AGRICULTURE · IRRIGATION · RURAL LIVELIHOODS

NEED SECTOR PROFILE

25+
YEARS OF IMPACT

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT & EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT (NEED)

Agriculture, Irrigation & Rural Livelihoods

SECTOR PROGRAMME PROFILE

25+ Years of Rural Development Excellence

11,000+ Farmers Benefited	**5,000+** Hectares of Land Covered	**1,800+** Farmers Trained in Sustainable & Natural Farming	**1,200+** Climate-Smart Farmers Mobilized
75+ Water User Associations Strengthened	**90** Tribal Villages Covered	**12** Mandals Covered	

Empowering Tribal & Rural Farming Communities across AP & OD

Salur, Parvathipuram Manyam District, Andhra Pradesh

FCRA · 12A · 80G · CSR-1 · DARPAN Registered

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01

TRIBAL EMPOWERMENT

CARE – Sustainable Tribal Empowerment Project (STEP)

IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD
2003 – 2007

FUNDED BY / PARTNER
CARE India

COVERAGE AREA
Pachipenta Mandal, Vizianagaram District — 90 Villages

90	2,327	CARE India
Villages Covered	Households Reached	Implementing Partner

NEED partnered with CARE India to strengthen tribal communities in 90 villages through institution building, livelihood enhancement, natural resource management, education support and women's empowerment — reaching 2,327 tribal households through a community-driven approach.

Objectives

- Strengthen community institutions and local governance systems
- Improve access to sustainable livelihood opportunities
- Enhance community participation in village development planning
- Facilitate access to government welfare and development schemes

Community Institution Strengthening

- Formed and strengthened Community Action Groups (CAGs)
- Prepared Community Action Plans (CAPs) and Micro-Level Plans

Tribal Livelihood Development

- Identified and supported vulnerable households
- Facilitated access to government livelihood schemes & services

Strengthening Village Forest Committees (VSS)

- Capacity building on community forest management
- Promoted sustainable natural resource management practices
- Strengthened community participation in forest conservation

Education & Child Development

- Strengthened School Education Committees (SECs)
- Community awareness programmes to reduce school dropouts

Panchayat & Governance Strengthening

- Training for Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members
- Promoted participatory village development planning

Women Empowerment through SHGs

- Strengthened Self-Help Groups (SHGs)
- Promoted income-generating activities for women members

Volunteers & Resource Development

- Trained village animators and barefoot trainers

Key Achievements

- Strengthened village-level institutions & local leadership
- Enhanced access to government welfare & livelihood schemes

> **PROJECT SIGNIFICANCE**
> *STEP built a strong foundation for community-led development in tribal areas, strengthening local institutions across 90 villages.*

02

FOREST & NRM

Andhra Pradesh Community Forest Management (APCFM)

IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD
2009 – 2012

FUNDED BY / PARTNER
AP Forest Department & ITDA, Parvathipuram

COVERAGE AREA
Pachipenta & Salur Mandals, Vizianagaram District

Salur	7	2009-12
Forest Range Covered	VSS Institutions Strengthened	Implementation Year

NEED strengthened community participation in forest conservation and tribal livelihoods across Pachipenta and Salur Mandals, promoting Forest Rights awareness, NTFP-based livelihoods, and soil & water conservation with the AP Forest Department and ITDA Parvathipuram.

Objectives

- Strengthen community participation in forest management
- Promote sustainable livelihoods for forest-dependent communities
- Create awareness on Forest Rights and community entitlements
- Strengthen Vana Samrakshana Samities (VSS)

Community Forest Institution Strengthening

- Formed and strengthened Vana Samrakshana Samities (VSS)
- Promoted participation in protecting forest resources & biodiversity

CEFNARM (RAP) Training

- Sanctioned by AP Forest Academy, Dulapally (CEFNARM)
- Conducted at Chinthapalli Range, Visakhapatnam Division
- Covered land development, irrigation, health, sanitation & livelihoods

