

CASE STUDY



Tribal Pony Rear...



When Swabhiman Anchal was an isolated area dominated by Left Wing Extremists, ponies provided most of the transport; however, development of the area has led to motorcycles overtaking ponies.

The Pony breed is found in the Eastern Ghats region of Andhra Pradesh. Tribal farmers generally rear these animals. The Ponies are smaller horses measuring less than 4 feet or 125 cm in height. Although they may look very similar to regular horses. Ponies have a good temperament and are stubborn and well-adapted to high-altitude areas and able to walk with a load. Farmers keep these animals where there is no road connectivity and transport facility. AOB (Andhra Odisha Boarder) regions it mostly found as pet animals as well.



Is “PONY” assured Livelihood for Tribal Farmers of the Eastern Ghats?

Reported by

Uday Kalyanapu,

Livestock Officer, WASSAN

People who were living in the area depended on these PONY breeds to carry grain and forest produce to weekly market-places. Farmers who hire these animals will pay Rs.200 for every 100kg weight of goods to carry to a distance of 5 to 10km. Farmers who are rearing PONY breeds have become social entrepreneurs and it has become their primary livelihood. They buy grains and forest products locally and sell them in the local market with a Rs.5 / kg margin.



Mr. Karanna belongs to the Konda Dora Community he lives in Tarabu Village, Tarabu Gram Panchayat, and Pedabayalu Mandal. His village is located 70 KM from the district headquarters. Karanna lives in a joint family including his wife, 3 sons their wives and children. Karanna said that he brought 3 animals from Maddigaruvu village 5 years ago and still rearing them. He has 2 acres of Kondapodu. Karanna remembers his childhood days when there was a good population of Ponies. All the households of his village used to rear but came down the ownership of Pony from 30 to 7 households. Every market day, he earns Rs.1500 either hiring his 3 animals to carry turmeric from village to marketplace. Sometimes he also buys turmeric locally and sells it in the local market. He starts at 7 am from his village and reaches the marketplace (Maddhigaruvu) by 11 am, which is nearly a 10km distance. He spends Rs.20 to 30 per day per animal on feed he built a shed for these animals. Karanna named his animals **APPANA** (white in colour), **POTTIDHI** (small in height), and **RAJU** (bigger in size) however he likes *Pottidhi* because it follows his command without fail. Karanna is very much satisfied with his Pony animals because his family depend on them for livelihood. He rears only male animals no breeding is happening in the village. It seems no diseases were observed and no vaccine either.

He washes animals soon after returning from Marketplace and generally follows an extensive grazing system however he uses rice bran, broken rice, and crop residues, etc. as supplementary feed during working days.

The breeding tract of this breed is yet to be explored to find out the breeders and Pony marketplace for further deepening the study of PONY breeds and their significance in the Eastern Ghats. ■



For more info,
please contact

Dr. M.L. Sanyasi Rao

✉ sunny@wassan.org

Mr. Uday Kumar Kalyanapu

✉ udaypoultry@wassan.org

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