

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21



AVISHKAR

ASSOCIATION FOR VILLAGE INSTITUTIONS SOCIAL
HEALTH, AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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AVISHKAR is a secular, non political and non profit voluntary organisation 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 livestock and human resources by adopting innovative and eco-friendly approaches.

Since 2004, the organisation 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 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 taluk as of Tumkur district, Karnataka state.

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



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.

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.



Development Approach

- Facilitate the active partition 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 people's 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.
- Facilitat 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.



FOREWORD

We are pleased to present you the progress achieved during the year 2020-21. It is yet another fruitful year for the organization in its endeavor to uplift the rural communities through sustainable and eco friendly interventions. With the prevailing pandemic situation, the organization was able to achieve the progress with active community participation.

Sustainable management of natural resource is very important in view of climate change and its impacts. The NABARD supported watershed development project in Shivanagere watershed gave us an opportunity to build the capacity of the communities in managing their resources sustainability with suitable activities. The project has benefitted 330 families during the year. The LEDP project supported by NABARD has helped to train unemployed women in tailoring and embroidery skills. Similarly, the JLGs and FPO projects of NABARD are functioning well. We sincerely express our whole hearted gratitude for NABARD, Bangalore, for giving the opportunity to serve the rural community through these projects.

The SIF organic farming project activities have been continued in 23 villages of Tumkur taluka of Tumkur district, Karnataka. The project is sponsored by Save Indian farmers (SIF), SIF- USA. Awareness activities on organic cultivation of vegetables and grains have been organized. In order to strengthen the organic movement in the district, FPO of organic farmers has been registered and orientation has been created on the importance of collective efforts. We sincerely express our whole hearted gratitude for SIF, USA, for giving the opportunity to popularize organic farming concepts in the selected villages.

Strengthening the community based organization has been continued with focus on income generation activities, linkages and convergence with line departments. Totally, 463 CBOs are functioning actively.

We are happy to extend our whole hearted thanks to the farmers producers companies (FPCs), village watershed committee (VWC), farmers clubs, SHGs and other communities, local organization 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 objectives of the organization. We also extend our gratitude for the well-wishers of the organization who gave valuable support and guidance for the growth and performance of the organization.

- A. Anandkumar, Secretary

FIELD EXTENSION PROGRAMMES

1. NABARD- WDF WATERSHED PROJECT

The WDF watershed development project is under implementation in five villages spread in Dodderi hobli of Madhugiri taluka, Tumkur district. The project sponsored by NABARD, Bangalore and activities were initiated during 2019. During the year, 330 families have completed soil and water conservation activities covering 327 hectare. Trench cum bunding, waste weir, excavation of farm ponds, bund plantation, dry land horticulture, strengthening of bunds through sowing of fodder seeds on bunds and drainage line activities (DLT) such as boulder checks, (BC) rubble checks (RC) have been completed. Under livelihood component income generation activities such as cow or buffalo rearing, sheep and goat rearing, tailoring, petty business etc have been supported to poor and landless families.

1.1. Project objectives

- 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.

1.2. Cumulative progress as 31.03.2021

| Activities | Unit | Achievement |
|--|----------|-------------|
| 1) Villages covered | nos. | 05 |
| 2) Watershed Area | Ha | 1356 |
| 3) Village meetings conducted | nos. | 07 |
| 4) Women SHG meetings conducted | nos. | 26 |
| Field Implementation | | |
| 1) Trench cum Bunding | cmt. | 27132 |
| 2) Waster Weir | nos. | 135 |
| 3) Boulder Bund | RMT | 152 |
| 4) Farm Ponds | nos. | 14 |
| 5) Boulder Check (BC) | RMT | 63 |
| 6) Rubble Check (RC) | RMT | 37 |
| 7) Bund Plantation | nos. | 4667 |
| 8) Horticulture Plantation | nos. | 7210 |
| 9) Community Farm Pond | nos. | 01 |
| 10) Repair of existing Check Dam | nos. | 01 |
| 11) Livelihood activities for women SHGs | families | 27 |
| 12) Trainings & exposure visits | nos. | 09 |
| 13) Distribution of soil health cards | Farmers | 250 |

1.3 Project Impacts

- The trench cum bunding (TCB) has helped in the recharge of ground water and increased moisture regime in soil

and this has helped to stabilize the crop production.

- Increased fodder availability through growing of new fodder varieties and stylohemata on farm bunds
- Farmers have noticed improved ground water level up to 30-40 feet during rainy season. In CBP area and farmers are using farm pond water for protective irrigation to horticulture plants and vegetable cultivation.

