

-  Water
-  Energy
-  Waste
-  Income

infraSys **INVESTS IN A SELF HELP GROUP**

August, 2004
Suttur, Mysore District,
Karnataka, India

THRIVENI Mahila Swasahayaka Sangha (Thirveni Women's Self Help Group) and infraSys have entered into a one year partnership.

The 15 members of THRIVENI plan to grow flowers, each on 1/4 acre of leased land. They intend to cultivate tuberose- in and around the village of Suttur.

The women intend to market the flowers on a co-operative basis.

JSS KVK is involved.

This project was born from the initiative of the women and Manjunatha Angadi, Scientist at the JSS Krishi Vigyan Kendra located in Suttur. Shri Angadi approached infraSys with this proposal.

Investment not a handout

The total investment sought from infraSys was Rs 37,500/- or Rs2,250/- per member. The agreement is with the Group and not with individual members.

This amount will provide the women capital required for fertilizers, seeds and other miscellaneous expenses for the entire year.

A conservative estimate suggests that each of the 15 members will add a net Rs 500/- per month to her household income.

The project was kicked off when Prof. Shankare Gowda, Principal of the JSS KVK, addressed the women, assuring them of help before the money was dispersed.

Shri Angadi will guide and monitor the project and visit the fields as needed.

Use of vermicompost encouraged & pesticides discouraged.

As a part of this agreement, infraSys has encouraged the use of vermi-compost as manure – instead of chemical fertilizers – and also its purchase from local producers - *thus circulating money in the local economy.*

THRIVENI has agreed to do this, and the women have also agreed to avoid chemical pesticides.

THRIVENI was formed 4 years ago and has a good track record of money management and presently has a bank account in good standing with the local bank. All the best to these ladies!

Investment per member:
Rs 2,250/- or US \$50/-

infraSys total investment:
Rs 37,500/- or US \$750/-



Three Thriveni women

SELF HELP GROUP is an association of 15 to 20 people who form a group for a common purpose. A vast majority of SHGs in India, function as thrift associations, whose sole activity is lending money (with interest) to members for personal use.

Based on studies done by the DRDA and using current rates, this village will save approximately Rs300,000/- on electricity bills over 20 years.



"iruttu kottapalayathila light eriyudhu"

Translated from Tamil:

"in dark Kottapalayam now lights burns"

KOTTAPALAYAM VILLAGE GETS SOLAR STREET LIGHTS

June 2004
Vavipalayam, Coimbatore District, Tamil Nadu, India

Vavipalayam Panchayat consists of 10 villages. The 50 families of one of them, Kottapalayam, have never had street lights. Until recently that is...thanks to a private-public partnership this has now changed.

How did this come about?

The initiative came from Senthil K. Arumugam and Sundarmoorthi founders of Sindhanai Sirpigal, an NGO working in Vavipalayam.. Visit www.ssilindia.org

They contacted and introduced infraSys to the local District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) in Coimbatore. Positive and useful correspondence followed.

Meet Thiru Jeyabalakrishnan

An enthusiastic and energetic man, Thiru Jeyabalakrishnan, (Thiru in Tamil = mister or shri) Project Officer of DRDA, approached infraSys for a variety of projects including participation in this.

The Government of Tamil Nadu will provide a grant of Rs100,000/-, if infraSys would invest an equal amount for this project. infraSys agreed.

Graama Sabha passes a resolution

On Jan. 28th 2004, the citizens of Vavipalayam passed a resolution to enter into a contract with infraSys for the installation of the lights in Kottapalayam.

This was finalized in the DRDA offices in Coimbatore in February

2004 when infraSys handed over a check for Rs100,000 to Sudha Moorthi, the President of Vavipalayam panchayat.

Street Lights installed

The ten TATA-BP street lights are now installed and judging from the first hand reports the residents are very pleased.

"iruttu kottapalayathila light eriyudhu". (In dark Kottapalayam now lights burn).

Based on studies done by the DRDA and using current rates, this village will save approximately Rs300,000/- on electricity bills over 20 years.

Unit cost per light:
Rs 20,000/' or US \$450/-

infraSys investment:
Rs100,000/- or US \$2,200/-

MORE FARMERS SHOW INTEREST IN VERMICOMPOSTING

October 2004
Suttur, Mysore District
Karnataka, India

When in February 2003, infraSys proposed that it was willing to "invest" in 10 villagers for establishing vermi-compost units, there was skepticism amongst the staff of the JSS Krishi Vigyan Kendra.

