

ANNUAL REPORT

2023 - 2024



Table of Contents

Directors Desk **01**

About CSFD **02**

Mission and Vision **02**

Sustainable Development Goals **03**

Brief About Rural Youth Training Programs **04**

Rural Entrepreneurs Enabler Meet **05**

Entrepreneurship Acceleration Training
Programs **06**

Funding Partners & Technical Partners **16**

Contact Information **17**

From the Director's desk

The Cornell Sathguru Foundation for Development (CSFD) is proud to present our annual report, highlighting the transformative initiatives that have made a significant difference in rural communities over the past year.

As climate change continues to pose daily challenges, the need for climate-resilient agricultural practices has never been more crucial. Our youth and farmer training programs are at the forefront of this movement, empowering farmers to adopt sustainable methods that increase productivity and improve livelihoods. The enthusiastic adoption of these practices and the growing advocacy for environmentally sustainable methods among our farmers is particularly heartening.

Our initiatives have yielded remarkable success, particularly in the steady growth of agricultural entrepreneurs. We are proud to share that 30% of the young people we trained have successfully launched their own agribusinesses, underscoring the effectiveness of our programs. This outstanding achievement inspires us to double down on our efforts, providing comprehensive training that equips farmers to thrive in agricultural enterprises and supply chains. We are confident in our ability to guide farmers toward rural entrepreneurship and are eager to expand our impact in this vital area.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our esteemed partners - PJTSAU, Agri Hub, PVNRTVU, and the Forest College Research Institute - whose invaluable expertise has been instrumental in our success. Their contributions have enriched our programs and deeply impacted the lives of our participants.

Our financial partners, Madison Incentives and NABARD have been the backbone of our progress, providing unwavering support crucial to advancing agriculture and rural development. We also owe immense gratitude to our dedicated teams, whose tireless efforts have driven our mission forward and ensured the achievement of our objectives.

We invite you to explore this annual report, which showcases our collective efforts, accomplishments, and the profound impact we've made. We hope it will inspire and provide valuable insights into our shared journey toward a sustainable and prosperous future for rural communities.



Hemalaha Vijayaraghavan
Director, CSFD

About Cornell Sathguru Foundation for Development

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.



Mission and Vision

MISSION

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

VISION

To facilitate sustainable social development through life sciences and technology

