

livelihoods

today and tomorrow

August 2011



CASCADES



Happy Independence! Let all our people have freedom and independence.

14F clause is removed. Hyderabad is now part of sixth zone. T-agitation and U-agitation are hotting up.

State of the Nation Report (CNN-IBN and CSDS) 2011 reveals general dissatisfaction across barring a few states. Food inflation gets in double digit again.

If you want to lose weight and maintain low weight, remember to eat 'irregular' but adequate food balanced over a week.

Let us not allow our humanism and humanitarianism to die at any cost. Let us care all our people. Let us remember all our teachers. Let there be literacy, financial literacy and livelihoods literacy all around. Let the democracy flourish. Let mre democratic institutions come in and flourish!

Let there be peace! Om shantih, shantih, shanthih!

Land and water go hand in hand. Most of the dry land areas are fed by rains. This rain water has to be harvested and stored in small ponds, tanks and reservoirs. The rainfall is erratic. The rain may come in bouts. In an area, it is more this time and less in other areas. It is also possible that the water from rain areas flows into rain shadow areas. There is more water a structure can hold and the excess water flows forward. This excess water is collected in the next structure rather than allowing it to flow in to a river into the sea. These are not one off examples. Across South India we find tank feeding the next tank, in a cascade of tanks. Thousands of tanks, small and big, were carefully constructed some 300-400 years ago. Some of them date back to more than 1000 years. Unfortunately, more than half of these tanks in the cascades are either encroached, silted or become real estates. As a result, the cascade of water storage does not work and the water flows remain unregulated and does not serve the purpose of water harvesting and use. Floods and droughts are amplified as a result.

These tanks are village tanks serving multiple needs of the village, apart from the irrigation. They are source of fish. They are source to wash clothes. They are a source of drinking water for cattle. They also let people take bath. Tank bund temples are common. The water in the tanks keeps the groundwater level high. Majority of the rural livelihoods have some link with the tanks and the well-being of the tanks.

For many a tank, there are traditional systems of maintenance. There are watermen who regulate water flows. The silt is auctioned. The fish/fishing in the tank is auctioned. There are water users associations for the management of the tanks. Many of them are recognized by the governments. There are systems of sharing the costs of maintenance. Annual tank festivals are also common. Thus, tanks constitute an integral element of rural life.

In this context, 'livelihoods' has focused on the tanks and their cascades.

Dr Rajnikant Arole's Jamkhed Health Initiative is a model of community health. Gururaj and Jayashree and their Deshpande Foundation works in the sandbox area (North-west Karnataka) and addresses the multi-dimensional poverty in the area through fellowships and partnerships part from its direct work. Stitching beds is a traditional entrepreneurial activity practiced in an urban context and has demand. 'Water Security and Management' edited by V Ratna Reddy focuses on canals, tanks, wells, and water pollution and discusses policy options based on field research. Livelihoods in Coastal areas are discussed in 'Kshetram'.

With the appreciation that collective action is not new and there are examples in large numbers, for instance, in water, in common properties, in thrift and credit, in enterprises etc., I remain thinking of ways to collectivise the poorest of the poor, vulnerable and the poor across the country, inspired by Shashi Rajagoplan, our dear associate, friend and mentor of the sector.

Shashi, rest in peace! The movement of the collectivisation of the poor continues with renewed spirit.



G. Muralidhar
the 'livelihoods' team

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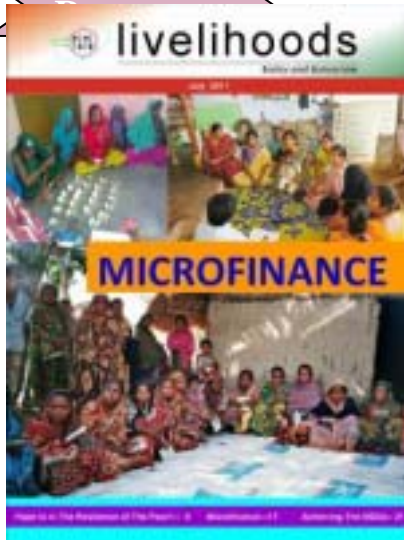
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I received livelihoods July 2011. Magazine is more informative.
I got all old magazines from your website. I feel happy to access
So easy.

Thanks sending magazine.

Lilly

NIRD, Hyderabad.



Sugar Prices to be Held Till November: NEW DELHI:

The Union government admitted that the hike in diesel prices would adversely impact food grain prices in the open market but promised to hold sugar prices till November, when the festival season comes to a close. Addressing a press conference here, Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution said the decision to allow the export of the second 5 lakh tranche of sugar would not impact prices. He denied that there was any pressure from Cabinet Ministers. Union Water Resources Development Minister was also present. Prof. Thomas said his Ministry had sought to hold off export till November but the EGOM, after assessing several factors, had approved it. He said his Ministry had an alternative mechanism in place should prices rise. He said the government would intervene in the market and not allow the prices to hit the roof, as had happened last year. He said the mill owners had been warned against raising prices of sugar and an assurance had been drawn from them before the various recommendations for allowing the export were accepted. While declining to answer a question whether export would be stopped if the prices rose sharply again, the Minister said the entire allocated quantity would not be allowed for transshipment at one go. Denying that there was any discrimination in the export of rice and wheat, he said the matter would be discussed at the next meeting of the EGOM on Food. The good production and procurement would be kept in view, he said.

Thiruvananthapuram Anantha Padmanabha Temple:

With ornaments worth over Rs one lakh crore found in the secret chambers of Lord Anantha Padmanabha Temple, it seems the temple may well be the richest in the entire country. Lighting and oxygen supply have been arranged in these cellars, found about 20 feet deep under the temple, for facilitating scrutiny by the team. These cellars had been provided with ordinary security till recently. After it became public that the worth of items found in the cellars is unimaginable, added security has been provided in

and around the temple. Local police commissioner, said that 80 personnel of the special armed force have been additionally deployed for temple security.



Paddy to be Sown in 275,000 Hectares: GUNTUR:

The Agriculture Department has, in anticipation of normal rainfall this season, estimated that paddy would be sown in 275,000 hectares, and is making arrangements to supply 137,500 quintals of seed required for that over the next couple of months. Half of that quantity will be supplied by AP State Seeds Development Corporation. Cotton is expected to be grown in 180,000 hectares, but unlike in the case of paddy, the onus of supplying seed fully rests on private companies, as it is only BT cotton that is being grown in the district for a long time. Besides, 62,500 quintals of paddy seed was allocated to the district under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM). Under NFSM, 12,300 quintals of paddy seed has already been made available for distribution, according to Joint Director of Agriculture. Seed sufficient for only five acres will be supplied to each farmer upon his/her complying with established procedure

HC Raps NGOs for Poor Upkeep of Night Shelters for Homeless: NEW DELHI:

NGOs that maintain the city's temporary night shelters for the homeless came under fire from the Delhi High Court appointed inspection team reported they were in a poor condition. A division bench comprising Chief Justice and Justice said they might ask the Delhi government to take over these shelters since the NGO's

seemed to be unable to maintain them, leading to low occupancy levels. "Why can't the government directly handle the night shelters?" the bench noted, while questioning the need for NGO's to run the shelters on behalf of the government for which they are paid a monthly fee. The HC was hearing an application moved by the state government, through its counsel Najmi Waziri, seeking to close down the temporary shelters because of low occupancy and rising costs to the exchequer.

Fish workers' Forum to Observe Protest Day: MARGAO:

The National Fish workers' Forum, a federation of state-level trade unions, will observe August 9 as 'Quit India'. Remembrance National Protest Day in all coastal states to bring to fore pertinent issues of fish workers and the country's ecology. This was decided at a two-day conference at Colva where fishing community representatives and leaders from across coastal India discussed and responded to challenges on CRZ notification 2011. Former state tourism minister and NFF chairperson elucidated on the demands of fish workers across the country. R K Patil, general secretary, NFF, demanded that the fishing ban season during monsoons be extended to 90 days. NFF has demanded that there be a separate coastal mission as part of the Prime Minister's National Action Plan on Climate Change.

Tribals Demand Implementation of Forest Rights Act: AMRAVATI:

Alleging injustice by the administration, hundreds of tribal farmers of Melghat staged an agitation in front of President Pratibha Patil's house in Amravati. The tribals highlighted the demand of implementation of the Forest Rights Act as soon as possible in Melghat region. The agitation was staged under the leadership of Purnima Upadhyay, a representative of KHOJ, an NGO working in Melghat for the rights of tribals. "The matters of tracts under Forest Rights Act are pending with the sub divisional committee. Some matter is under process through joint forest management committee of the villages concerned. The forest department and Melghat Tiger

Reserve department razed crop cultivated in Biba, Ektai, Athnada villages. They also carried out plantations in those places to prevent tribals from cultivating that land again," said Upadhyay. She said that to protest this, the tribals had staged agitation on sub divisional office of Achalpur on June 28 and 29 and had given memorandum to SDO and project officer (in charge). The issue was also discussed in the meeting after which the administration had assured tribals to sort out the matter.

NGOs Working for Child Rights Share Their Tales: Gujarat, Ahmadabad: Veera Mori was just another teenager living in a small ghetto in Barda sanctuary in Jamnagar in 2008 when he came across 10 pledges propagated by chief minister Narendra Modi that asked citizens to save water, electricity, spread literacy and follow traffic rules. Touched by it, Mori, 14 then, wrote a poem stating there is no water or electricity or road where he lives, nor there anyone who can read or write. There is not even any marriage in the last two years due to condition of the small ghetto and thus, there is no money for dowry. "It was just another postcard written to the state chief minister. A team of government officials later visited the habitat working on the government orders.

Now, Farmers Seek Higher Payout for Land in Noida: The Noida Extension contagion is spreading. Encouraged by the judiciary's intervention in support of Noida Extension farmers, a group of Noida farmers decided to knock on the Allahabad high court's door for securing a higher compensation for their land acquired in sectors 74-79 as well as in sector 128 where the Jaypee Group has undertaken a mammoth housing project. A maha panchayat of farmers is scheduled, they plan to reach the court with their petition. The merit of the farmers' demands apart, the spread of their agitation to areas where thousands of middle-class investors have sunk in their life savings for getting a home is creating a crisis which might not only badly burn the investors but might also cripple the real estate industry.

NGO Begins 'Green Ganesh' Campaign, Maharashtra, Chandrapur: Concerned over the

pollution-level in Chandrapur, NGO Eco-Pro started a drive titled 'Green Ganesh' about pollution-free Ganesh Utsav. "Idols having chemical colors or which are made of plaster of Paris would add to the pollution woes of the town. Hence we are spreading awareness among the people about pollution free Ganesh Utsav," said president of Eco-Pro Bandu Dhotre. After a similar effort by the NGO, the sub divisional officer had banned POP idols in the town last

- * 'Restore all Aarogyasri tests for private hospitals'
- * FCI clears Rs270 crores dues to rice millers
- * Andhra Pradesh moves to end crop holiday, farmers want stock to be lifted

year. But the orders were revoked later after the idol makers persuaded him, claiming that they would incur heavy loss as thousands of POP idols were already ready. "This year though we will see to it that the prohibition orders are issued well in time, so that the hazardous POP idols are not immersed in the water bodies," he said.

'Fish' Fight Against Malaria in State: Rajasthan, Jaipur: As the number of malaria cases is on the rise in four districts – Bikaner, Ganganagar, Hanumangarh and Churu – this year, the state government has decided to tackle the scourge by rearing gambusia fish in water-bodies. The increase in malaria cases are observed in Suratgarh area of Ganganagar, Ratangarh in Churu, Sangaria in Hanumangarh and Kolayat in Bikaner. In Kolayat, more than 90 cases are recorded while 60 cases are found Suratgarh and in Ratangarh, around 150 cases are detected this year, raising a serious concern, an official said. Officials said water in fields for growing rice crops, have become breeding grounds for mosquitoes, particularly in Churu. Principal health secretary B N Sharma directed the health department officials of the districts to take concrete measures to prevent the disease from spreading. During a meeting the department officials in

Bikaner, in which collectors of all the four districts were present, the issue was discussed in detail.

1,000 Bank Accounts Helped in NRHM Bungling in UP, Lucknow: A maze of bank accounts opened to handle NRHM funds in UP created a transaction structure so complex that it became relatively simple to siphon off thousands of crores of central funds meant for rural health uplift. According to a review report, filed after a 20-member central team visited the state in May 2011, instead of making the fund flow mechanism more transparent, processes were added to weaken the financial management of the Mission. In one such glaring attempt, UP government chose to park NRHM funds through over 1,000 bank accounts, where less than a 100, across all levels of implementation, could have sufficed. The report says: "NRHM had envisaged an amalgamation of all fund flows through the SHS (State Health Society) to the DHCs (District Health Committees) for all programs. However, multiplicity of bank accounts being maintained at various levels in the state meant the streamlined, cohesive fund flows under NRHM were not in place.

