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Economic impacting rural livelihood of Dantewada district through Maa Danteshwari Mahila Farmer Producer Company Ltd. (FPC)

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Abstract

The rural Self-Help Groups (SHG) women established in Kuakonda, Dantewada, Geedam and Katekalyan blocks under Dantewada District are being promoted for income generating activities through FPC formed by the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM). The majority of people in India depend on agriculture and related industries for their livelihood, but this is insufficient to meet their needs or raise their families' standards of living. The basic objective of FPC is to provide maximum income to rural farmers. The Indian government has been developing and promoting Farmer Producer Companies by bringing together small and marginal farmers in an effort to improve the standard of living for rural residents. It will address issues like high production costs, restricted credit availability, weak market integration, and inadequate storage. Through FPC, rural women were provided employment along with income. The economic condition of rural SHG women is improving through FPC.

Keywords: Farmer producer company, PG, SHG, NRLM, economic impact, women Mahila

Introduction

India is a country that is heavily dependent on agriculture and related activities, with nearly 70% of the rural population depending on them for a living. India has a large number of small and marginal farmers comprising 86.08% having 0-2 hectares, 13.35% are semi-medium and medium farmers having 2-10 hectares and remaining 0.57% are large farmers having 10 hectares and above farm area (Agricultural census, 2015-16). Dantewada is a district in the state of Chhattisgarh where the farmers' main source of livelihood is agriculture, forest produce and animal husbandry. They face more difficulties with the production, promotion, handling, and storage of the produce. Self-help groups at village level are also playing an important role in socio-economic development of rural community and specially women empowerment. The linking of FPC through self-help groups may also result in better marketing and bargaining power. Therefore, policy makers and government are turning to new solutions for improving the economic situation of small and marginal producers by grouping of farmers. To promote the activities of farmers and to provide maximum income to farmers, Maa Danteshwari Mahila Farmer Producer Company Limited (FPC) has been formed in Dantewada District.

Objective

To understand the economic impact of FPC on rural livelihood and to improve the standard of living of rural farmers and SHG sisters.

Farmer producer Company

There is a female producer company here. This company has been formed under the guidance of National Rural Livelihood Mission. The main objective of this company is to take SHG and PG forward and to increase the income of SHG sisters. FPC was formed to increase the income of SHG sisters as well as to provide employment opportunities to SHG sisters.

Producer Group (PG)

Producer Group (PG) under DAY-NRLM is an informal group of women producers that would work primarily towards reducing transaction costs of agriculture produce, both perishables & non-perishables by collective procurement and marketing of farm produce, and gradually move towards primary processing of commodities to create a unique selling proposition for itself.

The producer group (PG) may be formed with at least a member size of 20 producers having common interest of producing similar products and services with the opportunity of collectivization, aggregation, value addition and marketing of produces. However, size of the producer groups will depend upon the scope for aggregation, price of the commodity, market access & management etc. Focus may be given to incorporate small and marginal women farmer households. Women, irrespective of whether they are SHG members or not, should be mobilised as members of the Producers Group (PG).

Key Functions of Producers' Group may cover selection of potential commodities, continuous market engagement and access to market information, continuous assessment of transaction costs and strive to reduce it with each transaction cycle, organize market led production planning, establish and run Village level Aggregation Centre (VLAC) for aggregation of agriproduct, primary processing in the form of cleaning, washing, grading, sorting, packing etc., develop a relationship with market players and work towards the assured market for aggregated Agri-produce, recording transactions and disbursement of proportional sale of receipt.

Group Discussion with PG & SHG

Regular meetings are held with the producer groups (PG) established in Dantewada district through FPC. Through this meeting, discussions are held on how to advance the livelihood of the group. Through this meeting, discussions are held about which activities need to be done to increase livelihood. The entire Dantewada district is a forest produce area; hence forest produce product is discussed like the buying, selling and processing of tamarind, mahua, harra seeds, chironji seeds, jamun seeds, dried slice mango, charota seeds etc. are discussed.



Fig 1: Group discussion with the Producer Groups (PG)

Shareholder of FPC

Maa Danteshwari Mahila Farmer Producer Company Limited was registered on 11th October 2023. The company started working from December 2024. The company conducted a survey and group meetings of the groups and PG present in every block of Dantewada district. Till now this company has added more than 900 shareholders. The details of which are given in the table 1 below.

