# FARMER PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS IN INDIA

Case Study Compendium





**Report by** : Development Alternatives

B-32, Tara Crescent, Qutub Institutional Area

New Delhi 110016, India

Tel: +91-11-2654-4100, 2654-4200, Fax: +91-11-2685-1158

Email: mail@devalt.org, Website: www.devalt.org

Author : Anshul Bhamra, Deputy Manager, Development Alternatives

Contributors : Tarang Singh, Deputy Manager, Development Alternatives (Paddukkotai FPCL)

Omkar Gupta, Manager, Development Alternatives (Satpuda FPCL)

**Photo Credits** : Development Alternatives

© 2016 Development Alternatives



### **About Development Alternatives (DA)**

Development Alternatives (DA), the world's first social enterprise dedicated to sustainable development, is a research and action organisation striving to deliver socially equitable, environmentally sound and economically scalable development outcomes. DA's green technology innovations for habitat, water, energy and waste management, which deliver basic needs and generate sustainable livelihoods, have reduced poverty and rejuvenated natural ecosystems in the most backward regions of India.



### **About Heinrich Böll Stiftung**

Heinrich Böll Stiftung (HBF) is the Green Political Foundation from Germany. Headquartered in Berlin and with about 28 international offices, HBF conducts and supports civic educational activities and projects world-wide. HBF is present in India since 2002, with the HBF India office in New Delhi coordinating the interaction with local project partners. HBF India's programme activities are focused on three areas: Climate and Resources; Gender & Socio-Economic Policies; and Democracy & Dialogue.

### DISCLAIMER

This document is an outcome of a project titled; "Resources - Food and Housing" funded by Heinrich Böll Foundation, for the economic development, social empowerment and environment management of our society. This Policy paper is intended for use by policy-makers, academics, media, government, non-government organisations and general public for guidance on matters of interest only and does not constitute professional advice. The opinions contained in this document are those of the authors only. However, the decision and responsibility to use the information contained in this Policy Paper lies solely with the reader. The author(s) and the publisher(s) are not liable for any consequences as a result of use or application of this document. Content may be used/quoted with due acknowledgement to Development Alternatives.

# **Table of Contents**

# Acknowledgement

### **List of Abbreviations**

# **Farmers Producer Organisations Case Studies from India**

- a. Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi Producer Company Limited, Ajmer, Rajasthan
- b. Bhoomitra Farmers Producer Company Limited, Yavatmal, Maharashtra
- c. Dharani Farmers Producer Company Limited, Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh
- d. Satpuda Farmers Producer Limited, Jamai, Madhya Pradesh
- e. Sittilingi Farmers Producer Limited, Sittilingi, Tamil Nadu
- f. Paddukkotai Farmers Producer Limited, Pukkukkotai, Tamil Nadu

# Acknowledgement

This paper was supported by the **Heinrich Böll Foundation** under Transforming the Development Paradigm Programme.

We take this opportunity to thank NABARD, Centre for Sustainable Agriculture for being knowledge partners for round table consultation held to deliberate over findings of the research. The round table witnessed diverse participation — decision makers, practitioners, academicians and businesses working in areas of farmers' livelihoods and food security. We specially want to thank Mr M V Ashok from NABARD, Mumbai; Sandeep Das from Financial Express, Mr G Ramesh Kumar and Mr D P Dash from NABARD Regional Offices of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, Ms Aruna Pohl from Indian Foundation for Humanistic Development; Dr Ramjaneyulu and Mr Yadava Reddy from Centre for Sustainable Agriculture; Mr Rabindranath from Pradan; Mr Giridhar from Vrutti Livelihoods; Prof. Rakesh Saxena from Institute of Rural Management; Mr Sudarshan Suchi from Reliance Foundation and Mr Tarun Katotch, Vice President, NCDEX for their participation and very useful inputs.

We specially thank the team of six FPOs and the supporting organisations that provided us their time and expertise and allowed us to capture their ground learnings. We thank Mr O N Sharma from Ajaymeu Kisan Samruddhi Producer Company Limited; Mr Baban Waghumbare, Mr Rajesh Sharma, Mr Rajesh Pattidar, Mr Nitin Sharma, Mr Sandeep Wayal, Mr Prashant from Reliance Foundation; Bablu Ganguly, Manikandan V, Vineeth from Timbaktu Collective; Mr Robens C J from Indian Foundation for Humanistic Development; Dr Regi George, Mr Manjunath from Tribal Health Initiative and Mr Rose Addhapan from Puddukottai Farmer Producer Company Limited.

Without the insights, feedback and contribution of the aforesaid individuals, this paper would not have been possible, although any errors are our own and should not tarnish the reputation of these esteemed persons.

# List of Abbreviations

CSIS Common Size Income Statement

DA Development Alternatives

DAC Department of Agriculture and Cooperation

FIG Farmer Interest Groups
FPC Farmer Producer Company
FPO Farmer Producer Organizations

MIDH Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture

MSP Minimum Support Price

NCDEX National Commodity and Derivative Exchange

NFSM National Food Security Mission
PCR Producer Company Representative

RF Reliance Foundation

RKVY Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana

ROSE Rural Organization for Social Education
SFAC Small Farmers Agri-business Consortium

SHG Self Help Group

SOFA Sittilingi Organic Farmers Association

SWOT Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats

THI Tribal Health Initiative

VDA Village Development Association

VDF Village Development Fund

VIUC Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters

WADI Wasteland Agriculture Development initiative

# List of Tables

| Table 1: Major Field Crops in Ajmer District  | 7  |
|---|----|
| Table 2: Overview: Business performance - Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi PCL             | 13 |
| Table 3: SWOT of Ajay Meru FPCL   | 14 |
| Table 4: Impact of Ajay Meru FPCL on Farmer members' capital                        | 15 |
| Table 5: Strength of the Institution- Bhoomitra FPCL                                | 22 |
| Table 6: Performance of Benefits to farmer memebers by Bhoomitra FPCL               | 24 |
| Table 7: SWOT on Performance of Bhoomitra FPCL                                      | 25 |
| Table 8: Composition of Dharani Farmers Cooperative                                 | 29 |
| Table 9: Strength of Farmers' Institution - Dharani Cooperative                     | 31 |
| Table 10: Overview: Business perfromance - Dharani Farmers' Cooperative Limited     | 33 |
| Table 11: Performance on benefits to farmer members by Dharani Farmers' Cooperative | 34 |
| Table 12: SWOT on Performance of Dharani Farmers' Producer limited                  | 35 |
| Table 13: Cropping pattern of Chhindwara  | 37 |
| Table 14: Over view: Business performance of Satpuda Self Reliant Farmers' PCL      | 43 |
| Table 15: Performance of Satpuda FPCL on benefits to farmers                        | 44 |
| Table 16: SWOT of Satpuda FPCL Performance  | 45 |
| Table 17: Strength of farmers institution of SOFA                                   | 48 |
| Table 18: Overview of Business performance of SOFA                                  | 49 |
| Table 19: Performance of SOFA for benefits to the farmer members                    | 50 |
| Table 20: Business Plan of Puddukotai FPCL  | 56 |

# CASE STUDIES

# CASE STUDY I



Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi Producer Company Limited

An SFAC's initiative for market strengthening for small farmers in Ajmer, Rajasthan

# **Background**

### **About Rajasthan**

Rajasthan is the largest state in terms of size in the country. Nearly 65 per cent of the Rajasthan population is dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods. Scanty rainfall, scarcity of water and inefficient water management practices constitute some of the major challenges of the state's agriculture systems. The average surface water is only 1 per cent of the total country's surface water resource (Department of Agriculture, Rajasthan, 2013)

The district of Ajmer falls under Western Dry Region of the agro-climatic zones of the country (Department of Agriculture, 2011). It lies in the transitional plain of the inlanddrainage zone. Approximately 50 per cent of the land in Ajmer district is under agriculture (4,22,000 hectares out of total 8,43,600 hectares). More than 85 per cent of the agriculture land in Ajmer district is rain-fed (Department of Agriculture, 2011). Of the 67000 hectares of land that is under irrigation, the primary source of irrigation is open wells. According to the State Ground Water Department, out of the 8 blocks in Ajmer District, the state of ground water is over-exploited in 7 blocks and critical in 1 block. The major field crops cultivated in Ajmer District include Sorghum, Pulses, Mustard, Gram, Wheat, Barley and Cotton. The Land under cultivation of these crops is summarised in Table 1. Agriculture in the district is prone to regular drought and

occasional heat and cold wave, frost and pests outbreak.

**Table 1: Major Field Crops in Ajmer District** 

| Major Field Crops | Total Area under |
|-------------------|------------------|
| cultivated        | cultivation      |
|                   | ('000 hectares)  |
| Sorghum           | 143.4            |
| Pulses            | 86.7             |
| Mustard           | 21.7             |
| Gram              | 20.8             |
| Wheat             | 16.6             |
| Barley            | 7.9              |
| Cotton            | 6.4              |

Source: Ajmer Agriculture Contingency Plan, 2011

### **About SFAC's Initiative**

Small Farmers Agri-business Consortium (SFAC) was mandated by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, to support the state governments in the of formation Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs). The initiative which started in 2011-12 under the two Central Sector Schemes of Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters (VIUC) and Integrated Development of 60,000 Pulses Villages in rainfed areas has expanded its scope and covers special FPO projects taken up by some state governments under general Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) funds

as well as under the National Demonstration Project under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH). (Press Information Bureau, 2014)

Under the funds from Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), one of the FPO established, is in the Kekri town of Ajmer district, registered as "Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi Producer Company Limited".

Details of support and assistance provided to Ajaymeru for its establishment is the following:

- The Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi Producer Company Limited was provided with equity grant of INR 10 lakhs. Equity grant is a cash infusion equivalent to the amount of shareholder equity in the Farmer Producer Company (FPC) subject to a capital of INR 10 lakh per FPC. As per the grant scheme, 50 per cent of amount was collected through contribution by farmers in the form of shared capital.
- The SFAC, empanelled BASIX as the resource organisation for community mobilisation to identify and form farmer groups that will constitute as members of the Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi Producer Company Limited. SFAC also provided their expertise for supporting the mobilisation.
- Ajaymeru was registered by SFAC under the National Commodity and Derivative Exchange (NCDEX). It supported in facilitating the procurement possibilities for the Producer Company Limited.

# Overview of Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi Producer Company Limited

The Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi Producer Company Limited was established on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2013 and registered under article 581a of Companies Act 1956. The total farmer interest groups that were part of the company were approximately 82 in the beginning, comprising of about 1248 farmers in total. Over the last two years, it has expanded to form 164 farmer interest groups, reaching out to about 2348 farmers in 43 villages (Source: Ajaymeru).

Each farmer interest group, comprising of 10-20 farmers nominates their president, secretary and a treasurer. The president of each farmer interest groups represents their group at the Block level committee. The Block level committee elects the Board of Directors of the Ajaymeru Kishan Samridhi PCL, who reviews the performance and takes strategic decisions for future work of the Producer Company Limited. Ajaymeru currently has 11 elected Board of Directors.. The Board of Directors also has two professional members, who are not representatives of the farmer but mentors the management and business generation for the FPO.

The eleven members currently adhere to the reservation policy of the FPO and have directors from SCs, STs, OBC category including one woman, as the directors, at present. The elections for Board of Directors, that were conducted last year were held under the surveillance of a five member external committee – 1 block development officer, 1 representative each from BASIX and UCO bank and 2 representatives of State Agriculture Department for the appointment of board of directors following the reservation policy.

The Board of Directors meets once a month to review the performance and to make decisions for the future of Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi Producer Company Limited. All the administrative and strategic decisions are taken by the Board of Directors through both, voting and oral consensus building.

Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi PCL, like other companies, has a Chief Executive Officer, Mr. O N Sharma. The CEO is a nominated professional member on the Board of Directors. He presents review and proposes plan for the future. He also guides the Board of Director, from his networks of agriculture experts on new technologies or inputs that can be adopted or promoted by the Producer Company Limited. The CEO is point of contact also between government agencies, procurement agencies and the Producer Company limited.

### **OBJECTIVE**

 Reduce the current farmers' costs of agriculture inputs: Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi PCL aimed at reducing the hoarding and black marketing of agriculture inputs, and thus, allowing access of agriculture inputs at MSP to member farmers.

- Trusted brand to farmers for technical assistance: Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi PCL project themselves to be a brand of trust with the quality of agriculture inputs they are selling. Also, in case of an injustice due to use of a company's input, Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi PCL assured to support the farmer in claiming compensation.
- Strong business sustainability:
   Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi PCL aims to build a strong balance sheet, i.e. net profits for the company. Also, it focuses at building credit in its bank account to increment liquid assets for procurement and buying functions, that PCL has to perform.

### **ACTION**

Each farmer member contributs upto INR 1000 once while applying for membership of Farmer Producer Company<sup>1</sup>. The amount of share capital can increase over time if number of members' increases and FPO needs to incur more expenditure in order to meet the demand of farmers. Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi Producer Company Limited, in return provides following services to the member farmers:

 Availability of agriculture inputs at Minimum Retail Price: Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi PCL, availed agriculture inputs from various government

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The share capital by approximately 1250 farmers is of INR 1000 each. Other farmers have contributed lesser than that ranging from INR 300- INR 800. The per person share capital can increase in future, if the decision is passed in the Annual General Meeting of the Producer Company Limited.

fertilizer and seed companies, and other private companies of seeds and fertilisers. Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi PCL sold the fertilizer on MRP, seeds at the minimum profit margin (4%) and pesticides at margin of 7% the product. Demand mapping is conducted by the Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi PCL by collecting information from all farmer groups. Accordingly, they aim for purchase of the inputs.

- **Technical Assistance service:** Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi Producer Company Limited aims to ensure quality inputs to be availed by the farmers. For this, the FPO validates the products available in the market, utilising the network of experts from the local agriculture universities. Some of the agriculture Ajaymeru experts that Kishan Samruddhi Producer Company Limited is connected with are, Dr R S Rathore, Udaipur Agriculture University and Dr Ram Gopal Sharma from State Agriculture Department, Rajasthan.
- Procurement of pulses at Minimum Support Price: Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi PCL carried out procurement for state government as well as for private retailers in the last three years of its existence. The most promising client for pulses procurement is the State's pulses inventory. Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi PCL sets up units for procurement, and based on standard quality benchmarks procure from the villages with FPO member farmers. It may be noted here that it is not necessary for the FPO to provide

assurance to its member farmers of procurement of their produce. The quality of the produce is the first criteria for selecting the supplier; member farmers are preferred in procurement, if they pass the criteria.

### APPROACH/STRATEGY

The supply of agriculture inputs and procurement function by the Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi PCL is governed by building relationship with government and private agencies, in addition to partnership with research institutes to comply with quality standards of the goods supplied and procured. The company's strategy is strengthening business by maintaining strong balance sheets. Some of the strategic approaches are:

Samruddhi PCL Ajaymeru Kishan identified that the salary/personnel costs of managerial and technical staff is higher and reduces the gross profit of the FPO. The CEO Mr. O.N Sharma devised a strategy to explore a revenue source by conducting trainings of other FPOs, and utilised his managerial skills in training and capacity building of other FPOs in the state, especially the ones that are developed by government agencies like SFAC and NABARD. In this way, the salaries of CEO was not borne by the core operations of the FPO, and it supported in strengthening capacities and core business operations of the FPO.

• The FPO in its initial three years of establishment is restricted with limited working capital availability, required for operations of procurement, and buying agriculture inputs in bulk. In order to create an internal corpus of funds for the FPO, a strategy of no dividend for the first three years, and thus, not sharing the net profits of the three years with the member farmers was devised. This enabled the profits to be available as working capital for the business operations of FPO.

