

Newsletter

Sustainable Development *through Partnerships*

Issue VI

November 2024



Pro-poor Approach



Participatory Approach
and Gender Equality

Sustainability

Editorial

Dear Readers,

AFPRO has been a staunch advocate for sustainable agricultural practices. The agricultural sector has witnessed a significant transformation recently, spurred by technological advancements and a concerted effort to double farmers' incomes. One revolutionary development that has altered the landscape of modern farming is drone technology.

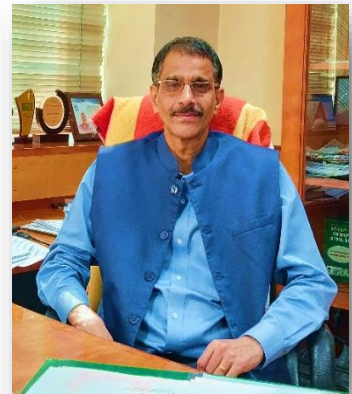
Moreover, we are weaving another thread into the fabric of agriculture through the adoption of regenerative farming practices. This approach, which is rapidly gaining traction worldwide, is a cornerstone of our projects. It empowers farmers to bolster their resilience against the contemporary challenges of agriculture, ensuring they can thrive in a challenging ever-evolving environment.

The connection between agriculture and water availability is undeniable, as water remains an indispensable element of life. In recognition of this, "Water for Peace" was aptly chosen as the theme for World Water Day in 2024 across various projects to foster community awareness about the importance of water conservation and sustainable usage.

AFPRO is committed to uplifting the lives of the underprivileged and marginalized communities throughout the nation. Our endeavours are aimed at creating a more equitable society where every individual has the opportunity to lead a life of dignity and prosperity. We believe that through collective effort and sustainable development, we can pave the way for a brighter future for all.

Join us in our journey towards nurturing a more sustainable and just world.

**Dr Jacob John,
Executive Director**



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Executive Director**

PROJECT ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

AFPRO is working with farmers for promoting System of Rice Intensification in Gurur Block, Balod District, Chhattisgarh. This method enhances water, soil, and seed management, ensuring sustainable farming. Our 25 farmers are now adopting Integrated Pest Management and Integrated Nutrient Management strategies to boost crop health and productivity while minimizing environmental impact. We are aiming for higher yields and greater resilience, benefiting our community and the land. The project is supported by EdelGive Foundation.



The President, AFPRO Governing Body and Executive Director, AFPRO visited project titled 'Climate change adaptation measures to strengthen and sustain rural livelihood for small and marginalized tribal farmers in Chhattisgarh' in Gurur Block, in September 2024. The community discussed the project's journey, its various interventions, and how it affected their lives. This project is building social capital with knowledge to address climate change challenges through improving natural resources and livelihoods. President and Executive Director has also visited AFPRO's land in Raipur with an area of 7387Sq.ft that can be used to construct 'National Center' to expand its activities.





AFPRO was selected by the Asian Productivity Organisation (APO) to participate in the Multi County Observational Study Mission on implementing the Sufficiency Economy Theory (SET) to sustain community development from 31st July 2024 to 2nd August 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand. This program was organised by APO, Japan. Dr. Jacob John, Executive Director, attended this study mission. The mission enabled us to understand key success factors, including policies and frameworks for applying the SET to support and promote sustainable communities in India, which is one of the 20 member countries of the APO.

AFPRO is striving to adopt SET in the implementation of our development projects in various parts of India. The primary outcome of the visit was gaining insight into the key success factors, policies, and frameworks for applying the SET to support and promote sustainable communities.

MONITORING VISITS TO PROJECT

Dr Jacob John, Executive Director, AFPRO, visited the SCB-Washe Project area at Gauribidanur and Chikkaballaur District, Karnataka. He met beneficiaries of the project and visited the RO plant, soak pits, household toilets and kitchen gardens. The feedback from beneficiaries exhibits that our interventions have resulted in enhancing their water access, sanitation facilities, and promoting health and hygiene practices in the target communities.



