



Activities Report

April 2007 to March 2008

Federation of Farmers Associations, A.P

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Welcome to the Members of Federation of Farmers Associations!!

We have convened here to celebrate 8th Annual General Body Meeting of our Organisation. I welcome you all to the momentous occasion.

Organizational Aspects

The FFA has evolved through the years as a vehicle carrying the farmer's hopes and ambitions in bringing the farmers to their rightful place through advocacy with the government and other institutions.

The efforts of FFA in making the Indian Farmer a knowledge worker and making his livelihood a lot more profitable have continued with the same vigor that FFA has exhibited in the earlier years. The capacity building efforts have gone a long way in helping them with income generating activities. The Farmwomen have been identified and helped through the Agriterra programme with various initiatives.

FFA AP has taken initiative in making linkages with the farmers of other states and mobilizing them into federations. In this journey FFA AP has traveled to the states of Karnataka, Tamilnadu, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Pondicherry, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab and Nagaland. FFA AP has taken the lead in establishing FFA of those respective states involving the Farmer organizations and groups already established and are being formed in the process.

National body facilitated: The sojourn of FFA AP through other states has finally culminated in the formation of CIFA- the Consortium of Indian Farmers Associations. All the FFAs of the states are a part of that consortium including FFA AP. The CIFA, umbrella organization of many Farmers Federations of various states in India intends to take up macroeconomic and sectoral policy issues in the context of agricultural development in India. The CIFA intends not to be in the confines of pure agriculture in the field but take up the issues of sources and trends in public funding and human resources and the allocation of funds to the agriculture in the country as it is the most important area which the Indian farmer has not given much of a thought until now. CIFA intends to work along with the GOI in framing the new policy issues for agricultural, research and extension in India.

The Activities of FFA AP in Andhra Pradesh: According to the mandated objectives FFA has taken up implementing all the activities as per the Log frame. Apart from the pre set programmes, FFA has taken various programmes which were evolving as per the need.

Role of Agriterra: It would not be exaggeration to say that all this would not have been possible without the active support of Agriterra which has been the main source of not only funding but also motivation and encouragement. FFA AP and all the farmers associated with the programmes thank Agriterra for all the efforts they are putting into this hard work.

Activities in this Reporting Period

However, this reporting period has seen a lot more activity including trainings, awareness camps, introduction of new issues in the awareness campaigns; flurry of activity in the formation of commodity organizations, visit of Foreign dignitaries; forging market linkages; tie up with Coca cola; consolidating relations with BARC and NRSA. These activities trainings are in tune with the overall objective of establishing multiple organizational structures and translating the activities into a wide range of short and long-term programmes..

The various issues that were disseminated in the trainings include Subsistence crops, Marketing, processing, value addition, Cooperative structures, Leadership programmes, Environmental concerns etc.

We herewith present below the major events conducted by FFA

Projects taken up by FFA

1. Sorghum and Pearl millet programme in Mahabubnagar district in association with ICRISAT has been continued and is expected to get completed by the end of this year.
2. Vermi compost units in association with CAPART were established in Guntur district
3. The Mango Value chain strengthening programme is continuing in Chittoor district and for the second consecutive year COCACOAL has procured Fresh Mango from the Members of MACS societies promoted by FFA
4. The USAID sponsored programme carried out by GMED of Jaipur in training the Mango Farmers is continuing in Chittoor district.
5. ITC - ITLD have reached an agreement to procure buyback Oriental Tobacco produced by the Farmers of in 3 mandals of Chittoor district. Incidentally ITC is also helping in providing the nursery and training for the farmers
6. A Feasibility study to establish a Processing park in Chittoor district in association with the Infrastructure Leasing and Financial services (IL & FS) was initiated by FFA. The study was conducted with the commodity farmers of Mango, Tomato, Papaya, Pomegranate and Lemon in Chittoor, Kadapa, Anantapur and Nellore districts respectively.
7. Establishment of Tailoring units in different parts of the state: Until now more than 50 batches have been trained and another 50 batches of women are undergoing training in the tailoring centers
8. Fifteen Tailoring Centers being run in association with World Rural Forum of Spain. While some of the batches were completed some are in the process
9. Rajiv Udyog Sri, a GOI programme has come forward to work along with FFA in helping to continue the Tailoring centers for this year.

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Medical Camps

24. Medical camps were organized in Krishna , Medak and Chittoor districts
25. The different district units of FFA are in association with ATMA are conducting various awareness programmes

Veterinary Camps

26. Veterinary camps were conducted in Kadapa distirct and Guntur distirct

Visit of Foreign Dignitaries to FFA

27. Mr. Theo, the Diary Expert from Netherlands has visited different project areas of FFA and has interacted with Farmer for a possible cooperation with the AP Dairy Farmers
28. The Team from Agriterra, The Netherlands comprising Mrs. MARLY BOON MAN and Mrs. BERTKEN has visited FFA for an evaluation of the FFA programmes.
29. A team of experts from WORLD RURAL FORUM, SPAIN has visited FFA and had discussions on the possible cooperation . This has resulted in the World Rural Forum helping the Womens Tailoring programme partially.
30. The team from PASSAGE, a Women's organization from Netherlands comprising Mrs. IRA STAM and MRS. COBY MEYBOOM ahs visited FFA and also has gone to visit some units in the project are. The visit is intended for a possible cooperation between PASSAGE and FFA for future programmes on Women

Lobbying and Advocacy Efforts

31. FFA submits a letter to Chief Election Commissioner Mr. N. Gopalaswami to permit the government to go ahead with the Sugar cane relief package
32. FFA makes efforets and represents Government in getting Rs. 40/- Bonus paid for Paddy procured by Food Corporation of India in AP– for extending Bonus payment till 30 th June'2007
33. FFA displays its displeasure over the poor budget provisions for the farmers and represented the issue through various forums and media
34. FFA has represented on behalf of the farmers to the CACP on the prices to be awarded for various crops.
35. FFA has successfully conducted the third edition of Rural Games in June 2007 exclusively for farmers covering 20 districts of the state.

Other activities

36. FFA has taken up the issue of providing loans to tenant farmers in west godavari district and has succeeded in getting the same
37. The Executive members based at Hyderabad are in constant touch and interacting on a regular basis with the heads of different departments relating to Agriculture, Horticulture Dairy etc