



**Cornell Sathguru Foundation  
for Development**

**Towards Sustainable Agriculture and  
Rural Development**

# **Annual Report 2022-23**

[www.cornellsathgurufoundation.org](http://www.cornellsathgurufoundation.org)  
[info@cornellsathgurufoundation.org](mailto:info@cornellsathgurufoundation.org)



# Contents

From the Director's desk.....	3
About Cornell Sathguru Foundation for Development.....	5
Vision and Mission.....	6
Our Presence.....	7
Key Highlights- 2022.....	8
Youth and Farmer Training Programs in Modern Agriculture.....	9
Post-training engagement of the farmers.....	11
Impact stories.....	12
Aharamu and Aryogyamu – Kitchen Gardening Project.....	15
Impact story.....	18
Our Partners.....	19

## From the Director's desk

CSFD is pleased to unveil this annual report spotlighting impactful initiatives that have significantly transformed rural communities.

The daily challenges posed by climate change emphasize the crucial need for adopting climate resilient agricultural practices. Year after year, our youth and farmer training programs continue to empower and inspire farmers to embrace sustainable agricultural practices, boosting productivity and incomes. Along with the enthusiastic adoption of these practices and our farmers' advocacy for environmentally sustainable methods within the landscape are particularly encouraging.

Our dedication to enhancing nutrition security through home gardens has ensured household food and nutritional stability, benefiting children, adolescents, pregnant women, and lactating mothers across two districts at both household and Anganwadi levels. This aligns with the objectives of the POSHAN Abhiyaan's National Nutrition Index, fostering a robust and healthy young generation.

The consistent growth of agricultural entrepreneurs fostered by our initiatives stands as a testament to our success. 20% of our trained youth have successfully initiated agribusinesses, motivating us to intensify our efforts in providing comprehensive training for farmers to thrive within agricultural enterprises and supply chains. The prospect of facilitating farmers toward rural entrepreneurship ignites our enthusiasm, and we eagerly anticipate broadening our impact in this field.

We sincerely appreciate the invaluable contributions of our esteemed partners. PJTSAU has been instrumental with their knowledge contributions. At the same time, the State agriculture and allied sectors, the Women & Child Welfare Department, and Sankalp have shown unwavering commitment to enhancing the well-being of farming communities.

Our financial partners - Aurobindo Pharma Foundation, Nugenes Pvt Ltd, Mahyco, Nunhems India Pvt. Ltd. (BASF), and Madison Incentives - have been crucial pillars, offering substantial support that significantly contributes to the advancement of agriculture and rural development. Lastly, our dedicated teams, driving our mission forward and enabling us to accomplish our objectives, deserve immense appreciation for their tireless efforts.

With immense pride, I present this annual report encapsulating our collective efforts, achievements, and impact. We invite you to delve into its pages, hoping it will inspire you and offer valuable insights into our shared endeavors.



**Hemalatha Vijayaraghavan**  
Director CSFD



## About CSFD

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.



## Vision

To facilitate sustainable social development through life sciences and technology

