

# ADATS Bagepalli Forestry Project

## 605 012 Narayanappa's story

"I live in Mohammadpura village of Chintamani taluk with my family of five. Previously, I used to work as a Hamali, loading trucks in the market. I used to travel to other districts and states. I used to come home only once in 6-7 days. Half of the wages I got used to get over by the time I got home. The other half was not enough to run the house for my family.

"After joining the Coolie Sangha, I became aware of several government schemes. Under one of them, I was given some land. But it was dry, barren and uncultivable. During one of the CSU meetings, I got to know that our lands can be cleared through the DLDP. We used our unity for all of us to descend on each other's lands for 15-20 days every year to clear it of rocks and boulders, build contour bunds, etc. After some years, my land became cultivable. I was now like every other farmer in the village with 4 acres of cultivable land. I was so proud of changing from *Hamali* to farmer. The Coolie Sangha helped me get a borewell drilled on my land through another government scheme.



person in my village; Hamali to farmer!

"My family and I were very keen to plant Mango saplings on our land as part of the Afforestation/Reforestation program. We were provided with 160 saplings but only 101 survived. We dug pits, planted and watered the saplings with no outside labour.

"I started multiple cropping on my land. Between the Mango plants, I grow vegetables now. Last year, I earned ₹ 22,000 from selling mangoes and another ₹ 40,000 from vegetables. Because of this, I have become a well-known and respected

"In the Taluk Coolie Sangha meetings, I came to know that the Bagepalli Reforestation Programme has generated VERs and that we will receive money from selling these. My 101 Mango trees have generated 37 CERs, which will give me about ₹ 37,000. I am glad that my sons will never have to load trucks like I did."