Forest Rights Committees (FRC)

- Sanctioned by AP Forest Dept. with support of ITDA, Parvathipuram
- Awareness on the FRC Act at Panchayat & Mandal level
- Identification of unemployed youth for livelihood support

Rehabilitation Action Plan (RAP) — APCFM

- Implemented in Pachipenta & Salur Mandals, Vizianagaram District
- NEED prepared the Micro-Level Planning for RAP
- Monitored full programme implementation during 2009-10

Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) Promotion

- Training on sustainable collection, processing & utilization of NTFP
- Awareness on value addition & income generation from NTFP

Soil & Water Conservation

- Supported check dams, contour bunds & NRM measures
- Formation of Forest & Wildlife Protection Committees

Key Achievements

- Strengthened VSS and community forest institutions
- FRC awareness conducted at Panchayat & Mandal levels
- Sustainable NTFP harvesting & value addition promoted

> **PROJECT SIGNIFICANCE**
> *APCFM integrated forest conservation with livelihood development, strengthening community ownership of forest resources and tribal well-being.*

03

IRRIGATION & TANK MANAGEMENT

APCBTMP (I&CAD) – Tank Management Programme

IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD
2008 – 2011

FUNDED BY / PARTNER
Irrigation & Command Area Development (I&CAD) Dept., Govt. of AP

COVERAGE AREA
Salur & Dattirajeru Mandals, Vizianagaram District

4	WUAs	TIMP
Mandals Covered	Strengthened for PIM	Micro Plans Prepared

NEED strengthened Water User Associations (WUAs) and farmer capacity for participatory tank irrigation management in Salur and Dattirajeru Mandals, improving water-use efficiency, agricultural productivity and incomes of farming households.

Objective

- Strengthen WUAs and build farmer capacity for tank improvement & irrigation management
- Improve agricultural practices, crop productivity and water-use efficiency and incomes

Capacity Building & Institutional Strengthening

- Training for WUAs, farmers & CBOs at village/mandal levels
- Strengthened institutions for participatory irrigation management
- Enhanced leadership, governance & decision-making of WUA members

Irrigation Tank Development & Management

- Facilitated tank improvement and rehabilitation activities
- Promoted participation in planning, monitoring & maintenance
- Supported improved water storage, distribution & utilization

Agricultural Extension & Farmer Awareness

- Awareness on modern agricultural technologies & practices
- Organized Farmer-to-Farmer learning initiatives

Non-Pesticide Management (NPM) Promotion

- Awareness on environmentally sustainable pest management
- Promoted eco-friendly, cost-effective farming techniques

Participatory Micro Planning

- Facilitated Tank Implementation Micro Plans (TIMP)
- Used PRA, PPA & other participatory planning tools

Community Awareness (Kalajatha)

- Organized folk cultural programmes on agri-tech & water mgmt
- Used traditional communication to reach farming communities

Key Outcomes

- Strengthened WUAs & participation in irrigation management
- Improved institutional capacity for tank system maintenance

> **PROJECT SIGNIFICANCE**
> *APCBTMP demonstrated the value of community-led irrigation management, integrating water resource governance with agricultural extension to strengthen rural livelihoods sustainably.*

04

FARMER INSTITUTIONS

Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) Promotion Programme

IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD
2018 – 2020

FUNDED BY / PARTNER
BASIX India — Livelihood Promotion Institution

COVERAGE AREA
Visakhapatnam, Anakapalli & Vizianagaram Districts

3	4	BASIX
Districts Covered	FPOs Formed & Strengthened	Institutional Partner

In partnership with BASIX India — established in 1996, working with millions of rural households — NEED organized small and marginal farmers into Farmer Producer Organizations, strengthening collective farming, value addition and market linkages to improve incomes.