Table 1: Total No. of Shareholder & SHG FPC in Dantewada District

S. N	Block	No. of Shareholder	No. of SHG
01	Kuakonda	550	90
02	Dantewada	150	40
03	Geedam	250	50
Total		950	180

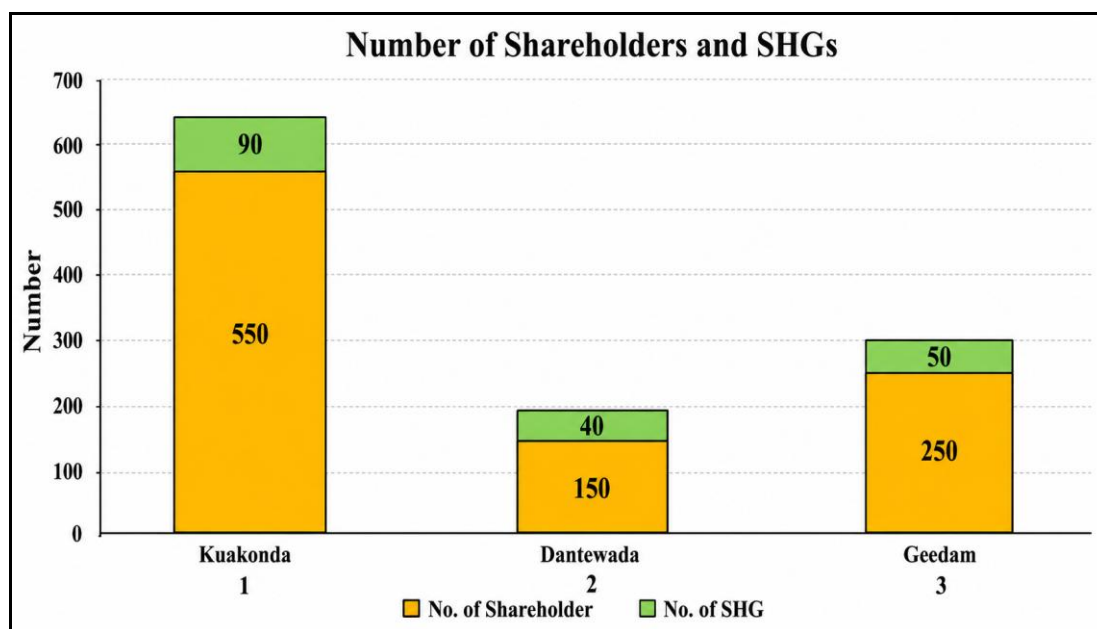


Fig 2: Total No. of Shareholder & SHG FPC in Dantewada District

Purchase of Rice

200 quintals of paddy have been purchased this year through FPC from different PG or groups of Dantewada district.

Paddy has been purchased through PG and SHG at the rate of MSP. The details of which are given in the table 2.