- Introduction of high yielding varieties (ML 365 Ragi and K6 ground nut varieties) over indigenous varieties in the watershed area helped farmers to get increased yield.
- Increased knowledge base on different mixed cropping systems instead of mono cropping and agro forestry systems.
- The livelihood support for poor and landless women SHGs families has resulted in the increased the income.

1.4. Case studies

ADDITIONAL INCOME THROUGH GOAT REARING

Gangamma

is a member of Gurukrupa SHG, Jakkenahalli, Dodderi hobli, Madhugiri taluk, Tumkur dist.



She is a daily-wage labour and regular work is not assured in the village but whenever there is work she used to earn Rs 150 per day. This was not sufficient for the needs of the family. At this juncture, she got selected as NABARD-WDF livelihood beneficiary and attended training programme conducted by the NGO on Income generation activities. She got support of Rs 14000/- from the project for goat rearing activity. She has purchased three goats initially and added one more later. Now, she is earning, Rs, 18000/- per year. She is also doing agricultural labour work as and when available. As the profit increased, she saved more money and bought two goats. Now she has eight goats. She is part of the income for education of her children.

IMPACT OF NEW VARIETY OF FODDER CULTIVATION COFS-31

Mr. Honnappa

from Shivanagere village, Madhugiri taluk, Tumkur district



He has started cultivation of new fodder variety, COFS-31 under irrigated condition. As per his experience, COFS-31 is a multi cut variety, cultivation is less expensive and gives 2 cuttings every 4 months, whereas Lower gives only one cutting per 3 months which will be little more expensive and needs investment every year compared to COFS-31. Initially, he started COFS-31 cultivation in 3 guntas and expanded to 10 guntas due to good yield. Many farmers from his village got motivated towards fodder production and nine farmers from his village came forward to take up this activity. He has increased his cattle population from two to three numbers due to increased fodder availability with less cost of production.

2. SIF - ORGANIC FARMING AND ORGANIC FPO PROJECT

The SIF organic farming project has been implementing in 23 villages of Tumkur and Koratagere talukas of Tumkur district. The project supported by Save Indian Farmers, USA. The project objective is to motivate and support small and marginal farmers to adopt organic farming and eco-friendly agricultural practices in one acre each. The project aims to create viable demonstrations of organic farming practices with farmers' participation. The project activities include training and capacity building for farmers, soil testing, field bunding, vermicomposting, Jeevamrutha preparation, planting of fruit and forestry plants and preparations of botanicals for the control of pests and diseases. During the year activities such as awareness about organic farming, trainings, exposure visits and demonstrations on organic cultivation etc have been implemented.

2.1. FPO on organic farming

During year awareness meetings and two training programmes were conducted in the organic FPO project villages. Organic farmers meetings were organized to motivate organic farmers to mobilized share amount. Vasumathi SIF Organic farmers Producers Company limited is registered under Company act 2013. Totally share amount was collected from 93 organic farmers. Two Board of directors meetings were conducted and discussed about the organic FPO registration, collection of documents, share collection and establishment of office, business planning, getting PAN card, VAT, other licenses and opening of organic out let in Tumkur city.

2.1. Progress as on 31.3.2021

| Activities | Unit | Achievement |
|--|---------|-------------|
| 1) Villages covered | nos. | 23 |
| 2) Meetings with farmers/awareness programmes | nos. | 12 |
| 3) Training and capacity building | nos. | 04 |
| 4) Organic FPO awareness meetings | nos. | 09 |
| 5) BOD meetings | nos. | 02 |
| 6) Total shares mobilized from Organic Farmers | Farmers | 93 |
| 7) Construction of vermi composting | nos. | 05 |
| 8) Jeevamrutha drums | Farmers | 07 |
| 9) Trench cum bunding | Farmers | 03 |
| 10) Distribution of Horticulture and Forestry plants | Farmers | 13 |
| 11) Distribution of fodder seeds | Farmers | 06 |
| 12) Soil testing | Farmers | 15 |
| 13) Demonstration on enriched composting methods | Farmers | 03 |

2.2. Project Impacts

- Increased knowledge base of the project participants on eco-friendly and organic farming systems and tree based farming systems.
- Increased fodder availability of green fodder throughout the year from fodder trees and fodder grasses.



- There is reduction in the purchase of external inputs like chemical fertilizers and pesticides and reduction in cost of cultivation.
- The crop residues and other dried biomass have been used as substrate for vermicomposting and enriched composting. Vermicompost manure and enriched composting has been used as alternative for synthetic fertilizers
- Farmers who have adopted tree based farming have started earning Rs 6000 to 10000 from sale of moringa pods and leaves.
- The forestry plants planted during the first year of the project have started to produce fodder and biomass. This has been converted into vermicompost and applied for crops.

