

Action Plan

**Land Based Livelihoods Assistance to Small and Marginal Farmers
in Sivagangai Backward Areas**

Submitted to
ASSEFA Italia

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1 Rationale

- Over 80 percent of families in the rural areas are dependent upon agriculture for their livelihoods. In the last couple of years, agriculture is becoming uneconomical particularly for the small and marginal farmers due to reasons like lack of irrigation facilities, non-availability of quality inputs, extension services and in getting reasonable prices.
- As the result, these farmers migrate to the surrounding towns/cities for menial jobs. Mass migration occurs whenever failure of Monsoon occurs. In some cases, the farmers sell their lands for non-agricultural purposes and migrate permanently. This situation creates not only havoc among the farmers but also the danger of losing their roots.
- This project seeks to address these issues in Sivagangai, one of most backward areas in Tamil Nadu, India.

2 Project Purposes

- *“To promote land based sustainable livelihoods for the small and marginal farmers in Sivagangai area, Tamil Nadu.”*

3 Project Areas

- The project is proposed to support farmers in three backward areas – *Kayankulam, Kandani and Uruli*, in Sivagangai district of Tamil Nadu.
- ASSEFA has already in collaboration with NABARD (*National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development*) involved in increasing groundwater resources through various watershed development techniques. Nearly 7490 acres of lands, which are owned by 1150 small and marginal farmers inhabited across 16 villages, are under treatment.
- However, these farmers continue to migrate, as there are no direct assistances for their livelihoods. The project seeks to address these issues with the following land based livelihoods programs in the first phase.

4 Plan of Actions

- The following actions are designed based on the needs assessment of the farmers in the target areas.

4.1 Strengthen Cashewnut Cultivation in 100 acres of Land

- Large extents of unused lands are being brought under agriculture purposes gradually. Based on the analysis of soil and agro-climatic conditions, cashewnut cultivation has been promoted in 100 acres of land in Uchipuli village in Kandani area. The following services will be provided so as to ensure maximum benefit to the families.

- i. Extension services
 - ii. Supply of bio-fertilizer and bio-pesticides
 - iii. Weeding and Regular watering and
 - iv. Processing of cashewnuts and marketing support.
- Expected budget per acre to deliver these services will be around Rs 6000 per acre. Being a perennial crop, the cultivation will provide regular income from 4th year onwards with minimal maintenance. The average expected income per acre will be Rs 6,000 per annum.

4.2 Organic Vegetable Based Livelihoods for 54 farmers

- The systematic cultivation of vegetables will be introduced so as to enable the farmers to earn regular income. Cultivation of organic vegetables will be introduced, as it would fetch nearly 40 percent more than conventional vegetables prices in the market. Hence, proposed to promote market demand vegetables such as *brinjal, tomatoes, snake gourd, ladies finger, onion*, etc in 33 acres of lands in Uruli area to benefit 54 farmers.
- Proposed to deliver the following supports to the farmers.
 - i. Training inputs
 - ii. Supply of quality inputs (*seeds, bio-fertilizers and pesticides*)
 - iii. Organic cultivation practices and
 - iv. Market linkages.
- Budget per acre for these services will be around Rs 15,000 per acre per year. This intervention is expected to benefit 54 farmers with an average income of Rs 15,000 per acre.

4.3 Water Management Services to Benefit 100 Families

- Many farmers practice rainfed cultivation i.e., the farmers cultivate the crops based on the Monsoon rains – which is usually received in September to November. The average rainfall in these areas is around 650 mm. The farmers suffer whenever there is a failure of Monsoon rainfall.
- In order to minimize the above risk, it is proposed to initiate water management services in Kayankulam area to benefit 100 families. Under this program, the following services will be undertaken so as to ensure that farmers will be able to cultivate at-least one crop in a year.
 - i. Improve irrigation sources by digging open wells.
 - ii. Training farmers to manage by themselves
 - iii. Supply of quality inputs and
 - iv. Introduce organic cultivation practice
- Expected budget per acre for these services will be around Rs 15,000 per family. The support is expected to generate an income of Rs 7,500 to 10,000 per acre to the farmers.

