

2025

# ANNUAL REPORT



**Deccan  
Development  
Society**



## NOTE FROM DIRECTOR

2025 was a year of consolidation and recognition, alongside efforts to deepen and expand the work that has defined DDS for four decades. The year's most significant recognition came when the DDS Community Seed Bank received the Plant Genome Savior Community Award from the Government of India. This is a national award that acknowledges the work of sangham women to conserve their seeds as a living resource, not an archive. These seeds have been grown, exchanged, selected, and passed on for nearly 40 years, and the award is a recognition of that effort and its contribution to the region's agrobiodiversity.

Several programs this year have also been deliberate experiments, shaped by an honest reckoning with a changing context. The livelihoods, pressures, and needs facing sangham women in the Zaheerabad region today are not what they were two decades ago, and DDS has a responsibility to respond. One such example is the Sangham Goat Bank, proposed by Sangham women in Shamshallapur, which revived a traditional pay-forward system of livestock sharing and formalized it as a collective resource for 55 landless and single women households across 14 villages. The 25th Mobile Biodiversity Festival brought sangham women into direct dialogue with the Telangana Farmers' Welfare Commission, creating a platform to advocate for millets and millet-based smallholder farming at the state level.

The DDS-KVK also worked on significant innovations in support of agroecological production. The Bioresource Centre began producing and distributing microbial inputs locally, reducing dependence on chemical inputs and building supply chains for agroecological production. The newly established poultry unit focused on maintaining breed quality of desi poultry, ensuring that backyard poultry systems remain ecologically suited to the small-scale farms DDS supports.

DDS expanded into 15 new villages this year, extending the sangham model to communities where women are beginning to build the same systems of seed sovereignty, collective farming, and livelihood support that sustain this work elsewhere. Beyond these highlights, the year included the 6th Uncultivated Greens Festival, the first Deccan Vikalp Sangham, participation in the national MAKAAAM convention, and health and legal literacy workshops for karyakartas.

None of this is possible without the sustained commitment of our partners and donors, whose support allows DDS to take on new challenges while staying rooted in its founding purpose. Equally, our customers—of Sangam Organics and the broader DDS network—make a real choice each time they buy, and that choice matters to the women who grow. Most of all, this work belongs to the Sangham women themselves: the seed keepers, the karyakartas, and the farmers who innovate, argue, organize, and keep showing up.

Executive Director  
Dr Divya Veluguri

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25th edition of Mobile Biodiversity Festival celebrated with much enthusiasm in 20+ villages



The 25th edition of the Annual Mobile Biodiversity Festival was celebrated with an opening ceremony on January 14th, 2025, at Vaddi Village and a concluding ceremony on February 12th, 2025, at Pachasaale Campus, Machnoor Village. The caravan of biodiversity travelled through 26 villages this year for nearly one month, travelling more than 400 kilometres.

This festivity infused each village it visited with a sense of celebration, featuring lively caravans, traditional songs, and spirited dances. Furthermore, our Sangham farmers actively engaged with hundreds of local farmers in each village, emphasising the significance of millets, biodiversity, and indigenous seed varieties. Through this festival, they proudly celebrate the richness of agro-biodiversity in their fields, affirming their dedication to preserving traditional crops and agriculture.

The biodiversity caravan completed its final round through Machnoor village and was ceremonially welcomed at the pachasaale campus amidst folk dances and songs. on traditional crops, and Sangham women carrying seed pots, symbolic of the seed sovereignty of women and their continuity of farming traditions. Several exhibition stalls displayed traditional seeds, soils, organic manures, indigenous foods, medicinal plants, herbs, and agricultural festivals, offering visitors a holistic understanding of the region's biodiversity and food cultures. The festival also marked the release of 'Harvest Haven: Seeds of Diversity', a documentation effort undertaken to capture the rich local knowledge on seeds and crop diversity of DDS sangham women.



The concluding ceremony was attended by several eminent personalities from government, research institutions, and civil society. Chief guests included Sri Ramulu Nayak, former MLC and member of the Telangana Agriculture and Farmer Welfare Commission; Dr Sharat Babu, President of the Plant Protection Association of India and former Head of the NBPGR; and Dr Soma Marla, retired Principal Scientist, NBPGR, Hyderabad. Members of the Telangana Agriculture Department, representatives from farmer and consumer collectives, and local administration officials also participated in the program, reflecting the wide institutional engagements the festival has been able to build over the years.

