

# ANNUAL REPORT

2018 – 2019



## AVISHKAR

Association for Village Institutions Social  
Health, Agriculture and Rural Development

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## About us

AVISHKAR is a secular, non-political and non-profit voluntary organization conceived by a group of young, dedicated and likeminded social development professionals. AVISHKAR was started in the year 2004 to demonstrate sustainable development models in agriculture, natural resource management, health, education and economic development among rural communities through people's institutions.

The objective of the organisation is to improve the quality of life of the rural poor communities, especially the farming community through regeneration of degraded resources such as land, water, vegetation live stock and human resources by adopting innovative and eco- friendly approaches.

Since 2004, the organization is involved in the implementation of various integrated rural development programmes in rural areas such as promotion and popularization of organic farming, watershed development, sustainable agriculture, promotion and strengthening people's institutions, empowerment of women through capacity building and awareness programmes, environment education for youth and women and organizing skill training programmes for women SHGs. AVISHKAR is presently working in 73 most drought prone villages spread in eight talukas of Tumkur district, Karnataka state.

The organization has got income tax exemption under 12 A certificate and 80 G under income tax department. The organization is also registered under foreign contribution regulation (FCRA) act

### DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

- Facilitate the active participation of the rural communities and organise them into institutions for initiating sustainable rural development programmes.
- Focus on promotion and popularization of organic farming and Sustainable agriculture practices.
- Training and capacity building programmes for peoples institutions for planning, implementation and management of development interventions.
- Emphasis on sustainable and eco-friendly initiatives for the conservation and improvement of natural resources like land, water, vegetation and livestock with community involvement.
- Facilitate women groups to take up Livelihood activities for the socio-economic development.
- Federating the community based organisations into FPOs and FPCs to bring self reliance among the community.

### VISION

Emphasis on involving the community in the development process through awareness creation on their potential and resources for achieving self reliant social and economic development. This will be achieved through enhancement of skills and capabilities of the communities and involving them actively in the development process.

### MISSION

Creating opportunities for sustainable livelihoods for the rural families, especially vulnerable sections and ensuring sustainable livelihood, clean environment, improved quality of life and good human values. This will be achieved through effective utilization of local resources, extension, transfers of appropriate technologies, building village level institutions and their capacities. AVISHKAR is a secular, dedicated and professionally managed organization

## FOREWORD

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*We are happy to present the Annual Report of AVISHKAR, Tumkur for the year 2018-19. During the year, the organization was able to deliver quality services to improve the livelihoods and economic conditions of the rural communities in all the project villages through a menu of activities planned as per the proposals.*

*The Shivanagere watershed development project, sponsored by NABARD has benefiting 900 families belonging to five villages. About 1368 hectare has been treating for various soil and water conservation, dry land horticulture, afforestation and crop demonstration activities. We sincerely express our whole hearted gratitude for NABARD, Bangalore, for giving the opportunity to serve the rural community through this project.*

*During the year another significant initiative was the implementation of organic farming project in five villages of Tumkur taluka of Tumkur district, Karnataka. The project is sponsored by Save Indian farmers (SIF), USA. We sincerely express our whole hearted gratitude for SIF, USA for giving the opportunity to popularize organic farming concepts in the selected villages.*

*We are happy to acknowledge support of the Agriculture department, Tumkur, for selecting us for the task of PMKSY-WD- Watershed project impact evaluation in the batch-I & II of IWMP watersheds in Tumkur, Gubbi, Pavagada, Kunigal and Madhugiri talukas of Tumkur district.*

*We extend our sincere thanks for the Joint Director of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, Tumkur, for the support extended for the successful implemen-tation of PMKSY-WD-watershed project Batch- III EAP and SEDP training programmes in Madhugiri taluka of Tumkur district.*

*We are glad to extend our whole hearted thanks to the Farmers producers companies (FPCs), village watershed committee (VWC) farmers clubs, SHGs and other communities, local organizations who have supported us in the smooth implementation of all the projects during the year.*