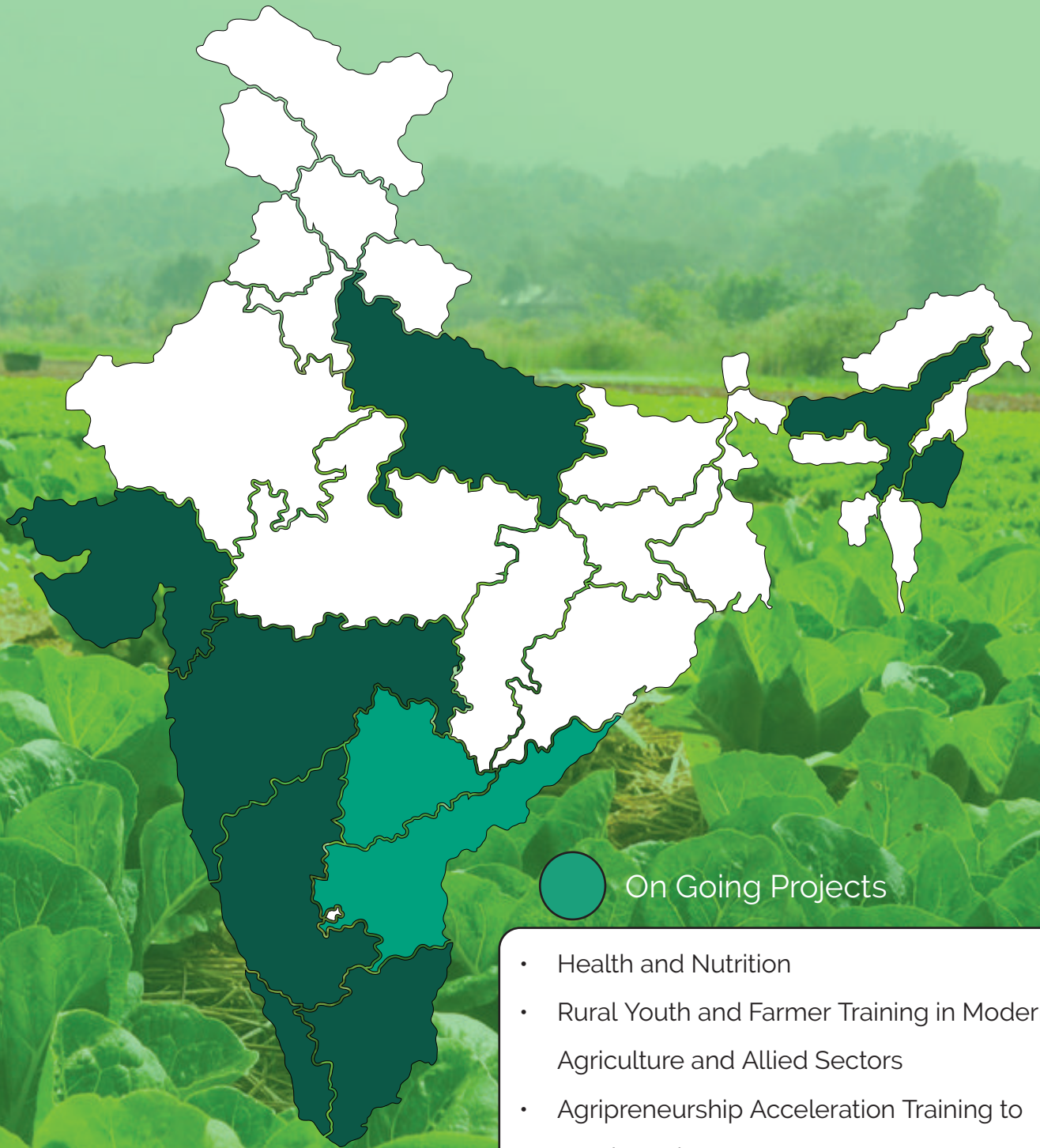
## Mission

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

## Sustainable Development Goals



# Our Presence



On Going Projects

- Health and Nutrition
- Rural Youth and Farmer Training in Modern Agriculture and Allied Sectors
- Agripreneurship Acceleration Training to Rural Youth



Completed Projects

- International Agriculture and Rural Development (IARD)
- Farmer-to-Farmer Training to farmers in South Asia
- Student Scholarships for Higher Education in Agriculture
- Improving Agricultural Productivity of Small and Marginal Farmers by Erecting Community Solar Fencing , Phase - I
- Improving Agricultural Productivity of Small and Marginal Farmers Phase - II

# Key Highlights 2022

**Environmental Consciousness:**  
Reduced **27,240** kilograms of CO2 emissions through kitchen gardening.

**Empowered Farmers:**  
Equipped **5000** farmers in Telangana with skills in modern agriculture and business expertise.

**Community Impact:**  
Extended kitchen garden benefits to **2000** more households through shared vegetables.

**Entrepreneurial Drive:**  
Sparked agri-enterprises ideas among 20% of participating farmers.

**Nutrition Amplification:**  
Improved nutrition for **1000** children, pre and post-natal mothers in 25 Anganwadis through Nutri gardens.

**Healthier Homes:**  
Enhanced nutrition in **1000** households via kitchen gardens, fostering better access to fresh vegetables thereby health.

