

Organic Farming

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Creation of Viable and Sustainable Farm Livelihoods by Promoting Natural Farming in 131 old Clusters & 100 New Clusters:

AIMS & OBJECTIVES:

- Improving livelihoods of farmers, with a special focus on small and marginal farmers and landless poor in the State - a focused intervention in 1500 villages of the State reaching out to 5,00,000 farmers directly.
- All farmers in the state, especially small and marginal farmers should have profitable livelihoods from agriculture (agriculture and allied). The Vision is that there should be no agriculture distress. This Goal will be achieved in phases.
- The Govt. of A.P has developed a comprehensive strategy to address this crisis. In the first phase this is planned to be implemented in 1500 villages in all the 13 districts reaching out to 5,00,000 farmers. Work has already started in 704 villages in 131 clusters, covering all the 13 districts. This intensive phase will run for 5 years in these clusters.
- The project is being funded from the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) Program supported by Govt. of India.



THE KEY ELEMENTS OF STRATEGY:

- Climate resilient 'Zero budget natural farming', an agro ecology approach, as the core strategy.
- Knowledge dissemination through – Farmer-to-Farmer experience sharing.
- Extensive use of videos and other ICTs in knowledge dissemination, monitoring farmer practices, promoting traceability, etc.
- Building strong farmer's institutions – farmer SHGs, village federation of SHGs and farmer producer organizations for solidarity, knowledge dissemination, credit, risk management and for marketing.

MANAGEMENT:

- Identification and training the resource persons from among best practicing farmers in Non-Pesticide Management and Organic farming practices.
- Intensive farmer facilitation with the help of farmer facilitators who are practicing natural farming (with in the cluster). There will be one farmer facilitator per 150 farmers and 10 per cluster by paying honorarium.
- In each cluster 1MPEO, 1 Cluster Activist (CA), 2 Community Resource Persons (CRPs) & 30 Master farmers will act as a team to promote natural farming in the clusters.

- d. Farmer Experts who are the best practicing farmers work for 21 - 22 days in each round and train farmers on need based inputs i.e., Preparation of botanical extracts, Ghana/Drava Jeevamrutham etc. & promote NADEPs, SRI cultivation, RFSA methods etc.
- e. New mode of extension with the help of Digital Green Foundation for production of Videos on botanical extracts, soil fertility management, success stories etc., and disseminate in villages with the help of Pico Projectors.
- f. Institution Building and capacity building by organizing farmers into RythuMitra Groups (RMGs), Village Level Federations to bring sustainable improvements in the quality of life of farmers in 131 Organic Clusters of A.P. through Orvakal Mandal Podupu Lakshmi Ikya Sangham (OMPLIS), Orvakal(V&M), Kurnool District. Monitoring the Program by DPMU (District Project Monitoring Unit) &SPMU(State Project Monitoring Unit).

Financial Outlay (2017-18):

- a. The ongoing Organic farming 131 clusters Project is proposed to be implemented under RKVY with financial outlay of Rs.119.24 Crores.
- b. 100 ZBNF new clusters are proposed to implement under RKVY during 2017-18 with financial outlay of Rs.54.92 Crores
- c. In addition to above, ZBNF/Organic farming will be implemented in identified new clusters with financial outlay of Rs.39.32 Crores under PKVY.

SUMMARY OF THE ACTIVITIES:

Capacity Building: Capacity building of Resource Persons and Farmer Experts. Development of Social Capital for scaling up of Program. Each cluster is expected to generate 200 best practitioners cum master trainers and over 5 years this number will touch around 60,000 master trainers. This human resource is critical for scaling up.

Institution Building: 20000 men SHGs will be formed covering 2,00,000 farmers. In turn the 10 to 30 SHGs in a village, will be federated into Village Framers Federation. These village Federations will federate into Farmer producer organizations.

On Farm Farmer Trainings/ Method Demonstrations at cluster level: Best practitioner Community Resource Persons stay in the village/cluster itself for 23 days a month. Video dissemination, Farmer Field Schools, Farmer books, Crop wise protocols and Crop cards form integral part of extension.

Organic Certification: Each cluster will be divided in to 3 Groups with maximum 500 farmers and these groups will be arranged 3rd party Grower Group Certification by an external Certification agency so as to access good market price to their produce.

ZBNF input shops @ one per village, by a ZBNF practitioner to provide need based inputs like Ghanajeevamrutham, drava jeevamrutham, panchagavya, agni asthram, brahma asthram, etc.; Sprayers; seeds of border crops and trap crops; yellow and white sticky traps; pheromone traps; local vegetable seeds; etc.

Cattleshed lining and Urine Collection tanks: Farmers who are already having cows and are practising ZBNF will be supported for cattle shed lining and a large tank for urine collection.

Custom hiring centre per cluster: Custom Hiring Centres (CHC) are on 50% subsidy to the individual beneficiary /attachment to NPM shop.

Promotion of POP (Poorest of Poor) Models to convert: Agricultural Labor into farmers. POP is a ultra-poor strategy which ensures an income of Rs.10,000/-per month.

ToT on ZBNF by Sri. SubashPalekar: It is proposed to organize Regional level TOT on ZBNF to intensify Natural Farming practices in clusters in 13 Districts of AP by Sri. SubhashPalekar, who is well known for his commitment to empower farmers in distress. About 5000 Farmers will position themselves as Farmers' Community Master Trainers.

Livelihood promotion in clusters by providing financial assistance : Livelihood promotion fund limited to Rs.5000/- farmer spread over a period of 3 years with 50% contribution from farmers to utilize for Drought Proofing, Land Development, purchase of Desi Cows, Irrigation, Mechanization, Post-harvest practices etc.

ICT: A comprehensive I.C.T support for Farmer Database, e-Tracking progress on adoption of ZBNF practices, Enabling traceability - certification, Performance monitoring of functionaries, e Marketing, Geo-mapping will be developed.

Facilitation Support: It is proposed to involve NGOs to play a role as facilitating agent in planning process, action plan preparation and Monitoring, linkages with various department and converging schemes, capacity building process and documentation etc.

Expected Outcomes:

- ★ Promoting agriculture in harmony with nature.
- ★ Reducing the costs of cultivation.
- ★ Reducing risks.
- ★ Increasing yields, both in the short run and the long run.
- ★ Increasing price realizations for farmers.
- ★ Enhancing soil fertility, soil biology continuously.
- ★ Promoting bio diversity.
- ★ Enhancing resilience to climate change.
- ★ Healthy chemical free food for all consumers.
- ★ Employment opportunity in villages.
- ★ In addition, there are benefits by way of premium pricing for chemical free produce, improved soil health, climate change resilience, consumer health.