Sustainable development goal's

1 NO POVERTY



2 ZERO HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



5 GENDER EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



13 CLIMATE ACTION

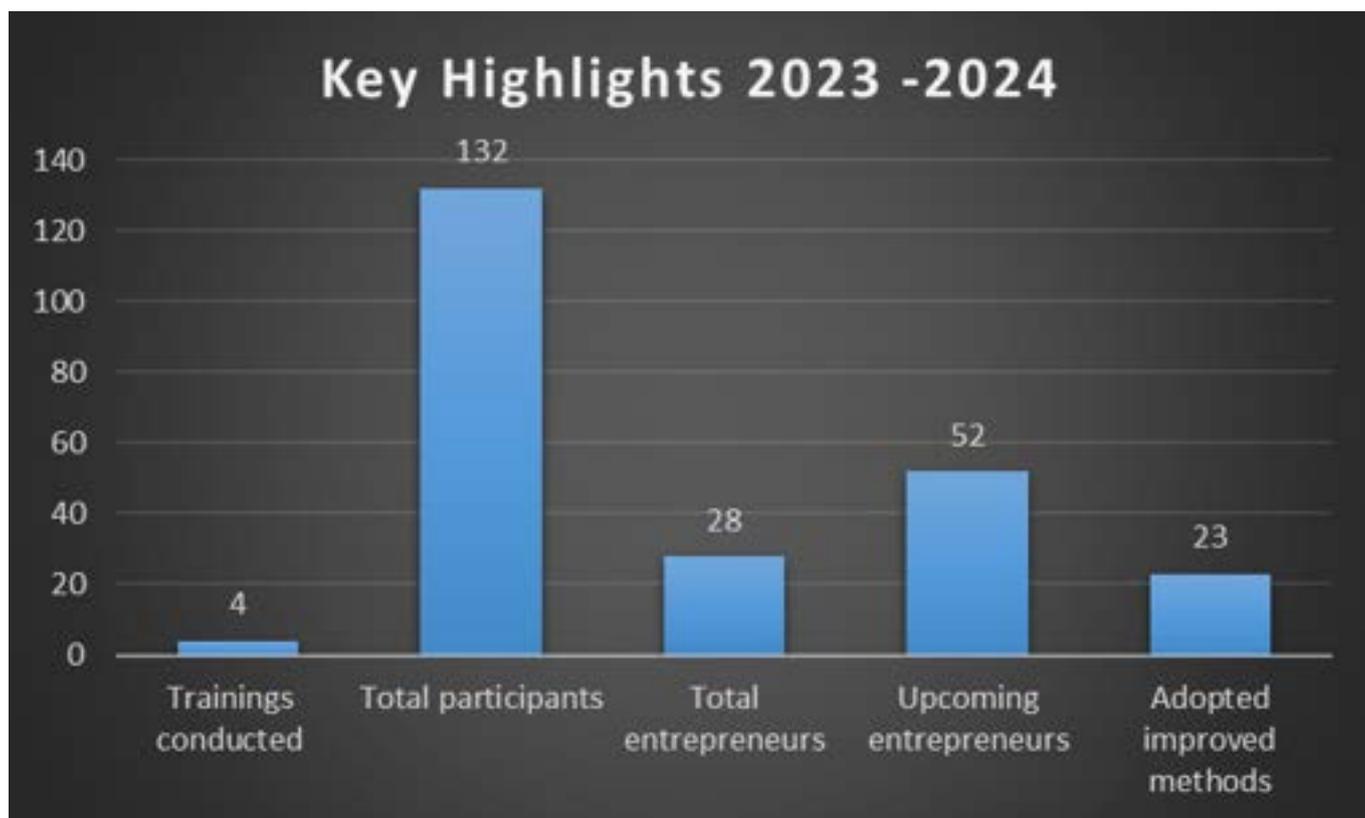


Empowering Rural Youth for Sustainable Agriculture and Agribusiness through Experiential Training Programs

Creating interest and confidence among rural youth and retaining them in agriculture is imperative to address the food security challenges.

CSFD has conducted several experiential training programs in agriculture and agribusiness, reaching out to over 5,000 youth from north, south, and central Telangana. We have organized these training programs in technical collaboration with Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJTSAU), Forest College and Research Institute (FCRI), and Agri Hub, Pre and post-training assessments of these trainings indicated that the training program has successfully improved the youth's understanding on good agricultural practices (GAP) and business ventures in Agri-supply chains. Furthermore, the training has created a growing demand for bolstering the youths' capabilities in agribusiness and business incubation.

CSFD has been building capacities and channelling an enormous youth workforce into agriculture-allied and service-sector enterprises for sustainable income and gainful employment in agriculture.



Rural Entrepreneurs Enablers Meet' (REEM)

CSFD has taken the first step to bring about some changes in Agri-Entrepreneurship by organizing a conference on June 14 - 2023, called Rural Entrepreneur Enablers Meet. In that meeting, we brought together various organizations and their representatives who are actively involved in promoting rural entrepreneurs and supporting rural communities.

The 'Rural Entrepreneurs Enablers Meet' (REEM) was organized by the Cornell Sathguru Foundation for Development in collaboration with AgHub. Esteemed organizations such as NABARD - National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Telangana State Innovation Cell, National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (ni-msme), Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty - India, Bala Vikasa Social Service Society, APMAS, Kakatiya Sandbox, and Palle Srujana participated in the event and shared their knowledge and expertise.



The REEM was designed to promote knowledge sharing, devise innovative strategies, and forge fruitful collaborations among rural entrepreneurs and enablers. The event served as a platform for stakeholders in the rural development sector to come together and discuss various issues and challenges faced by rural entrepreneurs. The event was aimed at providing a platform for rural entrepreneurs to showcase their ideas, innovations, and products, and to learn from each other's experiences.

The event was a great success, and it received positive feedback from all the representatives. The discussions and presentations held during the event were highly informative and helped in identifying new opportunities for rural development. The event also provided a networking opportunity for the participants to connect with each other and explore potential collaborations. Overall, the REEM was a remarkable event that contributed towards promoting rural entrepreneurship and empowering grassroots innovators.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP ACCELERATION TRAINING PROGRAMS

