

SDGs THROUGH MGNREGS

Panchayat Raj and Rural Development
Department, Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh





Hon'ble Minister Shri Peddireddy, Commissioner and the Department Heads (PR & RD) inaugurating CMs Plantation Drive



PR& RD Commissioner Shri Girija Shankar, Department Heads along with Swaniti Team at CFP Training in Bapatla ETC

SDGs THROUGH MGNREGS

2021

Goal-1

Goal-4

Goal-6

Goal-8

Goal-10

Goal-13

Goal-15

Goal-16

Title

SDGs Through MGNREGS

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Disclaimer

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PREFACE

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), the flagship programme of the Ministry of Rural Development implemented from February 2006 is one of the crucial schemes catering to the enhancement of livelihood security to the rural households. Through the 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year, it also ensure ecological security, better infrastructure and connectivity through asset creation and decentralized governance; by strengthening grassroots democracy and planning. Multiple studies have shown how MGNREGS has directly alleviated poverty and created ripple effects of positive implications. It empowers the most vulnerable through the inclusion of the SC/ST workers (social equity) and women with the mandate of women as 1/3 beneficiaries (gender equity). It also focuses on effective natural resource management and building climate resilience via agricultural, water conservation and afforestation activities along with the most pertinent necessity of construction of sanitation facilities and houses.

MGNREGS has been recognized as the 'core of the core scheme' for attaining **SDG 1: 'No poverty' and crucial in achieving SDG-5: Gender Equality, SDG-8: Decent Work and Economic Growth and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities** as per the Niti Aayog. Along with this, it also plays a pivotal trickle-down effect on other goals of Sustainable Development Goals 2030 which focuses on the '**People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership**'. At the heart of achieving SDGs and the last mile-delivery of public services is the **localisation and action of these goals through the bottom-up framework**. Keeping in mind the importance of localising these goals from setting the targets, implementation and tracking progress, we have brought out this SDG and MGNREGS booklet.

Andhra is the leading state to have enrolled maximum beneficiaries under the scheme, **with the state's new record of having attained 16.7 Crore person-days in MGNREGS against a target of 16 person-days by June 30, 2021. Undoubtedly, with the state scaling new heights with the latest record of having attained 16.7 Crore person-days in MGNREGS against a target of 16 person-days by June 30, 2021. Undoubtedly, with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the MGNREGS brings in a huge respite to the rural distressed. At a turning juncture as this, the MGNREGS- SDG document portrays the impact of MGNREGS on 9 SDG Goals through 13 targets, 22 indicators and evidence drawn from 35 case studies.** For the same, based on the existing open data available such as SDG- India index, Niti Aayog Scheme mapping on SDGs, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and sub-national SDG in Andhra Pradesh index and targets, we shortlisted and prioritised the indicators. A mapping exercise was also done by Swaniti Initiative with support from the Rural Development Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh to further explore the qualitative and quantitative contribution of MGNREGS to SDGs.

The primary step involved a thorough review of the literature to map the goals where MGNREGS has a direct and indirect contribution. Then suitable additional targets were identified, based on which most relevant indicators were shortlisted. For some of the indirect goals and targets, we have come up with tangible indicators and data for instance in goal 4 which targets to achieve quality education-we are utilising the component of fund allocation to create better school infrastructure through MGNREGS works Naadu-Needu (Chief Minister's flagship programme). Before each goal, we have depicted the contemporary SDG state score compared with the national average followed by the indicators mapped. Corroborating these targets and indicators, we have sourced descriptive and collective on-ground success stories over the past five years from the **Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department Government of Andhra Pradesh** and a few from Swaniti's empirical studies. These case studies highlight the significance of the scheme in the lives of wage seekers and its influence on improving their living conditions. Some of these unheard voices from the most interior and vulnerable belts showcase the communities' grit, determination and resilience. As we progress towards the journey of sustainable development, we hope these stories inspire you as they inspired us.

MESSAGE

As the country prepares to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Indian Independence in 2022, the Government of Andhra Pradesh's vision for the future revolves around social and economic inclusion, as well as long-term sustainable growth. The Department of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development administers initiatives and programmes to alleviate multidimensional poverty and improve the rural communities quality of life. The Department's development initiatives have shifted focus in recent years, with the goal of strengthening mutual trust between administration and citizens as a fundamental factor for responsive and transparent governance.

Taking into account multidimensional poverty, the document categorically lays out the scheme's specific success stories, including increased livelihood opportunities for women collectives, effective wage employment for natural resource conservation, creation of climate resilient infrastructures, greater connectivity, transparency and accountability etc. Climate change, which remains a key national and worldwide environmental challenge, has also been addressed by the Department by suitably modifying different wage employment, infrastructure, and livelihoods programs.

Targeted interventions have been planned to increase Skill-based wage and self-employment opportunities through MGNREGs, furthering the objective of producing skilled human resources in India.

While drafting the Document, special attention was paid to aligning the scheme's milestones with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). This document is also aligned with other objectives for convergence, optimization of resource efficiency, social and financial inclusion and the use of new as well as emerging technologies.



Shri. Gopal Krishna Dwivedi, IAS
Principal Secretary of PR & RD,
GoAP

MESSAGE

MGNREGS (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme) is now in its thirteenth year of operation. MGNREGS has developed to become one of the world's largest social protection systems, providing livelihood security to more than 7 million households in rural Andhra Pradesh, with a budget investment of Rs.6,700 crore for FY 2021-22 alone.

I'm delighted to share with you a collection of anecdotes about how MGNREGS has affected lives. The book includes case studies on various MGNREGS projects, such as water conservation and management, rural infrastructure improvement, agriculture, horticulture, and allied activities support, enhancing sustainable livelihood opportunities, and innovative processes for supporting MGNREGS implementation in the state. For all of us, the book has been a source of inspiration.

Over the years, the program has changed significantly. While ensuring employment is the primary goal, the initiative also aims to develop long-term assets and rural infrastructure at the community and household levels in order to improve rural livelihood. In MGNREGS projects, the Department has been putting more emphasis on natural resource management. 100

of the 155 eligible jobs under MGNREGA are related to natural resource management, with 71 of them focusing solely on water collection and conservation. Various Good Governance initiatives have been taken up by the Department to streamline the implementation on ground.

As we keep moving forward, it is extremely important to document our achievements and learnings along the way. I see the document as a continuing publication and sincerely thank Swaniti Initiative and State and District MGNREGA team, for their contributions towards making this compilation possible.



Shri. M. Girija Shankar, IAS
Commissioner of PR & RD,
GoAP

MESSAGE

Globally, accelerating effective partnerships in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) forms the bedrock of development efforts. With the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, there is a greater sense of urgency on adopting, implementing and monitoring the SDG goals at all levels to ensure an equitable society. At Swaniti, we are committed to achieving the outcomes of the 2030 Agenda and abide by its principles through our interventions. Our approach involves partnering with governments, policy leaders, companies and communities throughout the world, equipping them with a mix of problem-solving tools, data & research insights, and advisory services.

Our flagship Andhra Pradesh Social Development project, providing technical assistance to the Department of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development, caters to improve the inclusion and accessibility of nodal schemes in the State. I am inspired by the dedication and conviction of the Department, driving the rural economy and striving to ensure that no one is left behind. Over the past 18 months, my team has had the fruitful and enriching opportunity to assist the Department in crucial policy matters. My compliments and sincere gratitude to Shri Girija Shankar, Commissioner and Shri Gopal Krishna Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, Department of Panchayati Raj and Rural

Development who have always encouraged and motivated the Swaniti team in all their endeavour.

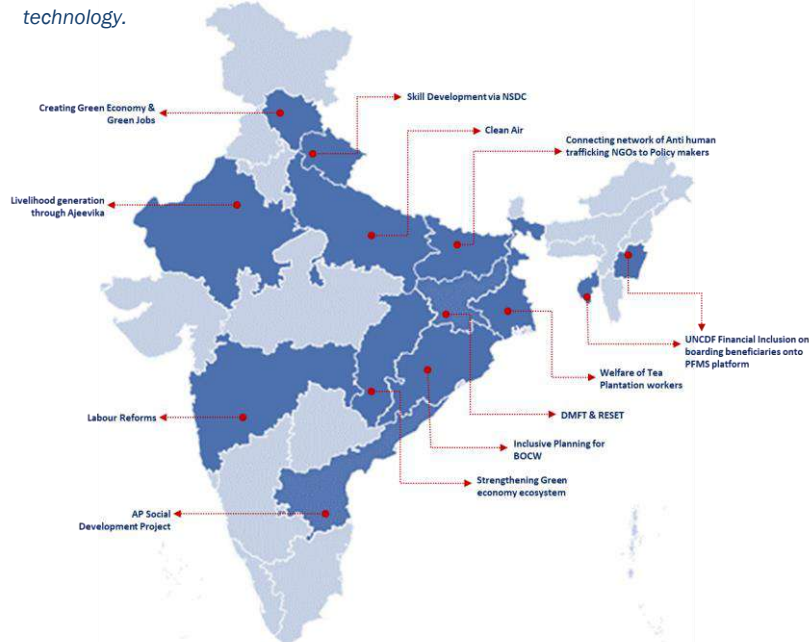
The MGNREGS-SDG coffee-table book showcases the hard work put in by the Andhra government through the scheme interventions and its impact on the ground through the lives of beneficiaries. Reading these stories has been inspiring and heartening. I am also elated to note Swaniti's contribution in bringing out some of the success stories from the fieldwork. I am confident that this publication that maps the contribution of MGNREGS to the SDGs will further help in aligning our focus towards the welfare policies and their impact on the Global Goals. I congratulate and laud the efforts of the Andhra team for this insightful initiative and documentation.



Smt. Rwitwika Bhattacharya,
CEO, Swaniti Initiative

ABOUT SWANITI AND AP SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

A social enterprise that endeavors to provide development solutions to improve delivery of public services across thematic areas of health, education, livelihood, sustainability, water and sanitation through on-ground support, research, data and technology.



