



Cornell Sathguru Foundation
for Development

Annual Report 2019 - 2020



**Towards Sustainable
Agriculture and Rural
Development**



**Cornell Sathguru Foundation
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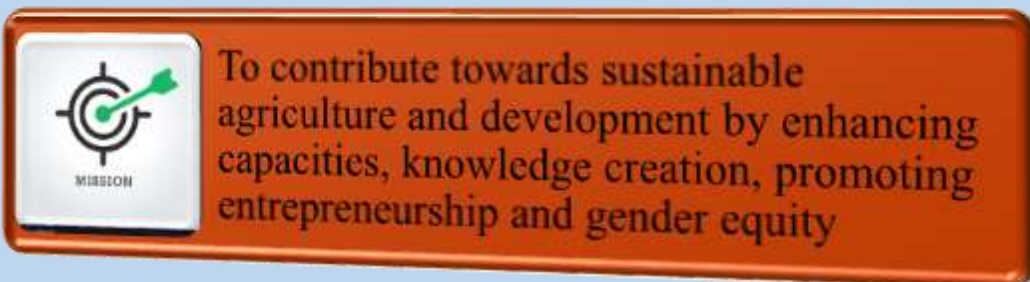
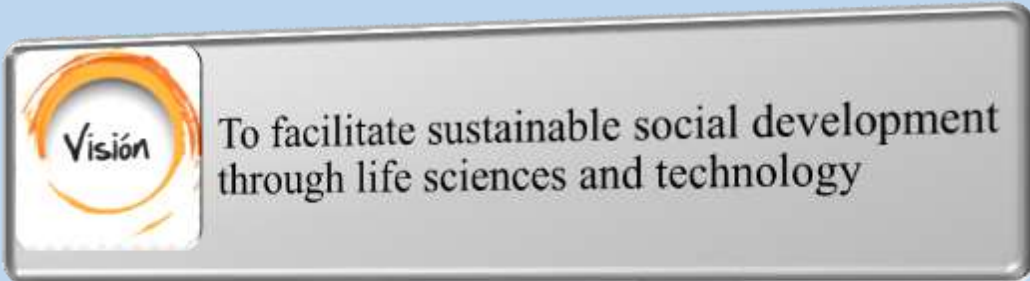
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About Us



The Cornell Sathguru Foundation for Development (CSFD) is a 19-year-old NGO jointly established by Cornell University in the USA and Sathguru in India. CSFD's primary goal is to promote sustainable social development by enhancing capacities, generating knowledge, fostering entrepreneurship, and advocating for gender equality.

CSFD collaborates closely with state agriculture universities in India to leverage technology, innovation, and agribusiness expertise to benefit farmers. CSFD has extensive experience taking up sustainable agriculture projects, especially projects on improving food and nutrition security through building farmers' capacities, climate-resilient agricultural practices, home gardening, ICT, and convergences. CSFD implements both national and international projects that impact farming communities.

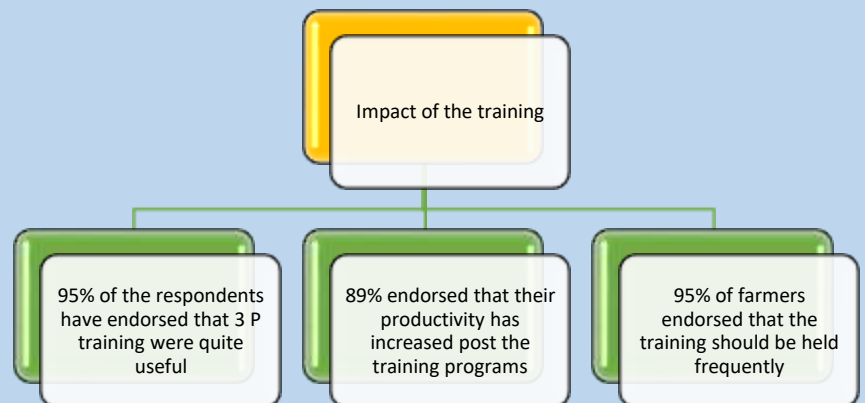


Improving agricultural productivity of small and marginal farmers – phase II

Phase II of the project is to enhance agricultural productivity among small and marginal farmers was launched as a continuation of the first phase which aimed to control animal damage through a community solar fence. The initial project highlighted the need for targeted interventions to ensure a comprehensive impact. Interventions under the project:

