



RURAL AND ENVIRONMENT DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY



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Association for India's Development, US has extended support for the implementation of different programs during the financial year 2022-23. A brief account of the same is given hereunder.

- **Livelihood support:**

During the period under reporting, two farmer families were supported under this activity.

In the case of Chinna Venkata Ramanapp, from Basireddi Palli village of Nallamada mandal, there was a reported attempt to suicide by the family head for reasons of indebtedness due to continuous failure of crops for the past several years. An amount of Rs.30,000 was given to this family, with which they have started dairying as an income generation activity.

In the case of Charupalli Ramakrishna from Charupalli, an amount of Rs.30,000/- has been extended to the family with which the family has purchased a cow to make a livelihood. The family is now selling the milk from this cow and getting a sustainable income for the family.

- **Education Support**

Education Support of Rs.10,000 each, was extended to 3 children from COVID affected families. These children are studying in different colleges and pursuing their education. As the families have lost their income due to lockdown situations during COVID lockdown and subsequent situations, these students were forced to stop their education by their families. Under these circumstances, REDS, with the support of AID-US has extended support to these children to continue their education.

As a follow-up, we have applied to Telugu People Foundation seeking support for 9 students. Of these 3 students studying in their B. Tech., course were sanctioned with scholarship to continue their education.

- **Promotion of Navadhanya system of farming**

Navadhanya system of farming is a traditional mixed cropping system practiced by the rainfed farmers in several districts of Andhra Pradesh, including undivided Anantapur district. It was a tradition and practiced up to 1970. However, in due



course of time, due to promotion of chemical farming, it has disappeared and got discouraged in the district.

As a result, and in course of time, total agricultural lands were not utilized fully, and most of the land was left barren. Many senior farmers, even today, are in support of Navadhanya system, but the systems followed, and commercial crops being grown by the young farmers now-a-days, is not allowing to take NAVADHANYA system in the district.



At this juncture, REDS has taken up the activity of promoting natural farming practices, including the traditional system of Navadhanya in its project village, by educating and mobilizing several farmers, majority of them being the women farmer members of the REDS promoted FPOs.

REDS strongly believe that, NAVADHANYA is the only alternative for present rain fed Agriculture in the district, which can help the farmers to reduce the input costs, and make sustainable income, as the crops grown under this system are resistant to local conditions.



The system of NAVADHANYA involves:

- Sowing different types of crops at the same time – harvesting them in accordance to the crop type and season
- Multiple crops help in providing nutritive food to humans, and ample fodder to the livestock
- Assured income - even if one crop fails the other helps to find fetching market
- Helps in conservation of soil fertility
- Covers the soils and helps infiltration of rain water into the ground
- Effective Protection from pest and diseases (through symbiosis)
- Eliminates the issue of weeding



- Maximum utilization of sunlight
- Save the seed to reuse during next sowing season

As a part of its campaign in support of Navadhanya system, REDS promoted this farming in several manadals of Anantapur and Sri Satya Sai Districts. Ten (10) varieties of seeds were purchased with which a total of 300 kits were prepared. The kits were distributed to 300 farmers in 5 mandals of Anantapur and Sri Satyasai Districts. The mandal-wise and village-wise details of kits distributed are tabulated hereunder.

The farmers in these villages have taken up the cultivation in their fields and in the kitchen gardens. The germination and production is very good, and the beneficiaries have expressed their happiness to take up this activity in their fields.



• **Establishment of Millet Hotel:**

With the support of AID-US the FPO has started a Millet Hotel, by name "Pudami Siri" This Hotel was inaugurated on 29.01.2023 at Kurugunta. Mr. A. Sreenivasulu, the Disha DSP, AF Ecology Director Mr. Malla Reddy, NABARD DDM Ms. Anuradha were the chief guests for the event, along with Mr. Dinesh and Ms. Kalyani from EARTH 360, Kadiri, and Ms. Bhanuja, Chief Functionary of REDS and other staff members.



Mr. A. Sreenivasulu, the DISHA, DSP inaugurated the Millet Bakery Unit, which sells the grain seed, rice, and pulses, and Ms. Anuradha, NABARD DDM inaugurated the hotel.

On the day of inauguration, 30 diabetic patients who participated in the Arogya Mastu Program organized by REDS for a period of 30 days during the months of August, 2022. This hotel will be managed and run by 4 single women, who are the members of FPO formed by REDS.

We are very proud to share that Mr. Basanth Kumar, District Collector, Sri Satya Sai District visited this hotel along with his family and had millet lunch in the hotel. He enjoyed the tasty food served in the hotel and appreciated the hotel management and the team which is preparing such tasty recipes.



• **Establishment of Seed Banks:**

Two seed banks were established one each in Kadiri – REDS Resource Centres; and Anantapur – Kurugunta AID has sanctioned an amount of **Rs.3,00,000** (Rupees three lakhs only) for strengthening two seed banks, in Anantapur and Kadiri areas.

Basing on these sanctions, REDS has initiated procurement of different types of seeds for supply to the farmers through the seed banks. These seeds will be supplied during the upcoming Kharif season. The supply of this seed will be done in two different ways –

- (1) **Supply on subsidized price:** To the farmers members of our FPOs at subsidised costs.
- (2) **Supply on buy-back system:** To the farmers who are not member of our FPOs. They have to purchase the seed on full cost. They will be assured that their produce will be procured by REDS on a 'buy-back system'.

The following seeds will be procured for distribution.

S.No.	Item	Quantity
1)	Green gram	2 Quintals
2)	Redgram	5 Quintals
3)	Cowpea (Alasanda)	2 Quintals
4)	Kitchen garden seeds (Containing 10 different greens and vegetable seeds)	For making 250 kits
5)	Dolichos Sinensis/ Hyacinth Bean/ Lablab bean (Anumulu)	2 Quintals
6)	Brown-top millet (Andu Korra)	4 Quintals
7)	Little millets (Sama)	4 Quintals
8)	Kodo millets (Aarika)	1 Quintals
9)	Foxtail Millet (Korra)	5 Quintals
10)	Finger Millet (Ragi)	4 Quintals
11)	Jowar (Jonna)	5 Quintals
12)	Bajra (Sajja)	4 Quintals
13)	Castor (Aamudaalu)	3 Quintals

Quantity of seed procured under buy back system: The following quantity of seed has been procured under buy back system from the benefited farmers.

S.No.	Item	Quantity
1)	Green gram	2.5 Quintals
2)	Redgram	3 Quintals
3)	Cowpea (Alasanda)	3.5 Quintals
4)	Castor (Aamudaalu)	4.5 Quintals

- **Field trips and awareness meetings**

In Amidala village several farmer suicides were reported. Therefore, REDS has conducted a detailed survey in this village and conducted meetings with the farmers.

The survey revealed that there are about 1620 families in this village. There are several farmers of which a total 150 farmers who have taken endowment lands of the local temple. Of this only 41 farmers have CCRC Cards and the remaining 109 farmers do not have them.



For the past few years, i.e., from 2019 to 2022, it has been reported that 5 farmers have committed suicide due to heavy loans. The reasons being heavy investments in agriculture and low returns due to crop failure. It is also understood that each farmer in this village has taken either crop loan, gold loan and/or personal loan. The loan amounts are ranging between Rs.50,000 to Rs.10,00,000.



It is understood that from 2014, out of 7 farmer suicide families 5 have received exgratia from the government while the information of the 2 farmers who have not yet received exgratia has been informed to Jeevana Rekha Helpline which is dealing with these cases. These cases are under follow-up now.

In another case, there is a big row of news about failure of sunflower crops in 5 villages of Sri Satya Sai District. Sanevaripalli in Mudigubba mandal; Dabbaravari palli in ODC mandal, Varigareddi palli and Mallaiahgari palli of Kadiri mandal and Raganipalli village of Nallamada. In this regard, REDS team, and AID Team comprising of Mr. Harsha and Ms. Vandana visited Sri Satya Sai District on 4th July 2022, and discussed the matter with the



district collector during the Spandana Program. They submitted a representation about the sunflower crop loss due to supply of duplicate seeds by the local suppliers. The collector has ordered for a survey by involving the concerned departments. They have conducted a survey and submitted the report to the Collector.



In the mean time REDS has initiated the farmers to file a case in the Consumer Forum and the same has been filed. The case is under progress.