State-wide presence of Swaniti Initiative



2.5 Lakh Lives Impacted through various projects



60+ Departments Engaged on knowledge products



300+ policy makers Supported through research

Swaniti Initiative in collaboration with the Department of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development, the Government of Andhra focuses on revamping the core schemes with an emphasis on livelihood generation, the inclusion of marginal farmers, water conservation, and skill development. We identify bottlenecks through ground assessments and propose feasible interventions to ensure bottom-up planning and last-mile delivery through effective implementation.

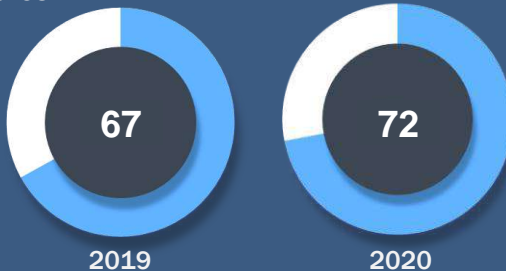
Schemes at focus: MNREGS, IWMP, UNNATI, Rythu Bharosa, Rurban Mission and Grievance Redressal through – ‘Jaano’ application.

Sustainable Development Goals in Andhra Pradesh: At a Glance

Andhra Pradesh SDG performance as a Front Runner

The State of Andhra Pradesh is one of the front-runner states with a composite score of 72 in the year 2020, with the national average at 66. In India, Andhra Pradesh is the pioneer in monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals with its period data, monitoring and updating of dashboards as it paves way towards the SDGs. Further, the State's flagship nine-pillar welfare schemes- Navratnas or the nine assurances envisions the upliftment of the most vulnerable. These nodal schemes of the State government caters to the social development through agriculture, health, education and housing. These Direct Benefit Transfers include support rendered to farmers through Rythu Bharosa and irrigation development, empowerment to women and children through Amma Vodi, YSR Asara and scholarship for higher education, social security through pensions, housing for all and public financed insurance to ensure quality healthcare.

SDG Scores



Goal-1



Goal-4



Goal-6



Goal-8



Goal-10



Goal-13



Goal-15



Goal-16

ACRONYMS

SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals

MGNREGS- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

DWMA-District Water Management Agency

IWMP- Integrated Water-Shed Management

MCC-Mandal Computer Centre

AEPS- Aadhar Enabled Payment System

FA- Field Assistant

TA- Technical Assistant

HA- Horticulture Assistant

PHC- Primary Health Care

ROFR- Recognition of Forest Rights

WHS- Water Harvesting Structure

MPDO-Mandal Parishad Development Officers

IHHL-Individual Household Latrine

SMC- Soil and Moisture Conservation

CCT-Continuous Contour Trench

GP-Gram Panchayat

CC- Cement Concrete

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Case 1-6



Case 7-10



Case 11-14



Case 15-20



Case 21-23



Case 24-25



Case - 26




Case 27-32



Case 33-35



PR& RD State team along with Balaram and Sahithi from Swaniti in a discussion with the MGNREGS beneficiaries at Srikakulam



MGNREGS is the largest social protection scheme, where the resources allocated by the government play a pivotal role directly in poverty reduction.

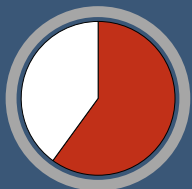
GOAL-1

END POVERTY



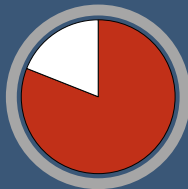
Balaram and Roshni from Swaniti conducting focus group discussion with MGNREGS beneficiaries at Koyyeru, Vishakapatnam

SDG SCORES



60

National Average



81

Andhra Pradesh



Target 1.1

By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day (Rs. 85)

69,45,373

Registered Households

Rs 228.82

Minimum Wage Per Day

1,03,07,871

Total Number of
Labour

Target 1.2

By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty

Rs 4,263 Crore

State budgetary allocation to MGNREGS

Target 1.3

Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable

18.93%

Of population
covered under
MGNREGS

69,26,685

Total job cards
MGNREGS

49,357

No of Households
completed 100 Days

Target 1.4

By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services including financial services

29,92,476 (SC)

Total number of Individual provided wage employment provided to SC, ST community, persons with disability

11,38,682 (ST)

1,26,174 (PWD)



Young entrepreneurs selling their products before Covid-19 pandemic

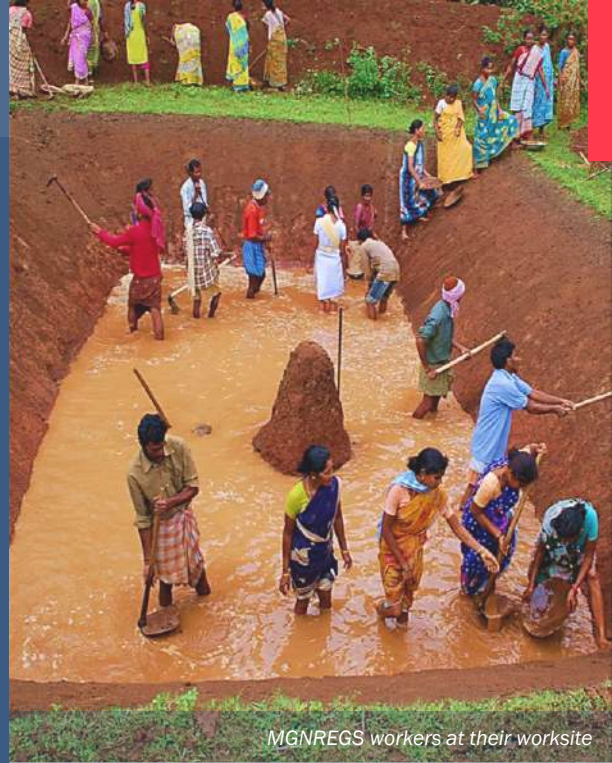
CASE STUDY-1

'Catering' to the needs of these entrepreneurs amidst COVID-19

"We used to earn less than Rs.4000 per head when we were engaged in catering works", says Murali Krishna Naik, a member of the 10 membered culinary enterprises. The culinary and event management enterprise comprises youth aged between 21 to 28 years old from Pamapanur Thandan Atmakur Mandal of Anantapur district. The idea to set up their entrepreneurship was to equip themselves with livelihood opportunity in their hometown itself. As a result, they conducted events along with the catering services in nearby towns such as Kalyandurg, Atmakur, Kudair, Uravakonda and Anantapur. With one or two functions a week they could manage their living expenses and support their family. However, with the COVID-19 pandemic, its socio-economic effects and the lockdown imposed to curtail it, their enterprise has been badly hit. "There are no functions or marriages now and amidst the lockdown, we are in a state of despair", expressed Ramakrishna Naik, another young member of the catering entrepreneurs.

He further responded how in a family of unemployed members as his, necessities as two square meals seemed a distant dream. At this point of despondency two of the team members, Chakravarthi Naik and Diwakar Naik chanced upon few MGNREGS wage seekers who volunteered to connect them with the field assistant.

The field assistant and mates appraised them of the scheme and the entitlements. Although reluctant at first, the youth decided to enroll as a wage seeker during the difficult times of pandemic. Once they started to work as an MGNREGS wage seeker their lives have changed considerably. "Earning Rs.1200 to Rs.1400 weekly, brings in huge respite", opines Diwakar Naik. We are very grateful to the scheme which permitted us to work in our own village's nonagricultural works. The wage payments were timely and enabled us to support our families for survival at a time we couldn't even think of migrating to find an alternate livelihood source.



MGNREGS workers at their worksite

"We are very grateful to the scheme which permitted us to work in our own village's nonagricultural works."



Staggered contour trench



Trenches on hilly areas

CASE DETAILS

District: Vizianagaram

Location of the Asset: Pachipenta GP

Mandal: Panchipenta

Implemented FY: 2020-21

IMPACT



247

Job Cards



390

Wage Seekers



46861

Man Hours



RS 228.06

Average Wage Rate

"I was able to be a part of the scheme during the lockdown and earn Rs.10000. I aspire to be a teacher, and through this I can spend Rs.4000 for coaching centre and study material. I am elated to be with my parents and alleviate their worries through wages earned during the pandemic, thanks to MGNREGA", expresses Eswara Rao.

CASE STUDY-2

'Work is Worship': MGNREGA a Blessing in Disguise for the Youth during COVID-19 pandemic

The entire nation came to a standstill with the nationwide lockdown imposed to curtain the COVID-19 pandemic. The internal migrants of the country were stranded on roads, finding all possible means to reach the safety of their home. As this trend of return migration surged, the dependence on MGNREGS in the villages became manifold. MGNREGS was not only a lifeline but the only means to come out of plunging poverty. Further, there has been a 154 per cent increase in the number of families that sought work between April and

July 2020 with more than 40 million households asking for work the first 25 days of June alone. The amount of people dependent on MGNREGS in Andhra has also increased substantially. The Rural Department MGNREGS officials were prompt in creating the awareness drives and advocacy campaigns to prepare people seeking employment through the scheme through announcements, videos, Television, social media amongst others.



Wage seekers at the worksite



MGNREGS Beneficiary Rekha Papayamma

CASE STUDY-3

MGNREGA: A ray of hope for the elderly

CASE DETAILS

District: Visakhapatnam

Mandal: Anakapalli

Rekha Papayamma, a septuagenarian in the Rekhanipalem village, Anakapalli Mandal is the sole wage-earner of the family. The household which comprises five members also includes her bed-ridden husband. Since the MGNREGS scheme inception, she has been actively involved and she strongly believes that it brings respite during old age. Through the wage received she has been able to manage her household expenses and says every year she eagerly waits for the works to be initiated. She is also a beneficiary of social assistance through pensions and is dependent on these schemes for survival.