2.3. Case studies

REDUCED USE OF CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS

Ranganatha K.J. from Janupanahalli village is a small farmer. Before the project, he used to apply chemical fertilizer continuously to crops such as Areca nut, finger millet and vegetables. He has two acres of land. Every year, he used to apply 10 bags NPK. But after the intervention of SIF organic farming project, he had constructed vermicompost unit through which he produced 20 to 30 quintal of vermicompost and applied for crops.



At present he has reduced the use of NPK by 60 to 70%. In the coming days he has decided to stop the use of chemical fertilizers completely. He applies vermicompost to grow vegetables such as beans, tomato, chilly, brinjal and floriculture crops and maintains the fertility of the soil. He has also seen the increase in yield of the crops through organic methods. The pests attack is also reduced. The NPK requirement in agriculture is also

reduced and the cost of cultivation has decreased. During the implementation of SIF supported organic farming project, AVISHKAR has provided training on soil fertility management for the farmers. Mr.Ranganath is also participated training on organic farming and exposure visits organized by the AVISHKAR. He is also motivating fellow farmers on organic farming methods by sharing his live example.

BENEFITS OF MIXED CROPPING

Chikkanagaiah is a small farmer living in Durgadahalli village which belongs to Aregujjanahalli gramapanchayath, Tumkur taluka of Tumkur district. He has two acres. He grows vegetables and other crops. Just like other farmers he too was experiencing the problems of low crop yield and water scarcity in his land. Since his land was rainfed, he was not getting much yield because of frequent droughts. The bore well in his land was not supplying water to the entire field since the groundwater level had gone down in the recent

years. Chikkanagaiah has participated actively in the training and exposure visit organized by AVISHKAR under SIF- project. He understood the importance organic farming and mixed cropping in the trainings and exposure visit programme and he has shown interest in organic farming in his land. Under SIF project, seeds, organic manures and mixed forestry and horticulture plants were provided to him. He has planted 60 lemon, 30 Moringa and 50 Meli adubia plants. All the plants have survived with good growth.. He was motivated and purchased another 50 lemon plants on his own and planted at distance of 15 feet.. All the plants are growing well. Presently plenty of fodder is available from the Sesbania fodder plants and providing fodder for livestock. He has introduced leafy vegetables, beans, tomato and chilly and other creepers for home consumption. He also under took organic cultivation of beans, tomato and brinjal for selling them on his own at Farmers organic vegetable market in Tumkuru every Sunday. On an average, the family today, earns Rs.25000/- to Rs.30000/- net profit per year. “Every week, I will earn Rs, 1000.00” adds Chikkanagaiah happily. In order to make better use of Sesbania fodder in his land, he has purchased two goats. His wife, who was earlier working as a daily wage laborer in nearby villages has now given up the job and is involved in agriculture as a full time farm women. He thanks SIF organic farming project and AVISHKAR for their motivation and guidance.

3. FARMER PRODUCERS ORGANIZATIONS (FPO) PROJECT

AVISHKAR is implementing Farmers Producer Organization Project (FPO) supported by NABARD. The project is covering 700 farmers from nine villages of Chandragiri and Sajjehosahalli Grama panchayath of Madhugiri taluk of Tumkur district. During the year the project taken up activities like village meetings, base line survey, shares mobilization, BOD constitution, training and capacity building exposure visits and FPO registration was completed.



3.1 Project Objectives

- To organize the farmers and bring them into the Institution (FPO).
- To provide inputs and services related to agriculture.
- Facilitate bulk sale and procurement of inputs for agriculture
- To develop market linkages with wholesale traders, companies, production units and to avoid middlemen.
- 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.
- To support the farmers to produce bi-products from the agricultural produces.

3.2. Progress as on 31.03.2021

| Activities | Achievement |
|---|-------------|
| 1) Awareness meetings / village meetings | 09 |
| 2) Baseline Data Collection | 123 |
| 3) Farmers Share Collection | 183 |
| 4) FPO farmers training programme conducted | 02 |
| 5) BOD meetings conducted | 01 |
| 6) BOD trainings conducted | 01 |
| 7) CEO trainings conducted | 01 |
| 8) FPO farmers digitalization | 183 |
| 9) Exposure visits conducted | 01 |
| 10) Convergence activities / demonstrations with KVK, Hirehalli | 43 |

4. NABARD - LEDP PROJECT

The organization has conducted skill training on tailoring and embroidery for women SHG members with the support of NABARD, Bangalore. The skill training programme was conducted in six villages of Tumkur and Koratagere talukas of Tumkur dist. Women SHG members from Kadarana halli, Alumardapalya, Laxmi thandya, D.Nage nahalli, Anupanahalli and Thanganahalli villages of Tumkur and Koratagere talukas of Tumkur district have attended the training. It was an 18 days programme organized with the support of NABARD Bangalore, under LEDP training programme. AVISHKAR has organized the programme with the support of women SHG members. The training



programme was conducted in four batches in different villages such as Laxmithandya, D.Nagenahalli and Anupanahalli villages from 23.10.2020 to 01.02.2021. Totally 80 women SHG members from the six villages have participated in the programme. DDM, NABARD, Tumkur, has inaugurated the programme. All the precautionary measures were taken up as per the Covid-19 protocol. Training for all the four batches was completed successfully.