The long term strategy for profits is dependent on procurement function, whereby 1% commission on the total value of procurement is the practice in procuring for state government by Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi PCL.

# **Process of Formation**

BASIX conducted various exercises (like focused group discussions) for social mapping of farmers. In this process, it also mobilised them into Farmer Interest Groups. BASIX mobilised farmers from 22 villages in Kekri, Ajmer District. The farmers under these initiatives belonged to following classification:

One of the concerns identified by BASIX exercise of social mapping was the non-profitability of agriculture as an economic activity. Farmers identified low/negative profits from current agriculture practices. Some of the causes of low profits identified by farmers were as follows:

- Increasing costs of agriculture inputs: The farmers in this area were buying seeds, fertilizers and pesticides from the market which had high costs bearing for the farmer. Additionally, the farmers identified hoarding and black marketing of agriculture inputs in the local markets. This led to prices higher than Minimum Price<sup>2</sup> the Retail (approximately 50 per cent higher than the MRP) that the farmer had to bear for buying the required agriculture inputs. The limited or no access to other than the local markets for the farmers built a strong lobby of market sellers manipulating MRPs.
- Fluctuation/low prices for agriculture produce: The farmers identified dependence on local mandis for sale of their agriculture produce as a problem. The mandis, according to the farmers, does not guarantee Minimum Support Price and usually result in losses over profits for the farmers.

It needs to be noted here that the condition of water resource in the district is more than critical in 90 percent of the district. Farmers face agriculture drought once in three years on an average according to the Agriculture Contingency Plan of Ajmer. But it was not identified by the social mapping exercise, as reported by Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi Producer Company Limited. It

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> As cited a fertilizer with MRP of INR 285 per 50 kg was sold at INR 350 per 50 kg on an average as reported by the Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi Farmer Producer Company Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi Farmer Producer Company FPO team

may be noted that this could be informed by the SFAC's guideline and structure of Farmer Producer Companies (elaborated in Figure 1) that does not include interventions of watershed or water sensitivity incorporation in the production practices or marketing decisions.

# **BUSINESS PERFORMANCE**

This section will analyse the current situation of business strength of Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi PCL. This will be informed by the business growth of the three years of operations of Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi PCL as well as their absolute condition currently. After the analysis of business strength, this section will identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) that the FPO is currently endowed with. While total revenues, total costs and profits have increased in absolute numbers in case of Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi PCL, following are some important analysis using data from CSIS:

- The total costs as a percentage of revenue has decreased from 99% to around 97% in the next two years. This shows a greater percentage of profit from the revenues of the business.
- A substantial increase in the direct income that includes discounts received on pesticides, seeds from retail companies from only 0.32% to 3% percent in three years reflects on greater partnerships and discount accessibility with network of retail companies, and hence, a healthy sign for business.

- Indirect incomes sourced from interests security deposits or SFAC commission, Godown (warehouse) rent fee collection, exposure visit fee has reduced tremendously from 8% to 0.25% in three years. This may be reflected in the initial investment and incomes due to SFAC project that was removed after the first two years of operation. A consistency in interest rates and opportunities for income by exposure visits and other sources needs to be explored for enhancing indirect incomes for the FPO.
- The costs of goods, that is, the purchase account has increased as a percentage of total revenue from 87% to 91% in three years. This reflects the inefficiency in costs incurred in purchasing of raw goods. It needs to be studied with a caveat that for the first two years, only fertilisers were purchased, however, cattle feed, seeds and pesticides were added in the purchase account which have higher costs requirements in the initial development of retailers and company partnerships for purchase.
- The total profit has reduced in absolute numbers, but as a percentage of revenue has moved from 0.6% of the revenue to between 2-3% in the next two years. This is a healthy sign for the business performance as the margins out of your revenue are resulting in higher profits.

Table 2: Overview: CSIS calculation for Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi PCLTable2A: Revenue Statement of Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi PCL for three financial Years

| REVENUE STATEMENT | FY 2013   |            | FY 2014     |            | FY 2015     |            |  |
|-------------------|-----------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|--|
| REVENUE STATEMENT | INR       | <b>%</b> * | INR         | <b>%</b> * | INR         | <b>%</b> * |  |
| Sales Account     | 56,69,614 | 89.9       | 1,38,58,157 | 87.5       | 1,74,58,734 | 72.519     |  |
| Direct Incomes    | 20,370    | 0.323      | 92,421      | 0.58       | 7,52,608    | 3.1261     |  |
| Closing Stock     | 87,695    | 1.391      | 6,78,374    | 4.28       | 58,03,193   | 24.105     |  |
| Indirect Incomes  | 5,28,658  | 8.383      | 12,12,196   | 7.65       | 60,300      | 0.2505     |  |
| TOTAL             | 63,06,336 | 100        | 1,58,41,148 | 100        | 2,40,74,834 | 100        |  |

<sup>\*</sup>This is percentage of the component with respect to total revenue statement

Table 2B: Expenses Statement of Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi PCL for three financial Years

| COSTS/EXPENSES    | FY 2013   |            | FY 2014     |            | FY 2015     |            |  |
|-------------------|-----------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|--|
| COSTS/EXPENSES    | INR       | <b>%</b> # | INR         | <b>%</b> # | INR         | <b>%</b> # |  |
| Opening Stock     | 0         | 0          | 87,693      | 0.55       | 6,78,374    | 2.82       |  |
| Purchase Account  | 55,18,499 | 87.51      | 1,40,21,288 | 88.51      | 2,19,74,273 | 91.27      |  |
| Direct Expenses   | 1,55,726  | 2.469      | 2,58,639    | 1.63       | 2,03,313    | 0.84       |  |
| Indirect Expenses | 5,91,501  | 9.379      | 9,46,676    | 5.98       | 7,26,453    | 3.02       |  |
| TOTAL             | 62,65,726 | 99.36      | 1,53,14,296 | 96.67      | 2,35,82,413 | 97.95      |  |

|            | FY 2013 | 3          | FY 2014  |            | FY 2015  |            |  |
|------------|---------|------------|----------|------------|----------|------------|--|
| Net Profit | INR     | <b>%</b> # | INR      | <b>%</b> # | INR      | <b>%</b> # |  |
|            | 40,610  | 0.644      | 5,26,852 | 3.33       | 4,92,422 | 2.05       |  |

# This is percentage of the component with respect to the total Revenue statement. Source: Author using Profit-Loss Account of Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi PCL

The current ratio of Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi PCL ranges from 1.65 to 2.33. While the third year saw a decrease in the working capital of the Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi PCL, it still runs the operation with liquid assets. Liquidity directly relates to the flexibility of expansion of operations for business, as it allows liquid assets to investment and expand market base. A ratio above 2 usually provides a decent level of comfort in operation, and therefore, Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi PCL seems strong in having liquid assets, in its current operation. The return to investment in Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi PCL has

785 tremendously fallen from to approximately half to 361. This reflects on how well a company is utilising its current assets. It shows high asset increase with not substantial increase in the income from operations. This may reflect on underutilised assets like office, hard assets, godown, and personnel. Low return on investment can also be due to the phase of expansion where these growing assets are going to set base to large scale operations for income in future and should therefore be seen with caution.

Table 3: SWOT of Ajay Meru FPCL

| SWOT        | Analysis  |
|-------------|---|
| Strength    | <ul> <li>Diversified portfolio from only fertilizer as an agriculture input to seeds and pesticides increases the market share of the company.</li> <li>Procurement of agriculture produce by SFAC for Government of India from Ajaymeru PCL is an additional service, resulting in 1% commission from the total value procured.</li> <li>Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi PCL provides foundation seeds to its member farmers under seed production program launched by National Seed Corporation which provide assured buy back of seeds from farmers above INR 1000 on prevailing market price.</li> </ul>  |
| Weakness    | <ul> <li>Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi PCL identified lack of managerial and technical support to understand agri-business<br/>models. This may be reflected in the crunch of indirect expenses and hence limited expenditure on salaries of<br/>professionals that Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi PCL charges. The indirect expenses (Refer table 4) in the business<br/>profile of Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi PCL have remained low, despite the expansion of operations and<br/>diversification of business from fertilizer to seeds, pesticides and procurement service.</li> </ul>   |
| Opportunity | <ul> <li>Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi Producer Company Limited, is only procuring 10-15% of the farmer producer demand for agriculture inputs and is therefore sees a huge potential in scaling up its operational capital.</li> <li>Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi PCL also identified to explore the niche market of organic agriculture produce, to enhance their revenues with higher prices. This will however be dependent on the support by government or other entity for farmers to transform into organic farming. This could also mean reduction in the current operations which is dependent on supply of fertilizer and company seeds to the farmers.</li> </ul> |
| Threats     | <ul> <li>Other private market players that were selling agriculture inputs at higher MRP prices have formed lobby to control the supply of agri-inputs to the Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi PCL. Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi PCL, selling agriculture inputs at MRP in a market where other players were selling at higher rates takes away margin of other market players. The private players are careful and are grouping together to increase the market share of Ajaymeru Kishan Samruddhi PCL substantially.</li> </ul>   |

# LIVELIHOOD IMPACT OF FARMERS

Ajaymeru, as a Farmer Producer Company Limited, is not tracking its impact numbers on the above mentioned indicators. However, for the purpose of understanding impact of Ajaymeru on livelihoods of farmers, we assessed the scope of Ajaymeru's work and its impact on the basis of farmer interviews conducted. Following is the analysis:

Natural Capital: Ajaymeru is currently not focusing its work on land size constraints. Water availability to farmers is also not it's focus. Ajaymeru sees natural capital enhancement out of the purview of their business domain. The choice of pulse procurement from this region by SFAC is appropriate for the agro-climatic regions it belongs to. It also promotes food and nutrition security by promoting diversification and promotion of pulses, an important source of protein in a vegetarian

also factored by the usage of fertilizer and pesticide. Ajaymeru does not sell red pesticides, which are banned for being harmful. However, enhancing soil quality is a factor of choice of crop, prevention of soil erosion, choice of fertilizer, pesticides and rotational mechanisms. Farmer community groups, informal and formal, across the country have shown examples of water conservation, productive land use. Pricing mechanism that incentivises sowing and procurement of crops that are water sensitive in accordance to the agro-climatic zones is also another way of promoting good agriculture practices that enhances natural capital. A strategy is yet to be devised for enhancing natural capital of the farmer. This may require revisions in the SFAC's activities mandate (See Figure 1).

Human Capital: Ajaymeru connects

Table 4: Impact of Ajay Meru FPCL on Farmer members' capital

| CAPITAL   | IND                 | ICATOR               | STATUS        |  |  |  |
|-----------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------|--|--|--|
|           | Land size           |                      |               |  |  |  |
| NATURAL   | Water availability  |                      |               |  |  |  |
|           | Soil quality        |                      |               |  |  |  |
|           | Knowledge of prac   | tice                 |               |  |  |  |
| HUMAN     | Weather informat    | ion                  |               |  |  |  |
|           | Mandi/market prid   | ces knowledge        |               |  |  |  |
|           | Increase in income  | es by reducing costs |               |  |  |  |
| FINANCIAL | Increase in income  |                      |               |  |  |  |
|           | Credit availability |                      |               |  |  |  |
| PHYSICAL  | Agriculture equipr  |                      |               |  |  |  |
| PHYSICAL  | Electricity         |                      |               |  |  |  |
| SOCIAL    | Membership of co    | mmunity institutions |               |  |  |  |
| SOCIAL    | Activities undertal |                      |               |  |  |  |
|           | Not under the       |                      | Under the     |  |  |  |
|           |                     |                      | mandate of    |  |  |  |
|           | mandate of          |                      | Ajaymeru FPCL |  |  |  |
|           | Ajaymeru FPCL       |                      |               |  |  |  |
|           |                     |                      |               |  |  |  |

diet. The soil quality of the area however, is

the member farmers to agriculture

- experts in the state universities and state government departments. In this way, they seek solutions to problems identified by farmers, in terms of choice of seeds and other inputs and decision of nature of agriculture practice. It needs to be evaluated however, whether the information is regarding the choice of seeds and inputs or extends towards, choice of crops, choice of agriculture practices and water conservation solutions, etc. Weather information and forecast is not under the purview of the services provided by the FPCL yet. Ajaymeru informs the farmer members of the mandi prices and offers to pay at the Minimum Support Price to the farmers or higher. In this way, it prevents loss of farmer's income due to market fluctuations.
- Financial Capital: The three primary classifications of enhancing financial capital include increase in income of farmers due to reduction in inputs costs or increase in prices of the goods. The third component is access of credit to the farmers for expanding their While business. Ajaymeru has marginally supported the increase in income due to reducing costs of seeds and inputs that used to be sold in black markets earlier. Also, it increased the income of the farmers marginally again, by procuring at Minimum Support Price, which otherwise was sold in fluctuating prices in the market, usually rendering losses to the farmers. The scope of reducing costs by lowering dependence on markets for inputs and moving to

- packaging and value addition for higher prices is yet to be explored by the Ajaymeru FPCL. In terms of credit availability to farmers, Ajaymeru has not worked on bank linkages for its farmer members.
- Physical Capital: It includes access and availability of hard assets like agriculture equipment, electricity to the farmers, is not in the purview of the Ajaymeru FPCL in its current operations.
- Social Capital: It includes initiatives
  where community has come together
  for mutual benefits for all. Membership
  to community institutions and activities
  undertaken by various community
  groups for collective prosperity are
  included. Though the farmers have
  formed groups under the Ajaymeru
  FPCL, but they have limited influence in
  mobilizing other activities

# CASE STUDY II

Bhoomitra
Farmers
Producer
Company Ltd.

An initiative of Reliance Foundation



# **Background**

### **About Yavatmal District**

Yavatmal district is bounded on the north by Amravati District, to the northeast by Wardha District, to the east by Chandrapur District, to the south by Telangana state and Nanded District, to the southwest by Hingoli District, and to the west by Washim District. Cotton and wheat are the predominant crops grown in the district. The chief rivers flowing through the district are the Wardha and the Penganga.

Yavatmal lies in the central Vidarbha zone, which witnesses moderate rainfall. Maximum temperature is between 33 and 38° C while minimum temperature lies between 16 and 26° C. Average daily humidity is 72 % in rainy season, 53 % in winter & 35% in summer. Yavatmal district has an average rainfall of 1130 mm. The soil type of Yavatmal district is mostly black soils derived from basalt rock (Government of Maharashtra, 2016). The parent material all over the district is Deccan trap. The soils which are derived from the Deccan trap vary in their characteristics according to their location in the respective catchments. While the deep black soils occupy the low lying areas, the brownish soils. comparatively coarser in texture occur on the higher elements of relief. The reddish brown coarse textured soils locally known as barad or murmad occur at still higher altitudes. Generally cotton, soyabean, groundnut, sugarcane are grown as commercial crops and sorghum, wheat and

pulses are grown as food crops in the district. (Shodhganga, 2011)

Yavatmal had earned the tag of the 'farmer suicide capital' (Khapre, 2016). A census conducted in four villages of the district worst affected areas by the unseasonal rains says that 67 per cent of the farmers in the areas were suffering from depression (Mehta, 2015). This indicates the vulnerabilities of farmers of this belt due to crop failures, etc.

### **About Reliance Foundation**

Over the five years of Reliance Foundation's (RF) engagement at Yavatmal district, has reached to approximately 2500 farmers in 24 villages. Reliance Foundation's flagship programme, Bharat-India-Jodo (RF BIJ), works to bridge the development gap between rural and urban India. Programme's key objectives Institutional building, food and nutrition security, water security and ecological sustainability.

The programme works with small and marginal farmers and helps farming households that have limited livelihood options. The programme organises farmers in collectives, to leverage the power of unity. These models of social and economic development are owned, controlled and managed by communities themselves; for the larger development of their members, the village, and the region.

