



# VIKASA

## ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25





[www.vikasaindia.org](http://www.vikasaindia.org)



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MIG33, Simhapuri Layout, Vepagunta,  
Visakhapatnam-530047



# Board Members

1 Sri D S Prasada Rao	Chairperson
2 Dr S Kiran	Secretary & Executive Director
3 P Murali Gopala Swamy	Treasurer
4 Sri Hari Subrahmanyam	Governing Body Member
5 Dr. P Sivaramakrishna	Governing Body Member
6 Salome Yesudas	Governing Body Member
7 Dr S V S R K Netaji	Governing Body Member

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**VIKASA is registered under Section 12 A & 80G of Income Tax Act  
Rigistred for undertaking CSR activities - CSR00047192**

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9866118877



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**Non FCRA Bank Account**

**VIKASA, Axis Bank, Sujathanagar Branch, Visakhapatnam**

**SB A/c No 921010029941013, IFSC : UTIB0003380**



**FCRA Savings Account**

**VIKASA, SB A/C No: 40195166963,**

**IFSC : SBIN0000691 ; State Bank of India, Main Branch ,  
FCRA Division. New Delhi**

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## Auditor

**Sri YSN Murty**

**Address : 1-93-1, 1st Floor , Plot no: 61, Sector-5, M V P Clony,  
Visakhapatnam – 530017 Andhra Pradesh  
email: murtyysn@gmail.com**

## *a new feather in the cap*

Continuing our scientific temperament backed by the overwhelming response to the introduction of GULI in finger millet crop, during this year we tried this method with little millet crop and response was encouraging. more than 50 trials were conducted as part of the Millets Network of India and NABARD supported project on millets promotion. Though this little millet is a very sensitive crop, it is observed that, with proper care, this can be cultivated under Guli method of cultivation just like finger millet realize better output per unit of land. During this year, the range of crop productivity was observed from 7 quintals per acre to 11.2 quintals per acre which is far more than the regular output of 3 to 4 quintals per acre. More than 20 exposure visits were also conducted to the demo plots to help farmers observe the crop's performance on the fellow farmers fields and also to interact with the demo farmers, to clear about their apprehensions on its adaptability to Guli methods of cultivation.

One Solar cold room, one collection centre and a drying yard were constructed availing the various schemes to help the FPOs and its members to make the best use of the existing schemes from the state and central governments.

VIKASA has also continued to network with the other FPOs and played a key role in organizing / hosting webinars for the benefit of the FPOs especially on the digitisation front, by inviting two key players in the digitizing the FPO activities as well as sales from the FPOs for the benefit of the farmers.

The last three years of continued efforts in purifying the Isukaravvalu seed has seen the day of the light and the native scented variety which was once limited to few tens of farmers has reached more than 600 farmers in our project areas and farmers are cultivating and consuming the variety for its delicate aroma and distinct taste. Besides, more than 1000 kg this native rice variety was procured from the farmers and created a good market among the urban consume This raises hope for pitching for similar efforts to purify the other paddy varieties that are still available for conservation and marketing. We will continue our efforts in that direction in the days to come.....

Dr. S Kiran  
Executive Director

## Support to Millet Sisters Group

As part of the Millet Network of India, which is a network of more than 15 organisations across India, VIKASA has continued its efforts in organizing the regular meetings with the Millet Sisters across the 5 villages we have been working. In our effort to support the promotion of the Natural farming in the tribal areas, we have identified a critical gap in the form of proper storage structure for the preparation of the liquid Jeevamrutham. Hence 100 women farmers were provided with the Plastic drums of 200 Lts to all the 100 women farmers / millet sisters. They were provided support to the tune of 70% and rest of the 30% cost was borne by these women farmers. The contribution from farmers was ensured to promote the sense of ownership and as a matter of assurance from all these farmers for the preparation of the Jeevamrutam for application to the millet crops to improve the soil nutritional status thus ensuring health crop growth.



