were desperate to go home.

**Ram Singh**, from Rajasthan, who was running a tea stall in Kuderu village, requested AF staff desperately, *"We have spent all our savings. We are unable to provide proper food to our children. My wife is worried. We cannot survive here. Is there some way you can arrange transportation to take us back to our native place?"* Later, they were shifted to a shelter home.

### Immediate relief activities

- Dry ration kits and soaps to 3000 stranded migrant workers
- Personal protection material and healthcare consumables (3,570 hand sanitizers, 2,500 surgical gloves, and 10,000 masks) to frontline health workers and patients in the quarantine centres
- Awareness outreach on Covid Appropriate Behaviour disseminated to 20,000 daily wage labourers in 300 villages
- 3,00,000 reusable masks provided to 20,000 families of wage seekers. AF staff visited these families and demonstrated the proper use of masks and other health protocols
- 74 women were provided job-work for stitching masks during the lockdown period





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## Nutritional security

**Migrant returnees, small farmers and farm labour in the project villages were severely affected by Covid, financially and health wise. Incoming migrants were not ready to go back to cities, neither were the conditions favourable for this.**

Though most of the migrant returnees owned some land, they were unable to restart farming for want of investment and seed.

**Lakshamma**, who worked as a daily wage labour at a construction site in Bengaluru, said, *“Here we are at least assured of subsistence living from wage labour or agriculture; our farms will give us some food to eat. In an uncertain world created by the pandemic, it is better to live here than starve and die there. I will start farming again in my two-acre rainfed land.”*

In this context, AF-EC designed some low investment cropping models with food crops in order to improve the nutritional intake of the family.

### Feeding the family

#### Rainfed natural nutritional farming and mixed cropping

The mixed nutritional cropping model was meant for marginal farmers with rainfed lands. This cropping model, consisting of 18 varieties of food crops including pulses, millets, oil seeds and vegetables suitable for the agro-climate of Ananthapuramu, was used to help migrants restart farming for subsistence and improved nutritional security.

During *kharif* 2020, 4,847 migrant returnees adopted this model in 5,169 acres. AF-EC provided a seed kit and subsidised a small part of the cultivation costs. The crops were grown using natural farming practices, without agro-chemicals. As there were good rains, the farmers harvested multiple food grains worth Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 15,000/- per acre, not including the vegetables. The food grains were sufficient for a family of five for one year, for these





4,847 families (approximately 25,000 individuals). They were able to share vegetables with friends and relatives for four months.

*"The mixed crop system brought diverse and nutritious food to our home during this difficult time. We had vegetables, which we grew, and now after harvest we have grain for the whole year. We earned Rs. 12,500/- by selling surplus crops."* said **Obulamma** a farmer, from Nagireddypalli village, Kuderu mandal. She and her husband used to work as daily wage labour in Bengaluru. They returned home in the lockdown.

### **Kitchen gardens** **For the landless poor**

Nutri-kitchen gardens, promoted with 9,266 landless and poor families in 230 villages produced enough vegetables for home consumption and sharing with neighbours during the lockdown. Each family saved Rs. 800/- to Rs. 1,200/- per month on vegetables, for four to six months. This benefitted a population of approximately 50,000.

*"We could not have bought vegetables from the market during lockdown, but we had enough and more produced by our 30 families in our kitchen gardens."*

*Our relationship with others in the village improved since we shared our produce often. We saved money, enjoyed health and built relationships with kitchen gardens,"* said **Aruna** from Gollapalli village in Dharmavaram mandal.



## Livelihood support

### Procurement of agri-produce at MSP by FPOs

**In the lockdown months of April and May, all the local markets were shut. The price of groundnut plummeted to Rs. 5,000/- per quintal; farmers were desperate to sell the crop.**

The 20 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) promoted by AF-EC, tied up with Andhra Pradesh State Seed Development Corporation Ltd (APSSDCL) and procured 23,445 quintals of groundnut seed at Rs. 6,100/- per quintal from 2100 farmers. This was a great relief: farmers were able to sell the produce at their doorstep at a fair price. The farmers benefitted by more than Rs. 1,000 per quintal sold; 2,100 farmers benefitted to a tune of Rs. 2.5 crores.

*"I was afraid that I might not be able to sell my groundnut crop during the lockdown. We had no space in our home to store the crop. The local traders were offering to buy at a throwaway price. The FPO came to our rescue as a God. They purchased at our doorstep, giving us good price. Their weighing and procurement practices are very fair compared to traders'," said **Nagaraju**, a farmer from Manirevu village.*

Further, the FPOs processed the procured groundnut pods, packed them and supplied them to APSSDCL for seed purpose. The APSSDCL purchased seed from FPOs at Rs. 7,100/- per quintal. FPOs profited by Rs. 100/- to Rs. 150/- per quintal depending on their efficiency in processing operations. As a result, the 20 FPOs together made a profit of approximately Rs. 25,00,000/- from this activity. This activity also created employment for 600 rural wage seekers for two months, when work was badly needed during Covid-19 times.

*"We procured 1,100 quintals of groundnut through our FPO. We worked continuously for 40 days during procurement time. If we had not procured the groundnut crop during lockdown, our member farmers would have suffered a severe loss. The FPO served farmers in their time of need and earned their trust," said **Pennahobilesu**, the secretary of Sangameswara FPO in Kuderu mandal.*



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## Effect of Covid-19 and lockdown on AF-EC's work

**More than 40 of our staff (of 100) and their families were infected by Covid-19. Some staff lost family members. Over 20 staff resigned, unwilling to work during the pandemic.**

Our work behaviour had to be adapted to the new situation. Covid Appropriate Behaviour was enforced strictly for staff, both in field and in office. We started online/virtual staff meetings and avoided physical meetings as much as possible. Home visits were the main mode of working with communities. The staff followed Covid-19 precautionary measures while working with communities too.

The pandemic affected the pace of implementation of planned activities. We had to rework priorities, challenges and opportunities. Agricultural activities were modified to incorporate mixed nutritional crop models during *kharif* season.

**Mr. Bhaskar Babu**, senior staff and 30-year veteran at AF-EC said, *"We worked even during lockdown, following the Covid-19 precautions. How can we rest when the community is suffering? It has brought out more compassion in me. I am now more health conscious. Now propagating Covid Appropriate Behaviour among community has become part of my work. Covid-19 has forced me to learn how to use a computer and have online meetings. I am more committed to the human cause now."*

AF-EC conducted a rapid impact assessment in December 2020 to gauge the damage caused by the

lockdown to Sasyamitra Groups (SMGs) and their federations. Approximately 60% SMGs could not hold regular meetings or continue with savings and revolving credit due to lack of income. SMGs of SC and ST communities were more affected as most members did not have any income during lockdown and were not able to pay the monthly savings and loan repayments. Some of the groups distributed their accumulated savings equally among the families in order to cope with loss of employment, costs on health etc.



*"We could not conduct meetings for six months due to Covid-19 and lockdown. Three of our group members were infected. It was very difficult to recover loans as nobody had income to repay. Some members wanted their savings back. I tried to convince them. How can we*

*dismantle the group when the loans are overdue? Our group had a tough time," said **Ramanjamma** convenor of an SMG in Perugupalyam village.*



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## Covid Warrior Award and other recognitions

**AF-EC was designated the nodal NGO for facilitating effective cooperation and coordination between government and NGOs in controlling the Covid-19 pandemic in Ananthapuramu District, by the government of Andhra Pradesh.**

There are over 40 NGOs, over 600 personnel and over 1,000 village volunteers involved in Covid-19 relief and control activities in Ananthapuramu District. AF-EC played a key role in creating convergence of efforts between government agencies and NGOs at district, *mandal* and village levels. AF-EC also worked with some state level NGOs for Covid-19 relief operations across the state during lockdown.

AF-EC coordinated with government functionaries at all levels, from village secretary to the District Collector to make relief accessible to Covid-affected families. This was highly appreciated by the district administration. The AP state government presented AF-EC the Covid Warrior Award in September 2020.



*Certificate of Commendation as Covid-19 Warrior awarded by the District Collector, Ananthapuramu on Independence Day, 15.8.2020.*

Felicitation to Accion Fraterna Ecology Centre as a Covid-19 Warrior in Ananthapuramu by District Collector, 13.11.2020.



Certificate of Appreciation for Dr.Y.V.Malla Reddy for his contribution to eco-friendly farming, rural development and for improving the livelihoods of the rural poor in Ananthapuramu by Padma Vibhushan Acharya N.G. Ranga Kisan Seva Admithi, Vijayawada on 07.11.2020.



Certification of commendation awarded to Accion Fraterna Ecology Centre in recognition of its services by the District Collector on the Republic Day, 26.01.2021.

# Policy advocacy

for an eco-friendly and farmer-friendly policy environment

AF-EC is seen by the government as a resource organisation with commitment, expertise and experience, at the grassroots level, in working with rural poor, women, small farmers and farm labour.

AF-EC is often invited by the state government to share experiences and provide strategic guidance on themes like drought mitigation, watershed development, water management, rainfed agriculture, rural livelihoods etc. AF-EC's policy implementation strategy has been to demonstrate technologies and practices at a sizable scale in the project area and lobby with government for scaling up across the state. So far this strategy has been very effective.

Accion Fraterna Ecology Centre is a member in some key policy making bodies at the Andhra Pradesh state government level like Andhra Pradesh State Agriculture Mission, Agriculture Advisory Board, and the state's Jala Shakti Abhiyaan (Water Resources Agency). It has access to policy-making bodies and persons in the government.