Food Security Law Could Push up World Prices, Widen Subsidy Bill :NEW DELHI: The proposed Food Security Act has the potential to stoke global food prices and significantly increase the country's food subsidy bill, officials and experts say. The government plans to introduce a legislation which aims to ensure food security for 75% of the rural households and 50% of the urban areas and includes both below poverty line and above poverty line families. Experts say that in case there is a drought in future and procurement drops below the desired level, the government may have to resort to imports to meet the commitment under the proposed Act and this is bound to trigger a sharp increase in global prices given the likely scale of the imports. "Percentage share of decline in rural population for India is 3.35 and increase in urbanization is 3.35. In Assam, the decline in rural share is 1.18 per cent and the subsequent increase in urbanization is 1.18 per cent," . ❖

Jamkhed Dr. Rajanikant Arole

Magsaysay awardee Dr Rajanikant Arole, who pioneered the 'Jamkhed Model' of health system, was 77. Dr Arole had launched a rural health initiative in 1970-71 in the drought-prone Ahmednagar district along with his wife Dr Mabelle Arole.

Dr Arole was born in September 18th, 1934, at Rahuri in Ahmednagar district and he died in May 25th 2011. Raj Arole did his BSc in 1954 from Wilson College in Bombay and later got his MBBS degree in 1959 from CMC, Vellore. He went to learn higher skills in the US, working at Cleveland Clinic and John Hopkins two of the most renowned programs before returning to India in 1970.

Arole came back to India in 1970. He chose to practice in Jamkhed in Ahmednagar district in 1970, he had prepared meticulously and thoroughly conducted a research on the communities there. He had joined a small voluntary hospital in Maharashtra before going to US for further studies.

He selected a region Jamkhed where the villager's existence was grim and seemingly hopeless. Leprosy and tuberculosis were prevalent, although often unreported. Infant mortality ranged between 50 and 80 per 1,000 live births. Malnutrition, especially among children under five years of age, was widely reported that time. Gastrointestinal diseases were prevalent owing to the consumption of contaminated water taken from streams and ponds.

The simple curative medical practice begun by the Aroles in a small lent cowshed in Jamkhed won them acceptance by community leaders there. Dr. Raj Arole, says that village health workers, often illiterate older women, were nominated and trained to give simple treatment and bring serious cases to a mobile medical team weekly. "Their work in rural health formed the basis of today's National Rural Health Mission,"

Seeking to reach the goal of health for all, General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) in partnership with the Council of Evangelical Methodist Churches in Latin America and the Caribbean (CIEMAL) and the Democratic Republic of Congo, and other countries in Africa and Asia; and with Dr. Rajanikant Arole of India-- participates in a program of assessment, training, and implementation in several countries around the world. This program prepares lay and professional health promoters from both rural and urban areas.

According to Dr. Raj Arole, three principles serve as the basis for the Comprehensive Community based Primary Health Care (CCPHC) programs.

* The first principle is 'Equity': The program must reach everyone, including the poorest of the poor.

*The second principle is 'Integration': Not only curative and preventive medicine but medical attention must be integrated with other factors that enhance life and health, such as agriculture, education, and a safe water supply.

*The third principle is 'Empowerment': Poor people who receive knowledge, information and models of organizing realize that they have the power to transform their own reality.

With these principles in mind, a CCPHC promoter needs to go to a community with humility, honesty, boldness, and faith. The health promoter must go to the people, live with them, learn with them, love them, begin with what they know, and build with what they already possess. Then they will be able to say: "We achieved it and we'll work hard to sustain it and improve it."

Dr Arole enabled the promotion of preventive community-based health care and also made sure that communities have access to quality curative care through hospital, clinic, or health post, as appropriate. There is no either /or when it comes to institutional and community-based health care. Both are important and should be utilized in ways appropriate to the needs of the community, as determined by community members. According to Dr. Raj Arole, "Community health is a spiritual thing." One of the health workers at Jamkhed summed up the impact of CCPHC training in her life in these words: "As I change, I change the world around me."

Dr Raj Arole was the proud recipient of 'Ramon Magsaysay' award in 1979, the award known as Noble of Asia region for his remarkable contribution in the field of Health sector. He was honored with 'Padma Bhushan' in 1990 and 'Mother Teresa International' award in 2005.

Despite suffering ill health for a long time, Dr Raj Arole continued with his social work till his last breath. He was involved in the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and also served in the Planning Commission of India. In memory of his wife Dr.Mabelle Arole who died in 1999, a Fellowship named after her was founded in 2001. The Fellowship is given annually to a recent college graduate to study community-based primary health care, and to live and learn in Jamkhed for a year to imbibe Dr.Mabelle wisdom and healing spirit.

Dr Raj Arole efforts to combine community development with a comprehensive approach to rural health care using the 'Jamkhed model' have been recognized by numerous International Organizations. He worked Health Project in Jamkhed among the rural poor and marginalized for over 40 years. His mission is to provide basic healthcare to the rural poor by providing health training to downtrodden and illiterate women. The 'Jamkhed Model' won him wide acclaim and was emulated in other countries as well, because of his yeoman services. ❖



Livelihoods in Coastal Areas

India is the seventh largest country in the world with total land area of 3,287,263 square Km. Indian coastline is characterized by several eco systems and resources. In coastal areas large economic activities are located. Coastal ecosystem promotes raw material for number of manufacturing activities. These eco systems are consisted with lot of economical resources. The population in the coastal cities generally increasing because of ocean, beaches and other natural resources for raw material and food. In addition these areas provide jobs, employment, port and also good market.

India is bounded to the southwest by Arabian Sea, to the southeast by Bengal Sea in southeast side and to the south by Indian Sea with 7,517 Km coastline. In this distance 5,423 Km belong to peninsular India and 2,094 Km belong to the Andaman, Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands. The Mainland coasts consist with 43% sandy beaches, 11% rocky coast including cliffs and 46% mud coast or marshy coast. The coastline is more than 7500 km, characterized by a variety of coastal ecosystems and coastal resources. These regions are located in 14 states and union territories spread over 75 districts.

The Eastern Coastal Plain is wide stretch lying between the Eastern Ghats and the Bay of Bengal. It stretches Tamil Nadu in south to West Bengal in the north. The temperature in this region frequently exceeds 30°C with high level humidity. The region receives both northeast monsoon and southwest monsoon rains.

The western coastal plain is narrow strip of land lying between Western Ghats and Arabia Sea ranging from 50 to 100 Km width. It extends from Gujarat in north and extends through Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka and Kerala. The Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar Islands are major territories of India. These are classified as union territories of India. The Lakshadweep consist total 34 islands. The Andaman Nicobar consist 204 small islands.

The coastal areas are rich ecologically as they are home to a large variety of eco systems, such as mangroves, water bodies, seaweeds coral reefs, fisheries and other marine life, and other coastal and marine vegetation. Coastal ecosystems protect the region from saline winds, cyclones, tsunami waves etc, promote carbon sequestration and promote biodiversity as well as provide raw materials for a number of manufacturing activities.

Coastal regions are also attractive for carrying out major economic activities such as construction of ports and jetties, trade, ship building and ship breaking, large export based manufacturing including oil refinery and petroleum based industries, agriculture, tourism, aquaculture and fisheries etc,

This variety of coastal and marine ecological system is the basis for diversity. It provides a wide range of goods and services. Nearly 20% of the population lives in coastal areas with a large proportion based in urban cities like

Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata.

The coastal belt provides employment to more than 6 million people in fishing sector in the country. It accounts 1.2% total GDP (Gross Domestic Products) in the country. Fish production has increased from 520,000 tons to 2.4 million tons since independence. It is more than four times. Special efforts have been made to increase fish production at coastal areas by promoting modernized fishing and deep fishing in seas. Four main fishing harbors Mangalore (Karnataka), Kochi (Kerala), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) are existed and 23 minor harbors and 95 fish landing centers are existed in the country.

The coastal livelihoods are threatened by a number of modern developments taking place on the coast. Some of the important developments are intensive agriculture, aquaculture, mining & quarrying, infrastructure development, industrial development, tourism and increasing urbanization. Intensive agriculture, encouraged under the green revolution has promoted the economic growth in these regions. However, the green revolution, which frequently resulted in excessive use of fertilizers, pesticides, improved seeds and irrigation, has affected ecology of coastal areas adversely.

Ingression of salinity and alkalinity in land and water, depletion and degradation of ground water etc. are some of the adverse effects of intensive agriculture that did not take adequate care of land and water resources. These problems have affected adversely the sustainability of livelihood in agriculture on the one hand and resulted in shortage of potable water supply on the other hand. Aquaculture development is another important development that has contributed to economic development of this region, particularly in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. However, the unsuitable locations and unscientific practices have affected some regions fairly adversely.

Some of the adverse effects are destruction of mangroves; seawater ingression through shrimp farms and overuse of ground water if shrimp plant is dependent on ground water. These have resulted in exposing the coast to strong winds, storms and tsunami waves, affecting adversely the safety and security of coastal populations. Again, several coastal states have promoted mining and mineral based industries, other industries and infrastructural projects like ports and quarries, highways etc on the coast.

The higher incidence of urbanization, which is a consequence of these developments, has once again raised pressure on natural resources and impacted adversely on coastal livelihoods of people when it is accompanied by unsustainable use of natural resources. Presently costal areas are witnessing a lot of changes. These changes are influencing crores of people in the country. ❖

Collectives Bring in Responsible Business Behavior!

Shashi, rest in peace! We will take some of your fights forward.

Happy Friendship!

Happy Rakhi Purnima! Happy Independence!

Many International Days just passed by – for instance - International Day of the World's Indigenous People (9 August), International Youth Day (12 August), and International Lefthanders Day (13 August). Let us await World Humanitarian Day (19 August), Teachers' Day (5 September), International Literacy Day (8 September), International Day of Democracy (15 September) and International Day of Peace (21 September).

President signs removal of 14F (clause), making Hyderabad part of the sixth zone for police recruitments. Anna Hazare gets 3-day permission to fast (on Lokpal placed in Parliament)! More investigations into Jagan's wealth in the pipeline! EMAAR could sell plots/villas at less than 25% of the market rate to many an influential person.

The streams of thought and work that dominated the month include livelihoods and collectives of the poorest, vulnerable and other poor.

Tata unveils a plan to sell houses @ Rs.32,000 in rural areas in a year from now. It is a pre-fabricated house (with a life of 20 years) of 20 square metres that can be built in 7 days. An upgraded model of 30 square metres would cost Rs.45000. Will they succeed?

How do we increase the products available to the poor – for savings, for credit, for equity and for insurance? Does Islamic microfinance model expand the portfolio of products before the poor? Will it pick up? How do we ensure that the producers, consumers and intermediaries get rewarded based on the effort/work they put in? How do we ensure that both the buyer and the seller share the equal benefit in a transaction? How do we ensure that the investor and entrepreneur/worker share the profit and loss? How do we ensure that the creditor and loanee share the profit and loss of the investment of the loan? How do we ensure that all the players know what is happening? How do you ensure that there is no violation of any business Acts? How do we ensure that spirit of service is brought into the entire gamut of activities? How do we help the vulnerable? Will this work without the flow of charity? Do we see the possibilities of models emerging that combine the spirit of community-owned and managed collective financial institutions and Islamic micro-financing?

We hear that 2% mandatory CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) is coming in as the voluntary CSR has not picked up. Companies (with net worth exceeding Rs.500 Crore or turnover exceeding Rs.1000 Crore or a net profit exceeding Rs.5 Crore) have to provide a 2% (of the profit) mandatory provision for CSR spending. The PSUs with net profit have to make a provision of 0.5-3% of the net profit.

We know that India is a country of self-employed and entrepreneurs. Its majority of the households are self-employed. However, they are not trained entrepreneurs. How do we offer this training? It appears there is some help coming for some of them through "Training Resources for Enabling Enterprises Society ([TREES](#))". TREES runs a Certificate Program in in Rural Enterprise Administration and Management ([CREAM](#)) - 30 days of classes spread over six months to teach basic business skills with appropriate local examples. Can we have more and more of them? Can we have more practitioners join in conducting such programs?

Everyone agrees that the only way out for the poor is come together for their social, economic and solidarity needs. SHGs with participatory democratic processes and their federations with representative democratic processes cannot take up all the activities that meet the various needs of the poorest of the poor, vulnerable and the poor. There are issues of bandwidth - range of activities, expertise, economies of scale and space for professionals amongst

other things, that make us look at multiple institutions. We have also seen 'amul' cooperatives that meet economic needs to a large extent around a livelihood/value-chain. That is, obviously, not enough. A good way is to have SHGs institutional architecture and 'amul' cooperative architecture. And may be more types!

Shashi comes in here. In her latest review (25 July 2011 in ET), she opens up a road map for us. Map all the collectives/cooperatives in the country. Assess them. Remember some may need to be folded up. However, presence of member-owned and member-controlled collectives in the marketplace brings in responsible behavior from the capital controlled business enterprises. This is required. We need collectives in every village and at various levels. They need to be federated with space for taking in investment if required from outside without losing the member-control. That should be our mission.

The way forward, therefore, is in identifying and including all the poor beginning with the poorest and the most vulnerable in the basic solidarity, savings and credit groups and livelihoods-based collectives simultaneously. They need funds but they have to flow in as seed capital in the institutions. They need to be federated at higher and higher levels so that economies of scale will be there. They need professionals to work with them. They need community professionals to take responsibility in interacting with the members as directly as possible. The youth need to be given options to get some decent jobs or get self-employed with workable enterprise. The collective enterprises that add value locally and provide employment have to emerge.