• **Periodic meetings and workshops with farmers:**

As a part of this activity, a total of 49 farmers from FPOs have attended Kisan Swaraj Mela, organized at Mysore. It was a 3-days event which was participated by farmers from different states of India. There were sessions on various aspects related to farmers – viz.,

- Organic Farming and its importance;
- Production of millets and the importance;
- Adopting to different varieties of cultivation methods followed by farmers in different states, and looking into the possibilities to adopt them in other states.

The FPO members of REDS has set up a food stall, where food items, exclusively prepared with Millets. This stall served Andhra Style food items which attracted a large gathering. This stall has served food thrice a day for all the 3 days of the workshop.

Rayalaseema workshop: on 4th February 2023 - The Rayalaseema Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs) Conference was held at Anantapur in the chair of Sri Kakani Govardhana Reddy, hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, AP. Smt. Usha Sricharan, Hon'ble Minister for Women and Child Welfare, Mr. Chiranjeevi Chowdhary, IFS, Principal Secretary, Marketing and Cooperation, Govt of AP; and Ms. Naga Lakshmi, IAS, District collector Anantapur, Sri. Y.V. Malla Reddy, Director, AF Ecology Centre, and Mr. C.S. Reddy, APMAS



participated in the Conference along with several non-Governmental organizations promoting FPOs, and the FPO Representatives working in the district.

A total of 20 farmers from Kadiri area, and 33 from Anantapur rural areas (both men and women) have attended this conference. The FPO members have set up a stall where greens, vegetables, papaya fruits along with value added items like Murkulu, Laddu, Roties etc., were kept for exhibition cum sale.



This meeting helped the participants have come to understand about the importance of FPOs, how to run the FPOs in a successful manner etc. There were discussions about various marketing opportunities / possibilities, and type of support that they can access from allied government departments in developing their FPOs as successful entrepreneurs.

A meeting was conducted in Galiveedu mandal of Annamaiah district. A total of 40 farmers have attended this meeting. Discussions were held about single women issues, issues of tenant farmers, works under MGNREGS, cost effective farming and 5-Layer Model of farming.

National Rural Women Farmer's Day: This event was organized at Kadiri on 15th October 2022. A total of 42 FPO women leaders have participated in this meeting. The event focused on the issues of women's role in Agriculture, Cost inputs, Natural Farming aspects. They were advised not to lead the lands barren but the cultivate atleast a crop a year. The best crops to be taken up will be millets as they are drought resistant and do not require heavy inputs.

- **Collective Farming & meetings with single women farmers**

Under this activity, a total of 20 sing women are supported by REDS with the support of AID-US. As a part of this programme, in Kurugunta 10 single women were formed into group. An extent of 8 acres of land is taken on lease. Similarly, in Talapur village also REDS has identified 10 single women and formed them into a group. An extent of 3 acres of land is taken on lease.

The women of both these groups are cultivating different types of millet crops, greens and vegetables. This helps them in ensuring food security as the produce will be used by these women for their personal (household) utilization.

In Kurugunta Manabhumu Agriculture field: A total of 8 acres of land has been taken on lease for an amount of Rs.80,000. This land has been assigned to 10 single women. Different varieties of crops were cultivated during the period under reporting. The plantation included:

Crop	Extent cultivated	Yield Kgs	Used for personal purpose (Value in Rs.)	Sold outside (Value in Rs.)	Total value
Guava	½ acre	600	6,000	30,000	36,000
Clustered apple	½ acre	280	6,000	22,000	28,000
Drum sticks	½ acre	250	900	6,400	7,300
Grass for cattle feed	1 acre		19,500	0	19,500
Papaya (in the borders and inter-plantation)	--	126	1,000	1,520	2,520
Greens			2,200	2,450	4,650
Vegetables			5,760	19,050	24,810
Total			41,360	81,420	1,22,780

Total value of production in the field is Rs.1,22,780.

In addition to this, the firm has got 3 cows and a calf. The grass cultivated in the field has been used for feeding these animals. The women have also involved in the preparation of natural manures and pest repellents like Ghana Jeevaamrutham, and Drava Jeevaamrutham from the excreta of these cows. This has been used as the manure for the crops cultivated by them. However, an amount of Rs.1850 was also received by selling the same in small quantities.

Talapur Agriculture field: A total of 3 acres of land has been taken on lease by REDS to support 10 single women in Talapur village. These women have started cultivating in this land as a part of food security to their families.

This year, the women have cultivated Paddy in one acre of this land, and a yield of 10 quintals of paddy was received. After milling the paddy, they received 6 quintals of rice, which is worth Rs.27,000, and they shared 60 kgs each.

In addition to this they have also cultivated greens and vegetable in the remaining 2 acres of land. They received the following yield from this.

	Tomato	Brinjal	Bottle-guard	Cluster beans	Green chilies	Total worth
Used for domestic consumption	80	40	20	30	60	
Value (Rs)	960	1200	660	750	1800	5370
Sold outside	120	46	54	85	154	
Value (Rs)	1440	1380	1782	2125	4620	11347

They have also cultivated the Vegetables like Fenugreek (leaves) and Lettuce which is majorly used for their own household consumption (worth Rs.3850), and an amount of Rs.1650 was received by selling outside.

As a part of intercropping Cowpea and green gram were cultivated.

	Cow pea (Kgs)	Green gram (Kgs)	Total worth
Used for domestic consumption	20	20	
Value (Rs)	1200	1560	2760
Sold outside	66	29	
Value (Rs)	3960	2262	6222

Thus, the total value of crops they have cultivated in this field is Rs.58,199. Out of this they have consumed produce worth Rs.38,980. The remaining amount has been utilized towards the costs incurred for the agricultural purposes.

• Kisan Mitra - Jeevana Rekha Activities

In the month of January 2023, Jeevana Rekha, a Helpline to support the farmers in distress is started in Anantapur District. While Kisan Mitra is the original helpline number, the same has been named as Jeevana Rekha in Anantapur District.

The objective of this Helpline, which is a Toll-Free number, is to create awareness among the farmers on the issues of CCRC Cards, Farmer Suicides, Schemes available for the support of the farmers etc., and mobilize them to be strong to face the day-to-day issues. Another very important objective is to nullify the cases of farmer suicides



and help them to be mentally strong to face the problems without committing to acts like suicide etc.

A total of 675 calls were received from both Anantapur and Sri Satya Sai Districts, of which 272 are from Anantapur and the remaining 403 are from Sri Satya Sai District.

On 12th March 2023 a review meeting of Jeevana Rekha cases was organized with Anantapur team at REDS office. Field team has cleared their doubts in a discussion regarding Crop insurance, NREGA, CCRC, Identification of distress families, Farmer suicide Exgratia follow ups etc.,



A few tasks were planned in these meetings, according to which - Along with the follow-up of regular issues, Kalyandurgam division team will concentrate on tenant farmer survey by selecting a village and Anantapur division team will upload the data of tenant farmer survey done so far and will collect the missing information. Team will also identify the situation of CCRC and will follow up on linking Bank loans to the tenant farmers who received CCRC.



On 15th March 2023, the issue related to Sunflower seed failure and the Follow up in Consumer court was discussed. Mr. Yellappa, and Bhanuja met the Superintendent of Consumer Court. He explained about the documents to be submitted for filing the case. During this meeting itself we have contacted the lawyer who argued in the court on behalf of the farmers. The issue is now in process.



REDS has the privilege to be an officiating member in the Spandana

programs organized in Sri Satya Sai District. This has helped in effectively forwarding the representations of several families and individuals to the notice of the concerned officials and solve the cases to the extent possible.

World Consumer Rights Day: A meeting was attended by the REDS team on 15-03-2023 on the occasion of World Consumer Rights day. The meeting was organized in Revenue Bhavan located in the Collectorate, Anantapur. Consumer forum president Srilatha was the chief guest. Different departments like Civil supplies, Medical (ADMHO), Food inspector and NGO's attended the programme. This year theme is Empowering consumers through clean energy transitions.

Ms. Srilatha explained about the modified 2019 Consumer protection act which repeals and replaces the 1986 act. She further added that there are only 200 cases are filed in Anantapur and advised consumers to fight for their rights.



In the question hour session, REDS team discussed regarding Sunflower seed failure in Kadiri division with the president.

