

# Farmers decided best way to revive land was by simply coming together

Rakesh Mundy

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Under the community farming scheme, farmers can avail of 90% subsidy on fencing, machinery, and other irrigation facilities. This drastically reduces the expenditure for farming in addition to which marketing of the produce is easier as a common unit.

For Amar Khalwadem, it was the constant animal attacks that urged him to join the project. "There are gaurs and wild boars that would destroy crops each time we grew something owing to which we had left the land uncultivated for almost three years. Having joined the community farming project, we were able to afford fencing for the fields. We will now grow paddy

## UNITED EFFORTS

### List of community farms registered in Canacona in 2021-22

<b>Cola Shetkari Sangh</b>   Cola	Poinguinim
<b>Om Sai Shetkari Sangh</b>   Cola	<b>Nirakar Farmers Group</b>   Khalwadem, Canacona
<b>Aadinath Shetkari Sangh</b>   Cola	<b>Karegogin Mangan Farmers Self-help Group</b>   Sadolxem
<b>United Farmers Self-Help Group</b>   Saleri, Cola	<b>Shri Mahadev Shetkari Sanghatna</b>   Baddem, Cotigao
<b>Velha Purush Self-Help Group</b>   Gulem	<b>Polle Shetkari Sagh</b>   Polem
<b>Aryan Self-Help Group</b>   Gulem	<b>Satorlim Self-help Group</b>   Satorlim, Gaodongrim
<b>Shri Sateri Shetkari Sanghatana</b>   Colsar,	<b>Mallikarjun Self-help Group</b>   Satorlim



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- Daddev Shetkari Sanghatana
- Parshuram Shetkari Sangh
- Sateri Self-help Group

and proceed to grow chili in the rabi season," he told TOI.

Pratap Pednekar, another community farmer, said that the enthusiasm shown by ag-

riculture officers in the taluka has played a vital role in getting farmers to take up the project on such a large scale.

Canacona zonal agricultu-

ral officer Kirtiraj Gaonkar and his team have been credited for this massive feat of binding farmers and their fragmented lands into a communi-

ty. Each group has 10 to 20 farmers enrolled.

"All of them were established farmers but they were in desperate need of a common ground where they could come together. Individual investments are tough but as a group of farmers it's easier," he said.

Currently, four community groups are growing Khola chili while the others are successfully cultivating paddy, cow pea, coconuts, pineapple and vegetables depending on the Kharif or Rabi season.

"Most of the ancestral fields in the village were lying barren so, most of us decided that this is the best way to revive the lands – by simply coming together," said lawyer and community farmer, Anup Kudtarkar.