



A Training Report on Eco Farm Ponds

- Organized by WASSAN under SABAL Program
- Date & Venue: 17th July 2023 | Doddipalli village of Vanjangi Gram Panchayat

CONTEXT OF THE TRAINING PROGRAM

Farmers in tribal areas are unable to harvest water though they are in high rainfall zones. There are many seasonal and perennial streams that exist in tribal areas, revival of such streams and storing water by creating water harvesting structures like farm ponds is essential. Tribal farmers have realized the importance of farm ponds to save crops during dry spells and farmers are able to irrigate less water consumed crops like Millets and vegetables during rabi season. A significant demand has been observed from the community by seeking support for creating smaller water bodies in their uplands. The main intention of these water bodies is to treat them as crop savers and integrate fish and horticulture to enhance their household level income.

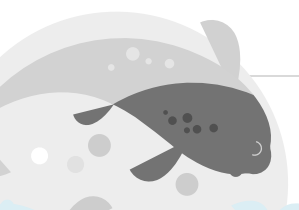
In the above context, WASSAN has organized a one-day training program for the benefit of Cluster Coordinators to understand the water ecosystem and management of existing water resources and its intensification.

PARTICIPANTS

Landscape cluster coordinators of SABAL Project, RYSS field team, Nutrition & health team, Farmers and WASSAN field cadre were also joined. A total of 25 members participated including facilitators.

AGENDA OF THE TRAINING

- To build the concept of Eco farm ponds among the cluster coordinators as well as APCNF field team and ensure all the water bodies convert Farm ponds into Eco Farm ponds and Integrate Fisheries for household level nutrition security.



FACILITATORS

Dr. ML Sanyasi Rao (WASSAN)

Mr. T Narsinga Rao (WASSAN)

OBJECTIVE OF THE TRAINING

1. Convert existing farm ponds into Eco ponds,
2. To increase the utilization of surface water by farmers for saving crops and increasing crop intensity,
3. To utilize bunds by planting fruit-bearing trees, vegetables, fodder species.

The training program started at 10.45am with a self-introduction of each participant. Facilitators explained the context of the training program, what is the significance of having this training now in the monsoon season etc. and the discussion started to understand the water ecosystem. During the group discussion, participants identified the sources of water availability. Facilitators explained *“What are pathways to form water bodies and What was the primary source for all those water bodies.”*

Facilitators have asked the participants what water bodies exist in their GPs and asked the participants to note down vertically on chart paper.



The facilitators have asked the participated after listing out the types of water bodies to put

a tick mark against the each water resource whether it exists in their GPs or not. As per this exercise, the group has realized that streams, tanks and farm ponds and check dams are common water bodies in the tribal area. Rivers and reservoirs do not exist in the area where participants had come from. The group is also realized that the disappearance of springs,

participants opined that Many springs which used to be perennial in the past are becoming seasonal or drying up in the summer season. These springs are potential water sources for cattle and people who live in the uplands of the village and springs are more essential for people who work in Podu lands and coffee fields.

Facilitators lead the discussion around the springs that how to ensure revival of springs? Participants and some senior farmers of Doddipalli village made some recommendations that working on recharge zones through increasing vegetation around the spring lands and proposing a series of rockfill structures to control the flow of water and divert them to store water through creating tanks and Farm Ponds. This discussion concluded that we must propose these works under NREGs and sit with the farmers to identify treatable locations/ sites and potential sites for farm ponds ensure listing of such works through panchayats and support field officers to upload them in the NERGs portal.

PRESENT SCENARIO OF FARM PONDS

Farm ponds are tanks (Cheruvulu) are used for domestic use if they are nearer to village or used for irrigation. There is no practice of intensifying

Identified sources of water:

1. Rain
2. Gullys / drainage
3. Streams
4. Springs
5. Tanks
6. Farm ponds
7. River
8. Checkdam
9. Reservoir

bunds through vegetable and horticulture plants. Facilitators have explained the types of horticulture plants and vegetable & flowers / fodder species can be grown on bunds systematically under 5-layer concept.

Discussion held on intensification of farm ponds. Previous experiences of WASSAN were explained to the participants. Facilitators have asked the participants to work on bund plantations with suitable plant species as per the local conditions.

In this exercise, Mr. Ramaswamy, a farmer from Doddipalli village have shared his experience of Eco- Pond and fish cultivation on his farm who has been involved in the WASSAN CB programs for the last 3 years. All the participants appreciated him, and the team accepted him as a master trainer.