a. Farmer training programs

To boost the productivity of small and marginal farmers, village-level training programs were conducted, reaching out to 500 farmers across two villages. These programs focused on the Production, Protection, and Post-harvesting (3P) model and covered crops such as cotton, paddy, chickpea, and corn in accordance with the crop cycle. Programs were conducted with the technical expertise of Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University (JTSAU) and District Agricultural Advisory and Transfer of Technology Centre (DAATTC), Sangareddy. Post the training program. The farmers were highly impressed with the sessions on crop rotation and crop protection

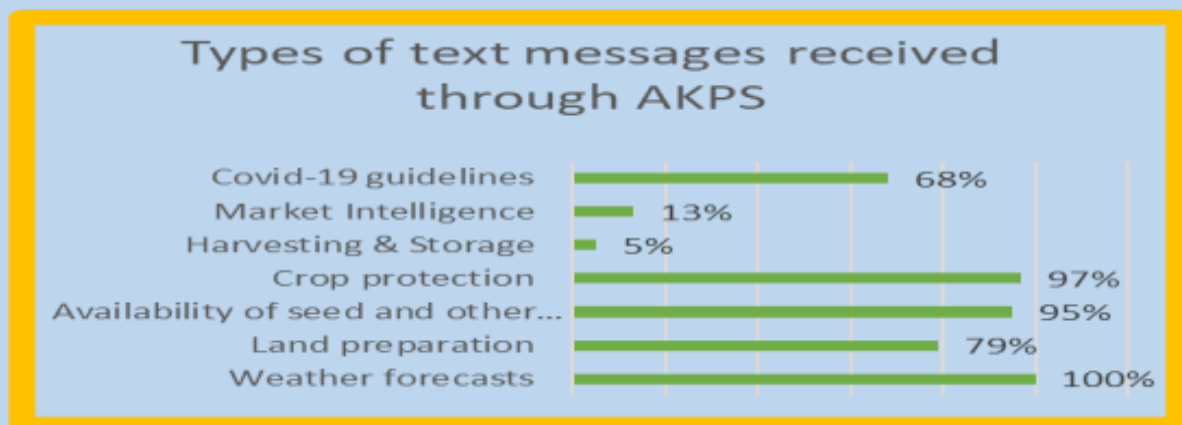


b. Annapurna Krishi Prasar Seva (AKPS):

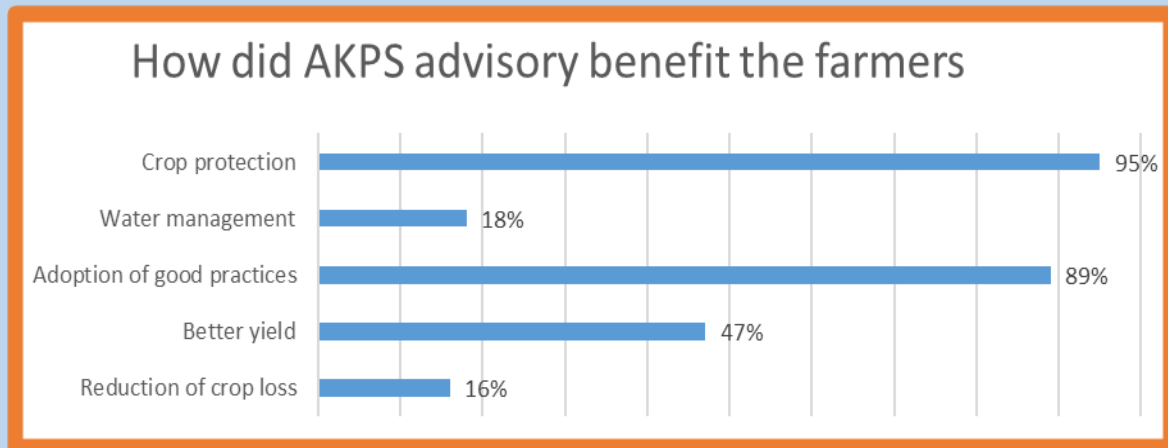
The CSFD and PJTSAU have collaborated to introduce AKPS, a farm advisory service, in two villages. Over 500 farmers have registered for the service, and awareness programs have been conducted to educate farmers on the AKPS app's features and its utility in farm management.



