

Appeal from Water and Livelihoods Foundation (WLF), Hyderabad, India

Supporting reverse-migrants in resuming agriculture in Covid-19 crisis

The Covid-19 pandemic is an ongoing global health crisis of unprecedented scale, which also adversely impacted the economy in many ways. The economic impacts of COVID-19 pandemic are already felt in India in the form of unemployment, negative industrial growth, declining purchasing power of people etc. The most affected lot in this crisis are the daily wage labourers and industrial workers who migrated to their work place from far-off villages. To control the spread of Covid-19 virus, Government of India had imposed the lockdown since 23 Mar 2020. Due to the lockdown, daily wage workers (the urban poor and migrant labourers) lost their livelihoods and were left with no work. At the same time, the lockdown restrictions put a stop on the movement of buses and trains. Large numbers of migrant workers ended up walking back to their villages.

By end of June 2020, many migrant workers returned to their native villages, searched for the livelihood opportunities in the rural areas. Some of them started agriculture on their own small land holdings or on leased-in lands. Some migrants without any land started working as agricultural labour in their own villages. Most of such reverse-migrant labour started agriculture with the left-over savings or with borrowed money for purchase of inputs like seed, fertilizers etc. As they have resumed the agriculture after many years, they do not have the required tools and equipment readily. Purchasing required equipment is again a financial burden to them.

In these circumstances, Water and Livelihoods Foundation (WLF)¹ has planned to support selected and most deserving reverse-migrants who have resumed agriculture. This work has been initiated in 08 villages of Samasthan Narayanapur and Gundala mandals of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district, Telangana State, India. By end of Aug 2020, WLF enumerated 85 such beneficiaries and analysed their needs. Most of them are in need of small agricultural implements, such as, ploughs, cultivators, weeders, tarpaulin sheets etc. WLF has planned to provide each of them with 2 most essential agricultural implements worth maximum Rs.7,000 by the end of Sep 2020. The total funds required for this initiative is around Rs.600,000. WLF could already mobilize Rs. 350,000 from various sources.

To take this noble initiative to the logical end and help the migrant labourers in these times of unprecedented crisis, WLF is looking for generous donations from individuals / institutions / CSR agencies. All donations made to WLF are eligible for tax exemption under section 80G of Income Tax Act of GoI, with approval no. CIT (exemption)/HYD/80G/2020-21/A/10097. All donors will be issued official receipts from WLF. WLF ensures that every rupee donated for this cause reaches most deserving farmers.

Persons / institutions interested to take part in this and donate funds are requested to send a mail to wlfoundation@outlook.com (or) call Mr. R.V.Ramamohan, Executive Director on mobile: +91 9440194866 / 9121864687.

¹ Water and Livelihoods Foundation (WLF) is a registered public charitable trust that strives towards water and livelihoods security of poor. More details of charitable and developmental work done by WLF are available on its website: www.wlfoundation.in.