



BAIF – NAIP Quarterly E-Newsletter April – June 2011



National Agricultural Innovations Project Indian Council of Agricultural Research



TOT for Farmers:

Interventions by BAIF led SRLS project are mainly focussed on providing technical inputs and services to enable farmers to adopt these innovations and systems. Trained human resource to provide advisory services on agriculture in the post-project period is one of the initiatives taken up from the sustainability point of view. Since the project is heading towards completion, TOT for selected progressive farmers was organized at the BAIF Central Research Station at

Urulikanchan, near Pune in two batches in the months of May and June 2011. A Total of 48 farmers from ten clusters across five districts of Maharashtra participated in a 4 days' training programme which covered improved practices including agriculture, horticulture and livestock. Improved package of practices for major crops, fodder cultivation, seed production, cultivation of orchards and after care practices were discussed in detail. The methodology used was demonstrations, visit to demonstration plots and classroom sessions. Scientific goat rearing, method of breeding, feeding and health management of cattle were the major aspects discussed under livestock development. The trainees visited the demonstration plots of fodder crops; vermin-compost unit, shed net, orchards and semen lab. All the trainees were keen to enhance their knowledge and have decided to share it with their villagers to sustain the process of promotion of livelihood.



Events in First Quarter

- Cluster In charge Meeting
- NAIP Audit
- TOT of Farmers



Events for Second Quarter

- CIC of NAIP 3 and NAIP 2 projects
- CAC of NAIP 3 project
- Cluster In charge Meeting



Current Field operations

- Land preparation: Ploughing and Harrowing
- Application of FYM/Organic manure
- Seed treatment demonstration
- Sowing of cotton, soybean, and paddy
- Technical guidance about good seed, fodder cultivation
- Nursery raising of vegetable seedling



Vegetables of *Pusukpalli* sweeps the local market

Aheri block of *Gadchiroli* district is a small town. Located in a remote area, the people have to pay more for the goods which are commonly available in cities at cheaper rates. In *Aheri* market, vegetables are supplied from Chandrapur as there was no notable production at local level. As transportation increases the cost, local people have to pay higher rates for vegetables. Now the picture is changing as locally produced vegetables have entered the market.

Pusukpalli is a tiny village of 640 population near *Aheri*. OBCs and Schedules Tribes are the residents of the village. Due to lack of irrigation, agriculture activity is limited with a single kharif crop of paddy. Minor forest produce such as *Tendu* leaves and *Moha* flowers and bamboo cutting fetch meager cash income. People used to cultivate vegetables on a small scale in absence of assured water supply. *BAIF* started working here through NAIP 3 project in 2008-09. Adopting an integrated approach, the project aims at enhancing livelihood through the interventions such as improved agriculture, livestock development and water resource development. Initial meetings with villagers boosted their enthusiasm. Well deepening was the initiative taken for water resource development. For water lifting, three engines, pipes and one sprinkler set was provided through project contribution which they agreed to use in rotation. It has increased the availability of water. This made farmers to plan for a vegetable cultivation in bulk quantity. Planning was done in groups and 62 farmers cultivated vegetables on 17 hectares such as brinjal, tomatoes, bitter curl, cabbage, lady finger, spinach, coriander and chili. Women are involved in cultivation and management of crops. They sell the produce in local market of *Aheri*. Gradually they received good response. Now vegetables especially brinjal from *Pusukpalli* village is popular in *Aheri*. This yielded a net profit of ` 2,06,000/- in nine months during 2009-10. This achievement encouraged other farmers to opt for vegetable cultivation. Except water scarce months of April, May and June, these farmers are taking vegetables as a main crop. During 2010-11, 82 farmers cultivated vegetables on 31.5 hectares of land which yielded them a net profit of ` 9,63,000/-. Per farmer income has increased from ` 3322/- during the first year to ` 11,743/- in the following year. They are now receiving cash income frequently and most of them need not work as wage laborers. They are now planning for collective marketing through village committee. Local level committees established through project are very active and taking initiative for overall development of the village. *Pusukpalli* is one such example in the long journey ahead!



Contributors: Ms. Mayura Mandalkar, Mr. S. H. Kadao, Mr. Manoj Meshram
Design and Content Editing: Ms. Preeti Karmarkar



BAIFF Development Research Foundation
Dr. Manibhai Desai Nagar, Warje, Pune 411058



Indian Council of Agricultural Research
II, PUSA Campus, New Delhi 110012