

## **My Impression of 31<sup>st</sup> China Sodha Yatra**

Hai friends,

This is my second time participation in China Sodha Yatra of Palle Srujana. This yatra is something special to me because of my son also participated along with me in this yatra. Father – Son duo walked for nearly 50 kms in a span of 3 days to learn, search and understand the grassroot innovations in villages along the Telugu Ganga project canal route of Kurnool district. This time the participants are more in number and is 35. The participants are from different domains like working executives, students, Telengana state innovation cell nominated members, grassroot innovators and NRI student etc.

### ***First day yatra***

The yatra started from Sri Neelam Sanjeevareddy degree college of Veligodu on 14/06/2019 at around 9am. The starting point is in front of the Veligodu Balancing Reservoir. We visited the reservoir and came to know that, foundation stone jointly laid down by the then CM of combined Andhra Pradesh Sri N.T.Ramarao and Sri M.G.Ramachandran of Tamilnadu state. The reservoir is having capacity of 16.95 TMC and is constructed in the part of telugu ganga project and is serving the water needs of four districts of Rayalaseema and Chennai city.

First we visited the Manjunatha organics firm which is run by Palle Srujana grass root innovator Sri Venkata Krishnudu. He innovated two organic manure products and are with brand names Tulasi and Perfect. These are made up of cow urine, coconut oil, sugar cane juice, toddy (palm wine), tulasi leaves etc. These two types of organic manures are suitable for any crop and gives wonderful results as told by the farmers of nearby villages. Entire process of making the manures is explained by Krishnudu garu in a lucid manner. Krishnudu garu along with his wife Adilakshmi garu were felicitated by our co-yatri Sudarsan garu with shawls. Venkata krishnudu garu is also president of Kurnool division fisherman federation and is a part of National Fishermen Fedaration.

After that we visited Narasimhaiah Traders firm which is near by Manjunatha organics. This is a small scale industry which is meant for making of polythene, HDPE and PP bags for carrying paddy, rice etc. Proprietor Ravi Kumar garu explained the process of bags making and working of machinery to us. This process is amazing and is involving three stages. The bag material is imported from Bangalore and it comes in bundles. This bag material is cutting according to required sizes by means of automatic cutting machine and then fed to printing rollers for printing on top side and finally stitching with sewing machine. In a small village backdrop area, they are running such a wonderful small scale firm with latest technology machines is awesome. Really amazing. Proprietor Ravi Kumar garu was felicitated by our Ex Brigadiar Ganesham garu of Palle Srujana.

Proceeded to Boyarevula village, enroute, we had a chance to see the breaking and shaping work of granite stone slabs by two persons Mr. Basha and Mr.Vali . They are breaking these stone slabs in to two halves by means of small hammer like chiesel. This is really a skill oriented job and they are doing with accuracy. They are calling these stone slabs as Palugudu Rayi in local language and this is coming from Gadivemula Quarry. Almost majority of the houses construction in this region is made up of using these stone slabs only. Even wells in this region also constructed by using these slabs. Both Basha garu and Vali garu was felicitated by us.

Later we proceeded to Aayyavaripalli village via crossing Galeru river. In this village, grass root innovator products displayed to villagers and explained its functioning by Ganesham garu. The participation by villagers is excellent. Some of the co-yatris conducted the sports competitions to children in the village and all the members including villagers have the fun. After that we reached the Narayanapuram village at around 11pm via Madhavaram and Timmanapalli. In Madhavaram village, local farmer explained us turmeric crop cultivation in that region. Turmeric rhizomes curing process is explained by him and is quite interesting. Most amazing part is 20 minute silent walk between Timmanapalli and Narayanapuram. Everybody is enjoyed this silent moon walk and it is a unique experience. Night we stayed at Zilla Parishat School of Narayanapuram village.

### ***Second day Yatra***

Second day yatra started with palle srujana grassroot innovator products display session at village main centre. Ganesham garu explained the importance of village innovations to villagers and lot of doubts cleared by sir. Enroute, we visited the bamboo fence (Tadika) making work by local people and they explained the process. Co yatris are actively learned the process with enthusiasm. While returning for breakfast we saw pigeon nest on a tree. We surprised to know that it is prepared by a local boy and his concern towards birds is heart touching.

After that we reached GC Palem via Santajuturu village and had our lunch at school premises. After lunch we walked further towards Ernepadu village. After crossing the Ramapuram village we reached KC Canal and stayed there for half an hour. Some of the yatris crossed the canal in water by holding hand in hand each other , everybody enjoyed a lot and is a memorable one. From Ramapuram to Singavaram we walked on KC Canal bank and interacted with Mr. Madhu and Mr. Maheswar reddy who are working staff of Canal irrigation division. Their duty is to restrict water siphoning by local farmers in that area. They explained us the irrigation gates mechanism. Ganesham garu felicitated these two people. The name of that area is Madhya Lakulu. The walk on the canal bank in that evening is wonderful. Night we stayed at Kadavalakaluva village panchayat office.

### ***Third day yatra***

Morning after fresh up, some of the yattris visited the Sivanandi temple, which is one of the Nava Nandis in the Nandyal region. The temple area was neat and clean and architectural construction of the temple is amazing. After finishing breakfast and interaction with villagers we headed towards Tammadapalli via Timmapuram. At around 1 pm we reached tammadapalli village pond area. There is a temple besides the pond and it is our lunch break place. Sri Venkata Swamy garu, an 80 year old octogenarian, local herbal medicine expert (Moolika Vaidyulu) waiting for us to interact with us. Our Venkata Krishnudu garu also waiting there for us along with his family members. We all had our lunch, some of the food items are prepared by Adilakshmi garu who is the wife of Venkata Krishnudu garu. Everybody is touched by the hospitality provided by the Venkata krishnudu gari family, during the yatra. Finally at around 3 pm impressions sharing session conducted by Ganesham garu. Every body shared their views and opinions freely without hesitation. Finally we felicitated the Venkata swamy garu with shawl and closed the yatra. Some of the people visited the Mahanandi temple and after darshan returned back to Nandyal for retrun journey.

We all very much thankful to Sri Ganesham garu, for his patience, energy, knowledge sharing and determination to find out Grass root level innovations in villages through China Sodha Yatras. We returned back to homes by memorizing the success stories of Palle Srujana Grass root innovators Sri Nannam Tirupathi, Sri Mahipala chari, Sri Pandurangarao, Sri Abdul Kareem & Sri Venkata Krishnudu, which are told by our beloved Pogula Ganesham garu, the iconic symbol of Palle Srujana.

Let us come forward to explore the knowledge in villages through upcoming China Sodha Yatras of Palle Srujana.

Thank you, one and all.