# Overview of Bhoomitra Farmers' Producer Limited

Bhoomitra Producer Company was launched in 2011 with the objective of collectivising farmers for better economies of scale in agri-marketing and support low cost efficient means of production.

# Geographical scope of farmer members

The Cooperative had 2500 families as farmer members in 24 villages between 2011 and 2016. The major crops that Bhoomitra does business in are soyabean and *tuar*. The case study captures the process and impacts of the FPO in Tapalheti village, Yavatmal District.

### **Key achievement**

The Company represents a strong community institution as a foundation base. By building a strong Village Development Association, Reliance Foundation has been able to develop an inclusive, accountable and empowered community institution that can become an engine to development in various forms, one of it being the Bhoomitra Producer Company.

# Process of formation of Bhoomitra Producer Company Ltd

# Need Identification of Farmer producer organisation

Reliance Foundation (RF) took the ridge to valley approach of watershed management to choose villages for action. Tapalheti village, in the process was identified for action. RF mobilised the village community and proposed its support in development issues – identified by the local communities, largely on issues of food and nutrition security, water and economical sustainability. Community initially felt a fear of land acquisition and vested interests of RF during the initial phase of mobilisation.

With support from RF professionals, issues were identified by Tapalheti households at the village level and individual level. At the village level, lack of drinking water facility, lack of proper road and basic infrastructure issues and no reliable source of income from farming were major issues. At the household level, tools and labour for soil tilling, and other expenses in agriculture were identified as inhibiting factors for practicing profitable agriculture. Poor nutritional outcomes of the households in

| Value chain →    | Backward Channel   | Forward Channel         |
|------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Scope of work of | Crop planning at village level                             | Grading and segregation |
| Bhoomitra        | Watershed management initiatives under Reliance Foundation | Sales and marketing     |

Tapalheti was another important issues identified by RF. Some of the key concerns

with agriculture included high risk in income generation in farming as profession. Expensive seeds and fertilisers due to narrow market reach and involvement of traders in selling produce, hindered good income benefits to the farmers. Crop failures due to untimely rainfall and lack of secured irrigation are some of the issues identified in agriculture production.

body called Village Development Association (VDA) was formed by Reliance Foundation consisting representations from farmer households of the village. The objective of VDA was to promote collective ownership, decision making and common welfare of the community. Each member of VDA is expected to contribute INR 365 per year @Re 1 per day to the Village Development Fund (VDF). The role of Village Development Association is to decide on development choices of the village and of the households and allocate finance and resources in accordance to the priority needs established. Apart from the internal fund of the VDA, Reliance Foundation also supports infrastructure cost based on the priorities and needs demanded by the VDA. Some of the bye-Village Development laws of the Association, Tapalheti are following:

- One can become the member of VDA by submitting a membership fees of INR 200
- A weekly meeting of the members of VDA is scheduled for every Friday

- VDA has the final authority in taking decisions on expenditure of the Village Development Fund
- Main member from each household can be replaced or represented by another member from the household
- All members of the VDA have the right to raise an issue
- Regular attendance and record of meetings shall be maintained
- On topics related to development of the committee will be raised, focusing on farm related and economy related activities
- Members are not allowed to have tobacco or alcohol during the meetings
- The head of the farm needs to be present while any work is done on their farm
- Each member needs to contribute a certain amount to the Village Development Fund
- Village Development Association is the executive agency for any development work by RF

A proposal of starting a farmers' company was placed before the Village Development Association meeting. The idea of the company as communicated to the members of Tapalheti VDA, and it was proposed to have a company owned, run, managed by the farmers, for the profits to the farmers. Each member of the VDA was expected to contribute in cash or kind (soybean produce) for laying foundation of the company. This cash or kind contribution to the company accumulated the working capital for the producer company. In this

case, village development association is the shareholder of the Bhoomitra Producer Company and not individual farmer households. According to RF Professionals, there was no particular reason but ease of administration and to instigate community ownership that such a path was taken. The company is currently in the process of distributing its share to individual farmer households instead of the VDA.

The background of Village Development Association and development action related to water and nutrition in the village infused faith in Reliance Foundation, and attracted the households to trust and invest in the company. A total of 775 Quintals of soybean was collected from 2500 farmers in 24 villages to build a share capital of 28 lakhs for the company. Initiative of Reliance Foundation witnessed donations of land by farmers for building *godown* (store house), pulses mill and other needs of the company and the development objectives in general.

# What was the process of addressing the need?

Using the share capital of 28 lakhs, Bhoomitra Producer Company started procurement of soybean and tuar daal. The godown built by the Reliance Foundation on the donated land was used for storage till appropriate price to Soybean was not accessed in markets. Village Development Association, at the start of every year developed their plan and budget based on priorities and need mapping of every member. Village level work infrastructure is also planned. Once the budget allocation is decided at village level and household allocations are made, the year tracks the progress of work as planned.

President of Village Development Association along with one member represent the shares of their VDA in the Bhoomitra Producer Company. All the shareholders collectively select 11 Board of Directors of the Company. The process is so far nominated and not elected. Board of Directors can be replaced based on the of the shareholders. discretion Shareholders meet along with Board of Directors every 15 days and Board of directors meet every 7 days. An annual General Body Meeting is also conducted that is attended by all individual members of the Bhoomitra Producer Company.

The agenda of the meeting is set up by the Board of Directors and is circulated to all Village Development Associations. Each Board of Director is responsible for 2-3 villages to communicate the agenda and other processes of the meeting. The shareholder representatives are supposed to lay down the expectations at the meeting with BoD every fortnight, based on discussions at their own VDA meetings.

Board of Directors is responsible to the shareholders and work in accordance to the needs and demands raised by them. Shareholder representatives are responsible to act as a link between proceedings of the monthly meetings and the individual members. BoDs are expected to attend meetings of the designated VDAs once a month for following up on the company's agenda. BoDs have divided

themselves as social committee, marketing committee and procurement committee, based on the needs and functions of the FPO.

Strength of the Farmer Institution

The institutional strength of the FPO is assessed by the ownership, awareness and satisfaction of the stakeholders of the producer company that is the farmer members. Processes and protocols along with splurge of leadership are other parameters used to assess the strength of

qualitative factors studied with the Village Development Association of Tapalheti Village, a member of the Bhoomitra Producer Company: (List of attendees attached as Annexure I)

Table 5: Strength of the Institution- Bhoomitra FPCL

| PARAMETERS                | FACTORS   | STATUS | OBSERVATIONS  |
|---------------------------|---|--------|---|
|                           | Farmer members are the owners of the company                |        | Members see themselves as shareholders of the company, will gain if company gains     Donations of land to the Company for building godown and mills by members |
| OWNERSHIP                 | Farmer members on their own manage the company              |        | <ul> <li>The CEO of the company was a RF professional till 2011,<br/>replaced by farmer member post that.</li> </ul>  |
|                           | Frequency of and attendance in meetings                     |        | Meetings are held regularly with attendance more than<br>the quorum (more than 50%)   |
|                           | Accountability  |        | The VDA office has all expenditures on each member<br>painted on the wall over the years  |
| AWARENESS<br>ON ROLES AND | Members are aware of company's structure                    |        | <ul> <li>Members are aware that shareholders represent their voice in the company</li> </ul>  |
| FUNCTIONS OF<br>FPOs      | Farmer members understand their role in running the company |        | <ul> <li>Members can raise their demands through their<br/>representatives, final decision is on representatives &amp;<br/>BoD</li> </ul>                       |
| CATICEACTION              | Level of satisfaction amongst farmer members                |        | <ul> <li>Members are positive about company making profits in<br/>future that will result in additional incomes to them</li> </ul>                              |
| SATISFACTION              | Level of dissatisfaction amongst farmer<br>members          |        | <ul> <li>Value addition services can result in employment in<br/>their VDA are members' future expectations</li> </ul>  |
| PROCESSES                 | Maintenance of records                                      |        | <ul> <li>Records of attendance and minutes of the meeting are<br/>duly maintained at all levels and shared with members</li> </ul>                              |
| PROTOCOLS                 | By laws and its effective implementation                    |        | <ul> <li>By laws on paper with process of expelling, in case on<br/>non-compliance, no case yet.</li> </ul>   |
| CAPITAL                   | % of produce by farmer members sold to company              |        | <ul> <li>Only X persons sold, rest members never sold yet as<br/>they haven't got enough produce to sell at all</li> </ul>                                      |
| AVAILABLE                 | Physical Capital<br>Financial Capital                       |        | 1 Godown,1 Daal mill, office owned by company     Working capital of INR XX lakhs available   |
|                           | Factors considered achieved by RF and farr<br>members       | ner    | Factors considered in progress and not fully achieved<br>yet  |

the institution. Following are some of the

| The second second                              |                                 |                       |         |   |         |        | and the             | Section 1        |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|---|---------|--------|---------------------|------------------|
| THE RESERVE AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON NAMED IN |                                 |                       | TREE    |   |         |        | dans,               |                  |
|  |                                 |                       | -       | AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PERSON | 2007/20 | 2015   | 4 FOR 15            | A DESCRIPTION OF |
| सभासदाचे नाव                                   |                                 |                       | 2019:15 | Charmen   | -       | 5.00   | 1500                | MARKET !         |
| ं पारभताबाई पंडीत लोणक                         | T 3000                          |                       | 1       |   |         |        |                     |                  |
| प्रकाश बाधुशय सावे                             | 16.72                           |                       |         |   |         |        | -                   |                  |
| प्रकाश वेवशव कालोकार                           |                                 |                       |         |   |         |        |                     |                  |
| प्रकारा संभाजी टेकाम                           | 44.201                          | 0                     |         |   |         | 1000   | 5000                |                  |
| 4 रापोजी साजवाजी घारीक                         | 69.39                           |                       |         |   |         | 1000   | Butte               |                  |
| ं राजन यांच भाग जाणानावर्ष                     | 75.75                           |                       |         |   |         |        |                     |                  |
| राज्याक प्राक्रसक्ती सात                       | 6787                            | 7 5301                |         |   |         | 1000   |                     |                  |
| र राज्य मारोली गावेकर                          | 5626                            | 0 9,328               |         |   |         |        |                     |                  |
| रामजी लुकाराम आजाम                             | 19840                           | 110                   |         |   |         | 1000   |                     |                  |
| रामचंद्र मारोलराव गाउँकर                       | 30871                           | 31510                 |         |   |         | 1000   | W.000               |                  |
| रमेशराव गोविंदराव घाटीक                        | 6454                            | 27,740                |         |   |         | 2000   | 2000                |                  |
| रसेश जयन् संभाम                                | 28.220                          | 7.002                 |         |   |         | 1000   |                     |                  |
| रासकृष्ण चंद्र भास गाहेकर                      | 35,567                          | 15,448                |         |   |         | 1000   | 1                   | -                |
| रगुबाई पुजाराम खेळ-                            | 32124                           | 579                   |         |   | 100     | 1000   |                     |                  |
| श्वित स्वामराव काकड                            | 34172                           | 110                   |         |   | -       | 1500   | -                   |                  |
| राहेबराव बाप्रावनी साठे                        | 360                             | 0                     |         |   | -       |        |                     |                  |
| साहेबराव मारोती घीलाम                          | 47.497                          | 43,751                |         |   |         | 1000   |                     |                  |
| संबाजी जिसाजी तेजास                            | 86231                           | 0                     |         |   |         |        |                     |                  |
| संतोषराव चंपतराव काकडे                         | 73332                           | 1720                  |         |   |         | 1000   | 10000               |                  |
| रांकर सूर्वभास टेकाम                           | 22.580                          | 695                   |         |   |         | 1000   |                     |                  |
| शांताबाई जिल्हाम मंद्राम                       | 23,958                          | 220                   |         |   | -       | 1000   | 1400                |                  |
| उप्रिक्ता महादेव आवास                          | 23,787                          | 869                   |         |   |         | 1000   |                     |                  |
| श्रीकांत वावागव कालीकार                        | 41330                           | 44316                 |         |   | 3       | 000    | 3000                |                  |
| सोनवाजी केशवराव कांप्रेकर                      | 23151                           | 834                   |         | _   | 1       | 1500   |                     |                  |
| सुभाष ध्यात सावे                               | 20 045                          | 0                     |         |   |         |        |                     |                  |
| स्भाष देवराव कालोकार                           | 0                               | 11.0                  |         |   |         |        |                     |                  |
| त्रभाष मूर्य मान वाधमार                        | 45292                           | 751                   |         |   | - 7     | 1000   | 2000                |                  |
| सुधाकर मिर्गानी घाटीब                          | 30000                           | 0                     | -       |   |         | -      |                     | -                |
| सुधाकर सुर्वभास वाघमारे                        | 23529                           | 110                   |         |   | - 1     | 1000   | _                   |                  |
| र्ग धाबाई अरुण आज्ञात                          | 20808                           | 220                   | -       |   | _       | 2000   |                     | -                |
| सुरेश सुकीनाथ टेकाम                            | 23.079                          | 0                     |         |   |         | 2000   |                     | -                |
| स्रेश वामणराव भड                               | 34,278                          | 0                     |         |   |         | 500    |                     | -                |
| सुर्यभान आया टेकाम                             | 17,760                          | 110                   |         |   |         | 1000   | 1000                | -                |
| सुर्यभान वाघ् वाघमार                           | 24,152                          | 0                     |         |   | - 0     | 300    | 1000                |                  |
| तुकाराम रामकृष्ण रामपुरे                       | Control or other last           | 39554                 |         |   | -       | 1500   |                     |                  |
| उत्तम दादाराव दांडेकर                          | 0                               | 110                   |         |   |         | 1500   |                     |                  |
| उत्तमराव पांड टेकास                            | The second second second        | 21576                 |         | -   |         |        |                     |                  |
| वन्मकाबाई राघोजी अरगहे                         | 34,030                          | 110                   |         | -   |         | 000    |                     |                  |
| बसंता वामनराव अह                               | 34,030                          | Ito                   |         | -   | -       | 000    | THE PARTY NAMED IN  |                  |
| वसंतराव जयलजी मेशाम                            | 33.005                          | and the second second |         | -   | _       |        | 1500                |                  |
| उसंतराव जिताराम हेकाम                          | 27156                           |                       | -       | -   |         | 000    |                     |                  |
| वच्छलाबाई महादेवराव रामग्रक                    | 61,997 2                        | 6857                  |         |   | 1       | 000    |                     | THE P            |
| विकासराव अमतराव रावक                           | 36.581                          | -                     |         | - 1 -   | 1       | 908    |                     |                  |
| वद्याल स्कानाध्य लेखाय                         | 50.403                          | 0                     |         |   |         |        |                     |                  |
| वणा, नामदेवशव हेकाम                            | THE RESERVE THE PERSON NAMED IN | 695                   |         |   | 1 1     | 000    | BINIT               |                  |
| USH errar for triangle for the                 | 23401                           | 1220                  |         |   |         |        | THE PERSON NAMED IN |                  |
|  | 23401                           | 619                   |         |   | HE RE   | 888    |                     |                  |
| र्यामती सामुहिक स्वर्ध                         | 385 708 13                      |                       |         |   |         | 110000 |                     |                  |
|  | 1:: 1                           | ACM I                 |         |   | :11     |        |                     |                  |

Expenditure on individual members by Village Development
Association on the walls on VDA office

# PERFORMANCE ON BENEFITS TO THE FARMER MEMBERS

This section will analyse the current scope of work of Bhoomitra in relation to the livelihood benefits for the farmers. In order to assess this, we use indicators of sustainable livelihoods from sustainable agriculture framework. (Bhamra, Niazi, & Hajra, 2015). The sustainable livelihood

strategies of individuals and households depend on access, use and development of five different types of assets — natural capital (land, water, biodiversity), physical capital (infrastructure, machinery), human capital (labour, skills), financial capital (savings, disposable assets), and social capital (rights, support systems).