AF-EC acts as an informal hub for NGOs/CSOs in the region and networks to strengthen the voice of civil society on issues that concern rainfed farming.

## Recent achievements in policy advocacy

- ▶ AF-EC played a key role in framing the laws for the formation of the Andhra Pradesh State Millets Board for promoting production, processing and consumption of millets.
- ▶ AF-EC, being a member in the state Agriculture Mission, influenced policies on Minimum Support Price (MSP), especially for millets, and on government support to FPOs for agri-processing and value chain development.





- ▶ Influenced policy on procurement at MSP through FPOs and village secretariats, when market price for groundnut and other rainfed crops dropped below MSP during lockdown.
- ▶ Lobbied strongly for a farmer-friendly crop insurance policy.
- ▶ Lobbied for speeding up of Handri Neeva Project and filling up of traditional water bodies across the district.
- ▶ Influenced government's strengthening of CMSS programme by involving FPOs in seed production, procurement, processing and supplying to village secretariats for distribution to farmers at subsidy.

### **AF-EC-developed ideas and technologies adopted and scaled up by the Andhra Pradesh government**

- ▶ Farm pond lining work included in Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Scheme.
- ▶ Protective irrigation adopted in Andhra Pradesh Drought Mitigation Project (APDMP) and Horticulture Department.
- ▶ The Navadhanya cropping model for crop diversification with millets, pulses and oil seeds was adopted to break the mono-crop of groundnut.
- ▶ Multiple fruit trees model adopted as five-layer fruit tree model in Andhra Pradesh Community Natural Farming (APCNF) and MGNREGS.





## Sustainable Agriculture and Diversified Livelihoods Project

**SADLP, the core project of AF-EC, is supported by Bread for the World, Germany. This project focuses on achieving livelihood security and social and gender equity among the rural poor. It aims to address the challenge of livelihood vulnerability by mitigating drought impact, reviving rainfed agriculture and diversifying the income sources of families in the chronically drought prone Ananthapuramu District.**

SADLP developed and propagated low cost, simple, affordable, location-specific drought and climate-resistant practices and technologies to enhance productivity in rainfed farming. Farmers' ability to cope with droughts has increased, with adoption of diversified food crops, with millets, pulses and vegetables improving the nutritional status of families and enriching agro-biodiversity. SADLP also promoted off-farm and non-farm livelihoods for rural women and youth.

The project directly benefits 20,000 families and indirectly, over 1,00,000 families of small and marginal farmers and farm labour. It follows

a participatory approach, under the leadership of women, through over 900 Sasyamitra Groups (SMGs) of 15 to 25 families each, federated at village, *mandal* and project levels. Some of the interventions developed by the project, like protective irrigation and rainfed horticulture, were adopted by the government of Andhra Pradesh and scaled up under its programmes and schemes.

### Achievements

#### Sasyamitra Groups and their federations

- ▶ This year, 300 Sasyamitra Groups (SMGs) were reorganised or newly formed as the functioning of SMGs was disrupted due to Covid-19 lockdown. As on 31st March 2021, there were 850 SMGs, comprising of 18,000 households, in 220 villages, in 8 *mandals*. The women membership ratio in SMGs has increased from 68% to 88% with an influx of women replacing men post the first Covid-19 wave. The representation of SC and ST families in SMGs has increased from 26% to 40%.
- ▶ Family savings facility of the SMGs was a great support to families during the pandemic. The cumulative savings of all SMGs as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 was Rs. 7,80,00,000/-. During the year, 12,210 SMG members took loans to improve their means of earning a living and for household consumption.



- ▶ Women leadership has strengthened in SMGs and in federations at village, mandal and project levels. About 500 women leaders have emerged and have been actively participating in planning, implementation and monitoring of AF activities at village and *mandal* level.
- ▶ The village volunteer (*karyakartha*) system was introduced, which strengthened the functioning of SMGs and their participation in project implementation at village level. At present, there are 205 trained women *karyakarthas* facilitating SMGs and GSMSs in 220 villages.

## Farmer Producer Organisations

- ▶ Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) have been providing timely services and inputs at a fair price through Custom Hiring Centres (CHC) and farmer shops, which has increased farmer participation and sense of collective ownership. The FPOs provide groundnut and red gram custom processing services to farmers through four Primary Processing Centres.
- ▶ During the financial year 2020-2021, FPOs from eight *mandals* achieved a business turnover of Rs. 9,16,67,655/- and gross profit of Rs. 52,68,207/-.
- ▶ The lockdown came at harvest time for the *rabi* crop, in April 2021. The price of groundnut crop plummeted from Rs. 6,500/- to Rs. 5,000/- per quintal. FPOs from eight *mandals* tied up with Andhra Pradesh State Seed Development Corporation Ltd and procured 11,384 quintals of groundnut seed at Minimum Support Price of Rs. 6,100/- per

quintal from 1,103 farmers at their doorstep.

- ▶ These 1103 farmers benefitted to a tune of Rs. 1.2 crores. It created much needed employment for 320 wage seekers for 60 days during the lockdown.
- ▶ *"I had a crop yield of 20 quintals of groundnut. I was in hurry to sell, as there were debts to pay on this crop. Due to the lockdown nobody was asking for it. At this time our mandal FPO purchased the crop at our doorstep at Rs. 6,100/- per quintal, which is higher than the prevailing market price, and paid me immediately. I could clear the debts in time. Thanks to the FPO,"* said **Ramanjineyulu** from Duradakunta village.
- ▶ Further down the chain, APSSDCL purchased the processed seed from the FPOs at Rs. 7,100/- per quintal. The eight FPOs made a profit of about Rs. 12,00,000/- from this activity.

*"We supplied 1,860 quintals of groundnut seed to APSPDCL and made a net profit of Rs. 2,00,000/- . It was a good learning experience for the Board of Directors",* said **Bojjana**, secretary of Kalyandurgam mandal FPO.

## Sustainable agriculture: Rainfed Natural Nutritional Farming (RNNF)

- ▶ AF-EC designed and promoted a drought-resilient mixed cropping model with millets, pulses and vegetables suitable for rainfed conditions. The idea was that this mix would also ensure access to a balanced, nutritious diet for producer families in this time of economic distress and market restrictions.
- ▶ 8,079 farmers adopted this model across 8,169 acres. Each farmer harvested grain worth Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 15,000/- per acre. Vegetables were retained for household and community consumption. The food grains were sufficient for a family of five, for one year (approximately 40,000 people). This was a great support from both, nutritional and economic points of view.





### Mixed cropping with food crops

Chandrakala, Sarojamma and Chandamma decided to jointly adopt the RNNF model in five acres of land in Kaparlapalli village in Kalyandurgam *mandal*. They grew foxtail millet and red gram as the main crops, incorporated pulses and vegetables as intercropped and followed chemical-free natural farming practices. Their families worked side by side to complete all farm operations on time: sowing, weeding, harvesting etc.

They harvested 25 quintals of foxtail millet and 5 quintals of red gram, worth Rs. 90,000/-. They kept enough grain for home consumption and sold the rest. Pulses and vegetables were kept for home consumption.

*"Every year we used to grow groundnut crop and lose money due to drought. AF Ecology Centre changed our thinking. They made us realise the importance of mixed farming with food crops. Now we have enough grains for the whole year. We are very happily consuming nutritious millets and pulses every day. My children like khichdi made with foxtail millet,"* said **Sarojamma**.

### Mixed food crops change food habits

Over 8,000 rainfed farmers who have adopted RNNF model have replaced white rice with organic millets, pulses and vegetables.

**Fathima**, a woman farmer from Bestarpalli village says, *"We did not buy any vegetable from the market for the whole season. We kept some grains for the home and sold the rest for Rs. 10,000/-. We had grown green gram as the major crop with intercrop of red gram, cow peas, jowar, field beans and sesame. Ridge gourd, bitter gourd, cucumber, cluster beans and green leafy vegetable made up our basket of fresh vegetables, which we had for four months, while also sharing with our neighbours. Instead of losing money, we got food grains and some income from farming this year."*

**Eswaramma** from Pathacheruvu village in Kalyandurgam *mandal* observed that the commercial groundnut crop did not do well this year. *"Many farmers had grown just groundnut. None of them had a harvest! With the RNNF model, we have five varieties of food grains for home consumption. We did not buy any vegetable from market for the whole crop season. It is a good income proposition compared to the groundnut mono-crop."*

### Securing livestock nutrition during lockdown

Every summer, thousands of shepherds head out of Ananthapuramu to greener pastures for grazing. In the period of the Covid-19 lockdown, this was risky and impractical. AF persuaded shepherds and dairy farmers to sow a second crop for the late kharif season in anticipation of possible rains. This contingency crop would be a fodder crop.

AF-EC supplied 100 tons of horse gram seed and 40 tons of jowar seed at subsidized rates. 7,282 farmers and shepherds enjoyed a favourable harvest and also earned an additional income upto Rs. 4,000/- per acre from grain and fodder. This was a bonus.

**Raju**, a shepherd from Muchurami village in Dharmavaram *mandal* has 400 sheep. He partnered with two other shepherds in the village who has 300 animals each. They leased 30 acres of land, purchased 300 kg. of horse gram and sowed it in October. They invested Rs. 50,000/-.

The rains came. The crop grew well. They grazed sheep in a phased manner in this 30-acres patch for three to four months in the summer.

