



**GRAMA SWARAJYA SAMITHI**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

(April 2023 to March 2024)



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## Foreword



The main objective of the Grama Swarajya Samithi rural and urban communities development activities Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Child Rights, Women development, Natural Resource Management.

I take this opportunity to sincere thanks to Tata Trust and Ajim Premji Foundation (APF) those who have supported us. My sincere thanks to our team of committed, who are working in difficult areas. Without whom all the above achievements could not have been possible.



**B.Ramu**  
Executive Secretary

**Grama Swarajya Samithi (GSS)** is registered under Societies Registration Act (1860) as well as with the Ministry of Home Affairs (1991).

The projects of the during 2023-24

S.No	Project	Coverage	Objective	As per MOA
1	Sustainable Livelihoods on Climate Resilient Community Managed Natural Farming in Koyyuru Mandal of Visakhapatnam District, Andhra Pradesh- APF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Koyyuru mandal, Visakhapatnam district.</li> <li>28 tribal villages</li> </ul>	1600 farmers in 26 habitations move into natural farming with improved crop production practices, integrated livelihoods and good water management practices. Households would have improved food/ nutritional security/ incomes/crop resilience	Constructive Activities Amendment Resolution No:05 To undertake agriculture development, watershed development, animal husbandry and forest development activities.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF MAJOR ACTIVITIES / INITIATIVES UNDER TAKEN BY THE GSS DURING THE YEAR

### 1. Sustainable Livelihoods on Climate Resilient Community Managed Natural Farming

1. Programme Summary		
1.1	Programme name	Sustainable livelihoods on Climate Resilient Community Managed Natural Farming in Koyyuru Mandal of Visakhapatnam District, Andhra Pradesh
1.2	Organization name	GRAMA SWARAJYA SAMITHI
1.3	Project Coverage (Target)	District: Alluri Seetha Rama Raju (ASR)
		No of Mandals: 01 (Koyyuru)
		No of GPs: 06
		No of Villages :28
		No of families: 1783
1.4	Total Grant Amount	1,33,75,000
1.5	Grant ID	G-1910-06981
1.6	Grant Start and End Date	01 December 2020
		30 November 2023
1.7	Reporting period	From 01 December 2020
		To 30 November 2023
1.8	Report Prepared by: (Name, Phone Number & email ID)	B.Ramu, Project Director 9603005525, <a href="mailto:gssamithi@gmail.com">gssamithi@gmail.com</a> , <a href="mailto:gssamithi@yaoo.co.in">gssamithi@yaoo.co.in</a>

### 2. Detailed Progress Update

2.1 Please explain the key achievements under each outcome with details of process supported with key data points

**Outcome 1: Farmers in the selected villages transcend to natural farming practices/ protocols and improve the yields of the crops by following protocols of natural farming**

**Farmers conversion into Natural farming:-**

As per our baseline survey 1783 no.of farmers in 28 villages, coverage target 90% farmers as per RF is 1604.

As of now we have converted 1243 farmers Natural Farming from December -2020 to November 2023.

S. n	Gram Panchayat	Target Farmers	Partial Conversion		S2S Conversion		S2S W Conversion		Total Conversion	
			No. of Farmers	%	No. of Farmers	%	No. of Farmers	%	No. of Farmers	%
1	Battapanukula	179	18	10%	130	73%	0	0%	148	83%
2	Kinaparathi	285	28	10%	210	74%	11	4%	249	87%
3	Nadimpalem	259	10	4%	174	67%	15	6%	199	77%
4	P.Makavaram	382	27	7%	157	41%	16	4%	200	52%
5	Sarabannapalem	438	36	8%	243	55%	0	0%	279	64%
6	Velagalapalem	240	17	7%	146	61%	5	2%	168	70%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1783</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>1060</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>1243</b>	<b>70%</b>

**MIS:** GSS Maintained the MIS for Natural Farming farmer's data. Starting of the project conducted baseline survey with ODK app in 6 GP's. Initially Farmer Tracking we followed the RYSS 40 column book and customized for our requirements. After that we maintained the excel sheet for the farmer Tracking. Field staff Maintained the Manual Books for Farmer tracking. Based on Field data maintain and update the excel in office.