Objectives

- Organize farmers into Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)
- Strengthen collective farming and marketing systems
- Promote horticulture and diversified agricultural production
- Enhance value addition and post-harvest management
- Establish sustainable market linkages for produce

Farmer Identification & Mobilization

- Conducted village-level surveys & farmer identification
- Mobilized farmers into producer groups & collectives

Crop & Horticulture Promotion

- Identified crops suited to local agro-climatic conditions
- Facilitated awareness on improved cultivation & diversification

Formation & Strengthening of Farmer Groups

- Organized farmers into groups and producer collectives
- Strengthened group management, leadership & governance

Capacity Building & Training

- Training on agricultural production & business planning
- Enhanced knowledge on farming practices & market opportunities

Value Addition Initiatives

- Awareness on post-harvest management & value addition
- Promoted improved handling, grading, sorting & packaging

Market Linkage Development

- Facilitated connections between farmers and markets
- Promoted collective marketing to improve bargaining power

Documentation & Institutional Systems

- Established record-keeping & documentation practices
- Strengthened transparency & accountability systems

Core Intervention Areas & Outcomes

- FPO Development, Institution Building & Horticulture
- Strengthened farmer collectives and market linkages

> **PROJECT SIGNIFICANCE**
> *The programme demonstrated the power of collective action — strengthening market access and profitability for small and marginal farmers.*

05

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) Programme

IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD
2018 – 2020

FUNDED BY / PARTNER
Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh

COVERAGE AREA
Parvathipuram Manyam District

1,800+	8	3
Farmers Trained	Major Trainings Held	Mandals Covered

NEED promoted Zero Budget Natural Farming — a farmer-centric, low-cost approach using locally available resources — to reduce dependence on chemical fertilizers and pesticides, improve soil health and farm profitability, and build climate resilience among ~1,800 trained farmers.

Objectives

- Promote natural and chemical-free farming practices
- Reduce the cost of cultivation for small & marginal farmers
- Improve soil health and long-term soil fertility
- Enhance farm productivity through sustainable methods
- Strengthen resilience to climate variability and drought

Farmer Capacity Building

- Facilitated participation in large-scale ZBNF trainings
- Organized awareness & orientation on natural farming principles

Technical Training & Demonstrations

- Training from agricultural experts and resource persons
- Practical understanding of on-farm natural farming techniques
- Encouraged farmer-to-farmer learning & knowledge sharing

Awareness on Sustainable Agriculture

- Educated on adverse impacts of chemical fertilizer/pesticide use
- Promoted sustainable farming & biodiversity conservation
- Awareness on soil organic matter & water retention capacity

Climate-Resilient Farming Promotion

- Encouraged practices reducing drought/climate vulnerability
- Supported low-input, resource-conserving agri systems

Benefits to Farmers

- Reduced cost of cultivation & lower input dependence
- Improved productivity through better soil & nutrient health
- Additional income via intercropping & diversified farming

Key Achievements

- 8 major ZBNF training programmes conducted
- 1,800+ progressive farmers trained across the district
- Wider dissemination through trained farmer leaders

> **PROJECT SIGNIFICANCE**
> *The ZBNF programme showed that sustainable agriculture can simultaneously improve farmer incomes and environmental outcomes, building a foundation for climate-resilient farming.*

06

CLIMATE FINANCE

Carbon Credit Programme for Mango & Cashew Farmers

IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD
2024 – Present

FUNDED BY / PARTNER
SEG Global

COVERAGE AREA
Parvathipuram Manyam & Vizianagaram Districts

2,000+	2	Mango & Cashew
Farmers Reached	Districts Covered	Orchard Crops

NEED introduced ~2,000 Mango and Cashew orchard farmers to carbon credit opportunities, linking climate-smart orchard management with additional income through emerging carbon markets and environmental stewardship.