During the program, DDS honored a few women farmers who have played a critical role in conserving traditional crops, including Chouhan Dharmi Bhai, Kindidoddi Yashodha, Chouhan Santhibai, Chouhan Seethabai, and Moligerei Manjulamma. Children's engagement with biodiversity was also encouraged through a biodiversity quiz that was conducted in December 2024 across 13 schools, and the winning teams were facilitated at the ceremony. In addition, Chilkapalle, Shamshallapur, and Jamlai Thanda village sanghams were recognized for organizing exceptional village festivals and for the participation of wider village folk apart from sangam members. Several

Dignitaries echoed the concerns of Sangam women, highlighting that the preservation of folk songs, seed diversity, and traditional knowledge systems is essential for sustainable agriculture. Commitments were expressed to pursue policy support for millet cultivation and to protect farmers' rights over conserved landraces.

The program concluded with a collective millet-based community meal shared by sangham women and invited guests. The 25th Mobile Biodiversity Festival once again demonstrated the strength of community-led approaches to conserving agrobiodiversity and reaffirmed DDS's long-standing role in nurturing a sustainable food system rooted in local knowledge, culture, and women's leadership.

Machnoor Seed Bank wins prestigious Plant Genome Saviour Community Award from the Govt. of India 2022-23



Deccan Development Society happily announces that the Community Seed Bank of Maachnoor Village, Zaheerabad Block, Sangareddy District, Telangana, has been honoured with the prestigious Plant Genome Saviour Community Award 2022–23 by the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV&FRA), Government of India. This national recognition celebrates the extraordinary efforts of our women seed keepers, who have safeguarded indigenous crop diversity for more than three decades.

Senior Sangam farmers Molgeri Chandramma, Hussengari Suryakala and Suryapeta Nagamma received this award in New Delhi at the Bharat Ratna C. Subramanyam Convention Centre, NASC Complex, from Mr Shivraj Singh Chauhan, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India. This recognition honours hundreds of Sangam women who have protected, nurtured, and passed on the seeds of our heritage for many decades. Their resilience and indigenous knowledge continue to ensure food sovereignty, climate resilience, and biodiversity conservation for future generations. DDS remains committed to supporting and celebrating the grassroots heroes who safeguard our ecological and cultural wealth.

### Uncultivated Greens Festival 2025 celebrated with diverse greens feast



Uncultivated Greens Festival at the Deccan Development Society's Krishi Vignyan Kendra Campus in Didigi Village, Zaheerabad Mandal. The festival brought together nearly 70 participants from different districts in Telangana and from neighbouring states, including Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, along with neighbouring states, women, nutrition experts, and media representatives. The event aimed to highlight the nutritional, ecological, and cultural importance of uncultivated greens traditionally gathered and consumed by rural communities.

The programme began with field visits to biodiverse farms in Gunjoti and Pastapur villages. Participants interacted closely with women framers, who shared their knowledge of 20-30 varieties of uncultivated greens commonly found on their farms and field boundaries. The women explained the seasonal availability of these greens and their medicinal and nutritional value without any additional cultivation costs.

Following the field visits, participants reconvened at the DDS-KVK Campus, where an exhibition of nearly 40 varieties of uncultivated greens was displayed along with informational posters on their nutritional value. A special community lunch showcased the culinary diversity of these greens, featuring multiple greens-based curries served with millet rotis such as ragi, bajra, and jowar, along with traditional local spice mixes. The meal demonstrated the potential of uncultivated greens to form the basis of affordable, nutritious, and culturally rooted diets.



An interaction between nutrition scientists and senior farmers followed the lunch, highlighting the relevance of uncultivated greens in addressing malnutrition and “hidden hunger.” Speakers reflected on scientific studies that have shown many of these greens to be rich in essential micronutrients, often exceeding those found in commonly cultivated vegetables. Discussion also highlighted how modern agricultural practices and food habits have marginalized these nutrient-rich foods, despite their accessibility and ecological sustainability.

The festival concluded with reflections from Sangham women farmers, who reaffirmed that uncultivated greens have been an integral part of local food systems for generations. They emphasized that these greens thrive naturally when soils are cared for and chemical inputs are avoided, offering a resilient and cost-free source of nutrition. The 6th Uncultivated Greens Festival reinforced DDS’s ongoing efforts to revive forgotten foods, strengthen community knowledge systems, and promote locally available solutions to nutrition and health challenges.

**The first Deccan Vikalp Sangham was successfully organised at DDS Krishi Vigyan Kendra.**



From 7th to 9th August, the Deccan Development Society hosted the Deccan Vikalp Sangham at the Deccan Development Society's Krishi Vignyan Kendra campus in Dididgi villages, Zaheerabad mandal, Telangana. Nearly 60 participants, including civil society, community representatives, activists, and academics working across the Deccan region, came together to engage in a bioregional dialogue on development alternatives. The Sangham emerged from the Vikalp Sangham process, which seeks grounded alternatives to dominant development models that exploit both people and nature, and was conceived following a decision at the Vikalp Sangham general assembly in November 2024 to focus specifically on issues relevant to the Deccan bioregion.

