



## INDO-GERMAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PROJECT

### Selling seeds of prosperity

### A story of Quality Planting Material nursery rising group at East Satnala

On receiving huge demand from the villagers for having Nursery-raising as a lucrative business proposition, the Project started providing training on nursery raising almost at all the villages. The training was designed to fuse the traditional nursery-raising skills of the villagers' with the much needed technical know-how, and also, to provide them with market knowledge. This transition is one of the easiest ones as the villagers are very well versed with the traditional mode of agriculture which they have been practicing since generations.

#### **The story of symbiotic relation of demand-supply for nursery and plantation...**

From Project-year I, the Project (and eventually the VDPICs in the subsequent years) has felt the need of having quality seedlings (or, 'Planting Materials', in generic terms) in right quantity at the right time and at the right place, i.e. at the village level. Having locally-produced good quality seedlings address all the above issues vis-a-vis the proposition of sourcing the seedlings from outside the Project area! Having good quality planting materials in optimum quantity through Project-promoted Quality Planting Material (QPM) Nurseries not only ensures availability of the same at the Project-promoted plantation sites, it also opens up a very viable business opportunity for a considerable number of people. With time, the business is expected to outpace the Project-driven demand and venture into the open market- supplying planting materials to other Depts., schemes, projects and private owners.

#### **QPM nursery at East Satnala ADC Village....**

The infrastructure for QPM nursery at East Satnal ADC village was established during 2012-13 by IGDC Project. East Satnala VDPIC was formed a group of 14 entrepreneurial minded villagers to manage the nursery. The group has demonstrated an excellent case in the field of QPM nursery rising and management. Before their involvement in nursery rising activities, the average annual income of the members was Rs. 19,500/-. All the members belong to BPL category. The group has shown exemplary group activities that have been able to enhance the annual average income by Rs. 6,000/- per member.

#### **Special Guidance and training facilitated ....**

Apart from facilitating training under the Capacity Building program of the IGDC Project, the nursery rising groups were further trained and guided by the Agricultural Department personnel. They were also exposed to the various nursery management techniques like soil solarisation, grafting, sowing, fertilization, raised bed theory, pest and disease control mechanisms etc.



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### **Chosen Species ....**

Creating a commercial nursery of Horticultural species was the initiative that was taken up, among many VDPICs, by the VDPIC members of the East Satnala village during the initial days. The species mainly includes Coconut (2,500 nos.), Areca nut (30,000 nos.), Banana (150 nos.) & Lemon (3,000 nos.), youngchak(5,000 nos.).

### **Financial Support for QPM from IGDC....**

The VDPIC, after placing its resolution and a business plan for establishment of a QPM Nursery for an amount of Rs.1,30,470/-, has been provided with the same as a financial support from the Project. The entire amount has been used for the establishment of the QPM.

### **Profit Earnings of the group from the nursery...**

The saplings produced through the QPM will be utilized for the plantation purpose by the project itself during the initial years. The project has been offering a Rs. 2/- profit per sapling .

**Total Investment (Advance from Project side) = Rs. 1,30,470 /-**

**Total Saplings produced = 40650 nos**

**Total Saplings sold to VDPIC for IGDC Plantation (2013-14) = 35,625 nos.**

**Sales value = Rs. 213759/-**

**Net profit = Rs. 2 X 35,625 saplings = Rs. 83280/-**

The remaining saplings when sold in the open market will bring in the much needed profit as the rates of a quality sapling is much higher than that have been quoted by the VDPIC.

This case is an excellent example of how a small contribution from the project (here, in the form of leveraging the traditional know-how of the rural people) coupled with community's eagerness to come out of abject poverty can go long way to enhance the socio-economic conditions of the people.

### **More exciting ways ahead....**

Learning from the nuances out of the initial programs to establish QPM Nurseries, the Project has fine-tuned the same and chalked-out plans for even better. Towards this, the QPM Nursery at Ambassa Block is being developed as a 'QPM-per Excellence'. For instance, the scion of *Amrapalli* from the Plus Trees in the orchard is used for grafting of the root-stock. Also, the required support facilities like poly-shed house with Sprinkler Irrigation facility, Root-trainers and inoculation with Mycorrhiza are being created in the Ambassa QPM nursery.