On 24th March 2023, a meeting was organized by the PCPNDT District Advisory Committee. During this meeting REDS team had a chance to meet the district collector, Anantapur. A report of Jeevana Rekha cases received in the helpline and explained about the follow up being done till now was submitted to the district collector. Discussion about the promised Livelihood supports which were pending for the distress cases; farmer suicide prone mandals like Uravakonda were held. REDS team suggested for an interactive session with farmer suicide families and also an orientation programme for the officials who deal with farmer suicides.

The District Collector has responded positively and asked to remind her in the month of April. She also said that, she will ask RDO's to conduct more awareness campaigns in their respective divisions.

On 28th March, 2023 a review meeting with the Kisan Mitra Team was held. All the team attended the meeting through Google meet. REDS Director Ms. C Bhanuja garu reviewed the work done by the staff till date. Ms. Vandana from Kissan mitra, updated the status of the calls and clarified doubts of the team. Some of the team members discussed some specific cases and she guided them.

The following are the main points were also discussed in this meeting:

- Identification of Tenant farmers, distressed farmers
- Representation to the government on Issue of CCRC
- Creating awareness on the Kissan Mitra helpline in both districts and about Jeevanrekha in Anantapur district.
- Crop loss issues, linkage with the government schemes
- Promotion and strengthening of FPOs
- Strengthening of Single women federation

All the team members were asked to follow up the calls and close the calls at the earliest.

• **Support to Tenant farmers:**

The tenant farmers face a dire situation as they are victims of facts like (i) in addition to the regular costs of cultivation, they bear the additional expenditure of very large land rents; (ii) they are excluded from most government support systems which are essential to make agriculture a viable livelihood. These include low interest or interest-free crop loans, crop insurance, disaster compensation, crop procurement, marketing facilities and cash support schemes such as Rythu Bharosa, and (iii) the tenants become dependent on the land owners or input and output dealers for loans and they are caught in a cycle in which they not only pay high interest but also lose their bargaining capacity when purchasing inputs or selling the produce.

REDS has taken up survey on Tenant farmers in 6 Grampanchayaths. The survey was done on a total of 504 tenant farmers. The GPs surveyed are (1) Amaduguru, Amaduguru mandal; (2) Gopepalli, Nallamada mandal; (3) K.Kuntlapalli, Kadiri mandal; (4) P.Kotthapalli, N P Kunta mandal; (5) Somayajulapalli, Gandlapenta mandal; and (6) Thangedukunta, OD.Chervu mandal.

The data received with regard to the numbers of CCRC and LEC issued during the years 2019-20 and 2020- 21 from the government sources reveals the following facts.

District	LECs June-July 2019	CCRCs Oct 2019 - Mar 2020	CCRCs Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Estimated Tenants 2021	CCRC % of Estimated Tenants
Anantapur	6,140	3,290	1,073	54,941	2%

The data collected by the team indicates that during the year 2021, out of 504 tenant farmers, only 9 tenant farmers have received CCRC Cards.

In continuation to this survey, REDS has given representations about the status of these tenant farmer families to the government seeking ex-gratia to these families.

In the meantime, 30 tenant farmer suicide families, identified by RED, have been supported with a financial support of Rs.1 lakh each by Janasena Party. These families also have received insurance of Rs.1 lakh from the government and 59 families have received an ex-gratia of Rs.7 lakhs each.



• **Establishing Marketing linkages:**

- REDS is promoting FPO processed millet products. This person will be responsible for identifying the sources from where the FPO can procure millets, make agreements with the suppliers as well as with the marketing entrepreneurs.
- Under the part of Promoting FPO processed millet products, a seed bank was established and regular procurement and marketing linkage was also supported to the farmers through our FPOs.
- FPO tie up with the Nature Linq local company and Aadharana Padi Panta and supplied vegetables, greens and fruits.
- Value addition was also planned and training given to 90 women on millet recipes with the support of NABARD and encouraged women to become micro entrepreneurs.
- With the support of Horticulture department collection centres worth of each center Rs.15,00,000/- were also sanctioned for 3 FPOs.

• **Formation of Single Women Federations:**

REDS has initiated the process of forming District Level Single Women Federations. As on the date of reporting, 2 District level Single Women Federations were formed, i.e., **Naari Shakthi** Single women FPO in Anantapur District, and **Atyachara Nirodhaka Committee** Single Women FPO in Sri Satya Sai District of Andhra Pradesh.

• **Running of counselling centre:**

The counselling centre set up by REDS is continuously function in both Anantapur and Kadiri. This centre is extending support to the women and children in distress, along with extending legal as well mortal support to the vulnerable women, children and their families.

Sl. No.	Type Cases	No of Cases	Settled Cases	Pending Cases	Remarks
1	Domestic Violence	9	2	7	Three cases are referred to Police for further suitable action
2	Dowry Harassment	3	-	-	One case is in court for legal justice. 2 more cases are in follow-up in police station
3	Girl Child Missing	--	--	--	
4	Child Marriage	--	--	--	
5	POCSO (Child Abuse)	9	--	9	The cases are now under the jurisdiction of court
6	Women Missing	--	--	--	
7	Property Issues	1	1	--	
8	Trafficking	1	--	1	The case is in follow-up and a case if also filed in the concerned police station for initiation of legal action against culprits.
9	Extra Marital affair	5	2	3	Follow up is in progress
10	Bigamy	2	1	1	FIR is filed and the case is now in court
11	Cheating	1	--	1	
12	Women Abuse	1	--	1	FIR is filed and it is in the jurisdiction of the court

In the following cases, REDS happened to get involved through direct interaction or through receiving calls from a group of people (students). Subsequently, REDS has initiated a separate drive to cull out the problem.

- **The case of Tanakallu:** In Government High school of Nallaguttapalli village, Tanakallu mandal of Satyasai District the girls from 8th 9th and 10th classes gave complaint on the Head master of the school that he is sexually harassing and abusing them with vulgar language for the long time. Having suffered a lot, they collectively discussed about the issue and directly complained to the Chief secretary of Chief Minister's office, and to the District Collector.

In this regard, a team was formed for the enquiry, and REDS was asked to be a part of enquiry team. REDS along with the team went for the enquiry gave awareness, moral support and confidence to the girls.

The girls bravely gave a written complaint. Based upon the complaint by the girls and the report by the enquiry committee Hon'ble District Collector ordered the suspension of the Head master. He was suspended by the DEO, and a case was filed against the headmaster, which is now in process.

- **TALAPULA:** REDS team has visited the Government Junior College, Talapula to conduct an awareness meeting on Child Rights, Right to Education, Gender Equality and other issues that the girls are facing in the society. During this meeting a few girl students have approached the visiting team, in person, and reported that two lecturers in the college is inappropriately behaving with them, and they are not in a position to bear his behaviour. At the same time they also expressed their inability to report the matter to their parents for fear that they may ask them to stop their education.

Taking this issue as a serious matter and issue need to be interfered immediately, REDS team has taken the matter to the notice of the District Collector of Sri Satya Sai District. The District Collector has taken the matter seriously and appointed an enquiry committee in the leadership of the ICDS Project Director, DCPO, local CDPO, and officials from Revenue Department. One member from REDS was also included in this team. The team made a indepth enquiry about the allegations, and found it to be true.

Basing on the enquiry report, the Government has passed orders and suspended the two lecturers, the information of which was also been telecasted in the media.

The students have shown immense courage through this process. REDS would like to thank local media, parents, student unions and some officials who made this happen

To ensure that this type of incidents do not repeat in future, there is a much need in creating awareness in people regarding the acts like POSH, DISHA etc., Along with awareness, we should concentrate in the implementation of these acts in educational institutions, Work places and so on.

- **Linkages and Lobbying:**

REDS has taken up different types of linkages with different departments to support our target groups/beneficiaries. Such activities included:

- Training in value addition:** During the previous year, REDS has conducted a 15 days training in recipe preparation with Millets. This programme was conducted with the support of NABARD. Continuing the following of this activi ty, this year also, all the 90 trained



beneficiaries have been provided with a refresher training both at Kadiri and Kurugunta. This training was organized for a period of 2 days.

- ii) **Sanction of Collection Centres:** The State government of Andhra Pradesh has come up with the scheme to construct collection centres and cold storages to provide better marketing facility for horticulture crops, in specific, and other crops, in general, as a part of supporting the farmers to store their produce, and sell the same in favourable marketing seasons. The department has come in coordination with the Farmers Producers Organisations (FPO) towards the implementation of the scheme, and has identified a few FPOs who will coordinate with them in identifying suitable locations for setting up the new facilities.



