

The State Animal Husbandry Department (AHD) channeled the funds from the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) to promote backyard poultry (BYP).

*Breed Farm Enterprise
Rampachodavaram ITDA,
East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh*



Breed Farm Enterprise - An Additional Income Source

Chekka Parvati Feeding their Birds with millets which was grown in her own land

Chekka Parvati and her husband Swamulu are residents of Nimmalapalem Hamlet in D.Bheemavaram Panchayat, ITDA Rampachodavaram of East Godavari District. They have two sons and a daughter, who are all married and live in Addategala, a small town 8 km away. They own 15 acres of land, of which 7.5 acres is cultivable and rest is Podu land. During the summer they harvest cashew crop and earn ₹70,000. They manage desi birds and livestock alongside.

Laya the field partner NGO and WASSAN as a lead technical agency organized a gram sabha at Nimmalapalem and explained about the value of desi bird rearing, along with the importance of CIG fund, vaccination services, breed farm construction etc.

During the gram sabha, Chekka Parvati came forward to establish the breed farm enterprise as they already had experience with desi bird rearing. Chekka Parvati invested ₹ 30,000 and she received ₹ 90,000 worth shed construction material, as part of the program. She signed a resolution to distribute 500 chicks to 100 households (HHs) at a cost of ₹ 80 per bird. She earned ₹ 40,000 by distributing chicks to CIG members. Laya organised the necessary capacity building training programmes to train the vaccinators.



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With the money collected from CIG members, a joint account was opened (poultry health care fund) to purchase vaccine and pay the vaccinators, every two months. The vaccinator who was trained initially left the village. So Chekka Parvati was trained to vaccinate the birds. She vaccinates her own birds as well as the birds of the CIG members.

**“If one person in the household dedicates time to manage the desi poultry following the technical suggestions given, we can earn ₹70,000 net income per annum,”
says Chekka Parvati.**

After regular vaccination, the mortality rate among the birds reduced drastically from 75 percent to 20 percent. Earlier, the birds used to sleep on tress and predation was very high. Predation has come down, after using the night shelters and breed farm sheds. In order to provide nutritious feed to the birds, Parvati is growing millets in their farm. She also developed foraging area by sowing vegetable plants, developing termites and Azolla.

In 2019 October, she had 113 birds in her breed farm, of which 16 are cocks, 26 are pullets, 31 are growers and 42 are chicks. She already distributed 500 chicks to their 100 HHs and earned ₹ 40,000. During the local festivals, they offer the birds to their deity and eat within the household. Between January-December 2018, she earned ₹ 60,000 net income (spent ₹20,000 rupees to buy feed during this period).

Chekka Parvati also follows the traditional barter system where she gives a four-five month bird to another person for rearing. They rear the bird till the time it lays eggs and produces chicks. After the chicks are born, the mother bird and half of the chicks are returned to Chekka Parvati. Chekka Parvati has gotten into this arrangement with 21 adjoining HHs.

Every month, several farmers from various districts visit her breed farm, as part of exposure visits. They are motivated to start their own backyard desi poultry activities, seeing first-hand the income Parvati is earning.



Azolla Pit Installed in foraging area to provide nutrient feed for her Birds

