

# PROFILES

## Society for National Integration through Rural Development

**Executive Secretary: Godfrey G.P. Jawahar**

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SNIRD is a secular, non-profitable grass roots level voluntary organization that has been set up to help rural and downtrodden communities. This organization handles various projects and programs in the contexts of natural resources, micro credit and micro finance, community health, ecology and environment, community-based organizations, disaster management, water management and sanitation and child labor. SNIRD is involved in all levels of project development, from planning and conceptualization to research and development of strategies and policies as well as monitoring and impact assessment in various fields.

Some of the environment and conservation related projects being carried out by SNIRD include:

Organization of marine fisherfolk for sustainable resource utilization in Andhra Pradesh: This is a community based program covering 46 fishing villages. The project identified village level programs and gave representations to various government departments and mobilized resources for the development of these villages. Intensive training on organization management, record maintenance, managerial skills, leadership qualities, and so on were imparted to make the 'community based organizations' sustainable. Training in pre and post disaster management techniques was also imparted to Task Force committees. SNIRD has also conducted a study on mangroves in 4 coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh. Other activities conducted under this project include formation of eco clubs in schools and film shows and quiz competitions to impart environment awareness to children.

Watershed development program: SNIRD initiated a 'watershed development program' in the semi arid areas of Prakasam district. Awareness programs and training are conducted for farmers on soil and moisture practices with ridge to valley concept, more agricultural yields, ground water recharging and ecofriendly farming. The 9 watershed development programs cover 5500 ha. in 8 villages of Dronala Mandal. Importance has been given to the construction of check dams, rockfill dams, percolation tanks, diversion drains, stone checks, afforestation practices and so on to recharge the ground water and control soil erosion.

Ecodevelopment program: SNIRD initiated an 'ecodevelopment program' in the Nagarjuna Sagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve from 1997-2000. The problems of the forest dwelling Chenchu tribals were identified (The Chenchus are a socio-economically deprived group that survives on shifting cultivation and the sale of minor forest products). SNIRD organized monthly training for the staff who work on this project regarding forest ecosystem and protected area management. Ecodevelopment committees and self-help groups were formed from the tribals by involving the youth, as well as women and elders. These committees work with the Forest Department on protected area management and the groups are trained for managerial efficiency and entrepreneurship.

Other projects of SNIRD include the 'water management and sanitation program', 'study on the Nallamala forest ecosystem', 'Chenchu development program' and 'Soil and moisture conservation program'.

## Coastal Community Development Program

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CCDP is the development department of the Full Gospel Churches of India. The primary goal of the CCDP is to support the National Program for Alleviation of Poverty by increasing the income and standards of living in 9 selected villages and to make the population who are dependent on fisheries and fishing related activities better aware of the environment and marine ecology. The CCDP co-ordinates meetings and activities of the fishermen's federation and helps them in solving day to day issues, promotes women's groups and empowerment of women and teaches them credit management, and helps in education by setting up schools and promotes community health programs. Issue based programs and

training activities are also organized on ecology and biodiversity issues including mangrove management and new approaches for coastal ecosystem development and social forestry. Participation of the local communities resulted in a 54 ha. regeneration area (including 3 villages) for mangroves. Two mangrove nurseries were set up and a video documentary was also made under this program. The social forestry project aided in the plantation of casurina trees and the development of a nursery. Better aquaculture management techniques like polyculture and training on post harvest fisheries technologies is also one of the programs.

## Association for Rural Development and Action Research

**President: Prof. P.V. Sarma**

**Secretary: Prof. K. Sri Rama Moorthy**

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ARDAR is a registered NGO that aims to work towards building self sustained communities. ARDAR aims to work with backward and poor communities and to empower people to overcome exploitation, to improve conditions of women and children and old people, to provide opportunities for sustainable development and to take up research and action projects.

ARDAR has taken up various short term projects with 19 fishing villages in Vizianagaram district.

A longterm Sponsorship Project (12 yr.) that has been on since 1994, focuses on sustainable development, group organization, economic improvement, education and health programs. A short study on migration among the marine fishing community in the state of A.P was also taken up. Other studies include research on crop and agricultural systems and cyclone losses in coastal villages.

## SRAVANTI (Action Group of Sustainable Development)

**Chief functionary: K.L. Durgesh Prasad**

*Address: SRAVANTI Association, 32 -1-50, K.V.R. Swamy Road, Rajahmundry, East Godavari District, A.P, 533 101.*

Sravanti is a non political secular action group for sustainable development that has been working for the past 8 yrs. on issues related to coastal

areas and empowerment of women in 35 villages in Tallarevu, U. Kothapalli, I. Polavaram Mandals and Rajahmundry Urban in East

Godavari District. The thrust of Sravanti's activities are towards facilitating collective action of fisherfolk and includes capacity building, women's forums, thrifts and credits, health education, community based disaster preparedness, mangrove regeneration, non formal education and environment education. Major emphasis has been laid on organizing communities to take up collective action for sustainable livelihoods in the context of marine resource utilization. Sravanti has taken up training programs to facilitate people's participation in natural resource management, marine resources, mangrove conservation and sustainable aquaculture.