Understandable, because CAPART had just ended a similar program that was FREE.

The question was...why would any farmer want to enter into an agreement to repay - for something that had until recently been given free?



Nagendra of Nagarle village - one of infraSys partners - stands proudly in front of his vermicompost unit.

VERMI-COMPOSTING is the use of earthworms for breaking down organic matters under regulated conditions to produce a very nutrient and organic fertilizer- vermicompost.

the tele.graam

is the official newsletter of

infraSys

Eco-Management Private Ltd.

Registered Office
1317 24th Main
BSK 2nd Stage
Bangalore, 560 070 India

Phone: 080.2671.0421

Contact Office
501 Magnolia Street, # 207
South Pasadena CA 91030
U.S.A

Phone: 626.462.9520
626.799.9979

Fax: 626.462.9559

E-mail

info@infrasys.biz

Please visit our website

www.infrasys.biz

10 farmers selected

In spite of this, when the news of this proposal spread, there were over 30 applicants. Of these, 10 were selected and took the training that was offered at the KVK.

Down payment

The investment of Rs 4,000/- per unit was paid to each farmer ONLY when they used their own resources as down payment to build the shed and the reservoir per specifications of the KVK.

Arun Pandit

The credit for success of this

project goes to Arun Pandit, Scientist at KVK. His dedication, help, involvement and support for the project have been essential for the success.

8 of the 10 units are now in production and each unit produces a net income of about Rs 1,000/- per month.

Repayment has begun and this money in turn will be invested by infraSys in other projects or units locally.

Investment per unit:
Rs 4,000/- or US \$90/-

Total infraSys investment
(10 units)
Rs 40,000/- or US \$900/-

FUTURE PROJECTS...

More Vermicomposting

* We are currently working on investment in a vermicomposting project with a Self Help Group in Vilathikulam village, in Pudukkottai District in Tamil Nadu.

Projected investment of
Rs 50,000/- (US \$1,100/-)

* We are exploring the extension of vermicomposting projects into Chamrajnagar District in Karnataka.

Projected investment of
Rs 50,000/- (US \$1,100/-)

Edible Oil

* infraSys is researching the viability of small scale edible oil units for villages. Oil is often the ONLY source of fat in the diet of the poor!

Projected investment of
Rs 100,000/- (US \$2,200/-)

Soap

* We are negotiating the start-up of a small soap making unit, primarily for local consumption, in a village in Tamil Nadu. (Every month villages send large sums of money to the bank accounts of Messers TATA, Lever, Proctor and Gamble!)

Projected investment of
Rs 100,000/- (US \$2,200/-)

Solar Battery Charging Center

* This is a small scale utility. Solar panels charge batteries, which are then rented to people to provide power for lighting. Our associate, Anand Kumar in

AN INVITATION...

THIS IS NOT A SOLICITATION FOR FUNDS FOR CHARITY.

This is an invitation to invest in infraSys. We are targeting to raise Rs 10,000,000/- by selling shares at Rs 5,000/- each. As you can see one single share represents the funding for one Vermicompost Unit; 10 shares represent the investment to help the livelihood of 15 rural women and 4 shares invested will deliver one street light in a dark village.

We intend to invest, recover the investments and then reinvest both equity and net profits back into projects in line with our mission, goals and philosophy. If you see some merit in this approach to make a difference...this investment is for you. Additionally we are looking for human capital - to advice, teach, network and create opportunities. To learn more about investing please write to me personally at the address on the left or email me. Sincerely,

Murthy Sudhakar
murthysudhakar@hotmail.com

infraSys is

- * a self-sustaining for-profit company...
- * with a non-profit attitude...
- * committed to operate as a socially responsible business.

infraSys' MISSION

* Create locally manageable decentralized infrastructural systems - water, energy and waste management. (Physical infrastructure)

* Create income generating opportunities in the villages. (Financial infrastructure)

* Provide know-how (Knowledge infrastructure)

infraSys ... a company investing in rural India.

Mysore has tested the prototype and we are currently studying methods to make this an affordable alternative to kerosene lamps.

Projected investment of
Rs 150,000/- (US \$3,300/-)

Seed village

* infraSys has been approached to consider investment in the establishment of 3 or 4 seed villages in Karnataka, India.

This involves the selection of a few progressive farmers, who will grow seeds and market them to fellow farmers at an affordable cost and make them available in time for planting.

Projected investment of
Rs 600,000/- (US \$13,300/-)