“MGNREGS gives me the inner strength and means for survival. Every year as I seek 100 days of employment, I work hard to ensure that I earn the maximum wage. I am eternally grateful for this opportunity”



Sericulture Shed



Site before Implementation



Site during its Implementation

CASE STUDY-4

Towards a better tomorrow through Sericulture

Reddi PaapiNaidu lives in Bathuva Village which is 10 km distance from G Sigadam Mandal headquarters in **Srikakulam district**. In his 2 acres of land, he cultivates crops in 1 season (Kharif season and in rabi season he faced challenges owing to lack of irrigation facility). Every year, he seeks financial help from money lenders to purchase seeds, fertilizers and agricultural input. His household had members who were active participants of MGNREGS. The field assistants and NREGS staff during the subsequent meetings convinced him to

take up Sericulture activity through MGNREGS.

He repaid Rs.0.50 lakh of his total debt from additional income generated from his sericulture unit. His family came out from debts which made it easy in purchasing all the input materials for every spell of mulberry plantation and silkworm rearing batch and now they are in a position to buy input material with their own money.

IMPACT

(30 X 20) Area of sheds usually can contain 200 silkworms. The cost of 200 eggs is Rs.18,000 and it's a one-time investment. The cultivation duration period is 25 days, where revenue of Rs.36,000 would be generated (Rs 300/kg).



Site after implementation



A wage seeker showcasing the constructed soak pit



Constructed Soak pit



Soak pit under construction

CASE STUDY-5

Soak Pits Constructions: Assuring a Healthy Community

CASE DETAILS

Location of the Asset: Vangara
Cost and FY: Rs 2500 and 2018-19

Soak pit- A soak pit, also known as a soak away or leach pit, is a covered, porous walled chamber that allows water to slowly soak into the ground. Pre-settled effluent from a septic tank is discharged to the underground chamber from where it infiltrates into the surrounding soil. The improper drainage system is a menace to the Sriharipuram village. Due to the same, wastewater gets stagnated leaving it a breeding

ground for mosquitoes. These unhygienic conditions coupled with the stagnated water has plagued the villagers with ill health; seasonal issues like fever, Diarrhoea, Malaria and Dengue etc frequently reported. To resolve this, the matter was taken up in the Gram Sabha, and a resolution to construct one Soak pit for every house in the Gram Panchayat, in a manner that the pit is raised above ground level was passed. Ever since the construction of the soak pit, the villagers could happily bid goodbye to the issue of stagnation of water. Health issues have subsided and so has their out-of-pocket expenditure for such diseases and challenges.



Wage seekers digging out a trench

CASE STUDY-6

Hope and Happiness in the Eastern Ghats

CASE DETAILS

District: Visakhapatnam

Mandal: Gangaraju Madugula

In the Kotlagaruvu village of Vantala gram panchayat life is very tough for the villagers. Whether it is a sunny or rainy day, night or morning, they have to climb down the hilly terrain to reach their destination. Joseph an inhabitant explains how even during medical emergencies they are stranded often carrying the patient on their shoulders and running downhill. The nearest point to avail of any rickshaw is about 4 km.

Vantala village is situated in Gangaraju Madugula Mandal of Visakhapatnam district, 130km away from Visakhapatnam, district headquarters. The village has 33 habitations inhabiting around 500 families. Agriculture is their main occupation though some families depend on the collection of minor forest produce during the offseason. MGNREGS scheme has been supporting them enormously for the past 12 years since its inception.

The village faces acute water shortage and drinking water is scarce. Often women go far away to collect water and it is associated with many perils. This is where the MGNREGS work holds its prominence. Almost all villagers in tribal areas work in MGNREGS. They used to dig 'water absorption trenches, staggered trenches on the hill slopes to conserve rainwater. They constructed farm ponds, near their fields to harvest rainwater. Unlike plain areas, tribal pockets don't have any Minor Irrigation Tanks. Water conserved in farm ponds is very useful for them.

"We got an average wage of Rs.240.44 during this pandemic year. Our village alone got Rs. 35.0 Lakhs from Nrega works", says villagers of Vantala. These roads are helping the villagers in transporting coffee beans, vegetables and other agricultural produce to their homes and weekly shandies. We are extending new roads to another 2 habitations of our Gram panchayat, added Chinnammi Field Assistant "These roads are helping the villagers in Vantala".



MGNREGS workers on their way from worksite



Road to Agricultural Fields

Estimated cost of Rs.5.10 Lakhs



876 workers attending work

NREGA work provided to every applicant



81 groups engaged

Out of the total 87,555 groups in the village



1433 man-days

As on present date



Amount of 4.05 lakhs spent

The entire amount spent is towards wages.



90% labour budget utilized

Land levelling, trenches, road works, etc.



14540 person days

work provided to villagers as on date



Children captured in all smiles

Wage employment through MGNREGS is utilized for school education of children. There are also empirical evidences of better school infrastructure through MGNREGS works.



GOAL-4

**QUALITY
EDUCATION**



Society for Employment Generation and Enterprise Development in Andhra Pradesh (SEEDAP)

Department of Skills Development & Training

Government of Andhra Pradesh



SEEDAP – SRTP - YSR DISTRICT



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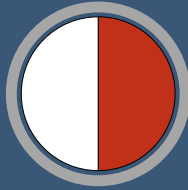
PR&RD team along with Balaram and Sahithi from Swaniti in a discussion with Unnati stakeholders

SDG SCORES



57

National Average



50

Andhra Pradesh

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education

Target 4.1

By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

Rs 3,500 Crores

Fund Allocation for 'Naadu-Needu' - creation of better school infrastructure through MGNREGS works





Society for Employment Generation and Enterprise Development in Andhra Pradesh (SEEDAP)

Department of Skills Development & Training

Government of Andhra Pradesh



SEEDAP – SRTP - YSR DISTRICT



PR&RD team along with Balaram and Sahithi from Swaniti in discussion with Unnati staff and beneficiaries on upskilling

CASE STUDY-7

UNNATI: The Ladder to Skilling

CASE DETAILS

District and Mandal: Guntur and Piduguralla
Village: Chinna Agraharamu



UNNATI beneficiaries at a skill training centre in Vijayanagaram

Dekala Shravani hails from a family of 5 members comprising of parents, 3 siblings and has completed her intermediate education. "Farming was only for a short time during the year, and we couldn't meet our needs through the same. So, my parents started relying on MGNREGS for expenses of my family", says the 18-year-old. From then, they took their job cards and started work.

Through the Field Assistant of the MGNREGS, we were informed that young men and women from families who have completed 100 days of work in EGS are eligible candidates under the UNNATI scheme - which will provide employment post the training, and a stipend of Rs. 237/- per day is given to those who have attended 75% of the training period: amounting to Rs. 21,330. It will be

credited to the account and two pairs of uniforms along with food will be given during the training period.

"On 6th April, I have joined the Kotappakonda TTDC Training Center for 3 months and received training in subjects like Retail, Computer, and Communication skills etc. Timings of the sessions are from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm. Training also includes games and cultural activities for stress relaxation. At the end of the course, Lalitha Jewellers had conducted an interview and I was selected as PRA with a salary of Rs. 11,000. With this, we hope our financial situation will improve which helps in my sibling's education. "My family and I express gratitude to the MGNREGS for giving this opportunity through the UNNATI Program", exclaims Dekala.



School infrastructure development in convergence with Naadu-Needu



MPP English medium school, Pakala Mandal, Chittoor

CASE DETAILS

District and GP: Chittoor, Achchamma Agraharam
Implemented FY: 2020-21

The Estimated Amount: Rs. 889154

Wage Payments: Rs 320458

The Total Cost Value: Rs.400230

IMPACT

As a result, seven varieties: Gorintaku - 20, Grass - 50 sqmt, Ficus - 300, Nerium - 300, Lxora - 300, Euphorbiamilili - 500 were planted in the District Culinary Zone and the roads are very well constructed. The school authorities are currently elated with the impact of creating a park with the cooperation of the MNREGS within a short period. It has created a healthy environment for children prioritizing both physical games and learning through activities. Teachers in the lower primary can teach with live examples arousing curiosity in the minds of children.

CASE STUDY-8

A journey towards building an enhanced learning environment

Eco-friendly parks with lush greenery were constructed within a school aimed at providing provides a vibrant environment for children to learn and grow. With the garden park built through the MGNREGS, this has become a reality for the MPP English Medium School, Pakala Mandal, Chittoor district.

The vacant space in front of the school was first surveyed. With the consent of

the school authorities and villagers the initial steps to build the park began. Following which all the redundant viburnum trees in the area were felled, the ground was ploughed, and the required soil was removed. The loamy soil was also levelled by employed labourers. It also developed land and provided financial assistance to wage earners.



Poolathalli: A young wage seeker

CASE STUDY-9

“MGNREGS helps me afford a better education for my child” - G Poolathalli’s story

G Poolathalli, aged 28, a young single parent of two girls toils hard and heads her family with sheer determination. A resident of Pedanagamayyapalem, Bheemunipatnam Mandal in Visakhapatnam District, she is skilled in tailoring works, however, finds it very hard to find a market for her works. Due to the same, she relies on MGNREGS to generate income. She says that, “given the assurance of work from MGNREGS, she feels that she can do better financial management out of it”. She is availing other social assistance schemes of the government and has a housing loan: which she is burdened by. She hopes to invest and utilize the hard-earned money from MGNREGs for her children's education.

“For a single parent like me, it is very difficult to migrate and find a means of living. With the wages, I earn through MGNREGS I can fund some educational needs of my daughters. I am slowly planning to invest these wages to set up a tailoring unit in a neighboring town”



Focused Group Discussion with women wage seekers conducted by Swaniti



Rooftop rainwater harvesting structure in a school



Rainwater harvesting structures in Anganwadi's

CASE STUDY-10

Roof Top Rainwater Harvesting Structure in Schools

Rooftop Rainwater harvesting structure is the technique through which rainwater is captured from the roof catchments and stored in reservoirs. Harvested rainwater can be stored in sub-surface groundwater reservoir by adopting recharge techniques to meet the government institutions, hospitals, and schools needs.