DRONES: AN ADVANCEMENT IN AGRICULTURE FOR FARMERS OF NUH, HARYANA

Drone farming is a revolution in agricultural technology that has gained tremendous pull in recent years. AFPRO has initiated drone spraying in Kota, Sarai, and Bissar in three villages, Nuh District of Haryana, under 'Sunhera Kal Project. This is initiated in the Pearl Millet plots of 1 acre wherein spray of Nano Urea, Nano DAP and Sagarika were done by deploying drones.



Farmers were keen to learn the latest technology and understood the benefits of drone spray. AFPRO is working towards advancements in agriculture without compromising the environment. Drones have unparalleled precision and efficiency. During this demonstration, Assistant Agriculture Engineer, *Krishi Evam Kisan Kalyan Vibagh* and the Block Agriculture Officer of the Agriculture Department, Tavdu Block were present. This will save the time of farmers and give a uniform spray to the crops. Spraying drones have transformed agriculture and environmental management by improving crop health, optimising yields, and advancing environmental awareness. The project is supported by ITC.





AFPRO is actively working with the farmers of Aurangabad, Maharashtra on a project which strategically promotes regenerative agriculture practices and emphasises building the capacity of cotton growers to optimise the use of agricultural inputs, particularly water, soil nutrients, fertilizers, and pesticides. The adoption of vermicompost as part of the Regenerative Agriculture Project in Kankori village, Aurangabad, Maharashtra has started to provide significant benefits to the local farming community. By boosting microbial activity and improving soil structure, vermicompost will contribute to a more resilient and productive agricultural ecosystem in the village. The farmer's participation in regenerative agriculture indicates the increasing awareness and interest of farmers in sustainable agriculture. This project is supported by Louis Dreyfus Company India Private Limited and Asian Development Bank.

DIVERSIFYING LIVELIHOODS OF TRIBAL FARMERS OF LANJIGARH BLOCK, ODISHA



Pottery, a versatile and traditional art form, has been the socio-cultural livelihood for the farmers of Lanjigarh village, Odisha. The artisans practicing the art of making pots were dependent on the traditional form of pottery and struggling for their livelihood. The artisans have to go through many hardships in the activity since they are still practicing the traditional ways of pottery. Thus, AFPRO in the Lanjigarh village initiated community based pottery development as a sustainable and profitable livelihood option.

To empower the rural population particularly landless farmers, pottery development initiative was undertaken in *Sangam* Project. Community members were selected in one village providing comprehensive training to enhance their skills. It included training on Electric pottery wheels, Hand Tools, Mould Sets and other raw materials such as Plaster of Paris. This has enhanced product quality and production in less time. This initiative aims to improve livelihoods and economic empowerment of the community by fostering sustainable livelihoods through the art of pottery. This project is supported by the support of Vedanta Limited.

AFPRO is implementing a project in 11 villages from Viramgam and Mandal blocks of Ahmedabad district. The target group comprises the farming community, farm workers, women and children. Under this water conservation project five farm ponds have been constructed in three villages of Mandal and Viramgam block with a total volume of excavation of 8974 Cum. This was conducted with the active participation of the farmers. Farm ponds are constructed in the farmland to collect and store the rainwater. The stored water will be lifted or drained out by gravity as per the local situation for crop irrigation. The pond has an inlet to harvest surface water from its catchment area and a spillway to drain out excess water. The stored water will be useful for the irrigation of cotton crops in its critical growth stages and longer dry spells. It also helps in improving the soil moisture condition in the area ensuring better crop growth and yields. At the same time, the dug wells and bore wells in the nearby area will be benefitted due to groundwater recharge. The project is supported by Zydus Life Science Ltd.



SPECIAL DAYS CELEBRATIONS ACROSS OUR PROJECTS



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