## Visitors from Coffee Board of India

VIKASA has been successful in keeping the two FPOs (Farmer Producer Organizations) engaged actively in the aggregation and sale of the agricultural produce especially high value crops like Coffee, Pepper, rajmah and millets. Among all those, Coffee has been the key focussed area and the volumes that these FPOs are aggregating are increasing year after year. Taking note of this key role played by the FPOs steered by the VIKASA, Deputy Directors of Coffee Board, from Different states visited Vikasa India office in Araku and met the ceos of Farmer Producer Companies promoted by Vikasa India to understand issues faced by coffee farmers in the ASR district and how the FPO is operating and helping the coffee farmers. Around 14 Deputy Directors from Coffee growing regions across India were part of the delegation as they wanted to emulate similar activities in their areas of operation in their states to benefit small scale coffee growers



# Webinars for FPOs on Digital Platforms

An online Whatsapp group was created in 2018 by a group of three individuals viz., Ch Srinivas, Kiran Sakkhari & Mohan Kadimpally to initiate the discussions and to help the CEOs of FPOs. During those days, there was no support system was envisaged for FPOs and hence this role was taken up informally by these three individuals and organized first ever training for FPOs on how to initiate business and what care is to be taken while setting the ball rolling by the FPOs in conducting the business. Later NABARD initiated Regional Support Agencies to take forward these initiatives. However, since then this group called Knowledge Forum on FPOS, in which VIKASA has been active through organizing online webinars for FPOS, has been actively engaged and roped in FPOs and Bankers, and Academecia into the whatsapp group to encourage the free and fair discussion on issues related to FPOs. As part of this, during this year, two Webimnars were organized inviting important players in this sector Arth Agri and AyeKart, both of them are actively engaged in doing the business with FPOs across India on their Digital platforms. These Webinars were attended by more than 100 FPOs across India and helped them in networking as well as connecting with these Digital platforms.

**ArthAgri**  
**CAN DIGITIZATION TRANSFORM YOUR FPO?**  
**EXPLORING THE PATH TO AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION**  
 Welcome to India's only FPO focused Collaboration Platform.

**Speaker**  
**Mr. Biswajit Samantray**

**MODERATOR**  
**Dr Kiran Sakkhari**  
 VIKASA

**PANELISTS**  
**Sri Emmanuel Murrey**  
 Rtd General Manager  
 NABARD

**Sri Ashok Methyl**  
 Rtd Chief General Manager  
 NABARD

**TIME 11 AM TO 12. NOON**  
**05-MAY 2024**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89866969685?pwd=DONk6tZrdU4DEtbAmALQpCyxkCJBBt.1>

**HOSTED BY**  **& FPO KNOWLEDGE FORUM**

**EMPOWERING FPOS BY DIGITIZING FOOD & AGRI VALUE CHAINS**

**Speaker**  
**Mr. RajeshJain**  
 AyeKart

**PANELISTS**

**MODERATOR**  
**Srinivas Chekuri**  
 Gramodaya Trust

**Sri Emmanuel Murrey**  
 Rtd General Manager  
 NABARD

**Sri Ashok Methyl**  
 Rtd Chief General Manager  
 NABARD

**Host**  
**Dr s Kiran**

**TIME 11 AM TO 12. NOON**  
**06-JULY 2024**

**HOSTED BY**  **& FPO KNOWLEDGE FORUM**

## Shoes for farmers

Shoe distribution was initiated during the last financial year in the month of Feb / March and continued this year. These shoes were produced by a start up called Earthentunes set up by a three alumnus of Madras IIT who have done their masters in the Design Engineering. They tried to address the issues faced by the farmers and found that their expertise can be put to best use by preparing the shoes specifically suited to the farmers who need to work in the field for long hours in dust, mud, and wet situations. They identified that the the heel cover of the shoe if made breathable, farmers can work in the field with shoes on for long hours. They also tell that, the risk of snake bites can also be averted by wearing the shoes while working in the fields.

A total of 12 pairs of shoes were provided by the Earthen Shoes in February 2024 and the first distribution was initiated in the presence of one of the Directors of Earthentunes Dr Santosh in the village Badimela. During the last financial year around 330 shoes were distributed and remaining shoes were distributed in this financial year to the farmers.



# Infrastructure for FPOs

## Manavanam Farmer Producer Company Ltd. Stages of Construction-Collection Centre @ Bonduguga



## Solar Cold Room & Drying Yard



during this reporting period, a solar cold room, One collection centre and Drying yard for drying of the agricultural produce were built availing the subsidy component from the Department of Horticulture for Collection centre and Solar cold room, whereas the drying yard construction support was provided by Coffee Board.

The collection centre was built on the land donated by Jgannadham from Bpnduguda village. He has donated half an acre of land to the FPO Manavanam Farmer producer Co Ltd on which the collection centre of 60 feet X 40 feet was built with 75% subsidy from the Department of Horticulture and the remaining 25% was borne by the Manavanam FPO.