Table 6: Performance of Benefits to farmer members by Bhoomitra FPCL

| CAPITAL   | FAC                   | TOR         | STATUS                                |  |                           | OBSERVATION                  | VS                              |
|-----------|-----------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|           | Average land          | d size      |                                       | •  | Land asset accumulation   | on is not RF's a             | approach                        |
|           |                       |             |                                       |  | Water storage, bunding    | g and other w                | atershed activities were        |
| NATURAL   | Water availa          | ability     |                                       |  | conducted by RF's initia  | ative but any                | such clause is not within the   |
| NATURAL   | IAIONAL               |             |                                       |  | scope of FPO              |                              |                                 |
|           | Soil quality          |             |                                       | 0  | VDA invests in tilling ar | nd other pract               | ices but no special focus is on |
|           | Soli quality          |             |                                       |  | soil quality of farm, no  | specific indica              | ators tracked by members        |
| ·         | Knowledge (           | of prostice |                                       | 0  | VDA, in support with R    | F conducts tra               | ining on vermin-compost,        |
|           | Kilowieuge            | or bractice |                                       |  | other agri practices      |                              |                                 |
| HUMAN     | Weather info          | ormation    |                                       | No mandate or specific process identified                        |                           |                              |                                 |
|           | Mandi/mark            | et prices   |                                       | Producer company's office holders track market prices and        |                           |                              | rack market prices and          |
|           | knowledge             |             |                                       | circulate to the members   |                           |                              |                                 |
|           | Increase in i         | ncomes by   |                                       |  | The Producer Company      | y has not yet p              | procured any produce from       |
|           | reducing cos          | sts         |                                       |  | this VDA. The farmer m    | nembers look                 | forward to the dividends that   |
| FINANCIAL | Increase in i         | ncomes by   |                                       |  | they will receive from t  | the company a                | and opportunities of            |
|           | price rise            |             |                                       |  | employment in process     | sing and value               | addition centres in the         |
|           | Credit availa         | bility      |                                       |  | village.                  |                              |                                 |
|           | Storage and           | Processing  |                                       | •  | Godown, daal mill are     | available for s              | torage and processing in the    |
| PHYSICAL  | facilities            |             |                                       |  | company                   |                              |                                 |
| FITTSICAL | Agriculture           | aguinment   |                                       | 0  | Quality drip irrigation t | ools, other in:              | struments are provided via      |
|           | Agriculture equipment |             |                                       |  | VDA on need basis         |                              |                                 |
|           | Membership            | )           |                                       | All the farmer households in this village are members of the VDA |                           |                              | age are members of the VDA      |
| SOCIAL    | Other devel           | opment      | pment • Various other activities like |  | like drinking             | water systems, education and |                                 |
|           | activities            |             |                                       | health activities are conducted by the same VDA                  |                           |                              |                                 |
| Mo        | benefits              |             |                                       | Ber  | efits incurred via VDA &  |                              | Provisions/benefits due to      |
|           | served                |             |                                       | oth  | er supporting RF's        |                              | Bhoomitra Company               |
| 003       | oci veu               |             |                                       | init   | iatives                   |                              | bilooiliitia collipaliy         |

# SWOT ON PERFORMANCE AND STRENGTH OF BHOOMITRA PRODUCER COMPANY LTD.

Table 7: SWOT on Performance of Bhoomitra FPCL

| SWOT          | Analysis   |
|---------------|--|
| Strengths     | <ul> <li>Strong awareness, involvement and ownership amongst farmer members, as indicated by regular attendance, donations of land and transparency and faith in communities regarding the producer company is an enabler to a strong institutional foundation for the producer company.</li> <li>Institutional processes and protocols are well established. Bye-laws and protocols of frequency of meetings and the responsibilities of the shareholders and the Board of Directors are established and the designated officers are aware of the same.</li> <li>Village Development Association is the vehicle for execution and link between the producer company and the member farmers. The same Village Development Association is an engine for other development initiatives (food, nutrition, health, ecological and infrastructure). This helps in completing the objectives of the producer company. It also helps in building faith of the community in the institution and the producer company.</li> </ul> |
| Weaknesses    | <ul> <li>The producer company is currently not using differential pricing mechanisms or other market tools to promote sustainable agriculture practices. Crop failure is a common phenomenon in the Tapalheti village, any action on climate proofing and ensuring basic income through diversification of crops and professions needs to be envisaged.</li> <li>Farmer members in Tapalhati hope to earn dividends as profits from Producer Company. There is no specific vision on earning better by doing more business with the Producer Company.</li> </ul>   |
| Opportunities | <ul> <li>Value addition, rather than selling raw soyabean and daal can lead to more accumulation of profits at the farmer community level. There is only limited gains in selling the raw good at wholesale in the market. Opening a retail value chain of certain soya and daal good can increase the profit margins for the Producer Company.</li> <li>More employment opportunities through processing, value addition of the farmer members can be a critical opportunity for diversifying incomes at the village level.</li> </ul>  |

# CASE STUDY III

# Dharani Farmers' Cooperative Limited

Timbaktu Collective's initiative for promoting sustainable agriculture production



# **Background**

# **About Ananthapuramu District**

The geographical position of the Indian Peninsula renders Ananthapuramu district, one of the driest districts and the second most drought-affected in the country. It is the most drought affected district of Andhra Pradesh with an average rainfall of 381 mm. With a population of 4 million, Ananthapuramu district is one of the poorest in the country, and has 45% rural indebtedness against a state wide 18%. A majority of the population here are marginal dry land farmers exploiting a fragile resource base. It has nearly 0.65 million agriculture families and off those, 66% farmers have less than 2 ha of land. More than 75% of the smallholder farmers are Dalits and OBCs. These farmers traditionally had a mixed cropping system with diverse crops, including millets. Severe rural debt, high seasonal migration, low literacy levels, rapid depletion underground water resources, high number of farmer suicides, and the trafficking of women and children in certain areas of the districts are direct pointers to the economic, social and political backwardness of Ananthapuramu district and its people.

Ananthapuramu district is one of the highest groundnut producing districts in the country. 8.3 lakhs of the 11.7 lakh acres of farming land in Ananthapuramu is under groundnut. The advent of cash cropping subsidised by the State along with distribution of centrally procured rice and wheat through the Public Distribution System over the past 30 years, has pushed

the district from being a mixed cropped district, including millets to becoming the largest groundnut mono-cropped area. In the 4 mandals, which constitute the Collective's working area; the rainfall is less than the average of the district. 67% of the population of this area depends on agriculture.

### **About Timbaktu Collective**

Over 25 years of its existence, Timbaktu Collective has its presence in clear operational area of 172 villages in four mandals of Ananthapuramu district, amongst 20,186 marginalised families. It has so far promoted 16 cooperative with various stakeholders and their federations all of which indicate viability.

Women's cooperatives are most important in this regard. Started in 1993, the work with women was designed to and set up to autonomous and independent form cooperatives. The Organic Agriculture Programme of Timbaktu Collective was 2006 in three mandalsstarted in Chennekothapalli, Ramagiri and Roddam. There are a total of 1632 farming families, from 44 villages, involved in the programme now, covering an area of almost 9000 acres. The objective of the programme is to increase income levels and improve food security of the reference families and promote sustainable and viable producer cooperatives at the mandal level. Under livestock programmes, Hallikar cows were given to organic farmers to facilitate timely ploughing and enhance availability of cow urine and dung for organic farming.

# Overview of Dharani Farmers' Cooperative Limited

Dharani Farmers' Cooperative, registered under MACS act of 1995, was started in 2005 with the objective of giving control of the entire agri-value chain to the farmers.

# Geographical scope of farmer members

The Cooperative had 1190 families as farmer members in 35 villages with 3570 acres of land under organic agriculture from 2006 – 2013. In the second phase from 2013 – 2015, the programme reached 1632 member farmers' households, 44 villages and 9000 acres. The farmer members belonged to the three mandals where Timbaktu Collective was implementing the Organic Agriculture Programme. These districts are – Chennekothapalli, Ramagiri and Roddam of Andhra Pradesh.

# **Key achievements**

Dharani Farmers' Cooperative has been able to show its achievements in all three spheres of development. Through shifting the conventional agriculture choices of ground nut cropping and fertilizer use towards a shift towards millet cropping and organic practices of agriculture, Dharani has been successful in having triple bottom-line benefits:

### 1. Ecological sustainability

Dharani has been able to maintain and further rejuvenate the **soil quality** in their area of action. Further, they have

balance and direct agriculture activities based on the suitability of water and soil conditions of the region, thus, actively maintaining the relation of agriculture choices and practices with ecological sustainability.

# 2. Social well-being (direct benefits to the small and marginal farmers)

Dharani has improved the quality of life of the farmers they are involved with. Out of every INR 100 worth business done by Dharani, approximately INR 56 reaches farmer members as income earned. Further, change in crop choices towards millets has reduced climate vulnerabilities and reduced risks of crop failure, given the congeniality of the crop production with adverse weather conditions, a common phenomenon in the area. It has also improved nutrition intake amongst the associated farmer households by including millets in the diets of the community.

### 3. Economic sustainability

Dharani has evolved as a strong institution that has developed the economy of the region and has evolved in higher end value addition resulting in profits from the production to be earned by the local communities against bigger entrepreneurs or businesses. Ownership of the institutions by the farmer members indicates strength of sustainability in the system.

| Value chain →            | Backward Channel  | Forward Channel  |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| Scope of work of Dharani | <ul> <li>Crop planning at village level</li> <li>Support organic methods of agriculture</li> <li>Procurement of crops on differential pricing system</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>Grading and value addition</li> <li>Marketing and sales (Product, pricing, branding, promotion and retail)</li> </ul> |

# Process of formation of the Dharani Farm Cooperative Limited

# Need identification of farmer producer organisation

Dharani's formation has its base in Timbaktu Collective's work of women thrift cooperatives. This work resulted in building savings of the community, and brought popularity and trust in the organisation. A survey was conducted in 2006 of the members of thrift cooperative on the needs and aspirations of the community involved. Securing decent income from agriculture was identified as one of the key problem by the community. Some of the challenges identified in practicing agriculture were:

Production Risks: High crop failures due to untimely rainfall and high investments as input costs of the seeds, fertilisers, pesticides in agriculture, have resulted in increasing debt on the farmers' along with marginal income benefits. Worsening soil quality and water crisis add to the production risks of the farmer, both in short and long run.

• Market Risks: False weighing measures

used by local traders resulted in loss of revenue to about 15-40% of the actual market price value. In the absence of access to larger markets, farmers have been restricted to sell their produce to local traders, hence, reducing the scope of hard bargain.

# What was the process of addressing the need?

Timbaktu Collective introduced the idea of a farmers' cooperative with a mandate to enhance living standards of the farmer members by conserving and enhancing the natural, social, financial and human capital. Farmers were mobilised and introduced to the nature of the farmers' cooperative that Timbaktu Collective was envisioning. The design of the cooperative had a sangam at the village level, comprising of 10-15 farmer households. 2 leaders are identified from each Sangam that represented the Sangam at the constituency level which includes 3-4 villages. All the farmer members elect 12 directors for Dharani who handles decision making for daily operations and strategic alignment. Dharani Cooperative also has professional cadre that supports in action of Dharani and grievances of farmers at all

| Portfolio  | Composition                            | Work   |                    |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Tabl   | e 8: Composition of Dh                 | arani Farmers Coop                                     | perative           |  |  |  |  |  |
| DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY OF |  |  |                    |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sangams  | 10-15 farmers                          | Crop planning and o                                    | demand mapping     |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bringham   | 5 farmer                               | Ensure guarantee of                                    | f organic practice |  |  |  |  |  |
| Programme Coordinator  | 1 Professional                         | Coordinate business needs with farmer needs            |                    |  |  |  |  |  |
| Field coordinator  | 1 Professional                         | Coordinate procurement functions and facilitate        |                    |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mandal coordinator   | 2 Dunfassional                         | knowledge (other) needs identified by sangams based on |                    |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mandai coordinator   | 3 Professional                         | Dharani's capacity                                     |                    |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7  |  | Ensure regular sar                                     | ngam meetings      |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cadre (Field team)   | 15 Professional                        | Persuasion to follo                                    | ow complete PoPs   |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Geo tag crop plan – using Crop in software             |                    |  |  |  |  |  |
| Value addition team  | 2 Prof, 15-30 labours                  | Grading, Value addition                                |                    |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Farmer members<br>RGANISATIONS IN INDI |  | Paid staff         |  |  |  |  |  |



levels of governance.

The *role of the cooperative* was identified as following:

- Assistance in organic methods of cultivation: This includes experimenting with locally available produce and farmer trainings for making organic manure, and its appropriate use and management.
- Assured buy of all produce from the member farmers after two years of practicing organic agriculture, on a prefixed rates (% higher than the market rate)
- Processing and value addition: It includes sorting, value addition, packaging and sales of the product to specialized markets.
- Relative dividends from business:
   Profits earned by the Cooperative will be distributed in the ratio of contribution of produce made to the Dharani by its members

Dharani had the *criteria* of only working with poor small and marginal farmers. Farmers had the option to become the member of the Cooperative, if they accept following *conditions*:

- Contribute INR 100 as a membership fee
- Practice purely organic methods of cultivation and participatory check of

- organic practices in one's Bringham (group of 5 farmers)<sup>3</sup>
- Attend monthly meetings of the cooperative and engage in activities of Sangam
- Prioritise selling to Dharani instead of local traders.

The villages identified were initially based on the receptiveness of the community from the survey assessment. Expansion of the number of villages was driven by various factors. One of the sangams interviewed for this study from the village Dobarapalli recollected that they got aware of this farmers' cooperative initiative from one of the neighbouring villages. The leader of women thrift cooperative from this village, Sujata, explained that after learning about this initiative, she requested the Timbaktu team to also include their village in the initiative. The process of mobilisation and induction was initiated and Sangams were formed in the village.

# Strength of the Farmer Institution

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Crop-in software is a new technology used by Timbaktu to geo tag organic cultivation of different crops, enabling management and monitoring of the agriculture production.

