

Padi Pantalu Project Case Study on Breeding Rams

In the regions of Kurabalakota and Valmikipuram mandals belonging to the Annamaiah district of Andhra Pradesh, the livestock farming very particularly rearing sheep & goat, plays a vital role in the livelihoods of the community. However, farmers in these areas face significant challenges such as poor-quality livestock breeds, limited access to veterinary services, and outdated breeding techniques, all of which hamper the productivity and profitability of livestock population.



To address these issues and uplift the farmers' livelihoods of the two mandals, **APMAS** initiated the “**Padi Pantalu**” project in partnership with **AEIN**, **Luxembourg**. The project team, during their farmer interactions observed that livestock farmers are majorly in need of protecting their small ruminants breed “Nellore sheep and Deccan Sheep” from the major problem of inbreeding depression as it is affecting the population (losses due to severe mortality). The project with one of its primary focus to enhance the quality, productivity and population of the livestock, have developed an idea of “**introducing high-quality breeding rams, into the existing flocks**” to sustain the farmer livelihoods.



The veterinary experts **Dr. Gopal Reddy garu** and **Dr. Hassan Saheb garu** along with the project team created awareness and organized village level training programs to shepherds on the “importance of introducing breeding ram and methods of breeding” for the maintaining healthy population small ruminants.

After the training, the shepherds showed their interest in adopting the idea as it was realized that this technique is a traditional age old practice which lost its relevance for a while and recalling the significance its cultural benefits of replication and reproduction.

About 30 farmers from both Kurabalakota (16 members), and Valmikipuram (14 members) mandals got benefitted directly and these farmers are in turn helping 5 of their neighbouring farmers by providing breeding rams for increasing the healthy sheep & goat population.

One of the success stories that emerged from the project is that of Mr. Gangulappa. D, a farmer residing in Tarampalli village, Valmikipuram mandal. The farmer owned a medium-sized flock of 60 sheep and 3 goats, but he faced challenges such as unhealthy lambs (underweight in the new born), low productivity (fertility), slow growth rates and lamb mortality due to less immunity towards seasonal diseases.



Determined to improve his flock's condition, the farmer decided to adopt the natural technique of introducing the superior breeding ram as he attended the training program and he sought assistance from the project team. Along with Mr. Gangulappa, another 31 shepherds also came forward in taking up the idea and carefully selected

the breeds in the market to suit their specific farming conditions. These rams were chosen for their desirable traits, such as high growth rates, disease resistance, and desirable carcass characteristics.

The veterinary experts helped the farmers choose the healthy ram lambs. The cost of buying single breeding is Rs.14,000 where the project supported the shepherds with Rs. 8,000 as subsidy cost and remaining amount of Rs. 6,000 as farmer own contribution.

Mr. Gangulappa's strategic efforts were observed remarkable. His flock's productivity and growth rates significantly improved to 90 sheep, and the quality and consistency of the lambs reached new heights. By adopting the sustainable breeding practices and partnering with the 'Padi Pantalu' project, shepherds not only improved their economic status but also paved the way for a better livelihood.

Table 1: Beneficiary details (before and after introduction of breeding ram)

#	Characteristics of the flock	Before breeding ram	After breeding ram
1	Flock size	60	90
2	Weight of new born lambs	2 Kgs	3 kgs
3	Mortality rate of the lambs	3 or 4 in group of 15	Nil deaths
4	Growth rate (duration)	4 to 5 months	3 months
5	Resistance disease	Enterotoxaemia, liver infections, fever	Nil
6	Fertility status (replication)	1 or 2 lambs in lifetime	2 to 3 lambs in lifetime
7	Selling weight of the sheep	6 to 7 kgs	10 to 11 kgs
8	Selling price per sheep	Rs. 3,000 to Rs.3,500	Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 7,000
9	Age of selling sheep	4 months	3 months

Beneficiary farmers says that, “after the introduction of the ram lamb, the project team along the veterinary experts frequently visited our flocks and are providing necessary guidelines in protecting the increasing flock from the seasonal diseases.



We are also benefitting from health camps organized under the project such as the 'deworming' of sheep has reduced the effect of worms' infestations, timely vaccinations improved resistance, mineral supplements reduced deficiencies, and liver tonics for to control seasonal diseases.”



One of the farmer beneficiary Mr. Reddappa says, “Government veterinary services are not being reached to some of us as the centres are far away from our villages and the “Gopala mitras (volunteers) are not available in every village. In this situation the project played a vital role in

enhancing our livelihoods through education (developed communication material in local language) and animal’s health in a sustainable manner.”

Overall, the 'Padi Pantalu' project has become a beacon of hope for the livestock farmers in the region. By providing access to high-quality breeding rams and promoting sustainable breeding techniques, the project has brought about a transformative change in the rural livestock farming landscape, empowering farmers like Mr.

సన్న జీవాల పెంపకం లో పితృనపు పాట్లలు/మేక పోతు ప్రాముఖ్యత మరియు ఎంపిక

- గొప్పనీలను పెంపకంలో పాత పాట్లను మేకాపాటు ప్రోత్సహించి ఎంపిక చేయడం, మేకల పోట్లు, అభ్యర్థన, నియంత్రణ మరియు కొరతలను తగ్గించే లక్ష్యాలను సాధించడం.
- గొప్పనీలను పెంపకంలో పాత పాట్లను మేకాపాటు ప్రోత్సహించి ఎంపిక చేయడం, మేకల పోట్లు, అభ్యర్థన, నియంత్రణ మరియు కొరతలను తగ్గించే లక్ష్యాలను సాధించడం.
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- గొప్పనీలను పెంపకంలో పాత పాట్లను మేకాపాటు ప్రోత్సహించి ఎంపిక చేయడం, మేకల పోట్లు, అభ్యర్థన, నియంత్రణ మరియు కొరతలను తగ్గించే లక్ష్యాలను సాధించడం.

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1. మేకల పోట్లు, అభ్యర్థన, నియంత్రణ మరియు కొరతలను తగ్గించే లక్ష్యాలను సాధించడం.
2. గొప్పనీలను పెంపకంలో పాత పాట్లను మేకాపాటు ప్రోత్సహించి ఎంపిక చేయడం, మేకల పోట్లు, అభ్యర్థన, నియంత్రణ మరియు కొరతలను తగ్గించే లక్ష్యాలను సాధించడం.
3. గొప్పనీలను పెంపకంలో పాత పాట్లను మేకాపాటు ప్రోత్సహించి ఎంపిక చేయడం, మేకల పోట్లు, అభ్యర్థన, నియంత్రణ మరియు కొరతలను తగ్గించే లక్ష్యాలను సాధించడం.
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Ganguallappa and fostering sustainable livelihood practices for the community's betterment.

#	Mandal	Gram Panchayat	No of farmer beneficiaries in 2 years		
			2021	2022	Total
1	Kurabalakota	Tettu	2	2	4
2		Kansanivaripalli	3	1	4
3		Yerrabelli	0	3	3
4		Mudivedu	3	2	5
5	Valmikipuram	Kuraparathi	0	2	2
6		Vittalam	3	0	3
7		Valmikipuram	0	5	5
8		Nagirimadugu	2	0	2
9		Jarravaripalli	2	0	2
Grand Total			15	15	30