

DECCAN DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY (DDS)

PROMOTING A “MILLET” CULTURE

Three devotees from Hyderabad and one from Thailand recently travelled to Pastapur Village to visit the **Millet Complex** of the **Deccan Development Society**, an Indian agri-based NGO established in 1983.

The Deccan Development Society (DDS) is a grassroots organization working in about 75 villages with **Women's Sanghams** (voluntary village level associations for the poor) in Medak District of Telangana. The organization reaches out to approximately 5,000 women members representing some of the poorest in their respective communities.

DDS started off with the intention of ensuring the simple sustenance needs of the Sangham members. It has gradually become a tool of empowerment for them to address the larger issues of food security, natural resource enhancement, education, and health needs of the region.

The members of the organization built their own elaborate Seed Bank. They also have their own school and office built with laterite rock blocks. The special features of this stone is that in the summer it gives a cooling effect like that of a Natural Air Conditioner while in the winter it produces a warming effect. In the middle part of the rooftop they have inserted some glass tiles that give a natural light; in fact there is no requirement for electricity.

Another amazing thing is that women in DDS have their own exclusive FM Radio Station totally controlled and operated by them. Everyday, on a particular bandwidth, they broadcast different topics on Traditional Crops, Traditional Technologies, Traditional Education and Village Folk songs. They have also produced their own audiocassettes of the various programs that they regularly produce and disseminate among the DDS communities. They have built up a good stock in their Tape ministry.

In the commercial center of Medak district in the town of Zaheerabad is a millet restaurant called CAFE ETHNIC. This is a very good initiative to encourage the urban food consumers of Zaheerabad to adopt the millet and organic food culture.

These types of activities, as well as ensuring earth care, are also resulting in human care by giving the good consciousness in the farm communities. If anyone adopts these kinds of activities, naturally, one will retrieve one's lost connection with Mother Earth and will become inspired by rediscovering the natural resources of life.

Anyone may visit the facilities at Deccan Development Society to witness the simple, natural and practical way of living, a true Vedic lifestyle to facilitate our practice of devotional service to Lord Krishna.

For more information: <http://ddsindia.com/www/default.asp>

Presented by Vasudama das