The farmers could store their produce, including millets, pulses, flowers, fruits etc., in these collection centres until they get a better price. Capacity of each cold storage is 10 metric tonnes. The Horticulture Department has sanctioned 3 FPOs to REDS formed. They are (1) Nallamada, (2) Kadiri, and (3) Kurugunta. These centres are now under construction, and will be started in the nearby time.

A total 1100 FPO members and other farmers in the respective villages in these mandals will be benefited through these collection centres. The farmers can store their harvest at one place and can sell according to the demand.



REDS promoted Anantha WFPO will be setting up a processing unit in Kurugunta, in the premises of the Collection Centre, once the construction process is completed.

With the support of Both ENDS, REDS has implemented the project called Contribution to Health Care and Food Security. Under this activity, the organization has focused in promoting farmers, both women and men farmers to get strengthened in different aspects which will help them to make farming a profitable one by understanding various aspects through trainings, exposures, marketing linkages and value addition. A brief report of the activities carried out during this period are narrated hereunder.

- **Capacity Building**

Capacitation of farmers has focused on various aspects like Value addition and Marketing, use of Bio-pesticides, practicing Non-Pesticide Methods of agriculture, and the concept of Women FPOs and their strengthening.

As a part of this activity, trainings were organized in Kurugunta, and REDS office at Kadiri wherein the participant farmer members were explained about the importance and advantages of adopting to the above topics / activities. Mr. Yellappa, and Mrs. Nageswaramma, were the subject matter experts who discussed the topics.

This resulted in organizing 8 Capacity Building Programmes by involving 297 farmer members and FPO members. The capacity building training organized on 9th March 2023, in Kadiri by involving 57 women from different villages of Kadiri division took place along with International Women's Day Celebrations held in Kadiri.

Natural farming practices, utilization of technologies, importance of seed banks, practices of ecological agricultures were discussed during this meeting on natural farming practices.

As a result of these meetings, a total of 255 women farmers are now practicing Natural Farming practices in their lands. These women have taken seed from the seed bank established by REDS and are now cultivating their lands using this seed. It is being in practice in 22 villages where we have 5 FPOs actively working.

The harvest of Redgram, green gram and cowpea is very encouraging as they have harvested an average of 25 quintols of produce each.

Three (3) FPOs have now established marketing linkages with MarkFED for supply of groundnut and Maize. They have formally drawn an MoU with MarkFED.

• Exposure Visits

Exposure visits are organized to expose and capacitate the beneficiaries to various external resources from where they can learn through participation, observation and interactions with other participants and the experts.

Under this activity, Internal and External Exposures were organized. The visits were organized in Anantapur town, and taking the farmers to Rekulakunta Agriculture Research Station, and Kadiri Agriculture Research Station.

(1) A total of 49 men and women members were taken to AF Ecology centre. They were exposed to the Bio-Diversity, Natural Farming aspects along with practical exposure to observe the nursery and plantation, water conservation, life-saving water supply to the plants etc.

(2) In another exposure 50 FPO representatives were taken on an exposure on the topic of 'Swatch Kadam' organized at the Groundnut Plot located in the Bellary Bypass, where they are preparing different types of value-added products.

(3) Two external exposures were organized. A total of 46 women FPO members were taken to Rekulakunta ARS, and 43 women FPO members were taken to Kadiri ARS stations.

(4) In A total of 30 women FPO members from Anantapur, and 17 women farmers from Kadiri Area were taken to Rekulakunta ARS.

As a result of these exposures, the participant Women FPO members have observed various research methods adopted by the Scientists / scientific research stations in developing different varieties of groundnut which will withstand the local dry conditions. They have gained more knowledge in the groundnut crop management, pest management, water management aspects, cultivation, harvesting, value additions etc.



A Kisan Mela was organized at Rekulakunta Agriculture Research Station on 31st January 2023 by the Agriculture Research Station. The farmers have observed the stalls set up there, where different types of seeds were kept for display. The farmer members have

observed and interacted with the scientists regarding different varieties of seeds and crops. There were discussions about different implements being developed and used in the modern farming. The women farmers have also got knowledge about various types of fodder seed and, such of those women members who have livestock in their households had keen discussions about the fodder types and the advantages of that fodder.



- **Farmers' Meetings**

The farmers' meetings are intended to boost the morale of the women farmers to know their rights, focus on agriculture by adopting to various methods which cutdown the input costs and give sustainable income. Village level meetings were conducted to enjoy their Rights by getting recognized as "Farmers", to form them into FPOs, take collective marketing, and get involved into value addition.

A total of 57 village level meetings were organized in 6 mandals in both Sri Satya Sai District and Anantapur Districts. A total of 957 men and women farmers have attended these meetings. They are now gaining confidence in agriculture, and have understood about various schemes for the welfare of farmers, collectively as FPO members, bank linkages etc.

A total of 20 farmers from Kadiri area, and 33 from Anantapur rural areas (both men and women) have attended The Rayalaseema Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs) conference HELD ON 4TH February 2023. The FPO members have set up a stall where greens, vegetables, papaya fruits along with value added items like Murkulu, Laddu, Roties Millet Rice etc., were kept for exhibition cum sale.

Through these meetings and conferences, the participants have gained knowledge on their rights, and on different methods of farming, how to cutdown the input costs, formation into FPOs, applying for different government schemes related to agriculture and allied sectors.

The participants have come to understand about the importance of FPOs, how to run the FPOs in a successful manner etc. There were discussions about various marketing opportunities / possibilities, and type of support that they can access from allied government departments in developing their FPOs as successful entrepreneurs.

• Celebration of World Environment Day:

REDS has conducted World Environment Day campaign in both Kadiri and Anantapur divisions. The women farmers were involved in these events along with the FPO members which gave them an exposure to the issues related to existing Environment and the eco-environmental conditions in the world today.

In a grand meeting conducted on 5th June 2022, at AF Ecology office, REDS and the women farmers along with FPO members have participated. This event was also attended by Mrs. Girija, Chairperson, ZP, Anantapur, Mr. Chandrasekhar, District Forest Officer, Mr. Hanumanthu, Superintendent of Police, Anantapur, and Mr. Malla Reddy, Director, AF Ecology, Ms. Bhanuja, Chief Functionary, REDS along with other district officials.



All the speakers focused on the issues of environmental pollution and how the trees help us in minimizing the pollution, and giving us a clean and fresh environment. They explained about the importance and need to plan trees, stop cutting and felling for trees, and protection of trees in their households and in their vicinity.

The speakers called on the participants that Anantapur district should be turned into a 'land of greenery' by taking up more and more plantation.

As a part of division-wise campaign, REDS has organized Auto-Rallies at the village level to create awareness among the people on plants and fauna. Printed literature depicting the importance of plants and their invaluable gifts to all living beings on the earth.



Representations were also submitted to the DFO, and ZP Chair Person, on the issue of women farmers' Rights and wellbeing. During this campaign, REDS has distributed 27,000 medicinal plants in 7 mandals in coordination with Bio-diversity Board.



An **internal exposure** visit was organized to AF on the Bio-diversity and Natural Farming aspects. A total of 50 FPO representative women farmers from Anantapur and Kadiri division have participated in this exposure.

• Skill Upgradation

The purpose of this activity is to identify unskilled and semi-skilled women members and improve their skills so that they become more professional in preparing value added products.

Strategies: Organizing meetings with the identified women. Identify and engage professionals in value addition field, and involve them in imparting trainings to the selected semi-skilled and unskilled women members.

Output: Three skill upgradation trainings were organized during the period under reporting. They were attended by a total of 146 members. While two of them were organized in Anantapur, one was organized at Kadiri.

- One of the trainings was regarding preparation of organic manures and pesticides. The participants were trained on Natural Farming methods also conducted demos on preparation of Organic decoctions like Drava Jeevamrutham, Ghana Jeevamrutham, Neemasthram, Beejamrutham, etc to control the pests. Briefed about the sustainable agricultural practices.
- In the two trainings organized at Kadiri and Anantapur, a total of 60 women were trained in the preparation of 15 varieties of recipes using Millets.

Outcome: Organic manures and pest repellents were prepared and used by the farmers in about 22 villages in the REDS project area.

About 22 women who have got trained in recipe making are now getting regular orders from outside to supply various types of recipes for different functions.

