

Climate Smart Village Project

Case Study on Behavioral Changes and Livelihood generation to rural poor Women – Livestock Entrepreneurs

Background

Traditionally, in Ananthapur, women's role is limited to agricultural activities, mostly daily wage earners and few are landless casual workers engaged in non agricultural activities, constitute the bulk of the rural poor. Poor educational and health standards, lack of vocational skills leading them to poverty. Due to this poor physical, social and financial base, women are forced to seek employment in vocations with extremely low levels of productivity and wages. The recent survey showed poor women are involved in agricultural operations like sowing, weeding, transplantation, harvesting, tending cattle and other miscellaneous works as daily wage labors leaving them in poverty and hunger.



Eradicating the poverty and empowering of rural poor landless women can be achieved by creating employment opportunities whereas enhancing their skills through strengthening of extension work, financial and technical support in the livestock (cow/sheep/goat/ram/poultry) rearing to overcome the obstacles of rural women's earning right from their home.



In Anantapur, even the land is available for cultivation, due to scarcity of water and small-marginal farmers unable to crop cultivation is often difficult, rarely intensive, and constrained by several environmental factors such as rainfall, very high temperatures,

and poor soil conditions. Livestock rearing makes a significant contribution to the poor women.

Women as livestock rearers

Group of women from Gudibanda mandal from all four villages have formed in to a small farmer group with the help of **APMAS**, under the "**Climate Smart Village**" program funded by **AEIN, Luxembourg** for 3 years since 2019.

The group of women was educated about productivity enhancement activities such as better feeding, timely vaccination,



de-worming, improved castration methods, formal marketing channels and hygienic shelters.

These trainings indigenous knowledge of livestock and its management among rural women helped them benefit at all levels of the value chain, which is unorganized and dominated by men. Being engaged in group activities provided a foundation on which the women could build livestock rearing work.

Women Entrepreneurs



Progressive women from Vdrahati, M.S. Thanda, P.C. Giri and C.C.Giri of Gudibanda mandal and Pathabathalapalli village of Nallamada mandal have participated in the meetings in taking up the activity as a part of the project for rearing of cattle and small ruminants. From the participants, about 195 families benefitted where **95 landless women** belonging to **SC, ST and BC communities** including **15** single women have benefited with an amount of **Rs. 6,000 to Rs.20,000** depending up on available open area at their house for rearing the animals.

The amount is deposited in the bank accounts provided by them, where they bought cattle and small ruminants from the local market nearby by their villages.

The herd is well managed with regular deworming at an interval of every two or three month with appropriate deworming suspensions, regular vaccination schedule is followed. A well balanced ration is given to the animals, in the morning's goats and sheep will be left for grazing in out the skirts of village for about 6 hours in cooler season and 4 hours in summer. For the months of October to December the animals will be fed with horse gram, crop residues of groundnut and in the remaining months January to August they will be taken to common grazing lands.

Breeding of animals was practiced within the herd. Precautions were taken during the diseases outbreaks like isolation of diseased animal, disinfection of shed.

Gangadevi, 41 year old from Pathabathalapalli says, "I used to go for a casual labor work in the nearby villages. But now I am able to rear goat with the amount of **Rs.20,000** I received from CSV project. I brought two goats and increased the herd now to 4 goats. I am planning to sell the animals in the next year which will improve my financial status. I have selected the breeds based on local preference of consumers from nearby market. This unit generated income and provided employment and food security. The animals will be sold at farm gate price on live weight basis. I am an entrepreneur, have acquired entrepreneurship skills like self-confidence, creativity, risk taking capacity, determination, individuality, and leadership."



Manjamma, from CC Giri village of Gudibanda mandal. I am physically challenged and could not participate in any kind of agriculture works. I have attended the village level meeting organized by the CSV team last year regarding the livelihood promotion for landless people. I am encouraged by the team and was benefitted with **Rs.12,000** and **Rs.5,000** as

my own contribution to buy **four sheep** of 1 year aged local breed (Nellore brown variety). I



usually feed them by with natural grass available in common lands and with groundnut crop residues at low cost. During the animal health camps organized by the CSVP team, I have taken my animals for deworming and regular vaccination (antibiotics) for better growth. After 8 months of proper care, I have sold the animals at local market for **Rs.25,000** and I bought another set of four animals with **Rs.15,000**. Adopting this livelihood has improved my status of living and I am able to support my family financially.”

Conclusion:

Local breeds seem to have many advantages over the improved varieties that are generally promoted for better disease resistance. These animals require low investment, if any, in terms of housing and purchase of fodder and feed. In fact most inputs are available free from nature. For this reason, raising local breeds for most women is a rather hassle-free and part-time activity that can be combined with other income generating activities, and reliably leads to good economic returns.