

Brief Report on Livelihood support to farmer suicide families by AID

Introduction: Anantapur district, part of the drought prone Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh, continues to witness high rates of farmer suicides. The crisis is driven by frequent crop failures, erratic climate conditions, rising input costs, and unremunerative prices for agricultural produce. A large number of these farmers are tenants who cultivate land without legal ownership, leaving them excluded from institutional credit systems and government relief mechanisms. *For more than 2 decades, "REDS has been working on farmer suicide prevention, securing entitlements, empowering single women, and building alternative livelihoods."*



Families with their selected Livelihood support (Live stock, Saree shop etc)

Field verification & Finalization of the Livelihood: The 20 families selected for Livelihood support are mostly Tenant farmers or with a very small land holdings, who have not yet received the ex gratia from the Government and reached out to *Kisan Mitra Helpline*. REDS & Kisan Mitra team has visited each and every family at Ground level and did a thorough verification to determine the type of livelihood best suited to each family's condition. A meeting was then arranged with the families to explain the livelihood support programme and to encourage them to share their stories with each other to rebuild confidence, especially among the women.



Cheque distribution to the single women for Livelihood support

Cheque distribution & Grounding: REDS with the support of AID provided financial assistance of ₹40,000 to the single women from these families to help them rebuild their lives and establish sustainable income sources. Some of these women have set up small businesses such as *bangle and saree shops*, while others are choosing to rear

livestock for income generation. The field team is closely monitoring the process, from setting up the livelihood support to arranging insurance for milch animals.

Grievances for Ex Gratia and Entitlements: Along with the financial assistance, we accompanied these families to attend the PGRS (Public Grievance Redressal System) at the Anantapur District Collectorate. We helped them write grievances and submitted them to District Collector Shri Vinod Kumar. The Collector personally inquired about the status of the affected families and directed the Joint Director of Agriculture (JDA) to convene a meeting on farmer suicides at the earliest. We also discussed the importance of proactive measures to prevent farmer suicides and briefly explained the Jeevana Rekha helpline implemented during 2023–24. We continue to follow up with the administration to ensure the families receive their entitled support. News coverage featuring the families affected by farmer suicides was also published on the grievance day.



Grievances filed by women from Farmer suicide families at Anantapur collectorate.

Please find the case studies in the link below which were earlier shared in Google sheet



https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/19vpaXthWhh1wC5BHJjPGHvim-vzBu1ne-se03VjI_kE/edit?usp=sharing