

Cornell Sathguru Foundation
for Development

ANNUAL REPORT

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ABOUT CORNELL SATHGURU FOUNDATION FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSFD)

CSFD is the corporate social responsibility arm of Sathguru Management Consultants, Hyderabad. The foundation was registered under the Andhra Pradesh Societies Registration Act 2001, India in the year 2004. CSFD was formerly known as Sathguru Foundation and was later renamed in the year 2005. CSFD was established in collaboration with Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

About Cornell and Sathguru

Cornell University is one of the best universities in the world for Agriculture, Food Science research and Education. Cornell University is recognized as one of the model universities for interweaving liberal education and fundamental knowledge with practical education and impact on societal and world problems. At the core of the initiative is innovation in teaching and learning through shared practices that connect students, faculty and curricula with communities in the public realm across the globe.



Sathguru Management Consultants, Hyderabad, India, has been in existence for over 30 years and is known globally for its expertise in science management, technology management, enterprise incubation, institutional capacity creation and policy advocacy. Over the years, Sathguru has built a very unique niche of experts with combined strength in science and technology research management and enterprise management. This has provided Sathguru the ability to excel in technology management, corporate strategy planning process and institutional capacity building. Sathguru has a wide global presence in several countries such as America, Africa, several parts of the South Asian region and the Pacific.



VISION

Creating an enabling environment for promoting sustainable social development through life sciences and technology

MISSION

To contribute towards sustainable agriculture and development by enhancing capacities, creating knowledge and promoting entrepreneurship and gender equity

KEY FOCUS AREAS, 2017-18

Engaging youth in agriculture by improving access to higher education, building awareness, careers, and developing leadership. Promoting

Agri-entrepreneurship.

Promoting Information and Technology for sustainable social development - training and creating awareness through eLearning especially to -

- 1) promote sustainable agricultural practices**
- 2) promote community based animal workers**
- 3) promote food safety**
- 4) promote health and nutrition**

Glimpses of 2017-18

Farmer to Farmer Interactive Training Program

19 - 23 September 2017



Farmer to Farmer Interactive training program is supported by FAO-Rome, Italy and implemented by Cornell Sathguru Foundation for Development (CSFD) based in Hyderabad, India. The main objective of the training program was to impart exposure to 12 farmers representing Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and SEWA Gujarat in India on recent advances in farming system with particular emphasis on crop production, seed processing, seed village, heavy machinery, use of IT advances and participation in Farmer Mela (exhibition/ fair)



The training program comprised of classroom orientation on farming practices of wheat, chickpea seed cultivation, pulses in Karnataka and seed village model of Dharwad. Later, participants visited tissue culture lab, seed unit, seed processing and testing lab, organic farming institute, hi-tech horticulture unit and poly house production of vegetables and flowers. Subsequently, farmers visited seed village, APMC market yard to understand the auction process and e-tendering, farmer's helpline center, and community radio. The last two days the farmers participated in the seed and krishi-mela (farmers fair) and interacted with other farmers to learn the latest advances and technologies in agriculture.



The program had equal representation of men and women farmers and all the sessions were conducted in Hindi to facilitate better understanding by the participants. Pre and post evaluation was conducted to record farmers learning and feedback.

Prior to commencement of the program, CSFD conducted a baseline evaluation to assess level of knowledge of the farmers, understand current practices and assess potential for farmer to farmer knowledge exchange. This was especially pertinent given the heterogeneity of the group and varying practices across the four countries from where participants were converged. On conclusion of the training program, CSFD conducted a final evaluation to understand areas where farmers' knowledge was enhanced on account of this training program, adoption of new practices were triggered and areas of intervention where farmers' thinking was stimulated.

The final evaluation group discussion also triggered an active exchange amongst farmers on areas where they had gained new knowledge, would consider sharing with other farmers and implementing in their farms in the near term horizon. Amongst other areas, several farmers alluded to gaining new knowledge on crop specific cultivation practices and novel concepts such as organic farming, hi-tech horticulture, tissue culture, seed village, certified seeds et al.