*Raju said, "If this crop was not sown we would have migrated with animals to Mysore or Gangavathi, travelling hundreds of kilometres. During the Covid-19 situation, this was risky. The horse gram is nutritious fodder; our animals gained weight and are healthy. It is worth the investment. We will continue this practice every year."*

**Saraswati**, a dairy farmer, from Sanapa village grew jowar and horse gram in one acre of rainfed land, investing Rs. 4000/-. She has two cows, which give 10 litres of milk every day. She says, *"The contingency crop saved our cattle from being sold. The nutritious fodder has increased the fat content of the milk by 3-4% and milk yield has increased to 12 litres. My dairy income has improved with this fodder."*

### Subsistence gardening for the landless

This year, AF-EC intensively promoted nutri-kitchen gardens in 230 villages with 10,000 landless and landed families to ensure food and nutritional security during the pandemic.

Accion Fraterna provided kitchen garden seed kits for bitter gourd, ash gourd, ridge gourd, okra, cluster beans, field beans, cow pea and green leafy vegetables, and



seedlings for tomato, brinjal, chilli and papaya. Accion Fraterna also provided guidance on raising the plants, employing natural farming protocols, and avoiding agro-chemicals.

9,266 families grew vegetables without the use of chemical pesticides. The quantity, quality and variety of vegetables consumed at the household level went up, enhancing nutritional security. Surplus produce was shared, improving goodwill among neighbours. About 50,000 individuals benefitted. Each family saved about Rs. 1,000/- per month on vegetables, for four to six months.

Gollapalli in Dharmavaram *mandal* is a small village with 80 landless, mostly Scheduled Caste households. AF facilitated 60 kitchen gardens in this village and made it self-sufficient in vegetables. *"We support and help each other in the village in raising the kitchen gardens. We share seeds and fresh vegetables. We don't need to buy vegetables in Dharmavaram market,"* said **Manjula**, SMG convenor.

MM Halli is another such village in Kuderu *mandal*, with 45 kitchen gardens. It is a Scheduled Tribe colony with 60 households. *"We haven't purchased vegetables since we started kitchen gardens,"* said **Savitribai**, SMG convenor at MM Halli.

## Natural farming in irrigated fields

Achieving natural farming is an important objective under sustainable agriculture. AF-EC conducted trainings, demonstrations, exposure visits and Farmer Field Schools, with focus on imparting technical and practical knowledge to farmers on natural farming. In *rabi* 2020, AF-EC helped 2,000 farmers switch to natural farming practices with intercropping in 2,000 acres of irrigated lands. Almost all of them have enjoyed additional benefits of Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 15,000/- per acre with multiple crop yields and savings on cost of cultivation.





### A successful pilot converts a farmer

**J. Lakshmakka** took up natural farming for the groundnut crop in her one-acre irrigated field. She stays in Karutlapali village in Kuderu mandal.

Following AF-EC's guidance, she sowed border crops and intercropped for biological control of pests and diseases. She sowed eight types of crops: jowar, mustard, castor, sesame, green gram, cow pea, field beans and vegetables, with groundnut as the main crop. She was scrupulous about following the protocols of natural farming, for seed treatment, applying Ghanajeevamritam as basal dose, regularly spraying Jeevamritham and using mechanical pest control of sticky traps etc.

Lakshmakka was delighted. She harvested multiple food crops in small quantities and ten quintals groundnut. She retained some harvest for home consumption and sold the remaining in the market. *"We saved at least Rs. 10,000/- on chemical pesticides and fertilizers. We have plenty of organic food grain for the family's use, sufficient till next year. We ate fresh vegetables everyday for four months. We made Rs. 40,000/- from sales, which is more than what we made last year. Soil fertility has improved. Though natural farming requires some extra work, it is very beneficial,"* said **Lakshmakka**.



## Community Natural Farming Project

This project aims to transform the chemical-intensive, high-tech, high-cost practices of the green revolution model of farming, to one that is low cost, climate-resilient, chemical-free, eco-regenerative and remunerative to farmers.



This programme is being implemented with support from Azim Premji Foundation and Rythu Saadhikaara Samstha of the Government of AP.

### Achievements

- ▶ About 260 acres of contiguous land, belonging to 56 families in Thammaiahdoddi village, has been earmarked for landscape-based agro-ecological development. Thammaiahdoddi will serve as a model village for integrating chemical-free natural farming, regenerative cropping systems, drought mitigation practices and natural resource management (NRM) interventions.
- ▶ *"I am getting crop yields even in drought years. The mixed cropping system with food crops, five-layer horticulture model, natural farming practices and protective irrigation, all of this, put together, have helped us overcome drought,"* says **Thippeswamy**, a farmer in Thammaiahdoddi.
- ▶ An innovative five-layer fruit tree-cropping model, following agro-ecology principles, was established by 76 farmers in 76 acres in four resource villages to make agriculture drought- and climate-resilient as well as regenerate soil fertility.
- ▶ 70 farmers harvested rainwater in 70 cement-lined farm ponds for protective irrigation, which is required during long dry spells. *"Our farm pond filled twice last year. I could water my mango plants from the farm pond,"* said **Hanumantu** from Bandameedipalli village in Kundurpi mandal.
- ▶ Grassland development was promoted in 75 acres of common lands in order to ease fodder shortage for 500 cattle, benefitting 200 households in five villages.

- ▶ Trained 666 Master Farmers on the concept and practice of natural farming and provided them technical and on-field support. These Master Farmers, in turn, facilitated 22,278 farmers in 284 villages across the district to adopt natural farming, either fully or partially.
- ▶ The availability of inputs required for natural farming was enhanced through six bio-resource centres and 28 cow urine collection pits in 32 villages. 2,000 farmers were provided knowledge and skill in natural farming through Farmer Field Schools and field demos.
- ▶ 1,500 farmers from 32 villages shifted entirely to natural farming methods in 2078 acres of farm land. The cost of cultivation was reduced by Rs 6,000/- per acre through adopting natural farming practices. **Thimmappa** from Khairevu village said, *"I adopted natural farming for my groundnut crop in four acres and saved Rs 25,000/- on chemical fertilizers and pesticides. The crops yields are comparative to chemical agriculture."*
- ▶ More and more farmers from Kundurpi and Settur mandals are adopting natural farming for productivity enhancement in rainfed mango orchards. In the year 2020, 45 mango farmers converted 126 acres to natural farming and saw additional benefits of approximately Rs. 10,000/- per acre.
- ▶ Kummara Gangadhar from Khairevu village in Settur mandal is one of these farmers: *"I followed natural farming methods for my mango crop in one acre. I did mulching, pruning and gave Jeevamritham spray once a month. I got good results. Both the quality and quantity of mango yield in natural farming plot was better than in the 'normal' plot. I also saved the Rs 20,000/- that I would have spent on chemical fertilizers and pesticides,"* said **Gangadhar**.
- ▶ This year, in Kundurpi and Settur mandals, about 350 farmers cultivated vegetables in 550 acres adopting natural farming practices. They saved at least Rs 10,000/- per acre by avoiding chemical fertilisers and pesticides. This was due to the concerted efforts of Rythu Sadhikara Samsta (RySS) and AF-EC.



- ▶ *"I had attended trainings on natural farming and was motivated to shift to this way of farming. I adopted natural farming practices for the tomato crop. The cost of cultivation reduced by 50% and soil fertility improved. I have continued with natural farming methods and also helped 15 other farmers in the village to shift to natural farming,"* said **Mr. Bhaskar Reddy**.
- ▶ Pre-Monsoon Dry Sowing (PMDS) experiment was conducted with 30 farmers in 22 acres of rainfed lands to improve soil biotic life and improve sustained productivity in rainfed lands. Sridevi from Pesarakunta village in Rapthadu mandal is one of the rainfed farmers who experimented mixed crop farming using the PMDS method in 0.6 acres, in the year 2020-21.
- ▶ *"My dry sowing plot is providing nutritious vegetables, pulses and millets for home consumption throughout the year. It has improved my family's health. The soil health has improved. I feel happy looking at birds and farmer-friendly insects in my farm,"* says **Sridevi**.













## Andhra Pradesh Drought Mitigation Project

Andhra Pradesh Drought Mitigation Project was a state government project, funded by IFAD. Project implementation was entrusted to NGOs and coordinated by State Project Management Unit at state level and District Project Management Unit at district level. AF-EC was a Lead Facilitating Agency.

The goal of the project was to strengthen drought resilience and improve farm income

of 1,65,000 farm households  
in 315 Gram Panchayats

in five drought-prone districts  
in southern Andhra Pradesh

The project period was five years, beginning October 2017 till September 2022.

This year, the AP government decided to implement directly through newly set up Village Secretariats (Local Self Government Bodies), instead of through NGOs. Accordingly, it downscaled project staff at NGOs

in January 2020 and withdrew completely by August 2020.

The project was implemented in a participatory approach through FPOs, with focus on climate-resilient crop production systems, natural resource management and governance.

As LFA, Accion Fraterna facilitated project implementation in 12 mandals across 36 Gram Panchayats through 12 FPOs in Ananthapuramu District.

The *mandals* covered were Ramagiri, Kanaganapalli, Rapthadu, Atmakur, Kuderu, Kalyandurgam, Beluguppa, Brahmasamudram, Gummagatta, Kambadur, Kundurpi and Amarapuram.



