



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
- $\frac{3}{4}$ acre of black soil, donated by the govt.
- I plant Punasa crops in June on both for
- In Rabi, I plant on my black soil in October



Diverse Soils

- In Bidakanne we have 5 types of soils
- Red soils
- Gravelly soils
- Black cotton soils
- Sandy soils
- Sodid soils



Monsoon Diversity



MILLETS:

Sorghum : 6 varieties

B pearl : 2 varieties

finger : Two

boxtail : Four

odo : One

LEGUMES

Pigeonpea: 3

Green Gram: 3

Field Beans

Cowpea

Horsegram,

OIL SEEDS

Sunflower: 3

Sesame: 2

Niger,

Amaranthus



	Crops
Millets	4 varieties of Sorghum
Cereal	2 varieties of Wheat
Pulses	4 varieties 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 material
- 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, chickpea for special festival foods



Diversity, Dignity Sovereignty

- 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.

