

Improving the lives of Malayali tribes in Eastern Ghats

1000 families

Integrated agro-forestry strengthening adaptive capacity for sustainable livelihoods

Context ●●●

Tribes are from the underprivileged section of society and often live in marginal physical environment. Migration is a significant phenomenon among Malayali tribes. Small land holdings, lack of work, and higher wages prompt them to migrate in search of livelihood. Additionally, growing cash crops abundantly has reduced their access to fruits, vegetables and millets that once grew in their fields.

●●● Intervention

MSSRF has been implementing the NABARD funded Tribal Development Programme (TDP), in four panchayats namely Thirupuli Nadu, Alathur Nadu, Gundur Nadu and Gundani Nadu (TAGG) of Kolli Hills since July 2010. The project size is 1000 families, covering approximately 1000 acres of orchard plantation, in four clusters for seven years. The key objective of this action research project is to curtail migration of tribal farm families and to provide them with options for on-farm livelihood diversification by creating integrated Wadi farms.



TAGG of Kolli Hills

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The following interventions were initiated:

- * Wadi on-farm livelihood diversification through horticulture, silviculture and animal husbandry.
- * Supply of 180800 Plants saplings of Jack fruit, Mango, Cashew, Silveroak, and Co4.
- * Inter-cropping with Millets, Banana, Pineapple, Coffee, Turmeric and pulses in 745 Wadi farms.
- * Construction of compartmental bunds/V bunds, trenches, percolation ponds & common wells in Wadi fields.
- * Village-level awareness camps on water and sanitation were organised.





WADI Farms



- * Promotion of SHGs for inculcating thrift and credit habits, income generation activities for land-less, drudgery reduction along with awareness generation about reproductive health and development aspects.
- * Training and capacity building activities for 7181 beneficiaries were organised over 8401 training days.
- * Groups creation for dissemination of social capital.
- * Promoting backyard poultry, vermi compost production unit, goatary and grocery shops by providing financial assistance as a loan worth of Rs. 30 lakhs.
- * De-centralised processing facilities for majors Wadi crops like cashew, mango, jack fruit to be established under the cooperative fold at two levels viz., village and Federation.
- * Facilitate creation of employment opportunities for jobless tribal families.
- * Providing captive market for the raw material and better returns through value addition and development of market chain for produce emanated from the Wadi villages in future.

Outcomes

- 1000 acres of unused and barren land converted into fertile land.
- Farmers have cultivated multiple crops such as jack fruit, mango, cashew, lime, orange, coffee, pepper, clove and silver oak, ensuring long-term income opportunities from their own land.
- 215 mini percolation ponds and 17 common wells are established in panchayats helping farmers in irrigation, livestock management and household consumption.
- About 138.58 tons of vegetables and 83.62 tons of millets were harvested by farm families.
- 150 on-farm, off-farm and non-farm small scale enterprises are established.
- Energy efficient biomass cook stoves were distributed to 600 families.
- Formation of farmer producer organisation Kolli Hills agri-bioresource Producer Company Limited covering 583 tribal farm families.
- Seasonal out migration has come down drastically

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