



VIJAYAVAHINI
CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION

ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT

2024 - 2025

“ What advances a nation or a community is not so much to prop up its weakest and most helpless members, but to lift up the best and the most gifted, so as to make them of the greatest service to the country.”

- Jamestji Tata



Divyang Waghela
Director



DIRECTOR’S NOTE

This year has been deeply meaningful for all of us at Vijayavahini Charitable Foundation. As I reflect on our journey, I feel a strong sense of gratitude and pride in the collective effort that continues to drive our mission of creating sustainable and inclusive change in the communities we serve.

Over the past year, this commitment has translated into measurable progress across our core focus areas: Nutrition, Livelihoods, Water & Sanitation, Health, and Crafts—strengthening the foundation for long-term impact in rural and underserved regions of Andhra Pradesh and neighboring geographies. Through our nutrition programs, we were able to reach over 5,900 individuals with awareness and training initiatives, while strengthening systems that support better screening and care for women and children.

Livelihoods continue to remain at the heart of our work. Our agriculture and tribal livelihood initiatives are working towards improving income opportunities for over 10,000 farming households. Under the Maa Thota initiative, 1,000 tribal families have been able to strengthen orchard-based livelihoods and explore additional income opportunities.

Our work with artisan communities continues with full swing. Many of these crafts, such as the intricate handloom weaving traditions and Kalamkari art, carry stories, cultural identity, and generations of skilled craftsmanship. Supporting these traditions is not only about strengthening livelihoods, but also about preserving a rich cultural legacy. Over the past year, seeing more than 3,000 artisans strengthen their skills, confidence, and market opportunities has been deeply encouraging. Their creativity, resilience, and pride in their craft constantly remind us that empowering artisans means sustaining both culture and community.

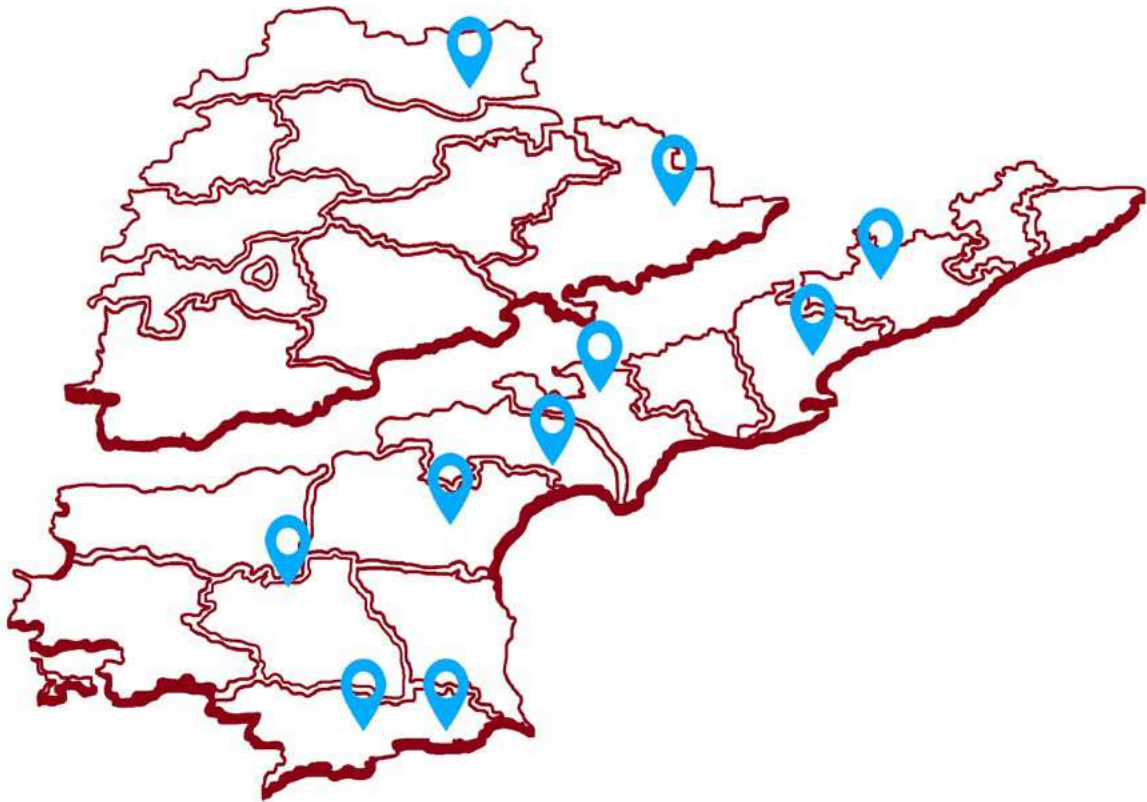
Access to safe water, sanitation, and healthcare is critical for community well-being. Our water management initiatives are working towards providing safe drinking water access to nearly 15,000 households. We also initiated decentralized sanitation services across nearly 70 to 80 villages, while our mobile healthcare services reached remote tribal communities with over 11,000 consultations during the year.

What truly stands out to me is the dedication and compassion shown by our field teams, the trust placed in us by communities, and the continued support from our partners and donors. Their collaboration is what makes our work possible and meaningful.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to listening, learning, and strengthening solutions that create long-term and community-led change. I am confident that together we will continue to build stronger, healthier, and more resilient communities.

I sincerely thank our partners, supporters, and the entire VCF team for walking this journey with us.

Divyang Waghela
Director, VCF



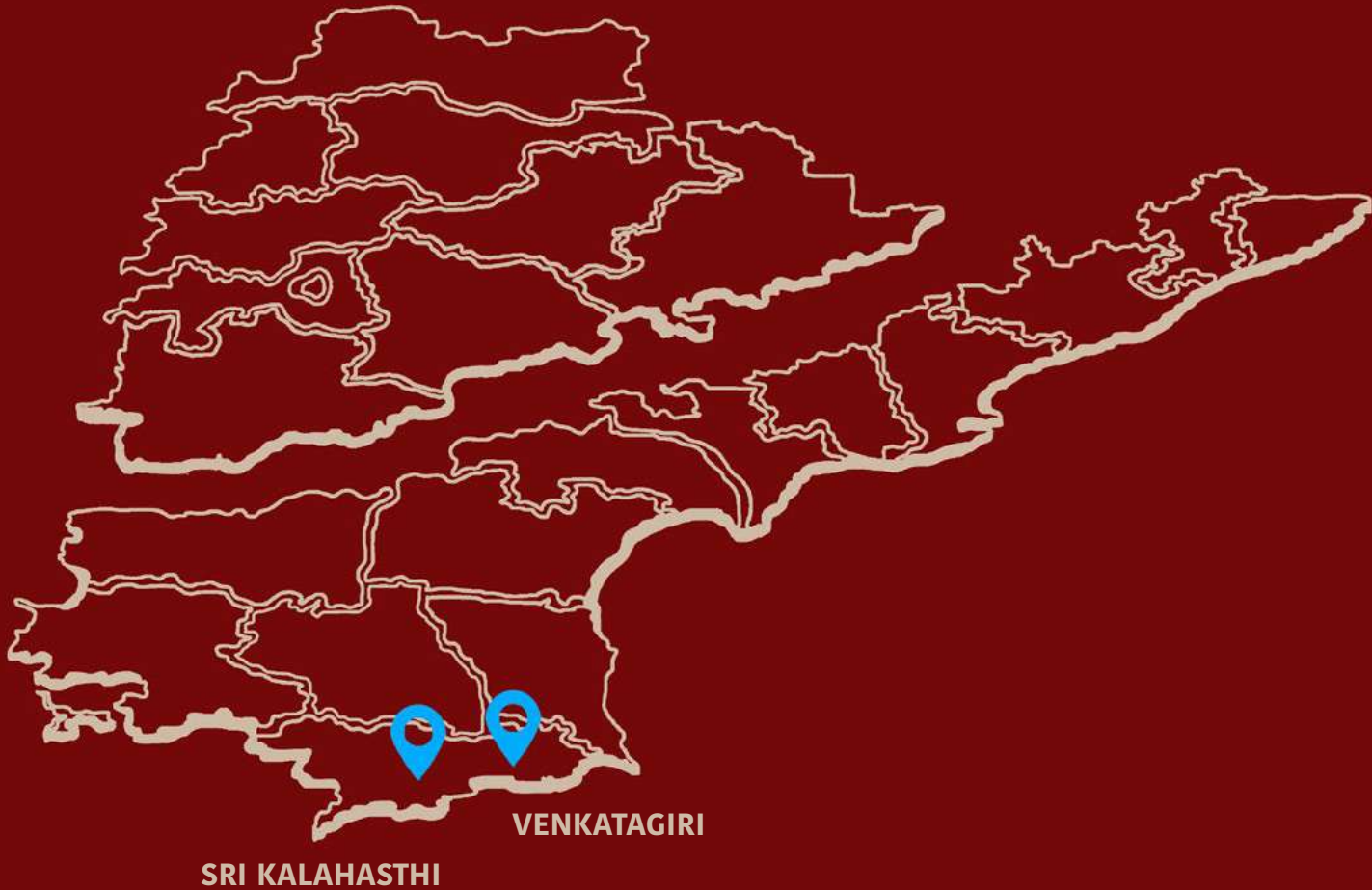
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livelihoods

VCF undertakes livelihood initiatives to enhance income opportunities for rural communities. The programs focus on building skills and supporting activities across agriculture, handloom, livestock, and small enterprises. Working closely with women’s groups and local institutions, VCF facilitates access to training, resources, and inputs required to strengthen existing livelihoods. The initiatives also enable market linkages and promote income diversification, supporting households in developing more stable and consistent sources of income.



CRAFT – ANTARAN

OVERVIEW

Antaran is a craft-based livelihood intervention aimed at revitalising India’s handloom sector through an end-to-end, cluster-led approach. Working across six weaving clusters in four states, the programme builds entrepreneur-led microenterprises, strengthens craft ecosystems, and revives traditional weaves by integrating design, skills, business training and market linkages. Through incubation centres, ethical trade practices and leadership development, Antaran empowers artisans towards sustainable entrepreneurship, directly benefiting 3,000 people and strengthening livelihoods across the handloom value chain. One of the intervention areas is the town of Venkatagiri.

Tucked away in the Nellore district, Venkatagiri is a historic handloom town once celebrated for its exquisite cotton and silk sarees. Home to nearly 2,500 active weavers, the cluster is renowned for its rare counted-thread weaving technique, often described as “loom embroidery.”

Using an intricate extra-weft process, artisans create rich Jamdani-style motifs directly on the loom, a labour-intensive craft that demands exceptional skill and time. Parrots, swans, peacocks, mangoes and leaf buttas adorning the pallu became the unmistakable signature of Venkatagiri sarees.

Over time, however, the rise of power looms and declining value for fine cottons disrupted the ecosystem. Weavers, compelled by market pressures, shifted to silk sarees in borrowed styles such as Kanchipuram, Benarasi and Paithani, gradually abandoning their own design language. As patronage waned and mechanisation deepened, Venkatagiri cottons lost both visibility and value. The once-distinctive craft faded from public memory, forcing artisans to produce low-quality, low-priced sarees until both makers and buyers nearly forgot what made Venkatagiri unique.

Jamdani Style: Fine handloom weaving technique in which intricate motifs are woven into the fabric using a supplementary weft method.
Buttas (Butis): Small decorative woven or embroidered motifs repeated across a fabric.
Pallu: The decorative end portion of a saree that drapes over the shoulder, often the most ornate section.
Kanchipuram: Traditional silk saree from Tamil Nadu, known for rich silk, contrasting borders, temple motifs, and heavy zari work.
Benarasi: Silk brocade saree from Varanasi, renowned for intricate zari weaving and Mughal-inspired designs.
Paithani: Traditional silk saree from Maharashtra, recognised for vibrant colours and peacock motifs in the pallu.
Zari: Metallic thread (traditionally gold or silver-coated) used in weaving and embroidery, especially in silk sarees.

OBJECTIVES

PHASE 2 FOCUS :

Antaran Phase 2 builds on Phase 1, which piloted the end-to-end cluster transformation approach and demonstrated the potential of artisan-led microenterprises in revitalising handloom livelihoods. Drawing from these learnings, Phase 2 promotes collaboration among artisan entrepreneurs to achieve scale and stronger bargaining power, strengthens R&D for improved production efficiency and working conditions, and enables doorstep access to design, digital and training expertise through Ecosystem Service Providers. By the end of this phase, Antaran will establish a scalable methodology for generating local employment through grassroots craft entrepreneurs, applicable across non-farm microenterprises to create aspirational rural livelihoods in India



Fig 1.1, Artisan Entrepreneur Mr.Patnam Subramnyam interacting with wholesale buyers facilitated by Antaran team.

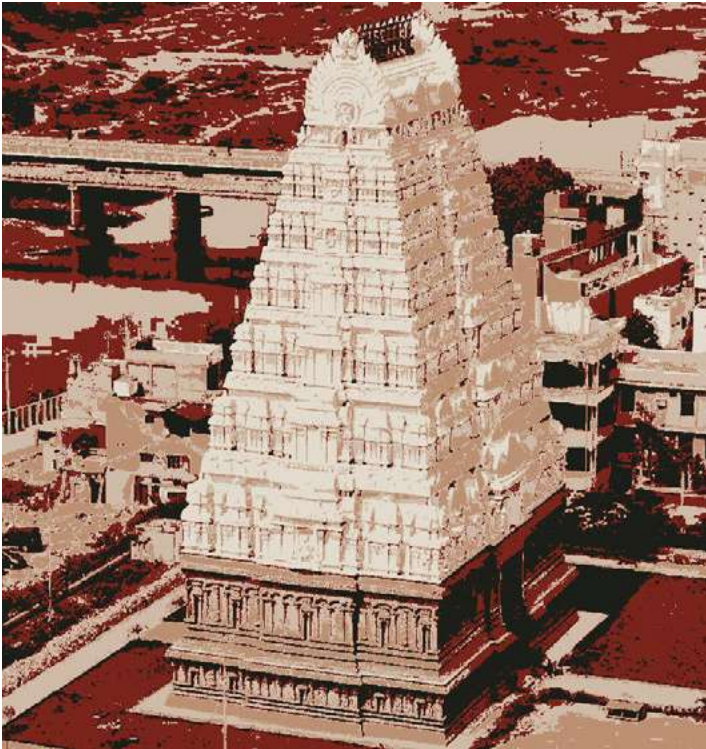


Fig 1.2, The Sri Kalahasteeswara Temple, located centrally in the town of Sri Kalahasthi dedicated to Lord Siva.

SRI KALAHASTHI,
ANDHRA PRADESH

In Phase II of Antaran, Sri Kalahasthi enters the programme as a new cluster, bringing with it around 500 artisans and a legacy of storytelling on cloth. Sri Kalahasthi is the spiritual home of Kalamkari, a revered textile art whose name is derived from the Persian kalam (pen) and kari (work) and speaks to its hand-drawn origins. Using a pen-like tool, artists paint intricate narratives on fabric, traditionally cotton, with natural dyes.

The soul of Sri Kalahasthi Kalamkari lies in its mythological storytelling. Scenes from the Ramayana and Mahabharata, divine figures, and celestial beings unfold alongside delicate florals and animal motifs, each piece a visual scripture. While rooted in tradition, contemporary practitioners are expanding the craft onto silk and new textiles, allowing Kalamkari to evolve while remaining deeply connected to its sacred and artistic heritage.

* R&D, Research and Development

*Kalamkari: Hand-painted or block-printed textile art using natural dyes, primarily practiced in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana



Fig 1.3, Workshop on Entrepreneurship by Mr.Siva Reddy, CEO, GoCoop at the Antaran Incubation and Design Centre.

IMPACT

Low-cost, local infrastructure solutions boosted efficiency:

Need-specific interventions across pre- and post-loom processes improved productivity and enabled faster design changes aligned with market demand.

Digital tools enabled resilience and reach:

Artisans adopted social media and digital platforms to communicate capacity, manage orders and liquidate stock during market disruptions.

Direct market access increased incomes:

Enabling enterprising weavers to engage directly with buyers led to improved price realisation and reduced dependence on intermediaries.

Market-ready skills and communication strengthened:

Technical upskilling and business communication training enhanced artisans' confidence and effectiveness in direct buyer interactions.

Quality focus and diversification expanded markets:

Improved quality standards and product diversification strengthened buyer trust and opened access to new market segments.

Artisans transitioned into entrepreneurs:

Training in marketing, inventory management and costing strengthened artisans' ability to plan, price and manage their enterprises professionally.

Fig 1.4, Antaran production staff setting up a loom for research and development.



MILESTONES

Enhanced market visibility and sales:

Artisan entrepreneurs from Venkatagiri participated in curated exhibitions and B2B platforms including Antaran X Gocco (Hyderabad) and Surajkund Crafts Mela, generating cumulative sales of over ₹7.5 lakh and establishing direct relationships with national and regional buyers.

