

### ***Promoting Fodder Development, A Viable source of additional Income for the Farmers – A Success story of Mr. Mani, Farmer, Lakkapathanapalli Village***

Cattle development is one of the predominant agri allied activity in the project area. Feed and forage production at farm levels is priority tasks for expediting dairy development since the availability of common grass land is in shortage. Farmers depend on seasonal fodder crops like maize and uses it during off season in dry state. The shortage of quality feed and fodder is one of the major reasons for low productivity in dairy cow. Farmers tend to sell their low producing cow at the start of summer to avoid any loss.



To overcome this problem, Fodder stems were planted in the land of individual farmers as a part of this project. It requires only minimum effort to grow and became a perennial source of feed for dairy cow.



Mr. Mani who is a resident of Lakkapathanapalli has four dairy cows and two calves. He received the fodder stems from NAF and raised it in his small piece of land. His observations of the fodder development are as follows,

- The fodder stems can be harvested after 40 to 45 days of planting. He is cutting down the fodder grass without disturbing the main stem based on the daily requirement. Since the main stems are left undisturbed, the fodder grass is growing again from it. It became a cycle and he is producing enough fodder grass to meet the daily requirement throughout the year.
- Providing fresh fodder to the dairy cow is helping him in reducing the heat stress in cows, and eliminates heat related illness during summer. His cows are now healthier than ever.
- Quantity and fat content of the milk had increased considerably. His cows used to provide only twenty litres of milk every day and is now providing twenty-eight litres of milk every day. Through this increase in quantity and quality, he is now able to gain INR 6,720 in addition as profit.
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He is now planning to spread this fodder stems to additional area to meet the growing need of fodder grass. He expressed his sincere thanks to NABARD, The Rotary club of Madras coromandel and NAF for implementing such a useful intervention to benefit the farmers in the community.