

# Kamalapur Projects

## **1. Watershed Development :**

Three watershed development projects have been implemented on two different rivulets. Total 36 KT weir have been constructed on two streams. This has brought about 1750 acres of land under all season cultivation. People are using this impounded water not only during the winter season but also during early summer. There has been an increase of 5 to 10 ft. in water levels of surrounding wells. This project has benefited 675 families . The regular maintenance of the dams is done by the local committees.

This benefited mostly the marginal farmers from the catchment area. Earlier these families were working as farm labour and now each family is employing 3-4 labour for carrying out their own farm work !

## **2. Housing :**

Housing project is emerged as one of the needful and successful programe of YPS. The social housing concept has given the beneficiaries a house or shelter for lifetime. This project is planned in such a way that, with an external support of mere 33% the project participant is able to construct the entire house !

The beneficiaries contributes locally available material like Stones, Sand, and mud. The family members work as unskilled labour under the mason. They seek help for the material which they need to purchase. Under this project the beneficiaries are given steel roofing structure, good quality roofing tiles, cement for foundation & pointing, MS doors & windows ,lintels, and the mason wages.

So far 1150 poor families which lived in husk roofed risky houses for generations together, are now living in a permanent structured , weather proof ,maintenance free house!

Beneficiaries are free to decide the location of their house as per their convenience. They generally select near their work place.

By avoiding use of wood in the construction ,we could save hundreds of trees. Secondly , culture of living in non-wood house is being developed, which will again save many more trees in the future.

## **3. Special Economic Package (SEP):**

YPS never believe in making people dependent on the external help. In the initial 2-3 years , targeted poor families are helped to improve their health and education status. The majority of expenditure on theses two aspects are borne by YPS, plus some financial help per month is also provided to the family. With this help family can save some money which they invest in developing their income source source. After supporting the family for 5-6 years, if they are unable to generate money sufficient to maintain the family , it is considered for SEP.

SEP is one time financial help given to the family for developing a permanent source of income. Every year 20-25 families avail the benefit from this activity. General trend is of developing small irrigation scheme, starting agro industry, small shop, etc.

Once the family is covered under SEP , from the next year they are out of above programme, in majority of cases, the family doesn't need further support.

So far more than 540 families have been benefited by SEP.

## **4. Agriculture Project :**

About 95% of the villagers with whom YPS is working, are solely dependent on agriculture. Due to the fragmentation of land, 80% of targeted families are land holders of 1-2 acres of land. Out of that 70% of the farms are un-irrigated. They get only one crop in a year, which again dependent on rain. Since this area is drought prone with erratic rain pattern, these marginal farmers are never sure of their farm income.

YPS along with the farmers did a lot of thinking before starting agriculture activity in 1985. A plan was chalked out to implement various programmes to support the agricultural needs of targeted farmers. Over the years systematic implementation of various programmes have been done and now farmers receive almost every service from selecting the crop -training-demonstration-sapling/seed service -plant protection - inputs like fertilizers till marketing of their produce !

a. **Seedling Service :-** For the marginal farmer it is very difficult to raise quality seedlings on his/her field. Raising of saplings at farmers level needs high investment and expertise which is non affordable to small farmers. To serve this purpose the YPS agriculture department provide Sapling service to the farmer. Farmer purchase seeds from the market naturally he expects more germination and healthy plants.

Minimum 80 % germination is assured to the farmer. The Saplings are scientifically grown. Also it is observed that the out put of the plants raised here is 15-20% more than locally raised plants! Every year more than 400 farmers take the benefit of this service.

b. **Demonstration :** Now a days due to high competition, in the seed market, every company is doing aggressive marketing. Farmer are shown the attractive results along with the photographs. The results they show may be from the area with different agro-climatic conditions than YPS project area. Before advising farmers to use particular seed , YPS agriculture department carry out demonstrations of these unknown varieties in it's own farm. One full crop is taken to see the results. Visits of interested farmers are arranged. Yield of all the varieties are shown to the farmers. Then the farmers select the appropriate variety. So far YPS has demonstrated drumstick, roses, papaya, various varieties of chilies, capsicum, tondli (small cucumber), bitter gourd, cabbage etc.

For those farmers who take only one crop it is a risky business to do experiments. For years together these farmers use the same methods, varieties etc. As the result of which the yield does not improve. After analysing this fact a package for training these farmers has been developed. Every year about 25-30 farmers, i.e. one farmer per village, are trained in improved agriculture practices. The training process begin with chemical analysis of the soil from their farm. The concept of analysis is told to the farmers. They should know the elements of the soil & availability in the Most of the farmers agreed that They were using unnecessarily using too much and unwanted fertiliser .