The Sangham created a shared space to understand the Deccan as a distinct bioregion shaped by its ecology, culture, languages, and histories of resistance. Discussions on the region's syncretic heritage and social movements highlighted the interconnections between language, culture, agriculture, and political struggles, enriching participants' collective understanding of the complexity and diversity of Deccan history.



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Participants then engaged in thematic group discussions on water, food, agriculture, pastoralism, livestock, biodiversity and ecology, arts, crafts, and culture, facilitated by organizations working in these areas across the equity, revival of traditional water systems, and the need to treat groundwater as a shared resource. The food and agriculture group highlighted the historic neglect of rainfed farming, the loss of native crop diversity due to monocropping and irrigation policies, and the need to support small and tenant farmers through locally grounded agricultural approaches.

The biodiversity and ecology group stressed that conservation efforts in the Deccan often overlook community knowledge and livelihoods, advocating instead for people-centred conservation models that ensure access rights and ecological sustainability. The pastoralism and livestock group discussed the shrinking of commons, disruption of traditional grazing routes, declining fodder diversity, and the need to move away from productivist livestock models towards systems that respect pastoral livelihoods and ecologies and livelihoods shape regional art forms, and how industrialisation, mass production, and elite appropriation have marginalised many folk arts and crafts, calling for renewed efforts to document and sustain these knowledge systems.



As part of the learning process, participants visited ongoing DDS activities and initiatives, which included biodiverse farms, sangham activities, the millet complex, the central seed bank, and the community radio station. These field engagements demonstrated the practical application of bioregional thinking through community-led agriculture, seed conservation, and knowledge transfer.

Overall, the Deccan Vikalp Sangham provided a meaningful platform for networking, mutual understanding, and cross-thematic dialogue among organisations and individuals working in the Deccan. Participants expressed strong interest in continuing the sangham process through future engagements and collaborative action, strengthening the bioregional alternatives movements in the Deccan.

### Sangham women showcase seed diversity at seed festival commemorating International Seed Day



On 29 April 2025, 62 seed keepers from 31 village sanghams came together to collectively display over 90 varieties of seeds, representing monsoon crops, winter crops, and vegetables. The collection primarily consisted of local landraces of millets, pulses, oilseeds, and other food crops, reflecting the depth of community-led seed conservation in the region. Several rare varieties attracted special attention, including black pigeon pea, Attakodandla Jonna (a short-duration jowar variety with a three-month growing period), and white chickpea, highlighting the continued survival of crops that have largely disappeared from mainstream agriculture.

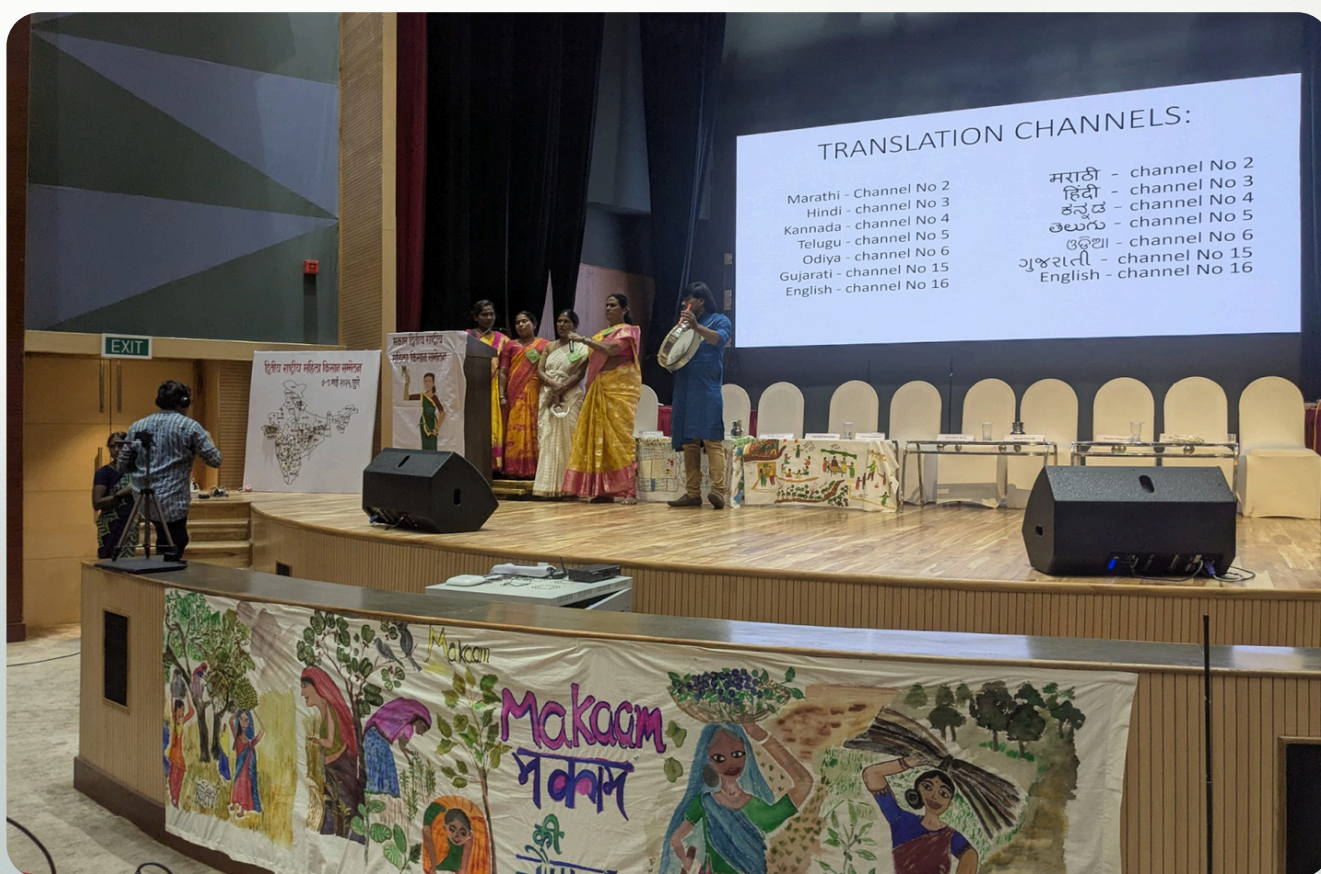
The gathering underscored the critical importance of native seed diversity for food security, climate resilience, and farmer autonomy. Speakers emphasised that the global overdependence on hybrid seeds and corporate-controlled seed systems has led to the irreversible loss of traditional varieties, while the sustained efforts of Sangham women have ensured the survival of local landraces for more than four decades. The discussions also highlighted the central role of women in seed selection, experimentation, and conservation, and how seed saving has historically enabled women’s creative and decision-making roles in agriculture.