Solar cold room was also supported by the Department of Horticulture , Government of Andhra Pradesh to the tune of 75% and rest of the 25% was borne by VIKASA with the financial support from Azimpremji Foundation. Though the payments were done last year, the actual grounding of the solar cold room took a long time and was set up in the current reporting period. This is housed on the Sagaram farm near the Millets Processing unit set up by VIKASA in 2017.

The drying yard was supported by the Coffee Board. This is a critical infrastructure built for the benefit of the farmer members from all the three FPOs that are operational under VIKASA.

# Experimenting GULI method in Little millet

During this year, as part of the NABARD supported programme on millets promotion and popularisation, VIKASA has initiated Experiments cultivating the Little millet crop on the principles of GULI. As this method exceedingly well on the farmers fields and the response from farmers was also tremendous, we wanted to extend the methodology to other popularly grown millet crop so that, if this succeeds, farmers will be largely benefited. A total 54 farmers were encouraged to take up this transplanting of little millet in this Kharif and in all the plots the crop performed exceptionally well.

A total of 20 exposure visits to the Guli Sama (transplanted little millet) demo plots were organized during the crop growth period and the first crop cutting experiment was conducted in the presence of NABARD District Development Manager Sri Chakradhar on 23rd October 2024 in Logili Village of Dumbriguda Mandal, where Korra Jagabandhu (farmer) had taken up this new method in an extent of 80 cents. The crop cutting experiment recorded a whopping 11.17 quintals per acre (with around 16% moisture level of the grains). Usually farmers get 150 to 200 kg per acre whereas the method we promoted resulted in 1117 kg per acre. Hope this will generate interest among the rest of the farmers to take up this type of cultivation in future.



# Purification of Native scented paddy variety

A native scented paddy variety called **Isukaravvalu** was selected for seed purification and distribution among the farmers. This activity was initiated three years ago and continued over three seasons by constantly removing the off types from the field during its crop growth. This activity was initiated with the help of the experienced farmers who have been conserving this variety for so many years, despite almost all other farmers have lost this seed because it was not able to yield on par with the hybrids that they are growing. However this native variety has a distinct aroma akin to Basmati. The three years long efforts fructified in this current year and the seed has spread to more than 400 farmers. Besides more than 1000 Kg of this rice was sold to the urban consumers and generated a good demand for the native variety. Though this variety yields less, due to the heavy demand generated through marketing and media stories published in popular newspapers, the actual price realization for this variety is 25 to 30% higher than the regular varieties / hybrids that they sell. It is definitely an important step in not just conserving this variety but also in creating a market for the same.



## ఆదివాసీ బియ్యం... ఆరోగ్యానికి అభయం!

**పచ్చని గుడ్డులు, లేవని మలుపులు దాటి దుండ్రులైన మంచం (అల్లారి నీరాకాశులూ తల్లె) వైపు వెళ్ళే పొలంలో నాల్గు వేస్తూ బనించారు 70 ఏళ్ల దాదాపు తొంగుల వెంకటరమణ**

“పూర్వం మా తాతమ్మలతలు వీటినే వండింది తిచ్చారు. అదే మాకు వారసత్వంగా వచ్చింది. ఈ దీప్యం మంచి సువాసనతో తెల్లగా గుండ్రంగా ముక్కాల్లా ఉంటాయి. చర్మంపై తీసి పొలానికి వేళ్ళే ముద్దాస్తూ 9 గంటల వరకు అలుపుతూనే ఉంటుంది. పనిచేస్తూ ఎలాంటి రోగాలు రావు” అన్నాడు. ఆ వంగడం పేరు ‘ఇసుకరవలు’. కొన్ని తరాలుగా అడుగిన ఈ రేణువు వరిని వండిస్తూ, దిక్కునాటు కాపాడుతుంటున్న కుటుంబానికి చెందిన ఆదివాసీ వైకు వెంకటరమణ

“మా ఫార్మేషన్లు ఎప్పుడో ఇనుకరవల్లు సాగును ప్రారంభించారు. మేము దానిని కాపాడుతుంటున్నాం. ఈ దిక్కున అంతరించి పోతుంటే ఉండాలంటే అది ప్రతి సువర్ణరం సాగులో ఉండాలింటే” అన్నాడు వెంకట రమణ. రెండు ఎకరాల్లో అయిన ఈ వరిని వండిస్తున్నారు. తన ఫార్మేషన్ మాదిరిగానే ప్రకృతి నియంత్రించు వారుతున్నారు.