*It is our pleasure to sincerely acknowledge the determined and dedicated services of the employees of the organization who worked hard to achieve the results.*

*We also extend our gratitude for the well wishers of the organization who gave valuable support and guidance for the growth of the organization.*

*- A.Anandakumar, Secretary*

## I FIELD EXTENSION PROGRAMMES

### a) FARMERS PRODUCER ORGANIZATION (FPO) PROJECT

AVISHKAR is implementing Farmers Producer Organization Project (FPO) at Yelampura Grama panchayath of Koratagere taluka and Aregujjana halli Grama panchayath of Tumkur taluka of Tumkur district. The project was sponsored by NABARD, Bangalore. The FPO project is covering 800 farmers in nine villages of Yelampura Grama panchayath, Koratagere taluka Tumkur district and 1000 farmers in ten villages of Aregujjanahalli Grama panchayath, Tumkur taluka of Tumkur district. Both FPOs have been converted into farmer producer companies and registered under companies act.

#### Project objectives

- To organize the farmers and bring them into the institutional set up (FPO).
- To provide inputs and services related to agriculture.
- Facilitate bulk sale and procurement of inputs for agriculture
- To develop market linkages with whole-sale traders, companies, production units and avoid the middlemen interference.
- To train the farmers on improved agriculture technologies and practices.
- To establish linkages with formal and informal institutions to mobilize the resources.
- To encourage farmers for value addition for agricultural produces.



#### NGO activities

- Mobilize the farmers in to farmer's interest groups (FIG) at the village level and build FPOs to plan and implement product specific cluster/commercial crop cycles.
- Training and capacity building of farmers for productivity enhancement
- Production and marketing –design ,support and market linkages
- Ensure appropriate systems and support to ensure compliance with statutory authorities, donors, banking and internal governance systems
- Ensure access to and usage of quality inputs and services for intensive agriculture enhancing cluster competitiveness
- Facilitate access to fair and remunerative markets including linking producer groups to marketing opportunities by market aggregators

#### Progress as on March-2019

Particulars	Achievement	
	Sri Marikamba Farmers Producers Co.Ltd.	Gramachethana Farmers Producers Co.Ltd.
1) Awareness meetings/ Village meetings	10	12
2) Farmers share collection	Rs. 3,08,000	Rs. 3,02,500
3) FPO Farmers training programme conducted	02	02
4) BOD meetings conducted	06	05
5) BOD trainings conducted	01	01
6) CEO trainings conducted	01	01
7) FPO-farmers digitalization	560	470
8) Exposure visits conducted	01	02
9) Convergence activities/ Demonstrations with KVK, Hirehalli and Agriculture department	23 farmers	52 farmers
10) Business activities	Supply of agriculture seeds, fertilizers, cattle feed, tarpaulin business. Procurement of Ragi and other agriculture produces.	Jack fruit processing, supply of agriculture seeds, fertilizers, cattle feed, procurement of amla, beans, seeds and tarpaulin business.

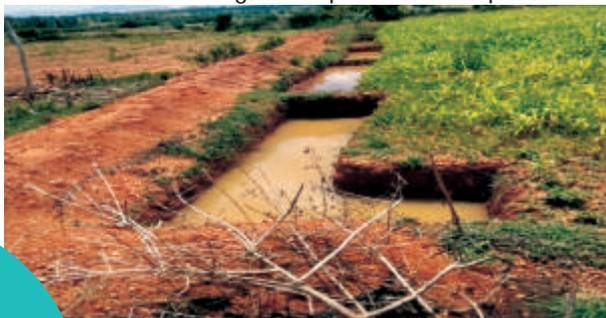
## b) NABARD-WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT FUND (WDF) PROJECT

The organization is implementing Shivanagere watershed project in five villages in Dodderi hobli, Madhugiri taluka of Tumkur district. The project is sponsored by NABARD, Bangalore, covering 1368 ha in three micro watersheds. The project is benefiting 900 families in five villages and being implemented with the active involvement of village watershed committee (VWC). During the year capacity building activities such as trench cum bunding, waste weirs, boulder bunds farm ponds, dry land horticulture, bund plantation and crop demonstrations were successfully completed in 112 ha. Initiated Feasibility study report (FSR) activities such collecting watershed maps, khatedar list, village meetings individual land net planning, collecting base line information, drainage line survey and preparation of FSR report.

