

Workshop on
**Restoring balance between Livestock,
Environment and Livelihood**

24th September 2008
Divisional Forest Office, Achampet

Organised by
**Conservation of Nature through Rural
Awakening (Conare)**
Achampet

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Centre for People's Forestry (CPF)
Secunderabad

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Rationale of the Workshop

Achampet, Amrabad, Uppununthala, Lingal and Balmoor Mandals of Nagarkurnool Revenue Division in Mahaboobnagar district, have 21 villages closely knitted to the Wild Life Forest Division of Achampet. Agriculture was the mainstay of economy and occupation for these villages, but due to various reasons it became frizzle and non remunerative posing a threat to the income and livelihood of these villages of which majority are tribal hamlets. Hence in the midst of the employment egece, exigent means of living, and declined agro-based income, they sought livestock rearing as an alternative income or more obviously a hopeful source to eke out a living.

The villagers whether landed or landless and small or large ruminants maintain huge folk sizes, despite the major issue of fodder availability and development at village common land or own land. And as the agro-residues which contributed major portion of fodder needs, remained at a halt due to less investment in agriculture. For this reason, the livestock rearers of the aforesaid forest fringe villages depend for the most part of fodder needs on forest which is also a home for various herbivorous fauna. Notwithstanding the grazing restrictions on forest land, the villagers follow grazing on forest land, since it is the promising source of livelihood option for them. Also the livestock rearing communities are resource poor and CPRs and Grazing lands are also less in these 21 villages. Thus over-grazing on forest land by ruminant rearers grounds for desertification and degradation of the forest eco-system and environment.

Hence, seeing the forging balance among the three important realms Livelihood, Livestock and Environment; the RRC-T, hosted by CONARE and supported by CPF, has conducted a survey through the coordination of three local NGOs BDCS, ASHRAM and RDS to know the source of fodder availability for livestock on CPRs (Common Property Resources), forest, own land, the number of livestock depend on the forest and the extent of pressure they originate on the forest.

Knowing the disquieting pressure on the forest posed by the over grazing, the RRC-T with the support of **Centre for People's Forestry** organized the above mentioned workshop to seek the expert guidance, cooperation and possible ways and means to solve the forging balance between Livestock, livelihood and Environment.

The Survey Details and Findings

a) Survey Details

Sl. No	Village Name	EDC/VSS	Mandal	Total Land In Acres Wet	Land In Acres Dry	Land In Acres	Large Ruminants	Total Small Ruminants	Total ruminants	Grazing on Own	Stock depend on
1	2	3	4	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	Appaipalli	VSS	Lingala	1431	172	1259	1266	2093	3359	250	3109
2	Srirangapur	EDC	Balmoor	300	122	178	88	86	174	55	119
3	Billakal	EDC	Balmoor	199	67	132	216	220	436	85	351
4	Thippapur	-	Uppununthal	430	113	317	280	735	1015	450	565
5	Peratvanpalli	-	Uppununthal	235	57	184	109	71	188	55	133
6	Sadagodu	-	Uppununthal	1091	133	958	472	1104	1576	455	1121
7	Tadur	-	Uppununthal	1681	213	1468	1045	775	1820	655	1165
8	Uppunntala.B.C Colony	-	Uppununthal	449	108	341	472	312	784	225	559
9	Gattukadipalli	-	Uppununthal	437	106	331	179	326	505	145	360
10	Ayavaripallitanda	-	Uppununthal	154	22	132	88	128	216	50	166
11	Telugupalli	EDC	Ambrabad	713	245	468	342	325	667	223	444
12	Macharam	EDC	Ambrabad	642	315	327	613	575	1188	250	938
13	Dokkuthanda	EDC	Achampet	141	31	110.5	85	38	123	25	98
14	Bolghatpalli	EDC	Achampet	697	117.5	580	416	763	1179	110	1069
15	Gumpanpalli	EDC	Achampet	680	192	488	330	338	668	200	468
16	Choutapalli tanda	EDC	Achampet	224	69	155	338	269	606	205	401
17	Nakkerla penta	EDC	Achampet	183	83	100	78	52	130	35	95
18	Dharshana gadda	EDC	Achampet	138	29	109.5	70	37	107	33	74
19	Bommanpalli	EDC	Achampet	2129	502	1627	1503	7741	9244	460	8784
20	Brahamanapalli	-	Achampet	520	130	390	341	1829	2170	428	1742
21	Nadimpalli	-	Achampet	1149	259	890	672	708	1380	450	930
Total				13631	3085.5	10545	9003	18525	27535	4844	22691