“ఇది చేపట్టిన దీప్యం అని మేములా భావిస్తాం అంటే సువాసనలు వస్తున్నాయని నమ్ముతాం. గొడ్డులు, బానిసలకు ఈ దీప్యం వేసే వంట అప్పుడే పెడతారు. దీనిలో కొవ్వునూ ఉంది. ఎక్కువగా ఉంటాయని మా పెద్దలు చెబుతారు. వడ్డులు వాడుతుంటే కూడా సువర్ణరం వచ్చి వీటిని అడిగి వరి కొంటుంటారు” అని దుండ్రులైన వైకు తొంగుల వచ్చి అన్నారు.

**డాక్యుమెంట్ చేశారు...**

అక్షితి గుర్తిన ఇనుకరవల్లు రకాన్ని శుద్ధి పరచి సుంకేరించారు దా తరత, దానీతాకే అభివృద్ధిలో “పాన” ప్రకృతియులు శివగు నాగేశ్వరరావు, పొలిమర వెంకట సూరి, అభివృద్ధి ఈ వెంటపై అవగాహన ఉన్న వైకులతో కలిసి ఇనుకరవల్లు గుణాను

డాక్యుమెంట్ చేశారు. 2021 నుండి ఈ రకాన్ని వైకులతో సాగుచేయిస్తున్నారు. పొలంలో నాటిన తర్వాత ఆసలు దిక్కునాటి ఇతర వైకులు కలవడం వల్ల మొక్కల ఎదుగు డంలో చేదాని గుడ్డింది, కట్టి అయిన రకాలు తొలగించారు. అలా ఈ రకాన్ని శుద్ధి పరచి, నాల్గువైపు దిక్కునాటు ఉత్పత్తి చేశారు. కోతలు పూర్తయిన తర్వాత, వీరు కొంత దిక్కునాన్ని వేళ్ల పరచి వాటిని మరుసటి ఏడాది మిగతా వైకులకు దిక్కున ఉత్పత్తి కోసం ఇస్తున్నారు.

**ఎలా గుర్తించాలి?**

ఈ మొక్క పొడవుగా పెరుగుతుంది. 5 అడుగులపైనే ఉంటుంది. వంట వంట సమయంలో సువాసన వస్తుంది. అదిక వరకాలకు, ముంపకి తట్టుతుంటుంది. 180 నుంచి 170 రోజులకు వండుతుంది. గండ పై పొట్టు వలనగా ఉంటుంది.

“వెలసాని కలుషం తీసి అదే మాదిరిలో కలిసిపోయేలా చేస్తాం. రకాన్ని ఎరువులు వాడం, ఒకవేళ వేస్తే, ఈ సువాసన రాదు” అని కొండవాలు అనే వైకు చెప్పారు. అభివృద్ధి చేసిన దిక్కునాటు అరచి వ్యాపి, దుండ్రులైన మండలాల్లో 9 క్రామాలకు చెందిన 50 మంది వైకులకు అన్ని సాగుచేయించింది విశాన సంస్థ శుద్ధి చేసిన దిక్కునాటు వల్ల వంట

**తరతరాల ఆదివాసీ వరి వంగడం...**

“తరతరాల ఆదివాసీ వరి వంగడం ఇది. తక్కువ దిగుబడి వస్తుంది చాలా మంది వైకులు చిందించడం మానేశారు. కానీ వెంటకరవలు కుటుంబం ఇప్పటికీ ఇనుకరవల్లును కాపాడుతోంది. ఇది గమనించి ఆ వంటను శాస్త్రీయంగా పరిశీలించారు. దిక్కునాటు పూర్తిగా కట్టి అయింట్లు తెలిపింది. ఈ వంగడాన్ని కట్టింది రకంగా రూపొందించడానికి శ్రీకాకుళానికి చెందిన ప్రెసిడెంట్ దా.వేణుకే సమకాలంలో స్వచ్ఛమైన వైకుగా తయారు చేశారు.

- “పాప” ఎగ్జిక్యూటివ్ ప్రెసిడెంట్ దా.కింజ

సాల్వే పెరిగి, దీనివల్ల ఎక్కువగా రాబోవడం గుర్తించిన వైకులు తమ బంధువులు తోటి వైకులకు దిక్కునాటు ఇవ్వడం మొదలు పెట్టారు. ఇప్పుడు ఈ దిక్కునాటు వంటకు దాదాపు 400 మంది వైకులు వండిస్తున్నారు.