• Marketing Development

Marketing Development activities are conducted by REDS. As a part of creating marketing linkages to the farmers and FPOs to sell out their produce in bulk, thereby get better marketing price when compared to the offered price in the local market.



REDS organized meetings both at Anantapur and Kadiri offices / centres for the FPO members and Farmers. Experts in the Marketing and Business field, experts in value

addition and packing were engaged in imparting these trainings. Interactive sessions were organized as a part of these meetings cum trainings.

A total of 7 meetings / trainings were organized during the period under reporting which were attended by a cumulative total of 350 farmer / women members. The participants have gained constructive knowledge and are well aware of the minute details related to Marketing and promotional aspects.

They were explained about the scope they have to store the produce in the Collection Centres, which are being sanctioned to REDS. The Collection Centre is under construction, and once completed the stock can be kept till good market price is received. REDS is in the process of setting up of millet processing unit. Hence, the farmer members were also explained about the processing of millets and finding good marketing.

The women FPO at Kurugunta are now linked up with **Nature Linq** – a marketing organization. The women FPO is supplying them greens and vegetables twice a week, for which they are paid a better price when compared to the local market price offered by the traders. The women FPO is also now associated with Adarana Padi Pantalu Firm, and also negotiating with WayCool firm for supply of greens, vegetables and other millet products.



• **Review on Business Development**

As a part of business development, the women were educated on cost effective farming, value addition, assessing product-demands in the market and plan the business.

Under this activity a meeting was organized on 21/1/2023, in RED Office, Anantapur, where a total of 20 FPO leaders have attended. The participants were explained about making a profitable business and how to plan for it. They were explained about cost effective farming which includes, understanding the inputs required for paddy against millets, and the amount of other inputs needed. They were also explained with the comparative statement of how much each crop costs and what are the expected prices in the market. They were also explained that they can bring the millet produce to the Collection Centre (sanctioned to Anantha WFPO), where they can clean, process and pack it for making a profitable business.

The construction of collection centre is now in progress. A few women farmers have already started processing the millets in the local processing units and are selling them. A few women farmers have adopted to millet cultivation.

- **Trainings on Value Addition**

Trainings on value addition were also taken up to capacitate the women farmers on various methods (value addition) by which they can make better income for their produce. Trainings to women on value addition methods were given by organizing training programmes. REDS has engaged experts in the field of value addition. A total of 3 trainings were conducted by REDS during the reporting period.

- Conducted training on value addition to the 60 women and trained on making 20-30 varieties of recipes with millet. This program was conducted at 2 mandals with 30 members from each Mandal.
- Another 3 days training session was conducted and now all the women got trained and getting orders from different events and some of them become micro entrepreneur. Organised stalls at different events which was conducted by the government, private sectors. Where we got an exposure and got an identity also.
- During the second half, another training was conducted to 30 women coming from Anantapur rural and Atmakur mandals. This training focused in educating the women on the preparation of different types of food items using millet produce, and finding marketing for the products they have prepared.



In all, a total of 90 women are trained. Some of the women who got trained are getting orders from different events and some of them become micro entrepreneur. Organised stalls at different events which was conducted by the government, private sectors. Some of the women who got trained are getting orders from different events and some of them become micro entrepreneur. Organised stalls at different events which was conducted by the government, private sectors. Where we got an exposure and got an identity also.

- **Organizing Annual General Body meetings:**

This activity is a part of involving the General Body members of the FPOs to come together, know and understand the annual achievements of their respective FPOs performance, select new Board of Directors, and plan for the futuristic development of their FPO. REDS has facilitating in Organizing Annual General Body Meetings in their mandal headquarters, by involving the members from each village level group to attend the meeting and realise their roles and responsibilities and follow the resolved decision by the FPO Board of Directors.

During the reporting financial year, 4 FPO meetings were organized.

- The AGM of Kadiri FPO (Mallaiahgari Palli WFPO) was organized on 22/8/2022 in REDS Office premises. It was attended by a total of 154 women members coming from 35 villages.
- The AGM of Atmakur FPO (Anantha Grammena Mahila Raithula FPO) was organized at Kurugunta Collective Farming centre on 26/8/2022. It was attended by 75 women FPO members coming from 6 villages.
- The AGM of Nallamada FPO (Nallamada Swashakthi Sendriya Vyavasaya Atavi Utpathula FPO) was organized at Nallamada REDS Office. This meeting was attended by 182 members coming from 22 villages.
- The AGM of Obuladevara Cheruvu FPO (Obuladevera Cheruvu Mandal Mahila Raithula FPO) was organized on 8/9/2022. It was attended by 85 women FPO members coming from 13 villages.

A total of 496 farmer members coming from 76 villages of 4 mandals have got involved in the FPO Annual General Body meetings. They have all understood the activities carried over by their respective FPOs. They have all unanimously resolved to get more involved in the activities of the FPOs, improve their business through value addition, increase membership strength, pay share capital to invest more in the procurement from FPO. New Board of Directors were selected for the upcoming financial year.

This project is aimed at creating awareness on Safe Village Concept among the villagers and school children. Extensive school level and village level meetings and campaigns of different types are organized under this project. A brief narrative of different activities conducted are given hereunder.

• Awareness meetings with students:

As a part of this activity, school level meetings are organized by the team members by involving the students and teachers. During the period under reporting a total of 12 school level meetings are organized in 12 villages. A total of 441 boys and 593 students have participated in these meetings. The main topics of discussions included:

- Types of abuses that the children face
- What is meant by trafficking, how it takes place and how to safeguard from such incidents and to whom it has to be reported.
- The concept of safe touch and unsafe touch and how to tackle the worst situations and how to report and to whom to report.
- Problems in the schools and to whom they should be reported
- Problems outside the school and whom to approach for reporting and protecting themselves or others from such incidents.
- Contacting child-helpline numbers in case of problem and accessing help from different sources – child rescue, protection and rehabilitation.
- Information about CWC and Juvenile Justice – the district level set-up for the protection of children's rights.



Mar 6, 2023 11:29:15 AM
Penukonda Mudigubba Dorigallu Road
Iragampalle
Andhra Pradesh

• Awareness meetings to the communities

At the village level, meetings are conducted in small groups. Meetings with father and mothers are organized separately to educate the women, men and people's representatives on various issues related to the safety, security and protection of the community as a whole irrespective of caste, creed, age and gender. A total of 509 women and 259 men have participated in these meetings.



Different topics were discussed during these meetings, which included:

- The meaning of Human Trafficking, understanding various types of approaches by the traffickers, their approach, and how to identify a person or a group as person or persons involved in human trafficking.
- Prevention of human trafficking, steps to be taken to get out of their clutches, and the process of reporting and authorities to whom the information to be passed on.
- Process and steps to be taken on emergency grounds when someone is trafficked or suspected as about to be trafficked.
- The Help Line numbers to be contacted in case of Human Trafficking or in danger of trafficking.
- The concept of child marriages; the legal age of a child to be married – both in the case of boys and girls; prevention of child marriages – responsibilities of every citizens in the prevention and reporting of possible child marriage
- Information on Child Rights – responsibility of every family, an individual in protecting and safeguarding Child Rights.



• **Grass-root stakeholders training**

On 21st February 2023, My Choice Foundation has conducted a one-day training to the grass-root stakeholders as a part of Red Alert programme.

Ms. Kranthi and Mr. Manglesh were the resource persons from My Choice Foundation. Briefing about the work of My Choice Foundation, Ms. Kranthi informed that it is working with 100 NGOs in 10 states across India. The activities are spread into 8000 villages. She further informed that till date REDS has organized Safe Village Programme in about 140 villages creating awareness among the students, parents and teachers. A lot of awareness has been created on the topics like Child Marriages, Human Trafficking, Child Labour, Right to Education, Domestic Violence and contacting Help Line for support.



She also explained that under the Four Pillar Approach in each village – i.e., Rakshaks, Gram Mithra, Community Leaders, and Nodal Teachers have been identified and selected. They become the key persons to identify issues like Child Marriages, Human Trafficking, Child Labour, Domestic Violence, and play key role in preventing them.

Followed by this a detailed information about the legal aspects, laws to prevent the above activities and support the victims have been shared and discussed.