This is hard work over long periods of time. We need leaders from within and mentors from outside with sustained enthusiasm and inner resources. Let us be in the movement to build leaders and mentors to be with them in their fight to be out of poverty for good. ❖

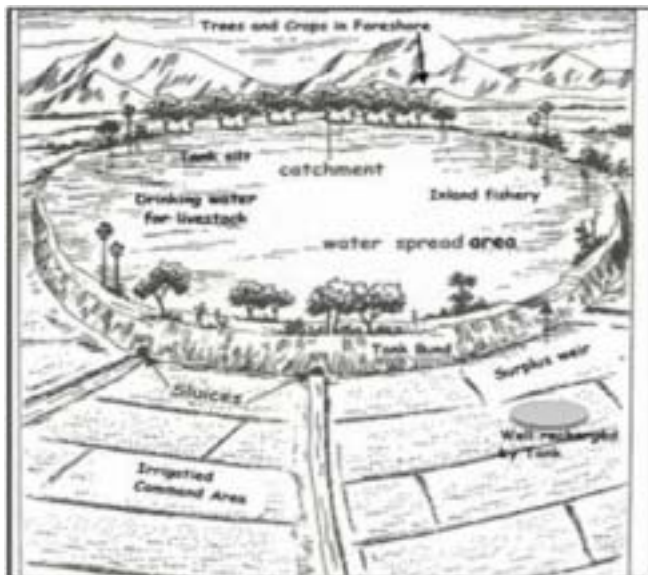
Perspectives

G Muralidhar

Cascades

Tanks are either in form of cascade system or in the form of isolated system. Most of the tanks are in the form of cascade system and very few are isolated in the country. The isolated tanks are also called ponds. Tank is low, earthen bond constructed across shallow valley to hold the rain water from its catchment area. A tank is a simply rain water harvesting structure designed by early settlers using indigenous wisdom and cooperation from kings. The tank shape and size has been determined by the terrain and local people wisdom. Tanks have been the main source to agriculture for many centuries in many parts of India. These tanks are being maintained by the people for centuries.





various different purposes. The tank irrigation management involves four phases like harvesting rainfall water, storing water, disposal of surplus water and water distribution in command areas.

Uses of the Tanks: The tanks are the most important resource to the agriculture which is the primary livelihood to the villagers in the country at large. The stored water is utilized with the help of gravity which maintains the flow of water from the high places to the agricultural lands which are situated in the lower areas. As, small scale irrigation requires tank system tanks are easily adoptable in the villages by village administrative system in India. The tanks are not only simply an irrigation system. These are also collection centers for run-off water from catchment area. These are useful for pisciculture; source of silt for fertilization and construction material, these are recharge structures for ground water, these are also useful for common lands, sources for drinking water for livestock, irrigation for crops and finally these are accessible for various human uses.

Cascade is a system of chain of tanks. In this chain system the water flows from upper tanks to lower tanks in case of overflow. These tanks highly interconnected and it would require having excellent civil engineering skills. Maintaining and sharing this type dispersed tank water system required a lot of managerial and social skills. In India rainfall is neither predictable nor uniform over space and time. The occurrence of rainfall is seasonal that is happening mainly during in South monsoon (June to September month). This type of monsoon necessitated the rainwater harvesting systems like tanks. These tanks store rainwater which is generally utilized later on need..

Tank irrigation systems are breakable structures. It requires to be continuously maintained, promptly repaired and constantly monitored. Earlier in most of the places in South India, gram panchayat and village community were managing this administration. For managing the structure mostly landless labours were being selected to maintain the tank. The work was to watch and ward the tank and prevent water wastage and supply the water to the farmer's fields. The beneficiaries particularly the farmers pays in the form of crop to the person maintain the tank, they are generally called by Neerati or Niradi or Neerkatti. In some places those who maintaining a big tank (above 5000 to 10000 acres of command land) was called by 'Lascars'.

The country has above 500,000 tanks. Nearly 150, 000 tanks can be found in Deccan of South Indian states. In South India tanks have been existed since 8th Century A.D onwards. The tanks are having four functions like soil and water conservation, floods control, drought mitigation and protection of ecology in the surrounding areas. Most of the tanks are built in South India because of its geography, climate terrain, mountains which are not so high to give abundant water throughout the season and the rivers are also more non-perennial in flow comparing to the rivers in North India. Innumerable small water harvesting structures called ponds are primarily existed in North Indian states. These ponds are primarily meant for pisciculture but these ponds are also being utilized for

Decline of Tank Irrigation: British had takeover the Indian



territories with this our tank irrigation systems from gram Panchayats when they captured India in 18th century. The British government made changes in village community setup. The colonial rulers setup one accountant and policeman (Karanam and Thalaari) and also introduced Ryotwari system (Land tenure which farmers directly paid to government). Because of these changes the community tank management system diluted.

After independence the government brought significant changes in the traditional irrigation system. It gives high priority to canal irrigation system in the influence of "1970's Green Revolution". The government felt big and medium type irrigation projects can be viable model in irrigation at large scale. But the government did not given attention on tanks management and it did not allotted sufficient funds for tanks repairs and development. Most of the funds have spent to major and medium canal irrigation and ground water development under minor irrigation. Overall the area under irrigation increased but the irrigated area under tanks gradually decreased in the beginning of the first five Year plans.

The traditional tanks management system gradually has been vanishing because of the changes made by colonial rulers and Indian government. Earlier there was only one management system now there is multiple management system present on tanks maintaining. The farmers are also not interested in regular maintenance of tanks. They are showing much interest in bore well irrigation at individual level.

The changes in climate also attributed to the decline of the tank irrigation. The rainfall pattern changed and the intensity of the rainfall decreased. Due to these changes the inflow to the tanks decreased. There are other reasons for the decline of tank irrigation these are supply channels and tank bands encroachments, silting of feeder channels, poor maintenance and rural infrastructure constructions in inflow area.

Need of Tank

rehabilitation: In India, rain is the main source for the agricultural water supply. The agriculture depends on monsoon. Normal and timely rainfall is necessary for the good crop. To diversify the seasonal constraints they built innumerable tanks and ponds and designed the community based tank management systems. These tanks

protect the rural people from droughts, floods, uncertainty of the monsoons and also provided livelihoods to the poor people.

At present also agriculture is facing problems like limited water resources, uncertainty of monsoons and water scarcity. Most the important river basins are largely utilized its ultimate potentiality. Building projects or large scale irrigation structures are becoming more expensive and even the irrigation administration cost also becoming more expensive. Ultimately the irrigation sector becomes burden on government.

Governments are not allotting sufficient funds to the irrigation sector. Ultimately irrigation sector is going in to a vicious circle like poor maintenance- deterioration-rehabilitation. These all factors necessitated the tanks rehabilitation which has multiple uses. Tanks are the suitable and viable option for irrigation and also for various livelihoods options for poor and ecological concerns.

Rehabilitation of tanks is expected to have an overall positive impact on the immediate environment. Rehabilitation of tanks results in an increased supply of irrigation water, better recharge of groundwater, improved quality of drinking water, increased production and productivity, enhanced employment opportunities, and better well-being of the stakeholder communities. Moreover, project interventions or activities would help in



better management of natural resources and improvement of the overall environment and local ecology.

There are lot of potential socioeconomic benefits of rehabilitation like reduction in the risk of crop failure, improved production and higher income, equitable distribution of water for command farmers, improved nourishment (through fisheries development), increased opportunity for gainful employment, reduction in seasonal migration by landless and poor households, increased family income, improved quality of life and improved interaction among different communities.

The Tanks Rehabilitation Programs: The state governments particularly the Southern State governments recognized the importance of tanks and started tank rehabilitation works since 1980. For tanks rehabilitation programs the governments are spending state funds and also taking external assistance National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), European Union (EU) and World Banks are funding to the tanks rehabilitation programs in the Southern states.

The states like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka governments are directly or with Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have funds for tanks repairs. The Andhra Pradesh government made Act (The Andhra Pradesh Management of Irrigation Systems Act 1997) to involve farmers in irrigation management in all irrigation systems. This Act provide framework for Water User Associations (WUAs). Earlier the irrigation department were maintaining the tanks. Andhra Pradesh

is the first state in the country which made this type progressive Act. Various programs were conducted by state and central governments in tank rehabilitation and development activities.

Some projects are mentioned below:

- * EC-assisted MI project in Orissa (rehabilitation)
- * NABARD-funded MI project
- * Biju Krishak Vikas Yozana (BKVY)
- * Central Government funded Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Project (AIBP)
- * Western Orissa Development Council-funded project
- * Food for Work Programme (rehabilitation)
- * National Food for Work Programme (rehabilitation)
- * Rashtriya Shram Vikas Yozana (RSVY) (rehabilitation)
- * Sampurna Gram Vikas Yozana (SGVY) (rehabilitation)

Special funds available with district collectors, members of legislative assembly (MLAs), and members of parliament (MPs) are also being used for developing MI infrastructure

In these projects various types of works have been taken up like construction of new projects, completion of incompleteness projects, and rehabilitation of ruined projects and maintenance of projects.

Presently NGOs like Gram Vikas (GV) in Karnataka, DHAN Foundation in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu BIRDS, REEDS, SDDPA and ASSMA in Andhra Pradesh are involved in tank management with government funds and international funds. These NGOs motivate farmers and involve them from planning to execution. NGOs formed Water Users Associations (WUA) or Farmers Association (FA) and organized capacity building programs in tank rehabilitation.

Now MGNREGS is taking works like de silting, bonding, jungle clearance and feeder channels repair works in Andhra Pradesh. And also MGNREGS is giving funds to the Micro Irrigation Department to the tanks rehabilitation programs.

Conclusion:

There are two types of different tank rehabilitation programs



Table 1. Source-wise Irrigated Area in India (in hectares)

Period	Canal	Tank	Groundwater	Others	Total
1952–1953	8,613,000	3,468,000	6,339,000	2,588,000	21,008,000
1962–1963	10,568,000	4,651,000	7,430,000	2,420,000	25,069,000
1972–1973	12,983,000	3,822,000	12,377,000	2,313,000	31,495,000
1982–1983	15,808,000	3,165,000	18,593,000	2,406,000	39,972,000
1992–1993	17,247,000	2,817,000	25,884,000	3,114,000	49,062,000
1999–2000	17,609,000	29,160,00	32,536,000	3,223,000	56,284,000

Source: Water and related statistics, Central Water Commission, 2002.

organized. One focused on agriculture which benefits mainly to the farmers. Other intervention focused on developing a tank system as a whole to provide livelihoods opportunities to various occupational people including the landless people.

In second intervention the agency organizations storage more water in the part of tank rehabilitation this benefits to landless and marginal farmers and also involved the Self Help Groups (SHGs) in tank rehabilitation program to create income generation activities to the members. The tanks will be sustainable if the all villagers are involved in

the tank rehabilitation program with providing multiple benefits.

The tank rehabilitation is vital point in considering agriculture, livelihoods of landless and environmental concerns. In the country lakhs of tanks are need rehabilitation but very few tanks are taken for rehabilitation program. Governments have focus more on tank rehabilitation work by participating the people particularly farmers and strengthening the Water Users Associations in rural areas across the country.



In the tanks rehabilitation programs, the government planned and executed without involving the farmers in the program. The farmers had the knowledge about tanks catchment area, feeder channels, and supply channels. Water harvesting, storage, supply and maintenance are regular works. The farmers should involve from planning to execution in tank management. This approach missed in the government programs.

The tanks that belong to the cascade system play a vital role in livelihoods systems in South India. Now the government and NGOs are recognizing the role of tanks in irrigation and putting efforts to restore tanks. ❖

Beds

Rahim belongs to Old city in Hyderabad. His age is 32 yrs. He has two daughters and one son. All children are Studying in Private School at old city. He is illiterate even though he is taking care of his shop accounts. His wife is a house wife. At present he is running KGN Bed work shop at Bharkathpura X road. He is making single beds, box type beds, double beds and pillows.

Previous he worked at Hyderabad bed centre (Manufactures Beds) at Hyderabad. He learned how to prepare beds and he got experience in Hyderabad Bed Centre. At that time they paid low Salary. His family expenses were more than his salary because; his Children are studying in Private School. He couldn't pay school fee in time. Then he thought of starting bed making business. His wife also encouraged him to start business. He has some amount, and he took suggestions from experienced elders for his new business. Then he started this business.

Particulars	Amount in Rs
Fixed Cost	
Machine cost and others	15000-00
Monthly Recurring Cost	
Cotton cost (2q*2500=5000)	5000-00
Bed cloth (100m*30=3000)	3000-00
Thread cost per month	300-00
Shop rent per month	4000-00
Current bill per month	400-00
Monthly Total Expenditure	12700-00
Monthly Income	
Single beds (25*400=10,000)	10000-00
Box type beds(5*650=3250)	3250-00
Double type beds (8*700=5600)	5600-00
Pillows (40*80=3200)	3200-00
Total Income	22050-00
Total Income Per Month	22050-00
Total Expenditure per Month	12700-00
Total Profit	9350-00

He started Business 4yrs back at Bharkathpura x road. There is no other shop in that area. He comes to shop daily from old city. He purchases raw material monthly once at Kavadiguda in Hyderabad. He makes single beds only. He has no workers. He is does hard work. He makes quality beds. He gets good Profit every month. So He is happy. Now he and his family have stable source of income and now they are eating nutritious food. Today, he is able to provide education to his children in Good school. His aim is to expand his business. He said, 'need' will make person learn everything. ❖

“Left My Hobbies For Children Education...”