The event also stressed the need to transmit seed knowledge and conservation practices to younger generations, particularly in a global context where farmers’ rights to save and exchange seeds are increasingly restricted. Senior seed keepers reflected on the pride and responsibility associated with safeguarding inherited seed wealth and passing it on as a collective responsibility.



Among the participating sanghams, Bidakanne village sangham displayed the highest seed diversity for the third consecutive year with 58 varieties of annual crops, followed closely by Gunjoti sangham with 56 varieties and Potpalle sangham with 55 varieties. Notably, every sangham displayed no fewer than 20 seed varieties, reaffirming the strength of community seed sovereignty in a region increasingly dominated by hybrid monocultures

Sangham Women participate in the Second National Women Farmers' Convention Organised by MAKAAAM



Two Sangham women farmers, along with filmmakers from the Community Media Trust and DDS staff, participated in the Second National Women Farmers Convention organised by the Mahila Kisan Adhikar Manch (MAKAAAM) at Savitribai Phule Pune University, Maharashtra, from 7 to 9 May 2025. The convention brought together women farmers, activists, and organisations from across the country to collectively articulate feminist perspectives on agriculture, agroecology, and farmers' rights. DDS actively contributed to the cultural and political spaces of the convention, including a collective song on women's agriculture that reflected the deep relationship between food crops, care, and well-being.



Ms T Sunitha, farmer from Bilalpur, participated in a parallel session ‘Gender Transformative Agroecology’, where she shared her experiences in organic farming “This year's pigeon pea crop got infested with pests. My neighbours who grew monocrops for three acres applied different pesticides they bought from the market and spent so much money. I mixed jaggery with water and sprayed it on crops. It attracted many ants that predated on the pests. It did not cost me much money at all. The yield in my one acre was more than the yield in 3 acres of my neighbour’s farm.”

On Day 3, B. Kamamma participated as a speaker in a plenary session titled ‘Feminist Approaches to Agroecology: Perspectives and Strategies’. As a senior sangam karyakartha, she shared her experiences with feminist organizing for mixed cultivation of food crops. “Men questioned and sneered at us when we formed sanghams and discussed growing multiple food crops. But we argued with them and were determined to show our strength. We argued about the benefits of food crops for our farms and households. We also succeeded in achieving seed sovereignty for our sanghams.”

International Women's Day Celebrated by Sangham Women at DDS-KVK



Over 150 Sangham women from 40 villages across the region came together in Zaheerabad and celebrated International Women’s Day with energy, solidarity, and pride. The celebrations began in Zaheerabad town with a spirited rally, where women marched from Canara Bank to Cafe Green Ethnic, singing songs and raising slogans that affirmed women’s rights, their leadership in agriculture, and their central role in sustaining food systems. The rally transformed the town streets into a vibrant space of collective expression, drawing public attention to the strength and unity of rural women farmers.

