

## Cornell Sathguru Foundation for Development

Towards Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development



## Annual Report 2021-22



# Introduction

CSFD is a registered not for profit foundation promoted jointly by Cornell University, USA and Sathguru India. CSFD works to facilitate sustainable social development for enhancing capacities, knowledge creation, promoting entrepreneurship and encouraging gender equality. CSFD brings in expertise from diverse fields and institutions like Cornell University and state agriculture universities to advance technology, innovation and agribusiness in India. It is guided by eminent board members and the expert team includes prominent professionals from the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, Cornell University and Sathguru.

With diverse expertise from our various technical partners CSFD aspires to advance technology, innovation and agribusiness in India. CSFD has hands-on knowledge in designing initiatives to engage youth meaningfully in agriculture and transfer knowledge to farmer communities.

CSFD contributes to the fulfilment of Sustainable Development Goals – No poverty, Zero hunger, Good health and wellbeing, Quality education, Gender Equality and Decent work & Economic growth.

## Vision

To facilitate sustainable social development through life sciences and technology

## Mission

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





# Sustainable Development Goals





# HIGHLIGHTS 2021-22

Armed with the right skill sets  
to **farmers and  
rural youth** in  
six districts to explore  
agriculture profitably



Ensuring  
**nutrition  
security** to  
households in **9**  
villages in Sangareddy





## CORNELL SATHGURU FOUNDATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

CSFD promotes agriculture and rural development interventions. As part of sustainable social development, we have executed projects to facilitate small and marginal farmers to improve agricultural productivity and reached out to nine villages in Sangareddy.

This year's project focused on promoting kitchen gardens to improve food and nutrition security and retain youth in agriculture. The services of Annapurna Kissan Prasara Seva (AKPS) agro advisory have continued to provide timely guidance on good agricultural practices through mobile phones.



## Improving Food and Nutrition Security - Kitchen Gardening

With a key focus on improving food and nutrition security, social empowerment; enhancing income opportunities, and gender equity, kitchen gardens were initiated in 9 villages in Hathnoora Mandal. At the program's inception, we trained the beneficiaries on scientifically laying the kitchen gardens and provided 14 varieties of locally preferred vegetable seeds and agri-inputs. Subsequently, created awareness of the importance of a healthy diet and guided them to maintain gardens and consume fresh food. Kitchen gardens have proved to be a sustainable model for providing food security and diversity to combat malnutrition at the household or community level. As a result of this project, 77% of kitchen garden farmers saved INR 800 -1000 per month. In addition, kitchen gardens during pandemics have proved very helpful in addressing the food shortage due to COVID 19 lockdown and enabled households to fight nutrition deficiencies caused due to COVID 19 economic crisis. Environmentally this initiative has reduced 7.932 Kg Co2/ carbon footprints per family per month. (Assuming that primary stakeholders will travel 12 km up and down to reach the nearest market five times in a month, leading to emissions of 7.932 Kg Co2/ family/month). And each family can save at least 2 hours weekly by not making visits to the market for purchases

This model was presented at World Food Prize Michigan State University (MSU) Side Event on Home Gardens for Food and Nutritional security in developing countries and was published as policy brief.





# Social Return On Investment

## Health Benefits

- Consumption of nutritious food has improved the overall health of stakeholders in the villages and the Anganwadi beneficiaries.

## Social Benefits

- Women's empowerment and the ability of households to invest their savings in child education and other social needs.
- Strengthening social relations in the village due to sharing of excess produce
- Gender equality

## Environmental Benefits

- Reduction in carbon emission by 35694 tons per crop cycle
- Adoption of good agricultural practices

## Economic Benefits

- Self-consumption of vegetables
- Cost cutting on purchase of vegetables INR 30,00,000 worth by 75% of households per crop cycle
- 25% of households sold excess produce for 3 months which gave an additional income of around INR 9,00,000



## Retaining Youth in Agriculture – Making Agriculture a Viable Career

As part of our commitment to retaining youth in agriculture more meaningfully, we have been training rural young and progressive farmers and enabling them to explore agriculture profitably. The key purpose of the training program is to enhance the skill sets of farmers and facilitate them to explore agriculture innovatively. It is envisioned that this training will ignite youth interest in agriculture and help them perceive it as a lucrative and intellectually stimulating career option.

To facilitate young farmers to understand the opportunities in agriculture, we conduct a one-week residential training on the latest advancements in agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries, sericulture, and agribusiness. The training provides them with hands-on experience through guided field visits, interactions with progressive farmers, government officials and entrepreneurs, FPO leaders and classroom lectures.