**Financial Gain:**  
Enabled **1000** households to collectively save 9.6 million rupees in six months through kitchen gardening.





# Youth and Farmer Training Programs in Modern Agriculture

The training initiatives aimed at rural youth and progressive farmers, to ignite interest in agriculture and present it as a rewarding and intellectually stimulating career choice, have yielded positive outcomes.

During this fiscal year, we organized five extensive training sessions for rural youth and farmers, attracting participants from diverse regions in Telangana. These week-long residential programs were designed to acquaint young farmers with a range of opportunities in agriculture, covering the latest developments in agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries, sericulture, and agribusiness. These impactful programs were held at the Regional Agriculture Research Stations (RARS) across the southern, northern, and central regions of Telangana.



This initiative has reached out to more than 5000 farmers across Telangana as primary and secondary beneficiaries. To foster ongoing knowledge exchange, we established WhatsApp groups for alumni, providing a platform for sharing insights and encouraging meaningful discussions among participants.



# Post-Training Engagement of the Farmers

A pre and post-analysis of farmers' knowledge regarding modern agriculture, good agricultural practices (GAP), the latest advancements, and agribusiness opportunities was conducted, utilizing both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods. The findings from the analysis of 500 primary beneficiaries trained are as follows:

## Agricultural Profitability and Adoption of GAP:

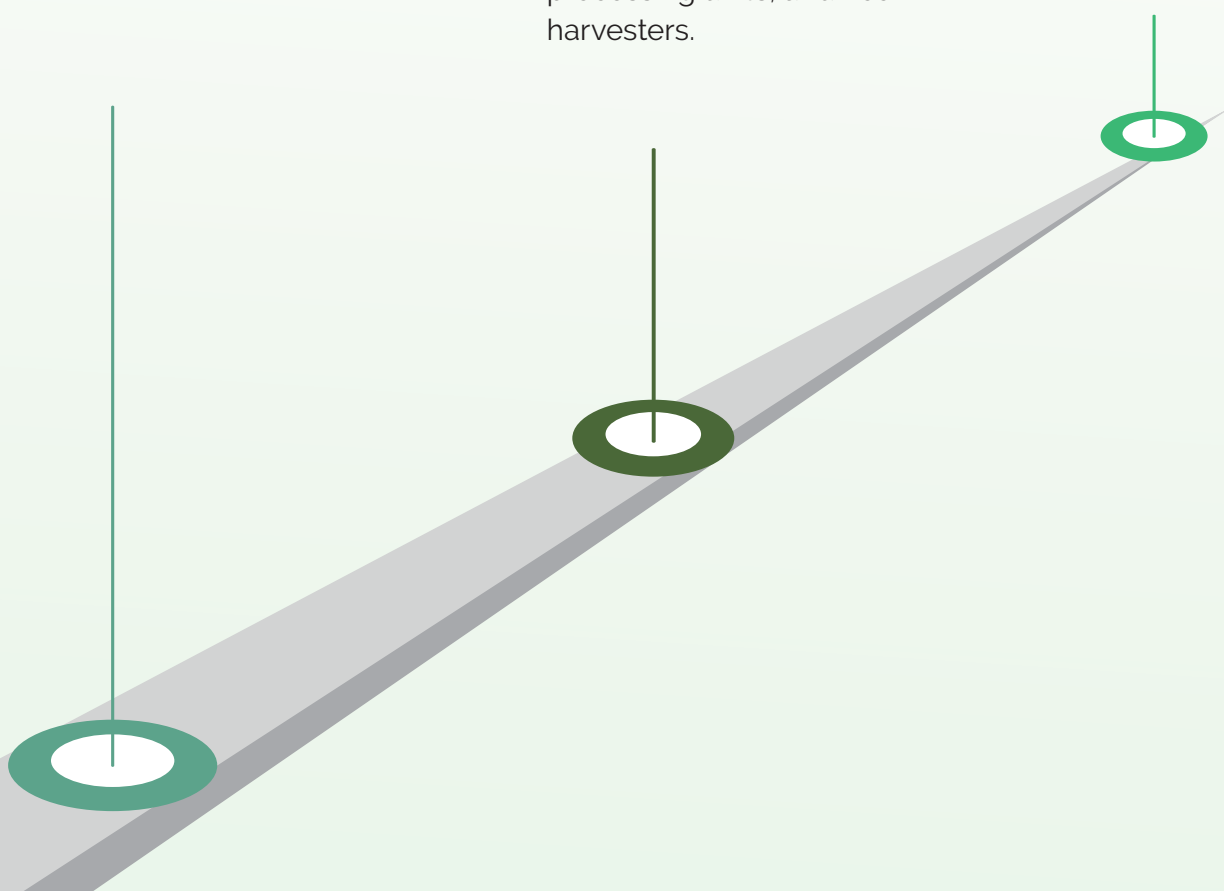
60% of the trained youth expressed their readiness to continue in agriculture, citing that they have experienced significantly increased profitability by adopting best agricultural practices. They reported a rise in profits from 60% before adopting GAP to 90%.

