



:Tiny Farm Pond; Definite Sustainable Income:

Summary: A Tiny farm pond in the land of Keshavanarayana Naik made wonderful changes in their land in the midst of the forest. Water scarcity in summer resolved and water become useful to develop horticulture orchard. Sometime paddy could be grown in summer.

Moreover, it become lifeline to start cottage enterprise.

Keshava living in Arehalli village studied up to 4th standard. He has two younger sisters. Areca, coconut, paddy and banana are main crops grown in their land of 4.2 acres. His village has only four houses. All houses are of his relatives-elder and younger brothers of his father. There are two wells for drinking water. Well gets water through underground seepage during rainy season. As there is forest surrounding to their house there is no scarcity for water as it does not dry during summer. During less and scanty rainfall years they face dry spells in the well. In those years they grow paddy only during rainy season. There was no resource for digging tube well.



Keshav came to know about the MANUVIKASA NGO during 2015-16. Keshava's sister is a member of SHG in her husband's village, which the SHG was formed by the MANUVIKASA. When she came to know the farm pond scheme for the small and marginal farmers, she informed to her brother as she saw difficulties faced by her brother-Keshava family. Moreover, she requested the staff to help her brother. The MANUVIKASA responded positively and visited Keshava's village-Arehalli in Siddapura taluk. They selected him as one of the beneficiaries under farm pond scheme.

In the same year a tiny farm pond was constructed in Keshava's land at elevated place in the north side of his land at Rs.7,000. Due to technical defect in site selection, water did not impound to the new farm pond. In 2017-18, another scheme with target of 150 farm ponds taken up with the support of Azim Premji Philanthropy Initiative (APPI) and one farm pond was constructed in Keshava's land wherein proper care taken in site selection so that water impound to the pond through natural gravitational flow.

The pond was constructed by using JCB equally at 30 feet width, length and depth. This time his pond started impounding water during rainy season. From the past 5 years the pond become perennial with water. This made Keshava family to breath easy and be happy. Mud canals were constructed both the side of the farm pond so as to channel the water to the horticulture plot naturally through gravity. Moreover, a pump set is fit to the pond to lift the water to supply to elevated land for irrigation.

First farm pond was constructed at free of cost to the farmer. Keshava had to pay Rs.2,000 contribution to the second farm pond which was constructed at Rs.12,000. Now he is growing paddy in two crops, includes summer crop and he is getting 10-15 bags (7 to 10.5 quintals) of paddy yield. 5 years back due to shortage of water 50 areca trees which was ready to yield was dried and died. Those who survived with his effort and now started yielding after regular watering from farm pond. He started getting 1 quintals of arecanut and hoping get more and more over the years upto a maximum of 12.50 quintals per acre. He is also getting yield from banana which is consumed at home. Due to monkey's attack only left out banana is harvested by the farmer-which is sufficient for domestic needs, said by Keshavanarayana Naik.



As he is not able to lead family life just from the yield and income from his land, as side business he is producing rings, poles, windows, doors, frames, compound poles, etc. from cement, which is a small cottage enterprise managed well by Keshava. He has created basic

infrastructure in front of his house for producing these cemented products. He has employed 3 to 4 labourers on regular basis in his cottage enterprise. More water is required for producing these cement products. Water is used from farm pond for mixture of cement with boulder and sand and curing. After deducting all expenses he is earning a monthly income of Rs.10,000 in this enterprise, which is totaling Rs.1,20,000 annually. There is increasing demand for these products in the surrounding villages-especially during summer.

Though he thought it as additional occupation along with farm management is primary occupation, this enterprise is taking his major time and real backbone to provide continuous income to his family. Now it has become main occupation. After construction of farm pond water availability become perennial. His problem of water scarcity for the land management and also producing cement product vanished-pond become real life savior and sustainer.

Farm works are done by the family members. Keshava's father and wife join hands in farm work. He is having 3 children who are studying in schools-they also join their hands in farm work.

Even though first farm pond failed, the second farm pond constructed by the MANUVIKASA is great help and I am highly obliged to them-said by Keshava. MANUVIKASA stand as special due to this reason. Understanding the root of the problem and resolving at given time is specialty of the NGO. If the NGO had not helped to construct 2nd farm pond, life of Keshava would have been verse due to scarcity of water as water is badly required at farm and also at his enterprise. Government or some NGO think once the benefit is given whether it is failure or success it is their fate and they concentrate on others. Whereas MANUVIKASA did not do like that rather studied the reason for failure and further hand hold by constructing second farm pond. The money invested of Rs.7,000 found waste at particular time, now given back in terms of yield and income to the farmer-Keshava. As Keshava is happy the NGO supported him also happy.

MANUVIKASA has sustainability approach. Hence, life of Keshava and many more farmers flourishing with their support. The standard of living of Keshava and many more farmers is going up in the ladder of sustainable development.

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