The celebration continued at the DDS-Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Didigi village, where a large gathering of sangham women assembled for a meeting and cultural interaction. The programme was graced by Ms Nirmala Reddy, Chairperson of the Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Limited, as the chief guest, along with Dr Swati Tiwari and Mr C. Uday Bhaskar, Deputy General Managers from NABARD, Hyderabad. Addressing the gathering, Ms Nirmala Reddy acknowledged that women are at the forefront of agricultural production while remaining largely invisible in markets and decision-making spaces and encouraged women to step forward as entrepreneurs and leaders in the agricultural value chain.



The event was marked by moments of joy and celebration, symbolising women’s collective strength and food sovereignty. Sangham women and guests together cut a millet-based cake, reaffirming the importance of millets as women’s crops and as symbols of nutrition, sustainability, and self-resilience. The shared meal that followed created spaces for informal interactions and camaraderie among women from different villages.

The day concluded with games and group activities organised by and for the sangham women, filling the campus with laughter and enthusiasm. These moments of play and togetherness reflected the spirit of International Women’s Day as a celebration not only of struggle and rights but also of joy, confidence, and collective resilience. The gathering reaffirmed the sangham’s commitment to strengthening women’s leadership, solidarity, and visibility in agriculture and community life.

## One-Month Internship Programme at DDS–Krishi Vigyan Kendra



Deccan Development Society–Krishi Vigyan Kendra (DDS–KVK) hosted, and a sister organisation of the DDS Centre for Sustainable Agriculture (CSA) facilitated and designed a one-month internship programme from September 01, 2025, to September 30, 2025, for MA Rural Development 2nd-year students from Shiv Nadar University (deemed to be a university). The internship was designed to provide students with a deep, field-based exposure to holistic agriculture, traditional knowledge systems, community-led development practices, and grassroots policy engagement in the Deccan region.

The internship programme offered interns an immersive learning experience into DDS’s approach to agroecology, which integrates biodiversity conservation, seed sovereignty, women’s leadership, and food sovereignty. Through continuous interactions with Sangham women farmers and DDS field staff, interns gained an understanding of how traditional agriculture practices are not only ecologically sustainable but also socially empowering. Particularly for rural women.



As part of the programme, interns visited DDS field locations across villages, where they observed biodiverse farms practising mixed cropping of millets, pulses, oilseeds, and uncultivated greens. These visits helped interns understand how rainfed agriculture, when supported by indigenous knowledge and collective decision-making, can ensure food security, nutritional diversity, and climate resilience. Sangham women shared their lived experiences of farming without chemical inputs, managing soils, conserving water, and sustaining livelihoods under changing climatic conditions.

The interns were also exposed to DDS's longstanding work on seed sovereignty through visits to the community seed bank. Here they learnt about community-managed systems of seed conservation, traditional storage techniques, seed exchanges, and the cultural significance of local landraces. Interactions with senior seed keepers highlighted how women historically played a central role in seed selection, preservation, and transmission of knowledge across generations.

In addition, the interns visited key DDS institutions, including the Community Production Centre, Community Media Trust (CMT), and Sangham Radio. These visits illustrated how DDS integrates livelihood, media, and communication into its development model. At the community production centre, interns observed how women collectively process and market local produce, strengthening economic autonomy. Through interactions at Community Media Trust and Sangham Radio, interns gained insights into how community-controlled media amplifies rural women's voices, documents local knowledge, and challenges dominant development narratives.

The internship also enabled interns to understand policy engagements at the grassroots level. Discussions with DDS staff highlighted how local practices and community experiences inform advocacy on issues such as millet promotion, seed laws, land rights, women farmers' recognition, and sustainable agriculture policies. Interns were able to see how policy debates translate into everyday realities for farmers, and how DDS bridges the gap between local knowledge systems and broader policy frameworks.

Overall, the one-month internship at DDS-KVK provided students from Shiv Nadar University with a comprehensive exposure to alternative development pathways rooted in ecology, equity, and community control. The programme strengthened the interns' understanding of the interconnections between agriculture, gender, culture, media, and policy, while also offering DDS an opportunity to engage young scholars in dialogue around sustainable and socially just food systems. The internship reaffirmed the importance of experiential learning and knowledge exchange in nurturing future practitioners and researchers committed to transformative change.

## Health Workshops for Sangham Karyakartas at DDS Office



Deccan Development Society organised a series of health workshops at the DDS office, bringing together around 50 sanghams karyakartas for focused discussions on health, livelihoods, and traditional lifestyles. The workshops were designed to create awareness of preventive health practices, revive traditional knowledge systems related to well-being, and address emerging health concerns among rural women.