## Achievements till end-August 2020

- ▶ The 12 FPOs facilitated provision of regular business services to members through farmer shops and Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs).
- ▶ The FPOs procured 12,061 quintals groundnut seed from 997 member farmers at Rs. 6,100/- per quintal, against Rs. 5,000/- in the market, as part of the Community Managed Seed System (CMSS) programme. This seed was processed, packed and supplied to APSSDCL at Rs. 7,100/- per quintal.
- ▶ Constructed 48 drinking water troughs for cattle as a common resource to serve livestock in 36 villages. Promoted fodder cultivation by disseminating Stylo hamata seed in 650 acres of common lands to support livestock rearing.
- ▶ Backyard poultry was promoted through construction of 11 breeding units and 1,150 backyard poultry sheds, benefitting 1,150 farmers.
- ▶ Rainwater harvested through 227 farm ponds and utilised for protective irrigation in 300 acres, benefitting 227 farmers.



## Alternative Livelihoods Project for rural women

The project, '*Promoting alternative/additional livelihoods for rural women from the families of rainfed farmers and farm labour in Ananthapuramu District*' is referred to, in short, as Alternative Livelihoods Project. Mrs. Anupama V Nadella, from the USA, supports this project.

The goal of the project is to create additional income for women in SMGs through exploring alternative livelihoods. Through this, the project seeks to elevate the social status, self-respect and dignity of the women.

### Quantitative objectives are

to generate additional income of Rs. 60,000/- per year for 3,000 women

to strengthen 600 SMGs, in the process

The objectives of the ALP and implementation guidelines were discussed with all SMGs. The ALP serves as impetus for Sasya Mitra Groups to upgrade their functioning

and to diversify the livelihood options of their members.

Though the project was approved in April 2020, the lockdown affected the functioning of many SMGs, and implementation began in September 2020.

### Achievements

- ▶ Contributed to the corpus of 20 SMGs, increasing their capacity for lending towards livelihood enhancements, and indirectly, strengthening SMG management of savings and revolving credit.
- 65 women took up non-farm enterprises for the first time in their

lives. They managed to add an additional income of Rs. 40,000/- to Rs. 60,000/- per year to their farm income.

- ▶ A fund outlay of Rs. 9,00,000/- from ALP covered 50% of the financial input towards the new businesses. The balance was accessed through SMGs.
- ▶ AF-EC reorganised and revived 300 SMGs, disrupted by Covid-19, by restarting regular meetings, savings and revolving credit. As a result, 3302 inactive members became active again. In the revival process, women's representation has increased in SMGs, particularly from SC, ST communities.

## Stories of women who earn

**Madiga Chandrakala** and **Ganganna** live in Kalagalla village with their two school going children. The family holds two acres of dryland near the forest. Farmers in that area have stopped cultivating because of wild animals damaging the crops.

Then Chandrakala started to go for MNREGS work and Ganganna started rearing goats. He made about Rs. 50,000/- in a year with 30 goats. However, the logistics of goat rearing required someone to stay home with the newborn kids when Ganganna took the goats for grazing. Chandrakala could not do this with wage employment.



Chandrakala discussed her problem in the SMG. The group advised her to start a business at home. Chandrakala availed Rs. 15,000/- loan under ALP and started a vegetable business. She purchases vegetables from Ananthapuramu and sells them in her village while also looking after the newborn goats. She earns Rs. 300/- per day. Her income is now stable and she can pay for her children's education. *"Our income from my business is stable and the income from goats has also increased. We sell only male goats, when they are 10 months or one year old. The female goats will join the flock and increase the number of goats. And in future, our income from goat rearing also will increase. I am happy now and thank our SMG,"* says Ganganna.



**Nagamma** and **Erriswami** are landless and work as farm labour in Gangavaram village of Beluguppa mandal. Due to drought, many farmers did not sow this year. Nagamma managed to find work for two to three days in the week and Erriswami started going to Kalyandurgam to work at construction sites. She was worried about their low income.

AF-EC encouraged Nagamma to try some other way of earning. She borrowed Rs. 15,000/- from the SMG, under the ALP, and bought saris from Ananthapuramu town. She made Rs. 100/- profit on each sari she sold. She even brought her saris to SHG and SMG meetings, and wherever women gathered, and sold them. Nagamma is able to earn Rs. 200-300/- a day. She is an inspiration for many women in the village.



Farm labourer, **Eswaramma**, from Ipperu village of Kudair mandal, was sanctioned a loan of Rs. 15000/- for a sari



business: Rs.7,500/- from the SMG and Rs. 7500/- from ALP, to be repaid in 12 EMIs. She continues farm labour in the mornings, and sells sarees in the afternoons, earning an additional Rs. 250-300/- a day—almost double what she was earning previously. *"With this, we are able to support my elder son's studies, plus I save some money to purchase an auto for my second son,"* she says with a grin.



*"My mother is a member of the Sasya Mitra Group in the village. She had taken Rs. 10,000/- loan from the group to help me set up a petty shop after I lost my husband. I repaid the loan and then I too joined the group. Post lockdown, I applied for a Rs. 15,000/- loan to restock my shop, and added Rs. 5,000/- from my savings. I have started repaying the ALP loan with the earnings from my shop."* **Srikanya** from Manirevu village, Kalyandurgam mandal.



**Indiramma, Pramila, Madhavi** and **Radha**, from Badanapalli in Dharmavaram mandal left farm labour post lockdown, and jointly started a garment business. *"Three days in a week we stitch clothes and remaining three days we go to surrounding villages and sell them. We are able to earn at least Rs.1,000/- to Rs. 1,200/- per day, so each of us earns Rs. 250/- to 300/- per day."*

**Kalavati** of Sitarampalli, Dharmavaram mandal, lost her husband and her hand in a road accident 15 years ago and worked as farm labour but unable now to do the hard work she could, earlier. She now sells puffed rice, earning about Rs. 250/- a day. *"I'm thankful I can stand on my own,"* she says. *"Being single and physically challenged, I would not have survived."*

**Tirumalamma** from Gandlaparthi of Rappthadu mandal expanded her tea stall to an eatery, selling dosa for breakfast and ragi mudde and pappu for lunch. She has repaid all her loans, incurred during her husband's cancer treatment.

**Lalitha**, wife of farm labourer Pakkirappa, has never worked much on a farm but knows how to stitch. She contributes to the household income with money earned from her tailoring venture, begun under ALP. Kalagalla village in Kudair mandal.







## AF Youth Centre

**The Youth Centre trains under-educated and unemployed youth for employable skills and then supports them in obtaining employment or starting their own enterprise.**

With the skills and confidence to seek employment or begin an enterprise, these youth can contribute to the family's income basket and improve livelihood security. This helps rural households diversify their means of earning to counterbalance their dependence on uncertain, rainfed farming.

The programme emphasizes that such employment be created either at home or close to home so that opportunity costs are minimized, families stay together, and cities are not flooded with migrants.

### Achievements

- ▶ Due to the restrictions on education and training institutions, the trainings in the Youth Centre could be conducted for six months only, from October 2020 to March 2021.
- ▶ 152 rural youth were trained in motor vehicle driving, cell phone repairs and two-wheeler repairs. Of the 152 youth trained, 88 are self-employed or employed and earning an income of Rs. 5,000/- to Rs. 15,000/- per month.
- ▶ Skill trainings include components of personality development, spoken English skills, and orientation on customer care, first aid and awareness on AIDS.

### A little professional grooming goes a long way

Though M. Ishak, 34 years old, had completed his Intermediate and had an LMV driving licence, he could not find a suitable job. He worked as cleaning staff in a private hospital where he earned Rs. 6,500/- a month, to supplement his father's income of Rs. 40,000/- a year, working as non-skilled farm labour. This was not enough for the four-member family.

At a friend's suggestion, Ishak enrolled in the HMV driving course at AF Youth Centre Driving School in Ananthapuramu. He learnt HMV





driving skills along with basic spoken English and professional etiquette. Immediately after training, he got a job as an ambulance driver.

He currently works as a Pilot (EMRI \_108 Ambulance Driver) with Aurobindo Emergency Medical Services, which provides ambulance services to the Government of Andhra Pradesh. He is posted in Gummagatta PHC on a monthly remuneration of Rs. 18,000/- with other benefits like PF, ESI etc. *"I feel proud to work as an ambulance driver. I am serving seriously sick patients who need emergency hospitalisation. I am also getting a good salary. I send Rs. 15,000/- to my family every month. My family is proud of me,"* said **Ishak** from Dodagatta village, Kalyandurgam mandal.

### Training and encouragement kickstarts a new business

**Mahesh** joined the two-wheeler mechanic course at Kalyandurgam Youth Centre and completed the 45 days training programme. At the end of the training, the AF Youth Centre provided him a toolkit to start his own shop. After a month, with support from his friends, he started a motorbike service centre in his village. Within six months, business picked up and his income went up to Rs.12,000/- per month. Now he is a motorbike mechanic and proud owner of his own shop.

Mahesh, who previously used to work as a daily wage labourer said, *"My life has changed. The instructors at AF Youth Centre taught me as if I was their own brother. I tell youngsters who come to me to join AF Youth Centre and benefit like me"*. Mahesh, aged 33 years, lives with his wife, daughter and son in D. Konapuram village in Rayadurgam mandal.



## Accelerating value chain benefits for improved income for farmers and nutrition for consumers

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The project aims at improving the income of 6,000 farmers through agricultural technologies, processing, value addition and improved access to nutritious food. ICRISAT is the project holder, AF-EC is the implementation partner and Walmart Foundation is the funding partner.