The institutional strength of the FPO is assessed by the ownership, awareness and satisfaction of the stakeholders of the Producer Company. Processes and protocols along with splurge of leadership are other parameters used to assess the

the village Dobarapalli, a member of the Dharani Producer Company: (List of attendees as Annexure III)

Table 9: Strength of Farmers' Institution - Dharani Cooperative

| Farmer members are the owners of the company  Farmer members on their own manage the company  Frequency of and attendance in meetings  Factors  STATUS  OBSERVATIONS  Farmers claim that the company is owned by and any member can put forth their views or business via their representatives  Dharani is managed a technical and profession paid staff for marketing and sales. This is no expected as a vision in this institution.  More than 70% attendance in Sanga meeting witnessed as per records  The business decisions and profit statements shared with elected farmer representatives                                     |        |
|--|--------|
| Farmer members are the owners of the company  Farmer members on their own manage the company  Farmer members on their own manage the company  Farmer members on their own manage the company  Frequency of and attendance in meetings  Accountability  Farmer members are the owners of the day and any member can put forth their views of business via their representatives  Dharani is managed a technical and profession paid staff for marketing and sales. This is no expected as a vision in this institution.  More than 70% attendance in Sanga meeting witnessed as per records  The business decisions and profit statements |        |
| Company  and any member can put forth their views of business via their representatives  Dharani is managed a technical and profession paid staff for marketing and sales. This is not expected as a vision in this institution.  Frequency of and attendance in meetings  Accountability  and any member can put forth their views of business via their representatives  Dharani is managed a technical and profession paid staff for marketing and sales. This is not expected as a vision in this institution.  More than 70% attendance in Sanga meeting witnessed as per records  The business decisions and profit statements     | it     |
| Dharani is managed a technical and profession paid staff for marketing and sales. This is not expected as a vision in this institution.  Frequency of and attendance in meetings  Accountability  Dharani is managed a technical and profession paid staff for marketing and sales. This is not expected as a vision in this institution.  More than 70% attendance in Sanga meeting witnessed as per records  The business decisions and profit statements  |        |
| OWNERSHIP  Frequency of and attendance in meetings  Accountability  Parmer members on their own manage paid staff for marketing and sales. This is no expected as a vision in this institution.  More than 70% attendance in Sanga meeting witnessed as per records  The business decisions and profit statements  |        |
| OWNERSHIP  the company  paid staff for marketing and sales. This is no expected as a vision in this institution.  More than 70% attendance in Sanga meeting witnessed as per records  • The business decisions and profit statements   |        |
| Expected as a vision in this institution.      More than 70% attendance in Sanga meeting witnessed as per records      The business decisions and profit statements.   | even   |
| Accountability  Frequency of and attendance in meetings  witnessed as per records  The business decisions and profit statements  |        |
| Accountability  Frequency of and attendance in meetings  witnessed as per records  The business decisions and profit statements  | is     |
| The business decisions and profit statements   |        |
| Accountability   |        |
| shared with elected farmer representatives   | are    |
|  | _      |
| Farmer members are aware of the representations are aware of the representation.   |        |
| AWARENESS Members are aware of company's structure, role and responsibility of Board of  |        |
| ON ROLES AND structure Directors but not completely in tune with the   | )      |
| EUNCTIONS OF management of the Company.  |        |
| FPOs Farmer members understand their role in   | _      |
| running the company farming and regular active participation of a  |        |
| members in the processes of Company.   |        |
| Dharani has been effective in reducing costs   | and    |
| SATISFACTION Satisfaction amongst farmer members lowering investments and therefore a more   | nd     |
| secure income to its farmer members.   |        |
| Records of attendance, inputs used by farme  | r      |
| PROCESSES Maintenance of records members for PGVS checking and transaction   | with   |
| AND Dharani are maintained at the village level.   |        |
| Each farmer in Bringham are responsible for  |        |
| By laws and its effective implementation effective implementation of all by-laws by hi   | į      |
| fellow farmers   |        |
| % of produce by farmer members sold to  • 100% of the produce is sold to Dharani   |        |
| company 100% of the produce is sold to Dharani   |        |
| Dharani has one advanced processing unit w   | th     |
| CAPITAL Physical Capital machines for making oil, various grading ma   | hines, |
| AVAILABLE etc  |        |
| Dharani has not yet taken loan from formal   |        |
| Financial Capital financial institutions but attracts some crow  | 1      |
| funders like RangDe.   | •      |

strength of the institution. Following are some of the qualitative factors studied with

### **Business Performance**

Some of the key observations based on business assessment:

- The business has grown at an average of 39 per cent every year since last five years increasing the business from INR 5 million in 2010 to INR 27 million in 2015. This is a steady and sustained growth, and high compared to other FPOs in the country at present.
- Current ratio of 11.39 reflects high liquidity in assets, and therefore, an opportunity to expand business operations. Return on investments lies below 10 mostly, as the producer company is not earning profits out of business. The revenue earned by value addition is usually accompanied with high cost price of the produce bought from the farmers for direct income benefits to the farmer members.
- The investor portfolio of Dharani Farmers' Cooperative is not a mainstream financial institution. Most of the investors are 'friends of Timbaktu', grant based funding as well as via crowd source platforms like Rang De. The principle of business is not a financial return on investment to investors but a guarantee of social and environmental well-being by developing business that profits nature and small

farmers.

- The year 2014 saw a sudden drop in total cost against the total revenue. The reason stated by Dharani Team is that after a gap of any management professional in supporting the business for two years previous to 2014, the new team member raised the price of all final products by a certain margin, after a market study; thus, reduced the revenues collected in that year. This point out the importance of continuous market assessment by professionals to utilise the market opportunity available for the FPO.
- Direct and indirect expenses of Dharani Farmers' Cooperative are approximately 30 per cent of the total revenue. It includes salaries for the technical cadre of the FPO that extend production related support to the farmer members; it is one of the highest costs included. With expansion in business, the FPO is also able to support the salary of the CEO of Dharani Cooperative from its revenues. Timbaktu collective, through its grant funded projects have been supporting the personnel costs of Dharani professionals since its inception; but the proportion of support from Timbaktu reduced over time. It aims to zero it in coming future.

| Indicator            | FY 2010 | FY 2011   | FY 2012   | FY 2013    | FY 2014    | FY 2015    |
|----------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|
| Current assets       | 420,295 | 4,963,093 | 6,205,310 | 8,972,624  | 9,293,212  | 20,474,418 |
| Current liabilities  | 168,157 | 57,023    | 1,028,275 | 1,940,024  | 1,817,299  | 1,797,079  |
| Current Ratio        | 2.50    | 87.04     | 6.03      | 4.63       | 5.11       | 11.39      |
| Working Capital      | 252,138 | 4,906,070 | 5,177,035 | 7,032,600  | 7,475,913  | 18,677,339 |
| Total Assets         | 653,438 | 7,128,280 | 8,454,001 | 11,253,110 | 11,518,542 | 25,583,045 |
| Return on Investment | 7.16    | 3.12      | 0.08      | 1.07       | 13.44      | 2.22       |

Table 10: Overview: CSIS calculation for Dharani Farmers' Cooperative Limited

|                  | Table 1.A: Revenue Statement of Dharani Farmers' Cooperative Limited for the six financial years (INR) |            |           |         |            |            |            |         |            |         |            |         |  |
|------------------|--|------------|-----------|---------|------------|------------|------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|---------|--|
| REVENUE          | FY 20  | FY 2010    |           | FY 2011 |            | FY 2012    |            | FY 2013 |            | FY 2014 |            | FY 2015 |  |
| STATEMENT        | INR  | <b>%</b> * | INR       | %*      | INR        | <b>%</b> * | INR        | %*      | INR        | %*      | INR        | %*      |  |
| Sales Account    | 3,831,933  | 73.0       | 5,384,229 | 81.6    | 9,817,085  | 75.0       | 13,152,264 | 70.0    | 17,735,548 | 77.0    | 20,364,605 | 75.0    |  |
| Direct Incomes   | 59,232   | 1.1        | 0         | 0.0     | 0          | 0.0        |            | 0.0     |            | 0.0     | 0          | 0.0     |  |
| Closing Stock    | 1,083,927  | 20.7       | 1,214,481 | 18.4    | 3,178,455  | 24.0       | 5,413,266  | 29.0    | 5,292,301  | 23.0    | 6,107,212  | 22.0    |  |
| Indirect Incomes | 272,542  | 5.2        | 294,633   | 4.5     | 126,583    | 1.0        | 210,689    | 1.0     | 143,187    | 1.0     | 730,260    | 3.0     |  |
| TOTAL            | 5,247,634  | 100.0      | 6,598,710 | 100.0   | 13,122,123 | 100.0      | 18,776,219 | 100.0   | 23,171,036 | 100     | 27,202,077 | 100     |  |

<sup>\*</sup>This is percentage of the component with respect to the total revenue statement

|                   | Table 1.A: Expenses Statement of Dharani Farmers' Cooperative Limited for the six financial years (INR) |            |           |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
|-------------------|---|------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 00000 (5005000    | FY 2010   |            | FY 2011   |            | FY 2012    |            | FY 2013    |            | FY 2014    |            | FY 2015    |            |
| COSTS/EXPENSES    | INR   | <b>%</b> * | INR       | <b>%</b> * | INR        | <b>%</b> * | INR        | <b>%</b> * | INR        | <b>%</b> * | INR        | <b>%</b> * |
| Opening Stock     | 860,707   | 16.4       | 1,083,928 | 16.4       | 1,214,481  | 9.3        | 3,178,455  | 16.9       | 5,413,267  | 23.4       | 5,292,303  | 19.0       |
| Purchase Account  | 2,607,917   | 49.7       | 3,631,579 | 55.0       | 8,825,174  | 67.3       | 10,827,300 | 57.7       | 10,004,126 | 43.2       | 13,244,854 | 49.0       |
| Direct Expenses   | 567,985   | 10.8       | 732,598   | 11.1       | 1,256,152  | 9.6        | 2,203,502  | 11.7       | 3,137,782  | 13.5       | 4,039,711  | 15.0       |
| Indirect Expenses | 1164258   | 22.2       | 1,222,893 | 18.5       | 1,819,292  | 13.9       | 2,446,806  | 13.0       | 3,067,704  | 13.2       | 4,057,531  | 15.0       |
| TOTAL             | 5,200,867   | 99.1       | 6,670,998 | 101.1      | 13,115,099 | 99.9       | 18,656,063 | 99.4       | 21,622,879 | 93.3       | 26,634,399 | 97.9       |

|            | FY 2010 |            | FY 2011 |      | FY 2012 |      | FY 2013 |            | FY 2014   |            | FY 2015 |      |
|------------|---------|------------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|------------|-----------|------------|---------|------|
| NET PROFIT | INR     | <b>%</b> # | INR     | %#   | INR     | %#   | INR     | <b>%</b> # | INR       | <b>%</b> # | INR     | %#   |
|            | 46,768  | 0.90       | 222,346 | 3.37 | 7,024   | 0.05 | 120,156 | 0.64       | 1,548,157 | 6.68       | 567,677 | 2.09 |

#This is percentage of the component with respect to the total revenue statement

Source: Author using Profit-Loss Account of Dharani Farmers' Cooperative Limited

# Assessment of benefits to the farmer members

This section will analyse the current scope of work of Dharani in relation to the livelihood benefits for the farmers. In order to assess this, we use indicators of sustainable livelihoods from sustainable agriculture framework. (Bhamra, Niazi, & Hajra, 2015).

The sustainable livelihood strategies of individuals and households depend on access, use and development of five different types of assets — natural capital (land, water, biodiversity), physical capital (infrastructure, machinery), human capital (labour, skills), financial capital (savings, disposable assets), and social capital (rights, support systems).

Table 11: Performance on benefits to farmer members by Dharani Farmers' Cooperative

| CAPITAL            | FACTOR                                | STATUS   | OBSERVATIONS   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|                    | Average land size                     |  | <ul> <li>Land pooling is not an approach taken by Dharani and Timbaktu.</li> </ul>   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Water availability |                                       |  | <ul> <li>Choice of crops, especially shifting to millets is considered keeping in mind<br/>the water availability in the region</li> </ul>                 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| NA OTOLE           | Soil quality                          |  | <ul> <li>Organic practices promoted by Dharani focuses in maintaining and<br/>nourishing nutrients of the soil.</li> </ul>                                 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|                    | Knowledge of practice                 |  | <ul> <li>Support to farmers with regular trainings and cadre of dharani for technical<br/>expertise is always available</li> </ul>                         |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| HUMAN              | Weather information                   |  | No specialized attempt is made in this direction   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|                    | Mandi/market prices knowledge         | <ul> <li>False weighing measures were commonly used by traders in the region<br/>leading to farmers getting lesser than market price.</li> </ul>             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| FINANCIAL          | Increase in incomes by reducing costs | <ul> <li>Locally produced manure reduced the costs of inputs, also fixing M<br/>each of the crop prior to the harvest helps in security of income</li> </ul> |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| FINANCIAL          | Increase in incomes by price rise     |  | <ul> <li>Value addition, market linkages to urban markets of Bangalore, Chennai and<br/>Hyderabad lead to higher prices offered for the produce</li> </ul> |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| PHYSICAL           | Storage and<br>Processing facilities  |  | <ul> <li>Owns a specialized processing unit and in the process of making the second<br/>one functional</li> </ul>  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| FHISICAL           | Agriculture equipment                 |  | <ul> <li>Dharani cooperative is not providing any hard equipment to its members,<br/>except for programme on loan for cows.</li> </ul>                     |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|                    | Membership                            |  | Member farmers are also involved in processing and other labour activities   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SOCIAL             | Other development activities          |  | of Dharani. Various programmes on health are conducted with same group.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|                    | No benefits observed                  |  | Partial benefits without being the primary focus  Provisions/benefits due to Dharani Company   |  |  |  |  |  |  |

### SWOT on Performance and Strength of Dharani Farmers' Cooperative Ltd

Table 12: SWOT on Performance of Dharani Farmers' Producer limited

| SWOT       |   | Analysis   |
|------------|---|--|
|            | • | An integrated frame of looking at agriculture from all business, environment sustainability and          |
|            |   | livelihoods of the farmers is making the model of Dharani Cooperative a win-win in all dimensions of     |
|            |   | sustainable development.   |
|            | • | Strong awareness, involvement and ownership amongst farmer members, as indicated by regular              |
| Ctrongths  |   | attendance, transparency and faith in communities regarding the producer company are an enabler to       |
| Strengths  |   | a strong institutional foundation for the producer company.  |
|            | • | A conscious approach of not putting the responsibility of managing Dharani Cooperative has helped in     |
|            |   | two ways: It has not overburdened the farmers to understand competitions with market forces. It has      |
|            |   | also enabled brining management expertise to put build Timbaktu utilizing the market opportunities       |
|            |   | of organic produce, produces, packaged and marketed to make it attractive to the consumers.              |
|            | • | "An FPO cannot run on one crop/year." For ensuring efficient use of its physical capital, any business   |
|            |   | needs a full cycle of production line across the year.   |
|            | • | High tax rates – 30% of the income is unethical on an organization that is aiming for farmers'           |
|            |   | livelihood and well-being. The sector already suffers with a lot of production and market risks, and an  |
|            |   | additional income tax rate is unjustified, keeping in mind that FPO is addressing concerns of one of     |
|            |   | the most critical sectors from livelihood and environment perspective.                                   |
|            | • | Market interest rates offered for FPOs is very high. NABARD offers loans at 14% while a crowd funding    |
|            |   | source like RangDe provides loan at 5%. There is a need to reduce interest rates in the mainstream       |
| Weaknesses |   | financial markets for supporting FPOs.   |
|            | • | Due to shortage of storage options and fluctuations of the produce from the farmer members, there is     |
|            |   | a risk that Timbaktu collective takes every season of produce that limits its growth in the number of    |
|            |   | member farmers. As said by Bablu Ganguly, Head, Timbaktu Collective, "We are scared what if there is     |
|            |   | no crop failure, it rains on time and farmers have a full produce. In our mandate to buy all the produce |
|            |   | from the farmer members, it may lead to higher quantity that or Godowns can accommodate, and             |
|            |   | hence a potential risk to the business"  |
|            | • | Availability of dedicated management professionals, for a continuous span of time is usually not         |
|            |   | available, resulting in taking benefits of market and making remunerative business at each time          |

# CASE STUDY IV

Satpuda Farmers Producer Company Limited

An Initiative of Reliance Foundation

### **Background**

Madhya Pradesh is the second largest state in terms of its land area in India and constitutes 9.38% of the total land area of the country (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Madhya Pradesh, 2012). According to the 2011 Census of the NSSO, its total population stands at 73.34 million, with roughly 70% of its people dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. The state has 11 agro-climatic zones with Chhindwara district coming under the Satpura Plateau which receives between 1000-1200 mm annual rainfalls (Madhya Pradesh Development Report, Planning Commission, Government of India, 2011).