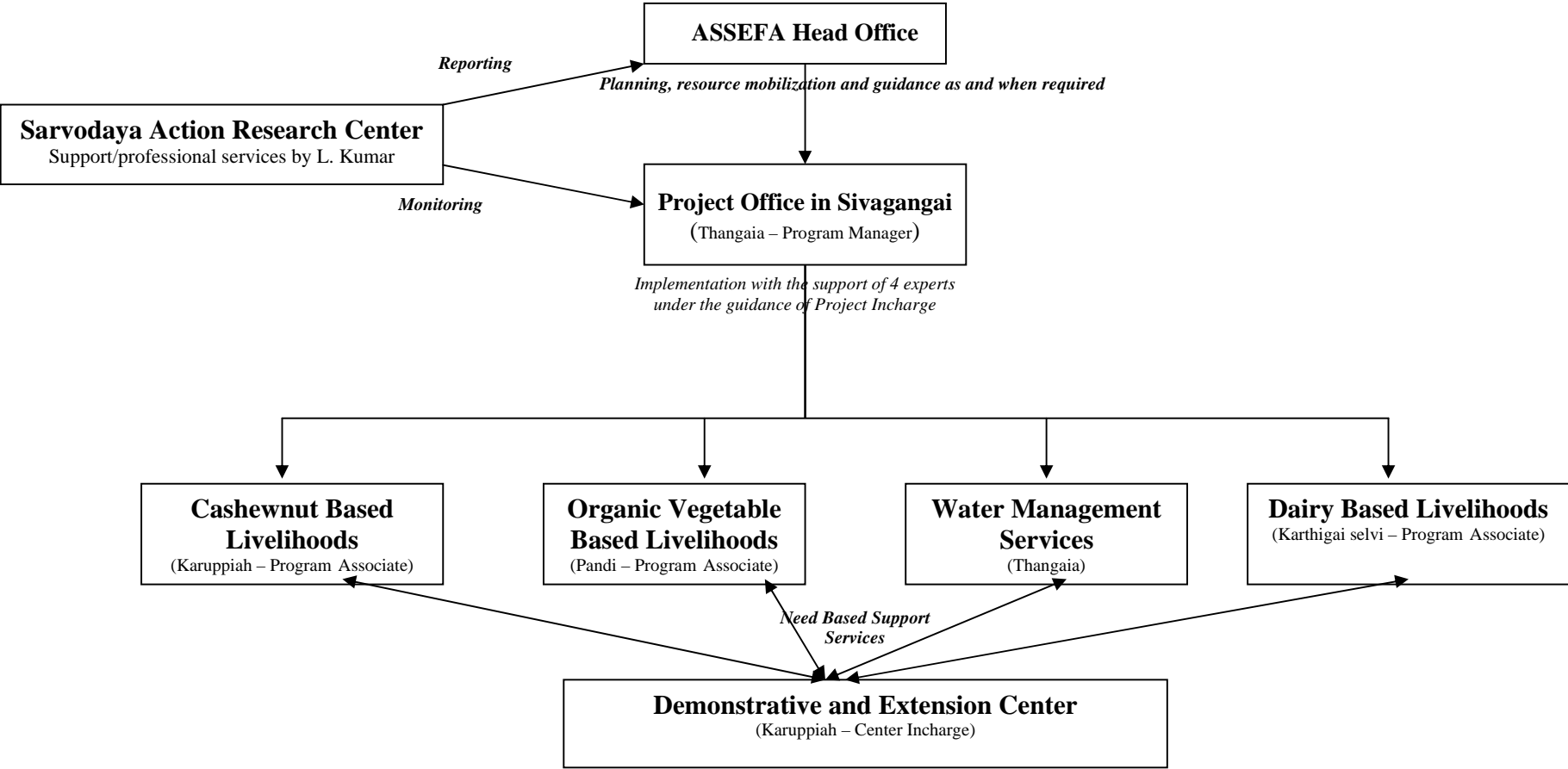
4.4 Dairy Based Livelihoods Program

- This program is intended to enhance the income sources of the farmers. Expected to benefit 100 farmers in three villages – Mangudi (30), Kandani (40) and Kodangipatti (30). The following services are planned.
 - i. Milch animals
 - ii. Training
 - iii. Supply of feeds/fodders
 - iv. Veterinary care services and
 - v. Market linkages
- Expected budget per family will be around Rs 15,000. The assistance will help each farmer to earn Rs 12,500 to 15,000 per lactation (*i.e., 8 to 10 months time*) cycle of the animal.

4.5 Demonstration and Extension Center

- This center will be established across 3.5 acres of lands in a centrally located place of all three areas. The center will deliver the following services.
 - i. Demonstrative model farming
 - ii. Training
 - iii. Information (Resource) center for the local farmers
 - iv. Promote quality seedlings and bio-fertilisers, pesticides and supply to the farmers
- The center is expected to benefit 1150 small and marginal farmers inhabited in Kayankulam, Kandani and Uruli watershed project areas.