4.1 LEDP - Skill training program objectives

- The objective of this skill training programme is to encourage the SHG members for their economic development.
- To encourage the SHG members to upgrade their skills through tailoring training.
- To encourage the members for self development in their income and build courage for their sustainable development.

| Activities | Unit | Achievement |
|---|------|-------------|
| 1) Villages covered | nos. | 6 |
| 2) SHGs covered | nos. | 33 |
| 3) Preliminary SHG meetings conducted | nos. | 06 |
| 4) Batches training programme conducted | nos. | 04 |
| 5) SHG Women attended | nos. | 80 |

4.2 LEDP tailoring training programme Impact

| Description | Participants | % |
|--|--------------|----|
| 1) Purchased sewing machine and started tailoring activity | 37 | 46 |
| 2) Got employment opportunity in garment units | 12 | 15 |
| 3) Demand for further training | 09 | 11 |
| 4) Need financial support for the purchase of sewing machine | 12 | 16 |
| 5) No co-operation from family members to start tailoring activity | 10 | 12 |



5. JALAMITRA NET PLANNING AND DPR PREPARATION

The organization has been selected as associate project consultant agency for Agriculture department for Jalamithra Net planning and DPR preparation. The NGO is responsible for survey of micro watershed net planning, meeting with local gram panchayath representatives, preparation of action plan and DPR preparation. The project was implemented in Nelamangala taluka in Bangalore rural district. The core activities of the assignment are,

- Organizing village meetings and FGDs on watershed net planning
- To conduct micro watershed wise net planning
- Meeting local gram panchayath representatives
- Data entry, analysis and consolidation of field level planning.
- Detailed project preparation and submission of DPR.

6. TRAINING & CAPACITY BUILDING

The development approaches in general and the training programmes in particular are so designed to focus on building the skills and management capacity of the participants both at the individual and collective levels. The organization main thrust is to strengthen the community based organization through training and capacity building programmes. The organization has organized the following training programs during the current year, totally 318 farmers have participated in the trainings.

| Name of the training | Trainings conducted | Attended Participants |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1) Integrated farming systems | 2 | 36 |
| 2) Soil, Water conservation & soil testing | 5 | 74 |
| 3) IPM & INM in vegetable crops | 2 | 27 |
| 4) Vermicomposting | 1 | 23 |
| 5) Organic farming | 4 | 64 |
| 6) Watershed management | 2 | 35 |
| 7) Live stock management | 2 | 33 |
| 8) SHG concept & book keeping | 2 | 26 |





7. DETAILS OF COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS (CBO) PROMOTED:

The NGO has promoted 463 community based organizations since inception and building their capacities. Summary of CBOs is presented in the following table.

| Description | Achievement |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1) Farmers producers company ltd. | 04 |
| 2) Vegetable growers association | 04 |
| 3) Joint Liability Groups (JLG) | 96 |
| 4) Women SHGs | 165 |
| 5) Farmer Clubs | 17 |
| 6) Women Farmer Clubs | 02 |
| 7) Farmers Interest Groups | 174 |
| 8) Village Watershed Committee (VWC) | 01 |
| Total | 463 |

8. SUMMARY OF ON GOING PROJECTS

| Project Name | Sponsored | Location(Tumkur Dist.) | Villages | Families |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------------|----------|----------|
| 1) Watershed Development Project (WDF) | NABARD, Bangalore | Madhugiri Tq. | 05 | 963 |
| 2) SIF-Organic Farming Project | Save Indian Farmers(SIF),USA | Tumkur & Koratagere Tq. | 23 | 113 |
| 3) Farmers Producers Organization(FPO project) | NABARD, Bangalore | Madhugiri Tq. | 09 | 500 |
| 4) LEDP - Skill Training Programme | NABARD, Bangalore | Koratagere & Tumkur Tq. | 06 | 80 |

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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- NABARD, Bangalore
- Save Indian farmers, USA
- DDM, NABARD, Tumkur
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- KVR Construction, Bangalore
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