After that in ODK App trained by WASSAN and used by CRP's.

At present customised app developed by WASSAN technical team for natural farming project named SAVYA. Now following this app from this Rabi season.

**Definition of S2S farmer:** The farmer who has been practiced any 3 natural farming methods (beeja, ghana, drawa, kashyams) in his farming plot without use any fertilizers & pesticides in specific season. He is called as S2S farmer.

**Definition of S2Sw:** The farmer who has been practiced any 3 Natural farming methods (beeja, ghana drawa, kashyams ) in his whole farming land in specific season. He is called as S2S whole farmer.

**Definition of Partial farmer:** The farmer who has been practiced any 2 natural farming methods in his farming plot and also he applied fertilizers & pesticides in specific season. He is called as partial farmer.

#### Land conversion into Natural farming:-

In baseline survey identified total land in the cluster 4405 acres, in those cultivable land is 2346. acres. Till now converted 1788 acres converted

S. N	Grama Panchayat	Total Cultivable land	Land under Partial		Land under S2S		Land under S2Sw		Total Land conversion	
			Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres	%
1	Battapanukula	527	21	4%	202	38%	0	0%	223	42%
2	Kinaparathi	286	35	12%	327	114%	20	7%	382	134%
3	Nadimpalem	327	6	2%	189	58%	32	10%	227	70%
4	Pmakavaram	392	17	4%	213	54%	67	17%	297	76%
5	Sarabannapalem	500	48	10%	363	73%	0	0%	411	82%
6	Velagalapalem	314	19	6%	214	68%	14	5%	247	79%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2346</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>1509</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>1788</b>	<b>76%</b>

#### Productivity enhancement:-

As per Base line Yielding of the Paddy 15 Quintals Per Acre, farmers adopted Natural Farming methods Paddy yielding has been Increased 4.30 Quintals (430Kgs) . We found through Crop cutting experiments. In 2022 Kharif season we have been conducted 18 CCE different varieties like RNR, RGL Nellore sannalu. In this experiment we choose the 14 NF Farmers and 4 chemical Farmers. Similarly encouraged SRI and Line sowing methods in Paddy. These models are given better yielding Compared to common sowing. The Farmers are started practicing this model in this region.

The farmers expressed that the health of soil has been increased due to use of cow based growth promoters and increased yielding and decreased the cost of the farming.

3. Cashew is one of the major crop when project has started, we conducted focus group discussions with farmers about yielding of the Cashew. As per FGD, we found the yielding has 2.4 Quintals (240kgs) per acre.

Farmers practiced NF methods like inter cultivation, application of Jeevamrutam and Botanical extracts yielding has increase another 200 kgs

We found this statistical information through CCE of Cashew. For this experiment Identified different age of cashew gardens and did the experiments in the presence of farmers .finally we come to conclusion yielding has increased and farmers are also recognised this increased of the yielding.