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### Achievements

- ▶ Rythu Nestham Food Producer Company Ltd is a federation of nine FPOs registered under the Producer Company Act. It got approvals for construction of a small-scale secondary processing unit of groundnut-based confectionary items from the Gram Panchayat and concerned government departments: AHUDA, town planning, groundwater, Southern Power Distribution Company, Fire and Pollution Control Board. The unit is under construction at Muddalapuram village, Kuderu *mandal* and is expected to start functioning next year.
- ▶ The four Primary Processing Centres (PPCs) processed groundnut and red gram in captive mode, making a net profit of Rs.1,06,000/-. The PPCs also provided processing services to farmers at Rs. 1/- a kg. and earned Rs.14,819/-.The lockdown-related transport and travel restrictions adversely affected the functioning of the PPCs.
- ▶ ICRISAT and AF-EC conducted a survey to assess the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on agri value chain actors, specifically, to assess the type and extent of loss incurred by the community in livelihood activities and agricultural operations. The survey was carried out with 264 farmers and farm labour in 12 villages of four *mandals* (Rapthadu, Dharmavaram, Kuderu and Atmakur).

#### Major findings are:

- ▶ crop production is not affected
- ▶ significant disruption of post-production supply chains due to lack of transport, storage infrastructure, information and marketing
- ▶ reduction in income for all the stakeholders in the supply chain due to reduced business and increased costs



- ▶ The study made recommendations on strengthening FPOs and building their infrastructure.
- ▶ Nutritional awareness training was provided to 295 women farmers, on dietary diversity, healthy eating habits and millet food preparation.
- ▶ A new, high yielding groundnut variety, Kadiri Lepakshi (KL-1812), was promoted in 25 acres with 25 farmers. Yields were higher by 15% to 20%.

### Evidence is the best persuader

*"With KL-1812, I got a yield of 6 quintals per acre, whereas with the K-6 variety I got 4.8 quintals per acre. The farmers in the village purchased the entire produce of the KL-1812 variety for seed purpose at a higher-than-market price. So I got a better crop and a better income with this new variety," said **Thippamma**, who tried the KL-1812 variety in one acre and K-6 in another acre in the same field in kharif season. She owns a farm in Kalagalla village in Kuderu mandal.*

## Achieving Gender Equality through Empowerment of Women in Agriculture

AGEEWA is a platform for women in agriculture, which aims to empower 2000 small and marginal women farmers through their FPOs. AGEEWA promotes women-friendly innovations in agriculture and value chain development, with the objective of securing sustainable livelihoods.

It builds advocacy platforms of women farmers to help them access government services, rights and entitlements. This project, funded by AEIN Luxembourg, was implemented by a consortium of four NGOs led by Andhra Pradesh Mahila Abhivrudhi Society (APMAS).

The new FCRA Amendment Act prohibits the transfer of foreign contribution from one NGO to another. AF-EC has been a secondary recipient for AGEEWA, receiving funds from APMAS. AF-EC handed over the project to APMAS by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. APMAS is now directly implementing the project.

### Achievements till end-December 2020

- ▶ The Bhumatha FPO was formed under the AGEEWA project, exclusively with women membership.
- ▶ The Bhumatha FPO organised awareness campaigns on Covid Appropriate Behaviour in five villages and provided relief material in the form of ration kits and vegetables, masks, soaps, sanitizers to 400 FPO members.
- ▶ 15 members were provided loans for livelihood improvement. These women improved their petty businesses and made up to Rs. 300/- more per day.
- ▶ Agriculture extension services and inputs like seeds, tarpaulins and implements were provided to 265 members through the FPO.
- ▶ The FPO business turnover in the year was Rs. 6,69,495/-; profits were Rs. 1,55,539/.





"My health was not allowing me to continue as a farm labourer and I was struggling due to lack of income. Bhumatha FPO gave me a loan to set up a vegetable business. Now I am able to earn regularly all year," said **Mutyalamma** from Ravulacheruvu village in Dharmavaram mandal.

"I work as a wage labourer. The four rams that I am rearing now, provide me an additional income, thanks to Bhumata FPO's loan," said **Bharati** from Pothulanagepalli village in Dharmavaram mandal.

## NABARD watershed project: Yerraborepalli

**NABARD has sanctioned a new watershed project this year under Watershed Development Fund. This is being implemented in Yerraborepalli and Kambalapalli villages of Settur mandal.**

The project period is four years, beginning July 2020, with a total cost outlay of Rs. 1,92,00,000/-. The treatment area is 1,150 hectares and will benefit 600 households.

### Achievements

- ▶ Orientation and awareness meetings were held to prepare the community for participatory watershed development.
- ▶ A participatory rural appraisal exercise surveyed soil types, cropping patterns, land slopes and major drainages. Household surveys were conducted to establish baseline data on demography, livelihoods and incomes. Participatory net planning was completed for catchment area development of the village.
- ▶ A Village Watershed Development Committee (VWDC) was constituted for project implementation, with an exclusively female leadership. The VWDC represents the social composition of the village: Scheduled Castes, landless labour, rainfed farmers, farmers with irrigation etc.
- ▶ The Capacity Building Phase (CBP) was completed with treatment of 100 ha of ridge area with farm bunding, stone outlets, farm forestry, water harvesting etc. It generated 1,500 person days of wage employment. 210 families contributed their share of 16% labour in project activities through *shramadan*, that is, manual labour.
- ▶ Contour bunding for soil conservation was established in 759 RMT (537 cu. m.) in 118 acres, benefitting 45 farmers.
- ▶ Dryland horticulture with mango plantation was taken up in 40 acres with 2,147 plants, benefitting ten farmers. Protective irrigation is provided by transporting water in tankers. Plant survival at present is 95%.





- ▶ Farm forestry for biomass development was done on farm bunds with seed dibbling of 50kg Pongamia seed, covering 118 acres.
- ▶ 34 stone outlets were constructed in 88 acres to discharge surplus run-off water without eroding soil. This benefitted 28 farmers.
- ▶ One farm pond was dug in a farmer's field to harvest rainwater for protective irrigation.
- ▶ A mini percolation tank was constructed on a stream. This has raised groundwater table in three surrounding borewells.

2.5 acre fallow land. As a result, Ramu is now nurturing a prospective plantation, starting with 150 mango grafts. Ramu is happy that the watershed project has provided an opportunity for regular work in the village and that he does not have to migrate to city slums. He is confident of building a sustainable productive asset for his family with the mango plantation.

### **Work-from-home option for a migrant**

Ramu, a migrant to Bengaluru, had to return to his village, Yerraborepalli, during the lockdown. When the NABARD Watershed work began, Ramu enrolled as a regular wage labour and managed to save Rs. 14,000/- in four months. With this amount he bought three lambs, fed them well for four months and then sold them at a profit for Rs. 24,000/-. In the meantime, the watershed project approved dryland horticulture in his

## Biogas Clean Development Mechanism project for CERs

This is an on-going climate mitigation and adaptation project that began in October 2014. Its purpose was to generate tradable Carbon Emission Reductions by replacing fuel wood, used for cooking, with renewable biogas.

AF-EC registered the project under the Clean Development Mechanism with the UNFCCC and Gold Standard in January 2013. IndiGo Airlines, through Fair Climate Network, financed yet-to-be-generated Gold Standard Carbon Emission Reductions (CERs). The CERs generated are to be retired in the UNFCCC Retirement Registry in favour of IndiGo Airlines. After clearing the IndiGo Airlines advance towards the CERs, the CERs will be traded in the international carbon market and the amount will be passed on to the biogas users.

### Women rediscover cooking

**Lakshmiddevamma** from Badanapalli village of Dharmavaram mandal said, "Biogas provided a clean kitchen with less smoke and made cooking a pleasure. Life has become easy with access to fuel at the turn of a knob. I spend less time in the kitchen and have time to take care of kids and elders in the family. My husband felt that the biogas slurry manure is far superior to farmyard manure and has increased crop production".

**Parvathamma** from Chigicherla village of Dharmavaram mandal said, "Now I don't get smoke in the

eyes. I don't have to kneel over an open fire, blowing through a pipe continuously. It has eliminated air pollution and improved my health. Cooking takes less time and effort. It actually becomes enjoyable. I never had time for myself. I love dancing and singing but hardly used to get time to attend any event in the village. The day my biogas started working, I have not missed a single function in my community."

"Now I cook without burning my eyes and lungs. I cook in half the time it used to take before. I can quickly provide my children with hot meals without any smoke in the kitchen. I





*can now concentrate on going out and earning. I don't need to worry about collecting fuel wood. I get to spend time with my family and help my children in their studies. The biogas has changed my life", said **Varalaxmi** from Ayyagarlapalli village of Rapthadu mandal.*

Sivakumari from **Ravulacheruvu** village, Dharmavaram mandal says, *"I have saved money on LPG. Biogas removed the drudgery of collecting firewood. As I have ample time now, I stitch clothes and work as a village volunteer in the biogas project. With an increase in our financial resources, we are now able to transfer our kids from the government school to an English medium school. It has been my dream to hear my children speak in English. Their monthly fee is Rs. 2,300/-, which is not a burden for us. We are very grateful for this project."*

## Achievements

AF-EC has built and commissioned 3,380 domestic biogas units to as many rural women in 164 villages in the last five years. The mandatory third party verification for evaluating the CERs generated have been completed till March 2021. The project, so far, has generated 26,742 CERs at Rs. 1,277/- per CER.