VERMICOMPOSTING



1

SERICULTURE



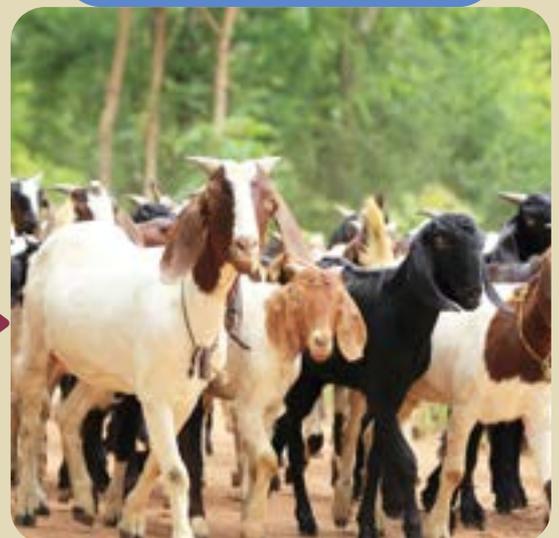
2

HONEY BEE KEEPING



3

SHEEP AND GOAT



4

As a result of the successful execution of the REEMs program, CSFD has conducted four comprehensive training programs on Agribusiness. These programs covered a range of topics, including Vermicomposting, Sericulture, Apiculture, and Sheep and Goat Rearing. The training sessions were designed to provide participants with a detailed understanding of each of these areas, as well as practical skills that they could apply in their own agricultural practices. Each program was led by experienced trainers and involved hands-on training, as well as classroom-based learning. Overall, the Agribusiness training programs were a great success and helped to equip participants with the knowledge and skills they needed to succeed in the agricultural sector.

Agripreneurship Acceleration Training Program for Rural Youth and Farmers on Vermicomposting

The Cornell Sathguru Foundation for Development (CSFD), in collaboration with Ag-hub, has successfully concluded a three-day Agripreneurship Acceleration Training Program for Rural Youth and Farmers on Vermicomposting. The training conducted at Ag-hub, PJTSAU, Rajendranagar from 1-3 August 2023, aimed to provide rural youth and farmers with the necessary knowledge and skills for successful ventures in Vermicomposting.



Participants and Program Overview:

A total of 16 enthusiastic farmers from, Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Warangal, Wanaparthy, Achampet, Nagarkurnool, Mulugu, Rangareddy, Siddipet, Mahabubnagar, Kurnool districts in Telangana actively participated in the program. Over the three days, the training covered various aspects of vermicomposting, delivering valuable insights and practical knowledge to the participants. A baseline assessment was conducted to evaluate the participants' pre-existing knowledge of Vermicomposting.



IMPACT STORY

Name - Kalpana Kukkala
Village - Mandharipet
Mandal - Shayampet
District - Hanmakonda

Kalpana, who participated in Cornell Sathguru Foundation's (CSFD) Entrepreneurship Acceleration Training Program in Vermicomposting, has evolved as an entrepreneur and a mentor, guiding fellow farmers in establishing their vermicomposting units. She is challenging traditional gender roles and catalyzing change, turning agricultural waste into wealth in the villages of Warangal.



Kalpana hails from Warangal District, Telangana, and always dreamt of starting a small enterprise to secure income on her own. Yet, like many women, she faced the gender-related barriers of limited resources and training. CSFD training proved a boon to her which not only honed her technical skills in vermicomposting but also equipped her with entrepreneurial skills to navigate their businesses successfully.

Following the training, she established a vermicompost unit with two beds. She initially purchased 3 tonnes of cow dung from local dairy farmers and sourced earthworms from the local KVK to start the unit. After just 2 months, she harvested her first batch of 2 tonnes, selling it for ₹10 per kg. Encouraged by this success, she expanded her unit, increasing the production capacity from 3 tonnes to 7 tonnes. To date, she has completed 8 production cycles, earning over ₹3 lakh within 14 months. Kalpana's journey is redefining women's traditional roles in her community, setting a new standard for gender equality.

Kalpana's story isn't just about entrepreneurial success; it's a testament to the transformative power of education, determination, and the essential role of women in shaping a more equitable society. Her journey embodies the spirit of empowerment, proving that when women are given the tools and the opportunity, they can transform their lives and communities.



