

# ADATS Bagepalli Forestry Project

## 838 016 Muninarayanappa's story



"I live with my wife and two sons in Varahunasenhalli village of Siddalaghatta taluk. We own 3 acres of land, of which only 1 acre was cultivable. Before joining the Coolie Sangha, I tried to support my family by growing food crops and working as a labourer in the neighbouring villages. This however, was not sufficient to meet my family needs.

"Through Coolie Sangha meetings, I became aware of the Dry Land Development Program (DLDP) that ADATS used to encourage Coolie Sangha Members to work on their own lands

for 100 days a year. I found a steady source of income during the dry summer months, and my lands improved.

"The village Coolie Sangha Unit allotted 20 to 25 days every year to work on my fields. One adult from each CSU household descended on my land to clear the uncultivable 2 acres of rocks and boulders, build contour bunding to slowly terrace the land, and also to build a stone bund along the perimeter. After 12 years of hard work, we were able to convert the 2 acres into a cultivable piece of land. In the Taluk Coolie Sangha meetings, we spoke about switching from field crops to tree crops. My family and I also decided to shift to tree cropping.

"ADATS provided us with 268 Mango saplings. A water tank was constructed on my land and a bullock cart was given to my village to haul water from the village to my tank. My wife and sons helped to water these saplings before going to school in the mornings, and after school in the evenings.

"I now have multiple crops on my land. I grow more than one food crop during the monsoons and sell the mangoes for an extra income. By selling the mangoes, I am now able to earn an extra income of ₹ 50-75,000 every year.





“In the Taluk Coolie Sangha meeting, I got to know that the Bagepalli Reforestation Programme has generated of 26,380 VERs, and that each VER is worth about ₹ 1,000. In our CSU Meeting they informed me that my 3 acres of mango plants have reduced about 120 tonnes of poisonous gases in the past 10 years. I felt very happy that, along with other Coolie Sangha Members like me, I too have done something good for earth. If ADATS can sell my VERs at a good price, I will get more than ₹ 1 lakh.

“I am happy that we have a constant source of income from these Mango trees and that children do not have to toil in the fields like me and my wife. Now the surroundings have changed to such an extent that I get enough fodder for my cattle and many good plants and herbs grow on my land. I have stopped working as a labourer for the past 15 years. Due to the hard work of my wife and sons during the initial years in maintaining the Mango saplings, my elder son now works at the Airport and my younger son will finish college this year.”

