JC Agraharam Village at a Glance

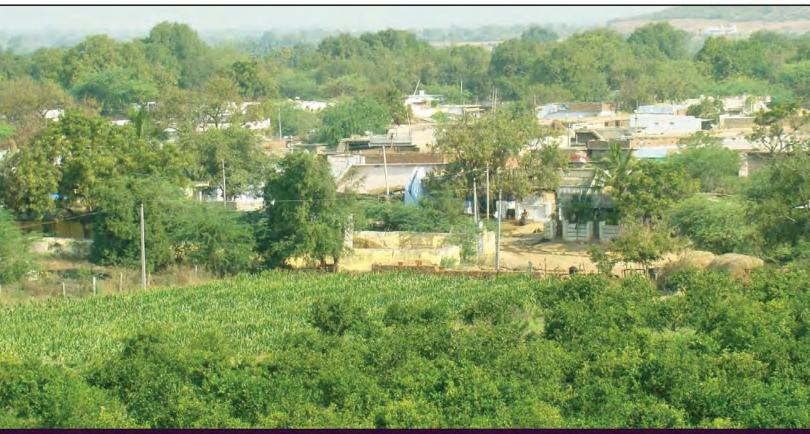
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I. INTRODUCTION

The research project Village Dynamics in South Asia (VDSA) was launched in 2009 by the Research Program on Markets, Institutions and Policies (RP-MIP) of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) to track changes in rural poverty in household and village economies in South Asia. Janapala Cheruvu Agraharam (called JC Agraharam in local parlance), located in Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh State, is one of the 42 villages spread across India and Bangladesh selected for implementation of the project during 2009-14. Prakasam district, earlier called Ongole district, came into existence on 2 February 1970. Ongole was renamed Prakasam district in 1972 in memory of the eminent freedom fighter, Ex-Chief Minister of the composite Madras state and the first Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh state, late Sri Tanguturi Prakasam Panthulu, popularly known as "Andhra Kesari". Ongole town is the headquarters of Prakasam district. The history of Prakasam district dates

back to the Mourya regime, and it was later ruled by the Satavahanas, Ikshvakas, Eastern Chalukyas and Kakatiyas.

The original name of the village was Ayyavaripalle, which was formed before 1822 and was very close to the big hillock with 20-25 households owned by the Brahmin and Reddy communities. They constructed a tank near the village named "Janapala cheruvu" for drinking water, domestic use and agricultural purposes in 1822. Whenever the tank flooded, the villagers found it difficult to visit neighboring villages and the market town as there were no proper roads to bypass the wet areas. Rich households used horses to travel outside the village, while poor households had to go on foot. Households flooded with water during days of heavy rain, as the rain water gushed down from the nearby hilly areas. To avoid these problems, the villagers constructed houses in the present village called "Janapala Cheruvu" 1.5 km away, and moved away from Ayyavaripalle. In Telugu, "jana" means "people",







"pala" means "protect" and "cheruvu" means "tank". Thus "Janapala Cheruvu" means "tank that protects people," refers to the large tank near the village. In earlier times, most of the households in the village were those of the Brahmin community, who served the rulers of the area in those days. To recognize the services of the community, the rulers gifted some land to them in the village and authorized them to collect taxes from villagers. These Brahmin households were grouped in a cluster of houses called an "Agraharam", which literally means "a garland of houses". A typical agraharam has rows of houses on either side of the road, with the village temple at the center, resembling a garland of houses around the temple. The village became known as "Janapala Cheruvu Agraharam" and later as "JC Agraharam". Eventually, most of these Brahmins sold their land and left the village permanently. Reddy and other caste householders from surrounding villages purchased the land and settled in the village.

JC Agraharam village (15° 28′ 39.5″ N and 79° 09′ 10.5″ E) is located in Besthavaripeta mandal of Prakasam district (14° 57′ to 16° 17′ N and 78° 43′ to 80° 25′ E). The village is situated 10 km away from the state highway SH 53, 13 km from Mandal headquarters (Besthavaripeta), 115 km from Ongole town connecting the Grand Trunk road (Kolkata-Chennai) - National Highway No.5 and about 400 km from ICRISAT, Hyderabad. The nearest railway station is Cumbum, 18 km from the village. The major soils of the village are red sandy soils (40%), shallow to deep black (35%) and saline/alkaline soils (25%). The normal rainfall in the village is 763 mm.

II. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND / DEVELOPMENT OF THE VILLAGE

During the last three decades, JC Agraharam village has progressed very slowly and in varying degrees in terms of social, political, economic, technological, institutional, infrastructural, educational and religious advancement.