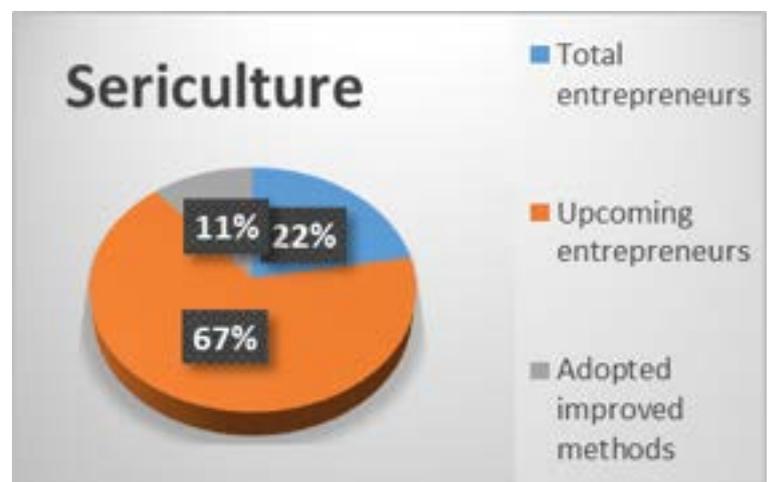
Agripreneurship Acceleration Training Program for Rural Youth and Farmers on Sericulture

The Cornell Sathguru Foundation for Development (CSFD), in collaboration with Ag-hub and technical support from the Agricultural College, Polasa has successfully concluded a four-day Agripreneurship Acceleration Training Program for Rural Youth and Farmers on Sericulture. The training, held at Agricultural College, Polasa, Jagtial from 4-7 October 2023, aimed to provide rural participants with the knowledge and skills necessary for successful ventures in Sericulture.



Participants and Program Overview:

A total of 31 enthusiastic farmers from Adilabad, Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Badradri-kothegudem, Wanaparthy, Achampet, Nagarkurnool, Hanmakonda, Mulugu, Rangareddy, Siddipet, Mahabubnagar, Kurnool districts in Telangana actively participated in the program. Over the four days, the training covered various aspects of sericulture, providing valuable insights and practical knowledge to the participants. The participants underwent a baseline assessment to determine their knowledge of Sericulture.



IMPACT STORY

Name - Sravana Chary

Village - Mylaram

Mandal - Wargel

District - Siddipet



A Journey from Training to Thriving

Mr. Sravan from Siddipet participated in the Entrepreneurship Acceleration Training Program in Sericulture conducted by the Cornell Sathguru Foundation for Development in October 2023 at Agriculture College, Polasa (PJ TSAU). During the five-day residential training, he gained extensive knowledge about silkworm rearing.

During the training, he learned in-depth about planting mulberry plants, key methods to follow in rearing for better results, disease mitigation, optimal temperature maintenance in the shed, feeding techniques, and the final stage of cocoon marketing.

After the training, Mr. Sravan secured the investment needed to build a shed and identified a suitable location to establish a silkworm-rearing unit. He invested over Rs. 14 lakhs for constructing the shed (60 feet long, 20 feet wide, with a capacity for 200 eggs), installing equipment, and planting mulberry on 2 acres of land nearby. He also received a government subsidy of Rs. 5 lakhs.



Currently, he has successfully completed 4 cycles, earning more than Rs. 45,000 per cycle (each cycle lasts 45 days). He is currently rearing 150 eggs and plans to increase the count to 200 eggs for the next season, anticipating even greater profits in the upcoming cycles.

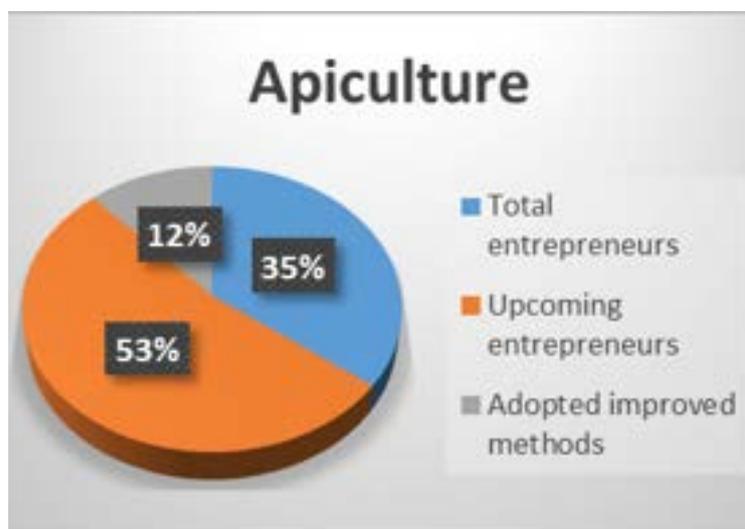
Farmer's words: I am proud to be a part of the CSFD training program. The training was instrumental in helping me enter the sericulture business, where I am now earning a good profit. Additionally, I have been able to provide employment opportunities for 2 to 3 people in my unit. The skills and knowledge I gained have been invaluable in achieving this success

Agripreneurship Acceleration Training Program for Rural Youth and on Apiculture

The Cornell Sathguru Foundation for Development (CSFD), in collaboration with Ag-hub and technical support from the Forest College and Research Institute, has successfully concluded a six-day Agripreneurship Acceleration Training Program for Rural Youth and Farmers on Apiculture. The training, held at Forest College in Mulugu-Siddipet from 20-25 November 2023, aimed to equip rural youth and farmers with the necessary knowledge and skills for successful ventures in apiculture.

