

## CAMPAIGNS ON MGNREGS

### **Introduction :**

AF has been playing a pro-active role in creating wide spread awareness to the labour on the rights and entitlements for the labour under MNREGA. During the year 2009-10 AF staff have organized village level campaign in all 230 villages to labour and farmers on MGNREGS. Awareness on both MGNREGS and sustainable agriculture was provided simultaneously because it was difficult to separate farmers and labour since 90% of the farmers were also working as labourers in MGNREGS. So, the village level awareness campaigns were organized jointly for labour and farmers.

### **Achievements in MGNREGS during 2009-2010:**

During the year 2009-10 adequate employment opportunities were created in all 230 villages of the project area. Besides small and marginal farmers even medium and big rainfed farmers were also forced to seek employment under MGNREGS given the distress of farmers. In all 230 villages about 43,000 families availed 25,47,621 person days of employment during the reporting period. Majority of the families worked 2 shifts in a day and maximized their benefit under employment programme. On an average each family could avail about 60 days of employment at an average, wage Rate of Rs.90 - 102/- per day and earned Rs.5,332/- to 6043/- during the reporting period. The details are given below :

Particulars of family benefitted under NREGS										
Sl. No	Name of the mandal	No. of job cards issued	Wage employment provided		Expenditure (Rs.)		No. of person days	Average days of employment per house hold	House-holds completed 100 days	% of house hold completed 100 days
			House holds	Labour	Total amount (in lakhs)	Wage component (in lakhs)				
1	Atmakur	9,302	3,885	6,005	258.122	220.380	216,029	55.61	693	17.85
2	Kuder	8,342	4,878	8,815	275.253	231.262	247,559	50.75	680	13.95
3	Dharmavaram	9,184	4,272	6,806	280.560	235.886	236,044	55.25	822	19.23
4	Rapthadu	8,528	3,675	6,204	226.654	179.834	167,446	45.56	457	12.43
5	Kalyandurg	13,006	10,597	20,286	730.877	688.723	759,523	71.67	2774	26.18
6	Beluguppa	9,863	5,054	9,407	261.226	232.538	252,542	49.97	779	15.40
7	Kundurpi	10,397	5,017	8,623	350.412	306.737	316,097	63.01	1176	23.44
8	Settur	10,166	5,622	10,528	407.041	359.002	352,381	62.68	1221	21.73
	<b>Total</b>	<b>78,790</b>	<b>43,000</b>	<b>76,673</b>	<b>2,790.145</b>	<b>2,454.362</b>	<b>2,547,621</b>	<b>59.25</b>	<b>8602</b>	<b>20.00</b>

AF organized special trainings exclusively for literate young labour and trained them on their rights under MGNREGS and how to access those rights. The training content

includes - control corruption, verify muster rolls, daily attendance of labour, measurement of volume of the work done, unit rates for various works etc. Now the literate youth have become critical mass in each village, and they are able to confront the local functionaries on any unjust practice. Since AF and Government of Andhra Pradesh have MoU for cooperation, AF staff have been involving in the coordination meetings at village, mandal, District and State level and bringing all kinds of problems related to policies and implementation of the programme. It has created more transparency and accountability among the govt. functionaries. Even though there are problems, things are gradually improving for labour. Sustained efforts are being put by AF and the labour to further improve the implementation of NREGS. Besides lobby work along with State level networks, AF has encouraged the labour to participate actively in social audit and use of right to information (RTI) to bring transparency and improvement in the implementation of MGNREGS.

### **Effects of AF's role in MGNREGS in program villages :**

1. Increase in average no. of days of employment per family from 30 during the same time last year to 59 during the reporting period.
2. Improvement in quality of works.
3. Increased participation of labour and farmers in identifying the works and generating work estimates.
4. More no. of families availed 100 days of employment (22%).
5. Improvement in timely and proper payments.
6. Improvement in work site facilities - supply of light weight crowbars, provision of additional person days for supplying drinking water, shade, medical kit, and creche arrangement in 80% villages.
7. Increase in Horticulture and bio-mass plantation.
8. Dual benefits of employment and land productivity development (Bunding, farm ponds, boulders removal, jungle clearance, silt application etc.)
9. Equal wages to men and women.
10. Increase in skills and knowledge and labour families in technical aspects.
11. Confidence of labour increased as the details of payment displayed in the village on regular basis.

### **Impacts of AF's role in MGNREGS in program villages :**

1. Improved self confidence and capacity to assert their rights and entitlements.

2. Distress migration totally stopped in AF program villages.
3. Improved bargaining capacity of labour families.
4. The stable income from MGNREGS helped families to cope up with severe drought during the year 2009-10.
5. Considerable increase in family income and they could meet education and health needs of the family. And some families could acquire assets like sheep and goat, housing etc.
6. Improved economic freedom to women which enhanced their participation in family decision.
7. Reduced dependence on money lenders.
8. Increased capacity to cope with drought.