To meet the ever-increasing demand for water and reduce runoff roof water harvesting structure was constructed at

Vajralapadu Grama panchayat MPP School, Guntur. It also caters to reduce groundwater pollution, soil erosion and floods as well as improve the quality of groundwater. At MPP school and surrounding areas, the groundwater levels are depleted, and hand pumps are dysfunctional. These problems as observed by the community as well as the MPDO & NREGS staff resulted in an active focus on water conservation through MGNREGS.

CASE DETAILS

Mandal: Veldurthi Mandal

Location of Asset: Vajralapadu

Cost: Rs. 73308

Year: 2019

Implementation Agency: MCC/ DWMA

MNREGA, TA and EC prepared an estimate for an amount of Rs 73,308. The work started on 25/08/2019 with measurements of 2.4 m length 2.4 m width 3m depth. The 150mm PVC pipe is connected from the School building to the water harvesting structure. For this structure construction, an amount of Rs 69,145 spent as material payment and a sum of Rs 4,163 as wage. "Today there is an increased groundwater level and the nearest dried-up hand bore wells got recharged", remarked the happy villagers.



Empowering women through equal work opportunities

MGNREGS plays a crucial role in providing decent means of opportunities to women and through the same, it mandates that 1/3rd of the work be given to women.



GOAL-5

**GENDER
EQUALITY**



MGNREGS works assures gender equality through equitable work opportunities

SDG SCORES



48

National Average



58

Andhra Pradesh

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Target 5.1

End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

50,62,667

Women person days
generated under MGNREGS

52.6%

Women person days as
percentage of total person days





Empowering society by empowering its women

CASE STUDY-11

MGNREGA wins Putivaralakshmi's trust

"MGNREGA makes me feel more confident. I'm aware and assured of the payment for my work, which brings respite especially in these distressing times of Covid", says Putivaralakshmi, a 31-year-old wage seeker and inhabitant of the Rekhanipalem village, Visakhapatnam district. Over the past 4 years, she has been actively involved in MGNREGA works. She has completed her higher secondary education and is skilled at stitching. However, she is solely dependent on NREGA for income, as the village does not offer adequate employment opportunities.

During the year 2018-19 she earned around Rs 20,000. Over the years, her earnings and savings have been utilized for her child's education. She was able to cover school commodities ranging from uniform, books and other household expenses. Her husband works as a vegetable vendor in the village outskirts.

Through her education and awareness, she is also impacting the other inhabitants of the village. She plays a huge role in information dissemination related to MGNREGA and assists the villagers in availing the benefits of any other schemes. She's interested in farming and hopes that one day MGNREGA would be converged with agricultural activities.

"MGNREGA makes me feel more confident. I'm aware and assured of the payment for my work, which brings respite especially in these distressing times of Covid"



Putivaralakshmi in MGNREGS work



Women empowerment through MGNREGS



Women at Trench work in MGNREGA



Women digging a farm pond as part of MGNREGA work

CASE STUDY-12

'Women Mates' - Inspiring and uplifting the masses

In the Mondipalem gram panchayat, one could witness the difference in awareness levels on the MGNREGS scheme due to the presence of mates. The mate in the village catered to the responsibilities which included managing the group, giving the mark out, taking the measurement, maintaining the measurement book and updating the Job Cards with details for each worker for the quantum of work done and wages received. The presence of a female mate made it all the more pertinent. Every wage seeker discussed in length how happy they were with the female mate Lakshmi, who has been working for the last 12 years. She also remains very vocal about issues of women such as lack of adequate machinery, public utilities for women, etc.

"I am very happy to work for the MGNREGS. I actively engage with the field functionaries to mobilize and facilitate my duties. I wish more women get the opportunity to work under the scheme"



Drip irrigation in Appikonda Varaalamma farmland



An old wage seeker, Appikonda Varaalamma



Balaram interviewing Appikonda Varaalamma

CASE STUDY-13

MGNREGS : Appikonda Varaalamma's strength and support during oldage

Appikonda Varaalamma, a septuagenarian is solely dependent on MGNREGS for work in Signamalle mandal of Ananthapur district. Her household comprising of her bedridden husband and a son. Her son earns income through agricultural labour and livestock. As one of the elder most active woman in the village, she also holds credit for completing 100 days of work every year from inception. Every year she waits for the MGNREGS to work and seek her livelihood looking after family expenses.



Inside the sericulture shed



Shed constructed for Sericulture purposes

CASE DETAILS

Estimated Man Days: 1255

Total Cost (Rs.): Rs. 6,27,273 Mulberry Plantation (3 years shed construction) + Maintenance

IMPACT



- MGNREGA contribution for mulberry shed 50x20 feet is Rs. 2,03,996, Sericulture Contribution Rs. 82,492.
- Beneficiary Contribution is Rs. 32,235 nearly 218-man days with a total cost is Rs.3,18,723.
- Mulberry Plantations - Estimated Cost: 1.54 L per acre (EGS – 1.22 and Dept – 0.10 L).
- Silkworm Rearing Shed: Type I - Estimated Cost: 2.74 L per Unit (EGS- 1.59 and Dept - 0.82 L)

CASE STUDY-14

Multiple support through MGNREGS: A well changed life for Anuradha

B.Anuradha a farmer in Chittapur Village, Chatrai Mandal, Krishna district grows paddy in her 2 acres of land. Over time with an increased cost of cultivation and natural calamities she shifted to cultivate maize and Chilli production which wasn't fruitful, and she was bogged down by 2 subsequent loss and investment. At this turning juncture, MGNREGS collaborative work with the Seri Culture Department became a boon for her.

Awareness

STEPS TAKEN

01

Awareness and advocacy drives by MGNREGS and Sericulture dept to small and marginal farmers

02

Sensitization

Best practice and sensitization on improved living standards

03

Marketing

Rich dividends through cocoon production encouraging more farmers to take it up in the district



Aerial view of minor irrigation tank constructed through MGNREGS

MGNREGS builds drinking water facilities and contributes to effective water resource management: the works under the Natural Resource Management category

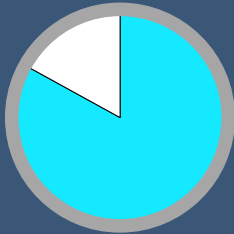


GOAL-6

**CLEAN
WATER &
SANITATION**



SDG SCORES



83

National Average



92

Andhra Pradesh

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Target 6.1

By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations

5,80,622

Construction of individual household latrines under MGNREGS

Target 6.2

Degree of integrated water resources management implementation

Rs. 1,72,05,15,70,586

Total expenditure on water related works





Soil moisture conservation work

CASE STUDY-15

Soil and Moisture Conservation Works, a Ray of Hope for the farmers of Bondapalli Village

Bondapalli village, Garividi mandal in Vijayanagaram district often face chronic drought and is completely dependent on groundwater. This has resulted in groundwater depletion. The small and marginal farmers are unable to bear the expenditure of digging farm ponds or borewells. Additionally with the hard soil, manual digging of farm ponds remains challenging. It is in this backdrop that the excavation of farm ponds through the MGNREGS programme has drawn active participation from wage seekers to effectively conserve water.

To achieve the objective of MGNREGS with a special emphasis on water conservation, the villagers were motivated towards digging of Farm ponds, Staggered Trenches and SMC Trenches with the active support of DWMA. As a result, 191 Farm ponds, 187 SMC Trenches were completed in the village in a record time of 3 years between 2016-19, 550 Staggered Trenches (15 mt length, 1 mt width and 0.60 mt depth) in 50 Acres area of Burra Konda have been dug in addition to the digging of 14 Farm ponds and harvesting of cashew in 40 Acres area.

Further, more desilting of drinking water tanks, renovation of Minor Irrigation tanks, desilting of Rajaka tanks and Cattle ponds have been taken up for improving groundwater levels.

This conservation strategy adopted has given desired results. Groundwater is available by 80-120' now, in comparison to levels of 150-200' during the past decade. Soil erosion has been reduced drastically. Desilting of small cattle pond provides drinking water for the cattle population in the village. The good health of the cattle has also directly improved their income from livestock. Subsequently, with the improvement of soil fertility, farmers were able to sow second crops with more revenue generation within a short time. Women demonstrated the values of thrift, resilience and empowerment with better standards of living. Children are being nurtured with enhanced food security and better education at nearby high schools.



