

Padi Pantalu Project

Case Study on Chaff Cutter

Livestock is the integral part and playing a multifaceted role in providing sustainable livelihood support to the small dairy farmers of both **Valmikipuram and Kurabalakota mandals** of Annamaiah district. The local farmers usually graze their cattle on common lands. During rainy season to avoid seasonal diseases, farmers stall feed their animals with both fodder and concentrate feed. Considering the need for the fodder resources in the area and promote fodder security as one of its objectives, **APMAS** in collaboration with **AEIN, Luxembourg** conceptualized a project “**Padi Pantalu**” and is implementing the program since **February 2020** reaching small and marginal farmers.



Fodder diversification is achieved by promoting 3 different varieties of perennial non leguminous fodder such as Super Napier, Smart Napier, Red Napier, and 3 leguminous fodder varieties such as Hedge Lucern, Sesbania, and Gliricidia with **3500 small dairy farmers** in both the mandals. These farmers could achieve a record production **8400 tons** of green fodder spreading over an area of **2500 acres** feeding more than **7000 animals**. 35 Farmers from neighbouring districts “Sri Sathya Sai” and “Kurnool” visited the fodder plot of **Ms. Kantamma** to understand the importance of green fodder feeding.

Ms. Kantamma shared her success story of fodder development under the project with the visited farmers. Being a single woman farmer she used to work as a daily farm



labour and take her 3 cows for outside grazing, sell milk to run her family and educate her son. In her 3 acres of agriculture dry land, she could not cultivate any crop during 2018 & 2019 due to severe droughts leaving her land fallow.

She said that she attended an awareness program at Kothavaripalli village (Jarravaripalli panchayat) belonging to Valmikipuram Mandal organized by the project team in the year 2020. The agricultural officers educated and elaborated about the importance sustainable farming practices, integrated fodder production and their long term benefits.



“Being a member of the Valmikipuram Farmer Producer Organization (FPO), I have attended couple of training programs on the benefits of feeding cattle with different fodders for improved milk production and health of the animals. Initially 1000 fodder slips (seed material) of Super Napier was provided to me which was sufficient to plant in 0.5 acre of land.”

“To cultivate the fodder, I requested my neighbour for sharing the water and I got my



first harvest of green fodder after 80 days of planting fodder. I was able to get subsequent harvests of green fodder for another 5 times from the same piece of land. 10% of my plot is left for seed purpose to replicate for continuous fodder production and I also encouraged

3 other farmers to adopt perennial fodder species by supplying the seed material to them.”

The common practice in the area is to feed the cattle with whole grass without chaffing which lead to too much of precious green fodder wastage.

“In the year 2021, I was benefitted with subsidized power operated chaff cutter with

my contribution of Rs. 6,500/-. The chaff cutter is used to make the fodder into small pieces of 1 cm length including the leaves and fodder stems (hard part of fodder) and also used the chaff cutter for dry grass cutting, and also agriculture leftovers like maize cobs & sunflower. It



was observed that the chaffing helped my cattle to feed on the fodder completely without any leftovers and wastage. 10 members of my neighbour farmers observed the benefits of feeding the chaffed fodder and used my chaff cutter and their cattle.

This benefitted me in many ways like avoiding the wastage of fodder creating a sustainable income from selling good quality milk with reduced drudgery of manual labour and time saving.”

#	Particulars	Before using Chaff Cutter	After using Chaff Cutter
1	Milk Yield	8 to 10 litres	15 litres
2	SNF fat percent	7%	8.5%
3	Animal health	Foot and mouth rot, ticks, fever, indigestion	Disease control and Improved digestibility
4	Grazing habit	Worm infestation	Healthy stall feeding
5	Animal nutrition	Protein intake is less than 5%	Protein intake is 10 to 12%
6	Calving	50% probability	80% probability
7	Income from Milk	Rs. 28/- per litre	Rs. 34/- per litre
8	Adoption rate	0 farmers	13 neighbouring farmers

Ms. Kantamma also mentioned that, “in addition to the fodder and chaff cutter, I take my cattle to the animal health camps in every 2 months interval helped in controlling seasonal diseases such as lumpy skin disease, foot & mouth, foot rot and deticking sprays reduced skin irritations, while deworming supplements have built immunity in the cattle.”



“This program not only improved my economic status but also helped me developing my knowledge on feeding habits of cattle and indirectly enhanced my ability in socialising with neighbour farmers in sharing the benefits. With the generated additional income, I have started cultivating tomato and paddy my remaining 2.5 acres of land under irrigated conditions and now I am not going for daily wage labour because of continuous returns (every 15 days interval) by selling milk to the private dairy collection centres (Jersey Dairy) and there is plan to buy 2 more cows”.

Table: Details of Mandal wise chaff cutter beneficiaries from 2020-2022

S No	Mandal	2020	2021	2022	Total
1	Kurabalakota	4	7	8	19
2	Valmikipuram	4	7	7	18
Total		8	14	15	37

After seeing the benefits of using the chaff cutter, additional 165 farmers of both the mandals bought the chaff cutters from the FPO shops at full cost benefitting the FPO with Rs. 3,30,000/- as profits.

Since the “**Padi Pantalu**” project implementation, the farmers of beneficiary mandals along with neighbouring mandals got full awareness on practicing the integrated green fodder production, mixed fodder feeding to their cattle with both chaffed green & dry fodder. With this practice they could produce more high quality milk with a better price and saved a good amount of money by reducing the dependency on concentrate feed.