Table 2: Paddy procurement by FPC in Dantewada District

S. N	Block	Quantity (quintal)	Rs.
01	Kuakonda	120	372000
02	Geedam	30	93000
03	Dantewada	50	155000
Total		200	620000

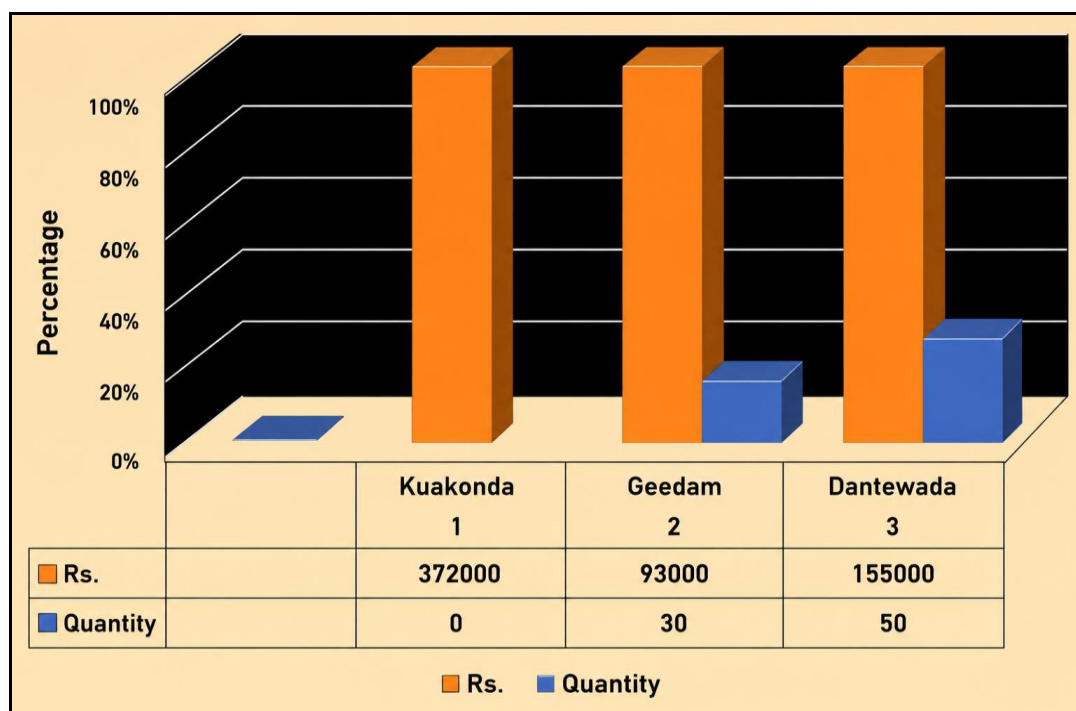


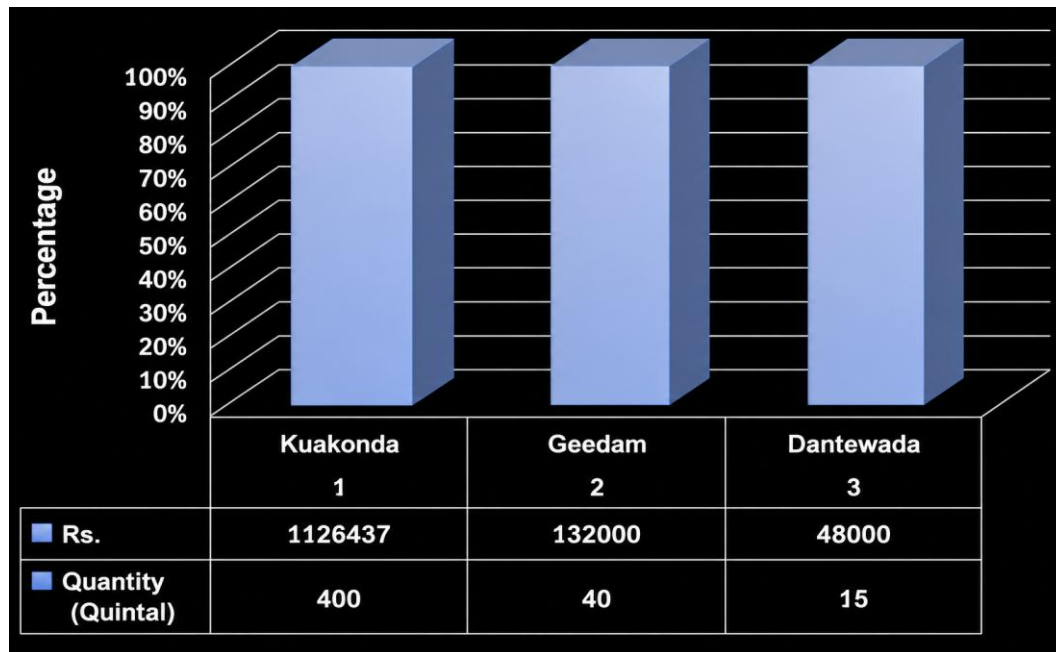
Fig 3: Paddy Procurement by FPC in Dantewada District

Purchase of Tamarind: 455 quintals of Tamarind have been purchased this year through FPC from different PG or groups of Dantewada district. Tamarind has been purchased

through PG and SHG at the rate of Market Price. The details of which are given in the table 3.