High-value designer collaborations initiated:

Direct engagement with renowned designer Gaurang Shah led to the commissioning of highly intricate Jamdani sarees and home furnishings rooted in Venkatagiri's traditional design language. Each piece is expected to take 1.5–2 years to complete, with an estimated value of ₹15 lakh, indicating renewed demand for complex, heritage craftsmanship.

Renewed institutional and premium buyer interest:

Venkatagiri artisans completed a pure zari Jamdani saree for Swadesh, followed by additional design commissions. Revival-led collections received strong appreciation from buyers including Fabindia, Taneira, Nalli's and independent boutiques.

Strengthened buyer linkages and repeat procurements:

Taneira procured 153 cotton sarees valued at ₹3.2 lakh, while Nalli's procured 243 cotton sarees worth ₹4.3 lakh for their Delhi and Hyderabad stores. Further orders and regular business linkages are in progress.

Improved artisan capabilities and peer learning:

Exposure visits and structured interactions between weavers from Chirala and Venkatagiri enabled knowledge exchange on cotton yarn preprocessing and production efficiencies, strengthening intra-cluster learning.

Adoption of technology for transparency and efficiency:

Select looms in Venkatagiri were equipped with the Kosha WeaveSense device on a pilot basis, alongside initiation of artisan-level ERP systems covering designs, raw materials, wages and variants, supporting better production tracking and business management.

Recognition of artisan excellence:

Three Jamdani artisans from Venkatagiri were nominated for the CCI Awards under categories of Revival of Languishing Craft, Excellence in Weaving and Contribution to Crafts, enhancing artisan pride and visibility.

Growing confidence in revival-led products:

Independent designers and buyers, including Blue Lotus Textiles, visited the cluster, placed orders on revival lines and expressed strong confidence in the quality, design sensibility and long-term potential of Venkatagiri textiles.

REFLECTIONS

Shifting entrenched market relationships proved challenging:

Most artisans operate within long-established trader and middlemen led systems that ensure continuous work and timely cash advances. These deeply embedded relationships made it difficult to onboard artisans for sampling and design development, particularly in cases where trader consent was not forthcoming.

Balancing innovation with income security was difficult:

For single-loom artisans, the risk of disrupting steady cash flows outweighed the potential benefits of design experimentation. Limited exposure to pre-loom processes and the perceived cost of new design setups further slowed adoption of design-led interventions.

Operational constraints affected programme reach:

The inability of many artisans to dedicate looms for sampling highlighted the need for shared infrastructure. Additionally, low programme visibility in the initial phase, combined with delays in fund disbursement and limited field capacity, made community penetration and sustained engagement more difficult.



Fig 1.5, Antaran team members, P.Masthaniah and G. Sadanandam captured with the artisans during an outreach program.

FINANCIALS

KEY PROGRAMMATIC INDICATOR	TOTAL TARGET	ANNUAL TARGET	ANNUAL ACHEIVEMENT	% OF ACHEIVEMENT
IMPROVEMENT IN CLUSTER VIBRANCY INDEX	33%	0	0	0
FORMULATION OF A TEMPLATE FOR THE REJUVENATION OF A HANDLOOM CLUSTER	1	0	0	0
CUMULATIVE PRODUCTION BY ENTREPRENEURS (IN RS. CRORES)	66.70	1.5%	1.9%	127%
CUMULATIVE VALUE RETAINED BY THE COMMUNITY AS WAGES AND PROFITS (IN RS. CRORES)	40	0	0	0%
CRAFT CULTURE HUB - RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION (CENTRAL)	6	0	0	0%
INTERNATIONAL/NATIONAL LEVEL RECOGNITION RECEIVED	2	0	0	0%
OUTREACH AND ORIENTATION, CAPACITY BUILDING OF ARTISANS	1500	0	0	0%
CAPACITY BUILDING OF ARTISAN COLLECTIVE	2	0	0	0%
ENTREPRENEURS (PRIMARY, INTERMEDIARY AND ADVANCED) NURTURED	125	0	0	0%
CRAFT CULTURE HUB FELLOWS MENTORED	17	0	0	0%

FINANCIALS

			BUDGET IN INR		ACTUALS IN INR		VARIANCE TILL DATE (%)
	BUDGET HEAD	TOTAL BUDGET	CURRENT QUARTER JAN - MARCH 25	UPTO END OF CURRENT QUARTER (MARCH 2025)	CURRENT QUARTER JAN - MARCH 25	UPTO END OF CURRENT QUARTER (MARCH 2025)	
1	PERSONNEL	5,00,31,864	44,63,201	44,63,201	17,16,328	17,16,328	62%
2	CAPITAL	78,35,025	56,93,043	56,93,043	32,620	32,620	99%
3	PROGRAM	7,78,49,833	74,98,289	74,98,289	1,43,797	1,43,797	98%
4	OVERHEAD	1,45,90,278	8,51,750	8,51,750	2,20,377	2,20,377	74%
	TOTAL	15,03,07,000	1,85,06,282	1,85,06,282	21,13,122	21,13,122	89%

BEHIND THE NUMBERS

Chenji Giri, a second-generation Jamdani weaver from Venkatagiri, embodies both the resilience and challenges of preserving traditional handloom craft in contemporary India. Introduced to weaving at the age of ten after studying until the sixth standard, he learned the intricacies of the loom under his father’s guidance. His father specialized in classic motifs such as mango buds and shells, painstakingly drawing patterns on paper and counting threads without modern tools. Chenji began by assisting with these processes and gradually honed the precision and confidence that now define his work. Reflecting on his journey, he shares,

“We are only two generations, my father and me. I didn’t teach my children because weaving became devalued in our time. Children are not interested, and even we stopped insisting. But if someone comes forward to learn, I am always ready to teach.”

With over 33 years at the loom, Chenji’s path has not been without hardship. Early in his independent career, falling wages and rising Zari costs created severe financial strain, even making it difficult to repair his home. In search of stability, he spent two years working in a factory near Sulurpet, but the demanding night shifts and mechanical pace took a toll on his health and spirit. Drawn back by the artistry of Jamdani, he returned to his traditional craft despite the uncertainties. A significant turning point came when Antaran began supporting weavers in Venkatagiri, enabling direct connections with buyers and reducing reliance on master weavers and middlemen. This shift allowed Chenji to retain a greater share of his earnings and brought renewed hope, even as he modestly notes, “What comes is just enough.”

Dedicated exclusively to Jamdani, Chenji is known for his meticulous finishing and ability to execute both traditional and contemporary designs with equal finesse. While techniques have evolved from hand-drawn patterns to newer methods, his commitment to precision remains unwavering. Now in his early forties, he balances pride in his craft with concern for its future, as younger generations increasingly gravitate toward factory jobs and other professions. Yet his optimism endures: “Our work is good, no problem. We want to develop it more. If anyone comes to learn, we are ready to teach. We want to keep it alive.” His story reflects not only personal perseverance but also the importance of sustained support in ensuring that the legacy of Jamdani continues to thrive.

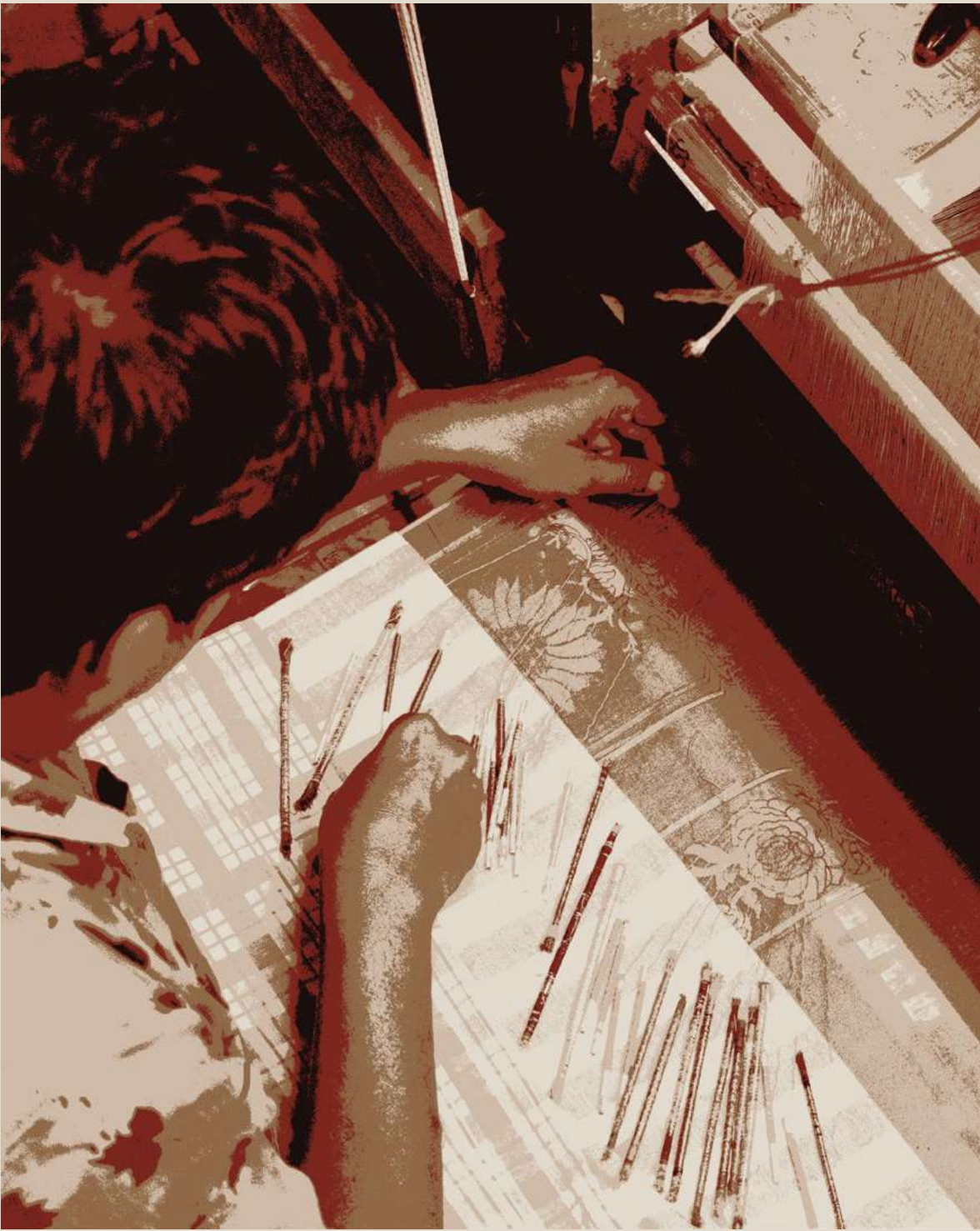


Fig 1.6, Chenchu Giri weaving a saree designed by Gaurang Shah.



Fig 1.7, Workshop and field visits for children from local schools to understand about hand-looms facilitated by Antaran team.

MOVING AHEAD

Building on the learnings from Phase I, the programme will focus on strengthening institutional structures, deepening market engagement and preparing clusters for Phase II implementation.

Strengthening community institutions:

Explore and define a Community-Based Institution (CBI) model for artisan entrepreneurs in Venkatagiri to enable collective action, governance and long-term sustainability.

Expanding cluster infrastructure:

Establish new cluster offices in Venkatagiri, Srikalahasti and Ponduru to support on-ground coordination, artisan engagement and programme delivery.

Market consolidation and festive planning:

Follow up on existing buyer relationships and develop structured production schedules for the festive season, with a focused push on the silk market.

Design revival and market positioning:

Recreate traditional Jamdani and Jala designs on cotton using pure zari, and strengthen their market presence through targeted B2B and B2C channels, including revival-focused exhibitions.

Deepening buyer engagement:

Organise B2B meets in Tier-1 markets to pitch cluster capabilities, expand buyer networks and convert leads into sustained business partnerships.

Advanced entrepreneurship development:

Deliver need-based, advanced entrepreneurship coursework for artisans, in collaboration with GoCoop, based on individual assessments.

Formalisation and scheme linkages:

Facilitate artisan onboarding into NHDC schemes for raw material procurement and support access to Handloom Mark, India Handloom Brand and GI certification.

Phase II readiness:

Finalise Phase II proposals, operational circulars and implementation frameworks for Venkatagiri, Srikalahasti and Ponduru clusters.

Digitisation and supply-chain visibility:

Map individual artisan capacities, develop digital catalogues and integrate artisans onto the Kosha ERP platform to enable end-to-end supply-chain transparency.

Exposure and capability enhancement:

Plan exposure visits for artisans to other clusters to upgrade product ranges, explore new raw materials and gain insights into quality and design benchmarks.

Programme systems and governance:

Onboard agencies for baseline studies and digitisation of programme and business management systems; develop detailed SOPs for Phase II implementation and formalise MOUs with associate organisations.

Central coordination:

Establish a fully functional Central Office in Delhi to strengthen programme oversight, partnerships and strategic coordination.



LIVELIHOOD: CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

OVERVIEW

Acute Malnutrition (MAM), remains a critical public health concern, particularly in India. Small ruminants like goats and sheep are central to the livelihoods of millions of rural households in India, particularly in rainfed and drought-prone regions such as Rayalaseema in Andhra Pradesh. For landless, marginal, and smallholder farmers, these animals provide a dependable source of income, nutrition, and livelihood security. According to the 20th Live-stock Census, Andhra Pradesh is home to 17.63 million sheep and 5.52 million goats, under-scoring the sector's significance to the state's rural economy.

In Rayalaseema, recurrent droughts, limited irrigation, and poor agricultural productivity make small ruminant rearing especially critical. Goats and sheep are resilient to harsh climatic conditions, require minimal inputs, and efficiently utilize common property resources and wastelands. Nearly 60% of the region's land is non-arable. Their contribution to meat, milk, wool, manure, and income acts as a vital safety net during agricultural distress, particularly for the 80% of farmers who are smallholders or landless.

Recognising the growing impacts of climate change on livestock-based livelihoods, the project integrates climate-resilient and sustainable livestock practices led by women farmers, who play a central role in animal care and management. By strengthening breeding systems, improving grazing and fodder management, and promoting climate-resilient practices, the initiative aims to enhance productivity, resilience, and incomes while contributing to global development priorities.

*Rayalaseema - a distinct geographic and cultural region in the southern part of Andhra Pradesh, India, comprising districts like Kurnool, Anantapur, Kadapa, and Chittoor.



Fig 2.1, Women with the lamb in the flock.

OBJECTIVES

The project aims to strengthen and diversify the livelihoods of smallholder and landless farmers in Rayalaseema by improving goat and sheep rearing practices. It is enhancing the resilience of small ruminant farming systems through the promotion of climate-smart breeding, grazing, and fodder management practices. A key focus of the intervention is promoting women’s leadership and active participation in climate change mitigation and sustainable livestock management. The program is also working toward improving productivity, animal health, and market access by supporting better breeding practices, data-driven management, and targeted capacity building. Additionally, it is establishing a robust digital livestock monitoring system using DTREO to enable informed decision-making and effective program planning. Overall, the initiative aligns community-led livestock development with the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), 5 (Gender Equality), and 13 (Climate Action).

MILESTONES

During the initial quarter, the programme established strong foundations for effective coordination, technical collaboration, and community engagement in small ruminant livelihoods.

Strengthened stakeholder coordination:

Virtual meetings and the identification of Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) across partner organizations: NARI, CiNI, CMF, VCF, and Abacus Bio-enhanced collaboration, alignment, and operational clarity. Consultancy and SaaS agreements with Abacus Bio formalized technical partnerships, enabling advanced support for breeding and data management.

Field-level capacity and learning:

Field visits to Rajasthan and Gujarat provided valuable insights into local goat rearing practices, breed preferences, and community perceptions, including resistance to tagging and stigma associated with certain animals. These learnings informed strategies for Rayalaseema, helping tailor interventions to local social and market contexts.

Community engagement and sensitization:

Community meetings and training sessions addressed misconceptions about goat tagging, reinforced best practices in breeding, and improved adoption of digital data tools. Pashu sakhis, goat keepers, and frontline staff received hands-on training on the DTREO application for animal data collection, trait recording, and performance monitoring, strengthening the quality and reliability of field-level data.

Evidence-based planning:

The Institute of Livelihood Research and Training (ILRT) completed the baseline study, identifying priority regions, gaps in nutrition and animal health, and interventions for targeted impact. Insights from this study are guiding programme monitoring and indicator development.

Operational readiness and technical systems:

Procurement and distribution of goat tags and applicators, along with the preparation of a draft SOP for the Community Goat Breeding Program (CGBP), ensured consistency and quality in upcoming field operations. The DTREO digital platform emerged as a central tool for tracking animal performance, supporting informed decision-making among breeders.