Social: The village has a population of 1604 grouped into 382 households. Nearly 99% of the households are Hindu, with only four Muslim households. Some households (62 households mainly belonging to Scheduled caste) practice Christianity. Of 382 households, 113 (30%) households are from the Reddy caste, followed by Yadav and Mutrasi (20% each), Madiga (13%), Mangali (4%) and Mala and Chakali (3% each), while the others belong to minor castes, namely, Gowda, Vysya, Viswabrahmin, Wadder and Muslim. Brahmin, Reddy and Vysya are considered forward castes (FC) whereas Yadav, Mutrasi, Mangali, Chakali, Gowda, Viswabrahmin, Wadder and Muslim are considered backward castes (BC). Mala and Madiga castes, also known as Harijans, belong to scheduled castes (SC). Reddys form the politically, economically and socially dominant group in the village, followed by Yadav and Mutrasi. SC people are poor and less influential in the village, but offer considerable labor force for farm and non-farm work. The importance of traditional caste occupations such as washing clothes, goldsmith, barber services and stone cutting is declining due to low demand for their products and services. So, a majority of these households have migrated out and/ or diversified their livelihoods.

Political: The village has a Gram Panchayat consisting of 12 ward members, of which 5 are reserved for backward castes (1 male and 4 female), 2 for scheduled castes (1 male and 1 female) and 5 for forward castes (3 male and 2 female). The present Sarpanch/President of the Gram Panchayat, elected in 2006, is a woman, Ms B Thimmakka, who hails from a backward caste. The Gram Panchayat is responsible for village development by collecting house tax from the villagers and obtaining funds from the government for executing different welfare programs and development of infrastructure, ie, education, sanitation, drinking water, roads, and maintenance of street lights. Most development has taken place in the village only during the last 10 years. During 2010, the Gram Panchayat constructed an approach road connecting the village to Kothapalle village. The Gram Panchayat has successfully secured funds from the government and is currently constructing a veterinary hospital and Gram Panchayat office building. The majority of the villagers are strong supporters of two political parties, namely, Telugu Desam and Congress.

Economic: This village is a developing economy. Agriculture is the main occupation for more than 51% of the households followed by earnings from labor (30%), caste occupations (5%) and others (14%). Crop productivity is relatively low because of factors such as poor soils (saline/alkaline), uneven distribution of



rainfall, frequent droughts and wild boar damage. Soils in the area became saline due to excessive application of chemical fertilizers. Rearing of milch animals, sheep and goats is also an important source of income for the households. Livestock income is increasing year after year. Land values have doubled (from Rs. 0.12 million to 0.25 million per ha) in the last two years because of implementation of the Velugonda irrigation project. The pace of agricultural development is expected to increase after completion of the irrigation project.

Employment opportunities for labor are limited in the village. Labor-dependent households are able to get farm employment of about 100-150 days in a year within the village. The wage rate for males is Rs. 100-125 and for females is Rs. 70-80 per day of 8 hours work. Emigration was observed in the village during slack periods. More than 100 people from the village go to Mumbai and Chennai for non-farm work for 3-8 months in a year. About 50 members are working in salaried jobs in the Indian army and send remittances to their parents. There are 28 self-help groups (SHGs) with women members functioning in the village, which provide loans to members at a low interest rates. Most members use these funds for productive purposes (purchase of milch animals, farm inputs, investment in business and education of children). The participation of women members in SHG activity has enhanced their incomes, knowledge and awareness, resulting in their enhanced empowerment and decision making power in family matters.

Technological: Cotton, paddy, pigeonpea and pearl millet are the major crops grown in the kharif season, while in the rabi, sunflower, chickpea, cotton, groundnut, coriander, maize and chilli are predominantly grown. Sweet lemon and papaya are the important horticultural crops grown perennially on 32 ha. The level of adoption of improved seed technologies by the farm households has reached nearly 80%, and the area under commercial crops



such as cotton, chilli, sunflower, maize, and chickpea is increasing. Some important improved cultivars are Hamsa in paddy; Obama, Tulasi and Genios in cotton; Sunbred, Suryateja, Siri and Haritha in sunflower and JG-11 in chickpea. Almost all farmers use tractors for land preparation, for which four tractors are available for hire in the village. About 70% of households use threshers for threshing chickpea, sunflower and maize, for which four threshers are available in the village. Most of the farmers use chemical fertilizers, micronutrients and pesticides to increase crop productivity.