Focused on traditional lifestyles and holistic approaches to health, emphasising the close relationship between food, farming, livelihoods and well-being. Participants discussed how traditional diets based on millets, diverse crops, uncultivated greens, and seasonal foods have historically supported good health in rural communities.



As part of the workshop, participants explore over 30 varieties of locally available herbal plants known for their medicinal properties. Karyakartas shared community knowledge on the use of these plants for common ailments, preventive care, and household health practices. This exchange highlighted the richness of local herbal knowledge and the importance of conserving biodiversity as a foundation for community health and self-reliance.

Overall, the health workshops strengthened awareness among Sangham karyakartas about integrating traditional health knowledge with modern medical understanding. The sessions reinforced DDS's holistic approach, which recognises health as deeply interconnected with agriculture, livelihoods, nutrition, and women's empowerment. Participants expressed the need for continued health education and similar workshops to support the physical and emotional well-being of women working at the grassroots.

## Workshop on Legal Literacy for Women at DDS Office



Deccan Development Society conducted a workshop on legal literacy aimed at empowering women with knowledge about their rights and government schemes. These sessions brought together 55 karyakartas from around the villages, creating an important platform for legal awareness and dialogue on local governance issues. Government officers actively participated in the workshops, providing detailed information on various government schemes designed to support women's welfare, agriculture, and livelihoods. The sessions emphasised how women could access these schemes and the necessary procedures for benefiting from them.

A legal coordinator, Chukkamma, facilitated discussions on constitutional rights and basic legal entitlements, helping participants understand their rights in areas such as land ownership, inheritance, domestic violence, and labor laws. The coordinator also engaged the women in conversations about prevalent local issues, including disputes related to land and resources, and offered practical legal solutions and pathways for redressal.

The interactive nature of the workshops encouraged participants to share their experiences and challenges, enabling a collective exploration of strategies to address common problems. These legal literacy events played a critical role in building the capacity of sangham women to assert their rights, navigate bureaucratic systems, and advocate effectively within their communities.

Overall, the initiative reinforced the importance of legal awareness as a tool for women's empowerment and strengthened the sangham's commitment to fostering informed, confident leadership among rural women.

## Sangham Goat Bank: Collectivizing Livestock and Strengthening Livelihoods



In January 2025, Deccan Development Society launched ‘Sangham Goat Bank’, a pilot initiative in 14 villages. DDS Sanghams supported 55 landless women and single women for the purchase of one adult goat as a source of complementary livelihood, as most of these households depended almost exclusively on wage labor.

The idea for the goat bank was proposed by Sangham women in Shamshallapur village during field visits by DDS staff, about a pay-forward system of sharing for small livestock like goats and poultry. The system of paying an offspring in return for receiving a goat or sheep was once a common practice in villages.

Through this initiative, the women envisioned a common livestock pool for the sanghams, which they loaned from and returned with livestock in return. By February and March 2025, the 55 households also welcomed new kids from the initially purchased adult goats.



To ensure proper well-being of the goats, Deccan Development Society organised a veterinary workshop on 16th April, 2025, for the women who are part of the Sangham Goat Bank. Dr Kailash Madne, Subject Matter Specialist (Animal Husbandry) at DDS-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, organised a session on various aspects related to goat rearing, including selection of breeds, importance of deworming and vaccination, care and management of pregnant animals and kids, seasonal diseases and ethno-veterinary practices. In May 2025, these goats were vaccinated, and the kids were given deworming medicine to prepare for the monsoons when goats are particularly vulnerable to diseases.

The mortality of goats, especially in vulnerable monsoon seasons, was a concern for both the women and field staff. Despite best attempts, 2 goats out of the 55 goats died in July and August due to disease and lack of access to timely treatment. Considering this risk, the programme also has an internal insurance mechanism where women who received goats pay 5% of the goat's valuation, which will be matched with 5% sourced from project funds.

This mechanism was instituted in the absence of formal insurance programmes, which were rendered ineligible for goats obtained from non-bank loans. Veterinary health is also now discussed regularly in sangam meetings and in health karyakarta meetings that are conducted every 3 months among village-level health karyakartas. Workshops are being organised on plant-based remedies for livestock health and treatments.

## DDS-KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA IN 2025



Deccan Development Society's Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Medak – 1, Zaheerabad, Sangareddy district, Telangana, functioned as a key technology assessment, refinement and dissemination centre during the year 2025. The KVK operated in close collaboration with farming communities, particularly small and marginal farmers, women farmers, socially disadvantaged groups and line departments, coordinating with the core philosophy of DDS and the mandate of Indian Council of Agriculture Research.

