



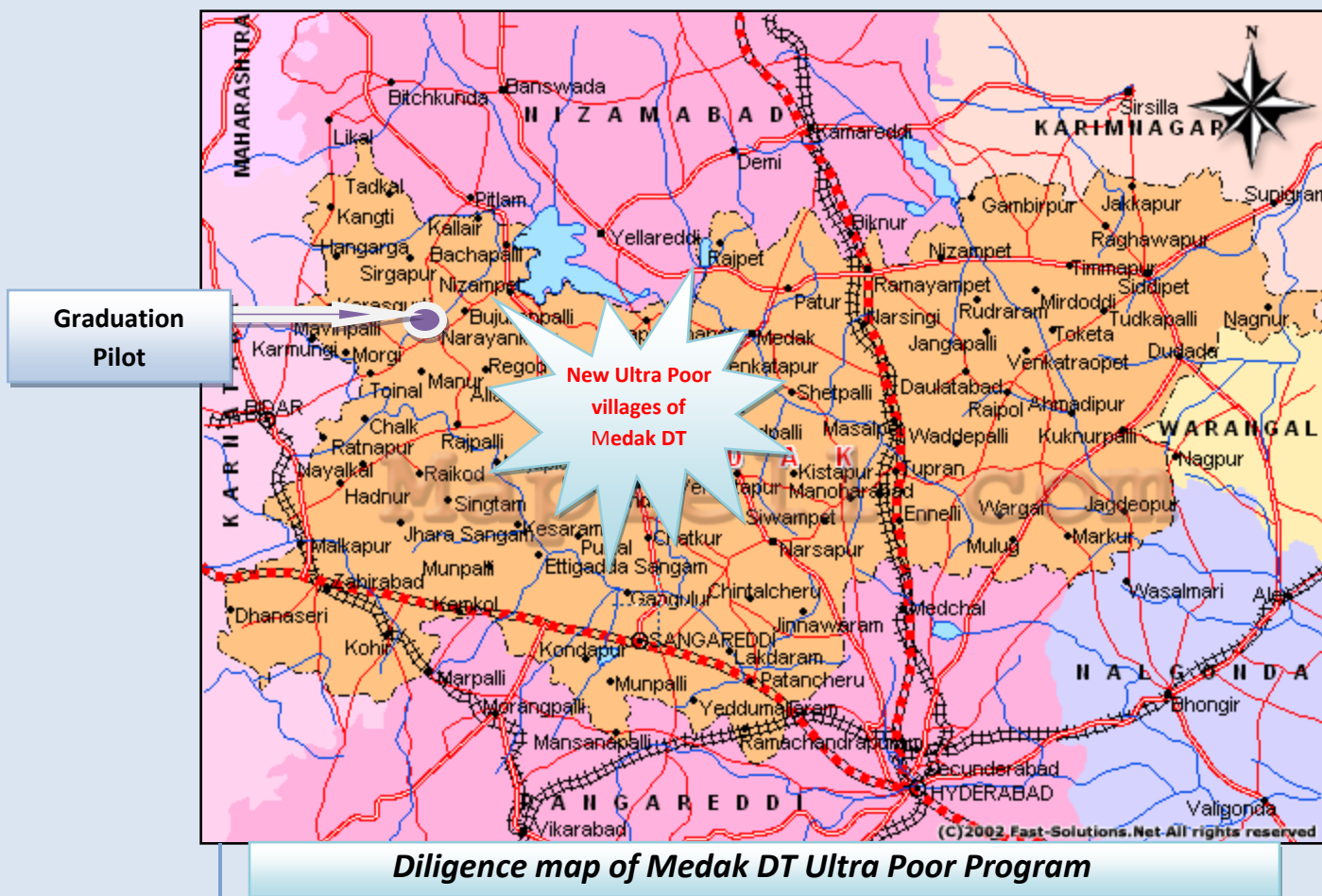
Swayam Krishi Sangam
Monthly Update May 2010



Inclusive & Participatory Poverty Appraisal; Sarpanch (village head) sharing his views about who are Ultra Poor in his village with objective indicators in a village in Medak District