#### Chindwara, Madhya Pradesh

Chhindwara is one of the 51 districts of the state with a relatively larger forest and tree cover (33% of its total geographical area) and tribal populations. The district also boasts of the Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve notified in 1999. The sex ratio of the district stands at 958 girls per 1000 males, slightly higher than the state's average sex ratio of 931. The total literacy rate of the district is 66%. The average per capita income of the district comes within the top ten per capita incomes of the state at Rs. 20,220. However, it is one of the two worst performing districts when it comes to deaths due to malaria and malnutrition with Betul (Madhya along Pradesh Development Report, Planning Commission, Government of India, 2011).

The participation of women in the agriculture labour force is one of the highest in the district. The net sown area in the district for the year 2004-05 was 41% with another 40% coming under forest land. Of the net sown area, 23.2% of the land is irrigated and 3,64,400 hectares of land comes as cropped area (food grains). Table 1 below specifies the cropping pattern of the district (Department of Farmer Welfare and Agriculture Development, Madhya Pradesh, 2008).

**Table 13: Cropping pattern of Chhindwara** 

| SI No. | Crop       | Area (Ha) |
|--------|------------|-----------|
| 1      | Soybean    | 1,40,000  |
| 2      | Maize      | 85,000    |
| 3      | Wheat      | 106,000   |
| 4      | Jowar      | 44,000    |
| 5      | Gram       | 35,000    |
| 6      | Kodon      | 27,000    |
| 7      | Cotton     | 31,000    |
| 8      | Ground Nut | 25,000    |
| 9      | Paddy      | 21,000    |
| 10     | Toor       | 18,000    |
| 11     | Urad       | 15,000    |

(Source: Department of Farmer Welfare and Agriculture Development, Madhya Pradesh, 2008)

#### **Reliance Foundation**

Over the years of Reliance Foundation's (RF) engagement at Chhindwara district, it has reached 22 villages. Reliance Foundation's flagship programme, Bharat-India-Jodo (RF BIJ), works to bridge the development gap between rural and urban India. The key objectives of Reliance Foundation's initiative are Institutional

building, food and nutrition security, water security and ecological sustainability.

The programme works with small and marginal farmers and helps farming households that have limited livelihood options. As a part of the programme, the foundation organises farmers in collectives, to leverage the power of unity. The model of social and economic development is owned, controlled and managed by communities themselves, for the larger development of their members, the village, and the region.

In addition to helping set up the farmers' producer company, Reliance Foundation (RF) has also initiated a version of the Wasteland Agriculture Development initiative (WADI) called Reliance Nutritional Garden (RNG) with 300 households in 15 villages in the district in and around Tamia tehsil. RNGs are kitchen gardens that promote pesticide free agriculture to supplement the nutritional needs of family members through green vegetables, fruits and useful herbs. RF provides the technical and knowledge support along with some financial support to make water tanks for irrigation. Along with RNGs they also help villagers in building dams for irrigation of fields. Additionally, it also trains a woman representative selected from roughly 20 villages to conduct screening for iron deficiency and basic health checkup.

### Overview of Satpuda FPCL

The Satpura Self Reliant Farmers Producer Company Limited (Satpura PCL) was created

in 2012 by transferring a cooperative from Chhindwara to Jamai. It has been registered under the Companies Act of 1965 at Gwalior. Satpura PCL started with an initial membership of 25 farmers. Shareholding was started in 2013 at Rs. 100 per share after which 19 villages have become institutional shareholders in the company funds from through the Village Development Fund kosh) (gram conjunction with individual member contribution. The company currently has roughly 2000 members with entire villages being shareholders as opposed to individual villagers.

Farmer members are spread across villages in Jamai and Tamia tehsils and consist mostly of people from the scheduled tribes. Currently, the PC aggregates fertiliser and seed grain, grades, stores; and packages the seed grain with plans to begin a value addition process chain soon. Their work also includes poultry farming through a Self Help Group (SHG) started in late 2014 as well as procuring and selling farming tools like irrigation pumps, pipes, sprinklers, motors etc. The consumer reach of crop grains is spread till the local mandis (markets); seed grains is limited to villages that are members of the PCL, although seeds are sometimes given on loan (bhijai) to farmers outside this scope (approximate range of 60km) with an agreement of returning seeds with interest (1.5x times). Eggs from the poultry branch, since it is not being generated at a large scale, are sold to local vendors in nearby markets.

### Process of formation of Satpura Self Reliant Farmers Producer Company Limited

Methodology: Discussion with Management team, BoD and 3 FGDs with farmer members

### Need of Farmer producer organisation

Reliance Foundation, during its work on village development in the area helped farmers perform a need assessment during which it was felt that irrigation, low yield and low selling price were some of the major issues that prevented better incomes for them. A 25 member committee was first formed (and later registered as a Farmer Producer Company) which, with technical and knowledge support from RF built dams to tackle their water scarcity that positively impacted crop yield. Once the yield increased, it was noticed that the *sahukar* (middle man) was not able to provide larger profits for their produce.

### What was the process of addressing the need?

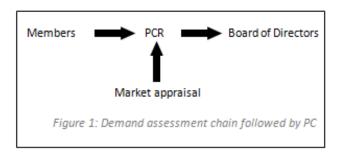
Low profits, lack of rain and water availability, low yield led to formation of the producer collective (PC) so that farmer produce can be sold directly in the local market with larger profits and water shortage for irrigation can be addressed by watershed and dam (lift irrigation) building. Further, since high transportation costs were being incurred by the PC, a local collection center was first created and later replicated in every shareholding village

where farmers could directly sell their produce.

Membership to the PC was done on the basis of interest of the farmers with the only condition being that the farmer member has to be a resident and a farmer of the member village. Farmers from nonshareholding villages can also be members of the PC but cannot avail any profits or dividends. Majority of the farmers belong to the ST with a few belonging to OBCs. Each shareholding village has different numbers of members in the PC. There are 7 Board of Directors (including one chairman) that meet monthly for a path setting meeting, the decisions of which are communicated to the Producer Company Representative (PCR) in a PCR meeting (in each village) who then communicates these to the village members (as shown in figure 2). Although processes are on-going increase farmer member participation in decision making process, assent is required of 71% members for any major decision to be passed and 66% of the members have to present. The PCR also assesses and communicates demands and requirements to the board of directors in a separate meeting (as shown in figure 1). Dispute resolution, if needed, is done through dialogue, failing which the members have the liberty to not follow decisions made by the board of directors. Stringent minutes of the meetings are created for every meeting (General Meeting of Board of Directors, PCRs, and Committees) and open to access and scrutiny by any member to increase transparency within the company. A

separate register comments by members is also maintained in every meeting.

Currently, 7 members serve as the Board of Directors, the constitution of which is changed as when the need arises. The VFA chooses one nominee and presents its name to the PC. A total of 20 names can be nominated but only 5, 7 or 11 members board of directors can function. Voting to pick these names has not been required so far as some nominees haven't step down. Each board of director has been assigned an activity that they are responsible for, such as training workshops, exposure visits, aggregation and procurement, selling and marketing and management of records and overall management of the PC.





### Strength of the farmer institution

The institutional strength of the FPO is assessed by the ownership, awareness and satisfaction of the stakeholders of the FPO that is the farmer members. Methodology: 3 FGDs with the farmer member and discussion with BoD.

### Ownership amongst stakeholders

As Reliance Foundation is the corporate social responsibility branch of a large and popular Indian company, it has been difficult to completely erase RF's fingerprint from the PC. However, because of greater withdrawal of RF from the day to day functioning of the PC, as well as, because of increased interest of the farmer members to manage the accounts, activities and future planning of the PC on their own, there has been a larger sense of ownership from the members. Additionally, funds have been collected by individual members in certain villages to buy individual shares in PC (as opposed to the current village shareholding) which is indicative of a rising sense of ownership. RF has now limited its involvement in the PC to providing technical support with legal work and knowledge support in the form of arranging training sessions and exposure visits for the members. Therefore, the path visioning exercise is run entirely by the farmer members and the board of directors. Business targets for the PC, expansion in products and objectives are also decided on according to the members' needs and aspirations. According to the members, as

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The Directors are not changed regularly or on a yearly basis. When there is a need felt by the PCL (or even the directors themselves) for a new Director, this need is presented in the meeting and taken forward if there is ascent.

the need assessment and its solution finding, during the initial phase of development was performed majorly by the farmers; it was felt that the company too has been formed for the social and economic development of the farmers.

# Awareness about the role and functions of the FPO and their voice

One of the major causes that pushed farmer members towards forming a producer company was the lack of profits while dealing with the market through a middle man. This, coupled with other forms of income and profit loss (low yield due to poor water availability for irrigation, high input costs in fertilisers and seeds), drove the members towards an understanding of a farmer producer company as a collective to function on three levels,

- i. As a shared and support institution where members are able to ask for and help each other through the seed bank without being forced to access the formal and informal banking system
- ii. As a strengthening institution where farmers are collectively able to access the market and negate individual losses (lower selling price, high transportation costs)
- iii. As a profit making enterprise, within agriculture, where they are able to perform as a business which makes profits by serving other farmers through direct fertiliser and seed procurement

As members, the farmers realise that individual success is possible when they perform collectively as a business but that

contribution to the company (financial, managerial, produce) is necessary too.

### Satisfaction amongst the farmer members

There has been a sense of satisfaction from the farmer members. It is true for some committees, as shown in Box 1, below, in the women run committee that works with poultry. Two of the primary reasons for this satisfaction are greater yield, along with higher incomes and profits. Additionally, a sense of fulfillment can be found amongst the members which, according to them, has been generated as a result of owning a company and running it.

Currently, although individual village committees have been able to generate profits, the producer company itself has not been. This has resulted in minute dissatisfaction but also, has provided members with scope and drive for greater success. As a result, members are looking at acquiring more licenses (in addition to the current manure, market and seed licenses) and opportunities for value addition to their products, especially maize.

# Performance of the Farmer Producer Organisation

This section will assess the impact of the FPO on the need and objectives identified by the FPO on its inception. While the organisation will have its own way of tracking progress beyond the framework below, the study will aim to assess the performance on the following lines and additionally include information on tracking progress as per the understanding of the FPO.

#### **Business Performance**

This section will analyse the current situation of business strength of Satpura Self Reliant Farmers PCL. This will be informed by the business growth of the three years of operations of Satpura Self Reliant Farmers PCL as well as their absolute condition currently. In order to assess the current business performance of Satpura Self Reliant Farmers PCL, we use the Common Size Income Statement (CSIS) approach. A CSIS presents a company's income statement in percentages. Each line item is represented as a percentage of revenues, instead of actual INR amounts.

### Performance on benefits to the farmer members

This section will analyse the current scope of work of Satpura PCL in relation to the livelihood benefits for the farmers. In order to assess this, we use indicators of sustainable livelihoods from sustainable agriculture framework (Bhamra, Niazi, & Hajra, 2015). The sustainable livelihood

strategies of individuals and households depend on access, use and development of five different types of assets — natural capital (land, water, biodiversity), physical capital (infrastructure, machinery), human capital (labour, skills), financial capital (savings, disposable assets), and social capital (rights, support systems).

Figure: Farmer Group
Discussion with members of
Satpura FPCL



Table 14: Over view - CSIS Application of Satpuda Self Reliant Farmers' PCL

| REVENUE STATEMENT | FY 20     | 12     | FY 20    | )13    | FY 2   | 014    |
|-------------------|-----------|--------|----------|--------|--------|--------|
| REVENUE STATEMENT | INR       | %*     | INR      | %*     | INR    | %*     |
| Sales Account     | 3,71,892  | 4.13   | 7,07,969 | 82.87  | 0      | 0.00   |
| Direct Incomes    | 0         | 0.00   | 0        | 0.00   | 0      | 0.00   |
| Closing Stock     | 0         | 0.00   | 0        | 0.00   | 0      | 0.00   |
| Indirect Incomes  | 86,40,513 | 95.87  | 1,46,326 | 17.13  | 12,000 | 100.00 |
| TOTAL             | 90,12,405 | 100.00 | 8,54,295 | 100.00 | 12,000 | 100.00 |

| Table: Expenses State | ment of Satnura Self Reliant | Farmers PCI for the three financial year | rs |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|--|----|

| COSTS /EVDENCES   | FY 20     | 12             | FY 20    | 013   | FY 2014 |        |  |
|-------------------|-----------|----------------|----------|-------|---------|--------|--|
| COSTS/EXPENSES    | INR       | % <sup>#</sup> | INR      | %#    | INR     | %#     |  |
| Opening Stock     | 0         | 0.00           | 0        | 0.00  | 0       | 0.00   |  |
| Purchase Account  | 3,75,606  | 4.17           | 6,59,620 | 77.21 | 0       | 0.00   |  |
| Direct Expenses   | 6,56,664  | 7.29           | 87,000   | 10.18 | 9,389   | 78.24  |  |
| Indirect Expenses | 80,35,805 | 89.16          | 94,230   | 11.03 | 4,140   | 34.50  |  |
| TOTAL             | 90,68,075 | 100.62         | 8,40,850 | 98.00 | 13529   | 112.74 |  |

|            | FY 201  | 2              | FY 201 | .3   | FY 2014 |        |  |
|------------|---------|----------------|--------|------|---------|--------|--|
| Net Profit | INR     | % <sup>#</sup> | INR    | %#   | FY 2015 |        |  |
|            | -55,670 | -0.62          | 13,445 | 1.57 | -1,529  | -12.74 |  |

<sup>#</sup> This is percentage of the component with respect to the total Revenue statement. Source: Author using Profit-Loss Account of Satpura Self Reliant Farmers PCL

**Table 15: Performance of Satpuda FPCL on benefits to farmers** 

| CAPITAL   | FACTOR  | STATUS | OBSERVATIONS  |
|-----------|---|--------|---|
|           | Average land size                             |        | <ul> <li>Land asset accumulation is not RF's approach</li> </ul>  |
| NATURAL   | Water availability                            |        | <ul> <li>Water storage, bunding and other watershed<br/>activities were conducted by RF's initiative but<br/>any such clause is not within the scope of FPO</li> </ul>  |
|           | Soil quality                                  |        | <ul> <li>Improvement of 20%-30% in yield was seen in<br/>land using RF's vermicompost but any such<br/>clause is not within the scope of FPO</li> </ul>   |
|           | Knowledge of practice                         |        | <ul> <li>Both RF and PCL regularly provide training and<br/>information sessions to farmer members on<br/>poultry farming, health, management.</li> </ul>   |
| HUMAN     | Weather information                           |        | No mandate or specific process identified   |
|           | Mandi/market prices knowledge                 |        | Producer company representatives track market prices and circulate to the members   |
|           | Increase in incomes by reducing costs         |        | Farmers who buy regularly from the PC get inputs at a reduced cost (by 10%)   |
| FINANCIAL | Increase in incomes by price rise             |        | This has not been identified  |
|           | Credit availability                           |        | This does not fall under the objective of the PC  |
| PHYSICAL  | Storage and Processing facilities             |        | <ul> <li>A small godown (50 tonnes capacity), daal mill,<br/>grading machine are available for storage and<br/>processing in the company (currently grading is<br/>being done through outsourcing)</li> </ul> |
|           | Agriculture equipment                         |        | <ul> <li>Quality drip irrigation tools, other instruments<br/>are sold and provided on need basis</li> </ul>  |
|           | Membership                                    |        | <ul> <li>All the farmer households in shareholding<br/>villages are not members of Satupura PCL</li> </ul>  |
| SOCIAL    | Other development activities                  |        | <ul> <li>Various other activities like drinking water<br/>systems, RNGs, health and nutritional<br/>trainingare conducted by RF</li> </ul>  |
|           | Provisions/benefits due to<br>Satpura Company |        | rting RF's Factors not under the mandate of the institution   |

**Table 16: SWOT of Satpuda FPCL Performance** 

| SWOT          | Analysis  |
|---------------|---|
| Strengths     | <ul> <li>Strong awareness, involvement and ownership amongst farmer members, as indicated by regular attendance, donations of land and transparency and faith in communities regarding the producer company is an enabler to a strong institutional foundation for the producer company.</li> <li>Institutional processes and protocols are well established. Bye-laws and protocols of frequency of meetings and the responsibilities of the shareholders and the Board of Directors are established and the designated officers are aware of the same.</li> <li>Shared capital of Rs. 9, 15, 000 available (no financial support from RF).</li> </ul> |
| Weaknesses    | <ul> <li>The producer company is currently not using differential pricing mechanisms or other market tools to promote sustainable agriculture practices.</li> <li>Seed variety (indigenous, hybrid) can also be looked at to promote sustainable agricultural practices.</li> <li>Although there is a general feeling of wanting to earn more profits and generate greater yields, there is a lack of cohesion and vision in this aim amongst the farmer members.</li> </ul>  |
| Opportunities | <ul> <li>Value addition, rather than selling raw maize can lead to more accumulation of profits at the farmer community level. There are only limited gains in selling the raw good at wholesale in the market. Opening a retail value chain of certain maize goods like chips, corn, can increase the profit margins for the Producer Company.</li> <li>More employment opportunities through processing, value addition of the farmer members can be a critical opportunity for diversifying incomes at the village level.</li> </ul>   |

# CASE STUDY V

### Sittilingi Organic Farmers Association (SOFA)

Tribal Health Initiative's for promoting sustainable agriculture and health amongst farmers,

In support with Indian Foundation for Humanistic Development

### **Background**

Sittilingi is an Adivasi Village in the Dharmapuri District of Tamil Nadu, India. It is in a Valley enclosed by the Kalrayan hills to the East and the Sitteri Hills to the West. There are twenty-one Malayalee (adivasi) hamlets, two Lambadi hamlets and one dalit hamlet here.

