

# ADATS Bagepalli Forestry Project

## 827 024 Sarojamma's story

"I live in Merupalli village of Bagepalli taluk. My husband and I used to live in a joint family along with my husband's family. My husband was the youngest son and we were not treated fairly. When dividing the property, we were given 2 acres of dry and barren land. The rest of the family wanted us to leave the village and look for some other source of living.

"When I joined the village Coolie Sangha Unit, I was selected as the Cheque Signatory to handle our Sangha Funds. After earning the respect from Coolie Sangha members, it has made me feel that they are my true family.

"After many years of working under the Dry Land Development Programme, our barren land became cultivable for food crops. But this was still not enough for the family. Our 2 acre plot was chosen as the demo plot by TNO, the Netherlands, to introduce Rockwool technology.

- A 2' x 1' slab of Rockwool was placed at the bottom of the 1 cubic metre pits we dug, and then filled with red earth, sand and manure.
- Then we planted 90 Mango and 40 Tamarind and Jamun saplings in the 130 pits.
- We were given a 3,600 litre pre-fab water tank to store and water of the saplings.
- The Rockwool absorbed the one bucket of water we poured into each pit and retained it.
- The roots went into these slabs and drew the exact amount of water saplings needed. In this way, there was no wastage of water into the earth surrounding the pits.



"We have started multiple cropping by growing maize in between the Mango trees. We refused to use chemical fertilizer on our land and make leaf manure. Income generated from these crops is sufficient for our family. Last year we had an income of ₹ 12,000 from Mango, ₹ 5,000 from Jamun and another Rupees ₹ from maize.

"In the Taluk Coolie Sangha meeting, I am aware that the Bagepalli Reforestation Programme has generated VERs and that we will receive some money when we sell them.

This will add to my family income.

"I feel proud that my Coolie Sangha is involved CDM projects and helping to counter Climate Change."

