



ವನಸಿರಿ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ

**VANASIRI RURAL
DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY**

Reg No: 52/2004-05



Empowering rural communities through sustainable livelihoods and holistic development initiatives.

Organization overview

Vanasiri Rural Development Society (VRDS) aims to transform lives in Karnataka's Haveri district, focusing on improving livelihoods through sustainable agriculture, natural resource management, and social empowerment. Our innovative labour banks provide work opportunities for thousands of migrant labourers, reducing worker migration and ensuring year-round employment. VRDS also supports girl child education, offers training for small and marginal farmers, and advocates for child rights and employment policies. We believe in empowering communities to achieve self-reliance and foster economic resilience. Through partnerships with stakeholders, we build capacity, enhance infrastructure, and drive lasting social change, creating a brighter future for rural and urban families alike.

Problem statement

Economic disparities and a lack of livelihood opportunities persist among rural and marginalized communities, including women, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, landless laborers, small farmers, minorities, and urban slum dwellers. These disparities are exacerbated by challenges in agricultural productivity and income generation faced by small and marginal farmers, stemming from issues such as soil degradation, erratic weather patterns, limited irrigation, high costs, and low yields. The phenomenon of rural-urban migration among migrant workers, particularly during non-agricultural seasons, further compounds the problem, significantly impacting the livelihoods of landless laborers and small farmers reliant on agriculture. Additionally, the limited organization and representation of farmers hinder their access to resources, markets, and support for sustainable livelihoods. Moreover, the disruption of education caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has particularly affected children and school dropouts from vulnerable families in rural areas, leading to educational setbacks and challenges in skill development.

Our Approach

Livelihood

VRDS is dedicated to empowering rural and marginalized communities, particularly women, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, landless labourers, small farmers, minorities, urban slum dwellers, and other economically disadvantaged groups. Our livelihood programs aim to enhance economic well-being and quality of life by providing training, resources, and support for sustainable income-generating activities. Through community-based organizations, we implement various income-generating activities to uplift marginalized families, focusing on skill development and support for both on-farm and off-farm ventures. Our women empowerment initiatives promote gender equality through education, skill training, financial assistance, and support networks, fostering equal opportunities for women to thrive. We collaborate with more than 10,000 local labourers and farmers, facilitating access to government schemes like MGNREGA for sustainable employment. Our efforts aim to boost self-confidence, meet daily needs, and sustain children's education, fostering stronger communities.

Sustainable Agriculture

Agriculture remains the cornerstone of the Indian economy, providing livelihoods for 70% of the population. However, small and marginal farmers, who constitute the majority, face numerous challenges leading to diminishing profitability. Issues like soil degradation, erratic weather, limited irrigation, high costs, and low yields have driven declining profitability, prompting rural youth to migrate to cities, leaving farming behind. To address these challenges and enhance agricultural productivity, we are implementing sustainable agriculture projects aimed at improving the livelihoods of small and marginal farmers. Our focus is on land development activities to increase productivity and income, leveraging government schemes like MGNREGA and other available resources. We mobilize farmers into interest groups at the village level, provide awareness on government schemes, offer capacity building and technical training, and facilitate the adoption of diverse agricultural practices. Through soil and water conservation measures and diversified farming approaches, farmers can reduce cultivation costs while increasing yields. This sustainable approach ensures year-round income for farmers. Additionally, we are implementing microwatershed models in three villages, promoting ridge-to-valley development under MGNREGA convergence, with support from local and government authorities.

Migrant Workers/Labor Bank Program

Migrant workers often leave rural villages due to recurring droughts, resulting in temporary migration during non-agricultural seasons, especially from December to March. This migration significantly impacts the livelihoods of landless labourers and small farmers who rely on agriculture. To address this issue, we've initiated the Labor Bank program in our district, with the aim of reducing migration and enhancing livelihood opportunities. We collaborate with 10,000–12,000 workers across 60 villages in four blocks. The Labor Bank promotes local employment by providing training and facilitating access to government schemes like MGNREGA. To support this effort, we've established labour unions with a network of 150 labour groups, 3 taluka unions, and a district labour union committee, boasting over 6,000 registered members. Through awareness campaigns and training, we foster relationships between workers, farmers, and officials. Additionally, we facilitate soil and water conservation and organic farming practices under MGNREGA convergence. The Labor Bank ensures workers' access to social security schemes and provides opportunities for 100 man-days of work under MGNREGA and additional local farm work.

