



## APPLICATION FORM for CSO Representative in the Science-Policy Interface (SPI).

*Please complete this form in English and send it to [cso@unccd.int](mailto:cso@unccd.int) by April 6<sup>th</sup> 2018.*

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Name SURYA NARAYANA		Surname LEVAKA	
Name of the CSO GRAMEENA VIKAS SAMITHI (GVS)			Country of Operations India
Date of birth ( <i>dd.mm.yy</i> ) 20. 06.1955	Place of birth RAMANAPALLY, India	Nationality Indian	
Present address #6-8-947 NGOs' Colony TIRUPATI 517507 ANDHRA PRADESH India			
Telephone number(s) +91 99594 52800	E-mail address(es) <a href="mailto:surya.gvs@grameenaindia.org">surya.gvs@grameenaindia.org</a>	Gender ( <i>Please select</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male	

Please, indicate your geographic region of expertise :

CHITTOOR, NELLORE and KADAPA districts, Andhra Pradesh in India

Please briefly describe (*max. half a page*) your **working experience related to inter-disciplinary matters of DLDD.**

As The Chief Functionary of GVS, I could classify my working experience related to inter-disciplinary matters of DLDD as below:

**At Organisation and Reporting Level:**

I have been associated with field based and policy level work in relation to inter-disciplinary matters of DLDD since 1999. As our area is a perpetually water-starved, empowering marginal and small farmers and farm work force from time to time about daunting droughts and their impact on livelihoods is a key activity we undertake;. Out of every nine years period



we have had to bear the brunt of droughts at least seven years i.e. 78 per cent of the duration. This is not an uncommon phenomenon in semi-arid tropical area (Rayalaseema Region of Andhra Pradesh State of India) where we live and work.

**At Field Level:**

In view of this recurring slow, silent and man-made constant disaster, impacts compounded by soil/land degradation due to indiscriminate use of agro-chemicals; forcing marginalized people to embrace perils of poverty throughout the calendar year leading to urban migration to growth centers/towns/cities to toil for their daily bread.

To halt this trend, I have been forming farmers Self-Help Groups. And these groups are being enriching in use of Low External Inputs and Sustainable Agriculture (LEISA) concepts and interventions to elevate the status of their piece of farm land's texture, structure and health.

The LEISA technologies are being practiced to mitigate the impacts of DLDD:

1. Land preparation
2. Water/Moisture conservation
3. Revitalization of traditional knowledge
4. Application of bio-fertilisers/pesticides
5. Application of tank silt
6. Bund and block plantation with tree species

Please briefly describe your experiences **in providing scientific advice** to policy makers, Civil Society Organizations, land users and/or other UNCCD stakeholders at national and/or regional level, also indicating the respective discipline/thematic area (*Please list in chronological order starting with the most recent one, and specify duration of each experience*).

With regard to providing scientific advices, I am widely consulted in providing scientific advice to many stakeholders combating DLDD in our region

No.	Title	Levels of Experience	Discipline/Thematic Area	Duration of Experience
<b>Civil Society Organizations</b>				
1	<b>BIRD in Chittoor District</b>	Local level	<b>DLDD</b>	<b>2016 to Present date</b>
2	<b>RRDS in Nellore District</b>	Local level	<b>Land Degradation</b>	<b>2015 to Present date</b>
3	<b>SSS in Kadapa District</b>	Local level	<b>DLDD</b>	<b>2016 to Present date</b>
<b>Land Users</b>				
1	<b>Self Help Groups in 10 villages</b>	Local	<b>Land Degradation and Drought</b>	<b>2008 to present date</b>
2	<b>Sri Kalahastieswara Pipes Limited.</b>	Local	<b>Land Degradation (Fodder Development)</b>	<b>2017 to Present date</b>
3	<b>Mr. Ramesh Reddy</b>	Local	<b>Land Degradation (Bund/block plantation of trees)</b>	<b>2005 to 2008</b>
4	<b>Mr. Gurrappa Naidu</b>	Local	<b>Organic farming practices</b>	<b>2004 to 2007</b>
	<b>Dr. G.J.N. Reddy</b>	Local	<b>Organic farming</b>	<b>2004 to 2008</b>



Are you familiar with the **UNCCD process**? Please briefly describe.