In words of Participants:

“Gained in-depth understanding to cultivation process of Wheat, Chick Pea and Green Gram”

Mohammad Fahid Shams Shabuj, Progressive farmers –Bangladesh

“I grow desi (local) and Kabuli chenna in full scale (chick pea) however never knew that we have to adopt different cultivation practices to each crop variety for better yield. I will now adopt the practices and also share with my peers”

Ms. Anitaben Ramhari Dendor Small farmer – SEWA Gujarat

“I am glad that we have made lot of advancement in organic cotton. It would have been great if this knowledge and curriculum was available 17 years back”

Chandra Prasad Adhikari, Organic farmer, Nepal




In words of Participants:

“The concept of inter cropping and sequential cropping is completely a new concept for us in Bhutan and would replicate the same in Bhutan. It’s really a great opportunity to learn and practically see the process in the seed village”

Mr Passang Tshering, Extension officer Bhutan

“After the nursery visit, I am planning to take loan and start my own nursery at least at a small scale. And I want to spread the knowledge that I have learnt here to my fellow farmers”

Ms. Pema Lhadon, Bhutan


The background image shows a group of people, likely students and farmers, in a market or processing area. They are surrounded by large baskets filled with various agricultural products, including what appears to be red tomatoes and dark, round items. The scene is brightly lit, and the overall atmosphere is one of active engagement and learning.

International Agriculture and Rural Development 2017-18

International Agriculture and Rural development course is annually conducted by Cornell Sathguru Foundation for Development, and has been diligently designed to clearly understand the multi-disciplinary agricultural system in developing and developed nations through two main modules- IARD 0420 (classroom learning/ Online cases) and IARD 0620 (field visits). The curriculum has been planned by subject matter expertise from the leading premier Universities, considering all the socio-economic technical factors. The course is planned, coordinated and implemented by Cornell Sathguru Foundation for Development.

This year, students from Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat and University of Agricultural Sciences Dharwad were nominated from the Indian State Agricultural Universities along with the students from Cornell University. The Indian team visited Cornell University, Ithaca to explore the agricultural models in developing nations both theoretically and pragmatically. Similarly, the team were on field-visits in Hyderabad and Dharwad to understand the traditional agricultural practices in developing nation.

The course accorded students to interact with Agripreneurs, entrepreneurs and farmers to understand the basic farming practices, market value, value addition, value chain analysis, market trends and how the demand and supply chain is maintained for each crop/ product with respect to the ever changing market across the geographies. The team visited various other small-medium-large scale enterprises, winery, cider making firms,



apple orchards, berry orchards, honey bee hives, solar stations, dairy barns, cheese making industry, dairy production unit, greenhouses, Geneva experiment station, horticulture farms in the Universities, veterinary hospital, organic farms, fiber making in University, farms and rural India, Alpaca farms, poultry farms, college of fashion in Cornell and others like Wegmans' for a case study on food retail, Bt Eggplant, AMP biotech and the biotechnology advancements at Boyce Thompson Institute. They also visited various agricultural farms, National and International agricultural institutes in India and learnt the R&D works happening for fostering agriculture. Thus, a 360 degree understanding of the agricultural systems and allied sectors in developed & developing nations were lucidly portrayed to the team.

“The course has been successful with the strenuous efforts of students and the involvement of learned faculties from Indian and Cornell University. This year, the course was much more successful as the students met the Chairperson of Borlaug Global Rust Initiative”- Dr. Jeanie Borlaug and the Noble Laurette - Dr. Roald Hoffman.

Testimonials of Students

“IARD 2018, program was one of the best experience that anyone can get in agricultural world. This program gave me a chance to explore Cornell University and agricultural system and new technologies that they adopt in Ithaca , USA or other developed countries. It was totally a brand new experience where I learned about new technologies, entrepreneurship development, etc. So, I would like to express my gratitude to Sathguru team as well as Cornell University and AAU who gave me this opportunity. In IARD India field trip I was in Rural Infrastructure team, and was able to see rural development in true sense in India.

At last I want to say that from this IARD program, I feel much more confident in myself and my career path after completing this trip. I networked with many people and learned many new things. Students from USA gave me some deep insights on various topics which I was little aware of before and vice-versa.

I picked up a lot of things in a relatively short time and gained valuable insights into not only my own sector but various other sectors too. The best part of my internship was meeting new and inspiring people. I received valuable career advice and discovered that a profession in agriculture extends beyond lab work to positions in technical support, and marketing. I have had the time of my life working with some brilliant people on things that I've known and admired my whole life. I can't wait to see what the future holds after graduating this summer.”