Knowledge sharing and capacity building:

VCF’s pilot experience with Osmanabadi goats was shared at a national conference, highlighting scalable models for goat rearing. Field-based orientation sessions for the CCMI team by NMRI scientists and deployment of a Program Manager strengthened technical and operational capacities at the district level.

Collectively, these efforts laid the groundwork for scaling sustainable small ruminant livelihoods, improving breed management, and building resilient, data-driven community programs in Rayalaseema.



Fig 2.2, A veterinary doctor looking at the sheep

* **NARI** - Nimbkar Agriculture Research Institute (NARI), Maharastra, **CINI** - Collectives for integrated livelihoods, **CMF** - Centre for Micro finance, **VCF** - Vijayavahini Charitable Foundation, **ABACUS BIO ENHANCED** - Technical support organisation, **SAAS** - Software as a service , **NMRI** - National Meat Research Institute (NMRI), Hyderabad

FINANCIALS

KEY PROGRAMMATIC INDICATOR	TOTAL TARGET	ANNUAL TARGET	ANNUAL ACHEIVEMENT	% OF ACHEIVEMENT
ECOSYSTEM IS READY TO TAKE UP APP BASED CLIMATE SMART GOAT/ SHEEP BREEDING INITIATIVE WITH COMMUNITY IN CENTRE	1	0	0	0%
MAPPING OF REGIONAL HUB FOR QUALITY DOES AND BUCKS SUPPLY FOR SOUTH ZONE	1	0	0	0%
BREEDER FARMERS BASE READY TO TAKE UP APP BASE GOAT/SHEEP BREEDING INITIATIVE	300	300	0	0%
FUNCTIONAL SUSTAINABLE INPUT SERVICE (HEALTH) DELIVERY SYSTEM	3,000	1,000	0	0%
DEWORMING AND VACCINATION OF GOATS/ SHEEP ON PAID BASIS BY COMMUNITY	3,000	1,000	0	0%
TRAINED LIVESTOCK ENTREPRENEURS WITH ATLEAST 50 % BEING LADY LIVESTOCK ENTREPRENEURS	30	30	0	0%
PROCUREMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF DETREO SOFTWARE FROM ABACUS BIO TO PAN INDIA PROGRAMS	1	1	1	100%

FINANCIALS

			BUDGET IN INR		ACTUALS IN INR		VARIANCE TILL DATE (%)
	BUDGET HEAD	TOTAL BUDGET	CURRENT QUARTER JAN - MARCH 25	UPTO END OF CURRENT QUARTER (MARCH 2025)	CURRENT QUARTER JAN - MARCH 25	UPTO END OF CURRENT QUARTER (MARCH 2025)	
1	PERSONNEL	13,504,800	10,54,000	44,54,000	5,91,625	9,86,333	78%
2	CAPITAL	5,65,500	0	5,65,500	21,830	4,07,100	28%
3	PROGRAM	4,22,63,960	49,09,043	25,696,427	11,005,802	1,26,92,496	51%
4	OVERHEAD	44,09,400	3,62,250	15,58,917	61,738	1,05,054	93%
	TOTAL	6,07,43,160	63,25,293	3,22,74,343	11,6,80,995	1,41,90,983	56%

REFLECTIONS

The CCMI project demonstrates a strong community-driven approach that has significantly contributed to its progress and acceptance at the grassroots level. One of the most notable achievements is the active participation of women in the program. With nearly 60% of the Jeevamithras/Entrepreneurs being women, the project has successfully created opportunities for women shepherds to take leadership roles, strengthen their livelihoods, and actively participate in decision-making processes within their communities.

The convergence approach adopted by the project has been another key strength. Collaboration with government departments and programs such as the Animal Husbandry Department, DRDA-SERP, and MGNREGS has enabled the project to leverage existing institutional support and resources. The Animal Husbandry Department, in particular, has played a critical role by providing technical guidance and facilitating training programs at both the project and field levels through institutions like Shepherds Training Centre (STC) and the Regional Fodder Station. This has ensured that the shepherds and Jeevamithras receive practical and technically sound knowledge to improve flock management and productivity.

Furthermore, the involvement of technical support organizations such as NARI and ABACUS Bio has strengthened the scientific and technical foundation of the project. Their regular guidance in planning and implementing field-level activities



*Fig 2.3; Dr. Anil administering treatment to the sheep.



MOVING AHEAD

Moving forward, the project will focus on strengthening the capacities of shepherds and Jeevamithras through continuous training, exposure, and skill development programs. Building their technical knowledge and leadership abilities will be critical to ensuring long-term sustainability and community ownership of the interventions.

Fodder development will be a key priority in the next phase to address feed shortages and improve the nutritional status of the flocks. Initiatives such as fodder cultivation, promotion of improved fodder varieties, and better fodder management practices will be encouraged across the project villages.

The project will also emphasize value addition to sheep and related products to enhance income opportunities for shepherd families. Improving access to animal health services, strengthening veterinary support systems, and ensuring timely healthcare interventions for livestock will remain an important focus area.

In addition, attention will be given to improving shelter conditions and overall flock management practices. Promoting better housing, disease prevention practices, and efficient management systems will help improve productivity and resilience of the shepherding livelihoods.

By continuing to strengthen partnerships with government departments, technical institutions, and community organizations, the CCMI project aims to deepen its impact and create a sustainable model that enhances the livelihoods, resilience, and empowerment of shepherd communities in the project areas.

LIVELIHOOD – CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE

OVERVIEW
OBJECTIVES
FINANCIALS
IMPACT
REFLECTIONS
BEHIND THE NUMBERS
MOVING AHEAD

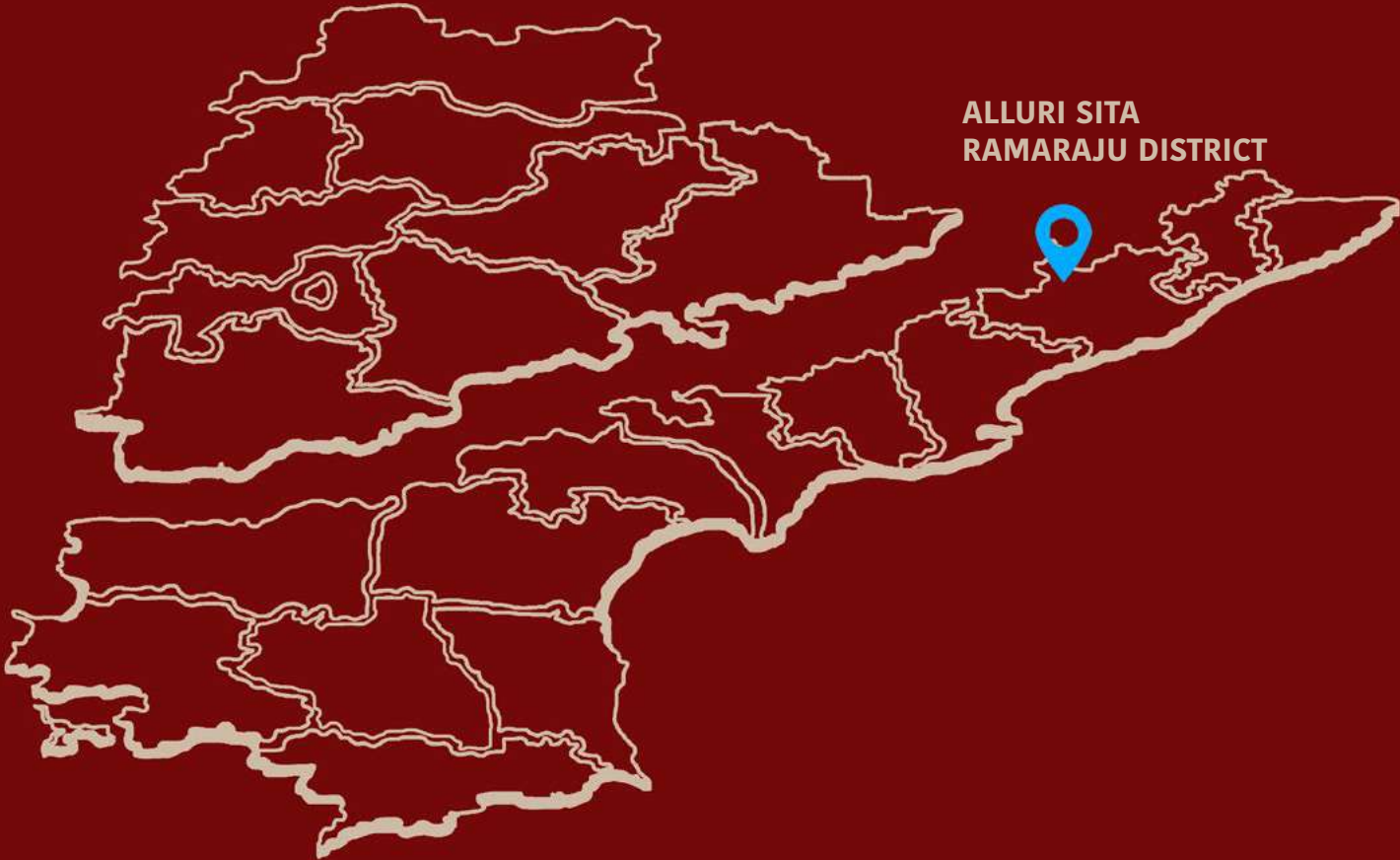
OVERVIEW

The Alluri Sita Ramaraju (ASR) District in Andhra Pradesh, located in the Eastern Ghats along the Odisha border, is characterized by rugged terrain, degraded soils, and a tropical climate that pose significant challenges to agricultural productivity. With a sparse population density of 78 persons per sq. km that is well below the national and state averages, the district is predominantly inhabited by tribal communities who face persistent economic vulnerabilities. Classified as an Aspirational District by NITI Aayog and affected by Left Wing Extremism, the region requires targeted, context-specific livelihood interventions to drive inclusive growth.

Since 2017, Vijayavahini Charitable Foundation (VCF), in partnership with the Government of Andhra Pradesh, has piloted initiatives focused on productivity enhancement, orchard development, primary processing, and collective marketing. Building on these learnings, VCF launched a comprehensive Tribal Livelihood Program (2022–2027) aimed at improving the incomes of 10,000 households through region-specific agricultural interventions, enterprise promotion, and strengthened market systems. The program brings together farmers, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Farmer Producer Groups (FPGs), service providers, government agencies, and technical institutions to create an integrated ecosystem for sustainable livelihoods.

During April 2024–March 2025, extensive interventions were implemented across the Rajavommangi and Chintapalli clusters. Farmers were trained in improved cultivation practices such as paddy line sowing, black pepper cultivation, turmeric post-harvest management, intercropping, coffee bush management, and climate-resilient crops including black gram and groundnut. The introduction of tools such as cono-weeders, bio-fertilizers, post-harvest machinery, and turmeric mother rhizomes supported productivity gains, while exposure visits and capacity-building sessions strengthened farmer knowledge. Engagements with FPOs and buyers, data management training, and access to government schemes further enhanced market linkages, contributing to more resilient and sustainable agricultural livelihoods.

* **Cono weeder** : A manual tool used for weed management in paddy fields
Mother Rhizomes : The central, main rhizome of the turmeric plant used as planting material for crop cultivation.
NITI AYOG : The Government of India’s policy think tank responsible for planning, policy guidance, and promoting sustainable development.



OBJECTIVES

The program aims to enhance the household incomes of 10,000 tribal families by promoting diversified, climate-resilient agricultural livelihoods tailored to the region’s unique context. It seeks to improve crop productivity and support orchard development through sustainable farming practices while fostering entrepreneurship, primary processing, and value addition to tribal produce. A key focus is on strengthening collective institutions such as Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Farmer Producer Groups (FPGs) to improve aggregation, bargaining power, and market participation. The initiative also works to expand market access by linking producers with private sector players, technical institutions, and government platforms. Through continuous capacity building, exposure visits, and the adoption of improved technologies, the program aims to build long-term resilience and establish a collaborative ecosystem that integrates technical expertise, financial access, and industry partnerships for sustainable livelihood development.

Fig 3.1, Pangli Dambru, a demo farmer from Chavatapadu village, Chinthapalli mandal, ASR district, showcasing package of practices in turmeric cultivation. He adopted the raised bed system using mother rhizomes as seed material to obtain yield in a single season and treated the seed with Trichoderma viride to manage soil-borne diseases.



IMPACT

RAJAVOMANGI

During the year, the Rajavommangi cluster implemented targeted interventions to strengthen farming practices, enhance farmer capacities, and promote institutional development. Training programs equipped farmers with knowledge on paddy and cashew package of practices, bio-fertilizer application, pest management, and natural farming. Field demonstrations on paddy line sowing, cono-weeders, and liquid bio-inputs led to wider adoption across villages, while fodder cultivation using Super Napier encouraged stall feeding.

Institutional progress was evident through the strengthening of Girisramika Rajavommangi MACS Ltd., which operationalized its bank account, mobilized share capital, and conducted regular board meetings. Market-oriented initiatives such as the procurement and sale of Annatto (Jafra) engaged 44 farmers, supporting improved value realization. Crop-cutting experiments for paddy and sesame, undertaken with technical support from ARS Yelamanchili, enabled yield tracking and data-driven planning. Infrastructure support through borewell-based irrigation benefited nearly 25 acres, while convergence with government agencies facilitated access to bio-control agents and farm implements worth over ₹56,000. Exposure visits, staff trainings, and community events further strengthened governance, planning, and social cohesion.



***Annatto:** A natural orange-red food colouring and spice also known as sindoor
Jeevamrutham (Jeevamarutham): A traditional organic farming input made from cow dung, cow urine, jaggery, pulse flour, and soil, used to enhance soil microbial activity.
Kharif: The monsoon cropping season in India (sown June–July, harvested September–October)
Rabi: The winter cropping season (sown October–November, harvested March–April) asfs

Fig 3.4, Paddy is one of the most important food crops for tribal communities; however, yields are comparatively low due to various challenges. Paddy line sowing, a method of transplanting with recommended spacing, helps increase the number of tillers and panicles, thereby improving the productivity.



CHINTAPALLI

The Chintapalli cluster demonstrated strong farmer participation through extensive trainings on paddy, turmeric, coffee, pepper, and niger cultivation. Demonstrations online sowing, turmeric package of practices, and coffee and pepper management accelerated the adoption of improved techniques, while the use of cono-weeders, bio-fertilizers, and bio-control agents enhanced productivity and sustainability.

Crop diversification efforts included the establishment of a coffee nursery with over 10,000 seedlings and the distribution of bio-inputs, sprayers, tarpaulins, and over 3,000 pepper plants, strengthening long-term income opportunities. Farmers were linked with the Coffee Board for post-harvest infrastructure such as pulpers and drying yards. Capacity-building sessions on Jeevamarutham preparation, integrated disease management, and coffee bush management further improved technical knowledge. Crop-cutting experiments for coffee and turmeric, along with digital tools such as the M Form App and biometric recording, supported stronger monitoring and data-driven decision-making.

Market linkages advanced through a coffee marketing pilot aggregating nearly two tonnes of produce from the Junnula FPG. Access to Spice Board schemes under the SPICED Project enabled the distribution of pepper threshers, turmeric polishers, and ladders, reducing post-harvest losses and improving value realization. Regular FPG meetings supported discussions on marketing, registration, and mechanization, while awareness campaigns and community celebrations strengthened participation and institutional collaboration.



Fig 3.5, Kunjam Yesudasu, a farmer from Kondapalli village, Rajavommangi mandal, adopted cono weeder-based weed management in paddy line sowing plots. The cono weeder is a simple, farmer-friendly tool used for managing weeds in transplanted rice. It helps uproot and bury weeds in the soil, which later decompose and act as organic manure. The tool also reduces labour dependency and makes weeding operations easier.

OTHER PROGRAM CONTRIBUTIONS

Beyond cluster-level interventions, the program strengthened institutional capacity through participation in national workshops on spices value chains, zonal agricultural planning forums, and specialized training on project cycle management. Experimental initiatives such as pole pruner distribution supported field-level innovation, while ongoing documentation through field data, photography, and video enhanced impact assessment and organizational learning. Collectively, these efforts advanced sustainable agriculture, reinforced community institutions, and contributed to resilient tribal livelihoods.



Fig 3.5, Using a GPS device to measure land area and capture geographic coordinates for accurate field measurement. This helps in precise estimation of crop area, yield calculation, and documentation of yield changes resulting from the adoption of improved agricultural practices.