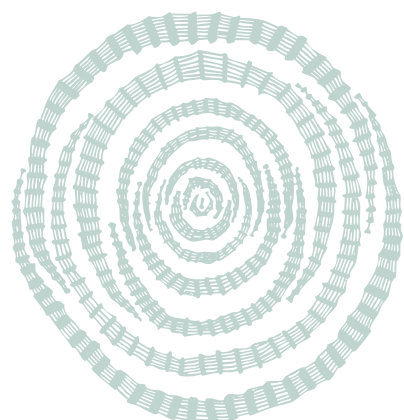
- ▶ The total amount received for the project as on 31.03.2021 was Rs. 4,55,91,295/-
- ▶ The total amount repaid by retiring CERs as on 31.03.2021 was Rs. 3,41,49,534/-
- ▶ The outstanding liability (to be paid) as on 31.03.2021 is Rs. 1,14,41,761/-

The functionality of the biogas units is at 84%, in spite of chronic drought and resulting shortage of fodder and distress sale of cattle. 2800 households are using biogas for cooking instead of firewood, kerosene or LPG, reducing GHG emissions.

## Clean energy platform with Sustain Plus

This was an experimental project, which explored how eco-friendly innovative technologies using solar energy could be used for drought mitigation activities like pumping water from farm ponds for protective irrigation and for hydroponic fodder production. The project ended in December 2020.

### Achievements till end-December 2020



- ▶ Mobile solar water pumps suitable to the local terrain and drawn by motorcycle or bullocks were designed and developed. Ten such mobile solar water pumps (SWPs) along with drip/ micro protective irrigation equipment were provided to ten farmer groups of four members each (benefitting 40 farmers, covering 100 acres) in Thammaiahdoddi and Khairevu villages. These pumps are being used to provide protective irrigation

for rainfed crops during drought/ dry spells.

- ▶ Two farmers increased their cropping area from 3 to 6 acres and doubled their crop yields by providing timely irrigation through two fixed solar pumps installed to draw water from borewells.
- ▶ In the normal course, the landless cannot opt for dairying, as green fodder is essential for dairy. Hydroponic technology was introduced to 40 dairy farmers for producing green fodder at home with solar powered hydroponics fodder production equipment. This





was particularly useful to landless dairy farmers, since it did not require irrigated land for fodder production. It resulted in augmentation of dairy income by Rs. 2,000/- per month and saved labour and drudgery, particularly for women.

### **Hydroponic fodder unit made a big difference!**

G. Parvathamma and her husband, Adinarayana, live in G. Kothapalli village of Gandlaparthi cluster, Rapthadu mandal. They are landless farm labourers. They have two cows, which yield six litres of milk a day. As they are landless, they have to forage for fodder or purchase it. In the monsoon, they gather green fodder from fallow lands. At other times, they buy fodder from other farmers in the village. It is expensive and time consuming. Their income depends on milk yield, which depends on good quality fodder, and this is uncertain.

*"We always wanted to improve our income through improved milk production. But the cost of fodder was not within our reach,"* says Parvathamma. With the adoption of hydroponics technology that enables landless farmers grow green grass at home using solar energy, Parvathamma produces sorghum and maize grass. She operates the solar-powered hydroponics unit as per the simple instructions given. She is able to grow nutritious green fodder at home and feed her animals.

*"Now I am able to feed my cow 10 kg of green grass every evening after milking. The milk yield is now 10 litres each, versus six, earlier. Fat content improved from 3.5% to 4.5%. I get Rs. 28/- per litre as compared to Rs. 20/- earlier. I have saved on cost of green fodder. I make Rs. 2000/- more, per month. The hydroponic unit also saves time and labour; I do not need to go out to get grass from field bunds,"* said **Parvathamma**.

# Human resources

Accion Fraterna Ecology Centre believes that human resource is the most precious resource of the organisation. Our Human Resources consists of qualified multi-disciplinary professionals with long years of leadership and management experience and extensive hands-on experience in different sectors of development.

The sectors include natural farming and drought mitigation, natural resources management, watershed development, institution development, community organisation, gender, rural livelihoods, human resources management, project management, monitoring and evaluation, financial management. Our middle level and grassroots staff are trained and experienced in technical aspects of various sectors

and in community mobilisation and CBO facilitation. They are all from rural backgrounds and easily relate to rural communities.

Being a learning organisation, we reflect on our experiences to draw lessons for improvement. We are open to new ideas, technologies and learning from others' experiences. We look for innovations relevant to our context. We change and adapt as per the changing situations and needs of the people with whom we work.

AF-EC is a repository of deep-rooted values, culture and ethos in development thinking and practice.

The organisational systems, culture and practices have been acquired, rooted and upgraded through five decades of our work with the

people of Ananthapuramu district. Participatory decision making, honesty, sincerity, transparency, accountability, sensitivity towards gender and social equity, teamwork and inclusive culture are some of the integral parts of our culture and values.

As of March 31, 2021, we were 100 personnel, with 32 women. AF-EC is an equal opportunity employer offering equal opportunities to women, persons with disabilities and others at all levels.





# Financial statement



## MAHESH, VIRENDER & SRIRAM

Chartered Accountants

"Badhe House" 6-3-788/36&37A, Ameerpet, Hyderabad - 500 016.

Tel: 040 - 23401738, Fax : 040 - 23401739 Email : myshyd@yahoo.com

### AUDIT REPORT

We have audited the attached Receipts and Payment account, Income & Expenditure account and Balance sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 of Accion Fraternal, Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Trust. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in India. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, test basis evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by the Trust, as well as evaluating the overall financial statements presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

#### Further, we report that:

- 1) We have obtained all the information and explanation, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit.
- 2) In our opinion, books of accounts as required by law applicable to Charitable Trusts have been kept by the Trust so far, as appears from our examination of such books.
- 3) The Balance sheet, Receipts and Payments Account and Income and Expenditure Account referred to in the report are in agreement with the books of accounts.
- 4) In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the Balance Sheet, Receipts and Payments Account and Income and Expenditure Account together with the annexures thereon give the information required as per the law applicable to the Charitable Trusts in the manner so required and give a true and fair view of:



*[Signature]*





## MAHESH, VIRENDER & SRIRAM

Chartered Accountants

"Badhe House" 6-3-788/36&37A, Ameerpet, Hyderabad - 500 016.

Tel: 040 - 23401738, Fax : 040 - 23401739 Email : mvshyd@yahoo.com

- In the case of **Balance sheet**, the state of affairs of the Trust as at **31<sup>st</sup> March 2021**.
- In the case of **Receipts and Payments** account of total receipts and payments for the year ended on that date, and
- In the case of **Income and Expenditure** account of the **surplus** for the year ended on that date.

5) In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the said Receipts and Payments, Income & Expenditure Account and Balance sheet comply with the Accounting principles generally accepted in India and notified Indian Accounting Standards.

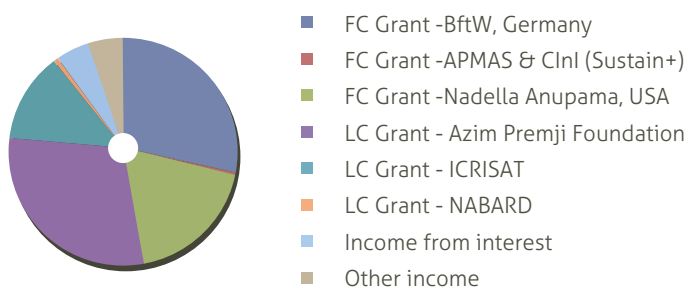
for Mahesh, Virender & Sriram  
Chartered Accountants  
(Firm's Registration No.001939S)

(B.R Mahesh)  
Partner  
M No.018628



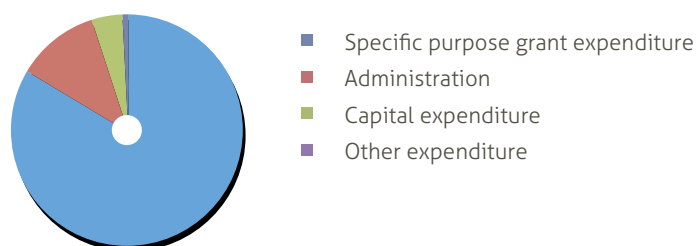
Place : Hyderabad  
Date : 11.01.2022.