To improve the farm yield for those farmers who take only one crop , YPS has developed a package. In every village 2 marginal farmers are selected every year for demonstration. First their output of previous 3 years is recorded. Also their method of cultivation is studied by the experts. The intervention starts with chemical analysis of the soil and water. Use of only required fertilisers & pesticides , ploughing according to the slope of land, selection of proper variety of seed , distances, inter-cropping, improved methods of harvesting are used to extract maximum yield.

The experience is, farmer has to spend about 20% more (for the demonstration purpose YPS bear this extra cost), in return farmer gets 45-65 % additional yield compared to the earlier year output!.

After the harvesting these particular case studies are discussed in the farmers meetings.

c. **Nursery** : YPS has a nursery of more than 52 varieties of plants. The nursery plants of YPS are considered to be of quality. Every year thousands of medicinal plants, horticultural plants, decorative plants and tree varieties are raised.

Agriculture dept. has worked in promotion of horticultural plantation, training of nursery techniques, green house, underground humidity chamber and many other agricultural extension programmes. It has published a series of booklets in local language about the cultivation practices, choice of good seeds, plant protection and post harvest techniques, etc.

It produces and demonstrates the use of natural manure and propagate the use of earthworms. The farmers are taken for exposure visit to various places where farmers can learn about the techniques.

### **Marketing of agro produce:**

A group of 150 farmers came together to form “Yerala Bahu uddeshiy sheti sangh” an informal co-operative to solve the marketing problem of the farmers. It carries about 20-30 tons of vegetable and fruits to Mumbai market every week. This not only helped the farmers who are involved in the group but has also created a pressure on other private traders to make fair deal with the farmers. Earlier the farmers were paid 2 months after the delivery of their produce by the private traders. Now they are paying on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day!

This co-operative explains every detail of the transaction to the farmers i.e.

- At what time the vehicle reached Mumbai market
- What was the market rates of each vegetable/fruits.
- The selling price of the vegetable/ fruit carried.
- What were the losses
- The commission given to the trader
- Transportation charges
- Net amount received.

Earlier the private traders just handing over money to the farmers without telling them any thing. As the farmers were not having any other option they used to accept the amount. Now with the intervention of this co-operative the business of private traders is drying up.

But our policy is to keep the natural business cycle functional. We are committed to re-install the natural cycle after refining.

### **5. Milk :**

This activity cater services to the small milk producing farmer. Poor farmers who has 1-2 buffaloes don't have any marketing source. The volume of milk is very small for long distance transportation secondly there is no local (in the village) market to the milk. To overcome this bottle neck the milk department collect the milk from these marginal farmers, process the same and market it through it's own distribution network. Daily 450 ltrs milk is being collected.

Milk department functions in professional way. It has got almost all the facilities from fat checking to pasteurization. Because of all these facilities and hard working staff the department functions very efficiently. Ultimately small farmers receives benefit by way of higher prices and other facilities.

Other services like breeding, artificial insemination, cattle feed, and help to farmers to procure milch animals through bank credits are provided by this dept.

## **6. Sericulture Activity :**

YPS sericulture dept. is working at three levels-

- 1.Rearing,
- 2.Reeling and
- 3.extension of the programme.

For those farmers who have sufficient water for 9 months and some water for 3 months a year, YPS has successfully demonstrated sericulture activity. This crop gives the returns once a month. So the farmers get income at regular interval. Also this is an eco-friendly activity.

But so far we have not been successful in convincing farmers to take up this activity. Earlier in every village 4-5 farmers tried this activity but they failed. Of course the failure was because of insufficient training, lack of technical knowledge and problems in marketing. We have already eliminated all these hurdles.

To solve the most critical problem of cocoon marketing YPS has established silk reeling unit. Modern reeling machinery with capacity of 100 kg cocoon processing per shift has been installed.

Again this unit is professionally managed. The silk thread produced here is of superior quality and fetch highest price in the market.

## **7. Poultry :**

YPS poultry is a best example of an enterprise entirely run by rural women. There are altogether 45000 birds which are managed by a group of rural women. Initially they were trained in technical as well as managerial skills for two years when they gained confidence, then they registered themselves with co-operative department and named as "Yerala Kukupalan Sah. Sanstha." All the activities viz.

- Purchase of day old chicks
- Vaccination
- Feeding & routine maintenance.
- Manufacture of quality feed
- Sale of birds
- Sale of eggs , are done by women, all the decisions are taken by them. Performance of the poultry so far has been excellent.

## **8. Feedmill :**

With live stock of 45000 birds, 50 buffellows in house you need to have your own feed production unit to maintain the feed quality. Several treatments to the birds are given through the feed and added to the feed during the manufacturing process. The feed mill is producing poultry feed, cattle feed and feed for goat.

## **9. Powerloom :**

To give an helping hand to strike hit local weavers returned from Mumbai, powerloom activity was started. Many weavers found employment in the unit. Because of recent recession this activity is no more continued.

