Sustainable Agriculture and Diversified Livelihoods Project (SADLP)

Anantapur and Sri Sathya Sai Districts, Andhra Pradesh, India

Project Period: April 2024 – March 2027

Supported by Bread for the World

The Sustainable Agriculture and Diversified Livelihoods Project (SADLP) is a three-year initiative designed to strengthen drought-climate resilience among small and marginal rainfed farmers and farm labourers in Anantapur district. The project builds on earlier phases supported by Bread for the World and incorporates lessons learned from previous community-based agroecology and livelihood interventions.

The project focuses on agro-ecological farming systems, women-led community institutions, drought mitigation, diversified food crops, protective irrigation, natural farming, skill development, and off-farm livelihoods. It aims to reduce vulnerability to drought and climate variability while improving dignity, gender equity, food security and income opportunities for rural households.

Project Goal

Small and marginal rainfed farmers and farm labourers lead a life of dignity and gender equity by practising agro-ecological, drought-climate resilient farming systems and diversifying their livelihoods.

Project Objective

Small and marginal rainfed farmers and farm labourers, particularly women, reduce their vulnerability to drought and climate variability and improve their livelihoods.

Geographical Coverage

The project covers 230 villages in eight drought-affected contiguous mandals/blocks of Anantapur district: Atmakur, Kudair, Kalyanadurg, Beluguppa, Kundurpi, Settur, Dharmavaram and Rapthadu.

Target Group and Outreach

The project directly reaches 25,000 families and indirectly benefits 60,000 families, covering a total outreach of 85,000 families. The intervention gives special attention to women, small and marginal farmers, farm labourers, women-headed families and families with disabled persons.

Key Impact Details

- 15,000 farmers, 90% of them women, will gain awareness, technical knowledge and practical skills in drought-climate resilient agro-ecological farming.
- 12,000 farmers, 75% of them women, will shift from mono-cropping to diversified food crops across 10,000 hectares of rainfed land.
- 15,000 farmers, 80% of them women, will practise contingency and relay cropping across 12,000 hectares to improve income and fodder availability.

- 3,000 farmers, including 2,500 women and 500 men, will receive protective irrigation support covering 1,250 hectares to save crops during moisture stress and dry spells.
- 5,500 farmers in 230 villages will be supported to practise natural farming in irrigated plots.
- 10,000 women will receive financial and technical support for off-farm and non-farm livelihood activities.
- 1,600 rural youth and 500 women will acquire employable skills and be linked to employment or self-employment.
- 230 women Karyakarthas will be developed as village-level community animators to promote agroecological farming practices.
- 950 Sasya Mitra Groups and 230 Grama Sasya Mitra Groups will strengthen credit, thrift, mutual cooperation and financial management at village level.
- Rs. 18 crores of savings will revolve as credit at group level, improving access to community-managed finance.

Major Interventions

- Farmers' Field Schools in 230 villages for knowledge transfer on drought adaptation and agroecology.
- Training of Karyakarthas in community-based organisation facilitation, drought adaptation and diversified livelihoods.
- Skill training for women in garment making, sanitary goods, millet snacks and other livelihood activities.
- Vocational training for rural youth in driving, mobile phone mechanics, motorbike repair, home appliance repair and related trades.
- Strengthening of 1,200 community-based organisations, including Sasya Mitra Sanghas, village-level federations, mandal-level federations and one apex federation.
- Support to 16 Farmer Producer Organisations to develop business plans and access capital.
- Crop demonstrations on protective irrigation, contingency and relay crops, crop diversification and women-friendly farm equipment.
- Events and public platforms to amplify farmers' voices on drought mitigation, gender equality and relevant government policies.

Drought-Climate Resilient Farming Practices Promoted

- Intercropping and mixed cropping instead of mono-cropping.
- Contour sowing across the slope to conserve soil and moisture.
- Crop diversification with millets, pulses, oilseeds and vegetables.
- Natural farming practices to reduce hazardous agro-chemical use.
- Multi-tree cropping models suitable for rainfed conditions.
- Contingency and relay cropping during drought years.
- On-farm rainwater harvesting and protective irrigation during long dry spells.
- Mulching to minimise moisture evaporation and improve soil fertility.
- Use of cycle seeder-cum-weeder to reduce drudgery and cultivation costs.
- Seed multiplication and storage using three-layer bags and community seed banks.

Natural Farming Protocols

- Avoid genetically modified seeds, chemical pesticides and chemical fertilisers.
- Apply farmyard manure, sheep penning or green manuring before cultivation.
- Treat seeds with Beejamrutum or Beejaraksha before sowing.
- Sow recommended border crops, trap crops, mixed crops and intercrops.

- Apply Jeevamrutham, Ghanajeevamrutham or Type-2 Jeevamrutham as per schedule.
- Use mechanical pest control methods such as bird perches, white and yellow sticky boards, pheromone traps, delta traps and light traps.
- Use biological pest control methods such as neem oil spray and herbal pest repellents.
- Develop biomass on bunds for fodder, mulch and windbreaks.

Expected Long-Term Change

SADLP is expected to build resilient village-level farming systems that reduce drought risk, increase crop diversity, improve household food security, enhance women's leadership and strengthen local institutions. By combining agroecology, community finance, protective irrigation and livelihood diversification, the project aims to create a practical model for climate-resilient rural development in drought-prone regions.

Outreach and Cropping Model Tables

Community Outreach by Social Category

Category	Direct Families	Indirect Families	Total Families
Scheduled Caste	8,000	7,000	15,000
Scheduled Tribe	2,000	3,000	5,000
Other Backward Caste	13,000	38,000	51,000
Others	2,000	12,000	14,000
Total	25,000	60,000	85,000

Outreach to Vulnerable Families

Category	Direct Families	Indirect Families	Total Families
Women-headed families	1,660	3,260	4,920
Families with disabled persons	1,086	1,862	2,948
Total	2,746	5,122	7,868

Recommended Diversified Cropping Models

Model	Main Crop	Intercrop	Mixed Crops	Border/Trap Crops	Relay Crop
1	Groundnut	Red gram (11:1)	Green gram, cow pea, field bean, jowar, sesame, vegetables	Jowar, bajra, cow pea, castor	Horse gram, jowar
2	Foxtail millet	Red gram (7:1)	Green gram, cow pea, field bean, jowar, sesame, vegetables	-	Horse gram
3	Jowar	Red gram (7:1)	Green gram, cow pea, field bean, jowar, sesame, vegetables	-	Horse gram

4	Bajra	Red gram (7:1)	Green gram, cow pea, field bean, jowar, sesame, vegetables	-	Horse gram
5	Little millet	Red gram (7:1)	Green gram, cow pea, field bean, jowar, sesame, vegetables	-	Horse gram
6	Kodo millet	Red gram (7:1)	Green gram, cow pea, field bean, jowar, sesame, vegetables	-	Horse gram
7	Red gram	Castor (1:1)	Vegetables	-	-
8	Green gram	Red gram (7:1)	Vegetables	Jowar	Jowar
9	Bengal gram	Coriander (7:1)	Vegetables	Jowar	-