b) Findings

As per the Survey, for the 21 forest fringe villages of 5 Mandals, Uppununthala, Achampet, Ambrabad, Balmoor and Lingal under Achampet Forest Division, forest is the prime source of fodder for 22691 livestock out of the total 27535 (small and large ruminants) contributing 82% while the CPRs 2% and Own land 16%. It also reveals that there is no cultivation of fodder by small ruminant rearing villagers, though they resort to maintain large flock sizes and even by the landed large ruminants too. Further, although the fodder availability - the matter of livelihood for 60% population - being an importance problem, no specific efforts are being carried out.

- ★ The Majority Villagers who rear livestock are landless poor
- ★ Though most of the ruminant rearers are resource poor they maintain large folk sizes
- ★ Less availability of Common Proper by Resources for fodder needs (especially for the landless ruminants)

- ★ Total ruminants' dependency on forest is a large extent of 82% while CPRs' and Pvt's fodder contribution for livestock are only 2% and 16% respectively.
- ★ Livestock rearing is the prime source of Income & Livelihood for 60% Resource poor and the 10% marginalized.
- ★ No common efforts or work out of suitable mechanisms to develop fodder production in Pvt. or remaining CPR lands.

Few facts

★ Total villages under survey	- 21
★ Total EDCs & VSSs	- 12
★ Total livestock of all villages	- 27535
★ Total livestock depend on forest for fodder	- 22691
★ Total livestock depend on own land	- 4844
★ Total livestock depend on CPRs	- 4405

Objectives of the Workshop

- ★ To solicit guidance and suggestions of experts needed to have convergent efforts to address the main problem of fodder availability
- ★ To seek possible ways and means of suitable mechanisms on to use properly the CPRs, and private lands for fodder development
- ★ To make to understand the context of excessive desertification of forest ecosystem, livestock rearing and environmental degradation to the farmers who rear livestock
- ★ To bring out suitable and sustainable solutions essential in keeping straight the balance between forest conservation and livelihood based on livestock
- ★ To disseminate the necessities so as to mobilize convergence and concerted effort among the CBOs, local NGOs and villages to work out for solving the issues

Proceedings

Session - 1

The session started with a note of welcome by Mr. M.A. Saleem, the President of Conare as well as the Coordinator of RRC-T, explanation of the objectives of the workshops to both the Resource Persons and the participants. On his request Dr. D.Suryakumari, Director of Centre for People's forestry chaired the workshop and both the sessions leading and evaluating the discussions, speeches and finally helping to prepare an Action Plan.

Dr. D.Suryakumari gave a short introduction of the workshop and the rationale to implement such a programme for rural Livelihood Enhancement and Forest Conservation. She also applauded the efforts of Conare for rural development and contribution for forest and bio-diversity conservation through anchoring the RRC-T.

a) Livestock, livelihood and Environment

(Links and present context of balance between them)

Sri. K. Tulasi Rao, ACF, Bio-diversity Cell, Project Srisailam gave a lecture profoundly from his large fund of knowledge on the links between Livestock, Environment and Livelihood. Starting from the evolution of the universe, world, human being and living things, he pointed that the three are closely connected, since the livestock rearing sources pompous income and livelihood options for villagers, (especially the landless and marginalized) and their dependency on forest forced by other non- optional sources for fodder needs. He explained the very need of the protection of environment or else the subsequent issues even to the existence of the human beings with scientific descriptive methods.