Desilting in field channel work through MGNREGS

CASE DETAILS

District: Vizianagaram

Mandal: Garividi

Location of the Asset: Bondapalli GP, Garividi block

Cost: Rs.105.27 lakhs

Type of works: Farm ponds, Staggered Trenches, SMC Trenches, MI Tanks

FY: 2020-21



636

Job Cards



1445

Wage Seekers



820

Working wage seekers



510

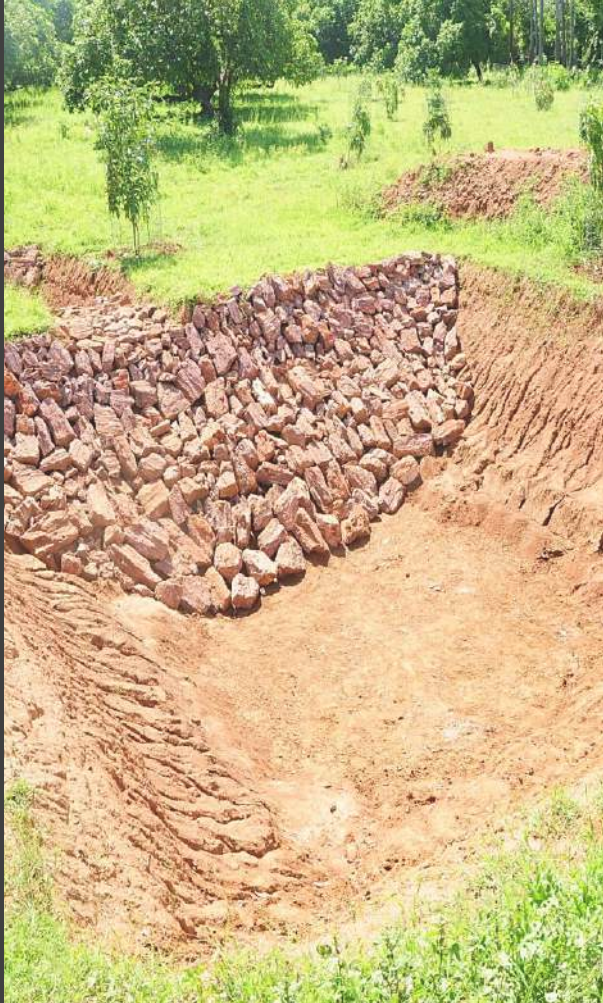
HH with 100 days work



Farm pond work in progress at Jodigutta region

CASE STUDY-16

MGNREGA - Driving the water management efforts and ameliorating the rural distress in Andhra Pradesh



A dugout pond during its construction

Rainfall remains a crucial factor in determining agricultural productivity. The state of Andhra Pradesh which is primarily an agrarian economy is no exception to it. Erratic rainfall has particularly affected the agriculture output and caused water stress in the Prakasam and Rayalseema districts. Owing to the low frequency of rainfall, the annual rainfall received in Guruvajipeta of Kanigiri Mandal in Prakasam District remains scarce. This water scarcity impedes the daily lives of people. Often the inhabitants of the Mandal walk 5-10 KMs to neighboring villages in search of drinking water. All these factors prompted the Department of Rural Development and District Water Management Agency (DWMA) to join hands with the people to culminate the water scarcity in the village.

To effectively conserve rainwater the government officials actively mobilised people and advocated the importance of streamlining water management through the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.

The villagers were encouraged to work and toil to conserve water. Following this, the officials decided to take up 15 types of critical water conservation works including building of check walls and gabions along with plantation of trees. Further DWMA had made an action plan to build 27 rock dams, 15 check dams, 6 gabions, 1 cement check dam, 7 small ponds, 9 large ponds, 20 farm ponds in 250 acres. These works were completed within 3 years.

Later, 2.5 lakh aloe vera plants were planted along with 45,000 plants of Jamun, Sitaphal, neem, teak and other 6 varieties and were watered using the water tankers. Nearly one crore was spent to finish the works in the Jodigutta region



Construction of check dam



A woman wage seeker drying the chilli produce

CASE STUDY-16

IMPACT

The commitment of officers and hard work of the locals have proven to be a successful model for other districts to emulate. The Jodigutta dry land has turned into a lush green with plants. The high impact Watershed Scheme has resulted in higher groundwater levels and the neighbouring villages have started using the handpumps for drinking water. Before most of the borewells were redundant despite digging so deep. This also had a direct bearing on farmers' distress. Now the water is available at just 100 meters depth.

Additionally, farmers who have not grown rice for 5-6 years are now cultivating rice on 200 acres. Further, Tur Dal, cotton, Mirchi and other crops are being cultivated on 500 acres. By eradicating the water distress the village has also seen a reduction in the distress migration from the village. Cattle now relies on the ponds to quench their thirst for water.

Under the Watershed scheme, Guruvajipeta has received two Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants and farmers have received agricultural assistance through the usage of sprinkler, drip irrigation etc. These mechanisms have increased crop productivity as well as enabled the optimal utilisation of water. With these enhanced water management and community participation, the village has proved to be a successful model for other water-stressed villages of the country to adapt and follow.



Dug out pond post construction



Three women wage seekers by the side of the farm pond



Farm ponds through MGNREGS

CASE STUDY-17

Farm ponds: Alleviating thirst

Kalikiri Indlu village, RKVB Peta Gram panchayat in Karvetinagar Mandal of Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh is located 40km from the Headquarter of Chittoor. This habitation faced continuous drought which in turn led to the depletion of groundwater level. As the area is dependent on monsoon rains for agriculture and related activities, the groundwater level is depleting and impacting the outputs.

The immediate need is to treat the natural resources, catchment areas of the common land, private land. This was resounded in the Gram Sabha and led to the conception of integrated

water and soil conservation projects in the area. The technical team of the District resorted to detailed water criticality analyses in the NRM planning process. After the NRM planning process in the district, the identification of problem areas for the creation of water bodies and development of activities natural resources were taken up. The Mandal authorities decided to plan and execute the first phase to take digging of several Farm Ponds, Staggered Trenches, CCTs. Desilting of water bodies taken up and Horticulture Plantation.

Before the planning process, communication (IEC) programmes were carried out through training, Kalajathas, distribution of brochures and pamphlets. MGNREGS field functionaries organized special meetings in villages of kalikiri Indlu, RKVB Peta to educate the farmers on the advantages of taking up farm ponds, Every Farmer was encouraged to take up these Farm ponds by submitting a Job card, Ration Cards, Passbook of land details.



Channeling rainwater to the farm pond



Farm pond post construction

CASE STUDY-17

IMPACT

The activity of digging farm ponds has resulted in ensuring sufficient water in the catchment areas by recharging the water aquifer. Farmers have started horticulture plantations and cultivating water-intensive crops which they never did before due to an acute shortage of water. As a result of the construction of farm ponds in agricultural fields as well as in the local streams, the groundwater level increased in the village, and small and marginal farmers have raised horticulture crops like Mango in 462 Acres. Water conserved is mainly used for: drinking source for cattle, irrigation for horticulture and intercrops like Groundnut, Maize, some vegetables among other community purposes. The most significant finding is the increase in annual income of the beneficiaries in the range of Rs 5,000 to Rs.11,000 in these GPs after the construction of the Farm Ponds.



Field Assistant noting the measurements of the farm pond.



Farm pond in Karvetinagaram, chittoor



Staggered trenches on a hill

CASE STUDY-18

Staggered trenches paving way for enhanced cultivation

Anuppalli Gram panchayat of R.C.Puram Mandal Chittoor district is one of the backward panchayats of the district. Agriculture and allied activities are the main sources of livelihood for around 225 households. Undulating topography, low irrigation potential, erratic rainfall and heavy surface run off during monsoon have made agriculture in this area less productive.

Depletion of groundwater was another matter of grave concern which constrained the digging of new bore wells or deepening the existing bore wells. Crop failure was an additional concern, affecting marginal communities such as SC, ST, small farmers; forcing them to migrate to the neighbouring mandals and towns in search of daily labour and alternative livelihoods.

An integrated plan was proposed for converting wastelands, unproductive lands into productive assets by pooling resources from MGNREGA. The horticulture team visited the area for identification of suitable cultivation such

as Mango crops of 'Alphansa, Benisha, Mallika, Pusa, Pulf varieties and table' varieties. The next important step was to socially mobilize the farmers, job card holders, wage seekers, self-help groups Shrama Sakthi Sangas under MGNREGA. The farmers were also oriented about horticulture plantation and intercropping.

The grama panchayat, district and mandal team next produced a plan, to initiate the works of digging staggered trenches across the hillock. The staggered trenches in this integrated land have helped in retaining surface runoffs leading to adequate water percolation and groundwater recharge. Excavation of Staggered trenches was initiated to ensure the continuing availability of water in the catchments area.

"MGNREGS has empowered the communities in the village, bringing about sustainable development"



Staggered trenches on a hillock at Anuppalli

IMPACT

Nearly 25 hectares of non-productive wasteland have transformed into productive assets while the plantation of mango trees ensured the arrest of large-scale soil erosion in the area. Additionally, continuous social mobilization and relentless awareness campaigns have made the community conscious of democratic decentralized planning and development works. Farmers have changed their cropping techniques and patterns, resorting to intercropping methods in the catchments area.



Check dam in Guntur



Check dam in Nuzendla block, Guntur

CASE STUDY-19

Addressing water distress through Check Dam

Erratic rains and irregularities in harvest, makes the Nuzodla Zone, one of the backward zones in the Guntur district. Due to the same, farmers in Gurrupunaipalam village had to abandon their lands. However, the construction of the check dam through MGNREGS has brought some respite to the villagers. It allows cultivation in the affected land: 80 acres of land belonging to 40 farmers. Through this source, crops such as chillies, lentils, sorghum and tobacco were grown. Over the past two years, crop yields have been improving.

Nearly 25 hectares of non-productive wasteland have transformed into productive assets while the plantation of Mango trees ensure the arrest of large-scale soil erosion in the area. Additionally, continuous social mobilization and relentless awareness campaigns have made the community conscious of democratic decentralized planning and development works. Farmers have changed their cropping techniques and patterns, resorting to intercropping methods in the catchments area.

CASE DETAILS

District: Guntur

Block: Nuzendla

Gram Panchayat: Gurrapunayudi Palace

Name of the Work: Check Dam

Estimated Work: Rs. 2,40,458

No of Working Days Allotted: 1384

Cost of Work: Rs. 2,92,149

Implemented FY: 2019

Supply Value: Rs. 4766

No of Working Days Held: 823

IMPACT

"Now with the construction of check dam, we have some hope. The community is utilising the water for irrigation as well as it serves the cattle water for drinking purpose" - This testimony was uniform across the wage seekers of Nuzendla block".