FINANCIALS

KEY PROGRAMMATIC INDICATOR	TOTAL TARGET	ANNUAL TARGET	ANNUAL ACHEIVEMENT	% OF ACHEIVEMENT
CAPACITY BUILDING FOR IMPROVED PACKAGE OF PRACTICES	10,000	NA	6,201	62%
HHS ADOPTING ASSURED 2 LAYERING OF LIVELIHOODS	10,000	NA	NA	8%
MICRO ENTREPRENEURS EARNING INCOME OF RS.60,000/- PER ANNUM	60	NA	NA	0%
AVERAGE ANNUAL NET PROFIT OF THE FPOS BY YEAR 5	45	NA	0.23	1%
HHS EARNING ABOVE 80K	10,000	NA	NA	0%

*HH - HH is the standard abbreviation for Household.

FINANCIALS

			BUDGET IN INR		ACTUALS IN INR		VARIANCE TILL DATE (%)
	BUDGET HEAD	TOTAL BUDGET	CURRENT QUARTER JAN - MARCH 25	UPTO END OF CURRENT QUARTER (MARCH 2025)	CURRENT QUARTER JAN - MARCH 25	UPTO END OF CURRENT QUARTER (MARCH 2025)	
1	PERSONNEL	2,97,05,845	1,959,645	20,141,494	1,439,833	15,509,418	23%
2	CAPITAL	4,35,000	0	435,000	21900	150,734	65%
3	PROGRAM	2,28,95,095	1,747,286	17,081,948	1,478,408	10,034,878	41%
4	OVERHEAD	1,12,93,623	294,525	8,257,655	276,340	1,900,225	77%
	TOTAL	6,43,29,564	4,001,455	45,916,098	3,216,481	27,595,255	40%

BEHIND THE NUMBERS

Lakkavaram, a remote village inhabited by the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) community, is located in Chinthapalli mandal, Alluri Seetharamaraju District. Agriculture is the primary livelihood for the villagers, but they have faced challenges due to a lack of experience and knowledge in modern farming techniques. With the support and guidance from the team and the convergence of government schemes, significant advancements have been made in improving agricultural practices in the region.

Facilitated the villagers of Lakkavaram, who received coffee seeds from the Coffee Board under a government scheme aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity. These seeds were intended for gap-filling in their fields. However, the farmers lacked hands-on experience and knowledge in establishing and managing a coffee nursery.

To address this gap, the team provided technical support and training on primary and secondary nursery management. The training focused on essential aspects of nursery establishment, including soil preparation, sowing, seedling care, pest management, and irrigation techniques. Equipped with this knowledge, the Lakkavaram farmers collectively embarked on setting up a community nursery for coffee seedlings.

In a short span, the farmers successfully established a nursery with more than 10,000 coffee plants. The community nursery approach not only facilitated resource sharing but also fostered a sense of collaboration and mutual support among the farmers.



Fig 3.6, Field visits in the lot.

CHALLENGES

Programme implementation during the year highlighted several operational and environmental challenges. Identifying cono-weeders suited to local conditions and farmer preferences proved difficult, while monsoon rains affected attendance at trainings and meetings. Seasonal overlaps across crops such as paddy, pepper, turmeric, and coffee created execution constraints, further compounded by unseasonal rainfall that disrupted drying processes and affected crop quality.

Farmers faced limitations in sowing second crops due to open cattle grazing and inadequate irrigation sources. Adoption of improved post-harvest practices remained gradual, as many continued to rely on traditional methods. Infrastructure gaps, including limited space for drying yards, inconsistent power supply, and the high cost of fencing for fodder cultivation, also posed barriers. Additionally, market fluctuations restricted access to profitable markets, and farmers’ preference for immediate cash transactions reduced the scope for collective procurement and sales through FPOs.



Fig 3.7, Insect pests such as green leaf hoppers and other sucking pests are becoming major challenges in paddy cultivation. Integrated Pest-Management (IPM) practices, such as the use of yellow sticky traps in paddy line sowing plots, help in management of these pests in an eco-friendly manner.



Fig 3.8, With the onset of monsoon, farmers begin paddy transplanting between June and August in their small landholdings. By using a rope marked with recommended spacing, farmers can easily practice paddy line sowing, which helps maintain proper plant spacing and improves crop growth and yield.

BEST PRACTICES

To improve harvesting safety and efficiency among black pepper farmers in the Chintapalli cluster, galvanized iron (GI) single-pole ladders were distributed to 92 farmers with support from the Spice Board, Paderu. Farmers contributed to the cost, reinforcing ownership while enabling access to durable equipment that replaced unsafe bamboo ladders.

The initiative reduced accident risks, improved harvesting efficiency, and encouraged the adoption of better farm tools. Farmers reported greater stability, ease of movement across plantations, and lower maintenance requirements, allowing even elderly farmers to harvest more confidently. The success of this community-supported model underscores the value of combining farmer contributions with institutional facilitation and offers a scalable approach for future mechanization efforts.



Fig 3.9, Members of Sri Rama Farmer Producer Group (FPG) from Vamugedda Kothuru village collectively adopted paddy line sowing practices. With the support and motivation of the FPG, the majority of paddy growers in the village adopted this improved method. The group also collectively purchased cono weeders at lower prices, and farmers are satisfied with the increased yields.

MOVING AHEAD

In the coming year, the program will focus on deepening field-level interventions and strengthening institutional capacities to enhance the sustainability of tribal livelihoods. Planned demonstrations on pre and post-harvest packages of practices for crops across Kharif and Rabi seasons will support improved productivity and climate-resilient agriculture. Targeted training programs for farmers and field teams will further promote the adoption of scientific cultivation methods and best practices.

Efforts will also prioritize strengthening Farmer Producer Groups (FPGs) and the Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) through regular meetings, capacity-building sessions, and governance support to improve aggregation and market participation. Continued emphasis will be placed on robust data management and systematic documentation of field interventions to enable evidence-based planning, effective monitoring, and stronger impact assessment. Collectively, these actions aim to consolidate program gains while advancing resilient, market-linked, and sustainable livelihood opportunities for tribal farming communities.

LIVELIHOOD: MAA THOTA (TDF) LAKSHADHIKARI



- OVERVIEW
- OBJECTIVES
- FINANCIALS
- IMPACT
- REFLECTIONS
- BEHIND THE NUMBERS
- MOVING AHEAD

OVERVIEW

The Maa Thota project, implemented by Vijayavahini Charitable Foundation in partnership with Tata Trusts and NABARD under the Tribal Development Fund (TDF), focuses on strengthening the livelihoods of tribal communities in Rajavommangi Mandal, Alluri Sitarama Raju District. Covering 1,000 acres across two phases, the initiative promotes orchard development through cashew, jafra, moringa, and karonda plantations, complemented by soil and water conservation, capacity building, women’s development, and institutional strengthening.

During the year, the project emphasized farmer training, exposure visits, and adoption of integrated agricultural practices to enhance productivity. Livelihood diversification was supported through initiatives for landless households, while health camps, nutri-gardens, and community-based planning reinforced a holistic development approach. Active participation from Village Development Committees and collaboration with technical institutions further enabled collective implementation and improved market access for produce.

***NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development):** Apex development bank in India supporting agriculture, rural development, and financial inclusion initiatives.
Jafra: A natural orange-red food colouring and spice also known as sindoor
Moringa: Drumstick Tree
Karonda: A vitamin C-rich berry grown in semi-arid regions, used in pickles, preserves, and value-added products.

OBJECTIVES

The project seeks to improve the socio-economic conditions of tribal families by promoting sustainable, orchard-based farming systems that enhance long-term income security. It focuses on increasing agricultural productivity through integrated farming practices, soil and water conservation, and strengthened resource management, while building farmer capacities through structured training and technical collaborations.

Additionally, the initiative works to empower women, reduce livelihood vulnerabilities, and encourage savings and credit practices through self-help groups. It supports livelihood diversification by enabling both on-farm and non-farm income-generating opportunities, particularly for landless households. The project also aims to facilitate food processing, strengthen market linkages to ensure fair pricing, promote community health and nutrition, and build robust local institutions that can sustain development outcomes beyond the project lifecycle.

Fig 4.1, Promotion of high-yielding cashew graft varieties instead of seed-grown plants. Cashew grafts come into bearing earlier than seedling plants and produce larger nuts with a higher number of nuts per bunch, leading to improved productivity and farmer income.



MILESTONES

Strengthened Agricultural Practices

Targeted training sessions on nursery raising, bio-inoculants, and integrated farming practices enhanced farmers’ technical knowledge and preparedness for seasonal activities. Exposure visits and warehouse training improved their understanding of crop quality, processing, and market requirements, enabling more informed production and sales decisions.

Community Ownership and Collective Action

Regular engagement of Village Development Committees and Mandal Committees fostered participatory planning and stronger accountability. Timely wage disbursements and documented community contributions further reinforced trust and ownership. Despite plantation survival rates ranging between 43% and 46.5%, gap-filling efforts and continued field operations (such as fencing, irrigation, intercropping, and soil conservation) reflected farmers’ commitment to sustaining orchard development.

Improved Market Access and Income Opportunities

Market linkages were strengthened through sample testing, competitive price discovery, and the provision of weighing machines to ensure transparency and fair pricing. The successful harvest and sale of Jafra through the Girisramika FPO marked a significant step toward improved income realization for farmers.

Enhanced Nutrition and Household Resilience

The distribution of nutrigarden kits enabled households to cultivate vegetables at home, contributing to better nutrition while reducing dependence on external vendors.

Livelihood Diversification for Landless Families

Support for alternative livelihoods included the distribution of goats and poultry coops, complemented by training in animal management and vaccination. These efforts created additional income streams and improved financial stability for landless beneficiaries.

Access to Shared Infrastructure and Health Services

Common Facility Centres equipped with agricultural implements improved access to shared resources and encouraged group farming activities. Health camps focusing on menstrual and general gynecological health enhanced awareness and access to care for women and adolescent girls. Institutional reviews by NABARD and government officials further validated the project’s progress in orchard development, community mobilization, health outreach, and sustainable livelihood promotion.



Fig 4.2, Hands-on training for farmers on Jafra & Drumstick nursery management. Farmers were trained to prepare polybags using a mixture of soil, FYM, and sand to support healthy seedling growth and ensure better establishment in the field.

FINANCIALS

KEY PROGRAMMATIC INDICATOR	TOTAL TARGET	ANNUAL TARGET	ANNUAL ACHEIVEMENT	% OF ACHEIVEMENT
VDCS FORMED	37	NA	42	114%
ACRES PLANTED AS PER PROJECT DESIGN	1,000	NA	754	75%
PROJECT INTERVENTION TRAINED PEOPLE	1,000	NA	1,061	106%
PLANTATION SURVIVAL PERCENTAGE	80%	NA	67%	84%
PEOPLE ADOPTING LIVELIHOOD OPTIONS	200	NA	89	45%
>20%/YEAR INCOME ENHANCED FAMILY	10,000	NA	18	2%

*VDC - Village Development Committee

FINANCIALS

			BUDGET IN INR		ACTUALS IN INR		VARIANCE TILL DATE (%)
	BUDGET HEAD	TOTAL BUDGET	CURRENT QUARTER JAN - MARCH 25	UPTO END OF CURRENT QUARTER (MARCH 2025)	CURRENT QUARTER JAN - MARCH 25	UPTO END OF CURRENT QUARTER (MARCH 2025)	
1	PERSONNEL	28,04,760	0	0	0	0	0%
2	CAPITAL	NA	0	0	0	0	0%
3	PROGRAM	1,69,49,240	0	0	0	0	0%
4	OVERHEAD	2,46,000	0	0	0	0	0%
	TOTAL	2,00,00,000	0	0	0	0	0%

BEHIND THE NUMBERS

Rayi Subbarao, a tribal farmer from Okurthy village, lives with his wife and five daughters. In 2021, with support from the project, he established a one-acre orchard with cashew and Jafra (annatto). His family was actively involved in every stage of orchard management, from planting to pest management. With proper training and inputs, including irrigation support, the orchard was successfully established.

In 2024, Subbarao harvested about 100 kg of Jafra seeds, earning ₹22,000. This income helped meet household expenses and strengthened the family’s confidence in orchard-based farming. Today, his farm stands as a promising example of a sustainable livelihood option for tribal farmers in the region.



Fig 4.3, NABARD officials visited the project area and interacted with the community to understand the challenges faced by farmers and review of the project activities on the ground.

REFLECTIONS

The reporting period brought valuable insights into the operational and environmental challenges affecting project implementation. Elevated temperatures and heat waves during the summer months contributed to higher plantation mortality, underscoring the need for climate-resilient strategies and strengthened plant management practices. Additionally, moringa nursery raising and sowing progressed slowly as farmers prioritized cashew harvesting, highlighting the importance of aligning project timelines with existing agricultural cycles.

Mobilizing community contributions for gap filling, including the purchase of cashew grafts and jafra plants, proved challenging and indicated the need for stronger financial planning and collective mechanisms. Routine activities such as fencing, weeding, irrigation, and soil and moisture conservation required sustained effort and consistent resource availability, emphasizing the importance of continuous field support.

Participation levels in some Village Development Committee meetings were limited, affecting planning and coordination processes. On the marketing front, a few farmers harvesting Jafra faced difficulties in securing assured buyers and fair prices, pointing to the necessity of further strengthening market linkages. Moreover, delays in implementing plant management and soil conservation measures occurred as farmers focused on harvesting activities, which also impacted timely fund utilization. These reflections provide important direction for refining implementation strategies and enhancing project resilience in the coming year.



Fig 4.4, Along with orchard development activities in the villages, awareness was created among women farmers on menstrual health and hygiene. Health camps were organized where women farmers received health guidance, free medical check-ups, and essential medicines.

MOVING AHEAD

In the coming year, the project will focus on deepening its impact by strengthening community institutions at both the village and project levels, ensuring greater ownership and sustainability of interventions. Efforts will be directed toward raising awareness and delivering targeted training on plant management practices to improve plantation health and long-term productivity.

The project will also prioritize facilitating stronger market linkages through the Farmer Producer Organization (FPO), enabling farmers to access reliable buyers and secure fair prices for their produce. Continued engagement with NABARD’s Regional Office will support timely access to project funds and ensure the smooth implementation of planned activities, positioning the initiative for more resilient and inclusive growth.



Fig 4.5, Creating aware-
ness among farmers, on
Jafra quality bychecking
moisture levels using a
moisture meter during
procurement. Girisrami-
ka Rajavommangi FPO
has initiated Jafra pro-
curement from farmers,
opening better market

LIVELIHOOD: CRALAT

- OVERVIEW
- OBJECTIVES
- FINANCIALS
- IMPACT
- REFLECTIONS
- BEHIND THE NUMBERS
- MOVING AHEAD

OVERVIEW

The Climate Resilient Agriculture Based Livelihoods for Asifabad District of Telangana (CRA-LAT) project addresses the pressing vulnerabilities faced by small and marginal farmers, who account for nearly 86.21% of the farming population and produce close to 80% of the country's food. Implemented in Kumuram Bheem Asifabad (100th by NITI Aayog in 2018 on the aspirational districts list.), the project responds to persistent developmental gaps across health, education, livelihoods, infrastructure, and skilling. Agriculture supports about 62% of Telangana's population, yet farmers in the district continue to struggle with low productivity, high cultivation costs, unpredictable rainfall, and limited access to quality inputs and efficient supply chains.

Farm incomes remain constrained at an average of approximately Rs. 40,000 per annum, often forcing households to depend on wage labor or migrate seasonally for survival. With less than 10% of farmers aware of how to access government schemes, and limited scientific management of natural resources such as water bodies for fisheries, livelihood opportunities remain underutilized. Additionally, nearly 50–70% of annual household income depends on the Kharif harvest, making farming families highly susceptible to climate variability and market fluctuations.

Against this backdrop, the project advances a comprehensive strategy to build climate-resilient agricultural systems, diversify livelihoods, and strengthen value chains. It promotes sustainable, technology-driven farming practices while fostering convergence among farmers, producer organizations, technical institutions, government agencies, and market actors. Recognizing the pivotal role of women in ensuring food security and preserving agro-bio-diversity, the initiative emphasizes their inclusion through improved access to land, water, credit, technology, and training. By enhancing institutional capacity and encouraging collective action, the project seeks to create a resilient rural agri-economy that supports stable incomes and long-term development.

***M-Grant (Matching Grant):** A financial support mechanism where grant funds are matched by beneficiary or institutional contributions. **Biofortified Sorghum:** Sorghum varieties bred to contain higher levels of micronutrients such as iron and zinc to address malnutrition. **Nutri-gardens (Nutrition Gardens):** Household or community kitchen gardens cultivated to improve dietary diversity and nutrition security. **RAS Tank Systems (Recirculatory Aquaculture Systems):** Water-efficient fish farming systems where water is filtered and reused within tanks.





