



**Animal Hostel-Thadakanapalli (V),  
Kurnool District**

The Animal hostel, a concept conceived by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was envisaged as a place where the cattle of the village are kept and maintained together and have all necessary infrastructure facilities to take care of them. It has been conceptualized as a sustainable management model.

The main Objective of animal hostel is to promote scientific management of milch animals to get optimal production, utilization of the farm waste, for production of bio-gas, power generation and vermin culture.

Pala Pragathi Kendras were introduced in Thadakanapalle Village and high yielding milch animals like Graded Murrah and Murrah were inducted from Tamilnadu and Haryana state. Animal Hostel project was started after a feasibility study and identification of suitable location.



The Animal Hostel established at Thadakanapalli (V), Kallur (M), Kurnool (Dt), Andhra Pradesh is First Animal Hostel established in Andhra Pradesh and 2nd in India. Animal Hostel is maintained by women belonging to the SHGs of the village.

Andhra Pradesh Government has allocated 10 acres of land free of cost and funds of MG-NREGS and special development package were utilized to establish the Hostel. Total estimated cost of the project to house 300 animals is Rs. Two Crores.

The Department of Animal Husbandry is the nodal agency of this project and DRDA-YSR Kranthi Pathakam Kurnool extended financial assistance (Unnathi, Stree Nidhi and Bank Linkage loans) to purchase animals and ensure feed supply to the Animal Hostel.

The animal hostel brought in eco-technologies and new practice of fodder and feed and animal welfare. Adjoining 9 acre has been developed for cultivating



super napier fodder which is yielding 200 MT per acre per year. This fodder is sufficient for 200 milch animals and very effective in increasing milk yield. Animal dung is used as organic manure in land under cultivation.

Animal Hostel project is women centric and works for the poor families of the village. This pro-poor and pro-women initiative is in line with the existing model of community based organizations in the village. The management committee with 9 women farmers maintains the hostel. The Management Committee meets once in 4 months. Veterinary doctors and DRDA staff are also invited to discuss on the animal healthcare, feed and fodder supply issues, requirement of loans for animals purchase etc.

The Management committee conducts meeting with farmers once in a month. A minimal amount of Rs. 100/- per animal per month is collected as maintenance charges such as the watchmen salary and electricity charges.

20 Azolla and 8 hydroponic units have been established in animal hostel. Azolla is an alternative to concentrated feed. Supply of silage the concentrated feed and mixed feed streamlined to the animals improves the milk production quantity and quality. Hydroponic fodder production is a boon for farmer whose soil is rocky and infertile. It is farmer facility alternative technology for landless farmers for fodder production.

Currently 200 milch animals are kept in animal hostel. Daily milk production in the animal hostel is 1000 liters, which is one-third of total village's milk production. There is a tremendous incremental increase in the production of milk

The project has reduced women drudgery in taking care of animals kept at their homes, a saving of 265 person days per month, which is used for other productive activities. The opportunity cost of this is about Rs. 50 thousand per month @ Rs. 250 person/ day. In addition to social returns and income from buffaloes-dung and compost fertiliser there is a rise in the total income for



the SHG members. There is substantial increase in annual net income of all the milk farmers and SHG women. 20 villagers are into the business of preparing and marketing khoa and each member is earning an average of Rs. 36,000/- per month.

The project offers a number of learnings. Entrepreneurial and managerial skills of women if properly developed and put to use bring additional income to the family, which helps in achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs). There is enormous possibility of bio gas production, if the initiative is implemented all over the country. Proper utilisation of dung in bio gas production and utilisation of methane ensures pollution free villages.



The practice also enables to identify and preserve best performing cattle, provides venue for collection and preservation of semen. And, in lines of SEZs, Special Cattle Zones can be developed to ensure employment and draught mitigation in draught prone areas.

This project has also led to and aided in attaining the SWACH BHARAT GRAMEEN (Phase II- activities) as the animals are housed away from the village and domestic premises, the biological wastes of animals is collected and drained properly without causing any inconvenience to residents of the village, thereby improving the participation of local human resources to promote clean village concept.