



initially five of our families and later eight more families have moved tangutur in Aler Mandal of Nalgonda dist selling all our lands and properties. We had Rs. 25000 and could buy 133 acres. It was completely dry and fallow land full of stones. We had a small hillock ('Ene' in telugu) and well (bavi in telugu) so we called this as 'Enebavi'".

Earlier we slogged for our masters. Now it was for us. This land is ours, the sweat is ours, the grass is ours. We never felt tired. With our blood and sweat the arid land was transformed into fertile land which fed the hungry families. We realized fields and home should be together so we constructed our houses and moved into the new village.

A village is borne. Fields are ready... animals came...land was barren...to bring life back into the soil we used tank silt...tank is our mother...its feeds us' says the villagers.

### **Hard lessons...**

As the story of goose laying golden eggs goes..the farmers in Enebavi became bored of their 'old' farming practices. Chemical fertilizer and pesticides captured their attention. They wanted more more yield. More fertilizers and more pesticides to get more and more yields.



But as is man's nature he became too greedy and wanted more and more crops and started using pesticides and insecticides rampantly. This backfired and the farmers learnt a lesson the hard way. The period from 1975 to 1995 was a chemical disaster.



Investments increased and returns reduced. Farming became gambling. Initially it looked profitable, but lost gradually.



## New life

The farmers realized that they needed guidance to start life afresh. They felt they took a wrong path. But how to go forward? Distress, pests, debts...pest have developed resistance. Pesticide costs were ever increasing... red hairy caterpillars were eating away the crops. "CROPS" an NGO working from Jangoan showed them the way to manage the pests without using chemical pesticides. They taught them how identify and understand insects-their lifecycles and behavior. How to manage them with the light traps. By the year 2005 it was declared "pesticide free" village. Mr. Vijay Kumar, CEO SERP was present for the occasion. From then there are no chemical pesticides or fertilizers in the village. Hitherto neglected he milch animals were neglected earlier because they totally depended on chemical manure. But now the livestock were given their due importance for the manure and cow-dung and even dairy farming prospered. No pesticides...no pests...no fertilizers...pure air...pure...water and pure crop.



Cows became central part of their agriculture. Panchagavya, jeevmut, neem solutions, chilli garlic extract, have become part their inputs. Every living being is useful in nature. With chemicals these will disappear that's why we don't like kill insects". We stopped using chemical pesticides long back says the villagers proudly. Yes...farmer knows only sharing and not killing. For last five years the farmers in Enebavi are not going to the fertilizer shops. If necessary they use poultry manure. They use their own seeds. In a

exhibition at Cholleru organized by Centre for Sustainable Agriculture they displayed 96 kinds of seeds.

Now this small village is completely pollution free and its people are enjoying good health. They have dug bores and wells and now they have surplus water.



Farmers got rid of huge investments in agriculture. With that they got out of debt traps. The food grown in the village attracts people from faraway places. They pay advances eve before the crop is harvested. Every family will have atleast 5 q of paddy at any point of time. They don't need to buy vegetables. Every grows and shares with others.

### **A healthy community**

Pure air in Enabavi is enough to cure any disease. Food grown without pesticide is enough to increase immunity. Communicable diseases like Chikungunya, Madras eye which were prevalent in this region have not experienced in the village. People live full life. 'We care for nature and nature cares

for us' says the villagers. There are no cases of cancer, heart disease, diabetes, breathing disorders and skin cancers. Skin diseases and breathing diseases associated with high pesticide and fertilizer never dare effect the villagers.

### **Victory with water**

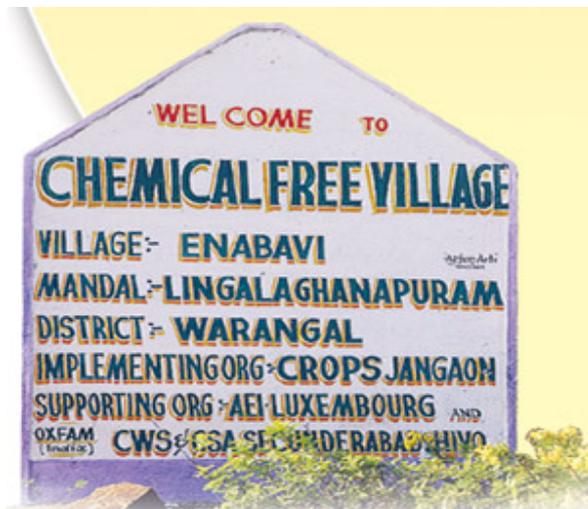
The villagers have formed a water conservation association. They pledged to use the existing water effectively. They came together to conserve the ground water. The village has 26 tube wells and 11 open wells. They decided not to go for new tubewells beyond a limit. The farmers having

excess water will share with others who need water. No new tubewell is dug in the last three years. There was no need. Electricity use has become important in agriculture. Realising this all the farmers in the village have fixed capacitors for their pumpsets. Probably this is the first village which have adopted capacitors in 100 % of their pumpsets. They also decided not to use electricity unauthorisedly.

## **Praises and Recognitions**

The villagers received recognition from across the world. 'Near about 30,000 farmers, staff from NGOs and other organizations, Scientists and Politicians have visited this village' proudly says Ponnamm Padma, a women farmer from the village who went to Srilanka to share their experiences. She learned the farmers experiences and taught the villagers. In recognition of their efforts towards environmental preservation and natural farming Baba Ramdev awarded them "Krushi Gaurav" followed by a cash prize of 1,00,116/-.

The villages request the government should come forward and encourage such efforts. They want a 100 kv transformer to meet their farming needs. They want government to support their marketing initiative to sell organic food.



Honable Minister for Environment in the Centre Sri. Jairam Ramesh visited the village and commended the efforts of the farmers. Dr. VL chopra from the Planning commission has visited the village. Mr. Vijay Kumar, CEO SERP and Ms. Damayanti, earlier collector Warangal district have visited the village several times.

Representatives from 11 countries have visited this village. Unfortunately none from the state ministry or agriculture department or university have visited the village till

now. Our people do not recognize good around. They spend crores of rupees to visit foreign countries to learn farming from them.

Such villages are our fortune and such leaders are our misfortune.

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Eenadu Sunday special 15<sup>th</sup> May 2011. English Translation by Ms. R. Usha Ramanni