S.No	Crop	Baseline (at the starting of the project) (quintals/ acre)	No of farmers (S2S) adopted NF practices	Major practices/methods	Average increased yield per acre	Remarks /additional information on positive and negative factors, CCE process etc
1	Paddy	15 quintals 1500 Kgs (20 Bags)	227	> Line sowing > SRI Method > Common/Traditional > Practiced application of GJ and DJ > Application of various kashayams depend on disease/pest.	4.3 quintals (430 Kgs) 28.6 % yield increment	18 CCE conducted in paddy of Khariff season (2022) Observed average yielding get per acre 1930 kgs. (Nearly 26 bags) we observed Increased average 430 kgs per acre with baseline.
2	Cashew	2.4 quintals (240 Kgs)	671	Pruning, Weeding, Ring Trenches Application of Dravajeevamrutam, Neemastram and Sour Butter milk	2 quintals (200 Kgs) 83.3% yield increment	As per 18 CCE in 2022. Average yielding is 440 Kgs. It is Equal to 5.5 Bags (Each bag contains with 80 kgs) we observed that increased average yielding 200 kgs per acre with baseline.
3	Ragi	2.5 quintals (250 Kgs)	12	> Guli > Common > Practiced NF protocols	1.75 quintals (175 Kgs) 70% yield increment	After long gap this year khariff (2022) cultivated the Ragi. As per 2 CCE results average got the 425 kgs yielding from one acre.

**Improved access to bio inputs and agri implements and water for irrigation:-** (Interventions in relation to Bio inputs and how this had contributed for conversion of farmers into natural farming practitioners)

- GSS has created friendly environments for the preparation of Bio-inputs. In this way developed 31 cattle urine lining sheds for preparation of Bio-inputs for NF practice. This is helps to farmer conversion and minimized the cost of cultivation.

S.no	Grama Panchayat	Improved Cattle Sheds	No. of cattle's	Urine available in Ltrs/per day
1	Battapanukula	5	35	70
2	Kinaparthi	5	52	104
3	Nadimpalem	8	88	148
4	P.Makavaram	3	24	48
5	Sarabhannapalem	4	22	44
6	Velagalapalem	6	49	64
	<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>540</b>

- Agri implements available at door step of the farmers through service centres like PVC drums, sprayers, cono and cycle weeders, etc. The availability of these tools help the farmers to conversion to NF, use less labour and cost.
- We supporting the below inputs, implements and tools
  - Pine Apple suckers-5200 to 42 farmers
  - Finger millets – 80 kgs to 26 famers
  - PVC drums -160
  - Farmer purchased their own contribution – 122
  - SRI Markers -2
  - Cono weeders – 12
  - Cycle weeders -12
  - Foot sprayers – 12
  - Yellow traps – 300
  - Blue traps -300
  - Phermon traps -150
  - Fruit Traps -150
  - Electronic weighing machines – 4
  - Sprayers – 4
  - Crates-40
  - Tarpaulins – 20
  - We have established two service centers in Chuttubanda and Sarabannapalem. These assets are maintaining by CHC committee formed with local farmers and filed coordinator, they are maintaining record like inward and outward and nominal fee for agri tools.

#### **Irrigation works:-**

- Government has constructed check dams, canals and ponds for irrigation. But due to no O&M these structures are mostly damaged, so the farmers are unable to get the irrigation facilities properly.
- We identified 3 no.of channel repair works.
- Assessment conducted in identified works.
- Discussed with local community for their contribution
- Details of Benefit out of these works are below.

S.no	Name	Village	GP	No of villages serving to	No of farmers benefitted	No of acres got irrigation support	Crops raising
1	Dondla Irrigation Canal repair work	Katragadda	Battapanukula	3	49	73	Paddy, Pulses & Cashew
2	Checkdam Irrigation Canal repair work	Battumetta	Nadimpalem	2	65	78	Paddy, maize, groundnut
3	Sammachintha Irrigation Canal repair work	Nimmagadda	Sarabannapalem	2	40	60	Paddy, maize
			<b>Total</b>		<b>154</b>	<b>211</b>	

**Outcome 2: Improve the supply of nutritious food, particularly fresh vegetables to the tribal families for major portion of the year**

- GSS operational area promoted 339 family level Nutri kitchen gardens in 6 Grama panchyats. Conducted village awareness meetings/trainings to SHG groups and other village institutions and farmers about importance of Fresh vegetables and kitchen gardens.
- Identified the house hold families and supplied the vegetable, fruit bearing plants and leaf seeds.
- Given demonstration to women farmers about preparation of Beds and seed sowing water management.
- Frequent visits of Kitchen garden and explain on pest management and seed collection.
- Due to close monitoring of the Kitchen gardens nearly 339 families are getting fresh vegetables, fruits and green leaves up to 250 days.

