

WATERSHED COMMITTEES – PAVE WAY FOR VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH STRENGTHENED LOCAL SELF GOVERNANCE

Gram Panchayat- Dongargaon Panchayat, Narnoor Mandal, Adilabad district

On April 2013, CPF Organised an exposure visit for members of the Watershed Committee formed under the IWMP. The exposure visit was organised to Shivarebazaar and Ralegaonsiddi to see how the village communities, elected representatives of panchayats and the Community institutions worked together to transform the face of the area. An area which had poor agriculture yield due to lack of water had transformed into green agriculture fields, bringing prosperity in the region and demonstrating a model of good governance. They also observed that there was unity and consensus amongst the people and since the last 20 years this area and has been unanimously electing it's Sarpanch for the gram panchayat without contest.



Ms. Madavi Maru Bhai
Chittaguda Village,
Dongargaon Panchayat

Kanaku Lachu, the Watershed Committee Chairman; Madavi Jangu, Secretary; Ramchander and Veeru, members were motivated and felt that they should replicate the practise of uncontested elections for the post of the Sarpanch in their Panchayat. After going back to their villages they took the following steps to achieve the same.

- Conducted meetings in all villages including Gramsabhas
- Formed a 20 member team and created awareness amongst all villagers.
- With the consent of Gramasabhas, decided to elect a GP Sarpanch unanimously and formed a 7 member committees in all 7 villages to elect a strong person. A resolution was also made for the same in all villages.

- With this practice they saved a lot of campaign money and election expenditure and created an environment of unity and collective action for village development in their gram panchayat.
- The Watershed Committee, Watershed Assistant and the IWMP project team (especially TO I & CB) were catalyst in this success.
- The prize money of Rs. 8 lakhs, was awarded by the Government to the gram Panchayat for having elected their sarpanch and ward members through an uncontested election.

They unanimously selected '**Madavi Maru Bhai**' (Kolam tribe lady) as their Sarpanch from Chittaguda village for Dongargaon Panchayat. Even all seven ward members were also elected unanimously.

The Impact - This is first time the practice was adopted in Dongargaon Grampanchayat in last elections. Now the other villagers are also interested take forward this practice in their Grampanchayats from next elections onwards.

Village development works undertaken ...

- Village approach BT Road has been constructed
- Open wells dug for an amount of Rs 2 lakhs worth
- Community Hall built for an amount of Rs. 10 lakhs
- Provided 30 pairs of bullocks to the community
- Laid CC Road worth Rs 1 lakh

- Established 2 Kirana shops for the poor landless people
- 3 Oil Engines provided worth Rs 75,000
- Provided 45 goats to 15 members
- And a 600 mtrs CC road has been sanctioned by the government which is yet to be layed.