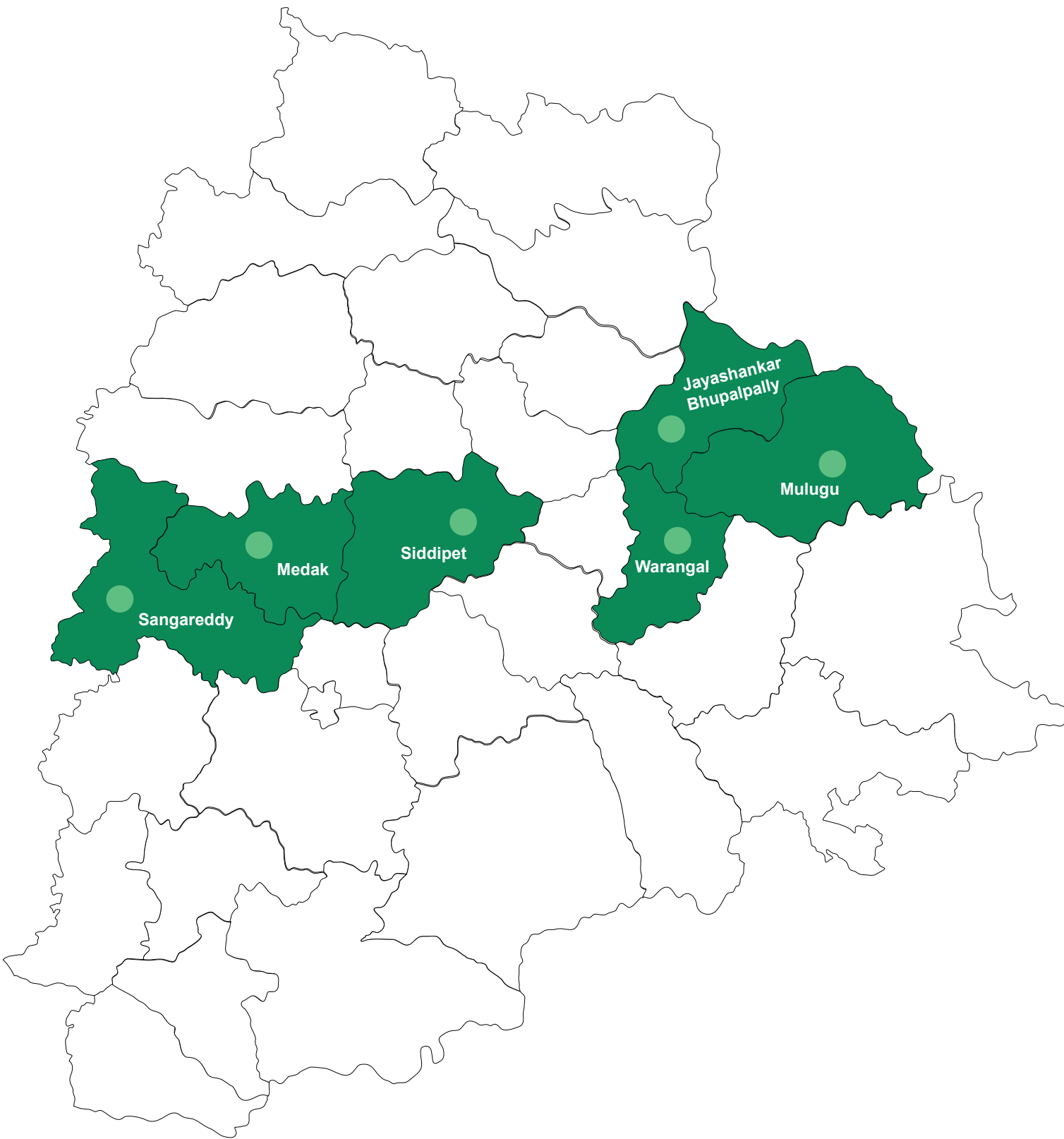




This year, we conducted week-long residential training for rural youth and farmers reaching out to farmers from six districts in Telangana namely Sangareddy, Medak, Siddipet, Warangal, Mulugu, and Jayashankar Bhupalpally. Along with classroom lectures, training included field tours, interactions with progressive farmers, exposure trips to the model villages, research station, incubation center, and farm implements and machinery centres. Program was conducted at the Regional Agriculture Research Station (RARS) Warangal, Telangana with the technical support of PJTSAU.



## Our Geography



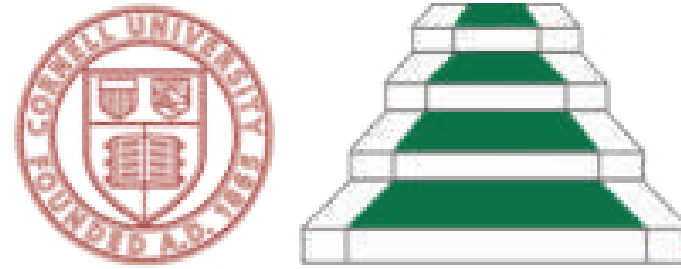


While we primarily trained 55 farmers as secondary beneficiaries and as a spill-over effect, this training has reached out to 1100 farmers from 6 districts in Telangana. WhatsApp groups for alumni were created to promote knowledge sharing and exchange of thoughts.

To study the impact of the training, a pre-and post-evaluation has been done for all the training programs. According to the evaluation reports, 93% of farmers agreed that their knowledge levels had increased significantly. 87% of youth training participants agreed that they were able to adopt the learnings from the training program, resulting in a 73% increase in productivity. The farmers shared they were able to transfer the knowledge they have gained to fellow farmers and help them to innovate in organic farming and value addition products.







Cornell Sathguru Foundation  
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## Funding Partners



## Collaborative/Technical Partners





Reach out to us at

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