Q. What is your Name?

A. My name is P.Tuljaram

Q. How old are you?

A. I am 50 Yrs old.

Q. Present where do you live in Hyderabad?

A. I am living beside Narayanaguda X Road in Hyderabad. I have been here since my birth.

Q. What is your education?

A. I Studied up to 5th Class. My father has not continued my education.

Q. How many members are living in your family?

A. We are five member Family. Myself, wife and three sons.

Q. What is your occupation?

A. My Occupation is Laundry work. We belong to Washer community so I am continuing my Occupation at Ramnagar in Hyderabad. My Brothers are also doing this work. I go to Ram Nagar daily from Narayanaguda X Road for doing my laundry work because my laundry shop is there.

Q. Where are your children studying?

A. My Children's are studying in Private school at Ram Nagar at Hyderabad. First Son is studying 9th class, Second son is Studying 6th class and Third Son is studying 5th class.

Q. Your wife is doing any work?

A. My wife is supporting me in my work. When I go to customer's house, she is taking care of my Landry shop. She is also doing laundry work.

Q. You are doing any other work?

A. No, because two members are required to do this work. I am focusing only on my laundry shop.

Q. Do you have any debts?

A. Yes, I borrowed Rs.20, 000/- from my family friends for my laundry shop with monthly interest of Rs3/- per Hundred rupees per month.

Q. Do you have any assets?

A. My father gave small house to us, as we are three brothers & we have divided into three parts. We are staying in our small portion.

Q. You have been living here for the last fifty years, why haven't you developed?

A. Though I have been living here for the last fifty years we did not develop because my father stopped my studies and I helped my father in his laundry shop. Also we have no money to start other business. I know only this work & I cannot do other work because my health does not support.

Q. Since how long you have set up this present shop?

A. I have been maintaining the present laundry shop for the last one year. Earlier all of our brothers jointly worked on the laundry shop, but we felt that we could not live jointly, so we have separated.



Q. Where do you purchase Coal for Iron?

A. I buy Coal at Ram Nagar and Narayanaguda weekly once. 1kg Coal is Rs20/-. The coal cost also increased.

Q. How much do you get monthly Income from this laundry shop?

A. I get monthly Income around Rs 8000/-from this laundry shop.

Q. Why did you start this business in Ramnagar?

A. Here there is no laundry shop in the area and also it is short distance from my house & I am going on my cycle and able to save some amount towards my travel. So this saving amount is helping me.

Q. Did you face any problem in running this shop?

A. I have been facing problems. Rain water come inside my laundry shop and another problem is other laundry workers are working in Apartments as a Watchman. They are doing both work (Watch man and Laundry work) and they are getting food from the residents, so they save amount on food, hence, has more income than us. So, they are charging less amount per pair from customers, hence, Customers are giving cloths to them. The laundry union decided fixed rates. So we follow to fixed rates. Those people do not follow.

Q. Who has been taking care of your family earnings?

A. I have been taking care of my family. I spent amount for needy items. I have no mobile phone. I left my hobbies for children education. My wife also told me to save money.

Q. Tell us about your future?

A. I will give my children higher education. Because my children should not face any problem in future. I will expand my laundry shop and will improve my monthly income.

Q. Anything you want to say?

A. I am in this stage because I did not use business ideas. I did not work hard in younger stage so at present I am struggling. I am lucky person because my wife and children are understanding my family situation. ❖

NTFP

Forest is the life line for millions of tribal people. It is so intertwined in every aspect of their lives that tribal people and forest are inseparable. Whether as deities whom they revere and celebrate, their music and instruments, the way their houses are built or the way they go about with their livelihoods, all oozes with the spirit of life echoed in the forest.

Collecting forest produce (**Non Timber Forest Produce – NTFP**) for various needs is an important activity for tribal people. They rely on them for food, fuel-wood, fodder, healing ailments as well as source of money necessary to fulfill other needs that has to be bought from the market.

The dependence on NTFPs is greatest among the poor for whom these products often serve the safety net function during periods of stress.

The Forest Rights Act, 2006 defines NTFP to include bamboo, shrubs, fuel wood, honey, wax, dry leaves, sprouts, medicinal plants and their parts like leaves, roots and tubes. A more inclusive definition from Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) defines NTFP as: “All forest products, except timber, including other materials obtained from trees such as resins and leaves, as well as any other



plant and animal products”. NTFP includes a variety of fruits, nuts, seeds, oils, spices, resins, gums, medicinal plants and many more products specific to the particular areas from which they originate. They have diverse uses, for example, as food, fodder, fiber, fertilizer, herbal medicine and cosmetic products. About 3000 species are in the forests of India are the potential sources of NTFP.

More than 300 million people in India depend on forests for their livelihoods either directly or indirectly. Of this number nearly 100 million actually live in the forests. The richness of Indian forests has been an abode of wealth for a broad range of societies from the traditional hunter-gatherers, NTFP collectors, shifting cultivators to the neo-rich

Some NTFP available in Indian forests:

NTFP in High Trade sourced from Tropical Forests: There are various NTFP products are available in the forest like *Acacia catechu* (Katha), *Acacia nilotica* (Babool), *Acacia sinuata* (Shikakai), *Aegle marmelos* (Bael), *Albizia amara* (Cheroola), *Alstonia scholaris* (Saptaparni), *Anogeissus latifolia* (Dhawada), *Asparagus racemosus* (Shatavari), *Baliospermum montanum* (Dantimool), *Bombax ceiba* (Simal), *Boswelliaserrata* (Salai guggul), *Buchnanian lanzan* (Chironji), *Butea monosperma* (Tesu phool), *Careya arborea* (Vaai kumbha), *Cassia fistula* (Amaltas), *Celastrus paniculatus* (Malkangani), *Chlorophytumtuberosum* (Safed musali), *Cinnamomum sulphuratum* (Dalchini), *Clerodendrum phlomidis* (Arnimool), *Coscinium fenestratum* (Maramanjali), *Cyclea peltata* (Paadu kizhangu), *Decalepishamiltonii* (Magali), *Desmodium gangeticum* (Salparni), *Embelia tsjerium-cottam* (Vaividang), *mblica officinalis* (Amla), *Garcinia indica* (Kokam), *Gardenia resinifera* (Dikamali), *Gmelina arborea* (Gambar Chhal), *Gymnema sylvestre* (Gudmar), *Helicteres isora* (Marod phali), *Holarrhena pubescens* (Kutja), *Holoptelea integrifolia* (Aavithali), *Holostemma ada-kodien* (Jeevanti), *Ipomoea mauritiana* (Palmudhukkan kizhangu), *Ixora coccinea* (Thechippoovu), *Lannea coromandelica* (Jhinganjingini), *Litsea glutinosa* (Maida chhal), *Lobelia nicotianaefolia* (Lobelia leaves), *Madhuca indica* (Madhuka), *Messua ferrea* (Nagakesar), *Ziziphus xylocarpus* (Ghonta phala) etc..

industrialized timber-based economies.

Non Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) alone generates about 70 per cent of employment in the Indian forestry sector. NTFP includes a variety of fruits, nuts, seeds, oils, spices, resins, gums, medicinal plants and many more products specific to the particular areas from which they originate. About 3000 species in the forests of India are the potential sources of NTFP. In India nearly 50 million people are dependent on NTFP for subsistence and cash income. 60 per cent of NTFP is consumed as food or dietary supplement especially during lean season by forest dwellers. NTFP collection, an important source of income for forest dwellers and rural poor, varies from state to state ranging from 5.4 to 55 percent. Most significant contribution in terms of quantity and revenue of NTFP comes from five states in India namely Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Odisha. It is estimated that NTFP collection alone generates over 2 million person days of work annually. This number further expands significantly when the person days engaged in NTFP processing and marketing are considered.

The overall revenue from NTFP is growing faster than the revenue from timber. Export earnings from NTFP on an average account for about 60-70% of total exports of forest products. Commercial NTFP alone are estimated to generate Rs.3 billion annually. However, there is still vast untapped potential in this arena. The current production of NTFP is only about 60% of potential production, and in the case of non-edible fibers and flowers only 7-12% of the potential is exploited.

- * The NTFP of economic importance in India can be grouped into the following categories.
- * NTFP for Food Security: Honey, mushroom, edible fruits and nuts, foliage and rhizomes
- * NTFP for Wood and Biomass: Useful for fuel, furniture, thatching, forage and manure
- * NTFP for Medicines and Plant Protection: For human



beings, animals and for control of pests and diseases in agricultural crops

- * NTFP for Aromatics, Dyes and Oilseeds: For medicinal and industrial uses

The late winter and summer season extending from January to June is the peak season for the collection of NTFP. The other important season is during October through December. Each NTFP collector makes 2-3 visits to the forest in a week on an average. However, this frequency varies according to season and type of NTFP collected in the respective season. Some products like sal leaves, broom grass, bamboo etc., provide employment for more number of days whereas few products like kendu leaf, amla, tej patta etc., are unique to a season. The seasonal nature of NTFP enables the collectors to be employed for most part of the year. When the collector goes to the forest, he/she collects whatever NTFP available in that particular season. For the tribal communities engaged in agriculture, NTFP helps continued employment during non-agriculture season. For example kendu leaves used to wrap bidis (local cigars) are available mostly in the month of May when there is no agricultural operation going on.

There are various steps involved in the collection, processing and selling of NTFP. Some of these steps are undertaken at local level and some beyond the villages by outsiders. Steps including collecting the produce and doing some value addition activities like drying, grading happens at local level. First level marketing i.e. selling the produce to the middlemen also happens in the villages itself. Some

higher level value addition like for instance making pickles with amla, mangoes, making cakes of tamarind etc happens outside the village mostly by the middlemen or processors. Similarly preparing the medicines from some of the NTFP like nux vomica, myrobalans etc also happen outside the forest areas. The market for the value added products is largely beyond the forest villages.

Though NTFP have high market value, the collectors are not able to benefit from that situation. The markets for NTFP are far away from the collectors. The incomes from NTFP are not directly proportional to the time and labour they spent on the collection and also to the risk they are taking up. Rather the incomes of NTFP collectors depend on various other factors such as the location of the markets (the markets are generally far away from the collectors as they generally live in difficult terrains), inability of the collectors to store the produce till they get better price, lack of skills and technology to increase the shelf life of perishable NTFP etc. Further, people living in tribal areas largely suffer with water borne and vector borne diseases and most of their hard earned money goes in meeting these health needs. Sometimes these health emergencies force them to sell off their produce at thrown



away prices.

Other gaps that exist in NTFP collection and marketing include not following sustainable collection methods, poor forest regeneration efforts, not doing much value addition due to lack of skills, infrastructure and technology etc., no trainings to the collectors on collection practices, value addition and marketing, exploitation by the middlemen in weighing, payments etc., cash and credit needs of the communities largely unmet by formal, lack of information on prevailing market prices of NTFP and also the end uses etc.

Training NTFP collectors in sustainable harvesting practices and value addition, encouraging value addition at the collector's level by providing appropriate infrastructure and other inputs, promoting local usage of the products, linkages with both internal and external markets are some of the interventions that can be taken up to improve the situation of NTFP collectors. Organizing forest dwellers around their livelihoods and rights can be a good way to deal the issues of NTFP in a holistic manner.

Review of NTFP in India reveals that there is huge untapped potential that exists in this sector. There are many products for which we have not explored usages, harvesting and storage practices, potential markets etc. There should be lot of investment in research and development with regard to NTFP either from Government or from Non-Government agencies which can help in tapping the huge potential that NTFP offer in generating employment and incomes to the poor households. NTFP route cannot be ignored if India wants to achieve its goal of poverty reduction. ❖



Super Markets In a Nation of Shopkeepers

India has been known by different names in different times and different contexts. In context of retail, it has been known as "a nation of shopkeepers". It employs 16% of population indirectly and contributes to about 15% of our GDP. For anyone unemployed and owning a house, it becomes a non-cost intensive exercise to open up a store at their home. This is probably the reason that India has the highest density of retail outlets, about 7 per 1000 people.

Initially, Indian retail did not have any large players - with an inadequate infrastructure and a small affording population that believed in saving rather than spending, Indian retail never attracted the interest of large corporations. The growing buying power of the middle class, changing attitudes and improved infrastructure (making it possible to improve the supply chain), led to the foray of corporate in retail space. India is now rated at the third best destination

ventures. In addition, we also allow 100% FDI in wholesale (cash-and-carry). Further, it has been proposed to allow 100% FDI in multi-brand retail outlets.