GROUP EXERCISE ON DEVELOPING AN ECO FARM POND:

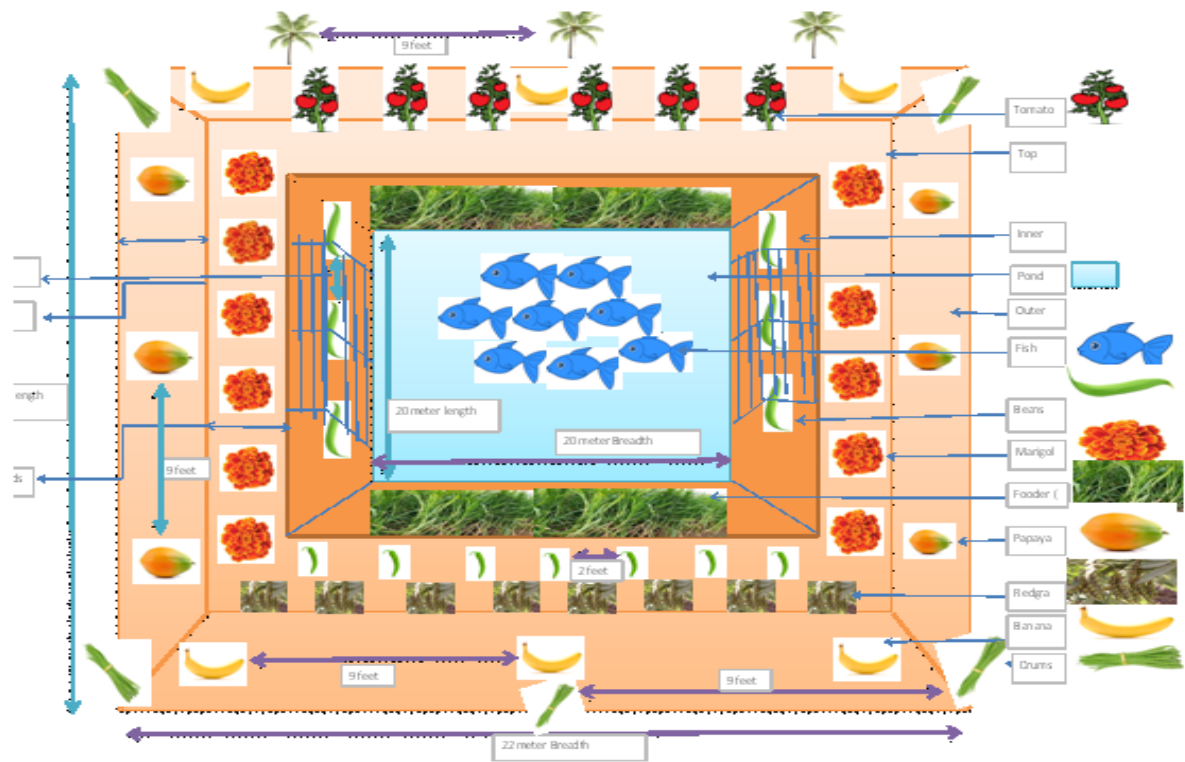
Group exercise was done on the types of plants/vegetables to be grown on pond bunds. Senior experienced farmer and participants sat together and made a list of plants which can be planted on bunds systematically / layer wise.

Plants and vegetables were categorized into 5 layers:

- **Layer-1:** Big canopy trees: Mango, Jamun, Sapota
- **Layer-2:** Medium canopy trees: Drumstick, Citrus varieties, Banana
- **Layer-3:** Small canopy trees: Custard Apple, Papaya, Pomegranate
- **Layer-4:** Vegetables: Redgram, Sunflower, Pineapple, Maize, Brinjal, Marigold, Super Napier Fodder
- **Layer-5:** Creepers: Cowpea, Pumpkin, Ridge gourd, Bottle gourd, Bitter gourd

Intensification Cost

Sl. No	Particulars	No. of Units	Specifications
1	Banana	14	● Distance maintained at 9 ft (2 opposite sides)- outer dykes
2	Papaya	14	● Distance maintained at 9 ft (2 opposite sides)- outer dykes
3	Coconut	4	● 18 ft distance or Corners
4	Beans Bottle gourd/ land race	1	● Distance at 5 ft (2 opposite sides) - Mid inner dykes with Machan model
5	Fodder (Sesbania/ S. Napier)	40	● Distance maintained at 3.2 ft (2 opposite sides)- Lower inner dykes - Napier, Sesbania- outer dyke
6	Chilli / Tomato	1	● Distance maintained at 2 ft (2 opposite sides)- inner edge dykes
7	Drumstick	14	● Distance maintained at 9 ft (2 opposite sides)- outer dykes
8	Redgram - perennial	1	● Distance maintained at 3 ft (2 opposite sides)- Top Bunds
9	Vegetables / Marigold	1	● Distance maintained at 3 ft (2 opposite sides)- Top Bunds
TOTAL		90	



DESIGN & LAYOUT OF INTENSIFICATIONS

FISHERIES: Catla, Rohu, Mrigal are Indian Major Carps, these are well adapted for inland fish culture.