Mr. Manglesh addressed the trainees and said that everyone should get involved into their work, understand and fulfil their responsibilities. If this is done, then everyone will be a part of playing key role in contacting Help Lines to save someone – a child or a woman in trouble or in need of support. He felt that being part of a team, and playing their role as village Rakshaks, Gram Mithra, Community Leaders, and Nodal Teachers, is a great opportunity for the members of the teams to extend support and play a key role in such a great humanitarian act. He informed about the working rules of Help Line Numbers and assured that the names and identity of the callers are never disclosed to anyone. He also requested the members of these teams to take lead role in educating, and counselling the parents on different aspects which will help to establish a society free of any issues, where the humanity prospers.



As a part of this training, Mr. Yellappa, the field trainer, has shared a session on Child Abuse, Child Labour and Child Marriages. He explained about Right to Education Act, and explained that according to this Act, children less than 14 years of age should, mandatorily, be in the schools and should not be out of schools or go for any labour work.



Information about the right age for girls (18 years) and boys (21 Years) was explained. Violence of this will lead to filing of cases against the parents of both parties, and imposition of imprisonment upto 3 years along with fine of upto one lakh rupees. A few short films were also projected with this theme.



Ms. Bhanuja, the Director – REDS joined the training and shared a few views and practical incidents about Domestic Violence cases, and human trafficking cases. She felt very sorry that there is a gender based-violence and gender inequality – troubling the feminine gender of all age groups. She expressed her agony about abortions based on gender of the foetus inspite of the fact that the PCPNDT Act is in existence.

A short film on Safe Touch and Unsafe Touch has been screened during this training. Then the participants were divided into four groups and each group has been given a topic to discuss – the topics were (1) Child marriages; (2) Child Trafficking; (3) Child Labour; and (4) Domestic Violence; and present their views, the reasons/ why they are happening in the society, and suggestions to overcome / stop such incidents.

After the presentations have been completed and discussions were completed, a session on Way forward and closing remarks.

During the previous financial year, NABARD has supported REDS to take up a training programme of value addition of Millets. Under this training programme a total of 90 women were trained in the preparation of different types of recipes.

All these trainees have attended a 2 days Refresher training during the reporting period. These trainings were organized in Kadiri Resource Centre and in Kurugunta Collective Farming Centre for the 90 trainees who got trained during the 15 days trainings organized from 3/01/2022 to 19/01/2022 and 25/02/2022 to 11/03/2022, at Kadiri, and 25/02/2022 to 12/03/2022 at Kurugunta. The resource persons for these 2 days sessions were:



These refresher trainings were organized on the following dates and venues:

	Kadiri	Anantapur
Date	15th and 16th September, 2022	23 rd and 24 th September 2022
Venue	Kadiri Resource Centre	Kurugunta Collective Farming.
No. of participants	59	30
Resource persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Nagabhushanam • Mr. Gangulappa • Mrs. Mehataz • Mr. Yellappa • Mrs. Bhanuja & Sudha Upadhyaya 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Nagabhushanam • Mr. Gangulappa • Mrs. Mehataz • Mrs. Bhanuja • Mrs. Y.A. Anitha

The two-day session had the following activities being taken up.

- **Introduction:** An introduction was given to explain the participants about the need for the refresher training. It is intended to share the experiences of the trainees after they have got trained and are in the sales and marketing of the products and also to get updated with things that have changed since the first training or to improvise their knowledge in the fields of subjects they have learned.

- **Recap on 15 days training program and recap on the millet recipes:** This session was led by Mr. Nagabhushanam and Mr. Gangulappa. A recap of different items they have learnt during the initial training was done during the interactive session. There were several exchange of ideas, experiences between the resource persons and the trainees with regard to their learnings and the practical aspects.
- **Preparation on Millet recipes, especially on Cakes and Biscuits:** The second session was related to discussion on different types millet recipes that they have learnt during the training session. There were again discussions about the experiences they have had in the preparation of these items, the problems they have faced in mixing, preparation, quality of the items prepared etc.
- **Issues and problems faced by the trainees while preparing the recipes:** The participants exchanged various experiences they have had regarding the mixing of different ingredients, the quality it has resulted etc. There were suggestions and clarifications on each of the issues discussed.
- **Sharing on suggestions of fixation of price for the recipes prepared by the trainees:** The trainees have discussed about the prices of items in different areas of Kadiri / Anantapur with regard to different millet-based items. They have also shared the views / opinions of different customers who are regular, but have pointed out about the price differences. At this stage, there were discussions about the prices of raw materials, quality of raw material, use of superior quality of raw material and the price of the products. Thus, the trainees were explained about fixing the price basing on the raw material and other factors involved in the fixation of prices of the products.
- **Practical session on preparation of recipes:** Mr. Nagabhushanam presided over these sessions both at Kadiri and at Anantapur on the 2nd day, respectively. As per the request of the participants, he has prepared a few baked items, like biscuits and cakes to revise the skills of the



trainees. This has helped the participants to get another chance to practically watch, understand the preparation of these items, and get refreshed about the subject.

- **Maintenance of Hygiene techniques:** This session was taken up by Mr. Gangulappa, both at Kadiri and Anantapur. The resource person explained about the Hygiene aspects in the preparation area (surroundings), personal hygiene of the person(s) involved in the preparation of items, at the storage, and in the sales counter etc. He has explained the minutes precautions to be taken – i.e., wearing of head caps, gloves, aprons; using of clean bowls while transferring the cooked contents; use of clean and neat trays etc., and precautions need to be taken to protect the items from dust, flies and other such insects.



- **Identification of market and packing:** This session, conducted in the afternoon, was presided over by Ms. C Bhanuja and Ms. Sudhya Upadhyaya (from Hyderabad). They explained about market and how to identify potential market for a particular item. They also explained about packing, precautions to be taken in packing, appearance of packing etc. They explained about different types of products that are liked by the people in different places, and meeting their demands etc.
- **Marketing techniques and advertisement:** A session on the marketing techniques and advertisement was taken up by Mr. K Yellappa, at Kadiri and Ms. Y.A. Anitha at Anantapur. Information about how to make the consumers attracted towards the product, the tricks and techniques involved in advertisement of the products – the catchy way of present about the product were explained with examples. However, when a small group starts this type of production, they should impress and relay on 'person-to-person' advertisement through dissemination of information by the individuals. Also discussed about few techniques like discounts, offers etc., as a part of attracting the clientele and gain market.



• OPERATION SWETCHA:

Under the part of Operation Svecchha, yesterday (14.2.23) REDS team went to Chenampalli of Bukkarayasamudram mandal on 14th February 2023. The team has identified a few cases of bonded labour and other issues. They collected details and planned to organize rescue operation on the next day, i.e. on 15.2.23.

Accordingly, the team again visited the village along with members from line departments, i.e., Women and Child Welfare Department, Police Department, Labour Department, Childline team, International Justice Mission (IJM) Representative, VRO, REDS team and Sachivalayam team.



The team members met the families which were identified on the day before, and the families have introduced themselves to the team and shared their issues.



- Mrs. Ramadevi from Labour department explained and created awareness about the Labour Act, and Schemes which are available and detailed about the labour cards.
- Team Identified 10 dropout children (boys-2, girls-8) and counselled both children and parents and going to submit them to CWC for enrolment in the school and is under process.
- Identified an young man named Govind aged 27 years, who is working as a bonded labour since he was 16 years old (11 years of bonded labour). He is struggling to come out from bonded labour. The team collected details and documented and planned to submit to RDO for Rehabilitation of this boy.



Bukkarayasamudram		Date: 14/02/2023
1. Name: Mrs. Govinda Reddy	2. Date of Birth: 01/01/1995	
3. Gender: Male	4. Age: 28	
5. Marital Status: Married	6. Religion: Hindu	
7. Education: Graduate	8. Occupation: Farmer	
9. Address: Bukkarayasamudram, Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh	10. Contact No: 98491 12345	
11. Date of Identification: 14/02/2023	12. Name of the Officer: Mr. Govinda Reddy	
13. Signature of the Officer: _____	14. Signature of the Officer: _____	
15. Signature of the Officer: _____	16. Signature of the Officer: _____	
17. Signature of the Officer: _____	18. Signature of the Officer: _____	
19. Signature of the Officer: _____	20. Signature of the Officer: _____	

For more details visit on <http://www.bukkarayasamudram.org>

Dr. Govinda Reddy
Bukkarayasamudram

The case of Mr. Govind was represented to the RDO who has issued release orders. The boy is now freed from bonded labour work and he is leading a free life.

• WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

International Women's Day event was organized both at Kadiri and Anantapur.