With all these investments, the organized retail (defined as a business that employs more than 10 people) has taken over 10% of retailing in India, and has seen a growth rate of 30-40% over last 3-4 years. During this period, they have faced resistance from govts, farmers and NGOs; who believe that this corporate foray would ultimately lead to unemployment of a large section of Indian population. For example, in May 2006, Reliance Fresh faced resistance from farmers in Punjab, when they wanted to occupy 20 acres of land granted by the government. The government has allowed fiscal concessions to the company to establish 302 agricultural hubs in the state. There is a nexus between the politicians and the company and they are bribed with money and offering them petrol pumps. Reliance also

SWOT Analysis			
		Supermarket	Kirana shops
Strengths	1	One stop shopping – large number of products	Stock items that move faster; suited to local needs
	2	Speedy & efficient (arrangement); shopping in AC	Conveniently placed; often near 100 mts
	3	Customers want more information, better quality & hygiene	Personal engagement with customers
	4	Optimize supply chain; bargaining power over customer	Provide cheaper costs by not paying VAT
	5	Owning the space makes sense as real estate investment (which is booming)	They reach to every nook & corner of the country and initial investment is not high
Weakness	1	Food travels longer distances	Cannot optimize supply chain; no bargaining power over suppliers
	2	Difficult to get trained manpower	Limited stocking of products

for investment in retail, among top 30 expanding markets.

Lets take a stock of past few years. Between 2005 to 2010, has been the most active phase of the Indian retail industry in terms of growth, entry of new players and development of new formats. Big players like Reliance, Tata, Aditya Birla and Mahindras entered the bandwagon. Their success brought in global retailers such as Metro AG, Max Retail, Shoprite, Hypercity, etc and more recently Carrefour, Tesco and Zara that announced their India entry and are optimistic about their growth in this market. Bharti-Walmart is a noticeable JV that entered in this phase. During this phase, a new concept in Retail Real Estate emerged - Minimum guarantee and revenue sharing models. The rapid growth soon attracted the luxury product segment - with the FDI policy 2005-2006 allowing single-brand foreign retailers to take up to 51% stake in a joint venture with a local firm, the intervening years saw the entry of several premium brands (Giorgio Armani, Versace, Gucci, etc.) mostly through joint

faced stiff resistance in Kerala and West Bengal.

Further ahead as the larger retail players, look beyond metros and move into tier-I and tier-II towns, a debate becomes necessary on how Kirana shops (or the unorganized sector) is going to be affected by this expansion. For example, in a study by Navdanya, when Reliance opened its stores in the neighbourhood, nearly 90% small retailers have been negatively impacted within a few months of store coming up. And 87% said Reliance has taken away their business. 66% small vendors said that they would have to close their shops because of declining business. Corporate Retail is clearly growing at the cost of small retail. So Kirana shops in larger cities and towns seem to be at risk of losing out, with more large format retail outlets coming up. So the next question is, will Indian customers (with 60% being under the age of 30) move away from Kirana shops to large format retail stores? ❖

- Naval Saini.

Cotton Economy: Recent Challenges

Cotton has been a major commodity, under discussion the world over, for decades, for different reasons, at different times. India has been one of the major producers of cotton, and is also emerging as a major trading country in the international markets. Various reports have analyzed cotton and had suggested numerous changes in the cotton economy.

Cotton farmers are caught in the web of deceitful statistics and discriminating public policies: India is the one of the largest producers of cotton. It also has the largest concentration of handlooms. Together, these cotton farmers and handloom weavers form a part of what may be called the 'primary cotton-textile supply chain'. However, the current scenario in cotton-handloom supply chain in India is very bleak. Cotton farmers are hit by:

1. Rising cost of production, fluctuating market prices for cotton, decreasing or stagnant yields occasioned by possible deterioration of the quality/productivity of soil as a natural resource due to incessant use of chemicals and pests that are increasingly resistant to chemical dosage;
2. Inability to manage water resources effectively and the symptoms observed of depleting groundwater;
3. Deterioration in genetic purity of the multitude of cotton varieties and hybrid seeds;
4. Inability to compete in global markets that reflect depressed prices due to significantly large subsidy to cotton farmers by western countries; The key issues in cotton growing households are:

Inadequate access to quality seeds: Cotton seeds have become a major source of anxiety for farmers. But cotton seed industry has become belligerent, in the absence of government regulations. They have started manipulating demand-supply scenario by syndacating among themselves. Interestingly, they have governments a part of this syndicate. As a result, farmers are paying high prices for low quality seeds. Farmers do not have a choice, as non-GM cotton seeds are not available. Public sector research is completely down on its knees, with no role to play in making quality seeds available.

Increased expenses on Pesticides: During the last five years, the farmers reported an increased incidence of pest attacks in cotton. While new pesticides were tried out including *Avant* from 2000 onwards, new pests seem to have appeared. Added to this was a situation of rising prices for pesticides in the market. In most cases, the pesticides are bought on credit, as any savings with the farmer would have been expended at the time of preparation for the crop. Credit from local money lenders or traders at exorbitant interest rates (24 – 36 percent annually) compound the issue further. While the larger farmers employ labour for spraying, the marginal farmers tend to involve household members.

Credit Woes: Financial situation of farming households has worsened. Most of the households have resorted to borrowings and sale/pledge of available fixed assets. The

credit needs are highest during July to September, and the repayment is usually carried out during January- March. For the household, the kharif season is a season of financial stress. The borrowing reported by the farmers varied from Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 38,000 last year.

Fluctuation in Cotton Fortunes: The farmers opt for growing cotton due to the possibility of windfall returns. But the market prices keep fluctuating. In the years when yields were low or when prices fell, the household earned less than the minimum labour wage for own-labour expended in cultivation. This is accentuated by the high costs of inputs (as a ratio of investments) and the reported lack of safeguards on quality/reliability with no recompense in event of failure.

Health: Generally, the farmers spray their own fields using their own sprayers or renting one. Instructions and precautions during spraying depend on what the shop-keeper has

told the farmer. Some of the farmers mentioned that breathing problems, dizziness and head-aches were common during the spraying period. Exposure to pesticides and contaminated air and water is impacting on the health of farming household members.

Hit by the Unknown: Handloom Weavers: A huge population of handloom weavers across the country is dependent on cotton yarn, for weaving and living. However, handloom weavers are hit by crisis caused by:

1. Continuous rise in prices of cotton yarn and chemical dyes
2. Unfair competition from the hugely subsidized power loom and textile mills sectors
3. Indifferent policies of the government Besides, inadequate wages, low marketing support, paucity of infrastructure and increased exposure to cheap, imitation competition have sapped the strength of handloom weavers.

The increasing price of yarn is a major economic and livelihood issue. Years back, they had to fend with CENVAT on hank yarn. Even though, government introduced a reimbursement scheme, it did not ease the burden, given the corrupt bureaucracy. Inadequate access to cotton yarn in terms of availability and prices has led to unemployment, migration and poverty among handloom weavers community. With low wages and returns over years, handloom weavers have become heavily indebted and highly vulnerable to slightest change in raw material prices, especially cotton yarn. They do not have cash resources, adequate buffers or price accommodating mechanisms to respond to rise in yarn prices. Any increase in yarn prices would hurt their revenues and income directly and hugely.

There are various institutions which deal with the production and marketing of cotton, including processing (across the cotton supply chain). This includes the following:

1. Union Ministry of Textiles

This Ministry has the mandate to manage Technical Mission on Cotton. This Mission is primarily to enable research in increasing cotton productivity and develop infrastructure for cotton. It also allocates funds for procurement of cotton, a process which is done through Cotton Corporation of India. This Ministry is also concerned with other fibers such as silk, jute, wool (natural fibers) and man-made fibers. There are number of institutions which get the support of the Ministry in this regard. These are competing fibers to cotton. This Ministry has released a Draft National Fiber

Policy (DNFP) in June, 2010, based on the deliberations of eight sub-groups and a 72-member Working Group. Recently a Yarn Advisory Board was set up to monitor cotton yarn prices and consumption. This Board prepares a balance sheet of cotton, which gives information on production, consumption, exports, imports and stocks of cotton in the country, periodically. An Organic Cotton Board is also working under this Ministry.

2. Union Ministry of Agriculture

The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), which decides on the Minimum support Price for cotton, and other crops, works under the Ministry of Agriculture. CACP based on information and data collected over the previous years, arrives a Minimum Support Price for cotton. National Agricultural Policy, which seeks to promote "Second Green Revolution" is also prepared by this Ministry. This Ministry depends mostly on the work done at the State level, and possibly has no desk that would monitor the cotton sector.

3. Union Ministry of Commerce

This Ministry has the mandate to implement National Foreign Trade Policy. Under this Policy, every year, cotton imports and exports are regulated. This includes raw cotton, cotton yarn and cotton textiles. However, this regulation is based on inputs from the Ministry of Textiles.

Agricultural Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) works under this Ministry. APEDA is the nodal agency for certification process for organic products exported from India, including organic cotton. There are various other export promotion councils, such as Cotton Export Promotion Council, work under this Ministry. These Councils have the mandate to promote and regulate the exports. CEPC deals with cotton textile exports.

4. Ministry of Finance

This Ministry deals with direct and indirect taxes, including those of cotton trade and cotton processing industry. All proposals and decisions with regard to taxes, incentives and subsidies, with regard to cotton, from the Ministry of Textiles, Commerce or Agriculture, have to get the approval of this Ministry.

National Fiber Policy

National Fiber Policy is a necessity for India, given the growing competition in global textile, trade, concomitant changes in the Indian textile sector and growth objectives of Indian economy. However, Indian textile sector is known for its versatility, diversity and horizontal and vertical linkages. No other country has such complete supply chains across

so many different fibers. With potential markets, at the domestic and international level, for each of the fiber products, it is indeed a tough context to decide upon the right mix of fibers.

One of the objectives of this draft policy is to increase the competitiveness of Indian textile industry. However, with the growing share of fiber cost in the cost of production, small producers are increasingly finding it difficult to stay competitive.

This draft Policy recommends the following institutions: Yarn Advisory Board, MMF Advisory Council, Inter-ministerial Board for organic and ELS cotton, Technology Mission on Specialty cotton, Technology Mission on Technical Textiles and Inter-ministerial Task Force on wool

National Fiber Policy should include the following:

.Reduce cost of production, especially related to cotton production, which would help the farmers in increasing their returns.

Promote the growth of cotton in order to sustain employment, textile growth and environment, in comparison with polyester and other man-made fibers.

Bring out a Textile Fiber Products Identification Act; its purpose is to protect consumers from mislabeling of cotton fiber content on textile products and from misleading advertising.

Establish a Natural Fiber Fund, to support lakhs of livelihoods, using Carbon Development Mechanisms.

Establish cotton fiber /yarn price stability mechanisms

National Budget 2011-12: There is overall reduction in government allocations for three fibers: silk, cotton, jute and wool. · Budget for Wool Development Board has decreased to Rs.14 crores from Rs.16 crores. · For Technology Mission on Cotton, the budget has decreased drastically from Rs.141 crores to Rs.0 crores (zero) · For Procurement of cotton by CCI has reduced from Rs.1233 crores (revised) to Rs.200 crores. Last year allocation was Rs.244 crores, and in 2009-10, government has spent about Rs.635 crores. · For Jute, the budget allocation has been reduced from Rs.104 crores to Rs.83 crores.

·A Technical Mission on Technical Textiles has been established. A Yarn Advisory Board has been constituted.

Thus, draft National Fiber Policy seems to be in operation, even before the Central Cabinet and the Parliament have discussed and approved it.

Conclusion

In summary, small and marginal cotton farmers who toil and produce cotton do not get enough. Markets do not operate on free will, or as per textbook definitions. There are syndicates, and organized behavior, at various levels, which denies the farmers from getting appropriate prices.

Cotton textile supply chain is riddled with contradictions, secret understandings and mysterious behavior. There is enough cotton to take care of domestic demand, and there is reasonable. ❖

D Narasimha Reddy

Deshpande Foundation

Deshpande Foundation is the family foundation of Gururaj ("Desh") and Jaishree Deshpande. It is a philanthropy dedicated to funding non-profits in Massachusetts, USA and in the Hubli- Dharwad region of Karnataka, India.

Deshpande Foundation It was started in 1996. Over the last 15 years, the Deshpande Foundation has embarked on large scale projects in the United States and India

Core Beliefs:

The Foundation believes that for innovation to be a key driver of economic development, it must be locally relevant and locally supported. Challenges and opportunities facing the Foundation's partners in the Greater Boston area are different from those in the Sandbox. As a result, innovations developed in the Sandbox are not necessarily relevant to Boston (and vice versa).

The Sandbox is a geographically defined area in India located in the northwest corner of the state of Karnataka. The twin cities of Hubli and Dharwad serve as a central hub for the Sandbox, which encompasses a total of five districts namely Belgaum, Dharwad,

Gadag, Haveri and Uttar Kannada. Diverse economies characterize these districts, which are comprised of both urban and agricultural settings. Desh and Jaishree Deshpande are both originally from the Hubli-Dharwad area. As a result, the Deshpande Foundation concentrates its efforts on the Sandbox region, treating it as a development lab for social innovation.

The **Deshpande centre for social Entrepreneurship (DCSE)** based at Hubli, Karnataka, supports the following programs:

The Champions Program:

The Champions Program is a unique opportunity for young, local professionals to engage in social justice issues, build leadership capacity and network with leaders of diverse backgrounds in Hubli and Dharwad. The Deshpande Foundation is providing a path to socially minded people who want to make changes in the Sandbox. This program is an interactive, applied learning experience that aims to foster a generation of successful and concerned local leaders.

One Sunday every month, a cohort of Champions gather together to visit NGOs who all are working in different sectors like Health, Agriculture, Education and Livelihoods.