Farmers Producer Organizations

We've promoted two Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs) in Haveri district: Bhoomika FPO, focused on millet-based farming in Itagi village, and Kantesh FPO, centred on animal husbandry in Kadaramandalagi village. Sponsored by NABARD Bangalore, Bhoomika FPO covers 830 farmers across 10–12 villages, mobilizing Rs. 8.50 lakh in share capital, while Kantesh FPO includes 510 farmers from 10–15 villages, with Rs. 5.50 lakh in capital. These profit-oriented enterprises aim to enhance sustainable livelihoods, with small farmers as shareholders. Our NGO organizes awareness programs, shareholder mobilization, and board meetings, while also providing training, capacity building, and market linkages. Additionally, we've established a solar-based millet processing unit in Itagi village and provided agricultural equipment under subsidy schemes. Working capital loans and business development assistance were supported by NABKISAN and NABARD Bangalore, respectively. We also offer tractor and equipment services to small and marginal farmers at reasonable rates.

Children's education programme

Our continued children's education program focuses on providing support to those affected by COVID-19 in 4 slums and 6 villages in Ranebennur taluka, Haveri district. Focused on children and school dropouts from affected families, they are enrolled in children's activity centres for teaching and school enrollment. With 10 centres, each hosting 35–40 children, special coaching sessions are held daily from 5:00–7:00 p.m., along with extracurricular activities. 384 children attend regularly, celebrating important events and festivals. 11 youth groups, comprising 202 members, are trained on various issues and opportunities. Additionally, 50 young women and school dropouts underwent 45-day training in tailoring and fashion design. Regular meetings empower parents, young mothers, pregnant women, and adolescents on health and childcare. Furthermore, 50 COVID-19-affected poor women-headed families receive Rs.

Awards & Achievements

- Best NGO Award - SHG Credit Linkage and Livelihood Promotion (NABARD Bangalore)
- Best NGO Award - Rural Community Work (Blue Cross Laboratory Mumbai)
- Appreciation Award - Extraordinary Contribution in Rural Development (Times Now Amazing Indians Award 2023)
- Rotary Club Award - Outstanding Contribution to Rural Development
- Appreciation Award - Social Work (Rotary Club)

Impact so far

8,000

families received support for alternative income generation and saw increased employment opportunities

2,500

farmers received assistance for cost-effective organic farming and support in sustainable agricultural watershed activities

10,000

workers found employment through MNREGA and the Labor Bank, which helped reduce migration to coastal areas and cities.

25 crore

rupees were paid directly as wages to laborers.

5,000+

labourers were provided with health insurance coverage and were registered with the Labor Union under the Trade Union Act.

700

shareholders registered with Bhoomika Millets, providing seeds and other agricultural inputs to farmers.

600+

children are supported in Child Activity Centers with educational aid, extra coaching, and child rights initiatives.

1,000+

students, including many girls, received scholarships and educational materials to continue their education.

200+

youth groups were provided with diverse life skills training programs

Join us in our mission

Your generous donation or grant support can improve the lives of many families in underprivileged areas. With your help, we can provide the necessary resources and opportunities, empowering families to build sustainable livelihoods and thrive. Overall, they can be integrated into mainstream society, bringing about economic and social change in their lives. We will continuously strive for their bright future.

A small contribution can make a big difference

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|-------------|---|
| ₹ 50,000 | Sponsor a commercial tailoring unit run by four trained women. |
| ₹ 1,00,000 | Sponsor educational scholarships for 30 girls. |
| ₹ 1,00,000 | Sponsor fertilizer and seed support for 100 small and marginal farmers. |
| ₹ 1,50,000 | Sponsor tailoring machines for 10 trained women. |
| ₹ 2,00,000 | Sponsor food and health kits for 21 families with girls. |
| ₹ 2,00,000 | Sponsor millet seeds and organic manure for 100 farmers. |
| ₹ 2,00,000 | Sponsor support for Women SHGs for the Puchimaddu bio-pesticide unit. |
| ₹ 5,00,000 | Sponsor a unique dress code for 700 laborers. |
| ₹ 10,00,000 | Sponsor working toolkits for laborers. |

Donations to VANASIRI RURAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY are tax exempted under 12A and 80 G of Income Tax Act, India



Bank account details

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| A/C name | VANASIRI RURAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY |
| A/c number | 376602010012316 |
| Bank name | Union Bank of India |
| Branch | Ranebennur, Haveri District, Karnataka |
| IFSC | UBIN0537667 |



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