## Engagement in Agri Enterprises:

13% of the participants ventured into diverse enterprises, including dairy farms, sericulture, vermicompost production, fishery, sheep rearing, poultry, fertilizer shops, marketing of organic products, processing units, and rice harvesters.

## Higher Education and Employment:

27% pursued higher studies in agriculture and subsequently entered agri-related jobs, such as agriculture field officers and representatives in seed companies, demonstrating a commitment to further education and contributing to the agricultural sector.



## Impact Stories

# From Animal Health to Organic Triumph: Alternative Livelihoods

Govinda Rajak is a dedicated Gopala Mitra - Animal Health Assistant (AHA), from the scenic village of Parakala in Warangal, Telangana. Serving on the front lines as Gopala Mitra, Govinda's story takes a transformative turn through the Cornell Sathguru Foundation for Development's (CSFD) six-day training on Modern Agriculture and Agribusiness at RARS in Palem, Nagarkurnool.



This training became the turning point for Govinda, reshaping his outlook on sustainable farming, with vermicomposting. Post-training, Govinda while continuing as Gopala Mitra, set up a 5-tonne Vermicompost unit, turning organic waste into nutrient-rich compost. In a remarkable 45 days, he witnessed the first cycle which he used in his farm and sold the later 7 cycles of yield, earning him 96,000 rupees by selling 12 tons of vermicompost in his village.

Proudly growing crops organically, Govinda's newfound knowledge fuels his aspirations to expand his business further, showcasing the power of passion and education. He says I am not just a Gopal Mitra but a vermicompost vendor and an organic farmer!!



## “From Fields to Actualizing Dairy Dreams”

“I’m Ajay Muddasani, from Kamalapuram village in Jagtial district. With six years of experience in agriculture, my interest in establishing an agribusiness led me to explore various avenues.

During this pursuit, I discovered and actively participated in a program conducted by CSFD at RARS Jagtial. Dairy farming, among other topics, captivated my interest the most. Post-training,

I initiated dairy farming with three buffaloes, investing INR 390,000 — INR 200,000 for shed construction, INR 190,000 for buffaloes, and inputs.

Starting small with three buffaloes allowed me to comprehend the intricacies of dairy farming, understanding both challenges and success requirements. The dairy operation began with the three buffaloes producing 20 liters of milk daily, sold to neighboring villages at INR. 70 per liter. This resulted in a monthly income of INR. 30,000, excluding maintenance charges. Thrilled with the initial results, I now aim to expand both the shed size and the number of buffaloes, driven by my growing satisfaction with the venture.”

# “Rising from Adversity Srikanth’s Journey to Poultry Prosperity”



Srikanth's 13-year agricultural journey has been a series of challenges, grappling with adverse climate conditions and soil health issues that impacted both yields and profits for him and his fellow farmers. While exploring opportunities for alternatives to agriculture, his breakthrough came with a training program by the CSFD, where he was introduced to the concept of country chicken farming. Armed with newfound knowledge, he established his poultry farm in January 2023, housing 200 birds.