Tribal Health Initiative (THI) was started in 1992 by Dr Regi George and Dr Lalitha Regi, which today has expanded into a team of over 55 highly trained people, working to improve the lives of the tribal communities living in the Sittilingi valley and surrounding hills through a variety of programmes in health care, community health, farming and craft work.

#### **Overview of SOFA**

After ten years of working in Sittilingi valley on health issues, a pad-yatra (Foot pilgrimage) was conducted in 2003 to evaluate the work of last ten years. Some of the problems identified during this Yatra included non-profitability in agriculture due to middleman issues, commissions and no reliable transport available. Dr Regi along with the framers of Sittilingi valley explored possibilities of organic agriculture, inspired from the Gandhian principle. Dr Regi proposed to transition to purely organic agriculture. Previous to this, most farmers were using fertilisers on paddy amongst the main crops. Four farmers came forward in deciding to turn completely organic in their agriculture practice. After some years of practice, THI conducted a comparative study for a cost-benefit analysis. The results attracted other farmers in moving towards organic methods of practicing agriculture.

In 2009, 57 farmers came together to register as a society under Cooperative Act. INR 50 per year was decided as the membership fees for being a member of this society. Between 2005 and 2008, some of the farmers and employees of THI travelled across southern states of India to explore market opportunities of agriproduce, looking at different range of value added products and different retailers for sales. It was identified that farmers' job is to farm while the Cooperative is responsible for marketing activities.

Range of agri-products by SOFA includes bajra, ragi, pulses, foxtail millets and cotton. The FPO has identified vendors, some of them being Kolikod, Alter media and Organic Kerala from Kerala and Restore Chennai and Sandy Chennai from Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

As of December 2016, SOFA has 300 member farmers, 25 farmer groups. A team of 13 trained members of the community are taking care of professional tasks of the FPO ranging from CEO, marketing team, Field Guide, shop keeper, documentation officer, accountant and cashier. There are 7 elected committee members who take decisions of sales, financial sustainability and farmer related queries, whereby each member is responsible for 3 villages. Every year, one member is replaced by a newly elected one and the president of the committee changes every 5 years.

| Value chain →         | Backward Channel                               | Forward Channel  |
|-----------------------|--|--|
|                       | Organic methods of agriculture<br>practices    | Grading and value addition   |
| Scope of work of SOFA | Procurements of different crops – differential | <ul> <li>Marketing and sales (Product,<br/>pricing, branding, promotion<br/>and retail)</li> </ul> |
|                       | Cattle Insurance                               |  |

Strength of the Farmer Institution

Table 17: Strength of farmers institution of SOFA

| PARAMETERS                    | FACTORS   | STATUS | OBSERVATIONS  |
|-------------------------------|---|--------|---|
|                               | Farmer members are the owners of the company                |        | <ul> <li>Faith in THI's work over the last 24 years on issues of<br/>health in the village has rooted the faith in this THI's<br/>initiative of FPOs.</li> </ul>  |
| OWNERSHIP                     | Farmer members on their own manage the company              |        | <ul> <li>No, the farmer members are not the management team<br/>of SOFA. However, they have recruited local skilled<br/>youth for various management tasks of the FPO.</li> </ul>                         |
|                               | Frequency of and attendance in meetings                     |        | Regular attendance is found, largely because of the faith, as well as various other development initiatives associated with the THI, extending from cattle insurance, school counseling and scholarships. |
|                               | Accountability  |        | <ul> <li>Aware of processes of decision making and their right<br/>for financial and operational accountability.</li> </ul>   |
| AWARENESS<br>ON ROLES AND     | Members are aware of company's structure                    |        | <ul> <li>Members are aware of the elected committee members<br/>and their role but are not aware of how the business<br/>end is managed</li> </ul>  |
| FUNCTIONS OF<br>FPOs          | Farmer members understand their role in running the company |        | <ul> <li>Farmers consider their responsibility to produce organic<br/>and sell it to the FPO.</li> </ul>  |
| SATISFACTION                  | Level of satisfaction amongst farmer members                |        | High satisfaction, based on higher returns on investments and support in newer technologies of doing organic  |
| PROCESSES<br>AND<br>PROTOCOLS | Maintenance of records                                      |        | All records of attendance, input transaction, crops procured and business are duly maintained   |
| CAPITAL<br>AVAILABLE          | % of produce by farmer members sold to company              |        | All the produce by member farmers are sold to the FPO except for vegetables which are currently not procured by the FPO   |
|                               | Factors considered achieved by SOI farmer members           | FA and | Factors considered in progress and not fully achieved yet   |

Table 18: Overview of Business performance of SOFA

| REVENUE STATEMENT | FY 2009 |       | FY 2010 |       | FY 2011   |      | FY 2012   |      | FY 2013   |     | FY 2014   |     | FY 2015   |      |
|-------------------|---------|-------|---------|-------|-----------|------|-----------|------|-----------|-----|-----------|-----|-----------|------|
|                   | INR     | %*    | INR     | %*    | INR       | %*   | INR       | %*   | INR       | %*  | INR       | %*  | INR       | %*   |
| Sales Account     | 62,510  | 85.83 | 477,411 | 96.30 | 1,860,474 | 96.8 | 1,535,712 | 99.7 | 2,491,967 | 92  | 3,367,072 | 92  | 5,853,224 | 93.5 |
| Direct Incomes    | 8,000   | 10.98 | 500     | 0.10  | 1,400     | 0.1  |           | 0.0  | 214,860   | 8   | 269,525   | 7   | 275,070   | 4.4  |
| Closing Stock     | 0       | 0.00  | 759     | 0.15  | 16,578    | 0.9  | 0         | 0.0  | 0         | 0   |           | 0   | 109,367   | 1.7  |
| Indirect Incomes  | 2,319   | 3.18  | 17,105  | 3.45  | 43,268    | 2.3  | 3,850     | 0.3  | 6,932     | 0   | 12,880    | 0   | 19,660    | 0.3  |
| TOTAL             | 72,829  | 100   | 495,775 | 100   | 1,921,720 | 100  | 1,539,562 | 100  | 2,713,759 | 100 | 3,649,477 | 100 | 6,257,321 | 100  |

| COCTO/EVPENICES   | FY 2009 |       | FY 2010 |       | FY 2011   |            | FY 2012   |      | FY 2013   |       | FY 2014   |      | FY 2015   |            |
|-------------------|---------|-------|---------|-------|-----------|------------|-----------|------|-----------|-------|-----------|------|-----------|------------|
| COSTS/EXPENSES    | INR     | %*    | INR     | %*    | INR       | <b>%</b> * | INR       | %*   | INR       | %*    | INR       | %*   | INR       | <b>%</b> * |
| Opening Stock     | 0       | 0.00  |         | 0.00  | 759       | 0.04       | 16,578    | 1    |           | 0     |           | 0    |           | 0          |
| Purchase Account  | 58,416  | 80.21 | 430,671 | 86.87 | 1,685,884 | 87.73      | 1,288,476 | 84   | 2,268,426 | 84    | 3,022,129 | 83   | 5,304,400 | 85         |
| Direct Expenses   | 0       | 0.00  | 37,522  | 7.57  | 112,377   | 5.85       | 114,806   | 7    | 197,198   | 7     | 238,708   | 7    | 385,700   | 6          |
| Indirect Expenses | 4185    | 5.75  | 16,511  | 3.33  | 86,810    | 4.52       | 78,656    | 5    | 296,405   | 11    | 257,905   | 7    | 237,914   | 4          |
| TOTAL             | 62,601  | 86.0  | 484,704 | 97.8  | 1,885,830 | 99.9       | 1,498,516 | 97.3 | 2,762,029 | 101.8 | 3,518,742 | 96.4 | 5,928,014 | 95         |

|            | FY 20 | 10    | FY 201 | 1    | FY 20  | 12     | FY 201 | 3    | FY 201  | .4    | FY 20:  | 15   | FY 20   | 15   |
|------------|-------|-------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|------|---------|-------|---------|------|---------|------|
| NET PROFIT | INR   | %#    | INR    | %#   | INR    | %#     | INR    | %#   | INR     | %#    | INR     | %#   | INR     | %#   |
|            | 9,326 | 12.81 | 11,071 | 2.23 | 35,890 | 1.8676 | 42,046 | 2.73 | -48,270 | -1.78 | 130,735 | 3.58 | 329,307 | 5.26 |

### Business Perform ance

| Indicator            | FY 2009   | FY 2010     | FY 2011    | FY 2012    | FY 2013    | FY 2014    | FY 2015      |
|----------------------|-----------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Current assets       | 28,349.00 | 1,77,556.00 | 105,217.00 | 73,187.00  | 127,550.00 | 768,705.00 | 1,027,607.00 |
| Current liabilities  | 14,521.00 | 1,03,995.00 | 65,774.00  | 2,000.00   | 3,000.00   | 5,000.00   | 7,795.00     |
| Current Ratio        | 1.95      | 1.71        | 1.60       | 36.59      | 42.52      | 153.74     | 131.83       |
| Working Capital      | 13,828.00 | 73,561.00   | 39,443.00  | 71,187.00  | 124,550.00 | 763,705.00 | 1,019,812.00 |
| Total Assets         | 28,349.00 | 181,924.00  | 179,593.00 | 171,115.00 | 761,895.00 | 831,705.00 | 1,195,532.00 |
| Return on Investment | 32.90.00  | 6.09        | 19.98      | 24.57      | -6.34      | 15.72      | 27.54        |

## Performance of benefits to the farmers

Table 19: Performance of SOFA for benefits to the farmer members

| CAPITAL  | FACTOR  | STATUS | OBSERVATIONS  |  |  |
|--|---|--------|---|--|--|
|  | Average land size                               |        | Redistribution or changes in land size for agriculture is not an  |  |  |
|  | Therego idina oize                              |        | approach of SOFA  |  |  |
| NATURAL  | Water availability & management                 |        | <ul> <li>SOFA's initiative have not directly contributed in enhancing availability<br/>or/and management of water resources in the region. However, they<br/>have incentivised millets and other traditional varieties of crops that<br/>are suitable to the water availability in the region.</li> </ul> |  |  |
|  | Soil quality                                    |        | <ul> <li>Farmer members interviewed identify better texture of soil through its<br/>moisture retention capacity and color post changing to organic<br/>practices of agriculture.</li> </ul>   |  |  |
| HUMAN  | Knowledge of practice                           |        | SOFA shares various technologies and methods for organic farming, through various capacity building work shops with farmer members. This is usually in support of partner institutions like Indian Foundation for Humanistic Development and other networks of organic based FPOs.                        |  |  |
|  | Weather   |        | This is currently not under the mandate of SOFA. Since SOFA procures  |  |  |
|  | information<br>Mandi/market<br>prices knowledge |        | all the produce of the farmer members, at a price above market price, daily mandi prices are not considered significant information by the farmer members.  |  |  |
|  | Increase in incomes by reducing costs           |        | SOFA has reduced costs of inputs in agriculture, as techniques and methods of producing inputs naturally are promoted.  |  |  |
| FINANCIAL  | Increase in incomes<br>by price rise            |        | <ul> <li>SOFA is packaging, marketing and selling organically certified products<br/>in urban markets and getting around 20% higher than market price of<br/>the goods.</li> </ul>  |  |  |
| PHYSICAL   | Storage and<br>Processing facilities            |        | <ul> <li>SOFA is one storage house, and 1 processing unit; this was built with<br/>financial support from Tribal Health Initiative.</li> </ul>  |  |  |
|  | Membership                                      |        | There are various other initiatives like scholarships, cattle insurance   |  |  |
| Other development activities  and education counseling that THI conducts with the same community institution as the farmer members, thus strengthed stakes and trust in the members of a collective social good. |   |        | community institution as the farmer members, thus strengthening the   |  |  |
|  | ovisions/benefits due to<br>PFA                 | 0      | Benefits incurred via supporting Factors not under the mandate of the Institution or FPO  |  |  |

# CASE STUDY VI



### Puddukkottai Farmers producer Limited

In support with Indian Foundation for Humanistic Development

### **Background**

#### About Pudukkottai District

Pudukkottai district is located at 10.38°N 78.82°E in the valley of river Vellar. It has a plain terrain with a few rocky hills intersped in the outskirts. Urugumalai, Athimalai, Chennaimalai are the hills that surround the city. The rivers that flow in Pudukkottai are Amaravathy, Noyal, Bhavani, and Kaveri. Paddy, groundnut and sugarcane are the major crops in the region. Pudukkottai experiences hot and dry weather throughout the year.

The district has a semi-arid climate with high temperatures throughout the year, and relatively low rainfall. There are no notable mineral resources available in and around the city. Red loam and red sandy are the types of soil found in the town. Paddy is the major crop of this district. 90000 Ha. of area is covered under paddy, out of which 135000 Ha. of area is fed with Kaveri Mettur Project through G.A. canal. The remaining area is well and tank fed. The present productivity level is 4.985 Mt. of Paddy /Ha.

Other than Paddy, groundnut is the major crop in this district which is mainly cultivated under rain fed condition. Groundnut is being cultivated in 36000 Ha., as rain fed crop and 8000 Ha. Under irrigated condition Millet, Pulse, Cotton, Sug arcane, Gingelly are the other crops cultivated in this district.

Pudukkottai district is predominantly an agricultural oriented district. Generally a dry and hot climate prevails in this district and it's agricultural production depends mainly on the rainfall. The normal annual rainfall of Pudukkottai district is 922.8 mm. Out of which 52.2 mm is received in winter, 124.6 mm in hot weather period, 351.9 mm during Southwest Monsoon and 394.1 mm is received in Northeast Monsoon.