During the year, special emphasis was laid on Natural Farming, integrated farming systems, low-cost technologies and ecological pest management. Through On-Farm Trials (OFTs), Frontline Demonstrations (FLDs), trainings and extension activities, the KVK focused on validating technologies under real farm conditions and enhancing farmer confidence for adoption.

A major achievement of the year was the establishment and strengthening of two Natural Farming demonstration units and a poultry unit, which served as learning hubs for farmers, extension personnel and students, and reinforced KVK's commitment to sustainable and regenerative agriculture.



### Mandated Activities of DDS–KVK

As per ICAR guidelines, KVK has implemented the following mandated activities during the reporting year:

- Technology Assessment and Refinement through On-Farm Trials (OFTs)
- Technology Demonstration through Frontline Demonstrations (FLDs)
- Capacity Building of farmers, farm women, rural youth and extension functionaries
- Extension and Advisory Services through field visits, campaigns, meetings and digital platforms
- Knowledge and Resource Centre for natural farming, facilitating farmer learning through establishment of demonstration units and adoption of ecologically sustainable and livelihood-oriented practices.

### On-Farm Trials (OFTs)

On-Farm Trials were conducted to test, refine and validate technologies under farmers' field conditions, with active participation of farmers. The OFTs addressed issues related to crop productivity, pest and disease management, soil health, horticultural diversification, livestock health and labour-saving technologies, with a strong orientation towards natural and eco-friendly practices.

OFTs summary during 2025

- Total number of OFTs conducted: 20
- Total number of trials on farmers field:100
- Total area covered:  $\approx$  40 ha
- Mandals covered: 6 mandals

Under the discipline of Crop Production, OFTs were conducted on improved varieties and sustainable crop management practices such as Soybean (AISb-50), Paddy under Dry Direct Seeded Rice (Dry DSR) conditions, application of Pusa decomposer (ICAR technology) for residue management, and Bengal gram variety NBeG-776. In Horticulture, the trials focused on varietal evaluation and diversification through ICAR released Rose (Arka Savi), Tomato (Arka Abhed), Watermelon (Arka Shravani) and intercropping systems in oil palm orchards. The Plant Protection discipline addressed key pest management challenges through OFTs on cotton thrips management, control of teak mosquito bug in guava, integrated pest management (IPM) in rice, and IPM strategies for chilli thrips. OFTs under Home Science focused on drudgery reduction, nutrition and occupational safety through technologies such as sugarcane detrashing, use of weed hoe weeders, preparation and promotion of weaning mix, and adoption of protective clothing for farm women. In the Animal Husbandry discipline, OFTs were conducted on area-specific mineral mixtures, coated vitamins and chelated minerals, herbal management of mastitis, and ethno-veterinary practices for tick control. Overall, the OFTs facilitated active farmer participation, location-specific refinement of technologies and generation of valuable feedback, ensuring that the validated practices were practical, acceptable and scalable.



## Frontline Demonstrations (FLDs)

Frontline Demonstrations were conducted to showcase proven technologies on farmers' fields and establish their performance under real farming situations. FLDs emphasized improved varieties, integrated crop management (ICM), integrated pest management (IPM), mechanization, and livestock productivity, with special attention to natural farming-compatible practices.

FLDs summary during 2025

- Total number of FLDs conducted: 21
- Total demonstrations laid on farmers field: 210
- Total area covered:  $\approx$  84.0 ha
- Mandals covered: 7 mandals

Under crop production, FLDs were conducted with a focus on adopting improved production technologies on high-density planting system (HDPS) cotton, sorghum variety PYPS-2, sugarcane variety VSI-1213, and sorghum grown as a succeeding crop after cotton. In horticulture, the demonstrations focused on Integrated Crop Management (ICM) practices in mango, Dolichos bean (Arka Amogh), marigold, and papaya. The Plant Protection FLDs addressed major pest problems through IPM demonstrations in cotton against pink bollworm, IPM in mango, management of early shoot borer and root grub in sugarcane, and fall armyworm management in maize. Under Home Science, interventions supported drudgery reduction, occupational safety and enhanced access to nutritious foods, particularly for women and small farm families. FLDs were conducted on nutrigardens for household nutritional security, use of protective clothing kits for spraying and harvesting, mango harvesters and sapling transplanters. The Animal Husbandry demonstrations included mineral licks, cultivation of hybrid Super Napier, adoption of Double PgF<sub>2</sub> $\alpha$  protocol in dairy animals, and backyard poultry units. The FLDs established the practical viability of technologies, built farmer confidence for adoption, and strengthened the role of KVK as a credible knowledge and demonstration hub.