Table 3: Tamarind procurement by FPC in Dantewada District

S. N	Block	Quantity (Quintal)	Rs.
01	Kuakonda	400	1126437
02	Geedam	40	132000
03	Dantewada	15	48000
Total		455	1306437

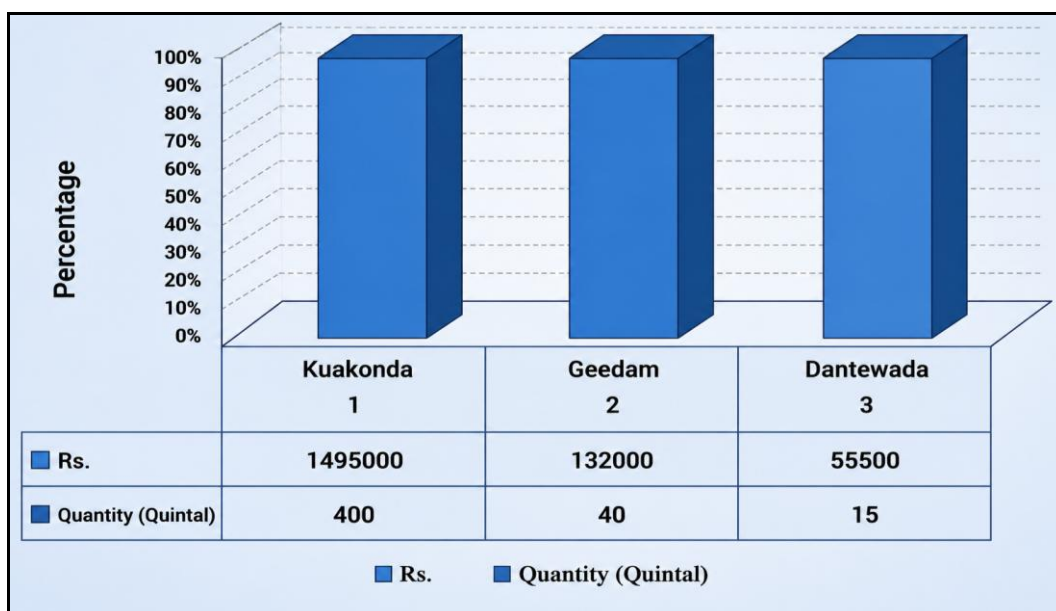
**Fig 4:** Tamarind Procurement by FPC in Dantewada District

Sales of Tamarind

455 quintals of tamarind were sold to different buyers for Rs. 1682500. The details of which are given in the table 4.

Table 4: Sales of Tamarind in Dantewada District

S. N	Block	Quantity (Quintal)	Rs.
01	Kuakonda	400	1495000
02	Geedam	40	132000
03	Dantewada	15	55500
Total		455	1682500

**Fig 5:** Purchase of Dried Mango Slice (Aamchur)

297.24 quintals of Dried Mango Slice (Aamchur) have been purchased this year through FPC from different PG or groups of Dantewada district. Dried Mango Slice has been

purchased through PG and SHG at the rate of Market Price. The details of which are given in the table 5.

Table 5: Dried Mango Slice (Aamchur) procurement by FPC in Dantewada District

S. N	Block	Quantity (Quintal)	Rs.
01	Kuakonda	195.24	1813102
02	Geedam	40	337220
03	Dantewada	62	616943
Total		297.24	2767265