Participants and Program Overview:

A total of 28 enthusiastic farmers from Adilabad, Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Badradri-kothegudem, Wanaparthy, Achampet, Nagarkurnool, Hanmakonda, Mulugu, Rangareddy, Asifabad, Siddipet, Mahabubnagar, Kurnool, Vishakapatnam, districts in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh actively participated in the program. Over the six days, the training covered various aspects of apiculture, providing valuable insights and practical knowledge to the participants. The participants underwent a baseline assessment to determine their knowledge of Apiculture.



Name - P. Suresh

IMPACT STORY

Village - Kallur

Mandal - Kallur

District - Kurnool

Scaling New Heights: How Suresh Transformed His Beekeeping Business After Apiculture Training

Suresh, a passionate apiculturist, had been managing a bee unit with 12 boxes for the past year but wanted to expand his business. With ambitions to increase the number of boxes and boost his honey production, he sought professional guidance. In November 2023, Suresh attended an apiculture training program conducted by the Cornell Sathguru Foundation for Development (CSFD) at the Forest College and Research Institute (FCRI).



During the training, Suresh learned valuable techniques on modern beekeeping, honey production, and value-added products. The comprehensive program covered advanced hive management, optimizing honey yield, and innovative ways to enhance the quality and marketability of his honey. This newfound knowledge gave him the confidence and skills to scale up his operations.

After completing the training, Suresh expanded his bee unit from 12 to 85 boxes and invested over ₹5 lakh into his growing business. His efforts paid off quickly, as he now produces 150–175 kg of honey per month. Selling the honey at ₹650 per kg, Suresh earns an impressive monthly income of ₹40,000–₹50,000. Additionally, he has created employment for one person, making his beekeeping business both a personal success and a contributor to the local economy.



Suresh's journey from small-scale beekeeping to a thriving enterprise is a testament to the impact of proper training and dedication.

Agripreneurship Acceleration Training Program for Rural Youth and Farmers on Sheep and Goat Rearing

The Cornell Sathguru Foundation for Development (CSFD), in collaboration with Ag-hub and technical support from Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agriculture University, has successfully concluded a four-day Agripreneurship Acceleration Training Program for Rural Youth and Farmers on sheep and goats. The training, held at PJTSAU, Rajendranagar from 22nd- 25th January 2024, aimed to equip rural youth and farmers with the necessary knowledge and skills for successful ventures in sheep and goat farming.