### Objectives of the project

- To increase the productivity of land by suitable conservation measures and management of rain water, soil and biodiversity.
- To build capacity of watershed community to ensure their participation in watershed development activities.
- To increase the agricultural production by providing suitable agricultural technology, trainings and crop demonstrations
- To improve the economic level of vulnerable families by creating suitable employment opportunities.
- To ensure quality, equality and transparency by encouraging community participation in watershed works.

The activities like soil and water conservation, trench cum bunding, farm ponds, bund plantation



promotion of dry land horticulture, fodder development, different demonstrations were carried out with the active involvement of VWC and community. The cumulative progress of the project as on 31.3.2019 is presented in the following table.

### Progress as on March-2019

Activities	Unit	Achievement
1) Villages covered	Nos.	5
2) Gramasabhas conducted	Nos.	6
3) Baseline Survey conducted	families	860
4) Watershed Area	Hectare	1368
5) Trench cum bunding	cmt.	6605
6) Bund plantation forestry seedlings	Nos.	4940
7) Horticulture plantation	Nos.	3000
8) Waste weirs	Nos.	74
9) Boulder bund	Rmt.	54
10) Crop demonstrations	Farmers	19

### Impacts

- Created awareness among the communities on the importance of natural resources and their management in a sustainable way.
- About 112 hectare has been protected against soil erosion through soil and water conservation activities.
- Improved vegetative cover in 112 hectare through plantation of forestry and horticulture plants.
- Increased ground water recharge through water harvesting in farm ponds and trenches.



### c) SIF - ORGANIC FARMING PROJECT

The project titled -promotion and popularization of organic farming for enhanced agricultural sustainability was sponsored by Save Indian Farmers (SIF), USA. It aims at motivating the farming community to adopt organic farming practices in selected villages. AVISHKAR is implementing this project with selected organic farmers in five villages of Tumkur taluka of Tumkur district. During the year, activities such as baseline survey, awareness activities, training and capacity building and demonstrations on organic vegetable cultivation were completed.

#### *Following are the project objectives*

- To create awareness and adopt innovative and eco-friendly practices for organic farming systems in five villages with 15 farmers.
- To enhance agricultural production and improve productivity of land through promotion of eco-friendly sustainable agricultural practices and tree based farming system.
- To reduce the cost of production and dependency on external inputs for production of vegetables and food grains.
- To establish linkages of buyers, bankers, technical institutions with the farmers.

#### *SIF project activities*

- Soil and water conservation activities to improve soil fertility and soil moisture retention through trench cum bunding
- Plantation of forestry and horticulture plants

- Promotion of vermicomposting for effective utilization crop residues and availability of manure in the fields
- Fodder development
- Exposure visits to farms of progressive farmers
- Conducting different training programmes for farmers
- Different demonstration on organic cultivation (vegetables and other crops)
- Preparation of bio-manure and bio pesticides
- Promotion of bee-keeping

#### *Progress as on 31-3-2019*

Activities	Unit	Achievement
1) Villages covered	Nos.	5
2) Meetings with Farmers	Nos.	7
3) Training on Organic Farming	Nos.	1
4) Collection of base line and micro-planning	Nos.	15
5) Training on soil testing	Nos.	1
6) Exposure visit to IIHR, Bangalore	Nos.	1
7) Training on bee keeping	Nos.	1
8) Demonstration on enriched Farmers composting techniques	farmers	6
9) Preparation and Application of Jeevamrutha	farmers	3
10) Promotion of horticulture plants	farmers	3
11) Establishment of vermi composting	farmers	7
12) Trench cum bunding	farmers	6

Collection of soil samples for Soil testing



Preparation of Jeevamrutha



## Impact of Organic Farming Project

- Effective utilization of agriculture waste, biomass and farm yard manure
- Adopting mulching for plantation crops like mango, coconut and areca nut for proper soil moisture management
- Reduced external inputs like chemical fertilizers and pesticides
- Availability of quality green fodder in the project villages
- Reduced soil erosion and improved crop yields in the project village.