Leafy vegetables – Gogu, Amaranthus, Palak, Coriander, Curry leaf.

Vegetables – Brinjal, Tomato, Chilli, Bhendi, Beans, Bitter gourd, Ridge gourd, Bottle gourd, Radish, Carrot.

Fruit Bearing – Sapota, Guava, Papaya, Drum stick

S.No	Panchayat	No.of KG's Promoted	Land coverage with KG in cents	Vegetable available months			
				0-3	3-6	6-9	9-12
1	Kinaparathi	50	51	2	16	27	5
2	Battapanukula	62	60	6	21	28	7
3	Nadimpalem	45	47	4	18	21	2
4	P.Makavaram	40	45	4	17	15	4
5	Sarabannapalem	102	90	20	41	33	8
6	Velagalapalem	40	48	0	16	21	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>29</b>

**Result:-**

- They are getting fresh and chemical free vegetables minimum 8 months. (July to Feb)
- Average plot size 1 cent
- They save monthly around 2000 rupees.
- Surplus vegetables sharing to Neighbors.
- Develop the own seed for next crop

**Outcome 3: Strengthen Farmer Producer Organizations for improving facilities/ services at local level**

The Manyam Maathota Farmer Producer company Limited formed and registered under Companies Act 2013, in June 2022. Initially organized community sensitization meetings with local farmers and about FPO and Its importance. Sensitized to Board of Directors on formation. To all our efforts Joined 725 shareholders in FPO end of the November 2023. Each Shareholder Paid Rs1000/- One hundred Rupees for Member ship and Rs.900/- for Share capital. The Total amount Rs. 7,25,000/- deposits in APGVB in the Name of FPO. As of now FPO procuring produce with available share capital only.

Local available produces Vegetables, chilly, Annatto Seeds and Cashew has been procured by FPO with Minimum Support price and Paid to farmers within 24 hours. One of the major crops Cashew has been procured 460 quintals current season From March to April. Financial resource used from share capital which is collected from Farmers. Procured from farmers and Sold to Local buyers. All The financial transaction has through Bank.

Most of the Farmers sold their Surplus produces to FPO and Got the Good Price and received money in time. FPO day to day shared market price of commodity to farmers.

Produce	Qty Tonnes Procure/marketing
Cashew	66.84
Vegetable	1
Tamarind	0.5
Annato seeds	2.5
Lemon	0.25

**Future Plans:**

NF products marketing.

NTFP products mapping, marketing.

Planning to procure more of cashews, paddy by next season.

Improve the village level BOD and shareholders involvement in procurement, also storage for procurement.

Trying to get new Vendors from companies to give farmers better price.

Outcome 4: Improve access to welfare programs of the government for the benefit of poor families in the project villages with a specific focus on employment

**Farmers/households to access rights and entitlements include NREGS, ROFR, Land titles,**

**Issues:-**

- This Koyyuru far way from the district headquarters.
- Government officials services are minimum due to border and distance.

- Network (Internet) problem.
- Low availability of adhaar centers
- Issues like bank linkage to NPCI, Adhaar corrections, Adhaar updating.

