



SNEHAKUNJA TRUST

REGD NO. E-237 (KWR). RURAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

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Annual Report: 2020-21

Though established as a health care organization in the year 1977, Snehakunja Trust has also been working in the fields of rural development and environment protection. The trust runs a 20 bedded Ayurved Hospital situated at Kasarkod and in the field of rural development and environment we work with women, small farmers and labourers.

Here is a brief report of the activities/projects undertaken

I) Strengthening and Greening Rural Economies

Funding agency – SELCO

Project period July 2019- February 2021

Project Area: Uttara Kannada district, Belagavi and Mysore in Karnataka

Sourashtra and South Gujarat

The said project aims at strengthening producer collectives such as Self Help Groups (SHGs), Farmer Interest Groups (FIGs) and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) through value chain development and to improve incomes of small and marginal producers, by facilitating them to access Decentralized Renewable Energy sources.

Under the project, **110 renewable energy based micro-enterprises were promoted** and strengthened across 10 FPO ecosystems in Gujarat and Karnataka. The entrepreneurs included small and marginal farmers, women SHGs, vulnerable tribal groups, and forest-dependent and migrant pastoral communities.

Some examples of business models promoted

Area	Activity	Equipment provided	Purpose served
Agriculture	Seed production	Solar fencing	Minimizes thefts and animal raids
	Seed Processing	Solar Seed rack	Multifold Seed drying
	Soil testing	Mini soil testing lab	Farmers in remote areas can access
Food Processing	Spice processing such as turmeric , chilli etc	Pulvariser, dryer, utensils	Hygienically processed spices catered to the local demand

	Banana chips making	Slicer machine, biogas, utensils, tools	Sale of value added banana chips for improved price
Dairy	Sale of traditional sweets	fuel-efficient cook stove, khowa machine, utensils, lighting, fan	Improved price realization
NTFP	Cactus Juice making	Juice extraction machine, fuel-efficient cookstove, utensils	Improved price realization through value addition of wild cactus fruits which are otherwise wasted

II) Revitalizing Rain fed Agriculture Network

Funding Agency – IFHD Project period Oct. 2019 to March 2021

RRAN aims to improve rural livelihoods of small and marginal farmers in Rain fed areas through sustainable agricultural practices with the Panchayat at the Centre of transformation. Primary focus areas for transformation include:

- Improving household economy of farmers
- Better Soil health at the earliest
- Continuous supply of cattle fodder
- Food and Nutritional security for farming households
- Extended livelihood opportunities to involve almost the whole year
- Direct marketing opportunities

RRAN is working through individual and collective agency of farmers at the level of the grama, taluk and zilla panchayats. Active networking has been started in six districts viz. Kolar, Ramnagara, Chamarajnagar, Tumkur, Chickmagalur, and Mandya.

Major achievements under this project are

- **Rejuvenating Akkadi Saalu**

The project encouraged fifty farmers in each of the five districts to take up Akkadi Saalu cultivation in 2020 and advocated with the Government of Karnataka for the promotion of the same in rainfed districts of the state. Reviving the biodiversity-based organic farming based Akkadi system has helped yields in multiple crops, visibly improved soil fertility, increased pollinators in the farm and cattle fodder besides reconnecting farming households to their traditional cultures of biodiverse farming.

- **Making Panchayats work for rainfed farmers**

Established collaborative relationships with local panchayats in two districts with RRAN members taking up training and capacity building programs on sustainable agriculture to farmers in rainfed areas. This collaboration has led to the taluk panchayat in Mulbagal and RRAN to jointly plan convergence strategies between line departments for effective support to rainfed farmers in transitioning out of input intensive and non-profitable farming practices.

- **Women leadership**

Promoted women only farmer's group in two districts to encourage women leadership in rainfed areas. Women led farmer's groups are also working in three districts to ease access to labour entitlements through effective implementation of NREGA.

- **Contributing to changes in Soil policy trajectory in Karnataka**

To stop indiscriminate use of chemicals and to create an academic and field level critical mass and to promote farmers as bare foot soil scientists, RRAN held training programs for them in five districts and encouraged them to talk to Agriculture officers at the taluk and zilla level

- **Raithara Anubhava Mantapa**

Raithara Anubhava Mantapa is a unique peer to peer learning process initiated by RRAN Karnataka. Raithara Anubhava Mantapa in Karnataka is a group building process through sharing between farmers with one progressive farmer in each district taking the lead in initiating discussions on diversity based ecological farming.