Posters were explained to the participants on classification of fish and feeding behavior of fish. Catla fish living in the surface of water body whereas Rohu survives in the middle of waterbody and Grass carps are living in the bottom of water bodies.

POST LUNCH SESSION

In the post lunch session Ms. Ramaprabha, Mr Rajeswari and Mr Revathi from RYSS also joined.

All the participants visited the farm pond of Regam Mahesh who established his pond from the support of WASSAN with the size of 13*26mts with 2 mts depth in the month of March in 2023. Mahesh has trained on the concept of Eco farm pond, and he planted few plant species like Banana, Papaya, Guava, Napier grass on pond bund and made pandal with locally available wood material to provide support for the climbing varieties like Karela, Beans, Ridge gourd etc.

Participants have identified plants which were already planted by farmers. A few more plants were planted as part of the hands-on experience for trainees.



PARTICIPANTS WERE ASSEMBLED AGAIN AFTER THE FIELD VISIT

Resource materials like a Manual on Rainfed Fisheries and 3 types of posters were distributed to all the participants. Revathi who has been working as NFA health in this unit shared her experiences that to build the nutritional security among tribal women and children, we must promote such innovative interventions like developing Eco farm ponds to meet household needs of vegetables and fish.

WASSAN has targeted to cover all the small water bodies of ITDA Paderu and Manyam district to promote fish culture through convergence support. appealed to the RYSS team to get the farm ponds data with GPs coordination so that supply of fingerlings to farmers easily on time. WASSAN has planned to release fingerlings by 20th of August 2023.

CLOSING REMARKS AND FEEDBACK

Participants like Satyanarayana & Manikumar expressed their happiness about the input which they received from this training program. Ms. Rajeswari and Ms Revathi expressed their support for this kind of intervention in the CNF villages.

Facilitators have closed the session with some way forward actionable key activities and timeline.

ACTION PLAN PREPARED AS PART OF THE FUTURE COURSE

- GP level mapping of potential sites and listing in the NREGS plan.
- GPS coordination details of existing water bodies through Savya app or Note cam. Pond extent and water spread area are also to be collected. By 5th August.
- Listing of farmers for bund intensification with plants and their contribution details to be collected
- Fingerlings have to be released by 15th August.
- Training on rainfed fisheries is to be organized between the 5th to 10th August for all the team.



LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Sl No	Name of the Participant	Gender	Age	Designation	Institution/NGO	Mobile Number
1	G. Raja Prakash	M	35	Cluster Coordinator	Nittaput Landscape	9391803716
2	G. Damodhar	M	28	Program Associate	WASSAN	8099095630
3	M. Manikumar	M	27	Cluster Coordinator	Jattu- Kondabaridi landscape	9676283625
4	S. Surya Manikyam	M	52	Cluster Coordinator	Pinakota- Landscape	8500637929
5	P.V. Swamy	M	27	Cluster Coordinator	KG Pudi-Landscape	9493771770
6	M.L. Sanyasirao	M	50	Regional Manager	WASSAN	9989977835
7	B. Laxmana rao	M	40	Cluster Coordinator	Kovel - Zaderu Landscape	
8	D. Krishnarjun	M	27	Program Associate	WASSAN	9640604559
9	M. Appala Kondababu	M	35	ICRP	RySS	
10	S. Somaraju	M	35	Unit Incharge	RySS, D.Gonduru	
11	M. Eswaramma	F	40	L3, NF	RySS	
12	A Santhi Kumari	F	27	ICRP	RySS	
13	B. Banumathi	F	30	IB-ICRP	RySS	
14	M. Vasantha Kumari	F	30	ICRP	RySS	
15	Prasad	M	35	HN-SRP	RySS	
16	D. Raju	M	30	HN-NFA	RySS	
17	S. Chiranjeevi	M	30	GP coordinator	WASSAN	9346337157
18	T. Narasinga Rao	M	50	Program Officer	WASSAN	9491787476
19	Dr. Rama Prabha	F	55	SHG wing State Incharge	RYSS	
20	Kota Rama Swamy	M	45	Farmer	Doddipalli	
21	Rajitha	F	27	NF Incharge	RYSS-D. Gonduru	
22	Rajeswari	F	42	HN – State team	RYSS	
23	Kuda Nagaraju	M	38	GP Coordinator	WASSAN	8919090954
24	Regam Mahesh	M	40	Farmer	WASSAN	
25	K. Baburao	M	38	Sarpanch	Vanjagi GP	

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