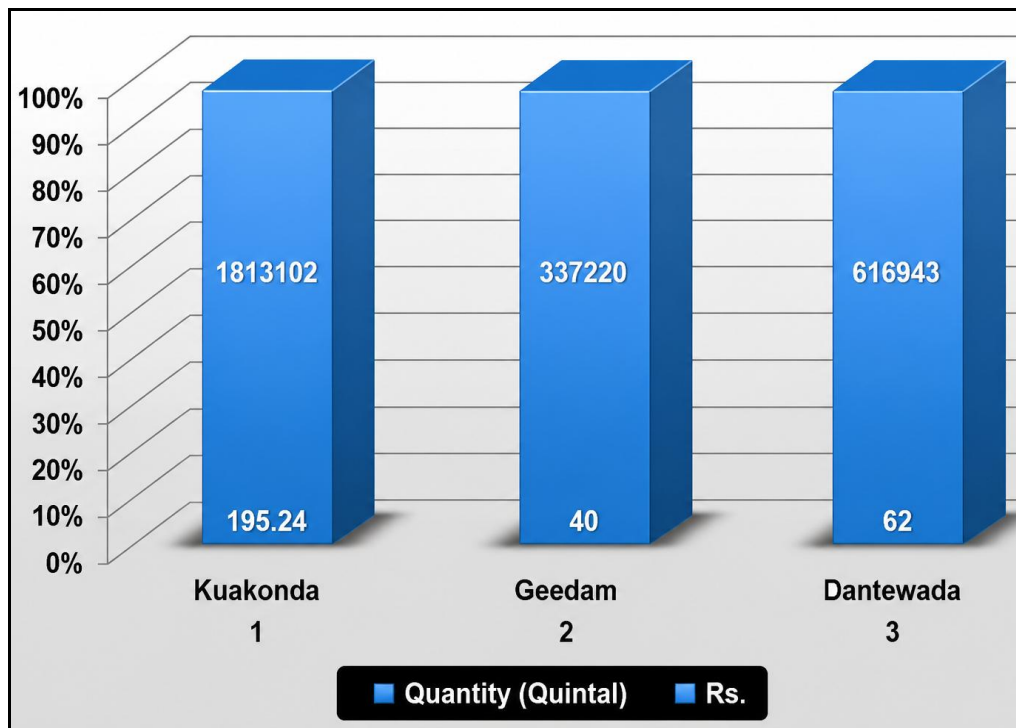


Fig 6: Dried Mango Slice (Aamchur) Procurement by FPC in Dantewada District



Fig 7: Purchasing Paddy in Village-Penta



Fig 8: Purchasing Paddy in Village-Tikanpal



Fig 9: Purchasing Paddy in Village-Kuakonda



Fig 10: Purchasing Tamarind in Village-Gadmidhi



Fig 11: Purchasing Paddy in Village-Katulnar



Fig 12: Purchasing Paddy in Village-Pujaripara



Fig 13: Purchasing Paddy in Village-Samloor



Fig 14: Purchasing Tamarind in Village-Phoolpad



Fig 15: Purchasing Aamchur in Village-Metapal



Fig 16: Purchasing Aamchur in Village-Pandewar



Fig 17: Purchasing Aamchur in Village-Balood



Fig 18: Purchasing Aamchur in Village-Metapal



Fig 19: Purchasing Tamarind in Village-Shyamgiri

Economic Impacting

Paddy, tamarind and mango powder have been purchased from farmers at reasonable rates through FPC. Whose profit went to the farmers, SHG & PG. Farmers did not have to wander anywhere to sell their produce. The farmers' produce is purchased from their homes at a fair price through FPC. Farmers got to know the actual price of their produce through FPC. By purchasing the produce of the farmers through FPC, FPC provided employment to the

farmers such as tamarind cleaning, mango powder grading, processing. SHG sisters are earning regular income through FPC.

The economic condition of the farmers can be improved through FPC because the produce of the farmers is being purchased directly from their homes at a reasonable price through FPC. FPC has been created for the benefit of farmers and in the coming time, farmers will get more and more income through FPC.



Fig 20: Grading of Dried Mango Slice by SHG through FPO at Dantewada Blocks



Fig 21: Grading of Dried Mango Slice by SHG through FPC at Kuakonda Blocks.

Results and Discussion

The maximum purchase of paddy has been done from Kuakonda block. 120 quintals of paddy have been purchased from Kuakonda block. The minimum purchase of paddy has been done from Geedam block. 30 quintals of paddy have been purchased from Geedam block. The maximum purchase of Tamarind has been done from Kuakonda block. 400 quintals of Tamarind have been purchased from Kuakonda block. The minimum purchase of Tamarind has been done from Dantewada block. 15 quintals

of Tamarind have been purchased from Dantewada block. The maximum purchase of Dried Mango Slice (Aamchur) has been done from Kuakonda block. 195.24 quintals of Aamchur have been purchased from Kuakonda block. The minimum purchase of Aamchur has been done from Geedam block. 40 quintals of Aamchur have been purchased from Geedam block. The result of the discussion is that compared to all the three Blocks, Kuakonda block has generated the highest purchases and profit.



Fig 22: Discussion Session between Colleagues in the Office Environment

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