

**PROJECT PROPOSAL**  
**AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**



[DEVELOPMENT FORUM](#)

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**Title of the Project : Dalit Emancipation through Eco-farming Practices and Agro-based Management**

**Brief Description of Priority Issue(s) being taken up:**

- a) Fragmentation and unorganized nature of labor force makes people incapable of any concerted action to tackle issues that affect them.
- b) Various lands related and agro-operational issues that affect small and marginal farmers, tenant farmers and landless coolies. This include size of the land, wages, water availability, soil management, suitable seed availability, procurement of produce, preparation for next crop and elimination of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
- c) Depleted water conditions and prolonged use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides have contributed to severe soil degradation that needs urgent intervention.
- d) Shift from traditional food crops to cash crops has endangered the food security of the local population.
- e) Shift from labor-intensive, employment guaranteed agricultural practices to mechanized farming practices have lead to rampant unemployment and starvation.
- f) Takeover of cultivable agricultural lands for non- agricultural purposes by real estate tycoons and multinational corporations.
- g) Introduction of modern agro and bio-technology resulted in alienation of sustainable and traditional agro practices.(especially in the areas of seeds and pesticides).

**Focus Community:**

Small, Marginal, Tenant and Agricultural laborers. In all the four categories only the Dalit community will be covered. The vast majority of them are unorganized laborers. They are illiterate, under bondage, economically poor, socially discriminated and are unaware of their status and rights. The primary source of their livelihood is the daily wage that is paid far below the minimum wage prescribed by the Government.

**Geographical coverage:**

The program will cover the Chiknayakanahalli Taluk in Tumkur district. In all, above 100 villages will be covered excluding the town areas.

At the beginning the program will be initiated in villages where there is a NGO and a people to ensure maximum local participation and their move to other villages in the second and third years.

**Rationale for the Project:**

Chiknayakanahalli taluk of Tumkur district has strong Dalit population that has always depended on agriculture. While few Dalits have managed to retain their small land the vast majority of them have become landless laborers and tenant farmers. They live on the margins of society reeling in rampant unemployment and bare minimum wages.

Variety of factors have contributed to the impoverishment of Dalits in the area namely, takeover of lands by MNCS, real estate promoters, takeover of lands for developmental works, distress sales, migration and caste discrimination and bondage.

The arrival of high yielding varieties of seeds, chemical fertilizers and pesticides has made rich farmers produce more and earn much. But Dalits are not in a position to compete with the rich. Even those who tried to remain in the race had to borrow at very exorbitant rates of interest, thus contributing to the indebtedness. Most of the open wells, ponds and lakes have dried up thereby making Dalit farmers struggle for even one crop. On the other hand there has been precious little effort from the government to desilt tanks and ponds.

Added to this shifting from food crops to cash crops have adversely affected the food availability for the poor and the globalization induced mechanization in agriculture and other sectors has contributed to unemployment. Lack of knowledge and means of revival of traditional practices have rendered the Dalits mere spectators and there is an urgent need to help the poor to come out of this vicious cycle.



### **Project Goal:**

To enable the small, marginal, tenant farmers and landless agricultural workers to work for themselves a forum for creating a just, humane and sustainable environment to be an alternative to mechanised and capital intensive agro-technology in order that they may ensure for themselves adequate livelihood opportunities.

### **Specific Objectives:**

- 1) To educate, organise and empower small, marginal, tenant farmers and landless agricultural workers into Groups for concerted action to claim their rights and livelihood promotion.
- 2) To promote systematic educational program for the target audience on the various land-related issues so that alternative, sustainable models based on traditional knowledge, can be evolved from people through a participatory process.
- 3) To motivate Groups to come together to demand implementation of related various government recommendation which are poor- farmer-friendly.
- 4) To activate Groups and general public to resist operations to lift water from the area and explore avenues for utilising the available water to the benefit of small and marginal farmers.
- 5) To provide awareness to farmers to revert to food crops by demonstrating productive and sustainable agricultural operations which are labor-intensive and ecologically sound.
- 6) To create a Farmers Resource Centre to counter the propaganda of Government machinery to provide an alternative to modern agricultural practices through education, documentation, dissemination and demonstration.
- 7) To create a platform for the farmers' Groups and link them up with other like-minded Forums and Networks to consolidate gains and search for new avenues.



### **Program Measures:**

**Note:** Chiknayakanahalli taluk will be divided into four clusters of approximately 25 villages each. A motivator will take care of each cluster.

In the first year those villages where an urgent-agro-ecological intervention is needed will be selected. In the second year those villages where larger issues such as wages, soil management, water harvesting, conservation etc will be taken up. During the second year a local volunteer, who will be paid an incentive, will join the motivator.

At stage III (third year) the empowerment process will continue to facilitate formation of cooperatives, Farmer's Resource Centre, Block level small and marginal farmers' associations, linkages to networks, forums, taking up local issues like ground water, minimum wages, seed cooperative, self-help groups, assistance from government etc.

For the sake of effective implementation the villages will be categorized into those which are in level 1, 2 and 3.

The program will be headed by a Program Coordinator and supported by a Documentatist-cum-Accountant.)

### **The program measures:**

- 1) Orientation to farmers in the villages where a NGO exists.
- 2) Orientation in villages where there is no NGO.
- 3) Organization of agricultural labors into Groups on the likes of trade unions.
- 4) Establishing a Farmers' Resource centre-cum- demonstration to raise income through agriculture to sustain future programme activities.
- 5) Special training program on Agro-management practices and contextual issues.
- 6) Leadership and capacity enhancement program for Groups and Forum leaders.
- 7) Networking with like-minded CBOs and ANWs on local issues.
- 8) Mass Campaign and Rally.
- 9) Advocacy and Lobbying.