వ్యవసాయ శాఖ & వ్యవసాయ సహకార
మంత్రిత్వ శాఖ & భారత రైతు సంక్షేమ
ప్రభుత్వం



ఇండియన్ కౌన్సిల్ ఆఫ్ అగ్రికల్చరల్ రీసెర్చ్



సాయిల్ హెల్త్ కార్డ్ నెం BSTL SHC 2025-1574

రైతు పేరు : Raachakonda vilas

చెల్లుబాటు : 04/2025 నుండి 04/2026 వరకు

నెకండరి & నూత్న పోషకాల సిపార్సులు

S.No	సూచిక	మట్టి అనువర్తన కోసం సిపార్సులు
1.	సల్ఫర్	
2.	జింక్	
3.	బోరాన్	
4.	ఇనుము	
5.	మాంగనీస్	
6.	రాగి	

సాదారణ సిపార్సులు

1.	సెండరీయ ఎరువు	1 బీరార్ క్లర్ డి
2.	జీవన ఎరువులు	PSB-2 కి/ఎ
3.	కృత్రిమ/జీవనం	



ఆరోగ్యకరమైన జీవితానికి
ఆరోగ్య కరమైన నేలలు

సాయిల్ హెల్త్ కార్డ్

రైతు వివరాలు

ప్రయోగశాల
పేరు

భారతి భూసార పరీక్ష కేంద్రం

AFFILIATED TO ICAR-IOR HYD
సెల్: 9100396048
కాగజనగర్, కుమురంభీం
ఆసిఫాబాద్ జిల్లా - 504296



పేరు	Raachakonda vilas	నెల పరీక్ష ఫలితాలు				
తండ్రి / భర్త పేరు	bakkaiahi	S-.No	సూచిక	పరీక్ష విలువ	యూనిట్	రేటుంగ్
గోరామం	mogadhagad	1.	నెల ప్రతిచర్య	7.0	-	nuetrol
మండలం	Koutala	2.	నెల విద్యుత్ వాహకత	---	ds/m	
జిల్లా	కుమురంభీం ఆసిఫాబాద్	3.	సేంద్రియ కర్పనం	>0.75	%	MEDIUM
పిన్	504299	4.	లభ్యమయ్యే నత్రజని (N)	250-400	kg/ha	MEDIUM
ఆధార్ సంఖ్య		5.	లభ్యమయ్యే భాస్వరం (P)	500-600	kg/ha	HIGH
మొబైల్ నెంబర్		6.	లభ్యమయ్యే పొటాస్ (K)	145	kg/ha	LOW
మట్టి నమూనా వివరాలు		7.	లభ్యమయ్యే సల్ఫర్ (S)	--	--	--
మట్టి నమూనా సంఖ్య	15710	8.	జింక్ (Zn)	2.2	mg/kg	medium
నమూనా సేకరించబడిన తేదీ	019-06-2025	9.	బోరాన్ (B)	1.0	Mg/kg	low
సర్వే నం	125/1	10.	ఇనుము (Fe)	4.5	mg/kg	medium-
ఖత్రసానెం./డాగ్ నెం.		11.	మంగనీస్ (Mn)	2.0	mg/kg	low
పొలం పరిమాణం		12.	రాగి	0.5	mg/kg	low-

రీసెన్స్ కోసం ఎరువుల సిపార్సులు

S.No	పంట రకం	ఎరువుల పేరు	విత్తన తర్వాత	విత్తన 30 రోజుల తర్వాత	విత్తన 60 రోజుల తర్వాత	విత్తన 90 రోజుల తర్వాత	విత్తన 120 రోజుల తర్వాత
1.	cotton	యూరియా		25 కి/ఎ	20 కి/ఎ	25 కి/ఎ	30 కి/ఎ
		DAP	45 కి/ఎ				
		పొటాష్		25 కి/ఎ	25 కి/ఎ	30 కి/ఎ	
		కాంప్లెక్స్ ఎరువులు					
		జింక్ సల్ఫేట్					



OBJECTIVES

The project aims to protect farming households from climate-related income shocks while enabling sustainable pathways out of poverty by fostering resilient and diversified agricultural livelihoods. A key objective is to increase the average annual income of target farming households from Rs. 40,000 to nearly Rs. 60,000 over the project period, with 50% of households expected to double their incomes through multi-layered agri-allied production interventions. Additionally, about 10% of households are expected to achieve annual incomes between Rs. 1,00,000 and Rs. 1,20,000 through multi-cropping strategies, fisheries, and collective marketing approaches.

The initiative also seeks to cultivate 50 women or youth entrepreneurs capable of earning an additional minimum of Rs. 2,000 per month, thereby strengthening the local livelihood ecosystem. Establishing and developing five key product value chains—including cotton, millets, pulses, fisheries, and backyard poultry—forms a critical component of the strategy to enhance market access and profitability. The project further aims to strengthen existing Farmer Producer Organizations and fishermen cooperatives while expanding outreach to at least 500 farmers through improved production systems, financial linkages, and post-harvest infrastructure.

Capacity building remains central to the project, with plans to train approximately 5,000 farmers on crop diversification and climate-resilient packages of practices, undertake soil resilience demonstrations, promote eco-sustainable water management solutions such as solar pumps and drip systems, and establish 30 vermicompost units managed by women or youth entrepreneurs. The installation of five automatic weather stations, training of 50 Community Agri-Veterinary Entrepreneurs, and the formation of community-level climate risk management institutions will further support informed decision-making and risk mitigation.

Through these integrated efforts, the project envisions creating a conducive environment in which farming communities can adapt to climate change, strengthen food and livelihood security, and transition toward a sustainable, knowledge-driven, and commercially viable agricultural economy.



Fig 5.1, exposure visit on Backyard fisheries unit at Kagaznagar

MILESTONES

Institutional Convergence and Strategic Partnerships

The project established strong foundations through engagement with key government stakeholders, including the District Collector, DRDA, ITDA, Agriculture and Fisheries Departments, and scientists from KVK-Bellampally. Collaborations were also initiated with JK Paper Industries for agroforestry, HarvestPlus for biofortified seeds, and Professor Jayashankar, Telangana State Agricultural University for technical support, strengthening the ecosystem required for climate-resilient agriculture and value chain development.

Community Mobilization and Project Readiness

Project villages were finalized through resource mapping and farmer consultations, ensuring context-specific planning. Awareness meetings helped introduce the project’s objectives and mobilize participation in demonstrations and community resource person (CRP) recruitment. Engagement with institutions such as Dhanalaxmi FPO and the Ada Fishermen Society promoted alignment and collective strategy development, while the establishment of a field office at the Asifabad district headquarters improved coordination and on-ground implementation.

Capacity Building and Knowledge Enhancement

CRPs were recruited through a structured selection process and provided induction and technical training alongside field associates and fishermen. Training covered integrated farming, fish culture, pest management, and improved sowing practices, contributing to a stronger local extension system. Baseline survey training and digital data collection through the M-Grant application enabled the creation of a robust evidence base for informed program planning and monitoring.

Promotion of Climate-Resilient and Nutrition-Sensitive Practices

The introduction of biofortified sorghum (Parbhani Shakti Jowar) through demonstration plots marked a step toward improving both climate resilience and nutritional outcomes. Vegetable seed kits encouraged the establishment of nutrigardens, supporting household nutrition and dietary diversity. Soil and crop management innovations, including the use of seed drillers, helped reduce drudgery and improve operational efficiency for farmers.



Fig 5.2, Training on Vermicompost and Bio fertilizers uses and Its application in Sawarkheda.

Strengthening Fisheries and Allied Livelihoods

Focused training for fishermen on fish culture, cage culture, integrated farming, and RAS tank systems enhanced technical awareness and prepared communities to adopt improved aquaculture practices. Parallel discussions with the Ada Fishermen Society helped identify gaps and develop collective strategies for long-term livelihood strengthening.

Advancing Climate Infrastructure and Gender Inclusion

Locations were identified for the installation of automatic weather stations to support climate-informed advisory services and risk mitigation. The celebration of International Women’s Day in Talodi village highlighted the critical role of women in agriculture and community development, reinforcing the project’s commitment to gender inclusion and leadership.

Collectively, these efforts have laid a strong institutional and operational foundation for the project, positioning farming communities to adopt climate-resilient practices, strengthen livelihoods, and progress toward a more sustainable and market-oriented agricultural future.

*DRDA - District Rural Development Agency, ITDA - Integrated Tribal Development Agency, KVK BELAMPALLY - Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bellampalli is a village name where KVK located

FINANCIALS

KEY PROGRAMMATIC INDICATOR	TOTAL TARGET	ANNUAL TARGET	ANNUAL ACHEIVEMENT	% OF ACHEIVEMENT
NUMBER OF FARMERS TRAINED ON GOOD PRACTICES IN AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED ACTIVITIES	5,000	NA	42	114%
NUMBER OF WOMEN/YOUTH ENTREPRENEURS OPERATIONAL	80	NA	754	75%
NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF COOPERATIVE/COMMITTEES/FPO	1,500	NA	1,061	106%
FARMERS/MEMBERS ADOPTING AT LEAST ONE GOOD PRACTICE IN AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED ACTIVITIES	2,500	NA	67%	84%
VALUE CHAINS ON AGRICULTUAL AND ALLIED PRODUCE DEVELOPED	5	NA	89	45%
FARMING HOUSEHOLDS ACHIEVING AN INCREASE IN THEIR ANNUAL INCOME FROM RS. 40,000/- TO RS. 60,000/-	2,500	NA	18	2%

FINANCIALS

			BUDGET IN INR		ACTUALS IN INR		VARIANCE TILL DATE (%)
	BUDGET HEAD	TOTAL BUDGET	CURRENT QUARTER JAN - MARCH 25	UPTO END OF CURRENT QUARTER (MARCH 2025)	CURRENT QUARTER JAN - MARCH 25	UPTO END OF CURRENT QUARTER (MARCH 2025)	
1	PERSONNEL	3,73,59,180	12,00,000	40,00,000	13,43,731	21,77,672	45.6%
2	CAPITAL	6,45,000	0	6,45,000	65,970	65,970	89.8%
3	PROGRAM	5,50,08,630	32,24,750	1,07,49,167	5,73,200	9,05,852	91.6%
4	OVERHEAD	62,99,190	2,85,750	9,52,500	74,355	2,01,093	78.9%
	TOTAL	9,93,12,000	47,10,500	1,63,46,667	20,57,256	33,50,587	79.5%

REFLECTIONS

The initial phase of the project offered important insights into operational readiness and the complexities of launching a large-scale, climate-resilient livelihoods program. One of the primary challenges was identifying and engaging qualified personnel capable of effectively supporting field-level implementation, highlighting the need for stronger talent pipelines and capacity-building mechanisms.

The project sanction timeline resulted in missing critical Kharif season activities, limiting early momentum and underscoring the importance of aligning project approvals with agricultural calendars to maximize impact. Field experiences also revealed poor germination of vegetable seeds in certain villages, likely influenced by unfavorable soil conditions and inconsistent irrigation practices. This points to the need for strengthened pre-sowing assessments, soil testing, and farmer guidance to improve outcomes.

Pilot interventions such as solar insect traps were closely monitored to assess ecological impact. Upon observing that over 70% of trapped insects were beneficial species, the project discontinued their use in cotton fields based on expert guidance-demonstrating a responsive, science-based approach to implementation that prioritizes ecological balance.

Additionally, while technical partnerships are essential to the project’s success, the agricultural university’s request for institutional support to extend technical services emphasizes the importance of securing sustainable collaboration frameworks. Addressing these reflections will enable the project to refine its implementation strategy, strengthen technical preparedness, and ensure more effective delivery in the coming phases.



Fig5 5.3, Providing the seedlings of Eucalyptus and Casurina to promote Agroforestry in Kannepalli village

BEHIND THE NUMBERS

Two solar light insect traps were installed in cotton fields at two locations in Asifabad district: in the field of farmer Gouthre Amaji in Goyagaon village, Asifabad Mandal, and in the field of farmer Morle Ramaiah in Gurudupet village, Kautala Mandal. The traps were monitored regularly, with observations conducted each morning and the trapped insects collected for species identification.

Observations made by the team, along with feedback from experts and scientists, revealed that the traps were attracting a wide range of insects, including cotton pests, beneficial insects, and other non-target species. Notably, more than 70% of the insects trapped were either beneficial or non-target species. These findings were shared with scientists at the Acharya N. G. Ranga Agricultural University and with an agronomist from the Punjab Agricultural University. Based on their assessment, the scientists advised against the use of solar light traps in cotton fields, noting that they are not particularly effective in attracting major cotton pests. Instead, they may disrupt the cotton ecosystem by attracting and removing beneficial insects, which can undermine ecological balance.

Following these findings and discussions with the farmers, it was decided to discontinue the use of solar light traps in cotton fields.

MOVING AHEAD

In the coming year, the project will focus on deepening its impact by strengthening community institutions at both the village and project levels, ensuring greater ownership and sustainability of interventions. Efforts will be directed toward raising awareness and delivering targeted training on plant management practices to improve plantation health and long-term productivity.

The project will also prioritize facilitating stronger market linkages through the Farmer Producer Organization (FPO), enabling farmers to access reliable buyers and secure fair prices for their produce. Continued engagement with NABARD’s Regional Office will support timely access to project funds and ensure the smooth implementation of planned activities, positioning the initiative for more resilient and inclusive growth.



Fig 6.1, Training session for ASHA workers in NTR district.

nutrition

VCF implements nutrition-focused initiatives to improve the health and well-being of rural communities, with a focus on women and children. The programs work through community institutions to promote awareness on balanced diets, maternal and child nutrition, and healthy food practices. The organisation supports access to nutritious food through kitchen gardens and local food systems, while also strengthening linkages with government health and nutrition services. These efforts aim to address malnutrition and support better health outcomes at the household level.



MALNUTRITION

MALNUTRITION

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OVERVIEW

Acute Malnutrition (MAM), remains a critical public health concern, particularly in India, where nearly one in five children under five years is wasted. This project aims to strengthen the continuum of care for the management of acute malnutrition by integrating community- and facility-based approaches within existing government systems.

Building on prior learnings supported by Tata Trusts, the project promotes the ComPAS (Combined Protocol for Acute Malnutrition) model, which simplifies identification and treatment of uncomplicated SAM and MAM using MUAC-based screening and a unified nutrition protocol. Key interventions focus on system strengthening of ICDS, capacity building of front-line workers (Anganwadi Workers, ASHAs, and ANMs), convergence across departments, improved growth monitoring, and promotion of Mother, Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN) practices.

The project also supports prevention through community engagement, household counseling, and nutrition education, while providing technical assistance through a Technical Support Unit (TSU) for data-driven planning, monitoring, and implementation across selected districts.

* ASHAs Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) are community health volunteers under India’s National Health Mission (NHM), acting as a vital link between rural communities and the public health system.



Fig 6.2 Screening of children at an Anganwadi centre in NTR district.

OBJECTIVES

The program aims to address acute malnutrition among children under five by strengthening both prevention and treatment systems through a continuum of care approach. Acute malnutrition, including Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM), remains a critical public health challenge in India, with high prevalence and significant risks to child survival and development.

Building on prior experience supported by Tata Trusts across multiple states, the initiative adopts a combined protocol for acute malnutrition (CompAS model), integrating community-based and facility-based approaches. The model simplifies diagnosis through Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) measurements and standardizes treatment for uncomplicated SAM and MAM using a single nutrient-dense food supplement, enabling more efficient and scalable service delivery.

The program emphasizes strengthening frontline systems by leveraging the existing network of Anganwadi Workers, ASHAs, and ANMs (AAAs), enhancing their capacity to identify, screen, and manage acute malnutrition at the community level. It also focuses on improving maternal and child nutrition practices, promoting convergence across departments, and supporting the integration of community-based management approaches into national and state protocols.

A Technical Support Unit (TSU), will provide data-driven implementation support, monitoring, and analytics, while partnerships with local organizations will ensure last-mile delivery in underserved areas.

MILESTONES

Strengthened capacities of frontline workers and PRI members through structured trainings on growth monitoring, CMAM protocols, convergence, and MI-YCN practices

Increased community awareness on child nutrition, malnutrition prevention, and the importance of timely growth monitoring through household visits and community sessions

Improved screening and early identification of SAM and MAM children by intensifying growth monitoring activities at Anganwadi centres and VHSNDs

Enhanced coordination between ICDS, Health, PRI, and allied departments to improve service delivery quality and follow-up mechanisms

Completion of baseline assessment across seven districts, establishing a strong evidence base for program planning, monitoring, and policy engagement



Fig 6.3, Home visit conducted by the program team for a pregnant woman in Thirur, NTR district.

REFLECTIONS

During the reporting period, progress on key implementation components was influenced by delays in the finalization and approval of the state-specific CMAM protocol at the departmental level. As the protocol provides the operational framework for program rollout, its pending approval impacted the timely initiation of core activities.

In particular, the procurement of Energy-Dense Nutritional Food (EDNF) through departmental systems could not be initiated as planned, resulting in a shift in implementation timelines.

