

Drip irrigation system at the Zilla Parishad Secondary School, Kowtha village, Adilabad

Kowtha village lies in the drier regions of Adilabad district in Andhra Pradesh. The major livelihood activity in this area is cotton cultivation. Mr. K Poshetty is a science teacher at ZPSS, Kowtha. He explained to his students how they could conserve water during cultivation and watering of plants by adopting bottle/ bucket drip irrigation. Subsequently students from 6th and 7th class demonstrated this activity and explained the significance of the drip irrigation system to the villagers during their school level annual event.

Y. Nagesh Reddy, one of the farmers was inspired by this method and approached the agricultural office. He was able to procure the drip irrigation pipelines at a subsidised rate. He employed this system to irrigate 700 plants in 1.5 acres of his cotton field. He observed that 40% of water could be conserved by this method. Other villagers too are now using this system in their gardens.

Some interesting statistics:

- ◆ Drip irrigation is used in the school to water Nerium, Tulasi, Marigold, Jasmine and Periwinkle plants.
- ◆ The school is using 12 buckets of water less than what was being used prior to setting up the drip irrigation system