**Process adopted to resolve.**

- Baseline conducted/updated on welfare and entitlement in 6 panchayat.
- Awareness generation.
- Identify the youth cadre in each village – 2 members in 28 villages.
- Capacity building training given youth cadre by PMU, Paderu on entitlements
- Our staff capacity building training taken from Libtech, PMU-Paderu on NPCI, Rythu Bharosa, NREGS, ROFR digitization, mutation etc.
- Identify the mutation issues in village wise
- Facilitate Gram Sabha by acting as bridge between Administration and Community
- Follow up throughout the process of issuing Death and FMC at VRO
- Follow up for Digitization in Web land

S.no	Name of the Scheme	Target	Benefited families
1	NREGS Job cards	169	270
2	NREGS Job card addings	0	37
3	Mutation	42	12
4	ROFR Digitization	114	110
5	Rythu bharosha rejections resolved (deaths:18, migrated:4, long illness:3)	50	53
6	Children Aadhar cards	0	132
7	Aadhar updating	0	387
8	PM Kisan Registration	0	74
9	E-crop Registration	0	34
10	Old age pensions	56	3
11	Ration cards	38	11
12	Ammavodi	40	14
13	Disable certificates	0	12
14	Birth Certificates	0	17
15	Death certificates	0	56
	<b>Total</b>		<b>1222</b>

2.2 What are the factors that have enabled the programme to achieve its results (what went well and why)

- Periodical trainings to the farmers on natural farming methods improved knowledge and understanding.
- Village level mass campaigns before kharif and rabhi.
- Mass input preparations and demos
- Availability of farm tools in their door step
- Provide the infrastructure to practice NF like drums, improved cattle shed, and restoration of irrigation facilities.
- Agriculture expenditure is drastically come down due to usage of natural manure like cow dung, urine etc.

- Exposure visits to existing NF practicing farmers in out of project area.
- Collaboration with RYSS, Agricultural, Horticultural Departments, KVK (BCT), ARS-Yelamanchili, ARC-Chintapalli.

The resources mobilized below for promotion of Natural farming.

S.N	Source	Support details	No of benefited farmers	Quantity of Support	Approx. value
1	Agriculture Research station (Yelamanchali)	Sesame seed, Ground nut seed, Agri tools	100	1. Sesam-184 kgs 2. Ground nut-500kgs 3. Sickle, Boriga and cheta -100 4. Trapulins	111540
2	BCT KVK Haripuram	Tarpaulins, Crates and Multi-Purpose Brush Cutter	45	1. Trapulins-20 2. PVC Crates-40 3. Multi-Purpose Brush Cutter -1	90000
3	Ability Foundation	Finger Millets ( Indravati Variety )	56	Finger millet	3000
4	NREGS( SMC Works)	Ring trenches	18	18079 Man days in 37.76 acres	4639726
		<b>Total</b>			<b>4844266</b>

2.3 What were the challenges faced and learning's during the implementation of the programme? (what aspects didn't go well and why)

- ▶ Younger generation is away from farming.
- ▶ There is no proper irrigation facilities in this area.( water structure are in damaged conditions)
- ▶ Some villages are remote and hill top to reach the services.
- ▶ Cattle open grazing for second crop promotion.
- ▶ Agriculture extension service is not up to mark.
- ▶ Farmer habituated Chemical farming.

**Learning's:-**

- Farmers are interested to convert into Natural farming.
- Farmers are interested to Rabhi crop.
- Farmers are interested to cultivate all the land owned by them.
- Practicing multi cropping.
- Promote irrigation facility, availability of agri-tools make farmers into NF.
- Promote cattle urine lining sheds boost the farmers convert into NF.
- Provide market facilities.
- Welfare and entitlement is source to reach farmers to convert NF.

**Innovations:- Solar fencing**

S.no	Panchayat	Village	No.of farmers setup solar fencing	No.of acres benefitting	Promoted crops
1	Battapanukula	Teegalametta	8	18.5	Vegatables, Ground Nut, Maize, Sesame, Cashew
2	Nadimpalem	Battumetta	2	8	Groundnut, Sesame,Paddy.
3	Sarabannapalem	Sarabannapalem	9	26	Vegetables, Sesame, Groundnut, Maize, Cashew
4	Velagalapalem	Seekayapalem	4	8	Paddy, Vegetables, sunflower, Bengal Gram
<b>Total</b>			<b>23</b>	<b>60.5</b>	

**4. Financial Update**

3.1 Have there been any significant changes to the budgets as planned? (Reporting period)

-Initially we proposed village wise community resource persons to extend support services to particular village (each village one community resource person)

-But, as per our need we requested to foundation it was changed 6 GP level community resource persons. The GP level CRP will look for nearly 250 to 270 farmers and covering 3 to 4 village in one Panchayat. It is full time work to CRPs.

