

CASE STORIES- KRISHNA DISTRICT

1. Case story of company Seed farming woman farmer



Company : TATA
Name : Gundru Saraswathy
Village : Janardhanavaram
Mandal : Chaatraayi
District : Krishna
State : Andhra Pradsh

My name is Saraswathy. I have four members in my family, husband and two children. We have two acres of agriculture land. We used to cultivate two crops every year. We are depending on this land and also go to wage work when we don't have work in our land. We face many difficulties in farming the land, the tractor hiring is becoming unbearable and the price hike of seeds and fertilizers to the maximum. Generally we take crop loans from bank and paying back after harvestings. But, unfortunately due to the pandemic wave we could not pay back the loan that we have taken from a private bank which possess interest of 36%.

The covid19 pandemic has thrown us into very bad situation. We are unable to get the Government offered provisions. We didn't get the rice, vegetables, adequate medical care, and other services on lockdown period. The schools were closed and children were stuck in the house in poverty. Because most of the people like us, are always depends on schools not only for getting the education for our children, but also for getting food at least once in day too. In the pandemic time, we didn't get any work. Because all wage works, agriculture practices, and NREGS works were stopped and the previous wage payments are not yet paid. So, we had to go for private money lenders and it made us more burden.

I came to know that many small farmers are planning to cultivate company seeds. I too wanted to go with them. Then we had a village level union meeting with the TATA company organizer (agent) and discussed the matter. He had explained about the paddy seed farming. He said, company will give seeds and fertilizers and will guide in all stages to maintain the crop well. He also said, yielding will be more than normal crop up to 60 quintals (6,000 kilos) and the company will buy back the crop with higher price. So we agreed to go by his guidance and asked him about crop guaranty. He said, there will be compensation if the crop will get failed.

I and my husband decided to cultivate all two acres with paddy seeds of TATA Company. The company has supplied seeds and fertilizers and also pesticides for two acres and we invested to plough, seed plantation and other labor charges etc. Four months we have maintained everything which the organizer asked to do. Finally after harvest the output was not more than 20 quintals per acre instead of 80 quintals. This is happened to all farmers. Then we went to the organizer and asked what the wrong with the crop is. He replied that it was farmers' fault that they did not do the pollination (crossing male female) properly and did not do watering in time. We refused and said we followed your suggestions and done everything and you are guiding us regularly, so you have to settle the matter. He said, he will report the matter to TATA Company and they will decide.

Next day we organized village level union meeting with mandal union leaders. We discussed the matter and decided to demand compensation. We wanted to go with the organizer's promise. He told in the beginning that the yield (final produce) of the seeds will be 60 quintals and price will also be higher than market. Even if we calculate with the market price one quintal Rs 1,800/ the 60 quintals cost will be Rs 1,08,000/. So we decided to

demand Rs.1, 00,000/ per acre and we give all the seeds to the company that we have produced without no price. Everybody has agreed and decided to go to the organizer on the next day.

We went to the organizer with our mandal union leaders and demanded which we decided. He said company has given seeds, fertilizers and pesticides, and how can you demand so many amounts. Then our leaders said that you have to stick with your promise and the farmers are giving you all the seeds which they produced. So, one lack rupees is not a big amount we said. After a big discussion we compromised with Rs 45,000/ per acre and we got bond on hundred rupees stamp from the organizer. We got the amount in the month of May, 2021. I got Rs 90,000/ and the investment was Rs 50,000/ for two acres.

2. Case story of a company seed farming small peasant



COMPANY : Syngenta
NAME : Palli Daasu.
VILLAGE : Chekkapalli
MANDAL : Musunuru
DISTRICT : Krishna
STATE : Andhra Pradesh

I am a small farmer having one acre land who cultivates two crops per year. Every year investment cost is being increase because the increment in tractor hire, hiking price rates of fertilizers. I am in debt, because the investment is high and the income is low. I planned to go with vegetables or other new crops. At that time some of the small farmers in our village discussing about the seed companies giving better price for seed production. So, I too I wanted to go with other farmers who are planning to cultivate company seeds. We are all union members promoted by APVVU. We have village level union and mandal level union. One day we had a meeting with all union members and planed to discuss with company. Next day we called the company agent and asked them about the investments and benefits in farming their seeds. They said they will provide seeds and fertilizers and they will buy the seeds. They will deduct the advance cost at the time paying bills to our product. We raised the issues like crop failure and prices of the seeds we produce. They have explained that they will be guiding us in all matters and the yielding will be higher than the normal crops up to 40 quintals (4 tones). The will buy back the crop and the price also higher than market. I put corn seed in two acres for the Syngenta company. I and my wife worked in the field more than three months. But the crop is failed and the final yield is only 2,000 kilos from two acres. The agents said 4,000 kilos will be the yielding for one acre. All the farmers' situation is same and we planned to demand for the loss. So, we the village level union leaders went to Musunur to meet the company agents. He said that he will inform the matter to the company immediately and the company will look after the matter. He also said that he is not the person to decide and there is another agent also. He said he will bring him to the village.