Medak DT gets into accelerated model of Ultra Poor Program implementation from Graduation Pilot phase, adding 2000 ultra poor members in Jogipet and Medak Blocks. As *Ultra Poor Intensive District of SKS*, Medak throws formidable challenges in working along with the targeted ultra poor women headed households. Here, Ramesh, Sarpanch of Ramnagar Panchayat in Medak Block, is sharing his views about who are ultra poor in his village with indicators in a Participatory Poverty Appraisal. Ramesh could mobilize 8 Antyodaya Rice Cards for the bottom poor households in his village and is very happy with SKS's approach in targeting the ultra poor as he is also emulating the same methodology to locate Antyodaya Card eligible ultra poor families. Whole village inclusive poverty appraisal helps in precision targeting in a transparent way.

We have interesting findings while conducting village to village PRAs for targeting the ultra poor. Medak District is one of the most backward Districts in AP but interestingly socio economic indicators slip into ultra poverty trajectory when we move from South West to Central and North East parts of the district where family indicators take a dip due to destitution, landlessness, migration, gender atrocities, alcoholism, and drought. It is also interesting observation that villages close by to National Highway have lower ultra poor density compared to high way distant villages. Perhaps livelihoods opportunities are closer by to highways.



Tribal Lives and Livelihoods

Tribal Ultra Poor women in Koraput sharing their views in a Livelihoods Incubation Training



Tribal Petty Shop: an interesting occupational shift of tribal poor from forest to petty trade: in reality tribal women are hard core traders in their own way shifting between tribal haats (markets)

Counting Chickens!

This **GADABA** tribal ultra poor partner member opted for Vanaraja Backyard Poultry Birds as livelihoods.

They are dual purpose scavenger birds, hardy and provide income and nutrition security to family.

Our Field Team could collaborate with local hatcheries for assured supply chain of birds. Retainer Veterinarian provides technical guidance... Birds are vaccinated and hardened in a scientific way. We took pains to design a tribal friendly poultry shed made of mud and wood with iron mesh fencing. Local appropriate material is used as brooders and feeders. Low cost poultry is opted in a big way for its market efficiencies and stable demand. We are also initiating feed supply chain to sustain this core activity, amenable to daily wage earning.

Hands on approach!

Meet Sonu, a Porja tribal girl with unflinching quest for quality life

SKS Ultra Poor Program typically invests in such challenged lives; lowering threshold level

Poverty indicators;



Sonu is active member in the Center and chosen as Health para professional of the village



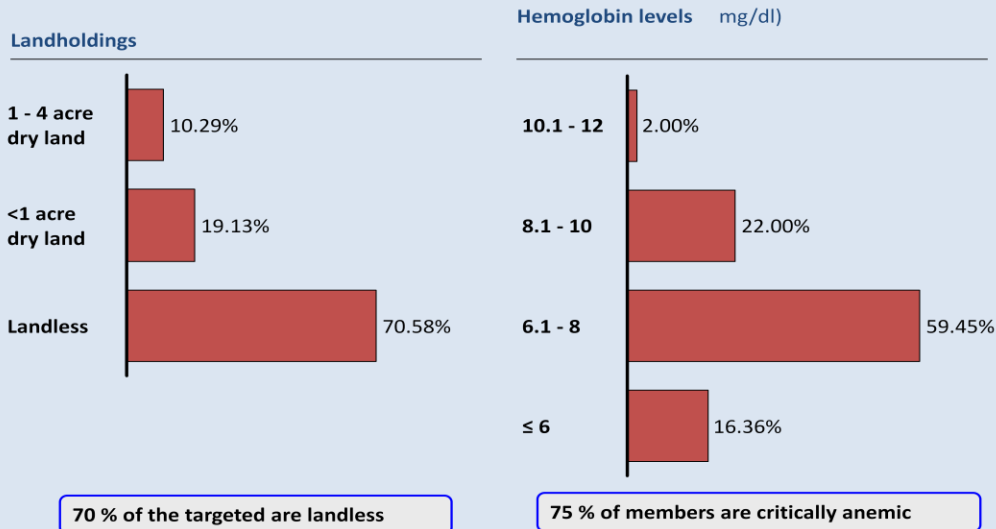
Bench Marking Hemoglobin levels of Ultra Poor members:

Our Koraput Branch has undertaken unique exercise of bench marking the hemoglobin levels of all 1000 members.