**5. Stories of Change**

4.1 Change stories you would like to share with us

**Case study:-1**

I am Darakonda Narayana Murty S/O of Yerreasu 52 years living in Sarabannapalem village Koyyuru Mandal. I have two children both are majors living separately. Myself and my wife doing the farming at my village. I have 3 acres of cultivable land with irrigation facility.

Since 20 years I have cultivate the Paddy crop in khariff season only. But 365days water is available to my farm land. Due to cattle open grazing farmers are not interested to cultivate Rabi.

November 2022 Grama Swarajya Samithi organized a mass campaign on Rabi crops cultivation and its importance.

November 2022 Grama Swarajya Samithi organized a mass campaign on Rabi crops cultivation and its importance.



I was also actively participated in this campaign and also motivated to my fellow farmers. That's inspiration I became strongly decided to cultivate the Rabi crop in this season.

With technical support from GSS I am farming the multi crops in my farm land 2.5 acres in Natural farming methods. GSS team always available to me and giving suggestions to crop management. In this Rabi season I have cultivating sesame in 1 acre, Ground nut 0.8 acre, Maize and Chilly 0.5 acre and Banana 0.2 acre. Totally 2.5 acre. To protect my field from cattle arranged solar fencing,

With support from GSS I got 50 kgs Ground nut and 2.5 kgs sesame seeds .Due to NF practices a am able to cultivate with low investment. Used 6 tons of Type -2 Ghanajeevamrutam and also used Dravajeemarutam and kashayas for pest management, hence minimized the crop investment. It is purely natural farming.

I got yielding of 2.5 quintals of sesame its average cost Rs.20000 and 5 quintals of ground nut .Rs.17500 I got the income from maize and chilly Rs. 8000/. I have totally got Rs.45500 income with Rs12000 crop investment. I have got net income Rs.33500/. ***"I feel very happy with this income. All this credit goes to GSS. With my inspiration many farmers think about Rabi crop cultivation "***

### Case study:-2

I am Kakari chitukalayya s/o singarayya 50 years , I am Natural Farming Farmer lived in Kattirallaloddi village P Makavaram Grama panchyat Koyyuru Mandal, Alluri seetarama raju District. Along with my son and my wife doing the farming in 2 acres of farm land. I am belongs to traditional farming tribal family.

During this Kharif season cultivate the poly crop in my two acres of farm land in natural farming method. With support of Grama Swarajya samithi , practice the ½ acre model in poly crops . in this land planted the Maize, Tamato, Brinjal, Chilly , Bendi and Finger millets.used only



Ghanajeevamrutam and Dravajeevamrutam as Growth promoters . Used the Botanical extracts for the pest monitoring. This Half acre was completely developed with Natural farming methods. Neighboring villagers, visitors and some NGOs visited model fields and appreciated. I got Rs. 20000/ from the crops without investment in 110 days. It is a great experience In my farming life.

In the same farm 1.5 acres cultivated the SRI method in paddy. it is also practiced with NF Methods. Crop grows very well with less investment. Average 40 to 45 tillers grown in paddy plant .it is very big change in my field. I am used 600kgs of Ghanajeevamrutam and 800 liters of Dravajeevamrutam for my paddy crops used the Brahmastram Maredu Patra Kashayam for the pest management. I have followed the Nonnegotiable practices, like planted the Mari gold as trap crop, installed the Yellow traps, Pheromone traps, and Bird perches for pest monitoring.

Annexure – 1: Good Project photos that capture progress and process









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