Champions submit capstone projects after they complete 6 months in the program

Deshpande Fellowship Program:

The Deshpande Fellowship Program (DFP) is a six-month residential program for young social leaders. Fellows receive the knowledge, skills, and practices necessary for success in the development sector. The rigorous program emphasizes the DCSE's three core themes—innovation, scalability, and entrepreneurship—through various course modules, guest speakers, and field activities. Practical components play an important role in the fellow's development as they test theories and develop skills in leadership and entrepreneurship. Throughout the program,



fellows are pushed to learn, achieve, and develop into thoughtful, influential leaders. The DFP ensures that upon its conclusion, fellows can apply their teachings to their future careers or in starting their own innovative social enterprise

Entrepreneurship academy: It Offers

- * Cutting edge courses on innovation, entrepreneurship & business plan writing;
- * Engaging faculty trainings on achievement motivation, experiential learning & entrepreneurship; and
- * Pioneering entrepreneurship development cells for students to engage in entrepreneurial extra-curricular activities that connect lessons in the classroom to real world applications.

Global Exchange Program:

The Global Exchange Program (GEP) was launched in January 2008 to put into practice the Deshpande Foundation's vision for global exchange specific to development and innovation. GEP believes that exchange – in both directions – is critical to building solutions for the

world's most intractable problems. Designed to ignite innovation and catalyse change, the GEP matches passionate and talented individuals with experienced NGOs committed to transforming the Sandbox. Global exchange is a critical element of the ecosystem of the Sandbox: a multi-directional exchange that allows for ideas to flow globally—and to be applied locally

The goal of the Global Exchange Program is to provide meaningful international opportunities to global professionals that ensure continued impact to both the partner organization and its constituents

Leaders accelerating Development:

The students of India have big ideas for a better India. Leaders Accelerating Development Program (LEAD) helps students realize their dreams of changing India. LEAD empowers youth to make change by funding innovative projects for lasting community impact. Students work on

health, environmental, agriculture, livelihoods, natural resources education, and technology (HEAL NET) projects.

The LEAD movement started in the Hubli-Dharwad area in 2008. Currently, there are over 4,000 Leaders. LEAD's vision is to expand throughout India and create a national youth movement to address India's most pressing issues.

Grant making:

The Deshpande Foundation gives grants to nonprofits and institutions that create transformative change through innovation, leadership, and execution. Our non profit grants are for specific programs in the Health, Education, Agriculture, and Livelihoods fields, while our institutional grants are to institutions that use diverse methods to facilitate broad-based movements of social change.

Specific Programs include:

Health: The Foundation's work focuses on sustainable models for community-based primary, secondary, and tertiary health programs. Whether developing a tiered fee system or ensuring community ownership post-NGO involvement, we work to create independent and healthy communities and families.

One of the Health program implementing agency is 'Bhageerath': works to ensure safe and affordable water and sanitation are available for all, especially for poor communities in rural and urban areas. The key objectives of the organization are to impart education and to provide instructions and training in water and sanitation, including resource development, conservation, community health, personal hygiene, environmental conservation, and related technologies.

Education: The Deshpande Foundation's Education portfolio promotes innovative solutions to address gaps in access and quality of education.

One of the Educations program implementing agency is the 'Agastya' – Mission is to spark curiosity and creativity among vulnerable and disadvantaged children, through hands-on science education. The Agastya model is designed to bring about the following fundamental behavioural shifts: Yes to Why, looking to observing, Passiveness to Exploring, textbook bound to Hands on, Fear to confidence.

Agriculture: The Foundation's work in agriculture focuses on market connections, sustainable agriculture, and education/extension work. Because the Sandbox envelopes a variety of climates (from arid, dry land agriculture in the East to the biodiversity hotspot of the Western Ghats), our Partners use a diverse array of techniques in their work. Our Partners are focused on scale and sustainability, working with thousands of farmers to build market connections, improves crop yields, and transforms the agricultural livelihoods of the Sandbox's farming communities.

One of the Program Implementing agencies is, Agriculture science foundation (ASF), mission is to improve the quality of rural life through effective utilization of natural and human resource in both farm and non farm sector.

Promotion of livelihood activities for self help group: 300 women in SHGs have been trained in multiple fields such as agriculture, dairy, vermin composting, petty business and tailoring. In total, these 300 members have borrowed over Rs.56.24 lakhs from ASF's micro finance institute to start or strengthen their livelihood occupations.

As a result the families have nearly or completely doubled their monthly income by:

Adopting soil and water conservation technologies on their farms: 48 families

Starting dairy activities: 180 members

Adopting vermin compost technology: 12 members,

Starting floriculture activities-3 members and also starting petty business and food processing units.

Marketing interventions for organic produce: 500 farmers have been trained in organic farming, marketing opportunities for organic produce and facilitated certification of their organic farms. The farmers sell this produce in Hulkoti village and the ASF campus. In the part of Income security through dry land horticulture mango orchards were planted in 100 dry land farmers' fields', covering 100 hectares of land. As Gadag is a drought-prone area, this dry land horticulture will help ensure income security for the farmers.

Livelihoods: Our livelihoods work covers many key themes in development: women's empowerment; skill-building and employability; marketing for locally-produced items; environmental sustainability; and, as always, income generation. We work with small to mid-scale industries and

provide support across a variety of operational activities, from marketing to finance linkages.

One of the program implementing agency is 'Appropriate rural technology Institute': ARTI's mission is to develop, standardize and disseminate sustainable, appropriate technologies aimed at increasing income levels and improving the quality of life of rural people in India and other developing countries.

To date, ARTI has disseminated information about clean-burning, biomass-fuelled cooking devices to 6-8,000 people and 6-8 different NGOs in Dharwad.

The general response has been positive and encouraging, though cost of the devices is still being perceived as a deterrent. ARTI had a similar response when the organization started out in Maharashtra, and ARTI believes this is more an issue of priority rather than affordability. The idea of paying about INR 500 or more for a wood and biomass burning stove/cooking device will take time to take root. Our focus will therefore be on visiting the same sites again and again and conveying information about the direct and indirect benefits of clean and efficient cooking devices to the same communities, so as to build confidence and help bring about a change in perception

About the Founders:

Dr. Deshpande holds a B.Tech. in Electrical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology - Madras, an M.E. in Electrical Engineering from the University of New Brunswick in Canada, and Ph.D. in Data Communications from Queens University in Canada. Gururaj "Desh"

Deshpande is the Chairman of Sparta Group LLC, A 123 Systems (AONE),



Sycamore Networks (SCMR), Tejas Networks, Sandstone Capital and Hive Fire. He was also a founding investor in Airvana, Cimaron, Web dialogs and Relic ore. Prior to co-founding Sycamore Networks, Dr. Deshpande was founder and chairman of Cascade Communications Corp. Dr. Deshpande serves as a member of the MIT Corporation, and his generous donations have made possible MIT's Deshpande Centre for Technological Innovation.

Dr. Deshpande is a trustee of the Deshpande foundation. He and his wife are involved in several non-profit initiatives that include support for MIT, IIT, TIE, Akshaya Patra Foundation, Public Health Foundation of India and the Social Entrepreneurship Sandbox in India.

Jaishree Deshpande is a trustee of the Deshpande Foundation. She worked for the Indian Space Research Organization in Bangalore, India until 1980 before moving to Canada. She worked for several Massachusetts companies and taught courses in computer science. She received her Masters in Physics in 1975 from the Indian Institute of Technologies (IIT), Madras, India. She received her second Masters in Computer Science in 1989 from Boston University. ❖



International Youth Day

Youth Make Their Mark on Development



NGOs' Role in Watersheds

Shri B. Nijalingappa, CEO, SLNA Jharkhand, Sharing of Experiences of Jharkhand: The Jharkhand state receives 1200 mm of average annual rainfall but at least 70% is runoff because of its topography and other reasons. Watershed program was a timely and much needed intervention in the state. Different activities are being taken up under IWMP as Entry Point Activity. Some of the prominent activities are overhead tanks (called Jal Minar or water tower) for supply of drinking water in watershed villages, Kitchen Garden, Bio Gas, low cost tree guard, Artificial Insemination and health check up camps for livestock, etc. Some livelihood promotion activities are replicated by other states as well. PRADAN promoted water harvesting methods and it got the national award winning Poultry Cooperative of the state with only women members which covers more than 50% of poultry market of Ranchi and Rourkela. SRI, Tasar silk, Lac, Horticulture, Backyard vegetables, Goatery based livelihood run by women institutions.

About the cost of supply of water to the cities concern that modern water gadgets and sanitation equipments in the apartments of cities are increasing the misuse of water. The

important activities under any watershed program. First: water harvesting activities; second: Natural Resource Management which is nothing but 'Balance use of resources and improving the resource productivity'; third: improvement of farming system; fourth: development of People's Institutions and fifth: building linkages of people's institution and let them lead it. Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) is the only NGO which is preparing Environmental sustainability plan in all its watershed projects. NABARD's guidelines are should be for people friendly. NABARD should give assurance of loans to all the small and marginal farmers of the watershed program. The field bunds are important for conservation purpose and therefore it should be supported.

Dr. D. Raji Reddy, Principal Scientist, ANGRAU, Climate Change and Emerging Extension Systems in Agriculture: Most of people are aware about climate change. Many people discuss about this in seminars and conferences. The Agromet division of ANGRAU is conducting thorough study and analysis on climate change in Andhra Pradesh. These changes can be drought, delay in monsoon and floods. The seasonal changes and its impact on agriculture were studied. There is an increase in

**Invigorating Innovations in Watersheds:
Restoring Roles of NGOs**

28th & 29th July 2011

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supply of water to the cities is not only costly but by directly extracting groundwater also negates the impact of watershed program implemented in rural areas. The watershed program should go in parallel with Drinking water and sanitation program. Only 70% of the villages of Jharkhand are electrified despite of it having rich natural resources. Under watershed program the state has joined hands with TERI under their project 'lighting one billion lives'. Under this solar lamps and mobile chargers would be installed in interested villages. Acknowledging the support of WASSAN consortium soon the state specific process guidelines for IWMP would be launched. Shri Simon Oraon, traditional tribal leader, who single-handedly built series of checkdams and drainage lines to irrigate entire patch of agriculture land of his community in Jharkhand. NABARD sponsored Tyma contributed a lot in watershed program in the state.

Shri B. N. Yugandhar, Former member of Planning Commission of Government of India: There are five most

temperature (1.4-6.1). Advance warnings and intimation about cyclones, disasters and rains are being issued by international agencies and the Meteorological Department. The unseasonal rains and disasters have been observed. There are new diseases in crops and human beings due to changes in climate and warned that these problems would increase in the future.

The Rainfall Pattern over Last 50 Years in the State: This data was then divided into two sets of 25 years and the change in rainfall was compared region-wise. While for the state the rainfall has not changed in the last 50 years there are regional fluctuations. In Telangana districts there was decrease in rainfall. Delay of rainfall was observed in few districts. In Coastal and Rayalaseema there is slight increase in the rainfall but it is not useful for agriculture.

In the last 25 years in South Telangana June rainfall has decreased. Due to this the farmers are not able to take short duration crops like green gram and jowar. In

Rayalseema October rainfall has increased. This rainfall benefits the groundnut crop and higher yields are achieved. Conversely, if rainfall fails, groundnut yields drastically reduce in Rayalseema region. In Rayalaseema, whenever there is timely rainfall the acreage under groundnut increases. In Telangana region the area under cotton and maize is increasing. But sudden climate change might lead to huge losses in cotton crop. The suggestions are being given at Government as well as local level on climate changes and its impact on agriculture.

Study of temperature at high and low level at Rajendera nagar from 1965 to 2007 was analyzed. According to this temperature is increasing. The planting trees reduce the temperature as seen in the Agriculture University area. The NGO's should take up plantation program in watershed projects on a massive scale, which is the only solution to control temperature.

Impact of temperature on yield: Providing scientific data observed that if temperature increases by one degree yield per acre will decrease by 4 quintal. The data shows with various degrees of temperature change and different levels of N application. When there is decrease in sunlight duration the yield of crops decreases. NGO's are needed to propagate awareness amongst the farmers and agricultural communities regarding these changes and impacts.

The Impact of 2003 heave wave on Horticulture and poultry industry. At that time while the mousambi tree dried, custard apple tree survived which shows that it is tolerant to high temperatures. Likewise the impact of cyclones, as seen in 1996, is not only on agriculture but on all sectors including trees like mangos, coconut, banana, etc.

Changing Pest and Disease Scenario: Narrating the impact of climate change on pest, due to increase in temperature there would be increase in sucking pests, mite's, leaf miner. Consequently, this will affect the yields of groundnut, maize.

Changing Pest Scenario in Rice: In 1965 there were only three pests in paddy. Within three decades this increased to 15 due to resistance and immunity to pesticides. Scientists are striving hard to manage the problem with better plant varieties and other options.

Drought Management Options: Eco Friendly management is needed. Giving the simulated grain yield of maize water should be stored and used carefully in Rayalaseema area so that crop intensity can be increased.

