

Farmer Producer Organization {FPO} is Playing Key Role in the life of Tribal Farmers of Kurai

Since 2012-13, *Integrated Tribal Development Programme (Wadi Project)* is being implemented in tribal dominated Kurai block of Seoni district by the Nageshwara Charitable Trust (NCT) with financial support from National Bank For Agriculture And Rural Development (NABARD). The major objective is to enhance socio-economic status of the tribal farmers/community and bring them in the mainstream of the development. The program was gaining the huge success in the tribal Kurai block. During the time, it was continuously discussing that, there should be arrangement by which farmers could sell their farm production and could easily access the agriculture inputs. In 2015-16, NABARD extended their hand to NCT for formation and promotion of Farmer Producer Organization in Kurai block. The farmer's expectation and need were getting shape due to this support of NABARD.

Since July 2015, NCT started the discussion with farmers of 17 villages of Kurai block. The baseline study was also done on existing condition of input cost, production & marketing. The farmers were oriented on the concept of FPO and how farmers can avail the benefit from it. Rigorous discussions were taken place in all the 17 villages. Lead farmers were identified and provided them exposure to successful running FPOs at different locations within and outside the state of Madhya Pradesh. Then 10 directors were identified democratically by the farmers of 17 villages and get them registered in ROC. On 26/04/2016 the group of farmers with 10



directors received the registration with name of ***“Vainganga Agro Farmers Producer Company Limited (VAFPCL)”*** under the Companies Act-2013. The registration no. of FPO is U01100MP2016PTC040628. The objective of the farmer's producer company is to provide timely agri-input on reasonable rate and to provide better market price to the farm produce of member farmers. Presently there are 310 member farmers with the share capital of Rs. 3.60 lakh. This FPO is purely of small of marginalized farmers.

1) Business of Paddy Reaper Machine (Custom Hiring):- Since inception, Vainganga Agro Farmers Producer Company Limited (ADFPCL) is making an effort to provide the benefit to the member farmers. Immediate after the registration in 2016, the director has decided to purchase



Paddy Reaper Machine as it was requirement of farmers. This business was of big merchants/people and farmers were paying big amount to them for harvesting their paddy crops. The directors had conducted their meeting and discussed the issues. This time there were 120 members with share capital of around 1.30 lakh. They decided do not take loan for this purpose and use the share capital amount. Then they purchased

the Paddy Repair Machine worth Rs. 1,09,000/- in harvesting season of 2016. When they purchased the machine there was discussion among the farmers about operator of machine. Then they passed the resolution and decided one of director will operate this machine and FPO will pay the wages to the director from the income. Now since 2016, FPO is providing Reaper Machine on rent to member farmers [Rs.350/-@per hour](#) which are the 100 rupees less than market rate. Till the harvesting season of winter, VAFPCCL have done business of around Rs. 1 Lakh from Paddy Reaper Machine. By this activity, VAFPCCL have able to provide regular employment to the one director and resolved the harvesting issue of many member farmers.

2) Business of Agri-Inputs: - VAFPCCL have received the all legal licenses from the Agriculture



department of Madhya Pradesh and working towards to provide quality & timely agri-input to the member farmers at reasonable rate. VAFPCCL have collected all necessary document and agriculture related information of the member farmers at the time of memberships. VAFPCCL have developed integrated membership form for the members. On the basis of available data and discussion with member farmers, the demands of

seeds are generated /gathered from the member farmers. In the meeting of directors, it was

decided to take some advance booking amount from the farmers along with their order of seeds or any other inputs. This message was communicated to the all member farmers and members also welcome of that. This practice is being implemented since last two years. Till now VAFPCCL have done the business of seed supply of around Rs. 13.20 lakh with more than 400 farmers. The farmers have saved around Rs. 100 behind 1 bag of paddy seed. FPO has earned profit of around Rs. 1,00,000/- from this business till now. Now, VAFPCCL have established their Agro Mall in the Kurai and playing role of Farmer Facilitation Center for the member farmers.



3) Aggregation and Trading of Crops (Paddy & Wheat) : - Since last year-2017, VAFPCCL have started the aggregation and trading of paddy crop of member farmers. Farmer were selling crop to



the middle- man in very minimum rate even loss in measuring of weight. This matter was discussed in the meeting of directors. Then the VAFPCCL received the Mandi License from APMC-Seoni and started the aggregation and trading activity of paddy. FPO also established marketing linkages with some buyers like Rice Miller, NCDEX, Mandi, etc. so that the market could easily available to the farm produce. The FPO has paid the higher rate of paddy to the farmer (more Rs. 100 rupees @ per

quintal than the rate of broker). This has built the more confidence towards the FPO. This year FPO has done business of Paddy Rs. 2 lakh and earned profit Rs. 7,500/-. In the meantime, VAFPCCL also aggregated 5 ton wheat from member farmers who were no able to reach Mandi and was selling to the middle man in very minimum rate. This year, VAFPCCL aggregated the wheat from needy member farmers and sold it in the APMC-Seoni, by which farmers were able to more price of their crops. This year FPO has done business of wheat Rs. 0.75 lakh and earned profit Rs. 8,300/-.

4) Aggregation & Marketing of NTFP (Mahua):- In the summer season, tribal farmers arrange their livelihood through collection and selling of Mahua. After the collection & dryness of Mahua, this has been selling to the small merchants in minimum rate. This issue was being discussed in the meeting of directors. The directors & CEO has decided to aggregate the collected mahua from the members and provided them the good price. Since last two years, VAFPC is doing this activity with the member farmers. In last two years, VAFPC have aggregated around 5 ton mahua from the member farmers and stored it for 3-4 months and then sold it to the big merchants. Till now, FPO has done business of NTFP Rs. 1.23 lakh and earned profit around Rs. 15,000/-.

5) Value Addition Activities: - VAFPC have helped member farmers in packaging & marketing of wadi produce i.e. Custard Apple & Mango. Since last one year VAFPC are purchasing Custard Apple & Mango from wadi beneficiaries/member then did grading, packaging and marketing. VAFPC have provided good price to wadi produce and marketed it in Nagpur, Seoni & Chhindwara. VAFPC have done marketing of Custard Apple of around Rs. 75,000/- and earn small but valuable benefit Rs. 5,000/-. Also did marketed the wadi's Kesar Mango of around Rs. 1,00,000/- and earn small but valuable benefit Rs. 7,000/-. There was huge demand of Kesar Mango of wadi as it was totally cultivated through organic process under TDF initiative of NABARD.



At the end, Vainganga Agro Farmers Producer Company Limited (ADFPCL), is the institution of small & marginalized tribal farmers and moving towards providing benefit to the farmers of Kurai block of Seoni district in Madhya Pradesh. To extend the business scale, VAFPC applied for Working Capital Loan to NABKISAN and soon it will sanction and disbursed the FPO.....
