



Rayalaseema Water Initiative

Annamayya district, Andhra Pradesh

Rayalaseema Water Initiative (RWI)

Rayalaseema located in the southern part of Andhra Pradesh, consists of Chittoor, Annamayya, Tirupati, Anantapur, Sri Sathya Sai, Kurnool, Nandyal and YSR Kadapa districts and is spread across 234 mandals. Historical data and estimates indicate that droughts occur in Rayalaseema once every three years. Consequently, about 73% of the area is under rainfed, while the rest is either irrigated with borewells, tanks, canals, etc., or fallow. About 81% of families in the region belong to small and marginal farmers and farmers have been surviving with scanty rainfall and recurring droughts by adopting a diversity of crops, mainly food crops, and considerable reliance on livestock.

Given the above context, the '**Rayalaseema Water Initiative**' was conceptualized by a consortium of partners with the support of the Azim Premji Foundation. The initiative focuses on integrating efficient community water management and agricultural behavior change in Annamayya, Ananthapur, and Sri Sathya Sai districts and works in close collaboration with the APCNF (Andhra Pradesh Community-Managed Natural Farming) program at the farm level and leveraging resources from government and other donors.

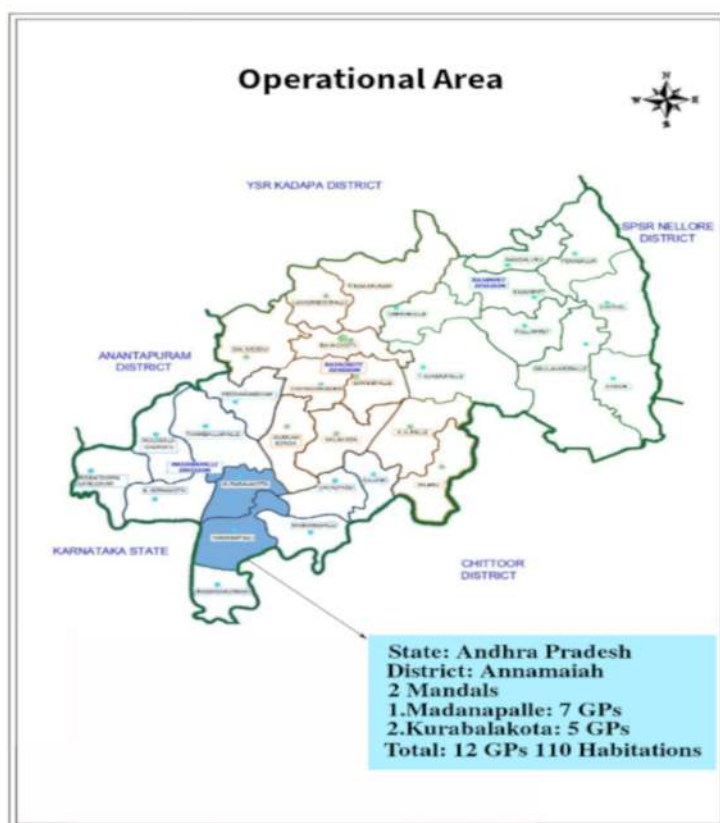
Mahila Abhivruddhi Society, Andhra Pradesh (APMAS) is one of the consortium partners to implement the **Rayalaseema Water Initiative** in the Annamayya district. APMAS has been working in the district nearly for two decades on poverty reduction and sustainable development through various projects such as watershed development, tomato value chain development, integrated farming, food and fodder security, promotion and strengthening of farmer producer organizations & climate resilient agriculture.

Project Goal: Enhance crop security and develop resilience to droughts for all small and marginal farmers through adoption of sustainable water management and natural farming practices

Outreach and Duration: 9200 farmers in 4 years (April 2024 to March 2028)

About APMAS: A national level resource organisation working for women's empowerment and enhancing the income and living standards of the rural and urban poor in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Bihar. APMAS works with the national and state governments, NGOs, private companies, banks, training, academic and research institutions and with development organisations in few developing countries in Asia and Africa.

Vision 2030: APMAS emerged as orchestrator of livelihoods ecosystem for resilient and diverse self-reliant institutions led by marginalized women, farming and indigenous communities resulting in social and economic transformation.



Objectives		Outcomes
1	Water and Crop Security: Enable farmers to have secured crops on their land through on-farm water conservation practices, rejuvenation of water sources, and protective irrigation techniques	2750 ha of land of 7728 farmers will come under secured crop production
		821 ha land of 3091 farmers who depend on rainfall will have secured Kharif crop
		3628 ha land of 4637 farmers who have intermittent irrigation through their borewells will have secured Kharif and Rabi crops
		545 ha fallow land will come under cultivation
2	Natural Farming: Enable small and marginal farmers to move to natural farming resulting in reduced cost of cultivation	7728 farmers will move to natural farming and reduce their cost of cultivation by 30%
		4715 ha of cultivable land will come under natural farming
3	Community Governance: Capacity building of farmers and cadres through training and demonstrations to adopt efficient water management & natural farming practices	12 GPs will have empowered community water management institutions that understand and efficiently manage their water resources
		All 12 GPs will have a strong frontline cadre of 25 Community Resource Persons working with farmers and their collectives.

Key Interventions: The following interventions are proposed based on the local context and requirement and might undergo changes based on experience & learning.

Water and Crop Security	Natural Farming	Community Governance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renovation of tanks, check dams & farm ponds • Construction of check dams and farm ponds • Trenches and rockfill dams • Borewell recharge • Pooling of borewells • Sprinklers for critical irrigation • Removal of boulders and construction of stone bunding • Efficient irrigation techniques • Soil conservation measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bio Resource Centers • Input support to farmers (Seeds) • Farmer Field Schools • Application of bio inputs • Fodder promotion • Compost pits • Package of Practices • Training and exposure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline & Endline survey • Awareness to farmers on water management and natural farming practices • Formation & strengthening of water committees • Water resources measurement & monitoring • Crop water budgeting • Convergence with line departments
		

Guiding Principles

- Saturation approach at a habitation level with a focus on small and marginal farmers
- Adopting a community-driven approach to ensure long-term viability
- Emphasis is on knowledge and technology transfer to communities
- Focus is on processes and the impacts to be achieved
- Collaboration with government departments, APCNF, and other stakeholders

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