AKPS provides a platform for farmers to receive farm advisory through SMS and voice messages in the Telugu language. Additionally, farmers can access expert support through a toll-free number.



Farmers have highly appreciated the AKPS application for its ability to provide timely and valuable information on the best agricultural practices, which has significantly aided in effectively managing crops. The graph provided unequivocally demonstrates the benefits of the application.



c. Kitchen gardens for improving food and nutrition security:

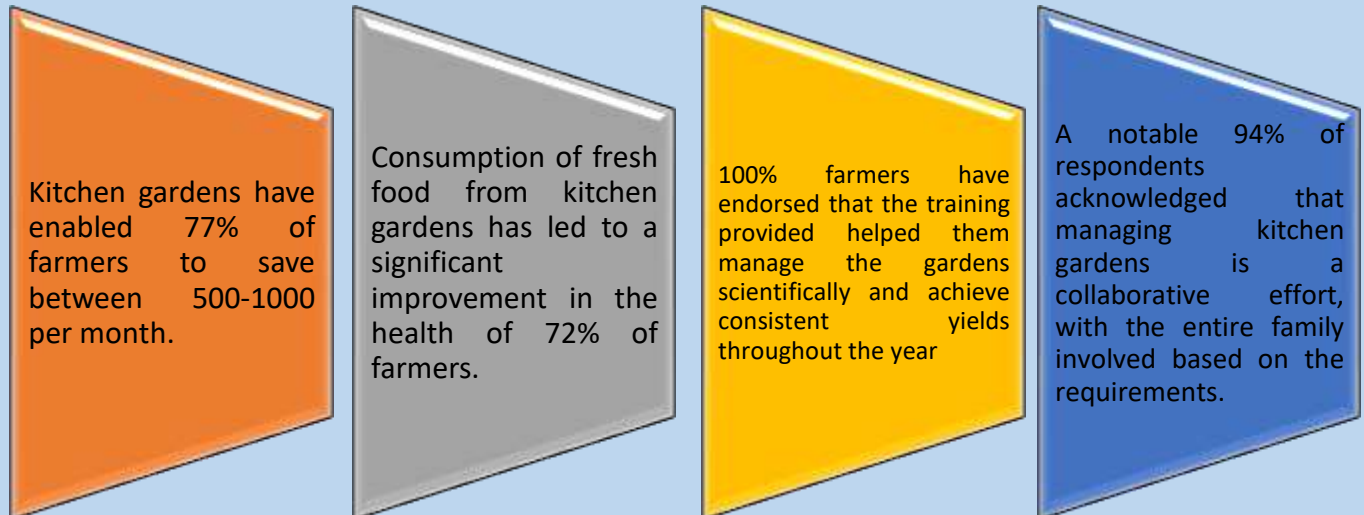
The dynamics of land and real estate have brought about a decline in kitchen gardening in peri-urban districts and villages. To address this, CSFD initiated a successful pilot project aimed at enhancing food and nutrition security. The project involved training 55 households in two villages on establishing scientifically-based kitchen gardens. As a result, these families now have direct access to fresh and nutritious food grown at home. Women farmers received technical assistance from PJTSAU to set up the



gardens using scientific methods, while Mahcyo, a leading seed company, sponsored the necessary inputs. By employing high-quality inputs and adopting best management practices, a single garden was able to produce enough vegetables to sustain four families. This allowed households to channel their resources towards other social and economic needs. In addition to the food