He ascribed that the grazing on forest poses lethal danger to the forest eco-system and environment. On the light of his experience with a foreigner of West, he explained in details the need to have developed/improved variety breeds that would increase the income and livelihood options and also help to have savings on their protection in the context of less fodder availability, veterinary aid and exigent means of livelihood based on livestock etc.

Gist of lecture and suggestions

- ★ The need to guard a balance between Livestock, Livelihood and Environment.
- ★ How to reduce the pressure on forest:
 - (a) Taking adequate initiatives to establish fodder development in CPRs, Pvt and Revenue waste lands
 - (b) Seeking cooperation and help from all concerned Govt. departments / for fodder Production
 - (c) Develop and Manage resources available at village level duly plan & utilize to fill up the fodder requirement gaps.
- ★ The lack of milk yielding (present problem)
 - a) lack of developed or improved breeds

- b) lack of nutrient feeding (including fodder varieties)
- ★ How to increase the livestock based income and have livestock development
- (a) Utilize the improved livestock management techniques for:
 - Improved breeds,
 - More yield of milk,
 - Savings on development
 - Savings on feeding
 - Decrease in mortality rate
 - Saving on health care

On these points he gave thorough explanation in a manner by which even the farmers could also be understood the subject entrusted to him to speak on. He concluded his lecture with a pensive watchword “If man is not here, the environment will be in its order.”

b) Land use

It was the subject on which Mr. Manish kumar of CPF talked explaining on how to use land properly in connection with fodder development. He explained how the earth and various natural resources being spread and connected accordingly and also how they are helpful to living things and the Nature. His speech and explanation was interactive by asking questions to the participants and clearing their doubts. His exhortation includes:

- ★ Selection of seed varieties suitable to the nature of land for more development (wet, dry land)
- ★ Identify the lands CPRs, Pvt, Revenue hillocks & wastes, Vss and all other lands suitable for developing fodder
- ★ Utilize technical training (biomass estimation, Soil & moisture conservation etc)
- ★ Get capacities to develop & manage natural resources for fodder development and management needs.

c) Topic for Discussions

Chairperson Dr.D.Suryakumari gave two broad topics for discussion to the participants for the afternoon session followed by the speech of Mr. Manish kumar.

1. What should be done to develop and manage sufficient fodder for livestock in villages?
2. What are the measures or steps need to be adopted to increase livestock-based income more viable?

(d) Encouragement for participants

Dr. D.Suryakumari asked the village coordinators of the project Reclamation of Grazing land & Establishment of Agro forestry for fodder Generation and Management who were present to speak on their so far success on the programme that is being implemented in five GPs of Balmoor Mandal. Lokamaiah, Balkishan, Yadamma and Parvathalu shared their experience. The gists that stimulated the participants are:

- ★ Successful reclamation and development of 120 acres of Govt. land and fodder that reduced 35% forest dependency for fodder needs

- ★ The significant increase came in the income based on livestock rearing by the more milk yielding through nutrient fodder variety feeding
- ★ Submission of the data of Laxmapur's success to the Chairperson on RGLFG&M
- ★ RGLFG&M programme's cumulative financial aid from APREGS for land development to establish Agro-forestry for fodder generation and management
- ★ The success in raising fodder nurseries even in Pvt. lands with different fodder varieties

Session - 2

a) Group Discussion

The session started with the dividing the participants into four groups for discussion on the topics given to them by Dr. Suryakumari. The discussion was lead by Mr. M. A. Saleem and the discussion continued for forty five minutes.

The participants (farmers from 21 villages) have been divided into four groups for discussion on two main topics

3. What should be done to develop and manage sufficient fodder for livestock in villages?
4. What are the measures or steps need to be adopted to increase livestock-based income more viable?

And under three points: (1) Present resources (2) Needed resources and (3) our responsibility.

Group I

Topic: What should be done to develop and manage sufficient fodder for livestock in villages?

