



Renovated Cattle sheds

Cattle are the integral part of the farming and so also in tribal agriculture. Majority of the tribal farmers limit their cultivation to the extent manure is available for cultivation (that is produced by themselves) hindering them to bring into cultivation only part of their total landholding. VIKASA study reveals that purchase of cattle is the major investment of farmers in tribal area.

The cattle are kept in the cattle sheds in their backyards. Most of the cattle sheds are in unhygienic condition. VIKASA, being a staunch believer of natural and organic farming, makes the best utilization of the cattle urine and dung, constructed the concrete flooring in the existing cattle sheds as part of the NABARD Tribal Development Project (MAATHOTA). The urine thus collected in a collection tank constructed at the slope of the cattle shed was encouraged to spray on the vegetable and fruit crops, by diluting before spraying.

VIKASA concretised 940 existing cattle sheds. Support was extended to farmers based on the size of the cattle shed with an upper limit of Rs. 5000/-. In some cases, farmer's contributed Rs.10000 to Rs. 15000/- per cattle shed.

Demonstrations and Trainings were also organized to prepare the effective manures like Jeevamrutam, Panchagavya etc.

As the State Government is promoting Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) on a large way, this is the critical intervention in the tribal farming systems and can be implemented across all the tribal areas. Majority of the cattle tended by tribal farmers are local Desi breeds which are strongly recommended for the promotion of the ZBNF. By scaling up this activity, not only the local farmers can effectively make use of their cattle dung and urine but also can supply the urine collected in the tanks to the needy farmers in the surrounding locations.

- Improves the hygiene of the cattle sheds and reduces the incidence of diseases
- Urine collected can be used as a preventive spray to reduce the pest incidence on crops reducing the costs of cultivation of crops and increases net incomes
- Foliar application adds nutrients to the crop making it healthy
- Urine and Dung collected is used in the preparation of Jeevamrutam which is being used on all the crops