With the approval of the protocol expected in the upcoming quarter, the program is positioned to initiate procurement processes and transition into full-scale implementation in alignment with state guidelines.

MOVING AHEAD

The next phase will focus on strengthening institutional readiness and enabling program rollout through strategic engagement and capacity building. Dissemination of baseline findings on SAM and MAM will be undertaken at state and district levels in collaboration with the Women and Child Development (WCD) department and key stakeholders to inform planning and alignment.

Consultative meetings will be conducted at both state and district levels to develop a structured roadmap for CMAM implementation. Capacity-building efforts will be scaled across all levels, including training of the project team on CMAM guidelines, followed by extensive training of frontline workers, community members, and Panchayati Raj Institutions on CMAM protocols.

In addition, Master Trainers will be trained to ensure cascade-based capacity building at project and sector levels, creating a strong foundation for effective and sustained program implementation.

FINANCIALS

KEY PROGRAMMATIC INDICATOR	TOTAL TARGET	ANNUAL TARGET	ANNUAL ACHEIVEMENT	% OF ACHEIVEMENT
NO. OF HOUSEHOLD VISITS WITH AWW, ASHA AND ANM (AA)	3,500	648	841	130%
NO OF COMMUNITY TRAININGS TO PROMOTE CMAM AND MIYCN	3,000	500	311	62%
PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH COMMUNITY TRAININGS	60,000	3,000	5,913	197%
OF THE ALL SAM AND MAM CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE WHO ARE REACHED WITH FOOD BASED INTERVENTIONS, TO TREAT AT LEAST 70% OF WASTED CHILDREN UNTIL RECOVERY	28,000	0	0	0
SAM AND MAM CHILDREN ACROSS 3 DISTRICTS FROM STATE IDENTIFIED, ENROLLED INTO THE PROGRAM AND LINKED TO CARE	40,000	3000	673	22%
CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT OF FRONTLINE WORKERS ON COMMUNITYBASED MANAGEMENT OF CHILDREN WITH SAM AND MAM	3 MODULES	1	1	100%
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE ROUTINE SCREENING, IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SAM AND MAM CHILDREN	1	0	0	0%
STRENGTHENING MATERNAL AND CHILD NUTRITION POLICIES THROUGH ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE LEVEL TECHNICAL CONSORTIUMS	1	0	0	0%
SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS AND DISTRICT MAPPING TO ASSESS IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF STATE LEVEL CHILD NUTRITION POLICIES W.R.T SAM AND MAM	7	7	7	100%
DEVELOPMENT OF STATE SPECIFIC IMPLEMENTATION PLAN ON SAM/MAM MANAGEMENT	1	1	1	100%
COMMUNITY BASED MANAGEMENT OF ACUTE MALNUTRITION (CMAM) REVIEW MEETINGS	400	10	0	0%
CAPACITY BUILDING ON CONVERGENCE AMONG FRONTLINE WORKERS AS WELL AS PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTE MEMBERS	15,000	2,000	4750	238%
INTENSIFIED GROWTH MONITORING SESSIONS THROUGH VHSND	5,000	500	537	107
TRAINING OF MASTERS TRAINERS	40	20	0	0%

FINANCIALS

			BUDGET IN INR		ACTUALS IN INR		VARIANCE TILL DATE (%)
	BUDGET HEAD	TOTAL BUD-GET	CURRENT QUARTER JAN - MARCH 25	UPTO END OF CURRENT QUARTER (MARCH 2025)	CURRENT QUARTER JAN - MARCH 25	UPTO END OF CURRENT QUARTER (MARCH 2025)	
1	PERSONNEL	4,49,04,300	36,81,000	1,92,60,000	17,10,030	50,48,440	74%
2	CAPITAL	80,900	0	80,900	0	6,84,516	23%
3	PROGRAM	11,10,91,400	1,08,46,300	7,41,15,400	20,55,672	61,63,348	92%
4	OVERHEAD	65,200	5,22,500	31,15,000	2,01,931	10,21,251	67%
	TOTAL	16,34,05,700	1,50,49,800	9,73,80,400	39,67,633	1,29,17,555	87%

BEHIND THE NUMBERS

Angirekula Nikhil, a 1 year 5 months old child, was identified with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) during routine growth monitoring conducted under the CMAM program in Jujjuru village. At the time of identification in May 2025, the child weighed 6.5 kg and measured 70.5 cm, indicating a serious nutritional deficit.

Nikhil lives in a five-member family dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. Limited awareness about appropriate infant and young child feeding practices and low dietary diversity contributed to his poor nutritional status.

Following identification, the Program Associate of Vijayavahini Charitable Foundation, along with the Anganwadi Worker, conducted home visits and provided targeted counselling to the child’s mother. The caregiver received guidance on Home-Based Young Child Feeding (HBYC) practices, including preparing nutritious meals using locally available foods such as eggs, vegetables, fruits, and milk products. The family was also advised on hygiene, sanitation, and regular growth monitoring.

With consistent counselling and follow-up, the child showed steady improvement. Within three months, Nikhil’s weight increased to 7.5 kg, enabling him to transition from Severe Acute Malnutrition to normal nutritional status.

This case highlights how early identification, caregiver counselling, and community-based follow-up can significantly improve child nutrition outcomes.



Fig 6.4, Screening of children at home in Thirur, NTR district.



NUTRITION & FOOD SECURITY

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OVERVIEW

Micronutrient deficiencies, often referred to as “hidden hunger,” continue to pose a significant public health challenge in India, particularly among vulnerable populations such as women of reproductive age, young children, and adolescents. Despite broader nutrition transitions, deficiencies in essential nutrients like iron, iodine, and vitamin A remain widespread, contributing to adverse health outcomes including anaemia, impaired growth and cognition, reduced immunity, and increased risk of morbidity and mortality. Recent national data indicates a rising burden of anaemia, underscoring the urgency for systemic and scalable interventions.

The program focuses on strengthening and promoting targeted food fortification across key social safety-net platforms, including PM-POSHAN and Take-Home Rations (THR) under the ICDS Supplementary Nutrition Program, across select districts. It adopts a systems-strengthening approach by providing technical, managerial, and operational support to improve supply chains, ensure quality assurance and control, and enable effective delivery of fortified food to intended beneficiaries.

The initiative also emphasizes capacity building of frontline workers and community engagement to improve consumption practices and dietary diversity, while promoting convergence across departments such as Women and Child Development and Education. A district-level Technical Support Unit (TSU), anchored by implementation partners including Vijayavahini Charitable Foundation, Centre for Micro-Finance (CmF), and Global Health Strategies India (GHSI), will support implementation, monitoring, and data-driven decision-making. The program will be executed in a phased manner, beginning with situational analysis and model development, followed by scaled implementation.

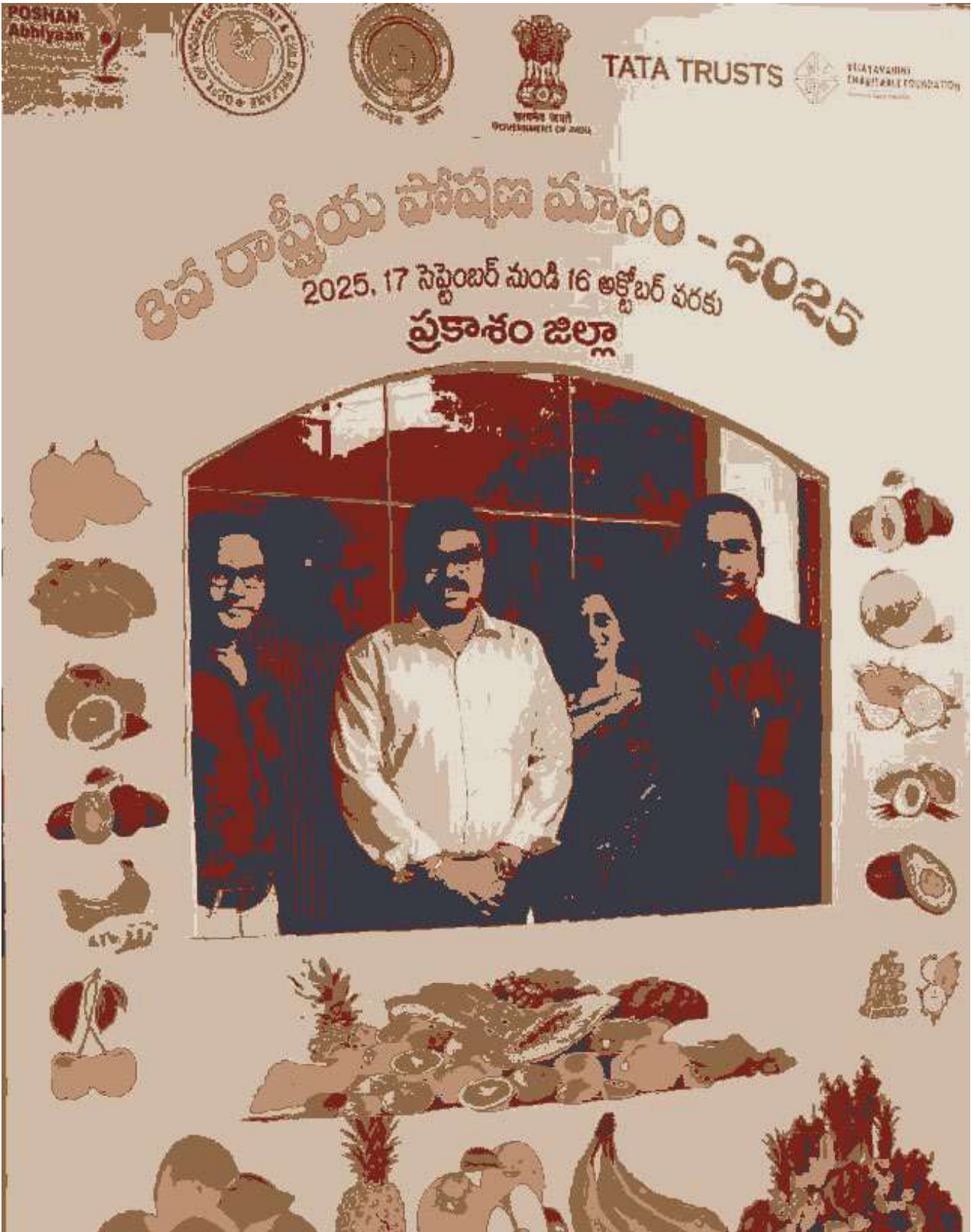
* ICDS - Integrated Child Development Services

OBJECTIVES

The program aims to reduce micronutrient deficiencies by strengthening food fortification systems within social safety-net programs and improving nutrition outcomes among vulnerable populations. It seeks to enhance the quality, coverage, and consumption of fortified foods under PM-POSH-AN and ICDS by strengthening supply chain management, quality assurance mechanisms, and implementation systems. The initiative will build the capacities of frontline workers, including Anganwadi Workers, ASHAs, and school teachers, to promote effective delivery and consumption of fortified foods, while fostering convergence across departments for improved service delivery.

Additionally, the program will promote behaviour change to improve maternal and child nutrition practices and dietary diversity at the community level, while supporting increased enrolment and retention in schools and ICDS services. It will also contribute to strengthening national and state-level protocols for addressing micronutrient deficiencies. Through the establishment of a Technical Support Unit (TSU), the program will enable data-driven implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, while facilitating scalable and sustainable models for replication across geographies.

Fig 7.1, Poshan Abhiyan activity focused on children.



MILESTONES

During the reporting period, the programme strengthened system- and community-level capacities to promote food fortification under ICDS and PM-POSHAN, improving awareness, acceptance, and implementation across intervention districts.

Strengthened frontline and community capacities:

Targeted training programmes were conducted in coordination with the Department of Women and Child Development to build the capacities of Anganwadi Workers, Mid-Day Meal head cooks, cook-cum-helpers, and frontline functionaries. The sessions improved understanding of food fortification, nutrient retention through appropriate cooking practices, and the nutritional needs of pregnant women, lactating mothers, and young children. Frontline workers were equipped to act as community-level change agents, supporting sustained nutrition behaviour change.

Improved engagement with school systems:

Regular technical interactions with the Department of School Education, including the Director of Mid-Day Meals, DEOs, and MEOs, supported standardisation of food fortification under the Mid-Day Meal scheme. Field observations were systematically shared, enabling timely identification of gaps and corrective action to strengthen programme delivery in school communities.

Evidence-based advocacy to address MDM dropouts:

Field visits identified a 30–40% dropout in Mid-Day Meal participation due to parental non-acceptance of fortified foods. These findings were shared with district and mandal officials, informing plans for community awareness meetings, improved identification of fortified foods (F+ and F++ symbols), and targeted capacity building of school and Anganwadi staff in the next reporting period.

Stronger convergence and institutional capacity:

An all-partners workshop with the Departments of Women & Child Development and School Education, along with AIIMS, UNICEF, and NIN, facilitated review and standardisation of SNP and PM-POSHAN food models. Advanced training at NIFTEM, New Delhi strengthened technical capacity of education officials and project teams, while Tata Trusts’ field visits to NTR, Prakasam, and Tirupati districts provided external validation of fortified food practices and community perceptions.



Fig 7.2, Children during lunch break at Governemnt Primary school, Ethamukka-la village, Prakasam district, Andhra Pradesh.

FINANCIALS

KEY PROGRAMMATIC INDICATOR	TOTAL TARGET	ANNUAL TARGET	ANNUAL ACHEIVEMENT	% OF ACHEIVEMENT
IMPROVED NUTRITIONAL STANDARDS OF BENEFICIARIES	10%	0	0	0%
ADEQUATELY FORTIFIED THR AND HOT COOKED MEALS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE BENEFICIARIES	10,000	0	0	0%
FOOD AID SAMPLED AND TESTED ON REGULAR INTERVALS OF BASELINE, MIDLINE AND ENDLINE ASSESSMENT FOR MEASURING QUALITY STANDARD AND SATEFY PROTOCOLS	1,500	0	0	0%
CONSUMPTION OF THR AND MDM AT REGULAR INTERVALS	70%	0	0	0%
CAPACITIES BUILT FOR ANGANWADI WORKERS AND SCHOOL TEACHERS	10,000	1000	1562	156.2%
CAPACITIES BUILT FOR SHG/AWHS ON THR PRODUCTION AND MDM COOKS ON HOT MEAL PREPARATION	10,000	1000	7	0.7%
SITUATION ANALYSIS OF EXISTING SUPPLEMENTARY NUTRITION PROGRAMS	1	1	1	100%
DEVELOPMENT OF STATE SPECIFIC IMPLEMENTATION PLANS ON THR AND MDM	1	1	1	100%
DISSEMINATION WORKSHOPS WITH GOVERNMENT STAKEHOLDERS	1	0	0	0%
TRAINING OF MASTER TRAINERS	40	10	0	0%

FINANCIALS

			BUDGET IN INR		ACTUALS IN INR		VARIANCE TILL DATE (%)
	BUDGET HEAD	TOTAL BUD-GET	CURRENT QUARTER JAN - MARCH 25	UPTO END OF CURRENT QUARTER (MARCH 2025)	CURRENT QUARTER JAN - MARCH 25	UPTO END OF CURRENT QUARTER (MARCH 2025)	
1	PERSONNEL	4,08,35,000	34,50,000	1,68,00,000	19,74,603	40,08,144	76%
2	CAPITAL	9,00,000	0	9,00,000	0	7,82,148	13%
3	PROGRAM	3,85,57,000	41,30,000	1,70,20,000	9,67,540	11,04,930	94%
4	OVERHEAD	35,00,000	3,00,000	17,00,000	5,44,647	14,23,578	16%
	TOTAL	8,37,92,000	78,80,000	3,64,20,000	34,86,790	73,18,800	80%

REFLECTIONS

During the reporting period, progress on capacity-building activities was contingent on securing approval for the training module and training calendar from the Department, which remains under review. This has resulted in a slight delay in the rollout of structured training interventions.

Following approval from the Education Department in November 2024, initial steps have been taken to identify School Management Committees and explore their role in promoting awareness on food fortification practices. These efforts are currently underway and are expected to contribute to strengthened community engagement, with detailed outcomes to be reported in the subsequent reporting period.



Fig 7.3, Ranga Rao conducting a session on the importance of food fortification and the Mid-Day Meal (MDM) program in Ethamukkala village, Prakasam district, Andhra Pradesh.

MOVING AHEAD

Building on the progress made during the reporting period, the programme will focus on deepening institutional capacities and strengthening systems for the effective scale-up of targeted food fortification. Key priorities for the next phase include:

Developing a cadre of master trainers on targeted food fortification to ensure consistent knowledge dissemination and long-term sustainability.

Conducting focused training programmes for cook-cum-helpers and Anganwadi Workers (AWHs) to improve on-ground implementation of fortified food practices.

Disseminating findings from the situational analysis study conducted in collaboration with Global Health Strategies (GHS) through a state-level workshop in the next quarter.

