

## Back ground

The continued devastation brought by drought to rural communities in the rainfed areas of Andhra Pradesh is alarming. The impacts of drought vary significantly at small geographic scales due to the natural variability in weather patterns, differences in soil types and water availability, access to resources, markets and social circumstances. The conventional state response to address the drought in the long-term is narrowly focussed on water harvesting, irrigation and relief measures which fails to make substantive impact on the communities' capacities to survive droughts. Therefore, drought needs to be looked at differently and in a broader perspective, beyond water, fodder and employment short-falls during drought periods.

Adaptation of rural society in drought stricken areas to prevailing drought conditions is a complex process. The purpose of drought adaptation is to arrive at a situation in which people are less vulnerable to the varying and extreme weather conditions and able to have a more reliable and steady flow of income and food security.

Drought Adaptation is a process of harmonizing the use of the natural resources with agricultural, livestock and other production systems combining this with a set of economic and institutional instruments so that maximum and sustainable livelihood gains can be obtained from the resources used, across surplus and deficit rainfall years. It also includes providing an economic and food 'safety net' to sustain people and their livelihood assets even when a well-adapted production system fails in the most extreme of external conditions.

With this perspective, an initiative to design a framework for, and to pilot, integrated community scale plans and approaches to drought adaptation building on complementing and consolidating existing development programs has evolved as the **Andhra Pradesh Drought Adaptation Initiative (AP DAI)**.

### Consortium Approach

The Drought Adaptation pilot is rooted in the strength of the Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and is implemented by the federation of women SHGs (Mandal Mahila Samakhyas – MMS) in convergence with various government departments.

The pilot initiative relies on pooling existing experience and expertise of NGOs, research institutes and community based organizations into a consortium of supporting agencies led by WASSAN to facilitate the action research on the ground

The program is anchored by SERP and supported by the World Bank and Government of Andhra Pradesh

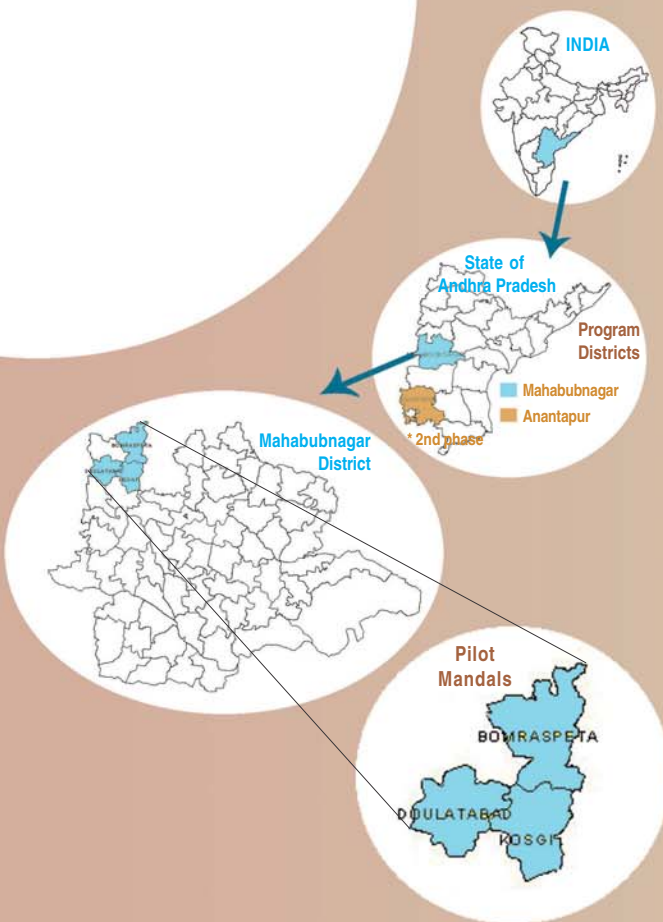
**Convergence:** The project is also converging with programs like Andhra Pradesh Rural Poverty Reduction Program (APRRP), Andhra Pradesh Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (APREGS), Comprehensive Land Development Program (CLDP), Andhra Pradesh Rural Livelihoods Project (APRLP), Andhra Pradesh Micro Irrigation Project (APMIP) among others. It is also drawing lessons for upscaling of successful initiatives with APRLP support in the project area on themes like Networked Backyard Poultry, Community Managed Fisheries, Livestock Health Services etc.