AGRO Advisories: The gathering about the new Agro-climatic zones of the state, weather based agro advisories were started in 1993. These are region and district specific and are transmitted through University, Agriculture department, TV, radio, newspapers and other media, Farmer clubs and other sources. T NGOs should play a critical role in reaching these advisories to the communities with which they are working. It will give the rainfall, maximum and minimum temperature. Agro advisories will also suggest specific crop management practices. Agrisnet is propagating the weather related information with its

website. From 1994 weather information is being provided in the State. From 1998 district wise information is being given.

The need to gather the information and provide to farmers from time to time so that they can increase their agriculture yields. The research has proved positive impact of tank silt application and inter-cropping to face shortages in moisture stress. We are coordinating with local NGO's to discuss the problems at local level.

Climate Change Projects: The group about the various projects that the Agromet division is undertaking with support from various national and international agencies and in partnership with the NGOs. The farmers have started consulting weather map and news and utilizing the rain gauge installed in the villages. It is important to record rainfall and weather at village levels so that people could know weather conditions and understand weather scenario to improve agricultural yield/ condition of crops. T NGOs should install at least a simple rain gauge in all t watershed development programs.

In the current context of climate change, the key issue is how to minimize expenditure in agriculture. Timely sowing and other measures should be communicated to farmers from time to time research and NGO's working at grassroots level.

Dr. Mahendra Kumar, On Strategies and Plans of State Level Consortium on SRI Cultivation in Andhra Pradesh: It is proved that SRI increases yields with less inputs. 15 lakh farmers are now practicing SRI in Tamil Nadu, which is t proof of t technology. In Tripura 50% of the area is under SRI and have overcome their food shortage. SRI technology needs different set of management practices. SRI without demonstration (at least in 100 ha) will be a failure. Block demonstration will result in 70% success. SRI cultivation is saves water, Seed, Labour and increase 30% yield. The successful example of SRI is in Tamil Nadu with t involvement of all t stakeholders. The consortium approach is essential to extend the area under SRI. The water saved can be used for raising 30% additional area.

Mohanaiah from NABARD: NABARD is committed to integrated village development but has only 5000 employees for 6 lakh villages. So it has partners with other banks, government and NGOs. It is happy to be working with the NGOs. At the national level food security is one of t key issues in the context of increasing population and changing food habits. In the country 50% of area will be under Dry land agriculture. In this context NABARD is supporting watershed programs in a large scale under WDF and IGWDP (in 17 districts in AP). WASSAN's role in standardizing watershed program is laudable.

SRI method can be extended to other crops such as ragi, sugarcane. There is need for technical staff for promotion of SRI. WASSAN should train at least 1000 persons who can work as SRI technicians and syllabus and plan to be developed. This will provide employment to the youth. ❖ (From Annual Network Meeting Report of WASSAN -2011)

Report on Groundwater Irrigation Expansion

International Water Management Institute (IWMI) made a analysis on groundwater expansion in India. According to the analysis over the last century, the global population has tripled, and water consumption has increased threefold (UNESCO 2005). Water use in India is no exception to this general trend. The main cause of the increase are growing population and rising food demand. In an agrarian Economy like India, the importance of water for agricultural productivity hardly needs any Emphasis. Currently, in India irrigation contributes 40 percent of the crop area and 70 percent of the total crop production. Improved reliability of water supply through canals or, more significantly through groundwater, has significantly contributed to the increase in agricultural Productivity in India (Brown 2003).

India faces the daunting task of increasing its food production by over 50 percent in the next two decades, and reaching towards the goal of sustainable agriculture requires a crucial role of water. Recent studies show that the irrigation needs to play a larger role towards a goal of achieving a higher agricultural productivity and the national food security. The National Commission of Integrated Water Resources Development (NCIWRD) Projections show that irrigated area needs to increase by about 61 percent or 35 million ha in Year 2025 to reach the food self sufficiency goals.

Therefore, with a view to evaluate investment in major and minor irrigation projects in the light of intensive land use cropping, an attempt was made to assess the contribution of different sources of irrigation on gross irrigated area, which reflects the irrigated land use intensity by International Water Management Institute, New Delhi, India

The major objectives of this study are to assess the spatial and temporal trends of surface and Ground water irrigated area development in India and their contribution to gross irrigated area Growth. Specifically the study assessed on

1. Whether the growth in surface irrigation is a necessary factor in net ground water irrigated area growth,
2. Whether the rural population is a driver in groundwater expansion and if so where it is most significant,
3. The relative contribution of surface and groundwater irrigation in increasing the gross Irrigated area

Spatial & Temporary trends associated with Ground water boom in India: Surface Irrigation Recharge and Groundwater Area Growth, Spatial dependence: A popular belief is that surface water recharge is a necessary condition for the expansion of ground water-irrigated area. Groundwater pumping costs generally depend on the water table level, which means that as the groundwater stock is increased, marginal extraction costs falls. Higher surface water withdrawals recharge the aquifers and induce the farmers to increase groundwater usage and expand the gross irrigated area.

Groundwater area expansion: Demand driven factors: As groundwater is tapped in cases where the resource is not necessarily recharged by surface irrigation, the alternative hypothesis could be that demand driven factors are behind the groundwater expansion. Evidence suggests that groundwater expansion is taking place where people are, and is not necessarily dictated by the endowment of groundwater resource.

During the last fifty years, gross irrigated area (GIA) of India has increased more than threefold from 24 to 81 million Hectares. Gross irrigated area is a straightforward multiplicative function of net irrigated area (NIA) and irrigated land use intensity (IRLUI). Thus the relevant question, which may arise here, is the contribution of different sources of irrigation in increasing the gross irrigated area. The increasing vertical distance between the two curves signifies the contribution from the irrigated land use intensity.

Review the Gross Irrigated Area Expansion: Sources of Growth: Different sources of irrigation contribute in increasing the gross irrigated area (GIA). These sources include canal irrigation, tank irrigation, and groundwater irrigation which includes both tube wells and dug wells. The analysis has the sources of changes in gross irrigated, which has increased by 4.7% during the last decade. Groundwater irrigation contributes around 90% of the relative change in gross irrigated area in India during the period 1990-1993 and 1998-2000, while canal irrigation contributes less than 10% of the change. Higher relative contribution of groundwater is also witnessed in all geographical zones. However, only in the east zone, relative contribution of canal irrigation is around 30%, which is higher than that of other regions.

Findings & Conclusion : Two major findings that come out of the study is First, groundwater irrigation expansion is driven mainly by the demand conditions-the population pressure, and not necessarily dependent on the recharge from surface irrigation. Second, the gross irrigated area, which reflects the irrigated land use intensification, is largely explained by the supply conditions, for instance groundwater recharge and it is evident as in the districts without canal irrigation. It becomes apparent from the analysis that much of the ground water irrigation expansion is taking place where there are no facilities of canal irrigation.

The results also suggest that groundwater irrigation when practiced in areas endowed with canal irrigation facilities, the irrigated land use intensity is high. One of the important uses of surface water irrigation is recharge of groundwater. Given sustainable stock of groundwater aided by recharge from canal irrigation, in a situation where groundwater irrigation is the dominant form of irrigation, any surface water irrigation project in future would thus facilitate better groundwater utilization and helps in increasing the land use intensification. ❖

Right Time Decisions Make Life Happy

Srinivas belongs to Vellanki Village of Ramannapet Mandal in Nalgonda District. He is 35 yrs old. He got married. He has wife and two sons. He was a handloom weaver. He worked as daily wage labor for last fifteen years. He was very skilled weaver. He used to weave big designs in handloom. With his hard work in weaving handloom, his master increased his wage. When Srinivas wanted money, master weaver used to give him, since he is sincere & hard working. He was happy during that time.

Unexpectedly, two years ago raw material rate was increased, so master weaver could not get the expected profit from saris. Then the Master Weaver could not give proper work to his wage labors. During that period Srinivas and his Master Weaver also faced financial problem. Then onwards Srinivas even could not pay the children school fee, moreover he could not buy basic needs for house. For family expenses he took credit from neighbors/knowing persons in the village.

After some days, he wanted to work with other master weavers, so he met some master weavers then they told

him that they are also facing the same problem. After rigorous thinking, Srinivas forced by his conditions had migrated from village to LB Nagar in Hyderabad. In LB Nagar he joined as helper in Kirana shop. He brought family members from village to LB Nagar. In Kirana shop, he was paid very low salary but with heavy work. He worked for two months & left the shop.

After discussing with his wife and well wishers he opened a Tiffin centre at NTR Nagar near LB Nagar. His Tiffin's are tasty, therefore his business developed slowly. Based on customers suggestion besides Tiffin's started mirchi bajjis & snacks in evening. He shifted his family members from LB Nagar to NTR Nagar.

Srinivas and his wife are together running the Tiffin centre and doing hard work, therefore their business grown well. Now Srinivas is sending his children to private school at NTR Nagar and repaid debts in the village. He purchased one motor vehicle also. Now, he is also able to do savings from his earnings and he is happy with family members. ❖

Wrong Decisions Make Life Miserable...

Rangaiah belongs to Govindavaram Village, Srikalahasthi Mandal in Chittoor District. He has a wife and two sons. At present he and his wife are doing Agriculture labor work. His sons are studying in Government school in their own Village. Earlier, he had 3 acres of agriculture land at his Village. He cultivated Ground nut and Paddy crops in his 3 acres of land. He got small profit from his crops. His family used to live well. They didn't have any problems and debts. But Rangaiah life turned at this stage, because some of his relatives from his village were living in Srikalahasthi town and doing business. They are getting good profits from business so they lead luxury life.

Rangaiah brother was also living in town. He has cloth business and groceries shop. His brother was also leading luxury and happy life. Rangaiah wife observed that and she was attracted for the luxury city life. She asked his husband to start a business in town and to shift family to town. But he is not interested.

Rangaiah parents also suggested him to go to town so that they can see both their children simultaneously & also he can earn more so that they feel happy. His friends and relatives also suggested him to go to town. Finally he decided to shift. He didn't think about his skills and money. He shifted his family from village to town. He sold his 3

acre land to his relatives for investment in business and family maintenance. He started groceries shop. He was not interested to run groceries shop. He did not put his efforts for development of shop and he did not get more Profits. He decided this business was not suitable for him. So he closed groceries shop. His brother was getting more profits from cloth business. He observed his brother's business and then he started new cloth business (Cut pieces) in town with his brother advice.

Rangaiah focused on this cloths business. He got more profits from cloth business up to two years. After two years his Sales were decreased because customers are not interested to go to his shop as he sold cloths without quality but with high rates. Customers started buying readymade cloths with interest. So he got loss in cloth business. He was disturbed with this situation, so he could not Pay shop rent, house rent and School fees.

Then, again he shifted his family back to their own Village. He has Rs 20,000/- debts to be paid to relatives and friends. At present he along with his wife are going for daily labor work and he as well shifted his children from private School to Government School. His parents are also feeling upset as they sent him to town to do business. ❖

Happy in Developing Tank ...

P.Rajashekar Reddy, who is working as Para Worker for Water Users Association, of Andhra Pradesh Community Based Tank Management Project (APCBTMP). Livelihoods interviews about his works in Tank Management..

Q; What is your name?

A: My name is P. Rajashekar Reddy

Q: Where is your native place?

A: I am from Kottur village, Bomraspet Mandal in Mahaboobnagar District.

Q: What is your education and age?

A: I am 25 years. I completed my Intermediate.

Q: How many members are living in your family? What are they doing?

A: My family consists of 3 members. My mother, my brother and I. My mother is house wife, my brother completed Intermediate he is also working in agriculture.

Q: What do you do now?

A: I do agriculture work and I am working as Agriculture Para Worker in Andhra Pradesh Community Based Tank Management Project.

Q: Before joining this job what did you do?

A: I worked in Malkajgiri Municipal office at Hyderabad as a Survey Coordinator for 10 months. That time they paid Rs. 6000/- per month. My father died because of sudden heart attack. We spent some money for his Health. I went to my native village. I took all the responsibilities of my family.

Q: How many acres of land do you have?

A: We have three acres of irrigated land. In that we cultivate paddy only. Every year 95-100 bags paddy we produce. In agriculture we get income approximately per year Rs. 20, 000/-. My family depends on agriculture.

Q: Do you have any debts?

A: Recently we constructed a house. For that we took debt. We have total of Rs.50, 000/- debts, of which Crop loan taken from bank is Rs. 20, 000/- and from money lender Rs. 30, 000/- we pay Rs. 4/- per month per Hundred interest to money lender.

Q: What are your responsibilities as Agriculture Para Worker?

A: I conduct meetings for committee members and update books. I give trainings to motivate farmers and also educate them on new methods in agriculture like 'SRI' paddy, introduce new technical methods and educate on water tax and corpus fund.

Q: Who Implements this scheme in your Mandal?

A: Depressed Rural Development Social Organization' is a nongovernmental organization. It is implementing this scheme in Bomraspet mandal.

Q: How long have you been working in APCBTMP?

A: I have been working here for 2 years.

Q: What is the name of Water Users Association in your village? Do they have any sub committees?

A: The Water User Association (WUA) name is 'Patha kotha cheruvu' water users association, there is one management committee and 4 sub committees; they are. 1. Works committee. 2. Financial committee. 3. Water management. 4. Monitoring & Evolution committee.

Q: Are you doing any special programs in 'Water Users Association'?

A: 20 member common Interest group for tribal was formed, and they opened bank account for grant.