Bund strengthening through MGNREGS



Pond work while in process



Post repair work of village pond

CASE STUDY-20

One Asset for the neighbourhood

CASE DETAILS

Estimation: Rs. 16,68,082, Year: 2018-19

Food security, clean water and air are the necessities of life. India has a goal of providing safe drinking water to all households by 2022. In our villages reservoir is an important safe water source however over time, in many villages of our country the state of such reservoirs is in poor shape owing to improper management practices. Over time, such village reservoirs have become poorly maintained, overflowing and wasting water. Such structures can

be maintained by following proper management practices from time to time so that all the drinking water, cultivable water and livestock needs can be met.

The success story of minor irrigation tank in Sher Mohammad Peta village in Jaggayyapeta block is an eye-opener for future water storage practices. It has a storage capacity of about 20 lakh litres of water. Such pond embankments are weakened and overgrown with trees inside the pond. It has now become difficult to meet the water requirements of the village. The field assistant in the village prepared everyone to attend repair works of the village with the help of Technical Assistant, Engineering Consultant and Additional Programme Officer. Jungle Clearance and Bund Strengthening works were taken up. The program involved 80 groups working 5,192 working days. Approximately Rs. 10,80,030 was received in the form of salaries.



The bund was toughened to increase water storage capacity.



Water storage capacity increased from the previous 10 lakh litre to 20 Lakh litres.



Increased groundwater levels and enhanced greenery in the village.

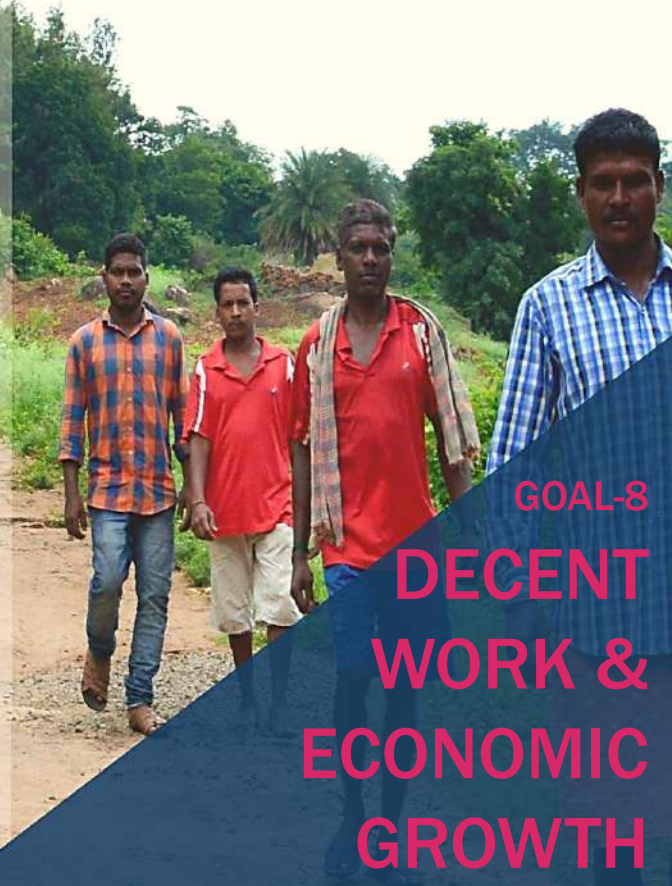


An annual income of Rs.30000 through fish farming by the Fisheries Co-operative Society.



A house constructed in convergence with YSR housing - MGNREGS

Access to wage rates, gender differentiation and wage rates in a particular region positively impact the most vulnerable, meeting the labour standards

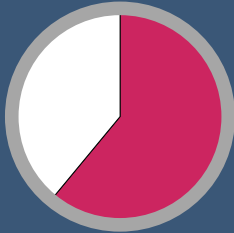


GOAL-8
**DECENT
WORK &
ECONOMIC
GROWTH**



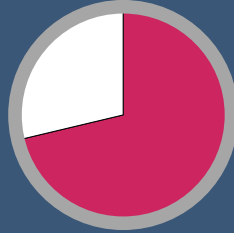
Wage seekers on their way to the worksite

SDG SCORES



61

National Average



67

Andhra Pradesh

Promote sustainable economic growth, full productive employment and decent work for all

Target 8.5

By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

Rs. 222.21

Average Wage rate under MGNREGS
(per day per person)





Fishes being dried on the drying yard near the harbour

CASE STUDY-21

Construction of sustainable assets as fishing yards improving the livelihood of the fishing community

The Coastal belt of Andhra relies primarily on the consumption of fish as their nutrient source. It also provides a major source of livelihood to many through marine and mainland fish production. Once fishing is completed, it is either sold immediately by the fishermen community or stored hygienically for long-term usage. One of the major steps for this is the drying process. Dried fish is utilised in the form of fish meal, as fodder for chickens, pigs and cattle. Non-consumable fish are also dried and mixed with ash to make manure. In a traditional set up the fishermen are used to drying fish on the beach sand or along the roads which

usually takes around 4 to 7 days. Recognizing the role of fish drying platforms in bringing about quality production of dried fish, the state government of Andhra Pradesh undertook the construction of fish drying yards under the MGNREGS.

In Aminabad, a coastal village in the U. Kottapalli Zone, the Field Assistant MGNREGS has sensitized and encouraged fishermen to build fish drying yards. Soon land was allotted to build a fish drying platform near the Durgamata temple in the village- with the estimated cost of Rs. 2,88,848.

IMPACT

Post construction of these fish drying platforms, fishermen started using this platform to dry fish and prawns. Earlier it took 4 to 7 days for the fish to dry on the sand, now the same process is completed within 3 days; drying 500 to 1000 kg of fish at once. With the availability of clean dried fish in a short period, consumers of dried fish also started purchasing at a higher price. Fishermen in the area say that in the past the price was between Rs 100 and Rs 120 per kg but now it is priced above Rs 200. The fishermen are heartily grateful to the Employment Guarantee Scheme for giving them such a great opportunity as their village is today denoted for its dried fish production.



Fish drying yards near to coast



CC road near primary health centre



Individual Household Toilets Constructed



CC Roads along with Avenue Plantations

CASE STUDY-22

Connecting lives through CC Roads and building side canals for sanitization

The main objective of the construction of cement concrete roads and canals in the rural areas is to improve the pathways, sanitation of the village and prevent the health hazard that are caused by mosquitoes and insects.

Chandavaram village has remained underdeveloped for a very long period with necessities as proper drinking water and sanitation systems being a distant dream. The drainage pipe is blocked, which causes the inundation of dirty water on

the road creating health-related havocs and unhygienic living conditions. Such conditions prolong and the roads are flooded with water, making the lives of commuters difficult. During Grama Sabha, a petition was received from villagers for the construction of a side drain along with a cement road. The work was sanctioned with an estimated cost of Rs 33,00,000.

CASE DETAILS

District and Mandal: Guntur and Nadendla

Village: Chandavaram

Estimated Work and Year: Rs. 33,00,000 and 2020

IMPACT

The construction of roads and side canals have been a boon to the people of the village. The CC road makes it easy for the villagers to connect to nearby fields and villages. It also helps them avoid the hassle of bringing the ripe crops from the fields to the house from the narrow roads.

“Before the construction of the road, manure bags had to be hauled by wage seekers to the field but now crops can be transported safely and manure bags can be carried regularly on bicycles, autos and bullock carts. Implementation of this work in MGNREGS is very useful to the villagers and all are very happy that a good road and side drain has been established”, says Satyanarayana a resident of the village of Chandavaram.



FA, APO supervising the work

CASE STUDY-23

Waiting for the monsoons to conserve water: Happier monsoons

CASE DETAILS

District: Kurnool

Location of Asset: Chippagiri Mandal

Cost: Rs. 5.95Cr

FY: 2014-20

Chippagiri was historically known as "SILPAGIRI", named by Sri Krishna Devaraya of the Vijayanagara Dynasty. 101 temples and wells were constructed during his time with the intent to preserve rainwater and meet the drinking water requirements of the people of his kingdom. However, when the groundwater began to deplete, people resorted to collect water in bowls (Chippas) thereby deriving the village name "CHIPPAGIRI".

A total of 1620 families reside in this village with a total land area of 13725 acres, including 12808 acres of black cotton soil, 52 acres of red soil, 37 acres of sandy terrain, 750 acres of infertile land and 78 acres of barren land. 325 acres of ayacut is acres of barren land.

Cotton, Jowar and Groundnut are the primary crops grown in the village of Chippagiri.

Due to the untimely rains prevailing in the area for the past few years, more than 320 families migrated to the cities like Guntur and Bangalore in search of alternate livelihoods. The presence of excess salinity in groundwater affected the fertility of soil making it unfit for cultivation. In addition, the villagers were not aware of water conservation and harvesting techniques. Amidst this distressing water scarcity, the works under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA and IWMP schemes became a life-changer.

"It is only because of the MGNREGS that we have water as a basic amenity", inhabitants of Chippagiri"



Water conservation structure in Chippagiri, Kurnool



Formation of Committees,
Shrama Shakthi Sanghas,
User and Self Help Groups



Training by MCNREGS and
IWMP staff at the cluster
level training centres



Framing & implementing
of village development
plans with participation of
communities



Effective implementation
of the approved water
conservation plans with
help of focused groups



Check dam

CASE STUDY-23

IMPACT

616 farm ponds and dugout ponds were dug and around 74.40 crores of liters of rainwater were stored. During dry spells also 1250 acres of land brought under cultivation and produced effective yields from the fields by utilizing farm pond water. Through Rainwater harvesting structures i.e., Farm ponds, dugout ponds, PTs, Check dams, Gabion structures etc., about 318 acres of land were coved under irrigation. During the harvest of the red chilli crop, more than 550 wage seekers worked. Alternate commercial crops like Taiwan Guava, drumstick, 'Neredu' (Jamun) etc., were also cultivated. This way distressed migration was also controlled. Better living standards at the household with individual assets such as motorbike, android mobiles, television etc., and at the community level one can observe the heightened awareness and journey towards sustainable development.