Objective

- Provide additional income to Mango & Cashew farmers through carbon credit participation and climate-resilient agriculture

Farmer Awareness & Mobilization

- Awareness on climate change and carbon credit opportunities
- Educated farmers on the concept and benefits of carbon credits
- Mobilized growers to participate in sustainable land management

Promotion of Climate-Smart Agriculture

- Encouraged environmentally sustainable farming methods
- Promoted improved orchard management & tree-based systems

Capacity Building

- Enhanced understanding of carbon markets & environmental benefits
- Created awareness on long-term economic opportunities

Practices Promoted

- Agroforestry & tree-based farming systems
- Soil organic carbon enhancement & nutrient management

Environmental Benefits

- Improved carbon sequestration through tree-based agriculture
- Enhanced soil health and biodiversity conservation

Agricultural Benefits

- Improved orchard productivity and long-term sustainability
- Better resilience to climate variability and environmental stress

Key Achievements

- Reached approximately 2,000 Mango & Cashew farmers
- Covered extensive horticulture regions across 2 districts
- Created pathways to green-economy income opportunities

> **PROJECT SIGNIFICANCE**
> *This programme opened a pioneering pathway linking agriculture, environmental conservation and climate finance — diversifying incomes for horticulture farmers.*

07

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

People's Biodiversity Register (PBR)

IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD
2017 – 2018

FUNDED BY / PARTNER
Andhra Pradesh State Biodiversity Board (APSBB)

COVERAGE AREA
Chintaluru Gram Panchayat, Alamuru Mandal, East Godavari District

1	BMC	PRA & Transect Walks
Gram Panchayat Documented	Strengthened	Documentation Method

With support from the Andhra Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, NEED documented Chintaluru's biological resources, traditional ecological knowledge, medicinal plants and agricultural biodiversity through a participatory process — creating a community-owned register for conservation and equitable benefit-sharing under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

Objectives

- Document biological resources & ecosystems of Chintaluru village
- Record traditional knowledge on medicinal plants & agriculture
- Strengthen the Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC)
- Promote conservation & sustainable use of biological resources
- Support protection of indigenous knowledge & benefit sharing

Community Mobilization

- Introductory meetings with Gram Panchayat & BMC representatives
- Village-level consultations with elders, women, youth & farmers
- Facilitated participation throughout the documentation process

Awareness & Capacity Building

- Awareness on the Biological Diversity Act & importance of PBRs
- Educated on conservation & community ownership of resources
- Explained legal documentation for protecting local knowledge

Participatory Biodiversity Documentation

- Conducted PRA, Transect Walks & Social/Resource Mapping
- Collected data via field observations, interviews & FGDs
- Verified information using secondary sources & government records

Biodiversity Resource Inventory

- Documented flora, fauna, medicinal plants & traditional crop varieties
- Recorded economically important species & their traditional uses
- Identified medicinal plants used in primary healthcare & Ayurveda

Institutional Strengthening

- Strengthened collaboration between Panchayat, community & APSBB

Key Achievements

- Prepared the PBR for Chintaluru Gram Panchayat
- Documented traditional paddy varieties & medicinal plant species
- Strengthened the BMC through participatory planning
- Created a permanent village-level biodiversity knowledge base

> **PROJECT SIGNIFICANCE**
> *The PBR strengthened local biodiversity governance and preserved indigenous knowledge of medicinal plants, establishing a lasting database for conservation planning.*

08

IRRIGATION & LIVELIHOODS

AP Irrigation & Livelihood Improvement Project (APILIP-II)

IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD
2022 – 2024

FUNDED BY / PARTNER
Govt. of AP — APILIP-II, Japan Intl. Cooperation Agency (JICA)

COVERAGE AREA
Vizianagaram & Parvathipuram Manyam Districts

75	35	107
WUAs Strengthened	Micro-Plans Prepared	WUAs Reached

As a Support Organization, NEED strengthened 75 Water User Associations across 5 medium and 71 minor irrigation projects, driving convergence across Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Irrigation Departments to enhance livelihoods for farming communities.