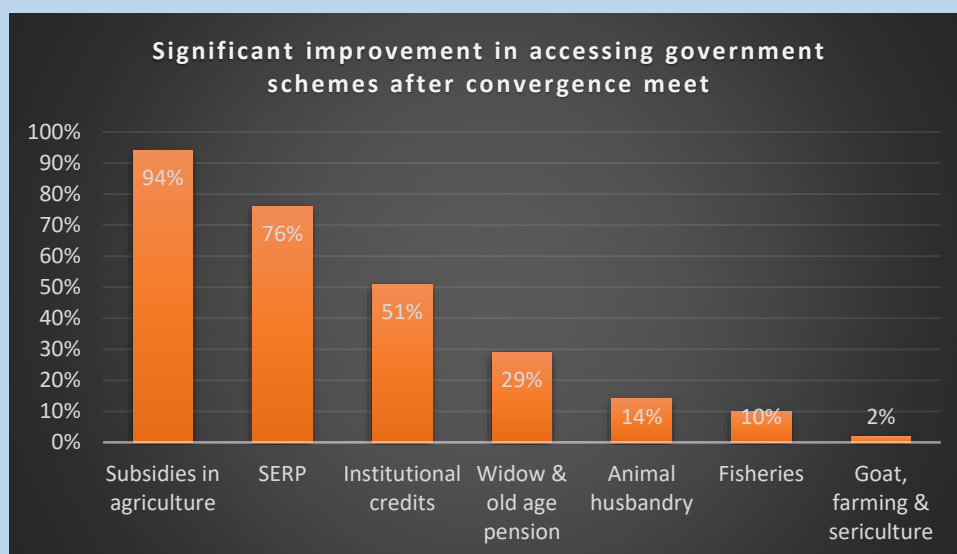


supplements provided by Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), the consumption of adequate quantities of vegetables and greens from kitchen gardens by pregnant women and lactating mothers has shown positive impacts on their health.



d. Convergence meet for improving linkages to government schemes:

To enhance farmers' access to government schemes specific to each region, a convergence meet was organized. The meet included the district collector and officials from 15 line departments such as Agriculture, Horticulture & Sericulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Irrigation, DAATTC, Agriculture Marketing, Forestry, Society for the Elimination of Rural Poverty, ATMA, district education department, Women and Children Welfare, NABARD, and others. 5000 farmers benefitted through this platform to gain a thorough understanding of the schemes and subsidies, farmers were also able to establish a rapport with the line departments.



Following the convergence meeting, farmers reported a significant improvement in accessing government schemes. Specifically, 94% of them were able to access subsidies in agriculture,



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while 76% accessed Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) schemes for alternative livelihoods and financial support. Additionally, 51% accessed institutional credit from various banks, 29% accessed widow and old age pensions, and 14% accessed schemes in animal husbandry. Furthermore, 10% accessed schemes related to fisheries, 2% in goat farming, and sericulture. Overall, the convergence meet played a crucial role in facilitating participants' access to a wide range of government schemes.

e. Building capacity for rural youth and farmers in modern agriculture:

Agriculture plays a vital role in driving economic growth, ensuring food security, generating income, and facilitating exports. With more than half of the Indian population still engaged in agriculture, the sector holds significant importance in various socio-economic aspects. However, to keep up with the changing global economy, it is crucial to involve the youth in agricultural reform. India, being the world's youngest nation, possesses abundant youth resources that can contribute to the agricultural sector. Unfortunately, youth participation in agriculture has been declining, posing a challenge to the sector's future development.



In an effort to address the concern of declining youth participation in agriculture and to encourage meaningful engagement in the field of agriculture and agribusiness, the Cornell Sathguru Foundation for Development (CSFD), in collaboration with Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJTSAU), has initiated rural youth and farmer training programs in modern agriculture and agribusiness across Telangana.

The first training program took place at the Agriculture Research Station (ARS) in Tornala, Siddipet, Telangana, from February 24th - 29th, 2020. The 6-day experiential residential training program covered four modules: agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, and agribusiness. The youth underwent classroom sessions, experiential learning activities, and exposure trips to model villages, research stations, incubation centers, and farm implements and machinery centers at PJTSAU.



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B. International Agriculture and Rural Development (IARD) – 2019-20

CSFD organizes the annual International Agriculture and Rural Development (IARD) program, aimed at empowering students from Cornell University and Indian State Agricultural Universities with international agricultural practices. The program prepares them to contribute positively to agricultural value chains in their respective countries. It brings together students from Asia, the USA, and Africa, fostering cross-cultural learning and collaboration in the field of agriculture.

