

PUDAMI THALLI - A COLLECTIVE FARMING INITIATIVE

Moving from insecurity to Security

A Case Study of T. GANGAMMA



Name	T. Gangamma
Age	29 Years
Husband's Name	T. Sithambarappa
Children	One Son - 7 years old
Village	Talapuru
Mandal	Atmakur
District	Anantapuram

Mrs. T. Gangamma comes from Talapuru village of Atmakur mandal in Anantapur district. She got married to Mr. Sithambarappa at the age of 17 years. Her married life resulted with one son who is now aged 7 years.

"My married life didn't go well" says Gangamma recalling the hardships she faced in the hands of her husband, who was a womaniser. He started troubling her for every petty thing and she bear them all keeping in view the family respect. She was worried about the future of her son also. Finally, he sent her out of the house after getting involved in an extra-marital affair with another woman, and started living with her.

"I had no other option than to return back to my parents house" says Gangamma. But her life was more burned there as she has to take care of her mother, who is also a single woman (as the father of Gangamma passed away some time back), and a brother who is bed-ridden due to chronic illness. Thus, she became the only source for the family who has to make an earning to run the family of four members. The only means of earning is wage employment in agriculture and sometimes some other unskilled works.

"It is a hard time for me to feed the family members" reports Gangamma, as she didn't get regular wage employment. At this juncture she came across REDS organization. The staff of the organization met her, and understood the problem she is facing and the vulnerability levels in taking care of an aged mother, son and an ailing brother.

She has been enrolled into the Pudami Thalli group - which is a group of single women farmers involved in Collective Farming in Talapuru village. All the members of this group belong to Poorest of the Poor category. They are trained in cultivating greens, vegetables, millets and pulses in this land using Natural Farming techniques. "This field is providing my family with food security" responds Gangamma "as the yield from this field is utilized for our family utilization." In addition, they use the greens and vegetables from the field for their domestic purpose.

Gangamma is a very active member of the group and is always ready to help others. During the recent lock-down situation she was very active to get involved in extending humanitarian support initiated by REDS in its project area. "I know what hunger means. Though I don't have the capability to support others, I feel privileged to get involved in an activity to address the hunger of the people in my village" says Gangamma expressing her happiness to be a part in the distribution of relief material to the Covid-19 affected communities.

"I feel I am very lucky to be a member in this group. This is helping my family to get food throughout the year ... as we distribute the cultivated food grains, and greens and vegetables among ourselves. We are, now, confident that we should not starve for food... Thanks to REDS for their very great support for me, and for women like me who are in dire situations... I have no words to thanks Ms. Bhanuja Madam, who has given me the support I needed during the worst times of my life."



Gangamma involved in the distribution of Covid-Relief activity in Talapuru village