- ★ Identify the Govt. land (Waste, CPRs, grazing land, village common lands & revenue hillocks etc.) for fodder generation
- ★ Utilize Pvt. land for fodder development, if Govt. land is not available
- ★ Identify the fodder resources available in villages.
- ★ Adopt scientific methods for fodder development.
- ★ Form Ruminant rearers committees at village level.
- ★ Adopt proper measures to manage the fodder available at villages. GPs, PRIs, Revenue Dept, Sheep & Goat Rearers Societies, SHGs, Agriculture Department VSS, WDs etc. have to extend their cooperation
- ★ Formation of committees for development & management of fodder Training on to impart effective mechanisms for Fodder Development & Management
- ★ Entrust suitable roles and responsibilities to villagers for fodder management. (Including restrictions on wastage of grass, over grazing etc.)
- ★ Each farmer (ruminant) who has land, water sources has to work for fodder development.
- ★ Seek contributions of PRIs, CBOs etc., towards FD&M.

Group II

Topic: What should be done to develop and manage sufficient fodder for livestock in villages?

- ★ Identify the CPR, Govt. land suitable for fodder Development and get permission to development and produce fodder through resolutions to GPs.
- ★ Utilize available resources needed for fodder development like water bodies, bore wells, wet lands, other irrigation facilities etc.
- ★ Own lands (villagers' private land) could be used for fodder development
- ★ Waste lands (hillocks, semi-rocky lands etc.) can be changed to fodder pasture land through utilizing them with proper mechanisms.
- ★ Fallow lands owned by few temples in villages, with their permission, can suitably be use for fodder development.
- ★ The help of Mandal & village level Officials
- ★ To get improved fodder varieties through linkages.
- ★ Help from and through Govt. Departments, Schemes for fodder development
- ★ To enhance fodder land for landless ruminants (only for fodder development)
- ★ Facility of preventive health care for livestock (Veterinary hospitals at village level)
- ★ Conduct survey on total village livestock (small & large)
- ★ Form Fodder development and management Committee.
- ★ Capacity building of communities on FD&M and animal health care
- ★ Orientation to SHGs to utilize "Pashukranthi" scheme to own up more livestock
- ★ Conducting meetings (rallies, open air) on the importance of Fodder Development & Management
- ★ Adopt suitable utilization methods for effective fodder management
- ★ Preparation of qualitative and nutrient variety of fodder seeds at village level
- ★ Sprout the variety fodder saplings (seen in the forest) as landmarks (borders of individual / family occupied lands)
- ★ Each farmer has to utilize own land for fodder development.

Group III

Topic: What are the measures or steps need to be adopted to increase livestock-based income more viable?

- ★ Lack of awareness on livestock development and protection (feeding, etc) and variety breeds
- ★ Non access to the nutrient value fodder seeds and present shortage of fodder availability.
- ★ Less availability of health care facility for livestock at villages.
- ★ Non utilization of suitable scientific methods for livestock development.
- ★ Awareness creation on all the above points or areas.
- ★ Needed improved variety grass to be distributed
- ★ Fencing the pasture / fodder land.
- ★ AHD services over all villages needed to be reached.

Group IV

Topic: What are the measures or steps need to be adopted to increase livestock-based income more viable?

Present Issues /Problems

- ★ Non accessibility and ignorance to scientifically improved variety breeds
- ★ Non availability of nutrient value fodder
- ★ Non efforts to develop & manage fodder available at villages.
- ★ Non development of affordable nutrient fodder varieties.

Solutions

- ★ Training to selected villagers to be able to give treatment for livestock.
- ★ Get provide improved fodder varieties to farmers (fodder growers)
- ★ Create adequate awareness creation.
- ★ Formation of FD&M committees at village level.
- ★ Mobilize the landed farmers to contribute/develop at small portion of his/her land for fodder.
- ★ Help to get variety breeds for more milk yielding and reduce livestock mortality rate.
- ★ To make to participate women in fodder development & management.

b) The scenario of Achampet forest Division

The Divisional Forest Officer, Sri. A. Shankaran gave a clear picture of the status of Achampet Wild Life Division and the impacts or pressure on it with statistical evidences. He said that India is being numbered as one among the three countries in livestock population, A.P Andhra Pradesh in India and M. Nagar too one among the most livestock populated districts in A.P. Pointing the 80% reduce to all Indian forests due to various reasons, he states that the Achampet FD falls under heavy pressure and degradation by domestic, forest animals and human beings. The Forest Division also gets pressure by migratory livestock from neighboring places other than the fringe villages of M.Nagar Kadappa and Nalgonda districts.