Supporting technical agencies in the initiation and completion of baseline assessments under the food fortification project to strengthen evidence-based planning.

Strengthening internal capacities through advanced training of the project team (second batch) and government officials on national food fortification guidelines.

Facilitating state- and district-level consultative meetings to develop a clear, actionable roadmap for scaling and institutionalising food fortification practices.



Fig 7.4, School girls during the same session in Ethamukkala village.



wash

The VCF Wash Project improves access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene in underserved communities, recognizing these as essential to health and dignity. It addresses critical gaps through clean water access, improved sanitation, and hygiene education. Focused on sustainability, it empowers communities with the knowledge to maintain these systems while fostering long-term social and environmental resilience.



WASH

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OVERVIEW

The Integrated Water Resource and Quality Management (IWRQM) Program is a comprehensive initiative implemented by Vijayavahini Charitable Foundation in collaboration with Tata Trusts to address pressing challenges related to water scarcity, declining water quality, and sustainable water management in rural communities. Implemented across four districts of Andhra Pradesh (NTR district, Anakapalle district, Alluri Sitharama Raju district, and Prakasam district), the program adopts an integrated approach that combines surface water, groundwater, and rainwater management with water treatment and monitoring systems.

The initiative emphasizes community participation, strengthened local governance, and data-driven planning to ensure equitable access to safe drinking water while supporting water for livelihoods and improving sanitation outcomes. By enhancing the functionality of village water supply schemes and building local capacity for operation, the program seeks to create sustainable systems that safeguard public health and promote long-term water security.

OBJECTIVES

The program aims to provide safe and reliable drinking water access across 140 villages to 15,000 households in the project area, while improving water availability for irrigation in two mandals of Prakasam district to enhance agricultural productivity and sustain livelihoods. It focuses on strengthening the functionality of village water supply schemes through community training on operation and maintenance, water quality monitoring, and the adoption of inline chlorination systems to ensure continuous access to safe water.

Additionally, the initiative promotes groundwater recharge, source sustainability, and integrated water resource management, targeting a 7-10% improvement in groundwater levels in 40 water-stressed villages and the creation of approximately 106 million litres of additional water storage. The program seeks to improve drinking water quality through systematic testing, treatment solutions, and hygiene behaviour change, with the objective of achieving a 30-40% reduction in diarrhoeal incidence.

It also emphasizes strengthening community institutions for sustainable water management by building the capacities of Water User Groups and Gram Panchayats, alongside training 80 youth water cadres and over 400 community representatives. By reinforcing village-level institutions and governance mechanisms, and providing technical assistance to the Government of Andhra Pradesh to strengthen rural water O&M frameworks and promote decentralized water supply models, the program aims to enable equitable water distribution, improved sanitation outcomes, reduced health risks, and resilient rural water infrastructure, while leveraging ₹80-100 lakhs in public financing through convergence with government schemes.

MILESTONES

During the reporting period, the program translated planning, institutional strengthening, and infrastructure interventions into measurable improvements in rural water security across Andhra Pradesh.

A comprehensive baseline assessment was undertaken through engagement with the Institute for Resource Analysis and Policy (IRAP) and the internal team using the m-Grant platform. Village and household-level data on water sources, quality, usage patterns, and governance structures were collected across project districts, creating a strong evidence base to guide implementation and ensure targeted, data-driven interventions.

Institutional strengthening has been a key outcome. Sixteen Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) were reformed and strengthened, improving community ownership and accountability in the operation and maintenance of village water supply systems. Mandal-level workshops and stakeholder consultations enhanced coordination with MPDOs, engineering officials, Panchayat Secretaries, Sarpanches, and community representatives, reinforcing inter-departmental collaboration for sustainable water governance.

At the infrastructure level, community-based inline chlorination systems were installed in five villages, significantly improving drinking water safety and reducing the risk of waterborne diseases. Protective measures were implemented to ensure the longevity and safe functioning of these systems. Additionally, taps and pipeline leakages were repaired in Punaravasa Chenchu Colony, restoring system efficiency and ensuring reliable access for 50 households.

Village Action Plans (VAPs) were prepared in five villages, integrating water security planning, sanitation improvements, groundwater recharge, and sustainable distribution mechanisms. Two ponds with a storage capacity of 2,500 cubic meters each were identified for enhancement and de-siltation to improve local water storage and recharge potential, strengthening source sustainability.

Capacity-building efforts further amplified impact. Seven structured trainings were conducted for 60 VWSC members on operation and maintenance of water supply schemes and water quality monitoring using Field Test Kits, with a strong emphasis on residual chlorine monitoring and disinfection procedures. These trainings have equipped communities with practical skills to independently monitor and safeguard their drinking water systems.

Collectively, these interventions have strengthened rural water governance, improved access to safe drinking water and enhanced infrastructure functionality, hence laying a sustainable foundation for long-term water security and improved public health outcomes.

FINANCIALS

KEY PROGRAMMATIC INDICATOR	TOTAL TARGET	ANNUAL TARGET	ANNUAL ACHEIVEMENT	% OF ACHEIVEMENT
VWSC TRAINED ON WATER SECURITY PLANNING AND O&M OF COMMUNITY MANAGED DRINKING WATER SCEHEMES (VILLAGE LEVEL)	1400	60	60	100%
WATER SECURITY PLAN PREAPRED AS PART OF VILLAGE ACTION PLAN (VAP)	140	5	5	100%
WATER STORAGE & CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT - DESILTING OF EXISTING STRUCTURES	1,15,000	5,000	0	0%
NO. OF HH ENSURED DRINKING WATER	15,000	0	0	0%
EXTEND OF LAND BROUGHT UNDER IRRIGATION (ACRES)	1000	0	0	0%
7-10% INCREASE IN WATER TABLE (FROM BASELINE) OR 2 TO 3 FEET INCREASE IN WATER TABLE (%)	7%	0	0	0%
INSTALLATION OF ILC UNITS	140	5	5	100%

*ILC -Inline Chlorination

FINANCIALS

			BUDGET IN INR		ACTUALS IN INR		VARIANCE TILL DATE (%)
	BUDGET HEAD	TOTAL BUDGET	CURRENT QUARTER JAN - MARCH 25	UPTO END OF CURRENT QUARTER (MARCH 2025)	CURRENT QUARTER JAN - MARCH 25	UPTO END OF CURRENT QUARTER (MARCH 2025)	
1	PERSONNEL	2,22,72,700	20,92,650	41,85,300	10,28,116	13,66,799	67.3%
2	CAPITAL	6,75,000	NA	4,75,000	1,27,818	1,27,818	73.09%
3	PROGRAM	5,20,12,000	55,24,875	1,10,49,750	10,19,871	10,22,501	90%
4	OVERHEAD	30,00,000	2,50,000	5,00,000	1,81,253	2,03,193	59.36%
	TOTAL	7,79,59,700	78,67,525	1,62,10,050	23,57,058	27,20,311	83.21%

REFLECTIONS

During the reporting period, implementation focused on completing Water Security Planning, technical assessments, and institutional capacity building, which led to slower progress on some infrastructure indicators. Field activities were also temporarily constrained by intense monsoon conditions, limiting the pace of civil works.

With planning largely completed and the monsoon period over, implementation has now moved into an accelerated phase. Infrastructure interventions related to recharge, storage, and water quality are progressing steadily, supported by strengthened community institutions and implementation readiness.

Based on KPI reviews, activities have been re-sequenced to prioritize underperforming areas. Infrastructure works, particularly desilting, groundwater recharge, and inline chlorination system installation, will be fast-tracked in alignment with approved Water Security Plans.

MOVING AHEAD

The next phase of implementation will focus on accelerating infrastructure development and strengthening community-led water management systems. This includes the renovation and strengthening of 15 drinking water supply schemes, including 5 solar-based systems, to ensure reliable and uninterrupted household water access.

Groundwater recharge efforts will be scaled through the desilting and renovation or construction of structures as per approved Water Security Plans, covering 180 WRD structures and approximately 95,000 m³ of desilting to enhance storage and recharge capacity. In parallel, 70 additional inline chlorination systems will be installed, supported by regular water quality monitoring to ensure safe drinking water.

Capacity-building efforts will be intensified through two structured trainings per village (80 in total) for VWSCs, focusing on water quality management and operation and maintenance of water supply and recharge systems.

Implementation will be supported by robust monitoring systems, including structured KPI tracking at mandal and district levels, weekly field reviews, third-party assessments, and continued use of the M-Grant platform. Convergence with Panchayati Raj and Rural Water Supply departments will be further strengthened to leverage approximately ₹75 lakhs in public financing.

Community engagement will also be expanded through behaviour change initiatives, including wall paintings, Kalajatha programs, and exposure visits in each village, to reinforce awareness and promote sustainable water use practices.



SANITATION

OVERVIEW
OBJECTIVES
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REFLECTIONS
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MOVING AHEAD

OVERVIEW

The “Mobile Faecal Sludge Treatment Unit (MFSTU) for Rural / Peri-urban regions” project aims to provide an innovative and sustainable solution for faecal sludge management in Andhra Pradesh. It addresses the urgent need for effective sanitation services in rural and peri-urban areas where conventional sewer systems are either absent or inadequate.

The initiative focuses on setting up MFSTUs to efficiently process and treat faecal sludge, ensuring environmental safety, improved public health, and compliance with sanitation regulations. The project aligns with the Government of India’s Swachh Bharat Mission: Grameen (SBM-G) and seeks to strengthen Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WaSH) outcomes.

The pilot is being implemented in three districts of Andhra Pradesh: NTR, Krishna, and Guntur, covering approximately 70–80 villages within a 10 km radius of identified feasible study areas. The project aims to demonstrate the effectiveness of decentralized and mobile faecal sludge management systems in similar socio-economic and infrastructural contexts across India.

* (Eque poria) sit et qui cus ad quam nientiae nitatio nsequatur? (It quam) voleni officabo. Ectotaes modis illate event, (ut lanto ea)

OBJECTIVES

Provide Decentralized FSM Services:

To establish Mobile Faecal Sludge Treatment Units in rural and peri-urban regions with limited sewage infrastructure.

Improve Sanitation Standards and Environmental Protection:

To prevent unsafe disposal of faecal sludge, reduce environmental contamination, and enhance public health outcomes through safe and scientific treatment processes.

Develop a Sustainable Business Model:

To pilot a scalable and sustainable faecal sludge management model that ensures operational efficiency and supports private desludging operators.



Fig 9.1, SAC - MFSTU operations at Karuru village.

MILESTONES

During the reporting period, the project established a strong institutional and operational foundation for piloting the Mobile Faecal Sludge Treatment Unit (MFSTU) model in Andhra Pradesh.

A structured implementation roadmap was finalized and dedicated project leadership was on-boarded, enabling focused coordination and timely execution. Strategic engagement with the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) resulted in the drafting of a formal Memorandum of Agreement, clearly defining cost-sharing mechanisms, operational roles, and accountability structures: a critical milestone toward government convergence and long-term sustainability.

Extensive consultations with septic tank operators and sanitation workers brought forward important occupational health and safety concerns, including exposure to hazardous gases, inadequate protective equipment, lack of medical coverage, and social stigma. These field insights have directly shaped the project’s approach toward promoting mechanized desludging, safer operational practices, and improved dignity for sanitation workers.

Transparent procurement processes were initiated through the publication of Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for baseline assessment and MFSTU deployment. Multiple proposals were evaluated through structured needs assessments, ensuring financial prudence, technical rigor, and accountability in vendor selection.

The project also advanced a co-investment partnership model, proposing 80% financial support from Vijayavahini Charitable Foundation (VCF) and 20% contribution from the entrepreneur. Engagements with the vehicle operation agency led to agreement in principle, followed by preparation of a formal MoU to operationalize the partnership.

Field reconnaissance surveys provided first-hand understanding of septic tank infrastructure, desludging challenges, financial constraints faced by workers, and operational inefficiencies. These findings have strengthened the project’s evidence base and informed contextualized intervention design.

Additionally, a documentation framework was initiated to systematically capture pre-, mid-, and post-implementation progress, reinforcing transparency and enabling measurable impact tracking.

Overall, the year’s efforts have moved the initiative from conceptualization to implementation readiness, securing institutional partnerships, establishing operational frameworks, embedding worker-centric safeguards, and positioning the MFSTU model for effective rollout in rural and peri-urban regions.

FINANCIALS

KEY PROGRAMMATIC INDICATOR	TOTAL TARGET	ANNUAL TARGET	ANNUAL ACHEIVEMENT	% OF ACHEIVEMENT
DEVELOPMENT OF FEASIBILITY OF STUDY	1	0	0	0%
DEPLOYMENT AND OPERATION OF MFSTU	2	2	0	0%
QUANTITY OF SLUDGE TREATED (MILLIONS OF LITRES)	2	2	0	0%
NO. OF SEPTIC TANKS DESLUDGES	12,000	12,000	0	0%
SANITATION WORKERS TRAINED	150	150	0	0%

FINANCIALS

			BUDGET IN INR		ACTUALS IN INR		VARIANCE TILL DATE (%)
	BUDGET HEAD	TOTAL BUDGET	CURRENT QUARTER JAN - MARCH 25	UPTO END OF CURRENT QUARTER (MARCH 2025)	CURRENT QUARTER JAN - MARCH 25	UPTO END OF CURRENT QUARTER (MARCH 2025)	
1	PERSONNEL	7,20,000	1,80,000	1,80,000	35,714	35,714	95%
2	CAPITAL	72,00,000	0	0	0	0	100%
3	PROGRAM	52,45,000	0	0	496	496	100%
4	OVERHEAD	1,20,000	30,000	30,000	4,602	4,602	96.1%
	TOTAL	1,32,85,000	2,10,000	2,10,000	40,812	40,812	99.69%

REFLECTIONS

During the year, field deployment of the SAC-owned MFSTU highlighted certain technical limitations affecting operational efficiency and sludge processing capacity under live conditions. In response, field operations were temporarily paused to enable a structured technical assessment and ensure long-term system reliability.

A detailed performance review was initiated in consultation with WASH-I to guide necessary design modifications and system optimisation. In parallel, procurement of an upgraded MFSTU vehicle was initiated to support improved performance and readiness for scale.

Based on a review of KPI progress, implementation priorities were re-sequenced to focus on technical stabilisation before expansion. With these corrective measures underway, the program is well-positioned to transition into an accelerated implementation phase in the coming year.

MOVING AHEAD

The upcoming phase will focus on operationalising and scaling the MFSTU model, with deployment and commissioning of the upgraded MFSTU/MTU across identified rural and peri-urban locations. Formal MoUs will be executed with SAC, alongside strengthened operational arrangements with Urban Local Bodies and private desludging operators to ensure coordinated implementation.

Full-scale desludging operations will be initiated, targeting 1,200 households and the treatment of approximately 2 million litres of faecal sludge. Capacity-building efforts will be expanded to train 150 sanitation workers and desludging operators, with a continued emphasis on safety, efficiency, and dignity of labour.

Concurrent data collection and analysis will assess the technical performance and financial viability of the MFSTU model, while systematic documentation of learnings will inform policy-relevant evidence. These insights will support dissemination and enable replication and scale-up under state FSM programmes.

In parallel, ongoing technical optimisation will ensure reliability and continuity of decentralized treatment systems, strengthening the foundation for sustainable and scalable implementation.



Fig 9.2, Demonstrating MFSTU operations at a Ramavarapadu High School to local sanitation worker.



PRIMARY HEALTHCARE

- OVERVIEW
- OBJECTIVES
- FINANCIALS
- IMPACT
- REFLECTIONS
- BEHIND THE NUMBERS
- MOVING AHEAD

OVERVIEW

Access to comprehensive and quality primary healthcare continues to remain inadequate in rural and tribal regions of North Telangana, particularly in Bhadradi Kothagudem district and surrounding areas. These communities experience delayed healthcare-seeking behaviour and interrupted treatment for preventable conditions, resulting in avoidable complications and higher financial burden. The disease burden is disproportionately high, including infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, and hereditary conditions prevalent among tribal populations, including sickle cell disease and thalassemia.

Despite sustained investments and multiple government and non-government initiatives, health outcomes have not improved proportionately. Deep-rooted socio-cultural norms, gender biases, financial constraints, geographical isolation, and infrastructural gaps continue to hinder equitable access to care. Gaps in service delivery standards and weak referral systems further exacerbate maternal, neonatal, child, and elderly morbidity and mortality.

In response, Vijayavahini is implementing a Participatory Action Research in Health (PAR-H) initiative aimed at strengthening primary healthcare systems in tribal North Telangana. The approach places communities at the center of identifying challenges and co-creating solutions, while simultaneously improving service delivery, referral pathways, and frontline capacity. By integrating research, systems strengthening, and community engagement, the project seeks to generate actionable pathways to address structural, social, behavioural, and environmental determinants of health and improve continuum of care in underserved geographies.