At Kadiri, the event was organized, on **9th March 2023**, at REDS Resource Centre, Kadiri. The chief guests included Mr. Chenna Krishan, Mandal Education Officer, Kadiri, Mr. Suresh from CITRA. The meeting also included Mrs. Bhanuja, Chief Functionary, REDS, Mr. Yellappa, Coordinator, and the staff of REDS, along with 57 women from different mandals of Kadiri division.

Speaking on the occasion Mr. Chenna Krishna said that the society has men and women in equal numbers in the society. In the same way both men and women are equal in all aspects. They have equal rights and are performing with utmost capabilities in all fields. However, there is a disparity with regard to several aspects in the treatment of women. He advised that women should overcome this. In this context he suggested that the parents should treat both boys and girls equally in their family, which will become a guiding lesson and advise for the children when they grow. They will start treating each other with utmost respect and give them the deserved rights.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sures said that even in this modern age women do not have equal rights like their male counterparts. They are socially treated as unequal. He wished that this culture should be eradicated from the society.



Addressing the gathering Mrs. Bhanuja said that Women's Day is an outcome of years of agitations and fighting against the male dominated society. She informed that this event is organized annually by REDS. She advised that women should understand and learn the technological advancement, follow them and get trained to implement them. She said that REDS has initiated to bring together single women and formed them into a Federation in Sri Satya Sai District and Anantapur Districts.



at Anantapur, REDS organized the International Women's Day event on **16th March 2023** at PUDAMI SIRI millet Hotel, Kurugunta. It was participated by 70 women from 7 mandalas which included the single women federation members, women from farmer suicide families, women farmers and different single women participated in the meeting.



Ms. Bhanuja, Director of REDS explained about the importance and background history of celebrating Women's Day. She addressed about the issues that women are facing in day-to-day life in the society and as well as family. She also suggested the women about the necessity of forming into a federation to strengthen themselves and be supportive to each other.



Later, the participant women introduced themselves and briefed about their family and situation. They shared their feelings and experiences in the meeting with each other. They discussed about the issues, their struggling, social stigma they are facing in the society.

Later Ms. Bhanuja explained them about CCRC cards, Kisan Mitra, Jeevana Rekha and laws related to women and children. She also stated that Government has to take steps to prevent farmer suicides. The farmers should be strong and shouldn't commit suicides. If any farmer is identified as a case in distress, they can call to Jeevan Rekha, so that the Joint Collector will order the concerned officer to follow-up the case and take necessary actions.

Mr. Rajesh, an English teacher in Gurukula paatasala in Kurugunta village addressed that he came to know about REDS organization from Google, and the work done by REDS. He felt very happy to participate in the meeting. He explained about the Gurukula School, the process of admission and the facilities provided to the students in the school. He motivated the women about the importance of education for the girls, prevention of child marriages etc.

Ms. Sireesha, Legal Advisor briefed about the Laws and Acts related to women, children, District Legal Services Authority and Counseling center. She explained the importance of women participating and addressing in village level meetings, so that they can get awareness about the issues, different schemes etc.



After this meeting, the women were formed as a Federation. They selected 17 women from 7 mandalas as the committee. The resolutions were made and decided to meet once in a month to strengthen their Federation, support each other and discuss about their issues.

The women identified some issues which need special attention. These issues are (1) Education for children; (2) Social stigma; (3) Exgratia status; (4) Pensions to women; (5) Property issues; (6) Livelihood support etc.

- **PENSION TO POOR FAMILIES:**

With the support of Mr. Anantha Sai Padmanabhan REDS has supported 6 poor families with a pension of Rs.1500 every month for a period of one year.



Pensions to economically poor family – 6 members @Rs.1500 each. And staff salary for the counseling centre staff.

- **Arogyamasthu – A 30 days study on Diabetic free village- Through Millet recipes**

On 21st August 2022 a study program on Diabetic patients was initiated by REDS in its Mana Bhoomi Collective Farm situated in Kurugunta village. The entire program is designed in coordination with Dr. Khadar vali, the Social Scientist who is exclusively working on millets. The programme envisages to make Kurugunta village diabetic free in the coming one year.

The program started a study by monitoring diabetes through Millet based food. This program was initiated by REDS with the coordination of Rural Development Trust, Anantapur, Mr. Ramakrishna, Aadarana Mr. Ramakrishna, Mr. Gangi Reddy, and Mr. Kullaya swamy from CERA organization.

Initially REDS conducted a survey and identified around 70 Diabetic patients, and selected 30 Diabetic patients who are interested to follow the diet as per the prescribed diet plan. All the 30 members were from Kurugunta village. This study program is of 30 days.

Periodical Diabetic test were conducted to monitor regular sugar levels through the medical doctors from Sathya Sai Trust. The result of the 30 periodical clinical diagnosis revealed that there is a significant control in the sugar levels of the selected diabetic objects, indicating that millet food has a positive impact in controlling diabetic levels among human beings.

The concluding session of this one month programme as organized on 22.09.2022. WDT Chairperson Ms. Vishala Ferrer, Mr. Shyam Prasad Reddy (Rtd Engineers Association, TS), Mr. Muthyala Reddy (Rtd Engineers Association TS), Mr. Chandra Shekhar, Scientist, N G Ranga Agri University, Ms. Banuja, from REDS, Mr. Kullayaswamy from CERA, Mr. Ramakrishna, from Adharana, and Mr. Gangi Reddy were the chief guests for the concluding session of this event.

The chief guest appreciated the purpose of the program and its positive impact on the health condition of the diabetic patients. They also called on the farmers to show special focus in cultivation of millets in their fields. They have also opined that a research centre to study the impact of Millet on health aspects should be started in the district.

• Walk for Freedom

As a part of observing Anti-Human Trafficking Day, REDS has participated in the 'Walk for Freedom' organized at Kadiri on 15th October 2022.

It is a global event that raises awareness against slavery through a public walk in over 40 countries. This year is the fourth edition of the walk and is being hosted in 20 cities including Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Goa, Kochi, Gurugram, Hyderabad, Shillong, Delhi and others.



In Kadiri town, REDs organized this event to raise awareness through mobilizing Students from different schools in Kadiri, Women Farmers, Staff of REDS, and a few human trafficked and rescued women to participate in this Walk. The human walk started at R & D Bungalow, Kadiri and concluded at Clock Tower. Officials from different departments, i.e., Senior Civil Judge, RDO, Police Officers, Electronic Media representatives attended this event.



• Awareness on WASH in ULBS

To strengthen the efforts of AIIB-APUWSSMIP (Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank – Andhra Pradesh Urban Water Supply and Septage Management Improvement Project project in terms of building the capacities of key stakeholders working on Urban WASH, UNICEF is implementing a project titled “Scale-up improved WASH services and hygiene behaviours”.



REDs organized workshops in both Anantapur and Sri Satya Sai Districts. The workshops were organized in (1) Puttaparthi, (2) Kalyandurg, and (3) Pamidi ULBs. Under this activity, several activities were conducted focusing on the objectives of the programme, i.e.,

1. Importance of WASH services and WASH programs in their respective ULBs.
2. To understand the gaps, challenges, and issues of WASH sector in their respective ULBs.
3. Discuss about the need and the role of different stakeholders to ensure best WASH facilities and practices.
4. Preparation of a six-month action plan with timeline and responsibilities of different stakeholders to ensure proper implementation of WASH.
5. Strengthening of parents’ committees and Children’s committees in the respective ULBs



At the mandal level, workshops were conducted by involving different the stakeholders – i.e., People’s representatives, ASHA workers, Teachers, Students, Volunteers, Sachivalayam Staffs, staff from Health Department, and Grampanchayath, and NGO representatives.

In every ULB 5 schools were selected and meetings were conducted in these 15 schools, in all, on WASH aspects. The topics were discussed about WASH and Sanitization concept and to involved the Parents Committees, SMCs in ensuring effective implementation of WASH.

Creating awareness on Hand Wash: As a part of creating awareness on Hand Wash, meetings, and demonstrations were organized in all the 15 schools in the 3 ULBs, on the eve of World Hand Wash Day. Special meetings and awareness camps were organized in the slum areas where the parents, exclusively the mothers, were educated on the importance of Hand Wash and the practice of the same without any negligence.