Dugout pond in Chippagiri mandal



Farm pond in Chippagiri mandal



Women carrying the construction raw materials

The wages through MGNREGS (the largest social protection transfer in the world) directly contributes to Household income, thus improving the living standards



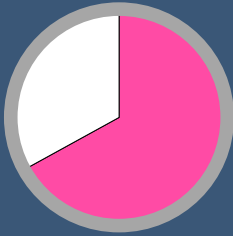
GOAL-10

**REDUCED
INEQUALITIES**



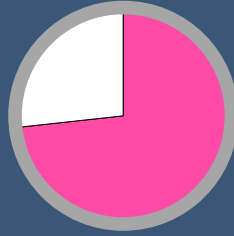
Beneficiaries having a discussion on village development activities

SDG SCORES



67

National Average



74

Andhra Pradesh

Reduce inequality within and among countries

Target 10.1

By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average

27,000

Target to provide skilling for vulnerable households under MGNREGS

635

Total number of barefoot technicians





A women wage seeker with the coffee beans produced in convergence with MGNREGS



Wage seekers in their farmland

CASE STUDY-24

The right to 150 days of employment and progress – the assurance to RoFR farmers

The tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh, remain a top priority for the government. Its development and growth are crucial in building productive societies.

Korra Raju is a resident of Anthriguda village of Pothangi Gram Panchayat of Dumbbriguda mandal in Visakhapatnam district. He is working as a wage seeker MGNREGS from the Financial Year 2009. Through Raju's testimonials, one can understand the difficulties of tribal people.

Before the inception of MGNREGS in the year 2008, the tribal people used to suffer a lot. Raju had no other occupation except to collect and sell Minor Forest Produce. Due to this, forest cover reduced year by year. Life was dominated by difficulties and challenges due to low harvests, meagre earnings and lack of an alternative. Even the day-by-day reduction in forest cover resulted in depletion of resources and non-availability of MFPS.

IMPACT

From the year 2009 onwards, MGNREGS has been supporting Raju's family with 100 days of wage income. They used to get Rs.10,000/- per year. Our needs increased, as my son and daughter started their schooling and income was not sufficient for meeting all the requirements of my family.

In 2016, Government had issued a RoFR Patta for 1 Acre of land in his village. Under MGNREGS there is a provision of 150 days of employment to RoFR Patta holders. So, they used to get extra 50 days of employment from 2016 and earned up to Rs.18,000/- per annum.

Raju used to cultivate crops like Korra, Sama & Red gram in his land previously. He got his ROFR land levelled under MGNREGS. Now he is cultivating 'Paddy' and vegetables in his land.

He has sown coffee during the year 2014, in his fallow land. MGNREGS supported him with a cost of Rs.40,378/- which included pitting, sowing, planting costs, watering charges and maintenance cost. He is now earning Rs. 25,000/- from coffee alone. He has also planted black pepper vines with the help of Coffee board. His earnings from pepper are Rs.60,000/- per annum. He is also growing Cabbage, Tomato for his family consumption and sells the excess produce in nearby shandies. "We work from April to August and January to February in MGNREGS and from August to December" in their RoFR land for the paddy cultivation. From 2009-20 we worked for 1969 days, earning a total wage amount of Rs 2,75,702.



A migrant who returned back to Andhra during the pandemic



Migrant workers who returned, at their worksite in Andhra Pradesh

CASE STUDY-25

Facilitating better governance and reducing inequality amidst the Covid-19 pandemic

Majji Tavudu a resident of Srihari Puram village, Vangara Mandal, Srikakulam district belongs to the marginalised SC community. Poverty-stricken, he migrated to Chennai in search of better opportunities. He was able to work as a construction worker and move his family on the site. However, with the outbreak of the COVID-19, all construction work was stopped which resulted in him losing his job. The Andhra government intervened in facilitating the return migration; back to our hometown. Following which Covid protocols such as 14

quarantine etc were completed. After 14 days, APO and FA, who were already in the process of identifying the migrant labourers conducted awareness drives about the Employment Guarantee Scheme its benefits and the enrolment procedure.

“I am grateful to the State government for the timely measure during the pandemic”

CASE DETAILS

New Job Cards : 10186

Working Days: 91

Benefited Salary: Rs. 21,463

IMPACT


As we started working as wage seeker under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme, we earned Rs. 8000 per month. “For people like me without any formal education and skills, Employment Guarantee Scheme offered equal pay for men and women, which improved standards of living and also in enabling better education for children”.



Majji Tavudu and his family



A Mangrove branch spreading its cover

An aerial photograph of a mangrove forest. The left side of the image shows a dense, lush green canopy of trees. A narrow, winding waterway or canal cuts through the forest, reflecting the sky. On the right side, the forest meets a larger body of water, with some trees growing on small, isolated patches of land. The overall scene is a natural, undisturbed landscape.

MGNREGS focuses on building resilient infrastructure, providing secure, extra wage employment post disasters and reconstruction of structures required post disasters

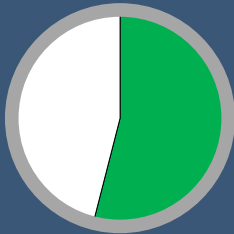
GOAL-13

CLIMATE
ACTION



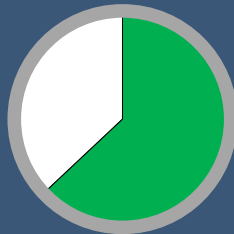
Mangrove roots spread out in the river channel

SDG SCORES



54

National Average



63

Andhra Pradesh

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact

Target 13.1

Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

845 Ha

Conversion of dry land to forest

28.5Ha

Total area covered for mangrove restoration

5500 Lakhs

Est. amount allocated for disaster preparedness





Wage seekers engaged in greening of hillock activity



Mangroves in the West Godavari district

CASE STUDY-26

Grooving to find the resilience - The mangrove way

Mangroves along the coastal wetlands of the country play a crucial role in rural development as well as climate change mitigation. These trees which flourish in the coastal wetlands act as a protective wall against cyclones and soil erosion restoring ecological problems. The state of Andhra Pradesh holds an important role here with the second-largest coastal line in the country with 9 coastal districts. As per the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change Government of India states that Andhra holds 8.12 per cent of

the total mangrove cover in the country. The state of Andhra Pradesh has collaborated with MS Swaminathan Foundation to plant mangroves in the river basins of Krishna and Godavari aiming to prevent soil erosion and improve its overall nutrition. Swaniti Initiative is facilitating the stakeholder engagement and in coordination with Rural Development Department. The Department in coordination with MS Swaminathan Foundation and Swaniti conducted its first training in West Godavari in February.

IMPACT

The Mangrove plantation activities under the convergence activities of MGNREGA were sanctioned on 24th September 2020. Under the first phase of the project seven GPs from five districts along with the 10 works are to be finished under phase 1 of the project. The project covers 28.5 hectares with an estimated cost of ₹ 23.4 lakh. (82,124 x 28.5).



Mangrove roots that absorb excessive salts in soil



An old wage seeker plucking the Guava produce

To ensure a healthy environment MGNREGS caters to protect the natural resource base, afforestation and roadside tree plantations through its identified work categories



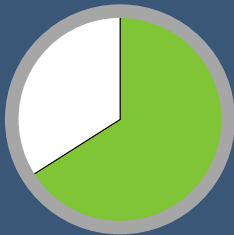
GOAL-15

LIFE ON LAND



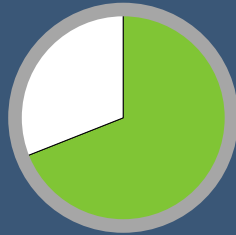
Plantations along the roads

SDG SCORES



66

SDG National
Average Score



69

Andhra Pradesh
SDG Score

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems

Target 15.1

By 2030, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation.

545523.42 Acres

Area (Ha) covered through
horticulture and afforestation
under MGNREGS

26007 Km

Length of roads (Kms)
lined with trees under
MGNREGS





Plantations along the PHC



Plantations along the boundary walls

CASE STUDY-27

Plantations along the PHC's boundary: Safe and healthy environment

The premises of the large Gottipada Primary Health Center were highly unhygienic with waste materials dumped all around. Everyday patients from the adjoining gram panchayats 50 people get medical treatment every day. Unhygienic vicinity coupled with the lack of infrastructure as waiting area made it difficult for elderly citizens and pregnant women.

To address this issue, the Gram Sabhas have approved a high-density linear plantation on the premises of the PHC. Trees like Guava, Apricot and Turai were planted in three rows.

15 wage seekers engaged through 673 working days .Total cost was Rs. 2,41,470 of which the wage was Rs. 1,59,388 and Rs. 82,082 material cost. The beneficiaries who looked after these were allotted Rs 54,000 (Rs 1500 per month for a total of 3 months).

The area around the courtyard, which was once covered with grass ferns and bushes, has now become a landmark with sedges, uniper and fruit-bearing trees. This has also provided a shade around the PHC with a clean and safe environment.

CASE DETAILS

District: Guntur

Block: Prathipadu

"These plantations provide respite from long standing hours in the sun", Srinivas from Prathipadu



A woman seeking shelter under the tree



A farmer exhibiting the ring trench of a tamarind plantation



Nurseries in school compounds

IMPACT

Through 2 acres of guava, the revenue generated is 220-250 kg of guava (Rs. 25 per kg) with a maximum income of Rs. 6,250/- per season. Additionally, through intercrops, he was able to generate some tangible amount which substantially improved his standards of living.



Ring trenches around tamarind plantations

CASE STUDY-28

Cultivating happiness and fortune through Horticulture

CASE DETAILS

Estimated Cost of Work: Rs. 4,16,565

"I took debts from the landlords and invested in various farming activities. But failed. After taking up Guava Plantation I got good returns for my investments, and I cleared all debts one after other thanks to MGNREGS team said a happy farmer Gadu Venkata Ramana.