- **Rabi Campaign to extend livelihoods in Rainfed areas**

RRAN found that 90% farmers in the Akkadi Saalu campaign were not practicing rabi cropping. The campaign was able to establish that planned well, the farm residues and extended crops from the monsoon crops continue into and help in the Rabi cultivation. Major crops like Horse Gram, Bengal Gram, Coriander and green peas were grown in five districts.

- **Representation in Government of Karnataka committees**

RRAN team has been invited by the state government to be on a number of its committees. E.g., Prof. Kshithij Urs, the state lead of RRAN has been selected as a member of the Government of Karnataka subcommittee that is drafting the new agriculture policy for Karnataka. The team has also been invited to be on the government committee promoting integrated farming systems in the state.

- **Comprehensive Covid-19 Response for rural migrants in Bangalore**

Since mid-March, RRAN in Karnataka has collaborated with grant making organizations and local government to raise resources and deliver relief for rural migrants stuck in Bangalore owing to Covid related lockdown. A total of Rs. 1.25 crore were raised besides dry ration to over 15000 individual migrants and 12000 families in informal settlements in Bangalore. Within a month, we were able to coordinate across the city to support laborers board eight trains to different locations. This was followed by relief and health care for rural migrants from Karnataka and Tamil Nadu in informal settlements in the city.

III) **Impact of the Bengaluru Metro Rail (Reach 6) on Vulnerable Communities**

Funding Agency ----- Project Period: June 2020 to December 2020
For Snehakunja, GrowthWatch is undertaking an assessment of the social and environmental impacts of the newly proposed 21.275 km Gottigere-Nagavara alignment (Reach 6) of Phase II of Namma Metro. It includes 6 elevated (7.50 kms) and 12 underground sections (13.755 kms) with a total of 18 stations. A Maintenance Depot is to be constructed at Kothanur.

A review of secondary information has shown that to implement Reach 6, BMRCL will take 65.29 acres of land of which 50.43 acres is from private owners and cut 1,312 trees on the alignment of the metro rail line. With a total of 1098 affected families, it will hamper 754 commercial establishment including hawkers and small shop keepers who are among the poorest in the city. Besides, it will affect several public amenities of social and cultural importance that are being acquired either temporarily or permanently for the construction of the Reach 6 alignment.

As of 31st December 2020, the secondary data collection on the project, including the station-wise details has been completed. A review of BMRCL's (Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Ltd.) EIA and SIA assessments has also been completed. A draft report is being prepared and the development of the surveys and preparation of the public consultation process to assess the social impact at specific stations is in progress.

IV) Bivalve (Mussel) Farming Project at AIGALAKURVE, Kumta Taluk, Uttara Kannada, September-November 2020

Funded by NABARD

Activities related to mussel farming using rope and raft technology have been initiated at village Aigalakurve of Kumata taluk in September 2020. Apart from selecting the suitable site, 15 women beneficiaries have been identified. The project will be conducted in collaboration with State Fisheries Dept and NFDB scheme on mussel farming.

The applications with all the details and documentations of 15 women beneficiaries was submitted to fisheries department in the first week of November 2020.

An exposure visit was organized and the team visited Sastana, Kundapur Taluk, Udupi, the exposure visit resulted in acquiring technical knowledge and also confidence to undertake mussel farming at the identified location.

Items required for raft building have been collected. Seed collection is being done.

V) Awareness Programs for SHG Women

Snehakunja in collaboration with Family Planning Association, Kumta has conducted awareness programs for SHG women on topics such as women's health, gender equality, women's rights etc. Health camps have also been conducted for the benefit of women.

VI) Hospital

Snehakunja Trust is running 20 bedded a Hospital Under the Name Vivekananda Arogya Dhama. Since last 9 years the hospital is practicing ayurvedic line of treatment. People suffering from arthrites, sleeplessness, depression, anxiety, chronic cold, asthma, anaemia, paralyses, menopausal disorders etc., come for Ayurvedic treatment.

We could treat around 135 in patients and 2199 out patients during the year 2019-20 and 73 inpatients and 1035 out patients during the financial year 2020-21.

Every Saturday from 9.30 to 10 am free health checkup is done for poor patients. A patient has received health service from us for six months without any charges. The medical charges and medicine dispensed for him amount to around Rs. 2 lakhs.