World Toilet Day: Another important event REDS has taken up under the ULB programme is to create awareness on the importance and usage of IHHLs (Individual Household Latrines). As a part of this event, REDS has observed World Toilet Day events by conducting meetings with school children and with community members in all the 15 schools and villages in both Sri Satya Sai District, and in Anantapur Districts.



During these events the problems that arise due to open defecation, the spread of diseases, various health and hygiene issues that may arise, particularly during the rainy season, and the spread of seasonal diseases through the unhygienic conditions created due to open defecation were explained in detail. Along with this, the issues of safety and security of the women when they go out during odd hours for attending natural calls, and the dignity of women were discussed.

Therefore, they were advised to construct IHHLs and use them properly. This will keep them happy and their surrounding clean and green.

• **NATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY CELEBRATION**

National Girl Child Day celebrations were organized by REDS in ___ schools of both Anantapur and Sri Satya Sai Districts.

• PC & PNDT MEETING

REDS participated in the quarterly PCPNDT meetings organized. REDS is one of the advisory committee members in this board. Ms. Bhanuja from REDS attended all these meetings. The committee has visited several scanning centres in the district headquarter and created awareness among the scanning centre staff. They were warned that strict action will be taken in case any of these centres is found to be performing sex determination scanning for the pregnant women.

The district team has identified 8 mandals where there is low sex ratio of girls/women. The team is organizing meetings and awareness camps on this topic to students, communities, ASHA workers on this topic to discourage abortions basing on sex determination.



• COMPLETION OF 100% VACCINATION PROGRAM:

This program supported by Azim Prem Ji Foundation was completed after fulfilling the objective of promoting booster dosage for adults, and 1st and 2nd dose to children above 13 years.

• DLSA Meeting

DLSA conducted a legal awareness camp in Anantapur REDS office in the month of April 2022. Ms. Sunitha, Ms. Padmavathi, Advocates explained about the services provided by the DLSA, procedure to approach the court, retainer advocates, and women and children related laws. They quoted about some cases also as examples.

Later Ms. Bhanuja, the Chief Functionary of REDS explained about the activities done by REDS, recollected the services rendered in



collaboration with DLSA. REDS is a service provider in DV Act, and requested the DLSA authorities to cooperate in timely release and sanction of ex-gratia and compensation in the cases of trafficking, POCSO, Farmer suicide cases etc., as per Acts. The soft copy of study report of tenant farmers issues was shared with the DLSA members on this occasion, and discussed about the exgratia to the suicide farmers' families which are still pending.

Advocate Ms. Sunitha spoke about the scholarship to children for their education of covid affected families, compensation to the families of the deceased by electric shock, compensation to families of Covid deaths.



A total of 25 members, including Mr. Dheeraj, the Clerk from court, REDS team, volunteers from 25 panchayats, Board of Directors of FPOs have participated in this program.

• EDUCATION SUPPORT TO THE CHILDREN OF VULNERABLE FAMILIES

REDS coordinated with different groups and persons to seek financial support towards continuation of the schooling and education of children coming from vulnerable families – viz., farmer suicide families, single parent families, economically poor families. As a part of this activities support has been received through different sponsors and ag encies.

Support from Ms. Suma and Group: A total of 10 children have received support from the TV Anchor Ms. Suma and her team to continue the education of children from the said categories of families. Out of this,

- One student was supported to join Inter second year
- Five students were supported to join Intermediate first year
- One student was supported to join Degree course
- Two students were supported to join B.Tech.; and
- One student was supported to join Post Graduation



Support from Telugu People Foundation: REDS has submitted 9 applications seeking support to continue studies. A total of 3 students have received support from the Foundation. All these 3 students are now pursuing B.Tech. courses. While two applications have been rejected, remaining 4 are under processing.

• **SUPPORT TO FLOOD VICTIMS:**

In the month of November 2022, Anantapur town has received heavy rains leading to inundation of several low laying areas in flood waters. Several hundred families were shifted to safety and they were in dire need of support.

In the month of November Due to heavy rains Kadiri area affected with floods. REDS has taken initiation and supplied food and clothes to the needy people. And the issues were taken to the government representatives for their alternatives and support. These representations have resulted in government supplying the with dry ration.

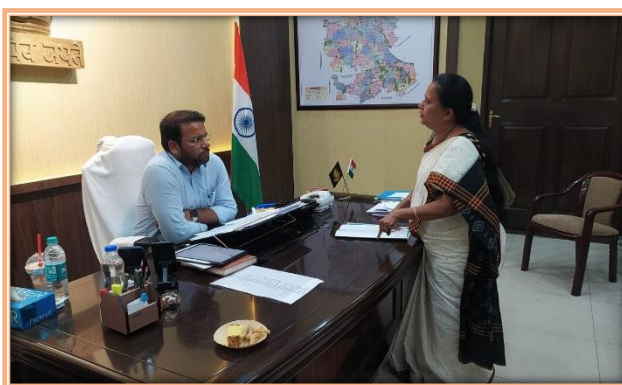
A few individual donors have also supported these families through REDS. We have taken the initiative and distributed dry ration kits to 397 families and supplied drinking water for 30 days in Aravagudeselu area of Kadiri Mandal.

• **REPRESENTATION OF CASES IN SPANDANA**

Spandana is a program conducted by the District Administration on every Monday in each district. Under this program grievances from the public will be directly received by district officials of each department and quick action will be initiated on such representations.

REDS is taking active part in mobilizing the communities with different needs to submit their grievances to the officials and seek fast solutions. During the period under reporting the following representations were submitted by REDS on behalf of the people in need.

⇒ **Pensions to Single women and Widow pensions:** 11 Applications were submitted in Sri Satya Sai District - out of which 6 were cleared, and they are getting a monthly pension of Rs.2750 each.



Six (6) applications were submitted in Anantapur district, of which 4 of them were sanction.

- ⇒ **Ex-Gratia for farmer suicide families:** 12 applications were submitted in Sri Satya Sai District – out of these 7 families have got ex-gratia of Rs.7 lakhs each. The remaining applications are under processing.



Fourteen (14) applications were submitted in Anantapur district, of which 5 families were sanctioned with ex-gratia of 7 lakhs each. The remaining applications are under processing.

- ⇒ **Land Issues:** 18 applications were submitted on issues related to Land Issues, Crop Failures, Crop Insurance etc., to the Sri Satya Sai District Collector. Out of this 4 farmers have received crop insurance which is credited into their bank account. One land issue was resolved, and the remaining are in progress.



A brief summing up of the details from April 1st-2022 to March 31st-2023

Anantapur - Total cases – 262	Resolved/Closed - 64
Cases Under progress - 198	
Sathya Sai- Total cases – 399	Resolved/Closed - 119
Cases under progress - 280	

• AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- ⇒ Ananthapur Samskarana Bharathi Organised an event, on 7th of March 2023, in Government Arts College, on the occasion of International Women's Day and REDS Director C Bhanuja garu has got an opportunity to participate in this event. She was honoured for her past 27 years of service in creating amicable and safe environment for women and children in the society. She was awarded with **"World Gold Humanitarian Women Award - 2023"** in this function which was attended by representatives from different NGOs, officials of CWC, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Anantapur, and the College staff.



- ⇒ On the eve of Women's Day function organized by AIDWA on 8th March 2023 at Ananthapur, Mrs. Bhanuja was awarded with "Uttam Seva Nari Puraskar" by the organization called Samskaara Bharathi. This event was chaired by Mrs. P K Srimathi (Ex-Central minister for Kerala), and was attended by the Mr. Sreenivasulu, DSP, DISHA, Anantapur, Mrs. Meda Ramalakshmi, Chairperson, CWC, Anantapur and other dignitaries were present on this occasion.



- ⇒ REDS has received the "Best NGO" award from the hands of the district collector of Sri Satya Sai District for its long-run and effective services rendered for the safety, security and welfare of the economically poor and vulnerable communities in the districts of Anantapur and Sri Satya Sai District (erstwhile Anantapur District). This certificate was issued on the eve of Independence Day on 15th August 2022 in the function organized in the Police Welfare Ground, Puttaparthi.



• OTHER PARTICIPATIONS:

On 10.03.2023 at District Head Quarters Puttaparthi (Sri Sathya Sai District) Women and Child Welfare department Celebrated International Women's Day and REDS team participated in this

event. Honourable district collector Sir Basanth Kumar was the chief guest for this event. The District collector expressed about the importance of women and discussed on the Girl child education, reproduction and health and Nutrition food issues. Some resolutions were also made at this event.