This year, CSFD successfully organized the IARD program, which brought together 52 students and faculty from Cornell University and four State Agriculture Universities (SAUs): Kerala Agriculture University (KAU), Professor Jayashanker Telangana State Agriculture University (PJTSAU), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), and University of Agricultural Sciences Dharwad (UASD).

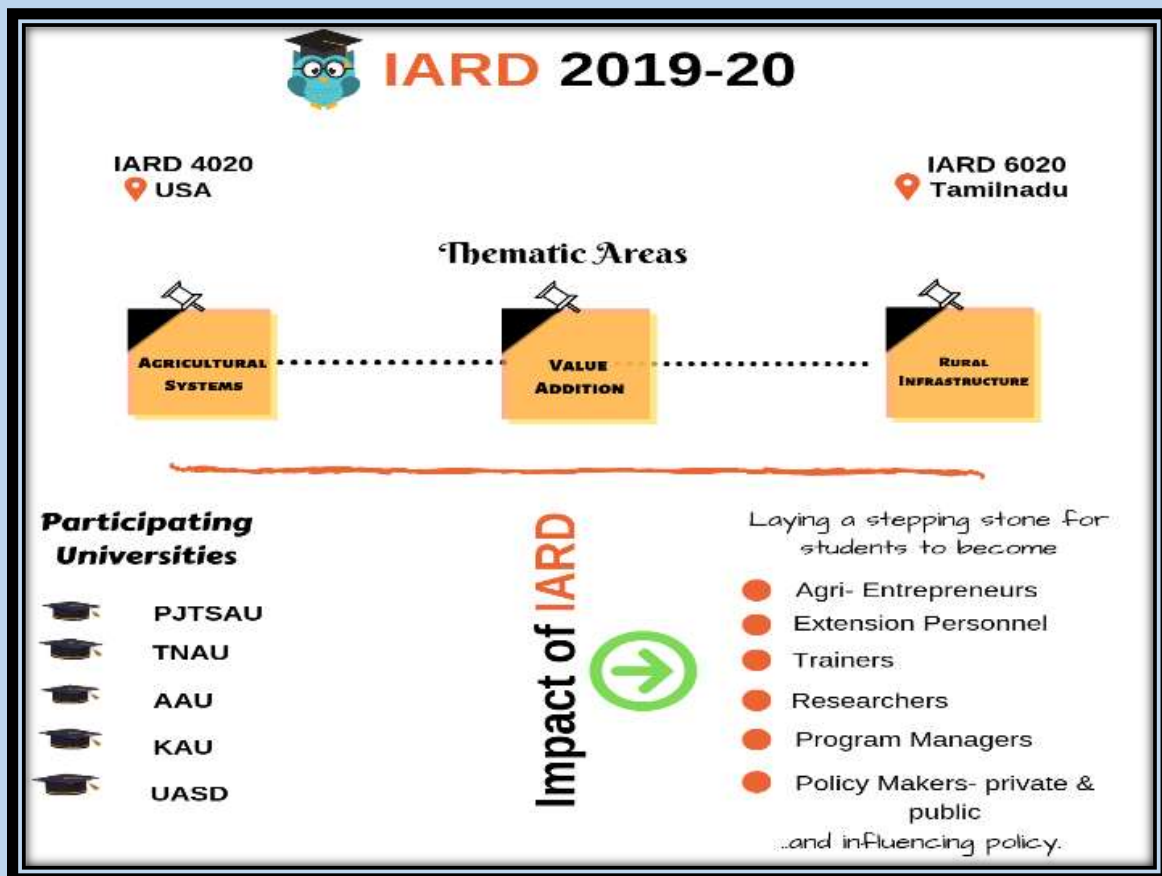


As part of the program, 20 Indian students and faculty from the SAUs visited Cornell University in September 2019. They actively participated in classes and field visits, which proved to be exceptionally beneficial in gaining an in-depth understanding of international agricultural practices.



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The IARD 6020 program commenced on January 4th, 2020. The exposure visits took place in several cities in Tamil Nadu, including Chennai, Erode, Salem, Coimbatore, and Pollachi. During these visits, students had the opportunity to explore various aspects of agriculture, including large-scale government irrigation projects, farm machinery, food industries, research stations, seed companies, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), agriculture extension services, and social development initiatives focused on women's engagement in agriculture and *development*.





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