Gadu Venkataramana, a farmer with 2 acres of ancestral land was also a migrant worker at Visakhapatnam & Chennai. Over time he has been

growing Cassava in his land. Despite knowing that these do not cater to his family's financial needs he hesitated to shift to any other crop.

Roadblocks:

1. Clearing the cassava plantation and shifting to another crop
2. Lack of irrigation
3. Lack of knowledge in other farming activities

As he approached the Field Assistant and Panchayat Secretary for financial assistance, they appraised him of the MGNREGS scheme. Soon with the approval of Gram Sabha in the year 2019-20 and district administration, the work commenced with initial geotagging. Gadu Venkata Ramana was entitled to choose the plantation from their permissible list and received timely support from MGREGA staff who monitored the pitting and planting activities.



Dragon fruit Plantations

CASE STUDY-29

DRAGON FRUIT – The new king of all fruits!

Horticulture plantation remains one of the top priority of the Andhra Pradesh Department of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development. The Department has prepared an action plan to initiate the cultivation of Dragon fruit in all the 13 districts of Andhra Pradesh. The estimated cost is ₹ 184,533 per 0.5 acres spread over three years. This cost covers the preparation of land, raising concrete pillars, and wage payment under MGNREGA. 205 person-days is estimated in the timeframe of three years.

Moreover, in the first phase, the dragon fruit seeds will be provided to the minority section of the society that owns at least 0.5 acres of land. These demographics were categorized under 10 sub-categories that include members from the SCs, STs, nomadic tribes, de-notified tribes, women-headed households, and specially-abled.



A closer view of Dragon Fruit Plant





Women amidst their plantation activities



Ramamohanarao in his Guava farm

CASE STUDY-30

A pilot initiative to a scaled-up District Implementation: The success of horticulture -MGNREGS convergence

Ragam Ramamohanarao of Vemavaram village, Phirangipuram Mandal, Guntur hails from a marginalized community. He used to farm commercial crops like Chilli and Cotton investing huge amounts for the crop in his 3.5 acres. The continual pest attacks, natural calamities and low market price incurred him huge loss year after year. Having been informed about the benefits of horticulture cultivation through MGNREGS through Gram Sabha he applied for Taiwan Guava cultivation. Through the same, he planted 1040 plants in 1.25 acres and over one year, the yield earned him one lakh rupees.

IMPACT

Ragam Ramamohanarao was delighted about his experience and expressed his sheer gratitude. He also strongly believed that other framers in the vicinity should be sensitized about the same to improve revenue. As a part of the pilot, this Guava plantation work was introduced in Guntur District in 2019 with 12 farmers on 19.59 acres. Based on the successful impact created through horticulture plantation, the initiative was scaled up across the district with 338 farmers in 487.47 acres of land in 2020-21.



Beneficiaries in their plantations



Guava Plantation in Bobbili mandal

CASE STUDY-31

Guava Taste Success - Avala Guruvulu's plantation gets a boost

Through Guava plantation activity under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Avala Guruvulu's life has changed manifold. The wage seeker Avala Guruvulu belongs to Komatipalli Village, Bobbili Mandal in Vizianagaram District. The total number of plants planted are 297 and through his produce, he has earned approx Rs.40,000/ to Rs 1,00,000 yearly and Rs 80,000 through inter-cultivation of crops. This is in contrast to his previous experience where despite cultivating different types of crops in

the same land he did not get enough profit. Additionally, he uses only organic manures which saves his input costs.

“With the success of guava plantation under NREGS now he plans to do it with inter-cultivation of groundnuts”.

CASE DETAILS

Estimated Cost: 5,61,224
Sanctioned year: 2019-20
Plants Planted: 297 Nos.
Extent: 4.24 Acres



Guava plantations in Vijayanagaram District



Women wage seekers exhibiting their produce



A woman wage seeker in the Guava farm



Nirikshna kumar with his family in his guava plantation

CASE STUDY-32

GUAVA PLANTATION: a game-changer in alleviating poverty of the marginalized farmers

CASE DETAILS

Year: 2016-19

Yadala Nirikshna Kumar is a daily wage seeker from Inamanamelluru Village, Maddipadu Mandal situated 18 km away from Ongole. Hailing from a poor, rural Dalit family, his only asset is the 1.50 cents of land he inherited from his father.

Before 2016, he cultivated tobacco and chana in his land, but it deemed to be a loss for him. As he learnt further the revenue that could be generated through

a guava plantation he decided to cultivate the same. His land was estimated for guava cultivation and through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme he planted guava seedlings, dug pits and used fertilizers over the three years. The total expenditure for the same was Rs 92,147.

IMPACT

A total of 170 individual guava plants were planted and now Yadala is earning an income of 1.5 lakhs per annum. As an integral part of the guava garden, he has also cultivated green leafy vegetables and earned an average of 1.3 lakhs by selling the produce. His total earnings added up to Rs 2.8 Lakhs per annum. With this increased income, now his standard of living has drastically improved. He is able to finance the education of his two sons at a Central school, Ongole.



Latitude: 13.452659
Longitude: 79.12664
Elevation: 399.12±135 m
Accuracy: 201.0 m
Time: 22-07-2021 11:00

Grievance redressal session conducted by District Associates of Swaniti

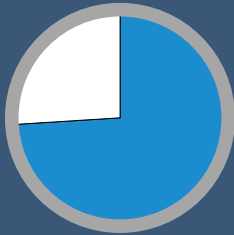
Powered

The degree of transparency and accountability of MGNREGS through a decentralized and inclusive decision-making plays a pivotal role in promoting a peaceful and inclusive society



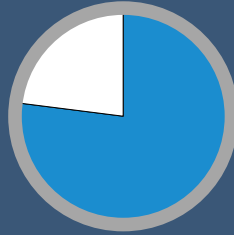
GOAL-16
**PEACE,
JUSTICE &
STRONG
INSTITUTIONS**

SDG SCORES



74

SDG National
Average Score



77

Andhra Pradesh
SDG Score

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development

Target 16.1

Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

412

No. of Social audit units

97.35%

Percentage of geo-tagged MGNREGS assets

99.47%

Percentage of payments generated in 15 days

Target 6.2

Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

99.81%

Number of wage seekers with active UID seeding



Kisslay Anand from Swaniti Initiative conducting a focussed group discussion



Swaniti Development Associate conducting a session on grievance redressal using 'Jaano'



Training session for district stakeholders conducted by District Associates of Swaniti

CASE STUDY-33

JAANO: Bottom-up Planning through Data-driven Processes in Andhra Pradesh

In association with the Social Development project at Andhra, Swaniti Initiative also has its data fellowship programme and application 'Jaano' working towards building effective grievance redressal. The Jaano app bridges the gap between community and government through bottom-up planning, ensuring that public institutions and programs are inclusive and accessible. The Data Associates are trained on various aspects of Rural Development with a special focus on effective implementation of MGNREGA and then deployed to work in districts.

Interventions:

Capacity Building Sessions for MGNREGS

Stakeholders:

1. 600+ MGNREGA and village volunteers Stakeholders are trained so far
2. Building a strong Grievance Redressal system



1826
New Users Acquired



666
Returning Customers



192
Help Requests Received



202
Suggestions Made



187 sec
Average Engagement Time



182
Help Requests Resolved



Grievances redressal at the Panchayat Office



CASE STUDY-34

Transparency and Accountability Connecting the Government and Public

Decentralization and the inclusive nature of decision making under MGNREGS remains a key indicator to promote peaceful and sustainable societies. The state of Andhra Pradesh's social audit and decentralized decision making for the planning of labour budget is one of the biggest reason for the enhanced participation from the different communities and stakeholders. APSSAT covers 100% GPs in the state, while the national average is around 25%. This reflects in the better quality of the audits. Further, the rural development targets aimed at minimize the issues of misappropriation and at curtailing

the monetary amount that is often written off. Swaniti Initiative is working with the stakeholders involved to streamline and enhance the implementation of social audits for MGNREGS. For the same, we are working towards effective convergence, better channelizing of vigilance data and grievance redressal in the implementation - Targeting the stakeholders the process of the audit that starts with door-to-door surveys, work measurements, Gram Sabha to Public Hearing. Post this, the report of the decision is sent to the vigilance team and PD DWMA.

STAKEHOLDERS

1

APSSAT and its entire team
of STMs, SRPs, DRPs and
Village Social Auditors

2

Project Directors, who overlooks
the public hearing and
gives a decision

3

Vigilance team that includes District
Vigilance Officers and the
State vigilance team



Field verification process



Shri Naveen Kumar, IAS, Spl Commissioner reviewing progress of MGNREGA and Plantation Works

CASE STUDY-35

Better governance: tackling the issue of rejected payments

Addressing the rejected payments under MGNREGA has been the Rural Development department's top priority. To achieve the same, Swaniti has been working with the department on many fronts. For example, there has been a 93% drop in rejected payments from ₹ 10 crores on 26th March 2020 to ₹ 72 lakhs by 17th March 2021. Once these figures were evident, Swaniti categorized the data into districts, mandals, gram panchayats, along with the reasons for rejection. These categories helped prioritize the department's resources in solving this

issue as soon as possible. For instance, in February 2021, Vijayanagaram made up for only 0.2% of all unsuccessful payments, while Chittoor & Visakhapatnam made up for 20% each. Considering its urgency, a web conversation between the Project Directors of targeted districts of Vijayanagaram, Vishakhapatnam and Chittoor were held. Best Practices to reduce the rejected payments was also conducted.

In the second instance, team realized that 90% of all rejected payments were

happening due to only 8 reasons. Swaniti's State Program Manager says, "Here we were able to advise the department to focus on just addressing the major issues in the short-term at a time when the Government of India was about to release its budget for the FY 2021-21".



Swaniti Associate Balaram Interacting with beneficiaries

