

SECURING
WATER
FOR FOOD:
A GRAND CHALLENGE
FOR DEVELOPMENT



SECURING WATER FOR FOOD (SWFF)
CIRCULAR ECONOMY WITH BLACK
AND GREYWATER RECYCLING FOR
EXOTIC VEGETABLES CULTIVATION OF
WOMEN FARMERS

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WORLD WATER WEEK 2018
26 AUG 2018



CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

- **Location:** Nilgiris District in India
- **Problems:**
 - Climate change has resulted in limited water availability for 4-6 months
 - Excessive application of chemical fertilisers = declining soil fertility
 - Solid and liquid waste are inadequately treated and disposed irresponsibly
- **Innovation:**
 - **Technical:**
 - Blackwater recycling for co-compost production and application
 - Greywater recycling for irrigation during the critical period
 - **Business:**
 - Organisation of women farmers under Farmers Producer Companies
 - Market linkage with marketing partner and bank



SECURING WATER FOR FOOD (SWFF)

- **Beneficiaries of end products:** 2250 vegetable farmers in Year 3 (62% women farmers) organised under Farmer Producer Companies
- **Partners:** WASTE, RDO Trust, BORDA, LEAF, Ketti Town Panchayat, Horticulture Department and Canara Bank
- **Matching funds:**
 - Advance purchase order of vegetables grown by farmers by LEAF
 - Loan released to Farmers Producer Companies by Canara Bank
 - Subsidy for solar pumps by Horticulture Department
- **Gender aspects:**
 - We give more importance for women to adopt the innovation
 - Women farmers are now active in Self-Help Groups, which are mainly dealing with micro-finance.
 - In SWFF, we want to encourage them to move towards agri-business under FPCs (where men play a major role)

INNOVATION – BLACKWATER RECYCLING FOR CO-COMPOST PRODUCTION



INNOVATION – GREYWATER RECYCLING FOR CRITICAL IRRIGATION



ADOPTION BY WOMEN FARMERS I

- New innovation of blackwater recycling for government and greywater recycling for farmers
- We give more importance for women farmers to adopt the end-products of co-compost and treated water and become members of FPCs
- In SWFF, we want to encourage them to move towards agri-business by organising them under FPCs (where men play a major role)
 - Under FPCs, we deliberately make women farmers as Board of Directors to have more say in the activities
 - By organising women farmers under FPCs, it gives chance to women-headed households to have required support
 - Linkage to market via LEAF



ADOPTION BY WOMEN FARMERS II

- We build skills of women farmers for improvement in agricultural practices and consequently value addition (processing, packaging, grading, etc) so that they can deal directly with the market
- Men have fear of competition in agri-business and women to have more control on the whole agricultural activities
- In order to gain support by men, we have the men farmers as the Advisory Committee
 - This is a way to sensitise the men about the role and capacity of women in agri-business
 - We provide equal treatment to both men and women
 - Market linkage with LEAF to get fair price to the market



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Thank You



National Horticultural Board