Objectives

- Strengthen WUAs and Participatory Irrigation Management
- Improve irrigation governance and community participation
- Strengthen convergence across Agriculture, Fisheries & AH Depts
- Promote Farmer Producer Organizations and farmer institutions

WUA Strengthening

- Data collection from 5 medium & 71 minor irrigation projects
- Facilitated interaction with WUAs and irrigation stakeholders
- Strengthened participation in irrigation management planning

PRA & Micro-Planning

- Organized orientation meetings before the planning process
- Conducted PRA exercises across Water User Associations
- Prepared 35 detailed Micro-Plans reflecting community priorities

Irrigation Awareness & PIM

- Created awareness on Participatory Irrigation Management
- Promoted farmer participation in infrastructure maintenance

Livelihood Convergence — Agriculture & Fisheries

- Awareness on improved agricultural practices
- Facilitated coordination for FPO development
- Fish seed stocking and fish nursery development

Livelihood Convergence — Animal Husbandry

- Cattle vaccination and artificial insemination awareness
- Goat/sheep rearing, backyard poultry & fodder cultivation

Community Mobilization

- WUA meetings, Focus Group Discussions & Transect Walks
- 9 internal review meetings to monitor implementation

Key Achievements

- 75 WUAs strengthened; 107 WUAs reached via awareness
- 35 participatory Micro-Plans prepared across WUAs
- 5 medium + 71 minor irrigation projects covered

> **PROJECT SIGNIFICANCE**
> *APILIP-II showed how integrating irrigation governance with livelihood convergence can strengthen agricultural productivity and rural incomes at scale.*

09

IRRIGATION MODERNIZATION

Command Area Development & Water Management (M-CADWM)

IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD
2025 – Present

FUNDED BY / PARTNER
Water Resources Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh

COVERAGE AREA
Pachipenta Mandal, Parvathipuram Manyam District — 19 Villages

19	3,619+ Ha	18 Km
Villages Covered	Gross Command Area	Pipeline Network

NEED is modernizing irrigation infrastructure and water governance in Pachipenta Mandal — a gross command area of 3,619.77 Ha across 19 villages — combining an 18 km pipeline network, drip & sprinkler systems, and strengthened Water User Societies for climate-resilient agriculture.

Coverage Snapshot

- Cultivable Command Area (CCA): 3,066.20 Ha
- Gross Command Area: 3,619.77 Ha | Pipeline: 18 Km
- Micro-Irrigation: Drip & Sprinkler Systems

Objectives

- Modernize irrigation infrastructure for efficient distribution
- Promote drip & sprinkler irrigation for water conservation
- Strengthen Water User Societies (WUS) through PIM
- Build climate-resilient, water-efficient farming systems

Irrigation Infrastructure Development

- Developed 18 km pipeline network for water conveyance
- Installed and promoted drip & sprinkler irrigation systems
- Modernized distribution systems to reduce water losses

Water Resource Management

- Promotion of efficient water-use & Participatory Irrigation Mgmt
- Water budgeting and equitable water distribution
- Community-based operation & maintenance of systems

Community Institution Strengthening

- Formation and strengthening of Water User Societies (WUS)
- Capacity building of WUS members & farmer leadership

Participatory Planning & Convergence

- PRA, village resource mapping & Command Area Dev. Plans
- Farmer training on micro-irrigation technologies
- Convergence with Agriculture, Horticulture & Fisheries Depts

Key Achievements

- 19 villages covered; 3,619.77 Ha gross command area
- 18 km pipeline network developed for water conveyance
- Drip & sprinkler irrigation systems promoted at scale

PROJECT SIGNIFICANCE

M-CADWM demonstrates an integrated model combining modern irrigation infrastructure with community-led water governance for climate-resilient farming livelihoods.

10

LIVELIHOOD & ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Mulberry Cultivation & Scientific Silkworm Rearing (LEDP – NABARD)

IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD
2025 – Present

FUNDED BY / PARTNER
NABARD — Tribal Development Fund (TDF)

COVERAGE AREA
Gunpur Gram Panchayat, Thuamul Rampur Block, Kalahandi District, Odisha

90	15	45 Acres
SHG Members Trained	Self-Help Groups	Under Mulberry Cultivation

With NABARD support under the Tribal Development Fund, NEED is promoting scientific sericulture in Kalahandi District, Odisha — building technical skills, women-led micro-enterprises and institutional convergence to help tribal women adopt mulberry cultivation and silkworm rearing as a sustainable livelihood.

