

## **PROJECT PROPOSAL**



### **Livelihoods for tribal women** in the foot of the western ghats of Watrap area, Virudhunagar district.

Submitted to  
**ASSEFA Torino, Italy**

**19 September 2020**

**ASSEFA** *Association for Sarva Seva Farms*  
279, Avvai Shanmugam Road, Royapettah, Chennai – 600 14  
E-mail: [assefaho@gmail.com](mailto:assefaho@gmail.com)

### **1. Title of the Project**

Livelihoods support for tribal women living at the foot of the western ghats.

### **2. Name of the Agency Applying for Grant:**

ASSEFA is a Gandhian Organization working for the welfare of the rural communities since 1968 in rural India. Multi-faceted social welfare programs are implemented for holistic development of the rural communities. These programs include

- Integration of land, water, livestock and agriculture
- Dairy based livelihoods promotion
- Children education
- Community health and
- Social security for women and other vulnerable
- Gender Equality

As on date, ASSEFA has supported over one million families across eight states in India (*Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharastra, Karnataka, Pondicherry and Tamil Nadu*) with the help of thousands of workers and volunteers.

The proposed project seeks to enhance the livelihoods of the tribal women through fruits/medical valued tree crops cultivation in the Bhoodan/community lands in the backward areas of Tamil Nadu, India.

### **3. Responsible person of ASSEFA:**

Mr. S Loganathan,  
Executive Director, ASSEFA,  
279, Avvai Shanmugam Road, Royapettah, Chennai – 600 014,  
Tamil Nadu, India  
E-mail: assefaho@gmail.com, Tel No: + 91 44 28133203 / 28130026

#### **4. Persons Incharge of the Program**

Mr. Thanga Pandian  
Program Incharge  
ASSEFA Sivakasi  
Thungareddypatti, Sivakasi.

#### **5. Target Population**

Tribal and neighborhood shepherd families' settlement with special focus to women.

#### **6. Description of the Project**

##### **a) Project Rationale:**

In the late 1970's, ASSEFA supported 90 families by distributing lands for agriculture and construction of houses, collected under Bhoodan movement (land gift movement). Hundred and ten acres of Bhoodan lands were distributed. Subsequently five wells were dug for irrigation, with each well irrigating 20 acres of land.

Presently, the original allottees of Bhoodan lands were no more and their third generation possesses these lands. However, they are not cultivating these lands due to lack of water for irrigation purposes. They are at present depended upon forest products for their livelihoods. However, their women remain at home and they are keen to use these lands, preferably in cultivating fruit and medicinal valued tree saplings and sericulture.

This project aims at supporting the women to generate additional income by using Bhoodan lands allocated to them.

##### **b) Project Location:**

The project is proposed to work in S. Kodikulam village located in Watrap block of Virudhunagar district, Tamil Nadu. The nearest town is Madurai located about 70 kms away from the project areas.

**c) Proposed Activities:**

In order to enable the women to use the Bhoodan lands for productive purposes, following supports are proposed.

- Facilities to provide water for irrigation purpose.
- Preparing lands for tree crops cultivation
- Plantation and maintenance of the crops.
- Coordination to arrange necessary guidance, advice and support services.

➤ **Irrigation Facilities:**

ASSEFA has dug five open wells long ago. During that time, each well used to irrigate 15 to 20 acres. However, the recent visit to this place had shown that these wells require further deepening to get water, fixing of distribution pipelines and repairing of motors. This will enable the target families to get water for irrigation facilities.

➤ **Land preparation:**

In order to cultivate tree saplings, land needs to be prepared. This includes clearances of bushes, digging pits, pouring sand and manure into pits. It is proposed to dig 1500 pits to benefit 50 families, who possess more than one acre of land for tree crops cultivation.

➤ **Plantation of tree saplings:**

The initial discussion with the farmers has revealed their interest in cultivating fruit and medicinal valued tree saplings. These include Goose berry, Tamarind, Manila tamarind, citrus fruits, etc... Depending upon the choices of the farmers and availability of the land, each farmer will be supported between 25 to 35 tree saplings..

#### **d) Expected Results:**

This project is envisaged the following results.

- 50 women will be involved in tree crops cultivation.
- Each family is expected to earn minimum of Rs. 100,000 additional income from tree crops from 4<sup>th</sup> year onwards i.e., once the tree starts to yield fruits.
- Plantation of 1,500 tree crops is expected to create positive environment and create micro climate change.
- The learning from this project intervention will enable ASSEFA to develop similar model to benefit more communities in other deserving areas.

#### **7. How do we implement the project?**

ASSEFA will engage a senior worker, who will plan with local people and execute with the support of them. The senior team will review every month and provide necessary guidance, if necessary in implementing the project.

#### **8. How do we monitor the project and report to funding agency?**

ASSEFA Head Office will review and monitor the progress of the project on regular basis. The project team will send the progress report along with financial statement of accounts and photos as per the requirement of the funding agency.

#### **9. Period of the project?**

The project period is for **ONE YEAR** from the date of receiving the grant.

#### **10. Budget**

This initiative is expected to provide additional income to these tribal women from 4th year onwards. The total budget works out to Rs. 1,102,500 (Euros 13.781,25)

Budget includes:

- Deepening of 5 open wells and fixing of Motors and distribution pipelines (5 \* Rs 125,000) = Rs. 750,000
- Cultivation of fruit tree crops (50F\*30T\*Rs. 200) = Rs. 300,000
- Coordination cost (5%) = Rs.52,500

### Map showing Project area – S Kodikulam