## Inflow of funds 2020-2021



Donors diversity	Amount in INR
FC Grant	
FC Grant -BftW, Germany	3,10,70,400
FC Grant -APMAS & CInI (Sustain+)	7,01,925
FC Grant -Nadella Anupama, USA	2,00,00,000
LC Grant - Azim Premji Foundation	3,19,60,832
LC Grant - ICRISAT	1,40,77,832
LC Grant - NABARD	7,57,505
Income from interest	55,00,024
Other income	54,29,949

## Outflow of funds 2020-2021



Head of account	Amount in INR
Specific purpose grant expenditure	7,74,68,024
Administration	1,07,54,153
Capital expenditure	40,08,327
Other expenditure	6,43,203



# FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2020 - 2021

## Account of Receipts & Payments

### Accion Fraterna Receipts and Payment Account for the year ended March 31, 2021

PARTICULARS	Schedules	Year ended March 31, 2021 ₹	Year ended March 31, 2020 ₹
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Opening Balances			
Cash & Bank	Sch - I	2,65,72,210	2,29,47,263
Grants / Donations Received			
Foreign Grants	Sch - II	5,17,72,325	5,27,34,846
Local Grants		4,67,96,169	3,56,35,571
Other Income			
Interest	Sch - IV	55,00,024	43,60,009
Contributions	Sch - III	47,86,746	25,00,659
Others	Sch - VIA	6,43,203	19,39,989
Other Receipts / Liabilities	Sch - V	1,29,00,182	1,53,45,108
Advances	Sch - VI	2,75,71,685	4,15,73,706
Fixed Deposits / Investments	Sch - VII	10,13,98,670	7,66,04,295
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>27,79,41,214</b>	<b>25,36,41,446</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Specific purpose Grant Expenditure	Sch - VIIIA	7,74,68,024	7,24,84,101
Administration	Sch - VIIIB	1,07,54,153	1,51,57,658
Capital Expenditure	Sch - VIIIC	40,08,327	84,31,388
Other Expenditure	Sch - VIA	6,43,203	7,77,872
Revenue Expenditure / Other Liabilities	Sch - VIID	1,32,59,383	1,36,19,818
Closing Balances			
Loans & Advances	Sch - VI	2,59,09,161	4,11,01,403
Fixed Deposits / Investments	Sch - VII	13,31,95,053	7,54,96,996
Cash & Bank	Sch - I	1,27,03,911	2,65,72,210
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>27,79,41,214</b>	<b>25,36,41,446</b>

### Program costs transferred directly to Village Committees - Facilitated by Accion Fraterna

	2020 - 2021 ₹	2019 - 2020 ₹
Grants from NABARD - WDF & FPOs	13,74,100	8,64,400
Grants from APDMP - FPOs	43,47,690	1,62,60,005
Mobilization of Savings - CBO's	1,48,38,837	2,37,16,485
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,05,60,627</b>	<b>4,08,40,890</b>

As per our report of even date

For Mahesh, Virender & Sriram  
Chartered Accountants

B.R. Mahesh  
Partner (M.No.018628)  
Reg. No. 001939 S  
Hyderabad  
Date: 11.01.2022



For and on behalf of  
Accion Fraterna

Dr. Y.V. Malla Reddy  
Chief Functionary and Director



## Balance Sheet

### Accion Fraterna Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2021

PARTICULARS	Schedules	Year ended March 31, 2021 ₹	Year ended March 31, 2020 ₹
<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS</b>			
<b>Fund Account</b>			
Capital Fund		4,50,39,273	4,46,96,100
General Fund	Sch - XA	8,13,05,036	6,01,59,132
Corpus Fund - Youth Centre		38,78,090	36,94,786
<b>Current Liabilities and Provisions</b>			
Specific Grants	Sch - XD	9,96,915	1,12,98,930
Fund Account - (Health & Gratuity)	Sch - XB	1,87,27,886	1,87,83,064
Current Liabilities	Sch - XC	1,65,87,290	94,06,055
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>16,65,34,489</b>	<b>14,80,38,067</b>
<b>APPLICATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Fixed Assets	Sch - IXC	4,50,39,273	4,46,96,100
Specific Grants	Sch - XD	16,57,344	66,89,654
Fund Account - (Health & Gratuity)	Sch - IXA	1,77,49,919	1,71,83,963
Loans & Advances	Sch - IXB	1,70,65,640	1,18,08,164
Current Investments	Sch - IXA	7,23,18,403	4,10,87,976
Cash & Bank Balance	Sch - I	1,27,03,911	2,65,72,210
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>16,65,34,489</b>	<b>14,80,38,067</b>

As per our report of even date

For Mahesh, Virender & Sriram  
Chartered Accountants

B.R. Mahesh  
Partner (M.No.018628)  
Reg. No. 001939 S  
Hyderabad  
Date: 11.01.2022



For and on behalf of  
Accion Fraterna

Dr. Y.V. Malla Reddy  
Chief Functionary and Director





# Annexures

## Quantitative overview of achievements

### Sustainable Agriculture and Diversified Livelihoods Project 2020-21

Activity	Units achieved	Families benefitted
Rainfed Natural Nutritional Farming models	8169 acres	8,169
Contingency crops	16,447 acres	7,282
Kitchen gardens	9,266 plots	9,266
Rabi natural farming demo plots	2,003 acres	2,003
Protective irrigation	2,080 acres	769
Pre-monsoon dry sowing	10 acres	10
Fodder production	520 acres	264
Farmer field schools	120 sessions	600 farmers

### Community Natural Farming Project

#### Conversion to natural farming in 2020-21

Mandal	Villages under CNF	100% conversions to natural farming	Area under 100% natural farming (in acres)	Partial conversions to natural farming	Area under partial natural farming (in acres)
Kundurpi	13	281 farmers	270	477 farmers	1,174
Rapthadu	12	66	109	23	123
Settur	10	229	339	148	449
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>718</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>1,746</b>

#### Community Natural Farming activities implemented in 2020-21

Activity	Units achieved	Families benefitted
Cow urine pits	20	50
Bioresource centres	6	24
Kitchen gardens	276	276
Pre-monsoon dry sowing plots	22 acres	30
Protective irrigation	250 acres	61

#### Cumulative conversions to natural farming: 2017-18 to 2020-21

<i>Mandal</i>	<i>Villages covered</i>	<i>100% conversions to natural farming</i>	<i>Partial conversions to natural farming</i>
Kundurpi	13	433 farmers	597 farmers
Rapthadu	12	66	23
Settur	10	581	948
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>1,080</b>	<b>1,568</b>

#### Cumulative achievements: Project activities from 2017-18 to 2020-21

<i>Activities</i>	<i>Units achieved</i>	<i>Families benefitted</i>
Rainfed five-layer crop models	76 acres	76
Farm ponds with lining	70 farm ponds	70
Grassland development	120 acres	Village community
Kitchen gardens	1220	1220
Contingency crops	1,200 acres	760
Pre-monsoon dry sowing plots	72 plots	72
Row water sowing	40 acres	40
Five-layer vegetable models	18 plots	28
Backyard poultry	400 backyards	40
Navadhanya cropping system	2,000 acres	1,200
Protective irrigation	130 acres	60
Cow urine pits	28 pits	50
Bioresource centres	6 centres	24



## Andhra Pradesh Drought Mitigation Project

FPO promotion in 2020-21

Name of the FPO	Mandal	FPO shareholders as of 31.08.2020	Quantity of seed procured for APSEEDS (in quintals)	Number of farmers benefitted	Value of seed procured (in Rs.)
Sree Annapurneswari Farmers MACS Ltd	Amarapuramu	758	1,230.00	15,8.00	87,33,000.00
Sri Subramanyeswara Swamy Farmers MACS Ltd	Atmakur	469	1,520.00	16,2.00	1,07,92,000.00
Vedavathi Farmers MACS Ltd	Beluguppa	704	1,023.00	11,5.00	72,63,300.00
Sri Dona Thimmaraya Swami Farmers MACS Ltd.	Bramhasamudram	562	570.00	6,2.00	40,47,000.00
Sri Lakshminarasimha Swamy Farmers MACS Ltd	Gummagatta	558	960.00	88.00	68,16,000.00
Sivalingeswara Swamy Farmers MACS Ltd	Kalyanadurgam	706	465.00	43.00	33,01,500.00
Sri Thimappa Swamy Farmers MACS Ltd	Kambadur	641	1,693.00	124.00	1,20,20,300.00
Sri Ganga Bhavani Farmers MACS Ltd	Kanaganapalli	676	1,134.00	132.00	80,51,400.00
Sri Sangameswara Swamy Farmers MACS Ltd	Kuderu	642	1,000.00	102.00	71,00,000.00
Sri Anjineya Swamy Farmers MACS Ltd	Kundurpi	557	773.00	55.00	54,88,300.00
Shiridi Sai Farmers MACS Ltd	Ramgiri	680	778.00	53.00	55,23,800.00
Chinna Kadaraiiah Swamy Farmers MACS Ltd	Rapthadu	518	931.00	90.00	66,10,100.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>7,471</b>	<b>12,077.00</b>	<b>1,184.00</b>	<b>8,57,46,700.00</b>

## Alternative Livelihoods Project

Promotion of non-farm livelihoods for women:  
Nano business support in 2020-21

Mandal	Number of villages	Number of women supported	Community composition		
			SC	ST	Others
Athmakuru	1	2	0	0	2
Belguppa	4	16	4	0	12
Dharmavaram	5	14	9	0	5
Kalyanadurgam	1	2	0	0	2
Kuderu	3	19	9	6	4
Kundurpi	2	6	6	0	0
Rapthadu	2	6	4	0	2
Settur	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>27</b>

## AF Youth Centre 2020-21

Youth trained and employed/self employed in 2020-21

Institution	Centre	Social composition of youth trained			Total trained	Employed	Self-employed	Total youth employed / self-employed
		SC	ST	Others				
AF Driving school (LMV)	Ananthapuramu	29	3	7	39	20	0	20
AF Driving school (LMV)	Kalyandurgam	20	2	20	42	15	5	20
AF Driving school (HMT)	Ananthapuramu	9	5	17	31	20	2	22
Two wheeler repair	Ananthapuramu	5	0	4	9	5	0	5
Two wheeler repair	Kalyandurgam	7	0	12	19	10	0	10
Cellphone repair	Kalyandurgam	8	1	3	12	5	0	5
<b>Total</b>		<b>78</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>82</b>