## d) FARM SECTOR PROMOTION FUND(FSPF) PROJECT

The project for improving livelihoods of farmers through productivity enhancement in Finger millet and promotion of minor millets is sponsored by NABARD, Bangalore. The project main objective is to enhance the productivity of Ragi (Finger millet) through innovative sustainable farming technologies. The project has been implemented in three villages, namely, Hiredoddawadi, Halugondanahalli and Suragondanahalli of Tumkur taluka, Tumkur district.

### Objectives of project

- To enhance the productivity of Ragi (Finger millet) through innovative technologies
- To create awareness about importance of minor millets and promotion of minor millets
- To build the capacity of millet producers to successfully manage the farming systems
- Establish market linkages for minor millets and other produces.



## FSPF project Progress as on 31.03.2019

Activities	Unit	Achievement
1) Villages covered	Nos.	03
2) Farmers Supported	Nos.	300
3) Village Meetings	Nos.	8
4) Training on Seed Treatment and PM & INM in Finger Millet	Farmers	36
5) Training on post harvesting technologies in Ragi and other Crops	Farmers	40
6) Training programme on improved agriculture practices	Farmers	43
7) Demonstration of productivity enhancement on finger millet crops	Farmers	22
8) Enriched composting techniques	Farmers	13
9) Preparation and application of Jeevamrutha	Nos.	04
10) Soil testing and distributed soil health cards	Farmers	45
11) Vermicompost Units	Farmers	02

### Project Impacts

- Knowledge level of the farmers about productivity enhancement and its importance has been increased after the trainings and demonstrations.
- Farmers have realized the importance of retaining soil fertility and soil moisture conservation activities and importance of soil testing and application of fertilizers as per recommendations.
- The Finger millet farmers have realized the importance soil fertility enhancement through application of enriched composting, Jeevamrutha, biomass, and vermicompost.
- Farmers have adopted seed treatment, line sowing, deep ploughing and enriched composting. Three farmers are producing vermi-compost.
- Farmers got technical training on seed treatment with biofertilisers, IPM and INM practices and productivity enhancement in vegetable crops.



2) Hiredoddawadi village comes under Seethakallu grama panchyath in Tumkur taluka of Tumkur district. The farmers in this village used to grow finger millet under rain fed conditions without any technical knowledge and with traditional agriculture practices. Due to this, Ragi crop yield was 6 to 8 quintal only per acre. This village was selected for implementation of FSPF project. Under this project, we have conducted training and capacity building programmes for farmers on productivity enhancement technologies. Mr. Ananthakumar youth farmer has participated actively in all the trainings programmes. Under this project selected implementation of project activities as demonstration plot

### FSPF PROJECT - CASE STUDY

1) Krishnamurthy is a small farmer of Halugondanahalli village. He owns three acres, he is cultivating Finger millet crop in one acre. He has been attending the meetings and training programmes regularly. He has informed that he has received good trainings and CAT exposure visit under this project. After the trainings and exposure visit he has established vermicompost unit in his land. He is producing vermi compost for the last one year.

Before the trainings and exposure visit, he was applying large quantities of chemical fertilizers to finger millet, coconut, areca nut and vegetables. Every year he used to apply 10-12 bags of chemical fertilizers. Soon he started vermicomposting, manure production and he applied the same to crops. This has helped Krishnamurthy to reduce the purchase of chemical fertilizers. Earlier days, Krishnamurthy was neglecting and he not giving importance for using the cow urine cow dung and biomass.