Institutional: The Gram Panchayat system was started in this village in the 1960s. The Gram Panchayat office building is currently under construction. Two Anganwadi centers provide nutritive food and medicines and conduct frequent health checkups for about 125 children and 12 pregnant/lactating women. Three private dairy farms in the village encourage dairy farming by selected households by providing loans for purchase of milch animals. These dairy farms collect about 800 liters of milk daily from villagers. While there is no formal financial institution within the village, the villagers meet their credit needs from the Primary Agricultural Credit Society (PACS) located at Galijerugulla and one nationalized bank (State Bank of India) located at Pitikayagulla. Farmers also get petty loans from about 20 village moneylenders for various purposes at high interest rates. There are 28 women's SHGs functioning in the village, which provide loans to their members at low interest rates. Other institutions existing in the village are a post office, bhajan mandal and an NGO called Andhra Pradesh Farmers' Managed Groundwater Systems Project (APFAMGS). This NGO educates the farmers on water-saving technologies that can help optimize production.

Infrastructural: Infrastructure facilities in the village are not well developed. The village got electrified in 1972 and electricity is mainly used for domestic and agricultural purposes. Water for domestic use is supplied



to households through six small water storage tanks that are connected to borewells. The Gram Panchayat constructed an approach road during 2010 connecting to the Kothapalle metal road. However, internal roads and the drainage system are not well developed. There is no public road transport to and from the village. Auto rickshaws and motorcycles are the main means of transportation. Communication, education and drinking water supply are satisfactory in the village. A high number of farmers use cell phones for communication.

Educational: Two Anganwadi centers, two primary schools and one secondary school (up to Standard 7) are functioning well in the village. As many as 173 children (83 boys and 90 girls) are enrolled in primary schools and 76 children (40 boys and 36 girls) are enrolled in a secondary school in the village. After completion of Standard 7, students go to Pitikayagulla, Besthavaripeta and Ongole for higher education. Some people who can afford it send their children (about 75 children) to private schools located in nearby towns. A few economically challenged people are also sending their children outside the village for higher education. The literacy level of the villagers has reached 62% and more than 80 people who have received higher education are





working in government and non-government institutions on monthly salaried jobs.

Religious: Religion plays an important role in the daily life of the villagers and they frequently hold prayers in their houses, temples, and churches. There are two Hindu temples and two churches in the village. Srirama Navami, Vinayaka Chathurthi, Dussera, Diwali, Sankranthi and Ugadi are very important festivals for the Hindus. Srirama Navami (birthday of Lord Rama) is celebrated for four days every year, when villagers perform puja, sing bhajans, and conduct bullock races for entertainment. On the last day, the idols of Lord Rama, Goddess Sita and Lord Hanuman are carried on a chariot in a procession through the village. Hanuman Jayanthi is celebrated every year, during which free food is offered to the villagers and races are organized. Muslims and Hindus together perform Peerla Panduga (a Muslim festival) and conduct a procession for 3-4 days in the evenings. The village Muslims goes to the mosque in nearby villages Vangapadu and Kothapeta (about three km away) for their prayers. Harijans celebrate Christmas and New year every year. Most of the Hindu villagers also participate in Christian and Muslim festivals.



III. BASIC STATISTICS OF THE VILLAGE

A) LOCATION / ACCESSIBILITY

1. Village: Janapala Cheruvu Agraharam (JC Agraharam)

3. District: **Prakasam**

4. State: **Andhra Pradesh**

5. PIN: **523346**

2. Mandal: **Besthavaripeta**

(b) Longitude: **79° 09′ 10.5″ E**

(b) Distance from village (km): 18 (b) Distance from village (km): 10

(b) Distance from village (km): 115

(c) Altitude (m): **217**

6. GPS values: (a) Latitude: 15° 28′ 39.5″ N

7. Nearest town: (a) Name: **Cumbum**

8. Nearest State Highway: (a) Number: **SH 53**

9. Nearest National Highway: (a) Number: NH 5

10. Name of the Village Panchayat: **JC Agraharam**

11. Details of the Village Panchayat President:

12. Details of the Gram Sevak:

13. Details of Village Revenue Officer:

(a) Name: Ms B Thimmakka (b) Cell No.: 9866291897

(a) Name: Mr Saleem Shaikh (b) Cell No.: 9676775094

(a) Name: Mr Babajee Shaikh (b) Cell No.: 9502962615

B) DEMOGRAPHY (as on 31 December 2010)

