



SABAL Project progress Update – July to December 2023

Micro-Landscape : Rekalakunta

Mandal : B. Mattam

District : Kadapa

Kalpatharuvu Model :

Two farmers in the landscape have received an amount of ₹15,000 each from the SABAL Project to cultivate exemplary crops by establishing Kalpatharuvu Model. This funding covered seeds and management expenses. The continuous income for farmers is a result of implementing this model, ensuring nutritional gains as well. The diverse range of crops grown under this model contributes to biodiversity. The natural farming program within the landscape boundaries is coordinated through Geo-coordinates by GIS experts. Mapping is facilitated through GIS tools.



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Kitchen gardens

Kitchen gardens, also known as vegetable gardens are small plots of land or designated areas cultivated for the purpose of growing vegetables and other edible plants for household food and nutrition. These gardens are typically located near or within one's home, providing a convenient and sustainable source of fresh produce. Kitchen gardens offer numerous benefits, such as promoting self-sufficiency, reducing food expenses, and ensuring a ready supply of organic and nutritious ingredients. Kitchen gardens empower individuals to take an active role in their food production and contribute to a healthier and more sustainable lifestyle.

A 100 of such Kitchen Gardens have been promoted with 100 households in Rekalakunta landscape by providing them with around 13 types of open pollinated seeds.

Nannari Value Chain Training

In Rekalakunta landscape, a total 40 tribal families which belong to yanadi sub-clan have been provided with a training on the processing and packaging of Nannari (*Decalepis hamiltonii*) that is also known as Maredu Gaddalu, one of the key forest products in the region provides sustenance to the tribals. Each step of the product value chain has been explained including best practices and gaps in the same. This will be followed up with another training on enterprise development soon by the project.



Water Bodies identification/calculation

As a continuation to the technical training provided by WASSAN for SABAL team, identification of water bodies, encompassing various sources such as lakes, wells, ponds, etc has been carried out in the Rekalakunta landscape. Apart from identifying them, the team also has been calculated the water

availability measures so as to contribute to strategic planning under the project in the months/years to come.

Compact Block Model with Yanadis

Keeping the wasted state the deteriorated lands in the Agaraharam village, belonging to the ST Community for want of investment in view, project is putting efforts to develop the same by Compact Block approach wherein, land development followed by establishing a multi-layer agro-forestry model is being planned. SABAL project is supporting for part of land development, plant material / plantation regarding the same and rest of the support is being facilitated through relevant line departments like Irrigation, Horticulture, Agriculture, NREGS, etc as part of convergence. Soil Moisture Conservation (SMC) activities will also be taken up in the model to demonstrate for future replications.



Multi-Stakeholder Landscape Management Bodies (MSLMB) :

MSLMBs are a hybrid bodies unlike any other community institutions and has combination of both community institutions and government line departments at different level. The primary objective of MSLMB is to identify and address various issues in the village by organizing committees at the Panchayat, Mandal, and District levels. These committees work towards recognizing and solving problems in the landscape area. The program involves leaders from the village association, Panchayat leaders, community leaders, agriculture officers, horticulture officers, SABAL team, natural farming committee, and the participation of farmers. A preliminary discussion meeting has been conducted at Vampalle cheruvu village as part of promotion of MSLMB.

Commons development

Through collaboration with the Revenue Department, Kankaramillu Bodu and Sakala Bodu in



the Rekalakunta landscape were mapped by the SABAL team with support of Revenue Department. Additionally, discussions with the NREGS Department took place to inform them about planning for Common lands. The tasks identified through the Clark application developed by the Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) for work in commons were identified.

ATM Models for 365 days income & green cover

7 farmers in the landscape received an incentive of ₹3000 each from WASSAN in the SABAL Project area for adopting the ATM model, covering expenses for seeds and other inputs. This ATM model ensures a continuous income for farmers, along with the added benefit of nutritious food. Surplus is going to be marketed locally as part of promoting local consumption of local produce. The diverse range of crops grown under this model contributes to biodiversity, enhancing the overall ecological diversity.

Farmer Field School

Farmer Field School exercise that is meant for crop management is conducted three times a month for any selected crop with special reference to Mirchi cultivation currently. The program spans 14 weeks and is carried out in a single farmer's field wherein other farmers who grow the same crop from the village participate as a group. It provides practical insights into crop management techniques that the farmer should implement in their fields, making it easier for them to learn and adapt to effective agricultural practices, leading to increased productivity.



Seed Balls Initiative :

CSA, as part of its mandate to address climate change / global warming related issues, has taken up Seed Ball activity in its operational Districts including SABAL Landscape (Rekalakunta) in Kadapa this year in partnership with TV9. School children were involved along with the local communities, Government departments, Farmers, etc in the activity. The species viz 13 varieties selected for seed balls throwing were identified through discussions with local community and the PRA tools applied while taking up the profiling activity as part of SABAL project initiatives in the landscape.



Regular awareness / sensitization meetings with Yanadis

The Yanadi families from ST Colony that is attached to D. Agraharam Village in the landscape have been undergoing awareness cum training programs on regular basis every monthly addressing attitudinal and behavioral changes, land degradation, natural farming, livestock management, models, and various other aspects keeping the local situation wherein the sub-clan is in a way secluded among the other communities in view. The objective is to bring desirable change in them towards them coming forward to take part in their own development with support of SABAL project.



Pestoscope Application Training

There was a training program organized on the the Postoscope application that has ben developed by Center for Sustainable Agriculture, providing theoretical and practical training to progressive farmers and lead farmers in the landscape. This application enables the farmers to learn and understand better about pest prevalence in crops, and authorities provide advice to farmers regarding unidentified issues.

Participatory Rural Appraisal

Through PRA exercises, issues in the landscape, including forests and villages, were identified and presented in a comprehensive chart. Profiling was conducted to attain a complete understanding. delineation was also done involving the community which allowed them to understand the process and the objective of the same along the process. According to the delineation, the entire landscape comprises 1670 hectares.

Village Organizations & Self-Help Groups Meetings:

Once a month, SABAL project representative attends the regular meetings of the Village Organizations and the Self help Groups at appropriate level to update the progress under SABAL project in the last month and plan for the upcoming month. The representative also discusses any important matter that needs attention or support from the group so as to carry out the project activities in smooth manner. During these gatherings, inputs about various empowering programs are shared, and recommendations and advice are provided to strengthen the groups.

Natural Farming Inputs / Extracts preparation

In association with APCNF program field cadre, SABAL team is taking part in facilitating preparation of Natural Farming inputs and extracts by conducting demonstrations besides gidaing the individuals and groups to do so. Additionally, farmers are provided with information and advice about natural farming during visits to fields and farms.

Review meetings with VO & PRI

Regular quarterly review meetings of SABAL project progress have been happening with Village Organizations and Panchayat Raj representatives in the landscape to review the progress against the plan regarding last quarter in particular and plan for the quarter ahead besides taking necessary decisions to ensure required support to the team member/s from various stakeholders.

Capacity building



SABAL team member/s have been taking part in various training and exposure programs such as Commons development, Gender training, Documentation & Communication, ATM Model protocol / establishment, Crop water budgeting, Water bodies assessment, etc which are being organized as part of the project initiatives.

Key activities planned for the next 6 months

- District & Mandal level Multi-Stakeholders workshops
- Completing establishment of the Compact Block models
- Setting up of Nannari value addition unit with Yanadis
- Soil Testing initiative for data to develop suitable strategies and for future comparison
- Promote more innovative Multi-layer food and income security models with special focus on Nannari
- MSLMB Promotion
- Ecological study to understand the local situation of various forest species
- Training & Exposure visits