Yes, I personally and our organisation have been associated with UNCCD by virtue of being an accredited CSO since 2003, to understand activities and policies, and developing capacity to influence national or regional policies; developed familiarity with UNCCD process with clear objective in the following ways:

**1. Participation/Contribution in Conferences/Meetings:**

- Contributing to National Action Programmes: At government, local communities and land users level
- CST3/CRIC 11 in April 2013
- Submitted abstract on “Promotion of Participatory Groundnut Based Cropping System in Semi-Arid Tropics to Combat Climate Change and Improve Productivity for Sustainable Livelihoods” to 3<sup>rd</sup> Scientific Conference
- Hosted National Preparatory Workshop-India chapter, CSOs on 11th April 2015 at our farm in response to Desertif’actions ‘15 organised in June 2015, France.
- Desertif’action 2015, Montpellier, France.
- Compilation and Contribution of articles to ‘CSOs Panel Newsletter, ECONewsletter of COP12’, Turkey in 2015
- Observing World Day to Combat Desertification on 17<sup>th</sup> June, every year
- Involving in capacity building, education, public awareness, and participating in CBM
- Our project “Promotion of Climate-Smart Sustainable Agriculture based on Indigenous Cow Resources” was proposed on behalf of UNCCD and selected for **Artists4 Paris Climate 2015** sale auction supported by Climate and Desertification Convention Chiefs
- Our Organisation was invited for COP13 Youth Forum in September 2017
- National meeting of CSOs of India accredited with UNCCD in New Delhi on November 09, 2017.

**2. Completion of E-learning Courses and Quiz:**

I have successfully completed the following e-learning courses and quizzes conducted by CBM in order to improve my knowledge base:

- “The Role of the National Focal Point to the UNCCD” in February 2014
- “The UNCCD Reporting Process” in May 2014
- “The Committee on Science and Technology” in March 2015
- “The UNCCD Process” in March 2016, and
- Quiz on “Sustainable Development and Land Degradation”, May 2017.

Please briefly describe your experience in communicating, promoting and incorporating science into policy development processes and in synthesizing information for non-specialists (*max. half a page*).

The Principles of Responsible Public Policy Advocacy in our organisation are based on

- Legitimacy



- Transparency
- Consistency
- Accountability and
- Opportunity

Based on this, I am playing an advocacy role for The Policy Advocacy Principle of our organisation emanated from Sustainable Agriculture Practices with Low External Inputs and Sustainable Agriculture (LEISA) initiatives promoted/implemented over eight years (2000-2007) period in drought prone Chittoor district in dry land agriculture ecosystems.

These interventions through Participatory Rural Appraisal, Participatory Technology Development and Farmer Field School process, later incorporated these scientific technologies developed in to policy process, presented to the then Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture of Government of Andhra Pradesh state during workshop on "Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture" organised at Environment Protection Training and Research Institute, Gachibowli, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh on 13 December 2007 for wide-scale action and scaling-up.

We are communicating, promoting and incorporating science into policy through the following methods and initiatives:

- 1. Desertif'actions 2015-a global multi-stakeholders and an International Civil Society Forum on combating desertification and land degradation –adopted the Montpellier Declaration, highlighting the "undeniable link" between land degradation, sustainable development and international stability.**  
GVS played key role in organizing National Workshop in India and is one of the participant-signatory of the declaration.
- 2. We have formed Self-Help Groups and Mutually Aided Cooperative Society to spread scientific methods of farming in our region.**
- 3. Our regular contribution to UNCCD COP, CST and CRIC is an act of influencing policy at global level. Youth forums are another platform which we use to promote scientific approach to policy formulation**
- 4. UNCCD National and Regional meetings**
- 5. Social media petitions and advocacy**
- 6. Advocacy through GEF in the role of Country Contact Point for India – we are invited to attend GEF civil society meeting, 6<sup>th</sup> GEF Assembly and Council meetings 2018**
- 7. Mobilizing and propagating science policy through CSO Networks formation in our region.**
- 8. My contribution to Krishi Vigyan Kendra's (Agriculture Knowledge Resource Centers) on Groundnut and dryland farming methods influence the strategies of implementation and support extended by Krishi Vigyan Kendras**
- 9. Regional Agricultural Research Station (RARS), Tirupati of Acharya N. G. Ranga Agricultural University and visiting frequently, participating in their programmes and exchanging scientific know how especially on drought and sustainable agriculture systems. Jurisdiction of RARS is three districts - Nellore, Kadapa, and Chittoor.**



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

What is your **mother tongue**?

My working language at office and in communication and public discourses is English. However TELUGU, the second highest speaking language in India i.e., next to Hindi is the language spoken at home and with the community people in rural areas.

If not your mother tongue, please give details on **your knowledge of English and other languages**:

Read		Write		Speak		Understand	
Easily	Not easily	Easily	Not easily	Fluently	Not fluently	Easily	Not easily
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>