The temperature ranges from a maximum of 38.7 °C to a minimum of 19.6 °C. Like the rest of the state, April to June is the hottest months and December to January are the coldest. Pudukkottai receives an average of 919.4 mm of rainfall yearly. The Southwest monsoon, with an onset in June and lasting up to August, brings scanty rainfall. Bulk of the rainfall is received during the Northeast monsoon in the months of October, November and December.

# Overview of PUDUKKOTTAI Farmers' Producer Company Limited

Pudukkottai Organic Farmers Producer Company Limited is a Private incorporated on 19 August 2014. It is classified as nongovt company and is registered at Registrar of Companies, Chennai and Promoting Organization is Rural Organization for Social Education (ROSE) with the objectives of sustainable livelihood of Farmers Poison Free Food for All Future Generation in Wealthy Agriculture.

*Mission:* To support, take initiatives for end to end services in agriculture, and ally

production and marketing, to generate sustainable and respectful livelihood for small and marginal farmers.

#### Geographical scope of farmer members

The Pudukkottai producer company has 1000 farmers as shareholders of 75 FIGs in 55 villages of 5 blocks (Annavasal, Arimalam, Kunnandarkovil, Pudukkottai & Thiruvarankulam) of Pudukkottai district of Tamilnadu. The major business that Pudukkottai FPC does is basically procurement, processing, and value addition of "Indigenous Paddy, Millets, Pulses and Oilseeds".

#### Scope of work and business model:

The Pudukkottai FPC's nature of business is procurement, processing, and value addition of "Indigenous Paddy, Millets, Pulses and Oilseeds" and the business model is:

# An initiative for magnifying change through formation of FPC

Rural Organization for Social Education (ROSE), a community interface engine, is directly implementing its community mobilization, strengthening and development processes with vibrant community Institutions in the Pudukkottai District of Tamil Nadu state. development processes that have been taken up with community participation have yielded remarkable results in the past. In the process of community empowerment in the rural areas of Pudukkottai district, ROSE is implementing different projects in the area. These projects are instrumental in promoting and nurturing a vibrant Self Help Groups (SHGs) and farmer's club and village level committee in the area.

Upon successful interventions with these SHGs and farmers community a need of

### **Business Model & Operations**

| FPC | Members are individual shareholders as well as group of farmers |
|-----|---|
| DLF | District Level Federation (Members are representatives of BLFs) |
|     |   |
| BLF | Block Level Federation (Members are representatives of VLFs)    |
| VLF | Individual and SHGs, farmers clubs, JLGs, women groups          |

upper tier and business oriented of institutional system was recognised. These

institutions were later registered under Company Act 2013. The ROSE took up the initiative and pursued it with company registration act with support from NABARD. Finally, the Government of Tamil Nadu acknowledged the strength of the company and the significance of this programme and subsequently a Farmer Producer Company formed in Pudukkottai district.

At such a critical time, ROSE team has supported the members for prioritizing and proper planning of the activities for ensuring the sustainable growth of the FPC. The process of development of the FPC began with the small village level meetings. During these meetings, ROSE team oriented the FPC concept, its need and entitlements and the possible avenues of generating livelihoods. Several training programmes and exposure visits were organized for the purpose. Through continuous efforts of the ROSE team, the FPC came forward to take up joint efforts for enhancing the livelihood opportunities of the associated members. In this process, ROSE confined its role as process facilitator and allowed the FPC to manage and take decisions.

Promotion of organic production with support by ROSE was done during the initial phase. In the same phase, they have prepared all the farmers for organic cultivation. Similarly, to integrate the organic model, training and capacity building of farmers and board members done for effective understanding about functioning of FPOs. organisational structure, business operation and management, legal aspects, transparency & accountability.

The successful implementation of above activities has enormously increased the confidence of the shareholders. Now they are ready to take up new initiatives such as business portfolio, product development and business turnover.

The remarkable thing about this entire development process is the company has succeeded in making use of organic production and marketing of produce in Pudukkottai and Chennai.

For effective business management, the company has its own office procurement place. On the 10<sup>th</sup> of every month, the representatives of all village committee's associated with Pudukkottai Farmer Producer Company come for regular monthly meetings, where they discuss the business activities, membership emerging challenges as well as formulate the working strategy for the coming month.

The noteworthy point of this FPO programme is that farmers realised enhanced income and it supported their livelihoods. Farmer's hard work yielded great success and the FPO, Pudukkottai Organic Farmer Producer Company has become an inspiring example for all shareholders and other companies in the region, who are striving towards organic farming.

### The Pudukkottai Organic Farmer Producer Company is doing value addition in below products:

| Product            | Value added Products                                 | Product        | Value added Products       |
|--------------------|--|----------------|----------------------------|
|                    | Mappillai samba raw rice                             |                | Varagu - Raw Rice          |
|                    | Mappillai Samba Par boiled unpolished rice           |                | Varagu - Boiled Rice       |
| Indigenous<br>Rice | Mappillai samba semi polished par boiled (Idli) rice | Millet<br>Rice | Kuthirai vali - Raw Rice   |
| Rice               | Thooyamalli Rice                                     | Rice           | Kuthiraivali - Boiled Rice |
|                    | Kavuni rice  |                | Samai - Raw Rice           |
|                    | Ragi   |                | Thinai - Raw Rice          |
|                    | Kambu  |                | Irungu cholam rice         |

### Value added products

| Product  | Value added Products     | Product | Value added Products       |
|----------|--------------------------|---------|----------------------------|
|          | Horse Gram (white kollu) |         | Varagu - Raw Rice          |
| Pulses   | Horse Gram (Black kollu) | Oil     | Varagu - Boiled Rice       |
| Puises   | Black gram (Spitted)     | Items   | Kuthirai vali - Raw Rice   |
|          | Redgram dhal             |         | Kuthiraivali - Boiled Rice |
| Flour -  | Millet Nutritious Flour  | Millet  | Varagu aval                |
| Millet & | Millet Dosa Mix          | Rice    | Irungu Cholam aval         |
| Rice     | Ragi Flour               |         | Mappillai samba aval       |

#### Purchase and sales details 2014-15 & 2015-16

| Type of Droduct | Purch       | ase            | Sales       |                |  |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|--|
| Type of Product | Volume (kg) | Value (in INR) | Volume (kg) | Value (in INR) |  |
| Indigenous      | 65274       | 1279559        |             |                |  |
| Paddy           | 03274       | 12/9559        | 39002.25    | 2186120        |  |
| Millets         | 40205.5     | 907750         | 39994.25    | 3178222        |  |
| Pulses          | 7521.5      | 398364         | 5315.75     | 551474         |  |
| Oil Seeds       | 7136        | 432514         | 6609        | 630119         |  |
| Total           | 120137      | 3018187        | 90921.25    | 6545935        |  |

### Turnover realization of the Pudukkottai Organic FPO:

| Year               | Amount in INR |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 2014-15            | 436322.00     |
| 2015-16            | 3596925.00    |
| 2016-17 (April 16) | 433574.00     |

Table 20: Business Plan of Puddukotai FPCL

| Sr.<br>No. | Сгор                        | Expected procure-<br>ment (Qtls) | Expected procurement price (Rs.) | Total cost<br>of<br>procure-<br>ment (Rs.) | Time of procurement | Sales<br>Price<br>(Rs./Qtl) |
|------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1          | Mappilai Samba<br>Paddy     | 100                              | 3,770                            | 3,77,000                                   | Feb - March         | 5,600                       |
| 2          | Karuppu Kavuni<br>Paddy     | 100                              | 7,370                            | 7,37,000                                   | Feb - March         | 12,500                      |
| 3          | Thooyamalli Paddy           | 100                              | 3,270                            | 3,27,000                                   | Feb - March         | 6,000                       |
| 4          | Redgram                     | 50                               | 10,070                           | 5,03,500                                   | Feb - March         | 16,000                      |
| 5          | Blackgram                   | 50                               | 10,570                           | 5,28,500                                   | April – May         | 19,000                      |
| 6          | Horsegram (Black and White) | 30                               | 4,570                            | 1,37,100                                   | Feb - March         | 7,000                       |
| 7          | Groundnut                   | 50                               | 8,055                            | 4,02,750                                   | April – May         | 18,000                      |
| 8          | Barn Yard Millet            | 50                               | 4,020                            | 2,01,000                                   | June &<br>December  | 8,000                       |
| 9.         | Kodo Millet                 | 50                               | 3,820                            | 1,91,000                                   | February            | 7,000                       |
| 10         | Foxtail Millet              | 50                               | 4,370                            | 2,18,500                                   | Nov - Jan           | 7,000                       |
| 11         | Little millet               | 50                               | 4,870                            | 2,43,500                                   | February            | 4,000                       |
| 12         | Finger Millet (Ragi)        | 50                               | 3,670                            | 1,83,500                                   | June &<br>December  | 5,000                       |
| 13         | Pearl Millet                | 30                               | 3,970                            | 1,19,100                                   | February            | 4,000                       |
| 14         | Sorghum                     | 50                               | 2,870                            | 1,43,500                                   | Jan – Feb           | 6,000                       |
| 15         | Coconut                     | 30                               | 9,380                            | 2,81,400                                   | Round the year      | 20,000                      |
| 16         | Sesamum                     | 100                              | 9,380                            | 9,38,000                                   | March – May         | 23,000                      |

*Marketing Strategy:* FPC is selling 70% of its produce to whole sellers based out in Chennai, Madurai, Trichy, Kanniakumari and Bengaluru and 30% of the processed products in retail on cash & carry basis

# Annexure I: Farmer members at focused group discussion, Tapalheti Village (Bhoomitra FPCL)

| S. no. | NAME          | LAND SIZE | IRRIGATION SOURCE |
|--------|---------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 1      | Rajendra      | 5 acres   | Pond              |
| 2      | Subhash       | Landless  |                   |
| 3      | Hanuman       | 15 acres  | Pond              |
| 4      | Datta         | 12 acres  | Rain-fed          |
| 5      | Pandvaran     | Landless  |                   |
| 6      | Vishwanath    | 5 acres   | Well              |
| 7      | Hussain       | 5 acres   | Rain-fed          |
| 8      | Santosh       | 4.5 acres | Well              |
| 9      | Keshav        | Landless  |                   |
| 10     | Basant        | 10 acres  | Rain-fed          |
| 11     | Rathvakar     | Landless  |                   |
| 12     | Jyoti         | Landless  |                   |
| 13     | Shobha        | Landless  |                   |
| 14     | Bhunrao Durga | 5 acres   | Rain-fed          |
| 15     | Kalpana       | Landless  |                   |
| 16     | Girija        | Landless  |                   |
| 17     | Girija        | 10 acres  | Rain-fed          |
| 18     | Shanta        | 4 acres   |                   |
| 19     | Reshma        | Landless  | Well              |
| 20     | Rajesh        | 3 acres   |                   |
| 21     | Tukaram       | 7 acres   |                   |

# Annexure II: Group discussion with board of directors, Bhoomitra PCL

|        | 1                  |                    |  |  |
|--------|--------------------|--------------------|--|--|
| S No.  | NAME               | NUMBER OF YEARS AS |  |  |
| 3 140. | INAIVIL            | BOARD OF DIRECTOR  |  |  |
| 1      | Ashok Nayavar      | 2                  |  |  |
| 2      | Kailash Bhagat     | 2                  |  |  |
| 3      | Sanjay Yuvak       | 2                  |  |  |
| 4      | Nirmala            | 3                  |  |  |
| 5      | Jayshree Vilas Rao | 4                  |  |  |
| 6      | Ankush Kakkar      | 4                  |  |  |

# Annexure III: Farmer members at focused group discussion, Dobarapalli Village (Dharani FPCL)

| SNO. | NAME            | LAND SIZE | IRRIGATION SOURCE |
|------|-----------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 1    | Bogappa         | 8 acres   | 1 w ell           |
| 2    | Lingappa        | 7 acres   | 1 well            |
| 3    | Choddappa       | 10 acres  | Rain-fed          |
| 4    | Shri Ramelu     | 12 acres  | Rain-fed          |
| 5    | Sujata          | 7 acres   | Rain-fed          |
| 6    | Nagamma         | 8 acres   | Rain-fed          |
| 7    | Mudyaramma      | 8 acres   | Rain-fed          |
| 8    | Marena          | 10 acres  | Rain-fed          |
| 9    | Hanumanth Reddy | 8 acres   | Rain-fed          |
| 10   | Paidanjana      | 10 acres  | 1 well            |
| 11   | Anjunappa       | 5 acres   | 1 well            |
| 12   | Hanumappa       | 8 acres   | 1 well            |

## Annexure IV: Group discussion with Elected Stakeholders, Dharani PCL

| S No. | NAME              | Name of the Sangam or Designation |  |
|-------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1     | Sittipallappa     | Mandal Coordinator, CK Palli      |  |
| 2     | V Ravi            | Timbaktu Coordinator              |  |
| 3     | Narisingrai Palli | Ramaswamy Sanga                   |  |
| 4     | Srinivas          | Timbaktu Cadre                    |  |
| 5     | Napenchandra      | Timbaktu Cadre                    |  |
| 6     | Narangswamy       | Timbaktu Cadre                    |  |
| 7     | K Maruti          | Chandrayan Swamy Sanga            |  |
| 8     | Dhananjay         | Venugopalswami Sanga              |  |
| 9     | Ranga Reddy       | Bhairawa Sanga                    |  |
| 10    | Nagarjuna         | Venugopal swami Sanga             |  |
| 11    | Venkata Narayan   | SVS Sanga                         |  |
| 12    | Adi Narayana      | Paidamma Sanga                    |  |
| 13    | Venkat Reddy      | Kalpataru Sanga                   |  |
| 14    | Maipur Kondappa   | Ramaswami Sanga                   |  |
| 15    | Ајарра            | Polleramma Sanga                  |  |
| 16    | Chandraraidu      | Polleramma Sanga                  |  |
| 17    | Nagamma           | Venkateshwara Sanga               |  |
| 18    | Shivamma          | Sairam Sanga                      |  |
| 19    | Shivalaxmi        | Chenakeshva Sanga                 |  |

# Annexure V: Farmer members at focused group discussion, Siitlingi Farmers' Assocation

### VILLAGE JADAYAN KOMAI

| S. no. | NAME        | LAND SIZE | IRRIGATION SOURCE |
|--------|-------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 1      | Teerthamma  | 1 acre    | Well              |
| 2      | Mallikka    | 2 acre    | Well              |
| 3      | Jyoti       | 2 acre    | Well              |
| 4      | Manikkam    | 2 acre    | Borewell          |
| 5      | Jyoti       | 2.5 acre  | Electric Motor    |
| 6      | Chakravarty | 3 acre    | Rain-fed          |
| 7      | Mann        | 3 acre    | Rain-fed          |
| 8      | Govindam    | 2.5 acre  | Rain-fed          |
| 9      | Radhkrishna | 2 acre    | Irrigated         |
| 10     | Ramlingam   | 2 acre    | Motor             |
| 11     | Ratanam     | 2.5 acre  | Motor             |
| 12     | Annadurai   | 1 acre    | Motor             |

#### VILLAGE KALIAKOTAI

| S. no. | NAME           | LAND SIZE | IRRIGATION SOURCE |
|--------|----------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 1      | Annamalai      | 1 acre    | Electric Motor    |
| 2      | Velayan        | 2.5 acre  | Electric Motor    |
| 3      | Murugorundaran | 3 acre    | Oil engine        |
| 4      | Sanmogam       | 3 acre    | Oil engine        |
| 5      | Annamalia      | 2 acre    | Oil engine        |
| 6      | Rajamani       | 1 acre    | Electric Motor    |
| 7      | Rani           | 1 acre    | Oil engine        |
| 8      | Chenamma       | 2 acre    | Electric motor    |