

26 Jun 05

Update on the resource center

Land required for the resource center has been purchased.

Siddamma had applied to the registrar to confirm that there are no pending loans that use the land as a collateral. The registrar's office checked and had issued the clearance certificate for the purchase of the land.

Siddamma then consulted Alli, who is the legal aid and has represented them in numerous cases including the release the bonded laborers in the last year.

The government surveyors from the revenue department and the village accountant provided the documents and demarked the land. There is 10 acres of cultivable land and 3 acres of wasteland (dry land). The dry land can be used to try out rain harvesting. They also accounted for all the vegetation and trees including the 52 coconut trees.

She had to take a loan for 5 lakhs to purchase the land.

Q: What was the urgency to purchase the land immediately?

A: We have been speaking to the owner for over a year and the owner really needed to sell the land and could not hold on anymore. All the government requirements had also come through. We had around 8 lakhs from the funds raised before and needed to take a loan for the remaining 5 lakhs.

Q: Why was the owner keen on selling the land?

A: The owners family of a father and his two sons. They were advised from the government surveys to invest in silk worm farming. They heavily invested in the same. However, the heat this year was too much for the worms and they lost their investment and wanted to sell the land.

Q: What will happen to the family that is selling the land?

A: One of the sons has decided to move to Bangalore, he is educated and has got a job as contractor there. The father and the second son will continue farming on two acres of land that they did not sell. They plan to put the funds from the purchase in a fixed deposit and use the interest to have a supplemental income. They have planted some sugarcane that will be ready for harvest in three months, they asked for permission to harvest that crop and we have given it to them.

Q: Where did you get the loan from?

A: We did not get a loan from a bank, we needed to temporarily use funds we had for buffer and funds required from other projects that we coordinate.

The telephone line was bad and this is about the only information I have.

- Sanjeev