



## Water – the life sustainer



Venkatesh Ramachandra Hegde, a 50-year old farmer lives with his wife and two sons in Hemmadi village, Kunderagi post, Yellapura taluk, Uttara Kannada district. He owns an acre of rainfed land, where he grows arecanut and coconut, with an annual yield of 8 kilos of arecanut and 2 kilos of coconut.

During summer, he faced a severe water crisis in his agricultural land. “I was at my wits end, in trying to find a solution to the water crisis”, recollects Venkatesh. Sustaining and improving his livelihood activities in such circumstances seemed an uphill task. With no solution in sight, he had all but given up hope. When MANUVIKASA team visited Hemmadi village, they discovered that Venkatesh was in need of financial support to sustain his agriculture and livelihood activities. “With financial aid from the Azim Premji Philanthropic initiative, we constructed a small pond on his land, to help him overcome the water crisis,” says Manjunath Hegde of MANUVIKASA..

With a size of 30 feet long width and 10 feet depth, the pond provides sufficient water for cultivation, even during summer season. Venkatesh now gets a yield of 10 kilos of arecanut and 3 kilos of coconut. He has also installed a 2 HP motor pump for lifting the water from the pond. “Due to the support and encouragement of MANUVIKASA, I have been able to overcome my water woes and agricultural issues. This has been instrumental in significantly improving the livelihood situation of my family,” says Venkatesh gratefully.