## **10. Departmental Stores at Sangli :**

To provide marketing out let to rural and other products produced by small producers YPS has established a Departmental store in a prime area of Sangli (District place) City. DS has helped several small producers to display and sell their goods.

Marketing problem of many small rural producers is totally solved. This store also give priority to the products manufactured by lepers, handicapped persons, and other socially distressed section of the society.

The store is also a good income source for the organisation. This store is one of the leading stores in Sangli.

#### **11. Yashashri women's industrial cooperative :**

Another group of 500 rural women from targeted area is engaged in stitching garments , spice making .

This group is also engaged in processing of fruits. They are manufacturing candies and allied products. These activities are not only generating employment but are also providing market to rural produce. This unit also is solely handled by rural women.

#### **12. Agricultural service centre (ASC) :**

Farmers who came together for marketing purpose realised that they can meet their need of seeds , fertiliser etc. if they together start a centre where they get quality seeds , fertiliser, pesticides at reasonable price. ASC is helping the local farmers in the procurement of the quality seed, insecticides, fertilisers and many other agricultural inputs. ASC organise the camps for local farmers to inform them about new trends in agriculture.

#### **13. Family development programme :**

Under this programme of YPS 525 children from poor families are enrolled. Child is considered as the centre of this programme. Effort is being made to improve the surrounding of every child by providing various services.

The families of these children are receiving timely help to educate their children and live in better conditions. Children receive text books, school uniforms and dresses. They are given extra coaching Classes and special training camps. The sport events are also conducted To give scope to the talent of rural children.

So far about 2800 families have been supported under this programme. This project has adopted eleven villages where apart from family services community services are also provided. Under the community services, so far 20 kms length drainage system, 120 toilets have been constructed and 35 new hand pumps for drinking water purpose have been installed.

#### **14. Goat Project :**

To give the financial helping hand the poor families, YPS has launched the goat project. A revolving fund has been established to run this program on permanent basis. The farmers who are selected for this project have to undergo training in goat rearing before starting the unit. Then he is given a unit of 5 she and 1 he goats.

Within two years farmer has to return 6 goats (newly born) which is in turn given to another farmer.

After repaying within two years farmers still maintain foundation stock of 5+1 and about 8-9 kids! Veterinary experts from YPS crew provide regular extension services. They also monitor the growth of the unit.

YPS also maintain a Goat central service unit. There are 70 goats which are maintained Scientifically but in a very simple way. The excellent performance of this unit is not only useful to YPS supported families but has also caught the attention of many outsiders who are approaching YPS for guidance.

### **15. Credit Cooperative :**

Women from the project target group have come together to form a credit co-operative. There are 755 women members in this co-op. This group is involved in providing financial assistance to the needy families. Main financing is for Ago- based activities, small enterprises, etc.

The small financial needs of women are catered by the weekly savings which they make at village level. Generally women approach this co-operative when they want to start some income generating activity. So far around 375 families have been served by this co-operative.

### **16. Vocational Training programme :**

YPS is conducting vocational and vocational training programmes in tailoring, embroidery, computers, electrician, motor rewinding, electronics, TV / Tape repairs, Two wheeler repairs, rearing of silk cocoons, etc. The duration of the training programmes ranges from 1 day to 1 year. These programmes have benefited hundreds of individual in securing jobs and self employment.

So far more than one thousand seven hundred girls and boys have been trained in various skills.

### **17. Training for rural women :**

Dept. of Science of Technology has sponsored special training programmes for women. These training programmes were in agriculture - improved techniques, poultry - cockrail training and environment smokeless chulha, etc. So far more than 1000 women from 19 villages have been trained under these programmes.

### **18. Entrepreneur training programme :**

Every year 300 young entrepreneurs are being trained by YPS in various aspects of business. A batch of 40 candidates is trained for 15 days. This training covers Production management, With the vast training YPS is the recognised institute by state Govt. to give entrepreneurship development training to PMRY beneficiaries. So far 1200 candidates have received training from YPS. Despite of this Govt. of Maharashtra is sponsoring TRYSEM training for the below poverty line youth. Urban development authority has also recognised YPS as trainers for slum dwellers women and youth.

### **NGO Networking :**

YPS has initiated NGO networking process for small NGOs from Western Maharashtra to give them the helping hand in resource mobilisation. YPS has well equipped communication system which provides necessary information to the needy. YPS has so far assisted 15 NGOs in the promotion of agriculture, maternal and child health, school education, housing and many other such programmes. YPS is publishing a newsletter for private circulation among individuals and NGOs to disseminate the information about YPS and its programmes.

### **Relief and Welfare work :**

During the disastrous earthquake in Marathwada region of Maharashtra, YPS helped thousands of victims with necessary clothes, utensils, food and monetary help. It helped generously to the school education of children affected by the earthquake. Similarly it has helped the other victims of natural calamity from Deorukh, Gadhinglaj and Ramanadnagar area by giving them necessary food and clothing.