He also pointed so sadly the indiscreet action of villagers of burning the forest fringes in fake belief that it would increase fodder growth; but it destroys and kills the tree saplings, seeds, various small living creatures, different flora, medicinal plants and sometimes even cubs. So he exhorted the participants not to engage in any deeds that cause degradation, destruction and changes to forest, bio- diversity and environment, for they are there living, and so we are here living.

He concluded his short speech admonishing the participants to head with their proposed project and assuring all possible support and help from him and associates in all future ventures and innovations.

c) Evaluation and Action Plan

Dr. D. Suryakumari asked the participant farmers whether they were in need of fodder development programme or not; the answer in accordance was that it was really a blessing for them. Then she also asked them to state their interest in working in neighboring villages too on the issue of fodder scarcity.

On getting their willingness, she selected 63 more villages on the basis of forest dependency, fodder scarcity, livelihood & income based on livestock rearing, socio-economic more backwardness, inhabited by landless & marginalized etc.

Expressing applause to the interest of farmers and their gathering, she asked the farmers to prepare Action Plan to work out effective and suitable mechanisms collectively to develop and manage fodder and livestock for reducing pressure on forest so as to a better environment and for increasing livestock based income and livelihood more viable or sustainable in imminent future.

Outline for the preparation of Action Plan

- ★ Total villages for the programme – 84
- ★ Beneficiary reaches out; people – marginalized and landless, forest dependant.
- ★ Beneficiary reach out; villages – fodder scarcity, exceeding livestock, forest fringe.
- ★ Financial Assistance for land development and programme implementation and livestock development - linkages with concerned departments and utilization of ongoing programmes like APREGS, WD, CFM, IKP, AHD, DWDA, and DRDA.
- ★ Lands for Fodder Development and Management - mobilization and resolutions.
- ★ Technical and strategy assistance - Centre for People's Forestry
- ★ Coordination follows-up, Capacity building, Resource Management Planning etc. - RRC-T.
- ★ Field level implementation & coordination of the programme - RRC-T, BDCS ASHRAM and RDS
- ★ Resolutions to make available resources for fodder development (land) - Mobilization of Elected Representatives PRIs.
- ★ The impacts that the project will bring to whole
 - 1). Social – Gender, Caste
 - 2). Economic – Poor, landless, small – marginalized and large – others.
 - 3). Environment – direct, indirect.
- ★ The indicators (development)–Covering all aspects – (domestic, social, economical, forest, ecological, environmental and so and so)

Other discussions

- ⇒ Besides the workshop topic, Dr. Surya kumari discussed with the villagers on few social vices and debilitating perils pose by them (like HIV/ AIDS, Suicides, domestic violence etc..)
- ⇒ Two participants composed and sang odes on fodder programme necessity and benefits.

The workshop concluded as R. Satyanarayana, Project coordinator (FG&M) proposed the vote of thanks.

Annexure

1. List of resource persons

Sl.No	Name	Orga./ Dept.	Designation
1	Dr. D.Suryakumari	Centre for People's Forestry	Director
2	Sri. K.Tulasi Rao	Bio Diversity Cell	ACF
3	Sri. A.Shankaran, IFS	Forest Department, A. P	DFO
4	Sri. Manishkuamar	CPF, Secbd	PO
5	Sri. Vasu C	CPF, Secbd	PO

2. Profile of participants

Sl.No	Organization	No. of Participants.
1	Conare, RRC-T	26
2	BDCS	36
3	RDS	16
4	ASHRAM	24