Priyanka Saikia.

Student of Assam Agriculture University



“My experience during the entire IARD course was explendid. Being a part of IARD 2017-18 I got a clear picture of the differences of Indian and American agriculture. It is also beneficial for my career as I got international exposure to a reputed University like Cornell. The program helped me to improve my communication skills. Moreover, it was also helpful for me to improve my writing skills as we had to write assignments and papers. All together the program was a great deal for me for my professional as well as personal development.”

Bandana Saikia
Student of Assam Agriculture University

Improving agricultural productivity of Small and Marginal farmers in Hathnoora Mandal, Sangareddy, Telangana



Paniyal and Badampet are two neighboring villages in Hathnoora Mandal, Sangareddy Dist., Telangana. The farmers of these villages were haunted by a common problem; Animal menace. The problem of animal menace has changed the face of agricultural practices in these villages. Many solutions were sought by the farmers to treat the problem of animal attacks on their farmlands. However, these solutions did not prove to have provided any significant results. The animals continued to damage the crop. This compelled the farmers to shift to a newer cropping pattern which was less attractive to the animals, yet unfavorable in many ways. The shift to growing only cash crops has taken a toll on the soil health, consumption pattern and nutrition levels, environment, etc.,



Identified stretch of land where the solar fence is intended to be erected

CSFD, with an intention to improve the agricultural productivity of the farmers and make renewable energy available to the grassroots implemented project where in a community solar fence is erected in identified stretches of land. A total of __ is being covered by this project reaching out to 73 farmers and their families.

The community solar fence is intended to help the farmers in many ways. Firstly, the protective system would ensure that the crop damage is reduced or is next to naught caused due to the animal attack.

Long-term effects of growing cash crops are harmful. The fertility of the soil is highly damaged as the crop rotation is minimized and limited to just the cash crops. The nutritional levels of the farmers and their families experience a drop as they are unable to grow food crops and save some for their own consumption. The regular attacks on farmlands have also affected the livestock in the village, as the growth of fodder beds have decreased.

Sangam (club) Formation:

One of the key activities of the program is to form a farmers club. The farmers club was intended to help the farmers to gain credit linkages, transfer of latest technologies, CSFD and village stakeholders had lengthy discussions with the farmers on sustaining and maintaining the solar fence after the project period. During this meeting, we discussed about farmers' club model and forming a Sangam (club). These clubs are intended to provide them with training on best practices in agriculture and give them access and linkages to credit facilities that can improve agriculture productivity and scope for economic activities in the village. This model proved to be successful in several villages and there are success stories where farmers have benefited from these clubs.



Case Study 1

“Cotton cannot be our staple food, can it be?”



Asking this question, Mr. [redacted] has stood up in one of the discussions during our project's regular meetings. His farmlands are attacked by animals like peacocks, wild boars and monkeys and they destroy almost 50% of their crop leading to a drastic cut in their income. This has been a trend for over years now, due to which he had to change the cropping pattern and shifted to growing cotton from many of the food crops like Sorghum (Jowar), Maize, pulses, etc.

The farmers of Paniyal have been victims of constant attacks by animals on their farmlands causing humongous crop loss and over a period of time, dwindling their incomes. As a result of continuous attacks by the animals on the crops, the cropping pattern had to be changed.

The farmers are now choosing to only grow cash crops which does not attract a lot of animals to the fields. This is one of the major challenges faced as a commonly across the village, apart from the lack of irrigational facilities. While, the well-off farmers could afford a reliable protection system for their farms, the small and marginal farmers cannot afford to erect a solar fence, which is known to have protected the crops from animal menace, around their farmlands.

Seeing this as a grave problem to the farmers, CSFD has designed an intervention to not only help attack the animal menace, but, also make technologies using renewable energy be accessible at the grassroots and to be able to improvise the rural infrastructure.

While, animal menace is a cause for many problems to the village of Paniyal, the project not only addresses this issue, but also, aims to target various other problems of the farmers, like lack of credit linkages, lack of sufficient knowledge, etc.,. One of the key activities of the project is to provide the necessary knowledge to the farmers by providing them a platform where they could be notified of the trainings on package of practices of various crops. A Sangam (group) is intended to be formed to discuss, resolve any agricultural related issues.



Executive Board



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