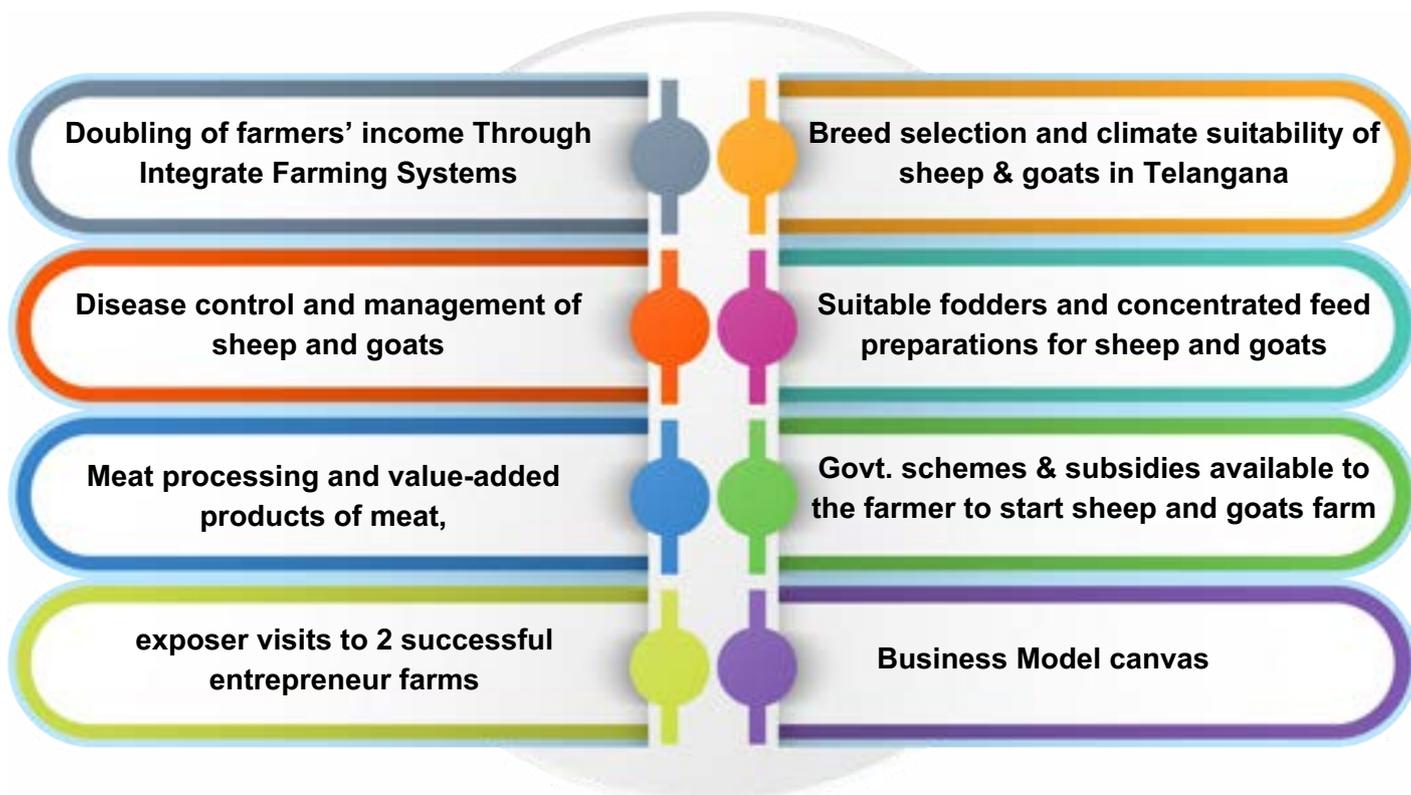


Participants and Program Overview:

A total of 56 enthusiastic farmers across Telangana actively participated in the program. Over the four days, the training covered various aspects of goat and sheep farming, providing valuable insights and practical knowledge to the participants. The participants underwent a baseline assessment to determine their knowledge of goat and sheep farming.



Key points in the Training program



IMPACT STORY

Name - Pothanna

Village - Dhodapur

Mandal - Basar

District - Nirmal

Mr. Pothanna's Journey to Modern Sheep Rearing
Mr. Pothanna, a dedicated farmer from Nirmal, spent six years raising sheep through traditional methods. However, he aspired to grow his flock and adopt modern rearing techniques to increase both productivity and profitability. To gain the necessary knowledge, he enrolled in the Entrepreneurship Acceleration Training Program in Sheep and Goat Rearing, organized by the Cornell Sathguru Foundation for Development (CSFD) in January 2024 at PJTSAU, Hyderabad. This step marked the beginning of a transformation in his farming approach.



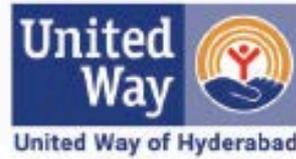
The comprehensive four-day training program provided Mr. Pothanna with invaluable insights into modern sheep and goat farming. He learned about the advantages of the elevated shed method, government schemes, and the critical differences between sheep and goats. The program also covered essential topics such as breed selection, livestock management, disease prevention, pregnant livestock care, nutrition, housing, and marketing strategies. Armed with this new knowledge, he was ready to modernize his operations.



After the training, Mr. Pothanna applied for a ₹20 lakh loan under the National Livestock Mission (with a 50% subsidy) and constructed an elevated shed within four months. He expanded his flock from 110 to 245 sheep, planted cowpea, sweet potato, and fodder maize on 3 acres, and purchased 5 tonnes of pulses husk for feed. His efforts not only boosted his farm's productivity but also created employment for 2 to 3 workers, showcasing how innovation and education can lead to sustainable growth in agriculture.



FUNDING PARTNERS



MADISON



COLLABORATIVE/TECHNICAL PARTNERS



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- 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

