# maa kalipipantala vyavasayam (Our biodiverse farming)

 My Name is Sammamma
 I am from Bidakanne Village in Medak District of Andhra Pradesh, India

 I am a marginal farmer My land is red soil. Very poor. Less than one feet of top soil. Most of us have such holdings ·All of us grow 15 to 20, mostly food crops, per acre



 I have two types of land. 2 acres of red soil, occupied govt land • <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> acre of black soil, donated by the govt. I plant Punasa crops in June on both for In Rabi, I plant on my bláck soil in October



Diverse Soils In Bidakanne we have 5 types of soils **Red soils Gravelly soils Black cotton** soils Sandy soils Sodic soils





# **Monsoon Diversity**

#### ILLETS:

#### LEGUMES OIL SEEDS

orghum 6 varieties Pigeonpea: 3 Sunflower: 3 earl : 2 varieties Green Gram: 3 Sesame: 2 inger : Two oxtail : Four Horsegram,

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		Crops
	Millets	4 varieties of Sorghum
EST AND	Cereal	2 varieties of Wheat
	Pulses	4varieties of Chick pea, Linseed, Peas, Lentils , Lankalu
	Oils and spices	Safflower, Sunflower, Mustard, Bishops weed, Sesame
	Vegetable	Cucurbits

#### Winter Diversity

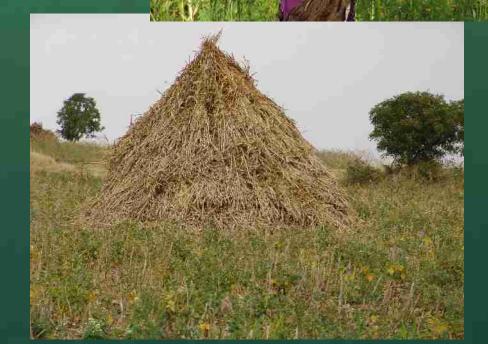


# Why Diversity for us?

We get diverse foods: • Nutritious millets Pulses, Oilseeds, spices Staggered harvest Early crops – Foxtail millet) Gareeb jonna

### **Fodder Security**

- Sorghum , pearl millet stalks
  Pigeonpea husk
- Foxtail, Finger and Little millet stalks
- Filed beans, Chickpea and Cowpea refuse and husk



### Fuel, Fiber, Fencing

 Pigeonpea gives me fuelwood and fencing materia

 Hibiscus gives me fiber for making ropes

#### **Uncultivated Greens**

I get at least 25 varieties of edible voluntary greens helping our nutrition and health



Cash Needs

I am also looking at my cash needs. We don't separate cash crops and food crops.

 Black gram, Green gram, Pigeonpea, Sesame, chickpea, Sorghum stalk go to market while these crops are also our food.

# **Nurturing Soils**

- Pigeonpea, roots/ leaf fall
- Niger
- Blackgram roots and leaves



#### **Reduces Pest Attacks**

 I also use crop diversity to fight pests.

 Marigold, Castor, Coriander, Safflower and cucumber all act as pest resistant crops on my field

### **Festivals and Rituals**

 I need many crops to celebrate festivals, rituals.
 Foxtail & Finger millets, Popping Sorghum for nagula panchami

- Sesame oil for lamps
- Wheat, chieckpea for special festival foods



# Diversity, Dignity Sovereignty

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 Our food is more diverse, tastier and healthier and we are able to meet all our food needs from our fields.

 We, women have complete control over our seeds, crops and food and have stayed the leaders of the community today.