Investing approximately INR 112,000, the venture involved INR 100,000 for shed construction and INR 12,000 for acquiring 200 birds. While 25 chicks did not survive, the remaining thrived, reaching a weight range of 2.5 to 4 kilograms. The total yield from 175 chicks amounted to 550 kilograms of chicken, generating a gross revenue of INR 220,000 by selling at INR 400 per kilogram. After deducting maintenance charges, he earned a net profit of INR 120,000.

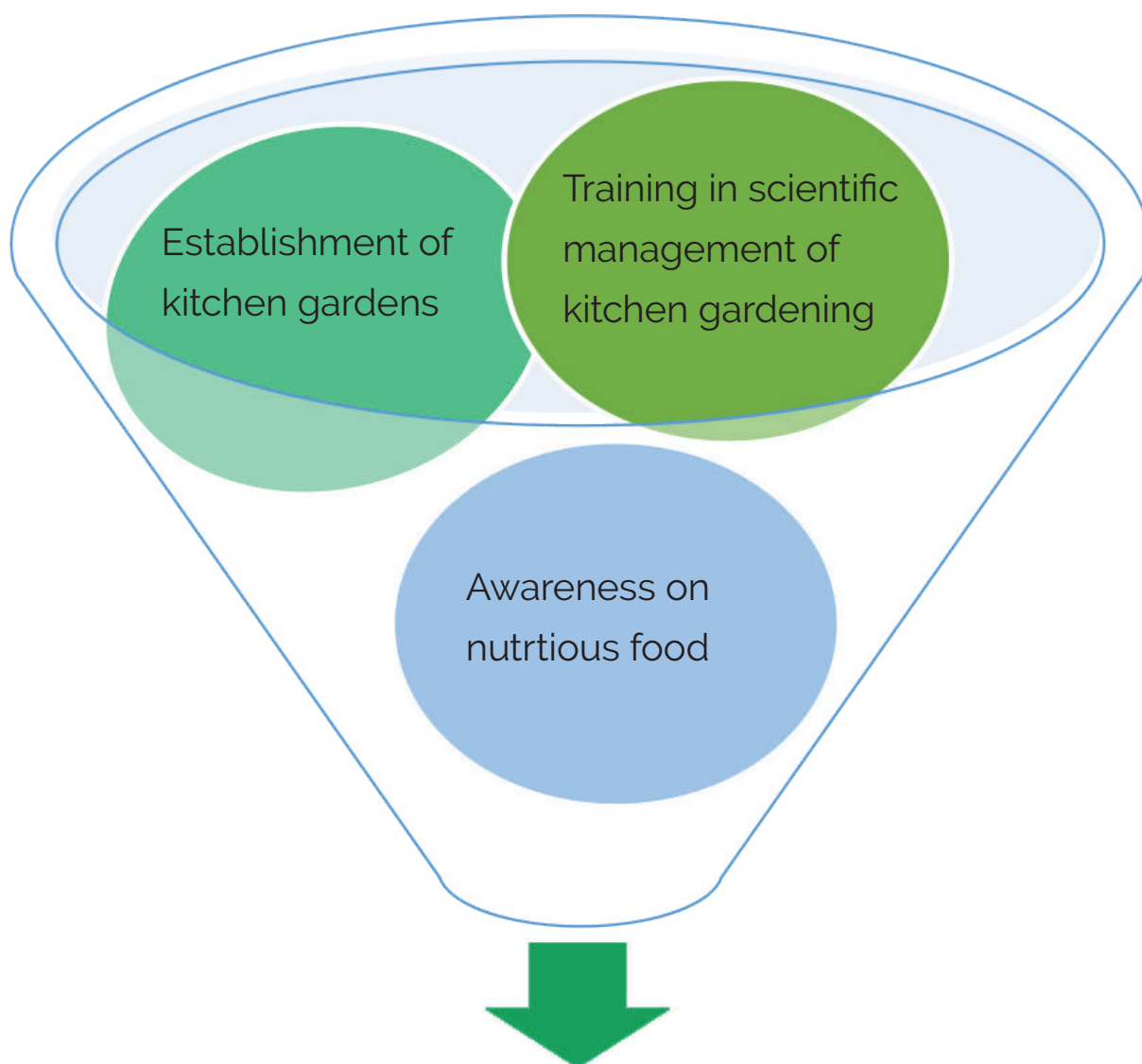
Encouraged by this success, Srikanth plans to reinvest in 250 birds, expand the shed space, and increase his income further. He now proudly says that the training program instilled a renewed passion for agriculture and illuminated alternative avenues in agri-value chains.