According to him, he has produced four tones of vermicompost and applied for Ragi and red gram crops. He is slowly converting to organic farming. According to his experience the yields have increased in finger millet, red gram and horticulture crops.

After the training given to them about the improved package and practices in finger millet cultivation, he has grown MR-6 variety of ragi in his land and adopted innovative technologies such as new variety of Ragi ie, MR-6, ridges and furrows, seed treatment with bio-fertilizer, seed bed and transplanting of seedlings of 15 to 20 days old, application of enriched composting with Arka microbial consortium (AMC) and provided all the required nutrients to ragi crop. The ridges and furrows method and across the slope has helped to retain soil moisture for a longer period. This has resulted in good growth of Ragi. He got 16 quintals of ragi and 1.7 quintals of cowpea. 'The fertility has increased now with the enhanced crop yield. Even when there is not much rain, the soil does not lose the moisture and it continues to yield the same' adds Mr. Ananthkumar.



## PMKSY - WD - WATERSHED PROJECT IMPACT EVALUATION

The organization has been selected as consultant agency by Agriculture Department, Tumkur, for the impact evaluation of PMKSY-WD watershed project of batch-I and batch-II IWMP watershed projects. The watershed impact evaluation project was conducted in five talukas in Tumkur district. The core activities of the assignment are,

- House hold survey as per questionnaire format
- Interaction with department staff and collection of information about the project.
- Sample asset verification and quality of works
- Field visit and documentation of best practices/ case studies
- Focused group discussion (FGD) with SHGs and Watershed Executive Committees.
- Data entry and report preparation and report submission to department.

### III. PMKSY - WD - BATCH - III WATERSHED PROJECT - IGA & SEDP SPECIALIST NGO

The organization has provided specialist NGO services for the PMKSY-WD Watershed Project-Batch- III implemented by the Agriculture department in Madhugiri taluka of Tumkur district. The organization has provided services as the Specialist Non-Governmental Organization (SNGO) and conducted training on Income Generation Activities (IGA) and skill trainings for 51 women SHGs in batch-III PMKSY-WD watershed project in



12 villages of Madhugiri taluka of Tumkur district. Under the project, AVISHKAR had imparted different training and capacity building programme for women SHGs. The details of EAP and SEDP training programmes conducted under PMKSY-WD- Batch- III of watershed project is presented in the following table.

Name of the Training	Units	Achievement	%
1) Training for SHGs	Nos.	51	100
2) EAP trainings conducted	Members	775	87
3) Animal Husbandry Training	Members	524	100
4) Tailoring Training	Members	89	100
5) Ragi Processing & Packing Training	Members	06	100
6) Agarbathi Training	Members	38	100
7) Crafts Making Training	Members	14	100
	Total	1497	93%

### IV. FARMERS CLUB AND JLG PROGRAMME

The NGO has continued its services for strengthening of farmers clubs (FC) and Joint liability groups (JLG). During the year, effort was made to upgrade the skills and capacities of the farmers through training and capacity building. Presently 15 farmers clubs are actively engaged in various village and agriculture development activities. During the current year, the NGO has facilitated the farmers clubs to avail various services and benefits from the line departments, Banks and KVKs.



## Progress as on March 2019

Name of the Training	Units	Achievement
1) Linked to Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)	Farmers	29
2) Training on Organic farming and composting techniques	Farmers	52
3) Linked to Agriculture and Horticulture Department	Farmers	14
4) Supported for Soil Testing Services	Farmers	26
5) Linked to Banks through JLGs	Farmers	32
6) Provided support under Organic Farming Techniques	Farmers	09

## V. PARTNERSHIP AND NETWORKING WITH DIFFERENT AGENCIES

The NGO has participated and facilitated in the various programmes organized by local NGOs, research organizations and government departments as detailed below