He was always postponing the meeting because his partner is sick with corona. We, the village union leaders have met the agent for many times. Finally he said that his partner was died and he cannot do anything.

We discussed the matter with mandal union leaders and conducted *Dharna* in front of RDO office at Nuziveedu. The agent was called to RDO office and warned him to pay the compensations. We demanded Rs 50,000/ per acre after deducting their amount for seed and fertilizers. We also said he can take the entire crop with no cost, and he has to pay Rs 50, 000/ per acre. But he said that his partner is died and he has taken the burden, so only Rs 30,000/ per acre will be paid. We refused, finally we compromised with Rs 40,000/. We received the amount in month of May, 2021. I gave him the remaining corn seeds. All this process was lead by our union.

3. Case story of a landless agriculture worker

COMPANY : RAASI

NAME : **Thalliboyina Thirupathi Rao**

VILLAGE : **Potthureddypalli**

MANDAL : **Noojiveedu**

DISTRICT : **Krishna**

STATE : **Andhra Pradesh**

I am landless agriculture worker. I and my wife going for daily wage work. We both are members of village level union promoted by APVVU. We are cultivating in two acres of land on lease. I used to grow paddy in Ruby season and Groundnut or Corn in Kharif season. Every year the farming input expenditure is increasing and our produced food grain's rates are not increased. I cannot get crop loan from bank, subsidy seeds and fertilizers from Government. And also I cannot get any Government support like Raithu Bandhu, because I don't have Tenet farmer certificate.

Every year I am borrowing money for investment from money lenders at the rate of 36% interest, and paying back when after selling the crop. There is nothing remained to my family after selling the grains, moreover some debts are still in due. I thought that it is better to stop cultivating and will continue to go for daily wage work and we have job card of NREGA.

One evening, in our village level union meeting the topic about company seed farming was raised and decided to discuss the matter with the company. Next day morning the organizer (company person) from RAASI has visited our village to discuss with the farmers. Then, we organized our union meeting and we invited the company person to participate. He has explained that company will buy back the production and price will also be fair than the general market and yielding will also be higher than regular crop up to 40 quintals. He also said company will provide seeds and fertilizers, but no money will be given in advance. We raised the many questions and got clarifications. He promised that if the crop is damaged, the compensations will be given according to the investment. So, 70 small farmers including me have agreed to grow Corn seeds for the company.

The investment for land leveling and ploughing with tractor was higher than normal crops. Labor cost for seeding was very high. Total cost including seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, tractor hire, pollination (male female crossing) labor, harvesting etc is Rs 30,000/ per acre. My wife and I have worked in the corn field for almost 100 days. More than 20% seedlings were died within three weeks and another 20% were not grown well. The organizer from Raasi Company was visiting the field regularly and was observing the situation. Finally we got 400 kilos of best seed instead of 4,000 kilos. All 70 farmers have lost the crop. After harvest the drop yielding is 400 to 1,000 kilos.

This was discussed in our village level union and decided to demand compensation. We took all the seeds to Noojiveedu and handed over to the organizer. We demanded Rs 80,000/per acre, because he told that the yielding will be 4,000 kilos and we calculated with Rs 2,000/ market price. He refused and said that the matter to be discussed with the company. We went to him again and again to demand the compensation, but every time he was saying that nothing is there in his hands and only company has to decide. He also said, Seeds and fertilizers are given to all and I can recommend only Rs 30,000/ per acre. We refused his offer and submitted a letter to RAASI Company with all 70 farmers' signatures demanding Rs.80, 000/ per acre.

Days gone but there was no reply from the company. So, we had a meeting with mandal level union (APVVU) and the committee decided to sit in front of Raasi organizers house at Noojiveedu, because there is no office for Raasi Company. Our panchayath Sarpanch also joined the agitation. Finally the organizer could convince the company and announced Rs 40,000/ per acre apart from the seed and fertilizers given by the company. He gave written agreements to all 70 farmers. All this was happened in February 2021 and we received the checks for Rs 40,000/ per acre by the end of May. I got Rs 80,000/ for two acres. My total expenditure for two acres was 50,000/ and remained Rs 30,000/. I have to pay lease amount to the land owner.

I face a lot of difficulties to run my family. We have two children and they are staying at home because schools are closed for lock down. We cannot participate in NREGA or any other wage work because we stuck with company corn seed farm. Government has stopped free rice since October. I had to go to the money lenders again and again to get more loans for the consumption of food grains and other needs.