

WASSAN with support from RRA-Network has initiated **Revitalizing Rainfed Agriculture – Comprehensive Pilot Program (RRA-CP)** in collaboration with the District Administration of Mahabubnagar District since April, 2012, Mandal level farmers' cooperative, Mandal MahilaSamakhya and networks of sheep and goat rearers. The program is taken up in Doulatabad Mandal of Mahabubnagar district for comprehensive development of rainfed agriculture.

TRAVEL WORKSHOP & DISTRICT CONVERGENCE MEETING IN RRA – COMPREHENSIVE PILOT

Visit of District Collector along with all the District Heads of Departments to RRA-CP Initiatives

28TH January 2014

District Collector, Sri Girija Shankar along with the Heads of Department of the district visited the RRA-CP initiatives in Doulatabad district, Andhra Pradesh. The visit culminated with a convergence meeting at MPDO office with all department officials at the Mandal to review progress of convergence of programs and for planning ahead.



Groundwater Collectivization

Chellapur: Groundwater collectivization and sharing with farmers having no borewells is operational in Chellapur since 6 years. Farmers' explained the process and shared the manifold increase in their income with the initiative. The process, sources of investments and convergence possibilities for scaling up were explained by WASSAN team. Farmers from another three blocks (contiguous area) also, communicated their interest in taking up collectivization; it was agreed that such scaling up proposals would be taken up under AP Micro-Irrigation Project.

Seed Bank at Timmareddypally village

District Collector had long discussion with seed bank manager, Village Organization's representatives, farmers and President of the Farmers' Cooperative. They explained the concept of the seed bank, how it works, record keeping and about support of one lakh rupees from ATMA in March, 2013 for demonstrations of groundnut seed, which the seed bank has converted into their revolving fund.



The Joint Director, Agriculture and Asst Director Agriculture are involved in the initiative. Observing that the Seed Bank initiative has gained sufficient experience for scaling up, it was decided to establish four more such seed banks in the entire Mandal.

Integrated Business, Service and Information Centre (BSI)

Integrated BSI is established at Balampet village to serve a cluster of villages around with support from watershed development program (IWMP) and farm mechanization program of the Department of Agriculture and some incubation support from RRA CP. The center provides farm machinery on custom hiring basis, sells sustainable agriculture inputs and also, has a computer center to provide information, including agro-climate advisories, pest and diseases, subsidies for farm machinery etc. He discussed with the villagers and BSI operator and coordinator and seen the sale records. After discussion with the officials, it was agreed in principle that three more such centers can be initiated in the Mandal to cover all the villages.



Review meeting of RRA CP on Convergence

All concerned District and Mandal officials, representatives from Mandal Mahila Samakhya, Farmers' Cooperative, sheep and goat rearers' networks and WASSAN team participated in the review chaired by the District Collector. Each theme/ pilot initiative was reviewed in the forum to get the multi-stakeholder perspective and to elicit further action in course correction and scaling up. Concerned District officials have shared their ideas and made suggestions to overcome the problems. District Collector has insisted District officials to fix the timeframe for each action point. District Collector reviewed the convergence proposals on 12 themes under RRA CP; the needed action points were noted.



Towards the conclusion, he reiterated that RRA CP is an important program for Mahbubnagar and the need to take it forward. The next review meeting is planned in last of week of February, 2014.

The Mandal officials: MPDO, MRO, PO (MGNREGA), AO, AEO, HO, HEO, PO(IWMP), DFO, VAS and their team members

District officials: Shri. Girija Shankar, District Collector

1. Shri. Ravinder, CEO, Zilla Parishad
2. Shri. Chandrasekhar Reddy, PD, DRDA
3. Shri, Rafeeq, JDA
4. Shri. Venkataramana, JD (AH)
5. Shri. Vidyashankar, PD, APMIP
6. Shri. Hussain Babu, APD (watersheds)
7. Shri. Somireddy, AD (Horti)
8. Shri. Mahipal, AD (Fisheries)

Photo Clippings



Showing the Pipeline Network using Map



Dist Collector visit in Groundwater Collectivization & Sharing



Interaction with Villagers and - 3 new blocks farmers came forward



Explaining pipeline networking using Map

Photo Clippings



Interaction with Goat and ram lamb rearers



JA (AH) with Goat and Ram lamb rearers

Jeevakranthi Units in CP



Introducing Seed Bank

Interaction with Seed Bank Managers



Experience sharing with Seed Receiving Farmers, PD (ATMA), PD (APMIP), PD (DRDA) AD (Horticulture) and APD (IWMP)



President, Farmers Cooperative sharing the experiences and future plans with District Collector



Collector and PD DRDA is interacting with BSI team its functioning



Discussion at Information Center



Farmer Information Centre



Inauguration of Paddy and Redgram Seed Processing Unit with Collector and JDA