



STRENGTHENING THE LIVELIHOOD OF TRIBAL FARMERS THROUGH SUPPLY OF QUALITY SEED UNDER TRIBAL SUB-PLAN PROJECT AT MAHBUBNAGAR DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

The tribal population of India constitutes around 8% of total population distributed over 94,000 tribal villages. Tribals are mainly concentrated in Andhra Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, West Bengal, North-Eastern States and North-Western Himalayan States. They had been collecting resources from forest without causing any damage to it. The forest provides them with food and livelihood security. Since tribal communities live in close proximity with biodiversity rich landscapes, they have evolved local specific and novel livelihood strategies based on their indigenous knowledge [1]. This knowledge was passed on through generations and it played an important role in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. By and large, they were depending on nature for their survival. Increase in agricultural production through crop diversification and related technologies enhanced opportunities for rural livelihoods in tribal mandal Amrabad, Mahbubnagar District. Seed is the most basic, critical and vital input for the sustainability in growth of agricultural production. The scarcity of quality seed, its timely unavailability, non-availability of quality seed of adopted varieties, high seed price and role of the middle-man in seed distribution were the challenges before tribal farmers in process of seed availability of adopted improved varieties. Agriculture is the main livelihood for more than 70% tribal households. However, low/fragmented landholding, less rainfall, high soil erosion and insufficient infrastructure restrain

agriculture productivity [2.] Further, primitive agriculture practices of tribal farmers, particularly less crop diversification, incompatibility between crop selection and resource conditions intensify the problem. The present study has been conducted in Mahbubnagar district of Andhra Pradesh for implementation of TSP (Tribal Sub Plan). Accordingly, the focus of the study is on evaluation and implementation of the programme. It is observed that the tribal farmers are slowly coming far ward to take up seed production of improved varieties. A total of 10.0 q/acre of Groundnut and 8.0 q/acre of Castor are produced by the tribal farmers.

Keywords: Tribal Sub Plan, evaluation, implementation.

INTRODUCTION

Since the ages tribal communities live in the lap of the nature. Their economy and culture are closely associated with nature and the nature is like the womb of the mother. The life style and tradition of each indigenous community is unique and is related to the utilization of particular natural resource and particular type of work. The interaction between human being and nature has always been reciprocal. This evident in tribal communities where there always exist a symbiotic relationship between their livelihood pursuits and the surrounding natural resource base like the forest, land, water bodies, mineral resource and other flora and fauna. For tribal people land is important source of livelihoods.



Around 90% of tribe's populations in India were depending on land directly or indirectly for their survival. Their economy was primarily agro based. Land is the only tangible asset for them. Apart from the land forest is the second source of their livelihood. They used to collect various minor forest products from forest for their survival. Their economy was subsistence in nature [3].

Since independence Government of India and Government of various states have taken lots of initiation for development of tribal livelihoods. Lots of programmes are implemented for sustaining their livelihoods. The development policy for the tribal's has changed its strategy continuously in search of sustainability. Despite environmental imperatives supporting the need for natural resources and quantifiable evidence on their contributions to rural economy, natural resources are on the decline in every part of dry tropical regions of India.

The depletion of natural resources and its impact on the local communities are highlighted by many scholars. They clearly point out that a uniform process of development leads to reduction in diversity, which, in turn, leads to depletion of resources, destruction of traditional institutional arrangements and resource management systems, that earlier facilitated the sustainable use of resources. The result is that while the human civilization is being threatened from within by its own internal conditions, the external environment is also being destroyed at a pace that outstrips its regeneration [4].

With the above background the present study tries to understand the changing pattern of rural livelihoods in Amrabad Mandal of Mahbubnagar district. The project is implemented in the Mahbubnagar district of Andhra Pradesh state with the support of Directorate of Seed Research, Mau and Uttar Pradesh during the year 2011-12 under Tribal Sub-Plan Project (TSP). Accordingly seven tribal villages viz; VenkateswarlaBavi, Manddimadugu, Chitlamgunta, Petralchenu, Chenchugudem, Billakallu, Mannanur and Jangireddipalli of Mahbubnagar district were selected and 100 tribal farmers were identified for implementation of the programme.

We have exposed tribal farmers to better agriculture practices through trainings, demonstrations

and extended technical and financial support to use improved variety seeds and use of fertilizers.

I. Training cum demonstrations:

Training programme was organized on 9-02-2012 at Amrabad mandal of Mahbubnagar District. A total of 196 farmers were participated in the programme. Sri. V.Nagireddy, Principal Secretary (Agril.) and Hon'ble vice-chancellor of ANGRAU inaugurated the training programme. Director (Seeds), Associate Director of Research (STZ), along with eight scientists of different disciplines were participated in the programme. Lectures were mainly focused on castor and Groundnut crop viz; package of practices of castor groundnut and safe storage of seed.

II. Demonstration in seed production & Storage activities:

Field demonstration on hybrid seed production of Groundnut and castor was organized on 2-02-12 at Mannanur village of Mahbubnagar District. A total of 100 selected tribal farmers were participated in the programme, farmers were informed about the package of practices, and practically demonstrated the male to female row ratio's, roguing and isolation distance etc., and clarified the doubts raised by the farmers.

III. Supply of quality seed, storage structures and other inputs

High yielding hybrid castor PCH-111 and drought tolerant groundnut variety Kadiri-9 developed by ANGRAU, Rajendranagar were distributed to the selected one hundred tribal farmers. Fertilizers viz; Urea, SSP, MOP, Znso4, and pesticides were distributed at the time of initial crop growth stage. Other items like Knapsack sprayers, Secateurs and storage bins were also distributed to all the selected farmers for storage of seeds.

IV. Promotion and supply of micro irrigation facility to the tribal farming community

A total of ten sprinkler sets were purchased from A.P Micro irrigation department and distributed one sprinkler set to each 10 farmers group and shared by all the members.

Figure 1. Training on Seed Production of Ground nut and Castor



Figure 2. Demonstration on hybrid seed production of castor at Mannanur



Figure 3. Distribution of Castor hybrid and Groundnut Seeds by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, ANGRAU



Figure 4. Distribution of Sprinklers, Sprayers and Storage bins to the tribal farmers



Figure 5. Tribal farmer field at Mannanur village, Mahbubnagar Dt.



SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Selected farmers were trained in seed production, plant protection aspects. It is observed that the tribal farmers are slowly coming far ward to take up seed production of improved varieties. A total of 10.0 q/acre of Groundnut and 8.0 q/acre of Castor yields were recorded in the tribal farmer's fields. Farmers are getting good

prices for their produce. High quality seeds are available to them at right time and place. With increased profit margins, they have become entrepreneurs in seed system and exploring the technical aspects of the market. The project is highly beneficial to the tribal farmers selected at Mahbubnagar District, Andhra Pradesh.

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