# Aharamu and Aryogyamu - Kitchen Gardening Project

Improve access to nutritious food through kitchen gardens in the Sangareddy and Mahabubnagar districts of Telangana

In a concerted effort to enhance food and nutrition security, promote social empowerment, generate income opportunities, and foster gender equality, CSFD collaborated with Sankalp, a sister entity, to implement a project centred on Aharamu and Aryogyamu through kitchen gardening.



Promotion of food and nutrition security, promoting social empowerment, creating income opportunities, and promoting gender equality

Strategically implemented the project during the Rabi season in Sangareddy and Mahbubnagar, successfully establishing kitchen gardens in 1020 households and Nutri gardens in 25 Anganwadis across 25 villages in two districts. Anganwadis were included to reduce stunting and acute malnutrition in children of 0-6 years and to provide nutritious food for pregnant and lactating mothers.

To facilitate households to lay the gardens, kitchen gardening kits were distributed to participants, featuring 16 varieties of vegetables, 25 kgs of vermicompost, 5 kgs of neem cake, and best practices posters and crop calendars. The distribution ceremony was graced by esteemed personalities, including Mr. TS Madhan Reddy, MLA, Narsapur, Mr. Rajarshi Shah, IAS, additional collector Sangareddy, and Ms. Hemalatha Vijayaraghavan, Director of Sankalp & CSFD. District line department officers from agriculture, horticulture, women, and child welfare also attended the event.





Post-establishment of the kitchen gardens, awareness sessions were conducted to underscore the importance of consuming nutritious food. Nutrition experts from the Women and Child Welfare Department led these sessions. Parallely, representatives from the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) and the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) covered value-addition topics. Facilitators employed flipcharts and the WCD food & nutrition compendium, utilizing culturally relevant examples and success stories to enhance comprehension.

Encouragingly, participants reported saving seeds for the upcoming season, signalling that the fundamental concept of home gardening has taken root in their minds. The belief that homegrown food improves health, and nutrition, and saves money has resonated among the beneficiaries.



# Cultivating Change: Lavanya's Transition to Organic Farming

Lavanya, a resident of Govindarajpally village in Sangareddy district, manages a 7-acre plot where she cultivates various crops, including vegetables. However, her lack of knowledge in pest management led to the excessive use of pesticides on her farm produce.

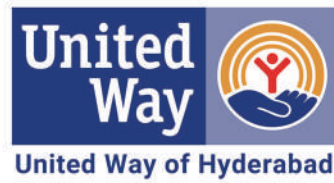
Her perspective transformed after enrolling in the kitchen gardening project and receiving technical training in managing kitchen gardening. This training emphasized the significance of organically grown food for health and well-being and the judicious usage of inputs. Post the training, Lavanya reflects, "I'm familiar with age-old practices, but the pressure to protect crops and ensure a good yield often led to careless input use."

Determined to change her approach, Lavanya expresses her commitment to producing organic vegetables for her family and but also on her farm, which grows for commercial purposes. Post the yield, she acknowledges that the market value for organically grown food surpasses that of pesticide-sprayed produce.



# Our Partners

## Funding Partners



## Collaborative/Technical Partners



Cornell Sathguru Foundation for Development





Reach out to us at

**Cornell Sathguru Foundation for Development**

Plot 54, 3rd Floor, Road Number 2, Sagar Society,  
Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, Telangana 500034,  
India

**Phone:** +91 40 6627 6200 / 205 / 346

**E-mail:** [info@cornellsathgurufoundation.org](mailto:info@cornellsathgurufoundation.org)

- All donations made to CSFD are exempted under section 80G of the Income Tax Act, meaning that 50% of your donation amount will be eligible for tax exemption.
- CSFD is CSR1 compliant meaning that we can undertake CSR activities funded by corporations and companies