Q: Do you get any honorarium?

A: We have two years of agreement between us and association. In this period the first year they pay Rs. 500/- per member. The second year Irrigation department will pay Rs. 300/- per member. In my village 3 members are working as Para Workers. AP Govt irrigation department give the honorarium to association, in turn association pays us.

Q: How many acres of land cultivated last year under this 'Patha kotha cheruvu'?

A: Last year they cultivated 608 acres of land, because of good rainfall. All the tanks were filled with rain water. One year back we had less rainfall so the tank was not filled.

Q: Did you attend any training programs under this scheme?

A: I attended trainings like water management, crops planning, water budget, techniques in 'SRI Paddy' and book keeping.

Q: What is your experience as a Para worker?

A: Basically I like agriculture, I am happy to participate in our water tank development in our village. I am participating actively in this scheme and simultaneously I cultivate my land also.

Q: How many acres did you cultivate under 'SRI Paddy'?

A: Five Farmers cultivated in 12 acres under 'SRI Paddy'. They produced 42-45 bags per acre.

Q: Are you facing any problems in this scheme?

A: I am facing problems in conducting meetings, some people are not interested to come, less attendance in meetings, I can't spare more time for agriculture. They don't pay honorarium regularly.

Q: What is your future plan?

A: I want to start groceries and fancy shop. With in two years I want to pay all debts. I have to earn more money. I am planning for that. I have a responsibility to take care of my mother and my brother. I want to make my brother to study. After three years I will marry. ❖

Books

Book Summary

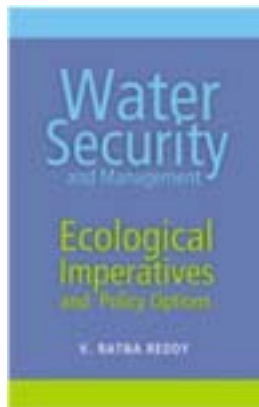
Name of the book: Water Security and Management

Author: V. Ratna Reddy

Publisher:

The book consists of 9 articles on various thematic areas related to irrigation water. The editor V. Ratna Reddy begins with overview of the book. The list of the contents is 1. Water: An Ecological Perspective 2. Irrigation Expenditure: Continuing the Imbalance 3. The 'Big Push': New Strategy for Irrigation Development and Distribution 4. Managing the Surface Systems: Lessons for Formalization 5. Neglect of Natural Capital: Rehabilitation and Management of Tank Systems 6. Groundwater: Development and Degradation 7. Who Cares for Water Use Efficiency? Adoption of System of Rice Intensification (SRI) 8. Water Quality: The Blind Spot 9. Water Security and Management: Need for an Integrated Approach.

The book is an attempt towards an integrated approach for water security and management in the backdrop of irrigation reforms in Andhra Pradesh. In the absence of an integrated approach, 'water security' would remain a distant dream. Water security ensures equity and sustainability. In the context of scarcity, allocation of water should be



governed by optimality rather than productivity. For, optimality combines economic as well as social benefits. Water security is indispensable for addressing inter and intra-regional as well as inter-household inequalities in growth and development and sustaining the ecological balance. In fragile resource regions, environmental degradation is seen as a cause of household food insecurity and as a consequence of water insecurity. That is food security is linked to water security through environmental degradation in these regions.

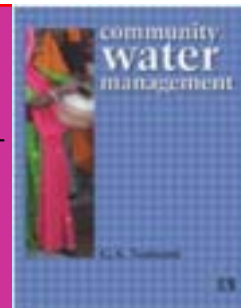
The book is based on the author's work on four important aspects of irrigation management namely- canals, tanks, wells, and water pollution. The study emanates from intensive field research covering different agro-climatic locations in Andhra Pradesh. The study highlights the inter-linkages between different sources of irrigation as well as approaches to irrigation management and argues for an integrated approach for achieving water security. ❖

New Book

Name of the book: Community Water Management

Author: G.S. Narwani

Publisher:



Resources

NGOs working in tank management and rain water harvesting structures in India

Dhan Foundation

www.dhanfoundation.org , Works in tank management in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh

WASSAN

www.wassan.org , Works in water harvesting structures

Jal Bhagirathi Foundation, Rajasthan

jal@jalbhagirathi.org; www.jalbhagirathi.org/, Works in the arid areas of Rajasthan to revive traditional rainwater harvesting structures

Ajit Foundation, Rajasthan

vsvyas@mac.com; <http://www.ajitfoundation.org/>, A voluntary organization working in Bikaner, has revived rainwater harvesting structures across several areas of Rajasthan

Pan Himalayan Grassroots Development Foundation, Uttarakhand (from Ashish Gupta,

apaul@grassrootsindia.com; <http://www.grassrootsindia.com/water.html>, Provides grant assistance to communities for drinking water and sanitation projects,

Wells for India, Rajasthan

wellsforindia@gmail.com; <http://www.wellsforindia.org/>; Contact Om Prakash Sharma; Director Assisting the people of the Thar Desert to achieve water security, activities including building water harvesting structures. ❖

Strong Desire Makes...

I have a friend named Monty Roberts who owns a horse ranch in San Isidro. He has let me use his house to put on fund-raising events to raise money for youth at risk programs. The last time I was there he introduced me by saying, "I want to tell you why I let Jack use my horse. It all goes back to a story about a young man who was the son of an itinerant horse trainer who would go from stable to stable, race track to race track, farm to farm and ranch to ranch, training horses. As a result, the boy's high school career was continually interrupted. When he was a senior, he was asked to write a paper about what he wanted to be and do when he grew up.

"That night he wrote a seven-page paper describing his goal of someday owning a horse ranch. He wrote about his dream in great detail and he even drew a diagram of a 200-acre ranch, showing the location of all the buildings, the stables and the track. Then he drew a detailed floor plan for a 4,000-square-foot house that would sit on a 200-acre dream ranch. "He put a great deal of his heart into the project and the next day he handed it in to his teacher. Two days later he received his paper back. On the front page was a large red F with a note that read, 'see me after class.' "The boy with the dream went to see the teacher after class and asked, 'why did I receive an F?'

"The teacher said, 'This is an unrealistic dream for a young boy like you. You have no money. You come from an itinerant family. You have no resources. Owning a horse ranch requires a lot of money. You have to buy the land. You



have to pay for the original breeding stock and later you'll have to pay large stud fees. There's no way you could ever do it.' Then the teacher added, 'If you will rewrite this paper with a more realistic goal, I will reconsider your grade.' "The boy went home and thought about it long and hard. He asked his father what he should do. His father said, 'Look, son, you have to make up your own mind on this. However, I think it is a very important decision for you.' "Finally, after sitting with it for a week, the boy turned in the same paper, making no changes at all.

He stated, "You can keep the F and I'll keep my dream." Monty then turned to the assembled group and said, "I tell you this story because you are sitting in my 4,000-square-foot house in the middle of my 200-acre horse ranch. I still have that school paper framed over the fireplace." He added, "The best part of the story is that two summers ago that same schoolteacher brought 30 kids to camp out on my ranch for a week." When the teacher was leaving, he said, "Look, Monty, I can tell you this now. When I was your teacher, I was something of a dream stealer. During those years I stole a lot of kids' dreams. Fortunately you had enough gumption not to give up on yours."

Moral: Don't let anyone steal your dreams. Follow your heart, no matter what. No Dream is too big or too small when one works hard to live it. One should always try making dreams come true no matter what. ❖

Source-wise Irrigation Area

Expansion of Irrigated Area in India						
Year	Canal	Tank	GW	Others	NIA	GIA
1950-1	8.3	3.61	5.98	2.97	20.58	22.56
1960-1	10.37	4.56	7.29	2.44	24.66	27.98
1970-1	12.84	4.11	11.89	2.27	31.1	38.2
1980-1	15.29	3.18	17.7	2.55	37.72	49.78
1990-1	17.45	2.94	24.7	2.93	48.02	63.2
2002-3	16.34	2.29	34.5	2.73	55.85	78.33

NIA: Net Irrigated Area GIA: Gross Irrigated Area GW: Ground Water

Source-wise Share (%) of Irrigated Area						
Year	Canal	Tank	GW	Others	NIA/NSA	GIA/GCA
1950-1	40.3	17.55	29.04	14.41	17.63	17.4
1960-1	42.05	18.49	29.56	9.89	18.51	18.3
1970-1	41.28	13.22	38.22	7.29	22.08	23.04
1980-1	39.49	8.22	45.7	6.59	27.6	28.83
1990-1	36.34	6.13	51.42	6.11	33.71	34.03
2002-3	29.25	4.1	61.77	4.88	40.01	41.24

- * Gradually irrigated area increased
- * Canal irrigated area increased
- * Tank irrigated decreased
- * Ground water irrigated area increased drastically. ❖

Ploughing With Tractor



Shining Livelihoods

Ploughing With Plough



Declining Livelihoods

‘Yoga’kshemam

Happy Friendship!

Happy Raksha Bandhan! Happy Independence!

Farmers are on crop holiday. Anna Hazare gets ready to fast on Lok Pal again. Sonia is recuperating from cancer surgery.

Hyderabad is now part of sixth zone, even for Police.

T-agitation and United-agitation are warming up.

There was huge exchanges of greetings for Friendship Day (30 July).

As usual, other International Days passed –International Day of the World’s Indigenous People (9 August), International Youth Day (12 August), International Lefthanders Day (13 August). We are awaiting World Humanitarian Day (19 August), Teachers’ Day (5 September), International Literacy Day (8 September), International Day of Democracy (15 September) and International Day of Peace (21 September)

Still lost in the institutions of the poor, knowledge assimilation and dissemination with reduced knowledge intermediaries! Working Group on National Rural Livelihoods Mission is also gaining momentum! Incidentally, Jairam Ramesh signed on the loan agreement with World Bank for National Rural Livelihoods Project (NRLP) that supports NRLM effort, on 18 July 2011. One more trigger for NRLM to gain momentum!

We are in the month of Ramzan. Krishnaasthami and Ganesh are round the corner!

Yet we are down. Our **Shashi Rajagopalan** bids adieu to this world! She has been a **mentor** to many without her knowing (or saying!) it. She taught us the importance of crossing the ‘t’s and dotting the ‘i’s diligently! In her last known interview, she presses us to pursue ‘collectives of the poor’ with a mission and passion. Let us push ourselves! In our businesses of influence, in our efforts in the public domain, in our institutions that facilitate collectives, in our actions that demonstrate collectivism and through our co-workers and associates!

Working together and fighting with her in various efforts over thousands of hours have made us sharper and more insightful in the **domain of member-owned and member-controlled collectives**, the Acts that facilitate them and their support institutions/organizations, particularly in the government and civil society arena.

Amidst all this, the entire month has been spent on consultations, reflections and articulation for way forward in rural livelihoods and rural livelihoods collectives in India.

Many of us think that we will never have enough time to do all the things we need to do/get done. Krishon Radhakrishna says, “... there is all the time in the world if only we are stress free. .. the greatest achievements have

often come from the simplest of ideas and in the simplest forms. To experience a simplified life, we first have to learn to slow down long enough to see through all the clutter. We need to realize that we are powerful magnets that attracted this life to ourselves - no matter what - good or bad. ...”. If we simplify our lives, with less or no stress and complexity and anchored by a simple purpose of being useful, we give this world our greatest possible contribution.

I gather, during the month, children articulate love much better than the adults (courtesy – Prakash) - “... *love is what makes you smile when you are tired; ...love is kissing me to sleep at night ... love is to greet me first everyday ...love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day ... love is when you eyes brighten up ...*”. Let us give, have and get this love.

Jeevan Vidya says – Understanding culminates in the point of enlightenment. We need to focus on understanding and expansion and enlightenment are natural and spontaneous. Understanding requires abhyaas (practice, dedicated time with patience) of reflection upon listening, seeing, appreciating. What is understood needs to be manifest in one’s living. This is possible in co-existence with other life, people and realities. This begins when

logic ends. Logic is incapable of grasping the wholeness. At this time, imagination comes to the fore. Resonance of imaginations of the teacher and the student as expanded by the teacher begins. It includes ‘faith and assurance’ that the imagination is worth pursuing, and ‘listening’ to unravel the imagination and ‘imagination’ going back and forth. As the practice goes on and the journey goes on, enlightenment dawns suddenly and spontaneously.

Then the self-driven living of the soul merged in the soul of the universe begins. Thus, the driver is the practice of living usefully as indented by ‘life’. Rest follows in resonance. In the dreams, in the thoughts, in the words, in the actions and in the journey! It is the flight. It is the flow. It is the merged flow of usefulness. Resonance presents you direction and you respond. This is joy. This is bliss.

In the confluence of the souls, we are in ‘abhyaaspravaham’ seeking and relishing [swachaalakajeevanayogam](#).

Can we be there? **Yes, if we pursue Atma Yoga.** Relentless dedicated practice of thought, word and action for being useful! Krishna confirms – viswaatma manifests in the soul in dedicated relentless pursuit of usefulness in thought, knowledge and action.

Join us in the world of yoga – for the resonance of co-existence the innermost and viswaatma - towards sakhhyapraanayogasiddhi. You will not regret it. ❖

G Muralidhar

Our Dear Associate, Friend And Mentor



24 July 1951– 5 August 2011

Shashi, Rest in Peace!