5 Operating Structure

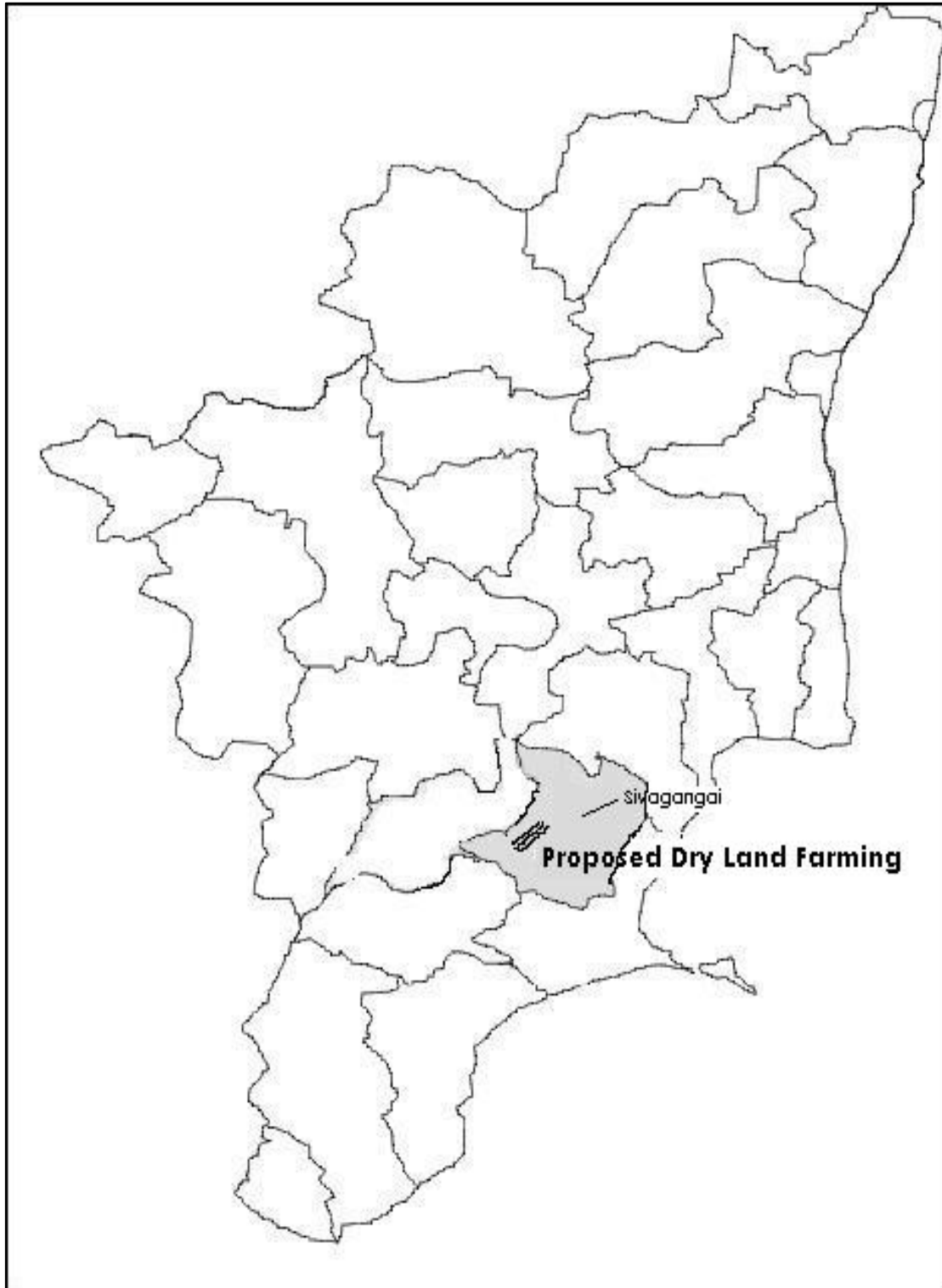


Three years Budget (Rs)

Particulars	Total units	In Rs			Total Budget
		Budget – 1 st year	Budget – 2 nd year	Budget – 3 rd year	
- Cashewnut Based Livelihoods	100 <i>acres</i>	3,00,000	2,00,000	1,00,000	6,00,000
- Vegetable Based Livelihoods	50 <i>Families</i>	4,00,000	2,00,000	1,50,000	7,50,000
- Water management Services	100 <i>Families</i>	10,00,000	3,00,000	2,00,000	15,00,000
- Dairy Based Livelihoods	100 <i>Families</i>	7,50,000	7,50,000	7,50,000	22,50,000
- Demonstration and Extension Center	1	10,00,000	3,00,000	2,00,000	15,00,000
- Total		34,50,000	17,50,000	14,00,000	66,00,000

