

Fencing brings in new farm based enterprises

Pangi Dasarath is a farmer from Karabali village in Gasaba Panchayat of Visakhapatnam District. When Maathota activities were initiated, the land identified for Maathota was slopy filled with boulders and less productive. He Initiated the Maathota project activities on his barren land in 2008 and transformed it into a productive land through his hard work and adopting a variety of enterprises on his farm.

His work on Maathota had a modest beginning with digging the pits, earthen as well as stone bunding across the slope to arrest the soil loss. He planted Mango, Chikoo and Amla plants on his Maathota farm. Soon after the planting of fruit species, he had gone for raising gave around the field to protect the plants from open grazing. When he had realized that the land is protected, he started growing Piper Longum (locally known as Pippali), as intercrop, banana and Pineapple on the slopy part of the land.



Later, he dug a farm pond on plot to harvest the rain water, a vermicompost unit, cattle shed with cement Concrete flooring and drying plot form in the field, constructed a Breed farm for raising the country poultry with the support from Department of Animal Husbandry, facilitated by VIKASA and WASSAN. Currently he has around 50 hens on his breed farm.

Realizing the potential for Agave, he initiated a nursery to raise the 1,00,000 Agave rhyzomes to sell other maathota farmers. Soon after an exposure visit to a plot with Hill Broom grass, he immediately introduced this on his plot along the bunds and learnt making of bundles of Hill Broom to sell in the weekly shandies.

The following table gives an overview of the economics of his plot before and after the Maathota intervention

Before Maathota programme		After Maathota Programme	
Crops	Income (₹)	Crops	Income (₹)
Millets	5000	Plantation (mango & Chikoo)	15000
		Intercrop (Piper long rum)	30000
		Banana in trenches	5000
		Pine apple	6000
		Agave Nursery	60000
		Hill brooms	25000
Total	5000	Total	1,41,000

Maathota is a tribal Development programme supported by NABARD. VIKASA is implementing this project in 3000 acres in Araku Valley and Dumbroghuda Mandals.

Fruit species like Mango, Sapota, Amla, Lemon, Custard Apple, Guava etc were supplied to farmers to bring the barren lands into sustainable productive assets

He is yet to tap the income from other enterprises like Back yard poultry and growing fish fingerlings on his farm pond.