



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



4 June | 11:15 12:00

Ethiopia room

**Natural Farming Promotes
Healthy Soils and
Ecosystem Services:
Case Study**

Organizers

*Rythu Sadhikara Samstha –
Indo-German Academy for
Agroecology Research and Learning
Andhra Pradesh, India*

GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP | 12th Plenary Assembly

03-05 June 2024





AGENDA

Background

The Andhra Pradesh Community Natural Farming (APCNF) initiative, led by Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS)- Government of Andhra Pradesh (AP), India, represents a pioneering approach to combat soil degradation, water scarcity, and climate change through Natural Farming (NF). APCNF's strategy is in alignment with the "4 per 1000" initiative and saving an average of 5.1 million tonnes CO₂eq year⁻¹. This is accomplished through no-tillage and cover cropping, significantly bolstering SOC stocks and enhancing soil health. NF promotes biodiversity across trophic levels, enriching the soil with microbes and earthworms, diversifying crops and varieties, and attracting birds. The initial assessments by the Land Degradation Surveillance Framework (LDSF) reveal that APCNF plots demonstrate positive signs with enhanced soil infiltration rates (exceeding 40%). Innovations from APCNF, such as 365 Days Green Cover (DGC) and Pre-monsoon Dry Sowing (PMDS), A-grade models, and drought-proofing model (drPM) enrich soil health. This enriched soil improves resilience against erratic weather patterns and promotes a sustainable ecosystem. The impact of APCNF extends beyond environmental benefits to substantial socio-economic gains. By 2023, APCNF engaged 1 million farmers, with an ambition to reach 6 million by 2030, facilitating a shift towards sustainable livelihoods. This is evidenced by increased productivity, reduced costs, and higher incomes, alongside significant savings in water consumption by 50-60%. These multifaceted initiatives position APCNF as a leading model for sustainable agriculture globally, showcasing a comprehensive approach to enhancing soil health and ecosystem services.

11:15 - 11:18	Opening remarks by: Dr. Ramanjaneyulu G V (Online) , Executive Director, Centre for sustainable Agriculture, & Expert Director, Sahaja Aharam Producer Company
11:18 - 11:50	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Opening remark: Mr. Vijay Kumar Thallam (Online), Executive Vice Chairman, Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (5 Minutes)2. Presentation: "Natural Farming Promotes Healthy Soils and Ecosystem Services: Case Study" - Dr K S Varaprasad (In-person), Rythu Sadhikara Samstha – Indo-German Global Academy for Agroecology Research and Learning (RySS-IGGAARL) (5 Minutes)3. RySS – ICRAF Study: Dr Tor-Gunnar Vagen (Online), LDSF study on Natural Farming field of Andhra Pradesh (5 Minutes)4. Science behind Natural Farming on Soil Health: Dr Aparna Nanna (PLA, RySS-IGGAARL - Online) (5 minutes)5. Presentation: "Natural Farming Promotes Healthy Soils and Ecosystem Services: Case Study" - Dr K S Varaprasad (Advisor – Research, RySS- IGGAARL - In-person) (12 Minutes)





11:15 - 11:18	Discussion & Conclusions and Way Forward - Dr K S Varaprasad (In-person) and Dr. Ramanjaneyulu G V (Online) (10 minutes)
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Moderator: K S Varaprasad, Advisor – Research, RySS- IGGAARL