There are startling revelations about the levels of hemoglobin which is powerful indicator of ultra poverty and mal nutrition. Here our Health Field Organizer who is

trained Lab Technician draws samples of blood for testing hemoglobin levels. Similarly we have bench marked weight of each member to track weight gain with livelihood support interventions that should directly impact family consumption levels.



95% of targeted ultra poor members are reported anemic; livelihoods support interventions and consequent incremental incomes should improve family consumption levels. Serious anemic cases are referred for clinical correction treatment

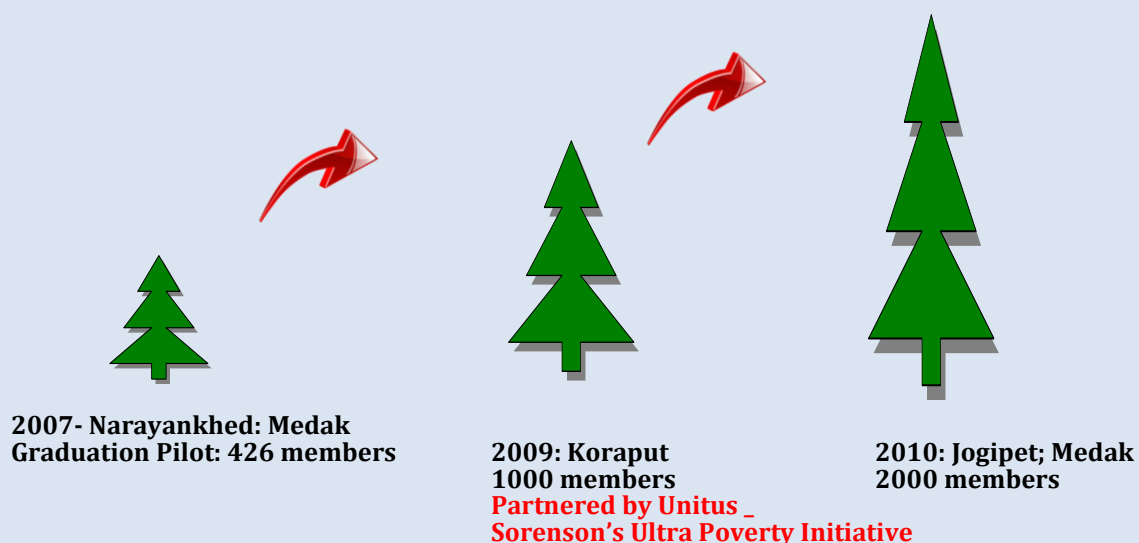


Food Security in their own way; Rice Line Scheme in operation in a tribal ultra poor center: members save fistful of rice every day while cooking and community rice bank takes care of needy members' food security, operating on credit lines



Early Motherhood:: this Porja young lady is already mother of a child at 16; consequences; low birth weight; premature delivery calling for external incubation; high IMR and mother mortality during birth. Koraput DT has indicators of MMR and IMR matching the poorest nations in the world. We are counseling the members in the center meetings against child marriages and procuring incubators for premature delivery cases

“Pilot to Potential Upscale” : Growth Trajectory of SKS Ultra Poor Program



Profile of Tribal Ultra Poor Members in Koraput – “SKS: Sorenson’s Unitus Ultra Poor Initiative”

<i>Profile Indicator</i>		<i>Significance</i>
<i>Women members</i>		<i>highly vulnerable; destitute; widows</i>
Landless/Asset Less		hand to mouth existence
Children do not go to schools	➡	support parents in wage earning
Income <1.00 US\$ a day		subsistence living; chronic hunger
Illiterate	➡	Tribal women illiteracy 97%
Remotely connected villages	➡	No basic amenities like safe drinking water; Electricity; hospitals
No modern livelihoods skills	➡	low productivity; loss in production
Insignificant State safety nets		government programs are highly erratic
Social unrest	➡	Naxal menace leaving them poorer
Superstitions;	➡	deeply tied up with ancient and tribal superstitions