Population (No): **1604** 2. Households (No): **382** 3. Voters (No): **1149**

4. Farmer accounts/Khatas (No): 854

5. Classification of population:

Category	No.	FarmSize*	No.	Religion	No.	Caste	No.	Literacy	No.	Gender	No.
SC	255	Landless	310	Hindu	1586	Reddy	440	Illiterate (<4)	987	Male	647
ST	0	Marginal	583	Muslim	18	Mutrasi	353	Literate (4-10)	510	Female	600
OBC	881	Small	302			Yadav	332	Matriculate	75	Children	357
General	468	Medium	341			Madiga	195	Graduate	25	(<14y)	
		Large	68			Mangali	63	Postgraduate	7		
Caste Group-	Caste Group-wise Population (%)					Mala	60		Literacy Leve	l-wise Population ((%)
	45					Chakali	55		1		
29	16					Viswabrahmin	35				
						Goud	26		32		
						Muslim	18			61	
55					Vysya	13					
					Wadder	8	_				
SC ST OBC Minority					Brahmin	6		Illiterates (<4)	Literates (4-10) N Post-graduat		
Total	1604		1604		1604		1604		1604		1604

^{*&}lt;0.1 ha=Landless; 0.1-<1 ha=Marginal; 1-<2 ha=Small; 2-4 ha=Medium; >4 ha=Large.

6. Classification of households:

Male headed (No): 340

Female headed (No): 42

Category	No.	Farm Size*	No.	Religion	No.	Caste	No.	Main Occupation	No.
SC	62	Landless	84	Hindu	378	Reddy	113	Farming	195
ST	0	Marginal	128	Muslim	4	Mutrasi	78	Caste occupation	20
OBC	200	Small	80			Yadav	78	Agril. labor	114
General	120	Medium	75			Madiga	49	Others\$	53
		Large	15			Mangali	14	Main Occupation-wise House	eholds (%)
Farm Size-wise	Households (%)				Mala	13	14	
4						Chakali	13		
20	22					Viswabrahmin	8		
						Goud	5	30	1
21	7					Muslim	4		
	33					Vysya	4	5	
						Wadder	2		
Small Landless	Small Landless Medium Marginal Large					Brahmin	1	Farming Agril. labour Caste occupation	
Total	382		382		382		382		382

^{* &}lt;0.1 ha=Landless; 0.1-<1 ha=Marginal; 1-<2 ha=Small; 2-4 ha=Medium; >4 ha=Large.

\$ including salaried, moneylenders, middlemen, service sector, etc. * Based on village census conducted in 2009

C) LAND USE PATTERN (2009-10)

1. Distribution of Geographical Area:

11 Distribution of Geographical / treat	
Particulars	Ha
Agricultural land	1236
Forest	65
Land used for roads, bldgs & non-agril.purposes	61
Land occupied by water resources (tank, river)	276
Land occupied by hills, rocks, etc.	380
Total Geographical Area	2018

2. Cropped Area:

Season	Ha
Kharif	629.5
Rabi	733.2
Summer	0.0
Annual/Perennial crops	32.3
Gross Cropped Area	1395.0

3. Irrigated Area:

Season	Ha
Kharif	222.6
Rabi	263.3
Summer	0.0
Annual/Perennial crops	32.3
Gross Irrigated Area	518.2

D) LAND RESOURCES

1. Soil distribution

6.114	0/
Soil type	% area
Deep black	5
Medium black	10
Shallow black	20
Chowdu (saline & alkaline)	25
Red and sandy soil	40

2. Irrigation sources (as on 31 December 2010)

Sources	Total No.	Working No.	Approx. depth (m) of working wells	Irrigated area (Ha/year)
Borewells	240	224	75.1	518.2
			Approx. land area covered (ha)	
Ponds	2	0	8.1	0.0
Tanks	1	1	40.5	0.0

3. Rainfall (Jun'09-May'10)**:**

(a) Quantity (mm/yr):(b) No. of rainy days:

Normal: **763** Normal: **42**

Actual: **325** Actual: **21**

E) CROP PRODUCTION (2009-10)

Kharif		Rabi		Summer		Annual/Perennial Crops	
Crops	Area (ha)	Crops	Area (ha)	Crops	Area (ha)	Crops	Area (ha)
Cotton	242.9	Sunflower	364.5			Orange	20.2
Paddy	222.6	Chickpea	222.7			Papaya	12.1
Pigeonpea	162.0	Cotton	60.7				
Pearl millet	2.0	Groundnut	28.3				
		Coriander	20.2				
		Maize	12.2				
		Chilles	4.4				
		Others	20.2				
Total	629.5		733.2		0		32.3

F) ASSETS (as on 31 December 2010)

1. Productive Assets:

Livestock		Heavy Machinery		
Туре	No.	Туре	No.	
Cow (indigenous)	3	Tractor	4	
Buffalo	462	Thresher	4	
Bullock	120	Cart	20	
Sheep	484	Auto	11	
Goat	159	Flour mill	2	
Poultry	87	Sprayer (power)	10	
Young cattle	254	Sprayer (manual)	50	
Milk sale (Lt/day)	800			