OBJECTIVES

To systematically identify and analyse determinants of health across tribal communities

Conduct exploratory qualitative and quantitative interactions with key stakeholders across the health ecosystem (including community members, frontline workers, and health facility staff) to understand social, economic, environmental, behavioural, and structural barriers to healthcare access. The study will be undertaken across five districts of North Telangana (Bhadradri Kothagudem, Mulugu, J. Bhupalpally, Mancherial, and KB Asifabad), with varying depth of coverage, to generate context-specific insights and evidence.

To enhance access to quality healthcare at the peripheral level

Strengthen last-mile service delivery through the deployment of Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) across Bhadradri Kothagudem district in partnership with the Indigenous Development Organization (IDO). This aims to bridge gaps in outreach, improve early diagnosis and treatment, and ensure continuity of essential primary healthcare services in remote and underserved habitations.

To prototype and pilot effective care and referral pathways

Design, test, and refine practical models for care coordination and referral across select government primary healthcare facilities and the IDO Hospital at Gattumalla. This component seeks to address process gaps, improve adherence to standards of care, and establish a functional continuum of care for tribal-rural communities.

To strengthen institutional and frontline capacity

Develop standardized training modules and structured capacity-building programs for healthcare workers and community health volunteers. The focus is on improving competencies in primary care delivery, enhancing service quality, and ensuring better responsiveness to tribal health challenges.

To promote community participation and ownership in health systems

Engage communities actively in identifying challenges and co-creating solutions through the PAR-H framework, thereby strengthening trust, accountability, and sustained utilisation of primary healthcare services.



Fig 10.1, Focus group discussion. Ralla cheluka



MILESTONES

During FY 2024-25, the project generated measurable progress in strengthening primary health-care access, frontline capacity, and community engagement across remote tribal regions of North Telangana.

Healthcare outreach was significantly expanded through the Mobile Medical Units (MMUs), which conducted camps across Burgampadu, Pinapaka, and Cherla mandals. A total of 11,318 OP consultations were delivered, covering antenatal and postnatal care, home-based newborn care (HBNC), screening for anaemia, hypertension, diabetes, malaria and TB, as well as basic laboratory investigations. Despite difficult terrain, transport constraints, and resistance to institutional referrals, the teams adapted through flexible scheduling and alternative transport arrangements to ensure continuity of services. Capacity-building sessions for MMU staff strengthened competencies in pediatric and gynecological care, including management of developmental delays, pneumonia, contraception, and genital infections.

Cadre development of Adivasi Arogya Mithras (AAMs) was strengthened through structured residential and day training programs conducted in Telugu and Hindi. Training covered maternal and child health, ANC, PNC, HBNC, non-communicable diseases, and tribal-specific conditions such as sickle cell anaemia. Interactive and practice-based methodologies improved learning retention among AAMs, ASHAs, and ANMs, enhancing their ability to respond to community health needs effectively.

Nutritional interventions reached 1,011 households through the distribution of Nutri-garden kits, promoting dietary diversity and household-level food security. Although water scarcity posed challenges for immediate cultivation, community interest and engagement remained strong.

Adolescent health awareness initiatives advanced through 66 sessions conducted across tribal hamlets. Using culturally contextual approaches such as night-time meetings supported by solar lighting, tribal songs, skits, and storytelling, the program addressed menstrual hygiene, newborn care, and preventive health behaviours. These sessions demonstrated strong community participation and increasing openness to discussing sensitive health topics.

Institutional strengthening efforts included facility assessments and preparatory handholding support for DEIC, SNCU, and NRC units to improve service efficiency and community linkages. A Pediatric Cardiac Screening Camp conducted in collaboration with district RBSK-DEIC teams and Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital screened 50 children; 14 were identified for surgery and 20 for medical management, with four successful surgeries completed.

Research activities under the Participatory Action Research framework progressed steadily, with 22 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), 1,440 household surveys, and 8 in-depth interviews completed. Facility assessments and subject matter expert engagement strengthened the quality of research tools and methodology. Project learnings were presented at IPHACON 2025, enhancing visibility and knowledge exchange.

Qualitatively, the program has contributed to noticeable improvements in health-seeking behaviour, particularly among mothers and caregivers. Awareness of preventive healthcare, maternal and child nutrition, adolescent health, and early diagnosis has increased. Community acceptance of initiatives such as MMUs and adolescent awareness sessions has grown steadily, reflecting strengthened trust in healthcare services. Continuous engagement aligned with the project’s Logical Framework Approach has supported a more responsive and community-informed primary healthcare ecosystem in the tribal districts.



Fig 10.2,
Mobile medical unit.
Medical team goes in
the van.
Vaccine carriage cold
box and registers for
detail.

***DEIC** - District Early Intervention Centres (DEIC) are specialized medical hubs in India established under the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) to provide early detection, treatment, and management of 4Ds in children (0-18 years)
SNCU - Special Newborn Care Unit. It is a dedicated hospital unit, usually located in district hospitals or medical colleges, designed to provide 24/7, specialized care for sick or premature newborns.

***NRC** - Neonatal Care Unit or Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). This specialized hospital department provides around-the-clock intensive-care for premature or critically ill newborns, often utilizing equipment like incubators and ventilators.
IPHACON - Indian Public Healthcare Association Conference

FINANCIALS

KEY PROGRAMMATIC INDICATOR	TOTAL TARGET	ANNUAL TARGET	ANNUAL ACHEIVEMENT	% OF ACHEIVEMENT
CAPACITY BUILDING SESSIONS FOR STRENGTHENING OF DISTRICT EARLY INTERVENTION CENTER (DEIC)	5	2	0	0%
PROVISION OF NRC SERVICES TO CHILDREN REQUIRING THE SAME	200	100	0	0%
NO. OF CHILDREN REACHED THROUGH DEIC, THROUGH COLLABORATION WITH DISTRICT RBSK PROGRAM	6,000	3,000	105	
STRENGTHENING OF SICK NEWBORN CARE UNITS (SNCU) BY CONDUCT OF CAPACITY BUILDING SESSIONS	2	1	0	0%
CONDUCT OF RESIDENTIAL TRAINING FOR CADRE DEVELOPMENT OF VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS (AAM)	4	2	2	100%
HEALTHCARE OUTREACH THROUGH MOBILE MEDICAL UNITS	20,000	12,000	11,318	94.3%
HOUSEHOLDS REACHED FOR NUTRITIONAL INTERVENTIONS	4,000	3,000	1,011	33.7%
CONDUCT OF ADOLESCENT HEALTH SESSIONS INCLUDING MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT	175	75	66	88%
CONDUCT OF TRAINING PROGRAM FOR CHWS ON ANC AND PNC	8	4	4	100%
TRAINING HCWS AND CHWS ON HOME BASED NEWBORN CARE (HBNC)	8	4	4	100%
TRAINING PROGRAM FOR CHWS ON NCDS	8	4	4	100%
CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM FOR CHWS FOR TRIBAL HEALTH CHALLENGES	8	4	4	100%
TRAINING PROGRAM FOR NUTRITIONAL REHABILITATION CENTRE PERSONNEL	2	1	0	0%

***NRC-** Nutrition Rehabilitation Center.
RBSK - Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) is a new initiative aiming at early identification and early intervention for children from birth to 18 years to cover 4 ‘D’s viz. Defects at birth, Deficiencies, Diseases, Development delays including disability.
AAM - Ayushman Arogya Mandir is an attempt to move from a selective approach to health care to deliver comprehensive range of services spanning preventive, promotive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative care.
CHW - Community health worker.
ANC - Absolute Neutrophil Count. It measures the number of white blood cells called neutrophils in blood.
PNC - Postnatal care is the care given to the mother and her new born baby immediately after birth and for the first six weeks of life.
HCW - Health care worker,
NCDS - Chronic noncommunicable diseases. The term NCDs refers to a group of conditions that are not mainly caused by an acute infection, result in long-term health consequences, and often create a need for long-term treatment and care.

FINANCIALS

			BUDGET IN INR		ACTUALS IN INR		VARIANCE TILL DATE (%)
	BUDGET HEAD	TOTAL BUDGET	CURRENT QUARTER JAN - MARCH 25	UPTO END OF CURRENT QUARTER (MARCH 2025)	CURRENT QUARTER JAN - MARCH 25	UPTO END OF CURRENT QUARTER (MARCH 2025)	
1	PERSONNEL	3,20,49,140	59,55,000	1,43,99,140	49,59,632	1,34,03,772	6.91%
2	CAPITAL	6,23,503	NA	5,18,503	33,000	5,51,503	-6.36%
3	PROGRAM	5,72,50,615	1,85,30,042	2,68,37,212	86,62,117	1,69,50,627	36.84%
4	OVERHEAD	53,32,449	8,44,000	21,92,449	7,85,584	21,34,033	2.66%
	TOTAL	9,52,55,707	2,53,29,042	4,39,47,304	1,44,40,332	3,30,39,934	24.82%

BEHIND THE NUMBERS

In Eravendi, a remote tribal habitation with no road connectivity, Arogya Asha Mitra (AAM) Madakam Sunitha played a lifesaving role in managing a high-risk preterm delivery. During a routine antenatal visit, she responded immediately when the mother, Kovaisi lthe (six months pregnant), developed sudden labor pains. Recognizing the signs of preterm labor, Sunitha swiftly arranged a referral through the 108 ambulance service, transporting the mother by bike to a pick-up point 4 km away due to the inaccessible terrain.

At the Bhadrachalam Government Hospital, the mother delivered twin baby girls weighing 750 g and 900 g, both premature and severely underweight. After over a month of intensive hospital care, the family was discharged, and Sunitha continued regular home-based follow-up. She ensured the newborns were kept warm, guided the family on exclusive breastfeeding, and provided maternal nutrition counselling, addressing cultural beliefs that restricted vegetable consumption after delivery.

Over time, both twins showed remarkable progress, gaining weight (1.3 kg and 1.5 kg), breastfeeding well, and remaining free of complications. In the harsh monsoon conditions of an inaccessible tribal village, the survival of these premature babies is nothing short of a miracle—made possible through the dedication of the AAM and timely medical care.

This case underlines the critical role of AAMs in saving lives, supporting mothers, and overcoming cultural and geographic barriers in hard-to-reach areas.



Fig 10.3, In depth interview or community survey, Gangamma colony.

REFLECTIONS

The program aims to provide safe and reliable drinking water access to 15,000 households across the project area while improving water availability for irrigation in two mandals of Prakasam district to enhance agricultural productivity and sustain livelihoods. It focuses on strengthening the functionality of village water supply schemes through community training on operation and maintenance, water quality monitoring, and the adoption of inline chlorination systems to ensure continuous access to safe water.

Additionally, the initiative promotes groundwater recharge, source sustainability, and water management to secure long-term resource availability. By reinforcing village-level institutions and governance mechanisms, the program seeks to establish structured, community-led systems that enable equitable water distribution, improved sanitation outcomes, reduced health risks, and resilient rural water infrastructure.



Fig 10.4, Focus
Group Disucssion
Rallacheluka

MOVING AHEAD

The program aims to provide safe and reliable drinking water access to 15,000 households across the project area while improving water availability for irrigation in two mandals of Prakasam district to enhance agricultural productivity and sustain livelihoods. It focuses on strengthening the functionality of village water supply schemes through community training on operation and maintenance, water quality monitoring, and the adoption of inline chlorination systems to ensure continuous access to safe water.

Additionally, the initiative promotes groundwater recharge, source sustainability, and water management to secure long-term resource availability. By reinforcing village-level institutions and governance mechanisms, the program seeks to establish structured, community-led systems that enable equitable water distribution, improved sanitation outcomes, reduced health risks, and resilient rural water infrastructure.

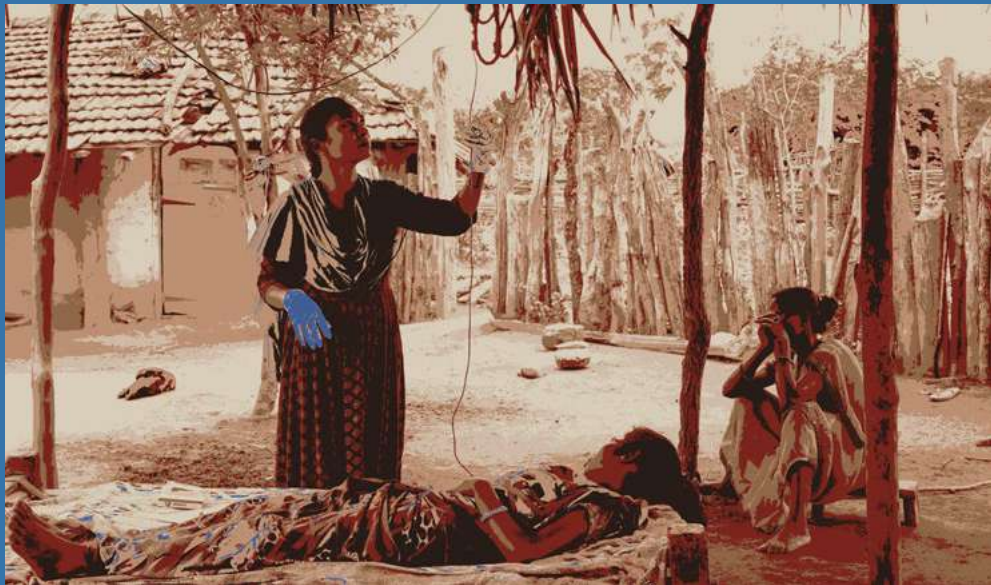


Fig 10.5, MMU service at a tribal hamlet. ironed sucrose infusion, Kranthinagar.

* **MMU** stands for Mobile Medical Unit. These are specialized vehicles or “hospitals on wheels” equipped with medical facilities and staff (doctors, nurses, technicians) designed to provide free or low-cost primary health care, diagnostics, and referral services to remote, underserved, or rural areas.

FINANCIALS

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

S.NO	PARTICULARS	AS IN 31.03.25	AS IN 31.03.24
	INCOME		
I.	REVENUE FROM OPERATION		
	(A) AMOUNT APPROPRIATED FROM EAR MARKED GRANTS	1,43,539	92,060
	(B) AMOUNT AMORTIZED FROM CAPITAL GRANTS	1,507	1,452
	(C) DONATIONS RECEIVED	-	-
II.	OTHER INCOME	34	308
III.	TOTAL INCOME	1,45,080	93,820
IV.	EXPENSES	1,26,926	82,044
	(A) PROGRAM COST	16,613	10,016
	(B) ADMINISTRATIVE COST	1,507	1,452
	(C) DEPRICIATION AND AMORTISATION EXPENSES		
V.	TOTAL EXPENSES	1,45,080	93,820
V.	EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE BEFORE EXCEPTIONAL AND EXTRAORDI-NARY ITEMS AND TAX (III - IV)	34	308
VI.	EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS	-	-
VII.	EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE BEFORE EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS AND TAX (V - VI)	34	308
VIII.	EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS	-	-
IX.	EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE BEFORE TAX (VII- VIII)	34	308
X.	TAX EXPENSE:	-	-
	(1) CURRENT TAX	-	-
	(2) DEFERRED TAX	-	-
XI.	EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIOD (IX-X)	34	308

BALANCE SHEET

S.NO	PARTICULARS	AS IN 31.03.25	AS IN 31.03.24
	EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
I.	SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS		
	(A) SHARE CAPITAL	11	11
	(B) RESERVES AND SURPLUS	2,622	2,588
II.	NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
	OTHER NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
	(A)GRANTS FOR CAPITAL ASSETS	5,027	3,693
	(B)GENERAL FUND	18,649	16,121
III.	CURRENT LIABILITIES		
IV.	(A) OTHER CURRENT LIABILITIES	2,69,566	1,52,869
	(B) SHORT-TERM PROVISIONS	1,207	208
	(C) TRADE PAYABLES		
	(i)TOTAL OUTSTANDING DUES OF MSME	601	322
	(ii)TOTAL OUTSTANDING DUES	360	2,832
	TOTAL	2,98,043	1,78,644
	ASSETS		
	NON CURRENT ASSETS		
VI.	(A) PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	4,751	3,307
	(B) INTANGIBLE ASSET	275	386
VII.	NON CURRENT ASSETS		
	(A) CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	2,83,298	1,68,301
	(B) SHORT-TERM LOANS AND ADVANCES	2,356	1,924
VIII.	(C) OTHER CURRENT ASSETS	7,363	4,726
	TOTAL	2,98,043	1,78,644



VIJAYAVAHINI CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

VIJAYAWADA OFFICE
CNR Complex, 3rd Floor,
Sri Ramachandra Nagar,
Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh 520008

contact@vijayavahini.org

www.vijayavahini.org

VIJAYAVAHINI CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

2024 - 2025