**మరిన్ని వైకులు...**

ఈ ప్రాంతంలో ఇనుకరవల్లలో కాకుండా అంతరించినట్లున్న మరొకొక్క ఇతర వరి వంగడాన్ని, నన్నానీరి, ఎర్ర గోపాలు రకాలను కూడా శుద్ధిపరచి సుంకేరించాలని విశాన సంస్థ పూనుకుంది. అరచిన ఆదివాసీ వంగడాను



గుర్తించి రాపాడి, దిక్కునాటు చాలా మంది దిగుబడి, అదాయం వస్తుంటున్నాయి. ఈ వంగడాలు క్లాస్సిక్, మధుమేళం, గుండె ఇబ్బలు వంటి రోగాల నుండి రక్షణ కల్పిస్తున్నాయి అని గిడిమలలు నమ్ము తున్నారు. ఈ అవకాశం తీసుకోవడం వల్ల ఆదివాసీల్లో 70 దాదాపు వ్యవస్థల వైకుల పొంపములు ఉత్పాదంగా చేస్తున్నారు.

- క్యాంపెయన్, 94405 85858

## Farmers from Odisha & Chattisgharh Visit VIKASA

Two teams from PRADHAN Odisha state visited VIKASA's Better Crops Initiative on Millets and Cabbage as part of their learning and Exposure to the resource agencies in the month of November 2024. Around 63 farmers visited as part of this group along with the PRADHAN staff. They were given a brief about the initiatives taken by VIKASA such as Guli method of finger millet and Little millet cultivation, Raised bed method of cultivation and Non pesticidal method of Cabbage cultivation.

Besides, a group of 30 farmers from Chattishgharh also visited the Guli little millet fields in the month of October 2024. Their objective was to learn from the experiences of the VIKASA farmers on the Guli method so that they also can adopt the same to get higher yields from the millet cultivation.



## Biodiversity Festival

VIKASA has organized a Biodiversity festival in the month of November inviting women farmers / millet sisters from PVTG families from across 6 villages. The event was also organized in one of the villages so that the women participation would be highest. All crop seeds and varieties grown in this ecosystem were displayed including the ones that are mostly out of cultivation viz., scented varieties of paddy such as Nimmalasiri, Tetem Dhan, Isukaravvalu, Bhallu dhan etc, rare varieties of horsegram (black and red varieties), local minor oil seed crop (Pricilla sp) which is used in making the local sweet delicacy (similar to the chikkis made with groundnut). All the women were invited to visit the seeds and later a meeting was organized where older women were invited to share their experiences in growing the rare varieties and varieties that are in the verge of extinction.

later in the month of February, 20 women farmers and 4 male farmers were taken to Zaheerabad wherein Deccan Development Society has organized an annual convention for Millet farmers for all the MINI network partners. It was an opportunity for the women farmers from Aralu area to mix with farmers across different states and see the kind of crops and varieties they are cultivating.



## Trainings of Sustainable Agriculture

Trainings of sustainable agriculture, Skill trainings on Dry flower pressing, demos on preparation of Biostimulants and plant based concoctions for the pest management, applications of Biocontrol agents such as Bavaria Rhizobium, Trichoderma etc were organised for the beneficiaries of the Mental Health project run by the George Institute of Global Health in the Eluru District of Andhra Pradesh. The George institute has entered into a consultancy contract with VIKASA to organise these trainings for their project beneficiaries. Besides trainings on the Nursery preparation, grafting of the fruit trees especially Cashew etc were also organized for the beneficiaries so that they learn these techniques and will be useful for them to maintain their orchards in a health condition.

During one of those trainings, Biocontrol agents from the Horticultural University were provided to 120 tribal farmers by converging the Tribal Subplan Programme of Horticultural Research Station located at Ambajipeta with the farmers in the George Project area.





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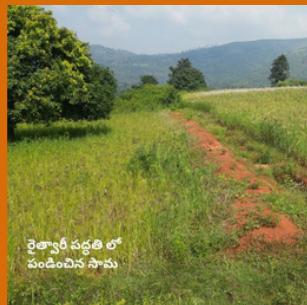
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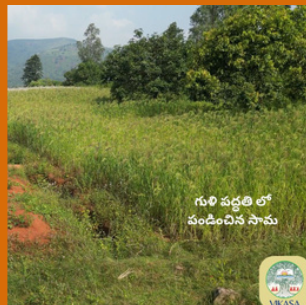
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