2. Consumer Assets:

Туре	No.
Television	250
Refrigerator	20
LPG connection	70
Dish Antenna	250
Motor bike	10

3. Buildings:

Туре	No.
Houses-Pucca	154
Houses-Kuccha (Tile roof)	208
Houses-Thatched/Hut	20
Cattleshed	1

G) BASIC NEEDS (as on 31 December 2010)

1. Type of food (# of households): (a) Pure Vegetarian: 9

2. Type of clothes: (a) Men: **Pant, Shirt, Lungi**

3. Type of houses: (a) Pucca-154

(b) Kuccha-**208**

(b) Non-vegetarian: **373**

(b) Women: Sari with Blouse, Chudidar-Kurta

(c) Thatched/Tent/Hut-20

H) INFRASTRUCTURE (as on 31 December 2010)

1. Village electrification: **Yes** No. of houses with access to electricity: **330**

2. Tar/metal/cement road to village: Yes

3. Is there a tar/metal/cement road inside the village? **Yes** Length of road (km): **0.2**

4. Public transport facility: Public/private bus facility to village: **No**

Other mode of travel available? **Yes**Modes available: **Auto rickshaws, Motorcycles**

5. Drinking water facility: **Yes** Sources: **6 Borewells connected to storage tanks**

Tap connections available? **No**

6. Public toilet/urinal facility: **No** Private toilets (No.): **60**

7. Public health facility: **No** Private Doctors: **2 (RMP)**

Distance to nearest PHC (km): 3 (Pitikayagulla)

8. Veterinary health facility: **No**Distance to nearest facility (km): **13 (Besthavaripeta)**

9. Banking facility: **No**

No. of PACS: 1 (Galijerugulla) Commercial Bank (SBI): 1 (Pitikayagulla)

10. Educational facilities:

Level	Number of institutions	Enrolment (Number)		
		Male	Female	
Pre-primary (Anganwadi)	2	57	66	
Primary (Standard 1-5)	2	83	90	
Secondary (Standard 6-7)	1	40	36	

11. Agricultural input shops:

Input	Available in village?	If no, nearest available place	Distance from village (km)
Seed	No	Besthavaripeta, Cumbum	13, 16
Fertilizer	No	Besthavaripeta, Cumbum	13, 16
Pesticide	No	Besthavaripeta, Cumbum	13, 16
Machinery – Purchase	No	Ongole town	115
Machinery – Custom hiring	Yes		

12. Agricultural output market:

Weekly shandy in the village? No

No. of wholesale traders/commission agents in/visiting the village: 15

13. Storage godowns/warehouses: No

14. Other business units (No.):

PDS Shop: Hotel/Canteen: Grocery shop: 1 3 Chilli/spices grinding shop: Flour Mill: 2 Meat shop: 1 1 Liquor shop: 1 Pan Shop: 3 Carpenter: 3 Blacksmith: 3 Mason: 13 Moneylenders: 20

15. Other Institutions (No.):

SHG/Sakhi Mandal: 28 NGO: 1 (APFAMGS) Dairies: 3 (Private)

Post Office: 1 Bhajan Mandal: 1

16. Place of worship (No): Temple: 2 Church: 2

I) GOVERNMENT WELFARE PROGRAMS RECENTLY IMPLEMENTED (as on 31 December 2010)

SN	Name of the Government Program	Beneficiaries (No. of households)
1	Pensions (Old age-140, Widow-70, Physically Handicapped-50 and Abhayahastham-12)	272
2	Mid-Day Meal program and free text books	173
3	Anganwadi (children-125 and pregnant/lactating women-12)	137
4	Free power supply	224
5	Public Distribution System (PDS)	471
6	Allotment of house or subsidy on house construction	222
7	Subsidy on purchase of chickpea and sunflower seeds	270
8	SHGs (each group consisting of 10 members)	28
9	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme	749

About ICRISAT



The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) is a non-profit, non-political organization that conducts agricultural research for development in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa with a wide array of partners throughout the world. Covering 6.5 million square kilometers of land in 55 countries, the semi-arid tropics have over 2 billion people, and 644 million of these are the poorest of the poor. ICRISAT and its partners help empower these poor people to overcome poverty, hunger, malnutrition and a degraded environment through better and more resilient agriculture.

ICRISAT is headquartered in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India, with two regional hubs and four country offices in sub-Saharan Africa. It belongs to the Consortium of Centers supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

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