Annexure

Tamil Nadu Map showing Project Areas



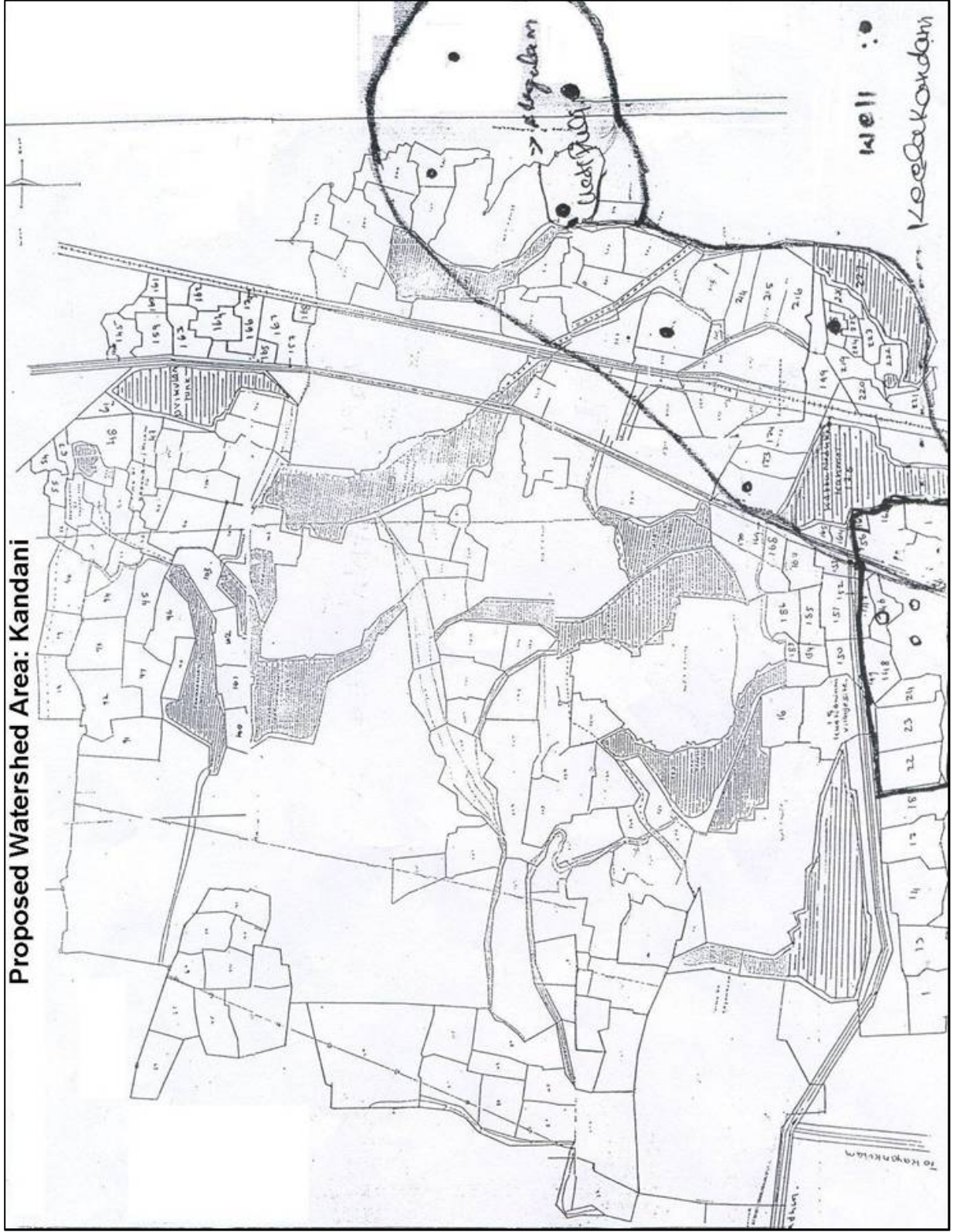
Proposed Watershed Area: Kayankulam



⊙ Community well

⊙ Individuals Well

Proposed Watershed Area: Kandani



Proposed Project Area: Uruli

