



DECCAN DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

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PRESS RELEASE

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Deccan Development Society is delighted and proud that two of the women belonging to the Society have been honoured by two distinctive awards on the occasion of International Women's Day held on March 8, 2013. While Doordarshan honoured Ms Masanagari Chinna Narsamma, community filmmaker in its first *Saptagiri Sabala Sadhikarata Puraskaram* the YSRCP honoured Ms Gangwar Anjamma for her contribution to the issues of biodiverse agriculture, seed conservation and organic farming.

That Doordarshan, which honoured seven women from different fields from all over Andhra Pradesh, included Masanagari Chinna Narsamma among the seven is an extraordinary fact. While the rest of the seven awardees are urban, highly educated and from elite families, Chinna Narsamma is the only non literate rural woman from landless farm labouring family who overcame her non literacy to rise to the level of international recognition.

Masanagari Chinna Narsamma from Pastapur Village, Zaheerabad Mandal, is from a dalit marginal farming family. After learning videography, since 18 years she has made hundreds of films and has travelled to over 20 countries including Canada, England, Germany, France, Denmark, Sweden, Peru, South Africa, Kenya, Mali, Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia and all countries in South Asia. Her films have been screened in all these countries to the audiences consisting of farmers groups, civil society leaders, members of parliament, policy makers and others. Her films have also been translated into English, French, German, Spanish, Swahili and other South East Asian languages.

Besides, through her films, Narsamma has addressed the issues of marginalised and ultra poor farmers, dalit women and their valuable knowledge base and introduced them to a global audience. The films she made on Bt Cotton in Andhra Pradesh was so compelling that it forced AP Government to ban Bt cotton from this state for a period.

In recognition of all these achievements of Chinna Narsamma, Doordarshan, honoured her with the *Saptagiri Sabala Sadhikarata*

Gangwar Anjamma

From a situation of being totally landless in Gangwar Village of Nyalkal Mandal to a position of owning 12 acres of land by faithfully following organic farming and biodiversity on her land Gangwar Anjamma is a living example of ecological agriculture. She is also a winner of the AP Biodiversity Board award and is on the Agrobiodiversity Expert Committee of AP government. She conserves over 70 varieties of seeds for her community. By practicing organic farming without the use of any chemicals and prospering through that farming, she has earned the respect of the entire Andhra Pradesh.

Identifying all these unique qualities of Anjamma, the YSRCP awarded her a special honour on the occasion of the International Womens Day on 8th March, 2013



[p v satheesh]
director