Youth trained and employed/ self-employed  
from April 2008 to March 2021

Institution	Centre	Year established	Social composition of youth trained			Total number of candidates				
			SC	ST	Others	Trained	Employed	Self employed	Total employed or self-employed	Percentage of trained who are employed or self-employed
LMV driving	Ananthapuramu	2008	530	77	635	1,242	650	34	684	55%
LMV driving	Kalyandurgam	2008	618	64	479	1,161	675	35	710	61%
HMV driving	Ananthapuramu	2011	118	31	202	351	175	14	189	54%
Auto driving for women	Ananthapuramu	2015	50	5	46	101	12	15	27	27%
Two wheeler repair	Ananthapuramu	2017	42	6	51	99	43	8	51	52%
Two wheeler repair	Kalyandurgam	2017	60	2	82	144	20	10	30	21%
Cellphone repair	Kalyandurgam	2017	72	6	86	164	20	15	35	21%
<b>Total</b>			<b>1,490</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>1,581</b>	<b>3,262</b>	<b>1,595</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>1,726</b>	<b>62%</b>

## Farmer Producer Organisations

FPO-wise details of members and shareholders as on 31.12.2021

Name of the FPO	Number of memberships paid for (Rs.100/-)	Amount paid (in Rs.)	Number of shareholders (Rs. 1000/-)	Amount paid (in Rs.)
Atmakur Farmers MACS Ltd	862	94,820.00	508	5,08,000.00
Beluguppa Farmers MACS Ltd	1,308	1,43,880.00	430	4,30,000.00
Bhumata Women Farmers MACS Ltd	447	49,170.00	343	3,43,000.00
Dharmavaram Farmers MACS Ltd	920	1,01,200.00	254	2,54,000.00
Kalyandurgam Farmers MACS Ltd	1,526	1,67,860.00	874	8,74,000.00
Kudair Farmers MACS Ltd	1,178	1,29,580.00	570	5,70,000.00
Kundurpi Farmers MACS Ltd	1,626	1,78,860.00	614	6,14,000.00
Rapthadu Farmers MACS Ltd	1,102	1,21,220.00	368	3,68,000.00
Settur Farmers MACS Ltd	2,063	2,26,930.00	606	6,06,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,032</b>	<b>12,13,520.00</b>	<b>4,567</b>	<b>45,67,000.00</b>

FPO-wise annual turnover and net profit in 2020-21

Name of the FPO	Business revenue (in Rs.)	Net profit (in Rs.)
Atmakur Farmers MACS Ltd	1,63,81,224.00	6,37,521.00
Beluguppa Farmers MACS Ltd	86,16,592.00	(-59,257.00)
Bhumata Farmers MACS Ltd	1,86,406.00	20,092.00
Dharmavaram Farmers MACS Ltd	95,90,493.00	2,71,326.00
Kalyandurgam Farmers MACS Ltd	1,28,29,830.00	8,029.00
Kudair Farmers MACS Ltd	1,28,75,603.00	33,552.00
Kundurpi Farmers MACS Ltd	97,31,821.00	3,33,309.00
Rapthadu Farmers MACS Ltd	51,69,935.00	53,471.00
Settur Farmers MACS Ltd	1,12,29,607.00	2,77,171.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,66,11,511.00</b>	<b>16,34,471.00</b>

FPO-wise groundnut procurement during lockdown in 2020-21

Name of the FPO	Number of farmers benefitted	Quantity procured in quintals
Atmakur Farmers MACS Ltd	204	2,238
Beluguppa Farmers MACS Ltd	132	1,216
Dharmavaram Farmers MACS Ltd	122	1,170
Kalyandurgam Farmers MACS Ltd	193	1,836
Kudair Farmers MACS Ltd	150	1,542
Kundurpi Farmers MACS Ltd	110	1,210
Rapthadu Farmers MACS Ltd	72	695
Settur Farmers MACS Ltd	120	1,477
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,103</b>	<b>11,384</b>

## Achieving Gender Equality through Empowerment of Women in Agriculture (AGEEWA)

Details of members and shareholders in Bhumata women FPO as on 31.03.21

Village	Number of memberships paid for (Rs. 100/-)	Amount paid (in Rs.)	Number of shareholders (Rs. 1000/-)	Amount paid (in Rs.)
Dharmapuri	73	8,030.00	57	57,000.00
Ravulacheruvu	178	19,030.00	135	1,35,000.00
C. Bathalapalli	38	4,180.00	39	39,000.00
PothulanagePalli	68	7,480.00	54	54,000.00
NRK Kottala	17	1,870.00	06	6,000.00
Tumparti	73	8,030.00	52	52,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>48,620.00</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>3,43,000.00</b>

## NABARD watershed project, Yerraborepalli: 2020-21

Activity	Units achieved	Area treated	Expenditure (in Rs.)	Number of farmers benefitted
Horticulture	2,678 plants	40 acres	2,43,028	10
NFB	537.5 m <sup>3</sup>	759 Rmt	1,00,243	14
Seed dibbling (pongamia)	25 kg	759 Rmt	4,450	14
Stone outlets	32	80 acres	1,12,135	12
Farm pond	1	5 acres	52,922	2
MPT	1	50 acres	2,59,048	10
Trainings	6	NA	60,000	Village community
Wall slogans	2	NA	5,100	Village community
<b>Total</b>		<b>175 acres</b>	<b>8,36,926</b>	<b>62 farmers</b>





## Board of Trustees

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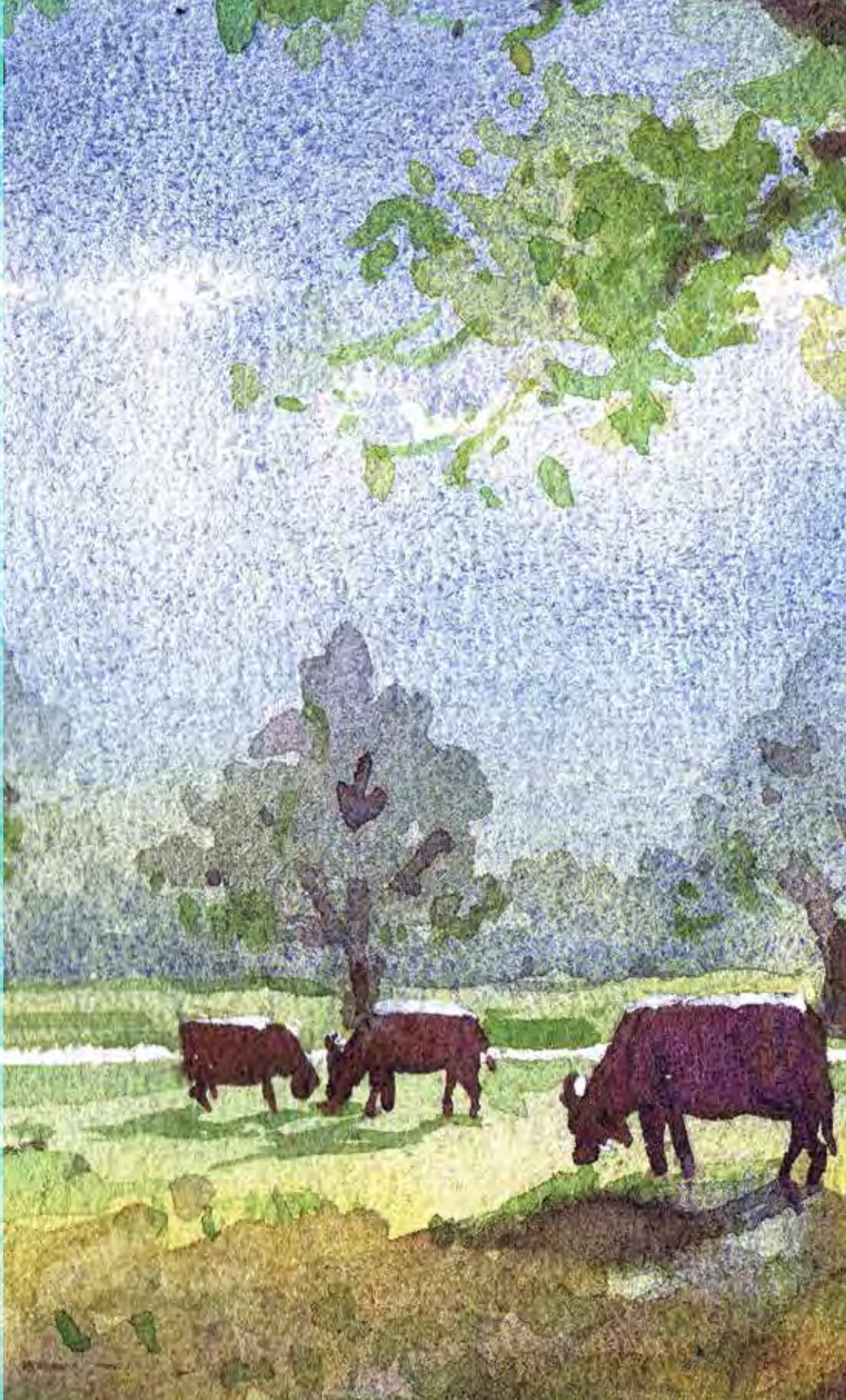
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Accion Fraterna is registered:

Under section 12A & 80 G of the Income Tax Act 1961

Under FCRA Act – Renewed upto 31.03.2027

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We acknowledge with gratitude our partnership  
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and Diversified Livelihood Program.