

Broom making



Problem

- No value addition of *Pheonix* leaves.
- The leaves were sold as raw.
- Drudgery for combing.

Solution

- Trained 2 SHGs for broom making.
- Launched the broom in the market with trade name 'Vanasree'.
- Introduced combing tool.



Highlights from Core area 1: Tribal Development
Technologies to promote organic farming and yield enhancement

To Disseminate/ Bring About Innovative Technologies Among Tribal Farmers
to Make Them Up to Date In Agri And Allied Sectors.

CORE Support Programme (2008-2018)



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Technologies

Highlights

Promotion of Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO)



Problem

- Exploitation of middlemen

Solution

- Started a Collection centre in 2012.
- The collection centre has become a registered Farmer Producer Organization – Hill Range Farmer Producer Company.

Farm Mechanisation



Problem

- Dependence on traditional agricultural practices.
- Poor quality of final products.
- Lack of machineries for ploughing the land for rice cultivation.
- Drudgery in processing of spices.

Solution

- Introduced following machineries
 - Pepper thresher
 - Cardamom polishing machine
 - RRL cardamom drier
 - Tiller for paddy cultivation

Popularization of Underutilized Crops



Problem

- Genetic erosion.
- Plant varieties with short life span and bearing.
- Adoption of chemicals against pest and pathogens.

Solution

- Introduced 10 varieties of underutilized crops having regular bearing habit and tolerance to serious pests and pathogens.
- Popularisation of organic cultivation techniques.

Introduction of improved varieties of spices.



Problem

- Low productivity of traditional varieties.
- Repeated cultivation of same varieties in same fields resulted in harbouring varieties of soil-borne infections.

Solution

- Introduced improved varieties of ginger, turmeric and black pepper from Indian Institute of Spices Research and Kerala Agricultural University.

Quality Planting Material Production Units For Coffee And Pepper



Problem

- Farmers solely depend on stem cuttings of pepper and seedlings of coffee from same fields with least desirable characteristics.
- Variation is high in coffee due to the chances of cross pollination with tree coffee.
- Drought susceptibility.

Solution

- Established 5 nurseries of coffee and pepper.
- Introduced coffee varieties from coffee board, (Selection – 9 and Chandragiri).
- Nursery plants with established root system reduce drought damage.

Organic Certification



Problems

- Dependency on chemical fertilizers, fungicides and insecticides.
- Exploitation of representatives from different chemical companies.
- Lack of inputs for organic farming.

Solution

- Established vermin compost units in 200 households.
- Introduced various bio-control agents such as *Trichoderma*, *Metarhizium*, *Beauveria*, EPN etc...
- 250 tribal cultivators have been certified as organic farmers.

Technologies for Nutrient management



Problem

- Lack of awareness on the importance of soil testing.
- Poor growth of plants.

Solution

- Trainings conducted on various aspects of soil management techniques.
- Soil samples were collected and analysed in PDS soil testing laboratory and recommendations were given for soil reclamation.

Soil and Water Conservation



Our role

- Introduced soil bunds, stone bunds, rain pits and well recharging in the tribal areas through KKS project and NABRD supported TDF.
- Stone bunds – 5783 m²
- Soil bunds – 1257 m²
- Rain pits – 4350
- Ponds - 33

Crop Diversification



Problem

- Dependency on coffee and pepper.

Our role

- Introduced Cocoa, Paddy and Underutilized crops, Clove, Coconut and Nutmeg among tribal families.