## **Projected Outcomes and Indicators:**

### **Outcomes:**

- a) Building of a sensitized and empowered Dalit, small and marginal farmers' community capable of raising its voice on matters concerning them.
- b) A structured Block level Forum which will be watchdog for small and marginal
- c) farmers, tenant farmers and landless coolies, which will strive to protect their life and livelihood.
- d) Creation of a Block level collective to sustain traditional agricultural practices to ensure a poor-farmer friendly rural economy.
- e) Creation of a model which can be replicated elsewhere especially by the NGO.
- f) Acquisition of land for the landless and ensuring minimum wages for the landless coolies.
- g) Effective water harvesting, conservation, effective management and distribution of ground water resources.
- h) The NGO emerging as the leader in showing an effective and sustainable model to small, marginal farmers and landless coolies.

### **Indicators:**

- a) Formation of 40 Groups in the first year, 30 more in the second year and another 30 in the third year.
- b) Ability of Groups to function independently.
- c) Networking and joint action of Groups with Networks and Forums.
- d) Fully functional Farmers Resource Centre.
- e) Identification of needs and formulation of appropriate responses by the Groups themselves.
- f) Involvement of local NGO in the livelihood issues in the area.
- g) Spontaneous participation of agricultural workers in the Mass Campaign and Rally
- h) for policy changes.



## BUDGET FOR THREE YEARS

S.No	PARTICULARS	I year	II year	III year	Total
<b>I</b>	<b>PROGRAMME COSTS</b>				
1.	Groups meetings Rs.100 x 40 villages x 12 months	48,000	0	0	0
	Rs.100 x 40 villages x 12 months	0	48,000	0	0
	Rs.100 x 40 villages x 12 months	0	0	48,000	1,44,000
2.	Cluster level capacitating programmes	0	0	0	0
	Rs.10000 x 4 programmes x 3 years	4,0000	4,0000	4,0000	1,20,000
	Area Level programmes I per year	10,000	20,000	0	30,000
3.	Mass Campaign – Rally	0	0	1,00,000	1,00,000
4.	Farmers Resource Centre	0	1,20,000	0	1,20,000
5.	Networks/ Advocacy / Lobbying	0	50,000	50,000	1,00,000
6.	Field level land/Agro Management	0	0	0	0
	Cooperative Farming/Livelihood	1,20,000	80,000	60,000	2,60,000
7.	Field level demonstration programmes	3,00,000	0	0	3,00,000
	Rs. 100000 x 3 programmes				
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,18,000</b>	<b>3,58,000</b>	<b>2,98,000</b>	<b>11,74,000</b>

S.No	PARTICULARS	I Year	II Year	III Year	Total
<b>II</b>	<b>FACILITATION COSTS</b>				



1.	Salary to programme Coordinator Rs.6000 x 12, Rs.6450x12, Rs.7000 x 12	72,000	77,400	84,000	2,33,400
2.	Salary for Documentist-cum- Office Assistant Rs.4000 x 12, Rs.4500x 12, Rs.5000 x 12	48,000	54,000	60,000	1,62,000
3.	Salary for Motivators ( Four) Rs.3000 x4 x 12, Rs.3200 x 4 x 12 Rs.3400 x 4 x 12	1,44,000	1,53,600	1,63,200	4,60,800
4.	Incentives for Volunteers Rs.600 x 4x 12, Rs.700 x 4 x 12	0	28,800	33,600	62,400
5.	Staff Travel Rs.2000 x 12, 2400 x 12, 2800x 12	24,000	28,800	33,600	86,400
6.	Staff Welfare	20,000	20,000	20,000	60,000
7.	Staff Review meetings Rs. 800 x 12 , Rs. 1000 x 12, Rs.1200 x 12	9,600	12,000	14,400	36,000
8.	Staff training Rs.10000 x3, 10000 x 2 Rs.10000 x 2	30,000	20,000	20,000	70,000
9.	Consultancy / Exposure	20,000	20,000	20,000	60,000
10.	Evaluation	0	0	20,000	20,000
11.	Issues based training programmes	20,000	30,000	0	50,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,87,600</b>	<b>4,44,600</b>	<b>4,68,800</b>	<b>13,01,000</b>

S.No	PARTICULARS	I Year	II Year	III Year	Total
<b>III</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATION COSTS</b>				
1.	Office rent & Electricity Rs.2000x12,Rs.2500x12,Rs.3000x 12	24,000	30,000	36,000	90,000
2.	Office furniture	40,000	20,000	10,000	70,000





3.	Printing & Stationary Rs.1000x12, Rs.1200 x 12, Rs.1400 x12	12,000	14,400	16,800	43,200
4.	Postage & Telephone Rs.1000x12 Rs.1200 x 12 Rs.1400x12	12,000	14,400	16,800	43,200
5.	Visit by DEVELOPMENT FORUM Officials  Rs.2000 per visits x 5 visits	10,000	10,000	10,000	30,000
6.	Audit	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
7.	Outstation Travel Rs.2000x 12, Rs.2400x12, Rs.3000x12	24,000	28,800	36,000	88,800
8.	Unforeseen expenses	10,000	10,000	10,000	30,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,34,000</b>	<b>1,29,600</b>	<b>1,37,600</b>	<b>4,01,200</b>

#### BUDGET ABSTRACT

PARTICULARS	TOTAL
Programme Cost	11,74,000
Facilitation Cost	13,01,000
Administration Cost	4,01,200