

Farmers all set to reap benefits from APRIGP

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Nellore: Not only women groups but farmers' groups would also be supported hereafter across the state as the state government has been promoting specific, product-based organisations for providing support from various financial organisations.



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Highlights:

- **11 mandals in the district were selected under APRIGP for implementation of the project in which 1,240 farmers groups were formed**
- **Paddy, black gram, Bengal gram, groundnut, sheep and goat farmers were identified for promoting groups in backward mandals**
- **These groups were linked to mandal level FPOs for support from the banks, government and financial institutions**

They would also be linked to welfare programmes such as grant of subsidy on fertilisers, farm mechanisation, marketing etc as soon as they attain full shape. As part of the programme, Mahindra Group had come forward to support farmers of Vakadu and Ozili mandals where farmers cultivate paddy crop. They would be provided support for farm mechanisation and the state government is also putting efforts for inking MoU with the IFFCO for distributing fertilisers to the FPO members at company cost.

“We have identified 11 mandals under Andhra Pradesh Rural Inclusive Growth Project (APRIGP) and formed Farmer Producers Groups (FPGs) in all these areas. These village level groups were linked to mandal level Farmers Producers Organisations (FPOs) which was registered under MACS Act, 1995 for any benefits similar to women’s groups,” said Lavanya Veni, Project Director of DRDA.

In Andhra Pradesh, 156 mandals were identified under APRIGP in various districts till now and Nellore has 11 such mandals. In fact, there are 1,240 groups with 14,083 members in all these 11 mandals such as Vakadu, Ozili, Sydapuram, Rapur, Balayapalli, Dakkili, Kaluvoya, Chejarla, Marripadu, Duttaluru and Kondapuram. The mandal level FPOs were already registered under MACS Act. Recently, Industries Minister Amarnatha

Reddy also provided Rs 1 crore revolving fund to these mandal-level organisations in connection with Independence Day celebrations.

In Nellore, FPOs were formed based on the main crop being cultivated in the area. Paddy, Bengal gram, groundnut, black gram, sheep and goat were found to be the basis for formation of groups in all these backward mandals. As per the programme, FPOs would be provided Rs 10 lakh revolving fund and in turn each group would get Rs 10,000 as its share.

They should utilise the support only for its management and after six months they will get external benefits such as banks, government and other financial organisations. “The state government is planning to provide bank-linkage, subsidy and other benefits to these structured groups as they are having legal identity and homogenous livelihood activity. So, we are strengthening these groups keeping in view of their future,” added the senior official.

Source: <http://www.thehansindia.com/posts/index/Andhra-Pradesh/2017-09-07/Farmers-all-set-to-reap-benefits-from-APRIGP/324688>