

Livelihood for A Landless

Padam Khora is a landless person of the weaver's community in Satsemili village of Thuba GP. He lives with his wife Sonadei, father Rama (60) & mother Jamuna (58). He pursues his traditional occupation of weaving clothes to earn his livelihood. He sells his produces in weekly market at Padwa & also Araku in Andhra Pradesh. But the impact of urbanization in clothing style since last ten years has adversely affected Padam's profession, the only spring of his livelihood. Poverty has made him so helpless that he is even unable to carry the burden of his old parents.

The only resource he has is half acre of encroached land (Anabadi land) from which he gets food for only six months..He has to purchase food grains like paddy and Ragi to meet the food requirement of his family.



Pragati started implementation of Community Development Project in Thuba GP in May 2005 and mobilized for formation of VDCs & CBO. In May 2006, it was decided by Pragati team in consultation with the CBO (Lok Sangathan) to provide 5 pairs of bullocks to 5 beneficiaries under Shakti Sahaya Scheme. The VDC of Satsemili selected Padam as a beneficiary .The villagers of Satsemili raised community contribution of Rs 250/- and opened an account in the bank. Padam received Rs. 6890/- towards the cost of a pair of bullocks AND Rs 1325/- for training, construct of shed, insurance etc.. He learnt about preparation of shed, immunization and primary care. He purchased a pair of buffaloes in November 2006 from the local weekly market at Raising, a nearby Panchayat.

At last he is the proud owner of a pair of bullocks. Though he has no land to take up cultivation (the anabadi land (encroached upland) is not suitable to raise crops except during rainy season). However determination showed him the way. He could convince two land holders of nearby villages who agreed to give their lands to raise summer paddy on an agreement of sharing half of the produces.

Padam and his wife harvested 18 quintals of paddy after 4 months. He had to give 50% of produce to land owners, still he was able to supplement the food requirement of his family for the whole year and feed his old parents. Further he could also earn Rs. 450/- by way of hire charges for ploughing in other farmer's land (Rs 25/- per day). Besides he is also a member of the group supported by IHDP (Integrated Horticulture Development Programme in which 30 farmers from the village grew ginger in single compact patch) for ginger cultivation. He has earned a share of Rs. 250/- from this ginger cultivation.

In Kharif Padam has cultivated paddy, Ragi, Niger, Ginger, Turmeric and Pumpkin. He has grown paddy & Ragi in the land of Gopi Khada of Thuba village, Niger in Jasim Khan's land (nearby Thuba village), Ginger (Group cultivation) and turmeric on the encroached piece of

upland. He has harvested 7 quintals of paddy, 1.5 quintal of Ragi and .70 kg. of Niger. There is also ginger and turmeric which is yet to be harvested.

Padam now feels confident .He participates in the VDC meetings where the villagers discuss the problems and issues of the village. Previously he used to observe silently when the villagers used to discuss in meetings. This year he has also participated in the VDC meetings where 4 more beneficiaries were selected under Shakti Sahaya Scheme.

Now Padam is a busy man than ever before. He is now converted into a full time farmer and at the same time practicing his traditional occupation of weaving clothes. The pair of bullocks under Shakti Sahaya Scheme has helped in revival of livelihood of landless Padam and his family.

Prepared By
Pragati, Koraput