

Jointly- They can win the poverty

Ma Tarini Mahila Mandal, GP – Malaspadar, Village-Kehliguda, Block-Mohana, Dist-Gajapati,

Total members- 11 women.

All are tribals, poor & marginal farmers.

Earning- 1. Tiny business NTFP (non-timber forest produce)

2. Laborer

3. Farmers, farm assistance.

4. Mostly depend upon earning of male members of the home.

5. Seasonal business

How & why Ma Tarini Mahila mandal took birth!

One of the objectives of NGO SACAL was to form SHGs in tribal villages.

These 11 poor women of village Kehliguda were economically nearly-equal to each other. Though they do petty microscopic business, do farm labour & collect and sale MFP but the earning was too less & deplorable.

Price rise & cruel twist of nature, unpredictable climate & rain have ruined every marginal tribal farmer. Productivity of soil is reduced.

Every one was fighting; Single handily an unconventional battle against poverty & low buying power.

These 11 women are from the village Kehliguda situated on mid mountain area, survive on subsistence farming have reached breaking point.

Sacal convinced them to form a SHG. They realized, to fight against their economic problems which individually cannot be won.

They agreed to cut the vicious circle with the help of SRI. Every effort was taken to teach them with exposure, training, workshop about SRI.

About 1.5 ac of unused land was taken on lease from village development committee for three straight years. Sacal agreed to depute a staff to help these 11 members who agreed from their heart to take up the challenge of paddy production during Kharif.

One & half acre of land needed a lot of organic input. Except 22 hands & some support from SACAL, they had very less strength to take SRI challenge.

They understood dearly the base input is vermin compost. The two pits were prepared exactly as per the technical specification. Enough raw materials were collected by the 22 hands. Vermes were supplied by SACAL.

The unconditional obedience of these 22 hands was the great asset & strength for the group.

Fed with huge biomass & v.compost & adoption of the right SRI process gave return of 48 qtl of paddy. An unbelievable return.

Other than 3kg paddy seeds, weedier & organic I/p for 1.5 ac soil which amount to about Rs.6000/-, Sacal gave technological support & moral build up. They wanted to sale the total paddy but restrained by the logic of livelihood. 2/3 paddy was sold at Rs.1000/-qtl MSP to earn 32000/- straight by cash.

The SHG agreed to go for 2nd time SRI with renewed interest & vigor.

This time they sold the rice not paddy, dehusked by traditional pounding method to earn more which gave them nearly Rs.55000/- cash from a store selling Organic product. The husk was used as i/p in vermin compost to be again used in the field awaiting for vegetable production.

These 11 women now find new hopes. One & half acre of land is less for them as the two consecutive SRI production have created a lot of self confidence & each is capable to care & attend to 2 acre individually.

The good news of their solidarity & acceptance of SRI is now a talk in nearby villages. Many people, especially women are caring to listen their success story to replicate.