The 'capacity building program' of the organization focuses on formation of people's groups for different purposes, education and environment awareness programs, and sustainable aquaculture practices. The organization also has a

program called 'conservation of mangroves and marine living resources'. Under this program awareness campaigns among fisherfolk and other coastal communities on the importance of mangroves and marine ecological issues, formation of 'mangrove protection samithis', regeneration programs (30 ha. achieved), and formation of 'ecodevelopment committees' are carried out. The 'income generation program' includes a revolving fund loan to 2000 fish vending women, imparting training on post harvest technologies like fish drying and pickle making and supporting micro enterprises. The 'disaster preparedness' and 'cyclone rehabilitation programs' aims at facilitating preparedness and imparting training in rescue and relief operations, construction of cyclone resistant houses and replacement of craft and gear and so on.

### **Sruthi – Voluntary Organization Society**

**Executive Secretary: Nageshwara Rao,**

*Address: SRUTHI, 19-56-53 (A) Arava Vari Street, SBI Colony, Bheemavaram-534201*

Sruthi is a registered NGO that has been working for the past 3 yrs on issues related to conservation of marine resources and empowerment of fisherfolk in five villages Bhimavaram, Mogaltur and Kruttivennu Mandals of West Godavari and Krishna Districts. The thrust of this organization's activities are towards facilitating collective action of fisherfolk and includes capacity building, women's forums, thrifts and credit, health education, non formal education and environment education. A major emphasis of the activities has been laid on organizing the community context of marine environment

management. Sruthi's involvement in coastal issues is through environmental awareness campaigns. This includes education and encouraging community participation in sustainable natural resource management. This also includes education on the rights and legal aspects of aquaculture. As the coastal environment has become a victim of haphazard growth of prawn culture and destruction of the green belt, Sruthi has taken up training programs on sustainable aquaculture.

### **Mother India International (MII)**

**Chairman: Pilli Tirupathi Rao**

*Address: U. Kothapalli Mandal, East Godavari District, AP 533 447*

MII is a secular, non-profit, non-political NGO and rural development agency that has been rendering its services to the poor and the

marginalised sections of the society for the past 7 yrs. MII operates in U. Kothapalli, Tondangi, Pithapuram and Kakinada Rural Mandals of East

Godavari District and the target groups of MII are the women, fisherfolk and the poor of all communities. This organization aims to develop and provide assistance in the spheres of rural infrastructure development, health, cultural development, education, environment awareness and disaster relief and preparedness. The different awareness programs conducted by MII include those on environmental protection, pollution, family welfare, AIDS prevention, nutrition and health, human rights, consumer rights, child labor and so on. MII also conducted relief and

rehabilitation programs for fisherfolk affected by the 1996 cyclone. The organization distributed food packets, clothes and utensils and organized medical camps for the coastal villages of Uppada, Ammenabad, Moolapet, Konapapet, Kondevaram, Gorse (U. Kothapalli Mandal), Chodipallipet, Penumallapuram, Danavaipet (Thondangi Mandal), Polavaram and Surya Rao Pet (Kakinada Rural Mandal). MII is also involved in 'disaster preparedness programs' in 8 villages of the area.

### **Tribal Community Development Society (TCDS)**

**Secretary: T.S.N. Rao**

*Address: TCDS, Kinchumanda, Dumbriguda Mandal, Visakhapatnam, A.P*

TCDS was established with the central idea of integrating and enhancing the use of indigenous local knowledge systems into mainstream development interventions. This organization aims to promote and integrate institutional knowledge with local indigenous practices, so as to provide a more holistic framework for sustainable strategies. This would cover areas such as education, agriculture, drinking water, natural resource management, issues on tribal rights, human and animal health, folk arts and culture and media forms.

TCDS acts as a resource group and collaborates with various tribal, women, youth and community

based organizations, by developing sustainable strategies and implementing projects and programs that fit into the larger framework of the goals of the organization. Current activities of TCDS includes organizing tribal and women's rights groups against exploitation, initiating tribal women's self help groups to develop cooperative societies for income generation from minor forest produce and agriculture, documentation and preservation of medicinal and aromatic plants of the Eastern Ghats in collaboration with tribal groups, provide safe drinking water and document and organize various aspects of tribal culture.

### **NEWS**

#### **Fishworkers stir ....**

The National Fishworkers Forum has decided to launch a country wide agitation in support of their outstanding demands from January 8, 2001 and observe a one day token strike on January 18. Some of the leaders of the strike would start an indefinite hunger strike from January 8.

Fishworkers in this country have been agitating for quite some time to press the Government to look into their grievances and redress them on a priority basis. They have been highly critical of the indifferent attitude of the Government.

The major demand of the Fishworkers which have been listed in their memorandum sent to various authorities are the withdrawal of the Aquaculture Authority bill, adequate diesel and kerosene to all fishermen at a subsidized rate, implementation of the recommendations of the Murari committee and inclusion of women and inland fisher people in the Saving-cum-relief scheme.

They are also asking for uniform monsoon trawl ban in all coastal states, discontinuation of import of fish and immediate release of innocent fishermen from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Maldivian jails. (*From The Hindu: January 8, 2001*)