



## **:Small Farm Pond; Definite and Sustainable Income:**

***Summary: Malini is living in a small family with four members and 2 acres of landholding. With the use of farm pond to a greater extent their life has changed. The once parched land has become green diverse horticulture plot. Apart from looking after 4 members of family she is also having social responsibility virtue, therefore, she is cherishing as leader, both socially and politically.***

Malini Sathish living in Kumari Kodlu village have studied up to 10<sup>th</sup> standard. She is having two children-one male and another female. Son is studying in B.Com and daughter is studying in 9<sup>th</sup> standard. Husband Sathish is doing agriculture as main occupation. Arecanut, Banana & Cardamom are main crops grown. About 8 years back they were growing paddy, which is stopped now.



Malini is a member of 'Annapoorneshwari SHG' formed by the MANUVIKASA since 2013. There was no water source to her land before joining MANUVIKASA. Small pond on the top reach was constructed and they were getting water during rainy season to grow paddy.

MANUVIKASA was providing support for construction of farm ponds during 2014 and one farm pond was constructed in Malini's land with the use of JCB at equal size of 30"x30"x30" width, length and depth. It coted Rs.15,000 and MANUVIKASA born all the cost.

In the first year itself there was water in farm pond through out the year. Water get accumulated as it is drawn for the crops. With this observation, Malini and Sathish decided to plant and grown arecanut, entire 2 acres were planted with areca saplings. Spent Rs.2 lakhs for Saplings, pit making, manuring, labour, etc in total. Malini obtained loan of Rs.50,000 twice accounting Rs.1 lakh. As intercrops they planted banana and cardamom.

Areca plants started yielding since 2020 and family getting 2.5 quintals of dried areca annually. One quintal of banana they are getting and cardamom also started yielding in small quantity. With all these 3 crops they are getting Rs.2 lakhs income annually. In the year 2023 they are expecting 6 to 7 quintals of areca yield-says Sathish. He is expecting Rs.4 lakhs income. After deducting Rs.1 lakh expenditure Rs.3 lakhs will be their net profit. All agriculture/horticulture works are done by the family members, hence, labour wage is saved to the family. Water is lifted by a pump set installed near the farm pond.

**Tailoring for additional Income:** Malini learnt the tailoring before her marriage. After marriage she was stitching the clothes of family members. Before developing horticulture orchards, when they were struggling to live, she thought of taking up tailoring as secondary occupation for additional income. She put the thought in to action, started stitching clothes of others with a service charge. Some women in the village requested her to teach them tailoring. Happily she accepted their request and since 6 years she is teaching the tailoring to village women. As of today, about 20 women from poor households learnt tailoring from her. Most of her family expenses are met from the income earned from tailoring.



**Leadership Development:** She is participating in all activities organized MANUVIKASA with great enthusiasm, utilized the loan effectively, repaid loan in time, teaching tailoring to the local women...likewise she was involved in her life and occupation influenced fellow villagers. A leader use to develop slowly in her personality. In the year 2014 her ward was

declared as women reserved constituency under grama panchayath election. Villagers selected Malini as their grama panchayath member. Even though it is great surprise Malini accepted the new responsibility. She contested in the elected and won.

First time she won was an accidental or her luck. But with lot of creative work during her first tenure, she was re-elected as grama panchayath member during 2018 election. They were living in a small house. After getting income from horticulture they are constructing a modest house in the same site. They started constructing new house since 4 years back yet to complete. However, they are living in the same house. Most persons becoming one time grama panchayath member become rich within short span of time whereas in the case of Malini having won twice for the grama panchayath and with such an income from horticulture she is not able to complete the construction of house. It shows her honesty, sincerity and non-corrupt approach in family and public management. After winning as GP member also she is running tailoring teaching classes.



With the support from MANUVIKASA, she could develop the horticulture orchard and with the support from the public she could content, win and serve the public as grama panchayath member and grow as a model women political leader at the grassroots. She is stepping up slowly with high level of integrity.

After seeing the use of farm pond and horticulture development by Malini family, several farmers including Savitha Naik, Deepa Naik and others in neighboring village Arehalli have constructed farm ponds. Malini says-“many women like me benefitted from MANUVIKASA”. She is having interest to undergo training on honey bee-keeping near future.

**Address:**

Malini Sathish

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