- Participated in the District millet mela held at Gubbi Veeranna conference hall, Tumkur, organized by Agriculture department.
- Participated in the 7th Scientific Advisory committee meeting held at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Hirehalli, Tumkur district.
- Participated in the state level review workshop for farmer's Producer's organizations (FPO) held at NABARD regional office, Bangalore.
- Participated in the state level video conference for FPOs held at D.C office, Tumkur on 26.02.2019

## Case Study

Sri Lakshmi Venkateswra JLG formed in Anupanahalli village of Tumkur taluka of Tumkur district. This JLG was started on 10.3.2016. There are 5 members in this JLG. The members of JLG were saving 100 rupees per month. The Kavery Grameena Bank, Urdigere provided loan to JLG Rs 150000 to the JLG and each member got, Rs 30000 each. All the five members invested for income generation activities (IGA) such as purchase of milch cow's sheep and goat rearing activities. The JLG has repaid the loan as per the repayment schedule and got second linkage for Rs, 200000/- .

## VI. PEOPLES INSTITUTIONS

Promotion and strengthening of peoples institutions is part and parcel all the development projects implemented by the organization. This is also important for the successful execution and completion of the projects. During the year focus was given on organizing training and capacity building, exposures, awareness programmes to the people's institutions regularly to build their capacities in the maintenance and management of assets created during the project period. Details of the people's institutions promoted by AVISHKAR are presented in the following table.



Type of the peoples Institutions promoted	Achievement
1) Farmers Producers Company Ltd. (FPO)	02
2) Vegetable Growers Association (VGA)	04
3) Joint Liability Groups (JLG)	96
4) Women SHGs	165
5) Farmer Clubs (FC)	15
6) Women Farmer Clubs (WFC)	02
7) Village Watershed Committee (VWC)	01
8) SIF - Organic Farmers Group	01
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>286</b>



The JLG members have conducting regular meetings and savings and involved in village development activities.

They save about 100 rupees per month per each member, this has resulted in improved savings concept of the JLG members. All these members have stopped borrowing from moneylenders. Each member has become self sufficient. The members have grown intellectually and gained confidence due to the regular orientation by the NGO. Seeing the changes that were taking place in the life of these JLG members, the other women in the village came forward

requesting to form JLGs for them too. This resulted in increased number of JLGs in the village. This has proved to be the better option to enhance the life of small and marginal women farmers. JLGs have increased the sense of responsibility among these people. Since they meet each time they share their difficulties in a common forum and render mutual help. Success of JLG has not only transformed the life of its members but also the life of many other small and marginal farmers by setting an example which led to the formation of three JLGs in the same village.

## VII. SUMMARY OF ON GOING PROJECTS

PROJECT NAME	SPONSORED BY	PROJECT LOCATION	VILLAGES COVERED	FAMILIES BENEFITTED
1) Watershed Development Project (WMF)	NABARD, Bangalore	Madhugiri Tq., Tumkur Dist.	05	900
2) SIF - Organic Farming Project	Save Indian Farmers: SIF-USA	Tumkur Tq., Tumkur Dist.	05	15
3) Farmers Producers Organization(FPO) Project	NABARD, Bangalore	Tumkur & Koratagere Taluks of Tumkur Dist.	22	1370
4) Formation and strengthing of farmers clubs and JLGs	NABARD, Bangalore	Tumkur and Koratagere Taluks of Tumkur Dist.	36	386
5) Empowerment of women through SHGs and JLGs	KVR Construction, Bangalore	Tumkur and Koratagere Taluks of Tumkur Dist.	12	360



## VIII. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We sincerely thank and acknowledge the generous support, guidance and cooperation extended to us by our sponsors and well wishers such as,

- NABARD, Bangalore.
- Save Indian Farmers (SIF), USA.
- Joint Director of Agriculture, Agriculture Department, Tumkuru.
- DDM, NABARD, Tumkuru.
- Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Hirehalli, Tumkuru district.
- Kaveri Grameena Bank (KGB), Tumkuru
- CANARA Bank, Tumkur.
- KVR Construction, Bangalore.
- Individual Donors and supporters.





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