### Special National Programmes – CFLDs on Pulses and Oilseeds and Model Pulse Village

- Under special national programmes, KVK implemented Cluster Frontline Demonstrations (CFLDs) on pulses and oilseeds under NFSM–CFLD Pulses and NMOOM–CFLD Oilseeds, resulting in a substantial expansion of technology outreach during the reporting year.
- Under CFLD Pulses, demonstrations on Redgram were conducted over an area of 80 acres, while the Model Pulse Village programme covered 150 acres of blackgram and 600 acres of redgram, with focus on improved varieties, integrated crop management and need-based plant protection practices.
- Under CFLD Oilseeds, demonstrations were implemented on soybean covering 250 acres and safflower covering 125 acres, emphasizing improved production technologies, balanced nutrient management and sustainable input use.
- As per programme norms, each acre represented one farmer, resulting in a cumulative reach of 1,205 farmers through CFLD Pulses, Model Pulse Village and CFLD Oilseeds interventions.
- These large-scale demonstrations played a critical role in enhancing crop productivity, strengthening farmer confidence, promoting adoption of improved technologies and accelerating district-level dissemination of proven practices.



### Capacity Building and Extension Advisory Services

- 860 farmers and farm women trained through capacity building programmes conducted under OFTs, FLDs, CFLDs and livelihood-oriented initiatives under skill trainings.
- Around 250 rural youth trained in agriculture-based livelihood opportunities including community media content creation, value addition of agricultural and horticultural produce, nursery management, bio-input production technologies, organic and natural farming, and vermicomposting production.
- 168 final-year RAWEP students trained through experiential learning and field-based agricultural extension activities.
- Approximately 96 extension activities conducted, covering around 14,500 farmers across villages and mandals in the operational area.
- 29,350 planting materials distributed to farmers to promote crop diversification and adoption of improved varieties
- 2,640 soil samples analysed with the support of Reddy's Laboratory, Sangareddy, followed by Soil Health Card distribution to participating farmers.
- 4,571 farmers reached through mobile-based agro-advisory services, ensuring timely dissemination of crop and weather-related advisories.

- Around 3,000 stakeholders reached through approximately 28 social media posts on agriculture, natural farming and allied themes.
- About 50 method demonstrations conducted across villages, benefiting at least 1,000 farmers through practical, hands-on learning.

### **Knowledge and Resource Centre for Natural Farming**

By integrating training, capacity building, input support and field-level demonstrations, special emphasis was laid on hands-on learning, farmer-led adoption and supply of locally produced bio-inputs, enabling the transition towards ecologically sustainable and low-cost farming systems. To operationalize this, two dedicated Natural Farming demonstration units were established and strengthened at the KVK campus, serving as learning hubs and resource supply centres for farmers across the district and neighbouring regions.

**1. Bio-input Resource Centre (BIRC)** was established to support on-farm adoption of natural farming by ensuring availability of quality bio-inputs and building farmer capacity in their use.



<b>Particulars</b>	<b>Quantity (Litres)</b>
<b>NPK Consortium</b>	<b>295</b>
<b>Beauveria bassiana</b>	<b>268</b>
<b>Trichoderma viride</b>	<b>244</b>
<b>Metarhizium anisopliae</b>	<b>238</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,045</b>

### **Coverage and Reach**

- Total quantity distributed: 1,045 litres
- Farmers benefited: 250
- Mandals covered: 7 (Nyalkal, Zaheerabad, Jharasangham, Kangti, Mogudampalli, Kohir, Raikode, Bidar)
- Villages covered: 54

### **Financial Sustainability**

- Bio-inputs sold: 122 litres
- Revenue generated: ₹12,200
- Amount added to revolving fund: ₹12,200

The Bio-input Resource Centre strengthened farmer access to eco-friendly pest and nutrient management solutions, reducing dependence on chemical inputs and promoting sustainable crop production.

## 2. Natural Farming Crop Cafeteria

A 2-acre Natural Farming Crop Cafeteria was developed at the DDS–KVK campus as a live demonstration unit showcasing diversified dryland cropping systems under natural farming.



**Major crop groups demonstrated**

<b>Crop Category</b>	<b>Crops Demonstrated</b>
<b>Cereals &amp; Millets</b>	<b>Sorghum, Pearl millet, Foxtail millet, Finger millet</b>
<b>Pulses</b>	<b>Red gram, Green gram, Bengal gram</b>
<b>Oilseeds</b>	<b>Safflower, Sunflower, Castor</b>
<b>Commercial Crops</b>	<b>Cotton, Sugarcane</b>

## **Key natural farming & climate-resilient practices demonstrated**

- Ridge and furrow sowing
- Intercropping and mixed cropping systems
- Live mulching and biomass recycling
- Use of drought-resilient crop varieties
- Integrated Nutrient Management using jeevamrutham, ghana jeevamrutham, vermicompost and bio-fertilizers
- Efficient water management through drip and sprinkler systems
- Integrated Pest Management using pheromone traps, light traps, bio-acoustic tools and eco-friendly botanicals



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