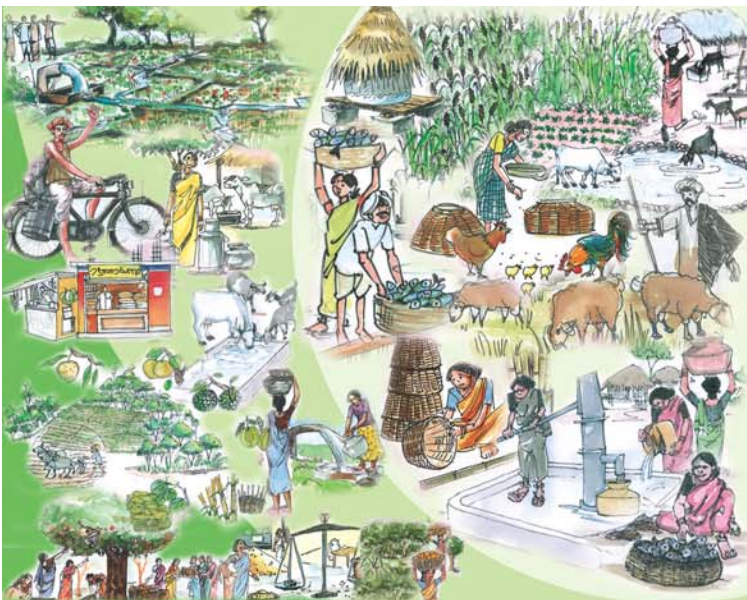
## Areas of Interventions

- ❑ Management of natural resources with an emphasis on community level (ground) water management and management of common land; and creating endowments for surviving droughts
- ❑ Strengthening of production systems with an emphasis on diversification and intensification in agriculture, horticulture, livestock, fisheries and technology innovation;
- ❑ Facilitating Marketing, institutional and economic instruments with special emphasis on improved access to marketing systems and financial services, and on designing and testing innovative drought adaptation risk financing schemes; and
- ❑ Institutional support and capacity building that includes community mobilization and awareness and knowledge sharing.

## Focal Activities

- ❑ Identifying gaps and missing links in the on-going drought-related programs and activities in the select areas/rural communities of AP chosen for participating in the pilot;
- ❑ Facilitating integration and greater alignment of different programs and institutional mechanisms for delivering drought-related assistance to these communities;
- ❑ Designing and testing innovative methods, institutional mechanisms and instruments for helping selected communities to adapt to drought, targeting different groups within these communities (e.g. medium farmers, marginal/small farmers, landless and poorest);
- ❑ Improving awareness on drought adaptation options and approaches
- ❑ Disseminating the results of the pilots' efforts and build support for wider demand generation and replication.





## Objectives

- ❑ Facilitating better coordination, integration and packaging of various programs, currently delivered by different government departments and other institutions with a view to enhance the drought adaptation capacity of affected communities and reducing their vulnerability to drought in the long-term.
- ❑ Developing, testing, evaluating and demonstrating effective packages of drought adaptation measures, institutional models and delivery mechanisms in the selected drought-affected communities.
- ❑ Identifying policy and institutional constraints and opportunities for a more effective, comprehensive and longer-term oriented drought-related service delivery and scaling up of the pilots' results.

## Current Activities - Pilot Initiatives (As on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2006)

- ❑ Collectivizing Groundwater Access and Social Regulation of its Use
- ❑ Enhancing Soil Quality in Rainfed Lands for Greater Drought Tolerance
- ❑ Strategies for Fodder Security
- ❑ Institutional and Management Systems for Regenerating Common Lands and User Rights
- ❑ Evolving Integrated Farming Systems for Drought Adaptation
- ❑ Improving Community based Support Services for Sheep Rearers
- ❑ Land and Water Resources Development with a Drought Perspective
- ❑ Community Managed Livestock Insurance
- ❑ Community Managed Seed Systems

### Initiatives in scaling up process...

- ❑ Community driven Non Pesticidal Management of Crop Pests
- ❑ System of Rice Intensification

### Pilots under development

- ❑ Improve Irrigation Tank Management Systems with a Drought Adaptation Perspective
- ❑ Local Processing and Value Added Marketing of Rainfed Crops

## Expected Results

- ❑ Tested Drought Adaptation Packages of interventions (DAPs) and demonstrated benefits to communities from diversification/drought adaptation measures;
- ❑ Tested methodologies and toolkits for community level drought adaptation planning and implementation;
- ❑ Dissemination materials for community planning;
- ❑ Recommendations on institutional processes, including linkages to the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS);
- ❑ Identified and field-tested opportunities for strengthening institutional support and policy framework for service delivery and scaling up of the pilots' results;
- ❑ Proposal for/design of a larger program



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For more information visit : [www.wassan.org/apdai.htm](http://www.wassan.org/apdai.htm)



## Enhancing Drought Adaptation Capacity of Communities and Reducing Vulnerability to Drought



## Andhra Pradesh Drought Adaptation Initiative

AP DAI