Coverage Snapshot

- Villages Covered: Hardkhursi & Balisora (2 Villages)
- SHG Members Trained: 90 | Self-Help Groups: 15
- 3 Training Batches of 10 Days each

Objectives

- Enhance sustainable livelihoods for tribal women via sericulture
- Build technical skills in mulberry cultivation & silkworm rearing
- Promote women-led micro-enterprises & income-generating activities
- Strengthen SHGs through entrepreneurship development
- Facilitate convergence with government & technical institutions

Skill Development & Capacity Building

- Structured training on scientific mulberry cultivation & rearing
- Field-based learning & exposure visits to sericulture institutions

Enterprise & Livelihood Promotion

- Promoted sericulture-based livelihood enterprises among SHGs
- Facilitated improved mulberry cultivation for sustainable income

Technical & Institutional Support

- Developed and distributed IEC (Information, Education & Communication) materials
- Technical support from Dept. of Sericulture, Central Silk Board, RSRS & OUAT

Community Mobilization

- Mobilized tribal women through Self-Help Groups

Key Achievements

- Trained 90 tribal women from 15 SHGs in scientific sericulture
- Prepared a district-level sericulture development proposal
- 45 acres brought under mulberry cultivation; 90 farmers benefited
- ₹10,000/beneficiary secured from Central Silk Board for bamboo stands
- ₹30 lakh mobilized via District Mineral Foundation (DMF) for scale-up

PROJECT SIGNIFICANCE

The LEDP builds sustainable livelihoods through skill development and enterprise creation — a scalable model for sericulture in tribal regions.

11

ORGANIC INPUTS & SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Input Production Centre (IPC)

IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD
2025 – Present

FUNDED BY / PARTNER
Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment

COVERAGE AREA
Bhawanipatna, Kalahandi District, Odisha

2025	4	FPOs & SHGs
Centre Established	Vermi Compost Units	Key Beneficiaries

NEED established the Input Production Centre in Bhawanipatna to promote climate-resilient agriculture through quality organic bio-inputs — serving as a production, training and demonstration hub for farmers, FPOs, SHGs and community institutions to reduce chemical dependence and improve soil health.

Objectives

- Establish a community-managed Input Production Centre
- Promote sustainable, climate-resilient, regenerative agriculture
- Improve soil fertility through organic nutrient management
- Reduce cultivation costs via affordable organic inputs
- Build capacities on organic farming & integrated nutrient mgmt
- Strengthen FPOs, SHGs & farmer institutions via enterprise development

Establishment of the IPC

- Infrastructure for organic input production, storage & packaging
- Installed equipment for manufacturing organic agri-inputs
- Created a demonstration & learning facility for farmers

Organic Input Production

- Production of Vermicompost and Biochar
- Preparation of Jeevamrutham and Ghanajeevamrutham
- Botanical extracts, bio-pesticides & microbial formulations

Capacity Building & Sustainable Agriculture

- Practical training on organic and natural farming
- Promoted Integrated Nutrient Management (INM)
- Encouraged recycling of farm residues & organic waste

Community Mobilization & Enterprise Development

- Mobilized farmers through FPOs, SHGs & community institutions
- Facilitated value addition, packaging, branding & marketing

Infrastructure Established

- Vermicompost, Biochar & Bio-input Production Units
- Processing, storage, packaging & farmer training facilities

Expected Outcomes

- Increased availability of quality organic agricultural inputs
- Reduced dependence on chemical fertilizers and pesticides
- Strengthened community-based organic input enterprises

> **PROJECT SIGNIFICANCE**
> *The IPC advances sustainable agriculture through community-based enterprise development — a long-term hub for regenerative farming in Kalahandi District.*