

ADATS Bagepalli Forestry Project

838 012 Honnamma's story

"I live in Varahunasenahalli village of Siddalaghatta taluk along with my husband and son. Before joining the Coolie Sangha, I worked as a labourer in the fields in the neighbouring village. I was the sole income earner in my family because my husband was mentally unfit to work. My son had to drop out of school. I owned 2 acres of land but it was barren.

"After joining the Coolie Sangha, my fellow members elected me as the Women's Committee Member for our Cluster. With the help of the Coolie Sangha, my son was re-admitted to school. I was given financial help through our Women's Fund to buy a cow.

"Before DLDP, my two acres of land were barren. However, through DLDP and with the support of the CSU meetings, my lands were cleared and land documents were obtained. The village Coolie Sangha Unit allotted 20 to 25 days every year to work on my fields. One adult from each CSU household descended on my land to clear the uncultivable 2 acres of rocks and boulders, build contour bunding to slowly terrace the land, and also to build a stone bund along the perimeter.

"After DLDP, I tried to grow food crops on them, but it provided my family with only 6 months of food grain. I had to continue working as a labourer.



"For several years, during Coolie Sangha Unit (CSU) meetings, we discussed that a permanent source of income was necessary. By then, other Coolie Sangha members had decided to plant tree crops on their fields. I too decided to join them and planted 80 Mango trees. As I was the only worker in my family, the Coolie Sangha helped me a lot.

"Today, the Mango harvest gives me about ₹ 10-15,000 per year. My son works in a silk factory in Siddalaghatta and earns an extra income. I have stopped working as a labourer on other people's

fields. I also have 20 sheep which I graze on my land beneath the mango trees.

"From the Taluk CS meetings, I am aware that this CDM project will provide me with an additional income from Carbon Revenues. They have informed me that my 80 mango trees have generated about 54 VERs and hence I will receive about ₹ 54,000 if we get a good price."

